

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

July 2025 Newsletter

Join us July 27:
Outdoor Worship at 10 am
Church Picnic at 11 am

Pastor's Ponderings



On June 18, I celebrated my 25th anniversary of Ordination. I'm so grateful for the thoughtful celebration you held in honor of that anniversary on Sunday, June 22. The stole you bought me is both beautiful and joyful. I look forward to wearing it during our long green season this summer.

25 years ago I had just graduated from seminary, I was engaged to Erik, and I was preparing to move to Montana, where we had been called to serve together. 26-year-old me didn't yet know what it was like to be married, to be a parent, to truly love a congregation, to go through really tough community and personal crises, or to minister through a pandemic. Reflecting on all that's happened in that time, I can see how I've learned and grown, personally, spiritually, and as a leader.

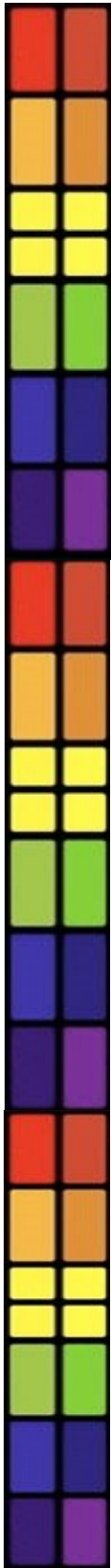
I came up with a list of things I've learned in those 25 years of ministry. Maybe some will resonate with you as well.

- For me, the purpose of life is love. Starting with love is always the best idea.
- You never know what people are going through, so be kind.
- It's easy to judge people. It's better to try to understand them.
- Jesus knew what he was doing when he taught in parables. We learn so much by hearing a good story.
- Joy and laughter are important, even (and especially) in worship.
- Helping people connect to one another and watching them build friendships and community is incredibly rewarding.
- Music helps us connect with God and others in a powerful way.
- Sometimes, to maintain relationships, you just need to accept blame and apologize, even if it's not your fault.
- Kids aren't just the future of the Church. Kids ARE the Church.
- We're all dealing with something difficult. And helping others often helps us get through our own tough times.
- We learn much more and grow much more in faith when we're in community, rather than going it alone.
- Sure, I could probably do something myself, but it's better to ask for help and allow others to use their gifts.
- Even when your clothes don't fit right, cute shoes still do.
- I'm a lot stronger than I ever thought I'd be.
- God is awesome. Jesus is as relevant now as he was 2000 years ago. The Holy Spirit is active among us every day.

Thank you for your continued love, support, and partnership in our shared ministry together. I love being your pastor.

In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*





It's Picnic Time!

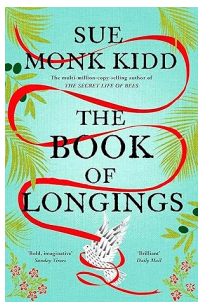
Join us for the Annual Grace Church Picnic on Sunday, July 27th. We'll enjoy treats on the grill, potluck sides, and a bag competition. Look for a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall so we'll know what sides you're bringing!



Adjusted Worship Time on July 27th

So that everyone can enjoy all the goodies at the Church Picnic immediately following the service, we will worship outside at 10am on July 27th, instead of our traditional 9am worship time. Feel free to bring a lawn chair and enjoy God's creation (and an extra hour of sleep) as we worship outdoors together.

July Summer Book Club

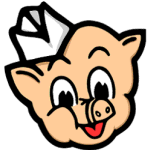


This month in our Summer Book Club, we'll read, "The Book of Longings" by Sue Monk Kidd. It's a novel in the biblical fiction genre, exploring the role of women, learning, and faith in Israel during Jesus' earlier years. In the Bible, we hear nothing about Jesus' life between the ages of 12 and 30. So this book imagines a narrative where young Jesus marries a fictional strong-minded, determined young woman named Ana, after she is disgraced and set aside as worthless. This award-winning book delves into themes of love, faith, and the pursuit of one's own voice and purpose, challenging traditional gender roles connected to Jesus' life. We'll discuss this book on Monday, July 28 at 7 pm. Want us to order a copy for you? Contact Pastor Jennifer.

Want to worship from home? Here's how!



Grace's Sunday services continue to be broadcast on Spectrum cable channel 987 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>



Don't Forget Those Piggly Wiggly Receipts

Did you know that if you bring your Cambridge Piggly Wiggly receipts to church, Grace gets back 1% of what you spent? It's an easy and wonderful way to help support a local business AND your congregation. Receipts can be left in the drawer of the table in the front vestibule.

Monday Night Adult Study

This month, our Bible study finishes exploring the Youth Gathering theme, "Created to Be" Disruptive and Disciples. We'll hear some more dynamic speakers from last year's Gathering and will talk about how God calls us to be each of these things. Join us each July 7 and 14 as we think more deeply about how we can live into who God created us to be.



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 consider donating to Grace. Monetary donations are also always welcome. Donations can be dropped off at the church office.

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, crackers, ketchup, mayo, coffee, cookies, cake/brownie mix, 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 your Cambridge neighbors!

JULY VOLUNTEERS



- July 6 -** Ushers: Pat Hall & Connie Kreuser Assisting Minister: Erik Olsen
Reader: Mary Bielefeldt
Communion Servers: Shauna Thayer & April Mickelson
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Aiden Williams & Brady Thayer
Coffee Hour Hosts: Simdon (Donna) & Fleck
- July 13 -** Ushers: Janine Thurow and Alice Wolfram Assisting Minister: Jeff Gafner
Reader: Tom Watson
Communion Servers: Tom & Chris Watson
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Ashton & Brady Thayer
Coffee Hour: Mickelson & Hartwig
- July 20 -** Ushers: Jim & Kari Jermain Assisting Minister: Diane Fronek
Reader: Betty Reay
Communion Servers: Bill & Betty Reay
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Haven Lovick-Gill & Aiden Williams
Coffee Hour Hosts: Luchterhand & Gregory
- July 27 -** Ushers: Amy Simdon & Jennifer Budewitz Assisting Minister: Shawn Whitman
Reader: Amy Simdon
Communion Servers: Gordie Grender & Marcia Klemp
Communion Set Up: Geis Family
Acolytes: Annabel Fleck & Ashton Thayer
Coffee Hour Hosts: Rue/Picnic



Altar Guild - Amy Simdon & Judy Heidebrecht

JULY AT GRACE

Sunday	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
29 9 am Worship SERVICE- Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	30 9:30 am Quilters	1	2 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee	3	4 Independence Day OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	7 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Adult Study	8	9 9 am Lydia Circle	10 2 pm Staff Mtg	11	12
13 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	14 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Adult Study	15 Newslet-ter content due	16	17	18	19
20 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	21 9:30 am Quilters	22	23	24	25 Koehler-Olson Wedding	26
27 NOTE SPECIAL WORSHIP TIME! 10 am Worship SERVICE-CHURCH PICNIC to Follow	28 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Book Club	29	30	31	August 1	2

Summer Office Hours



The Church Office is open from 9 am – noon, Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Fri. 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

GROWING FAITH-FILLED KIDS



Summer Spirit Day is August 24th!



That's right - Step right up and experience the wonders waiting for you at a carnival-themed afternoon of faith, fun, and family. This brand-new event is a one-day Vacation Bible School-style celebration filled with games, laughter, and meaningful lessons. Throughout the afternoon, children will explore how Jesus, like a joyful carnival barker, calls out to each of us to witness the wonders of God's love. And the best part?

All are welcome!

No registration or sign up necessary; just come and enjoy!



“Save the Bees” Update

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all those who participated in our fundraiser for the *Save the Bees* campaign. A total of \$439.34 was raised and has been forwarded to the Earth Justice Foundation. We are especially grateful for the generosity of our Sunday School children, as well as our congregation. Well done!



LWR Kit Outreach

Did you know that Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is celebrating 80 years of service? As you will soon hear at a Sunday worship, LWR was established at the end of World War II when it was estimated that one-fifth of the world's Lutherans were left homeless. Here in the United States, Lutheran churches mobilized to help Europe, and that work has continued to grow around the world (and at home) for 80 years.

In addition to monetary donations to LWR, members at Grace have actively participated in making quilts (every Monday morning) and various kits for LWR. This summer our Outreach Committee is collecting items for three of the kits: baby care, personal health, and school supplies.

Please check out the display near the entrance of Fellowship Hall for a list of what is needed for each kit. Perhaps there is one project your family could contribute to that would be most meaningful.

We are currently collecting for Baby Care Kits. Please bring your donations to the church any time through July at the collection display near the entrance of the fellowship hall. If you wish to donate to the purchase of cloth diapers or other items, please use VENMO or write a check to Grace and include Baby Kits in the memo line. The Baby Care Kits will be boxed and sent to Lutheran World Relief in September.

The following are included in each Baby Care Kit:

- two lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®)
- two long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
- four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- one jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap TWO pairs of socks
- one hand towel, dark color recommended
- two or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
- two diaper pins or large safety pins

Please include sizes between 6 and 24 months

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2025

(Minutes below not approved until next Council meeting)

Call to Order. President Kelly Witte called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Attendance. Present: Sandi Aston Hall, Steve Bielefeldt, Pr. Jennifer Jelinek, Marcia Klemp, Connie Kreuser, Charlene Luchterhand, Richard Scott, Amy Simdon, Kelly Witte.

Absent: John Jensen, April Mickelson, Peggy Punsel, Kristin Rue.

Devotions. Char shared her faith journey, and Pastor Jennifer led us in prayer.

Approval of Minutes. Amy moved to approve the April minutes. Sandi seconded the motion. Unanimously approved

Approval of Agenda. Char moved to approve the agenda. Amy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Correspondence. Received correspondence and a visit from Tim Krick of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) located in New Hampshire. He shared videos with Pastor and others present. LWR is celebrating its 80th anniversary.

Treasurer's Report. (Amy) We had a net loss of \$7,849.59 in May, giving us a total loss of \$16,059.42 for the year. Our General Giving through May was \$16,473 less than 2024 and \$16,048 less than the 2025 budget. The Special Giving through May was \$3,421 less than last year and \$1,738 less than budget. If the Sabbatical and Youth Gathering expenses are not included, the expenses through May were \$4,651 less than last year and we were \$2,237 under budget. The checking balance was \$7,876 less than at the end of April with the general fund balance approximately \$3,912 less. Richard moved to approve this treasurer's report and send it to audit. Char seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Pastor's Report. The current Monday night adult education series is exploring some of the themes from the ELCA Youth Gathering, "Created to Be." On Sunday, June 22, the worship service will focus on "Whys and Wonderings," the opportunity for the congregation to ask questions they have about God, faith, the Bible, and religion. After service that day, those who have read the book Love without Limits by Jacqueline Bussie will gather to discuss it. The focus of the June 29 worship service will be on LWR. Pr. gave a brief update on her husband's health.

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

Outreach & Social Justice. (April) Will be discussing a special service dedicated to LWR planned for Sunday, June 29. A trifold of collections will occur this summer: items for baby care kits (June), personal care kits (July) and school kits (August).

Old Business.

- **Church Preservation Projects/Bids.** Kelly purchased and donated smoke detectors.
- They will be installed soon.
- **"Save the Bees."** \$439.34 was collected and sent to Earthjustice.
- **Church Picnic.** On July 27, the worship service will begin at 10:00 AM, rather than the usual 9:00 AM. This allows ample time for set-up outdoors weather permitting and places the potluck meal closer to a typical lunch time.
- **Kneeling Cushions.** Will be completed very soon.

New Business.

Eagle Scout Projects. Discussed possible Eagle Scout projects proposed by a student. Training videos are a possibility.

Adjournment. Sandi moved to adjourn the meeting. Amy seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting. We will take a one-month hiatus. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 12, at 7:00 PM. Steve is scheduled to present devotions.

Submitted by Charlene Luchterhand, Council Secretary



A special thank you
to our
photographer,
Randy Luchterhand
for capturing the
anniversary of
Pastor Jennifer's
ordination!



From the Treasurer

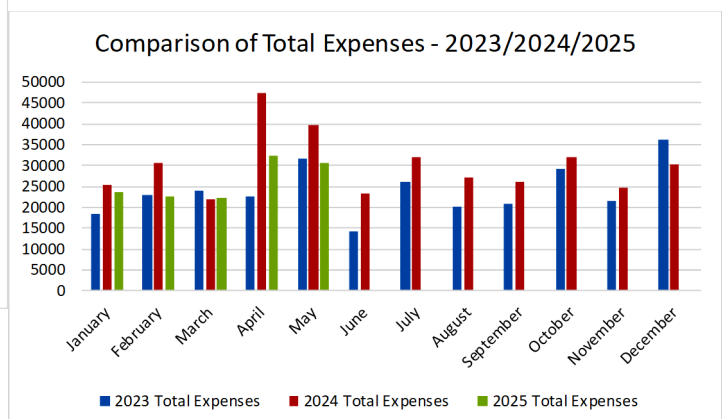
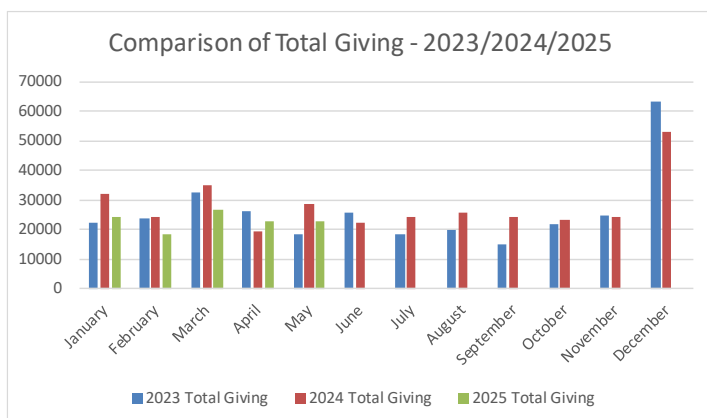
May 2025 Financial Snapshot

Income	Year-to-date May 2025 Actual	Year-to-date 2025 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	103,744	119,792	(16,048)
Special Giving	10,762	12,500	(1,738)
Misc Income	795	1,465	(670)
Total Income	115,300	133,756	(18,456)
Expenses			
Administrative	48,833	47,025	1,808
Mission	19,647	21,667	(2,020)
Pastoral	59,602	60,480	(879)
Program	3,279	4,425	(1,146)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	131,360	133,596	(2,237)
Total Net Income		160	(16,219)

We continue to see a dip in giving this year and just want to gently remind 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 faithful and generous community!





Staff and Council



STAFF

Pastor Jennifer Jelinek Cell: (608) 295-7120 pastorjenniferglc@gmail.com

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

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

Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Hartman cindyh1029@msn.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

COUNCIL

President Kelly Witte

Vice President Steve Bielefeldt

Secretary Char Luchterhand

Treasurer Amy Simdon

Outreach April Mickelson

Education Kristin Rue

Stewardship Connie Kreuser

Hospitality Peggy Punsel

Evangelism Marcia Klemp

Worship Sandi Aston Hall

Property John Jensen

Property Richard Scott



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

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cambridge, WI
Permit No. 501

| *Return Service Requested*

Place address sticker here;
no higher please

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

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

Visit us our website at www.gracelutherancambridge.org

We broadcast
on Channel
987

