

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, growing in Faith, serving in Love

JULY 2022

Pastor's Ponderings



You don't have to dig very deep into the national news to hear stories of the Christian Church's failures – mismanagement of funds, corrupt or abusive clergy, racism, disagreements, prioritizing personal glory over God's. It's enough to make people say, "Why would I bother being part of a church?"

In fact, some faithful Christians don't want to be called Christians anymore, (preferring "followers of Jesus") because they feel the word has been corrupted by people who don't act very "Christian." And while I understand that inclination, I'm not ready to give up the term. "Christian" literally means, "little Christ." And while we may chuckle at thinking that we can be little Christs, I've seen our church being like Christ in so many situations, especially in the last year.

I've seen our church family surround, love, and serve our struggling and dying members. I saw our church show up to give rides to people like Jackie, Yvonne, and Carolyn – to church, to doctor's appointments, to therapy, often far away. I've seen the church bring them food, sit with them, talk to them, help them with household tasks, and bless them in their last days. It's been profoundly beautiful, especially knowing that these women had done the same for others during their lives. I've seen strangers welcomed at Grace and embraced so that they soon feel like members of the family. I've seen members quietly doing things at church, simply because they need to be done and they're able to do them. I've seen children learning the value of generosity and helping others, giving Sunday School offerings and serving with joy. All of these are examples of the church being "little Christs," and it's beautiful, humbling, and inspiring.

We're all involved in other activities with other people, and for many, those groups feel like enough. Who needs church? But I've seen the Church show up to bring love in ways that other groups never would. Christian community binds us together to support one another and the world around us, in ways other groups don't. The Church will never be perfect because it's filled with imperfect people (like us). That's why we needed Jesus. But the Church is a place for imperfect people to gather, to worship, to practice being like Jesus, to fail, to learn, to be forgiven, and to try to embody Jesus' love each day of our lives. And while we all fail sometimes, sometimes we succeed at bringing God's grace into this world. And that, my friends, is what our world needs so desperately. We are Jesus' Church in this place, and together, we can live out God's love.

In Christ,

+Pastor Jennifer



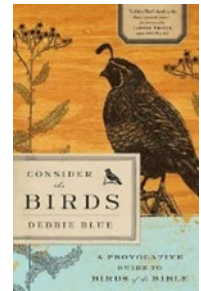
Church Picnic & Outdoor Worship

On Sunday, July 24, we'll have worship in the Grace yard at 9:00 a.m., followed by our annual Church Picnic. For this one Sunday, worship will not be broadcast on cable or on Facebook. So please join us in-person if you're able. If the weather is bad, we'll move everything inside.

Just bring a lawn chair and a dish to pass.

Summer Sermon Series – “Consider the Birds”

This month we dive deeper into our study of the birds of the Bible, and the faith lessons they can teach us, inspired by Debbie Blue's Book, “Consider the Birds: A Provocative Guide to Birds of the Bible.” Hey Photographers - If you've got pictures of the bird of the week, we'd love to include your pictures in our worship slideshow. Please feel free to send them to us – gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com



July 3 – The Eagle “Power & Vulnerability”

July 10 – The Quail “Desire & Slavery”

July 17 – The Sparrow “Contempt & Compassion”

July 24 – The Ostrich “Comedy & Tragedy”

July 31 – The Raven “Failure & Trust”

Grace Lutheran Rummage Sale August 5 and 6

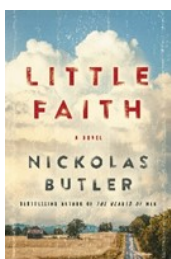
This year Grace will be participating in the rummage sale along with all of Cambridge during Maxwell Street Days.

As you spring clean this year, please save any treasures you don't want (but some else would love) and bring them to the room designated in the church basement. We are looking for good quality items—please no TVs or electronics.

If you have any questions or would like to help, please call Tami Collin @ 920-728-8047.



July Book Study



This month, our Monday evening study will return, to discuss the book, “Little Faith,” by Wisconsin author Nicholas Butler. This novel follows Lyle and Peg Hovde, as they cope with the reappearance of their adult daughter and her son, who have been involved in an extremist church that causes them great concern. This book about friendship, faith, and community is written in 5 seasons, so we'll discuss it for 5 Mondays at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

July 11 – Spring

July 25 – Fall

Aug. 8 – Spring

July 18 – Summer

Aug. 1 – Winter

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81603218424?pwd=OqaVinWpa5hHay6pJuUmiKLpg5ONR.1>

A SUMMER OF ENCANTO



The Madrigals are an extraordinary family who live hidden in the mountains of Colombia in a charmed place called the Encanto. The magic of the Encanto has blessed every child in the family with a unique gift -- except Mirabel. However, she soon may be the Madrigals last hope when she discovers that the magic surrounding the Encanto is now in danger.

ENCANTO STUDY

Sometimes movies can help us talk about faith in new ways. It may seem like the movie "Encanto" is just a sweet movie for kids. But in fact, "Encanto" raises a lot of interesting topics, including family relationships, gifts people bring, and the struggles we all face. Why don't we talk about Bruno, and what are the "Brunos" in our lives that we don't talk about?

Each **Sunday after worship**, we'll explore a different "Encanto" character and discover how that person's gift connects to our lives of faith. This unusual and fun study will be interesting for people of all ages – a true family event with movie clips and music. Come each week or whenever you're able. We'll meet in the Sanctuary at 10:15.

July 3 – Dolores

July 10 – Mirabel

July 17 – Isabela

July 24 – Luisa

July 31 – Julieta

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 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.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw>

JULY VOLUNTEERS



July 3 - Ushers: Bob & Janet Koepp **Assisting Minister: Shawn Koebke**

Reader: Janet Koepp
Communion Servers: Angie Bauer Williams & Judy Heidebrecht
Communion Set up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Cally Gill & Ava Williams
Coffee Hour Hosts: John Jensens & Engelstads

July 10 - Ushers: Amy Simdon & Marlene Evenson **Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen**

Reader: Charlene Luchterhand
Communion Servers: Kelly Witte & Tami Collin
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Alyssa & Ellie Gottschalk
Coffee Hour Hosts: Donna Simdon & Judy Heidebrecht

July 17 - Ushers: Jeanine Thurow & Donna Simdon **Assisting Minister: Andrya Coutts**

Reader: April Mickelson
Communion Servers: April Mickelson & Shawn Koebke
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Josie Punsel & Brady Thayer
Coffee Hour Hosts: April Mickelson & Cheryl Mittlestedt

July 24 - Ushers: Dale & Marcia Klemp **Assisting Minister: Shawn Whitman**

Reader: Marcia Klemp
Communion Servers: Kelly Witte & Tammi Collin
Communion Set Up: Geis family
Acolytes: Cash & Crew Cunningham
No Coffee Hour — Church Picnic!

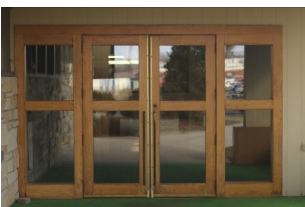
July 31 - Ushers: Pat Northey & Shelly Key **Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen**

Reader: Jean Scott
Communion Servers: Jean Scott and Shawn Whitman
Communion Set Up: Pat Northey
Acolytes: Cash & Crew Cunningham
Coffee Hour Hosts: Russos & Rues

Altar Guild - Mary Christensen, Marcia Klemp & Cheryl Mittlestedt

JULY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
26 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Encanto Study	27 9:30 am Quilters	28	29 9 am Ruth Circle	30	1	2
3 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Encanto Study	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am Quilters	5	6 11 am Outreach Committee mtg	7	8	9
10 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10 am Property Cmte Mtg 10:15 am Encanto Study	11 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Book Study	12 7 pm Grace Council Mtg	13 9:30 am Lydia Circle	14	15 Newsletter articles due	16
17 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10 am Stewardship Committee Meeting 10:15 am Encanto Study	18 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Book Study	19	20	21	22	23
24 YOUTH RIVERBOAT TRIP 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Encanto Study	25 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Book Study YOUTH RIVERBOAT TRIP	26 YOUTH RIVER- BOAT TRIP	27 YOUTH RIVER- BOAT TRIP	28 YOUTH RIVER- BOAT TRIP	29 YOUTH RIVERBOAT TRIP	30
31 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Encanto Study	Aug 1 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Book Study	2	3 9 am Ruth Circle 11 am Outreach Committee mtg	4	5	6



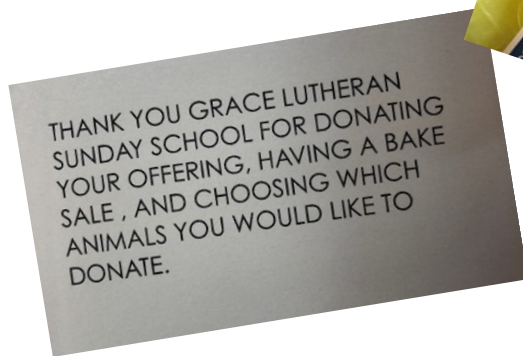
Grace Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 9:00 am – noon, Monday through Friday. There are additional hours, but those vary. Please contact us if you'd like to make an appointment.
(608) 423-3135 or gracelutherancambridgwi@gmail.com

Teresa Neuenschwander,
Christian Education Coordinator
teresa478@hotmail.com
608-658-7844

Hey Sunday Schoolers!

Just wanted to share the
thank you cards we got from
ELCA Good Gifts!
Thank you for your offerings -



**you made a difference in
someone's life!**

Our 6th grade Pre-Confirmation students had their last class on May 4th. They went to Anew Vintage Dream and painted these beautiful cross canvases!



High School Riverboat Trip



This month, our high school youth will be going on a Mississippi Riverboat Trip, which we're doing in place of the Youth Gathering, which was canceled. Each day we're on the boat, we'll be doing a service project, as well as Bible study and some fun on the river. You're invited to come bless us on our journey on Sunday, July 24 (outdoor service at 9:00 a.m) before we head to Sugar Creek Bible Camp, where our adventure begins. And please pray for us throughout the week. We'll be excited to share our adventures after we return.

Those going on the Riverboat Trip include Mallorri Buonincontro, Cally Gill, Alyssa Gottschalk, Emma Hellberg, Sierra Jelinek, Amanda Punsel, Kendra Tobias, Kyla Tobias, Brenda Lovick, and Pastor Jennifer.

Outreach and Social Justice

Our Baby Care Kit drive is continuing throughout the month of July. Please see below for what is needed, or pick up a flyer at church. There is a baby bassinet set up for donations when you enter the Fellowship Hall.

When the kits are completed, they will be delivered to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Minneapolis where they will then be sent to countries around the world. Past kits have gone to Peru, Tanzania, Mali, India, and Haiti.

Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted by Marcia Sivesind

The following are included in each Baby Care Kit:

- two lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)
- two long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
- four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- one jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap TWO pairs of socks
- one hand towel, dark color recommended
- two or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
- two diaper pins or large safety pins



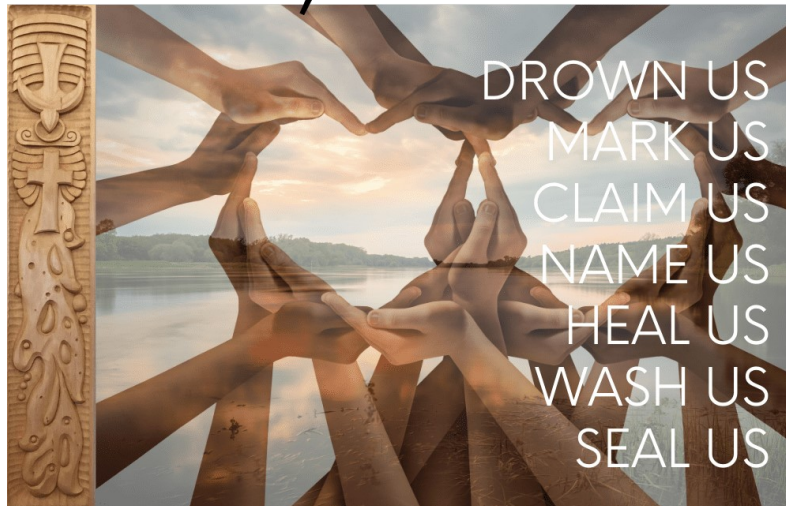
Guidelines for Baby Care Kits

- Please include sizes between 6 and 24 months. Varying the sizes of the clothing items included will make the Baby Care Kit useful as the baby grows.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits.
- Gently used, clean clothing and blankets (no stains or tears) may be substituted for new ones. It is especially important that the items be in excellent condition, as used clothing is increasingly difficult to get through customs in many countries.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

Christian Ed Coordinator Position

After serving Grace as our Christian Education Coordinator so faithfully for 4 years, Teresa Neuenschwander is stepping down from that position. We're so grateful for everything that Teresa has done for our children and youth ministries. So now Grace is looking to hire someone who would be interested in this part-time position, which is about 10 hours per week and includes organizing Sunday School and other children's activities. If you'd like to see a job description, please contact Pastor Jennifer.

BORN, REBORN!



Reflections from the 2022 Synod Assembly

"Born, Reborn!" was the theme of the Assembly of our South-Central Synod of Wisconsin that my husband Randy and I, as our congregation's lay representatives, attended along with Pr. Jennifer on May 6 and 7 in Wisconsin Dells. Comprised of 135 congregations in 13 Wisconsin counties, we are one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) across the country.

What helped us feel welcome: Randy was warmly greeted at registration by a former co-worker. And George Carlson, who had chatted with us at Grace's coffee hour many years ago when he visited as our Bishop, stopped in his tracks, smiled, and said, "I know you!". Our current Bishop, Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, initiated a conversation.

What amused me: We sat in the fourth row. The three rows in front of us were mostly empty, but rows behind were filled. Sound familiar?

Who was it fun to see: After serving as pastor in Andover, Iowa, for several years, our former intern Eric Hanson is now the pastor at East Koshkonong Lutheran Church here in Cambridge. Wearing his Green Bay Packer shirt (which he assured us he continued to wear in Iowa), he entertained us with a story of rural life in Iowa--having to drive an hour to get to a grocery store, only to find that the lettuce he wanted was moldy.

What warmed my heart: The contrast between violence in the news and being present with so many people who share the same caring, Christian beliefs was stunning.

What saddened me: Learning on Saturday that the newly ordained pastor, who had been speaking with Pr. Eric Jelinek on Friday, found his fiancée non-responsive later that evening. She did not recover. They were to be married in four weeks with Prs. Eric and Jennifer as invited guests.

What made me proud: ELCA Lutherans are working in so many ways to be God's hands in the world—disaster relief, alleviating hunger, refugee resettlement, caring for God's creation, racial justice, ministering to students in higher education, welcoming individuals who are LGBTQ.

What inspired me and gave me hope for the future of the ELCA: The theme of “Born, Reborn!” was evident as some congregations excitedly shared their recent innovations. One congregation made the difficult decision to sell its aging church structure and is determining what is next, perhaps not a traditional building. Another combined with a Moravian church to better serve the individuals in their neighborhood. The idea was shared that it is OK to change—even radically—to continue God's work in the world. I wonder, “What is important for us to keep the same, and yet in what ways might God nudge us to be reborn in the future?”

What opportunities did I learn about for our congregation: I spoke with representatives from three Lutheran based organizations.

- ♦ Lutherans United Assisting After Disasters (LUAAD): LUAAD is a group of congregations within our synod who assist survivors within our synod following a disaster such as a tornado or flood. Volunteers might help clean up, do minor repairs, or provide rent assistance. I agreed to be the contact for our congregation. If they need us, will you consider helping?
- ♦ Lutheran Social Services (LSS): A woman from Appleton, a Church Relations Liaison, described ways a congregation can help in the settlement of refugees. We could collect items for a specific area of a home, such as kitchen supplies. We could collect gift cards, so individuals could choose clothing or other items that are the right size and appeal to them. We could go on a local mission trip (within Wisconsin) to paint an apartment or set it up with furniture. She would be happy to brainstorm other ideas with us.
- ♦ Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW): LOPPW is a ministry of the ELCA. It advocates for public policies that reduce hunger, poverty, and exploitation. The director, who is also a pastor, is available to visit churches to share information on the following topics: calling for an end to hunger, addressing the crisis of human trafficking, supporting immigration reform, caring for God's creation, and supporting juvenile justice. Is there a topic you would like to learn about?

Respectfully submitted by Charlene Luchterhand



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



Pentecost at Grace

The sanctuary looked great,
and so did the cookies!

Thanks Pastor Jennifer!



Funerals/Member Deaths

Death - Carolyn Scholten – June 21, 2022

Funeral – Margaret Anderson – June 24, 2022



Free Choir Robes!

Need a Halloween costume? Something for
the school play?

Anyone interested may pick up choir robes
in the church basement. Robes are machine
wash and dry (or hang to dry) and available
in a variety of sizes. Stoles are also free.



STAFF

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Vice President Kelly Witte

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Treasurer Tim Neuenschwander

Outreach April Mickelson

Education Bill Becker

Stewardship Jennifer Hellberg

Hospitality Jim Jermain

Evangelism Shawn Whitman

Worship Ann Engelstad

Property Bill Reay



Grace Lutheran Church
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Cambridge, WI 53523

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

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