

# MOVING FORWARD IN GRACE

STEWARSHIP APPEAL 2023

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## FORWARD WITH A MESSAGE

*O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples. - Psalm 105:1*

Grace Lutheran Church is here to proclaim the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. We first opened our doors for Winthrop students and a small but deeply dedicated congregation to gather, hear, and celebrate God's Word in worship. We have been sharing this gospel message for 100 years, centered in our worship and expressed through an abundance of ministries.

Today, programs such as Sunday School, Young Youth, GYM, WELCM, choral ensembles, fellowship events, and Seniors @ Grace increase our opportunities for building relationships while sharing God's Word. We are also growing in ministries outside our walls. With great outreach partners, including HOPE of Rock Hill, Bethel Men's Shelter, The Life House Women's Shelter, and others, we have been able to better connect with our community, sharing the good news through service to others.

Moving Forward, we will continue proclaiming God's life-giving message through ongoing and expanding ministries, using the gifts God has given us to live out the gospel. We are committed to fully funding our ministries as we further connect within our church and reach out to our community. To maintain continuity and to grow our ministries, we will fairly compensate our staff, whose work empowers our congregation to proclaim God's Word. We will also be investing in professional financial support staff. The flow of finances is nearly constant at Grace, and our finance officers have been volunteers, giving countless hours to manage the volume effectively. With new support staff, our finance officers can resume a volunteer-level position and to focus on the overall financial picture.

This September, through your generous gifts, we were blessed to pay off our mortgage! Moving Forward, we will continue to be faithful stewards of this wonderful property. Just as our founders had the Spirit-led foresight to build a Sanctuary that is still beautiful and functional today, we will maintain and continually care for our facilities. This ongoing stewardship equips us to be welcoming to the community, accessible to all people, and adaptable to provide for unknown needs in the future.

We have also made technological advancements to share the gospel beyond our walls. We have connected with many people by streaming weekly worship. We have also expanded our ability to share in ministry and outreach opportunities through our website and social media presence. As we improve and bolster these capabilities, we will continue to share God's message with those who connect online.

Finally, as we go Forward with a Message, we want to connect personally with members of our community. We are setting a goal of making 100 new connections in our 100th year! These connections will include our worship visitors, groups who use our space, partners we join in ministry beyond our walls, and others whom God calls us to meet.

We are going beyond the first 'hello' - we intend to learn one another's names, share our stories, and recognize the image of God in each other. We'll reach this goal together, as a congregation, and we'll celebrate when we meet and surpass 100 new connections!

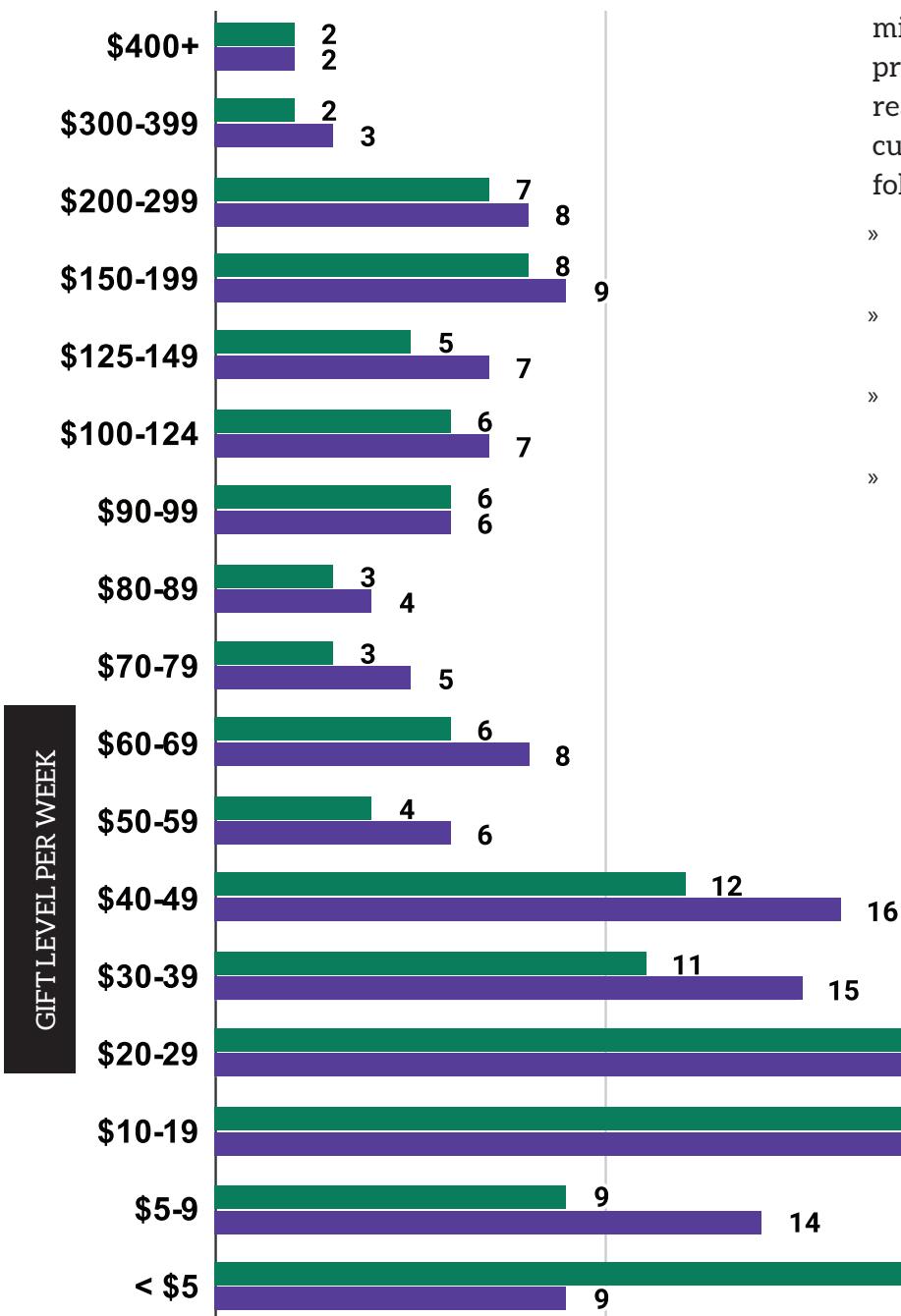
We invite you to take part in Moving Forward with a Message by giving faithfully in 2023. To meet all three of our goals, we anticipate needing an additional \$941 in giving per week. Please be in prayer for our stewardship drive, Moving Forward in Grace, that a generous response will empower us to share 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



Our gifts and offerings, joined together, accomplish ministry which is blessed by the Lord. This chart provides a picture of our current giving. As you read this gift chart and find the level of your current offerings, we invite you to consider the following questions:

- » *"How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?"*
- » *"How adequately does my giving reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I have received?"*
- » *"Where would I be on the chart if I doubled my giving? Can I consider doing that?"*
- » *"How much more could I give if I was truly moved to do so?"*

Current Number of Givers

164 Total

Number of Givers Hoped For

165 Total

