

GRACE PRIORITIES AND MINISTRIES—Although the pandemic has brought changes and shut down many activities of Grace, our ministries remain important. At this time the Council is looking at what's essential and how we can plan ahead for our mission of "Sharing God's Grace", as we come out of the mitigations and restrictions.

At the same time, the "Future Church" focus of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is asking all congregations to consider the basics of why the church exists: "to invite more people into the way of Jesus so they might experience community, justice, and love" (ELCA Bishop Eaton). There is also a personal aspect for each of us: which of Grace's ministries are exciting to you? Please consider how you might be involved in what matters most to you. Where is God calling you to participate?

Grace's purposes and priorities are indicated in the constitution. "The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world." Therefore:

- We worship God.
- We proclaim God's saving love and grace to all, including future generations.
- We carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith . . . doing all ministry with a global awareness . . . understanding God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all. (Matthew 28:19-20; Jesus tells his disciples: "Go . . . make disciples of all nations . . . baptize . . . teach")
- We serve in response to God's love, to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people.
- We nurture our members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love.
- We manifest the unity given to the people of God by joining with other Christians in prayer and action.

The following are Grace's priority ministries, summarized from these purposes and further description in the constitution, our past committee structure, and looking ahead. Which of these is an area where you would like to get involved, to lead or to assist, so that this will be a vital ministry of Grace into the future?

- **Adult Education** (Lisa Banker jwb@stans.net) – includes Bible studies, book studies, social issues studies.
- **Christian Education** (Andy Bellavia bellavia.a@gmail.com) – includes Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, confirmation, High School youth group, college age/young adults.
- **Communication** (Lauren Kleinjan lkleinjan@gracewoodstock.org)– includes printed materials and electronic (email, web, social media), and also technology support such as for worship services.
- **Congregation Care** (was Spirituality) (Mike Liedtke abraxuswheel@yahoo.com) – care for the congregation including home communions, ministry to seniors, gift baskets, phone calls, grief care, and fellowship events.
- **Evangelism** (Mary Koehn 70novakane@gmail.com) – announcements and invitations to nonmembers, welcome and hospitality, assimilating new members, encouraging those who aren't attending.
- **Outreach** (was Social Ministry) (Gretchen Hutchens hutchens1314@sbcglobal.net) – serving human needs, locally and globally, advocating for the poor and powerless, seeking dignity, justice, and peace; food pantry; PADS; WACM/DAP; Christmas family sharing; Good Gifts.
- **Property** (Bob Teuber rteuber7@gmail.com) – maintenance and cleaning of Grace's facilities and grounds; work days.
- **Stewardship** (Jessica Potoczky jessica.potoczky@gmail.com) – motivating financial support so that Grace's ministries are possible.
- **Worship and Music** (Matt Meiners matthewmeiners@bureauveritas.com) – planning and implementing weekly and special services; supportive aspects of worship such as choirs, readers, and altar guild.

Please contact the Council liaison (the name and email in parentheses), to help in that ministry. You can mention the ministry, like Christian Education, or a more specific interest, like Vacation Bible School. Maybe you want to talk with friends and volunteer together! If you don't have access to email, please call the church office to volunteer. Then, plan to attend a committee meeting night at 7:00 pm Tuesday, April 6, on zoom. The link will be emailed to you. All will meet together, then break out into the individual committees.

It's easy to see how much all these ministries depend on volunteers as well as Grace's staff and pastors. The more people willing to help, the more we will be able to do! Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider how you would like to get involved! The Council liaisons are eager to hear from people who will help.

**Please note that another important ministry, the Preschool, is not included in the list because it has an elected board. Likewise the Audit and Endowment Committees are appointed/elected. They do not need additional volunteers.*