

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
2021 Annual Report
Praise to you, O Christ



Creation

Flood

Commandments

Promised Land

Nativity

Crucifixion

Resurrection

Pentecost



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM 2020
 Pastor Jaci Tiell Lillian Myers



AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM 2021
 Brady Buhrow — Pastor Jaci Tiell — Eve Jackson



Celebrating Pastor Jaci's Installation

**EVENTS AND
 IMAGES AT
 GRACE IN
 2021**



**First Communion
 at Grace**



Blessing of the backpacks



The Piecemakers remembered Jeanne Haar

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

2021 Annual Report

The **2021 Annual Report** of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elmore, Ohio, is submitted to the members and friends of Grace in compliance with IV, A. of the Bylaws to the **Grace Constitution**, which calls for the presentation of an Annual Report to the Congregation at the end of each year. The **2021 Grace Annual Report** includes the following reports:

REPORT TITLE	REPORT SUBMITTED BY:	PAGE
Pastor's Report	Pastor Jaci Tiell	2
Church Council Report	Gary Anderson, President	3
Call Committee Report	Amy Simkus, Co-Chair	6
Congregational Life Report	Mary Schlievert, Chair	7
Education Report	Nancy Pries, Chair	8
Property Report	Steve Simkus, Chair	9
Witness and Mission Report (Benevolences)	Amy Simkus, Chair	11
Worship Report	Rachel Beeler, Chair	13
Rachel Circle (Women's Organization)	Nancy Pries	14
WELCA Financial Report	Ruth Haar, WELCA Treasurer	15
Piecemakers (Quilting Group)	Nancy Pries	16
Thrivent Blessings Report	John Heminger	17
Report on Community Organizations		18
Grace 2021 Income and Expense Report		19
Church Accounts and Dedicated Funds		21

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is located one mile north of Elmore, Ohio at the junction of State Highway 51 and West Witty Road. The address is 19225 W. Witty Road; Elmore OH 43416.

Grace's website can be opened at: <https://www.graceelonline.org/>

Grace's Facebook page can be opened at: <https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElmore>

The Annual Report Cover. The photographs on the cover of this report depict Grace's Sanctuary and educational wing (top) and the series of eight stained glass windows that grace the sanctuary. The three photos in the center illustrate important events in 2021 at Grace: 1) Worship, highlighted by an outdoor Easter celebration, 2) a restored bell tower that was rededicated on Pentecost and 3) a celebration of Pastor Jaci's installation on the 25th of July. The photos on the inside cover are labeled; they were selected to convey a sense of the care, nurture, love, and fellowship that defines the Grace community.

Dear Friends in Christ,

We had an extraordinary year at Grace this past year. The year 2021 was largely marked by the Covid-19 pandemic. The year was strange, uncommon, wild and like any other church year that Grace has experienced. So much of the year was marked by loneliness for so many of us. I'm an extrovert who is energized by people and much of the year our contact with others was limited. Together we learned how to worship and do ministry during a pandemic. Some life skills I hope we don't need in the future.

We worshipped "together apart" with drive in worship following the guidelines of the CDC recommendations from January through August when we returned to in person worship. In August we moved to the fellowship hall and then to the socially distanced sanctuary in September. We have continued to provide drive in worship for those who desire to worship from their vehicles for various reasons. We are grateful that we can offer this and each week we have a varying number of vehicles worshipping with us from the parking lot.

In July I was called to be your pastor and we entered a new relationship with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Toledo where I also serve. I am excited to see the ministries of both congregations grow in the next year. Even despite covid new things are happening and it's an exciting time to be the church. It's an exciting time to see where God calls us as we work together as the body of Christ in our congregation, our community, and the world.

In the forty- third chapter of the book of Isaiah restoration and protection are promised. We first hear of the old exodus, when God led the Hebrew people through the Red Sea. Then Israel is quickly told to forget it because God is indeed about to do a new thing. It's interesting to note that first we are looking at the past but then quickly shift to the future. Today we need restoration and protection. Today we need God to lead us. The past is valuable and can teach us, but we don't need to cling to the past for all things. The world is changing and even today God is calling us to be the church in this place and is indeed doing new things among us!!

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!"

Isaiah 43:18-19

Walking with you in God's grace,

Pastor Jaci Tiell

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The Grace ELC Congregational Council is pleased to submit this report on Council activities and the life and mission of the Grace Congregation during 2021.

Pastoral Leadership. Pastor Jaci Tiell had served as Grace's Interim Pastor on a halftime basis since September 2019. By the Spring of 2021, a new plan for pastoral leadership emerged that would have Pastor Jaci serve two congregations, Grace, and Bethlehem Lutheran in East Toledo, on a three-quarter time basis. The Grace Call Committee culminated its work with a unanimous recommendation that Grace issue a call to Pastor Jaci (*their report follows this report*). The Grace Council endorsed this recommendation, and the Grace Congregation voted to issue the call on the 20th of June 2021. Bethlehem Lutheran took similar actions, the Synod encouraged and approved the new plan, Pastor Jaci accepted, and Bishop Beaudoin installed her as the called Pastor for the two churches on the 22nd of July. Grace now has a an energetic and inspiring called Pastor, an innovative relationship with a suburban Toledo church, and a sustainable pastoral compensation plan.

Worship Services. Grace conducted a full schedule of worship services in 2021, with 51 Sunday services (*one worship was cancelled due to snow*), and a full schedule of special worship services. The "*Board of Worship Annual Report*" provides full details. Covid restrictions continued to impact how worship at Grace was conducted. Worship was conducted outdoors for seven months (29 services) and then moved into the Fellowship Hall on the 1st of August (8 services) and into the Sanctuary on the 26th of September (14 services). Indoor worship was conducted under strict covid restrictions that included stationary offering, passing the peace in place (no movement), and receiving communion in place. Those restrictions remained in effect at the end of the year.

Parking lot worship with the liturgy and word broadcast on FM 94.1 played an important role. Even after worship moved inside, worshippers continued to have the option of worshipping in their vehicles. Every Sunday at Grace, there are two to five vehicles with worshippers in the parking lot. An analysis of 2021 attendance showed that outdoor worship attendance was higher than for indoor worship. In 2021, 29 outdoor Sunday services averaged 61.1 worshippers; 22 indoor Sunday services averaged 52.4 worshippers (14.2% lower).

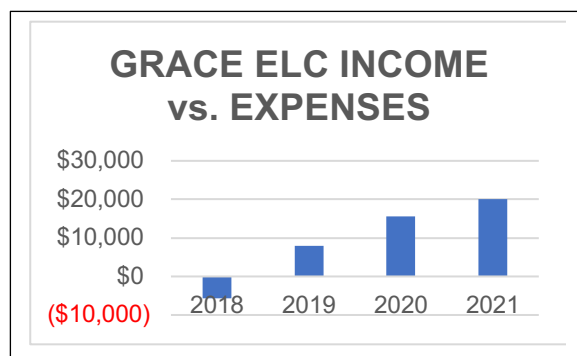
Church Membership. ELCA records list Grace as having 330 baptized members, but this reflects the fact that Grace's membership roster has not been updated for many years. During 2021, three members passed away and two children were baptized. Three youth members were confirmed. Two baptized members received their first communion after receiving instruction from the Pastor. The "*ELCA Congregation Report*" asks for the "*total number of people actively participating in the life of the congregation.*" Based on an analysis of members who made contributions (*In 2021, 58 households representing 98 adult members made "contributions of record."*) or who communed, Grace is reporting 130 active members as of the end of 2021.

Congregation Meetings. Two regular Congregation Meetings mandated by the *Grace Constitution* took place in January and November. Two additional special Congregation Meetings were called by the Council. The meeting on 24 January

received and approved the **2020 Grace Annual Report**. The meeting on 18 April approved a \$5,100 expenditure from the Memorial Fund to restore the bell tower that had been damaged by lightning several years earlier. The meeting on 20 June approved the issuance of a call to Pastor Jaci Tiell and the pastoral compensation package that accompanied the call. The meeting on 7 November received and approved the 2022 budget and elected Officers and Board Chairmen to serve in 2022. The first three meetings were conducted in the Grace parking lot. The fourth meeting took place in the Sanctuary.

Council Meetings and Actions. The Grace Council conducted 12 regular monthly meetings in 2021. Ten of the 12 meetings were Zoom meetings, two were in-person. The Council provides meeting summaries in Grace's **Weekly Messages**; Council meeting minutes are posted on Grace's website at <https://www.graceelconline.org/grace-communications>. The Council actively monitored the covid situation and the adequacy of Grace's health safety measures. The Council worked with the Board of Property to carry out a plan to restore the bell tower. It coordinated with Pastor Jaci, the Synod, the Bethlehem Lutheran Council, the Grace Call Committee, and the Holy Spirit to work out her call at Grace and Bethlehem.

Financial Situation. This **2021 Annual Report** provides a detailed accounting of Grace's income and expenditures for the year. The 2021 budget that was approved by the congregation projected \$150,000 in offerings. Actual offerings in 2021 totaled \$150,231. The budget projected an end-of-year surplus of \$16,952; Grace ended 2021 with a surplus of exactly \$20,000. This is the third consecutive year Grace has ended with a surplus of income over expenses. In addition, Grace allocates ten percent of all offerings to benevolences and for the third consecutive year, benevolence allocations were fully funded.



Communications Program. Grace has a comprehensive communications program intended to keep members of the Grace Family well-informed about worship, programs, special events and church financial affairs. In 2021, these communications media were produced and distributed:

- **Grace Annual Report.** The **Annual Report** is an annual publication that summarizes the work and mission of the church for the entire year.
- **Weekly Message.** The **Weekly Message** is a newsletter sent electronically to everyone in the Grace family who has an email address. Printed copies are mailed to members who do not use email. Each **Weekly Message** includes a Bible Study lesson. 52 issues were produced and distributed in 2021.
- **Parish Reporter.** The **Parish Reporter** is a monthly publication with messages from the Pastor and Council as well as news about the church family. 11 issues were produced and distributed via email and mail in 2021.

- **Grace Website.** Grace's webpage is accessible to the public via the internet at <https://www.graceelconline.org/>. The website presents basic information about Grace worship services and its programs. The "*Communications*" page of the website allows users to download recent copies of the **Weekly Message**, the **Parish Reporter**, Council Meeting Minutes and **Grace Annual Reports**.
- **Facebook.** Grace's Facebook page is accessible at <https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranElmore>. This page presents information about upcoming events as well as reports on recent activities.
- **Other Communications.** Informing members about upcoming activities is also done through other means including printed worship bulletins, announcements at the beginning of worship services, and notices posted on Grace's outdoor sign.

The Congregational Council. At the end of 2021, three Council members stepped down after serving active terms of valued and faithful service. Sincere thanks are due to **Rachel Beeler** who served as Chair of the Board of Worship, **Amy Simkus** who served as the Board of Witness and Mission and **Steve Simkus** who chaired the Board of Property. All Grace Council Members were actively engaged throughout the year in furthering Grace's ministries. We will miss those who are departing, but we welcome two new Council Members: **Joan Eckermann**, Chair of the Board of Worship, and **Steve Blausey**, Chair of the Board of Property (*Steve previously served as Vice Chair of the Board of Property*). In addition, **Nancy Pries** is shifting from chairing the Board of Education to chairing the Board of Witness and Mission. 2021 Council members who will continue to serve in 2022 are: **Karen Hammel**, Secretary; **Deb Boos**, Financial Secretary; **Randy Jacobs**, Treasurer; and **Mary Schlievert**, Congregational Care Chair.

2021 has been a difficult year in many ways, especially with a second year of covid pandemic-imposed restrictions that show no signs of easing any time soon. It would be easy to see 2021 and the coming year as a time of darkness, but scripture teaches us to see the past year and 2022 differently: "***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it***" (John 1:5). This **Annual Report** shows that in 2021, the Grace congregation was a "***light***" that overcame darkness by continuing to conduct vital worship services, calling a Pastor, carrying out numerous benevolence endeavors, protecting its physical facilities, engaging in Christian fellowship, and continuing its healthy financial situation. In 2022, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church will continue to be a "***light***" for all whom we serve.

Yours in Christ,



Gary Anderson
President

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Call Committee Report

This report was originally given to the Grace Congregational Meeting on June 20, 2021

I am pleased to offer this report summarizing the findings on behalf of the Call Committee at Grace.

The Call Committee was charged with completing an extensive review of the goals and mission unique to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Committee also discussed at length how a called pastor would fit into our goals of evangelism, mission, worship, and providing Christian education and pastoral care to our members of all ages.

Through the completion of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP), the Committee identified some key priorities of importance to our congregation. We were seeking a pastor who would provide care and nurture and help build a sense of community among our members. We were looking for someone who was an effective communicator and teacher, who was comfortable working with adults and children alike. The Committee felt it was important to identify an individual with a strong commitment and loyalty to the ELCA who could also work regularly to develop growth in stewardship. It was important that a pastor serves as a strong leader of the congregation, but also helps others develop their sense of leadership and skills within the church.

The Call Committee feels strongly that Grace is not just a congregation; it is a family... and it was necessary to identify a pastor who brought joy and good humor to relationships within the church and the community.

It was unanimously determined by the Call Committee that we have found a perfect fit for what we were seeking in Pastor Jaci Tiell. We have had the unique opportunity to get to know her over the last two years while she served continuously as our Interim Pastor. Not only does she bring a sense of uplifting positivity to our church, she also has proven to be outgoing and relatable – an approachable source of Christian support to our congregation.

Through our relationship with Pastor Jaci, we have also been presented with a unique opportunity to build a relationship in mission with another Lutheran Church in the region which we are very excited to pursue.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Simkus
Co-Chair of the Call Committee

CALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS*:

- Amy Simkus, Co-Chair
- Matthew Haar, Co-Chair
- Karen Hammel
- Ruth Ann Anderson
- Randy Jacobs
- John Marik

** The Call Committee was elected by the Grace Congregation at its called meeting on the 30th of August 2020. The work of the Call Committee concluded on 22 July 2021 when Pastor Tiell was installed.*

**Board of Congregational Life
Annual Report
December 2021**

The Board of Congregational Life consisted of Board Chair Mary Schlievert, Linda Stewart, Rachel Beeler, Joan Eckermann, and Nancy Bennett. The Board met every other month during 2021, starting off with virtual Zoom meetings and ending the year in person. Following is a summary of our events.

- January: Prayer partners were chosen and distributed.
- February: We presented a carnation, love Bible verses, and a few chocolates to all the ladies present during parking lot worship.
- March/April: Worked on new funeral meal protocol. Thanks to Rachel for doing a lot of the research on catering.
- May: Marigolds for Moms. Nancy and Linda braved torrential rain on Mothers' Day to pass out flowers and a Bible verse to all the moms in attendance for parking lot worship--Thank you Nancy and Linda!
- June: Assisted with the Pentecost parking pot picnic. Also distributed Doritos for Dads on Fathers' Day to all the dads present at parking lot worship. Again, MANY thanks to Linda and Nancy for their help!
- July: Hosted the Parking Lot Picnic to honor Pastor Jaci's installation as our new Pastor- YAY! We served cake, ice cream, and punch. There were also activities for kids including bubbles and chalk.
- September: Started planning for an updated directory project. Amy Simkus will assist with photos, and updated information for members of the congregation will be gathered.
- October: Hosted a Reformation Day potluck--32 people attended. Good fellowship was enjoyed in person in the fellowship hall! Also assisted with the memorial service for Eileen Glessner.
- December: Assisted with Advent Soup Suppers with the Savior. Four relaxing evenings of simple food, fellowship, and lively conversation were enjoyed. Gathered updated information on members of the congregation for the church directory project.

Despite COVID, we were able to plan and carry out several safety-conscious fellowship activities for our church family. I would like to say a HUGE thank you to the members of this board- Joan, Rachel, Nancy, and Linda-who helped carry out all of these activities and without whom this board could not function. Looking forward to 2022!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schlievert, Board Chair

Board of Education Annual Report 2021

The Grace Board of Education is responsible for providing "learning opportunities for members of all ages."

As of this time this board is not active. This congregation has a possibility of five children to minister to in Sunday School.

There are no potential teachers for this age group.

There is no Children's Choir.

There is a potential for two youths becoming candidates for confirmation (AOB).

In-person Adult Bible Study is not active due to covid. In lieu of in-person Bible Study, the ***Grace Weekly Message*** published 52 weekly Bible Study lessons on topics that included the Christmas stories, the Shorter Catechism and Old Testament Prophets.

The National Youth Gathering will be in 2022. Is there any interest?

This board is looking for people to step up and initiate an interest.

Former Grace Board of Education participant

Nancy Pries

Board of Property

2021 Annual Report

Throughout the year Property Board members met each month to plan, organize, and work on maintenance and upgrades to the church and parsonage. The following members were actively involved on the board in 2021; Steve Blausey (Vice Chair), Greg Edwards, Randy Jacobs, Steve Simkus (Chair), Merlyn Weng, Bruce King, Matt Haar, Steve Avers, and Zach Avers. It was a busy year, and much was accomplished.

The following is a summary of major items addressed throughout the year:

- The major project was the water system issue that everyone is aware of. As the board has worked to resolve this issue, we have all learned a great deal. A huge thank you to everyone who devoted many hours to resolving and bettering our water system for the future. Hopefully by the end of January 2022 we will have the issue behind us.
- The Bell tower restoration was completed in May of 2021 and dedicated.
- We established a master key list; it is kept in the office.
- Snow removal for 2021 was completed 100% on a voluntary basis. Thank you to all who stepped up for that project when needed. We plan to do the same for now in 2022 if anyone is interested in helping.
- A new dehumidifier was purchased for the basement. Thank you to Randy Jacobs.
- All the emergency lights in the building were checked to ensure proper operation. Merlin Weng headed this project up. Thank you!
- Organized a spring cleanup day to remove yard debris, mulch flower beds, remove dead trees and clean up the parking lot. There was also a fall cleanup to remove brush, trim a few bushes and trees that were dying or overgrown.
- Tracy Hahn and her family moved back into the parsonage in September 2020. Tracy also cleans the church each week in exchange for a reduction in her monthly rent. The Board feels that Tracy has done a great job and always is willing to help anywhere she can! Thank you, Tracy!
- Tracy and her family are renting the parsonage for a 2-year lease. That lease will expire in September 2022.
- The Board is keeping an eye on the (RTU) that heats and cools our fellowship hall. This unit is older and is being watched to try and predict when it will need to be replaced.
- Started a maintenance program with Mike Knitz for the heating and AC units throughout the church building and parsonage.
- Inspected the Sanctuary heat boilers.
- Completed water testing for Total Coliform and Nitrates.
- Managed rental of the parsonage and facilitated repairs as needed.
- The elevator was inspected and permitted.
- Fire extinguishers were inspected and replaced as needed.

- Central Extermination inspected and sprayed around the property inside and out on 7/28/2021.
- Took the Christmas lights down in the sanctuary.
- Received quotes for updating the sign out front. The sign was updated in the early part of the year with new LED bulbs and two sets of letters..
- Many other smaller maintenance repairs were also done to the building.

I would sincerely like to thank the above listed Board members who graciously volunteered their time, energy, and talents to help keep the church and parsonage up and running all year. Thanks also to Al Wolfe for plowing snow from the parking lot and to the Avers family for keeping our lawns mowed, hauling away brush, leaves and debris.

As we look ahead to 2022, I am thankful for all the Blessings we at Grace have received. Each of us has been called to use the gifts we have been given by God. The Board of Property is a great place to participate. If you are looking for a place to get more involved or serve others, please consider joining us for a meeting in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Simkus
2021 Property Board Chair

Board of Witness and Mission

Report of Grace 2021 Benevolence Distributions

The members of the Board of Witness and Mission work in partnership with Grace members to promote, plan, coordinate, and supervise events that support the congregation's witness and mission activities. The Board is responsible for managing the disbursement of offerings that are designated for benevolences according to the following schedule for 2021:

Benevolence Offerings	\$15,023.10	<i>10% of all Offerings</i>
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Members have the option of designating benevolence offerings as “Traditional Benevolences” where a share of those benevolences goes to the ELCA and Northwest Ohio Synod, or as “Directed Benevolences” where no support goes to the ELCA. In 2021, Traditional Benevolences were \$8,528.61; Directed Benevolences were \$6,494.50.

Benevolence Offerings were allocated as follows:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| • First Fruits Allocation | \$3,905.94 | 26% of Benevolence Offerings |
| • World Hunger Allocation | \$3,154.91 | 21% of Benevolence Offerings |
| • ELCA Mission Support | \$4,520.21 | 53% of Traditional Benevolences |
| • Directed Benevolence Fund | \$3,442.37 | 53% of Directed Benevolences |

The following actual benevolence distributions were made in 2021:

ELCA/NWOS Mission Support	\$5,019.85
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ELCA World Hunger	\$3,154.78
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First Fruits Benevolence Distributions:	\$4,486.39
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- | | |
|--|----------|
| • Ottawa County Lifesaver Project* | \$369.14 |
| • Lighthouse Living Sober* | \$369.14 |
| • Redeemer Lutheran Church, Toledo | \$400.00 |
| • Salem Lutheran Church, Toledo | \$400.00 |
| • Lutheran Social Services | \$400.00 |
| • Luther Home of Mercy | \$400.00 |
| • Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio (LOMO) | \$400.00 |
| • Genacross Lutheran Services | \$400.00 |
| • Liberty Center, Fremont | \$400.00 |
| • Christian Resources International | \$400.00 |
| • Lutheran Disaster Response Tornado | \$548.11 |

Directed Benevolence Distributions	\$3,600.00
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- CRU (Campus Crusade for Christ Int'l in the US) \$2,000.00
- The Cocoon Women's Shelter, Bowling Green \$200.00
- Elmore Community Thanksgiving Dinner \$200.00

* The distributions to the Lifesaver Project and Lighthouse were made with previously undisbursed 2020 First Fruits allocations

- Ottawa County Holiday Bureau \$500.00
- Veterans Matter \$200.00
- Lutheran Disaster Response \$500.00

Lutheran Disaster Response (from unrestricted funds) \$4,700.00

In addition to the distribution of regular benevolences, the Board of Witness and Mission organized several special benevolence projects. In 2021, **the following special benevolence distributions were made** as a result of these projects:

Special Benevolences and Distributions of Special Offerings: \$5,755.96

- Elmore Food Pantry \$1,275.00
(This included \$1,000 from Portage Resale in Port Clinton that was dedicated to the Food Pantry)
- Veterans Matter \$ 147.96
(noisy offering; Thrivent provided a \$52.04 match)
- Lenten Offerings \$2,014.00
(for Heifer International Tree Farms)
- Lutheran Disaster Response (Oxygen) \$ 80.00
- Hospice of Northwest Ohio \$ 920.00
- Lutheran World Relief (Oxygen) \$ 430.00
- Advent Offerings \$. 889.00
(for Heifer International alpaca purchase @ \$150 each; Thrivent provided a \$311.00 match)

TOTAL BENEVOLENCE DISTRIBUTIONS IN 2021: \$26,716.98

The Grace Benevolence distribution total in 2020 was \$21,283.87

In addition, to these benevolence distributions, which represented a 26% increase over 2020 benevolence distributions, Grace members collected supplies to assemble 110 school kits (backpacks) and 96 personal care kits, which were transported to Lutheran World Relief for distribution through their worldwide network. Thrivent provided a \$250 grant to purchase supplies for these projects. Also, Grace members adopted five residents at the Luther Home of Mercy who were provided with Christmas gifts. Ongoing benevolence efforts at Grace continue and include collecting receipts from Miller's New Market Grocery (Genoa) as well as a new option to raise benevolence program funds through the AmazonSmile platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Simkus, Chair

2021 Board of Worship Annual Report

"Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be made known in all the earth." -Isaiah 12:5

Meetings: The Board of Worship meets irregularly (usually based on liturgical season and special services) approximately 4-6 times per year. In 2021, we held both Zoom and in-person meetings throughout the year.

Board of Worship members: Ruth Ann Anderson, Bobbie Bean (Parish Musician), Rachel Beeler, Joan Eckermann, Mary Schlievert, Jean Weng and Pastor Jaci Tiell.

Oversees: Altar Guild, Deacons, Choirs, Lectors, Musicians, and Acolytes. The chair of this board also attends Church Council meetings and gives a report of our items of business.

2021 Worship Activities:

- Continued Drive-Up Sunday worship format services (from 2020) through the end of July 2021.
- Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes (via Drive-Up worship format) to mark the beginning of Lent was held on February 17th.
- Lent midweek services(s) were held via Drive-Up worship format.
- A Pentecost Picnic was celebrated on May 23rd following the service with food trucks and fellowship.
- In July, we officially called Pastor Jaci Tiell as our part-time pastor for a 3-year term call in partnership with Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Because of Pastor Jaci's dual call, a supply pastor will be utilized one Sunday per month as part of the terms of her call with Grace and Bethlehem to allow Pastor Jaci to worship with her family at their home congregation.
- On July 4th, we officially moved our service time to 10:30am in coordination with Bethlehem's service time, which starts at 9:00 AM.
- Discussions were held regarding the transition to in-person worship within the facility. A plan for healthy and safe worship was adopted. This plan included the continued use of Communion kits, social distancing in the Fellowship Hall between rows of chairs and tables, stationary offering collection and keeping the Sharing of the Peace between family units.
- Officially moved to in-person worship in the Fellowship Hall starting on August 1st.
- The list of deacons and their duties was updated for the new worship format inside the facility.
- Chancel Choir resumed practices after Labor Day, at 7pm on Tuesdays, and began singing during services on Sunday, September 12th.
- Officially moved to in-person worship in the sanctuary on September 26th.
- Advent midweek services were held in-person in the sanctuary with a Soup and Bread Supper prior to each service.
- A First Communion Retreat was held on December 5th after the service. The First Communion was celebrated on Sunday, December 12th.
- Christmas Eve service was held on Friday, December 24th at 8pm. The service featured a 15-minute music/recitation prelude concert.
- The Lessons and Carols service was held on Sunday, December 26th. This service was led by Joan Eckermann and featured 7 lessons and hymns.

The Board of Worship would like to thank all who have assisted with worship throughout 2021! Joan Eckermann will serve as the 2022 Chair and there is currently no Vice-Chair. This board welcomes new members at any time!

Respectfully submitted,
-Rachel A. Beeler (Chair)

Rachel Circle
An Opportunity for Bible Study
Perform the duties for the WELCA
Grace Lutheran Church Elmore

Covid came into our midst and prevented our traditional meetings on the first Thursday of each month during the year 2021.

We could not have Bible Study in our cars.

The Christian Woman's Breakfast was not able to gather.

On September 24-26, three women from Grace joined the women of Bethlehem Lutheran at their Woman's Fall Retreat. It was a great experience!

In November our Thank Offering Boxes were returned with an impressive showing by Grace's women who have thankful hearts, even though Covid-19 interfered with their lives. Check WELCA Treasurer Ruth Haar's report for the final total.

We decided not to have a December cookie sale.

Poinsettias were delivered to our shut-in members: Reed Oestreich, Carole Jacob, Sandy Cutchall, Joan Dietrich, Bertha Marquardt and Linda Ladd.

We are looking for a leader who will help us restart Rachel Circle Bible Study. Are there any volunteers?

Nancy Pries

Grace WELCA Financial Report 2021

Balance: 1/1/21

\$ 274.82

Income:

Thankoffering	165.87
Cookie Sale Offering & Thrivent	269.00

Total Income:

\$ 434.87

Disbursements:

Women of the ELCA - Thankoffering	165.87
Elmore Food Pantry - Cookie Offering	269.00
Grace - Memorials (Vera Hille, Jeanne Haar, Mitzie Paule)	60.00
Nancy Pries - Poinsettias shut-ins	<u>33.85</u>

Total Disbursements:

\$ 528.72

Balance: 1/1/22

\$ 180.97

Treasurer,

Ruth A. Haar

2021 Annual Report for

Grace Piecemakers

- God was in our midst once again even though we did not meet weekly. There were four of us who occasionally came to our sewing area and worked two and one-half hours a couple days this year. Some were busy at home cutting and sewing tops, backs and inner liners. One day Jeannette Hanthorn and Betty Breier organized the tops according to the size of the blocks and have concluded we have enough to get a good start for 2022.

- What we did get accomplished was making ninety-seven backpacks from donated cloth that was too heavy for our quilting project and could not be used in blanket making. To fasten the bookbags, rope is strung through them. A request to Thrivent for \$250 for two spools of rope was received. The bags were made available at a church service, and ALL were taken and returned in a timely manner with needed items inside. Thank you to all who participated.

- No quilts were made in 2021.

- We also have asked Thrivent for \$250 to buy inner-liner and unbleached muslin.

- Cutting and sewing at home was done by Betty Breier, Jeannette Hanthorn, Linda Stewart, and Trinidad Cuevas.

- If you do hear of anyone with cloth, we never turn it down. Call or bring it to the church. We will put it where it will be used.

- Pocket Quilts are available in the Narthex. A good way to reach out to others who you feel need a touch of God. It is a good feeling when you have found that special person.

- Thank you to anyone who in any way has contributed to our successful year of producing needed items that we provide for the needy in the World.

Report submitted by:

Nancy Pries

2021 Thrivent Blessings

Thrivent Financial, as a membership-owned fraternal organization, must dispose of any money remaining after meeting the expense of doing business. They make these funds available through their Choice Dollar and Action team programs and in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

Thrivent Choice – Thrivent Financial members who have investment, insurance or retirement products can receive money from Thrivent that they may designate to Grace Lutheran or other authorized organizations. These funds can then be used by the recipient, as they choose, within the church, organizations, or for projects in the community. All Thrivent members should check their Thrivent account since Thrivent sometimes makes available funds to Thrivent members that previously did not receive them.

Reminder: Thrivent members must go online or call Thrivent (1-800-847-4836) to designate their Choice dollars. Say “fraternal” at the prompt to be connected to an agent. Have your Thrivent number available for verification purposes. Any funds that you do not direct to the eligible agencies goes back to Thrivent. Enter your zip code to get a list of local agencies that accept Choice Dollars.

Contact John Heminger or Nancy Pries if you have questions.

Thrivent Action Teams – All Thrivent members are eligible to apply for two \$250 grants each year to use as seed money for projects that benefit others. Complete the application online or call Thrivent (see above) to schedule a project.

Past project examples include supplies for quilts, personal care and school kits, supplies to support fundraisers, pet food and supplies for shelters and assistance dog training facilities and purchasing desserts and meat used for the community Thanksgiving meal. The ideas are endless, and the money is available for you to organize and lead a project anywhere in the community.

Grace Thrivent Choice account

2020 balance	\$2,726.01
2021 funds received	\$1,688.00
2021 funds disbursed	<u>\$1,045.36</u>
2021 balance	\$3,368.65

Choice Dollar Projects – your donations were used for the following:

Veterans Matter (offering match)	\$150.00
Chicken Dinner match	\$460.00
Medallion engraving fund (N. Pries)	\$ 50.00
Baptismal Medallions purchase	\$74.36
Alpaca project match	\$311.00

Thrivent Choice donors, thank you for your Choice dollar donations to Grace. Please share your ideas regarding the use of your donations.

Report submitted by,

John Heminger

REPORT ON COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

As part of its outreach ministry, Grace and its members support, provide facilities for or cooperate with several public service, philanthropic or community organizations that serve residents in the Elmore area. This report identifies community organizations supported by Grace and provides brief summaries of their 2021 activities. Where possible, contact persons for these programs are listed.

Boy Scouts. *Boy Scout Troops 314 & 329, sponsored by the Elmore American Legion Post #279 and the Kiwanis Club of Elmore, use the Grace Fellowship Hall for its meetings. Approximately 30 youth from the Elmore area are served by this program. Scout meetings take place every Sunday evening from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, from September until the end of June. During the covid emergency, Scout meetings have been structured to limit participation to 10 or fewer persons.*

Dartball. Steve Blausey. The Grace Dartball Team participates in a Dartball League comprised of teams representing ten churches in this area. After taking a year off due to covid, Dartball resumed for the 2021/2022 season. This is a non-contact sport (usually), enjoyed by Grace members that have the nerve to throw a dart through a gauntlet of raving fans (mostly your team members), at a board some 20 foot away, praying that it lands on a base. It doesn't always work out that way, but we have a lot of fun anyhow and it's a great excuse to get out and do something on those miserable winter nights. Grace's team has been having a pretty good season, holding on to first place for a few weeks but we'll see what happens.

Elmore Food Pantry. *Michelle Timbrook and Jeanne Weng. Grace provides physical facilities for the Elmore Food Pantry. This public service program was organized by the Elmore Ministerial Association and staffed by members of local churches including several members of Grace. Grace members contribute food items and funds. The Food Pantry was open twice a month throughout 2021. During the year, the Elmore Food Pantry provided a total of 3,186+ meals and served an average of 9.25 households per month. In 2022 the food pantry will be open once a month.*

Grief Support Group. Mary Lou Kohli. "Our Grief and Loss Journey of Healing" group members learn from each other as they seek to find and share ways to cope with loss during their experiences with life's most difficult challenges. The Grief Support Group was active in 2021 but due to covid, did not meet in person. Personal grief support continues with prayers, phone calls, emails as well as a series of four booklets that were sent out. We continue to stay in touch. Please let Mary Lou know if anyone wants to be included or needs help in any way. Please leave a message on her home phone.

Jazzercise. Joyce Bruntz. Jazzercise, Inc. operates franchised fitness centers that offer instructor-led dance and fitness programs of aerobics and strength training. The leadership is dedicated to keeping participants healthy and moving. The group was able to meet in person during all of 2021, adhering to all COVID safety protocols for masks, social distancing, and cleaning. Currently, there are six classes that meet each week. Jazzercise participants are very respectful of the Grace building.

Operation Oreo. Jennifer Marquardt. This program assembles and ships gift boxes containing Oreo Cookies, snacks, puzzle books and toiletries to various military personnel stationed at military installations away from home. Gift boxes are sent every other month, while cards/letters are sent in the opposite months. Names are submitted by members of Grace and the community-at-large. In 2021, three military personnel were sent gift boxes and cards.

Ottawa County Seniors. *The Ottawa County Office on Aging previously provided full meals and social programs for a senior group that twice a week at Grace. The program has been adversely impacted by the covid pandemic and most recently by Grace water contamination issues. Through much of the year, the program used Grace facilities to provide "grab and go" lunches for area seniors. By the end of the year the program was moved to a facility in Genoa pending a return conditioned upon a resolution of Grace water purity issues.*

Red Cross Blood Drive. Joan Eckermann. Blood drives are held twice each year at Grace in either June or July and December. Grace members assist with the conduct of each drive. The most recent blood drive in December received blood donations from 42 persons.

GRACE ELC 2021 ACTUAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

2020 Actual Expenditures; 2021 Budget, 2021 Actual Expenditures; 2022 Approved Budget

INCOME:	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$ 151,990.62	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,231.00	\$ 145,000
Dedicated contributions (Maintenance-6%)	\$ 9,481.34	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,013.76	\$ 8,700
Contributions to Traditional Benevolences	\$ 8,667.08	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,528.61	\$ 8,200
Contributions to Dedicated Benevolences	\$ 6,533.50	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,494.50	\$ 6,400
Special/Dedicated Benevolence Giving	\$ 7,526.40	\$ 3,200	\$ 6,541.96	\$ 6,000
Unrestricted contributions (84% of Offerings)	\$ 127,672.12	\$ 126,000	\$ 126,194.04	\$ 121,800

Facility Rent & Miscellaneous Income

Facility rent-Jazzercise	\$ 3,325.00	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 3,900
Facility rent-Senior Center	\$ 3,323.70	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,709.65	\$ 2,500
Facility rent-Miscellaneous	\$ 310.00	\$ 300	\$ 368.77	\$ 400
Parsonage rent	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 10,800	\$ 10,800.00	\$ 10,800
Miscellaneous Income & Donations	\$ 1,319.93		\$ 507.97	
TOTAL: RENT & MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 11,878.63	\$ 18,200	\$ 19,061.39	\$ 17,600

EXPENDITURES OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	2020 ACTUAL	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget
Staff				
Custodian	\$ 4,238.11	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,395.06	\$ -
Office Manager/Parish Secretary	\$ 16,232.00	\$ 16,720	\$ 16,613.41	\$ 17,250
Parish Musician	\$ 13,666.00	\$ 14,075	\$ 14,075.00	\$ 14,500
Pastor Salary	\$ 6,999.62	\$ 7,842	\$ 11,997.18	\$ 10,460
Pastor Housing Allowance	\$ 20,000.04	\$ 17,800	\$ 13,644.30	\$ 15,600
Pastor Portico Benefits	\$ 12,516.62	\$ 251	\$ 607.32	\$ 650
Pastor--Retirement Contribution	\$ 2,066.00	\$ 9,547	\$ 9,551.16	\$ 9,763
Pastor-FICA Allowance	\$ 1,563.00	\$ 1,963	\$ 1,962.52	\$ 1,835
Staff--FICA Co-Pay & Payroll Taxes	\$ 263.79	\$ 300	\$ 183.72	\$ 300
Workers' Compensation	\$ 2,224.80	\$ -		
TOTAL STAFF EXPENDITURES	\$ 79,769.98	\$ 75,698	\$ 72,670.34	\$ 72,358

Administration

Advertising/Media	\$ 874.50	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,293.00	\$ 1,300
Stewardship	\$ 623.95	\$ 600	\$ 473.28	\$ 600
Copier Service & Supplies	\$ 3,009.58	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,050.30	\$ 3,300
Expense and Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 500.00	\$ 500	\$ 500.00	\$ 500
Pastor, Professional Expenses	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
Office Supplies	\$ 820.17	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,540.27	\$ 1,500
Paper	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 400
Postage	\$ 495.00	\$ 500	\$ 660.00	\$ 850
Office Computer, Hardware, Software, Website	\$ 3,618.07	\$ 800	\$ 822.64	\$ 500
Church Website	\$ 900.00	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 500
Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund Allocation	\$ 700.00	\$ 700	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 700
Contingency for Unbudgeted Expenses	\$ 1,740.00	\$ 2,000	\$ 788.84	\$ 1,000
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURES	\$ 13,281.27	\$ 12,000	\$ 13,828.33	\$ 11,650

Congregational Life

Fellowship: Events/Supplies	\$ 427.98	\$ 300	\$ 0	\$ 400
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Synod Assembly		\$	600	0	\$	500	
TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL LIFE EXPENDITURES	\$	427.98	\$	900	0	\$	900

Education

Adult Education	\$	358.60	\$	400	233.35	\$	400
Affirmation of Baptism (Catechism)	\$	65.00	\$	50	0	\$	-
Leadership Education	\$	-	\$	250	0	\$	200
P-6 Sunday School	\$	-	\$	100	0	\$	100
Vacation Bible School	\$	-	\$	100	0	\$	100
TOTAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES	\$	423.60	\$	900	233.35	\$	800

Property

Church Cleaning Supplies/Upkeep?	\$	4,516.08	\$	4,500	\$	9,745.84	\$	7,000
Utilities: Electric	\$	4,756.01	\$	7,000	\$	4,313.37	\$	5,000
Utilities: Gas	\$	6,562.64	\$	9,500	\$	8,521.63	\$	9,500
Insurance	\$	7,735.00	\$	7,200	\$	8,027.00	\$	8,100
Phone-Internet	\$	2,081.22	\$	2,100	\$	2,161.60	\$	2,100
Parsonage-Utilities	\$	442.58	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
Parsonage-Property Tax	\$	3,206.44	\$	3,500	\$	3,224.38	\$	3,500
TOTAL PROPERTY EXPENDITURES	\$	29,299.97	\$	33,800	\$	35,993.82	\$	35,200

Worship

Altar Supplies	\$	368.83	\$	500	\$	760.37	\$	500
Bulletin/Resources	\$	565.13	\$	1,000	\$	302.21	\$	900
Music	\$	137.00	\$	200	\$	142.00	\$	200
Organ/Piano Tuning	\$	-	\$	150	\$	-	\$	150
Supply Organist	\$	125.00	\$	500	\$	125.00	\$	500
Supply Pastor	\$	600.00	\$	800	\$	1,200.00	\$	2,400
TOTAL WORSHIP EXPENDITURES	\$	1,795.96	\$	3,150	\$	2,529.58	\$	4,650

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY:

	2020 ACTUAL	2021 Budget	2021 ACTUAL	2022 Budget
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED INCOME	\$ 139,550.75	\$ 144,200	\$ 145,255.43	\$ 139,400
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED EXPENSES	\$ 124,098.20	\$ 129,732	\$ 125,255.42	\$ 125,558
NET: INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$ 15,452.55	\$ 14,468	\$ 20,000.01	\$ 13,842

EXPENDITURES OF RESTRICTED FUNDS

	2020 ACTUAL	2021 Budget	2021 ACTUAL	2022 Budget
Benevolence Offerings (10% of all offerings)	\$ 15,199.06	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000.00	14,500
Benevolence Distributions				
World Hunger (21% of all benevolences)	\$ 3,191.85	\$ 3,150	\$ 3,154.78	\$ 3,050
First Fruits (26% of all benevolences)	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,800	\$ 4,486.39	\$ 3,750
NWOS/ELCA Mission Support (53%)	\$ 5,092.76	\$ 4,800	\$ 5,019.85	\$ 4,350
Directed Benevolence Disbursements (53%)	\$ 3,631.40	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,350
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ 15,116.01	\$ 14,950	\$ 16,261.02	\$ 14,500
Special Benevolence Disbursements	\$ 9,530.00	\$ 3,200	\$ 6,755.96	\$ 6,000

Maintenance Fund

Maintenance Fund Balance (1Jan)	\$	23,110.00		\$	27,048.00	\$	20,027	
Maintenance Fund Deposits (6% of offerings)	\$	9,488.08	\$	9,000	\$	9,012.76	\$	8,700
Maintenance Fund Expenditures (12 months)	\$	4,050.00	\$	12,000	\$	7,047.90	\$	10,000
Maintenance Fund Balance (end of year)	\$	27,048.00			29,012.86	\$	18,727	

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
REPORT OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND DEDICATED FUNDS
For Calendar Year 2021

Account	1-Jan-20	Inflows	Oufflows	31-Dec-20
Checking Account	\$ 34,365.20	\$ 180,949.94	\$ 159,760.49	\$ 55,554.65
ELCA Mission Investment Fund	\$ 652.56	\$ 5.84	\$ -	\$ 658.40
Parsonage Deposit	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 900.00
Dedicated Funds:				
Building Fund	\$ 693.04	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 693.04
Congregational Life	\$ 627.06	0		\$ 627.06
Directed Benevolence	\$ -	\$ 3,442.17	\$ 3,442.17	\$ -
Maintenance Fund	\$ 27,048.00	\$ 9,022.25	\$ 7,922.92	\$ 28,147.33
Memorial Fund	\$ 12,554.89	\$ 2,760.00	\$ 4,684.51	\$ 10,630.38
Mission Response	\$ 350.00	\$ 350.00	\$ 700.00	\$ -
Operation Oreo	\$ 651.89	\$ 586.89	\$ 475.25	\$ 763.53
Pastor Discretionary	\$ 2,674.30	\$ -	\$ 2,224.80	\$ 449.50
Piecemakers	\$ -	\$ 31.88	\$ -	\$ 31.88
Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,361.09		\$ 160.86	\$ 3,200.23
Sunday School	\$ 12.56	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12.56
Youth/Camp/Travel	\$ 3,988.07	\$ 271.07		\$ 4,259.14
TOTAL: ALL DEDICATED FUNDS (SAVINGS ACCOUNT)				\$ 49,714.65
TOTAL: CHECKING, MIF AND SAVINGS ACCOUNTS				\$ 105,927.70

Note: Grace ELC funds are held in 1) a checking account, 2) the ELCA Mission Investment Fund and 3) a savings account (used for dedicated funds).

