



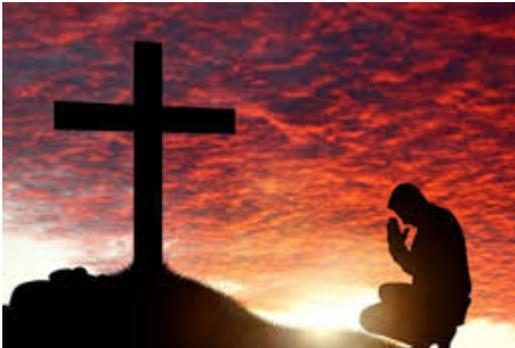
**Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC)**

PO Box 10  
Erhard, MN 56534

*March*

2021 Grace Gazette

*Grace Lutheran Church*



**Mission Statement:**

*Grace Lutheran strives to be a welcoming church family, committed to the Bible as God's truth, worshiping together, and reaching out to love, pray for, teach, and serve others in Christ's name.*

**U.S. Highway 59 in Erhard, MN**

Visit us online at – <http://gracechurchoferhard.org>

**Facebook Pages:**

The Foundry @ Grace Lutheran Erhard  
Grace Lutheran Church (LCMC) of Erhard, MN  
Grace Lutheran Church Women "GLW" & Friends

*To:*

A member of the LCMC  
(Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ)

*A Lutheran community of faith engaging the present while embracing the Biblical and Reformation heritage of:*

**Grace Alone:**

*God, out of His great mercy, has reconciled humanity to Himself through His Son Jesus Christ. Acts of Christian goodness are a thankful response to God's mercy shown to us in Christ.*

**Faith Alone:**

*God's gift of faith apprehends the great work of eternal redemption accomplished for us by Jesus Christ. A faith relationship with the Triune God is the key to our eternal future and it brings meaning and joy to our present lives.*

**Word Alone:**

*The Bible is God's authoritative Word to humanity. It is the sole and true guide for Christian faith, doctrine, and living.*

*YOU ARE WELCOME AT GRACE*

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, please visit our website or Facebook for latest schedule information

From Pr. Brad...

### ***Built Right***



In 2009 a newly constructed 13 story apartment building in Shanghai China collapsed. The pilings just pulled out of the ground and it fell over on its side. Thankfully, the building was not inhabited. An inquiry into the accident pointed to building standards that were overlooked in favor of speed of construction.

Impatience is such a human problem! We see it in the way we live, eat, drive, and spend our money. We just can't seem to wait for anything. We see it when we look back to our very first parents Adam and Eve. There in the garden they fell to the temptation to take a short-cut in getting the knowledge that God possessed. They ate the forbidden fruit, and as they ate, humanity's relationship with God collapsed.

In response to this disaster, God launched a rebuilding program by which He would restore His relationship with us. This rebuild took time and it cost Him dearly. As we journey through Lent this month, we should remember that God took no short-cuts in His building program. He used the best He had – He used His Son who took the nails and the timber of the cross. In this scene of judgment Jesus was transformed into the guilty object of God's wrath in our place.

By this act of selfless sacrifice, Jesus reconstructed us. He took the crushing weight of sin off of us, and in its place, He

covered us with the robes of His own righteousness. In this act, He transformed us from guilty sinners into righteous saints in the eyes of God. As Paul put it,

*For our sake God made Jesus, the one who knew no sin, to be sin in our place, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*

We want glory, and we want it now! But Jesus came to be our patient and suffering servant. Because of Him, we now stand on the solid foundation of God's forgiveness with the sure hope of eternal glory. Because of Him, when we are burdened by the guilt of our sinful short cuts to earthly pleasure and glory, God assures us that He has clothed us with Jesus' righteousness. Because of Him, we are restored to a solid relationship with our Creator God. And, because He built it right, it will stand forever, whatever comes our way!



When we are wounded by being used or passed over by others, He embraces us with the value of the price He paid to reclaim us. When we are tempted to see ourselves as forgotten outcasts, He steadies us with His purpose for our lives. When we are afraid of an unknown future, He calls out to us that nothing can separate us from His love. When we are disillusioned by investing our lives in the temporary things of this world, He lifts us out the ashes of disappointment to the freshness of the new beginnings He brings to our lives.

**Grace Lutheran Church  
Unapproved Annual Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2021**

Council President Duane Haiby convened the Congregational Annual Meeting of Grace Lutheran Church at 10:50 A.M. following the morning worship service on January 24, 2021. The 50-plus persons in attendance recited in unison our church's mission statement. Haiby opened with a devotional and prayer based on John 16:33. He then called for a moment of silence in recognition of those who had died during 2020: Carol Ness, Helen Sundblad, Harvey Moen, LeRoy Ouren, Gerald Tollefson, Patricia Motz, Arlene Weiss, Ernest Kubitz, and Ardis Hovland. Haiby reviewed the past year and thanked the worship team of Pastor Brad Soenksen, Dacia Johnson, Amie Nordlund, Phil Johnson, and John Ripley, as well as paid staff and many volunteers.

Duly made and seconded motions to approve this meeting's agenda and the minutes of the 2020 Congregational Annual Meeting passed unanimously on voice votes.

Congregational members in attendance reviewed Grace Lutheran Church statistics for 2020, and the 2020 Treasurer's Reports (General Fund, Savings Account, Building Expansion Fund, Major Maintenance Fund, Concert/Mission of the Month Fund, and Stewardship report) as well as financial reports from the Bagstevold Cemetery Association, Grace Lutheran Women, report of memorials designated to various church funds, Sunday School, and The Foundry as submitted and printed in the 2020 Annual Meeting Report. While reviewing these reports it was noted that our church operates on contributions from roughly 50 percent of its members and that it is fortunate to be in the black in view of corona virus restrictions in 2020. A motion was duly made and seconded that the Treasurer's reports be tabled and revisited at the February council meeting to give the Treasurer and Audit Committee time to reconcile some discrepancies that were noted. Upon being duly made and seconded, a motion to approve all of the other reports carried unanimously on voice vote.

In reviewing the proposed budget for 2021, a motion was duly made and seconded to add a \$6,000 line item to the benevolence budget to account for the \$500 per month Mission of the Month contributions until fellowship and attendant offerings resume. Thus, the proposed 2021 budget included the following line item changes from the 2020 budget:

- A \$6,000 addition for Missions of the Month
- A \$450 increase for Augustana District Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)
- A \$515 increase for electricity
- A \$385 increase for insurance
- A \$1,500 increase for pastoral base salary with attendant increases for pension and Social Security allowance

Following discussion, a duly made and seconded motion to approve the proposed total budget of \$184,483.92 passed unanimously on voice vote.

Tellers Dacia Johnson, Curt Cardwell, and Hans Ronnevik distributed the ballot as proposed by the Nominating Committee. Haiby reviewed the ballot and called for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a motion to cast a unanimous ballot was duly made, seconded, and carried on voice vote. Those elected include:

- Council members (three-year terms) – Dean Larson, Jeff LaVigne, and Karen Rossum
- Nominating Committee (one-year terms) – Shelly Fresonke and incumbent John Ripley
- Youth Committee (two-year terms) – incumbents Brittney LaPoint and Lindsey Milbeck
- Property Committee – incumbents Phil Johnson and Dean Nelson
- Bagstevold Cemetery Association (three-year term) – Clayton Peterson
- Education Committee – (three-year terms) Tonya Honrud and Samantha Milbeck
- Audit Committee (one-year term) – incumbent Linda Wright

John Ripley gave a presentation about the need to upgrade our church's audiovisual equipment, which is 40 years old and failing. Estimated cost for new controllers, cameras, microphones, etc. is \$50,000. Our church previously upgraded its internet service so bandwidth is adequate, and the new equipment would free up space in the sound room. This new equipment would make the screens look brighter, improve sound quality, and also would provide better video broadcasts, which are part of our congregation's mission outreach. The Audiovisual Fund has approximately \$25,000, \$2,000 remains in the Seating Fund, and if the \$20,000 Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan is forgiven, the \$50,000 would be nearly covered. A duly made and seconded motion to pursue replacing this equipment, pending funding being available and following a special congregational meeting, carried unanimously on voice vote.

A member of the congregation offered thanks to Haiby, the council, and Pastor Brad for guiding the congregation through 2020. Outgoing council members Haiby, Phyllis Rossow, and Bruce Schaible also received thanks for their service.

This meeting adjourned at 12:45 P.M. with the Lord's Prayer.

Phyllis Rossow  
Council Secretary

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Unapproved council meeting minutes**  
**January 12, 2021**

President Duane Haiby called to order the regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council at 6:05 P.M. on January 12, 2021, in the fellowship hall. All other council members were present including Curt Cardwell, Jim Klitzke, Jeanette Ripley, Rachel Ronnevik, Phyllis Rossow, Cheryl Rotz, Bruce Schaible, and Harlen Seidell, as well as Treasurer Lucy Stadum and Pastor Brad Soenksen. The meeting opened with reciting our church's mission statement:

*Grace Lutheran strives to be a welcoming church family, committed to the Bible as God's truth, worshiping together, and reaching out to love, pray for, teach, and serve others in Christ's name.*

Pastor Brad led devotions, based on Psalm 139, and prayer.

The agenda was approved unanimously following Rossow's motion and Rotz's second.

The secretary's report of the December 12, 2020, meeting was approved unanimously following Schaible's motion and Seidell's second.

Filing the treasurer's reports for audit was tabled until the February meeting due to discussion regarding a discrepancy in the General Fund Budget Report. As of December 31, 2020, the General Fund balance was \$36,231.07, the Major Maintenance Fund balance was \$10,174.53, the Building Expansion Fund balance was \$49,134.00, and the Concert/Mission of the Month Fund balance was \$2,520.41.

Pastor Brad's report included numerous visitations and contacts; meetings with an area pastor, with various council, staff, and Nominating Committee members, as well as meetings regarding the audiovisual system; providing food assistance for two individuals; shooting four devotional videos and the Christmas Eve video; a Pelican Rapids Ministerial Zoom meeting, an Augustana District Zoom meeting, and a Grace council meeting; and planning a funeral. He reported that the option for in-person Sunday School, Confirmation, and Youth Group would be offered starting in February. He also mentioned Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent on February 17, Good Friday Communion Service on April 2, which should be similar to a Sunday morning service, and Easter Sunday on April 4. Last year he invited people to do an at-home soup and sandwich while watching his Lenten devotional. Consensus was to delay First Communion instruction until Spring.

**Old business:**

At the October meeting Memorial Secretary Bev Ouren had proposed that her position be discontinued because Treasurer Lucy Stadum handles most memorials. Ouren presented a check for \$1,100.23, which represented the remaining balance in the memorial account, which now is closed. Ripley moved to dissolve the Memorial Secretary position and transfer the \$1,100.23 to the General Fund. Rotz seconded this motion, which passed unanimously on vote.

**New business:**

Following discussion, consensus was not to accept a nonmember funeral payment from the Clifford Ouren family.

The need to update our church's audiovisual room's obsolete equipment was discussed. John Ripley will address this need at the Congregational Annual Meeting on January 24.

As the Council's representative on the Nominating Committee, Cardwell reported that the committee had met, made LOTS of calls, and received every imaginable excuse for not agreeing to serve on the Council and the various committees that will be on the ballot at the Annual Meeting. He did, however, present a proposed ballot for Council review.

January's Mission of the Month is Brody Seter, who is fighting aplastic anemia. Ripley made a motion to donate \$500 from the General Fund to the January Mission of the Month. Following Ronnevik's second, this motion carried unanimously on vote.

To take advantage of the March food shelf match, Ripley moved to designate the Pelican Rapids Food Shelf as Mission of the Month for February. Ronnevik seconded this motion, which passed unanimously on vote. Our congregation's evangelism/mission outreach continues to be our Mission of the Month.

Ripley stated that Ripley's Inc. volunteers to clean our church's parking lot but doesn't want the responsibility of shoveling sidewalks. Following discussion, Pastor Brad volunteered to clear the sidewalks—and will receive a new shovel for the task.

Stadum reported that she had received a call from a person who wanted to give a memorial and was wondering what our church might need. Consensus was that Stadum should respond and recommend the Audiovisual Fund.

Klitzke moved to thank outgoing council members Haiby, Rossow, and Schaible. Ronnevik seconded the motion, which carried on vote.

Ronnevik made a motion to adjourn. Seidell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on vote, and this meeting closed at 7:29 P.M. with the Lord's Prayer

As January's usher, Cardwell provided refreshments.

The next regular meeting of the Grace Lutheran Church Council is scheduled for 6 P.M. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

Phyllis Rossow, Secretary

## Grace Lutheran Church Council Minutes - February 9, 2021

Present: Jim Klitzke, Jeanette Ripley, Rachel Ronnevik, Harlen Seidell, Karen Rossum, Curt Cardwell, and Jeff LaVigne and Lucy Stadum. Also outgoing president Duane Haiby and outgoing secretary Phyllis Rossow.

Absent: Dean Larson and Cheryl Rotz.

President Haiby called the meeting to order and the mission statement was read.

Pastor Brad gave devotions and an opening prayer.

The agenda was approved.

Thanks was given to those leaving council and the new members.

**Nomination of Council Officers:** Jim Klitzke was nominated and approved for

President, Jeanette Ripley was nominated and approved for vice president, and

Karen Rossum was nominated and approved for secretary. It was approved to reappoint Lucy Stadum and treasurer.

The secretary's reports for annual meeting and January meeting were reviewed and approved.

The treasurer's report January report was reviewed and approved. The report at annual meeting had been tabled and a motion was made to table it until the March meeting and was approved.

Pastor Brad gave his report on activities and visits from parishioners.

Old Business:

- Restated commitment to promoting evangelism and mission outreach.
- Update for funeral of non-member.

New Business:

- Per annual meeting regarding audio-visual upgrade a motion was made and seconded to move money from the seating fun to the audio-visual fund. It was approved.
- Our librarian church librarian asked the council to consider an advisory board to help preview books and CD's donated.
- The nominating committee needs a council member and Harlen Seidell volunteered.
- The audit committee needs a council member and Jeanette Ripley volunteered.
- Council liaisons were chosen: Cheryl Rotz for youth and child and youth. Rachel Ronnevik for education, safety and fundraising. Jim Klitzke for property and Jeanette Ripley for GLW.
- Ushers were decided for 2021-2022.
- Lenten service February 7 Ash Wednesday will be followed by bars and coffee.
- It was decided that Grace doesn't need advertising. A motion was made, seconded and passed.
- February mission of the month Pelican Food Shelf was given \$500.
- March mission of the month is Julie Smude's son who has multiple medical issues.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. All in favor.

Next meeting will be March 9, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.

Karen Rossum, secretary

## GRACE GAZETTE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

January 31, 2021

### GENERAL FUND: January 2021

Monthly Budget

Amount	Receipts	Gain/ ( Shortfall)
\$15,373.66	\$13,603.16	(\$1,770.50)

Attendance Average, 4 Services 61

No Concert

No Mission Receipts

### GRACE BUILDING EXPANSION FUND

Balance, January 1, 2021	\$49,134.00
January Receipts	\$
January Disbursements	(\$ 00.00)
Balance, January 31, 2021	\$49,134.00

### GRACE MAJOR MAINTENANCE FUND:

Balance, January 1, 2021	\$10,074.53
January Receipts	\$ 1,000.00
January Disbursements	\$ .00
Balance, January 31, 2021	\$11,074.53

### CONCERT/MISSION OF THE MONTH

Balance, January 1, 2021	\$2,520.41
January Receipts	\$ .00
January Disbursements	( \$ 0.00)
Balance, January 31, 2021	\$2,520.41

Submitted by Lucille Stadum, Treasurer

## March Mission of the Month

### Tony Smude

Note from Julie Smude: It is with a very heavy heart that I post this notice. My oldest son, Tony, has been battling cancer over the past years but lately has been cancer-free up until his last checkup. Cancer has returned in his pelvic area and has gone into his lungs as well. It is a very aggressive, fast-growing cancer but our God is much bigger and much more powerful than any illness. I am not in denial at all and have had several "ugly cries" over the past couple of weeks. I am praying, believing that God can still intervene and heal my son or surprise everyone and put that nasty cancer in remission for years to come. Thank you for your prayers as we travel this new journey. Tony, Adam, Jake & I have declared Isaiah 41:10 as our banner.

## The GLW Minutes

The February Minutes were not available at press time

### MARCH LIBRARY CORNER by Paulette Haddock

Old, but good, used books fill several boxes in our church basement. Although I have been able to read and process many books during the current pandemic, many more have only been given a cursory glance. What to do with those not chosen for our church library is another dilemma. While thinking about these books, it crossed my mind that a small group of people could accomplish more than one person. The GLC Council has given me consent to establish a library board. I am looking for two or three people who love to read a variety of books, are willing to review books, and are free to meet during the day once every two or three months to discuss the books and make any decisions needed regarding them and our library collection. Please contact me if you are interested. My cell phone number is in the church directory, or you may put a note in my church mailbox.

This month we have several used books for children and one *Ideals, Words to Inspire*, on our "New" bookshelf. The children's books include a Christmas pop-up book, *Silent Night*, which illustrates the text of the beloved hymn. Two others for young children are *God, I've Gotta Talk to You!* a book of prayers for children, and a *Now You Can Read Bible Story: Noah and the Ark*, with large, easy to read text. *Our Wonderful Seasons* is not a Christian book, but it is an easy to understand and nicely illustrated book for children that explains the wisdom of God's creation of the seasons. The final two children's books are story collections that teach character. They are volumes 2 (36 stories) and 5 (38 stories) of *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*.

I will also be moving missionary stories and movies onto the lower center shelves. The books and movies about Jesus will be shifted to the left, and some of the theology books will be moved into storage or onto the top right shelves. Every month this year the shelves will look a little different, so be sure to give them a glance the first Sunday of each month.



- 1 -Morgan Sundblad
- 2 -Elaine Knutson  
-Margaret Barringer  
-Shaine Olson
- 3 -Kimberly Barthel  
-Becky Motz  
-Chad Christianson  
-Ethan Nelson
- 4 -Scott Ripley  
-Austin Lehn  
-Caden Rossum
- 5 -Mason Olson
- 6 -Anna Motz  
-William Stutsman
- 7 -Kayla Lehn  
-Cody LaVigne  
-Annette Struck
- 8 -Jim Hanson  
-Kammie Fouquette  
-Jeff LaVigne
- 9 -Jessica Rotz
- 10 -Cheryl Rotz
- 11 -Pat Teberg
- 12 -Elsa Pettit
- 13 -Greg Melkert  
-Tyson Motz  
-Beth LaVigne
- 14 -Lilly Anne Peterson
- 17 -Kim Anderson  
-Christopher Ripley
- 18 -Parker Bilden  
-Berklee Bilden
- 21 -Griffin Westby  
-Nathan Tollefson  
-Brian Motz
- 22 -Lilyana Nord
- 23 -Ashley Stadum  
-Mike Sundblad
- 25 -Mackenzie McKellips
- 26 -Amber Fleming
- 27 -Paulette Haddock  
-August Weiss  
-Dorene Kvam
- 28 -Justin Williams
- 29 -Tom Fouquette
- 30 -Matthew Milbeck
- 31 -Lynette Motz  
-Ashley Haiby

**DVD copies of services  
are available  
on the Nathex or  
contact the  
church office!**



**Sunday School & Confirmation  
9:00 AM SUNDAYS  
IN CLASS & VIRTUAL OPTIONS  
AVAILABLE**

**Lenten Services  
Wednesday Evenings  
during the  
Lent Season  
Feb 17–March 24**

Due to Covid-19 indoor distancing requirements, the Chapel spacing is not adequate and since some of our members have underlying conditions, the Sunday Morning Adult Bible class will not meet until it is safer for us to gather together.

If you would like to purchase a Lily to be placed in Sanctuary on Easter, fill out the order form in the Fellowship Hall



**\$17.00 each**

## Try Tithe.ly

**Some of you know that we've launched online giving at Grace Lutheran Church of Erhard through Tithe.ly, a safe and secure giving platform that allows you to give one-time or recurring gifts!**

**You can get started by using one of the below options.**

### 1. Tithe.ly Giving App:

- **Download the Tithe.ly App from the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android). Once you've downloaded the app select Grace Church of Erhard. If this is your first time giving with Tithe.ly you will be prompted to create an account that you can use for all future gifts.**

- **The first time you will also need to add your credit/debit card or ACH/banking info. Once your account has been created you will not need to enter your personal or payment information. Just enter your PIN and give!**

- **A reminder you can set your gift up as recurring.**

### 2. Website Giving:

- **Click on this link [gracechurchoferhard.org](http://gracechurchoferhard.org) to give through the church website. It's a safe and easy way to**

*Please check Facebook or our website*

*[www.gracechurchoferhard.org](http://www.gracechurchoferhard.org)*

*for the latest announcements regarding  
Worship and events.*

*If you do not have access to the above,  
please call our office at 218-842-5205,  
or call/text Pr. Brad at  
218-205-5608*



2021	MARCH					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	01	02	03	04	05	06
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">           Quilters will be working in the Fellowship Hall 9:00 to Noon Monday and Tuesday         </div>		6:30 PM: Lenten Service with Coffee Fellowship 6:30 PM: Youth Group Meets			
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
9:00 AM: Virtual & In Person Sunday School & Confirmation Classes 10:00 AM: Worship with Holy Communion followed by a Special Congregational Meeting (Audio/Visual Fund)		6:00 PM: Council Meets	6:30 PM: Lenten Service with Coffee Fellowship 6:30 PM: Youth Group Meets			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 AM: Virtual & In Person Sunday School & Confirmation Classes 10:00 AM: Worship			6:30 PM: Lenten Service with Coffee Fellowship 6:30 PM: Youth Group Meets <b>St Patrick's Day</b>	9:00 AM: GLW meets		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 AM: Virtual & In Person Sunday School & Confirmation Classes 10:00 AM: Worship with Baptism of Crew Gaustad			6:30 PM: Lenten Service with Coffee Fellowship 6:30 PM: Youth Group Meets			
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
9:00 AM: Virtual Sunday School & Confirmation Classes 10:00 AM: Palm Sunday Worship						
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Be Safe Minnesota - <b>Masks</b> are required and <b>Social Distancing Guidelines</b> apply at all times while in the church building						
Please Note: Schedule Subject to Change Due to Covid 19 Restrictions						