

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION IS TO CREATE A WELCOMING FAITH COMMUNITY CALLED TO LOVE GOD, SERVE OUR NEIGHBORS, AND TELL THE STORY OF JESUS CHRIST



Annual Meeting

January 28, 2024

To join online: go to www.gracenempls.org/live on any computer, tablet, or smartphone. You will be redirected to the Zoom room. To join by phone: dial 312-626-6799. When asked for meeting code, enter 908-357-395 and press #. If asked for a password, enter 1534 #.

Agenda and Table of Contents

Opening Prayer

Declaring a Quorum (10% of membership)

Welcoming Visitors

Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Agenda

Ministry Reports

- Report of the President
- Report of the Interim Pastor
- Transition Team Report
- Congregation-Facing Ministries
 - Worship & Music
 - Children & Youth Education
 - Golden Friends
 - Women's Bible Study
 - Quilters & Knitters
 - Racial Justice Workgroup
- Community-Facing Ministries
 - Little Kitchen Food Shelf
 - Community Dinners (with Pins and Needles)
 - Twin Cities Pride
 - Fundraising
- Treasurer's Report
- Supplemental Reports

Elections

- Council Members
- Synod Assembly Delegates
- Nominating Committee

Approval of the 2024 Budget

Closing Prayer

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 11:15am by Council President Sandy Kortebein
Annual meeting accompanied a chili cook-off meal.

Attendance: 40

Opening Prayer and Devotion by Interim Pastor Ben Masters. Sung prayer. Devotion on God as table meal served.

REVIEW OF REPORTS

2022 Minutes - Will Schar, Secretary

Amend spelling error on page 1 of minutes.

Motion to Accept: Erik Nelson

2nd: Jon Hamlow

Motion carried unanimously.

Report of President - Sandy Kortebein

Acknowledged, thanked the work of the church Council. Thanked members of all other committees and all the work they've done this year.

Thanked all volunteer groups and Opened the floor for additional comments by the committees.
(see committees section)

Pastor's Report - Interim Pastor Ben Masters

1. Thanks. Began thanking, honoring 3 past ministry leaders: Pastor Emmy, Intern Pastor Erica and Erik Leudke.
2. Celebrating Leaders and Volunteers. Called for leaders and participants of committees, community events to stand, and to clap and be heard. Honored committees work and LKFS work.
 - a. Updated the community on Queer grace and its new leaders, Daniel and Lacie.
3. Outreach. Shared outreach goals to connect to our Neighbors.
 - a. Knowing them
 - b. Discerning our mission
 - c. Knowing and nurturing our communities' gifts.
 - d. Tapping into our Leaderful congregation.

Committee Special Announcements

Quilters - Sally Palm

Sally invited more to come and join and learn about the Quilters and Knitters. Shared their work this year. Invited the congregation to the next event.

Racial Justice Work Group - Nick Zeimat

Nick briefly mentioned current events, the death of Tyre Nichols, and how it puts into focus our groups work and cause. Groups steps are Education to lead to action.

No other committees shared special words or thoughts. See the Annual Report for more details.

2023 Election of Council Members

President Sandy Kortebein presiding. NCC Jon Hamlow read the slate of candidates.

Returning Council: Bryan Boyce, Kathy Hubbard, Sarah Ditto Heyer, Sue Traxler, Will Schar

New Council: Brenna Zeimat, Sylvia Radford

Jon Hamlow asked 3 times if there were any nominations from the floor. None were made. NCC made a motion to close the slate of nominees, Sheena Schar seconded, Motion passed unanimously.

NCC Sylvia Radford moved to instruct the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot electing the slate of Candidates to the Church Council, motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Will Schar cast a unanimous ballot to elect the slate of Candidates presented by the nominating committee. President Sandy Kortebein now declares the slate of Candidates elected.

Approval of 2023 Budget

Kathy Hubbard outlined the budget shortfalls of 2022, and plans for 2023. Described process and needs to be realistic. Emphasized need to urge gifts to the church and action and new and better fundraising.

Amy Fields asked about inflation increase to salaries. KH explained the lower pay raise was made in light of the budget shortfall and higher than average pay raise the previous year. Hope that they will be able to raise salaries to catch up next year.

Question from the Floor about the ministry expense. KH explained the need for funds allocated for the call process of our new pastor. Budget is for potential travel and meal expenses.

Motion to Accept the Budget: Erik Nelson

2nd: Maggie Heyer

Motion Carried Unanimously.

End of Business

Sandy Kortebein Motion called for motion to close.

Motioned: Kathy Schadendorf

2nd: Sarah Heyer.

Interim Pastor Ben closing prayer

Thank you for your stewardship

Go in peace

William Schar

President's Report

Hello, Grace Lutheran Congregation! It's been an honor to serve as your council president this year—even if that came about by me being the last one to say, "not it." 😊

I'm pleased that 2023 was in many ways a more stable year than its predecessor; not saying goodbye multiple pastors in the course of a month is a comparative win in my book! We have appreciated Interim Pastor Ben's leadership, as well as Ashley's positive contributions to ministry. Ben has pushed us in particular to think about where leadership and passion for mission reside in our congregation—an orientation that has helped us determine our strengths and needs through things like last fall's retreat.

Music continues to be a highlight for many; we are grateful for Jon Pumper's direction and to see the choir quadruple in size from a couple years ago.

The food shelf is so popular that we are at capacity; thank you Lynn for your stewardship of this important ministry!

There is plenty of other activity I have less of a front row seat to that is just as important to making us who we are: community meal, quilting, Bible study, youth education, Queer Grace, Golden Friends, other service and community building efforts too numerous to name!

As I've said before, I appreciate that we are a multigenerational congregation under one roof—I think celebrating a baptism last year and knowing another is on the docket is exciting for us all!

Sustaining our budget even as we think differently about outward-facing ministry is a priority for the council. I appreciate all who engaged in my talk about our decision to stop charging interest on our contract for deed with House of Refuge as a nod toward racial reparations; see visual aid on the next page for the crib notes version.

Securing a new pastor and completing the transition process is of course a priority for next year, and I can't overstate how valuable the individual and collaborative efforts of members of the transition and call committees are to this.

At the same time, I think this last year has been a good reminder that a church is more than its pastor: it's the hearts, minds, faith, and actions of all the members who make up our congregation! This is a diverse, scrappy, fun, and loving home for many. I'm proud to call it mine and hope you are too. Looking forward to 2024!

Looking forward to 2024!



Bryan Boyce
Council President

Appendix: Vision Aid from House of Refuge Discussion

Summary: A thumb has been on the the scale in favor of our members and against House of Refuge members for generations—even if we haven’t always noticed it. Eliminating interest on our contract for deed with them puts our congregation’s racial justice values into practice in a way that we can adapt to financially over time.



1899
First building of Grace Northeast predecessors built.

1944
GI Bill excludes Black veterans, estimated \$180K loss per veteran.

2008
House of Refuge, Church of God in Christ, founded at old St. Paul location.



1914
White membership divests from Church of God in Christ in Hot Springs, AR.

1950
40% of Minneapolis properties restricted by racial covenants.

2013
Over half of Black wealth eliminated by Great Recession.

Interim Pastor's Report

Dear friends, do you remember our Easter practice in worship this year? Every time we said or sang, "Alleluia" we rang bells! Alleluia is a joy word, a gratitude word. In Hebrew, it means "Praise God, everybody!" As you read through a few highlights of our work together and look toward a new year, I invite you to echo my "Alleluia!" for what God is doing in our midst.

When I joined your community, Council gave me five areas of focus: worship leadership; spiritual care & community presence; administration; ministry with Queer Grace Community; and transition. I'm happy to share personal highlights for me, but right now I'm noticing the ways the Spirit was moving through us in these areas.

Alongside our singing, praying, and bread-breaking and peace-sharing, we welcomed five members of our community into the pulpit: Adam Boldenow, Ashley Teter, Brenna Zeimet, Erik Nelson, and Jon Olsen. *Alleluia!*

Worship

Recognizing that our newest neighbors are from Ecuador, in August and September we stretched beyond our comfort zones to sing in Spanish. *¡Aleluya!*

We celebrated the life of Joan Bragg on September 22, celebrated the baptism of Theo Gross on October 15, and on All Saints' Day we remembered with resurrection hope several loved ones who had died in the last year. *Alleluia!*

Our worship took us beyond our walls: picking up trash, writing to our lawmakers, tying quilts for SACA, giving away diapers and maxi pads, and bringing treats to people working on Christmas Eve. *Alleluia!*

We strengthened our relationship with New City, providing pizza for the school play and showering teachers with school supplies. In December you provided 9 jackets, 8 pairs of snow pants, 10 pairs of boots, 7 hats, and 8 pairs of gloves to 14 individual students. *Alleluia!*

We tithed 10% of our Sauerkraut Supper fundraiser to My Very Own Bed, to gift along with 12 sets of sheets, 10 comforters, 8 pillows, 8 stuffed animals, 2 mattress pads, and 1 book. *Alleluia!*

Spiritual Care & Community Presence

Luther Seminary student Ashley Teter joined us as a part of her Public Christian Leadership class in February—and then stayed! Thanks be to God for the mentoring heart of this congregation and for receiving the many gifts of her leadership. *Alleluia!*

Administration

In April, Little Kitchen Food Shelf worked with Iglesia Univeral on Polk Street NE to provide essentials for 30 refugee families, and then partnered with this Spanish-speaking church for neighborhood produce distribution. *Alleluia!*

We restructured our contract for deed with House of Refuge COGIC to make the agreement more equitable given our city's history of racism in lending. *Alleluia!*

QGC leaders Lacy, Emily, and Daniel led three worship events in January, February, and April, plus a Free Market in March, before wisely taking a step back to breathe. Since then, they have met to discuss how to cultivate relationships with Christian and spiritually curious LGBTQ+ people in the Twin Cities. *Alleluia!*

Members of Grace stepped up to be a loving presence at Twin Cities Pride in June, affirming for hundreds of LGBTQ+ people that they are beautiful and beloved. *Alleluia!*

Transition

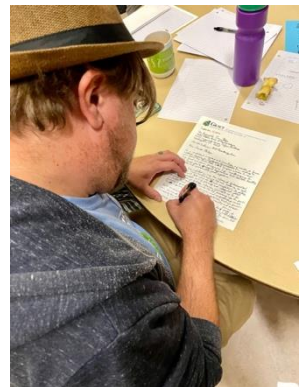
The Transition Team began its work on January 21, and met bi-monthly for four months to discuss learning from our neighbors the joys and challenges facing Northeast. *Alleluia!*

After a three month pause, the Team supported a church retreat led by Council Vice-President Brenna Zeimet in October. Insights from that retreat have reinvigorated our transition work. *Alleluia!*

Look back over the year we've shared. What do you notice? I see the Spirit pouring God's love into our hearts (Romans 5:5), stretching us to embrace each other and our neighbors. In 2024, I pray you open your hearts to lavish affection on New City School, to meet hunger with hospitality at Little Kitchen Food Shelf, to laugh and learn with LGBTQ+ neighbors, and to welcome new people to this congregation—including an installed pastor. Jesus Christ, risen and ready for adventure, is beside you all the way. *Alleluia!*

Onward in the Spirit!

Pr. Ben Masters, your interim pastor



Snapshots from our day of service, "God's Work, Our Hands Sunday": packing diapers and maxi pads for Little Kitchen Food Shelf to distribute; preparing to pick up trash in the neighborhood; advocating for a fair and faithful Farm Bill.

Transition Team Report, prepared by Interim Pastor Ben Masters

Seasons of transitions are not easy. This past year our Transition Team got stuck. October's church retreat, facilitated by Council Vice-President Brenna Zeimet, helped us recognize why and is helping the Team move forward with curiosity and compassion.

Below are four takeaways from the retreat, which Brenna expands upon in her excellent report. If you haven't read it, head over to bit.ly/48UNHf6 or use your phone's camera app to scan the QR code at the right. (Go ahead, do it now while you're thinking about it.)



Takeaway #1: We love to help and serve

We have a church full of people ready to offer a hand and open their hearts. Generally, though, we prefer not to be in charge or set vision. We are loyal and hardworking, and we value deep relationships, stability, and harmony.

Takeaway #3: Grief reinforces our aversion to change and conflict

When people leave because of change, it hits at the thing we value most: relationships. We've powered through, but now it's time to open our hearts to each other work through grief so we can grow with a new pastor.

Takeaway #2: We know this neighborhood

We share many of the same passions as our neighbors: the arts, local food, the environment, and so much more. Hosting events takes a lot of work, so we're excited to get out and join in what others are doing.

Takeaway #4: Our next pastor could be a collaborator

Our last two pastors were the main drivers for what we did as a church. In order to have ownership of our ministry, we could use a pastor who encourages our gifts and passions in service of others.

Compare these takeaways with the goals in the transition process shared at last year's annual meeting.



We already know this neighborhood and we're eager to help and serve others. However, not working through grief prevented us from sitting down with neighborhood stakeholders. *Why bother building relationships if people are just going to leave anyway?* And it doesn't help to have another pastor insist on their vision of ministry!

You can't love your neighbors as yourself if you don't know them. The same is true if you don't know yourself! That's the why the Transition Team has started to reach out to cohorts in our

congregation to get a fuller picture of our history (both happy and hard times), our dreams, problems that need addressing and creative ways to solve them.



A snapshot of our fall retreat in action!

Sometimes recently single people are restless to find a new partner, and sometimes congregations rush to get a new pastor. In both cases, trustworthy friends wisely encourage: *Slow down. Take some time to deal with past issues. Get to know who you are and what you need.* Thanks be to God that our Transition Team has chosen to prioritize healing and reflection. As we discern who we are and who we are called to be for ourselves and our neighbors, it will become increasingly clear what kind of leader we will need to call as our next pastor.

And just in case there are concerns about navel-gazing, this discernment will also help the Transition Team answer the prompts in the Ministry Site Profile provided by the ELCA. Have you looked through that template? If not, check out elca.org/call-process/ministry-sites and consider how you would tell the story of Grace Lutheran Church of Northeast Minneapolis.

And, always, let us continue to pray for members of your transition team:

- Jonathan Hamlow (he/him)
- Sandy Carlson-Kortebein (she/her)
- Jon Olsen (they/them)
- Kathy Schadendorf (she/her)
- Sue Traxler (she/her)
- Nick Zeimet (he/him)
- Daniel Ditmanson (he/them), representing Queer Grace Community.

Onward in the Spirit!

Pr. Ben Masters, interim pastor

Worship & Music

The choir continues to grow! After we introduced six new members last year, we welcomed an additional four this year: Rosie Zeimet, Valerie Radford, Ashley Teter, and Pastor Ben Masters! And we extended an additional “Welcome Back” to Heather Fokken! At this rate, I am hopeful that by 2029 I’ll have recruited the entire congregation to join the choir, and then whenever we have visitors, they will feel like they are being treated to a private concert.

Speaking of exponential growth, this year was the year of choir babies! Sarah and Alex welcomed Avery, followed soon by Bryan and Amal who welcomed Ayla. We just need two more and then we can finally start our baby barbershop quartet!

As always, we are incredibly lucky to have John Koski, Peter Radford, and Marko Fields willing and available to help make the toe-tapping songs toe-tappinger, and the ballads...ballad-ier. And we wouldn’t be heard at all if it weren’t for Mike on the mics! A huge thanks goes to all the hard work and talent they provide to make our services so special.

If you have a song in your heart and your Tuesday night’s free, we would love to have you join the choir! Or if you have any other musical inclination (cello, guitar, mandolin, triangle, milk jug) let me know; we are always looking for more ways to utilize the gifts of our wonderful congregation.

Onwards to 2024,
Jon Pumper
Worship and Music Director
j.r.pumper@gmail.com
612-205-8492

Children & Youth Education

Sunday School

January - May of 2023 Sunday School was available for pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. We used the “All Kids” Sparks curriculum with one class for all ages. Heather Fokken, Sheena Schar, and Sue Traxler were co-teaching the lessons on Sunday mornings after church services. However, due to the small numbers of students attending Sunday School, instead of purchasing a new Sunday School curriculum for the 2023-2024 school year, we made a shift in the Fall of 2023 to volunteers leading the Children’s Sermon (Object Lesson) during church services. There are seven volunteers who currently rotate leading the Children’s Sermon: Ashley Teter, Bryan Boyce, Will Schar, Kathy Hubbard, Sylvia Radford, Sandy Kortebein, and Sue Traxler. Thank you to Ashley Teter (Luther Seminary Student) for providing volunteers with scripture lessons and themes.

Art-A-Whirl

For Art-A-Whirl in May of 2023, we hosted “Shoebox City”. Although the number of attendees was small, everyone had a great time. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped and to Sylvia Radford for coordinating the event.

Sue Traxler, Sunday School Coordinator

Golden Friends

This year found us enjoying many activities together here at Grace Center and out and about starting in September.

- In September we met at Silverwood Park where we talked and played the card game Farkle. We then went on to have lunch at Carver's.
- October found us going to Feed My Starving Children to pack meal kits and for the less lively we got to stick the 'use by date' sticker on the packs. We followed that with lunch at Perkins.
- In November some of us bowled and all had lunch at Elsie's.
- On December 4th we went to Centennial United Methodist Church in Roseville for a carol sing and music by the Roseville String Ensemble. There was coffee/punch and cookies after.
- In January we played games and had a potluck lunch.

It has been a time of gathering together for friendship and fellowship while serving our neighbor and getting to see new and interesting sites. All ages are welcome to join us in our activities.

Our coming events are:

- February: A movie and pizza at Grace Center.
- March: Prepare and serve Grace Lutheran Community Dinner on 3/23.
- April: Bowling and lunch at Elsie's.
- May: A trolley tour is being looked into—there would of course be lunch as well.
- June: Planning session for the coming year with potluck lunch and maybe Bingo.

If anyone is interested in joining us for any or all of our activities, please contact Kathy Schadendorf at 763-781-7561 or email me at k.schadendorf@comcast.net. Our events are usually held on the third Monday of the month from 10am-noon and always involve food.

Kathy Schadendorf

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study (soon to be Bible Study) continues to meet on the 4th Thursday of the month (except in November because of Thanksgiving when we will meet on the 3rd Thursday). The December Bible Study date could also change because of the Christmas holiday. We also continue to have Bible Study from 1-3pm with "Bring Your Own Lunch" (BYOL) if you like and come between noon-1pm for fellowship. We are meeting in the Commons area or in the Church Office now. There are still only five or six of us and we will welcome anyone to join us. We continue to use the Bible studies from the bimonthly "GATHER" magazine. If you do not receive the "GATHER" magazine, we will provide a copy of the Bible study.

New in October we started another Bible Study on the 2nd Thursday of the month. We like Bible Studies. It follows the same format as the 4th Thursday Bible Study with BYOL from noon-1pm and Bible Study 1-3pm. For this Bible Study, Pastor Ben has found Bible studies for us, such as some of the Women

of the Bible and “Four Perspectives on the Fourth Gospel” by Adele Reinhartz. We are open to suggestions for other topics for this Bible study.

It is always a treat to have Pastor Ben join us for Bible studies. As I said last year, it’s always nice to have a Biblical scholar with us. If you wish to know more about the Bible Studies, please contact me at Snooky1022@comcast.net.

Jennifer Fischer
Coordinator

Quilters & Knitters

The knitters distributed 17 prayer shawls to individuals and families experiencing difficult times due to health issues or the passing of a loved one.

A total of 69 standard quilts were finished in 2023. Sixty-five quilts were donated to Southern Anoka Community Assistance (SACA), including 6 brought to them in early January 2024. Four quilts were donated for raffle fundraisers – 2 each for the Lasagna Dinner and the Sauerkraut Supper.

The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 9:30am to around 11:30am in the Commons (enter at Door 3). New members are welcome – no sewing skills needed, only willingness to learn to tie a square knot with extra half knot to secure quilt layers together and to pin the edges in preparation for final stitching.

Sally Palm

Racial Justice Workgroup

Amy hosted a film screening early in the year. We endorsed/supported council actions towards racial justice. We would like to engage the church community in awareness and education this upcoming year with Our Daily Bread Devotionals leading up to Juneteenth as one example.

I recently was listening in on an open access racial justice book club and the guest indicated that the data is showing that faith communities are leading the way in reparations movements! Thank you church family for your continued investment and support in all areas of justice and specifically in how our church family may partake in the wider church activity of racial justice!

Nick Zeimet

Little Kitchen Food Shelf

Through our regular food shelf hours, we served **7,054 individuals with 93,823 pounds of food** in 2023. This is a very large increase of visitors over the previous two years – in 2022 we served 4,243 individuals and in 2021 we served 1,000 individuals.

Through our continued partnership with the **Heritage Park** community in North Minneapolis, we also served approximately 500 individuals with 2,000 pounds of food at a Thanksgiving distribution.

We also partnered with **Iglesia Universal Church** in Northeast Minneapolis to serve 3,000 pounds of food and essential household items during a special distribution in April for newly immigrated families from Ecuador.

We also collaborated with Iglesia this past summer on our **Summer Produce distributions**; due to the construction here at Grace Center, Iglesia provided their church on Polk Street as the site for these monthly events in July, August, and September. Together we shared 4,070 pounds of fresh produce with 458 individuals.

The year ahead marks a new era for Little Kitchen Food Shelf! To help improve school security for New City School and provide a more welcoming and hospitable environment for our clients, **starting March 5 the food shelf will begin offering a Saturday distribution from 10am-noon in addition to our Tuesday and Thursday evening distributions from 6-7:30pm**. We will no longer be open on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

In addition:

- Over the span of 2023, we were grateful to receive nearly **18,000 pounds** of food and household donations from the community (we received 13,160 pounds in 2022).
- We received **\$23,093.29 in grants** (from Hunger Solutions, Second Harvest Heartland, and the Minnesota Department of Human Services) and **\$34,704.65 in donations** from many wonderful and generous individuals and groups (in 2022 we received \$14,898 in grants and \$24,965 in donations).
- We were blessed to receive **\$8,709 from Eastside Food Co-op**, as part of their “register round-up” in March (we received \$8,826 in 2022). We are also grateful for their weekly drop-offs of food collected from their customer donation bins.
- We were able to use \$1,980 from our grant funds to pay for the concrete work that was completed on our **delivery door ramp**. This was a much-needed repair that has made our delivery drivers very happy!
- We are very grateful to **Lorrie Stromme** for overseeing another successful season of providing fresh produce from our own **Grace Gardens** and to the wonderful 7th and 8th grade science students from **New City** who helped plant green bean seeds, seed potatoes, green pepper plants, collard green seedlings, and tomato plants. They also planted some Lemon Queen sunflowers seeds, a variety that attracts pollinators. Students also planted some donated moisture-loving perennials in a Grace Center rain garden. **Sally Palm** contributed over a dozen green pepper and tomato plants that she had grown from seed. Sally and Lorrie showed the students how to plant the seeds and seedlings (“eyes up” for the chunks of seed potatoes).

- We also received fresh produce from church members' gardens and from the gardens of our neighbors in the community and from our friends at **Northeast United Methodist Church** and **Mount Carmel Lutheran Church**.
- This past Thanksgiving, we distributed approximately **200 turkeys** and other holiday-specific items during our regular food shelf hours.
- We began offering a **Spanish shopping checklist** in addition to our English checklist, which has been very helpful for our growing numbers of Spanish-speaking clients.
- In August, we had a **site visit from Second Harvest Heartland**. As per our contract requirements, they come every 2 years to inspect the food shelf and our paperwork/records. Our representative Lexi was very pleased with everything, and we received zero negative marks. She even took a few pictures for the SHH newsletter! We also received a visit and inspection by the **Minneapolis Department of Health** and received an excellent report!
- We've continued working with **Twin Cities Food Justice**, a group that rescues fresh produce and bread from area grocery stores and delivers it to food shelves and shelters. Our weekly deliveries especially help us to diversify our fresh produce offerings in the winter.
- We continued our partnership with **Pillsbury Elementary School** throughout 2023 to help provide an on-site food shelf at Pillsbury for its students and families, via our administrative support and fiscal sponsorship. In 2024, we will no longer serve as Pillsbury's fiscal sponsors, due to the exciting news that Pillsbury's PTA was able to receive their own 501(c)(3) status for their school's food shelf. We are delighted for them, and we were honored to partner with them over the past five years!
- We are grateful and blessed for our friends and partners at **Mill City Church** and **Nativity Lutheran Church** for their generosity with funds and food, and for their coordination of volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.
- Our pet shelves remained well-stocked all year thanks to the dedicated efforts of our wonderful volunteer **Ann Danko**.
- Heartfelt gratitude to **Dorene Eklund, Jennifer Fischer, Jan McGuire, and Kathy Schadendorf** for their service each and every week, taking client registrations and managing important data input and food shelf statistics. (Thank you also **Pastor Ben** for all your help with Spanish translations!)
- Many thanks to **Tom Fischer, Alaine Jablonski, Sue Neil, and Sue Traxler** from Grace's congregation for their MANY hours of service volunteering in the food shelf!
- We continue to be amazed and inspired by ALL of the extraordinary and generous individuals, businesses, churches, and groups who volunteered their time and donated funds and food!

Lynn Mena

Community Dinners

We've had a good year. Shortly after our annual meeting last year, all months for 2023 were spoken for by a variety of host volunteers. Attendance averaged 45-55 per meal, which still is not back to before pandemic attendance of 70-80. Thanksgiving was again our most attended Community Dinner with 70 folks. I sure wish there was a way to get everyone to come back. We talked to a few folks during LKFS hours.

We advertise in our church directory, in the Northeast paper and on our websites. I send an email to the MPHA with a flyer to be placed on each NE Minneapolis apartment building's bulletin boards. I also deliver or put up fliers in several places around NE Minneapolis.

We gained two new host volunteers in 2022, both tenants of Grace Community Center. New City Charter School and The Contingency Group which is a group of young people that meet on Friday nights. Another new host added in 2023 was the Arcana Lodge #187. At this moment we have several open months. At the end of the Annual Report there is a document I give to a new volunteer host to prepare the meal. All the information a host needs should be there. If you have questions about the document, please let Penny or I know. Our email and phone numbers are there in the document for you. We also have church volunteers that can do the table set up, be a part of the serving line, help clean up the tables and inside the kitchen, or run the dishwashing machine. If you would like to be a church volunteer or a host volunteer, let me know. There is a 2024 calendar of host volunteers and the months they have chosen at the end of this document. There is also the 2023 calendar so you can see the types of meals that have been prepared.

The Community Dinners also host the Pins and Needles sewing group for light mending (replacing buttons, fixing zippers, etc.). Please bring in your clean clothes and they will help with your mending needs. The Pins and Needles ladies will attend 2024 Community Dinners at Grace Community Center for the whole year. The ladies will be in the multi-purpose room to sew and enjoy a meal with us.

I have been organizing Community Dinners for 8 years. This is my ninth and I would like to try my hand at other volunteer options, whether for the church or somewhere else. So, I am asking if there is someone out there that would like to give this volunteer job a try. You would be able to work with me for the rest of 2024 so you would be ready to take Community Dinners over in 2025. I have everything documented and samples of all the emails. Most of the job is sending emails asking hosts to pick a month, updating a calendar of host's months, and attending the Community Dinners. We need to be in attendance to let the host in and welcome them. They may have questions or need help in finding something in the kitchen. I always attend all the Community Dinners that I can, but we could try something new and have multiple volunteers to attend the Community Dinners. I know this commitment of every fourth Saturday of the first ten months and third Saturdays of November and December may be difficult for you young folks to attend.

Maybe it is time to ask, does everyone want the Community Dinners to continue? This decision needs to be made by the congregation, as it takes all of us and it was a congregation decision in the first place.

I THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT!!!! WITHOUT YOU THERE WOULD BE NO COMMUNITY DINNERS!!!!

Jan McGuire, janlue@aol.com

Twin Cities Pride

This year we weren't sure we were going to be at Pride. Queer Grace leadership were unable to commit, but I felt we needed to be there. We made flag and pronoun buttons, brought crayons and an empty triptych. We met a lot of smiling faces and curious faces and had a lot of conversations. Strangers were so happy to hear about our church and Queer Grace. But the big draw was our community art project. Visitors took bits of fabric, wrote what made them "beautiful and beloved" on them and tied them to any spot on the triptych. Some folks dove right in, excited, others took their time and some even shed tears as they searched for something to answer what made them beloved.

What I got from most visitors at pride was a sense of curiosity or tension then relief. Being given something fun to do like our art project, and free pronoun pins allowed them to decide how much they engaged, and we got to be an example of a church that wasn't ministering in the traditional way. We only had the time and volunteers to booth Saturday, but that was enough. We filled the triptych by the evening Saturday.

Will Schar

Fundraising

The Lasagna Dinner was held on April 15. The turnout was smaller than hoped for, however take-out sales remained strong. Around \$1,500 was raised by all those who worked to make good food and had fun doing it. A \$250 Thrivent Action Team card along with other donations was used to cover the costs of the event.

The Sauerkraut Supper was held on November 4. In the kitchen was Jonathan Hamlow as head chef with Jennifer Main as sous chef to prepare the sauerkraut and pork with Sally Palm being the Queen of the rutabagas and Amanda Kaiser as kitchen supervisor. A host of volunteers over three days made this fundraiser possible along with a \$250 Thrivent Action Team card and donated supplies. We raised over \$2,200 from the event. Two quilts were supplied from our quilters for auctioning. We again had one dine-in session and offered take out.

Kathy Schadendorf



Snapshots from our fundraising: Kathy Schadendorf at the Lasagna Dinner; Sally Palm and William Schar preparing rutabagas for the Sauerkraut Supper; happy neighbors enjoying a delicious meal.

Treasurer's Report

Please see attached reports for the 2023 Balance Sheet and Budget to Actual Operating Report, as well as the Council-approved Budget for 2024.

End of Year Entries

Amounts transferred from the Church's Thrivent Checking Account into the LKFS Thrivent Checking account for LKFS Vanco Recpt income processed directly into the Church's Thrivent Checking Account for 2023 were processed on 6/30/23 in the amount \$10,000.00 and 1/16/2024 in the amount of \$6,262.47.

A Journal Entry of \$5,000.00 was processed from the LKFS Vanco Recpt Income line to the Receipts & Donations line of the Income and Expense Report. This entry is the reimbursement amount LKFS pays to the church for building operating expenses.

Pillsbury LKFS now has their own 501c3 charity status and has opened a banking account for their direct donations. This means that we no longer will be processing their donations of checks and Vanco payments. A transfer of their remaining balance will be transferred to Second Harvest Heartland account for Pillsbury LKFS. As their donations were very few we choose not to charge them the \$600.00 yearly reimbursement fee.

Jan McGuire

Supplemental Reports

On the following pages, read reflections from Bishop Ann Svennungsen of the Minneapolis Area Synod and from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America churchwide office.



Minneapolis Area Synod
of the ELCA

Grace, peace, and hope through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Day by day ... they ate their food
with glad and generous hearts,
praising God and having the good
will of all the people. – Acts 2:46-47*

In May, we meet for our 2024 Synod Assembly under the theme “With Glad and Generous Hearts.” The phrase describes the early church as they gathered on Pentecost. It is also an appropriate description of the past year of our life and ministry together.

In 2023, our hearts were gladdened by:

- Your congregation, along with the other 136 congregations in our synod, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament, nurturing community, and loving neighbors and neighborhoods.
- The privilege of accompanying congregations in 72 Call Processes; presiding at 14 Ordinations and 30 Installations; and walking with 34 people preparing to become pastors or deacons.
- 142 lay leaders and 28 clergy from 31 congregations learning to be church in the 21st century through our Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices intensive learning communities.
- 6,500 people receiving our weekly enews. (Sign up at mpls-synod.org/sign-up to feel more connected.)
- 100s of rostered and lay leaders involved in synod sponsored peer groups, conferences, and retreats.
- 100s of leaders from synod congregations helping pass the state’s “100% Clean Energy By 2040” and “Restore The Vote” legislation that advance both climate justice and racial justice.
- 100s of leaders faithfully serving as Deans, on Synod Council, and Candidacy, Audit, Program Committees.
- 15 gifted and devoted synod staff members: 10 funded by Mission Support from you and other congregations, and 5 funded by Lilly Endowment and other external grants.

We praise God for the congregational generosity that makes all this happen. At the same time, we recognize that mission support from congregations has declined 16% over the past 10 years, resulting in a reduction in synod staff hours. Especially as we prepare to elect a new bishop this spring, we invite you to consider strengthening your support for the future of the synod’s work.

Conference Assemblies are just around the corner: Saturday, February 10, 9:30 a.m. – Noon. Of particular importance will be conference nominations for bishop as well as for voting members to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, July 28 - August 2, 2025. We encourage congregations to send the same voting members to both the Conference and Synod Assemblies.

As we look at declining mission support or grieve the closing of a congregation, we can become discouraged. In such moments, I encourage you to listen to a remarkable conversation from our 2023 Synod Assembly. Our keynote speaker, the Rev. Otis Moss III, was asked: “what do you say to those who think the church is dying?” Filled with courage and hope, Moss responded, “the church is not dying, it is being born, refashioned, and remade. The early church was an alternative community. Today we use the metrics of the market to evaluate the church – buildings, budgets, numbers. But, the early church looked at **impact**: were people hearing the good news of Jesus who lived and died for our salvation? Was suffering being relieved? Were people being welcomed and healed?” (mpls-synod.org/our-synod/synod-assembly-2/2023-synod-assembly-archives 4:57:27 of the second day)

Rev. Moss reminds us that we are called to be alternative communities. What might it take to measure our churches by **impact**? The work of synod leadership is to support the 137 communities and the thousands of leaders who are making an **impactful** difference in the 21st century: sharing the good news of Jesus, extending radical welcome into beloved community, engaging their neighborhoods in love with justice.

I am filled with both gratitude and sadness as I write this, my final annual report to congregations. I have loved serving as your bishop and am profoundly grateful for this calling. We pray for the year ahead, trusting in the goodness and faithfulness of our God, made known in Jesus Christ.

Bishop Ann Svennungsen

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

Over the past year we have continued to experience changes in the world around us. Even as our church finds ways to adapt to this changing world, we find hope in the unchanging and always present promise of God's love through Jesus Christ. We change and adapt not to conform to the world but because we believe that the gift of God's Son is for the world, and that our congregations and worshiping communities are places to gather and be sent into the world, where we will tell the story of God's love in word and deed.

The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the churchwide organization provide ways for the church to move beyond the boundaries of structures and geography and to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, our cities, our country and beyond. We engage in this ministry knowing that our church walks by faith, trusting in God's promise in the gospel, and that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word. In John 15:5, Jesus reminds us, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." We are connected by the promise that we do all through Christ and can do nothing apart from him.

God gives the Holy Spirit, who uses gospel proclamation — in preaching and sacraments, in forgiveness and in healing conversations — to create and sustain this faith. Just as we rely on God to sustain our faith, we rely on each other to sustain the ministries that offer God's love to the world. Through your generosity to each expression

of this church — your congregation, your synod and your churchwide organization — you add to our collective voice proclaiming God's love for all.

I am grateful for your generosity over this last year. My gratitude spreads far beyond your generous financial gifts. You've shared your gifts of time through countless hours of volunteering, serving and accompanying. You've shared the gifts of your voices as we've tried to discover and learn how God is calling us to be the church now and into the future. And, finally, dear church, you have shared the gift of the realness of God's love with the world around you. Be well, dear church, and stand steadfast in the promise of God's love and grace as you take that promise with you into the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:5

Congregational Elections

Every Christian, by virtue of being claimed in baptism as a disciple of Jesus Christ, has a ministry to perform in Christ's name. These range from a wide variety of tasks within the congregational life to many services beyond, as well as those responsibilities to which one may be elected. Today we elect people to three specific ministries: Council, Synod Assembly, and the Nominating Committee. *Because last year's annual meeting did not elect a Nominating Committee, nominations will be from the floor.*

Council

Members of our congregational council have oversight over the life and activities of Grace Lutheran Church, including worship, finance, and property matters. In 2024, two of our council members will be in the midst of their two-year terms: **Brenna Zeimet** and **Sylvia Radford** (elected in 2023).

Two more council members have expressed interest in serving a second, two-year term: **Bryan Boyce** and **Sue Traxler**. **Kathy Hubbard** has expressed interest in serving a third, two-year term. Two members of the congregation have expressed interest in serving on council, to begin a two-year term this year: **Amanda Kaiser** and **Sheena Schar**.

Our constitution states: "The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), and not less than seven (7) or more than thirteen (13) members of the congregation" (C12.01). That means we will elect at least four council members today.

Synod Assembly

Every year, our local network of ELCA congregations meets for worship, discernment, and taking action. This year, May 2-4, this assembly will elect a new bishop—someone who will shape the synod's mission and vision for the next six years.

Along with our pastor, Grace can send two delegates from our membership to vote in this assembly: a youth delegate (ages 15-18) and an adult delegate. Our constitution states that this election is the responsibility of the congregation (C.5.04).

Nominating Committee

Finally, we elect a group of people to discern who in our congregation God has equipped to serve. Our constitution calls for a nominating committee of three to six members serving a one-year term, two of whom (if possible) are outgoing members of council (C13.02). They will provide a slate of candidates for the congregation to elect at the annual meeting in 2025.

Grace Lutheran Church of N E Minneapolis
Year to Date - Budget vs. Actual
 January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Grace Center Rentals	6,310.00	5,004.00	1,306.00
Receipts & Donations			
Outreach	1,275.00	1,500.00	-225.00
QGC Outreach	1,939.63	3,996.00	-2,056.37
Thrivent Choice Deposits	243.00	300.00	-57.00
Fellowship Coffee Income	929.51	600.00	329.51
Vanco ACH General Operating	90,550.31	100,008.00	-9,457.69
Offerings	49,344.00	60,000.00	-10,656.00
Other Receipts and Donations	21,184.68	1,500.00	19,684.68
Total Receipts & Donations	165,466.13	167,904.00	-2,437.87
Fundraising Income	4,727.17	4,500.00	227.17
Interest & Dividends	4,454.87	12,000.00	-7,545.13
Little Kitchen FoodShelf Income	59,072.28	45,000.00	14,072.28
LK Food Shelf Vanco ACH Recpt	6,262.47	5,004.00	1,258.47
Total Income	246,292.92	239,412.00	6,880.92
Gross Profit	246,292.92	239,412.00	6,880.92
Expense			
LK Food Shelf			
LK Food Shelf - Garden	245.66		
LK Food Shelf - Food Bank	65,107.91		
LK Food Shelf - Miscellaneous	11,857.68		
LK Food Shelf - Other	0.00	50,004.00	-50,004.00
Total LK Food Shelf	77,211.25	50,004.00	27,207.25
Grace Center Operating Cost	54,729.94	53,160.00	1,569.94
Minneapolis Area Synod	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00
Other Benevolence	203.00		
Employee Compensation			
Continuing Education	100.00	300.00	-200.00
Gross-Salaries & Wages	114,132.84	112,668.00	1,464.84
Employer Payroll Taxes	3,862.42	3,864.00	-1.58
Benefits-BOP & Insurance	14,884.00	13,860.00	1,024.00
Insurance Workers Compensation	961.00	1,200.00	-239.00
Total Employee Compensation	133,940.26	131,892.00	2,048.26
General Office & Admin. Expense			
Interest & Bank Fees Expense	1,557.28	2,197.00	-639.72
Advertising Expense	1,343.28	708.00	635.28
Insurance - General Liability	3,085.55	3,100.00	-14.45
Telephone & Communications	4,806.40	3,804.00	1,002.40
Office Supplies	4,233.65	5,004.00	-770.35
Office & Admin. Expense	2,122.62	1,500.00	622.62
Total General Office & Admin. Expense	17,148.78	16,313.00	835.78
General Ministry Expense			
Outreach	834.98	1,500.00	-665.02
QGC Outreach	99.85	3,000.00	-2,900.15
Christian Education	624.29	900.00	-275.71
Worship & Music	1,603.84	2,508.00	-904.16
Ministry Expenses	1,779.27	4,008.00	-2,228.73
Total General Ministry Expense	4,942.23	11,916.00	-6,973.77
Total Expense	296,175.46	271,285.00	24,890.46
Net Ordinary Income	-49,882.54	-31,873.00	-18,009.54
Net Income	-49,882.54	-31,873.00	-18,009.54

5 PM

17/24

crual Basis

Grace Lutheran Church of N E Minneapolis
Month - Budget vs. Actual
December 2023

	Dec 23	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Grace Center Rentals	0.00	417.00	-417.00
Receipts & Donations			
Outreach	100.00	125.00	-25.00
QGC Outreach	328.95	333.00	-4.05
Thrivent Choice Deposits	18.00	25.00	-7.00
Fellowship Coffee Income	79.30	50.00	29.30
Vanco ACH General Operating	8,828.44	8,334.00	494.44
Offerings	5,845.00	5,000.00	845.00
Other Receipts and Donations	5,857.14	125.00	5,732.14
Total Receipts & Donations	21,056.83	13,992.00	7,064.83
Fundraising Income	0.00	375.00	-375.00
Interest & Dividends	46.87	1,000.00	-953.13
Little Kitchen FoodShelf Income	8,627.87	3,750.00	4,877.87
LK Food Shelf Vanco ACH Recpt	-2,742.42	417.00	-3,159.42
Total Income	26,989.15	19,951.00	7,038.15
Gross Profit	26,989.15	19,951.00	7,038.15
Expense			
LK Food Shelf			
LK Food Shelf - Food Bank	8,623.64		
LK Food Shelf - Miscellaneous	424.17		
LK Food Shelf - Other	0.00	4,167.00	-4,167.00
Total LK Food Shelf	9,047.81	4,167.00	4,880.81
Grace Center Operating Cost	4,428.88	4,430.00	-1.12
Minneapolis Area Synod	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Employee Compensation			
Continuing Education	0.00	25.00	-25.00
Gross-Salaries & Wages	10,301.57	9,389.00	912.57
Employer Payroll Taxes	321.86	322.00	-0.14
Benefits-BOP & Insurance	1,154.50	1,155.00	-0.50
Insurance Workers Compensation	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Employee Compensation	11,777.93	10,891.00	886.93
General Office & Admin. Expense			
Interest & Bank Fees Expense	0.00	183.00	-183.00
Advertising Expense	0.00	59.00	-59.00
Insurance - General Liability	0.00	0.00	0.00
Telephone & Communications	594.05	317.00	277.05
Office Supplies	361.24	417.00	-55.76
Office & Admin. Expense	220.71	125.00	95.71
Total General Office & Admin. Expense	1,176.00	1,101.00	75.00
General Ministry Expense			
Outreach	0.00	125.00	-125.00
QGC Outreach	0.00	250.00	-250.00
Christian Education	0.00	75.00	-75.00
Worship & Music	0.00	209.00	-209.00
Ministry Expenses	0.00	334.00	-334.00
Total General Ministry Expense	0.00	993.00	-993.00
Total Expense	28,430.62	23,582.00	4,848.62
Net Ordinary Income	-1,441.47	-3,631.00	2,189.53
Net Income	-1,441.47	-3,631.00	2,189.53

6 PM

17/24

crual Basis

Grace Lutheran Church of N E Minneapolis
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2023

	<u>Dec 31, 23</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Thrivent Checking #5519	136,373.27
Thrivent Investment #4653	2,252.01
L. Kitchen Food Shelf #4795	39,261.81
Thrivent Money Market #5868	44,161.13
Thrivent Savings #0300506128	1.00
Total Checking/Savings	<u>222,049.22</u>
Other Current Assets	
Contract For Deed	149,000.60
Total Other Current Assets	<u>149,000.60</u>
Total Current Assets	371,049.82
Fixed Assets	
Fixtures & Equipment	1,808.64
(Accumulated Depreciation Fix)	-791.28
Leasehold Improvements	120,279.03
(Accumulated Depreciation Leas)	-12,478.16
Total Fixed Assets	<u>108,818.23</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>479,868.05</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Trade Payables	1,999.98
Total Accounts Payable	<u>1,999.98</u>
Other Current Liabilities	
Temp Restrict - LKFS Pillsbury	1,164.74
Accrued Compensation	4,482.71
Temp Restricted Fund - Capital	52.75
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>5,700.20</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>7,700.18</u>
Total Liabilities	7,700.18
Equity	
Unrestricted Fund Balance	493,566.31
Unrestricted Net Assets XX	28,484.10
Net Income	-49,882.54
Total Equity	<u>472,167.87</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>479,868.05</u>

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH - 2024 Budget, approved with adjustment			
Account	Budget 2023	Actual 2023	Budget 2024
INCOME: Receipts and Donations			
Giving: Outreach	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 1,500.00
Giving: QGC Outreach	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,940.00	\$ 500.00
Thrivent deposits	\$ 300.00	\$ 243.00	\$ 300.00
Fellowship Income	\$ 600.00	\$ 930.00	\$ 800.00
Online Giving (Vanco): General Fund	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 90,550.00	\$ 100,000.00
Giving (Offering Plate and Mail): General Fund	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 49,344.00	\$ 60,000.00
Other Receipts and Donations	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 16,185.00	\$ 15,000.00
<i>Section Subtotal</i>	\$ 181,400.00	\$ 160,467.00	\$ 178,100.00
INCOME: Other			
Grace Center Rentals	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,310.00	\$ 7,500.00
Fundraising Income	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,727.00	\$ 5,500.00
Interest, Dividends	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 4,455.00	\$ 540.00
Giving and Grants: Little Kitchen Food Shelf	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 59,072.00	\$ 55,000.00
Online Giving (Vanco): Little Kitchen Food Shelf	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 11,262.00	\$ 10,000.00
<i>Section Subtotal</i>	\$ 75,500.00	\$ 85,826.00	\$ 78,540.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 256,900.00	\$ 246,293.00	\$ 256,640.00
EXPENSE:			
Little Kitchen Food Shelf	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 77,211.00	\$ 65,000.00
Grace Center Operating Costs*	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 54,730.00	\$ 55,000.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Other Benevolence	\$ -	\$ 203.00	\$ 550.00
<i>Section Subtotal</i>	\$ 108,000.00	\$ 140,144.00	\$ 128,550.00
EXPENSE: Employee Compensation			
Gross Salaries and Wages	\$ 112,665.00	\$ 114,133.00	\$ 126,452.00
<i>Music Director†</i>		\$ 18,721.00	\$ 19,002.00
<i>Food Shelf Coordinator†</i>		\$ 31,769.00	\$ 32,246.00
<i>Pastor (salary & SECA)‡</i>		\$ 63,643.00	\$ 75,204.00
Employer Payroll Taxes	\$ 8,600.00	\$ 3,862.00	\$ 3,920.00
Benefits‡	\$ 13,874.00	\$ 14,884.00	\$ 17,464.00
Insurance Workman's Comp	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 961.00	\$ 1,200.00
Continuing Education‡	\$ 300.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 800.00
Employee Comp. other	\$ -		\$ -
<i>Section SubTotal</i>	\$ 136,639.00	\$ 133,940.00	\$ 149,836.00
EXPENSE: Office/Administration			
Interest & Bank Fees	\$ -	\$ 1,557.28	\$ 1,600.00
Advertising	\$ -	\$ 1,343.28	\$ 1,500.00
Insurance-General Liability	\$ -	\$ 3,085.55	\$ 3,100.00
Telephone & Communications	\$ -	\$ 4,806.00	\$ 4,300.00
Office Supplies	\$ -	\$ 4,234.00	\$ 3,800.00
Office & Admin Other	\$ -	\$ 2,123.00	\$ 2,000.00
<i>Section SubTotal</i>	\$ 16,300.00	\$ 17,149.11	\$ 16,300.00
EXPENSE: General Ministry			
Christian Education	\$ 900.00	\$ 624.29	\$ 250.00
Worship & Music	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,603.84	\$ 2,000.00
Outreach	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 834.98	\$ 2,000.00
Racial Justice	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Ministry Expenses	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,779.27	\$ 2,000.00
Queer Grace Community §	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 99.85	\$ -
<i>Section SubTotal</i>	\$ 11,900.00	\$ 4,942.23	\$ 6,750.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 272,839.00	\$ 296,175.34	\$ 301,436.00
BALANCE	\$ (15,939.00)	\$ (49,882.34)	\$ (44,796.00)

* Grace Center operating costs have increased to include the square footage added in the 2023 construction.

† As in 2023, Council recommends a 1.5% increase in pay to our lay employees in 2024.

‡ Anticipating calling a new settled pastor, Council has budgeted for expenses according to the Minneapolis Area Synod's compensation guidelines for a full-time first-call pastor. Together, the congregation should discern what it needs and what it can afford.

§ Given that QGC leaders are reimagining what this ministry looks like, Council recommends suspending this line item for 2024 and increasing the Outreach budget for ministry with and for our LGBTQ+ neighbors.

LOVE TO COOK? SHARE YOUR SKILLS AT A COMMUNITY DINNER!**WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PREPARE THE FOOD FOR THE FREE DINNERS SERVED AT GRACE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY LIFE.**

- Volunteering to cook one of our community dinners is a fun and fulfilling way for organizations, families, co-workers, or friends to get together and do some good.
- We need one group or organization each month to purchase ingredients, prepare a dinner and set up a serving line.
- Volunteer cooks are **not expected** to set tables, staff the serving line or clean up the dining room. We usually make arrangements for other volunteers to cover that part of the event. However, if your group would like to do more than the cooking let us know and we will plan on your group covering other duties. (We usually cover the non-cooking duties with 6 to 8 extra volunteers, plus 1 or 2 volunteers that have Experience in running a commercial dishwasher.)
- We have a fully equipped commercial kitchen for your group to use or you can do some of the cooking/prep off-site.
- Cooks should plan on cooking enough food to serve 65 people.
- Grace Lutheran Church offers up to \$300 in reimbursement to cover the cost of ingredients, or your group can cover the costs.
- Your name as the preparer will be noted in the flyer we deliver to several local businesses, park and NE Mpls apartment bulletin boards. We also note the Community Dinner date in our Church Directory in the Northeaster Paper.

Menu Guidelines

- It is up to the cooks to decide on the menu. The menu can be as simple or elaborate as you like.
- No deep fat frying is allow in our kitchen as we do not have the proper overhead vent.
- We ask you to try to make a meal that is balanced and contains food from the major food groups (i.e. a protein, grain/starch, vegetable, fruit, dairy and dessert.)

Beverage: We usually place the beverage, plastic glasses and racks of coffee mugs on a table or cart and the guests each come and get what they want. **Coffee:** We have automatic coffee makers that attach directly to a waterline and brews into air pots. We supply the coffee for brewing and will arrange for a Grace Lutheran volunteer to be on hand around 3 or 4 PM to brew it. We usually just brew regular coffee.

Water and/or lemonade: We have church volunteers to make the lemonade/punch and fill pitchers with water and both are placed in the refrigerator to chill.

Milk: A church volunteer purchases 1 or 2 quarts of 2% milk.

- The goal is for the food and atmosphere at the meal to be comparable to a meal you would share with friends rather than an “institutional meal.”

Volunteer Time

- Kitchen space is held in reserve for the cooks starting at 2 PM on Community Dinner days. If you require additional time, let us know in advance.
- The total time volunteer cooks spend onsite the day of the dinner is usually between 2-4 hours, which depends on the menu you chose.
- Dinner is served at 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM (The majority of the people we serve are there right at 5:30). Leftovers can be package up to take home, but should only be done at 6:30, as we need to have food for someone that comes in later, but still before 6:30.
- Your group is encouraged to sit down and enjoy the dinner with the guests. You will meet great people and have interesting conversations!

Meal Ideas

Past meals have included: meatloaf, lasagna, spaghetti, tuna salad, tacos, ham and scalloped potatoes or cheesy potatoes, pulled pork, beef and potatoes, turkey and mashed potatoes, baked ziti, chicken and meatballs, goulash, chili, roast beef and baked potatoes, and calico beans.

Communication and Keeping Each Other In-The-Loop

How the Grace Lutheran volunteers we supply can be of help to you with

- Dining Room Table Set Up and Cleanup
- The Serving Line
- Kitchen Clean Up
- Running the Dishwasher
- What time that Saturday you will want access to our kitchen.
- Whether or not you will be requesting reimbursement to cover food costs. If yes, let us know and we will have a reimbursement form for you that evening.

Contact Our Volunteer Coordinators to Discuss Open Dinner Dates

- Penny Hinderaker at 612-788-8751 or phinderaker@comcast.net.
- Jan McGuire at 612-747-4179 or janlue@aol.com

2023 Community Dinners		
<i>Held on the fourth Saturday of the month, unless noted</i>		
Date	Volunteer Group Preparing Food	Main Entree
January 28	Church Family (Jan & Kathy)	Spaghetti & Chicken Alfredo
February 25	New City School	Spaghetti & Meatballs
March 25	Golden Friends (us seasoned folks)	Kielbasa & Cheesy Potatoes
April 22	NE Lions	Tacos, Fixings & Salad
May 27	Dangerous Man Volunteers	Chicken Drumsticks & Mac & Cheeses
June 24	Arcana Lodge #187	Pork, Spoon Corn Brd & Watermelon Salad
July 22	BBQ Crew (Hamlow Family)	Hamburger, Hot Dogs, Beans & Watermelon
August 26	Arcana Lodge #187	
September 23	CoreFour (Youngvorst Family)	Sandwiches & Salad
October 28	The Contingency Plan Group	
November 18*	NE Lions	Turkey and Fixings
December 16*	Dangerous Man Volunteers	Meat and Veg Lasagna
*Date moved to 3rd Saturday to avoid the holiday weekend. "Pins & Needles" a seamstress group doing small mending jobs on all Saturdays		

2024 Community Dinners		
<i>Held on the fourth Saturday of the month, unless noted.</i>		
Date	Volunteer Group Preparing Food	Main Entree
January 27	Church Family - Jan & Kathy	Roast Beef
February 24	New City Charter School	
March 23	Golden Friends	
April 27	Church Family - Hubbards	
May 25		
June 22		
July 27	BBQ Crew - Hamlows	
August 24		
September 28		
October 26	AA Group - The Contingency Group	
November 16*		
December 21*		
*Date moved to 3rd Saturday to avoid the holiday weekend. "Pins & Needles" a seamstress group doing small mending jobs at all Saturdays.		