

ANNUAL REPORT

for 2020



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



A MESSAGE FROM
**ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP
ELIZABETH EATON**

Dear friends in Christ,

This year has been a challenging one! The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the church and society. We have had to shift the ways we engage in ministry from a focus on in-person worship and meetings to livestream worship, virtual meetings and gatherings in the parking lot. We have had to shift to teaching children at home and working from home. We have not been able to travel to see friends or relatives or to celebrate life events. This has also been a time to address economic and social justice issues, to shift our thinking and our way of life.

In times such as this, our baptism in Christ makes a difference and makes us different. Like Christians before us, we recall that God is faithful to God's promises and God's people. We see that God

enables us to connect with one another even when we are separated. Shifts in the world invite us to

be innovative in how we do God's work and reach out to all ages in making disciples. We see that God is at work not only in our buildings but beyond them as well. We have found new ways to serve our neighbors and reach those in need.

As we experience this time of uncertainty, we sense something new emerging. In many places there are new strategies and renewed energy for ministry, often generated by emerging leaders. We have developed a framework to build on, and now is the time to engage in hard work together. As you do in your congregation, we

want our collaborative efforts to be both faithfully thoughtful and sustainable. We want to build up the body of Christ today and for the future.

Looking across the church, I am grateful for your generous giving of time, talents and resources. Yes, God does continue to bless us! God will provide both relief from life's struggles and hope for a stronger church, God's church. We do not need to know how the future will unfold. As members in the body of Christ, we need only trust that God is with us and will provide.

Building up the body of Christ together,

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

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. —Ephesians 4:11-16



**Annual Meeting
February 7, 2021
11:00 am**

AGENDA

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Appointment of Tellers and Parliamentarian

Approve 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

Election of Council and Other Committees

Building and Grounds Report

President's Report

Pastor's Report

2020 Financial Results/2021 Proposed Plan

Amendment to Congregational Constitution

Adjournment

President's Church Council Report

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My what a year it was! When I look back on 2020 I will be reminded of all the milestones of the Church that were missed due to the Global Pandemic that was covid-19. Easter, Celebration of Learning, Celebrating Graduating Seniors, Rally Wednesday and Sunday, the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Celebration we share with our neighboring congregations, and while we were back, Advent and Christmas were far different than they have been in the past.

Through the steady leadership of Pastor John and the newly installed Director of Spiritual Growth, Ben Geer we were able to chart a path through this wilderness and find some good in the bad. We developed the nimbleness to continue our Ministries, worship together (whether in person or virtually), and develop new ways to reach out to both the community of Mankato and the world at large.

We continue showing how large our hearts are through our support and care with which we participate in Connections Ministry. Our continued support of this Ministry really is a part of what Grace shows to the outside world. It warms my heart to know how important it is that Mankato citizens without housing have a warm place to stay during the winter months.

We continue Serving with Grace in order that members are connected in service to Grace Lutheran Church. The blessing of this pandemic is that we found and effectuated real changes in how to reach out to each other and these avenues will only strengthen us when we are finally able to gather as one congregation.

Once again, in spite of all we have been through as a congregation, I am excited about our future and proud of who we are as a congregation. Together we can do whatever task is needed. Continue to trust in God and what he wants for us and 2021 will be a most exciting, meaningful, and significant year.

In Christ,
Michael Pegram
President, Grace Lutheran Church Congregational Council.

Congregational Report for the Year ending December 31, 2020

Baptized Members Received during 2020: 12

New Members: 10 Baptisms: 2

Baptized Members Removed during 2020: 13

By death: 10 Transferred Out: 3

Number of baptized youth who were confirmed in 2020: none

Average Annual Attendance during 2020

Sundays: Unknown Wednesdays: No meetings after March

Annual Meeting of Grace Lutheran Mankato MN 27th of January 2020

President Mike Pegram presiding.

Call to order.

Opening Prayer

Parliamentarian: Diane Norland

Tellers: Dick LeClerc and Dick Clarksean

Motion to approve 2019 minutes. Del Vulcan and 2nd Bill Anderson. Motion carried.

Nominees for Council: Mark Hendrickson term expires 2021, Earl Gildemeister term expires 2022, Martin Carlson term expires 2023, Lynette LeDuc term expires 2023.

Motion to accept nominees: Shellee Hintz and 2nd Jean Mellstrom. Motion carried.

Building Team: Molly Yonkers. We are 95% complete on our building project. We will have a meeting on March 15th and 18th and will find out what if any monies are left over and we will talk then about what we would like to do with the lower level.

Pastor's Report: Rev John Odegard.

2020 Ministry Operating Budget: presented by treasurer Sheenah Jewison. Expected Income \$382,828.00 and expected expenses \$383,078.00 Motion to accept 2020 Ministry Operating Budget Sheenah Jewison and 2nd Arv Zenk. Motion carried.

Gifts and Memorial Report by Dick Osborne.

Shellee Hintz would like to recognize Mike Pegram for his continued service on Council.

Motion to Adjourn: Arv Zenk and 2nd Jill Helling. Motion carried.

As usual we closed with **The Lord's Prayer.**

submitted by
Samuel E Anderson
secretary

It has been an honor and privilege to serve on the council these past years.
sea

Pastor's Report February 2021 for 2020

Members and friends of Grace Lutheran Church,

As pastor of Grace, I am proud of how we have come through this past year together. With this being my first full year as pastor here, I would have never expected it to go as it did, but we have done amazing things together in the face of incredible challenges. As a congregation, we found opportunity in the midst of a pandemic that upended our routines and standard operating procedures, and we did not let that opportunity go to waste. For that, I am truly grateful and proud to be a part of this community in Christ.

Our operating expenses ended on a better note than they have in many years. Even while we were unable to meet in person, you continued to support the mission and ministry of this congregation through your offerings. Giving remained strong throughout the hardest months of the pandemic, even as we were learning to worship in completely new ways and the world around us often felt uncertain. This show of confidence by you, our members, was put to good use. We have grown in so many ways in our capacity to serve others.

Our food ministries have expanded as we packaged and gave away 1,400 lbs. of chicken at a time when many people struggled to put quality food on their tables. We gave away sack lunches from our back door. Our chili feed was adapted to a new model and raised more money for Habitat for Humanity than it has in past years. Groups have formed to feed the hungry at the Connections shelter several times per month from our congregation, and we keep looking for new ways to serve and grow. We are not done yet.

Our worship has met the demands of changing times and we have brought our sanctuary into the modern age by improving our technology there. We now livestream services to our homebound members and people from all over, who have joined us as one body of Christ on Sunday mornings. In one year, we have leapt forward in how we are able to bring people the good news of the Gospel wherever they are. Our reach is wider than ever before as we live and work to serve others through God's abundant love.

As I said before, this is just the beginning. We are not done yet. With our building improved in so many ways, we are ready to continue this growth as the world around us begins to open back up. As we are able to welcome more people and outside organizations into our building once more, we are prepared to make a big impact on the lives of people living in our community. Grace will continue to be a positive force, bringing about the kingdom of God right here in downtown Mankato for generations to come. Thank you for believing in all that God is doing here, and for being a part of this ministry we share.

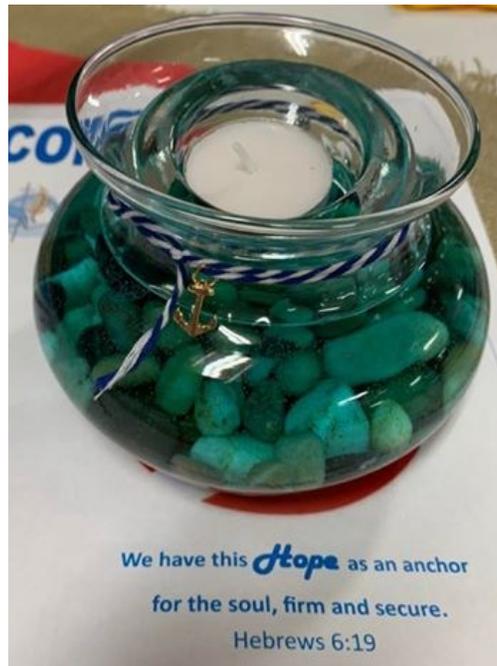
Yours in Christ,



Rev. John Odegard

Embracing the Future

Photos from the Meet—n—Greet Reception
held Sunday, Feb 23, 2020 after worship



Rev. John Odegard

Rev. Kent Narum of Redeemer Lutheran

Ben Geer



2020 Ministry Spending Plan

1		2019 Actual	2020 Plan	2020 Actual	2021 Plan	1
2	Pledges	\$ 234,436.00				2
3	Income - Source of Congregational Support					3
4	Offering	\$ 350,481.00	\$ 357,328.00	\$ 332,212.00	\$ 358,800.00	4
5	Broadcast Ministry Radio Fund	\$ 995.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 430.00	\$ 1,000.00	5
6	Gifts & Memorials to General Fund/Redeemer LC	\$ 5,712.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	6
7	Gratuities for Building /Parking	\$ 1,255.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 820.00	\$ 1,200.00	7
8	Other Revenue/Redeemer LC	\$ 5,636.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 24,473.00	\$ 25,000.00	8
9	Total Revenue	\$ 364,079.00	\$ 382,828.00	\$ 357,935.00	\$ 386,000.00	9
10	Expenses - Core Ministry Teams					10
11	Care (WORSHIP)					11
12	Broadcast Ministry Radio	\$ 1,729.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,938.00	\$ 1,900.00	12
13	Funerals/Parish Activities	\$ 1,810.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 596.00	\$ 900.00	13
14	Worship Support	\$ 4,578.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,999.00	\$ 4,000.00	14
15	Sub total	\$ 8,117.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,533.00	\$ 6,800.00	15
16	Connect (FAITH FORMATION)					16
17	Family Ministry	\$ 3,075.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,519.00	\$ 2,500.00	17
18	Sub Total	\$ 3,075.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,519.00	\$ 2,500.00	18
19	Serve (INREACH) (**BEYOND OUR WALLS)					19
20	Designated Benevolence	\$ 80.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 5,000.00	20
21	Social Ministry	\$ 400.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 292.00	\$ 500.00	21
22	Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	22
23	Synod Benevolence	\$ 8,676.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 11,065.00	\$ 10,000.00	23
24	Sub Total Benevolence	\$ 9,156.00	\$ 8,950.00	\$ 11,497.00	\$ 15,500.00	24
25	Support (SUPPORT)					25
26	Advertising	\$ 180.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -	26
27	Auto/Cell Phone	\$ 2,465.00	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 1,470.00	\$ 3,000.00	27
28	Conventions. Retreat	\$ 4,151.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	28
29	Fees, Dues, & Subscriptions	\$ 4,507.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,364.00	\$ 5,500.00	29
30	General Congregational Supplies	\$ 1,647.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,298.00	\$ 1,400.00	30
31	Office (Supplies/Postage/Copier/Computer)	\$ 13,143.00	\$ 13,500.00	\$ 10,037.00	\$ 12,000.00	31
32	Pastor Discretionary / Other	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00	32
33	Technology	\$ 4,125.00	\$ 4,900.00	\$ 4,875.00	\$ 4,900.00	33
34	Sub Total Admin & Supplies	\$ 30,218.00	\$ 30,150.00	\$ 23,044.00	\$ 27,950.00	34
35	Building and Grounds					35
36	Insurance	\$ 4,252.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,976.00	\$ 6,200.00	36
37	Repairs, Improvements & Supplies	\$ 19,434.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 10,537.00	\$ 12,000.00	37
38	Utilities (Phone, Refuse, Gas, Water, Electric)	\$ 25,961.00	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 26,744.00	\$ 28,000.00	38
38	Sub Total Building & Grounds	\$ 49,647.00	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 43,257.00	\$ 46,200.00	38
40	Personnel/Staff/Contract Staff					40
41	Wages/Benefits/Payments	\$ 280,048.00	\$ 287,978.00	\$ 251,813.00	\$ 287,300.00	41
42	Support Totals	\$ 359,913.00	\$ 365,128.00	\$ 318,114.00	\$ 361,450.00	42
43	Total Expenses	\$ 380,261.00	\$ 383,078.00	\$ 337,663.00	\$ 386,250.00	43
44	Lutefisk Dinner Profit					44
45	Free Will Offering Meals	\$ 289.00	\$ 250.00	\$ (150.00)	\$ 250.00	45
46	Shelter Fund	\$ (138.00)		\$ (431.00)		46
47	Growth in Giving Needed	\$ (16,031.00)	\$ -	\$ 19,691.00	\$ -	47

2020 Ministry Operating Budget
2020 Offering Designated Giving Summary
(Non General Fund Contributions)

Connections Ministry	\$ 305.00	*
Connections Ministry Shelter	\$ 1,970.00	*
ECHO Food Shelf	\$ 2,000.00	*
Global Eye Mission/Dr Steven Anderson	\$ 435.00	*
Grace Shelter	\$ 50.00	*
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 280.00	*
Urban Ventures (food shelf)	\$ 755.00	*
Wycliffe Bible Translators/Edith White	\$ 435.00	*
To Gifts & Memorials:		
Community Garden		
Property Maintenance	\$ 1,322.77	
Memorials	\$ 6,400.00	
Seasonal Flower Garden	\$ 235.00	
Technology Fund	<u>\$ 4,600.00</u>	\$ 12,557.77
To Youth:		
Boundary Waters	\$ 2,750.00	
Saved by Grace Confirmation	\$ 1,010.00	
Youth	<u>\$ 750.00</u>	<u>\$ 4,510.00</u>
Sub Total		\$ 13,263.00
To Synod:		
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 1,650.00	
Synod Offering Envelope	<u>\$ 1,026.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,676.00</u>
Total Designated Offering		\$ 25,973.77 *

* Total does not reflect dollars given from Gifts and Memorials, GLCW or Youth.

Building Renovation Fund Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets

Old National Bank Checking BRF	124,119.93
Old National Bank Savings BRF	5,000.00
G&M Receivable	<u>-60.00</u>
Total Current Assets	129,059.93

Fixed Assets

Building Renovation	
Building	787,747.10
Architectural & Engineering Fees	73,388.00
Contingency	10,181.76
Legal Fees	850.00
Other - Closing Costs	<u>4,548.50</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>876,715.36</u>

TOTAL ASSETS 1,005,775.29

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Long Term Liabilities

Mission Investment Fund	<u>396,280.50</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	396,280.50

Equity

Unrestricted Net Assets	557,125.14
Net Income	<u>52,369.65</u>
Total Equity	<u>609,494.79</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 1,005,775.29

Profit & Loss

May 2017 through December 2020

	Beginning			Ending
	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Income				
Building Renovation Fund	0.00	696,543.74		
Memorials	0.00	145.00		
Total Income				696,688.74
Expenses				
Architectural Fees	0.00		3,683.36	
Asbestos Abatement	0.00		29,383.00	
Building Renovation Expenses	0.00		4,432.95	
Capital Campaign	0.00		32,032.14	
Conferences and Meetings	0.00		162.96	
Interest Expense	0.00		16,109.78	
Office Supplies	0.00		154.87	
Postage and Delivery	0.00		386.04	
Printing and Reproduction	0.00		848.85	
Total Expenses				<u>87,193.95</u>
Net Income (Total Equity)				<u>609,494.79</u>

Gifts & Memorials

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2020

ASSETS

Wells Fargo checking	27,707.20
Mission Investment Fund	100.00
Wells Fargo - Growth G/M - IMA	<u>577,870.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>605,677.20</u>

FUND BALANCES

	Beginning Balance	Interfund Transfer	Additions	Income	Reductions	Ending Balance
Memorial	330,769.99		3,295.00	55,157.16	(13,373.07)	375,849.08
Anna Munson	56,022.93			8,378.00	(10,000.00)	54,400.93
Raymond & Florence Sponberg	24,575.49			4,082.00	(149.00)	28,508.49
J A Johnson	38,112.00			1,113.00	(1,112.00)	38,113.00
Jon Nordgren Youth	4,615.00			138.00		4,753.00
Radio, TV & Promotion	24,111.97		30.00	723.00		24,864.97
Community Garden	2,877.46		475.00	91.00	(218.99)	3,224.47
Jan Severson	6,223.00			187.00		6,410.00
Property	63.79		1,322.77		(572.77)	813.79
Stephen Ministries	601.65			18.00		619.65
William Holz	51,663.08			1,550.00		53,213.08
Altar Guild	4,566.95		235.00	139.00	(204.56)	4,736.39
Building Renovation	102.00		905.00	11.00		1,018.00
Building Renovation - Phase 2	163.00			5.00		168.00
Chapel	257.00			8.00		265.00
Cushions	243.00			7.00		250.00
Discretionary - Pastor	536.82			16.00		552.82
Easels	149.00			4.00		153.00
Food for Friends	362.44			9.00	(66.57)	304.87
Furniture/Technology Fund	1,813.40		6,600.00	70.00	(5,704.36)	2,779.04
Garden Club	250.08			7.00		257.08
GLC General Fund			50.00			50.00
GLCW	350.00			10.00		360.00
Library	912.72			27.00		939.72
Loop System	203.00			6.00		209.00
Minister Minister for D & FF for D & FF	1,239.19			37.00		1,276.19
Music/Choir	533.36		95.00	16.00		644.36
Nursery	851.27			26.00		877.27
Youth Items	64.00			2.00		66.00
	<u>552,233.59</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>13,007.77</u>	<u>71,837.16</u>	<u>(31,401.32)</u>	<u>605,677.20</u>

Gifts & Memorials 2020 Annual Distribution			
Gifts and Memorials	4% Distribution		
Memorial Fund Distributions			
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Back Pack Food Program	400	300	350
CADA			500
Connections Ministry Shelter - First Presbyterian Church	1,200	1200	1500
ECHO Food Shelf	800	0	500
ELCA World Hunger	500	450	500
Global Eye Missions	500	500	700
Habitat for Humanity	300	300	500
Lutheran Campus Ministries	3,000	2000	2500
Lutheran Social Services	2,000	1500	1500
Minnesota River Conference		250	0
My Place			550
Partners for Affordable Housing	1,000	1000	1500
Pathstone Living	100	100	100
People & Christ Together (PACT Ministries)	400	400	500
The Reach	600	600	800
The Salvation Army	100	0	100
SE MN Synod	1,600	1200	0
VINE	500	500	700
Wycliffe Bible Translators - Edith White	700	700	500
Totals	13,700	11,000	13,300

2019 Memorial Fund Balance x 4%

330,770

13,231

Ministry Reports

ALTAR GUILD 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

As most everyone would most likely concur – 2020 was quite a year with its major challenges and many blessings as well! Within the first 6 months of his ordination and call as our pastor - Pastor John Odegard was thrust into a new wave of ministry in ways none of us would have imagined.

I will always remember serving communion with Pastor on Ash Wednesday in Grace's Sanctuary, in late February, only to witness a few weeks later having our doors being closed for several months after due to the COVID-19 Pandemic that effected the entire world and made us all search for new ways to live life and continue to share the gospel.

Our long-awaited building updates at Grace, although not used by many in 2020, became a comfortable location for our staff once they were able to return to work at church again.

The on-site festivals of the church like Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent & Christmas were missed by many, but we reached out to our members and so many others through the virtual services which became the norm. Pastor John, Ben Geer and members of the Worship & Music Team were assisted by me and a small, dedicated group of Grace members throughout the year to create a visually inviting altar area for your viewing pleasure when services were pre-taped and eventually live streamed. Many thanks to the following members for the hands on help you gave this past year: Diane Gerlach, Sandy Gustafson, Shellee & Roger Hintz, Jackie Krenik, Terry & Paul Kvitek, Diane Norland, Dianne Osborne, Pat Priem and members of the Property Team. With church being open for a short while in October and November, we were able to hold a very meaningful All Saints Sunday worship service in the Sanctuary the first Sunday in November. Special thanks to Ben Geer for initiating the unique luminary bags of loved ones which so many members contributed hand-designed remembrance bags. We honored 16 loved ones as Jason Glaser coordinated the power point presentation, a bell was rung for them, Pastor John read from The Book of Remembrance and I lit a candle for each one during the service.

The normal duties of serving communion by Grace's Altar Guild were handled by our dedicated pastor as he blessed and served communion with disposable cups of grape juice and communion wafers which were used



to avoid direct contact with the elements of communion. Pastor and Ben also changed out the 7-day candle on a regular basis for us. Joan Hertel was extremely helpful ordering the communion and candle supplies we needed. As Altar Guild Coordinator, I personally paid attention to the church calendar and came in to refill the liquid candles, change the paraments in the sanctuary and chapel and add special visual embellishments ahead of the taping sessions Pastor John and Ben scheduled. I appreciated Ben's help with the task of helping me design and hang the Holy Spirit and flame design on the sanctuary brick wall. With the church building being closed to on-site use for most of the year, no Easter or Christmas gardens were solicited for or set up. We hope to resume that tradition Easter 2021.

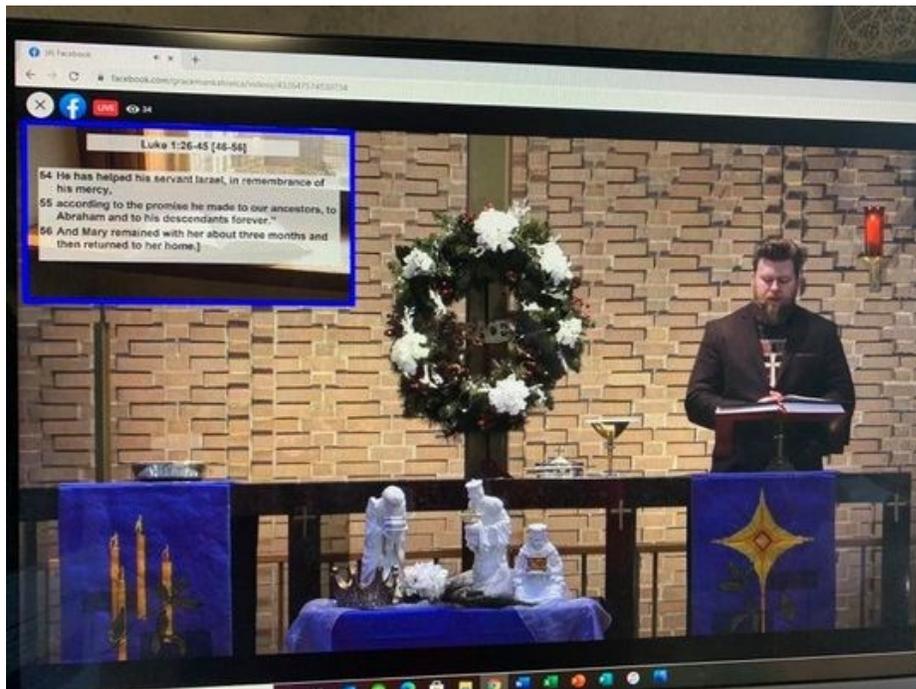
Pastor John officiated at several funerals this past year, many at area funeral homes and some more recently on-site at Grace. The weddings we had originally booked for 2020 all cancelled or were postponed. Pastor did officiate one wedding for Redeemer Lutheran. The outdoor late summer and fall services hosted by various Grace members and led by our pastor brought long awaited in-person worship to those members wanting to gather with others.

With our senior community being in lockdown, no visits were allowed by Pastor John or Grace's Eucharistic Ministers, so many tried to reach out with phone visits to our members in skilled care facilities and those who are predominately homebound.

Since our pews sat empty throughout Advent and Christmas, it was decided to put our new Narthex Christmas tree in the Main St. entrance area along with the lighted nativity to be enjoyed by all who drove by our church in the evenings.

I wish to thank Pastor John, the Grace staff, leadership teams, and all members of Grace Lutheran Church for being willing to lend a hand and give of their time and talents. To see so many people go outside their comfort zones this past year to help keep Grace's ministry vibrant is a true blessing to our community as we continue to give thanks to God!

Together in Christ,
Terry Kvitek
Altar Guild Coordinator



CARE MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

Care Ministry came into being 17 years ago with many members still serving in this ministry. We welcome all people who come through our doors, but especially focus on first time attenders, who are given cookies provided by the Grace Lutheran Church Women.

This Ministry enhances the friendliness and caring of our church. It feels good to know you are sharing the love of Jesus through this ministry. We welcome anyone that wants to help with the care ministry join a team that serves once a month.

Please contact Pam Vulcan (507-232-3031 or 507-766-4737) for more information and if you would like to try Care Ministry.

-Pam Vulcan

GROWING WITH GRACE COMMUNITY GARDEN



At Growing with Grace, we had a few more open plots this year. As usual, there was a mix of returning gardeners and new faces. Most people have their own individual or family plot, but we also have 2-3 plots for anyone to use. COVID didn't really affect garden activities as people can naturally "social distance" in the garden. Connections were made with wonderful community members at the garden, produce was shared and donated, and the current neighbors have been great partners with us in the gardening efforts. The garden was also featured in a local publication's graphic article about community gardens.

-Ryan Yunkers

DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH REPORT

What a first full year of ministry here at Grace. Not what I expected or could have ever imagined, but when I look back on the year I am thrilled with what was achieved despite the obstacles present.

First I would like to thank everyone for the kindness that has been shown to myself and my family here at Grace. To be welcomed in the way we were was a great blessing. We have truly felt at home here with our Grace family.

Starting this year, I was just trying to tread lightly seeing how I was going to fit into the great programming already in place. Then Bam! Pandemic. What happened after that was nothing short of amazing. Through all of your support and willingness to roll with things, some amazing things happened this year. Below are a few highlights of what has happened through Grace with the support of our members and friends.

Pre Pandemic

- About fifteen PreK-6th Graders enjoyed coming to Wednesday Faith Night with the help of some great adult leaders teaching them. Thanks Avis, Steve, Connie, and Sam.
- Nine kids participated in confirmation Wednesday nights.
- We had up to nine kids join Ben for High School Youth Group time.
- Adult Ed continued to meet Wednesday evenings. Thank you Molly for your leadership with this.
- We started Sunday morning Sunday School where we saw 3-4 kids attending each week.
- I was able to start providing Music with Mr. Ben time at Golden Heart Preschool in North Mankato as an outreach to the community.

- Ten of us traveled to Fairmont for a Kids Against Hunger event and helped pack meals for families all over the world.
- Thirteen of us got together for a Rend Collective Concert in Eden Prairie.

Despite the Pandemic

- Confirmation continued to meet over Zoom where we were able to still see all kids attend and participate. (Thank you parents.)
- Sunday School over Zoom was offered to families to attend.
- A new Thursday night bible study was started and is still going strong. As many as 20-25 different people have attended over the last 10 months.
- We served drive through lunches to anybody that wanted to drive through the alley and pick one up in March during lockdown as people struggled with food insecurities even more during the start of the pandemic.



- Music with Mr. Ben moved virtual as it started being live on Facebook for the kids at Golden Heart but then many more were able to join in the fun.
- A drive by parade was done for the 2020 graduates where they received quilts from Grace.

- Care packages were delivered to 2020 graduates.
- As a church, with the help of Wooden Spoon, we packaged over 1400 pounds of chicken that was donated to North Point Food Bank in Minneapolis MN.
- Virtual VBS was created for families to do together and is always available online for families to do together whenever they want.
- About \$800 dollars and a lot of food was collected and given to Urban Ventures in Minneapolis to aide families after civil unrest in the area.
- Twelve Youth and six adults spent a week enjoying northern Minnesota as we spent four rain-free days in the Boundary Waters.
- We raised almost \$150 dollars in quarters to help Connections Shelter with laundromat costs.
- Started serving two meals a month to the guests at Connections Shelter.
- Confirmation students helped with a deep clean of MY Place (formally the Boys and Girls Club) and continued to meet for confirmation hosted by families around the campfire and over Zoom.
- Advent kits were delivered to families to do together.
- And many other things....



2020 was filled with challenges that we could never have expected, but through the continued support of all, this was made possible by you. I look at the calendar over the last year and many things were scratched off, but so many new opportunities happened that would not have if it were not for the pandemic. When you look for the good through the cracks, it just may shine brighter than it could have.

Thank you all for your love and support,
Ben Geer



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (GLCW)



Another year has passed with many activities in church. We are happy to work on church events so that all of us can feel the connectedness of the Grace Church family. We expect this will continue into 2021. To those who helped out in 2020, thank you! We hope to continue our ministry of serving at Grace and anybody at Grace can participate.

There are many events at Pathstone and at Grace that we work. We are very thankful for all the help that was given in both places by many people from Grace. At Grace, we normally work on the Potato Bake before the Annual Meeting, prepare the Ash Wednesday Lenten Supper, bring the pillow cleaning company to Grace, host the graduation day reception (cancelled due to Covid), work the church picnic at Sibley Park (Covid-cancelled) , and work at putting together the St. Lucia Breakfast (Covid-cancelled). At Pathstone, residents enjoy several different parties that GLCW is involved in, i.e. the Valentine Party and Birthday Party. This year we were able to donate \$250 to the Connections Ministry, \$250 to Pathstone, and \$200 to the Crossroads Campus Ministry.

2020 Board Leaders: Sally Ann Smith- Chairperson
Dianne Osborne, Co-Chairperson

Mavis Gessner-Treasurer
Audrey von Holt-Recorder

GLCW Report Submitted by: Sally Ann Smith, Audrey von Holt, Mavis Gessner

GLCW Treasurer's Report – 2020

GLCW - 2020		
Balance on Jan 1, 2020		\$ 3,306.20
Total Income	+	\$ 3,303.18
Total Expenses	-	\$ 3,417.35
Balance on Dec 31, 2020	=	\$ 3,192.03

Submitted by: Mavis Gessner-GLCW Treasurer

FAIR TRADE

Grace Lutheran Church continues our 2009 pledge to be a Fair Trade Church and serve only Fair Trade coffee and tea for our Sunday Morning Fellowship Hour and Wednesday Night Faith Night and at all events and meetings held at the church. The coffee, tea and sugar packets are provided by the GLCW. The coffee is available and the brewing instructions are posted in the kitchen next to the Bunn coffee machine and the large coffee pots. The Fair Trade cart stocked with coffee, tea, olive oil, hot cocoa mix, baking cocoa, chocolate chips and chocolate bars for your purchase is now located near the main entrance across from the elevator! We support Fair Trade to be good neighbors and good stewards of our world.



- Audrey von Holt

FINANCE TEAM

The purpose of the finance team is to communicate the financial operations of the church and to support the parish administrator with the record keeping of the church. In a non-Covid year this team meets monthly.

2020 Finance Team Members:

Avis Woehrle – Treasurer

Dick Clarksean

Rich Krause – Parish Administrator

Ryan Wempen

Pastor John Odegard

Sandy Gustafson

FINANCE TEAM: AUDIT TEAM

The 2020 Financial audit was completed on Thursday, January 28, 2020, by the audit team members Dick Clarksean and Karen Wagner.

GENESIS SMALL GROUP

Genesis Small Group normally meets seven times a year, usually the evening of the third Sunday that month. The host for the month sometimes serves a light meal but recently the trend has been to serve a dessert at 6:30 or 7 p. m. followed by a program / presentation arranged by that month's host.

Often the hosts arrange for speakers who touch on social and/or political issues in South Central Minnesota and the world beyond, followed by discussion. But it's not all serious, all the time; sometimes there are board games nights or travelogues. Our primary enjoyment is good discussion. In 2020, we were only able to meet twice. One meeting Ben Geer, Grace's Director of Spiritual Growth, shared his personal story prior to being called to serve at Grace. He also shared his hopes and plans in ministry. The other program was given by Lynette Engeswick, who works at MSU in Dental Hygiene.

We're always looking for new members. Are you interested? If yes, please call 625 -3961 and leave a message or email me at mrsponberg@aol.com

- Michael Sponberg, Secretary

KNIT & CHAIN

Most people who have a hobby like knitting and crocheting will tell you that it is relaxing. Our group, who make prayer shawls, will also tell you it is a labor of love.

Knit and Chains meets the first Monday of each month. Stop in and knit or chain with us!

Current Members:

Mavis Gessner, Diane Osborne, Diane Gerlach, Dot Eckers, Marilyn Clarksean, Linda Johnson, and Edna Lundberg . - Submitted by Edna Lundberg



GRACE QUILTERS

QUILTS have been on display all year and several were sold, giving us enough money to buy another roll of batting. Thank you to everyone who bought a quilt. While we donate quilts to many different places in our community, this year we donated several to our 2020 High School Graduates. We have not met for most of this year due to the Covid pandemic but expect to get back to our weekly Thursday morning meetings once it is safe to meet again.

Our members are:

Marylyn Clarksean
Shellee Hintz
Donna Johnson

Donna Krahmer
Betty Krone

Edna Lundberg
Donna Mann



- Submitted by Edna Lundberg

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Personnel Team works through the grace of God to support the staff here at Grace Lutheran Church. We want to make sure that God's mission and ministry through Grace is continually sustained in a way that makes best use of our resources.

The Personnel Team will continue working on a revision of the Personnel Manual and an adjustment of the Parish Administrator's position. We will also assist the church council as it moves forward with leadership changes.

Thank you and I look forward to an exciting 2021.

In Christ,
Mike Pegram
Personnel Team

PROPERTY TEAM

Members serving on the property team for the past year were: Del Vulcan, Tom Holmgren, Mark Holmgren, Roger Hintz, Paul Kvittek, Sam Anderson, Tom Rieke, and Bill Block.

The church has some major maintenance projects that need to be completed this year. My estimated cost of these repairs is \$ 84,000. They are in order of priority:

1. Replacing the asphalt in the back alley parking lot. Estimated cost of \$ 16,000.
2. Crack fill the cracks in the parking lot along Mulberry and 4th streets. Estimated cost of \$ 2,600.
3. Chip Seal Coating the parking lot along Mulberry and 4th streets. Estimated cost of \$ 15,000.
4. Re-stripe the parking lot. Estimated cost of \$ 1,400.
5. Installing storm windows on the sanctuary colored windows. Estimated cost of \$ 49,000.

The purpose of the property team is to oversee the maintenance, care, and improvements of the permanent church property and real estate. The team works closely with the Parish Administrator, Church staff, the Pastor, and the custodian. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the team did not meet formally but did perform maintenance around the church as needed. For the many donated hours of work from the team and other church members, I say Thank You.

For me and our team, it is very satisfying and rewarding to use our God given skills to work on the church property to keep it looking good and functioning well. I am on this committee to keep the church looking good and to keep the maintenance cost in check and as reasonable as possible.

Our team filled in this year to do the essential maintenance tasks such as changing light bulbs, and bleeding heat registers. Other items that our team has provided this year was placing mulch along the sidewalks, and pruning the shrubbery along the streets. This year our custodian will clear snow off the sidewalks (with help from the property team) and will mow the lawn in the summer.

Our team looks forward to serving the church in 2021.

Respectfully,
Del Vulcan, Team leader

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Social Ministry is a small group from within Grace Lutheran Church who do special events during the year. \$100 was donated to the ECHO food shelf.

At Christmas time we distribute bows for Pathstone for our members to pick a bow and pick out the gift suggested for the resident listed—last year we offered 60 bows, this year we donated money toward the purchase of gift cards to comply with the regulations for dealing with the Covid pandemic.

Another event we host is the October Chili lunch. All the proceeds brought in go directly to Habitat for Humanity. This year we held a Drive-through Chili Lunch Event which collected \$930 to donate.

- Co-chairs Sally Ann Smith & Pam Sandland

SUNDAY NOON MEAL AT SALVATION ARMY

Grace members continue to help at the Salvation Army dining site by preparing and serving meals for those in need on two Sundays in 2020. Serving these meals is both fun and rewarding. People are very appreciative with thanks and smiles. There are three teams who serve and must follow rules of the State Dept. of Health meaning all foods must be either prepared at the site or purchased. Please consider joining a group!

Team Co-Leaders are: Jana Kurth and Marlene Roede; Pam Sandland and Terry Kvitck; Shellee Hintz and Pam Vulcan.

-Terry Kvitck, 2020 Liaison From Grace Lutheran Church

WORSHIP & MUSIC



The Worship and Music Team helps to plan and facilitate meaningful worship services that follow the liturgical year and complement our life of faith together.



You can now bring communion home with you.

Pre-consecrated elements are available at the church.

You can stop in to pick it up and bring home to have during service on Sunday morning.

If you can't make it in let us know and we can bring it to you and drop off during the week.

If you'd like, you can make your own communion bread at home. Check out the link below for a great recipe.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2017/09/reader-recipe-communion-bread/>



Driveway Worship Service



All Saints Sunday



Car Parade for 2020 Graduates



Youth BWCA Trip



Donation to NorthPoint Health & Wellness Food Shelf



Decoration for Christmas



COVID – 19

Christ Over Viruses & Infectious Diseases
 Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



Sunday after Veteran's Day

A bronze plaque found in storage last winter by Paul & Terry Kvitek was placed on display in the narthex on Sunday, November 15.

It says:

Roll of Honor

DEDICATED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SWEDISH EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MANKATO WHO OFFERED THEIR LIVES

NOTES:

Litany

- L. O God of all power and love ...
- C. ... we give thanks for your unfailing presence.
- L. O God of all power and love, we give thanks ...
- C. ... for the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
- L. O God of all power and love ...
- C. ... we ask you to send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
- L. O God of all power and love, we ask you ...
- C. ... to revive us to live as Christ's body in the world.
- L. O God of all power and love, we ask to be ...
- C. ... a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
- L. O God of all power and love, we ask you to be with us ...
- C. ... wherever and however we gather. Unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Build Us Up, Lord

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in
2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our

us a strong foun - da - tion. Lead us to do your
lives re - flect your glo - ry. Cast a - way all our

ho - ly will; form and shape your new cre - a - tion.
doubts and fears; help us tell the world your sto - ry.

Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us

guide and teach each oth - er, help us to share your love with the
bear good fruit for you, Lord, give us vi - sion and keep us

world: ev - 'ry sis - ter, ev - 'ry broth - er.
sure. Grant us faith that's stead - fast and true.

Refrain
Grow - ing in Christ, we plant seeds for the king - dom; we fol - low in
faith what's be - gun! Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your
word to spread the news of your Son!

Text: Mark Glaeser, b. 1956, and Donna Hanna, b. 1952
Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

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In the early verses of Ephesians 4, the apostle Paul writes to the Christians in Ephesus, a city on the Aegean Sea at the mouth of a river and at the intersection of three trading routes. The letter was written about ten years after the church had started. During the early years of this congregation, Jews and Gentiles from several ethnicities and nationalities had come together to form “one body.” Paul was aware that they had done well and commended them for their faith and love.

The word “one” appears more than seven times in the first four verses. This reflects the importance Paul gave to being called into the “unity of Christ.” He wanted to note that, although many of the church members came from far off, there is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” This oneness reflects God’s gift of reconciliation in Christ.

A second emphasis from Paul was that, as believers, they were to “bear with one another in love.” This would require humility, gentleness and patience as each of them practiced their faith. It would require tolerance to “maintain unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

A third emphasis was that each person had been given gifts by God and that these gifts were given to increase the whole. Because the Ephesian church was a young congregation and its members were just beginning in their faith journey, their understandings were often tossed to and fro. But as they grew in faith, each person contributed to building up the body of Christ.

The fourth and final emphasis was that by “speaking the truth in love,” each person must grow into Christ. This means taking time to learn about one another and their gifts. Knowing these gifts, we can do God’s work both within and beyond the faith community. When there are decisions to make or relationships to reconcile, we know to begin with prayer and reflection, always desiring to speak the truth in love — not for our own benefit but for God’s glory, that we might become more complete.

As our members and friends gather today, whether face-to-face or online, we are reminded of our calling into “unity in Christ.” We come from many places and work in many contexts, and yet we recognize “one Lord, one faith, one baptism.”

Whether new to a worshiping community or further along the journey, we realize that humility, gentleness and patience are required both in the good times and especially in times of uncertainty and struggle. God wants us to be more complete through our work. Christ provides the way. The Holy Spirit is with us for guidance and courage. Each of us has been given the gifts to be complete, and through our faithfulness we will grow stronger and work together as one body.

LET US PRAY: LORD, LET THE WORDS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL DWELL IN US DEEPLY. MAY WE EMBRACE THE RECONCILING POWER OF ONENESS WITH CHRIST. MAY THIS ONENESS GUIDE OUR CONGREGATION AS WE LIVE INTO THE NEW REALITIES OF THESE TIMES. AS WE MEET NEW PARTNERS IN MINISTRY, MAY WE TAKE TIME TO GET TO KNOW THEM WITH PATIENCE, HUMILITY AND LOVE. HELP US TO SEE HOW SHARING OUR GIFTS WILL MAKE YOUR WORK EASIER AND MORE FULFILLING WHILE BRINGING ALL OF US CLOSER TO CHRIST. MAY THE BLESSINGS YOU GIVE EACH DAY STRENGTHEN US TO A LIVING, DARING CONFIDENCE IN YOUR GRACE. AMEN.