



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

September 2022

Pastor's Ponderings



Back in seminary, a professor once joked, "Each pastor really only has about 7 sermons, which they repeat over and over, just with a different frame." If there's any truth to that, 1 of my 7 sermons encourages you to look for God all around you. But I was once told that not everybody knows what to look for. It's not something most of us were taught to do in Sunday School. So to help, I thought I'd share where and how I've seen God this summer.

We've talked a whole lot about birds in worship this summer, which certainly seemed odd at first. But as we explored Debbie Blue's book, "Consider the Birds: A Provocative Guide to Birds of the Bible," slowly we began to see facets of God – God the comforting mother hen, God the omnipresent sparrow, God the purifying vulture. And more so, we started to see how we fit into the picture.

You might be surprised to hear that I've seen God in a Disney movie. As we've discussed the gifted characters from "Encanto" this summer, we've rediscovered how God gives each of us gifts and helps us deal with the challenges of our lives, working with others and the gifts and challenges they bring as well.

It wasn't hard to see God at work on our Youth Trip on the Mississippi River. God was all around us, in the beauty, the wildlife, the peace and quiet. But God was also with us in the laughter, the singing, the love that grew among us, as well as in each of these incredible young women. God was there. (Join us for worship on Sept. 11 to hear all about it!)

The ELCA's tagline is "God's Work. Our Hands." And I've seen that motto in real life this summer. I saw over a dozen people working hard to prepare for the church Rummage Sale. (Seriously, you have no idea how hard these folks worked!) And many of those same people were there to welcome people, to help them shop, to listen to their stories, and to be Jesus' hands and feet. God was there.

God's been there with the incredible women who have worked for weeks organizing and cleaning out the house of one of our dearly departed members. They have been her family, going far and beyond what most family members would ever do. I have seen God in their tireless commitment, humble service, and generosity.

Too often, I think we hear Bible stories of people talking to God on a mountain-top, or in a vision, or through a prophet, and we think God doesn't really appear to us anymore. But God is here! God is all around us – in the beauty of creation, in loving relationships, in our helping and serving, in the kindness of others. And each day is an opportunity to look for God and to experience the divine in places and situations we might never expect. And each day is an opportunity to be God's hands and feet to those around us. What a blessing!

In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*

Rummage Sale Blessings

There truly were many blessings that came from this sale and Grace was in the middle of it all! Over 100 people shopped the Rummage Sale on Friday, August 5th. Many were happy to not have to shop in the heat, and commented on how well the items were organized. Two ladies bought several items for those they care for that are disabled or sick; they were so happy that they were able to buy nice things for their special population at such reasonable prices.



Thank you to all who helped with the sale, especially Tami Collin who did an amazing job pulling everything together. We appreciate all who donated items, everyone who helped set up the week prior, and all those that helped during and with clean up. We made over \$900 to be used for general needs in the church. We're blessed that Tami has committed to leading the efforts again next year!

Consider the Birds Sermons

Did you miss any of our "Consider the Birds" sermons this summer? No worries! They're all available on Grace's YouTube page. Check them out! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw>



Youth-led Worship – Sept. 11

This summer, 8 of our high school youth went on a House boat Trip on the Mississippi River. In addition to cleaning up beaches wherever they docked, they experienced and explored the boundless love of God through worship and study. They will be sharing some of their experiences and leading worship on Sunday, September 11th. You won't want to miss this incredible, inspirational service.

Sanctuary Choir Welcomes YOU

Do you enjoy singing? We have an opportunity for you! Grace's Sanctuary Choir is starting up again this fall, and we'd love for you to join us! Choir typically rehearses each Sunday from 10:10-11:00 in the Sanctuary and will be starting rehearsals on Sunday, September 4. No experience required. Please join us as you are able.



Quilt Auction

The winner of the special quilt displayed in Fellowship Hall will be announced at the September 4th worship service. This quilt was designed and constructed by Barb Gregory and quilted by Betty Duckert, using Carolyn Scholten's squares. All proceeds from the raffle will go to the youth group. Please see Tami Collin to purchase your tickets!



All-Star Sermon Study

Have you ever heard a sermon that really impacted you or changed the way you think? For 3 weeks in our Adult Education class, we'll watch and discuss impactful sermons from some all-star Christians of various traditions. Join us for any or all of these Monday night studies starting at the end of the month, at 7:00 p.m.

- Sept. 26 – Diana Butler Bass “Mary the Tower”
- Oct. 3 – Matt Skinner “The Beatitudes”
- Oct. 10 – Barbara Brown Taylor “Walking in Darkness”

Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 11 at 10:10 a.m. All children from 4 years old through 5th grade are welcome to attend Sunday School. On Sept. 11, we ask parents and children to meet in the Sanctuary at 10:10, and when the children are taken to class, parents will stay for a time of registration and orientation. Know somebody whose kids would like to try out Sunday School? Invite them! All are welcome.



Interested in teaching our awesome 5th grade Sunday School class?
Talk with Pastor Jennifer.

Christian Education Coordinator Position



At Grace, we are blessed with wonderful children, and it's our priority to teach them the faith and support them on their faith journeys. Grace is looking to hire an individual to serve as our Christian Education Coordinator for the 2022-2023 school year. This part-time position is about 10 hours per week and includes organizing Sunday School and other children's activities. A job description is available at church, or by request over e-mail. If you're interested, please contact Pastor Jennifer.

Want to worship from home? Here's how!

Grace's Sunday services continue to be broadcast on Charter cable channel 987 Sundays at 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 10:30 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Sunday services are also livestreamed on Grace's Facebook page. Just looking for sermons? Check out our YouTube Channel, which has dozens of past sermons with Bible readings.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw>

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS



Sept 4 - Ushers: Dale & Marcia Klemp **Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen**
Reader: Marcia Klemp
Communion Servers: Kelly Witte & Tami Collin
Communion Set up: Lydia Circle
Acolytes: Paxton Koehler & Landon Hill-Houk
Coffee Hour Hosts: Sullivan & Tobias

Sept 11 - Ushers: Amy Simdon & Marlene Evenson **Assisting Minister: Jen Hellberg**
Reader: Amy Simdon
Communion Servers: Judy Heidebrecht & Wendy Lehr
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle
Acolytes: Ava Williams & Cally Gill
Coffee Hour Hosts: Martin & Lund-Veium

Sept 18 - Ushers: Jeanine Thurow & Donna Simdon **Assisting Minister: Jen Hellberg**
Reader: Charlene Luchterhand
Communion Servers: Randy Luchterhand & Sharon Erb
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle
Acolytes: Josie Punsel & Mason Neuenschwander
Coffee Hour Hosts: Allegretti & Neuenschwander

Sept 25 - Ushers: Bob & Janet Koepf **Assisting Minister: Kelly Witte**
Reader: Janet Koepf
Communion Servers: Shawn Koebke & Shawn Whitman
Communion Set Up: Geis family
Acolytes: Sammy & Gordie Grender
Coffee Hour Hosts: Amy Simdon & Connie Kreuser

Altar Guild - Pat Hall, Pat Northey & Sharon Erb



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
28 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 am Encanto Study	29 9:30 am Quilters	30	31	1	2	3
4 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sanctuary Choir	5 LABOR DAY — OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am Quilters	6	7 9 am Ruth Circle 11 am Outreach Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Confirmation Orientation	8	9	10
11 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School & Parent Mtg 10:10 am Sanctuary Choir	12 9:30 am Quilters	13 7 pm Grace Council Mtg	14 9:30 am Lydia Circle 6:30 pm Confirmation	15 Newsletter content deadline	16	17
18 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:15 am Stewardship Committee Mtg 10:10 am Sanctuary Choir	19 9:30 am Quilters	20	21 6:30 pm Confirmation	22	23	24
25 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10 am Sunday School 10:10 am Sanctuary Choir	26 9:30 am Quilters 7 pm Adult Study	27	28 6:30 pm Confirmation	29	30	OCT 1



The Church Office is open from 9:00 am – noon, Monday through Friday. Variable additional hours are available; please contact us if you'd like to make an appointment. (608)423-3135 or gracelutherancambridgwi@gmail.com



Growing Faith-Filled Kids

Thank you Theresa!

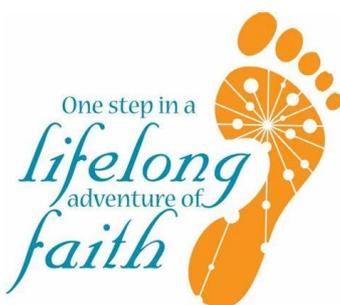
We give a giant thank you to Teresa Neuenschwander, who served as Grace's Christian Education Coordinator for 4 years (mostly during COVID!) and did such an amazing job organizing, coming up with creative ideas, and connecting so well with our kids and families. We're so grateful that Teresa has shared her gifts with us and wish her all the best as she continues working with children in her job as a 4K paraeducator at Cambridge Elementary School.



Sunday School begins September 11th!

Pre-Confirmation

When our youth enter middle school, a lot changes in their lives. So at Grace, 6th graders have a transitional year between Sunday School and starting Confirmation. So for 6th graders, we offer a Pre-Confirmation class on Wednesday nights, at the same time as Confirmation, but designed for 6th graders. We're looking for a couple people who would be interested in teaching or co-teaching Pre-Confirmation this school year. If you're interested in working with this fun group of kids, please contact Pastor Jennifer.



Confirmation Corner

Confirmation is about to begin! All 7th and 8th graders are welcome to be part of our Confirmation journey. Orientation for 1st and 2nd years will be on Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30 p.m.

3rd year confirmands – remember to work on completing those 6 session mentor booklets and 5 sermon notes. Confirmation Sunday is Oct. 23.

Sunday School Teacher Needed



Interested in teaching our awesome 5th grade Sunday School class? Talk with Pastor Jennifer.

Outreach and Social Justice

First of all, thank you again for the donations for the Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits. A special thanks to the person who brought in several flannel blankets; they were greatly appreciated!!



As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we are collecting School Kits for LWR until September 10th. If you haven't already, and are able, please pick up one or more of the blue bags at the entrance to Fellowship Hall and fill them with the items listed on the sheet next to the bags. These school bags help children in developing countries. "Thank you!" from them.

These baby care and school kits, along with quilts sewn by our Monday quilting group will all be loaded into a boxcar and shipped to Minneapolis in mid-September, from where they will be distributed throughout the world.

THE FOLLOWING ARE INCLUDED IN EACH SCHOOL KIT:



Four 70-sheet notebooks



One box of 16 or 24 crayons



One 30-centimeter ruler



One pencil sharpener

One 2½" eraser



One pair of blunt scissors



Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers



Five black or blue ballpoint pens

School Kits Provide Normalcy in Times of Crisis

School kits provide a chance for kids to attend school when parents might not be able to supply them what they need. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2022, at Pastor Jennifer's home

(Minutes below not approved until next Council meeting)

Call to Order. Meeting called to order by President Kris Tobias at 7:10 p.m.

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

Devotions and Introductions. Mary Behling shared her faith story and offered a prayer for everyone's faith to be strong and to support one another.

Approval of July Minutes. Bill Reay moved to approve the Minutes, April Mickelson seconded the motion, and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda. Bill Becker moved to approve the consent agenda, Bill Reay seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Correspondence. Pastor Jennifer reported that she had received a thank you note from the family of Carolyn Scholten for arranging her funeral celebration.

Treasurer's Report. Amy Simdon has stepped in to replace Tim Neuenschwander who resigned for personal reasons. She indicated that she has been getting caught up and presented the financial reports. She noted that the numbers for June and July of this year were very slightly down from the same period in 2021, but that both income and expenses are pretty much on schedule for this year's budgeted amounts. Those expenses that are high to date are also mainly paid for the entire year now. Discussion was held regarding the funds left in the capital campaign accounts, but no final decision was made. Pastor Jennifer reported that the rummage sale made \$900 and it was agreed that those funds should go into the general account. April Mickelson moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Bill Reay seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Jennifer reported that the youth trip went well, and they had a good time after a few initial bumps in the accommodations. The youth group will be leading a future church service. She noted that Catherine, our Administrative Assistant, will be out for a few days next week with a medical procedure. Pastor has been filling in for funerals for a couple of area Pastors who are on sabbatical. Members of the church have been working hard to help clear out Carolyn Scholten's home to assist the family who live some distance away.

Committee Reports. Stewardship and Hospitality Committees presented written reports regarding recent activities. Hospitality will be focusing on fall events now which usually include a celebration for the confirmation class and pastor appreciation. Bill Becker noted several things for the Education Committee. Movie night had to be moved inside due to the weather but went pretty well despite some sound issues and they are considering another such event. He deferred discussion of the Christian Education Coordinator until later in the meeting. He noted that most Sunday School teacher positions have been filled, but they are still in need of a fifth grade teacher. No other reports presented.

Old Business. (a) Energy Costs (ideas and updates). Jim Jermain purchased a new thermostat, but it hasn't been installed yet. Extra thermostats should result in some energy savings. The electrician is returning Friday to look at the quilting area again.

(b) Sabbatical Policy. Kris presented the Sabbatical Policy drafted by the Personnel Committee. After some discussion, Bill Becker moved to send the policy back to Personnel with approval, Bill Reay seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

(c) Christian Education Coordinator. Teresa has ordered the curriculum but wants to step down by fall. The position is about 10 hours per week serving 30-35 children in four classes. Discussed opening the position to the community since no one in the congregation has stepped forward yet. As noted, we are still in need of a fifth grade Sunday School teacher as well. Pastor Jennifer is going to talk to the parents of the pre-confirmation students to see how they want to go forward this year.

(d) Reconciling in Christ. Brenda Lovick would like to attend some training for facilitating presentation of this program. It was agreed that money in the adult education fund could be used for that. This will be the next step in learning more about this designation.

New Business. (a) AV Updates (1) Vendor contacts. Kris Tobias noted that there have been some challenging issues lately. They are continuing to work on instructions and ways to make it easier for anyone to operate the equipment. They have reached out to a company who will come in and evaluate what we have and how we can make improvements for a fee of about \$300. They are also continuing to monitor the Village's transition to digital to determine how we need to adapt as a result.

(2) Facebook statistics. Kris also noted that he they have the Facebook analytics if anyone would like to look at those. He noted that there is a tremendous amount of information provided that shows how many people watch each week, what portion of the service they actually watch, what the age groups are, and much more.

Adjournment. There being no further business, Amy Simdon moved to adjourn the meeting, April Mickelson seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Next meeting will be September 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at church. Pastor Jennifer will still provide a Zoom link for anyone who can't or doesn't wish to attend in person. Bill Becker will share his faith story with us. The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary.



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

thank you!

Thanks to everyone who helped out with worship and the Church Picnic, which we are happy to say, was well attended & without rain!





STAFF

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Handbell Choir Director Ann Engelstad gaengelstad@charter.net

Christian Ed Coordinator

Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Hartman cindyh1029@msn.com

COUNCIL

President Kris Tobias

Vice President Kelly Witte

Secretary Mary Behling

Treasurer Amy Simdon

Outreach April Mickelson

Education Bill Becker

Stewardship Jennifer Hellberg

Hospitality Jim Jermain

Evangelism Shawn Whitman

Worship Ann Engelstad

Property Bill Reay



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