

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 2021
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SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020 5:50 pm

*Members and associate members registered before the 5 PM catered meal and the meeting that followed. Three Council members and Bev Aguilar were in charge of registration. The printed 2019 annual report booklet was available at weekend services and again at the dinner and meeting. The dinner was held in Café Grace, and the meeting was held in the sanctuary. There were 176 members (177 with Pastor Scott) at the meeting.

The meeting was **called to order at 5:50 PM** by the Congregational Council President Dave Sitzman. **Council Members present** were Robin Aguilar, Phyllis Borchardt, Richard Johnson, Sue Kopcha, Treedah Magee, Vicki McCarville, Dave Sitzman. **Members absent** were Dick Lyda and Spencer Videon.

Pastor Scott Hackler gave **devotions** before the meeting.

President's Report: *See also Annual Report 2019 booklet.

- President Dave Sitzman gave the **welcome** and opening remarks.
- **A quorum** was verified.
- **Minutes** from the 2019 Annual meeting were in the 2019 Annual Report Booklet. Dave asked for corrections from the floor. There being none, the minutes were approved.
- **Thanks** was given to Interim Pastor Harold Stromer, Senior Pastor Scott Hackler, the Call Committee, the Survey Committee and all survey responders, noting that the survey cut-off date is February 1st. Strategic Planning will follow, and the outcomes will be shared with the congregation.
- Congregational members, associate members, and visitors (250+ weekly) were thanked for their generosity to SOG. We are in a strong **financial** position, with a 2020 \$893,541 budget recommended. Thanks to the congregation's and visitors' giving, we have healthy finances. Also, outside the 2019 budget, giving totaled over \$100,000 to benevolences other than the \$25,000 budgeted for in the category of local giving. Outside the local benevolence giving, \$18,000 was given to MAM; \$22,000 to the food bank; \$23,000 to Advent Giving and Luke benevolences; \$41,000 to Gifts of Hope's African Mission.
- Dave named the different volunteer groups (in booklet) and thanked all **volunteers**, those posted on the Café Grace wall, as well as the others not posted in Café Grace.
- Dave thanked the three Council members leaving Council for their service. The three are Robin Aguilar, Treedah Magee, and Spencer Videon.

Pastor's Report and "20/20 in 2020": *See also Annual Report 2019 booklet.

- Pastor Scott thanked the Call Committee, Council, Congregation, and Pastor Stromer for a warm welcome and making his first four months go smoothly.

Miriam is arriving the first week of Feb. and staying for a few weeks before returning to SD to market their home. Pastor and Miriam's son is making wedding plans for June. Their daughter Hannah's baby is expected to arrive in May.

- 20/20 Strategic Planning-Surveys are coming in great! Pastor encouraged all to complete the survey by Feb. 1, with a summary report planned for all by mid-February. A gathering for Sat., Feb. 29th is being planned to go forward with what the survey reveals. Volunteers are welcome to let Pastor or the Council know if they would like to be in on the planning. Space will limit the size of the group.

Nominating Committee Report: *See also Annual Report 2019 Booklet.

- Bruce Belanger, Chair of the **Nominating Committee**, introduced his other committee members: Deb Frusciano, Treedah Magee, and Pastor Scott.
- Bruce outlined SOG's **Constitution's rules** concerning the Congregational Council members' nomination, election, and service (three-year terms, not consecutive terms, one year between past Council and new council nomination. Bruce outlined the procedure the committee followed, and the focus for the new year. Bruce reminded those present that Dave and Sue were nominated to the Council last year because we needed strong, seasoned leadership to lead SOG toward securing a senior pastor. This year the focus was to involve new members on Council and get "New Blood." The three nominees who were vetted and their bios published are as follows: Ted Grove, Harvey Gabbert, and Susan Chambers. Bruce presented these three names from the Nominating Committee to President Sitzman. Dave stated that we have 9 members (with Pastor) on Council. Dave also stated that a balance of male and female Council members serve each year.
- President Sitzman then called for **nominations from the floor**. Ray Poole nominated Stephen Coffman. Stephen accepted. Bruce Champlin seconded the motion. Bruce gave background information about Stephen as follows: long-standing member who shows his love of SOG through Choir and music, MAM golf tournament chairmanship, past Council service ten years ago. Bruce stated that Stephen feels a calling to serve and is a good communicator and listener.
- President Sitzman outlined the **procedure to add a nomination** from the floor as follows: A vote to approve adding another name to the slate would precede a paper ballot to choose three names. A simple majority is needed to add other names from the floor.
- Dave asked that raised hands be used for the **motion on the floor**. Since there were 105 hands raised, affirming that Stephen's name be added to the ballot, it was determined that a simple majority was met, and paper ballots with a fill-in blank for a write-in nomination were distributed.
- Council members, with Treedah Magee as leader, **collected and counted the ballots**. **Report of ballots** was moved to later in the meeting in order to save time.

Synod Assembly Representative Nominees' Names were presented by the Nominating Committee. With Pastor Scott, we will send four voting members to the Grand Canyon Synod Assembly June 11-12. Richard and Deborah Frusciano and Treedah Magee were the other three delegates presented for nomination. Dave

Sitzman moved to accept this slate of delegates. Vicki McCarville seconded the motion. The motion passed. Dave reminded the congregation that all are welcome to attend the Synod Assembly, but SOG is allowed only four voting members.

Call Committee- Phil Nelson thanked his committee (names and report in booklet) by having those present stand. Phil thanked the congregation for their support during the call process April-July 2019 that led to Pastor Scott beginning his ministry at SOG as senior pastor October of 2019.

Financial Report- *See also Annual Report 2019 Booklet.

Phil Nelson, Finance Committee Chairman, summarized and highlighted the detailed financial report in the booklet as follows:

- We spent less than we planned for in the budget.
- We are \$14,000 ahead in the "Revenues" category.
- Our 2020 proposed budget reflects a 2% increase, with salaries increased approximately 4%, and a senior pastor's salary now in place.
- We continue to pay \$2,000 additionally monthly to reduce the principal of the mortgage (balance \$795,858).
- Phil noted that the "Restricted Contributions and Reserves" category includes the money for the new HVAC system and also Gifts of Hope.
- Phil commented that benevolences listed only include the local benevolences; if all benevolences were added in, SOG would be in the million-dollar range.
- We are in a good financial position.

Phil recommended that the budget for 2020 be adopted. Cheri Nelson made the motion to accept the budget. Rich Frusciano seconded the motion.

Discussion: Question- Are we budgeted for an associate pastor? Phil- Yes, there is \$30,000 budgeted. Question-What are the "Audio Extras" budgeted for? Jerry Huston: six more audio-assist units and new microphones for the body packs.

With no further questions from the floor, Phil called for the vote. The motion to accept the **2020 budget passed.**

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Council Ballot Results: Bruce Belanger presented the ballot results to President Sitzman. The vote tallies follow:

- Ted Grove: 163 votes
- Harvey Gabbert: 140 votes
- Susan Chambers: 157 votes
- Stephen Coffman: 71 votes

Ted Grove, Harvey Gabbert, and Susan Chambers were welcomed as the three **new Council members**. All nominees were thanked for agreeing to serve if elected.

President Sitzman **adjourned** the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Submitted by Vicki McCarville, Council Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In early 2020, we completed a Every Member Survey to confirm our demographics, strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for SOG to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ within and beyond our community of Sun City Grand. The results of that Survey were very promising, and that task still lies before us. But within a few months, the world as we knew it had changed due to the spread of the Covid-19 Virus. Consequently, services were suspended. And as of this date, there are still many members and visitors who have not seen each other, or worshipped within the church building, for almost a year.

Since then, the church has taken all precautions to make available in-person services again, starting with very limited attendance, specific safety protocols, and growing in small steps. This has taken a lot of work, and patience, from all as we have sought to expand the scope and experience of the services, but keep our members safe above all else. We will continue to appraise the situation, as the Virus is still very much with us, in spite of the recent availability of vaccines.

To help keep everyone in touch with the worship experience, we started recording services and making them available on YouTube. This form of tele-ministry has proven very effective, especially as the format and quality of the recordings has been enhanced. Surprisingly, the number of viewings of these services indicates an attendance that equals or exceeds our normal in-person numbers, especially during the slower summer months. This was a very pleasant surprise, and perhaps something we can expand in the future.

But through all these months and difficult times, the commitment and generosity of the church has remained very strong. We very nearly reached our 2020 Budgeted Income by the end of December, and with reduced expenses we have fulfilled all our budgeted commitments of support to the Grand Canyon Synod, and local benevolence ministries. We also finished the year with truly remarkable support of non-budgeted ministries such as Gifts of Hope, The Advent Giving Tree (LAFB), and the Valley View Food Bank. Thank you, and God bless every one of you!

The summary above cannot convey the amount of preparation, oversight, and administration that has gone into trying to keep our church life "normal." And very special thanks to Pastor Scott for his planning and steady hand of coordination; to Deb Frusciano for assessing and coordinating Virus safety protocols; to Jerry Huston for his tireless dedication to providing the YouTube services; and to all our staff for keeping our church as normal and friendly as possible.

And we want to give special recognition to Gerry White, who retired on January 1st of this year, after serving 13 years as Director of Finance and Administration. His position will now be filled by Glenn Schultz. So, "Cheers" and thank you, Gerry, and welcome aboard, Glenn!"

We also want to give a special thanks to our outgoing Council members after serving their three-year terms: Dick Lyda, Vicki McCarville (Council Secretary), and Phyllis Borchardt.

We continue to be blessed to be a part of God's family at SOG. The Congregation Council thanks all of you for your time, talent, treasures---and patience!---with all those who enter herein. We look forward to our future together in God's service.

Sincerely, Dave Sitzman, Congregation Council President

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear Members, Associate Members, and Friends of Spirit of Grace,

Normally I would begin my annual report with a memorable Bible verse, but this is a different kind of year. I thought I might take a different approach.

At least half of this old proverb from the mid-1800's will sound familiar:

'Tis a lesson you should heed: Try, try, try again.

If at first you don't succeed, Try, try, try again.

Life at Spirit of Grace was going along nicely last January and February. Ministries were in high gear. Worship services were full. We had launched strategic planning with great participation and broad input from the congregation. Then came March and the uncertainty of the coming weeks and months. We hoped and prayed that it would go away, but here we are more than 10 months later with Covid-19 still looming.

In mid-March, we joined just about everyone in suspending our in-person worship. We had to scramble for a way to worship and to communicate with everyone. We had to get creative right away and remember that proverb, "Try, try, try again." What else could we do? Every week a quick end to the pandemic looked less likely, and every week brought a new challenge. I remember the tears that were shed at our last in-person worship service in mid-March and the anxious sense that we had a lot of things to figure out if we were going to carry out the mission of the church during the pandemic.

The first weekend of moving to a complete online worship service reminded me of another proverb, this one from Homer Simpson: "*Trying is just the first step toward failure.*" I am trying to be funny. While it wasn't always easy to laugh, we had a lot of fun figuring things out. Everyone stepped up and made it work. That first worship service wasn't a failure at all, but it was rough. We immediately started trying different things. Again, "*Try, try, try again,*" was our motto...and not just in worship...in caring for one another, staying in touch, learning, finances and offerings, decision making, and everything else. We all became very familiar with YouTube, Facebook and Zoom. Calling, email, and texts replaced home and hospital visits. We

learned from other churches, got direction and support from the Bishop, and put in place the best guidance we could find from federal and state sources.

It was a joyful weekend when we regathered in-person September 19-20. Lots of preparation by the staff and some faithful volunteers made it possible to meet safely. My first words to the gathering were filled with gratitude. My emotions welled up, and tears flowed along with many of you. Hope is in sight but "*Try, try, try again*" we will. It has been an amazing year.

It will not be long before we come to the one-year anniversary of suspending in-person worship. We can mourn what was lost and who was lost this past year, and we should. But we should also look back with amazement at what the Spirit of God has done and inspired in our church. Each staff member went above and beyond to do whatever was needed. Council members reached out in ways that I have never experienced in my years of ministry. Your financial offerings were not only faithful to God in response to God's goodness, but your offerings also secured our commitments and prepared us to be ready for more normal times.

As you read through the annual reports of the leaders in our congregation, be sure to give God thanks for these leaders' faithfulness and endurance. When you get a chance, please thank them in a special way. We are all grateful for the encouragement we received. Please accept my personal thanks for all the many words, cards, letters and emails of support. Nearly every day the staff and I have received this kind of encouragement.

We are looking ahead now to a different kind of year. It will not be a normal year, but the vaccines give us hope of some sense of ordinariness. My thought is that we will be back to regular activity by next fall. Things could certainly happen sooner, but let us be patient and put the needs of others first. I can tell you that your leaders will continue to "*Try, try, try again*" as new challenges emerge.

Oh, and yes, there are portions of scripture that encourage us to keep at it. Among them is Psalm 46:

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*

May God's grace and peace be with you each day of this new year!

*In Christ,
Pastor Scott Hackler*

PART TIME SEASONAL PASTOR'S REPORT

What a year, and what a start of ministry here at SOG. I began serving SOG in March of '20, and you know what happened! Suddenly the expectation of being among you, and how I would serve changed. That said, some things have not changed. I offer a short synopsis of my SOG engagement:

1. Serve from October through May half time
2. Preach 1-2 times per month
3. Participate in worship leadership
4. Do phone outreach to membership
5. Participate in staff meetings
6. Assist other staff members as requested
7. Do outreach ministry to congregated facilities
8. Participate in Council meetings, as well as Executive and Finance Committee meetings
9. Other ministry tasks as requested.

Ministry is about relationships, I treasure the manners in which we can connect even in these challenging times! In that regard, I lift up others on the SOG staff for their dedication, and each of you who make SOG a congregation of purpose and mission.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Gary Benson*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating committee met on the 7th of December to review the list of members whose names were given to us as members who would either be interested in serving or names given to us from church members to consider. At that time, we went through the list to see if everyone on the list met the criteria required by SOG by-laws. We then divided the list up for phone calls to ask the candidates if they were, in fact, willing to serve. We need three new members for the council. The candidates will be presented at the church meeting on January 17, 2021. The candidates are as follows: Ellie Brooks, Terry Pierce, and Julie Townsend. At that time we will entertain nominations from the floor. The committee would like to thank these three members for their willingness to serve.

Ellie Brooks: My husband, Loy, and I have lived in Sun City Grand for 21 years. Since 2000, we've considered Spirit of Grace our church home. We were winter visitors until we joined in 2014. I served on the Sun City Grand Homeowner's Association Board of Directors from 2015 to 2019, and was the Board President three of those four years. You may recognize Loy and I as regular Sunday ushers for the past six years. We are from Iowa. I have a college degree in Accounting and Computer Science from Drake University in Des Moines. I retired from US West, a telecommunications company, as a Vice President of Customer Services after 29 ½ years. Our son, Scott, and daughter, Sherry, both live in Des Moines.

Terry K. Pierce: Terry was a Sun City Grand snowbird beginning in 2004. He moved to Grand permanently in 2015, and he immediately began attending Spirit of Grace

full-time. At SOG, Terry helps with the sound and lighting systems; serves as an usher; is a reader for Sunday worship services; assists with communion; and is a singer on the YouTube services. Originally from London, England, Terry became a US citizen in 1960. He holds an MBA, worked for the Federal Government for thirty-seven years, and is a Viet Nam veteran. Terry enjoys golf, plays in a local band, the Sonoran Skies, and is a member of the SCG Music Club and the SCG Drama Club, where he met his wife Cathy, also a SOG member since 2004. Terry and Cathy were married this past April. They were married to a "full-house of two socially-distanced attendees" at SOG.

Julie Townsend: Julie has been a life-long Lutheran and a member of Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church since 2017. She and her husband, John (also a member since 2017), have lived full-time in Sun City Grand since October 2016. Julie has served SOG as a member of the choir, a Café Grace server, and a WELCA member. Currently, Julie is serving as the vice-president of SOG's Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELCA) groups. Education is Julie's passion, reflected in her years of teaching pre-school through college-level students. She holds an MED degree. She retired from Ankeny, Iowa, as a seventh-grade life-science teacher before moving to Arizona. The Townsends have three daughters and six grandchildren. Their daughters live in River Forest, IL; Overland Park, KS; and New Market, England. Julie enjoys travel, golf, mahjongg, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES: Spirit of Grace sends delegates to the Grand Canyon Synod Assembly which typically meets each year. Because of the pandemic, the 2020 Assembly was canceled. This year, the Synod Assembly will gather by Zoom. The dates are June 10th and 11th and will be led from Community Lutheran Church in Las Vegas, NV.

Delegate Nominees:

Pastor Gary Benson – current Seasonal/Associate Pastor

David Sitzman – current Council President

Sue Kopcha – current Vice-President

Phyllis Borhardt – current Council member and President of WELCA

Deborah Frusciano – Faith Community Nurse

Treedah Magee, Chairperson

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR RESOURCES

The financial results for the year of 2020 were very good. Our income of \$842,725 was \$50,817 less than our planned budget. Our expenses of \$788,315 were less than our planned budget by \$105,227 and our unrestricted cash of \$250,937 at year's end is \$27,951 more than planned! These results during this year of uncertainty are reason to give thanks.

Your financial gifts continue to be a blessing to the work of God's Kingdom here locally as well as around the world. More than \$75,000 of our congregation's annual income support local and Synod benevolences. Contributions to Gifts of Hope, the Advent Giving Tree, Food Bank donations and other congregation programs provide

more than \$85,000 of additional monies to those in need. For that we say, "Thank You."

Spirit of Grace congregation continues to demonstrate faithful stewardship. The gifts of your time, your talents, and your financial means are so important in the work of God's Kingdom. You take seriously what it means to have a grateful heart. Your response to the challenge of giving four months offering during the final three months of the year demonstrated again your understanding of faithful stewardship. We say, "Thank You."

St. Paul in his epistle to the church at Corinth reminds us that our generosity produces thanksgiving to God. "You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us." 2nd Corinthians 9:11.

Phil Nelson, Chairman

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE (FCN)

Faith Community Nursing (FCN) is designated as a specialty practice combined with professional nursing and health ministry focusing on the intentional care of the spirit. This intentional care of the spirit sets it apart from other types of nursing. We are actively licensed in the state in which we practice (Arizona) and have completed FCN specialty training. We are regulated by the ANA (American Nurses Association) Scope and Standards of Practice for both registered nurses and faith community nurses. In addition, I must, adhere to the Nurse Practice Act of Arizona and the Nursing Code of Ethics. This has been a challenging year with COVID-19. Restrictions have made it difficult to make hospital and home visits in these later months. Most communication is done via phone, text, or e mail. Working within the above standards and restrictions, I have completed the following:

- Educational Presentations: Life Planning Seminar, Surviving the Holidays.
- Assist with new member welcome sessions January-February (suspended)
- Coordinate Divine Dinner Program January-February (suspended)
- Coordinate Advent Giving Tree Program. Gift cards totaling \$9,492.00 for families at Luke Air Force Base
- Monthly article in Grace Notes for Faith Community Nurse Corner
- 500+Congregant contacts which include the following: home, hospital, facility visits, one on one office visits (restricted) and phone calls. Accompany individuals to physician visits and hospital procedure (restricted). Assist congregants with medical issues that may occur while at SOG services/activities. Provide spiritual, and emotional support. Make referrals, as necessary. Advise congregation of deaths and relocations in the congregation.
- Coordinate monthly blood pressure screenings and CPR/AED training (decreased due to restrictions). Maintain AED unit per guidelines.
- Attend monthly FCN continuing education meetings with other local and regional FCN's via zoom.
- Participate in educational opportunities (Webinars, Zoom)
- Participate in monthly executive and council meetings to provide medical/COVID 19 updates.
- Regular COVID-19 Updates/resources sent out to congregation.
- Beginning December 2020 serving on board of ELPNA Region 2. (Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association)

- Assist with scheduling and coordination of ushers for weekly services (September to current)
- Monitor community/state COVID 19 status and provide resources to congregation/staff to provide safe environment.

Deborah Frusciano, Faith Community Nurse

MONTHLY BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Blood pressure screenings have been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions. Blood pressures were taken January and February before COVID-19 restrictions were implemented. The team consists of current and retired nurses (RN/LPN), EMTs and firefighters.

AED/CPR(Automated External Defibrillator/Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) Team

This group of volunteers consists of individuals who have been trained in CPR and the use of the AED machine. They respond to emergencies that may require 911 to be called and assist congregants and their family during an incident. The AED machine is located by the men's restroom mounted over the water fountain. The team has assisted individuals for incidents such as falls and illness. They have assisted with 911 calls as needed. We have not had to perform CPR or use the AED machine this report period. We have not had new trainings or recertifications due to COVID-19 restrictions. The AED unit is maintained per national guidelines.

Deborah Frusciano, Faith Community Nurse

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT PROJECTS SUMMARY

- Replace heating and cooling units in Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Discovery - Return air supply ducts had collapsed allowing soil to migrate into the system. Completed all repairs before installing new units.
- Completed balancing all interior duct diffusers.
- Installed handicap cable railing in the Sanctuary.
- Made some improvements with the irrigation supply lines.
- 2019 City of Surprise Police Department provided a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). In 2020 we discussed with our Landscaping company how to approach the number 2 CPTED item recommendation lower all shrubs to 30". In order to avoid additional cost we decided to lower a few shrubs monthly as weather and seasons permitted.
- Cleaned and painted all storage rooms.
- Stripped, cleaned and sealed all kitchen and restroom floors.
- Cleaned and polished restroom compartment stalls.
- Deep cleaned and upper and lower kitchen cabinets.

FM has implemented (COVID) additional cleaning measures:

- All restrooms are sanitized daily.
- Trash is removed from the facility daily (7).
- Floors are scrubbed and sanitized weekly.

- Administrative office (to include computers, keyboards, phones, desks, and tables) are sanitized 3 times a week.
- Administrative Area carpets are vacuumed daily. Sanctuary, Narthex and Fellowship Hall weekly.

Jerry Huston, Facilities Manager

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Worship and Music Committee has not met since the onset of the COVID Pandemic in early 2020. The issue of “no public gatherings” eliminated the need for worship and music planning. However, God had other plans. Soon there were online services available for us to enjoy. *On behalf of the congregation, we would like to give a HUGE Thank You to Pastor Scott, Pastor Gary, Fred Bornhoeft, and Jerry Huston for organizing and providing these online services.* And to Sheila Marlow for her part in providing online bulletins. These services feed our hunger for hearing God’s word and for our need to be a part of Spirit of Grace. Our services have expanded to include scripture readers, worship song leaders, and special music. So, another Big Thank You to those people involved who have given of their time and talents. With the addition of our limited in-person services, we thank Shelly Lettiere and Rich Frusciano for organizing the ushers and Jerry Huston and Jim Miller for their help in the sound booth. We look forward to the day we can all gather together again to worship our Lord.

Sue Nelson, Committee Member

WELCA (Women's Ministries)

COVID 19 and social distancing had a major impact during 2020. Monthly circle meetings now held on Zoom. Fall Thankoffering luncheon cancelled. Cyndy Warnier donated her time and talent creating a video shared with the congregation on Spirit of Grace website at Thanksgiving highlighting the needs of local programs whose service needs have increased during the pandemic and related impact on employment. A grant from Thrivent Financial has enabled us to fund operating expenses during this period with regular collections not being taken with suspended meetings and circle programs. Churchwide has likewise used Zoom and YouTube to conduct meetings and share information. Synod and Churchwide events have been rescheduled to 2022 and 2023 as we navigate this new normal.

Phyllis Borchardt, WELCA President

CARD MINISTRY

With a short break after the COVID-19 problem started, the Card Ministry continued. During the year 2020, approximately 360 cards were sent to members of Spirit of Grace. The cards were sent to people that were ill, death in the family, new members, and milestone birthdays. Many positive responses were received.

Helen Kain, Chairperson

PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

- The Prayer Chain Ministry is based on James 5: 13-17. "Are any among you suffering? They should pray....pray for one another so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."
- Most of our requests are made by email to our SOGprayerchain@yahoo.com or our SOGprayerchain@gmail.com addresses, although a few people fill out the pink forms at the office or tell Sheila.
- There are currently over 100 active members of this ministry. During the 2020 year we have prayed for more than 150 people and we normally have about 25-30 names on the active list each week.
- We always welcome new members to join us in this powerful ministry.

Linda Cinnamond, Chairperson

GIFTS OF HOPE

Spirit of Grace's annual Gifts of Hope campaign ran from November 22, 2020 – January 5, 2021. This year our church raised \$42,544. For comparison, last year we raised \$40,590 and the previous year \$35,505. Our gifts' scope of support was once again in education, healthcare and nutrition. This was the first year Gifts of Hope included the church website and a mailing to church members in our fundraising efforts, especially helpful during the pandemic. Our committee members this year were Kerstin Smith (Chair), Steve and Penny Coffman, Novelle Ballard, Doris Colville, Winnie Fritz, Marti Hamro, Cheryl Jackson, Richard Johnson, Chuck Kinney, Bill Lobitz, Anne Miller, Dan Olson, Anneke Rutgers, Carlyle Smith, Margie Staggs and Cosette Swalheim. Our committee and our contacts for the supported African projects all sincerely thank the generosity of our gracious congregation.

Kerstin Smith, Chairperson

MILITARY ASSISTANCE MISSION (MAM)

We are pleased to announce that the generous SOG congregation raised \$6955.00 for the Military Assistance Mission from funds linked to the 22nd annual Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church Charity Golf Outing and Dinner. Donations were given even though the event had to be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all the golf and dinner fees collected went to the MAM Charity. There was also Direct Donations in the amount of \$2470.00 given by members who wanted the Arizona Tax Credit. These contributions helped those service men and women, along with their families, with the many needs experienced during their deployment and upon returning from their mission of protecting and insuring our freedoms.

Marvin Mathews and Jerry Belvill, Co-Chairpersons

ALTAR GUILD

Due to the pandemic and no church services for much of 2020 we had very little activity. We did, however, prepare the Altar for communion once limited in-person services began on September 19, 2020. We thank our volunteers for their continued support.

Marianne White Chair and Hazel Weed Co-Chair

USHERS

Our congregation met for services January 1st through March 17th. Worship services were suspended until we began to regather on September 19th. The ushers have been trained in COVID safety procedures and provide a safe worship environment. Ushers assist with congregant check-in, bulletin, and single serve communion cup distribution prior to seating, specific seating instructions to maintain proper distancing, and dismissal. Ushers serve at either Saturday or Sunday services. Currently, we are limited to 75 congregants at each service. We have a dedicated group of people who volunteer for this ministry. Shelly Lettiere coordinates Saturday services and Rich Frusciano coordinates Sunday services.

Karl Boldt served in the Head Usher position also until he and Barbara retired from this ministry. We thank Karl and Barbara for their many years of service.

Shelly Lettiere, Head Usher

SPIRIT OF GRACE FACEBOOK

By going to www.spiritofgrace.com and clicking on the "f" in the upper right corner, you will find our Facebook page. Normally, postings are made 6 - 7 times weekly and some are humorous while others are more serious and "in season." For your convenience, postings are made early so you can enjoy during morning coffee or anytime during the day. If you like a posting, please feel free to share and encourage friends to check us out. Peace, and "welcome all"!

Cheri Nelson, Coordinator

PRAYER BENCH MINISTRY

What we were able to do: We sent cards and made calls that were listed by Pr. Scott, Deborah Frusciano, and the Prayer Chain. What we were unable to do: To touch them...hug them, anoint them, and hear their concerns and need of prayer for their friends, family, and themselves, in person. We look forward to being able to do those things again in 2021!

Judi Sochin, Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP AND WORSHIP STATISTICS

Full and Associate Members

December 2019 849

Current 791*

*No Welcome Sessions (new members) after February, 19 member deaths, and 52 Full & Associate Members who no longer travel to Arizona or relocated away from Surprise, and a small number that transferred to another church.

Average Weekly Worship Attendance

2019 589

2020 751*

*Combination of Online and In-Person Worship Attendance

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
December 31, 2020

| | Assets | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Current Assets | | \$ |
| Checking - Gen Fund - Chase | 139,079.74 | |
| Checking-Mem Garden-Wells Fargo | 35,486.16 | |
| Deposits | 100.00 | |
| Savings - General Fund - Chase | 124,812.71 | |
| Wells Fargo Saving - Mem Garden | <u>14,003.85</u> | |
| Total Current Assets | | \$ 313,482.46 |
| Fixed Assets | | |
| Building | 2,506,717.08 | |
| Computers & Software | 31,027.11 | |
| Depreciation - Building | (1,338,975.85) | |
| Depreciation - Computers & Software | (28,300.60) | |
| Depreciation - Equipment | (117,589.85) | |
| Depreciation - Furn & Fixtures | (225,692.04) | |
| Depreciation - Memorial Garden | (29,237.52) | |
| Depreciation Major Repairs and Imp. | (118,353.24) | |
| Equipment | 106,798.50 | |
| Furniture & Fixtures | 258,956.93 | |
| Land | 332,300.00 | |
| Major Repairs and Improvements | 443,887.77 | |
| Memorial Garden | <u>59,611.08</u> | |
| Total Fixed Assets | | 1,881,149.37 |
| Total Assets | | <u><u>2,194,631.83</u></u> |
| Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds | | |
| Liabilities | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Employee W/H Tax - FICA | 628.35 | |
| Employee W/H Tax - Medicare | 146.95 | |
| Employer Tax - FICA | 628.35 | |
| Employer Tax - Medicare | 146.95 | |
| Notes Payable - Building | 42,139.00 | |
| Withholding Tax - Federal | 1,009.36 | |
| Withholding Tax - State | <u>274.88</u> | |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 44,973.84 |
| Long Term Liabilities | | |
| Notes Payable - Building | 719,800.83 | |
| Total Long Term Liabilities | | 719,800.83 |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>764,774.67</u> |
| Fund Principal | | |
| Fund Principal General Fund | 1,407,773.68 | |
| Fund Principal Memorial Garden | 36,053.23 | |
| Excess Cash Received | <u>(76,415.70)</u> | |
| Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received | | 1,367,411.21 |
| Restricted Funds | | |
| Total Temporary Restricted | 62,445.95 | |
| Total Restricted Funds | | 62,445.95 |
| Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds | | <u><u>2,194,631.83</u></u> |

Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church Operating Revenues and Expenses

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | Actual | Proposed Budget | Budget |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Operating Revenues and Expenses | | | |
| <u>Revenues</u> | | | |
| Offering and Current Benevolences | 760,744 | 728,932 | 783,798 |
| Offering Mortgage reduction | 76,734 | 100,389 | 103,911 |
| Other Revenues | 747 | 1,700 | 1,832 |
| Columbarium | 4,500 | 3,500 | 4,000 |
| Total Revenues | 842,725 | 834,521 | 893,541 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | | |
| Benevolences & Ministries | | | |
| Synod Benevolences | 50,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Local Benevolences | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Other Benevolences | 2,650 | 0 | 2,000 |
| Worship | 7,033 | 9,047 | 11,250 |
| Fellowship | 5,046 | 2,402 | 9,100 |
| Parish Life | 4,804 | 5,403 | 6,325 |
| Caring Ministry | | 0 | 75 |
| Service | 524 | 629 | 500 |
| Total Benevolences and Ministries Expense | 95,057 | 92,481 | 104,250 |
| Operating Expenses | | | |
| Payroll and Benefits | 506,494 | 499,978 | 541,202 |
| General Expenses | 39,683 | 39,400 | 36,479 |
| Insurance | 13,645 | 15,973 | 12,250 |
| Mortgage payment | 72,521 | 111,956 | 120,916 |
| Building and Grounds | 31,587 | 31,600 | 44,394 |
| Utilities | 29,328 | 30,133 | 34,050 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 693,258 | 729,040 | 789,291 |
| Total Expenses | 788,315 | 821,521 | 893,541 |
| Net Income/(Expense) | 54,410 | 13,000 | 0 |
| Capital Expenditures from unrestricted funds | 24,168 | 13,000 | 0 |