

Annual Report For 2024

Annual Meeting May 18, 2025 at 9 am

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150 Year Legacy of Worship and Serving

Grace Lutheran Church, Lancaster PA
Annual Congregational Meeting
May 7, 2024 – 9:00am

The meeting was called to order by Council President, John Grove and a quorum was declared.

By unanimous consent, the minutes from prior congregational meetings as published in the Annual Report were approved.

A brief discussion on the various reports published in the Annual Report was undertaken. Special attention was brought to thanks received from the Lower Susquehanna Synod, Lutheran World Relief, and Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services for exemplary financial support from our congregation.

Special Thanks were offered to Peter Rustico for offering his service to support our congregation as Visitation Pastor.

A slate of nominees was presented as recommended for consideration by the congregation.

President: John Grove
Board of Worship Chair: Keith Miller
Board of Congregational Care Chair: Lisa Bisignani
Board of Ministries Chair: Mindi Graver
At Large Members: Cindy Garcia, Rosalyn Ward, Pat Oberholtzer, Lois Strause

Upon calling of the question by John Grove, the slate was approved by voice vote.

Thanks were expressed to outgoing Chair of Congregational Care, Molly Rowan for her service.

We continue to struggle with recruitment for the Leadership Development Team. As such, council members will continue to pursue candidates to re-establish this committee.

Hearing no other business, the meeting was adjourned following closing prayers of gratitude for the life of our congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mindi Graver

Grace Lutheran Church

Statement of Financial Position For All Funds as of 12/31/2024

Assets

Bank

FFA Brokerage	0.18
Fulton Bank- Checking	108,636.94
Fulton Bank- Money Market	101,072.80
Mission Investment Fund	26,446.43
Vanguard Federal MM Fund	35,599.78
Vanguard Federal MM Settlement	15,999.82
Vanguard Total Stock Market Fund	156,609.73
Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund	169,458.37
Vanguard Wellington Fund	165,543.06
Wells Fargo- Checking (closed)	546.61
Wells Fargo Business Checking	36,887.70

Total Bank **816,801.42**

Other Current Assets

Fulton Bank CD	91,773.77
Thrivent Mutual Fund	245,990.68

Total Other Current Assets **337,764.45**

Total Assets **1,154,565.87**

Liabilities

Long Term Liabilities

MIF Construction Loan	497,525.21
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Total Long Term Liabilities **497,525.21**

Total Liabilities **497,525.21**

Net Assets

Unrestricted

Capital Campaign II	45,660.80
Church Choir	1,286.23
Concert Series	7,251.07
Day Care Center	189.70
Deans Fund	866.19
Dramability Works	2,574.60
ELL Dedicated	404.08
Funeral Assistance Fund	2,003.96
General Fund	-69,308.65
Gift Cards Dedicated	-1,400.00
Gloria Bell Choir	100.03
Lecture Series	781.22
Legacy Fund - restricted	641,709.51
Local Disasters	444.93
Memorial Garden	1,100.00
MIF Loan	-497,525.21
Organ	1,583.00
Pastor Discretionary Fund	5,707.98
Refugee Dedicated	22,327.07
Reimbursed Purchases	3,210.13
Reserve Fund - unrestricted	451,287.05
Seminarian	812.19

Grace Lutheran Church

Statement of Financial Position For All Funds as of 12/31/2024

Solar Panels	576.89
Special-Outdoor Ministries	786.06
Special-School/Health/Quilts	495.74
Special - Misc	1,572.25
Wednesday Night Meals	10,253.70
Windows	7,313.56
Women of the ELCA	245.91
Youth National Gathering	14,750.67
<i>Total Unrestricted</i>	<i>657,040.66</i>
<i>Total Net Assets</i>	<i>657,040.66</i>
<i>Total Liabilities + Net Assets</i>	<i>1,154,565.87</i>

Grace Lutheran Church

Change in Net Assets for Period: 01/01/2024 to 12/31/2024

Fund	Starting Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers	Ending Balance
Capital Campaign II (U)	62,446.49	418,896.58	435,682.27	0.00	45,660.80
Church Choir (U)	1,286.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,286.23
Concert Series (U)	8,145.24	55.83	950.00	0.00	7,251.07
Day Care Center (U)	189.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	189.70
Deans Fund (U)	866.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	866.19
Dramability Works (U)	4,077.30	3,951.00	5,453.70	0.00	2,574.60
ELL Dedicated (U)	799.29	2,125.00	2,520.21	0.00	404.08
Food Bank (U)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Funeral Assistance Fund (U)	2,003.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,003.96
General Fund (U)	-26,164.60	559,960.81	603,104.86	0.00	-69,308.65
Gift Cards Dedicated (U)	180.00	33,220.00	34,800.00	0.00	-1,400.00
Gloria Bell Choir (U)	100.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.03
Lecture Series (U)	761.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	761.22
Legacy Fund - restricted (U)	591,445.29	95,072.27	44,808.05	0.00	641,709.51
Local Disasters (U)	444.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	444.93
Lutheran Disaster Response (U)	0.00	18,490.00	18,490.00	0.00	0.00
Memorial Garden (U)	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00
MIF Loan (U)	-893,644.69	0.00	-396,119.48	0.00	-497,525.21
Organ (U)	1,583.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,583.00
PastorDiscretionaryFund (U)	2,183.04	16,828.78	13,303.84	0.00	5,707.98
Refugee Dedicated (U)	14,878.72	9,854.13	2,405.78	0.00	22,327.07
Reimbursed Purchases (U)	4,571.04	4,785.88	6,146.79	0.00	3,210.13
Reserve Fund - unrestricted (U)	414,389.74	54,497.87	17,600.56	0.00	451,287.05
SDoL Learning POD (U)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seminarian (U)	1,262.19	2,550.00	3,000.00	0.00	812.19
Solar Panels (U)	576.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	576.89
Special - Misc (U)	1,572.25	400.00	400.00	0.00	1,572.25
Special-Camping Commission (U)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special-ELCA Good Gifts (U)	323.50	51.00	374.50	0.00	0.00
Special-Friends of Luther Acre (U)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special-Hunger (U)	0.00	216.00	216.00	0.00	0.00
Special-LCCC (U)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special-LWR (U)	0.00	11,285.00	11,285.00	0.00	0.00
Special-Outdoor Ministries (U)	2,446.06	400.00	2,060.00	0.00	786.06
Special-School Uniforms (U)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Special-School/Health/Quilts (U)	-105.33	1,740.00	1,138.93	0.00	495.74
Wednesday Night Meals (U)	11,258.07	2,817.41	3,821.78	0.00	10,253.70
Windows (U)	61,616.18	15,347.38	69,650.00	0.00	7,313.56
Women of the ELCA (U)	245.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	245.91
World Cup of Sharing (U)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth National Gathering (U)	13,127.92	16,937.45	15,314.70	0.00	14,750.67
Total	203,965.70	1,209,462.39	690,407.49	0.00	657,040.66
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Total Receipts	1,269,482.39				
Total Disbursements	896,407.49				
Net Increase(Decrease)	373,074.90				
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Grace Lutheran Church

Budget Comparison w/Variance for General Fund

Account	Current Month (December)				Year To Date (December FY 2024)			
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Last Year	Actual	Budget	Variance	Last Year
Revenues								
Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Envelope Offerings	49,342.00	41,333.00	8,009.00	41,866.53	476,624.14	496,000.00	-19,375.86	485,243.55
Festivals	5,450.00	5,000.00	450.00	3,422.00	11,003.38	11,000.00	3.38	6,022.00
Plate offerings	1,536.00	833.00	703.00	4,138.25	9,193.01	10,000.00	-806.99	10,825.50
SubTotal Contributions	56,328.00	47,166.00	9,162.00	49,426.78	496,820.53	517,000.00	-20,179.47	502,091.05
Other Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Candles and Flowers	-60.00	208.00	-268.00	240.00	1,165.00	2,500.00	-1,335.00	1,785.00
HANDS Gift to Grace	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	95.00	634.00	-539.00	436.42	4,640.70	9,186.00	-4,545.30	2,686.13
Rent/CAM	3,495.00	1,233.00	2,262.00	2,060.00	25,520.50	14,800.00	10,720.50	21,098.85
SubTotal Other Revenue	6,030.00	4,575.00	1,455.00	2,736.42	36,326.20	31,486.00	4,840.20	25,569.98
Total Revenues	62,358.00	51,741.00	10,617.00	52,163.20	533,146.73	548,486.00	-15,339.27	527,661.03
Expenditures								
Board of Congregational Care	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Caring	12.64	0.00	12.64	14.62	231.53	0.00	231.53	116.41
Evangelism/Connections	0.00	129.00	-129.00	0.00	0.00	1,550.00	-1,550.00	178.33
Fellowship	830.23	104.00	726.23	68.33	1,602.28	1,250.00	352.28	1,360.59
SubTotal Board of Congregational Care	842.87	233.00	609.87	82.95	1,833.81	2,800.00	-966.19	1,655.33
Board of Ministries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Christian Formation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Adult Christian education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	544.54	500.00	44.54	224.79
Christian Initiation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.00
Guest Speaker	0.00	200.00	-200.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	250.00
Outdoor Ministry	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	541.26	1,000.00	-458.74	1,000.00
Parish Resource Center Membership	825.00	900.00	-75.00	825.00	825.00	900.00	-75.00	825.00
Sunday Church School	50.00	500.00	-450.00	0.00	954.08	2,500.00	-1,545.92	1,534.09
Vacation Church School	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,302.92	900.00	402.92	1,158.67
SubTotal Christian Formation	875.00	1,600.00	-725.00	1,825.00	4,167.80	9,800.00	-5,632.20	4,992.55
Christian Witness	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Newspaper	0.00	166.00	-166.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	271.22
Signage- Advertising	442.00	0.00	442.00	0.00	442.00	500.00	-58.00	0.00
SubTotal Christian Witness	442.00	166.00	276.00	0.00	442.00	2,500.00	-2,058.00	271.22

Grace Lutheran Church

Budget Comparison w/Variance for General Fund

Account	----- Current Month (December) -----			----- Year To Date (December FY 2024) -----			Last Year
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Last Year
Local Outreach	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ELL Budgeted	1,500.00	125.00	1,375.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,000.00
Lancaster County Food Hub	583.37	583.00	0.37	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	6,500.04
LSS/Camping Corp	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00
Pastors Discretionary Fund	4,650.00	387.00	4,263.00	4,650.00	4,650.00	0.00	4,500.00
Refugee General Fund Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
SubTotal Local Outreach	6,733.37	1,095.00	5,638.37	13,650.00	13,650.00	0.00	12,250.04
Outreach Beyond	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Center/Ev. Catholic Theology	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Churchwide Support	2,625.00	2,625.00	0.00	31,500.00	31,500.00	0.00	30,000.00
Hunger	650.00	650.00	0.00	7,800.00	7,800.00	0.00	7,500.00
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake	500.00	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00
Lutheran World Relief	233.30	233.00	0.30	2,800.00	2,800.00	0.00	2,700.00
Missionary Support	433.37	433.00	0.37	5,200.00	5,200.00	0.00	5,000.04
SubTotal Outreach Beyond	4,441.67	4,441.00	0.67	47,800.00	47,800.00	0.00	45,700.04
Youth Work	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Mission Event	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00	1,800.00
Youth Work Expenses	55.91	166.00	-110.09	160.91	2,000.00	-1,839.09	159.72
SubTotal Youth Work	1,855.91	1,966.00	-110.09	1,960.91	3,800.00	-1,839.09	1,959.72
SubTotal Board of Ministries	14,347.95	9,268.00	5,079.95	68,020.71	77,550.00	-9,529.29	65,173.57
Board of Trustees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Administration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Computer & Software Expense	284.64	125.00	159.64	1,706.33	1,500.00	206.33	2,222.29
Database/Web	42.89	100.00	-57.11	1,391.54	1,200.00	191.54	673.93
Equipment Maintenance	740.02	604.00	136.02	10,001.13	7,250.00	2,751.13	7,714.20
Internet/email	85.00	133.00	-48.00	1,072.99	1,600.00	-527.01	968.99
Misc Administrative Expense	13.56	20.00	-6.44	956.63	250.00	706.63	247.92
Office Supplies	696.55	250.00	446.55	1,998.47	3,000.00	-1,001.53	4,091.65
Postage	600.00	333.00	267.00	5,157.04	4,000.00	1,157.04	4,281.39
Telephone	63.01	58.00	5.01	771.71	700.00	71.71	754.00
SubTotal Administration	2,525.67	1,623.00	902.67	23,055.84	19,500.00	3,555.84	20,954.37
Mission Resource	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Grace Lutheran Church

Budget Comparison w/Variance for General Fund

Account	Current Month (December)			Year To Date (December FY 2024)			Last Year		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Last Year
Mission Resource Materials	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,185.00
Offering Envelopes	113.24	125.00	-11.76	1,312.78	1,500.00	-187.22	1,312.78	1,500.00	1,686.49
Processing Fees Expense	250.71	250.00	0.71	2,839.51	3,000.00	-160.49	2,839.51	3,000.00	2,891.37
SubTotal Mission Resource	363.95	375.00	-11.05	4,152.29	4,500.00	-347.71	4,152.29	4,500.00	7,762.86
Property	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church Bus	140.00	133.00	7.00	1,817.04	1,600.00	217.04	1,817.04	1,600.00	767.31
Cleaning Supplies	822.40	666.00	156.40	7,264.82	8,000.00	-735.18	7,264.82	8,000.00	3,885.43
Creation Care	0.00	0.00	0.00	612.50	400.00	212.50	612.50	400.00	10.00
Electricity	1,962.07	1,958.00	4.07	23,546.09	23,500.00	46.09	23,546.09	23,500.00	20,238.60
Extraordinary Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,043.00	15,000.00	21,043.00	36,043.00	15,000.00	4,453.28
Gas	965.42	1,833.00	-867.58	17,683.26	22,000.00	-4,316.74	17,683.26	22,000.00	17,154.09
Insurance	8,205.04	8,750.00	-544.96	38,318.09	35,000.00	3,318.09	38,318.09	35,000.00	35,840.27
Outside Services	407.68	1,250.00	-842.32	21,629.73	15,000.00	6,629.73	21,629.73	15,000.00	19,919.66
Personage Utilities	591.81	450.00	141.81	4,940.05	5,400.00	-459.95	4,940.05	5,400.00	5,309.87
Real Estate Taxes	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,292.50	12,500.00	-207.50	12,292.50	12,500.00	12,013.49
Repairs	3,944.51	1,000.00	2,944.51	25,562.02	12,000.00	13,562.02	25,562.02	12,000.00	32,404.72
Supplies	180.13	208.00	-27.87	1,394.39	2,500.00	-1,105.61	1,394.39	2,500.00	1,690.82
Trash Collection	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,700.00	3,700.00	-1,000.00	2,700.00	3,700.00	4,500.00
Van/car Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	703.33	1,500.00	-796.67	703.33	1,500.00	287.00
Water & Sewer	546.84	500.00	46.84	6,895.26	6,000.00	895.26	6,895.26	6,000.00	5,714.08
SubTotal Property	17,765.90	16,748.00	1,017.90	201,402.08	164,100.00	37,302.08	201,402.08	164,100.00	164,188.62
SubTotal Board of Trustees	20,655.52	18,746.00	1,909.52	228,610.21	188,100.00	40,510.21	228,610.21	188,100.00	192,905.85
Board of Worship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Corporate Worship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bell Choir Supplies & Music	0.00	0.00	0.00	138.84	500.00	-361.16	138.84	500.00	167.80
Candles and Flowers	0.00	300.00	-300.00	1,735.00	3,600.00	-1,865.00	1,735.00	3,600.00	2,461.74
Children Choir Supplies & Music	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.00	150.00	0.00
Church Worship Supplies	37.91	266.00	-228.09	2,336.33	3,200.00	-863.67	2,336.33	3,200.00	3,601.51
Fishbowl	0.00	4.00	-4.00	62.17	50.00	12.17	62.17	50.00	0.00
Piano and Organ Tuning	580.25	0.00	580.25	3,810.88	3,000.00	810.88	3,810.88	3,000.00	2,978.36
Seasonal Decorations	201.49	0.00	201.49	201.49	500.00	-298.51	201.49	500.00	0.00
Senior choir Supplies & Music	555.49	150.00	405.49	2,512.21	1,800.00	712.21	2,512.21	1,800.00	1,366.23
Sub Dir of Music/Special Music	1,520.00	1,400.00	120.00	5,030.00	3,000.00	2,030.00	5,030.00	3,000.00	3,900.00
SubTotal Corporate Worship	2,895.14	2,120.00	775.14	15,826.92	15,800.00	26.92	15,826.92	15,800.00	14,475.64

Grace Lutheran Church

Budget Comparison w/Variance for General Fund

Account	Current Month (December)			Year To Date (December FY 2024)			Last Year		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Last Year
SubTotal Board of Worship	2,895.14	2,120.00	775.14	15,826.92	15,800.00	26.92			14,475.64
Staff Benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00
Direct of Music Medical Reim	812.08	812.00	0.08	9,744.96	9,750.00	-5.04			9,744.96
Housing	250.00	250.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00			3,000.00
Pastor Car Allowance	260.00	260.00	0.00	3,120.00	3,120.00	0.00			3,120.00
Pastor Medical Reimb	0.00	166.00	-166.00	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00			0.00
Pastor Professional expense	0.00	115.00	-115.00	16.00	1,380.00	-1,364.00			0.00
Pastor Social Security	935.88	935.00	0.88	11,230.56	11,231.00	-0.44			10,798.80
Professional Expense Director of Music	0.00	125.00	-125.00	1,337.20	1,500.00	-162.80			900.86
Program Asst Exp Program Director	0.00	41.00	-41.00	0.00	500.00	-500.00			26.00
Program Asst Medical Reim	0.00	66.00	-66.00	532.35	800.00	-267.65			68.79
Sexton Medical Reimb	335.34	266.00	69.34	3,976.84	3,200.00	776.84			3,557.32
SubTotal Staff Benefits	2,593.30	3,036.00	-442.70	32,957.71	36,481.00	-3,523.29			31,216.73
Staff Salaries	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00
Administration Salaries	7,627.24	7,702.00	-74.76	91,526.88	92,427.00	-900.12			88,871.76
Custodial Salaries	3,169.52	3,169.00	0.52	38,034.24	38,034.00	0.24			36,571.44
Employers FICA Contribution	669.34	680.00	-10.66	8,032.74	8,163.00	-130.26			7,777.51
Employers Medicare Contribution	156.56	159.00	-2.44	1,878.66	1,909.00	-30.34			1,818.95
Guest Clergy/Speaker Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,258.50	2,600.00	-1,341.50			1,490.00
Guest Organists	125.00	100.00	25.00	1,500.00	1,200.00	300.00			1,585.00
Misc Payroll Expenses	545.28	441.00	104.28	3,613.36	5,300.00	-1,686.64			1,398.84
Pastors Salaries	4,705.32	4,705.00	0.32	56,463.84	56,464.00	-0.16			54,292.08
SubTotal Staff Salaries	16,998.26	16,956.00	42.26	202,308.22	206,097.00	-3,788.78			193,805.58
Staff Support - Pension/Medical	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00
Director of Music Pension	470.52	442.00	28.52	5,646.24	5,304.00	342.24			4,875.24
Pastor Benefits	2,182.35	1,782.00	400.35	26,188.20	21,394.00	4,794.20			25,758.60
Program Asst Pension	250.00	250.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00			3,000.00
Program Director Benefits	1,296.13	996.00	300.13	15,563.56	11,960.00	3,593.56			15,157.44
SubTotal Staff Support - Pension/Medica	4,199.00	3,470.00	729.00	50,388.00	41,658.00	8,730.00			48,791.28
Reimbursed Purchases Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			606.11
Youth Activity Dedicated	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			137.15
Total Expenditures	62,532.04	53,829.00	8,703.04	599,945.58	568,486.00	31,459.58			548,767.24

Grace Lutheran Church

Budget Comparison w/Variance for General Fund

Account	Current Month (December)			Year To Date (December FY 2024)			Last Year		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Last Year
Other Revenues									
Investment Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Investment Income General Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.55	0.00	2.55	2.55	0.00	0.00
SubTotal Investment Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.55	0.00	2.55	2.55	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fullon Bank Interest	360.57	0.00	360.57	5,234.34	0.00	5,234.34	5,234.34	0.00	3,393.22
Wells Fargo Interest	0.42	0.00	0.42	7.51	0.00	7.51	7.51	0.00	77.60
SubTotal Bank Interest	360.99	0.00	360.99	5,241.85	0.00	5,241.85	5,241.85	0.00	3,470.82
CD interest income	1,460.54	0.00	1,460.54	1,460.54	0.00	1,460.54	1,460.54	0.00	0.00
Unrestricted Distribution Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00
Vanguard distribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,109.14	20,000.00	109.14	109.14	20,000.00	18,747.94
Total Other Revenues	1,821.53	0.00	1,821.53	26,814.08	20,000.00	6,814.08	6,814.08	20,000.00	72,218.76
Other Expenditures									
Bank Service Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00	0.00	24.00	24.00	0.00	169.97
Other Misc. Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,135.28	0.00	3,135.28	3,135.28	0.00	1,748.46
Total Other Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,159.28	0.00	3,159.28	3,159.28	0.00	1,918.43
Other Financial Sources-Uses									
Transfers In	13,000.00	0.00	13,000.00	38,000.00	0.00	38,000.00	38,000.00	0.00	292,855.09
Transfers Out	-13,000.00	0.00	-13,000.00	-38,000.00	0.00	-38,000.00	-38,000.00	0.00	-292,855.09
Total Other Financial Sources-Uses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Summary									
Total Revenues	62,358.00	51,741.00	10,617.00	533,146.73	548,486.00	-15,339.27	533,146.73	548,486.00	527,661.03
Total Expenditures	62,532.04	53,829.00	8,703.04	599,945.58	568,486.00	31,459.58	599,945.58	568,486.00	548,767.24
Total Other Revenues	1,821.53	0.00	1,821.53	26,814.08	20,000.00	6,814.08	26,814.08	20,000.00	72,218.76
Total Other Expenditures	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,159.28	0.00	3,159.28	3,159.28	0.00	1,918.43
Total Other Financial Sources-Uses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance	1,647.49	-2,088.00	3,735.49	-43,144.05	0.00	-43,144.05	-43,144.05	0.00	49,194.12

Heritage Fund Report

as of December 31, 2024

RESTRICTED FUNDS	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2024
<u>Thrivent Financial and Fulton Financial Advisors</u>		
Fannie Miller & Anna Hahn Bequest (Interest for Education and Charity)	2,044	2,044
Mabel R Brubaker Bequest (Interest for Seminarian)	46,627	46,627
Flower Memorial Fund (Interest to Purchase Flowers for Chancel)	2,990	2,990
Lester & Maud Newcomer Fund (Interest for Benevolence in Lancaster Community)	13,485	13,485
S. Z. Moore Bequest (Interest for Education and Charity)	12,143	12,143
W. Arthur & Naomi Abel Bequests (Interest for New Buildings & Major Renovations)	94,946	94,946
Evelyn Brallier Estate (Interest for General Use)	155,141	155,141
Rev. Warren Heinly Memorial Fund (Interest for Lecture Series)	17,543	17,543
Doris Meisenhelter Memorial Fund (Interest for Flowers/Special Occasions)	5,797	5,797
Soli Deo Gloria (Interest for Music Presentation)	3,140	3,140
Verne Slaugh (Interest for General Use)	73,218	73,218
Joanne Rogers (Interest for Social Ministry)	2,053	2,053
H.W. Huffnagle (Interest for religious education)	14,273	14,273
Misc. Restricted Income (Interest for General Use)	67,835	74,835
Carl Kretzmann Memorial Fund (Interest for Music Presentation)	10,202	10,202
Capital Gains/Capital Losses/Dividends/Expenses	70,009	113,273
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	591,445	641,710
 Windows Fund	 61,616	 7,314
Capital Campaign	62,446	45,661
 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
Fulton Financial Advisors/Fulton Bank/Wells	14,420	68,250
Fulton Bank CD	87,206	90,313
Thrivent Financial	78,281	106,333
Mission Investment	184,091	135,023
Vanguard Services	50,392	51,369
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	414,390	451,287
 Additions to Reserve Funds - Unrestricted		
Memorials/Misc income	3,994	6,336
Bequests	0	0
Interest/Dividends	987	32,914
Total Additions to Reserve Funds - Unrestricted	4,981	39,250
 Distributions from Reserve Funds - Unrestricted (2024)		
Reserve fund expenses (Folding chairs in Fellowship Hall)	70,431	2,353
Total Distributions from Reserve Funds - Unrestricted	70,431	2,353
 Distributions from Legacy Fund - Restricted		
Vanguard Distribution	18,748	20,109
Total Distributions from Legacy Fund - Restricted	18,748	20,109
 Additions to Capital Campaign/Windows Funds		
Windows	1,494	15,347
Capital Campaign	110,919	418,897
Total Additions to Capital Campaign/Windows Funds	112,413	434,244
 Distributions from Capital Campaign/Windows Funds		
Capital campaign expenses	0	265
Loan Interest	41,503	39,298
Loan principal	106,541	396,119
Windows	0	69,650
Total Distributions from Capital Campaign/Windows Funds	148,044	505,332

Memorials 2024

Memorials Given

Augusta Madenford
Barbara Kline
Barbara Music
Betty Rowe
Bob Sherr
Carl Schnader
Charles Lisse
Dolores Byers
Edward Madenford
Gary Todd
Pat and Albert Suter

Thank you!

Grace Lutheran Church

One of the ELCA's Most Generous Congregations

ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response

Your generosity makes a difference to our neighbors
in the United States and around the world.

Thank you.

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, Congregational Generosity
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

May 2025
Date



ELCA
World Hunger



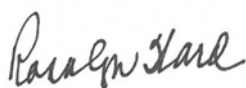
Lutheran
Disaster Response

Capital Campaign Report 2025

The third phase of our Capital Campaign kicked off in 2024 to coincide with the 150th anniversary of Grace Church, with the theme, "150 Year Legacy of Giving." Thanks to the very generous response of our members and friends, we are now pleased to report gifts and pledges totaling \$704,482 towards the \$1 million goal. With another 18 months until the end of this campaign, we have every reason to believe that our goal will be met!

In 2024 we began the year with a loan balance of \$893,644. Our 2024 monthly payments of \$71,417 as well as extra payments toward the principal of \$364,000 have reduced our indebtedness to \$497,525 at the end of December, 2024. As of this report, we still owe \$459,634 on the loan, and the Campaign Fund has a current balance of \$39,467 (we maintain a reserve fund balance equivalent to six monthly payments).

On behalf of Pastor Verkouw, our Congregational Council and Finance Team, I express our deepest gratitude for the congregation's belief in the importance of the wonderful addition and renovations to our building, and for the outstanding financial support you have given to it. Our ministry is strengthened by these efforts!



Rosalyn Ward, Campaign Chair

LHANDS Report

BOARD MEMBERS

Lancaster Housing and Neighborhood Development Services – Grace's housing ministry – goes by our acronym "L-HANDS." Our collective thanks to our strong team of board members:

Tom Andersen, our President, continues to guide our meetings with a steady hand, organizing our meetings and many property-repair projects

Barb Andersen serves as our recording secretary.

As VP, Pastor Verkouw serves as our "managing director," problem-solving, communicating and coordinating between tenants, outside contractors, and our board and volunteers.

Grace's Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer, Jane Sheckard, Carl Hartman, and now Vicki Mumma continue to serve as LHANDS' bookkeepers, paying the bills and balancing the checkbook.

Board members serve on two teams – Property Care and Tenant Relations.

Property – Board members Tom Andersen, Robert Durand and Glenn Weidman have taken leading roles on property projects, with help from Klaus Case, Jim Brewster, Dale Dombach, Gary DuBois, David Eriksson, Bruce Linton, Jan Mandros, Vicki Mumma, Angela Rabbe, David Regensberger, and Pastor V. Special thanks to Steve Geib, a member of Trinity Lutheran in New Holland, who has been very generous volunteering his expertise in installing floors.

Tenant relations – Barb Andersen, Mary Genzler, Joyce Loiseau, Pat Oberholtzer, Donna Weidman and Pastor V.

Drew Scheffey and Jean Young serve as at-large board members

Thanks to all for their hard work and commitment!

APARTMENT TURNOVERS

Many of our tenants over the years have benefitted greatly from this ministry and we fulfill our mission goals of helping them achieve stability and self-sufficiency with a place in our affordable apartments. Sometimes, despite this assistance and the work of outside case managers, tenants are unable to keep their commitments to our rules or their financial responsibilities. We had to part ways with three of our James Street tenants in 2024, which then required a lot of work to prepare these apartments for new tenants, and to search for newly recommended tenants from other collaborating agencies. We successfully resettled a refugee family from Africa (Burundi/Uganda) referred through our ELL program, another ELL student from Haiti, and an active Grace Church retiree from Manheim Twp!

LEAD ABATEMENT

We also applied for a grant from the LGH Lead-free Families program to do further lead paint abatement in one of our apartments, due to the presence of young children. All of our rental units have passed an outside inspection and received "LEAD SAFE" Certifications.

ANOTHER CITY INSPECTION

In 2023 we were challenged by the City's inspection of ALL 11 James Street apartments at one time, which had never happened before. In 2024 we had to meet some extra challenges with the city inspection at 521 N Queen which started in October of 2024, where our tenant has cared for needy family members, who sometimes took advantage of her generosity. The inspectors have worked patiently with our long-time tenant there to bring her care-giving up to city requirements and to allow us to complete some long overdue maintenance. We are almost through the process as of this writing, as the weather has improved to allow completion of the outdoor painting project!

NATURAL GAS HEATING IMPROVEMENTS

Another large project was the installation of four new gas boilers, splitting the systems in two of our James St. properties so that our tenants are in each in control of an efficient gas boiler for their own apartment. We secured \$4800 worth of rebates from UGI to help fund these projects.

FINANCES

LHANDS finances are mostly very simple – rents coming in, and taxes, repairs and some utility expenses going out. In addition, we received almost \$11,000 of fund-raising income last year, and made a \$5,000 contribution back to Grace to help with administrative expenses. Total Income for the year was \$109,300 and Total Expenses were \$115,100, with a small deficit of \$5,800 resulting from the numerous upgrades and repairs undertaken in 2024. We had \$34,492 in reserves on Dec. 31, 2024.

In 2025, we are completing a transfer of our financial records from the Quickbooks program to Grace's church management software, called ICON, which will streamline the process of our bookkeeping for our volunteers as well as creating an annual savings of over \$1000!

Thanks for everyone's support of this ministry, which both defends our neighborhood from absentee landlords and provides affordable housing to tenants with low-to-moderate incomes.

Tom Andersen, President and

Pastor Verkouw, VP

Pastor's Report

As I write this report, Kath and I are still feeling so grateful for your many expressions of love and appreciation extended at the celebration of our 30th anniversary as your pastor! This milestone has prompted lot of thoughts about the past – especially remembering folks who are no longer with us who were so active and involved at Grace in my early years here. I don't want to start naming names, but it's the idea in general that I want to reflect on: in 1995, certain people seemed "indispensable" – they served on council, they chaired committees for years, they showed up in the middle of the week to do chores and in the evening for committee meetings, their church and its life was a major priority in their lives, they gave large financial gifts, and their memories formed the storehouse of Grace's traditions and ways of worship and serving that we could rely on when making plans and decisions.

In so many cases the rest of us could not imagine what Grace Church would do without them! But the reality is, 30 years is a long time, and we are without so many of them now...and Grace Church continues to be a vital, active, generous congregation. In quiet and unique ways, the Holy Spirit touches individual hearts, opens eyes and ears to see and hear the needs of ministry and leadership, and nudges and calls new people into the congregation and then into offering themselves to the cause. One by one new generations of leaders are formed as they take up the challenges of a new year, whatever they turn out to be.

The system isn't perfect – in fact, it probably isn't fair to call it a system – but looking backwards helps us to understanding that there is something godly and holy, something real and beautiful and necessary going on here, and people want to continue. Being a witness to all the ways that the Holy Spirit renews the congregation as the years go by has helped me to keep on pastoring all this time with some confidence that, even though I'm not sure who or how, God is at work, and there will be people and gifts in abundance to do the ministry that God is calling us to do.

So...Thanks for being a part of that ministry this year! Thanks for sharing the vision that guides this work, and for contributing to it with your time, talents and treasure as you are able. I'm very grateful that there are so many positive things reflected in this report, and that as my 30th year and Grace's 151st year have come to their ends, we find ourselves blessed with gifts aplenty in this place. Our motto "Holy Worship – Wholly Serving" continues to define our life together. Alleluia – Christ is risen! The living Lord Jesus keeps feeding us so that we may feed each other and our neighbors with the gifts of faith, hope and love. Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

God's peace to you all, for peacemaking,

Pastor Steve Verkouw

Visitation Pastor's Report

The year 2024 represents the first full year of my ministry as Visitation Pastor for Grace Lutheran Church. I was appointed to this position in January 2024 by the Church Council, upon the recommendation of Pastor Verkouw. This is a voluntary position, and it was my practice this past year to devote 4 to 8 days each month, bringing prayer, worship, Holy Communion, and conversation to our homebound members. Here is a report of my ministry for the twelve months of 2024. It does not include the first months of 2025

Total number of <u>persons</u> visited:	30 (at homes and in facilities or hospitals)
Total visitations made:	144
In hospitals	11
In nursing and healthcare facilities	92
In homes	41

You might be interested in knowing that we have or had one or more members in each of the following facilities:

- St. Anne's, Columbia
- Luther Acres, Lititz (Luther Care)
- Brethren Village, Lititz
- Masonic Village, Elizabethtown
- Willow Valley, Willow Street
- St. John Herr Estate, Columbia (Luther Care)
- Providence Place, Lancaster
- Moravian Manor, Lititz
- Landis Homes, Lititz
- Homestead Village, Lancaster
- Presbyterian Home, Quarryville
- Susquehanna Valley Rehab, Columbia

I have also visited our members in the following hospitals:

- Lancaster General Hospital
- Lancaster Medical Center
- Lancaster Rehabilitation Hospital

Homebound Members who died in 2024: Rev. Charles Lisse and Augusta Madenford

I want to thank Pastor Verkouw for his support and partnership in this ministry. He is my main source of names, and he frequently adds names to my list. I keep Pastor Verkouw informed of all my visits, and I share information that I think pastor needs to know about these members. Thank you also to all of you who have suggested names to me. I appreciate the suggestions, and I am always looking for more folks to visit. You can email, call, or tell me in person. Thank you also to Tom Santosusso who serves as our Eucharistic Minister, distributing Holy Communion from our Sunday liturgy to some of our homebound members.

This work is a ministry of our congregation which we do in Jesus' name. Thank you for this opportunity. To God be the glory.

In Christ,

Pr. Peter Rustico
sjlcpastor@gmail.com, cell (845) 239-9207

Director of Music Report

While I was surprised by Steve's invitation to write a report for the year, I was glad to accept, because it affords me an opportunity to personally acknowledge and celebrate the many people who contribute to Grace's vibrant music ministry.

First and foremost, my deepest thanks to the members of our Senior Choir, who so freely share their time and talent each week. Unquestionably, working with me is no picnic, and yet these lovely people volunteer to do so for several months each year. Several new singers have joined post-Covid, and they have received a warm welcome from older members. I assure you; this is not something to be taken for granted. Their work each week is important, but I was especially proud of the Festival Evensong in April 2024 which featured a performance of Bach's Cantata No. 4 "Christ lag in Todesbanden," as well as their performance of Rutter's "Requiem" for All Saints' 2024.

Special thanks to Jennie Fritsch, librarian of the Senior Choir music library. Can you imagine how many pieces of music the choir handed in during Holy Week? (I estimate 25 different pieces.) She ensures it is all returned, reordered and stored in boxes, time-consuming work that requires attention to, and passion for, detail. A level of organization I could never manage on my own.

I would be remiss in not acknowledging my great good fortune in having Murray Foreman, Karl Moyer and Wes Heidel in the choir, willing to sub for me when I am away even at the most inopportune times. Their generosity allows me to accept other conducting opportunities, which (hopefully) makes me a better, more well-rounded musician.

Rarely if ever have I had the joy of working with colleagues like Steve and Kath. Steve understands and values the integral role of music in worship; planning liturgies together is one of many joys in my work at Grace. Kath's passion for finding new ways of involving more people, of every age, in our various musical ensembles, is infectious.

Thanks also to our Folk Group, which was started only a few years ago but has grown to have a regular role in our liturgies. Their music making gives us a fresh perspective on the word and sacrament we share. And this is the first church I have served that came with its own brass quintet, coming together several times each year to add special festivity to our worship. Special thanks to Mike Betrand for his musical suggestions and creativity with repertoire.

I am especially proud of the diversity of music heard at Grace. Some church music circles would argue that only certain types of music should be used in worship. I understand their arguments but also believe that a 'pure Bach' diet would be as limiting as liturgies using only 'contemporary Christian' repertoire. Embracing a diversity of music, from differing periods and styles, is the best way to understand, explore and experience the profound complexity of our Creator.

It is a particularly good Sunday when a Prelude written by a woman composer is followed by a Lutheran chorale, answered by the Folk Group singing a Gospel tune, followed by all of us lustily singing a Sacred Harp tune as the Hymn of the Day, with a bell piece based on a Wesley (Methodist) melody and the Senior Choir singing a motet from the Anglican choral tradition, etc.

This means, of course, that sometimes we will sit through music that we do not connect with. I compare it to Thanksgiving family dinner when Uncle Bud expresses political ideas very different from our own. Yet, gathered as loving family, we listen to and accept differing points of view. The same can/should hold true of music in church. A diversity of music in church comforts and challenges, just as scripture does. And it provides multiple prisms for us to understand and be inspired by Word and Sacrament. We need that comprehension and inspiration to be the hands and feet and heart of Christ in this increasingly dark world.

Dr. David A. McConnell

Parochial Report for 2024

Baptisms-7	Baptized Membership 709
Marriages-0	Confirmed Membership 675
Deaths / Funerals-6	Total number of people actively
Removed by transfer-2	participating in the life of the
Confirmations-5	congregation, including children and non-
Members by affirmation of faith –4	members 190
Members received by transfer– 2	Average Worship Attendance
	In-person-130
	Online-102

Leadership Development Report

We thank Pat Oberholtzer for serving two terms as one of our at-large members! Pat had to resign this winter for family reasons and her seat was filled by Mary Jordan. Thanks to Mindi and Jay Graver for carrying out the duties of our vacant Leadership Development Team, on which no one seems willing to serve! They recruited a great slate of new leaders to fill out the council seats this year. And thanks to our current members who were eligible to continue for doing so! Council will continue to explore the issue of developing new leaders at Grace during the coming year. Do you have thoughts about leadership at Grace? Are you interested in being involved or do you have questions about how the congregation manages our planning, oversight and accountability? Please ask Pastor or one of our current members!

For the Council,

Pastor Steve, Mindi Graver and John Grove, President

CANDIDATE	POSITION	YEAR ELIGIBILITY ENDS
John Grove	Council President	2026
...to be appointed by council	Council Vice President	2026
Keith Miller	Chair, Board of Worship	2025 (extended to 2026)
Lisa Bisignani	Chair, Board of Congregational Care	2027
Mindi Graver	Chair, Board of Ministries	2027
Open	Chair, Board of Trustees	
Mary Jordan	At-Large Council Member	2028
Thomas Santosusso	At-Large-Council Member	2028
Cindy Garcia	At-Large Council Member	2027
Rosalyn Ward	At-Large Council Member	2027
Lois Strause	At-Large Council Member	2027
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM		
Open		
Open		
Open		
Open		

Board of Congregational Care

The ways we've cared for each other within our Grace family have ranged from festive celebrations to quiet ministries. Our large gatherings promote becoming better acquainted with each other as a faith family. And our "quiet" ministries open pathways to serve each other in specific and personal ways. Many gathered for crafts and fellowship during the Advent fair. It connected folks of all ages to focus on the gift of the season. Participants carried home with them an Advent chain kit to construct daily which contained scripture readings through Epiphany. Grace members were brought together for a raucous New Orleans-style luncheon that also featured an entertaining talent show segment. It was fun, well attended, and offered a moment of levity before we entered into the solemn work of repentance and fasting in Lent. A donation was collected for LHANDS. An Easter breakfast-- potluck style, was enjoyed between services. Thanks to everyone who contributed food and gathered in joy! The following summaries provide a snapshot of the more ongoing works of this Board. We have folks reaching out to visitors-- welcoming them into the fold of our parish. We have a group of "prayer warriors" who lift up the needs of those on the prayer chain. Pastor Rustico and Tom Santosusso, along with others, faithfully share the sacrament and visit with our homebound and hospitalized members. We have folks who assist with funeral lunches-- a meaningful way to deliver love in the midst of grief and loss. We are grateful for the many helping hands that contribute to our congregational care, and welcome anyone wishing to volunteer in any capacity at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Bisignani, Chair of the Board of Congregational Care

Board of Worship

This year continued the long tradition of faithful and inspiring worship at Grace. We were blessed in so many ways by our rich traditions as well as new additions to the worship experience.

Many hours of work were put in by many volunteers to decorate the nave for the many seasons of the church. Whether it be the fall decorations, the Advent wreath, the Christmas tree and swags or the flowers and fountain for Easter many hands were needed. We appreciate all those that helped in big and small ways.

Music continues to be an integral part of worship at Grace. This year was no exception. We thank all of those who gave of their time and talents. We experienced the many offerings of music provided by many to make the worship experience meaningful. We extend a heartfelt thanks to the Adult choir, the Children's choir, the varied Bell choirs, the Grace Folk as well as the Requiem Choir and many other individuals who added their time and talents to enhance worship.

We hope to continue to enhance the worship at Grace and look for continued support of all those who volunteer in ways big and small and on a weekly basis. We welcome all willing to assist in making worship at Grace a beautiful expression of our faith.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Miller
Chair- Board of Worship

Property Committee Report - Dale Dombach 5/2025

Inspections

- Quarterly elevator inspection/routine maintenance by Lancaster Elevator.
- Inspection/Test- sprinkler auditorium area by Commonwealth Fire Protection
- Check fire suppression units - both kitchens by Clark Mechanical
- Fire Suppression Controls checked - by Vector
- Hood Inspection/Cleaning - by Kelly
- Grease trap inspection / cleaning- by Kline
- Termite inspection - by Dominion

New Fellowship Hall floor

A new epoxy flooring material was applied to Fellowship Hall. To further enhance this refurbished appearance, the walls, handrails, cabinets, moldings, heaters in the hall and elevator lobby were also repainted. 150 new chairs were purchased to help complete the look.

AC & Heat

Problem areas continue to arise, most of which are being corrected. 3rd floor heat loop seems to be air bound, daily bleeding shows little change in heat circulation.

Emergency equipment

A new defibrillator has replaced the old one

Lighting

- New lamps purchased and installed in the Nave ceiling for a brighter and more uniform effect.
- Chapel cove lights replaced.

Bees in our Bonnet

- Bees got in above chapel ceiling from May to November. In the summer, honey dripped in to the chapel but was caught with pans with no damage to furniture. The bees have disappeared and honey stopped dripping by fall.

Replacements

- A back up battery in the main elevator had to be replaced.
- 2 water heaters - fellowship hall kitchen and working Sacristy were leaking and were replaced
- 3 water faucets

Miscellaneous

- New signs installed indicating
- church parking lot entrance off of Queen Street
- Reserved Parking for those with mobility issues
- Remaining newer style soap dispensers everywhere except Stafford Room and Church Office
- Exit sign in Fellowship Hall lobby rehung
- Loose flower shelf rehung
- 24 hearing assists purchased (12 in ear - 12 over ear)

Board of Ministries—Chair, Mindi Graver

Kathryn Verkouw & Angie Rabbe

Christian Formation

Sunday School

Children and Youth

We are so grateful for our Christian Educators: Esther Verkouw and Athena Marple (parent & toddler), Susan Miller and Alana Koser (preschool), Lisa Gochnauer and Kim Neumar (K-2), Patti Hartman and Kaylah Miller (3-5 grades), Meghan Kelley and Vicki Mumma (Confirmation Class), Anne Stachura and Keith Miller (high school), Cindy LaMaster (substitute and helper), and Vicki Mumma, Meghan Kelly, Anne Stachura, and Keith Miller (youth group).

Summer 2024:

Last year's VBS, co-hosted with Holy Trinity. We averaged 30 children, 4 teen helpers, and 11 adults.

Confirmation camp '24 was a collaboration of 6 Lutheran Churches. Grace sent 2 youth and 3 adults. It's hosted at Camp Kirchenwald in Colebrook, PA

Adults

The Creative Spirit flowed as our adults explored Spirituality as expressed in art (Tom Santosusso), poetry (Barbara Strasco), dance (Marian West) and music (The Daves: Dr. David McConnell, Dave Himes and Dave Eriksson)! Other topics were: Reflections on my journey on the "Camino de Santiago (Anne Stachura), Music and the Liturgy (Dr. David McConnell), a study of *Dear Church: A Love Letter From a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* by Lenny Duncan (Susan Mull), "Insider and Outsider: A look at St. Peter and St. Paul" (Pastor Rustico), How are we doing at Grace (Kath and Pastor Verkouw), *Do Not Be Afraid* by Adam Hamilton (Pastor Verkouw)

Fall/Winter 2024

Health and School kits—we packed 178 health kits and 95 school kits.

Winter collection for community meal. We handed out jackets, hats, socks, gloves, undershirts and scarves,

Advent devotionals and calendars were available for all ages.

Winter

Global Barnyard collection during Epiphany. We raised \$560, enough to purchase a cow!

Continued to collect and hand out winter items to community meal attendees. It seems to work better if we have items available most weeks instead of handing everything out all at once.

Lenten devotionals were available for all ages. We introduced praying for Grace members and Random Acts of Kindness. Pastor Verkouw also led two discussion groups that helped us think about our place in the world.

Collections over the year:

We finished collecting bottle caps - the students in York County achieved their goal!

Metal soda and can tabs - to benefit hospice care for veterans (Ed Krimmel)

'24 Souper Bowl Sunday in-gathering to benefit the Food Hub

'25 Souper Bowl Sunday in-gathering to benefit the Community Meals at Grace

Styrofoam - delivered to the Dart collection station for recycling (Jan Mandros)

Shoe collection to benefit the Girl Scouts (Nancy Rowe)

FIT (Families in Transit) school supply collection to be used to support students in the School District of Lancaster (Trinity Lutheran and the VBS project)

Ongoing book collection for our Little Free Library (Brenda Hayasaka)

PRC Baby Kits: This is an ongoing ministry for new mothers in need: Things needed: Pacifier, wipes, Size 1 disposable diapers, NoseFrida nasal aspirator and replacement filters, Foldable changing pad, sleep sack or warm footed pjs (0-3M), 2 onesies (0-3M), swaddling blanket, diaper bag or backpack. Since you can also buy directly from the PRC website we are not sure how much has been donated but we are sure that many newborn hats, blankets, onesies, diapers and NoseFridas have been delivered to the PRC from generous Grace members. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

VBS *Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity*, we are co-hosting with Holy Trinity again. Please pray for the success of this collaboration!

In conjunction with VBS, we will be collecting items for the SDoL FIT program.

Confirmation Camp is June 15-20 at Kirchenwald

School kits and health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Please contact Brenda Hayasaka if you wish to help with school kits and Barbara Slotter if you wish to help with health kits.

Rally Day is September 7.

October- March 2026—ongoing collection of winter items for community meal. Lists of needed items will be available in the Grace News. Please talk to Angie Rabbe if you have any questions and/or would like to assist.

Updates on Programs / Initiatives

Book Groups: Our two book groups are thriving! One group meets monthly on Zoom (Brenda Hayasaka & Angie Rabbe) and the other group meets monthly in-person (Jean Young, Nan Yoder, Arlene Volk, and Joyce Loiseau).

Dramability: Dramability, a performing arts troupe comprised of young adults with developmental disabilities continues to offer two sessions per year: a fall season of 10 classes, and a winter/spring season of 15 classes, including a spring performance at Garden Spot. Two instructors, Sharon Sparkes and Amber Harkins, lead the group of 12 actors with diverse abilities. They share many thanks to Grace Church for all its support!

Cards for Caring: Shopping cards completed its 14th year of operation in November, 2024. Giant, Stauffers and Weis Markets sell cards to non-profit organizations at a five percent discount. The non-profits are then able to use the five percent earned as they see fit. Shopping cards has donated funds to Grace, general Lutheran and community programs each year since beginning in November, 2010. In 2024 \$500.00 donations each were made as follow:

North Lancaster Conference Dean's Fund-for Grace members' 2024 mission trips

Lutheran Camping Corporation Annual Fund

Schreiber Pediatric Center

North Lancaster Conference Dean's Fund-for Grace members' 2025 mission trips

Community Meals: Grace continues to offer a warm meal and fellowship to those in need on Wednesday evenings throughout the entire year. We have support from Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Covenant Methodist Church, St. Peter Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church, as well as volunteers from Shaarai Shomayim synagogue we are able to serve 80-100 people every Wednesday, also offering such items as socks and gloves to those in need. Additionally, we host the Parish Resource Center every Saturday and Sunday afternoon as they serve take-out meals with supplies and food stored and prepared in our pantry and kitchen. Our recent Souper Bowl of Caring collected monetary gifts and pantry staples to stock the kitchen for this ministry.

Music Lessons: We now offer space for Musiccorps to offer music lesson to deserving young people in our community.

English Language Learners Program: Grace ELL (English Language Learners) is now in our fifth year of teaching English online and our seventh year overall. We continue to meet year-round on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 AM. We are blessed to have a “core” group of students who come to class year after year. We also have many new students who are referred by local social service agencies. Most of these students want to learn English to get jobs. Helping our students learn English to get jobs has been an important focus of Grace ELL. Supporting our students on their path to US citizenship has been another important task. In the last year, two of our current students and one of our former students have become US citizens.

In the past year, two of our current students have become tenants of Grace L Hands, our Grace housing ministry. This has been an exciting opportunity for several of our teachers to work with these students as new neighbors of Grace Church.

Grace ELL continues to partner with Computers for Refugees, a ministry of Alpha and Omega Church, to give our students free refurbished laptops. The Penn Medicine CARES grant program and our own Grace Church have enabled our textbooks to remain free to our students.

During this time of uncertainty and change for refugees and immigrants, our wonderful co-teachers have been the “backbone” of all we do. Linda Fackler has now retired from Grace ELL after serving faithfully since 2018. Arlene Volk has joined Grace ELL as a co-teacher. In addition to Arlene, Grace ELL co-teachers are Barbara Andersen (Coordinator), Cindy Garcia, Mary Gentzler, Joyce Loiseau, Donna Weidman, Nan Yoder – all from Grace – and Barbara Williams from the Lancaster City community. We welcome new volunteers and are flexible with time commitments and schedules. We are thankful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of refugees and immigrants and represent Grace Church as a good neighbor in our community.

Global Refuge: We participated in Hope For the Holidays, by sending sixty Christmas cards to families being held at the US/Mexico border.

Narcotics Anonymous: We continue to host various groups in need of a place to serve the community, most notably N.A. They meet on our campus weekly, providing support to those fighting addiction in a safe place and also providing an opportunity to engage in meaningful social time at their monthly social dances.

Porta Potty: Grace Church has partnered with a neighborhood coalition serving the unhoused in our community by placing a portable toilet on our property. In the wake of City Government dispersing many of the homeless neighbors away from the core downtown late last year, we received an influx of folks spending lots of time on our property. In an effort to not only support them but to also protect our property, Council agreed to place the Porta Potty on the James St. side of the church, close to the old elevator entrance.