



Community of Grace Lutheran Church 2017 Annual Report

Annual Meeting

January 21, 2018 - 11:45 a.m.





VISION PYRAMID

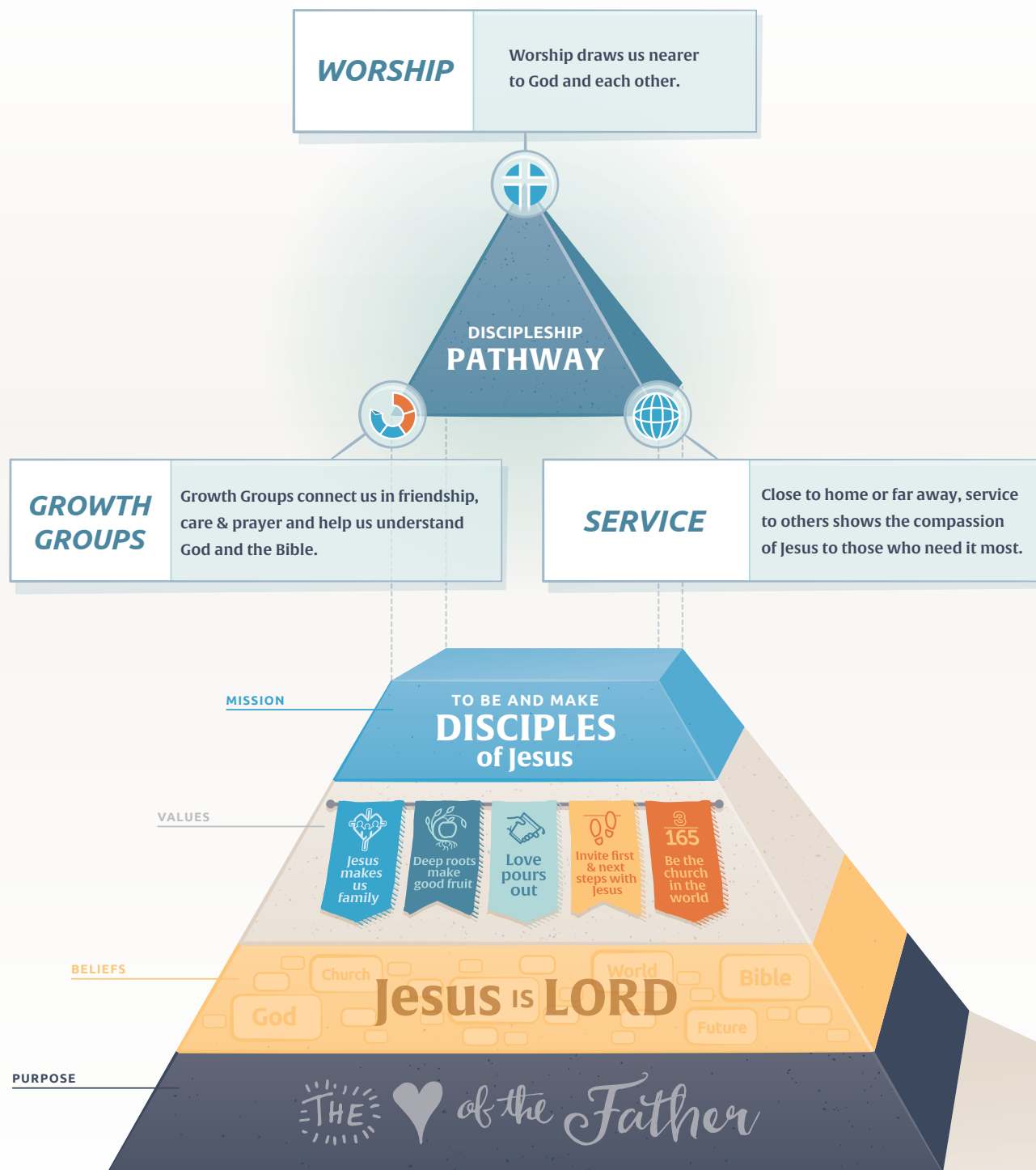




Table of Contents

SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT	4
COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT	5
WORSHIP LIFE	6-7
GROUPS	8-9
Children	8
Students	9
SERVICE	10-12
Mission of Hope, Haiti	10
Operation HOM	10
Operation Neighbor(HOOD)	11
Additional Service	11
Welcome Team	11
PASTORAL CARE	13
OPERATIONS	14-15
Audit Committee Report	14
21st Century Heritage and Endowment Fund	15
FINANCIAL BREAKOUTS	16
2016/2017 Comparisons	17
STATISTICAL COMPARISON	18
SERVING COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH	19



SENIOR PASTOR'S REPORT

According to Luke. For about the last third of 2017, our life together in worship and Growth Groups was guided by a series based on the Gospel according to Luke (a series that has continued into 2018 as well). Luke was a traveling companion of the Apostle Paul, but he was not an eyewitness to the earthly life of Jesus. He undoubtedly knew the Spirit of the Risen Jesus; learned from those who had seen Jesus in the flesh; and wrote a testimony to Jesus that has changed the world and is currently shaping our lives together in this little corner of the world.

Even before engaging with *The Gospel According to Luke*, 2017 was a year deeply rooted in Scripture. In the summer we worked our way through the foundational stories in the book of Genesis. We learned the stories of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Leah, Rachel, Judah, Joseph, and many others. The series was called *Ancestry.Church*. We learned about God from some of the most ancient stories in all of Scripture.

Before reading these stories from the first book of the Bible, we spent five weeks reading the last book of the Bible, Revelation. We learned Revelation was a letter which was written to seven churches who were struggling to live faithfully to Christ in the midst of a culture that did not understand them and was generally hostile to their values.

We read Scripture together so that it would shape us deeply. The Holy Spirit uses the Jesus-centered story of the Bible to shape our hearts, minds, and imaginations and to conform us to Christ. We read Scripture to grow as disciples of Jesus.

We also read Scripture together for the sake of those who don't yet know it themselves. We are formed by Scripture to be a testimony to those who do not yet believe. There's an old adage that reminds us, "You may be the only Bible some people ever read."

Before they ever read the Gospel According to Luke - or Matthew, Mark, or John - they will see the Gospel According to You. They will see the hope that you have. They will see the Love that Pours Out. They will see the confidence in His grace. They will see it is Good News (Gospel!) that Jesus is and can be Lord of our lives and Lord of this world. Don't worry, you won't replace the Scriptures, but we are meant to be a window into them, an invitation to come and see more of Jesus.

We are each a missionary of Jesus in the places we live and work and spend our days. Together we are a missionary community, ordering our lives together for faithfulness and witness. The pages that follow describe the life of this missionary community. As you read them, look for signs of God shaping us in the way of Jesus and sharing his Gospel with the world. Let's challenge ourselves in 2018 to take the good news story of Jesus to more people. According to Luke, Jesus said, "I must proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to other places also, for this is why I was sent." So also it is for us.

To be and make disciples of Jesus,

Steve Turnbull

Steve Turnbull

Senior Pastor



COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Members of Community of Grace Lutheran Church,

We are Community of Grace! We took that bold step last year at our annual meeting to officially change our name. It truly communicates very faithfully who we actually are and strive to be. It was an honor to serve as the 2017 Council President of this loving, strong, grace-filled community of believers. Thank you for the opportunity!

Along with our new name, we created an awesome new orange logo, an updated website, and myCG (which provides an easy way to find out about church events, contact other members, and give online).

Our Church Council and Staff met together in late February for their annual retreat. We worshiped together and prayed for God's wisdom and guidance as we made plans for the year.

The love we have for others and our desire to be the hands and feet of Christ were on display throughout the year. Our Mission of Hope Team helped to build a needed water canal that will provide clean water to the village of Source Matelas. Members and their friends participated in, and funded, the Food for Haiti event where we packed 60,000 meals which will feed 164 children for a year!

Locally, we served meals at The Family Place and read bedtime stories to kids who are homeless. We supported the new White Bear Food Shelf Mobile Market, which provides food assistance now to over 110 families. We also hosted over 800 people (438 kids) at the Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

The Quilters lovingly sewed over 100 quilts, some of which were donated to Bridget's Place (helping girls ages 11-18 rescued from sex trafficking), a fundraiser for Camp Knutson (a camp that serves children with special needs), Vinland Center for adults with cognitive impairments, and Slumberland (who donates beds and bedding to families in need).

Over 565 people participated in Serve Day on December 17. Members and their friends were sent out in teams, both on-site and within the community, to serve others in a variety of ways.

We continue to be blessed with a terrific staff who teaches us, leads us, and keeps the facility running and welcoming. Each Sunday we hear amazing, God-inspired, Biblical teaching.

Message series on both the first book of the Bible, Genesis, and the last, Revelation, helped us grow deeper roots in the scripture. The journey, According to Luke, helped us understand how God graciously moved into the world to save and heal broken people and broken communities, taught us about the Holy Spirit, and showed us how to live in the "Kingdom of God." I'm looking forward to the rest of this journey in 2018.

Finally, I am very happy to report that we finished the year in a very good place financially with revenues covering expenses. God's provision is amazing!

Jodi Bendt, Council President



WORSHIP

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Psalm 122:1

In 2017, we started off the new year with a January sermon series called *It's Complicated: Hope and Truth in Marriage and Singleness*. One Sunday of this series featured a video of a panel of a cross section of our community.

In January, our Traditional Music Director, Amy Turnbull, took a leave from her position, and Lay Leader Helen Kahl took on the role in interim months to direct the Women's Chorale while Sanctuary Choir Director Andrew Parr directed the Adult Bells.

February continued with a sermon series about how to engage with the Bible called *Too Good To Be True: What do I do with the Bible?* The materials in this series encouraged everyone to read a selected set of passages covering all 66 books of the Bible in this month.





WORSHIP (CONTINUED)

In March, the *Cross My Heart* Sunday series explored what the cross means for our faith and life. The series for the Lenten Wednesday services at 4 and 7 p.m. was *Jesus, Teach Us*; learning from Jesus to persevere, trust, treasure and forgive. Soup suppers were served from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Following Easter's celebration of Jesus' resurrection, in April and May we delved into a series on the book of Revelation, learning about God's promised future and our role in it.

In this time, we experienced some staff transition as well. Tony Pha served a temporary position in worship technology until Danny Mulenda joined our team. Contemporary Worship Leader, Dan Lugo, also raised up a team of our own volunteer leaders to help lead and facilitate our worship technology needs: Shane Stambaugh became Worship Tech Coordinator; Tim Orf became Lay Contemporary Musical Director; Ed Pulscher became Audio Tech Lead; and Mike Berndt became Refuge and Lighting Tech Lead. Also at that time, Kari Charboneau (who had assisted with much traditional worship leading) left our staff to pursue a full-time call as a congregational pastor (see Pastoral Care Report for more information).

In the summer, we explored the book of Genesis, from Chapter 12, on following the call of God to Abraham, and tracing how that call continues in our lives as we follow the living Lord. Retired Pastor Gary Schulz, Pastor on-leave Grace Johnson, and Intern Pastor Kevin Sheldon all preached this summer as part of this series.

In the summer, we became aware of an additional staff transition. Andrew Parr took a new position in the Elk River Public Schools and could not continue as our Sanctuary Choir Director. The interview process began for a new choir director for Sanctuary Choir, Women's Chorale, and Adult Handbells. We were pleased to welcome Dr. Ishaya Yarison to the team in September - leading rehearsals for all groups on Wednesday evenings.

In September, a year-long series called *According to Luke* was launched, allowing the Gospel of Luke to be our foundation for the year's teaching. In September, the series focused in on the early chapters of Luke; learning from the prophecies, preparation, and arrival of Jesus' birth, while simultaneously encouraging our church into lives of Worship, Groups, and Service.

October continued in the *According to Luke* series until mid-October, when we took a break from the narrative to focus on the topic of what the Holy Spirit, *God's Empowering Presence*, was doing in the text and in our lives now.

Our Thanksgiving Eve Service was a joyful celebration of the past year and helped kick off congregational participation in our December Serve Day to bless our community.

Through Advent, we returned to the Gospel of Luke texts until Serve Day, December 17, when the congregation was sent to serve.

This year, Christmas Eve was on a Sunday, and so we held our Eve of Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, December 21, and held services at our regular Sunday morning times of 9 and 10:30 a.m. on December 24, as well as simultaneous services at 4 p.m., and Traditional Candlelight Services at 9 and 11 p.m. Our Christmas Day service was held at 10 a.m. On the last Sunday of the year, December 31, retired Pastor Chris Brekke blessed us with a sermon on the parable of the sower.

This year has seen many changes and transitions, and through it all, God has been faithful. May you be blessed by his work in you in 2018!



GROUPS

We believe that life is simply better in a circle with a few others. Growth Groups are the main pathway of discipleship to Jesus (in addition to worship and serving).

The two main goals of Growth Groups are to:

- Connect people as brothers and sisters in Christ who know and love one another
- Help people learn to follow Jesus in everyday life through regular accountability, support, Bible reading, and prayer

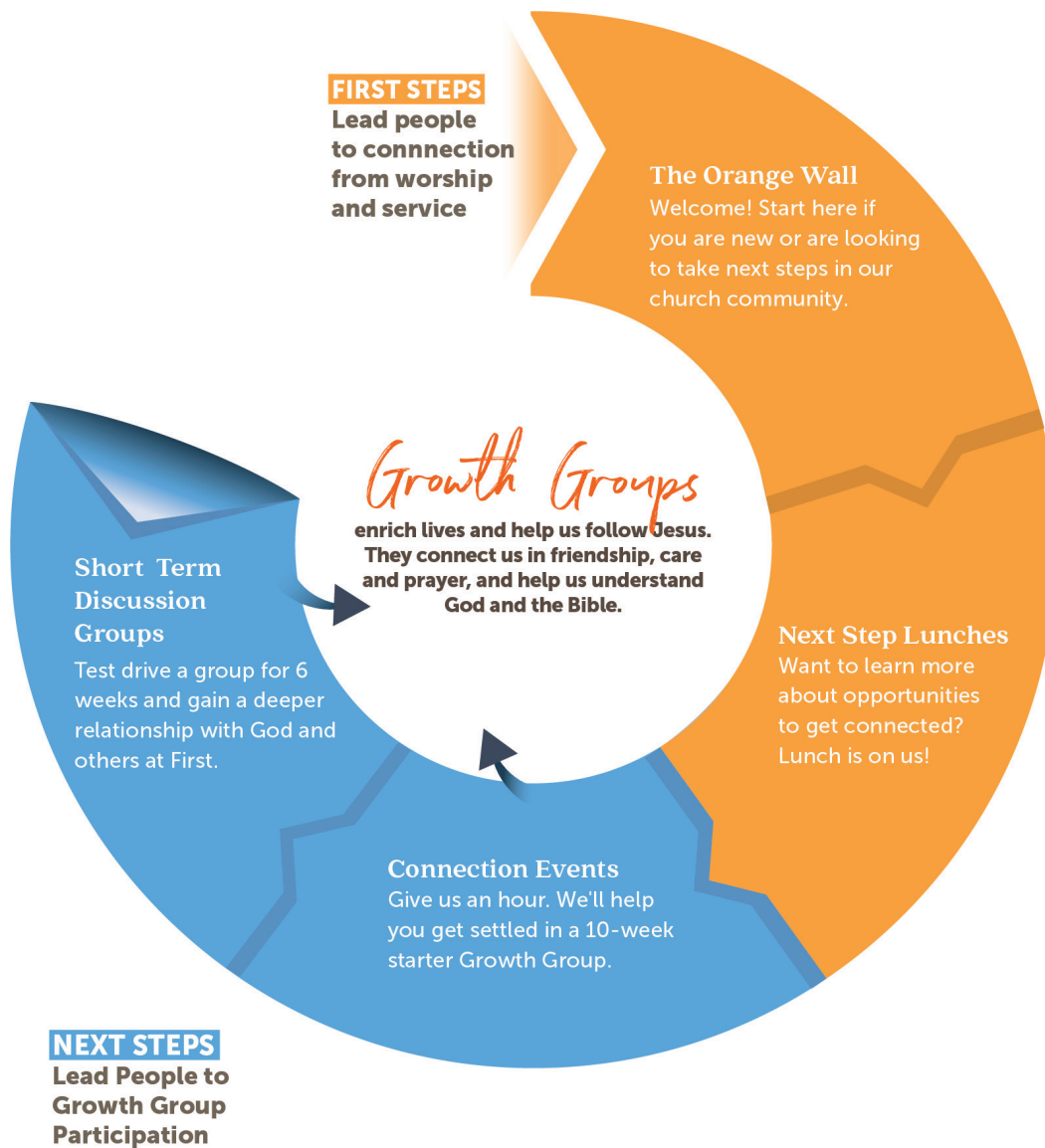
In 2017, we continued to see significant growth in the engagement of our congregation in Growth Groups, with 300 participating in 30 Growth Groups. We are at nearly 50% of worshiping attendance in a growth group, which we praise God for! This has been possible mainly because of regular offerings of easy, simple, strategic steps into Growth Groups, such as the Next Step Lunch, short-term discussion groups like Catalyst, and the semi-annual Connection Events.

In Growth Groups, people are known and cared for. The Bible is opened and learned from. Prayers are spoken and answered. Laughter and tears are shared. We're strengthened for living lives in discipleship to Jesus, and we know we're not alone in the messiness, joys, and sorrows of life. Kids and adults of all ages are welcomed and embraced, valued and respected. Doesn't this sound something like the kingdom Jesus came to bring?

We are grateful for the many people who share passion and skills for building community here at CGLC, especially the Groups Core Team and the 50 people who serve as Growth Group Leaders. Your dedication to helping people experience the love of Jesus and others through groups is remarkable and inspiring. Thank you!



GROUPS (CONTINUED)





GROUPS

Children

The Children's Ministry Staff currently includes Rachel Thoren as Children's Ministry Director; Victoria Mathisen as Children's Ministry Associate; and Kevin Sheldon who continues as Children/Student Ministry and Pastoral Intern. Erika Sawyer served as our Children's Ministry Intern this summer from May through July.

Our HISKids Sunday School program currently has 213 registered children. The HISKids model includes four age groups:

- Pathfinders (infants through age three)
- Voyagers (preschool through kindergarten)
- Adventurers (grades one through three)
- Trailblazers (grades four through six)

In October, THE MAZE was launched for our sixth grade students as a special part of our Sunday school curriculum. One Sunday each month, our sixth graders step away from the regular HISKids model and meet together to hear a speaker and discuss issues relevant to navigating the "middle school maze."

We are blessed to have over 50 invaluable volunteers and leaders who make HISKids a possibility!

Volunteers are also a major contributing factor to the success of our outreach events such as the Hallelujah Festival, the Easter Egg Hunt, and Vacation Bible School. Hundreds of dedicated students and adults offered their time and energy to serve at these events.

- The Easter Egg Hunt was attended by approximately 400 children and their families.
- The Hallelujah Festival welcomed over 300 children with their parents/grandparents. Some of the participants in both events were families being helped by Ramsey County Family Service.
- Vacation Bible School attendance broke a record this year. For the first time ever, registrations had to be capped due to space constraints! 301 children experienced the love of God for an entire week through scripture, song, games, videos, and loving volunteers.

Children were able to participate in camps and retreats this year which provided them with opportunities to build relationships and practice fellowship, service, and discipleship.

- We had 24 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders attend Spring Recharge at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp at the end of April.
- In November, there were 35 fourth, fifth, and sixth grade children in attendance for our impactful Trailblazer Retreat (formally known as the fifth/sixth grade retreat) here at church.

This year a Children's Ministry Core Team was re-established, and a Vision and Purpose for our Children's Ministry was created:

- Inspire, equip, and support parents to model the life of faith in Jesus for their children.
- Help develop children's relationship with Jesus in large and small group settings through intergenerational relationships where they are loved, valued, and apprenticed.



GROUPS (CONTINUED)

Students

The purpose of Student Ministries at Community of Grace is to guide students to become passionate disciples of Jesus Christ. Through junior and senior high, we create a safe place for teens to become personally rooted in a relationship with Jesus, live out an authentic faith in Jesus' family, and pour out God's love to the world. 2017 approached this purpose in a variety of ways and it has been exciting to see the hearts and lives of teens being transformed by the Lord.

Refuge, our weekly worship service for teens, has continued to be a place of belonging and discipleship making, and, on an average week, we have stayed stable with over 100 students participating. We have continued to see students embrace the idea of invitation and have seen a number of new students and families become involved because of students wanting to invite others into what they are experiencing. We also saw 23 students confirm their faith in Jesus this fall and commit themselves to a lifetime of following Jesus at our Celebration of Confirmation.

In addition to *Refuge*, students have had some other opportunities throughout the year which have facilitated deeper growth in faith and helped them pour out God's love. Some of the highlights of 2017 include:

- More than 45 seventh through tenth graders participated in retreats and camps put on by CGLC or at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. These retreats and camp opportunities helped students to experience Jesus in new ways, invite them to take first and/or next steps in faith, as well as connect them with other believers.
- Mission Trips: 30 high school students and leaders spent a week leading Vacation Bible School at a Community Center in a suburb of Chicago. We not only saw our students' lives changed, but we saw God use the faith of our teens to change the lives of countless children. We also heard from some amazing speakers and worship leaders and connected on a deeper level with one another as a church family. Three students went on the Haiti service trip, where they were able to meet the three sponsored students that Refuge supports.
- Refuge Summer Take Over (Formerly EPIC) saw an increase in participants this summer with 45 students involved. During Refuge Summer Take Over, students served children at Vacation Bible School, worshiped together and played together. Some of the activities included serving at Feed My Starving Children and playing at Zero Gravity Trampoline Park and Pinz Bowling.
- Renovations to Room LL9 took place to create a senior high space for our tenth through twelfth grade students. Our high school students wanted a space to be able to have deeper conversations in growth groups as well as a place to have some of their own discussions and lessons apart from the middle school students. This space has been a huge blessing to our students and has helped them to feel like they matter and are supported.



SERVICE

MISSION OF HOPE, HAITI

Mission of Hope is our international ministry partner in Haiti.

During the year, Community of Grace continued to build upon our partnership with Mission of Hope (MOH) and the village of Source Matelas.

- The Haiti Service Team of 17 people served at Mission of Hope from January 28-February 4. This trip marked the first time our church family had taken elementary- and junior high-aged kids. It went really well and opens the possibilities that younger families could participate in future trips. Currently, we have had 90 people attend the trip with age ranges of seven to 85 years old.
- Our team assisted a Haitian team of laborers in the construction of a water canal in the village. This 100-150 yard water canal will help keep a vital water source much more clean and free from trash and animals. Our church helped fund the \$12,000 project.
- The Food for Haiti food packing event raised \$19,467 and helped pack 60,000 meals for kids in Haiti. That means 164 kids in MOH schools/orphanages will be fed for an entire year because of this event.
- Our church helped sponsor an additional 32 kids, bringing our total sponsored kids to 154 who are predominately from the village of Source Matelas. Also, \$2,110 was raised through Three Cords.
- CGLC's very own Sarah Ambli served as a summer intern at MOH.

OPERATION HOM (Homeless Outreach Ministry)

Operation HOM is our partnership with three interrelated organizations (The Family Place, Project Home, and the Family Service Center) serving homeless families in our area.

Project Home had another great year in December of 2017. Volunteers helped provide shelter for up to 21 parents and children in our community who needed a safe and warm place to stay.

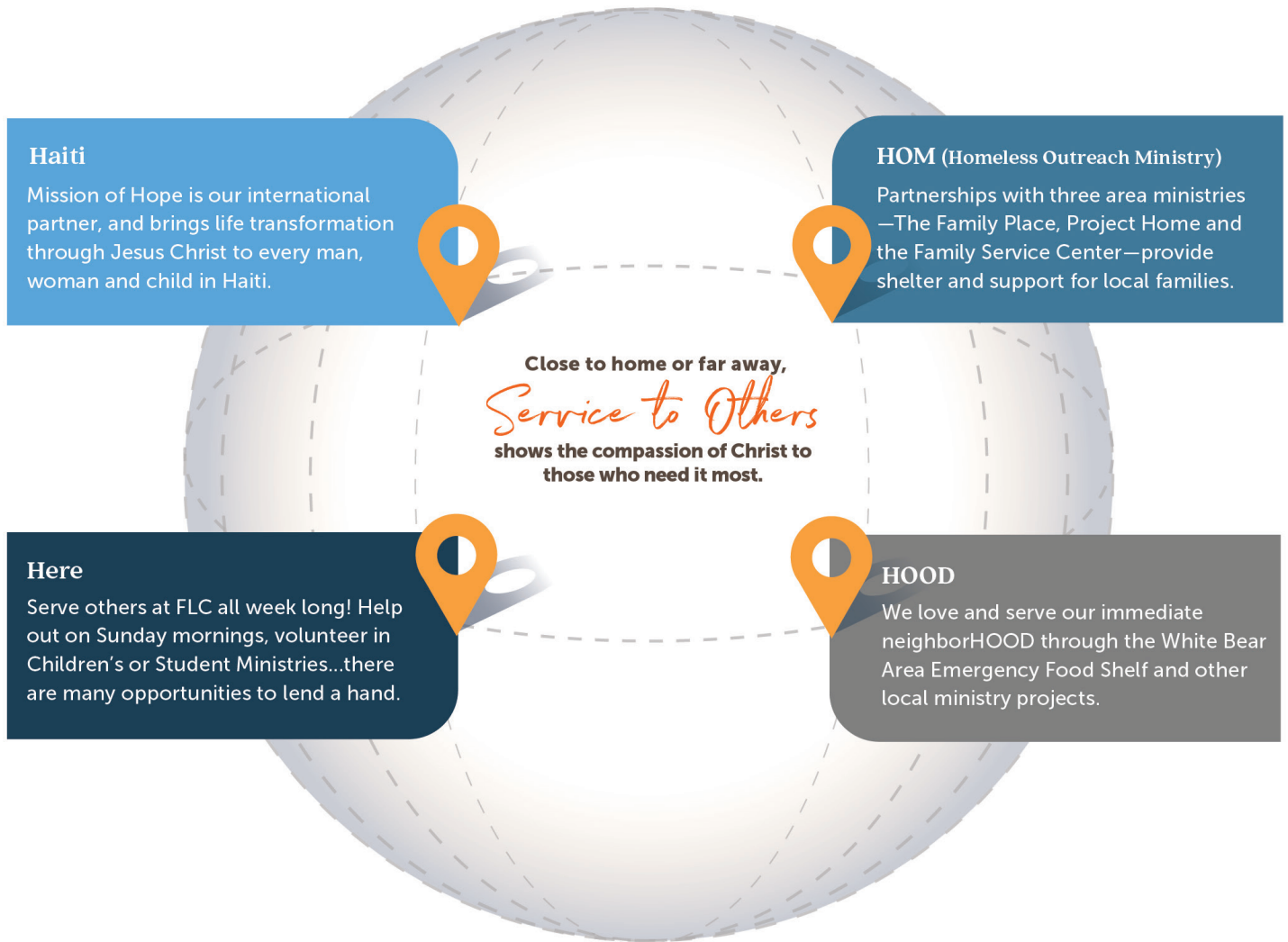
- Vacation Bible School collected over five bins of donations for Project Home in June. Donations included towels, socks, laundry soap, and toiletries. Also, many families at the Family Service Center came to the Easter Egg Hunt and Hallelujah Festival.
- We continue to serve monthly through the Bedtime Stories service opportunity (typically four to six people) and having groups/individuals deliver \$300 worth of diapers through Diaper Duty. Additionally, every other month a volunteer team cooks and serves at the Family Place.
- As part of Serve Day, the families being sheltered at Project Home and The Family Service Center went roller skating at Saints North in Maplewood. Parents and kids had a fun time while other volunteer groups headed into the shelters to clean while the families were gone.

OPERATION NEIGHBOR(HOOD)

Operation Neighbor(hood) is our commitment to love and serve Community of Grace's immediate neighborhood through the White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf and other local ministries.



SERVICE (CONTINUED)



- Each month CGLC hosted the Food Shelf's new outreach program called the Mobile Market. Throughout the year we saw a great response and served up to 110 families a month.
- Stamp Out Hunger had 82 CGLC volunteers help clean the Food Shelf and sort through seven tons of food.
- Our church gave \$2,500 in support and was the headline sponsor for the Food Shelf's *Give a Gobble* Event. Our volunteer team helped distribute Thanksgiving meals on November 20.
- The Garage Sale in June went really well. We sold out on our 162 spots, had several thousand attend, gave away 1,500 hot dog meals, and the Welcome Team gave out 83 guest guides that day.
- School Tools had another great year in which we assembled 159 backpacks and 292 bags of supplies. CGLC is the only church who does this much needed service project for WBL students.
- In August, CGLC helped fund and volunteer in building a townhouse in Hugo through Habitat for Humanity.



SERVICE (CONTINUED)

HERE

In 2017 the Orange Wall saw:

- 294 new visitors stop by to build connections, ask questions, and receive information about our church community.
- 134 people seeking information on available next steps.
- 136 other people seeking prayer, asking questions, and utilizing the Orange Wall in other ways.
- The Sunday morning Welcome Team has grown to over 75 volunteers strong. We have focused on building leaders through the continued implementation of Ignite, Re-Ignite, Sunday morning weekly meetings, the "Say Yes" campaign, and the workings of the Welcome Core Team. We also celebrated the continued vision expansion of Volunteer Central as a hub for all Sunday morning volunteers to gather, be equipped and prepare for their morning of service.

GENERAL

- Serve Day had a huge response! We saw over 565 people in attendance participating in 30 various service sites. God definitely used this event to shine "the light worth fighting for."
- Members of CGLC also served in a variety of other ways including feeding the hungry with CURE ministries; assembling HIV, newborn, health, fabric, and school kits for Global Health Ministries. The Monday Morning Quilters continued to assemble and give away quilts this year and they appreciate all the fabric donations. This year, many school kits were collected for Lutheran World Relief and many women's items were collected for Martha's Closet.
- As a congregation, we also supported CURE ministries, Global Health Ministries, Lutheran Braille, Lyngblomsten, Deb & Joe Fry, Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, and Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge with contributions from our missions offerings.
- Next Step Lunch saw over 45 people in attendance in 2017 for the three hosted lunches.
- Catalyst had over 50 people in attendance in 2017 for the two hosted discussion groups.



PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Staff Team is overseen by Pastor Angie Way and is comprised of our Visitation Pastor Al Valerius and our Parish Nurse Carol Watnemo. Carol oversees the Visitation Oversight Committee, as well as the Parish Nurse Ministry. Pastor Al trains in new communion visitors, does visitations at homes and hospitals, and leads services at several area senior residences. Pastor Angie leads the on-site Senior Ministries and writes the Senior Newsletter each month (a new publication that began in September 2017).

From January to May, Kari Charboneau also served on our Pastoral Care Team providing care visits, prayer appointments, and traditional worship assisting. After completing both her internship here at Community of Grace and graduating with her Masters of Divinity Degree at The Master's Institute in 2016, Kari transitioned from her previous role to a new one created in 2017 in the Pastoral Care Department. At the beginning of 2018, Kari has now transitioned to a full-time call as the Pastor of Looney Valley Lutheran Church (LCMC) in Houston, Minnesota.

Our Parish Nurse Team has continued to offer blood pressure checks and the opportunity to give blood. Our homebound members are visited by a very faithful team of congregational members. Communion Teams, Parish Nurse Teams, and Care Ministry Teams (led by congregation members Tom and Vicki Schultz) care for different needs of the congregation.

This year, two congregational members, Janet Babcock and Don Ambli, were trained by NewTrax to be volunteer drivers to help our non-driving members get to church. We offered rides on the first and third Sundays of the month, with expanded weekly access in the summer months. Other options for transportation are in the works in the wider White Bear Lake Area, which will most likely be available to supplement this system by summer 2018.



OPERATIONS

Operations

Remaining behind the scenes, effective operations will encourage, enable, and equip program ministries with the tools they need to see their ministry goals and objectives realized. If you are not thinking about operations and can focus your full attention on the programs at hand, we are doing our jobs well. Every dollar spent in operations has the same goal as every dollar spent in our program areas... to see the Kingdom of God advanced in and through Community of Grace Lutheran Church. There are many pieces of the "operational puzzle" at CGLC, and here is a breakdown:

Administration captures all the pieces which help our day-to-day operations run smoothly. In this area, the most significant advance was seen with the implementation of our new website and myCG database and directory. With these new tools, individuals can take control over their own information for the first time. Do you have questions about your next step in growing as a disciple of Jesus, want to check on the date of your last gift, print a year-to-date giving statement, change your address, or look up the address of the host for your Growth Group meeting tonight? These tools will help you accomplish all of those and so much more. As in most things, it is what you choose to make of it. If technology is not your thing, life goes on at CGLC the same way it always has for you. However, if you are interested in trying something new, this new web-based technology will bring even greater convenience to the lives of those who call CGLC home. Please check it out.

The facility captures much of our investment into our greatest physical asset... our building. Covering 78,000 square feet (with an insured value of over \$12 million dollars) and housing four different non-profit organizations, this tool for ministry requires significant resources to maintain it at its highest level. 2017 saw the long-awaited addition of Paul Wetterling, our Facilities Director. Paul has brought a tremendous amount of knowledge and skill into this area of our operations and has spent this last year raising the bar on an excellently maintained facility. Here is a listing of the many things accomplished over the last year: new building signage and lighting facing Highway 61, vendor change for cleaning supplies and consumables-creating efficiency under one vendor; worked with Tegrete (our out-sourced night cleaners) to improve the overall cleanliness of our schools and facility; updated four more offices (leaving just two to be completed in 2018); upgrades made to our choir room/MI classroom (these upgrades were funded by The Master's Institute); remodel of our Sr. High gathering space in our lower level; compressor replacement of the AC unit which supplies our Sanctuary; and replacement of the rooftop AC unit which serves LADC.

Since we retired the mortgage in 2013, we have had \$100,000 in Building/Reserve Savings as a part of each year's budget. It was this savings that allowed us to pay cash for the complete resurfacing of our parking lot in 2016. In 2018 we hope to call a special congregational meeting to address both window and roof issues. These savings will allow us to complete those tasks without a special campaign to raise the funds. The Church Council will be reviewing bids and formulating a plan in the early stages of 2018.

Audit Committee Report

We have audited the financial processes used by Community of Grace Lutheran Church and found them to be in good order. This audit included the processes used in:

- Counting the contributions and depositing them in the bank
- Posting the contributions to the computer



OPERATIONS (CONTINUED)

- Requesting/dispersing funds
- Reporting this information to the Church Council and our members

It was not intended to be a detailed financial audit or the kind that would be performed by an outside auditor. However, we have confidence that the process is sound.

We are thankful to Bob Dahl for assisting us in the audit. We are also thankful to the volunteers who assisted in the collection, counting, and managing of the funds.

Sincerely,

Janeen Coyan, Tom Hagen, and Dennis Sachs

21st Century Heritage and Endowment Fund

2017 was a record-breaking year for our Endowment Fund. It was a year that saw the million-dollar mark reached for the first time! After distributing \$32,636 to the church, the Fund ended the year with an investment balance of \$1,079,786. Truly remarkable!

During 2017, distributions from the Endowment Fund were used for the following capital repairs and maintenance: carpet installation; carpet/furniture cleaning and maintenance; repairs to commercial kitchen equipment; roof repairs; heating/ventilation/air conditioning repairs and maintenance; landscaping; plumbing and electrical repairs; and commercial door repairs.

As funds were available from the Endowment Fund distributions, these costs did not need to come out of CGLC's General Operating Budget. Since beginning distributions in 2000, the Endowment Fund has distributed over \$390,000 to Community of Grace Lutheran Church for the repair and maintenance of our facilities. At our annual meeting held in January 2012, the congregation approved a proposal to expand the scope of the Endowment Fund to allow gifts to be designated for missions or education, in addition to our current capital repairs and maintenance, but no designated gifts have been received, and no distributions have been made in those areas.

I am thankful for the team I have served alongside through this past year. Jon Hanson, Paul Martinson, Laura Engen, and Josh Martell have done a wonderful job, along with Bill Strand of Paradigm, who serves the committee and this congregation very well with great insight and sound financial leading. Also serving on the committee, by virtue of their positions, are Pastor Steve Turnbull and Council President Jodi Bendt. Joyce Lindholm serves as our recording secretary and blesses our efforts richly with her professional skill set. I am very grateful for the contributions of all during this past year.

The committee's goal remains to further the vision of the Endowment Fund and be good stewards of the gifts of those who have gone before us.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Carnes

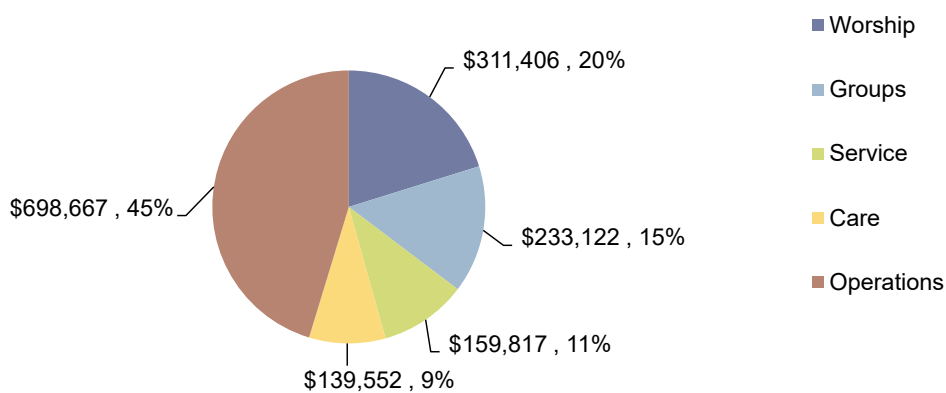
Endowment Fund Committee Chair



BREAKOUTS

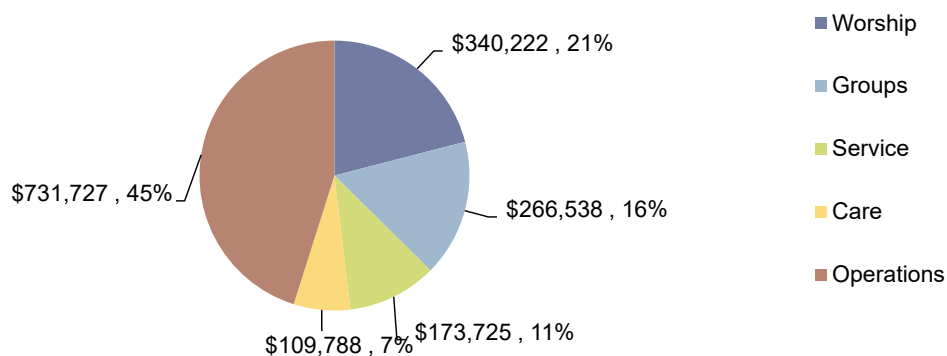
Expense Breakouts 2017

Worship	Groups	Service	Care	Operations
\$ 311,406	\$ 233,122	\$ 159,817	\$ 139,552	\$ 698,667



Budget Breakouts 2018

Worship	Groups	Service	Care	Operations
\$ 340,222	\$ 266,538	\$ 173,725	\$ 109,788	\$ 731,727





2017/2018 COMPARISONS

REVENUES		2017 Actual		2018 Budget		Net Change
General Gifts	\$	1,390,848	\$	1,465,000	\$	74,152
Facility Use	\$	34,767	\$	35,000	\$	233
Building and Reserve	\$	75,229	\$	75,000	\$	(229)
Missions/Outreach	\$	45,160	\$	48,000	\$	2,840
TOTAL REVENUES	\$	1,546,004	\$	1,623,000	\$	76,996
EXPENSES						
Worship	\$	311,406	\$	340,222	\$	28,816
Groups	\$	233,122	\$	266,538	\$	33,416
Service	\$	159,817	\$	173,725	\$	13,908
Care	\$	139,552	\$	109,788	\$	(29,764)
Operations	\$	698,667	\$	731,727	\$	33,060
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	1,542,564	\$	1,622,000	\$	79,436
NET +/-	\$	3,440	\$	1,000		



STATISTICAL COMPARISON

In Christian community, numbers can work a bit like vital signs. They can give indications about the underlying health and life of the body, but they are not themselves the health or life that we seek to nurture. On this page you will notice some positive signs. We are experiencing a modest increase in our membership and financial giving over the last five years, although our combined worship attendance has sagged a bit. If you read the earlier pages in this report you will see descriptions of many of the real life and life-giving ministries that receive a numerical measure here.

Real spiritual vitality is hard to measure. A thriving life together as a community of disciples of Jesus reflecting the heart of the Father doesn't always conform to statistics. It bears fruit in relationship and in the experience of love, joy, and peace in the Holy Spirit. We give thanks to God for another year of life in His Spirit, and we ask God's blessing for a thriving life together in 2018.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Child Baptisms	34	47	38	32	36	40	35	14
Adult Baptisms	3	4	4	8	0	2*		
Affirmation Baptisms	0	5	5	8	6	7*	4*	6*
Confirmation	25	17	17	12	33	19	26	23
New Members (Adults)	68	54	27	37	52	33	33	58
Total Received	130	117	86	97	127	92	94	95
Deaths	31	22	28	25	25	20	34	24
Transfers Out/ Removed	19	163	24	19	8	18	11	87
Statistical Adjustment	<854>				21			
Membership, Year End	1715	1647	1681	1734	1849	1903	1952	1960
Adult Worship (Average Per Week)	602	639	638	642	645	623	623	604
Sunday School Registration	not available	232	236	231	252	240	255	213
Annual Income	\$1,113,667	\$1,211,992	\$1,312,583	\$1,349,791	\$1,406,079	\$1,484,962	\$1,480,508	\$1,546,004
Annual Percentage Increase		8.83%	8.3%	2.83%	4.17%	5.61%	<.03%>	4.42%

*Already included in membership.



SERVING COMMUNITY OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastors

Steve Turnbull	Senior Pastor
Angie Way	Associate Pastor
Al Valerius	Visitation Pastor

Worship

Dan Lugo	Contemporary Worship Director
Danny Mulenda	Technical Director
Doug Nelson	Organist
Ishaya Yarison	Choir Director

Groups

Linsey Petersen	Ministry Projects & Community Groups Coordinator
Melinda Kern	Student Ministries Director
Rachel Thoren	Children's Ministry Director
Victoria Mathisen	Children's Ministry Associate
Kevin Sheldon	Ministry Intern

Service

Perry Petersen	Service Teams Director
Anna Shoberg	Welcome Coordinator

Care Ministry

Carol Watnemo	Parish Nurse
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Administration

Jeff Montgomery	Executive Administrator
Brian Shoberg	Communications Director
Denise Cabak	Communications Coordinator
Hannah Collins	Receptionist
Bob Dahl	Contributions Coordinator
Sue Quinn	Accounts Payable
Paul Wetterling	Facilities Manager



NOTES



COMMUNITY
– of **GRACE** –
LUTHERAN CHURCH

4000 Linden Street • White Bear Lake, MN 55110

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