



the Grace Messenger

A monthly publication of Grace University Lutheran Church

JUNE 2021 — VOLUME 118 — ISSUE 6

PASTOR'S PAGE

Greetings, Grace community!

I am delighted to join with you in ministry for this interim season. There are several overlapping “in-between” interim times happening in your communal life right now, including the global pandemic, racial reckoning in church and society in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, and Grace’s own in-between time of having said goodbye to Pastors Dan and Mary and now preparing to welcome newly called pastors at some point in the near future.

Each of these liminal seasons – at Grace and in the Church more broadly – prompts us to ask foundational questions with a new urgency: “What is church?” “What is worship?” “What is community?” “Who is God calling us to be, and what is God calling us to do?” It can all be a little overwhelming and exhausting. And at the same time, these threshold moments, between what has been and what is about to be, are sometimes where we perceive and even appreciate God’s work most clearly.



Pastor Amber Ingalsbe

Recently, I was reminded that our Lutheran tradition gives us a framework for thinking through these foundational questions, and it is a framework that strikes me as both timely and timeless. In 1539, in a long treatise entitled “On the Councils and the Church,” Martin Luther made a list of seven indicators, or marks, of the church. I find it a little surprising and very reassuring that he did not include “having a building” on the list! In fact, this part of the treatise begins with Luther wishing that the third article of the Apostles’ Creed be translated “I believe in ... the holy catholic people” rather than “the holy catholic Church” – the word “church,” he was concerned, makes people think of a building, when really what we mean is a people, a community – the body of Christ.

Luther’s “Marks of the Church” are indicators that are biblical, public, and visible. They are communal practices that are both how the Holy Spirit shapes believers and also how the Spirit reveals the Church to the world. These seven marks of the church are:

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in JUNE

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The deadline for submissions to the JULY Grace Messenger is MONDAY, JUNE 14.



Graceattheu.org

[Grace University Lutheran Church Facebook Page](#)

[Grace University Families on Facebook](#)

[Grace University YouTube Channel](#)

WORSHIP *in* JUNE

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, June 6

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Live Worship at 10:30 am via Zoom with Holy Communion (see p. 3 for connection info)

Genesis 3:8-15 *God confronts Adam and Eve in the garden*

Psalm 130

2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1 *Renewed in the inner nature*

Mark 3:20-35 *Doing the work of God as brothers and sisters of Christ*

Sunday, June 13

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Table of Mercy Setting

Ezekiel 17:22-24 *The sign of the cedar, planted on the mountain of Israel*

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17 *In Christ, a new creation*

Mark 4:26-34 *The parable of the mustard seed*

Sunday, June 20

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-11 *The creator of earth and sea*

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

2 Corinthians 6:1-13 *Paul's defense of his ministry*

Mark 4:35-41 *Christ calming the sea*

Sunday, June 27

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33 *Great is the Lord's faithfulness*

Psalm 30

2 Corinthians 8:7-15 *Excel in generosity, following the Lord Jesus*

Mark 5:21-43 *Christ healing a woman and Jairus's daughter*

Pastor's Page continued...

- God's word (as Luther defines it, the word "preached, believed, confessed, and acted on")
- Holy baptism
- Holy communion
- Forgiveness and reproof of sin ("the office of the keys," for those familiar with that catechetical language)
- The office of ministry (responsible for administering the above four marks)
- Worship
- The cross (suffering for the sake of Christ)

So I wonder whether you might help me get to know you as a community of faith by sharing with me some of the ways in which you have seen these marks of the church visible at Grace in the midst of the many changes, challenges, and disruptions of the past months. For example, in what ways have you interacted with and understood God's word differently in this time? What new insights have you had into the sacraments of baptism and communion? How have you seen continuity and change in the office of ministry? Where have you seen suffering, and the church showing up for those who are suffering? In which of these areas have you experienced renewal, and in which of these areas are you longing to return to a more familiar experience?

I look forward to getting to know each of you and all of you in the ways available to us in the coming weeks and months. You can contact me about anything, including to share your insights on the marks of the church at Grace, by emailing me at pastoramber@graceattheu.org.

Thank you to so many of you who have already reached out with words of welcome and thoughtful welcome gifts!

Grace and peace to you,

*Pastor Amber Ingalsbe
(she/hers)*

COUNCIL UPDATE *for the* CONGREGATION

Update from Stan Olson, Council President

Appreciation! Sendoff for Pastor Dan and Pastor Mary was wonderful! A sincere thank you from the whole congregation to all of you who had parts in those days of appreciation! The stories, the videos, the montages, the music, the memories—it was all so very well done. The coordination and planning were excellent, and participation was very broad. Liz Andress estimates more than 150 people had roles during or in advance of the Saturday party. My quick estimate says fifty or more (with some overlap in the two teams) had direct parts in planning and presenting the Sunday service. Thank you all! Also, you selected and gave good gifts! The gift of redbud trees will bloom in Wisconsin and in the Peace Garden, the swing will bring relaxation and contemplation to our dear friends, the cash gift will bring joys. David Anderson tells me that \$16,000 has been received so far. This all and any additional gifts received, will be passed on to Mary and Dan. Again, thank you all! We know that God will continue to bless Pastors Mary and Dan and, through them, will bless others. And, we know that the blessings of their years serving Grace will continue to deepen, enrich and spread, here and beyond.

Welcome! Pastor Amber Ingalsbe began her interim ministry at Grace on May 25. She introduces herself in the opening column in this issue of the *Messenger*. Pr. Amber's first Sunday will be June 6. Please plan to meet her virtually that day. Worship will be live by Zoom and she'll join the coffee hour Zoom for informal connections.

Pr. Amber will be our regular worship leader and preacher. One Sunday each month, she and the Worship and Music Committee will arrange for a guest preacher, often one of our own.

Her Grace email address is pastoramber@graceattheu.org. The best way to reach Pr. Amber by phone is to call the church (612-331-8125) and choose the "staff directory" option (no. 2, and then her extension) or the "pastoral care emergency" option (no. 5) from the main menu. As always, if you want to reach a member of the Grace staff for any reason, you can call the church and leave a message on the main voicemail if necessary.

Gathering again – For now, like many other congregations in urban Minneapolis and St. Paul, we will continue to worship virtually and to carry forward Grace's life and ministry by electronic means. As guidance changes, we are also moving explicitly into planning for the time when we can gather ↗

LIVE WORSHIP VIA ZOOM SUNDAY, JUNE 6

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/82505341922?pwd=WFpFZ3hTdEQ4NWFKQWJuM29yZ3hUUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 0534 1922

Passcode: 829404

physically. The council is forming a task force to offer ongoing medical counsel and consideration of wise timing, logistics and technology for resuming use of the building and for outdoor gatherings and for continuing hybrid virtual and live gathering if that seems best for a time. The task force will include staff members, medical professionals, committee heads, technology folks, and others.

Call Process – Your call committee is hard at work. They feel good about the candidates who are available for consideration, and they know their task is daunting and time consuming. They will take the time needed and do the work well. Please keep them and the process in your prayers.

Blessings to you all – grace upon Grace.

GOOD GRIEF NOTES

As we experience personally and together the retirement of our pastors through the wonderful zoom celebration and our church services and letters, we are sharing joy and sadness.

A recent survey sent out to all of us from the Good Grief group about our needs revealed that many of us would like resources about grief and grieving. We will highlight some of these resources in the Grace Newsletter in the next few months.

This month, we have contacted two individuals who have written about and speak about grief in unique ways. Each will be sharing at Adult Forums this summer and early fall: Ted Bowman, whose work is on the topic of *Loss of Dreams*, and Pauline Boss, whose work and books are on the topic of *Ambiguous Loss* and more recently a book titled *The Myth of Closure*.

We will continue to share books and articles and ideas for traveling this transition in the newsletter. We welcome your thoughts and resources as well.

—*Your Grace Companions in Good Grief*

ADDRESS UPDATE...

Hilvie Ostrow has moved to Episcopal Homes Assisted Living, the Iris Park Commons. Her new address is:

1850 University Avenue West, #213
St. Paul, MN 55104.

Her new phone number is 651-645-5175

GRADUATIONS

Garrett Marr — Roseville Area High School. Garrett plans to attend Saint Olaf College in the fall.

Charlie Abenth — Highland Park Senior High School. Charlie plans to attend Marquette University in the fall.

Elizabeth Benson-Ernst — Osseo High School. Liz plans to attend two years at North Hennepin Community College and then two years at Augsburg University in Minneapolis.

Melysa Kubisa — Hopkins High School.

Patric Carlsen — Saint Olaf College.

Ingrid Kubisa — Gustavus Adolphus College.

Wema Kubisa — Saint Catherine University.

Reidun Kubisa — Gustavus Adolphus College.

Madeline Severtson — Pacific School of Religion, with a Master of Divinity degree. Parenthood is the next adventure for Madeline.

Carina Anderson — University of Minnesota's Masters of Education and Initial Teaching Licensure program with an Elementary K-6 license. Carina is applying for teaching jobs for next year.

Amalia Vagts — Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA, with a Master of Divinity degree. Amalia is the daughter of Jerry and Val Vagts.

If we missed your graduation, please let us know and we'll note this in the July Grace Messenger.

YOU'RE INVITED:

The Grace community is invited to an open house celebrating Charlie Abenth's graduation. It will be held on Saturday, June 26 from 4-6 pm at the Highland Picnic Shelter (1227 Montreal Ave, St. Paul 55116).

COMMUNITY NOTES

Baptisms:

Andy Carlson, son of Meghan and Joe Carlson, on May 9.

Aria Jean, Andrew Marcus, Jayla Ra, and Gabriel Kjeldsen-Bergquist, children of Jenna Bergquist and Becky Kjeldsen, sisters and brothers of Carl and Ruth, on May 7 (celebrated in the May 16 worship).

Marriages:

Anna Olson and Daniel Shore were married at Grace on May 22.

Christopher Nelson and Ann McCully were married on May 23.

Death:

Phillip Erickson died on May 10. A private family service was held on May 21. Please keep Phil's wife Donna Wain Erickson and their family in your prayers.

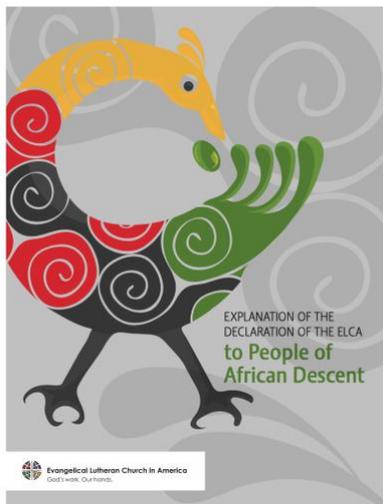
RACIAL EQUITY FORUM

Sunday, June 20th @ 11:30 am

The Racial Equity Team invites Grace members and friends to a Zoom forum to review and discuss our denomination's

"Declaration of the ELCA to the People of African Descent."

At its Churchwide Assembly in 2019, the ELCA issued this declaration, also referred to as an apology. In it, ELCA leaders confess the "Institutional racism [that] currently exists in the ELCA through discriminatory treatment with the call process; inequitable compensation of clergy of color; racial segregation; divestment from black communities and congregations; systemic policies and organizational practices; and failure to fully include the gifts of leadership and worship styles of people of African descent."



The Declaration calls for "confession, repentance, and repudiation for the times that this church has been silent in the face of racial injustice." It also urges ELCA congregations to share this declaration broadly among its members and foster engagement in anti-racism, racial justice work, and the consideration of reparations.

Please join us for this important event. You will be best prepared for the conversation if you've taken the time to read the document and its supporting materials and by considering this question:

"What do these statements direct and inspire us to do as a community of faith?"

Link to join via Zoom that day (we anticipate a recording of the forum will be available afterward):

<https://zoom.us/j/92106356823?pwd=aGJSd1FvbUlmUIRRaUZPcG1WR2Nzdz09>

Meeting ID: 921 0635 6823

Passcode: 391784

To read the Declaration and Response prior to the forum (these documents are hosted on Grace's website – please contact Jill in the office if you would like them emailed or mailed to you):

[Declaration of the ELCA to the People of African Descent](#)

[Response to the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#)

PHOTO DIRECTORY

We will publish an updated directory of Grace members and friends this summer. Last year we were able to easily make this a photo directory, and we'll do the same again this year.

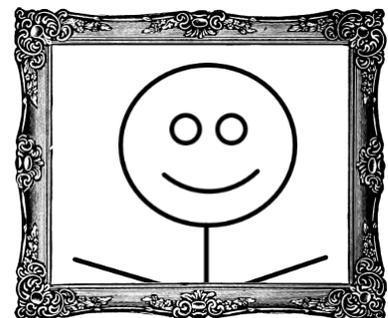
Email us a photo of you/your family... We may already have a photo on file, but if you'd like to have that photo updated, or you missed the deadline last year, please send a new photo! We want to see your faces well and it would be great if it were a current photo (less than a year old, perhaps). We have room for one photo per household.

If you have moved, or changed phone numbers or email addresses in the past year and haven't let us know, please contact Jill at info@graceattheu.org or at the church phone 612-331-8125 (leave a message) to inform us of the change.

If you aren't officially a member of Grace but you consider this your church home, we'd love to include you—just reach out to Jill.

We plan to distribute the directory as a pdf file, but if you prefer it as a printed booklet, please let us know and we'll mail a copy to you.

**Photo submission deadline:
July 15**



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Dan Olson	1
Kristi Anderson-Hermann	2
Kate Reuer Welton	4
Madeline Severtson	5
Dean Franke	6
Audrey Reichstadt	6
Baek Martin-Kohls	8
Tom Medin	8
Erik Anderson-Hermann	9
Finn Sutton	9
Alex Sneed Miller	10
Joan Van Norman	10
Colin Perucco	11
Isaac Corzine	12
Amelia Hoehn	13
Elliott Lee	13
Megan Olson	13
Henry Ehler	14
Dawn Eckstrom	15
Emma Erler	15
Reidun Kubisa	15
Henry Sluis	15
Tim Kohls	17
Rose Carlsen	18
Anita Hill	18
Niki Johnson	19
Susan Peterson	19
Rhonda Albers	21
Ellie Jensen	21
Sara Martin	22
Nate Bird	23
Dorrie Johnson	23
Michael Anderson	24
Mark Hawkinson	24
Aksel Sutton	26
Kristen Datta	27
Jody Stadler	27
Lou Garnaas	28
Claire Hannemann	28
Keira Kim	28
Henrich Michlitsch	28
Anna Oasheim	28
Jerry Vagts	28
Ingrid Kubisa	30
Hannah Wehrman	30

NURSE'S NOTE



Men – Stay Healthy at Any Age

(AHRQ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, March 2014)

Gentlemen, this information is a brief overview to help you stay healthy at any age. It will help guide you to screening tests you need and when to get them, medicines that may prevent diseases and some steps you can take for good health.

Get the screenings that you need.

1. If you are 35 or older, have your cholesterol checked regularly with a blood test. High cholesterol increases your chance of heart disease, stroke and poor circulation. Have your blood pressure checked at least every 2 years. High blood pressure can cause strokes, heart attacks, kidney and eye problems, and heart failure.
2. If you are between 50 and 75, a screening for colon cancer is recommended. Some colon screening tests can be collected at home and sent in to be analyzed. A colonoscopy (test for colon cancer) needs special preparation and needs to be done in special settings. After the results of the tests are known, discuss the results with your health care provider.
3. Your mental health is also important. Talk to your health care provider about being screened for depression, especially if during the last 2 weeks you have:
 - a. Felt down, sad or hopeless.
 - b. Felt little interest or pleasure in doing things.
4. Get screened for diabetes (high blood sugar) if you have high blood pressure or if you take medications for high blood pressure. Diabetes can cause problems with your heart, brain, eyes, foot, kidneys, nerves or other body parts.
5. Get screened 1 time for Hepatitis C (HVC infection) if: you were born between 1945 and 1965; you have ever injected drugs or received a blood transfusion before 1992. If you are currently an injection drug user, you should be screened regularly.
6. If you are 65 or younger, get screened for HIV. If you are older than 65, talk with your healthcare provider about being screened.
7. The best way to learn if you are overweight or obese is to find out your body mass index (BMI). You can determine your BMI by entering your height and weight in a BMI calculator (google it.) A BMI between 18.5 and 25 is indicates a normal weight. Persons with a BMI 30 or greater may be obese.

Get Preventive Medicines if you need them.

1. This year, get the COVID vaccine.
2. Get a flu shot every year.
3. If you are 60 or older, get a shot to prevent shingles.

Nurse's Note continued...

4. If you are 65 or older, get a pneumonia shot.
5. Get shots for tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough. Get a tetanus booster if it has been more than 10 years since your last shot.
6. Talk with your healthcare provider about whether you need other vaccinations.

Take Steps to Good Health.

1. Be physically active and make healthy food choices. I can help you put a plan together if you need help.
2. Get to a healthy weight and stay there. Balance the calories you take in from food and drink with the calories you burn off by your activities.
3. Be tobacco free. (For tips on quitting, go to www.smokefree.gov or call 1-800-QUITNOW (784-8669).
4. If you drink alcohol, have no more than 2 drinks per day if you are 65 or younger. If you are over 65, have no more than 1 drink per day. A standard drink is one 12 oz. bottle of beer or wine cooler, one 5 oz. glass of wine or 1.5 oz. of 80 proof distilled spirits.
5. Healthy Men. An AHRQ web site on health for men. Go to: <http://ahrq.gov/healthymen/>.

3 John 1:2—“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.”

Dear friends, take care, stay well and enjoy all the blessings you receive!

Nurse Cheryl

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<i>Adult Education</i>	Nancy Laskaris
<i>Archives & History</i>	Gordon Folke
<i>Children & Youth</i>	Candace Ehler
<i>Congregational Life</i>	
<i>Hawkinson Fund</i>	Jared Oasheim & Stan Jacobson
<i>Outreach</i>	Susan Wooten
<i>Property</i>	Rolf Carlsen
<i>Sunday Service Coordinator</i>	Jonathan Hein
<i>Social Justice Coordinator</i>	Anita Hill
<i>Stewardship</i>	Karen Van Norman
<i>Worship and Music</i>	David Grandall
<i>Leadership Development</i>	Jean Stilwell, David Anderson, Marcia Carlson

FOR YOUR CALENDAR...

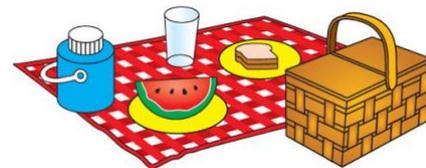
CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

Sunday, August 15 at 4 pm

[Foundation Picnic Shelter](#)

2495 Victoria St N, Roseville
(the east side of Central Park)

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. More details will be shared in future communications. (We anticipate being able to meet in person for this event, but will continue to discern safety and protocols as we get closer to the date.)



AA MEETING RESUMES

The AA meeting held at Grace is active and will resume meeting in the Peace Chapel at 12:15 on Wednesdays, starting June 2.

Email gopheraaonharvardst@gmail.com to request more info.

GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>President</i>	Stan Olson
<i>Vice President</i>	Rose Carlsen
<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

324 Harvard St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612-331-8125

www.graceattheu.org
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

- Amber Ingalsbe* Interim Pastor, pastoramber@graceattheu.org
- Heidi Johnson McAllister* Director of Faith Formation and Member Engagement, cyf@graceattheu.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 April 14, 2021 – 6:30-8:00 PM by Zoom

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

Call to Order by Stan at 6:30

Opening Word – Lisa

Excerpt from President Obama's First Inaugural Address

Approval of the Agenda

March Council Minutes – Lisa

Action: Motion to approve minutes as corrected. Motion by Lisa, second by Becky. Motion approved.

March Financial Reports – John

Notable budget items:

- M Health Fairview has not paid this month's parking bill; expect they will pay for both months in May.
- Many full-year pledges have already come in; makes monthly income look very good; expect that to flatten out for the rest of the year. Discussion about reasons for a larger number of pledges paid in full in 2021.
- Copier and postage running high due to materials being mailed instead of handed out in-person, plus more materials for Youth classes being printed.

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

Memorial to Helmut and Roe Diefenthal from their children – Pastor Mary

These ideas were approved by the Diefenthal children in memory of their parents.

Action: Motion to use the \$40,000 memorial gift as follows: 1. Four-year "grant" (\$5,000 per year) for the Community Faith Nurse position (\$20,000 total); 2. Intergenerational Freedom Ride Trip to the Deep South—funds would offset costs of travel, museums, etc. (\$10,000); 3. Scholarship money for the Hawkinson Fund (\$10,000). Motion by Pastor Mary, second by John. Motion approved.

Reports – Pastor Dan and Pastor Mary

Pastor Mary – Upcoming events: Baptism of Joe Carlson's son on Mother's Day, wedding on May 22, memorial service for Roe Diefenthal. Reading survey responses

about Grace retreats, which will form the foundation of a book.

Pastor Dan – Only a month left – so much to celebrate but also anticipatory grief. Leadership Development Committee has identified new community members to step up to be leaders. Grace University had another successful semester. Hope that this will happen again the future. Many thanks to Niki Johnson for the idea.

Update on roof project – Pastor Dan

David Haaland and David Grandall have been consulting with Rolf Carlsen on the roof. The color of the new roof will be close to the shingles that are already there. Rolf will be meeting 4/15 to go through some small details with the contractor. Project still on track to begin on time and on budget. Beginning conversations about the possibility of adding solar panels.

Drew asked an insurance agent about the possibility of insurance discounts for a steel roof and found there no specific discounts for a steel roof.

Outstanding question: Could Grace qualify for discounts from Xcel for the roof and/or insulation?

Audit/financial review update – Stan

Terri Browne (Audit Committee) received two proposals from auditors for proposed audit/financial review: \$12,000 and \$16,500. She is pleased with those they have talked to in the first round. Preliminary timeline: pre-work in May and June, audit in June and July, report available in August. This item is not in the budget; Council could approve the expenditure. Discussion about where this should be in the budget. No action at this time.

Policies & practices during the pandemic and the transition

Interim pastor

Stan spoke to John Hulden about the availability of an interim pastor and the interview process. Grace will need an interim pastor as of June 1, employment starting toward the end of May to prepare for online worship. A special council meeting may be necessary so the full Council can vote on the candidate. If necessary an interim contract can be terminated by either party on fairly short notice.

Action: Motion to authorize the Executive Committee to interview a candidate(s) to serve as our interim pastor and to make a recommendation to the Council. Motion by Becky, second by Joe. Motion approved.

Summer Plans

See the Gathering Again section of the attached March 31 Letterbox piece “Update--Our Season of Many Transitions”

Recommendation of the Council: Continue to look to our medical experts for guidance about whether outdoor worship should be explored for the summer. COVID-19 positivity rates in Minnesota are going up again. Grace will still have to continue to do virtual services for those who are not comfortable to come to any kind of service. For in-person outdoor services, consideration should be given to the workload; volunteers could be recruited to help with the logistics (e.g., set-up, greet, orient, make a call about weather, etc).

Agenda for May 2 Congregation Meeting

- a) Minutes of Annual Meeting January 24 and Special Meeting February 28
- b) Elections
- c) Other

Pastoral Transition

Call Process – John Hulden will bring names to the Call Committee first week of May. Call Committee meets late April to discuss questions to ask.

Other Business

Mission Board Retreat – Expect to do that in the Fall when we can meet in-person.

Personnel policy – Currently being reviewed by an HR/Legal professional. A local wage-and-hour ordinance for Minneapolis was not included in the policy and needs to be added.

Prayer and blessing for the last weeks with Pastor Dan and Pastor Mary.

Farewell Planning – Pastor Mary and Pastor Dan excused for this portion of the meeting to maintain the surprise

Adjourn

Action: Motion to adjourn: Motion by Drew, second by Becky. Motion approved. Adjourned at 8:02pm.