

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2011**

Call to Order

Devotions

Adoption of Agenda

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Minutes

 Annual Meeting, January 24, 2010

 (Approved at June 13, 2010 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting)

 Minutes of Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting, June 13, 2010

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Financial Reports are available upon request

Adjournment

Lord's Prayer

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

3010 52nd Street

Des Moines, Iowa

Sunday, January 30, 2011

2010 Congregational Council

Term expires
February 2011
Deanna Weber
Carla Peterman
Rich Snyder

Term expires
February 2012
Mary Freimuth Helt
Jon Rissman
Joyce Lewis
Kristin Medhurst

Term expires
February 2013
MeLissa Lawson
Kathy Bowermaster
Julie Honsey
Gary Nehmer

Congregational Officers

President:	Mary Freimuth Helt
Vice President:	Joyce Lewis
Secretary:	Julie Honsey
Treasurer:	Tom Selander
Financial Secretary:	Lori Fry

2010 Executive Committee

Mary Freimuth Helt
Joyce Lewis
Julie Honsey
Gary Nehmer

Interim Pastor

Timothy Johnson

Pastor Tim served Grace throughout 2010 beginning on February 7.

Visitation Pastor

Michael Herschberger

Pastor Mike served Grace in 2010 until January 31.

2010 Grace Staff Members

Stephanie Johnson, Director of Laity Ministries
Rich Dewein, Director of Music
Heather Nelson, Grace Kids Care Director
Jacquelyn Holmes, Office Administrator
Lori Fry, Publications Editor
Diana Johnson, Receptionist
Luis Reaza, Custodian
Ellen Wonderlin, Coordinator for Latino Outreach. Ellen served on the staff in 2010 until July 1.
Claudia Castillo, Latino Communications Coordinator. Claudia began her employment on October 3.

Membership Statistics

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Membership end of 2009 as reported in the Congregational Report to the ELCA	1,151	913
Members removed during 2010		
by death	9	9
by transfer to other congregations	12	11
by statistical adjustment	432	304
Members received during 2010		
by baptism	10	
by transfer from other congregations or affirmation of faith	4	4
Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2010		6
Membership end of 2010	712	599

Statistical Report

Worship Services Conducted	143
Member Weddings	4
Baptisms (youth)	6
Member Funerals	9
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

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

Necrology

**We remember with love and respect the following members of
Grace Lutheran Church who passed away in 2010.
We list their names and the date of death.**

Rhoda Uhlinger	February 19
Corrine Reed	March 7
Mazelle Carlsen	March 27
Raymond Collins	May 26
Louise Nystrand	May 29
Corrine Tiedge	September 14
Lois Rose	September 19
Robert Niffenegger	October 23
Raymond Ulstrup	October 23

**Congregational Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church
January 24, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Dan Warren, President of the Church Council. Pastor Mike Hershberger, Visitation Pastor, led devotions. He was then recognized for his service the past year, and the congregation's good wishes were expressed as he begins his new ministry as pastor of a Lutheran Church in Marshalltown.

The agenda was adopted, and minutes of the last congregational meeting were approved as printed in the annual report packet.

Commenting on his report, Dan highlighted the departure of Pastor David Cline, the work of the staff and the challenges during this year of transition. He recognized Diane Heid for her service as Financial Secretary over the past 12 years. He also thanked the outgoing council members - Jeff Farrell, Denny Rehder and Tom Selander.

Stephanie Johnson, Director of Laity, stressed the work of the new Lay Ministry Team in developing opportunities for lay involvement at Grace.

Rich Dewein , Director of Music, recognized the continued growth and improvements in the Grace music program.

Ellen Wonderlin, Coordinator of Latino Outreach, summarized the outreach activities and the continuing work of those supporting this ministry.

Four members of the congregation were presented to fill the openings in the church council. McLissa Lawson, who had been filling a one-year term, agreed to stand for a full three-year term. Those standing to fill the remaining terms were Kathy Bowermaster, Julie Honsey and Gary Nehmer. All four were elected by acclamation.

Three members were elected by acclamation to fill ~~three year~~ terms on the Grace Endowment Committee - Jeff Farrell, Pat Rehder and Karen Taylor.

Committee reports were referenced by their presence in the packets with no further discussion.

The new co-chairs of the Finance Committee - Kevin Krause and Tom Selander, Treasurer - presented the proposed budget for 2010. They noted a decline in pledges for 2010 and unpaid pledges from 2009. Even though an hour was spent reviewing the proposals during the adult forum earlier, considerable discussion was generated regarding the projected deficit, cuts in benevolence and funding for Esperanza.

Expenditures for 2009 were summarized in a new form showing a percentage breakdown. Leading at 51.80% was salaries and benefits, followed by building at 28.45%, benevolence at 10.40% and other categories of activity and ministry rounding out the breakdown.

The proposal cut synod benevolence (usually 12% of income less mortgage costs) by \$23,149. In earlier action, the council had stipulated that new unpledged or undirected income would be used to increase benevolence up to the 12% goal.

In trying to continue the process of continuing service to the Spanish-speaking community, several members were directing funds over and above their personal pledge toward Esperanza and others were encouraged to do the same. Although past funding had come from grants and gifts to Grace, there was a strong consensus to build the ministry totally within the Grace community.

The proposed budget was approved with the added provision of providing up to \$86,000 to support hiring of the interim pastor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Denny Rehder, Secretary

(These minutes were approved at the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on June 13, 2010.)



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
June 13, 2010

Pastor Johnson opened the meeting with prayer.

Council President Mary Helt called the meeting to order with a reading from Ephesians.

The agenda was adopted as printed.

The minutes from the January 24, 2010 Congregational Meeting were approved with one correction: Jeff Farrell was elected to the Endowment Committee to serve a one year term rather than a three year term as reported in the minutes.

Pastor Johnson presented a report on the Call Committee and the process leading up to calling a pastor.

The written reports listed below were accepted as printed in the Congregational Meeting packet:

- Finance (no change from the January 2010 Congregational Meeting)
- Stewardship
- Latino Ministry Proposal
- Columbarium

Rich Snyder presented the proposal from the Council to reconcile the discrepancies in Grace's institutional documents (constitution, bylaws and revision committee recommendations). The Constitution requires a 30+ day period between introducing the proposed changes and calling for a congregational vote. It was approved that the Council would schedule a meeting date for the adoption of the proposed Bylaw changes.

The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Honsey, Council Secretary

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Special Congregational Meeting
July 18, 2010

The Special Congregational Meeting for the purpose of adopting by-law changes was called to order by Congregation President Mary Helt.

Rich Snyder presented the proposed by-law changes that were introduced at the Congregational Meeting on June 13, 2010.

It was moved and seconded that the changes be passed. The motion passed unanimously.

Rich Snyder presented a proposal that would change the number of people serving on the Scholarship Committee to 5. This proposal would be a change in the by-laws and will be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January of 2011. The proposal was approved by the Congregation.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Honsey, Council Secretary
Recorded by Kathy Bowermaster

Proposed Changes to Grace Lutheran Church Bylaws

Presented to the Congregational Council on October 26, 2010

At the request of the Endowment Committee and approved by the Congregational Council, the following changes to the Bylaws of Grace Lutheran Church are proposed.

Section VIII. Endowment Fund

Subsection B6

Current: The recording secretary of the Committee shall maintain complete and accurate minutes of all meetings and supply a copy thereof to each member of the Committee. Each member shall keep a complete copy of minutes to be delivered to his or her successor. The recording secretary shall also supply a copy of the minutes to the Congregation Council.

Proposed: The recording secretary of the Committee shall maintain complete and accurate minutes of all meetings and supply a copy to each member of the Committee and to the Congregation Council.

Subsection B7

Current: The financial secretary of the Committee shall work with the congregation's treasurer in maintaining and coordinating complete and accurate accounts for the fund and shall sign checks and all other necessary documents on behalf of the congregation in furtherance of the purposes of the Fund. The books shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant or other appropriate person who is not a Committee Member.

Proposed: The financial secretary of the Committee shall work with the congregation's treasurer in maintaining and coordinating complete and accurate accounts for the fund and shall sign checks and all other necessary documents on behalf of the congregation in furtherance of the purposes of the Fund. The books shall be audited annually by the Grace Audit Committee.

Subsection D

Current: When, in the opinion of the Committee, circumstances are so dire and of such an emergency nature that the future of the congregation is at stake, and that the only recourse seems to be the use of the Fund principal, the Committee may, upon a two-thirds majority vote, recommend such authorizing action to the congregation.

Proposed: When, in the opinion of the Congregational Council, circumstances are so dire and of such an emergency nature that the future of the congregation is at stake and that the only recourse seems to be the use of the Fund principal, the Committee may recommend such authorizing action upon a two-thirds majority vote of the congregation at a duly called congregational meeting.

Council President's Report January 2011

Members of the Grace Lutheran Congregation,

The Council began with prayer and a Bible study of Ephesians; we encouraged our congregation to pray and study with us to become a team that works together. We evaluated our programming, staffing, values, and choices, a process which is continuing into 2011. We welcome concerns, critiques, and suggestions from any and all members. We are the body that executes the will of the congregation and seeks to find God's will for us.

1. The biggest concern at the end of 2009 was to find an interim pastor and call a new pastor. Thanks to the leadership of Council President Dan Warren, we found an excellent interim pastor to lead us through the transition. In partnership with Pastor Tim Johnson, we created a questionnaire to acquire input from all interested members of the congregation about what direction our mission should take and who our new pastor should be. Guided by the Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Eric Carlson, we selected the Call Committee and completed the required forms.
 2. The Call Committee is functioning effectively and faithfully, listening to the congregation members, each other, and their hearts, to find and call our new pastor. The synod recommended people who seemed to fit our needs and the Committee has interviewed them.
 3. Pastor Tim Johnson suggested sending cards to nearby neighbors to welcome them to Christmas worship services; another card will be sent before Easter and a third near the end of the summer.
 4. The Council members have enormous respect and appreciation for cultures of all our members. Many Latino and English-speaking members encouraged a new focus for our Latino Ministry. A Council committee explored the possibility of learning English and Spanish at church by providing a teacher who could translate, effectively communicate with all members, assist with learning both English and Spanish, and help with reaching out to former and new Latino members. We created a position to satisfy our new goals: Latino Communications Coordinator, a flexible position to serve our own congregation. We remain firmly committed to social justice and community.
 5. Upon reading the Constitution and Bylaws of our church, we discovered two areas where we were not in compliance: a yearly roll cleansing (asking those who have not attended church or offered any financial support for two years if they want to remain members) and staff evaluations. We have undertaken an extensive examination of our membership to find exactly who and how many we are, in December, 2010. Much of the work was done by Jackie, who is an amazing Office Administrator. Our new and accurate total of members is 713.
- Job descriptions changed with time and needs, and they will continue to change with a new pastor (and changing demographics.) Our very fine staff members deserve opportunities to discuss their jobs and be part of changes. The Personnel Committee researched and outlined expectations, and Pastor Tim Johnson, as Head of Staff, did evaluations. Thanks to all who were involved.
6. During the hard times our congregation has experienced recently, the lack of a Stewardship Committee last year, and the complexities of a transition year, it may seem we have big financial problems. We have had, and continue to have, very professional and thoughtful members on the Finance Committee, a dynamic, new Stewardship Committee, and committed leaders working through problems and offering solutions. Budget cuts and careful evaluation by the Finance Committee coupled with the dynamic and inspiring presentations of the Stewardship Committee gave us a balanced budget. We have been able to increase our support to Benevolence as we approach the end of the year, as requested by members, with the understanding it is a point of historical significance and pride to our church and predecessors.
 7. The Council offered leadership through a shared Bible verse and common prayer, seeking guidance and inspiration to find and pursue our congregational goals and mission.

8. The Council sought information from past leaders to make better decisions and honor their hard work. We continue to listen and respond to congregational needs and desires. During the transition our full-time music director, Rich, and full-time director of lay ministries, Stephanie, increased their leadership in music, worship, found and informed lay leaders, and generally filled in, as needed. Thanks to both. “Social” groups have become a strength of Grace to provide community and support for Christian life and outreach through being observed as a part of the neighborhood.

An earlier recommendation suggested concentrating on adult education and activities: small groups were a positive result; we may need a similar plan to focus on establishing new goals to increase care, education, and, possibly, small groups, for our youth.

9. The Council altered bylaws with congregational vote because common practice, Bylaws, and Constitution were confusing or not in agreement. We hope we are now in compliance with what our founders intended, with minor, but important alterations, in the spirit of their mission and goals. Many thanks to Rich Snyder for his attention to details and his leadership.

Considerations for the future:

As we begin working with a new pastor on a new path, we, as a faithful congregation, must carefully and prayerfully consider what our mission is today, here and now, and how it, and we, must change. How do we want to be staffed to achieve our goals? What are our goals to achieve the mission of this church? What will it take for us to accomplish the work assigned to us by Jesus?

We have an important goal for the year 2011: we need to continue to follow our passions and bring others along with us; some of our members have done more than their share of the work for many years; some are tired of carrying the load; we need to relieve the burden by sharing the work. We need to follow our passions and bring others along. Faithful members have carried the load for years, but are no longer able to maintain the level of activity they once did.

If your passion is Altar Guild----great! If your passion is Finance----great, again! But, each of us needs to share the work with at least two others this year----members who are new or not in your group currently, who need to have you ask them to help. Be there to share the work and teach each other. Over and over, we find if someone asks another, often that person feels pleased to be asked, and may agree to help----or maybe if not today, then another time; when the work is shared, the heart is lighter and the joy is greater. Nearly all of us can recall a time we were shy or reluctant or heavy-hearted, and someone asked us to join; and we found a new friend or accomplishment or way to serve, or perhaps, an opportunity to act as the hand of God when someone needs it, simply by reaching out.

We must make goals for ourselves, each one of us individually and together, to find someone to share the load, someone to teach the jobs we do for our church and our Lord, and extend our community within and without. No one person is the only one who can do the job---we must share responsibilities, power, joy, and knowledge.

Please, make it your personal goal to find one or two others to share the work of our church---and share the joy of work in our Lord’s name.

God is love. Spread the Word.
Respectfully,

Mary Freimuth Helt
Council President

Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor Timothy Johnson, Interim Pastor

I WILL REMEMBER

Morning has broken, long shadows are receding: time for today's resolution:
With the Spirit's help, I will remember that the toughest, most resilient and
tenacious, most stubborn and unyielding fact that I will encounter this day is
the eternal, all-embracing love of God. Gerhard Frost

As one year ends and another begins in the life of Grace Lutheran Church, there are few "remembers" more important than the words above. Our memories are blessed and our hope renewed as individuals and a congregation. In the words of the Apostle Paul, "I give thanks to my God always for you ..." I Cor. 1: 4. It has been a privilege to serve as your Interim Pastor in 2010. After thirty-four years of parish ministry, this was my first interim. Because of you, I will try it again!

Within two weeks of my arrival, Grace entered into the Lenten season. During those Wednesdays, we traveled together through Luther's Small Catechism in a new way. Soon after, a questionnaire was distributed to the congregation and the process of interim really began. Thank you for sharing your hopes and dreams for Grace. During this time a list was updated of those members of Grace who could not longer worship with the rest of us. It has been rewarding to bring Holy Communion to them, usually on a monthly basis. An excellent Call Committee was formed and the search for a new pastor was begun.

Early in this process, with the support of the Church Council, I initiated a review of the membership rolls of Grace. The results were sobering but helpful, I believe, in giving Grace and any prospective pastor an accurate picture of who Grace is at this time in its history. The assistance of Jackie Holmes in this endeavor was immeasurable. Also during this time, a new way of looking at shared ministry with our Latino brothers and sisters was encouraged and developed.

During the 'quiet' summer months, an outdoor worship was held ... on the hottest Sunday of the summer! The Saturday services were very well received as we worshipped in Esperanza Chapel. In addition, the Tuesday Bible Study continued through the summer. I will think of that group with great fondness every Tuesday morning long into the future. It was also in late summer that I suggested a gentle way of inviting the neighborhood around Grace to Christmas Eve worship. The postcards were a gentle way of encouraging Grace to 'reclaim' the area and grow as a neighborhood church. You will find the report of technical ministerial acts elsewhere in the Annual Report: 9 baptisms, 4 weddings and 8 funerals were mileposts for members of Grace. Near the end of my time with you, I invited John Ylvisaker to come for an afternoon/evening of singing his music. It was a marvelous moment.

Thank you for the year. I hope the process of the interim was helpful not only in finding a new pastor for Grace, but in intensifying the focus of Grace Church as a faithful part of the people of God, joyfully gathering around Word and Sacrament, intentionally being the body of Christ in and for the world.

Finally, a huge "THANK YOU" to those whose lives I shared in the spaces of Grace's office suite. We smiled a lot. We laughed a lot. We hoped together and were occasionally sad together. I was blessed by each one's excellence in ministry and I treasure your friendship.

A prayer for forward-looking congregations ... and pastors wondering where the Lord will lead:
O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
(ELW, page 304)

Pastor Tim Johnson

Annual Report Director of Laity Ministries

“Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Baptism liturgy in the ELW, p. 231)

The Lay Ministry Team’s goal, developed early in 2010 and based on Ephesians 4:12, is *to invite, equip, and encourage the people of Grace in ministry for building up the body of Christ.* Team members in 2010 included Tammy Denton, Matt Jordahl, Joyce Lewis, Kristin Medhurst, Sharon Morse, Carla Peterman, Denny Rehder, and Verda Swanson. As the year unfolded, Joyce, Sharon, Denny, and Verda went off, and new members Julie Honsey, Brad Lint, and Angela Weaver came on board.

In light of the above goal, the Lay Ministry Team served Grace in the following ways:

- By initiating several new Bible study options: The council participated in a study of Ephesians early in the year, and the same study was offered for other congregation members during adult forums and on Saturdays in the summer. In the fall, a study on 1 John was offered during adult forums. In addition, Bible studies based on movies were also purchased and can be found in the library along with numerous other studies.
- By lifting up a focus of gifts/talents: The Sunday School year began with a Rally Day around this theme; the development of a time and talent database is currently underway for ease of member use; and an adult forum series on spiritual gifts is being planned for early in 2011.
- By creating Volunteer Central: This area in the Gathering Hall is intended to be a central location for people to sign up to serve in worship and a variety of other ways around Grace as needs and opportunities arise.
- By inviting new people into ministry: The sound crew for worship has grown to include additional members. A new Youth Education Team was formed to oversee the children’s Sunday School program, and a Sunday School Support Team is in place to cover Sunday School office needs during the education hour. Finally, a new Fellowship Team was also formed to plan 2-4 whole church fellowship events per year.
- By funding the cost for Beth Flannery and MeLissa Lawson to attend an ELCA youth worker training conference in January 2011.

Other areas of growth during the year in terms of committees included the formation of a new Stewardship Committee, as well as new chairs of the Memorials Committee and the Adult Education Committee.

Lay ministry was abundant in a variety of ways throughout 2011. These ways included but were not limited to the following:

- **New Sunday School murals** downstairs and leading up to the gym: Funded by an Endowment grant, mural artist Doug Applegate sketched the murals in pencil, and numerous adult and youth volunteers were involved in the painting process.
- **Homebound member visitation:** Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias were delivered to our homebound members.

- **Vacation Bible School:** Grace coordinated this effort in cooperation with Bread of Life Church (Des Moines), with 89 children in attendance, and countless youth and adult volunteers who brought it to life. In addition, an Endowment grant and generous scholarship donations by numerous members of Grace made the combined effort possible and free to all.
- **Several family events:** A game night was planned by the Family Fun Team, an Easter egg hunt and other activities were led by Sunday School staff, and a Halloween party was planned by the Fellowship and Family Fun teams.
- **Pink Summer:** This whole church fellowship event was designed to counteract the winter doldrums.
- **CTIM (“Called Together in Mission”):** Five members of Grace attended this annual synod sponsored workshop event.
- **First Communion:** Several young students prepared themselves for this sacrament through classes, chalice making, and the first annual First Communion Camp led by Lutheran Lakeside staff with volunteers from Grace.
- **Pig roast:** This was a delicious Super Wednesday kickoff.
- **Advent devotions:** These were written and received by Grace members and were made available by email, hard copy, and a website link.
- **The children’s Christmas program:** The annual program was made possible by the participation of most of our Sunday School children and the assistance of numerous youth and adult volunteers.
- **A food drive:** We collected 196 items and \$492 in donations for DMARC during the Christmas season.

In youth ministry, some highlights included:

- 4th and 5th graders being newly invited into acolyte ministry (in addition to our confirmation students)
- A few of our confirmation students becoming lectors
- Middle school students presenting several interpretive dowel rod pieces during worship
- Middle and high school youth volunteers helping with Wednesday night Kids’ Hour
- Confirmation students participating in a Hunger Hike
- High school students participating in an immersion experience in Des Moines
- High school students and families running the annual garage and plant sale

The year has been filled with many acts of service both within and outside of Grace. The above items merely scratch the surface of the variety of ways in which Grace members serve. Your ministry could not possibly be captured in a few pages of an annual report. It has been exciting to have new people join us in ministry, and it is exciting to imagine what the coming year will hold.

As the year unfolds before us, I encourage all of us *to invite, equip, and encourage each other in ministry*. Whom will you invite into ministry this year?

Blessings,
Stephanie Johnson

2010 Annual Report
Rich Dewein
Worship and Music Director

I am pleased to report that another year of a successful music program has come to a close. It was a very active year for all of the various ensembles as they prepared and offered a wide variety of music for the worshipping congregation. A great deal of time is spent planning, preparing, sweating over, learning notes, and finally presenting the many different selections rehearsed by each ensemble. Grace Lutheran is blessed to have many excellent musicians who are willing to share their time and talents as they present offerings to the members of the congregation. In addition to the music program, I work closely with the minister in planning, preparing and implementing the many worship services that are offered at Grace. This has been especially true during the time of Pastor Cline's resignation at Grace and through the interim leadership of Pastor Johnson. I have enjoyed this working relationship with Pastor Tim as we have bounced ideas off of each other as we have guided and directed the worship at Grace. Now that I move into a new working relationship, I look forward to the opportunity to share and learn ideas as we "teamwork" to further enhance the worship at Grace. It can truly be an exciting time.

There are many opportunities for the ensembles at Grace to offer music for worship. I make an effort to have each ensemble be an active part of a worship service on a regular basis. These ensembles continue to progress in their ability as they present a wide variety of music for worship. They are dedicated musicians who care deeply about the music in worship and exemplify it by their commitment and attendance at rehearsals and Sunday worship. Since I have direct contact with four of the ensembles, I know that they have developed their skills even further. The personnel of the ensembles remain very constant. This helps to build even more skill level within the ensemble. With this added skill we have been able to expand the type of literature used in worship. The music types include spirituals, chorales, motets, music of various periods, plus general anthems used by the Chancel Choir, Grace Bells, Youth Bells, Chapel Chimers, Youth Choir and Grace Brass.

The Grace Brass is comprised of six members. This group rehearses twice each week, either on Wednesday evening or Sunday morning between services. They provide accompaniment to the liturgy, either Setting One or Two, special music for worship and have combined with the Grace Bells and Organ on hymns to accompany the congregation or the Prelude or Postlude. They are an active part of the Bells and Brass Concert that is presented in December during Advent.

There are 14 members in Grace Bells. This adult group of hand bell ringers rehearses weekly for an hour. They are very active in the worship service, often playing at both services on a Sunday morning. I have been very pleased with this group and in their capabilities and willingness to try different and unique arrangements. This last October, Grace Lutheran was the host site for a Hand Bell Workshop sponsored by the AEGHR-IA. Dr. John Behnke from Concordia University-Milwaukee was the guest clinician for the day. It was an excellent day for our bell members and approximately 50 additional ringers from other bell choirs in Iowa. At the end of the day, Grace Bells presented a 30-minute concert for the ringers in attendance. Plans are being made for a second workshop to be held in October of 2011. The Grace Bells combined with the Youth Bells, and Grace Brass for the Bells and Brass Concert in December.

The Youth Choir is open to all students in grades 1-5. The membership has fluctuated a bit. This is a fun group who love to sing. They are scheduled to sing once during each 6-week period. They also sing during the Sunday School Christmas Program in December. Bev Anderson is an excellent person to assist with the youth and I appreciate her time and help.

We are fortunate to have Carol Woodruff be the director of the Youth Bells and Chapel Chimers. She rehearses with them on a weekly schedule for 30 minutes for each group. The Youth Bells play routinely in church during the year and the Chapel Chimers play on a limited schedule. The Chapel Chimers also play on the Christmas Sunday School Program in December. The Youth Bells play on the Bells and Brass Concert in December.

The Chancel Choir sings regularly for worship, primarily at the service which at communion is offered with many times the group singing at both services. The membership of this group has remained consistent. This dedicated group of musicians rehearses for an hour on a weekly basis providing a wide variety of anthems to help enhance the worship service. We have greatly expanded the types of literature we present in worship and the difficulty of literature sung. We have been able to sing in multiple parts (more than 4) as well as several a capella selections. The selections are given great consideration as the services are being planned by the director and minister. All the ensemble music is selected with the same care. The choir is very active during special services and plans music that will enhance the various worship services. It is exciting to direct this group as they are willing to try, rehearse, and present the various selections to the congregation. Throughout the year, many members of this ensemble, as well as members of the congregation, serve as liturgists for the worship service. I want to thank those people for their commitment in providing this important part on a weekly basis.

Choir performances by Grand View College, Southwestern Community College, and Des Moines Diversity Chorus provided extra music for the members at Grace. Dr. Kathryn Duffy and the Grand View College Choir sang at both services on February 28th before they went on their choir tour. Southwestern Community College continued a long tradition of singing at Grace during the Advent season. The Des Moines Diversity Chorus booked their December concert at Grace for this year. It was a pleasure to have each of these choirs perform in the sanctuary at Grace. In addition to these choirs, Dr. John Behnke, in conjunction with the AEGHR workshop, presented an organ recital on October 8. The concert, entitled *The Story of Salvation*, was a combination of scripture, congregational hymns, and organ arrangements of hymns for an enjoyable and inspirational hour of organ music.

Another aspect of the worship/music position is the Saturday service that is held from after Memorial Day to the weekend before Labor Day. This year the Saturday service moved to the Esperanza Chapel. The setting was much more intimate and set a relaxed atmosphere for this service. The service is somewhat reduced, with portions of the liturgy removed, but enough retained to make it a meaningful service. The attendance was consistent throughout the entire meeting time. Another change in worship was combining the congregations of La Voz de Esperanza and Grace into one service at 10:45. Translation has been made possible for those that have difficulties understanding the English that is used.

This last year of working with Pastor Tim has been a rewarding time for me. I have enjoyed the planning and presenting of each worship service. It takes a great deal of time to plan, work through, iron out the rough spots, and implement each service. The time that we spent as a worship team has been a highlight for me in this position. As a person who works with both the

worship service and the music that is to be used during the service, it is a treat to have someone who enjoys and values the music of the church as much as I value and enjoy the same. As we talk about the worship service, the scripture, and all parts of the service, it helps me to plan the additional music that is to be fit into worship. This includes the anthem, prelude, offertory, and postlude. They all have meaning to the worship service and the compatibility of the pastor and music/worship director is very important.

As the organist, it is a pleasure for me to plan and provide the music for worship. I try to bring a wide variety of music to the service. In the conversations between the pastor and myself, it helps me to plan what music to use for each service. By being able to work closely with the pastor in all aspects of planning the worship, it will hopefully bring a more enhanced service for the congregation. This last year I have spent a great deal of time looking on the Internet for organ music that is Public Domain. I have found a wealth of music of the organ masters that is available and I have used much of it as preludes, offertories, and postludes. Likewise, I have found many choral anthems to utilize with the choir. This extends the music budget a great deal.

In addition to the position of Worship and Music, a Worship Committee of eight members of Grace and I, along with the Pastor, meet bi-monthly to discuss items that might affect the worship at Grace. Those members include: Leonard Larsen, Bill Henderson, Gary Nehmer (replacement for Dan Warren), Diane Jessen, Shirley Shiffler (to be replaced by Carol Woodruff), Matt Jordahl, Mary Jo McCleary, and Sherry Merkwon. This committee meets on a bi-monthly schedule beginning in January. The meetings are held on the third Monday of the month beginning at 5:45 and lasting approximately an hour.

This committee discusses items or issues that directly or indirectly affect the worship at Grace. We have discussed the purchase of banners, communion wine, order of worship, Saturday evening worship, the various services that are held, liturgies, etc. An agenda is presented to the committee for discussion at each meeting plus any additional items that the committee members might have for discussion. If you have an item for the committee to discuss, please relay it to a committee member.

As we now move forward with a new Called Pastor, I look forward to the opportunity to work with another creative person. It will be exciting to share our ideas and learn from each other. I hope that our new pastor will embrace our music program here and will want to be an active participant. For me it has been good to have the minister as a member of the choir. It makes it easier to plan music and put the worship services into a meaningful format for the congregation as it is a team effort here at Grace. It has been, and hopefully will continue, as we serve the people of Grace.

Respectfully submitted.
Rich Dewein

Center News

We are very excited to for a New Year full of fun and loads of learning!

We ended the year on a very positive note financially and we are sure that 2011 will be another great year for our center!

One of our Teachers Miss Bobbie was interviewed for an article in the Windsor Heights magazine. Be watching for that, as it is a wonderful "plug" for our center!

Just the Facts on Enrollment

Infant enrollment is at 12 Ratio; 4/1

Tiny Tot enrollment is at 8 Ratio; 6/1

Explorer enrollment is at 11 Ratio; 8/1

Preschool enrollment is at 16 Ratio; 12/1

2 Staff children

6 Children that are members of Grace!

Waiting List out till February 2010! WOW!

Grace Kids Care Information

Hours of Business: 7:00 a.m.-6:00p.m.

Current Tuition Rates:

6wks-23 months \$167/wk

2 & 3 years \$152/wk

4&5 years \$137/wk

\$10 discount for Grace Members

\$5 discount for second child

Thank You to

- *Everyone involved in the carpet process!**
- *Sharyn Nelson for getting groceries every Monday**
- *Willing Workers for the extra jobs they do for us**
- *Council for your continued support with our mission!**

What's New with the Staff

Staff Numbers

- Infant room = 1 salary person, 2 full time 1 part time employees
- Tiny tot room: 2 full time 2 part time
- Explorer room: 2 full time 2 part time
- Preschool: 2 full time 1 part time
- Josefina is still cooking lunch and doing other cleaning duties as well as helping in class when needed

Signed up 6 teachers for CPR 1st aid renewal, and locating a company to conduct fingerprinting of the employees as required by DHS.

I spent a lot of time over the holidays reviewing and updating the files. My goal for 2011 is to not be in a classroom at all; so I can focus on managing the center more effectively.

Upcoming Events

Playing in the SNOW! On warmer days!

Parent Board Corner

- No meeting held in January
- Next meeting is Feb. 1st
- We will begin working on 2011 events and reviewing center policies

Points of interest:

The Carpet and Tile Look Great!

The Baby room is now a shoe free zone and the tile under the highchairs and table is wonderful!

Thanks for the support!

Thank you

To all our Volunteers, people who donate items to the center, and everyone who shows their support of our mission!

Election of Council Members

The following persons served two year terms on council to fill vacated seats. They are now running for a full three year terms.

Carla Peterman

Carla Peterman has been a member at Grace for sixteen years and is just completing a two year term on council. She also serves on the Lay Ministry Team. Other service at Grace has included Sunday school teacher, Youth Leader, and Bell Choir. Carla and husband Mike have two grown daughters.

Rich Snyder

Richard Snyder has been a member of Grace Lutheran Church since 1978. Since that time he has served on the church council as member, secretary, and president; has taught middle and high school Sunday school; been a member of the Altar Guild; accompanied the choir; sang in the choir; served as church organist; served on the Companion Congregation Committee; been a member of the Library, Property, and Worship and Music committees; and participated in several Think Summer events. Currently he is finishing a two-year term on the church council, accompanies the Chancel Choir, and teaches middle school Christian education on Sunday mornings. Rich works at Kemin AgriFoods North America in Des Moines where he is a Research Associate in the Research and Development Department. Rich is widowed with two adult children who were baptized and confirmed at Grace.

The following people are running for a three year terms on the Grace Lutheran Church Council to fill vacancies left by Deanna Weber and Dan Warren.

John Roehrick

John P. Roehrick - 529 43rd Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

Married - wife is Sandra.

Private practice attorney and graduate of Drake Law School.

Member of Grace since 1967.

Previous Church council member; previous president of church council; Sunday school and confirmation teacher; past member of various committees of Central Iowa Lutheran Homes for Aging; Member of various professional organizations and community non-profit boards of directors.

Janet Habick

I am married and have one son, Josh who is 14 years old. I work at Broadlawns Medical Center in Patient Financial Services where I process patient's medical claims. I enjoy singing in the church choir and helping out as a liturgist. My hobbies include sewing and scrapbooking. Born and raised around Yankton, South Dakota, I studied vocal music at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. When I moved to Des Moines in 1990, I performed in several musicals at the Ingersoll Dinner Theater. This is where I met Pastor Don and his wife, Jayme when we did "South Pacific" together. I visited other churches before I found my home here at Grace. The people here were very welcoming and caring. I would be honored to serve on the Church Council.

Election of Endowment Fund Committee Members

The following people are running for the Endowment Fund Committee replacing Gail Peterson who has completed two consecutive three year terms and also replacing Jeff Farrell who served a one year term to fill a vacated seat.

Marv Johns

Marvin has been a member of Grace for six years. He participates in Men in Mission and the Tuesday morning Bible class. He is a long-time member of the American Guild of Organists, having been a church organist since age 14. He has served on synod committees, audit committees, church councils and as a church treasurer. His past work experience: retired as Vice President, Capital Financial and Leasing Services in 1981; then served five years as bookkeeper for the Iowa Synod, LCA through the ELCA merger; later served 10 years as accountant for Iowa Religious Media Services. Marvin and Lorna have one adult son.

Valerie Culp

Valerie has been a member of Grace Lutheran for 18 years. She has served on the Grace Council, the Evangelism Committee, as a Sunday school teacher, as President of Martha Circle and Grace Women's Board and was instrumental in beginning Hannah Circle. Her past work experience includes Director of Ankeny Art Center, Accounting Manager for Associated Hotel Corporation, and administrative assistant at Norwest Banks. She is involved in several volunteer activities: The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Ankeny Art Center, and a manager for the Santa's North Pole Craft Show in Ankeny. Valerie and her husband, Brent, have one son who is in college.

Adult Forum Committee

This last year was the first full year for this committee and we are now in our second year.

Highlights for forums have been:

Habitat for Humanity in January
"Farming, Food & Faith" in March
Martin Luther Sing-a-long in October
Story Teller in December

There were also Intergenerational events throughout the year, Bible studies, and updates from various committees.

We would love to have you attend our meetings and share with us any ideas you may have for forums.

Carol Mattes

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

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 cleanup. Setup was also done for La Voz de Esperanza Sunday services through May 2010. The Altar Guild is also responsible for the setup for the summer Saturday services. We 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
- 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 2010 we were able to purchase four new banners with Memorial monies given in remembrance of Kay Barks and Stanley Johnson. The banners purchased were: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany and Easter.

We want to thank the Tim & Loree Nelson family for the two wedding banners they donated to Grace after the wedding of their daughter, Rachel this past year.

Budgeted amount for 2010: \$1,500.00
Expenses for 2010: \$1,189.94

We want to thank the following 2010 Altar Guild volunteers for their dedicated service; Marilyn Allie, Sue Anderson, Tammy Denton, Connie Heuton, Alice Kulzer, Mary McCann, Cindy Peeler, Jane Ridnour, Helen Ringgenberg, Mindy Scholten, Becky Selander, Rita Stackhouse, Michelle Voelker 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 8, 2011**

Cash Balance as of December 28, 2009	\$9,818.80
Receipts:	
Interest on funds	\$5.38
Deposits:	\$1,200.00
Disbursements:	None
Cash Balance as of December 27, 2010	\$11,024.18

The Columbarium Committee met in January and discussed what we needed to prepare for 2010 year end.

**Members that have purchased niches – McIntyre, Tussing,
Frost, Krauss, Rehder, Iverson, Buihner, Page, and Batten.**

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

Cradle Roll Report 2010

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 12 “Parent Pages,” one for each month of the year, and a CD for each year.

There are currently 12 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 first 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.

Two babies were baptized during 2010; one of these children is currently on the Cradle Roll list. The other is the child of a former member.

In addition to the purchase of the Splash materials, other purchases include mailing materials and postage.

2010 Budget:	\$300.00
Expenditures:	\$272.92

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Peterson
Cradle Roll Coordinator

Companion Congregation Report 2010

The relationship between Msindo/Mararo parish and Grace Lutheran still remains strong even with the changes both congregations have been through. Msindo/Mararo has experienced a change in pastors this past year.

In September, the Pare Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) elected Pastor Charles Mjema as Bishop of the Pare Diocese. We look forward to meeting and working with him.

Our committee has met throughout the year. We have discussed focusing on education at the primary and intermediate levels. We will work with the teachers and schools to assess their needs. School books, paper and teacher material is needed at all levels. The scholarship fund continues to provide uniforms to students who would otherwise not be able to afford the mandatory uniforms. The Sunday Quarters help with this worthwhile fund.

It is our hope to have a trip to Msindo within the next year. Our committee is always looking for new members with an interest in learning more about the relationship with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania.

Bwana asifiwe ! God is good !

Jane Ridnour
Chair – Companion Congregation Committee

Endowment Committee 2010 Annual Report

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.

In March 2010 the Endowment Committee awarded a total of \$17,913.00 to the 11 projects listed below. The awarding of these funds extended Grace's outreach to the Des Moines community, the state of Iowa and two African countries.

\$1240 to La Voz de Esperanza to purchase computers and Rosetta Stone English Language teaching materials

\$500 to the Grace Garden Club for plantings

\$3075 to Lutheran Lakeside Camp to purchase 50 mattresses

\$2400 to Medicine for Mali for scholarships

\$4500 to Lutheran Services in Iowa for the Refugee Emergency Fund

\$1815 to MOSAIC for a specialized wheelchair

\$1333 to Family AIDS Care and Education Services to build a patient waiting bay.

\$3050 to the Grace Education Committee

\$1300 for the painting of murals in the Sunday School area of the church.

\$550 to purchase 25 Study Bibles for confirmation.

\$250 for the Sunday School vegetable garden project.

\$950 for the VBS afternoon program

This past year the operating rules of the committee were reviewed and revised into one governing document. A proposal to amend the Grace constitution regarding the Endowment Fund was presented to the Grace Council to be taken under consideration at the next congregational meeting.

Committee Members: Kevin Krause, Financial Secretary, Karen Taylor, Secretary, Pat Rehder and Jeff Farrell.

Submitted by,
Gail Peterson, Chairman

Grace Women of the ELCA 2010 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 three 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.

As a board, we are made up of members from the circles, Lutheran World Relief Chair, and 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 Bank, Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach 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 four funeral luncheons, Super Wednesday meals, and Lenten soup supper. We prepared and served a reception for the Bells and Brass Concert and in addition to this we served lunch for a bells workshop.

Grace Women prepared Christmas gifts for our shut-in members. 20 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

**Grace Women Lutheran World Relief
Summary for 2010**

Balance Brought Forward January 1, 2010	\$373.85
Expenditures for Spring Drive	\$373.85
Balance as of March 30, 2010	0.00
Income for Fall Drive	\$680.00
Expenditures for Fall Drive	\$653.97
Balance for August, 2010	\$26.03
Income for 2011 Spring Drive	\$827.00
Partial Expenses for 2011 Spring Drive	\$131.13
Balance as of January 1, 2011	\$721.90

88 quilts, 50 School Kits, 333 Health Kits, 9 Layettes and 8 Sewing Kits were sent in to Minneapolis, MN.

Library Annual Report for 2010

Grace Lutheran Church Library continues to serve as a resource center for all ages: preschoolers, school age children, youth, parents, singles, couples, and senior citizens. It serves as a resource center for the leaders of the congregation, teachers of religious education, officers of various church organizations and church officers and staff. The comfortable inviting setting is used as a meeting room, study area, and gathering place for groups needing a quiet space.

The library offers books for all ages: children's books, both fiction and non fiction; books for teens, adult books including fiction, books on current social issues, general religious reference books, inspirational and devotional materials, church periodicals, and appropriate A.V. materials.

We are pleased to see an increase in the use of the library and its resources.

An adult book club meets on Wednesday evenings. Anyone interested is invited to come.

Sunday Church School classes through 6th grade are invited to come to the library one Sunday a month during their class hour. A committee member reads a story to them with a discussion of its content. This program started in October and ends early in May. The library is also used for story hours during the week for the Day Care children.

DVD recordings of weekly church services are available for checkout. We are pleased with the interest shown in the DVDs, referred to as "Grace Lutheran Church Service to Go". They are produced by a dedicated group who record them each week and take them to the library where they are made available for check out. The DVDs can be checked out for a week by anyone interested, and are taken to shut-ins by request.

Books in Spanish are available in a bookcase on the north wall of the library. Many of the new books can be found there also. The Msindo collection is located in a bookcase on the east wall of the library. We offer some large print books.

New books are listed in the Friendly Visitor. Watch for these interesting and informative additions.

We encourage all of you to visit and use our wonderful collection of books.

Members of the library committee are Marion Nehmer, Inga Hoifeldt, Joy Averill, and Bev Anderson. Thanks to our wonderful volunteers who also serve.

Grace Lutheran Church Memorial Fund Committee Report 2010

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, 2010

IN MEMORY OF:

Mazelle Carlsen
Frank Graham
Robert Niffenegger
Corrine Reed
Rhoda Uhlinger

MEMORIALS FUNDED JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2010

Altar Guild Banners
Baptismal Plaques
Confirmation Camp Scholarships
Scholarship Fund
Eternal Light Candles
Grace Endowment Fund
Lakeside Camp Scholarship Fund
Grace Hall Piano
Parking Lot Trees
Wood Cross in Grace Hall

2010 FINANCIAL SUMMARY-

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2010	\$24,046.82
2010 Receipts	<u>\$ 2,384.40</u>
Total Balance and Receipts	\$26,431.22
2010 Expenditures	<u>\$13,018.64</u>
Balance December 31, 2010	\$13,412.58

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

Property Committee Report 2010

Grace Lutheran Church property committee has had another busy year for maintenance and improvements around the church.

Maintenance and improvements include:

Church

- Ice damage-related repairs – roof, air conditioning unit, down spouts, and air sensor.
- Heating system damper control replacement.
- Kitchen garbage disposal replaced.
- Knox Box installed - used by the fire department to gain access to the church.
- Repair and paint windows and doors on the east side of sanctuary.
- Painting and wall touch ups throughout the church.
- Various other general maintenance repairs.

Custodian House

- Miscellaneous household repairs.
- Added a gutter and downspout 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 projects and repairs every year and we would like to say Thank You to this volunteer group for all they do.

The committee is working on determining future projects and repairs to be completed during 2011. 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

Norm Iverson	Barb Tussing
Brian Barks	Mike Peterman
Roy Mann	Len Ringgenberg
	Jon Rissman

Grace Lutheran Church 2010 Scholarship Committee Annual Report

This year the Scholarship Committee awarded three scholarships of \$500 each to the following students:

Elly Peterman	Senior	Luther Seminary
Jessica Flannery	Sophomore	Gustavus Adolphus College
Tanner Peeler	Freshman	Grandview University

We began the year with \$2,131.88 in our treasury. During the year we received funds of \$1,595.00 and dispersed funds of \$1,500.00 for scholarships. We ended the year with a balance of \$2,226.88.

The Scholarship Fund was established in 1983 to provide scholarships for Grace Church students attending a Lutheran seminary, university or college. All of our funds come by way of donations as we are not funded as a part of the church budget, and we deeply appreciate the support we have received from the congregational members and committees of Grace Lutheran church. Donations may be sent to the church office or by using the pew envelopes. Please remember to mark it for the scholarship fund.

Current committee members are:

Timothy Johnson, Church Interim Pastor
Mary Freimuth Helt, Council President
Gary Nehmer, Congregational member
Art Berven, Congregational member
Dorothy Williamson, Chairman

Respectfully submitted,

Dot Williamson

Report of the Stewardship Committee

Thank you for taking a stewardship journey with us during 2010.

We hope this journey allowed each of you to grow in the understanding that all we have has been given to us by God, 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, 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. 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 need’s to set aside an appropriate share of our estate for the building up of the Church and serving the needs of others.

We are very pleased that the Congregation has met the pledging goals for 2011. Pledge activity for 2011 is projected to exceed the 2010 pledge level by 6.3%. We are also very pleased with the level of participation in the time and talent surveys. Finally, Grace received a generous bequest during the year through a member’s final will and testament.

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

Your Stewardship Committee,

Doug Johnson, Kevin Krause, Leonard Larsen, Joyce Lewis, Tom Selander, Jay Wangerin

2010 Sunday School Education Annual Report

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

Each Sunday the pre-K through third/fourth grade classes attend a brief opening in the sanctuary for devotions, songs, and prayer. Our preschool through 6th grade classes enjoy library time once a month. During their special library time they listen to a theme related story of faith.

Activities that took place throughout the 2010 year included:

- Feb. 7: Making Valentine cards for Child Serve and homebound members
- Mar.: Donating health kit items for Lutheran World Relief
- April 4: Easter egg hunt and other activities
- May 16: Celebration Sunday – Christian magic show presented by Williamson Productions
- Sept. 12: Intergenerational Rally Day to kick off the Sunday School year; installation of teachers and learners in worship
- Sept. 26: Bible Sunday for 3rd graders; an all Sunday School event about hunger
- Oct. 10: Hunger Hike (confirmation students)
- Nov. 14: Intergenerational event called “Combat Hunger” to benefit the food pantry
- Dec. 19: Christmas program

In addition, the Sunday School received a grant from the Endowment Fund to make the hallways more child and youth friendly. Mural artist Doug Applegate was hired to sketch the drawings, and then numerous adult, youth, and child volunteers painted them. We now have a Noah’s ark scene on the downstairs hallway and larger than life multicultural characters leading up to the gym and middle and high school classrooms.

After several years of faithful service as the Sunday School Superintendent, Cherie Rissman resigned from that role after the close of the 2009-2010 year. We thank her for her years of dedication to the Christian education of our youngest members. Over the summer, a new Youth Education Team and Sunday School Support Team were raised up with the help of the Lay Ministry Team. The Youth Education Team now 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, Julie Honsey, Kristin Medhurst, and Sherry Merkwon. Sunday School Support Team members include Mary Jo McCleary, Sherry Merkwon, and Deanna and Eric 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 part in their growth.

Stephanie Johnson, on behalf of Youth Education Team