

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love*

**December 2022**

## Pastor's Ponderings



Back in October, we started talking about the acronym GIFTs – Growing in Faith Together. This theme shaped our Stewardship campaign, and now it also shapes our Advent and Christmas seasons as well. Just in the last 2 months, many of you have shared abundant gifts. You donated over 90 jars of gravy, 90 boxes of stuffing, and over \$100 to the Cambridge Food Pantry, to be distributed to those in need. Many of you pledged to share gifts of time, talent, and treasure by completing pledge cards and time & talent sheets as a commitment for this coming year. You donated

t-shirts and toiletry items for our Sunday School service projects. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I've appreciated thinking more broadly about gifts this year. In case you didn't hear Tami Collin share her experience with the church rummage sale in worship in October – while we thought the rummage sale was simply a way to get rid of some unwanted things and to make a little money, it was so much more. It turned out to be an unexpected gift. The rummage sale was a gift to avid thrifters, and also to people who might not have the money to buy things new. It was a gift to people who were hungry for social interaction and a cool place to spend a hot August day. It was a gift for us to share graciousness and our space with people who may not have many positive experiences in a church. And it was a gift for those who worked at the rummage sale, to meet new people, to help others, and to see blessings where they never expected to. I don't think any of us expected these gifts, but what a blessing they were to so many.

Sharing gifts and being generous are big parts of "Growing in Faith Together." Because having faith in God helps us see beyond ourselves, to notice the needs of others and our ability to share our gifts. Teaching generosity to our young people is so important as well.

The Advent and Christmas seasons give us plenty of opportunities for generosity and gift-giving. And I'm not just talking about presents that you wrap and put under a tree. Our holiday lights and decorations can be a gift of joy to our neighbors and those who drive by. Taking time to call a loved one or send a note or have coffee with someone who needs a listening ear can be a greater gift than you might imagine. Sharing appreciation for someone's special abilities, for the time they spend on others, for their achievements or performances is always a welcome gift. Your kindness and thoughtfulness can be one of the most important things during this busy season.

This month, take some time to think about how you can be a gift or share a gift with others, gifts that don't necessarily need to be wrapped, but may be as meaningful as any wrapped gift.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas, my friends. You are truly a gift to me. Thank you for who you are and what you do!

In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*





## **Holiday Event Schedule**

Dec. 18 – Sunday School Christmas Program

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Worship at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m.

Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Jan. 1 – Service of Lessons and Carols at 9:00 a.m.

## **Church Yard Clean Up**

Wanted: Volunteers to clean up the leaves on December 19th at 10 am. Please see Property Chair, Bill Reay, with questions.

## **Cookie Sharing**

Come celebrate the New Year and the 8th day of Christmas on Sunday, January 1 at 9:00 a.m. for a Service of Lessons and Carols. And if you have Christmas goodies sitting around that you'd like to share (or get out of your house), please bring them along to share at Coffee Hour.

## **Upcoming Sabbatical Conversation**

This summer, Grace's Church Council approved a pastoral Sabbatical policy, which would allow a pastor to take a Sabbatical after serving at Grace for at least 6 years. A Sabbatical is an extended time away from congregational responsibilities (typically 3 months) to allow the pastor to be renewed, refreshed, to study, and to return to ministry newly energized to serve. In January, we'll be talking more about what a Sabbatical is and what it might mean for us, in preparation for a conversation at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023.

## **2022 Giving**

As we close out 2022, we're so grateful for the generosity of our members and friends, which has allowed us to do so many wonderful things this year. If you plan to give a year-end gift for 2022, please note that all donations will need to be in by December 30 at Noon.

## **Want to worship from home? Here's how!**

Grace's Sunday services continue to be broadcast on Charter cable channel 987 Sundays at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 10:30 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Sunday and mid-week Lenten services are also livestreamed on Grace's Facebook page. Just looking for sermons? Check out our YouTube Channel, which has dozens of past sermons with Bible readings.







## Advent Study

*This month in Adult Education, we continue our 4-week Advent study, called "Who Needs Christmas?" by acclaimed Pastor Andy Stanley. The series is a combination of video clips and discussion about how the Christmas story is still relevant today. Please join us for any of these Monday evenings at 7:00.*

**Nov. 28 – Who Needs Christmas? The Story Behind the Story**

**Dec. 5 – The Author of Life**

**Dec. 10 – The Message of Christmas**

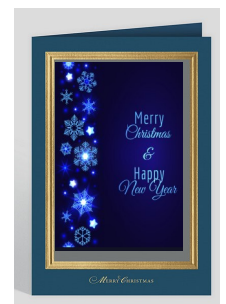
**Dec. 19 – Ready or Not...He is Coming**

## God's Gift to Us, Our Gifts to the World

The Advent Sunday School unit we've been working on is called "God's Gift to Us, Our Gifts to the World," and we've been exploring how Jesus was God's gift to so many – to Mary and Joseph, to the shepherds, to the magi, and to so many others. And as each of those people shared their gifts with baby Jesus, we're able to share gifts with others. So this month, each of our Sunday School classes will be doing projects that will help others. And at the Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18, the kids will bring these gifts forward to show how they're making a difference to others.

## Christmas Cards for MAJM

Can you imagine being in jail or prison for an extended period of time? Can you imagine the loneliness and despair the incarcerated feel during the holidays? Madison Area Jail Ministry has invited us to write Christmas cards that will be given to incarcerated individuals this holiday season. On Sunday, December 4, Christmas cards available in the Fellowship Hall for anyone who would like to write one. Or if you'd like to submit your own card, please return it to church by Dec. 5. We're asked to write messages of encouragement and blessing, but please don't include personal information, other than first name, if you like.



## Office Hours



The Church Office is open from 9:00 am – noon, Monday through Friday. Variable additional hours are available; please contact us if you'd like to make an appointment. (608) 423-3135 or [gracelutherancambridgwi@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutherancambridgwi@gmail.com)

# DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS



**Dec 4** - Ushers: Gary & Sharon Haberkorn      Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen  
Reader: Jim Leser  
Communion Servers: Jean Scott & Maddie Buonincontro  
Communion Set up: Lydia Circle  
Acolytes: Cael Klemp & Jackson Rue  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Jeffers & Coutts/Olsen

**Dec 11** - Ushers: Tom & Chris Watson      Assisting Minister: Kelly Witte  
Reader: Chris Watson  
Communion Servers: Kelly Witte & Tami Collin  
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle  
Acolytes: Rory Sullivan & Haven Gill  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Donna, Tracy & Peggy Punsel

**Dec 18** - Ushers: Jeanine Thurow & Donna Simdon      Assisting Minister: Whitman  
Reader: Char Luchterhand  
Communion Servers: Randy Luchterhand & Angie Williams  
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle  
Acolytes: Sammy & Gordie Grender  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Brooke and Karen Stenjem

**Dec 24** - Ushers: Richard & Jean Scott      Assisting Minister: Jeff Gafner  
**3 pm**      Reader: Jean Scott  
Communion Servers: Wendy Lehr & Shawn Koebke  
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle  
Acolytes: Cash & Crew Cunningham

**Dec 24** - Ushers: Andrew Punsel, Chris Tobias, Rob Sperle & Justin Williams  
**5 pm**      Assisting Minister: Andrya Coutts  
Reader: Amy Simdon  
Communion Servers: Amy Simdon & Brenda Lovick  
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle  
Acolytes: Kinsley Stenjem & Paxton Koehler

**Dec 25** - Ushers: Jim & Kari Jermain      Assisting Minister: Wendy Lehr  
Reader: April Mickelson  
Communion Servers: Randy Luchterhand & Shawn Koebke  
Communion Set Up: Geis family  
Acolytes: April Mickelson & Rachel Drotzer

**Altar Guild** - Judy Taitt, Helen Karberg, Janet Koepp

# DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
27 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9 am Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	28 9:30 am Quilters 6 pm Handbell Choir 7 pm Advent Study	29	30 6:30 pm Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation	1	2	3
4 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b> Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am <b>Sunday School</b> 10:15 am <b>Sanctuary Choir</b>	5 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> 6 pm <b>Handbell Choir</b> 7pm <b>Advent Study</b>	6	7 9:30 am <b>Ruth Circle</b> 11am <b>Outreach Committee</b> 6:30 pm <b>Confirmation &amp; Pre-Confirmation</b>	8	9	10
11 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b> Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am <b>Sunday School</b> 10:15 am <b>Sanctuary Choir</b>	12 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> 6 pm <b>Handbell Choir</b> 7pm <b>Adult Study</b>	13 7 pm <b>Grace Council Mtg</b>	14 6:30 pm <b>Confirmation</b>	15 <b>News- letter con- tent dead- line</b>	16	17
18 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE- SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</b> Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am <b>Sanctuary Choir</b>	19 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> 6 pm <b>Handbell Choir</b> 7 pm <b>Adult Study</b>	20	21 6:30 pm <b>Confirmation &amp; Pre-Confirmation</b>	22	23	24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 3pm <b>Worship Service</b> 5pm <b>Worship Service</b>
25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b> Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	26 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b>	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve





## GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



### Confirmation Corner

This month, Mentor Night will be Wed. December 7 at 6:30 p.m. Families are reminded to check out the Acolyte schedule, as there are special services this month. If there's a time your student cannot acolyte as scheduled, please make sure to swap with somebody else and let the church office know.



### Holiday Bake Sale

The Youth will be holding a Bake Sale on Sunday, December 18 after worship. Come pick up some cute and tasty goodies for your Christmas table!

## Churchwide Updates

### Young Adults in Global Ministry (YAGM) Applications Now Open!

The ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program is ready for new volunteers! This year, for the first time since early 2020, YAGM participants are walking alongside our international neighbors. Now, it's time for the YAGM team to find the next volunteers ready to step out into the world. Do you know one of them? Applications are now open, and you can invite young adults on this journey abroad for the 2023-2024 program year.

Through YAGM, young adults will learn what it means to serve in a spirit of accompaniment as they walk alongside global church companions. They'll become immersed in a new community and form deep relationships. And they'll confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, gender privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith.

For more information about YAGM and how to apply, click the button below.

**Young Adults  
in Global Mission**

AN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE YEAR  
FOR YOUNG ADULTS AGES 21-29

Apply today at [ELCA.ORG/YAGM](https://elca.org/yagm)

DEADLINES	
Priority:	JAN. 15, 2023
Final:	FEB. 1, 2023

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Crosses, Circles, and Hands

[Learn More about YAGM!](#)



# A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING THROUGH THE LWR ADVENT SERIES

Every Tuesday afternoon, the people of Augsburg Lutheran Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, gather for a Bible study led by their pastor the Rev. Paul Wollner. The theme changes monthly and, during the pandemic, Pastor Paul conducted the Bible study via Zoom.

Last November, as the busy season of Advent was approaching, Pastor Paul received an email from Lutheran World Relief about Advent resources for congregations.

"Admittedly, I had just skimmed the email when I first received it, but when it was time to pick a topic for December's Bible study, this instantly came to mind," he said. "The videos produced by LWR perfectly captured the theme of Advent hope and helped us to see the great work that LWR does around the world."

Many of those who attended the Bible study knew they were a congregational partner through financial support and donating School Kits. But few knew the extent of the partnerships in places like Honduras, Uganda, Nepal and Lebanon, as featured in the weekly videos.

"I've always appreciated LWR's work, but I did not realize the impact that they made on individual households, especially lifting up women" said Martha Clark, a class participant.



**"These Advent Bible studies were a great way for our congregation to gain an even deeper understanding of the breadth of ways that Lutheran World Relief is doing God's work in the world,"** said Pastor Paul. "This series has helped us to appreciate our partnership with LWR to an even greater level. I look forward to the next series!" ■

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## Outreach and Social Justice



A huge thank you to all who donated to the Cambridge Food Pantry drive. Thanks to your generous gifts, our congregation collected 95 bags/boxes of stuffing and over 60 jars/cans of gravy to help fill Holiday Baskets for those in need in our community. In addition, we had enough monetary donations to complete those baskets and more!

We are also planning to provide our congregation with a new Advent shopping experience that will benefit the ELCA Good Gifts. Watch for an announcement soon!

## Sunday School Thank You

Thank you to everybody who donated items for our Sunday School service projects. We can't wait to show you the final projects! Thank you to Tim Jeffers for the multitude of hotel shower supplies and to Dr. Angie Bauer for all the dental supplies. And a big thanks to our quilters for all their help, and who will be teaching our 5th graders how to sew diapers.

## Endowment Requests

The Grace Endowment Committee would like suggestions of charitable organizations (non- profits) to donate some of this year's investment proceeds. Please email Todd Tatlock at [ptatlock8728@frontier.com](mailto:ptatlock8728@frontier.com) or call at 608-764-8728 with your recommendations by December 9. Our bylaws allow us to allocate funds to Community Outreach, Missions and/or church capital improvements and/or debt reduction.

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2022, partially via zoom and partially at church

(Minutes below not approved until next Council meeting)

**Call to Order.** Meeting called to order by President Kris Tobias at 7:00 p.m.

**Attendance. Present:** Kris Tobias, Mary Behling, Amy Simdon, April Mickelson, Bill Reay, Pastor Jennifer Jelinek, Ann Engelstad, Kelly Witte, Jennifer Hellberg, Shawn Whitman, and Jim Jermain. **Absent:** Bill Becker.

**Devotions.** Jennifer Hellberg shared her faith story.

**Approval of October Minutes.** Kelly Witte moved to approve the Minutes, Jim Jermain seconded the motion, and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Approval of Agenda.** Kris Tobias asked to add a discussion of 2023 budget matters to the Agenda. Ann Engelstad moved to approve the revised agenda, Jennifer Hellberg seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**Correspondence.** None to report.

**Treasurer's Report.** Amy Simdon presented the financial reports for last month. She indicated the financial picture remains stable and little changed from September. There was a small net loss of about \$650 for October – about the same as October 2021. Both income and expenses were down slightly from October. Giving for the entire year is similar to last year, but expenses are down, so the year-to-date picture is a bit better than last year at this time. Amy further noted that the Food Pantry balance in the accounts is for the Thanksgiving baskets and that there will be one more Sunday for collections. April Mickelson moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Ann Engelstad seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**Pastor's Report.** Pastor Jennifer reported that the community dinner went very well with over 200 people served and many compliments received regarding the food and the service. The community-wide Thanksgiving service will be held at St. Pius this year on November 20th at 7 p.m. and all are welcome. Pastor Jennifer will be gone Thanksgiving weekend and Brenda Lovick will be filling in. Pastor has been working on the Christmas program quite a bit. It will be held December 18th and will be a little different this year. Instead of a play, the children will be presenting the gifts they will have gathered based on their service projects. Breah Klemp will be starting as the Christian Education Coordinator this week. Catherine Elliot will be off November 17 and through the following week. Pastor Jennifer will be seeking a few volunteers to staff the office during her absence.

**Committee Reports.** Bill Reay (Property) reported that the floors were completed and look great. A new humidifier has been purchased and is ready to be set up. Fall leaf work needs to be done and he will reach out for volunteers. Ann Engelstad raised the issue of the front lights not turning on at the proper times making exits very dark after practices. It is a continuing problem that needs to be resolved. Shawn Whitman indicated that he purchased a new timer, but needs assistance with installing it. Shawn and Bill will co-ordinate with John Adsit on the timer issue and also discuss the need for some new lights.



Ann Engelstad (Worship) reported that they are working on the Christmas services and she has finally found a place that will deliver poinsettias on December 22. She needs all orders by Dec. 1. Jennifer Hellberg (Stewardship) reported that the committee continues to meet regularly to work on the fall stewardship campaign. Time and Talent Sheets were sent out recently and are due November 13th. She noted a special thanks to Jill Jensen for designing this year's logo. April Mickelson (Outreach) noted that they have met several times and are collecting food for the Food Pantry Thanksgiving baskets with a goal of 100 items. They are also looking into the possibility of accepting the donation of numerous world-wide Christmas ornaments from the Carolyn Scholten estate and then selling those to raise funds. Jim Jermain (Hospitality) reported that the confirmation brunch went very well. Pastor Appreciation was observed and they are working on staff gifts to be made in December. They are also working on the Blue Jay backpack project for next spring. Kris Tobias (Technology) indicated there have been problems with Charter lately that have resulted in the loss of internet service for the church for as long as 2 days. It is Charter's problem and they keep coming back to work on it. It is not fully resolved, but was better this week.

**Old Business. (a) Reconciling in Christ.** Pastor Jennifer indicated that the committee has not yet met. Erik Olson and Tami Collin have been added to the committee. **(b) Community Café.** This was discussed under the Pastor's Report.

**New Business. (a) 2023 Budget.** Amy Simdon noted that she has received budget requests from most committees and there have been no requested increases. Insurance and office equipment expenses are up a little, but not significantly. Debt retirement is decreased. Pastor Jennifer will be looking at wages shortly and getting the information to Amy. Amy indicated we need to include an amount in the budget for the sabbatical fund. Pastor Jennifer will not know if she receives a sabbatical grant until next October. Discussion was held regarding the date for the Annual Meeting and it was set for January 29th, 2023.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business, Mary Behling moved to adjourn the meeting, Jennifer Hellberg seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Next meeting will be December 13th, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at church and via Zoom for anyone who can't or doesn't wish to attend in person. Bill Reay will share his faith story with us at that meeting. The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary.



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

# Community Dinner



On November 3rd, Grace hosted the Community Café, serving a meal for over 200 people. A huge thank you to all who made it possible, including a grant from Thrivent.





# Staff and Council



## STAFF

**Pastor** Jennifer Jelinek Home: 423-2329 Cell: (608) 295-7120 [pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com)

**Admin Assistant** Catherine Elliott (608) 423-3135 [gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com)

**Financial Secretary** Diane Russo Cell: (847) 826-0131 [gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com)

**Organist** Kenneth Hoversten [kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com)

**Handbell Choir Director** Ann Engelstad [gaengelstad@charter.net](mailto:gaengelstad@charter.net)

**Christian Ed Coordinator** Breah Klemp [breah.klemp@gmail.com](mailto:breah.klemp@gmail.com)

**Volunteer Coordinator** Cindy Hartman [cindyh1029@msn.com](mailto:cindyh1029@msn.com)

## COUNCIL

**President** Kris Tobias

**Vice President** Kelly Witte

**Secretary** Mary Behling

**Treasurer** Amy Simdon

**Outreach** April Mickelson

**Education** Bill Becker

**Stewardship** Jennifer Hellberg

**Hospitality** Jim Jermain

**Evangelism** Shawn Whitman

**Worship** Ann Engelstad

**Property** Bill Reay

## Funerals/Member Deaths

Bruce Gordon Lowrey

Nov. 12, 2022





Grace Lutheran Church  
E.L.C.A.  
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Cambridge, WI 53523

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