

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love

AUGUST 2025 Newsletter

Pastor's Ponderings



When you hear the word "Revelation", what do you think of? Rapture? Beasts and dragons? The antichrist? Signs of the end-times? Fear, punishment, and destruction? Hope and promise? Have you ever tried to read Revelation? How was that experience? Revelation is one of the strangest books of the Bible, and reading it can be quite challenging, especially if we try to read it with the understanding that it's like the other books in the New Testament.

The last book of the Bible "The Revelation to St. John", which we simply know as "Revelation" (no "s" at the end) is probably the most feared and misunderstood book of the Bible. I think many of us are afraid and intimidated by this odd book, sometimes because of how it's been used and misused by others. Its images have been used in movies, art, other media, and by more fundamentalist Christians, which have often formed our ideas of it. But despite the fact that our denomination is called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we interpret the Bible differently from those our culture calls "evangelical" Christians. So from a Lutheran perspective, what is Revelation actually about? Is it really supposed to scare us into believing? What was Revelation saying to its original audience? What (if anything) does it have to say to us today?

Exploring those questions will be our focus in worship this month as we look at passages from Revelation for the next 5 Sundays. To give you a little sneak peek, here are some fun facts about Revelation:

Revelation was written to early Christians who were being oppressed, to give them hope.

Revelation was written as something like a code, so insiders would understand it and outsiders would be confused.

The Greek word for Revelation is "apocalypsis," (English: apocalypse), which actually means "unveiling" or "uncovering."

"Rapture" is never actually mentioned in the Bible. It's a 19th Century mash-up of a couple Bible passages, then falsely attributed to Revelation.

Revelation is really about Christ, not the antichrist.

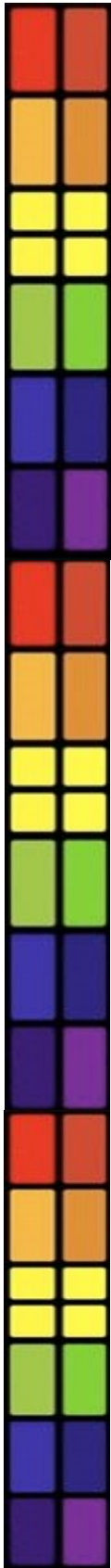
There are many references from Revelation in our worship liturgy and hymns. We'll explore some of those.

I'm looking forward to this intriguing, faith-inspiring journey through Revelation. May God bless our learning, our understanding, and our worship.

Want to work ahead? Watch this helpful summary of Revelation by "Bible Project" online. <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-revelation/>

In Christ,

+ *Pastor Jennifer*





Confirmation Corner

Just a reminder to 9th grade students – you may be working on your 3rd year Mentor Packet this summer. You'll also need 5 sermon notes between now and Confirmation Sunday. See you in worship!

It's Almost Here - Summer Spirit Day is August 24th from 2-5pm

Come one, come all to Summer Spirit Day—an afternoon of fun, games, and faith-filled surprises at Grace Lutheran Church! This carnival-themed event is open to everyone in the community—no RSVP or church membership required.



Wander at your own pace through interactive stations, enjoy classic carnival games, explore meaningful activities, and cool off with a treat from the Kona Ice truck! Happening rain or shine—drop in and stay as long as you like. Everyone's welcome!

August Book Pick

This month in our Summer Book Club, we'll read, "I'll Push You: A Journey of 500 Miles, Two Best Friends, and One Wheelchair" by Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck. This book is a true story of two lifelong friends who decide to embark upon the Camino del Santiago pilgrimage after one of them is confined to a wheelchair. It's a beautiful story of love, faith, humor, and spiritual truth. We'll discuss this book on Monday, August 25 at 7:00 p.m. 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>

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



Monday Night Adult Study

In February, we explored a few of the more bizarre stories of the Bible from the book, "Crazy Stories, Sane God." But there are still more! August seems like a good time to return to exploring some of these odd passages, from Lot to Abraham nearly sacrificing his son to wacky prophets and God working through sinners, scandals and babies. Join us Monday evenings this month at 7:00 p.m. for more bizarre bible story fun. You won't believe how much we laugh!

School Kit Collections Begin



The School Kit collection for 2025 began in July and will continue through August 31st. Members of the Outreach & Social Justice Committee will work with the confirmation class this fall to prepare the School Kit supplies for shipment in September.

If you don't have time to shop, just pick up an envelope and check off where your donation is intended to go. Easier yet, send a check or VENMO to Grace Lutheran with your choice in the memo line and we will do the shopping for you. Please be sure to pick up a list for any of the School Kits, Baby Care Kits or Personal Care Kits on the display table in the church near the front entry. All 3 kits will be shipped together in September.

Update on Lutheran World Relief Drive

Thank you to everyone who has donated bath towels and soap for the Personal Care Kits. So far, we've put together 25 kits. Our goal is to collect as many towels and soap as possible. We already have donations of 100 toothbrushes, 100 nail clippers and 100 combs. Donors recommend getting towels at Dollar General or Walmart where they run under \$3.00 each. Thank you for helping with this important project.

No July Grace Council Minutes

The Grace Council took their summer break and did not meet in July; please look for the August council meeting minutes in the upcoming September newsletter.

Sunday School Resumes



Save the Date! We're excited to be planning for another fun year in Grace Sunday School! Our first class of the fall semester will be Sunday, September 7th following worship.

AUGUST VOLUNTEERS



- Aug 3** - Ushers: Gary & Sharon Haberkorn Assisting Minister: Kelly Witte
Reader: Jim Leser
Communion Servers: Brenda Lovick & Shawn Whitman
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Billy Becker & Easton Bernhardt
Coffee Hour Hosts: Geis & Lund
- Aug 10** - Ushers: Bill Becker Family Assisting Minister: Kelly Witte
Reader: Lori Jensen
Communion Servers: Pat Hall & Connie Kreuser
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Billy Becker & Easton Bernhardt
Coffee Hour: Northey & Key
- Aug 17** - Ushers: Bill & Betty Reay Assisting Minister: Andrya Coutts
Reader: Sandi Aston-Hall
Communion Servers: Sharon Erb & Felix Egli
Communion Set Up: Ruth Circle
Acolytes: Billy Becker & Easton Bernhardt
Coffee Hour Hosts: Jelinek & Thayer
- Aug 24** - Ushers: Williams Family Assisting Minister: Jeff Gafner
Reader: Amanda Kress
Communion Servers: Rich & Diane Fronek
Communion Set Up: Pat Northey
Acolytes: Corbin & Cael Klemp
Coffee Hour Hosts: Russo & Spindler
- Aug 31** - Ushers: Doug & Gail Tufte Assisting Minister: Rich Fronek
Reader: Mandi Buonincontro
Communion Servers: Mandi Buonincontro & Kenny Zickert
Communion Set Up: Geis Family
Acolytes: Griffin Sullivan & Crew Cunningham
Coffee Hour Hosts: Jermain & Sullivan



Altar Guild - Diane Russo & Diane Fronek

AUGUST AT GRACE

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 Club	29	30	31	1 7am-2pm Rummage Sale	2 7am- 2pm Rum- mage Sale
3 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	4 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Adult Study	5	6 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee	7	8	9
10 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	11 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Adult Study	12 7 pm Council Meeting	13 9 am Lydia Circle	14 2 pm Staff Mtg	15 Newsletter content due	16
17 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	18 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Adult Study	19	20	21	22	23
24 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook 2 pm Spirit Day	25 9:30 am Quilters 7pm Book Club	26	27	28	29	30
31 9 am Worship SERVICE - Also on Cable Channel 987 & Facebook	Sept 1 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 9 am Ruth Circle 11am Outreach Committee	4	5	6

Marriage

Alicia Koehler & Brett Olson – July 25, 2025

From the Treasurer

June 2025 Financial Snapshot

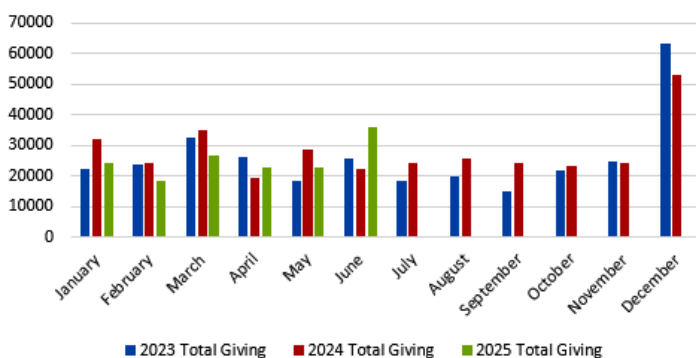
Income	Year-to-date June 2025 Actual	Year-to-date 2025 Monthly Budget	Over/(under) budget
General Giving	137,775	143,750	(5,975)
Special Giving	11,806	15,000	(3,194)
Misc Income	<u>1,526</u>	<u>1,757</u>	<u>(231)</u>
Total Income	151,107	160,507	(9,401)
Expenses			
Administrative	56,701	56,429	272
Mission	23,377	26,000	(2,622)
Pastoral	70,620	72,576	(1,957)
Program	4,368	5,310	(942)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expenses	155,067	160,316	(5,249)
Total Net Income (Loss)	(3,960)	192	(4,152)

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.

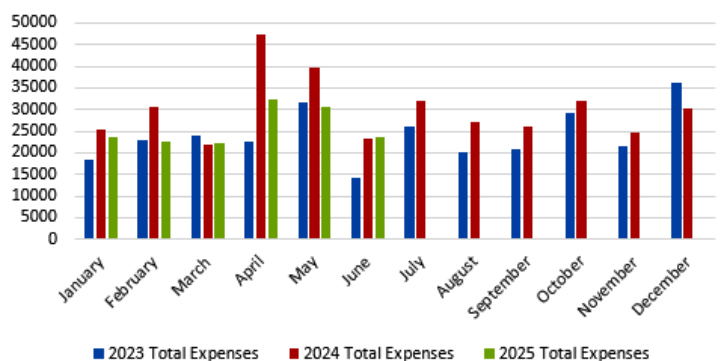
Let's continue trusting God together and giving with grateful hearts.

Thank you for being such a generous community!

Comparison of Total Giving - 2023/2024/2025



Comparison of Total Expenses - 2023/2024/2025





Staff and Council



STAFF

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Handbell Choir Director Ann Engelstad gaengelstad@charter.net

COUNCIL

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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



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