

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2012**

Call to Order

Devotions

Adoption of Agenda

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**Financial Reports and 2012 Budget Information are available.
Please contact the Finance Committee.**

Adjournment

Lord's Prayer

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3010 52nd Street
Des Moines, Iowa
Sunday, January 22, 2012**

2011 Congregational Council

**Term expires
February 2012**

**Mary Freimuth Helt
Jon Rissman
Joyce Lewis
Kristin Medhurst**

**Term expires
February 2013**

**Kathy Bowermaster
Julie Honsey
Gary Nehmer
MeLissa Lawson (served 2 years)**

**Term expires
February 2014**

**Carla Peterman
Rich Snyder
John Roehrick
Janet Habick**

Congregational Officers

President	Mary Freimuth Helt
Vice President	Rich Snyder
Secretary	Julie Honsey
Treasurer	Tom Selander
Financial Secretary	Lori Fry

2011 Executive Committee

**Mary Freimuth Helt
Rich Snyder
Julie Honsey
Gary Nehmer**

Pastor

Michael Jon Schmidt

Pastor Michael Schmidt joined our staff on March 1, 2011.

Interim Pastor

Pastor Timothy Johnson served Grace in 2011 until February 6.

2011 Grace Staff Members

Stephanie Johnson, Director of Laity Ministries

Heather Nelson, Grace Kids Care Director

Jacquelyn Holmes, Office Administrator

Lori Fry, Publications Editor, served on the staff in 2011 until August. She left to become a fulltime college student.

Michelle Voelker, Office Assistant, joined our staff on August 9 and produces our weekly worship bulletins.

Diana Johnson, Receptionist

Luis Reaza, Contracted custodial and grounds work

Membership Statistics

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership end of 2010 as reported in the Congregational Report to the ELCA	711	602
Members removed during 2011		
by death	14	14
by transfer to other congregations	7	4
Members received during 2011		
by baptism	6	
by transfer from other congregations or affirmation of faith	13	13
Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2011		5
Membership end of 2011	709	602

Statistical Report

Worship Services Conducted	113
Weddings held at Grace	7
Baptisms – Members (Youth)	6
Baptisms – Non-members	4
Member Funerals	10
Average Sunday worship attendance 2000	364
Average Sunday worship attendance 2001	386
Average Sunday worship attendance 2002	416
Average Sunday worship attendance 2003	385
Average Sunday worship attendance 2004	368
Average Sunday worship attendance 2005	333
Average Sunday worship attendance 2006	324
Average Sunday worship attendance 2007	294
Average Sunday worship attendance 2008	293
Average Sunday worship attendance 2009	259
Average Sunday worship attendance 2010	228
Average Sunday worship attendance 2011	229

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jan	344	361	408	404	373	355	341	291	305	250	256	245
Feb	347	368	392	359	354	305	307	242	314	281	252	212
Mar	363	385	493	377	388	402	299	315	389	280	263	259
Apr	398	427	433	507	470	326	399	379	324	342	300	347
May	375	370	415	363	385	334	336	306	270	250	236	216
Jun	313	376	414	353	340	295	312	299	251	218	187	195
July	309	315	360	349	293	296	277	272	242	192	169	199
Aug	326	355	385	332	313	297	277	252	260	245	155	196
Sept	393	434	457	397	376	333	292	298	263	245	219	206
Oct	415	444	404	428	439	398	341	299	321	266	247	225
Nov	375	397	422	382	360	326	309	307	302	291	235	237
Dec	410	397	412	380	319	319	394	265	269	238	206	210

In Memorandum

**We remember with love and respect the following loved ones
who from their labors rest.**

Listed are their names and the date of death.

Teresa Petty	December 25, 2010
Velva Malmin	January 25
Dorothy Hiney	January 28
Verona Fenimore	February 9
LaCorda Kueck	March 31
Kurt Dinnauer	April 4
Dwane Richards	April 6
Louise Bergman	May 12
Dorothy Williamson	June 4
Duane Bass	July 18
Arlene Cunningham	August 5
Pauline Olson	August 18
Sharon Sindergard	September 14
Fern Varme	September 30
Dorothy Iverson	December 30



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Grace Lutheran Church
January 30, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Mary Freimuth Helt, President of the Congregation.

Devotions were given by Pastor Johnson on the theme of living among the believers with scripture readings from Acts.

The agenda was adopted with 2 additions, one being the congregational vote to accept the Council's recommendation to call Pastor Mike Schmidt as pastor of Grace.

The minutes from the 2010 Congregational Meeting, as well as minutes from 2 special congregational meetings, were approved as printed and presented in the annual meeting packet.

The proposed By-Law changes printed in the annual meeting packet and presented at previous congregational meetings were adopted as printed.

Mary Freimuth Helt, President of the Congregation, read her report to the Congregation. It was printed in the annual meeting packet along with the staff reports. All reports were accepted by the Congregation.

Four Council seats were vacated in 2011. Council members Deanna Weber, Carla Peterman and Rich Snyder's terms expired in 2011 with the fourth vacated seat being due to the membership transfer of Dan Warren in the fall of 2010. Carla Peterman and Rich Snyder agreed to serve another term while the Congregation approved the appointment of new Council members Janet Habick and John Roehrick to fill the remaining 2 vacancies and fill the Council positions as stated in the By-Laws and Constitution. The Council consists of 12 members.

Gail Peterson and Jeff Farrell retired from the Endowment Committee. The appointments of Marv Johns and Valerie Culp were approved by the Congregation to fill the Endowment Committee positions as stated in the By-Laws and Constitution.

The printed reports submitted by church committees and groups presented in the annual meeting packet were accepted by the Congregation.

Kevin Krause, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the Report of the Finance Committee highlighting the new report format which is easier to read, more condensed than the previous format and presented by multi-years for comparison purposes. The budget for 2011 was approved by the Congregation.

Jeff Farrell, Chair of the Call Committee presented Pastor Mike Schmidt to the Congregation as well as the Call Committee Report and the recommendation from the Council to extend a call to Pastor Schmidt. Call Committee members Kelley Bowermaster, Jonathon Fry, Jay Wangerin, Norm Iverson, and Joanne Johnson gave their impressions of Pastor Schmidt. The Congregation approved to extend the call.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by
Julie Honsey, Council Secretary

Council President's Report January 2012

Dear Members of the Congregation of Grace Lutheran Church,
I want to extend a sincere thank you to all who have participated in making this a good year. What an amazing church family we have at Grace! Please take time to let all groups and individuals know how much they are appreciated. A special thank you to our hardworking Call Committees.

The Congregation Council worked as a thoughtful group, making decisions together and following through. I was thinking last year about what might make a smoother transition for our new pastor. The staff and I brainstormed and I decided to move Jackie into an office to give a private place to answer questions and do the many things she does. We found color swatches, consulted Willing Workers, bought paint, selected seat covers, and then, Willing Workers put up letter boxes, cut a slot for congregational mail, and put windows in doors and walls to make rooms safer and more up to date. Work was also done in the daycare. Pastor Mike arrived to find a more pleasant, updated general office, and an office painted with colors he had chosen. Please thank the Willing Workers for their hard work.

Recently four cameras were installed with a monitor and recording device located in Jackie's office. The Property Committee carefully evaluated options and found this sensible and friendly solution. The Property Committee has been amazing all year long!

Council has identified projects and issues that need to be addressed, and the following are currently in progress:

- Creating an Organizational flow chart; responsibilities of committees.
- Coordinating Constitution and Bylaws with ReVisioning, tradition, and practice.
- Identifying specific functions for the Lay Ministry Team.
- Discussing positions of youth director, visitation assistance.
- Exploring safety issues.
- Defining the Council as a visioning body as opposed to a micro-manager.
- Keeping young people involved after confirmation.
- Invigorating our congregation and satisfying needs of our community.
- Defining the relationship between daycare and church.
- Having book studies to improve Council relationships and decisions.

Differences in opinions on actions the Council has taken will exist between committed and thoughtful members of Grace. The Council meetings are open, and those with differing opinions may request time to address the Council. An alternative would be to visit with individual Council members. Please be aware that if you wish an item be brought before the Council on your behalf, your name will be attached to that item.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Freimuth Helt

Pastor's Report 2011

"The church is the church only when it exists for others."
Rev. Dr. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"I must tell you, as a Christian, I do not believe in death without resurrection."
Arch-Bishop, Oscar Romero

"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Three years ago on Martin Luther King Jr. Day I sat in my office at Our Savior's/ Nuestro Salvador Lutheran Church, beginning to come to grips with the initial vote to close the church. That vote took place at our Annual Meeting the day before. I spent the day doing a lot of reading. These texts included the above quotes from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Archbishop Oscar Romero and the Rev. Dr. Dietrich Bonhoeffer. These prophets and martyrs in the faith remained hopeful in the darkest of circumstances, and became beacons for those around them. One theme that appears in each of their writings is that of interconnectedness with saints of all times and places. This theme gave me hope as I looked at the challenges that 2009 would bring. It was not, nor was it ever, about me or the ministry of Our Savior's/ Nuestro Salvador. Even with 113 years of history, we were not even a complete motive in the great counterpoint of creation. The work goes on, here and around the world.

As I began my work as your Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, I heard a number of people voice that Grace is a "dying congregation." When people would say this, I often felt like responding, "I know what a dying congregation looks like, and you are no dying congregation!!" Sure, the numbers are not where they once were. We could choose to focus on that fact. A better option: notice the abundance of gifts we have. We are blessed. We are very blessed. As Bishop Mark Hanson has stated, "I am tired of defining this church based on our deficiencies when the Holy Spirit keeps giving us gifts."

During the past year we have seen new members join and continue to have people in new member classes. We have displayed the many ways "We See God" at work in the world. We have witnessed a Vacation Bible School program that was full with a waiting list. If that didn't cause you to pause, try again, there were children waiting in the hopes of being part of Vacation Bible School!! We have maintained strong attendance in worship. We continue to see the work of strong lay leadership at Grace.

I cannot begin to tell you how happy I am to be here at Grace Lutheran Church. We are a strong and dedicated community of faith, centered in Word and Sacrament, and sent out in service in the world around us. At times it is difficult for me to contain my joy as we gather in worship. Yes, I smile a lot, but how could I not? It is truly a joy to witness the Holy Spirit at work in this place. Thanks be to God!

We ARE NOT a dying congregation. We are very much alive and I cannot wait to see what the next chapters have in store for all of us here at Grace Lutheran Church. We have walked together for nearly a year now, yet it feels like we are only just getting started. My hope for the coming year is that we stop living in fear, and instead stand strong in the truth that we are abundantly blessed. I love it here! And if you're honest with yourself, you probably do too.

I give thanks for all of you and our service together in God's ministry here at Grace Lutheran Church. God's Work. Our Hands.

Peace,
Pastor Mike Schmidt

2011 Annual Report Director of Laity Ministries

Lay Ministry abounds at Grace Lutheran Church! 2011 was no exception to that. Many thanks go out to all who have been engaged in ministry both within and outside of these walls, whether specific to the church or in daily vocations. God's gifts are diversely given here, and they are used in many and passionate ways. Here's a look backward at some highlights of the journey of 2011:

- **Youth service and annual meeting luncheon**, both planned and led by youth and their parents
- **Sunday School mural project** begun in the hallways in 2010 and carried into all the classrooms in 2011 with funding available through Endowment grants
- **LWR packing event** for all ages
- **Faith garden dedication** and many committed hours by our members
- **Fellowship events** that included Think Summer, a Halloween party, and a congregational meal after the children's Christmas program
- **Educational activities and events** that included CTIM (annual day of synod sponsored workshops in Iowa City), God and Family scout badge classes for members and non-members alike in grades 4-5, a new class of First Communion students, a series of parent/child bible classes, and ongoing confirmation, Sunday School, and adult forum classes
- **Lutheran Lakeside Camp Day** that featured an adult forum presentation by camp staff and activities for our youth
- **Family game night**
- **Music and fellowship with John Ylvisaker**, songwriter
- **Grace Kids Care** events that included the spring show, graduation, and a Christmas program
- **High school senior recognition day**
- **College care packages** that were sent to our members in college
- **The hosting of 3 traveling overnight youth groups**
- **Cross generational quilting days**
- **Annual spring garage and plant sale** run by youth and parents as a National Youth Gathering fundraiser event
- **A "Where do you see God?" project** that invited a wide variety of reflections and responses
- **Visitation of homebound members** by those who delivered Easter lilies and poinsettias
- **Vacation Bible School** with 58 elementary aged children, almost 30 preschoolers, 14 youth volunteers, and an almost countless number of adults who donated materials and time
- **Conversations about hunger**, including an expanding food rescue effort in Des Moines, and other ways to take a stand against hunger and poverty
- **Daily Advent devotions**

The Lay Ministry Team has gone through some changes this year in terms of identity and team membership. While the mission of the team remains one of inviting, equipping, and encouraging the people of Grace in ministry, the group will begin to work more closely with Council in terms of helping Grace's members live out the vision of Council. For example, recent conversations led to a desire to help the members of Grace get to know each other better, and so the Lay Ministry Team has brainstormed a photo wall project that will be rolled out in the first half of 2012. We look forward to everyone's involvement. Other things for which the Lay Ministry Team provided leadership have been the Esperanza Café refurbishment for the purpose of making the space more user friendly and inviting (with the guidance of Mindy Scholten and Jane Ridnour) and several Sunday morning or summer Saturday evening Bible studies on 1 Corinthians, Genesis, and Luke.

2011 Lay Ministry Team members included Tammy Denton, Julie Honsey, Matt Jordahl, Brad Lint, Kristin Medhurst, Carla Peterman, and Angela Weaver. Thanks to them for their service! As the year unfolded, some members went off the team others joined us. Current members include Matt Jordahl, Carla Peterman, Rich Snyder, Michelle Voelker, and Angela Weaver.

2012 lies open before us. Where will the Spirit lead?

Blessings,
Stephanie Johnson

Grace Kids Care Year End Report

Heather Nelson

As we close out 2011, I feel blessed to be employed here at Grace Lutheran Church and to be the Director of Grace Kids Care. It has been another busy and eventful year here at Grace Kids!

Staff

I have been the Director here since the beginning of Grace Kids Care in 2002. Jolene Barker has been employed with us since 2003 and is the Assistant Director.

We employ 8 Full-Time, 6 Part-Time and 4 Part-Time High School students from Urbandale and Hoover.

We also have our faithful college students from ISU that help us out over vacations and breaks.

Each staff member is well qualified and trained to provide the best possible care for each child enrolled in our center and I am happy to report the positive feedback we receive from our daycare parents.

We have an excellent teaching staff and are very positive this will continue to be an inspiring year.

Children

Currently we have 51 children enrolled, we are busy and love it!

We have 5 classroom now, the Infant room, the Tiny Tots (1year olds), The Explorers (2 year olds), The Discovery Class (3 year olds) and the Preschool group (4 & 5 year olds) Each class enjoys the fun learning activities the teachers provide. They grow so fast and it is our privilege to team up with the parents to encourage their development.

News from 2011

We opened a new room for 3 year olds and it is full!

We raised rates in September.

We are in excellent standing with Department of Human Services.

We have 2 teachers who renewed their Child Development Certificates.

We split out the playground for the safety of the smaller children.

We sent 12 children off to Kindergarten and have heard many of them are exceeding expectations in class.

We hit record enrollment of 51 and still have a waiting list out till fall 2012.

Heather enjoyed giving a presentation about the daycare to Lydia Circle.

We appreciated all of the volunteers and donations throughout the year.

This year we will celebrate our 10-year Anniversary!



**Great things are happening here at Grace Kids!
We appreciate your continuous support and prayers, as
this IS a wonderful mission of Grace!**

Grace Kids Care Center * 3010 52nd St Des Moines, IA 50310 * 276-0943*
Heather Nelson, Director heathernelsondc@msn.com

Election of Council Members

The following people are running for three year terms on the Grace Lutheran Church Council to fill vacancies left by Jon Rissman and Joyce Lewis.

Ardis Schmelzer

My name is Ardis Schmelzer and I would like to become a Grace church council member. I was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church almost 60 years ago and joined the Grace community a year ago. I am active in Martha Circle and Tuesday morning bible class. Additionally, I volunteer as a communion assistant, with vacation bible school, and am working with the Food Rescue Planning Team from Grace, which is assisting in the effort to reduce childhood hunger in the Des Moines area by 2015. I have two children, Mark and Amy, and two grandchildren, Mark's children, John and Laura. I am presently enjoying retirement after a 25-year career in retail and an 11 -year "second career" with Citibank, which took me all over the western Pacific, Southeast Asia and Australia. I enjoy sports, football being the favorite, basketball and baseball both close seconds. Scrap booking, traveling and spending time with family and friends are very important to me.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ardis Schmelzer

Jay Wangerin

My wife and I have been members of Grace for 28 years. In the past I've served on the Church Council, been on the Stewardship Committee, Property Committee, Social Ministries Committee, Companion Congregation Committee, plus been on a Call Committee. Currently I'm on the Stewardship, Property and Personnel Committees, really enjoy Willing Workers on Wednesday mornings and Ushering. I work part-time as a pharmacist, after running my own pharmacy for forty years.

The following person is running for a one year term on the Grace Lutheran Church Council replacing MeLissa Lawson who served two years.

Jim Merkwan

My name is Jim Merkwan and I am running for Church Council. My wife Sherry and I have three children. Jacob is five years old. Sarah is two years old and Grace is five months old. Our children attend Grace Kids Care here at church. I have taught Sunday school and Vacation Bible School for the last two years. I am an elementary special education teacher at Smouse Opportunity School in Des Moines. We have been members of Grace Lutheran since 2006.

The following people are running for second three year terms on Grace Lutheran Church Council.

Mary Freimuth Helt

I came to Grace a little over thirty years ago looking for a church family in which to raise my children. I participated in children's programming for many years. When they grew up, it seemed time to try new things. I have been involved in Companion Church Committee and have made three trips to meet with our friends there, sing in the church choir, and am ending a three year term on the Congregation Council. I retired from elementary teaching and counseling in 2010. My three daughters are grown and the oldest has seven year old triplet daughters who are a great joy.

Kristin Medhurst

My family includes my husband, Nick, son, Kyler and daughter Kayleigh. Besides following my children's activities, I enjoy camping, reading, baking, cooking, and gardening. I also volunteer at my kid's elementary school, and am a co-leader for Kayleigh's Brownie troop. I do not currently work outside the home, but if I went back to work, I would work in the education field, basically in the area of measuring children's academic achievement (i.e., testing) or evaluating educational programs. I have been a member of Grace Lutheran since 2005. I'm involved with numerous activities at church including Hannah Circle, Vacation Bible School, Youth Education Team and most recently the Lay Ministry Team. This would be a second term for me, as I have just finished my first three-year term on Council.

Election of Endowment Fund Committee Member

The following person is running for a second three-year term on the Endowment Fund Committee.

Kevin Krause

Kevin has been a member of Grace since 1967. He currently serves on the Finance, Stewardship and Endowment committees. He is active with Men in Mission, ushers and Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Kevin is a CPA, MBA and work experience includes an Audit Senior Manager with Ernst & Young and International Finance Director with Principal Financial Group. He currently is a Partner/CFO of a commercial real estate company.

Altar Guild
Year End Report
January 1, 2010– December 31, 2011

The Altar Guild is comprised of members of Grace who prepare the altar and apse of the church for worship services. On Saturday mornings, we prepare for Sunday worship and on Sundays, we assist with communion and clean up. The Altar Guild is also responsible for the set up for the summer Saturday services. We also help prepare for special events such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, baptisms, and funerals.

Altar Guild is responsible for the care and maintenance of the paraments, linens, banners, candelabras, and candlesticks. The eternal lights are provided through a memorial donation from the family of Philip Graham. Altar flowers are funded by members of the congregation. The following items are purchased throughout the year:

- Bread (made by Piltingsrud/Nelson family), wine, grape juice, wafers
- communion cups
- candle oil
- baptismal candles
- cleaning supplies

The Valley Junction Embroiders Guild makes the baptismal napkins that are given to those baptized at Grace.

One of the goals of the Altar Guild over the past two years has been to replace existing banners. In 2011 we were able to purchase a new Lenten banner with Memorial monies given in remembrance of Dorothy Hiney.

We want to thank Becky Selander for the new banner to be used during the season of Pentecost.

We want to thank the following 2011 Altar Guild volunteers for their dedicated service; Marilyn Allie, Sue Anderson, Tammy Denton, Connie Heuton, Kara Jordahl, Alice Kulzer, Mary McCann, Cindy Peeler, Jane Ridnour, Helen Ringgenberg, Mindy Scholten, Becky Selander, Rita Stackhouse, Michelle Voelker, Carol Woodruff and Barb Zimany.

Report respectfully submitted,
Gail Peterson & Diane Jessen
Co-Directors of Grace Lutheran Church Altar Guild

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Columbarium Fund
As of January 10, 2012**

The Columbarium Committee met in March and discussed what we needed to prepare for the 2011 year. Members that have purchased niches – McIntyre, Tussing, Frost, Krauss, Rehder, Iverson, Buihner, Page, and Batten.
No niches were purchased in 2011.

The Columbarium Committee members are Alice Nelson, Barb Tussing, Jerry Westercamp, John Roehrick, and Bill Jensen.

**Cradle Roll Report
2011**

The Cradle Roll is a program through the Grace Education Program that ministers to parents with children between the ages of birth through age three. The materials currently being used are "Splash!" from Augsburg Fortress press.

The materials include twelve "Parent Pages" one for each month of the year and a CD for each year.

There are currently ten children enrolled in the Grace Cradle Roll.

At the time of baptism the parents are presented with "The Beginner's Bible" for their child. A dove with the child's name and baptism date is added to the Baptismal Roll in the sanctuary. The dove is sent to the parents just prior to the 1st anniversary of the baptism. The bibles were purchased with funds received from the Grace Endowment Committee in 2006. Len Ringgenberg makes the doves which are donated by Len and Helen. The name plates are purchased with funds from the Kevin Nehmer Memorial.

Prior to the Sunday school year for which the child is eligible, the parents are sent an invitation for their child to enroll in the three-year old Sunday School class.

Seven children were baptized during 2011; three of these children are currently on the Cradle Roll list. The other children are grandchildren of Grace members.

In addition to the purchase of the Splash materials, other purchases include mailing materials, postage and supplemental materials sent at Christmas, Easter and third birthdays.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Peterson
Cradle Roll Coordinator

Companion Congregation Committee Report For 2011

Bwana asifiew ! God is good !

Members of the congregation participating on the committee are:

Jane Ridnour, Chairman	Diane Hawn
Mary Freimuth Helt, Secretary	Pat Rehder
Karen Taylor, Treasurer	Denny Rehder
Beth Flannery	Kelly Bowermaster

THE COVENANT: In order to give shape and direction of our journey as partners in the mission of God as revealed in Jesus Christ, we accept the following covenantal agreements:

1. We agree to learn more about the congregation, city, state, and county in which our partner congregation lives and serves.
2. We will help each other in this endeavor by exchanging information and suggestions for learning through letters, newspaper clippings, photographs, internet, or any other means available.
3. Individual-to-individual relationships must be the foundation of our mutual learning. We will explore every possibility to foster such relationships, for example: visits between pastors, church leaders, church councils and committees, men's and women's groups, or young people.
4. We agree to pray for each other at every opportunity, especially as a part of our regularly scheduled worship services.
5. In addition to informing each other of projects currently underway and/or envisioned, we agree to invite mutual participation in our mission.
6. We agree to exchange visits by members of our congregations as frequently as possible.

The committee has been very active. May 3, 2011, Jane, Mary, Diane, and Karen left Des Moines for Msindo. We had a variety of meetings, Heifer Tanzania in Moshi, Tumaini Chambua at the Lutheran Diocese in Same, Dairy Committee in Msindo, and the Msindo Committee. All these meetings were in the first two days.

With the Msindo Committee we reviewed all past projects:

Mill	2003
Raincoats	2003
Scholarship Fund For Primary Students	2003
Schools	Schools and Teachers provided by TZ Government
Heifer Tanzania	2007
Continuing Education For Farmers	2007
Pastor's House	2007
Mararo Church	2007
Sunday school Tools	Picture Bibles, Drawing Books And Paper, Pencils And Crayons, and Balls of all Kinds
Coffee Project	Local Project not connected directly to Msindo Lutheran Parish
Clinic/Health Care	Run by the TZ Government; Local Msindo Clinic needs improvement
Sewing Machines	Msindo Lutheran Parish Committee showed no continuing interest
Water Project	Water to communities is controlled by the TZ Government and various Non-Profit Organizations are working with the TZ Government
Library	At one time the Pastor (now gone) had an interest

During this trip, the following gifts were given to Msindo:

472 Rain Ponchos, 1600 Crayola Crayons M(16 Colors), 20 Manual Pencil Sharpeners with 4 Screwdrivers to fasten sharpeners to desktop, 1008 Wood Pencils, 462 Crayola Colored Pencils(14 Colors), 12 Scissors, Click Ink Pens, Soccer Balls, Frisbees, and Other Balls – distributed among the schools and Sunday schools.

Array of Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Dental Floss given to the Health Clinic

T-shirts

Avon Products

16 Picture Bibles @ \$11.96 each divided between Msindo and Mararo Parishes

15 Educational Books for New Farmers added since 2007

Vaccine for cattle to prevent East Coast Fever

Mineral Blocks for cattle's nourishment to be given to farmers @ Educational Class
\$500 for Pastor's House (December 2011 we were advised that the Pastor's House is complete.)
\$1,000 Scholarship Fund – The cost for a child to attend school is about \$35. This includes a white shirt or blouse, a sweater, khaki pants or skirt, shoes, notebook and pencil. (It is the desire of the Grace committee to create a free-standing Scholarship Fund for the future.)

One major concern is better communication. Although electricity is coming to the village, it is a slow process. Currently, they have the poles with line wires, but no transformer. Who knows when this will occur? They do not have computers; postage is \$.98 (as of Jan. 1, 2012 \$1.05) from the USA and \$.80 from TZ; most people have cell phones which are recharged at a solar charging station. Mary has talked with Azza Mmbaga, Chairperson of Companion Committee, and Pastor Kinkoro, by cell phone. Cards and letters have also be exchanged, including Christmas and New Year greetings.

NEW PROJECTS PROPOSED by Dr. Fanuel Myusa of the Msinda Lutheran Parish:

WORKSHOP - Objective Put People to Work

Cost \$6,000 USD

Make chairs, windows, tables, school desks; Carpentry Workshop

Need: Building and Materials for woodworking, manual and electrical tools

CHICKEN PROJECT - Objective Promote Income to Parish

Cost \$3,000 USD

Promote health by eating eggs and meat and promote income to the Msindo/Mararo Parishes

Sunday offering should be TZS 100,000 per month;

Manure can be used for crops, gardens, and biogas

Need: 250 Chickens @ \$2 each (6 months old); building and nests

DAIRY PROJECT -Objective Milk for community use

Cost \$6,000 USD

Projects to be considered in the future by our Committee in addition to the above:

Provide Funds to Msindo for Pastor Kinkoro, new pastor, Azza and Namkunda Mmbaga (Approx \$10,000) to come to US

Motor Bike for Para vet, Helda Msuya, to better manage the health of our cows (Approx \$2,000)

Encourage Picture Bible Project within our Sunday school to encourage participation within the Msindo Lutheran Parish.

Scholarship Funds

When electricity is available in the village, electricity will need to attach to the church and the mill (approx 20 meters)

The mill will need a new electric motor (Approx \$1,500)

A diesel motor in the event electricity is interrupted (Approx \$600)

Replacement of Entire Milling Machine (Approx \$5,000)

Copy Machine for Msindo

Computer for Msindo

Pay expenses for a Committee Member to attend Global Mission in Milwaukee

School Desks

School Text Books

Chalkboards

Alcoholic Anonymous Program

Birth Control

Binta Mama Program

Msindo Hall Renovation

The list is never ending. However, prayer and much thought go into our gifting to Msindo.

Diane Hawn, Mary Helt, Jane Ridhour, Karen Taylor

Report of the Endowment Committee

The purpose of the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is to promote faithful Christian stewardship by providing a congregational plan to receive grants, gifts or bequest of money to be used to enhance the total program and mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church beyond that supported through regular giving and apart from the general operation of the congregation. The Endowment Fund Committee acts as custodian of the Fund.

The Endowment Committee approved the following distributions of 2010 income, which was distributed in March of 2011:

Awards to Grace Lutheran Church:

- \$2,975 for new tables, chairs and painting of the meeting room near the Chapel
- \$400 for support of the Youth vegetable garden
- \$600 for a fireproof filing cabinet for the office
- \$1,662 for new energy efficient lighting in the gymnasium
- \$1,782 for Sanctuary lighting near the altar
- \$1,550 for mural painting in the Sunday School rooms and hallway leading to Esperanza Cafe

Other Awards:

- \$1,757 to Lutheran Lakeside Camp for mattress replacement
- \$2,000 to Lutheran Lakeside Camp for window/door replacement in the Nurse's cabin
- \$1,200 to Mosaic for a washer and dryer for a group home
- \$1,500 to Bread of Life Church for a stove to support their Crumb Snatchers program

A total of \$15,427 was awarded. Requests for grants totaled \$45,700.

Since inception, the Endowment fund has awarded a total of \$230,223 to 108 projects.

Your Endowment Committee,

Valerie Culp (Chairman), Kevin Krause (Financial Secretary), Karen Taylor (Secretary), Pat Rehder and Marvin Johns

Grace Women of the ELCA 2011 Annual Report

Grace Women is an organization of women within Grace Lutheran Church. We are affiliates of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Women of the Southeast Synod. Our purpose is to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and finally promote healing and wholeness in church, society and world.

One of the ways we achieve our purpose is the organization of "circles". Our circles meet monthly for devotions, fellowship and service. Each circle elects a leader or co-leaders and a secretary/treasurer. At the present, we have 3 circles: Hannah Circle, meeting in the evening at different locations throughout the year; Lydia Circle meeting in the evening for a light supper, March through November; and Martha Circle meeting in the morning with a light brunch, September through May. Each circle plans the devotions, program and refreshments. Also, offerings are collected, with one half going to the Women of ELCA and the other half to the Grace Women's Board.

The WELCA women of Grace Lutheran Church have been active this past year. We changed our board meeting time to the 1st Sunday of the month between services. This would accommodate more new members to join us.

As a board, we are made up of members from the circles, the Lutheran World Relief Chair, and the Lutheran Park Liaison. We engage in activities that promote healing and wholeness in the church. We give monetarily to several organizations affiliated with the ELCA, such as Women of the S.E. Iowa Synod, Church Women United, Lutheran Lakeside Camp, DMARC Food Pantry, Lutheran Services of Iowa, and Luther Park.

Besides monetary gifts, various women give time and talent to several special events. The circles prepare meals for Maundy Thursday service, Ascension Day service, and for the soon to be confirmed students and families. Ascension Day also allows us to bring in Cluster 10 and surrounding churches to an ecumenical event.

Grace Women served seven funeral luncheons, Super Wednesday meals, and Lenten soup supper. Grace Women prepared Christmas gifts for our shut-in members. 24 gifts were delivered or mailed by volunteers.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and support the ELCA, Grace Lutheran Church and each other.

In Jesus' Name,
Valerie A. Culp, President

2011 Library Committee Report

During the year the library provided resources for continuing adult Christian learning and exploration. Our fiction section as well as nonfiction continue to grow through the addition of books selected according to our mission.

The children's collection is well used by families as well as our staff and teachers. We have added new books and DVDs to enhance what we have and will continue to add materials according to our mission. The reading program for preschool age and elementary age Sunday school children resumed last October and will continue through April. Once a month, children 3 years old through 5th grade come to the library. One of the library committee members reads a story that coincides with the teaching or gospel for the day. The library is also used weekly for story hours for Day Care children. A library committee member reads to the 4 year olds in the library and visits the 3 year olds in their classroom. All the children seem to love the stories.

New books and materials were also added to the adult collection which includes books, magazines, and DVD's.

The library is open and available for use whenever the church is open.

The library committee consists of the following members: Bev Anderson, Inga Hoifeldt, Joy Averill, and Marion Nehmer.

Respectfully submitted by Marion Nehmer, Co-Chair

Lutheran World Relief Committee Summary for 2011

100 Quilts, 125 School Kits, 149 Health Kits, 51 Layettees, 25 Sewing Kits, 1 box of cotton fabric and 6 pounds of soap were sent to the LWR warehouse in Minneapolis, MN in 2011. \$80 for shipping was included.

The LWR Committee work was transferred from Grace Women this year, and now functions as a subgroup under the Social Ministry Committee. Income and expenses are now managed through the Church accounts. The LWR Committee welcomes anyone who would like to participate.

Cathy Barks, Chair

Memorial Fund Committee Report 2011

All memorial money donated to Grace Lutheran Church is deposited in a special reserve account with memorials for each individual tracked separately. Purchases from the funds are made according to the needs of the congregation and the wishes of the family.

Over the years many beautiful and useful items have been purchased with memorial donations as well as contributions made to various worthy projects. A listing of those memorials is recorded in the Memorial Book located in the Gathering Hall.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED JANUARY 1- DECEMBER 31, 2011

IN MEMORY OF:

Duane Bass
Louise Bergman
Arlene Cunningham
Verona Fenimore
Dorothy Hiney
LaCorda Kueck
Velva Darlene Malmin
Pauline Olson
Dwane Richards
Sharon Sindergard
Fern Varme
Dorothy Williamson

MEMORIALS FUNDED JANUARY 1- DECEMBER 31, 2011

Aerial Work Platform
Altar Guild Banners
Baptismal Plaques
Grace Endowment Fund
Grace Scholarship Fund

*Memorial Fund Committee - Frances Best, Jerry Dockum, Helen Richards, Barbara Tussing,
Lorna Johns, Chair*

Property Committee Report 2011

The Grace Lutheran Church Property Committee had busy year for maintenance and improvements around the church.

Maintenance and improvements include:

Church

- Office updates – painting, furniture changes, and office for Jackie.
- Carpeting cleaning in Grace Hall and hallways.
- Concrete replacement in the parking lot entry and exit.
- Parking lot repairs.
- Air handling equipment repairs.
- Installation of security cameras in the church entryways.
- Ongoing miscellaneous repairs throughout the church.
- New gym lights – funded through endowment.
- New cove lighting in sanctuary – funded through endowment.
- Purchase of man lift for the church to help with repairs and light bulb replacement in high places – funded through endowment and memorial funds.

Custodian House

- Replaced the drywall in the back entryway.
- Miscellaneous household repairs.
- Replaced the entry door to the garage.

The Willing Workers group continues to meet on Wednesday mornings to work on various projects, complete routine maintenance, and make minor repairs throughout the church as needed. This group of dedicated individuals completes a large number of the small project and repairs every year and we would like to say Thank You to this volunteer group for all they do.

The committee is starting out 2012 working on determining future projects and repairs that need to be completed. The group is continually looking at the facilities and grounds to determine the best use of our available funds.

We recognize and appreciate the work of Luis Reaza for keeping the building and grounds well cared for to accommodate the many activities that take place within the church every week. We would also like to thank the members of the Property Committee, and the other individuals who contribute their time and talents to the projects and upkeep of the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Denton, Chair
Brian Barks
Roy Mann

Norm Iverson
Mike Peterman
Eric Weber

Barb Tussing
Jay Wangerin
Jon Rissman

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee is responsible for promoting Lutheran Education for our Grace college students by offering \$500 annual scholarships for Grace members attending Lutheran colleges and universities. Often the schools will provide matching funds to these scholarships, so this is a wonderful way to assist in our college aged members and grow our ministry here at Grace. The committee is made up of Art Berven, Mary Freimuth Helt, Gary Nehmer and Pastor Schmidt.

We were saddened at the loss of Chairperson Dorothy Williamson in 2011. Dorothy's commitment to the program and tireless work and leadership on the committee will be missed. 2012 will bring changes to the committee and program as we replace Dorothy's expertise.

In 2011 we provided scholarships to the following Grace members:

Jessica Flannery – Gustavus Adolphus College
Robbie Rissman – Grand View University
Tyler Peeler – Grand View University
Ellen Wonderlin – Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Respectfully submitted,
The Scholarship Committee

Senior Members' Annual Report

Senior members met December 4, 2011 for their annual Christmas dinner. We had reservations for 70 members. This is a catered turkey dinner with a program following. This year Rich Snyder provided Christmas history of various hymns we usually don't sing. All these are in our new hymnal.

Our meetings have been quarterly during the year. However, no person assumed the leadership for 2011, so our only scheduled meeting was the Christmas dinner.

In the year 2012 we have leadership from Verda Swanson and Barbara Tussing. The March 4, 2012 meeting will begin our quarterly meetings again. A fun program is being planned.

A reminder that all are welcome to attend this informal Sunday evening event with sandwiches and refreshment served. Join us in 2012.

Carol Krause,
Secretary! Treasurer

Report of the Stewardship Committee

Thank you for taking a stewardship journey with us during 2011.

We hope this journey allowed each of you to grow in the understanding that all we have has been given to us by God and that he has entrusted us with these items to manage during our time on earth. We asked the questions: "How do we best manage these gifts to reflect our commitment to God and the mission of the Church?" Not "How much should I give?" but "How much of what is God's can I justify keeping for my own needs?" Not "giving" but "returning" since we never owned them.

Our stewardship journey focused on several areas:

- *Theological approach of all we have is God's* - All we have is God's, entrusted to us for our use during this life. Good stewards use these gifts as God intends. We are to care for ourselves and our families, we are to share a portion of our resources of time and money for the strengthening of the Church, and we are to be generous in providing for the needs of our neighbors.
- *Stewardship as a spiritual barometer* - God has created everything and all things belong to God. We are accountable for how we use His gifts. Stewardship is an opportunity to please God and grow spiritually. We should not be possessed by things that we own, but use them to grow spiritually. A good steward is generous. Being a good steward is giving to a mission and not to the budget.
Being a good steward is a joyful thing and should be a joy (similar to giving a gift to a child) versus an obligation.
- *Stewardship through gift of time* - Time management is a stewardship issue. Our time is a gift from God and we need to devote a portion to the health and well being of the Church and to caring for our neighbors. This includes time for prayer, bible study and volunteer service.
- *Final act of Stewardship through provision in will* – We need to be good stewards of our estate. Accumulated resources should be used not just to benefit those closest to us, but should be used for all the purposes God intended when God entrusted them to us. One needs to set aside an appropriate share of our estate for the building up of the Church and serving the needs of others.

This activity is strong evidence of our confidence of our mission here at Grace. We thank God for his inspiration throughout this process; we see him working with and among us and are grateful for his presence in our response.

Your Stewardship Committee,

Doug Johnson, Kevin Krause, Leonard Larsen, Joyce Lewis, Ginny Wangerin, Jay Wangerin

2011 Sunday School Education Annual Report

Our Sunday school program serves over 50 students weekly from 3 year olds through 12th grade. We have close to 30 members of the congregation who serve as teachers, leaders and substitutes throughout the Sunday school year (September through May.)

Each Sunday the 3 & 4 year-olds through 5th grade classes attend a brief opening in the sanctuary for devotions, songs, and prayer. Our preschool through 5th grade classes enjoy library time once a month. During their special library time they listen to a theme related story of faith.

New this year are the Parent/Child Bible classes. These are to help nurture and equip parents/families and are during the regular Sunday school hour. We are also using Blessing Bowls in each classroom. Families will have the opportunity to make their own Blessing Bowls in 2012.

Activities that took place throughout the 2011 year included:

- January 16- Intergenerational event "Loving the World"
- January 30- Youth service
- April 10- Lutheran World Relief event
- April 24- Easter activities
- May 22- Garden dedication/last day of Sunday school
- September 11- Rally Sunday
- September 18- Bible Sunday for kindergarten through 3rd graders
- October 30- Confirmation
- December 18- Christmas program and congregational potluck dinner

The Youth Education Team oversees the Sunday school program, and the Sunday School Support Team is responsible for being a presence in the Sunday School Office each week.

Youth Education Team members include Tammy Denton, Beth Flannery, Kara Jordahl, Kristin Medhurst, and Sherry Merkwan. Sunday School Support Team members include Mary Jo McCleary, Sherry Merkwan, and Deanna Weber.

Many thanks go out to all who are involved in our Sunday school program in a variety of ways, and to the Sunday School families whose role in their children's faith development plays a key role in their growth.

Youth Education Team

2011 Annual Report Worship and Music Committee

"It is in the process of being worshipped that God communicates His presence to men."
C.S. Lewis

Peace to you and grace from God our Father. The Worship and Music Committee has had a busy year filled with many opportunities to explore new ways of expressing our worship and praise as well as affirming many traditions.

I would like to express heartfelt thanks to the members of the Worship and Music Committee, the Altar Guild and all of the Music Groups for their dedication to providing a meaningful worship experience to the Grace community.

The year began with Grace welcoming a new pastor into our community of faith. As the committee worked with Pastor Mike during the year, tried and true traditions of worship remained and new ideas were tried. The congregation has been very supportive in trying new things as well as providing feedback both on traditional and new parts of worship and music. We, as a committee, appreciate the feedback the congregation provides. Some of the new traditions that have been introduced are:

- Seasonal bulletins have been introduced in an effort to reduce our paper consumption. We continue to look at and refine this process in order to be good stewards of our natural resources.
- Communion is now offered at both services every week. Altar Guild has been a wonderful support system for this offering as well as many members of Grace who have stepped up to provide additional support in providing the Meal.
- A processional cross holder has been installed in the Gathering Hall in order to best facilitate more frequent use of the cross for processions and recessions during the service.

Following is a summary of worship activities for 2011:

January

Youth Service

March

Welcome to Pastor Mike
Ash Wednesday Service
Lenten Services with Holden Evening Prayer
Wednesday Noon-time Organ Music during Lent
Healing/Meditation Service during Lent

April

Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Services
Easter Services

June/July/August

Saturday Services for the summer months

November

Shared Service with Immanuel Methodist Church at Thanksgiving

December

Service of Lessons and Carols with music provided by all music groups
Christmas Eve Services
Christmas Day Service

The music program, while undergoing transition, continues to be a strong presence in the worship life at Grace. We are truly blessed to have so many talented and dedicated musicians that are so willing to share their time and talents with Grace in order to enrich the worship experience. A thank you goes out

to all who have provided special music during the year. From vocals to instrumental, the variety of gifts that God has blessed this congregation with is amazing and he is glorified each time they are expressed.

A special thank you goes to those who have stepped up to fill music vacancies this year:

Rich Snyder – Organ and Piano for worship and choir
Kathy Bowermaster – Adult Choir Director
Jeanine Rutter – Adult Bell Director
Joyce Lewis and Bev Anderson – Youth Choir

By these people so willingly giving of their time and talents, God has been glorified and our worship experience has truly been enriched. The members of the following groups have joyfully given of their time and talents to glorify God and enrich worship through music:

Adult Choir
Brass Group
Adult Bells
Youth Bells
Chapel Chimers
Youth Choir

2011 concluded with a committee being formed to discern Grace's needs and conduct a search for a new Director of Music. A very dedicated group did the needed work and a new music director was identified in December. He will be joining the staff in February 2012. The Worship and Music Committee looks forward to working with him.

Thank you to the congregation of Grace for your support of the Worship and Music Committee as we have gone about the work of our Lord this year. We eagerly anticipate all that He has in store for us in 2012!

Respectfully Submitted,

Worship and Music Committee

Janet Habick, Diane Jessen, Matt Jordahl, Leonard Larson, Mary Jo McCleary, Sherry Merkwan,
Bill Henderson, Carol Woodruff, Chair