



January 9, 2021

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God, our Father, and our Lord and Savior, Jesus, the Christ.

I simply want to take a moment and say, "Thank You." It is truly humbling to serve such an incredible community of faith. On behalf of the Staff and Council, "Thank You," for your patience, your compassion, your prayers, and your support.

It has been a very unusual year. The year started like any other, with Epiphany, Annual Meeting, Ash Wednesday, and the start of Lent. Then, over the course of a weekend in Mid-March, everything changed. In-person worship was suspended. Grace Kids Care went into a temporary closure. We celebrated Easter, Pentecost, Reformation and Christmas, all from a livestream format. Yet, we remain the Church. The building may be used less, but the work continues thanks to all of you.

The response of this community of faith this year has been nothing short of extraordinary. We were able to raise money for a new air conditioning unit, with a cost of nearly \$60,000. Offerings have remained strong, coupled with our minimizing of expenses, we finished the year with a deficit of only \$5,816! Through the work of Denise Friesth, Mary Edwards, Tammy Denton, the Finance Committee and Congregational Council, we were able to receive a Paycheck Protection Loan for Grace Lutheran Church and our daycare ministry, Grace Kids Care.

None of us knows what 2021 will bring. We walk into this unknown together. These words from Morning Prayer have taken on increased meaning this year: *O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Thank you!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Schmidt", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Mike, on behalf of the Staff and Congregational Council

Pastor Michael Schmidt

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