

Grace Lutheran Church

Ministries

Annual report

May 2017



Celebrating

God's promise For everyone

grace

the infinite love, mercy, favor, and goodwill shown to humankind by God.

Grace must find expression in life, otherwise it is not grace."

- Karl Barth

As Grace Lutheran Church in Andover, Minnesota celebrates nearly 50 years of ministry, the following Annual Report strives to explain the generosity of God's grace working in and through the nearly 1,500 people who call Grace their spiritual home. Peruse these pages and reflect upon the wondrous ways in which God has grown faith in us and helped us to be his instruments of grace inside our walls, as well as far beyond. There are lots of financial facts and statistics. There are also many pictures of people, events, and moments of the life of Grace. However, behind all of this is the larger picture of God, who always manages to work through us! Praise God for his generous ways!

Table of Contents

Adult Ministries.....	Pg. 14
Children's Ministries	Pgs. 8-9
Church Administrator	Pg. 12
Church Secretary	Pg. 12
Grace Values Dance.....	Pg.13
Minutes.....	Pg. 12
Mission Statement.....	Pg. 20
Nominations.....	Pgs. 17-19
Outreach Ministries.....	Pgs. 15-16
President's Report	Pgs. 6-7
Senior Pastor's Report.....	Pgs. 3-6
Worship Ministries.....	Pg. 7
Youth Ministries.....	Pg. 10

Leadership—Senior Pastor

“God’s Promise for Everyone” seemed like a good “missional” program theme! Reasonable and sensible, it expressed the outward focus of our church. However, living in a rather homogeneous suburb of the Twin Cities, it seemed a bit of a stretch to me, that is until I got off the plane in Uganda and began to connect with our African Children Today partners, Richard Mutaawe and Johnson Lwondo. Their enthusiasm and passion to embody God’s promise of love was exciting! But, it wasn’t until I met Henry our sponsored child, visited the water tanks and the Amazing Grace Bakery we had constructed, served FMSC food at a Muslim School and then passed out the 70 plus gifts we had brought to the Grace-sponsored children, then I suddenly understood the theme: **“God’s Promise for Everyone”** in a different way! Suddenly I could see the spiritual bridge of God’s Promise stretching all the way from suburban streets of Andover, Minnesota to the small dusty paths in Rakai, Uganda.



Worship

I am thankful for our inspiring and biblically based worship. I believe the different styles and service times, combined with well planned and executed liturgies give us many opportunities to deepen our connection with God as well as each other. We work hard at creating inspiring and life-related worship! But we couldn’t do this without ALL those who sing, read scriptures, serve communion, usher, staff the audio visual equipment, create stunning decorations, and prepare communion! I am constantly amazed at the large number of people who work so diligently to bring God’s Promise into our worship services.

Attendance

I am thankful that worship attendance has started to slowly grow again. Last fall, I asked Johnna Hirt, Director of Research, Evaluation, and Testing of the Anoka-Hennepin District 11, to conduct an informal study of our attendance records for the past five years. It was interesting to learn that although our overall attendance has declined, some of our services (8 & 9) have remained steady or experienced a bit of growth. The informal study revealed what we already knew: the 10:30 service had declined in attendance. At Vision Board we discussed possible reasons why this had occurred:

- More Sunday morning competition on weekends with sports and community events. One solution the Vision Board has considered is an additional Wednesday Evening Worship Service (not to replace any of the other services) to begin in the Fall of 2018 in conjunction with our existing children and catechism activities.
- Changing worship frequency – Americans in general are worshipping less often.
- Service Times – we shifted the time of the 10:30 service by 10 minutes several years ago. The normal 70 minute service now stretches past 11:30am and may give a psychological feel of being “too long” as it regularly ends past 11:30.
- Changing demographics. We do not have as many young families who are looking for Sunday School ministries.

Leadership—Senior Pastor Con't.

- Contemporary music services need a strong band to lead effectively. The Vision Board recently allocated funds to hire musicians to supplement our band volunteers and sound technicians. Already you can hear the difference!

Connection

GRACELINK

It is more than a year since we introduced our cloud-based GraceLink software that has insignificantly grown our ability to connect with each other. We now are able to provide everyone with easy access to addresses, phone numbers, and email for those who call Grace their spiritual home. In addition,

GraceLink has offered people an easy to contribute online even though they are not able to attend regularly.

PASTORAL CARE

I am thankful for the 11 volunteers who are part of our expanding ministry to visit and bring communion to our 25 shut-ins. These men and women extend the caring arms of Jesus to those who may feel disconnected from regular involvement at our church.

Giving

We have seen significantly spiritual growth in giving as many people have taken steps of generosity. Please look at some recent statistics in the chart below:

First Quarter of Current/Operational Giving - 2016 & 2017

	Count	Amount 2016	Amount 2017	Difference	% Change
Both Years Zero	241	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
No Change	34	\$23,195.00	\$23,195.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Decrease	112	\$137,950.00	\$90,242.00	-\$47,707.00	34.58%
Increase	221	\$145,093.00	\$198,727.00	\$53,634.00	36.97%
New	83	\$0.00	\$26,166.00	\$26,166.00	100.00%
Stopped	63	\$17,349.00	\$0.00	-\$17,349.00	100.00%
	754	\$323,587.00	\$338,331.00	\$14,743.00	4.56%

First Quarter of Free 2B GRACE – 2016 & 2017

	Count	Amount 2016	Amount 2017	Difference	% Change
Both Years Zero	578	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
No Change	25	\$18,578.00	\$18,578.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Decrease	34	\$43,146.00	\$15,646.00	-\$27,500.00	63.74%
Increase	60	\$19,990.00	\$29,563.00	\$9,572.00	47.89%
New	23	\$0.00	\$4,749.00	\$4,749.00	100.00%
Stopped	34	\$8,592.00	\$0.00	-\$8,592.00	100.00%
	754	\$90,307.00	\$68,536.00	-\$21,770.00	24.11%

Some initial findings:

- There is a significant number of those who have increased their giving;
- Contributions to Free 2B GRACE has decreased. This may be for several reasons:

- The difficult of maintaining a 5 year pledge as people move and/or lose interest. This is normal!
- People have completed their pledge.

Impact of tithing – I cannot emphasize enough how our church's decision to tithe 10% on our offerings has impacted us!

We are thankful that with the combination of giving to the Capital Fund AND Free 2B GRACE we continue to give an extra \$5,000/month to lower our debt.

Staff Changes

The single biggest impact to a church is often staff transition. When a pastor or staff member resigns, retires, or moves to another church, there can be a significant and long-lasting consequence to the ministry they managed. In addition, important

(Pastor of Spiritual Formation) and Kim DeVries (after VBS in June). Each and every one of these staff members have made a big difference at Grace and we will truly miss them. However, we are excited to welcome Cheri Schaaf (Custodian) Beth Clarstrom (Bookkeeper), and Pastor Delwayne Hahn (Pastor of Visitation). In the short time they have served, they all have jumped into their ministries and helped build momentum and consistency! In addition, we plan to continue our search for additional staff.



momentum may be lost or at least temporarily slowed down as some programs are “put on hold” as other staff members pick up additional responsibilities and/or new employees are hired.

This year we have experienced significant staff transition as we said “Good bye” to Carroll Potter (Worship Coordinator), Jenn Hubal (Contemporary Band Director), Bonnie Trembath (Bookkeeper), Sandy Seim (Custodian) Pastor Gene Heglund (Visitation Pastor) and Pastor Steve Thomason

Spiritual Formation

I am thankful for the continued strength of our Adult Spiritual Formation opportunities here at Grace. I cannot speak highly enough of W.O.W., Men's Bible Studies, Ruth Circle, Sunday Evenings @GRACE, and Wednesday Adult Classes. They challenge us to grow deep roots into the love of God in Jesus!

This year we celebrate:

Leadership—Senior Pastor Con't.

- The enlistment of a Adult Spiritual Formation Team which is helping to envision and encourage more adult opportunities.
- The off-site Women's & Men's Retreats which were held at Luther Point Camp, in Grantsburg, Wisconsin.
- The growth of our ENGAGE Men's Ministry with two new monthly opportunities: Saturday morning's Grub and Gab (at Baker's Square) and Men at B'Dubs. (Buffalo Wild Wings).

Mission

I am personally thrilled to see our growth in mission as we sent my son, Kurt Hellmann to Cambodia as part of the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. Each year our denomination sends more than 85 young adult to countries all over the world to serve and interact with all kinds of cultures, religions, and mission opportunities. From the Skype conversations I have had with Kurt and following his blog: Accompaniment in Cambodia – www.keepingwithkurt.wordpress.com I can tell you that he has been transformed by his experiences. In addition, he now plans to come home in August and work for the ELCA's Financial Campaign to raise \$200,000,000 for Global Missions.

What also excites me is that another one of our recent college graduates, Nikki Wahl has been accepted by the same YAGM program and will serve next year in Mexico. Our ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond is certainly happening through the lives of some of our young adults!

Upcoming Opportunities

50th Anniversary Celebration

Save the date of September 9th & 10th as we gather to celebrate our 50 years of ministry. We are planning a Gifts of Grace serving event in the nearby neighborhood as we organize various yard and house projects for Grace teams to do for our nearest neighbors. In addition, we are planning a carnival with great food, music, and kid activities plus an inspiring Sunday worship services with Bishop Ann Svennungsen who will come to celebrate with us. This is going to be a wonderful time for us to "Remember,

Rejoice, and Renew."

As we end this program year of ministry, there is much to be thankful for as we celebrate the ways in which God has blessed us. I am thankful for the leadership of our Vision Board who helps me to seek God's direction for our church. I am thankful for the creative and faithful staff as well as the countless volunteers who make this ministry of Grace possible. I am thankful for my wife, Jeannie who is truly God's gift to me and our church. Finally, I am thankful to God who continues to show up here and offers his loving Promise of Jesus to everyone!

Pastor Mark

President's Report

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as Grace Lutheran Church's President of the Vision Board. It has been quite a year. We had our first team from Grace go to Uganda to visit Rakai, and our mission partners there. They saw first hand the impact that our Grace 4 Rakai

mission is having in the lives of the people living in Rakai. We had two teams go to Haiti in the spring of 2016, and are preparing to send another team next month, June of 2017. We held our annual celebration of our Free 2 B Grace campaign

along with the distribution of our annual tithe of that campaign. We also saw some staff changes with the addition of Beth Clarstrom to our office staff, adding Pastor Delwayne Hahn as our new Visitation Pastor, Pastor Gene Heglund and Carol Potter retiring, Bonnie Trembath taking a new full time job outside of the church, and Pastor Steve accepting a call to Easter Church in Eagan. Those are just some of the highlights of a year that contained many exciting times and activities.

These changes provide a unique opportunity to take a

I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to be the Vision Board President this past year, and I look forward to what God has planned for us next year.

moment to listen to what God is calling us to do, and who He is calling us to be. For the short term Pastor Hahn is covering the visitation duties, and taking on some of Pastor Steve's preaching schedule. We are also in communication with the Bishop's office to determine next steps and how to proceed. These changes are allowing us to reevaluate what we are doing and how we are doing it. Rather than rushing forward and replacing the staff members who have left with a new person performing the same job description, we are examining our ministries, our calling, and the gifts and skills of our individual staff members. By proceeding carefully, prayerfully, and with discernment we hope to emerge from these changes refocused, reinvigorated and recharged.

In addition to some of the highlights I mentioned above, we also had a very successful focus on spiritual growth and stewardship last fall. We had over 95 families make a commitment to grow spiritually in the area of stewardship. We are a church who is active in serving our communities, active in serving around the globe, focused on connections and spiritual growth, in strong financial shape, and a place I am proud to call home.

I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to be the Vision Board President this past year, and I look forward to what God has planned for us next year.

Greg Ackerson

Worship Ministries

This year Pastor Mark asked us to think of how our ministries held up the theme "God's Promise For Everyone", and to note where we saw that lived out

Without going into a long laundry list of names, I want to say a short and simple thank-you to all of the people who have made worship both possible and meaningful this last year... there are many of you, and you bless us all by sharing your talents and time. I did, however, want to recognize and thank Carroll Potter for the years she faithfully served Grace as Organist and Worship Coordinator, as well as the 4 years we served together (and her continuing willingness to serve!). Also, a word of thanks to Jenn Hubal for almost 5 years of service as our Worship Leader (Oct. 2011-Sept. 2016).

- It has been a blessing to see renewed energy on the Liturgical Arts team. Pastor Mark helped with recruiting and restarting the energy for this wonderful group of creative people, and we have seen several new people step forward and become active contributing parts of the team. This "renewing" reminds me that it when we see growth in a ministry, it can bring excitement to both old and new participants
- This spring, we got a longer head-start on the Good Friday music, and the extra time allowed us to both feel very comfortable with the music, and also cast the net wider for short-term guests to

join us. I, Doreen, Pastor Mark and the choir members did our best to encourage people to join us, and we almost doubled in size (and didn't need to hire any outside help!)

- With hard work and collaborative visioning from the worship team, support from Pastor Mark and the Vision Board to bring in some outside musicians to fill the empty spots in the band, we have seen musical growth and a fuller sound. Becky Martin-Facer and Johnna Rohmer-Hirt have also joined me in the search for new songs and assisting me with other things as I or they see the need. I've been enjoying the opportunity to step back into a leadership role as the Worship Leader.

The common thread in all of these is that we saw people join in a ministry or move into a new role, and become more intentional about serving. Not only is God's promise for everyone, everyone can find a spot to serve and share in the joy of making Grace a wonderful place to call spiritual "home".

On a personal note, I feel blessed to have been doing music ministry for 27 years, and I look forward to how God is going to continue spreading the promise to bless our world and our community.

Jonathan Orwig,
Director of Worship and Music

Children's ministries

God's Promise for EVERYONE! A promise to a child is very sacred. Kids remember what you say. How wonderful that God keeps His promises. We trust God to be with us always. We know He loves us and we can depend on that!

Small Group Leaders do wonderful work helping kids experience God's promises. Small Group Leaders are the heart of Children's Ministry, hearing their stories as they help kids learn to trust God, love one another, and make wise choices.

God's Kids

Rockin' KBC

Go West Buckaroo's was our theme this year in RKBC! True Tale Tom videos were the heart each week as he introduced our night's cowboy virtue with the help of Calamity Sue and Whistlin' Wesley. Together, we learned about the adventures of Moses and Paul. We enjoyed making new friends, delicious malts, messy crafts, fun games, and ended our year with a Rockin' Jamboree! An amazing team of leaders made this a fantastic year.

SONday School

– New Curriculum called Orange allowed to connect with kids and their families in new and engaging ways including social media and e-mail. Orange is a simple strategy that combines the critical influences of the church and home to incite wonder, provoke discovery, and fuel passion in the hearts of the next generation. Preschoolers- Grade 1 got to know Ollie the Owl helped us learn that God made me, God loves me, and Jesus wants to be my friend forever. Grade 2 -5 had dynamic large groups filled with games, stories, and even a strange burrito. Kids continue to learn Bible verses each month that relate to their daily lives.

Musical Adventure Camp

Last year in July, nineteen, kids and youth, presented Not Your Average Joe! A musical about the adventures of Joseph and his brothers. The musical was set in the 1950's and went to Papa Jake's Diner, and to Pharaoh's Point to meet the Big Kahuna. We learned how God was always with Joseph, even if life does not go as planned. God always has a plan for us.

**Not Your Average Joe!
Musical Campers on the
bus to Papa Jake's
Diner, and Pharaoh's
Point to meet the Big
Kahuna.**



Brookston and
Sue Melody go
for a VBS
Submarine
ride!



Vacation Bible School

Our theme last year was Deep Sea Discovery where kids learned that God is always with them. 250 kids registered for a week filled with Bible stories, games, snacks, crafts, and of course, great music and awesome skits in our worship time. We shared God's promise with our offering projects for Hope for Youth collecting waste

Monica Allen & Kim DeVries



Some of our Grace Lutheran Angels sing of Jesus' birth at our Annual Christmas Program

Youth ministries

At Baptism God marks each child with the promise of unconditional love, forgiveness, and acceptance. God's commitment to God's people is lived out and shared by the young people at grace and the adult leaders who foster that love. In youth ministry we have the honor and privilege of teaching God's children about this promise of love and grace. This year was no exception. We welcomed new ministries as a way to stretch and grow our own faith and reveal that promise to others.

Middle School

Catechism

This was another great year of Catechism. Fifteen small groups, led by adults and high school students, met each Wednesday throughout the school year. Each week in the fall we gathered together to walk through the Old Testament and learned about how God's presence and promise continually blessed the Israelites. After Christmas we continued our journey and heard how the birth of Jesus extended that promise to everyone. Our small group leaders worked to provide discussions so students could see how that promise is alive in our lives today. As always, Mike Frazier lead the Grace Lutheran Youth band and even

extended their ministry into Sunday morning worship!

Connection Events

Over fifty students spent a weekend at the Fall Re-charge at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp in November. This was an excellent week of deepening friendships and spiritual formation. Over forty students also gathered for the Ultimate Lock-In in Maple Grove where they were able to connect to new friends from multiple churches in the area. Students swam, ice skated, played games, ate pizza, danced, and sang until the sun came up!

Possibly the most exciting thing about the past year was the addition of our Summer Stretch program! 50 middle school students spend every Thursday in the summer exploring how God's promise is alive and well in our community. 12 high school students lead as Junior Leaders and helped mentor the younger students. Deep friendships were formed that carried into the school year!

High School

Own Your Faith

OYF is designed to give high school freshmen one additional year following catechism to process their faith questions with an individual mentor in preparation for Confirmation. Thirty-Four students worked diligently with their mentors in a monthly one-on-one sessions throughout the school year. Students participated by watching a monthly video that allowed the students and mentors to interact with the topics and questions in their own time and space. The discussions were rich and both the students and the mentors about God's promise and their faith. The year ended with a wonderful weekend celebrating Confirmation.

High School Ministry





students as Sunday School and Rockin' Kids Club leaders, nursery workers, and VBS leaders. They are a wonderful asset to our church and we are so blessed to have such a wonderful group of young people in our midst.

Special Events

Once again our mission trip master, Tom Baker, coordinated two amazing mission trips our middle school and our high school students to better understand the diverse issues of rural communities across the US. First, 16 middle school students and 3 adults journeyed to Sisseton, South Dakota to meet and serve our Native American neighbors. In July 15 high school students and 3 adult leaders traveled to Hamlin West Virginia.

In both locations we worked on peoples homes by painting, doing yard work, and light home repairs. We also formed relationships with community members by planning and leading a week long day camp known as "Kids Club" and visiting with members of a local senior citizens community. We were welcomed with open arms in both communities. Both mission teams experienced deep spiritual, emotional, and relational growth. A heartfelt thank you to the staff,

parents, and congregational members who lent their time, talent, and finances to make these two memorable trips a reality.

Kristi Larsen

We added a new ministry to High School Ministry this year! Each week during the second half of the school year 11th and 12th grade students met to talk about faith, the Bible, God, and the future. We explored topics pertaining to God's role in their lives and delved into the Bible for deeper understanding of God's word. As high school upper classmen students spend time in prayer for God's promise of hope for their future.

High School students at Grace also can be found meeting in small group Bible Studies, taking adult education classes, serving as ushers, lending their musical talents, and fostering the faith of younger

Administrative ministries

Church Administrator

Grace saw many transitions in Staff in the 2016-2017 year. We said good-bye to Sandy Seim as a custodian, Bonnie Trembath as our bookkeeper, Jenn Hubal as our Praise Team leader, Carroll Potter as our organist, and Pastor Gene and Pastor Steve.

We welcomed back to staff Beth Clarstrom as bookkeeper, Worship Servant Coordinator and temporary communications person, Cheri Schaaf as a custodian, and Pastor Delwayne Hahn. The congregation has welcomed them with open arms.

We continue to host the Farmers Market in our parking lot as a space for everyone to meet and shop for local goods.

Our church continues to welcome numerous Non Profit groups through out the week, from scout groups to support groups. It is a gift from God for us to have a space to worship and share.

We have welcomed countless visitors and welcomed many new members and regular attendees to our church family.

I hope you have felt God's Promise for you and for everyone this past year.

Kate Morpew

Church Secretary

I have been blessed to be a part of this ministry called Grace as a staff person behind the scenes (and the telephone) for nearly 21 years. Each day is different, and I never know what the day will bring when the phone rings or someone stops by. Each day, while they have their ups and downs, I am reminded of what a blessing it is to work in our church, and why God brought me here all those years ago.



No matter what the task, there is always someone willing to help. I need only to make a phone call and someone shows up to help with whatever project I am working on that day. Sometimes, I don't even need to make a call... someone will just stop by and say, "is there anything I can help you with today"? Together, we laugh and sometimes we cry, but we make sure we have bulletins every week-end, a newsletter every month, the lawn is mowed every week in the summer, we listen to, and minister to families who have lost a loved one, reach out to, and visit the sick and homebound, send cards, prepare meals, provide occasional transportation to appointments, do building maintenance, and the list goes on and on. Volunteers, and the connections and friendships we have made over the years, are truly the backbone of this ministry of Grace, and Grace wouldn't be Grace without all of you. THANK YOU for giving of your time and sharing your gifts and resources.

Kris Miller

Minutes

The Grace Lutheran Church called to order a congregational meeting on January 28th and January 29th, 2017 at the 5:00, 8:00, 9:00 and 10:30 services. A vote was called at each service to approve the 2017 Annual Budget. A motion was made and carried at each service. The 2017 Grace Lutheran Church budget was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Crooks,
Vision Board Secretary

Grace Lutheran Church Values Dance



We connect open arms.
we grow deep roots.
We equip strong bodies.
We serve Fresh fruit.
We Lutheran...
Grateful hearts.



Adult ministries

Women's Ministries

Celebrating 'God's Promise for Everyone' in Women's Ministries

Growing in faith and friendships this year, over 80 women studied scripture and shared life together within the women's bible studies - Ruth Circle, Monday Night Women's Group and W.O.W. (Women on Wednesday).

Many women relished time together at the 'Treasure' Retreat at Luther Point Bible Camp in January. Other special opportunities - such as Mugs Muffins & More in Oct. and Feb, and the Great Escape in April - encouraged the hearts of more than 150 women to grow in relationships - with one another and with God. Also, the 'Around Town' summer adventures provided fun activities to connect with more women of Grace.



Jeannie Hellmann

Men's Ministries

Spring Retreat

The Grace Men's Retreat, "Time Out!", was held April 21-23, at Luther Point Bible Camp, Grantsburg, WI. It was a weekend of fun and fellowship together, in

God's grace. We went through a fun Friday night Welcome activity, then on Saturday we went into Our Journey in discussion of our spiritual treks, and then some leisure fun during the day, to On The Path - a hike along the St. Croix. We continued with a short stop at "A Rock and a Cross Place" skit, followed by some time At The Well of John 4, and a campfire at night. We concluded with a Walk to Emmaus worship service, to send us off to continue on our journeys, but rested and transformed a little, or a lot, by God's Spirit within us.



Men's Bible Studies and Meetings

There's lots of opportunities for Grace Men to grow deep spiritual roots and build great friendship at our weekly Men's Bible studies, the monthly Men at B'Dubs (Buffalo Wild Wings) or the Men's Baker's Square Grub and Gab meetings. Check out our schedule on the online calendar:

[www.mychurchevents.com/
calendar/57634157](http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/57634157)

Outreach ministries

God's promise of love and grace is for everyone, therefore we strive to be 'a ministry of grace in the heart of Andover ... and beyond!' During this year of ministry, our Grace family has embraced the following opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus, both locally and globally. As we celebrate these accomplishments, we give the glory to Almighty God for all the grace that He pours into us and through us.

Adopt a Family at Christmas
Grace families provided Christmas gifts to bless local families in need, through our Faith & Community Partnership with Sand Creek Elementary School.

Faith & Community Partnership with Sand Creek Elementary School

This expanding ministry team coordinated efforts to donate school supplies and create special gifts for children, as well as providing encouragement for school staff at Sand Creek Elementary.

Family Promise

Over 100 Grace volunteers helped provide safe lodging and caring hospitality for local families experiencing homelessness, four different weeks during the year.

Family Table Meal

This faithful ministry team prepared and served a complimentary dinner, along with warm and caring hospitality, to our local community on the third Sunday of each month. This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it

Feed My Starving Children

Throughout the year, Grace volunteers packed life-saving meals that will be shipped to starving children around the world. At our November marathon packing event, over 250 Grace volunteers packed 210,000 meals. A small group of faithful volunteers packed meals every Friday during Lent. Also, a Grace

team participated in two competitive packing events this year.

Gifts of Grace at Christmas

Members of Grace contributed extra financial gifts and also submitted names of people in the community who might be blessed by these gifts. Then the pastors joyfully delivered these financial 'gifts of grace' to local families in need.

Giving Tree

Household gifts, coats and gift cards were donated at Christmas time and delivered to Refugee Resettlement Services in Minneapolis.

God's Work Our Hands Day

25 volunteers participated in this national ELCA day of serving in September. They visited shut-ins, picked up trash along Bunker Lake Blvd, served dinner at Alexandra House, and cleared a landscape area at Stepping Stone Emergency Housing in Anoka.

Grace Quilters

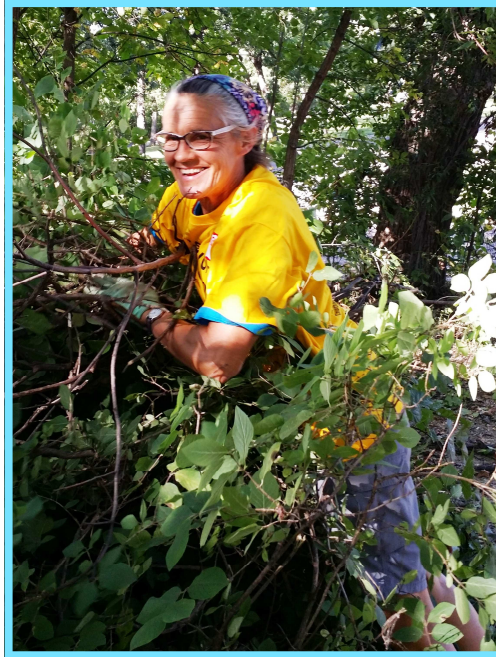
Over 250 beautiful quilts were lovingly created and given to local hospitals, shelters and hospice care centers this year.

Grace2Haiti

A Grace mission team will travel to Haiti this June to construct a sustainable home for 10 abandoned children. The Just 1 More Step fundraising event in May supported this effort, as we continue to build our relationships with precious people in Williamson.

Grace4Rakai

Through Lenten Noisy Offerings and special gifts, we are helping construct a School-Home in Rakai. A mission team travelled to Uganda last October to further bond our relationships and deliver 41 quilts made by the Grace Quilters. Also, Pastor Mark



Outreach ministries Con't



continually donated and given to local families in need, thus sharing God's grace in yet another tangible way.

Our Savior's Shelter
On the first Monday of each month, volunteers prepared and served dinner at this Minneapolis homeless shelter.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Faithful volunteers continued to weave prayers into comforting shawls and lap blankets that are given to the ill or home bound.

blessed the land where the school is being built. Grace members are currently sponsoring 89 children in Uganda, providing monthly support for their education.

Habitat for Humanity
Energetic volunteers worked at a home construction site in Blaine to provide affordable housing for local families in need.

Hospitality for Funerals
Countless volunteers baked bars and served meals for numerous funeral luncheons, sharing God's grace in very tangible and loving ways.

HOPE 4 Youth
Volunteers served at this drop-in center in Anoka, helping local youth who are experiencing homelessness. Our Wall of Hope project last fall generated over \$5000 for Hope Place, a new transitional housing unit for teens in Coon Rapids.

May All Be Fed Food Shelf
Non-perishable food was

Sole Hope

As a Lenten project, 370 sets of shoe patterns were cut from blue jean fabric – which will provide shoes - and hope - for children in Africa.

Stepping Stone Emergency Housing
Grace supported this homeless shelter in Anoka by donating quilts and 76 Christmas gift bags for residents. And a small group of volunteers continue to help each Friday with food deliveries.

Jeannie Hellmann



Vision Board Nominees

The following candidates are presented by the Grace Lutheran Church Nominations Committee to be elected for the three open Vision Board positions. We want to give thanks to Greg Ackerson and Jessie Crooks who have served on Vision Board for the last three years. We are also thankful for Neil Hawkinson who was re-elected this past year to fulfill a vacated Vision Board position the previous year.

Now just a little background to the Nominations Process: At the February Vision Board Meeting a Nominations Committee was appointed: Jessie Crooks, Mike Schaaf, Pete Vaillant, Deb Corey, and Pastor Mark (ex-official). The Committee was tasked to prayerfully consider candidates who are actively involved, have served in at least one

ministry, and have demonstration leadership characteristics needed to serve at this top level leadership. At least 20 possible candidates were invited to a discernment meeting and asked to consider whether God was calling them to serve at this time. The list of candidates Vision Board is presenting now for your vote is the end result of the Nominations Process at Grace.

This year we will elect three people to the open Vision Board positions. Please pray for each of the following candidates. The 2017 Vision Board Elections will be held during the 2017 May Congregational Meeting which will be held after all the worship services on May 20th & 21st.

Vision • passion

Sheryll Bombard



My family and I have been members of Grace since 1981. My husband and I live in Andover and we have four children, three “in-law” children, and four glorious grandchildren! For the past 13 years I have been a Payroll Manager at Life By

Design, Inc. (a company that provides supportive services for persons with disabilities).

Through my years at Grace I’ve been involved in service with: the adult choir, Church Council, Youth Ministries, VBS, Altar Guild, Call Committees, Wedding Coordinator (20+ years), and making rice krispie bars whenever the need arises! I love our family and friends at Grace and look forward to the privilege of continued opportunities for service to our community and the world at large.

Jordan Foschi



My wife, Breanne, and I have been attending Grace for nearly seven years. We have two daughters, Mia and Harper, both of whom love coming to Grace to learn about Jesus. During this time we have been involved in activities at the

church, including spiritual formation groups, as well as volunteering. This past fall, I started teaching Sunday school with the preschoolers, and teaching them about Jesus has become the highlight of my week! I look forward to making sure that Grace remains a wonderful place to raise a family!

Mission • minded

Chad Hadler



I have been attending Grace for the last 7 years; 3 years ago, my family made the decision to make Grace our church home and became members. I have lived in multiple locations throughout Minnesota, but for the past 8 years my

family has called Andover home. My wife, Leah, and I have been married for the past 11 years and have a 5-year-old daughter.

In my professional career, I spent 6 years working for the Boy Scouts of America in the Rochester, MN area. My roll with the Boy Scouts included fundraising, volunteer management, and volunteer recruitment. For the past 10 years I have been working as an Operations Manager for Lake Restoration in Rogers, MN. My role includes budgeting, sales, service, and staff management. I have to be a forward thinker in my professional life and continuously consider the bigger picture, which I intend to prayerfully utilize on the Vision Board if I am elected.

My volunteer efforts at Grace have included ushering at the 10:30 am service, being a member of the Men's Ministry team, Finance Team, as well as being a member of the Stewardship committee.

Thank you for your consideration; I look forward to serving our faith community.

Johnna Hirt



My husband, Stephen and I have three adult children: Jonathan, Rebekah, and Hannah. We have also welcomed two children from Uganda into our family through support with the Grace 4 Rakai and African Children Today programs. We have been members of Grace since moving to Min-

nesota in 1994.

I currently serve in music ministry on the worship team and in short-term service events such as Feed My Starving Children. In the past, I have served in a multitude of leadership roles at Grace including Focus 20/20, a previous term on vision board, stewardship campaign, call and hiring teams, work with the youth and other special projects. In addition, I have been involved with small group ministries.

Outside of church, I have worked for the Anoka-Hennepin School District since moving to Minnesota. I have been a teacher, part of school and district administrative teams, and am currently serving as Director of Research, Evaluation and Testing. I recently completed my PhD in Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development, focusing on Evaluation Studies, from the University of Minnesota and am looking forward to regaining time to pursue other interests and rejoining real-life.

integrity • faithful

Vision Board Nominees Con't.

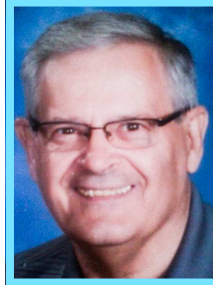
Lynn Noren



I've been a member at Grace since the early 1990's, after moving with my family to Anoka. When my two sons, Jesse and Joel were growing up, I was involved in Grace's youth programs—which were a great blessing to me and a great opportunity to grow my faith. I chaper-

oned many youth events and mission trips during those years, and was a Confirmation mentor for many years as well. Later, I got involved in caring ministries (Stephen Ministry, Grief Share, etc.) I've also been involved on the Vision Board previously and on a number of committees at Grace, such as personnel,

Alden Riley



I became a member of Grace in 1975. I am married to my best friend, Judy. We have two grown children and three nearly grown grandchildren. Rather than list everything that I have been involved in during the last 42 years at Grace, allow me to just say, as a member of Grace Lutheran

Church, I have been blessed to serve on several committees, teams and Boards. I will continue to do so.

In the past 42 years, I have seen many changes at Grace. Physically, there have been additions and upgrades to the main building, as well as the additions of three detached buildings. The most exciting

discerning • strategic

call committees and more recently, Holy Conversations. I have been involved as an Assisting Minister for many years, helping out primarily at the 10:30 service. I now live in NE Minneapolis, near downtown, but continue to call Grace my home. I continue to be drawn to the church I know and love.

Professionally, I serve as President/CEO of a non-profit organization, Rise, supporting people who have disabilities in working and living in their communities. I've been employed at Rise for 38 years, starting as an intern when I was 19! Ongoing learning and development is something I'm passionate about, both formally, earning an MBA from the University of San Francisco, but mostly through the rich informal life experiences God has given me. I believe my experience in organizational leadership, navigating transitions and strategic planning are a good fit for this time in Grace's history. I would be honored to serve again as a member of the Vision Board at Grace, and would do my very best to share my time and talents in service to our Grace community.

changes are the outreach programs. Programs to help those in need locally, nationally and globally. But, especially the spiritual growth programs to help each of us along our faith journeys. They help us to learn to love each other, and to invite and welcome others to share with us in the glory of God. This is why I love this church, and everyone involved with Grace.

Change is an important part of any growth process. Grace Lutheran Church is a vibrant, healthy congregation that will continue to thrive and evolve.

Looking forward, there will be capital needs, as well as staffing needs, that the new Vision Board will need to address. I am looking forward to another opportunity to serve.

Grace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

God has created us as a ministry of grace in the heart of Andover.
God...

Welcomes us into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord, through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Encourages us to grow in our discipleship through worship, learning, and fellowship;

Equips us to share this ministry of grace and love through serving others; and

Sends us into the world to do his will.

Grace Lutheran Church 2017 Spring Annual Meeting

May 20th & 21st
At the conclusion of all services.

Agenda

Election of New Vision Board Members