

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

September 2023

Pastor's Ponderings



What is a Sabbatical? I think most of us have heard the word "sabbatical," usually referring to substantial paid time off taken by professors and others in academia. But did you know that "Sabbatical" is based in the Bible? The root word of Sabbatical is "sabbath," literally "seventh," referring to the seventh day of the week when God rested from his labors in creating the universe. In the 3rd commandment, God commanded his people to "honor the Sabbath to keep it holy." In other words, God calls us to weekly take time of rest and renewal, time to focus on our families and our relationships with God.

But also in Scripture, there's a sabbath for the land. Every seven years, God's people were called to observe a sabbath for the land, to let their fields lay fallow, to let the land rest for a year. You might imagine the people would be concerned that they'd not have enough food, but after God provided in the wilderness for 40 years, they'd come to trust him. And to their delight, the Israelites learned that leaving their fields fallow for a year, to leave their orchards and vineyards unharvested, helped improve their soil and future crops greatly. Even the land benefits from a time of rest and renewal.

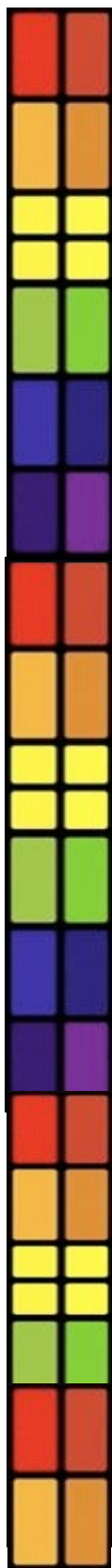
And that's where the concept of "Sabbatical" comes from. In the last 30 years, it's become much more common to offer sabbaticals to pastors about every 7 years, just as many college professors are offered sabbaticals every 7 years. This sabbatical time can be spent in various ways, but it usually includes substantial time for rest and reflection, in addition to study and experiences we might not have otherwise. It's a time when the pastor takes time away from the congregation, usually for about 3 months, in hopes of returning recharged and ready for continued ministry together.

Believe it or not, this month marks my 7th year at Grace. Time flies when we're having fun! At Grace's Annual Meeting in January, you approved a Sabbatical Policy, and the Church Council has affirmed and supported plans for me to take a 3-month Sabbatical next summer. I applied for a Sabbatical Grant from the Lilly Foundation to help support my sabbatical and Grace's ministries, and I should be hearing whether or not I've received the grant in the very near future.

We'll be talking more about this sabbatical in the coming months. I'm grateful and excited for this opportunity, not just for me to have some time for renewal, but for Grace to have renewal opportunities as well. We've got a wonderful Sabbatical Team that will help to guide us so this can be a fruitful experience of growth for all of us.

In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*





Messiah Thank You



An enormous thank you to all the musicians who performed movements from "The Messiah" this summer. It was such a meaningful series. Thank you to Scarlett Jelinek, Kenneth Hoversten, Kevin & Megan St. John, Brenda Lovick, Rich Fronek, Sandi & Wendy Aston-Hall, Lori Jensen, Karen Johnson and to our wonderful choir. And an enormous thank you to our fantastic Kenneth Hoversten for all his extra work in coordinating musicians and making this series so special.

Touch-a-Truck Bake Sale

This year, Cambridge's "Touch-a-Truck" event celebrates its 20th year. So there will be a celebration at the event this year, on Saturday, Sept. 9. Touch-a-Truck will be held at Ripley Park from 10am-Noon, and Grace Youth will be holding a Bake Sale at the event. So feel free to stop by, touch some trucks, and buy some goodies to support our Youth Gathering-bound kids.



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! The Choir typically rehearses each Sunday from 10:10-11am in the Sanctuary, and will be starting rehearsals on Sunday, September 10th. No experience required. All are welcome!

Want to worship from home? Here's how!

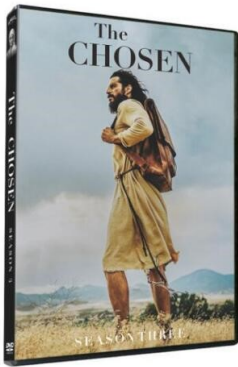
Grace's Sunday services continue to be broadcast on Spectrum cable channel 987 Sundays at 9am, 1 & 10:30 pm Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Sunday services are also livestreamed on Grace's Facebook page. Just looking for sermons? Check out our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw>



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 gracelutherancambridgwi@gmail.com

“The Chosen” Study Returns



Beginning Monday, September 11th at 7pm, we'll resume our popular study of the TV series, "The Chosen". We'll begin with Season 2; some of the episodes are an hour long, so discussions may go to around 8:30.

All are welcome!

Sept. 11 – Thunder (65 minutes)

Sept. 18 – I Saw You (53 minutes)

Sept. 25 – Matthew 4:24 (37 minutes)

Fall Sunday School Begins Sept 10th

All children from 4 years old through 5th grade are welcome to attend Sunday School from 10:10 – 11am each Sunday. On Sept. 10, 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.



Handel's *Messiah* Worship Series

Did you miss any of our "Handel's Messiah" sermons this summer? No worries! Many are available on Grace's YouTube page. Check them out! <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw>



Thank You from Pastor Jennifer

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, brought goodies, and kept me in your prayers during my surgery and recovery. Everything went perfectly, and I'm back to normal, just with a fashionable new scar. I'm so grateful for your support.

Rummage Sale Success!

A big thanks to all who donated items, and those who helped organize, set up, and clean up the church Rummage Sale last month. The sale was a huge success, raising almost \$1400. The proceeds will be split between CART and Grace Youth.



SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS



Sept 3 - Ushers: Richard and Jean Scott Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen
Reader: Amy Simdon
Communion Servers: April Mickelson & Rachel Drotzer
Communion Set up: Lydia Circle (Wendy)
Acolytes: Rory Sullivan & Kinsley Stenjem
Coffee Hour Hosts: Tobias & Sullivan

Sept 10 - Ushers: Bill & Betty Reay Assisting Minister: Diane Fronek
Reader: Mary Bielefeldt
Communion Servers: Amy Simdon & Diane Russo
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle (Judy)
Acolytes: Marissa Kilberg & Brady Thayer
Coffee Hour Hosts: Martin & Amy Simdon

Sept 17 - Ushers: Dale & Marcia Klemp Assisting Minister: Andrya Coutts
Reader: Ann Engelstad
Communion Servers: Rich & Diane Fronek
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle (Donna)
Acolytes: Aiden Williams & Rylan Tobias
Coffee Hour Hosts: Judy Taitt & Adsit

Sept 24 - Ushers: J. Heidebrecht & C. Kreuser Assisting Minister: Shawn Koebke
Reader: Shawn Whitman
Communion Servers: Brenda Lovick & Wendy Lehr
Communion Set Up: Geis Family
Acolytes: Cash & Crew Cunningham
Coffee Hour Hosts: Marcia Klemp & Leadholm

Altar Guild - Wendy Lehr, Betty Reay & Andrea Coutts



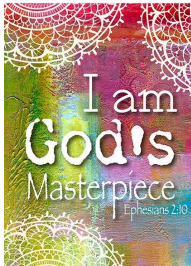
SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
27 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	28 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Book Study	29	30 11am Outreach Committee	31	1	2
3 9am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	4 LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 am Quilters	5	6 9am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee 6:30pm Confirmation Orientation 7:30pm Youth Gathering Mtg	7	8	9 10am Touch- a-Truck Bake Sale
10 9am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10am Sunday School & Parent Meeting 10:10am Sanctuary Choir	11 9:30 am Quilters 7pm The Chosen Study	12 7pm Grace Council Mtg	13 9am Lydia Circle 6:30pm Confirmation & Pre- Confirmation	14 10 am Staff Mtg	15 Newsletter content due	16
17 9am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10am Sunday School 10:10am Sanctuary Choir	18 9:30 am Quilters 7pm The Chosen Study	19	20 6:30pm Confirmation & Pre- Confirmation	21	22	23
24 9am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:10am Sunday School 10:10am Sanctuary Choir	25 9:30 am Quilters 7pm The Chosen Study	26	27 6:30pm Confirmation & Pre- Confirmation	28	29	30

GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



Sunday School 2023



Sunday School classes start September 10th! **We are still on the hunt for one more Sunday School teacher for our 3rd-4th graders.** The fall semester is broken up into a few different sections, so we're looking for co-teachers to take on parts of the year that may be more of a reasonable commitment:

September 10th: ALL Teachers.

September 17th - October 8th: First Lesson (Four Weeks)

October 15th - November 5th: Second Lesson (Four Weeks)

November 12th - November 19th: Community Service Project (Two Weeks)

December 3rd - December 17th: Christmas Program Rehearsal (Three Weeks with dress rehearsal on 12/16)

The preparation for each week can be as much or as little as you'd like— each week will have lessons and activities that are quick and easy to put together and keep our kiddos continuing on their faith journey. If you've been considering teaching but hesitant to take on the entire semester, please check your calendars and see if one of these sections will work for you!

Confirmation Corner



Confirmation begins this month. Orientation for 7th-8th grade families will be on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 p.m. If you're unable to come, please contact Pastor Jennifer to make other arrangements.

3rd-year students and mentors should be working on their Mentorship Workbooks. And 5 sermon notes are due by October 18.

ELCA Youth Gathering

The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024. The Gathering includes cultural experiences, service opportunities, unimaginable fun, and awesome worship with over 30,000 other people in the Superdome! Students currently in 8th -12th grades are invited to attend.

There will be an informational meeting at Grace on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 7:30 pm for parents and youth who are interested. The deadline for registration is Oct. 1.



Outreach and Social Justice

First of all, thank you again for the donations for the Lutheran World Relief Baby Care Kits. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!

School supplies are on sale! We are now collecting School Kits for LWR. If you haven't done so 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 LWR 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 pair of blunt scissors



One pencil sharpener

One 2½" eraser



Five black or blue ballpoint pens



Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers

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 10, 2023, at Pastor Jennifer's home

(Minutes below not approved until next Council meeting)

Call to Order. Meeting called to order by President Kelly Witte at 7:00 p.m.

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

Devotions. Bill Becker presented devotions.

Approval of July Minutes. Bill Becker moved to approve the July minutes as written, Ann Engelstad seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda. Peggy Punsel moved to approve the Agenda as presented, Mary Behling seconded the Motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Correspondence. No new correspondence.

Treasurer's Report. (a) Financial Report. Amy Simdon was not present but provided the reports and her financial narrative for all to review. Highlights included that we had a net loss of \$7,308.27 in July due mainly to the synod offering for May and June and the June benefits all being paid in July. As of July 31, the year-to-date General Giving is almost \$1,000 more than this time last year, but we are about \$1,400 below budget. Special Giving is about \$3,800 below last year's year-to-date figures and \$5,000 under budget for the year. The result is that total giving is \$2,800 less than last year and \$6,200 under budget. Total year-to-date expenses are \$1,241 more than last year as of July 31 and \$16,000 under budget. Year-to-date income through the end of July is about \$4,000 less than 2023, mostly due to lower Special Giving. Finally, the checking account balance decreased by over \$7,000 compared to the end of June and the general funds in that account (those not designated for a special purpose) decreased by \$8,000. 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. Surgery went well and she has returned to work. Next July there will be a Youth Gathering in New Orleans. This is for 8th graders through high school. In addition, there will be a Young Adult Gathering at the same time for 18-35 year old persons. Pastor will be sending out specific invites to the young adults who didn't get to attend a Youth Gathering due to covid. They will all be flying instead of going on buses this time. Fund-raising will start soon. Confirmation will be starting in September as will Sunday School. Breah Klemp has a new curriculum and is looking for only one more teacher (for 3rd and 4th graders). Lastly, monthly staff meetings have started again after the covid hiatus.

Committee Reports. Bill Reay (Property) reported that he is still looking for more volunteers to mow the church lawn. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. One mower is out of commission at this time. Connie Kreuser (Stewardship) reported that the rummage sale held last weekend went very well. They had a lot of good help and good promotional activity and it was well attended. They raised almost \$1,400, 1/2 of which will be donated to CART and 1/2 of which will be given to the Youth Group.

St. Vincent took away all of the left-overs and the committee felt they learned some good things for next year's sale. Bill Becker (Education) reported that we have about 30 students signed up for Sunday School. April Mickelson (Outreach) reported that they are continuing to promote the baby care kits and school kits with the goal of having them assembled and ready to ship in September. They are considering Good Gifts for our holiday giving. They have committed to the local Blue Jay Backpack project in January. The Cambridge Food Pantry partners with the Cambridge School District to provide backpacks with healthy snacks and easily prepared meals for weekends and holidays when school is not in session. Additional churches in the area are also committing to a month to assist. Shawn Whitman (Evangelism) reported that a group has been formed to schedule taking communion to shut-ins. He thanked Pastor Jennifer for leading the group in starting this service again.

Old Business. (a) Breeze (Church Records Software). Catherine met with representatives from Breeze to sign up for September as approved by the council last month. Instead, they offered us three free months, so she signed up immediately. They will start transferring church records immediately.

New Business. (a) Sunday School Event Requests. Peggy Punsel reported that she had been asked by Breah Klemp if the Hospitality Committee could provide special treats (tokens or food treats) for children attaining Milestones. Everyone agreed that she could do so as long as she could fit it into the Hospitality Committee and could work with the Educational Committee and Breah on those matters.

(b) Sewing Retreat - Barb. April had further information from the quilting group about their proposed Sewing Retreat. They would like to hold that October 24-27 from 9 a.m. - 5p.m. They would invite the community to come in for several days of crafting, sewing, quilting, or whatever people chose, to work on whatever project they choose in a community setting. They will offer a potluck lunch. The church will supply some supplies and people can bring their own sewing machine and other supplies as well. The council reviewed their proposal and agreed that this would be a good kind of outreach project. In addition, the quilting group would like to have a "Little Dresses for Africa" workshop in connection with the Christian non-profit group of the same name. They proposed three days in mid-October, with the first two days being devoted to cutting and sewing and the third day being devoted to embellishing the dresses. The council also reviewed this proposal and, again, felt this was a great outreach project both in terms of inviting the community and in terms of the project. Pastor Jennifer was asked to let Barb know that these proposals were approved and to work with Barb on the specific times and other details to get these set up.

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

The next meeting date will be September 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Grace and via Zoom. Mary Behling will lead devotions. The meeting was adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Report submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary.



From the Treasurer

July 2023 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date July 2023 Actual	Year-to-date 2023 Monthly	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	157,109	158,669	(1,560)
Special Giving	10,881	15,750	(4,869)
Misc Income	<u>1,886</u>	<u>1,776</u>	<u>110</u>
Total Income	169,876	176,195	(6,319)
Expenses			
Administrative	56,192	61,580	(5,388)
Mission	22,074	27,417	(5,343)
Pastoral	77,302	79,609	(2,307)
Program	4,228	7,315	(3,087)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	159,796	175,921	(16,126)
Total Net Income (Loss)	10,080	273	9,807



ELCA Young Adult Gathering

Because many of our older youth lost out on the opportunity to attend an ELCA Youth Gathering because of COVID, all young adults 18-35 are invited to attend the 2024 Young Adult Gathering, in conjunction with the Youth Gathering. Young Adults will travel with our Grace group but will stay in a hotel apart from the youth and will have their own activities, while being able to participate in the large group Worship and Mass Gatherings that the youth will also attend.

Any young adults who are interested should contact Pastor Jennifer before Oct. 1. Registration works differently for young adults, so please call or text her ASAP – 608-295-7120.



Staff and Council



STAFF

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

Admin Assistant Catherine Elliott (608) 423-3135 gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com

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

Organist Kenneth Hoversten kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com

Handbell Choir Director Ann Engelstad gaengelstad@charter.net

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

Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Hartman cindyh1029@msn.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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