

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Annual Report of the Congregation

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## 2015

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**Grace Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, January 25, 2015**

Steve Rosno, Council President, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

The opening prayer was conducted by Pastor Karlsson.

Ed Binder confirmed there was enough voting members of the church present to qualify for the required quorum needed to conduct business.

**Grace Foundation Report:**

In the absence of President Dr. Rod Basler and Treasurer, Phil Sorenson, Barry Moore provided additional information on the report.

- 1) Confirmed appropriate funds to reach the Foundation's Goal of having funds equal to the annual church
- 2) Explained how the Foundation obtains their funds
- 3) Explained how to give to the Foundation (designated and undesignated funds)

**2014 Annual Meeting Reports**

- 1) January 26, 2014 – Approved, no corrections
- 2) November 15, 2104 – One correction by Pastor Sylvia (Synod to Church-wide)

A motion was made by Terry Branting to accept reports with corrections, Seconded by Roger Potts. Motion passed.

**Call Committee Update – Curt Mann**

- 1) Committee has developed questions for interviews
- 2) Committee has conducted mock interviews
- 3) Three potential candidates have been provided by the Synod – In process of interviewing them

**Staff, Committee and Group, Financial Reports**

Staff Reports – No questions

Committee/Group Reports – No questions

Financial Report - Jim Krueger, Treasurer

- 1) 2014 Recap – came up just a little short
- 2) Noted reasons for any discrepancies
- 3) Announced Matt Knobbe will be the new Financial Secretary
- 4) Thanked Neil Larson for his five years of service as Financial Secretary

A motion was made by Dennis Berens to accept and approve the presented staff, committee and groups, and financial reports. Seconded by Fran Gade. Motion carried.

**Ratification of Constitution** – Approved changes which were presented to the congregation at the November 15, 2014 meeting. There being no questions. Steve called for the vote. Ratification passed.

**Outgoing Council Members**

A special thank you to Fran Gade for leading our church as president for the past two years.

Steve thanked the following outgoing council members

Fran Gade

Roger Potts

Lois Schuerman

Steve Paschold

Seeing no additional business to bring before the Congregation, President Steve asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Ed Binder. Seconded by Dennis Berens. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Weisbrook

Council Secretary

**Grace Lutheran Church Special Pastoral Call Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, May 31, 2015**

Steve Rosno, Council President, called the special meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

The opening prayer was conducted by Pastor Sylvia Karlsson.

Ed Binder confirmed there were enough voting members of the church present to qualify for the required quorum needed to conduct business.

**PRESIDENT STEVE BEGAN THE MEETING WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

Resolution from the Congregational Council to the Congregation: The Grace Lutheran Church Council recommends Reverend Eric Karl Leshar be called to serve as Senior Pastor/Head of Staff of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Chair of the Call Committee, Curt Mann, presented an overview of the selection process the call committee went through in choosing and recommending Pastor Leshar. It was a unanimous vote to recommend him to the Church Council.

Denny Berens, Council Vice-President, shared the questions addressed to Pastor Leshar during the Council interview. The Council vote was unanimous to recommend him to the Congregation.

After discussion from the congregation, Willie Weisbrook called for the question. It was seconded by Kathy Zimmerman. Motion passed. The vote for the call was conducted by paper ballot.

Special recognition was given to Margaret Gipson, who resigned from Council due to her upcoming moving to New York. She was recognized for her contribution to Grace, the Call Committee, and the Congregational Council.

President Steve introduced Carla Ingersoll as our new appointee to the Council, to fill Margaret's term.

Brady Garvin and Jacob Krueger were honored at the Nebraska Synod convention in Kearney this past week. They were voted to attend the ELCA Church-wide Convention in New Orleans in 2016.

While waiting for the results of the election, Jim Krueger presented the compensation package for Pastor Leshar.

Results of the vote: 110 voted: Yes, 2 voted: No

**THE COMPENSATION PACKAGE RESOLUTION:** The Grace Lutheran Church Council recommends the following annualized initial compensation to Reverend Eric Karl Leshar, \$118,397.88.

After discussion, it was unanimously approved.

Vice-President Denny will call Pastor Leshner and a letter will go to the Synod after all documents have been signed.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer led by Vice-President Denny. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Jeanne Weisbrook*  
Council Secretary

**Grace Lutheran Church Special Organ Repair Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, May 31, 2015**

Steve Rosno, Council President, called the special meeting to order at 11:55 a.m.

Ed Binder confirmed there were enough voting members of the church present to qualify for the required quorum needed to conduct business.

President Steve shared the purpose of this special meeting on the organ repairs needed. The amount was more than \$25,000, thus needing congregational approval to spend the funds, which was not included in the budget. He explained the necessary repairs needed and shared the funding plan for the organ repairs.

The members of the Organ Repair Committee were introduced:

Dave Ripa – Stewardship Committee

Sandie Anderson – Worship and Music Committee

Terry Branting – Property Committee

Jim Krueger – Finance Committee

Sara Schott

Jameson Leftridge

Phase I: Cost of the repairs: \$25,925.00  
\$10,000 from Gail Moss Estate  
\$15,925 Gift from Janet Jodais

Phase II: Cost of \$53,425.00  
This is becoming more of an immediate need.

Phase III: Estimate \$100,000 to be done in the next 10 years. There are no financial plans in place for this.

Denny Berens moved to authorize the Church Council to enter a contract with Bedient Pipe Organ Co. in the amount of \$25,925 for the purpose of pipe repairs, additional support racking, pipe washing, and pedal refurbishment. Seconded by Kevin Dumler.

Discussion was held and Jameson explained the pipe damage that needs repair.

Fran Gade called for the question. Kathy Zimmerman seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was passed with a unanimous verbal vote.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by President Steve at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Jeanne Weisbrook*  
Council Secretary

**Grace Lutheran Church Annual Voting-Budget Approval Meeting  
Sunday, November 8, 2015**

Steve Rosno, Council President, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

The opening prayer was conducted by Pastor Eric Leshner.

Alan Givens (Parliamentarian) confirmed there were enough voting members of the church present to qualify for the required quorum needed to conduct business.

Two items on the agenda:

1) 2016 Election of Council Members/Nominating Committee Members

Steve went over the ballot

One person on ballot for a 1-year term – Peter Schnake (One to be elected) No additional nominations from the floor.

Two persons on ballot for a 2-year term – Kevin Gade and Carla Ingersoll (Two to be elected) No additional nominations from the floor.

Four persons on ballot for a 3-year term – Wendy Apple, Terry Branting, Jolene Hokanson, Neil Larson (Two to be elected) No additional nominations from the floor.

Two persons on ballot for 1-year term (under age 30) – Lindsey Howard and Elizabeth Krueger (One to be elected) – No additional nominations from the floor.

No nominations on ballot for someone to run for a 1-year term (under age 20) (One to be elected) Anthony Zimmerman was nominated from the floor. No additional nominations.

Roger Potts moved the nominations for council be closed. Seconded by Kathy Zimmerman. Motion carried.

Nominations for Nominating Committee (Six to be elected for a 1-year term)

Doug Allen

Jeannette Allen

Alan Givens

Ron Holtgrewe

Pat Lickei

Tina Loseke

Jeanne Weisbrook

No nominations from the floor. Barb Smith moved nominations close. Seconded by Judy Anderson. Motion carried.

Roger thanked the people who helped with the garage.

New Ad Hoc Media Committee members were introduced.

President Steve Rosno announced his resignation from Council

The newly elected council members were announced:

Peter Schnake

Kevin Gade

Carla Ingersoll

Wendy Apple  
Terry Branting  
Elizabeth Krueger  
Anthony Zimmerman

2016 Nominating Committee Members:

Doug Allen  
Jeannette Allen  
Alan Givens  
Ron Holtgrewe  
Pat Lickel  
Tina Loseke

2) 2016 Proposed Budget

Steve reviewed the resignation of Pastor Bob Rademacher (September 9) and how this impacted the Budget approved by the Council

Jim went over the proposed budget

Curt Mann moved we approve the proposed 2016 Budget. Seconded by Kathy Zimmerman.

Motion carried.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m. with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Jeanne Weisbrook*  
Council Secretary

## REPORT OF THE SENIOR PASTOR

*"You will see greater things than these . . ." - John 1:50*

Jesus speaks these words in the gospel of John just before a series of miraculous signs reveal the identity and mission of Jesus. Even the identity and mission of Jesus is always being revealed. It is unfolding before us as we read through the gospel of John and the other gospels as well.

Likewise our identity and mission is always in a process of discovery as these components of our life together unfold before us. In the six months that I have been here I am convinced that God has greater things in store for us. Much of this is still a mystery to us. But what I have seen grows out of our mission of "Making Christ known to all through Grace."

Two words capture my attention in this mission statement. "To all". Our commitment to being a welcome place is revealed not only through our sharing of the peace on Sunday morning but through the many diverse groups that use our facility during the week. People from various backgrounds find Grace Lutheran to be a place of welcome. That's important in a world where many are left feeling unwelcome because of who they are. Feeling welcome helps others connect to our community and congregation. The diversity of culture and people is an asset found in Lincoln. Some see it as a burden. But it is an opportunity of us to live out God's gracious desire to know all people. So we strive to make Christ known to all people as well.

The other word is "Grace". It's not only our name. It's who we are. We are a gracious people committed to service and justice that reconciles all people to Him who is our life and light. I see this grace of God in you as you serve your neighbor and care for each other. Rooting ourselves in grace will help us grow in many and various way. With that growth may come change but that can be exciting as well as frightening. Both of these together is what keeps us moving forward and not backward. So as we move forward together as the body of Christ in the world today let us remember to move forward graciously and inclusively into a world where division and exclusivity rule the day. Prayer that the peace of God in Christ rule in our hearts and minds for the year to come.

A year where God's vision always exceeds our expectations. Please also know that I have been humbled and blessed by the vision, courage, strength and grace of this congregation. My thanks to each of you for sharing your lives, your faith and your courageous hope with me as we journey together in ministry. We do not know what God's future holds, but I am certain it will be far more than we can ask or imagine. I look forward to discovering that future together in the year 2016.

In Christ,



Pr. Eric Leshner

**Good Samaritan Fund Checking Account**

Balance as of January 1, 2015: 646.61

Balance as of December 31, 2015: 835.90

The Good Samaritan Fund was used to help people (both members and non members) with financial assistance for rent, utility bills, gas vouchers and food. The account is funded by donations from church members and the Grace Foundation.

**Voices of Grace Checking Account**

Beginning Balance: \$2,233.07

Ending Balance: \$2,239.31

This checking account serves the music ministry for various special projects. In 2015, we raised (and spent) money for the following projects: hotel expense for the Erik Suter organ concert; airfare and performer's fee for the Tysen Dauer piano concert; the Q125 Christmas ornaments; the commissioning of a handbell piece by Jason Krug, the commissioning of a hymn by Susan and David Cherwien for the Q125 celebration; help with hotel costs for the handbell choir to attend a workshop in Kansas City; registration fee for the children's choir to attend the First-Plymouth Children's Choir Festival, and also for the children's choir to attend The Messiah at First-Plymouth Church. The account received money from the Gail Moss Estate (through the council) for the purchase of the 4th and 5th octaves of handchimes.

Sara Schott

Director of Music

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

*When music wakes my sleeping heart  
and plays my spirit strong,  
then all I love is gracious gift  
and every breath, a song.*

*When music gathers us in prayer  
and summons us to praise,  
then beauty spills her shining light  
across our darkened days.*

*When music fills the universe  
and all is melody,  
then Christ the Lord will lead a hymn  
of soaring majesty:*

*"All honor to the Holy One,  
all praise and glory be!"  
Our alleluias without end  
will ring in harmony.  
--Delores Dufner*

The words of the above hymn reflect worship and music here at Grace so well -- music gathers us in prayer and praise, and the beauty of our worship services spills light across our days. And it all points us to that one glorious day when Christ will return to lead us in the ultimate hymn of praise. It is a privilege to lead God's people in song here, and I am so grateful for each service I get to play, and each rehearsal I get to lead, and each special project that I get to work on. This is a remarkable congregation, with remarkable facilities and remarkable history, but most of all, with remarkable people!

It has been a very busy year for the music ministry! In addition to all the regular things we do, we were blessed to be part of some special events. The year-long celebration of Grace's 125th anniversary added a whole extra set of events to our schedule. We hosted Erik Wm. Suter in an organ concert in January. Erik is the former organist of Washington National Cathedral, and now works as a commercial airline pilot. His playing is simply amazing, and all who attended the concert were treated to an afternoon of stunning musicianship. Tysen Dauer, our former assistant organist, also returned to play a piano concert in celebration of the 125th anniversary. It was wonderful to see him again and hear his gifted playing.

We were able to commission two new pieces of music for the congregational anniversary. Jason Krug wrote "Intonations of Praise" for the bell choir. We love the piece very much, and are especially excited that it was picked for publication and will be shared with handbell choirs all over the country as a result. We also commissioned Susan Cherwien to write a hymn text and David Cherwien to write the tune for it. We premiered the hymn at our Q125 worship service on June 14th. The hymn is titled "Sing, O Sing" and the text features 125 syllables with the word "cross" in the center of them. Susan chose to begin the hymn with the words "Sing, O Sing" because she had been here at Grace for a hymn festival in 2013, and she remembered **how** we sing, and how we've been dedicated to worship and fine music in service of worship. David named the tune for the new hymn "Grace Unending".

Another major project for the year has been the restoration of our Casavant Pipe Organ. The congregation was able to raise the money to clean and straighten pipes that had started to sag after 46 years, and also raised enough money so that we can redo the console early in 2016. This project will give the organ a new solid-state system for the console, which will both make it more reliable and more flexible. It is wonderful to have this project done and the organ ready to serve this congregation in worship for many more years.

As always, working with the choirs is one of the most enjoyable parts of my work here at Grace. The Adult Choir continues to be the backbone of the music ministry, leading worship about 3-4 times a month from September through May (approximately). We do not have a lot of singers, but we have wonderful singers who are dedicated to leading liturgical worship here at Grace. The Bells of Grace is our advanced handbell choir, and they are an amazing group of musicians. The Children's Choir continues to grow in both numbers and musicality. In the spring, they participated in a children's choir festival that culminated with them being part of a concert celebrating the Lied Center's 25th anniversary. And Grace Notes, our beginning bell choir, continues to improve and grow as well. This congregation is truly blessed to have such dedicated musicians. We also were blessed with another year of the Grace Foundation Brass adding their gifts to worship, as well as various instrumentalists and soloists.

In June, we said good-bye to Jameson Varpness, who had been our assistant organist for two years. Jameson took a job as Director of Music at Grace Lutheran in Wenatchee, Washington. He is doing well there and I am happy that we were able to help him prepare to be a director of music in another congregation that will benefit so much from his leadership and musical talent. We also welcomed our new assistant organist, Colt Ballou. Colt has a master's degree in choral conducting and is working on his doctoral degree in conducting. Colt has been a wonderful addition to our staff.

Of course, we also were excited to welcome Pr. Leshner to Grace. His installation service was August 9th. It has been fun to get to know him and to plan worship with him. We have added an Evening Prayer service on Wednesday nights to our regular worship schedule, and this quiet, beautiful, candle-lit service has been attended by 20-25 people each week.

As much as I love the choirs and all the special things we do at Grace, my favorite thing of all is playing the organ for you as you sing the great hymns of the faith. A congregation that sings well is something of a rarity, and I take seriously the responsibility of fostering your song. It is the song of God's people at prayer and praise, and nothing we do in the music ministry is more important. We have a beautiful room to sing in, a beautiful organ to help lead us, and your beautiful voices (yes, all of you have beautiful voices) to pull it all together. We are truly, truly blessed.

Soli deo Gloria!

*Sara Schott*, Director of Parish Music

## PAROCHIAL REPORT

Baptized members at the end of 2014	582
<u>MEMBERS RECEIVED DURING 2015</u>	<u>BAPTIZED</u>
By baptism, children	5
By baptism, adult	1
Affirmed faith	11
By transfer	7
Total members received during 2015	<u>24</u>
<u>MEMBERS REMOVED DURING 2015</u>	
By death	11
By other (council action)	100
By transfer	5
Total members removed during 2015	<u>116</u>
MEMBERSHIP AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015	<u>490</u>

## PASTORAL ACTS -- 2015

**Baptisms - 6**

**Marriages - 2**

**Funerals - 10**

## **REPORT OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

The Church Council worked diligently on behalf of the congregation during 2015. In addition to the monthly committee and council meetings the council also put in many long hours during the call process to find our new Senior Pastor. Thank you!

We were blessed with a wonderful interim pastor, Rev. Sylvia Karlsson. She was a great resource in keeping us organized and moving forward. Thank you!

The Call Committee worked very hard and successfully recommended to the council our new senior pastor, Rev. Eric Leshar. The Council forwarded their recommendation to the congregation and Pr. Eric was elected as our new senior pastor. Thank you!

The Quasiquicentennial (Q125) celebration held in June to celebrate Grace's 125th anniversary was a huge success. Thanks to the Q125 Committee for all their hard work.

Additional highlights of 2015 include the following:

- Pay-off of the Church's mortgage.
- Finish the renovation of Leshar Lounge.
- Establishment of a Seminarian Support Fund.
- Fund raising and repairs to the organ.
- Remodeling of our garage.
- Formation of a Media and Ministry ad hoc committee.
- Approval to hire a Director of Faith Formation.

As always we are blessed to have a dedicated staff and many volunteers. It is gratifying to see everybody working together throughout the year toward our common goals. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Steve Rosno*

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE**

The Worship & Music Committee of Grace is charged with developing structures and program to fulfill the worship needs of this congregation, both public and private. This includes some of the very visible ministries of Grace, including altar guild, choirs and musicians, lectors, ushers, assisting ministers, acolytes, and more. The committee in the by-laws is instructed to be stewards of the liturgical treasures of the church, both in Word and Sacrament.

Darlene Rademacher served as our Altar Guild Chair until September of this year, and we are grateful for all she has done in this role. In 2016, we will be looking for another chair for Altar Guild. The Altar Guild's work has been and continues to be an essential part in the care of our worship space and items. We are thankful for all those who setup and clean up for communion, as well as those who make communion bread and bring communion wine throughout the year.

Our committee is responsible for decorating the worship space for various liturgical days/seasons. For example, we decorated the chancel for the various seasons of the church year, and especially for Easter, Thanksgiving Eve, and Christmas. We continue to look for new liturgical options to glorify God in our worship spaces.

We continue to involve children and youth in the worship service. Members of the Children's Choir are serving as lectors. We are thrilled that they are willing to do this, and that they have worked hard to practice their readings and learn to use the microphones well. In addition, Sara spends a good deal of her time teaching kids in choir and Sunday School about the liturgical year and the songs of the faith. We pray that these opportunities will lead to a lifetime of worship attendance and leadership for the children in our midst. We are committed to continue to offer a full liturgical calendar of worship services, including festivals that are often forgotten in other congregations. These "extra" services include Epiphany, Morning Prayer during Holy Week, the Easter Vigil, Ascension, the Blessing of Animals, Advent Lessons & Carols, and Evening Prayer during Advent.

Our committee commissioned a brass ornament in celebration of the congregation's 125th anniversary. These were sold at the Q125 celebration and afterward as a fundraiser for the Voices of Grace fund. We worked on many other events and projects in conjunction with the 125th Anniversary (more details on that can be found in the Director of Music's report).

Grace received a generous gift from the estate of Gail Moss, with Gail's will indicating that the money was to be designated for the worship committee. Our committee recommended to council that most of the gift be used for the organ restoration project. We also were able to purchase the 4th and 5th octaves of handchimes with funds from this gift. Gail was a longtime member of our committee and a tireless worker in the area of worship and music; we are happy that the funds from her estate have helped to restore the organ and prepare it for many more years of service in worship at Grace.

Our committee members this year included: Dave Ripa, Ed Binder, John Lunde, Doug Allen, Darlene Rademacher, Pastor Robert Rademacher, Carla Ingersoll, Sandie Anderson, Curt Mann and Sara Schott. As a committee, we are very grateful to each person who helps with any aspect of worship here at Grace. Altar guild, ushers, lectors, assisting ministers, communion servers, singers, ringers,

instrumentalists, acolytes, bread bakers and wine buyers and everyone else who helps in any way, THANK YOU! Your service helps us to worship more fully, and for that we are grateful.

God calls us together, through the Holy Spirit, each week to form a community as we worship. We are fed and nourished at the Table, and then we go out to serve, to be Christ's hands in our community and world. We are grateful for the gift of worshiping together at Grace, and look forward to many more inspiring and wonderful opportunities to praise and thank God for all the things God has done!

Respectfully submitted,

*The Worship Committee*

## MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

The Memorials Committee was established in June 2004 for the purpose of assisting families when memorial donations and offerings/memorial gifts are given to the congregation in memory of a loved one. The Pastor and/or committee will work with each family to offer guidance and provide suggestions as to how memorial gifts may be used appropriately. A list of suitable worship appointments, furnishings, items or on-going projects is available, many of which are suggestions from our Standing Committees and are approved by the Church Council. This list is reviewed, kept current and published periodically. The committee is responsible for record keeping and reports to the Church Council regularly.

In 2015 Memorial gifts have purchased:

- Bus safety bars – Ruth Rosenberg
- Electronic media board - Undesignated funds
- Lounge furnishings - Anita Van Cleaf
- Christmas Paraments - Aldyth Paschold
- Portable paper cart - Delores Sorensen
- Organ repair fund - Herb Steffens, Birdeen Havlicek

Members of the Committee in 2015: Bob & Sandie Anderson, Robert Stimbert, Kim Mills, Connie Whyrick, Jan Branting

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jan Branting*

## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

2015 Committee Members: Jeanette Allen, Dean Dumler, Matt Knobbe, Gigi Lange, Margaret Gipson (left in July), Carla Ingersoll

The Evangelism committee is involved in helping spread God's Word through helping others, in our church and our community.

Jeannette Allen has been gracious enough to organize Sunday greeters and fellowship hour volunteers; new member ministries to include receptions and introductions of new members.

The seasonal advertising is now being put on our website and Facebook. Matt Knobbe has started the project of advertising Grace Church at Ross Theater for 2016. This will be a year long ad running on the Ross's marquee.

Prescott School ministry is supported by: Kevin Gade, Willie Weisbrook, Jacob Krueger, and Dean Dumler coaching basketball; assisting the social ministry committee with school backpacks and Christmas baskets.

Prison Ministry. November 14 members of Grace attended church service at the prison.

The Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social was hosted and the remaining pies were taken to the People's City Mission.

Evangelism is the work of the Church: God's Work-Our Hands. Please give prayerful and thoughtful consideration in joining the Evangelism Committee or assisting in their work. If there are projects that you believe are important to our church and community lives, please contact any member with your ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carla Ingersoll*

## PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Connie Whyrick, Jan Branting, Kathy Remington, Lindsey Howard, Elizabeth Krueger, Lynn Chamberlin, Pastor Bob Rademacher

Sunday School resumed from winter break in January 2015 and ended in May 2015 with a successful semester. This school year Sunday School is using Spark Lectionary Curriculum and Elizabeth Krueger and Lindsey Howard became the Sunday School Superintendents. Sunday School started early this year in August and ended the semester with a wonderful Hanging of the Greens Christmas program. During the Christmas program, Pastor Eric presented the Sunday school students with bibles.

The teachers at the end of the last semester were Katrina Lange, Lori Drake, Teresa Serefin, Brady Gavin, Alan Givens, and Kevin Dumler. This year we have Amy Knobbe, Judi Schroder, Lori Drake, Teresa Serefin, Connie Whyrick, Jan Branting, Brady Garvin, and Alan Givens. Vacation Bible School was from July 17 to July 19 ending with a program during service. The theme of VBS was Noah's Ark. Adult Study Forum had numerous people leading at the beginning of the year and took a break during the summer. Pastor Eric started an Adult Study Forum on the Book of Acts.

Confirmation started up in August in conjunction with Friedens Lutheran Church and Vicar Kate Wolf. They have been on a break for Advent.

Many hours were spent cleaning and organizing the Sunday School Office in an effort to reduce spending on duplicate supplies.

Parish Education prayerfully requests for budgeting of a Faith and Family Educator.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth Krueger*

### **MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

The Mutual Ministry Committee is provided for in the church constitution, and consists of six members, as well as the Senior Pastor and Council President. The six committee members in 2015 were Ed Binder, Lori Drake, Fran Gade, Alan Givens, Bev Madison and Carol Olson.

The committee's primary function is to aid the pastor and staff to be more effective, by being available for counsel and by serving as the link between the congregation and the staff. The committee is accountable for a confidential, supportive role with the pastor, staff, and members of the congregation.

The Mutual Ministry Committee meets quarterly, as well as whenever its service and counsel are requested by the pastor, staff, or members of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alan Givens*

## SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

“The Social Ministry Committee follows the mandate of Scripture to serve others, especially those who are ill, hungry, troubled, suffering injustices, or lacking basic needs. We assist members of our congregation and community, as well as reaching out nationally and internationally.” Members are Lori Drake, Larry Clymer, Sue Clymer, Steve Paschold, Patricia Lickei, Barbara Smith, Lindsey Howard, and Joyce Lunde. Projects of the Committee in 2015 are as follows:

**CROP Walk:** Grace participated in the 2015 CROP Walk held October 11<sup>th</sup>. Funds go to alleviate hunger in our community and throughout the world. We donated \$100 to become a CROP Walk sponsor. Grace’s name and address with the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo were printed on the back of this year’s t-shirt. Lindsey Howard, Coordinator.

**Easter Vases:** Working with the Women of Grace, we purchased flowers, prepared, and helped in the delivery of Easter flowers (“Crazy Daisies”) to members of Grace in need of special cheer. The bud vases, many donated by Grace Members, were delivered to about 35 individuals. Easter cards were included. Lori Drake, Coordinator.

**Fair Trade:** In 2015, Grace continued to offer sales of Fair Trade products through the Equal Exchange Program of LWR and a similar program SERRV. Both of these programs are a means of combating poverty. They encourage and support farmers, artisans, and small business owners in some of the poorest countries around the globe and enable them to market their products around the world. Here at Grace, we can choose from a variety of Fair Trade products: coffee, tea, almonds, candy bars, honey and more. The Social Ministry Committee offers Fair Trade sales the year around, with about one sale a month. This year during Advent we also offered Christmas items and jewelry. These items were very well received. In 2015 a committee member ordered and managed the sale of Fair Trade products with the essential help from fellow Committee members. Pat Lickei, Coordinator

**One Day Without Shoes:** Grace Lutheran helped for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time to promote the “One Day Without Shoes” event during April for the benefit of the People’s City Mission (PCM). This event was created to draw the focus on the impact shoes can have on a child’s life. Cornhusker Bank, with the help of other organizations partnered with PCM. Grace was one of nearly 60 local organizations that conducted internal shoes drives, filling barrels full of shoes for children and adults, or served as a public drop off site accepting donations of money and new and used shoes. Donations were collected between April 10<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>. Shoe donations came in amazing quantities, with the total donated standing at approximately 16,000 pairs. Lori Drake, Coordinator

**Produce Table:** A Produce Exchange Table was set up in early summer in the gym. Homegrown produce could be exchanged or offered for free or for optional donations. Thanks to the gardeners in our congregation for providing the wonderful fresh produce. Money collected was sent to ELCA World Hunger Appeal - \$208.45. Steve Paschold, Coordinator.

**Prescott Project:** We always pack bags for the Prescott food bank over the year. It seem when the cold weather starts, we have to pack more than usual. In May some of us helped with the Prescott Walkathon. It is a great event to attend, even if you don't volunteer to help. Once again, we donated to the end of the year field trip for the 5 grade class. In return, the 5 grade students came to the church and volunteered

for the church. Ruth and I were visiting about different ways to help the kids a few weeks ago, and she said that was one of the best things we did and that it made the kids feel good about themselves when they were able to come and help us. We donated bags of colors, scissors, pencils, and erasers for the students this year. We purchased hand sanitizer and Kleenex at the beginning of the year. Sweatpants, shirts, socks, and gloves have also been furnished. The donkeys were a big smash at the summer feast. In December, we made 31 food baskets for the families in need. We are on a new mission this year to help out with a project for the after school kids. It is called the “Makerspace Program”. It is to encourage student to get involved in science, technology, engineering, math, and art. We have made a donation to help purchase some of the items they will need to get started. Some of the items will be borrowed and they are also working on a couple of grants to help out with it. Sue and Larry Clymer, Coordinators.

**Suitcase Project:** During the month of August, we again collected an assortment of household, personal, and infant products. Also we applied and received a Grant (\$250) from Thrivent to purchase additional items. All of these items were delivered to the Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties (210 O Street, Lincoln, NE 68508). The items were to be stocked in their Incentive Store. The people whom the agency serves work towards monthly goals and earn tokens. They redeem tokens in the store for needed products and supplies. Coordinator, Steve Paschold and Lori Drake

**Thanksgiving Baskets:** An annual event in November, we collected donations of food and funds to create food baskets (boxes) for those in need. Members of the Committee and other helpers packed 11 boxes (“baskets”) and then delivered them. A meal was provided for about 35 individuals including adults and children. Lori Drake, Coordinator.

**The Feast:** For a number of years, members of Grace’s Social Ministry Committee have helped Our Savior’s Lutheran Church with “The Feast.” The Feast is a year around program offered by OSL to inmates of the Lincoln Correctional Center and to their families. Each Sunday of the year, these guests of OSL attend services, join in the Feast, and conclude their visit with a Bible study and the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings. As in past years, Grace again provided one of the Feast meals during the year to about 80 participants. After consultation with the OSL program coordinator, we plan the menu. Our committee members donated most of the food we served. Our sloppy joes, sides, and the brownies prepared by the Women of Grace have been very much appreciated. “Good food!” exclaimed one of the guests. The program continues in 2015. Joyce Lunde, Coordinator.

**The Gathering Place:** Grace’s ministry at The Gathering Place soup kitchen consists of preparing and serving evening meals sixteen times during the calendar year. Incorporating leftover food from various congregational meals and functions helps to decrease the food waste, while seeking to alleviate food insecurity in the Near South Neighborhood. The number of portions distributed each time typically ranges from 100-130. Donations of food and money from individuals support this endeavor. During October a “Trick or Treat for The Gathering Place” collection, aided by a grant from Thrivent Financial, along with the generosity of many Grace members, netted nearly a pickup load of paper products, cleaning supplies, and other non-food items. Another Thrivent Financial grant subsidized the meals for two Mondays in November.

Respectfully submitted, *Lori Drake*

## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

The Property Committee is called to care for the physical/structural properties, of this fine facility called Grace Lutheran Church, as an integral part of good stewardship and ministry. The year 2015 was no exception for demanding challenges with rewarding and inspirational returns as the opportunities for improvement and completion were met with God's helping hands.

The Committee has the responsibility for, but not limited to, the following areas of ministry: maintain, protect, and improve all real and personal property with proper security and safety; have in place proper insurance programs; supervise employees and volunteers, develop and oversee long range plans for this property, both real and personal, including the acquisition and usage thereof; provide for yard care, snow removal and Church facility cleaning; and maintain a current inventory of the congregational personal property.

Here is a listing of the projects completed this year within this facility and grounds:

Leshner Lounge renovations including all furnishings, lighting, projector, screen and sound system were completed, but most of the labor was performed in the previous year;

Painting of the nave side aisle walls and columns by a contractor for the Quasiquicentennial celebration;

Replaced all seven (7) of the heating/cooling system control valves, actuators and thermostats by contractors;

Repaired two stain glass windows in the balcony by a contractor;

Repaired and painted all kitchen walls and the ceiling and we're in the process of getting the shelves laminated and staining all the damaged and worn woodwork;

Painted the Vestry walls and the attached robe room and bathroom walls and ceilings;

Hauled a large load of old accumulated materials left over from past projects from the double stall garage;

Remodeled the current double stall garage to fit the new shuttle bus inside out of the weather, also reroofed the complete garage building;

Fixed the leak, by cementing in the plant space on the south end of the columbarium, and rebuilt the lower level wall back that was removed due to water leakage problems.

The Church interior was video recorded including all equipment, pictures, desks, computers, furnishings, paintings and antiques throughout the facility. Copies were put into safekeeping. This was done obviously for our own good but also at the request of our facilities insurance company.

We held the annual spring yard cleanup this year on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:30am. A very good group of approx. 30 hard working volunteers helped out. This included twenty (20) Troop 30 Boy Scouts and Pack 30 Cub Scouts, some parents, Scout Leaders, some Grace Church youth and other church members and property committee members. The debris was hauled out by Terry Branting for disposal. Thanks to everyone who helped.

The Property Committee Member, Jacob Krueger has continued the project of cleaning and polishing the brass door handles and plates, altar candle poles, the cross and crucifix, the eternal light bracket, the wedding candle rack and the baptismal candle pole. We are working on a maintenance program to help reduce all these instruments from tarnishing so quickly.

The Kinetic Equipment Company, part of the Windstream Communications Corporation, has requested to have a small corner of the Church Property for an Easement offer to place some pieces of their equipment. The Easement is for an area of 12' x 12' in the southeast corner of the south lot. The offer agreement was negotiated for \$5,000 and this was recommended by the Property Committee and accepted by the Church Council. It has not been determined what the funds will be used for.

The Committee decided to change to a new building maintenance supplier for all cleaning and bathroom supplies and this included all new automatic dispensers. The dispensers are at no cost for as long as we purchase their products including hand soap, paper towels and hand sanitizing materials from them.

The Christmas trees this year were gotten again from Spilker's Pineridge Tree Farm. The trees were picked out and brought to the Church by some of the Committee members (Terry Branting and Roger Potts). With the availability and cost of Christmas trees again this year we obtained just one for each the Nave and the Christ Chapel.

It was determined last year that we should have an electrical inspection of the facility, for safety precautions, for any issues that could be problems for possibly causing fires. Essentially the inspection enumerated several areas of concern and they were: no extension cords used on any equipment, appliances, heaters and computers. Also, all space heaters, coffee makers and any devices with a heat element should be shut off and unplugged after each use when leaving the area. All candles should be extinguished when unattended or when leaving the area. We again ask that everyone comply with these suggestions for the safety of all.

The Grace Church facility is a credit to the congregation and we as the Property Committee are proud to have had a part in the endeavors to maintain this facility as one of the finest in the community and the whole Nebraska Synod ELCA. Our endeavor is to maintain the integrity of this building and make improvements when and where possible.

The 2015 Committee Members were: Terry Branting, Duane Mischnick, Roger Potts, Phil Sorensen, Doug Krueger, Bob Anderson, Jacob Krueger (for part of the year) and Don Riemann (absent due to health reasons). We thank the Committee Members for all your hard work and all other congregation members and volunteers, who don't get the recognition that they deserve, for your much appreciated and dedicated services. Thanks also to our custodian, Robert Stimbert, for his continued daily work within this facility.

Respectfully Submitted, *Roger Potts*, Chairman

### **COLUMBARIUM COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Grace Lutheran Church Columbarium was established for baptized members of Grace Lutheran Church, former members and immediate family members wishing to be cremated to have a place for their ashes. The cost of a niche is \$1,000 with \$250 considered to be the purchase price and the remaining \$750 as a tax deductible donation to the columbarium fund. It may be paid for in four installments over three years with no interest and may be used upon completion of all payments. Currently 17 units have been purchased and twelve are in use. For complete information please contact the church office.

The Columbarium Committee consists of Carla Ingersoll, Don Carnes, and Dean Dumler.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Dean Dumler*

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COLUMBARIUM FUND  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

January 1, 2015 \$15,542.74

Receipts:

Sale of Niches	500.00	
Interest Income	1.57	
Total		\$501.57

Disbursements:

Name Plates		
Improvements	40.15	
Total		\$40.15

December 31, 2015 \$16,004.16

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COLUMBARIUM FUND  
BALANCE SHEET  
December 31, 2015

ASSETS

Cash in Checking Account	3,375.87
Certificate of Deposit	4,928.29
Receivable: Loan to CE Fund	7,700.00
	\$16,004.16

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COLUMBARIUM FUND  
INVESTMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2015

	<u>Book Value</u>	<u>Accrued Interest</u>	<u>Accrued Value</u>
Certificate of Deposit, Union Bnk. @ .65%, due 11/9/2017	\$4,928.29	\$201.52	\$5,129.81

## **THE SCOUTING PROGRAM**

For over 50 years, Grace Lutheran Church has sponsored two Scouting units---Cub Scout Pack 30 and Boy Scout Troop 30. Numerous Scouts and Scouters have participated in one or both of these programs where they earned their Church Award and/or their Eagle Scout Award. They also have been quite active in our community. Please read on to see what has been happening in each of our units.

### **Cub Scout Pack 30**

Pack 30 registered 25 boys and 1 adults for the 2016 year. Paula Rezek has served as the Cub Master of the unit for the past several years. They have many other parents who help out throughout the year. The service projects for the past year have included: helping with the church clean up, teaming up with Prescott School and painting the paws around the school. They did a food drive for the Lincoln Food Bank and put together some packages for the kids at the Friendship home. They also completed a litter clean up at Olive Creek State Park.

After their very successful popcorn sales, the pack has purchased a brand new track for their Pinewood Derby. The old track was then donated to another a unit to use. This event and many more to come this year, including a new updated program, will be certain that the pack has a very exciting 2016.

### **Boy Scout Troop 30**

Troop 30 currently has 9 boys and 7 adults who are registered for 2016. The Scoutmaster is Daryl Korinek. The unit is served by several other leaders who range in experience from 30 years in the Scouting program to just their first experience helping in a unit. The troop has had 11 service projects including two Eagle projects. They have volunteered at the Gathering Place, served a Scout Sunday breakfast to the members of Grace, conducted the opening flag ceremony at the Special Olympics. The troop members have also assisted with the annual spring clean up at Grace and also the neighborhood cleanup in September. They have had six camp outs including summer camp adding up to 13 nights.

The troop has five Life Scouts who are presently working on their Eagle Scout award. Four other scouts have one or more rank advancements over the past year. They are always looking for more boys to participate in the program.

As you can tell, both units have been very active. We appreciate all of their hard work and know that they are making an impact not only here at Grace but throughout our community. The boys, parents, and adult leaders wish to extend a word of thanks to Grace Lutheran Church for their continued support of the Scouting program.

A "Scout is Helpful" and a "Scout is Reverent."

Respectfully submitted,

*Curtis Mann*, Chartered Organization Representative

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee's focus during 2015 was to help the people of Grace understand that their gifts of time, talents and financial resources are the ways we do God's work in our community and our world. Our theme for the year was the ELCA's "God's Work. Our Hands."

We decided to separate the Time and Talents Survey from the financial commitment drive. We distributed the surveys in July, including a separate survey for children for the first time. Jeanne Weisbrook compiled the responses into a spreadsheet that we shared with the Council and committees.

The financial commitment drive culminated on Sept. 13 when Mitch McCartney from the Nebraska Synod office was our guest preacher. He also spoke briefly during coffee hour. We combined Commitment Sunday with the ELCA's "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday, and the committee served lunch to those who returned from cleaning up the neighborhood and those who stayed at church and prepared cards for shut-ins and those who do not attend services regularly.

Throughout the year, we placed a story in each month's Greeter about one of the congregation's ministries, helping members understand the good their gifts are doing and/or explaining the Time and Talents inventory and Commitment cards. We also initiated the idea of the electronic bulletin board, now located in the atrium, as a way to keep people in touch with events and opportunities at Grace. The Memorials Committee agreed to use undesignated gifts to cover the cost. We worked with the property committee (especially Roger Potts) and Brady Garvin to purchase and install the equipment. We continue to maintain and update the messages each week. We have begun planning a year-round stewardship campaign for 2016, based on an ELCA publication called "Stewards of God's Love" and stressing that stewardship is a matter of the heart: a way of life, a mindset, a culture and a discipline.

Committee members: Charlyne Berens, Kevin Dumler, Neil Larson, Dave Ripa, Jeanne Weisbrook. Special thanks to members who have left the committee during the year: Jon and Connie Thorson and Jacob Krueger.

Respectfully submitted, *Charlyne Berens*  
Stewardship Committee secretary

### **MEDIA MINISTRY (Ad-Hoc Committee)**

A summary report to the Grace community about the work of this committee since the summer of 2015.

Members: Tina Loseke, Peter Schnake, Elizabeth Krueger, Carlos Carrillo Cruz, Sara Schott, Pr. Eric Leshner and Dennis Berens

The Council established this ad hoc committee in the summer of 2015 to explore the congregation's use of current and new media. This volunteer committee was blessed with having three advisory members with expertise in technology, social media and planning: Brady Garvin, Heidi Garvin, and Charlyne Berens.

The committee focused on its present and possible future role(s), identifying a set of values along with a mission and vision statement that will guide the goals the congregation should address.

**VALUES:** Focus on radical hospitality through technology. Grace is welcoming, accepting of others and willing to share our faith. We also want to share God's grace with the greater Lincoln community and beyond.

**VISION:** Create a welcoming community through the use of technology including but not limited to website, social media, online Bible studies, etc.

**MISSION:** Use NEW MEDIA to "Make Christ Known to All through Grace," the congregation's mission statement.

**GOALS:** 1. Identify the church's technological capabilities and identify human resources to help with the production and distribution of digital creations.

2. Train our members in the use of social technology tools to share God's love.

3. Work to provide the highest quality tools and messaging to enhance our ministry.

4. Put in place policies, training, capacity and eagerness to find ways to use digital technology to share our community and message.

5. Identify a digital calendar for all committees, leaders, staff and members that limits duplication and enhances partnerships

6. Work with all committees at Grace to identify ways of using technology more effectively.

7. Develop a marketing plan for the promotion of our digital tools and ministry goals.

The committee asks that members who are interested in this ministry contact the office, Pastor Eric or Dennis with suggestions about uses of our present and future tools or to volunteer to join the committee.

## QUASQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Quasquicentennial Committee is an ad-hoc committee that was formed in 2012 for the purpose of planning and coordinating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Grace Lutheran Church. The members of the committee were Karen Billings, Mark Billings, Alan Givens, Susan Givens, Phyllis Krueger, Pat Lickei, Arlene Reighard and Dave Ripa.

The Quasquicentennial Anniversary Celebration started with Rally Sunday in September 2014. The celebration concluded in the fall of 2015 with the planting of a legacy maple on the church grounds. Anniversary events included:

- release of a new church cookbook
- release of a new church directory
- several concerts throughout the year
- Guest Preacher Series featuring former pastors
- Leshner Lounge renovation
- Talent Show

The anniversary celebration culminated on Quasquicentennial Weekend, with a fellowship banquet at the Knolls Country Club on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> and a Festival Worship on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Several keepsakes helped commemorate this milestone in our church's history: cookbook, note cube, travel mug, tote bag, Christmas ornament and keepsake history booklet.

Thank you to the entire congregation for making this anniversary celebration such a colossal success!

Respectfully submitted,

*Alan Givens*

## Grace Lutheran Church - Treasurer Report

2015

December	Current Month	YTD	Budgeted	\$'s Remaining	% Used
<b>STAFF COMPENSATION</b>					
Senior Pastor					
Complete Package	\$ 6,548.26	\$63,457.93	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 1,542.07	97.63%
Portico - Board of Pensions	\$ 3,162.57	\$27,625.20	\$ 26,585.04	\$ (1,040.16)	103.91%
Auto/Rent Assistance		\$3,044.22	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 955.78	
Continuing Ed		\$0.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 850.00	0.00%
Professional Expenses	\$ 287.11	\$1,048.45	\$ 600.00	\$ (448.45)	174.74%
Visitation Pastor					
Salary		\$15,110.59	\$ 20,962.80	\$ 5,852.21	72.08%
Auto		\$982.55	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 217.45	81.88%
Office Manager					
Salary	\$ 3,283.00	\$39,396.00	\$ 39,396.00	\$ -	100.00%
Office Assistant					
Salary	\$ -	\$882.45	\$ 3,262.48	\$ 2,380.03	27.05%
Director of Music					
Salary	\$ 3,083.94	\$37,007.28	\$ 37,007.28	\$ -	100.00%
Assistant Organist					
Salary	\$ 624.00	\$7,488.00	\$ 7,488.00	\$ -	100.00%
Custodian					
Salary	\$ 1,871.30	\$22,455.60	\$ 22,455.60	\$ -	100.00%
Nursery Attendant					
Salary	\$ 51.74	\$850.52	\$ 1,473.68	\$ 623.16	57.71%
Supply Pastor		\$2,144.50	\$ -	\$ (2,144.50)	
Employers Share FICA	\$ 681.92	\$8,268.12	\$ 8,447.92	\$ 8,447.92	97.87%
<b>STAFF COMPENSATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 19,593.84</b>	<b>\$ 229,761.41</b>	<b>\$ 238,728.80</b>	<b>\$ 8,967.39</b>	<b>96.24%</b>

## Grace Lutheran Church - Treasurer Report

2015

December		Current Month	YTD	Budgeted	\$'s Remaining	% Used
<b>PARISH PROGRAMS</b>						
Finance Committee				\$ -		
Quasculcentenal/125th Yr.			\$5,704.61	\$ 12,545.00	\$ 6,840.39	45.47%
Mission Endowment (future)				\$ -	\$ -	
Conference - Synod Assembly			\$1,620.64	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (120.64)	108.04%
Call Committee			\$9,962.75	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 5,037.25	66.42%
Administration						
Office Supplies	\$ 624.95		\$4,733.33	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 1,266.67	78.89%
Telephone	\$ 233.92		\$3,979.79	\$ 3,600.00	\$ (379.79)	110.55%
Postage	\$ 291.22		\$2,132.19	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (632.19)	142.15%
Bill Pay Fee	\$ 6.95		\$83.40	\$ 83.40	\$ -	100.00%
Technology	\$ 15.02		\$157.05	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 842.95	15.71%
Equip Maintenance	\$ 752.46		\$9,067.93	\$ 7,020.00	\$ (2,047.93)	129.17%
Other			\$20.00			
<b>PARISH PROGRAMS TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 1,924.52</b>	<b>\$ 37,461.69</b>	<b>\$ 48,248.40</b>	<b>\$ 10,786.71</b>	<b>77.64%</b>
<b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>						
Worship & Music Supplies	\$ 104.10		\$4,625.83	\$ 4,500.00	\$ (125.83)	102.80%
Music Resources & Equip	\$ 60.40		\$2,114.50	\$ 1,850.00	\$ (264.50)	114.30%
Organ Maintenance			\$1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	100.00%
Piano Tuning			\$880.53	\$ 650.00	\$ (230.53)	135.47%
Bell Maintenance			\$0.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	0.00%
Conference	\$ 216.11		\$416.56	\$ 500.00	\$ 83.44	83.31%
				\$ -	\$ -	
Instrumentalists			\$100.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00	33.33%
Professional Memberships	\$ 125.00		\$210.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 190.00	52.50%
Misc / Other	\$ 274.56		\$584.56	\$ 300.00	\$ (284.56)	194.85%
<b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 780.17</b>	<b>\$ 10,431.98</b>	<b>\$ 10,300.00</b>	<b>\$ (131.98)</b>	<b>101.28%</b>
<b>EDUCATION</b>						
Adult Education			\$258.06	\$ 350.00	\$ 91.94	73.73%
Sunday School	\$ 90.00		\$1,820.43	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (820.43)	182.04%
Vacation Bible School			\$312.57	\$ 750.00	\$ 437.43	41.68%
Confirmation	\$ 397.48		\$813.88	\$ 500.00	\$ (313.88)	162.78%
<b>EDUCATION TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 487.48</b>	<b>\$ 3,204.94</b>	<b>\$ 2,600.00</b>	<b>\$ (604.94)</b>	<b>123.27%</b>

## Grace Lutheran Church - Treasurer Report

2015

<b>December</b>	Current Month	YTD	Budgeted	\$'s Remaining	% Used
<b>YOUTH</b>					
Activities		\$487.46	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 512.54	48.75%
		\$0.00		\$ -	
		\$0.00		\$ -	
<b>YOUTH TOTAL</b>	\$ -	\$487.46	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 512.54	48.75%
<b>STEWARDSHIP</b>					
Stewardship Drive Meal		\$409.52	\$ 800.00	\$ 390.48	51.19%
Stewardship Speakers		\$0.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	0.00%
Stewardship Program		\$99.16	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.84	49.58%
			\$ -		
<b>STEWARDSHIP TOTAL</b>	\$ -	\$508.68	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 741.32	40.69%
<b>SOCIAL MINISTRY</b>					
The Lutheran		\$188.00	\$ 188.00	\$ -	100.00%
Other (Prison Ministry etc)		\$202.99	\$ 250.00	\$ 47.01	81.20%
Fellowship Activities		\$0.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	0.00%
Visitation Supplies		\$114.39	\$ 200.00	\$ 85.61	57.20%
<b>SOCIAL MINISTRY TOTAL</b>	\$ -	\$505.38	\$ 738.00	\$ 232.62	68.48%
<b>EVANGELISM</b>					
Seasonal Advertising & Other		\$1,585.99	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (585.99)	158.60%
Social Media		\$60.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,140.00	5.00%
<b>EVANGELISM TOTAL</b>	\$ -	\$ 1,645.99	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 554.01	74.82%

## Grace Lutheran Church - Treasurer Report

2015

<b>December</b>	Current Month	YTD	Budgeted	\$'s Remaining	% Used
<b>PROPERTY</b>					
Bld & Grd Maintenance	\$ 803.68	\$8,666.01	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 1,333.99	86.66%
Building Supplies	\$ 358.52	\$7,019.51	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (3,519.51)	200.56%
Utilities-Gas	\$ 1,233.77	\$10,955.93	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (955.93)	109.56%
Utilities-Electric	\$ 1,682.33	\$13,164.44	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (3,164.44)	131.64%
Lawn Service	\$ 130.00	\$2,785.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ (1,085.00)	163.82%
Water & Sewer	\$ 518.33	\$2,997.31	\$ 2,200.00	\$ (797.31)	136.24%
Snow Removal	\$ 350.00	\$1,675.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 325.00	83.75%
Garbage Service	\$ 75.00	\$846.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 54.00	94.00%
Vermin Control		\$210.00	\$ 200.00	\$ (10.00)	105.00%
Misc	\$ 109.50	\$109.50	\$ 300.00	\$ 190.50	36.50%
Vehicle-Fuel	\$ 32.26	\$292.32	\$ 700.00	\$ 407.68	41.76%
Vehicle-Maint		\$59.40	\$ 750.00	\$ 690.60	7.92%
Insurance		\$14,318.00	\$ 11,300.00	\$ (3,018.00)	126.71%
Real Estate Taxes		\$399.30	\$ 650.00	\$ 250.70	61.43%
Replentish Maint Fac Fund		\$0.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	0.00%
<b>PROPERTY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,293.39</b>	<b>\$ 63,497.72</b>	<b>\$ 59,200.00</b>	<b>\$ (4,297.72)</b>	<b>107.26%</b>
<b>OUTREACH</b>					
NE Synod		\$25,666.63	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 2,333.37	91.67%
Lincoln Area Mission		\$1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	100.00%
Special Benevolence		\$125.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,875.00	6.25%
<b>OUTREACH TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 26,791.63</b>	<b>\$ 31,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,208.37</b>	<b>86.42%</b>
<b>LOAN PAYMENTS</b>					
Boiler	\$ 548.95	\$6,587.40	\$ 6,587.00	\$ (0.40)	100.01%
(CURRENT BAL)					
Mortgage		\$14,827.56	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 10,172.44	59.31%
(CURRENT BAL)					
<b>LOAN PAYMENTS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 548.95</b>	<b>\$ 21,414.96</b>	<b>\$ 31,587.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,172.04</b>	<b>67.80%</b>
<b>TOTAL SPENDING PLAN</b>	<b>\$ 28,628.35</b>	<b>\$395,711.84</b>	<b>\$426,852.20</b>	<b>\$ 31,140.36</b>	<b>92.70%</b>

## Grace Lutheran Church - Treasurer Report

2015

December	Current Month	YTD	Budgeted	\$'s Remaining	% Used
<b>NON SPENDING (DESIGNATED)</b>					
Debt Reduction					
World Hunger					
Mission Cluster Food Pantry					
Cedars					
City Mission					
Salvation Army					
Bankcard	\$	373.03			
Bedient - Organ Repair	\$	20,000.00			
Voices of Grace					
Garage	\$	3,217.00			
Steffan Construction	\$	1,373.35			
Neb Synod					
Wolfe Electric					
Steve Paschold					
D&D Plumbing					
Amanda Hefner					
Clifford Chally	\$	1,969.50			
Steven Neal					
Augsburg Fortress	\$	125.24			
Prescott School	\$	500.00			
Bob Rademacher					
Dave Ripa					
UNL Campus Ministry					
Grace Foundation	\$	500.00			
Voices of Hope					
HyVee					
Joyce Lunde					
Brian Eck					
Grace WELCA					
Bob Anderson					
Connie Whyrick					
Kathy Remington					
Laila Faust	\$	377.42			
Sue/Larry Clymer	\$	865.84			
Office Interiors & Design					
NE Depart of Revenue Sales Tax					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>29,301.38</b>			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>					
<b>(SPENDING + NON SPENDING)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>57,929.73</b>			

## December 2015 Cash Flow Report - Grace Lutheran Church

<b>BEGINNING</b>			
<b>STMT BALANCE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>26,203.06</b>	
Transfers In	\$	49,274.03	
Interest	\$	1.05	
<b>Total In</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>49,275.08</b>	
( - )			
Checks Paid	\$	60,599.34	
S/C	\$	-	
Fees	\$	6.95	
<b>Total Out</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>60,606.29</b>	
<b>ENDING STMT</b>			
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,871.85</b>	<b>\$ 14,870.80</b>
( - )			
Uncashed Debits	\$	11,315.78	
<b>AVAILABLE</b>			
<b>CASH BALANCE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,555.02</b>	
<b>LOAN (DEBT) BALANCES</b>			
Mortgage	\$	-	
Boiler	\$	12,840.58	

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT  
12/31/2015

	1/1/2015	12/31/2015
<b>Current Expense Funds</b>	<b>\$45,255.56</b>	<b>\$64,302.95</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>	<b>\$ 74,917.47</b>	<b>\$ 76,534.04</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 120,173.03</b>	<b>\$140,836.99</b>

Net Expense Fund Change	\$19,047.39
Net Designated Fund Change	\$ 1,616.57
Net Change	\$ 20,663.96

### Receipts

<b>Budget Increase</b>	<b>YTD</b>	
<b>Regular Envelopes</b>	<b>\$ 329,185.77</b>	
<b>Electronic Giving Regular</b>	<b>\$ 56,559.00</b>	
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	\$ 477.00	
<i>Lent</i>	\$ 1,314.00	
<i>Maudy Thursday</i>	\$ 205.00	
<i>Good Friday</i>	\$ 63.00	
<i>Easter</i>	\$ 1,580.00	
<i>Assention</i>	\$ 40.00	
<i>Thanksgiving</i>	\$ 287.00	
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	\$ 1,755.00	
<i>Christmas</i>	\$ 1,120.00	
<b>Loose</b>	<b>\$ 2,237.27</b>	
<b>Total Offerings</b>		<b>\$ 394,823.04</b>

<b>Miscellaneous CE</b>	<b>YTD</b>	
Initial Offering	\$423.00	
Checking Account Interest	\$39.20	
Other Transfers	\$2,082.00	
Savings account interest	\$33.05	
Credit	\$45.00	
Rent	\$3,037.80	
Transportation	\$300.00	
Supplies	\$131.00	
Books	\$97.50	
To General Fund	\$11,584.80	
<b>Total Misc CE</b>		<b>\$17,350.35</b>
<b>Designated Collected</b>		<b>\$116,370.98</b>
<b>Total Bank Receipts</b>		<b>\$528,544.37</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>YTD</b>	
Transfer to Treasurer for Designated	\$ (93,970.85)	
Transfer to Treasurer for C/E	\$ (415,721.28)	
Vanco Charge (for Simply Giving)	\$ (108.35)	
Good Samaritan Transfers	\$ (1,310.00)	
Returned Check	\$ (54.00)	
Net Other Bank Transfers Out	\$ (385.00)	
Bank Charge	\$ (29.50)	
<b>Total Bank Transfers</b>	<b>\$ (511,578.98)</b>	

### Designated Funds Summary

Starting---- \$ 74,917.47  
Received \$ 191,160.73  
Transferred \$ (189,544.16)

Matt Knobbe  
Financial Secretary

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

As Women of the ELCA, we commit ourselves to grow in faith through Bible study, support one another through prayer and fellowship and practice good stewardship to serve the greater community and world through our time and talents. Our women are so blessed to receive wonderful support from Pastor Eric, Sandi, Robert and Sara. We extend a warm invitation to come join us in whatever manner may fit your schedules!

Our activities for 2015 have included:

1. Supporting Church Women United through membership and offerings.
2. Participating in Christian Action activities such as Bingo at Tabitha and remembering our homebound members at Easter and Christmas.
3. A quilting group that meets every Thursday morning to sew quilts and lap robes which they so generously give to members who are ill. They also provide quilts for Camp Carol Joy Holling's quilt auction every summer.
4. Supporting Lutheran World Relief by sewing school bags and assembling and shipping school kits along with the quilts. Items for the kits are generously donated by both the women and the greater congregation.
5. Assembling volunteers, buying food and preparing lunches or providing cookies and coffee for funerals.
6. Cleaning the church kitchen thoroughly each summer.
7. Preparing and serving congregational dinners.
8. Participating in the scheduling of and preparation of some of the Lenten dinners.
9. Celebration of a Thankoffering Sunday in the fall.
10. Supporting the conventions and gatherings of our state synodical and churchwide women's organizations through participation and offerings.
11. Supporting the Lincoln Lutheran Cluster Food Pantry.
12. Donating to the renovation of Leshner Lounge, the Organ Repair Fund, the Lutheran Student Center and the Gathering Place along with supporting our church library and kitchen needs.
13. Nourishing our spiritual life through monthly Bible studies at our women's groups and programs at our luncheon meetings.

Thank you to all of the officers and committee chairs for their hard work and devotion throughout the year. These women are always willing to help! A special thanks to Donna Hansen, vice-president, for graciously handling the president's duties in my absence. Our organization looks forward to another year of service and fellowship to our beloved church.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tricia Rosno*, Unit President  
 Women of the ELCA

**2015 YEAR-END REPORT  
GRACE LUTHERAN  
WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

**GENERAL ACCOUNT:**

**Balance Brought Forward 1/1/2014** **\$ 1,859.15**

**Receipts:**

General Meeting Offerings	\$	349.92	
Group Meetings Offerings	\$	452.00	
Leprosy	\$	54.76	
Donations/Reimbursements/Refunds	\$	2,191.00	
Bake/Bakeless Sale and Semi-Annual Luncheon	\$	447.70	
Lenten Dinners	\$	1,042.21	
Thank Offering	\$	492.10	
Church Women United Assembly Luncheon	\$	123.00	
<b>Total Receipts</b>			<b>\$ 5,152.69</b>

**Expenditures:**

Women of the ELCA General Offering	\$	425.95	
Office Supplies	\$	63.00	
Library Expenses	\$	466.63	
Kitchen Supplies/Sewing Supplies	\$	216.33	
Cedars	\$	300.00	
City Mission Donation	\$	100.00	
Grace Lutheran Lounge Renovation Project	\$	500.00	
Salvation Army	\$	100.00	
Christian Women United Donation	\$	35.00	
Miscellaneous Gifts, Honorariums, Flowers, Reimbursements	\$	588.79	
Funeral Expenses/Annual Dinner	\$	715.36	
Women of the ELCA Thank Offering	\$	500.00	
Convention/Retreat Expenses and Offerings	\$	75.00	
Magazine Subscriptions and Leader Guides	\$	85.80	
Leprosy Fund	\$	56.84	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>			<b>\$ 4,228.70</b>

**Balance on Hand 12-31-2014** **\$ 2,783.14**

**2015 YEAR-END REPORT  
GRACE LUTHERAN  
WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

**SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

<b>Balance Brought Forward 01-01-2015</b>	<b>734.42</b>
<b>Interest</b>	<b>0.07</b>
<b>Balance on hand 12-31-2015</b>	<b>734.49</b>

**SEWING GROUP**

The Women of the ELCA sewing and quilting group meets every Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until noon year around, except when it falls on a holiday. Donations of material and sheets (for backing and lining) come from our members and their families and friends. We most sincerely appreciate all of your donations.

We made 100 quilts this year:

32 of these quilts went to Lutheran World Relief

2 quilts and 2 lap robes for the WELCA bake\cakeless sale

5 quilts were sent to Camp Carol Joy Holling to be auctioned (they raised a total of \$480.00)

4 quilts to be tied this summer Carol Joy Holling camp)

42 quilts and 6 baby quilts for the People's City Mission

3 twin and 2 full size quilts for the Social Ministry committee

3 quilts for the needy

7 fleece back quilts, 5 sets of pillow cases, 4 fitted sheets, 1 sheet set\pillow cases, 1 chenille bed spread,

4 quilts for the prison ministry

26 quilts, 3 baby quilts, 7 sets of pillowcases to Good Neighbor group

202 backpacks were cut out\sewn for LWR

7 baby quilts for baptized infants

We still have quilts made that have not been distributed on our shelves.

Our love of sewing is in God's hands. Come join us.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bev Hillman*

## **GLOBAL DINING GROUP**

Grace Global Dining Group had yet another tasty experience in 2015! As always, the group held its organizational meeting in January to vote on which three countries or regions would be enjoyed. This year, the group decided to sample a taste of Mexican, Pennsylvania Dutch, and Canadian dishes!

After the organizational meeting in January, participants divided up into smaller groups of six people. Those smaller groups met over the rest of the year to plan and prepare their meals. For a given meal, each group brought recipes and cookbooks to a planning meeting to determine their own menu. Then they met again to enjoy the cuisine and take home a copy of all the delicious recipes that were prepared!

The meals were outstanding and the fellowship was even better. We look forward to more members joining the table over the next several years.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan & Alan Givens*

## **YESTERDAY'S YOUTH**

Yesterday's Youth meets in Leshner Lounge on the second Wednesday of the month, excluding June, July and August. The agenda is typically to meet at 11:30 a.m. for fellowship, have our pot luck lunch at 12:00 noon, hear our pastor's report on shut-ins, etc., have devotions and a short presentation that is interesting to our group of seniors, age 55 and older.

Our programs for 2015 were DVD's of:

Joseph the Silent Saint; Our Little Sweetheart, Shirley Temple; Jesus His Life; For Such a time, A story of Esther and her King; Climb Every Mountain, music that encourages the spirit; Peter and Paul; In His Presence; Christmas Carols were sung in December.

Thank you to all who attended our meetings and made it a wonderful year. Thanks to those who volunteered to help. Come and join us.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Bev Hillman*

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION**

**BALANCE SHEET  
DECEMBER 31, 2015**

**ASSETS**

Checking Account	\$ 5,440.65
Money Market Account	6,947.40
Investments – Schedule	437,532.53
Basler Endowment – Schedule	<u>14,580.65</u>
	<u>\$ 464,501.23</u>

**FUND BALANCES**

Undesignated		\$ 262,348.03
Scholarship		78,606.98
Basler Endowment		16,056.65
Discretionary Fund		68,624.17
Endowment Fund, Ministry of the Gospel		13,000.00
Other:		
Kimball	1,180.12	
Sanctuary Improvements	294.05	
Dean/Larsen – Worship & Music	8,792.34	
Van Fund	722.80	
Mann – Scout Fund	511.57	
Property Committee	453.10	
Music School	700.00	
Tanzanian	25.00	
Bus Replacement Fund – Damkroger	2,783.62	
Dishwasher Fund	10,402.80	
		<u>25,865.40</u>
		<u>\$ 464,501.23</u>

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION**  
**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**  
**2015**

Balance 12/31/14		\$ 481,473.14
Receipts:		
Dividends, Interest, Capital Gains	26,020.10	
Memorials & Gifts	3,500.00	
Basler Endowment – Adjust to Market	<u>(2,385.14)</u>	27,134.96
Disbursements:		
Scholarship	15,300.00	
Music	3,880.00	
Flowers	120.00	
Good Samaritan Fund	1,500.00	
Leshar Lounge	14,108.99	
Garage	8,658.38	
Candles	457.50	
Other Expenses	<u>82.00</u>	<u>44,106.87</u>
Balance 12/31/15		<u><u>\$ 464,501.23</u></u>

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION  
SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2015**

			Book Value	Market Value	Unrealized Gain (Loss)
Mission Investment CD	due 01/27/16	1.00%	20,925.00	20,925.00	\$ .00
Pepsi, Inc.	500 shares		15,093.08	49,960.00	34,866.92
Wells Fargo Bank	1294 shares		14,990.57	70,341.84	55,351.27
Citi Group	200 shares		63,326.82	10,350.00	(52,976.82)
General Electric	1000 shares		36,713.95	31,150.00	( 5,563.95)
Franklin Templeton – Class C	40,039.048 shares		102,119.13	84,882.78	( 17,236.35)
Windstream Corp.	148 shares		.00	953.12	953.12
RBC Managed Account			73,705.36	58,526.92	( 15,178.44)
Blackrock Global – Class C	4,740.960 shares		80,403.33	77,088.01	( 3,315.32)
Baxter International	150 shares		5,845.30	5,723.50	( 121.80)
First Trust Finance	1,000 shares		8,829.05	5,570.00	( 3,259.05)
Total SA	200 shares		10,836.92	8,990.00	( 1,846.92)
Baxalta, Inc.	150 shares		4,744.02	5,854.50	1,110.48
Communication Sales	178 shares		.00	3,326.82	3,326.82
			<u>\$ 437,532.53</u>	<u>\$ 433,642.49</u>	<u>\$ ( 3,890.04)</u>

**BASLER ENDOWMENT FUND  
DECEMBER 31, 2015**

Ameritas Investment Advisors Inc.:	
Exchange Traded Products	\$ 13,262.30
Cash or Equivalents	<u>1,318.35</u>
Total	<u>\$ 14,580.65</u>

Dr. Basler has purchased a One Life Flexible Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity in the name of Rodney S.W. Basler as life income beneficiary. The ultimate beneficiary for this gift will be Grace Lutheran Church Foundation. This annuity agreement was \$196,343.77, however no current or future value can be assumed.

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION**  
**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
2015

President..... Dr. Rod Basler  
Vice-President..... Barry Moore  
Secretary ..... Ron Holtgrewe  
Treasurer ..... L. Phil Sorensen  
Member-at-Large ..... Tina Loseke