

Grace Lutheran Church Annual Report
Annual Meeting
January 19, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

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2020 Annual Meeting Agenda

January 19, 2020

Call to Order– Steve Geis, *Council President*

Opening Devotions– Pastor Jennifer Jelinek (inside back cover)

Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting– Shawn Koebke, *Secretary*

Certificates of Appreciation– Steve Geis

Reports– Committee reports (*See Annual Report for written report*)

-Audit Report for 2019 (*See Annual Report, p. 13*)

Financial Reports for 2019– Tim Neuenschwander, *Treasurer*

Nominating Committee:

Election of Church Council for 2020

Election of Committee Representatives for 2020

Proposed Budget for 2020–Tim Neuenschwander, *Treasurer*

Unfinished Business:

“Renewing Grace” Capital Campaign- Tim Neuenschwander, *Committee Chair*

New Business:

Meeting Adjournment– Steve Geis

Closing Prayer– Pastor Jennifer Jelinek

January 20, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by President Pat Hall at 9:58 a.m.

Opening Devotions: Pastor Jennifer Jelinek

Motion by Cindy Hartman, seconded by Michael Rehak to approve annual meeting minutes of January 28, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Certificates of Appreciation: Mary Behling for Evangelism, Tony Buonincontro for Treasury, and Pat Hall for President.

Reports: Committee reports found in Annual report, pages 5 – 21. Audit Report for 2018 on page 12 of Annual report. Financials for 2018: Motion by Lori Jensen, seconded by Ward Nottstedt to approve financials for 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Nominating Committee: Church Council: Motion by Mary Behling, seconded by Greg Engelsted to approve Church council for 2019. Motion carried unanimously. Committee

Representatives: Motion by Bryan Holmen, seconded by Pat Northey to approve Committee representatives for 2019. Motion carried unanimously. Proposed Budget 2019: Motion by Shawn Koebke, seconded by Cheryl Kilburg to approve budget for 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Sanctuary Update: Michael Rehak with a special thank you to Jill Jensen for her time and talents.

Unfinished Business: “*Renewing Grace*” Capital Campaign – Tim Neuenschwander Committee Chair – Special thank you to committee members; Pat Hall, Amy Simdon, Bob Koepp, and Keith Johnston.

New Business: Mission Statement – Steve Geis – President 2019. Proposed new Mission Statement, “*Gathering in grace, growing in faith, serving in love*” Motion by Charlene Luchterhand, seconded by Jean Scott to approve new mission statement. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bryan Holmen, seconded by Shawn Koebke to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Adjournment time 10:28 a.m.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Jennifer Jelinek.

Report submitted by Shawn Koebke, Council Secretary.

2020 Grace Lutheran Council and Committees

Proposed Church Council

(The people listed below have been nominated and have agreed to serve)

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term (1st or 2nd)</u>	<u>expires January of:</u>
Officers:			
President	Steve Geis	2 nd	2022
Treasurer/Finance	Tim Neuenschwander	1 st	2021
VP	Kris Tobias	1 st	2021
Secretary	Mary Behling	2 nd	2022
Council Committees:			
Hospitality	Lori Jensen	2 nd	2021
Stewardship	Amy Simdon	2 nd	2021
Worship		2 nd	2021
Evangelism	Erik Olsen	1 st	2021
Outreach	Jean Scott	2 nd	2022
Education	Amanda Kosanda	2 nd	2022
Property	Tom Kosanda	1 st	2022

Congregational Committees:

Endowment (5 members, terms are 2 years in length):

Todd Tatlock	2022
Phil Vasby	2022
Tom Jensen	2021
Amy Simdon	2021
Bob Pratt	2022

Nominating 5 members (2 outgoing Council Members; term is 1 year in length):

Bryan Holmen
Janet Koepf
Shawn Koebke

Skaalen Home Representative (at least one member, term is 1 year in length):

Judy Taitt

Lutherdale Representative (one member, term is 1 year in length):

Jennifer Hellberg

Synod Assembly Delegates (1 male and 1 female, term is 1 year in length):

Bob & Janet Koepf

Madison Area Jail Ministry (one member, term is 1 year in length):

Bob Koepf

2019 Pastor's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In 2019, after a year of renovations, we rededicated the Sanctuary on February 24. Neil Johnson was able to upcycle some of our old pews and craft them into a beautiful new communion rail. This communion rail was built with the option to remove it when we need a little more space, like for the Christmas Program. A big thanks to all who were a part of the Sanctuary renovation project.

Over the summer, seventeen Grace members (5 youth and 12 adults) traveled to Puerto Rico for an intergenerational mission trip. Together with 58 people from Central Lutheran Church in Edgerton, we saw and experienced how hurricanes have devastated many buildings, but have not extinguished the hope of the wonderful people of Puerto Rico. We helped rebuild and/or seal a dozen roofs, and we helped with the effort to grow and replant native tree species that were wiped out. It was a wonderful learning opportunity for all of us, and we were thankful to be able to serve and build relationships with those we met there.

We had another successful Lenten drama series – Tales of Trees, and another successful Lenten Challenge – helping to support the hurricane-devastated island of Dominica. Bible studies were offered several times throughout 2019, including a Confirmation Refresher Class, a class on Psalms, a class connecting food and faith called “Taste and See”, as well as a book study.

Two VBS events were offered this summer, one focusing on serving our community, and the other focusing on God's creation, including a trip to the zoo. Eight of our youth were confirmed this October and are eagerly finding new ways to serve as adult members of Grace. We lost several beloved members of Grace this year, but we give thanks for their lives and their faith, trusting them into God's loving hands.

Ecumenically, we offered “Ashes on the Go” on Ash Wednesday. We again offered a Blessing of the Animals “Crittergy” and brought back the Cambridge Community Thanksgiving Service, which Grace hosted. 2019 has been such an eventful year.

After the resignation of our bishop in 2019, in 2020, our synod will elect a new bishop, through a much more open, informative process so all voters can get to know the candidates. And here at Grace, I can't wait to see how God will guide our 2020 Vision so we can not only see clearly but live into our callings as children of God in this place and time.

In Christ,

Pastor Jennifer Jelinek

Membership Report 2019

1)	Membership at end of 2018	673
2)	Members received during 2019	
	a. By Baptism (15 yrs. and younger)	4
	b. By Baptism (16 yrs. and older)	1
	c. By affirmation of faith	0
	d. By transfer from ELCA congregations	0
	e. From other Lutheran congregations	0
	f. From non-Lutheran congregations	0
	g. Statistical adjustments	
	h. Total members received this year	5
3)	Members removed during 2019	
	a. By death	4
	b. By transfer	0
	c. Statistical adjustments	
	d. Total members removed this year	4
4)	Total members end of 2019	674
5)	Number of members confirmed in 2018	8

Pastoral Acts 2019

Baptisms (5): Hope Martin, Lucille Schill, Mackenzie Nelson, Miles Johnson & Justin Gritzmaker.

Funerals (5): Linda Korth, Neal Bakken, Mary Rue, Borghild Langhough, Eugene Behling.

Confirmations (8) Jordyn Bieberitz, Justin Gritzmaker, Emma Hellberg, Sierra Jelinek, Hannah Larson, Amanda Punsel, Gunnar Sperle, Kendra Tobias.

Marriages (1): Steven Borchardt & Rebecka Wake.

New Members (0)

Average Worship Attendance	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Midweek Worship	9.5	9	10
Sunday Morning Worship	114	111	111
<i>Lenten Midweek Worship</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>69</i>
Easter Worship	263	270	244
Christmas Eve (earlier)	258 <i>(5 p.m.)</i>	338 <i>(5 p.m.)</i>	280 <i>(5 p.m.)</i>
Christmas Eve (later)	49 <i>(10 p.m.)</i> 85 <i>(9 a.m.)</i>	32 <i>(10 p.m.)</i>	52 <i>(9 p.m.)</i>

2019 Council President's Report

Every now and then, we have to kick back, breathe a sigh of relief, and pat ourselves on the back. 2019 was like that! With the communion rail installed as the finishing touch, our church has been truly transformed after a 2018 filled with dust and debris. Just as amazing, we are on schedule to pay off our construction loan in 3 years!

Many thanks to all the volunteers who pulled together to make this project a reality: Jill Jensen and Michael Rehak for their creativity and leadership, Tim Neuenschwander for stepping in to chair the fundraising campaign, Neil Johnson for transforming the old pews into a beautiful communion rail, Steve Robb for the stonework, and many others who pitched in to help with manual labor as needed.

And thanks to all the volunteers who step up every day to keep this thing we call Grace Lutheran thriving, while fulfilling our heavenly mission. Speaking of mission, this year we revised our mission statement to "Gathering in Grace, Growing in Faith, Serving in Love."

If you haven't already, I hope that you, too, find a way to volunteer, to make a stronger connection with your church family. And speaking of connections, I want to make a plug for *Diners' Delight*. What a great way to get to know others over a small group meal. It's been a wonderful experience for my wife and me. At last count we had 22 individuals or families participating. I hope you will take a chance and join us!

God's Peace!

Steve Geis, *Grace Lutheran Council President*

2019 Financial Report & 2020 Proposed Budget

	Jan - Dec 19	Budget	% of Budget	Budget 2020
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
General Fund	302,249.39			306,967.00
Interest	212.19			200.00
Special Giving	85,363.10			14,250.00
Total Income	<u>387,824.68</u>			<u>321,417.00</u>
Gross Profit	387,824.68			321,417.00
Expense				
Administrative Expenditures				
Administrative Assistant	47,741.00	47,741.00	100.0%	48,228.00
Coordinator Christian Education	4,017.00	4,017.00	100.0%	4,141.00
Coordinator High School Youth	2,060.00	2,060.00	100.0%	2,121.00
Coordinator Middle School Youth	3,961.52	4,120.00	96.15%	-
Director, Bell Choir	1,365.00	1,365.00	100.0%	1,414.00
Director, Music	6,250.99	6,251.00	100.0%	6,313.00
FICA	6,756.74	7,096.00	95.22%	6,565.00
Financial Secretary	8,302.50	7,680.00	108.11%	6,500.00
Insurance	5,000.50	5,500.00	90.92%	5,000.00
Interest on Debt Retirement	5,631.87	15,000.00	37.55%	14,250.00
Miscellaneous	1,648.63	1,800.00	91.59%	1,648.00
Office Equipment	5,856.78	6,500.00	90.1%	6,000.00
Office Supplies & Postage	1,845.05	2,150.00	85.82%	2,232.00
Organists/Accompanists	14,693.30	14,530.00	101.12%	14,966.00
Potential Personnel Expenses	2,361.88	5,000.00	47.24%	
Property Maintenance				
Custodial	7,962.32	8,720.00	91.31%	7,200.00
Maintenance	6,114.51	9,225.00	66.28%	3,500.00
Total Property Maintenance	<u>14,076.83</u>	<u>17,945.00</u>	<u>78.44%</u>	<u>10,700.00</u>
Synod Assemblies	740.00	1,100.00	67.27%	900.00
Utilities, Phone & TV				
Heat & electric	6,086.64			6,500.00
Phone/cell/internet/TV Video	3,048.06			3,000.00
Water related	2,217.14			2,100.00
Utilities, Phone & TV - Other	-	13,000.00	0.0%	
Total Utilities, Phone & TV	<u>11,351.84</u>	<u>13,000.00</u>	<u>87.32%</u>	<u>11,600.00</u>
Total Administrative Expenditures	<u>143,661.43</u>	<u>162,855.00</u>	<u>88.21%</u>	<u>142,578.00</u>
Mission Expenditures				
Flow Through Account				
Miscellaneous	46,903.94			
Women	4,048.31			
Total Flow Through Account	<u>50,952.25</u>			
Lutheran Social Services	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.0%	1,000.00
Ministry, Campus	750.00	750.00	100.0%	750.00
Ministry, Jail	750.00	750.00	100.0%	750.00
Other Missions				
Missionary sponsorship	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.0%	1,000.00
Other Missions	-	5,000.00	0.0%	
Total Other Missions	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>16.67%</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Seminary	500.00	500.00	100.0%	5,000.00
Synod & ELCA	28,950.00	28,950.00	100.0%	28,950.00
Total Mission Expenditures	<u>83,902.25</u>	<u>37,950.00</u>	<u>221.09%</u>	<u>37,450.00</u>
Pastoral Expenditures				
Continuing Education	1,510.00	1,500.00	100.67%	1,500.00
Pastor ELCA Benefits	27,630.40	27,500.00	100.47%	27,500.00
Pastor Salary & Housing	89,431.00	89,161.00	100.3%	94,000.00
Pastoral Expenses	1,046.90	2,500.00	41.88%	2,000.00
Sabbatical Fund	-	250.00	0.0%	250.00
Visiting Pastors	600.00	910.00	65.93%	1,020.00
Total Pastoral Expenditures	<u>120,218.30</u>	<u>121,821.00</u>	<u>98.68%</u>	<u>126,270.00</u>

	<u>Jan - Dec 19</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>	<u>Budget 2020</u>
Program Expenditures				
Education - Adults	150.78	500.00	30.16%	170.00
Evangelism	1,121.54	1,000.00	112.15%	1,000.00
Family Activities	-	1,000.00	0.0%	
Health Ministry	550.00	750.00	73.33%	167.00
High School Breakfast	734.48	1,000.00	73.45%	750.00
High School/Middle School	2,895.87	4,000.00	72.4%	2,600.00
Hospitality	858.68	1,000.00	85.87%	750.00
Mission Trip	1,000.00	1,000.00	100.0%	1,500.00
Music, Bell	499.11	500.00	99.82%	500.00
Music, Vocal	133.84	2,000.00	6.69%	100.00
Outreach, Social Justice	419.03	500.00	83.81%	500.00
Stewardship	520.87	500.00	104.17%	500.00
Sunday School/Confirmation	2,880.09	4,000.00	72.0%	4,000.00
Worship	1,131.10	5,200.00	21.75%	1,430.00
Total Program Expenditures	<u>12,895.39</u>	<u>22,950.00</u>	<u>56.19%</u>	<u>13,967.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>360,677.37</u>	<u>345,576.00</u>	<u>104.37%</u>	<u>320,265.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>27,147.31</u>	<u>(345,576.00)</u>	<u>-7.86%</u>	<u>1,152.00</u>
Net Income	<u>27,147.31</u>	<u>(345,576.00)</u>	<u>-7.86%</u>	<u>1,152.00</u>

Balance Sheet

Current Assets	Dec 31, 19
ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust	40,607.08
ELCA MIF Demand Construction	19.37
ELCA Mission Investment Fund	48,220.39
Petty Cash	50.00
UCB CD Grace Scholarship Fund	3,180.89
UCB Ckg, Grace Lutheran	
Adult Education	326.94
Altar Guild of Grace	607.08
Baby Care Kits	71.42
Building Fund	11,990.10
Cambridge Cafe	263.70
Choir, Vocal	2,337.07
Damage Deposit	50.00
Flowers	-5.20
Food Pantry	100.00
God's Work Our Hands	919.64
Health Ministry	420.00
High School Breakfast	595.04
High School Program	1,135.67
Hospitality	14.47
Intern Pastor	623.00
Memorial	5,487.38
Memorial Art Glass	630.00
Memorial Font	500.00
Mission, special givings	2,638.27
Outreach	1,124.06
Renewing Grace Capital Campaign	23,408.51
School kits of Grace	50.11
Sunday School/Confirmation	96.00
TV Ministry	673.99
Women of the Church	2,001.14
Women Ruth Circle	504.00
Worship	36.13
Youth and Family Fund	5,962.62
Youth Camp Scholarships	5.12
UCB Ckg, Grace Lutheran - Other	-24,629.47
Total UCB Ckg, Grace Lutheran	37,936.79
UCB Money Market Renewing Grace	13,151.99
Total Checking/Savings	143,166.51
Total Current Assets	143,166.51
Fixed Assets	
Church Building & Land	2,013,000.00
Furniture and Equipment	302,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	2,315,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	2,458,166.51
Current Liabilities	
Total Accounts Payable	369.52
Other Current Liabilities	
MIF Loan	121,937.89
Payroll tax payable	59.31
Total Other Current Liabilities	121,997.20
Total Current Liabilities	122,366.72
Total Liabilities	122,366.72
Opening Bal Equity	2,400,955.64
Unrestricted Net Assets	-92,303.16
Net Income	27,147.31
Total Equity	2,335,799.79
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,458,166.51

2019 Treasurer Report

During the past fiscal year, we implemented new financial processes at Grace Lutheran. In 2019, our congregation instituted a Finance Council, which is currently made up of five members. The purpose of the Finance Council is to adopt strong financial policies and provide financial oversight for the church. As part of this effort, the Finance Council seeks to coordinate financial efforts throughout the organization by including representatives from our collection counters and the Stewardship Committee, while appointing a member to serve as internal audit oversight.

In addition to the adoption of a Finance Council, the Church Council also voted to change the method of our organization's financial reporting. As of January 1, 2020, our church will begin reporting financial information on a cash basis. This is a change from the accrual basis of accounting used in the past. This change was made in an effort to be more timely and transparent with the church's finances. While many members may not notice the difference in our financial statements, we believe this change will provide more up-to-date and accurate financial reporting going forward.

Our organization was running at a net operating loss at the end of November; at that time, the net operating loss stood at (\$1,456.19). Based on strong giving in December, however, the church's finances finished in the black for 2019. From a financial perspective, I encourage congregants to consider using patterned and predictable giving in 2020 – and going forward– to make cash flow and the church's finances more stable throughout the year.

While our church may be in a more stable financial state, total giving for 2019 was down from the previous year. Through October, total giving between General and Special Giving totaled \$289,965.18. This is a decrease of (\$27,519.58) compared to the same time in 2018. The vast majority of that difference can be attributed to fewer donations classified as Special Giving; these donations were likely related to the Renewing Grace Capital Campaign that kicked off in fall 2018.

In regard to *Renewing Grace*, our capital campaign was going strong through 2019. We continue to receive regular donations to pay down the debt associated with recent renovations and improvements. Thanks to your support, our church was able to pay off loan principal totaling \$92,556.13 through December. This included advance principal payments of \$79,000 made in addition to regular monthly loan obligations. At this time, the current principal due on the loan stands at \$121,937.89. By continuing to make donations toward your Renewing Grace pledges, I am confident you will help us pay down this loan sooner than expected, in turn saving the church money toward projected interest expense.

It is my goal as Treasurer to help bring our church into long-term financial stability and to ensure that we do not run at an annual net operating loss in the future. That goal, however, can only be accomplished by the congregation as a whole. With your help, I believe we can get there. We have seen positive signs in terms of pledged giving for 2020. The number of pledges received has increased and total dollars pledged are also up. Still, I encourage all members of Grace Lutheran to give where they are able. Even small donations go a long way when we give as a whole.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who pledged to our church both in 2019 and for the year ahead. In addition, I am also very grateful for those who donated their time, abilities and efforts to our organization in 2019. It takes help of all kinds to keep our organization running, and we are fortunate to have a community that is generous both with their monies and their talents. We could not be where we are without you.

I look forward to serving as your treasurer again in 2020 and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,
Tim Neuenschwander, *Grace Council Treasurer*

2019 Audit

Audit Report-January 7, 2020

We have reviewed the Grace Lutheran Church financial statements for the twelve months, ending December 31, 2019. Based on this review, it is our opinion that the financial statements reflect the financial condition of the church.

Signed, *Mike Day & Tom Jensen* (auditors)

2019 Annual Stewardship Report

Members Include: Cindy Hartman, Randy Luchterhand, Pat Hall, & Amy Simdon; with support from: Pastor Jennifer Jelinek

Stewardship is about taking care of and using the gifts God has given us to share with others. The members of Grace have a rich history of being good stewards through sharing their time and talents with others. Through these gifts of time, talents and money, Grace Lutheran Church has been able to bless others both within and outside of the church.

The pledge drive was held in October/November, similar to last year. A stewardship letter was sent to all members the second week of October announcing the stewardship campaign with the theme of *Showers of Blessing* along. At the October 13th service, Tim Neuenschwander spoke about the many blessings God has given him and the importance of giving some of those blessings back to the church. On October 20th, Amanda Kosanda gave an inspiring temple talk about how the trials she has experienced in life have produced her most valued blessings. Another inspiring temple talk was given by Marcia Klemp on November 3rd. She spoke about growing up as a member of Grace and the many things she has been involved in as member and how they have blessed her life. Pastor Jennifer's sermon that day was about stewardship. She passed a long a touching message from Neal Bakken about not being able to out give God. Each Sunday during the Stewardship drive, members were encouraged to write their blessings on paper raindrops and put them in an umbrella at the end back of the church. On November 11, the congregation was greeted by a cloud hanging at the entrance of the Sanctuary with these raindrops hanging from it. Members were encouraged to bring their offerings, pledge cards, and yellow worship sheets to the front during the offertory and place them in the umbrella.

The Stewardship Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. each month prior to the Council Meeting. The Committee is looking for new members, as well as ideas, and would like to thank the members of the congregation for their support in 2019!

-Submitted by Amy Simdon

2019 Worship Committee Report

Mission: The purpose of the Worship Committee is to ensure that Grace's worship services are not only "God pleasing," but uplifting for the congregation. We focus on enhancing the worship experience with meaningful spiritual content and beautiful music. The committee plans special services for all seasons and analyzes the success of past services, striving for the fresh and interesting while always deeply rooted in the Word of God.

Members: Pastor Jennifer Jelinek, Judy Brandt, Janet Koepp (Council Liaison), Donna Punsel, Judy Taitt, Barb Gregory, and Jean St. John.

Work in 2019: The congregation again shared many opportunities for praise, worship, learning, and the blessings of word and sacrament. Our remodeled sanctuary is a beautiful space. Talented wood workers have provided a new communion rail, using wood from the old pews. Hanging storage for banners and paraments was installed in the sacristy.

We discussed the prayer list several times this year and are trying out a slightly revised way of announcing prayer requests during the service.

Organist and choir director Judy Brandt has continued her musical leadership for our worship services. The choir contributes meaningful anthems on a regular basis. The handbell choir, directed by Ann Engelstad, usually plays once a month.

Worship and the congregational picnic moved indoors on August 11, with the new pew benches configured in a circle. An afternoon "Blessing of the Animals" was held on Oct. 13. Grace is hosting the community Thanksgiving service on Nov. 24 at 7:00 pm. The Christmas Eve services will be at 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Christmas Day at 10:00 am.

-Submitted by Janet Koepp

2019 Evangelism

This past year has been a rebuilding year for Evangelism. It has been a time to take a step back and look toward what the proper functions of an Evangelism committee will be in light of the many projects and functions already being performed very well by other committees.

Early next year, a new Evangelism committee will be formed that will determine how the committee can best serve the people of our Grace community, as well as the wider community in general, by spreading God's word and helping to fulfill the mission of Grace Lutheran Church.

Respectfully submitted, Erik Olsen

2019 Endowment Committee Report

The Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund was established for the purpose of funding mission work in our community, country and around the world. This mission support is meant to go above and beyond the programs supported through regular offerings.

Members of Grace Lutheran Church can give to the Endowment Fund through bequests; assignments of life insurance benefits; assignments of certificates of deposit; transfers of property such as cash, stocks, bonds and real estate; memorial gifts; charitable annuities; and charitable remainder trusts.

The Endowment Fund is invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust. The fund provides professional management of the investments with no load or withdrawal fees. There is a 1% annual management fee.

On December 18th, 2019 the Endowment Committee reviewed 2019 endowment fund requests. Committee Members include Phil Vasby, Tom Jensen, Amy Simdon, Robert Pratt and Todd Tatlock. The committee received requests to fund four (4) programs this year and all agreed to fund all of them as follows, below, with 2019 Endowment funds of \$1,887.58.

The interest that the fund earns is distributed each year according to the by-laws of the Endowment Fund. The guidelines are:

- 20% minimum to capital improvements or debt reduction
- 20% minimum to community outreach
- 20% minimum missions
- (40% maximum for any one of the above)

Disbursements for 2019:

Global Health Ministries- 23%	\$437.80
2020 Grace Youth Mission Trip- 17%	\$317.23
Cambridge Area Resource Team (CART)- 35%	\$656.70
Grace Building Fund/Debt Reduction- 25%	\$475.85

TOTAL: \$1,887.58

~Submitted by Todd Tatlock

2019 Pastoral Housing Account

The Pastoral Housing Fund was originally established by using the profit from the sale of the parsonage. Currently, the money is invested with the ELCA. Grace receives interest checks from this account and the money is used to fund property related projects, such as debt retirement and building improvements. The money from the Pastoral Housing account may be borrowed by a pastor of the congregation at a low interest loan for a down payment for a home. The 2019 interest went toward the building fund.

There were no changes to the account in 2019; the current balance is \$48,220.39

2019 Outreach Team Report

Once again, we surpassed our Lenten Challenge goal! Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the “Do a World of Good for Dominica” campaign; the final amount given to Lutheran World Relief was \$2,142!

Kirsten Fryer, the missionary we have been supporting in Egypt, completed her 6 years of faithful service on June 30, 2019. Since July, we have been supporting two new ELCA missionaries: Rev. Rachel Eskesen & Zachary Courter. They will be coordinators for the youth and adults in the Global Mission Program in Hungary and Serbia.

We hosted Chaplain Todd Marcotte, who gave us an insight into the spiritual life, resources, and programs provided by inmates of the Dane County Jail. In October, we held a cookout fundraiser for the Madison Area Jail Ministry at the local Piggly Wiggly and, with the help of Thrivent, we raised over \$1,000 for the jail ministry.

We decided to move God’s Work. Our Hands. to the Spring, when more tasks outside can be done.

This year, we sent 104 quilts, 150 school kits, 50 baby care kits and 4 fabric kits to Lutheran World Relief; this was far more than we sent the prior year. Thank you to all who donated in some way to this worthy cause.

Respectfully submitted by Jean Scott

2019 Christian Education

Sunday School began on September 8th this year. Our theme was “Tremendous Faith, Growing in God’s Word,” in conjunction with the Narrative Lectionary style curriculum, and supporting the Sunday sermon topics. What the kids heard in church was also the lesson in Sunday School. We had 30 kids register for Sunday School 4K-5th grade. 4K and Kindergarten was taught by Kristin Rue; 1st and 2nd grade was taught by Shauna Thayer; 3rd and 4th was taught by Shawnee Sullivan, 5th grade was taught by Teresa Neuenschwander. Molly Hellberg, Sierra Jelinek and Rachel Drotzer helped out in the classrooms and wherever needed.

This year we focused on how we can give back and do God’s Work by serving and helping others. One Sunday a month was a Service Sunday. On these Sundays, Sunday School, along with Jaci Brovont and GLOW, spent the Sunday School hour learning about different groups in the area. We collected items and put together donation baskets and/or made projects for them. A few of the groups we supported were: Jefferson County Humane Society, Active Duty Military, Home Again Assisted Living, The Ronald McDonald House and American Family Children’s Hospital.

On October 27th Sunday School sang “Jesus Loves Me”, and “Shine Jesus Shine” during worship service. Also, in October, our 5th graders received their First Communion: Miranda Borchardt, Sammy Grender, Landon Hill-Houk, Alonya Kessler and Jill Thompson. Late November and early December, under the direction of Virginia Becker, we started working on the Christmas Program “Just a Little Christmas.” Which was performed during worship service on December 15th.

We start Milestones in January and each grade will have a topic. The Ten Commandments, Baptism and The Apostles’ Creed are just a few areas that we will learn more about. We will conclude Milestones with the students helping with worship and a small party celebrating all that they have accomplished and learned.

Vacation Bible School was held on Tuesday, July 23. Jaci Brovont and I had 12 youth attending, along with 4 middle/high school volunteers. We focused on how we can serve others- especially family, friends and our community. We did crafts and played games to go along with each Bible story. We painted birdhouses, had a water fight, did an obstacle course, had a campfire and made s’mores. In the afternoon, we visited the police station, library and local businesses and handed out carnations and cookies to thank them for their service and everything that they do for our community.

Vacation Bible School was also held on Tuesday, August 20th. We visited the Henry Villas Zoo. Our theme was *Animals of the Bible*. Jaci Brovont and I had 13 youth attend and 2 middle school helpers. Virginia Becker and Amanda Kosanda chaperoned. While there, we heard a bleacher program learning about different animals, did an animal scavenger hunt, read about Daniel in the Lion’s Den and discussed different animals in the Bible. During the Summer of 2019 we sent around a dozen youth to area Christian Camps.

It has been a busy and fun Sunday School year, so far. I couldn’t be more pleased with the students. I feel blessed to be a part of their lives. Sunday School would not have been possible without the support of parents and the many volunteers!

- Teresa Neuenschwander, *Christian Education Coordinator*

2019 Middle School and High School Youth

2019 was a really fun and eventful year youth at Grace. We really focused on how to help others and serve our community. In May, the 8th graders took a trip to the Wisconsin Dells to celebrate their middle school graduation and thanks to our co-chaperone, Renee Tobias and the awesome kids that attended, we have amazing memories of our special time together. In September, we started a new year of middle and high school GLOW. The middle schoolers are acclimating well to their new group and we are looking forward to some really fun field trips in the near future. Our high school group is comprised of students who will be attending the 2020 Mission Trip to Milwaukee and we are heavily focusing on food security, poverty, respectful service, diversity, injustice and oppression- all issues that will come up as we head to Milwaukee in June.

Service Sundays, in partnership with Teresa and the Sunday School kids at church, have really helped to bring awareness to different needs of certain groups/people/organizations that have engaged the middle school students and have brought about many thoughtful and mindful discussions. We have some great events and fundraisers coming up to get the youth involved in the church. -Jaci Brovont

2019 Hospitality Report

1. Held an annual meeting potluck on January 20th
2. Held a Renewing Grace celebration luncheon/open house on February 24th. Served about 50 people
3. Part of a committee that updated our church history booklet reflecting the last 25 yrs for our 125th year anniversary.
4. The planning, serving and cleaning up for Lenten Soup Suppers. Coordinated different groups to help provide the soups.
5. Mother's Day and Father's Day – Had carnations for the Mother's and Dad's Root beer bottles for the Fathers.
6. Ordered quilts for our graduates, along with serving sheet cake.
7. Outdoor service was held on August 11th at Grace. Due to the heavy rains, held the service in the sanctuary where Michael and friends staged the pews in a circle. Committee helped with serving and clean up. Everyone was asked to bring a dish to pass. Hospitality picked up the meat (brats and hamburgers) and other miscellaneous supplies.
8. 1st Communion & Pastor Appreciation Day on Oct. 13th. Ordered sheet cake and a gift for Pastor from congregation.
9. Helped with making food, serving and clean up for the Confirmation Brunch on Oct. 26th
10. Ordered cake and assisted in kitchen with serving and clean up for Confirmation on Oct. 27th
11. Serve and clean up for Christmas Caroling and Cookie service on Dec. 29th
12. Our committee continues to oversee the name tags, welcome table and greeting people as they enter the church at the front and back doors.

All cakes were ordered from the Piggly Wiggly, along with root beer and other miscellaneous items.

We stayed within our budget, which was lowered slightly from the previous year.

Our committee consisted of the following members: Lori Jensen, Cindy Hartman, Betty Reay, Ben & Liz Becker, Lisa Sperle, Cheryl Mittelstedt, Barb Gregory & Pat Northey

-Respectfully submitted by Lori Jensen

2019 Property Report

Sanctuary renovations have been completed. At the very end of 2019, contractors were on site to repair the rotted exterior beam of the south side of the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to Richard Scott for the planting of three new trees at the rear of the property. These will fill the void left by the two trees that needed to be removed due to safety concerns.

-Respectfully Submitted by Bryan Holmen

2019 Women of Grace Report

We have two Circles that are presently active. Ruth Circle meets at 9:00 a.m. on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the homes of the members or at Grace. Lydia Circle meets the 2nd Thursday at 9:00 a.m. at Grace. The Circles are in charge of setting up communion the first and third Sundays of each month and cleaning the kitchen.

This past year volunteers to set up communion on the other Sundays were Tom & Chris Watson the 2nd Sunday, Steve and Jenny Horgan Geis the 4th Sunday and Pat Northey the 5th Sunday.

Women of Grace are also on Altar Guild. Their responsibilities are to see that the candles are filled with liquid wax and paraments are changed for each season of the church year.

Most women, and several men, of Grace are assigned to one Sunday a year for fellowship/coffee hour following worship on Sunday. This entails providing 3 dozen cookies, bars, cheese and sausage or other treats per person, making coffee and staying to serve and clean up after. The Women's booklet is printed by our Administrative Assistant each year and includes a listing of members assigned to each Sunday and the times, dates and locations of the Circle meetings.

Since there seems to be a lack of interest for the Christmas Brunch in December we cancelled it and a meeting of the Women of Grace was held after church on November 24th to decide on the distributions to the missions. Cheryl Mittelstedt thought we should increase Lutherdale by \$50 and all agreed the rest should be left the same as last as last year with the mission trip monies going to the Milwaukee trip this year.

The following are the Women's distributions, totaling \$2,750:

Lutherdale	\$150
Lutheran World Relief Postage	\$200
Madison Jail Ministry	\$150
Cambodian Students	\$150
High School Breakfast	\$150
Cambridge Area Resource Team (CART)	\$600
Food Pantry	\$500
Marc Center	\$100
Abused Women	\$200
Salvation Army	\$200
Milwaukee Mission Trip	\$150
Everyone Eats Program	\$200

-Cindy Hartman