

THEGOODNEWSOFGRACE

January 2021

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of Grace Lutheran Church 1408 Washington Street Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555 **Volume 5 Issue 1**

I Hope. I believe.

Hope does not disappoint. (from Romans 5:5)

Dear friends in Christ, I am so grateful for the gifts of love and encouragement that have been given throughout the congregation, and even toward me and others on staff. I offer to you this poem, written as I think about the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany.

I hope.

I hope perpetually.

I hope perpetually for God.

I hope perpetually for God to come.

I hope perpetually for God to come in love.

I hope perpetually for God to come in love to this weary.

I hope perpetually for God to come in love to this weary world.

I believe in Christ who lives and gives himself, promising life and fullness to all.

I believe in Christ who lives and gives himself, promising life and fullness.

I believe in Christ who lives and gives himself, promising life.

I believe in Christ who lives and gives himself.

I believe in Christ who lives.

I believe in Christ.

I believe.

Be healthy, and safe, dear people of Grace. We have more waiting to do as a congregation before we will feel comfortable all being together again. In the meantime, let's continue to reach out to one another in whatever safe ways we can.

My days off in January: 4, 11, 18, 25

Together! Pastor James Aalgaard



THE MISSION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Racial Justice Discussion Group

We all need a better understanding of Racial Justice. Please join us on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 1 p.m. as we welcome a guest speaker sharing their honest thoughts on the subject. **Our speaker on January 3 is Joseph Young:**

Hello Everyone,

My name is Joseph Young. I am a lifelong Lutheran, born into a family of 6 (and the only boy!) from north eastern Illinois. I graduated from college back in 2012 and have worked in various industries (non-profit, government agencies, universities). After completing my undergraduate work, I had the privilege and chance to serve as a Young Adult in Global Mission (YAGM) in Mexico. Through this experience, in conjunction with what my experience had been in the United States, I started to see the world (and my life) in a much different way. As a bi-racial man who is seen/perceived in many ways I can tell you that life has been both very challenging and very rewarding.

I presently serve as an Admissions Counselor as a part of the University of Wisconsin System in southeastern Wisconsin. Through that work, I serve communities of color in directly helping provide education, information, resources, and a myriad of other services for students thinking about college. My ultimate goals in life are to build bridges, build relationships, provide aid where I can, and learn from others as much as I can. I've often chosen to challenge myself in new ways, and in sharing my experiences I hope to continue to do what I feel God has called me to.

Happy Holidays, Joseph Young

Please join us on Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Dial by your location +1 253 215 8782

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84209762920?pwd=cWtIdWNr aWpBUIVZY3Vqd2ovbkZIZz09

Meeting ID: 842 0976 2920 Passcode: 208530

One tap mobile +12532158782,,84209762920#,,,,,0#,,208530# US (Tacoma) +13462487799,,84209762920#,,,,,0#,,208530# US (Houston) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 842 0976 2920 Passcode: 208530 Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kqTg5Agxl

LECTIONARY READINGS

January 3 Second Sunday of Christmas	January 10 Baptism of Our Lord	January 17 Second Sunday after Epiphany	January 24 Third Sunday after Epiphany	January 31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Jeremiah 31:7-14	Genesis 1:1-5	1 Samuel 3:1-20	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Deut. 18:15-20
Psalm 147:12-20	Psalm 29	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Psalm 62:5-12	Psalm 111
Ephesians 1:3-14	Acts 19:1-7	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
John 1:[1-9] 10-18	Mark 1:4-11	John 1:43-51	Mark 1:14-20	Mark 1:21-28

Christmas Zoom Celebrations

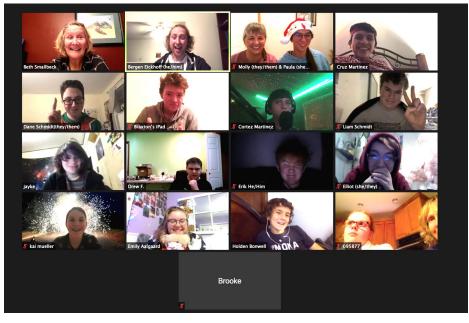
We had to get creative this year, but we still managed to celebrate together!



3rd - 5th Grade Youth



Alumni Group



Middle School and Senior High Youth

ANNA AND MIRIAM CIRCLES

Please stay tuned for information regarding future Anna Circle meetings once we are able to gather together.

Please contact Melanie McQuaig (melanie@mcqw.com or 509-665-9000) for more information about Miriam Circle.

SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM

Applications for Funding:



The Social Concerns Team is accepting applications for funding for 2021. Applications can be found on the church's website under resources, or you can email Kay Fisher at threefishers@nwi.net.

The application deadline is January 31, 2021. Award letters will be sent out between the end of February and the middle of March.

Please submit applications to: Grace Lutheran Church, Attn: Kay Fisher, 1408 Washington Street Wenatchee, WA 98801; or threefishers@nwi.net.

WHS Homeless Christmas Gifts: We would like to thank everyone who donated to the WHS Homeless Christmas Gifts. We were able to give thirty-five homeless high school students a gift bag worth \$140. We included gift cards to JCPenney's, Safeway, McDonalds, Starbucks, and a WHS t-shirt and knitted hat.

SCT Year-End Report and Acknowledgements:

Christmas is not just a day or season; it is a state of mine 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.

On the next page you will find a list of all the organizations the Social Concerns Team was able to support in a time of a pandemic. Again, words cannot express our heartfelt gratitude of your faith in our team.

Social Concerns Team Next Meeting: Social Concerns Team's next meeting will be February 9th @ 6:30pm. If you would like to attend please contact Kay Fisher at <u>threefishers@nwi.net</u>

Little Essentials Pantry

Thank you for your continued support of our Little Essential Pantry. Our Reverse Advent Calendar food drive was a big success - we are truly thankful for your generosity!

Social Concerns Team Money Distribution 2020	Total Monies Received
Dec-20	
Alatheia - 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
	\$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	\$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



Emery Thomas Rohde JULY 26, 1927 – DECEMBER 10, 2020 Rev. Emery Rohde was pastor at Grace Lutheran from 1957 - 1962. During his time as pastor the building fund was established and our current building was completed.

Emery entered into eternal life on Thursday, December 10, 2020. He was 93 and lived a long, fulfilling life. Born in Detroit on July 26, 1927, Emery grew up a sports fan of the Lions, Tigers, Red



Wings and Michigan football. As a Wolverine fan he had a deep dislike for the Ohio State Buckeyes. Despite his dislike for Ohio State, Emery went to college and seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, graduating with his Masters of Divinity in 1953. While on

seminary internship in Oregon City he met Elaine Knoefel and they were married on June 28, 1953. Emery and Elaine were married for just over 50 years. After Elaine's death in 2004, Emery married Ruth Kretzinger and they were together for 12 years before her death in 2018. Emery served many congregations during his many years in ministry. His first congregation was Christ Lutheran in Vancouver, BC; Grace Lutheran, Wenatchee; Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle; Our Saviour's Lutheran in Arlington. Emery retired from full-time ministry in 1991. However, he never fully retired from being a pastor, Emery served as interim pastor at Our Saviour's Lutheran in Sunnyside, Christ Lutheran in Yakima and visitation pastor at Central Lutheran in Yakima for 7 years. Emery and Elaine had 3 children, son Gary and wife Suzie; son Tom and wife Jody and daughter Lisa and husband Doug. Emery had 4 granddaughters and 4 great grandchildren. Emery moved back to Arlington his last couple of years and lived at Olympic Place. He enjoyed playing BINGO, socializing at Happy Hour, leading Sunday worship and mid-week Bible Study. He appreciated the staff for all they did and actually liked the food. Memorial services are being planned for a later date when we can gather safely. Memorials can be made to the ELCA Good Gifts program at ELCA.org/goodgifts or by calling 800-638-3522; or The Day Care/Pre-School at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 615 Highland Dr. Arlington, WA 98223.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kelly Thompson	1/1	Dianne Gillin	1/12	Alan Smith	1/27
Kristiana Lapo	1/3	Markus Bentsen	1/13	Marilyn Abel	1/28
Jerry Lawson	1/3	Dave Richardson	1/15	Carol Christopherson	1/29
Kara Melton	1/5	Zoe Jaspers	1/17	Alice Evenhus	1/29
Barbara Tilly	1/5	Joshua Gale	1/19	Cortez Martinez	1/29
Everly Vertrees	1/6	Kristen Guthrie	1/19	Cruz Martinez	1/29
Natalee Aalgaard	1/9	Lisa Mattix	1/22	Erik Olson	1/29
Courtney Rookard	1/9	Nancy O'Donnell	1/22	Katrina Olson	1/29
Delmer Schauer	1/10	Greta Bentsen	1/23	Matt Olson	1/29
John Ballinger	1/11	Jim Mayer	1/23	Erling Rivedal	1/29
Lisa Heminger	1/11	Paul Woolsey	1/24	Joan Heminger	1/31
Karlene Mayer	1/11	Morgan Kardos	1/27	Bill Sinnett	1/31

Virtual Worship

Facebook

Click here and watch for the "Facebook Premiere" which will show "live" on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and remain on our page afterwards for viewing anytime.

Zoom

Grace Lutheran Sunday Worship (and coffee fellowship) *<u>Time</u>*: 9:00 a.m., with fellowship following worship

To join Zoom on a computer/tablet/smartphone, click here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81304421918

Meeting ID: 813 0442 1918

For connecting with a phone (audio only): +1 669 900 6833 US Meeting ID: 813 0442 1918 - When prompted, dial 813 0442 1918 # - You may be asked to press # one more time

- That's it! You should be in after that.



Virtual Coffee Fellowship

Sign onto Zoom (following the instructions for worship) following worship for virtual coffee fellowship! Pour yourself a cozy beverage and call or sign in to meet and catch up with the Grace community. People will be randomly put into smaller virtual "rooms" for more intimate conversation. All are welcome!

Baby Shower for Jordan (O'Donnell) Gilman

Thank you to everyone who joined us in December for a socially distanced baby shower for Jordan!





Christmas Message from the Grace Lutheran Staff

Dear people of grace, thank you so much for remembering my family and me throughout the holiday season. During this high stress year, your encouragement and prayers are heard and felt every day. I give God thanks that Grace Lutheran Church is a family in the best sense of the word. God's love and generosity shine through you! - Pastor James Aalgaard

Members of grace,

Your efforts at continuing to serve the community in the midst of this pandemic have been awe inspiring and warm my heart. I thank you for your patience and understanding during the time we all had to work from home. I especially thank the counters who continue to serve while working alone. You make my job easier. I thank the council and team leaders who have been so encouraging and supportive. Jesus shines through in all your actions. -Roxanne Reindl, Finance Manager.

Grace family and friends, thank you so much for the kindness, love and support you have shown us and our family. We cannot thank you enough for being part of our "village". It has been an interesting year, a year in which we have seen suffering and growth and have found out that the support of the "village" makes life manageable and at times even joyful. Blessings and good health to you as we begin a new year! - Rich and Beth Smallbeck

For my family and myself I want to send all of the Grace family heartfelt thanks for all of your support and kindness. Grace's shared commitment to practicing the ministry of Christ within the community is an inspiration to me, and I look forward to continuing to serve with you in the coming year. Please accept my best wishes for a joyous and peaceful New Year. - Jen Gale, Office Administrator

See next page for a message from Intern Bergen.

Tune in for Our Weekly Virtual Gatherings

(on Facebook unless otherwise indicated)

Sunday

- Worship, 9:00 a.m. (also via Zoom, contact GLC office)
- Fellowship Time via Zoom, following worship
- Jr./Sr. High School Youth group, 6:30 p.m. (via Zoom, contact Beth)

Wednesday

- ◆ 10@10, 10:00 a.m.
- Lectionary Study (via Zoom, contact Pastor James), 11:00 a.m.

Friday

◆ 10@10, 10:00 a.m.

2020 TEAM & COMMITTEE LEADERS

Arts:
Building & Grounds:
Endowment:
Faith Enrichment:
Fellowship:
Intern:
Pastoral Support:
Staff Support:

Social Concerns:

Worship:

Youth:

Phil Gregg Open Karen Zanol Jody Marquardt Shirley Leslie Andy Sheets Melanie McQuaig Micah Florea Ernie Bentsen Kay Fisher Denise Miller Cheryl Salter

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Vice President: Treasurer: Secretary: Members-at-Large: Chad DuLac Cathy Sweeney Gwen Sparks Jody Marquardt Riva Morgan Monte Olson Ann Bartlett Andy Sheets

Five Moments of Spirituality from 2020 By Intern Bergen Eickhoff

I love End-of-the-Year lists. I love reading through a publications evaluation of the best music, books, movies, or moments from the past year. And while it is impossible to think back upon this year without remembering heartbreaking losses, this year has also been a year of great spiritual growth for me, where I've felt God's presence working in my life. So I would like to share five of my most significant moments of witnessing the Holy Spirit's work in the world with you all.

1.The First Days of the Pandemic — In one week, I went from being a normal seminary student to taking online classes while living in my parents' basement with my then-partner (now wife), Clara. Our lives had been upended by the pandemic, and I gained perspective on how little control we really have in this world, and how much we rely upon the support and love of people in our lives. I experienced God's love through friends and family members, but I also came to recognize God calling me to recognize how society does not offer many people, especially people of color, safety nets like it does to me. We need to change that as we emerge from this pandemic

2. Delivering Supplies during the Twin Cities Protests — Protests erupted in the Twin Cities in response to George Floyd's murder by police officers, and in the chaos of the governments' response many people were thrown into food insecurity. Wishing to help, Clara and I gathered supplies from suburban grocery stores and drove them to a Lutheran church in downtown Minneapolis. This church had transformed their building to serve as a center for medical care, food distribution and collection, and spiritual care for a whole community. Witnessing this transformation reignited my faith for how the Church can serve the needs of our neighbors and be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

3. Getting Married! — Clara and I got married with just fifteen people in direct attendance, but we were floored when over three-hundred people attended our service online! Though our wedding was different than we expected, the care and support of so many family and friends showed me that marriage is the request of two hearts for God to bind them together so that they may be a constant reminder of God's love to one another and all around them for the rest of their lives. Love is a life-giving force, and that's become apparent to me this year more than any other.

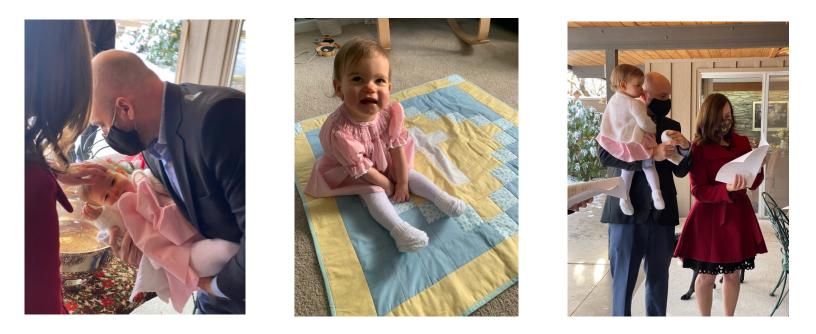
4. Experiencing Welcome in Wenatchee — I was terrified to begin my pastoral internship during a pandemic, but after the first three weeks I realized that I had nothing to fear. This congregation provided Clara and I with such an affirming welcome, whether from the numerous invitations to socially-distanced meetings, the drive-through greeting at the intern house, the moving of a new piano into the intern house, or even just running into people on the Loop Trail who recognized me from the online worships. I felt immediately accepted and welcomed by the hospitality of a church who knows that they are created and called by God to live out the love of Jesus Christ.

5. Participating in a Home Baptism — On the day after Christmas, Pastor James and I performed a baptism for Clementine Lease on the patio outside of Tiny Skagen's house. Selfish as it may sound, I was terrified to be around people. Yet during the service I was overcome with the assurance that we are claimed as God's children and saved by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ in both our life and in our death. No matter what the world looks like we are called to love and serve our neighbors and our world. The enduring promise and call of God has not changed, we are simply called to believe in it with greater hope than ever before.

Those are my musings on some of my most significant moments of spirituality from this past year! I would encourage you to find comfort and inspiration by reflecting on how God has been active in your life in the past year as well. And know that I will always be willing to hear about your own moments of encountering the Holy Spirit whenever you would like to share. The more we share about the Spirit, the more we'll be reminded of God's love for us and this whole world. And that can only be a good thing.

Baptism of Clementine Marie Ella Lease

Clementine Lease, great-granddaughter of Ruthella Skagen, was baptized on December 26 outside Ruthella's home.



PRAYERS OF GRACE

Please contact Colleen Smith with any prayer requests, either by phone at 679-1742 or by email at <u>glcprayerpartners@gmail.com</u>. We welcome all prayer requests.

Della Brett - long term - overall health	Thelma Allen (Linda Luke's mom) - prayers for health
Genevieve Crosby - long term - see update below	issues
Marv Dunbar - long term - prayers for health - update	Anna Guthrie - prayers for travel and transition back to
below	the U.S. to go smoothly and to enjoy her last 2 months in
Ruthella Skagen - long term - hospice care	Indonesia
Chuck Graves - long term -	Friends of Ann and Bob Bartlett whose newborn twin
Bonnie Howeiler - long term - continued adaptation to	boys were born prematurely - prayers of thanksgiving for
visual impairment	their ability to go home before Christmas
Carol Sunada (Dir. of The Compassionate Friends) - long	<u>Barbara Tilly</u> - gratitude for healing
term - illness	Sarah Jones (Mary Henson's sister) - prayers for healing
Tony Fisher - long term - cancer diagnosis	as she undergoes treatment for cancer
Bob Curtis - long term - dementia	The family of Mort (Annette Mueller's father) - prayers
Dale Olson (Hollie Olson's father-in-law) - long term -	for peace and comfort
prayers for health and peace	Dan Hutchison - seizures and anxiety
Don Evenhus – continued prayers for health	Genevieve Crosby - recent fall and broken clavicle
Jackie Carmichael - for comfort and strength with a	Marv Dunbar - receiving radiation treatment
chronic health issue	

		Jan	uary	2021		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	1		1	2
3 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. PreK - 5 th Grade Faith Formation 1:00 p.m. Racial Justice Discussion Group 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Zoom Hangout	4	5 3:00 p.m. Staff Meeting	6 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom) 3:45 p.m. 3 rd - 5 th Grade Youth	7 11:30 a.m. Book Study	8 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook)	9 4:00 p.m. Alumni Youth Zoom Hangout
10 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. PreK - 5 th Grade Faith Formation 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Zoom Hangout	11	12 3:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Youth Team	13 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom) 3:45 p.m. 3rd - 5th Grade Youth	14 11:30 a.m. Book Study	15 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook)	16
17 9:00 a.m. Worship 1:00 p.m. Racial Justice Discussion Group	18	19 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. Miriam Circle	20 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook)	21 11:30 a.m. Book Study	22 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook) <i>Confirmation R</i>	23 4:00 p.m. Alumni Youth Zoom Hangout etreat via Zoom
24 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. PreK - 5 th Grade Faith Formation 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Zoom Hangout	25	26 3:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Council	27 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom)	28 11:30 a.m. Book Study	29 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook)	30
31 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. PreK - 5 th Grade Faith Formation 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Zoom Hangout						

TREASURER TALK:

	Jan-Nov 2019	Jan-Nov 2020	11 month 2020 Approved Budget	Variance To Date
Total Offerings, Misc	\$452,353	\$363,021	\$472,083	(\$109,195)
PPP Loan Forgiveness		<u>72,300</u>		
		<u>\$435,321</u>		
Operating Expenses	<u>(459,100)</u>	(422,659)	(490,783)	<u>68,124</u>
Net Margin (Deficit)	(\$6,746)	\$12,663	(\$18,700)	(\$41,071)

As is evidenced above, PPP loan has been forgiven and booked into income statement as miscellaneous income. With this included as income, 11 month margin is positive at \$12,663. Variance report on right reflects the differences between actual and budgeted.

	1/1/20	11/30/20
Cash Surplus Position	\$52,432	\$65,091
Treasurer Reserve	<u>44,500</u>	<u>44,500</u>
Total	\$96,932	\$109,591

Preliminary 2021 budget has been recommended by Council. Budget will be provided through website as well as mail There were be several opportunities in January to review and offer input, i.e. Zoom meetings, email, phone.

Gwen Sparks, Treasurer. 630-4239. Gwen101@nwi.net

GRACE LUTH	IERAN CHURCH STAFF	SUNDAY WORSHIP
Pastor James Aalgaan pastor@glcwen.org	·d Pastor	9:00 a.m.
Beth Smallbeck youthandfamily@glcw	Minister of Youth & Family en.org	<u>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</u> As of this publication date, church offices are closed
Bergen Nelson intern@glcwen.org	Intern	due to COVID-19. We are working from home and checking voicemail and email messages regularly.
Judy Olson olsonjm@nwi.net	Organist	Please don't hesitate to contact us. PHONE
Rich Smallbeck rsmallbeck63@gmail.c	Facilities Maintenance Manager om	(509) 663-2189
Jen Gale office@glcwen.org	Office Administrator	<u>WEBSITE</u> www.glcwen.org
Roxanne Reindl finance@glcwen.org	Finance Manager	