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**Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting**

The Grace Lutheran Church Annual meeting was held on Sunday, 1/22/23 in the Social Room.

**Call to order-** President, Kim Peters called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

**Opening Liturgy-** led by Pastor Jack.

**Motion to approve agenda-** Motion by Kim Myers, seconded by Austen Germolus - all in favor.

**Devotions-** led by Pastor Jack.

**Attendance-** official quorum of 50 plus members.

**Motion to approve 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes-** Motion by Lexi Merkens seconded by

Steph Knutson - all in favor.

Pastor Jack thanked members for coming to the annual meeting and thanked council members and volunteers for leading our congregation.

**Financials -** our congregation needs $1,000/day to run the facility and support our faculty. We are sitting in a fine position financially, however, we are behind in offerings compared to last year. We do not have the ability to plan for income at church - we know our expenses and then count on God working through our members, to financially support the church. We are currently $23,000 behind in planned offerings, but we are not in the hole, we are still able to cover our finances at this time. Finances aren’t what's important, what’s important is our Mission, and to march forward and share the word of the Lord with those in the community and those we serve. It’s what we do with the gifts we’ve been given. Obviously things will change in the future, and even though we don’t like that we will march forward.

Future expenses - we are hoping to have the elevator fixed by Easter. This building was built in 1948 and our boiler system was last updated in 1997. We currently have 1 out of 3 boilers not

working, and will need to fix those in the future as well.

Questions/Comments- Gordon Ramstad asked a question regarding memorial accounts, Some of these accounts seem to be inactive, is there a way to utilize those accounts elsewhere, but with the same intent? Craig Larson - Memorial Board Chair, replied Some of those accounts are restricted, and the donors don’t have family in the area to consult with the reason for which the gifts were given. Memorial Board is working on shrinking those accounts down and finding creative ways to do so, while following the guidelines.

Tricia Thompson asked that if someone has a funeral or special event to request that funds be designated to the elevator - Pastor Jack replied, that we can sure do that, but it’s not just having the funds available, we have to have this part custom built for our elevator, and that is what we are waiting on, and hoping for it to be completed by Easter.

Lowell Thompson asked, “is everything going to have to be dug out way down into the ground? Pr. Jack said that a cylinder is leaking into the ground right now and it needs to be replaced. Lowell asked if soil sampling has to be done, and Pastor Jack replied that the technician states we can utilize a vacuum that will suck that out of the sand and clean it out, no soil sampling is necessary for this situation.

Doris Simonson thanked Pastor Jack for a job well done all through COVID.

**Board/Committee Reports-**

Kim Peters asked for any additional questions or comments on the board/committee reports- all approved as written.

2022 Annual Report financials- approved as written.

2023 Financials- Discussion was held. Motion to approve 2023 Financials - motion by Gordon Ramstad, seconded by Linda Visser- all

in favor.

**2023 Nominations-**

Discussion held- Margaret Liebl, Cassie Visser, and Marty Munter volunteered for the nominating committee. Motion to approve. Margaret, Cassie, and Marty for nominating committee- motion by Steph Knutson, seconded by Lexi Merkens, approved by all.

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Motion to approve unanimous ballot- Motion by Craig Larson, Chris Odden seconded, approved by all.

**Notification of GLCW disbandment-**

Kathy Jacobson spoke on behalf of the Grace Lutheran Church Women Organization. At the GLCW meeting held on January 11th, it was voted to disband the organization of Grace

Lutheran Church Women, once all of the GLCW funds have been distributed. This has been a hard decision to make over the last few years, but we saw it coming.

The reasons for this decision include the following:

1- The average attendance has dropped from 30-40 to 8 to 10.

2- The average age of women involved is over 80 years old

3- There has been no new members in over 20 years

4- The officers that have been carrying the GLCW were worn out and no longer interested in carrying that lead.

5- Times have changed, “Ladies Aide” as it used to be called was not only for Bible Study and service to others but a social outing for women at home. With a more mobile and fast paced life, two income families, more school activities- there is no longer an interest for another social outing. We don’t see this disbanding as a failure, but a result of changing times.

The plan for the disbursement of the GLCW funds: There is over $7,000 in the treasury. One of the main considerations of dispensing the funds was the women’s concern for the youth and encouraging and influencing their relationship with God.

1. $6,000 would be put in a campership fund, to provide all youth who attend camp with a $100 towards their registration fee. This money would be put into a fund with the Memorial board, should they approve it.
2. Lutheran Campus ministries at local colleges & Oak Grove school have been receiving a gift. They will each get a $100 gift with a note explaining our disbanding.
3. A $200 offering to the SWM Synod Women’s with a note informing them of our disbandment.

With GLCW no longer being active- the following changes will need to be considered.

1- Council- GLCW president is a member of church council- this is in the Bi-laws and will need to be changed.

2- Continuing Resolutions- each board on council has these that state what their board jobs are and how they operate and their purpose. With no GLCW organization the following activities will need to be included under another board. A possible delegation for these activities could be:

Circles- Evangelism

Quilting- Stewardship

Cradle Roll- Youth & Family

Bookstore- Evangelism

3- There won't be any community suppers or lenten suppers served by GLCW.

Thoughts from the GLCW program- *If we receive endings openly, it can bring to beginnings. If we can face what’s ahead with an open mind and heart, we can then receive what God has ahead for us. We may have to change with the times, but our belief in the gospel of our Triune God will never change*.

**Comments/Questions-** Kim Peters asked for any last comments/concerns.

Curt Jacobson- gave a hand to Kim Peters for 4 years as president.

**Closing Prayer-** led by Pastor Jack.

**Motion for adjournment-** Motion by Dorella, seconded by Dean.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by, *Cassie Visser, Secretary.*

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**2024 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

* Welcome
* Call to Order
* Approval of Agenda
* Devotions – Pr. Jack
* Declaration of a Quorum

(minimum of 50 members)

* Approval of 2023 minutes
* Reports: (Pastor’s report, Boards and Committee reports – as printed; 2023 Financial Report – as printed
* Business
* Presentation and adoption of the 2024 Budget
* Presentation of Nominees and voting
* Other business
* Closing Prayer

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**2024 NOMINATIONS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Director: Evangelism Board  Two year term – vote for one |  |
| Julie Borge |  |
|  |  |
| Director: Fellowship Board  Two year term – vote for one |  |
| Abby Korte |  |
|  |  |
| Director: Christian Education Board  Two year term – vote for one |  |
| Kim Myers |  |
|  |  |
| Director: Property/Finance Board  Two year term – vote for one |  |
| David Solseng |  |
|  |  |
| Director: Memorial Board  Two year term – vote for one |  |
| Craig Larson |  |
|  |  |
| Council Secretary |  |
| Cassie Visser |  |
|  |  |
| Treasurer |  |
| Warren Goltz |  |
|  |  |
| Endowment Committee |  |
| Mark Potucek |  |
| Lynn Johnson |  |
| Elizabeth Rockstad |  |
|  |  |
| Petri Cemetery Sextons |  |
| David Barkve |  |
| Kim Sorenson |  |
|  |  |
| Nominating Committee  One year term – vote for five |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

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**PASTORS REPORT –**

**PASTOR JACK CARLSON**

Another year has passed and once again I am grateful for God calling Monica and me here to Ada and especially to Grace Lutheran. It’s been over nine years now since we moved here and it has been and continues to be a great place in which to work and live. It is humbling and amazing to see God open new experiences for us and for you!

I’ve told people I have now lived in Ada longer than I’ve lived anywhere else in my lifetime. I will turn 65 this year and will begin my 32nd year in ministry. I acknowledge to you my retirement looms just over the horizon. The Church Council is aware and together we are beginning the process of discernment and handing over pastoral duties to those who will follow me, and after us. It’s not time yet. Until that time, we have work to do together as God’s people.

It’s easy to give thanks to all of you – to those with whom I work, those with whom we’ve become friends, and to all the members here at Grace as well as those outside these walls. God is doing good things in Ada and in Grace and my prayer is that continues for many years to come.

There have been more than a few changes, and inevitably there will be many more as we walk together following our Lord Jesus. For some, change is a difficult adjustment. For others, it’s an exciting time. Yet whatever the case, we are assured that God walks with us, leading us into a new future. And for that we give God thanks!

As a congregation we continue to hold our own financially and we give thanks to each of you who faithfully give of yourself, your time, and your possessions to support and further the ministries of Grace Lutheran. This year we have made significant repairs to our building – for example, the elevator and the boiler in the Parish Education wing necessitated some large expenditures. But as others have said it so well, we are paying it forward for the next couple of generations who will take the reins after us. Though the building is not the church … it is our home and up-keeping is part of our responsibility.

Most importantly our ministry is still growing. Though there may not be as many worshippers present on any given Sunday as we’d like, through live streaming or worship services we have gained worshippers. Our Sunday School remains a positive ministry for our younger members, and our Youth Groups have gained some traction over the past couple years. Very encouraging to say the least!

Our various Boards/Committees continue to serve Grace well. And our Council leads us well and will continue to do so as we walk into 2024 together. For all our leadership and the many of you who take pride in Grace Lutheran I give thanks as well.

*In Christ, Pastor Jack Carlson*

**TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY TEAM REPORT**

**Mission** **-** *Our mission is to see what Grace Lutheran has to do to decide on its ministry and focus for the next 10 years.*

**Vision -** *Our vision is that Grace Lutheran will know it’s calling in ministry for our congregation, community, ELCA affiliation and the greater calling for justice and peace worldwide.*

**Our church’s mission statement is:** *Grace Lutheran Church believes our mission to be God’s chosen people…*

***G****uided by God’s Word and Grace.*

***R****eceived into Christ through baptism.*

***A****nchored in the Gospel to be Christ’s Ambassadors.*

***C****alled as a community to serve God in the world.*

***E****mpowered, enlightened and equipped to share God’s love.*

The vision of Transformational Ministry is to establish a process of evaluation, conversation, and discernment so that Grace Lutheran membership will have a clear sense of its calling

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for justice and peace in the world. Our group observes, listens, and discusses concerns of the congregation, the church building, and the Grace Lutheran Family. We pass our observations along to the appropriate boards or committees. Also, we support the Pastor as a Mutual Ministry committee.

We also observe and discuss what other congregations do to make their church and programs successful. We continue to focus on the future of our church to make it a place where people feel welcome in our congregation and community.

We meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 am for one hour, discussing anything about our church and community, and what we can do to provide a welcoming place for people to worship.

We are here to listen. Please let one of us know if you have a concern, or have an idea that would be beneficial to the Grace Lutheran family.

Transformational Ministry Team in 2024 will become the Mutual Ministry Team. With this change we will become more of a pastor sounding board.

**Transformational Ministry Team:**

Kim Habeck (secretary), Marti Sip, Craig Larson, Blaine Erickson, Pastor Jack Carlson, Kim Peters (vice-chair), JayMerkens (chair).

*Submitted by Jay Merkens*



**FELLOWSHIP REPORT**

*The Board of Fellowship shall, with the pastors and staff, oversee the spiritual and social fellowship within the congregation, the integration of new members into the life of the congregation, and the up-building of the life of the congregation.*

In the past year, the Fellowship Board continued to serve coffee and treats after worship, decorated the sanctuary for Christmas, and welcomed new members on New Member Sunday.

In addition, the Fellowship board began serving coffee in the library before worship services. This offers another opportunity for our congregation to socialize with one another and prepare themselves for worship.

We hope to offer more fellowship opportunities for Grace members this year, and continue to encourage congregation members to come before, or stay after worship services and socialize. Check out the bulletin and Grace notes for activities and how to get involved.

**Director:** Lexi Merkens

**Members:** Barb Spilde, Ann Merkens, Stacy Erickson, and Mary Stevenson

*Submitted by Lexi Merkens*

**STEWARDSHIP BOARD**

*The Board of Stewardship shall, with the pastors and staff, oversee programs which develop good stewardship among the members of the congregation and ensure the financial stability of the congregation.*

When you think about Stewardship this quote from Kathy Fiscus (Faith and Finances Ministry Team Chair, Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis) really hit home.

“Stewardship is a matter of the heart. My stewardship practices are a response to the boundless love God first showed me. It means that I am grateful for all that God has generously entrusted to me. As a faithful

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steward and child of God, I understand that (the) decisions I make, in all aspects of my life, reveal my priorities. It is a privilege to share time, talents and finances, to care for God’s earth and to serve my neighbors. Being a good steward has brought me great joy and has helped me grow spiritually. I am blessed to be a blessing.”

Stewardship- This doesn’t only mean giving money to the church, although this is certainly appreciated. This can be donations of your time and talents as well; examples include teaching Sunday school, reading a lesson at church, serving coffee, making bars, alter guild or volunteering on a committee. If we all work together to be active and involved members in our church, this can decrease the burnout that can be associated. Please help improve our church and take some time to think about what time or talents you are able to donate. Everything is appreciated; no matter how big or small the donation. Thank you!! We hope to thrive in 2024. If you have any ideas for Coins for Heaven’s Sake, we are always looking for places to donate.

Coins for Heaven’s Sake 2023

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| January | Global barnyard | 265.91 |
| February | Souper Bowl of Caring | 251.92 |
| March | Grace youth gathering | 259.68 |
| April | Norman Co DAC | 195.34 |
| May | Haiti Eye Mission | 296.21 |
| June | World Hunger | 1497.93 |
| July |  |  |
| August |  |  |
| September | Milk Program | 639.62 |
| October | Operation Shoebox | 418.18 |
| November | BLC | 294.83 |

**Director:** Andrew Tritz

**Members:** Amy Sawrey, Deb Alexander,

Jane Purrington, Shirley Baker

*Submitted by Andrew Tritz*

**EVANGELISM BOARD**

*The Board of Evangelism shall, with the pastors and staff, oversee the ministry of the congregation to those who do not believe in Christ and the ministry which helps its own members deepen their faith and participate more fully in the mission of Christ.*

Thank you to everyone who prayerfully and financially supported Grace Lutheran Evangelism. We have many financial gifts coming into Evangelism and we try to do our best to wisely spend our resources.

These are some of the ways we have spent your gifts:

* Christ in Our Home is always made available in the church entries.
* Sarah How spoke to an informal group. Youth from other churches were also invited. It was decided to try to have her come every other year to especially benefit Confirmation students.
* On special spring and fall holidays we sent cookies to Valley View, Summerfield, and Mission Court. Flowers were sent to Living Center.
* Donation to New Campership Program started by GLCW funds. $1000
* Gifts were given to all staff on Administrative Assistants Day and Pastor Appreciation Month.
* New members were treated to a Pizza Party in April.
* We help encourage kids to attend Pathways Day Camp with camper paying the first $10 and Evangelism paying the remainder.
* The Red Letter Band appeared again at the fair, co-sponsored with the Fair Board. $650
* A monetary donation to Feed My Starving Children was given to the youth for their trip. $250
* We send out special invitations to preschool Sunday school students.
* Other donations asked for were Churches United $500 and Operation Shoe Box $250.

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* The expense for the new website work and future upkeep are now going to be under Evangelism’s budget.
* We have the honor of representing the congregation at each baptism.
* This coming year we are restarting our Sharing Grace Ministry to reach out to more people in our congregation, this can only happen with your support.

**Director:** Linda Visser

**Members:** Margaret Liebl, ChiChi Larson, Julie Borge, Kay Gade, Cindy Julin

*Submitted by Linda Visser*

**VALLEY FOOD SHELF REPORT**

The Valley Food Shelf wants to thank Grace Lutheran for all the support we have received this past year.  We rely entirely on donations of food, money and volunteer time from our community. We get donations from various groups in Grace, especially the Youth and Sunday School during their Super Bowl of caring. This past year we gave out 25,841 pounds to 173 households in our area and had 708 volunteer hours. This helps many people who are facing food insecurity. We appreciate Dale always ready to help with heavy work (and coffee) and the men who come in and help unload our food truck once a month.   If you ever have any question about the food shelf ask our co-managers:  Lynn Petry and Linda Visser.

*Submitted by Linda Visser*

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC BOARD**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

*“The goal of the Worship and Music Board is to coordinate, enable, encourage and assist the congregation in meaningful and Christ centered worship opportunities.”*

  We would like to thank all who gave of your time and talents throughout the year of 2023 and are willing to continue as worship assistants.  We have many volunteer duties that make our services at Grace continue to be such a spiritual experience and always need more volunteers.      
 We encourage you all to keep your time and talent sheet current with our office so we can include you in areas where your time, interests and abilities can be used to God’s glory.  We welcome your calls with questions or offers of ideas and participation; please don’t feel you have to wait to be asked.  We want ALL to feel welcome to help and participate.  It takes a village for a church to continue to function and there are many ways people of all ages can volunteer.  We strongly encourage more of you to join in with our altar guild, choirs, special music, audio/visual, ushers, greeters, readers, giving children’s sermon, worship song leaders, acolytes, worship planning, along with choir directors, accompanists, worship pianists /organists, and education.  We are in need of a full time Senior Choir and Bell Choir directors to be able to offer this wonderful music to be a part of our worship services.  If you have any interest or would like to visit about it please contact Stephanie at 701-261-0944 or the church office.  We also need more members in our choirs and would like to encourage the junior/senior high students to consider joining; all are welcome and needed!  Appreciation goes out to Jorgine Hanson for directing the senior choir during the Easter and Christmas season.  We appreciate Stephanie Knutson willing to direct the Senior Bell Choir. We have really enjoyed the beautiful music and participation our grade choir has provided to our services monthly.  Thank you to Brenda for organizing and directing this group and Genise Solseng for sharing her talent in accompanying them and the senior choir.

We are very blessed with a beautiful sanctuary and through generous gifts are able to supply fresh flowers and plants throughout the year.  We had such beautiful services for the Easter and Christmas season in 2023 and really appreciate all those that participated; a special thank you to Genise Solseng for her getting the junior/senior high kids involved and Brenda for

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the wonderful children's program. Grace Lutheran has also been very blessed with the technology to provide services over the internet and radio broadcast.  We are grateful to those that give of their time to learn and serve on our audio/visual equipment, so we are able to get these spiritual messages to you each Sunday.  A special thank you goes out to Jay Merkens, Scott Stevenson, Dean Knutson, Brody Menge, Colleen Goltz, Kim Peters, Ted Aanenson and Lexi Merkens for joining the crew. We appreciate the patience of our Grace members with our technical glitches that happen at times, as this in not always a smooth and easy task. We are very blessed to have such a wonderful and committed congregation working together for the glory of God!

     Our 2024 service schedule is as follows:  9:00 AM on Sunday mornings, Wednesday Lenten services at 7:00 PM beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 14, 2024.  Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at 7:00 PM and 2 services on Easter (Sunrise at 7:00 AM, Easter Resurrection service at 9:00 AM), Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 PM and two Christmas Eve services at 3:00 and 5:00 PM. As we hope to stick to this schedule, things could change so please read the Grace notes. Communion if offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Services may also be heard on the radio live on KRJB and viewed live on our website at glcada.org through Facebook or Youtube and may be viewed at any time later through Facebook.

Again, thank you for the many ways in which you all work together to make a positive and welcoming worship for all at Grace Lutheran! We wish you God’s richest blessings as we continue to raise our voices, our hands and our hearts to His Glory!

**Director:** Stephanie Knutson

**Members:** Jorgine Hanson, Honey Olson, Patti Stene, Genise Solseng, Duane Nelson, also assisting are Pastor Jack and Brenda Wagner

*Submitted by Stephanie Knutson*

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

*The Board of Education shall, with the pastors and staff, oversee the educational program of the congregation.*

“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:27

Each year we continue to strive to bring the Good News of Jesus to all of the youth here at Grace Lutheran. We invite, encourage and want the youth to attend the activities that we provide, so that everyone will know the love of Jesus from birth to death. We do find that it’s more of a challenge each year to achieve these goals due to the activities that families are involved with. As our theme for the year says – “Putting it all together” – piece by piece, we need to work to invite and encourage one another.

We have great Sunday school teachers, Confirmation guides; volunteers to assist with Pre-school VBS, Day Camp, Art in the Park, whatever is needed they will help. We need parents to take an active part in their child/children’s Faith life as they did promise that when they had them baptized.

We try to have things happening for our youth each month of the year, from any age child. In January we start off with working on the ***“Souper Bowl of Caring”*** project, to raise money for the local “Valley Food Shelf” with a Bowl-a-thon, a Soup and Sandwich meal on Super Bowl Sunday and have the Sunday school children bring a non-perishable food item for the food shelf. We gave the Valley Food Shelf a check for $2,058.00, from the bowl-a-thon, the Sunday school offerings, the proceeds from the Souper Bowl meal, along with 80#’s of food we collected. We took our Confirmation youth to the ***Feed My Starving Children*** event to pack Manna packs for less fortunate children as a service project. March had ***Lenten Soup Suppers*** with the Confirmation youth serving 2 soup suppers with proceeds going to REACH, a Jr. High youth event, and the 6th graders serving a meal to help defray the cost of Bible Camp.

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The weather did put a damper on a few of the

meals, but we served who we could. March brought us ***Camp Sunday*** with staff from Pathways Bible Camp. We had youth assist with the service and the staff did events with our Sunday school youth during Education time. We had 3- confirmation youth that attended a week of camp, 5-5th graders that went to camp for a week and 3 other youth that attended camp for a day. Our ***5th graders*** that attended Bible Camp served the ***Easter Brunch*** as a fund raiser to assist with paying for the week of camp. They raised enough funds, along with scholarships from Grace Lutheran and Pathways to attend without cost except for the original down payment. We had our ***1st Communion Retreat*** with 11 attending that took their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Sunday school ended the year on Mother’s Day and we thank all of the teachers who so faithfully taught all year. Our Sunday school offerings for March-May were to go towards the REACH Backpack program here at the school which we sent a check for $568.00. We are very focused on Mission projects with our Sunday school youth so they learn about helping others. We did hold our week of ***Pre-school VBS*** for our 3-5 year olds which was attended by 40-45 children each morning. The theme for this year was “God’s People in the Old Testament” with Creation, Noah, Daniel and the Lion’s Den and Baby Moses. We had15 volunteers who assisted each morning from teaching, room parents, snack preparer, and we used the Tri – Valley Bus for transportation. July came with our week of ***Pathways Day Camp*** where 28 youth came each day to worship, play games, have Bible party time and just have a great time with camp counselors. Pathways theme for the year was “Wholly Loved” which they shared with our youth. Jay and Ann Merkens housed the counselors and the Grace Evangelism board covered $40.00 of the $50.00 cost for any youth to attend. What a great gift that was!! August brought another great event known as ***“Art in the Park”*** where we had 27 youth attend at the West Side Park in Ada. We made Mosaic Crosses, played games, did a Bible Study on “Putting it all together” from 1st Corinthians 12:27. There were 8 volunteers that assisted with this event, to keep everyone involved. It was requested to have a ***calendar*** put together ***with all of the events from September through May*** that we know would be happening. This was done in hopes of helping parents know what was coming up in the church for their youth. Each family received one with the “Welcome back” letter that was sent out in September. ***Rally Sunday was held with several youth receiving their Bibles.*** We gave out 23 bibles to 3 year olds, 3rd graders and the 7th graders. We held ***“My First Bible Class”*** with the 3rd graders and parents to assist in learning how to use their Bibles. Confirmation classes, Sunday school classes began with all guides and teachers in place. Confirmation Faith statements were given in October before ***Confirmation Sunday*** the end of October. We had 11 youth that were confirmed at Grace. We began ramping up for our ***Operation Christmas Child*** project by having donations brought in for the shoe boxes, Sunday school offerings going to purchase supplies, Cookies for a Cause held 2 different Sundays, etc. We packed 105 shoe boxes that were sent off, raising over $3200.00 in donations and fund raising for this project. Shipping of these boxes alone was $1050.00. Thank – you to all that make this event a success each year. December was busy with ***Christmas program*** practice for the Pre-school – 2nd graders. They did “O Little Sounds of Bethlehem” which had 4 weeks of lessons and art projects that went with the program. Thanks to Tera Johnson and G.G. Solseng for playing for us. We did go to the ***Pedar Eide Christmas concert*** with the Confirmation youth and other members. We had 3 Confirmation groups that ***rang bells*** for the ***Salvation Army*** in December also.

The ***Youth Choir*** sang each month from October – May during a church service. They often sang more than once a month but their talent is so great, I want them to be heard. We did a Palm Sunday program with the youth choir and 3rd-6th graders called, “Behold the Lamb”

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which went over very well. We did go out to Mission Court to do a concert in May before the end of the year.

Brenda Wagner – staff

**Director:** Kim Myers

**Members:** Carla Juntunen, Loni Tufton, Ashley Kappes, Patty Johnson, Katie Tritz

*Submitted by Brenda Wagner*

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT**

*The Board of Youth Ministry shall, with the pastors and staff, oversee the ministry of the congregation to youth from 6th grade to the age of high school graduation.*

*“We recognize that our children, young people, and families are a gift from God and of immense value to our church and community.”*

The Grace Lutheran Children, Youth and Family Board continue to provide opportunities to allow the youth in grades 6-12th to experience and grow in their faith. The fundraising events for those attending the Summer Youth Mission Trip have been well attended but other planned youth fellowship activities have had few participants. In the coming year, the board hopes to increase attendance in activities for all youth at Grace.

The board meets once a month to discuss the previous month’s activities and to plan for future events. Below are a few of the events that took place over the past year.

**January**

* 2023 Youth Trip Members served a Taco-in-a-bag meal before the STIL presentation.
* 25 youth attended a Sr. High Overtime event in the social room. Jr. High was hosted at Zion Lutheran Church.

**February**

* Skiing/Tubing event was scheduled but was cancelled due to not having enough participants sign up.

**March**

* Lenten Soup Supper was hosted by 2023 Youth Trip members.

**April**

* + Palm Sunday Meal & Silent Auction held by 2023 Youth Trip members.
  + Sr. High youth enjoyed a social night in the youth room while watching the NCAA Basketball Championship.
  + Sr. High youth participated in the Easter Sunrise Service.
* Middle School Youth enjoyed an afternoon at SkyZone in Fargo.

**May**

* Senior Recognition was held for the graduating seniors. The graduates participated in the church service, were acknowledged at coffee hour and were presented with a gift at an afternoon meal in their honor.

**June**

* + Youth Trip members hosted a Fry Bread Taco meal before the summer Wednesday evening worship service.
  + A Sr. League/Middle School fun night was planned but had very poor attendance.

**July**

* Youth Trip: 12 youth & 3 chaperones went on a 5 day trip to the Wisconsin Dells. They participated in a memorial butterfly release at Munsinger Gardens in St. Cloud, took a Jet Boat Ride and a walkabout at Witches Gulch, enjoyed a day at Noah’s Ark Waterpark, watched Movies at Take Flight, and played Mini Golf. They also benefited from daily devotions and fun and relaxation at the VRBO. Service work at Mirror Lake State Park and Feed My Starving Children also kept them busy.

**September**

* Youth trip members provided a synopsis of their 2023 Youth Trip at coffee hour.

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**October**

* + A Family day was held at Thunder Road in Fargo.
  + 2024 Youth Trip members held a squash sale fundraiser.

**November**

* + 2024 Youth Trip members hosted the annual Turkey Dinner.
  + 2 youth and 1 chaperone attended the NWMN Synod ELCA Middle School Youth Gathering held at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, MN.

**December**

* Sr. High Overtime with an “Elf” movie theme was held in the social room. Middle School Overtime with a “Minute to win it” theme was hosted by Zion Lutheran Church.
* 2024 Youth Trip members hosted a Christmas Meatball Dinner and a Live Pie Auction.
* Sr. High youth participated in the 3:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Church Service.

Thank you to the many parents, board members and youth who have helped with activities, meals, serving coffee hour, teaching and hosting different events. Another huge thank you goes out to our Grace members for your gracious support of our many fundraisers throughout the year.

**Board Director:** Genise Solseng

**Board Members:** Neil Hultin, Lori Prodzinski, Amy Traut, Dawn Tinjum & Tina Volden

*Submitted by Genise Solseng*

**PROPERTY AND FINANCE REPORT**

*The Board of Property and Finance shall, with the pastors and staff, oversee the property, insurance, and fiscal policies of the congregation.*

Looking back on 2023 we accomplished a lot of projects. To start the year off the tower speakers for our carillon system were replaced. Now the city can hear our bells chime again! Thanks to Gordon Ramstad for taking on this project. The extra snow we had caused an ice dam above our entryway into the church which led to some leakage. The membrane of the roof was repaired and we are leak free again. A major project was the elevator. It did take some time to replace and upgrade the elevator so thanks for your patience. The windows in the doors to the walkway between the buildings were replaced. We also decided it would be a good time to replace the old concrete with new concrete in front of the educational building. The educational building also had its boilers replaced as one had stopped working in 2022. Rounding out the year we replaced the floral cooler. Thanks to all who helped with the projects and thanks for the patience throughout our construction.

**Director:** David Solseng

**Members:** Lowell Thompson, Warren Goltz, Duane Hanson, Curt Jacobson, Lynn Johnson, Pr. Jack Carlson

*Submitted by David Solseng*

**GRACE LUTHERAN**

**ENDOWMENT FUND**

The Endowment Fund was established in 1999 for the purpose of accepting gifts and bequests for placement in a permanent fund. No money can be expended from the fund until the fund’s year end market value exceeds $25,000. Once that is achieved, the earned income may be expended.

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The funds are to be used to provide resources to enhance the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and are further identified as follows:

* Equipping and supporting people of all ages of the congregation, and of the local or worldwide community in doing mission and outreach in the communities they serve.
* Increasing educational opportunities for youth and adults.
* Promoting the use of common communication mediums to enable Grace Lutheran Church to be a hospitable congregation sent by Christ to influence others by bringing God’s love, hope and joy to the world.
* Assisting local and worldwide community services in establishing and sustaining programs designed to have a lasting influence on the communities they serve.

The Endowment Funds are invested with the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Contributions to the Endowment Fund are encouraged. This fund is designed to ensure the greatest benefit for both the donor and the church.

**Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund**

**There are three accounts:**

**1.** 95321 Ending value 9/2023 $14,231.01

**2.**  00642 value as of 9/2023 $9,801.80

**3.** 95385 value as of 9/2023 $47,085.22

Total of all three accounts: **$71,118.03**

**Endowment Committee Members:**

Mark Potucek, Lynn Johnson, Elizabeth Rockstad

**Advisors:** Sr. Pastor and Church President

*Submitted by Wanda Rosenberger*

**MEMORIAL/PROGRAM**

**BOARD REPORT**

*The Board of Memorials shall oversee the designated and undesignated memorials given to the congregation as cash bequests, cash devises, or cash gifts.*

Thank you to all who made gifts to the memorial funds this year. Our board is presented with the task of distributing memorial funds as designated by specific fund guidelines, which have been compiled and reviewed, and/or to boards as requested for non-budgeted items. Updated and revised the Memorial Open Account Categories. GLCW disbanded and wanted to establish a fund for Camper Scholarships under Christian Education, was approved with the written recommendation guidelines come from the GLCW. Reviewed and approved the Continuing Resolution 10 for Church Council, Updated Memorial Card; added GLCW Camper Scholarships, Prayer Shawl Ministry & World Hunger. A large deposit was made to Carillon Fund for repairs, which was completed when weather was suitable.

Projects and items that were requested and approved for the year were:

* Major repairs to Church boiler and elevator repair.
* Repair and replace boilers in Parish Building. Eight GLCW Camper Scholarships of $100 each were approved for campers.
* Fellowship Board; purchase 3 high top tables for serving coffee before church in the Library, and Christmas Tree with garland for upper entryway.
* Request from Pastor Jack for rebuilding, updating and maintenance of a new GLC website.
* Christian Education for VBS T-Shirts, Sunday school material and Operation Shoebox.
* Scholarships: One Time Scholarships of $350, were given to eight graduating seniors: Ryan Engel, Aiden Marcussen, Gannon Rockstad, Brooke Scherfenberg, Aaron Sip, Trenton Sip, Matti Stene and Emma Stewart.
* EG Larson Seminary Scholarship Fund-$500 Scholarship for 1st year student: Sam Maier and Brent Seewald-Marquart. -13-
* Storslee Scholarship Fund-$500 Scholarship for 2nd year Students: Jessica Paulsen. Rolczynski Scholarship Fund-$500 for 4th year Student: Diana Wright.
* Designated Memorials used for: Rolczynski/Storslee Flower Funds for graves and alter flowers.
* Albert Merkins Family Memorial Fund for alter flowers.
* Other funds distributed through preapproved and council approval were for: GLC Prayer Shawl Ministry, GLC Quilters, Parish Nurse Program, Loan Repayment Fund, Broadcast Fund, Choir Fund, Flowers, General Fund and Lawrence Merkins Memorial Fund-Cradle to Grave Education Program and Parsonage Maintenance and Improvements.

**Director:** Craig S Larson

**Board Members:** Renee Hedman, Chris Odden, Carol Sorenson, Eric Visser, Aaron Borgen, Harriet Brueshoff, Patty Johnson and new member Austen Germolus (February).

*Submitted by Craig Larson*

**HOSPITALITY SERVING GROUPS**

*The Grace Lutheran Hospitality serving groups provide food and fellowship for families and their friends following funerals. This is very much appreciated by the families in their time of need.*

Currently we have eight serving groups with co-chairs for each group. They plan the menu and arrange for workers. 19 **funerals** were served by the Hospitality groups. Others were served by small community groups or friends of the family. Grace Lutheran had a total of 19 funerals. 14 members, 3 non-member and 2 former members.

We thank everyone for the food, donations, and work. The Hospitality Serving balance is included in the 2023 GLC Financial Report.

*Submitted by Wanda Rosenberger*

**GRACE QUILTERS REPORT 2023**

This year we have given to the following: Norman County Social Service, City Public Health, V.A., YWCA, Churches United, Red River Recovery, LWR, Grace Lutheran Seniors, silent auctions and some were sold. Total of 95 large, 10 baby and youth, 5 pillows, 20 pillow cases.

The pillows are made from the poly fill scraps. We use a twin size sheet for backings and with the price of them going up we looked for something else. A friend found plain white ones which we dye in different colors. Thank you to all who gave us fabric, sheets, pillow cases and sewing supplies. A BIG THANK YOU to all the workers who come every Monday afternoon from 1-4 pm to layer, tie and sew bindings. All of these quilts would not be possible without our workers. Come join us!

*Submitted by Betty Wilkens*

*GLCW Co-chair*

**GRACE QUILTERS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Beginning Balance (January 1, 2023)**

**$ 2,147.06**

**INCOME:** Quilt Sales 450.00 Memorials 50.00 Total Income 500.00

**EXPENSES:**

Quilting Supplies 229.81 Mileage and Postage 13.05 Total Expenses 242.86

**Ending Balance (December 31, 2024)**

**$ 2,404.20**

*Submitted by Kathy Jacobson,*

*GLCW Quilting Treasurer*

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**GLCW BOOKSTORE REPORT 2023**

**BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD**

(including bank and cash box ) $989.00

**EXPENSES**

Treasures Abounding $399.45

Valley Food Shelf donation 300.00

Gifts for Dale Andersen 50.00

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS $749.45**

**INCOME**

Palm Sunday sales 167.50

Mother’s Day sales 85.50

Summer sales 60.00

Rally Sunday sales 65.50

Oct 22 sales 45.50

Turkey Dinner day sales 90.50

Christmas dinner sales 201.00

**TOTAL INCOME** **$715.50**

**ENDING BALANCE ON HAND**  **$955.05**

(Bank and Cash box)

**Thank you to all of you for your support.**

**Chair** – Joanne Hanson

*Submitted by Joanne Hanson*

**INFORMATIONAL STATISTICS 2023**

**ID #** 3D 11420

**Conference**: 3D05-Moorhead

**Synod:** 3D Northwestern Minnesota

**Date of Organization:** 1878

Grace – March 4, 1964, First Lutheran – 1921,

Trinity Lutheran (Hauge Synod) – 1887,

Our Savior’s Lutheran (United Synod) – 1880

Petri Lutheran – June 11, 1878

**Membership Information:**

**1/1/2023 12/31/2023**

**Baptized Members** 951 942

**Confirmed Members** 851 847

**Weddings:** 3

**Baptisms:** 7 children/youth;

**Confirmation:** 12 students

**Deaths:** 19 deaths, 14 members,

3 former-members, 2 non-member

**New Members:** 0

**Transfers Out:**  2 adults

**Worship Services**

* Sunday Services – 54 (one service cancelled due to a winter storm)
  + 9:00 am –  **average attend.** 112
  + 9:00 am Palm Sunday – 256

**Online -** 55

* + 9:00 am Easter Service – 295

**Online - ?**

* + 9:00 am – 1 Confirmation – 238

**Online -** 38

* Mother’s Day Attendance **–** 140

**Online – ?**

* Father’s Day Attendance – 57

**Online –** 38

* Senior Recognition Attendance **–** 135

**Online – ?**

* Rally Sunday Sept. 12 Attendance **–** 213

**Online** – 39

* Carol Sunday Attendance **–** 172

**Online -**

**Other Services**

* + 10:30 am – Children’s Christmas Prog. – 235
  + 3:00 & 5:00 pm –Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 224 + 147
  + Services w/Comm. 28
  + 7:00 pm – 5 Lenten Services (includes Ash Wednesday Service) 1 service cancelled due to a winter storm.

Average Attendance - 99

* + 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday – 163
  + 7:00 pm – Good Friday – 157
  + 7:00 pm – 1 Thanksgiving Eve – 33

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