

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Sunday, January 29, 2017



**70th Annual Meeting
Albert Lea, Minnesota**



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

A message from
**PRESIDING BISHOP
ELIZABETH EATON**



Dear sisters and
brothers in Christ,

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is a church striving to grow and thrive in a changing world. As you connect with people in your neighborhoods, workplaces and beyond, you have likely discovered some approaches are more effective than others. In your pursuit of growth, it is often necessary to take risks and leave the comfort of being with "people like you." This means there is an opportunity to offer a radical welcome to all God's children.

Living with a daring confidence in God's grace, we are called forward together in Christ as both servants and leaders to welcome others. In these roles we are called to be spiritually grounded, ecumenically minded, responsible, value-driven, accepting of others, nurturing and together in our efforts to do God's work. These traits help us to be faithful and walk the way of Jesus.

As we accompany each other in this walk, we remember the cross of Christ helps us share our joys, burdens and tears. When your faith community gathers to review progress, you see how God has blessed and challenged your efforts. Through dialogue and discernment, you engage issues that affect your ability to grow and thrive. You make decisions about how to use the gifts entrusted to you to do God's work in and beyond your community. Hopefully, this is also a time you realize you are not alone. You can find courage and hope in seeing the ways God and the people of the ELCA accompany each other in our walk and our work.

Our prayers are with you as you gather to plan and make decisions about how you are called forward together in Christ. May you remember Jesus, who gave his life that you might live.

Walking together and serving Christ,

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

LITANY

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, the one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
Amen.

As servants of Christ, we plant and support new congregations each year; we enable congregations to renew their ministries; we work with ethnic ministries to develop resources and networks for ministry, and we share resources for God's work.
Together, we are partners in ministry.

As partners in ministry, we support The Lutheran World Federation's global communion of churches with more than 80 companion churches in other countries.
Together, we accompany others in doing God's work.

As people who accompany others, we send more than 200 missionaries to more than 40 countries, training leaders and evangelists who will expand ministries.
Together, we equip people to be disciples, evangelists and stewards.

As disciples, we equip God's people across this country to be current and future leaders through our colleges, universities, seminaries and lay ministry schools. We especially support and pray for our more than 9,000 rostered leaders.
Together, we are members in the body of Christ.

As members in the body of Christ, we support congregations and synods with resources to assist in asset-based thinking, planning, operating matters and risk management.
Together, we are stewards of God's gifts.

As stewards, we engage in culture and the world to work for justice. This includes engaging in lively conversation about current social, political, environmental and public issues.
Together, we are advocates of God's work for the sake of the world.

As advocates, we facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths, seeking unity in faith and life with all Lutherans and our six full communion partners.
Together, we are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Let us pray. As we are servants in Christ, partners in ministry, people who accompany others, disciples, members in the body of Christ, stewards and advocates, our faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us and give us strength to always do God's work for the sake of the world.
Amen.

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Jésus, je voudrais te chanter



1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

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

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

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AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Opening Devotions (Inside Front Cover)**
- 3. Opening Hymn**
- 4. Approval of Today's Agenda (Page i)**
- 5. Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes (Page 1)**
- 6. Reports**
 - Pastor Shane Koepke
 - Grace Lutheran Staff
 - Church Council
 - Finance Team
 - Grace Foundation
 - LEAD
 - Others
- 7. Elections**
- 8. Unfinished Business - None**
- 9. New Business**
 - Approval of Proposed 2017 Budget
 - Approval of Resolution 2017a (Missionary for a Day)
 - Approval of Resolution 2017b (Roof & Shingles)
 - Approval of Resolution 2017c (Capital Campaign)
- 10. Closing Prayer**
- 11. Doxology**

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MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

January 31, 2016

President Bill Leland called the sixty-ninth annual meeting of Grace Lutheran Church to order at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Janet White led devotions. The hymn, in *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Devine* was sung, accompanied by Robert Tewes. A motion was made for approval of minutes - motioned made by Julie Groenweg and Seconded by Jim Westeng to approve the minutes of the sixty-eighth Annual Meeting; motion carried.

Senior Pastor Report by Pastor Janet White: Pastor Janet said we have a wonderful church and thanked everyone for their support. She thanked the staff for all their support and work they have done over the past year. She really didn't expect to still be here and that there were items put on hold so the new pastor could make the decisions with the council – like the Youth Director position. We are moving forward and working on getting a new Youth Director. She is very proud of our church. Every congregation has its own personality and we have a very rich history. The stories she has been hearing is amazing. Pastor Janet thanked the council for all the hard work they have done.

Council President Report by Bill Leland: Bill thanked Jim Westeng for building a solid base for our council. Bill has served on a lot of boards and this church council is a second to none board. Bill acknowledged the Charter church members that were present at the meeting: LaVern Godtland and Bev Evans. Bill also acknowledged the members that were present that joined the church immediately after it was started. In honor of the history of our church – years ago there was a map and there was a tack at every member's location. We have a map in the back of the room and please put a tack where your home is so we can see how much our church family has extended. The LEAD group is working on bringing back the assets and values to our church and this is one way of connecting.

Treasure's Report: A motion was made to approve the budget – it was approved by Bill Barber and seconded by Chuck VanWay. Bill added 3 new items and asked Patti Tewes to speak. They are – the call process expense, LEAD and Pastoral Moving Expense. There was also a change in where funds are coming out of – Marsden cleaning service came out of the church upkeep fund and now that we have Darren on staff the money is coming out of the staff salaries. There is a drop in utilities because of the new steam traps and the efforts we are putting in place for the staff to be more environmentally friendly. When we create our budget we budget for the normal expenses. There was a question regarding the increase in "Pastoral Ministries –Insurance & Pension" it is higher than last year. We haven't been offering Bob Tewes insurance and pension and he should have been because he is a called position.

Other Reports: The Reports of the Ministry teams and church organizations were addressed.

Church Council Elections: A motion was made by Debbie Wright and seconded by Jill Hagen to accept Wes Dahl, Jerome Meyer and Todd Vogelsang for a three year terms on Church Council and Emma Tewes and Amy Sanderson to a one year term and leaving the council: Shari Anderson, Rich Oliphant; motion was carried.

Grace Foundation: A motion was made by Bill Barber and seconded by Chuck VanWey to accept the report that was given by Mark Sanderson; motion carried. The Foundation has had a very busy year. They have formed 3 categories to work more efficiently and it is going very good. Mark thanked Julie Drommerhousen and Perry Loge for their help.

Synod Assembly: A motion was made by Wes Dahl and seconded by Chuck VanWey to accept Bill Leland, Lori T, Dave Larson to attending the Southeastern MN Synod Assembly; motion carried

Nominating Committee: A motion was made by Wes Dahl and seconded by Chuck Vanway to keep the same members; motion was carried

Personnel Team: A motion was made by Kay Goodmanson and seconded by Becky Tennis-Hanson to accept Jeanne Lundak, Truman Thrond and Jill Hagen to three year terms on the Personnel Team; motioned carried

Scholarship Team: A motion was made by Wes Dahl and seconded by Chuck VanWey to keep the same members; motion was carried

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

- A. A motion was made by Bill Barber and seconded by Wes Dahl to discontinue the use of the communion cards and change the “sign in” tablets to include the communion count.
- B. Learning Site Contract – presented by Pastor Joel Erickson. This is an amazing project and completely supports this. They are discussing how to deal with the mis-understanding/lack of communication between a Pastor and congregation. How do we approach this issues like this other than complaining? We need to come up with a plan? Pastor Joel will be forming a group of people to come up with a plan to have better communication between Pastor and congregation. Pastor Joel is asking for help identifying 4-5 people for this group.

Discussion Followed:

There was question regarding how many students we have in our church – we have 180 K-6, 50 in confirmation and 20 in Senior High.

There was a concern about the call committee – how they could have chosen someone like Pastor Susan. Pastor Janet addressed the situation stating she wasn’t the person the committee interviewed. She put a very different show. The Synod was blindsided by her actions also. Pastor Janet is supposed to keep to herself regarding the new pastor and because of what happened to our church that is changing. Bill Leland also addressed the question/comment by stating it went bad when it went right – she saw at the Wednesday night “meet and greet” that the council was not going to be pushed over and that she was going to need to work hard to keep communication open. The council discussed and they are very confident we have a very strong call committee.

There was a concern about our church paying for Pastor Susan's moving expenses. Grace contracted the moving company for moving her personal items (not the cars and horses) and because we contracted the moving company we are obligated to pay them. We explored legal advice to re-coup our expense and it would cost us just as much in legal fees as the movers did. We chose to communicate to her and we did get a threat of a counter suit from her for lost wages. So we contacted our Synod and her Synod where she was being called and we negotiated to get the \$7,500.00. When she sent the check in the memo line she wrote "extortion money"

Requested a call committee update – Angie Johnston says that they are updating monthly at Grace Listens. They have only been given 1 name since Pastor Susan. She said the Synod indicated that it is usually very quiet thru the holiday season.

There was a question regarding going back to 2 services. There are some members that would like to go back to 2 services. Pastor Janet will speak with Worship and Music on their thoughts.

A motion was made by Bill Barber and seconded by Chuck VanWey to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. Pastor Janet provided a closing prayer. The Doxology was sung, accompanied by Robert Tewes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nikki Schumaker, Council Secretary

PASTORAL REPORT

2 Corinthians 4.15: Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

The verse above from 2 Corinthians is a framework in which I like to live my life. To experience Grace is to let it fill you with the gift of God in the midst of no gifts. It is to experience a breathing space in the middle of the suffocating parts of life. Grace is a multiplier of grace, which in turn increases thanksgiving. Really what this verse is talking about is that when we experience the goodness of God, we share that goodness with others. Grace produces thanksgiving which produces generosity which produces more grace, more thanksgiving, and so on and so forth until we expand the vision around us to look through the fear and deeply into the abundance.

Too often, we let the “what ifs” of our lives fill our mind with words and actions that close in on ourselves. The “what ifs” cause us to say “NO” or “It can wait” or “me first.” In this, there is no grace, only fear. Grace is the moment in which our lives are bound to something abundant, something....no....someone life-giving. In Jesus our life has abundance. In Jesus our life has an expanded truth. In Jesus our fears weaken and our desire to put others ahead increase. Grace gives abundantly and in return we have the joy of sharing this truth-thankfully.

My new time has been full of joy as I get to know you all. I look forward to all we can do in the name of Jesus to share grace upon grace. I know this abundance will only help us grow as faithful people.

Peace to you as we live further in grace,

PShane

EDUCATION AND LITERATURE

Grace Lutheran's Children's Ministry enhances faith by supporting the promises made during Holy Baptism by nurturing children and their families in their relationship with God and one another.

Through education and fellowship, we seek to:

- Call God's children to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through life long learning
- Provide emotional, physical and spiritual support to and for children and parents
- Show that Jesus' words and actions clearly teach learning and faithfulness are intertwined
- Welcome all children into our church family
- Encourage and nurture faith life in the home
- Involve children in the life of the congregation

Education opportunities:

- Sunday School for PreK – 5th grade
- Sunday morning Bible Study for 6 – 9th grades
- Confirmation classes on Wednesday's for 7 – 9th grades
- High School Bible Study on Wednesday evenings
- Adult Bible Study on Sunday Mornings
- Vacation Bible School/Partnered with the other Lutheran Churches in town
- Confirmation Camp
- Summer Bible Camp for all ages & Family camp

2016 Highlights:

- Rally Day was a great kick off to the Sunday School year
- Cradle Roll welcomed 5 PreK students and gave Bibles
- Third grade Bibles, catechisms and instruction were given to 14 students
- Fifth grade Communion and instruction were taken by 9 students
- 21 Seventh grade students were welcomed into the Confirmation program
- New curriculum has been introduced for Wednesday night Confirmation called "Here We Stand" by Augsburg.
- Twelve 10th grade students were Confirmed after being interviewed by Council members
- Confirmation students did various service projects during Lent
- Several project days were held for the PreK – 5th grades, where students learn by doing hands-on projects
- Several students spent a week at Good Earth Village Bible Camp this summer
- Annual Christmas Pageant "Simply Christmas" was performed by the PreK – 5th grade students

MISSIONS: Children helping Children

The goal is to develop more awareness in our Sunday School children about the importance of mission work.

By:

- Giving half of our Sunday School offering to Latvia and the Children's Orphanage in Bogotá
- Giving Christmas Program offering to S.P.I.R.E., gift given this year \$386.57
- Collecting Paper goods for the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester

-
- Collecting canned non-perishable food for our local food shelf
 - Collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester
 - By praying for those in need

LIBRARY NEWS:

We are located next to the nursery. And continue to grow each year, thanks to many of you. It has something to offer every type of reader.

The Education Ministry Team would like to thank our staff and the many volunteers for their dedication to the ministry of our children at Grace Lutheran. Our year has been busy and a blessing, teaching children of all ages.

Working for Christ,

*Kate Dahl, Heather Earl, Brenda Herr, Angela Moller,
Rebecca Passer, Sheila Calderon, Rachelle Bizjak,
Mindy Carson & Jill Hagen*

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

In May of 1986, I graduated with my Bachelor of Music degree from Valparaiso University. The day after graduation, I traveled to Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois to serve for several months on the staff of the Lutheran Summer Music program held on their campus that summer. At summer's end, I auditioned for, and was hired by Zion Lutheran Church (LCA) in Deerfield, Illinois to serve as their church musician. Then in September of that same year I began working on my Masters' Degree in Church Music at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. I completed that degree in June of 1987. It was a very busy but rewarding year of my life: filled with memories and experiences I will never forget. It is almost unbelievable, as I reflect on it, that that was already thirty years ago!

As I look back on thirty years of professional church work, I find that while many things have changed, many things remain similar. Back in 1986 the Lutheran Book of Worship was really just reaching its stride as the primary worship resource of the ALC, LCA and AELC. By 1988, when the predecessor church bodies formally merged to form the ELCA (whose celebratory Eucharist I was privileged to attend while I lived in Chicago), it continued to serve the needs of worshipers across the nation. By the 1990s the supplemental hymnal, *With One Voice*, appeared and brought into mainstream-use new resources that represented a larger expression of the church—including materials from cultures throughout the world. By 2006, on-going study, renewal and creativity, brought *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* to North American Lutherans. This newest resource continues to expand the vision of what current worship looks like and sounds like, and continues to stretch the skill-sets and versatility of church musicians.

Each of these books have been an integral part of my thirty-year journey as a church musician. Each required me to stretch my imagination, grow in my personal skills, and accept an ever-diversified understanding of church. In each of the churches I have served in those intervening years, I have found it necessary to carefully guide each church in either its acquisition, or to develop processes to more fully appreciate and utilize their wide variety of resources. Life in church work for me has not been stagnant nor a process of doing it basically the same way for thirty years. Rather, it has been greatly enriched through constant change and re-imagination; creativity and adaptation.

This past year at Grace has been a bit like my first year in church work. A lot of changes have taken place this year. We have emerged from a lengthy period of interim ministry where we have spent a good deal of time and energy assessing our strengths and visions for the future. We have engaged in the Live Every Day as Disciples (LEAD) project. We have called and installed our lead pastor, Pastor Shane. We have hired our new Youth Director, Ashley, and Office Administrator, Kandy. All these changes seem dizzying at first, but they also reflect the excitement of new beginnings for our congregation.

As I look to the year ahead, many exciting things will be taking place. First, our new approach to worship planning will be launched, where we will gather core groups of interested, invested and talented people to work as seasonal planners. Hopefully this new approach will enrich our worship life by utilizing the diverse talents of more of our members in the planning and implementation of worship. Secondly, this entire year is ramping up for a monumental worldwide celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation next October. I am serving on a synod team that is planning several events throughout this year across our synod. Thirdly, I continue to serve the synod in my role as a Partner of Evangelical Worship (PEW). A highlight of this position includes serving on

the planning team for Synodical Assembly worship. Finally, at its churchwide Assembly in New Orleans last summer, the ELCA voted to restructure its understanding of rostered leadership within our church. For me, this will mean a change in credential and title. Formerly, I was classified by the ELCA as an Associate in Ministry, a rostered designation of lay ministry that recognizes a particular expertise that benefits the larger church. After last summer's churchwide action, my classification will change to "Deacon," a term that is in wide use by other denominations, and understands my fuller-function in the life of the church as being a Minister of Word and Service.

Throughout the changes that have happened over the past thirty years of my life, I am confidently aware of the ever-present and guiding hand of God in my life. As I start my thirty-first year of professional church work, and my seventeenth year of ministry here at Grace in Albert Lea, I am confident of God's continued promise to be with us; that God will bless the efforts done on behalf of God's ministry, and finally, that God will, in God's time, bring all of God's promises to completion. I am continually grateful for all of the talented people that share their talents with this congregation in worship. I am grateful for the parents and grandparents who shuttle their children to and from rehearsals to make their participation possible. I value Sherry Seberson's work with the Cherub Choir. Ultimately, I thank each of you for your words of encouragement and prayers for my success as I continue in my role as your Director of Music and Organist.

Robert Tewes

AIM Director of Music and Organist

YOUTH

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 5:16

In the church we often spend our time listening and looking for Jesus' light. This is a light that shines in darkness, times of trouble and to see God's word through his son. Sometimes we forget that we also have light in us that shines through the gifts that we have been given. This has been a verse I have lived by for years; a reminder that we all have light to shine and share God's love with others. I see these lights through all the members at Grace, especially the youth. God made each one of us different, to ensure that we use our gifts in our own individual way to shine and share his love.

A lot of changes have occurred at Grace this year, including myself who joined the team in September. Before I arrived we had some wonderful volunteers who lead youth in day trips, bible studies, events and even took over planning/fundraising for the summer trip to Wilderness Canoe Base. Youth created many memories with all these activities and I couldn't be more thankful for all the dedicated volunteers and the time they spent planning. Since I started at Grace I have spent my time rebuilding a youth program while interacting with all the youth, parents and members. Reconstructing this program has included hosting youth room events, going on youth trips and updating the youth room.

- **Youth Room Events:** At least once a month we have taken time to host some sort of youth event. This has included game nights, holiday parties, watching movies and more. We also have developed weekly Bible Study get-togethers including a Sunday morning Youth Devotions for 6th-9th graders and a weekly Youth Group for 10th-12th graders.
- **Youth Trips:** We have gone to Prairie River Camp, Good Earth Village's Youth Blast, Rollerblading in Brownsdale and a trip to the Martin Luther Art exhibit in Minneapolis.
- **Updating the Youth Room:** The youth room has been updated with painting the walls. The chalkboard wall has been a hit with playing games, answering weekly questions or just drawing on it. The youth room has also been modified with a brand new couch and some bean bags to allow kids a place to sit during Bible Study or hanging out.

As we start preparing for the upcoming year of youth program, it's important to remember that rebuilding this program does take time and process to develop activities for youth. This upcoming year we have plans for fellowship and service events for these kids while trying to plan around their busy schedules. This includes trips to Feed My Starving Children, youth game nights, sledding and even a mission trip through the Servant Adventures at Lutherdale Camp.

Reflecting back on these past several months, I am thankful for all the volunteers who have helped with planning events. I am also grateful for how much support I have been given while in this place. I cannot wait for the future of the youth here at Grace Lutheran!

Ashley Kuhlman, Youth Director

Youth Ministry Team

Brandy Boettcher, Matt Moller

Julia Thompson

PARISH NURSE REPORT

Greetings from your Parish Nurse,

1 John 4:7

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

A parish nurse, also called a faith community nurse, is a registered nurse who serves a church or parish with focus on the intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting holistic health and preventing or minimizing illness in a faith community.

It is important to note that faith community nurses are not expected to provide patient care in the church or at a patient's home but rather to be a source of referrals for services in the community.

With other volunteers, parish nurses have developed a team ministry approach to integrate faith and health. In meeting the holistic needs of parishioners in the spiritual realm, parish nurses listen, pray, give communion, read devotions, and help people through pain and suffering.

At Grace Lutheran I like to think of the parish nurse ministry being one that is connecting those individuals that are no longer physically able to attend church with us, or those that due to physical, emotional or medical health circumstances unable to attend church at this time. During the past year I was able to make 440 contacts, 205 face to face visits, sharing communion with 103 individuals and offering a total of 30 prayer shawls to those in need of a special gift of love from our congregation.

I have been meeting monthly at Knudson Place for a time of fellowship, devotions and communion with our members there. I have also been facilitating monthly grief support groups for men and women experiencing not only loss of loved ones, but also physical and emotional losses.

I, along with Pastor Shane, continue to work on meeting the needs of our homebound individuals by scheduling visits and communion by volunteers from our "Visitation team."

Local area Parish Nurses meet monthly to network and integrate faith, health and healing in our community.

The parish nurse ministry at Grace Lutheran is supported and monitored by volunteers of the "Health cabinet" with 6 meetings yearly, and who recently assisted with a service of hope and healing called the "Blue Christmas Service", ending the evening with a warm meal and time of fellowship for friends and family.

We at Grace Lutheran have a beautiful opportunity to care, love and support each other in our faith community. I was so grateful for the visits, prayers, love and concerns that were shown to me following my hip and ankle fracture this past year. You were all so helpful in my recovery and even the pictures and letters from the young people were the best. We are family here - no matter what our age, we all need each others love and support in what ever we face during life's journey. If anyone would like a rewarding opportunity to '*Bring People Together and Become Disciples for Christ*' while sharing a caring heart and being apart of this important ministry at Grace Lutheran Church please call myself or the church office.

May God Bless you,

Lori Tuchtenhagen, Parish Nurse.

PRESIDENT REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to say welcome to the new staff that joined Grace Lutheran this year. Not only did we have a successful call for a new Senior Pastor, but we also welcome a new Youth Director, Office Manager, and Assistant Building Superintendent and welcomed back the prior Bookkeeper. Thanks are due to the congregation, for the patience you have shown each of these individuals as they sought to learn their new responsibilities.

As we move forward as a congregation, we will need to address needs relating to the building. Over the past year, we have discussed concerns relating to the boilers and replacement of the roof. The council through the direction of the Building, Equipment, and Grounds Commission has also identified other areas requiring further investigation and broader discussion. Leadership will continue to use Grace Listens and other formats to communicate these needs, answer questions, and gather input as we move forward in addressing these areas of opportunities.

We continued work identifying how to answer our call as a congregation. One avenue to accomplish this task is through the LEAD (Living Everyday As Disciples) process. The LEAD Committee, through the listening sessions conducted over the past 18 months, identified the current core values of the congregation, which will help, focus our efforts moving forward to do God's work.

Thank you to the congregation, staff, volunteers, and leaders for working together, for challenging each other, and for accomplishing so much in God's name.

Bill Leland, Congregation President

Grace Lutheran Church

BALANCE SHEET

Balance Sheet
Grace Lutheran Church
918 Garfield Avenue
Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007
Dec 31 2016

ASSETS

Cash Accounts

Security Checking Account	179,937.54
Security Savings Account	4,815.53
Mission Investment Fund Account	104,971.01
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 325,763.34

TOTAL ASSETS 325,763.34

LIABILITIES AND FUNDS

LIABILITIES

Cash Accounts

Federal Payroll Taxes Payable	8,802.42
State Payroll Taxes Payable	1,313.02
Retained Earnings	16,348.92
Member Pretax Contribution	16,492.59

Cash Accounts Total 42,956.95

TOTAL LIABILITIES 42,956.95

FUND BALANCES

Undesignated

General Fund	71,406.34
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Undesignated Total 71,406.34

Designated

Designated Education

Children's Ministry Fund	0.00
Library Fund	1,289.17

Designated Education Total 1,289.17

Designated Missions

Billboard Fund	633.34
Congregation Member Mission Fund	430.05
Martin Luther Fund	4,812.84
Hawthorne Fund	0.00

Designated Missions Total 5,876.23

Designated Parish Nurse

Prayer Shawl Fund	1,088.41
Parish Nurse Fund	0.00

Designated Parish Nurse Total 1,088.41

Designated Property

Boiler Maintenance Fund	137.11
Building Fund	14,742.33

Dec 31 2016

Memorials Fund	6,428.00	
Prayer Garden Fund	3,465.58	
Thrivent Choice Fund	19,075.79	
New Boiler Fund	2,209.00	
Roof Fund	82,193.94	
WELCA Cookbook Fund	60.00	
WELCA Expense Fund	45.70	
Altar Guild Expense Fund	15.92	
Sound System Fund	20.00	
Designated Property Total		128,393.37
Designated Scholarships		
Godtland Scholarship Fund	14,547.84	
Guse Nursing Scholarship Fund	25,796.49	
Hanson Scholarship Fund	2,817.88	
Loehr Scholarship Fund	0.00	
Mathews Scholarship Fund	3,660.00	
Lu Ryan Scholarship Fund	10,408.34	
Don Gross Education Scholarship Fund	3,164.38	
Egland Scholarship Fund	0.00	
Lisa Vogelsang Scholarship Fund	1,265.00	
Designated Scholarships Total		61,659.93
Designated Worship		
Choir Robe Fund	3,544.74	
Hymnal Fund	0.00	
Music Fund	3,663.83	
Organ Fund	1,819.24	
Designated Worship Total		9,027.81
Designated Youth		
Camp Scholarship Fund	3,666.14	
Foundation Camp Scholarship and VBS Fund	398.99	
Youth Fund	0.00	
Designated Youth Total		4,065.13
Designated Total		211,400.05
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>282,806.39</u></u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS		<u><u>325,763.34</u></u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

GRACE LUTHERAN
Albert Lea, Minnesota

Income and Expenditures

	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2016 Difference	
Income				
Budgeted				
Budgeted Offering				
Envelopes	\$ 519,266.00	\$ 496,505.10	\$ (22,760.90)	
Initial Offering	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 677.00	\$ (323.00)	
Loose Offering	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,743.53	\$ (256.47)	
Love Offering	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,424.00	\$ 424.00	
Lenten Offering	\$ 7,650.00	\$ 6,694.00	\$ (956.00)	
Easter	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 455.00	\$ (4,545.00)	
Thanksgiving	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,499.00	\$ (501.00)	
Christmas	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 10,797.00	\$ (5,203.00)	
Budgeted Total	<u>\$ 560,916.00</u>	<u>\$ 526,794.63</u>	<u>\$ (34,121.37)</u>	
Undesignated				
Fees and Miscellaneous Total		\$ 31,146.17		
Interest Income Total		\$ 1,079.60		
Undesignated Total		<u>\$ 32,225.77</u>		
Designated				
Designated Education Total		\$ 5,158.89		
Designated Missions Total		\$ 8,953.64		
Designated Parish Nurse Total		\$ 430.00		
Designated Property Total		\$ 106,044.94		
Designated Scholarships Total		\$ 4,565.00		
Designated Worship Total		\$ 979.00		
Designated Youth Total		\$ 14,462.54		
Designated Total		<u>\$ 140,594.01</u>		
Total Income	<u>\$ 560,916.00</u>	<u>\$ 699,614.41</u>	<u>\$ 138,698.41</u>	
Expenditures				
Budgeted				
Mission to Others Total (Benevolence)	\$ 36,800.00	\$ 41,070.38	\$ (4,270.38)	
Pastoral Ministry Total (Pastoral/Staff Expense)	\$ 354,316.00	\$ 351,820.87	\$ 2,495.13	
Congregation Ministries Total (Ministries Team)	\$ 70,800.00	\$ 82,823.49	\$ (12,023.49)	
Church Upkeep Total	\$ 99,000.00	\$ 135,393.87	\$ (36,393.87)	
Budgeted Total	<u>\$ 560,916.00</u>	<u>\$ 611,108.61</u>	<u>\$ (50,192.61)</u>	
Undesignated				
Fees and Miscellaneous Total		\$ 2,667.97		
Undesignated Total		<u>\$ 2,667.97</u>		
Designated				
Designated Education Total		\$ 6,966.39	\$ 1,289.17	Ending 12-31-2016 Fund Balances
Designated Missions Total		\$ 9,000.82	\$ 5,876.23	See Balance Sheet (Liabilities)
Designated Parish Nurse Total		\$ 1,156.96	\$ 1,088.41	
Designated Property Total		\$ 6,372.40	\$ 128,393.37	
Designated Scholarships Total		\$ 3,250.00	\$ 61,659.93	
Designated Worship Total		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 9,027.81	
Designated Youth Total		\$ 7,016.66	\$ 4,065.13	
Designated Total		<u>\$ 34,763.23</u>	<u>\$ 211,400.05</u>	
Expenditures Total	<u>\$ 560,916.00</u>	<u>\$ 648,539.81</u>	<u>\$ (87,623.81)</u>	
Net income/Loss			\$ 51,074.60	

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Lutheran Finance Team

2016 INCOME

2016 Income Budget is \$46,743/month												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Budgeted Offering	\$ 44,764.47	\$ 39,483.61	\$ 35,529.27	\$ 43,883.81	\$ 51,003.29	\$ 39,699.77	\$ 42,817.98	\$ 37,826.55	\$ 35,362.75	\$ 49,897.84	\$ 38,913.70	\$ 67,611.59
Undesignated Funds	\$ 189.22	\$ 224.08	1810.44	\$ 1,425.79	\$ 1,416.39	\$ 915.03	\$ 395.02	\$ 5,925.93	\$ 400.72	\$ 402.00	\$ 18,254.80	\$ 866.35
Designated Funds	3682.67	\$ 5,896.83	\$ 2,243.60	\$ 5,299.14	\$ 87,668.43	\$ 4,317.28	\$ 6,985.88	\$ 3,673.27	\$ 3,611.18	\$ 4,213.71	\$ 3,441.85	9560.17
	\$ 48,636.36	\$ 45,604.52	\$ 39,583.31	\$ 50,608.74	\$ 140,088.11	\$ 44,932.08	\$ 50,198.88	\$ 47,425.75	\$ 39,374.65	\$ 54,513.55	\$ 60,610.35	\$ 78,038.11
Total Actual Budgeted Offering		\$ 526,794.63										
Compared to Approved Budget		\$ 560,916.00	\$ (34,121.37)									
Total Undesignated Funds		\$ 32,225.77	(Non Budgeted Item)									
Total Designated Funds		\$ 140,594.01	(Non Budgeted Item)									
Total Income		\$ 699,614.41										

2016 EXPENSE

2016												
Expense												
Budget is \$46,743/month												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Actual Budgeted Expense	\$ 61,815.19	\$ 43,172.68	\$ 47,669.43	\$ 36,500.76	\$ 41,366.40	\$ 30,816.34	\$ 42,596.63	\$ 41,073.71	\$ 40,433.18	\$ 94,272.40	\$ 53,720.85	77671.04
Undesignated Expense	\$ 408.00	\$ 166.80	\$ 145.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 181.80	\$ 731.52	\$ 684.65	\$ -
Designated Expense	\$ 2,745.34	\$ 6,390.54	\$ 2,639.60	\$ 1,419.04	\$ 1,780.96	\$ 1,347.45	\$ 4,940.21	\$ 6,331.22	\$ 2,374.99	\$ 1,958.31	\$ 1,958.16	\$ 877.41
	\$ 64,968.53	\$ 49,730.02	\$ 50,454.23	\$ 37,919.80	\$ 43,147.36	\$ 32,163.79	\$ 47,786.84	\$ 47,504.93	\$ 42,989.97	\$ 96,962.23	\$ 56,363.66	\$ 78,548.45
Total Actual Budgeted Expense	\$ 611,108.61											
Compared to Approved Budgeted Expenses	\$ 560,916.00											
Total Undesignated Expense	\$ 2,667.97	(Non Budgeted Item)										
Total Designated Expense	\$ 34,763.23	(Non Budgeted Item)										
Total Actual Expense	\$ 648,539.81											
Total Profit/Loss	\$ 51,074.60	(Includes All Fund Accounts)										
Actual Budgeted Profit/Loss	\$ (84,313.98)	(Excludes Undesignated & Designated Accounts)										

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. Such gifts are invested with proper regard for their safety and interest according to the will of the congregation membership and designation of the donors. Interest accrued from 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 2016 was a year of transition for the Foundation membership. We are thankful that Perry Loge has agreed to continue his support of the treasurer duties. An in house Foundation Audit was completed and the findings were that the balance statements and banking records accurately reflect the financial position and activities for the year ending Dec. 31, 2015.

Monetary support was again given in the form of scholarships to students from our congregation attending Lutheran colleges. The Foundation once again supported the Vacation Bible School, Youth Camp Expenses such as Good Earth Village, Wilderness Canoe Base Trip, and many other ministries.

The main source of income again in 2015 was the farmland rental monies. In 2016 was the last year of a two year lease with our renter and we have renewed the contract for an additional two years. We are entering year #3 of a 15 year CRP contract with the USDA.

As we look ahead to 2017, 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 thank Tom Sorenson and Mark Sanderson for their tremendous service on the Foundation Board as their terms are expiring.

Sincerely In Christ

The Grace Foundation Board

Tricia Dahl, President

Corrine Tims, Secretary

Mark Sanderson, Steve Bracker, Matt Kermes,

Tom Sorenson Perry Loge, (Treasurer Advisor)

Alex Johnston, (Advisory)

Bill Leland, Church President

Senior Pastor Shane

GRACE FOUNDATION, INC

BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2016 and 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Security Bank Checking Account	\$ 140,351.05	\$ 115,429.07
Schwab Cash Account	8,316.23	9,906.57
Total Current Assets	148,667.28	125,335.64
Foundation Investments		
Schwab Investments	213,937.50	198,149.47
Total Foundation Investments	213,937.50	198,149.47
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	54,369.40
Security Bank CD	16,410.02	16,410.02
Total Godtland Investments	120,779.42	120,779.42
Fixed Assets		
H. Nelson Farm (Perpetuity)(At Appraised Market Value)	1,150,800.00	1,278,600.00
Total Fixed Assets	1,150,800.00	1,278,600.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,634,184.20	\$ 1,722,864.53
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Net Assets		
Permanently Restricted Net Assets		
Perpetuity Money/Godtland	\$ 566,637.17	\$ 566,637.17
Farmland Market Value Increase	857,700.00	985,500.00
Current Year Memorials	0.00	0.00
Total Permanently Restricted	1,424,337.17	1,552,137.17
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		
Seminary Donations	800.00	150.00
Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	800.00	150.00
Unrestricted Net Assets (Income)	153,051.91	133,904.41
Current Year Unrestricted Net Income (Loss) (Less Memorials)	30,953.83	19,147.50
Unrealized Security Gains (Losses)	25,041.29	17,525.45
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	209,047.03	170,577.36
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1,634,184.20	\$ 1,722,864.53

Notes: In 2012, we went to recording farmland using the County Assessor's market value.
Appraised market value for farmland for 2017 is set at \$1,086,800.

GRACE FOUNDATION, INC.**INCOME STATEMENT**

For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Income		
Checking Account Interest	\$ 125.45	\$ 106.52
Donations	20.00	0.00
Seminary Donations	650.00	0.00
Mission Fund Interest - Godtland	905.96	905.00
CD Interest - Godtland	714.94	693.94
Schwab Interest/Dividends/CG Distributions	8,274.07	10,664.06
Farm Land Rent	33,614.00	32,928.00
Farm Land CRP	3,948.00	3,948.00
Wind Farm Rent	0.00	1,000.00
Total Income	<u>48,252.42</u>	<u>50,245.52</u>
Investment Sales		
Investments Sold	0.00	0.00
Cost of Investments Sold	0.00	0.00
Gain (Loss) on Investments Sold	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Expenses		
Student Grants	6,125.00	6,125.00
Property Taxes	8,876.00	9,140.00
Farm Expenses	15.37	0.00
Safe Deposit Box Rent	40.00	40.00
Investment Expense	1,592.22	1,577.99
Grace Lutheran Youth Camp Expense	0.00	5,750.00
Grace Lutheran VBS Expense	0.00	3,567.46
Grace Lutheran Wilderness Canoe Expense	0.00	2,392.57
Grace Lutheran Winter Warm Up Expense	0.00	855.00
Luthercrest - Loree Education Expense	0.00	1,650.00
Total Expenses	<u>16,648.59</u>	<u>31,098.02</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$ 31,603.83</u>	<u>\$ 19,147.50</u>

LEAD: Living Everyday as Disciples

The most important one” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” – Mark 12:29-31

LEAD’s core Belief says that people of faith are called to join in God’s mission

Our focus for Grace has been one of LEAD’s core conviction, that of HEART.

“HEART: *Listens* for God’s leading in mission, service, and doing justice in the world, neighborhood, and congregation.” Our LEAD team has focused on the “Tune In Process.”

LEAD’s Core Practices answer the question “How?” **Loving God with all of our heart calls us to listen.**

As a LEAD group at Grace we have traveled this journey following the “Tune in Process.” We have completed activities as a LEAD team, participated in reading the Bible together, worked with a coach provided by the LEAD organization and most of all...listened to you, the congregation of Grace Lutheran. Many of you participated in the LEAD survey. We compiled and grouped this data trying to keep you informed through the Grace Listens sessions following the church service. During our last session we shared a chart that had been compiled from the Grace survey results. You then helped us brainstorm aspirations of how we can be a positive force in the community. We will now take those ideas and determine a focus for Grace Lutheran to demonstrate service in our community.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of our survey and an active part of the Grace Listens sessions. At Grace we will *Listen* for God’s leading in mission, service, and doing justice in the world, neighborhood, and congregation.”

MINISTERIAL REPORT

WORSHIP SERVICES

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total Sunday Worship Services	107	73	55	51
Total Weekday Worship Services	57	56	59	41
Total Services with Communion	64	65	68	64

PASTORAL ACTS

Children Baptized	16	13	10	6
Adults Baptized	0	0	0	0
Confirmation of 9 th Graders	14	17	20	11
Confirmation of Adults	0	0	0	0
Weddings	7	5	6	4
Reaffirmation of Wedding Vows	0	0	0	0
Funerals	25	22	18	26

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Increases:

a. By Baptism (Children)	16	13	10	8
b. By Baptism (Adults)	0	0	0	0
c. By Reaffirmation of Faith	15	0	21	11
d. By Letter of Transfer	17	0	3	1
e. By Adult Instruction	0	0	0	0
f. From Other Sources	0	0	0	0
g. By Confirmation (not previously baptized members)	1	3	1	0

TOTAL

49	16	35	20
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Decreases:

a. By Death	22	20	15	26
b. Inactive Member Reduction	0	683	253	0
c. By Transfer to ELCA Congregations	10	19	3	6
d. By Transfer to Other Lutheran Congregations	0	7	1	0
e. By Release to Non-Lutheran Congregations	1	2	4	2
f. For Other Reasons (or requested removal)	15	37	1	0

TOTAL

48	768	277	34
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TOTAL BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP

Total Baptized Membership, December 31, 2015	1,671
Total Baptized Membership, December 31, 2016	1,586
NET FOR 2016	<u>- 85</u>

TOTAL CONFIRMED MEMBERSHIP

Total Confirmed Membership, December 31, 2015	1,267
Total Confirmed Membership, December 31, 2016	1182
NET FOR 2016	<u>- 85</u>

2016 BAPTISMS: (8) Alex Baas, Knox Hummel, Kane Hummel, Piper Duckert, Crosby Hegwood, Harper Jay Austinson, Ethan Dale Keuseman, Arayah Finch

2016 MARRIAGES: (4) Kaycee Gebhart and Bobby Geesman, Katelyn Anderson and Brad Flatness, Pam Sharpsteen and Greg Hendersen, Brittany Van Reese and Justin Lorentz

2016 REAFFIRMATION OF VOWS: (None)

2016 DEATHS: (26) Louise Knutson, Ann Paczkowski, Merle Hovland, Richard, Langerud, Michael Ell, DuWayne Kirchner, Angie Hildebrandt, Eleanor Hamor, Linda Stinehart, John Brabec, Marlene Sorenson, Larry Ness, Christopher Baldwin, Roger Dahl, Bette Schaub, Carl Branstad, Emil Lykken, Melvin Bangert, Laura Attig, Marjorie Anderson, Phyllis Lynch, Elwood Jensen, Ardis Thovson, Jeanette Johnson, Lisa Vogelsang, Carol Anderson

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED INTO GRACE LUTHERAN: Jared Gavle, Marian Ziebell, Patricia Ehlert, Judy Moen, Nathaniel Schultz, Diane Schultz, Craig Schultz, Amy Cichosz, Jay Cichosz

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED OUT OF GRACE LUTHERAN: Helen Tukua, Lamare & Linda Petersen, Brittany Braund and her children, Kelly Folie, Imire Maria Glaeske, Connie Buhs, Adam Hanson, Ronald and Carol Farris and children Aaron and Lacie

USHERS' REPORT

SPECIAL SERVICES

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Mid-Week Lenten Services (average, 6 services)	195	187	184
Holy Week Attendance (Maundy Thursday, 1 service)	218	152	99
Good Friday Service	153	112	96
Easter Sunrise Service	--	--	--
Easter 8:00am	246	222	163
Easter 9:30am	355	323	266
Easter 11:00am	167	130	273
Thanksgiving Eve	113	154	130
Blue Christmas		53	64
Christmas Eve 3:00pm	294	311	296
Christmas Eve 5:00pm	347	299	262
Christmas Eve 11:00pm	170	153	119
Christmas Eve Total	811	763	677
Christmas Day	56	62	75

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Total Weekly Attendance	14,451	14,646	13,153
January-May and September-December (average)	294	295	263
9:00am Sundays, 5:30pm Wednesdays			
June-August, Sunday (average)	243	242	222
9:30am Sundays, 5:30pm Wednesdays			
All Weeks - 12 months (average)	280	282	253
Sundays in the Year	52	52	52
Record Sunday	768	675	7020
	## Easter	## Easter	## Easter
Record Sunday (other than Easter)	548	617	424
	(10/26)	(10/25)	(10/30)
	Confirmation	Confirmation	Confirmation

= Four Services

= Three Services

Respectfully submitted,
James Munyer, Director of Ushers

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

During 2016 the Personnel Committee finalized most of the job descriptions, sent the updated Personnel Guide out for review and opinion. Implemented procedures to be in compliance with pending federal rules concerning overtime for hourly and salaried individuals. Oversaw the hiring of Office Manager, Youth Director, replacement for the Bookkeeper, and added support for the Building Superintendent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tricia Dahl, Truman Thron
Heather Earl, Darrin Passer
Bill Leland (Congregation President)
Pastor Shane Koepke

GRACE SENIORS

The 2016 year ended with Evelyn Eglund and Mary J. Peterson still working together to keep Grace Seniors meetings active.

September was the Annual Heritage Luncheon with Grace Lutheran Church members. We have had some very interesting programs and more to come in the coming months. We celebrate Christmas, Valentine Day with dinners and on the other meetings we have coffee and wonderful Lutheran goodies.

We have entertained guests from all walks of life. Many with interesting information and some for mainly entertainment. Our list for this coming year for speakers is growing. Please put you on your calendar if you have never attended and come and join us. It is surprising just what you can still learn at our age.

Grace Seniors meet the second Wednesday of each month, usually at 2:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

See you soon at Grace Seniors!

In His Service,
Evelyn Eglund and Mary J. Peterson

GRACE WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

Mission Statement: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

The women of Grace Lutheran Church have had a busy and productive year in providing services for the church, to our families of the church and outreach to missions and the community.

The Fireside room construction and remodeling has been completed, with financial services for fund-raising and monetary gifts provided by our generous congregational family.

Church kitchen had a thorough cleaning and counting of all items. Items were replaced if missing and items purchased by request.

Caring & Sharing Committee:

- Served 27 funerals

- 1 Wedding

- Served refreshments for Residents at St. Johns

- Heritage Luncheon served refreshments and provided the program

Stewardship Committee:

- 1 Box soap

- 27 Baby care (Layettes) kits

- 22 School kits

- 10 Blankets

- Thank Offering Collection for the support of World Wide Missions

Quilting Group:

- Made 220 quilts and 10 blankets that were shipped to Mission Events organized and carried out by WELCA

WELCA meets once a month. We invite all women to join and become a member of a wonderful group of women who enjoy serving Grace Lutheran Church.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Kay Goodmanson, President

WELCA TREASURE'S REPORT 2016

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCA Treasurer's Report, 2016

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance January 1, 2016		\$1,437.30
Receipts:		
Banquets & Special Events	\$163.00	
Caring & Sharing	\$175.00	
Circles	\$97.00	
Funerals	\$1,615.00	
Missions	\$591.88	
Fireside Room	\$15,054.00	
Interest	\$2.38	
Miscellaneous	\$90.00	
		\$17,788.26
Disbursements:		
Banquets & Special Events	\$674.50	
Coffee	\$197.78	
ELCA	\$195.00	
Funerals	\$0.00	
Mission	\$671.88	
Fireside Room	\$15,389.75	
Transfer to savings	\$567.86	
Miscellaneous	\$670.48	
		\$18,367.25
Year End Checking Account Balance		\$858.31

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Breakdown of Savings Account		
General Fund and Interest	\$3,383.32	
Conventions Fund	\$2,500.00	
Appliance Fund	\$301.59	
Kitchen Replacement/New equip. Fund	\$236.30	
Meal Ministry	\$18.00	
Sewing Group Fund	\$402.57	
Year End Savings Account Balance		\$6,841.78

Respectfully Submitted,
Doreen Pontow
WELCA Treasurer, 2016

ALTAR GUILD

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

This year the Altar Guild had 2 meetings, the spring meeting was February 9th, this is before the Lent and Easter season. The fall meeting was November 15th before the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. This year the Altar Guild voted to have a catered Christmas dinner, which was held on December 13th. The current membership is 20 active members and nine honorary members. We continue to seek new volunteers to join us. We welcome all **women and men** to join The Altar Guild.

The Altar guild has the responsibility for special donations given in memory/honor of a family member or special person or event; these donations are for the purchase of altar flowers and or wine and bread used for Communion. The suggested donation to the Flower Fund is \$35.00 and the Bread/Wine Fund is \$25.00. There are sign-up sheets located in the back of the Church for those who would like to donate to these Funds. Please make your donations to **The Grace Lutheran Altar Guild** or you can contact the church office.

2017 Altar Guild officers Installed

Judy Hall, – Co-Directress
Terry Perkins, - Co-Director
Janet Henschel, Secretary
Carol Roberts, Treasurer

Funeral Committee

Marilee Citsay & Carol Perkins

Flower Coordinator

Linda Andersen

The Altar Guild would like to thank the following for their help and Contributions

Kent & Julie Jaspersen for the Thanksgiving decoration.

Frank Wakefield for supplying Palms leaves for Palm Sunday

To all who donated to the Flower and or the Bread/Wine fund

Respectfully Submitted

Terry Perkins – Co-Director

ALTAR GUILD TREASURE'S REPORT 2016

ALTAR GUILD Treasurer's Report 2016

Balance on hand, all accounts, January 1, 2016 \$4,448.51

Receipts:

Flower Fund & Interest	328.49
Bread & Wine Fund	505.00
Memorial, Wedding & Misc. Funds	<u>345.00</u>

Total Receipts 1,178.49

Disbursements:

Flower Fund	433.96
Bread, Wine, Cups & Wafers	590.27
Memorial, Wedding & Misc. Funds	<u>2,214.63</u>

Total Disbursements 3,238.86

Balance on hand in all accounts, December 31, 2016	<u>\$2,388.14</u>
(Bank Balance \$2,796.97, Outstanding Check \$408.83)	

Balance in all accounts, December 31, 2016

Flower Fund	\$ (13.69)
Wine/Bread Fund	252.33
Memorial, Wedding & Misc.	2,149.50

Total all Funds 2,388.14

Respectfully submitted

Carol Roberts
Altar Guild Treasurer, 2016

BEG REPORT

BUILDING, EQUIPMENT AND GROUNDS TEAM

Dear Members of Grace,

Grace has seen many challenges with our building in the past year. We have sustained damage to the roof, and filed an insurance claim for replacement. The committee reviewed proposals from four contractors and checked work they had done in the past by visiting some of their projects. We researched different roofing materials and determined our best option was to select metal shingle roofing. The roofing system will be insulated and ventilated, which will positively and substantially affect our utility expenses. The cost of the new roof is \$384,000, and will include the entire roof, fascia, soffit, and gutters. Insurance is expected to cover a substantial portion of the project. However, the final amount of the claim will be negotiated upon completion of the project. The contractor we selected is planning to begin in June.

The heating system remains a challenge. We have sought advice from architects, contractors and others familiar with updating existing systems. We had a report from one architect that estimated replacement of our current system to be \$1.2M. We are currently waiting for a proposal from another architect. Some of the contractors advised converting to hot water heat, and others thought updating and maintaining the steam system would be more cost effective. In any case, we have had a lot of conflicting information, which has made it difficult to decide how to proceed. Most of the contractors we contacted were of the opinion that plans and specifications would need to be prepared before they would consider the project. Therefore, we plan to weigh the cost of a new system with replacing the steam boilers and controls after we have the architectural proposals.

Major building improvements currently under consideration include renovating bathrooms to be handicap accessible, replacing all exterior doors, and rebuilding the steps to the entrances on the west side.

The capital campaign will be crucial to fund restoration and improvements to our church.

Please contact one of our committee members with comments or concerns you may have regarding our beautiful property. We believe it is the most attractive church in our community, and it is our goal to keep it that way.

Respectfully submitted

BEG Committee:

Jim Westeng, Steve Thompson,

Todd Vogelsang, Jerry Meyer,

Darin LaFrance (Advisory)

Pastor Shane Koepke (Advisory)

MEMORIAL TEAM

The Memorial Teams major project is the Prayer Garden maintenance. We want to thank the many volunteers who plant flowers, put in the spruce tips, and cared for the garden. A special thanks to Lester Perschbacher for all his time and for planting hostas around our sign out front. Thanks also to Jim Westeng for the 3 rain barrels and to Darin for help setting up them up.

We would like to thank Darin and Robert for setting the cross in the Prayer Garden. Thank you, Lori Sevske for the idea, in memory of Ethel Doty.

The Memorial Team is looking for two people with great ideas to join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Memorial Team

Harlan Bang, Judy Hall, Mary Hallum

Lester Perschbacher, Steve Thompson, Jim Westeng

LIFE AND GROWTH/SOCIAL CONCERNS

LIFE AND GROWTH/SOCIAL CONCERNS MINISTRY TEAM

The Life and Growth Ministry Team has met monthly prior to the Church Council meetings. The focus of the group was on continuation of a number of past efforts in addition to creating new opportunities for fellowship and growth. Activities have included:

- Enough Food For All campaign: Food was collected every other month throughout the year and delivered to the Ecumenical Food Shelf at First Presbyterian Church
- Voyagers Trip: A group traveled to Spillville, Iowa to visit the Bily Clock Museum and then toured the Vesterheim Norwegian Museum in Decorah.
- The CAP program continued in a new format moving from Cinema and Potluck to Cinema and Popcorn. There were 3 movie nights in the spring and 3 more in the fall.
- Early Morning Coffee Fellowship: Coffee was served in the gathering space before worship on the first Sundays of most months using the Fair Trade Equal Exchange products.
- God's Work – Our Hands effort: An attempt was made to mobilize members of the Grace family to join with the Shinefest efforts to help others within our community.
- Assistance with the New Member Orientation meeting and New Member Sunday.
- Developed and facilitated a 4 week Bible Study on Kindness.
- Created a Muffin Ministry team to support the work of Youth for Christ in their ministry with the students at Southwest Middle School.

The team will be actively seeking additional members to join the group to continue the efforts to grow the ministry and fellowship at Grace. Please consider this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Life and Growth / Social Concerns Ministry Team

Darin Passer, Patty Tewes, Becky Tennis Hanson

MISSION MINISTRY

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. This year we have included the individual coffee brew cups, the Salvation Army Angel Tree, the Garden Table, the Hawthorne School 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). They will return in October 2017. 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 \$1,981.80 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 **84 pounds of food and \$1,566.00** which went to the Ecumenical Food Shelf. Our annual Thanksgiving food drive totaled 401 pounds.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mission Ministry Team

Al & Pat Arends

Bill & Gwen Groskurth

Todd & Christma Lange Family

Becky Tennis Hanson

Hazel Spiering

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. New this year was the Lutheran Bible Translators out of Northfield, MN.

Balance on hand, December 31, 2015	\$ 5,174.62
Total Deposits	<u>2,655.15</u>
	\$ 7,829.77
<u>Withdrawals:</u>	
Children's Vision International	(2,010.00)
St. Catherine Lutheran Church	(1,530.00)
Lutheran Bible Translators	<u>(1,700.00)</u>
Total Withdrawals	(5,240.00)
Balance on Hand, December 31, 2016	\$ 2,589.77

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Drommerhausen, Treasurer

ELECTIONS — NOMINATIONS FOR 2017

* FOR CHURCH COUNCIL – 3 year term (January '17 to January '20):

1. Nikki Schumaker
2. Corrine Tims
3. Jerry Dahl

* FOR CHURCH COUNCIL (Youth Advisory) – 1 year term (January '17 to January '18):

1. Lexis Saltou
2. Solia Birch
3. Joey Witham

PRESENT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Jerome Meyer | Jan. 2019 | 6. Julie Groeneweg | Jan. 2017 |
| 2. Wes Dahl | Jan. 2019 | 7. Rebecca Passer | Jan. 2018 |
| 3. Todd Vogelsangt | Jan. 2019 | 8. Nikki Schumaker | Jan. 2017 |
| 4. Becky Tennis Hanson | Jan. 2018 | 9. Steve Thompson | Jan. 2018 |
| 5. Bill Leland | Jan. 2018 | 10. Jim Westeng | Jan. 2017 |

* DELEGATES TO ST. JOHN'S HOME, Annual Meeting, Dec. 4th, 2017

1. Julie Groeneweg
2. Nikki Schumaker
3. Jim Westeng

* GRACE FOUNDATION – 3 year term (January '16 to January '19):

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Bill Barber | (first term through Jan. 2019) | 3. Roger Paul | (second term through Jan. 2019) |
| 2. Matt Kermes | (first term through Jan. 2019) | | |

PRESENT GRACE FOUNDATION, INC. DIRECTORS:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Tricia Dahl | Jan. 2018 | 6. Corrine Tims | Jan. 2018 |
| 2. Julie Drommerhausen | (expired second term 2016) | 7. Perry Loge, Treasurer Advisor | (expired term) |
| 3. Roger Paul | (expired first term 2016) | 8. Alex Johnston, Advisory | |
| 4. Mark Sanderson | Jan. 2017 | 9. Grace Council President | |
| 5. Tom Sorenson | Jan. 2017 | 10. Grace Senior Pastor | |

*** VOTING MEMBERS TO BLUE EARTH RIVER CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY
(Sunday, February 12, 2017, at Mansfield Lutheran Church, Alden, MN)**

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. Jim Munyer | 9. |
| 2. Jo Sandler | 10. |
| 3. Hazel Spiering | 11. |
| 4. Vincent Tims | 12. |
| 5. | |
| 6. | |
| 7. | |
| 8. | |

*** VOTING MEMBERS TO SOUTHEASTERN MN SYNOD ASSEMBLY
(Rochester, Saturday and Sunday, May 6-7, 2017)**

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

*** NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2018:**

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Becky Tennis Hanson | 4. Rebecca Passer |
| 2. Bill Leland | 5. |
| 3. Steve Thompson | 6. |

*** PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – 3 year term (January '17 to January '20):**

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Tricia Dahl | 3. Sandy Fredrickson |
| 2. Gary Schindler | |

PRESENT PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| 1. Truman Thron | Jan. 2019 | 6. |
| 2. Tricia Dahl | Jan. 2017 | 7. Grace Council President |
| 3. Heather Earl | Jan. 2018 | 8. Grace Senior Pastor |
| 4. Darin Passer | Jan. 2018 | |
| 5. | | |

*** SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE FOR 2017:**

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jeanne Lundak | 4. Jackie Williamson |
| 2. LuVerne Godtland | 5. Julie Drommerhausen |
| 3. Steve Lee | |

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

NEW BUSINESS — 2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

Budgeted Income

	<u>2016</u> <u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>2016</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>2017</u> <u>PROPOSED</u>
<u>Budgeted Offering</u>			
Envelopes	\$ 519,266.00	\$ 496,505.10	\$ 545,814.24
Initial Offering	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 677.00	\$ 1,000.00
Loose Offering	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,743.53	\$ 10,000.00
Love Offering	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,424.00	\$ 1,500.00
Lenten Offering	\$ 7,650.00	\$ 6,694.00	\$ 8,000.00
Easter	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 455.00	\$ 5,000.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,499.00	\$ 2,000.00
Christmas	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 10,797.00	\$ 16,000.00
Altar Guild	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Budgeted Income Total	\$ 560,916.00	\$ 526,794.63	\$ 590,314.24

Budgeted Expense

	<u>2016</u> <u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>2016</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>2017</u> <u>PROPOSED</u>
<u>Mission to Others</u>			
Southeastern Minnesota Synod	\$ 34,400.00	\$ 37,281.80	\$ 34,400.00
Blue Earth River Conference	\$ 200.00	\$ 305.25	\$ 200.00
Good Earth Village	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 800.00
Lutheran Social Service	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,083.33	\$ 1,000.00
St John's Lutheran Home	\$ 400.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 400.00
Mission to Others Total	\$ 36,800.00	\$ 41,070.38	\$ 36,800.00

Pastoral Ministry

Staff Salaries	\$ 215,000.00	\$ 170,949.91	\$ 143,709.24
Staff Wages	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 111,698.91	\$ 153,865.00
Section 105	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Staff Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 64.43	\$ 2,100.00
Staff Development	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,500.00
Pastors' Auto allowance	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Pastors' Professional Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 7,973.34	\$ 3,000.00
Pension and Health Insurance	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 37,359.16	\$ 61,052.00
Lay Staff mileage	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 751.44	\$ 1,000.00
Lay Staff Social Security	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 12,542.84	\$ 11,771.00
Conference and Synod Assembly	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,644.44	\$ 1,500.00
Guest Speakers	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 725.00	\$ 1,200.00
Fees	\$ 350.00	\$ 3,086.40	\$ 3,000.00
Pastoral Ministry Total	\$ 331,050.00	\$ 351,820.87	\$ 388,697.24

<u>2017 BUDGET PROPOSAL</u>	<u>2016 PROPOSED</u>	<u>2016 YTD</u>	<u>2017 PROPOSED</u>
<u>Congregation Ministries</u>			
Education Ministry Team	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 10,612.42	\$ 11,000.00
Life and Growth Ministry Team	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,416.43	\$ 1,200.00
Mission Ministry team	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Stewardship Ministry Team	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 655.09	\$ 9,000.00
Worship and Music Ministry Team	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 2,325.87	\$ 3,500.00
Youth Ministry Team	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,733.44	\$ 7,000.00
Administration	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 30,345.96	\$ 25,000.00
Advertising	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 4,652.85	\$ 3,000.00
Church Transportation	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 113.96	\$ 1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 17,502.74	\$ 2,000.00
<i>Call Process</i>	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,332.43	\$ 500.00
<i>Pastor Moving Expense</i>	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,132.30	\$ 4,000.00
<i>LEAD</i>	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
<i>Altar Guild</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
<i>Technology Ministry Team</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00
<i>Parish Nurse/Visitation</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
Congregation Ministries Total	\$ 70,800.00	\$ 82,823.49	\$ 76,400.00
<u>Church Upkeep</u>			
Boiler Maintenance Set Aside	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
New Equipment	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,198.77	\$ 6,000.00
Maintenance	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 72,544.28	\$ 36,000.00
Property and Liability Insurance	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 22,650.00	\$ 23,000.00
Utilities	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 30,000.82	\$ 25,000.00
Church Upkeep Total	\$ 97,000.00	\$ 135,393.87	\$ 95,000.00
BUDGETED EXPENSE TOTAL	\$ 535,650.00	\$ 611,108.61	\$ 596,897.24

RESOLUTION 2017a (MISSIONARY FOR A DAY)

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 it's 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 2016 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.

RESOLUTION 2017b (ROOF AND SHINGLES)

Authority to Execute Contract for the Replacement of Roof & Shingles

Whereas storm damage to the roof and shingles of the church building has resulted in the need for a complete replacement of the roof and shingles;

Whereas the Building Equipment & Grounds Ministry Team and the Church Council have approved the proposed material and contractor for work to be completed in the year 2017;

Therefore be it resolved, that authority is granted to the President of Grace Lutheran Church of Albert Lea, MN to enter into a contract on behalf of the congregation, with Lifetime Shingles of Fairmont, MN to replace the roof and shingles in the year 2017.

RESOLUTION 2017c (CAPITAL CAMPAIGN)

Authority to Execute Contract to Initiate a Capital Campaign

Whereas a Capital Campaign is proposed to raise funds for significant building repair, replacement and improvements.

Whereas the Building Equipment & Grounds Ministry Team and the Church Council have identified areas and items in need of repair, replacement and improvements.

Therefore be it resolved, that authority is granted to the President of Grace Lutheran Church of Albert Lea, MN to enter into a contract on behalf of the congregation, with Mark Davey and Associates of Minneapolis, MN to commence a feasibility study to determine potential outcome of a capital campaign and, if appropriate, execute a contract on behalf of the congregation to initiate a 3-year capital campaign.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROPOSAL

Meet Mark Davy & Associates

Mission

Mark Davy & Associates serves as a valued partner to our clients, community and profession by providing quality fundraising counsel with integrity.

History

Mark Davy & Associates has been partnering with churches for over 27 years to achieve their vision for building, renovation, mortgage/debt reduction and ministries. We are based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Our staff consists of experienced consultants and administrative personnel which gives each client the expertise to maximize their fundraising potential without disrupting your church's day-to-day operations. We work with churches of all sizes. Our firm has conducted successful campaigns from \$150,000 to \$70 million.

Our Services

FEASIBILITY STUDIES

The best way to ensure your church is ready for a capital campaign is to conduct a feasibility study. This is an economical and effective way to determine awareness and importance of the initiatives, volunteer support and financial capability of your church. The study gives members an opportunity to provide feedback and enables the leadership to move forward with confidence. Mark Davy & Associates conducts the feasibility study and provides a report with an estimate of how much the church can expect to raise as well as recommendations for next steps.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

Capital campaigns for building projects are always a large undertaking and should be coordinated by a team of experienced professionals.

Mark Davy & Associates is a full-service firm. During the capital campaign, we have the ability to serve in three primary roles:

1. Campaign Counsel

Based on our experience with hundreds of clients, Mark Davy & Associates will advise the Campaign Committee and volunteers on "best practices" in capital campaigns and provide an initial written plan with a focus on recruitment and coordination of leadership and volunteers, communication and gifting.

2. Management

We work with your campaign leadership in managing activities and coordinating volunteers. This ensures the campaign is moving forward in a timely manner.

3. Administrative

Mark Davy & Associates will serve as the campaign office. The main focus of this role is managing the design, print and distribution of all communication, volunteer and gifting materials.



GOOD EARTH VILLAGE ANNUAL REPORT



2016 Annual Report to Congregations

- In April folks gathered eagerly for our first **Storytelling Event - Kingdom Revealed**. Volunteers stepped forward to share their true-as-remembered stories with an attentive group of listeners. In between stories shared musician Ryan Lee filled us with his songs. We're grateful for our five storytellers (Dan Doering, Beth Krolak, Paul Lutter, John Schultz, Pam Whitfield) and our storytelling facilitator Phil GebbenGreen for filling the night with community.
- Our **Spring Retreat** for Junior & Senior High Students challenged youth to think Beyond (Un)Common.
- **Women's Day** participants gathered around Hope. We heard from Pastor Margaret Kelly with Shobi's Table, a food truck ministry, in St. Paul. She shared her story and how this important impactful ministry came to be and the hope it provides to the people she serves. Workshops in the afternoon allowed participants to dive deeper into spiritual practices, enjoy intergenerational conversations or simply enjoy the beautiful creation of Good Earth Village. Closing worship provided hope and energy to return to do God's work in the world.
- **Summer 2016** challenged campers to consider what it means to ask God's Kingdom to come. Our learning began with developing common language and understanding of what the Kingdom of God is. Counselors led conversations sifting through Earthly Kingdoms and the Kingdom of God, while leaving plenty of room for mystery. Once the foundation was laid, then came the invitation. All of creation, our neighbors and ourselves belong to the Kingdom of God. Campers came and heard the message that they are in, they belong, and there is nothing they can do to lose that. This love and grace causes us to see the world differently. We called this our Kingdom View, the fact that we see both injustice and hope. Our staff shared what injustices they see and are passionate about and our campers continually impressed us with their generous hearts and care for one another. We dove into prayer and asked for God's Kingdom to Come and be here with us now. Campers identified action steps that aligned with their God given gifts to be part of revealing God's Kingdom. After closing worship on Friday afternoon, one of our camper parents said, "This is the only camp I could send my kids to that would say everyone belongs to the Kingdom of God and isn't trying to keep anyone out."
- In addition to our traditional **Youth Camp** programs, we introduced three new programs in 2016. **Camper's Choice** was developed as a response to our junior high and high school students who love camp, but have full summer schedules, too. This half week program was filled with all the highlights of camp and left our campers wanting to come back for more! These campers, with their counselors, developed their own schedules prioritizing their favorite things about camp and trying new things in between. **GrandCamp** made its debut this summer and sold out! We loved seeing grandparents treasure their time with grandkids. Their time together was spent worshipping, playing, learning, creating, splashing, singing and enjoying each other. **Mystery Week** campers were high schoolers who were ready for new Good Earth Village adventures. Combining service at the Spring Valley Food Shelf, Harmony Assisted Living, adventure canoeing, and camping, the week held a new surprise each day.
- Our 3rd Season of the **Launch Project** welcomed speakers Kerlin Richter, Alan Storey, and Nora Gallagher. Each speaker left participants with insights to consider long after the event.
- **Fall Youth Blasts** really got Messy! Youth grades 3-8 engaged in conversations about our understanding of God's Kingdom and how sometimes it can get Messy! Youth learned through hands-on science and activities how God's forgiveness and love are bigger than any mess we can create.

GUSTAVUS ANNUAL REPORT



• ANNUAL REPORT FROM GUSTAVUS CHURCH RELATIONS — DECEMBER 2016 •

Greetings to you from your partners in ministry at Gustavus Adolphus College! The College community has been looking forward, dreaming big and thinking strategically. In alignment with our mission and core values, we have identified a bold, 10-year vision to energize and focus our work. Here is our vision: *Gustavus equips students to lead purposeful lives and to act on the great challenges of our time through an innovative liberal arts education of recognized excellence.*

For more than 150 years, Gustavus Adolphus College has educated students to lead fulfilling lives of leadership and service. The people of Gustavus are academics and artists, scientists and stewards, learners and landscapers. We are designers and dancers, cooks and coaches, theologians and teachers. We are a diverse community of people passionate about the power of the liberal arts to transform lives and improve our world. Gustavus stands on a strong foundation of tradition and heritage that has shaped who we are today. Embracing our living connection to the Lutheran tradition, the College is actively dedicated to the longstanding principles of Lutheran higher education, including education explicitly aimed at developing the whole person and contributing to the common good, a love for and openness to the world in its complexity and diversity, and critical questioning in the ongoing search for truth and the advancement of knowledge.

As you gather for congregation annual meetings and synod assemblies, 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 church and college ministry partnership.

MARK YOUR 2017 CALENDARS AND JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **STEP UP — MARCH 9, 2017**, a leadership development resource for high school youth. Students will be introduced to college level concepts of leadership that will help them develop a stronger personal plan for continuing to grow as a leader. For more information: www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations/stepup
- **Annual Gustavus Faith Conference and Association of Congregations Business Meeting Luncheon — APRIL 22, 2017**
The theme for the 2017 conference is "Faith, Science, and the Freedom to Serve." Dr. Philip Clayton, Ingham Professor of Theology at Claremont School of Theology and Rev. Siri Erickson, Chaplain of the College at Gustavus Adolphus College are the featured presenters. The Annual Business Meeting of Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations will take place during the luncheon meeting. For more information: www.gustavus.edu/faithconference
- **MAYDAY! Peace Conference—MAY 3, 2017** "What Would You Do? Citizenship and Mass Surveillance"
- **The Gustavus Academy for Faith, Science, and Ethics — JUNE 24-30, 2017**, an exciting new resource for high school youth interested in exploring creative alliances between faith and science. For more information: www.gustavus.edu/chaplain/academy
- **Annual Nobel Conference®—OCTOBER 3-4, 2017** "Reproductive Technology: How Far Do We Go?"
- **STEP UP — NOVEMBER 2, 2017**, a leadership development resource for high school youth.
- **Christmas in Christ Chapel—DECEMBER 1-3, 2017**

For more information about these events and the many resources we offer congregations, please contact the Office of Church Relations or visit us on-line at: www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations. Thank you for your partnership and prayers!

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

MAKE YOUR LIFE COUNT

Office of Church Relations | DIRECT 507-933-7001 | FAX 507-933-6337 | church-relations@gustavus.edu
800 West College Avenue | St. Peter, Minnesota 56082-1498 | 507-933-8000 | gustavus.edu

SEMN SYNOD 2016 MINISTRY REPORT

A Ministry Report of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA *in celebration of the ministry that took place throughout 2016*

DEVELOPING LEADERS

- 2 pastors were ordained
- 3 Synodically Authorized Ministers were approved for candidacy
- 171 rostered & lay leaders participated in the Fall Theological Conference in November 2016
- 26 active ministry candidates across 6 seminaries are participating in the candidacy process
- 191 congregational leaders participated in the RENEW! event in Spring 2016
- 43 rostered leaders participated in the Emotional Intelligence Workshop

SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS

- 22 congregations took part in Stewardship for All Seasons, utilizing a stewardship coach for a year
- 9 congregations worked with LEAD (Living Everyday As Disciples), receiving a congregational assessment and coaching for a year
- 49 congregations were in the call process
- 23 congregations called a rostered leader
- 532 people attended the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly

ACCOMPANYING GLOBAL PARTNERS

- 52 congregations partnered with congregations, schools, rural clinics and a hospital in Tanzania & Colombia
- 2 synod representatives went to Colombia for a visit with the Lutheran Church in Colombia and the newly installed Bishop Atahualpa Hernandez
- 2 synod representatives attended the 2016 Latin American Consultation in Lima, Peru
- 1 synod representative attended the ELCA-ELCT (Tanzania) Consultation in Chicago, IL
- 9 dispensaries (clinics) were visited as part of a synod-sponsored assessment in Central Diocese, Tanzania
- The South Sudan Operations Team was formed which includes representatives from the 5 Southeastern Minnesota Synod South Sudanese worshipping communities

GIVING

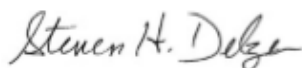
General benevolence supported ministry happening in the synod, throughout the ELCA, and the world:

- \$491,000 for Developing Leaders
- \$566,000 for Equipping Congregations
- \$180,000 for Accompanying Global Partners

Special giving opportunities accomplished:

- Over \$110,000 given or pledged to South Sudan to build a Lutheran Center and support Rev. Wal Reat as a missionary
- \$168,000 to ELCA World Hunger (through September)

Peace in Christ,



Southeastern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Equipping congregations & leaders to follow Jesus into a changing world.
www.semnynod.org • 507-280-9457



REFLECTIONS ON GIVING AND THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

As you gather, the following questions are frequently asked about giving and the work of the church. These may be helpful as your congregation engages in conversation about how to grow and thrive in the future.

What is missional giving?

One way individuals and congregations participate in missional giving is when their financial contributions, often called offerings or tithes, to and through their congregation, or other charitable organizations, are intended to do God's work in the world. We believe this work can be done faithfully through ELCA ministries.

Why give?

For some the answer is God first gave to us, thus through our life we have an opportunity to share God's generosity with others. This understanding demonstrates giving is a spiritual issue, not a financial one. For other Lutherans, the answer is also an identity issue. We are faithful Lutherans and this is what we do – share with others. This is not an individual experience only, for we are church together, and through our unified giving we do God's work.

Who gives?

All are invited to give as God has blessed them and as the Spirit moves them.

What to give?

As the apostle Paul wrote of the Christians in Macedonia, "They first gave themselves to the Lord." Through baptism, confirmation and our confessional statements, each person first gives of themselves to God. Within each person's faith walk, they are asked to give of their time, talents and resources. This can take many forms.

How much to give?

We teach to grow toward a tithe (10 percent of household income), to a tithe and beyond a tithe as God has blessed you. This may also apply to one's time.

When to give?

Individuals and congregations are encouraged to give regularly. The practice of "first fruits" giving, sharing a portion of God's blessings when they are received, is encouraged. This may be weekly, monthly or quarterly. There are also times for special giving. This is often in response to specific needs or opportunities. There are also times for planned gifts. This is often for major projects or at the end of life. All these forms of giving are encouraged.

Where to give?

Most supporters of the ELCA do the majority of their giving to and through their congregation. When growing toward and beyond a tithe, giving to all charitable organizations is considered.

How to give?

All regular giving received by ELCA congregations is considered undesignated. This means the dollars received can be used as determined by a missional budget or expense plan approved by a quorum of the membership and as managed by elected leaders. An increasing percentage of total giving to congregations is being designated for specific purposes. While we appreciate and celebrate all giving and respect the wishes of the donor, we also trust members and elected leaders to make financial decisions that support God's work in and beyond the local community, both in the present and for the future.

What is Mission Support?

This is the portion of your congregation's regular financial offering that is shared with your synod. The synod then shares a percentage for God's work that we do together through our ELCA churchwide organizations, both domestically and globally.

Church Offices (507) 373-6496
Shane Koepke
Robert Tewes
Ashley Kuhlman
Jill Hagen
Kandy Nelson
Senior Pastor
AIM Director of Music and Organist
Youth Director
Interim Education Director
Office Manager

Basement / Kitchen
Lori Tuchtenhagen
Marsha Rafdal
Sherry Seberson
Darin LaFrance
Robert Suniga

(507) 373-7834
Parish Nurse
Financial Bookkeeper
Children's Choir Director
Building Superintendent
Assistant Custodian