



**September 2025 – August 2026
Annual Report**

Pastor's Report
~ Pastor Steve Troisi, Senior Pastor

This year has been one of the busiest—and most exciting—I can remember at Grace. So many areas of ministry are thriving, making it a joy to serve a congregation that continues to grow in faith, generosity, and mission.

One of the most significant undertakings this year was the sale of the Wilkes County property, a generous gift to Grace from many years ago that is now blessing the congregation in remarkable ways. Its timing could not have been better, as the Church Council was ready to begin bringing several of the "big ideas" we have been discerning for years to life.

Inspired by the generosity of the Moretz Family, we launched the **Grace for Generations** campaign, and the response has exceeded anything I could have imagined. The generosity of this congregation has been truly extraordinary. With a dollar-for-dollar matching gift of up to \$250,000, we have already completed several major projects, including replacing the roof on the main church building, expanding the back parking lot, and installing a new HVAC system in the Councill House.

Looking ahead to 2027, we plan to renovate Grace Place, update the playground, complete the remaining improvements to the Councill House, and establish a strategic operational cash reserve to strengthen the congregation's future. In addition, proceeds from the Wilkes County property allowed us to establish the **Moretz Family Memorial Foundation** with an initial gift of \$400,000. This endowment will provide ongoing support for property and facility needs, as well as other initiatives that further our mission to **Share God's Love so that ALL are served and supported.**

Grace has also continued to play a central role in our community's recovery from Hurricane Helene. We remain the primary meeting site for the Watauga Long-Term Recovery Group and opened the Councill House free of charge to volunteer teams serving through Lutheran Disaster Response of the Carolinas. This summer, we were grateful to welcome Kade Maiden back to serve as Grace's liaison to those disaster response teams. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we have also been able to provide significant capacity grant funding to the Watauga Long-Term



Recovery Group, along with direct assistance to neighbors in our community who continue to recover from the storm.

Our Worship and Music Ministry continues to flourish. As worship attendance has grown, so has participation in our choirs and musical ensembles. I want to express my deepest gratitude to Libby Brown, our Director of Worship and Music Ministries. Her creativity, leadership, and passion enrich every worship service and help make our gatherings both meaningful and inspiring.

We have also seen continued growth in our Youth and Family Ministries during a season of transition. In January, we said goodbye to Liv Kyles and wished her every blessing in her new chapter. Deacon Stacey graciously stepped in to provide leadership while the Council discerned our next steps. Through that process, we sensed God calling us to think more broadly about ministry across the entire congregation. As a result, we created a new full-time position focused on strengthening congregational life, and we were thrilled to welcome Matt Chapman as our Director of Congregational Life in August.

On a personal note, this year has prompted me to reflect on the nine years we have now shared together in ministry. I remain deeply grateful for the privilege of serving alongside you. Time and again, I have witnessed the Holy Spirit at work through the generosity, compassion, and faithfulness of the people of Grace. While it feels as though we have already shared many years of meaningful ministry together, I am even more excited about what God is preparing for us in the years ahead.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and for the many ways you continue to share God's love with one another and with our community.

In Grace,
Pastor Steve

Here are a few more specific highlights from ministry this year:

Growing Ministries!

- Increased participation in youth ministry; they are preparing to serve with Give Kids the World in Florida this Summer.
- LSA continues to be strong; we brought a great group to Germany in 2026.

- The Worship and Music Ministry continues to be a strong ministry of Grace, we had 2 Choir Interns this year.
- Meet-N-Eat Crew is hosting multiple congregational meals each year.
- Increased average weekly attendance in worship!
- Giving is increasing with a projected increase of almost 4% this year compared to last year and an overall increase of almost \$100,000 in the last 5 years!

Updating Facilities

- New Roof and Gutters on the main church building (~\$155,000)
- New Heating and Air Conditioning for the Council House (~\$35,000)
- Fixed Drainage and Gutter lines in the front corner of the property (lots of volunteer labor!)
- Expanded Back Parking Lot (~\$180,000)
- The new Property Team has been hard at work!!

Serving and Supporting Neighbors

- Host site for meetings for the Watauga Long Term Recovery Group
- Created bi-monthly calendar of community partners to focus outreach efforts
- Opened the Council House for a second summer for LRDC Volunteer groups
- Hired Kade Maiden to support the work of LRDC groups.
- Provided a monthly meal at the Hospitality House
- Hosted 3 Red Cross Blood Drives
- Hosted countless community groups along with AA

Congregation Council Report
~ James Holden, Council President

We have once again had an eventful year at Grace, including our church council. Each council member has shown leadership and dedication in seeking to further the mission of our church.

This time last year, our church and its council were prayerfully considering what it meant for us that the flow of seminary interns to our congregation had slowed or stopped. This year, we came to an answer: instead of continuing to hope for an intern, we would instead create a new position, the director of congregational life. This new role will serve the entire church, leading youth and family programming, small groups, Sunday school and other areas of the life of our congregation. We are thrilled that Matthew Chapman will be joining our church's staff in this role in August.

We were thrilled this winter by the successful sale of the Wilkes property and the establishment of the Moretz Family Memorial Foundation. This foundation will be a major support for the years to come.

Another major project for the council this year was the launching of the Grace for Generations capital campaign. Through generous giving from our congregation and the Moretz Foundation, we have already funded (and completed!) several major property projects: the new roof for our church building, new heating and cooling for the Council House, and the parking lot extension. We hope that as the campaign goes on we may continue to see improvements to our physical environment that serve our congregation and our community.

Council held a retreat this spring, the first in recent years. Through the retreat and follow-up discussion we identified areas of growth and improvement in our ministry and will establish short- and long-term goals for the coming years. These will revolve around four central themes: making our space welcoming and accessible; growing in relationship with God; anticipating and responding needs in the congregation and community; and caring for and comforting each other. There are many things to look forward to, as well as many long discussions to be had. We have dwelt and will keep dwelling in the tension of being rooted in tradition, but our tradition being rooted in Reformation.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as council president for these two years. Throughout my term I have felt love, support and energy from my fellow council members, our church staff, and the church as a whole. I am grateful to belong to a church community like this one. Thank you all, and thanks be to God, from whom all blessings flow.

MINISTRY STRUCTURE—2025-2026

Updated 9/16/25

Updated 9/16/25

Ministry Pillars & SCouncil Liaisons	Ministry Groups	Ministry Group Chairperson/Contact	
LEARNING			
	Kristie Evans	Faith Formation	
		Internship Committee	Carla Ramsdell
		Stewardship	Wayne Powell
SERVING			
	Jesse Lutablegwa	Community Action	Janice Koppenhaver
		Grace Builders	Harold Stophel
		Visitation Ministry	
	Troutman Foundation		
WORSHIPING			
	Lynn Caldwell	Worship & Music	Alan Hauser
		Altar Guild	Beth Reavis

WELCOMING	Small Group Ministry	
	High Country Coalition	Pastor Steve
	Evangelism (Hospitality)	
	Amy Atkins	Campus Ministry/Jeffcoat
Liz Peter	Fellowship Ministry	
SUPPORTING		
Jonathan Stamey	Property Team	
Morgan Wright	Finance Team	Morgan Wright
Eric Breitenstein	Website & Technology	Sabena Maiden
Jennifer Davis	Personnel	
James Holden	Executive Committee	
	Columbarium Committee	Gail Lund & Sandy Moretz
	Critical Incident Response Team	Alex Peter and Mick Kreszock

*Please see the current “People of Grace” directory for contact information.

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LEARNING MINISTRY
Faith Formation, Adults
~ Pastor Steve

Adults Faith Formation offered some wonderful studies throughout the year!

On Sunday mornings at 8:30am the group studied 5 books:

October/November 2025 — Strategic Recommendations for the ELCA — Led by Pastor Steve

January/February 2026 — The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry — Led by Pastor Steve

March 2026 — Central Things — Led by Pastor Steve

April/May/June 2026 — The Council of Nicaea — Led by Pastor Steve

Additionally, there were regular Thursday studies offered at 10:30am led primarily by Pastor Steve. During the year Dana Holden led two series during the week, one in the evening for women.

LEARNING MINISTRY
Faith Formation, Children, Youth and Family
~ Deacon Stacey

This spring, I was grateful for the opportunity to serve as Interim Youth & Family Ministry Director following Liv's departure. It was a privilege to walk alongside our youth and families during this season of transition.

Our primary focus was building community and creating a space where young people could grow in faith, ask honest questions, and know they belong. Throughout the semester, many of our conversations centered on God's unconditional love and learning to see ourselves through God's eyes. In a world where students face increasing pressure from academics, social media, and unrealistic expectations, we wanted to remind them of one simple truth: they are wonderfully made, deeply loved by God, and surrounded by a community that loves and supports them just as they are.



Building Community

Relationships remained at the heart of our ministry. Confirmation and Youth Group met regularly for Bible study, discussion, games, and fellowship. Together, students explored what it means to follow Christ in everyday life while encouraging one another through life's joys and challenges.

Families also gathered throughout the spring for special events, including a Family Movie Night featuring *The Minecraft Movie* and a family devotion, an indoor pool party, and a youth outing to see *Matilda* at Watauga High School. These opportunities strengthened friendships across generations and reminded us that faith is nurtured best in community.

Faith Formation



This spring's lessons encouraged students to see themselves as God sees them. One memorable Youth Group discussion used a scene from *Emily in Paris* to explore how we often hide behind the "filters" we often feel pressured to wear. Together, we reflected on the promise that with God, there is no need to pretend—we are already fully known, fully accepted, and fully loved. Confirmation students continued growing in their understanding of Scripture, Lutheran faith, and what it means to live out their baptismal calling.

Fundraising

Our youth demonstrated wonderful enthusiasm and teamwork through two successful fundraisers this spring. A partnership with Come Back Shack raised over \$100 through a portion of the restaurant's sales—an amount the ComeBack Shack staff shared was an outstanding result for a community fundraiser. In addition, our congregation's youth fundraiser raised around \$1,200 to help support upcoming ministry opportunities and our summer mission trip.



More important than the dollars raised was seeing our young people work together, serve with joyful hearts, and experience the generosity of a congregation that continually invests in their faith and growth.

Retreats and Fellowship

Nine youth and three adult leaders participated in the LYO Retreat, spending a weekend focused on worship, fellowship, and building relationships with youth from across the synod. These experiences continue to strengthen our connection to the wider church and help students see they are part of something much bigger than themselves.

Service and Outreach



Our youth joyfully served our congregation by preparing and hiding eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, helping create a fun and welcoming experience for children and families on Easter morning. Through opportunities like this, students continue to learn that serving others is an important expression of our faith.

Youth Sunday & Graduation Celebration

One of the highlights of the year was Youth Sunday, when our young people took an active leadership role in worship, sharing their gifts with the congregation through leadership, participation, and service. It was a meaningful celebration of the ways God is at work through our youth.

During the service, we also celebrated and blessed our graduating seniors: Barrett Davis, Keller Wallin, and Maura Moretz. We give thanks for their years of involvement in the life of Grace Lutheran and pray God's abundant blessings as they begin the next chapter of their journeys. They will always have a church family cheering them on.

Looking Ahead

As summer begins, we look forward to gathering for a fun fellowship outing at Jeremiah's Italian Ice before our August mission trip to Give



Kids the World Village in Florida. We are excited for another opportunity to serve together while bringing joy to families of children with critical illnesses.

Looking ahead to the coming year, I am especially excited to welcome Matthew Chapman as Grace Lutheran's new Youth Ministry Director. Having known Matthew both as his campus minister, I have seen firsthand his deep faith, genuine compassion, enthusiasm, and heart for young people. I am confident he will build meaningful relationships with our youth and families while helping this ministry continue to grow in faith, community, and service.

Thank you to our parents, volunteers, congregation, and all who support Youth & Family Ministry through your prayers, encouragement, and generosity. Your partnership helps create a place where every young person can know they are loved by God, welcomed by this community, and encouraged to grow into the person God created them to be.



***LEARNING MINISTRY
Stewardship Team
~ Wayne Powell***

The Stewardship Committee this year included members Alan Hauser, James Holden, Kristie Evans, and Wayne Powell.

The annual Stewardship Focus was conducted in May 2026 with an emphasis on celebrating the ministries of grace and how they are supported by our financial and time commitments. Short talks were presented at each of the five Sundays in May, with one on each of the five ministries.

These were:

5/3 Welcoming, Sabena Maiden

5/10 Service, Community representative

5/17 Support, Jennifer Davis with a focus on the new DOCL position

5/24 Worship, Pentecost, Amy Atkins on Altar Guild

5/31 Learning, Youth Sunday, Collin Troisi

All congregational members were asked to complete financial pledge statements as well as interests in how to apply their time and talents.

SERVING MINISTRY
Prayer Ministry
~ Cinda Williamson

PRAYER MINISTRY

Jesus set a powerful example for his followers, including us, in teaching us how to converse with His Father, our Lord. He taught us the Lord's Prayer which we pray every week and demonstrated ways in which to escape in private for our individual times with the Lord. We have many participants in this congregational ministry of prayer. Each week there is an updated sheet in the Narthex, as well as posted digitally in the weekly e-newsletter "Grace Happenings" containing people who have special needs: illnesses, death of a loved one, or homebound. Prayers are also shared for joyous occasions: birth of a new baby or significant wedding anniversaries.

If there are needs that are more immediate, e-mails or phone calls can be sent to Cinda Williamson (alcindalme@skybest.com) who will send out a request to volunteers who have indicated an interest to be directly involved in this type of prayer. Thank you to all who are offering prayers for any of these needs.

HEALING PRAYERS

On the first and third Sundays of the month, there is an opportunity to ask for special prayers for physical healing, emotional issues, thanksgiving, or anything you want to share with a person who is most willing to pray to our Lord on your behalf. Following Communion, please enter the chapel and approach the person standing at the kneeler. He or she will pray for your particular concerns and also offer you anointing of oil. Our Lord hears our requests and is most pleased when we approach Him. If you are interested in becoming a 'healing pray-er,' please contact Cinda Williamson (alcindalme@skybest.com, 828/773-1342).

SERVING MINISTRY
Community Action Team
~ Janice Koppenhaver, Chairperson

Whether you look at the green bags in the Narthex, the brown baskets in the Fellowship Hall or drive out of the parking lots at Grace you are reminded to take action to share God's love beyond the church walls. Little acts of kindness go a long way. Can you choose one thing a month?

Blood Drives - Give blood or volunteer at a blood drive. Blood drives are typically in a Saturday in February and August and 30 pints are collected at each drive.

Hospitality House Meals - Give a donation to have F.A.R.M Cafe make a delicious meal on the second Wednesday for the guests at Hospitality House. That's 1,500 meals a year that we support two of our community partners.

Hunger & Health Coalition - Grab a green bag or a copy of the greatest needs from the coat rack in the Narthex. Have an extra box of cereal or jars of peanut butter and jelly? Drop it in the little wagon near the coffee pot in the Fellowship Hall. Remember, you don't have to fill a green bag to contribute.

Grace Builders - Do you have a Tuesday morning free that you can help split wood or do you like to build ramps? Grace Builders if for you!

Watauga Habitat for Humanity - Got building skills or a willingness to learn? Look online at wataugahabitat.org for volunteer days.

More Actions Beyond our Walls: We collect things for the community, nationally and internationally: pill bottles for Guatemala, eye glasses for people in need through the Lions' Club, material for quilts shared with Lutheran World Relief, as well as pillowcases for dresses and shorts. We also collect toiletries for Hospitality House. Check out the brown baskets in the Fellowship Hall near the kitchen.

Grace has also formed relationships with Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture, High Country Caregivers, Children's Council, the Salvation Army and AMOREM as well as Long Term Recovery Efforts for Helene. For most of these great community organizations, we primarily help get the word out about their key upcoming events and fundraisers, but we've also provided meeting space (for AA and other caring community groups) and donations of time and needed items as well.

You don't have to do something big to have an impact outside of Grace. Take a few minutes to pray for our neighbors in need and take a small action for our community – near and far. Remember the words of Matthew 25:40 ... “whenever you did this for one of the least important, you did it for me!” (GNB)



SERVING MINISTRY
Grace Builders Ministry
~ Harold Stophel, Team Leader

Dear Friends in Christ,

This Report This Report covers the fiscal period from July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2026

As a reminder, GRACE Builders does NOT have a line item in the Church Budget. We operate totally on funds from other sources, such as Personal Donations, Troutman Foundation, Thrivent, Fund Raisers and GOD's generous Blessings. We try to focus more on the needs in front of us and trust that God will provide what resources are needed.

The last year was the most difficult and the most challenging to report for many reasons. For these reasons, many of the numbers are educated estimates because it was nearly impossible to capture the number of volunteers and all the hours they worked. However the financial information is accurate.

Over the last couple years we have been seeking ways that The GRACE Builders Team and it's projects can be continued. Many think of the wood ministry as a separate operation, when actually it was just another project that we started 17 years ago and just renewed each year. The situation relating to the firewood ministry's continuation is expressed well by Pastor Steve's article in the "Grace Happenings" on 6-4-2026 and is included on the next page.

We want to acknowledge our Brother and Sister Volunteers who have been partners with us for many years. We are also blessed by several individual volunteers and Groups who help with great regularity. In recent years, we've had several of our Professional Wood friends who help us greatly by dropping logs on our lot. This is valuable help, because our fewer number of Volunteers can focus on sawing and splitting Firewood rather than gathering trees.

Most of our Operating and Primary Material Costs (RECOVERY, FUEL and CONSTRUCTION) were 40% to 60% HIGHER this year, and this "Inflation" reflects in our final numbers. We also had significantly more experiences in the effort to repair and restore the "CLAW" (Track Hoe) which was seriously damaged in the flood. The heavier equipment can help make up for the Many Fewer Volunteers doing the same work.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Woodlot Change

On June 1st there was a major shift at the Helping Hands Woodlot which is a ministry of Grace Builders. Over the past couple of years, Harold had been looking for a partner to take over operation of the wood ministry in order to free him up to focus on other Grace Builders projects.



We approached several other ministries and nonprofits in town, but none seemed capable or willing to take on such a large project. Each year the woodlot gives away around 600-700 truckloads of split firewood! It is one of the largest firewood ministries on the east coast and without a new partner to take over operations, Harold and I had actually had some difficult conversations about whether we might need to close the woodlot entirely.

It was then that we were approached by Scott Delanay, a local police officer, who had been serving at the woodlot with his church. He met with me and Harold several times to talk through what a feasible transition process might look like.

We developed a two-year Memorandum of Understanding. During this time, Grace Builders will retain ownership over all of the equipment, but Scott will take over the day-to-day operations. Grace Builders has offered to help cover the cost associated with the woodlot for these two years to ease into the transition process. We have met with leadership from the Hunger and Health Coalition (as the woodlot site will remain there) and they seem on board with this process too.

So, effective June 1st, the key contact person for the Helping Hands Woodlot will be Scott. Harold has his contact information, as does Sabena in the office. I personally am happy that we have found a trusted partner who shares our commitment of serving and supporting those in need in our community in this special way.

In Grace,
Pastor Steve

SUMMARY

This year we completed 41 Projects/Activities (12 Outreach and 29 Internal), in addition to the Fire Wood Ministry. To accomplish this required 6,779 Volunteer Hours and \$33,403 Total Cost, distributed as follows:

+ OVERHEAD	\$3,017	or	9%
+TOOLS/equipment*	\$7,050	or	21% (includes “Claw” repair)
+INTERNAL PROJECTS	\$3,145	or	10%
+OUTREACH PROJECTS	\$16,260	or	48%
+FIRE WOOD MINISTRY	\$3,931	or	12%
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	\$33,403		100%

*Tools/Equipment are allocated to ALL areas of ministry

In addition, we transferred \$15,000 into an operating account for Scott Delaney, the new leader of the Firewood ministry to cover the next two years.

OUTREACH PROJECTS

We finished 10 SMALLER Projects which were to help people with physical needs due to health issues or lack of financial resources. These include such things as modifications or home repairs, safety equipment, etc. These 10 projects required:

Volunteer Hours- 120 Cost: \$1,453

LARGER OUTREACH PROJECTS:

WHEELCHAIR RAMP (#50) Stamey
This family quickly needed a ramp with a concrete landing pad in the middle of a gravel driveway.

Volunteer Hours- 116 Cost - \$1,457

WHEELCHAIR RAMP (#51) Alexander
This home was damaged by the Helene storm and the 91-year-old mother needed safe access from the house to their driveway.

Volunteer Hrs. - 127 Cost - \$1,997

WHEELCHAIR RAMP (# 52) B. Smith

This request was for a man who was scheduled for hip surgery and thought he would need it when returning home from the surgery. We did the planning and drawings but had secured the materials when he put it "on hold" as his doctor told him it should NOT be needed.

Volunteer Hrs. - 3

Cost - \$250

WHEELCHAIR RAMP (#53) Parlier/Greene

This elderly woman was in the hospital at the time of the request to build it before she was to come home. We did the construction drawings and secured all the materials. Before we started the actual building, we were notified that she had taken a serious turn and had entered Hospice care and would not need the ramp.

Volunteer Hrs. - 3

Cost - \$250

HABITAT HOUSE --Rink Family

The Rink family was able to move into their new Habitat home which was dedicated April 26. There were a few special needs which were not included in the finished house. We provided the resources, materials and labor to finish the project.

Volunteer Hrs. - 21

Cost -\$428

WHEELCHAIR RAMP (#55) Banks

This was an "emergency" request. The patient was being released early from the hospital and needed wheelchair access to her home. We planned and built the ramp in four days.

Volunteer Hrs. - 128

Cost - \$707

TEMPLETON HOUSE REPAIRS

This family was able to acquire a home, which had some areas that needed to be insulated and improved, including a fenced porch and hand rails and steps. It still needs additional work which will be done.

Volunteer Hrs. - 79

Cost - \$632

SAFETY RAILS-Bolick

This person needs safety rails installed because of upcoming surgery. We have purchased the materials but have not started the installation.

Volunteer Hrs. - 2

Cost - \$350

SAFETY RAILS-Norris

We installed safety rails in this home and the bathrooms and hallways for a person who has mobility issues.

Volunteer Hrs. - 24

Cost - \$321

PORCH REPAIR-Lehman

This project was to repair damage to his home by one of the storms. We replaced the porch, support structure and rails.

Volunteer Hrs. - 56

Cost - \$250

WHEELCHAIR RAMP (#54) Campbell Family

This project was started to help the Campbell family to provide a safe home for a granddaughter who has a three and a half year old son, and she has a rare health issue where she will suddenly be paralyzed from the waist down. After a time, it will be restored. I was told it is a hereditary issue.

We are providing not only a 48 foot long ramp but a large porch and special steps that have only a 6-inch rise per step. We are well into the building, but far from completion. It may be several months. We, however, have bought virtually all the materials needed to finish.

A group from "Hound Ears" has been helping with construction and financing. We are grateful for their help and the estimated \$3,000 spent.

Volunteer Hrs. - well over 700 est.

Cost - \$6,503

P.S. Do we expect the overall cost including cleanup and trash removal could be in excess of \$14,000.

INTERNAL PROJECTS

We completed 19 SMALLER Internal Projects. Some examples of the smaller ones are: Several repairs to Grace Church inside and out, assisted Altar Guild with banners, cross and decorations for the special days and seasons. We set up and removed choir risers. We made several small repairs to toilets, electrical devices and door locks. We changed locks on the front doors, moved furniture and shelving for repurpose of rooms and did many more things that required time and money.

Volunteer Hours-201

Cost \$703

The LARGER PROJECTS are as follows:

SLIT WINDOWS IN DOORS

It was determined that ALL Meeting Rooms, Classrooms and Activity rooms that did not currently have visual access should have these installed.

Volunteer Hours- 27

Cost- \$612

STEPS REBUILT outside OFFICE/KITCHEN

These steps needed repairs but also needed to have additional pipes through them to accommodate 2 new air condition units. The enclosure fence also needed to be enlarged.

Volunteer Hours- 62

Cost- \$977

RELOCATE “RISER” STORAGE BUILDING

We needed to relocate the storage building that held the risers that are used for choir cantatas. This was the space where it was needed to be cleared for the Councill House parking lot expansion.

Volunteer Hours- 56

Cost- \$300

GRACE PLACE HOUSE

Plumbing repairs to the bathroom double sink.

Volunteer Hours- 18

Cost- \$110

TOOL TRAILER REPAIR

After twenty years out in the weather, it was leaking badly and needed cleaning, ceiling, and other repairs. John Robertson completed it all by himself. The entire roof was sealed with a rubber coating.

Volunteer Hours- 32

Cost- \$150

HELPING HANDS WOOD MINISTRY

!!!!-- AN EXTRAORDINARY FIREWOOD MINISTRY YEAR--!!!!

The Fire Wood Ministry had another heavy year, with 500 loads. We give the wood free to people who heat with wood, but cannot afford to buy it. The Hunger & Health Coalition and WeCAN agencies help select the people who will receive it. We do the work and pay all the costs.

Most of the raw wood now comes from our friends in the Professional Tree Industry who know what we are attempting to do to help people in need.

A special note of appreciation for all the individuals and outside groups of volunteers who came from ASU, other universities, other churches, charities and agencies. We would love to have more Volunteers, especially from our own Grace Family.

Volunteer Hours -- 5,000 Costs -- \$10,00 (plus the aforementioned of \$15,000)

INVITATION

If you would like to help (or just stay informed as to what we are doing), please contact me or any Team Member with your email address and phone number and we will be happy to add you to our roster. We would love to have you join us at ANY time on ANY project (my cell 828- 789-9127). And you may contact Scott Delaney at 419-351-5724 for firewood issues.

THANK YOU for ALL your wonderful support, your encouragement, your dollars and your prayers. We CANNOT do this work without you as our partner!

You are "the Helping Hands in the Service of Our Savior, Jesus Christ."



The Grace Builders Team was officially approved on February 2007 by the Church Council. We had operated for about two years prior to that, but did not keep complete records. The information below reflects the documentation that we have. Because we did a lot of work in which time and costs were not captured, we believe that early years (and to some extent today) are understated. Costs in the first three years (and beyond) were paid out of our pockets.

ANNUAL SUMMARY

YEAR ENDING	COST TOTAL	O.H. %	VOLUNTEER HOURS	INTERNAL PROJECTS	OUTREACH PROJECTS	TOTAL PROJECTS
2025-2026	33,403	9%	6,779	29	12	41
2024-2025	18,949	6%	4,054	21	14	35
2023-2024	33,974	4%	7,188	27	14	41
2022-2023	*34,971	5%	7,250	32	25	57
2021-2022	\$19,200	6.4%	3,808	29	20	49
2020	\$22,182	6.5%	8,788	42	26	68
2019	\$23,731	5.6%	6,824	42	29	71
2018	\$26,038	4.5%	7,114	45	25	71
2017	\$18,618	6%	7,659	42	24	66
2016	\$18,743	3%	8,505	20	19	39
2015	\$16,748	4%	8,371	26	21	47
2014	\$19,580		7,592	19	19	38
2013	\$11,819		5,900	25	20	45
2012	\$23,188		5,417	21	19	40
2011	\$8,934		4,300	18	22	40
2010	\$15,257		3,811	20	12	32
2009	\$13,539		4,633	13	4+	17+
2008	\$12,850		2,677	10	4+	14+
*2007	\$10,831		3,357			
2006	5,469		2,249			
2005						
2004						
TOTAL SINCE START	\$370,075		112,222	460	315	775

SPECIAL COST ABOVE ANNUAL PROJECTS/EQUIPMENT

- 42 Ton "Monster" Splitter - \$9,500
- Building to House MONSTER - 3,000
- 2nd 42 Ton Splitter with 8 Blade Head - 14,000
- TRACK HOE "CLAW" To Replace 2 Lost Tractors - 24,000
- 37 TON - "PUSHING" splitters - \$47,800

SERVING MINISTRY
Edwin F. Troutman & Family Foundation
~ Janice Koppenhaver

The Edwin F. Troutman Foundation is an endowment fund that was established for the purpose of furthering the mission work of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Boone, NC. All submissions must have a Grace Lutheran Church sponsor. The board meets once a year in the spring. Assuming there is enough growth in the fund, we review applications and make awards. The board was served by the following members this past year: Pastor Steve Troisi, Janice Koppenhaver (chair), Jeff Voss, Daniel Collins, and Mike Seden. The Troutman Foundation Board met on April 22nd to review grant applications. Those funds were distributed in May to the following organizations:

Grant Applicant	2026 Grants Application	2026 Grants Requests	2026 Grants Awarded
<u>Outside Organizations:</u>			
OASIS, Inc.	\$2,000	Domestic Violence Prevention efforts	\$2,000
HHC Free Clinic (formerly Community Care Clinic)	\$2,000	Provide a continuum of care	\$1,500
Hunger and Health	\$2,000	Food and prescriptions	\$1,500
Hospitality House	\$2,000	Food/shelter Needs	\$2,000
Watauga Habitat for Humanity	\$2,000	Building Materials	\$2,000
NovusWay /Lutherrock	\$1,500	Summer camp support	\$1,500
Matthew 2540	\$3,000	Purchase medications for Guatemala	\$1,300
Quiet Givers	\$2,000	Meet unmet community needs	\$1,000
Blue Ridge Conservancy	\$2,500	Land protection and increasing outdoor education	\$1,000
Watauga Housing Council	\$3,000	Increase media connections with residents who need housing.	\$1,000
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>\$22,000</i>		<i>\$14,800</i>
<u>Grace Outreaches: (ongoing, no application)</u>			
Pillowcase Dresses/Shorts	\$100	Clothing made and sent to abroad	\$100
Grace Builders	\$3,000	Supplies	\$4,000
Grace Quilters	\$1,200	Batting and backing for quilts	\$1,200
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>\$11,300</i>		<i>\$4,300</i>
TOTALS	<i>\$33,300</i>		<i>\$20,100</i>

WORSHIPING MINISTRY
Director of Music Ministry
~ Libby Brown

The Choir and Ringers of Grace enjoyed a much-deserved break during the months of June and July. Thanks to all the musicians who provided special music during the summer months: Susan Frank, piano and flute, Reba Matthewson, piano, the Grace Handbell Quartet (Kelly Rucker, Lynn Caldwell, Reba Matthewson, and Libby Brown), vocalists A.J. Cox, Blair Holden, Carol Riggs, and JoAnn Wright, Saxophonists Libby Brown and Scott Kallestead. The choir resumed rehearsals on August 13 and the handbells resumed rehearsals on August 20. We celebrated the new year with a welcome back covered dish dinner at Lynn and Paul Caldwell's home in Todd on August 13th. A good time was had by all. We welcomed our choir scholars, Gabriel Esparanza, tenor and Ainsley Trumbo, soprano, as they joined the choir on August 13.

Susan Frank, Joyce Powell and I attended Music Week at Lutheridge, July 6-11, 2025. It was a wonderful week Susan, Joyce Powell and I enjoyed singing with Bobby Hobby, ringing with Ed Tomkins, singing in the hymnfest choir with Andrew Jacob. Susan also played in the flute choir and attended organ masterclasses with Andrew Jacob. The theme for the week was Peace-Pax-Shalom. The worship services were beautiful and powerful. Wonderful worship, great friends, and the most pleasant weather we have had in years. My cup is full. I attended the Augsburg Fortress Summer Clinic at St. Paul's Lutheran, Columbia, SC On July 18-19. This short clinic is free and has reading sessions, a hymnfest, and two master classes led by Jennaya Robison, director of the National Lutheran Choir, and Jan Kraybill.

I attended the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians National Conference in Durham, NC on August 5-8, 2025. The theme of the conference was For All That Is to Be. Session highlights include *Children's Choir, Making Each Moment Count*, with Karol Kinard Kimmell, *Enriching the Liturgy with Handbells and Chimes* with Ed Tompkins, *Demystifying Copyright* with Katie Deaver from One License, *Unleashed: Unbinding the Creative Power within the Church* with NC's own CeCee Mills, two sessions on *Sustaining the Song in Every Setting* led by VOCES8. Highlights included a performance by the Raleigh Ringers, an inspiring hymn fest service *For All that is to Be: A Festival of Hymns celebrating God's Steadfast Love in Song* designed by Tom Trenney. The hymn fest was held at the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral in Raleigh. The finale concert featured VOCES8 and was held in Duke Chapel. This conference was different from any I had ever attended in that all the meals were provided. This gave us time to fellowship with other Lutheran Church Musicians and friends from around the country. Prominent Lutheran church musicians who were there included David Cherwein, Robert Hobby, Tom Trenney, Anne Krentz Organ, Wayne Wold, Zebulon Highben, Mark Johnson, and Karen Black. I am thankful to Grace for providing staff development funds that allow me to attend conferences and workshops. It was an amazing experience.

David McCollum, director of music at Rumble Presbyterian invited our choir to sing with the Rumble choir at the funeral service for Rebecca Holshouser on Sunday, Sept. 14th. Eleven Grace Choir members were honored to sing at the funeral for Rebecca Holshouser, a former member of the Grace Choir and Handbells.

Carol Riggs and I attended the NC ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) conference at Queens University, Charlotte. The theme of the conference was “Deeply Rooted.” This main focus was a very informative and inspirational deep dive into Gospel Music with Dr Frances Fonza, the director of Choral Activities at Southeastern Louisiana University. One of the most helpful sessions focused on warming up the choir...a particular weakness of mine as I rush to “get to the music” due to the constraints of one rehearsal per week. I have a new found commitment to conducting a brief but beneficial warm-up at each rehearsal and especially on Sunday morning.

A special hymn fest service, *The Reign of Christ the King*, was held on November 23, Christ the King Sunday. Evaluating the service:

The concept of reviewing the full church year is strong. Last year this service was quite long. This year the service flowed much better. While we did have a Mission Moment from the Olive Wood Representative, we did not sing every verse of every hymn and Pastor offered a reflection on the entire church year instead of on every season

The choir and Youth hosted the game day parking event on November 29. It was a very slow day...probably for three reasons: 1. It was very cold, 2. It was Thanksgiving Weekend 3. App State has not been as successful as everyone hoped. We took in \$1900 (youth \$750 and music fund \$1,150)

The Choir, accompanied by a 14-member chamber orchestra, offered the annual Christmas cantata, *Love Is Born*, by Lloyd Larson on Sunday, December 7. What a wonderful weekend... from the rehearsal with the orchestra to the joyful service on Sunday. The singers, instrumentalists, narrators, sound and video tech....all combined for a special day. Special thanks to Pastor Steve and our staff team for their support and help with this support. My cup is full!

After a busy advent season, we celebrated Christ’s birth with two services on Christmas Eve. Many of our musicians travel “over the river and through the woods” to be with their families at Christmas. Thanks to musicians who offered preservice and special music: Susan Frank, Reba Matthewson, Scott Kallestad, Elaine Kallestad, Marie Kallestad, Libby Brown, JoAnn Wright, Morgan Wright, Robin Ray, Kelly Rucker, and Lynn Caldwell. The choir enjoyed a longer break since New Year’s Eve fell on a Wednesday.

The winter weather created quite a few challenges for our music ensembles. The choir rehearsed at home with rehearsal packets similar to what we used during the pandemic. We were thankful to return on Feb. 8 and the choir was able to offer the anthem, “This Little Light of Mine.” It was quite appropriate as their joy and light shone through.

Both pianos and the organ were tuned in December. Thanks to Susan Frank for coordinating and working with the technicians. The tuner recommended that both pianos be placed on a dolly. The wheels on the pianos are only designed for positioning...not for moving from room to room. This will help maintain tuning and avoid damage when moving the pianos. The dollies were purchased and installed and we are enjoying the ease of moving the pianos.

During Lent we used Setting 12 from All Creation Sings, the supplement to the ELW. Midweek services with Holden Evening Prayer returned this year. Thanks to Susan Frank, piano and Scott Kallestad, flute for providing accompaniment for these services. The Ringers of Grace offered special music on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services were meaningful and well attended. We returned to ELW setting four for the Easter season.

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! After 40 days...the Alleluias return! We celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord with great joy on Easter Sunday. Guest musicians: Gabriela Leach, trumpet, Judd Pinnix, french horn, and Phillip Riggs, timpani were a marvelous addition to the service. From the brass and timpani, to the choir, to the organ and piano, to a full congregation singing with great joy... the Easter service was beautiful and powerful. Again, special thanks to Elaine Kallestad, Reba Matthewson, and all of the musicians of Grace for their efforts.

Update on choir scholars: The choir scholar program continues to be a strong support for our choir, especially as our members travel quite a bit. I was disappointed that Ainsley Trumbo, soprano, was unable to complete her year as a choir scholar. She stopped singing in March. Gabriel Esparanza has been a strong and faithful choir singer and soloist He plans to continue with us next year.

When filing music at the end of spring, I realized that we were out of room in the file cabinets. Sabena provided a file cabinet from her office. I have done a major reorganization project in the music library. I was able to shift the music, fit all the titles in six additional drawers, and still have room for more. It was interesting to note that I have purchased 107 choral anthems and 30 handbell anthems since 2020. It is always a good thing to touch every title in the music library and reunite with hidden gems. We currently have 659 choral anthems and 108 handbell anthems. The music library spreadsheet is maintained on google drive and shared with Sabena and Pastor.

As this church year comes to an end, we again rejoice and give thanks for the privilege of offering music to the glory of God each week. I continue to be amazed at the talents, dedication, and devotion to the music ministry of Grace given faithfully each week by the members of the Choir and Ringers of Grace. Our music ministry is in a good place. Choir membership has increased, and the handbells are offering one anthem per month. I am most appreciative of all the musicians who joyfully share their time and talents, to Pastor Steve and all of our staff for their unwavering support, and to our congregation who lift their voices with joy and gusto to the glory of God each week.



WORSHIPING MINISTRY
Altar Guild
~ Beth Reavis, Chairperson

An open invitation stands to those of you who might be interested in serving on this team of dedicated and intentional members. Duties include the set up of communion, preparing bread and ensuring that the worship spaces are prepared for the various seasons of the church year. We are grateful to have staff members who share many of these responsibilities. Our work is joyful and meaningful and we encourage you to become involved.

We continue to be grateful for your support of flower arrangements for worship and we appreciate your contribution to the beauty of our worship space. Due to the ever rising cost of flowers for the chancel and to ensure that the chancel looks its best at all times, the altar guild team voted to purchase two silk flower arrangements. This decision was brought to the worship and music team who wholeheartedly approved and supported the decision. These two arrangements are to be used in the chancel on occasions when real flowers are not available. Those times would include the Thursday recording of the online worship, funerals as requested by the family and any other time when flowers are needed but not accessible. Real flowers are our obvious choice and will always take precedence. The altar guild appreciates the cooperation and understanding of the worship and music team in assisting in this decision.

Please consider joining this group of behind the scenes servants. Your devotion of less than an hour per week is needed and would be appreciated. It is a most rewarding and valuable experience.

WORSHIPING MINISTRY: Small Group
Lizzie-Estelle Report
~ Charlene Sox, Secretary

Lizzie-Lizzie-Estelle Circle has had another successful year and usually meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm in the Fellowship Hall of Grace Lutheran Church or at a nearby restaurant. As always, we invite the women of Grace to join us.

We had a variety of interesting programs this past year. We hosted programs presented by Dr. Alan Hauser, Rev. Herb Hash, Gail Schuette, Charlene Sox, and Pastor Steve Troisi.

Lizzie-Estelle Circle made donations to Lutheran World Relief and the pastor's discretionary fund, and supported the annual fish fry (Summer Food Program) of Bethany Lutheran Church. At Grace, we donated our time and talents to the Quilt Ministry and the Card Ministry.

At each meeting, we share our Joys and Concerns with one another. We look forward to another satisfying year to come.

***WORSHIPING MINISTRY: Small Group
Grace Quilters
~ Gail Lund Schuette, Group Leader***

Grace quilters meet on Wednesdays in the Quilt Room to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. This year we provided 72 quilts for LWR, as well as donated a special one to display on the wall in the updated lower level fellowship hall.

We are always in need of gently used sheets for the backing of our quilts or if you would like to donate a new flat sheet (any size).

If you can tie a knot please come join us.

***WORSHIPING MINISTRY: Small Group
Card Ministry
~ Dawn Anderson, Interim Coordinator***

The Grace Card Ministry continues to send cards of care, concern, and blessings to people added to the church's Prayer List as well as homebound congregational members. Volunteer members in addition to both the Mary-Martha and Lizzie-Estelle Circles handle card responsibilities on a monthly basis. We currently average about 12 cards a month and get frequent comments on how much they are appreciated.

In the spring of 2026 the new coordinator, Dawn Anderson, updated our procedures in a way that effectively streamlined our work. She maintains an Excel spreadsheet that can be shared with any volunteer who would like to use this technology. The alternative method of maintaining hand written 3x5 cards is still available. The addition of space for addresses on the sanctuary Prayer Cards (by Sabena) further simplifies our process. Furthermore, a church member graciously offered to add some custom designed cards to our inventory. We look forward to continuing to share God's love in the upcoming year.

***WORSHIPING MINISTRY: Small Group
Mary-Martha Circle
~ Judy Wellborn***

Mary-Martha Circle has had a very productive year, but also a sad year with two members, unexpectedly losing a close family member. The circle is generous in offerings, allowing support to local charitable organizations, schools, individual needs and WELCA. The circle was responsible for the card Ministry of Grace in October.

An inspiring or informative program was given each month. A guest from Quietgivers presented a program about the impact this organization is having on many lives. There was always an abundance of delicious refreshments. Laughter, sadness, fun and love were present at every meeting.

Mary-Martha Circle meets the first Saturday of each month, 1:00 PM at the home of Judy Wellborn. The circle welcomes new members and visitors.

***WORSHIPING MINISTRY: Small Group
O.P.U.S. (Older People Up to Something)
~ Gail Schuette***

O.P.U.S. meets monthly, except for December and January, for fellowship and to discuss senior issues. We usually go to a restaurant after church or on a special day. This year we had many adventures and meetups, including a BBQ at the Soxes, a wonderful St. Patrick's Day event and the Bethany Annual Fish Fry, to name a few.

Everyone over 55 is welcome to join us!

***WORSHIPING MINISTRY: Small Group
Pillowcase Dress Ministry
~ Peggy Clemmer, Coordinator***

During this past year those of us participating in this ministry have had some challenges but hopefully we can get geared up for next year. We have continued to receive donations of dresses, pillowcases, boy's shorts and financial support from members in our congregation. A very generous donation of 220 pillowcases came from St. Peters Lutheran Church in North Wales, Pennsylvania from a group that came to Boone to help with the wood lot, Grace Builders and various other projects as needed in the area. A lovely lady in Florida continues to send adorable handmade dresses. Members of our committee have managed to make a few dozen dresses, however a decision was made to postpone our usual dedication until next year.

Stay tuned for big things during 2027!

WORSHIPING MINISTRY: Small Group
Reading Between the Wines
~ Kathy Griewisch, Organizer

Reading Between the Wines is a Grace women's book club that started meeting in the summer of 2017. The group usually meets monthly at a local restaurant on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. except for the months of January and February we meet via Zoom. All women are encouraged to join us in reading the monthly selection even if they are unable to join in the discussion each month. We have had a wide range of book titles and make our selections based on the interest of the group. Below are some of the titles we have read this past year. Watch for the weekly reminder and come join the fun!

September-*The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer

October- *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore

November-*The Art Thief* by Michael Finkel (December-No Book Club)

January- *James* by Percival Everett

February- *Good Town* by Mary Louise Wells

March- *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge

April- *Rednecks* by Taylor Brown

May- *My Friends* by Fredrick Bachman

June- *We Begin at the End* by Chris Whitaker

July- *The Martha's Vineyard Beach and Book Club* by Martha Hall Kelly

August- *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett

WELCOMING MINISTRY
Meet & Eat Crew
~ Liz Peter, Coordinator

I am excited to report on behalf of Grace Lutheran's Social Ministry, "Meet & Eat" crew. It has been our mission to encourage and build fellowship within our congregation meals and other social events. Our committee has planned these meals around a particular theme, the needs of our congregation or annual updates from Pastor Steve. This crew typically provides the main part of the meal as well as setup and cleaning. We try to create a relaxing environment with the option for the congregation to bring a side or dessert to share. During the planning process of each meal we always remember to include any dietary restrictions in our congregation. Our crew always wants our congregation and guests to feel included. These meals are free and it is not ever necessary to bring anything. It was wonderful to see the attendance rising with each event, especially many young families and children. Our crew even planned a wedding reception this year. It was a huge success and we hope to offer our help to others in the future. As we meet and plan for the upcoming year, we would like to try to include the music ministry in a few of our events. We are planning an outdoor event this fall with music and possibly activities for our children. As the lead person on this committee, I would like to see our planning include possible meals for our new parents or new members. It is my prayer that the Lord will continue to work through this wonderful Social Ministry to serve the members and guests of Grace Lutheran Church.

WELCOMING MINISTRY
Worship Assistants
~Sabena Maiden, Office Manager & Communications Coordinator

It's always busy on Sunday mornings at Grace, starting around 8:30am. The Coffee Hour Host is setting up the food in the Fellowship Hall. Soon after, the Assisting Minister is getting robed up while Ushers and Greeters are getting in place in the narthex. The day's Lector is quietly practicing the day's readings. The Communion Assistant is finding a smart location in the pews so that they're ready to hop up and help serve when it's time. Both the day's Sanctuary Lamp Sponsor and Flower Sponsor are flipping to the end of the worship bulletin to review their dedications. (The Altar Guild Server already got those duties done prior to the service.)

Thank you to the many dedicated volunteers who sign up to complete these various roles to ensure that our services go smoothly. Please contact the office if you are interested in serving in any of these important ways.

WELCOMING MINISTRY
Campus Ministry, Lutheran Students of Appalachian
~Deacon Stacey Troisi, LSA Campus Minister

Our Leadership for this year were President: Brianna Phillips [Jr], and Vice Presidents: Emma Ross [Jr], and Wes Strickland [Soph].

This was an exciting year for LSA, highlighted by our long-anticipated Spring Break trip to Germany. One of the greatest joys of the journey was inviting members of Grace Lutheran to travel alongside our students. We were also joined by The Well Campus Ministry from Virginia Tech. It was inspiring to watch meaningful relationships form across generations as students and congregation members learned, worshiped, and explored together while walking in the footsteps of the Reformation.



Throughout the year, our students continued to cultivate a welcoming, Christ-centered community while leading creative and successful fundraisers to support the trip. Beyond our weekly gatherings, they increasingly took the initiative to spend time together—studying, attending App State athletic events, sharing meals, and enjoying game nights. Perhaps most encouraging was watching students intentionally reach out to one another, ensuring that everyone felt welcomed, included, and valued. Their growing sense of ownership, hospitality, and community has been a beautiful reflection of God's work among us this year.

Fundraising

Our annual Game Day Parking and Chili Cook-Off were tremendous successes, raising approximately \$20,000 to support the ministry of LSA. These events would not have been possible without the incredible generosity of our volunteers, cooks, and supporters. Thank you to everyone who gave their time, talents, and energy to make these fundraisers such a success.

Retreats and Travel

Students participated in the Region 9 Spring Retreat in Kure Beach, where they experienced worship, fellowship, and spiritual renewal alongside other Lutheran college students from across the region. During Spring Break, we traveled to Germany to study the Reformation and the life and legacy of Martin Luther. This trip deepened students' understanding of their Lutheran heritage while strengthening friendships and faith.

Campus Ministry Events and Partnerships

Throughout the year, students participated in a variety of retreats, worship experiences, and special events. We welcomed staff from Lutheridge, Lutherock, Agapé, and The Dwelling, who shared opportunities for summer ministry, leadership, and service while building relationships with our students through games, conversation, and worship. We also enjoyed several evenings of devotions and theological Q&A with Pastor Steve, creating space for thoughtful discussion and spiritual growth.

Gratitude for Shared Meals

One of the greatest gifts to our ministry continues to be the generosity of congregation members who provide meals throughout the year. Sharing a meal together remains one of the most meaningful ways our students build community.

We are especially grateful to Carol and Phillip Riggs, who treated the students to ComeBack Shack for our final gathering of the year. It was a wonderful evening of laughter, gratitude, and encouragement as we celebrated another year together and sent students into the summer with one simple message: Come back!



Campus Involvement and Community Outreach

Serving others remains at the heart of our ministry.

This year, students made blankets for Project Linus under the leadership of LSA student Sarah Gouge, providing comfort to children facing difficult circumstances.

During finals week, we hosted two campus outreach events to encourage students, faculty, and staff: In December, we served Hot Chocolate and affirmations, offering warm drinks and conversation during a stressful season. In May, we handed out Lemonade, Smarties, and Affirmations, sharing words of encouragement and reminders that each person is seen, valued, and loved.

These simple acts of hospitality continue to open doors for meaningful conversations and remind our campus community that they are not alone.

Campus Advisor

Because I serve as a campus minister through Grace Lutheran Church rather than Appalachian State University, LSA maintains an official faculty Campus Advisor who receives university communications and helps keep our ministry connected to campus life.

We are grateful for Scott Evans, along with the many App State faculty and staff who continue to support our ministry by keeping us informed about campus events and opportunities.

Regional and Synod Engagement

Throughout the year, I met regularly with fellow Region 9 campus ministers via Zoom for collaboration, mutual support, and shared ministry planning.

Unfortunately, severe winter ice storms prevented our annual January gathering at the Coastal Retreat Center. While we greatly missed this opportunity for rest, learning, and fellowship, we remain thankful for the relationships and support we share throughout the year.

LSA Sunday and Senior Blessing

At the close of the academic year, students once again led worship for our annual LSA Sunday. It was a joyful celebration of the ministry we share together and an opportunity to recognize our graduating seniors.

This year we celebrated:

- Matthew Reep (Master's Degree)
- Chloe Peterson (Bachelor's Degree)
- Sydney Bean (Bachelor's Degree)



We give thanks for their leadership and faithfulness and pray God's blessings as they begin the next chapter of their vocations.

Looking Ahead

As we look toward the coming year, we are filled with hope and anticipation. A full calendar of retreats, service opportunities, worship, and fellowship awaits, providing countless opportunities for students to grow in faith, deepen friendships, and discover where God is calling them.

We are especially excited that next spring's mission trip will return to Give Kids The World Village, where students will serve families of children with critical illnesses by helping create a week filled with joy, hope, and unforgettable memories.

Thank you to Grace Lutheran Church for your continued prayers, encouragement, generosity, and faithful partnership in this ministry. Your support makes it possible for students to encounter Christ through community, service, learning, and belonging. We are excited to see how God will continue to lead and bless LSA in the year ahead.

This version has a smoother narrative, avoids repetition, and ends with a note of gratitude that ties the report back to the congregation's partnership in ministry—a tone that works especially well for an ELCA annual report.

Leadership for the 2026-2027 academic year will be President: Brianna Phillips [Sr], and Vice Presidents: Wes Strickland [Jr], Charlotte Burns [Jr], Jules Self [Jr], and Chloe Peterson [Grad Student].

WELCOMING MINISTRY
Jeffcoat-Proctor Foundation
~ Pastor Steve

The Jeffcoat-Proctor endowment exists to provide grants that support Lutheran Students of Appalachian. The current balance of the endowment as of the end of 2025 was \$236,486.30. All funds are invested in the ELCA Pooled Endowment Fund. The board can approve grants of any amount as long as it protects the initial principle of \$75,000. This year the board continued its Campus Minister offset of \$6,000. In addition, the Board approved a grant of \$19,000 to support the LSA trip to Germany. Current Board members are Natalie Harkey, Jan Burgess, Austin Eggers and Erin Young.

SUPPORTING MINISTRY
Property Team
~ Jennifer Stamey, Facilities Manager

Property Committee Mission

The Property Committee supports the staff and congregation of Grace Lutheran Church by ensuring that our facilities, infrastructure, and grounds are safe, welcoming, functional, and well maintained. Our campus includes the Church Building, Grace Place, the Councill House, and all surrounding grounds and parking areas.

These facilities serve not only as places of worship, fellowship, and ministry, but also as valuable resources for members of the greater community. Welcoming others onto our campus is an important part of Grace Lutheran's mission to share God's love and grace. Working in partnership with the Church Councill and the Facilities Manager, the Property Committee is committed to maintaining our buildings and grounds so they remain clean, safe, accessible, and inviting for everyone who visits.

A Year of Progress

The 2025–2026 year has been both busy and productive for the Property Ministry at Grace Lutheran Church. Through the dedication of our staff, volunteers, congregation, and the newly established Property Committee, we completed several major improvement projects while continuing the ongoing maintenance required to keep our campus operating safely and efficiently.

These accomplishments represent a significant investment in the future of our church and will help ensure that our facilities continue to serve our congregation and community for many years to come.

Campus Beautification & Grounds Maintenance

Two campus cleanup days brought together church members and our fraternity partners to care for the church grounds by removing leaves, spreading mulch, trimming shrubs, and completing numerous beautification projects.

Additional improvements included:

- Repainting sidewalks, retaining walls, wooden steps, fences, posts, and parking lot striping.
- Trimming trees and shrubs throughout the campus.
- Completing seasonal weeding and vegetation management across all church properties.

- Continuing routine landscaping and grounds maintenance to enhance the appearance and safety of the campus.

Building Improvements & Major Repairs

Several significant capital improvement and repair projects were completed during the year, including:

- Installation of a new roof and gutter system on the church.
- Rebuilding sections of the church chimney where deteriorated mortar required extensive brick repair.
- Construction of a new 31-space parking lot behind the Council House, including new lighting and landscaping and demolition of the Carriage House.
- Installation of a new HVAC system in the Council House, providing both heating and air conditioning.
- Restoration of the Facilities Manager's office following water damage, including new paint and carpeting.
- Preparing Grace Place for future renovations after the departure of previous tenants.
- Revitalizing the church basement into a comfortable and functional meeting space for smaller groups.
- Replacing gutters and underground drainage lines at Grace Place.
- Repairing the sewer line serving the basement restrooms and improving drainage around the brick sidewalks and basement entrance.
- Installing a new basement sump pump with an alarm system to provide additional flood protection.

Ongoing Facility Management

Routine maintenance remains one of the Property Ministry's most important responsibilities. Throughout the year, regular inspections, preventative maintenance, repairs, and facility support were coordinated across the Church Building, Grace Place, and the Council House.

This work included:

- Servicing heat pumps, boilers, furnaces, air conditioning systems, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and backflow prevention systems.
- Coordinating carpet cleaning, dishwasher and ice machine maintenance, snow removal, lawn care, and pest control services.
- Working with New River Light & Power to maintain campus lighting.
- Managing building automation systems, thermostats, security cameras, dehumidifiers, electronic door access, and security codes.

- Overseeing Grace Place housing, including lease management for intern residents.
- Coordinating parking for Appalachian State University students and our LSA members.
- Preparing and maintaining facilities for worship services, church ministries, and the many community organizations that regularly utilize our campus.

Looking Ahead...

Future Projects

Grace Place Renovation

Plans continue to move forward for the renovation of Grace Place, transforming the current two-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath residence into a three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home. This project will provide improved housing for future interns and pastors while supporting the long-term ministry needs of Grace Lutheran Church.

Future Playground

Planning continues for the development of a new playground that will better serve children, families, and the surrounding community.

Councill House Improvements

Additional improvements to the Councill House are being evaluated to increase functionality, improve accessibility, and better support ministry and community activities.

Planned Short-Term Projects

- Install additional exterior lighting at the front of the old sanctuary.
- Paint the exterior of the church.
- Paint the sanctuary interior.
- Restore and repair sections of the stained-glass windows on the front of the church.
- Repair cracks in parking lots.
- Add handicap accessible seating within the sanctuary.
- Paint the interior of the Councill House, renovate restrooms, and replace flooring.
- Update and expand both interior and exterior campus signage.

Long-Term Vision

- Install a comprehensive fire alarm system throughout the church campus.
- Add additional lighting within the sanctuary.
- Replace the church boiler.
- Replace the choir loft air conditioning system.

- Repave parking lots as needed.
- Continue campus landscaping and beautification efforts.

Thank You! Many hands truly do make light work.

The continued care of our campus depends on the generosity and dedication of many volunteers. We encourage everyone to participate in our campus cleanup days or consider adopting a small project around the church. Serving alongside fellow members is a meaningful way to care for God's house, build lasting friendships, and help ensure that Grace Lutheran Church remains a beautiful and welcoming place for worship, fellowship, ministry, and community.

Colossians 3:23–24

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

Thank you to everyone who has generously shared their time, talents, and resources throughout the past year. Your support has made these accomplishments possible and has strengthened our ability to serve both our congregation and our community.

It is a privilege to serve Grace Lutheran Church in this ministry. I am grateful for the partnership of our staff, volunteers, Property Committee, and congregation, and I look forward to continuing this important work together in the coming year.







SUPPORTING MINISTRY
Communications & Office Technology
~ Sabena Maiden, Office & Communications Manager

We've had another wonderful year at Grace! By now, our congregation has gotten well accustomed to the variety of technologies we use to keep our ministries flowing. We continue to utilize Constant Contact for our weekly e-newsletter "Grace Happenings" (our primary information tool) as well as weekly worship service information and special announcements. For the Sundays when folks cannot attend services or Sunday School in person, we use YouTube for our online worship service, ZOOM to share our Faith Formation and Sunday School classes. The BREEZE church management is used to create forms, organize weekly worship assistants (and so much more). Please know that we still post Chancel Flower and Sanctuary Lamp Charts, as well as a paper form for Sunday Worship Assistants in the narthex. We continue to send mailings through the USPS and enjoy talking to people on the phone and, of course, in person when someone wants to stop by our often bustling office.

Our church website also contains key information about the happenings at Grace, primarily focusing on our rarely changing details, such as service times and church publications. We've also continued our efforts to keep the community updated about our activities with both our Facebook and Instagram accounts. Please reach out to the office if you ever have questions!

SUPPORTING MINISTRY
Audio/Visual/Sound Technology
~ Sam Fike, Audio/Visual Ministry Facilitator

UPDATES

- New editing PC has been set up and is currently being used weekly. It has lowered the amount of time required for rendering each service.
- Updated camera memory cards to new, higher speed iterations.
- Setup a new NVME storage Drive with a new, independently-powered docking station, to alleviate the constant saving and deletion of video data from the PC's operating system SSD.
- Updated the editing PC to Windows 11 Pro.
- Converted the previous editing Grace laptop into an office computer for Jennifer to retire her previous laptop, which couldn't update to Windows 11.
- Updated the batteries of the camera lights, including a new charger with a 4-port unit.
- Began implementing a shutdown process to prevent the powering off of the sanctuary sound system from creating a loud popping in the speakers.
- Sam's office has been moved across the hall.

CURRENT ISSUES/ONGOING NEEDS

- Lav 2 may have a broken microphone lavalier, as it seems to create a popping sound when it moves in/around the pocket of assisting ministers.
- Camcorder is failing. Occasionally the recorded video files have encoding errors. One instance in particular lost the files altogether. Will resume checking into a replacement.
- Editing PC has had a few issues since upgrading to Windows 11 Pro. May require a reinstall of Windows 11 altogether to fix potential corrupt OS data (theory).

SUPPORTING MINISTRY Columbarium Committee ~ Gail Schuette, Member

The Columbarium Committee consists of Gail and Ron Schuette, Gail Hauser, Ellen Cowan and Sandy Moretz. We continue to maintain the All Saints Garden, including general pruning, watering and weeding, as well as adding perennial plants that will return each year. Please note that there are many niches still available in the two newest columbarium units. Reach out to the church office if you are interested in securing a space.

SUPPORTING MINISTRY Trexler Foundation ~ Pastor Steve

The Trexler Endowment was given in memory of Sandra Trexler and in honor of her 10 years of service as the Grace Office Administrator. This endowment supports the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the All Saints Columbarium Prayer Garden. The current balance of the fund at the end of 2025 was \$13,169.44. All funds are invested in the ELCA Pooled Endowment Fund, and grants of any amount can be distributed as long as it retains the protected principle amount of \$9,000. No requests for grants were received this year. Current Board members are Gail Schuette, Andy Burgess, Gail Hauser, and Tommy Moretz.

SUPPORTING MINISTRY
Critical Incident Response Team
~ Mick Kreszock

I am happy to report that there was only one incident that required the services of the Critical Incident Response Team during the previous year.

During this incident, the CIRT member for that Sunday handled the situation very discreetly. It involved an unhomed person who entered the church during worship service. It appeared he was having a mental health issue at the time. The CIRT member de-escalated the situation, providing support to the two ushers who were very appreciative to have a trained and prepared volunteer deal with the individual effectively and carefully.

We pray that next year will have an identical report.

SUPPORTING MINISTRY
Moretz Foundation
~ Pastor Steve

The Moretz Foundation was established at a Special Called Congregational Meeting on April 19, 2026. The Moretz Endowment was created following the sale of the Wilkes Property which was given to the church by the Moretz Family. The income and the appreciation from the funds shall be available for distribution each year for the expressed purpose of supporting the mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. All funds are invested in the ELCA Pooled Endowment Fund, and grants of any amount can be distributed as long as it retains the protected principle amount of \$400,000. No requests for grants were received this year. The first Board members will be elected at the 2026 Congregational Meeting.

SUPPORTING MINISTRY
Finance Team
~ Kathy Griewisch, Financial Secretary

Date : 07/22/2026
Time : 1:11:28 PM

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Balance Sheet
July 2026

Page : 1

Accounts		Assets	
Funds for Current Use			
011015 - High Country Bank Checking		\$70,871.96	
Total Funds for Current Use			\$70,871.96
Savings			
Certificate of Deposit			
011010 - HCB Certificate of Deposit		\$367,732.87	
Total Certificate of Deposit		\$367,732.87	
Total Savings			\$367,732.87
Funds for Long-Term Use			
HCB Money Market			
011020 - HCB Money Market		\$8,421.61	
Total HCB Money Market		\$8,421.61	
Total Funds for Long-Term Use			\$8,421.61
Accounts Receivable			
NC State Sales Tax Refund			
011718 - Watauga Sales Tax 2%		\$2,153.87	
011720 - Food Sales Tax 2%		\$4.82	
Total NC State Sales Tax Refund		\$2,158.69	
Total Accounts Receivable			\$2,158.69
Fixed Assets			
011904 - Councill Property		\$1,897,168.73	
Total Fixed Assets			\$1,897,168.73
Total Assets			\$2,346,353.86
Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
012108 - Retirement-Roth WH		(\$30.00)	
Payroll Items			
Payroll Taxes			
012101 - Federal Payroll Taxes		\$929.84	
012102 - FICA Taxes-Employee		\$517.27	
012103 - Medicare Taxes-Employee		\$121.06	
012104 - NC State Payroll Taxes		\$215.00	
012112 - FICA Taxes Employer		\$517.27	
012113 - Medicare Taxes Employer		\$121.05	
Total Payroll Taxes		\$2,421.49	
Other Payroll Items			
012105 - Employee Retirement Contributions		(\$385.00)	
012106 - Add'l Insurance Premium		(\$43.08)	
012107 - Health Care FSA		\$0.17	
Total Other Payroll Items		(\$427.91)	
Total Payroll Items		\$1,993.58	
Total Current Liabilities			\$1,963.58
Total Liabilities			\$1,963.58
Fund Principal			
002002 - Fund Principal		\$40,264.28	
002004 - Equity in Councill Property		\$1,897,168.73	
Excess Cash Received		(\$16,121.53)	
Total Fund Principal and Excess Cash Received			\$1,921,311.48
Restricted Funds			
Total Temporary Restricted		\$423,078.80	
Total Permanent Restricted		\$0.00	
Total Restricted Funds			\$423,078.80
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds			\$2,346,353.86

SUPPORTING MINISTRY
Finance Team
~ Mike Seden, Treasurer

Treasurers' year end update

As I finish my first year as Treasurer, I want to thank you for your continued generosity and support. We are approaching the close of the 2025–2026 fiscal year, and although giving to the General Fund is expected to finish slightly below projections, we are still ending the year in a strong position. Because spending has remained slightly under budget, the congregation is in a balanced and healthy fiscal state. I cannot thank you enough for the generosity you have shown throughout the year.

Grace for Generations Capital Campaign

The sale of the Wilkes Property allowed us to launch the Grace for Generations Capital Campaign and begin addressing several important needs. Through your generous donations, and with matching funds made possible by the property sale, we have already completed the first three priorities of the campaign.

- Installed a new roof on the church.
- Resolved the heating and air conditioning issues in the Council House.
- Completed the parking lot expansion.

As of this writing, you have generously donated \$290,000. These accomplishments were made possible by the congregation. It is not the council that makes these things happen—it is you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Looking Ahead

Another meaningful result of the property sale was the creation of the Moretz Family Memorial Foundation. We were also able to hire Matt as the Director of Congregational Life, an important step as our church continues to grow and thrive. Because so much is happening at Grace, next year's budget is ambitious. It may feel a little concerning at first, but I am confident in this remarkable congregation. I believe you will continue to support the General Fund and the many ministries that make Grace such a vibrant church community. Have I thanked you for your generosity?

2025-2026 Grace Lutheran Budget Narrative

CONTINUED STRONG GIVING PATTERNS

- We continue to see strong General Fund giving patterns. We **project a 5% increase in our General Fund Giving** over last year! Over the last 4 years, giving has increased an average 7.2% per year!
- Therefore, even though we are projecting giving to be about \$25,000 behind our budget for the current year, we feel confident that the congregation has the momentum and ability to step up to answer the call for next year as we continue to expand our ministry.
- We are challenging the congregation to commit to giving **\$420,000 next year**, an increase in budgeted giving of 5%.

EXPANDING MINISTRY

- **New Staff Member— New Energy!** While we have had some transition on the staff, the Council feels confident that we have a renewed energy with the addition of the new Director of Congregational Life. This full-time position is a big step forward in faith for our congregation! We expect to see continued growth in our Youth and Family Ministries along with greater engagement across all ages in the congregation.
- **Cost of Living Adjustment for Staff of 2% is included in this budget.** We believe that we have an amazing Grace staff who serve our congregation faithfully!

A BIG BOOST!

Last year, the congregation closed on the sale of the Wilkes property for about \$650,000.

- Last year, the congregation closed on the sale of the Wilkes property for about \$650,000.
- \$400,000 of this was set up as the **Moretz endowment** which should begin providing grants in 2027!
- \$250,000 was earmarked as a matching gift to spark the **Grace for Generations** Capital Campaign. We have already given almost \$300,000 toward our \$500,000 campaign goal.
With these gifts, we have already funded a new roof and gutters, the congregational portion of expanding the back parking lot, and new HVAC for the Councill House. Remaining projects include, updating the playground, fully renovating the Grace Place, finishing the Councill House updates, and building a prudent operational cash reserve.

THE MOMENTUM CONTINUES

The Council is excited about the ministries that are returning, being reimagined, and for all the ways that God is using our congregation to spread the good news of God's unconditional love! As we look toward 2027, we feel like the congregation is positioning itself for even more amazing ministry in the future

**Your Council is excited to continue to expand our mission to
*Share God's love so that all are served and supported.***

Budget Notes:

- [1] This budget includes a significant increase in General Fund giving. This will be a challenge to the congregation.
- [2] With renovations to the Grace Place scheduled for this year, we will not receive any rental offset.
- [3] The increased income from the parking lot expansions will be utilized for the first three years to offset a portion of the cost.
- [4] This budget does not include money for a Seminary Intern.
- [5] The NC Synod requests that congregations tithe 10% of their general fund offerings to Mission Support. This budget reflects a steady increase as we work to achieve this percentage.
- [6] This decline is reflective of funding the 2 Choral Scholars from restricted funds.
- [7] This budget includes a 2% raise across the board for all staff.
- [8] These are new line items associated with the new Director of Congregational Life.
- [9] This budget will present a bigger challenge than we have taken on in many years – it will rely on continued generosity of the congregation throughout the year, but also represents the congregation stepping forward in faith to answer the call to share God's love so that all are served and supported.

Membership Report
~ Sabena Maiden, Office & Communications Manager

Members Received

- Baptism 4
- Affirmation 2
- Transfer 0

TOTAL 6

Members Removed

- Death 5
- Transfer 2

TOTAL 7

Total number of active, contributing members in the life of the congregation: 267*

*Note: An overdue and intentional review of our church roster was done this past year to more accurately reflect this total (which is less than last year). As of posting 7/23/26

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA
Sunday, August 9, 2026, 11:00am, in-person & via ZOOM

1. Call to Order

2. Determine Quorum

- Grace Constitution:
 - C10.04. Twenty-five percent (**61**) of the voting members (*267 active members less 23 unconfirmed children equals 244*) shall constitute a quorum.
 - C.8.02.C. ***Voting*** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of this congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws. They shall not have voted as a seasonal member of another congregation of this church in the previous two calendar months.

3. Opening Prayer

4. Review ZOOM meeting specific instructions

- General Information:
 - Every online voting member will need to log into the Zoom meeting on their own device or separate phone line in order to be eligible to vote in the meeting.
 - All online meeting participants will need to be muted in order to allow everyone to be able to hear the Council President.
 - Please type all motions and seconds into the Chat Box.

- If you have a question, please click to “raise your hand” or type your question into the Chat Box. The meeting host will unmute participants.
- How to vote?
 - On the computer, table or phone, the meeting host will launch the vote which will appear as a pop-up multiple-choice question on your screen. Please tap or click your desired vote within the given time limit.

5. Review and Approve Meeting Ground Rules

- When speaking:
 - Please begin with your name and then indicate whether you are speaking in favor of the motion at hand.
 - You can only speak on a motion one time, until everyone else has had an opportunity to speak.
 - Please be succinct and remain on topic.
- When listening:
 - Please remain quiet throughout the meeting unless you are recognized by the host to ask a question.
 - Please be respectful of differing opinions.

6. Review and Approve Agenda

7. Review and Accept 2025-2026 Annual Report

8. Receive Report from the Nominating Committee and Elections (*see pages 3-4*)

9. Review and Approve Proposed 2026-2027 Budget (*see page 5*)

10. Recognize and Thank Outgoing, Ongoing and Newly Elected/Appointed Leaders

11. Adjournment with Closing Prayer

REPORT FROM 2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Trexler Foundation Board

Nominated by Columbarium Team, Appointed by Council, Presented to Congregation

Pastor and 4 at-large members serving 3-year terms:

Term Expires 2026	Term Expires 2027	Term Expires 2028	Term Expires 2028
Gail Hauser (1st Term)	*Tommy Moretz* (1st Term)	Gail Schuette (2nd Term)	Gail Hauser (2nd Term)
	Jan Moretz? (Filling remaining term)	Andy Burgess (2nd Term)	

Troutman Foundation Board Members

Nominated by Finance Team, Approved by Council, Needs Ratification by Congregation

Pastor, Treasurer and 3 at-large members serving 3-year terms:

Term Expires 2026	Term Expires 2027	Term Expires 2028	Term Expires 2029
Janice Koppenhaver (1st Term)	Daniel Collins (1st Term)	Jeff Voss (2nd Term)	Janice Koppenhaver (2nd Term)

Jeffcoat-Proctor Foundation

Nominated by Campus Ministry Team, Elected by Council, Needs Confirmation by Congregation

Pastor and 4 at-large members serving 3-year terms:

Term Expires 2026	Term Expires 2027	Term Expires 2028	Term Expires 2029
Jan Burgess (1st Term)	Austin Eggers (1st Term)	Natalie Harkey (2nd Term)	Jan Burgess (2nd Term)
	Erin Young (1st Term)		

Moretz Foundation Board

Nominated by Moretz Foundation Board, Appointed by Council, Presented to Congregation

Pastor and 4 at-large members serving 3-year terms:

Term Expires 2026	Term Expires 2027	Term Expires 2028	Term Expires 2028
	??? (Partial Term)	? (Partial Term)	? (1st Term)
			? (1st Term)

Council Members – Elect up to 4

Nominated by Nominating Committee, Elected by congregation.

Pastor and 6-12 at-large members to serve 3-year Terms:

Term Expires 2026	Term Expires 2027	Term Expires 2028	Term Expires 2029
James Holden (1st Term)	Amy Atkins (1st Term)	Eric Breitenstein (1st Term)	
Morgan Wright (2nd Term)	Jesse Lutabingwa (2nd Term)	Lynn Caldwell (1st Term)	
	Liz Peter (1st Term)	Jennifer Davis (2nd Term)	
	Kristie Evans (2nd term)	Jonathan Stamey (1st Term)	

Nominating Committee - Elect 6
Nominated by Nominating Committee, Elected by congregation.

Includes 2 outgoing Council Members, if possible, and 4 at-large Members, each serving a 1-year term:

Term Expires 2026		Term Expires 2027	
Morgan Wright – <i>outgoing Council Member</i>	Kelly Rucker	Kristie Evans – <i>outgoing Council Member</i>	
Dawn Anderson	Bob Streightiff	Jesse Lutabginwa – <i>outgoing Council Member</i>	
Martin Bolick	Elizabeth Smythe		

2027 Synod Assembly Voting Members

C5.04.01. By a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at a legally called meeting of this congregation, the congregation may delegate the responsibility to the Congregational Council to elect, from among its voting members, persons to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member.

2026-2027 Proposed Budget Summary

2026-2027 Grace Lutheran Church Budget

	LAST YEAR (Actuals)			THIS YEAR (Projected)			NEXT YEAR
	2024-2025 Actuals	2024-2025 Budget	2024-2025 Actuals to Budget	2025-2026 Projected	2025-2026 Budget	2025-2026 Projected to Budget	2026-2027 Proposed Budget
Revenues							
Tithe and Offerings							
015201 - General Fund Offering	\$ 358,463.35	\$ 380,000.00	\$ (21,536.65)	\$ 375,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ (25,000.00)	\$ 420,000.00
015205 - NC & ELCA Synod Income	\$ 16,625.50	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 1,625.50	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ -	\$ 16,500.00
Total Tithe and Offerings	\$ 375,088.85	\$ 395,000.00	\$ (19,911.15)	\$ 391,500.00	\$ 416,500.00	\$ (25,000.00)	\$ 436,500.00
Rental Incomes							
015307 - Property Rental Income	\$ 13,960.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ (40.00)	\$ 9,610.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ (4,390.00)	\$ -
015308 - Parking Rental Income	\$ 64,630.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ (5,370.00)	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	\$ -	\$ 65,000.00
Total Rental Incomes	\$ 78,590.00	\$ 84,000.00	\$ (5,410.00)	\$ 74,610.00	\$ 79,000.00	\$ (4,390.00)	\$ 65,000.00
Miscellaneous Income							
015301 - Interest/Dividends	\$ 6,286.83	\$ -	\$ 6,286.83	\$ 3,750.00	\$ -	\$ 3,750.00	\$ -
015305 - Jeffcoat-Proctor Offset	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00
015302 - Miscellaneous Donations	\$ 1,300.00	\$ -	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,850.00	\$ -	\$ 1,850.00	\$ -
Total Miscellaneous Income	\$ 13,586.83	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 7,586.83	\$ 11,600.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 6,000.00
Total Revenues	\$ 467,265.68	\$ 485,000.00	\$ (17,734.32)	\$ 477,710.00	\$ 501,500.00	\$ (23,790.00)	\$ 507,500.00
Expenses							
LEARNING Ministry							
Youth & Family	\$ 3,293.10	\$ 4,000.00	\$ (706.90)	\$ 5,107.94	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,107.94	\$ 4,000.00
Christian Education	\$ 4,045.90	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,045.90	\$ 2,097.15	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (1,402.85)	\$ 2,750.00
Intern	\$ 12,946.03	\$ 25,900.00	\$ (12,953.97)	\$ 6,205.57	\$ 25,900.00	\$ (19,694.43)	\$ -
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)	\$ 500.00
Total LEARNING	\$ 20,285.03	\$ 32,400.00	\$ (12,114.97)	\$ 13,410.66	\$ 33,900.00	\$ (20,489.34)	\$ 7,250.00
SERVING Ministry							
Care Ministry	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ (400.00)	\$ 400.00
Community Benevolences	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ -
North Carolina Benevolences	\$ 8,600.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ (3,400.00)	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 17,000.00
Total SERVING	\$ 8,600.00	\$ 12,400.00	\$ (3,800.00)	\$ 15,050.00	\$ 15,400.00	\$ (350.00)	\$ 17,400.00
WORSHIPING Ministry							
Worship & Music	\$ 5,925.13	\$ 9,400.00	\$ (3,474.87)	\$ 5,790.00	\$ 10,200.00	\$ (4,410.00)	\$ 6,250.00
Total WORSHIPING	\$ 5,925.13	\$ 9,400.00	\$ (3,474.87)	\$ 5,790.00	\$ 10,200.00	\$ (4,410.00)	\$ 6,250.00
WELCOMING Ministry							
Campus Ministry	\$ 3,891.70	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 391.70	\$ 4,260.22	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 260.22	\$ 4,500.00
Evangelism (Hospitality)	\$ 325.00	\$ 950.00	\$ (625.00)	\$ 990.94	\$ 1,125.00	\$ (134.06)	\$ 1,125.00
Fellowship	\$ 654.08	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (845.92)	\$ 606.43	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (893.57)	\$ 1,000.00
Total WELCOMING	\$ 4,870.78	\$ 5,950.00	\$ (1,079.22)	\$ 5,857.59	\$ 6,625.00	\$ (767.41)	\$ 6,625.00
SUPPORTING Ministry - Property/Office							
Property General	\$ 5,166.61	\$ 5,500.00	\$ (333.39)	\$ 4,875.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ (625.00)	\$ 5,500.00
Church	\$ 27,958.44	\$ 27,250.00	\$ 708.44	\$ 31,053.14	\$ 28,500.00	\$ 2,553.14	\$ 29,300.00
Office Expense	\$ 36,610.69	\$ 37,250.00	\$ (639.31)	\$ 35,171.51	\$ 39,200.00	\$ (4,028.49)	\$ 37,300.00
Grace Place	\$ 4,997.86	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 197.86	\$ 4,019.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ (2,481.00)	\$ 6,025.00
Council House	\$ 6,676.08	\$ 7,350.00	\$ (673.92)	\$ 8,333.20	\$ 9,000.00	\$ (666.80)	\$ 8,000.00
Wilkes County Property	\$ 497.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (4,503.00)	\$ 201.00	\$ -	\$ 201.00	\$ -
Total SUPPORTING - Property/Office	\$ 81,906.68	\$ 87,150.00	\$ (5,243.32)	\$ 83,652.85	\$ 88,700.00	\$ (5,047.15)	\$ 86,125.00
SUPPORTING Ministry - Personnel							
Senior Pastor	\$ 84,000.00	\$ 84,000.00	\$ -	\$ 85,900.00	\$ 85,900.00	\$ -	\$ 87,618.00
Senior Pastor Pension/Insurance	\$ 26,850.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ (150.00)	\$ 26,862.50	\$ 28,700.00	\$ 1,837.50	\$ 29,274.00
Campus Minister	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 30,750.00	\$ 30,750.00	\$ -	\$ 31,365.00
Campus Minister Pension/Insurance	\$ 14,910.00	\$ 14,550.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 15,938.75	\$ 15,938.75	\$ -	\$ 16,257.53
Director of Congregational Life	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,300.00	\$ 12,300.00	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00
Director of Congregational Life Pension/Insurance							\$ 14,000.00
Worship and Music Staff	\$ 45,555.92	\$ 45,750.00	\$ (194.08)	\$ 47,006.25	\$ 47,256.25	\$ (250.00)	\$ 49,181.38
Office Staff	\$ 104,440.11	\$ 113,200.00	\$ (8,759.89)	\$ 115,657.50	\$ 116,847.50	\$ (1,190.00)	\$ 119,164.45
Other Personnel	\$ 3,125.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ (2,375.00)	\$ 7,750.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 7,700.00
Other Personnel Expenses (e.g. - FICA, etc.)	\$ 22,327.16	\$ 26,300.00	\$ (3,972.84)	\$ 21,188.00	\$ 26,500.00	\$ (5,312.00)	\$ 30,750.00
Total SUPPORTING - Personnel	\$ 343,208.19	\$ 358,300.00	\$ (15,091.81)	\$ 363,353.00	\$ 370,692.50	\$ (7,339.50)	\$ 420,310.35
Total Expenses	\$ 464,795.81	\$ 505,600.00	\$ (40,804.19)	\$ 487,114.10	\$ 525,517.50	\$ (38,403.40)	\$ 543,960.35
Net Total	\$ 2,469.87	\$ (20,600.00)	\$ 23,069.87	\$ (9,404.10)	\$ (24,017.50)	\$ 14,613.40	\$ (36,460.35)



Sharing God's love so that all are served and supported.