



**September 2020 – August 2021
Annual Report**

Grace and peace in the name of Christ,

This past year has been one of the more unique and challenging years that I have faced both at Grace and in my time as a pastor. As we began the year, we kept thinking that the COVID pandemic was going to end soon. Little did we know that it wouldn't be until after Easter that we would finally partially reopen for worship. Even here in the summer, we are finding that more than half of our regular weekly worship attendance is worshipping online. In many ways, the decisions about reopening have been significantly more challenging and complex than the original decision to close church facilities on March 15, 2020.

As we continue to creep out of this pandemic, we are finding ourselves in a strange and uncomfortable position. After almost 18 months of this pandemic, the daily toll on everyone's lives is very evident. My sense is that many in the congregation are weary, lonely, confused, frustrated, and many other emotions. I really do believe that these later days (we hope) of the pandemic have been the most difficult.

I am reminded of the familiar story from Luke's gospel, the Road to Emmaus. A couple of unnamed disciples are traveling after Jesus had been killed in Jerusalem. As they travel, someone they do not know approaches them and walks with them in their grief and questions. And this fellow traveler seems to not know about what had happened with Jesus in Jerusalem. The disciples respond to his questions:

[Jesus] said to them, What are you discussing with each other while you walk along? They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days? He asked them, What things? They replied, The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. (Luke 24:17-21a)

We had hoped.... I have heard it said that these are some of the most haunting words in the bible. Why? Because they speak to something deep within us, our own longings and unmet hopes. We had hoped that this pandemic would not be as bad as predicted. We had hoped that we could contain this virus before it spread so widely in our community. We had hoped that mask mandates and physical distancing would only be a temporary message. We had hoped that avoiding restaurants and shopping online, skipping trips to see grandparents and grandchildren, would just be a small sacrifice. We had hoped that once a vaccine was available that everyone would commit to ending this pandemic.

The accumulated grief over the past year is going to leave a lasting mark on all of our lives. All the unmet hopes of the past 18 months, the deep losses and growing tensions and divisions in the world around us, are not going to magically disappear. And yet, there is also something powerful emerging, displayed in the resilience of our congregation and our communities. So much has been lost, and yet so much has also been learned.

Prior to the pandemic, we had been slowly moving more things online, including a massive update to our church database system. Over the past year, we have been able to move all of our ministry online. Some of the things that we have been doing were temporary, but some new ways of doing ministry and engaging with each other will likely continue.

Here are some highlights of ministries that took on a different shape over the past year:

- We developed a way for creating high quality, engaging, and worshipful online services.
- We offered monthly live Zoom Communion worship services.
- We grew our Adult Faith Formation participation through all-online classes that engaged challenging in open and honest ways. Over the past year, we have done the following book studies: *So You Want to Talk About Race?*, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, *Company of Strangers*, *Freedom of a Christian*, *Moral Leadership for a Divided Age*, and *Brave Talk*.
- We offered more connections to NC Synod and the many resources provided during the pandemic through the Bishop's office.
- We moved all of our meetings onto Zoom, and have found that to be very effective for many of these types of gatherings, especially during the winter months!
- We experimented with doing some drive-thru and parking lot events along with more outdoor activities.
- Our online ministries have helped us to engage a wider audience in worship and other faith formative activities.

Despite all the challenges that we have faced together, some really amazing ministry opportunities have emerged. And this, in the end, is the promise that we cling to when we worship a Lord who died but then also was raised.

[The disciples continue] "Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him. "
(Luke 24:21b-24)

Though we have had many hopes that have not been realized over the past year, we also have discovered that in our grief and longing, we do not walk alone! Jesus is with us on all the challenging roads of life; when we worship a God who is alive and with us, we discover that possibilities abound. The hope that we had thought was lost rises from the grave, and with it, new hope emerges.

Please know that my prayers have been with each and every one of you over this last year. None of us has experienced anything like this before, and yet I have been inspired by your support of me and my family and also your commitment to this ministry of Grace that we share. When we together share God's love, I really do believe that ALL will be served and supported.

In Grace,
Pastor Steve

Congregation Council Report – Mary Ballard, Council President

In 2021 – in the midst of a pandemic - the council carried out a very successful Capital Campaign. The highlight of the campaign was paying off the Council House mortgage! This relieves a financial burden that helps us look to the future to plan how to better serve the congregation in our ministries and to improve our infrastructure at the church and on our properties.

During the pandemic, Pastor Steve and the staff were able to provide high quality online worship services and some outside services. The outside services for Christmas Eve were interesting due to inclement weather that turned to a winter storm on a dime. Fortunately, we had beautiful weather for the outside Easter service and egg hunt.

One thing that we all missed last year was having a Vicar. We are excited this year to welcome Vicar Randy to serve in the ministries at Grace! Please keep his wife Ann in your prayers as she recovers from an injury and related surgery. As a part of our congregational welcome, we ask that you gift Vicar Randy with a gift card or a meal out.

The most challenging task facing the Council this year was to balance regathering in person with the ongoing pandemic. We used the Governor's executive orders and the NC Synod regathering guidelines to guide our decisions regarding in-person meetings and worship. We also surveyed the congregation about issues related to regathering. These were not always easy decisions and we found that some in the congregation felt we moved too slowly, while others are still not comfortable with gathering in person.

Most of my tenure as Council president has been during the COVID-19 pandemic. This isn't quite what I expected when I took on this role, but I have learned and grown as a result of the challenges this presented. I want to thank all the dedicated and thoughtful members of the Council for their hard work, dedication, and prayerful decisions over the past two years.

MINISTRY STRUCTURE—2020-2021

Ministry Pillars & Council Liaisons	Ministry Groups	Ministry Group Chairperson
LEARNING		
<i>Mary Ballard</i>	Faith Formation	Beth Reavis
<i>Carol Norris</i>	Internship Committee	
	Stewardship	
SERVING	Community Action	Janice Koppenhaver
<i>Laura McArthur</i>	Grace Builders	Harold Stophel
	Visitation Ministry	Judy Michael & Charlene Sox
<i>Morgan Wright</i>	Troutman Foundation	Gail Lund
WORSHIPING	Worship & Music	Alan Hauser
<i>Alan Hauser</i>	Altar Guild	Beth Reavis
<i>Beth Reavis</i>	Small Group Ministry	
	High Country Coalition	
WELCOMING	Evangelism (Hospitality)	Roger Bodo
<i>Charlie Wallin</i>	Campus Ministry/Jeffcoat	Steve & Laura Seagle
<i>Sandy Moretz</i>	Fellowship Ministry	
Supporting	Property Team	Bryan Berger
<i>Janice Koppenhaver</i>	Finance Team	Jeff Voss
<i>Emory Maiden</i>	Website & Technology	Emory Maiden
<i>Gail Lund</i>	Personnel	Gail Lund
	Advisory Committee	
	Columbarium Committee	Gail Lund & Sandy Moretz

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The following ministries did not submit reports:

Fellowship Ministry, Intern Committee, Seminary Intern, Treasurer, Dorcas and the Advisory Committee.

Faith Formation ~ Beth Reavis
LEARNING MINISTRY

Faith Formation, as with other ministries, has looked a bit different this past year. Many of our events and plans have been put on hold until it is determined that we can safely regather.

With the advent of "ZOOM," adults have been able to participate in book and Bible studies led by Pastor Steve throughout the year. Held on Sunday mornings, these studies have been well received as a "Sunday School substitute" and community connection for members and visitors.

Our youth have also participated in zoom events and gatherings. We know they look forward to resuming in-person gatherings, attending youth gatherings and sharing their experiences over the past months.

And our "Little Lutherans" were invited to participate in a council-approved Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday. While the weather was perfect, masks were required along with social distancing (as much as possible with young ones!).

As we begin plans for a new year, we invite all those interested in participating with these age groups and the undertakings of Faith Formation to be in touch with Pastor Steve. We are dedicated to all ages, sharing God's love so that all are served and supported.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Reavis

Seminary Intern
LEARNING MINISTRY

Internship Committee
SERVING MINISTRY

September 2020 – August 2021, Grace Lutheran did not host a Seminary intern or maintain an Internship Committee.

Stewardship Team ~ Pastor Steve Troisi
SERVING MINISTRY

The Stewardship Ministry continued to function as a task of the Council with support from the Administrative Secretary and Financial Secretary this past year. With the congregation continuing to refrain from meeting in-person for almost nine months of the year, and with in-person attendance only slowly ramping up, the giving of the congregation has remained steady.

Congregation members and friends of Grace have found ways to support the ministry that we share by sending offerings through the mail and online. We are currently on track to come close to matching our level of giving from the previous year, about \$300,000!

Because of COVID, the annual Stewardship Drive was a little delayed with the culmination of the drive being Sunday, August 15th. The theme for our Stewardship emphasis this year is "About to do a new thing!" This year we are focusing on all the new things that we have learned through the pandemic and imagining how it will reshape our ministry for the future. Each of the 6 weeks of the drive highlights something new we've tried in ministry over the past year that we would like to find a way to continue and asking for the support of the congregation (time, talent and treasure) as we enter this new season of ministry together!

Growing Grace Capital Campaign ~ Pastor Steve Troisi

In the Fall of 2020, we gathered a small group of leaders from the congregation to participate in a series of Synod trainings to help launch a Capital Campaign, Growing Grace. This project had three major foci:

- (1) supporting our Outreach Partners by investing 10% of every gift into the Troutman Foundation;
- (2) pay off the Councill Property Mortgage which began as \$1.8 million in 2007; and
- (3) renovate the Carriage House to create a fully updated Vicarage and allow more flexibility for the use of the Grace Place in the future.

We were thrilled with the congregational response which included both gifts and pledges to this drive! Because of the generosity of our congregation, we were able to pay off the Councill Property Mortgage in full by February 2021! Thanks be to God! We will continue to receive gifts toward the Growing Grace Campaign through the end of 2021.

Thank you to our Capital Campaign Task Force:

Kristie Evans, Kathy Giewisch, Natalie Harkey, Jesse Lutabingwa, Jeff Voss and Pastor Steve

Visitation Team ~ Charlene Sox ***SERVING MINISTRY***

The Visitation Team was organized in May 2020. The purpose of the team is to provide a way to keep in touch with folks who are sick or not able to come to worship (similar to the role of the former Ministers of Grace). Judy Michael and Charlene Sox have served as co-coordinators of the Visitation Team activities through August 2021. Other team members in 2021 are Patricia Weaver, Sandy Moretz, Libby Brown, Susan McKay, and Cinda Williamson. Sandy Moretz served as a council liaison to report on team activities to the Church Council.

The Visitation Team met bi-monthly via Zoom during 2021. The co-coordinators met with Pastor Steve as needed to update the group's care list and discuss anything else pertaining to visitation. The team members submitted to the co-coordinators their routine reports of the contacts they made. All contacts in 2021 were by phone calls or cards. In July 2021, the Visitation Team members were given permission by the Church Council to make person-to-person visits.

The Card Ministry ~ Carol McCubbins

The card ministry sent over 250 cards this year.

The outstanding volunteers are Martha Caldwell, Lynne Mauney, Jo Ann Wright, Gail Hauser, Martha Moretz, Peggy Clemmer, Pat Weaver, Cinda Williamson, Judy Wellborn, Martha Kreszock, Jennie Hallsey and Annette Clinebell.

Thank you to all their help and to Vera and Jennifer for their help and support.

Sincerely,

Carol McCubbins, Chairman

Community Action Team ~ Janice Koppenhaver, Chairperson
SERVING MINISTRY

As with most activities at Grace, many of our regular activities went online or virtual. Although we didn't cook meals for Hospitality House, we supported F.A.R.M. Cafe to provide meals each month since March 2020. We also were able to support the Health and Hunger Coalition to provide much needed food for our community when people lost their jobs. At Christmas, we did support many of our benevolences by moving our Giving Tree to our website and launching this year's drive digitally. Through the generosity of Grace members, our helping hand reached the community more than people realize. We also reached out to our usual benevolence agencies to ask them to apply for grants from the Troutman Foundation. As we progress in 2021, we hope to be able to resume some activities. Stay tuned!

Janice Koppenhaver, Community Action Chair

Grace Builders Ministry ~ Harold Stophel, Team Leader
SERVING MINISTRY

Dear Friends in Christ,

This Report covers the fiscal period from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021

COVID-19: The greatest effect of the virus on our team and work was the reduced number of volunteers working. We regularly prayed for those who could not come, that they would be safe and well. We also gave thanks for those who could come. They worked long and often to keep the ministries going, especially the Firewood Ministry. We Glorify God that, as far as we know, no one working or sheltering contracted the virus!

As a reminder, Grace Builders does not have a line item in the church budget. We operate totally on funds from other sources, such as personal donations, Troutman Foundation, Thrivent, fund-raisers and God's generous blessings. We try to focus more on the needs in front of us and trust that God will provide what resources are needed.

We want to acknowledge our brothers and sisters from First Presbyterian Church, who are partners with us in the Firewood Ministry and some of the other outreach projects. Their involvement for these several years has been wonderful. We also wish to acknowledge the support and participation of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at ASU who come frequently to split wood, help with spring and fall cleanups, and work on fund-raising. We are also blessed by several individual volunteers who help with great regularity. In recent years, we are blessed to have a few of our professional wood people who help us greatly by dropping logs on our lot. This is a great help, especially because our fewer number of volunteers can focus on sawing and splitting firewood rather than gathering trees.

Many of our costs were higher this year due to the age and usage of our tools and equipment. Virtually all our battery-powered hand tools had to be replaced. A lot of repairs or replacements were needed for our heavier equipment as well.

SUMMARY

This year, we completed 64 Projects/Activities (38 Internal and 26 Outreach) in addition to the Firewood Ministry.

To accomplish this required:

6,720 HOURS of Volunteer Work and

\$23,688 COST, Total, distributed as follows:

+ OVERHEAD	\$1,785	or 7.5%	
+TOOLS/FACILITIES	\$2,747	or 11.6%	
+INTERNAL PROJECTS	\$4,187	or 17.7%	
+OUTREACH PROJECTS	\$6,556	or 27.8%	--(TOTAL OUTREACH is Outreach Projects)
+FIREWOOD MINISTRY	\$4,735	or 21.3 %	plus Wood Ministry: \$14,969 or 63.2%
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	\$23,688	100%	

OUTREACH PROJECTS

We finished 21 smaller projects which were to help people with physical needs due to health issues or lack of financial resources. These include such things as modifications or home repairs, safety equipment, etc. These 21 projects required 607 hours of work and \$4,529 in materials. We also completed 5 larger projects as listed below.

- **RASH PROJECT** - Mr. Rash has Parkinson's Disease which for the last year has caused him to fall many times. His many falls have caused not only injuries, but many, many damages to a lot of walls, furniture and doors. Falls in one bathroom actually broke through the floor. There were no safety rails in the house. We replaced the floor, repaired and reinforced the walls and installed a great many safety rails in both bathrooms and the shower. We also repaired the doors and the furniture as well as possible.
Volunteer Hours- 100 COST- \$570
- **PATTI PROJECT (BRADFORD TRAILER PARK)** - This lady was suddenly and without justification, evicted from her rental trailer. She was given only a few days to be out. Over the past year, we had made several repairs and improvements to the trailer to make it safer and more livable. Some of those costs are included here. She searched all around this area and couldn't find anything available that she could afford. She finally contacted a brother who had a small condo in Laurenburg, NC. He finally agreed to let her move there temporarily. On Dec. 1st, in a snowstorm, we loaded her belongings into a rental truck and trailer. The next day, we moved her to the condo. The round trip and unloading took another full day. Volunteer Hours- 123 Cost- \$832

- **DEREK'S TRAILER PROJECT** - This was a "911" project this past November. This young man was attempting to live in an old, small trailer that was really unlivable. There were huge holes in the floor (largest one was 2 ft. X 8 ft.) and a crack in one corner from floor to ceiling that you could put your arm through. There was no heat and very little electricity. Half of the roof leaked in many places. The location and situation would not allow for a replacement used trailer. Our only option was to re-roof the half roof, rebuild over the corner that was ripped open, and rebuild the floor over all the holes to keep out the elements. We also purchased a new, modern kerosene heater and some fuel.
Volunteer Hours - 57 Cost- \$383
- **"JUST" CLEANUP PROJECT** - We had built a Wheelchair Ramp last year for this family. The husband was suffering from Parkinson's Disease and passed away. The wife sold the house and needed help clearing away the large quantity of wood, lumber, some equipment and trash/scrap. She donated the useful materials to us. We turned the rest into firewood. Volunteer Hours- 117 Cost- N/A
- **"DAN VU" PROJECT** – We scheduled a day to cut and split firewood for Dan and his wife as he was recovering from a hip surgery. He has been a volunteer in our Firewood Ministry and contributed very many trees from his land over recent years. We took our equipment to his home. We cut, split and stacked wood enough to get them through the winter. It is a joy and pleasure to help some of our own.
Volunteer Hours- 66 Cost- N/A

INTERNAL PROJECTS

We completed 38 smaller internal projects and 5 larger projects at Grace, requiring a total of \$4,187 and 825 Volunteer Hours.

Some examples of the smaller ones are:

Several repairs to the Councill House, Grace Place facilities, Grace Lutheran inside and out. We participated in spring and fall cleanups, helped with re-striping the parking lot, assisted Altar Guild with banners, the cross and decorations for the special days and seasons. We installed an auto-dump system for a dehumidifier at Councill House. We set up and removed tents, table and chairs for several outside events, made several small repairs to toilets, electrical devices and assisted with sound system upgrades. We reworked the Usher's Closet, built a closet for the pastor's office for his robes and many more things that required time and money.

The larger projects are as follows:

- **NARTHEX DOOR REDESIGN** - The church Council requested a rework of the main front doors that would permit more natural light to come in. I designed three options. The current design was selected as it gave us maximum light without weakening the strength of the doors. Henry Vaughn at Vaughn Woodworking did an amazing job with the cutting, window installation and refinishing. We did the rest, including building temporary doors for the interim. Henry donated a large part of his cost!
Volunteer Hours- 121 Cost- \$879
- **NEW LIGHTS** - Many lights in the older areas of the church were in poor condition and inefficient. We replaced the ceiling fixtures in the office hallway, the nursery hallway, the two office bathrooms, the fellowship hallway, and several lights in the narthex. These were nearly all LED Units.
Volunteer Hours- 53 Cost- \$1,146
- **GRACE STONE SIGN** - The main stone Grace sign blew down in a heavy windstorm about a year and a half ago. We had repaired it several times over the past 30 years or so. We will replace it with the original stones plus some new ones, but 4 feet closer to the street and a bit taller, so it will be more visible. Most of the labor and cost will happen in the upcoming year.
Volunteer Hours: 46 Cost: \$312
- **LARGE TENTS** - We often have need of larger tents for outdoor activities such as reunions, funerals and group activities. We purchased two white 10X20 foot tents and they have been used several times this year with success.
Volunteer Hours: 6 Cost: \$286
- **MIDDLE PARKING LOT** – We are experiencing a lot of runoff from Lot #2, the middle lot, down onto Stophel Strasse, which for the most part was draining under the main building. To stop this, we poured a curb around the lower part of the building that would turn the water towards Tracy Circle Street's drainage system.
Volunteer Hours: 55 Cost:\$150

HELPING HANDS WOOD MINISTRY

The Firewood Ministry had another busy year, with over 600 loads of firewood. We give the wood for free to people who heat with wood but cannot afford to buy it. The Hunger & Health Coalition and WeCAN Agencies help select the people who will receive it. We do the work and pay all the costs. Most of the raw wood has come from individual donors in the surrounding communities. Gathering the raw wood to the Wood Lot is the most time-consuming part of the operation. We build a backstock of logs which we used as an "Emergency Fund" to help us through the really bad days in winter when it was difficult to go out to collect more wood.

A special note of appreciation for all the individuals and outside groups of other volunteers who came from ASU, other universities and churches, charities and agencies. We would love to have more volunteers, especially from our own Grace family. We also appreciate the professional tree people who are continuing to bring us larger quantities of wood. What a blessing! This enables us to focus on sawing and splitting firewood rather than gathering. That enables us to produce more firewood for our clients.

Volunteer Hours -3,891 Costs - \$8,403

INVITATION

If you would like to help (or just stay informed as to what we are doing), please contact me or any team member with your e-mail address and we will be happy to add you to our roster. We would love to have you join us at ANY time on ANY project.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT, YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT, YOUR DOLLARS AND YOUR PRAYERS. WE CANNOT DO THIS WORK WITHOUT YOU.

You are "the Helping Hands in the Service of Our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Harold Stophel, Team Leader





Grace Lutheran Sign and masonry damage sustained from windstorm. (Top 2 photos)



Narthex Door project with Luther Rose details. (Bottom 2 photos)





Grace Builders and the Woodlot Ministry collect firewood for splitting -- 2020.



Edwin F. Troutman & Family Foundation ~ Kevin Patterson
SERVING MINISTRY

The Edwin F. Troutman and Family Foundation was established for the purpose of furthering the mission work of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. The board meets twice a year. Assuming there is enough growth in the fund, we review applications and make awards.

The board was served by the following members this past year: Pastor Steve, Gail Lund, Kevin Patterson, Jeff Voss, Jeff Ramsdell, and John Smyre.

The Troutman Foundation Board met on March 7th to review grant applications. We received 11 applications and awarded \$17,000. Those funds were distributed in April.

The Troutman Foundation is making a difference. Most every year we are able to make investments in our community that help bring hope and comfort to others.

This year we awarded the following amounts to organizations that work in our direct community:

Organization	Award
OASIS, Inc.	\$2,000
WAMY	1,000
Watauga Humane Society	500
Hunger and Health Coalition	1,500
Hospitality House	2,000
Community Care Clinic - specifically used for male vision exams	1,500
Watauga Habitat for Humanity	2,000
Western Youth Network - Mentorship program	1,500
Grace Builders	3,000

We also made the following awards to those working in other geographical areas:

Matthew 25:40 - works with children in Guatemala - providing food and education in an attempt to break the cycle of poverty.	1,000
NC Lutheran Synod Lifeline Fund - helps NC registered pastors reduce debt; also works to raise congregational stewardship; a small portion goes to the bishop's emergency fund for pastors.	1,000

These organizations live out the gospel of caring for others and show them God's love.

Our Fall meeting will be on September 12th. Please get new applications submitted prior to that date. The application can be found on Grace Lutheran's website.

Worship and Music Committee ~ Alan Hauser, Chairperson
WORSHIPING MINISTRY

This past church year has been a very difficult time for all of us. COVID has disrupted our lives, has been a continuing threat, and has prevented us from gathering regularly and nurturing one another. Yet, we have found ways to be together, to share the joys of God's love, and to reconfigure our ways of expressing our love of God and of our neighbors. A special word of thanks is due to all those whose love and devotion have enabled us to carry on.

We have moved of necessity into the electronic age, thanks especially to the hard work of Pastor Steve, Libby Brown, Steve Frank, Susan Frank, Lauren Johnson, and countless other members of our congregation. Sunday morning services have been available on YouTube and Facebook since the beginning of the pandemic, as have been special communion services, Lenten services, and even services in the parking lots. Libby has found ways to energize our services through digitally prepared choral music, including a Christmas Cantata, and our handbell ringers have enriched our worship life. Many thanks to our adult choir and to our Ringers of Grace. Many congregation members have contributed by reading lessons and writing prayers, presenting talks/sermons, and ushering carefully once the church has begun to open up. The Altar Guild has done its usual excellent work of providing appropriate banners and flowers for our services. We have received helpful advice and standards from the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA. Extensive work was done to repair and enhance our pipe organ, and the Wrights donated a fine Yamaha Clavinova digital piano for our choir loft.

As the church has begun to open up, the Council has sought to walk a fine line between everyone's desire to fully gather again in worship, and the need to ensure the safety of those attending worship. We wish to be done with the pandemic, but the pandemic may not yet be done with us. Caution seems the prudent course as we look forward optimistically to the day when we can gather together again fully and unimpeded for a worship and music ministry that will build us all up. The environment will in some ways be forever changed, as in the Council's decision to permanently continue the electronic availability of our worship services, but, with God's help, the future is bright. We seek God's guidance as we anticipate moving into a post-COVID world.

Alan J. Hauser, chair
Worship and Music Committee

Director of Music Ministry ~ Libby Brown
WORSHIPING MINISTRY

We had adjusted to pandemic conditions as we began the new year, offering Sunday worship services on YouTube and Facebook and incorporating the Holden Evening Prayer into our monthly ZOOM platform communion service. I monitored and relayed results of each phase of the ongoing International Performing Arts Aerosol Study regarding the safety of singing. Hopefully, this research was helpful to the council as they navigated our journey through the pandemic.

The Grace Virtual Chancel Choir met by ZOOM on Wednesdays to meet and greet and rehearse/review new anthems. The choir offered 46 virtual anthems since May 2020. They also offered the Christmas Cantata, *Canticles in Candlelight*, by Joseph M. Martin, in virtual form on December 20. We were thrilled to continue the tradition of a Christmas Cantata during the pandemic and pray that it was a blessing to all who watched and heard the message of Christmas through music. The music offerings by the choir were a vital part of our online worship. The Ringers of Grace resumed in-person rehearsals on March 17, 2021. We started by ringing songs with no or minimal bell changes or table techniques and used music stands instead of tables. The ringers quickly progressed to individual tables that allowed us to maintain appropriate distances and ring more intricate pieces. The Ringers of Grace have offered 5 anthems in three months. I continue to be amazed at the Choir and Ringers of Grace members' talents, dedication, and devotion to the music ministry of Grace.

We held two in-person services in the parking lot on Christmas Eve. It was so nice to worship with people even though it was raining a bit. A third service was scheduled but was cancelled due to a quick and dramatic change in weather conditions – the temperature dropped, wind increased, sleet and snow fell and began accumulating immediately. It was a Christmas Eve service to remember.

Mid-week Lenten services were offered on YouTube and Facebook. The theme was "Not my will but yours be done." This was the refrain from "Kneeling in the Garden Grass," a hymn by John Tirro. The hymn tells the story of the passion in 15 verses. The sermon hymns each week featured three verses. Special thanks to Doris Bazzini-Crothers for sharing her beautiful and powerful "Lenten Prayer" for our opening hymn each week. The Palm/Passion Sunday included a readers' theater offered by seven members of Grace. We observed a ZOOM communion service on Maundy Thursday and followed The Way of the Cross Liturgy for an online Good Friday Service. The Resurrection of our Lord was celebrated with in-person services in the parking lot. Music was provided by Susan Frank on the piano and a brass quintet from ASU. Choir members led the hymns. It was a glorious Easter Day.

The Choir resumed in-person rehearsal with a hybrid in-person/ZOOM rehearsal format on May 5. It has been exciting to sing together again! The overwhelming majority of members are fully vaccinated and have been most cooperative in observing appropriate mitigation factors. We are thankful to a gracious donor for providing Performance Series Facemasks by *Marchmaster* for each choir member.

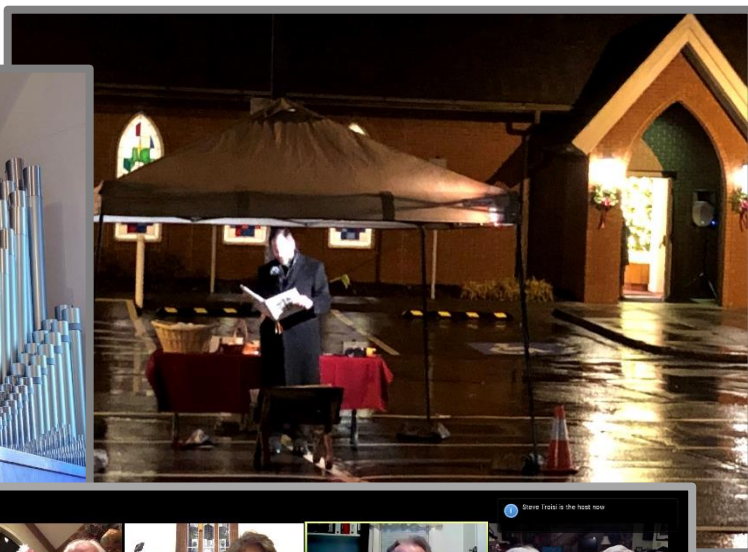
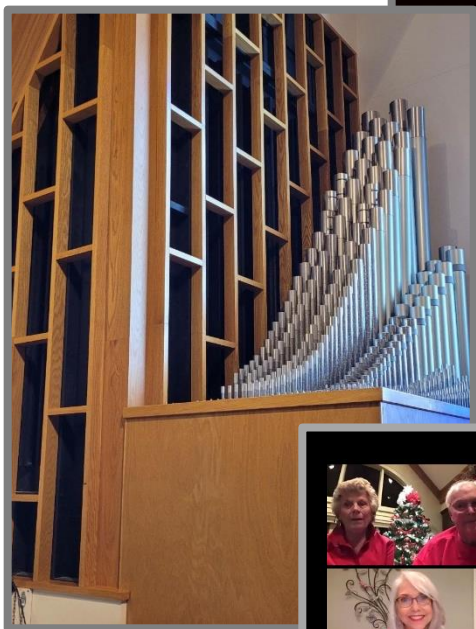
We express our thanks and appreciation to JoAnn and Morgan Wright for the generous donation of a fine Yamaha Clavinova digital piano for the choir loft. The Clavinova has a grand-style cabinet that takes up less space than a traditional acoustic. *GrandTouch Keyboard* action combined with world-class piano samples makes for an unrivaled piano experience from a digital piano. We look forward to using this fine instrument during worship. In April, organ builders Jake Hall and Jim, from the Cornell Zimmer Organ Company of Charlotte, came to Boone and made remarkable maintenance and repairs to our organ. The team removed the grill cloth enclosing much of the organ's works (swell box). This has allowed the pipes in the swell box to be heard with more clarity. The sound was being squelched by decades of accumulated dust and grime. The organ "voices" were out of tune with each other, giving the organ an unintended vibrato, which was at times screeching. They tuned the pipes and the result is a more pleasing sound.

As more and more people were vaccinated, it became possible to safely gather for in-person worship. With the guidance of the Council, we gathered for our first in-person worship on April 18 and have gradually added elements of worship to our service. We began offering communion each Sunday on May 19, congregational hymn singing on June 20, and singing the full liturgy on July 4. It is a joy to be able to worship fully with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

As we continue to find our "new normal," it is important to reflect on our experience. On March 11, 2020 we gathered for a mid-week Lenten service. We had no idea it would be 15 months before we would worship together in person again. However, the church did not close. I mourn so much that has been lost: time, time together in worship, music ensembles, small groups, missions. I mourn the isolation experienced by so many - not being able to spend time with family and friends in good times and bad -- not to mention travel and dining out. However, there have been some positive things that have happened in the last year. I celebrate the online worship ministry that has evolved because of the pandemic. We may never know how many people receive a blessing from the online services. I celebrate the ZOOM choir gatherings and musicians who found new ways to share their musical talents and sing to the glory of God. I celebrate the online classes and Bible Studies that have fed our souls. Now, we joyfully move forward; encouraged, renewed and inspired with a deeper appreciation to worship in God's house. And I pray that all our church family and friends will soon feel safe and comfortable to gather in fellowship and worship.

Special thanks are in order as we conclude this year: to Pastor Steve and the Council for their leadership and encouragement during the pandemic, to Susan and Steve Frank, and Lauren Johnson for faithfully providing music for our services, to Beth Reavis and the Altar Guild for making the Sanctuary so beautiful each week, to Bishop Tim Smith and the NC Synod ELCA for their guidance, and to our professional organizations, ACDA (American Choral Director's Association) and ALCM (Association of Lutheran Church Musicians) for their research and support. Soli Deo Gloria,

Libby

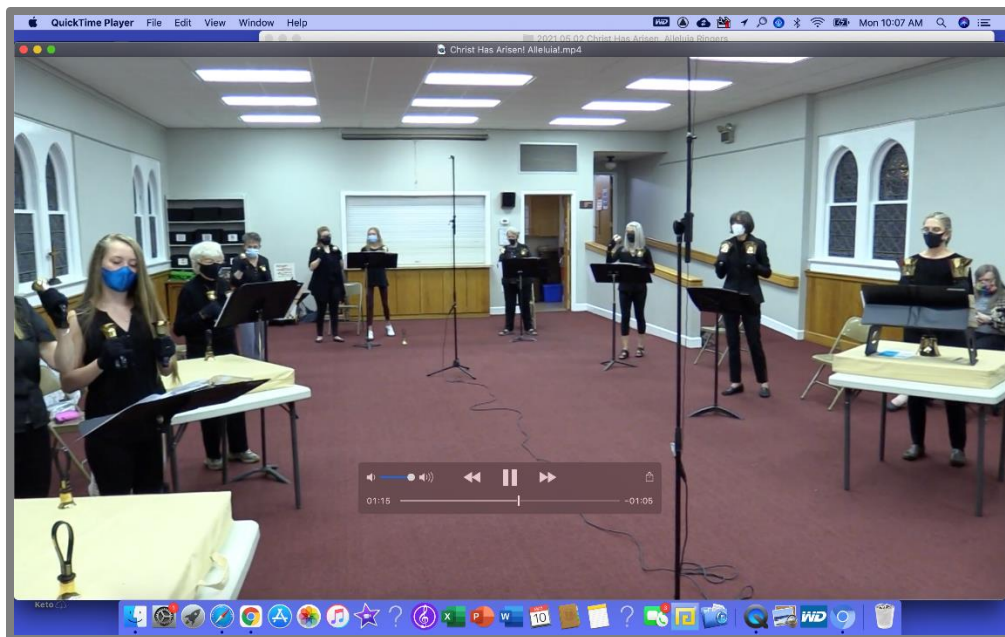


Clockwise from the top:

Organ Project

*Christmas Eve
Worship*

ZOOM Choir



Above – Handbell Practice Below – Libby Brown directing



***Altar Guild ~ Beth Reavis, Chairperson
WORSHIPING MINISTRY***

The Grace Altar Guild was grateful to assist in setting up our worship spaces for recorded worship services due to Covid 19. We continued this support throughout the year. When we were able to regather, we resumed the support of our in-person worship and joyfully added communion to our worship on Pentecost Sunday.

With generous donations from families, we purchased new linens for our credence cabinet, new banner hardware and permanent greenery for the chapel altar.

During the summer, invitations were issued to those interested in making new Chrismons for the Chrismon tree. A dozen members participated, sharing their talents of patience and following written directions. It is a practice that all Chrismons are to be handmade and never purchased, so thank you to our dedicated volunteers who were willing to create these challenging additions, "Cross Triumphant." Our plan is to continue this fall, with another, simpler addition.



Since we have begun in-person worship and continued our recorded worship, flowers have been generously donated by members of the congregation. We are now contracting with the florist at Harris Teeter, Beth Bailey, and have been especially pleased with the beautiful arrangements, given always to the glory of God and often in honor or memory of loved ones. This was the first year that we decorated the chancel with red geraniums on Pentecost Sunday and we look forward to continuing that practice.

Given that much has changed over the past year, we feel gratitude that we can continue to be servants to the worship spaces at Grace and in all things give glory to our triune God.

We invite anyone who is interested to take part in the duties of the guild.
Respectfully,

Beth Reavis

Small Group Ministries ~ WORSHIPING MINISTRY:

Dorcas Annual Report

Dorcas did not meet in the last year due to the many restrictions of gathering in regards to COVID-19.

Lizzie-Estelle Report ~ Carol Norris, Co-President

Lizzie-Estelle Circle is now meeting the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at Grace. Due to COVID-19, we did not meet from November 2020 through February 2021. We started meeting again in March 2021. We want to encourage our church sisters to join in Christian fellowship once more.

Officers were elected at the September 2020 meeting and installed in March 2021. They are co-presidents Gail Lund and Carol Norris; treasurer Lynne Mauney; secretary Gail Hauser.

We have had a variety of interesting program topics, including St. Patrick; Sarah, Abraham's wife; Katie Luther, Martin Luther's wife; a Bible study on Wisdom. As a service project, we cleaned out the Lizzie-Estelle Circle's files from long ago. We have distributed funds for a backpack fogger for the church; Lutheran World Relief; Oasis; Hunger and Health Coalition.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Norris
Co-president

Quilters ~ Gail Lund, Group Leader

Grace Quilters returned to quilting last January on Wednesdays, wearing our masks; everyone was encouraged to get vaccinated which we all were happy to do. We dropped the masks in May. We have made over 40 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Due to COVID-19, WELCA did not have a pick-up sight for November of 2020. If anyone has material, gently used sheets, or bedspreads, please bring to the church for our quilts. We would like to thank everyone who supported our quilt ministry this past year.

Mary-Martha Circle Report ~ Judy Wellborn

Due to Covid-19, Mary-Martha Circle had their last meeting in March of 2020. The meetings resumed in June 2021. During the time from March 2020 to June 2021, the circle did not meet; members communicated by text, e-mail, phone and regular mail. During this time, projects were continued. To-go boxes and money toward meals were given to Hospitality House, money was sent to WELCA, contributions were made to the back-to-school project, Hunger and Health Coalition, *Quietgivers* and others. The circle contributed to five names from the church Christmas angel tree.

At this year's July meeting, members voted to buy colored pencils for Back-To-School and buy school supplies for Fill-the-Bus and to make a contribution to *Quietgivers*.

Mary-Martha Circle has seven active members and usually meets the second Saturday afternoon in each month at the home of Judy Wellborn. The circle welcomes new members and visitors.

Opus Annual Report ~ Cinda Williamson

OPUS – Older People Up to Something – BUT we weren't up to as much this past year as reported in prior years. However, even the "younger" people weren't up to so much this past year. Whereas March of 2020 began the shut-down/social distancing at Grace, March of 2021 saw us gearing up to make up for lost time. Our first event in 2021 was our annual (except for last year) St. Patrick's Day luncheon at Ransom's (formerly Murphy's). We had a great turnout and getting to see our "OPUS family" after a year of separation was fun and fulfilling. In April, the OPUS group ventured out to Grandfather Mountain on a snowy morning. In May, George and Charlene Sox welcomed the OPUS clan to a lovely luncheon in their beautiful mountain home. June saw us meeting at the Red Onion for a summer get-together. This also showed a great turnout. Normally in October, Gail Lund and Ron Schuette host our October-fest. This year, however, the October-fest will be a September-fest hosted by Gail and Ron. The October activity will be held at Lewis & Sondra Sigmon's lovely country home. Be sure to take your hiking shoes to traverse some of their hilly mountain trails. At this point in time, we are planning our events from month-to-month since we've not yet had the opportunity to have our yearly planning luncheon in December. We welcome one and all to our festivities and praise the Lord that our church is now open for regular worship but we also continue to have meaningful online services.

Pillowcase Dress Ministry Annual Report ~ Peggy Clemmer, Chairperson

This past year has been different for us all. Aside from having a mild winter, we have been struck with a terrible virus that has impacted as well. One thing these strange times has afforded us is more time at home to be able to indulge in our favorite pastime. Grace Lutheran has many dedicated and talented people that have kept busy making pillowcase dresses and boys' shorts. We have been able to make over 325 dresses and 27 boys' shorts. We were also able to make over two dozen face masks that were donated to a local hospital in an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. The Pillowcase Dresses and boys' shorts will be dedicated at a later time. After dedication, they will be donated to Samaritan's Purse to be included in their Christmas Shoeboxes for 2020. What a blessing they will be to some boys and girls!

A sincere thank you to everyone that contributed their time and talents in this wonderful ministry. Thank you also to those that contributed fabric and monetary contributions. With the help of God and our dedicated team members, we will continue the work of this vital ministry in the coming year.

Peggy Clemmer, Coordinator

Reading Between the Wines Annual Report ~ Kathy Griewisch, Organizer

Reading Between the Wines is a Grace women's book club that started meeting in the summer of 2017. The group usually meets monthly at a local restaurant on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. but due to Covid 19 restrictions we met via ZOOM. All women are encouraged to join us in reading the monthly selection even if they are unable to join in the discussion each month.

We have had a wide range of book titles and make our selections based on the interest of the group. Below are some of the titles we have read this past year:

- The Atomic Weight of Love- September
- Rising- October
- Little Fires Everywhere-November
- Everything I Never Told You- January
- The Storyteller-February
- Light From Heaven- March
- If I Were You-April
- The Four Winds-May
- The Midnight Library-June
- The Return-July
- Killers of Flower Moon- August

Watch the newsletter and bulletin for where we will meet each month and join the fun!

High Country Coalition of Lutheran Congregations ***WORSHIPING MINISTRY***

Grace continued its participation in the High Country Coalition over the past year. Leaders from the 5 Lutheran congregations in the mountains, met twice over Zoom last year to check in and provide support for each other. Pastor Robert Sain completed his time as Interim Pastor at Holy Communion after Easter and the Coalition provided pulpit supply until a new interim, Pastor Pierson Shaw could begin serving the congregation. We continue to hold Holy Communion in prayer as they begin the interview process for their next pastor. Pastor Laura Want continues to provide strong leadership at Bethany. Plans are underway for Bethany and Grace to send a joint group of young people the ELCA Gathering in the Summer of 2022. Pastor Jonathan Weant continues to serve St. Mark's. The Church of the Savior in Newland is currently has a stated supply preacher, a retired Episcopal Priest, Michael Tanner. This year we added Deacon Jen Bacher and Lutherock to our Coalition group and look forward building a stronger connection between the camp and local congregations. Matney Church is included in the Coalition, with Lay preachers providing pulpit supply as needed. They have a retired Methodist ministry who provides most of the supply preaching.

The lay preachers list expanded over the past year with the addition of Dana Holden and Pastor Steve Gragg. Our current lay preachers are as follows: Austin Eggers, Alan Hauser, Dana Holden, David Holden, Maribeth Yoder-White, Pastor Leonard Bolick, Pastor Steve Gragg (*seasonal availability*), Pastor Garry Vogelpohl.

Hospitality Team (Evangelism) ~ Roger Bodo, Chairperson ***WELCOMING MINISTRY***

The Hospitality Committee is currently composed of Roger Bodo, Sandy Moretz, Shannon Shanely, and Virginia Webb.

This past year, Hospitality worked in our community sharing messages of love with our Positive Banner Campaign. We shared 3 banners throughout the year; including our Christmas banner which we used during the drive-in Christmas Parade. Grace entered a stationary float celebrating Christmas with a brass band and sharing Chrismons displayed on a variety of trees and Chrismon-making kits for children.

We were excited to finally welcome congregation members and guests back into the building in April to see all of the work that had been done on updating the Narthex to be a more welcoming space. Next projects include rehangng photos of pastors and vicars, hanging a TV in the Narthex to scroll announcements, and the purchase of a new Welcoming Cabinet to hold supplies for this ministry team.

***Campus Ministry ~ Deacon Stacey Troisi, LSA Coordinator
WELCOMING MINISTRY***



The 2020-2021 year for LSA started out a little different with a socially distanced and masked kick-off at the Councill House. Over the year, we averaged 12 people every Wednesday night, in person, or ZOOM, or a combination of the two. Our Leadership for this year were President: Faith Goyne[Sr], and Vice Presidents: Trey Morris[Jr], Aaron Faircloth [Jr], Amy Sheldon [Jr], and Corinne Mullen [Jr].

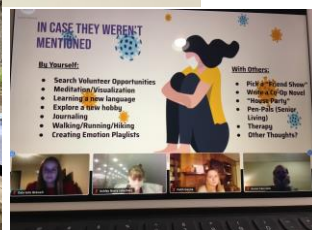
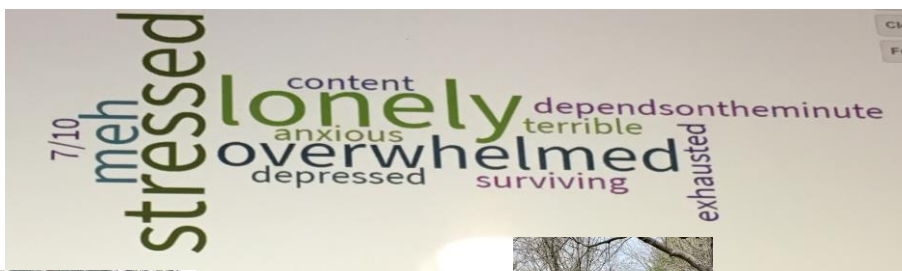
2020-2021 Ministry Highlights

- **Fund-raisers:** T-Shirt, Mask, and Sticker sales: Profit of \$519! We also helped out with a few (very safe, outdoor, and socially-distant) Rent-A-Students.
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Pick up:** We prepared boxed meals of pancakes, fruit, and sausage for our students to pick up.
- **Retreats:** Participated in Virtual Region 9 Fall and Spring Retreats.
- **Special Guests:** Dr. Mary Ballard- Self defense; The ASU Counseling Center- How to help your mental health during the pandemic; Bishop Kevin Strickland- What it means to be RIC; Beth Reavis- Colors of the Church and Chrismons; Carla Ramsdell- Sustainability, and the Lutheran camps: Lutheridge, Lutherock, Agape, LutherSprings. We also had a few nights of "Q & A" with Pastor Steve.
- **Time with Students:** Outside of Wednesday nights at LSA and Friday mornings at the picnic tables, I met with a couple students a week, either outside or on facetime. Over the last couple of months, I have also put together care packages for our 9 camp counselors. I look forward to spending a week with our Lutheridge counselors at camp soon.
- **Campus involvement:** I was able to attend several online meetings with ASLA (Appalachian Spiritual Life Association) over the year.
- **Regionally and Synodically-** I met over zoom once a month with the Region 9 Campus Ministers and throughout the year with NC Synod Campus Ministers.
- **Holy Communion/Sr. Sending-** For the first time in over a year, we shared a meal together, and we had a very meaningful last meeting of the year. Pastor Steve joined us for a communion service where we said good-bye to 7 LSA seniors.

Our year did not go as we had all hoped, but I feel our group of students did a great job of staying connected to one another, staying positive, and welcoming new students. At the students' request, and as the weather allowed, we met on the Council House lawn for several meetings. Upon arrival, temperatures were taken, hand sanitizer was dispensed, and each student was asked to wear a mask for our entire meeting. We also met over Zoom for devotions, games, and check-ins. I was very happy to hear that all students who attend regularly received their COVID vaccinations as soon as they were eligible. They are ready to be back together safely in the Fall, and I know we are all looking forward to next year!

Leadership for the 2021-2022 academic year will be President: Corrine Mullen [Jr], and Vice Presidents: Dallas Cobb [Jr], Trey Morris [Sr], Erin Darnell [Jr], and Ashely Berry [Soph].

Deacon Stacey Troisi
LSA Campus Minister



***Jeffcoat-Proctor Foundation Annual Report ~Bradley Dowdy, President
WELCOMING MINISTRY***

The Jeffcoat-Proctor Foundation at Grace Lutheran Church was established in memory of Cora Pearl Jeffcoat and Sabrina Proctor with the goal to support development and activities of campus ministry. As established, this foundation is not formally part of the traditional Campus Ministry Team at Grace Lutheran, but is an independent entity set up to support efforts in ministry to college students.

For 2020-2021, the Foundation's Board of Directors included: Bradley Dowdy (President), Pam Nenow (Treasurer), Shelley Wainscott-Wallin, Jan Burgess, and Pastor Steve Troisi.

Because of COVID, this Board did not formally meet over the past year. The Board however did approve providing \$5,000 in support of expanding Deacon Stacey's position to 15 hours per week.

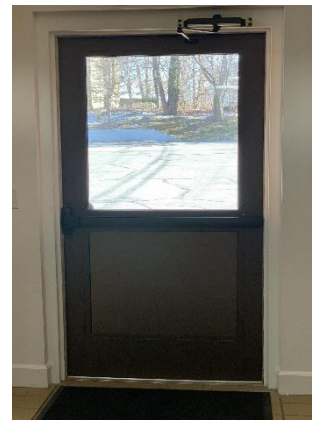
Mission Statement: The Property Team exists to support the mission of this congregation by ensuring that the maintenance of the Church's facilities and grounds are well taken care of. Our campus includes the main church building, the Grace Place, the Councill House, and the Carriage House. Grace Lutheran Church is not only used for worship and fellowship, but is heavily used by other people and organizations in the community. We believe part of the Church's outreach ministry is to share God's love and grace. The Property Team is here to be of service to all of our church families and the community by keeping our facilities clean, safe and in great shape for all who visit Grace Lutheran Church.

The Property Team has had a busy and productive year maintaining all the church properties. We want to take this time to thank the congregation for all of their help to keep this church in good running order. We are mindful of our spending and use our resources available to the best of our ability. We couldn't do it without the helping hands of Grace Builders and the volunteers who come out on our cleanup days, take on special projects around the church, or without the financial support of the congregation's monetary contributions.

What we've been up to:

- Spent a lot of time making the building as safe as possible with Covid -19 protocols that are ever changing. We put up signs, bought hand sanitizing stations, provided masks, made 6' markers to help people be socially distant, and bought a fogging machine to spray after events to kill any germs left behind. We also worked with our heating and cooling company to service air handlers and furnaces and provided new high efficiency air filters to also help keep germs from circulating in the air.
- Had the main Narthex door replaced with a commercial half-glass door to improve lighting and to be more welcoming.
- Grace Builders had windows cut in the solid double wooden doors in the Narthex to add more lighting. Harold Stophel created and painted a plaster luther rose in the center of each door.
- Redecorated the Narthex and painted and updated the usher closet.
- The Fellowship Hall was updated with new paint and the bulletin boards taken down. The entryways to the Fellowship Hall were also painted, ceiling tiles replaced, and new LED light fixtures installed.
- The hallway by the sacristy was also painted with new LED light fixtures installed in that hallway, the office hallway, and the two office bathrooms.
- The exterior of the church building was also repainted, including the double wooden doors to the Fellowship Hall.
- Tree trimming was done all over our campus including around the parking lots and both Grace Place and the Councill House. A giant Hemlock tree was removed at the Councill House that was dying and leaning towards the house.

- There were boiler repairs at the church and the Council House and heat pump and sewline repairs at the Grace Place.
- New River Light & Power replaced light bulbs in the parking lot lights.
- The roof at the Council house was repaired due to a major leak.
- Purchased and replaced lightbulbs in the sacristy and chapel with new daylight bulbs to provide more light.
- Rented parking to students and changed registration to all online.
- Cleaned out the Carriage House after the renter Mike moved out and have been working on what will become of the house.
- Annual maintenance items that were done include: heat pumps, boilers, furnaces, AC units, fire extinguishers, smoke alarm system, backflow preventers, carpet cleaning, snow removal, lawn care, and much more.
- We had three outside cleanup days where we bagged leaves, trimmed bushes, & spread 20 yards of mulch. We used Thrivent Action Team funds to purchase food and supplies for these volunteer events.



What we hope to do in the future:

Short-Term projects:

- Install an instant water heater in the basement bathrooms.
- Replace and add to the signage around the church inside and out.
- Paint interior of the Council House.

Long-Term Projects:

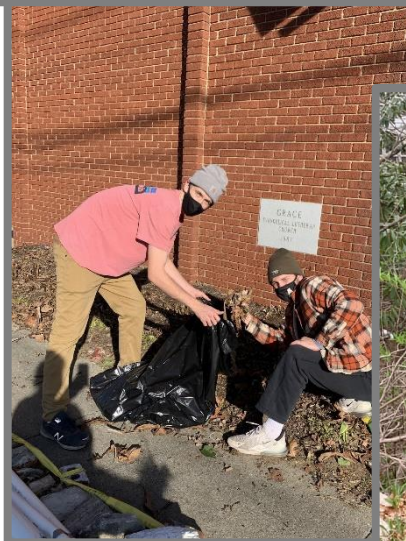
- Roof replacement on church
- Install a smoke alarm system
- Additional lighting in Sanctuary
- Furnace and boiler replacement
- Air Conditioning replacement in choir loft
- Repave parking lot(s)

Many hands DO make light work. We encourage everyone to come out on our cleanup days or adopt a project around the church and experience a hands-on way of making Grace beautiful!!! It's also a great way to get to know some of your fellow Grace members.



Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Respectfully submitted by: Jennifer Stamey; staff liaison



Website & Technology ~ Emory Maiden SUPPORTING MINISTRY

The past year was new territory for the Website & Technology initiatives, but we accomplished much including the following projects:

- One major project we addressed was the effort to improve our networking throughout the building. Freedom Electech was brought in to improve network connectivity and speed issues and also assist with some issues with sound in our building.
- Our worship service and music were offered online and recordings were posted on YouTube and Facebook.
- Council Meetings moved to ZOOM Meetings.
- We were able to offer Faith Formation and Sunday School in ZOOM.
- The newsletter is all digital now.
- The Community Action's Giving Tree project is now completely digital.

Website & Tech ministry is in place and supporting all of Grace as we continue to learn from the past year and think of new opportunities ahead.

Personnel Team ~ Pastor Steve Troisi SUPPORTING MINISTRY

The Personnel Team was busy at the end of the 2019-2020 ministry year, preparing for some staffing additions for the 2020-2021 ministry year.

The Personnel Team provided support for the calling process of Deacon Stacey and including approval of the expanding position description. This year also brought the addition of two college interns — a new ministry of our congregation. The Personnel Team provided support and approval of both of those position descriptions.

Looking ahead, the Personnel Team will again be busy with helping to create and approve position descriptions for the new A/V Position plus two more College Interns.

Columbarium Committee ~ Sandy Moretz, Chairperson

The Columbarium Committee has cleaned the garden area, weeded, mulched and planted fresh flowers several times during the past year. Ron Schuette also added a solar light in the garden. We are currently in the process of pricing a new columbarium to match our existing ones. We are also pricing the materials and cost of labor to set the new columbarium to prevent erosion to the unit. Several niches have been sold the past year and several memorial services have been held the past year.

Trexler Foundation

The Trexler Foundation was established in 2019 through a gift in memory of Sandy Trexler, Grace's former church administrator. The Foundation is designed to provide support for the All Saints Prayer Garden and Columbarium. Because of COVID, the Trexler Board was unable to meet over the past year.

The Board members include: Tommy Moretz, Gail Lund, Laura Just, and Gail Hauser

Membership Report ~ Vera Barnett, Administrative Secretary

Members Received

- Baptism 1
- Affirmation 1
- Transfer 0

TOTAL 2

Members Removed

- Death 3
- Transfer 0

TOTAL 3

The total number of active, contributing members in the life of the congregation: 230

Finance Team Report ~ Kathy Griewisch, Financial Secretary ***SUPPORTING MINISTRY***

Assets		
Funds for Current Use		
011015 - High Country Bank Checking	\$88,395.08	
Total Funds for Current Use		\$88,395.08
Funds for Long-Term Use		
HCB Money Market		
011020 - HCB Money Market	\$194,845.67	
Total HCB Money Market	\$194,845.67	
Total Funds for Long-Term Use		\$194,845.67
Accounts Receivable		
NC State Sales Tax Refund		
011717 - NC Sales Tax 5.75%	\$113.72	
011718 - Watauga Sales Tax 2%	\$1,329.08	
011720 - Food Sales Tax 2%	\$1.60	
Total NC State Sales Tax Refund	\$1,444.40	
Total Accounts Receivable		\$1,444.40
Fixed Assets		
011904 - Councill Property	\$1,897,168.73	
Total Fixed Assets		\$1,897,168.73
Total Assets		\$2,181,853.88

Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds

Liabilities**Current Liabilities****Payroll Items****Payroll Taxes**

012101 - Federal Payroll Taxes	\$5,154.32
012102 - FICA Taxes-Employee	\$1,764.23
012103 - Medicare Taxes-Employee	\$412.70
012104 - NC State Payroll Taxes	\$1,078.00
012112 - FICA Taxes Employer	\$1,764.23
012113 - Medicare Taxes Employer	\$412.70

Total Payroll Taxes	\$10,586.18
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Other Payroll Items

012105 - Employee Retirement Contributions	\$579.06
012106 - Add'l Insurance Premium	\$1,909.84
012107 - Health Care FSA	\$624.96

Total Other Payroll Items	\$3,113.86
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Total Payroll Items	\$13,700.04
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Total Current Liabilities	\$13,700.04
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Long-Term Liabilities**Mortgage Payable**

012120 - HCB Loan 08.20.08	\$31,827.84
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Total Mortgage Payable	\$31,827.84
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Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$31,827.84
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Total Liabilities	\$45,527.88
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Fund Principal

002002 - Fund Principal	\$30,727.03
002004 - Equity in Council Property	\$1,865,340.89
Excess Cash Received	\$25,000.98

Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received	\$1,921,068.90
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Restricted Funds

Total Temporary Restricted	\$133,553.75
Total Permanent Restricted	\$81,703.35

Accounts

Total Restricted Funds	\$215,257.10
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Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds	\$2,181,853.88
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Finance Team Report ~ Jeff Voss, Treasurer
SUPPORTING MINISTRY

Here we are at the end of the fiscal year 2020/2021. To say the least it has been a stressful year. However, it has been a good year financially. Through your generous efforts we have removed the boat anchor around our necks called the Council House Mortgage. With this expenditure now removed we can breathe better financially and pursue other things we would like to do. Our video ministry has flourished and is speaking to a wide following. This expenditure has been good for the church and we look forward to its continued ministry.

Overall, our expenses have been down due to not being able to use our facilities as we would have liked. On the flip side, as we start to return to in person worship we expect expenses to rise some as prices and supplies have increased in cost as all of us are aware.

Your Church Council is reviewing the new 2021/2022 budget and will present it to you shortly. It is a no-frills budget that takes into account everything we have been through these past months. This budget will keep us moving forward and help us to come out of the Covid-19 turmoil we have become so accustomed to.

While we cannot "go hog wild," on a spending spree, we are able to keep the doors open, the lights and heat on and minister to those in need.

Thank you all for your support of the Church during these difficult times and we look forward to your continued support in the future. Through your generous gifts, the ministries of the church will continue to flourish and grow in our community.

Best wishes to all,

Jeffrey C. Voss

Grace Lutheran Church Treasurer

PS: I have to give a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Kathy Griewisch for all of her help in keeping us on an even keel and all those who helped in the financial arena of the church. Without these people doing what they do, we would not be where we are today. THANK YOU ALL!!!!

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, August 15, 2021, 11:00am In-Person and via ZOOM

1. Call to Order

2. Determine Quorum

○ Grace Constitution:

- C10.04. Twenty-five percent (58) of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- C.8.02.C. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation.

3. Opening Prayer

4. Review IN-PERSON AND ZOOM meeting adjustments and conduct a practice vote.

○ General Information:

- Every voting member will need to be present in the Sanctuary or logged into the Zoom meeting on their own device or separate phone line in order to be eligible to vote in the meeting.
- All meeting participants will need to remain quiet or be muted in order to allow everyone to be able to hear the Council President.
- Please raise your hand or type motions and seconds into the Chat Box.
- If you have a question, please click to “raise your hand” or type your question into the Chat Box. The meeting host will unmute online participants who desire to speak. If you are on the phone and would like to be recognized for a question, please dial *9 to let the meeting host know that you would like to speak.

○ How to vote online?

- On the computer, table or phone, the meeting host will launch the vote which will appear as a pop-up multiple-choice question on your screen. Please tap or click your desired vote within the given time limit.
- Over the phone, participants will dial *9 when the meeting host reads out the voting choices. Please note that phone votes are visible to everyone who is participating in the meeting.

5. Review and Approve Meeting Ground Rules

- When speaking:
 - Please begin with your name and then indicate whether you are speaking in favor of the motion at hand.
 - You can only speak on a motion one time, until everyone else has had an opportunity to speak.
 - Please be succinct and remain on topic.
- When listening:
 - Please remain muted throughout the meeting. If you are recognized by the host to ask a question, please limit background noises.
 - Please be respectful of differing opinions.

6. Review and Approve Agenda

7. Review and Accept 2020-2021 Annual Report

8. Receive Report from the Nominating Committee and Elections *(see next page)*

9. Review and Approve Proposed 2021-2022 Budget *(see other handout)*

10. Recognize and Thank Outgoing, Ongoing and Newly Elected/Appointed Leaders

11. Adjournment with Closing Prayer

REPORT FROM 2020-2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Trexler Foundation Board

Nominated by Columbarium Team, Appointed by Council, Presented to Congregation

Pastor and 4 at-large members serving 3-year terms:

- Tommy Moretz (Term expires 2024) -- *Presented to the Congregation*
- Gail Lund (Term expires 2022)
- Laura Just (Term expires 2022)
- Gail Hauser (Term expires 2023)

Troutman Foundation Board Members

Nominated by Finance Team, Approved by Council, Needs Ratification by Congregation

Pastor, Treasurer and 3 at-large members serving 3-year terms:

- Kevin Patterson (Term expires 2024) -- *Needs Ratification by Congregation*
- Jeff Ramsdell (Term expires 2022)
- Gail Lund (Term expires 2023)

Jeffcoat-Proctor Foundation

Nominated by Campus Ministry Team, Elected by Council, Needs Confirmation by Congregation

Pastor and 4 at-large members serving 3-year terms:

- Austin Eggers (Term expires 2024) -- *Needs Confirmation by Congregation*
- Shelley Wainscott-Wallin (Term expires 2024) -- *Needs Confirmation by Congregation*
- Bradley Dowdy (Term Expires 2022)
- Jan Burgess (Term expires 2023)

2021-2022 Nominating Committee - Elect 6

Includes 2 outgoing Council Members, if possible, and 4 at-large Members, each serving a 1-year term

- Sandy Moretz
- Catherine Templeton
- Bob Edsell
- Peggy Clemmer
- Jill Venable
- Cinda Williamson

Council Members - Elect 4 to a 3-year Term

Nominees:

- Mary Ballard (*Incumbent*)
- Kristie Evans
- Martha Kreszock
- Gail Lund (*Incumbent*)
- Jesse Lutabingwa
- Wayne Powell

2021-2022 Council Nominee Bios

The following biographies have been submitted by the 2021 nominees for Council.

Mary Ballard

I moved to Boone 30 years ago this month. For awhile, I was without a consistent church home. I found Grace during Bishop Tim's tenure as pastor and I knew immediately that I wanted to become a part of this welcoming congregation. Since my entire biological family resides in Kentucky, my friends in Boone - including the people of Grace, those in the Department of Psychology at AppState, and my karate students – are my local family of choice.

I have served on the congregational Council for the past three years. I have been Council president for the past two years. Most of my tenure as Council president has been during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not what I expected when I took on the role, but I have learned and grown as a person and as a leader as a result of the challenges this presented.

In addition to my service on Council, I have been a member of the internship committee for the Vicar for the past two years. Again, this was challenging, as we had to learn how to mentor Vicar Christopher online! I am looking forward to working with Vicar Randy in this roll.

I am on the local Back 2 School Festival supplies committee and liaison with Grace and other local churches and businesses to collect supplies for the festival.

I have been an LSA "parent" for two students over the past several years. I have also led a self-defense workshop for LSA students and hope to do this again in the future.

Finally, I serve on the NC Synod Refugee and Immigrant Committee and on the local Immigrant Justice Committee. I see social justice as a primary call for Christians and am passionate about this work.

Kristie Evans

I've lived in the Boone area and been a member of Grace for 21 years. My husband is Scott Evans and I have 2 children, Thad (19) and Eli (15). I help run a local, family-owned, company that supplies pharmaceutical, research, and other scientific institutions around the world with testing materials. I've served as a Sunday School teacher and been a part of Youth and Family Ministries and its activities for many years, served previously on Grace Council as Secretary, participated as a member of Dorcas and on the Intern Committee, and most recently served on the Growing Grace Capital Campaign Committee. I enjoy audiobooks, gardening, cooking, and boating.

Martha Hudson Kreszock

I retired from Appalachian State University in 2012 with over 20 years as a faculty librarian and distance education specialist. My husband and I are blessed to continue to call Boone our home.

When a close friend invited me to join an informal dinner group with some members of the congregation several years ago, I was immediately drawn to their strong sense of community and faith and joy. I began attending worship services soon after. I have participated in Grace's Hospitality House Meal Ministry, Card Ministry, and Coffee Hour Host Ministry; and have served on the Church Personnel Committee. I have assisted in the offering of Healing Prayers and have administered in-home Communion to shut-ins on occasion.

I am honored to have my name on the Council ballot. As the present Council has so faithfully and effectively done, I would work hard to hear, listen, and give thoughtful consideration to ideas and issues that may come before us; and to prayerfully represent our congregation in our decision making.

Gail Lund

I have been a lifelong Lutheran serving in many churches. In 1994 we joined Grace Lutheran Church. I have served on various committees since joining Grace. The past three years I have been active in Lizzie Estelle Circle, Quilters, Troutman Foundation, OPUS, Columbarium Committee, Funeral Committee, Usher and Fellowship Committee. In the past three years I have had the privilege to serve on the Church Council and for the past two years I was a member of the Executive Committee and served as Vice President. As a member of the Church Council, I feel it is important to listen to the members of the church about various issues and vote the way they feel, not my own opinion.

I have two children and three grandchildren. My family expanded when I married Ron Schuette with three more boys and five grandchildren. I am a retired elementary school teacher. When not helping at church I love to make quilts for Mountain Laurel Quilt Guild to give to others in our community.

Jesse Lutabingwa

Originally from Tanzania, Jesse Lutabingwa was born in a Lutheran family. His father worked his entire working life for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) and ELCT/Northwestern Diocese first as a teacher and later as a lay executive in various levels of the church. Jesse also served for several years as a community development officer of ELCT. He previously served as a consultant for the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, Switzerland on youth and social justice issues. He has two sons, David (28) and Jonathan (16).

Jesse has been a member of Grace since July 2006. At Grace, he has served as Assisting Minister for worship services and was a member of Pastor Steve's Call Committee. Most recently, Jesse was a member of the Growing Grace 2020 Capital Campaign.

Jesse works at Appalachian State University where is an Associate Vice Chancellor for International Education & Development and Professor of Public Administration. He is responsible for overseeing the global engagement mission of the University. He has been at Appalachian for 15 years.

Wayne Powell

Wayne and his wife Joyce moved to Valle Crucis in 2017 after retiring in Hickory. They are pleased now to be involved at Grace. Wayne has spent a career in higher education and now serves as a consultant to a series of universities. In past lives he has engaged in a variety of church service roles including: Church Council, Sunday School Director, SS teacher, Vacation Bible School Director, VBS teacher, Youth Director, Campus Ministry Director, Head Usher, and Assisting Minister. He has also been active on NC Synod and national ELCA commissions and committees.

2021-2022 Proposed Budget Summary

2021-2022 Grace Lutheran Church - Proposed Budget

	THIS YEAR			NEXT YEAR
	2020-2021 Projected Actual	2020-2021 Budget	2020-2021 Variance Actuals to Budget	2021-2022 Proposed Budget
Revenues				
Tithes and Offerings				
015201 - General Fund Offering	\$ 290,000.00	\$ 320,000.00	\$ (30,000.00)	\$ 320,000.00
015205 - NC & ELCA Synod Income	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -	\$ 27,000.00
Total Tithes and Offerings	\$ 311,000.00	\$ 341,000.00	\$ (30,000.00)	\$ 347,000.00
Rental Incomes				
015307 - Property Rental Income	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 23,400.00	\$ (4,400.00)	\$ 16,200.00
015308 - Parking Rental Income	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ (4,000.00)	\$ 40,000.00
Total Rental Incomes	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 63,400.00	\$ (8,400.00)	\$ 56,200.00
Miscellaneous Income				
015301 - Interest/Dividends	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ -
015305 - Jeffcoat-Proctor Offset	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
015302 - Miscellaneous Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Miscellaneous Income	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 4,000.00
Total Revenues	\$ 371,400.00	\$ 409,400.00	\$ (38,000.00)	\$ 407,200.00
Expenses				
LEARNING Ministry				
Youth & Family	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ (1,125.00)	\$ 1,200.00
Christian Education	\$ 2,079.90	\$ 3,350.00	\$ (1,270.10)	\$ 2,000.00
Intern	\$ 4,028.33	\$ 23,400.00	\$ (19,371.67)	\$ 23,400.00
Stewardship	\$ 450.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (50.00)	\$ 500.00
Total LEARNING	\$ 6,633.23	\$ 28,450.00	\$ (21,816.77)	\$ 27,100.00
SERVING Ministry				
Care Ministry	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Community Benevolences	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
North Carolina Benevolences	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00
Total SERVING	\$ 7,600.00	\$ 7,600.00	\$ -	\$ 7,100.00
2.6%				
WORSHIPING Ministry				
Worship & Music	\$ 5,351.21	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 751.21	\$ 4,600.00
Total WORSHIPING	\$ 5,351.21	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 751.21	\$ 4,600.00

WELCOMING Ministry				
Campus Ministry	\$ 487.36	\$ 1,600.00	\$ (1,112.64)	\$ 1,750.00
Evangelism (Hospitality)	\$ 790.55	\$ 1,400.00	\$ (609.45)	\$ 900.00
Fellowship	\$ 200.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (300.00)	\$ 250.00
Total WELCOMING	\$ 1,477.91	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (2,022.09)	\$ 2,900.00
SUPPORTING Ministry - Property/Office				
Property General	\$ 3,448.32	\$ 4,100.00	\$ (651.68)	\$ 4,300.00
Church	\$ 20,193.00	\$ 22,050.00	\$ (1,857.00)	\$ 22,700.00
Office Expense	\$ 29,200.00	\$ 32,250.00	\$ (3,050.00)	\$ 32,900.00
Grace Place	\$ 4,051.41	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 151.41	\$ 4,400.00
Council House	\$ 6,334.73	\$ 7,500.00	\$ (1,165.27)	\$ 7,600.00
Council House Mortgage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Wilkes County Property	\$ 248.50	\$ 6,000.00	\$ (5,751.50)	\$ 6,000.00
Total SUPPORTING - Property/Office	\$ 63,475.96	\$ 75,800.00	\$ (12,324.04)	\$ 77,900.00
SUPPORTING Ministry - Personnel				
Senior Pastor	\$ 103,552.00	\$ 111,458.24	\$ (7,906.24)	\$ 104,258.24
Campus Minister	\$ 26,250.00	\$ -	\$ 26,250.00	\$ 26,250.00
Youth & Family Director	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Musicians	\$ 28,800.00	\$ 28,800.00	\$ -	\$ 38,800.00
Office Staff	\$ 92,000.00	\$ 97,642.25	\$ (5,642.25)	\$ 96,250.00
Other Personnel	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 3,100.00	\$ (2,075.00)	\$ 1,500.00
Other Personnel Expenses	\$ 16,200.00	\$ 26,700.00	\$ (10,500.00)	\$ 21,250.00
Total SUPPORTING - Personnel	\$ 267,827.00	\$ 286,450.49	\$ (18,623.49)	\$ 288,308.24
Total Expenses	\$ 352,365.31	\$ 406,400.49	\$ (54,035.18)	\$ 407,908.24
Net Total	\$ 19,034.69	\$ 2,999.51	\$ 16,035.18	\$ (708.24)

2021-2022 Grace Lutheran Budget Narrative

UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES

This last year was one of the most remarkable and challenging years in history and in the ministry of our congregation.

- Little did we know that when we worshiped together in person on March 8th, 2020, that we would not be back in the sanctuary worshiping in person again until April 18th, 2021.
- Our initial concern was around whether we would be able to continue to support our staff and facilities if our generous members were not in our pews regularly.
- The uncertainty along with the many twists and turns over the past year have challenged us as a congregation to develop new ways to connect with each other and serve in Jesus' name.

UNPRECEDENTED RESPONSE

As we look toward the end of the fiscal year, while we are projecting a slight **decrease in our General Fund offerings of about 3% from last year**, in many ways, it feels like we have some momentum! *How is that possible?*

- Because of COVID, we were unable to run our regular stewardship appeal in 2020, receiving about half of the number of pledges as we did in 2019. However, this year we added 9 new pledging families.
- While for years a good percentage of giving had come in online and through the mail, with the church facilities closed, all of our giving needed to switch to these methods.
- Over the past year, a few of our very generous members have moved to be closer to family or died.

Given these challenges, it feels remarkably spirit-inspired that we will come so close to matching our giving from the previous year!

But not only that, last year we also had the **Growing Grace Capital Campaign!** This \$200,000 campaign was designed to grow the Troutman Foundation (\$20,000), pay off our Council Property Mortgage (\$90,000) and create an updated Vicarage (\$90,000). It was a thrill to be able to pay off our mortgage, which began at \$1.8 million in 2007, in February of this year! To date, we have received almost \$100,000, and still have about \$35,000 remaining that has been pledged to the campaign.

The twists and turns over the past year have challenged us as a congregation to develop new ways to connect with each other and to serve in Jesus' name. The generosity of each and every one of you has allowed for us as a congregation to approach these challenges with creativity and trust in God's leading and provision.

NEW THINGS AHEAD

Overall, the proposed budget is very similar to the current year's budget. We will be tightening our belts just a little bit more to make room for a few new ministry opportunities.

- The biggest addition to the budget is the **NEW Audio/Visual Ministry Facilitator**. This part-time position will take over the responsibility of recording, editing and posting the online worship services each week.
- This budget reduces the Jeffcoat-Proctor Endowment subsidy which **supports the Campus Minister** position.
- The Council continues to be committed to developing a plan for the **Wilkes County Property** and finding ways to reduce or alternatively fund the Tax and Liability Insurance burden on the budget.
- Overall we have been able to slightly **reduce office expenses** but property costs have gone up primarily because of the **increased cost of electricity**.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The Council believes that this is a crucial time to invest in digital ministry opportunities; there are also some other areas where we know that we would like to focus accumulated resources in the coming year.

- We believe that our **whole staff** has risen to meet this challenging moment. The Council is committed to finding a way to appropriately **thank these dedicated servants**.
 - We continue to be focused on finding a way to **enhance and grow our Youth and Family ministries**. Both of our **College Interns** for next year will focus their energies into this area. And, we are hopeful to be able to create a **temporary Youth and Family** position through designated funds to provide oversight and support as we prepare for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering.
 - Finally, the Council remains committed to continuing to **pursue alternative income opportunities**.
-

**We have been through a really challenging year and yet have
witnessed firsthand**

**God's Spirit alive and at work among and through us as we answer
our calling to**

***Share God's love so that all are served
and supported.***