

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love

January, 2021

Pastor's Ponderings



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I don't have to tell you how challenging and unexpected 2020 was. We all had to learn to do things differently – everything from worshipping to grocery shopping to holding meetings to going to school to celebrating holidays. While learning new ways of doing things has been challenging and sometimes irritating, we've also grown and found new opportunities and blessings along the way.

That said, I think we're all looking forward to 2021 with hope and great anticipation of a better year ahead in life and here at Grace. I'm not sure that we'll "get back to normal" anytime soon, but I'm starting to wonder if a new normal will be even better than what used to be. We've discovered so many great things in the last 9 months that have included more people, stretched our imagination and creativity, and brought new meaning to worship and ministry. I'm truly excited to see what 2021 has in store for us at Grace.

One of the first ways we're moving forward is by holding our Annual Meeting on January 24. You may be wondering, "How in the world will we be able to have an Annual Meeting if we can't all be in the same room together?" The answer... Zoom.

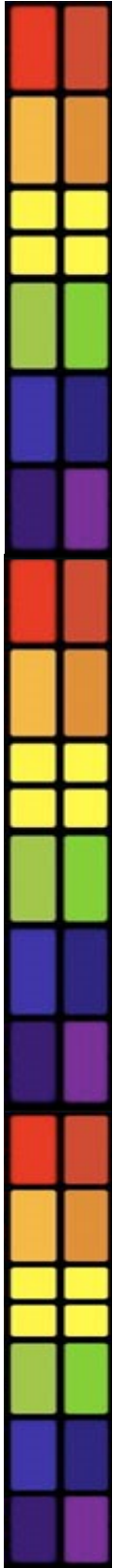
Now hear me out. I know Zoom sounds scary and unfamiliar to those of you who haven't tried it, but I've found it to be a fantastic, easy tool for having meetings, classes, and casual conversations. Some congregations even use Zoom for worship. Our Council has met on Zoom since April. This summer, we held our Synod Assembly and elected a bishop over Zoom. And if a synod Annual Meeting of over 400 people can succeed on Zoom, we can certainly have a successful Annual Meeting on Zoom, as well. It's really quite simple and effective.

Our Council passed a resolution that will allow us to meet over Zoom, as long as everyone has opportunity to participate and vote in real time. On January 10 and 17, we'll do a Zoom tutorial immediately after worship on the TV broadcast and on Facebook. If you've never used Zoom, we encourage you to watch. More information on Zoom is inside this newsletter, as well.

Even more so, we ask, hope, and strongly encourage you to be a part of **our Annual Meeting over Zoom on Sunday, January 24** as we reflect on this past year and elect leaders for the future. We need you! We look forward to being together with you as we plan and prepare for this coming year, doing God's work and sharing God's grace in this time and place.

In Christ,

+Pastor Jennifer



Grace's Annual Meeting Sunday on Zoom - January 24 at 10:00 a.m.



**Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 24th after worship**

Annual Reports

For those of you who have shared your e-mail address with us, Grace's Annual Reports will be e-mailed to you by January 17. Other wise, you can pick up an Annual Report in Grace's Little Library at the end of the front walk on Jan. 17.

How to Participate:

To participate by **computer or smart phone**:
Click on Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81304197009?pwd=QmgwREt2eEs3MU5EZmwyVWhLQ1VEQT09>

What is Zoom?

Zoom is a way to do and video communi- real time, with every-

being able to participate. Even if you don't have a computer, you can use Zoom. There's a call-in feature where you can use your own phone to call, listen, and participate in the meeting. If you call in for Zoom, we'll ask you to identify yourself, because we'll only be able to see your phone number.

But Zoom works even better online, with a computer (with a web-cam) or smart phone, because you can both see and hear one another. If you've never used Zoom, try clicking on the Zoom link for the Annual Meeting, which will ask you to register, which costs you nothing. Then it will take you to the meeting.

The typical Zoom screen ends up looking a bit like the Brady bunch, with each participant having their own box. You can participate with your camera on or off. We'd love your camera to be on so we can see your beautiful faces! When you enter the meeting, you will be muted, but you can unmute when you vote or when you want to speak. We'll be able to take attendance on Zoom, record minutes, hear your input, and take votes. When one of the leaders is speaking, their picture will be larger, and we'll also be able to "Share Screen" so you can see financial sheets or any other documents we want to share with you.

We encourage you to practice getting on Zoom ahead of time so it works smoothly on January 24. You're always welcome to join us for Grace Gab or Monday night studies on Zoom, even just if you want to practice. Happy Zooming!

To participate by **phone**:
Call 1-312-626-6799; Enter Meeting ID: 813 0419 7009
Skip entering Participant code; Enter Passcode: 133690

audio
cation in
body



While it's a bit too chilly to have outdoor services, we'll continue offering "Drive-Thru Communion" every other week through the winter. Between 10:00-10:30 on those Sundays, simply drive to the back entrance of the church by the Skogen Rd. entrance, and servers will bring you pre-packaged communion in your car. Grapes will be available for kids, as well.

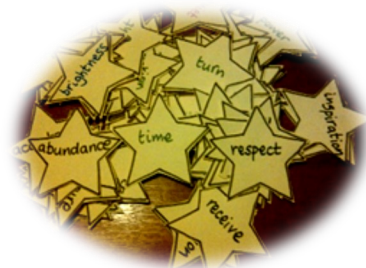
**Drive-Thru Communion will be offered
January 3, 17, and 31**



Star Words

Last January we started the tradition of "Star Words" when we celebrated Epiphany. Epiphany is the day when we celebrate the magi following the star to find Jesus in Bethlehem. The star guided them to the Messiah. Last year in worship, we encouraged you all to pick a Star Word out of a basket, and we told you to hang that star where you'd see it regularly, and we encouraged you to meditate on this word for 2020. We've heard how meaningful these words have been to some of you in this challenging year.

Many of you commented about appreciating the Star Word tradition, so we got to work figuring out how we could continue it this year when we're not able to gather for worship in-person. Ben Becker came to the rescue with an online "Star Word Generator." Thanks, Ben! To get a Star Word for 2021, all you need to do is go to a link he created, and a word will appear for you. In fact, you could continue going to this website every day for a Word-of-the Day if that appeals to you.



The link is: www.wordsatgrace.com

We encourage you to write out the word that appears, and hang it somewhere you look frequently so you can meditate on it in the coming months. How is God speaking to you through this word? How is God guiding your life? If you don't have internet capabilities, simply call Virginia or Pastor Jennifer, and they will get you a Star Word for 2021.

Grace Staff Availability

As staff works more from home than from church, please feel free to call them on their cell phones or e-mail them . Thank you.

Pastor Jennifer 608-295-7120 pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com

Virginia Becker (Administrative Assistant) 623-680-3696 gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com

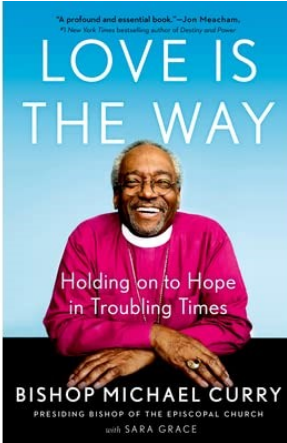
Teresa Neuenschwander (Christian Education) 608-658-7844 teresa478@hotmail.com

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

Worship Broadcasts

All worship services this month will be broadcast on Charter channel 987 and on Grace's Facebook page. Sermons are posted on Grace's YouTube channel after Sunday worship, as well.

Book Discussion "Love Is the Way"



Winter is a great time for reading! And who of us couldn't use a bit of hope right now? For the next 6 weeks on **Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** on Zoom, we'll be reading and discussing the book "**Love Is the Way:**

Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times" by Bishop Michael Curry, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Feel free to join us for a conversation about this hope-filled book. All are welcome! It's available at many stores and on Amazon for around \$20.

Jan. 4 – Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2

Jan. 11 – Chapters 3 & 4

Jan. 18 – Chapters 5 & 6

Jan. 25 – Chapters 7 & 8

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81511911887?pwd=SFFTTjRWR3hVQ2VnZ2k3TlZlTU01sdz09>

By Phone: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 815 1191 1887

Passcode: 620571

Grace Gab

Feeling like chatting with Pastor Jennifer and other Grace folks? Join us Tuesday mornings at 10:30

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81975908253?pwd=WittQXFORkNRUHRwcXpEVCtZdGlTU09>

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 819 7590 8253

Passcode: 889886

a.m. for Grace Gab on Zoom. There's no agenda, no topic – just a chance to check in and chat with others from Grace. Here's the link:

Video Editing Skills?

Do you have skills in video editing? Since we're using more video in worship (and your pastor has very limited skills), we'd love to have a couple people who would be able to help edit and produce videos. If you're willing to help, please contact Pastor Jennifer.

Confirmation Corner

Mentor night this month is January 6 at 6:30 p.m. Confirmation class will soon begin studying the Apostles' Creed. As soon as students finish their first packet of 6 sermon notes at home, they can return them to Pastor Jennifer for the second packet.

Bake Sale Thanks

Our Youth Bake sale in December made over \$400! Thank you for the contributions that you have given the youth to go to Minneapolis. It is greatly appreciated!

Thank
you!

Thank You!

Thank
you!

There are so many people who helped make our Advent and Christmas season beautiful. A big thanks to our Planning Team – Ann Engelstad, Lori Jensen, Michael Rehak, Pira Mueller, Kris Tobias, Steve Geis, Cindy Hartman, and Virginia Becker.

Thanks to Ann Engelstad, Karen Johnson, and Amy Simdon for continuing to lead our worship music, as well as our singers – Ann & Greg Engelstad, Lori Jensen, and Tom Jensen.

Thanks to our ever-faithful AV crew – Steve Oostdik, Todd Tatlock, and Steve Geis, and Michael Rehak for making our worship broadcasts possible. Thanks to Sierra & Scarlett Jelinek for continuing to livestream our services as well.

Thank you to our wonderful Sunday Schoolers, Sunday School parents and grandparents, Teresa Neuenschwander, Kristin Rue, and Mike Klink for putting together such a fantastic Christmas Program video. It's still available for viewing on YouTube and on our website.

An extra-special thanks to Michael and Pira for all the time, creativity, and effort they've put into decorating during these wonderful seasons.



Sanctuary Life Size Nativity scene

Sunday School 2020/2021

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



Check out our Facebook group called *Grace Lutheran Sunday School-*

This group was created to inform you about Sunday School Happenings! Please feel free to post pictures or videos from lessons that you do, ask questions or even to just say Hi! I love hearing from you, and it will be a great way for all of us to stay connected! An email will also be sent with all of the same information.

All lessons and activities will be sent by email or can be found on the Grace Lutheran Sunday School Facebook group.

Sunday, January 10th • Zoom Meet 10:00 am

We will learn take this time to catch up, play a game and see how everyone's Christmas was.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84922468833?pwd=MHU0Q3BYTXhFajlnVWZoZXhNUGxOdz09>

Meeting ID: 849 2246 8833

Passcode: 496607

Sunday, January 17th *Jesus Brings Good News – Luke 4:14-30* **Jesus brings good news for those in need. Jesus begins his ministry.**

Sunday, January 24th *Jesus Fishes for People – Luke 5:1-11* **The fishermen see and hear Jesus, call him Lord, and follow him as disciples.**

Sunday, January 31st *The Lord of the Sabbath – Luke 6:1-16* **The Sabbath is for rest and helping others. We will learn about how important it is to take time for the sabbath and worship in the busyness of our lives.**

THANK YOU!

Every time I watch the Christmas program video it makes me smile! I'm so proud of each and every one of you! You did an amazing job! Special shout out to Kristin Klenke and her dad Mike – it never would of came together without you two. Thank you, parents for working with your kids on decorating their letters, working on lines and recording the videos – there would have been no Christmas program without everyone working together.
I feel so blessed!



January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Sat.
					1 New Year's Day	2
3 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Cable Channel 987 & facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube) 10:00-10:30 a.m. Drive-thru Communion	4 7 p.m. "Love is the Way" Book Study on Zoom	5 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab	6 6:30 p.m. Confirmation- MENTOR NIGHT	7	8	9
10 9 a.m. Worship-Cable Channel 987 & facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube) 9:40 a.m. Zoom Tutorial	11 7 p.m. "Love is the Way" Book Study on Zoom	12 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab	13 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	14	15	16
17 9 a.m. Worship-Cable Channel 987 & facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube) 10:00-10:30 a.m. Drive-thru Communion 9:40 a.m. Zoom Tutorial	18 7 p.m. "Love is the Way" Book Study on Zoom	19 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab	20 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	21	22	23
24 9 a.m. Worship-Cable Channel 987 & facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube) 10 a.m. Virtual Annual Meeting	25 7 p.m. "Love is the Way" Book Study on Zoom	26 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab	27 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	28	29	30
31 9 a.m. Worship-Cable Channel 987 & facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube) 10:00-10:30 a.m. Drive-thru Communion						

The Cambridge Food Pantry is continuing to offer no contact grocery pick-up from 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Monday evening. If someone you know is in need of groceries, we encourage them to come by! The Food Pantry would like to thank Grace Lutheran Church for its support of food and money donations. The great need continues.

Items in duplicate are needed most , so if you can donate 12-15 of any boxed or canned item, that is helpful. Also, frozen meals are welcomed.

Kerry Marren
Community Activities Program
Cambridge Food Pantry Coordinator
608-423-8142
foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us
www.cambridgecap.net

Advent Reflection

By our Missionaries: Rev. Rachel Esekse & Zachary Courter

Dorothy and I crafted an Advent calendar together with some finger paint, cardboard, masking tape and cotton balls. We hung it in the living room. Yesterday, Zach and I asked Dorothy “where’s the Advent Calendar?” *slowly repeating* “Advent, Aaaadveeennt.” Dorothy looked around the room, past the Advent Calendar, and gestured quizzically to the elephant pictured on the carpet.

Dorothy is increasingly good at “finding” things in the house. We have a “Merry Christmas” banner in the kitchen and whenever we say “Merry Christmas!” she points to it joyfully. Now, Advent said slowly DOES sound a little bit like “elephant.” Zach and I were impressed with this new insight. In some ways, **Advent is a chance to address ‘the elephants in the room,’** or at least, identify them.

For our family, the big elephant in the room is missing our families. I think something that many can relate to with ongoing Covid-19 impacts globally. Another elephant of Advent is the arrival of God in the most surprising form– a tiny baby born in less than ideal circumstances, according to the world. That can be where God shows up: where, when and with whom we least expect.

So, our family invites yours this year to look for the **elephants in your Advent.** To see how many ways the God of surprises is inviting us to look at the world in a new way. ■

~**Rachel and Zachary** serve as coordinators for the Young Adults in Global Mission Program in Hungary and Serbia, guiding young adults as they serve, and cultivating them to be future leaders in the ELCA and the world. They are also strengthening relationships with the Lutheran Church in Hungary, diaconal ministries there, and NGOs working to dismantle Anti-Gypsism in Central Europe.

Website: <https://zachandrachel.wordpress.com>

Home-base States: California, Washington, & Wisconsin



Outreach & Social Justice

The Outreach Committee has not been meeting, due to the pandemic. Thank you for your support with our projects this past year: baby care kits, Lenten goat challenge, and school kits. We now just encourage you to care for yourself and help out your neighbors! Sidewalks/ driveways may need to be shoveled. Share some homemade soup. Be kind and patient. Wear your mask! 2021 will be brighter!

Piggly Wiggly Receipts

Just a reminder we are still collecting Piggly Wiggle receipts. You may bring them with you when you come for drive-thru communion. Just put them in an envelope and write Piggly Wiggle Receipts. If the church is open, there is a drawer in the table that is in the entryway of the church for you to put the receipts.

Women's Group Meeting by Zoom

Ruth Circle is meeting by Zoom the 1st Wednesday of each month, if you don't have Zoom, you may join them by phone :

1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 88914923776

Password: 018885

*August 22, 1927-
December 10,*



Beverly Nottestad

Deaths



Loren Benson

*October 9, 1928-
December 1, 2020*



Married

Terra Holzhueter wed **Alex Beaver**
on October 24, 2020

Terra is the daughter of Chad and Darcy Holzhueter
The Beavers live in Fort Atkinson
We wish them well in their future as husband and wife

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2020 Via Zoom from Home during Pandemic

(Minutes below are not approved until next month's Council meeting)

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by President Steve Geis at 7:32 p.m.

Attendance: Steve Geis, Tim Neuenschwander, Amy Simdon, Amanda Kosanda, Mary Behling, Jean Scott, Kris Tobias, Ann Engelstad, Lori Jensen, and Pastor Jennifer. Erik Olsen and Tom Kosanda were excused.

Devotions: Lori Jensen presented devotions to begin the meeting.

Approval of November Minutes: Lori Jensen moved to approve the November Minutes. Amy Simdon seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda: Outreach Committee-Jean Scott noted that the quilting group has begun meeting at home instead of at church. They still have "Good Gifts" for sale for Christmas this year, but they must be ordered online. Hospitality-Lori Jensen noted that they will be sending Christmas cards to new members. Also, they have ordered blankets for Spring graduation gifts. Stewardship-Amy Simdon noted that pledges so far have amounted to \$152,500, down about \$20,000 from previous years, at this time. Discussion was then held on various ideas for ways to use the gift from Phil Vasby. Tim will take our ideas to him to see if he would like to have some input.

Property Report: Tommy Kosanda was not able to attend, but Pastor reported that they have not yet received an estimate on the cost of replacing the boilers. Virginia to follow up.

Treasurer's Report: Tim Neuenschwander reported that we had the highest month this year for General Giving in November, with an overall net profit of over \$6,800 for the month. We have an overall profit for the year of almost \$20,000 even deducting the large individual gift and the PPP loan. Members have been very supportive! Tom Jensen and Mike Day have agreed to do the audit again this year. Diane Russo has prepared all of the information for applying for PPP loan forgiveness. The MIF loan is at \$87,856. Taking into consideration all funds currently segregated for repayment, there is less than \$25,000 left to pay. The fund-raising program is now in its third and final year. Tim then presented the proposed 2021 budget. He indicated that he feels very good about the numbers at this time, but no one knows what 2021 will actually be like so it is a little difficult to predict some expenses and income. Council members had reviewed it and had some questions and comments, but felt it looked good, overall. Accordingly, Amy Simdon moved to approve the budget. Jean Scott seconded, and it was unanimously approved. Finally, Tim noted that the scholarship CD is up for renewal, but has old names on the account. Ann Engelstad moved to update the names to Steve Geis, Tim Neuenschwander, and Diane Russo and renew the CD for another year. Jean Scott seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Lori Jensen then moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Kris Tobias seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jennifer reported that the committee working on Advent and Christmas planning has been excellent and has come up with many good ideas. Starting December 9, there will be "Advent Wednesdays" for three weeks where the sanctuary will be open from 3-8 p.m. for people to come reflect, pray, bring a family ornament to hang on the Church tree, and to take a Grace ornament home. Social distancing and masks will be required. There will be a 5:00 p.m. online service on Christmas Eve. It will be broadcast on cable and Facebook. There will then be a 7:00 p.m. parking lot service with communion and the singing of "Silent Night" with candles. The church has purchased an FM transmitter so that people can hear this short service over their car radios no matter where they are in the parking lot. On December 20, the High School Youth will hold their annual bake sale fundraiser in the garage from 9:45-10:30 a.m. The children's Christmas program will be broadcast that same day at the 9:00 service. On Christmas Day, there will be a 10:00 a.m. online service followed by drive-thru communion. Pastor Jennifer will be on vacation the week after Christmas, but Erik Olsen and Andrya Coutts will lead an online service on December 27th at 9:00 a.m. which will be broadcast on Facebook and cable, provided we can find a volunteer to stream the Facebook, video since Scarlett and Sierra generally do that. She also noted that she is working with people to try to make the video transmission more reliable for the Christmas program. It was difficult to understand the Bishop through the video feed and it went in and out intermittently a week ago.

New Business: Committee reports for the annual meeting are due before Christmas. Pastor will ask Virginia to send out an email with sample reports to work from. Pastor reported that the nominating committee has been able to fill all open positions as follows: Jen Hellberg for Stewardship, Shawn Whitman for Evangelism, and Kari Jermain for Hospitality. We might still need a couple to attend the Synod Assembly, but that may be held online.

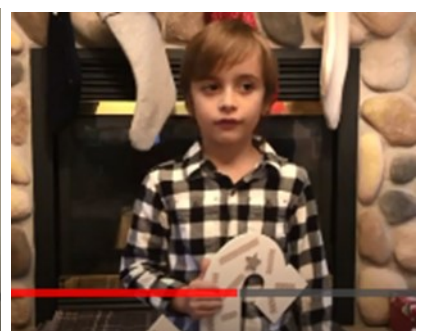
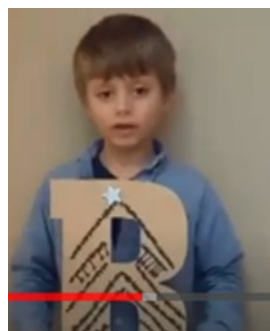
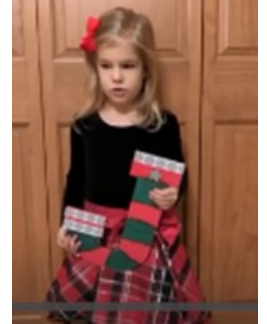
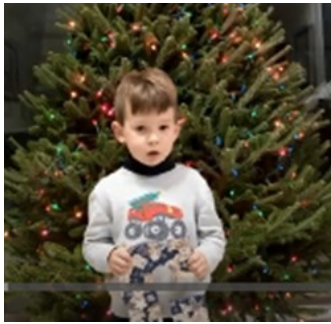
Old Business: a) Advent/Christmas Planning. Kris Tobias' family has painted the outline of pictures on the west windows and people are invited to come finish filling them in. b) Music Director Position. Personnel Committee has met a couple of times. They have received a few calls through word of mouth, but have also advertised in the Synod newsletter and are considering advertising with some organists' guilds. They would like to have resumes by January 1. c) Return to Worship Planning. Steve presented the latest positivity rate for Wisconsin, which has dropped in the last couple of weeks, but is still well above the 5% rate where we would recommend returning to in-person worship. He will provide that report on a weekly basis to the Council members.

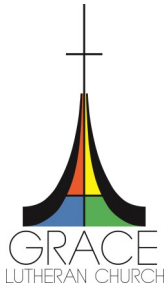
Garage Insurance. Tim needs square footage, estimated value of contents, etc., from Tommy and will then talk to the insurance company.

Adjournment: Next meeting will be January 12, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. by Zoom. There being no further business, Amy Simdon moved to adjourn. Ann Engelstad seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Report submitted by Mary Behling, *Council Secretary*

The ABCs of Christmas Sunday School Program





Grace Lutheran Church
 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	Church Office: (608) 423-3135	Cell: (623) 680-3696	gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>	Diane Russo		Cell: (847) 826-0131	gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com
<u>Music Director:</u>				
<u>Handbell Choir Director:</u>	Ann Engelstad			gaengelstad@charter.net
<u>Christian Education Coordinator:</u>	Teresa Neuenschwander		Cell: (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	