



the Grace Messenger

A monthly publication of Grace University Lutheran Church
AUGUST 2021 — VOLUME 118 — ISSUE 8

PASTOR'S PAGE

For many, summer is a season of different rhythms and time away from routines. Every three summers in church life, we spend five weeks in a row reading from chapter six of the Gospel of John. This chapter of the gospel is sometimes called the Bread of Life discourse; I recently heard a colleague refer to the preaching challenge of these five Sundays as “endless breadsticks!”

This year on August 1st, as we read from John that Jesus declares, “I am the bread of life,” we also read from Exodus 16 about the Israelites receiving manna in the wilderness. For those of us with easy and constant access to food, it can be hard to relate to daily nourishment as miraculous.

In supplemental materials to her wonderful book *Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time*, Dorothy Bass suggests we might better understand the many ways God provides for our daily needs by reading Exodus 16 in a new way, replacing the word “manna” with the word “time.” God’s miraculous daily provision then sounds something like:

Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I am going to rain hours, time from heaven for you, and each day the people shall rise up and have time enough for that day On the sixth day, when they gather up time, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.’ ... Then Moses said to Aaron, ‘Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, “Draw near to the Lord, who has heard your complaining about lack of time....”’ The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘At twilight you shall eat with plenty of time, and in the morning you shall have your fill of time stretching out before you; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’



Photo by [Heather Zabriskie](#) on [Unsplash](#)

In the evening time came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of time upon the camp. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the time that the Lord has given you. This is what the Lord has commanded: “Take as much time as you need for the day.”’

Pastor’s Page continued on p. 2...

in AUGUST

- Worship Notes p. 2
- Church Picnic..... p. 2
- Adult Forum on Aug. 8 p. 3
- Photo Directory p. 3
- Ritual p. 3
- Community Notes p. 3
- In Person Activities for Our Under 18 Year Olds p. 4
- 32nd Street Jazz Concert p. 4
- Scenes from Outdoor Worship p. 4-5
- Lou Garnaas Attend AYTI p. 5
- Ending the Cash Bail System . p. 5
- August Birthdays p. 6
- Nurse’s Note..... p. 6
- Council Member List p. 7
- Committee Chair List..... p. 7
- Council Meeting Minutes..... p. 9

The deadline for submissions to the SEPTEMBER *Grace Messenger* is MONDAY, AUGUST 16.



[Graceattheu.org](https://graceattheu.org)

[Grace University Lutheran Church Facebook Page](#)

[Grace University Families on Facebook](#)

[Grace University YouTube Channel](#)

WORSHIP *in* AUGUST

Worship is at 9:30 am every Sunday.

As of this printing, we plan to gather outdoors, and on August 29 we transition to indoor worship. Worship information is emailed on Sunday mornings by 8:00 am, and is also posted on our website. Livestreaming is through our YouTube channel.

Sundays join us for "Stories & Songs" on our Facebook page – a worshipful and fun time for all ages. Videos are posted at 8:00 am on Sundays and remain to be viewed any time.

Sunday, August 1

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 *The Lord gives manna in the wilderness*

Psalms 78:23-29

Ephesians 4:1-16 *Maintain the unity of the faith*

John 6:24-35 *Christ the bread of life*

Sunday, August 8

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Table of Mercy Setting

1 Kings 19:4-8 *Elijah given bread for his journey*

Psalms 34:1-8

Ephesians 4:25—5:2 *Put away evil, live in love*

John 6:35, 41-51 *Christ, the bread of life*

Sunday, August 15

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 9:1-6 *Invited to dine at wisdom's feast*

Psalms 34:9-14

Ephesians 5:15-20 *Filled with the Spirit, sing thanks to God*

John 6:51-58 *Christ the true food and drink*

Sunday, August 22

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 *Joshua calls all Israel to serve the Lord*

Psalms 24:15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20 *Put on the armor of God*

John 6:56-69 *The bread of eternal life*

Sunday, August 29

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 *God's law: a sign of a great nation*

Psalms 15

James 1:17-27 *Be doers of the word, not hearers only*

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 *Authentic religion*

Pastor's Page continued...

The Israelites did so. Those who had too much time on their hands measured it in hours and had nothing left over, and those who had little time discovered they had no shortage, they gathered as much as each of them needed. And Moses said to them, 'Let no one leave any of the time over until morning.' But they did not listen to Moses; some used up the hours of the night until morning, and the time became to them foul; for they were tired and irritable. Morning by morning they gathered time, as much as each needed, but when the day ended it was used up. The house of Israel called it 'time;' it was a new gift every day. (adapted from Exodus 16:4-31)

Time is a new gift from God every day. I pray that this summer, you may experience time as a gift from God. May changes to your daily and weekly routines provide you not only time *away* but also time *with*: time to spend intentionally nurturing connections with God, creation, loved ones, and yourself. Regular periods of rest and renewal are essential for health and growth. May you receive the rest and renewal you need, and may this community of faith be enlivened by the generosity of our Creator God who provides for us in ordinary and extraordinary ways, including by setting an example of the importance of rest.

Grace and peace to you,
Pastor Amber Ingalsbe



CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

Sunday, August 15, 4:00-6:00 pm

Quilt presentation

to retired Pastors Mary and Dan at 5:00 pm

[Foundation Picnic Shelter](#),

2495 Victoria St N, Roseville

(the east side of Central Park)

Join Grace people at a fun celebration of summer and community! Bring your own drinks and food and dishes/utensils, bring lawn games, bring chairs or blankets. Cupcakes and juice boxes provided.

ADULT FORUM

Sunday, August 8 @ 10:30-11:30 am in the Peace Chapel

Honoring All Losses: Persons, Dreams and Future Stories

led by Ted Bowman M.Div.

and sponsored by Grace's "Good Grief Committee"

Ted Bowman, M.Div, is a grief and family educator specializing in change and transition and associated loss and grief. He has been a trainer, consultant, and speaker with many groups throughout Minnesota, the U.S., and other countries.

Life rarely happens as desired or planned. Consider the recent pandemic. While many disruptive changes are disappointing, others shatter dreams and interrupt routines and future planning. In response, personal losses such as death, a serious diagnosis, separation, and a shattered dream must be faced, to move forward. Grieving loss is essential before one can dream new dreams and create new plans.

In this adult forum, participants will be presented with perspectives and tools for understanding and responding to loss. Ted will also address the importance of making connections to find hope and cope with resilience. He will bring a few copies of 2 books he has written, titled *Loss of Dreams* and *Finding Hope after Dreams Have Shattered* for those interested in purchasing copies. These are resources used widely by those who provide grief support.

Due to ongoing concerns with COVID, in-person attendance in the Peace Chapel may be limited. We hope to make a recording available for future viewing to interested Grace members.

This forum and another one focused on grief with Pauline Boss on October 10 (take note!) are being organized by Grace's "Good Grief" Committee at the direction of Stan Olson and led by Nancy Baker. The impetus for the group was to acknowledge the grief many of us felt in being absent from one another during the pandemic *and* the impending retirement of our pastors. We have provided links to online resources and podcasts as well as books and articles. We also surveyed the congregation for needs in the area of grief.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

REMINDER: Please submit photos & contact info changes ASAP!

We will publish an updated directory of Grace members and friends soon. 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 have room for one photo per household. If any of your contact information has changed in the past year, please contact Jill at info@graceattheu.org or 612-331-8125.

We plan to distribute the directory as a pdf file, but will also print some copies as needed.

RITUAL

A learning and practice opportunity presented by the Grace "Good Grief" Committee

Join Nina Guertin for two separate sessions on Ritual –
**Thursday, August 12 &
 Thursday, August 19**
each at 6:30 pm
(held via Zoom)

Ritual invites us to celebrate, process, bless and release, bring closure. In these two sessions (please feel free to join one or both — they will be different), the group will be invited to focus and ground, participate in a ritual practice, and then offer reflections on the experience.

There is no cost to attend, and this offering is in response to the Good Grief Survey taken earlier this summer by Grace's Good Grief Team.

You can sign up by emailing Nina directly at momomur@gmail.com for either or both sessions, and a Zoom Link will be sent to your email prior to the event.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Deaths:

Roger Conger died May 26. A memorial service is being planned for this fall at Grace.

Karin Hawkinson, daughter of the late Rev. Vince and Gloria Hawkinson, and sister of Grace members Keith and Mark Hawkinson, Bruce Hawkinson, and the late Jeanmarie Hawkinson, died on July 21. Karin's memorial service is Saturday, July 31 at 1:00 pm, with a visitation beginning at 12:00 pm.

IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES FOR OUR UNDER 18 YEAR OLDS

Upcoming dates to gather:

- August 15: Congregational Picnic for ages 0-105.
- August 22: For ages 6th grade to 12th grade BBQ for families to connect and eat together.

As we look toward the school year, we plan to resume our in-person confirmation, pre-confirmation, and high school youth group as we did prior to the pandemic. The CYF Committee is in current discussions in connection with Pastor Amber, staff, and council as we determine how to move forward since our youngest ones cannot be vaccinated yet. We will have more of a plan for Sunday School and Wee Ones as we get closer to fall.

—Heidi Johnson McAllister

32ND STREET JAZZ: *IT DOES NOT MEAN A THING*

Saturday, August 21 @ 7 PM
Grace University Lutheran Church Sanctuary
Free and open to the public

32nd Street Jazz is a Minneapolis-based quartet consisting of Grace member Michael Wilson on saxes and flute, Mona Wong on saxes, Scott Anderson on electric bass, keyboards and bass clarinet and Brandon Sisneroz on drums.

Starting from classic '60s hard bop and post-bop — think Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, Horace Silver, or the second great Miles Davis quintet — plus a bit of '70s funk-fusion, our style has taken shape with an album's worth of originals, as well as signature mashups of classic jazz standards with popular rock, funk and show tunes.



We spent the pandemic recording music and videos in our separate homes. Now we are celebrating the return of live music and the release of our second

studio album, *It Does Not Mean a Thing*, compiled from our 2020-2021 "distance sessions."

This is an indoor event — masks encouraged but not required if vaccinated.

<https://32ndstjazz.com/>

SCENES FROM OUTDOOR WORSHIP

We returned to in-person worship on July 18, and gather on the north lawn at 9:30 am Sundays.



LOU GARNAAS ATTENDS AUGSBURG YOUTH THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

By Heidi Johnson McAllister

Every summer, Augsburg University does a week-long theological institute for high school youth to learn about a particular theme. This summer, the theme was *And It Was Good: Affirming and Advocating for Gender and Sexual Diversity in God's Creation*. Grace University nominated Lou Garnas to attend the Augsburg Youth Theological Institute (AYTI). Lou attended the institute from June 20th-25th.

I recently sat down with Lou to hear about their experience. Due to Covid, AYTI was all virtual. For the week, Lou attended theology sessions where scripture was studied and discussed with a more inclusive lens of affirming LGBTQIA+ people. Additionally, there was also worship, relationship building among participants and with mentors, and Lou developed a project to complete following the institute.

Lou's experience of the institute was a positive one, that helped them evolve their understanding of scripture. Lou says, "Augsburg Youth Theology Institute makes you re-examine how you think of the stories you've heard all your life and establish connections you didn't think could ever be there".

The project Lou is developing is a list of gender and sexual identities and their definitions to help us all recognize the numerous identities of people. The challenge for faith communities is to recognize and be sensitive to people who identify all along the gender and sexual identity continuums.

AYTI provided another opportunity for Lou to deepen their understanding of the bible and its inclusivity. It provided an opportunity to meet others their age who are exploring what faith means to them.



Our worship space includes scaffolding for the roof replacement project in progress.

ENDING THE CASH BAIL SYSTEM

Maybe you've asked yourself some of these questions:

- What is cash bail?
- What is the difference between bonds and bail?
- Who benefits?
- Why do we have it?
- Who is harmed?

Have you heard of cash bail and, like me, never been personally affected by it? Have you, like me, assumed that it is just a necessary part of the legal and judicial systems? A brief explanation is here:

<https://mnfreedomfund.org/bail-explained>

Two summers ago, I began to learn that the cash bail system basically penalizes poverty and grossly disproportionately affects Black, Brown and Indigenous Minnesotans. During a strategizing session led by Nekima Levy-Armstrong, the Grace Racial Equity Team members present came to the conclusion that ending the cash bail system should be the focus of our racial equity work. Since then, many more of us have had the opportunity to learn more about the evils (unfairness/racial disparities/terrible consequences) inherent in the cash bail system. A Cash Bail Team formed as an action group of the Racial Equity Team.

Please join the Cash Bail Team for a two-part workshop on ending cash bail. **During the Adult Forum on Sunday, September 26 be part of the video watch party to deepen your understanding. Then join us for an hour-long, evening session on September 29.** We'll hear from someone who's been personally affected by cash bail, talk in small groups and take action before the evening ends. Mark your calendars now. You won't want to miss this. More details to follow.

Submitted by Linnea Swenson Tellekson

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Elizabeth Benson-Ernst	3
Jodi Barry	5
Meghan Carlson	6
Noelle Browne	7
Alex Patterson	7
Nina Guertin	8
Lizzy Jensen	8
Rebecca Kjeldsen	8
Tom Mayer	8
Cherie Baardseth	9
Garrett Marr	9
Tavis Leighton	10
Frances Ode	10
Tom Leighton	11
Rachel Magennis Schnobrich	11
Elizabeth Pham	11
Allison Wehrman	11
Mike Engh	12
Charlie Schnobrich	13
Deb Swenson	13
Kristian Bejarin	14
Kerry Young	14
Dirk Lange	15
Nadia Anderson	16
Steve Self	17
Marta Hill	18
Cathy Jenny	18
Evan Ronken	19
Charlie Abenth	20
Patric Carlsen	20
Anthony Sikorski	20
Jackie Hayden	21
Randy Reichstadt	22
Steve Stilwell	22
Candace Ehler	24
John McAllister	25
Steve Quam	25
Stan Jacobson	26
Lowell Johnson	27
Adelaide Marr	27
Aaron Reinsch-Gowen	28
Andrew Carlson	29
Karl Haaland	29
Lillian Lee	29
Colin Fong	30
David Kise	30
Daniel Patenaude	30
Sarah Sikorski	30
Cassie Schober	31

NURSE'S NOTE



Delta Virus Variant

Summarized from Laura Rameriz-Feldman
(Yahoo News, July 22, 2021)

After declining sharply for months, coronavirus cases are climbing once again as a result of the Delta variant. Although they remain well below peak levels, the U.S. is now seeing about 30,000 new cases per day. The most recent seven-day average shows hospitalizations are also up by nearly 36 percent, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). The COVID vaccines have proven to be very effective in preventing or diminishing the impact of the COVID-19 virus. The vast majority of new cases are happening in areas with very low vaccination numbers and in unvaccinated individuals. Currently, some of the most concerning hotspots are in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Florida. In these areas, where infection levels have soared, some [hospitals are struggling](#) to keep pace as the Delta variant spreads. (YAHOO News)

Is the Delta Variant more contagious than other strains?

Some experts believe that the Delta virus is more troubling because of its higher rate of transmissibility than other viruses have demonstrated. According to the World Health Organization, the strain is about 60 percent more transmissible than B.1.1.7 — the U.K. variant that was recently renamed Alpha, which was the dominant strain of new cases in the United States until about a month ago.

Is Delta more dangerous?

Although the Delta virus is more contagious, it does not appear to be more severe. Research is ongoing to determine if this strain of the virus leads to higher-than-expected deaths or hospitalizations according to Dr. Kavita Patel (Yahoo News Contributor).

Who is most at risk?

The most at risk are the unvaccinated according to Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the CDC. "This is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated with 97% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 today unvaccinated." (Walensky) The Surgeon General (Dr. Vivek Murthy) said that 99.5% of Americans who are dying are those who did not get vaccinated. Hospitals across the country are reporting that those who are hospitalized with the Delta variant tend to be younger than those with COVID-19 in previous waves.

Are the Delta and COVID-19 symptoms different?

Dr. Patel said some of the symptoms being reported are classic COVID-19 symptoms, such as loss of smell, loss of taste, fever and a cough. However, Patel — who is a primary care physician — said

Nurse's Note continued on p.7...

Nurse's Note continued...

doctors are also seeing symptoms they would normally see in a common cold and allergies, such as runny nose, headaches, sore throat and itchy eyes. If you have any symptoms like these that you have not experienced, it is recommended that you get a rapid test for COVID-19.

Can you get Delta if you've been vaccinated?

The short answer is yes, but most people who do [contract it] experience fewer and less severe symptoms. These "breakthrough" cases are not a surprise and do not alarm doctors since they are not happening in large numbers and the vaccines continue to hold up well against the Delta variant. It is still not known if you get a breakthrough infection and don't have symptoms, whether you can pass the infection along to someone who is not vaccinated. If you are near someone who is not vaccinated, continue to observe precautions.

How can I protect myself from the Delta variant?

Vaccines continue to be the strongest weapon against the virus. The most important thing you can do to protect yourself and loved ones from Delta is to get fully vaccinated, doctors say.

What about children who are not yet eligible for the vaccines?

Children under 12 are not currently eligible for vaccine and the shots for children under 12 may not be available until midwinter according to an FDA official. Patel said the best thing you can do is "create a line of defense" for your children "by getting

vaccinated yourself." Treat your child as if they are extremely vulnerable to getting COVID-19 and avoid congested areas, especially indoor spaces. Choose outdoor spaces when possible and be sure that your children have good quality masks to wear indoors (masks should cover both their nose and mouth). This will be important, especially going into the new school year.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." *John 16:33*

Take care and stay well!
Nurse Cheryl



Worshiping outdoors has allowed us to sing together, and outdoor gatherings are less likely to contribute to virus transmission, making it safer especially for those who aren't yet eligible for vaccination.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<i>Adult Education</i>	Nancy Laskaris
<i>Archives & History</i>	Gordon Folke (until 8/15)
<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

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

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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

Some weekday hours have been added – please contact the office.

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, akrodavidmn@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 June 9, 2021 – 6:30-8:00 PM by Zoom

Attending: Pastor Amber Ingalsbe, Stan Olson, Niki Johnson, Becky Hunter, John Edmundson, Joe Carlson, Kirsten Bansen Weigle, Lisa Linnell

Not attending: Rose Carlsen

Call to Order by Stan at 6:35pm; Welcome to Pastor Ingalsbe!

Opening Word – Stan “God is Good”

Approval of the Agenda

Invite volunteers to lead Opening Word for upcoming council meetings

May Council Minutes – Lisa

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

May Financial Reports – John

Notable in the financial reports:

- Next month will show a big change in the balance sheet due to payments on the cost of the roof. Will be paid from the Enduring Grace Fund.
- Big surge in giving early in the year, giving following a similar pattern to previous years.
- Having only one pastor for a while will produce short-term savings, which helps our general budget.
- We have kept our staff at full salary during the pandemic; members have stepped up and continue to give.

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

Policies & practices during the pandemic and the transition – See attached draft letter

Council considered draft letter to the congregation about re-opening, including logistics, modified activities, and significant planned dates.

***Action:** to approve the June 7 “Letter on Reopening,” as amended, and to share it with the Grace community and our partners. Motion by Niki second by Kirsten. Motion approved.*

Purchase of equipment and material for virtual worship – see attached letter from David Grandall

Proposed equipment upgrade to facilitate virtual and hybrid worship services. We have the budget available because we have not been paying guest musicians.

Right now we are heavily dependent on Jill for logistics; this expenditure would allow for a live-streamed service. Upgraded technology is needed. Pastor Amber is using her personal iPad (the church does not own one), and Jill identified an older laptop that may or may not work for these purposes.

***Action:** Motion to authorize expenditure of up to \$3,000 for the purchase of equipment and software to facilitate virtual and hybrid worship, taking the expenditure from the*

worship and music line of the budget. Motion by Lisa second by John. Motion approved.

Audit contract approval

Discussion by email – recommendation from Audit Committee below:

Recommendation of the Audit Committee - April 22, 2021

Background: Grace has not had a formal financial audit done in quite some time, if ever. During a leadership transition, the ELCA and the Minneapolis Synod recommend an audit be performed of church finances. Grace's Audit Committee (Terri Browne, chair; Jon Swenson Tellekson; and Neal Young) interviewed two audit firms (Akins & Henke and MUCR). A third firm declined to interview because they are generally not cost competitive for church audits. The committee considered both firms interviewed well-qualified to complete the audit

For Council Approval: The audit committee recommends that Grace hire Akins & Henke to complete an audit of church finances. The cost proposal of the audit was \$12,000, excluding out of pocket expenses. This was the lowest cost quote, as well as the audit firm that specializes in auditing non-profits and churches.

Furthermore, the audit committee also recommends that the Council authorize David Anderson to work additional hours as needed to support the audit firm in completing their work at his normal hourly rate.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Grace Audit Committee
 Terri Browne, Chair
 Jon Swenson Tellekson
 Neal Young*

Finance Committee is currently drafting financial policy update. We may shift the timing for the audit to fall so the policy will be in place.

***Action:** Motion to certify the email vote by the council to approve an audit contract with Akens & Henke at a cost of \$12,000. Motion by Kirsten second by Lisa. Motion approved.*

Internship for Amy Chatelaine

Update on plans –You have previously expressed your support in principle for this concept. Amy and we are waiting for some final actions by Luther Seminary and the synod, but she is ready to begin at Grace this fall. Pastor Barbara Lundblad has agreed to serve as the supervisor of record. If council approves the proposed action, we will establish a small internship committee to work with Amy, according to seminary guidelines. The committee should likely include some council members.

We are also exploring with Amy and the other partners a few months of full-time internship beginning September 1, 2022, after the year when she will be doing a part-time internship at Grace paired with her full-time CPE residency at United Hospital. That aspect is not included in the proposed authorization.

Action: Motion to authorize the executive committee to approve and oversee an agreement with Amy Chatelaine for a part-time, unpaid internship at Grace from September 2021 through August 2022, with an average of about five hours per week. Motion by Becky, second by Niki. Motion approved.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Amber reported being warmly welcomed by the Grace Community and its fantastic staff. She has been in weekly meetings with the musicians, including a choir of fully vaccinated people to record for worship services.

Roof Costs

The congregation authorized spending "up to \$360,000." With the discovery of extra layers of shingles, the tear-off and disposal costs have increased; \$385,000 is a reasonable estimate of our final bill. The Grace team has worked to keep this as low as possible, but it will exceed the congregation's authorization by at least \$25,000, and the total must be paid.

The Grace constitution allows the council to approve unbudgeted expenses up to an amount equal to 10% of our annual budget. That amount would be roughly \$61,000 for 2021.

The question of paying for the roof replacement is not an issue of cash flow. We have funds that have been understood as available for building enhancement (though using them for the roof means they are not available for something else).

Action: Motion to approve covering the cost overrun related to the pandemic and other causes. Motion by Stan, second by Joe. Motion approved.

Other Business

Progress from the Call Committee: Interviewed 17 people, some were couples. Call Committee narrowed that list to 6 for second pinterviews (all by Zoom). Third round will be in-person. Still have to do background checks.

Adjourn

Action: Motion to adjourn. Motion by John, second by Becky. Adjourned at 7:36pm.

Grace Council Special Meeting Minutes Wednesday June 30, 2021 – 6:30-8:00 PM by Zoom

Attending: Pastor Amber Ingalsbe, Stan Olson, John Edmundson, Joe Carlson, Kirsten Bansen Weigle, Becky Hunter, Niki Johnson

Call to Order by Stan at 6:30

Agenda: Reopening Grace University Lutheran Church

Review draft letter to congregation prepared by Pastor Amber, Grace staff, and Stan with attention to timing, starting outside, communion plans, and offering.

Discussion:

Recommendation to begin outside worship was made in consultation with Pastor Amber, staff, and musicians. Response seems consistent with hopes and expectations for beginning to gather again in person.

Questions raised about additional burdens on staff.

Response: the burdens are there anyway; these are just a different version. The staff is committed and ready for different challenges.

Start time: 9:30 am. Earlier in the day is better in the event of hot weather. There would still be time to do a totally virtual service (live streamed indoors) if outdoor worship is not feasible. Congregation would be alerted by an email sent between 7 and 8 am if there is a question about the outdoor service.

Number of services: only one to keep it simple. No coffee hour.

Length: plan to be about 45 minutes.

Might revisit plans if attendance is low but would give it several weeks at least.

Offering will not be taken but suggest having a basket in the back for those who would like to contribute after the service.

Musicians are ready to be flexible. Some things will be different. For example, there will be no singing during communion but special music will be offered.

Communion: Pastor Amber spoke with Pastor Jen Nagel (University Lutheran Church of Hope) about what they have been doing for outdoor worship and explored our space with Jill. There will be several areas with communion distribution tables to reduce the need to move around. People can judge for themselves what distance makes them comfortable. Elements will be prepared ahead of time with pieces of bread in mini cupcake cups and glass communion cups set out on trays. We do not have a formal altar guild so Jill will suggest names for coordinators who might be willing to help.

Masks: Recommend reminding people to bring masks which will be expected if visits are made into the church building to use the restrooms. Masks will be available for those who forgot theirs.

Kirsten suggested adding a bullet list at the beginning of the letter to make it easier for readers to focus on the important highlights.

Adjourn

Action: Motion to adjourn. Motion by Kirsten, second by John. Adjourn at 7:30 pm.