



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love

July, 2021

Pastor's Ponderings



My family's had the opportunity to do some traveling in the last month. Now that we've all been vaccinated, we flew for the first time in 18 months. We went to Maui, excited to enjoy the wonders of God's creation – the ocean, the beach, the rainforests, the mountains, birds, flowers, and sunshine. God is a master artist, and we were grateful to experience that beauty. In fact, we were prepared to immerse ourselves in that beauty.

What I wasn't prepared for was all the human beauty we experienced. I was surprised at how delightful it was to be around total strangers again. As we sat at O'Hare waiting for our flight, we were surrounded by all sorts of people – young, old, and everywhere in between. There were people of every hair color, every skin tone, many languages, and it was gorgeous. Watching children climbing under the chairs to find dropped toys, seeing partners napping on one another's shoulders, hearing the babble of babies, seeing the joy in the faces of grandparents, anticipating first hugs from grandchildren, was incredible.

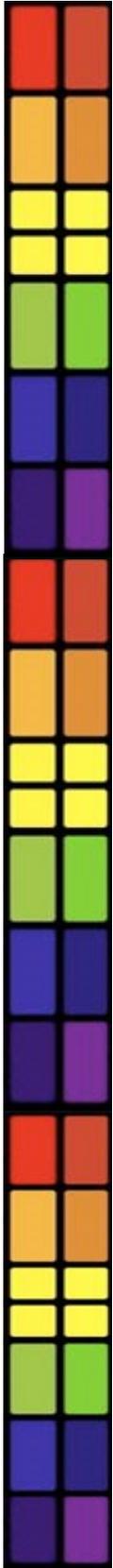
To be surrounded in the beautiful diversity of humankind was a totally unexpected blessing. I never realized how much I missed being around people who are different than me. It was refreshing and helped me feel like a citizen of the whole world, rather than a Midwesterner limited to seeing just a few handfuls of people for the last year, most of whom were very similar to myself.

From our hotel balcony, we could see the beach, which meant we got to eavesdrop on 7 different couples' beach weddings that week. It was a joy to witness the lifelong commitments of total strangers. We saw joy in the faces of children playing in waves, in the eyes of an old man feeding popcorn to birds, in the families who were so happy to be together again. Each night, we'd watch the parade of people carrying lawn chairs to the beach to watch the sunset, much like we'd carry lawn chairs to a park to watch fireworks. As I watched all of these people interacting with one another and with creation, I learned more about myself and felt even more connected to our creator God.

We often see God's presence in nature, but it was amazing to see God's handiwork in the people God created – many, diverse, and gorgeous. This summer, I hope you have opportunities to spend time in God's creation, and I hope you too get the chance to see God's grace in the lives of the people God created.

In Christ,

+Pastor Jennifer



June Highlights:

Sunday, July 4 9:00 Service & Broadcast

Sunday, July 11 9:00 Service and Broadcast & 10:00 Outdoor Worship

Sunday, July 18 9:00 Service and Broadcast

Sunday, July 25 9:00 Service and Broadcast & 10:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship

Outdoor Worship-*every other Sunday*



Not comfortable worshipping in the Sanctuary yet? Enjoy worshipping outdoors? Then join us for Outdoor Worship in Grace's parking lot every other Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Come and worship from your car or bring lawn chairs to sit outside. Bulletins and communion kits will be provided for you. If the weather looks iffy, an

announcement will be made at the 9:00 broadcast and on Facebook about whether the outdoor service will happen.

Note: There will not be an outdoor service on July 4.

Communion Practices

During the pandemic, we've had to figure out new ways to safely share communion. In the last 6 months, we've experimented with several pre-packaged communion kits, that include both bread and grape juice. The problem with them is that they can be challenging to open. Our newest kits are a different style – chalice-shaped, with bread sealed at the bottom and grape juice sealed at the top. They don't fit in our communion trays, but we're hoping they help make communion consumption a little easier for you. During indoor and worship, we're now passing out communion kits as worshipers enter, so you can consume them during worship at the same time.



Summer Sermon Series



On June 20, we began exploring "stories of unraveling" throughout scripture.

This 12 week series comes with art for each week, as well as a devotional journal for each Sunday's theme. Feel free to pick up an

"Unraveled" Journal, at worship and outside, in our Little Library all summer.

July 4- Peter Sinks in the Water: Unraveled by Uncertainty

July 11- Zacchaeus the Wealthy Tax Collector

July 18- Pharaoh Hardens His Heart to Moses' Request

July 25- The Conversion of Saul to Paul

Opportunities to Serve

After a year of very few of us being able to help out at church, we're starting to have areas where we could use more volunteers. We're grateful for those who have helped to get us through the pandemic. While we're thankful for everything they've done, we want to give them some support and relief. If you don't know how to do these things, no worries – we'll teach you! **We really do need more helpers.** If you're willing to help in any of these ways, please contact the Church Office.

Volunteers Needed



- ◆ **Ushers** (9:00 in the Sanctuary) – Check in worshipers, pass out bulletins & communion kits, wipe down surfaces
- ◆ **Ushers** (10:00 Outdoor worship, every other Sunday) – Arrive by 9:45 to pass out bulletins and communion kits outside in the parking lot as people arrive
- ◆ **Readers** – Read the lesson for either indoor or outdoor worship
- ◆ **Outdoor Worship set-up** – Arrive before 9:00 a.m. to help set up risers decorations, and sound equipment in church yard (with direction)
- ◆ **Audio/Visual Crew** – Learn how to operate our A/V equipment to eventually join the team of folks who make broadcasting worship possible

Summer Book Study– 7 p.m. Mondays

Looking for some reading material this summer? How about **Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again** by the late Christian author Rachel Held Evans? This study will be held Monday nights at 7:00 p.m., simultaneously in-person at Grace and on Zoom, **starting July 12**. If you want us to order a copy for you, (\$13.96 on Amazon) contact Pastor Jennifer.

July Reading Schedule:

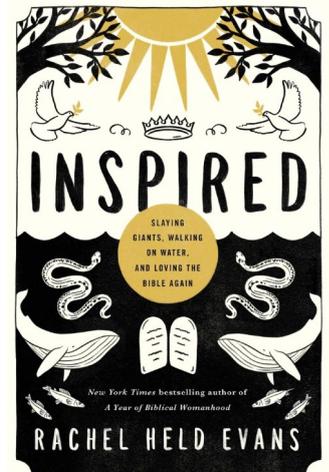
July 12: Introduction – The Well

July 19: Deliverance Stories – The Walls

July 26: War Stories – The Debate

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89367677894?pwd=bFVYRVY5VG1OVk9FTTBsRFdCVzF6dz09>



Worship Broadcasts

Sunday worship services are live broadcast on Charter channel 987 and on Grace's Facebook page. Sermons are posted on Grace's YouTube channel after Sunday worship, as well as on the Grace website.

Grace Office Hours

Grace staff have begun to resume **office hours 9:00 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday**. There are additional office hours, but those will vary more. Please contact us if you'd like to make an appointment. Contact information is on pg.12.

Worship Updates from Grace Council

At our June Council meeting, we had another lively discussion about the next steps in returning to 'normal' worship. Here is what we voted to approve:

- +Effective immediately, we will no longer have to sign up for worship.
- +We will sing together all hymns, with masks on.
- +We will give people a little more time to get their vaccination(s). Starting July 18th, we will no longer require masks for the fully vaccinated (two weeks beyond a 2nd Pfizer or Moderna shot, or two weeks beyond a single Johnson & Johnson shot).
- +We ask that those not vaccinated to continue to wear masks indoors (following CDC guidelines), however, we will not be asking people about their vaccination status. We are trusting that you will want to protect those that choose not to, or cannot be vaccinated at this time. Remember that a vaccine is not a choice for young children and some immuno-compromised adults.
- +We will continue to keep pews in their socially-distanced arrangement, until such a time as we need more seating. We will continue to commune in the pews and share the peace within our own groups.
- +Pastor will continue to offer an outdoor worship every other Sunday at 10:00, for those who still do not feel comfortable with indoor gatherings, and for those who simply prefer to worship outdoors!

We will continue to monitor the virus situation and heed the advice of the health experts. Let's pray we are nearing the end of this global pandemic. And, as always, your input is welcome. Thank you all, and God Bless!

Steve Geis, Council President

July Grace Volunteers

July 4th - Greeter/Usher: Jim & Pat Hall **Reader:** Pat Hall

July 11th- 9 a.m. Greeters/ushers: Tom & Chris Watson **Reader:** Chris Watson
10 a.m. Outdoor worship: Judy Heidebrecht & Marcia Sivesind

July 18th- Greeters:/Ushers:Tim & Evy Jeffers **Reader:** Tim Jeffers

July 25th– 9 a.m. Greeters./Ushers: Gary & Sharon Haberkorn
Reader: Shawn Whitman
10 a.m. Outdoor worship: Richard & Jean Scott

Join us for some outdoor gabbing! We're not back to coffee hour chats yet, so feel free to join us for some fellowship time **Tuesday mornings at 10:30** in the back church parking lot. It's just a great time to chat and catch up with others from Grace.
(No Grace Gab July 6)



July Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Independence Day 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	5 9:00 a.m. Quilters	6	7 9 a.m. Ruth Circle at Grace	8 9 a.m. Lydia Circle at Grace	9	10
11 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 7 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting 10:00-10:45 a.m. Outdoor Worship Service	12 9:30 a.m. Quilters 7 p.m. "Inspired" Book Study	13 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab 7:30 p.m. Grace Council Mtg.	14	15	16	17
18 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	19 9:00 a.m. Quilters 7 p.m. "Inspired" Book Study	20 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab	21	22	23	24
25 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:00-10:45 a.m. Outdoor Worship Service	26 9:00 a.m. Quilters 7 p.m. "Inspired" Book Study	27 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab	28	29	30	31

Women's Groups Meeting at Grace– July 7 & 8th

Ruth Circle will meet at Grace this month on **July 7th at 9:00am.**

Lydia Circle will meet on **July 8th at Grace at 9 a.m.**



Church Picnic– August 8th

Grace's annual Church Picnic is back! Join us for outdoor worship on **August 8 at 10:00** a.m. and stick around for fellowship and a picnic.

Look for more information in the August newsletter.

Outreach & Social Justice News

The Outreach Committee will take a month off and will NOT be meeting in July.

As this article is being written, our Personal Care Kit drive is still on. Thank you to everyone who made a kit or contributed money for them. We will give the final count in the next newsletter. It may be hard to believe that there are people in the world for whom a bar of soap, a comb, a toothbrush, nail clippers, and a towel are a real treasure. So, give yourself a hug from the person who will benefit from your gift!

The next Community Café will take place on Thursday, July 1 from 5:30-6:30 at Ripley Park. The July café will be hosted by CART and the Cambridge Food Pantry. This free event is open to everyone living or working in the Cambridge area.

Senior Meals are back! Please join us every 2 and fourth Wednesday for a meal and entertainment. Contact Heather Morgan at (608)423-8045 for more details.

The Cambridge Food Pantry is open for client shopping on Monday evenings from 5:30-7:00. Please contact the food pantry at (608)423-8142 or foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us for more information.

The Cambridge Food Pantry Wish List-

- Men's and women's shavers
- Allergy medicine
- Spam
- Ranch Dressing
- Cookies
- Dog food and Puppy Chow



Thank you for your continued support!

OUR HOMEBOUND

Jon Bakken
309 Oriole Lane
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



Please join us for an open house to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. **August 7, 2021, from 3 to 8 p.m.** at the **Deerfield Community Center**, 10 Liberty Street, Deerfield. Refreshments and cake will be served. Personal greetings or cards are welcome, but please no gifts.

-Bob and Janet Koeppe

"Family Ties"

"Family Ties" got a new meaning, as six member families twisted and rubber banded t-shirts during Grace's summer Family Tie-dye Night on Thursday, June 24th. The event was arranged by our Christian Education/Sunday School Coordinator, Teresa Neuenschwander and provided a fun, evening type VBS event.



Treasurer's Notes for June 15, 2021

As we– along with the rest of the world– continue to work our way back to normality, I wanted to provide a brief financial update for Grace Lutheran Church as we near the mid-point of 2021. Through the end of May, our church continues to operate in the black for the current fiscal year. However, part of the reason we are running at a net profit is due to the Payroll Protection Loan – which we applied for in 2020 – being forgiven and recognized on the books in this year. Without the recognition of those loan proceeds, our organization would be running a small net operating loss of around \$15,000 through the first five months.

While it may be normal for the church to be operating at a small loss at this point of the year– we often play catch up after summer and into the holiday season– it is never too early to fulfill Stewardship pledges for 2021. Though we still have cash on hand to operate for the time being, we appreciate any donations received toward the General Fund to help make for a smooth summer from a financial standpoint.

On the subject of pledges, I would like to remind our members that the end of our three-year Renewing Grace Capital Campaign is upon us. The campaign began with great fanfare in September 2018 and we are near the completion of our effort to pay down debt associated with church renovations. I am pleased to report that the vast majority of our members who pledged to this drive have fulfilled those commitments and, in some cases, beyond. However, we still have a few members who have not yet completed their campaign pledges. I would ask that the sooner these members can complete their pledge, the better.

As of the end of May, the principal balance of the MIF loan associated with Renewing Grace stands at \$29,222.60. We currently hold \$5,209.09 in the General Fund earmarked for monthly loan payments and an additional \$13,174.60 in a segregated money-market account for the campaign. If we used all cash on hand designated toward the effort, we would be left with a remaining loan balance of \$10,838.91.

With that dollar amount in mind, we are very close to paying off the MIF loan and need one last push to bring the capital campaign to a close. I appreciate your consideration in completing your pledge if you have not done so already and look forward to celebrating the end of a successful organizational drive by the time September arrives.

Thank you for all that you do for our church. I cannot stress enough how much we appreciate your donations, your hard work and all of the volunteer hours that you dedicate to making Grace Lutheran the community that it continues to be. If you have any questions regarding the church's finances, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Tim Neuenschwander, Grace Lutheran Treasurer

Organist Position



Grace is looking to hire an organist to play during Sunday worship and for other worship services. If you know someone who might be interested, please contact Pastor Jennifer to get a job description and more information.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2021 Via Zoom from Home (*Minutes below aren't approved until next month's meeting*)

Call to Order. Meeting called to order by President Steve Geis at 7:33 p.m.

Attendance. Steve Geis, Amanda Kosanda, Tom Kosanda, Jean Scott, Mary Behling, Jennifer Hellberg, Shawn Whitman, Kris Tobias, Tim Neuenschwander, Ann Engelstad, Kari Jermain and Pastor Jennifer Jelinek. Absent: None.

Devotions. Ann Engelstad offered devotions to open the meeting.

Approval of May Minutes. Jean Scott moved to approve the Minutes, Ann Engelstad seconded the motion, and they were unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda. Jean Scott (Outreach) indicated that they have completed 25 baby care kits. They will be doing school kits again this year and will also be working on personal care kits. In September, they are planning a cook out to raise funds for Jail Ministry. Jennifer Hellberg (Stewardship) reported that she, Ben Becker, and Tim Neuenschwander have continued to look for options for people, like visitors or at-home watchers, to do one-time online gifting. The advantages and disadvantages of a few companies were discussed. Tim made a motion for Stewardship to move forward and bring back to Council an implementation plan, including security features, back to Council for setting up a person-to-person Venmo account. Amanda Kosanda seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. No other committee reports.

Property Report. Tom Kosanda reported that he has received a request from a neighbor to turn off the automatic light in the parking lot a little earlier. Shawn and Dale indicated they could make that adjustment. Tom also indicated that there is some painting needed on the church building exterior and wondered how we'd like to proceed. He indicated Michael Rehak is willing to chair a committee and was instructed to proceed in that direction. Tom also indicated that a good deal of exterior work got completed on clean-up day. He also reported that it has been noted that the neighbors have extended their landscaping slightly over the boundary line with the church. It was agreed to send a note to them recognizing that issue and giving them permission to use the area so as to avoid any future adverse possession claim. Finally, the Little Library will be used for distribution of summer devotional booklets so Tom will check on remaining wasp issues.

Treasurer's Report. Tim Neuenschwander presented the financial reports and summary. Total income was down in all categories in May, which is typical this time of year. Expenditures were mostly stable so there was a net loss of about \$2000. Still in the black for the year, however, including the PPP loan proceeds.

Tim met with the Financial Secretary and they discussed two matters. First, they reviewed the Renewing Grace pledges and are identifying those that are not yet paid so that he can contact them, and then they'll advise the congregation of any remaining unpaid balance. Secondly, they discussed the church's current financial position since there is only about \$10,000 in general checking. It was agreed that Diane should have the authority to draw on the church's Line of Credit if needed to meet future current expenses. Ann Engelstad moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Jean Scott seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Jennifer reported that she is leaving on vacation tonight until June 18. An outdoor service is set for June 20th and she will be starting the summer sermon series at that time. She will also be gone on July 4th and Shawn Whitman has agreed to lead the service. A family night is being planned for June 24th. She will be starting the *Inspired* books study on July 12th.

New Business. (1) Ann Engelstad requested permission to use the sanctuary once/week for giving piano lessons to two students during the summer. Tim Neuenschwander moved to approve such request, Jennifer Hellberg seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

New Business continued:

2) The church has been approached about assisting with building a ramp for a community member, both in terms of funds and construction assistance. Virginia Becker, our Administrative Assistant, has offered to write a grant request for \$250 through Thrivent for such purpose. After some discussion, Ann Engelstad moved to offer the congregation the opportunity to make free will donations for such purpose as well, with the hope of at least matching Virginia's grant. Tim Neuenschwander seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

Old Business.

Music Director Update. No update.

Return to Worship Planning: Much discussion was held; the following actions were ultimately taken: Tim Neuenschwander moved to remove the requirement of reservations/sign-up, but to continue to require social distancing of the pews and between groups of people, to continue with the practice of taking of communion in the pews, and to continue the requirement of only sharing the peace within your own group of people. Mary Behling seconded the motion: it was unanimously approved.

Mary Behling moved to continue to require the wearing of masks by all persons for an additional month, but to allow the singing of all hymns while masked. In the event that no special meeting is requested by any Council member prior to July 13th, the mask mandate will then be dropped commencing with the service on July 18th. Jean Scott seconded the motion; it was approved by a vote of 9-1.

Outside services will continue every other week for the time being.

Adjournment. There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting and it was approved. There will be no regular meeting in July. Accordingly, the next regular meeting will be August 10th at 7:30 p.m. Tommy Kosanda volunteered for devotions. The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Report submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary



Our 35th Annual Lutherdale Fest Quilt Auction is

Saturday, August 14, 2021, from 9 AM – 3 PM.

The live auction will begin at 10:00 AM. Come enjoy the beauty, workmanship, and creativity of the 200+ quilts expected in this year's auction with your friends, neighbors, and families.

Lutherdale is grateful for the continued support of quilters. Thanks to many quilters, donors, volunteers, loyal friends and Thrivent, Lutherdale's Fest Quilt Auction raises funds that help young people experience the life-changing outdoor ministry of Lutherdale.

Quilts donated for 2021 may be viewed on our website beginning June 15.

Bring your unfinished objects or start a new project. Stay in the air-conditioned comfort of our HOPE Conference Center. Complimentary Wifi, personal refrigerator & Google Mini in each room, and a 24-hour Hospitality Center with coffee & ice await you!

Lutherdale Staff will lead optional daily devotions. Enjoy wonderful meals prepared with love, and experience time for relaxation and leisure each evening with options including a pontoon ride on the lake, time at the waterfront, and an evening campfire with s'mores.

Come connect with God and others at Lutherdale!

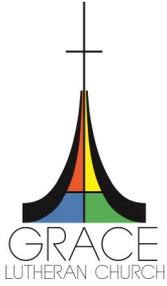
CALL (262) 742-2352 to Set up your ACCOUNT TO REGISTER ONLINE

Visit this page to download Quilt Donation Form or go to the website:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGkXmWhzdSnWWBfXdJzHSbnjNq>

Remember the deadline for receipt of all quilts at Lutherdale is July 15. Send your quilt via UPS, or call Lutherdale for drop off procedures. Quilts received after July 15 may not be posted on the Web or listed in the Auction Booklet due to the time it takes to photograph and process them at Lutherdale.

Note approximate quilt sizes are twin (60"x 80"), queen/full (90"x 90"), and king (108"x 90"). Other quilt sizes are Baby, Youth or Lap, and Wall-hangings.



Grace Lutheran Church
 E.L.C.A.
 501 Skogen Road
 Cambridge, WI 53523

Place
 stamp
 here

Place address sticker here;
 not any higher

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>	Jennifer Hellberg	
<u>Hospitality:</u>	Kari Jermain	
<u>Evangelism:</u>	Shawn Whitman	
<u>Worship:</u>	Ann Engelstad	
<u>Property:</u>	Tom Kosanda	