



the Grace Messenger

A monthly publication of Grace University Lutheran Church

MARCH 2021 — VOLUME 118 — ISSUE 3

PASTOR'S PAGE

As we enter March, I find myself longing for signs of spring: The melting of snow, the thawing of the earth, the sighting of crocuses poking their purple blossoms out of the muddy ground.



Last year at this time, I was putting out word about our annual Soil and Soul retreat at Common Harvest Farm. Most springs since the first retreat in 2008, Grace folks would gather at Dan and Margaret's farm for a half-day of being in the country, pondering the connections

between our souls, our spiritual lives and the soil, without which we would not be alive. It has always been a healing time, a time to listen to Margaret and Dan share from their wealth of experience in living gently on the land.

Soon thereafter, Covid hit, and we cancelled the retreat. Sadly, it will not happen again this year.

Like so many of you, not only am I longing for a spring thaw outdoors, I long for a pandemic thaw, which I trust will come as more and more people across the world are vaccinated. I long for communities to gather again in person, without fear of contracting a virus, that for some means serious illness, and for still others, death. It will be good to no longer enter a room and wonder if someone unknowingly carries the threat of this disease. I distinctly remember a friend, probably 10 or 11 months ago, coming to the realization that Covid-19 was a dangerous virus, saying, "Everyone we meet is a potential threat."

I long for spring. As I write this, two freshman U.S. congresswomen, their offices across the hall from each other, represent yet another cold front in our country. One is a Democrat from Illinois, the other a Republican from Georgia. It seems they come from different worlds. The Equality Act, which "would provide consistent and explicit anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people across key areas of life, including employment, housing, credit, education, public spaces and services, federally funded programs, and jury service," is the focus of their

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in MARCH

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The deadline for submissions to the APRIL Grace Messenger is MONDAY, MARCH 15.



Graceattheu.org

[Grace University Lutheran Church Facebook Page](#)

[Grace University Families on Facebook](#)

[Grace University YouTube Channel](#)

WORSHIP *in* MARCH

We worship apart, but together. Worship information is emailed on Saturdays at 5 pm and is also posted on our website. Worship videos are on our YouTube channel.

Sundays at 9:30 am join us for "Live: Stories & Songs" on our Facebook page – a worshipful and fun time for all ages.

Sunday, March 7

Third Sunday in Lent

Live Worship via Zoom (see p. 3) with Holy Communion

Exodus 20:1-7 *The commandments are given at Sinai*
Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 *Christ crucified, the wisdom of God*

John 2:13-22 *The cleansing of the temple*

Sunday, March 14

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Table of Mercy Setting

11:30 am Meeting with Bishop

Svennungsen via Zoom (see p. 3)

Numbers 21:4-9 *The lifting up of the serpent*
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10 *Saved by grace through faith for good works*

John 3:14-21 *The lifting up of the Son of Man*



Sunday, March 21

Fifth Sunday in Lent

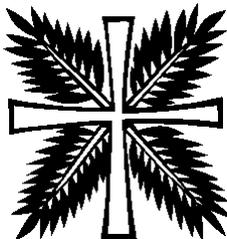
Jeremiah 31:31-34 *A new covenant written on the heart*
Psalm 51:1-12

Hebrews 5:5-10 *Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation*

John 12:20-33 *The grain of wheat dying in the earth*

Sunday, March 28

Palm/Passion Sunday — HOLY WEEK BEGINS



Isaiah 50:4-9a *The servant of the Lord submits to suffering*

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11 *Humbled to the point of death on a cross*

Mark 14:1—15:47 *The passion of the Lord*

All worship connection details for Holy Week will be communicated in advance.



Pastor's Page continued...

difference. I will not go into their differing perspectives, but only say this is just the latest example of the culture wars, the deep fissures that have been rediscovered these past years. I so long for a thaw in these "wars"; I long for a focus on working together for deeper understanding, for healing the divide, bringing a new peace to our land and to its people.

We long for glimmers of hope, of change, of resurrection, of honesty and fairness, justice and peace. The political divide in this country affects us all, but that is not the only thing that makes us long for light in the midst of darkness, for glimmers of hope. Some in our community have lost beloved family and friends, others struggle with illness, still others with difficult relationships at work or at home. Being alive is a tremendous gift, but it can also be so hard.

We do have places to turn. We claim a God who created us and all that is, who loves us unconditionally. We have a way to live shown by Jesus that brings life, not just to us, but to those our lives touch.

And even though there is still snow on the ground, we can feel in our bones that spring is coming, and it won't be stopped. Lent reminds us of that ... no matter how cold, how dark, how desperate life becomes, warmth, light, and new life does come.

Pastor Dan

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Maunder Thursday – April 1

Live via Zoom, with Holy Communion (will be uploaded to YouTube post-service)

Good Friday – April 2

Pre-recorded worship available all day

Easter Sunday – April 4

Live via Zoom, with Holy Communion (will be uploaded to YouTube post-service)

LENT 2021

STORIES OF GRACE TO TELL

Lenten devotionals told by members of the Grace community, along with a daily continuous reading of Mark's entire gospel, are provided via email. (To join the daily devotional email list, visit: <https://graceattheu.us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=a3888eea25351b8a9f6c01012&id=fe54bc3bdc>)

MUSICAL OFFERINGS

During Lent, Steve Self will be providing musical offerings, organ and piano each week on Wednesdays.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Saturday, March 20 — 9:00am – 12noon via Zoom

Please sign up by emailing Pastor Mary at pastormary@graceattheu.org

You are invited to sign up for this final mini retreat. Pastor Mary will facilitate, which includes small group time, alone time and large group time. We will attempt to create a retreat-like tone, even as we gather via Zoom. If you want to join but need guidance on how to use Zoom, please let Pastor Mary know. All you need is a quiet space, comfortable clothes, a journal, and the gift of your presence. We gather because we need the nourishment of shared experiences, wisdom, deep listening, and reflecting on matters of the heart.

There is no cost and no maximum limit for the group. In lieu of a retreat fee, you are invited to make a donation to support the ministry of the ARC Retreat Center: <https://www.arcretreat.org/give-today>.

FALL FUNDRAISER UPDATE

MORE GOOD NEWS!

Grace Youth's fundraiser this fall/winter, *Kujifunza Pamoja*, has funded another Tanzanian youth's education! Jackson Chamshama and his family were able to provide a little more than half the funds needed for his college tuition. *Kujifunza Pamoja* funds were able to provide the balance. A message from Jackson's father Frank:

"I just don't know how to thank you all. My God knows how grateful I am. God bless you all for that contribution. Ahsante sana sana Grace church youths. Please let them know that I am so very grateful. God bless you abundantly for what you are always doing for this family. We are so very much grateful. Jackson and the whole family are grateful. May God keep you safe day to day."

—Ranee Edmundson

LIVE WORSHIP VIA ZOOM SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Join us at 10:30 am

We'll gather live at 10:30 am via Zoom. This service will include Holy Communion — prepare at home by gathering bread and wine or grape juice. (The video will be uploaded to YouTube post-service for those who are unable to attend.)

Details for connecting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87390718633?pwd=Z21vVElxaDNraVRWUmtKR3J6YUdKdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 9071 8633

Passcode: 775888

To call in to a Zoom gathering using your touchtone phone, first dial by your area, then enter the Meeting ID and Passcode:

- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Wash, D.C)
- +1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

MINISTRY SITE PROFILE MEETING WITH BISHOP

Sunday, March 14 @ 11:30 am via Zoom

Grace members are invited to attend this gathering with Bishop Ann Svennungsen. As Grace looks ahead toward pastoral transition, this meeting will be about looking at our Ministry Site Profile — who we are as a congregation. The updated Ministry Site Profile document — updated based on feedback from the first meeting in February — is on our website at <http://graceattheu.org/call-process/>

Details for connecting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86297763370?pwd=RW9uOVFmTit6cTJtWEs5NElheUIEdz09>

Meeting ID: 862 9776 3370

Passcode: 967459

LITTLE GARDEN PANTRY UPDATE

Our little pantry is well used! We do not fully know who is using it, but we do think that people who are without housing or are precariously housed are using the pantry. Hygiene products are popular, as are granola bars and easy meal items. Here are some ideas of items to donate to the Little Pantry. As always, you are invited to fill the pantry yourself or you can drop off items with Heidi on **Thursdays**.

Ideas of Items to Donate:

Cup of Soup (not can)
Applesauce
Meat Sticks
Cheese Sticks
Boxed Rice and Beans
Pasta and Canned Sauce
Tuna
Other Boxed Dinners
Hygiene Items



Sam fills the pantry with items his family brought and with items others have donated for restocking

“GOOD GRIEF!” AND GOOD GRIEF

Charles Schulz once voiced Charlie Brown with these words: *Good Grief!* These two words give us a way to both sigh and sing at the same time! This expression seems apt for the uncertainty of this long pandemic and for us at Grace University Lutheran Church as we look ahead to the well-earned retirement of our beloved pastors. How do we navigate this approaching change, both individually and collectively? One thing we do know: We will all respond a bit differently, and there will be a range of emotions—including good grief—because we are, together, a vibrant, diverse body of Christ.

Retirement is expected, normal, and indeed a gift after years of faithful, creative service. We knew this time was coming, but we didn't know it would happen at the same time as a worldwide pandemic. Good Grief! No, we did not! So we find ourselves in this unplanned time of physical absence as we begin to say goodbye well, holding emotions of both grief and gratitude, and trusting the Spirit to blow new, creative beginnings into the lives of Pastors Dan and Mary and into this congregation.

We invite you to watch this space in the coming weeks and months for invitations to navigate this experience together. Throughout this time, we will lean into familiar ways of grieving and celebration in community. We will also discover new ways to live into the fullness of this part of our journey together, as the past twelve months of the pandemic have proven we can. We are blessed to be a community of members with good gifts to tend to the emotions and well-being of one another. Together, we will turn to the stories of scripture and the rituals of our tradition, and we will draw on the wisdom of healing practitioners, poetry, music, and art as we discern God's abiding presence through the changes ahead. *Come, Holy Spirit.*

Your Grace Companions in Good Grief



GIFTS OF APPRECIATED STOCK

Donating shares of stock that have appreciated in value for over one year can have income tax advantages. There is an opportunity to avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciated value of the donated shares of stock.

The good news is Grace University Lutheran Church now has a brokerage account and a process that will allow you to make a gift of appreciated stock. You could consider making a gift of appreciated stock toward:

- Your annual pledge
- Capital campaigns
- Endowment fund or other fund
- One-time designated gift

This can be accomplished whether you have a discount online brokerage account or have a personal financial advisor. We have established a brokerage account with Thrivent Financial to receive shares of stock contributed to Grace. It is important to understand that you only avoid realizing capital gains income if you donate the shares of stock. If you sell the stock and then donate the funds, you will realize capital gains income. It is also important to understand the tax implications will be dependent on your individual tax situation. There have been recent tax regulation changes, and not everyone will reduce their income taxes by gifting appreciated stock. [Additional details and information.](#)

If you would like to consider making a contribution of appreciated stock, contact Steve Solbrack at steve@solbrack.com and he will advise you on the steps you need to take. (Steve is a member of Grace and previous Congregation President.)

60 YEARS & COUNTING



Bruce and Kay Danielson of Fridley were married at Grace 60 years ago on February 18. Pastor Vince Hawkinson officiated. Part of their anniversary celebration involved visiting Grace to revisit memories of their wedding day and see changes to the church. Pictured here are their daughter Holly, Bruce, Kay, daughter Gail, and son-in-law Doug. Congratulations to the Danielsons on 60 years of marriage!

FOR YOUR CALENDAR...

Our spring Congregational Meeting (usually held in late May/early June) is scheduled for **Sunday, May 2 at 11:30 am.** Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

NLC VIRTUAL HYMN FESTIVAL: HOPE LIVES!

Join the National Lutheran Choir and guest artists, the Keith Hampton Singers, for a FREE virtual program blending spoken reflections, songs and familiar hymns of joy and hope with new music that speaks to our present time, inviting all people of faith to sing in joy *together!*

**Sunday, March 14 @ 4pm
(Central Daylight
Time) @ NLCA.com**

*This online presentation is **FREE for all.** For a Virtual Subscription to exclusive content (\$10/month), visit NLCA.com*

CALL PROCESS

Grace's website now holds a Call Process page to serve as a clearinghouse for all information related to the discernment process for transition to new pastoral leadership: <http://graceattheu.org/call-process/>.

In addition, the Call Committee can be contacted confidentially through this email: transitions@graceattheu.org.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Patrick Kubisa	1
Astrid Sutton	1
Bob Thomasson	2
Melysa Kubisa	3
Nina Randall	3
Emily Rector	4
Kali Higgins	5
David Haaland	6
Val Vagts	7
Meg Hoehn	7
Johnny Anderson-Hermann	8
Michelle Thornton	8
Maren Anderson	9
Linnea Neurauter	9
Joel Rector	10
Ginger Fish	11
Liz Andress	12
Annalise Iwen	12
Simone Lange	12
Emily Eastwood	13
Ida Bauck	14
Theodore Bauck	14
Martin Marty	14
Wyatt McAllister	15
Mike Jensen	16
Susan Wootten	16
Teddy Hayden	17
Ben Kise	17
Stan Olson	17
Becky von Fischer	17
Rob Anderson	18
Roz Anderson	18
Charlie Anderson	19
Kyle Rosenberg	19
Denise Murphy-Hawkinson	20
Nora Ronken	20
Karin Hannemann	21
Evan Neurauter	21
Yvonne Datta	24
Sarah Kise	24
Sophia Roy	24
Luke Jerviss	25
Kevin Wong	26
Cindy Chapman	27
Esmé Nielson	27
Randee Edmundson	28
Wema Kubisa	28
Nancy Olson	31
Jo Quanbeck	31

NURSE'S NOTE



Bullying Sources:

Verywell Family – “The different Types of Bullying Parents Should Watch For” Sherri Gordon, October 20, 2019; stopbullying.gov – “How to Prevent Bullying” May 19, 2019

“Researchers who study [bullying](#) have discovered that there is much more to bullying than meets the eye. For instance, many people once believed that bullying only consisted of physical bullying and name-calling. But there are actually six types of bullying, including everything from excluding and [gossiping](#) about people to making fun of their race or religion.” (Verywell Family)

Bullies are not all the same or use the same ways to intimidate or attack their victims. Some are very sly with their attacks and others are outright mean. Being aware of both the types of bullying, as well as the types of bullies a child may encounter, will help you to be better equipped to help the child in whatever situation they encounter.

Physical bullying is the most obvious form of bullying and the easiest to identify. It occurs when kids use physical actions to gain power and control over their targets. Physical bullies tend to be bigger, stronger, and more aggressive than their peers. Examples of physical bullying include kicking, hitting, punching, slapping, shoving, and other physical attacks.

Verbal bullying uses words, statements, and name-calling to gain power and control over their target. Typically, the bully uses relentless insults to belittle, demean or hurt another person. Bullies choose their victims based on the way they look, act or behave, making children with special needs easy victims. These bullies are hard to identify because they usually attack when adults are not around, pitting one child’s word against another child’s. Research has shown that verbal bullying and name-calling has serious and lasting deep emotional scars.

Relational aggression is a sneaky and insidious type of bullying that often goes unnoticed by parents and teachers. Sometimes referred to as emotional bullying, relational aggression is a type of social manipulation where tweens and teens try to hurt their peers or sabotage their social standing. With this type of bullying, the victim is often teased, insulted, ignored excluded and intimidated. Girls tend to use relational aggression more than boys, especially between fifth and eighth grades. This bullying is not limited to tweens. In fact, some bullying bosses and other workplace bullies also engage in relational aggression.

Cyberbullying occurs when the internet, smart phone or other technology is used to harass, threaten, embarrass or target another individual. Examples include posting hurtful images, makes online

Nurse’s Note continued on p. 7...

Nurse's Note continued...

threats and sending hurtful emails or texts. Cyberbullying is a growing issue as more and more tweens/teens are connected via technology. Cyberbullies often say hurtful things that they do not have the courage to say face to face and using technology makes them feel anonymous and detached from the situation. Cyberbullies can get to someone anywhere, therefore the consequences of cyberbullying are significant.

Sexual Bullying consists of repeated. Harmful and humiliating actions that target a person's sexuality. Examples of this can include sexual name-calling, crude comments, vulgar gestures, uninvited touching, sexual propositioning, and pornographic materials. A bully might make a crude comment about a peer's appearance, attractiveness, sexual development, or sexual activity. In extreme cases, sexual bullying can lead to sexual assault. Girls are most often the target of sexual bullying and it can be by either boys or girls. **Sexting** can also lead to sexual bullying. For example, if a girl sends a photo of herself to her boyfriend, he may share that photo widely if they break up. She may then become the target of sexual bullying by others.

Prejudicial bullying is based on prejudices tweens and teen have toward people of different races, religions, or sexual orientation. This type of bullying can encompass all the other types of bullying. These bullies are targeting others who are different than them and singling them out. Often this type of bullying is severe and can open the door to hate crimes. Any time a child is targeted in this way for sexual orientation, race or religion, it should be reported.

How to prevent bullying:

Parents, school staff, grandparents, and other caring adults have a role to play in preventing bullying.

1. Help kids to understand bullying by talking about what bullying is and how to stand up to it **safely**. Tell them that bullying is not acceptable and make sure they know how to get help.
2. Keep the lines of communication open by checking in with kids often. Listen to them. Know who their friends are, ask about school, and understand their concerns.
3. Encourage kids to do what they love like special activities, interests, and hobbies which can boost confidence, help kids make friends, and protect them from bullying.
4. Model how to treat others with kindness and respect.
5. Additional information at stopbullying.gov.

2 Timothy 1:7

“For the spirit does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”

Take care, stay well, spread love, and blessings to each of you and your families.

Nurse Cheryl

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<i>Adult Education</i>	Nancy Laskaris
<i>Archives & History</i>	Gordon Folke
<i>Children & Youth</i>	Jenny Odden
<i>Congregational Life</i>	Frieda von Qualen
<i>Hawkinson Fund</i>	Jared Oasheim & Stan Jacobson
<i>Outreach</i>	Susan Wooten
<i>Property</i>	Rolf Carlsen
<i>Sunday Service Coordinator</i>	Rose Carlsen
<i>Social Justice Coordinator</i>	Anita Hill
<i>Stewardship</i>	
<i>Worship and Music</i>	David Grandall
<i>Leadership Development</i>	Jean Stilwell, David Anderson, Sara Sneed Miller

GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>President</i>	Stan Olson
<i>Vice President</i>	Drew Schwab
<i>Vice President</i>	Nicole Johnson
<i>Treasurer</i>	John Edmundson
<i>Secretary</i>	Lisa Linnell
<i>Council-at-Large</i>	Kirsten Bansen Weigle
<i>Council-at-Large</i>	Becky Hunter
<i>Council-at-Large</i>	Joe Carlson

Grace University Lutheran Church

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info@graceattheu.org



Lutheran Campus
Ministry



Address service requested

STATEMENT of MISSION

The primary mission of Grace University Lutheran Church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ as an instrument of God's reconciling love in the world. We do this so that reconciliation with God may become a reality for all. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

STATEMENT of AFFIRMATION

Grace University Lutheran Church is a spiritual community that celebrates the gifts of God that empower us to engage in the struggles of life, to care for each other, and to serve Christ where we work and live. Grace is a Reconciling-in-Christ congregation. We welcome the participation of people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, educational backgrounds, and economic conditions—all who want to join in community to honor God and be of service to people.

OFFICE/BUILDING HOURS

Temporarily suspended during the pandemic

THE PEOPLE of GRACE

Ministers The Grace Community

Grace Staff

- Mary Halvorson* Co-Pastor, pastormary@graceattheu.org
- Dan Garnaas* Co-Pastor, pastordan@graceattheu.org
- Heidi Johnson McAllister* Director of Faith Formation
and Member Engagement, cyf@gracattheu.org
- Jill Abenth* Office Manager, info@graceattheu.org
- Stephen Self* Organist and Choir Director, music@graceattheu.org
- Joan Christensen* Pianist, jerjoanchriste@hotmail.com
- David Anderson* Bookkeeper & Financial Secretary, akro davidmn@gmail.com
- Cheryl Lanigan* Faith Community Nurse, nurse@graceattheu.org
- Mechawit Simmons* Custodian
- Mike Lanigan* Sunday Attendant
- Jared Steven Coffin* Composer in Residence

Volunteer Staff

- Stefan Wolf* Second Sunday Singing Director, stefanjwolf@gmail.com
- Janelle Bussert* Keyboard Choir Director, jbussert2@aol.com
- Patti Regan* Handbell Choir Director, regan.patti@gmail.com
- Carolyn Winters Folke* Offering Counting Coordinator, cbwf40@gmail.com

Lutheran Campus Ministry Staff

- Kate Reuer Welton* Lutheran Campus Pastor, pastorkate@umnlutheran.org
- Michelle Greene* Administrative & Development Assistant, info@umnlutheran.org
- Dana Rademacher Hansen* Program Associate, dana@umnlutheran.org
- Ben Cox* St. Paul Outreach Intern, ben@umnlutheran.org
- Jenna Van Holtum* Student Admin & Development Intern, jenna@umnlutheran.org

Grace Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 13, 2021 – 6:30-8:00 PM
by Zoom technology

Attending: Pastor Mary Halvorson, Pastor Dan Garnaas, Stan Olson, Niki Johnson, Kirsten Bansen Weigle, Becky Hunter, Joe Carlson, Drew Schwab. John Edmundson, Lisa Linnell

Call to Order by Stan at 6:32pm

Opening Word – Pastor Mary

December Council Minutes – Lisa

Action: Motion to approve minutes as distributed. Motion by Lisa, second by Drew. Motion approved.

December Financial Reports – John

Action: Motion to receive financial reports as distributed. Motion by John, second Niki. Motion approved.

Not many changes compared to December. Postage over budget, which is understandable due to increased mailings due to pandemic.

2021 Budget

Highlights: 3% raise to all non-pastoral, 1.3% raise to pastoral staff. Projecting \$25,000 deficit, but a \$15,000 carryover.

Most income is from identifiables. 11% of income from parking garage.

Most expenses are payroll and benevolence.

For 2020 we ran below most years for identifiables. Something to keep an eye on and see how things change as we move from pandemic operations back to more normal, in-person gatherings.

Action: Motion to recommend that the congregation approve the proposed 2021 budget Motion by John, second by Niki. Motion approved.

Pastors' Reports – Dan and Mary

Mary – Staying the course, but with some weariness and hunger to be what it was. Preparing for worship takes a lot of time.

Activities: Racial Equity group is doing a book study. Lenten plans are coming together: small groups, book study. Just trying to stay connected and healthy. Pastoral care requests come by email and text.

Dan – Don't remember a time when so many people are dealing with deep anxiety.

Activities: Men's Retreat is coming up. Grace University is coming up (15 classes to be offered): Two visiting faculty from New Mexico teaching knitting class and watercolors class, and a 7-year-old would like to offer online game playing. Many good questions at the Building Committee meeting held immediately prior to the Council meeting; another will be held on Sunday, January 17.

Building Task Force

At our December meeting, the Council concurred with the task force that there should be a pause in building enhancement planning and that we should separately consider roof

replacement and move forward with that now. The task force chairs are exploring roof replacement options and hope to have information and an action-recommendation ready soon.

Organ maintenance and improvement contract

On June 2, 2019, the congregation adopted the following resolution: “,,,to approve the organ maintenance proposal submitted by Grandall & Engen, LLC, dated February 8, 2019 for \$82,450 for maintenance and improvements to be done mid-2021 or after the completion of the new building addition. The funds will be paid from the Enduring Grace Fund – Future Needs and Opportunities subaccount.”

To avoid the risk of construction dust damage to organ improvements, David Grandall recommends that we postpone this work until our building enhancement project is complete.

Action: Motion to agree in principle to revise our agreement with Grandall and Engen to move the date of organ maintenance and enhancement from January 2022 to January 2023 with a cost increase of no more than 5%. Motion by Drew, second by Kirsten. Motion approved.

Investment Manager

The Finance Committee recommends that we formalize the relationship with Steve Solbrack as volunteer investment manager. The two proposed actions below would accomplish that.

Action: Motion to approve the proposed Investment Manager Role Description and Policies for the Investment Manager, as amended. Motion by Lisa, second by Drew. Motion approved.

Action: Motion to appoint Steve Solbrack as Investment Manager for a one-year term beginning January 1, 2021. Motion by Drew, second by John. Motion approved.

Policies & practices during the pandemic – review if needed

Pastor Dan encourages everyone to get the COVID vaccine as soon as they can.

Meeting time

Some months ago we agreed to shift of our meeting time from 6:00 to 6:30 and to revisit the question later. No change will be made at this time.

Pastoral Transition

a) Discussion of the draft Ministry Site Profile (MSP)– Drew Council members reviewed the draft MSP and offered their reflections and suggestions.

b) Call Committee

When the MSP team's work is done, the Call Committee will make any final edits and submit it to the Bishop's office. Call Committee Chair Patty Lee is aiming to schedule a meeting for Grace with Bishop Svernungsen in mid-February.

Other Business

No other business

Adjourn

Action: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Becky, second by Kirsten. Motion approved. Adjourn at 7:53pm.

MARCH 8TH START OF CHAUVIN TRIAL PROCESS

There are rallies and prayer vigils being organized around Minneapolis in honor of George Floyd on March 8th. (Current list noted below.) One such event is a Prayer Vigil at noon that day. Some members of the Grace Racial Equity team will be attending.

I am volunteering to organize members of the Grace community that would like to attend together. If you are interested, email me directly at rachelmagennis@hotmail.com and let me know what times you are available to go and I will link people together.

If you want to support this effort, but can't attend because of covid safety or other concerns, you can participate with your prayers, by making signs for those who do attend to carry, by dropping off beverages, food/snacks for those going, or you might have other ideas. Let me know how you want to play a role.

In solidarity,
Rachel Magennis

Event Organizers: [Prayers for Justice for George Floyd and Black Liberation](#), [MUUSJA - Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance](#) and [Calvary Lutheran Church-Minneapolis](#)

Event: Day of Prayers for Justice for George Floyd and Black Liberation

When: Monday, March 8, 2021 from 8 AM – 8:30 PM

- 8:00 AM – Call to Prayer (virtual stream and in-person)
- Noon – CST Prayer service centering Black Men (virtual stream and in-person, Black only)
- 5:45 PM – Candlelight Vigil (virtual stream and in-person)
- *More activities scheduled throughout the day, such as mutual aid supply drives, open mics, etc.*

Where: George Floyd Square, 38th and Chicago, Minneapolis

Link for virtual streams, full schedule, and more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/764103234502819>

SEEKING “AHA” MOMENT STORIES

Do you have a story to share about when you became aware of race or perhaps an experience that helped you change your behavior in relation to people who don't share your skin color? If you are interested in writing your story (about 400 words or less) please contact Niki Johnson:

nikijohnson29@yahoo.com or 917-617-1296.

A REMINDER ABOUT SCAMS

Scams seem to be popping up everywhere: emails, text messages, phone calls...sometimes it can be difficult to tell if a request is legitimate and coming from the person it claims to be coming from.

*****Our pastors will NOT EVER text or email individuals to solicit money or other kinds of donations.*****

In addition, any requests for money coming directly from a congregation member to you personally should be checked out with one of our pastors.

If you receive an email or text message that appears to be coming from a pastor — perhaps asking you to “do a favor” or “help me out with something” and directing you to purchase gift cards or forward money — DO NOT REPLY or click on any links. You may let someone on staff know. You can "block the caller" and delete the text, or report the email as spam. You can also visit this to learn more about what to do: [How to recognize and report spam text messages](#)