

MOVING FORWARD IN GRACE

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2023

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FORWARD TOGETHER

In Baptism, we become part of the Body of Christ; we are church together! Moving Forward, we want everyone to know that they are loved and valued, by God and by Grace. Everyone has a place here – everyone is part of fulfilling our calling in Christ. In 2023, we will be deepening relationships with those we already love and reaching out to others we will come to know.

One of the first steps in connecting with someone is knowing their name. To facilitate that first step, we will be buying and using new name tags. These name tags will help us put names and faces together, building connections between members. We will also better recognize those without name tags who may be visitors, so that we can be intentional in making new connections. These name tags will be something we can easily modify, which means a visitor will be able to get a name tag as quickly as their second visit. It's such a simple tool, but one that can help new folks can feel they belong right away, while longtime members never have to worry about remembering a new name!

As we move Forward Together, we will create opportunities to get to know one another outside of our 'usual' groups. It is easy to divide up generationally, but it is much more enriching to come together and share how we experience faith in our current stages of life. We will be seeking occasions for our congregation to come together across all ages, learning, sharing, and growing in faith.

Knowing each other opens the door for us to encourage and equip one another for ministry. In the coming year, we will be defining ministry roles more clearly, creating 'job descriptions' for what we do. This might sound formal, but these descriptions simply give clear steps, allowing members to volunteer with confidence, try something new. With these job descriptions, we will be able to connect our members' gifts more intentionally with our ministries' needs, strengthening our ministries and helping each other find joy in serving. This also opens the door for leaders to emerge and grow, as we discover new passion in the work we do together.

Finally, we will be more fully embracing our relationships with the South Carolina Synod and the ELCA. We are the church in this place, as Grace, and we are also part of the church in the world. There are tens of thousands of other Lutherans in our Synod, and millions in the ELCA; we want to get to know more of them! We intend to engage with the Synod through Assembly participation, exploring the SC Lutheran Church Youth programs with our youth, and learning more about Synod-wide ministries and initiatives, which may include opportunities for us to connect in service. We will also be further exploring our identity as part of the ELCA and how we might connect more intentionally with the mission we share, being the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. We will be Moving Forward Together, with the Body of Christ, right here at home and more broadly as well.

We invite you to take part in Moving Forward Together by giving faithfully in 2023. To meet all three of our goals, we anticipate needing an additional \$941 in giving per week. Please be in prayer for our stewardship drive, Moving Forward in Grace, that a generous response will empower us to share the good news of Jesus Christ in this coming year and beyond.



CELEBRATING WHO WE HAVE BEEN AND WHO WE ARE BECOMING

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

RANGE OF GIFTS GIVEN AND HOPED FOR

