



Annual Reports for 2022

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Hatfield, Pennsylvania

January 29, 2023

It is the Mission of Grace Lutheran Church:

**To Glorify God
To Grow in Faith
To Give in Service
Together in Christ**



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting Agenda

January 29, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.

Prelude: Grace History Trivia

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

Annual Congregational Meeting: Opening Liturgy

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the way Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community and Christlike ways, and pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from his failures, as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness, and reconciliation is given to us, through God's indescribable act of love and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other, and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling,
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860
 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897

AGENDA: January 29, 2023

Meeting called to order

President Bob Smyrl

Confirmation of Quorum

Approval of Minutes from January 2022 Annual Meeting

2022: The Year in Review and remembering those who have gone before

Pastor Raabe

Treasurer's Report

Tami Sarm, Treasurer, Bob Smyrl, Finance Chair

Words of Appreciation for Outgoing Council Members

New Council Member Nominations and Election

President Bob Smyrl

- Election to first term
- Election to second term

Questions on Written Reports

Cemetery Business

Cemetery Board Chair Bob Reilly

Gift of Time Recognition

Pastor Raabe

The Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

REPORTS

Pastor's Report for 2022

Dearly beloved members of Grace,

Time, in human experience, is such a variable thing – which in a way is amusing, because time itself proceeds at the same pace no matter what. Consider Jesus' life up to about age 30. He was born to great fanfare and showered with gifts. We then hear a brief episode about him teaching in the temple at age 12. Then we have no word from the record of scripture until his baptism at the Jordan.

What was life like for Jesus during those years, between the ages of 12 and 30? Did time seem to move slowly? He must have had some awareness of his stature as God's Son, but he probably spent the years quietly, praying, studying the Torah, memorizing the psalms, learning the craft of carpentry from his father Joseph.

Then time became compressed. First John the Baptist emerged onto the scene with his fiery preaching, inciting legions on to be baptized as an act of repentance in preparation for the coming of the Messiah. Hordes massed at the banks of the Jordan. The crowds stretched as far as the eye could see. Into this wild scene strode Jesus demanding to be baptized just as the others had been, John first resisting and then complying as he fully submerged the one whose sandals he didn't even feel worthy to carry.

As Jesus broke the water God's voice rained down, and just as quickly he found himself being led (the verb also means *launched*, as a sailboat) by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where he endured unimaginable temptations. Immediately from there he called his first disciples. After 28 years of not much happening, what a whirlwind it was for him in the space of just six weeks!

I don't get the impression that time has ever seemed to move slowly here at Grace. Perhaps it has to do with your eventful history, with pastoral transitions that were sometimes difficult and heartbreaking, to recovery from the fire's calamity with all that was required of you.

Through the midst of this, though, you have continued to hear the call of discipleship just as Jesus first issued it: "Follow me." This call comes from one who is neither a rabbi calling for pupils, or a revolutionary calling for adherents, but from he who summons us to share in the reality of the kingdom of heaven – the new reality that is here, in which those swaggering under overabundance are dethroned and those hungering and thirsting at the margins are lifted up to the center of God's concern. How fitting that this will be the Gospel message on the day of our Annual Meeting this year!

For me also, as I move through my second year as your pastor, time has never moved slowly. Pastoral acts in 2022 included receiving nine new members, leading four

funerals—one for longtime Grace member Dolores McGlinchey, two for extended Grace family members and one for a Hatfield resident—and one baptism. I do my best to stay in touch with our homebound members and attend most team meetings.

Gratifying projects we've completed together include our new landscaping, an improved livestream production, and our "Abundance" banners in conjunction with the Giving to God fall pledge party. I experimented in 2022 with online worship, including Morning Prayer and Compline (Night Prayer); in doing these I came to a new understanding of the possibilities of worshipping as a gathered community in virtual space. As a member of the Indian Valley Cluster of ELCA churches, Grace shared services to mark Ascension and Epiphany and enjoyed good fellowship that followed each.

With the Communication team I spearheaded redesigns of the website and our monthly newsletter and launched an electronic version of Grace Notes for easy reading on mobile devices. I have occasional columns in the Lansdale Reporter and discovered that they will print our worship schedule whenever I submit it. I have also enjoyed livening up the messages on our church signs with the help of our Sunday School youth and their bright sayings. Send me any uplifting, pithy church sign sayings that you come up with!

I used my continuing education weeks fruitfully at Valparaiso and Princeton Universities. Last summer I began serving on the Synod's worship team, for whom I helped plan and play for services at Synod events in November and January.

I thank God for Lynn and Kevin and for the dedication of all involved in our music and worship ministries. Enjoy reading in these pages about all our wonderful ministry teams. I thank God for each of them and pray that I can be as supportive as possible. If you are looking for another point of entry into our life here, I am sure that any of these teams would warmly welcome you. Youth/Family and Family and Special Events (parties, special receptions, casual gatherings) are two areas I would love to see emerge at Grace this year in a more focused way. If you have ideas for our life here at Grace, please share them with me! I'll take them to Council and together we'll find ways to make those happen. There is new life around every corner.

In the wake of our granddaughter Callie's birth earlier this month, this quote came to mind – of which, prophetically, Cathy Farrell reminded us in a recent yoga class:

There are only two ways to live your life.

One is as though nothing is a miracle.

The other is as though everything is a miracle. -- Albert Einstein

I look forward eagerly to all the miracles that this year has in store for us.

In Christ's love,

Pasta Nanny Raabe

Report From Council

Council Members: Bob Smyrl, President; Jaime Kaler, Vice President; Laura Kratz, Secretary; Tami Sarm, Treasurer; Joyce Salter, Rich Woltmann, Jean Schaffer, Jeff Krout, Cathy Farrell, Don Capanear

Council meets the third Tuesday of the month beginning promptly at 7:00 PM. An option exists for members to join the meeting by Zoom and participate based on health restrictions. Throughout the month, Council members communicate with one another through emails to stay abreast of any emerging issues. Congregation members are welcome to come observe and/or address Council at the beginning of Council meetings.

At the start of 2022, we were still facing the effects of COVID-19 and dealing with the restrictions and safety precautions as a result of the pandemic. Among some of the other items Council, with the significant help of the committees and other volunteers, has addressed and accomplished during the 2022 church year are:

- Review of the Endowment & Bequest funds to update and clarify the handling of funds and use of those funds as well as the investment of any funds.
- Participation in the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build that included the construction of four new affordable homes in Hatfield on Cowpath Road.
- The clean out, water damage and eventual sale of the 22 N Main Street property that had been held as a rental property for many years.
- The move back from one COVID restricted service to our regular two service format.
- Completion of the Employee Retention Credit refund as well as the spending of a portion of those funds to update the website, improve our livestream, update the landscaping on Broad Street and add our celebration banners.
- Address the state of the building at 30 N Main Street and make recommendations to rehabilitate that building to prepare for a new tenant by using a portion of the 22 N Main Street proceeds.
- Update of the Warming Center (post COVID) procedures and develop a Taskforce to see that ministry come to fruition.
- Update ushers & other worship servers' procedures and facilitate the offering of CPR and AED training to all Grace members.

During 2023, Council will again be working on leadership issues to encourage and develop new leaders. We need more and new members of Council and all our committees. This year will be an exciting one for Grace and we look forward to working with all the Committees, Pastor, and our members to make it the best one yet.

Bob Smyrl

Council President

Congregational Meeting Minutes, 2021 Annual Meeting: January 30, 2022

Peggy Schmidt called the meeting to order at 11:16am.

Thanked everyone for staying. Stated there is a quorum.

Pastor Raabe thanked Peggy for her service at Grace. Pastor led devotions and spoke of "HOPE." Asked what is one way to share hope? Yellow cards were handed out for members to jot down one way to share this.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Barb Watts and seconded by Tami Sarm. All in favor. Motion passed. Jaime Kaler was thanked for all the work she did as Secretary.

Tami Sarm, Treasurer's Report: The 2020 Annual Report from the Finance Committee included notes about the PPP Loan that was secured. The Finance Team completed all the necessary documentation and steps and that loan was forgiven in 2021. That was a great help in keeping Grace and Stepping Stones open during the Pandemic. Worship schedules were restricted and only "normal" for a few weeks of the year, our giving for the year was \$159,991. Which was lower than our budgeted General Giving of \$170,000. Total expenses for the year were \$307,051. Which were impacted by additional safety measures needed for Covid. For the year 2021, Grace had a deficit of \$59,853.

The Congregation, a general mortgage, and the giving of \$251,400. This is an increase and will require giving growth from current and new members. Budgeted expenses grew slightly to \$313,973.

Bob Smyrl: Used \$10,000 of Beeler Fund money. Rainy Day Fund Money is \$9,853.00.
Kevin Freaney- Is Beeler Fund money taken out not to be replenished?
Don Capanear- A fund designated (as a bequest) once used is gone.

Thank you to Tami Sarm and Tom Salter for working on the financials.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Motion by Don Capanear and Jaime Kaler.

New Council Nomination: Election to first term- Cathy Farrell and Don Capanear. Motion by Karen Seiler and Kay Stone. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Re-election second term of 3 years: Laura Kratz. Motion by Diane Ball and Ken Seiler. All in favor. Motion passed. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Peggy: Thanked Carol MacDonald and Joanne Moyer who both served six years plus an extra year on council.

Call Committee Team Recognition: Members were each presented with a gift bag.

Altar Guild Recognition: Members were presented with a gift bag.

Questions on written reports provided by teams? None.

Cemetery business, Bob Reilly: After seven years there has not been a price increase. Nominal amount for our members. Forefathers thought ahead to put money aside in perpetual care. Prices \$200 to \$250 for members and \$600 to \$800 for non-members. Increase will be effective after reviewing other Churches' cemetery prices and will report to Council.

Laura Kratz five-year term Cemetery Board. Motion was made by Bob Reilly and seconded by Jaime Kaler, All in Favor. Motion passed.

Gift of Time Recognition:
Crystal Tula and Tom Salter

New Business

Potential Organ Replacement:

Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music: Since September has been concerned about our forty-year old organ. Overheats. Major decision. Looking into options. Looking into electronic organs. Has looked at an organ someone wants to sell. Allen organs are good. Prices could be \$10,000 to \$50,000. May need to cut a check quickly if it is a good deal. Kevin- There are cheaper versions. All organs are good. Would like to find one around \$30,000 to \$40,000. May need a fund and or donation.

Peggy- May need to make a purchase quickly. Want to be transparent when using money from the Beeler Fund. Hope individuals will donate to an organ fund. Looking at one year.

Tom Salter: Constitution Changes. By-law changes to clarify spending from the Beeler Fund. Congregational approval would be needed for large expenditures. Motion by Tom Salter to accept this addition to the by-laws and seconded by Bob Reilly. All in favor. Motion passed.

Motion by Bob Reilly to allocate \$25,000 from Beeler Fund to be used for the organ seconded by Don Capanear. All in favor. Motion passed.

Pastor Raabe: Reminder to fill out yellow cards share HOPE 2022.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Micah Slugg seconded by Wyeth Slugg. All in favor. Motion was approved.
Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Kratz
Council Secretary

Finance Committee Report 2022

While worship schedules basically returned to “normal” for most of the year, attendance and giving were still affected. Our giving for the year was \$172,482.40 which is lower than our budgeted General Giving of \$175,000. Our total expenses for the year were \$304,266.12 which were lower than budgeted (\$314,649.20). For the year 2022, Grace had a deficit of \$16,419.69.

For 2023, the congregation approved a general, mortgage and other giving budget of \$251,400, This is an increase over last year and will require giving growth from our current and new members. Additionally, our budgeted expenses grew slightly to \$313,959.

For 2022, we made total mortgage payments of \$46,440 which lowered our principal balance on our building from \$618,062 to \$595,168.01.

The Finance team also made several changes to accounts. We met with our Thrivent advisor and identified that the Thrivent High Yield account was not in line with our investment & savings goals and so transferred that money to another Thrivent account that better meets our needs and goals – the Thrivent Moderate Allocation Fund (TMAF). The TMAF invests in a mix of equities (65%) and fixed income (35%). The team liquidated the Univest Stock shares, and the proceeds will be put into a 25-month CD at Univest. Finally, \$100,000 of the proceeds from the sale of 22 N Main was put into a 7-month CD at Univest at an interest rate of 3.5%.

Rental Property Update

During 2022, as instructed by the congregation, the property at 22 N Main Street was sold. We accepted an offer of \$255,000. After costs and repayment of the mortgage on that property, the net proceeds were \$200,179.52.

The tenants of 30 N Main Street notified us that they would be terminating their lease and plans to renovate and update the building have been in progress. The congregation approved spending up to \$100,000 to rehabilitate that building. Improvements are currently in progress. No rent is expected from this property before July 1, 2023.

2022 Annual Report from our Minister of Music

In the Fall I started a music ministry for kids. This new opportunity is something available to any of our kids each Sunday after the 10:30am worship, called "Jump into Music". We've seen anywhere from 3-8 kids share in this time. The goal is to give kids a chance to express interest in music and learn making music together as a group. They have learned melodies and chords and have played hand chimes in worship. Their music was a highlight at the 4pm Christmas Eve service when they played Silent Night. As we continue in the new year, I hope to have the kids share some of their abilities and interest in musical instruments they play at school. Because the age ranges vary within the group, I have ways to include anyone with any skill, so all are welcome.

The choir meets each week before worship but also has a schedule for Wednesday afternoon rehearsals about twice a month. As leaders of song, the group's focus is on worship hymns and anthems which vary from familiar melodies to learning music in 2 or 3 voice parts. We ended the year by learning 4 new anthems for Advent and Christmas.

One that the group really enjoyed learning was an anthem called "Prepare the Way of the Lord" which featured a couple vocal soloists. At the time of preparing this report, we literally just sang as part of a combined choir of almost 50 singers on January 8th for the Indian Valley Cluster Epiphany Service at Grace. If you missed it, the entire service is on YouTube. It was a wonderful experience for us all.

Our Church has much support for music. We've seen and heard our new organ which continues to make a remarkable contribution to worship in playing our hymns, preludes and postludes. I really love the new organ and hope you do, too. We also have been able to make use of our handbells in worship! It's been a while since they were played because they needed some repair. Rather than have them refurbished at this time, we were able to acquire repair kits to get the bells in working order. What a blessing that has been.

In working with Pastor Raabe, we included quite a bit of newer hymns and service music but we do realize it's important to keep very familiar music as part of worship. We

musicians tend to get very excited about new music. I think you know that I listen carefully to your thoughts and interests so I'll be careful to keep most of our music more familiar. But again, Grace has two music composers. Pastor is a published music composer and I love to write music, too. We literally never stop talking about music! We meet each week to review and plan together. I really enjoy our work together and it's been a great opportunity to pray and care for our ministries and all those whom we serve, you!

Kevin Freaney

Grace Property Team Annual Report - 2022

2022 Grace Property Team members included Jeff Krout, Bob Reilly, Barry Moyer, Bruce Schmidt, Frank Stone. 2023 will see the addition of Zach Plawa to our team.

Highlights of 2022 include:

1. Repair/replacement of flashing spotlight and 3 down lights in chandeliers.
2. Removal of dead trees in Community Garden and at 30 N Main St.
3. Replace plexiglass in outdoor signs.
4. Replace faucets in some of the restrooms.
5. Replace sanctuary roof.
6. Replace railroad tie edging of playground.
7. Perform maintenance of fire alarm system including battery replacement.
8. Begin repair and upgrade of 30 N Main Street house.

2023 Projects and Issues

1. Complete upgrade of 30 N Main St to prepare for rental.
2. Cost controls for all properties in light of rising costs.
3. Repair of parking lot.

Please help the Property Team by alerting one of us of needed repairs and property issues. We also welcome ideas for new upgrades to our facilities.

2022 Worship and Music Annual Report

The Worship and Music Team meets each month to plan worship services, organize worship servers, plan music for worship, organize various activities including special events, decorate the church for special seasons of the church year, and order worship supplies.

Each of our team members organizes these various activities:

- Pastor Raabe shares her ideas and plans for worship with the team.
- Kevin Freaney, our Minister of Music, plans the anthems, hymns, and other music for Sunday worship services as well as leads choir practice twice a month. He also has a youth group that is learning to play the hand chimes.
- Emily Woltmann oversees the Altar Guild whose members prepare communion, change the paraments, and maintain the candles. Emily also orders the supplies needed and takes care of other worship items.
- Rich Woltmann is our council representative and brings items to our meetings from Council.
- Kathy Stawasz organizes the servers for our worship services. Kathy also orders the altar flowers, the lilies for Easter and the poinsettias for Christmas.
- Kay Stone is the team leader, plans the agenda for the team meetings and prepares the minutes.
- Don Capanear represents the members who attend the 8 am services and adds valuable insight to the team.
- Frank and Kay Stone change the banners that are used at the front of the sanctuary.

In January and February, Pastor suggested new various forms of worship – online and in person to offer choices for people. Our team started preparing for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Kevin continued his search for an organ. He found an inexpensive “back-up” organ, just in case our present organ stops working. It was decided that it was time to return the hymnals to the chairs so we can use them.

In February, Kevin found a new organ at a reasonable price. New speakers were added at the back of the church. We continued to navigate communion through the COVID virus. Prefilled cups were used through March. As of March 20th, we removed the mandatory mask policy. We also decided to return to continuous communion with members coming forward to receive the bread and wine. However, collecting the offering continued to be at the door.

Lenten services were held at Grace each week at 7:30 pm. Coffee hour returned between the two worship services and following the 10:30 am service. Palm Sunday and Easter brought more people to church since 2020!! Palm Sunday 79 people attended the two services and Easter 109 people attended.

In June we discussed and surveyed the congregation about continuing the 9:15 am service for the remainder of the year. We made a recommendation to Council, however Council decided after much discussion, that we should return to two services in September.

Four summer picnics were held in July and August. Preparations were made to dedicate the new organ in October. Ministry Fair was held in September. Our worship service continued to be revised to reflect our services before COVID. Communion returned to the altar area rather than continuous.

In November we had a breakfast meeting for worship servers. We updated some procedures for worship and stressed safety issues. A new first aid kit was purchased. We prepared for the Advent Season.

December arrived and we had much planning to do for the Christmas Eve services and decorating the church for the Christmas Season. We held three services on Dec. 24th at 4 pm, 6:30 pm and 9 pm. Approximately 182 people attended these three services as well as the 10:30 am service on Christmas Day.

We thank Pastor Raabe for her leadership through another challenging and ever-changing year. We are grateful for Kevin and his creative abilities to provide music for worship. Also, we thank Harold Schaefer and Dan and Tami Sarm for their amazing work to provide worship online for those who are unable to attend in-person worship.

Members of Worship and Music: Pastor Raabe, Kevin Freaney, Kathy Stawasz, Rich Woltmann, Emily Woltmann, Don Capanear and Kay Stone

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Stone

Grace's Christian Education Programs 2022

Sunday School: We were back in person for Sunday school in 2022. We continue to have a small but dedicated group of students from kindergarten - 7th grade that attend on a regular basis. Teens from the congregation regularly join us to encourage and support the learning of the younger students. Laura Slugg leads the large group activity each week and then students split by age between Matthew Slugg and Charlie Roney for small group discussion and activities. Our curriculum focused on the New Testament.

Youth: The youth hosted two fundraisers as part our pledge to raise \$2,500 for the Habitat/Faith Build house on Cowpath Rd. The birdhouse silent auction and the Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner were a big success and we look forward to doing that again this spring. With those, plus online giving, we ended up exceeding our pledge.

Communication Team 2022

The team is concerned with sharing information internally and externally about what is going on at Grace—making sure church members are well informed about what is happening, and getting news of Grace’s activities out into the world.

After Bonnie Stangl’s departure in May, we have been meeting on a quarterly basis or more often as needed. We confer frequently by email and deal with issues as they arise.

The team has been helpful, for example, in strategizing and evaluating the Parish News and website redesigns. Ongoing work includes a true team effort in setting up and posting the livestream link for worship each week: Harold creates the link, Laura posts it on Facebook and Pastor Raabe puts in on the website. We also keep track of the livestream views and report those for Grace Notes each week.

The team warmly thanks Dan and Tami Sarm for all they have done for the livestream this year. We are hoping for more livestream assistants who will allow them to sit out in the congregation again, and welcome anyone to this team who is technologically minded or who has expertise in the area of publications and especially web design.

Respectfully submitted by Harold Schaefer, Laura Slugg, and Pastor Raabe

INReach 2022

Caring for Grace members with Christian love during life’s challenging times

INReach in 2022 started off planning for the Soupathon which has been on-going now for four years, and keeps raising more money each year! The team works so well together and everyone has helped make all events a success. The care and concern of Grace’s members has been the number one focus of the team. The loss of Dolores McGlinchey, one of the Homebound members, was upsetting and we also had a member move to England to begin a new chapter in her life. The team has also done a lot more meal trains for congregation members going through challenging times whether it be groceries or dinner meals. The team was great at stepping up and going out of their way for others.

In 2022, our energetic and compassionate team members, along with many wonderful Grace volunteers, came together often to collaborate, mourn, connect, and celebrate in the following ways:

- **Soupathon-** In February and November, soup was made by members of the church, then sold to the congregation to help raise money for the

Wagner House/Welcoming Center. Leftover soup was also distributed to Homebound members or anyone in need of a meal.

- **Packages for Lent-** Packages had a Palm Cross (provided by Pastor), Blanket (Cub Scouts made), Soup, Word of the Season, Rejoice booklets (provided by INReach team). The packages were delivered to Homebound members by Pastor and the team.
- **Rides for those in need-** Emily organized rides for members who needed help getting to places whether doctor's appointments or physical therapy. She was there to make sure no one missed anything!
- **Call network-** Team focused on making sure monthly calls were made to Homebound members to check up on or to see if any needs arose.
- **Meal train-** Carol coordinated meals for those in need throughout the year. During Grace's Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for the Faith Build, Peggy Schmidt bought 11 meals for the Homebound, and the team helped to deliver them to those members.
- **Sweets for Sharing-** In conjunction with WELCA who supplied Christmas cards for Homebound members. The team made over 30 cookie tins which were handed out to members of Grace, Stepping Stones, Sunday School teachers and staff members.
- **Sunshine Boxes-** Fay thoughtfully makes boxes for those in need to bring some cheer.

It was great to have a strong year of support from everyone on the team to make sure the needs of all the congregation were met. I am happy that the INReach team is growing with two new members, Lisa and Ashley, and cannot wait to see what 2023 will bring. Carol MacDonald will be taking the team over in the new year. Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who have gone out their way to care for others!

The Team meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00PM, at Grace.

INReach Team Members: Lisa Boyer, Kay Deussing, Lou Farrell, Carol MacDonald, Ashley Plawa, Tami Sarm, Bruce Schmidt, Jean Shaffer (Secretary), Kay Stone, Crystal Tula (Team Leader), Barb Watts, Sue Weiland, Emily Woltmann, Fay Younger

Respectfully submitted – Crystal Tula

Giving In Service 2022

The Giving In Service Team continues our mission of supporting local agencies in our area. Your generosity for all these projects was wonderful. You have touched countless lives through your continued support of all our OUTreach projects.

- *January and February* We collected funds for **Laurel House**, a Montgomery County center for abused women and their children. Gift cards were purchased and given to the agency for distribution to their clients. These gift cards allowed mothers to shop for the necessary supplies they needed for their families. Your gifts of **\$475** allowed us to purchase 19 gifts cards.
- *February* We began our **Rice Bowl** project which benefited three agencies. We shared our funds with *The Food Cupboard* at Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church in Hatfield, which provides needed food to those in our area, *Manna on Main Street*, a Lansdale food service for the less fortunate in our area, and *the World Hunger Appeal* through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Your gifts in 2022 to the Rice Bowl totaled **\$2255**.
- *May* We held our annual **Mother's Day Carnation Sale** to honor and remember all mothers. We had our pink and white carnations for sale but also sunflowers in support of the people of Ukraine. We supported the ELCA's Disaster Relief fund for Ukraine refugees displaced to Eastern European countries.
- *September* We helped those in need of food by celebrating **Harvest Home Sunday**. Our gifts were shared with *the Hatfield Food Cupboard* at our neighboring church, Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church, and with *Manna on Main Street* in Lansdale. In addition, through the Harvest Home offering envelopes we contributed funding to World Hunger through the ELCA project.
- *October* The North Penn Area **Crop Walk** was held the week of Oct. 10th. The walk returned to Trinity Lutheran Church and people walked outside. Jean Shaffer and Kathy Stawasz walked and raised a record total of **\$1555** for CROP!!
- *November and December* Our **Adopt-A-Family** project was held. All of you shopped for four families in the Hatfield area. Grace members did a wonderful job selecting special gifts for each member of our families. Our Scout group also participated in our project and purchased gifts for two additional families. Also, Al Lund and those who work in his office, shopped for another family. We were able to help 7 families experience a Christmas filled with joy. Thrivent Financial through an Action Team Project provided \$250 in extra funds for our team to help our families. In addition to shopping for gifts for our families, we also collected donations for angel gifts to go to families. These angel gifts contained household and hygiene items that families cannot purchase with food stamps. We also collected 127 pairs of socks for the men and women that are feed by Bread Drop. The bags of gifts, angel gifts, and socks were delivered in time for Christmas.

The **Food Cupboard** project is year-round. Food for the Hatfield Food Cupboard is collected continually. Several of our members help at the Food Cupboard by shelving food, checking dates on food items, and serving as volunteers during distribution of food. Carol and Paul MacDonald organize the food gifts from Grace and deliver them to the Food Cupboard.

Thank you for your participation and support of all the projects that our team sponsors, including those not mentioned that are ongoing throughout the calendar year. Only with your generous help do we accomplish our mission at Grace of ***Giving in Service***.

Our team meets four times a year or as needed to accomplish our projects. Our meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

The Giving In Service Team

Jean Shaffer, Diane Ball, Mary Jane Moyer, Carol MacDonald, Barbara Watts, Kay Deussing, Ashley Groff and Kay Stone

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Stone

Giving to God Team 2022

2022 has continued to see changes at Grace, with us moving back to in-person worship, a much improved livestreaming service, and so many wonderful activities to bring us back together as a community of faith. Under Pastor Raabe's leadership, the Stewardship team name was changed in the fall of 2021 to better describe what we do, and thought the "Giving to God" Team seemed to capture what we believe we are called to do. The Giving to God Team focuses on our time, talent and treasures that we share at Grace, with special focus on these projects:

- Order and organize our **Giving** through the weekly envelope program and our electronic giving. Some members prefer electronic giving, and we have made that easier to do by providing information on our website, and setting up more ways to give through credit cards, mobile devices and texting. We know that many members prefer giving through envelopes, and that will continue. We have seen requests by members to give electronically, and are heading the call to make that easier.
- **Grateful Grace Project**: Each January we encourage giving to the Grateful Grace Project to help others who have experienced a fire or natural disaster such as we did in 2011 when we lost our original church building to a devastating fire. The Grateful Grace gifts collected in 2022 were sent to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Levittown, NY, after they suffered a devastating fire. For 2023, our Grateful Grace gifts

will go to Beaver Valley Lutheran Church in Valley Springs, SD, which sustained significant damage due to a tornado in May 2022. Please know that your gifts to this project are very much appreciated by the recipient churches.

- **Fall Giving campaign** – We continue to encourage giving to strengthen our individual faith, to give thanks for what we have each been given, and to support Grace’s mission in the church, community, and the world. The 2022 fall campaign was a success as many members provided financial commitments through the pledge cards. We prepared a brochure explaining ways to give, and answered questions that are sometimes hard to articulate or ask about our individual financial giving. We had a total of 33 cards completed (as compared with 17 cards in fall 2021), for a total commitment of \$128,500. Seven cards returned did not indicate an amount, but affirmed their continued commitment. Thanks to all for the success of this year’s campaign.
- Encourage members to give of their **Time and Talents** to support the ongoing ministries of Grace, of which there are many. If you are looking for a way to become more involved in Grace’s ministries, we encourage you to speak with Pastor, a council member, or any of our team members.
- Organizing **Temple Talks** throughout the year to share the opportunities available to serve and support our church, our community and the organizations that support many of the underserved around us.

We hope you have noticed the Abundant Blessings banners on the Broad Street side of the Fellowship Hall. The idea for these banners was to let people know that Grace is here, and grateful for our abundant blessing and generosity. We look forward to serving you in 2023, exploring what it means to share our time, ourselves, and our gifts in response to God’s amazing gifts to each of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Giving to God Team - Wendy Walter, Jaime Kaler, Ken Seiler, Pastor Raabe

HEART Team 2022

The mission of the **HEART** team is to connect Grace to our local communities. Throughout the year we accomplished this through a variety of ways.

Our biggest undertaking is the Hatfield Christmas Tree Lighting where we partner with Cub Pack 510 and Hatfield Borough to offer a “Hallmark” moment for the residents of the local community. The day begins with Pet Pictures with Santa, followed by a hot dog, chips and cookie buffet. Philly Espresso provides coffee and hot chocolate. Cub Pack 510 organizes the games that entertain the many children and adults that attend. At the

appointed hour, the Pack leads the group to the tree lighting where we provide music, the Christmas story and Santa. This event connects everyone in joyous celebration.

This year we experimented with a Music Café and ukulele lessons. We have more work to do on this, but it has showed promising results.

Our Used Book Sale brought in additional revenues for the generator and the Welcome (Warming) Center. The books are now organized on a bookcase in the Meeting Room for anyone to take one home. Additional books will be placed in the Welcome (Warming) Center in the Wagner House. Stitchers also sold books to make additional revenues for the generator fund.

Stitchers continues to meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm. The number varies on who attends but there are both Grace members and non-members. We did not host a fall Stitch In because of conflicts but we are hoping to offer a full day spring one to make up for it.

In regard to the Welcome Center, we participated in the new Task Force that is establishing procedures and policies that will be implemented on its opening.

Stepping Stones Annual Report 2022/2023

The time has come for the annual year-end report to reflect on the year we've come through and to look forward to the end of the school year and what a year it's been thus far. Stepping Stones has been growing and evolving into a fully staffed center busting at the seams with beautiful babies!

Stepping Stones Daycare is open from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm. The **Nursery School** is no longer part of the Stepping Stones program due to lack of interest. This will continue to be evaluated annually to ensure that we are still meeting the needs of the community.

Our **Daycare** has Five classrooms/age groups during the school year and offers a Summer Camp for ages 6-10.

(Infants) Little Lambs: Age 6 weeks to age 1; steady walking and off the bottle

(Transitional Toddlers) Tiny Turtles: Age 1; steady walking and off the bottle to age 2

(Two's) Busy Bees: Age 2-3 and potty trained

(Preschool) Fantastic Frogs: Ages 3-4

(Pre-K) Perky Penguins: Ages 4-6 These children will be going to Kindergarten in the Fall of 2023

(Summer Camp) Dancing Dinosaurs: Ages 6-10 These children join us for a 10 week Summer Program only

Our Stepping Stones Committee includes Jean Delmuto and Beth Krout as co-chairs, Karen Seiler, Laura Kratz, Tom Salter, Pastor Raabe, and Jessica Moran (center director). We meet monthly, in person, and discuss updates to policies, changes within the school, and anything and everything Stepping Stones. The Stepping Stones Committee has also been available as necessary to Jessica to discuss, problem solve, and come together over immediate needs of the center which has been instrumental as we still move through the growing pains of coming out of the pandemic.

As of January 2023 our in-house Daycare enrollment is at 40 children with a waitlist totaling over 75 children across all age groups. There are also 7 children pre-enrolled for Stepping Stones to enter the program in the year of 2023.

Last year we added our new daycare software, Brightwheel, and we're seeing amazing things coming from this software after our first full year of use. As parents came back into the building, as we de-masked, and as policies needed to revise with incoming requirements, Brightwheel helped us stay caught up and connected with our families and then even helped us get and stay ahead by automating our billing, tax forms, and making communication with teachers as easy as sending a text message through the system. It's been an absolute game changer for us.

I can't wait to see what's in store for Grace and for Stepping Stones in 2023 and I can't wait to share it with all of you! Thank you for taking this journey with us!

Jessica Moran, Director

Annual Report for WELCA 2022

WELCA meets from September to June. Our committee does cards for our Homebound members for various holidays. In June we made up bags of snacks and bottles of water for the National Guard that were in training at the Willow Grove Naval Base. In December, WELCA and the INREACH committee, with the assistance of the congregation, collected Christmas cards, notepads and cookies to go to our Homebound members. This year our secretary, Bonnie Stangl, left our committee because she moved nearer to her daughter. Also, Crystal Tula left due to a new job. We now have a new secretary who is Mary Jane Moyer. New members are always welcome.

Our members are: Kay Deussing, Mary Jane Moyer, Lisa Boyer, Pastor Raabe, Sue Rowbottom, Mabel Hoepfl, Sue Price and Joyce Salter.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Watts, President

Bread Drop Annual Report, 2022



Bread Drop continues to be a successful ministry that meets its goal of feeding hungry people. We now serve Montgomery, Bucks, Philadelphia and Delaware counties. Additionally, groups in Ridley Park, PA and Cherry Hill, NJ have adopted our model and are bringing food into their areas. It is exciting that the Bread Drop formula has been adapted by Echo Fine Properties in Jupiter, FLA to bring relief following Hurricane Ian. In the weeks after the storm Echo drove over 30,000 PB&Js across Florida feeding thousands before FEMA had the opportunity to organize food aid.

2022 marks the year where Bread Drop came into full partnership with Emmanuel's E-Meal Ministry, providing a regional component to their work and sharing funding, staff and equipment. In fact, it is unlikely that Bread Drop would have continued without this pairing. In July of 2022 Bread Drop's director, Lou Farrell, suffered a health crisis that necessitated immediate hospitalization. Without missing a week of deliveries, the E-Meal staff led by Ann Marie Heidgerd continued collections and deliveries. Since then, Brian Wilson has taken charge of daily operations making it possible for the ministry to thrive. It is expected that Lou Farrell will return in some capacity later in 2023.

While we say that Bread Drop is not "in the clothing business," we have had the opportunity to distribute coats, sneakers, boots, socks, gloves and hand-knitted hats. Connections with other social service agencies help us know which groups can get these supplies directly to the people who need them most. Currently, Bread Drop distributes almost 2,000 sandwiches weekly along with snack bags, bottled water and fresh fruit to people who are living outside. These supplies are essential and appreciated by our homeless friends. Bread Drop has distributed 297,095 PB&Js since beginning operations in April of 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Lou Farrell

Yoga Year End Report 2022

We continue to hold Yoga every Wednesday from 6:15-7:15 pm. All are welcome. We usually have ~10 people at each session. When the weather is warm, we hold class outside in the parking lot. Cathy Farrell, our instructor, donates all of the money she is paid from the yoga classes to Sanctuary Village, the non-profit she leads that is going to build Philadelphia's first tiny house village for women who are homeless. So students are not just getting a class at a bargain rate, they are also helping someone to get a roof over their head with every yoga class they take. In 2022 we raised \$1,356.

Kathy Stawasz