



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love

August, 2020



Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Friends,

We just finished "Christmas in July" here at Grace (So fun! Check it out on Facebook if you missed it). Thinking about Christmas led me to Epiphany, as Christmas always does. Way back on January 5 in worship, we celebrated Epiphany together, remembering how the magi followed a star to find young Jesus. Also on that Sunday, you were given the opportunity to take a paper star with a word on it – a "Star Word." The idea was to hang that star somewhere that you'd see it regularly, so it would remind you to meditate on this word and what God might be saying to you through it during this year.

Having printed and cut out many of those stars myself, I can tell you there were no stars with "Pandemic," "COVID-19," or "Quarantine" printed on them. Obviously, those words have been at the forefront of our thinking for the last 5 months. But even though 2020 has been largely focused on the pandemic, that doesn't nullify the ways that God is speaking to us or acting in our lives. So I'm wondering how your star words have been speaking to you this year. (Feel free to reach out to me and give me an update on your experience.)

The Star Word that chose me in January was "Presentation." What did God have to say to me through this word? Would it be about how I "presented" myself? Did I need a haircut, better posture, a more welcoming "presence"? Would it be about how I teach and "present" information in Confirmation and Bible studies? Or would it be about "presenting" God's Word in worship in meaningful ways? The pandemic's answer to all those questions: YES.

Little did I know that ministry, which is so much about interaction and mutual relationships, would suddenly become largely about "Presentation" to a congregation I could no longer see, hear, or interact with as we had before. In the last 5 crazy months, I've learned a lot about "presenting," and I expect there's still a lot more to learn. Presentation during this time is challenging, not just because of tech glitches and safety guidelines, but because presentation tends to be a one-way street, almost a performance, when ministry is usually much more about interaction, conversation, and relationship.

But what God's said to me through this Star Word is that through these "Pandemic Presentations," God is there, God is inspiring us, and God is holding us together, even when we're apart. I'm wondering, how is God working in your life these days? How can Grace help you feel more connected? What are you hungering for? While we've got some limitations during this continuing time of care and caution, we'd love to find creative ways to help you feel more engaged and connected. Please feel free to reach out to me with any thoughts you have. And may God continue to enrich your life with health, love, and grace.

In Christ,

+Pastor Jennifer

If You Need Something...

Since our staff is working almost exclusively from home, please feel free to call them on their cell phones rather than at church. If you've got a prayer request, if you have question for the church staff, or if you have a special need, please feel free to call, text, or e-mail Pastor Jennifer – 608-295-7120

pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com or Virginia Becker 623-680-3696 gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com

Outdoor Worship Service

Usually we have a church picnic in August with an outdoor worship service, and since we can't worship indoors yet, we thought this month would be a perfect time to have an outdoor service. So, on Sunday August 9, we'll offer a full worship service outside in the church parking lot (weather-permitting) – complete with hymns, reading, sermon, and communion. You're welcome to stay in your car or bring a lawn chair to sit outside your car. Bring your own bread/crackers and wine/ grape juice for communion.



Keyboard Quest

Do you have a keyboard Grace could borrow? We're looking for a musical keyboard we can use at our outdoor worship service on August 9. Our Clavinova keyboards are wonderful, but they're difficult to move outdoors. If you have a keyboard (ideally 8-octave) that we could borrow to plug into our sound system for August 9, please contact Judy Brandt or Pastor Jennifer.

Worship

Sunday worship continues to be available live on Sundays on Charter cable channel 987 at 9:00 a.m. as well as live on Facebook. Sermons are posted on Grace's YouTube channel after Sunday worship as well. A big thanks to Judy Brandt, Steve Oostdik, Todd Tatlock, Steve Geis, and Sierra & Scarlett Jelinek for helping lead worship and handling the AV for our broadcasts.

What Needs to Happen for Us to Worship in the Sanctuary Again?

As you know, COVID numbers have once again risen in our area. We continue holding online and broadcasted services to keep everyone as safe as possible. And while we'll have at least 1 outdoor service this month, we know there's still the hunger to worship in the Sanctuary again. When Council feels it's safe enough to try gathering indoors, we'll need a lot of help. And frankly, until we've got that help in place, gathering inside won't be an option Council will seriously consider. We're looking for individuals willing to serve on a Cleaning Team to sanitize the building after worship services. We're looking for people to serve on Stream Team, video-recording services to stream to Facebook (on a phone is fine). And we'll need Ushers to help people with masks.

Many of our members don't feel safe gathering yet, which is perfectly understandable. We encourage you to do what's right for you and your family. But if you're someone who is eager to get back to worship in the next couple months, we encourage you to volunteer for any of these ministry opportunities. Re-gathering won't be an option until we've got committed volunteers for each of these areas. Please contact either Lori Jensen 608-698-3838 jensenl@firstweber.com or Cindy Hartman 608-423-3520.

Summer Staycation Sermon Series – *America's Holy Ground*

Have you ever been to a place that just felt holy? A place where you could feel God's presence? Our **National Parks** have inspired such God moments for many people. Since many of us can't take the travel vacations we had hoped to take this summer, this felt like a great opportunity to combine travel and worship into a "Summer Staycation Sermon Series." For the next 6 weeks, our worship services will highlight some of our country's natural wonders, inspired by the devotional book "America's Holy Ground: 61 Faithful Reflections on Our National Parks" by Brad Lyons & Bruce Barkhauer.

Each Sunday, we'll focus on a different park and its theme from the book, and we'll share some images from each park as well. If you've been to any of these parks and would like to share some of your pictures for the slideshow, please post them on Facebook or send them to Pastor Jennifer – pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com by the Wednesday before that weekend.



August 2 – ***Faithfulness***
Yellowstone National Park



August 9 – ***Paradox***
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park



August 16 – ***Consequences***
Glacier National Park



August 23 – ***Name***
Denali National Park



August 30 – ***Preservation***
Everglades National Park



September 6 – ***Trust***
Yosemite National Park

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Our Wednesday night Bible study on the book of Acts continues to meet at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. There's no pre-work and no homework, so you're welcome to jump in and join us at any time. Just have your favorite Bible handy.

Even if Bible studies sound boring, or intimidate you, this is the perfect opportunity to check it out. We have great conversations and have fun together. You can access our Zoom Bible Study using this login information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/77830558349?pwd=emtFblZnUXIkNUdYeVRFREpVVEhaQT09>

Meeting ID: 778 3055 8349

Password: 417535

Or call 312-626-6799 and input the ID and password above.



Grab* and Gab!

*Grab a Chair

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Are you missing face-to-face conversations with your church friends? **Join us for Grace Gab** – now outside and in person. Throw a lawn chair in your car and join Pastor Jennifer in the Grace yard each **Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m.** (weather-permitting). Park by the rear of the building and join us in the shade near the garage. Masks are recommended. There's no agenda, no topic – just a chance to check in and chat with others from Grace, **starting August 4!**

Christ In Our Home Devotional Books

The devotional book, *Christ in Our Home*, for July-September is available for you to pick up, if you use it. Look for a copy, while supplies last, in the wooden Little Lending Library at the end of the front sidewalk at Grace.

Share Your Faith Story

Is this a good time for you to reflect upon your faith, to write it down and share your faith journey? Member, Kathy McCarty, recently finished her story. You can find it on our website by scrolling down to the blog section.

If you would like to add yours to our website, please e-mail Virginia, our Administrative Assistant, with your contribution. We look forward to filling this section with scores of inspirational stories of faith! Happy reflecting and writing!

Sunday School 2020/2021

Let Your Light Shine

Like a lighthouse glowing above the ocean shore,
let your faith shine bright.

*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me
will never walk in darkness. John 8:12*



Hi Sunday School Families!

We hope everyone is having a wonderful summer! The first day of Sunday School would normally be just around the corner but with current circumstances in person class has been placed on hold. Planning is still in the works! We have come up with some amazing ideas that we believe will work and be a lot of fun. We would also like to hear from you to find out what format might best meet your family's needs and preferences. In August, there will be two Zoom meetings for parents. We ask that you join us for at least one of them.

We will be sending out an Email reminder along with Sunday School registration forms. If you have any questions or concerns, please let one of us know.

Teresa Neuenschwander, Christian Education Coordinator teresa478@hotmail.com; 608-658-784
Amanda Kosanda, Council Education Chair amanda.kosanda@gmail.com; 847-971-4655

Sunday School

Parent Meeting by Zoom



Tuesday, August 18th at 7:00
Thursday, August 20th at 7:00

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 817 5632 1633

Password: 991515

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81756321633?
pwd=Q08xUjBhWnpya2Yrb09EMUK5dVU2UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81756321633?pwd=Q08xUjBhWnpya2Yrb09EMUK5dVU2UT09)

ELCA Youth Gathering - Moved to 2022



The triennial ELCA Youth Gathering, which was scheduled to take place in Minneapolis in 2021, has now been shifted to the summer of 2022, to ensure the safety of our over 30,000 youth who would be gathering together. Students who are currently going into grades 7- 11 will be eligible to attend this Gathering. We now have 2 full years to do fundraising, which is a wonderful perk of an unfortunate situation. Youth will be receiving information about this Gathering in coming weeks, as we start to assess interest.

DRIVE-IN COMMUNION SERVICES



Drive-In Communion continues this month, weather-permitting. A big thanks to our faithful volunteers who have helped to set up the parking lot for drive-in communion – Michael Rehak, Pira Mueller, and Shawn Whitman. And thanks to the others who have helped greet and direct traffic. We're always looking for a few more people who would be willing to help set up

for the Drive-In Services. We need at least 4 people each time. If you'd like to help, please contact Pastor Jennifer.

Drive-In-Communion Schedule

August 9 (full service with communion)

August 23



Dear Grace Lutheran Church;

Thank you so much for my graduation recognition ceremony and the cozy blanket.

As I head out to college in less than a month, I will always remember the kind folks at Grace and the great times in Sunday School and Confirmation. Whenever I wrap up in my new blanket, I will always remember my Christian up-bringing and that God is always with me - regardless of where I go!

Best Regards and Stay Safe!

Olivia Tatlock



Congratulation Grace College Grads!



Alexis Holzhueter, daughter of Chad and Darcy Holzhueter, graduated May 9, 2020 from Carroll University in Waukesha, WI, with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Alexis has accepted a Nursing-position at Freodtert Hospital in Milwaukee, WI.



Julia Jensen, daughter of Jill & Tom Jensen, received The Masters of Science in Finance: Applied Security Analysis. She is employed on the Research Team at Fiduciary Management Inc., in Milwaukee.

Amanda Jensen, daughter of Jill & Tom Jensen, received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism: Strategic Communication, Emphasis: Customer Behavior. She is employed at New Resources Consulting out of Milwaukee.



Abby Spaanem, daughter of Dawn & Jeffrey Spaanem, graduated in May, 2020 from UW-La Crosse, majoring in Sports Management, with a Business Minor. Abby is currently living at home in Deerfield. She interned Spring semester at Madison College. Unfortunately, all of the sports programs have been cancelled, so she has been mainly doing office work now for her boss.



Kyle Spaanem, son of Dawn & Jeffrey Spaanem, graduated December, 2019 from UW-Platteville majoring in Industrial Technology Management. He is employed at Kuhn North America Inc., Brodhead, WI, as a Manufacturing Engineer and lives in Stoughton.

Grace Treasurer Report

As your treasurer, I want to take this opportunity to update you on the financial standing of Grace Lutheran. I intended to provide these reports on a regular and consistent basis. However, the year has taken turns that none of us could predict and time has been harder to manage than expected. I apologize for the delay in making this information available.

I am pleased to report that our church is in a stable financial state. Despite the inability to hold live services, our members have shown that they are more resilient than any virus. The general giving at Grace Lutheran has amounted to \$143,188.67 through June, which is consistent with the general giving during the same timeframe in 2019. As a total, gross revenue for the church reached \$203,030.54 during the first half of 2020, which exceeds the prior year's amount by \$14,491, or an increase of 7.7 percent. On the other side of the ledger, Grace Lutheran reported total operating expenses of \$157,014.15 through June, marking a decrease of \$24,083.74 (-13.3 percent). In summary, the church is currently operating with net income of \$46,016.39 through the first half of 2020. By comparison, Grace Lutheran reported net income of \$7,441.65 through the same period of 2019.

Part of the increase in gross revenue can be attributed to gifts received through the Renewing Grace Capital Campaign, which has seen year-to-date donations of \$45,969. The remaining principal balance on the loan stands at \$94,358.14 and the council will be discussing options for paying down additional principal on the loan later in the fiscal year.

Our organization appreciates the support you have provided during these difficult times. We are a stronger community because of our members. If you have any questions regarding church finances, please feel free to reach me at 608-957-2771 or tim@namadvisors.com.

Sincerely,

Tim Neuenschwander, Council Treasurer

Please Remember in Prayer:



Albert Lewis Behn

December 29, 1931—April 11, 2020

Celebration of Life held at Grace July 18, 2020



July 18, 2020

Jeff David Ellickson

**Parents: Ryan Ellickson &
Megan (Kalscheur) Ellickson**

OUTREACH and SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our project for this time of year is the **Lutheran World Relief School Kits**. Now is when the Outreach Committee would place cloth backpacks in Fellowship Hall for you to take home, fill with school supplies, and return. We don't need to tell you that these are not normal times, BUT, we still want to do what we can to support LWR. The start of school in our communities may be uncertain, but schools around the world are still in need of supplies.

With that in mind, we would like to go ahead and make as many kits as we can, with your help. A list of needed supplies is listed below. If you can buy them, put them in a plastic bag, and then bring to the church, that would be greatly appreciated. Members of Outreach will put them into the backpacks and box for shipping. Since the church building has limited opening times, we would like to suggest the following options.

Drive-in communion Sundays: August 9, August 23, (September dates TBD)

Drop off in the church: Mondays from 10:00-11:00 or Thursdays 3:00-4:00.

If you are unable to shop, but would like to help, monetary contributions are also welcome. Make a check to Grace, with "School Kits" in the Memo line.

Thank you for all you do. Stay safe and take care of each other & wear your facemask!

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH SCHOOL KIT

- ☐ **FOUR** 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- ☐ **ONE** 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ☐ **ONE** pencil sharpener
- ☐ **ONE** pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ☐ **FIVE** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- ☐ **FIVE** black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ☐ **ONE** box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ☐ **ONE** 2 ½" eraser



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2020 Via Zoom from Home

Meeting called to order by President Steve Geis at 7:35 p.m. **Attendees:** Steve Geis, Tim Neuenschwander, Amy Simdon, Amanda Kosanda, Tom Kosanda, Jean Scott, Mary Behling, Ann Engelstad, and Jennifer Jelinek. Kris Tobias, Lori Jensen, and Erik Olsen were excused. **Devotions.** Pastor Jennifer offered a prayer in Erik's absence.

Approval of June Minutes.

Amy Simdon moved to approve the Minutes for the regular June meeting as written, Tim Neuenschwander seconded and they were unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda.

Jean Scott indicated that the Outreach Committee has decided to move ahead with school kits for the fall. They will accept donations of all supplies and of monetary donations and will fill the bags themselves. If they cannot be donated after all, they will be held until next year. Information will be provided regarding how to drop off donations. No other committee reports.

Property Report.

Tom Kosanda reported that the pews were moved last week to accommodate social distancing guidelines for an upcoming memorial service, and some hand sanitizing areas were established. He will try to organize a time for painting the beams when it is cooler this fall. Pastor Jennifer noted that two hands-free soap machines have been ordered for the bathrooms. Discussion was held regarding various types of hand sanitizing stations (hands free vs. hand pumps, etc.) and it was decided to just go with setting out hand pumps for now and see how that works and how traffic flows.

Treasurer's Report.

Tim Neuenschwander presented the treasurer's report. (a) Total giving for June was up over May, partially due to now including Endowment fund interest as income. There was a net operating loss for June of just over \$1000, which is fairly small and not unusual for a summer month. We are still in the black for 2020, however. (b) A member has asked Tim to discuss whether or not we should be retaining contribution envelopes for record-keeping purposes. We decided we did not see enough value to warrant doing this. (c) There was further discussion regarding the wisdom of paying back the PPP Loan due to some changes in the program and other circumstances. We decided to table a decision for one month to give everyone time to consider the various factors. (d) Credit card signers need to be updated. Amy moved to authorize Steve Geis and Virginia Becker as signers. Amanda seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Jean Scott moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Amy Simdon seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Jennifer reported that Lew Behn's service will be held this Saturday, 7/18/20. There will be a visitation with social distancing and then a funeral limited to 50 people, basically by invitation although efforts will be made to include all who wish to attend, if possible. Pastor will also be performing a baptism at 9 a.m. Saturday which will be live streamed. She invites everyone to tune in to be part of this event. She and the other involved pastors just finished the 12 Steps series of sermons. She is planning a "Christmas in July" sermon later this month and will be starting a series with a National Parks theme in August. The Synod Assembly has been moved totally to online. She and our representatives will attend virtually, and a new Bishop will be elected. The October wedding chose to move to a different site. Semi-annual giving reports with an accompanying letter will be mailed.

Old Business: Ann Engelstad offered a shout-out to the people who have been involved with drive-in communion for the great job they have done. All agreed, and Pastor will add that to the newsletter.

New Business:

Fall Christian Education. Pastor indicated that she will be talking to the parents of the confirmation students soon to discuss how to proceed. Teresa Neuenschwander joined us online to discuss Sunday School ideas. She indicated that she has been talking to parents and teacher, and their opinions are all over the place. She is looking at online choices – Zoom meetings, videos, and YouTube videos to send out – and a lesson series that could work in a home family session or in classrooms. Pastor will be talking to those parents, too, and they will be watching to see what the School District decides regarding in-class teaching, as well.

Regathering Guidelines: Steve provided some draft guidelines after consulting with Ann Engelstad, Lori Jensen, and Pastor Jennifer, and we discussed many different issues and additional suggestions. Work will continue on this issue. Pastor would like to consider a drive-in service in August, and we agreed she should schedule that for August 9th.

Adjournment: Next meeting will be August 11, 2020, at 7:30 p.m., most likely by Zoom again. There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and it was unanimously approved, followed by the Lord's Prayer. Ann Engelstad is scheduled for August devotions.

~Report submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary

Christmas in July Grace



Why not share a little July joy with our Homebound members in the form of a kind card?



OUR HOMEBOUND

Jon Bakken
309 Oriole Lane
Cambridge, WI 53523

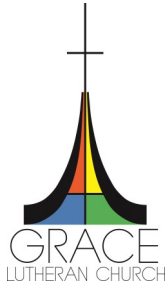
Geraldine Rattmann
2629 Highland Drive
Cambridge, WI 53523

Bev Nottestad
118 S. Pleasant St.
Cambridge, WI 53523

Mary Ellen Smith
912 Monroe St., Apt. 11
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Shirley Engelstad
Home Again Assisted Living
110 Stuart St.
Columbus, WI 53925

Char Kenseth
555 W. Madison #5
Cambridge, WI 53523



E.L.C.A.
501 Skogen Road
Cambridge, WI
53523

Place stamp
here

Place address sticker here;

Gathering in grace, Growing in faith, Serving in love.

www.gracelutherancambridge.org

"Like Us" on Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-
ELCA Cambridge, WI

Please note:
We broadcast
on Channel 987

Staff & Council Contacts

<u>Pastor:</u>	Jennifer Jelinek	Home: 423-2329	Cell: (608) 295-7120	pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	Virginia Becker		(608) 423-3135	gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>	Diane Russo		(608) 423-3135	gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com
<u>Music Director:</u>	Judy Brandt		(608) 239-6948	judithbrandt@gmail.com
<u>Handbell Choir Director:</u>	Ann Engelstad			gaengelstad@charter.net
<u>Christian Education Coordinator:</u>	Teresa Neuenschwander		(608) 658-7844	teresa478@hotmail.com
<u>Volunteer Coordinator:</u>	Cindy Hartman			cindyh1029@msn.com

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

<u>President :</u>	Steve Geis	swgeis@yahoo.com
<u>Vice President</u>	Kris Tobias	
<u>Secretary:</u>	Mary Behling	
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Tim Neuenschwander	
<u>Outreach:</u>	Jean Scott	
<u>Education:</u>	Amanda Kosanda	
<u>Stewardship</u>	Amy Simdon	
<u>Hospitality:</u>	Lori Jensen	
<u>Evangelism:</u>	Erik Olsen	
<u>Worship:</u>	Ann Engelstad	
<u>Property:</u>	Tom Kosanda	