

# **Annual Report of the Congregation 2019**

---



## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*A Christ-centered community  
called to gather, grow and  
give together in Grace*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Congregational Meeting Minutes.....	3
January 27, 2019 .....	3
June 23, 2019 .....	4
Church Staff .....	6
Council .....	6
Parochial Report.....	6
Statistical Report - January 1, 2019 Through December 31, 2019 .....	7
Funerals and Memorial Services .....	7
Baptisms.....	7
Weddings .....	7
Confirmation.....	7
New Members – Adults .....	7
New Members – Children.....	7
Pastor’s Report.....	7
Council President’s Report .....	8
Ministry Reports .....	8
Adopt a Garden .....	8
Alpha.....	9
Bible Study .....	9
<i>Friendship and Faith Bible Study</i> .....	9
<i>Making Sense of Christianity, The Bible and The Cross</i> .....	9
Divorce Care .....	10
Endowment Fund .....	10
Families with Small Children .....	11
<i>Family Fishing</i> .....	11
Grace Lutheran Child Development Center.....	11
Haiti Ministry.....	11
Outreach Café .....	12
Property.....	13
Softball.....	13
Sunday School .....	14
Vacation Bible School .....	14
Veterans Support.....	14
<i>Clothing Drive</i> .....	14
<i>Golf Outing</i> .....	14
WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church).....	15
Worship and Music Ministry/People of Praise Choir .....	15
2019 Year End Financial Report.....	16
2019 Year-End Balances: .....	16
Grace Lutheran Church – 2019 Statement of Activities .....	17

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 27, 2019

## Grace Lutheran Church, Richmond IL - Church Council Minutes January 27

Topic	Discussion	Decision
<b>Call to Order</b>	Gary Bittler called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.	NA
<b>Devotion and Prayer</b>	Pastor Andy opened the meeting with prayer and distributed a sign-in sheet.	NA
<b>Secretary's Report</b>	The minutes from the 2018 Congregational Meeting were reviewed.	Jon Peterson motioned to accept the minutes. Dean seconded the motion. Vote taken. All approved.
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Jon Peterson reported about the Capital Campaign projects that were completed, including the parking lot and outdoor lighting. Explained that the flooring and carpeting would soon be done. The blessing of hall damage was also mentioned in regards to the roof being re-done. He discussed the expense of snow plowing that always comes with Illinois winters. He discussed the success of the new electronic giving as well.	Bill motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Dave Oberlert seconded the motion. Vote taken. All approved.
<b>Pastor's Report</b>	Pastor Andy lifted up all of the people of the church, new and old, people who do small things or big things, and mentioned how he values all of it. He spoke of the ways he serves: sermons, youth groups, new Sr. High format and said it has been a year of growth. He spoke of his contributions on 3 committees within the Synod Council and his mentoring of another pastor. He spoke of the many new members and the need to keep them connected. He gave his "magic phrase": "Have we met before?" for all to use when greeting new members they don't know well.	NA
<b>New Business</b>	Budget for 2019 was discussed. A question came up about insurance coverage, and Pastor assured that Cory Weinfurter has checked every aspect to ensure we have proper coverage. Copier lease was questioned; Jon explained that leasing is more cost effective. Linda questioned \$0 in choral budget, Pastor explained that it is all under musician now.	Linda motioned to approve new budget, Bill seconded the motion. All approved.
<b>Old Business</b>	None	NA
<b>Open Discussion</b>	Linda, Divorce Care leader asked about starting a new group	NA
<b>Adjournment</b>	Meeting adjourned by Gary at 11:31 a.m.	Bill motioned to adjourn, Jon seconded the motion. All voted in favor to adjourn.

Present: Pastor Andy Tyrell, Deb Billig, Gary Bittler, Mike Jenkins, Michelle Jones, Jon Peterson  
Absent: Thorey Ellis, Debbie Bravos, Kim Morris

Submitted by: Michelle Jones 01/27/2019

**Grace Lutheran Church, Richmond IL  
Minutes: Congregational meeting June 23, 2019**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	DECISION	TASK/TIMELINE
Meeting call to order	Pastor Andy called the meeting to order at 10:45a.m. This meeting was held at Grace Lutheran Church in Richmond, IL. Attendance sheet passed around.	NA	NA
Devotion and Prayer	Pastor Andy led the congregational meeting with a prayer	NA	NA
Pastor's report	Pastor Andy spoke about change. He encouraged each member to complete the survey sent out via email regarding small group and music ministries. He emphasized change happens all around us. He referenced Isaiah 43:14- God is always doing new things and calls us to change and not be afraid. Asked the question: Where is God calling us now? It's ok to say good-bye to previous ministries and embrace new ministries to serve our church community. He emphasized balance and sensitivity between your needs and the needs of others.	NA	NA
Treasurer's report	Jon Petersen addressed the current financials attached to the agenda. Stated all bills are paid. Stated at the end of May, the checking account was in the red; however, that has been corrected with giving. He asked each member present to prayerfully considering electronic giving. Traditional giving drops off in the summer and the electronic giving provides an option to consider the church even if one is not present at church.	Interim report. No motion required to pass.	NA
Secretary's Report	Review of the secretary's report from January 2019 completed with no changes recommended.	Lynnette Rodriguez motioned to approve the Secretary's report. Chris Bjorklund seconded the motion. Vote taken and all in favor.	NA

**Grace Lutheran Church, Richmond IL  
Minutes: Congregational meeting June 23, 2019**

<p><b>New Business</b> a. Election of Church Council Members</p>	<p>Current nominees for the church council are:  1. Mallory Jensen  2. Jennifer Yoder  Gary Bitler and Debbie Bravos have both served 4 years on the board and will transition off according to the bylaws. Pastor Andy thanked each one for their commitment and service to the congregation.  Dave Billig spoke about the opportunity he and his wife Deb Billig had attending the Northern Illinois ELCA Synod Assembly.  He spoke about all the great ministries offered:  1. Spiritual- helping establish local congregations and support congregations in India and Africa  2. Educational support- local, India, and Africa  3. Health Programs  4. Hunger programs- Haiti, India, Africa  The Bishop introduced the new Mission Statement embracing change including other faiths, all walks of life  Celebration to recognize 50 years of women as ordained ministers in the ELCA.  Found the opportunity to attend the assembly very rewarding and encouraged members to go onto the ELCA website to obtain additional information.  Pastor Andy led the closing prayer.</p>	<p>Rita Popenhagen motioned to accept the nominees for the church council. Joan Rzonca seconded the motion. Vote taken. All in favor</p> <p>NA</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>
<p><b>Closing prayer</b></p>		<p>NA</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>	<p>No further business. Congregational meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am by Pastor Andy</p>	<p>Dave Popenhagen motioned to adjourn. Lynette Rodriguez seconded the motion. Vote taken. All approved</p>	<p>NA</p>

Respectfully submitted June 23, 2019 by Debbie Bravos- Secretary

## CHURCH STAFF

**Pastor:** Reverend Andy Tyrrell

**Secretary:** Sue Fosdal

**Music Director:** Danielle Cairolì

**Accompanist:** Tara Singer

**Nursery Attendant:** Carmen Hosken

**Custodian:** Kristi Peterson

## COUNCIL

Deborah Billig, Member at Large	2 <sup>nd</sup> term ends June 2021
Thorey Ellis, Vice President	2 <sup>nd</sup> term ends June 2020
Mike Jenkins, President	1 <sup>st</sup> term ends June 2020
Michelle Jones, Secretary	2 <sup>nd</sup> term ends June 2020
Mallory Jensen, Member at Large	1 <sup>st</sup> term ends June 2021
Kim Morris, Member at Large	2 <sup>nd</sup> term ends June 2020
Jon Petersen, Treasurer	Council Appointment
Shawn Tiani, Member at Large	2 <sup>nd</sup> term ends June 2021
Jen Yoder, Member at Large	1 <sup>st</sup> term ends June 2021

## PAROCHIAL REPORT

	<u>BAPTIZED</u>	<u>CONFIRMED</u>
<b>1. MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>397</b>
<b>2. MEMBERS RECEIVED THRU DECEMBER 31, 2019</b>		
a. By Baptism/children	3	0
b. By Baptism/adults	0	0
c. By affirmation of faith	27	27
d. By transfer from ELCA congregations	0	0
e. By transfer from other Lutheran congregations	0	0
f. From non-Lutheran congregations	0	0
g. From other sources	8	2
h. <b>TOTAL MEMBERS RECEIVED</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>3. CONFIRMED DURING 2019</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4. TOTAL MEMBERS</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>433</b>
<b>5. MEMBERS removed thru December 31, 2019</b>		
a. By death	2	2
b. By transfer to ELCA congregations	0	0
c. By transfer to other Lutheran congregations	0	0
d. To non-Lutheran congregations	0	0
e. For other reasons	16	9
f. <b>TOTAL MEMBERS REMOVED</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6. MEMBERSHIP end of December 31, 2019</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>422</b>

<b>Membership Trends</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Baptized Membership	690	578	553	537	583	604
Confirmed Membership	428	400	382	368	397	422
Average Worship Attendance	128	129	120	134	139	136

## **STATISTICAL REPORT - JANUARY 1, 2019 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019**

### **FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES**

01/05/19	Kenneth R. Runyard	07/28/19	Harry E. Krieger
01/12/19	Donna Kay Dufur	08/22/19	Andrew Donald Bays
05/21/19	Corey R. Golz	09/28/19	Irene Iacucci
07/13/19	Ted R. Bokan		

### **BAPTISMS**

03/31/19	Grace Bethany Wenzel
05/19/19	Everly Ann Bachman
10/20/19	Owen Douglas May

### **WEDDINGS**

03/30/19	Craig Dean Peterson and Rachel Elizabeth Torgersen
05/05/19	Tyler Roman and Taylor Woods
09/21/19	Nicholas Richard McElwain and Jaqueline Madison LeJeune
11/06/19	Daniel Carl Hanley and Courtney Michelle Patrick

### **CONFIRMATION**

Alison Beagle	Abigail Michelle Larson
Katelyn Beagle	Owen Douglas May
Lillyanna Gabrielle Bolman	Jake Ryan Rzonca
Kevin Matthew Gronke	

### **NEW MEMBERS – ADULTS**

Kathie Behm	Terry Fulmer	Amy Fulmer
Douglas Gartshore	Lee Gartshore	Jim Janek
Jaclyn Janek	Candy Leonard	Brian Morris
Dana Mueller	Anne O'Donnell	Scott Olson
Judy Olson	Nancy Porstner	Steven Salemi
Ray Truelsen	Kyle Truelsen	David Bachman
Ashley Bachman	Karen Brabec	Kirk Johnson
Elizabeth Johnson	Francisco Rodriguez	Lynette Rodriguez
Kaitlin Rodriguez	Keith Smith	Debbie Smith

### **NEW MEMBERS – CHILDREN**

James Janek	Makenzie Smith
Jocelyn Johnson	Jaxson Johnson
Christian Bachman	Morgan Smith

## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

*"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." -Philippians 1:3*

These are the words I use when I think of what it means to be your pastor. As I write this, I have been the pastor of Grace for over 8 years. I am grateful for the ways we have done God's work together over this period of time. Since the first time I walked into Grace, I have always felt this to be the most friendly and welcoming congregation I have ever been a part of. This has been exhibited by the ways you have welcomed new members as well. Grace is a congregation that is constantly growing and changing by listening to the will of God. I would encourage us to

continue to be a congregation that is open to what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do. May we always remember that Grace belongs to God and we are servants of His will.

Your generosity as enabled me to serve in a lot of ways as your pastor. My primary role is to teach, preach and share the sacraments with you on a weekly basis. Additionally, I am providing spiritual and emotional support to the membership of Grace on a regular basis. Below you will find some highlights of the ways that I also serve this church and the community in 2019. Please know that you can call on me anytime as I consider it a joy and a blessing to help in whatever way I can.

Highlights of ministry:

- Worked with high school parents and teens to restructure our youth group.
- Serve on the Northern Illinois Synod's council, ministry support committee and finance committee.
- Chaplain of Richmond Fire Department
- Helped encourage supporting Kenyan missionary.
- Read Christian children's books to Grace's preschool children once a week.
- Lead a monthly worship service at Burr Oak Manor (local nursing home).
- Lead Confirmation, High School Youth Group and teach first communion classes.
- Mentored a newly ordained pastor through our synod's mentoring program.
- Lead the opening and closing portion of Vacation Bible School.
- Taught a weekly class at Grace during Lent.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pastor Andy*

## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Below are highlights of 2019:

- New flooring was installed in the Sanctuary, Sanctuary alter, alter room, Narthex and corridor, and Fellowship Hall, along with some fresh new paint
- The pictorial Church Directory was updated
- Music and worship survey completed
- New Sound system installed
- The repair of several property Issues was approved

The primary goal for 2020 is to continue growing our church and all its ministries and allow God to work through all our members in his Grace and Glory

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael S. Jenkins, Church Council President*

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

### **ADOPT A GARDEN**

The landscaped gardens around the church are beautifully maintained by many volunteers. In 2019 new plantings were done on the northern entrance thanks to several volunteers who donated of time and money as well as a grant from Thrivent. Spring tulips bloomed in many of the beds from 2018 fall planting by volunteers and our Sunday school students. In 2019 we had 16 gardening areas with 23 volunteers keeping the gardens well maintained.

A garden area is adopted by an individual, family, or group who commit to care for the garden area for an annual cycle with the option to renew each year. Volunteers are given the freedom to plant what they wish with the exception of any large shrubs or trees that require council review before changes are made.

On the south entrance two trees were removed due to disease this past summer with plans to replace them in spring 2020. This is a great ministry for anyone who has a love of gardening or who wants to learn. It is also a volunteer opportunity to do with friends, family or alone and on your own schedule.

*Deborah Billig*

## **ALPHA**

The goal of confirmation is to help junior high kids transition from a childlike faith into a faith that will sustain them the rest of their lives. Our confirmation program is open to members and non-members in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. We gather Wednesday nights from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm during the school year. Each week we have dinner then Pastor Andy leads our teens in a topic about God. We explore the big questions of faith like “How Do I know God is real?” and “What is my purpose?” Once a month we have a game night where the kids have fun by playing things like dodgeball and hide and go seek. The program is open enrollment so kids are welcome to begin anytime.

*Pastor Andy*

## **BIBLE STUDY**

### *Friendship and Faith Bible Study*

The Friendship and Faith Bible Study is for any woman who wants to explore the Bible, deepen her faith and spend time in fellowship with other women. The group meets once a month, usually on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the church library.

We began 2019 with Max Lucida’s Life Lessons Study of the Book of Romans. During this study we looked at the early church and the decisions that were made out of pride or pleasure. We also discussed our choices and how Jesus’s grace is available to us when we make errors.

In October we began a study of 1 Corinthians still using Max Lucida’s Life Lessons Series. We continue to meet monthly, but changed the format of the study so that we complete two lessons each time we meet. This study is a spiritual health checkup, we are looking at what happens when we go against our better judgement and fall short of God’s plan. Paul’s letter to Corinthians confronts our short comings, and reminds us of God’s love and hope in all situations.

In addition to the study, we take time each month to share prayer concerns and praises from our own lives. Some women join us for one study of interest and some women have been part of the group for years. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining this journey or would like more information, please contact Thorey Ellis at (815) 276-2456.

*Thorey Ellis*

### *Making Sense of Christianity, The Bible and The Cross*

This small group study is held almost every Sunday after the second service and is open to all who want to learn more about our Christian faith in a comfortable small group setting. The Making Sense Series gives people a framework to discuss questions such as: How is the Bible true? How does Jesus’ birth, life, death and resurrection make a difference in our lives today? How do we understand the cross of Christ? What is the Word of God?

This discussion is appropriate for all people from the new members who are just starting their faith walk or are new to the Lutheran Church, to those that have been church members for a

while but would like to have a broader discussion on the topics. Each session in the Making Sense series features a chapter to read and a video presentation by Lutheran author and theologian David Lose, and is facilitated as a casual discussion group.

The series is broken into four main topics:

- Making Sense of Christianity
- Making Sense of Scripture
- Making Sense of The Cross
- Making Sense of Martin Luther

Every week, we take time to discuss our questions, concerns and beliefs from our own lives. Alternative beliefs are always welcome and we hope to be able to clearly and accurately share the Lutheran doctrine in our discussions. New group members are always welcome.

If you are interested in joining this small group or would like more information, contact Jon Petersen at 815-790-5934 or jonpetersen1307@gmail.com.

*Jon Petersen*

## **DIVORCE CARE**

"Divorce Care is a network of thousands of divorce recovery support groups meeting worldwide." Steve Grissom founder of DivorceCare.

The program's goal is to help people going through divorce or separation find help; discover hope for the future; and experience God's healing.

Our group meets weekly for 14 weeks (February through May and August through November).

There are three key parts to the program:

- Video Seminar (Featuring top divorce recovery experts);
- Group Discussion (Discussion about the video content and on the workbooks);
- Personal Workbook (Journaling and personal study exercises on weekly topics).

Grace Lutheran Church has offered this program since August 2014. We have given many people experiencing separation or divorce Help, Hope and Healing.

To Find Our Group go to: DivorceCare - Divorce Recovery Support Groups - DivorceCare Find a Group Zip 60071 or contact the Church Office: 815-678-3082; the office will contact the DC leadership team.

The next session starts in February 2020.

*Linda Davis*

## **ENDOWMENT FUND**

The Grace Lutheran Church Council established the Endowment Fund in 2013. The purpose of the fund is threefold:

- To enhance the benevolent mission of the congregation
- To provide a fund for bequests given to the church that would keep them in a segregated account from the day to day operation funds
- To provide a structured distribution process of the income of the plan

There are several ways to participate or contribute to the Endowment Fund.

- Establish Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund as an additional beneficiary of your estate, retirement account or life insurance policy.
- Designate Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund as the requested memorial recipient

- Transfer assets (stock, bonds, real estate) to the Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund
- Make a direct cash contribution to the Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

There are several reasons to participate in the endowment fund.

- Your gifts are put to work to become an ongoing blessing for others now and into the future
- Your gifts will help build a fund that assists those in need year after year
- You create a lasting impact that goes beyond the initial gift

Our church by-laws provide guidance on how the income is invested and then distributed to the various missions of the church. The goal of Grace's Endowment Fund is to maintain the principal in the fund and distribute the income portion only which will provide financial support to the church's various missions in perpetuity.

Accordingly, the Grace Endowment Committee has abided by church by-laws in selecting moderate conservative investments through Thrivent and ELCA mutual funds. The Endowment Committee is happy to answer any questions you may have or assist you with your donation to the fund. Please contact Brian Radmer or Pastor Andy with questions.

*Brian Radmer*

## **FAMILIES WITH SMALL CHILDREN**

### *Family Fishing*

This past summer on June 23rd I reserved the pavilion at the Spring Grove Fish Hatchery for families to come and enjoy a day of fishing at the park. It was a great way for families within Grace to get to know each other better and have an activity that many could participate in.

*Stacy Radmer*

## **GRACE LUTHERAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

It has been almost 31 years since our church had the vision to help meet the needs of the children and their families in the surrounding communities.

Making connections with people is what Jesus modeled. He met people and provided for their needs. This is what Grace's childcare centers do 52 weeks a year. Both the center in Twin Lakes and here at the church serve over 200 families each year. With our loving and devoted staff of 38 professionals, the children are learning and growing both socially and physically. We offer many programs for all children ages 6 weeks through 12 years of age, including infant/toddler care, preschool, before and after school care as well as part time and full time Prekindergarten program.

Please feel free to visit our busy and noisy classrooms to see how this ministry enriches the lives of our children.

*Sue Kubic*

## **HAITI MINISTRY**

I am pleased to announce that the Haiti ministry of Grace Lutheran Church is doing well although this has been a challenging year.

2019 has been a tough year for all missionaries and organizations in Haiti due to the civilian unrest and public demonstrations by the Haitian citizens. Many of the streets have been closed for the manifestations: roadblocks made of burning tires and rocks. Police will respond within a few hours, remove the roadblocks and restore order only to have a reoccurrence in the following days. During the unrest, many of the stores and banks were closed which made our work in Haiti (as well as that of other organizations) very difficult. However, we were still able to get to the

sponsored schools and rural communities to provide the food, clothing and school funds to the proper people.

As you may know, Grace Lutheran Church is working with an organization called Haiti's Children Inc. (HCI) which has a missionary, Gladys Mungo, stationed in Haiti throughout the year. Gladys has been instrumental with our mission to help Haitians, especially children, to get proper food, clothing, education and spiritual guidance. HCI is a recipient of the food program of Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) and as a result, will be distributing the food packages that you may have helped assemble at the FMSC facility in Libertyville. Our youth groups have done this several times in the past years. Through this FMSC program, we are feeding 1200 children each day through their schools and orphanages. HCI is also providing cooks to prepare the meals so the children will have a decent meal while at school.

Clothing, shoes, school supplies, eyeglasses, medical needs and books are also provided for the students as well as the cost of the school tuition. There are many children who would not be able to attend school or eat well if not for these programs.

Gladys recently has been in the United States to have a hip replacement and is recovering at this time. She was able to get the children started in the current school year in September and will be back in Haiti in time for the start of the second semester in February. During her absence, her on-site associate has been covering for her with the food distribution and overseeing of the ministry.

Thanks to your generosity and faithful stewardship, Grace has been instrumental with the feeding, schooling, medical and spiritual development programs that are helping many children who might have no other opportunities to receive this blessing. This is the body of Christ in action!

*Jon Petersen*

## **OUTREACH CAFÉ**

Our Outreach Café Team has had the joy and the privilege of supporting the outside missions of Grace Lutheran Church. Each member pitches in what we can in the way of food and time, so that 100% of the money raised through the cafe can be sent directly to our missions. We also received a total of \$500.00 from Thrivent Financial for supplies throughout the year. Although we were open 11 Sundays instead of 12, a total of \$4,817.00 was raised, and Grace was able to send \$1,204.25 to each of our missions: Haiti, PADS, Habitat for Humanity of McHenry County and the food pantry. While we are glad for the monetary support, please also remember our missions in your prayers and consider doing what you can to help them throughout the year.

Missionary Gladys Mungo has had a really challenging year in Haiti. There has been a great deal of unrest politically, which has made her journeys to pick up supplies for Haiti Children, Inc. difficult and at times, somewhat dangerous. Nevertheless, Gladys persists in her walk with the children of Haiti, working together with them toward building a more promising future through education and nutritional assistance. God continues to be faithful in providing for Haiti's Children. You can see some of the progress being made at [www.haitichildrens.org](http://www.haitichildrens.org). If you'd like the opportunity to be directly involved in supporting this mission, they need people to sew clothes and backpacks for the children, assemble hygiene kits, and sponsor children's' education. Gladys is also looking for volunteers to come to Haiti to work on a nutrition center. Jon Petersen is the go to guy at church for more information, [jon.petersen1307@gmail.com](mailto:jon.petersen1307@gmail.com).

PADS has had a very difficult year. Pioneer Center had folded PADS under their umbrella a couple of years back and then recently, The Chapel decided to partner with Pioneer Center to open a permanent shelter in a building the Chapel owns on Route 31 south of McHenry. This would eliminate the need for rotating services between churches, as has been the practice for many years. However, delays in permit approvals and other challenges set back the opening of

the permanent site and there has been a mad scramble to find shelter for our homeless folks. Some churches that had been in the original program re-opened and add some nights, but the situation is still somewhat unstable. Please pray for our homeless neighbors during this time, and for the churches and organizations that are working so hard to sustain them until the permanent shelter opens. Curt Bjorklund is the go to guy at church for more information, chbjorklund@hotmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity of McHenry County continues to partner with local families to move them into their own homes. On January 18th, a new house in Wonder Lake was dedicated and the Zywiec's became the newest home owning family! On February 1st at the Woodstock Public Library, Habitat will host a question and answer session for people who are interested in applying for a house. Habitat for Humanity of McHenry County enjoys the support of local volunteers as well as local businesses in building or rehabilitating housing to make the dream of affordable home ownership a reality for area families. Habitat is looking for adults who want to have fun and make a lasting difference in a neighbor's life. Volunteer on a build or work at the McHenry or Woodstock Habitat Restore, or donate and/or buy things at those stores. Rose McGuire is the go to person at our church for more information, springgrove.rose@gmail.com.

The Richmond Food Pantry and the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Genoa City receive funds from the cafe to help folks who have more month than money. Donations of food or money are always appreciated, and if you have an interest in serving, please contact Tina Peterson at tinap59@hotmail.com and you will be put in touch with someone from the pantry.

Since Grace has recently added a church in Kenya to our missions, we will be adding them as a beneficiary of our cafe in 2020.

*Tina Peterson*

## **PROPERTY**

This year included many projects, both big and small, that were done to improve the church grounds. We completed our capital campaign projects by installing new flooring throughout the church. Special thank you to Sandy Yoder, Ron Erdmann and Bob Ketelson for serving as members of the capital campaign committee. Through the hard work of volunteers we updated the majority of the churches lighting to LED fixtures. This has improved the quality of lighting in the church and helped us save energy. Through your generosity we were able to install a new sound system in our sanctuary. Parts of our sound system were over 40 years old. This has greatly improved the quality of worship services. The majority of our property needs are addressed by the volunteers of our church. We have a large group of people who are willing to give their time and energy to make sure we have a safe and welcoming place for people to experience the Grace of God.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Pastor Andy*

## **SOFTBALL**

Grace Lutheran Softball was a hit again this season! Thank you to all that came out and to cheer on the team.

We had a winning record this past season, but most importantly, we had a lot of fun and great fellowship.

Believe it or not the league winter meetings are coming up in the next few weeks to prepare for the 2020 season! As Grace Lutheran Softball will begin its 3rd season, McHenry County Fellowship Softball League (MCFSL) will enter its 42nd season. Field improvements have been made to Township Park and we will keep you posted on any new developments.

Come on out and have some fun with GLS!! We are always looking for new players, helpers, scorekeepers, and fans. Hope to see you out there!!

Softball season runs from late April until around late July on Monday evenings. All games are played in McHenry County.

For more information please see Bryan Johnson or Michael Jensen at worship, or email at [gracelutheransoftball@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheransoftball@gmail.com).

*Bryan Johnson*

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Our Sunday school meets during the 9:30 worship service. Kids begin in the sanctuary where they listen to the children's sermon. Following the children's sermon kids from 4 years old through 5th grade go to Sunday school.

There are two classes. One is for 4 year olds through 1st grade. The other includes 3rd through 5th graders. Second graders choose which class they would like to attend. They return to the service for communion with their family or a pastoral blessing.

This year, the children collected about 300 pairs of socks for the PADS ministry and made Valentine's Day cards which Pastor delivered to a nursing home.

We are grateful for our many volunteers and parents who make Sunday School possible.

*Elaine Wagner*

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

The theme of this year's Vacation Bible School was Roar. Over 80 kids from our church and the community participated in the program from July 29th to August 2nd. Our daycare teachers and volunteers planned fun and creative ways to help kids grow in faith. The program included children who are in preschool to those who are in 5th grade. The program was led by the executive director of our daycare, Sue Kubic. We are grateful for the hard work of our staff and volunteers.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Pastor Andy*

## **VETERANS SUPPORT**

### *Clothing Drive*

We had a very successful clothing drive for the veterans in the month of December. We collected over 65 bags of clothing for our veterans. The clothing Drive helped support the Veterans clothes closet and TLS.

*Scott Olson*

### *Golf Outing*

We had an excellent turn out for the 1st annual golf outing. We had 47 golfers and gave \$150 to Northern Illinois Veterans funds. We received a lot of great feedback and look forward to growing leadership and participation around this event!

*Mike Jensen*

## **WELCA (WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH)**

Mission Statement: "Our primary mission is the support of Grace Lutheran Church through prayer and assistance with our time and financial support. We will support each other with care and compassion and help support the Northeast Illinois Division of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America."

All women of Grace Lutheran Church are members of WELCA. We encourage you to join our meetings, held the 2nd Monday of the month, 1 pm at church. We meet September through May.

We welcome you to these meetings and any comments and ideas you might bring. If you are unable to attend these meetings, but would like to help in other ways, please let us know.

Our activities include:

- Hosting Funeral Luncheons or Coffee Hour; contact Rita Popenhagen: 815-678-4413
- Bake Sales throughout the year
- Knitting and Crocheting (donated lap blankets & baby items); contact Joan Rzonca: 262-877-3429
- Card Ministry (sending get well, sympathy cards, greeting cards etc.); Penny Dolan
- Craft/Vendor Fair – Be a vendor, volunteer serve lunch, bake goods, help plan; Contact Lynn Jambor: 262-707-5966

Our funds are used throughout the year to help support our community such as the Food Pantry, TLS Veterans, Senior Transportation and PADS.

We also use our funds within our church to provide Bibles for children at their baptism, repairs and maintenance of our building and recently with our sound system and reupholstering chairs.

For more information please contact President, Lynn Jambor (262-707-5966) or Vice President, Sue Bitler (815-678-4890)

*Lynn Jambor*

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY/PEOPLE OF PRAISE CHOIR**

The Worship and Music Ministry/People of Praise Choir's goal is to provide meaningful hymns and songs to supplement the Sunday, holiday and special services.

The People of Praise worship year runs from September-May, with a summer break. To this end, we have made some exciting new changes to our choral schedule that began in September. I have broken down the report into four categories: January-May; Summer; September-December; and Going forward.

January-May: We continued the schedule I had set in September of 2018 when I joined the staff at Grace Lutheran. The choir rehearsed weekly for one hour, and prepared an offertory and communion song to sing every first and third Sunday. The second and fourth Sunday music was covered by our accompanist, Tara Singer.

Over the summer: We put together a survey to determine if the music ministry is providing a worship environment that is best for our congregation. The survey results came back positive. We also surveyed the choir in order to respond to their needs and suggestions for the upcoming worship year.

Also, various choir members volunteered to sing offertories as solos over the summer, which was a wonderful addition to the services.

September-December: In response to the surveys, we increased our weekly rehearsals to 1.5 hours and continue to prepare offertory and communion songs to sing about twice a month. We have also added our voices to the 8:00 am service for special services and holidays

(Thanksgiving, beginning of Advent, etc.). We also began to add some new songs to our regular hymn rotation.

Choir members have continued to volunteer to sing solos and duets for the offertory on the choir's off weekends.

After some trial and error, we also added an additional hymn for communion.

We did have some new members join the choir, but due to health concerns and scheduling conflicts, they unfortunately had to step away for the time being.

Going forward: The Worship and Music Ministry will continue to respond to the worship needs of the congregation, and provide meaningful music to supplement the Sunday services. We hope to recruit new members and musicians to add to our sound this coming year, which will allow us to continue to try new things!

For further questions or comments, please contact Danielle Cairoli: Dani.Cairoli@gmail.com or 815-342-1799.

*Danielle Cairoli*

## **2019 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT**

2019 was a good year for Grace Lutheran Church: Our average weekly attendance at both early and late services was good and we ended the year in a respectable financial position. Due to the continued stewardship of our members, we ended the year with all bills paid in full and a small surplus to help carry us into the winter months which usually has smaller weekly attendance and increased snow-clearing and utility expenses. I have included the year-end balances of our accounts below.

In this report, we have included the year-end statements of our 2019 income and expenses as well as the year-end balances of our accounts. Our church council has been very efficient at holding the down the costs of expenses while maintaining excellent ministry programs. We had added or continued adult education classes and small groups as well as an exciting youth Sunday School program. Recent building improvements such as flooring and a new sound system have added to the comfort and efficiency of our ministry. Our mission to provide good Christian education along with energizing spiritual growth is a result of continued involvement by our members. Our pastoral and music ministry staff have continued to provide solid a spiritual experience for our congregation and guests. All this wouldn't be possible without the overwhelming responsiveness of our members and volunteers who make this possible.

With our continuing commitment to our church's ministry, we can continue to spread the good news of the Gospel, to bring light into lives of those who are in need of spiritual guidance and facilitate the spiritual growth of the people who are passionate to be a member of the body of Christ and a member of the Grace Lutheran Church family.

Thank you to the members of Grace who continue to be a blessing and support of the mission of Grace Lutheran Church with their time, energy, finances, and prayers.

*Jon Petersen, Treasurer*

### **2019 YEAR-END BALANCES:**

**SEVEN-MONTH CD** - \$20,099.73

**ENDOWMENT FUND** - \$58,951.14

**GENERAL FUND** - \$5,403.40

**NOW ACCOUNT** (designated funds) - \$87,600.81

**MORTGAGE LOAN BALANCE** - \$382,620.97

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – 2019 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

## *Grace Lutheran Church*

### Statement of Activities

#### Church General Fund

December 31, 2019

<b>Account Shortcut and Description</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Current Month Actual</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Offerings</b>				
400 Members Envelopes	223,926.00	23,280.00	226,234.00	223,926.00
401 Loose Plate Offering	5,000.00	700.00	4,090.16	5,000.00
402 Building Fund	2,000.00	312.50	3,362.50	2,000.00
403 Special Offerings	10,000.00	3,101.00	13,230.00	10,000.00
Offerings Totals:	240,926.00	27,393.50	246,916.66	240,926.00
<b>Special Income</b>				
404 Initial	100.00	53.00	142.00	100.00
406 Reimbursements	2,000.00	357.56	6,865.63	2,000.00
407 Non-Member Giving	7,000.00	1,080.00	13,253.00	7,000.00
408 Day Care Rent Transfer	52,382.00	4,365.16	52,381.92	52,382.00
409 Haiti Orphanage	0.00	95.00	870.00	0.00
411 Haiti Trip	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
412 Haiti General	0.00	177.50	1,530.50	0.00
Special Income Totals:	61,482.00	6,128.22	77,043.05	61,482.00
Income Totals:	302,408.00	33,521.72	323,959.71	302,408.00
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Outreach Ministry</b>				
501 Supplies/Program	300.00	0.00	68.00	300.00
<b>Stewardship Ministry</b>				
504 Supplies/Program	900.00	155.78	1,074.19	900.00
505 Mission Support	22,000.00	2,758.30	24,797.62	22,000.00
Stewardship Ministry Totals:	22,900.00	2,914.08	25,871.81	22,900.00
<b>Youth Ministry</b>				
508 Supplies/Program	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
557 Youth Convention/Trips	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Ministry Totals:	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
<b>Communications Ministry</b>				
511 Supplies/Program	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
514 Website/Email Services	2,000.00	52.00	1,337.43	2,000.00
Communications Ministry Totals:	2,050.00	52.00	1,337.43	2,050.00
<b>Parish Fellowship</b>				
515 Supplies/Program	400.00	0.00	412.85	400.00
516 Softball Team	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Parish Fellowship Totals:	400.00	0.00	412.85	400.00

<b>Account Shortcut and Description</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Current Month Actual</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>
<b>Learning Ministry</b>				
518 Church Schools	250.00	578.63	820.00	250.00
519 Cradle Roll	250.00	0.00	236.76	250.00
520 Vacation Church School	1,000.00	0.00	444.74	1,000.00
522 Confirmation - ALPHA	350.00	0.00	339.81	350.00
524 Adult Education Materials	250.00	0.00	97.79	250.00
<b>Learning Ministry Totals:</b>	<b>2,100.00</b>	<b>578.63</b>	<b>1,939.10</b>	<b>2,100.00</b>
<b>Properties Ministry</b>				
526 Mortgage	39,182.00	3,265.20	39,182.40	39,182.00
527 Utilities	15,400.00	1,087.08	15,561.39	15,400.00
528 Services	2,400.00	144.50	2,193.00	2,400.00
529 Grounds Maintenance	10,000.00	1,899.00	13,966.00	10,000.00
530 Supplies	1,100.00	0.00	816.50	1,100.00
531 Hazard Insurance	6,600.00	823.16	9,793.00	6,600.00
532 Janitorial Service	4,820.00	372.00	4,836.00	4,820.00
533 Repair/Maintenance	7,000.00	571.30	4,730.14	7,000.00
535 New Equipment	0.00	21.46	676.45	0.00
536 FICA - Janitorial Service	369.00	28.45	369.88	369.00
568 Project Work	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
<b>Properties Ministry Totals:</b>	<b>87,871.00</b>	<b>8,212.15</b>	<b>92,226.76</b>	<b>87,871.00</b>
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>				
539 Bulletins/Inserts	800.00	0.00	898.89	800.00
540 Candles	250.00	0.00	188.58	250.00
541 Wine/Wafers	100.00	0.00	38.69	100.00
542 Decorations/Banners	250.00	187.50	522.14	250.00
543 Communion Cards/Envelopes	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
546 Guest Musicians	0.00	0.00	60.00	0.00
547 Booklets/Devotionals	300.00	143.80	353.80	300.00
548 Parament Cleaning/New Robes	100.00	0.00	168.00	100.00
549 Music	300.00	0.00	418.68	300.00
550 Worship Aids	600.00	398.43	995.24	600.00
551 Nursery Expense	2,000.00	230.00	2,230.00	2,000.00
<b>Worship &amp; Music Totals:</b>	<b>4,750.00</b>	<b>959.73</b>	<b>5,872.00</b>	<b>4,750.00</b>
<b>Parish Administration</b>				
555 Salary/FICA	37,393.00	3,116.08	37,358.67	37,393.00
556 Insurance/Pension	33,602.00	2,751.05	33,012.60	33,602.00
558 Professional Reimbursement	3,000.00	179.22	2,577.87	3,000.00
560 Musician's Salary	11,000.00	1,260.00	11,792.50	11,000.00
561 Secretary's Salary	34,910.00	2,909.24	34,910.88	34,910.00
562 FICA - Parish Administration	3,512.00	332.70	3,705.84	3,512.00
563 Supplies	2,600.00	123.96	2,411.82	2,600.00
564 Telephone	2,600.00	231.99	2,658.43	2,600.00
565 Synod Assembly	600.00	0.00	823.47	600.00
566 Workman's Comp Insurance	1,800.00	0.00	2,054.61	1,800.00
567 Auto Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
568 Postage	1,300.00	0.00	1,168.30	1,300.00

<b>Account Shortcut and Description</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Current Month Actual</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>
574 Northeast Conference Dues	120.00	0.00	58.30	120.00
580 Housing	35,000.00	2,916.66	34,999.92	35,000.00
586 Pulpit Supply	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
587 Software License Fee	1,800.00	0.00	538.00	1,800.00
537 Copier Lease	6,000.00	503.63	5,995.73	6,000.00
<b>Parish Administration Totals:</b>	<b>175,537.00</b>	<b>14,324.53</b>	<b>174,066.94</b>	<b>175,537.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Expense</b>				
575 Bank Debts	500.00	0.00	582.44	500.00
576 Transfers/Benevolent Receipts	0.00	702.50	7,824.50	0.00
577 Haiti Fund into NOW	0.00	272.50	2,440.50	0.00
583 Other	500.00	241.00	2,034.54	500.00
584 Pastoral Discretionary Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
590 Building Capitol Improvements	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
591 Transfer to NOW Reserve Fund	5,200.00	500.00	11,000.00	5,200.00
<b>Miscellaneous Expense Totals:</b>	<b>6,200.00</b>	<b>1,716.00</b>	<b>23,661.98</b>	<b>6,200.00</b>
<b>Expense Totals:</b>	<b>302,408.00</b>	<b>28,757.12</b>	<b>325,476.87</b>	<b>302,408.00</b>

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019 = \$5,403.40

7 MONTH CD = \$20,099.73

NOW ACCOUNT – December 31, 2019	November Totals	December Receipts	December Disbursement	December Totals
Softball Team	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sunday School Mission	1,552.28	0.00	0.00	1,552.28
Habitat for Humanity	967.00	301.25	1,268.25	0.00
Accommodation	1,175.13	0.00	42.00	1,133.13
Haiti Mission	8,838.01	413.75	0.00	9,251.76
Prayer Ministry	282.00	0.00	0.00	282.00
P.A.D.S.	416.99	333.75	0.00	750.74
Haiti Orphanage	680.74	20.00	0.00	700.74
Library Fund	248.00	0.00	0.00	248.00
ALPHA	3,140.23	0.00	0.00	3,140.23
Tithe	1,974.73	2,758.30	1,974.73	2,758.30
Thrivent Choice Dollars	8,086.10	0.00	0.00	2,758.30
Adult Sunday School	161.02	0.00	0.00	161.02
International Missions Support	572.60	32.50	572.60	32.50
Operational Reserve Fund	8,237.72	500.00	0.00	8,737.72
Building Maintenance Fund	3,962.39	312.50	402.50	2,872.39
Easter Breakfast	1,326.63	0.00	0.00	1,326.63
High School Youth	3,496.01	0.00	0.00	3,496.01
Haiti's Children, Inc.	345.00	25.00	0.00	370.00
Outreach Café	1,011.00	333.75	1,344.76	[.01]
Building Growth Fund	3,944.00	0.00	0.00	3,944.00
Fellowship Monies	39.38	0.00	0.00	39.38
Community Discretionary Fund	408.78	0.00	50.00	358.78
Endowment Fund	594.00	97.50	0.00	691.50
Pastor's FSA	.36	83.07	83.33	.10
Youth Trip Scholarship	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
VBS Supplies	[17.56]	0.00	0.00	[17.56]
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	3,677.06	1,000.00	60.00	4,617.06
Roof Repair	20,500.51	0.00	0.00	20,500.51
<b>SUB-TOTALS</b>	<b>75,845.12</b>	<b>6,261.37</b>	<b>6,798.17</b>	<b>75,308.31</b>
Interest Income	2,594.91	62.61	.02	2,657.50
Memorials	4,635.00	0.00	0.00	4,635.00
Day Care Equipment Fund	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>88,075.00</b>	<b>6,323.98</b>	<b>6,798.19</b>	<b>87,600.81</b>