



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love

September, 2020



## Pastor's Ponderings



Dear Friends,

As you might know, the motto of the ELCA is "God's work. Our hands." I've always loved this motto, because it reflects what we believe in 4 short words. We believe that God created us and everything that exists. God sent his Son into this world to teach us how to love and serve. God gives us gifts and abilities to serve, hearts to love and show compassion, and hands do God's work in this world. God calls us into service, living out our faith in our words and our actions. The ELCA lifts up this calling every day, and especially on a service Sunday in the fall that we've come to know as "God's Work, Our Hands Sunday."

Traditionally at Grace, we'd be organizing service projects to offer for you to take part in on Sunday, September 13. Of course, COVID-19 has made "traditional" things difficult or impossible this year. But through these challenging months, we've found new and creative ways to do important things, haven't we? COVID can prevent us from gathering, but it can't stop us from serving God and others, in new and creative ways. Serving is a part of who we are as Lutheran Christians, whether we serve together or serve apart. God works through our hands no matter what.

So this month, I encourage you to have your own "God's Work, Our Hands Sunday." Choose a day, whether it be September 13 or another day this month, and devote it to serving others or serving the community in some way. Help a neighbor, pick up trash, send cards of encouragement and appreciation, bake for first responders, put together care kits, or do anything else that you feel called to do to serve others or your community. And please take pictures of what you do, and share them with us at Grace via e-mail to the office. Seeing how our serving hands are working this month will undoubtedly touch and inspire one another.

Need more ideas? Keep reading.

In Christ,

*+Pastor Jennifer*

## Outdoor and Physically-distanced Service Projects

Identify members in your congregation or community who could use some help with yard work. Then roll up your sleeves and get to work with activities such as:

- Lawn mowing
- Window washing
- Raking
- Chopping wood
- Clearing brush
- Painting
- Weeding
- Planting
- Washing cars
- Clearing gutters

**Pick up litter** to care for creation and beautify your community.

As church, we are guided by our life in Christ to share the love of Jesus and serve our neighbors — even if such acts of service look different this year.

This year our church — and our world — are living through the COVID-19 pandemic. Physical distancing has changed the way we worship and serve. But the need is still great, and **God's church is our work**. Here are some service project ideas you could do from home (or think up your own service project!):

### Drive-through Service

Deliver groceries to folks who aren't able to go out. Ask them to supply a list, or arrange to fetch a curbside-pickup order on their behalf. Drop off a home-cooked meal or bring over a take-out order. Be sure to inquire about allergies and dietary restrictions ahead of time.

### Fill the Food Pantry Shelves

Gather donations of food or hygiene products from friends or neighbors. Check with the food pantry about specific needs. Contact the Cambridge Food Pantry to arrange a drop off time.

### Meal delivery

Arrange for meal deliveries from restaurants. Place an order on behalf of anyone in your community who could use a meal, and coordinate with them ahead of time about what they would like from the menu. Be sure to inquire about allergies and dietary restrictions.

### Signs of positivity

Create or order lawn signs with a positive message.

### Call, video chat, Zoom in

Call or video-call seniors or those who are homebound or isolated. Include the whole family by doing things such as:

- Reading books to children (or having them read to you!)
- Playing "show and tell" with items nearby
- Playing an online game together
- Sharing favorite memories of your church community

### Post your compassion

Write cards or letters, or send care packages. Every community has people who are always ready to serve. Express your gratitude for emergency workers, teachers, frontline healthcare workers, postal and delivery workers, those in the military and all essential workers, or remembering members of your church.

### Advocate

Engage with ELCA Advocacy on a range of topics and initiatives:

- Advance voting rights through ELCA Votes.
- Take action on racial justice through items on the ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge.
- Write letters to your elected representative using these templates.
- Visit the ELCA Advocacy Action Center to send messages directly to your representatives on vital issues affecting our communities.

### Prayer partnering

Coordinate and participate in a 24-hour prayer chain. Members of your congregation can sign up for 30-minute increments around the clock to pray for a world in need.

### Personal care kindness

Pack hygiene kits for people experiencing homelessness.

### Reach out to those who speak a different language

Start a conversation partnership with someone learning English as a second language. Reach out to a local organization that supports immigrants and refugees, and offer to participate in video calls.

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES



**Outdoor Worship Schedule**  
**10 a.m.-bring your own communion**  
**September 6**  
**September 20**

Last month's outdoor worship service went so well that we're going to continue offering Outdoor Worship a couple times a month in the parking lot on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. (weather-permitting). You're welcome to stay in your car or bring a lawn chair to sit on the lawn. 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. Please bring your own bread/crackers and wine/ grape juice for communion. Can you help set up? We'd love that!

Contact Michael Rehak

## Worship

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.

## What's Coming Up in Worship?

This month, we finish our Summer Staycation Sermon Series. What fun it's been to "visit" some of the most beautiful places in our country. If you're interested in checking out the devotional book that inspired the series, it's called, "America's Holy Ground: 61 Faithful Reflections on Our National Parks" by Brad Lyons & Bruce Barkhauer.

Starting September 13, we'll return to the Narrative Lectionary, journeying once again through the Bible beginning at... the Beginning.

Aug. 30 – **Preservation - Everglades National Park**  
Sept. 6 – **Trust - Yosemite National Park**  
Sept. 13 – **Creation & Fall Genesis 2-3**  
Sept. 20 – **Promise to Abraham Genesis 15**  
Sept. 27 – **Joseph Genesis 37 and 50**



## Grace Gab

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,

## OUTREACH and SOCIAL JUSTICE

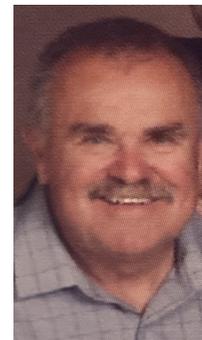
The Outreach Committee is continuing to collect for LWR School Kits. As of mid-August, we have about 50 completed kits. Please check the GLC website to see what is needed, or clip the list below. You may bring supplies to the church on Sunday, September 6th (10:00), Monday, Sept 7th (10-11), or Thursdays, Sept 3rd or 10th (3-4 pm). The **last donation day will be September 10th.**

*\*\*\*We are also in need of a volunteer with a trailer to take our boxes of quilts, school supplies, and baby care kits to the boxcar loading (ingathering) in Madison on the morning of Sept 26th. If you can help with this, you may want to contact Richard Scott for more information, or you can call Marcia Sivesind at 96080 423-3083. Thank you very much!*

## Grace Gratitude

*Thank you!*

We at Grace give a huge thanks to **Bill Haberkorn** for faithfully mowing the church lawn all summer. It's a big job, and Bill does it well and with such grace. Thanks so much, Bill!



## Beam Painting Needed

Even though we have been asked to put our life on a partial hold during pandemic building upkeep and maintenance is still necessary. I have been very grateful for those that have stepped forward to help out. Last fall work was done to the end of the glulam beams at the east end of the hall and now it has come time to paint the exposed wood, so we do not have a recurring issue.

We are looking for help this fall to gather and work on painting the beams and other areas around the property. At this time, a date has not been set, but we anticipate work being done at the end of September/early October. Please reach out to me by e-mail ([tkosanda@gmail.com](mailto:tkosanda@gmail.com)) or phone (312-848-2963 with any questions or concerns.

Thank you, and again, we appreciate all the help that has been done during these unprecedented times. -Tom Kosanda, *Chair of Property Committee*

## Book Discussion-meeting Mondays

Looking for a fun fall read? Join us in a weekly book discussion of "The Year of Living Biblically" by A.J. Jacobs. We meet Monday evenings on **Zoom at 7:00 p.m.** The weekly reading assignments and Zoom links are below:

**Aug. 31 – Months 2 & 3**

**Sept. 7 – Months 4 & 5**

**Sept. 14 – Months 6 & 7**

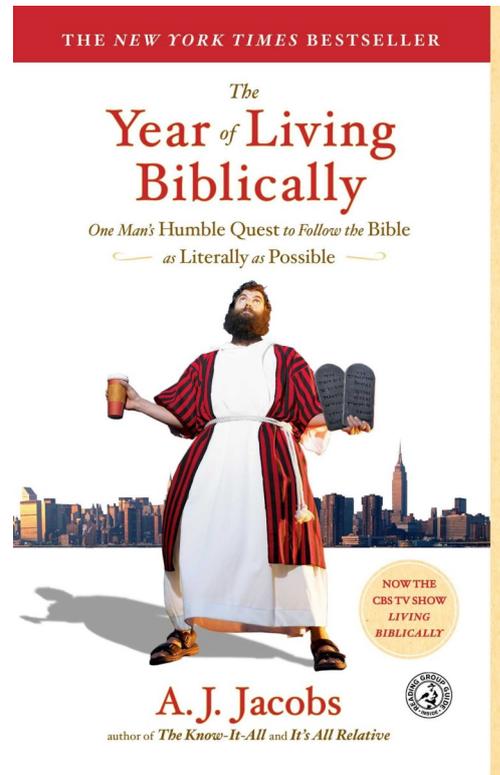
**Sept 21 – Months 8 & 9**

**Sept. 28 – Months 10-12**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87939582844?  
pwd=TWZITDk2UDN5L3pjQmtPMXN3c25CQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87939582844?pwd=TWZITDk2UDN5L3pjQmtPMXN3c25CQT09)

Meeting ID: 879 3958 2844 Passcode: 247329

Or by phone: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



## Confirmation Corner

Although COVID-19 has made things more challenging, Confirmation will begin this month for our 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Families should have received information in the mail. If you know a 7<sup>th</sup> grader who would like to be a part of Confirmation, **please contact Pastor Jennifer.**

### OUR HOMEBOUND

Jon Bakken 309 Oriole Lane Cambridge, WI 53523
Bev Nottestad 118 S. Pleasant St. Cambridge, WI 53523
Mary Ellen Smith 912 Monroe St., Apt. 11 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
Shirley Engelstad Home Again Assisted Living 110 Stuart St. Columbus, WI 53925
Char Kenseth 555 W. Madison #5 Cambridge, WI 53523

### Member Deaths Geraldine Rattmann

**February 15, 1925—August 13, 2020**

### If You Need Something...

Since our staff is working almost exclusively from home, please feel free to call them on their cell phones rather than at church. If you've got a prayer request, if you have a question for the church staff, or if you have a special need, please feel free to call, text, or e-mail Pastor Jennifer – 608-295-7120

[pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com) or

Virginia Becker 623-680-3696

[gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com)

# Sunday School 2020/2021

Like a lighthouse glowing above the ocean shore,  
let your faith shine bright.

*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me  
will never walk in darkness. John 8:12*



Hi Sunday School Families!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Zoom! Parent meetings. It was great seeing you again and it was nice to catch up. Below you will find the happenings for Sunday School for the month of September. Right now, we are going to go month-by-month with our planning. We are going to start virtual with the hopes of having a face-to-face Sunday School (depending on how everything goes) for those who want to attend. My hope for the lessons is to keep them fun, family oriented, and around 20 minutes.

Any questions or concerns please let me know!

***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! I will also send out an email with the all the same information.

## **Now – Saturday, September 12th**

Scavenger Hunt and find where Flat Jesus has been.

## **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> • 10:00**

Zoom Meeting – Go over Scavenger Hunt and catch up with friends.

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85388584192?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85388584192?pwd=Mk1XWUp0QzQwcnBsWld1SDZiNW5wQT09)

[pwd=Mk1XWUp0QzQwcnBsWld1SDZiNW5wQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85388584192?pwd=Mk1XWUp0QzQwcnBsWld1SDZiNW5wQT09)

Meeting ID: 853 8858 4192

Passcode: 934359

## **Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**

***God's Promise To Abram*** family lesson and activity will be sent by email or can be found on the Grace Lutheran Sunday School Facebook group.

## **Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**

***Joseph and His Brothers*** Short Family Video will be sent by email or can be found on Grace Lutheran's Sunday School Facebook group. **Plus watch for something fun coming to your doorstep!**

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2020 Via Zoom from Home during Quarantine

Meeting called to order by President Steve Geis at 7:35 p.m. **Attendees.** Steve Geis, Tim Neuenschwander, Erik Olsen, Amy Simdon, Amanda Kosanda, Tom Kosanda, Mary Behling, Jean Scott, and Jennifer Jelinek. Kris Tobias, Lori Jensen & Ann Engelstad were excused.

**Devotions** Ann Engelstad was scheduled for devotions but was unable to attend at the last minute, so we shared our week and Pastor Jennifer offered a prayer.

## Approval of July Minutes

Jean Scott moved to approve the July Minutes as written, Tim Neuenschwander seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

## Consent Agenda

Jean Scott reported that the Outreach Committee is continuing to make quilts with a goal of 90-95 quilts. They are continuing to collect items for school kits until the second Sunday in September. No other committees met last month.

## Property Report

Tom Kosanda stated that he is continuing to work on coordinating a group to paint the beams.

## Treasurer's Report

Income was down about \$5500 in July, but expenses were down as well, so there was still a slight net income for the month. Net income for the year is still up over \$47,000. Renewing Grace contributions have declined, but are still coming in. The Bank has notified him that they are starting to look at applications for forgiveness of the PPP loan. There is no rush yet as the deadline is 10/31/20. Amy Simdon asked about making a payment on the Renewing Grace loan, but Tim recommended that we wait until the PPP loan decision is made. Amy Simdon moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Amanda Kosanda seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

## Pastor's Report

Pastor Jennifer will be on a short vacation on Wednesday 8/12 and will be back on Sunday 8/16. She wondered if we should consider scheduling another outside service, as the last one went well. We agreed she should look at another one in a couple of weeks. She will be starting a new 6-week book study soon on The Year of Living Biblically. Grace Gab has moved outside on Tuesdays and there are some new attendees. She and Theresa Neuenschwander will be doing Zoom meetings soon with Sunday School parents. The returning and new Confirmation students would like to meet in person, so they will be figuring that out. Confirmation is set for October 25<sup>th</sup> and Pastor Jennifer is working on how to accommodate that – split services, a separate service for them and their families, other ideas? She received a letter from Church Mutual regarding necessary record keeping for workers' compensation purposes which she will give to Tim to review. The National Youth Gathering has been postponed a year until 2022. A new bishop will be elected August 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Old Business

Discussion was held regarding the PPP loan and the gift that has been offered, the conditions of repayment, possible penalties, etc. It was agreed that we would wait to vote until we can have the full Council available to discuss this. Regathering Guidelines. There are really no changes in Wisconsin's situation or the data at this time. Pastor indicated that she is not receiving much pressure to open lately, so we will just continue with our preparations. Judy Brandt has requested that the choir be able to sing as soon as possible, but we agreed that that possibility does not seem to exist, at this time.

## New Business

A request has been made to use church property for giving private lessons. After much discussion, Amy Simdon made a motion to allow certain limited lessons, but the motion died for lack of a second. Tom Kosanda then made a motion to not allow any non-church-related extra-curricular activities in the church at this time. Erik Olsen seconded the motion, and it was passed. Steve Geis will pass the Council's decision on to the person who made the request.

## 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, Jean Scott moved to adjourn. Amy Simdon seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously, followed by the Lord's Prayer. Jean Scott is scheduled for September devotions.

Report submitted by Mary Behling, Council Secretary.



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

Place stamp  
 here

Place address sticker here;

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

[www.gracelutherancambridge.org](http://www.gracelutherancambridge.org)

“Like Us” on Facebook: Grace Lutheran Church-  
 ELCA Cambridge, WI

**Please note:**  
 We broadcast  
 on Channel 987

## Staff & Council Contacts

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<b><u>Administrative Assistant</u></b>	Virginia Becker		(608) 423-3135	gracelutherancambridgewi@gmail.com
<b><u>Financial Secretary:</u></b>	Diane Russo		(608) 423-3135	gracelutheranfinance@gmail.com
<b><u>Music Director:</u></b>	Judy Brandt		(608) 239-6948	judithbrandt@gmail.com
<b><u>Handbell Choir Director:</u></b>	Ann Engelstad			gaengelstad@charter.net
<b><u>Christian Education Coordinator:</u></b>	Teresa Neuenschwander		(608) 658-7844	teresa478@hotmail.com
<b><u>Volunteer Coordinator:</u></b>	Cindy Hartman			cindyh1029@msn.com

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

<b><u>President :</u></b>	Steve Geis	swgeis@yahoo.com
<b><u>Vice President</u></b>	Kris Tobias	
<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>	Mary Behling	
<b><u>Treasurer:</u></b>	Tim Neuenschwander	
<b><u>Outreach:</u></b>	Jean Scott	
<b><u>Education:</u></b>	Amanda Kosanda	
<b><u>Stewardship</u></b>	Amy Simdon	
<b><u>Hospitality:</u></b>	Lori Jensen	
<b><u>Evangelism:</u></b>	Erik Olsen	
<b><u>Worship:</u></b>	Ann Engelstad	
<b><u>Property:</u></b>	Tom Kosanda	