



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

JUNE 2024

Pastors' Ponderings



Dear Friends in Christ,

We are pleased to be joining you at this exciting time for the congregation at Grace, and for Pastor Jennifer as she embraces her time of renewal and refreshment during her sabbatical.

Summer is always a time of shifting gears. The gears don't stop turning, but they drive us in new directions and move us in exciting ways. The structures that focus our days are now in summer mode. For Grace this means interim leadership for a few months. Journeying with the sabbatical team, the congregations is called to walk alongside Pastor Jennifer at a distance, exploring the themes of "Recreation", Engagement" and" Reflection" that will be guiding her time away.

As we come into your presence, please know that we are available and welcome any concerns that may arise in the coming months. Do not hesitate to contact us and share with us at every opportunity.

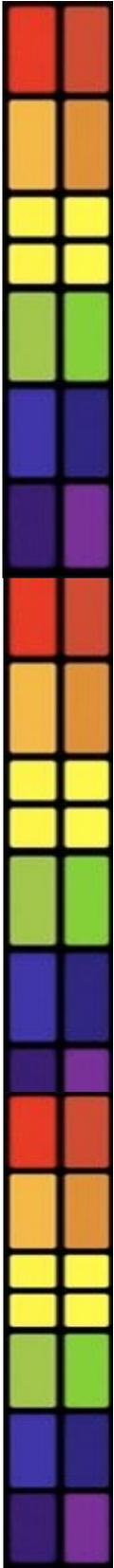
God is working through each one of us as the Spirit, whose coming we celebrated on Pentecost, enters our heart and minds. May God's Spirit fill us with a renewed hope and direction for the ministry together here at Grace.

God bless our time together in Christ's name,

Pastor Loren & Pastor Linda

Your Sabbatical Team

This summer, the members of Grace will explore the same themes Pastor Jennifer will explore while on sabbatical, as we seek to sustain our congregational life and renew our sense of purpose as a church family. In anticipation of this vital time in our congregational ministry, we've assembled a team to help plan and lead our summer activities. Members of the Sabbatical Team are Pat Hall, Bob Koepp, Marcia Sivesind, Shauna Thayer, and Kris Tobias. Please take a few minutes to read the article on the next page, outlining the thoughtful activities planned for our congregation throughout the next few months. And welcome to Pastors Loren and Linda!





Summer of Recreation, Engagement, and Reflection

Pastor Jennifer's sabbatical leave is a thoughtfully organized program of professional and personal renewal with a monthly focus on the themes of Recreation (June), Engagement (July), and Reflection (August). Throughout this period, the members of Grace will also explore these themes as we seek to sustain our congregational life and renew our sense of purpose as a church family.

In June our recreation will involve a special Sunday service of song and praise, a celebration of the gift of music as a means of worship (June 2nd). Later in the month (June 23rd) we will follow our Sunday service with the annual Grace Picnic—with food and fun and games for all.

Congregational activity in July will focus on opportunities to take part in Christian education, engaging in efforts to foster and sustain our programs for the children and the youth of Grace. The VBS leadership team will encourage us to take part in our Cambridge community Vacation Bible School (July 15th-19th), with sign-ups for filling various roles in making this program a success. Additionally, two of our Sunday worship services will recognize Grace's involvement in the ELCA's Youth Gathering in New Orleans, with a sending service on July 14th and a presentation by the youth on their experience (July 28th). On the 28th we'll also have a slide show celebrating the VBS program.

In August we'll take time to reflect. Plans are still in process at this time, but a program of some kind will be offered on meditation and contemplation/spiritual renewal, perhaps during a lay-led worship service on Sunday, August 18th, at about the time Pastor Jennifer will be participating in a retreat at the Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland.

So plan to take part in a fulfilling summer of Recreation, Engagement, and Reflection, even as Pastor Jennifer does the same!

Annual Church Picnic



As we celebrate this month of "Recreation" here at Grace, we look forward to our Church Picnic, which will be on Sunday, June 23 after the 9am worship service. Worship will be indoors. You're invited to bring a dish to pass, a lawn chair, and any yard games you're willing to share.

Monday Night Book Study

This month, we're going to discuss the book, "The Screwtape Letters" by C.S. Lewis. The book is readily available in libraries, bookstores, and on Amazon. So you have plenty of time to complete the book before hand, we'll talk about this book on Monday, June 24 at 7pm. All are welcome.

Music Sunday

As we begin this summer together, we're going to start with a musical celebration. On June 2, members of Grace will lead the service, sharing our rich musical gifts as well as sharing favorite hymns that have been meaningful in their lives. Please join us on June 2 for Music Sunday.



Summer Rummage Sale



This year's sale will take place Friday and Saturday, August 2-3. You may bring all great quality finds to the designated room in the church basement beginning July 1. This is a great opportunity to connect with our community and repurpose items that are still useful. Later this summer there will be help available for any large items you might need to have picked up. Please call Tami Collin at 920-728-8047 if you're interested in helping.

Youth Envelope Fundraiser

As our youth start counting down the days to their trip to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering, they're having 1 more simple fundraiser to support their trip. In the Fellowship Hall, you'll find a bulletin board with colored envelopes numbered from 1-50. You're invited to take an envelope and fill it with the amount of dollars printed on the envelope. They so appreciate your support and look forward to sharing their experiences with you in late July.

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!

Pastors' Summer Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays from 10:00-Noon

After June 5, Pastors Loren and Linda are available for pastoral emergencies. You can reach them at 715-529-2110 (Linda) and 715-523-0422 (Loren).

JUNE AT GRACE

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
26 SABBATICAL SENDING 9 am Worship SERVICE Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	27 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	28	29	30	31	1
2 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	3 9:30 am Quilters	4	5 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee	6	7	8
9 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	10 9:30 am Quilters	11	12 9 am Lydia Circle Newsletter content due	13 10 am Staff Mtg	14	15
16 FATHER'S DAY 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	17 9:30 am Quilters	18 7pm Grace Council Mtg	19	20	21	22
23 CHURCH PICNIC 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	24 7pm Book Study	25	26	27	28	29
30 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	July 1	2	3	4 Independence Day OFFICE CLOSED	5	6



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

GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



Kids Take Over Worship Service

Our students did a great job in closing out the Sunday School year on May 5th, by taking the lead in guiding us through a heartwarming and inspirational worship service .

Well done, Kids!



A special thank you to our photographer, Randy Luchterhand!



Thanks to Breah Klemp and all the Sunday School Teachers for a great year!

Excerpt: Letter from ELCA AMMPARO Director, Mary B. Campbell

Dear Grace Lutheran,

Thanks for your most generous Lent offering of \$3500 for ELCA AMMPARO! We want to thank you for helping advance the important work of accompanying and protecting migrants. Although the past year has presented many changes and challenges in the work of migrant justice, faith voices have coalesced around the principles of dignity and generosity to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Congregational and synod support also enables AMMPARO to provide direct assistance to migrants by supporting legal assistance on a pro bono basis at the U.S./Mexican border, as well as direct aid to migrants who have been repatriated to their home countries through emergency humanitarian aid, vocational training, seed capital for microenterprises, psycho-social trauma counseling and more.

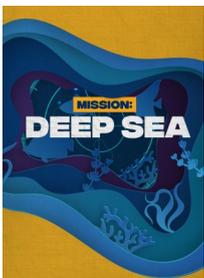
The complete letter can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Stewardship: Time, Talents, Treasures

The Stewardship and Outreach committees joined forces during May to hold a fundraiser for the "Opening Doors to Grace" project. Thank you to everyone who donated themed baskets, gift cards, beautiful hand-made works, and silent auction items. Thanks to Neil Johnson for his beautiful wood and metal craftsmanship. Likewise, thank you to all who purchased items, submitted bids, and took a chance on raffle tickets. The proceeds will supplement the church building fund as we make our entrance more accessible.

New pollinator garden: Work is set to begin on May 31 and/or June 1 to dig and lift out sod (using a rented machine) and work up the ground in the plot. Planting is scheduled for the following week on June 7 and 8. Of course, it all depends on the weather and having volunteers. Come to lend a hand!

Reminder: Please bring garage sale items to the designated room in the basement. Call Tami Collin at 920-728-8047 if you're interested in helping with set up, organizing, and/or



GLC Vacation Bible School: July 15th-18th, 8:30 AM-12:00 PM at Cambridge Elementary School

Registration is now live on Breeze for a crew of deep sea explorers to explore the deepest depths of the ocean, in search of knowledge about its Creator — and you're invited! Join us for VBS: July 15-18, from 8:30-noon.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2024

(Minutes below reviewed & approved at next Council meeting)

Call to Order. Vice President Bob Koepp called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Attendance. Present: Sandi Aston Hall, Pr. Jennifer Jelinek, John Jensen, Bob Koepp, Charlene Luchterhand, April Mickelson, Peggy Punsel, Kristin Rue, Richard Scott, Amy Simdon, Shawn Whitman.

Absent: Connie Kreuser, Kelly Witte

Devotions. Bob shared devotions.

Approval of Minutes. Peggy moved to approve the April meeting minutes. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda. Peggy requested that the church picnic be added to New Business. Sandi moved to approve the amended agenda. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence. We received a thank you letter from AMMPARO for the money donated from our Lenten challenge and a note of thanks from piano teacher Julie Baskinger of Andante Studio for the use of our sanctuary to hold a piano recital.

Treasurer's Report. (Amy) We had a net loss of \$20,924.88 in April, however year-to-date we have a net income of \$24,235.96. Our year-to-date General Giving at the end of April was \$5,753 higher than 2023 and \$9,830 over the YTD budget. Year-to-date Special Giving was \$526 less than last year and over \$1,977 more than budget. Year-to-date expenses were \$31,405 more than last year of which \$22,083 is for sabbatical and Youth Gathering expenses. We are \$9,303 over our budget. Year-to-date net ordinary income would be about \$5,549 if the sabbatical grant and expenses are not included. This is about \$12,500 less than last year at the end of April. The checking balance decreased by about \$15,000 with the general fund balance increasing by approximately \$9,000. The larger expenses in April were taken out of designated funds for the Lenten Challenge, Sabbatical and Youth Gathering. John moved to approve this treasurer's report and last month's report (which we had missed approving) and send them to audit. Sandi seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. (Pr. Jennifer) May 26 will be her last Sunday in church prior to her sabbatical. She is leaving town on May 29. Her first Sunday back will be August 25. She reminded everyone to get information in a timely manner to Catherine for the newsletter while she is gone. Her husband, Pr. Erik, will be retiring, going on permanent disability. His last Sunday with his congregation will be May 19. She will be hosting a retirement party for him on Saturday afternoon, June 29. She has asked approval to hold it at our church, since it is difficult to predict how many people will attend. April moved to approve this request. Amy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Graduate recognition will occur this Sunday as it is the best date for the graduates. Pr. Brenda Lovick, who knows most of the four graduates, will lead the service as Pr. Jennifer will be attending her husband's last service. Catherine's hours have been irregular recently due to her need to be in the Chicago area to assist her mother following a stroke. For the property committee, it has been noted that the men's bathroom has been odorous.

Committee Reports. (Provided in writing and/or discussed in the meeting as needed.)

Education. (Kristin) Sunday School children led the worship service on May 5. The congregation gave lots of positive feedback. That was also the last day of Sunday School for this school year. Vacation Bible School planning is in progress.

Property. (Richard and John) See "Front Door Project" in Old Business.

Stewardship. (Connie) See "Pollinator Garden" in Old Business.

Worship. (Sandi) Reflected on the positive experiences of Holy Week. New paraments are needed for the altar. Authorized reimbursement for the supplies. Discussed components of worship during the sabbatical months: there will be a lay-led service one Sunday each month and liturgy will be spoken, rather than sang, during these three months. Discussed questions about hymns sung during worship services.

Old Business.

Front Door Project & Fundraising. Per April, fund-raising is going well. Bidding will end at 10:45 AM this coming Sunday. The fund-raising committee will ask Catherine to send an e-mail to the congregation revealing who won the items. Items can be picked up on Sunday, May 26, or by special arrangement with the fund-raising committee. The committee will send thank you notes to everyone who donated items.

Pollinator Garden. Volunteers have come forward to pick up the sod cutter, move plants from the Severson farm to the church, and to plant. Someone is needed to operate the sod cutter.

Sabbatical. The two interim pastors will be compensated a combined total of \$8000 for their service this summer. \$5000 will come from the sabbatical grant; the remainder is in the budget. The pastors will meet with Catherine this coming Wednesday. They will start their roles on June 9 and end on August 11. Their usual hours are expected to be Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings. The sign-up sheet for congregation members to lock up during these months is going well, with just a few slots yet to be filled. June 2 will be the first lay-led service and will focus on music.

New Business.

Church Picnic. The picnic will be held on Sunday, June 23. Worship will be held indoors this year. Peggy's husband will grill hotdogs and brats. She will post a sign-up sheet for side dishes. Games for adults and youth are being planned.

Adjournment. Char moved to adjourn the meeting. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Meetings this Summer. Our next meeting will be held one week later than usual--on Tuesday, June 18 at 7:00 PM. Connie is scheduled to present devotions. We will not hold a meeting in July. Our August meeting will be back on schedule--August 13.

Submitted by Charlene Luchterhand, Council Secretary

Member Deaths

Louise Eastland — May 10, 2024

From the Treasurer

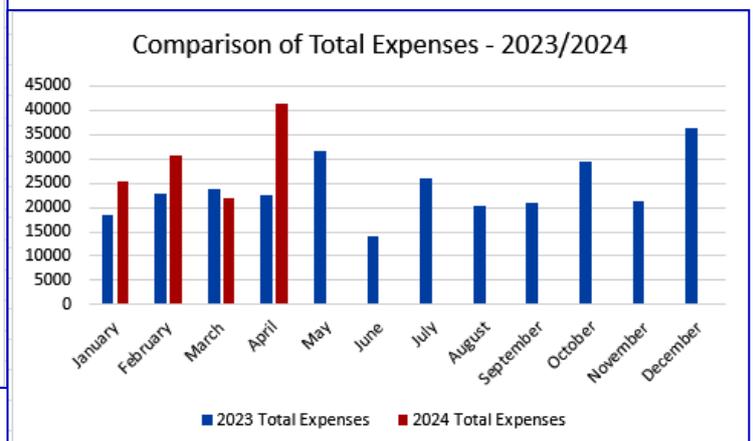
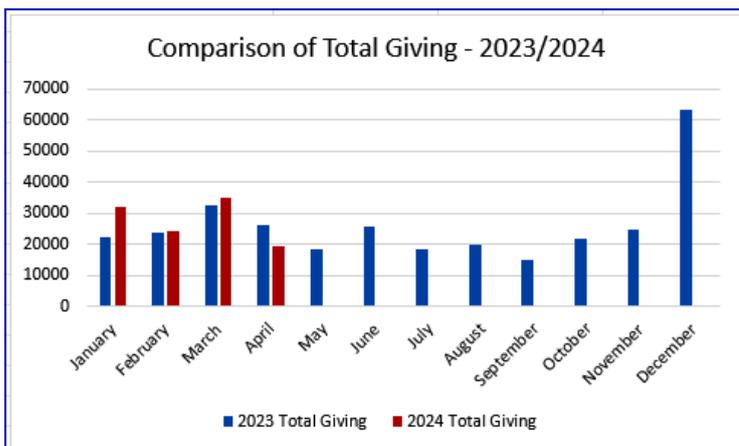
April 2024 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date April 2024 Actual	Year-to-date 2024 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	102,080	92,000	10,080
Special Giving	8,644	6,667	1,977
Sabbatical Giving	30,950	30,950	-
Misc Income	1,947	1,100	847
Total Income	143,621	130,717	12,905
Expenses			
Administrative	33,858	35,789	(1,931)
Mission	23,212	14,333	8,879
Pastoral	59,336	56,487	2,849
Program	2,979	3,473	(494)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	119,385	110,083	9,302
Total Net Income (Loss)	24,236	20,634	3,602

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



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

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Vice President Bob Koeppe

Secretary Char Luchterhand

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Outreach April Mickelson

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Evangelism Shawn Whitman

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