

# **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**2019**



## **Annual Reports From Our Committees**

A North American Lutheran Church Congregation

# Table of Contents

Council President’s Report.....	3
Christian Education Report.....	4
Evangelism Report.....	7
Fellowship Report.....	9
Music and Worship Report.....	11
Pastor’s Report.....	14
Property Report.....	15
Social Ministry/Benevolence Report.....	17
Treasurer’s Report.....	18

## **Council President's Report**

It is hard to believe that another year has passed. As we close the 2019 church year, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve the congregation as Council President. This past year has provided me a great appreciation for the talent and commitment of Pastor Phil and the many volunteers of Grace Lutheran.

Grace saw a substantial growth of new members in 2019 and we continue to see new visitors almost every week.

Financially we are extremely stable and continue to grow our accounts and expand our giving through benevolence programs.

In closing I would like to thank the Council and Pastor Phil for their time and flexibility. We had a few adventures this year from changing our meeting time to replacing our church secretary and beginning to bring up to date the churches constitution.

May we look forward into 2020 with great joy and expectations. God bless each one of you and God bless Grace.

Paul Hess

# Christian Education Report

## CLASSES/STUDIES

**Adult Sunday School; Wednesday Evening Bible Study** led by George Reinhart and Pastor Phil Hohulin.

We began the year by finishing our study of Kathie Lee Gifford's book *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*. In March, the Wednesday PM Bible Study went on hiatus for our Lenten service, while the Sunday school studied *All Things New* by Timothy Keller. We had a Vespers Service on Wednesday night nights with a program titled "Telling Their Stories..." The congregation enjoyed the program and especially approved the Vespers service. After Lent the Kathie Lee book was finished before beginning summer hiatus. In September George and Pastor Phil led a study of *The Non-Prophet's Guide to the End Times* by Todd Hampson. For Advent, we enjoyed the video program "A Case For Christmas", then took a break to finish the Christmas Season.

**Friday Women's Prayer and Bible Study** led by Roseann Costantino

January 2019 began with All Things New by Kelly Minter. We finished the winter season studying The Prodigal God by Timothy Keller. In the fall, our study of Elijah-Spiritual Stamina in Every Season by Melissa Spoelstra took us to Christmas break.

**Grace Lutheran Men's Fellowship Bible Study** led by Bill Slusser and John Michael

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you both for the attached report of the men's activities this year!

**Women of Grace** led by Sandy Rice, represented by Barb Baker

Activities continue with talks of items of interest and lots of fellowship.

**Nursery and Children's Sunday School** led by Cassie Pfeiffer, assisted by Danielle Pfeiffer

We now have 2(!) fully staffed children's classes plus the nursery! At the core of our Sunday school is Cassie, Danielle and Lexie Reinhart. They have been backed up by Wanda Petrino, Jean Wheeler, Julie Hohulin, Lea Ravlin and Diane and Chris Jergens, plus many willing volunteers to cover the nursery. There are now 2 people in the nursery every Sunday. The Miamisburg Historical Society, with Gary Pettigrew donated a large puppet theater for our Sunday School, and the Pfeiffer family worked very hard getting it set up and ready for use. Cassie has purchased 4 puppets and she and Daniel Rice used them to put on a Christmas skit for the younger children.

I feel so blessed to be the council representative of the Christian Education Committee and to work with such dedicated people. Thank you for all you have done to make 2019 such a huge success. Here's to an even better 2020!

Respectfully Submitted,

N'Anne Knight; Committee Chairman and Council Representative

## **Grace Lutheran Men's Fellowship Bible Study**

During the year we averaged 10 men per meeting with a total of 13 men whom attend on a regular schedule. We have experienced great training from the bible presented by Bill Slusser and myself. The men enjoy the all aspects of the meeting and provide a great deal of input.

The Men's Bible study started with the book of Luke and we are currently still studying Luke and are in chapter 9 at years end.

The men have worked on the take down of the prior Christmas decorations, re-paired part of the alter with Bob Wheeler's help whom does not attend the fellowship. We also assisted with the new carpet preparing the instillation area as well as helping with the water damage clean up over the Easter period. The men also helped with the outside clean up and planting in the spring and clearing out of left over items after the rummage sale. The men and their wives also assisted with the Dayton Tornado clean up and provided supplies in many locations over a two month period.

The Men's Fellowship Group is not only a blessing to Grace Church but also to each other in times of need and friendship as strong Christians. I find all the men of Grace Church to be a joy to work next to and pray with at all times, thanks to God Grace!

Sincerely:

John Michael and Bill Slusser

## Evangelism and Outreach Report

The Evangelism Committee plans and executes activities primarily to bring the Gospel to the unchurched, both locally and worldwide. Efforts range from trying to attract neighborhood families to come and experience worship/fellowship at Grace, to supporting Christian ministry and teaching on the other side of the world in India.

With much thanks, the work of the committee was accomplished by Pam Mehlhorn, Joe Costantino, and Gary Petticrew.

**Walter Shade School Outreach:** In September Pam organized, set up and provided lunch for 35 teachers at Walter Shade School next to the church. The teachers enjoyed this welcome to the school year from our disciples.

**India Transformed!:** This ministry takes the Gospel to unreached people across India, shows God's love by caring for destitute women and abandoned children, and plants churches through community-transforming missionaries. Grace is blessed to be a partner in this ministry. This year we were pleased to host a visit to Grace by U.S. Executive Director, Ruth Brodeen, in conjunction with her attendance at the NALC Ohio Convocation in Columbus. The Lunch-n-Learn event was very informative, and culminated in a live Skype call to ministry Director John Peter Kirubagaran in India, whose witness in the face of extreme persecution was inspirational! We also raised \$438.00 from Lenten soup supper offerings, and another \$500.00 in wrapping and related donations during our annual Christmas gift wrapping fundraiser at Barnes & Noble (joint w/ Living Water Lutheran Church). The Christmas proceeds were doubled to \$1,000.00 through a special end-of-the-year Board match, and are being used for missionary training. For more info, go to [www.indiatransformed.org](http://www.indiatransformed.org).

**Halloween Neighborhood Outreach:** For the seventh year in a row, Grace members passed out candy to neighborhood kids on Halloween night. This year, despite COLD temperatures and high winds, 180 kids visited the church for trick-or-treat. Pastor Phil talked it up with the parents as we gave out 46 bags of candy...and some pretzels, pencils and stickers. A number of the kids and parents appreciated a brief stop inside our warm building for a few minutes of a movie in the fellowship hall, quick peek in the Sanctuary, restroom stop, or some water. We continue to pray that the Lord will magnify our efforts and bring some of these families to Grace.

**Grace Website:** The Grace Website has a positive impact getting our church information to the general public this year. Gary Petticrew reports that we had close to 20,000 visitors and 100,000 visits to the site this year. Please visit us at: [www.gracelutheranwc.org](http://www.gracelutheranwc.org)

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Slusser



## Fellowship Report

The Fellowship Committee is responsible for weekly fellowship refreshments, funeral luncheons/dinners, fellowship meals, and providing fellowship opportunities. In addition, the Committee is responsible for stocking the kitchen with supplies. Kitchen supplies are purchased with monies obtained by free will offerings and designated in the church budget.

Activities of the Fellowship Committee for 2019 were as follows:

- The Fellowship Committee continued the celebration of the birthdays of disciples on the first Sunday of each month with a cake and the singing of Happy Birthday.
- Fellowship Time was held every Sunday following worship with the exception of Mother's Day (May 12). Volunteers provided the refreshments and cleaned the kitchen and fellowship hall.
- Wednesday night Lenten Soup Suppers were held prior to worship for five consecutive weeks following Ash Wednesday (March 13th, 20th, and 27th and April 3rd and 10th). A Maundy Thursday Carry-In Dinner was held on Thursday April 18th. An Easter Breakfast (held prior to worship) was provided to the congregation due to a donation from Ron and Sandy Rice. Ron and men of the congregation prepared and served the meal, and cleaned up afterwards.
- A Wedding Shower for Julie (Watts) Hohulin was held on Saturday June 8th to celebrate her coming nuptials with Pastor Phil. Following the Marriage Ceremony of Pastor Phil and Julie on Friday June 28th, a cake and punch reception followed.
- On Sunday August 11th following the worship and renewal of vows service, a luncheon was provided by Bob and Jean Wheeler in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.
- On Saturday September 21st, an all-church picnic was hosted at the home of Matt and Cassie Pfeiffer. Everyone provided a dish and the church provided the hamburgers and hot dogs.

- In celebration of their 25th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday November 24th, Joe and Roseann Costantino provided lunch following the worship and renewal of vows service.
- On Friday December 6th, an afternoon of Christmas card making was jointly sponsored by the Benevolence, Christian Education, and Fellowship Council liaisons.

Other Items of Note:

- Three new kitchen faucets and a gently used convection oven were purchased using church funds. In addition, the old dishwasher was removed from the kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,

Roseann M Costantino

# Music and Worship

## Highlights of 2019

January Sanctity of Life Sunday

February Installation of Council Members  
Reception of New Members  
Dan Gorby  
Donna Tucker

March Ash Wednesday Service  
Lenten Soup Suppers / Lenten Services Begin

April Dedication of Lutheran Seal  
Palm Sunday - - Cantata: "It is Finished"  
Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services  
Easter Service and Reception of New Members  
John Cooper  
Julie Watts  
Christine Montgomery  
Linda Hooghe

May Mother's Day  
Memorial Day - - Flag Folding

June Pentecost  
Father's Day  
Hohulin-Watts Wedding

July Fourth of July Service

August Jean and Bob Wheeler - - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

<u>September</u>	Reception of New Members Dallas and Janice Mathile Keith and Rachel Reinhart Jan Ross
<u>October</u>	Reformation Sunday
<u>November</u>	Veterans' Day Remembrance Costantino 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
<u>December</u>	Advent begins Choir Presentation - - Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve Services - - 3PM and 7PM

The Lord has truly blessed our music and worship in 2019. We are fortunate to have superior musicians in our midst: Aaron Mood, organist; Samee Mood, pianist; Bill Slusser, violinist; Cynthia Michael, choir director and several guest musicians who perform on special occasions throughout the year. We are grateful for a talented and dedicated choir that sings God's praises from September through May every year and for individuals who share their talents with us when the choir is not in the loft. Our worship would not be possible without the God-driven guidance of a wonderful worship committee that works faithfully each month to provide meaningful services for our people. My heartfelt thanks goes out to each and every one of them.

It has been my honor to serve on council these past three years and to represent the Music and Worship Committee. May God continue to bless our ministry at Grace and may we continue to honor and glorify Him in our services.

Serving Him,  
Becky Reinhart

## **Music and Worship Committee Members**

Pastor Phil Hohulin

Joe Costantino

N'Anne Knight

Cynthia Michael

Samee Griffith Mood

Aaron Mood

Nathan Pfeiffer

Becky Reinhart

## Pastor's Report

As I reflect upon the year just past, I am filled with gratitude for what the Lord is doing in our midst as we have deepened our discipleship and grown as a church.

Because you faithfully invited your friends and family, our average Sunday morning worship attendance increased 18%. We also welcomed eleven new members into the life and fellowship of Grace.

In addition to ministering in Word and Sacrament each Sunday, I have assisted in leading our Adult Sunday School / Wednesday evening studies. Last Spring, we concluded our study of the history and geography of the Holy Land using Kathie Lee Gifford's "The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi" as a jumping off point for a deeper look at many familiar passages of scripture. Last Fall, many of you enthusiastically attended the class on the book of Revelation. I am especially grateful to George Reinhart for teaching the class and allowing me to offer a differing perspective at some points.

I would be remiss if I failed to thank all of you once again for all that you did to make Julie and my wedding and reception so special. It was a joy to celebrate the beginning of our marriage with our Grace family.

In August, I was able to attend my first NALC convocation and was heartened by all that occurred. We are a denomination focused on Christ and his great commission to go and make disciples.

We ended the year with a wonderful Advent and Christmas Season. Our continued growth was evidenced in our need to have two Christmas Eve services for the first time in everyone's memory. Each service was well attended.

I am excited about the year ahead. My hours have been increased to 30 per week and I am delighted with the opportunity to focus more on assisting all of you as we minister together at Grace.

Thank you for the pleasure of being your pastor.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Phil

# Property Report

## Annual Property and VP Report

The year started with David Hesp as property manager but due to an illness John Michael filled in for him until April when John Cooper was appointed to the position. John Michael again filled in while John Cooper was out of state in the summer and then resigned in October.

Projects for the year:

- Stain Glass Windows were inspected in February, picture documented, and appraised for replacement value
- Easter Sunday late April water backup from sewer line. Repaired flooring in the office area and cleaned and repaired office, class room hallway area. Insurance covered most of the cost. Had the drain lines in the kitchen and men's bath room augured too.
- Replaced suspended ceiling tiles and new light fixtures in class rooms and nursery.
- A new TV for training and the projection system was purchased and connected in the fellowship area.
- A Luther Symbol was donated to us by the Christ the King church before it sold. We installed it by the East side door, April.
- Bob Wheeler and his son Andrew replaced 13 lights in the sanctuary. Outside security lights were replaced where needed.
- Routine maintenance completed on the A/C and Heating unites. New sump pumps installed in basement and area plumbing cleaned up by plumbers.
- A new snow blower was donated with hopes of usage!!!
- We also purchased new chairs for the fellowship area.

- New kitchen faucets were installed and sink traps replaced. The dishwasher was removed and lines capped off.
- A used warming oven was purchased and new electric lines from panel box "A" was installed for it's use.
- The council approved the inquiry cost to install an ADA / Family bathroom, which is still in process.
- Because to the past efforts by Bill and Bob Wheeler's recording of electric outlets and light switches in the building, along with a detailed record of many other maintenance related items, it made the upkeep of our church much easier.

Presented by: John Michael, VP and Property chair person



## **Social Ministry/Benevolence Report**

Benevolence/Social Ministry gives us the opportunity to provide service and financial support to local, national, and international ministries. Events and donations that we provide help those less fortunate than ourselves. In 2019, we provided financial relief throughout the year to the following ministries: H2O ministries, India Transformed, Jeremiahs Letter, Mathew 25 Ministries, Miami Valley Women's Center, NALC Seminary, Navajo Ministries, and West Carrollton Food Pantry.

This year we had a Rummage Sale at our church in May. The proceeds from the sale and other church member donations went to a tornado relief fund for people in Harrison Township who experienced major damage from the tornado. —estimated donations of \$5,000. Church members distributed water, food, linens, paper products, and non-perishables to the need. We also filled buckets provided by the NALC Tornado Relief with cleaning supplies. We had a pizza party to fill backpacks with school supplies for the children affected by the tornado. We received donations from church members and was able to buy 20-\$100 gift cards to deliver to the Harrison Township Board of Education for their students and families.

We visited several local ministries that we support yearly, delivering to them diapers, pill bottles, blankets, kitchen supplies, and non-perishables. Our church held a baby shower/diaper drive for the Miami Valley Women's Center. We delivered the items and they were well received.

Several church members made and delivered Christmas wreaths and goodie bags for Canterbury Court low income apartments in our community, while singing Christmas Carols, led by Pastor Phil and several church members.

We also set up a Mitten Tree in the church. It provided mittens, hats, gloves, scarfs, blankets, sheets, and socks for Jeremiah's Letter, a local ministry in Dayton.

Our church members have been very generous in giving of their time, donation, and financial support to the ministries and those in need. We will continue the good work in 2020!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Diane Jergens

## **Treasurer's Report**

This was another very successful year for Grace Lutheran Church. Contributions were up as well as controlled spending, which resulted in finishing the year within the budget, and additional funds to apply to the savings account for 2020.

Benevolence was up, especially the contributions to the Memorial Day tornado relief.

Financial report for 2020 is posted on the rear bulletin board and provides all the necessary financial data.

A very heartfelt thanks to all the members and guests of Grace who contributed so generously in 2019.

Wanda



The NALC is a fast-growing, Christian church in the Lutheran tradition, uniting Lutherans in congregations across North America. The NALC embodies the theological center of Lutheranism in North America and stands firmly within the global Lutheran mainstream.

We are a church family committed to the authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God. In keeping with the Lutheran Confessions, we believe all doctrines should and must be judged by the teaching of Scripture.

The NALC has embraced four core values which shape our common life: **Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused.** We are a church centered on the unique Gospel of Jesus Christ, animated by missions and evangelism, grounded in the 2,000-year tradition of Christian faith, and organized chiefly to serve our congregations.

A renewed Lutheran community moving forward in faith, the NALC is focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples in North America and around the globe. We invite you to learn more about our church family. Website: [thenalc.org](http://thenalc.org).

