

ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED FOR

**THE SEMI-ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
OF
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

JANUARY 2021



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1408 Washington Street
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**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEMBERS, TEAM LEADERS AND COMMITTEES**

President – Chad DuLac
Vice-President – Cathy Sweeney
Secretary – Jody Marquardt
Treasurer – Gwen Sparks
Members-at-Large: – Riva Morgan
Ann Bartlett
Trina DeCamp
Sara O’Daffer

2020 Ministry Team Leaders

Arts – Phil Gregg
Buildings and Grounds – open position
Evangelism – open position
Faith Enrichment/Stewardship – Jody Marquardt
Fellowship – Shirley Leslie
Intern – open position
Personnel - open position
Social Concerns– Kay Fisher
Worship – Denise Miller
Youth and Education – Cheryl Salter

2020 Committees

Audit – Linda Sinnett, Mark Boersma, Mike Sweeney
Fox Trust Visioning – Bob Bartlett, John McQuaig, Cheryl Salter, Karen Zanol, Judy Connor, David Bentsen, Milt Herman
Memorial Garden – Diane Senn, Dianne Skagen-Gillin, Jane Dunbar, Jan Romey
Mission Endowment – Shirley Wurl, Karen Zanol, Susan Salley
Nominating – open
Offering Counters – Tracy Gausman
Pastoral Support – Micah Florea, Jim Caulkins, Julie Banken
Staff Support – Ernie Bentsen, Casey Vogt, Jean Speidel

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor James Aalgaard
Beth Smallbeck – Minister of Youth & Family
Jenna Bergeson - Intern
Jen Pearson-Gale – Office Administrator
Roxanne Reindl – Finance Manager
Judy Olson – Organist/Pianist
Rich Smallbeck – Facilities Maintenance Manager

PRAYER PARTNERS CONTACT

Colleen Smith -



January 27, 2021

Dear Friend in Grace- As the continuation of our January Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting, I want to welcome you to Step II. Many of you participated in the Zoom meetings with our Treasurer providing inputs and asking questions that assisted Council in arriving at our final Budget recommendation for 2021. Additionally, you were able to review a revised welcoming statement for Grace as presented by our RIC Committee.

For this second letter you'll find the following agenda items for review and consideration:

- Revised 2021 Budget Proposal for Grace Lutheran Church
- Reconciling in Christ Welcoming Statement Proposal for Grace Lutheran Church
- 2020 September Semi-Annual Congregation Minutes (transposed from our three mailings)
- Team and Committee Report
- 2020 Financial Report resource
- Letter from Pastor James
- Voting ballot

2021 Budget Proposal

Following two (2) budget forum meetings held Jan 17th and 24th 2021, GLC Council has reviewed member inputs and provided the attached budget as our final recommendation to the Congregation. We understand there is a large deficit due to low projected income, however Council is aware and has sufficient Treasurer's reserve and gift monies available to cover the deficit in full, should it be needed.

We ask that you look at the proposed budget amount and vote to either approve or decline the motion on the enclosed ballot.

RIC Welcoming Statement

We are providing the recommended RIC Welcoming Statement again for review and ask that you look at the proposed statement and vote to either approve or decline the motion on the enclosed ballot.

2020 September Semi-Annual Congregation Minutes

Based on previous mailings made between September and November of 2020, the minutes reflect the context of those mailings as well outcomes from the election.

Team and Committee Report

To reduce paper usage and to minimize cost of mailing, please find the various team and committee end of year reports by following the website link below to the Grace Lutheran Church Website. If paper copies are desired, they can be made available by contacting our office (509)-663-2189. <https://glcwen.org/resources> (scroll down to “Reports”)

2020 Financial Report resources

This culminates Grace’s 2020 End of Year financial report from our Treasurer and our team budget reports. These are presented for your review and reflection.

Letter from Pastor James

Please see the attached letter from Pastor James.

Voting ballot

Please find the official motion ballot for voting on page 3. If there are more voting members in your home than there are ballots for, **feel free to make additional copies.** We ask that each person only vote once and provide their printed name and signature as proof of attendance to substantiate our quorum. Members may return ballots to Grace either by mailing them using the self-addressed stamped envelope or by dropping off signed ballots in the mailbox at Grace Lutheran.

Due to the time sensitive nature of yearly payments from Grace, we strongly urge all our members to participate and return signed ballots within the voting timeframe as soon as possible.

The deadline for accepting ballots is close of business February 10th, 2021.

As we invite Sara O’Daffer and Trina DeCamp as new Council Members-at-Large, I’d like to personally lift up Monte Olson and Andy Sheets who have both honorably served on Council for the last two years. Both gentlemen served with distinction providing wisdom, heartfelt thoughts and compassion towards members of our church, our Ministry and our community by helping support our various programs and outreach efforts. I encourage each of you to extend a hearty thank you to both Monte and Andy. They’ll be missed on Council.

Let’s also look to this new year with hope and promise, optimism and positivity. Strive to help one another and our community where we can, lift up those who are down and stay strong within our church family during trying times.

Blessings to all of you!

Sincerely,

Chad DuLac
Council President

Sincerely,

James Aalgaard
Pastor

**Grace Lutheran Church January Congregation Meeting 2021
Attendance Form and Ballot**

The following motions are hereby made and seconded by Grace Lutheran Church Council:

1. Motion to approve 2021 Budget proposal of \$497,736 as presented Yay Nay
2. Motion to approve RIC Welcoming Statement as presented Yay Nay
3. Motion to approve the Sept. 2020 Congregation Minutes as presented Yay Nay

Printed name of Member _____ Signature _____

**Grace Lutheran Church January Congregation Meeting 2021
Attendance Form and Ballot**

The following motions are hereby made and seconded by Grace Lutheran Church Council:

4. Motion to approve 2021 Budget proposal of \$497,736 as presented Yay Nay
5. Motion to approve RIC Welcoming Statement as presented Yay Nay
6. Motion to approve the Sept. 2020 Congregation Minutes as presented Yay Nay

Printed name of Member _____ Signature _____

**Grace Lutheran Church January Congregation Meeting 2021
Attendance Form and Ballot**

The following motions are hereby made and seconded by Grace Lutheran Church Council:

7. Motion to approve 2021 Budget proposal of \$497,736 as presented Yay Nay
8. Motion to approve RIC Welcoming Statement as presented Yay Nay
9. Motion to approve the Sept. 2020 Congregation Minutes as presented Yay Nay

Printed name of Member _____ Signature _____

**Grace Lutheran Church—Semi-Annual Fall Congregation
Virtual Meeting Minutes—November 18, 2020**

Mission Statement: To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacrament so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission.

Core Values: Worship – Community – Service

Background: According to the GLC Constitution, “Semi-annual meetings of this congregation shall generally be held in September and January.” Since GLC has been “closed” due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council decided to hold a “virtual” meeting through a series of letters to which voting members could respond. The most important order of business was to hold our annual election of congregation officials.

Council sent out three letters between September and November of 2020 that constituted our overall meeting:

Letter 1 (September)

- Announced that the congregation meeting would be held remotely via mailings that stipulated how that would occur.
- Indicated what positions would be open for nominations:
 - President
 - Treasurer
 - Member-at-Large (x2)
 - Mission Endowment Committee Member
 - Memorial Garden Committee Member
 - Nominating Committee Members (x2)
- Indicated how voters could submit their nominations, with a deadline of October 9, 2020.
- Provided a nomination form.

Letter 2 (October)

- Provided an election ballot, as follows:
 - President—Chad Dulac
 - Treasurer—Gwen Sparks
 - Member-at-Large (x2)—Sara O’Daffer and Trina DeCamp
 - Mission Endowment Committee Member—Susan Salley
 - Memorial Garden Committee Member—Betsy Dudash
 - Nominating Committee Members (x2)—open
- Provided the January 2020 Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes and the opportunity to approve them as presented.
- Included a self-addressed, stamped envelope and requested that ballots be returned no later than November 13, 2020.

- Reminded the voters that the Constitution requires a quorum of thirty voting members.

Letter 3 (November)

- Announced that GLC received 114 mail-in ballots that established a quorum and elected the following:
 - President—Chad Dulac
 - Treasurer—Gwen Sparks
 - Two Council Members-at-Large—Sara O’Daffer and Trina DeCamp
 - Mission Endowment Committee Member—Susan Salley
 - Memorial Garden Committee Member—Betsy Dudash
- Announced that the January minutes were approved as presented.
- Provided updates from the President, Pastor, Intern, and Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Marquardt, Secretary

Pastor's Report to the Congregation

January 28, 2021

Dear People of Grace;

Life in this world is so easily segmented, or perhaps even fragmented. We think that our life situation, our cares and worries, interests and passions belong to only us, and strangers likely have no idea – that they just do not understand. COVID-19, for as troubling, distressing and tragic as it is, does give us one gift: a common reference point. We have learned that a global pandemic will bring us all together in a unique way. There's something freshly "communal" about that. Individual rights, as an idea, have been our focus for a very long time. Now, responsibility toward the neighbor and caring for the stranger are lifted up as very important for society.

With each passing week and month, I feel we are losing our hold on something as a congregation that will be difficult to recover. I wish I had the right word for it. Following isolation rules is necessary, but not easy. Trying to understand our new parameters for being in ministry, and then planning and communicating, and sometimes needing to update the plan or cancel altogether... it is utterly exhausting. I know in my head that we have made good decisions about caring for one another and the community; but I know in my heart there is a certain something missing that feels like malnourishment. In a society of plenty, frankly of too much, malnourishment is a very new thing.

My hope is that you do not feel forgotten or ignored. My hope is that you do not feel like the sanctuary has been held hostage. My hope is that your sense of being part of Grace and the Body of Christ has found new ways to express itself. My hope is that when coming back together is safe again, there will be a palpable appreciation for the gifts offered in being together. My hope too, is that we will all have a better appreciation for the many new ways we can continue to use technology for learning, for listening, for prayer, for worship, for play, and the list can go on and on.

My letter from the fall of 2020 recapped several things about our ministries. I will not repeat all those details, but here is a simplified list from the Pastor's desk:

1. Music ministry is important for our congregation; the staffing picture for it, however, is very much up in the air. We are asking the congregation to support the possibility of a part time position for the last half of 2021. This is still only a possibility, since we get new information about the pandemic weekly.
2. We are planning to have an intern once again this fall for another year.
3. I would like to change my sabbatical focus so that time of renewal can happen in 2022. I also hope the congregation can see it (including preparation and afterward) as an opportunity for congregational renewal.
4. There's a pastor's blog on our website. If you're interested in reading what has been on my mind, go to the "staff" tab, and there's a link under my picture.
5. We are starting to make plans for how to livestream our worship services.

6. A few members of Grace are signing up for a synod learning opportunity called “Faithful Innovations.”
7. Book studies and Bible studies migrated fairly well to an online format.

Jesus continues to walk and wait alongside us! Let’s continue to be prayerful and encouraging toward one another. I would like to express my gratitude for the congregational leaders at Grace and for a wonderful and supportive staff.

Together we continue on!

Pastor James Aalgaard

Endowment Team

The Endowment Team has been suspended (not met) since last spring. There were not enough earnings in the Endowment Fund as of June 30 to do a distribution this year. It would have been a complicated process to do virtually to say the least. However, the Fund did receive a memorial gift of \$21,561, which of course was added to principal. The Aasen Fund also did not make distributions (by direction of the Music Minister) this year.

As of December 31, the Endowment Fund balance was \$255,390 and the Aasen Fund was \$28,576, both invested in the Endowment Fund of the ELCA . For the year, both funds have decreased in market value while at the same time earning dividends.

We are living in some strange times. We hope to be able to distribute from the Fund later this year if earnings are at least over \$5,000. May God bless us to be a blessing.

Karen Zanol, Chair

Social Concerns Team

Report of Accomplishments 2020 and Acknowledgements

Christmas is not just a day or season; it is a state of mind and a time of giving. This is something that the Social Concerns Team believes in for the whole year. When you see the impact of giving, how can you not be moved.

The Social Concerns Team was truly blessed this year with the financial contribution from the Fox Trust, plus the trust, and faith of our congregation that we could distribute the monies in a matter that followed Grace Lutheran Church's Mission. From food insecurities, to homelessness the team was able to help those in their time of need.

The team would like to say a special thank you to the staff at Grace. Especially Jen Pearson-Gale, Beth and Rich Smallbeck, and Roxanne Reindl. Without their assistance some of our giving would not have happened.

Below is a list of all the organizations and the amount of giving the Social Concerns Team was able to do in a time of a pandemic. Again, words cannot express our heartfelt gratitude of your faith in our team.

Social Concerns Team Money Distribution 2020	Total Monies Received
Dec-20	
Altheia - Equestrian Therapy for individuals with Special Needs	\$2,375.00
Baptisms	\$100.00
Bingo - For individuals with Special Needs	\$42.64
Community Action Council - Food Drive	\$6,000.00
Shut-Ins Devotionals	\$330.99
ELCA Disaster Relief	\$5,775.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$6,150.31
Families in Need – COVID 19 Block Grant/Wenatchee Valley Follies	\$7,880.00
Haven of Hope - Homeless Shelter	\$4,375.86
Holy Apostles - Food Drive	\$500.00
LCC International Fund - LCC University	\$3,375.00
Lighthouse Ministries - Food Drive	\$10,250.00
Make A Difference Day - Cold Weather Drive & WHS Homeless	\$12,590.00
Members in Need	\$977.09
Mend Leavenworth - Food Drive	\$1,500.00
NWIM Synod - Malden/Rosalia - Disaster Relief	\$5,000.00
Okanogan Youth Fire Victims	\$1,000.00
Packing Friendship/Essential Pantry	\$625.00
Pantry - Grace Lutheran Church's Pantry	\$9,910.00
Powerhouse Ministry - Homeless Shelter	\$4,725.84
Serve Wenatchee Valley - Fire Response	\$5,000.00
Serve Wenatchee Valley - Food Drive	\$4,125.00
St. Vincent de Paul - Food Drive	\$1,000.00
Tanzania Companion Synod	\$1,500.00
WHS Panther House	\$3,375.00
WRC - Bruce Hotel - Homeless Shelter	\$3,850.00
YWCA - Homeless Shelter	\$4,375.66
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	\$106,708.39
Leveraged Funds	\$0.00
Food Drive	\$15,050.00
COVID 19 Block Grant & Follies	\$13,600.00
NCW Community Foundation	\$1,200.00
Miscellaneous	\$6,360.00
Total Leveraged Funds	<hr/> \$36,210.00

Church Funds	
Missionary Funds (Commonly known as Fox Trust)	\$54,128.39
Discretionary Funds - Operational Budget	\$7,370.00
Benevolences - Operational Budget	\$9,000.00
Total Church Funds	\$70,498.39
Total Funds Distributed 2020	
	\$106,708.39

Youth and Education

2020 the Year of Zoom

In March, Covid-19 shut us down. The turnaround to online communication, worship, education, and fellowship was swift with a steep learning curve for some of us and yet we persevered. We created drive-by and delivery for an Easter Egg Hunt, 2020 Graduates, baby shower, hymnal pick-up, Advent devotions and crafts, faith formation lessons and crafts, confirmation retreat lessons, and youth group supplies.

Along with faith formation, youth groups continued with online zoom; and we began an Alumni bimonthly zoom check-in. I am hopeful that in the not-too-distant future we will be able to meet again face to face. A drawback to that is that youth that do not live in our community have become an important part of our “family”. Our new challenge will be to figure out how to keep them included.

Thank you to Cheryl Salter for stepping up to be our team lead.