

# **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love

November, 2020

# Pastor's Ponderings

Unmasking God's Gifts

Dear Friends,

The last 8 months have been filled with fear, cancellations, and disappointments. 2020 has been the year we'd love to forget. But amid the challenges, there have been unexpected blessings for many of us. I mentioned in a letter to you how Martin Luther wrote about how God often comes to us in

"masks," meaning God works through other people and situations, when we might not even see God's hand at work. That (coupled with our recent familiarity with masks) is what inspired our stewardship theme "Unmasking God's Gifts." For the last few weeks, we've been inviting folks to share their stories of blessing during this pandemic. God has truly been active bringing blessings, sometimes behind "masks" like family and friends, kind strangers, good news, and unexpected opportunities.

I've heard how families have been able to spend more time together – eating at a dinner table together more regularly. Families have spent more time outdoors together – hiking, camping, boating, and birdwatching. I've heard stories of online "Happy Hours" with faraway friends and family who we might never have connected with if COVID hadn't left us feeling disconnected and stuck at home.

I've had similar blessings. I've enjoyed more time with my family too. Our new ping pong table supplied much-needed entertainment and plentiful laughs during quarantine. I've been able to see my children take responsibility for their online schooling, and I've been available to help when help is needed. I've enjoyed walking more and appreciating God's creation in new ways. A different rhythm to church life gave me opportunity to be creative and to collaborate with my husband's congregation, as well.

Another great blessing has been increased connection with my colleagues. In any given week, I typically spend about 3 hours in Zoom meetings with Lutheran colleagues and with our local ministerial group, which has grown to 10 of us from various Christian traditions – Lutheran, Moravian, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Catholic. We used to meet once a month in person, but we'd have maybe 4-6 people attending. Meeting via Zoom isn't the same as meeting in person, but it's much easier for us to all get together. We've gotten to know one another well. We come from different traditions and have different views on many things, but we spend time each week supporting one another, sharing ideas, learning from one another, praying and laughing together. It's truly been an oasis in the desert of this time. I've been delighted to be able to collaborate with my colleagues for several projects during the pandemic. **Our next project will be a Thanksgiving Eve service** that we'll share with you online and on local cable on November 25th at 7:00 p.m. Spending time with these Christian leaders has reassured me that the spiritual care of Cambridge and Deerfield is in great hands.

In this month of gratitude, I encourage you to look past the challenges and to try to get a glimpse of God behind the masks of those he sends into your life. God is here, God is active, God is walking beside you every day.

In Christ,

+Pastor Jennifer



On October 25, we lost a pillar of our congregation and community. Judy Brandt has been described as "a force of nature," "an institution," and a "beautiful soul." Here at Grace, we've known Judy for decades as an accomplished organist, a beloved choir director, lover of music and drama, and as our dear friend. To compile all the blessings Judy brought to Grace professionally and personally would take years. She touched the lives of hundreds, even thousands of people in our area and in our congregation. She was an encourager of musicians, a teacher of children, and a strong but kind director. To say that Judy will be missed is a great understatement. Her legacy at Grace is substantial. The music she's shared, the lessons she taught, the people she impacted will continue to be a blessing.

In a normal time, a service for Judy would probably fill Grace's Sanctuary twice-over. But during these pandemic times, it's impossible to do justice to Judy's amazing life while including all the people who would like to participate. Judy's family has opted to have a small family service, and they hope to have a larger celebration of her life sometime in 2021 with grand

music, storytelling, and memory-sharing. We give thanks to God for Judy's life and for the witness her life and her music were to the faith that grounded her. As we say goodbye in this life, we look forward to the promises of resurrection that will bring us together in the next. And so for now we say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."



## **Thanksgiving Eve Worship Broadcast**

The Cambridge & Deerfield clergy are coming together to lead a Thanksgiving Eve service that our whole community can participate in from their homes. It will be broadcast on **Channel 987** at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday**, **November 25.** It will also be available on **Grace's Facebook page** at that time. The bulletin will be e-mailed

out that week. If you'd like a copy of the bulletin mailed to you ahead of time, please contact Virginia – gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com.

## Commitment Sunday-Drive-Through Communion

Sunday, November 8 is "Commitment Sunday," when we celebrate all the gifts God has given us, and we commit to sharing some of our gifts in gratitude to God. We invite you to join in the celebration by doing a drive-through at Grace between 9:30-11:00 a.m. Drive in the front Skogen driveway and servers will have prepackaged and blessed communion to serve you



in your car. There will also be a barrel for offerings and to turn in your 2021 pledge card at that time as well. If weather permits, we'll have an abbreviated outdoor service at 10:00. So stick around for worship or just do a quick drive through.

## **COVID Notifications**

With COVID-19 numbers surging in our area, sadly, it's likely that some of us will get sick. Please feel free to share your health news (COVID or otherwise) with Pastor Jennifer or the church office for public or private prayers, or for other needs. If you're feeling sick or have a close friend or family member that has tested positive, please stay home to help protect others.

## Worship

Although we can't worship together in our Sanctuary yet, 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.

## **Kings Bible Study**

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Israel's history was greatly shaped by its leaders, particularly its kings. This month, our Monday night Bible study will focus on some of the Kings of Israel. All are welcome. We'll meet on Zoom (call over phone or use internet Zoom link) at **7:00 p.m.** the following **Mondays**:

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83214318706?pwd=UURJd0o4S0RnOTVYWkpEc2NGbE9VUT09

Meeting ID: 832 1431 8706 Passcode: 154303 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

## **Grace Gab**

It's getting a bit chilly to be gabbing outside, so Grace Gab will **move to Zoom again**. Feel free to join us each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom, which is available online as well as by telephone. There's no agenda, no topic – just a chance to check in and chat with others from Grace. Here's the link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81975908253?pwd=WittQXFORkNRUHRwcXpEVCtzdGltUT09 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 819 7590 8253 Passcode: 889886

## Video Editing Skills?

Do you have skills in video editing? Since we're using more video in worship (and your pastor has very limited skills), we'd love to have a couple people who would be able to help edit and produce videos. If you're willing to help, please contact Pastor Jennifer.

## **Grace Staff Availability**

Now that school has begun, Pastor Jennifer and Teresa are working from home and helping their kids with online schooling and therefore, have irregular office hours. Virginia is also working from home as she cares for her mother. All are very available over e-mail or phone. And Pastor Jennifer is available for in-person appointments at church. Please feel free to contact any of us.

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

Virginia Becker 623-680-3696 <u>gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com</u> Teresa Neuenschwander 608-658-7844 <u>teresa478@hotmail.com</u>

#### **OUTREACH and SOCIAL JUSTICE**





A BIG THANK YOU to John and Lori Jensen for taking all the boxes for LWR (45 of them) to the railroad station in Madison for pickup. Your efforts were greatly appreciated! You did a great job!

The Outreach committee

Baptism October 11, 2020 Bennett Sidney Becker



Parents: Ben & Liz Becker (Fraser) Sponsors: David Jensen & Ashley Tainter

## **Stewardship**



#### **Unmasking God's Gifts**

It's so easy during these uncertain times to look at the negative in our lives. Our stewardship drive this fall is asking that you look past the negativity and find ways that God is still working in your lives. God may have blessed you in a life changing way like He did for Shawn Whitman this year by providing him with the perfect job after being laid off this past Spring. (Shawn shared his story at the beginning of worship on October 18. If you missed it, I highly recommend watching it on

the church's Facebook page) For others of us, God's blessings may have been smaller but still significant.

My story of blessings falls into the latter category. I have a group of friends from college that I get together with once a year although it is getting harder to schedule as two of them have moved out of state. They are an amazing group of strong Christian women that I dearly love. When we get together, we do a lot of talking and laughing. Sometimes there is crying involved but we always end with everyone listing their prayer requests and a time of prayer. When the lockdowns started in March, one of my friends sent out an invitation to the rest of us for a video chat meeting. Most of us were able to attend and we had a great time catching up and discussing the current situation we were all in. Because it was so easy to connect, we have been 'getting together' almost every month. We have reminisced about our time together in college and have also lifted each other up through job, health and family issues that some of us have been experiencing. If it hadn't been for the lockdown and consequently slowing life down a bit, I wouldn't have had this opportunity to connect with these friends and feel God's presence through them.

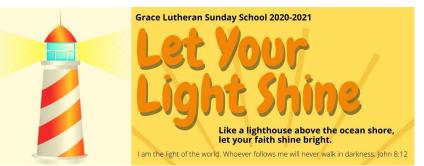
We would love for you to help us all unmask the blessings around us by sharing your stories. Please let the office know if you have something to share.

We also ask that you prayerfully consider the material blessings you can share with your church this coming year. You should have received a letter and 2021 commitment card in the mail. Your pledge helps our Council plan a budget for the year, and your donations help us continue Grace's ongoing ministries. Thank you for returning it in the mail by November 8th, or bring it to outdoor worship that day.

Please re	eturn card in the	mail by November 8							
Unnashing God's Gifts		Unmasking God's Gifts As a part of my/our entire life given to the service of the Lord, L/We make this financial commitment to Brace Lutheran Church			2021		Unmasking God's Giffs 2021 Keep this partian for your records		
	All Baseline Grant	in 2021 in the following way(s) I/We commit to give: \$	Per:	Week	_Month	Year	In 2021, I commit to support God's work through Grace Lutheran Church in the following way(s):		
Name(s):							2021 Support: \$ per		
Address: _							Name(s):		
			Zp:				Grace Lutheran Church		
Å	Grace Luthe 501 Skogen Cambridge, 508-423-31	Road WI 53523							

## Sunday School 2020/2021

Teresa Neuenschwander, Christian Education Coordinator <u>teresa478@hotmail.com</u> 608-658-7844



#### Check out our Facebook group called Grace Lutheran Sunday School.

This group was created to inform you about Sunday School Happenings! Please feel free to post pictures or videos from lessons that you do, ask questions or even to just say Hi! I love hearing from you, and it will be a great way for all of us to stay connected! An email will also be sent with all of the same information.

# Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup> The Widow of Zarephath God provides for us in ways that we do not expect. In today's Bible story, we will meet people who come from many different places. We will meet Elijah, King Ahab, and a widow with her son, and they are all from different places. We will hear about how God finds a way to meet and speak with each of these people, no matter who they are or where they are from. Lesson and a recipe will be sent by email or can

be found on the Grace Lutheran Sunday School Facebook group.

Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> Jonah and the Big Fish No matter what we do, God's love for us never changes. In today's Bible story, we will learn about Jonah and how he tried to hide from God. We will learn that we can't hide anything from God. When we do something wrong, instead of trying to forget about it, or hiding from it, God wants us to tell him about it, and to ask him for forgiveness. A short video and family activity will be sent by email or can be found on the Grace Lutheran Sunday School Facebook group.

Coming to your doorstep... A Thanksgiving project for your whole family!

Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> Isaiah's Vision in the Temple In today's lesson we are going to hear a story from the Old Testament about one of God's prophet's named Isaiah. Isaiah had a very unique experience of seeing God and hearing God's words. Very few people throughout the Bible had an experience similar to Isaiah's. A short lesson and family activity will be sent by email or can be found on the Grace Lutheran Sunday School Facebook group.

Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> Zoom Call Will we talk about what we are thankful for and play a fun game!

# Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85388584192?pwd=Mk1XWUp0QzQwcnBsWld1SDZiNW5wQT09 Meeting ID: 853 8858 4192 Passcode: 934359

Sunday, November 29th No Sunday School, Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving Weekend!

**Grace Lutheran Christmas Program 2020** Watch your email and our Facebook page for more information about our Christmas Program! We are working on something new, fun and exciting! We will need everyone's help to make it work!



### November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
1 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 9 a.m. Worship Cable Channel 987 & facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube)	2 7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study	3 National Election 10:30 a.m. <b>Grace Gab</b>	4 6:30 p.m. Confirmation- MENTOR night	5	6	7
8 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 9 a.m. Worship SERVICE-Cable Channel 987 & facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube) 10 a.m. OUTDOOR WORSHIP, weather permitting	9 Pastor Jennifer's birthday	10 10:30 a.m. <b>Grace Gab</b> 7:30 p.m. Grace Council on Zoom	11 VETERAN'S DAY 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	12	13	14
15 9 a.m. Worship-Cable Channel 987 & facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube)	16 7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study	17 10:30 a.m. <b>Grace Gab</b>	18 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	19	20	21
22 9 a.m. Worship-Cable Channel 987 & facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube)	23 7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study	24 10:30 a.m. <b>Grace Gab</b>	257 p.m. Area churches Thanksgiving Eve Service Confirmation Break tonight, for the Thanksgiving holiday	26 Happy Thanksgiving!	27	28
29 FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT 9 a.m. Worship-Cable Channel 987 & facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube)	30 7 p.m. Zoom Bible Study					



The Cambridge Food Pantry is continuing to offer no contact grocery pick-up from 5:30-6:30 p.m. every Monday evening. If you or someone you know is in need of groceries, we encourage you to come by! The Food Pantry will be offering its annual **Thanksgiving baskets this month** which will include: turkey potatoes, stuffing and other goodies.

If you are interested in receiving a basket, please call Kerry Marren at 60423-8142 or e-mail the Food Pantry <u>foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.uswww.cambridge.ap.net</u>. Baskets will be distributed Wednesday, November 18 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Baskets will be distributed Wednesday, November 18 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

**The Food Pantry is very grateful to Grace Lutheran** for its continued support. If you would like to make a donation, please contact us directly. Monetary donations are encouraged. Much needed items:

- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Crackers (saltines)
- Cookies and other treats
- Canned meals
- Hearty soups

#### Kerry Marren

Community Activities Program Cambridge Food Pantry Coordinator 608-423-8142 foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us www.cambridgecap.net

## **COVID Blessings** by Pastor Jennifer

As you may know, my husband Erik has had cancer (originally lung, with metastasis to bones and brain) for over 10 years now. It sounds strange to find God amid a cancer diagnosis at age 38, but all along the journey, we've seen God at work in what I like to call "a Spirit thing." The fact that he was diagnosed was a blessing in itself. It was caught very much by accident, which is why he's still alive and well today. That's a Spirit thing. His surgery, chemo, and radiation in 2010 were successful. When the cancer returned in 2012, his oral chemo was effective for more than twice as long as for most people. That's a Spirit thing.

Since we've lived in Cambridge, the main treatments have been less effective, so in 2018, he went through whole brain radiation, which often comes with life-changing complications. We've seen no such complications. That's a Spirit thing.

We hoped that the next chemotherapy would be effective for a year. It's been almost 2 years, longer than any patient his doctor has known. That's a Spirit thing.

During COVID, I haven't been allowed to go to Erik's oncology appointments, which has been hard for both of us. But the news has always been good – that his cancer is "Stable." His awesome oncologist can't spend much time with him in the exam room, so he's found a fun way to tell him what his scans showed. He draws a picture of himself (complete with his typical bow tie) with the news. It's been a humorous blessing during a difficult time in a difficult situation, reminding us that God really is at work here. It's a Spirit thing.

NEWS. 16. GREAT NEWS EJ!



## God's Gift, Unmasked During the Pandemic

(read by Pastor Jennifer during worship, November 1st)

Judy & Don Klingforth

I worked for a UW clinic in Madison for 5 years in the Call Center. On average, we would take about 500 calls a day. We had 4 Reps in the call center, because there was always a big turnover at our clinic. Most of the clinics were going through budget cuts, and not able to hire extra staff, so we were always short-staffed. The stress level was always high and it was really challenging, both physically and mentally.

When Covid had started, patients were not able to schedule routine appointments. Our call volume dropped drastically. They weren't able to come to the clinic now, so that cut our work down tremendously. They were moving us to different locations and closing some of the clinics to consolidate others. Things started to get scary. Then, we were told we were going to have our hours cut. We knew this was likely going to happen, and I thought maybe one day, at most, a week. But, as it turned out, it was twodays a week. I now knew I would have to look for something else because I figured this may go on for some time.

I applied for several jobs, worried that I might have to take a big pay cut, the health insurance might be bad, or maybe I wouldn't even get an offer! I asked God to help me get one of those jobs. I would pray, "God, if this is the best opportunity and the right place for me to be, please open that door. If not, don't open that door, and I'll keep looking. I didn't really know what I wanted or needed, but God did. Even so, I prayed for something,

God gave me far better than I could have imagined! I did receive a phone call from another care facility in Madison, and not in a Call Center. This place is amazing! The people are great, the stress is gone, and I feel amazing! God brought me to Agrace Hospice Care.

All we really need is to trust in the Lord with all our heart, acknowledge him in all our ways, rest in peace, wait for him patiently, & rejoice in Him always. He will bring you the desires of your heart. -Ps 37:4, Proverbs 3:5-6.

Thanks for reading my story, Judy

#### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

#### October 13, 2020 Via Zoom from Home during Pandemic (Minutes below are not approved until next month's Council meeting)

Meeting called to order 7:31 p.m. by President, Steve Geis **Attendees:** Steve Geis, Tim Neuenschwander, Amy Simdon, Tom Kosanda, Mary Behling, Jean Scott, Kris Tobias, Ann Engelstad, Pastor Jennifer, Lori Jensen. Excused. Erik Olson & Amanda Kosanda.

#### Devotions: Kris Tobias offered devotions.

Approval of September Minutes: Lori Jensen moved to approve the September Minutes. Jean Scott seconded; they were unanimously approved.

**Consent Agenda-** Jean Scott thanked Lori and John Jensen for transporting 45 boxes of quilts, school kits and other projects to the train station last month. Amy Simdon noted that the stewardship campaign has begun with the slogan "Unmasking God's Gifts". They are looking for stories and/or videos of positive things people have learned or gained through the pandemic. Lori Jensen noted that it is Pastor Appreciation Month and thanked Pastor Jennifer for all she does. She also noted that Hospitality is putting together 3 gifts for the Confirmands. No other committees met last month.

**Property Report-** Tom Kosanda stated that the sensors from Church Mutual aren't connecting to the public Wi-Fi and go off frequently, for no reason. Pastor Jennifer will get him the password for the private Wi-Fi. The Little Library repair is progressing. **Treasurer's Report-** Tim Neuenschwander reported that income in September was in line with July levels. We had a net income of just over \$1200 for September and still have net income for the year. He talked to Hometown Bank, but there is no procedure for applying for loan forgiveness yet. A couple of coverage values were increased in the new insurance policy, but they seem reasonable to all. Amy Simdon moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Kris Tobias seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

#### Pastor's Report-

Three confirmands will be taking part in the upcoming Confirmation Service. The in-church baptism went well. Pastor will be gone October 29<sup>th</sup>-Nov. 1, but will record worship early. The office is collecting names and photos for All Saints' Day. The pastor is also scheduling new member "classes" online for those persons willing to partake in a Zoom meeting and is attempting to talk with those persons who aren't able or willing to do so. They will be received online when approved by Council. Some area churches have started reporting member deaths from Covid-19. No spreads have been reported from services. Pastor is still meeting with the Confirmation students in person, for now.

#### New Business:

#### Worship-

<u>Outdoor Worship:</u> It was agreed that we should continue to offer outdoor worship every other week, as long as possible. It has gotten too cold for Judy Brandt to continue providing music for the outdoor service, but Ann Engelstad volunteered to take her place, starting this Sunday. It will be up to Ann & Pastor to determine how long such services can continue.

<u>Thanksgiving service</u>: Pastor is talking to other local clergy about offering a joint Thanksgiving service that could be broadcast to the general public. Grace would probably be in the best position to host this.

<u>Advent/Christmas thoughts</u>: Pastor indicated she will be putting together a committee to discuss how to handle Advent and Christmas services. Anyone with ideas is encouraged to bring them up. Punsels have advised that they will not be able to supply a Christmas tree this year, so other ideas are being sought, as well. It was also requested that we not yet entirely give up on the possibility of holding in-church services in December.

**<u>Confirmation</u>**. Three confirmands will be participating in the in-church confirmation service. After some discussion, we agreed that each confirmand will be limited to 10 guests.

<u>Sanitation Supplies Warning</u>- We have received a warning from Church Mutual regarding some reports of volunteers having accidents and being injured using cleaning supplies due to not following product instructions.

**Employee Insurance**- It is time for the renewal of Pastor Jennifer's health insurance. She would like to continue with the current plan, the Gold Plus Package. Amy Simdon moved to approve such insurance package. Ann Engelstad seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**<u>2021 Committee Budgets</u>**- Budget requests should be in by next month's meeting. Tim will ask Diane to provide information to the committee chairs regarding the budgets for the last two years and the amount remaining in each budget for planning purposes. **<u>Collaboration</u>**- Discussion was held regarding how to get and keep people involved, and what more could be done.

#### Old Business: None

**Adjournment:** Next meeting will be November 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Grace if possible and, if not, by Zoom again. There being no further business, Tim Neuenschwander moved to adjourn. Amy Simdon seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Report submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary

**Confirmation Sunday** 

### **October 25th**





# Eli Key

## **Mentor: Tim Jeffers**



## Julia Schneider

Mentors: Todd & Crystal Schneider





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**

Pastor:	Jennifer Jelinek	Home: 423-2329		Cell: (608) 295-7120	pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com
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Music Director:	Judy Brandt			(608) 239-6948	judithbrandt@gmail.com
Handbell Choir Director:	Ann Engelstad				gaengelstad@charter.net
Christian Education Coordinator:	: Teresa Neuenschwander			(608) 658-7844	teresa478@hotmail.com
Volunteer Coordinator:	Cindy Hartman				cindyh1029@msn.com
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Vice President	Kris Tobias				
Secretary:	Mary Behling				
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Tim Neuenschwander	r			
<u>Outreach:</u>	Jean Scott				
Education:	Amanda Kosanda				
<u>Stewardship</u>	Amy Simdon				
<u>Hospitality</u> :	Lori Jensen				
<u>Evangelism:</u>	Erik Olsen				
<u>Worship</u> :	Ann Engelstad				
Property:	Tom Kosanda		12		