



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

## June 2026 Newsletter

### Pastor's Ponderings



As you probably know, a couple months ago, a crew of astronauts went on the Artemis II mission, taking them around not just the Earth, but around the moon. The excitement surrounding this mission was contagious. And the pictures taken from space were stunning. From pictures of the dark side of the moon to "Earth-set" pictures, the images are amazing. The pictures of Earth from space are the most wonder-provoking to me. We all know that Earth is just one small planet existing in an endless universe, but seeing our beautiful orb suspended in the blackness of space is both amazing and humbling.



While this world seems both endless and invincible, these pictures show us how tiny and vulnerable our Earth is in the grand scheme of things. This planet is the only home we'll have in our lifetimes. This realization should make us consider how we'll treat our planet. For some reason, images of cluttered, stinky, disgusting teenagery bedrooms spring to mind, with a maternal voice saying, "Do you really want to live in this pit?" Like a teenager in a chaotic bedroom, we too have to live in this space we've been given, so it's in our best interest to care for it and keep it healthy. Earth health = our health.

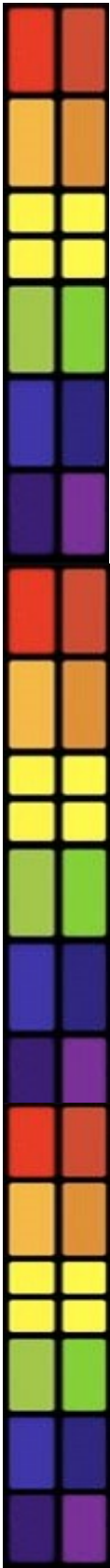
Because not only is Earth the only place we have to live during this lifetime, it's a place that was created for us to live in... by our God. It's in our best interest to take care of "our planetary bedroom," but it's also our Christian calling to care for the wondrous creation God entrusted to us.

It turns out that the Bible has quite a lot to say about the wonders of God's creation. And in this season when we so enjoy spending time outdoors, it seems like the perfect time to dive into some of those inspiring passages. I hope you'll join us for worship this summer as we explore what the Bible says about God's creation, and how we're called to be good stewards of it, as a spiritual practice, for our own wellbeing, and for the sake of the world.



In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*



# Hello June



## The Bees Thank You!

This spring we raised just over \$102 during our campaign to *Save the Bees!* Thank you to Breah Klemp, her teaching staff, and the children for helping to collect the money to be donated to *Earth Justice*, to restore and preserve the bee population. Also, a big thank you to YOU for your generosity!

## August Rummage Sale

It's that time again! As you clean out those closets, please consider donating your discarded treasures for the August Church Rummage Sale. Please note the sale will take place one week later than normal this year, on August 7-8. You may bring items to the church basement, in the room designated for sale items.

## Check Out the Pollinator Garden



All are invited to check out our church pollinator garden! It's been weeded and mulched; now we're just waiting for the flowers to show their colors. Lastly, we are also planning to install a "bug box" in the garden for butterflies and other "critters"; take a look!

## Meals on Wheels

Grace is responsible for delivery of meals June 29th—July 10. If you can help with driving, please contact Marlene Hussey at 608-513-6461.



## Office Hours

The Church Office is open from 9 am – noon, Monday- 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](mailto:gracelutherancambridgwi@gmail.com)



## Sheets and Fabric Needed!

Grace Quilters are in great need of clean, stain-free, cotton sheets. Please consider donating sheets by bringing them to the church office.

Any sewers who have unused fabric around, please remember you can donate unneeded fabric to Grace. Monetary donations are also welcome. Donations can be dropped off at the church office.



## Want to Worship from Home? Here's How!

Grace's Sunday services continue to be broadcast on Spectrum cable channel 987 on Sundays at 9am. 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>



Want to help with Evangelism and reach out to individuals seeking comfort through God's word? Please see Marcia Klemp.

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## Monday Night Adult Education



Our study this month will parallel our Worship series about Care for Creation. We'll make stops in Genesis, Job, the Psalms, Leviticus, and Ezekiel. Please feel free to join us for any or all of these discussions on Mondays at 7pm.

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## No June Council Meeting

Just a note that the church council will not meet in June; the next scheduled meeting is July 14th.

## Madison Area Jail Ministry

Join us in worship on Sunday, June 21 as we welcome Ann Leon from Madison Area Jail Ministry. Ann will share information with us about the ministries that MAJM does in the Dane County Jail, thanks to generous contributions from Grace and other area congregations.

**Funerals / Member Deaths**

Bill Reay - Funeral 5/16/26

## Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for the annual Church picnic on July 12th. We'll adjust our worship time that day to 10 am instead of 9 am, so you can plan to enjoy food, fellowship, and games with fellow members. Watch for more details to come!





# JUNE AT GRACE

Sunday	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<b>31</b> <b>Graduate Recognition Sunday</b> 9 am Worship SERVICE-Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	<b>1</b> 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> 7 pm <b>Adult Study</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9 am <b>Ruth Circle</b> 11am <b>Outreach Committee</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b> Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	<b>8</b> 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> 7 pm <b>Adult Study</b>	<b>9</b> NO <b>Council Meeting</b> this month	<b>10</b> 9 am <b>Lydia Circle</b>	<b>11</b> 12 noon <b>Staff Mtg</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b> Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	<b>15</b> 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> 7 pm <b>Adult Study</b> <b>Newsletter content due</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b> Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	<b>22</b> 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> 7 pm <b>Adult Study</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9 am <b>Worship SERVICE-</b> Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	<b>29</b> 9:30 am <b>Quilters</b> 7 pm <b>Adult Study</b>	<b>30</b>	July 1 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Independence Day

# GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



## Save the Bees Competition

Our Sunday School classes recently wrapped up a friendly competition that truly came down to the wire. After an exciting finish, the 1st-2nd grade class buzzed their way to victory by just a \$0.50 margin! Thank you to all of our students and families for supporting the *Save the Bees initiative* through your generosity and enthusiasm. A special thank you as well to Connor Kreuser for donating the honey sticks that made the event even sweeter!



## Confirmation Corner



Our Confirmation year has concluded, however any students who might need more time to complete their Mentorship Workbooks or sermon notes should talk with Pastor Jennifer.

## Spring Clean Up at Grace

On Saturday, May 9th, volunteers washed windows and cleaned our fabric chairs. Thank you to everyone who helped spruce up our space!



## Outreach and Social Justice

During the month of June, the Outreach Committee will be collecting items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Our goal is to match the collection for last year and complete at least 100 kits.

We have already received donations of 100 toothbrushes, 100 combs and 100 nail clippers. All we need are bath towels and bath size bars of soap.

Bath towels need to be between 20" X 40" and 27 X 52" Dark colored, light weigh towels are preferred. (Walmart Mainstays Basic towels are priced \$2.94)

Each kit includes 2 bars of soap. (Preferred brands such as Zest, Irish Spring, Dove, etc.)

Please drop off donations at display in fellowship hall. Thank you for helping with this important project!



## Blue Jay Back Packs



During the month of April, Grace was asked to help address food insecurity issues for students in grades K - 5<sup>th</sup> at Cambridge Elementary School, by filling 25 bags with healthy snacks and easily prepared meals for weekends and holidays when school is not in session. Thanks to your generosity, we reached our goal and were able to assemble 25 back packs overflowing with goodies! Thank you!



## Please Keep Our Less Fortunate Neighbors in Mind!

This month, the Cambridge Food Pantry wish list for donations includes hearty soup, corned beef hash, SpaghettiOs, spam, cereal, ketchup, mayo, coffee, hamburger helper, personal care items, dish soap, and laundry detergent.

For more information, visit the Cambridge Food Pantry website at <https://cambridgecap.net/programs/nutrition/food-pantry/>

Thank you for your continued support of our Cambridge neighbors!

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
May 12, 2026**

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

**Call to Order.** President Kris Tobias called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Attendance. Present:** Kris Tobias, Steve Bielefeldt, Pr. Jennifer Jelinek, Marcia Klemp, Connie Kreuser, , Richard Scott, John Jensen, Kristin Rue, Judy Heidebrecht, Amy Simdon, Peggy Punsel, and Janet Koepp. Absent: Julie Leser .

**Devotions.** Marcia reflected on the recent occasion of Earth Day, founded on an idea of WI Senator Gaylord Nelson. How we care for the air, waters, and the land around us expresses our thankfulness and stewardship of God's creation.

**Approval of Minutes.** John moved to approve the April meeting minutes. Marcia seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by those who attended the April meeting.

**Approval of Agenda.** John moved to approve the agenda. Kristin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**Correspondence.** None

**Treasurer's Report.** (Amy) We had a net loss of \$9,314 in April, giving us a year-to-date loss of \$2,122. Our General Giving through April was \$96,860 which was \$14,286 more than 2025 and \$1,474 less than the 2026 budget. The YTD Special Giving through April of \$10,246 was \$1,044 more than last year and \$426 less than the budget. Our YTD expenses through April of \$110,641 were \$9,861 more than last year and \$334.34 over budget. The checking account balance was \$9,989 less than at the end of March with the general fund balance approximately \$7,474 less. Janet moved to approve this report and send it to audit. Judy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

**Pastor's Report.** Pr. Jennifer will attend the Synod Assembly in Janesville this weekend; Rich and Diane Fronek are the congregational representatives. Currently Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe is willing to serve a second term, but others may be nominated and agree to have their names move forward in the process. Rev. Cathy Daharsh will preach on May 17; she is an ELCA pastor who serves as an advisor with Lutheran World Relief. We'll recognize graduates on May 31. On June 21 we will have a speaker from Madison Area Jail Ministry.

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

- Stewardship. Connie and Mary Bielefeldt recently weeded and mulched the pollinator garden; a big thank you to Richard for delivering the mulch. Steve Geis will put up a bug box near the garden. Stewardship and Outreach will be working together more on community involvement. At the conclusion of the August 7-8 garage sale Saturday noon, we may plan to offer a "shop for free clothing" time to selected clients of Opportunities, Inc., a sheltered workshop in Fort Atkinson.

- **Outreach & Social Justice.** The collection for Blue Jay backpacks was very successful, and we'll start collecting items for personal care kits in June. Judy talked to Kerry Marren about needs for a clothes closet, perhaps to be coordinated when CART and the food pantry are under one roof. Judy will request being added to CART's email distribution to find out about ongoing needs.
- **Hospitality.** Peggy reported the church picnic will be Sunday, July 12. We agreed to schedule worship for 10 AM.
- **Evangelism.** Marcia reported Evangelism will now oversee the Audio/Visual Communications team. She recommends a reminder be included on our website and in the monthly newsletter that Grace reaches out to all individuals searching for comfort through God's word. If unable to come to worship in person, our service is live streamed through Facebook, also broadcast through Charter Spectrum channel 987 at 9:00 Sunday mornings, and on Channel 12 Cambridge Cable. Following the service, you may access it on YouTube.
- **Education.** Kristin reported Sunday School ended May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additional painting of the Sunday School area will be done this summer by a confirmation student and their mentor, and the Scouts have planned a project to redo the youth room.
- **Property.** Richard reported on a successful clean-up day on May 9 and expressed his thanks to those who accomplished window washing, chair cleaning, and other tasks.

#### Old Business.

- **Compliance & Security Task Force updates.** Committees continue to meet. There was a good turnout for the AED training held on April 26.
- **Yearly event calendar review.** We discussed a year-at-a-glance calendar that would consolidate committee, congregational, and worship plans that follow the usual schedule. Posting a monthly calendar in the gathering area may be helpful for members.
- **Committee roles and operation manual discussion.** To follow up on our council retreat, committee chairs should send any edits of their committee functions to Pr. Jennifer. Marcia and Peggy are going to meet and discuss the current roles of their committees.

#### New Business.

- **Summer programming & community outreach.** Covered above in Pastor's report and various committee reports.
- **Facilities maintenance (spring review).** Nothing to report other than the clean-up day.
- **Council summer break month.** We agreed to skip the June meeting this summer.

**Adjournment.** Amy moved to adjourn the meeting. Kristin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned 7:52 PM. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting.** Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 14 at 7:00 PM.

Submitted by Janet Koepp, Council Secretary

# From the Treasurer

## April 2026 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date April 2026 Actual	Year-to-date 2026 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	96,860	98,333	(1,474)
Special Giving	10,246	10,667	(420)
Misc Income	<u>1,412</u>	<u>1,305</u>	<u>107</u>
Total Income	108,518	110,305	(1,787)
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administrative	43,078	38,472	4,606
Mission	13,730	17,333	(3,604)
Pastoral	51,818	50,961	857
Program	2,015	3,540	(1,525)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	<u>110,641</u>	<u>110,306</u>	<u>334</u>
<b>Total Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(2,122)</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2,121)</b>

A gentle reminder to everyone of the importance of staying financially faithful. Your generosity fuels everything we do—from ministry to outreach—and every gift, big or small, makes a difference.

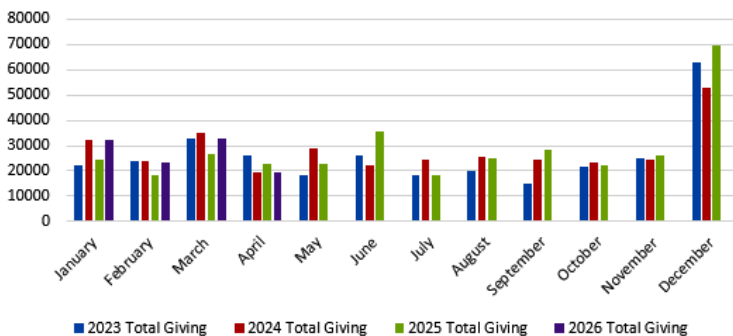
Let's continue trusting God together and giving with grateful hearts.

Thank you for being such a generous community!

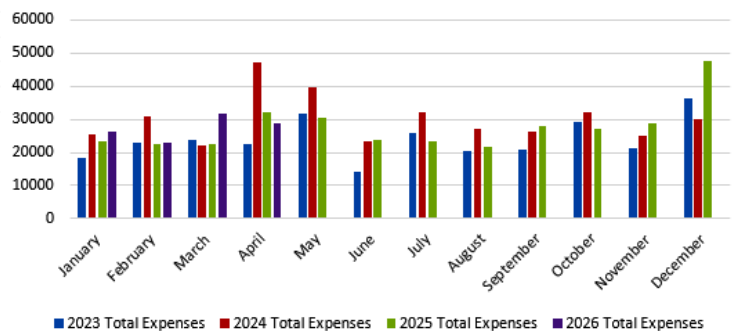


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Comparison of Total Giving - 2023-2026



Comparison of Total Expenses - 2023-2026





# Staff and Council

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## STAFF

**Pastor** Jennifer Jelinek 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** Kris Tobias

**Vice President** Steve Bielefeldt

**Secretary** Janet Koepp

**Treasurer** Amy Simdon

**Outreach** Judy Heidebrecht

**Education** Kristin Rue

**Stewardship** Connie Kreuser

**Hospitality** Peggy Punsel

**Evangelism** Marcia Klemp

**Worship** Julie Leser

**Property** John Jensen

**Property** Richard Scott



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