

Grace's Ministry & Mission Story

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Royersford 2021



Grace's Mission Statement

Growing, Loving, Serving...

by grace through faith!

Now the Lord said to Abram, "...I will bless you...to be a blessing."

Genesis 12:1-2

Some may be thinking that a passage from Job would be more appropriate to describe the year 2020. Truly though, we can be very grateful for the abundant blessings that God has shown Grace this year. Those blessings have helped us to maintain and live in faith and hope during this time.

The Corona pandemic quickly turned much of our world upside down. In the church, it caused us to re-evaluate how we worship, learn about our faith, use technology, gather for fellowship, conduct meetings, serve our community, provide pastoral care, receive contributions, and you get the idea.

Check out what's been going on at Grace during this unprecedented time...

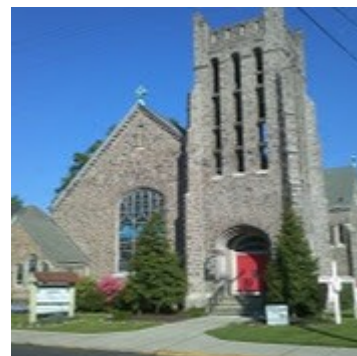
(and see where God is leading us!)

WORSHIP SERVICES were recorded and posted to our website. This required some fast technology learnings to record and edit videos. Joyce Berner continued to help lead worship with inspiring music from home and the sanctuary. The services are also found on Grace's Facebook page and YouTube channel. For those with limited internet access, a weekly large print bulletin of the service including the sermon and hymn lyrics is generated and mailed.

In-person worship services also resumed using guidelines from the CDC, state of PA, and Montgomery County. Council and staff worked hard to ensure safe and inspiring worship services- one that is inside and one that is outside. Communion is celebrated at both.

Daily Devotions continue to be written by Deacon Allison and posted to our website and Facebook page.

Grace is just beginning to explore the many opportunities available to bring exciting, interesting, and inspiring worship and music. We trust in the work of the Holy Spirit to deepen our relationship with God in new and possibly, unexpected ways. Come Holy Spirit!!!





Christian Education & Youth has provided many creative ways for families to continue to connect and learn. Zoom Sunday School and Confirmation classes were offered into June. A summer weekly newsletter for families provided learning and faith formation experiences around the theme “Who’s My Neighbor?”

Kelsey Hlavac also provides multiple fb live prayers and discussions each week and specific times for middle and high schoolers to meet for conversation and even some online games! Fall brings additional opportunities to gather and learn!

Graduates were recognized by a video (website) and car parades led by Kelsey and Brenda Johnson! [This year, we anticipate helping our families tap into their faith as a foundation for being physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually healthy. We look forward to creative ways to grow in Christ!](#)

Adults are invited by Deacon Allison to participate in group bible studies on Zoom on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings. Pub Theology is a monthly Zoom discussion group (4th Thursdays) for all who would like to discuss faith while sipping their favorite beverage. The Get Real Dinner group reformatted as a Zoom discussion and check-in time on the 1st Monday of the month.

Numerous resources on current topics such as anti-racism, human trafficking education, and mental health resources can be found on our website. [How can Grace support your faith during this time? What faith questions have arisen? Are YOU ready for some new ways to be the church together?](#)

Community Outreach has been busy reaching out to the community and responding to a variety of needs. Grace continues to support the feeding ministries of Project Outreach with volunteers and a successful food drive. A winter clothing drive will help Open Door support local families. Grace’s garden was planted early this year and continued through the summer thanks to many volunteers. Lots of hands sewed face masks for a variety of organizations, and shopping and errands have been coordinated to help as needed.

Grace is working with the Royersford Emergency Management Team to identify and communicate available resources for those struggling during the pandemic. Grace also has several members working with the newly formed GuideLight Ministries to open a local warming/hospitality center in the winter months. [As needs arise, Grace is committed to being the hands and feet of Christ in our community. In 2021, we have the privilege and blessing of offering our time to serve in the new hospitality center. Ask how YOU can make a difference in peoples’ lives!](#)

Faith Engagement is happening every time Grace touches a heart beyond our walls. The love of God is shared with an audience that is growing thanks to our increased use of technology. You’ll find Grace on our website (www.gracelutheranroyersford.com), YouTube channel, and on Facebook in many ways for children, youth, and adults. Communication is shared quickly and efficiently through email blasts, and hopefully, you’ve joined us on Zoom– our new way of seeing each other (and our kids, pets, and houses!) [It is easier than ever to share the good news! “Like” us on fb; share a post; host a worship watch party; invite a friend to Pub Theology! Spread the word on your favorite social media!](#)

Parish Life has taken on a new look this year due to social distancing guidelines. “Check-in” phone calls to members began being made by staff and by volunteers from council and Stephen Ministry in late March. Opportunities for fellowship are available on Zoom to catch up with old Grace friends and make new friends. Unfortunately, there have been several wedding postponements until 2021, and funeral/memorial services have been limited to small numbers, typically at the graveside. There have been moments of celebration for graduates and birthdays with Grace’s car parades. Grace’s Prayer Box continues to receive prayers from our community (and they are prayed!) [Watch for new ways to connect with your Grace family in 2021.](#) [As groups gradually begin to be able to re-gather, let us know how you would like to see each other again!](#)



Property & Grounds don't stop! Not even for pandemics! Many improvements have been made over these months, including the addition of a stairlift in the narthex (to access the restroom). Other major improvements have included the replacement of the office roof, repointing and sealing the bell tower, replacing the canopy to the choir room entrance, building of new shelving in social hall (stage), installation of new kitchen countertop, and rebuilding of back steps at 590 Church Street. Property Manager, Ken Slack, also played an instrumental role in planning and getting the sanctuary ready for in-person worship. This included installing plexiglass at keyboard and pulpit, installing hand sanitizers, designating safe seating areas, and oversight of new disinfecting procedures. [Grace is prepared to continue responding to the changing situation of Coronavirus with your safety and faith-needs in mind.](#)

Stewardship, Finance, & Admin are the areas that provide the tangible and necessary resources for the work of ministry. These committees have continued to meet via Zoom to help the staff and council have what is needed to be faithful to our calling at Grace. Weekly and monthly reports are generated to help council understand Grace’s financial health and help us to be well-prepared for managing expenses. Stewardship is doing the wonderful work of reminding us that we are “Blessed to be a Blessing!” especially(!) in a pandemic. We continue to offer resources to our community and to the larger church for the sake of God’s world. Phyllis Conroy has found creative ways for our office to respond to the quickly changing ways of doing ministry and the new needs that are arising in our world. [Grace is constantly looking for ways to improve our stewardship of God’s blessings to us. We will be implementing new technologies as they become available and we invite you to be generous in supporting Grace’s ministries in this new time of Being Church!](#)

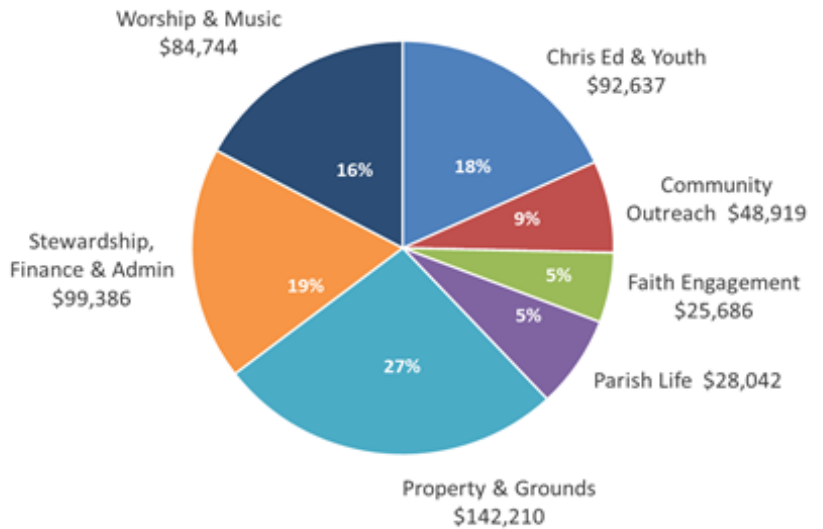
Proposed 2021 Budget

Grace is blessed to have a very talented and dedicated staff who faithfully work to lead our ministries. Staff salaries (and benefits) may be found in the line item budget, and are categorized into ministry areas below as follows:

Phyllis Conroy: Administration
 Kelsey Hlavac: Christian Ed & Youth
 Joyce Berner : Worship & Music
 Childcare Supervisor: Worship & Music
 Ken Slack: Property & Grounds
 Flossie Schell: Property & Grounds
 Deacon Allison: 50% Chris Ed,
 30% Worship & Music;
 20% Faith Engagement
 Pastor Kraus: 25% Worship & Music;
 20% Administration; 20% Parish Life;
 15% Outreach; 10% Faith Engagement;
 8% Christian Ed & Youth; 2% Property

PROPOSED MISSION & MINISTRY BUDGET 2021

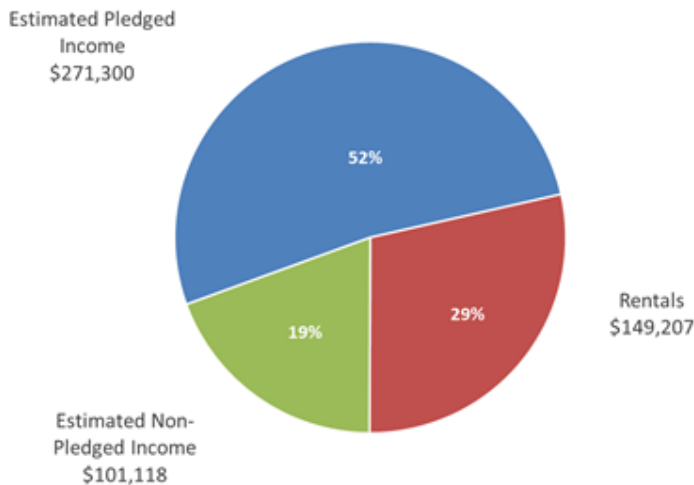
Total: \$521,625



Anticipated Income 2021

2021 Anticipated Income

Total: \$521,625



Calculation of pledged versus non-pledged income reflects several years of Grace's pledging and giving trends.

As the number and percentage of pledges increase, more accurate budget estimates for the upcoming year may be made.

Close to 20% of our budget generally comes from unpledged giving.

Please consider making a pledge for 2021 to help us ensure proper funding of our ministries and faithful use of our resources.

Thank you, people of Grace!

Blessed to be a Blessing!!!

Centuries ago, God spoke to Abram saying, *"I will bless you...to be a blessing."* This continues to be at the heart of who we believe we are as the people of God. As a church, we are called to use the gifts entrusted to us for the good of the world. If you believe that you have been blessed by God, please consider making a pledge to support the good work done through Grace.

Why Pledge? More than ever, Grace is being called to respond to the needs of the world in ways that are creative, bold, and faith-building. The challenges are big, but we believe that as a congregation we have been blessed (for 131 years!) in even bigger ways. God has been so very good and the people of Grace have been generous so that Christ's love is made known. The pandemic has brought new uncertainties to our budget, making it crucial that we enter into 2021 with realistic expectations for contributions. Your pledge for 2021 will help us to make wise and realistic ministry decisions. This estimate of your giving is a huge blessing to assist Grace in our planning and visioning.

Ways to Give

The SIMPLY GIVING program allows you to pre-authorize a withdrawal from your bank account directly to Grace. You determine the amount to give weekly, semiweekly, or monthly. Simply Giving is a safe, reliable way to manage your offerings online. It allows you to share your gifts in a planned, intentional way and ensures that Grace receives offerings in a consistent manner. It's free to you, and enrollment is easy! Contact Phyllis Conroy in the Grace office at 610-948-3684 for instruction to begin your automated giving.

Alternatively, contact your financial institution to generate automatic offering checks to Grace at the frequency you choose.

Giving may also be done online from our homepage at www.GraceLutheranRoyersford.com.

Thank you!

Your generosity blesses Grace Lutheran Church and allows us to bless others! Thank you for your faithful support of the work that Jesus has called us to –near and far. YOU are a blessing!