

Grace Lutheran Church

Annual Report 2024



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Mission Statement

Saved by Grace. Called to Worship. Sent to Serve.

Staff

Pastor
Office Administrator
Minister of Music
Bell Choir Director
Custodian
Nursery Attendant

Pastor Ken Scheck II
Brenda Hess
Cindy Olson
Kim Domke
Nathan Freedlund
Aurora Collins



A member of the
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Congregation Council Members: (End of Term)

President	Tim Schoessel (2025)
Vice President	Vickey Argo (2024)
Secretary	Lisa Pohl (2025)
Treasurer	Linda Maupin (2024)

Council Members

Vickey Argo (Congregational Care) 2024
 Doug Neeb (Property) 2025
 Patti Comp (Outreach) 2025
 Jamie Heise (Youth & Family) 2024
 Deborah Wilke (Small Groups) 2024
 Greg Franks (Stewardship) 2024
 Bill Freedlund (Social Activities) 2025
 Kate Watson (Worship) 2024
 Mark Anton (Free Agent) 2025

2024 Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

Call to order - President Tim Schoessel

Prayer - Pastor Ken Scheck II

Approval of Agenda

Opening Remarks - Tim Schoessel

2023 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

Committee Reports

Congregational Membership Report

Statistical Report

Old Business

New Business

Nomination Ballot - Vote

Consideration of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 - Vote

Congregation Remarks

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer

Rules for Discussion and Debate

Based upon Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief

- Discussion/debate is limited to those items listed on the agenda.
- Each member may speak on a single topic of discussion only two times.
- Each member may speak in debate only twice on any debatable motion.
- Each time, a member may speak for up to, but not exceeding, 5 minutes.
- Time may not be yielded or transferred to someone else.
- Members must wait for the current speaker to conclude before signaling your desire to speak.
- Stand to indicate a desire to speak to a debate/discussion and wait to be addressed by the President.
- Preference will be given to those who have not spoken over those who have already spoken to the discussion/debate.
- Discussion/debate that references another member will be ruled out of order.
- Discussion/debate is directed to the President, not other members.
- Questions are to be asked through the President
[i.e. Mr. President, would the Property Chair speak to the...]
- Once a vote has been taken, that specific matter is considered settled and may not be revisited.



Draft- To be approved by Congregation at Next Annual Meeting
Grace Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting Minutes

- I. Call to order: Randy Teegardin @ 9:31 am
- II. Prayer: Pastor Mike Kemper
- III. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as published in the Annual Report; seconded; passed unanimously
- IV. Opening Remarks: Randy Teegardin
 - a. As a council, we don't always hear concerns that may arise in the congregation, so please make sure you bring them to us
 - b. Pastor Ken is not feeling well so he is absent.
- V. 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes: Lisa reviewed.
 - a. Motion to approve 2022 minutes as presented; seconded; passed unanimously
- VI. Committee Reports:
 - a. None other than in the report
 - i. No questions
- VII. Congregational Membership Report:
- VIII. Statistical Report:
 - a. Pastor normally presents these. Reports found in Annual Report packet
 - i. Randy: in-person attendance has not rebounded post Covid, but online viewership has increased.
 - ii. There is a link on our homepage for online offerings
 - 1. Some shift from bringing envelopes to donating online, but not really causing an increase in donations
 - 2. Suggestion to include a mention about online offering option during online service
- IX. Old Business: None

Continued on following page

- X. New Business:
 - a. Nomination Ballot:
 - i. Vote
 - 1. Ballots counted
 - 2. Synod Assembly
 - a. Lexi Watson nominated as write-in for youth attendee
 - b. Consideration of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024
 - i. \$6,777 left on mortgage as of May
 - ii. Tim:
 - 1. This budget is a cutting budget
 - a. We have covered our bills, but struggled to meet budget numbers
 - b. Most committee budgets have been cut or remain level
 - c. Salaries were increased this year, last year they did not increase
 - d. New line item for an audit
 - i. Needs to happen at least every 3 years
 - ii. Quite costly, but necessary
 - e. Mortgage will be paid off this year, so that should give us more flexibility in future budgets
 - iii. Questions:
 - 1. We meet the spiritual needs of the congregation, but we are a business and must consider financial realities.

REPORT OF MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Grace Lutheran Church, Hastings, Michigan
Year of our Lord 2024
Pastor Kenneth Scheck II

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you. *Psalm 86:5*

We are given abounding love.

As I reflect on this year, I am amazed at all that was accomplished in the name of Jesus Christ here at Grace Lutheran Church. As I remember I rejoice in the gift of grace that was not only given to me, but to our community of faith. We have a God who has given us copious amounts of grace. Grace comes in overwhelming amounts beyond what we expect or deserve. Grace goes beyond the normal expectation. That's the way God's grace is with us. We can't earn it, nor do we deserve it. It just comes flowing like a rushing stream. God gives us a surge of grace, and it won't be confined. We can only splash around in it with joy unbounded, knowing that it saves us no matter how far we've strayed. Grace is abounding and covers us with God's saving favor, and when needed most, it comes in overwhelming amounts.

Some of the moments of grace I have seen is in the hospital, nursing home, homes and businesses have surprised me. Grace just comes out of nowhere and is realized. Grace Lutheran Church had hail damage, and like so many homes in our neighborhood got a new roof. God's grace was revealed, as the roof was aging and some were speculating, just like our parking lot, *we better start saving to get a new roof*. Yet, because we had our roof replaced by insurance, we no longer needed to worry about where we will get the money. We were also blessed with a new HVAC and air-filtration system for our fellowship area.

God has also blessed us with an abundance of care for one another. The congregation saw the need for me to have a break from ministry. This gift came out of the blue, and so I experienced a gift of grace that was not expected. During this time, Grace Lutheran Church discovered that we are being challenged with a fiscal hardship. The reality is that Grace Church may need to change the pastoral ministry from fulltime to parttime. This year we are moving forward with a fulltime pastoral ministry. This is NOT a bleak time for us to be church. We are in the midst of God's abundant grace that is coursing through our lives and making us new. God's grace comes steadily after that first splash of baptism's holy water and can't be held back by human failure. That's what makes grace so amazing — it saves us when we are broken, blind to faith, even hopeless and grieving with unimaginable pain, wondering if we can ever be whole again. Like love, grace lasts and will always lead us home. Jesus made sure of that. May we walk in the surge of God's grace for each one of us and share it abundantly with others.

Sharing God's grace,

Pastor Ken +

As always, I wonder where the time has gone! And HOW has it that I'm nearing the end of my 22nd year here at Grace?? That seems crazy to me! It's a gift and blessing to continue to call Grace "home" for so many years! I love adding to the musical life of the congregation!

I am also blessed and grateful for the many gifted musicians who give their time and talents to enhance the worship experience at Grace. I love listening to other musicians, as well as joining with them! We are definitely gifted to have such strong musicianship within our congregation. I still marvel that I have never had to look outside of the congregation for a substitute for myself!

It is a joy for me to be able to choose the liturgy music (Gospel Acclamation, Offertory Song, etc.) for the worship services. We are blessed to have an active worship committee that contributes to the choosing of hymns and songs for worship, as that is a time-consuming project, which, in some congregations, is left up to the Pastor and/or musician. (I am included in this rotation.)

This year, the choir ("Grace Singers") has sung occasionally. After having to cancel Christmas Eve 2022, it felt great to have the Singers and other musicians take part in this past year's Christmas Eve service, and it was so nice to have no weather issues, coming or going! We sang a few more times this year, as well! If you want to participate in any of the musical ministries here at Grace, please come see me!

I, together with Pastor Ken, continue to choose the music for the liturgy. We are beginning to get back to liturgy "settings" from our various hymnals. It has been a few years, now, so it might seem like we're starting over with some of those. That is part of the reason we use the same setting for several weeks in a row. You may notice, when we change from one musical setting to another, we do so more gradually. That is by design, so the changes don't seem overwhelming.

I'm thankful for members of the Worship Committee, who participated in the choosing of hymns and songs for the weekly services. We have multiple resources available to us. This allows us expand our repertoire, to sing the songs of long ago, as well as newer ones. There's room for a wide variety of musical tastes and genres to enhance the worship here at Grace!

Thank you for your participation in the worship life of Grace. Please let me know how you might want to be involved in the music, if you haven't already! There is a space for you, no matter your experience or expertise!

In Christ's service,
Cindy Olson

As this church year comes to an end, I think it goes without saying that this year has presented many hurdles and challenges for Grace. To the congregation I say “thank you” for your patience, understanding and support as the council and executive committee worked through some trying situations and a pastoral leave. Grace has been blessed this past year with an amazing group of people on council that spent many hours working to find the best path forward for our church. I am grateful for them and all the support that they gave me as we worked in the best interest of Grace.

There will always be varying opinions on the decisions made and the options chosen this year, and I am good with that. WE WILL NEVER ALL AGREE, on Exec, on council, or at the congregation annual meeting. Understanding that and accepting that with an open mind I believe allowed us to move forward this past year and overcome some trying circumstances. Learning from these experiences I urge the Grace community to “take a minute” and listen! Listen to what other members have to say. Understand that if their opinion does not match yours, they are not your enemy but provide an opportunity for discussion and understanding.

Discussion and understanding allowed this congregation to get Pastor Ken a much-needed leave for reflection and healing, and during that leave time allowed “us” to take on responsibilities and assume roles learning and growing as a council and congregation along the way. During the pastoral leave time I witnessed several members stepping forward and shouldering responsibilities to keep the church functioning in a normal fashion. I can also report that Pastor Ken, rejuvenated from his time away, is working very hard implementing new paths for him and us here at Grace. I am very impressed with the personnel growth Pastor has had over his time away. He has already started and will be working very hard in the future months on church growth.

Last, I would like to report on the financial condition of Grace. I know that this subject will be covered as well in others reports but I believe we all need to be aware of where we stand. Finances will always create stress and anxiety but the subject needs attention and discussion. Grace is continuing to struggle and fall short of meeting its yearly budget. As many of you heard in my temple talk earlier this year, there will be many tough decisions ahead for all of us. The council has worked very hard to cut from and rearrange the budget, but there is still much work to do on all our parts. I want to be very clear on this matter, there have been some decisions made and there will be more made in the months ahead that are going to be very unpopular but very necessary to allow the church to stay in the black (positive). As always, the table is open for all discussion and ideas in taking on this ongoing issue. So please feel free to reach out and put forth all ideas and/or concerns.

Being a leader always comes with challenges! I have done and will continue to do the best I can in directing this congregation. Wise men know you are only as good as the people around you and thank God here at Grace we have many helping hands doing the lifting.

God bless us all as we move forward into this next year.

Timothy Schoessel

Vice President's Report

Vickey Argo
Vice President

Change is never an easy thing to do and this year at Grace Lutheran Church has been one of much change. It has certainly been one of ups and downs both emotionally and for myself physically. Although I have served on council for a number of years, this is my first time serving on the Executive committee. Some of the decisions made came with much difficulty and stress, but thankfully Exec members for all practical purposes were very close in our thinking. This like mindset helped when bringing ideas to the full council. I thank God for His direction and pray continued guidance for our congregation.

Some of the issues and actions for the year include the following:

- Developing and implementing Pastor's leave.
- Dealing with issues arising from his absence (i.e. who does what).
- Communicating with Grace members regarding Pastor's leave.
- Taking on some of the responsibilities.
- Assisting in developing the agenda for full council and subbing for President Tim.
- Assisting with staff reviews.
- Serving on the nominating committee and seeking nominees.

Respectfully,

Vickey L. Argo

Council Secretary's Report

Lisa Pohl
Council Secretary

No Report Submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Linda Maupin
Treasurer

The 2023-2024 year was very active in the area of Grace financial processes. Brenda Hess, our Parish Administrator took on additional financial responsibilities as we combined the Financial Coordinator and Administrator roles. Following our Financial Review by Walker, Fluke and Sheldon, we decided to move to a new system – QuickBooks Online. Our bookkeeper struggled for several months to complete the migration from Church Windows Financials to QuickBooks. At last, the migration is complete.

As was mentioned by Tim Schoessel, in several Temple Talks, we continue to struggle financially as our congregation ages and many move into a phase of fixed income. In addition, we have lost some members which has also had an impact on giving. As of the end of May, our most recent set of financials, we have a shortfall versus our budget of \$18,833.66. If this trend continues as it has in the last year, we will need to make some decisions regarding how we can increase our revenue and decrease our expenses. Please consider this situation prayerfully and be prepared to offer suggestions to the council, should they be requested.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Treasurer and remain hopeful that we can find solutions to our financial challenges.

Respectfully,

Linda Maupin

Grace Lutheran Church

Budget vs Actual FY

August 2023 - July 2024

	Total		
	Actual	Budget	Remaining
Revenue			
4.100.100 Contributions - Pledged	162,362.34	227,041.00	64,678.66
Total Revenue	\$ 162,362.34	\$227,041.00	\$64,678.66
Gross Profit	\$ 162,362.34	\$227,041.00	\$64,678.66
Expenditures			
5.100.051 Mortgage Payment	6,896.75	7,000.00	103.25
5.100.100 Office Supplies	5,036.55	4,225.00	-811.55
5.100.110 Leased Office Equipment	3,017.90	1,508.95	-1,508.95
5.100.200 Gas/Electric	9,164.69	3,975.00	-5,189.69
5.100.210 Telephone	1,544.22	1,600.00	55.78
5.100.220 Water/Sewer	684.83	650.00	-34.83
5.100.300 Building Maint/Repair	3,862.38	4,125.00	262.62
5.100.310 Other Insurance	4,524.16	5,172.00	647.84
5.100.320 Custodial Supplies	985.23	1,200.00	214.77
5.100.330 Lawncare/Snow Removal	620.07	1,100.00	479.93
5.100.400 Stewardship Committee	330.98	505.00	174.02
5.100.500 Music Instrument Maintenance		250.00	250.00
5.111.105 Kitchen Supplies	404.00	465.00	61.00
5.200.100 Pastor's Salary	27,490.29	33,132.00	5,641.71
5.200.105 Pastor's Housing Allowance	21,874.86	25,000.00	3,125.14
5.200.110 Pastor's Auto Expense	3,615.02	4,125.00	509.98
5.200.115 Pastor's SS Allowance	3,844.47	4,500.00	655.53
5.200.120 Pastor's Hospital/Pension	41,806.65	49,980.00	8,173.35

Continued on following page

Grace Lutheran Church
Budget vs Actual FY
August 2023 - July 2024

5.200.250 Nursery Attendant	1,292.85	1,193.00	-99.85
5.200.300 Minister of Music	19,883.22	22,724.00	2,840.78
5.200.315 Bell Choir Director	1,705.00	2,087.00	382.00
5.200.400 Parish Administrator	11,550.38	15,600.00	4,049.62
5.200.405 Church Accountant/Auditor	3,000.00	3,600.00	600.00
5.200.500 Custodians	2,757.36	2,876.00	118.64
5.200.600 Substitute Ministers	2,890.00	750.00	-2,140.00
5.200.700 Employers FICA Account	4,684.35	3,072.00	-1,612.35
5.300.050 Assembly/Conference	60.00	700.00	640.00
5.300.100 Worship Supplies	637.01	575.00	-62.01
5.300.125 Vocal Choir	39.74	60.00	20.26
5.300.130 Bell Choir	123.96	150.00	26.04
5.400.600 Pastor's Continuing Education	187.65	500.00	312.35
5.500.100 Synod/ELCA	9,583.35	10,000.00	416.65
5.500.120 Living Water Ministry (LORMM)	200.00	100.00	-100.00
5.500.125 LSSM	400.00	200.00	-200.00
5.500.135 Barry County Cares Expense	200.00	100.00	-100.00
5.500.140 Barry Co Habitat for Humanity	200.00	100.00	-100.00
5.500.145 Evangelism Committee	757.75	800.00	42.25
Total Expenditures	\$ 195,855.67	\$213,699.95	\$17,844.28
Net Operating Revenue	-\$ 33,493.33	\$ 13,341.05	\$46,834.38
Net Revenue	-\$ 33,493.33	\$ 13,341.05	\$46,834.38

As of Wednesday, Jun 12, 2024 12:36:31 PM GMT-7 - Cash Basis

Committee Reports

Youth/Education Committee

Jamie Heise
Youth/Education Committee Chair

Shayna Gibbons and Erin Franks helped with the spring flower sale. Thanks to all who purchased flowers in support of the youth. We have many recurring patrons, and it is much appreciated.

Raylan Gibbons took his first communion this year and we continue to celebrate Raylan's declaration of his faith.

We celebrated Anna Scheck and her graduation from the University of Michigan. We hope to continue to celebrate graduates of high school and college each spring.

This year we planned on doing activities in the latter half of 2023, but due to the limited help for this committee, and life events, we did not follow through with the activities we had planned.

It is well known that Grace has a declining amount of active youth in our congregation, and for the amount of time I have been the committee chair (four years), we have struggled to have much involvement from church members to help with youth activities, and have had low attendance when activities have happened. We hope to keep trying, but this is a committee and area of Grace that is struggling.

We welcome new ideas, new committee members and help with any events or activities that we may have planned in the future.

Jamie Heise, Chair and Pastor Ken, Member

Social Activities Committee

Bill Freedlund

The Social Activities Committee (SAC) usually meets the first Monday of the month.

If you are interested in participating in the Social Activities Committee - please let us know and /or attend a meeting. Your ideas and service would be most welcome. The purpose of the committee is to come up with both old and new ideas to encourage fellowship throughout the year.

Our activities this fiscal year (2023-2024) included the following:

- Game and Pizza Nights
- Two Visits to Turkeyville - "Forever Plaid" and "Oklahoma"
- Heritage Meal
- Advent Meal
- Jesus' Birthday Party
- Prepared gift bags for homebound
- 5th Sunday Potlucks
- Graduate Celebration
- Lenten Meal
- Assistance with Annual Picnic
- Auto Show meal assistance
- Cereal City Band Concert (With Seasonal Grill)
- Attending Hastings High School Play with dinner out
- Cards to homebound

Social Activities Report continued on following page.

(Social Activities from previous page.)

The committee members have applied for Thrivent Grants to fund various activities as well as using funds from non budget.

The committee functions through the dedicated service of our members and the support of our congregation. Thank you to all who were involved during the last year. We look forward to activities in the coming year and welcome participation and input.

Thank you to Grace Lutheran for your continued support! Those involved in the SAC during the last year were: Linda Melcher, Diane Neeb, Amy Poholski, Laura Scheck, Jane Secor, Deborah Wilke, Pastor Ken Scheck and Bill Freedlund (chair)

Property Committee

Doug Neeb

The Property Committee has watched over the replacement of the HVAC equipment in our fellowship hall. This equipment was close to 30 years old and was no longer supported by the manufacturer. We have had the HVAC units in the sanctuary repaired and the thermostats replaced. We are continuing to change over our fluorescent lighting to LED lighting as the old fluorescent lights fail. We continue to make small repairs around the building as the need becomes apparent,

There continues to be a need to get the Parking Lot resurfaced, our Play Ground Equipment repaired or replaced, and all of our Landscaping replaced. We look forward to the time when funding will allow us to pursue taking care of these items. We would like to update the lighting in our church to improve both the quality of the lighting and the physical appearance of our lighting.

Mission Endowment Fund Committee

Pastor Ken Scheck II

The committee found that at the time of distribution the fund was still losing money so no effort was made to seek projects to fund for this fiscal year.

Worship Committee

Traci Wales

We are blessed to have added two new members to our group. Carla Neil and Paul Kuhlman have joined us and bring much love and experience to our group. We still maintain between 4—6 meetings a year. Looking forward to our continued effort in planning wonderful worship services whom all at Grace can enjoy. New members are always welcome! I so believe music and certainly a well rounded service is so important, as we do our best for our Grace family!

Stewardship Committee

Greg Franks

No report submitted, but the council revised and submitted the budget.

Small Group Committee

Deborah Wilke

The Small Groups consist of the Sunday Forum/Bible Study (9:30 a.m. on Sundays), Brothers of Grace (BOG), and the Women of Faith Bible Study Group (WOF – meet Tuesdays at Grace at 11 a.m.).

BOG is an ongoing group of men from Grace, who meet regularly and do acts of kindness for both our church and community. See their annual report elsewhere in this publication.

WOF started up again this past Fall, and meet at Grace on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. The ladies take turns “chairing” the group on a rotating basis.

All of these groups welcome new members and new ideas, and BOG could use help at sponsored events.

Ring Praises to the Lord, LOUD and LONG!!!! It has been a full season of music with handbells and chimes!

Primary accomplishments this past year for Handbell Ministry include:

- We joyfully served Grace with 18 different ringers including a some great times with youth and adults ringing together
- Kim and Anita improved duet ringing from the table
- 5 ringers prepare for the Eaton Rapids bell festival in the Fall, building ringing and directing skills
- We are recording music to share online and use as recruiting material
- We cheerfully returned to ringing in December and June at Woodlawn Meadows Assisted Living and in the Memory Care Unit
- We are eager to grow our participation so we can praise God with a full adult /advanced choir as well as the youth/beginning choir...all are welcome!

I continue to encourage and recruit new ringers. We started in the Fall with eight adults and three students in two choirs; one advanced with seasoned ringers and one that includes youth and adults in a beginner choir. We added one family of three in March and welcomed more adults who substituted or returned to bells to help fill out the table. Our June sharing at Grace was a remarkable intergenerational group! So much fun to see that music skills learned as a child can still bring such joy well into your eighties!!!

To be able to take our music and love of Jesus out into the local senior living areas remains a highlight of the program. The staff and residents are always blessed by the smiles and music and fellowship of the handbell ringers. All who serve are such a blessing to our program!!! They become good friends and support each other outside of the bell program.

If anyone has ever wondered if they would like ringing or could even understand the bell music, please give me a call or send an email. Free "GIVE IT A TRY" lessons (one on one) can be arranged. Rehearsals are open for anyone to come watch. We are more than a music group...we are friends who love music, but love Jesus even more!

Congregational Care Committee

Sharon Varkula
Congregational Care Committee Chair

During the past year (June 2023 through May 2024), Grace's Congregational Care Committee contacted the congregation twice by phone to share information, once about a funeral and once about a worship service cancelation due to the weather.

Five (5) prayer shawls were given.

The Congregational Care Committee met three (3) times since the last annual report: September 11, 2023, January 29, 2024, and May 20, 2024. Our next meet is September 16, 2024.

Many thanks to those who served as Shepherds this past year: Erin Franks, Lorraine Freedland, Karen Halstead, Jeanette Kogge, Kay Marsh, Sandy Mosteller, Amy Poholski, Jan Schreiner, Jane Secor, Laura Scheck, Linda Trongo, and Sharon Varkula.

During the year, Karen Halstead, Sandy Mosteller, and Amy Poholski retired from our committee, and we thank them for their years of faithful service! Thanks also to Vickey Argo, our liaison this year.

Grace Lutheran Church

Statement of Activity by Class

August 1, 2023 - June 12, 2024

	Grace Projects	Non Budget	TOTAL
Revenue			
4.100.108 Grace Projects Income	22,049.51		22,049.51
4.500.101 Non Budget Sunday School Income		400.00	400.00
4.500.103 Non Budget Youth Ministry Inc.		817.94	817.94
4.500.104 Non Budget Synod Youth Gatheri Inc.		1,584.00	1,584.00
4.500.109 Non Budget Bell Choir Inc.		100.00	100.00
4.500.110 Non Budget Missions Inc.		1,259.33	1,259.33
4.500.113 Non Budget Outreach Team Inc.		4,373.25	4,373.25
4.500.125 Non-Budget CPR Inc.		165.00	165.00
4.500.129 Non-Budget Social Activities Inc.		653.00	653.00
4.500.144 Non Budget Helping Hand Income		2,263.92	2,263.92
Total Revenue	\$ 22,049.51	\$ 11,616.44	\$ 33,665.95
Gross Profit	\$ 22,049.51	\$ 11,616.44	\$ 33,665.95
Expenditures			
5.600.101 Non Budget Sunday School Expense		98.00	98.00
5.600.103 Non Budget Youth Ministry Exp.		53.60	53.60
5.600.104 Non Budget Synod Youth Gatheri Exp.		312.04	312.04
5.600.105 Non Budget Miscellaneous Exp.		202.01	202.01
5.600.110 Non Budget Missions Expense		415.30	415.30
5.600.113 Non Budget Outreach Team Exp.		3,461.67	3,461.67
5.600.129 Non-Budget Social Activities Exp.		715.33	715.33
5.600.132 Mission Trip Expense		352.09	352.09
5.600.144 Non Budget Helping Hand Expense		667.80	667.80
5.650.000 Non Budget Chosen Family Expense		500.00	500.00
5.700.108 Grace Projects Expense	41,920.69		41,920.69
Total Expenditures	\$ 41,920.69	\$ 6,777.84	\$ 48,698.53
Net Operating Revenue	-\$ 19,871.18	\$ 4,838.60	-\$ 15,032.58
Net Revenue	-\$ 19,871.18	\$ 4,838.60	-\$ 15,032.58

As of Wednesday, Jun 12, 2024 12:44:21 PM GMT-7 - Cash Basis

The Community Outreach Committee plans and organizes a wide variety of projects designed to fulfill our congregational mission of being “*Sent to Serve*” in the Hastings community. What follows is a summary of the projects we organized and coordinated during the past fiscal year:

July: Car Show/Outdoor Worship Service/Community BBQ – Once again a joint project with the Worship and Social Activities Committees. 36 vehicles were displayed for the auto show which once again surpassed the number of participants from the year before. The outdoor worship service and community meal were also enjoyed by over 100 attendees.

August: Relay for Life – There were 6 GLC members participating as walkers; over \$700 in donations received and dozens of memorial luminaries displayed.

Sept.: Books-for-Kids – \$590 was reached from member donations to assist Shayna Gibbons and other teachers at SE Elementary School in providing every student in their classrooms with at least one Scholastic Book to read each month of the school year.

October: CROP Walk, Barry County- The Middleville Methodist Church was the host congregation last year but we had very few actual participants from Grace. We will need to review the relevance of this project for future participation. **Halloween Trunk-or-Treat** was again a fun-filled success for all involved. A total of 476 adults/children were “treated” with the help of 26 GLC volunteers and large donations of treats from our GLC members.

December: Christmas Food Basket and Gifts-We adopted 5 families totaling 11 adults and 13 children. The response from our congregation was wonderfully generous as it has always been and gifts and food baskets were delivered by Dec. 20th. **Giving Tree-**Member donations and a Thrivent grant helped accumulate a large assortment of school supplies, and clothing to donate to the Southeast Elementary school and the Alpha Women’s Center. **Daily Devotionals for Advent** were purchased with Outreach Committee funds.

February/March: Daily Devotionals for the Season of Lent-were purchased with Outreach Committee funds. **ELCA World Hunger Appeal:** Four mid-week Lenten dinners were designated to receive funds with the help of the Worship, Social Activities, Church Council and Outreach Committees. A total of \$500 was received.

April: Good Friday Cross Walk – The annual Cross Walk had 13 participants ranging in age from 7 to 80 years old.

January – December: Outreach Committee member Patti Comp serves as Grace’s coordinator of the **Hand-2-Hand** program which, along with several other community churches, provides meal items for school-age children for each weekend of the school year.

Additionally, Community Outreach funds were used to purchase **quarterly daily devotionals** for our members use and the **Chamber of Commerce annual dues**.

We made ample use of the **Thrivent Action Team** grant funds totaling \$1,500 to supplement our budgeted expenses for our various outreach projects this year.

As your Community Outreach Committee, we again wish to extend our sincere gratitude for the generous support so consistently provided by the members of Grace every year. Your faithful support of our programs and projects has truly been a blessing to us in order that we might in turn be a blessing to others.

Community Outreach Committee: Mike Kemper, chairperson; Patti Comp (council liaison); Kim Domke; Gary Golnek; Gwen Hansen, Amy Poholski and Pr. Ken Scheck

2024 North/West Lower Michigan Synod Assembly Report

-Bill Freedlund



The Northwest Michigan Synod Assembly met on May 11, 2024. The theme of this year's conference was "Salt, Light and Leaven". This year the meeting was held via Zoom instead of in person.

Four videos highlighting synod congregations and programs were viewed during the assembly. The videos showed various community involvement.

The churches presenting were:

Peace Lutheran - Gaylord
Trinity - Battle Creek
Trinity Lutheran - Grand Rapids
United Campus Fellowship - Grand Rapids

After the normal procedures approval the assembly approved the nominations for various positions that were up for vote. then we elected the nominations to the open positions. A note was made that the 2025 assembly will be electing the position of bishop. This will be an in person meeting in Mt Pleasant on May 18-20, 2025. The synod has the option of meeting every 3 years in person in order to defray additional costs.

Bishop Satterlee gave his report to the synod. He spoke of the theme for 2024 - Salt of the Earth- Light of the World and Leaven of the Kingdom. He thanked congregations for hard work during stressful times and reminded us that God's work does not return empty. We need to keep centered and on track. Sustainability of struggling congregations is a growing focus. Struggling congregations are encouraged to contact the synod office for guidance and options. The bishop gave thanks for disaster response and help through the World Hunger Program as this is a problem of major proportions. Congregations with youth are truly blessed and we need to provide a safe and welcoming place for our youth. He gave thanks for the various programs in place that add "leaven" to our synod. God acts in new ways but sometimes slow.

The assembly reviewed and voted to pass the new compensation guidelines for pastors. The synod guidelines include a good faith effort to bring salaries up to guidelines. The synod office stands ready to present ideas if needed. The treasurer's report was accepted and the new budget was reviewed and passed. The treasurer reported that the audit went very well and the synod is doing very well financially. 86% of income goes to programs and services.

To view the complete synod assembly program, election results and a complete report of the bishop you may go on line to [HTTP://www.mittensynod.org/events/assembly/](http://www.mittensynod.org/events/assembly/)

Bill Freedlund
Lorraine Freedlund

Rites Conducted

Baptisms: 0
New Members: 0
Confirmations: 0
First Communion: 1 Raylan Gibbons
Weddings: 0
Funerals: 4 Members: Donnal Buehl, Wes Gillons and Carolyn O'Connor
 Non-Members: Carleen Overholt

Congregation Membership Report

Members on Inactive List: 49
New members: 0
Members removed from roles: 4
Voting Membership Total as of June 30, 2024: 125

Congregation Statistical Report

Sunday Worship Averages for Four Fiscal Years

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 Views	2022-23 In Person	2023-24 Views	2023-24 In Person
July	131	115	88	62	188	54
August	168	95	126	48	214	48
September	150	94	140	55	250	54
October	163	102	209	64	246	52
November	197	97	246	62	312	52
December	213	138	245	63	304	72
January	208	151	321	55	367	41
February	181	142	229	54	286	45
March	207	134	262	55	382	50
April	234	207	456	68	429	46
May	157	164	219	59	351	56
June	140	195	209	62	365	51
Yearly Average	179	136	229	59	308	52

Acct #	Account Name	2023-24 Annual Budget Pro- posed	2024-25 An- nual Budget Proposed	% Change
5.100.051	Mortgage Payment	7,000.00	\$0.00	-100.0%
5.100.100	Office Supplies	4,225.00	\$5,300.00	25.4%
5.100.105	Kitchen Supplies	465.00	\$534.00	14.8%
5.100.110	Leased Office Equipment	3,975.00	\$3,624.00	-8.8%
5.100.200	Gas/Electric	14,850.00	\$14,000.00	-5.7%
5.100.210	Telephone/Web service	1,600.00	\$2,052.00	28.3%
5.100.220	Water/Sewer	650.00	\$800.00	23.1%
5.100.300	Building Maint/Repair	4,125.00	\$4,000.00	-3.0%
5.100.310	Insurance	5,172.00	\$5,172.00	0.0%
5.100.320	Custodial Supplies	1,200.00	\$1,200.00	0.0%
5.100.330	Lawncare/Snow Removal	1,100.00	\$1,000.00	-9.1%
5.100.400	Stewardship Committee	505.00	\$300.00	-40.6%
5.100.410	Indoor Décor Committee	0.00	\$0.00	
5.100.420	Social Activites Committee	0.00	\$0.00	
5.100.500	Music Instrument Maintenance	250.00	\$250.00	0.0%
5.200.100	Pastor's Salary	33,132.00	\$34,292.00	3.5%
5.200.105	Pastor's Housing Allowance	25,000.00	\$25,000.00	0.0%
5.200.110	Pastor's Auto Expense	4,125.00	\$4,125.00	0.0%
5.200.115	Pastor's SS Allowance	4,500.00	\$4,500.00	0.0%
5.200.120	Pastor's Hospital/Pension	49,980.00	\$49,980.00	0.0%
5.200.200	Minister of Youth & Faith	0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
5.200.250	Nursery Attendant	1,193.00	\$1,235.00	3.5%
5.200.300	Minister of Music	22,724.00	\$23,519.00	3.5%
5.200.305	Substitute Labor	0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
5.200.310	Choir accompanist	0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
5.200.315	Bell Choir Director	2,087.00	\$2,160.00	3.5%
5.200.390	Church Treasurer	0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
5.200.395	Financial Coordinator *	3,120.00	\$0.00	-100.0%
5.200.400	Parish Administrator *	12,480.00	\$16,146.00	29.4%
	* Note: Financial Coordinator and	Parish Admin-	istrator are	combined
5.200.405	Church accountant/auditor	3,600.00	\$3,600.00	0.0%
5.200.500	Custodians	2,876.00	\$2,976.66	3.5%
5.200.600	Substitute Ministers	750.00	\$750.00	0.0%
5.200.700	Employers FICA Account	3,072.00	\$3,072.00	0.0%
5.300.050	Assembly/Conference	700.00	\$400.00	-42.9%

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Acct #	Account Name	2023-24 Annual Budget Proposed	2024-25 Annual Budget Proposed	% Change
5.300.100	Worship Supplies	575.00	\$575.00	0.0%
5.300.115	Graceful Players	0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
5.300.120	Puppet Praise Ministries	0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
5.300.125	Vocal Choir	0.00	\$60.00	100.0%
5.300.130	Bell Choir	0.00	\$100.00	100.0%
5.300.140	Worship Committee	0.00	\$0.00	
5.400.400	Education Committee	0.00	\$0.00	0.0%
5.400.600	Pastor's Continuing Education	500.00	\$300.00	-40.0%
5.500.100	Synod/ELCA	10,000.00	\$5,000.00	
5.500.120	Living Water Ministry(LORMM)	100.00		
5.500.125	LSSM (Samaritas)	200.00		
5.500.135	Barry County Cares	100.00		
5.500.140	Habitat for Humanity	100.00		
5.500.145	Community Outreach Committee	800.00	\$975.00	21.9%
5.500.150	Small Groups	0.00	\$0.00	
Totals		226,831.00	\$216,997.66	-4.3%
Asking for donations to cover these expenses				
	Living Water Ministry(LORMM)	100.00		
	LSSM (Samaritas)	200.00		
	Barry County Cares	100.00		
	Habitat for Humanity	100.00		

Forecasted Revenue

\$198,164.00

Budget Shortfall

\$18,833.66

Nominee / Ballot 2024 Annual Meeting

Vice President _____ Jamie Heise

Treasurer _____ Randy Teegardin

There are four positions available for Council

_____ Erin Franks

_____ Greg Franks

_____ Gary Golnek

_____ Deb Watson

There are four positions for the 2025 Nominating Committee

_____ Gwen Hansen

_____ Paul Kuhlman

There is one male adult, one female adult, and one youth voting member position available for the 2025 Synod Assembly

_____ Lorraine Freedlund (female)

_____ Bill Freedlund (male)

_____ (youth)

Presented by 2024 Nominating Committee: Vickey Argo, Gwen Hansen, Jamie Heise, Paul Kuhlman, and Tim Schoessel