



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

March 2024

Pastor's Ponderings



Can I just tell you how much I'm looking forward to March this year? Because of how Easter falls (March 31), March is at the very center of the most powerful season of our faith experience. We get to experience nearly 4 weeks of Lent, then Holy Week, then Easter all in one month. It's like condensing most of the important events in Jesus' life all into one calendar month for us to experience as the whirlwind journey that it really was.

Our Wednesday services will introduce us to people whose lives were profoundly changed by Jesus. On Sundays, we'll hear a parable prophesying Jesus' death, we'll learn about the Greatest Commandment (love God & love neighbor), we'll hear some of Jesus' prophecies about the future, and we'll journey with Jesus into Jerusalem, accompanied by palm fronds and shouts of "Hosanna!". During Holy Week, we'll follow Jesus to the upper room, where he shared the Last Supper with his disciples, we'll sit with him in the garden as he prays, we'll feel the shock and fear of the disciples as Jesus was arrested and taken away, and we'll find ourselves in increasing darkness as we grieve with the women who stood beneath Jesus' cross as he took his last breaths.

But that's not all. We'll also have the opportunity to wake early on March 31, to gather in a dark room, lit only by candles, waiting to hear the testimony of Mary Magdalene as she comes running from the tomb (Easter Sunrise Service at 7am). Then we'll gather a bit later to truly celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection (Easter Worship at 9 am). This month will be a truly powerful, beautiful way to experience the very core of our faith. I invite you to come be a part of it, and feel free to invite friends. This month is at the very center of our faith. Come and see.

By popular demand:

Mardi Gras Cornbread Casserole Recipe

½ C. butter, melted

1 can of creamed corn

2 eggs, beaten

1 C. sour cream

1 can of corn, drained

1 8.5 oz box Jiffy cornbread mix

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease 9x9 pan. Mix together 1st 5 ingredients. Stir in cornbread mix. Pour into pan. Bake for 45 minutes or until golden brown. Enjoy!

In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*



Welcome the Season of



Midweek Lenten Worship

As we continue our journey through Lent, we continue following people whose lives Jesus touched in our Lenten drama series, "In Jesus' Wake." We'll meet Zacchaeus and the Samaritan woman, Lazarus and the hemorrhaging woman, and on March 20, we'll see all the previous characters uniting at Mary & Martha's house for "Jesus Wake." Join us each

Wednesday at 6:30 pm for Holden Evening Prayer and to experience these thought-provoking services.

Lent Soup Suppers

There are still 2 Soup Suppers for you to enjoy! Lent Soup Suppers will be held from 5:30-6:15 pm. on Wednesday March 13 and March 20. Want to help serve or bring soup one of the Wednesdays? Check out the sign-up in the Fellowship Hall.



Confirmation Corner

Confirmands will continue to attend Midweek Lent services this month at 6:30 pm. Mentors and students will continue working on the Lent Project of reading the Gospel of Mark together. Please note that 1 of the sermon notes for the year must be taken at either the Maundy Thursday or Good Friday service. If your family won't be in town, the services will be available on Facebook, both live and afterwards.



Journey Through Holy Week

- March 24: Palm Sunday - 9 am Worship
- March 28: Maundy Thursday Service - 7pm
- March 29: Good Friday
Community Service at Veteran's Park-12 noon
- Good Friday Service - 7pm
- March 31: Easter Sunday Worship- 7am & 9am

Want to worship from home? Here's how!

Grace's Sunday services continue to be broadcast on Spectrum cable channel 987 Sundays at 9am. Sunday services are also livestreamed on Grace's Facebook page. Just looking for sermons? Check out our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw>

Monday Night Study

Our Monday night study will continue featuring our Lenten Challenge – AMMPARO – Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunities. Immigration, asylum, and refugee issues are so complex and often misunderstood. Come learn more about the issues and how children who have fled from their homes in Central America are getting help through this ELCA initiative. Class starts at 7 pm on Monday night.

March 4 – AMMPARO – Making Change

Meals on Wheels

Grace is responsible for delivering Meals on Wheels during the month of March. If you can help, please contact Marlene Hussey at (608) 513-6461 for details.

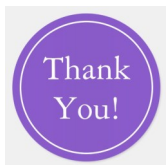
Easter Flowers



We will again be taking orders for Easter altar flowers. To place an order in memory or in honor of a loved one, please complete the order form found on the table in the Fellowship Hall, or contact the church office by March 13th. Questions? Contact Sandi Aston Hall at (608) 422-2426.

Summer Rummage Sale

Please think about the Church Rummage Sale as you're doing your Spring Cleaning. You may bring all great quality items to the designated room in the church basement beginning July 1. The rummage sale will take place the first weekend in August. If you have big items and need assistance please contact Tami Collin 920-728-8047.



Snow Shovelers

Thanks so those who have kept our walkways clear! Winter is winding down, but we continue to look for volunteers to shovel walks after a snowstorm. If you can help, please sign up on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall.

Holy Humor Sunday – Coming Soon!

Mark your calendars! Sunday, April 7 will be our annual Holy Humor Sunday – the day when we laugh at death and celebrate the joy of the resurrection with jokes and silliness. Want to share a joke or funny story? You can either share it yourself on April 7, write it down at church, or send it to Pastor Jennifer by April 3. And if you feel like wearing something goofy to worship that day, we'd love it!

Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 9 am – noon, Monday through 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

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

- Mar 3 -** Ushers: Gary & Sharon Haberkorn Assisting Minister: Shawn Koebke
Reader: Shawn Whitman
Communion Servers: Tom & Chris Watson
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle
Acolytes: Brady & Ashton Thayer
Coffee Hour Hosts: Outreach
- Mar 10 -** Ushers: Jeanine Thurow & Donna Simdon Assisting Minister: Jeff Gafner
Reader: Tim Neuenschwander
Communion Servers: Kelly Witte & Tami Collin
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle
Acolytes: Cash & Crew Cunningham
Coffee Hour Hosts: Evans & Drotzer
- Mar 17 -** Ushers: Bob & Janet Koepf Assisting Minister: Shawn Whitman
Reader: Mary Bielefeldt
Communion Servers: Pat Hall & Sharon Erb
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle
Acolytes: Will Gottschalk & Gordie Grender
Coffee Hour: Sandi & Wendy Aston Hall
- Mar 24 -** Ushers: Diane Russo & Amy Simdon Assisting Minister: Andrya Coutts
Reader: Amy Simdon
Communion Servers: Rich & Diane Fronck
Communion Set Up: Geis Family
Acolytes: Rory & Griffin Sullivan
Coffee Hour: Youth
- Mar 28 -** Ushers: Jim & Kari Jermain Assisting Minister: Diane Fronck
Mundy Reader: Shawn Whitman
Thursday Communion Servers: Shawn Koebke & Wendy Lehr
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle
Acolytes: Rylan Tobias & Aiden Williams
- Mar 29** Acolyte: Haven Gill Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen
Good Friday
- Mar 31 -** Ushers: Wendy Lehr & Cindy Hartman Assisting Minister: Shawn Whitman
Easter Reader: Wendy Lehr
7am Communion Servers: April Mickelson & Rachel Drotzer
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle
- 9am** Ushers: Northey & Key Families Assisting Minister: Kelly Witte
Reader: Sierra Jelinek
Communion Servers: Connie Kreuser & Sierra Jelinek
Communion Set Up: Pat Northey
Acolytes: Kinsley Stenjem & Marissa Kilburg

Altar Guild - Marcia Klemp, Lori Jensen, & Brenda Lovick

MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
25 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	26 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Lent Study	27	28 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lent Service	29	1	2
3 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	4 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Lent Study	5	6 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lent Service	7	8	9
10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15am Sanctuary Choir	11 9:30 am Quilters	12 7pm Grace Council Mtg	13 9 am Lydia Circle 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lent Service	14 10 am Staff Mtg	15 Newsletter content due	16
17 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	18 9:30 am Quilters	19	20 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lent Service	21	22 6pm RISEN Easter Eggstravaganza	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	25 9:30 am Quilters	26	27	28 Maundy Thursday 7pm Service	29 Good Friday 12pm Community Service @ Veteran's Park 7pm Service	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY 7 am Worship SERVICE 9 am Worship SERVICE Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	APR 1	2	3 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Cmte	4	5	6

GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



RISEN: Glow in the Dark Easter Eggstravaganza! March 22, 2024@ GLC

In John 8:12, Jesus says, “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life.” At Easter, we celebrate the life that Jesus brings through his death and resurrection, and kids can learn more about how Jesus is the Light at our Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt!



The first part of the evening, beginning at 6pm will offer open stations with Easter games, crafts, and dinner! You and your family can enjoy these stations at your own pace. We'll transition to a time of worship and a short lesson at 7pm before giving instructions for our TWO unique glow in the dark egg hunts. We will provide kids with a special Easter basket for the hunts, but you may want to bring an Easter basket to carry with the crafts you create during station time. We invite the whole

community to join us for a night of Easter activities and a fun glow in the dark egg hunt that will light up your Easter!

We are looking for egg cartons to prepare for the fun! If you have any to donate, please feel free to drop in the box in Breah's office anytime! Also, if you're looking for ways to volunteer for this year's event, here is the sign up genius with all the needs we have! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094AABAB2DABFBC34-47675862-risen>

What We're Learning

As we continue in the Easter season, our Sunday School students have started a 5 week series about the light of Jesus. In this five-week series through the Gospels, we'll follow Jesus' life leading up to Easter to see some of the ways he can shine bright in our lives. In the dark, a world of neon colors comes to life. Whether it's the soft green of glow-in-the-dark stars or the bright colors of bioluminescent creatures, light can break through the darkness. When the world needed some light, God sent Jesus because he glows in the dark, and he can teach us how to shine with God's light, too!

Save the dates: **No class on March 24 or March 31.**

Outreach and Social Justice

BECAUSE OF YOU . . .

- 30 students in Cambridge Elementary School facing food insecurity had food/snacks to eat on weekends/holidays when school was closed during the month of February.
- Parents/guardians of these 30 elementary school students had the assurance provided by your donations and are grateful for your kindness and generosity.



A huge "THANK YOU" to the Grace congregation from the Cambridge Food Pantry (CAP Program); the Cambridge community and our GLC Outreach Committee for your support of the Blue Jay Backpack Program. The Outreach Committee also thanks you for your continued support of our various projects throughout the year. A special thanks to the devoted ladies who helped assemble the bags.



2024 Lenten Challenge

This year's Lenten Challenge is the ELCA's AMMPARO project (Accompanying Migrants with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). Mary Campbell, AMMPARO's Program Director, spoke to us during and after our service on February 18th, explaining AMMPARO's mission. People coming to the United States are fleeing crime and violence, extreme poverty, environmental displacement, and lack of opportunities. More than half of them are now from countries outside of the Americas. AMMPARO assists new migrants arriving here, and also those who have been deported after years in the US, providing job training once back in their home country. Mary presented a lot of information, too much to share here. If you would like to learn more, we encourage you to visit the website: elca.org/AMMPARO.

What can WE do?

Our Lenten goal is to raise \$2000 before Easter, March 31st. Monies raised will go directly to AMMPARO to help fund their programs. Checks may be made to Grace, with Lenten Challenge (or AMMPARO) in the Memo line. You may also donate with VENMO, using the same designation.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalms 46:1

"..for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me," Matthew 25:35.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2024

(Minutes will be reviewed & approved at next Council meeting)

Call to Order. President Kelly Witte called the meeting to order at 12:50 PM following the new 2024 council retreat.

Attendance. Present: Sandi Aston Hall, Pr. Jennifer Jelinek, John Jensen, Bob Koepp, Connie Kreuser, Charlene Luchterhand, April Mickelson, Peggy Punsel, Kristin Rue, Richard Scott, Amy Simdon, Shawn Whitman, Kelly Witte. **Absent:** None.

Devotions. Pastor Jennifer Jelinek led us in prayer.

Approval Minutes. Amy Simdon moved to approve the January meeting minutes. Bob Koepp seconded the motion. 7 approved and 4 new members abstained as they were not present in January. (Note: John Jensen and Richard Scott share a vote as Property Committee). Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda. Several people suggested additions or slight revisions: 1) Add Pr. Jennifer's sabbatical to Old Business. 2) Add the need for a change in signers on bank accounts and the ELCA Mission Investment Fund to New Business. 3) Move the topic of a pollinator garden earlier in the meeting to allow the participating non-Council member to leave after her presentation. Peggy Punsel moved and Sandi Aston Hall seconded a motion to approve the amended agenda. Motion unanimously approved.

Correspondence. None.

Treasurer's Report. Amy Simdon reported a positive start to 2024. We had net income of almost \$38,000 although \$30,950 is from recording the sabbatical grant received last year as income. January General Giving was 55.1% (\$10,886) higher than 2023 and \$7,654 over the January budget. Income tends to be higher in January related to members giving from their IRAs. Special Giving was almost \$1,500 less than last year and \$412 less than the monthly budget. January expenses were \$7,014.56 more than last year but \$2,121 under budget. The biggest jump in expenses was due to expenses that were paid for the upcoming Youth Gathering trip this summer (\$4,096). Net ordinary income is about \$2,831 more than last year in January without including the grant money. The checking balance increased by almost \$6,700 with the general fund balance increasing from \$29,050 to \$38,259. April Mickelson moved to approve this report and send it to audit. Sandi Aston Hall seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. 1) Pastor Jennifer noted that this year students' spring break falls at the same time as Holy Week. 2) She has offered our church as a location for a Deerfield music instructor to meet with his brass and string students once a month or so. 3) She shared an update on the health of her husband, Pr. Erik Jelinek. While he did not qualify for the hoped-for clinical trial in Detroit, he received radiation to his hip and is on a new medication with minimal side effects. The terrible pain he experienced in his hip the past few months is gone.

Committee Reports.

- **Outreach & Social Justice.** April Mickelson noted that our Blue Jay backpacks were well received. This year's Lenten challenge goal of \$2000 will be given to the ELCA's AMMPARO initiative, which provides a caring presence and assistance to migrants. Mary Campbell from AMMPARO shared information following our worship service today.

- **Property.** See "Front Door" under Old Business. Also, a future project will be to replace the stained green front entryway outdoor carpeting.
- **Stewardship.** See "Pollinator Garden" in Old Business. Also, Connie Kreuser gave a summary of members' time and talent interests to committee chairs.
- **Worship.** Sandi Aston Hall shared a price list for Easter plants from Burdick's Greenhouse in Fort Atkinson.

Old Business.

- **Front Door -** John Jensen and Richard Scott provided an update on their research regarding new automatic front doors for the main entrance. Cost is likely to be around \$6000. Plan is for one of the outside and one of the inside double doors to be automatic. Outside doors will be metal for ease of maintenance and will look like the back door. Current width span is 32 inches. Legal size is 36 inches. They will go back for bids for the larger size. Timeline is 3 months from contract signing to completion.
- **Pollinator Garden.** Connie Kreuser introduced Stewardship Committee member Mary Bielefeldt, who described progress. The committee met with Cambridge resident, Georgia Gomez-Ibanez, who has a degree in restoration ecology. They identified 2 potential locations for the garden: 1) on the north side of the church on the side where the large windows are located and 2) on the strip of land between the front parking area and the road. No cost and lower cost sources of plants have been identified. Issues to consider: 1) which location is best (considering placement of underground utility lines, access to the front of the church through the doors on either end, ease of lawn maintenance and possible effects of winter road salt) , 2) type of garden edging (from mulch to something more substantial), 3) additional costs (hoses, edging). Stewardship Committee will stake out the two areas for Diggers Hotline inspection and meet with the Property Committee. Council does not need to be involved with plant selection but noted to avoid plants that create problems though unwanted spread.
- **Pastor's Sabbatical.** Bob Koepp and Pr. Jennifer noted the plan for the congregation to have parallel experiences within the themes she has chosen for her focus. Pr. Jennifer suggested that the current Sabbatical Committee of Bob Koepp, Kris Tobias, and Marcia Sivesind be expanded. Worship Committee and youth will become involved.

New Business.

- **New Signers for Bank Accounts.** Amy Simdon moved that outgoing council members Mary Behling and Ann Engelstad be removed as signers on the checking and money market accounts at Bank First and be replaced by John Jensen and Richard Scott. April Mickelson seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved. Amy also moved that Kelly Witte replace Ann Engelstad as a signer on the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Sandi Aston Hall seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.
- **Sabbatical Fund.** Amy noted that unused funds could be put into a CD to earn more interest. Richard Scott moved that \$7500 be placed into a 7-month CD at Bank First. Peggy Punsel seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Adjournment. Sandi Aston Hall moved to adjourn the meeting. John Jensen seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Charlene Luchterhand , Council Secretary

From the Treasurer

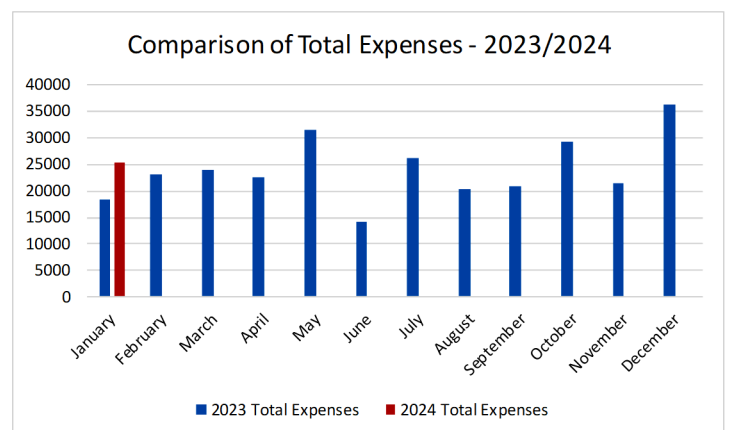
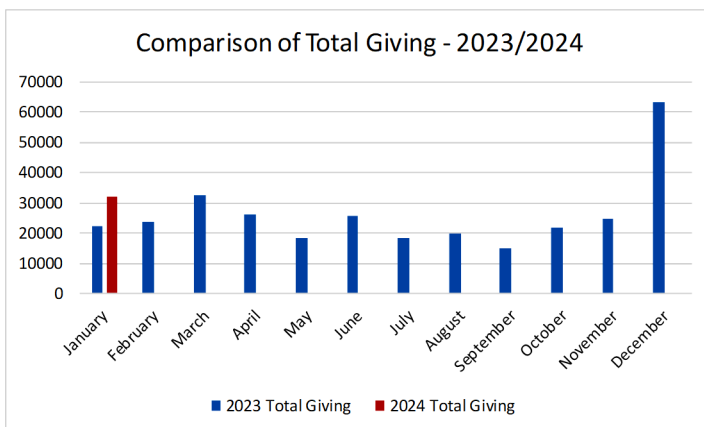
January 2024 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date January 2024 Actual	Year-to-date 2024 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	30,654	23,000	7,654
Special Giving	1,255	1,667	(412)
Sabbatical Giving	30,950	30,950	-
Misc Income	489	275	214
Total Income	63,347	55,892	7,456
Expenses			
Administrative	7,787	8,947	(1,161)
Mission	6,198	3,583	2,615
Pastoral	10,352	14,122	(3,770)
Program	1,063	868	195
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	25,400	27,521	(2,121)
Total Net Income	37,947	28,371	9,576

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

Pastor Jennifer Jelinek Home: 423-2329 Cell: (608) 295-7120 pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com

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

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

Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Hartman cindyh1029@msn.com

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

Organist Kenneth Hoversten kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com

Handbell Choir Director Ann Engelstad gaengelstad@charter.net

COUNCIL

President Kelly Witte

Vice President Bob Koepf

Secretary Char Luchterhand

Treasurer Amy Simdon

Outreach April Mickelson

Education Kristin Rue

Stewardship Connie Kreuser

Hospitality Peggy Punsel

Evangelism Shawn Whitman

Worship Sandi Aston Hall

Property John Jensen &

Richard Scott



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