

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love

July, 2020



Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Friends,

Happy July! I imagine this July will be unlike any you've ever had before. More of us will be staying home or traveling just short distances. We may miss out on traditional 4th of July celebrations with parades and fireworks, as well as other plans we might've had this month. It's a confusing time – some businesses have reopened, while others have not. Some have restrictions, others have few. Some churches have "re-opened", while most have not yet. You may know that I'll quickly say that Grace is and has always been "open," regardless of whether people can worship together in our building. Our ministry has continued faithfully for the last few months, and YOU are the Church, wherever you are.

But I've gotten a few questions about when Grace might start gathering for worship again. It's a complicated question, of course. Sadly, although we'd rather be done with it, COVID-19 isn't done yet, and there are so many among us who are high-risk. There's a chart online of how risky certain activities are during this time. While take-out food and tennis are low-risk (Level 1), concerts, bars, and sporting events are considered high-risk (Level 9). Churches have been listed as Level 8 because of how we gather and the activities we participate in during worship. There are certainly ways for us to minimize the risks, but the risk is still fairly high, as evidenced by recent breakouts after worship gatherings (Sheboygan Falls being one).

Many of you will feel more comfortable remaining home, participating in worship as you have for the last few months. I affirm and encourage that. But for those who have been asking about in-person worship, your Church Council has started talking about how we might offer that for those wanting it. We don't have a date yet, and it may still be weeks or months away, depending on future statistics, but we're working hard to do the work needed to develop procedures to minimize risks (learn more about that inside this newsletter).

When we eventually do gather, there will be precautions in place to protect you, to protect me, and to protect others. Worship will look different than ever before so we can minimize our risks. There will be no congregational singing, sharing of the peace, coffee hour, or communion (except for drive-in communion). Many pews will be removed to ensure physical distancing.

Because my husband has Stage IV lung cancer and receives chemo, he is, of course high-risk. So, our family has been very cautious for the last few months, and we will continue to be careful. One of my calls as your pastor is to visit the sick and dying, which I've continued to do (in limited circumstances) the past few months. I want to make sure that I don't transmit anything to those I visit. Therefore, if we do return to worship in the next couple months, you'll be asked to wear a mask in the building to help protect me, our staff, and our most vulnerable. Nobody really loves wearing masks, but they are necessary during this time. You've loved one another by staying distant for the last few months. And when we're able to re-gather in some ways, wearing masks in worship is how you can love me and one another.

When Council determines in-person worship can begin again, you'll receive a letter with procedures and details so you know exactly what to expect. Until then, please continue to worship with me over the airwaves and internet. I truly feel your presence. It's been a blessing to see how God unites us in these unique ways.

In Christ,

+Pastor Jennifer

Want to start meeting? Here's how you can help...

As we look at the possibility of re-gathering again for worship, there are a number of things we're considering and working on to keep everyone as safe as possible. In order to make gathering possible, we'll need a lot of help. We're putting together a Cleaning Team to sanitize the building after worship services. We're looking for a Stream Team, people willing to video-record services to stream to Facebook (on a phone is fine). And we'll need Ushers to help people with masks.

We're very mindful that many of our members are high-risk, and many others don't feel safe gathering yet. We encourage you to do what's right for you and your family. But if you're someone who is eager to get back to worship in the next couple months, we encourage you to volunteer for any of these ministry opportunities. Re-gathering won't be an option until we've got committed volunteers for each of these areas.

Please contact either Lori Jensen 608-698-3838 jensenl@firstweber.com or Cindy Hartman 608-423-3520.

Worship

Sunday worship continues to be available live on Sundays on Charter cable channel 987 at 9:00 a.m. as well as live on Facebook. Sermons are posted on Grace's YouTube channel after Sunday worship as well. A big thanks to Judy Brandt, Steve Oostdik, Todd Tatlock, and Sierra & Scarlett Jelinek for helping lead worship and handling the AV for our broadcasts.

Giving

It's been humbling and heart-warming to see how generous our Grace members continue to be, despite the challenges of the last few months. We're so grateful for your faithfulness and ask you to continue giving to Grace as you are able. Feel free to mail in your offering or to give online. If you go to our website – gracelutherancambridge.org, you'll find a button that says "Online Giving." If you click there, you can give once or set up repeated donations. Thank you!

If You Need Something...

Since our staff is working almost exclusively from home, please feel free to call them on their cell phones rather than at church. If you've got a prayer request, if you have question for the church staff, or if you have a special need, please feel free to call, text, or e-mail Pastor Jennifer – 608-295-7120 pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com or Virginia Becker 623-680-3696 gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Our Wednesday night Bible study on the book of Acts continues to meet at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. There's no pre-work and no homework, so you're welcome to jump in and join us at any time. Just have your favorite Bible handy.

Even if Bible studies sound boring, or intimidate you, this is the perfect opportunity to check it out. We have great conversations and have fun together.

You can access our Zoom Bible Study using this login information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/77830558349?pwd=emtFblZnUXlkNUdYeVRFRpVVEhaQT09>

Meeting ID: 778 3055 8349

Password: 417535

Or call 312-626-6799 and input the ID and password above.



Grace Gab

Missing coffee hour and the time to catch up with friends? Other than being in-person, our Zoom Grace Gab is the next best thing! Each Tuesday, Pastor Jennifer is offering Grace Gab, the chance to see and talk to and listen to one another. There's no agenda, no topic – just a chance to check in and chat with others from Grace. Zoom is extremely easy to use with internet, and it can be used with just a phone as well.

Here is the login information :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/76777610565?pwd=SEtzCHJQL00yL1VVENOWDU3RUJVdz09>

Meeting ID: 767 7761 0565

Password: 462396

Or call 312- 626-6799 and input ID and Password from above.

Christ In Our Home Devotional Books

The devotional book, *Christ in Our Home*, for July-September is available for you to pick up, if you use it. Look for a copy, while supplies last, in the wooden Little Lending Library at the end of the front sidewalk at Grace.

Daily Devotions on Facebook

We are posting Luther Seminary's devotions daily. Check out our Facebook page!



“Faith Steps” Worship Series

This month, we'll complete our six-week “Faith Steps” worship series, based on the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. While helping people struggling with addictions, these steps can also be a powerful guide for our lives of faith. If you missed any of the previous sermons, they can be found on Grace's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channelUCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw>

June 28 - Pastor Erik Jelinek – Steps 8-10

July 5 – Pastor Jennifer Jelinek – Step 11

July 12 – Pastor Erik Jelinek – Step 12

Reading Assignments for “Breathing Underwater”:

Monday & Thursday Noon Class:

June 29– Chapter 6

July 2 – Chapter 7

July 6 – Chapter 8

July 9 – Chapter 9

July 13 – Chapter 10

July 14 – Chapter 11

July 16 – Chapter 12

Zoom Link:

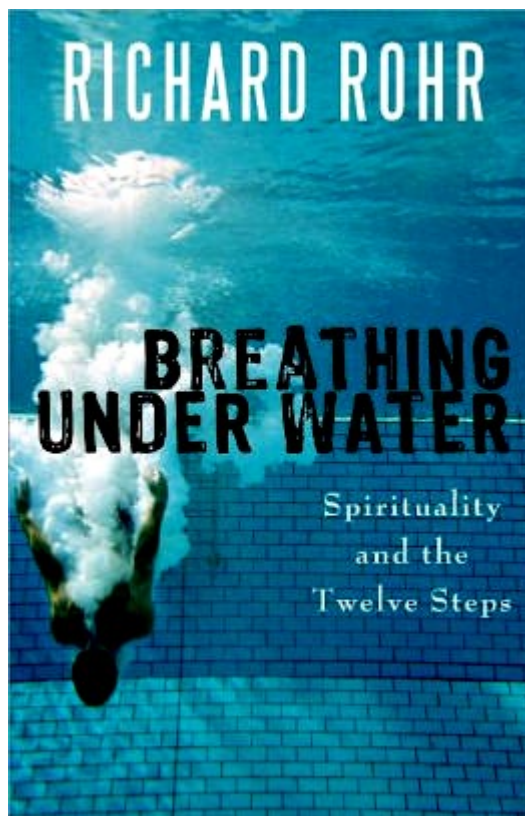
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82640886521>

[pwd=dHlrYmRmd1REZuVEh5YjIjPM0l6MGJJUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82640886521?pwd=dHlrYmRmd1REZuVEh5YjIjPM0l6MGJJUT09)

By Phone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 826 4088 6521

Password: 854881



Sunday 7 p.m. Class:

June 28 – Chapters 5-7

July 5 – Chapters 8-10

July 12 – Chapters 11-12

Zoom Link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87110869430?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87110869430?pwd=RVpaL0pFcktiNmRmY1ZncG5lWkpTd09)

[pwd=RVpaL0pFcktiNmRmY1ZncG5lWkpTd09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87110869430?pwd=RVpaL0pFcktiNmRmY1ZncG5lWkpTd09)

By Phone: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 871 1086 9430

Password: 864423

Lutherans Can “Go to Confession”?

By Pastor Jennifer

As we've been going through the 12 Steps in worship and in our book study, we've talked a lot about realizing our wrongs and admitting them. Recently in our book study on “Breathing Under Water,” we talked about the 5th Step (Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs, and it made us think about the Catholic practice of individual confession. You know what I mean – an individual goes into a confessional, tells a priest his/her sins, and receives forgiveness. For some in the group, there was something appealing about this practice. Getting out our guilt and hearing forgiveness spoken to us individually is exactly the kind of comfort and healing we may need when we've done something we regret.

Many in the group didn't realize that we Lutherans also have the option to confess our sins individually. While it hasn't been used frequently, on page of 243 of the ELW, there's an order for “Individual Confession and Forgiveness.” We may not have a confessional booth, but Lutheran pastors are always willing to hear personal confessions. As with priests in the Catholic Church, anything said to a pastor in confession is totally confidential. If there's ever a time you'd like to meet privately for a time of confession, please feel free to contact me.

12 Steps

- (1) *We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.*
- (2) *Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.*
- (3) *Made a decision to turn our will and our lives to the care of God as we understood him.*
- (4) *Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.*
- (5) *Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.*
- (6) *Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.*
- (7) *Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.*
- (8) *Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.*
- (9) *Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.*
- (10) *Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.*
- (11) *Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood him, praying only for knowledge of His will and the power to carry that out.*
- (12) *Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*

These steps are from the book, “Alcoholics Anonymous.”

THE TWELVE STEPS

1. I can't
2. God can
3. Let God
4. Look within
5. Admit wrongs
6. Ready self for change
7. Seek God's help
8. Become willing
9. Make amends
10. Daily inventory
11. Pray and meditate
12. Give it away

DRIVE-IN COMMUNION SERVICES



After months without possibility for communion with our community, we created a way to share communion as safely as possible. Three times in the last 6 weeks, we've gathered for a Drive-In Communion Service in our parking lot. Everybody brought their own communion elements and communed in the safety of their cars. We plan to continue this in July as well.

So if you're new to Drive-In Communion, simply pack some bread or crackers and/or wine or grape juice in your car. If you don't/can't have both bread and wine, having just bread or just wine/grape juice is still completely communion. At 10:00 a.m. you're invited to drive into Grace's parking lot, entering from either Skogen Rd. driveway. You'll be directed where to park so you can see and hear. If sitting in your car is too warm, you're invited to get out, but please stand/sit near your car for the care of others.

If the weather looks miserable, Pastor Jennifer will announce the cancellation at the 9:00 worship service.



Drive-In-Communion Schedule

June 28

July 12

July 26

Want to Help?

We're looking for a few more people who would be willing to help set up for the Drive-In Services carrying gear, helping people park, etc.

We need at least 4 people each time. If you'd like to help, please contact Pastor Jennifer.

We Celebrated our Grace Grads at June 14 Drive-in Communion



Community Needs & Support Team



Community Call to Action

Are you looking for a way to help?

Volunteer your time!

[Sign up here to volunteer your time!](https://sites.google.com/a/cambridge.k12.wi.us/kristin-aasen-gowan/)

<https://sites.google.com/a/cambridge.k12.wi.us/kristin-aasen-gowan/>

Donate items to the Food Pantry

Drop off bins will be located outside the Nikolay Middle School office entrance and the CAP main office entrance at the Cambridge High School.

Items needed include paper products, hearty soups, pancake/waffle mix, snacks, paper & plastic bags

Financially Support CART or the Food Pantry

[CART Donation](http://www.cartforhelp.com)

www.cartforhelp.com

[Food Pantry Donation](http://www.cambridgecap.net/get-involved/donate/)

www.cambridgecap.net/get-involved/donate/

If you would like to make a donation by cash or check, please contact Kristin Gowan with the Community Needs and Support Team at (608)213-5819.



Share Your Faith Story

Is this a good time for you to reflect upon your faith, to write it down and share your faith journey? Member, Kathy McCarty, recently finished her story. You can find it on our website by scrolling down to the blog section.

If you would like to add yours to our website, please e-mail Virginia, our Administrative Assistant, with your contribution. We look forward to filling this section with scores of inspirational stories of faith! Happy reflecting and writing!

Outreach & Social Justice News

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Outreach has not been able to make definite plans for future activities. We are hopeful that we can still complete school bags for Lutheran World Relief distribution. More information on that will come out next month. It seems early to think about school supply sales, but if you see one and want to purchase spiral notebooks, pencils, blunt end scissors, etc., that would be great.

Once again, many thanks for the donations to our "Super Goat" Lenten challenge. Our goal was 40 goats. We raised enough money for 49!

OUR HOMEBOUND
Jon Bakken 309 Oriole Lane Cambridge, WI 53523
Geraldine Rattmann 2629 Highland Drive Cambridge, WI 53523
Bev Nottestad 118 S. Pleasant St. Cambridge, WI 53523
Mary Ellen Smith 912 Monroe St., Apt. 11 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
Shirley Engelstad Home Again Assisted Living 110 Stuart St. Columbus, WI 53925
Char Kenseth 555 W. Madison #5 Cambridge, WI 53523

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 2020 Via Zoom from Home during Quarantine

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

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

Devotions. Mary Behling presented devotions.

Approval of March & April Minutes.

Lori Jensen moved to approve the May Minutes as written, Amy Simdon seconded, and they were unanimously approved. Ann Engelstad then moved to approve the special June Minutes as written, Tim Neuenschwander seconded, and unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda.

No meetings were held so no reports were submitted, but Lori Jensen noted that the blankets are ready to be presented to the graduating seniors on Sunday.

Property Report.

Tom Kosanda stated that some people have been working to assist with drainage after the recent storms and he has been thinking about getting started on the painting project, but it's difficult with the social distance issues. Gary Haberkorn is continuing to mow.

Treasurer's Report.

Tim Neuenschwander presented the treasurer's report. (a) Total giving for May was down over April, especially the general giving. Regardless, the amount contributed was statistically consistent with contributions in May of 2019. May reflected the highest use of Vanco ever with over \$17,000 donated in that manner. Expenses were stable month-over-month other than the decrease in missions. This was the first month in 2020 that expenses exceeded income (by less than \$600, however), and we are still in the black for 2020. (b) Several changes were made to the PPP loan requirements recently which would make our entire loan subject to forgiveness. There is no need to contact the bank yet in that regard since the time frame was extended. Amanda Kosanda moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Amy Simdon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Steve then noted that we had not approved the April Treasurer's Report at the May meeting. Lori Jensen moved to approve that Treasurer's Report as well, Kris Tobias seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Tim then stated that he was approached by a member recently who did not feel that the church should accept government funds, particularly if we did not really need to so. The member offered to contribute the entire amount with a special gift so that we can return the entire loan, but be in the exact position we would have been in if we had accepted the funds and had the loan forgiven. After some discussion, Ann Engelstad moved to accept the member's offer and pay back the PPP loan in full. Lori seconded the motion and it was approved 6-2. Tim will notify the member and express our thanks.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES-continued

Pastor's Report.

Pastor will be on vacation starting a week from Sunday. She has arranged to record her sermon before she leaves. Pastor Pribenow preached last Sunday and Pastor Erik Jelinek will preach this Sunday in the continuing series. The book study on Breathing Underwater started last Monday and she is continuing the group discussion of the Book of Acts as well. The first drive-in communion was successful and the second one will be this Sunday together with recognition of the graduates. She reported that she has had a challenging week and asked for the Council members to listen for signs of dissension or unhappiness from the congregation and encourage dialogue and discussion. It is difficult when she doesn't see people on a regular basis and she wants to encourage people to reach out to her with any concerns they have so that they can discuss things before they build up.

Old Business. None.

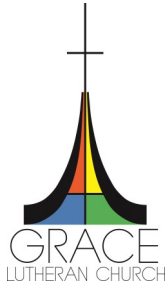
New Business. Weddings and funerals. There is a wedding scheduled in the church for October 24, and the couple is anxious to know how many guests they can count on having. We reviewed the guidelines put out by Jefferson County as well as the current CDC guidelines and the Dane County restrictions (since much of the congregation lives in Dane County). Steve proposed that we say that if the wedding were held today, we would allow 50 persons in the sanctuary or 100 people outside, but that we just can't guarantee what the answer will be in October. We then discussed funerals and felt that all events should be consistent. Tom Kosanda moved to follow the guidelines set out by Jefferson County (a copy of which will be attached to these Minutes and posted on the church website) and to limit all events such as these to 50 persons in the sanctuary, 100 people outside, subject to change to any time based on available information. Ann seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Return to in the building church services. Amy Simdon had to leave the meeting at this time, but there was still a quorum. Much discussion was held with many different points of view and proposals expressed. Pastor Jennifer finally proposed that we find people to form three teams. One would be for cleaning/sanitizing after service, the second would be for continuing to stream the service for those who choose to remain home or are unable to attend in person, and the third would be the usher team to assist with seating and maintaining social distancing while entering and exiting. Lori Jensen and Ann Engelstad volunteered to work on recruiting team members and it will be announced in other ways, as well. Judy Brandt and Pastor Jennifer need to avoid direct contact with other persons, so that will be worked on, as well. Ann also offered to play the music for any service. Other groups: We did not get into this very much, but agreed that other groups will be able to meet in the church as soon as we figure out the necessary sanitizing and ways to abide by the other Jefferson County guidelines. It was agreed, however, that there would be no use of the kitchen for the foreseeable future.

Adjournment.

Next meeting will be July 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Grace if possible and, if not, by Zoom again. There being no further business, Lori Jensen moved to adjourn. Tom Kosanda seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously, followed by the Lord's Prayer. Tom Kosanda is listed for June devotions.

-Report submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary.



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		(608) 423-3135	gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>	Diane Russo		(608) 423-3135	gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com
<u>Music Director:</u>	Judy Brandt		(608) 239-6948	judithbrandt@gmail.com
<u>Handbell Choir Director:</u>	Ann Engelstad			gaengelstad@charter.net
<u>Christian Education Coordinator:</u>	Teresa Neuenschwander		(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	