

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 2017 Council Goals

*It is the Mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
To Glorify God, To Grow in Faith, To Give in Service, Together in Christ*

❖ Council 2017 Goals:

➤ Community Events:

- Goal: Continue to plan and host events intended to invite the community into the church building, and once there help them feel comfortable and welcomed, and as if there would be a reason to come back again. Events should be fun, interesting, and easy for current members to invite their friends and neighbors to.
- Completed:
 - Dedication Service and Celebration of Grace Lutheran Church's completed building project. (FEB 2017)
 - Stitch In (March 2017)
- Upcoming:
 - Roll and Stroll (MAY 2017)
 - Offer Space to Borough to use during construction of new Complex. (MAY 2017)
 - 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Church (Reformation) to increase the congregations understanding of the Lutheran Faith, and Martin Luther himself. (9 Cluster Events planned between not and December 2017) Grace is Hosting Worship (AUGUST 2017)
 - Blue Mass and banquet honoring local firefighters, soldiers, police and other who protect us.
 - Offer space to Chamber of Commerce (???)
 - Offer space to Rotary (???)
 - Offer space to Kiwanis (???)

➤ Stewardship/Capital Campaign

- Goal: Promote the understanding of Stewardship by encouraging and educating the council as well as the congregation.
- Completed:
- Upcoming:
 - Kirby-Smith Capital Campaign (APPROVAL PENDING MAY 2017)

➤ Review and Support of Current Programs

- Goal: A comprehensive look at the program currently running with special focus to be given to:
 - Christian Education – this should focus on people of all ages
 - Worship - More fun and engaging, include a great variety of music that could appeal to a larger number of people, explore the idea of moving to one worship, and the pros and cons of communion every Sunday.
 - Stepping Stones – Grace need to do better about showing up for their stuff and not just expect them to show up for ours.
- Completed:
 - Christian Education Team has met once to organize. Renamed Christian Connections Committee.
- Upcoming:
 - Stepping Stones Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day (MAY 2017)

➤ **Inclusive Changes**

- Goals: Take steps to becoming a welcoming and affirming church for people from all walks of life. Including and welcoming people of other races (esp. the Korean Church), and people of other sexual orientations (Gay Marriage). Making accommodations that will make all people feel more welcome, for example providing a grape juice alternative at communion.
- Completed:
 - We Need to Talk letter in Newsletter and in Grace Notes to begin opening dialogue. (April 2017)
 - Combined worship at Easter with the Calvary Korean that went very well.
- Upcoming:
 - Worship and Music asked to explore Grape Juice Alternative. (May 2017)

❖ **OTHER SUGGESTIONS NOT CATEGORIZED**

- Welcome New People into the Congregation and help them get adjusted
 - One good idea is to create mechanism for current families to sponsor new members and potential members.
- Update of the Constitution (Tom Salter would likely head up a team of people to work on this)
- Update of the Child Protection Policy (Stepping Stones could likely take the lead on this and we could adapt as necessary)