

# Annual Report



grace  
remember • rejoice • renew

# Grace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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

**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 celebrated 50 years of ministry this fall. This report shows how we shared in God's grace with the generous gifts from the congregation. It also shows some of the goals and ideas that have been set for 2018.

There are many facts, figures and photos that tell about 2017 and the financial health of Grace. There is a bigger picture behind all of this information. God is working in and through Grace to share the love of Christ with our neighbors near and far.





## Bridge Interim Senior Pastor Report

*Give, and it will be given to you.*

*A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over,  
will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you  
get back.*

Luke 6:38 (NRSV)

*Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond  
all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us —  
to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus  
to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

Ephesians 3:20-21 (HCSB)

Words of challenge. Words of promise, too. Both of these Scripture passages also tell the story of God's presence, work and abundance in and through the people of Grace Lutheran Church in 2017. Let me explain.

God called this congregation to give, to tithe, over the past number of years. I read and heard of this congregational commitment in my two (short) months as your pastor. Grace received God's invitation to give and took faith-filled, intentional steps to respond. And, of course, God worked faithfully in and through these financial gifts to do *ō*above and beyond<sup>ō</sup> what you asked or imagined. The praise and thanks go to God. The affirmation for faithfulness goes to the leaders you have hired and elected over the years, and to you, the members and friends of Grace, for your openness to God's invitation to give and serve generously.

I encourage you to read the 2017 financial numbers shared in this report. Appreciate all that was given and invested here and abroad. Then, see beyond the numbers, too.

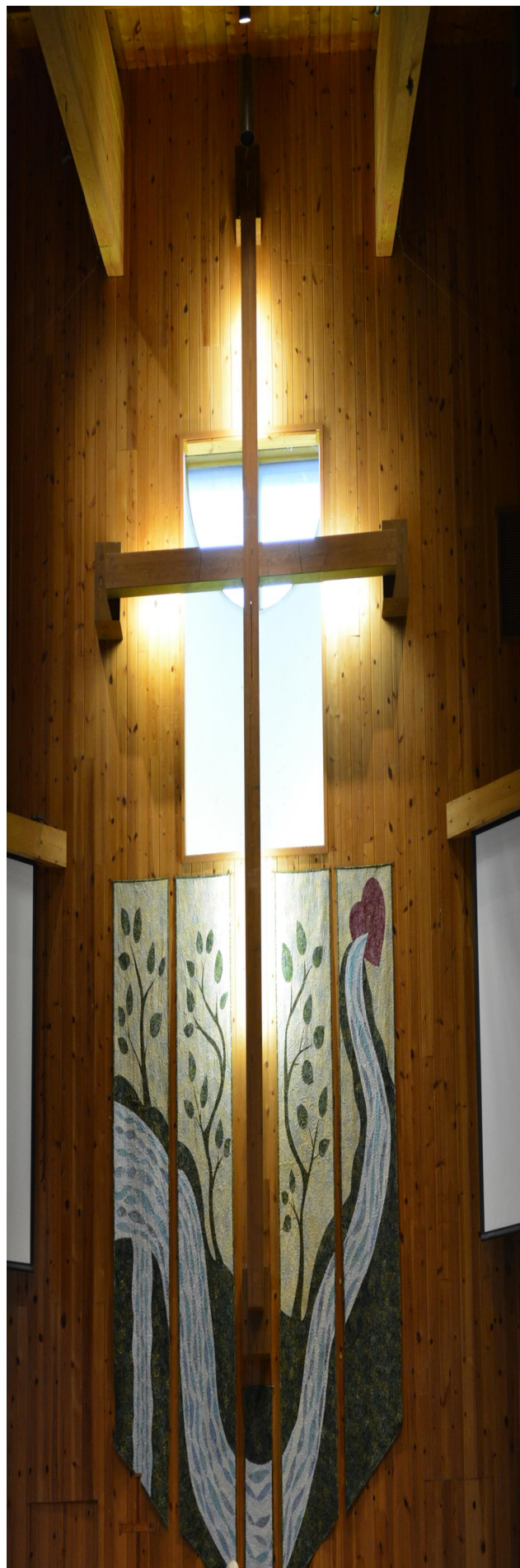
See the!

- 1) people and organizations supported by your gifts - locally, nationally, internationally,
- 2) next generation of leaders (now children and youth) being taught about Jesus,
- 3) families strengthened by your weekday (child care/preschool) and weekend programs,
- 4) faithful, joyful and healing worship, offered to this community, each weekend, and
- 5) many more ways, large and small, that God changed lives through this congregation.

Yes, I invite you to read the information shared in this report and consider how your gifts made these grace-filled, Spirit-inspired encounters possible. Think, also, how you (yes, you) may be called to participate more often, more intentionally, in this coming year. It will be an important year for this ministry, when all hands, hearts, and voices are needed.

This *ō*ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover<sup>ō</sup> is vibrant and powerful because of God's faithfulness. These numbers tell this story, too, but with an important financial lens. I invite you to study this report and offer your personal responses to our leaders, for you are a part of how the congregation as a whole will again hear and obey the call of God in this time and place.

*Peace to you,* Pastor Sara Vanderpan, Bridge Interim Senior Pastor



# President's Report



Can you imagine all the wonderful and beautiful things that Grace and its members have done in the past 50 years, all the lives that have been changed and blessed? Can you imagine another 50 years? I am so thankful to be a part of this Grace family. I've grown so much and feel truly blessed. I hope you are as excited as I am to follow our Lord on this next step in our journey together.

Blessings,

Doug Hanson

Vision Board President

Two thousand seventeen. It was an interesting year for me personally, as I am sure it was for most people. I am still not sure how I feel about it. There were so many changes and so much going on that I get dizzy just thinking about it all. Both good changes and bad.

Here at Grace Lutheran, 2017 was also a year of many changes and much going on. Again, both good and bad. Pastoral changes. Staff changes. It was the year Pastor Mark and Jeannie moved on to the next step in their journey after 22 years of faithful leadership at Grace. It was the year of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church. It was the year of our 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the Lutheran reformation. And of course there were the usual changes that every year brings such as loss and tragedy, as well as new life and new beginnings.

As we look back at 2017 and close one chapter, we also begin a new one. Two thousand eighteen. It will undoubtedly be another year of change and a flurry of activity. Some changes we know are coming and some we cannot know. With so many changes and all of the unknowns, it would be easy for us to become worried and even scared. I will be the first to admit it, I can be a worrier at times. It is a good thing then that our Heavenly Father has a plan for us, yes? Only He knows where we are going and how we will get there. And as long as I keep that in mind, I become EXCITED for the coming year. I cannot wait to see what He has in store for us.





# Account Verification - 2017 Audit

## Annual Expense and Revenue

Beginning Balance 1/1/2017	\$ 87,257
Total Deposits or Transfers	\$ 1,580,637
Total Withdrawal or Transfers	\$ <1,576,729>
Ending Balance 12/31/2017	\$ 91,165
Outstanding Deposits as of 12/31/2017	\$ 39,855
Outstanding Checks as of 12/31/2017	\$ <27,812>
General Ledger Balance as of 12/31/2017	\$ 103,208

## Dedicated Fund Breakdown

Beginning Balance 1/1/2017	\$ 34,793
Deposits	\$ 187,934
Withdrawal	\$ <164,597>
Ending Balance 12/31/2017	\$ 58,131
Outstanding Deposits as of 12/31/2017	\$ 16,785
General Ledger Balance 12/31/2017	\$ 74,916

## Financial Security Fund (Thrivent #1)

Beginning Balance 1/1/2017	\$ 26,797
Interest Earned	\$ 67
Withdrawal	\$ < -0- >
Ending Balance 12/31/2017	\$ 26,864

## Financial Security Fund (Thrivent #2)

Beginning Balance 1/1/2017	\$ 48,913
Interest Earned	\$ 187
Deposit	\$ 15,000
Withdrawal	\$ < -0- >
Ending Balance 12/31/2017	\$ 64,101

All accounts appeared to be in order. Balances were reconciled and transactions were well documented. A sample of monthly bank statements for the accounts, deposit slips, the paid invoice file, and the checking account check register were all examined.

Submitted by Ed Stang, Dennis Grabowski & Tari Yates  
Date: 1/19/2018

\*A signed copy is available in the church office

## How did we do in 2017?

2017 was a year of celebration and change. When the staff, Vision Board, and lay leaders started budgeting for the year, we began by asking ourselves, "what is God calling us to do and what parameters have we set to help make these goals possible?"

Administrative goals included preparing for our annual audit in early 2018, continuing to pay down the mortgage, purchasing an adequate backup system for our server, and continuing to support the congregation and the staff using our integrated database software.

Outreach and benevolence goals included continuing to tithe 10% on our Free 2B and current offerings. We also wanted to continue God's Work, Our Hands Day, and Sole Hope, as well as find lay people to help coordinate our outreach ministry teams.

Property needs included forming a team of people to help explore the needs and possibilities, with the permits on our portable buildings expiring in December of 2019.

Spiritual Growth and large church goals included providing men's and women's overnight retreats, support for women's events like WOW and the Great Escape, offering of a monthly prayer gathering and adult education classes, as well as our annual Octoberfest fellowship event, and celebrating Grace's 50 years and the 500th Anniversary of the reformation.

Youth and Family goals included continued support for events like Summer Stretch, VBS, Summer Music Camp, mission trips, and Senior High Youth Group. Another goal was to provide support to the volunteers who help develop the faith of our youth and children.

Staffing goals shifted as we celebrated and said good bye to Pastor Gene, Pastor Steve, Kim DeVries, Co-Director of Children's Ministries, and Pastor Mark and Jeannie, Director of Outreach and Women's Ministries. We hired Pastor Hahn to be a preaching/Visitation Pastor. We made the decision to wait on hiring a new

Associate Pastor until we have called a new full time Senior Pastor. In April, we hired a supplemental band to support and help build the 5:00pm and 10:30am Worship Services. We also re-structured Children's Ministries after Monica Allen stepped down as Co-Director of Children's Ministries to take a full time position outside of Grace. Monica did agree to stay on the Grace staff until the end of the 2017-2018 program year, as the Rockin' Kids Bible Club Coordinator. We hired Kristin Lowe as our new part time Director of Children's Ministries in August and Annie Fitzl, Director of Nursery and Preschool Ministries, in January. With Pastor Mark stepping back from the accompanist area, we hired an accompanist, Justin Cook, to play for the choir in September. In late November, we welcomed Bridge Interim, Sara Vanderpan.

We publicized and interviewed for the Director of Outreach Ministries position, but decided to hold off on hiring until our Interim Senior Pastor arrived in January, to fill that position.

We met many of the goals we had set for 2017 and we were flexible during the year, as we had to say good bye to many beloved staff members, and welcomed new.

Grace Lutheran Church continues to be blessed by the generosity of the congregation and the stirring of the Holy Spirit. We had some challenges in 2017, like a leaky roof over the Children's Ministry closet and lots of uncertainty with the many staff changes, however, we were able to pay all of our bills each month and did not have to borrow money from our Thrivent savings accounts at all during the summer, which is a

first for us. This happened thanks to more consistent giving by our congregation, as well as funds from the Donald and Maureen Olson Charitable Trust distribution we began receiving in 2017. We are so grateful for the love, support and financial gifts we received from our Grace congregation and that we came in under budget on expenses, and finished 2017 in a strong financial position.

Submitted by Kate Morphew  
Church Administrator



## Benevolence & Noisy Offerings

### Worldwide Outreach ELCA

ELCA Worldwide Disaster \$ 6,519

### Worldwide Outreach-Other

Feed My Starving Children \$ 6,783

Abandoned Children in Haiti \$ 2,310

Young Adults in Global Ministry \$ 1,565

Grace 4 Rakai \$ 4,490

Mission Support \$ 888

Lutheran Social Services \$ 322

**Contribution:** \$ 22,877

### Benevolence

ELCA -Minneapolis Area Synod \$ 40,000

LSS \$ 4,500

**Contribution:** \$ 44,500

### Community Outreach

Families In Need \$ 9,209

Habitat for Humanity \$ 238

Family Promise \$ 5,947

Faith Partnership with Sand Creek \$ 4,339

Stepping Stones \$ 724

Other \$ 2,977

**Contribution:** \$ 23,433

### In Kind Donations:

- 93 Stepping Stone Gift Bags donated at Christmas
- 11 Families were blessed with Adopt a Family Christmas Gifts
- 22 Food Baskets received by Sand Creek families for Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Grab 2 Project -Over \$500 in school supplies donated for Sand Creek
- Grab 2 Project - \$3,521 donated to Our Abandoned Children in Haiti
- Oktoberfest & Love of Grace Bazaar raised \$3,515 for The Sheridan Story (supplying weekend meals for families in need)  
\*currently there is an average of 13 meals delivered each weekend.

### 2016 Free 2B Grace Fund Benevolence Tithe (Given in 2017)

Sand Creek Little Bit of Grace Fund \$4,490

Lutheran Social Services Refugee Resettlement \$2,481

Grace 2 Haiti \$4,229

Grace 4 Rakai \$4,198

**Total** **\$15,398**

**Free 2B Grace Tithe vote will be held in 2018** **\$12,344**

### 2017 Mortgage Payment Information

Principal paid \$75,582

Interest paid \$30,570

Additional Principal paid \$47,000

**Total** **\$153,152**

## Membership Statistics



### New Members

Adults 35

Children 44



Membership 1234

Confirmed 32

Baptized Children 29

Baptized Adults 1



Weddings 6



Funerals 12

## May Annual Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Grace Lutheran Church was opened Saturday, May 20th after the 5:00 service and closed Sunday, May 21st after the 10:30 service. President Greg Ackerson presided over the proceedings. The church voted on for three members to replace outgoing board members, Greg Ackerson, Jessie Crooks and Neil Hawkinson.



The vote tally was as follows:

Johnna Rohmer-Hirt - 143

Alden Riley - 130

Lynn Noren - 108

Chad Hadler - 104

Sheryll Bombard - 74

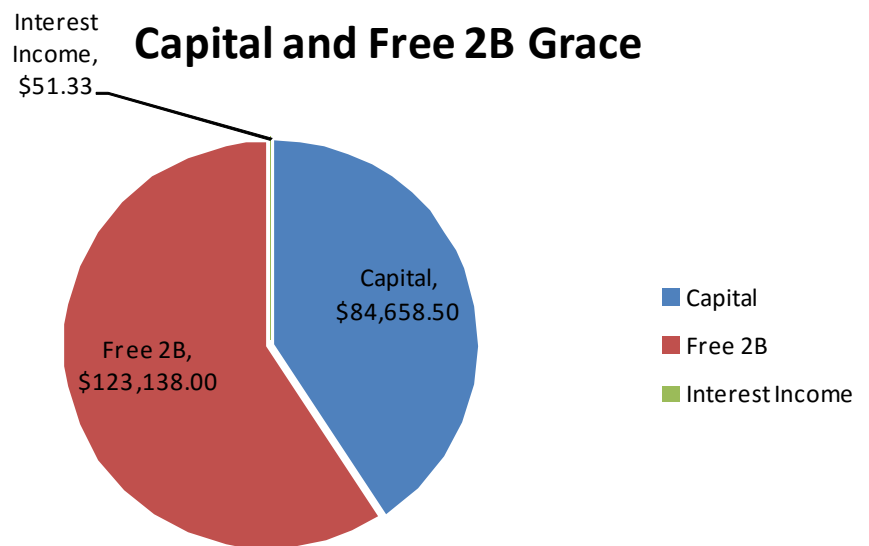
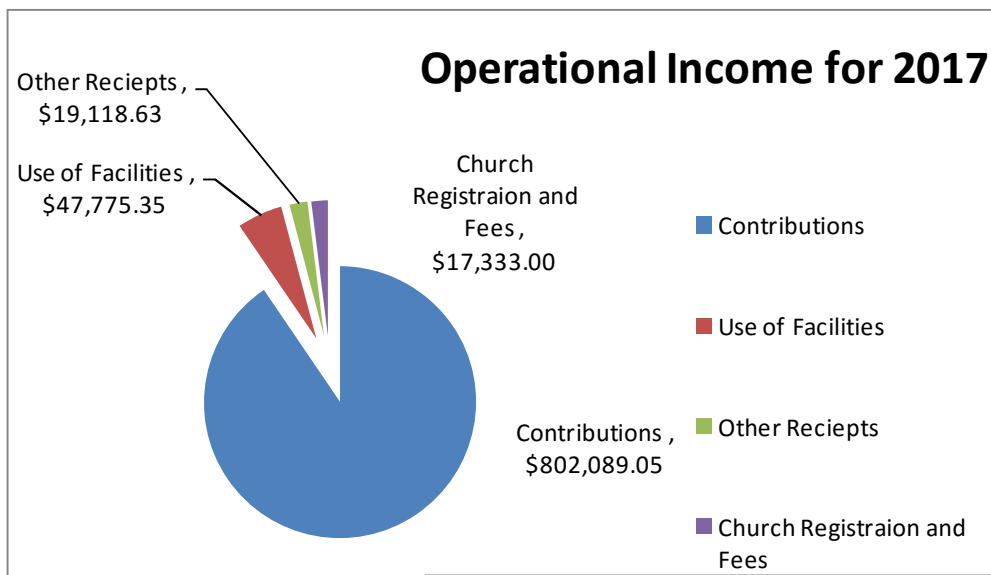
Jordan Foschi - 44

Johnna Rohmer-Hirt, Lynn Noren and Alden Riley received the most votes and will begin a three year term as of May 31st 2017, through June 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Jessie Crooks, Grace Lutheran Vision Board Secretary.



# How did we receive income in 2017?



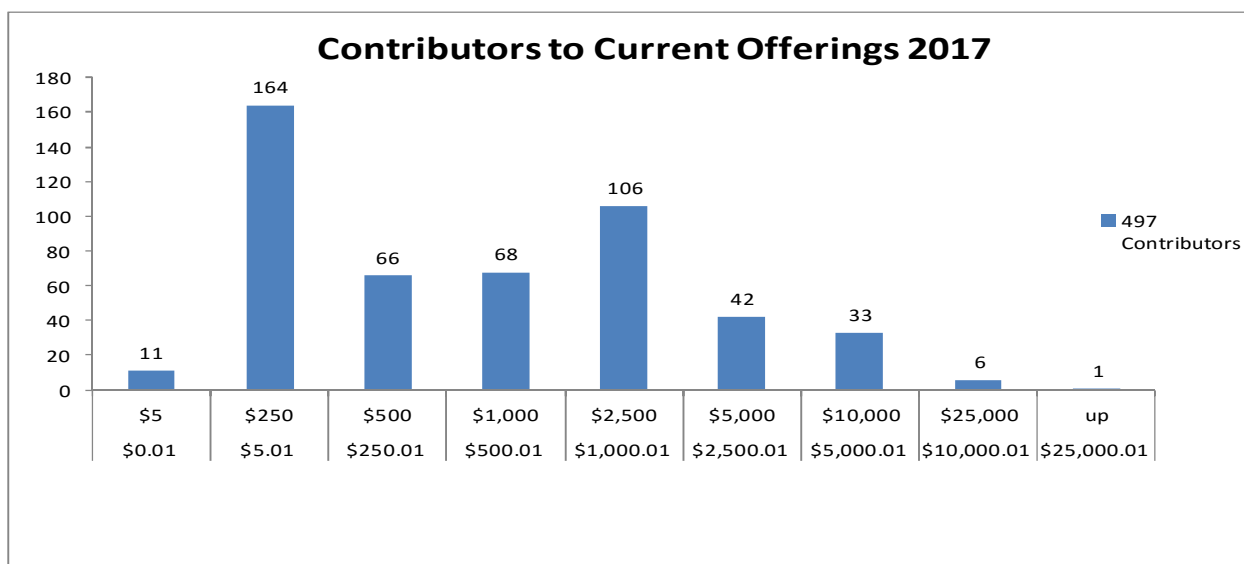
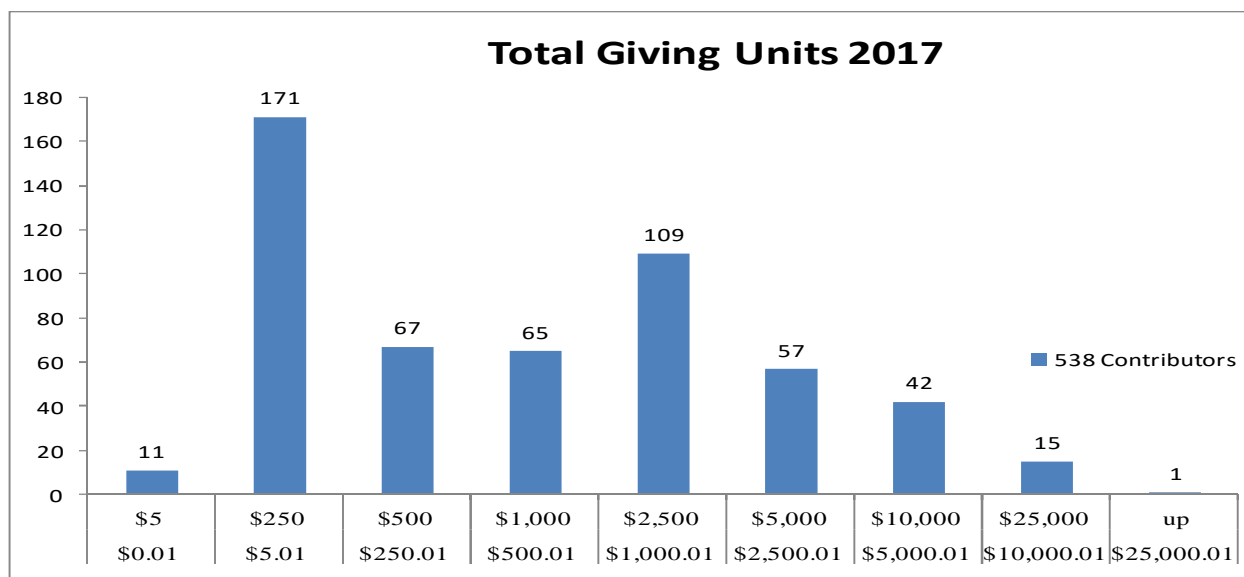
Giving Comparison 2012-2017

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Current	\$714,306.54	\$680,115.05	\$703,752.37	\$714,219.96	\$764,747.07	\$747,976.92
Other	\$25,311.84	\$36,369.59	\$33,264.12	\$31,394.72	\$43,723.93	\$29,926.51
Capital	\$97,628.50	\$87,383.50	\$80,332.00	\$76,329.00	\$78,834.66	\$84,658.50
Free 2B	\$22,731.00	\$183,539.00	\$187,271.50	\$192,495.00	\$154,222.66	\$123,138.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$859,977.88</b>	<b>\$987,407.14</b>	<b>\$1,004,619.99</b>	<b>\$1,014,438.68</b>	<b>\$1,041,528.32</b>	<b>\$985,699.93</b>

The table above shows part of the offering income the church has received in the last six years. This year we saw a slight decrease in offerings. Free 2B Grace is coming to the end of its 5 year campaign. The church was able to meet its financial obligations in 2017 thanks to God help and good money management by staff and lay leaders. Praise GOD!!



# How did people give in 2017?



Grace Lutheran Church is grateful for all gifts. People are not called to give the same dollar amount. People of Christ are called to work toward the same percentage, 10% tithe. At Grace, we encourage the congregation to work toward a tithe and give joyfully. We have seen a shift in the number of giving units in 2017. The number of giving units dropped slightly from 548 in 2016. However, many people have taken steps to increase their monetary giving. Thanks be to God.



# Offerings and Revenue for 2018

	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2018 Budget
<b>Contributions</b>			
Current	747,976.92	771,530.00	745,000.00
Sunday School	1,126.29	1,350.00	1,300.00
Easter/Lent	17,653.28	16,500.00	17,500.00
Thanksgiving	1,065.00	1,200.00	1,100.00
Christmas	8,651.94	18,500.00	1,700.00
Noisy Offerings	25,615.62	20,000.00	20,000.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>802,089.05</b>	<b>829,330.00</b>	<b>801,900.00</b>
<b>Use of Facility</b>			
Day Care	45,250.35	3,900.00	45,000.00
Other	2,525.00	2,000.00	2,500.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>47,775.35</b>	<b>41,000.00</b>	<b>47,500.00</b>
<b>Registration Fees</b>	<b>17,333.00</b>	<b>18,050.00</b>	<b>17,050.00</b>
<b>Other Receipts</b>			
Other Receipts	3,979.74	8,045.00	2,200.00
Olson Trust	15,138.89	20,000.00	15,000.00
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>19,118.63</b>	<b>28,045.00</b>	<b>17,200.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>886,316.03</b>	<b>916,425.00</b>	<b>883,650.00</b>

## Summary of 2017 Operational Budget

	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2018 Budget
Benevolence	\$80,603.08	\$82,930.00	\$80,190.00
Administrative	\$53,220.65	\$48,320.00	\$61,700.00
Worship	\$5,721.71	\$5,760.00	\$6,900.00
Stewardship	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,400.00
Education	\$9,281.86	\$11,595.00	\$11,600.00
Music	\$3,321.30	\$2,250.00	\$3,150.00
Outreach Ministry	\$876.77	\$1,500.00	\$1,400.00
Fellowship	\$6,627.23	\$8,250.00	\$7,750.00
Property	\$60,352.68	\$65,150.00	\$68,150.00
Youth	\$5,631.99	\$8,575.00	\$9,575.00
Personnel	\$632,289.19	\$680,595.00	\$631,835.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$857,926.46</b>	<b>\$916,425.00</b>	<b>\$883,650.00</b>





# Looking Ahead

What are we planning for 2018?

We plan to welcome Interim Senior Pastor Bruce Arnevik as our leader during Transition. Pastor Bruce will help guild our congregation through the interim process. It is our plan to keep you informed about this process.

Administrative Goals include working with staff to keep the congregation informed of upcoming events and ways to connect. We also plan to care for the congregation and those in need. Upcoming projects include implementing a new server and updating to Microsoft 360. We also plan to have a procedures audit. We will receive on what the audit suggests and make the appropriate changes in our procedures.

Outreach and benevolence goals include continuing to support our outreach teams and provide local and global opportunities to serve. We hope to participate in God's Work Our Hands Day in September of 2018. We also plan to continue to tithe 10% of our current and Free2Be offerings.

Property goals include continuing to identify building issues and work within the budget to fix and plan accordingly. We plan on working with an architectural company to evaluate how we can add onto the building and what it will cost if we choose to add on. We will work to start transitioning from florescent tubing to LED lighting in the offices and classrooms. We also will have an electronic control put on the sprinklers for better use of water. We are also exploring how we can fix the parking lot.



Our Worship and Music Departments will continue to build, refine and renew our repertoire of songs for the Contemporary services and expand the utilization of our accompanist, Justin Cook. In all services, the department hopes to add opportunities for people to be involved serving in worship and music.

Spiritual Growth and large church plans include opportunities to grow in faith by offering classes, small group learning, and monthly prayer gatherings. We are also planning to have both a men's and women's overnight retreat. We will support the SALT (Seek, Abide, Love, Trust) team as the prayer and adult education ministry team of Grace. We plan to continue having Connection Sundays.

Youth goals include increasing the high school connection and involvement at church, evaluate and observe the OYF program and determine if changes should be made for the 2018-2019 program year and continue to build a strong and more inclusive Catechism program. Youth Ministry will be intentional about Pastoral Care for youth, families, and volunteers.

Children's Ministry will welcome growth and change. The team will develop and build relationships with God and families by having a variety of special activities alongside VBS and SONday school.

Staffing goals include hiring an Outreach Director and supporting Interim Senior Pastor, Bruce Arnevik as he works with the congregation during the call process. Another goal is to provide opportunities for staff development, on site and off.

2018 will be an exciting year for the congregation as we discuss what to do as the Free 2B campaign comes to an end, and what to do with the portable classrooms. (See How Did We Do on Page 6)

**Let us find out together what God has in store.**

Kate Morpew, Church Administrator

