

Community of Grace Lutheran Church

2026 Congregational Annual Meeting

February 1, 2026

Mike Hamernick, Church Council President, called the meeting to order at 12:01pm and declared a quorum was present.

Pastor Angie Way opened the meeting with a prayer.

Tellers were appointed, including lead tellers, Curt and Kathy Schneider with Dave Nietz and Mark Schueneman serving as assistants.

Additional appointments included Mike Kaytor as Parliamentarian and Stephanie Battista as Recording Secretary.

Mike Hamernick introduced a motion to approve the minutes from the last annual meeting held on January 26, 2025, and this motion received a second. After the opportunity for discussion, the motion to approve the minutes as written was carried.

Report of Nominating Committee

Prior to introducing nominations for the 2025 Church Council, Mike Hamernick introduced members of the 2025 Council and shared their roles. Updates are as follows:

- Sam Hunter and Carl Albing were nominated for a second term.
- Sharon Clinch and Diane Bryant were nominated for first terms.
- Heidi Nelson nominated herself for church council.

Mike Hamernick introduced the names of those serving on the **Audit Committee**. Updates are as follows:

- Matt Brady is nominated for a 3-year term.
- No additional nominations came from the floor.

Mike Hamernick introduced the names of those serving on the **Endowment Committee**. Updates are as follows:

- Lynn Shelton is nominated (5-year term)
- No additional nominations came from the floor.

Mike Hamernick introduced the names of those serving on the **Nominating Committee**. Updates are as follows:

- Dan McMahon, Lisa Ehrman, and Tod Sherman completed their terms.
- Kathy Schneider, Nick Hudson, and Peter Hanson were nominated.
- No additional nominations came from the floor.

All nominations were closed. Voting occurred with written ballots and the tellers collected the ballots.

Senior Pastor's Report: Pastor Darrin Vick

Word of the year from the Holy Spirit is Cultivate.

President's Report: Mike Hamernick

- Mike thanked the staff and had them stand for applause.
- Annual Garage Sale for Manitou Days back in June was a great success as always. 800 people came throughout the day, and we were able to raise around \$2,000 for the White Bear Lake food shelf.
- The School Tools drive helped fill 340 backpacks to be given to kids in need.
- Volunteers helped install TV mounts and hang TVs in all the rooms for Project Home's new location in Bandana Square. They were ready for their move in which happened in August.
- Diaper Drive is another annual highlight where 1678 pounds of diapers donated, and \$7367.43 (an increase of \$3300 compared to 2024 which was matched for the Food Shelf)
- Quilters have donated 120 quilts this year.
- VBS was a great success, and a teacher from CGCS provided a multi-colored "dreamcoat" that was discovered in the church building one week before VBS started.
- Refuge Students have been living out their faith by encouraging each other on stage and sharing bible verses from their personal devotional time with Jesus.
- As the congregation went through "Practicing the Way," the students also focused on a different practice each week and how it would help them "be with Jesus, become like Jesus and do as he would in the world."
- Mike concluded with telling everyone he couldn't wait to stand shoulder to shoulder with everyone to continue living out the formational and missional values--to know, trust, imitate and speak Jesus and to see, love, serve, and teach people as Jesus did and continues to do in 2026.

Treasurer's Report: Dennis Engman

2025 Ministry Funding Results

- Fully funded ministry and added some back into reserves.
- Total Income: \$1,652,801
 General Fund \$1,420,523
- Total Expenses: \$1,640,613.
- Building Reserve Fund Balance: \$932,524 with a \$12,188 increase as a net result of operating income.
- Endowment fund balance: \$1,019,273.
 Corpus of \$573,355 leaving \$445,918 for Distribution.
 New Gifts in 2025 \$26,550.
 Distributed in 2025 for facility needs - \$175,000.

Completing the funding of the Original 5-year HVAC replacement Plan.
Only remaining HVAC to replace is the Sanctuary Air Handler.
Estimated at \$200,000 with work currently planned for 2027.

Dennis introduced the 2026 Ministry Funding Plan for \$1,746,650. This total is \$2,250 above 2025 actuals. Including some details about increasing costs.

Questions/Discussion

What is the increase in Operations? Mike Mathisen explained that the cost for the contractor communications will be paid out of operations, and caused a smaller increase in the Personnel line item than would have otherwise been expected.

Can you explain the Expense categories?

We aren't budgeting for the reserve, does that mean that we've done a good job of building that up?

How are we investing the reserve?

Designated giving options on the giving envelope, please explain.

The ministry funding plan was approved.

Election results returned with all the balloted nominations approved.

Pastor Darrin announced his Sabbatical beginning in Spring 2026.

Pastor Darrin closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Battista, Church Council Secretary