

Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH
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**Grace Lutheran Church
2022 Annual Report**

**Annual Meeting
January 22, 2023
10:30 am**

**Annual Meeting Agenda
January 22, 2023**

1. Call to Order – Council President Karen Simmons
2. Opening Devotion – Pr. Paige Whitney
3. Approval of the minutes from January 23, 2022
4. Approval of Ministry Reports (Pastors, Staff, Congregation Council, Committees, Teams, and Others).
5. Nominating Committee Report and Elections
6. Approval of the 2023 Budgets
 - a. Grace Lutheran Church
 - b. Grace Garden
7. Unfinished business (None the Council is aware of)
8. New business
9. Adjournment
10. Closing Prayer – Pr. Jillene Gallatin

ANNUAL REPORT
Grace Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 22, 2023
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Church Council

Nominating Committee

Minnesota River Conference – Voting Members – Sunday, February 12

SE MN Synod Assembly – Voting Members – Saturday, May 6

Please have a copy of the annual report in front of you during the meeting

Grace Council Meeting Agenda for Sunday, Jan. 23 at 10:30am

The meeting was called to order by President Gloria Butler.

1. Approval of the agenda with any additions: MSA

2. Pastor Paige Whitney opened with prayer.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Jan. 2021 annual meeting report: MSA

4. Approval of the ministry reports (pastors, staff, congregation council, treasurer, committees, others): MSA

5. Nominating committee report and elections:

There were 6 people that joined us via zoom. They will stop by the church within 30 minutes of adjournment to vote. Jeff Vetsch, Gloria Butler, Kathy Parry, and Angie Kaelberer volunteered to be a part of the nominating team. Ward Ask and Joyce Thompsen agreed to attend the SEMN Synod Assembly. The Minnesota River Conference Assembly will be from 2-3 pm on February 13th. Joyce Thompsen will attend. Voting took place. Pastor Jillene filled the "vote counting time" with sharing her appreciation to her family, the call committee, to council members for their work, to the staff of Al, Tricia, Robin, Pastor Paige.

6. Approval of the 2022 Budgets

- a. **Grace Lutheran Church: MSA** There was no discussion on the budget. The 2022 budget was adopted.
- b. **Grace Garden: MSA** There was no discussion on the budget. The 2022 budget was adopted.

7. Unfinished Business (none that the council is aware of)

8. New Business

a. The Executive Committee makes the following motions:

i: To enter into a contract with Randy Dinsmore of Goodrich Construction Co. to complete the chapel project in 2022; not to exceed \$400,000.

Sheila Morris thanked all that served on the chapel task force. Sheila remembers how daunting the fund raising was when we built this new sanctuary, offices, and fellowship hall. 21 years later we look at what has been accomplished. You can't second guess the generosity of others. Sheila has worked with Randy in the past on some historical society construction projects. She wanted to make several points: 1. We found out very early that the cost of tearing down the chapel was 3-4 times as much as repairing. 2. It's never going to be cheaper. 3. We don't have to start at zero. Our endowment funds are available. Sheila thanks all those who have helped support the Grace Lutheran Endowment. She asked that we support this motion.

Anne Gerber spoke in favor of this motion. When the chapel task force was formed we were given three tasks: Should we repair it, demolish it, or do nothing. The cost to demolish it is 3-4 times the cost of repairing it. The engineer deemed it dangerous and it can't be insured. The option to do nothing is not available. She thanked Randy for all of his work.

Jeff Vetsch spoke about the costs. The base costs are currently estimated at \$352,500. Once we vote on this we can move ahead. He encouraged us to vote for this motion.

Pastor Paige pointed out of the wonderful endowment funds that are available to us. Capital Improvements Fund: \$263,000, Donations and Fundraising: We have about \$21,000 already given toward this project. Available Loan from Interest Earnings: up to \$150,000 has been approved to be available as needed. This would be our last resource used, and depending on timing, future donations/fundraising.

The vote was taken and the motion was carried.

ii: The church council president requests a special congregational meeting to be held on Feb. 27 to vote on proposed constitutional by-law updates and changes.

9. Adjournment: MSA

10. Closing Prayer was led by Pastor Jillene

Senior Pastor Report

"You bless us forever! You make us glad with the joy of your presence!" Psalm 21:6

I keep a paper calendar. It helps me keep track of important things coming up, but it comes in handy to flip through and reflect blessings shared through programs, projects, and ministries at Grace and in the community of Waseca. There have been many!

This Spring our Lenten season centered around of theme "Full to the Brim". It was fantastic to come together through meals, fellowship, study and worship.

The season culminated with the Easter theme "Making All Things New". Remember the butterflies? Remember the failed sump pump? I remember both well. THANK YOU to everyone who cleaned, moved and repaired. We celebrated our High School Seniors and participated in the community Baccalaureate. God is good!

In Summer we reflected and connected as worship centered around "I've Been Meaning to Ask" . Work on the Chapel began. An amazingly vibrant VBS was experienced. A community Blood Drive was hosted. I met with Confirmation families. We cleaned, sorted, rearranged furniture, and painted creating welcoming spaces for people to gather.

In Fall worshipers were invited to participate fully in the life of the church as worship centered around "What's Your Story of Giving: Time, Treasure and Talent". Goodrich construction, the crew working on the chapel, packed up and we moved into the next phase of chapel work as we updated lighting and electrical outlets, added a coat of fresh paint, and began refinishing the floors. The outside of the building was caulked. We remembered our beloved Saints who now rest for their labors. We joyfully Confirmed 10 youth. We connected with kiddos and families through Waseca's Treats on the Streets. We committed to the Mission and Ministry of Grace with our Commitment/Consecration Sunday. We welcomed 8 household to share with us in the mission and ministry of this congregation.

In Winter we worshiped by celebrating "The Gifts of Advent". The season culminated with joyous Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services.

These are just some of the highlights! As I flipped through my calendar I'm also reminded of the continued life giving ministries that happen on a weekly or monthly bases: having coffee with the quilters and during Sunday morning fellowship, meeting with Baptisms families, visiting homebound members, presiding at Weddings, accompanying our families who grieve their loved ones, meeting with ministry Teams and our Council.

It's wonderful to connect with the community by attending student's sporting and music events, participating in Rotary, serving as board member of Bethlehem Inn, and going for lunch at local venues.

It's a privilege to participate in the wider church by attending text study, leading worship at Lakeshore and Colony Court, serving as President of Ministerial, attending our Synod's Fall Theological Conference, and Minnesota River Conference Assembly.

Wow-looking back in 2022 I am grateful for our shared life together. Thank you-thank you-Thank you! And ask I begin to fill the pages of 2023's calendar I'm exciting for what God is calling us to next!

God's continued blessings as our journey continues.

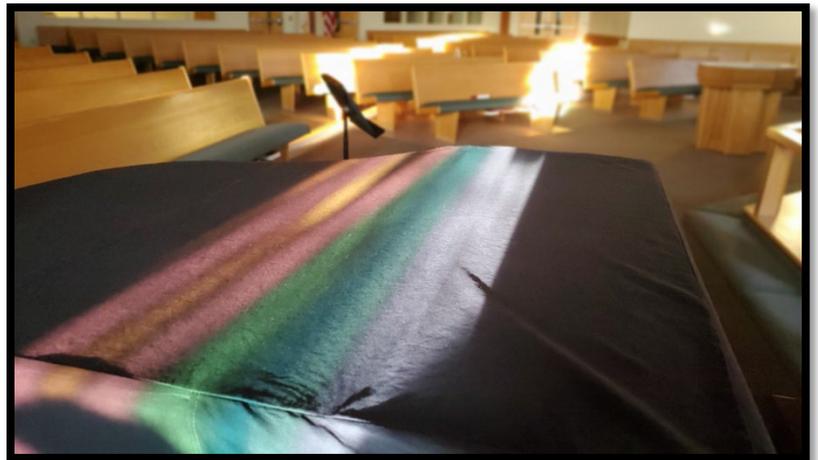
Pastor Jillene Gallatin

2022 Associate Pastor's Annual Report...

Reflecting on 2022 feels like looking at a year through a kaleidoscope. Sometimes it's the beautiful pieces of glass that shift as you turn the cylinder, creating a fantastical mashup of colors reflecting and running into each other. And sometimes, it's the kaleidoscope video your nephew made with his phone that makes everyone filmed look like part of a low-budget horror film. 😊

Perhaps the image that sticks out the most in that 2022 kaleidoscope, that gets reflected the most for me this past year, is the story of Jesus feeding the thousands. More specifically, the part at the end where we hear that **“When they were satisfied, Jesus told his disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.’” (John 6:12)**

There's a lot that we might want to dust off and leave behind about the past year. But there are also moments and experiences that we treasure. And I wonder if that is the kind of ministry that Jesus is inviting us to see in our kaleidoscope of faith. And to keep an eye out for in the years to come. The bitter, the sweet, the joys, the sorrows, the bigger pieces of faith, and the fragments that can be easily missed.



Jesus and the Holy Spirit are still at work through us at Grace Lutheran, and in each of our lives. And in that kaleidoscope of Grace, when we turn it and look back, we see VBS tumbling into funerals tumbling into quilts tumbling into the food shelf tumbling into bread, wine, and water. All those things that make us who we are as God's beloved people. So, let's keep doing those beautiful things together. Because God continues to make all things new. Amen.

-Pastor Paige Whitney

2022 Statistical Report**Baptisms**

Cooper John Steffl, child of Austin Steffl & Megan Eldeen, baptized 5/1/2022
 Griffin Alfred Hemmingson, child of Grant & Kari Hemmingson, baptized 5/15/2022
 Cordell Andrew Monahan, child of Joe & Ashley Monahan, baptized 7/10/2022
 Bowen Ryan Landkammer, child of Ryan & Megan Landkammer, baptized 9/25/2022
 Henry Curtis Spiess, child of Tyler & Taylor Spiess, baptized 10/9/2022

Funerals

Ruth Sybilrud-died 1/1/2022-funeral 1/7/2022
 Barb Cliff-died 1/7/2022 -funeral 1/11/2022
 Gwen Chicos-died 3/24/2022-funeral 3/29/2022
 Harold Nuessmeier-died 5/14/2022-private family funeral
 Nicolas Poehler-died 6/11/2022-funeral 6/16/2022
 Eilene Johnson-died 8/7/2022-funeral 8/17/2022
 Mary "Margaret" Wynnemer-died 8/24/2022-graveside service 8/28/2022
 Olive Anthony-died 8/25/2022-funeral 9/9/2022
 Bill Steffan-died 9/4/2022-funeral 9/24/2022
 Michelle Ewest-died 11/15/2022-funeral 11/22/2022

Transfers In/New Members

Ashley Monahan
 Mallory Malecek & Dan Marlow
 Jane Sammon
 Tyler & Taylor Spiess
 David & Tammy Bonnifield & family
 Chris & Rebecca Schimming & family
 Stanley Schmidt and Karen Schmidt transferred from St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca

Transfers Out/Request to be Removed 2022

Tony Pehrson transferred to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca

2022 President's Report

When I agreed to be the council president, I confessed that I had little experience with “this parliamentary stuff”, among other weaknesses. Pastor Jillene assured me, “There’s GRACE for that!” I am overwhelmed with how many amazing people are part of our church family. I have gained even more appreciation with the leadership provided by Pastor Jillene Gallatin and Pastor Paige Whitney. The two of them, together, are lovingly called “the dynamic duo”. Their passion for their work is inspiring. We are truly blessed to have these two spirit-filled leaders.

This year we stepped further away from the pandemic and stepped forward to our future. In early 2022 we entered into a contract with Randy Dinsmore of Goodrich Construction to complete the chapel project. Our Lenten theme, “Full to the Brim” brought us together on Sundays and Holden Evening Prayer filled the sanctuary on Wednesday nights after enjoying a meal together. In April, the rains came heavy and hard and our sump pump failed. But we came together again to repair, replace, and move forward. The facilities team concluded that we would need to do some major caulking and add gutters to help with water issues. On May 15 we had the opportunity to “bid farewell” to the old sanctuary with a special open house. Soon the windows were boarded over and the trusses and scaffolding arose. Being as visible as we are on the corner of 3rd and Elm, we became something of interest for the whole community as the work progressed. In June we held a successful blood drive. We held a fabulous four nights of Vacation Bible School in July. So many people of all ages were in the building. It was wonderful! This past fall we focused on “What’s Your Story of Giving? Time, Treasures, and Talents.” Faith Formation, confirmation classes were up and running again. The senior high youth group continued to meet in their new digs of the old choir room. Wednesday night worship returned! We hired a talented musician to lead that worship, Brye Lawrence. In October we saw the caulking completed on the exterior of the church and the chapel looking more and more inspiring. As the hardwood floors are refinished we admire the new paint, lighting, and of course, a safe roof! The Chapel Fundraising Task Force is working together to present an opportunity for us all to contribute to the completion of the chapel project, soon to be known as 3rd and Elm.

What a year. What a year of growth, inspiration, perspiration, and fellowship as we walk with God. Keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to get involved in our church. Be the hands and feet of Christ. Invite a friend or stranger to join us at church. All are welcome here! I thank you for the opportunity to work together with you during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Simmons



Worship Ministry Team Annual Report 2022

The worship team's goal is to ensure that all aspects of worship are meaningful. Worship team members recruit, train and schedule dozens of volunteers who make worship activities happen every week. Team members communicate with pastors and worship leaders (musicians, media booth, liturgists, alter guild and ushers) to ensure the worship experience at Grace is the best it can be. The worship team meets monthly to coordinate these activities and prepare for worship services.

The major accomplishment for the team was working with the Grace education team to bring back Wednesday night service which compliments faith formation, confirmation and senior high youth activities on Wednesday evenings. Wednesday services contain most of the tenants of our traditional services and allow for greater interaction and involvement for youth and parishioners. If you haven't attended a Wednesday service yet make sure you do in 2023.

Worship themes throughout the year allowed worshipers to listen, reflect and comment on the message, music and visuals used in each service. Themes included Full to the Brim, I've Been Meaning to Ask, What's your Story and Time Treasures and Talents. All were engaging and thoughtful. Other worship service highlights include special services for Easter, Christmas, all saints Sunday and having the confirmation service at 9 am which connected the entire congregation with our confirmands.

Worship at Grace is meaningful, engaging, alive and fun. Where will God lead our congregation in 2023. "Come and see" John 1.38-39.

The worship team welcomed two new members in 2022. Julie Oslund (alter guild and decorating) and Chuck Brenner (Grace council liaison) joined the team which includes Vicky Singlestad (altar guild), Genise Boettcher (music, Cornerstone, media booth), Karen Brendan (musician, music coordinator), Jeff Vetsch (ushers, liturgists), Kathy Parry (musician), Pastor Jillene Gallatin and Pastor Paige Whitney.

The worship team would like to thank all volunteers who generously give their time to assist with worship. THANK YOU.

Annual report written by worship team chair, Jeff Vetsch, January 1, 2023.

2022 Education Ministry Team Report

2022 was a busy year for the Education Ministry Team! Please continue reading to find out more about a few of the projects that were worked on this year.

Members of the Education Ministry Team created and with the support of many volunteers ran a well attended, successful Vacation Bible School (VBS) from July 19th - 21st. The theme for VBS was Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God. Food was served to students before the program began. The program consisted of music, gathering time, crafts, dancing, Bible stories, recreation, and snacks. Each participant received a VBS t-shirt.

"Do we really need all those spoons in the church kitchen?" VBS relay race: "Yes." 😊❤️
See you at 9am for a VBS Celebration Worship!
#FoodTruckPartyVBS #GraceWaseca



The Fall Fellowship Event was held on September 11th and the Education Ministry Team was in charge of activities. Bingo was a big hit with Karen Simmons as the Bingo caller! Other activities offered included a cupcake walk, box building, bubbles, giant Jenga, and coloring.

See you this Sunday for Worship (9am) followed by bingo, food, a cupcake walk, building with boxes, giant bubbles, and more! And don't forget to register for PreK-12th Grade programming this year: ... More



Backpack tags! Tomorrow in worship these tags will be blessed, and then the kids can choose one to keep. Reminders of God's grace every day...



Backpack tags were made and given to students during worship on September 11th.

Wednesday evenings continue to be full of activity. Faith Formation began on September 14th and at the beginning of September, 32 students were signed up to attend. A free youth meal is provided before lessons begin for the evening. Senior High youth and friends (grades 9 - 12) are invited to join Youth Group for fellowship on Wednesday evenings and Baptismal Promise Nights are currently scheduled.

What a great night! Our 3rd graders received their Bibles, Faith Formation students gathered, Confirmation started and it was an absolute joy to be together in Worship tonight! Join us next week-all are welcome!



A special youth group outing today. Art and music are good for the soul. Van Gogh reminds us that life isn't always easy, so loving our neighbors is one of the most important things we're called to do. "We have all received, grace upon grace." (John 1:16)



We ❤️ Youth Group. Our Wednesday night programming (PreK-12th) is open to all. You are welcome to visit anytime, or register so we can send you updates:
<https://gracelutheranchurch.breezechms.com/form/ffad59...> More



What a fantastic Confirmation Sunday! It was an absolute joy to Worship Christ and celebrate with our Confirmands and their families this morning! ❤️ Let your light continue to shine as your faith journey continues! ❤️

Confirmation expectations and requirements were reviewed and updated. The Ten Commandments was the theme this fall. Nine students were confirmed on November 13th.



The Christmas Program was held on Wednesday December 14th and Sunday December 18th. Faith Formation teachers took part in teaching students the Christmas songs for the program. Once again, Karen Simmons organized an awesome Christmas program!



Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Sandbeck

2022 Management Team Report

The mission of the management team is to steward human and financial resources to support God's mission and ministry through Grace Lutheran Church.

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.

1 Corinthians 4: 1-2

This team is made up of our council president, Karen Simmons, senior pastor, Jillene Gallatin, church administrator, Robin Dulas, congregational member Marcy Gallea, and treasurer, Al Kingsley.

Our treasurer works hand and hand with the church administrator to present monthly financial statements to the church council. Annual budgets are prepared and presented to the church council for action. Present duly audited financial statement at the annual congregational meeting.

Throughout the year the Management Team adjusted the ministry team budget categories so that worship musicians are now paid from "management" instead of from "worship and music". Pastor Jillene led the team to develop worship musician contracts. The team offered feedback when the Grace budget was being prepared.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Simmons

Outreach Ministry Team Annual Report 2022

Members: Pastor Jillene, Pastor Paige, Brett Prescher

Looking back at 2022

*At the end of 2021 a new Grace Lutheran logo was created by Blue Sun Designs. The process in the creation of this logo included Kate from Blue Sun Designs taking the time to get to know more about Grace Lutheran Church. The final design had three pillars for Grace and its members to focus on: Connect – Belong – Serve. This gave the Outreach Team and other teams in the congregation the ability to continue to reflect on it's ongoing call from God as we entered 2022.

*After the logo was created and Kate learned more about what Grace Lutheran is, currently and what God is calling Grace to be. The Team started work on a pamphlet or handout that could be used at our new welcome desk. There was a lot of discussion, but in the end the project didn't seem to have enough benefits. The Outreach team decided that keeping our website and social media up to date was more important than handouts that can become quickly outdated. It was decided though, that it is important for the Pastors to have "business cards" so they can connect with local community members when out in public.

*The Welcome Desk was wonderful addition for Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings in late 2021. A few ideas were brought forth on how to "man" the welcome desk. Unfortunately, none of which have been finalized in 2022. This is something that should be worked in in 2023.

*The Fall Stewardship theme was: "Worship and Brunch – Are You Coming?" John 6: 1-15 Jesus blessed, the disciples fed, we are changed.

The Outreach Team wanted all to feel welcomed and fed. Understanding that we are changed because Jesus blessed us.

*The Outreach Team also sent out the annual letter and Statement of Intent Cards for the congregation. These intent cards help Grace plan, financially, for 2023. The cards had a picture of children during a night at VBS. This was done to help the congregation understand all the great things Grace is doing outside of worship services. These were sent out in November.

Respectfully submitted,
Brett Prescher

GWELCA Annual Report

The Grace Lutheran Women of the ELCA had an active year in 2022. In November, we were able to hold our Harvest Mission Festival for the first time since the COVID pandemic. We had a successful event that raised more than \$1,200 to donate to mission projects, both locally and in other areas of the nation and world. Much of that profit came from the bake and craft sale, to which many church members contributed items. We very much appreciate that support! We also served the food at nine church funerals throughout the year. Our year-end gifts totaled \$2,550, divided between 11 organizations including Bethlehem Inn, Lutheran World Relief, Crossroads Campus Ministry, and the Grace chapel restoration fund.

We currently have two Bible study groups. Grace/Peace Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the church fellowship hall. Hope Circle meets at 7:00 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month in the fireside room of the church. We welcome all women of the church to attend one of these groups, and we look forward to continuing our service in 2023.

Submitted by: Angie Kaelberer

2022 Annual Facilities Ministry Team Report

2022 was a year that brought many new challenges to the Facilities Team starting with the following list of projects:

- In late February, water began leaking in the basement youth room, under the west entrance. It was determined the water leak was coming from the flat roof drainage pipes. Waseca city engineering cleared a frozen drain in the street on the SE corner of the church property. This allowed the flat roof water to drain freely to the street.
- Greener World came and repaired a few spots on the flat roof (covered under warranty).
- The spring cleaning inside the church was completed on April 2nd.
- Gene Dwyer signed the contract for Engineering Services portion of the work on the old sanctuary on April 13th and Karen Simmons signed the contract on April 21st.
- On April 23rd during a heavy spring rainstorm, the float switch on the sump pump failed which caused water to back up into nearly every room in the basement. Volunteer's came in on Saturday to move furniture, etc and start the process of cleaning up the water. Service Master was called in to help with their de-humidifiers and air movers. Brian Britton installed a new sump pump later that evening. On April 25th more work continued by removing base molding and drilling and cutting the sheetrock along the floor. This project went well into the summer with repairing sheetrock, painting and putting down the base molding.
- In April, work started on the Chapel (old sanctuary). This project included structural repairs, a new roof and repairing copper pan around belfry and gutters.
- The concrete near the main west entrance was leveled (tripping hazard and made snow shoveling more difficult).
- A new vinyl blind was purchased and installed in the Grace Garage in August.
- As part of the Chapel roofing project, Greener World sprayed some insulation material in the attic of the stairway near belltower. This should help prevent ice dams from building up in that area.
- The tree on the NE side of the old sanctuary was taken down on September 1st.
- The caulking of the EIFS exterior of the church building was completed in October.
- The Chapel project along with the roofing project was completed in November by Goodrich Construction.
- The leaders and downspouts were installed in November.
- Brian G and Mark went and picked up the supplies and sheetrock needed for the repairs under the old balcony on November 12.
- Jeff and Mark cleaned the carpets upstairs in the hallways and the sanctuary on November 12th.
- The Electrician completed his work (new lighting and floor receptacles) in the Chapel and the carpet has been removed and the sanding work has started in December.
- The new exterior door from Waseca Glass for the north side was delivered to D & M on December 7th. Doug will be finished painting the door by end of December.
- The sheetrock project under the balcony was completed on December 11th with help from Ivan D, his son Isaac, Jeff V and Mark G.
- Chris finished painting the Chapel on December 15th.
- Discussion about the A/C units needing repairs and replacement is put on hold until year end based on finances.
- Some other projects will be completed in the next few months.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Gallea on behalf of the Facilities Team (Mark Gallea and Jeff Vetsch) thank all volunteers (too numerous to mention) who helped with many tasks related to the above projects.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH FOOD SHELF

The Grace Lutheran Church Food Shelf distributed food the 2nd Thursday of each month in 2022. It was held in the Garage from 5-6:00PM.

Most of the food was pre-packaged in boxes on Wednesday evenings. On Thursday, clients could choose optional food items from small list. All food was then loaded into the client's vehicles.

Each month between 30 and 100 people received food. The food items given to families included: dry foods, canned fruits and vegetables, soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, TP, frozen meats and vegetables, and fresh fruit and vegetables.

Because of the increasing cost of food, we became short of funds during the last four months of the year. We had to cut back on the amount and items we could distribute to our customers. Fortunately, through Thrivent Member Choice Dollars, members were able to direct funds totaling \$1,000 during this period.

Funding for the food shelf came from the Endowment Funds, member donations, and group fundraisers. The yearly budget is between \$10,000 and \$12,000 depending on donations of food and money.

Most of the food is purchased from the Owatonna Cash Wise, Kwik Trip, and Owatonna Hy-Vee. These vendors are very cooperative in supplying our needs.

A big thank you to those who volunteer their time each month to make sure the Food Shelf operates smoothly. We had several new people volunteer this year. The extra help was needed because of the new procedures.

Kari Jellum	Joe Monahan
Jayne Sandbeck	Carlene Rosenthal
Stephanie Nelson	Larry Rosenthal
Jan Draheim	Jenny Sandbeck
Howard Hoyme	Debbie Hoyme
Tori Stinehart	Dean Pertle
Joe Moen	Kristi Larson
Jonna Moen	Beth Kolander
Todd Kolander	Addie Wieseler
Mark Jellum	Dave Bonnifield
Tammy Bonnifield	Charlie Rohwer
Larry Draheim	Twyla Vetch
Marlys Monahan	Jacari Jellum
Tyler Jellum	Trista Stinehart
Ashley Monahan	Ward Ask
Oliver Rohwer	

Thank you to everyone who donated food or money for the Food Shelf.

Submitted by Larry Draheim

Grace Garden Annual Report

This has been a year of challenges and opportunity for Grace Garden, as we have dealt with Covid, flooding, E. coli, and staffing shortages. In some ways, this year has been more difficult than the last two, mainly because of the employee deficit. However, the challenges we've faced have created opportunities for growth, specifically in the area of trusting that God will provide what we need. GK Chesterton, a Christian writer from a century ago, once said that "hope is the power of being cheerful in circumstances that we know to be desperate." The hope that we have is not just wishful thinking, but is based on our faith in God: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1). Part of recognizing God's work in any situation is looking back to acknowledge what He has done, and giving thanks. We might not be able to see the "evidence" ahead of time, but God is working for our good in every situation.

The employees who have been a part of Grace Garden this year are some of the most positive, caring, and understanding people who have ever been at the center. They've worked long hours, covered for each other during illnesses and appointments, and dealt with the typical tasks of childcare day after day, and they've done it with kindness, patience, and humor.

When the spring rains caused a "mini-flood" in the center, we were so thankful for the leadership of the church staff and the many hours from church volunteers as we moved equipment, cleaned carpets, and moved fans from room to room. Even now, the sound of an industrial fan is enough to bring back the memories of that time! Thanks especially to those who not only helped with the initial flood, but also checked in numerous times to be sure that our carpets were dry after additional rain. The church also made some structural changes to the drainage on the outside walls which will minimize the chance of another flood, and we're grateful for that!

Summer brought a brand-new experience for all of us as we were affected by the E. coli outbreak in Waseca County. I am grateful for the guidance from Waseca Public Health as well as the regular checks from the Minnesota Department of Health as we navigated this challenge, and for the fact that the few children who were affected are now healthy.

In November 2023, Grace Garden will celebrate its 19th anniversary, which means that next year at this time, we'll be in our 20th year of operation. I am so thankful for the support of the church staff and members of Grace Lutheran over the past years. You've been a part of providing care for hundreds of children, families, and employees in the Grace Garden family. Over the past several years, we've had eight employees who came here both as children and then as employees. Many of our high school students who started as part time employees have gone on to become teachers and nurses, putting into practice all that they learned about caring for our littlest ones. We also have a high number of family members enrolled in the classrooms. Of the 34 children currently at Grace Garden, 25 have a sibling who has attended in the past, one who attends now, or one who will start soon in the infant room. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve families and share God's love with them.

Tricia Vasquez

Grace Garden Director

Grace Lutheran Scrip Report 2022

Total scrip sales for 2022 was \$138,474.68. Vendor donations ended at \$7,328.04. Scrip sold 2,603 gift certificates which was 191 more than 2021. As there were no youth mission trips, there were no funds transferred to youth missions. Scrip did support Pine Ridge travelers on three trips totaling \$320.00

Scrip funds can be used to support any youth or adults going on any youth or adult/family mission trips. The goal is to make sure these mission trips are affordable for all. Grace will continue to operate this program which will be able to contribute funds to mission goers in 2023. All vender donations from January 1st through May 31st will be used to purchase furniture for the rebuilt sanctuary. The only exception would be any funds generated for youth going on mission trips have priority.

Submitted by Ward Ask

Pine Ridge Mission

Grace, in partnership with St. John, will continue their support of Pine Ridge in 2023 with three trips similar to 2022. First with projected dates of May 18th to the 21st, to celebrate the Kindergarten and 8th grade graduation at Red Shirt. We also will take furniture, kitchen items and clothes for a “giveaway”. In August we will take school supplies for Red Shirt and other youth in need on the reservation. December will be the Christmas trip providing presents, quilts, food, personal care kits, and other items of need. Dates for August and December are yet to be determined.

Visiting Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has been a life changing event for many people over the 30 plus years Grace has been involved. Oglala Lakota County is the poorest per-capita county in the United States. Grace members, over the years, have developed community with many Lakota members making our journeys there valuable to all involved.

Trip leaders have heard of many Grace members that would like to go on a Pine Ridge mission trip. This is an adult/family activity which is open to all confirmed members. If interested let the church office know.

Submitted by Ward Ask



Southeastern Minnesota Synod



At our 2022 Synod Assembly, we gathered under the theme *Imagine: Endless Possibilities in God's Grace*. As we live into the future God has for us, we see what we had once only imagined start to take shape in concrete ways.

This year has brought a new way of meeting the needs of congregations in transition as we have explored various models for pastoral ministry. Most prominent among them is what we call a Bridge to Settled model. This new model allows congregations to work with a Bridge pastor (different than an intentionally trained interim) while forming a call committee and engaging in the call process with the understanding that both the pastor and congregation are open to transitioning from the Bridge into a settled call. It is not the right model for every congregation, but it has greatly benefited many.

We have also seen a gentle uptick in individual congregations exploring partnerships of all kinds. Some congregations are forming new joint parishes, others are working together to meld two part-time calls into full-time work for a single candidate, and still others are merging weekly confirmation classes. More and more of our congregations are realizing the profound benefits and joy of collaboration.

It has been fun to walk alongside folks as they lead their congregations into new ways of being the People of God in their community in this time and place.

As 2023 approaches, I remain ever hopeful for all that the Spirit will continue to do in and through us as the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. Looking ahead to our next Synod Assembly, I am excited to announce that we will be joined by Drs. Susan Brower and Matt Bloom. Drs. Brower and Bloom will give us tools to understand our communities as they are presently and as they are projected to be. They will also explore ways congregations can ignite flourishing in the communities to which they are called.

I am excited to continue imagining alongside each of you as we discern what God is doing in our midst and calling us to do. What a wonderful time to be the church together for the sake of the world.

In Christ,

Rev. Regina Hassanally

Bishop Regina Hassanally



www.semnsynod.org

2022 Audit Report
January 09, 2023

To: Grace Lutheran Church Council and Congregation:

The Audit committee consisting of Jim Ferch, Matt Dettmer, and Rebecca Schimming met on January 9th to review the financial records of the Grace Lutheran General Fund, Grace Garden, the Ministry team account, and the endowment account. Treasurer, Al Kingsley, and Robin Dulas were available to answer any questions the committee had during the review.

The committee reviewed the records from 2022 and found them to be in good order. Through the course of the year the church's financial records are always organized and easy to read. The committee reviews the financial records and needs to maintain the utmost security with the donations that are provided by the congregation. The financial information reviewed gives the Church Council the pathway to lead us in the future.

Grace Lutheran Church and the congregation thanks the staff for the hard work with the ups and downs of the year to maintain the services we have come to appreciate. Please take a minute and thank them at your earliest convenience.

We thank the staff for the hard work throughout the year and for providing the documentation of all of Grace Lutheran's accounts for our audit.

Submitted by Matt Dettmer

2022 Memorial Annual Report

1/1/2022 Balance	\$16,756.42
2022 Deposits	\$19,918.93
*2022 Reallocated Funds	\$ 3,758.98
2022 Disbursements	\$26,551.52
Ending Balance 12/31/2022	\$13,882.81

Account	Starting Bal. 2022	Deposits	Disbursements	Ending Bal. 2022
Chairs	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 20.00		\$ 1,660.00
Undesignated	\$ 8,197.44	\$ 2,226.93	\$ 805.00	\$ 9,619.37
*Music Maintenance	\$ 443.85		\$ 443.85	\$ 0.00
*Paraments	\$ 1,565.00		\$ 1,565.00	\$ 0.00
*Youth Scholarships	\$ 1,750.13		\$ 1,750.13	\$ 0.00
Chapel Renovation + *Reallocated Funds	\$ 3,160.00	\$21,430.98	\$21,987.54	\$ 2,603.44
Total	\$16,756.42	\$23,677.91	\$26,551.52	\$13,882.81

**The 3 starred funds were reallocated to the Chapel Renovation fund. These funds have not been used for any expenses in the last 2 years or longer.*

Respectively Submitted,
Robin Dulas
Grace Lutheran Church Administrator

Ministry Team Balances as of 12/31/2022

December 31, 2022 ending balance-First National Bank **\$135,707.04**

Altar Guild	\$ 1,056.08
Choir	\$ 267.21
Food Shelf	\$ 1,012.76
GG Reserve Fund	\$ 1,463.34
GLC Reserve Fund	\$ 106,821.32
Interest	\$ 463.98
Memorial	\$ 11,279.37
Chapel	\$ 2,603.44
Pine Ridge	\$ 2,364.91
Quilters	\$ 1,404.96
Youth Ministries	\$ 6,969.67

Total Ministry Team Accounts

December 31, 2022 Quickbooks Ministry Team Balance **\$135,707.04**

**GWELCA
2022 Treasurer's Report**

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$2,468.87
 <u>Income</u>	
Serving Funerals	\$ 1,375.00
Circle offerings	\$ 151.00
Harvest Mission Festival income	\$ 2,542.50
Donations	\$ 315.00
Interest income	\$ 2.07
 Total Income	 \$ 4,385.57
 BALANCE PLUS INCOME	 \$ 6,854.44
 <u>Expenses</u>	
Funeral supplies	\$ 242.39
Harvest Mission Festival expenses	\$ 1,310.08
Banner for Harvest Mission Festival	\$ 78.00
Stamps	\$ 12.00
Pastor/staff year end gifts	\$ 250.00
Donations	\$ 3,060.00
 Total Expenses	 \$ 4,952.47
 BALANCE December 31, 2022	 \$ 1,901.97

Endowment Investment Committee Annual Report 2022

The Endowment Investment Committee members include: Chairman Scott Singlestad, Sondra Herman, Kim Babcock, Matt Dettmer, Carol Peterson, Pastor Jillene, and Pastor Paige.

The market had a tough year with the funds down 14.12% for 2022. We have had some up years and some down years. Over the life of the Endowment fund, we are still growing at a rate of 4.6%. If you look at the long-term, we have still done well.

\$507,822 of the fund was available to be used in 2022, some of that will roll over into 2023. Part of this money was used to reroof and straighten the walls of the chapel. The Endowment Teams voted to gift the \$150,000 that was initially a loan.

The Endowment committee voted to move part of the funds to the ELCA Ministry Growth Fund this year. By doing this we invest in the ELCA's funds that help other churches and congregations in the ELCA.

With the income down for the year, the Investment Committee voted on a 4% allocation to the Disbursement Committee for 2023 instead of the 4.25% which was done 2022.

We are grateful to have the Endowment Fund to further the mission and outreach of Grace Lutheran Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Singlestad, Chair
Grace Endowment Investment Committee

Endowment Financial Summary for 2022

Beginning Balance as of January 1, 2023		
Principal Investments	\$6,445,153	
ELCA Capital Mission Fund		\$25,000
2022 Activity		
Withdrawals/Disbursements	-\$557,822	
Deposits	0	
Accounts Gains or Losses	-\$877,344	+546.16
Total Ending Balance as of Dec. 31, 2022	\$5,009,987	\$25,546.16
Combined Total		\$5,031,932

2022 Endowment Disbursement Team Ministry Report

Quick Annual Recap...

The Grace Lutheran Endowment ministry is divided into two teams. There is an Investment Team and a Disbursement Team. And we are the Disbursement Team.

The ministry of the Disbursement Team is to oversee applications to 10 of our 13 sub-funds. Those 10 sub-funds/categories are:

Medical, Housing, Mission, Outreach, Disaster Response, Matching, Youth, Education, Staff Development, and Capital Improvements.

(The three sub-funds that are overseen elsewhere are Grace Garden, Worship Enhancement, and Pastors' Discretionary.)

Each year new allotments are given to the sub-funds, and any unused dollars from previous years are rolled over.

Once a month the Disbursement Team meets to review applications for any of those 10 categories.

What a joy and gift it is to share God's grace and love in this way with the Waseca community!

2022 Report: In 2022 we responded to 31 requests and disbursed \$383,940.90 from our 10 funds this past year.* Including support to local schools, Bethlehem Inn Transitional Housing, fire safety training, medical bills, food baskets, and more.

*Most of our funds are designed to meet the needs of people and organizations in Waseca County. The team was excited to support the new 3rd & Elm Gathering Space (previously called 'the chapel') as an outreach to the community.

While we can't share the details for requests made by individuals, if you would like to know more about any public requests the pastors are happy to share!

-The Grace Lutheran Endowment Disbursement Team

Tony Lapidés, Steph Hulscher, Chris Krause, Carolyn Gilbertson, Craig Simmons, Pastor Paige Whitney, and Pastor Jillene Gallatin.

GLC 2022 Actual & 2023 Proposed Budget					2023 Pledges \$189,080	
		2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Proposed Budget	
Congregational Support						
1	Endowment Matching Fund	\$ 20,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 26,389	1
2	Offerings	\$ 271,306	\$ 318,827	\$ 288,640	\$ 338,516	2
3	Other (includes Thrivent)	\$ 5,390	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,692	\$ 5,000	3
4	Thrivent	\$ 961	\$ 750	\$ 231	\$ -	4
6	Ministry Reserve	\$ 47,200		\$ 22,500	\$ -	6
7	Total Income	\$ 344,857	\$ 354,577	\$ 349,063	\$ 369,905	7
Cost of Ministry						
8	Worship	\$ 8,418	\$ 10,200	\$ 8,427	\$ 4,000	8
9	Education	\$ 760	\$ 2,050	\$ 2,429	\$ 1,850	9
10	Total Cost of Ministry	\$ 9,178	\$ 12,250	\$ 10,856	\$ 5,850	10
Outreach						
11	Outreach	\$ 500	\$ 750	\$ 327	\$ 600	11
12	Stewardship	\$ 1,473	\$ 1,850	\$ 1,338	\$ 1,850	12
13	Synod Mission Support	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	13
14	Total Outreach	\$ 7,973	\$ 8,600	\$ 7,665	\$ 8,450	14
Administration						
15	Accounting	\$ 2,035	\$ 2,300	\$ 1,860	\$ 2,300	15
16	Conferences/Meetings/Cont. Ed	\$ 798	\$ 800	\$ 1,384	\$ 1,000	16
17	Office (Supplies/Copier/etc.)	\$ 8,347	\$ 8,150	\$ 7,188	\$ 7,750	17
18	Technology	\$ 4,173	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,511	\$ 5,000	18
19	Total Administration	\$ 15,353	\$ 16,250	\$ 17,943	\$ 16,050	19
Management						
20	Wages, Salaries, Benefits	\$ 238,087	\$ 241,727	\$ 241,220	\$ 258,605	20
21	Total Management	\$ 238,087	\$ 241,727	\$ 241,220	\$ 258,605	21
Facilities						
22	Insurance	\$ 20,360	\$ 22,500	\$ 22,855	\$ 23,500	22
23	Custodial Service	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,909	\$ 5,000	23
24	Repairs/Maint./Supplies	\$ 13,670	\$ 15,250	\$ 16,056	\$ 15,150	24
25	Utilities	\$ 33,658	\$ 33,000	\$ 40,722	\$ 37,300	25
27	Total Facilities	\$ 67,688	\$ 75,750	\$ 84,542	\$ 80,950	27
28	Total Expense	\$ 338,279	\$ 354,577	\$ 362,226	\$ 369,905	28
		2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Proposed Budget	
29	Total Income	\$ 344,857	\$ 354,577	\$ 349,063	\$ 369,905	29
30	Total Expense	\$ 338,279	\$ 354,577	\$ 362,226	\$ 369,905	30
31	Net Income	\$ 6,578	\$ -	\$ (13,163)	\$ -	31

Grace Garden 2022 Actual & 2023 Proposed Budget						
		2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	
	Income					
1	Tuition (inc. subsidized)	\$ 254,867	\$ 275,960	\$ 245,180	\$ 261,213	1
2	Registration Fees	\$ 1,755	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,730	\$ 1,500	2
3	Fundraising	\$ 3,895	\$ 2,500	\$ 4,392	\$ 2,500	3
4	Meals	\$ 5,812	\$ 5,500	\$ 9,758	\$ 5,500	4
5	Other Income/Interest	\$ 335	\$ 150	\$ 201	\$ -	5
6	State of MN Grant	\$ 63,897	\$ -	\$ 67,701	\$ -	6
7	Total Income	\$ 330,561	\$ 285,910	\$ 328,962	\$ 270,713	7
	Expense					
	Administrative Expenses					
8	NSF Return/Misc.	\$ 42,889	\$ 1,150	\$ 1,926	\$ 900	8
9	Professional Fees/Dues	\$ 1,346	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,315	\$ 1,500	9
10	Advertising/Supplies	\$ 237	\$ 425	\$ 196	\$ 425	10
11	Total Admin.	\$ 44,472	\$ 3,075	\$ 3,437	\$ 2,825	11
	Classroom Expenses					
12	Consumables	\$ 3,077	\$ 2,750	\$ 2,648	\$ 2,500	12
13	Total Classroom	\$ 3,077	\$ 2,750	\$ 2,648	\$ 2,500	13
	Food					
14	Food	\$ 27,457	\$ 29,500	\$ 27,139	\$ 28,500	14
15	Total Food	\$ 27,457	\$ 29,500	\$ 27,139	\$ 28,500	15
	Salaries					
16	Wages/Salaries/Benefits	\$ 249,681	\$ 250,435	\$ 250,474	\$ 236,738	16
17	Total Salaries	\$ 249,681	\$ 250,435	\$ 250,474	\$ 236,738	17
18	Repairs/Maint.	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 120	\$ 150	18
19	Total Repairs/Maint.	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 120	\$ 150	19
20	Total Expense	\$ 324,687	\$ 285,910	\$ 328,962	\$ 270,713	20
21	Total Income	\$ 330,561	\$ 285,910	\$ 328,962	\$ 270,713	21
22	Total Expense	\$ 324,687	\$ 285,910	\$ 283,818	\$ 270,713	22
23	Net Income	\$ 5,874	\$ -	\$ 45,144	\$ -	23
	**The Misc. category in 2021 was higher than budgeted due to hazard pay bonuses of scrip given to the employees from the grants that GG had received and a \$25,000 donation to Grace.					

Grace Lutheran Nominating Committee 2022 Annual Report

The nominating committee's task is to recruit potential members for the Grace Congregation Council. Committee members include Karen Simmons, Gloria Butler, Angela Kaelberer, Kathy Parry, Jeff Vetsch and Pastor Jillene (pastor liaison).

The nominating committee met in-person and via email in October and November. We brought several names forward from nominating committee members and other Grace members. Each was interviewed as to their interest in serving on the Congregation Council. We also shared with potential nominees a one-page "job description and expectations of council members" document developed by Pastor Jillene.

Our committee nominates the following members to serve on the Grace Congregation Council after approval by a Grace members vote at the annual meeting on January 22, 2023.

Cassie Eldeen and Erin Sime for 3-year terms on council and Jody Ebnet for a 1-year term (she will complete Brett Prescher's term).

Annual report written by Jeff Vetsch, January 6, 2023.

2023 Grace Lutheran Church Nominations Draft Ballot

Church Council: Three 3-year terms (vote for three)

Karen Simmons _____

Erin Sime _____

Cassie Eldeen _____

Nominating Team (vote for six)

SEMN Synod Assembly (up to 4 voting members including one youth) Saturday, May 6

Minnesota River Conference Assembly (up to six voting members) Sunday, February 12

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____