



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

November 2022

Pastor's Ponderings



Do you ever find yourself feeling tired, stressed, worn down, and irritated by every little thing? Do you find yourself just getting through the craziness of life, and after the fact, you feel like you missed all the good stuff? When we get busy or overwhelmed, when we struggle and feel unappreciated in our lives, sometimes we need to step back and look at life through new eyes, looking at things from a different perspective.

Where taking a break and taking time to rest can certainly help, sometimes gratitude helps give us the lens we need to focus on life differently. I've had lots of friends who have kept a "Gratitude Journal" or perhaps did 30 Days of Gratitude on Facebook or Instagram. Each day, they simply write down things they're grateful for, from profound things like the grace of God, to simple things like a great cup of coffee.

I think we've all had the experience at Thanksgiving dinner, of going around the table and saying what we're thankful for. But keeping a Gratitude Journal helps us get beyond the surface things and to notice things deeper, or more mundane, or totally unexpected. As Christians, we're encouraged to live lives of gratitude, but sometimes we get distracted or simply forget.

When I was in college, I traveled to the UK with my roommate and her family who had once lived there. We spent 10 days exploring much of England and Wales. It was wonderful visiting all these places with this family that had so much experience and history there. I was so grateful for the incredible experience and for their generosity. But a few days into the trip, my roommate whispered to me, "You might want to thank my parents after they buy us a meal." I was immediately humbled and ashamed. And I started to notice that this was a very thankful family. They thanked each other all the time, which was new to me. But I quickly joined in their regular sharing of gratitude, and it changed me.

This month, I encourage you to consider this a "Month of Gratitude." Whether or not you keep an actual Gratitude Journal (written or online), I encourage you to take a few moments each day to think about what you're grateful for that day. What did others do for you that was meaningful? Where did you see God at work? And maybe share your gratitude with somebody else. Because gratitude truly inspires and changes people for the better. And although I don't say it often enough, I'm grateful for you – for our congregation, for your gifts, and for the incredible things God helps us do together. So thank you, my friends in Christ.



In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*



Community Thanksgiving Service

In this season of gratitude, we join with Christians from all over our community in participating in the Cambridge Community Thanksgiving Service. The service will be held on Sunday, November 20 at 7p.m. at St. Pius X Catholic Church. Please join us for this wonderful ecumenical service.

All Saints' Sunday



Please join us for worship on All Saint's Sunday, November 6, the day when we remember those who have passed away in the last year. We celebrate the lives of those who have meant so much to us, and we celebrate that they now enjoy the eternal life God has promised us. Come light a candle for a loved one and give thanks for their new life in Christ.

Noticed Worship Broadcast Issues?

Cambridge's cable TV station has been undergoing renovations in the last month. So if you haven't been able to watch Grace's worship service at home lately, please know we'll be back as soon as those renovations are complete. In the meantime, join us on Facebook or in-person at Grace. And thanks to our fantastic AV team for all their time figuring out how to work with the village's new system.

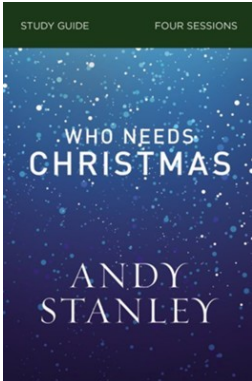
Want to worship from home? Here's how!

Grace's Sunday services continue to be broadcast on Charter cable channel 987 Sundays at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 10:30 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Sunday and mid-week Lenten services are also livestreamed on Grace's Facebook page. Just looking for sermons? Check out our YouTube Channel, which has dozens of past sermons with Bible readings.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw>



Bible Study



This month, we'll have a couple Monday night Bible studies on some of the prophets we'll hear about in worship. Then we'll start a 4-week Advent study, called "Who Needs Christmas?" by Andy Stanley, beginning Nov. 28. Please join us on any of these Monday evenings at 7pm.

Nov. 7 – Micah

Nov. 21 – Habakkuk

Nov. 28 – Who Needs Christmas? The Story Behind the Story



Sunday School Service Projects

As Sunday School prepares for our Christmas unit, we're collecting various items for toiletry kits that will be assembled for guests of the Ronald McDonald House. So we're looking for donations of the following:

- Disposable razors
- Travel-sized deodorant
- Travel-sized shaving cream
- Feminine hygiene products
- Combs
- Brushes

We plan to make 25 kits. These items can be dropped off in the tub outside Pastor Jennifer's office by Nov. 30. Thanks to Dr. Angie Bauer for donating all of the necessary dental supplies!

Additionally, we're looking at a diaper-sewing project and need f adult Large, XL, and XXL T-shirts. Used T-shirts are fine as long as they don't have holes.

Office Hours



The Church Office is open from 9:00 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 gracelutherancambridgwi@gmail.com

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS



- Nov 6** - Ushers: Scott Key Family Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen
Reader: Lori Jensen
Communion Servers: Angie Williams & Pat Hall
Communion Set up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Gwen & Roslynn Olson
Coffee Hour Hosts: Hussey & Hausz
- Nov 13** - Ushers: Bob & Janet Koepf Assisting Minister: Kelly Witte
Reader: Janet Koepf
Communion Servers: Mary Behling & Shawn Whitman
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Will Gottschalk & Mason Neuenschwander
Coffee Hour Hosts: Behling & Taitt
- Nov 20** - Ushers: Amy Simdon & Marlene Evenson Assisting Minister: Shawn Koebe
Reader: Amy Simdon
Communion Servers: Maddie & Mallori Buonincontro
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Rylan Tobias & George Albrecht
Coffee Hour Hosts: Falk & Williams
- Nov 27** - Ushers: Bill & Betty Reay Assisting Minister: Shawn Whitman
Reader: Charlene Luchterhand
Communion Servers: Randy Luchterhand & Shawn Koebe
Communion Set Up: Geis family
Acolytes: Marissa Kilburg & Aiden Williams
Coffee Hour Hosts: Sperle & Becky Borchardt

Altar Guild - Donna Simdon & Alice Wolfgram



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
30 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9 am Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:10 am Sanctuary Choir	31 9:30 am Quilters 6 pm Handbell Choir	1	2 9 am Ruth Circle 11 am Outreach Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation	3 5pm Grace hosts Community Cafe	4	5
6 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:10 am Sanctuary Choir	7 9:30 am Quilters 6 pm Handbell Choir 7 pm Adult Study 7pm Ukulele Group	8 7 pm Grace Council Mtg	9 9:30 am Lydia Circle 6:30 pm Confirmation Mentor Night	10	11	12
13 COMMITMENT SUNDAY 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:10 am Sanctuary Choir	14 9:30 am Quilters 6 pm Handbell Choir	15 Newsletter content deadline	16 6:30 pm Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation	17	18	19
20 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:10 am Sanctuary Choir 7pm Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Pius	21 9:30 am Quilters 6 pm Handbell Choir 7 pm Adult Study	22	23	24 THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED	25	26
27 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9 am Worship SERVICE -Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:10 am Sanctuary Choir	28 9:30 am Quilters 6 pm Handbell Choir 7pm Adult Study	20	30 6:30 pm Confirmation	DEC 1	2	3

GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



New Christian Education Coordinator!



This month, we are delighted to welcome Breah Klemp to Grace's church staff. Breah is excited to serve as our new Christian Education Coordinator, helping to organize Sunday School and other educational opportunities for children and families. Breah is also a Physician Assistant, is married to Luke Klemp, and together they have 4 children – Cael, Corbin, Cullen, and Chesney.

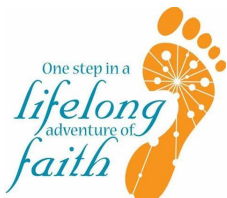
Sunday School Offerings

On October 23, Sunday Schoolers were each given Sunday School offering envelopes. We encourage families to help teach your children about the importance of giving. We give money to church not simply to keep the lights on, but in order to say thank you to God for everything God has given us. This semester, the Sunday School offerings will be given to local hunger ministries. Offerings can be given in worship or in Sunday School class.



Please see Page 3 for Sunday School Service Projects information.

Confirmation Corner



This month, Mentor Night is Wed. November 9 at 6:30 p.m. Students are reminded that they need 2 sermon notes a month, and at least half of those sermon notes need to be taken in-person at Grace.

Congrats to confirmands Cally Rae Lovick Gill, Alyssa Jo Gottschalk, Ellie Lynn Gottschalk, Josephine Elena Punsel, and Ava Grace Williams, who were confirmed on Sunday, October 23rd. We welcome you as Christian adult members of Grace!

Outreach and Social Justice

Our fall stewardship theme is "Gifts of Grace," and Commitment Sunday is November 13.

We'll focus on Growing In Faith Together, using a logo of GIFT boxes. The logo pictures a wrapped gift box and will serve as a visual reminder of our theme. We often practice gift giving with packages, nicely presented with pretty paper and ribbons. Are you more excited to receive such a gift or to give one?



Not all gifts are tangible or wrapped up neatly. We are all gifted by God with time and talents and financial resources. How can we best use all of these to build up the church and serve our neighbors? A time and talent form "Sharing Our Gifts and Abilities" will give you an opportunity to review various ways you can serve within our congregation and reach out to others. A separate pledge card will reaffirm our commitment to share our financial resources wisely.

Secure in God's daily gifts to us and His presence in our lives, the Grace Lutheran congregation can look forward to sharing our gifts and talents in many ways. Please join in the campaign!

Submitted by Janet Koepp, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee

Confirmant Ava Williams' Raises Funds for Ukraine Medical Relief



As a part of her church service project, Ava chose to help raise money for medical relief for the people of Ukraine. To raise money, Ava set up a go fund me page that makes it easy for people to donate; all money donated goes straight to the charity. Her goal is to raise \$500 for the medical relief charity. Ava says any contribution of any size will help! Visit

https://www.gofundme.com/f/medical-relief-and-supplies-for-ukraine?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer

(note the site names Justin Williams, Ava's dad)

Funerals/Member Deaths

Kari (Everson) Barrett – Oct. 2, 2022

Baptism

Mack Thompson Becker - October 16, 2022

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2022, partially via zoom and partially at church

(Minutes below not approved until next Council meeting)

Call to Order. Meeting called to order by President Kris Tobias at 7:04 p.m.

Attendance. Present: Kris Tobias, Mary Behling, Amy Simdon, Bill Becker, April Mickelson, Bill Reay, Pastor Jennifer Jelinek, Ann Engelstad, Kelly Witte, Jennifer Hellberg, and Jim Jermain. **Absent:** Shawn Whitman

Devotions. April Mickelson shared her faith story.

Approval of September Minutes. April Mickelson moved to approve the Minutes, Jim Jermain seconded the motion, and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda. Ann Engelstad moved to approve the consent agenda, Kelly Witte seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Correspondence. None to report.

Treasurer's Report. Amy Simdon presented the financial reports for last month. She indicated the financial picture is stable. There was a net income of just under \$500 for last month and there is a healthy balance in the general account. The financial picture is better than last year mainly due to decreased labor expenses for administration and maintenance and both income and expenses are under budget for YTD. She has learned that the copier contract doesn't expire until 2025, so there has not been any increase in the monthly cost. We are, however, making more copies which has increased the cost. She noted the church is holding \$50 in a Damage Deposit Account for the CD Players who don't use the premises anymore. She will talk to them about returning or retaining that and closing that account. Finally, she noted that committee budget request forms need to be turned in by November 3, 2022. Bill Reay moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Jen Hellberg seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Jennifer reported that this coming Sunday is First Communion Sunday for the 5th graders and there will also be a baptism for Mack Becker. The following Sunday will be Confirmation Sunday for 5 confirmands. Pastor will then be gone a few times in the month for the Bishop's Convocation and vacation. There will be a community-wide Thanksgiving service at St. Pius this year on November 20. Following the coffee hour on October 23, we need to clean everything out of the fellowship hall area for the floor waxing. It all needs to be put back in place by Sunday then. Kelly Witte volunteered to organize getting everything moved out and Bill Becker volunteered to coordinate a group to move it back in mid-week. Pastor then asked how we felt about bringing back passing of the offering baskets through the pews. It was agreed to try it and see how it goes starting this Sunday. Lastly, she noted that 2 funerals were held at the church recently with no funeral home involvement and she was glad she had the fee schedule in hand. However, she put in a great deal of time coordinating the funeral (outside of the actual service) and directing people that day. After some discussion, we tabled this issue to get some ideas of how other churches are handling this situation and to decide whether we should set up a committee or a coordinator of some type for this situation.

Committee Reports. Jen Hellberg presented a written report for the Stewardship Committee. She noted they are working on the fall stewardship campaign and will be presenting "mission Moments", sending emails, etc. April Mickelson noted that Outreach will be working on holiday baskets for the Food Pantry and on collecting items for the Blue Jay Backpacks. Jim Jermain stated that Hospitality has been working on gifts for Pastor Jennifer for Pastor Appreciation Sunday this coming Sunday. In addition, they are planning a confirmation brunch on October 22 and a celebration with gifts on the 23rd.

Old Business. (a) Reconciling in Christ. Brenda Lovick attended training recently and sent an email to interested parties regarding meeting soon. The training gave distinct steps to be taken and set an expectation of 6-18 months to fruition. The basic premise is hospitality and building relationships. She will be seeking additional interested persons.

(b) AV Updates. Steve is meeting with the vendor this week to review our systems. The cable connection has been down the last two Sundays and will continue so for a while yet while the Village changes to digital. Changes are less than originally anticipated, but still significant.

New Business. (a) Community Café. The church will be hosting the Community Café dinner in November. Tony Buonincontro has agreed to be the chef again. Pat Hall obtained a \$250 grant through Thrivent and has taken charge of most organization. A chart will go up this week for volunteers. **(b) Portico Health Plan Approval.** We do not need to vote on this anymore as Pastor Jennifer's benefits are through Eric and his church has already approved the plan. **(c) Harvest Hosts.** Kris Tobias brought up the idea of the church joining the Harvest Hosts group through which various businesses and churches allow RVs to park overnight in their parking lots. There is no fee to the RVs and they would not receive any use of the church facilities, no water, and no electricity, just a place to park overnight in a designated area of the parking lot. There is a website that takes reservations. Some churches are finding this a source of additional income (voluntary donations, however, not fees) and others see it as an outreach or hospitality opportunity. Many questions were raised, and Kris agreed to send out a link to the website for people to look into it further.

Adjournment. There being no further business, Jen Hellberg moved to adjourn the meeting, Amy Simdon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

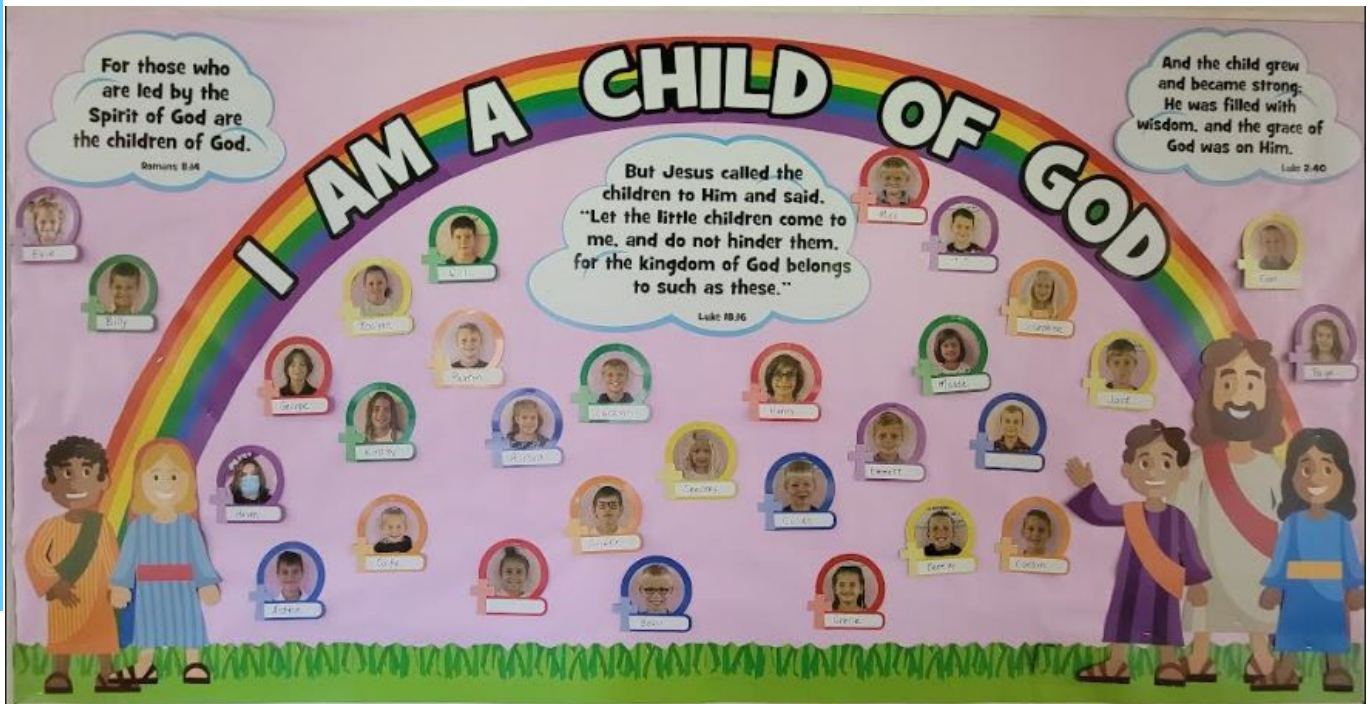
Next meeting will be November 8, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at church and via Zoom for anyone who can't or doesn't wish to attend in person. Jen Hellberg will share her faith story with us at that meeting and Bill Reay will do so at the December meeting. The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Grace 2022-23 Sunday School Kids



Confirmation Sunday



On October 23, we witnessed 5 young women Affirm their Baptisms. A big thanks to their families and mentors who have supported them along this part of their faith journey. We welcome these confirmed youth as Christian adult members of Grace:

Ellie Lynn Gottschalk, Alyssa Jo Gottschalk, Cally Rae Lovick Gill, Josie Elena Punsel, and Ava Grace Williams, with Pastor Jennifer.



Staff and Council

STAFF

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Organist Kenneth Hoversten kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com

Handbell Choir Director Ann Engelstad gaengelstad@charter.net

Christian Ed Coordinator

Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Hartman cindyh1029@msn.com

COUNCIL

President Kris Tobias

Vice President Kelly Witte

Secretary Mary Behling

Treasurer Amy Simdon

Outreach April Mickelson

Education Bill Becker

Stewardship Jennifer Hellberg

Hospitality Jim Jermain

Evangelism Shawn Whitman

Worship Ann Engelstad

Property Bill Reay



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