



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love

May, 2021

Pastor's Ponderings



Dear Friends,

Are you one of those people who has to read the end of a book before you even start it? Have you ever just wished you could have a crystal ball to look ahead and see how things are going to turn out? I think the last year has made us all wish we had a crystal ball. Will my family stay healthy? When can I eat in a restaurant again safely? When is COVID going to be over? When can we "get back to normal?"

That's been a question in families, schools, businesses, and churches around the world for 14 months now. Even as churches have started regathering, things haven't felt "normal" because of the physical distancing, different formats, fewer people, and the lack of singing and fellowship time. Some people are excited to be back worshipping in the Sanctuary, some are not yet comfortable, and others are enjoying more flexible worship options at home. So churches have also started looking at this pandemic as an opportunity to reflect on whether "what we've always done" makes sense going forward. Or maybe this "hiatus from the normal" is an opportunity to let go of things that have felt like more of a burden in favor of things that might give new life and inspiration.

We've learned that livestreaming worship meets a need that we weren't aware of. For those who can't be in worship on Sundays at 9:00 a.m., they can worship at home when it works best for them. We've got people worshipping with us from many places in the U.S. None of us could've anticipated that, but what a delight! Serving on committees has been more appealing to many who realize they can participate in meetings from the comfort of their own home. People can volunteer in new ways we never would've imagined before. And I know there will likely be other things gained from this year that will help lead us into a new, brighter future in the church. As Easter people, we've learned that what looks like death and loss, God can turn into life and renewal.

As the Grace community, I think this year apart gives us the opportunity to consider who we are now and what we want to become. While the last year has been tough, we can't forget what we've learned and gained from this experience. So as we move forward, I encourage you to think about these questions: What do I love about Grace Lutheran Church here and now?

What do I want Grace to look like in the future?

How am I called to use my gifts to serve God and others?

In Christ,

+Pastor Jennifer

In-Person Worship open to 50 people

Because COVID numbers continue to decline while vaccinations increase, Grace's Church Council has now opened in-person worship to up to 50 people per service. To worship at any indoor service at Grace, you must sign up ahead of time.

How do I sign up to attend worship in-person?

Online: Go to www.gracelutherancambridge.org, and scroll down until you see the "Sign Up" symbol. From there, fill in the information, especially how many folks will be coming with you.

By phone: Call Administrative Assistant, Virginia Becker: 623-680-3696.

All sign-ups are due by FRIDAYS AT NOON.

Masks are required, and there will be no congregational singing.

May Highlights:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Mondays at 7:00 p.m. | Revelation Study on Zoom |
| Sunday, May 2 | 10:00-10:30 a.m.-Drive-Thru Communion |
| Sunday May 26 | 10:00-10:30 a.m.-Drive-Thru Communion |
| Sunday, May 23 | 9:00 a.m.- Pentecost Worship & Broadcast 10:00 a.m.- Pentecost Parking Lot Worship |



Outdoor Worship-*every other Sunday*

Now that the weather is warming up, we'll restart Outdoor Parking Lot Worship **every other Sunday at 10:00 a.m.** The **first Outdoor Service will be on Pentecost – May 23.** 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.



"Drive-Thru Communion" will be offered on May 2 & 16 from 10:00-10:30 a.m.

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.



Grace Gab

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

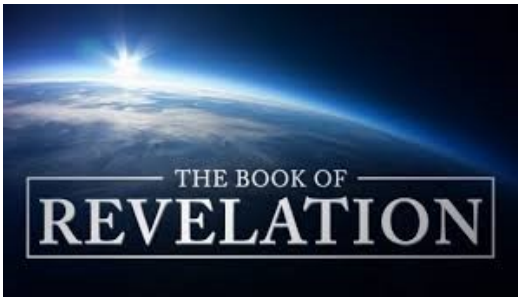
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86421306312?pwd=ckRmTUZpVkJXeDM1VE9UKyt6aWhHZz09>

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

Meeting ID: 864 2130 6312 Passcode: 741370

Thank You!

Thanks to all of those who made and served soup during Lent. While we couldn't eat soup together, we appreciated the opportunity to connect in such a delicious way.



Revelation Bible Study- Mondays at 7 p.m.

The last book of the Bible is perhaps the most cryptic and confusing of them all. The Revelation to St. John has inspired and baffled Christians for centuries.

Join us for a Zoom study about Revelation on **Monday nights at 7:00 p.m.** Need to catch up on the first 2 classes? They're recorded and available on Grace's Facebook page.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89785612617?pwd=RXZHMHJmRIRodFIUODFzblR3bnQ1QT09>

By phone: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 897 8561 2617 Passcode: 122413

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.

A huge thanks to our musicians – Ann Engelstad,

Karen Johnson, and Amy Simdon; to our awesome A/V crew – Steve Oostdik,

Todd Tatlock, Michael Rehak, Steve Geis, and Jacob Tatlock; to our outdoor set-up


volunteers –Michael Rehak & Pira Mueller, Shawn Whitman, Todd Tatlock, and others.


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 our Church Office.

Volunteers Needed




 **Ushers** (9:00 in the Sanctuary) – Check in worshipers, pass out bulletins, dismiss worshipers at the end of the service, 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

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.



Treasurer's Report through March 31, 2021

Though the ongoing pandemic has made life challenging on all ends, Grace Lutheran Church continues to thrive thanks to the support of its members. Our membership has maintained its financial support of our organization through the first quarter of 2021, as the church is operating at net income of \$20,824.69 through March. General Giving has remained consistent through the first three months of the year and – with the ability to offer in-person services to additional members – I hope that this trend improves for the remainder of the fiscal year.

In addition to positive signs with operations, I am also happy to announce that we continue to make progress toward paying down debt related to the Renewing Grace Capital Campaign. Based on the generosity of our members, the church was able to pay down an additional \$40,000 of loan principal in January. As of the end of March, the principal balance of the loan stands at \$33,705.12.

As this is the third and final year of our capital campaign, we will be reaching out to members in upcoming months to encourage everyone to complete pledges made to the Renewing Grace campaign. The sooner we can pay down the debt, the sooner we can stop paying interest on the debt. We look forward to working with our members to wrap up the capital campaign before the end of the year.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your treasurer. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tim Neuenschwander, Treasurer

Volunteers for May at Grace

May 2nd - Greeter: Tom Jensen Lector: Shawn Whitman
Judy Heidebrecht: **Drive by Communion**

May 9th - Greeter: Lori Jensen Lector: Amy Simdon

May 16th - Greeters: Jim & Pat Hall Reader: Pat Hall
Sharon Erb: **Drive-By Communion**

May 23rd - Greeters: Gary & Sharon Haberkorn Lector: Shawn Koebke
Richard & Jean Scott: **Outside Service Greeters**

May 30th - Greeters: Dale & Marcia Klemp Lector: Marcia Klemp

May Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|--|-----|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Cable Channel 987, Facebook, & limited in-person by sign up 10:00-10:45 a.m. Drive-Thru Communion | 3 9:30 a.m. Quilters 7 p.m. Revelation Study on Zoom | 4 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab | 5 9 a.m. Ruth Circle at Grace 6:30 p.m. Confirmation-MENTOR NIGHT | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 MOTHER'S DAY 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Cable Channel 987, Facebook, & limited in-person by sign up | 10 9:30 a.m. Quilters 7 p.m. Revelation Study on Zoom | 11 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab 7:30 p.m. Grace Council Mtg. on Zoom | 12 6:30 p.m. Confirmation & Pre-confirmation | 13 | 14 | 15 Deadline to submit College Graduates' write ups for the newsletter |
| 16 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Cable Channel 987, Facebook, & limited in-person by sign up 10:00-10:30 a.m. Drive-thru Communion 7 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting | 17 9:30 a.m. Quilters 7 p.m. Revelation Study on Zoom | 18 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab | 19 6:30 p.m. Confirmation & Pre-confirmation | 20 Deadline to submit High School Graduates' pictures and information | 21 | 22 |
| 23 PENTECOST 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Cable Channel 987, Facebook, & limited in-person by sign up 10 a.m. Outdoor Pentecost Worship Service | 24 9:30 a.m. Quilters 7 p.m. Revelation | 25 10:30 a.m. Grace Gab | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Cable Channel 987, Facebook, & limited in-person by sign up | 31 MEMORIAL DAY | | | | | |

Grace Staff Availability

As staff continues to have irregular office hours, please call their cell phones or e-mail:

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

Virginia Becker– **office hours 9-12 Mon-Fri** 623-680-3696 gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com

Teresa Neuenschwander 608-658-7844 teresa478@hotmail.com

Diane Russo – 847-826-0131 gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com

Sunday School 2020/2021

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



Last Day of Sunday School Sunday, May 2nd • ZOOM Call • 10:00am

We will be playing Bingo! I will drop off one last family activity bag on April 26th & 27th. It will include your Bingo Card along with some other fun surprises!

Join Zoom Meeting



Thank You Sunday School Families for your support this year and helping your child with their Sunday School lessons! I really appreciate it! Please watch your emails as I am working on ideas for some summer fun!

Congratulations to the following 3rd Graders who received their Bibles on Sunday, April 25th!

George Albrecht, Roslynn Olson, Paxton Koehler, Jackson Rue, Kinsley Stenjem, and Haven Gill.

Confirmation Corner

Confirmation classes conclude this month.

As soon as students finish packets of 6 sermon notes at home, they can return them to Pastor Jennifer for the next packet, on the table outside her office.

Outreach & Social Justice News

Grace members exceeded the Lenten Challenge goal! The goal our committee set was to raise \$2,000 to help hungry people; **Grace members contributed \$2,608**. This means hungry people will not go to bed with empty bellies. Thank you so very much!

Seeking Personal Care Kits

Lutheran World Relief has told us that their warehouse is empty and the need is great for personal items in order to keep up with the demand. We can help! All we need is lots of toothbrushes, soap, combs, nail clippers and towels....things we all take for granted but will make a difference and be cherished by those in need.

Items may be collected and dropped off **during in-person church or drive-thru communion until June 30**.

If you'd like to contribute **cash**, please indicate **"Personal Care Kit"** in the memo line. The collection **concludes on June 30**.

Please consider donating these items:

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

-  **x1**
One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"x40" & 52"x27"), dark color recommended
-  **x2**
Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
-  **x1**
One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*
-  **x1**
One sturdy comb, remove packaging
-  **x1**
One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging
- 
Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

Greetings from the Grace Evangelism Committee



The garden in May sprouts with new growth and a promise of beauty and bounty in its metaphor of the kingdom of God. We all have skills or appreciation for gardens well-tended and seek to share with our neighbors and the next generation, the joy and meaning we derive from them.

I think **this is evangelism - giving our knowledge of faith's role in our lives to others, that they may receive and grow in the Kingdom.**

Yes, but perhaps your thumb is not green and you think if only you could do for weeds what you do for your wilted flowers. Well, know that God always sees you and your garden in full bloom! But it's helpful to have others with whom to share, listen and learn from Jesus' teachings.

Let me ask for your ideas for growing an evangelism group at Grace. And to men, especially, who seek fellowship and the Word; and want to talk about particular challenges, family, work or marriage. I would really appreciate your ideas for evangelism and thoughts on a men's bible study. Please text or call me on my cell at (608) 208-4629.

Thank you!

Shawn

Cambridge Area Senior Resource Network - Survey Results

On behalf of the Cambridge Area Senior Resource Network, we would like to thank you for answering our Needs Assessment Survey for Cambridge Area Seniors. We received invaluable feedback from these surveys that will be used to help our community meet the needs of seniors. Please find the link below to review the results.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=8532f8e17b&attid=0.2&permmsgid=msg-f:1697516797520641618&th=178eca889479fe52&view=att&disp=inline>

Calling for Grad Information

If you have a son/daughter who will be graduating from college this Spring, please send full name, institution from which he or she matriculated, major, and plans after graduation. Just a short paragraph is great. Please email it to the **office by May 15th.**

If you have a high school grad, we will have a service to honor our member graduates. Please send the office a childhood and grad picture with the school from which s/he is graduating and any college or future plans **no later than May 20th.**



Women's Group Meeting at Grace– May 5th

Ruth Circle ladies have been meeting via Zoom for several months. Initially the meetings were informal, but now Bible Study has resumed. This month, Ruth Circle will meet at Grace.

Next meeting is on May 5th at 9:00am.

Just a note to the Women of the Church to let you know we have been getting thank you notes for the gifts given at Christmas. Their deep appreciation was clearly communicated.

–Cindy Hartman

The Cambridge Food Pantry is open for in-person shopping Monday evenings from 5:30-7:00. Online and pick up ordering options are also available. If you are interested in more information, please contact the food pantry at (608)423-8142 or foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us.

Interested in donating to the CFP? *Monetary donations are greatly appreciated.*

Items in need at the pantry :

- ◆ Crackers (Ritz, Saltines)
- ◆ Egg Noodles
- ◆ Cookies
- ◆ Shampoo and Conditioner
- ◆ Personal items (Depends, feminine hygiene products)
- ◆ Baby items (diapers –size 4-5, wipes)



Thank you again for your 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

MEMBER DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

Evelyn Louise Lee

**April 3, 1921 -
July 22, 2020**



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 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 7:32 p.m.

Attendance. Steve Geis, Amanda Kosanda, Tom Kosanda, Jean Scott, Mary Behling, Jennifer Hellberg, Shawn Whitman, Kris Tobias, and Pastor Jennifer Jelinek. Absent: Tim Neuenschwander, Ann Engelstad, and Kari Jermain.

Devotions. Steve Geis offered devotions and Pastor Jennifer said a prayer to open the meeting.

Approval of March Minutes. It was noted that some language should be added to the paragraph on replacement costs for the garage to clarify that such costs are being sought only for insurance purposes and no actual replacement is intended at this time. With such amendment, Jennifer Hellberg moved to approve the Minutes, Tommy Kosanda seconded the motion, and they were unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda. Jean Scott (Outreach) and Kris Tobias (Technology) indicated that they have meetings coming up shortly. Tommy Kosanda (Property) reported below. Jennifer Hellberg reported that Stewardship has had 2 meetings. They have a great group of people who have agreed to serve although she is still seeking a high school representative. They have been discussing the purposes and goals of the committee and are particularly exploring the idea of stewardship beyond financial contributions. Lots of plans are being made and she asked anyone with additional ideas to come forward. Ann Engelstad (Worship) reported via text that the bells will continue through May and thanked everyone who is covering for her following her accident. She also requested that we consider having a camera focused on guest singers if possible. No other committee reports.

Property Report. Tommy Kosanda noted that they will be meeting this Sunday and have several smaller issues to deal with, such as wasps. They are also gearing up to paint the beams when the weather improves. Pastor Jennifer noted that Michael Rehak and Dale Klemp have replaced many lights and they look good, especially in the Narthex.

Treasurer's Report. Tim Neuenschwander was absent, but provided his reports and summary which indicated that expenses exceeded income in March, but mainly due to the presentation of gifts approved in March. Without those, there was a small amount of net profit for the month and there continues to be a net profit of over \$20,000 year-to-date. Jean Scott 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 Easter and Holy Week services seemed to go well. There was a new set-up outside on Easter. About 45 people were at the in-person service and 50 attended the outside service. There is a baptism scheduled for Sunday and the family has reserved 25 spots. They will be allowed to have a small cupcake celebration for the family following the service after everyone else leaves. She is starting a new Bible Study on Monday on the Book of Revelation. She is hoping the church will be able to purchase a Mevo camera which would replace her phone for live-streaming services. It would be much easier for video volunteers to use. Kris indicated this is on the Technology Committee's list. Confirmation starts again on Wednesday for the last few sessions. She expressed great appreciation for Karen Johnson who stepped in with little notice for Easter and has played for many services. She indicated that we have averaged about 20 people for in-person services other than Easter. She noted that the Personnel Committee will meet next week and finish updating job descriptions. Also, the third graders will be getting their Bibles during the April 25th service.

April 13, 2021 Council MINUTES continued

New Business. None.

Old Business. Music Director Update. The candidate they had been working with has bowed out. Personnel Committee will be taking the issue back up at its next meeting.

Return to worship planning. Pastor Jennifer indicated that things are going more smoothly as people learn and adjust. Discussion was then held regarding reinstating outdoor services. Pastor indicated we need a few more volunteers for set-up. It was agreed to continue with a 9:00 inside service and add a 10:00 outdoor service starting May 23rd. Drive-in communion will continue every other week. Pastor also indicated that the narrative sermon series are ending, so she is looking at and for ideas for summer sermons.

Adjournment. There being no further business, Jean Scott moved to adjourn the meeting. Amanda Kosanda seconded the motion and it was approved. Next meeting will be May 11, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., via Zoom. Jen Hellberg volunteered for devotions. The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Report submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary



Pre-confirmation 6th Graders' Lesson in April

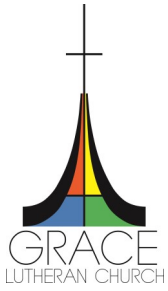


We made a resurrection garden, transcribed Bible verses from Braille to print (I'm a Braille teacher), played with chicks and dyed Easter eggs.



We also made a resurrection garden snack with Oreos, frosting, graham crackers and doughnuts- yum! The theme was "just as chicks come out of the eggs, Jesus came out of the tomb to give us all eternal life."

-Kristin Grender



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