

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

918 Garfield Avenue, Albert Lea, Minnesota

Church Offices (507) 373-6496

Basement / Kitchen (507) 373-7834

Janet A. White **Interim Senior Pastor**
 Lisa Vogelsang **Office Manager**
 Marsha Rafdal **Treasurer**
 Jim Wildeman **Custodian**
 Lori Tuchtenhagen **Parish Nurse**

Dustin Boyer **Youth Director**
 Loree Anderson **Education Director**
 Robert Tewes, A.I.M. **Organist/Music Director**
 Robert Tewes **Choral Director**
 Sherry Sebersen **Choral Director**

ANNUAL REPORT, 2014

	<u>Page</u>	<u>Agenda</u>
Altar Guild	20	1. Call to Order
Annual Meeting Minutes, 2014	11	2. Opening Devotions
Budget Proposal for 2015	37	3. Opening Hymn
Education Director	5	4. Approval of the Minutes
Good Earth Village	25	5. Reports of the Pastor, Church Council, Treasurer, Committees, and Others
Grace Lutheran WELCA	18	6. Report of Grace Foundation
Grace Foundation, Inc. of Albert Lea	15	7. Elections
Grace Seniors	14	8. Unfinished Business
Gustavus Adolphus College	27	9. New Business
Ministerial Reports	8	a. Approval of Resolution 2015a (Missionary for a Day Designation)
Ministry Team Reports:		b. Approval of Proposed 2015 Budget
Education and Library	(see page 5)	10. Closing Prayer
Life and Growth	22	11. Doxology
Memorial Team	23	
Mission Team	23	
Property and Finance	24	
Worship and Music	24	
Youth	(see page 4)	
Missionary for a Day	28	
Music Ministry	3	
Nominating Team	38	
Parish Nurse	7	
Pastoral Report	1	
Personnel Team	14	
President	13	
Resolution 2015a	28	
Treasurer	29	
Ushers	10	
Youth Director	4	

68th ANNUAL MEETING
 Sunday, January 25, 2015

REPORT OF THE INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Grace's Interim Senior Pastor. One of the things I have learned over the years is that every congregation is unique, with a personality all its own. I have met wonderful, faithful people in all the churches I have served. Grace is no exception. You are people who love your church. Since I have been here, I have found a congregation that is full of warm and caring people. I lost count of the number of offers I have received to stay overnight if the weather becomes too bad.

During my time here I have focused on bringing a warm and caring spirit to worship, preaching, and pastoral care. I work to provide worship and preaching that you will find meaningful in your daily lives of faith. I always appreciate the opportunities to know you better. It is a privilege to be invited into your lives as you experience all that life offers. Thank you for allowing me to celebrate with you during the good times and for inviting me to walk with you through times of illness, hardship, and even death.

I have also sought to provide an example of appropriate pastoral leadership in the areas of finance, personnel, and overall parish administration. Even with membership numbers lower than some of you have experienced in the past, you are a large congregation. You need to be addressing appropriate ways of handling the administration of a church your size. I am working to provide accurate membership numbers and information, and working to set in place appropriate financial management.

As I look ahead to the next months I am hopeful that the call committee will be provided with the best names to serve as Grace's next senior pastor. Thank you for your patience with a slow process. Your transitions team did a wonderful job of doing the groundwork of preparing the way for a call committee. You have a fine call committee in place. I have been pleased with their diligence.

I am thankful to the staff that was in place when I arrived here. Each has worked effectively in their area or in the ways we have expected them.

I am glad that Lisa Vogelsang's health is good and she is able to return to run the office in the ways that she was able to do in the past. I find her to be a gentle presence, and her calm demeanor is calming to me at the times when things seem chaotic.

Worship is central to the life of a congregation and Bob Tewes is a joy to work with. He is a skilled musician, but more than that, he is a church musician. I, too, am a musician and Bob is an inspiration to work with. I count on him to work with me to plan meaningful worship experiences for our church family.

Dustin Boyer has a wonderful ministry at Grace with our youth. He works collaboratively with other youth directors in the area to provide meaningful experiences for our youth. Your commitment to youth ministry through Dustin's work will hopefully keep our young people connected to the church beyond their confirmation. We hope that we are helping our young people make life-long commitments to God and to the church.

Loree Anderson is a tremendous gift in our education position. Loree provides wonderful learning and growing experiences for our children. Beyond that, Loree has helpful "church sense." She willingly steps up to assist me during this time of transition in appropriate ways. She is our "go to person" for computer and technology assistance. She wears many hats at our church and wears them well.

Marsha Rafdal has served Grace in a variety of positions over the years, most recently as your treasurer. With the pastoral change, her duties have changed dramatically. She has decided to leave this position. Thankfully she is willing to work with us as we work to replace her. I will miss her.

Jim Wildeman has been helpful to our staff and is a team player. He has done what has been asked of him by our staff members as they prepare for their ministry activities. A church building of this size and age presents daily challenges. We need someone willing to work at providing the care it demands.

Sherry Seberson directs our children's choir. She provides wonderful music that our children enjoy as they grow in their lives of faith. In the end, it's often the songs we learn as children that we remember longer than anything else.

Lori Tuchtenhagen is a wonderful partner in providing pastoral care for our members. I have appreciated her guidance as I've worked to get to know you. Lori has thoughtfully guided me to those of our members in need of a pastoral visit. Lori and I both appreciate your assistance in reaching those people in need of a visit.

I also want to thank Jim Westeng who has led you well as president of your church council. Jim has led through some tumultuous and difficult times. He has always worked to do the right thing for this church, even when that was hard for him. He has sought to do the right things in all matters. He has been supportive of my ministry and faithful to you in his service.

Our staff enjoys working together. It is a joy to be a part of them. But our work alone would not be enough. I also want to thank all of you who lead the ministry teams, boards, and other groups of this church. Thank you to those who step up to teach our children and our youth. Thank you to all who work to share the love of God in this place and in the world.

I thoroughly enjoyed September when the Life and Growth ministry team organized a month of celebrating your history and heritage. You are people who are proud of your church home. Your remaining charter members tell wonderful stories of the early days of this church and the history that has brought us to this day. You have experienced much change over the years. Have confidence in your present and confidence in your future. You still have much to celebrate and you still will be a vibrant presence in Albert Lea and partners in God's mission in the world.

I am pleased to be a part of your history. I don't know how long I will be with you, but I will work to be faithful to God and to you as I seek to guide you into your future.

God bless you, Grace Lutheran Church!

Pastor Janet White

REPORT OF THE MUSIC COORDINATOR / ORGANIST

Each year, at this time, we take pause--individually and corporately--to look backward in the rear view mirror of our lives and reflect upon the year that has now passed us by. While sometimes this feels like nothing more than an exercise in nostalgia, there are those times when deep reflection on a period of time becomes crucial toward making sense of our place within it. In so doing, we intentionally stop the treadmill of time to name-- by name-- each of the blessings and significant occurrences that have re-shaped us in the last year. You see, we all know that our lives are ever unfolding before us; but we are often wrongly confident that it is only others and external circumstances outside of us that are changing. We try to convince ourselves that we are the one stable element in it all. A true discernment of the situation reveals otherwise. Everything is changing. We are not exempt to change. Nothing remains constant in this life except for the enduring love of our God as it has been revealed to us through Christ Jesus.

The poet and theologian, Isaac Watts, tried to capture the feeling of this ongoing-movement of time in his well-known hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past (ELW 632)". He writes,

"Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day."

This past year for me personally and professionally has been one of those change-laden years. So many aspects of my life, and the relationships within it, have changed. I bid good-bye to my forties as I turned fifty this past summer. I said good-bye to dear friends whose earthly lives fell victim to the disease of cancer. Our church family has endured change through the departure of both of its called Pastors since last year's Annual Meeting. Each of these changes and losses affect us deeply and cause us to be anxious, confused, and in some cases perhaps even a bit bitter. We were so comfortable in the past life we thought we understood: we take pause, and try to make meaning of it all. And then we see new babies, meet new friends, welcome new opportunities, and observe signs of hope and positivity in our midst. We behold a new calendar year with its blank pages, waiting to document our new reality as it will become clear to us over the next twelve months. The promises of God to always be with us--in spite of our current circumstance--is what gives our life its direction, purpose and hope. Watts captures this optimism in his concluding stanza to that same hymn:

"O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home."

As I begin my fifteenth year as your Organist/Music Coordinator, I thank you for the confidence you place in me and my professional skills, and in the relationships we share together as friends and fellow-members of this great church family. I reflect fondly on the variety of worship opportunities we have shared together over the past year, particularly some of the unique services we experienced last summer. I remember several times when, with your help and talents, we were able to achieve, together, some really fine musical moments in our worship services. I so enjoyed our intentional celebration of the legacy of Grace this past Fall, as we heard stories from our charter members and relived the pride they had in giving birth to this church. I am thankful that this congregation, across all age-levels that responded to the ministry profile, have indicated that they highly value and take pride in the music and worship of this place. I am grateful for the many volunteers who sing, ring, and/or play instruments to enhance our music ministry. I am appreciative of Sherry Seberson, director of the Cherub Choir, and Angie Johnston who regularly helps with leading our weekly Wednesday Evening Prayer Services, and I am so enjoying working with Pastor Janet as she guides us through this period of transition. As we continue to grow and change through this period of interim-ministry, my prayer is that God will continue to touch our lives through the meaningful worship and music we share together, and that each of us will be open to the ways in which God is making all things new: even our church family here at Grace Lutheran.

*Robert Tewes, Associate in Ministry
Music Coordinator/Organist*

REPORT OF THE YOUTH DIRECTOR / YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. (Isaiah 43:18-19)

At this point in my life I have realized this ironic truth. Change can be a tough thing for some people to deal with. We want to hold on to the greatness in certain things. Which we can all understand, yet it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to who God made us to be. God created an ever-changing planet, with humanity that is destined for a temporary stay. Just in the last 100 years: farming is different, parenting is different, church is different, school is different, and most of all, technology is different. Seeing the world this way has helped me tremendously in many aspects of my life. I can't do my job how it was done 5 years ago, let alone 20. It's not even possible to use similar parenting techniques that were used 20 years ago. So I have learned to adapt, research, and study to stay relevant to the youth of our church. We have to ask ourselves if we are doing enough to prepare this church for a future.

I have officially worked at Grace for 5 full years now. What I am doing with my youth program has changed drastically. We have different programs and opportunities for our youth and are always striving to do more. My personal goal is to not just help kids find and grow in their faith; it has also been to help them live out their faith in today's world. What to expect so that they can be prepared when facing some of life's greatest challenges. We mix both fun with service together in many things that we do. There have been many times that we are at max capacity for a youth event. This past year we did a summer trip to Jamaica, and all those kids still participate in some way with our church, which I consider a huge plus for programs like that.

As we have been planning for this next year, you will see some activities youth have come to expect and also new things that kids can participate in in hopes of broadening their potential. We have the National Youth Gathering in Detroit, day trips, service projects, and many other things planned for these kids. We are also working on more programs to help kids prepare for college, and life after they graduate. There are so many ways we could use adult help and so that we can continue to keep things going strong. We have tried to plan things in a way that we eliminate excuses by doing events that are affordable and that don't conflict with sports.

So as we push into this New Year, I realize that it's hard not to remember how things used to be. We have seen a lot of things change this past year. I can't help but ask you what our focus should be? Should we sit still and wait and do nothing in hopes that things will stay as they were? Or should we try our hardest to continue to thrive in the absence of a senior pastor. We have a real opportunity to not just continue to maintain what we have but to also grow in the process. Not change, but add to what makes us great. Is it possible for Grace Lutheran Church to be relevant in 20 years? If so, what can you do to help us get there?

Blessings,

Dustin Boyer, Youth Director

Youth Ministry Team

Denise Andersen, Shari Anderson

Brandy Boettcher, Hunter Gade, Cammy Tewes

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION DIRECTOR / EDUCATION AND LIBRARY REPORT

The past year has been an active one for our Education Ministry Team.

Some of the highlights from our Faith Exploration Program

- We have 9 busy classrooms plus Fellowship Hall, the Chapel and the Treehouse in use each Sunday morning.
- There are 25 committed leaders and many high school and adult helpers teaching our Faith Exploration classes each Sunday morning.
- Throughout the year we have six Faith Steps for Families classes that run 3-5 weeks each taught by members of Grace. These are a favorite of many families. Students will attend with their parents on The Lord's Prayer, Apostles Creed, exploring the Bible, Prayer, First Communion and the Ten Commandments.
- This year we have three Service Sundays scheduled. These are for all of our Grace family. We provide a different service for our community at each one. All members are encouraged to attend as we serve together in putting together a project that impacts Albert Lea.
- Our 5th and 6th graders had two summer evening events this year. We invite the incoming 5th graders to join in and meet their class mates.
- Girls of Grace Event was attended by several of our girls in August. Girls of Grace teaches teen girls (6th -12th grade), their Moms and leaders how to live freely, love fiercely and lead fearlessly as a Girl of Grace through a high-impact, all-day event featuring your favorite artists, speaking, worship and interactive sessions.
- Generation Change event was held in November, a financial class for 13–18 yr. olds. Generation Change is an all-new suite of Bible studies designed to lead teens to a better understanding of God, themselves and their money—and how it all works together. In the three different teaching series, students are equipped with biblical principles to BE who God created them to be, DO more with their money, and GO out into the world ready to write their story.
- The Children's Christmas Program was held at the new time of 11:30. We had great attendance by both students as members of the cast and Grace members. Our director this year was Brenda Herr and she has graciously volunteered to direct next year. We are truly fortunate to have her.



Some of the highlights from our VBS Program last Summer

- VBS ran August 24th -28th, 6:00–8:15pm, with an average of 60 students from our church and the community, each night and 25 volunteers.
- Our theme was Weird Animals. We learned that no matter who we are or how different we think we are, God loves us.
- Our volunteers have just as much fun and learning as our students.
- We collected funds to donate to the ELCA WELLS program, we donated enough to purchase half a well for a community.
- We plan to continue this outreach into our community during the summer of 2015. We are able to provide this event with the generous support of the Grace Foundation and member donations, as VBS is not funded through the church operating budget.



Some of the highlights from our Confirmation Program

- We took 17 eighth grade students to confirmation camp at GEV.
- There are 53 confirmation students in 7th -9th grades this year.
- This year we have 10 adult small group leaders, 3 teaching leaders and 2 volunteer support staff.
- In October we confirmed 17 students. This year we changed the confirmation potluck to a confirmation breakfast that allowed the entire congregation to see, talk with, and congratulate our confirmands.
- We attended the Winter Warm up at Gustavus for local ELCA confirmation students. Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber was the speaker.
- We hosted our annual Advent Festival this year, with the theme "The Miracle of Jesus."
- Our Faith Guide program continues into its second year and we have added the 9th and 10th grade components to this.
- Students continue to serve suppers and as ushers during Lent.



Library

- New books this past year have focused on more resource materials for family, prayer, marriage, money, grief and inspiration for all ages, along with increasing our children and teen selections.
- Our library relies on your generous donations. It is not funded by the church operating budget. Each February we do a *Love Our Library* fundraiser. In 2014 we sponsored an art auction, using artwork from our preschool thru 6th grade students.
- Dedicated volunteer, Corrine Tims, maintains our books and our computerized book inventory.

Some other Areas

We have had some issues the last couple of years with keeping the classrooms at usable and comfortable temperatures. Last year we locked all the classrooms and this caused many rooms to either be very hot or very cold. In fact, one room experienced frozen pipes as a result of this and another room experienced some mold issues. We have fixed the pipe and the wall in S3. We also addressed the issues in B10 and completely remodeled this room. All the classrooms and hallways upstairs received new paint over the summer. This year we are keeping all the doors open to allow adequate air flow and put fans in each room. This has been very helpful. The preschool room is still very cold and we are experimenting with portable heaters, however electrical is in short supply,

Some space issues have been encountered with many very small classrooms and having larger class sizes. One way we deal with that is by using the Chapel for our Family Faith Step Classes on Sunday mornings and confirmation on Wednesday evenings. We use the Chapel for a classroom during 80% of our school year on Sunday Mornings and Wednesday evenings. However, this space has some heat issues. The heat in there never shuts off so it is extremely hot. We have to leave the windows open overnight to make it bearable to use the next day. There is only one non-grounded electrical outlet in there and the seating is very restrictive for classroom/learning experience use. It is our hope that the Council will consider a proposal to update the seating to chairs that connect into pews, along with electrical and AV updates. This would allow the space to continue to be the beautiful Chapel it is and give us the much needed usable classroom space. Keeping it a worship space and not take away from its beauty is very important.

We have awesome things happening here at Grace and the plan is to continue them. We are growing and we are making a difference.

Yours in Christ,

Loree Anderson, Education Director

Education Ministry Team

Nikki Schumaker, Emma Tewes

REPORT OF THE PARISH NURSE

This ministry is grounded in the tradition of the church, "*to preach the kingdom of God and to heal*" (Luke 9:2).

Today, health care has become increasingly segmented and complex. People have difficulty sorting out and receiving services they need. Fortunately, health professions and the church have recognized the need for a healthcare ministry, and this is how the concept of parish nursing was born. Parish nurses do not provide home healthcare nursing. When such care is needed, a parish nurse makes the appropriate referral to a community agency. Parish nurses work in partnership with clergy and healthcare organizations to advocate for health and well-being of the faith community.

Parish nurses are registered nurses prepared in wholistic ministry to work with members of a faith community in many ways:

- **Call or visit members in homes, hospitals, care facilities, and jails.**
The past year I have made 588 contacts with Grace Lutheran members.
- **Assist in obtaining needed health services by making referral to community agencies.**
I network with other area parish nurses by hosting a monthly area parish nurses meeting at Grace as these agencies are constantly changing.
- **Promote wellness through education and screenings.**
I offer education when needed with personal visits, or through the use of Grace Note articles that are mailed to members' homes monthly.
- **Develop support groups within the church.**
I offer support groups on the fourth Monday of the month for those whom have experienced loss of a loved one, loss of health or struggling with life's challenges.
- **Offer spiritual support.**
When visiting, I offer to share scripture, the sacrament of communion, and prayers for the individual, their family, our church family, and worldly concerns. Last year making 163 in-home visits, I shared communion with 89 individuals. This also allows the opportunity to offer a gift of love from our congregation in the form of cookies from the Cookie Ministry, a Prayer Shawl made by our volunteers, or a warm meal prepared and delivered by the Meal Ministry.

The parish nurse program within a congregation also recognizes that the ministry of the church community is to proclaim God's desire that we strive toward an abundant, healthful life. Jesus says in John 10:10, "*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*"

God's Blessings,

Lori Tuchtenhagen, Parish Nurse

MINISTERIAL REPORT

<u>WORSHIP SERVICES</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Total Sunday Worship Services	107	107	73
Total Weekday Worship Services	56	57	56
Total Services with Communion	60	64	65

<u>PASTORAL ACTS</u>			
Children Baptized	22	16	13
Adults Baptized	0	0	0
Confirmation of 9 th Graders	20	14	17
Confirmation of Adults	0	0	0
Weddings	8	7	5
Reaffirmation of Wedding Vows	0	0	0
Funerals	36	25	22

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Increases:

a. By Baptism (Children)	22	16	13
b. By Baptism (Adults)	0	0	0
c. By Reaffirmation of Faith	10	15	0
d. By Letter of Transfer	26	17	0
e. By Adult Instruction	0	0	0
f. From Other Sources	0	0	0
g. By Confirmation (not previously baptized members)	2	1	3

TOTAL 60 49 16

Decreases:

a. By Death	30	22	20
b. Inactive Member Reduction	0	0	683
c. By Transfer to ELCA Congregations	11	10	19
d. By Transfer to Other Lutheran Congregations	1	0	7
e. By Release to Non-Lutheran Congregations	3	1	2
f. For Other Reasons (or requested removal)	9	15	37

TOTAL 54 48 768

TOTAL BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP

Total Baptized Membership, December 31, 2013	2,665
Total Baptized Membership, December 31, 2014	1,913
NET FOR 2014	- 752

TOTAL CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP

Total Confirmed Membership, December 31, 2013	1,951
Total Confirmed Membership, December 31, 2014	1,423
NET FOR 2014	- 528

MINISTERIAL REPORT

2014 BAPTISMS: (13) Lainey Kathryn Dahl, Evan Milo Joseph Nesse, Jason Michael Folie, Derek Richard Charles Prihoda, Andrew Mark Zoller, Matthew Joshua Zoller, Jaxson Henry Hove, Grant Joseph Haugsdal, Adelaide Doris Schafer, Makenzie Ann Woitas, Gunner Joseph Russo, Kasey Ann Gehring, Ella Avery Pederson.

2014 MARRIAGES: (5) Jenna Vogelsang and Tyler Hegwood, Marissa Loge and Johnny Talamantes, Stephanie Novotny and Dustin Cole, Nicole Grahn and Dillon Hansen, Camille Morehart and Robert Rasmussen.

2014 REAFFIRMATION OF VOWS: (None)

2014 DEATHS: (22) Donald A. Brandt, Deloris (Dee) M. Peterson, *Donald N. Searles, Phyllis M. Nelson, Marvin A. Drescher, Richard "Dick" Godtland, Georgia B. Johnson, *Morgan A. Twedt, Kim E. Yotter, Irene M. Erickson, Lorna M. Anderson, Shirley J. Gold, Kenneth L. Niebuhr, Delores E. Worke, Marlene K. Leegaard, Loren R. Grasdalen, Marion L. McDaniel, Evelyn C. Wakefield, Betty L. Avery, Violet D. Bos, Lois M. Wangen, Arladeen M. Dahl.

***Denotes non-member.**

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED INTO GRACE LUTHERAN: (None)

REMOVAL/MEMBERS REQUESTING RELEASE OF MEMBERSHIP: Benjamin Robinson, Ben & Jenny Davis and family, Alyssa Gove, Michael & Anita Vogt, Josephine Meyer, Lon & Mary Hopperstad, Brian Amundson, Cory Amundson, Clay & Brenda Anderson, Lisa Buchanan, Georgia Hansen, Brittany Hanson, Ryan Hanson, Jeffrey & Sara Lindsey and family, Linda Mestnik, Reid Olson, Elizabeth Schreiber, Kate Schreiber, Sara Skrlin, Kevin Nelson, Larry & Julie Tlamka and family, Angela Wrolson and family, Dave Nelson, Allison Nelson.

Additional inactive member reduction of 683 baptized, 475 confirmed.

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED OUT OF GRACE LUTHERAN: Kent & Barb Nelson, Steve & Barb Thue and family, Tracy Tlamka, Pastor Andrea J. Myers, Aaron & Lisa Gilliland and family, Chris & Marla Burkhart and family, Robert Nicolaus, Wendy Snyder and family, Kevin & Valerie Fox and family, Barbara Throlson, Arvid & Kay Stiles, Tim & Megan Piehl and family.

USHERS' REPORT, 2014

<u>SPECIAL SERVICES</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Mid-Week Lenten Services (average, 6 services)	192	174	195
Holy Week Attendance (Maundy Thursday, 1 service)	165	246	218
Good Friday Service	130	127	153
Easter Sunrise Service	83	87	--
Easter 8:00am	247	282	246
Easter 9:30am	347	297	355
Easter 11:00am	188	204	167
Thanksgiving Eve	166	140	113
Christmas Eve 3:00pm	307	290	294
Christmas Eve 5:00pm	326	262	347
Christmas Eve 11:00pm	200	141	170
Christmas Eve Total	833	693	811
Christmas Day	75	100	56

SUNDAYS

Total Sunday Attendance	19,278	17,181	14,451
January-May and September-December (average)	385	347	294
8:30 and 11:00am			
June-August, Sunday (average)	293	278	243
8:30 and 10:00am			
All Sundays - 12 months (average)	363	331	280
Sundays in the Year	53	52	52
Record Sunday	865	870	768
	# Easter	# Easter	## Easter
Record Sunday (other than Easter)	659	490	548
	(10/28)	(10/27)	(10/26)
	Confirmation	Confirmation	Confirmation

= Four Services

= Three Services

Respectfully submitted,

James Munyer, Director of Ushers

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Minutes of the
Sixty-seventh Annual Meeting
February 16, 2014

President Jim Westeng called the sixty-seventh annual meeting of Grace Lutheran Church to order at 12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Todd Walsh led devotions. The hymn, *We All Are One in Mission* was sung, accompanied by Robert Tewes. A motion was made by Jim Munyer and seconded by Craig Loehr to approve the agenda for the Annual Meeting; motion carried. A motion was made by Harlan Bang and seconded by Julie Drommerhausen to approve the minutes of the sixty-sixth Annual Meeting; motion carried.

Senior Pastor Report by Pastor Todd Walsh: Pastor Todd noted that this has been a year of change and transition. Pastor Andrea Myers accepted a new Call and was thanked for her years of ministry to this congregation. A new building maintenance plan was put into place after the building maintenance supervisor departed. Pastor Todd discussed the transition in staffing the office as a result of Lisa Vogelsang's illness. After excellent 'fill in' help from members, an interim office manager has been hired. He highlighted the one thing that does not change: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8) and is there to be our constant guide through all of the changes. Additional changes included adding a Visioning Team that is in the final stages of completing a congregation survey and introducing the Faith Guide element of Confirmation ministry. The staff was commended for dealing with all of the changes. Pastor Todd talked about where we are headed including calling a new associate pastor. In addition, there needs to be attention to ministry teams – their organization, increasing planning and participation by members rather than staff. He highlighted building needs including classroom updates, bathroom updates and improving the Fellowship Hall, chapel and Fireside Room as primary learning areas. He stressed that the most important area is determining who we are as a church, becoming more active in inviting and welcoming others, addressing issues that are a concern in our society and creating an environment where people want to be present and involved. Pastor Todd ended by thanking all staff members, Church Council, ministry teams, other church organizations and Jim Westeng, Council President, for all of their work the past year.

Treasurer's Report: Pastor Todd presented the treasurer's report. Bob Miller raised the concern that the American Legion is donating funds from their pancake breakfasts but those funds have not been reported anywhere. Pastor Todd said that it has been included in the upcoming *Grace Notes*. B. Miller made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as written which was seconded by Bruce Olson; motion carried.

Other Reports: The reports of the ministry teams and church organizations were addressed. Irm Kleih commented on Grace Seniors. She encouraged people to attend as there is always an interesting program included. Also, she invited people to consider taking over leadership of the group. Corrections were made on the Grace Foundation report including changing Congregational President from Hazel Spiering to Jim Westeng and including Mark Sanderson as a member of the board.

Church Council Elections: A motion was made by Sherry Seberson and seconded by Kathy Diaz to accept Julie Groeneweg, Nikki Schumaker, Jim Westeng and Gary Schindler (term ending in January 2015) for three year terms on Church Council and Sarah Sanderson to a one year term; motion carried. A motion was made by B. Olson and seconded by Roger Paul to accept Julie Groeneweg, Steve Vogt and Jim Westeng as delegates to St. John's Home; motion carried.

Grace Foundation: A motion was made by R. Paul and seconded by J. Groeneweg to accept Craig Loehr, Perry Loge and Jim Munyer for 3 year terms on the Grace Foundation Board; motion carried.

Synod Assembly: A motion was made by Bruce Hagen and seconded by K. Diaz to accept Phil and Kathie Rogers, Jim Munyer, Hazel Spiering and Julie Groeneweg as voting members to the Southeastern MN Synod Assembly; motion carried.

Nominating Team for 2015: A motion was made by C. Loehr and seconded by B. Hagen to accept Shari Anderson, Wes Dahl and Rich Oliphant as members of the nominating team for 2015; motion carried.

Personnel Team: A motion was made by J. Drommerhausen and seconded by B. Olson to accept Dale Buendorf, Judy Munyer and Tricia Dahl to three year terms on the Personnel Team; motion carried.

Scholarship Team: A motion was made by Jim Munyer and seconded by Hazel Spiering to accept Darlene Diemer, Julie Drommerhausen, LuVerne Godtland, Jeanne Gross and Steve Lee to the Scholarship Team for 2014; motion carried.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

a. Pastor Todd moved to accept the Resolution to support the following Missionary for a Day designations: Children's Vision International Orphanage in Bogota, Columbia; Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in St. Petersburg, Russia; a mission in the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, International Health Partners of Tanzania or the Morogoro Mission District; Lutheran Bible Institute in Bogota, Columbia; St. Catherine Lutheran Church in Valka, Latvia. It was seconded by H. Bang; motion carried.

b. A motion was made by Jim Munyer and seconded by B. Olson to accept the budget for 2015.

Discussion followed.

Kathy Diaz asked who is currently doing the plowing/shoveling work and shared her dissatisfaction with the job that is being done. President Westeng reported that Plaza Landscaping has the contract and that frequent contact has been made with them regarding their performance and with on-going instruction. It was noted that this is a 'trial' year.

Sherry Seberson asked who is responsible for establishing the budget. The response was that it is based on last year's budget. Pastor Todd looks at the current year's actual costs and then takes the information to the Property and Finance Ministry Team. They put together a budget proposal that is then taken to the Council. After the year-end financial information is all in, the budget is adjusted if needed and is taken before Council again. The Council recommends the budget that is taken to the congregation for approval.

A question was raised about the salary for a new associate pastor. Pastor Todd said that the budget is based on Pastor Andrea Myers' salary. The actual amount could change somewhat based on the new associate pastor's years of experience.

A question was raised about the decrease in the 'salaries' line. The response was that the full-time custodian dollars went from that line to part-time salaries and to the maintenance budget. The budget for those services is essentially unchanged but is reflected differently in the budget based on how the services are now being provided. There was also discussion about how the time being used by the contracted services compares with having a full-time custodian. Pastor Todd responded that this needs to be looked into as it is not known right now. He stated again that the costs in dollar amount are the same using either model. It was noted that having someone available in the building is very important; hiring the part-time custodian has been good.

Judy Menssen questioned the need for upgrades in the Fellowship Hall as it was just recently re-decorated. The response was that the updates would be to video and audio equipment which are still needed. Judy responded that she would be much more in favor of moving forward with getting the services broadcasted on TV again than in spending money remodeling bathrooms.

Bruce Hagen commented that there is more personal responsibility and respect for the building and the people when there are people on staff doing the work as compared to contracted services.

Jim Munyer called the question. Motion carried.

A motion was made by J. Drommerhausen and seconded by K. Diaz to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Pastor Todd provided a closing prayer. The Doxology was sung, accompanied by Robert Tewes.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Tennis Hanson, Council Secretary

Council Meeting following Annual Meeting:

Officers for 2014: President – Jim Westeng
Vice President – Wes Dahl
Secretary – Nikki Schumaker

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past year has brought us many changes. I think for the most part, they have been great changes that have challenged your Council and you, the congregation.

I thank all the people of this congregation for their support and prayers I know I have received. I thank you also for all of the volunteer hours you have given.

I love this church and have been proud to be called your President these last two years. Thanks for letting me serve you and see this church grow together in a very positive way.

God's Peace,

Jim Westeng, Congregational President
Grace Lutheran Church

PERSONNEL TEAM

It has been an interesting year for our congregation. There have been many changes throughout this calendar year for our staff. With these changes the team spoke individually with each member in November or December. The suggestions and considerations that were made by the staff members and the Personnel Team were presented to the Church Council.

As a committee we appreciate greatly the way this ministry team has pulled together during this transitional time to keep the church functioning. The Personnel Team will continue to be available to the staff along with the Council to work with our strong and committed staff that we are very fortunate to have at Grace Lutheran.

Respectfully submitted,

*Steve Bracker, Dale Buendorf
Tricia Dahl, Judy Munyer, Sandy Petersen
Hazel Spiering, Lanae Thorstad
Jim Westeng (Congregational President)
Pastor Janet White*

GRACE SENIORS

The 2014 year ended with a wonderful picnic in July at the home of Gerhard & Irmgard Kleih. This also ended the leadership of the Kleih's. They decided it was time for a rest. Evie Egland and Mary J. Peterson have combined together to keep Grace Seniors meetings active.

We started the new season in September with the annual Heritage Luncheon and the regular first meeting in September. We have had some very interesting programs with more to come in the coming months. We celebrate Christmas and Valentine's Day with dinners and at the other meetings we have coffee and wonderful Lutheran goodies.

Grace Seniors meet the second Wednesday of each month, usually at 2:00pm in the Fireside Room. We encourage all to join with us and come and see how much fun we have and what you can learn.

See you soon at Grace Seniors!

In His Service,

Evelyn Egland and Mary J. Peterson

GRACE FOUNDATION, INC.

The purpose of the Grace Lutheran Church Foundation continues to be to receive from Grace Lutheran members or from the public, gifts, bequests or properties as may from time to time be given. Its purpose is to invest and administer such gifts with proper regard for their safety and interest according to the will of the membership and the designation of the donors. Interest accrued from the funds and investment returns including realized and unrealized capital gains controlled by the Foundation may be designated by the board to be used for missions, education or other specific projects of Grace Lutheran Church in its gospel outreach.

In 2014 we had a very busy year and completed many projects of the Foundation which included forming two sub-committees which include an Investment Committee and Land Committee. We also made enhancement updates to the investment policy and hired Mark Smed from ISC Financial Advisors as our new investment advisor. Mr. Smed continuously monitors our investments and contacts the investment committee with any recommendations when needed.

Monetary support was again given in the form of scholarships to students from our congregation attending Lutheran colleges; 3 students were awarded scholarships. The Foundation once again supported the Vacation Bible School Program at GLC and the Youth Camp expenses and a few other educational ministries. Another item that was funded in conjunction with WELCA was the purchase of the Fireside Room chairs.

The main source of income for 2014 was from the farmland contract. This contract was renegotiated with a new renter for a 2 year contract. We also renewed our CRP contract that was expiring this year for another 15 year contract with the USDA.

As we look ahead to 2015, we will prayerfully consider the needs of Grace Lutheran Church and continue to provide appropriate financial support to the needs of the congregation, its ministry programs and gospel outreach.

The Foundation would like to express a special thank you to Jim Munyer, and Craig Loehr whose second 3 yr. terms are expiring. Their service to the Foundation is greatly appreciated.

The Foundation would also like to thank Perry Loge as his second 3 yr. term is also expiring, but will remain in the capacity as an advisory position to help transition the treasurer's position and duties to the next member.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Grace Foundation Board

Tom Sorenson, President

Perry Loge, Treasurer

Julie Drommerhausen, Secretary

Craig Loehr, Jim Munyer, Roger Paul, Mark Sanderson

Alex Johnston (Advisory)

Jim Westeng (Congregational President)

Pastor Janet White

GRACE FOUNDATION, INC.

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2014 and 2013

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Security Bank Checking Account	\$ 105,367.64	\$ 198,077.77
Fidelity Cash Account	0.00	39,970.60
Schwab Cash Account	10,278.77	0.00
Total Current Assets	<u>115,646.41</u>	<u>238,048.37</u>
Investments		
Fidelity Investments	0.00	112,634.05
Schwab Investments	200,649.96	0.00
Godtland Investments		
Mission Investment Fund CD	20,000.00	20,000.00
Mission Investment Fund CD	20,000.00	20,000.00
Mission Investment Fund CD	10,000.00	10,000.00
Security Bank CD	54,369.40	0.00
Security Bank CD	16,410.02	0.00
Total Investments	<u>120,779.42</u>	<u>50,000.00</u>
Fixed Assets		
H. Nelson Farm (Perpetuity)(At Appraised Market Value)	1,163,500.00	831,100.00
Total Fixed Assets	<u>1,163,500.00</u>	<u>831,100.00</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS	 <u>\$ 1,600,575.79</u>	 <u>\$ 1,231,782.42</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Equity		
Permanently Restricted Net Assets		
Perpetuity Money/Godtland	\$ 566,587.17	\$ 566,507.17
Farmland Market Value Increase	870,400.00	538,000.00
Current Year Memorials	50.00	80.00
Total Permanently Restricted	<u>1,437,037.17</u>	<u>1,104,587.17</u>
Restricted Net Assets		
Seminary Donations	150.00	150.00
Unrestricted Net Assets (Income)		
Current Year Unrestricted Net Income (Loss) (Less Memorials)	97,083.71	61,817.97
Unrealized Security Gains (Losses)	36,820.70	35,265.74
	29,484.21	29,961.54
Total Unrestricted Assets	<u>163,388.62</u>	<u>127,045.25</u>
Total Equity	<u>1,600,575.79</u>	<u>1,231,782.42</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	 <u>\$ 1,600,575.79</u>	 <u>\$ 1,231,782.42</u>

Notes on Financials:

- In 2012, we went to recording farmland value using County Assessor's market value
- The appraised market value of the farmland for the year 2015 is set at \$1,278,600.

INCOME STATEMENT

For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Income		
Checking Account Interest	\$ 97.64	\$ 188.01
Checking Account Interest - Godtland	39.80	0.00
Mission Fund Interest	281.60	1,138.69
Mission Fund Interest - Godtland	681.84	0.00
CD Interest - Godtland	174.91	0.00
Fidelity Interest/Dividends/CG Distributions	239.30	7,337.23
Schwab Interest/Dividends/CG Distributions	10,986.36	0.00
Farm Land Rent	41,160.00	41,160.00
Farm Land CRP	1,956.00	1,956.00
Memorials	50.00	80.00
Seminary Donations	0.00	0.00
Void Dec 2013 Scholarship Check	500.00	0.00
Wind Farm Rent	1,000.00	2,000.00
Total Income	<u>57,167.45</u>	<u>53,859.93</u>
Investment Sales		
Investments Sold	39,655.16	0.00
Cost of Investments Sold	(41,111.47)	0.00
Gain (Loss) on Investment Sales	<u>(1,456.31)</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Expense		
Student Grants	3,250.00	6,000.00
Property Taxes	9,746.88	7,302.00
Farm Expenses	447.62	0.00
Grace Lutheran Youth Camp Expense	0.00	3,415.00
Grace Lutheran VBS Expense	0.00	1,557.19
WELCA - Chair Purchase	4,375.00	0.00
Bank Charges	0.00	100.00
Safe Deposit Box Rent	40.00	40.00
Investment Expense	980.94	0.00
Tax Preparation	0.00	100.00
Total Expense	<u>18,840.44</u>	<u>18,514.19</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 36,870.70</u>	<u>\$ 35,345.74</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Loge

Grace Lutheran Foundation Treasurer, 2014

GRACE WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Grace Lutheran WELCA has had a productive and busy year. Thank you to all who support us in your prayers, giving and assistance to our missions and goals, of caring for others through our faith in God.

Some of the highlights of the year included providing 212 quilts to missions from our busy quilters, 13 layettes were completed and shipped (there is always a need for diapers, hand towels, *Ivory* soap bars in our layettes), 60 school kits which includes a school bag were made up and shipped.

The Heritage Luncheon was held with a delightful program provided by Jeanette Fortier who sang and told short stories related to a musical walk with women of the Bible. The Thankoffering was collected this year using envelopes on two Sundays with a handout explaining what the Thankoffering is used for. WELCA served coffee and refreshments at St. John's Lutheran Home four times this year. WELCA and the Grace Foundation shared the cost for new chairs in the Fireside Room. New members joining Grace receive one of the Grace cookbooks at the welcome reception.

Kitchen repairs included work on the main ovens which were calibrated with a new thermostat to provide correct cooking temps. The coffee machine and the refrigerator have also been repaired, and 4 new roasters have been purchased for the kitchen.

Our 37th Salad Luncheon, which is our largest fundraiser, was held this year with good attendance and great work by everyone. The Christmas Program was held with wonderful entertainment provided by Sonja Hill and Angie Johnston. Our Bible Study groups remained active this year and met monthly as Circle groups. New people are always welcome.

For everyone interested in what our WELCA is doing, please feel free to pick up a copy of the minutes of our meetings in the church office. All events provided by WELCA are supported by you as members of Grace through fundraising, gifts, memorials, cookbook sales, and our largest fundraiser, our Salad Luncheon.

Thank you to all of the WELCA Board members, as well as the members of Grace for all of your support. It has been an honor to serve as WELCA Co-Presidents this year, learning more about our church, the wonderful members, our Synod, and the work the WELCA Board does.

God bless you all,

Kay Goodmanson and Cheryl Page
2014 WELCA Co-Presidents

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN
Treasurer's Report, 2014

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Receipts:

Banquets and Special Events	\$3,385.00	
Caring & Sharing	3,966.00	
Circles	211.93	
Funerals	1,065.00	
Weddings	0.00	
Missions	739.74	
Interest	5.36	
Miscellaneous	<u>2,730.00</u>	
		\$12,103.03

Disbursements:

Banquets and Special Events	\$1,261.08	
Coffee	1,181.10	
ELCA	928.37	
Funerals	0.00	
Mission	993.39	
Roses for Babies	0.00	
Lutheran Women Today Subscriptions	0.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>5,036.95</u>	
		<u>\$9,400.89</u>

Year End Checking Account Balance \$2,702.14

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Year End Savings Account Balance \$8,345.00

Breakdown of Savings Account		
<i>General Fund</i>		<i>2,730.00</i>
<i>Conventions Fund</i>		<i>2,500.00</i>
<i>Appliance Fund</i>		<i>1,099.00</i>
<i>Kitchen Replacement/New Equip. Fund</i>		<i>1,104.00</i>
<i>Meal Ministry</i>		<i>70.00</i>
<i>Sewing Group Fund</i>		<u><i>842.00</i></u>
Total		<u><u>\$8,345.00</u></u>

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Carlson, WELCA Treasurer

ALTAR GUILD

Grace Lutheran Altar Guild prepares the altar for Sunday morning, Wednesday evening services, and special services throughout the year. This includes flower arrangements, communion, and preparation for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. We also assist families for Baptisms, Funerals, and Weddings.

We will again have a meeting on February 17th before the Lent and Easter season and a Fall Meeting on November 17th before the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. We celebrated at our Christmas Potluck in December. Our current membership is 21 active members and seven honorary (retired) members. We mourn the loss of Marion McDaniel and Lois Wangen, who died this past year. We continue to seek volunteers to join us and welcome new members to join us.

The Altar Guild Funds are used to purchase flowers for weekly services when needed and supplies used for services. The Altar Guild is also responsible for donations given in memory/honor of a special person or event for the purchase of altar flowers; or wine and bread used during communion. The suggested gift to the Flower Fund is \$35 and the Bread/Wine Fund is \$20. There are sign-up sheets located in the narthex for those interested, or contact the church office.

We are pleased to have Kay Goodmanson and Julie Drommerhausen in charge of the Wedding Committee. They have taken care of four weddings and five more are planned for next year so far.

Ona Meyer has retired from her duties on Funeral Committee and Marilee Citsay will take her place.

2015 Altar Guild Officers Installed

Kathie Rogers, Directress
Janet Henschel, Secretary
Carol Roberts, Treasurer

Funeral Committee

Marilee Citsay
Kathie Rogers

Wedding Committee

Kay Goodmanson
Julie Drommerhausen

We would like to thank the following for their help and contributions:

Lisa Vogelsang
Kent & Julie Jaspersen for the Thanksgiving decorations
Tina Stripe for supplying and arranging the altar flowers
Evelyn & Frank Wakefield for supplying and Palm Sunday palms
To all who have donated to the bread/wine and flower funds

Respectfully submitted,

Bev Field, Co-Directress
Kathie Rogers, Co-Directress

ALTAR GUILD
Treasurer's Report, 2014

Balance on hand, all accounts, January 1, 2014 \$4,825.25

Receipts:

Sunshine/Flower Fund	124.82	
Memorial/Wedding Fund	245.00	
Bread & Wine Fund	365.00	
Total Receipts		734.82

Disbursements:

Sunshine/Flower Fund	389.28	
(altar flowers, supplies, misc.)		
Memorial/Wedding Fund	-	
Bread, Wine, Cups & Wafers	617.71	
Total Disbursements		1,006.99

Balance on hand in all accounts, December 31, 2014 \$4,553.08

Balance in all accounts, December 31, 2014

Sunshine/flower Fund	197.69	
Wine/Bread Fund	461.26	
Memorial/Wedding Fund	3,894.13	
Total all Funds	\$ 4,553.08	

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Roberts

Altar Guild Treasurer, 2014

LIFE AND GROWTH / SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY TEAM

The ministry team concentrated energy, brainstorming and dialogue on ideas about how to grow the family of Grace – in fellowship, in caring, in hospitality. Information from the survey completed by the Visioning Team was used to help direct our work. Contacts were made to communicate with the other ministry teams so that we could work to support their activities and efforts.

During this past year, the concept of intergenerational gathering was continued through the Stay and Plays where members of all ages share a meal and activities. Although there has been a hiatus in the later part of the year, the Voyagers group made a trip to Chanhassen Dinner Theater to see *Fiddler on the Roof* in February, 2014. A special logo was developed through a group effort by Grace members that was used on T-shirts and polo shirts that were ordered. Another order will be placed in the spring.

As part of Bishop Steve Delzer's initiative to wipe out food insufficiency in our synod, an on-going food collection (Enough Food For All or EFFA) has been underway. This has been coordinated with the Mission Ministry Team who sees that the food gathered gets to the local food shelves. Grace has so generously donated over 500 pounds of food in addition to about 400 rolls of toilet paper!

The ministry team coordinated a series of 3 Sunday Adult Forums focused on the History of Grace Lutheran Church. Charter members were honored; slides and information were presented and the stories of current members were shared as part of this effort. A new, additional coffee hour was initiated to encourage fellowship. On the first Sunday of the month, *Fair Trade* coffee is served in the gathering space prior to the service in coordination with the Mission Team's sale of *Fair Trade* items.

A number of ideas that are continuing to be explored for future efforts include: a communication board where accomplishments, prayer concerns, needs, volunteer opportunities could be shared so that the family of Grace could better pursue the concept of 'God's work – our hands'; possible enhancements to new member orientation; expansion of the use of social media. The team will be welcoming new members to help continue the efforts to grow the ministry and fellowship of Grace Lutheran with the mission of **Bringing People Together and Becoming Disciples for Christ**.

Respectfully submitted,

Life and Growth / Social Concerns Ministry Team

Becky Tennis Hanson (Reporter)

Rich Oliphant, Sara Sanderson, Patty Tewes

Darin & Rebecca Passer, Jeanne Schindler

Pam Leland, Brad Kirchner

MEMORIAL TEAM

The Memorial Team's major project last year was the new sign on Garfield Avenue. We have heard from a lot of people that were pleased with the way it turned out. Most of the funds designated for memorials were spent on the sign. Prayer Garden funds were used for routine maintenance of the Prayer Garden. Thanks to all who committed their time maintaining the garden.

Please contact a team member if you have any suggestions for memorial funds, or the Prayer Garden.

Respectfully submitted,

Memorial Team

Harlan Bang, Judy Hall, Mary Hallum

Lester Perschbacher, Steve Thompson, Jim Westeng

MISSION MINISTRY TEAM

The Mission Ministry Team meets monthly on the first Wednesday. The areas of service this team assists with are as follows:

The *Fair Trade* Equal Exchange products which include coffee, tea, cocoa, baking cocoa, and olive oil which is sold from our kiosk on the first Sunday of the month. Olive wood sales have been completed. This year we have included the individual coffee brew cups, the Salvation Army Angel Tree, the Garden Table, the Hawthorne School project, the Haiti collection project, Habitat for Humanity, Channel One commodity distribution, Thanksgiving food project, the March Minnesota FoodShare project, the International Health Partners of U.S. and Tanzania and missions in Latvia, Tanzania, and the Russian Seminary.

This past year the Mission Team hosted Denny & Paula Lofstrom from the IHP (International Health Partners of U.S. and Tanzania). Their sales of their products and donations totaled \$821.00 and they will return again next October. The Angel Tree hosted 100 children's needs and these were all filled with gifts. Many fine fruits and vegetables were shared on the Garden Table and the donations were included in the Food Shelf donations. The World Hunger donations totaled \$2,348.25 and were sent to the Synod. Volunteers helping with local commodity distribution included seven Grace Lutheran members. This group serves between 60 and 70 seniors every month. The March Minnesota FoodShare project totaled 725 pounds of food and \$2,051.83 which went to the Ecumenical Food Shelf. Our Thanksgiving food drive totaled 625 pounds and \$1,679.05 was donated to the Ecumenical Food Shelf. Two van loads of pill bottles and medical equipment were taken to the center in Rochester for the Haiti project. The beanie baby project was overwhelming! We sent 4 large boxes to Alabama where they were packed in a container with medical supplies that was shipped to the Lofstrom's in Tanzania. The large beanies were sent to the Mental Health Center in Owatonna and the kids that went to Jamaica took beanies with them and 1 box was sent to the Haiti missions.

The Mission Ministry Team would like to thank all the members of Grace that make our projects a success.

Respectfully submitted,

Mission Ministry Team

Bill & Gwen Groskurth

Todd & Christma Lange Family

Phil & Kathie Rogers, Hazel Spiering

PROPERTY AND FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

Members of the Property and Finance Team are responsible for the finances and upkeep of the church. We meet monthly to ensure that any building issues are resolved and to manage the finances of the church.

Projects accomplished this year were: painting upstairs classrooms, tiling the stage area floor, tiles in front of the altar were repaired, outdoor steps were repaired, replaced the sanctuary lights with LED bulbs, upgraded the internet and phone service, and upgraded the Fellowship Hall electronic system. A lightning storm knocked out the power causing a lot of damage to the elevator. Insurance covered a lot of the expense. Within the heating system, 94 steam traps were replaced. We worked along with the Memorial Team on the new outdoor sign.

We would like to thank all members for their monetary donations. We also want to express our gratitude for everyone who donated their time and talents to the various projects that were done.

Respectfully submitted,

Property and Finance Ministry Team

Matt Stay, Kelvin Rehnelt

Jim Westeng, Steve Thompson, Wes Dahl

Marsha Rafdal (Treasurer)

Hazel Spiering (Chairperson)

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

Psalm 100

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.”

The Worship and Music Ministry Team met the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm.

We discussed music and worship concerns, schedules and events and would greatly appreciate any input from our congregation. We selected hymns for each Sunday making sure they coincided with that Sunday's texts.

We would like to specially thank Bob Tewes and Sherry Seberson for all of their work, and anyone else who contributed their talent to our worship services.

Respectfully submitted,

Worship and Music Ministry Team

Pat Arends, Bill Buege, Julie Groeneweg

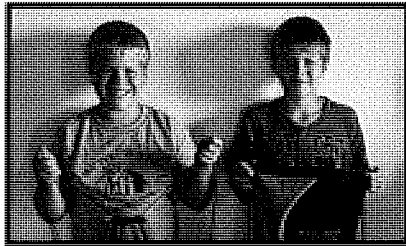
Robert Tewes

Sherry Seberson

Pastor Janet White

2014 was a year of major progress for our Leadership Development ministries. From summer camps to The Launch Project, new and revitalized programs were a major boost to the ministry.

- In 2014 we worked very hard to develop a curriculum around Good Earth Village's leadership initiative. During each day of camp, we focused on one of our key leadership components: Connect with God, Discover unique gifts, Trek deeper in faith and Engage the world differently. If you had the blessing of experiencing one of our closing programs, the commitment and focus



were obvious. We also received a grant through Lutheran World Relief to make school kits as an on-site service project. Campers made nearly 250

backpacks filled with school supplies, plus our older youth participated in off-site service projects. Although our staff was young, we invested a lot into them through staff training, bringing in several different professionals during our training, as well as adding a mid-summer inservice. We have over 80% of our 2014 staff interested in returning for 2015.

Another highlight is the addition of new camps in 2014. We added two new overnight camps this summer and both were filled to capacity. God's Good Earth, an older elementary



camp focused on environmental justice and creation care and Venture Mix, a new high school program designed to

push campers to explore their own gifts and leadership as through more intensive adventure activities. In addition to adding those two camps, we also expanded our day camp and On the Road programs.

- We continued the addition of new programming in our Youth Blasts, adding a winter Youth Blast in January, plus two new Youth Blasts in the Fall: one was a combo for older elementary and middle school and the other

was just for Middle School. Our theme, Bubble Up!, helped youth think of the different impacts when God's love bubbles up and spills over. We continue to focus on offering strong programs and inviting new churches to participate in our Youth Blasts.

- During last summer/early fall, we developed and hosted The Launch Project; a series of gatherings that were designed to provoke thinking, and to help us all to find faithful new ways to lead in our ministry. Led by renowned leaders of Christian thought and leadership practice, Rachel Held Evans, Jay Bakker and Nancy Ortberg, we engaged in meaningful dialogue around how to lead as Christians in our communities today. Our goals were to stir thoughts, provoke creativity, and to understand how our leadership might look different as we seek to grow ourselves, as well as the people we serve and then to go out and engage in ministry differently because of it.

The 2014 Launch Project was attended by just over 75 leaders and is currently in the planning stages for 2015.

- The Good Gifts Gala was Good Earth Village's 29th annual auction of quilts and other items! It was a fantastic new way to auction those items and generate needed resources for ministry. More than 150 people attended, and over \$60,000 in income was generated. We're deeply grateful for the hard work of our planning team, everyone who donated items for the auction, and all of the attendees who joined us in celebrating the ministry of Good Earth Village.



While 2014 was a great year for ministry with Good Earth Village, it proved to be one of our most difficult years in recent memory financially. Our revenues were down, and well below expectations, while donated dollars remained strong. That income reduction caused a great deal of struggle and difficult with maintaining the camp facilities and continued momentum to build strong ministry.

- 2014 was the first year in many that Good Earth Village's regular operations ended the year "in the red." Our net cash income for the year was just below zero. Our final audit report will be available at the time of our annual meeting (February 22), but if not for a surprising estate gift, the ministry would have ended 2014 around \$10,000 behind where it started the year.
- This change in net income is primarily the result of an unexpected decline in summer camp and retreat income. We're currently working on plans to turn that trend around. In the meantime, we need member churches and individuals to help with participation, as well as volunteer and financial support.
- Long-time supporters of Good Earth Village know that the tuition charged to summer campers doesn't cover the total costs of providing a week of camp. We con-

tinue to believe in the importance of making leadership development programs available to kids from all walks of life, and we're committed to providing financial assistance to those who need it.

For 2014, we're allowing parents to choose the price they wish to pay for summer camp – the full cost, a slightly subsidized price, or a more deeply subsidized price. No matter which price they pay, they're eligible to request scholarship funds. This makes it possible for families to pay the full cost if they can afford it, while making reduced fees available for those who need them. This is one way we can help to ensure that resources given to the ministry are used in the most effective way possible – making camp happen for kids who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity.

2014 was a year of huge advances in the way we deliver on our purpose – creating Christian leaders who will change the world. We're proud of the work we've done and confident of the transformation we witnessed in people's lives and work. In the midst of that progress, we experienced the most difficult year in recent memory financially. Thank you for making this ministry happen, and for your ongoing involvement – financial support, prayers, volunteerism and participation. We couldn't do it without the support of our member congregations and passionate supporters.

**Join us for our Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 22nd at 2pm
at St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna, MN**

• ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2014 •

Greetings to you from Gustavus Adolphus College! We consider ourselves your partners in ministry as we carry out our calling to help students attain their full potential as persons, develop a passion for lifelong learning, and launch into life prepared for lives of leadership and service. Our Lutheran identity is central to who we are as a college. We are proud of the tangible connection we maintain with the Lutheran Church and seek to be intentional in our efforts to involve the congregations in the life and governance of the College with more than 540 congregations that make up the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations. This Association is important as the place where official governing boards of the College are elected each April. Within this Association, key relationships are formed that help us maintain and grow this connection.

On July 1, Rebecca M. Bergman officially began her duties as the 17th president of Gustavus Adolphus College. The College's Board of Trustees announced in late February that Bergman would replace Jack Ohle, who retired after serving as president since July 2008. Bergman is the first woman in the 152-year history of the College to be named president. Bergman served on the College's Board of Trustees from 2007 to 2014 in a lay representative role from the Gustavus Association of Congregations. "Gustavus Adolphus College is a special place. Because I have been on the Board, I know firsthand the important role the Association of Congregations plays in the life of the college. I look forward to strengthening the partnerships with our congregations and continuing to bring the College to the Church and the Church to the College."

As you gather for your annual assembly, we hope you are inspired by the reminder of the many others who walk along side you in mission. We are blessed to be able to share numerous resources with your congregation. Thank you to the many of you who have made good use of our ministry partnership.

MARK YOUR 2015 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

• Annual Gustavus Faith Conference — APRIL 25, 2015

The theme for the 2015 conference will be *"Road to the Reformation: Deepening our Lutheran Theological Roots."* Dr. Samuel Torvend, Endowed Chair in Lutheran Studies and professor of religion at Pacific Lutheran University will speak on the topic, *"Lutheran Convictions and Economic Justice: Biblical Themes, Current Realities, and Ethical Choices."* Dr. Kathi Tunheim, Endowed Chair in Management and Leadership and associate professor of economics and management at Gustavus Adolphus College will speak on the topic, *"Generosity as a Response to a Culture of Greed."* The Gustavus Faith Conference is open to the public. The Annual Business Meeting of Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations will take place during the luncheon meeting. Thank you for sending your lay and clergy delegates to this important annual meeting.

• MAYDAY! Peace Conference—APRIL 29, 2015 *"The War Within: How can the Soldier be at Peace?"*

• Annual Nobel Conference®—OCTOBER 5-6, 2015 *"Addiction: Exploring the Science and Experience of an Equal Opportunity Condition"*

• Step Up — NOVEMBER 2015, a day-long workshop opportunity for congregations to draw upon the leadership development resources of Gustavus to equip key high school student leaders for ministry in the congregation. Students will interact with other student leaders from across the upper Mid-west region.

• Christmas in Christ Chapel—DECEMBER 4-6, 2015

For more information about these events and the many resources we offer congregations, please contact Church Relations in the Center for Servant Leadership (507-933-7001) or visit us on-line at: www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations. Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

Rev. Grady St. Dennis
College Chaplain/Director for Church Relations

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT

MISSIONARY FOR A DAY

Missionary for a Day is a project of Life and Growth Ministry Team. Projects supported are Children's Vision International Orphanage in Bogota; Lutheran Bible Institute in Bogota; St. Catherine Lutheran Church in Valka, Latvia; the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary Novosaratovka, St. Petersburg, Russia; and the Central Diocese and Morogoro Mission District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania.

Balance on Hand, December 31, 2013	\$ 3,862.73
Total Deposits	<u>1,612.67</u>
	\$ 5,475.40
 <u>Withdrawals:</u>	
Lutheran Seminary Novosaratovka	(534.00)
ELCA Tanzania Morogoro Mission	(1,239.73)
Children's Vision International	<u>(1,429.00)</u>
Total Withdrawals	(3,202.73)
 Balance on Hand, December 31, 2014	 \$ 2,272.67

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Severson, Treasurer

RESOLUTION 2015a **Annual Designation of Approved Missions for Missionary for a Day**

Whereas Resolution 2003a calls for the annual designation of approved missions for Missionary for a Day by the congregation at its Annual Meeting each year after review by the Life and Growth Ministry Team and Church Council; and

Whereas the Mission Team, Life and Growth Ministry Team, and Church Council have approved the proposed 2015 approved missions for Missionary for a Day;

Therefore be it resolved, that the missions designated for Missionary for a Day until next Annual Meeting shall be:

Children's Vision International Orphanage in Bogota, Columbia;
Evangelical Lutheran Seminary Novosaratovka in Saint Petersburg, Russia;
A mission in the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania
International Health Partners of Tanzania, or the Morogoro Mission District;
Lutheran Bible Institute in Bogota, Columbia; and
Saint Catherine Lutheran Church in Valka, Latvia.

REPORT OF THE GRACE LUTHERAN TREASURER

Balance Sheet

Grace Lutheran Church
918 Garfield Avenue
Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007
Dec 31 2014

ASSETS

Cash Accounts

Security Checking Account	54,431.16
Security Savings Account	4,799.97
Mission Investment Fund Account	104,142.01
Thrivent Savings Account	0.00
Ameritrade Account	0.00
Martin Luther Fund Checking Account	1,039.26
Ryan Scholarship Mission Investment Fund Account	10,000.00
Guse Scholarship Mission Investment Fund Account	25,000.00

Cash Accounts Total

199,412.40

TOTAL ASSETS

199,412.40

LIABILITIES AND FUNDS

LIABILITIES

Cash Accounts

Federal Payroll Taxes Payable	6,522.08
State Payroll Taxes Payable	960.93
Retained Earnings	13,486.39
Member Pretax Contribution	16,492.59

Cash Accounts Total

37,461.99

TOTAL LIABILITIES

37,461.99

FUND BALANCES

Undesignated

General Fund	76,451.65
--------------	-----------

Undesignated Total

76,451.65

Designated

Designated Education

Children's Ministry Fund	2,572.57
Library Fund	716.56

Designated Education Total

3,289.13

Designated Missions

Billboard Fund	633.34
Congregation Member Mission Fund	430.05
Martin Luther Fund	3,534.79
Hawthorne Fund	725.00

Designated Missions Total

5,323.18

Designated Parish Nurse

Prayer Shawl Fund	1,790.87
Parish Nurse Fund	208.24

Designated Parish Nurse Total

1,999.11

Designated Property	
Boiler Maintenance Fund	(9,348.56)
Building Fund	7,184.84
Memorials Fund	(2,613.25)
Prayer Garden Fund	5,603.53
Thrivent Choice Fund	10,901.69
WELCA Cookbook Fund	60.00
WELCA Expense Fund	(357.32)
Altar Guild Expense Fund	(325.29)
Sound System Fund	20.00
Designated Property Total	11,125.64

Designated Scholarships	
Godtland Scholarship Fund	12,682.84
Guse Nursing Scholarship Fund	26,541.44
Hanson Scholarship Fund	3,317.88
Loehr Scholarship Fund	0.00
Mathews Scholarship Fund	4,120.00
Lu Ryan Scholarship Fund	10,956.32
Don Gross Education Scholarship Fund	4,049.38
Egland Scholarship Fund	1,000.00
Designated Scholarships Total	62,667.86

Designated Worship	
Choir Robe Fund	3,539.74
Hymnal Fund	(71.36)
Music Fund	1,861.83
Organ Fund	3,269.24
Designated Worship Total	8,599.45

Designated Youth	
Camp Scholarship Fund	4,323.14
Foundation Camp Scholarship and VBS Fund	(4,293.50)
Youth Fund	(7,535.25)
Designated Youth Total	(7,505.61)

Designated Total 85,498.76

TOTAL FUNDS 161,950.41

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS 199,412.40

Difference 0.00

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Albert Lea, Minnesota

Report of the Treasurer
for the Year Ending December 31, 2014

Income and Expenditures

	2014	2014	2014
	Budget	Actual	Difference
Income			
Budgeted			
Budgeted Offering			
Envelopes	481,024.00	482,316.69	1,292.69
Initial Offering	1,000.00	860.00	(140.00)
Loose Offering	7,000.00	9,292.78	2,292.78
Love Offering	1,000.00	1,327.00	327.00
Lenten Offering	6,500.00	7,316.97	816.97
Easter	12,000.00	250.00	(11,750.00)
Thanksgiving	6,000.00	2,415.00	(3,585.00)
Christmas	10,000.00	12,287.00	2,287.00
	<hr/>		
Budgeted Offering Total	524,524.00	516,065.44	(8,458.56)
	<hr/>		
Budgeted Total	524,524.00	516,065.44	(8,458.56)
Undesignated			
Fees and Miscellaneous			
Miscellaneous Income		24,086.12	
Building Use		612.50	
Christmas Poinsettias		444.00	
Easter Lilies		719.00	
Equal Exchange Coffee		1,020.75	
Lutheran Magazine		217.95	
Olive Wood		934.50	
VBS Registration		50.00	
Wedding Fees		3,040.00	
		<hr/>	
Fees and Miscellaneous Total		31,124.82	
Interest Income			
Interest on Security Bank Checking		85.60	
Interest on Security Bank Savings		7.18	
Interest on Mission Investment Fund		934.10	
		<hr/>	
Interest Income Total		1,026.88	
		<hr/>	
Undesignated Total		32,151.70	

	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2014 Difference
Designated			
Designated Education			
Children's Ministry Fund		2,325.37	
Library Fund		422.36	
Voyagers		2,635.00	
Sunday School Offering		180.96	
		<hr/>	
Designated Education Total		5,563.69	
Designated Missions			
Martin Luther Fund		2,259.32	
Chart Your Course		4,022.25	
Local Food Shelves		3,730.88	
World Hunger		2,348.25	
Heifer International		666.44	
Hawthorne Fund		200.00	
		<hr/>	
Designated Missions Total		13,227.14	
Designated Parish Nurse			
Prayer Shawl Fund		340.00	
Parish Nurse Fund		325.00	
		<hr/>	
Designated Parish Nurse Total		665.00	
Designated Property			
Boiler Maintenance Fund Income		2,760.00	
Building Fund		2,308.00	
Grace Foundation		49.00	
Memorials Fund		3,545.00	
Prayer Garden Fund		922.00	
Thrivent Choice		5,857.00	
WELCA Expense Fund		76.90	
		<hr/>	
Designated Property Total		15,517.90	
Designated Scholarships			
Godtland Scholarship Fund		2,172.00	
Guse Nursing Scholarship Fund		1,292.26	
Loehr Scholarship Fund		500.00	
Lu Ryan Scholarship Fund		516.90	
Don Gross Education Scholarship Fund		311.00	
Egland Scholarship Fund Income		1,000.00	
		<hr/>	
Designated Scholarships Total		5,792.16	
Designated Worship			
Music Fund		1,255.00	
Organ Fund		30.00	
		<hr/>	

	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2014 Difference
Designated Worship Total		1,285.00	
Designated Youth			
Camp Scholarship Fund		910.00	
Youth Fund Donations		1,862.75	
Youth Chew'n'Chat		452.44	
Youth Event Income		5,165.22	
Youth Fundraiser		3,124.00	
Youth Pop Machine		577.85	
Youth Sunday Coffee		1,496.80	
Rally Day		478.75	
		<hr/>	
Designated Youth Total		14,067.81	
		<hr/>	
Designated Total		56,118.70	
		<hr/> <hr/>	
Total Income		604,335.84	
Expenditures			
Budgeted			
Mission to Others			
Southeastern Minnesota Synod Benevolence	34,400.00	33,724.07	(675.93)
Blue Earth River Conference Benevolence	200.00	197.40	(2.60)
Good Earth Village Membership	800.00	800.00	0.00
Lutheran Social Service Benevolence	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
St. John's Lutheran Home Benevolence	400.00	400.00	0.00
Emergency Assistance	0.00	100.00	100.00
		<hr/>	
Mission to Others Total	36,800.00	36,221.47	(578.53)
Pastoral Ministry			
Staff Salaries	242,177.00	254,532.55	12,355.55
Staff Wages	21,805.00	31,850.76	10,045.76
Section 105	0.00	6,522.61	6,522.61
Staff Expenses	0.00	198.15	198.15
Staff Development	3,000.00	1,608.25	(1,391.75)
Member Pretax Contributions	0.00	1,562.63	1,562.63
Pastors' Auto Allowance	9,000.00	9,809.89	809.89
Pastors' Professional Expenses	2,000.00	1,516.61	(483.39)
Pension and Health Insurance	28,209.00	24,603.87	(3,605.13)
Lay Staff Mileage	1,750.00	1,597.66	(152.34)
Lay Staff Social Security	11,529.00	12,038.35	509.35
Conference and Synod Assembly Registration	1,900.00	1,529.93	(370.07)
Guest Speakers	0.00	125.00	125.00
		<hr/>	

	Budget	Actual	Difference
Pastoral Ministry Total	321,370.00	347,496.26	26,126.26
Congregation Ministries			
Education Ministry Team	10,065.00	12,898.85	2,833.85
Life and Growth Ministry Team	1,200.00	2,275.46	1,075.46
Mission Ministry Team	500.00	235.40	(264.60)
Stewardship Ministry Team	4,000.00	3,392.75	(607.25)
Worship and Music Ministry Team	3,300.00	4,317.97	1,017.97
Youth Ministry Team	7,047.00	4,208.18	(2,838.82)
Administration	24,000.00	26,278.55	2,278.55
Advertising	1,500.00	2,833.00	1,333.00
Church Transportation	1,000.00	587.48	(412.52)
Miscellaneous	2,000.00	32,989.19	30,989.19
Congregation Ministries Total	54,612.00	90,016.83	35,404.83
Church Upkeep			
Boiler Maintenance Fund Setaside	4,000.00	4,076.92	76.92
New Equipment	3,000.00	17,357.06	14,357.06
Maintenance	45,742.00	50,628.40	4,886.40
Property and Liability Insurance	22,000.00	21,687.00	(313.00)
Utilities	37,000.00	38,218.29	1,218.29
Church Upkeep Total	111,742.00	131,967.67	20,225.67
Budgeted Total	524,524.00	605,702.23	81,178.23
Undesignated			
Fees and Miscellaneous			
Altar Flowers		56.00	
Christmas Poinsettias		490.00	
Easter Lilies		725.00	
Equal Exchange Coffee		1,025.37	
Lutheran Magazine		1,059.83	
Olive Wood Sales		934.50	
Wedding Expenses		1,775.00	
Fees and Miscellaneous Total		6,065.70	
Undesignated Total		6,065.70	
Designated			
Designated Education			
Library Fund		721.80	
Children's Ministry Fund		1,562.10	

	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2014 Difference
Voyagers		2,714.85	
Designated Education Total		4,998.75	
Designated Missions			
Martin Luther Fund		6,113.97	
Chart Your Course Albert Lea		2,251.00	
Chart Your Course Austin		1,921.50	
Heifer International		(4.38)	
Hawthorne Fund		100.00	
Local Food Shelves		3,730.88	
Missionary for a Day Expense		180.96	
World Hunger		2,348.25	
Heifer International		666.44	
Designated Missions Total		17,308.62	
Designated Parish Nurse			
Prayer Shawl Fund		248.57	
Parish Nurse Fund		431.65	
Designated Parish Nurse Total		680.22	
Designated Property			
Boiler Maintenance Fund Expenses		22,982.95	
Building Fund		1,960.02	
Memorials Fund		16,285.27	
Prayer Garden Fund		638.32	
Thrivent Choice		585.61	
WELCA Expense Fund		108.70	
Altar Guild Expense Fund Expenses		239.67	
Designated Property Total		42,800.54	
Designated Scholarships			
Godtland Scholarship Fund		500.00	
Guse Nursing Scholarship Fund		1,000.00	
Loehr Scholarship Fund		500.00	
Mathews Scholarship Fund		500.00	
Designated Scholarships Total		2,500.00	
Designated Worship			
Music Fund		3,901.59	
Designated Worship Total		3,901.59	
Designated Youth			
Camp Scholarship Fund		2,265.50	
Foundation Camp Scholarship and VBS Fund		5,138.50	
Youth-Chew'n Chat Cost of Goods Sold		879.31	

	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2014 Difference
Youth-Event Expense		21,256.89	
Youth-Pop Machine Cost of Goods Sold		294.20	
Youth Room Supplies		133.72	
Youth-Sunday Coffee Cost of Goods Sold		499.10	
Rally Day		706.15	
		<hr/>	
Designated Youth Total		31,173.37	
		<hr/>	
Designated Total		103,363.09	
		<hr/> <hr/>	
Total Expenditures		715,131.02	

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Rafdal, Treasurer

2015 BUDGET PROPOSAL

	2014	2014	2015
<u>OUR MISSIONS TO OTHERS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
Worldwide Missions - ELCA	34,400.00	33,724.07	34,400.00
Blue Earth River Conference	200.00	197.40	200.00
Good Earth Village Bible Camp	800.00	800.00	800.00
Lutheran Social Service	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
St. John's Lutheran Home	400.00	400.00	400.00
Emergency Assistance		100.00	
Sub-Total, Mission to Others	36,800.00	36,221.47	36,800.00
<u>OUR PASTORAL MINISTRY</u>			
Salaries	242,177.00	254,532.55	242,177.00
Part-time Support Staff	21,805.00	31,850.76	21,805.00
Section 105		6,522.61	
Staff Expenses		198.15	
Member Pretax Contributions		1,562.63	
Social Security (Lay Staff)	11,529.00	12,038.35	11,529.00
Pensions and Insurance (Pastors)	28,209.00	24,603.87	28,209.00
Pastor's Auto Allowance	9,000.00	9,809.89	9,000.00
Pastor's Professional Expenses/Staff Development	5,000.00	3,124.86	5,000.00
Conference and Convention	1,900.00	1,529.93	1,900.00
Lay Staff Mileage	1,750.00	1,597.66	1,750.00
Guest Speakers		125.00	
Sub-Total, Pastoral Ministry	321,370.00	347,496.26	321,370.00
<u>OUR CONGREGATION MINISTRIES</u>			
Education Ministry Team	10,065.00	12,898.85	10,065.00
Life and Growth Ministry Team	1,200.00	2,275.46	1,200.00
Mission Ministry Team	500.00	235.40	500.00
Stewardship Ministry Team	4,000.00	3,392.75	4,000.00
Worship Ministry Team	3,300.00	4,317.97	3,300.00
Youth Ministry Team	7,047.00	4,208.18	7,047.00
Administration	24,000.00	26,278.55	24,000.00
Advertising	1,500.00	2,833.00	1,500.00
Church Transportation	1,000.00	587.48	1,000.00
Miscellaneous	2,000.00	32,989.19	2,000.00
Sub-Total, Congregation Ministries	54,612.00	90,016.83	54,612.00
<u>OUR CHURCH UPKEEP</u>			
New Equipment	3,000.00	17,357.06	3,000.00
Utilities	37,000.00	38,218.29	37,000.00
Insurance	22,000.00	21,687.00	22,000.00
Maintenance – Building and Grounds	45,742.00	50,628.40	45,742.00
Boiler Maintenance Fund	4,000.00	4,076.92	4,000.00
Sub-Total, Church Upkeep	111,742.00	131,967.67	111,742.00
TOTAL BUDGET	524,524.00	605,702.23	524,524.00
Change from Previous Year	8,504.00		
Percent Change from Previous Year	1.65%		0%
Amount Per Sunday	\$ 10,087.00		\$ 10,087.00

NOMINATIONS FOR 2015

*** FOR CHURCH COUNCIL – 3 year term (January '15 to January '18):**

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 3. |
| 2. | 4. |

*** FOR CHURCH COUNCIL (Youth Advisory) – 1 year term (January '15 to January '16):**

- 1.
- 2.

PRESENT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Denise Andersen | Jan. 2015 | 6. Rich Oliphant | Jan. 2016 |
| 2. Shari Anderson | Jan. 2016 | 7. Gary Schindler | Jan. 2015 |
| 3. Wes Dahl | Jan. 2016 | 8. Nikki Schumaker | Jan. 2017 |
| 4. Julie Groeneweg | Jan. 2017 | 9. Steve Thompson | Jan. 2015 |
| 5. Becky Tennis Hanson | Jan. 2015 | 10. Jim Westeng | Jan. 2017 |

*** DELEGATES TO ST. JOHN'S HOME, Annual Meeting, Dec. 7th, 2015**

1. Denise Andersen
2. Becky Tennis Hanson
3. Gary Schindler
4. Steve Thompson

*** GRACE FOUNDATION – 3 year term (January '15 to January '18):**

- | | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1. Tricia Dahl | 3. |
| 2. Corrine Tims | |

PRESENT GRACE FOUNDATION, INC. DIRECTORS:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Julie Drommerhausen | Jan. 2016 | 6. Mark Sanderson | Jan. 2017 |
| 2. Craig Loehr | Jan. 2015 | 7. Tom Sorenson | Jan. 2017 |
| 3. Perry Loge | Jan. 2015 | 8. Alex Johnston, Advisory | |
| 4. Jim Munyer | Jan. 2015 | 9. Grace Council President | |
| 5. Roger Paul | Jan. 2016 | 10. Grace Senior Pastor | |

*** VOTING MEMBERS TO BLUE EARTH RIVER CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY
(Sunday, February 8, 2015, at First Lutheran Church, Albert Lea, MN)**

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 9. |
| 2. | 10. |
| 3. | 11. |
| 4. | 12. |
| 5. | 13. |
| 6. | 14. |
| 7. | 15. |
| 8. | |

*** VOTING MEMBERS TO SOUTHEASTERN MN SYNOD ASSEMBLY
(Rochester, Friday and Saturday, May 8-9, 2015)**

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | |

*** NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2016:**

- | | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1. Shari Anderson | 4. |
| 2. Wes Dahl | 5. |
| 3. Rich Oliphant | 6. |

*** PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – 3 year term (January '15 to January '18):**

1. Heather Earl
2. Darin Passer

PRESENT PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Steve Bracker | 6. Hazel Spiering |
| 2. Dale Buendorf (to retire) | 7. Lanae Thorstad |
| 3. Tricia Dahl | 8. Grace Council President |
| 4. Judy Munyer (to retire) | 9. Grace Senior Pastor |
| 5. Sandy Petersen | |

*** SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE FOR 2015:**

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Darlene Diemer | 4. Jeanne Gross |
| 2. Julie Drommerhausen | 5. Steve Lee |
| 3. LuVerne Godtland | |

*** = Elections are to be held for these offices.**



Southeastern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



2014 MINISTRY REPORT OF THE SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD, ELCA

We join together in giving thanks for the multitude of ways the Holy Spirit is at work through the people and congregations of our Southeastern Minnesota Synod!

Giving...

- \$202,000 to the ELCA World Hunger Program
- \$63,000 to our companion synods (\$55,000 to Tanzania and \$8,000 to Colombia)
- \$85,000 to support missionaries around the world
- \$27,000 for theological education at Luther Seminary
- \$47,000 for the campus ministries of our synod
- \$10,000 toward sabbatical gifts to pastors and their congregations
- \$13,500 for blind and deaf students through Christ Through Hands Ministry in Faribault
- \$245,700 toward the ELCA Malaria Campaign since October 2010 with \$16,775 contributed in the past year
- \$790,000 for the ministries of the churchwide ELCA

Supporting....

- 29 candidates across 5 of our seminaries, including 7 students entering the process in 2015
- Over 190 congregational leaders who experienced the Councils as Leaders event in spring 2014
- 5 South Sudanese ministries in our synod
- Many congregations in the synod as they explore and discover what God is up to in faith formation, families and leadership in the 21st century
- 51 Mission Interpreters in congregations throughout our synod
- 63 congregations in call process transition
- 24 congregations who participated in Safeguarding God's Children trainings
- 2 Young Adults in Global Mission from our synod serving in United Kingdom and Argentina and 3 additional young adults participating in the program with connections to colleges in our synod
- 4 newly ordained pastors
- 166 rostered & lay leaders at the Fall Theological Conference
- 500 voting members at the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly
- 51 congregations partnering with congregations, schools, rural clinics and a hospital in Tanzania and Colombia
- 3 visits to Companions in Tanzania and Colombia by partner congregations
- 2 representatives from the Central Diocese hosted in our synod
- 2 synod representatives to Colombia for 2014 Lutheran Church in Colombia Consultation
- 2 synod representatives to Central Diocese Tanzania for 2014 Companion Synod Consultation

Peace in Christ,

Steven Delzer, Bishop