

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love*

November, 2021

## Pastor's Ponderings



November 1 is called "All Saints' Day," or "All Hallows Day", which is how Halloween got its name – "All Hallows Evening." Each year on the first Sunday in November, we remember all of those who have passed away in the last year, and we celebrate their salvation in Christ. We also think about how this "communion of saints" has shaped us and helped bring us to faith. This year's All Saints' Sunday, I'll be thinking of at least 2 special saints who have entered God's eternal kingdom in the last year.

Terry Fretheim was my very favorite seminary professor. He taught Old Testament and really opened my mind, helping me to better understand God and how God has interacted with his people throughout the centuries. I was blessed to have Dr. Fretheim preach at my ordination in 2000, and I was fortunate to run into him several times after that. He was a giant of the faith and a true blessing to the church. From Dr. Fretheim I learned that what we do affects God, so although the things we do don't save us, what we do matters.

Walt Wangerin was famous in Christian circles for his many books and articles and for his Lutheran Vespers talks. But I knew him as a professor when I was in college. He taught a couple writing classes and the Gospel of John. My favorite memory is when he talked about the Mary who anointed Jesus' feet and dried them with her hair. He was trying to help us picture the scene describing the woman and her long hair. He said, "Now, her hair wasn't short or neat. It was long, full, and wild..." and his eyes quickly scanned the room and landed on me and he shouted, "Like hers!" It was an awkward, awesome moment. Walt could preach a 25-minute sermon that felt like no time at all. From Walt I learned the power of storytelling and how you can paint vivid pictures with words.

In the last two years in particular, it's seemed that death has felt closer than ever. It's been heavy and difficult. As a result, I've noticed that many people have tried to wave off their grief, to only remember happy things or to just move on as if nothing was lost. But grief is important. Grief is an expression of love, an acknowledgment that something was lost. Remembering our loved ones who are gone is important. It's so vital to honor our losses, for our own well-being and so we can support others in their loss. There are so many people who have shaped us into the people we are today, and taking some time to ponder what they taught us can be profoundly healing and inspiring. So this All Saints' Day, I encourage you to do just that. Light a candle, remember a loved one who helped make you who you are, and give thanks for that person's life and for their new life in Christ. And may God's Spirit bring you comfort, peace, and reassurance in the life-giving grace of God.

In Christ,

*+Pastor Jennifer*



## Adult Class– “Animate Faith”



This month we'll complete our discussion series called “Animate: Faith.” It's been a wonderful series for exploring important foundations of our faith, guided by thought-provoking videos. Join us Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. either in person or on Zoom as we explore these compelling themes that are so central to our faith.

**Nov. 1** – Salvation: Abundant Life Now

**Nov. 8** – Cross: Where God Is

**Nov. 15** – Bible: A Book Like No Other

**Nov. 22** – Church: An Imperfect Family

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83447883067?pwd=ejdLMlhvdEYzeFNmU1dVRmVhMFFWZz09>

## November Highlights:

Nov. 7– **All Saints' Sunday**

Nov. 14– **Commitment Sunday**

Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.– **Community Thanksgiving Service**

## New Member Orientation

Are you interested in joining Grace, or do you know somebody who is? We're holding a New Member Orientation to Grace on Sunday, November 7 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. E-mail the office if you are interested and we haven't contacted you already.

## Mask Requirement



As you now know, Dane County has reissued a mask mandate for all people gathering inside buildings. To continue protecting our children, our immunocompromised, and everybody else, Grace has returned to requiring masks for worship and other gatherings in the building. Thank you for once again caring for the welfare of your neighbors in this way .

## Worship Broadcasts

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

## Confirmation Corner-

This month Mentor Night will be Wed. Nov. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

There will be no Confirmation or Pre-Confirmation on Wed. November 24.

A big congratulations to our 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands who were Affirmed their Baptismal Promises last month – Aiden Sperle, Clayton Stenjem, Kyla Tobias, and Garret Wendricks. And a big thanks to their faithful mentors – Ben Becker, Richard Scott, Teresa Neuenschwander, and Rob Sperle.

## Community Thanksgiving Service– *Sunday, Nov. 21st, 7:00 p.m.*



You're invited to join with Christians from all over Cambridge for our annual Community Thanksgiving Service at Grace on Sunday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. We're eager to come together to give thanks to God for the many blessings of our community, our

congregations, and our lives. If you're not able to join us in-person, the service will be broadcast live on Charter Channel 987 and livestreamed on Facebook.



## Choir's Coming Back!

As the holidays approach, we are eager to have more music during our worship services. We're grateful that our Handbell Choir is back, and now we're hoping to add some choral music, as well. As we rebuild our choir, we'll continue to be cautious, singing with masks and distancing as well as we can. We hope to start rehearsals later this month. Are you interested in being a part of choir? Please talk to Pastor Jennifer or Ann Engelstad.

## Grace Office Hours

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

# Stewardship News

## Harvesting Hope

Our fall stewardship theme is "Harvesting Hope," and **Commitment Sunday is November 14**. The logo incorporates the communion elements of bread (wheat) and wine (grapes). A wreath made from sheaves of wheat serves as a visual reminder of our theme.

You have the opportunity to add a word or brief message of hope of your own to the wreath. Please use the small sticker that was included with Pastor Jennifer's letter to the congregation or pick one up at church on Sunday.

On October 10 we heard the story of God providing manna in the wilderness; it made me think of the petition in the Lord's Prayer "give us this day our **daily** bread." Sometimes we are afflicted with worry and surrender to the "scarcity mentality" described in the sermon. I'm old enough that my parents and in-laws were born and came of age during world wars and the Depression of the last century, in families that were far from comfortable. While they were realistic about their circumstances they didn't dwell on deprivation or hard times. Bob and I were raised with their hopes for our futures.

Secure in God's **daily** blessings and His presence in our lives, the Grace Lutheran congregation can look forward with hope for the future. Please join in the campaign to "harvest hope!"

*Submitted by Janet Koepp, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee*

Grace Stewardship Campaign

Harvesting Hope

2022



## November Grace Volunteers

**November 7- Greeters/Ushers: Tim & Evy Jeffers      Reader: Tim Jeffers**  
**Communion Set-Up- Ruth Circle**

**November 14- Greeters/Ushers: Bob & Janet Koepp      Reader: Bob Koepp**  
**Communion Set Up- Ruth Circle**




**November 21- Greeters/Ushers: Jim & Pat Hall      Reader: Pat Hall**  
**Communion Set-Up - Ruth Circle**

**November 28- Greeters/Ushers: Tom & Chris Watson      Reader: Tom Watson**  
**Communion Set Up- Steve & Jenny Horgan-Geis**

### **Sheets Needed!**

Grace Quilters are in great need of clean, stain-free, cotton sheets. Please bring them into the office if you have any or find them at yard sales. Thank you!

# November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>7:00 p.m. Animate Faith</b> Adult Class at Grace and on Zoom	2	3 9 a.m. <b>Ruth Circle</b> at Grace  6:30 p.m. <b>MENTOR NIGHT</b> <b>Confirmation &amp; Pre-Confirmation</b>	4	5	6
7 <b>All Saints' Sunday</b>  9 a.m. <b>Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 &amp; Facebook</b>  10:00 a.m. <b>Sunday School</b>	8 <b>7:00 p.m. Animate Faith</b> Adult Class at Grace and on Zoom  <b>7:30 p.m. Grace Council Mtg.</b>	9	10  6:30 p.m. <b>Confirmation &amp; Pre-Confirmation</b>	11 <b>VETERAN'S DAY</b>  9 a.m. <b>Lydia Circle</b> at Grace	12	13
14 <b>PLEDGE SUNDAY</b>  9 a.m. <b>Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 &amp; Facebook</b>  10:00 a.m. <b>Sunday School</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Worship Committee Meeting</b>	15 9:30 a.m. <b>Quilters</b>  <b>7:00 p.m. Animate Faith</b> Adult Class at Grace and on Zoom	16	17  6:30 p.m. <b>Confirmation &amp; Pre-confirmation</b>	18	19	20
21 9 a.m. <b>Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 &amp; Facebook</b>  10:00 a.m. <b>Sunday School</b> <b>7:00 p.m. Community Thanksgiving Service at Grace Lutheran (broadcast on 987 and streamed on Facebook)</b>	22 9:00 a.m. <b>Quilters</b>  7:00 p.m. <b>Animate Faith Adult Class at Grace and on Zoom</b>	23	24	25 <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>  	26	27
28 9 a.m. <b>Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 &amp; Facebook</b>  10:00 a.m. <b>Sunday School</b>	29	30				

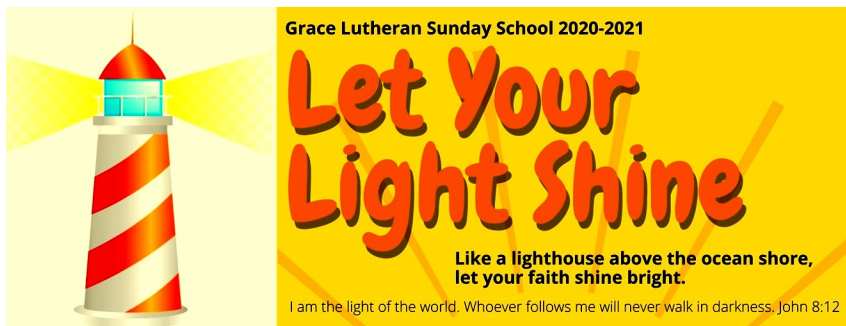


Thank you to the **Falks** for the gift of keeping our fire extinguishers up-to-date. We appreciate your generosity!



# Sunday School

Teresa Neuenschwander,  
Christian Education Coordinator  
[teresa478@hotmail.com](mailto:teresa478@hotmail.com)  
608-658-7844



Hi Sunday School Families!

We have a full fall schedule set, with our Christmas program practices an important part of Sunday School.

## Sunday School Schedule- 10:00 a.m.

**November 7<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Service Project/Christmas Program Practice**

**November 14<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Program Practice**

**November 21<sup>st</sup> - Christmas Program Practice**

**November 28<sup>th</sup> – No Sunday School – Thanksgiving Break**

**December 5<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Program Practice**

**Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> – 9:00-10:00 Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal**

**December 12<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Program during worship; more details to follow.**

**December 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, & January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Christmas Break No Sunday School**

## **Fifth Graders' First Communion– October 17, 2021**



Jill Jensen helped our fifth graders make unleavened communion bread.

Pictured at left, from L to R:

Aiden Williams

Cael Klemp

Brady Thayer

Crew Cunningham

Gwen Olson





## Monthly Treasurer's Report

Based on the income and expenses reported in September, our church operated at a net loss of **(\$2,737.18)** last month. We have seen a decrease in General Giving the past two months, as well as a slowdown in contributions to the Renewing Grace campaign. As it stands, we have enough general cash-on-hand to make expenses, but may need to draw off our line of credit at Hometown Bank, if monthly shortfalls continue. We also have enough cash restricted to the **Renewing Grace campaign** to make 10 months of debt payments, but we are short of paying off

the principal balance of our loan by more than \$8,000 at this time. We are hopeful for a strong end to the fiscal year – as giving typically picks up around the holiday season – but it is never too early to fulfill annual pledges to help the church meet its ongoing obligations.



Have you lost a loved one this year (since last November) and want them remembered during our **All Saints Sunday service on Nov. 7**? Please send full name, relationship to you and photo by e-mail to the office by Nov. 1st and we will add him/her into our slide show.

### OUR HOMEBOUND

Jon Bakken  
309 Oriole Lane  
Cambridge, WI 53523

Mary Ellen Smith  
912 Monroe St., Apt. 11  
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Char Kenseth  
555 W. Madison #5  
Cambridge, WI 53523



## From Our Missionaries

The warm summer has quickly turned to a crisp and bright Fall here in Budapest. How quickly seasons of life change! While we will miss the fresh berries that the summertime brings us, we are grateful for apples, pears, and gourds that now fill our local market.

We hope that wherever you are, the change of season ushers in a new sense of possibility, hope, and time of reflection for all that has occurred during the summer.

The past months have taken Rev. Rachel to a handful of different places around Europe to support and celebrate the beginning of different ministries.

We continue to give thanks for our good health--except for Dottie breaking her toe!--and all the possibilities that the Fall has in store.

Please enjoy these most recent updates, and as always, feel free to be in touch with any questions or desires to connect.

Many Blessings,

Revs. Rachel & Zach + Dottie



## City Park Lutheran in Budapest

The City Park Lutheran Church community has begun re-gathering for in-person worship this Fall. While many of our long-time members have returned to their home countries because of the pandemic, we look forward to providing a liturgically rich worship environment for those looking to connect in the English language. Please keep the community in your prayers as they move into this new season of life.



Our missionaries' full newsletter is located on the round tables in Fellowship Hall, if you'd like to read more.





## From the Office Window



Andrya Coutts helped Wendy Lehr get our hastas ready for winter this month.

Michael Rehak and Pira Mueller sanded, fixed woodpecker holes and made our Little Lending Library waterproof.

Thank you to the volunteers who give their free time to our church. We appreciate them and depend on their generosity of time and talent!



The food pantry is starting to get busy again! The following items are in high demand and short supply right now.

Please consider donating to the food pantry. Monetary donations are always welcome! Thank you for your continued support!

### Needed items:

- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Brown Sugar
- Spam
- Ravioli/Spaghetios
- Cookies
- Fruit Snacks
- Spam
- Uncrustables
- Lunchables
- Chips/Snacks/Crackers
- Hearty Soups
- Corned Beef Hash

The Food Pantry will be distributing **Thanksgiving meal baskets** on Monday, November 15. Grace Lutheran has generously offered to collect PUMPKIN PIE MIX in a can and APPLE PIE FILLING,) as well as monetary donations for these baskets.

If you are interested in signing up for a Thanksgiving basket, please contact the food pantry at (608)423-8142 or [foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us](mailto:foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us).



Please help us provide these items for 55 baskets **by Nov. 7th. Checks to Grace** with "Food Pantry Holiday Baskets" in memo line also happily accepted. A collection table is in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Kerry Marren  
Community Activities Program  
Cambridge Food Pantry Coordinator  
608-423-8142  
[foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us](mailto:foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us)

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 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 7:30 p.m.

**Attendance.** Steve Geis, Amanda Kosanda, Tom Kosanda, , Mary Behling, Jennifer Hellberg, Shawn Whitman, Kris Tobias, Tim Neuenschwander, Ann Engelstad, and Pastor Jennifer Jelinek. In addition, Jean Scott appeared later in the meeting. **Devotions.** Pastor Jennifer offered a prayer to open the meeting.

**Approval of September Minutes.** Ann Engelstad moved to approve the Minutes, Jennifer Hellberg seconded the motion, and they were unanimously approved.

**Consent Agenda.** Reports were submitted for Stewardship, Hospitality and Worship committees and reviewed by Council. In addition, Jennifer Hellberg reported that Venmo seems to be up and running. There appears to be a little confusion about Venmo vs. Vanco, so they will work on an explanatory flyer and some upgrades to the pew placards. The Sunday School giving program is going well. Bill Becker will be doing an upcoming Temple Talk instead of Janet Koepfel. Ann Engelstad reported that there had been a very good Worship committee meeting last Sunday and fall and winter plans are progressing well.

**Property Report.** Tommy Kosanda reported that the new garbage disposal has been installed and all planned painting has been completed. Pastor Jennifer reported that the thermostat still isn't turning the air conditioning or heat on by itself. She has been setting it manually basically since it was installed. With the return to in-person worship, we should really contact Richter so she doesn't have to go into church early just for that purpose during the winter. Finally, Pira and Michael have completed redoing the Little Library.

**Treasurer's Report.** Tim Neuenschwander provided his reports and summary. He noted that September revenue was down month over month again, mainly due to a significant decline in special giving in September. That was somewhat offset by decreased expenses for special giving. Regardless, there was a net loss for the month. We have cash, but only \$3,000 is undesignated. It is not critical yet, but if it continues, we may have to draw on the Line of Credit for daily expenses. He indicated that the Renewing Grace campaign time period has ended and we did not reach the goal. We have designated funds on hand to make ten more payments, but if we use all of the funds we have on hand, we will still be \$8,000 short. We also need to start raising funds for Pastor's future sabbatical. We could need as much as \$30,000 for her expenses and guest pastors during that time, although we should be able to count on giving continuing during her absence to offset some of that. Currently, we have less than \$1,000 set aside for this purpose. We agreed to have Diane Russo put something simple together regarding income and expenses for us to review and then put in the monthly newsletter or post in the church somewhere so people are aware that giving is down. Tim further reported that he will get budget request forms out to the committees and start working on the 2022 budget in early November. Lastly, it is time to renew Pastor's health insurance plan. She is happy to stay on the Gold Plan. We split the cost thereof with Erik's congregation. Jennifer Hellberg moved to approve the Gold Plan, Ann Engelstad seconded it, and it was approved. Kris Tobias then moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Amanda Kosanda seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**Pastor's Report.** October 16 is First Communion Sunday for the fifth graders. They and their families will receive communion at the rail. On October 24, 4 students will be confirmed. Kosandas offered to bring in some canopies to be set up in case of bad weather for the cake and coffee thereafter. On October 31, Pastor will be on vacation. Instead of a guest pastor, she is writing a monologue that Virginia will read as Martin Luther's wife. She reported that Sunday School has been switched to 10:00 since church is generally completed by 9:45 now. Everyone is invited to send in pictures of family or friends who died last year for the Remembrance Sunday service in November. She also noted that the community dinner for November, which Grace was to host, has been cancelled due to Covid. Lastly, she mentioned that we are losing the good weather for having outdoor coffee hour after church. Discussion was held regarding future plans and it was decided to continue with outside coffee hour for one more month if possible.

**New Business.** Ann Engelstad reported that they are discussing starting up choir towards Advent. She is looking into some special masks developed for singers by the UW and is looking into a variety of special music presenters, CDs, etc. Shawn Whitman reported that Virginia was approached by a representative for Cambridge County Christmas to see if Grace would be interested in presenting a live nativity. It would involve two-hour shifts for the performers and an 8-minute script to perform several times during each shift. Virginia is willing to coordinate the costumes and Shawn is willing to coordinate the volunteers, flyers, etc. He feels this will be a good project for the Evangelism committee and Council agreed. We have also been approached about donating items or cash to the Food Pantry for holiday baskets as we have done in the past. It was agreed that Virginia should let them know that we are willing to participate this year as well.

**Old Business.** None. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, was seconded, and was unanimously approved. Next meeting will be November 9, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., via Zoom unless decided otherwise. Amanda Kosanda will provide devotions. The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer. Report submitted by Mary Behling, *Council Secretary*.





# Confirmation

2021  
Sunday, October 24







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

Place  
 stamp  
 here

Place address sticker here;  
 not any higher

Gathering in grace, Growing in faith, Serving in love.

[www.gracelutherancambridge.org](http://www.gracelutherancambridge.org)

“Like Us” on Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-  
 ELCA Cambridge, WI

**Please note:**  
 We broadcast  
 on Channel 987

## Staff & Council Contacts

<b><u>Pastor:</u></b>	Jennifer Jelinek	Home: 423-2329	Cell: (608) 295-7120	pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com
<b><u>Administrative Assistant:</u></b>	Virginia Becker	Church Office: (608) 423-3135	Cell: (623) 680-3696	gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com
<b><u>Financial Secretary:</u></b>	Diane Russo		Cell: (847) 826-0131	gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com
<b><u>Organist:</u></b>	Kenneth Hoversten			kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com
<b><u>Handbell Choir Director:</u></b>	Ann Engelstad			gaengelstad@charter.net
<b><u>Christian Education Coordinator:</u></b>	Teresa Neuenschwander		Cell: (608) 658-7844	teresa478@hotmail.com
<b><u>Volunteer Coordinator:</u></b>	Cindy Hartman			cindyh1029@msn.com

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b><u>President :</u></b>	Steve Geis	swgeis@yahoo.com
<b><u>Vice President</u></b>	Kris Tobias	
<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>	Mary Behling	
<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	Tim Neuenschwander	
<b><u>Outreach:</u></b>	Jean Scott	
<b><u>Education:</u></b>	Amanda Kosanda	
<b><u>Stewardship</u></b>	Jennifer Hellberg	
<b><u>Hospitality:</u></b>	Kari Jermain	
<b><u>Evangelism:</u></b>	Shawn Whitman	
<b><u>Worship:</u></b>	Ann Engelstad	
<b><u>Property:</u></b>	Tom Kosanda	