



Community of Grace Lutheran Church 2023 Annual Report



4000 Linden Street | White Bear Lake, MN 55110
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Senior Pastor Darrin Vick

"This is what the Lord says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.'" Jeremiah 6:16

This verse has inspired me over the past few years, especially in 2023. The past year began an essential season of listening, learning, and discerning our future together. As we have been "standing at the crossroads," I believe the Holy Spirit is showing us where to look, what to ask, and how to find the way forward.

We are just starting, but I am so excited about the possibilities because I have witnessed so much life, love, mission, and ministry in our community during 2023. We have seen growth in many areas of our congregation, including worship attendance, missional impact, and financial giving.

We raised over \$30,000 and packed 100,000 meals for Haiti. I was privileged to visit Mission of Hope's

new mission base in the Dominican Republic. We've continued to grow our support and partnership with the White Bear Lake Food Shelf. We've raised new leaders in our music ministry and trained new team members in our tech ministry. We have increased our focus on congregational prayer in our newly remodeled prayer chapel.

These are just a sample of the amazing grace that God has shown to and through our congregation. Thank you for your faith-filled commitment to Jesus! It is an honor to serve him with you!

By Grace Alone,



Pastor Darrin



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Council President Mark Schuneman

2023 was a wonderful year for our congregation and church family. Each year, there are transitions and things we plan for and things we do not plan for.

The one thing we can hold strong to is that yesterday, today, and tomorrow, Jesus remains the same. His love for us is abundant, and we saw that in many ways.

The church staff we are blessed with continues to shepherd us in loving ways while providing care, love, and support along the way. We were able to hold the Easter Egg Hunt even though close to a foot of snow fell just that morning. We hosted another food-packing event for our brothers and sisters in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and our quilters continue to provide warmth and love through their gifts of quilts. These are just a few ways we pour out love on our community.

The countless number of you that help us serve each other and the community is appreciated. It

also shows our church family and community that we indeed strive to be a Community of Grace.

I hope this church, this congregation, and your church family will bless and keep you as it has me and mine. As we look to the Lord and listen and discern his desire for us and his congregation, may we always remember that he loves us. May God's provision keep us strong as we look to him to guide and direct us in the coming year, and may love pour out to you and to all God's children.

Praise to the Lord!

God Bless You, and God Bless Community of Grace,



Mark Schuneman



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Worship & Care

2023 Worship Expense: \$336,028

2023 Care Expense: \$127,439

Songs Sung in Worship

588

Pickup Choir Volunteers

44

Christmas Attendance

1007

Celebrations of Life (Funerals)

23

Currents Mailed

4,005

Number of Worship Service
Volunteer Hours

5,068

Baptisms & Affirmations

18

Weddings Officiated

2

New Members From Catalyst

42

Care Ministry

- 445 Visits to Homebound Members
- 250 Care Packages Gifted to Homebound Members
- 60 Services at Senior Living Facilities

Groups

2023 Groups Expense: \$278,227

Refuge Students

- **Average Attendance**
 - ♥ **52** Students at Refuge
 - ♥ **14** Leaders at Refuge
 - ♥ **22** Attended Rise & Shine
- **10** Confirmands
- **472** Pizza Slices Consumed
- **21** Special Events
- **38** Attended Refuge Summer Blast

BRNC (Ministry Partner)

Number of Students
Gathered for a Night
of Worship at CGLC

125+

Senior Adult Events

30

HISKids

- **25** Bibles Distributed
- **77** HISKids Registered
- **7** First Communicants
 - **Easter Egg Hunt**
 - ♥ **12** Inches of Snow
 - ♥ **9,200** Candy Filled Eggs
 - ♥ **217** "Resurrection Reminder" bags
- **49** HISKids Waved Palms
 - **130** VBS Attendees
 - ♥ **62** Volunteers
- **59** FCA Sports Campers
 - **41** Art Campers
 - **412** Fall Family Fun Night Attendees
 - ♥ **435** Brats & Dogs Eaten

Missions & Service

2023 Missions & Service Expense: \$110,379

Hood

- **147** Christmas Presents Donated to Project Home
 - **108** Garage Sale Volunteers
- **24** Partners & Groups Represented at our First Mission Fair
- **12** Fare For All Events
 - **385** Quilts Lovingly Crafted & Sent to People Near & Far
- **456** Backpacks & Bags Packed for Students Here & Abroad
- **52,000** Diapers Donated to the Food Shelf
- **44** Gas Cards Given Out

Here

- **22,150** Cookies Baked by the Hospitality Team
 - **1,200** Christmas Cookies Baked
 - **89** Volunteers on Welcome Team
- **52** Mugs Handed Out at the Orange Wall

Haiti

Amount Raised for
Mission of Hope: Haiti

\$40,000

Including \$30K To
Pay for 100,000 Meals
Packed in October

Operations

2023 Operations Expense: \$369,547

HVAC 5 Year Replacement
Project: Phase 1 of 5 Completed

\$65,200

Replacement of Sanctuary
Accordion Doors

\$50,770

Upgrade to Firewall & Wireless
Internet System

\$21,488

Fire Alert System Upgrade

\$7,446

Endowment Fund

Disbursements:

\$64,585 Normal Distributions

Balance:

\$1,053,303



Remodeled
Prayer Chapel
to Assist in our
Monthly
Prayer Focus

\$0

Financials

2023 Ministry Funding Results

Actual Revenue 2023

General Gifts \$1,305,866

Facility Use/Misc Income \$143,272

Building Fund/Reserve \$31,630

Missions/Service \$45,522

\$1,526,290

Actual Expenses 2023

Worship \$336,028

Care \$127,439

Groups \$278,227

Missions/Service \$110,379

Operations \$665,012

Building Fund
Reserve Savings \$9,205

\$1,517,085

2024 Ministry Funding Plan

Projected Revenue 2024

General Gifts \$1,453,450

Facility Use/Misc Income \$152,250

Building Fund/Reserve \$35,000

Missions/Service \$40,000

\$1,680,700

Planned Expenses 2024

Worship \$355,000

Care \$127,250

Groups \$275,820

Missions/Service \$128,140

Operations \$693,650

Building Fund
Reserve Savings \$100,000

\$1,679,860

2023 STAFF DIRECTORY

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Senior Pastor

Darrin Vick

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COMMUNITY
— of GRACE —
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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