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Annual Congregational Meeting of Grace Lutheran Church
June 6, 2021
Meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM

Agenda

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IV. Closing Prayer

Annual Congregational Meeting of Grace Lutheran Church

May 19, 2019

Attendance, Call to Order, Devotions

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Tom Andersen. A quorum was established and the meeting began with prayer offered by Pastor Verkouw.

The minutes from the Congregational Meetings on May 6, 2018 and on November 18, 2018 were reviewed. Bruce Linton noted the date on the first page of the annual report is May 7, 2019. The date has been changed to May 19, 2019 on the official report. With no further comments, President Andersen called for a vote and the minutes were approved as presented.

Review of Annual Reports

Pastor Verkouw thanked the outgoing members of Council, Doug Halter, Marilyn Hoffman, and Joyce Loiseau for their three years of service and he shared pictures highlighting many of the happenings and events during the past year.

Annual Report of the Treasurer

Pastor Verkouw summarized the Balance Sheet, Heritage Fund Report and LHANDS Income Statement. Marilyn Hoffman moved that the Financial Reports be accepted, with a second by Ron Neumar. With no further questions or discussion, the reports were accepted as presented by unanimous vote.

Leadership Development Team

Chair, Wes Heidel, summarized the team's report. There is a need for Chair of the Board of Pastoral Care. Pastor Verkouw asked for any nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded by Barbara Andersen, to accept the entire slate of leaders as presented. Wes Heidel asked, how many members must be on Council? Presently, 7 to 9 members. It was noted that Tom Andersen will continue to assist with leadership of the Board of Trustees until a replacement is found. Council members to be elected are Tom Andersen (President), Meghan Kelly (Board of Worship), Brenda Hayasaka (Board of Ministries), Mary Gentzler (at large), Kim Burke (Secretary), Robert Durand (at large) and new members, Carl Hartman and Molly Rowen. Members of the Leadership Development Team are Wes Heidel (Chair), Amy Heidel, Bruce Linton, Judy Resch, and Michael Wolf. The motion passed unanimously.

Addition to Marriage Policy

President Andersen read council's recommended proposal to amend the marriage policy. In keeping with church-wide decisions in the ELCA, and Federal and Pennsylvania law, the ministry and blessing of marriage at Grace Lutheran Church may also be available to same-sex couples at the discretion of the pastor. He explained the vote will be taken on paper ballots and each comment will be limited to two minutes. Pastor Verkouw added the proposal has been under consideration since 2015 when it was tabled by council. The floor was opened to discussion.

Zay Volker asked if "at the discretion of the pastor" will have to be revisited. Yes, that will be a question for the congregation when interviewing a pastor. Carolyn Moyer asked, where is it stated in the Bible? Pastor answered it is not stated in the Bible. Tom Andersen added that many things listed as okay in the Bible are not okay, for example slavery and no women in ministry. Barbara Andersen said she has personally done a complete turn. The Bible is the word of God and continues to be interpreted. Homosexuality is not a sin but a way of being, a beautiful way God has created people. Joel D. Smith said he came here for the tradition. This is a big change and he finds it interesting that small things he has suggested have not been addressed. We need to look at other things. Angie Smith made a motion to call, seconded by Zay Volker. Pastor Nancy Weiss shared a personal story from her internship in Baltimore in the late 1980's where a pastor in a gay relationship led the most beautiful, meaningful service that she had experienced. Christ calls us to love one another and she felt God was present with that pastor. President Andersen thanked Pastor Weiss for her witness and with no further discussion, called for the vote. Paper ballots were collected in a basket and counted by Molly Rowen and Bruce Linton.

Pastor Verkouw said this is not an issue about tolerating sins, but of loving one another despite our sins. President Andersen said the Grace community feels like family and every family has arguments, but they are still family. President Andersen announced the results of the voting: 87 for, 8 against, and 1 abstention. The addition to the marriage policy passed. Jan Mandros agreed with Joel D. Smith. This is a big change and she would love to see more change. Joyce Saeger would like to see a stronger outreach, each of us paying more attention to the needs of the world.

Closing Devotions

Following closing prayers and with thanks to all in attendance, President Andersen adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Burke, Secretary

Parochial Report for 2020

Baptism	0	Baptized Membership (12/31/20)	697
Marriages	3	Confirmed Membership	650
Deaths / Funerals	13		
Removed by transfer	2	Total number of people actively participating in the life of the congregation, including children and non-members	516
Confirmations	0		
Members by affirmation of faith	0		
Members received by transfer	2	Average Worship Attendance	161

Pastor's Report

Dear Members and Friends of Grace Church,

Ministry Highlights!

Inside this issue of the Grace News you will find reports with highlights of our ministry over this past year - the most unusual year in living memory, at least for most of us! Most of you have been hearing from me on a weekly basis through email, so I don't want to try to add much more to all that. It was a strange year, full of uncertainties and things we missed from day to day, all overshadowed by the invisible and unpredictable virus and it's grim effects, both on those who caught it, and on the whole context of our culture and economy.

A Year of Grace

But it was also a year of grace in so many ways. We stayed connected, we worshipped, we served God and neighbor. That was the goal, and we received all the blessing we needed and more. We finished the renovation too! I'm willing to bet that together, and individually, many of us found ourselves growing in faith as we faced the challenges of this year.

Thanksgivings

I'm so thankful to Angie, David, Denny, Kath and Vicki; as our staff, they all stepped up to serve in new ways. I'm thankful to Tom Andersen our veteran President who, as a physician, brought his first-hand knowledge and pandemic experience into our own decision-making. Our other volunteer leaders all helped in many and various ways to keep ministries flowing and make changes as we were able. Their reports are enclosed for you to read. I'm thankful to those servants of God and our church who have been here week by week, alone or in pairs, to get things done, from counting offerings to ringing bells to painting doors to serving meals to teaching kids to live-streaming worship, to singing with masks on. Finally, I'm thankful to all of you who tuned in faithfully to video worship, who made your offerings toward our mission and our building project, who prayed for me and us and our ministry. As I have gone about my work in very different ways this year, I have felt your support and love through words and deeds. May God bless you all!

Your Pastor in Christ,



Stephen Verkouw

Council President's Report

This certainly has been a challenging year; but it has also been a year of opportunity. I never could have imagined that we would have a pandemic of this magnitude. We had to “step up to the plate” in many ways, both as individuals and as a congregation.

For me, what most exemplified our willingness to “step up to the plate” was our shift to a virtual service. Pastor Steve and our media team, along with our music director and musicians, learned how to produce wonderful YouTube videos that brought Grace Church into the homes of many people. I hope we can continue to do this in some way as we return to in-person worship.

We kept our many ministries and programs going through this pandemic year. We partnered with the School District of Lancaster to set up an education “pod” in Nolt Auditorium for children needing assistance with their virtual classes. Our class for English language learners, Grace ELL, switched to online teaching with the hope of returning to an in-person class when this is possible. The popular Neighborhood Cookout shifted to a new way of reaching out to our neighbors. Volunteers filled blue shopping bags with treats and information about Grace and delivered them to our neighbors. Some of the bags were also given to CAP families. Our Wednesday night Community Meal shifted to “take out” with the hope of returning to in-person meals when this is possible. Our R3 renewal team continued to meet online to work on Guiding Principles for our church.

While some things did change, others remained the same. The CAP daycare in our Education Building continued to provide low-cost daycare for families in need; our LHANDS housing continued to provide affordable housing to renters who now include two refugee families. And throughout this pandemic year, our Pastor and church staff worked tirelessly to communicate with us and hold us together as a church family.

I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to be your Council president. As my term as Council president comes to an end, I rejoice in the new ways we have learned to be together and reach out to others. I look forward to joining with you as a past president to meet our future with hope, prayer, and God's help.

Your brother in Christ,
Tom Andersen MD, Council President



Grace Lutheran Church Leadership Development Team

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Leadership Development Team (LDT) is responsible for identifying and preparing talented church leaders for serving on the various leadership Board positions for the Grace Church Council. The LDT is pleased to provide the following Church Council and LDT candidates to serve the congregation for 2020.

(NOTE: This report was prepared for last spring, and the LDT has not reconvened since then. Therefore, the council recommends that the terms of three members - noted in the table below - be extended through November of 2021 to allow time to recruit new volunteers for these important leadership positions).

CANDIDATE	POSITION	YEAR ELIGIBILITY ENDS
Carl Hartman	Council President	2022
Meghan Kelly	Chair, Board of Worship	Term extended through Nov. 2021
Molly Rowen	Chair, Board of Pastoral Care	2022
Brenda Hayasaka	Chair, Board of Ministries	Term extended through Nov. 2021
Open	Chair, Board of Trustees	-
Mary Genzler	At-Large Council Member	Term extended through Nov. 2021
John Grove	At-Large Council Member	2023
Pat Oberholtzer	At-Large Council Member	2023
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM		
Jay Graver		2023
Amy Heidel		2022
Lou Garcia		2023
Keith Miller		2023

The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the LDT's work in 2020. The team was in the middle of its recruitment efforts when normal activities came to a halt. With uncertainty around when a congregational meeting might occur and when the new candidates' terms might begin, the team decided to suspend its work. The recruitment efforts restarted in the Fall of 2020. The candidates' terms will begin upon approval and the Council terms of Kim Burke and Robert Durand will end. We thank Kim and Robert for continuing their service on Council past the normal mid-year end of term.

The Board of Trustees Chair position continues to be left open. The committees and groups that operate under the Board of Trustees, including Finance, Property and Stewardship, function well independently in fulfilling their important duties to care for Grace's resources. Pastor Verkouw and Tom Anderson have volunteered to assist with the leadership responsibilities of the Board of Trustees as needed.

Please continue to hold our leaders in your prayers. 2021 will present a challenge for the LDT as we seek candidates for President, two Board Chairs, one at-large Council member, and two LDT members.

I want to thank the Leadership Development Team members and Pastor Verkouw who helped to identify and recruit candidates to serve on Council. Serving on the LDT this year were Amy Heidel, Bruce Linton, Judy Resch, and Mike Wolf.

Respectfully submitted, Wes Heidel, LDT Chair

Board of Congregational Care Report April 2021

The pandemic put a damper on all church activities, including our Board of Congregational Care.

We were unable to host any coffee hours, Advent Fair, Shrove Tuesday talent show, etc. The Fall Neighborhood Cook-Out was replaced with a group of us looping blue Grace shopping bags with information about our church and it's community resources on neighborhood doors.

Probably the best thing we accomplished was keeping in touch with many of our members through phone calls, generally checking in and assessing any needs for pastoral care or otherwise. Thanks to all the volunteers who continue to make phone calls and check in on our home-bound members.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Rowen, Chair -Board of Congregational Care

Board of Ministries

Education

Small Groups

R3 encouraged us to create more small groups. We proposed three groups to the congregation. Tapestry of Pages was the group with the most interest (7 participants). This is an ongoing group that meets on Tuesday afternoons via zoom to read and discuss books related to various Social Justice topics. The group is led by Angie Rabbe. So far the group has read *The God Who Sees* by Karen Gonzalez, *I'm Still Here* by Austin Channing Brown, *Separated* by Jacob Soboroff, and *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by T.J. Klune. Our next book, *His Truth Is Marching On* John Lewis and the *Power of Hope* by John Meacham, begins on May 25th. It will be the last book until the fall when the group will hopefully meet in person. Both *The God Who Sees* and *Separated* were done in connection to discussion about both books hosted by LIRS. The other proposed groups were scrapped due to a lack of participation.

Adult Christian Ed.

- Easter 2020 Angie created a study on our website that guided us through the book of Acts.
- Summer 2020 Angie created short reflections on the shorter books of the Bible “Our Mighty Small Summer.” Reflections were printed in the Grace News (except for July) and were available on the website.
- Summer 2020—November 2020 Pastor Verkouw led a Zoom discussion on the PodCast, Scene on Radio “Seeing Whiteness”.
- Advent 20-present Pastor Verkouw guided a group of 12 participants through Listening For God volumes one and two. The group is now reading Why Bad Things Happen To Good People.
- Members of our congregation were encouraged to practice Lectio Divina, a way of reading scripture, as part of our Lenten practices. We are continuing with the practice as we read through the Gospel of John. Readings are shared weekly in the Grace News.

- During the Easter season Angie wrote a weekly reflection, Weekly Rest, on a writing or prayer of a Christian mystic. This was shared weekly in the Grace News.

Kids and Youth

- Virtual Children's Sunday school is hosted by Kathryn Verkouw and Patti Hartman from 9am-10 am each Sunday morning and is attended by 8-10 children.
- Confirmation class is hosted by Meghan Kelly and Keith Miller from 9 am-9:45 and then followed by youth class from 9:45-10:15 am.

Lent 2020 and 2021

2020

- Angie Rabbe wrote daily reflections for the Lenten season based on the daily reading of the RCL.
- Angie also created a devotional/workbook for the kids that was based on the weekly readings of the RCL.

2021

- Pastor Verkouw led us on a journey through the biblical mountains for Wednesday Vespers.
- About forty members of the congregation participated in our Lenten devotional Where Your Heart Is.
- We had a daily reading path where the readings were based off of the readings for Where Your Heart Is.
- We encouraged members to participate in the Synod's Soul Feast study.
- Kathryn Verkouw led a walking group that used Where Your Heart Is for the basis of their weekly discussion.

Summer 2021

- We hope to have a one-day VBS at camp Kirchenwald in August.
- Confirmation Camp is June 20-26
- We are encouraging members of the congregation to participate in our Summer Intergenerational Devotion - An Illustrated Compassion for Families from Illustrated Ministry. There will be a reading/prayer/question path for those who want something extra. Angie is also going to create graphics for our Facebook and Instagram accounts with daily readings/questions/prayers.

Creation Care

- We completed a project which mitigated the run-off from the new addition and the whole north roof of the church building. An average rainfall of 43" per year allows us to capture 111,800 gallons of water, returning it to the aquifer through pipes and an underground basin instead of polluting the bay through the overloaded city sewer system.
- Also, our Memorial Garden Fountain was re-worked to so that run-off from the roof of the educational building replenishes the fountain with rainwater. Due to these efforts, Grace was one of the featured properties on the Lancaster Conservancy's 2020 Water Week walk last August!
- The final touch of the renovation was the landscaping. Collaborating with the Lancaster Conservancy, we studied our gardens and decided to remove invasive plants from our landscape, replacing them with native species. We are now a certified urban wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Our plaque is proudly displayed by the gardens at the front of our church.
- This winter Grace became a member congregation of the Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake to honor, care for, and protect the Chesapeake watershed. As an ICP congregation we are called to honor our sacred bond with our Creator, serve as good stewards of the land and waters of the Chesapeake, and sustain the life and health of all creatures.
- Looking to the future we hope to improve our existing recycling programs, reduce the use of single use products such as plastic cutlery and Styrofoam dishes, investigate solar energy, and encourage our members to become involved in community organizations that are helping the planet.

Community Outreach

- Race For Refugees and Om Is Where The Heart Is Yoga Benefit- a few members from Grace participated in these global events hosted by Carry the Future, an organization that supports families in Refugee Camps. Angie Rabbe continues to volunteer with the organization. When we can safely have our in person Lenten retreat (on hold from 2020) we are planning on partnering with LIRS and CTF (which was what we had planned in 2020).
- Short term food support for families in crisis: There is a new evolving small group ministry team cooperating with the IU13 cultural navigators and Grape Leaf Empowerment Center providing emergency food supplies to new American families in crisis. This need emerged last spring and so far Grace has helped deliver 1-4 grocery deliveries to more than 10 families and it is still evolving. Barbara Andersen and I also attended a workshop sponsored by IU13 and are exploring the possibility of helping to "mentor a street" of 5 new American families. There are about 8 Grace members who have been involved in this ministry thus far.
- Community Meals: the good news/bad news is that everything is basically going well with very little change. The Lancaster County Food Hub and our volunteer workers and partner churches are invaluable! We always have a complete HOT meal each Wednesday and our dinner guests are always very grateful. We are getting free desserts and bread that I pick up in Ephrata every Tuesday night and a few Grace members have made some homemade goodies for the meal. The extra bread, bagels and goodies are also offered to daycare parents and staff. Sharing is caring! We would always welcome anyone to help prepare a meal during the year too. Hope this helps enlighten the Grace community!

- Grocery Card Ministry: Duane and Kitty Weiss have been leading this ministry since 2011. Here is the report for this past year.

First Quarter, 2020 Missionary Support (Longenecker)-\$500

Second Quarter, 2020 Missionary Support (Longenecker)-\$500

Fourth Quarter, 2020 Missionary Support (Longenecker)-\$500

First Quarter, 2021 Missionary Support (Longenecker)-\$500

- Dove Learning Pod: In mid-September we worked with Ross principle, Camille Hopkins, and identified 15 students who would benefit from having support with virtual learning. Most of these students were ELL students. We also had several children from Wharton Elementary. We hired a certified teacher to lead this project which entailed keeping track of all of the student's schedules, communicating with their teachers and keeping everybody on task. We also hired two part-time helpers who were college students who helped with the first graders. The rest of us were volunteers coming and going in a beautiful caring cooperation. Not only did we help the students on their learning journey but we also had special celebrations and feasts (organized by Stacie Main and supported by volunteers, members of Grace and people from the Lancaster community). I cannot stress enough how many connections we made through this project. In mid-January most students were called back to their home schools - it was sad to say goodbye. We currently have two students. There are about 18 days of school left and we are going strong. We are very thankful that God has given us this chance to help our community in such a vital way.

Grace Family

Book Group: The Grace Book Group meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm via Zoom. The group added 3 new people over the past year. In February we started posting our book recommendations on the church website.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Rabbe, Kathryn Verkouw, Brenda Hayasaka, chair

“R3”

In spite of the pandemic, Grace Lutheran's R3 team, (ReForm, ReNew, ReVision) has continued to meet, learn and grow towards our goal of nurturing strategic planning for renewal. Since March of last year we have traded our in-person sessions for zoom sessions - with our partner church, Zion Lutheran in Leola, and with the 20+ other congregations who are part of this process sponsored by our Lower Susquehanna Synod. We have learned much from the lead consultant, Pastor Dave Daubert of Illinois, and from the larger conversations and sharing which have been part of this two year commitment. More information is available on the R3 page of our website: www.gracelutheranchurch.com/r3-our-renewal.

Right now we are still in the process of refining our “Guiding Principles” which should serve in the coming years as our “big picture plan” which will help to guide our council, pastor and leaders in planning the nuts and bolts of our ministry. We look forward to sharing the results with you soon! Please keep this process, and our leaders and ministry, in your prayers!

Respectfully submitted, Grace Lutheran's R3 team (Tom and Barb Andersen, Kim Burke, Robert Durand, Joyce Loiseau, Keith Miller, Pastor and Kathryn Verkouw)

Grace ESL ~ Now Grace ELL (English Language Learners)

This past year has been one of change and adaptation for Grace ESL. First among the changes has been a small – but significant – change of name. We are now Grace ELL (English Language Learners). This reflects the reality that many of our students come to English class already knowing more than one language.

The second of these changes was a major one – switching to online teaching. This change was not easy to make. In March of 2020 we were in a “happy place” at James Street Mennonite Church teaching English to the adult learners; caring for their babies and toddlers onsite in a thriving nursery; and offering transportation to and from class if this help was needed. We were partnering with Redeemer Lutheran Church to provide the transportation. We were also benefitting from a second CARES grant from Penn Medicine to help fund our program. Penn Medicine had selected us to “star” in a YouTube video about our program. And all of this was taking place while construction was underway at Grace.

Then the Pandemic “hit”, and JSMC closed their facility. We were left without a place to teach and with many questions about our program and its future. After much prayer and discussion, and with the encouragement of one of our co-teachers from JSMC, we decided to make the switch to Zoom technology. We now have seven co-teachers teaching eight students from four different countries. We are continuing to reach out to more potential students through our new Grace ELL flyer.

The third change we weathered was the need to develop a curriculum compatible with Zoom technology. We now use the Future textbook series and Zoom Breakout Rooms to teach students at different levels -- all in the same class.

We have many reasons to be thankful as we enter our fourth year as an ELL program. Our co-teachers give of themselves week after week; our wonderful students remind us of how important it is to teach English to New Americans; and we have the all-important support of Grace Church to give us a strong foundation for change and growth.

Since our program began in 2018, Grace ELL has taught fifty-six students from eighteen different countries and one territory (Puerto Rico). We welcome new co-teachers to join us, either online or eventually in person. We are confident that we can continue to adapt to any changes we may face in the future; and we look forward to the journey ahead.

Barbara Andersen, Grace ELL Coordinator

Co-teachers: Lynn Allison, Barbara Andersen, Linda Fackler,
Mary Gentzler, Joyce Loiseau, Carol Main, Nan Yoder

Board of Worship

The Worship Team meets approximately four times a year in order to address topics pertinent to worship here at Grace. Many thanks to Jenny Fritsch who continues to lead this committee. During the pandemic, this group has been supplemented by a “Return to Worship” working group at the request of Council that has met approximately 2-4 times each month since June 2020 to discuss plans for what returning to worship will look like as our current public health crisis continues.

In March of 2020 our regular in-person worship service was placed on hold in response to the global pandemic. We did not anticipate at the time how long we would be finding new ways to worship, but have been blessed with creative leadership that has allowed us to continue our worship life as a congregation during these challenging times.

The first worship offering came in the form of videos by our very own Pastor Verkouw. We are incredibly blessed that Pastor was able to pivot our worship life online in this form particularly in the early days of the pandemic. Many thanks also to David and our Choir who found ways to record safely and add music to these video worship experiences for many months.

When the “Return to Worship” group began meeting in June we thought creatively about what worship at this time might look like while also showing love to our neighbor by offering only options with the lowest risk based on up to date guidance from experts in the field. Ultimately this led to the planning and organization of “Walk-through Worship” on September 27th, 2020 to celebrate the completion of our renovation, and provide an opportunity for our congregation to receive communion. Many thanks to those who helped with this effort.

As the case numbers seemed stable in the fall and there was additional guidance regarding spread of the virus, this group also helped develop a limited in-person worship experience at 8AM on Sunday mornings beginning in October and lasting through early November. This effort was discontinued when cases began to spike, and was reinstated on the Sunday after Easter.

The Return to Worship group surveyed the congregation twice during the year in order to gauge interest in various forms of worship. Thank you to those who provided feedback. This was incredibly helpful as our group debated ways in which we could worship together.

In December, we began a live-stream worship effort for Advent informed by feedback we received from some in the congregation. What began as a brief live Advent Devotional has now become the live-stream we can experience together on Sunday mornings and any time after on YouTube. Many thanks to those who help to make this worship experience possible.

On Easter Sunday, and also the first Sunday of May, we offered a walk-through communion experience which will be offered moving forward on the first Sunday of the month pending any changes to our in-person worship experience.

We are deeply grateful for those who share their musical gifts here at Grace and we especially thank Dr. David McConnell, the Grace Choir, Kath Verkouw, and the many instrumentalists for all that they do to enhance our worship throughout the year.

Liturgical decor, particularly decor for special Holy days, continues to add to our worship services in the virtual format. Many thanks to all who help prepare our spaces for worship especially Murray Forman, Jenny Fritsch, Jay and Mindi Graver, and Carl and Patti Hartman who spearhead aspects of special decor during the church year.

My thanks to those who served with me on the Return to Worship working group this year: Jenny Fritsch, Barbara Andersen, Tom Andersen, Keith Miller, David McConnell, Kathryn Verkouw and Pastor Verkouw.

Anyone interested in serving on this group or the Worship Team when we return to our regular meetings is more than welcome to join us! Please contact Jenny Fritsch to be added to our email list.

Respectfully Submitted, Meghan Kelly

Meghan Kelly
Chair - Board of Worship

Board of Trustees—Property

The following projects were completed by the Property Team:

- Sanding and re-painting of the church doors on Queen Street.
- Painting of the utility meters on Queen Street.
- Prepping and painting of the hand rails—stairs leading to the Parlor.
- Bell tower roof repairs—GSM Roofing, contractor.
- Wash lights were installed on the James Street side of the building—Criswell Electric, contractor.

During the Child Care transition from Luthercare to CAP, members of the Property Team assisted the CAP in moving furniture, and finding storage space in preparation for the new school year.

The team also helped our Grace teachers transition from the third floor educational building to the new space in the Nolt Auditorium.

Dennis Maharg has continued to maintain a regular maintenance schedule for our campus.

Respectfully submitted for the Property Team,
Vicki Mumma, Secretary

LHANDS

Our housing ministry (Lancaster Housing and Neighborhood Development Services or LHANDS) continued to thrive this year, despite a number of transitions. Here are some highlights.

Because the City's Lead Partnership decided that their efforts would be concentrated in another neighborhood, we were unable to secure a lead-affected family to move into our newly renovated lead-safe apartment, leaving that apartment vacant for the early months of 2020. But it proved to be a blessing to have a vacancy when our missionary family, the Longeneckers were sent home from West Africa for extended leave to weather the pandemic and because of election-related unrest and violence in their mission setting. They resided there from last summer until last week, when we prayed Godspeed upon them at church and wished them safe travels back to West Africa for a two-year term - our housing ministry at work!

Another tenant moved out in December, for a good reason - she bought her own home! This gave us a chance to begin a major renovation of this apartment at 22 E. James. New flooring, minor repairs, painting, and a new roof were the main elements. Our recent refugee family at Grace, Christine Mbuyu and her boys Norbert and Steering have just moved in, leaving our smallest apartment vacant on the third floor of 18 E. James where they lived for 18 months - your housing ministry at work!

Into that space moved a new neighbor, Chris, this past weekend. We met Chris through a phone call from our friends at Zion Lutheran Church in East Pete, where they found him sleeping in his car in their parking lot - a victim of difficult financial circumstances, despite his full-time job. With the support of friends at Zion and LHANDS Chris now has an affordable place of his own - your housing ministry at work!

As a non-profit organization serving low-mod. income tenants, LHANDS finances are always close to break-even status. LHANDS continues to repay its grant from Grace's reserve funds \$1,000 per month, and made an additional gift of \$2,500.

LHANDS Board members and officers are: Pat Oberholtzer, (President), Pastor Verkouw, (Vice President), Ron Allison (Treasurer). Our sincere thanks to Klaus Case our multi-talented property manager, and Marjorie Worley, who does a fantastic job as our volunteer bookkeeper!

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Verkouw



Memorials April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2021

Memorials Given

Ava Buckwalter, Barb Krimmel, Bev Wagaman, Bonnie Beecher, Brother of Lorraine Long, Carolyn Moyer, Charles Stoy, Don Harman, Dorothy Kauffman, Emma Stumpf, Georgetta Jacobs, Gloria Ashby, Jay Smoker, John & Kathryn Smaling, Judy Sweigart, L. Bicevskis, Mae Johnson Smethurst, Mary Mumma, Muriel Lepley, Myrna Pierson, Pastor Walter Carlson, Peter & Suzanne Verkouw, Robert Sherr, Ron Neumar, Sonny Gilgore, Thomas Miller, Unknown

Estates

Ruth Galebach