

## Pastor's Report April 2022

### Activities Report for February

7 Worship Services  
4 Online Service  
2 Funerals  
0 Wedding  
2 Confirmation classes  
1 Council Meetings  
1 Community Meeting  
5 Office meetings  
1 Visits

### Personal Time:

Vacation Time: 35 Days including 5 Sundays (2022)

Used: 6 days which included 1 Sunday

Balance: 29 Days including 4 Sundays

Used:

March 7 – March 13 (Richard) 6 days

Planned:

October 24 – November 7 (Richard 10/30 & 11/6) 12 days

Continuing Ed Time: 14 days, including 2 Sundays

Used: 4 days

Balance: 10 days

Completed: Feb 21 - Feb 24

Pastor and Leaders Conference at AMBS, Elkhart

Sick Time:

### Report Items (See Below):

1. 4/14 Maundy Thurs (@Grace), 4/15 Good Friday (@Hope) Services all at 7 pm
2. 4/17 Easter; Easter Breakfast
3. Lucas Krider and Mariah Myers: voting members for Synod assembly (Grace)
4. Seth and Kirstin Jines: voting members for Synod assembly (Hope)

### Action Items:

1. IN-KY Disaster Response invite (see email)
2. Sponsorship for Columbia City's First Friday (\$100 website, banner, and FB event page, \$250 +Newspaper ad, year-round social media)
3. Computer for Preschool director (currently using her own laptop)

### **John 20:1-18**

20 Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." <sup>3</sup> Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. <sup>4</sup> They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to Scripture quotations are taken from the Common English Bible, copyright 2011. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

arrive at the tomb. <sup>5</sup> Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. <sup>6</sup> Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. <sup>7</sup> He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

<sup>11</sup> Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. <sup>12</sup> She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. <sup>13</sup> The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." <sup>14</sup> As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means *Teacher*).

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

#### *Let us pray*

Almighty God, grant to your church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from heaven, that your word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve you and in the confession of your name abide to the end; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

-or-

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and, through our struggle and confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; so that, in your good time, every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## Council Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2022

Meeting called to order by Larry Weiss at 6:30pm.

**Present:** Pastor Matthew Converse, Deena Hart, Mike Driver, Paul Marken, Sarah Pearl, Tom Straub, Linda Grawcock, Maelynn Fries, Mark Krider, Larry Weiss and Joe Freiburger.

Pastor read: Isaiah 55:1-9 to all those present. There were observations made about the reading as well as discussions about the reading.

Pastor Matt said a prayer for all.

**New Business:** Larry let us know that Linda Grawcock wanted to address the council. Linda and Maelynn are here to represent the Hannah Group. There have been some concerns that they wanted to bring up and address to council to see if there is anything that can be done. They provided a copy to everyone at the council meeting to look at and discuss. They want to see what can be done and will come to the meeting next month to see what can be done. They would like us to approach them with any questions that council may have.

The previous meeting minutes were read and reviewed and approved by all.

**Pastor's Report:** Lucas Krider and Mariah Myers have volunteered to go to the Synod Assembly in Muncie, IN in June 2022. There were some members that are moving to a different congregation. Maundy Thursday (4/14) at Grace, 4/15 – Good Friday at Hope. Services all at 7pm. Easter Sunday is the 4/17. Easter Breakfast to be done before the service on Easter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Deena went over adjustments and what the net revenue is down. (\$17,148.37) The things that have increased our budget was the floor scrubber, installation of the fire alarms and organ tuning. Money for the roof and preschool is being held in an equity account until needed. Grace legacy fund decreased by \$52,500 this month. There are some funds left at Merrill Lynch for tax purposes. Once things are settled, they will cut us a check of what is supposed to come to us. We may or may not get money back from it. Treasurer's report will be subject to audit.

### **TEAM REPORTS:**

**Property report:** Mark let us know that there has been a bronze plate to include Rebecca Kneller for the donations that her family made in her name. The lighting in the sanctuary is being revisited to update the lighting over the pews and spotlights up front. They think that they have done everything else. They are going to change light bulbs to see if they can utilize the existing light fixtures and see if that will work. If not, they will get bids to update the lighting. Mark read about the AC units that need replaced and the quote to get them replaced. The quote for the 3 AC units to be replaced is \$23,487.00. A motion was made by the property committee to submit the motion to council. Questions were asked where the money would come from to replace AC units. The money would come from the savings account. Mike made

the motion to approve the property's motion. Everyone voted. Motion carried to replace the 3 AC units. The property team is going to look into new signs for the church.

**Fellowship report:** About \$1075 for tenderloin fry before leftovers being sold. David sold the rest that was available. Sign up sheets are going to be made for the Easter Brunch.

**Worship and Music Report and EXTRA:** Joyce comes in Saturday morning to practice and if the bulletin isn't ready she doesn't know what to practice. It's helpful for her to know when the setting changes. Joyce would like to know. The organ sounds good since the tuning. We should do the organ tuning more often because problems can come up but we got lucky that things didn't need more work on. Can choirs and bell choirs start back up? Paul mentioned using space in the congregation to use for a bell choir. It was brought up about taking out a pew but if we do it is a permanent thing. This would help those that would love to be in the bell choir that can not go up and down the stairs to go and practice. It might be a good idea to look into things for future so that others can be more involved in the choirs that we have. Things had been brought up in the past and just wanted to be brought up again. Things were also discussed about amplifying the sound in the sanctuary to help those that have a hard time hearing during the church service. What does the future hold for that space? We need to start thinking about these things to help. Can the sign at the corner out on the road be taken out? Can there be a sign that is mobile so that it can be moved because it sits in the right-of-way? We want to find out how much a sign to be put on the corner where the old sign is. Mark to look into that for us. Making room for the choirs can be done also. We need to get people together to work on figuring this out.

**Finance report:** no other things to be discussed

**Permanent Endowment report:** no report other than scholarships will be coming up.

**Altar Guild:** no report.

**Staff Support Team report:** Larry would like Mariah to be able to get some continuing education to help in the preschool. Mariah is working on getting a certificate.

**Preschool Team Report:** a written report was given and is available. Is there someone that can fill if Mariah is sick to help with filling in. We need to ask people to see about helping. There could be restrictions with the Registered Ministry.

**Food Pantry Report:** A written report is given and is available if needed. They are going to change the way that they pick up food for the food pantry in the future. This will help get the food that we need for the people we serve.

**Culture of Stewardship:** Paul is going to meet with David later to bring to council. Time and Talent for the congregation.

**NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED.....**

**Kathleen Lutz 2022 donation:** are we still supporting Kathleen in her missionary work in Kenya? Larry said he would bring it to the council. Any suggestions on what we should do? Paul gave a background about how Kathleen went on her mission so that those that didn't know, could find out more information. Should we continue to support her and if so how much are we going to do? Do a bread loaf offering to help with Kathleen's mission.

**Other information talked about:** Bread loaf quarterly lists of where it was going. Post a sign and bread loaf so that people know where it is going. Also talk about starting children's church and/or Sunday school so that we can get the youth more involved again. Asking Mariah to take on some of the information and responsibility about helping with the Sunday school.

Next meeting is April 11, 2022

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.



## Preschool's April Council Report

Current School Year: Total of **33** Students-

**17-** MWF Morning, **7-** MWF Afternoon, **9-** T/TH Morning

I sent in the application for Registered Ministry on March 17. I received an email on March 25<sup>th</sup> that stated there were a few pieces of information they needed for our application. When I have those documents, I will resubmit our application.

This month we are going to focus on the numbers 9-10, review all shapes, and the letters B and K. Our themes are spring, weather and butterflies. We will continue working on writing our names and identifying the letters in our names.

On March 29 & 30 we had Open House/ Registration Nights. We welcomed 15 families those nights. We have a total of 33 students signed up for the fall. We still have 5 families from this year that could still sign up for next year. Here is the breakdown of classes:

T/Th AM- 14

T/Th PM- 1

MWF AM- 8

MWF PM- 3

MWF ALL – 7

We are adding an all-day option for students this fall, therefore, as you read the numbers, we need to remember to add the 7 students from all day to the MWF AM and PM classes. We can have 24 students in those classes. Therefore, we really have 15 in MWF AM and 10 in the MWF PM. We can have up to 16 in the T/ Th classes.

Upcoming Dates:

April 15- No School- Good Friday

May 19 & 20- Field Days

May 25 & 26- Picnic at Kid's Dreamland- Last Day of School

May 25 & 26- Graduation Programs



## Property Team Meeting

4/04/2022

\* Action to be approved by council.

Present: Mark Krider, Keith Darstein, Tom Straub, Bill Owen, Don Ruesch, Joe Freiburger, Vic Trowbridge

1. The Property Team met with the Worship and Music Team to discuss the possibility of removing the 2 front pews on the north side of the sanctuary to create a space to move the bell choir downstairs as well as creating more space for the rejoice choir and the chancel choir. This would also create a space for handicap seating. The only downfall will be what will we do with the pews that we remove? We agreed that we need to do some more research and come back later to discuss this more.
2. Smith Roofing is planning on getting started as soon as the weather straightens up and we start to have more nice days in a row so they can get roof done safely and efficient.
3. The smoke detectors have a backup dialer problem and as soon as they get the parts to fix it they will repair it.
4. The anti-scald devices have been installed on the sinks in the restrooms across from the offices and the kitchen. This is a requirement for our Registered Lutheran Preschool Ministry.
5. We have ordered from Indiana Sign Works a name plate to be added to the Bronze Major doner plaque for \$241.10, the name to be added is Rebecca Kneller. Just a reminder her sons donated the total roof cost with the leftover money to be donated to the preschool.
6. Lighting in the Sanctuary – We are starting to revisit updating the lighting. We are first going to try some different types of light bulbs in the fixtures to see if we can improve our lighting quality. Then we will invite people to submit bids for updating our outdated lighting.
7. We are looking into updating our church signs. We will be talking to sign companies for designs and entertaining bids to do so.
8. The 3 new AC units have been ordered. It will take at least a month to get the units and then install them.
9. We are going to start working on the new lights in the freezer room, the office work room, hallway to the basement and sacristy on April 13, 2022 @ 9:30 am.

Next Meeting: 5/2/2022



**Purpose Statement – Empowered by Jesus to participate in God’s work with our community.**

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**April 11, 2022**

**Council Meeting**

**Agenda**

**6:30 pm**

- I. Call to Order – Larry Weiss
- II. Devotional Reading & Discussion;
- III. Review of Minutes from Prior meeting(s)- March 6, 2022
- IV. Pastor’s Report – Pastor Matt
- V. Treasurer’s Report
- VI. Team Reports
  - a. Property – Mark, Tom, Bill, Joe
  - b. Fellowship – Mike
  - c. Worship & Music - Paul
  - d. Finance – Deena, Paul
  - e. Permanent Endowment – Sarah
  - f. Altar Guild – Tom
  - g. Staff Support Team - Sarah
  - h. Pre-School Team – Kirsten, Director
  - i. Food Pantry - Joe
  - j. Culture of Stewardship -Paul
- VII. Old Business
  - a. Discuss Hannah Group suggestions (Linda Grawcock & Maelynn Fries)
  - b.
- VIII. New Business
  - a. Girl Scout outside pantry request from Wendy Ressler
  - b.
- IX. Adjournment

**Council minutes & any writeups for May due by April 25 ?**

**May Council Meeting: Monday May 9, 2022**

Council members: President, Larry Weiss; Vice President, open Secretary, open  
Tom Straub, Bill Owen, Mark Krider, Joe Freiburger Jr, Deena Hart, Paul Marken, Sarah Pearl, Mike Driver

**Guiding Principles:**

Always growing Relationships with God, one another, and the world

God is at work in the world and we get to participate

Trusting that God equips us, we understand and serve the needs of our community and world

Music and worship are expressions of the Holy Spirit in this place.

Each one has something to contribute

All are on a journey, still traveling and searching

We can walk arm in arm without seeing eye to eye



Grace Food Pantry report 04/11/2022

Average pantry patronage has been around 10 to 12 people on both Wednesdays and Fridays during the past year or so. On Monday, April 4, we posted signage on the church's sign board announcing pantry days and hours. Combined patronage following posting of the sign was 39 people for the week, many of whom were former clients who we hadn't seen for a year or more. Don't know if the signage just reminded people that we're still here, or if other factors, such as increases on food prices has prompted the increase. We'll see if that continues.

Due to a continuing high balance in the food pantry account, and also to help offset higher super market food prices, we've increased the Community Harvest voucher shopping weight from 50 pounds to 60 pounds, starting in April.

Dave Hockerman



**From:** Nancy Nyland <nnyland@iksynod.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2022 8:49 PM  
**To:** Matt Converse  
**Subject:** I am inviting your congregations....

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Due By:** Monday, April 11, 2022 10:00 AM  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Pastor Matt,

I am inviting both Grace and Hope Lutheran to be two of several pilot congregations in the synod to provide individual members the opportunity to make a special gift towards the Synod Assembly offering. These individual offerings will be collected in your congregations prior to the Synod Assembly to be hand delivered to the Assembly by your voting members.

As you know, on December 10<sup>th</sup> of last year, the deadliest tornado outbreak on record for the month of December caused catastrophic damage in our synod. Homes of members from our own congregations of St. Matthew in Paducah, KY and St. Matthew by the Lake in Benton, KY were hit by this disaster in Kentucky. The offering at our upcoming Synod Assembly is designated for Indiana-Kentucky Disaster Response. This offering will help with recovery from the Kentucky tornadoes earlier this year and to prepare for future disasters.

As part of the Friday evening banquet, we will be thanking congregations who provided their members with the opportunity to make a special gift to Indiana-Kentucky Disaster Response and celebrating their generosity.

Bishop Bill and the synod staff have identified your congregations to be invited into this pilot project, because we have observed a spirit of generosity, as well as healthy mission and ministry in your congregations, led by effective pastoral and lay leadership.

Below is a timeline for the process. The last week of April, you will receive pre-printed bulletin inserts and scripted announcements for each of the three Sundays, envelopes for the special offerings, and a large envelope in which to place the offering envelopes to be brought to Synod Assembly.

Sunday, May 8

- Bulletin insert
- A scripted announcement about Indiana-Kentucky Disaster Response
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Sunday, May 15

- Bulletin insert
- A second scripted announcement about Indiana-Kentucky Disaster Response
  - This announcement shares that next week, people will be invited to provide a special offering that will be collected as part of our congregation's support of the Synod Assembly offering for

## Indiana-Kentucky Disaster Response.

o

### Sunday, May 22

- Bulletin insert
- An offering envelope included in each bulletin to be returned to the church by Sunday, June 5 and then taken to the Synod Assembly by voting members.
- A scripted announcement that invites gifts
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### Tuesday, May 24

- Send the following email to every household in the congregation. Send this by itself (Don't bury it).  
Subject line—Our Response to Indiana-Kentucky Synod Disaster Response
  - o *The offering at our upcoming Synod Assembly is designated for this program to help with recovery from the Kentucky tornadoes earlier this year and to prepare for future disasters. I invite you to make a gift to our shared ministry with the Synod to support the work of Indiana-Kentucky Disaster Response, click here: [https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/403455](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/403455)*

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Please let me know if you have any questions about this invitation to be two of several pilot congregations engaging in this generosity project.

I would appreciate a response from you by April 15 as to whether your congregations are willing to accept this invitation or not.

Blessings,  
Nancy

Pastor Nancy Nyland  
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*IK Synod Mission Statement: Empower, equip and encourage one another to make Christ known*

*Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.  
Isaiah 43:18-19*