



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love*

**SEPTEMBER 2024**

## ***Pastors' Ponderings***



I'm back! After a beautiful 3-month Sabbatical, I'm excited to be back at Grace, inspired, renewed, and energized for our continued ministry together. I had so many adventures in the last 3 months, and I'm excited to share them with you. I'm also excited to hear about Grace's parallel journey this summer. While our sharing will surely be ongoing, we've scheduled a special evening dedicated to our post-Sabbatical celebration.

Having begun my Sabbatical in Italy, my family and I are excited to share some of our favorite homemade Italian foods with you at our Sabbatical Dinner on Sunday, September 8, starting at 5:30 p.m. Because this dinner will mean a LOT of preparation, please sign up by September 4, at church or by contacting the church office. Donations are welcome to help defray costs. Whether or not you come for the Sabbatical Dinner, you're invited to join us Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary as I share more of my journey through pictures and storytelling.

### **June's theme: Recreation**



Buongiorno! I spent almost 3 weeks in Italy, sightseeing, wine-tasting, cooking, and having a wonderful time with my sister and my family. Some favorite places – the Tuscan countryside, Venice, and Cinque Terre.

### **July's theme: Engagement**

The long-awaited COVID-delayed ELCA Youth Gathering! New Orleans was beautiful, inspiring, fun, and hot! After an awesome week, we were impacted by the airline complications after the cloud strike, which led to an impromptu road trip, a 14-hour drive home from Atlanta. We all learned about patience and pivoting.



### **August's theme: Reflection**

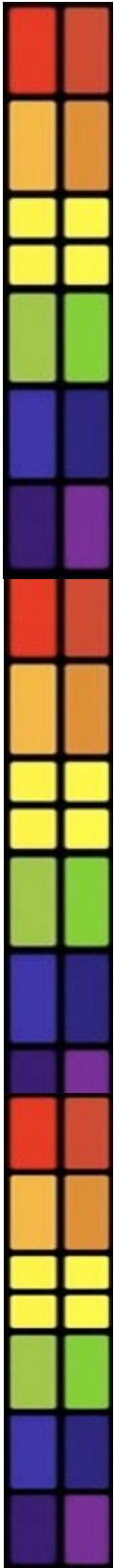


August took me to Iona, a tiny island off the west coast of Scotland, home of Iona Abbey, a Christian retreat center built on the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland. My parents and I enjoyed a week of community, worship, and global music from Christians from 6 different continents. So inspiring!

I'm so grateful to have had this incredible opportunity, thanks to a generous Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant. A big thanks to our Church Council, Grace Staff, and Sabbatical Team who helped make this possible.

In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*





## **Sabbatical Dinner**

Now that Pastor Jennifer has returned from Sabbatical, she'd like to share some of her experiences with us, and she's eager to hear about our summer at Grace as well. Pastor Jennifer will be sharing some of the foods that she enjoyed while traveling this summer. You're invited to come to a Post-Sabbatical Dinner and time of sharing on Sunday, September 8 at 5:30 pm. So we know how much food to prepare, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or RSVP to the church office by Sept. 4. Can't come for dinner? Join us at 6:30 pm. for a sharing of stories, pictures, and experiences.

## **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 1. No experience required. Please join us as you are able.

## **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 4 at 6:30 pm.

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

## **Pre-Confirmation**

When our youth enter middle school, a lot changes in their lives. So at Grace, 6<sup>th</sup> graders have a transitional year between Sunday School and starting Confirmation. So for 6<sup>th</sup> graders, we offer a Pre-Confirmation class on Wednesday nights, at the same time as Confirmation, but designed for 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **for Your Leadership**

A special thank you to the Sabbatical Team for guiding us through our summer of Recreation, Engagement and Reflection!

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## Monday Adult Study

Our regular Adult Study will begin again on Monday, Sept. 16 at 7 pm, resuming our viewing and discussion of "The Chosen," now in season 4.

But a week earlier, we've also been invited to a community viewing of the critically acclaimed documentary, "Bad Faith" on Monday, Sept. 9 at 6 pm at Oakland-Cambridge Presbyterian Church in Cambridge. "Bad Faith" is a documentary that focuses on Christian Nationalism and how it has become a threat to both the Christian church and to democracy. This community event is open to all.

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## Updated Member Directory

We are in the process of updating our member database and to eventually create a directory to make communication easier between members of the congregation.

You can easily create or update your member profile online by clicking the link or scanning the QR code provided below. For those who prefer to update their profiles in person, Breah Klemp will be available in the fellowship hall after worship services to assist you. Or you can complete the forms available at church.

Online Directory: <https://gracecambridge.breezechms.com/login/create>



## From Pastors Loren & Linda

*Dear Friends at Grace,*

*We want to thank you all for welcoming us as your fill-in pastors during the time of Pastor Jennifer's sabbatical. It was a pleasure to follow the themes of "Recreation", "Engagement", and "Reflection" with you each month. Thank you also for all the help of the sabbatical team, the Church Council and the openness of the congregation to embrace the vision of the time we spent together.*

*Thank you to the Council for their leadership, for their kind words and the gift certificate for the Cambridge Market. We will certainly continue to enjoy our time in Cambridge and make use of that gift. Thank you also to Catherine for keeping us on track and supporting us in our administrative challenges.*

*Thank you to Pastor Jennifer for offering this opportunity to be a part of the Grace Community of faith for a short time. We feel blessed to have been a part of the vision of ministry in this place.*

*God's continued blessings always,*

*Pastor Loren & Linda*

# SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS



**Sept 1 -** Ushers: Richard and Jean Scott                      Assisting Minister: Andrya Coutts  
Reader: Mandi Buonincontro  
Communion Servers: Mandi Buonincontro & Sharon Erb  
Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle  
Acolytes: Aurora & Griffin Sullivan  
Coffee Hour Hosts: Jermain & Sullivan

**Sept 8 -**

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Ushers: Bill Becker Family<br>Reader: Tim Neuenschwander<br>Communion Servers: Angie Bauer Williams & Pat Hall<br>Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle<br>Acolytes: Jackson Rue & Mason Neuenschwander<br>Coffee Hour Hosts: Amy Simdon & Jennifer Budewitz | Assisting Minister: Diane Fronek |
|---|----------------------------------|

**Sept 15** - Ushers: Amy Simdon & Jennifer Budewitz      Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen  
 Reader: Mary Bielefeldt  
 Communion Servers: Bill & Betty Reay  
 Communion Set Up: Lydia Circle  
 Acolytes: Cael Klemp & Mason Neuenschwander  
 Coffee Hour: Neuenschwander & Adsit

**Sept 22-** Ushers: Jim & Kari Jermain  
 Reader: Mary Behling  
 Communion Servers: Mary Behling & Kenny Zickert  
 Communion Set Up: Geis Family  
 Acolytes: Brady & Ashton Thayer  
 Coffee Hour: Leadholm & Thompson

Assisting Minister: Kelly Witte

**Sept 29-** Ushers: Al & Pat Northey  
 Reader: April Mickelson  
 Communion Servers: April Mickelson & Rachel Drotzer  
 Communion Set Up: Pat Northey  
 Acolytes: Rylan Tobias & Marissa Kilburg  
 Coffee Hour: Becker & Becker

**Altar Guild** - Marcia Klemp, Lori Jensen & Brenda Lovick

# SEPTEMBER AT GRACE

| Sunday  | Mon  | Tues                                | Wed  | Thurs                               | Fri       | Sat       |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>1</b><br>9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b><br>Also on Cable Channel 987<br>& Facebook<br><br>10:15 am <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>  | <b>2</b><br><b>LABOR DAY</b><br><br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>                       | <b>3</b>                            | <b>4</b><br>9 am <b>Ruth Circle</b><br><br>11am <b>Outreach Committee</b><br><br>6:30 pm <b>Confirmation Orientation</b> | <b>5</b>                            | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b><br>9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b><br>Also on Cable Channel 987<br>& Facebook<br><br>10:10 am <b>Sunday School</b><br>10:15 am <b>Choir Rehearsal</b><br><br>5:30 pm <b>Post- Sabbatical Dinner</b> | <b>9</b><br>9:30 am <b>Quilters</b>  | <b>10</b><br>7pm <b>Council Mtg</b> | <b>11</b><br>9 am <b>Lydia Circle</b><br><br>6:30 pm <b>Confirmation</b>   | <b>12</b><br>10 am <b>Staff Mtg</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b> |
| <b>15</b><br>9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b><br>Also on Cable Channel 987<br>& Facebook<br><br>10:10 am <b>Sunday School</b><br>10:15 am <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>  | <b>16</b><br><b>Newsletter content deadline</b><br><br>9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> | <b>17</b>                           | <b>18</b><br>6:30 pm <b>Confirmation</b>   | <b>19</b>                           | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> |
| <b>22</b><br>9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b><br>Also on Cable Channel 987<br>& Facebook<br><br>10:10 am <b>Sunday School</b><br>10:15 am <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>  | <b>23</b><br>9:30 am <b>Quilters</b>   | <b>24</b>                           | <b>25</b><br>6:30 pm <b>Confirmation</b>   | <b>26</b>                           | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> |
| <b>29</b><br>9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b><br>Also on Cable Channel 987<br>& Facebook<br><br>10:10 am <b>Sunday School</b><br>10:15 am <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>  | <b>30</b><br>9:30 am <b>Quilters</b>   | Oct 1                               | 2<br>6:30 pm <b>Confirmation</b>   | 3                                   | 4         | 5         |

## GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



# GRACE

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Experience faith, fellowship, and fun in our inclusive community. Registration is now open; new students are always welcome!  
Classes start September 8th!

**SCHEDULE** 

FALL: 9/8 - 12/15/2024  
SPRING: 1/12 - 5/25/2025  
10:15 AM - 11:00 AM 

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**   
501 SKOGEN ROAD, CAMBRIDGE

**JOIN NOW** 

For More Information  
[gracelutherancambridge.org](https://gracelutherancambridge.org)  
[christianedu.glc@gmail.com](mailto:christianedu.glc@gmail.com)  
(608) 423-3135 

### First Day of Sunday School

Sunday School is kicking off again, welcoming children from ages 3 through 5th grade to join in a season of learning, fun, and fellowship. This year, the program is designed to engage young hearts and minds with stories from the Bible, interactive activities, and creative lessons tailored to their age group. Whether they are just beginning to learn about faith or building on what they already know, every child will find a place where they can grow spiritually, make new friends, and explore the love of God in a warm, supportive environment. Registration is now open online: <https://gracecambridge.breezechms.com/form/3ccadd> . Returning families need not register unless information or enrollment has changed.

## Stewardship: *Time, Talents, Treasures*



Thank you to everyone who worked on the rummage sale! It was a perfect example of stewardship: people giving their time, using their talents, and donating many great treasures. We raised \$1,403. A decision about how the money will best support our ministries is pending.

The pollinator garden is growing nicely; thank you to Neil Johnson for making the sign. Another successful fundraising effort was the collaboration with the Outreach Committee on the raffle and silent auction to help pay for the new doors. Again, people gave their time, displayed many different talents, and were generous with bids, donations, and buying tickets. Thank you for your support and for giving back in a small way a portion of God's many gifts to us.

## Labyrinth Reflection & Meditation

For 5 days in mid-August, Grace hosted a Labyrinth in the sanctuary, open to the congregation and community. Approximately 25 people walked the labyrinth in prayer, reflection, and meditation. A special thank you to Bob Koepp and his team of 18, as well as Pastors Loren & Linda, for facilitating this wonderful opportunity!



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
August 13, 2024**

*(Minutes will be reviewed & approved at next Council meeting)*

**Call to Order.** President Kelly Witte called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

**Attendance.** Present: John Jensen, Bob Koepp, Charlene Luchterhand, April Mickelson, Kristin Rue, Pr. Linda Schumacher, Pr. Loren Schumacher, Amy Simdon, Kelly Witte. Absent: Sandi Aston Hall, Connie Kreuser, Pr. Jennifer Jelinek, Peggy Punsel, Richard Scott, Shawn Whitman.

**Devotions.** Pr. Loren led devotions in the sanctuary based on the labyrinth.

**Approval of Minutes.** Amy moved to approve the June meeting minutes. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**Approval of Agenda.** The agenda was amended to table the item "Ideas for Realigning Duties" under Old Business until September and to add the topic of "Sunday School Funds" to New Business. John moved to approve the amended agenda. Amy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**Correspondence.** None

**Treasurer's Report.** (Amy) Amy presented both the June and July budgets. While we have had a net loss, it is not alarming as the budget reflects funds that were donated in previous years, but not expended until recently. Following are July highlights. We had a net loss of \$7,723.84 in July and a net loss of \$1,573.44 for the year. Our year-to-date (YTD) General Giving at the end of July was \$5,428 higher than 2023 and \$2,086 over the YTD budget. YTD Special Giving was \$6,377 more than last year and \$5,591 more than budget. Our YTD expenses were \$60,724 more than last year. If we didn't include our one-time expenses of the sabbatical, Youth Gathering, and the door project, our expenses would be \$1,351 less than last year. We are \$27,874 over our budget due to those same one-time expenses. YTD net ordinary income would be about +\$395 if the sabbatical grant and expenses are not included. This is about \$10,235 less than last year at the end of June. The checking balance was \$7,973 less than the end of June with the general fund balance approximately \$7,200 less. Kristin moved to approve this treasurer's report and send it to audit. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**Pastor's Report.** (Prs. Linda & Loren) The pastors and council expressed mutual appreciation. Pastors Linda and Loren shared that they enjoyed the opportunity to serve our congregation, appreciated the openness of the congregation to new ideas, such as the labyrinth, felt renewed, and praised the council. Kelly read a note of appreciation and thanks from our congregation, which was given to the pastors along with a gift certificate to the Cambridge Market Café.

**Committee Reports.** (Provided in writing and/or discussed in the meeting as needed.)

**Education.** (Kristin) Vacation Bible School was cancelled due to low enrollment and not enough people to teach. The committee is working through ideas for next year. Planning is underway for Sunday School in the fall; a teacher meeting will be held this Thursday.

They have been painting and updating the classrooms and hallway. Some rooms have been re allocated, so they are all closer together. They have two questions: 1) Can the cost of paint come from another source? 2) Can the dehumidifier in the hallway with a cord into a classroom be moved? (See New Business).

**Sabbatical Team Report.** (Bob) Pastor Jennifer's stole will be returned to her on August 25. Cake and balloons are planned for that day. Pastor and her family will host a dinner for the congregation on September 8.

**Old Business. Ideas for Realigning Duties.** No discussion. Tabled until next meeting.

**New Business. Bank First Line of Credit.** Amy noted that she heard from the bank that this is due. She questioned if it is still needed. Following discussion, Bob moved that if there is no cost for the renewal, we will renew. If there is a cost, but we learn that there is an advantage to leaving it open, e.g., a locked-in lower rate, we will also leave it open. If there is a cost and no advantage to leaving it open, we will let the line of credit lapse. John seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. If it is left open, signers will remain the same: John Jensen, Richard Scott, and Amy Simdon.

**Health Insurance for Pastor.** She currently has a Gold Plus Policy. Cost will be increasing and will affect the 2025 budget. In the past, the cost has been shared with Erik Jelinek's church. More information is needed regarding the family's plans for coverage. Discussion tabled for next meeting.

**Sunday School Rearrangement.** The possible movement of the dehumidifier has been referred to the Property Committee, who will report back at our next meeting. The rearrangement of classrooms also led to the issue of safety of the Sunday School rooms. This is an important topic to be addressed at a future meeting. Pr. Linda suggested we might find guidelines at the South Central Synod office and Lutherdale.

**Sunday School Funds.** Cost for the paint used in the Sunday School rooms will be allocated to the Property Committee rather than come from the Education budget.

**Adjournment.** Amy moved to adjourn the meeting. Char seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting.** Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 PM. Shawn is scheduled to present devotions.

Submitted by Charlene Luchterhand, Council Secretary

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## **Want to worship from home? Here's how!**

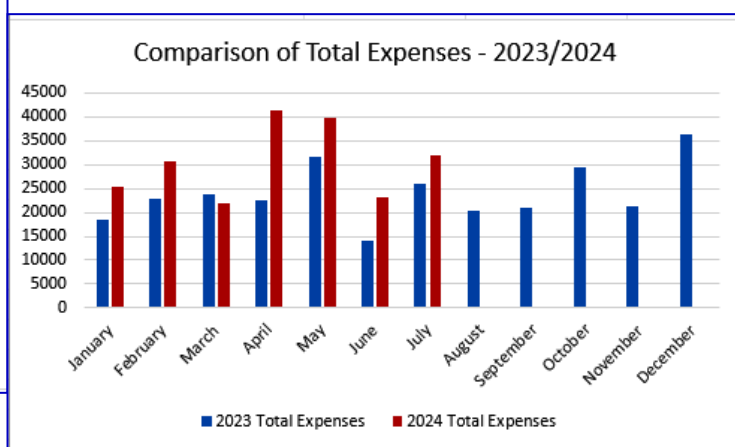
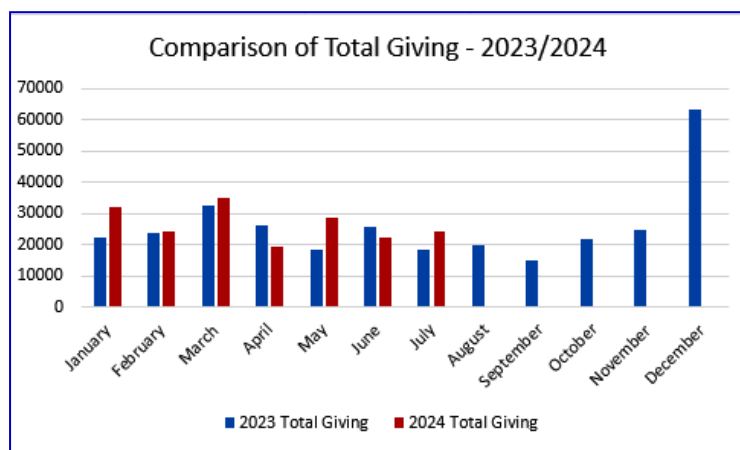
You may have noticed that there have been broadcast issues on Spectrum cable channel 987 lately. Sunday services are also livestreamed on Grace's Facebook page. Just looking for sermons? Check out our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdWxSntOyuupFnyLgxSU8aw>

## From the Treasurer

### July 2024 Financial Snapshot

| Income                  | Year-to-date<br>July 2024 Actual | Year-to-date<br>2024 Monthly Budget | Over/(under) budget |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| General Giving          | 163,086                          | 161,000                             | 2,086               |
| Special Giving          | 17,258                           | 11,667                              | 5,592               |
| Sabbatical Giving       | 35,939                           | 30,950                              | 4,989               |
| Misc Income             | <u>2,663</u>                     | <u>1,925</u>                        | <u>738</u>          |
| Total Income            | 218,946                          | 205,542                             | 13,405              |
| <b>Expenses</b>         |                                  |                                     |                     |
| Administrative          | 72,982                           | 62,631                              | 10,352              |
| Mission                 | 29,945                           | 25,083                              | 4,862               |
| Pastoral                | 112,699                          | 98,853                              | 13,846              |
| Program                 | 4,892                            | 6,078                               | (1,186)             |
| Other                   | -                                | -                                   | -                   |
| Total Expenses          | 220,519                          | 192,645                             | 27,874              |
| <b>Total Net Income</b> | (1,573)                          | 12,896                              | (14,469)            |

Thank you for your generous giving. Please remember that in addition to the Sunday service, you can give online through Vanco at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YYN7> or through Venmo, using the QR code.





# Staff and Council

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## STAFF

**Pastor** Jennifer Jelinek Home: 423-2329 Cell: (608) 295-7120 [pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com)

**Admin Assistant** Catherine Elliott (608) 423-3135 [gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com)

**Christian Ed Coordinator** Breah Klemp [christianedu.glc@gmail.com](mailto:christianedu.glc@gmail.com)

**Volunteer Coordinator** Cindy Hartman [cindyh1029@msn.com](mailto:cindyh1029@msn.com)

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

**Organist** Kenneth Hoversten [kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com](mailto:kenneth.hoversten@gmail.com)

**Handbell Choir Director** Ann Engelstad [gaengelstad@charter.net](mailto:gaengelstad@charter.net)

## COUNCIL

**President** Kelly Witte

**Vice President** Bob Koepp

**Secretary** Char Luchterhand

**Treasurer** Amy Simdon

**Outreach** April Mickelson

**Education** Kristin Rue

**Stewardship** Connie Kreuser

**Hospitality** Peggy Punsel

**Evangelism** Shawn Whitman

**Worship** Sandi Aston Hall

**Property** John Jensen &

Richard Scott



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**Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love.**

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