

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

OCTOBER 2023

Pastor's Ponderings



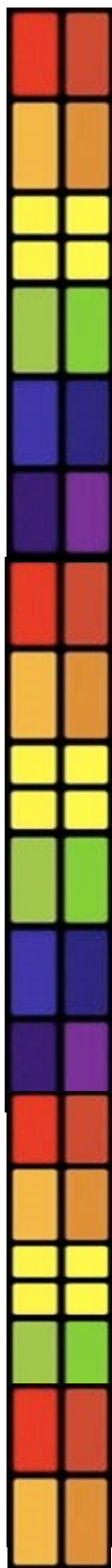
When my daughter was young, she had no problem recognizing what she was good at. And she eagerly broadcasted how good she was at each thing. "I'm really good at beat-boxing," she said one day. Okay. I wasn't entirely sure how valuable beat-boxing was for a 4-year-old, but I was reassured that if beat-boxing would be necessary to ransom us from kidnappers, we'd be saved. She learned to read pretty early, so in school, she was often moved to read with older kids. And I'm told that one particular day, she said to a child who struggled with a word, "How do you not know that word? I know that word, and I'm only a kindergartener!" That prompted a conversation about humility and kindness.

Yet when she got older, her confidence changed. She didn't see her gifts as easily and often downplayed her talents. Maybe that's typical as kids get older. And I think it's something we bring with us into adulthood. We look at other people's skills, gifts, and accomplishments, and we judge ourselves as being less talented, and we may even think we're not talented at all. Or maybe we downplay our talents so as not to sound arrogant. Or maybe we're worried that if people find out that we're good at something, we might be asked to help.

But God has blessed each of us with unique gifts, and gifts are meant to be used. Part of our calling is to use our gifts to help others, to help foster community, to build up the Body of Christ. If we don't recognize our gifts, if we hide them, or if we don't use them, it's as though we've received a present that we then hide in a closet, never to be used or appreciated. In the next month, you'll be invited to think about your gifts. In worship on your attendance slips, we'll invite you to share how you use your gifts in your life and at church. It'll be amazing to hear how all our gifts make such a difference. And we'll ask you to discern how God is calling you to use those gifts, especially here at Grace. October is an exciting, eventful month, so I hope you'll join us in worship.

In other news... Last month, I talked a bit about what a Sabbatical is, and I mentioned that I had applied for a Sabbatical grant. I'm so excited to share that I was recently awarded a Sabbatical grant by the Lilly Endowment. This grant will support some things I'd like to do during the Sabbatical, and it'll help support the ministries of Grace during that time. This grant is meant to support both pastor and congregation during this time apart, to help both discern how God is speaking to them and calling them to move into the future together. In the upcoming months, you'll learn more about our plans and what next summer is going to look like. This grant is an amazing blessing, and I think it'll allow all of us to do some wonderful things.

In Christ,
+ Pastor Jennifer





First Communion

Our 5th Graders will celebrate their First Communion on Sunday, October 15 in worship at 9am. Please pray for them and join us in this wonderful celebration.

Confirmation Sunday

Part of the joy of being in Christian community is celebrating with one another. Join us for worship on October 22 to celebrate with several wonderful young women as they affirm their baptismal promises on Confirmation Sunday. Come celebrate with us.

'Little Dresses for Africa' Workshop

Little Dresses for Africa is a registered Christian Non-Profit 501c3, founded in 2008, which sends relief to all parts of Africa and many countries beyond. Through the distribution of little dresses made by volunteers, LDA sends not just dresses, but also hope. The goal is to plant in the hearts of little girls that they are worthy. Grace will host a workshop to make these dresses on October 12-14, from 9am-4pm. This project is open to everyone in the community. We have sewing machines, fabric and trim, but if you have 100% cotton fabric, we can always make more dresses. Can't sew? We new needle threaders and gluers to help embellish dresses. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Please contact Barb Gregory if you can help: 920-220-9565.



Want to worship from home? Here's how!

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

All Saints' Slideshow

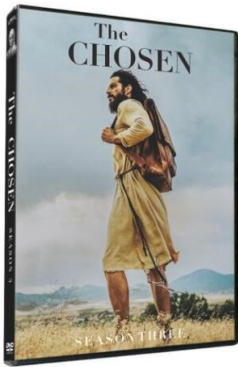
On All Saints' Sunday (Nov. 5), we'll remember those who have passed away in the last year and are now saints in God's kingdom. We'll have a slideshow with names and pictures of those who have died since last All Saints' Sunday. If you have a loved one whose name and picture you'd like to include, please bring or e-mail it to the church office by Oct. 30. gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com



Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 9 am – noon, Monday through Friday. Variable additional hours are available; please contact us if you'd like to make an appointment. (608)423-3135 or via email at gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com

“The Chosen” Study



This month, we'll continue our popular study of the TV series, "The Chosen". We're watching and discussing Season 2; some of the episodes are an hour long, so discussions may go to around 8:30. Whether you're new to the series or already a fan, all are welcome!

October 2 – The Perfect Opportunity (59 minutes)

October 9 – Spirit (48 minutes)

October 16 & 23 - No Class

October 30 - Matthew 4:24 (37 minutes)

Are You Crafty or Artistic?

Worship in the sanctuary is enhanced with seasonal paraments and banners on the altar, pulpit and throughout the sanctuary. Barb Gregory has made many of these over the years, but finds it necessary to step away from this work. Perhaps this is an area you'd like to explore? New ideas and media are welcome! If you're interested in sharing your talents, please contact Worship Committee chair, Ann Engelstad.



MAJM Fundraiser - Brat and Burger Cookout

During October, the Outreach and Social Justice Committee will be focusing attention on the important efforts of the Madison Area Jail Ministry (MAJM), a ministry which Grace has supported for many years. During worship services on October 8th and 15th, Outreach Committee members will present information about MAJM.



On Saturday, October 21st, the committee will host a Brat and Burger Cookout at the Cambridge Piggly Wiggly, from 10 am until 2 pm, as a fundraiser to assist the MAJM. Come out on the 21st and buy some brats and burgers - and tell your friends and neighbors to stop by as well!

The Outreach committee would welcome the volunteer efforts of other members of Grace. Watch for a sign-up sheet at church to work one or more of the three shifts, 10-12, 11-1, and 12-2. Please contact Bob Koepp (608-417-9502) with any questions.

Community Café – November 2

The people of Grace will once again be serving dinner at Cambridge High School for the monthly Community Café, on Thursday, November 2. We'll need lots of help with preparing, serving, cleaning up, and bringing desserts. Look for a sign up sheet at church this month to volunteer.

A row of stylized, colorful hands reaching upwards. The hands are in various colors: purple, red, yellow, blue, green, and orange. Each hand has a white heart shape on its palm, symbolizing love, unity, and support. The hands are arranged in a slightly wavy line, creating a sense of movement and collective effort.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

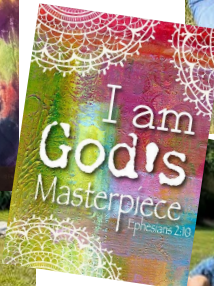
Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	2 9:30 am Quilters 7pm 'The Chosen' Study	3	4 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee 6:30 pm Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation	5	6	7 Bell Crazy Handbell Rehearsal
8 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	9 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm 'The Chosen' Study	10 7 pm Grace Council Mtg	11 9 am Lydia Circle 6:30 pm Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation	12 9 am Dresses for Africa 10 am Staff Mtg	13 9 am Dresses for Africa	14 9 am Dresses for Africa
15 FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAY 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15am Sanctuary Choir	16 9:30 am Quilters Newsletter content due	17	18 6:30 pm Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation 7:30 pm Confirmation Rehearsal & Dessert	19	20	21
22 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	23 9:30 am Quilters	24 9 am - 4 pm Craft Retreat	25 9 am - 4 pm Craft Retreat	26 9 am - 4 pm Craft Retreat	27	28
29 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Sanctuary Choir	30 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm 'The Chosen' Study	31	1 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee 6:30 pm Confirmation & Pre-Confirmation	2	3	4

GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



Welcome Back to Sunday School!

Sunday School kicked off on September 10th as we welcomed back our students in color!! They tie-dyed their own backpacks for class and left their marks on the bulletin board downstairs. After all, they are God's masterpiece!



WHAT WE'RE LEARNING: This four-week series follows the life of Moses, and his journey to leading the Israelites out of Egypt. Through his story, we'll discover how God teaches us to lead, and learn how to follow as God leads us to safety and to what we need.

Confirmation Corner

Confirmation has begun! Our 7th and 8th graders are studying the Old Testament this fall.



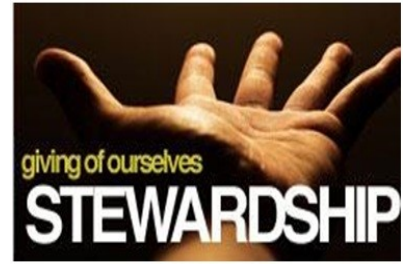
Just a reminder that everybody needs to take 2 sermon notes a month, in-person. Sermon note booklets are filed on the table next to Pastor Jennifer's office.

3rd-year students and mentors will complete all of their work this month.

Mentorship Workbooks, 5 sermon notes, and the Faith Statement are due by October 18. Confirmation Dessert Night will be Oct. 18 at 7:30 pm, and Confirmation Sunday is Oct. 22 at 9 am.

Stewardship: We Are Called

On Oct.15 we'll kick off the annual stewardship activities. Our theme is "We Are Called," based on the hymn of the same name. Throughout the Bible, God extends a call to many ordinary people. Stewardship is all about helping us respond to that call and share our time, talents, and treasure. Several Bible verses focus our attention on the gifts we've been given by our generous God. Using these gifts to spread the love of Jesus might start small—for example, within our own families. Then the gifts can go wider, to our local congregation, and wider still, to our community, and eventually to our country and the whole world. Imagine the overlapping of gifts going in all directions.



The song reinforces the idea of opening our hearts to God's call. Please join us as we consider God's call.

*"We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God"*

Please Keep Our Less Fortunate Neighbors in Mind!

Cambridge Food Pantry
WISH LIST

Cereal
Hearty Soups
Canned Meals (Ravioli, etc.)
Instant Potatoes
Corned Beef Hash
Hamburger Helper
Salad Dressing
Ketchup
Cake Mix and Frosting
Sugar
Shampoo and Conditioner



A drop box is located outside
the food pantry doors for
your donations.



*Thank
YOU!*

"God's Work, Our Hands" in action.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2023, partially via zoom and partially at church

(Minutes below not approved until next Council meeting)

Call to Order. Meeting called to order by President Kelly Witte at 7:05 p.m.

Attendance. Present: Kelly Witte, Bob Koepp, Connie Kreuser, Ann Engelstad, Mary Behling, April Mickelson, Bill Reay, Bill Becker, Amy Simdon, and Pastor Jennifer Jelinek. Absent: Peggy Punsel and Shawn Whitman.

Devotions. Mary Behling presented devotions.

Approval of August Minutes. Bob Koepp moved to approve the August minutes as written, April Mickelson seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda. Kelly Witte noted that the date on the proposed Agenda was incorrect and asked that it be amended to state today's date. Mary Behling moved to approve the Agenda as amended, Amy Simdon seconded the Motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Correspondence. Pastor Jennifer noted that she received an email from the Cambridge Food Pantry stating they have received a matching grant to purchase a van which will allow them to do more outreach services.

Treasurer's Report. Amy Simdon presented the August reports and her financial narrative for all to review. Highlights included that we had a net loss of \$104.41 in August. As of August 31, the year-to-date General Giving is approximately \$2,000 more than this time last year, but we are still about \$5,500 below budget. Special Giving is about \$2,500 below last year's year-to-date figures and \$5,200 under budget for the year. The result is that total giving to date is about the same as last year to date, but \$10,800 under budget. Total year-to-date expenses are \$5,000 more than last year as of August 31, but still \$21,000 under budget. The end result through August 31 is that year-to-date net income is about \$5,000 less than 2022. Finally, the checking account balance remained basically the same as the end of July. The general funds in that account (those not designated for a special purpose) decreased by \$1,000. When compared to last year, we have approximately \$7,000 less in general funds, with the total checking account balance being only about \$2,000 less. Amy noted in summary that income and expenses have both been consistently under budget this year so the net income remains positive although not robust. Bill Becker moved to approve the treasurer's report and send it to audit, Kelly Witte seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Jennifer reported that the meeting scheduled last week for the Youth Group Gathering had very low attendance, so she will be doing some additional reaching out to persons who might be interested. Confirmation starts tomorrow with 10 youth involved. Confirmation Sunday is set for October 22 for 4 confirmands. Sunday School has just started and the discussion group regarding "The Chosen" is starting again as well. The Annual Pastors Conference is coming up and she will be attending.

She also reported that she is one of recipients of the Lilly Endowment Sabbatical Grant, which means she will receive around \$30,000 for her Sabbatical plans, which includes money to support the ministries at Grace during those three months. In addition, Pastors Loren and Linda Schumacher have agreed to cover at Grace while she is on sabbatical.

Committee Reports. April Mickelson (Outreach) reported that that committee is on hold while they arrange for the shipping of their school kits this coming weekend. Connie Kreuser (Stewardship) noted that they have been "meeting" through emails and she will have a report to Catherine for the newsletter. No other reports this month except as noted under New Business.

Old Business. (a) Breeze (Church Records Software). Pastor Jennifer reported that Catherine received the initial downloaded information back and has been working with the new church records system. Pastor has also started working with it and likes it so far.

New Business. (a) Pastoral Health Plan (Gold+) – Pastor. As usual, Pastors Jennifer and Erik will be sharing a health care plan and the cost thereof will be shared between their two churches. This is the plan that they have had in the past and wish to continue. Amy Simdon moved to approve this, Kelly Witte seconded it, and it was unanimously approved.

(b) Fundraiser Madison Area Jail Ministry – Bob. Bob Koepp reported that he was at a recent Board meeting for the Madison Area Jail Ministry. Donations have been down, so Bob agreed to hold a fundraiser for this purpose. He has scheduled a brat/burger, etc., sale to be held outside the Piggly Wiggly on October 22 and he will be working with April and the Outreach Committee on setting this up and staffing it.

(c) Front door opening details / new lawnmower or alternatives – Bill. Bill Reay had two issues for discussion. First, he has received a request to look into obtaining automatic openers for one of the outer and one of the inner front doors. They are heavy and some members struggle to open them. After some discussion, it was agreed that Bill will obtain 1 or 2 estimates for the total cost of purchasing and installing these and provide those to the council for consideration and possible action at the next meeting if possible. Secondly, both of our lawn mowers are getting very old and need increasing repairs and tender care by Dale Klemp. Accordingly, Bill has been reading reviews on new 48" tractors and obtaining some cost estimates. He has also obtained a quote from a lawn care service out of Fort Atkinson for providing general lawn care (mowing, trimming, and blowing off of hard surfaces) plus additional services such as spring and fall clean-up, weeding, etc., as an alternative. Much discussion was held regarding both alternatives, but in the end it was agreed to table this until the next meeting for further thought and discussion.

Adjournment. There being no further business, Connie Kreuser moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill Reay seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The next meeting date will be October 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Grace and via Zoom. Ann Engelstad will lead devotions. The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

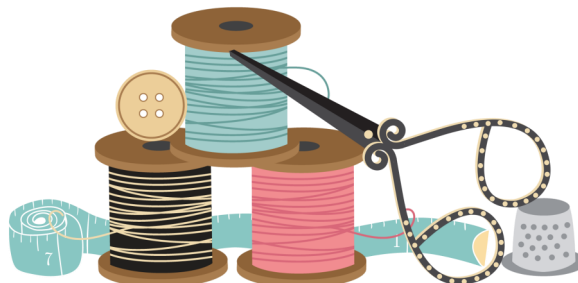
Report submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary.



From the Treasurer

August 2023 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date August 2023 Actual	Year-to-date 2023 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	175,861	181,336	(5,475)
Special Giving	12,813	18,000	(5,187)
Misc Income	1,886	2,029	(144)
Total Income	190,560	201,365	(10,806)
Expenses			
Administrative	62,750	70,377	(7,628)
Mission	24,890	31,333	(6,443)
Pastoral	87,635	90,982	(3,347)
Program	4,759	8,360	(3,601)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	180,034	201,053	(21,019)
Total Net Income (Loss)	10,526	312	10,214



Quilting/Craft Retreat

Here's your chance to get away from the phones and household distractions. On Tuesday - Thursday, October 24-26, Grace will host a Quilting/Craft Retreat from 9am-4pm.

Bring your sewing machine, knitting, or craft supplies to Grace for 3 days of crafting of your choice. If you need to spread out a project, we have the tables, and the church is locked so you can leave everything overnight. Come when you can, for as long as you'd like. It's a crafting open-house!

Contact Barb Gregory with questions:

Barbeedesign@gmail.com
Cell: 920-220-9565
home: 608-423-2220



Staff and Council



STAFF

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

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

Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Hartman cindyh1029@msn.com

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

Organist Kenneth Hoversten kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com

Handbell Choir Director Karen Johnson neilkarenj@gmail.com

COUNCIL

President Kelly Witte

Vice President Bob Koepp

Secretary Mary Behling

Treasurer Amy Simdon

Outreach April Mickelson

Education Bill Becker

Stewardship Connie Kreuser

Hospitality Peggy Punsel

Evangelism Shawn Whitman

Worship Ann Engelstad

Property Bill Reay



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