


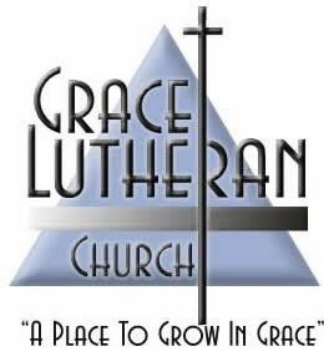


2015

Annual Report to the Congregation



Annual Congregational Meeting
January 24, 2016
12:00 P.M.



Agenda

Call to Order

Devotions

Adoption of Agenda.....Page 1

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Emergency Preparedness Taskforce Presentation by Stephanie Johnson

Adjournment

Lord's Prayer

Grace Lutheran Church Congregational Council

Term expires
February 2016

Sandy Briggs
Karri Brandsfield
Kevin Drury
Stacie Holst

Term expires
February 2017

Cathy Barks
Don Peterson
Eric Weber
Barbara Zimany

Term expires
February 2018

Brad Lint
Jay Wangerin
Empty Seat
Empty Seat

2015 Executive Committee

Kevin Drury
Jay Wangerin
Karri Brandsfield
Stacie Holst

Congregational Officers

President	Kevin Drury
Vice President	Jay Wangerin
Secretary	Karri Brandsfield
Treasurer	Tom Selander
Financial Secretary	Paul Kallenbach

Grace Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor

The Rev. Michael Jon Schmidt

2015 Grace Staff Members

(in alphabetical order)

Jennifer Wohlenhaus Bloomberg, Organist
Todd Haugen, Custodian
Jacquelyn S. Holmes, Church Administrator
Stephanie Johnson, Director of Laity Ministries
Heather Nelson, Grace Kids' Care Director
Ellen Rothweiler, Developer of Youth and Family Ministry
Ellen joined the Staff of Grace in June 2015.
Emma Stammer, Director of Music Ministries
Michelle Voelker, Director of Communications

Membership Statistics

	<u>Baptized</u> 697	<u>Confirmed</u> 600
Membership end of 2014 as reported in the Congregational Report to the ELCA		
Members removed during 2015		
by death	11	11
by transfer to other congregations or other reasons	3	3
Members received during 2015		
by baptism	8	
by transfer from other congregations by affirmation of faith	10	10
Baptized youth who were confirmed in 2015		9
Membership end of 2015	701	605

Statistical Report

Worship Services Conducted.....	117
Weddings held at Grace.....	4
Baptisms – Members (Youth).....	7
Baptisms – Non-members.....	0
Member Funerals held at Grace.....	7
Average Sunday worship attendance 2000....	364
Average Sunday worship attendance 2001....	386
Average Sunday worship attendance 2002....	416
Average Sunday worship attendance 2003....	385
Average Sunday worship attendance 2004....	368
Average Sunday worship attendance 2005....	333
Average Sunday worship attendance 2006....	324
Average Sunday worship attendance 2007....	294
Average Sunday worship attendance 2008....	293
Average Sunday worship attendance 2009....	259
Average Sunday worship attendance 2010....	228
Average Sunday worship attendance 2011....	229
Average Sunday worship attendance 2012....	212
Average Sunday worship attendance 2013....	197
Average Sunday worship attendance 2014....	197
Average Sunday worship attendance 2015...	191

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Jan	344	361	408	404	373	355	341	291	305	250	256	245	215	181	194	185
Feb	347	368	392	359	354	305	307	242	314	281	252	212	216	231	199	197
Mar	363	385	493	377	388	402	299	315	389	280	263	259	230	264	188	205
Apr	398	427	433	507	470	326	399	379	324	342	300	347	289	224	268	270
May	375	370	415	363	385	334	336	306	270	250	236	216	219	190	190	166
Jun	313	376	414	353	340	295	312	299	251	218	187	195	198	156	167	166
July	309	315	360	349	293	296	277	272	242	192	169	199	174	159	164	149
Aug	326	355	385	332	313	297	277	252	260	245	155	196	188	165	170	162
Sept	393	434	457	397	376	333	292	298	263	245	219	206	181	165	196	187
Oct	415	444	404	428	439	398	341	299	321	266	247	225	215	209	213	203
Nov	375	397	422	382	360	326	309	307	302	291	235	237	211	241	206	205
Dec	410	397	412	380	319	319	394	265	269	238	206	210	208	176	198	197

In Memorandum

**We remember with love and respect the following loved ones
who from their labors rest.**

Listed are their names and the date of death.

Ruth Berven.....January 10, 2015
Helen Ballentine.....April 1, 2015
Robert Sauerman.....April 8, 2015
Elayne Palmer.....May 20, 2015
Alice Nelson.....June 12, 2015
Evelyn C. Knudsen....July 4, 2015
Diane Jessen.....October 13, 2015
Dick Sampel.....October 20, 2015
William Henderson.....November 26, 2015
Robert Ziesman.....December 4, 2015
Lyle Black..... December 17, 2015

**Grace Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 25, 2015**

Meeting Minutes

Council President, Kevin Drury, called the meeting to order.

Pastor Schmidt led the assembly in an opening devotion and then turned the meeting back over to the President.

The meeting agenda was adopted, as printed.

Membership changes, baptisms and attendance statistics were reviewed.

A moment of silent prayer was held in memorandum for members of Grace who had passed away in 2014.

Minutes from the 2014 Annual Congregational Meeting were approved, as written.

Council President gave his report for 2014. He then announced an item that was not included in his report. The announcement was that a little over a week ago, Grace Lutheran Church received a gift from the estate of Marvin Malmin in the amount of \$700,000. He expressed his appreciation to Marvin and indicated that the Council would be considering how it could best be used over the upcoming months. Moe Nielson asked where the funds were currently and Kevin Krause answered saying that it is in the church's money market account.

Staff Reports

Pastor Schmidt began, referenced his written report and additionally summarized and discussed some of what he and the Council had learned from meetings with the White Rabbit Group. He thanked those who helped with the Christmas Eve service, and expounded on the gift from Marvin Malmin.

Director of Laity Ministries, Stephanie Johnson's report was referenced with no discussion noted.

Director of Music Ministries, Emma Stammer's report was referenced and no discussion noted. Emma thanked the congregation for welcoming her.

President introduced and thanked the four Council members whose terms were expiring and noted the open positions. Council members whose terms are expiring are Mary Freimuth Helt, Kristin Medhurst, Ardis Schmelzer, and Jay Wangerin. On the ballot for re-election for a three year term is Jay Wangerin and nominated for election was Brad Lint. Nominations were opened from the floor, none were offered, nominations were closed. It was moved and seconded to elect Jay and Brad to a three year term on the Council. It was moved, seconded, and approved unanimously to elect them both. It was noted that two open council positions remain.

One Endowment Committee position, vacated by Kevin Krause, was open. Loree Nelson was announced as a candidate and elected unanimously for this three year term.

Committee Reports

Property Committee report was summarized by committee member, Chuck Denton. Question was raised about the status of parking lot repairs. Chuck discussed the progress on this project thus far.

Question posed about cost of a Columbarium stone. Columbarium Committee Member Barb Tussing and Pastor Schmidt answered and offered to provide additional information about the Columbarium at any time.

A request for a report from the Men-In-Mission was made. Kevin Krause indicated that report is often times not included in the Annual Meeting. Rich Synder provided additional information for this as well.

Finance Committee Chair, Kevin Krause began this committee report by describing the entire finance/income process and thanking those involved. He then explained the budget development process. He discussed the reason for the proposed deficit budget and stated that the Council generated its budget without knowledge of the gift from Marvin Malmin. He reviewed the 2014 actual financial statement and the 2015 proposed budget, noting and discussing the increase due to the addition of the 3/4-time position of Director of Youth and Family Ministry. He then opened the floor to questions.

Q: Moe Nielson asked where to find endowment fund financials. Kevin referred him to the endowment fund report.

Q: Gary Nehmer asked what was comprised in the line item under Property Expenses for Supplies & Maintenance. Kevin detailed what expenses were included in this line and also discussed the 2015 budget for these expenses.

Gene Krause made a suggestion to use part of the gift from Marvin Malmin to pay off the debit in order to create additional funds available for programs. Kevin responded with information about past debt reduction campaigns and the results of these efforts.

Q: Moe Nielson asked what the interest rate is that we earning on the endowment funds. Kevin responded by discussing the various investment types and corresponding rates of return being earned. He also discussed the current debt management strategy that uses endowment notes to minimize interest expense.

Q: Gary Nehmer asked about the \$8,877 shortage in 2014 – specifically, how did we address this shortage in the 2015 budget and secondly, how does the Council plan to pay for the projected \$28,250 shortage in the proposed 2015 budget. Kevin responded by pointing to the churches cash assets, the cumulative effects of “good years” and “bad years”, and the potential for growth due to the additional staff position. Kevin Krause gave the floor to the Council President to comment. Kevin Drury discussed the employment search for the Youth Director position and how a qualified candidate was not found, as advertised as a half-time position. He stated that the Synod recommended the possibility of offering the position as three-quarter-time (to improve the quality of applicants) and offer as a two-year position, to encourage the building of a program. He also pointed to the fact that the budget reflects a full year salary, even though the salary for the position, once filled, will be less than one year.

Q: Karen Taylor asked how the determination is made, when a gift is given to the church, whether it goes toward the endowment fund or toward a memorial fund. Kevin Krause responded by clarifying the difference between endowment and memorial, the wishes of the contributor, and also talked briefly about Marvin Malmin’s gift and how it was left to Grace without a designation as to how it was to be used.

Council President took the floor and asked if there were any additional questions about the proposed budget. Dick Johansen offered to the assembly a memory of how Marvin Malmin made an inventory of every piece of property owned by the church which included stickers being placed on each item.

Gene Krause then made a motion to accept the budget as proposed and thanked Kevin and all others involved in its development. The motion was seconded, put to a vote and unanimously passed.

Council President concluded the meeting with a discussion of the gift from Marvin Malmin, that the process to decide on its use has not yet been determined, made an open invitation to any and all members to attend Church Council meetings.

Movement was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and passed.

Meeting was concluded with the saying of The Lord’s Prayer.

Report from the Congregational Council President

What a year it has been! The gift from the Marvin Malmin estate that was announced at last year's annual meeting has truly been transformational. This gift has allowed Grace to dream and be able to ask "What if?" This is still an ongoing process as the congregational council has intentionally been very deliberate about any uses of the Malmin funds. What has the funds allowed us to do? Directly or indirectly it has allowed us to:

1. Give a First Fruits gift to the synod of \$70,000.
2. Pay off the external mortgage loans of approximately \$170,000 to First American Bank.
3. The interest saved by paying off the external mortgage allowed Grace to move forward and hire Ellen Rothweiler and upgrade the church offices to accommodate her and the youth ministry.
4. Address some significant expected and unexpected maintenance items in the church.
5. Provide new carpet and paint in Grace Hall and new carpet in the church hallways.
6. Allow for the installation of a video system in the sanctuary. Memorial gifts provided for the installation of the upgraded sound system in the sanctuary that have been a significant improvement in the worship experience.

The Malmin estate gift has been a blessing from God. While we've reviewed what has happened the past year, more importantly, what does the future hold for Grace? The next few years will indeed, be as least as exciting as the past. Here's what we have to look forward to....

1. In 2016, Grace will begin the planning process for Grace2020. Essentially, we want to answer the question..."What should Grace look like in 2020?" We determined last year that we want to minister to "M&M's"...people with "modern and messy lives". That defines most of us in one way or another. How do we minister to this group? What resources will it take? How do we know if we are succeeding?
2. In 2017, Grace will have its 90th anniversary since its founding. This is a significant milestone in Grace's journey and we intend to celebrate it! The celebration will be in June...stay tuned for more information.
3. Director of Senior Ministry: It is the intention of the congregational council to more deeply explore a staff position to serve the spiritual and real life needs of our senior members. Our seniors have modern and messy lives that are often overlooked. Many are still active. Some are in a period of transition that brings new life challenges to them and their families. Many congregations focus on youth and bringing in new members. While not wrong, we feel it's important to serve those that have been long-time members or are retired.
4. Property Committee Report: The Property Committee has been doing an in-depth analysis of our physical plant needs. It's been 15 years now since the last renovation. Fifteen years of activity causes a lot of wear and tear on the facility. We'll look forward to its report and determining what we can do to maintain and upgrade the church to provide a positive first impression to visitors and provide functional and attractive facilities to members.

Last but not least, please thank the outgoing council members whose terms are ending. Karri Brandsfield, Sandi Briggs, and Stacie Holst have been faithful and dedicated servants on the congregational council. Please thank all of those folks for their service to the church and congregation.

The congregational council thanks you for your support in the past year and looks forward to another active year ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Kevin Drury, Grace Congregational Council President

Congregational Council Resolution

WHEREAS Grace Lutheran Church is an intentionally committed member of the greater Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (EL-CA), guided by its policies and church wide decisions;

WHEREAS the ELCA defines marriage as being between a man and a woman;

WHEREAS the ELCA Social Statement, Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust does not promote or provide for same-gender marriage, it does allow recognition or blessing of same-gender unions when pastorally helpful or appropriate and as it promotes lifelong, monogamous relationships; and

WHEREAS the statement defers decisions about solemnizing or blessing same-gender unions to each congregation as a matter of pastoral care;

WHEREAS the State of Iowa considers same-gender unions to be marriage and issues marriage licenses to same-sex couples;

WHEREAS the pastor acts in a civil capacity when executing a marriage license issued by the state, and in a separate religious capacity to bless any marriage;

WHEREAS the final decision to bless a relationship or perform a marriage is, and always has been, a pastoral decision to be made by the ordained;

WHEREAS the Congregation Council desires to provide direction and support to pastors as they make such decisions;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the congregation shall, in accordance with the ELCA social statement, Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust, affirm that marriage is between a man and a woman; that co-habitation before marriage and divorce are not the normative models for marriage or the end of marriage;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the congregation support decisions to bless or not to bless unions made by pastors under call or contract at Grace Lutheran Church as they exercise pastoral sensitivity and formulate a grace-filled response to any couple who seeks to have a union blessed regardless of gender, co-habitation status or divorce of either or both persons;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the marriage licenses issued in the state of Iowa are executed by pastors according to their civil responsibility as a religious functionary apart from a call to serve a congregation; and that said execution is a matter of personal decision and bound conscience of the pastor alone.

Report from the Pastor

“Jesus wept” John 11:35 “Pray continually” “Rejoice always” 1 Thessalonians 5: 17 and 16

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I do find that these three simple verses can speak to nearly everything in life. This is true for individuals, families, and communities of faith. We have seen each of these verses come to life before us this past year.

“Jesus wept” We have all felt the realities of death and loss in the last year. Whether it is a member of Grace, or a family member, we have witnessed the realities of this verse. We have gathered and wept with Christ at tombs and cemetery plots, at homes and hospital rooms. Throughout all of this, it is important to continue to remember that we do not believe in death without resurrection. The last word is always life. We do not grieve without hope. But we still gather together with Christ and acknowledge each loss. Sometimes that loss is death, other times that loss is something else. A relationship. A job. A variety of other losses. Christ gathers with us in the midst of it and meets us there, tears and all.

“Pray continually” This year, we have been dedicated to prayer. We have gathered in prayer as we continue to discern the future for God’s ministry at Grace Lutheran Church. We have prayed as a Congregational Council, as Committees, in meetings and in homes. We have prayed for one another. We have not only seen the expansion of the Prayer List and the ways that it is used, but also began a Prayer Quilt ministry. We have held individuals and families in prayer through the tangible quilt. As these Prayer Quilts are given, the recipients can see the prayers that others have said. It is such a beautiful testimony to the power of prayer and community. In addition to these ways we pray, we remain committed in prayer for what God is calling us to be and do at Grace. It is great to see prayer become something central to everything we do at Grace Lutheran Church. I continue to pray for you all, and I hope that you will hold me in prayer too.

“Rejoice always” There are many things about which we rejoice. First and foremost, we rejoice in the life that we are given in Christ Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior. This is truly the greatest of news, and something about which we should always rejoice. We have also witnessed many things around Grace about which we should rejoice. We have had several new members who have joined Grace this last year. There has been an increase in baptisms also. Our Cradle Roll has grown considerably. There is a gifted and dedicated team of people making Sunday School and Vacation Bible School successful. The Tuesday Morning Bible Study continues to be strong in both attendance and conversation. There has been substantial growth in the First Circle Friends program. The worship and music life of Grace is going very well under the direction of Emma Stammer. The Youth and Family ministry to gaining momentum until the direction of Ellen Rothweiler. We have seen growth in communication between staff and the congregation, under the direction of Michelle Voelker. We have witnessed the transition of responsibilities as we prepare for the departure of Stephanie Johnson, as she and Doug look to move to Pennsylvania. Jackie Holmes continues to do an amazing job as our Administrator. It is a joy to see Todd Haugen at work. He seems to embody “rejoice always.” Heather Nelson and the Grace Kids’ Care Staff continue to nurture these young ones, and provide both a service and a

ministry to our community at large. We have an amazing staff team, and I rejoice in the work that each of them does to the glory of God.

It is such a joy and honor to continue to serve you all as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. Thanks be to God!

In Christ,

Pastor Mike

Report from the Director of Laity Ministries

* Adult Faith Enrichment Team (AFET): 2015 marked the first full year of AFET's work in planning faith enrichment opportunities for Grace. We have worked to provide a variety of offerings that have hopefully appealed to various interests. Some of these included a Mardi Gras celebration, a five week hunger series led by the Hunger Working Team during the Lenten hunger campaign, an outdoor movie event, and a "talking canvas" discussion using Kay Barks' art. In addition, cross generational events of LWR kit packing and a pet event were offered in coordination with the Lutheran World Relief Committee and Social Ministry.

* Hunger Working Team: New to the Hunger Working Team's work is a partnership that developed between them and Iowa State University Extension. Joie Gronert, Ardis Schmelzer, Barb Zimany, and I were part of a task force related to the annual Hope for the Hungry conference until the last conference was offered in November 2015. Now the former task force's work of offering nutrition and slow cooker classes in coordination with Iowa State Extension will be taken on by the Hunger Working Team. The slow cooker drive held early in 2015 was a part of this effort.

* First Circle Friends: This memory loss ministry offered in coordination with Lutheran Services in Iowa has had strong volunteer support but has been struggling with very few participants enrolled in the program. A strategy group made up of Grace members and LSI staff met regularly to monitor progress and to implement new marketing strategies, and in the fall of 2015, enrollment started to turn around. We have moved from having only one or two participants to having seven enrolled, with the possibility of an 8th person at the time of this writing. In addition, our volunteer base, not counting my own staff involvement, has grown from 14 to 18.

* Vacation Bible School: VBS was once again an integral part of Grace's summer ministry. New this year was the compilation of our own curriculum, the addition of Lutheran Lakeside Camp staff, and a 3rd week that was offered by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church with the help of volunteers from both St. Andrew's and Grace. The VBS Planning Team with whom I have worked over the years does a phenomenal job of organizing this ministry year after year, and I have been very grateful for their dedicated partnership.

* ELCA Malaria Campaign: Grace's Malaria Swat Team resurrected our work when we were contacted by the ELCA and encouraged to do a final push toward the \$15 million goal because we were among the top 50 ELCA congregations in terms of giving in our first campaign. Having surpassed the 2014 goal of \$5000 and bringing in \$11,600.75, Grace once again rose to the occasion in 2015 and surpassed the new goal of 10% of what we raised the first time, bringing in an additional \$3723.00. This brought the total to \$15,323.75.

* God's Work Our Hands Sunday: The Stewardship Committee, Ellen Rothweiler, and I worked together to create a variety of activities and emphases to lift up this day that is encouraged by the ELCA each year. It is a day for the church to come together and use our hands for God's service in a variety of ways. See the Stewardship Committee report for more information.

* Emergency Preparedness Task Force: This newly formed group started its work in the fall of 2015, and we have been working on an emergency plan that includes the posting of evacuation routes, availability of easily accessible first aid supplies, medical/first aid procedures, and situations including but not limited to fire procedure, bomb threat, active shooter, and severe weather. In addition, we are planning to offer CPR/AED trainings at various times during the year. We also intend to create a communication plan to include both our congregation and outside groups once everything is finalized. Information will be presented at the annual meeting to begin the education process.

* Creative arts: We had a variety of dramas and dance presentations this year. These included the midweek Lenten monologues organized by Pastor Mike, the worship skits presented by the Hunger

Working Team and the Junior Grace Players during Lent, a dowel interpretation of The Tale of Three Trees by the Junior Grace Players, a drama production of The Money in Uncle George's Suitcase by the Grace Players, an All Saints Day dance presented by Courtney Brandsfield, Emma Mattes, and Kayleigh Medhurst, and Advent skits by Carol Woodruff and the Junior Grace Players. It has been a joy for me to work on many of these with our children, youth, and adults.

Many thanks to all Grace members who make ministries like the above, and many more not mentioned, possible. May God's grace continue to guide the work that happens in this place and to guide all of our steps moving forward.

Stephanie Johnson

Report from the Director of Music Ministry

What a good year for music and worship here at Grace! Here are some highlights from 2015:

- In February of 2015 we began a gradual shift towards a new format for the 10:45 Sunday services. It is now piano-led, and there have been other minor changes adapted in order to create a new worship experience for those who attend.
- I received a grant from the endowment fund here at Grace for handbell refurbishment. I packed up the bells in June and sent them off to Schulmerich headquarters in Pennsylvania, and they were returned to us in August as good as new! Grace Bells has enjoyed playing newly repaired and maintained instruments.
- In June I directed a music rotation of Vacation Bible School with thirty-something preschoolers. They love to sing!
- Also in June, the sanctuary organ was tuned – not a simple task. Bob from Arndt Organ Supply in Ankeny came to tune and assess repairs; many thanks to Jennifer for assisting with this undertaking. Our organ does need a repair to some of the pipes, a project we hope to complete in 2016.
- Congratulations to our organist, Jennifer Wohlenhaus-Bloomberg, on completing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree this past summer! Her time and talents are indispensable to us.
- A new sound system was installed in the sanctuary in the Fall which has greatly enhanced worship and created new options for worship activities in the future.
- Chancel Choir, Grace Bells, and Grace Brass have had a wonderful season, culminating in a Christmas Cantata sung by the choir and our annual Bells & Brass concert in December.
- The Sunday School choir held their program on December 13 with great success.
- A representative from Schantz Organ Company traveled from Minnesota in early December to visit Grace and talk about a possible expansion of our organ. He was very complimentary of the condition of the organ and the care it has been given. Many possibilities were discussed, the main priority being the addition of a new stop. We will accept bids from Schantz and other area companies and hope to complete this addition some time in 2016.

It is my great pleasure to continue to plan worship music in conjunction with other staff and a multitude of volunteers, without whom our music ministry would not exist. I also have taken on worship volunteer coordination in the new year. I look forward to working and collaborating with all of you to grow through music and worship in our community of faith.

Yours in Christ,

Emma Stammer

Report from the Director of Grace Kids Care

It is hard to sum up a full year of fun and learning here at Grace Kids Care with one report, so I will just hit the highlights.

- * At the end of 2015 we had 56 children enrolled, 9 of those children are members here at Grace
- * We do have a waiting list consisting of 6 infants (including baby Schmidt) 1, three year old and 1 four year old for this fall.
- * In August we sent off 13 well prepared children to kindergarten, and this year will send off 11. It is working out so nicely to have this in the Sanctuary, it really brings the message of the mission of Grace to have a quality daycare and preschool program.
- * Some of the classroom highlights include; Princess Belle attending our Open House, a musical visit from one of the Preschool dads, Muffins with our Moms & Donuts with our Dads, some fun picnics outside, pajama and dress up days, picture day, another successful Christmas program and loads of fun learning through play!
- * At the end of 2015 our staff count was 11 full time (including Jolene and myself), 17 part-time including our Kitchen Manager and some of our seasonal help we are never all here together, some of the staff have crazy schedules.
- * This year I placed one of my staff members that is a fully licensed teacher to provide a higher standard of learning in the 3 year old room
- * There is also a fully licensed teacher in our 4 &5 year old preschool program as well. She is accompanied by a staff member who has been here for 7 years.
- * We currently have 1 staff member who has their CDA (Child Development Associates Certificate) and 2 more who are working toward that right now.
- * Our Kitchen manager Cindy started in May and she is Serve Safe certified and has also completed training for the CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program)
- * In April I attended a 40 hour training to receive my National Child Care Administrators Credential
- * I have a wonderful and supportive Parent Board with 8 members (1 being a Grace Member)
- * We are in excellent standing with the Department of Human Services, receiving very high marks upon our last unannounced inspection in July 2015. We are also in very good standing with our county health nurse receiving a 98% on our last audit.
- * As I said I couldn't possible express how busy it is up here. Needless to say my staff works hard to ensure that our message of learning through God's love is prevalent in everything we do. Encouraging each child to reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally.

If you every have any questions about our center please feel free to ask. I would actually like to provide some tours this next year so you can see what we do on a day to day basis. We are busy playing with a purpose and growing in grace!

~Heather Nelson, Director
Grace Kids Care

Report from the Developer of Youth and Family Ministry

I began my work with the youth and families of Grace Lutheran Church on June 7, 2015 and I have spent that time in discovery; learning about the culture of the church and getting to know the families of this congregation. Here are a few highlights from my time here the last six months:

-Preschool and Elementary VBS

My first month here was full of VBS! It was fun to see what a big part this ministry is of Grace. Countless volunteer and staff hours go into making this a welcoming week for children. I shadowed Stephanie Johnson in order to get a sense of the level of staff involvement. I was impressed by the level of volunteer support that happens to make VBS a success at our church.

-Confirmation Camp at Lakeside Lutheran Bible Camp

I spent a week at Lakeside with seven middle school students from Grace. This was a great way for me to get to know these students and definitely helped to launch those relationships.

-ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit

A group of four adults and fourteen high school students from Grace traveled to Detroit for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit July 13-19. We spent time in travel, worship and service and had a lot of fun as well! This was a wonderful opportunity for me to bond with these students and adults and helped me get a sense of the needs of the group.

-Confirmation

The format and curriculum for confirmation changed a bit this year. In the first two years of Confirmation students will engage in faith questions with the problem-based curriculum "Colaborate" through Sparkhouse. In year three students will be paired with an adult member of the congregation for a year of mentorship. We are excited to see the impact of these changes.

-Youth Ministry Team

A team of four adults has been formed to spend time each month reflecting on the needs of the youth and families of Grace through a book study on "Sustainable Youth Ministry" by Mark Devries. Through our discussions we have learned about how to form a strong ministry structure to build upon in the years to come.

-Adult Leaders

Through this book study the Youth Ministry Team has identified Adult Leader recruitment and training as a key part of this foundation. Connecting adult members to youth in a consistent, ongoing and faithful way is essential to building a sustainable youth ministry.

There have been several fellowship and service events offered throughout these months as well that have served to connect youth to the church, the community and each other.

I am blessed to be here with you and to be called to this challenging and exciting ministry of developing ministry for youth and families. I look forward to working alongside you in the year to come.

Peace, Ellen Rothweiler

Election of Council Members

Council members with terms expiring are Sandy Briggs, Karri Brandsfield, Kevin Drury, and Stacie Holst.

The following members are running for a three-year term on the Grace Lutheran Church Council.

Lori Fry

My husband, Rick, and I joined Grace Lutheran Church in 1992. We have two grown sons, Jonathan and Jason. I worked in our church office for several years, worked as a Paraprofessional at Bondurant-Farrar Schools, taught preschool at the Bondurant Christian Church, and am now an Accounts Payable Clerk in the business office at Bondurant-Farrar Schools. Through the years, I have volunteered at Grace in many ways. Most recently, I was the Financial Secretary, Hannah Circle President, and am currently an O.W.L Mentor for a sweet Confirmation student. I also enjoy the Ladies Night Out group. I am so grateful to all the people of Grace for welcoming us so long ago and making us feel at home here. I look forward to serving on the Church Council to help fulfill God's mission at Grace Lutheran Church.

David F. (Dave) Gronert

Age: 68 years Hometown: Des Moines, Iowa

Family: Married 45 years to wife Joie; daughters: Melissa (Steve Pope), Cindy (Brian Palmer);

Grandsons: Dylan, Dominic, Alexander, and Chase; Granddaughter Emerie.

Occupation: Retired high school teacher (taught electronics, engineering, robotics, and electricity at Central Campus, Des Moines, Iowa)

Church Affiliation: Baptized at Grace Lutheran in 1952 by Pastor J. Grant Carlson, Confirmed into the faith at Grace Lutheran by Pastor Clyde L. Norrgard in 1961, attended Grace Lutheran until college and military service. Rejoined Grace Lutheran in 1978 and have been a member ever since.

Other tidbits: Member of Des Moines Host Lions Club; served in the U.S. Army 1967-1970; enjoy woodworking, bicycling, and travel.

John Roehrick

John is a private practice attorney and graduate of Drake Law School. He has been a member of Grace since 1967. John has previously served terms on the Church Council and also has served as Council President. He has taught Sunday school and Confirmation classes and has served as a member of various professional organizations and community non-profit Boards of Directors.

Matt Jordahl

Matt Jordahl lives in Urbandale with his wife Kara and their two sons Henry and James. Matt works at Fiserv as a Network Engineer and enjoys problem solving and working with technology. At home, Matt enjoys playing with his sons and his hobbies of photography and running. Matt has been with Grace since 2007 when he and Kara were married here.

Mary Jo McCleary

I am married to Tom McCleary. We have two wonderful children, Isaac and Lydia, who were both baptized and raised in the Grace family. I have been a member since 1996. I am currently involved in Lutheran World Relief and Ladies Night Out. In the past I have served on the Worship Committee, Call Committee (for Pastor Mike), Hannah Circle (I have served as president, secretary and treasurer), and the Women's Board. I also taught Sunday school for a number of years.

Election of Endowment Fund Committee Members

Aaron Paige and Stacie Holst have agreed to be the Endowment Committee candidates to replace Karen Taylor, who finished two consecutive three-year terms, and Barb Powers, who finished a three-year term.

Report from Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is comprised of members of Grace who prepare the altar and apse of the church for worship services. Members prepare the altar for Sunday worship, assist with communion and clean up. Preparation for special events such as Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, baptisms, weddings and funerals are also the responsibility of the Altar Guild.

Altar Guild is responsible for the care and maintenance of the paraments, linens, banners, candelabras, and candlesticks. Altar flowers are funded by members of the congregation. The communion bread is made and donated by the Piltingsrud/Nelson family. The following items are purchased throughout the year:

- * Wine, grape juice, wafers
- * Eternal light candles
- * Candles for special services
- * Communion cups
- * Candle oil
- * Baptismal candles
- * Cleaning supplies

This year through Memorial Funds we were able to purchase new white paraments, stole and chasuble to be used at Easter and all other festival Sundays and four new communion chalices. We want to thank the families of Don Peterson, Vivian Feilmann, Betty Maycock, Rev. Delmar Niemuth, Carlyle Peterson and Betty Vance for funds that allowed for these purchases.

Eighteen is the ideal number of Altar Guild volunteers. For various reasons there was a loss of three members by the end of the year. Our current number of volunteers for 2016 is eleven. We would like to encourage you to consider becoming a member of the Altar Guild.

Thank You to:

1. The Willing Workers for their assistance with the Christmas tree and outdoor wreaths.
2. The Valley Junction Embroiders Guild for the baptismal napkins.
3. The 2015 Altar Guild volunteers for their dedicated service; Connie Heuton, Diane Jessen, Alice Kulzer, Marion Nehmer, Loree Nelson, Cindy Peeler, Jane Ridnour, Mindy Scholten, Rita Stackhouse, Michelle Voelker, Carol Woodruff and Barb Zimany. Marion also serves as Flower Chart coordinator. Loree and Jane for serving on the committee for purchasing new decorations for Advent/Christmas.

Budgeted amount for 2015: \$1,500.00

Expenses for 2015: \$1,534.51

Report respectfully submitted,

Gail Peterson & Sue Anderson

Co-Directors of Grace Lutheran Church Altar Guild

Report from the Companion Congregation Committee

The Companion Congregation Committee worked with the Peace Corps Volunteer in Msindo to assist with equipping the new church office with a computer and the things required to make it work. Brett Thompson, the Peace Corps worker, is also teaching how to use the computer. Since electricity came to Msindo and Mararo, giant leaps are taking place.

We were not able to bring visitors here due to problems with visas. We will be planning a new trip to visit them. We are excited to see how the changes are affecting our friends there.

The biggest news is the Most Vulnerable Children program which was piloted by Empower Tanzania and St. John's in Des Moines in their village. It was so successful, Msindo applied to be the second location and the program has begun with a lot of excitement. Fifty to sixty children are given uniforms (which also can be used at school) and two hot meals on Saturdays, as well as being taught basic life skills, including farming, nutrition, and hygiene. The Most Vulnerable Children tend to be orphans who are in the care of extended family. This program provides a huge boost for children of our villages.

Please think about joining the Committee; you do not have to take the trip there unless you want to go, but we need supportive, interested committee members who will work in this important and exciting ministry.

Jane Ridhour
Mary Freimuth Helt

Report from Cradle Roll

The Cradle Roll is a program through the Grace Education Program that ministers to parents with children between the ages of birth through age three.

"Splash!" materials from Augsburg Fortress press are currently being used. Parents are sent a "Parent Page" each month and a music CD at the birth of their child and at 13 and 25 months. The materials are supplemented with additional materials at Christmas, Easter and the child's third birthday.

There are currently twenty children enrolled in the Grace Cradle Roll.

Seven children were baptized during 2015. At the time of baptism the parents are presented with "The Beginner's Bible" for their child. A dove with the child's name and baptism date is added to the Baptismal Roll in the sanctuary. The dove is sent to the parents just prior to the 1st anniversary of their child's baptism. The bibles were purchased with funds received from the Grace Endowment Committee in 2012. Len Ringgenberg makes the doves which are donated by Len and Helen. The name plates are purchased with funds from the Kevin Nehmer Memorial.

Prior to the Sunday School year for which the child is eligible, the parents are sent a letter inviting their child to enroll in the three-year old Sunday School class. In September 2015, six children were sent invitations to attend the three year old class.

Along with the "Splash!" materials other expenses include supplemental materials, postage and mailing materials.

2015 Budget: \$350.00

Expenditures: \$436.30

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Peterson, Cradle Roll Coordinator

Report of the Endowment Committee

The purpose of the Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund is to promote faithful Christian stewardship by providing a congregational plan to receive grants, gifts or bequest of money to be used to enhance the total program and mission of the Church beyond that supported through regular giving and apart from the general operation Of the congregation. The Endowment Fund Committee acts as custodian of the Fund.

The Endowment Committee approved the following distributions Of 2014 income, which was distributed in March of 2015:

Awards to Grace Lutheran Church:

- \$700 to remove gingko tree on property
- \$4,363 for carpet replacement
- \$770 for establishment of Member Care Group for outreach to those in need
- \$3,447 for refurbishment of the hand bells

Other Awards:

- \$2,500 to Lutheran Services in Iowa for a community garden (Global Greens) project
- \$500 to the Coalition in Support of Hungry Children for their After School Arts Program of Meal-in-a-Bag Kit

A total of \$11,533 was awarded. Requests for grants totaled \$26,342.

The following monies were returned to the Endowment for lack of use during the required timeframe:

- \$300 for establishment of Member Care Group for outreach to those in need
- \$447 for refurbishment of the hand bells

Since inception, the Endowment fund has awarded a total of **\$274,642** to **144** projects.

Your Endowment Committee,

Barb Powers (Chairman), Loree Nelson (Financial Secretary), Karen Taylor (Secretary), Marvin Johns and Mark Stumme

Report from Grace Fellowship

Grace Fellowship meets the first Sunday of the months of March, May, October and December. In addition to this being a social event, the group enjoys food and entertainment provided by the committee. This past year we enjoyed Ron Tyrrell, assistant Marketing Director at Merle Hay Mall; Susan Stroud on her journey to Israel; Susan Woody of the Des Moines Public Library; and 45 RPM, a Male Barbershop Quartet singing the oldies and goodies from each decade.

All adults and friends of Grace are welcome to attend.

Randy and Karen Taylor will continue as chair of the group. Carol Krause continues to be our Secretary and Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Taylor

Report from the Grace Garden Committee

Committee Head: Michelle Voelker

Committee: Julie Honsey, Joie Gronert, Marion Nehmer, Carla Peterman, Rich Snyder, Jay Wangerin.

Other garden helpers through the year: Marilyn Nizzi, Mike Peterman, Scott Honsey.

With the 2015 budget we purchased seeds and soil that were then grown by committee members in their homes until large enough to plant. Other plants and direct sow seeds and sets (onions, potatoes) were purchased at planting time. 4 tons of compost was delivered and applied in the fall, along with some compost created in the compost bins.

The Willing Workers fixed the tiller donated by the Voelker family, and tilled the garden in the spring, along with setting up and storing the rain barrel for us. They also assisted in patching holes where plant eating rabbits were sneaking in under the fence.

Annual prairie flowers were replanted and others removed in an attempt to rid the garden of pervasive creeping weeds at the fence line. The prairie flowers, along with a shallow watering station set in the ground attract natural pollinators, creating an oasis and helping our garden at the same time.

Harvested produce was again shared in the entrance hall weekly during the summer, providing a place for all who passed through Grace to take home, trade, or contribute from their own gardens. Remaining produce was shared with several Des Moines area food pantries.

Sincerely,

Michelle Voelker, RDN and the Garden Committee, volunteers and recipients

Report from the Grace Library

The library budget was \$175 for supplies and \$200 books. 13 books for adults and 7 books for children were purchased. In addition, through a memorial gift for Pat Rehder, the 5 volume set, A Peoples History of Christianity, was purchased.

Library supplies: \$151.27 was spent on the following;

\$90 for Cross Library Catalog System

\$61.27 for book covers and book cards

Library books: \$189.15 was spent for 20 books.

Members of the committee include Joy Averill, Inga Hoifeldt, Bev Anderson and Marion Nehmer

Respectfully submitted

Marion Nehmer, co chair

Report from Grace Women's Board

Val Culp has been our president for the last five years; we want to offer thanks for her dedication, service, and leadership. Val will continue with Carol Krause to organize and serve at funerals. Rather than replacing Val, we are sharing leadership and meeting quarterly or as needed.

The Women's groups under the Women's Board have reluctantly decided not to provide meals for Ascension Day or Maundy Thursday in the future. Specific changes are still in process and will be announced.

This year Grace's Women's Board worked on two primary projects: organizing the kitchen and the Christmas gifts for the homebound members. We want our homebound members to realize they are important to us.

We had two big clean-up days in the kitchen.

All women's groups have been discussing needs in the kitchen and what could be done to make it more efficient. The Christmas presents included ice/hot packs made by Lydia Circle, cards and decorations made by the Sunday School children, decorations from the Embroidery Guild, candies from the Ladies Night Out group, all put together and delivered by Martha Circle and members of the Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group. Thanks to all!

Ardis Schmelzer
Mary Freimuth Helt
Carol Krause
Barb Tussing
Jan Gross
Donna Trickle

Report from the Lutheran World Relief Team

Thanks be to God for your generous donations to Lutheran World Relief through our 2015 kit and quilt assembly ministry here at Grace! This year, 80 quilts were sent, along with 10 Fabric kits, 3 tied fleece blankets, 60 Baby Care kits, 201 school kits, and 211 personal care kits.

In the spring, our congregation studied the ways that people who lack enough food to eat also face not having the basic things of life, such as soap, school supplies, shelter, baby care items, etc. A joint project with the Hunger Team resulted in raising \$1242 for LWR. We sent 826 pounds of aid for our neighbors in need around the world in April.

During the Fall Drive, we studied the concepts of God's grace to us and how we can be His grace to others. With the help of the LWR Cheerleaders, we raised a record \$1766.00, and sent 869.5 pounds of aid to LWR. These gifts go to hungry people who have the most basic unmet human needs as the result of natural and manmade disasters.

We are ready to begin our Spring LWR drive soon and invite you to join the LWR Team in this effort. A quilters group meets on Thursday mornings to make the quilts from donated fabric. This group welcomes anyone who would like to help. For more information about the kit and quilt ministry at LWR, please visit lwr.org

Your LWR Team: Gail Peterson, Helen Ringgenberg, Lori Fry, Mary Jo and Lydia McCleary, Beth Flannery, Lois Slye, Lynn Niemuth, and Cathy Barks

Lutheran World Relief Account for 2015

BALANCE ON HAND - January 1, 2015	\$ 629.98
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(balance agrees with Church records)

INCOME:

Donations Received (March-April)	1,242.00
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Donations Received (September-November)	<u>1,766.00</u>
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Total Income	<u>+ 3,008.00</u>
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3,637.98

DISBURSEMENTS:

Expenses - Spring Drive	\$ 743.79
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Expenses - Fall Drive	<u>1,511.93</u>
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Total Disbursements	<u>- 2,255.72</u>
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BALANCE ON HAND - December 31, 2015	<u>\$ 1,382.26</u>
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(balance agrees with Church records)

Report from the Memorial Fund Committee

All memorial money donated to Grace Lutheran Church is deposited to a special reserve account with memorials for each individual tracked separately. Purchases from these funds are made according to the needs of the congregation and the wishes of the family.

Contributions received from January 1 - December 31, 2015 were in memory of:

Helen Ballentine, Ruth Berven, Bill Ken Henderson, Diane Jessen, Evelyn Knudsen, Alice Nelson, Allen Reistroffer, Layla and Becket Rudisill, James "Dick" Sampel, and Dorothy Shiffler adding a total of \$10,730 to the fund.

Over the years many useful items have been purchased with memorial donations as well as contributions made to worthy projects. A listing of these memorials is recorded in the Memorial Book located in the Gathering Hall.

This year memorial funds provided engraved name plates for all baptisms, the Block Cross paraments, four silver-plated chalices, Festival Settings I and II of Holy Communion, art work for celebration Sunday 2016, two Grace Hall presentation projectors, the new sanctuary speaker system, outdoor Christmas lighting, and Chancel Choir music for a grand total of \$36,438.91.

With a balance of \$ 18,159.02, it appears that this memorial fund has made many provisions benefitting this congregation.

Those serving on this committee are: Frances Best, Jerry Dockum, Barbara Tussing, and now past chair, Lorna Johns.

Report from the Property Committee

Grace Lutheran Church Property Committee again had a busy year for maintenance and improvements around the church.

Maintenance and improvements include:

Church

- Cabinet and counter top installation in the kitchen
- Repairs to the lift at the northwest entrance
- Installation of new speaker and sound system in the Sanctuary
- Installation of new speakers and video equipment in Grace Hall
- Removed the Ginko tree in the front lawn – funded by Endowment Grant

Custodian's House

- Exterior Painting and minor roof repairs

The Property Committee spent several of their regular monthly meetings doing a complete visual and written survey of the entire physical plant. From this survey a large number of property needs became evident and will be addressed as time and finances permit.

A number of new projects are to be accomplished soon. A grant from the Grace Endowment will enable replacement of the carpet in the main floor corridor around the Library with new carpet tiles. The carpeting in Grace Hall will also be replaced with the same new carpet tiles after complete painting of all the walls and installation of a protective plastic wainscot on the south and west walls has been done. Also, a new video system will be installed in the Sanctuary. These projects were approved for funding by the Congregation Council from the Marvin Malmin bequest.

The Property Committee again wishes to thank our custodian, Todd Haugen for keeping the building and grounds well cared for and for all his work to accommodate the many activities that take place within the church every week. We would also like to thank the members of the property committee, and all others who contribute their time and talents to the upkeep of improvement of the church property.

The Willing Workers group continues to meet on Wednesday mornings to work on various projects, complete routine maintenance, and make minor repairs throughout the church as needed. This group of dedicated individuals completes a large number of the small project and repairs every year and we would like to say thank you to them for all they do.

Eric Weber and Aaron Brandsfield have led a Saturday morning group that does a Bible study, has breakfast and does various projects around the church once a month. We thank this group for contributing and serving in this manner. They are looking for additional members to join them.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Peterson, Chair
Jon Rissman

Chuck Denton
Jay Wangerin

Norm Iverson
Eric Weber

Roy Mann

Report from the Social Ministry Committee

In 2015 the Social Ministry Committee participated in or sponsored the following activities/events:

- Pet Project Sunday
- Updated information on the collection of pull-tabs for Ronald MacDonald House
- The work on the Grace online directory was completed. Both hands-on and written instructions for members on the use of the online directory was provided
- Meals From the Heartland volunteers
- Greeters for Moore Elementary School on Meet the Teacher night and the first day of school
- Pet Blessing
- Volunteers for DMARC food pantry
- Christmas Star Tree for MOSAIC and LSI Early Childhood Development
- Hunger Working Team
 - Hunger Appeal during Lent. Combined with Quarters for Hunger, World Hunger and Food Pantry a total of \$3,478.00 was raised during this time period.
 - Five week series on Hunger in the Heartland during education hour
 - Grace Garden
- Member Care Group
 - Continues to provide support to Grace members at time of need
 - A request was submitted to the Endowment Fund Committee for \$770.00 to purchase stock items needed to continue this program.
 - Received full amount requested.
 - A total of \$470.00 was spent. Remaining funds returned to the Endowment Fund
- Visiting Friends
 - Continues to provide Communion to Grace home bound/shut-ins.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Peterson, Chairman/Secretary

2015 Social Ministry Committee members: Sandy Briggs, Joie Gronert, Denny Rehder, Jane Ridnour, and Barb Zimany.

Report from the Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee began the year with an intentional effort to recruit targeted individuals to join the committee in order to broaden the representation from the congregation on this important committee. We were successful in recruiting four new committee members, bringing the total membership to seven!

Early in the year we spent time discussing the role of this committee in keeping the issue of good stewardship in front of the congregation. In recent years we have been doing this through monthly “stewardship thought” articles in the Friendly Visitor, but we believe it is time for a change. We decided to develop specific communication strategies for each age cohort within the membership. Some of these strategies have been implemented and others will be implemented in the coming months.

Over the summer the committee worked on an enhanced Stewardship Emphasis for the fall. We decided to create a multi-faceted emphasis building on the “God’s Work, Our Hands” program of the ELCA. This year we celebrated the good stewardship practices of Grace members as we all share our time, talents and financial resources with the congregation and the community. The program featured video testimonials from Grace members, participation in several work projects to benefit the neighborhood, and even bright yellow T-shirts!

The fall emphasis culminated in the gathering of financial commitments for the coming year. Thanks to all of you who responded by submitting a statement of intent for your financial stewardship. This enables the Finance Committee and Council to plan a responsible congregational budget for 2016.

The Stewardship Committee:

Leonard Larsen
Jay Wangerin
Norm Iverson
Lynn Niemuth
Howard Kulzer
Tim Nelson
Doug Johnson

VBS Report from the Youth Ed Committee

2015 was a year of changes for VBS. We brought in 3 staff from Lutheran Lakeside Camp to assist with elementary week, and we had a wonderful experience with them. Not only did they provide the extra adult supervision that has been needed, but they also brought new energy. Because of the expense of bringing in the staff, we decided to save money on curriculum and create our own instead of purchasing an existing VBS program. We pulled unused material from the Spark rotational curriculum that was used for the first time in Sunday School for the 2014-

2015 program year. Although this was a time consuming process, the end result was worth the effort.

We once again had many returning families this year, especially for elementary week. This year preschool week was made up almost entirely of Grace Kids Care children ages 3-5, with the remainder being either past enrollees or children from Grace or St. Andrew's Episcopal. Grace Kids Care children were automatically enrolled unless parents opted out. The bonus in this for us was that two Grace Kids Care teachers were available to be assistants that week. For elementary week, many enrollments came through word of mouth through Grace members, or they were past attendees. Marketing strategies included an outdoor banner, school flyers, basic information on our website, invitational postcards to past attendees, and word of mouth through St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, with whom we partner.

Another change to VBS this year was the addition of an evening program at St. Andrew's between our preschool and elementary weeks. Because our waiting list for elementary week has been so significant in the past, we wanted to have another option available for those children.

We didn't have nearly the waiting list that we have had in past years, so the group that attended St. Andrew's were primarily connected to that congregation already, but two of Grace's volunteers — Beth Flannery and Ardis Schmelzer — assisted with crafts and snack.

The statistics of the program at Grace are as follows:

Children: 37 preschoolers (27 of which from Grace Kids Care), 61 elementary children
Volunteers: 22 teens, 33 adults (including 2 Grace Kids Care staff and 3 Lakeside staff), and 22 snack donors

Families: 74 families, 55 of whom were non members of Grace (74.3%)

Note: We do not have church membership information on Grace Kids Care families who are not members of Grace, but of the 51 families for whom we do have church membership information, 9 (17.6%) did not have a home church.

Of the 61 elementary children who attended, 6 were registered for mornings only and 55 were registered to include the afternoons. Of the 55 children who came in the afternoons, 44 children

were able to pay the \$25 fee and 11 (25%) needed scholarships.

Many thanks to all who help to make this ministry possible. The 2015 VBS Planning Team included: Beth Flannery, Stephanie Johnson, Mary Freimuth Helt, Julie Honsey, Nancy Johnson (St. Andrew's Episcopal Church), Kristin Medhurst, and Ardis Schmelzer.

Curriculum Team: Beth Flannery, Julie Honsey, Nancy Johnson, Stephanie Johnson