

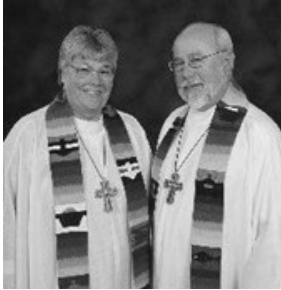


# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

**JULY 2024**

## **Pastors' Ponderings**



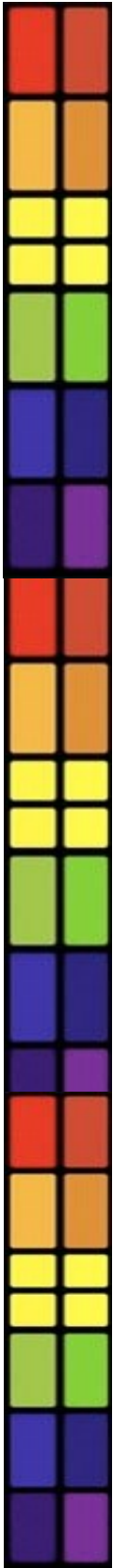
When I was in college, I was a big Star Trek fan. In fact, I once remember racing through an English Lit final so that I could get back to my room and watch Star Trek. I was looking at YouTube the other day and came across a great site! It was called 40 Years of Engage. It had clips of the many Star Trek captains over the years giving the order to Engage. It might have been the beginning of a new journey. It might have been an encounter with an unknown power. It might

have been a confrontation with an enemy. But that sense of engagement was always about moving forward and connecting. Engage – engagement is a pretty important word for us at Grace Lutheran Church this summer. While Pastor Jennifer is on sabbatical, the congregation can take part in that experience by following the summer monthly themes. June – Recreation July – Engagement August – Reflection Our theme for this month is Engagement. But what exactly does that mean? When I think of the word itself, it brings to mind those Star Trek episodes and the command, “Engage!” There always was that sense of adventure, that sense of moving forward, “To boldly go where no [one] has gone before.” So, what does it mean for us at Grace to Engage this summer? What does it mean to us as a community of faith and as individuals? Well, it seems that the young people of Grace will lead the way for us. In just a few weeks Grace will host Vacation Bible School at Cambridge Elementary School. VBS will be for the kids of Grace as well as the kids in the Cambridge community. VBS is such a wonderful way for the young people of Grace to engage in a deeper journey into their own faith. And it is a way to invite our neighbors to engage in and be a part of our Christian community. I have always found that when we adults help out at Vacation Bible School, it is a learning experience for us as well.

Also in July, after months of planning, preparations, and fund raising, the high school youth will be traveling to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Having experienced several Youth Gatherings with our own kids as well as kids from our congregations, it is an amazing opportunity to engage in our faith. It is an amazing time to grow in faith and make deeper connections. How will you engage this July? How will we move forward? How can we deepen our faith? We, of course, have the opportunity to continue to support the youth as they engage in their summer activities. But each of us is also invited to “Engage” this summer in activities that move our faith forward and lead us to a deeper connection to our God. How can you catch a vision of engagement this summer!?

Yours in Christ,

***Pastor Linda Schumacher***





## **Sabbatical at Grace—A Time of Renewal**

July at Grace will focus on opportunities to take part in things. The VBS team will encourage us to take part in our Cambridge community Vacation Bible School (July 15th-19th). Watch for sign-up sheets for various roles in making this program a success. Or just stop by the elementary school sometime during VBS to observe the kids in action and show your interest in what they're doing. Additionally, two of our Sunday worship services this month (on July 14th and 28th) will recognize Grace's involvement in the ELCA's Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Take an opportunity to talk to the youth about their experiences and to express your appreciation for their participation in this event.

July will also be a good time for individual members of the congregation to reflect on personal engagement at Grace. Prayerfully consider joining the adult education group, getting involved in one of the church's committees, volunteering to be a reader or usher, joining a choir (vocal or bell), bringing sewing or craft skills to the quilting group, volunteering to help nurture our new garden, helping with the annual Rummage Sale—the list of possibilities goes on. Even if you have been active at Grace for a long time in a particular area of interest, give some thought to a new role or new church activity. Please leave your name and interest in new involvement (in the box outside the office labeled 'Engagement at Grace'), and someone will contact you soon.

## **ELCA Youth Gathering**



This month, 6 of our youth and 2 adults will be going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Join us in worship on Sunday, July 14 as we send them off with God's blessings. Then join us again in worship on Sunday, July 28 to welcome them back, seeing their photos and hearing about their wonderful experiences. Please pray for them and make sure to follow their journey on Grace's Facebook page.

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

You may have noticed that there have been broadcast issues on Spectrum cable channel 987 lately. Sunday services are also livestreamed on Grace's Facebook page. Just looking for sermons? Check out our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw>

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## 'Opening Doors to Grace'

Thank you for opening your hearts (and wallets) for the Opening Doors to Grace fundraising project to offset the cost of the new front entry doors! As of the first week in June, your contributions, along with proceeds from the raffle basket and silent auction sales raised over \$5,000 for the doors. If you have not paid for your silent auction items, please be sure to do so as soon as possible. You can send a check or Venmo with the designation of Opening Doors to Grace. The fundraising project will continue through the summer, so keep those donations coming. We would like to cover up to \$8,000 of the \$16,500 to avoid using the entire annual property budget for this one project. And wouldn't it be great to see something done with aging green indoor/outdoor carpeting at the entrance?



A huge thank you to everyone who donated raffle baskets as well as silent auction and cash & carry items! Those individuals are recognized on a poster in the entryway of the church. To Richard Scott and John Jensen, our sincere thanks and appreciation for taking on the project of improving the accessibility of our front entry—and it looks great too! Many thanks to Connie Kreuser, Judy Heidebrecht, Janet Koepp and April Mickelson for running the fundraising kick off. Donations to this project are still welcome, please do so by noting Opening Doors to Grace on your check or Venmo submission



### PIG Receipts

Those Piggly Wiggly receipts add up! Grace receives cash back from your Cambridge Pig receipts. Please continue to drop Cambridge receipts off in the designated drawer in the entryway table at church. We appreciate it!

### Summer Rummage Sale: Aug. 2-3

It's coming up quick! This is a great opportunity to connect with our community and repurpose items that are still useful. Please bring all great quality items to the designated room in the church basement. If you need help with any large items you might need to have picked up, or are willing to help with set-up or clean up, please call Tami Collin at 920-728-8047.



### Confirmation Corner



Confirmation is over for this school year, however students who haven't finished their sermon notes may complete them over the summer. And please remember to put the dates you are scheduled to acolyte on your calendar. Have a great summer!

### Pastors' Summer Office Hours

Pastors Loren and Linda are available for pastoral care and emergencies. You can reach them at 715-529-2110 (Linda) and 715-523-0422 (Loren). They will hold summer office hours on Mondays & Thursdays from 9-11 am.



# JULY VOLUNTEERS



**July 7 -** Ushers: Jeanine Thurow & Connie Kreuser    Assisting Minister: Shawn Koebke  
Reader: Lori Jensen  
Communion Servers: Kenny Zickert & Sharon Erb  
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle  
Acolytes: Jackson Rue & Blake Schutte  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Donna Simdon & Donna Kelter

**July 14 -** Ushers: Amy Simdon & Donna Simdon    Assisting Minister: Eric Olsen  
Reader: Amy Simdon  
Communion Servers: Shawn Whitman & April Mickelson  
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle  
Acolytes: Jack Johnson & Haven Gill  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Mickelson & Hartwig

**July 21 -** Ushers: Dale & Marcia Klemp    Assisting Minister: Shawn Koebke  
Reader: Char Luchterhand  
Communion Servers: Randy Luchterhand & Judy Heidebrecht  
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle  
Acolytes: Paxton Koehler & Aiden Williams  
Coffee Hour: Luchterhand & Heidebrecht

**July 28 -** Ushers: Bill & Betty Reay    Assisting Minister: Andrya Coutts  
Reader: Brenda Lovick  
Communion Servers: Brenda Lovick & Jean Scott  
Communion Set Up: Geis Family  
Acolytes: Brady & Ashton Thayer  
Coffee Hour: Russo & Rue

**Altar Guild** - Diane Fronck & Lori Jensen



# JULY AT GRACE

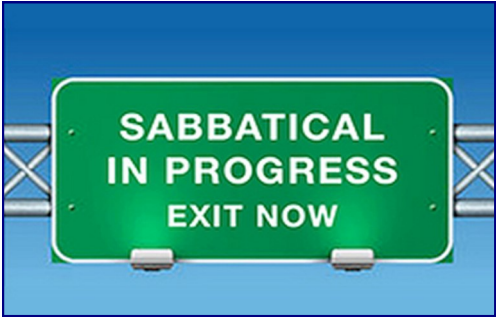
Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
30 9 am Worship SERVICE Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	July 1	2	3 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee	4 Independence Day  OFFICE CLOSED	5	6
7 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE</b> - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	8 9:30 am Quilters	9	10 9 am Lydia Circle	11 10 am Staff Mtg	12	13
14 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE</b> - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	15 Youth Gathering  VBS 9:30 am Quilters  Newsletter content deadline	16 Youth Gathering  VBS	17 Youth Gathering  VBS	18 Youth Gathering  VBS	19 Youth Gathering	20
21 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE</b> - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	22 9:30 am Quilters	23	24	25	26	27
28 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE</b> - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	29	30	31	Aug 1	2	3



## Summer Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 9 am – noon, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Variable additional hours are available; please contact us if you'd like to make an appointment (608)423-3135 or via email at

[gracelutherancambridgwi@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutherancambridgwi@gmail.com)



**Sabbatical Sending  
Service  
June 28, 2024**



A special thank  
you to our  
photographer,  
Randy  
Luchterhand!



## **Outreach and Social Justice**

As summer begins, so does the Baby Care Kits project! It's time to stalk those garage sales for kit items. Specific information about donations is below; please take note of the Guidelines. You may bring in your donations during July; look for a collection site near the entrance of fellowship hall. If you wish to donate to the purchase of cloth diapers, please use VENMO or write a check to Grace and include Baby Kits in the memo line. The Baby Care Kits will be boxed and sent to Lutheran World Relief in September to be distributed around the world.

### **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.

Don't forget that we will be continuing the School Kit drive in August. Please look for more info to come. We hope you can help with one or both projects.

## Got Sheets or Fabric?

Grace Quilters are still in great need of clean, stain-free, cotton sheets. Please consider donating sheets by bringing them to the church office.

Any sewers who have unused fabric around, the quilters could use that too. Monetary donations are also always welcome. All donations can also be dropped off at the church office.



## Pollinator Garden Completed!

After months of planning, the new pollinator garden has taken shape on the north side of the sanctuary! Cooperative volunteers and good weather allowed 220 native plants to be set in the ground in early June. Now we wait for growth, blooming, and the appearance of birds, bees, and other pollinators who will work their magic for our earth. Throughout the summer we will need volunteers to water the garden once a week. Please look for the sheets in the gathering area and sign up for a time when you can help. Thank you to those who planned the project, to Thrivent for a grant, and to everyone who will water and maintain the garden.





## Welcome Pastors Loren and Linda Schumacher!



### Sunday, June 9th

The apostle Paul makes an appearance at Grace.



We are so grateful to have them join us for the summer! If you haven't done so already, be sure to say hello and introduce yourself.



### Grace Council Minutes

Minutes from the June Council meeting will be published in the August newsletter. The Council will not meet in July.

# From the Treasurer

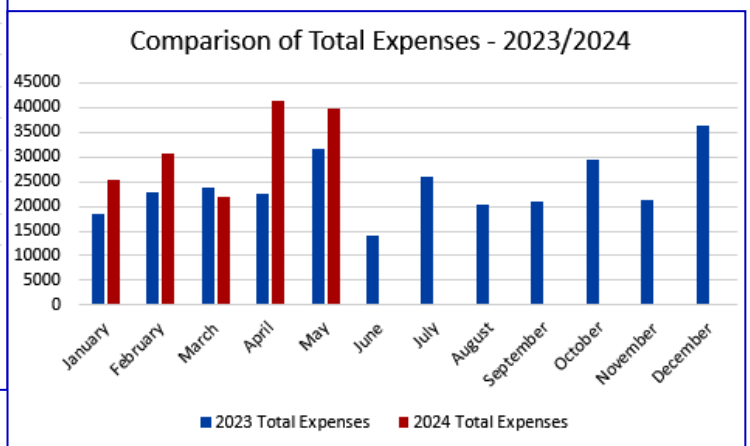
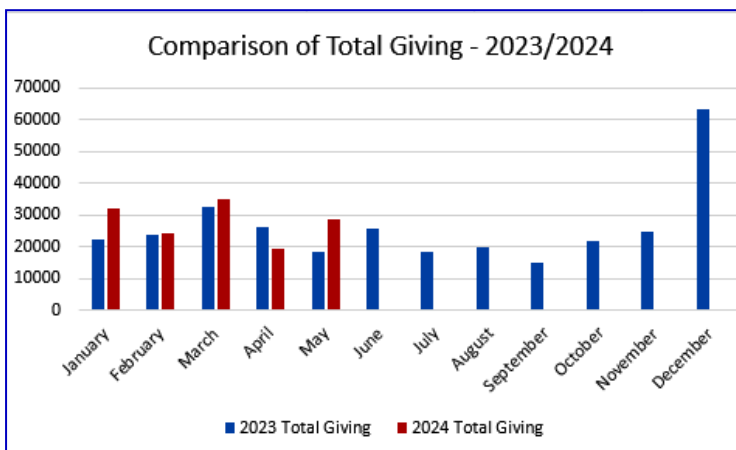
## May 2024 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date May 2024 Actual	Year-to-date 2024 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	120,217	115,000	5,217
Special Giving	14,183	8,333	5,850
Sabbatical Giving	35,939	30,950	4,989
Misc Income	1,948	1,375	573
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>172,287</b>	<b>155,658</b>	<b>16,628</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administrative	58,940	44,736	14,204
Mission	25,560	17,917	7,644
Pastoral	77,177	70,609	6,568
Program	3,454	4,342	(888)
Other	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>165,132</b>	<b>137,604</b>	<b>27,528</b>
<b>Total Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>7,155</b>	<b>18,055</b>	<b>(10,900)</b>

Thank you for your generous giving. Please remember that in addition to the Sunday service, you can give online through Vanco <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YYN7> or through Venmo, using the QR code.



**venmo**





# Staff and Council



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## STAFF

**Sabbatical Pastors** Loren & Linda Schumacher

Pastor Linda 715-529-2110 ljschumacher51@gmail.com

Pastor Loren - 715-523-0422 zionloren@gmail.com

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

**Christian Ed Coordinator** Breah Klemp christianedu.glc@gmail.com

**Volunteer Coordinator** Cindy Hartman cindyh1029@msn.com

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

**Organist** Kenneth Hoversten kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com

**Handbell Choir Director** Ann Engelstad gaengelstad@charter.net

## COUNCIL

**President** Kelly Witte

**Vice President** Bob Koeppe

**Secretary** Char Luchterhand

**Treasurer** Amy Simdon

**Outreach** April Mickelson

**Education** Kristin Rue

**Stewardship** Connie Kreuser

**Hospitality** Peggy Punsel

**Evangelism** Shawn Whitman

**Worship** Sandi Aston Hall

**Property** John Jensen &

Richard Scott



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

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We broadcast  
 on Channel  
 987

