

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



GRACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH



75th Congregational Meeting | January 30, 2022 | Albert Lea, Minnesota

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approval of Today's Agenda (Page i)
4. Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes (Page 1-2)
5. Gift Policy
6. Elections
7. New Business
 - Proposed 2022 Budget
9. Motion to Adjourn
10. Closing Prayer
11. Sending Litany

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Minutes of the Seventy-Fourth Annual Meeting

January 24, 2021

1. Call to Order

Church Council President Corrine Tims called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM.

2. Opening Prayer

Pastor Shane led those in attendance in devotion and prayer.

3. Explanation of the Annual Meeting Changes due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

President Tims informed those in attendance (live and via Zoom) that the meeting today was a condensed agenda to address key issues consistent with the Grace Lutheran Church Constitution and By-Laws, and that another session would be held in the late Spring or early Summer of 2021 to address additional items/issues and to provide a congregational update.

4. Approval of the Agenda for the Meeting

MSA (Moved-Seconded-Approved) by Becky Tennis-Hanson and Julie Groeneweg to approve the agenda for today.

5. Approval of the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

MSA by Gary Schindler and Jeanne Schindler to approve the minutes of the January 2020 Annual Meeting.

6. Capital Campaign Update

Gary Schindler reported on the highlights of the capital campaign for 2020. He noted that the effort has raised nearly \$1,225,000 to-date. Schindler mentioned that the Church Council made a strategic decision on the final project (restroom expansion and renovation) to do the project in its entirety vs. a phased approach, take advantage of under-utilized space to include within the project, and to secure additional general contracting bids. The final bid for general contracting was \$350,000 and required additional fundraising for the campaign. In addition, the Grace Foundation donated to the effort and supported a donation match.

Pastor Shane stated that we are nearly at our goal for cash-on-hand to complete the project and encouraged members to continue to support the effort. Schindler thanked Grace members, the Grace Foundation, and the Council for their generosity and support for the campaign.

7. Elections

President Tims reported that most Church Council members have agreed to extend their terms to the middle of 2021 and that elections for church-designated positions would be held at a mid-year annual meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting Continued

8. New Business

Proposed 2021 Budget was reviewed. Questions included a clarification on the health insurance budget for the year. Pastor Shane noted that the budget included funds to support a half-time Youth Director; with Ashley eventually providing pastoral services to Grace as part of her seminary studies, and a half-time interim pastor. He also noted that the budget included three months of severance and insurance for Pastor Jennifer. MSA by Jim Munyer and Jane Madson to approve the 2021 budget as presented.

9. Mid-Year Annual Meeting Information

President Tims noted that a call for a follow-up mid-year annual meeting will be targeted for late Spring/early Summer, with supporting materials and an agenda.

10. Closing Prayer

Pastor Shane led us in prayer.

11. Doxology

Deacon Tewes led the attendees in the singing of the Doxology

12. Adjournment

MSA by Lowell Peterson and Jeanne Schindler to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Schindler, Church Council Secretary - Grace Lutheran Church

Council President Report

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Even after what we thought was an almost unbearable 2020, our 2021 year was only a bit smoother. We struggled with two new variants to covid and who knows there may be more. Our prayer is for more individuals to become vaccinated to help cope with this virus in our country. We continue to recommend masking within the Grace building if you are not vaccinated. We are pleased to be able to continually offer virtual services at 9:00 along with the Sunday morning worship service.

We celebrate Pastor Dean Smith joining our staff this year, enjoying his messages and his wit. The Grace Staff has been amazing as they continue working together through the difficult transitions brought on by this pandemic and the challenges of some of the staff being part time. Both coffee following services and "Grace Listens" started back up in early December. Please consider attending to stay connected.

Our capital campaign is complete! Thank you to all for the financial support given to complete this project. We will continue Grace's work focused on our 2020-2023 Strategic Plan with its key planning areas of: Building, Grounds & Technology; Life and Growth; Worship and Music; Education; as well as Programming and Opportunities for Youth and Families.

Challenges:

1 Corinthians 12:14 says "For the body does not consist of one part, but many."

Hopefully you have pray fully considered, reviewed and returned the "Count Me In" commitment card that was mailed with this year's stewardship letter. We pray for your generosity! With God's guidance, we will continue to work together to serve each other, open our doors to the community as well as pay our bills and our staff.

I have enjoyed another year of serving as your church council president. Thank you for this privilege. I walk with you through each joy and challenge.

Corrine Tims,

Your Grace Lutheran Church Council President

Lead Pastor Report

While I am not with you for this annual meeting. I am taking care of my health and will be returning at the beginning of February. I want to thank you for giving me space during this time and for your understanding and prayers.

NOW! Let's get to the real reason I write this: to encourage YOU! I am proud to be a pastor and more specifically, your pastor. Over the last years a lot has changed and people are ready and willing to engage in different ways. Some people want everything to go back to normal, and others, not so much. I get it. I often feel the frustration of wanting "normal" only to find there isn't much of that left to put together. Don't get me wrong, there is a lot to celebrate in our congregation. When fewer people are returning to worship following the first phase of the pandemic, Grace, thanks to online worship, has been close to pre-pandemic numbers. Not quite, but better than the national average. This tells me that you value worship at Grace, that you want to be in community with your fellow Grace members whether that's online or in person. I continue to be proud of the work Deacon Bob and Darin LaFrance as well as bonus gifts from members that made a high quality system possible. And while there are bugs, I'd say we are doing pretty well for a bunch of people who had never put together a system before.

Grace will continue to provide opportunities for you to enliven your faith. Confirmation, adult forum, Grace Seniors, Bible Studies and other groups will augment the worship on Sunday. I pray as numbers of COVID decrease, our ability to provide more opportunities will increase.

Lastly, and maybe most importantly, I pray for you. This has been a tough couple years. We have said goodbye to loved ones through death, we have changed the ways we gather in community, holidays are different because we not only miss the people who have died but people who couldn't be there due to illness. Work life has certainly changed for you, too, as well as family dynamics. I know that our time as a family has pointed out growing spaces, but also provided quality time for us to bond and grow together in new and exciting ways.

All that to say this: Be gracious to one another. Jesus time and time again gives moments of peace, grace and room for growth.

PShane

Associate Pastor's Report

It's been quite the year for the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church. As I look back on the brief time that I've been here, the two words that most frequently come to mind are Thankful and Hopeful.

Thankful:

- The Grace community has been welcoming and encouraging during my first few months of service here.
- Grace has a wonderful collection of faithful members who have demonstrated flexibility and resilience throughout the ongoing Covid season. There is a genuine commitment to service and living out their call to share the love of Christ.
- Grace has a solid team of leaders—staff members and Council members—who are willing to look forward at new possibilities while keeping congregational traditions in mind.
- Every Wednesday night, I get to hang out with some fun, curious, thoughtful Confirmation students and leaders.
- Last summer, it was fun for Pastor Shane and me to do a preaching series about vocation and calling.
- The part-time nature of my position gives me the flexibility to keep up with my academic work while still doing the ministry I'm called to at Grace.

Hopeful:

- For all of us, there is ongoing hope that we will find our way out of this Covid fog with new ministries and renewed enthusiasm for ministry.
- An energetic team of leaders are working to develop a Sunday School ministry that will provide a family-focused ministry that will deepen family connections and faith development.
- New ministries and volunteer opportunities will emerge which will broaden Grace's leadership base and increase congregational engagement in service—both at church and in the community.
- There will be some opportunities for additional intergenerational fun and learning during a congregational book study in Lent, another round of VBS for Everybody, and events we haven't even dreamed about yet.
- There is a lot to anticipate in 2022, and I'm thankful that you've called me to be part of it. I'm looking forward to formulating a shared vision that will carry us forward in ministry together.
- The past two years have given us pause to consider how and why we do what we do. For many folks, the reassessment of priorities invites creative new ways to be a community. I'm thankful and hopeful for what 2022 can look like as we follow where Jesus leads.

May God continue to bless the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church.

Pastor Dean Smith

Deacon's Report

2021 was a year that was marked by the need for vigilant flexibility and patience. The ongoing implications of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, which had emerged in 2020, still affected the ways in which we were able to do ministry together. In spite of frequent roadblocks and unexpected twists and turns, meaningful ministry continued to take place at Grace and in the community in which we live.

The first several months of 2021 were spent with online worship being the way we gathered as a worshiping community. With both weekly Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship offerings, the technology pieces that were added in 2020 continued to provide us the means of getting our story out to the congregation and larger public. Some pieces of this technology were enhanced, including the acquisition of a dedicated video computer, and later in the year, the acquisition of a new soundboard to improve the quality of both our broadcast and live worship experiences. Thank you to all who helped make these purchases possible.

As the Spring arrived and vaccinations started to become a reality, we slowly began offering in person worship again, in addition to our online broadcast offerings. Slowly and steadily, the number of vaccinated people started returning to the pews. Following CDC recommendations, singing was done while wearing masks to mitigate the potential spread of virus among those who had not, or were not yet allowed, to receive vaccinations. This pattern continued through the summer months as the Delta variant became a new threat.

In the Fall, through careful implementation, our programming looked more familiar, as once again our musical ensembles began to re-assemble, although while practicing social distancing and still wearing masks while singing indoors. It was a welcome delight to hear their voices and instruments singing again in worship. The social element of being able to gather together in rehearsal was also a welcomed return to a feeling of normalcy.

This is the pattern that we are still following as we continue to take a careful and measured response to the continued threat of virus spread, and yet are grateful that so many people have had the opportunity to receive vaccinations and boosters that will hopefully curtail the duration, and at least severity, of the pandemic.

In spite of these obstacles, we still managed to celebrate our congregations' 75th anniversary in style. Several former Pastors of Grace, and several Pastors who grew up as youth in our congregation and later were called into the ministry, came to provide special guest appearances and messages from the pulpit. In October, at the celebration Sunday event, our Bishop Regina Hassanally gave the message and a special hymn, written by Julie Godtland Keran, was premiered.

As we look ahead to 2022 and all that that year might bring, we continue to live with the confident faith that God is with us in spite of our circumstances, seeking ways to enrich us, emboldening us toward service, and blessing us with grace upon grace. May we, as a community, continue to be open to God's call and continue to live as faithful people in this time and place.

Deacon Robert Tewes

Youth Director Report

This past year in Youth Ministry we tried some new things and brought back some old things.

- In the spring we attempted High School Youth Group on Sundays with service projects, bible studies and more. Due to low attendance, we didn't continue this in the fall.
- In the spring and early summer a group of youth helped with painting the youth room to update the cupboards and bookcase to match the rest of the room.
- We celebrated Baccalaureate in the spring as 14 of our seniors graduated from high school.
- In the summer we had 22 youth attend Confirmation Camp at Good Earth Village. Youth got to experience a few days of sleeping in cabins, doing a high ropes course, playing games, and learning about God in nature.
- In the summer we had Youth Service & Fellowship Days! Youth spent a few Wednesdays helping at the Salvation Army Store, going to the Boat House, having a bonfire at the church, and more!
- This summer 5 youth and Jeff Olson went on a canoeing trip in the Boundary Waters for a week at Wilderness Canoe Base.
- This fall we worked with First Lutheran and Zion Lutheran in putting together a community wide Trunk or Treat event. We had over 600 children come through! Many Grace members helped with donating candy, decorating trunks or helping out!
- In November we sent 30 care packages to our young adults and college students.
- Next summer we will be bringing 15 youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Youth have started fundraising in fall of 2021, and will continue to fundraise this upcoming year.

We're excited to start bringing back annual events and try new things in this upcoming year. This includes bring back Chew n Chat, going to Mount Kato, Valleyfair, more Service/Fellowship opportunities, and even a 7th/8th grade summer trip.

This past year was a large year for me as well as I moved to a Part-Time Youth Director position and Full-Time Seminarian at Wartburg Theological Seminary. I've enjoyed attending classes synchronously via Zoom and all that I've been learning. So far I've taken Systematic Theology, New Testament Narratives, Formation of Discipleship, Greek Language, Foundations of Lutheran Worship, Jesus Christ in Plural Worlds, Spiritual Practice, and Fieldwork. In addition, I've been completing a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) course for the past 6 months. I'm keeping busy, but I couldn't do it without all the support and prayers from all of you during this time. At the end of this summer I'll begin my pastoral internship here at Grace.

Thank you for your continued support, Grace Lutheran. Prayers and blessings to you all!

Ashley Kuhlman

Parish Nurse Report

Greetings friends of Grace Lutheran,

The mission of the Grace Lutheran Parish Nurse is to help all experience God's grace, love, and healing by addressing their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

In the past my ministry has been primarily face to face visits for the homebound, those in care facilities, hospitals, and transitional facilities. During these visits I was able to meet face to face, assess and direct in some cases necessary care for the individual. Though not providing hands on nursing care, I was able to arrange referrals, access transportation, nutritional supplements, financial assistance and in many cases just provide a listening ear.

We all know that COVID has changed this and at least in the past year have been able to access some in person visits at nursing facilities and individual homes when permitted. My visits are now much shorter. I will always wear a mask, even though I've been offered to remove the mask. My goal is to protect you! I have resumed sharing communion to some, others are comfortable just accepting the communion kits to use during worship online. We used to share homemade cookies with our shut in, however this has changed to an individually wrapped safe snack or fruits.

During this past year I have been asked to walk alongside a couple of our parishioners that were in Hospice and facing death with little or no family support. I was honored, to walk this journey with them. I also continue to follow up with those that have lost loved ones as they walk their journey of mourning with hopes to be a listening ear as they process grief.

Due to the uncertainty of nursing facility visits, we have not restarted a visitation schedule. As you see in the bulletin and Grace Notes that the pastors would like you to call them if you are having surgery or facing a difficult situation and would like a visit. If further follow up is necessary, the pastors will pass this information on to me. Please be persistent if pastoral care is needed by calling the church office.

In the past I held monthly grief support groups with hopes that I would resume them at the beginning of the year. At this time these have not been restarted and will certainly look to you as a parish if this is something needed. You are welcome to call me at any time, leaving a message and I will get back to you to see how I can help.

We are all looking at change and if you have suggestions for the parish nurse ministry, please let me know with Email messages at parishnurse@gracealbertlea.org. You can also leave a message with the church office or call my cell phone at 507-383-6341.

The parish nurse ministry continues with 10 hours a week, which is consistently provided on Monday's doing face to face visits, making phone calls and sending cards of encouragement. If at any time you are looking to assist with visitation or the parish nurse ministry, please contact myself or the church office.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

May God Bless your 2022

Lori Tuchtenhagen, Parish Nurse

Youth Education Committee Report

"That was the year that was." – Tom Lehrer

Riding the shifting sands of a pandemic has created curious challenges for all kinds of ministries. Certainly, that has been the case for Grace's education ministries.

The 2020-2021 school year finished with Confirmation classes meeting via Zoom for a time before they were reformatted to balance quality face-to-face interaction with safety protocols. One of the gifts afforded by at-home learning was additional "family time" to work on projects over Lent.

The summer of '21 saw Grace host the first "VBS for Everybody." Why should the kids have all the fun? This intergenerational day of fun activities and faith talk had a smallish group, but those who attended had a good time and shared meaningful stories about prayer and God's abundant presence.

Youth Director/Seminarian Ashley Kuhlman and Pastor Dean Smith planned for an uncertain fall with Covid protocols in one hand and Grace's Strategic Plan in the other. Faith Explorations was a Sunday morning education ministry designed to bring families together for conversations about faith. Attendance fluctuated through the fall. Ashley and Dean met with a group of enthusiastic volunteers to discuss plans for Sunday education ministries for families in the spring of 2022.

The new Youth Education Committee members are: Jay Cichosz, Kate Dahl, Christie Ness, and Jen Zoller. It's exciting to consider the possibilities that these leaders are going to pursue!

On Reformation Sunday, 15 9th graders affirmed their baptism in a special Confirmation worship service. They are: Mason Attig, Mavrick Attig, Liam Ball, Mika Cichosz, Brendan Earl, Reece Jeffrey, Bryant Johnston, Brecken Koepke, Ben Schulz, Sam Stay, Liley Steven, Carter Tappe, Andrew Westeng, Danica Whelan, and Ty Youlden.

7th and 8th grade Confirmation continues on Wednesday nights. This fall, the students explored their own beliefs as they compare to the faith statements expressed in the creeds and how to leverage their own influence for the sake of God's Kingdom and pursuing their unique calls to serve.

As Grace navigates Covid-infested waters, the staff and volunteer leaders will continue to seek opportunities for quality, meaningful faith formation for children and their families. Please consider ways that you might help and/or participate in the coming year.

Pastor Dean Smith

Youth Director/Seminarian Ashley Kuhlman

Scholarship Committee Report

The Scholarship Committee would like to thank the people of Grace for their generous gifts that allow us to support our students in achieving their educational goals. We were very impressed by the applicants and were honored to award the following Grace Scholarships:

Godtland Scholarship – Mercedes Saltou

Gertrude Hanson Memorial Scholarship – Dylan Carlson

John and Alma Mathews Memorial Scholarship – Griffin Thompson

Janice M. and Henry J. Guse Scholarship – Ellie Wallace

Lindsey Loehr Diemer Memorial Scholarship – Daleney Meyer

Lu Ryan Memorial Scholarship – Daleney Meyer

Donna Ball Memorial Scholarship – Hannah Conn

Donald Ball Memorial Scholarship – Griffin Thompson

Laurence McGill Memorial Scholarship – Joshua Everett

Delores Ost Scholarship – Alison Hanson

Vern Jahnke Memorial Scholarship – Dylan Carlson

Donald Gross Elementary Education Scholarship – Alison Hanson

We received no applications for the Grace Foundation Scholarship or Grace Foundation Scholarship for Non-Traditional Students.

Your Scholarship Committee,

Bob Ball

Julie Drommerhausen

LuVerne Godtland

Steve Lee

Jeanne Lundak

Pastor Dean Smith

Ashley Kuhlman, Youth Director

Lead Report

LEAD, Living Everyday As Disciples---Food For Backpacks

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds".

Hebrews 10:24

This is the verse from our GLC Advent Devotional for Day 18, "**STIR**".

As Jesus encouraged His disciples and followers to follow His example, we are to **stir** up encouragement for those in need and follow His example of showing love for others, especially those in need.

The focus of the LEAD team is the Food For Backpacks ministry. This year we are again in partnership with our neighbor Zion Lutheran, providing meals for 127 students at Hawthorne Elementary. This much needed program is now in its fifth year. There are six other area churches supporting FFB with volunteers and donations. Ascension Lutheran, United Methodist, Crossroads, Hayward Lutheran, First Lutheran, Zion Lutheran and Grace are serving nearly 480 food insecure students in grades K-7. Also, this year we added the Alternative Learning Center students to the program with food packets available in a food pantry. The food packets are purchased from JA Foods and are currently at a cost of \$3.95/ packet. Costs have increased due to increases in food prices as well as shipping. The packets give each child 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 snacks for the weekend and are confidentially distributed to their backpacks by the school social workers. The budget for 2021-22 is \$70,402 and we have seen that the number of students in need is much more consistent this school year than last year. Know that every dollar donated is used to purchase food packets.

Our prayer is that this program will **STIR** others to become involved in any capacity possible so that Food For Backpacks can be sustainable. We are so grateful for everyone who has donated to the program, written grants, encouraged service groups and local business to contribute, volunteered to deliver meals to the schools, organized orders and storage areas, worked with the crew to unload trucks, and been cheerleaders for the program. If you are interested in being a volunteer or making a donation, please contact one of the LEAD team members...We NEED You!

Food For Backpacks team: Joel Erickson, Corrine Tims, Janece Jeffrey, Dave and Julie Drommerhausen, Pastor Shane Koepke.

Our Eternal Encourager, **STIR** up in us the passion for leading, encouraging, and for doing the giving ministry You call us to do. Amen.

WELCA

Mission Statement: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

On behalf of WELCA, I would like to thank all of the women (and men) who have helped to further God's work here at Grace Lutheran Church and in the local and world-wide community. Many willing hands, heads and hearts have made the work fun and rewarding.

What a year! WELCA has pretty much been shut down for part of the year. With the letting up of restrictions, the quilting group, servicing at funerals and monthly meetings were able to start up again.

- Served funerals over the past year
- A number of Quilts are ready to be delivered as soon as able to do so
- Quilting supplies
- Donated to the Stewardship Program
- Christmas Gifts to staff members
- \$360 to coffee fund

The Thank Offering held in November yielded \$571.00, which will be used for the ongoing missions and programs of ELCA women.

We would like to invite all women who are members of Grace to join us each month for our meetings. It is a great time to meet new members, socialize and brain storm on the best programs to meet our WELCA goals and purpose. Our meetings are held the second Thursday of each month – Please join us – we would love to hear your suggestions and ideas. The WELCA group is in need of officers. The current officers will complete their terms of office on December 31, 2021. Thanks to Erika Youlden and Doreen Pontow for their many years of service to WELCA and Grace as officers. I will also be stepping down as President. If you are interested in being an officer please contact the church office.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Smith
President - WELCA

Life and Growth/Social Concerns Ministry Team

The Life and Growth/Social Concerns Ministry Team activity was very limited this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following is a list of those efforts that were carried out:

- The Youth for Christ 'treat' ministry was continued during most of the months in 2021. During the first week of each month, treat providers shared their goodies with the young people who frequent The Rock.
- Hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive in August
- Helped with a New Member orientation in November
- Enough Food For All campaign – promoted a reverse Advent Calendar food drive during December
- Together with the Mission Team, hosted a Volunteer Fair that included opportunities for involvement within Grace Lutheran. This will be expanded to a Community Volunteer Fair when the COVID issue subsides.

A return to a more typical year of activities is the prayer for 2022. As always, new members are welcome to assist in doing God's work with our hands and feet.

Respectfully submitted,
Life and Growth Ministry Team
Sandy Fredrickson
Becky Tennis Hanson
Patty Tewes

Mission Ministry

The Mission team began actively meeting together in June after a period of inactivity. Active recruitment of new members added new ideas and new energy to the team's efforts. Those efforts included:

In coordination with the Life and Growth Ministry team, put on a Volunteer Fair that involved opportunities for service within Grace Lutheran. This will hopefully be expanded to a community volunteer fair when covid issues subside.

Fair Trade Equal Exchange products – Half price sales of the 'on hand' products were carried out through the second half of the year. All new products will be purchased and sales will resume on the first Sunday of each month as soon as the products have arrived.

ELCA World Hunger – An offering was taken for this ELCA effort in November. This offering, in addition to the weekly 'quarters for world hunger' donations, totaled \$885.50.

Support of foster parent program – Delivered a meal to foster families to assist in the transition process of children into their new settings.

Salvation Army Angel Tree – In coordination with Jen Zoller and her family, collected and delivered children's Christmas gifts to the Salvation Army for dissemination within the community.

Dissemination of the mission funds gathered through undesignated giving offerings (half of one percent of this amount) in 2021 will be as follows:

- \$1,000.00 to International Health Partners for the children's hospital in Tanzania (sent in July)
- \$200.00 to Loaves and Fishes
- \$400.00 to Youth for Christ
- \$400.00 to Ecumenical Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church
- \$400.00 to the Salvation Army
- \$500.00 to the Food for Backpack Program
- \$100.00 to the effort to support the local Foster Parenting Program
- \$300.00 to the Campus Ministry at Winona State University
- \$300.00 to the Campus Ministry at Minnesota State University, Mankato
- \$400.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response (following the devastating tornados)
- \$400.00 to 'Keeping Families Together', a social services program to support refugee families in Thailand

The Mission Ministry team invites others to join its efforts in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Mission Ministry Team
Al & Pat Arends
Gwen & Bill Groskurth
Becky Tennis Hanson
Hazel Spiering
JoAnn Bracker
Karen Hendrickson
Ginny & Rick Loberg
Jerry Vogt

Altar Guild

The year of 2021 continued with challenges and on-going changes as were present the previous year. As in-house church services began being offered in January, Altar Guild continued to incorporate appropriate infection control guidelines (COVID-19) into the scope of the Altar Guild ministry and responsibilities.

Scheduling became a challenge with the outlined COVID-19 guidelines. A maximum of two persons were scheduled, when possible, to prepare/serve communion (now using the prepackaged communion sets) and follow-through with other responsibilities, i.e., flower care, baptisms, funerals, specific church celebrations/events. We informally assumed the role of greeters and acolyte duties. There were nine active members volunteering throughout the year. One new member was added, and three resignations were submitted. Two scheduled meetings were held this year.

We participated in the "Working Hands at Grace" Sunday held in September outlining opportunities available in this ministry. A poster was prepared which showed in pictures and script some of the main responsibilities of Altar Guild. Trial opportunities with no long-term commitment were offered to interested families, individual men/women, couples/teams of 2-3 persons. This opportunity will continue throughout 2022.

Appreciation is extended to all Grace family and staff who participated with acolyte responsibilities, decorating/preparation for church celebrations events and clean-up.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Madson, Altar Guild Lead

Ushers' Report

<u>SPECIAL SERVICES</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Mid-Week Lenten Services (average, 6 services)	117		
Holy Week Attendance	182		425
Good Friday Service	79		395
Easter 8:00am	182		80
Easter 10:00am	319		147
Easter 11:00am	106		
Thanksgiving Eve	64	533	45
Blue Christmas	86	378	260
			(online only)
Christmas Eve 3:00pm	195		143
Christmas Eve 5:00pm	240		189
Christmas Eve 10:00pm			120
Christmas Eve Total	595	699	452
Christmas Day	72	247	164

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Total Weekly Attendance (online and in person)	14,487	14,256	32,607
January-May and September-December (average)	279	373	385
9:00am Sundays, 5:30pm Wednesdays			
June-August, Sunday (average)	196	461	493
All Weeks - 12 months (average)	284	385	627
Sundays in the Year	52	52	52
Record Sunday	548	1048	1097
Record Sunday (other than Easter)	354	1048	411
	(10/27)	(10/25)	(10/31)
	Confirmation	Confirmation	Confirmation

Respectfully submitted,
James Munyer, Director of Ushers

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to COVID-19 the numbers may seem inflated, this is in part to being online and at times in person and online. The numbers recorded are divided by the 37 Sundays of worship.

Building, Equipment and Grounds

This last year has definitely been a time of learning to be casual with things because of covid. Anything can happen unexpectedly. We started the year with the elevator going down. This was because of “brown outages”. Although that was a process, we haven’t had any problems since then.

I’m real happy with the with the new bathrooms. The remodel went as smooth as ever with no big unseen expenses, or changes. The best part was the cost didn’t exceed the original bid.

We have been continuing our live streaming service. It has been a nice way to get to families. Whether its covid related, maybe very cold outside, or personal reasons a family cannot attend in-person service, I like this option for families to still feel included in the congregation. We have had a few hiccups, especially since we’re all new to this, but again everyone has been so great and casual knowing this can only get better as time goes and all of us learning.

As some of you know Wynette our cleaning lady is no longer employed at Grace. I’ve been trying to keep up with her end of the job along with all of the other needs. Wynette did an awesome job with what she did and is greatly missed.

Grace has been gradually opening to in-person worship and to have groups being able to meet again. My main goal is to ensure everyone’s safety by disinfecting/sanitizing before and after each gathering. I am hoping that soon we will be able to leave the doors unlocked during the week.

Thanks to the Grace staff for being so awesome to work with as always. This includes to Brecken Koepke & Mason Buendorf for taking on the livestreaming and audio for worship with me. They have been doing a great job. Thanks to Henry Buendorf for taking on a part time position to assist me in the many jobs at Grace.

Thanks for making Grace a great place for me to serve.

Darin LaFrance

Building Superintendent



Building, Equipment and Grounds Continued

A few pictures of one of the remodeled bathrooms



Balance Sheet

ASSETS

Cash Accounts	Security Checking Account	\$71,778.57		
	Security Savings Account	\$4,851.46		
	US Bank Checking Account	\$0.00		
	US Bank Savings Account	\$0.00		
	First Farmers and Merchants Bank	\$101,109.85		
	Mission Investment Fund Account	\$176,719.17		
	Thrivent Savings Account	\$0.00		
	Ameritrade Account	\$0.00		
	Martin Luther Fund Checking Account	\$0.00		
	Ryan Scholarship Mission Fund Acct	\$11,559.89		
	Guse Scholarship Mission Fund Acct	\$28,899.68		
	Delores Ost Scholarship Mission Fund A	\$36,000.00		
TOTAL ASSETS			\$430,918.62	\$430,918.62

LIABILITIES AND FUNDS

LIABILITIES	Federal Payroll Taxes Payable	\$2,678.88		
	State Payroll Taxes Payable	\$233.00		
	Retained Earnings	\$0.00		
	Member Pretax Contribution	\$0.00		
	Mission Investment Fund Loan	\$0.00		
Total Liabilities			\$2,911.88	\$2,911.88

FUND BALANCES

Indesignated Fund	General Fund	\$159,023.26		
			\$159,023.26	
Undesignated Fund Total			\$159,023.26	\$159,023.26

Designated Education	Education Ministry Fund	\$1,403.98		
	Library Fund	\$2,541.40		
	Sunday School Offering	\$58.00		
Designated Education Total			\$4,003.38	

Designated Missions	Martin Luther Fund	\$7,708.54		
	Hawthorne Fund	\$607.00		
	Hawthorne Backpack Fund	\$11,950.78		
	Food for Backpacks Grant Fund	\$22,498.01		
	World Hunger	\$98.75		
	International Health Partners	\$540.70		
	Heifer Fund	\$674.88		
	Missionary for a Day Fund	\$135.09		
	Local Food Shelves	\$5,119.95		
	Mission Giving	\$1,084.30		
Designated Missions Total			\$50,418.00	

Designated Parish Nurse	Prayer Shawl Fund	\$473.17		
	Parish Nurse Fund	\$1,215.44		
Designated Parish Nurse Total			\$1,688.61	

Balance Sheet Continued

Designated Property	Building Fund	\$10,132.89	
	Memorials Fund	\$13,456.27	
	Prayer Garden Fund	\$1,251.76	
	Thrivent Choice Fund	\$19,118.09	
	WELCA Cookbook Fund	\$82.00	
	Altar Guild Expense Fund	\$1,727.01	
	Sound System Fund	\$0.00	
	Capital Campaign	\$0.00	
	WELCA Sewing Fund	\$544.17	
	WELCA Stewardship Fund	\$172.46	
	WELCA General Fund	\$4,102.21	
	Chapel	\$0.00	
	Designated Property Total		\$50,586.86
Designated Scholarship	Godtland Scholarship Fund	\$14,137.84	
	Guse Nursing Scholarship Fund	\$24,680.78	
	Hanson Scholarship Fund	\$1,817.88	
	Loehr Scholarship Fund	\$0.00	
	Mathews Scholarship Fund	\$2,975.00	
	Lu Ryan Scholarship Fund	\$10,696.04	
	Don Gross Education Scholarship Fund	\$1,494.38	
	Egland Scholarship Fund	\$0.00	
	Lisa Vogelsang Scholarship Fund	\$0.00	
	Laurence D. McGill Scholarship Fund	\$21,530.00	
	Don and Donna Scholarship Fund	\$11,880.00	
	Delores Ost Scholarship Fund	\$36,619.61	
	Vern Jahnke Scholarship Fund	\$11,982.49	
	Designated Scholarships Total		\$137,814.02
Designated Worship	Choir Robe Fund	\$1,524.35	
	Music Fund	\$6,002.17	
	Organ Fund	\$1,424.24	
	Designated Worship Total		\$8,950.76
Designated Youth	Camp Scholarship Fund	\$5,658.14	
	Foundation Camp Scholarship & VBS	\$754.33	
	Youth Fund	\$3,873.86	
	Youth Event	\$4,158.18	
	Youth Fundraiser	\$1,077.34	
	Designated Youth Total		\$15,521.85
Designated Funds Total		\$268,983.48	\$268,983.48
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS			\$430,918.62

Income and Expenditures

Income and Expenditures Composite					
Grace Lutheran Church 918 Garfield Avenue Albert Lea, MN					
UNDESIGNATED FUNDS		OPEN BAL	INCOME	EXPENSE	CLOSE BAL
INCOME	Budgeted Offering		\$530,138.32		
	Endowments, Special Gifts/PPP		\$98,542.50		
	Fees and Miscellaneous		\$3,413.15		
	Interest Income		\$1,377.88		
Undesignated Income			\$633,471.85		
EXPENSE	Mission to Others			\$40,221.62	
	Pastoral Ministry			\$436,831.66	
	Congregation Ministries			\$50,598.99	
	Church Upkeep			\$93,435.25	
	Budgeted Expense			\$621,087.52	
	Fees and Miscellaneous			\$1,670.20	
Undesignated Expense				\$622,757.72	
		OPEN BAL	INCOME	EXPENSE	CLOSE BAL
UNDESIGNATED FUNDS		\$148,309.13	\$633,471.85	\$622,757.72	\$159,023.26
DESIGNATED FUNDS		OPEN BAL	INCOME	EXPENSE	CLOSE BAL
	Designated Education	\$3,968.38	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$4,003.38
	Designated Missions	\$43,194.02	\$57,401.07	\$50,177.09	\$50,418.00
	Designated Parish Nurse	\$1,468.85	\$330.00	\$110.24	\$1,688.61
	Designated Property	\$337,831.19	\$76,317.36	\$363,561.69	\$50,586.86
	Designated Scholarships	\$105,025.49	\$11,788.53	-\$21,000.00	\$137,814.02
	Designated Worship	\$10,751.15	\$841.00	\$2,641.39	\$8,950.76
	Designated Youth	\$13,687.17	\$13,462.91	\$11,628.23	\$15,521.85
DESIGNATED FUNDS		\$515,926.25	\$160,175.87	\$407,118.64	\$268,983.48
TOTAL FUNDS		OPEN BAL	INCOME	EXPENSE	CLOSE BAL
Undesignated & Designated		\$664,235.38	\$793,647.72	\$1,029,876.36	\$428,006.74

Grace Foundation, Inc.

The purpose of the Grace Lutheran Foundation continues to be to receive from Grace Lutheran members or from the public, gifts, bequests or properties as may from time to time be given. Such gifts are invested with proper regard for their safety and interest according to the will of the congregation membership and designation of the donors. Interest accrued from funds and investment returns, including realized and unrealized capital gains controlled by the foundation, may be designated by the board to be used for missions, education or other specific projects of Grace Lutheran Church in its Gospel outreach.

We are grateful for the collaborative work of Perry Loge and Marsha Smith and for the in-house audit that was completed for the year ending 2021. The foundation's main source of income was, again, the farmland rental monies. We are entering a new contract for the term of one year.

Monetary support was again given in the form of scholarships to students from our congregation attending a Lutheran college. We are currently also financially supporting Ashley in her seminary education. We once again supported Vacation Bible School. The board provided support for the youth trip to Wilderness Canoe Base and other support for the youth. Capital bathroom project congregational matching contribution has been paid in full.

As we look ahead to 2022, we prayerfully consider the needs of Grace Lutheran Church and continue to provide appropriate financial support for the congregation, it's ministry programs and gospel outreach.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Grace Foundation Board

Matt Kermes – Chairman

Dale Buendorf

Bruce Olson – Vice-Chairman

Karen Hendrickson

Steve Schulz – Treasurer

Roy Page

Steve Bracker – Secretary

Corrine Tims – Council President

Pastor Shane Koepke

Marsha Smith

Grace Foundation, Inc. Balance Sheet

GRACE FOUNDATION, INC.

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2021 and 2020

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current Assets		
Security Bank Checking Account	\$ 37,859.17	\$ 51,805.94
Schwab Cash Account	16,753.63	4,033.98
Total Current Assets	<u>54,612.80</u>	<u>55,839.92</u>
Foundation Investments		
Schwab Investments	293,801.41	277,178.91
Total Foundation Investments	<u>293,801.41</u>	<u>277,178.91</u>
Godtland Investments		
Mission Investment CD	20,000.00	20,000.00
Mission Investment CD	20,000.00	20,000.00
Mission Investment CD	10,000.00	10,000.00
Security Bank CD	54,369.40	54,259.77
Security Bank CD	16,410.02	16,323.79
Total Godtland Investments	<u>120,779.42</u>	<u>120,583.56</u>
Fixed Assets		
H. Nelson Farm (Perpetuity)(At Appraised Market Value)	933,400.00	933,400.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>933,400.00</u>	<u>933,400.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ <u>1,402,593.63</u>	\$ <u>1,387,002.39</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Net Assets		
Permanently Restricted Net Assets		
Perpetuity Money/Godtland	\$ 580,823.17	\$ 579,573.17
Farmland Market Value Increase	640,300.00	640,300.00
Current Year Memorials	0.00	0.00
Total Permanently Restricted Net Assets	<u>1,221,123.17</u>	<u>1,219,873.17</u>
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		
Seminary Donations	0.00	0.00
Scholarship Donations	0.00	1,250.00
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,250.00</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets (Income)	93,723.19	145,479.97
Current Year Unrestricted Net Income (Loss)(Less Memorials)	4,596.73	(51,756.78)
Unrealized Security Gains (Losses)	83,150.54	72,156.03
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>181,470.46</u>	<u>165,879.22</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1,402,593.63	\$ 1,387,002.39

Note: In 2012, we went to recording farmland value using the County Assessor's market value. Appraised market value for farmland for 2022 is set at 959,000.00

Grace Foundation, Inc. Income Statement

GRACE FOUNDATION, INC.

Income Statement

For the 12 months ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

Income	2021	2020
Checking Account Interest	\$ 19.26	\$ 101.19
Donations	0.00	0.00
Scholarship Donations	0.00	0.00
Mission Fund Interest - Godtland	1116.00	1077.76
CD Interest - Godtland	551.91	647.42
Schwab Interest/Dividends/CG Distributions	16,753.63	10,544.68
Farm Land Rent	27,440.00	27,440.00
Farm Land CRP	3,948.00	3,948.00
Wind Farm Rent	6,000.00	0.00
Total Income	55,828.80	43,759.05
Investment Sales		
Investments Sold	29,960.00	42,922.91
Cost of Investments Sold	(26,085.34)	(38,196.90)
Gain (Loss) on Investments Sold	3,874.66	4,726.01
Expenses		
Student Grants	2,500.00	3,750.00
Farmland Property Taxes	8,484.00	9,126.00
Farm Expenses	15.00	15.00
Safe Deposit Box Rent	40.00	40.00
Investment Expenses	2,184.79	1,925.09
Grace Lutheran Youth Camp Expense	1,003.00	700.00
Grace Lutheran VBS Expense	527.41	3,000.00
Grace Lutheran - Capital Campaign	20,495.86	79,504.14
Treasurer Salary-2021 and 2020	1,179.12	1,031.73
Baptismal MIF 4 Kidz	300.00	200.00
Ashley's Seminary Classes	18,377.55	949.88
Total Expenses	55,106.73	100,241.84
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 4,596.73	\$ (51,756.78)

Ministerial Report

WORSHIP SERVICES

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Total Sunday Worship Services	53	96	67	54
Total Weekday Worship Services	49	56	53	23
Total Services with Communion	89	144	67	59

PASTORAL ACTS

Children Baptized	5	6	5	9
Adults Baptized	0	0	0	0
Confirmation of 9 th Graders	19	20	16	15
Confirmation of Adults	0	0	0	0
Weddings	6	5	2	4
Reaffirmation of Wedding Vows	0	0	0	0
Funerals	22	61	18	12

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Increases:

a. By Baptism (Children)	4	6	5	9
b. By Baptism (Adults)	1	0	0	0
c. By Reaffirmation of Faith	19	20	16	15
d. By Letter of Transfer	3	17	14	0
e. By Adult Instruction	4	4	0	0
f. From Other Sources	0	20	0	0
g. By Confirmation (not previously baptized members)	0	0	0	0

TOTAL

31	67	35	35
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Decreases:

a. By Death	22	27	18	23
b. Inactive Member Reduction	0	0	0	0
c. By Transfer to ELCA Congregations	4	4	4	0
d. By Transfer to Other Lutheran Congregations	0	0	0	0
e. By Release to Non-Lutheran Congregations	0	0	0	0
f. For Other Reasons (or requested removal)	0	2	0	0

TOTAL

26	33	22	23
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TOTAL BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP

Total Baptized Membership, December 31, 2020	1,583
Total Baptized Membership, December 31, 2021	1,592
NET FOR 2021	9

TOTAL CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP

Total Confirmed Membership, December 31, 2020	1,238
Total Confirmed Membership, December 31, 2021	1,230
NET FOR 2021	-8

Ministerial Report Continued

2021 BAPTISMS: (9) Eliana Lopez, Garrison Nelson, Danica Whelan, Holden Whelan, Kale Prouty, Liv Prouty, Lucy Hatland, Jorga Carson, Sophia Ertl

2021 MARRIAGES: (4) Grace Parker & Lance O'Reilly, Adrienne Clark & Philip Gehring, Barb Engebretson & Orrion Roisen, Christine Johnson & Trey Talamantes

2021 REAFFIRMATION OF VOWS: (None)

2021 DEATHS: (23) Richard Sharpsteen, Gloria Ugland, Patricia Linnes, Robert Moreau, Cheryl Page, Marvin Gulbrandson, John Schreiber, James Madson, Thelma Zajicek, Dorothy Schoonover, Lucille Gripentrog, Kathy Diaz, Wanda Hoiseth, Marjorie Dann, Orvis Rake, Solveig Peterson, Irene Johnson, Arlyne Newgard, Edwin Zabel, Ross Moyer, Myron Hoffman, Sabrina Preston, Diane Olson

New Business — 2022 Proposed Budget

1	BUDGETED OFFERING	BUDGET 2021	ACTUAL 2021	PROPOSED 2022
2	ENVELOPES	\$617,828.00	\$494,487.07	\$616,671.00
3	INITIAL OFFERING	\$600.00	\$455.00	\$400.00
4	LOOSE OFFERING	\$10,000.00	\$4,935.25	\$3,600.00
5	LOVE OFFERING	\$2,000.00	\$4,488.00	\$4,200.00
6	LENTEN OFFERING	\$5,700.00	\$3,542.00	\$3,600.00
7	EASTER	\$6,100.00	\$12,967.00	\$13,000.00
8	THANKSGIVING	\$3,000.00	\$1,145.00	\$3,000.00
9	CHRISTMAS	\$10,000.00	\$8,119.00	\$10,000.00
10	ENVELOPE INCOME TOTAL	\$655,228.00	\$530,138.32	\$654,471.00
11	ENDOWMENTS/SPECIAL GIFTS/PPP		\$98,542.50	
12	BUDGETED INCOME TOTAL	\$655,228.00	\$628,680.82	\$654,471.00
14	MISSION TO OTHERS	BUDGET 2021	ACTUAL 2021	PROPOSED 2022
15	SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD	\$42,983.00	\$34,777.07	\$42,934.00
16	BLUE EARTH RIVER CONFERENCE	\$400.00	\$393.75	\$400.00
17	GOOD EARTH VILLAGE	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
18	MISSION GIVING	\$3,276.00	\$2,650.80	\$3,272.00
19	LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
20	ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN HOME	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
23	MISSION TO OTHERS TOTAL	\$49,059.00	\$40,221.62	\$49,006.00
25	PASTORAL MINISTRY	BUDGET 2021	ACTUAL 2021	PROPOSED 2022
26	STAFF SALARIES	\$194,083.00	\$194,742.63	\$189,729.00
27	STAFF WAGES	\$112,698.00	\$101,987.25	\$114,258.00
28	HOSPITALITY EXPENSES	\$600.00	\$358.23	\$500.00
30	STAFF DEVELOPMENT & EXPENSES	\$2,000.00	\$255.32	\$1,500.00
32	ROSTERED AUTO ALLOWANCE	\$2,000.00	\$1,111.60	\$1,500.00
33	ROSTERED PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES	\$4,500.00	\$2,253.67	\$4,500.00
34	PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE	\$70,125.00	\$66,365.18	\$74,082.00
35	STAFF HEALTH INSURANCE	\$52,302.00	\$54,763.32	\$54,847.00
36	STAFF MILEAGE	\$300.00	\$35.84	\$300.00
37	STAFF SOCIAL SECURITY	\$15,295.00	\$13,663.46	\$15,414.00
38	CONFERENCE & SYNOD ASSEMBLY	\$2,000.00	\$1,161.66	\$1,500.00
39	GUEST SPEAKERS/ORGANISTS	\$600.00	\$150.00	\$600.00
41	PASTORAL MINISTRY TOTAL	\$456,503.00	\$436,848.16	\$458,730.00

New Business Continued

43	CONGREGATION MINISTRIES	BUDGET 2021	ACTUAL 2021	PROPOSED 2022
44	EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM	\$4,710.00	\$3,581.38	\$5,800.00
45	LIBRARY MINISTRY	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
46	LIFE & GROWTH MINISTRY TEAM	\$1,250.00	\$320.00	\$1,250.00
47	MISSION MINISTRY TEAM	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
48	STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM	\$1,400.00	\$400.00	\$900.00
49	WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM	\$4,691.00	\$3,172.51	\$4,470.00
50	YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM	\$6,500.00	\$6,124.62	\$6,500.00
51	ADMINISTRATION	\$26,276.00	\$19,746.61	\$23,160.00
52	ADVERTISING	\$2,700.00	\$1,928.00	\$2,700.00
54	MISCELLANEOUS/75th Anniversary	\$3,000.00	\$539.34	\$0.00
55	CALL PROCESS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
56	PASTOR MOVING EXPENSE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
57	L.E.A.D.	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
58	ALTAR GUILD	\$1,250.00	\$3,266.39	\$1,500.00
59	TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY TEAM	\$8,866.00	\$9,134.71	\$9,094.00
60	PARISH NURSE/VISITATION	\$1,825.00	\$1,898.04	\$2,000.00
61	CONGREGATION MINISTRIES TOTAL	\$63,118.00	\$50,611.60	\$58,024.00
62				
63	CHURCH UPKEEP	BUDGET 2021	ACTUAL 2021	PROPOSED 2022
65	NEW EQUIPMENT	\$4,000.00	\$3,765.64	\$4,000.00
66	MAINTENANCE	\$33,737.00	\$44,853.19	\$38,040.00
67	PROPERTY & LIABILITY INSURANCE	\$23,722.00	\$20,149.72	\$20,811.00
68	UTILITIES	\$25,089.00	\$24,666.70	\$25,860.00
69	CHURCH UPKEEP TOTAL	\$86,548.00	\$93,435.25	\$88,711.00
70				
71		BUDGET 2021	ACTUAL 2021	PROPOSED 2022
72	BUDGETED EXPENSE TOTAL	\$655,228.00	\$621,116.63	\$654,471.00

Undesignated Funds

Balance as of:	Start of	Undesignated Funds
12/31/2010	2011	\$133,180
12/31/2011	2012	\$132,963
12/31/2012	2013	\$121,808
12/31/2013	2014	\$152,700
12/31/2014	2015	\$84,166
12/31/2015	2016	\$127,719
12/31/2016	2017	\$66,515
12/31/2017	2018	\$73,800
12/31/2018	2019	\$59,159
12/31/2019	2020	\$78,591
12/31/2020	2021	\$148,309
12/31/2021	2022	\$159,023

Undesignated Funds

40543 40908 41274 41639 42004 42369 42735 43100 43465 43830 44196 44561

Undesignated Balance	Opening	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2018	\$73,800.35	\$47,118	\$26,638	\$1,170	\$7,274	\$7,047	\$11,665	\$30,753	\$17,488	\$9,737	\$30,749	\$22,295	\$59,159	
2019	\$59,159.35	\$41,705	\$12,557	\$8,044	\$6,254	\$90,965	\$80,720	\$69,676	\$47,761	\$57,824	\$47,246	\$30,856	\$78,591	
2020	\$78,590.60	\$62,177	\$60,002	\$58,192	\$79,014	\$181,529	\$156,450	\$142,760	\$133,364	\$122,883	\$104,745	\$88,845	\$148,309	
2021	\$148,309.13	\$257,049	\$235,258	\$217,876	\$211,642	\$271,915	\$253,151	\$236,232	\$229,239	\$202,532	\$185,493	\$160,493	\$159,023	
						\$62,026	Vern Janke special gift							
						\$93,947	PPP 2020							
2021 PREPAID GIVING		\$98,542.50	PPP 2021				72000	62400	52800	40800	31200	19200	9600	0

GRACE NOTES FIGURES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Income													
2019 Income/month	\$36,491	\$33,972	\$51,782	\$54,157	\$143,371	\$47,961	\$41,409	\$38,568	\$59,504	\$41,206	\$31,788	\$105,634	\$685,843.53
2019 YTD income	\$36,491	\$70,463	\$122,245	\$176,402	\$319,772	\$367,734	\$409,143	\$447,712	\$507,216	\$548,422	\$580,210	\$685,844	
2020 Income/month	\$38,911	\$64,772	\$54,436	\$76,209	\$155,912	\$26,181	\$38,649	\$43,218	\$44,644	\$34,059	\$40,765	\$117,540	\$735,297.10
2020 YTD income	\$38,911	\$103,683	\$158,119	\$234,329	\$390,241	\$416,422	\$455,071	\$498,288	\$542,932	\$576,992	\$617,757	\$735,297	
2021 Income/month	\$162,755	\$38,836	\$37,727	\$39,586	\$115,534	\$28,188	\$29,057	\$40,476	\$26,285	\$32,449	\$31,355	\$51,223	\$633,472.06
2021 YTD income	\$162,755	\$201,591	\$239,318	\$278,904	\$394,438	\$422,626	\$451,683	\$492,159	\$518,445	\$550,894	\$582,249	\$633,472	
	\$98,542.50	PPP 2021											

Expenses	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2019 Expense/month	\$53,945	\$63,121	\$56,295	\$55,948	\$58,659	\$58,206	\$52,454	\$60,483	\$49,442	\$51,784	\$48,178	\$57,899	\$666,412.28
2019 YTD expense	\$53,945	\$117,065	\$173,360	\$229,308	\$287,967	\$346,173	\$398,627	\$459,110	\$508,551	\$560,335	\$608,513	\$666,412	
2020 Expense/month	\$55,325	\$66,948	\$56,245	\$55,387	\$53,397	\$51,260	\$52,339	\$52,614	\$55,125	\$52,197	\$56,665	\$58,076	\$665,578.57
2020 YTD expense	\$55,325	\$122,272	\$178,518	\$233,905	\$287,302	\$338,562	\$390,901	\$443,515	\$498,640	\$550,838	\$607,503	\$665,579	
2021 Expense/month	\$54,015	\$60,627	\$55,109	\$45,819	\$55,261	\$46,953	\$45,976	\$47,469	\$52,993	\$49,488	\$56,355	\$52,693	\$622,757.79
2021 YTD expense	\$54,015	\$114,642	\$169,752	\$215,571	\$270,832	\$317,784	\$363,760	\$411,229	\$464,222	\$513,710	\$570,065	\$622,758	
YTD Giving vs Expenses													
		\$108,740	\$86,949	\$69,567	\$63,333	\$123,606	\$104,842	\$87,923	\$80,930	\$54,223	\$37,184	\$12,184	\$10,714

Undesignated/Designated Funds

BALANCE SHEET AS OF:	12/31/2021	12/31/2020	12/31/2019	12/31/2018	12/31/2017	12/31/2016	12/31/2015	12/31/2014
TOTAL FUNDS & LIABILITIES	\$430,918.62	\$667,881.06	\$480,080.24	\$326,544.67	\$625,426.60	\$325,763.34	\$274,485.23	\$199,412.40
LIABILITIES	\$2,911.88	\$3,645.68	\$3,672.90	\$6,055.01	\$42,128.85	\$42,956.95	\$42,698.44	\$37,461.99
UNDESIGNATED FUNDS	\$159,023.26	\$148,309.13	\$78,590.60	\$59,159.35	\$73,800.35	\$75,284.59	\$129,607.75	\$67,553.34
DESIGNATED FUNDS								
EDUCATION	\$4,003.38	\$3,968.38	\$3,964.49	\$3,209.69	\$2,365.63	\$1,289.17	\$4,952.62	\$3,289.13
MISSIONS	\$15,969.21	\$7,846.18	\$9,668.48	\$19,035.88	\$6,958.84	\$5,876.23	\$4,586.23	\$5,023.18
PARISH NURSE	\$1,688.61	\$1,468.85	\$1,344.23	\$1,456.47	\$1,344.17	\$1,088.41	\$1,815.37	\$1,999.11
PROPERTY	\$26,649.93	\$19,661.07	\$25,454.48	\$24,879.19	\$30,944.03	\$109,211.79	\$13,736.15	\$9,869.83
WORSHIP	\$8,950.76	\$10,751.15	\$12,646.33	\$11,347.99	\$5,845.68	\$5,149.56	\$5,019.81	\$8,449.20
YOUTH	\$15,521.85	\$13,687.17	\$12,764.52	\$13,441.16	\$26,298.96	\$4,065.13	\$3,380.75	-\$7,505.61
STANDARD DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$72,783.74	\$57,382.80	\$65,842.53	\$73,370.38	\$73,757.31	\$126,680.29	\$26,729.43	\$21,124.84
OTHER DESIGNATED FUNDS								
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	\$0.00	\$295,327.03	\$155,040.21	\$71,804.96	\$357,287.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SCHOLARSHIPS	\$137,814.02	\$105,025.49	\$123,767.83	\$89,873.69	\$61,184.93	\$61,659.93	\$60,344.93	\$62,667.86
WELCA/FFB GRANTS	\$39,267.63	\$35,347.84	\$31,197.83	\$12,029.20	-\$1,898.13	\$105.79	\$105.79	-\$297.32
THRIVENT CHOICE	\$19,118.09	\$22,843.09	\$21,968.34	\$14,252.08	\$19,165.79	\$19,075.79	\$14,998.89	\$10,901.69
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$268,983.48	\$515,926.25	\$397,816.74	\$261,330.31	\$509,497.40	\$207,521.80	\$102,179.04	\$94,397.07

Undesignated Fund Balance

GRACE LUTHERAN UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE					
LINE		2019	2020	2021	2022
1	opening balance	\$59,159	\$78,591	\$148,309	\$159,023
2	income	\$623,817	\$641,350	\$534,929	\$534,929
3	expenses	-\$666,412	-\$665,579	-\$622,758	-\$655,228
4	difference	-\$42,595	-\$24,228	-\$87,828	-\$120,299
5	closing balance	\$16,564	\$54,362	\$60,481	\$38,725
6	endowments/gifts	\$62,026	\$0	\$0	\$0
7	PPP loans	\$0	\$93,947	\$98,543	\$0
8	new closing	\$78,591	\$148,309	\$159,023	\$38,725

Grace Gifting Policy

Grace Lutheran Church Gift Policy Summary

*This document is a brief summary of the **full** Gift Policy adopted by Grace Lutheran Church, intended to offer an overview of how this congregation will handle cash and non-cash gifts offered over and above regular giving. **Donors are encouraged to bless this congregation's present and future with gifts free of restrictions.** The full policy is available in the church office or on www.gracealbertlea.org*

The Finance Committee of Grace Lutheran Church has responsibility for reviewing gifts and shall make decisions and/or form recommendations to the Church Council regarding acceptance and use of gifts offered to the congregation, using the guidelines of the current Gift Policy.

The Finance Committee will consider gifts of cash, gifts through beneficiary designation (e.g., bank accounts, annuities, endowments, life insurance policies, etc.), marketable securities, bequests, real estate, other non-cash gifts and in-kind donations.

As a general rule, Grace Lutheran will convert all gifts to cash.

Valuation of non-cash gifts to Grace Lutheran shall be the responsibility of the donor or the donor's estate.

Unrestricted gifts with a value less than \$25,000 shall be used in the general fund.

Unrestricted gifts with a value equal to or greater than \$25,000 shall have the acceptance and use decisions recommended by the Gift Policy as follows:

This congregation shall offer a contribution of 10% of the total gift to the Mission Giving Fund for distribution by the Mission Team, 45% of the total gift will go to the endowment fund, and the remaining 45% will go the general fund.

Gifts with specific donor-defined restrictions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Finance Committee in consultation with the Church Council. Donors who choose to restrict the use of a gift to Grace are strongly encouraged to complete a Restriction and Release Form.

Memorial and honorary gifts of any size given to Grace Lutheran shall be handled according to section VII of the Gift Policy.

Donors are encouraged to consult with their personal tax advisor, estate attorney and/or financial advisor for specific tax, legal, and investment information. Grace Lutheran does not provide any tax, legal, or investment advice.



Southeastern Minnesota Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



I am often asked what my vision for the synod is, and my reply is always the same: that we would be a people walking together for the sake of the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I know that how we live into that proclamation in our particular communities and congregations will change with the resources we have and the context in which we serve. How we proclaim is nuanced, but what we proclaim (the gospel!) is unified and unchanged.

It seems fitting to pause, reflect upon, and give thanks for all the ways the Spirit has invited us into this holy vocation of proclamation in 2021.

For the first time ever, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod hosted a one-day digital Synod Assembly. We learned some things along the way. Overall, the Assembly was a success: we accomplished necessary business, heard from ministry partners, celebrated some milestones, and cast our sight toward the coming year. It is our hope and plan to meet in person for Synod Assembly in 2022. We will, of course, make adjustments as necessary.

As COVID ebbs and flows, so too has our ability to gather in person. We have continued to take full advantage of all digital and hybrid options, and, as we have been able, we've had in-person gatherings, too. 2021 allowed us to host gatherings for pastors and deacons new to the synod, retired rostered ministers and spouses, and candidates for ordained ministry.

Pastors, deacons, and church professionals were able to gather for a few days this fall to explore together the theme of Embracing Sabbath. The learnings that happened during that retreat are already being shared in congregations across the synod.

While our ability to physically visit our global partners has been hindered, our connections with them remain strong. We have continued regular conversation and partnership with our siblings in Colombia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and ministries at our southern border.

The greatest joy of 2021 has been being present with congregations again. The Office of the Bishop staff and I have delighted in worshipping with you on Sunday mornings, enjoying outdoor fellowship and festivities over the summer months, and sitting around meeting room tables as we discern the work of God together.

It is my fervent hope that in 2022 our ability to gather together will only increase and that we will continue on the road of gospel proclamation together.

In Christ,

Rev. Regina Hassanally
Bishop Regina Hassanally

Southeastern Minnesota Synod ELCA | www.semnsynod.org



A MESSAGE FROM ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP

*Elizabeth
Eaton*

Dear friends in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

GUSTAVUS

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

• ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2020 •

Greetings to you from your partners in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! The definition of community at Gustavus has always included the wider ELCA community. The network of institutions and relationships which holds our Lutheran congregations, synods, camps, colleges, seminaries, and social agencies together plays a vital role in nourishing and advancing our collective and important contribution to the world. We all make a greater impact because of this diverse network to which we belong.

The past year has presented challenges that relentlessly moved across our country (and world) while at the same time significantly stretching our respective communities in unprecedented ways. Yet, like no other time have we shared in such an experience as church and college. Common to each of us has been a season of serious grappling with issues ranging from a global pandemic and community health concerns to rising social unrest and concern for equity and unaddressed racial justice to a very contentious election cycle and concern for unity and the wellbeing of our nation.

Through the Gustavus Association of Congregations the Office of Church Relations at Gustavus is connected to over 500 congregations from across the country. These relationships are an important source of Christian faith inspiration and ministry encouragement for the college. This has especially been true during these tumultuous times. As we have looked to you our ministry partners, you are a source of inspiration for how you have creatively adapted to faithfully continue your ministry in your context. *Thank you.* You are a source of encouragement to us for the humble and genuine ways you have courageously engaged racial justice concerns in your community. *Thank you.* The Christian love you share to all people and the healing presence of love you seek to embody in a divided community is an inspiring witness and source of hope to us. *Thank you.*

As you gather for congregation annual meetings and synod assemblies, we hope you are inspired by the reminder of the many others who walk alongside you in mission. We sincerely hope we can be a source of Christian faith inspiration, encouragement, and hope for you as well. The Office of Church Relations at Gustavus exists because as a college we live from our Christian faith and desire to be in service to the wider community within which we are rooted. We seek to be a place you might consider as a ministry partner and resource for your congregation's educational goals and growth.

MARK YOUR 2021 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **Annual Gustavus Association of Congregations Business Meeting Luncheon — APRIL 24, 2021**
The Annual Business Meeting of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations will gather virtually and feature updates from the Gustavus President and Chair of the Board of Trustees as well as inspiration from Gustavus students. For more information: gustavus.edu/businessmeeting
- **The Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics — JUNE 19-25, 2021**, an exciting resource for high school youth interested in exploring creative alliances between faith and science. The theme for the 2021 Academy is *"Who am I? Media, Technology, and Me."* For more information and to nominate a high school student: gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy
- **Annual Nobel Conference® — OCTOBER 5-6, 2021** *"Big Data REvolution."*
- **Christmas in Christ Chapel — DECEMBER 2-5, 2021**

For more information about these events and the many resources we offer congregations, please contact the Office of Church Relations or visit us on-line at: www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations. Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Rev. Grady St. Dennis
College Chaplain/Director of Church Relations

Notes

