



the

Grace Messenger

A monthly publication of Grace University Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER 2020 — VOLUME 117 — ISSUE 11

PASTOR’S PAGE

This month’s page is a recent letter from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton:

“God’s care for human society calls us to rise again each day ... to appreciate — and do — the work of self-government.” (From the ELCA social message “Government and Civic Engagement in the United States,” p. 18)

This coming Sunday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m. Eastern time, I will join many other religious leaders in the [Holding On to Hope National Prayer Service](#), to be held at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Please join me for this special occasion to pray for the good of our nation on the eve of Election Day. Even as we pray, we are called to participate in our nation’s electoral process as one way God works through us to love and serve the neighbor (Matthew 22:39). Our vote is a choice about what will make our society a more just, more whole community where human dignity is honored and rights are upheld.

Throughout our church, many are experiencing heightened anxiety around the 2020 election. I confess that I feel it, too. Elections often raise tensions, but this season more than half of Americans say they are [stressed over the future of our nation](#). We are beset by negative ads, targeted by misinformation campaigns and worried by reports of foreign interference. We are seeing unprecedented numbers voting early and many concerned for safety on Election Day. There are concerns about voter suppression and voter fraud, the near-certainty of delayed results and fear of election-related unrest or violence. We experience all of this under the weight of a pandemic, in a year that has been filled with many crises, especially the ongoing scourge of racism and white supremacy.

But as an American, I am hopeful. Commitment to the common good is embedded in the ideals expressed in our nation’s founding documents. These have assisted our country to transcend its bleakest moments, and I trust they will help us to do so now. We remain committed to fair and equitable voting as a bedrock for democracy. Respectful vigorous debate is part of the foundation and strength of our nation and an important step in our pilgrimage toward the horizon of “a more perfect union.”

As a member of Christ’s church, I am hopeful. We are stewards of public life for the common good. “The ELCA holds to the biblical idea that God calls God’s people to be active citizens and to ensure that everyone benefits from the good of government” (“[Government and Civic](#)

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in NOVEMBER

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The deadline for submissions to the DECEMBER Grace Messenger is MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16.



Graceattheu.org

[Grace University Lutheran Church Facebook Page](#)

[Grace University Families on Facebook](#)

[Grace University YouTube Channel](#)

WORSHIP in NOVEMBER

We worship apart, but together. Worship information is emailed on Saturdays at 5 pm and are 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, November 1
All Saints Sunday
LIVE WORSHIP VIA ZOOM

Daylight Saving
Time Ends
Fall back 1 hour!

Revelation 7:9-17

The multitudes of heaven worship the Lamb

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3 *We are God's children*

Matthew 5:1-12 *Blessed are the poor in spirit*

Sunday, November 8
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Table of Mercy Service

Amos 5:18-24 *Let justice roll down like waters*

Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *The promise of the resurrection*

Matthew 25:1-13 *The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids*

Sunday, November 15
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 *The day of the Lord*
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *Be alert for the day of the Lord*
Matthew 25:14-30 *The story of the slaves entrusted with talents*

Sunday, November 22
Christ the King Sunday
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 *God will shepherd Israel*
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23 *The reign of Christ*
Matthew 25:31-46 *The coming of the Son of Man; the separation of sheep and goats*

Sunday, November 29
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9 *Prayer that God would come with power and compassion*
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 *Gifts of grace sustain those who wait for the end*
Mark 13:24-37 *The sudden coming of the Son of Man*

[Engagement](#)," p. 14). Aware of the urgent need for a "public life worthy of the name," the 2013 ELCA social policy resolution "Voting Rights to All Citizens" acknowledges that many people of color and other minority groups face barriers to their right to vote. Our church has long held that it is our responsibility to act to ensure the right to vote without intimidation or interference. Our public leadership as disciples of Jesus Christ matters at this important time. Our civic engagement is not motivated by politics or partisanship. It is a call to genuine service of the neighbor in need. It recognizes that we can disagree about political means yet become ambassadors of hope, healing, reconciliation and justice.

As I stated in [this recent video](#), it is imperative that we allow the election process to take place and ensure that every voice be heard and every vote counted. Our church is speaking up on the importance of [free and fair elections](#). There are many ways we can all be [involved](#) responsibly in stewarding the gift of government, including as poll workers and election monitors, by feeding those waiting in long lines, by disseminating accurate information about voting, by sharing our appreciation with all those who serve to uphold our rights and responsibilities, by promoting patience so that every vote is counted, by planning ahead to address tensions and promote nonviolence, and through our fervent prayers.

Let us pray together for our nation:
O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Help us in these days to elect trustworthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for our common life and serve our neighbors. Bless those we elect, that our nation may grow toward peace among ourselves and be a blessing to other nations of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

In Christ,
Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS

As parents, having conversations about racism and white privilege with our children, at any age, is important. For generations, parents of children of color, by necessity, have had these conversations, early and ongoing, in their children's lives. For many of us with white skin, race is a new and at-first difficult topic to discuss. How to start? What to say? How to listen? If you have had conversations about race, what have you learned? What challenges have you had? All important questions! Join Sue Engh and Heidi Johnson McAllister as we explore how we can lean into these crucial conversations with our children across all ages.

This forum will take place on Thursday, November 5th, at 8pm via Zoom. We will spend time listening to a parent who has had conversations early with his children and share with each other about how to start or continue conversations about race and racism. This is a great introductory conversation to Meg Hoehn's book club that will read the book *Raising White Kids*. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we have an idea of attendance numbers. Contact Heidi at cyf@graceattheu.org or Sue at revsue@engh.casa.

KUJIFUNZA PAMOJA: LEARNING TOGETHER

Our 12th annual fundraiser with our partner/friends in Tanzania

Date: Sunday, November 22—Sunday, December 6
Goal: \$2500.00

In 2008, Grace Members, Randee and John Edmundson were Peace Corps Volunteer teachers in Kongei, TZ. They reached out to many folks in Minnesota, including Grace Church to raise the funds to build teacher housing at Kongei Primary School for three teachers. Most Kongei teachers were walking two hours to get to school each day because there was no housing at the school for them. Grace youth leaders organized the Walking for Kongei project that year to help out. This project has led to a relationship that has helped with building a kitchen, gutters and cisterns to prevent erosion and provide needed water, furnishing a library, building five bridges over streams to provide access for transportation, a new classroom, and school fee scholarships for the children of families of our teacher partners.

The Fundraiser this year is for scholarships for two students, Martha and Francesca.

Sunday School families will receive a packet with: pledge sheet, box for collecting, projects/activity sheets. Kids can choose reading, practicing musical instrument/piano, cartwheels, counting to 1 million, learning multiplication tables, baking, blocks walked, etc., etc. BE CREATIVE. SOMETHING YOU PLEDGE TO LEARN.

NOVEMBER 1

All Saints Sunday
Live Worship @ 10:30 am via Zoom

We'll gather via Zoom to worship together at 10:30 am to remember the saints: those who have died and those we have baptized this past year, to celebrate Holy Communion, and to welcome new members. Prepare at home by gathering candles, bread, and wine or grape juice.

Direct Link to Worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88696909201?pwd=WVdxM25HMEptb0UzMFNiWmZjcjB0QT09>

WANT TO JOIN BY PHONE?

(This is a good option for those without a computer or internet connection – you won't be able to see the worship but you will hear everything.)

Those in Central Time can dial in: 1 312 626 6799 – and then you'll need the Meeting ID and Passcode...

Meeting ID: 886 9690 9201
Passcode: 634638

Also that day...
Daylight Saving Time ends.
We "fall back" one hour
on November 1.

How can the Grace Community participate when we are not together? WELL... check with a Sunday School family and offer encouragement to the kids, pledge to them directly or us GO FUND ME: this will be up and active by 11/22. Contributions can also be made by check to Grace University Lutheran Church with "TZ fundraiser" in the memo. Watch for more info in the Wednesday Letterbox emails and communication from the Children Youth and Family Committee.

—Asante Sana (Thank you)

PRAYER AT NIGHTFALL

quiet poetry quiet song
quiet prayer quiet together

Thursdays 8:30–8:50 pm
starting November 19

Access Zoom via computer
or dial in on phone

Questions? Please contact Pastor Mary:
pastormary@graceattheu.org

GRACE WOMEN'S MINI RETREATS

**Saturday mornings 9:00am – 12noon via
Zoom**

Advent—December 5
Epiphany—January 30
Lent—March 20

As we can't retreat together in person, we will do the next best thing. You are invited to sign up for one, two, or three of these mini retreat experiences. Each one will highlight a different theme. Pastor Mary will facilitate the mornings, which will include 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. Though these mini retreats cannot replace an in-person weekend retreat at ARC, we gather because we need the nourishment of shared experiences, wisdom, deep listening, and reflecting on matters of the heart in these disruptive times.

Please sign up by emailing Pastor Mary at pastormary@graceattheu.org. 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.arcetreat.org/give-today>).

RACE IS ON THE BALLOT

The Grace Racial Equity Team lifts up some concerns that are particularly related to race in this election. While churches cannot endorse particular candidates, churches can talk about faith values that guide our voting. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has also adopted policy statements related to race and voting.

Protect voting rights in every community

What has our church said? The ELCA calls upon "local, state and federal government to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens and...eliminate all laws or regulations that would have the effect of racial and ethnic discrimination in the exercise of that right." (Adopted by ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August 2013)

We are called to help protect the right to vote:

- Volunteer to be a poll worker in your community (when we last checked, they had enough help but you can still call)
- Offer a ride to a member of Grace or a neighbor who may need help getting to the polls now for early voting or on election day
- Advocate for the full count of all ballots in Minnesota and every state, whether those votes were by mail or in person
- Contact elected officials and write letters to the editor if you see efforts to challenge the right to vote in your community

Speak and act against racism

What has our church said? "As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions."

(Adopted by 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly)

We are called to support and vote for:

- Candidates who respect people of every race through their words and actions
- Candidates who support laws and public policies that foster racial equality
- Candidates who respect and do not demean the Black Lives Matter movement
- Candidates who condemn white supremacist ideologies and organizations
- Candidates committed to bringing races together rather than pitting races against each other

Immigrants and asylum seekers are our neighbors

What does scripture say: "The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen...you shall love the alien as yourself."

Race Is on the Ballot continued...

(Lev. 19: 34) Jesus' last teaching in Matthew: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matt. 25: 35)

What has our church said? "The ELCA has declared that all residents, asylum seekers, and refugees in the United States are to be protected as neighbors, even as they await determination of immigration status in the courts."

Lutheran Immigration and Naturalization Services (LIRS) has resettled 500,000 refugees since 1939. The yearly ceiling for welcoming immigrants was 110,000 before 2016. The ceiling in 2020 was reduced to 18,000 and the ceiling for 2021 will be 15,000 – the lowest since 1939.

We are called to speak and act:

- Join LIRS in advocating to raise the ceiling of refugees admitted each year and protesting the puny limit of 15,000 for 2021
- Support candidates who speak well of refugees and asylum seekers rather than demeaning them as criminals
- Support a route to citizenship for young people brought to the U.S. as little children (DACA or "Dreamers")

Remember those who are poor, neglected, excluded and oppressed

What does scripture say? "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcome me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me...I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Jesus' last teaching, Matthew 25: 35-36, 40)

We are called to support and vote for:

- Candidates whose policies support the common good
- Candidates whose policies do not favor the wealthy over the poor
- Candidates who do not demean people of color as "lazy" or "free loaders"
- Candidates who affirm the role of government in providing a safety net for those in need, including children

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.

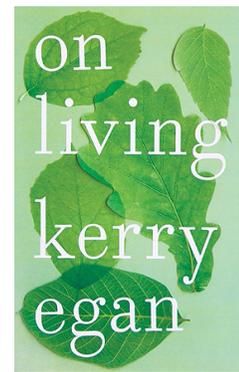
BOOK STUDY:

On Living,
by Kerry Egan,
a hospice chaplain

Thursdays 4:00-5:15 pm
via Zoom
November 19,
December 3, 10, & 17

Please email Pastor Mary if you are interested in joining this study:

pastormary@graceattheu.org.



Some reviews: "Funny, honest, and self-deprecating... adds to the understanding of end-of-life issues in an important and accessible way...If there is one thing death teaches us, it's how to live." —*New York Times Book Review*

"Egan... works as a hospice chaplain, supporting the spirits of those who are dying. In this book, she compassionately describes and distills what she has learned in their service." —*Boston Globe*

"... Wise without being preachy, warm without being cloying, Kerry Egan offers a delightful, humorous, and ultimately joyful perspective on what it means to be alive." —*Chicago Review of Books*

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sue Engh	2
Noah Kise	2
Perry Laskaris	3
Jean Stilwell	3
Luke Hawkinson	4
Reid Hewitt	4
Liam Lewellen	4
Dylan Nelson	4
Jenny Odden	5
Lisa Bigaouette	6
George Laskaris	6
Margaret Smart	7
Lauren Datta	8
Hilvie Ostrow	9
Melissa Laska	10
Kate Leos	10
Matheo Chadwick	12
Jim Peterson	12
Odin Baardseth	13
Ruth Dalager Buuck	13
Frieda von Qualen	13
Bev Benson	14
Hannah Stadler	19
Nora Abenth	20
Robynn Jensen	20
Jack Cragg	22
Paul Ostrow	22
Milton Datta	23
Josh Campbell	24
Alice Dahl	24
Oliver Dahl	24
Carol Newman	24
Jon Swenson Tellekson	24
Wittman Swiontkowski	24
Wayne Tellekson	25
Connie Delaney	28
Anna Derbis	29
Benjamin Derbis	29
Eric Laska	29
Phyllis Fong	30
Jay Higgins	30
Clara Lee	30

ADDRESSING HUNGER

Hunger is on the rise in many households throughout the Twin Cities. You are invited to help by writing a check out to Grace in support of **Community Emergency Service**. CES provides high-quality direct service to people in need through direct aid relief, advocacy, referral, guidance and prayer support, if desired. CES seeks to strengthen families and individuals with the goal of moving them beyond crisis to financial stability, as well as emotional health, personal growth and spiritual depth. The Grace community has been a strong supporter of this ministry for many years.

You may send your check to Grace with “CES” in the memo line, and funds will be forwarded. Check out CES’s website if you’d like to learn more about their mission: <https://cesmn.org>

FOR YOUR CALENDAR...

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP WITH THE GRACE COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS EVE:

All day Recorded service with special music, sermon and candle lighting. Available in the morning and accessible on YouTube and our Facebook page

4:30 pm Candlelighting service with Holy Communion (via Zoom from the sanctuary)

8:30 pm Candlelighting service with Holy Communion (via Zoom from the sanctuary)

These two live services will not be the same.

Worshippers are encouraged to attend both if they desire.

CHRISTMAS DAY:

9:30 am Facebook Live for all ages—Celebrating Christ’s Birth

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Note our next two congregational meetings:

January 24 & May 2

COMMUNITY NOTES

Baptism:

Madeline Garnaas Schacht, daughter of Siri Garnaas and Steve Schacht, sister of Eleanor, on October 11. Welcome, precious child of God!

NURSE'S NOTE



Food and Health Equity — Food for Thought

From: Minnesota Department of Health, "Access to Healthy and Affordable Food" 5/1/2019; Star Tribune Op Ed October 18, 2020, "Minnesota's Hardest winter May Lie Ahead"; Tim Walz, Jeff Harmening, Stephanie Lundquist; University of Minnesota. "How Does Food Impact Health", 2016

The food we eat gives our bodies the "information" it needs to carry out proper bodily functions. When our body does not get the correct information, our metabolic processes don't go as well, and our health suffers. (U of M) "Food acts as medicine to maintain, prevent and treat disease. IN other words. The nutrients in food are the nourishing substance in food that are essential for the growth, development and maintenance of body functions." (U of M)

"Minnesota ranks **7th worst** in the nation for the share of residents with access to healthy foods. Household food insecurity – the state of not having reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious, culturally appropriate food – is associated with poorer health and increased medical costs in both children and adults. When food is not accessible and available to families, children are more likely to be hospitalized, have anemia, and be at risk for developmental concerns and behavior problems. Infants born to women who are food insecure during pregnancy are more likely to be low birth weight and have birth defects. Pregnant women who are food insecure are more likely to be depressed, have gestational diabetes, and have higher weight gain prior and during pregnancy." (MDH)

"It's hard to be healthy if you're hungry." - Dr. John Prior, former board member of Second Harvest Heartland

"A lot of families may not consider themselves to be food insecure, but food insecurity also looks like mom eating a few bites of dinner to make sure her children get enough to eat or families eating cheap, filling, and unhealthy food until the next paycheck. Nearly 1 in 10 households in Minnesota experience food insecurity with factors that can lead to food insecurity including low wages, lack of transportation, and difficulty accessing benefits. When families experience food insecurity they might experience stress about running out of food before they can buy more, eat less healthy meals, and sometimes cut back on the size of meals or skip them entirely. In 2017 people living in Minnesota made 3,402,077 visits to food shelves; with 36.4 percent of those visits made by or for children." (MDH)

In the Op Ed article "Minnesota's Hardest Winter May Lie Ahead", it was noted that 1 of 8 Minnesotans are struggling to put food on the table as we face a pandemic and its impact on our economy. Over the past 7 months, Minnesota food banks have provided twice the amount of food as the same period in 2019. Organizations providing food to seniors have served seven times more people than they planned to serve this year. Many people who are eligible for food assistance (SNAP) are not enrolled. (Star Tribune)

Food continued on page 9 (insert)...

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Stan Olson
Vice President	Drew Schwab
Vice President	Nicole Johnson
Treasurer	John Edmundson
Secretary	Lisa Linnell
Council-at-Large	Kirsten Bansen Weigle
Council-at-Large	Becky Hunter
Council-at-Large	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

Food continued from page 7...

Focus on Health Equity

“Between 2012 and 2014 in Minnesota, 1 in 3 American Indian new mothers reported being food insecure 1 year before their baby was born. Specifically for tribal nations in Minnesota, all of the Red Lake Reservation area qualifies as a food desert, and large percentages of White Earth, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and Bois Forte Reservations areas are also considered food deserts.” (MDH) “In greater Minnesota, 24 counties have 100 percent of their census tracts qualify as federally designated food deserts, such as Cook, Koochiching, Red Lake, and Redwood. In an additional 20 counties in greater Minnesota, at least 50 percent of their census tracts qualify as federally designated food deserts. Rural Minnesota has many more food deserts, areas with a high proportion of residents who live far from a full-service grocery store, than the metro.” (MDH)

Food and Kids

“Hunger is strongly linked to health and academic achievement. Hunger negatively impacts academic performance and behavior in school, with hungry children performing worse in math, being more likely to repeat a grade, come to school late, or miss school days entirely. Students who eat breakfast at school have better attendance and fewer behavioral problems during the day.” (MDH)

Some children (and adults) with certain diagnoses need to have “medical” foods for the dietary management of their conditions. Being able to access these foods can be challenging (more expensive and less available than everyday foods). Insurance does not consistently cover medical foods which means some people receive very good coverage and some little or none.

John 1:2 (NLT) “Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit.”

Blessing to all, stay safe and well. Help to feed the needy when you can.

—Nurse Cheryl

NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR ON ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR brings the annual All Saints program to a virtual world-wide audience on November 1, 2020. “In Memoriam (We Remember)” sees the Choir sharing music of Remembrance, Perseverance, and Hope, with memorial names submitted by listeners as backdrop to the music and message.

Sunday, November 1, 2020 – 4pm (CST) @ NLCA.com (streamed live)

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

Grace Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 9, 2020 – 6:30-8:00 PM,
by Zoom technology

Congratulations to Joe and Meghan Carlson on the birth of their son, Andrew Lane!

Attendees: Pastor Dan, Pastor Mary, Stan Olson, John Edmundson, Niki Johnson, Becky Hunter, Kirsten Bansen Weigle, Joe Carlson, Drew Schwab

Guest: Pastor John Hulden, Assistant to the MAS Bishop

Call to Order (Stan)

Welcome our guest & colleague, Pr. John Hulden

Opening Word (Pastor Mary)

A reading from Matthew, Chapter 6; TED Talk Shining Eyes

August Council Minutes (Lisa)

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

August Financial Reports – (John)

Insurance quarterly payment made, all policies paid in full, should have no further payments this year.

Under budget for building maintenance

5% projected increase for health insurance costs.

~\$7,000 in deficit, but had projected to be in a greater deficit at this point in the year.

For 2021 budget, would like to take a hard look at the bottom line and be a little more accurate, erase the deficit.

Using part of LuAnn Muller's request as part of the identifiable giving. \$15,000 this year and reduces in subsequent years.

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

Pastors' Reports (Pastor Mary and Pastor Dan)

Update on the life and mission of Grace Church in this time

Pastor Mary:

- Two funerals: one small, one remote. Learned from both processes. Will be writing up protocols.
- New time of sacramental activity: baptize a baby in Lake McCarren.
- Will have a Zoom worship with communion.
- Starting to plan for Advent and Christmas, how we can connect.
- COVID funds: able to pay for a month's rent for a family in need. Very grateful to the staff for their steady and faithful presence.

Pastor Dan:

- Consulted with Nancy Laskaris, Adult Education Chair, about Grace University.
- Confirmation begins tonight.
- Racial Equity debrief: ~110 visits, listeners shared what they learned. Great time to have an in-reach. Deep concern about the state of our racial situation in the Twin Cities and in this country, desire to do more but not sure what to do. Reports will be written up and distributed in the next month. Keep conversation about racial equity and immigration going at the Synod level. Stan: Talking about giving a gift to the Synod's racial equity work. No proposal yet.

Building Process Update and Discussion – Pastor Dan

Working on re-engaging conversations with the University about coming to an agreement on the land-lease. Miller Dunwiddie working with Mortenson Construction. Tom Leighton has been very helpful.

Consultation with Pastors Mary & Dan about their concluding date

Extending their call to the end of May 2021.

Action: Motion to agree that Pastors Dan and Mary will conclude their service to Grace on May 31, 2020. Motion by Drew, second by Kirsten. Motion approved.

Other Business

Discussion of designating a portion of Luann Muller's bequest for major expenses for the Peace Garden & of including routine

garden maintenance costs in future general budgets. Use Luann Muller's money for special things for the garden and add general maintenance to the budget.

Action: Motion to designate \$3,000 of Luann Muller's bequest for the Peace Garden. Motion by Drew, second by Kirsten. Motion approved.

Action: on corporate resolution. Motion by Lisa, second by Drew. Motion approved.

Pastoral Transition Process Overview & Discussion – led by Pr. Hulden

Arc of time for this process (a lot of variables)

Ministry Site profile (our congregation's résumé). Pastors and deacons fill out their profiles. Need to get a group of people to put that document together (Drew will take the lead on this process): who we are, who we want to be, what are our demographics, what we are looking for in our pastoral team. Conversation with Bishop Ann about the profile. Helps the Synod as they walk with us in this process.

What kind of leadership do we want June 1? Interim, or new pastoral team? What is best for the congregation?

Begin work on finding candidates. Where to find: (1) We can ask for suggestion from the congregation. (2) Pastors who know there is an opening and express interest. If they contact Grace directly, please ask them to contact the Synod. (3) Synod finds candidates ("talent scout for Jesus") that would be a good fit. Take all of those names, find the best fit, call their Synods to find out if they are appropriate and available.

Pr. Hulden hopes the call committee interviews everyone that is recommended by the Synod.

Candidate would be presented to us a church council. Call committee would bring candidate to a meet-and-greet, then the candidate would leave and council would interview the call committee about why this candidate is the right one. If the council decides to move forward, the Synod does required background checks.

Present the candidate to a congregational meeting for a vote. Vote needs to be 2/3 "yes." If 2/3 "yes," the call is issued to that pastor. If the vote is not 90+%, the call is probably not the right one.

Synod needs to know how much we have in our budget for compensation: salary + benefits.

Goal: finish Ministry Site Profile by January, call committee appointed by our October meeting.

More information is available on the Synod's website: <https://mpls-synod.org/for-congregations/call-process/>

Adjourn

Action: Motion to adjourn. Motion by John, second by Joe. Motion approved. Adjourn at 8:07pm.

Next Meetings:

1. October 14 - Niki
2. November 11 – _____
3. December 9 – _____