

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – ELCA
2026 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Approval of Agenda

Congregational Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Budget for 2026

Thank You to outgoing member -San Monahan

Congregation Council President Report

Pastor's Report

Old Business:

New Business:

2025

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

President – Bob Tesch

Vice President – Heather Kreutz

Secretary – Diana Bauer

Treasurer – Robin Baldwin

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Building (Facilities) Committee

Paul Haedt and Brandon Caneva

Youth & Education Committee

Debbie Patmore and Terri Huntley

Evangelism Committee

Bob Tesch

Stewardship Committee

Brandon Caneva & San Monahan

Worship & Music Committee

Chris Pankratz

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH – Pastor Carla and Michelle Williams

CONFIRMATION – Pastor Kevin

PRE CONFIRMATION -Andria Williams

LIBRARY –

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN – President – Debbie Patmore

QUILTERS – Darlene Mullins and Marlene Adolph

2025 GRACE LUTHERAN ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE - JD Williams, Tim Potts, Robin Baldwin, Ethan Dschaak, Linda Hemmah & Shawn Mechling

**Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting
January 12, 2025**

Call to order: Kelly

Prayer: Kelly

Adoption of Agenda: M/S/P

Treasurer's Report: No questions

Budget for 2025

New Council Members: Terri Huntley, Jeremy Vliem, Ron Wiedmann, Jarred Curry and Mike Tysdal.

Thank you to outgoing members – Brandon Caneva, David Lyons, Robin Baldwin, Madison Pankratz and Mikayla Wilson.

Congregation Council President Report

Pastor's Report

Old Business: None

New Business:

Installation of New Council members will be January 19, 2025.

Need two people to attend the Bear Butte Conference February 23, 2025 and ELCA South Dakota Synod Assembly May 30-31, 2025.

Motion to adjourn: M/S/P

Prepared by Diana Bauer

2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from your Council President. As 2025 ends, and my first year as your Council President I want to thank you for the opportunity to lead the Council. As in every organization I am a part of, I have learned that it takes everyone pulling in the same direction to be successful. Everyone who volunteers with time, talents and treasures we all have something to offer. A simple **"Thank You"** to everyone who are the moving parts that makes this a Great Congregation.

Everyone who helps with Acolytes, Altar Guild, Communion helpers, Lesson Readers, Music, Assisting Ministers, Coffee Hosts, Sound, Projection Operators, Ushers, Greeters. Let's not forget the various Committees Property, Endowment, Education, Stewardship, Evangelism, Mutual Ministry, Worship, GLCW, Custodian, Office Staff and let's not forget our Pastors. Everyone adds a little or a lot to make a Congregation.

We truly appreciate seeing new faces and regular attendees alike at our Wednesday and Sunday services throughout the year, not just during Easter and Christmas. Your presence makes our community stronger.

2025 also brought about another successful Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, with GLCW back to provide breakfast. A special thank you to all the church members who contributed. The Christian Motorcycle Club visited and generously donated for the use of the church. In April, our Easter Egg Drive was a great success, thanks to Heather Kreutz and all who donated time and materials to stuff the eggs also our Easter bunny, who wishes to be anonymous. As we move forward, we will be saying goodbye to San Monahan from the council. New council members who have agreed to step in is Casey Rafevold. Thank you all for the work that goes on. Additionally, our budget for 2026 has been established and approved by the congregation. It has been an honor to serve as your President. May God bless you all, and let's continue to grow in our faith and love for one another.

Robert (Bob) Tesch
Council President



2025 Senior Pastor's Annual Report The Rev. Kevin Jensen Welcoming One Another

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 15:7: *Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

This New Year offers us many opportunities to welcome people in new ways. St. Paul says to welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you. Jesus was known for eating with tax collectors and others who were not welcome in the usual circles. So how do we do the same?

Philoxenia is the Greek New Testament word for hospitality or "love of the stranger." *Philo* mean's brotherly or sisterly love. *Xenia* is almost always translated as "guest-friendship." Combine the two and you have an attitude that overcomes xenophobia—the "fear of the stranger" is overcome with the "love of the stranger" or *philoxenia*.

So this leads to an interesting discussion about the security system we put on our church doors last summer. Are we being xenophobic or properly careful about limiting access to our church? In today's society having open access into public buildings is not advised. But how do we welcome strangers without taking undue risks?

Let me offer some suggestions. Practicing *philoxenia* can happen when we chat with strangers after worship, at the grocery or hardware store, or even at places like the ski slopes or bowling alley. I was able to catch up with a banker from Yankton I hadn't seen in a decade at Terry Peak last winter. But I do admit I had to cheer against his wide receiver son who plays for the Yankton Bucks when the Scoopers played them in football last fall!

I have talked with a lot of strangers over the years and I like reconnecting with those I have not seen in a long time. I try to welcome others as Christ has welcomed me. I hope you will join me in doing that this New Year. It might be the gracious hospitality gift we can share with others to show forth the love of Christ in our hearts.

In the love of Christ,
><> Pastor Kevin

2025 New Members

Chelsea Magdanz

Robyn Fischer

Robert and Carolyn Ruff

2025 Baptisms

Eekiah Beug

Marshal Littler

IN MEMORIUM

Remembering those who have departed this life this past year.
Many were near and dear to the Grace Lutheran Church family.
Their funerals were conducted at Grace Lutheran
or under our care and ministry.

Marlene (Marty) Smith*

Paulette Lee Meland*

Arlene Elmona Ennis*

Joy Colleen Conway*

Robert (Bob) Rhienhold Ruff*

Eileen Bertha Raforth*

John Charles Raforth*

With 4 additional non-member funerals at BH National Cemetery

*Members

0	2024	2025	2026
	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET
60200 · Children's Ministry	\$ 700.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 700.00
60300 – High School Youth	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
60400 · Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
60500 · Training/ Education/Committees		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
60501 - Conferences		\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,500.00
60800 - Facilities & Equipment-other(Elevator)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,500.00
60801 · Building Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
60803 · Cleaning Supplies	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
60804 · Equipment Repairs/Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
60805 · Grounds Maintenance	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
60806 · Insurance	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 13,000.00
60807 - Janitorial Services	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
60808 · Leased Equipment	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
61700 · College Scholarship	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
61710 · Kitchen Supplies	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
61900 · Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
61901 - Music Expense-Piano Tuning	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 350.00
61902 · Sheet Music for Choirs		\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
62000 · Office Supplies, Library Supplies, Office S	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
62100 · Organist	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,500.00
62101 · Worship Supplies, General	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 2,500.00
62201 · Parsonage Maintenance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
62202 – Mortgage Interest	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
62203· Mortgage Principle	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
62204 · Utilities	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
62301· Pastor's Base Compensation	\$ 85,575.00	\$ 89,000.00	\$ 96,000.00
62302 - Pastoral Professional Expense	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
62303· Continuing Education	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
62304 · Lodging	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,500.00
62305 · Meals		\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00
62306 · Mileage	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,700.00
62307 · Pension, Medical, Dental	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ 47,000.00
62308 Social Security Reimbursement	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 6,800.00	\$ 7,400.00
62401 · FICA/Medicare Expense	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
62402 · Administrative & Office Wages	\$ 35,500.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 38,000.00
62501 – Workman's Comp Ins	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
62600 · Postage	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
62900 - Pulpit Supply	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
63000· Pulpit Supply Mileage	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
63304 · SD Synod Monthly	\$ 6,325.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,700.00
63700 · Telephone, Telecommunications	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,800.00
63901 · Electricity	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
63902 · Natural Gas	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
63903· Water Expense	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 255,800.00	\$ 268,950.00	\$ 288,650.00

Grace Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
40004 · Interest Income	104.70
40013 · Offerings	277,412.80
40015 · Thrivent Choice Dollars	727.00
40016 · Rent-Funerals, Weddings, Other	525.00
40017 · Coffee Fund	2,924.19
40018 · WNL Supper Fund	-155.90
40020 · Miscellaneous Income	21.45
Total Income	281,559.24
Expense	
60200 · Children's Ministry Exp	833.93
60400 · Dues and Subscriptions	2,230.11
60500 · Education, Training & Committes	1,826.41
60501 · Conferences	1,425.92
60800 · Facilities and Equipment	
60801 · Building Repairs & Maintenance	1,119.83
60803 · Cleaning Supplies	977.47
60805 · Grounds Maintenance	206.49
60806 · Insurance	11,905.84
60807 · Janitorial Services	6,079.13
60808 · Leased Equipment	4,511.27
60800 · Facilities and Equipment - Other	1,421.76
Total 60800 · Facilities and Equipment	26,221.79
61900 · Miscellaneous Exp	1,006.43
61901 · Music Exp	311.28
61902 · Sheet Music for Choirs	143.36
62000 · Office Supplies	2,869.65
62100 · Organist	1,250.00
62101 · Worship Supplies-General	2,771.63
62200 · Parsonage/Housing Allowance	
62201 · Maintenance	6,459.39
62202 · Mortgage Interest	9,907.04
62204 · Utilities	3,374.43
Total 62200 · Parsonage/Housing Allowance	19,740.86
62300 · Pastoral Ministry	
62301 · Pastor's Base Compensation	81,812.43
62302 · Pastoral Professional Expense	295.00
62303 · Continuing Education	53.10
62304 · Lodging	1,570.82
62305 · Meals	284.36
62306 · Mileage	1,820.96
62307 · Pension, Medical, Dental	45,983.16
62308 · Soc. Sec. Reimbursement	6,747.94
Total 62300 · Pastoral Ministry	138,567.77
62400 · Payroll Expenses	
62401 · Fica/Medicare Expense	3,208.33
62402 · Administrative Wages	34,974.68
62400 · Payroll Expenses - Other	885.00
Total 62400 · Payroll Expenses	39,068.01
62501 · Workman's Comp Ins	902.00
62600 · Postage	224.00
62900 · Pulpit Supply	1,125.00
63000 · Pulpit Supply Mileage	176.40
63300 · SD Synod	
63304 · SD Synod Monthly	5,958.34
63300 · SD Synod - Other	541.66

11:54 AM
12/31/25
Accrual Basis

Grace Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25
Total 63300 · SD Synod	6,500.00
63600 · Tax Expense	123.47
63700 · Telephone, Telecommunications	1,615.69
63900 · Utilities	
63901 · Electricity	9,688.26
63902 · Natural Gas	4,276.49
63903 · Water	1,969.54
Total 63900 · Utilities	15,934.29
Total Expense	264,868.00
Net Ordinary Income	16,691.24
Net Income	16,691.24

Grace Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2025

	Dec 31, 25
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
14000 · Pioneer Bank 2236	185,100.80
Total Checking/Savings	185,100.80
Other Current Assets	
15001 · Endowment Funds	247,826.64
Total Other Current Assets	247,826.64
Total Current Assets	432,927.44
Fixed Assets	
16000 · Capital Improvements	67,389.84
16001 · Church Building	607,610.16
16002 · Parsonage	230,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	905,000.00
Other Assets	
17001 · Camp Dedicated	4,078.25
17002 · Memorials Undedicated	3,731.42
17003 · Playground Dedicated	1,110.00
17005 · Egg Drop Dedicated	438.08
17006 · Children's Ministries	2,448.51
17007 · High School Youth Dedicated	21,255.86
17010 · Memorials Dedicated	3,225.75
17011 · Music Dedicated	1,452.64
17012 · Radio Broadcast Dedicated	3,781.71
17013 · Quilting Account	7,941.63
17014 · Pastors Benevolence Dedicated	344.63
17018 · Zto Close out Dedicated Funds	-49,808.48
Total Other Assets	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	1,337,927.44
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
50000 · Accounts Payable	500.00
Total Accounts Payable	500.00
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	23,903.47
Total Other Current Liabilities	23,903.47
Total Current Liabilities	24,403.47
Long Term Liabilities	
19000 · Parsonage Mortgage	111,863.41
Total Long Term Liabilities	111,863.41
Total Liabilities	136,266.88
Equity	
20000 · Opening Balance Equity	1,143,929.42
20003 · Unrestricted Net Assets	42,272.51
Net Income	15,458.63
Total Equity	1,201,660.56
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,337,927.44

2025 Grace Lutheran Worship Committee Annual Report

The Worship Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month. The committee members have stayed fairly consistent for many years - Marcia Potts, Ruth Mechling, Tim Patmore, Candy McKay, Pastor Kevin Jensen, Christian and Marlene Kotab and our newest members Kris Little and Chris Pankratz. We thank Robin Baldwin for her dedication to this committee for many years. The committee's chief duty is to plan, lead, and implement worship and the music ministries of the congregation. Often, we find our committee involved in many other duties at the church so dedicated is the best word to describe this very busy committee.

MUSIC: Our weekly musicians are a blessing to the services. Dan Chapman, Candy McKay, Danilee Pudwill, Marcia Potts, and Christian and Marlene Kotab lead the music on Sundays and Wednesdays. Soloists, the children, and the Adult Choir all contribute to the wonderful music ministry. It is inspiring to see the children and adults lead the Palm Parade on Palm Sunday. Lynette Kvanvig and Marie Ritten are our substitute accompanists and Gary Meyer is always willing to add his poetic and thoughtful songs to enhance the worship experience. Paul Haedt helped the group sing on Christmas Eve. We do welcome any special musicians, so please volunteer.

ASSISTING MINISTERS: Our assisting ministers are Tim Patmore, Tim Potts, Garland Dobler, J.D. Williams, and Kim Webber. They are key to the weekly service and invaluable during pulpit supply.

ALTAR GUILD/GLCW: One important part of the Worship Committee is the Altar Guild. They prepare Holy Communion, change the altar cloths, care for the funeral pall, fill the candles, and organize the draping and uncovering of the altar area during Holy Week, and so many other weekly duties. New communion vessels and offering plates were purchased with their guidance. A successful GLCW Thankoffering Service was held in November. The busy quilters display one of their creations in the basement or at a service. One other duty is the changing of the seasonal Banners, this is accomplished by Tim and Debbie Patmore. We thank them for their continued love for Grace.

YOUTH/LENT/EASTER: The confirmands conducted a foot washing service on Maundy Thursday and the high school youth presented the Reverse Advent service on Good Friday. Thanks to Bob Tesch for helping Pastor Kevin at the sunrise service on Easter. Our theme for the Post-Easter Holy Humor Sunday was "Hawaiian Fun." Many dressed in Hawaiian clothes and the light-hearted service helped us laugh at the devil who was defeated because of Easter.

TECHNOLOGY: With the installation of the new computers and sound board, Christian Kotab led a technology training. The new tv screens, sound system and remodeling of the balcony have been a great addition to the worship space. 2 new microphones were purchased for the pastors.

SPECIAL SERVICES: An outdoor service and ice cream social was held on June 8. A very enjoyable raptor presentation followed the service. The Back-to-School Backpack Sunday gave us an opportunity to send the kids and school staff to school in August with the church's prayers and God's blessing. The Consecration Service was Oct. 12 with a lovely Thanks-A-Brunch following it. Confirmation was Oct. 26 with 6 confirmands (Owen Aldren, Tenlee Koontz, Mason McGillivray, Burke Potter, Danny Tedder and Madeline Vliem) sharing their faith statements. Levi Sjomeling was confirmed on Nov. 9th. The Christmas Music Service was Dec. 21st with special music and the reading of the Christmas story. Christmas Eve was welcomed by 301 people worshipping together. What a glorious service. Thanks to the families who read each week for the lighting of the Advent Wreath. Thanks be to God for the wonderful volunteers at Grace – greeters, ushers, communion helpers, musicians, coffee hosts, etc., etc. – you make Grace a warm and welcoming place. Keri in the office, David, our custodian, and our wonderful Pastors all lead us with a passion of service. God bless you all.

Marlene Kotab

2025 Evangelism Committee Annual Report

The mission of the Evangelism Committee is to pray, plan and support the outreach efforts of the church. We met December 2024-December 2025. Each meeting was opened with prayer.

The first part of the year we used a workbook, "Every One His Witness". The purpose of the workbook was to help familiarize us with the basics of witnessing to people in their everyday lives. We learned the L.A.S.S.I.E. Approach. We also learned how to find out if a person was a head, heart or hands person. We need to keep these in mind when talking to people. Head: Their focus is on Truth. Heart: Their focus is on Hope. Hands: Their focus is on Purpose.

Listen to determine how to connect and communicate with people

Ask basic, exploratory, challenging, open-ended questions to get and keep the conversations going.

Seek opportunities to connect with the person such as sports, illness or anything to give a person a starting point to connect with

Share God's word, share the faith. Keep it about God. Find ways to tell Jesus' story. The spirit will guide you. We generously plant and water and God grows. We need to plant the seed, then the rest is in God's hands. 1 Corinthians 3: 6-7.

Invite them to an event going on in the church, keep the invite simple; it can be an invite to a worship service on Sunday morning.

Encourage one another, we are working on bringing the good news of Jesus. Encourage through prayer either with them or for them. Prayer is a great witness. Most people appreciate praying for them even if they do not know Jesus.

Second part of the year we are reading and going over the book "A Changing World". A few of the events we did this past year: we held a coffee and donut event; root beer floats a couple of times. We weathered the cold and handed out or left door hangers on people's doors to inform/invite them to the different Christmas events that were happening.

Grace Lutheran Church values: Seek out Christ, Grow in Christ, Serve Christ.

God's blessing, Sheri Boy

2025 PROPERTY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

This accounts for the actions that we were able to get done from May of 2025 to the end of the year. Our list of tasks was fairly substantial, and included some that had been in the works for sometime. Most important on the list was the entrance doors security system, which we managed to have completed before the 2025 Rally began, which was our target date. Other work done was the replacement of toilets in the downstairs woman's restroom. (Thank you Tim Patmore) Also some other leaks and paint and wall repair in a couple of other restrooms was done.

Tasks completed in the Sanctuary include a handrail for the steps up to the lectern for lessons readers, and securing floor braces for the pews as needed. In addition, work had to be done on the elevator on the education rooms downstairs door that had caused the lift to be inoperable.

Moving forward to this year, roof leaks in the Sanctuary continue to be a problem, the consensus being that a major fix may be in order to alleviate this and this will require more discussion and planning. There are still things that are left on our list and these will be taken care of as time allows in order of importance.

I look forward to helping keep Grace a pleasant and secure place to worship for all our members and quests.

Thank you to everyone, Property Chairman, Paul Haedt

Church Registry Committee

The 2025 Church Registry Committee is made up of Kelly Magdanz, Diana Bauer, and Heather Kreutz. We researched different ways to compile a church registry and presented these options to the Church Council. Two photographers were contacted and both showed interest but no solid information was given.

We decided it was probably not in our budget plus the registry would be outdated once it was done.

Our second option was an online registry. We discussed its pros and cons and Council agreed to this option. This will be set up in the new year. The online registry is in our budget and can be updated continually. Families and individuals can decide what information and pictures they want to import. Parishioners who are not comfortable with the computer can contact Keri for a printout of the directory.

Kelly Magdanz

2025 Grace Lutheran High School Youth Group Annual Report

All High School Youth are invited to attend Grace Youth Group at 7 pm on Wednesdays during the school year. Michelle Williams and Pastor Carla are the adult advisors. A full calendar of events is planned which include service projects, worship leadership opportunities, Bible Study and fun.

Service projects this year included hosting and serving Thanksgiving dinner the Sunday before Thanksgiving for our 60+ year old members. This has been a wonderful tradition, and we are especially thankful for Michelle Williams leadership. The Youth Group also assisted with Consecration Sunday by helping to serve the brunch after worship. The Youth Group assisted by the Grace Quilters tied quilts and presented them to our graduating seniors. We wrote notes of encouragement to our college students in the spring and the fall semester around finals. Grace Lutheran High School youth did a marvelous job leading the Good Friday service. Special thanks to Debbie Haivala for costumes and Danilee Pudwill for special music.

Graduation Sunday, our youth arrive in cap and gown to greet members of the congregation before worship. During worship, they are recognized and following worship the council hosts a reception. We are so blessed to have our graduates with us on the morning of their graduation.

Our Bible Study this year focuses on the "I am" sayings in John. We made our annual trip to the labyrinth at the Methodist Church. We played frisbee golf at the city park and played games on the lawn (our tiny lawn that is lit by the Wells Fargo light). We had a Christmas party and decorated cookies with our sister youth group at St. Francis. And of course, our annual gingerbread decorating contest is always fun. Our 2025 winner is Danica Dschaak.

Photo Booth Fundraiser – Thank you to all who volunteered to work the photo booth on Thursday of the rally. We raised over \$1800 for the Grace Lutheran Youth program. Helping out this year was: Otto & Kelly Magdanz, Terri Huntley, The Pastors, Jared and Andria Williams and Heather Kreutz.

The ELCA National Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis, June 28- July 2, 2027. We have begun having planning meetings to provide information to the youth who will be eligible to attend.

Many thanks for supporting the youth of Grace.

Pastor Carla & Michelle Williams

Grace Education Annual Report to the Congregation for the year of 2025

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE is our primary program for Christian Education at Grace. We have an amazingly gifted and dedicated group of volunteers who bring energy and creativity to teaching and witnessing to the Gospel. A special thank you to:

Pre-school: Garland Dobler

1st & 2nd grade: Shawn Koontz

3rd & 4th grade: Tessa Gunderson

5th & 6th grade: Melissa Pankratz

Confirmation: Pastor Kevin, assisted by Mikayla Wilson

High School Youth Group: Michelle Williams & Pastor Carla

Adult Bible Study: Wednesdays at 5 pm – Pastor Carla; Thursdays at 9:30 am – Pastor Kevin

Meals: Tim & Debbie Patmore, Connie Berg and during Lent, various Grace Ministry programs

Music: Marlene Kotab

Art: Vicki Monahan

SPRINKLES OF GRACE - Also Garland Dobler wrote for and received a grant of \$1000 from the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA for a program she developed to send special educational materials on the church calendar to our youngest members. Awesome job, Garland! We closed out Wednesday Night Live with a May Day celebration that was a wonderful evening for all.

GRADUATION SUNDAY - We celebrated the class of 2025 in worship on Graduation Sunday.

Blessings to: Ella Atyeo, Jacob Avery, Dalyn Dschaak, Jake Krog, Azlyn Person, Vance Shryock, Max Vliem and Carter Williams.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - Grace Lutheran offered Vacation Bible school June 23 – 26, 2025 with the theme of the 23rd Psalm. We thank: Vicki, Torin and Taesha Monahan, Danica Dschaak, Linda Erion, Jenika Leonhardt, Mikayla, Lily and Landry Wilson, Kadence and Owen Aldren, Garland Dobler, Jill Tesnow, Dennis Chowen, Tessa and Pate Gunderson, Jolei Avery, Tenlee Koontz, Pastor Carla, Khiana William-Oviatt, Andria Williams, Lily Meunier, Abram Mitchell, Lynette Kvanvig, Ruth Smit, Heidi Raftefold, and David Lyons for making the program a fabulous experience.

OUTLAW RANCH BIBLE CAMP – We sent four 5th grade youth to outlaw and provided partial scholarships to several others. Pastor Carla attended camp with a total of 8 campers.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE resumed in the fall. We shuffled teachers round a bit and are so grateful for some of our new volunteers. If you would like to help out with WNL, please talk to Pastor Carla or one of our fabulous volunteers.

Pre-school: Garland Dobler & Angie Bergman

1st & 2nd grade: Tessa Gunderson

3rd & 4th grade: Shawn Koontz

5th & 6th grade: Andria Williams, Sheri Potter, Madison Anderson

Confirmation: Pastor Kevin, assisted by Melissa Pankratz & Mikayla Wilson

High School Youth Group: Michelle Williams & Pastor Carla

Adult Bible Study: Wednesdays at 5 pm – Pastor Carla; Thursdays at 9:30 am – Pastor Kevin

Meals: Tim & Debbie Patmore, Connie Berg

Music: Marlene Kotab

Art: Vicki Monahan

We distributed Bibles to our pre-school and 3rd graders, installed our education volunteers and blessed our students as they returned to school. It was a busy fall. We also began receiving an offering during the gathering music time. This fall the offering is dedicated to the Sturgis Animal Shelter. We closed out the year with an absolutely fantastic Children's Christmas program. Special thanks to Marlene Kotab (our director) and Vicki Monahan (costumes) and all the teachers who assisted. Thank you to all who provided Christmas cookies for the program. I want to also thank Terri Huntley who serves as the council liaison to the Education Committee and to Tessa Gunderson who keeps the committee rolling with her leadership. Thanks also to Tessa for putting together the acolyte schedule.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Carla Nelson

Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund 2025 Annual Report (prepared before receiving EOY 1099's)
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The Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund is invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust as of August 27, 2015.

Total Investment in ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust:

Beginning Value 12-31-2024	\$ 236,709.60	
Additions	\$.00	
Withdrawals for expense & distributions	\$.00	
Reinvestments	\$ 6,822.90	
Change in Market Value	\$ 27,759.17	
 Total balance as of 11-30-2025	 \$ 271,291.67	 \$ 271,291.67

Checking Account report at Pioneer Bank and Trust

Balance as of 12-31-24	\$ 8,968.01	
 Deposited - Mary Ann Stroschein	 \$ 1,000.00	
Deposited - Ruth Smit	<u>\$ 500.00</u>	
Total	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
 Checks:		
 GLC - Sprinkles of Grace	 \$ 500.00	
GLC - VBS	\$ 500.00	
Canyon Hills Center	\$ 1,000.00	
GLC - Folding Chairs	\$ 700.00	
GLC - Security System	<u>\$ 950.00</u>	
Total	\$ 3,650.00	\$ (3,650.00)
 Total balance as of 12-31-2025	 \$ 6,818.01	 \$ 6,818.01

Grand total of ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust and Checking	\$ 278,109.68
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Robin Baldwin
GLC Endowment Fund
Treasurer

Committee Members: JD Williams, Ethan Dschaak, Linda Hemmah, and Shawn Mechling, Tim Potts

2025 Grace Lutheran Church Women Annual Report

The women of Grace Lutheran Church have been a part of Grace Lutheran since the beginning and will be in the future a very vital part of this congregation. GLCW meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:30 in the afternoon with every 4th meeting being a business meeting, Bible study and refreshments, the other meetings consists of a Bible Study, program and refreshments. Pastor Carla has blessed us as our Bible study leader and we have volunteers for the program and hostess. Thank you for your loyal participation.

The women of Grace Lutheran are busy in a variety of ways to see to the needs of the church. Every season of the church calendar, every Sunday and every Wednesday service, the Altar Guild is busy making sure that Grace Lutheran is ready for a service. Whether it is setting up for Holy Communion, making sure that the candles have oil or changing the paraments on the altar and pulpit. Come Wednesday morning a group are making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, Cornerstone Mission, Behavior Management and Crisis Intervention to name a few of the organizations that reap the benefits of these quilts. The Grace Lutheran women make many types of kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits are School Kits, Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits. The women serve many meals: coffee hour, soup suppers for Lent, funeral luncheons, help with wedding preparations, and of course the Rally Breakfast. We have food drives for Kiwanis, personal care products for Crisis Center and the women are involved with the community along with Grace Lutheran Church.

In 2025 GLCW were able to fulfill their normal endeavors that were available within the church and community. The quilters meet at the church on Wednesday morning, they only take a few breaks during the year otherwise you can find them working away. They sold quilts at the Rally breakfast and now have a nice display in the Sonshine Room.

Cards and calls were made to the shut ins and members to keep in touch with each other. The women, with the help of some men and children served the Rally Breakfast. It was a success with serving over 1000 people. The revenue from the breakfast helps us meet our yearly obligations. It was also time to start nominations for new officers. Blessings to these women who decided to keep their position for this following year of 2025 and thank you to the new volunteers. Thank you for your service.

Thankoffering Sunday was held in November with a skit and temple talk. Thank you women of Grace for your donations to the Women of ELCA and their charitable organizations. It was heartwarming to see all of the women of Grace come forward with their offering.

December and Christmas... This year the GLCW received from the social worker at Sturgis Elementary a family that we could help with their Christmas. It was so much fun and heart filling to be able to help with these needs and wants. The participation was overwhelming to put our Christmas packages together and delivered to our shut ins this year. What a great family of women! You could feel the joy and love for our shut in and loved ones.

Wishing you a very blessed 2026!

Yours in Christ,

Debbie Patmore, GLCW President

2025 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

It is our privilege as Grace Stewardship committee to cheerfully share our abundance that God has so graciously provided for us. With your generous gifts, we advance the mission of our church, to share the good news of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In His glory,

Connie Hurlburt and Kris Little

Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota—A Gift to You

As a ministry of the South Dakota Synod and our partners for over 40 years, Lutheran Planned Generosity is here for you as a gift to encourage and support all forms of generosity, with no obligation, minimums or fees.



Smarter Giving Today:

- Do you own **stocks/bonds/mutual funds** that have increased in value? Gift shares through LPGSD to your church and favorite ministries to avoid capital gains tax AND receive a tax deduction.
- Are you over 70 ½ with **retirement accounts**? Make a direct gift from your IRA with a qualified charitable distribution to avoid income tax, lower your adjusted gross income used to calculate Medicare premiums, and meet your required minimum distribution if over age 73.
- Holding onto stored **grain**? Selling **livestock**? Make a gift at the grain elevator or auction market to support God's work through your local congregation or favorite ministries. Avoid all income and self-employment taxes while retaining production cost deductions.
- Seeking a larger tax deduction now, but unsure which organizations you'd like to support? Give cash or assets, including **real estate, farm machinery, business equipment or stocks** today to establish a *donor-advised fund* and take your time in deciding how and where the gifts are distributed. This is a great way to involve your children and grandchildren, teaching them the importance of your family's faith and legacy of generosity.

Income for You and Your Family

- Make a gift with cash or any of the assets mentioned above and receive a **lifetime of tax-advantaged payments**. You decide which non-profit ministry receives any remaining balance.
- Create a "Give It Twice" trust with **depreciated business assets** to avoid taxes and create a lifetime of income with the option to continue payments to your children for 20 years after your death. Make a gift of the remainder to your favorite ministries.

Do you have a current legacy plan?

- No matter how old you are or how much wealth you have, writing a will is essential to secure your future and protect your loved ones. The **FreeWill** tool helps you write or update your legal will, protect your loved ones and assets, and can even be used to support the causes you love.

Congregational Endowment Support

- Whether your congregation's endowment needs a revival or you're taking the first steps to establish a fund to provide perpetual support for the church's mission and ministry, we can help with endowment and gift policy templates that make the process easy.
- Through our partnership with the ELCA Foundation, your church can invest in the Ministry Growth Fund, a long-term, well-diversified, socially responsible endowment of more than \$1 billion designed specifically for congregations and other ELCA ministries. Your congregation retains ownership of funds, receives quarterly statements, and has online access to monthly performance reporting.

Take the Next Step

For more information or to create a FREE, password-protected legacy plan, visit www.lpgsd.org.

Contact Kathy McHenry at 605-274-5030 or kmchenry@sdsynod.org for assistance.

Together, we can make a difference through thoughtful planning and faithful generosity.

your life can make a difference



Church on the Street Annual Report 2025

ChurchontheStreetsf.org

We take the gifts of the Church out to the people who, for whatever reason, can not come inside. Each time we worship, over 200 people gather, and we know someone is hearing the good news and receiving the sacrament for the first time.

Church on the Street provides opportunities for ministry in a variety of spaces through Worship, pastoral care, fostering connections and meeting essential needs. Through ministries such as Laundry with Love, the Undercover Closet, and the COTS Pantry staff and volunteers make it possible for folks to have access to essential needs with dignity while receiving God's love, care, and compassion.



6,000 People served.

Whether in Worship, through the food and hygiene pantry, at the Laundromat, or during pastoral care.



11,356 Loads of laundry.

Washed and dried at Laundry with Love.



5,000 Meals.

Shared during worship, Laundry with Love, and special events



88 Churches from 5 Denominations.

Made a financial gift in the past 12 months.



6,448 Volunteer Hours.

People serving at Worship, the Pantry, Laundry with Love, and other events.



200 + Partners.

Businesses, Non-profits, Quilt Groups, Individuals, WELCA Groups, Service Clubs and more.



21,532 People.

Fed through the emergency pantry, totaling 258,384 meals

Please take a moment, pray, answer your own WHY, and join us in this amazing Ministry!

LEARN MORE

Visit
churchonthestreetsf.org
for ways to get involved and support the ministry of Church on the Street.

Email:

Pastor Chris Matson
chris@churchonthestreetsf.org

Deacon Mara Stillson
mara@churchonthestreetsf.org



DONATE

churchonthestreetsf.org

South Dakota Synod, ELCA
2026 Proposed Mission Plan
02/01/2026 - 01/31/2027

	Adopted 2025	Revised 2025	Proposed 2026
Revenue			
Mission Support			
Undesignated Mission Support	1,807,603	1,694,857	1,741,590
SD Synod Mission Support	23,800	24,711	25,000
Total Mission Support-Congregations	1,831,403	1,719,568	1,766,590
Program Ministry Income			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center Income	45,000	45,000	45,000
Total Program Ministry Income			
Other Income			
DEM Support Staff Income	10,000	10,000	10,000
Interest Income	50,000	65,000	65,000
SDS Travel LLC Income	5,000	5,000	5,000
Misc Income	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Other Income	66,000	81,000	81,000
Total Revenue	1,942,403	1,845,568	1,892,590
Expenses			
Churchwide Ministries	42%	41%	41%
Churchwide Support	759,193	694,891	714,052
Region III			
Region III Support	8,004	8,614	8,614
South Dakota Ministries			
South Dakota Partnership Ministries			
SD Ministries Support	9,996	10,132	10,250
Luther Seminary	71,974	50,383	51,761
Church Colleges (ELCA Pool)	6,227	5,847	6,006
Lutheran Social Services	71,974	67,579	69,427
Campus Ministry	126,916	119,166	122,425
Lutheran Outdoors	35,895	33,704	34,625
South Dakota Supported Ministries			
Heartland Ephphatha	6,227	5,847	6,006
Youth Ministry	7,200	2,400	2,400
Campus Ministry Capital	0	0	0
Good Samaritan Society	1	1	1
Chapel in the Hills	1	1	1
Woyatan Lutheran/Wambli Ska	19,000	19,000	19,000
Lutheran Planned Generosity	58,300	58,300	58,300
Total Shared Ministries	413,712	372,360	380,203

South Dakota Synod, ELCA
2026 Proposed Mission Plan
02/01/2026 - 01/31/2027

	Adopted 2025	Revised 2025	Proposed 2026
Executive Leadership			
Bishop	108,101	108,100	110,612
Assoc/Director of Ev Mission	12,974	13,799	14,075
Assoc-Mobility/Candidacy	89,953	89,953	91,952
Executive Staff Benefits	73,818	73,736	75,211
Exec Travel/Continuing Ed	40,800	52,800	52,800
Program Ministries			
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center-Director	92,967	96,857	98,488
Youth Gathering Synod Coordinator	0	0	0
Companion Synod Coordinator	19,902	21,139	21,542
Support Staff and Office			
Support Staff Salaries/Benefit	185,791	165,824	164,091
Synod Office Expenses	78,000	102,850	102,850
Augustana University Occupancy Fee	32,300	32,300	32,300
Synod Committees			
Synod Council	5,000	5,000	5,000
Support to Ministries Committee	3,100	3,100	3,100
Candidacy Committee	9,000	9,000	9,000
Multi-Cultural Ministry Committee	1,000	1,000	1,000
Companion Synods Ministry Committee	200	200	200
Evangelical Outreach Committee	1,500	1,500	1,500
Mission & Outreach			
Mission Congregation Start-up	4,000	4,000	4,000
Mission Strategy Table	2,000	2,000	2,000
Contingency	1,088	0	0
Total South Dakota Ministries	761,494	783,158	789,721
Total Expenses	1,942,403	1,859,023	1,892,590
Net Total	0	-13,455	0

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in Christ's name! This year reminded me that the Church is always a blend of plumbing and poetry. The steady, unseen pipes that keep ministry flowing, and the surprising grace that breaks in when we least expect it.

And together, across South Dakota, you lived both.

Because of your faithfulness:

- The **\$1.1 million** Lilly grant continues to strengthen rural ministry through an expanding rural ambassador program and brings learning to your recliner at home through Pasque (<http://www.sdsynodlearns.org/>). Synod Authorized Ministers (SAMs) experience intentional community with peers, and seminarians get to experience rural ministry through a paid immersion program.
- **1/4** of all SD Synod congregations have received a STAR (Small Town and Rural) grant through funds raised in SD for South Dakota congregations. These grants have helped to cover unexpected expenses across our synod.
- **\$1.3 million** supports children and families through the "Holy Playground" Initiative, reminding us that every child deserves to flourish.
- **Micro-grants** to alleviate hunger in our communities have been a tangible way to multiply Christ's compassion, feeding the stranger, stocking shelves, warming homes, and empowering congregations to respond in real time.
- **New pastors, deacons, and lay leaders** stepped into their callings, shaped by your encouragement and the Spirit's persistence.
- **Congregations in transition** found guidance, courage, and companions on the path.
- **Partnerships with Native, immigrant, and global communities** deepened our witness and expanded our imagination for what the body of Christ looks like.





South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

These are numbers and facts, yes, but behind every number is a story, a face, a kitchen table, a worshipping community, a moment when the Gospel became flesh again in South Dakota and across our world.

And that is the poetry.

Thank you for granting me the gift of serving another six-year term as your bishop. I receive it with humility and with deep gratitude for the trust you place in me. The work before us is honest and holy, and the Spirit is already ahead of us.

As we enter a new year, may we continue to be a synod that holds plumbing and poetry together, a church grounded enough to meet the needs of today, and bold enough to imagine what God can do next.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA