

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7

2026 Annual Meeting Agenda

Sunday, January 18, 2026 - 9:30AM

- Opening Devotions - Pastor Allison
- 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
- 2025 Financial Report - Jane Reiman
- Nominations and Vote
 - o Council Members -2-Year Term
 - Cindy Wohlhuter
 - o Council Members -3-Year Term
 - Stephanie Busiahn, Brenda Lubenow, Terry Maakestad, and Katie Teachout
 - o Synod Assembly Delegates
 - Louise Hendricks, Jane Reiman, and Becky Whitmore
 - o Audit Committee -1-Year Term
 - David Johnson and Randy Lubenow
- Old Business
 - o Thank You for Supporting the Ministries of Grace
- New Business
 - o Review and Approve 2026 Budget - Jane Reiman
 - o Review and Approve Grace Lutheran Constitution - Troy Nemmers
- Grace Stories
- Grace Lutheran's 100th Anniversary July 8, 2028
- Closing, Lord's Prayer - Pastor Cole
- Adjournment

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2025 Ministry Report of Pastor Allison Cobb

“It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing; That's how it is with God's Love, once you've experienced it. You spread the love to everyone; you want to pass it on.”

(Pass It On by Kurt Kaiser)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What a wonderful year it has been as the Holy Spirit has moved through Grace and all of you! This year has seen new households joining our faith community, from youth to elders. They have commented on your hospitality and welcome, and a feeling that they could jump right in, and belong. Part of their arrival at Grace has been through your intentional reaching out and inviting. And as a result, these guests have an instant connection here and a space to hear God's Word for them in their lives. Please be sure to check out the Welcome Board in the gathering space to learn their names and faces.

Thank you sharing your spark.

With that word of thanks comes a continuation of a year of gratitude at Grace. Hopefully you have noticed my weekly posts on Facebook thanking the many hands that contribute to the work of Jesus here. I believe that gratitude works hand-in-hand with stewardship which has been another focal area for our congregation in 2025. Our dedicated stewardship team has worked diligently to build on our culture of generosity at Grace. Generosity begins as an act of worship as we give back to God not only our financial offerings but are also generous with our time and talents as well. *Thank you for setting the fire.*

One of the new ways we are reaching out in service to our neighbor is offering a summer grief class and a monthly Cup of Hope grief support group. I began these ministries of care, which are open to the community, to address an unmet need in Fairmont. Our Care Ministry Team also continues their work of homebound communion, card writing, and sending out grief packets to next of kin. Our knitters continue to create prayer shawls and prayer squares steeped in prayer and comfort that are taken by many to those needing to feel wrapped in God's love. And our on-call phone has continued to work well for your pastors to be reached for emergency pastoral care needs when you need us the most. It has been a privilege to walk with you through home visits and phone calls, office visits for spiritual care and pre-marital counseling, senior living worship services, and life's milestones of weddings, baptisms, end of life care, and funerals. I am grateful to our compassionate funeral teams that serve meals to grieving families so they can be comforted by their loved ones. *Thank you for warming people in God's love.*

This year was also a nuts-and-bolts year as many teams, the pastors, and staff worked to update foundational pieces and guidelines such as our membership list, key policies, and signage. The pastors and staff worked diligently to add clear welcome signage to our main entrances and main floor elevator landing which included new brochures on the many ministries of Grace. Our playground also received welcome signage. With our new directory and membership list, we are up to date on our Grace faith community and how best to stay in contact with you. Similarly, the Council has continued their work updating the Grace constitution in alignment with the ELCA Model Constitution. This multi-year effort will continue this year. Over the course of the year, I have updated our Personnel Handbook, Memorial Gifts Policy, Building Use Policy, and Wedding Policy in coordination with our Service and Personnel teams. The Service Team, along with numerous volunteers, also cleaned up many of the storage spaces at Grace, removing unused items, and making space for current ministry needs as well as painting and repairing several walls. *Thank you for experiencing God's love and sharing that love.*

Some of the highlights this year include our continued partnership with our ecumenical churches. They joined Grace at our summer park worship services, worship on the water, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and our community carols event. We gather every other month to collaborate and share our work as pastors in Fairmont.

Faith formation is also a joy as I oversee our adult education class, choosing a variety of topics and theologians throughout the year, and co-teach this with Pastor Cole. It has also been a privilege to walk with our junior and senior high students in their confirmation and Wednesday classes, as well as our first communion instruction, as I co-teach with Pastor Cole and adult volunteer teachers. Pastor Cole's addition of the Baby Bibles and high school classes, along with our grief class, complete the arc of faith formation for all ages.

Additionally, we continue to grow our intergenerational service events such as God's Work. Our Hands, God's Grace is Amazing Day, and the Apple Pie Bake. It is fantastic to pass on the traditions to the next generation as we serve God and our neighbor together. In the same way, we are passing along worship leadership to our youth. I am overjoyed to have our confirmation students read and acolyte on Sunday mornings. And each Wednesday, a confirmation small group is assigned to usher and help the pastors serve communion.

It is incredibly meaningful to pass along the privilege of worship leadership, and our youth participate with reverence, respect, and grace. Along with sharing

God's Word and celebrating the sacraments, equipping disciples of all ages for witness and service is a highlight of my pastoral call at Grace. *Thank you for being a part of passing on God's love.*

The many ministries of Grace Lutheran Church would not be possible without our dedicated staff and the good work of Pastor Cole. I appreciate their hard work and passion for making Grace a church ready to receive and welcome all people to hear God's Word. I look forward to our continued work and partnership with your many hands. Together, we will continue to listen for the direction of the Holy Spirit, take that spark and turn it into a fire, and pass on the love of God to those we are called to serve.

"It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing; That's how it is with God's Love, once you've experienced it. You spread the love to everyone; you want to pass it on."

Your sister in Christ,

Pastor Allison

Rev. Dr. Allison Cobb, Senior Pastor

2025 Ministry Report of Pastor Cole McCormick

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:1-12

These are some powerful words from Jesus that come to mind for me because I witnessed the book, chapter, and verses being posted in a place that I did not initially expect. I shared this story in a sermon a couple of months ago. We were on our way back from the youth mission trip to West Virginia. We stopped at a Steak and Shake outside of Lexington, Kentucky to have a meal. As we were sitting down, eating and having conversation with one another, I also found myself looking around. I looked out one of the windows and thought that I saw some words and numbers painted on a couple of the posts in the parking lot. I had to get a closer look and sure enough I noticed the book, chapter, and verses of a couple of Bible passages. One was the story of the beatitudes. We never can plan for all the places and times when the good news of Jesus will pop up.

His work and these powerful words from one of his many sermons keep nudging and encouraging all of us here at Grace. I give thanks for the opportunities to do ministry alongside all of you and our staff here at Grace Lutheran Church. Each day we continue share his love and the promises that have been made to us at Holy Baptism. In addition to sharing pastor responsibilities with Pastor Allison my time is divided between children, youth, and families, outreach and fellowship, and our mission team.

Highlights of the past year:

- Starting a Baby Bible Class for newborn through age 2 that meets monthly for a Bible story, small craft project, song, and snacks.
- Starting a Senior High Class that meets weekly on Wednesday nights exploring faith in everyday life through videos, listening, conversation, and service projects.

- 7th through 12th Youth Mission Trip to West Virginia helping with cleaning and sorting at a couple of thrift stores and helping with a kid's program at a local Salvation Army.
- Another successful and fun week of vacation Bible school in June for preschool through 6th grade.
- Mission Team Rummage Sale in August.
- Being able to host Farai Sirag, a musician from the country of Jordan and her time with our BLAST kids in May.
- God's Grace is Amazing Day in May with clean up at Lincoln Park, sharing bread with our neighbors around Grace, and a few other projects.
- God's Work our Hands Day in September with a global barnyard theme, live animals and many service projects.

Looking ahead:

- We will hear back soon about receiving a domestic hunger grant for our community garden. My hope is that this garden will assist locally with another avenue in providing fresh produce, help with food insecurity, and continued relationship building with fellow neighbors in our community.
- Planning to have confirmation youth attend Bible camp the first part of August.
- Quarterly youth fundraisers for Bible camp, Mission Trips and National Youth Gatherings.
- A possible visit from our missionary, Katie Larson this summer to hear about the ministry that she has been part of in Columbia.
- Making plans for the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis summer of 2027.
- Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve as your associate pastor of CYF, Outreach/Fellowship and Mission. I look forward to what God will make known to us in and through Jesus Christ here in 2026.

In Christ,

Pastor Cole R. McCormick

2025 Office Administrator Report of Nicole Kolbe

“When you pass through deep waters, I will be with you.” – Isaiah 43:2

This year has been one of unexpected trials, personal challenges, and moments that stretched my faith in ways I did not anticipate. Yet through every hardship, the Lord has continued to guide me, strengthen me, and remind me that His presence is constant. I am deeply grateful that even in seasons of testing, He has blessed me with meaningful work, a supportive staff, and the continued privilege of serving at Grace Lutheran Church.

Throughout 2025, my responsibilities as Office Administrator continued to expand and evolve. Many of my daily tasks remain the backbone of keeping our office organized and our congregation informed, and I am proud of the ways these routines help support the ministry of Grace.

This year my role included:

Administrative & Communication Responsibilities

I oversee the weekly worship documentation process, including collecting information from pastors and musicians, designing the worship and children’s bulletins, and preparing digital files of the bulletins and Ministry Minutes that I post weekly on our website. I track worship attendance weekly and ensure materials are printed, organized, and distributed on time.

Every Monday I coordinate the offering workflow by partnering with volunteer counters, recording deposit information in Realm, preparing and delivering bank deposits, and delivering the weekly service DVD recording to Gemini Studios for broadcasting. I submit requests to our community assistance program, People Helping People, continue to manage and update voicemail systems, maintain phone lines, and respond to calls, requests, and daily inquiries from members and visitors.

I handle email communications, update the church website and Facebook page, prepare Ministry Minutes, manage member transfers, mail bulletins to homebound members, prepare gathering area TV slides, prepare bathroom signage, and manage, design, draft, prepare, print, and mail the monthly Ways of Grace newsletter.

Digital Systems, Records, and Publications

One major project this year was the complete review and cleanup of our Realm database, which included preparing mail notifications correcting outdated records, merging duplicates, standardizing formatting, and improving accuracy for reporting and communication. This effort has created a more reliable, efficient system for both staff and members.

Another significant accomplishment was finalizing and producing our updated Church Directory, a months-long collaboration that included working with the pastors and our directory team on the design, layout, proofing, and organizational components needed to complete the final publication. I want to thank our wonderful Directory team for their many hours of work and assistance in organizing directory photos and obtaining current information from our members, which assisted me in updating our records.

I created the graphics for our annual Stewardship Drive, Rivers of Living Water, and worked with Pastor Allison on updating flyers, then prepared and printed materials, and organized and mailed printed materials. I worked with the Stewardship team on coordinating notifications and various materials.

This year also brought a large design shift as I transitioned our weekly bulletin format from 11x17 to 11x8.5, which required redesigning templates, adjusting layouts for readability, and coordinating with staff and volunteers on the new printing and folding process.

Ministry Support & Member Services

I continue to assist with tracking membership updates, maintaining accurate records, ordering and organizing supplies and offering envelopes, preparing and mailing of annual financial reports, preparing certificates, materials, and gift bags for baptisms, First Communion, Confirmation, Baccalaureate Sunday, and other milestones in the lives of our members.

I also support our pastoral staff by preparing funeral bulletins, managing facility scheduling, documenting weddings and baptisms, and ensuring that information for newsletters, publications, and community partners is shared in a timely manner. I coordinate with the pastors, teams at Grace, and our finance director to acquire information needed to assemble the Annual Report.

Volunteer Coordination

This year, our weekly office volunteers have been a tremendous blessing. I coordinate their schedules, prepare task lists, and rely on their help with greeting guests, answering phones, organizing materials, cleaning surfaces, assembling mailings, and assisting with routine office duties. Their dedication allows me to devote uninterrupted time to larger publications, projects, and administrative tasks.

I coordinate with our Ways of Grace assembly team on the assembly, organization, counting, and preparation for mailing.

I also generate our quarterly worship servant schedules, prepare letters and mailings, emails, and maintain communication with volunteers across multiple ministries.

Team Collaboration & Special Events

Throughout the year, I worked closely with pastors and ministry teams on seasonal events and special projects, including:

- Easter and Christmas materials
- God's Grace Is Amazing Day
- God's Work. Our Hands!
- Missions Apple Pie Sale
- Oktoberfest

- Seasonal flower ordering, labeling, and delivery coordination
- Flyers, postcards, and visual materials for outreach, youth events, the Glows Parade, and congregational communication

Working with our CYF team continues to be a special joy. From VBS to BLAST, I help support their communication needs, digital postings, registration processes, and event materials to ensure our children, youth, and families have an organized and meaningful year of programming.

Gratitude

This year demanded perseverance, and I am profoundly grateful for the staff and volunteers at Grace who supported me with kindness, understanding, and encouragement during times when life felt heavy. Their compassion has been a reflection of Christ's love, and I cannot thank them enough.

My deepest gratitude extends to:

- Pastor Allison, for her guidance, leadership, and willingness to collaborate on creative projects.
- Pastor Cole, for his energy, kindness, and partnership in supporting youth and outreach ministries.
- Jane Reiman, for her dependable teamwork on financial processes, annual audits, deposits, and reports.
- Brad and Travis Anderson, for coordinating supplies, building needs, and daily operations with patience and reliability.
- Amber Hansen for her passion and dedication to our Open Door Community Meal
- Our teams, for working so passionately alongside our staff to create a wonderful worship environment at Grace.
- And to every volunteer who gives their time so generously to help make this ministry flourish.

Thank you for pouring your heart into what you do. It is a true blessing to our congregation and community.

Despite the difficulties I faced in my personal life this year, the Lord has continued to bless me richly through the work I am privileged to do here at Grace. Serving this congregation remains one of the greatest joys in my life. Thank you to the staff, members, and volunteers who make Grace not only a workplace, but a spiritual home of encouragement and care.

May God bless you and your loved ones this year,
Nicole Kolbe

2025 Council Co-President's Report

The annual Congregational report is one of the tools of the Churchwide Organization and Synods uses to measure the vitality and resources of a given Lutheran Church. The co-presidents start the process of writing before the Council Retreat scheduled for Saturday February 7th At last year's retreat

Pastor Emily Carson shared her vision and aided us in goal setting. One important goal was Grace's updating of the constitution by-laws and goal setting. Co-President Troy Nemmers was the lead person for the constitutional activity, and the constitution work continues with defining what it means to be a member of Grace Lutheran Church.

The vitality of Grace is evident by examining the programs and successes of Blast, Care Ministry, Confirmation, Sunday School, Women's Bible Study, Open Door, People Helping People and Men's Breakfasts.

Open Door is a very successful outreach program for Grace Lutheran families and community members. Under the leadership of Amber Hansen, Open Door serves approximately 200 people each Wednesday night.

Stewardship Drive leadership leads us to focus on giving of our values of time, talents, and treasures. This team is very creative in asking the membership and guests to give to missions, youth programs, and worldwide drives for missionary support.

In closing we would like to thank staff and volunteers for all you do for Grace Lutheran Church.

Corinthians 9:8: "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that by always having enough of everything you may share abundantly in every good work." I am blessed and I thank council members, Pastors, and staff for every good work done on behalf of Grace Lutheran Church.

By Dr. Cherylnn Brumbaugh


This past year was a whirlwind of activity as **WE** work to strengthen our congregation and define a path forward for all to be included and welcomed at Grace Lutheran Church. This is not done by one or two, but with the direction of the Holy Spirit and the constant effort of our Pastors, staff, council, team members, and volunteers that support the church. **WE** have all contributed to strengthening our congregation and improving the experience for everyone that attends worship services, bible study, BLAST, or any one of the many gathering opportunities that are available to all of us here at Grace. Thanks for another year where **WE** boldly live out our faith in Jesus through worship, fellowship, and service to God and our neighbor, here and around the world.

The year began with the church council gathering again at the Pioneer Parsonage at the Martin County Historical site for its annual council retreat. This site is generously made available to the church by Lenny Tvedten. The council spent most of Saturday, February 8th with Pastor Emily Carson from the SE MN ELCA Synod leading us, setting goals, discussing stewardship, and getting to know each other better.

As was discussed in last year's report, the Council continued to work on updating Grace's constitution and bylaws. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly provides a model constitution as a starting point for the congregation, and it includes both required and recommended provisions from the ELCA. This model provides direction to be consistent with the governing documents of the ELCA as well as allowing organizational flexibility for local congregations.

While much of our existing constitution aligned with the model constitution, there were areas that needed to be modified or customized to Grace Lutheran Church. The council had discussions and revised these documents. The final draft was submitted to the Synod and after minor modifications, the Synod approved the Council bringing the updated constitution to the Congregation for a vote during this year's annual meeting.

All the Grace Teams were busy this year and commit many hours of volunteer time to customize our worship, educate our kids, reach out to those in need, manage building needs, maintain our staff, promote our mission, or enjoy our time together. You can review their year-end reports for more information. Thanks to all our volunteers and you are encouraged to reach out to a Pastor, staff, or council member if you have questions or would like to offer your time to any of these ministries.



Several years ago, the congregation reaffirmed the need for two full-time pastors and for the first time in many years Grace Lutheran was staffed for an entire year with two full-time permanent pastors. This stability over the past year has truly been a blessing to the congregation. Thanks to Pastor Allison and Pastor Cole for your guidance and direction. This was year two of our Stewardship Drive and our efforts to educate the congregation on what it means to be good stewards. This campaign was again successful and as you will hear in our financial report, the year ended on a positive note. However, stewardship is more than the financial contributions, it represents the time and talents of our staff (Nicole, Brad, Jane, Amber, Travis) and volunteers that keep our lights on, rearrange the fellowship hall, hang the greens, light the candles, play the music, run the tech, change the alter cloths, pay the bills, and the list goes on. Thanks to all!

The council continued to meet monthly and there were many topics for discussion. Some of those included the Constitution and bylaws, facility use, membership update, employee handbook, technology update, and potential for additional revenue sources. The council is very thoughtful in these discussions and considerate of others and the congregation during these decisions. Thanks to all our council members and welcome to those that will be joining the council in 2026.

Thanks to all as **WE** look forward to 2026 and all the wonderful things that **WE** can do at Grace Lutheran Church!

Troy Nemmers

2025 Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes

Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes January 19th, 2025

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Troy Nemmers, Council Co-President at 9:44 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall with a quorum present.

Opening Litany: Pastor Allison Cobb led the Opening Litany from the 2024 Annual Report with the members present.

Secretary's Report: The 2024 Annual Minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Larry Traetow to approve. Dennis Madsen seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Jane Reiman, Financial Director, provided information of the 2024 finances. All obligations were met and bills were paid. Brian Huebert moved to accept the report. Seconded by Kirsten Bressler. Motion carried.

Elections:

Congregational Council:

3 year term: The following members were nominated:

Nancy Backer
Corey Klanderud
Kirsten Bressler
Chery Brumbaugh
Andy Kryzer

A motion was made to accept nominations by Paul Kloeckner. Second by Brian Roggow. Motion carried.

Harlan Gorath moved to cast a unanimous ballot for the election of the nominees. Second by Bruce Ehlert. Motion carried.

Council Members (Term Continuing):

One Year Remaining:

Troy Nemmers
Kris Boerner
Ardel Prescott

Two Years Remaining:

Jamie Core
Joyce Eisenmenger
Mark Morris

Departing Council Members (Term Fulfilled)

Joice Forster
Josh Ensrud
Carolyn Bird
Brandon DeClercq

Larry Traetow moved to elect Jane Reiman and Louise Hendricks as delegates to the 2025 Synod Assembly. Second by Ben Jordan. Motion carried.

Kirsten Bressler moved to accept David Johnson, Randy Lubenow, and Jody Saxton as members of the audit committee. Second by Marion Holland. Motion carried.

Jane Reiman presented the 2025 budget. The budget will increase by \$770 over the 2024 budget. Harry Brumbaugh moved to approve. Seconded by Kirsten Bressler. Motion carried.

Old Business

The Call Committee was able to call Pastor Cole McCormick as associate pastor at Grace Lutheran Church. Pastor Cole was overwhelmingly voted to take on this role by the congregation. He began his ministerial duties in September of 2024. Amber Hanson was hired to be the Open Door Meal Coordinator starting in September of 2024.

Co-president Carolyn Bird reviewed the Grace Lutheran Church core values and mission statement. She then thanked council members, staff, pastors, teams, and all the volunteers of the Grace Family.

New Business

Troy Nemmers gave a report from the Service Team. He referenced a Capital Improvement Plan which will prioritize the needs of the church building. He requests if anyone sees building needs to please contact members of the service team or the pastors.

Pastor Allison announced that the church's 100th anniversary is July 8, 2028. She is looking for volunteers to serve on the planning committee.

Harlan Gorath, a long-term member of Grace, shared why he and his wife enjoy Grace Lutheran Church as their church home. They saw many ways to serve God and be a part of a welcoming church. They love the mission work that takes place at Grace and all the opportunities for youth to come to know the love of Jesus!

Closing: Pastor Cole thanked the members for coming and an appreciation to all members of the Grace Lutheran Church family.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 10:27 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joice Forster, Council Secretary

2025 Statistical Summary

Membership

Youth Baptisms: 11

Youth Confirmations: 21

Weddings: 4

Funerals: 17

Membership Additions:

By Baptisms: 13

By Transfer: 3

Other: 13

Membership Decreases:

By Death: 18

By Transfer: 33

Other: 20

Grace Lutheran Church Membership
as of 12/31/2025: 1,414

Special Worship Services Held:

Maundy Thursday (2), Good Friday (2),

Noon Lent (6), Easter (3), Thanksgiving (2),

Noon Advent (3), Christmas Eve (3)

Attendance

Sunday In-Person Average: 198

Wednesday In-Person Average: 50

Special Worship Services In-Person Average: 110

Sunday Online Average: 1,498

*Online averages are calculated by adding the number of views on Facebook, YouTube, and BoxCast, and then multiplied by 2 (per ELCA guidelines).

Annual Meeting Ballot Information

Council Member Nominees

2 Year Term - Cindy Wohlhuter

3 Year Term - Stephanie Busiahn, Brenda Lubenow, Terry Maakestad, and Katie Teachout

Council Members - Term Completed

Kris Boerner, Kirsten Bressler, Troy Nemmers, Ardel Prescott

Continuing Council Members - Term Remaining

1 Year Term - Jaime Core, Joyce Eisenmenger, Mark Morris

2 Year Term - Nancy Backer, Chery Brumbaugh, Corey Klanderud, Andy Kryzer.

Audit Committee Nominees

1 Year Term - David Johnson and Randy Lubenow

Ministry Team Reports

2025 Children, Youth, & Family Committee Annual Report

Hello Grace Family!

We are so thankful as we reflect on this past year within Children, Youth & Family Ministry at Grace! Our team of volunteers continue to dedicate countless hours learning and preparing for youth ministry. Thank you for staying connected via email and Facebook!

This spring, we celebrated Holy Week with the Palm Sunday Youth Breakfast. Many students and parents helped make it all happen. We cannot believe the tremendous support that we received! Thank YOU to all who attended! The class of 2025 Graduating seniors were recognized at the Baccalaureate service held on Sunday, March 30th. BLAST students also learned about Hummus, with a speaker attending the first week in May. On May 14th we celebrated our end of the year with a program for BLAST families and popcorn! The confirmation students enjoyed a pizza party!

June delivered another successful Vacation Bible School. Ingham Lake Okoboji counselors joined us to lead our 102 youth being “Captivated” Psalm 121:1-2 The students raised over \$600, in cash + food items to help our food pantry. They celebrated reaching their goal with pie in the face. The week ended with a program for their families and root beer floats!

In July, Pastor Cole & Becky Kelly, along with 4 students, headed to Rainelle, West Virginia for a youth mission trip. This activity was such a blessing to be able to have once again. The group spent the week attending Bible study, service projects, worship and had some free time too! Many memories were made during this opportunity.

September brought back the beginning of a new programming year. We kicked things off with a Back to Fall night. BLAST and Confirmation families were able to find their classrooms, meet the teachers and go over expectations for the upcoming year. We are so grateful for all of the continued volunteers to help make it all flow. We cannot do it without you- thank you decorators, teachers, personnel and of course, our youth! Our Youth Ed program offers BLAST education hour for 3 year olds through 6th grade and Confirmation ages 7th - 9th grade, September - May. We have worked hard getting the youth involved within the congregation. Our BLAST students attend choir each week with Kris Tillotson, rehearsing music to share with all of you. Alleluia & Cherub Choirs sing at each worship service two times throughout the year. What a joyful noise this brings to our ears!

We pray you have been able to witness one or more of these services. Confirmation students have added a special part to Grace as well. Each week, students experience large and small group discussions. They are learning to share their faith, by assisting with Gospel readings at services, greeting, acolyte and occasional service projects. Light cleaning of the classrooms and gathering areas each week have helped them learn the importance of taking care of God's home. Thank you confirmation students for all of your hard work!

On Sunday September 28th, our second graders were recognized as they received their very own Bible. Gods blessings to them as they seek and learn God's word throughout their lives. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:4-5

On October 26th, 21 confirmands were confirmed. What special day for them along with their family & friends. God's blessings to all of them!

Fill the carts food drive, took place in November and December.

Our BLAST students presented "The True Christmas Story" in December. It is pure joy to see their smiling faces sharing the Christmas story.

New this year, Pastor Cole has been hosting a once a month Baby Bible class for families with young children to gather with Bibles stories, crafts and small snack. A senior high group has also been meeting weekly.

We are always brainstorming new things to bring forward as well as continue all of the great things already happening here. It takes a village! We want to extend a huge THANK YOU to all who help in any way! Additional team members are needed, All are welcome!

Our Grace youth continue to share their time, love and talent with our congregation as well as within our community. Through their acts, Gods love and Jesus' good news spreads! We are looking forward to a wonderful 2026!

Blessings,

Your Children, Youth & Family Ministry Team

2025 Personnel Committee Annual Report

In 2025 there were no job vacancies which proved to make the year very quiet for this committee.

Volunteers are helping Nicole in the office as needed. The staff is grateful for the time these volunteers can give.

In July, the committee met to go over the revised Employee Handbook that Pastor Allison updated. The new policy is more thorough and includes updated MN requirements. The team approved the updates and sent it on for Council's approval. All employees received a copy of the new handbook.

We thank Carolyn Bird, outgoing council member, for her time in serving on the Personnel Committee.

Sandy and Pastor Allison met with Grace Lutheran staff employees for end of year chats that took place the beginning of December. Discussions on expectations, opportunities and possible goals for 2026.

We are thankful and blessed for our dedicated staff working together in accomplishing their job duties and responsibilities in making Grace Lutheran Church run smoothly.

We welcome others to join our team which supports the pastors and staff of Grace.

Respectfully submitted

2025 Personnel Committee Team

Sandy Griese, Chair, Chery Brumbaugh, council member, Pastor Allison Cobb, Advisor

2025 Worship Committee Annual Report

Grace Lutheran Church offers three different types of services. Traditional service begins at 8:30 am. The Contemporary service begins at 10:45 am. On Wednesday evenings, during the school year, the Praise Band has services at 6:30 pm and during the summer at Sylvania Park. In the Summer, there is one service at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. Grace has also been involved with our Ecumenical partners in working on collaborating worship services. Grace Lutheran Church has been blessed with musicians who have given their time and talent to provide music to the different services. A special thank-you to Sandy Ettesvold, Carol Madsen, Molly Bleess, Kris Tillotson, Joyce Jorgenson, and Jen Kahler with the Praise Band. There are also choirs to be involved in. For the children there are two choirs, the Alleluia and the Cherub choirs. Adults can become involved in the Chancel choir and/or Celebration Choir.

We also want to thank Blake Potthoff for the countless hours spent organizing and installing the two new sanctuary screens. Louise Hendricks also spent many hours setting up the slides to view the services on the screens.

On February 15th we celebrated Love Your Neighbor Day by assembling Care Bags and enjoying Valentine cookies.

Grace has two services bringing in opportunities to Worship with serving the community: God's Work Our Hands is in May and God's Grace is Amazing is in September.

This year, Worship on the Water was held at Ward Park in August, which was enjoyable and fulfilling for all.

On September 7th Grace had the Blessing of the Backpacks for the youth and included blessings for BLAST teachers and confirmation small group leaders in the service.

Grace also had a Blessing of the Animals Worship held at Sylvania Park in September.

In October, Grace had an Oktoberfest Dinner with Confirmation rehearsal, Wednesday, October 23rd then October 27th was Reformation/Confirmation service.

This year Blue Christmas was held on 12/7/2025 at both services.

Later that day, at 2 pm, there was a community Carols sing-a-long at the Red Rock Center with our Ecumenical partners.

12/14 was the Children's Christmas program at the 10:45 service.

This year, Christmas Eve services started with Cocoa and Carols at 11:00 am, followed by a 3:00 pm Contemporary service and an 8:00 pm Traditional service.

On 12/28 at 9:30 am Worship of Lessons and Carols.

The Worship Team welcomes any ideas and concerns you may have. Our goal is to strengthen and build your relationship with God.

Respectfully submitted,
Ilene Reiter and Kris Boerner

2025 Service Committee Annual Report

Received/Monitored the monthly general and trust accounts financial reports.

Reviewed the annual 2024 audit as presented by the Audit Committee.

The Stewardship Committee conducted the \$5 challenge campaign starting in April. Goal will be \$10,000.

Reviewed, updated and approved the draft of the Facility Use Covenant.

The Employee Handbook was given to the Personnel Committee for review and update. This was approved after the updates and sent to the Church Council for final approval.

Investigated upgrading the men's restroom on the lower level to be handicapped accessible.

New directional signs were purchased for the front door and parking lot entrance.

Two trees were planted on the south side of the building.

Purchased a sound system for the park services.

Volunteers have painted several areas lower-level and replaced the rubber base in the hallway.

Patton Roofing inspected the roof area and repaired the possible issue areas regarding water concerns.

Investigating tuckpointing areas.

Leased a new phone system. This was combined with our internet service, for a cost savings of \$100 per month.

The church congregation database project was completed to update the information including recategorizing each member to have more accurate information.

The annual floor top coat wax maintenance was completed in Fellowship Hall, basement and main floor halls, basement classrooms, some upstairs classrooms were top coated as necessary.

A group of volunteers helped clean out/reorganized several areas of the church. They also worked on cleaning up/trimming landscaping.

The ceiling in the stairs area on the third floor and a wall area near the choir loft were repaired.

Wi-Fi boosters were installed to increase the coverage.

Playground signage was installed.

A hearing assistant system was purchased with a donation to pay for the equipment.

Two TV's were installed in the sanctuary to replace the projectors that were not work. Donations were received to pay for this project.

The Stewardship Committee conducted the fall campaign.

Continue to work with the Custodian on maintenance/projects around the Church.

Worked with the Financial Director to prepare the 2026 annual budget.

Service Team Members – Troy Nemmers, Brian Roggow, Corey Klanderud, Dennis Trushenski, Paul Seibert, Pastor Allison Cobb, Jane Reiman

2025 Stewardship Committee Annual Report

Our Grace Stewardship team spent the first few months of 2025 learning from other sources about various Stewardship programs and read together *Funding Forward: A Pathway to More Sustainable Models for Ministry*. In September, the team started our Rivers of Living Water campaign using the Grace baptismal font and six buckets to show our major budget areas of Administration, Worship, Youth and Families, Fellowship & Outreach, Facilities & Outreach.

Our scripture reference was John 7:37-38,” Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”

Grace is blessed to have members who give from their hearts financially, through their commitment cards and offerings. Many also share their time and talents on teams that serve. This includes Open Door meals, help in the kitchen for funerals and other events, teach our children, build a Nativity, serve communion, sing in the choir, make prayer shawls and squares, help in the office and so many other areas that are so very important. This ensures Grace is a place where we all can honor our Savior and share our beliefs.

If you are interested in being on this team or if you have campaign suggestions that you have worked with in other churches please contact the office and we will get in touch with you.

We thank you all for your support of Grace.

Our team looks forward to learning more about Stewardship and bringing it to our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Wohlhuter

2025 Outreach/Fellowship Committee Annual Report

“To support and empower bold disciples of Jesus through frequent fellowship, community outreach, and making His love known to all throughout the world.”

Our Outreach Fellowship Team is dedicated to extending our mission to our congregation and others within in our community, building connections with members and non-members.

Our team partakes in helping with First Communion training. We had 10 youth along with their parents who participated. We served pizza, cookies, soft drinks and water. We had three stations set up in fellowship hall where we helped the kids prepare communion bread that they would partake in eating along with their families on their “First Communion” Sunday.

Outreach Fellowship oversees the food pantry at Grace, sorting and organizing the food on the shelves which is available for anyone within or outside of our congregation. We organize two food drives during the year. March is Minnesota Food Shelf month and in November we have a Thanksgiving food drive. During November food is brought up to the altar where the congregation can watch it grow. After food is collected from our food drives 10% of the food goes to Heaven’s Table, our local food shelf, and the remainder of the food is stored in our food pantry at Grace. We had Special Sunday of Thanks on November 23rd. Our team serves pumpkin bars and hot apple cider in appreciation of the many donations. Hanging of the Greens were also done on this day after services.

Grace hosted our Blue Earth Conference on May 1st for approximately 25 people. Our team served a light brunch of pastries, along with fruit, coffee and juice.

Outreach Fellowship assisted with Grace is Amazing Sunday on May 18th helping with the different stations set up, and again with God’s Work Our Hands on September 7th.

Worship in the Park began May 21st at Sylvania Park. Flyers were made for our team to distribute throughout different business in the community. We served root beer floats on August 10th.

Outreach Fellowship set up bars, punch and coffee for Worship on the Water at Ward’s Park on August 10th. Foil pans were set out at the church for volunteers to take and make bars for worship. This event was a wonderful way to share hospitality among other churches and people in our community.

Pizza with the Pastors was held on Sunday, September 28th at noon welcoming new members and others who may be interested in being part of the Grace family. Pizza, dessert pizza and beverages were served by our team.

We hosted our third Oktoberfest again this year with the help of team members and volunteers on October 22nd during Reformation week. It was another great success serving 221 people. We plan to continue this event annually.

Our team participated in the Community Carols Sing-Along at the Red Rock on December 7th. Other churches were also included in this event. We all brought snacks, along with punch and coffee. It was a joyous time singing all the traditional Christmas carols.

Meals on Wheels are done twice a year at Grace. Members volunteer to deliver the meals for two weeks in June and two weeks in September. A Sign-Up Genius is available to schedule their time.

Currently, Grace has three active Circles who meet monthly. They are the Shalom Circle, Sarah Circle and Mary Circle. We also have an independent Bible study group who meet weekly at Grace.

Our Lay Visitors Team brings encouragement and friendship to individuals. The number of aging members of Grace living in nursing homes or alone is increasing significantly. We are in need of volunteers to serve on this team, who are willing to meet with our shut-ins. Two people are assigned to each individual who will go as a pair. Each team of two will visit once a month.

Prayer Shawls continue to be a very important ministry for people who need comfort. Grace has dedicated members who make our prayer shawls and they are available to anyone who you feel would be in need of one.

Because of a group of willing volunteers our Star Tree continues to be a rewarding mission to people who may not receive a Christmas gift. A Sock Tree was also put up decorated with donated socks for the community. A special thanks to all of these volunteers within our church for their time and effort coordinating these missions.

Outreach and Fellowship Team members are Mary Kotewa, Carolyn Bird, Del Prescott, Joyce Eisenmenger, Nancy Backer and Jennifer Moore. We welcome anyone who would like to join our team. If you enjoy meeting people and interacting by serving others, our team is for you. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by Mary Kotewa, Outreach and Fellowship Chair

2025 Open Door Ministry Annual Report

I am now in my second year of coordinating the Open Door meal service here at Grace and have enjoyed working with our volunteer teams and noticed much growth. Open Door is a blessing to both our congregation as well as the community, keeping this program a freewill offering program and opening it to 'one and all' is a meaningful and reliable source for safety, comfort and nourishment for many. We offer a welcoming atmosphere with fresh made food that can be eaten at a table with family and friends or taken as a to-go for those that prefer to.

After reviewing costs and processes last year and creating a guideline for a budget I made some adjustments. We have reduced from ten serving teams down to nine and eliminated three of the meals from the past and replaced them with two more cost friendly options. With these changes each volunteer serving team is only needed to help serve three times this year. These changes also help to keep our cost per serving below our goal of less than \$3. Some large blessings and assets to our program this year have been added in a few ways; Thrivent members have applied for and donated several Community Impact Cards which I have been able to use to buy grocery supplies for meals, Martin County Pork Producers have donated certificates I have been able to use to purchase pork to use in making our meals, and many members have arisen to the calling to make or buy baked goods and bring them in for use at open doors which has reduced the cost of needing to purchase these things.

Open Door is always asking for and looking for anyone who is interested in helping out because 'many hands make light work'. As the years pass and life changes many volunteers need to step down from helping, I am pleased that we do have a few new helpers that have joined our list this year but we can always use more to sustain this program. I am able to help anyone find a place that works best for how you are interested in volunteering to keep this program a successful one. Whether you are interested to join a team, sign up as a backup helper, offer to bring in baked goods, want more information on how you can apply for a Thrivent Community Impact Card or just to come in before meals to help prep the food or perhaps you prefer to stay after meals to help clean-up. The possibilities for getting involved are vast and can be casual to fit your schedule.

In 2025 we continue to see increased numbers from past years and have served between 150 and 225! Having Open Door run in coordination with BLAST and Confirmation programs, as well as a place for members to eat before attending Wednesday night services has shown to be a convenience for families in our congregation and helped bring success for attendance of current and new members to all of these offerings here at Grace. The convenience for any age family to have one less meal to need to plan, prepare, or purchase each week is a great way for us to promote both Open Door and Wednesday's church activities while at the same time using our hands and hearts to do God's work and spread his word.

Blessings,

Amber Hansen

Open Door Coordinator

2025 GLC Missions Ministry Team

Our Mission is to follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus by serving others, providing hope for the hopeless, food for the hungry, and help for those in need. Our Motto is “God’s work, our hands.”

Our Mission Team core members include Louise Hendricks, Chair Person, Carol Cress, Secretary, and Jolene Rosol, Treasurer, Carol Voss, Carol Nasby, Bonnie Traetow, Larry Traetow, Marcia Schaefer, Carol Myhre, Dani Morris, and Pastor Cole. Paul Siebert and Neal Becker have also been very Involved in the Christmas Tree sales project.

Our 2025 budget supports 27 organizations and benefits “Mission Field”, International, Regional and Local programs in the ‘Mission Field.’ We also added a gift for Missionary, Katelyn Larson, serving in Columbia. With any additional funds in our budget at the end of the year we give to 2025 ‘Undesignated Needs’ and may roll over some into next year’s budget.

In addition to our regular projects, this year we held our “Rummage and Bake Sale for Missions” on August 1st and 2nd. Many donations of high value items contributed to our success. As always, we could not do this without willing GLC volunteers. Thank you!

The year’s fundraisers raised the following amounts,

February Phantom Tea.	\$1,375.64 net
Rummage and Bake Sale for Missions.	\$5,954.37 net
Apple Pie Bake	\$3,976.00 net
Homes for Homeless Snowmen	\$726.00 net
Christmas Tree Sales.	\$7,540.30 net

None of this great work would be possible without the gracious offerings of GLC members’ time, talents and resources. With your participation in mission activities, donations, special gifts, memorials, and fundraiser support, we have met our annual goal.

The success is yours; the work is the Lord’s. Thank you.

GLC Mission Team
Respectfully submitted,
Carol J. Cress, secretary. 12/22/25

Grace Lutheran Mission Financials 2025

1/01/2025 - 12/31/2025

OPENING BALANCE		\$11,532.87
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MONEY IN

Direct Deposits	\$79.50	
Envelopes and Cards	\$1,010.00	
Fund Raisers	\$31,726.05	
Memorial Gifts	\$1,565.00	
Grace and Growth Interest	<u>\$12,199.74</u>	<u>\$46,580.29</u>

TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE		\$58,113.16
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MONEY PAID OUT

Fund Raiser Expenses	\$12,029.24	
Mission Project Donations	<u>\$26,000.00</u>	<u>\$38,029.24</u>

CLOSING BALANCE		<u><u>\$20,083.92</u></u>
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Financial Reports

Grace & Growth Fund

Grace & Growth Balance 1-1-25		\$	233,699.30
2025 made/not distributed		\$	10,156.89
2024 Interest (gain/loss)		\$	25,157.20
		\$	269,013.39
2024 Interest Distributed:			
3% Inflation Reinvested		\$	757.72
2024 Interest Distributed:			
	\$ 12,199.74	50% Missions	
	\$ 6,099.87	25% Capital Equipment	
	\$ 2,439.95	10% Worship	
	\$ 2,439.95	10% Education	
	\$ 1,219.97	5% Library/Christian Promotion	\$ 24,399.48
			\$ 25,157.20
Fund Balance as of 12-31-25		\$	243,856.19

Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund (St. Paul/MN Foundation)

10-1-24 through 9-30-25

Accounts	182746	182249	Total
Beginning Balance 10-1-24	\$ 134,400.72	\$ 54,674.11	\$ 189,074.83
Total Period Grants	\$ (5,181.01)	\$ (2,098.91)	\$ (7,279.92)
Earnings Allocated to Account	\$ (18.71)	\$ (7.58)	\$ (26.29)
			\$ -
Administrative Cost Assessment	\$ (1,137.30)	\$ (460.74)	\$ (1,598.04)
Change in Value of Investment	\$ 9,497.42	\$ 3,864.41	\$ 13,361.83
Ending Balance 9-30-25	\$ 137,561.12	\$ 55,971.29	\$ 193,532.41

Memo

To: Congregation
From: David Johnson
Randy Lubenow

Date: January 8, 2026
Re: 2025 Audit Committee Report

The audit committee met on January 6, 2026 to perform the 2025 Grace Lutheran Church audit. This summary details the results of our audit.

Audit Procedures:

We performed audit procedures on revenues of the church. The audit committee selected two months, March and August, of information. The general and trust accounts were reviewed. Audit procedures included the following:

- We obtained copies of the monthly bank statements.
- We obtained the weekly offering envelopes and the worksheets of the weekly count of the offering envelopes.
- We obtained copies of the monthly profit and loss statements.
- We agreed the weekly count sheets to the deposits indicated on the bank statements.
- We agreed the monthly deposits on the bank statements to the monthly profit and loss statements.
- We traced a sample of weekly contributions from the members to the deposit statement.

We also performed audit procedures on church payables. We selected two months, March and August to review. The general and trust accounts were reviewed. Procedures included the following:

- We obtained copies of the bank statements.
- We obtained invoices for each check written.
- We agreed checks written to the supporting invoices.
- We agreed timesheets to payroll checks written.

Results:

It is our opinion that the 2025 annual report is an accurate account of the financial position of Grace Lutheran Church.

Church credit card account was audited and all expenses had receipts to back up amount and notes next to each transaction.

In our opinion all entries are entered and processed according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Recommendations:

We discussed with Pastor Allison the need to continue to look for additional revenue streams as expenses continue to rise and revenue stays fairly flat.

Respectfully Submitted,
2025 Audit Committee

Grace Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2025

	Dec 31, 25
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Petty cash	8.55
Profinium Checking Account	129,004.13
Total Checking/Savings	129,012.68
Total Current Assets	129,012.68
Fixed Assets	
Buildings & Equipment	
Church & Education Unit	1,091,752.00
Buildings & Equipment - Other	1,383.94
Total Buildings & Equipment	1,093,135.94
Furniture, fixtures, & equip	
Contents	93,826.96
Schantz Pipe Organ	91,268.73
Furniture, fixtures, & equip - Other	737.32
Total Furniture, fixtures, & equip	185,833.01
Land	
Church Lot	10,000.00
Parking Lot	80,902.45
Total Land	90,902.45
Total Fixed Assets	1,369,871.40
TOTAL ASSETS	1,498,884.08
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	1,754.49
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,754.49
Total Current Liabilities	1,754.49
Total Liabilities	1,754.49
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	1,389,908.58
Unrestrict (retained earnings)	106,331.75
Net Income	889.26
Total Equity	1,497,129.59
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,498,884.08

Grace Lutheran Church

Profit & Loss - YTD

January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributed support	
Christmas Offering	8,412.24
Easter Offering	2,727.00
Lenten Offering	2,792.00
Loose Offering	7,487.90
Offering Envelopes	435,987.45
Thanksgiving Offering	382.00
Total Contributed support	457,788.59
Misc. Income	6,211.03
Transfer Income	12,543.94
Total Income	476,543.56
Gross Profit	476,543.56
Expense	
CYF (Child, Youth & Family)	
Adult Ed Program	
General Ed Matl./Programs	113.29
Total Adult Ed Program	113.29
BLAST	
1st Communion	183.71
Curriculum	2,848.97
Supplies	600.82
Total BLAST	3,633.50
Confirmation	
Supplies/Meals	566.72
Total Confirmation	566.72
Programs	
Christmas	320.53
Teacher Appreciation	332.45
Total Programs	652.98
Vacation Bible School	
Curriculum	2,351.30
Supplies	514.82
Total Vacation Bible School	2,866.12

Grace Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss - YTD
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25
Youth Activities	1,152.69
Total CYF (Child, Youth & Family)	8,985.30
Fellowship	
Congregational Events	273.88
Good Friday/Thanks Worship	55.00
Open Door Meals	156.04
Sunday Fellowship	282.08
Total Fellowship	767.00
Outreach	
Benevolences	
BE River Conference	117.25
Synod Donations/Missions	16,500.00
Total Benevolences	16,617.25
Outreach Promotions	3,102.31
Total Outreach	19,719.56
Service (Trusteeship)	
Bank Service Charge	375.13
Facility Expenses	
Contracted Cleaning Service	8,004.00
Copy Machine Lease/Mai	4,947.14
Elevator Maintenance	1,189.05
Kitchen Supplies	96.53
Property Insurance	18,689.95
Repairs & Maintenance	21,636.64
Snow Removal	5,400.00
Trash/Recycling Removal	3,334.02
Total Facility Expenses	63,297.33
General Office Expenses	
Computers/Software	6,203.65
Contingency Provisions	50.00
Office Supplies	2,974.43
Postage, Shipping, Delivery	1,961.90
Staff Development	246.77
Ways of Grace	2,250.13
Web Site	696.00
Total General Office Expenses	14,382.88

Grace Lutheran Church

Profit & Loss - YTD

January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25
Other Personnel Expenses	
Continuing Education	2,460.00
Professional Expenses	747.68
Work Comp Insurance	2,171.25
	<hr/>
Total Other Personnel Expenses	5,378.93
Payroll Expenses	296,290.34
Stewardship Expenses	2,633.82
Travel & Meetings Expenses	
Conference, Convention, Meeting	2,259.99
Council Retreat	747.70
Mileage	1,958.68
	<hr/>
Total Travel & Meetings Expenses	4,966.37
Utilities	
Electric/Water	13,979.90
Heating	15,117.30
Internet	1,254.50
Telephone Services	5,951.32
	<hr/>
Total Utilities	36,303.02
Total Service (Trusteeship)	423,627.82
Transfer-Expense	13,918.44
Worship	
Advertising	260.00
Choir Music	211.26
Copyright Licenses	3,218.12
Instrument Maintenance	310.00
Worship Supplies	4,636.80
	<hr/>
Total Worship	8,636.18
	<hr/>
Total Expense	475,654.30
	<hr/>
Net Ordinary Income	889.26
	<hr/>
Net Income	889.26
	<hr/> <hr/>

Grace Lutheran Church Trust Account

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2025

	Dec 31, 25
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Profinium Checking Acct	184,165.86
Trust Investment Accts	
Mission Invest Fund-G&G-224855	68,424.74
Mission Invest Loan-G&G-5846	12,509.37
State Bank of Fairmont Acct-G&G	32,890.73
Thrivent Financial Acct-G&G	217,556.00
Total Trust Investment Accts	331,380.84
Total Checking/Savings	515,546.70
Total Current Assets	515,546.70
TOTAL ASSETS	515,546.70
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
CYF (Child, Youth, Family)	
Child, Youth, Family (CYF) Fund	2,644.21
Vacation Bible School (VBS)	3,387.17
2nd Grade Bibles	745.64
Adult Education	1,841.91
BLAST Offering	252.89
VBS (Offering)	1,912.92
Total CYF (Child, Youth, Family)	10,784.74
ENDOWMENT-MN FOUNDATION	
GLC/MN Foundation- Interest	95,255.31
GLC/MN Foundtion- Payout	-41,029.76
ENDOWMENT-MN FOUNDATION - Other	320.00
Total ENDOWMENT-MN FOUNDATION	54,545.55
GRACE & GROWTH	
Distributions made/not distrib.	
Capital Equipment	11,729.68
Education	10,995.44
Library/Christian Promotion	7,420.18
Worship	10,445.01
Total Distributions made/not distrib.	40,590.31
Grace & Growth- Balance	189,929.13
Grace & Growth- New \$ to invest	1,200.00
Grace & Growth Interest-SBF	667.96
Grace & Growth Int Missions Inv	9,891.84
Thrivent Gain/Loss on Investmen	1,576.95
Total GRACE & GROWTH	243,856.19
MEMORIALS	
Undesignated Memorials	14,117.03
Total MEMORIALS	14,117.03
OUTREACH MINISTRY	
Grace Food Pantry	4,511.35
Bereavement Classes	1,063.54
Pastor Visitation	1,000.00
Grace is Amazing	-481.72
Outreach/Evangelism	11,650.01

Grace Lutheran Church Trust Account

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2025

	Dec 31, 25
People Helping People	
Christmas Star Tree Program	25.00
People Helping People - Other	8,230.08
Total People Helping People	8,255.08
Prayer Shawls	484.83
Total OUTREACH MINISTRY	26,483.09
SERVICE MINISTRY/TRUSTEESHIP	
Continuing Ed - Pastor Cole	224.15
Continuing Ed - Pastor Allison	822.01
Building/Capital Campaign	120,847.01
Gardening/Flowers	0.10
Interest earned	2,157.78
Rebates/Refunds/Credits	2,216.06
Total SERVICE MINISTRY/TRUSTEESHIP	126,267.11
WORSHIP MINISTRY	
Worship Fund	1,616.13
Children's Choir	233.89
Altar Guild	146.12
Chancel Choir	715.00
Christmas Flowers	290.00
Contemporary Worship	458.26
Music Ministry	2,408.10
Praise Band	602.21
Total WORSHIP MINISTRY	6,469.71
YOUTH	
Youth Mission Trip - 2025	4,814.46
BLAST/Conf/VBS Registration	3,065.97
Merge	1,029.28
Youth Gathering	3,999.94
Post Confirmation Youth Project	1,000.00
Confirmation Retreats	267.00
Challenge (scholarships)	4,540.12
Palm Sunday Breakfast fundraise	2,415.24
Youth Fund	10,212.16
YOUTH - Other	-3,196.99
Total YOUTH	28,147.18
Total Other Current Liabilities	510,670.60
Total Current Liabilities	510,670.60
Total Liabilities	510,670.60
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	4,913.81
Unrestricted Net Assets	-37.71
Total Equity	4,876.10
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	515,546.70

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PROPOSED 2026 OPERATING BUDGET**

	2023		2024		2025		2026
	2023 Budget	Actuals 12/31/2023	2024 Budget	Actuals 12/31/2024	2025 Budget	Actuals 12/31/2025	Budget Proposal
Expenses							
CYF							
Adult Education Programs							
General Ed Matl./programs	1,000	313	1,000	468	1,000	113	1,000
Confirmation	1,000	1,099	1,000	979	1,000	567	1,000
BLAST							
1st Communion	300	192	300	313	300	184	
Curriculum	3,000	1,906	4,000	2,867	4,000	2,849	3,500
Supplies	2,500	1,038	1,500	461	1,500	601	1,800
Programs							
Christmas	500	73	500	390	500	320	-
Family Fun Fair	200						-
Rally Day/Year-end celebration	200		400	48	400		-
Special Programs	200		200		200		-
Teacher Appreciation	600	271	300	180	300	332	-
Tender Loving Children (TLC)	400		400		400		-
Youth Ed Development	600			-			-
Wednesday Summer Fun	1,000						-
Vacation Bible School							
Curriculum	* 1,600	300	* 1,600	-	1,600	2,351	* 3,000
Supplies	* 4,300	2,180	* 4,300	3,123	* 4,300	515	* 2,000
Youth Activities	4,000	2,473	5,000	399	5,000	1,153	5,000
TOTAL CYF	21,400	9,846	20,500	9,228	20,500	8,984	17,300
FELLOWSHIP							
Coffee (posted to Open Door, per Steve)							
Congregational Events	600	430	600	627	600	274	600
Sunday Fellowship (net)	2,000	941	1,000	1,046	1,000	282	1,000
Good Friday/Thanksgiving	300	83	300	22	300	55	300
Open Door (net)	2,700	6,383	5,500	5,384	5,500	156	5,500
TOTAL FELLOWSHIP	5,600	7,837	7,400	7,080	7,400	767	7,400
OUTREACH							
Benevolence							
Blue Earth River Conf.	* 235	235	* 235	152	* 235	117	* 235
Lutheran Social Services	* 1,000		* 1,000	-	* 1,000		* 1,000
Seminary	1,500		1,500		1,500		-
St. Luke's Home	* 500		* 500	-	* 500		* 500
Synod Donations	* 18,500	5,000	* 18,500	18,500	* 18,500	16,500	* 18,500
Outreach Promotions/Devotionals	3,100	2,609	3,000	2,692	3,000	3,102	3,000

	2023		2024		2025		2026
	2023 Budget	Actuals 12/31/2023	2024 Budget	Actuals 12/31/2024	2025 Budget	Actuals 12/31/2025	Budget Proposal
TOTAL OUTREACH	25,335	7,844	24,735	21,344	24,735	19,720	23,235
SERVICE							
Bank Service Charges (ACH)	1,100	687	900	410	600	375	400
Facility Expenses							
Contracted Cleaning Service	8,000	7,137	8,000	7,674	8,000	8,004	8,000
Copy Machine Lease/Maint.	4,000	4,634	5,000	5,054	5,400	4,947	5,000
Elevator Maintenance	1,100	1,325	1,500	1,132	1,500	1,189	1,500
Kitchen Supplies	500		500	-	500	97	500
Property Insurance	14,000	14,150	14,000	15,926	17,000	18,690	21,000
Repairs & Maintenance	25,000	24,592	25,000	24,533	25,000	21,637	25,000
Snow Removal	8,000	5,160	6,000	5,100	6,000	5,400	6,000
Trash/Recycling	2,500	2,903	2,500	2,726	2,700	3,334	3,000
General Office Supply							
Computers/Software	5,000	6,055	6,000	5,216	6,000	6,204	7,000
Contingency Provision	500	177	500	35	500	50	500
Office Supplies	4,000	4,632	4,500	4,844	4,500	2,974	4,000
Postage, Shipping, Delivery	2,500	1,334	2,000	1,678	2,000	1,962	2,200
Staff Development	500	436	500	391	500	247	500
Ways of Grace	9,500	4,124	3,000	2,688	3,000	2,250	2,000
Web Site	300		300	812	300	696	500
Other Personnel Expenses							
Apartment Rental Expenses		7,574		6,307	*		
Call Committee Expense		927		590			
Continuing Ed-pastors	1,800	1,548	1,800	1,240	2,400	2,460	2,350
Position Opening Advertising		610		305			
Professional Expenses	700	814	700	116	700	748	700
Pulpit Visiting Pastor		720	*	-	*		
Work Comp Insurance	4,000	2,019	2,100	2,300	2,500	2,171	2,200
Payroll Expenses	388,545	261,348	304,530	272,524	302,985	296,290	328,011
Stewardship Expenses	2,900	2,175	2,900	2,624	2,900	2,634	2,900
Travel & Meeting Expenses							
Conf/Conventions/Meetings/Seminars	1,700	1,659	1,700	1,439	1,700	2,260	1,700
Council Retreat	1,000	1,008	1,000	741	1,000	748	1,000
Mileage	2,000	2,676	2,000	2,387	2,000	1,959	2,000
Utilities							
Electric/Water	16,000	15,605	16,000	14,778	16,000	13,980	15,000
Heating	19,000	20,920	21,000	10,556	18,000	15,117	18,000
Internet	1,100	1,071	1,100	1,177	1,200	1,255	-
Telephone/Internet Service	5,000	4,955	5,000	5,353	5,500	5,951	4,500
TOTAL SERVICE	529,145	402,974	440,030	400,655	440,385	423,627	465,461
TRANSFER EXPENSE		3,694		9,643		13,918	

	2023 Budget	2023 Actuals 12/31/2023	2024 Budget	2024 Actuals 12/31/2024	2025 Budget	2025 Actuals 12/31/2025	2026 Budget Proposal
WORSHIP							
Advertising	850	140	300	210	350	260	300
Choir Music	300	60	300	398	400	211	300
Contemporary Worship	400	99					
Copyright Licenses	3,000	2,752	3,000	3,006	3,000	3,218	3,000
Gifts & Incentives	1,000	783	500	739	500		
Instrument Maintenance	2,000	410	2,250	2,070	2,500	310	2,500
Sound/Projection Systems	1,000	23	1,000		1,000		1,000
Worship Supplies	4,000	5,823	7,000	4,386	7,000	4,637	6,000
TOTAL WORSHIP	12,550	10,090	14,350	10,809	14,750	8,636	13,100
Total Expenses	595,130	442,286	507,015	458,759	507,770	475,653	526,496

[illegible]

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

Founded on Faith

1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow' red to serve,

pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow' red to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.

The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!

Al - le - lu - ia!

All Creation Sings, 1048

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THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, GOD IS AT WORK ACROSS THE ELCA.

MISSION SUPPORT

A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

WHERE NEEDED MOST

Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Sign up to hear more stories of impact from the ELCA churchwide organization at [ELCA.org/subscribe](https://elca.org/subscribe).

Read about Mission Support and learn more at LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA.