

Grace Lutheran Church



making room for God's promise



May 2016 Annual Report

Grace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

God has created us as a ministry of grace in the heart of Andover and beyond.....

We believe that God...

Welcomes us into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit;

Encourages us to grow in our discipleship through worship, learning, and fellowship;

Equips us to share this ministry of grace and love through serving others; and

Sends us into the world to do His will.

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Senior Pastor Report

7 HABITS OF EFFECTIVE DISCIPLESHIP



WORSHIP



PRAYER



BIBLE STUDY



VITAL RELATIONSHIPS



GIVING



SERVICE



SHARING MY FAITH

The staff was overwhelmed as we listened to each other share the many ways God had cultivated room for his promise to take root and grow this past year. It wasn't just one story someone shared of how he had deepened faith through a Bible study, or changed lives on a ministry team, or even produced a harvest of service in the community. No, it was story after story from every staff member telling the same thing: God has grown the seeds of his promise that has yielded into an abundant return. When the last staff member finished we just shook our heads in a profound sense of gratitude for what God has done in the lives of his people here at Grace. Some of what I heard was this:

- More volunteers serving in worship;
- The largest number of middle school and senior high youth going on summer trips in years;
- Faithful people willing to step in at a moment's notice to serve;
- Blessing of special music during October's Stewardship Emphasis on Vocation;
- Youth who "get" the reason for the "Own Your Faith" year after catechism classes;
- New ways of doing small groups in Senior High ministries throughout the week;
- Deepening friendships on ministry teams;
- 269 youth and adults who volunteer and care for our children in SONday School, VBS, Rockin' Kids Bible Club, Nursery, and Summer Music Camp;
- Cultivation of the soil of WOW that has resulted in changed lives and deep connections;
- The many ways we are caring for God's children in Rakai, Uganda, and Williamston, Haiti;
- The rapid expansion of Adult Faith Formation opportunities through several new online venues such as The Journey and The Grace Learning Center, as well as an additional Wednesday evening course. All of this has sown seeds into more than 100 people at Grace and beyond our walls!

Although this 2016 Annual Congregational Ministry Report strives to share important stories of how God has cultivated room for his promise to grow in the past year, it will be woefully inadequate! How can a report convey the full work of the Spirit moving in a congregation? How can words on a page sum up the inner work of Spirit that convicts, challenges, encourages, and heals so many! To further complicate things is the realization that faith grows more often than not, unseen and unnoticed.

With this in mind, please take time to read the following articles from various staff members. Prayerfully consider as you reflect upon their stories, to think of how you have seen God cultivate the soil of your own heart. And may our mutual prayers be for God to grow a great harvest for his Kingdom in this ministry of Grace in the heart of Andover and beyond!

In Him,

Pastor Mark Hellmann

Vision Board President

It is hard to believe that my term as Vision Board President will be done at the end of this month. These last three years have gone by so quickly. It has been an amazing journey. One that has brought me great challenges and even greater rewards. I have been blessed to work with Pastor Mark and other talented, heartfelt, and faith-filled people. We have shared meals together, opened our homes to one another, prayed together, and made some tough decisions together. Starting in June, Greg Ackerson will be your new Vision Board President. He is truly a servant of God. He and his wife, Lori, have a deep love for Grace, its ministries, and its members.

Our theme at Grace this past year has been: "Cultivate: Making Room for God's Promise." In the Parable of the Soils, Jesus challenges us to make our hearts fertile soil. By doing this our hearts become open and receptive for the seeds of love and forgiveness that God is continually sowing in our world. By cultivating our hearts and preparing them for the sower, even the smallest seed can produce an abundant crop.

With that theme as our back-drop, we have spent the year focused on Spiritual Formation. For the first time in a while, we are finally fully-staffed to meet the spiritual formation needs of all our members at Grace: adults, youth, and children. Back in June, we called Pastor Steve as a full-time Pastor of Spiritual Formation and hired Kristi Larson as a full-time Youth Director. Not only have we continued to offer the many established spiritual formation opportunities like Sunday Evenings @ Grace, small groups, serving at Feed My Starving Children, mission trips, etc., we have expanded to include new opportunities like, "The Journey." This past year, Pastor Steve took a pilot group of people on an eight month journey to grow more deeply in their faith. We have also launched the Grace Learning Center, which is an on-line opportunity for spiritual growth.

As a Vision Board, we also took time during each of our monthly meetings to focus on Spiritual Formation. We studied two books this past year: "The Agile Church" and "The Neighborhood Church." The focus of each book was on approaching ministry with a missional mindset. Being missional involves ordinary people fostering relationships with other ordinary people, both inside and outside the church, and recognizing that God is working in and around each of us.

One of my most fond memories on Vision Board happened this past Fall. I was asked to participate in a series of video "Vocation Interviews." Armed with an index card full of questions, I interviewed four ordinary members of Grace who live out their spirituality in their vocations. The word, vocation, means the work a person is called to do. Martin Luther challenged us to do what we do at home, at work, and in the community as a calling to serve God. I went from looking at trees in Minneapolis, to a manufacturing company, to an in-home daycare, and finally to City Hall. What amazed me most



was, not so much the work that they do (although, I must say, that was exciting and I learned a lot from them) but the way they approached their jobs. They were all so passionate about their work, the people they serve, and the relationships they have made. These are ordinary people fostering relationships with other ordinary people through their vocations and the fruit of their labors is amazing!

In closing, I just want to say thank you for allowing me to serve on the Vision Board for the past three years. It has been a great experience and the people I have met and gotten to know along the way have blessed me greatly. You are a wonderful group of people that I am happy to call my Grace family.

In Him,
Tari Yates

2016 January Congregational Meeting Minutes

The 2016 January Grace Lutheran Church called to order by Vision Board President Tari Yates on January 30th 2016 after the 5:00 service. President Yates presented the 2016 Proposed Operating Budget of \$937,907.51 to the congregation. She outlined how the Budget had been prepared by the Church Staff and Vision Board, and reviewed at the Congregational Budget Hearing on Tuesday, January 19th.

The meeting continued as President Yates shared the generosity of our church:

- More than 550 families gave nearly \$1,014,000 (\$1,088,000- total) enabling us to:
 - Pay an extra \$97,000 on our mortgage principle reducing it to \$999,923.10.
 - Tithe 9.5% of our regular offerings to the worldwide ministries of the ELCA and Lutheran Social Services, supported 14 local families at Christmas, and shared \$20,000+ through Noisy Offerings.
 - Tithe 10% of Free 2B Grace (divided \$24,000)
 - Feed My Starving Children, African Children's Project in Rakai, Uganda, Abandoned Children Project in Haiti, and Global Health Ministries in El Salvador.
 - Support our ministries with children, youth, and adults at Grace.
 - Provide for the gifted staff God has called to Grace.

President Yates shared several goals in the 2016 Proposed Operational Budget:

- Give an additional .5% benevolence, the final step to a full-10% tithing church on weekly, special offerings & Free 2B Grace Fund.
- Strengthen our overall ministries and adequately fund our staffing
- Continue to lower our mortgage principle through our Free 2B Capital Fund.

Finally, President Yates told the congregation that there could be a financial shortfall as a result of adding essential staff. Therefore, she issued a challenge for members of our church to consider taking a step towards a full 10% tithe.

The congregational meeting was suspended and reconvened at the conclusion of each of January 31 worship services. A ballot vote took place during each portion of the meeting for the 2016 Operational Budget. A motion was made and carried at each service. The 2016 Grace Lutheran Church budget was approved.

215 Members	Yes
3 Members	No

Respectfully submitted by Jessie Crooks, Vision Board Secretary



Graceful Seniors

The Graceful Seniors form the root structure of our community at Grace. They have been cultivating the hearts of the younger generations for years and making space for new growth on a continual basis. Pastor Gene continues to lead the monthly Graceful Seniors breakfast as they are encouraged and equipped in God's Word and faithful fellowship. This group finds multiple ways to connect and serve in the community through ministries like: The Ruth Circle (Pastor Steve led the Bible study this year), the Graceful Quilters, the Property Team, and faithful service on just about every other ministry team at Grace.

Adult Small Groups

Men's and Women's groups continue to meet weekly throughout the year for Bible study, prayer, encouragement, and service. See Jeannie Hellmann's report for details regarding women's ministry. A group of 10 college-age students gathered every week for a Bible study throughout the summer.

Two important events happened this year that allowed new fields to open up in Adult Faith Formation. The first

Tilling New Fields in Adult Faith Formation

was that Pastor Steve finished his Ph.D. program and returned to full-time status. The second was that we hired Kristi Larson as the full-time Director of Youth and Family ministries. This combination became the fertilizer and the spade that allowed us to experiment with new ways to cultivate Adult Faith Formation.

The Journey

30 people committed to be an experimental Pilot Group to beta-test a new curriculum written by Pastor Steve. Each person partnered up with a Traveling Companion for one-on-one accountability. The Journey Travelers also formed into five cohorts that met once per month for eight months. The cohorts watched 24 videos and read through the Gospel of John and the Book of Acts. Finally, the cohorts participated in three public worship blessing ceremonies, culminating in an affirmation of baptism at the Easter Vigil.

This beta test was a big success. We now have an effective way to connect new people to a meaningful faith Journey in an intentional path. Special thanks to the Journey Pilot Group for tilling these fields.

Adult Faith

Formation Classes

Sunday Evenings @ Grace

Sunday Evenings continues to be a fertile field in which the Word of God is planted in people lives in the Fall and in the Spring. 46 people spread out among four different classes in the Fall: *Beginnings* taught by Pastor Steve; *The 7 Habits* taught by Pastor Mark; *S.H.A.P.E.* taught by Greg Ackerson; and *iMarriage* taught by the Moseses and the Hills.

64 people spread out among three classes in the Spring: *OMG! Can We Talk About God?* Taught by Pastor Steve; *You've Got Mail* taught by Pastor Mark; and *Tell Your Story* taught by Jeannie Hellmann.

The Sizzle Team and Children and Youth Teams provided excellent child care which created spaces for families to deepen their roots.

Adults on Wednesday Nights

We were able to plow new fields for adults on Wednesday nights this year. Pastor Steve taught the same class from the Sunday Evenings class on Wednesday nights, which allowed many more people an opportunity to learn and grow. 20 people engaged in the *Beginnings* class in the Fall. 40 people engaged in *OMG! Can We Talk About God?* in the Spring.

Grace Learning Center

We plowed new digital fields this year as well. The Grace Learning Center launched in January. This is a website that allows users to access videos and small group conversation in their own time and space. 68 people engaged in 6 different online courses. This seems to be a fruitful field already!

The Art of Grace

A new ministry for creative people was launched in August. 24 people are involved in this group, both in a monthly meeting and through a Facebook group. It celebrates and inspires creativity. Members of this group created and hosted our first annual Oktoberfest Art show which reached out to the local high school communities.

Spiritual Formation takes places in all the areas of service and worship that we experience in the Grace community. The reports you read from women's ministry, men's ministry, outreach ministry, children and youth ministry, Worship Ministry, and many more, are all spaces in which the Spirit of God is moving in, with, and through us to connect, grow, be equipped, and serve.

We are scattering seeds and planting flowers of faith and grace. With most things in life there are seasons of volunteering, and seasons of moving on. We have had many Worship Volunteers who are serving in new areas and a few who have moved on. God surprises us with volunteers in all the right ways. We give thanks and praise to Him for blessing us with wonderful volunteers.

As a staff, it was a leap of faith to purchase and train on a new database system. We have been learning and implementing the new system. We had to trust and make room to learn and open our minds to the opportunities it presents. If you have not already done so, go to our website and connect with GraceLink.

Kate Morphew

This year Pastor Mark asked us to think of how our ministries held up the theme "Cultivate: Making Room for God's Promise", and to note where we saw that lived out

Without going into a long laundry list of names, I want to say a short and simple thank-you to all of the people who have made worship both possible and meaningful this last year! There are many of you, and you bless us all by sharing your talents and time.

Three things stood out this year as areas of cultivation:

The October Vocation emphasis

It was exciting to see so many people step forward to share their musical gifts as we had special music of some kind at nearly every worship service during that month

Seasonal Choral Opportunities

Every year we invite people to commit to short-term service in the choir for Christmas and Easter. This year, two people decided they enjoyed it so much they would stay on and become regular members of the choir!

Adult Choir

After 2 years with Doreen as our choir director and the excellent accompanying skills of Pastor Mark, we are seeing the fruit. The choir is internalizing the concepts of Doreen's vocal coaching and we are learning music faster and sounding better.

Contemporary Worship Team

There has been an increased "team spirit" on the Worship Team, and the members are actively and intentionally caring for one another.

I feel blessed to have been doing music ministry for 26 years, and I look forward to how God is going to continue cultivating all of us to bless our world and our community.

Jonathan Orwig, Director of Worship and Music

Worship & music

Children's ministries

Children's Ministry sows seeds in the hearts of kids AND adults alike. During this year we planted the seeds of Bible Study, Faith Development, leadership, compassion, fellowship, stewardship, and FUN! Each week is an adventure as kids and adults grow in their love of the Lord.

Growing Leaders! Children's ministry is a TEAM Adventure. This past year, we had teams of approximately 269 youth and adults who made room in their schedules and hearts to minister to the kids of Grace Lutheran and beyond. In SONday School, Rockin'Kids Bible Club, Vacation Bible School, Musical Adventure Camp, and Nursery, these team members showed up in the lives of kids sharing faith and love as they taught and supervised the kids. Growing Followers of Christ (Kids)!

Embracing Bible learning

Each Sunday and Wednesday night, kids hear creatively told Bible stories. They not only learn the story, but they learn how God's Word has meaning for their daily life.

Hiding Scripture in our hearts

Our kids are eager to memorize Bible verses. They learned a Bible verse each month, totally 8 in SONday School. They also work on special memory projects called Milestone Memory. The 3rd & 5th Grades are over achievers and have worked ahead to learn the requirements for the next year! Rockin'Kids Bible Club learned Psalm 51:10-12 and shared it in song in worship.

Compassion and Serving Others



Each week, we work to care for our friends and our church with actions and our words. We also had a special project led by our 4th and 5th Grade classes where we collected food for Hope 4 Youth. Our 4th and 5th Grade leaders learned about Hope 4 youth, shared that information with Large Group and the congregation. We delivered 5 boxes of food and the kids were able to tour Hope 4 Youth and learn more about homeless teens.

Caring

Our nursery has been blessed by patient and tender volunteers who care for the many, many, little ones who come to the nursery each week. Helping lead kids in gentle play, Bible Story, and develop motor skills with their craft and coloring time each week.

Outreach

We literally make room during VBS! Our whole congregation practices hospitality as we welcome 290 plus kids for a week of crazy fun and adventure as we plant seeds of faith for friend and stranger alike, but after a week, strangers become friends at VBS.

Telling God's Story

Our kids love to share God's Story. We share it through the songs we sing in our worship at SONday School, VBS, and RKBC. We told the story of Nicodemus at Musical Adventure Camp sharing a story of God's redeeming love through Jesus! We tell a favorite familiar story through our Christmas Program with poetry, drama, and the glorious music of the angels, (Kids)!



Our church theme this year was: **'Cultivate...Making Room for God's Promise,** building upon Jesus' parable of the four soils. This theme highlights the intent of all we strive do at Grace: to make room for the seeds of God's love and forgiveness to grow within us and within our community. Whether it's through spiritual formation opportunities such as a worship service or W.O.W. (Women on Wednesday), whether it's through packing meals at Feed My Starving Children or being a host at the Welcome Center, whether it's through serving on a ministry team for the Grace Bazaar or attending the Great Escape - all of these are opportunities in which God cultivates the soil of our hearts to make room for his LOVE to grow!



Speaking of soil & seeds . . . You'd never guess that a black seed would become a green watermelon with a red interior that tastes amazing! But that's the power of God's Word and His Love nourishing our lives, as we open up our hearts to be cultivated -good soil! So as we review our theme, 'Cultivate' .Making room for God's Promise and as we celebrate the evidence of all the nourishment and growth He has provided, please join us in giving THANKS to God for His Grace in and among us!

Soil-Cultivating Spaces for Women

God's word was planted and 75 women were encouraged through friendship and prayer at these Bible studies: Monday night Women's Group, Ruth Circle and W.O.W. (Women on Wednesday).

Other special opportunities - such as the Women's Retreat in November, Mugs Muffins & More in Oct. and Feb, and the Great Escape in April provided more cultivated room for the hearts of more than 180 women to grow in love!

Good Soil of Serving

With God's word and love in our hearts, the Grace family continued to reach out to others - striving to be the hands and feet of Jesus, both locally and globally. Here are a few Outreach Highlights from this past year.

Sole Hope

As part of our Lenten project of 'Caring for God's Children,' we cut 437 sets of blue jean fabric to make children's shoes in Africa, plus we raised \$631 through the Lenten suppers for this ministry.

Faith & Community Partnership with Sand Creek Elementary

It was a seed of an idea, and then God provided amazing growth to create a little bit of grace fund at Sand Creek, supporting local students & families in need. Through the Octoberfest Silent Auction and the Love of Grace Bazaar, \$3900 was raised to launch this little bit of grace fund. Also, our church supported this ministry throughout the year by donating school supplies, quilts and holiday food baskets, plus adopting ten families in need at Christmas.

God's Work Our Hands Day

46 volunteers participated in this national ELCA day of serving last September. We visited shut-ins, planted trees in local parks, packed sandwiches for the homeless, and picked up trash along Bunker Lake Blvd.

Grace 2 Haiti

In February, two mission teams travelled to Haiti to construct a water system, paint wall murals, minister to children and share God's grace. Once again we'll host the 'Just 1 More Step' run/walk at Bunker Hills Park in May, to raise funds for the medical clinic in Haiti.

Our Abandoned Children

This newly formed ministry team strives to share God's grace with 8 abandoned children in Haiti. The Grace Quilters made quilts and the Grace family donated supplies so then all the items were personally delivered to these precious children in February.

Grace 4 Rakai

Families from Grace sponsored an additional 45 children in Rakai, Uganda this past year, providing monthly support for education and health care. Also, we laid the foundation of grace (figuratively and financially) for the school-dormitory for 26 orphaned

children in Rakai. God is truly cultivating our relationship with the people of Rakai!

Operation Christmas Child

In November, we collected over 200 shoe boxes filled with gifts and hope for children, planting seeds of His love around the world!

Feed My Starving Children

At our November marathon packing event, we packed over 207,000 meals! And during Lent, over 126 volunteers helped pack meals also.

Free 2B Grace tithes of \$19,000 given

It was pure JOY to share God's abundance with Stepping Stones, Family Promise in Anoka County, Feed My Starving Children, Grace 4 Rakai and Our Abandoned Children ministries.

Family Promise, Grace Quilters, Prayer Shawl Ministry, May All Be Fed Food Shelf, Hope 4 Youth, Family Table Meal, Our Savior's Shelter and Habitat for Humanity

These ministry teams continue to faithfully serve and plant seeds of God's grace in amazing ways, both locally and globally. And we are truly grateful!

This has been a wonderful year of cultivating in Youth ministry.

We have an amazing team of staff and volunteers who planted seeds of faith in our young people. This great team has come together to faithfully walk along side our youth in middle school, Own Your Faith, and high school. The addition of Kristi Larson, our full-time youth director, has allowed the staff to help our adult leaders cultivate deeper relationships with the students in our midst.

Youth Ministries

Middle School

Catechism

This was another great year of Catechism. Seventeen small groups, led by adults and high school students, met each Wednesday throughout the school year. We learned about the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer, and explored how these things connect to everyday life. This was a time for the adolescents of our church to cultivate a relationship with God, their adult leaders, and their peers. Mike Frazier led the band and encouraged and equipped a number of adults, high school, and middle school students to use their musical gifts for God's service. They really rocked the house with songs of praise!

Connection Events

Over fifty students spent a weekend at the Fall Recharge at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp in November. This was an excellent week of deepening friendships and spiritual formation. Over forty students also gathered for the Ultimate Lock-In in Maple Grove where they were able to connect to new friends from multiple churches in the area. Students swam, ice skated, played games, ate pizza, danced, and sang until the sun came up! The SaLT leadership team also led a wonderful event for



this year's 8th graders to welcome them into high school ministry.

High School

Own Your Faith

OYF is designed to give high school freshmen one additional year following catechism to process their faith questions with an individual mentor in preparation for Confirmation. Thirty-Two students worked diligently with their mentors in monthly one-on-one sessions throughout the school year. Students participated by watching a monthly video that allowed the students and mentors to interact with the topics and questions in their own time and space. The discussions were rich and both the students and the mentors **grew stronger roots** in their faith. The year ended with a wonderful weekend celebrating Confirmation.

High School Ministry

This year High School Ministry was able to diversify by allowing different opportunities to help cultivate spiritual growth. One opportunity for High School students is our weekly gathering, Dojo, on Sunday afternoons. We spent the year working through the Narrative Lectionary texts and exploring how they apply to life in high school. Special thanks to Dawn Kugler-Park and Kellie Kamm for connecting with these students by being adult leaders. We also have an excellent group of high school leaders in SaLT who worked hard to welcome students and plan events.

High School students at Grace also can be found meeting in small group Bible Studies, taking adult education classes, serving as ushers, lending their musical talents, and cultivating the faith of younger students as Sunday School and Rockin' Kids Club leaders, nursery workers, and VBS leaders. They are a wonderful asset to our church and we are so blessed to have such a wonderful group of young people in our midst.

Special Events

Tom Baker coordinated two amazing mission trips last summer that allowed our middle school and our high school students to better understand the diverse issues of urban areas across the US. In July fifteen high school students and four adults ventured to Washington DC and spent time in nursing homes, food centers, and working on people's homes. Participants learned about the history of our nation's capital and the present day reality of people who are in need of food and housing. The second trip consisted of middle school students who learned about racial diversity in Milwaukee, WI. They also learned how to care for some of the city's most vulnerable members: children, senior citizens, and those with disabilities. Both mission teams experienced deep spiritual, emotional, and relational growth. A heartfelt thank you to the staff, parents, and congregational members who lent their time, talent, and finances to make these two memorable trips a reality.

Kristi Larson
Tom Baker



Grace Lutheran Church Values Dance



We connect open arms.
we grow deep roots.
We equip strong bodies.
We serve Fresh fruit.
We Lutheraní
Grateful hearts.



Vision Board Nominees

The following candidates are presented by the Grace Lutheran Church Nominations Committee to be elected for the two open Vision Board positions. We want to give thanks to Tari Yates and BreAnn Haugrud who have served on Vision Board for the last three years. We are also thankful for Neil Hawkinson who was appointed by the Vision Board to serve as Bernard McDowell's replacement when he resigned his position last summer.

Now just a little background to the Nominations Process: At the February Vision Board Meeting a Nominations Committee was appointed: Tari Yates, BreAnn Haugrud, Jan Galvin, Alden Riley, Johnna Hirt, and Pastor Mark (ex-official). The Committee was tasked to prayerfully consider candidates who are actively involved, have served in at least one ministry, and have demonstration leadership characteristics needed to serve at this top level leadership. At least 25 possible candidates were invited to a discernment meeting and asked to consider whether God was calling them to serve at this time. The list of candidates Vision Board is presenting now for your vote is the end result of the Nominations Process at Grace.

In addition to the candidates for the two open positions of Vision Board, you are also asked to re-elect Neil Hawkinson to serve the last year of Bernard McDowell's vacated position. Since it takes a considerable amount of time for a new person to be acclimated to the inner workings of Vision Board, it was determined that we need to re-elect Neil for the remaining 12 months. The ballot will ask you to indicate either "Yes" or "No" to his re-election.

The 2016 Vision Board Elections will be held during the 2016 May Congregational Meeting which will be held after all the worship services on May 21st & 22nd.

Vision Board Candidates

Scott Christensen



As a member of Grace for nearly 20 years, my wife Lisa, and daughters Laura, Annie and I have been active in many ministries at Grace, that we consider our spiritual home. I personally have a passion for the Worship and Music Ministries at Grace, and am currently active on the Grace4Rakai and Stewardship Ministry Teams. I have been active in various leadership roles at

Grace, and through prayer and discernment feel called again to serve Christ and our congregation in ministry by serving on the Vision Board. Thanks for your consideration of my candidacy.

Beth Clarstrom



My family and I are second rounders at Grace. My husband, Mark and three daughters moved to Andover in 2004 from WI due to Mark's employment relocation. I taught Sunday school at Grace from 2005-2009 and I was employed at Grace as the bookkeeper from 2006 up until our second relocation in 2009, when we moved to Alexandria, MN. While in Alex, I became very active at Calvary Lutheran. Preparing

meals every Wednesday for the catechism youth and establishing the bread bakers committee, and eventually being employed as their communications coordinator. The railroad sent us back to the twin cities area this past September and we currently reside in Blaine. Our girls, who had 1st Communion at Grace and our youngest was baptized by Pastor Mark, are now graduating (Lily), being confirmed (Cassie), and in catechism (Laurie) have grown to understand our faith travels with us wherever we may go and it is okay to grieve what you miss and to let go when you are ready.

I feel the Holy Spirit guiding me and assuring me that He is with me always, with every move I make. I am honored and humbled to be nominated for the Vision Board and look forward to my round-2 time at Grace. ~

Becky Martin - Facer



My name is Becky Martin-Facer and I've been a member of Grace since October, 2012. I have been involved with our youth group, Feed My Starving Children, was on the Holy Conversation team and currently sing on the Praise team. I was on my previous church's board and am familiar with the tough decisions churches have to make and the dedication it takes to be in a leadership role. I am currently a psychotherapist and

supervisor at Central Minnesota Mental Health Center. I live in Andover with my wife, Susan, and our two girls, Emma (13) and Abby (10). We are all very involved at Grace in different ways.

I am very excited about the opportunity to be part of the Vision Board and help our church continue to move forward in reaching out to our community and grow!

Vision Épassion

Leadership

Chad Hadler



I have been attending Grace for the last 6 years; 2 years ago, my family made the decision to make Grace our church home and became members. I have lived in multiple locations throughout Minnesota, but for the past 7 years my family has called Andover home. My wife, Leah, and I have been married for the past 10 years and have a 4-year-old daughter.

In my professional career, I spent 6 years working for the Boy Scouts of America in the Rochester, MN area. My roll with the Boy Scouts included fundraising, volunteer management, and volunteer recruitment. For the past 9 years I have been working as an Operations Manager for Lake Restoration in Rogers, MN. My role includes budgeting, sales, service, and staff management. I have to be a forward thinker in my professional life and continuously consider the bigger picture, which I intend to prayerfully utilize on the Vision Board if I am elected.

My volunteer efforts at Grace have included ushering at the 10:30 am service as well as being a member of the Stewardship committee.

Thank you for your consideration; I look forward to serving our faith community.

Heather Johnson



My family and I have been members of Grace Lutheran for the past 4 years. We have participated in many events here at Grace and love that it is our second home. My husband, Dan, is a member of the worship team and our daughter, Mackenzie, loves attending Sunday School and Golden Rule here at Grace. I am currently a Special Education administrator and have been an employee in the Anoka Hennepin School District for 16 years. I look forward to being a continued servant-leader for Grace through the Vision Board.

Deb Shephard



I have been a member at Grace for fifteen years. During this time I have served on the Vision Board, taught Sunday School, and have been a Catechism small group leader for the last six years. I assist during the worship service on Saturday evenings as a communion server or as the projectionist. My hope for serving

on the Vision Board is keep the church in a position to support the ongoing ministries and outreach programs that share the love of Christ within our community and beyond.

My husband Ed and I have three children, Brock (19), Aubrey (18), and Cara (15). I am the principal at Rum River Elementary School in Andover, and I am an adjunct professor at St. Mary's University. I have a passion for volunteering and find this type of work a genuine way to share my faith. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, attending my children's activities, and going to the cabin.

Candidate for Re-election

Neil Hawkinson



Greetings. My name is Neil Hawkinson and I was appointed to serve out Bernard McDowell's term. I have been a member of Grace for 8 years. I am a family man with a loving wife and 3 wonderful children. I believe that my experiences, professional life, and faith in our Lord have given me the skills to be a contributing member of the Vision Board.

In my professional life, I am a product development engineer where I'm tasked with making critical decisions, innovating new designs and processes, and leading project teams. Earlier last year the Holy Spirit called me to participate in the Haiti mission trip where I helped lead the group in building the framework for a chicken coop in Williamson. I am excited for the opportunity to be re-elected to finish this final year on the Vision Board.