

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love

October, 2020

## Pastor's Ponderings



Dear Friends,

When my children were young, their daycare teachers raved about their good behavior each day. But as soon as they'd get home, it's like a switch flipped. Our sweet girls turned into grump-monsters. It was profoundly frustrating. As parents, why did we get all the grumpy, snotty, angry behaviors at home when they'd been angels at daycare? "It's because you're safe," a friend said to me. "It's not that your kids don't love you. They're tired and frustrated after school, and they know that you're going to love them even when they act up and lash out. It stinks, but it means they trust that you'll love them no matter what."

I was reminded of those days when I read about the challenges other pastors have been facing during this time. In addition to dealing with COVID-19 and all the adjustments pastors have had to make, many have reported having experienced pushy, disrespectful, cruel words and behaviors by people in their congregations. Many have considered leaving the ministry during the pandemic. My heart breaks for my colleagues who are experiencing this. Church is a place where kindness and compassion are taught and valued. What's going on?

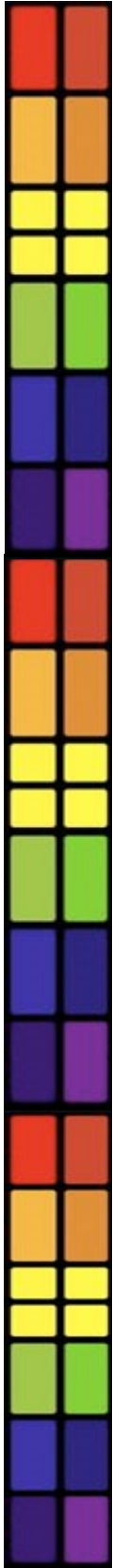
Frankly, I think there's a pretty close parallel to the daycare example. We're living in new, challenging times. We've lost some of the control we used to have. We're scared, tired, frustrated, and just want things back the way we like them. Add to that all the natural disasters, social unrest, and our political climate, and there are bound to be mini-eruptions. When there's little we can do to change our situation, we often lash out. And the ease of communicating "virtually" seems to give people permission to write things they'd never say in person. The lashing-out often lands on people who are "safe," people who will still care for us, which includes family, friends, educators, health care workers, and clergy. Maybe you've seen and heard others lashing out on social media as well.

It can be heartbreaking, can't it? Life is hard enough right now. Ideally, this would be a time when we'd come together to support one another rather than hurting others and drawing lines. I've heard it said, "Whenever we draw lines between us and others, Jesus stands on the other side, inviting us to join him there." Humbling, isn't it? Jesus also said, "Do to others as you'd have them to do you," and "Love your neighbor as yourself." That reminds us that no matter what we're going through, lashing out at others is not okay. Instead of judging, we need to try to understand each other- we're all in different situations with different challenges. Amid all the turmoil, we need to be gentle with one another. We need to be kind to one another. And in order to do all of that, we need to care for ourselves. When you're feeling angry, depressed, or overwhelmed, take some time to breathe, to rest, to feed your soul. Take time to pray, join us online for worship, call your pastor to talk. It's what I'm here for.

I've had people ask, "But how are you, Pastor?" For the most part, I'm doing fine. I miss you all, but I'm grateful for your support and for the opportunities I've had to do ministry creatively during this time. The next few months aren't going to be easy or "normal," but God can and does work through all of this. So, let's follow Jesus' example and commit to kindness, grace, and compassion.

In Christ,

*+Pastor Jennifer*



## Worship

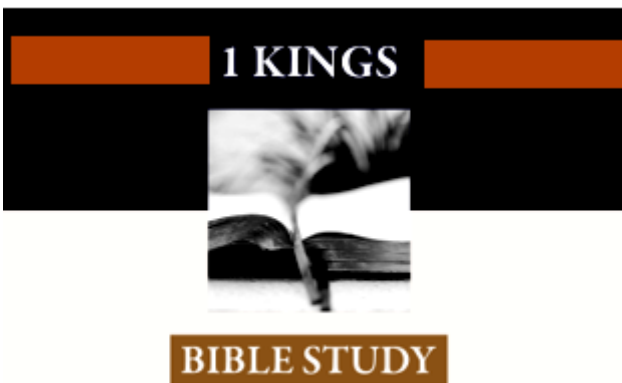
Although we can't worship together in our Sanctuary yet, Sunday worship continues to be available live on Sundays on Charter cable channel 987 at 9:00 a.m. as well as live on Facebook. Sermons are posted on Grace's YouTube channel after Sunday worship as well.

## All Saints' Sunday Slideshow – November 1st

Every year at the beginning of November, we celebrate All Saints' Sunday, remembering those who we've lost, especially in the last year. This year, we're putting together a slideshow of those in our congregation and in our lives who have died since November 2019, to be shown on November 1. If you've lost a loved one and would like them included in this slideshow, please send the person's name and picture to the church office by October. 26 – [gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com)

## 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.



## Kings Bible Study

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:

Oct. 12 – Saul
Oct. 19 – David
Oct. 26 – Solomon

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83214318706?pwd=UURJd0o4S0RnOTVYWkpEc2NGbE9VUT09>

Meeting ID: 832 1431 8706

Passcode: 154303

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

## Confirmation Corner

Confirmation classes are underway for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, who are studying Luther's Small Catechism this year. Sermon notes can be taken at home, from worship broadcasts.

On **Sunday, Oct. 25**, we will **celebrate Confirmation Sunday**. Although we can't all be present to congratulate our confirmands, please pray for our confirmands, and tune in and participate in the Confirmation service from home.

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES



As the weather begins to feel more like fall, we'll continue having outdoor worship services, weather-permitting. There will be outdoor services on Sunday, October 4 and October 18 at 10:00 a.m. You're welcome to sit in your car or bring lawn chairs (and blankets if you need them). As always, to participate in communion safely, please bring your own bread/crackers and wine/grape juice. Feel free to bring your worship bulletin on your devices, or we will have some paper copies available. Since singing spreads droplets much further than just speaking (up to 24 feet!), we ask that you wear a mask if you sit outside. Can you help set up? We'd love that! Contact Michael Rehak.



### Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Are you missing face-to-face conversations with your church friends? Join us for Grace Gab – now outside and in person. Throw a lawn chair in your car and join Pastor Jennifer in the Grace yard each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. (weather-permitting). Park by the rear of the building and join us in the shade near the garage. Masks are recommended. There's no agenda, no topic – just a chance to check in and chat with others from Grace.

## 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](mailto:pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com)

Virginia Becker 623-680-3696 [gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com)

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

## OUTREACH and SOCIAL JUSTICE

Grace quilters have been busy this year even when we could not get together on Monday mornings at church. Working from home has been necessary for many of us during 2020. We have more than 100 quilts to donate to the ELCA collection on September 26.

Quilters also made many face masks. In addition, Grace donated three quilts to the Lutherdale annual fundraiser auction which was held on August 8. These three quilts were sold for a total of \$350.

Thank you very much to everyone who donated fabric and sheets in response to our recent request. We want you to know how much we appreciate your help with this ongoing ministry.

-Janet Koepp

Our school supply project was more successful than we had hoped for, considering the challenges with the pandemic. **Thank you** to everyone who contributed. We have 110 school kits ready for shipment. In addition, we have the 35 baby care kits from our Advent collection, 10 personal care kits, and our wonderful quilters made 108 quilts! All of these items are boxed up and will be taken to the "Ingathering" in Madison on September 26th, from where they are shipped to the LWR warehouse in Minneapolis for distribution around the world. We are very grateful to Lori and John Jensen who graciously offered to transport these boxes to Madison.

You might be curious to know where these supplies go. Last year our quilts went to Ukraine and Georgia(country), school kits to Djibouti and Honduras, personal care kits to Tanzania, and baby care kits went to El Salvador. When you think about those countries, you can probably imagine why the kits are sorely needed. Unfortunately, the explosion in the port of Beirut in early August destroyed three 40-foot shipping containers filled with thousands of quilts, school, personal, and baby care kits that were destined for refugees living in Lebanon. Perhaps some of our donations will go there this year.

-Marcia Sivesind

Our **dedication service for the quilts** was on September 20. You might have seen a slide show of all the colorful quilts during the 9 a.m. service. The slideshow is also posted on facebook, youtube and our website, if you missed the video of all the gorgeous creations or want to see it up close.



Thank you, Richard Scott, for once again helping get our kits and quilts to the loading station!

# Stewardship



## UNMASKING GOD'S GIFTS

We have been inundated with so many negative things this year - the pandemic, high unemployment, social unrest, hurricanes and wild-fires. But if you take off the 'mask' of all the negative things, you can see all of the good things that God is doing. Life for many has slowed down and we are able to take a breath and enjoy the family and gifts that God has given us.

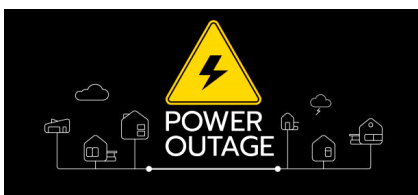
Our essential workers have stepped up selflessly keeping us safe, fed and

our children educated. Those that have enough are generously helping those that are in need. *God's goodness and gifts are all around us*

As part of our stewardship program this year, we are asking you to help remind us of all the good things that God is doing in our lives. Have you seen God's gifts unmasked in your life this year? Have you been a receiver of God's gifts? Have you been blessed to be on the giving side of those gifts? **We would like to hear or read your stories.** Write them down, record them, draw or take a picture of them. If you would like help recording your story, please contact Pastor Jennifer. Whether it's a couple of sentences or several paragraphs, a 10 second clip or a 5 minute video. We want to hear how God has blessed you this year. **Please email your videos, pictures or written stories to the church office by October 9th.**

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights...*

James 1:17



## September 6th Power Outage

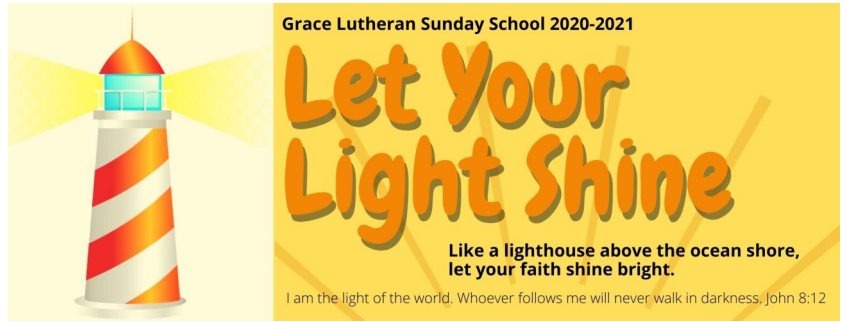
If you tried to tune in for worship on September 6 (or that week), there was nothing to see. Before 8:00 a.m., a transformer blew in the neighborhood, so there was no power in the Sanctuary. The service planned for Sept. 6 was moved to Sept. 13. The pandemic has quickly shown us how important power, cable, and internet access all are.

*Thank you, GARY Haberkorn!*



## Sunday School 2020/2021

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



### NEW THIS YEAR! Sunday School Facebook group

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, October 4th

**The Promise of Passover** Short video on Passover. Plus create your own Passover meal at home including learning about and making your own Charoset and Unleavened Bread. Video and recipes will be sent by email or can be found on the Grace Lutheran Sunday School Facebook group.

### Sunday, October 11th

**The Golden the Calf** We will learn about when the Israelites got tired of waiting and made a **golden calf** to worship. ... Moses reminded the Israelites there's only one true God. A short lesson and family activity will be sent by email or can be found on the Grace Lutheran Sunday School Facebook group.

### Sunday, October 18th

We will do a Bible Object Memory Game – Live! Right from the comfort of your home!

#### Join Zoom Meeting - 10 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85388584192?pwd=Mk1XWUp0QzQwcnBsWld1SDZiNW5wQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 8858 4192

Passcode: 934359

### Sunday, October 25th

**God's Promise to David** We will learn about David's plan, but God had a different plan for him – what could it be? We will also learn about the different buildings that people from around the world worship in.

Lesson will be sent by email or can be found on the Grace Lutheran Sunday School Facebook group.

Plus watch for a trick-or-treat coming to your doorstep!

Any questions or concerns please let me know!

Teresa Neuenschwander, Christian Education Coordinator

## October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
				1	2	3
4 9 a.m. <b>Worship-Cable Channel 987 &amp; facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube)</b> 10 a.m. <b>OUTDOOR Worship SERVICE</b>	5	6 10:30 a.m. <b>Grace Gab</b> on the lawn	7 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	8	9	10
11 9 a.m. <b>Worship-Cable Channel 987 &amp; facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube)</b> <b>Bennett Becker Baptism</b>	12 7 p.m. Zoom Kings Bible Study (check website for Zoom link)	13 10:30 a.m. <b>Grace Gab</b> on the lawn <b>7:30 p.m. Grace Council</b>	14 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	15	16	17
18 9 a.m. <b>Worship- Cable Channel 987 &amp; facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube)</b> 10 a.m. <b>OUTDOOR Worship SERVICE</b>	19 7 p.m. Zoom Kings Bible Study (check website for Zoom link)	20 10:30 a.m. <b>Grace Gab</b> on the lawn	21 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	22	23	24
25 9 a.m. <b>Worship- Cable Channel 987 &amp; facebook live (posted later in the day on youtube)</b> <b>Confirmation Sunday</b>	26 7 p.m. Zoom Kings Bible Study (check website for Zoom link)	27 10:30 a.m. <b>Grace Gab</b> on the lawn	28 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	29	30	31



We have settled into the new space in the lower level of the Nikolay Middle School. We are still under a no-contact advisory from The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). This means that the Cambridge Food Pantry will continue to offer drive up grocery pickups on Monday evenings from 5:30-

6:30, until further notice.

With Winter approaching and the cold and flu season that comes along with it, we anticipate an increase in need for food and personal items in our community.

There is a donation bin outside of the lower level doors of the middle school/food pantry entrance for non-perishable food items. Anyone wishing to donate perishable foods can contact me directly either by phone or email and I will make arrangements to accept those donations. Monetary donations continue to be the most needed and most efficient way to support the food pantry at this time.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Food Pantry.

### Hearty Soups

**Canned pasta (Spaghettios, Ravioli, Beefaroni)**

**Canned or packet tuna**

**Heat and serve complete meals (non -refrigerated/shelf stable)**

**Individual cereal boxes/bowls**

**Individual oatmeal packets**

**Saltines**

**Ramen**

**Shampoo and conditioner, Laundry soap, Dish soap**

*Kerry Marren*

Community Activities Program

Cambridge Food Pantry Coordinator

608-423-8142

[foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us](mailto:foodpantry@cambridge.k12.wi.us)

[www.cambridgecap.net](http://www.cambridgecap.net)



## Teaching Virtually in the Global Pandemic

by Jenny Horgan-Geis, 6th & 8th grade math teacher,  
Nikolay Middle School, Cambridge  
September 6, 2020

### What's a day like?

Each day, I arrive at the middle school a little before 7AM and put on my mask to walk into the building. When I get to my classroom, I can remove my mask, as long as I am alone in the classroom with the door shut. Next, I login to my computers. I have a laptop that is connected to 2 monitors. I use this to meet virtually with my classes using Google Meets. One screen allows me to see the faces of all my students in gridview while the other allows me to present Google Slides, Jamboards, and other resources to students as we work together. I also have a wired desktop computer that I use to enter the attendance into Skyward and communicate with colleagues and families via email. A fourth screen at my workstation is a Chromebook. I log in to this device as a "fake student" so that I can see my virtual class from the student perspective.

Each day, I teach four 75-minute math classes; then I meet with one student group during "Targets Time," which is kind of like a homeroom, at the end of the day for about 20 minutes. As of this writing, we've just finished up the first week of classes. During that first week, our main focus has been connecting with each other and getting used to working together virtually. Toward that end, we've tried out several of the new tech tools we will use during our virtual learning adventure, including Google Meets, screen-sharing (for both students and teachers), Jamboard, Google Classroom, Break-out Rooms, Google docs, our digital math textbook, and we've added various Chrome extensions to our devices, like Nod and Dualless .

When I begin a class, I try to greet each student as s/he comes into view on my screen. As their faces continue to pop up on screen, I type a question into the chat, such as "Did you eat breakfast today? If so, what did you eat?" This is just a way to get a conversation going and get to know students on a more personal level. All students have their microphones muted to minimize background noise, but they can unmute when called upon or if they have an important question. They can type responses to my question into the "chat" portion of the screen and see the responses of their classmates. We chat a little, I take attendance, and then we begin the actual class portion of our time together.

This past week, we've spent some time doing virtual activities that allow us to get to know each other. We've also done activities that introduce students to some of the big mathematical ideas we'll study this year and/or that review some concepts they've studied in the past. Our math curriculum centers on collaborative, team- and problem-based learning. My hope is that, in the upcoming weeks, I'll be able to use break-out rooms and other virtual tools to get my students collaborating in 3- or 4-person teams for part of each class period while I "circulate" among the teams, guiding and challenging them, asking and answering questions. That is what I'd be doing if I was teaching in person. Part of class time will also be set aside for students to work on their individual assignments; during this time, they may stay in the virtual classroom or they may log out and pop back in if they have questions.

### What are the challenges?

I would say that the two biggest difficulties are learning how to use technology efficiently and internet connectivity. It is sometimes difficult to show students how to do something or to demonstrate something. That can be challenging even when you are teaching in person; now, I am limited to what I can show on my computer screen, so it's a challenge to figure out how to present things. I am grateful, though, for all the technology I have at my fingertips. Learning how to use those resources efficiently is an ongoing source of challenge and growth for me.

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Internet connectivity is a challenge for a portion of the families I serve. Multiple times throughout a class meeting, several students will pop out of the meeting and then pop back in. This is either because their internet pops them out unexpectedly or because that's sometimes the best solution if your connection is glitchy. As a result, students may miss some of the class discussion or instruction, which can lead to frustration. Thankfully, our school district has people designated to problem-solve with families. Hopefully, we can get things working well for all of our families in the upcoming weeks!

### **Anything rewarding?**

As with in-person teaching, the rewards center on the connections we make with people. For me, it's always fun to get to know the new 6th graders and to reconnect with the 8th graders that I had in class 2 years ago. The sixth graders are very enthusiastic and sometimes a little nervous about moving into middle school. Generally speaking, they still have that elementary sweetness about them. I love learning about their families and hobbies. This week, one student brought his Elder Wand and Invisibility Cloak onscreen, so we discovered that we are both Harry Potter fans. Another student shared about his love for gymnastics and performing water-skiing tricks, and several classmates talked about all the animals they take care of on their family farms. We've even had some pets visit on screen! My more sophisticated 8th graders helped me experiment with virtual breakout rooms and shared a little about themselves in an activity called, "How Well Do You Know Your Classmates?"

It is also rewarding to work collaboratively with colleagues and to reconnect with them again after our long absence from the physical school building. All masked-up, we help each other figure out how to use technology, we listen to each other's challenges and successes, we catch up on each other's families and share a physically-distanced lunch break out on the front lawn under the tent canopy, where a couple picnic tables have been set up.

Although this venture is challenging, I try each day to view it as an opportunity for growth as a person and as a teacher. I am blessed to have a good job and a healthy family. I live in a community where people come together during times of crisis to help each other, and where families are very supportive of their schools and teachers. I have a faith community where I find support and a common faith. I am thankful to God for all of these things, and I look forward to a day when we can come back together in worship again.

### **What Needs to Happen for Us to Worship in the Sanctuary Again?**

As you know, COVID numbers have once again risen in our area. We continue holding online and broadcasted services to keep everyone as safe as possible. And we'll continue having 2 outdoor services this month. When Council feels it's safe enough to try gathering indoors, we'll need a lot of help. And frankly, until we've got that help in place, gathering inside won't be an option Council will seriously consider. We're looking for individuals willing to serve on a Cleaning Team to sanitize the building after worship services. We're looking for people to serve on Stream Team, video-recording services to stream to Facebook (on a phone is fine). And we'll need Ushers to help people with masks.

Many of our members don't feel safe gathering yet, which is perfectly understandable. We encourage you to do what's right for you and your family. But if you're someone who is eager to get back to worship, we encourage you to volunteer for any of these ministry opportunities. Re-gathering won't be an option until we've got committed volunteers for each of these areas. Please contact either Lori Jensen 608-698-3838 [jensenl@firstweber.com](mailto:jensenl@firstweber.com) or Cindy Hartman 608-423-3520.

## Joy Mortensen-Wiebe elected bishop of ELCA



### South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

The Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Kewaskum, Wis., was elected Aug. 29 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during an online synod assembly. The bishop-elect has served as pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Slinger, Wis., since 2018. Previously she served the following Wisconsin churches: First in Beaver Dam (2017); St. Paul in Mayville (2016-2017), Living Hope in Saukville (2014-2016), All Saints in Oshkosh (2000-2004); and Grace in Tomahawk (1992-1995). Mortensen-Wiebe also was interim director for evangelical mission in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (2018), an associate to the bishop in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin (2004-2014) and pastor chaplain of Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh Inc. (1995-2000).

Mortensen-Wiebe received a Bachelor of Science degree from Carroll College in Waukesha, Wis., in 1988 and a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., in 1992. Luther is one of seven ELCA seminaries. **Mortensen-Wiebe's installation is set for October 11th, 2020 and will be live streamed. Want to watch? To get the link, go to the synod website for the link: [www.scsw-elca.org](http://www.scsw-elca.org)**

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2020 Via Zoom from Home during Quarantine

Meeting called to order by President Steve Geis at 7:33 p.m.

**Attendees:** Steve Geis, Tim Neuenschwander, Amy Simdon, Amanda Kosanda, Tom Kosanda, Mary Behling, Jean Scott, Kris Tobias, Ann Engelstad, and Lori Jensen. Erik Olson was excused.

**Devotions:** Jean Scott offered devotions.

**Approval of August Minutes:** Tim Neuenschwander noted that Teresa's name was misspelled in the August Minutes. Jean Scott moved to approve the Minutes with such correction. Tim Neuenschwander seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

**Consent Agenda:** Jean Scott reported that the Outreach Committee has 100 quilts and 90 school kits ready to send out. They need to be delivered to the railway station in Madison on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Lori Jensen offered their vehicle to pull the Scott's trailer and they will co-ordinate this. Amanda Kosanda reported that virtual Sunday School has started and Teresa Neuenschwander is doing a great job. A Grace Lutheran Sunday School facebook page has been started which is open to any Sunday School family and lessons and activities are ongoing. No other committees met last month.

**Property Report:** Tom Kosanda stated that the Little Lending Library has a wasp's nest and wasp damage. He is willing to repair it and Ann Engelstad offered to paint it. Michael Rehak and Dale Klemp have been busy cleaning the interior of the garage and working on exterior issues. He is continuing to work on coordinating a group to paint the beams.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tim Neuenschwander reported that income was up significantly in August due to a \$35,000 gift from one member. Even without that, however, income was up slightly over July. Expenses were also up in August due to increased activity and a double payment to the Portico benefits, which will balance out in September. Taking out the large donation and the double benefit payment, net income for the year is still up over \$47,000. Renewing Grace contributions have declined, but some are still coming in. Paul is our new contact at the Bank. He has advised Tim that they do not yet have final details on the loan forgiveness process and he will notify Tim when they do. Tim spoke with the member who made the recent large gift and such person indicated that they want the Council to decide what to do with the gift. They do not need it to be tied to the PPP loan or any other specific purpose. Tim contacted Church Mutual after receiving a mailing from them and they indicated that there may be a slight decrease in the cost of workers' compensation next year due to decreased hours at the church. This will be calculated when the audit is done for the year. Lori Jensen moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Jean Scott seconded the motion; it was unanimously approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Joy Mortensen-Wiebe was elected as our new Bishop at the Synod Assembly. She will begin serving in October. Pastor Jennifer will be serving on the installation committee. Usually we make a donation to the Synod at the time of the Assembly, but we did not this year when it went virtual. In addition, the fees for attending the Assembly in person were returned when it went virtual and then a small fee/person was paid for the virtual presentation, but the Synod has now indicated that costs were higher than expected and has asked if attendees would be willing to contribute more towards the actual cost of the virtual

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presentation. After some discussion, Jean Scott moved to give \$200 to the general Synod offering and to donate the remaining \$800 we had budgeted for three persons to attend the Assembly in person towards the cost of presenting the Assembly virtually. \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

All items for the newsletter must be in by the 15<sup>th</sup> or sooner if possible as Virginia is leaving on the 16<sup>th</sup> to meet her new grand-baby! Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, is "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. There are no planned group activities due to Covid-19, but everyone is encouraged to volunteer service in their own way.

Ben and Liz Becker have asked to have their new baby baptized in the church during a regular virtual service. After some discussion of the expected guest numbers and limitations, Amanda Kosanda moved to allow the baptism to be held in church with social distancing and other county guidelines to be followed, including no singing to be allowed by those present in church. Amy Simdon seconded the motion and it was approved.

Confirmation Sunday is October 25 this year. There will be a maximum of 4 confirmands and they would like it to be in the church. Pastor indicated that she will request the guest numbers for each confirmand planning to attend and will break it into two services if the numbers warrant that. After some discussion, Lori Jenson moved to allow Confirmation to take place in church with no more than 50 people present (or less if guidelines change by such time), with Pastor having the discretion to break it into two services if she feels the numbers warrant that, no singing, and social distancing and all other Jefferson County guidelines at such time to be followed. Jean Scott seconded the motion and it was approved.

Pastor asked if we want her to return to having regularly scheduled hours. She is generally there Tuesday mornings and we agreed that was sufficient for now. People are encouraged to call her on her cell phone at other times as needed.

Confirmation orientation is September 9<sup>th</sup> and in-person class starts in a week. There will be 6-8 persons/class, so they will each be able to have their own table or sit two persons at a long table.

Discussion was then held regarding the mentorship program for Confirmation. It was agreed that the Council supports this program and all of its requirements.

**Old Business:** Discussion was held regarding the PPP loan and the gift that has been offered, the conditions of repayment or forgiveness, possible penalties if repaid, and the possible uses of the gift if it is not used to repay the loan. Ann Engelstad moved to seek forgiveness of the PPL loan and to have Tim let the member who made the recent large gift know that we are doing this so that we can, and will, use such gift to improve the church's outreach to our greater community. Amanda Kosanda seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. No specific purpose was decided on at this time, but we will restrict the funds within the general account until we make a decision.

**Regathering Guidelines:** There are really no changes in Wisconsin's situation, although the number of cases in Dane County specifically have substantially increased since students began returning to the UW. Each person offered their opinion, only 2 out of the 10 present were in favor of regathering in person, and ultimately, it was agreed to wait to see what happens in the next month with Labor Day and the schools' re-opening. In addition, we will see how the baptism goes.

**New Business.** Judy Brandt has requested to move the big white cabinet holding choir sheet music into the office she shares. After some discussion, it was agreed that there is no reason to move it and it should just stay where it is for now.

Michael Rehak has asked the Council to form a committee to consider environmental initiatives that could be implemented at the church and shared with the greater community. The Council is not willing to take this on right now, but we appreciate Michael's concerns and we will consider taking baby steps on issues as they arise.

**Adjournment.** Next meeting will be September 8 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 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion carried unanimously, followed by the Lord's Prayer. Kris Tobias ----is scheduled for October devotions. -Report submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary

## Missionaries' Update





The second wave of COVID19 has arrived here in Central Europe.

Hungary is seeing a strong increase in those who are infected with the virus--at

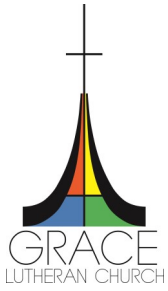
rates higher than the first wave. The virus has also spread to the countryside, whereas during the first wave it was almost all con-

centrated in bigger cities. Here are some of the rules and restrictions in place throughout the entire country: Everyone inside stores and crowded areas must wear a mask for face covering--including public transportation. If you have been asked to home quarantine for 2 weeks b/c of travel or another reason, you must comply. Anyone experiencing symptoms should not leave their house but call the doctor in their community to arrange an at home visit or other next steps COVID19 tests in Budapest cost approximately \$65USD per test. ger cities. Because of the large increase in COVID19 cases, many communities have returned to online worship and/or outside worship services. This month, Hungary set new records for the amount of people who are infected. We move into the cold and flu season of the Fall, not knowing what to expect, but confident in God's presence with us no matter what the future holds. Thank you for your prayers & support.

 **Pray With Us!** 

Join us in prayer on October 31st!

This Reformation Day, we pray for Bishop Jaroslav Javornik as he leads the Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia into the future. May he guide the church along your path's of justice, mercy, and grace. Give him wisdom, strength, and knowledge to be a beacon of Your hope and love in Serbia and beyond. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!



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

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here

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

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We broadcast  
on Channel 987

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