"Serving all people by sharing God's Word and Gift of Grace"

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

332 Vance Avenue Post Office Box 204 Erskine, MN 56535

Phone: 218/687.4035

Email: gracelc@gvtel.com

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The Scroll

Grace Lutheran Church

January 2021

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us. The events of 2020 including a pandemic, racial tensions, joblessness, and political battles created an unprecedented time of unrest and anxiety. While some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one looming ahead, others may have just trudged through one deep struggle after another. The fresh calendar year brings desperate hope for things to be better, with an ache for the still-fresh wounds to slowly begin their process of healing. Praying at the start of the New Year doesn't always bring immediate change at the stroke of midnight, but it begins the opening of our hearts to God's Words of hope and peace.

Whether you've just walked through the greatest year of your life, or are incredibly glad to see this one finally over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. You are not alone. Not ever. Scripture is filled with prayers of men and women who reached out to God for a fresh start. Praying is the main source of connection to the one who created you and the one who wants you to experience blessings and promises in the future.

Our God is a "with us" God. On the heels of the celebration of the birth of our King, that reminder has the power to carry us right into a fresh, new start. He is Immanuel, God with us. And though things and people around us shift and change, our God never changes. May these New Year prayers fill your heart and mind with powerful proclamations as you step into 2021.

Inside this issue:	
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~~Debbie McDaniel

^{*}You will find her New Years Prayer on page 5

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The Grace Lutheran Church Council will meet in regular session on Wednesday January 13th at 7:00 PM. All meetings are open to members of Grace unless otherwise stated.



November 29th:

Attendance~ 7 Offering~\$ 821.00

December 6th:

Attendance 4

Offering~\$1,720.00

December 13th:

Attendance~ 4

Offering~ \$3,015.00

December 20th:

Attendance~ 4
Offering~\$1,334.41

December 27th:

Attendance~ 5
Offering~\$2740.00



As deacons we are committed to making pastoral visits to the sick and dying. If someone were to call with a prayer request you may ask them if they wish a visit and give them our information.

We thought the congregation should be aware of this commitment with it being addressed in a bulletin from time to time and same with the scroll.

*Mary Bratrud~~ 218-521-0793 (daytime)

218-687-2150 (nighttime)

*Gary Walter~~ 218-687-3074

*Gene Haugom~~218-563-3292



The 'Women of Grace' young women's Bible Study are meeting via Zoom. If you're interested in joining, contact Rhonda Breitbach at 687-2215.



NALCW Meeting: See you in April

Hope Circle: January 28th, 2:00 PM at the church

Rebecca Circle: January 28th, 6:30 PM at the church

Mission Circle: will not meet in January



REMINDER – Please save your grocery receipts from Groceries Plus in Erskine and Jered's Grocery in McIntosh. Both stores are donating I percent of the total purchases to the youth group. There is a container for the receipts at the church in the hallway by the coat racks.

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Giving Options

Not only can you give through your offering envelope on Sunday morning, but our church offers other options to receive your offering:

Automatic Giving – You can set up monthly or weekly automatic deductions from your bank account. Contact the church office (218-687-4035) for a form to complete. Online Giving – There are several links throughout our website (www.gracechurcherskine.org) that will allow you to give a one-time or regular donation from your bank account, credit card, or debit card.

Mobile Giving – You can utilize your mobile device and scan the following code –



Benevolence Ideas

Our church has several special funds to meet needs that can't be met through our General Fund. Currently, these special funds are: Building Improvements, Grace Youth Group, Joy Ride Fund, Oil Candle, Sunday School Improvements/Supplies, Sunday School Outreach, Video Ministry, Vacation Bible School, Worship Hearing Aids, 'Men of Courage' Men's Group, and Shoebox Funds. In addition, our church houses the Grace Food Shelf and we ask for donations on their behalf as well as for the After School Backpack Program. Finally, our church is a part of the Grace Cemetery Association and we ask for donations on their behalf for the maintenance of the Synod, Pioneer, and Fairview Cemeteries in rural Erskine. Please contact Jim Ferden if you have any questions.



November 2020 Financial Summary

Congregational Offering to the General Fund - \$10,426.00

Expenses:

Administrative - \$6,324.98

Education - \$119.46

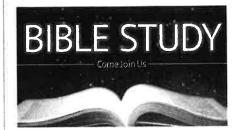
Mission Outreach - \$2,784.00

Pastoral - \$2,641.95

Worship - \$553.51

Total Expenses - \$12,423.90

The Scroll



Whether new to the Bible or a seasoned reader, Bible Study Fellowship explores Scripture together verse by verse, as God's Truth, to be studied, savored and lived out. We believe God's Word speaks across cultures, denominations, and generations to every one of our 400,000+ members around the world. Join us right here at Grace Church for an Afternoon Women's BSF class every Tuesday at 3:00 pm. Go to bsfinternational.org to register for our Genesis study or call Mary Bratrud @ 218-521-0793 for more information.



The Grace Food Shelf Advisory meeting will be held on January 6 at 2:00 pm via Zoom. Please contact Mavis Haugom if you would like to attend. 218-563-3292.



Thanks to everyone who has designated our church to receive your Thrivent Choice Program Dollars in 2020. If you have not designated your Thrivent Choice Dollars yet for 2020, please do so before the end of the year by contacting your local Thrivent Financial Representative.

Unless the donation is specifically designated by you, your Thrivent Choice Dollars go into the church's general fund to help meet monthly operating expenses. If you wish to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to a specific fund, you will need to contact your local Thrivent Financial representative to find out the exact amount and then contact Church.

Treasurer, Jim Ferden



- * Type gracechurcherskine.org into your computer browser. You will see the YouTube recording front and center on the page. Click the Play button in the center of the picture to view the video. You will also find a link to our church Facebook page on the right side of the screen.
- * Garden Valley Channel 30 will broadcast replays of our service on Mondays at 10:00 am, Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and on Saturdays at 9:00 am.



- Becki Haugen
- Don Lundin
- Gloria Staehnke
- Sonja Kilberg
- Michael Jenson
- Mark Thompson
- Grace Call Committee

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Wission
					1-1	2 9am- Rebroadcast	Ushers: Communion Ass
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ω	4	5	6	7	8	9	Rebecca Circle
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foly Commun-	rship Re-	3pm-BSF	7pm-Rebroadcast			9am- Kebroadcast	Maxine Walter
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	broadcast	8pm-AA mtg.					JANUARY 24th
24	25	26 8am-MBS	27	28 2pm-Hope Circle	29	30 9am-Rebroadcast	V~~
10:30am- Worship	9:30am-LBS 10am-Worship Re-	3pm-BSF	7pm-Rebroadcast	6:30pm-Rebecca Circle			R~~
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Translation.

Please pray that I can be a successful child. I will always pray for you and your family. Thaponsor. This is all that I can write for now.. May Jesus Christ bless you. Rangga.

Trads allon

The Scroll Page

A Prayer to Keep God First This New Year

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you. We pray that you'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That you would whisper in our ear when we need to run, and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

We pray for your protection over our families and friends. We ask for your hand to cover us

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and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy; that you would be a barrier to surround us, that we'd be safe in your hands. We pray that you would give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways. We ask that you would keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful. Give us supernatural endurance to stay the course, not swerving to the right or to the left, or being too easily distracted by other things that would seek to call us away from a close walk with you.

Forgive us for the times we have worked so hard to be selfsufficient, forgetting our need for you, living independent of your spirit. Forgive us for letting fear and worry control our minds, and for allowing pride and selfishness wreak havoc over our lives. Forgive us for not following your ways and for living distant from your presence. We confess our need for you... fresh...new...again. We ask that you make all things new, in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives. for this coming year. We pray for your refreshing over us.

Keep your words of truth planted firm within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right, give us the power to be obedient to your word. And when the enemy reminds us where we have been, hissing his lies and attacks our way, we trust that your voice speaks louder and stronger, as you re-

mind us we are safe with you and your purposes and plans will not fail. We ask that you will be our defense and rear guard, keeping our way clear, removing the obstacles, and covering the pitfalls. Lord, lead us on your level ground.

We ask that you would provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us, we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but to say, "These are the ones that the Lord has blessed."

Help us to be known as great givers, help us to be generous and kind, help us to look to the needs of others and not be consumed by only our own. May we be lovers of truth, may the fruits of your spirit be evident in our lives - your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set you way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. To you be glory and honor, in this New Year, and forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING December 9, 2020

December 9, 2020 7:00 P.M.

'Serving all people by sharing God's Word and Gift of Grace'

Present: President Jason Carlson, Hollie Stewart, Yvonne Halvorson, Gene Haugom, Lori Hole, Dean Bernard, Gary Walter, Ryan Breitbach, Jim Ferden, Wade Farrell, Mary Bratrud, Ann Brekken

Call to Order: President Jason called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Jason lead us in devotions about wisdom and trust. **Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Lori. Seconded by Wade. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Ann moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Dean. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary's Report:

Report included the generous gift of \$35,000 given to Grace. We are so thankful. Wade moved to approve. Seconded by Lori. Motion carried. (Report on file).

Treasurer's Report:

Jim reported. All information is included in his report below. He made note of the gain in the Brovold account.

Cash Flow Report

- Undesignated funds available to be used for November's General Fund expenses totaled \$14,983.18. This amount exceeded the month's General Fund expenses totaling \$12,423.90.
- Congregational giving to the General Fund was \$10,426. The

The monthly budget goal is \$17,957.40.

Noteworthy Other Giving – o Miscellaneous – Anonymous gifts of \$35,000; \$841.20; and \$425.03. Also \$2,133.86 for the Deer Hunter's Supper. \$192 in various other designated donations.

Some of the noteworthy expenses this month included:

Administration –

Administration –

Church Utilities: No garbage expense this month.

Miscellaneous: All are expenses related to the Deer Hunter's Supper.

Office Expenses: No copier lease payment this month due to timing of billing.

Mission Outreach – All donations have been made for the year.

Miscellaneous – Pass through donations for portion of anonymous gift (\$2,000) and for the Backpack Program (\$84).

Pastoral – Miscellaneous – All related to visit by Pastor Tsena.

Budget Report

• We ended the month at approximately 45% or \$98,000 under budget. All of the major budgeted expense categories ended under budget for the month.

History of Regular Giving to the General Fund Report

- November's giving was down from the previous month.
- This was the lowest giving for a November since 2012. This was the lowest giving year to date since 2011.

History of the General Fund Balance

• Highest balance ever!!
Balance continues to increase due to decreased monthly expenses.

Account Balances Report

- Building Fund Reflects donations made during the month (including portion of anonymous gift) and the monthly expense for the separate elevator phone line. In addition, it reflects the repair of the underground power line to the parsonage garage (\$820), the purchase of a refrigerator for the parsonage (\$799), and the materials to replace the church furnace (\$17,701.50).
- HS Scholarship Fund Reflects donations, including a portion of the anonymous gift (\$1,000).
- Klatt Estate Fund Reflects a portion of the expenses to improve online worship (\$260.08).
- Oil Fund Bldg Upkeep reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.
- Oil Fund Church Emergencies reflects a portion of this
- month's oil/gas revenue.
- Oil Fund Missions reflects a portion of this month's oil/gas revenue.
- Shoebox Fund Reflects a donation.
- SS Fundraiser Fund Reflects a portion of the anonymous gift (\$500).
- SS Offering Outreach Fund Reflects the monthly donation of \$38 to Compassion International as well as a portion of the anonymous gift (\$500).
- VBS Fund Reflects a dona-Continued on Page 8

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Letter to my sponsor

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October 27th, 2020. Shalom. Protected by God. How are you doing there? I hope that you and your family are doing well.. My family and I are doing well and healthy. I am glad to write you this letter.. We have been dealing with the coronavirus pandemic here in Indonesia. Activities in school and the Compassion Project/Center are being shut down. We have been doing our activities from home as we have been visited by the teacher and tutor every week. We have been worshipping from home. How has the situation been there? Have you been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic too? Let us all pray that the Coronavirus/covid-19 will soon come to its end.







Greater Grand Forks FMSC MobilePack

Event #2010-021EA October 31, 2020

December 22, 2020

Dear Friends of the Greater Grand Forks FMSC MOBILEPACK,

Thank you for your participation through prayer and fundraising for our 2020 Virtual Feed My Starving Children MobilePack. We successfully met our goal to fund a container's worth of MannaPack Rice (272,158 meals) costing \$65,318. This will feed 745 children for an entire year. In addition, God helped us reach a very helpful amount of "seed money" for a next event to be held in our community hopefully in 2022.

30% of food packed for FMSC has previously been done by MobilePacks and since these are cancelled through now June of 2021 and possibly longer we wanted to at least support them through helping buy food like we were going to do for our MobilePack. Fortunately they can use their more automated way of packing it for starvation impacted children and families around the world, though this is at a greater cost for fewer meals.

Bruce and I, as well as, many members of our core team have now partnered with God and You, our larger community, to answer His call to feed the world's hungry through our work with the awesome organization Feed My Starving Children. We could not have anticipated and honestly would have been a little overwhelmed to realize we would be doing this for now 10 years! It has been an incredible blessing to be on this journey with you.

We now feel that we should open the door for some fresh energy and ideas to continue this effort in this community with eyes on a spring 2022 event. If you feel called to chair or join A core team to be a bigger part of the process, please let us know. We will support and guide you as will the Feed My Starving Children organization. Minnkota Power has already agreed that they will host the event. In addition, at this time there is \$13,652.07 at FMSC which can be carried forward as seed money for that event.

Serving the Savior Together With All of YOU!

Jodie and Bruce Storhaug On behalf of the Greater Grand Forks FMSC MobilePack Core Team

Email: jstorhaug@gra.midco.net. Mobile phone: 701-741-2902

Feed My Starving Children fmsc.org/mobilepack

Feeding God's Starving Children Hungry in Body and Spirit

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GRACE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jason Carlson	President	563-2490
Nick Walk	Vice President	637-2219
Yvonne Halvorson	Secretary	687-5190
Dorothy Sandberg	Financial Secretary	687-3575
Jim Ferden	Treasurer	563-2377
Gene Haugom	Deacon	563-3292
Gary Walter	Deacon	687-3074
Mary Bratrud	Deacon	687-2150
Wade Farrell	Trustee	563-2216
Ryan Breitbach	Trustee	687-2215
Dean Bernard	Trustee	687-2105
Ann Brekken	Superintendent / Edu	cation 687-2205
Sarah Strom	Education	687-3488
Shelly Juve	Education	687-2929
Cassie Senn	Education	687-3313
Hollie Stewart	Pres. NALCW	687-3730
Lori Hole	Stewardship	687-3585
Tyler Brekken	Stewardship	687-2205
Bobbi DuChamp	Stewardship	687-3000

GRACE CALL COMMITTEE

Mary Bratrud	687-2150	Chairperson
Austin Tadman	280-8266	Vice-Chairman
Nick Walk	637-2219	Sec'y / Council Rep
Gary Walter	687-3074	
Brady Lee	289-5587	
Mavis Haugom	563-3292	
Rhonda Breitbach	687-2215	

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JANUARY

January 3rd~ Second Sunday after Christmas

First Reading - 1 Kings 3:4–15 Psalm - Psalm 119:97–104 Second Reading - Ephesians 1:3– 14 Gospel - Luke 2:40–52

January 10th~ The Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading - Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm - Psalm 29:1-11 Second Reading - Romans 6:1-11 Gospel - Mark 1:4-11

January 17th~ Second Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading - 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 11-20
Psalm - Psalm 139:1-10
Second Reading - 1 Corinthians
6:12-20
Gospel - John 1:43-51

January 24th~ Third Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading - Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm - Psalm 62:1-12 Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, 32-35 Gospel - Mark 1:14-20

January 31st~ Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading - Deuteronomy 18:15
-20
Psalm - Psalm 111:1-10
Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 8:1
-13
Gospel - Mark 1:21-28

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GRACE COUNCIL, continued tion from a portion of the anonymous gift (\$1,000).

Video Ministry Fund - Reflects a portion of the expenses to improve online worship (\$86).

Brovold Investment Valuation Report

• The ending balance increased approximately \$8,000 from the previous month! This is the highest balance since October 2015!

Gunderson Investment Valuation Report

- The ending balance increased \$1,300 over last month.
- There have now been 6 months of increases! It is the highest balance ever!!

Other Information

- Audit I forgot to mention that the church auditors reviewed the church's 2019 financial records in October. No concerns were noted.
- The Trustees and I met on December 2 to develop the church's budget for 2021. Given the lack of a pastor and Covid, the 2020 expenses are believed to not represent a normal operating year. As such, it was felt that very few changes from the 2020 budget should be made except for individuals' compensation. We are looking forward to a good discussion at tonight's meeting. Note – This budget does not make any recommendations related to salary for a new pastor. Salary expense included in this budget still reflects Pastor Tim's last compensation package.

Designations for various offer-

- o Deer Hunter's Supper (net) -\$1,451.37:
- o Love Offering \$2,040:
- o Thanksgiving Offering -\$250:
- o Christmas Offering (last year was \$1.500)

Yvonne made motion to approve. Hollie seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Report: Jason has been visiting with Pastor Mike and all is well. Plans being finalized for the virtual Christmas service.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship: Lori reported. They did not meet. They are open for suggestions.

Education: Ann reported. 18 shoeboxes sent out and a special "thank you" to Hope Circle for the shipping money. Continuing to push out the Sunday School lessons via e-mail and all is going well. Continue to have pretty steady 7 to 8 Confirmation Sunday School students over Zoom. 16-18 students participating in the virtual Christmas Program. Ann will coordinate with Pastor Mike to make a plan to include the program in a Sunday service. The Christmas Experience curriculum that was approved by the Council in November was purchased and will be made available virtually. The curriculum includes family activities and looks very exciting and fun. Youth Group: Jim reported. No updates at this time. NALCW: Hollie reported. Auction will happen again NEXT

October. She noted that the

2021 Mission Bank Partner information is in the Scroll. For those who wish to participate you cut out the coupon in the Scroll and attach to your bank. Banks will be collected after NALCW starts again. She showed the women's newsletter that comes out every two months and made note of the Disaster Relief Fund disbursements. NALCW start meetings up again in April.

Trustees: Wade reported. New doors are in TRF now. Will need about 2 more weeks for assembling. Lights in the basement have been quoted and Wade will be calling Jack's Electric. Wade noted we are very pleased with the update to the upstairs lights. Jack's Electric did the work. Jason will check on what is still needed to complete the heating project.

Deacons: Gary reported. Bishop Dan has a daily devotion available during Advent. Kim has posted it on the Grace Facebook page. Advent candle video project is complete and working beautifully. Nick has been attaching the prerecorded videos to the front of the service. In the event of his absence, Nick has put together amazing instructions for someone to fill in for him. These instructions will meet our needs until the new Garden Valley video equipment is installed.

Food Shelf: Gene reported. November had a record of 37 total families served. November also broke the record for total pounds of food provided with 3,164. Purchased 6,012 pounds of food from Continued on Page 9

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an increase in credit card giving.

Pastoral costs represent a place

GRACE COUNCIL, continued

the Food Bank at a cost of \$2.965. This cost was covered by the Polk County Mitigation Grant through the Food Bank. The grants are now completed. We received 1,600 pounds for about \$300. They are well stocked with more than a month's supply on hand. Preferred donation is cash because they can buy much more than food for the dollar through their resources. They are still VERY SHORT of space for food storage and are open to any ideas to improve the situation.

Call Committee: (Refer to notes under New Business)

Old Business:

Worship in the Sanctuary: We will revisit in January.

Audio/Video for the Sanctuary: Is not installed at this time. However, given we are not back in the sanctuary and Garden Valley isn't sure of their schedule, it isn't a problem. Jason and Nick have been looking for some furniture (locking), but it is difficult to meet our needs. They will continue to talk and look.

New Business:

Review and Approve 2021

Budget: Jim reviewed the budget changes with us.

Salary Schedule page includes most of the changes (page 7). Budget change: Given Covid and lack of pastor, this makes 2020 not a very realistic picture of normal expenses.

Administration section: Portals of Prayer publication was increased. Website expenses were increased because we have had

holder until we hire a new pa tor. Total budget from 2020 changed very little because we have had an increase in credit card giving. Pastoral costs repre sent a placeholder until we hire a new pastor. Total budget from 2020 changed very little. Motion to approve the presented budge for referral to the congregation at the Annual Meeting by Gene. Gary seconded. Motion carried. Designation of Love Offering, Thanksgiving Offering, Hunters' Supper Proceeds, Christmas O ferings Historically these offe ings have been local. This is not a mandatory rule. \$3,750 plus the Christmas offering is avail ble. Suggestions were: Back Pack program at Win-E Mac School Food Shelf Northland's Rescue Mission Essentia Hospice Win-E-Mac Angel Tree Gary made the motion to divide and give each of the above \$750. Dean seconded. Motion carried. Christmas offering disbursements will be dealt with in Janu-

Set Annual Meeting Date:

Tabled until next month (if Covid is an issue Council members will all serve until replaced) Convocation items to be voted on by congregation may have a date requirement. Gary will look up that information and get it to Jason if it involves our Annual Meeting date.

Call Committee: Mary reported.

Post-visit: there have been two meetings with the Call Committee to review information and discuss options. On the advice of The Call Committee, Jason will work on an interim package that Could be offered to Pastor Tsena prior to a formal call. Mary will be contacting Pastor Tsena with the option. If the advice of the Call Committee is not forthcoming for an interim position, we will continue with the Call process with no vote set at this time. Ann made the motion to Accept this advice of the Call Committee. Hollie seconded. Motion carried.

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Christmas Eve: Jason reported. Pastor Mike and Jason have talked and put together a service plan. Mr. Morgenroth is going to help out with some video options. Pastor Mike will be recorded by Jason this week. Hymns will be chosen and we have the 4:30 slot set up so the service can go live.

Announcements:

Next council meeting is January 13, 7:00.

Adjourn

The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

