



Grace Time and Talent Opportunity Descriptions 2022

As we at Grace all participate in **Renewing Our Membership** this spring, we'll be using the season after Epiphany to consider what gifts we have received from the Holy Spirit and how we are called to use them as members of Grace.

This year, we are challenging ourselves to **try two new things** to use our gifts. First, we're going to try a new Grace ministry! Second, we're going to try a new serving opportunity in the community (or, if we're already doing service work in the community, we're going to share the story of that work)! These new commitments can be short or long term – the main thing is trying something new.

This document gives a brief overview of many of the ministries happening at Grace, with the hope that you'll find something that connects your gifts to God's work. Once you've read these ministry descriptions, **please use the Time and Talent Form to share your interest in ministry work by February 14th**. (This can be done on paper or with Google Forms.)

In a few weeks, our Committee Chairs will be in touch to welcome you into (or back to!) these ministries.

We hope you will take the time to consider where God may be calling you to serve this year, and we look forward to doing ministry together!

Peace in Christ – The Stewardship Committee

If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Rachel

Grace Committees & Ministries 2022

Ministries are listed alphabetically

Administration

Coordinator: Michelle Cunningham

There are many administrative details done behind the scenes to keep the other ministries at Grace running. Administration volunteers may be asked to assemble worship bulletins, answer the phone, assist with mailings, and other office-based tasks as they come up.

Beautification

Chair: Kathy Schwandt

The Beautification committee is focused on creating a welcoming and beautiful environment within our church building. Seasonal décor, updating artwork, and overseeing various aesthetic improvements in the building are taken care of by this group of dedicated members. This committee meets as needed.

Bereavement

Chair: Pat Kirk

The Bereavement Ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, inspired by the love of Jesus Christ, is called to a ministry of consolation to those who have suffered the loss of one whom they love. According to St. Paul, those who are baptized and share in the table of the Lord are responsible and privileged to be in communion with each other. Thus, when a member of the Body of Christ dies, the community is called to the ministry of consolation and bereavement care.

This ministry of consolation is done in a variety of ways. We call, send cards, deliver Keepsake Boxes when appropriate, and mark milestones throughout the first year of loss.

Members of the Bereavement Committee serve on one of two Teams, which alternately respond when a death occurs. The Committee meets quarterly for a luncheon, check-in, and follow-up for members who have experienced loss. Members also help with deliveries of Keepsake Boxes and other items to bereaved families and help to plan and host memorial receptions/luncheons.

In this time when we have not been able to gather to grieve losses together, we have ministered from a distance. Several ministry teams are working together to plan a Celebration of Life Memorial Service and Luncheon (to be held when safe to do so) for all members of Grace who have lost a loved one during Covid.

Endowment

Chair: Craig Ketner

The Endowment Committee is comprised of up to six members, elected by the Congregation Council. While members must be elected, it is helpful for the Council to know who is interested in this ministry when it is time for elections. By indicating interest on your Time & Talent form, you're letting the Council know you'd be willing to be considered for this election when the next term comes up.

Endowment meets quarterly. We wisely invest funds and use the dividends and interest on grant requests as an extension of Grace's annual missional spending plan. The committee reviews Endowment grant requests and makes decisions on what to fund. The committee also communicates the ability to include Grace's Endowment Fund in planned giving and becoming a member of the 1923 Grace Society. Endowment is working with our ELCA regional planner who meets with members and guides them on planned giving to ELCA ministries, including Grace Endowment Fund.

Craig Ketner shares why he's passionate about this ministry: "An Endowment Fund should strive to manage millions of dollars that will significantly impact Grace Lutheran's ability to provide ministry beyond our annual budget. I get excited when I think about the potential of this program to help the local community or whatever ministry the committee finds worthy."

Additionally, anyone interested in the Endowment Committee or 1923 Grace Society can find information on the church website on the Give page.

Finance

Chair: Vacant

According to Grace's governing documents, "The Finance Committee shall manage the financial resources of this congregation. The committee shall provide for the tabulating and deposit of contributions, the prompt payment of obligations and the timely reporting of financial transactions. It shall prepare an annual budget [missional spending plan] proposal for submission to the Congregation Council. It shall secure adequate property and liability insurance and provide for an annual audit of the Congregation's financial records. The committee shall conduct an annual campaign to encourage and receive pledges of financial support for the ministry of this congregation."

The Finance Committee is supported by and supports four financial officers (Financial Secretary, Assistant Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer). This committee is currently in need of a Chair, as well. The Chair does not need any financial expertise, simply a desire to help Grace faithfully steward the financial gifts of its members.

Health & Wellness

Chair: Rick Richter

Health & Wellness is committed to the concept of a holistic ministry of health and wellness. This group views people in an integrated way combining body, mind, and spirit. Both lay and professional people make up the team. This committee meets monthly. H&W maintains medical equipment in the building, offers various educational opportunities, and seeks to promote the wellbeing of Grace members.

During the pandemic, Health & Wellness has been instrumental in researching, discussing, and discerning plans and protocols for Grace. Recommendations from H&W help the Council make wise choices to preserve the health and safety of Grace members and visitors.

Learning

Chair: Tammie Harbert

The Learning Committee plans and provides for a variety of learning opportunities within the congregation, including Sunday School for all ages. They provide appropriate resources, recruit, train, and support teachers and staff, and motivate members of the congregation to participate in life-long learning activities.

Currently, Learning meets when needed. In-person Sunday School for all ages has begun again. Milestones are being incorporated when possible. This committee continues to adjust programming in response to the state of the pandemic, making sure there are faith formation opportunities that coordinate with our safety protocols.

If you'd like to be a Sunday School teacher or substitute, please let us know as well! You don't have to be a committee member to be a teacher!

Music - Children's Choir

Leader: Irene Pointon

The Children's Choir is for our Grace children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade. This choir meets most Sunday afternoons during the school year for 40 minutes, under the direction of Irene Pointon, assisted by our music interns. In this choir, children learn many music skills that will serve them their whole lives! This choir shares a song in worship about once every 5-6 weeks.

Music - Grace Alone Choir

Staff: Dr. Jeremy Mims

The Grace Alone Choir sings at the 8:30 service, and often sings more recently composed pieces. This music is most often accompanied by piano, incorporating other instruments including flute, bass, and drums. During the program year, Grace Alone meets on Monday nights at 7:20. During the summer months, the choir meets following the 8:30 service.

Music - Parish Choir

Staff: Dr. Jeremy Mims

The Parish Choir sings at the 11:00 service and is most often accompanied by the organ, singing more traditional songs and anthems. During the program year, Parish Choir meets on Wednesday nights at 7:00. During the summer months, the choir meets shortly before the 11:00 service.

Music – Grace Ringers

Staff: Dr. Jeremy Mims

The Grace Ringers are the handbell group at Grace. This musical group meets on Monday nights at 6:20 during the program year. When the Ringers share a piece in worship, it is usually shared at both services that day, so everyone can enjoy this musical gift.

New Members

Chair: Kathy Schwandt

The New Member Committee focuses on welcoming and connecting with visitors and new members at Grace. As Kathy Schwandt says, “If someone is visiting our church, chances are, they are searching for a church home.” It is important for us to reach out to welcome them. “I want to be able to help them navigate questions they might have and show that we are happy they chose to visit our church. I want to share our mission and be excited about our goals and how we envision the future.”

Committee members are engaged in this ministry every week, staying aware of new faces and engaging enthusiastically. Answering questions, talking about Grace’s mission, and encouraging connection (to ministries and to other members) are a big part of this committee’s ministry. This committee follows up with visitors, sharing a coffee mug and information about Grace (this has been on hold during the pandemic). Additionally, the New Member Committee hosts a new member class luncheon and then a reception and celebration when members join the church.

Nursery

Chair: Robin Ketner

During the pandemic, the Grace nursery has been closed, but the dedication to the care and safety of children has not ended! When open, the Nursery is committed to providing experienced adult nursery workers to care for children’s physical and emotional wellbeing in a safe, loving environment. Nursery committee members can help maintain our newly updated nursery, making sure it is clean and ready for children!

Outreach

Chair: Linda Ranges

The Outreach Committee meets monthly to report on the ongoing outreach ministries and plan for those upcoming. Outreach facilitates these Grace-supported ministries: Family Promise, Race & Reconciliation, Bereavement, and Angel Tree & Easter Baskets of Blessings.

Additionally, this will be the second year of the Grace Outreach Partnership Grants, which is a way for Grace Lutheran Church to serve our neighbors as well as pray for and support their organizations. Members of Outreach serve as liaisons to these organizations and help Grace connect through volunteer work specific to their mission.

Grace members can participate in Outreach programs without being committee members. Please let us know if you're interested in volunteering for any of these ministries by checking Outreach on your Time & Talent form and noting the ministry(s).

Linda Ranges shares why she's passionate about the Outreach ministry: "I personally hope to get a feel for the community I live in and its needs as well as helping underprivileged neighbors who need assistance. The hope is to show people that Grace Lutheran Church cares and welcomes them to pray with us. It is an opportunity to give back to [our] community."

Parish Life

Chair: Vacant

Parish Life's ministry centers on facilitating fellowship and connection within our congregation. Generally, Parish Life includes organizing weekly hospitality refreshments, parish meals, and the annual picnic.

Much of Parish Life's work was paused during the pandemic. As precautions have allowed, the committee has returned to fellowship opportunities both at church and in the community (including an ice cream truck social, parish picnic, and trip to the theater!). Parish Life is also exploring new fellowship opportunities and would love your input on the committee!

Irene Pointon, former chair, says, "It is rewarding to organize these events that bring our church family together in fellowship. If you are one who likes to throw a party, this is the committee for you!"

Personnel

Chair: Sara Johnson

The Personnel Committee is comprised of up to six members, appointed by the Executive Committee of Grace. While members must be appointed, it is helpful for the Executive Committee to know who is interested in this ministry when it is time for appointments. By indicating interest on your Time & Talent form, you're letting the Executive Committee know you'd be willing to be considered for this appointment when the next term comes up.

The Personnel committee meets monthly. The purpose of Personnel is to assist the pastor and congregation in providing a workplace where the staff can fully develop their talents in the service of God, and to assist the Congregation Council with certain specific issues concerning the rostered leaders of the congregation.

Sara Johnson serves on this committee because, "I feel it important to support the staff and assist them in any way needed."

Place of Grace

Chair: Greg Austin

Place of Grace is the blue building across the parking lot from our church building, which we own and utilize as a community outreach. The Place of Grace Committee supports this ministry.

This ministry is multi-faceted in that it supports local organizations in the community whose missions align with Grace's mission by providing below market rents, while also establishing a long-range path for the potential expansion of the Grace campus. Chair Greg Austin says, "I view this ministry as core to the future of Grace."

Committee members currently participate in quarterly meetings, occasionally take on tasks concerning Place of Grace, and promote Place of Grace when applicable.

Prayer Team

Coordinator: Dee Westbrook

Prayer is a central part of our faith and praying for one another is part of our work as siblings in Christ. The Grace Prayer Team receives emails as people's needs (members, family, and friends) are made known (with their permission to share these needs with the Prayer Team). The Prayer Team then adds these requests to their personal prayers, sharing the gift of intercession on behalf of those in need. This Team may be asked to keep some of the shared information confidential, depending on how the request is made.

Property

Chair: Walker Stockley

The Property Committee oversees many projects related to the physical buildings and property at Grace, meeting about once a month to review tasks. When outside contractors are needed for projects, the Property Committee is often asked to present a recommendation to Council. The committee keeps a master project list, and members often pick a task from this list and work with a partner (or partners) to get the project done. Physical work is sometimes done at the time of the meetings but is often done when members' schedules allow.

You can also share your skills with the Property Committee without serving on the committee – let us know what kinds of projects or tasks you'd like to be called on to help with. This includes gardening! If you enjoy a hands-on project with quickly visible results, working with this committee may be for you!

Public Relations

Chair: Donna Richter

Public Relations Committee members participate in monthly meetings and are continuously observant to things related to Grace, both in terms of internal and external communications and perceptions. Public Relations posts reminders and updates on our Facebook page, keeping current events on our radar.

The committee undertakes larger projects from time to time. Public Relations helped to create our church website and looks forward in the near future to creating new materials promoting programs at Grace.

Donna Richter says, "There's a lot of great opportunities within Grace's ministries. It's nice to be able to help share these opportunities for service and/or worship with our members and our prospective visitors."

Rachel's Ring

Chair: Pat Kirk

Rachel's Ring is centered on sharing God's love and care with our members. This group makes greeting cards for all kinds of occasions and sends them to members of the congregation and community, including families with new babies, members on the prayer list, couples celebrating marriage, and WELCM students.

Rachel's Ring also coordinates schedules to provide meals when a church member is in need. This ministry has been vital during the pandemic and beyond. [Grace members can provide meals whether or not they are members of Rachel's Ring!]

Pat Kirk leads this ministry "because it is a ministry of love and support to our church members. We are following the command of Jesus to "love one another," as He loves us."

Stewardship

Chair: Frances Stockley

The core of Stewardship is sharing what God has given us: our time, our talents, and our treasures. Our Stewardship Committee seeks ways to embrace the gifts of our members. We have enjoyed sharing with our congregation the little things, the essentials things, and the acts of stewardship and love for one another that our members do regularly. We seek to involve our members in more than their financial contribution.

Stewardship meets monthly. We continue to recognize and thank members through "Caught You Caring" for their time and talent shared at Grace. We share a Time and Talent survey each year to continue connection with committees and members. Hopefully, through Time & Talent, members will seek new opportunities to participate at Grace. Committee members also participate in crafting and sharing the annual financial stewardship drive. We are continually seeking ways to grow stewardship at all ages, developing new approaches and experiences in how each member can identify and be faithful stewards of their gifts.

WELCM [Winthrop Ecumenical Lutheran Campus Ministry]

Chair: Bob Stonebraker

The WELCM Committee is focused on supporting Winthrop students and the Campus Minister, creating a welcoming community that explores and strengthens relationships with God and cultivates Christian discipleship.

There are non-committee opportunities to serve WELCM! Providing dinners, supporting programs, and getting to know the students are all ways to connect with our campus ministry.

Committee service is also an option. Committee members can expect to participate in meetings every other month. Outside of meetings, members are supportive of WELCM programs and participate in occasional WELCM events. Members also help with publicity and fundraising for WELCM.

When asked why he's dedicated to this ministry, Bob Stonebraker said, "As a retired professor I love interacting with college students. The students involved in WELCM are intelligent, inquisitive, and eager to learn and participate. And this is a critical time in determining their future faith lives. A significant percent of ELCA pastors and lay leaders were involved in campus ministries. They are the future of our church."

Worship & Music

Chair: Nora Sliney

The Worship & Music Committee is focused on creating faithful, meaningful worship services and experiences for all those who worship with us.

W&M meets once a month. This committee schedules worship assistants, approve the committee budget monthly, make decisions on where to purchase altar flowers, lilies, and poinsettias. W&M makes sure the organ and piano are maintained and keeps up with the purchase of music. W&M discusses upcoming worship services and Baptisms, purchases new banners, and provides maintenance for all the banners. This committee also cleans and decorates the sanctuary for holidays and festivals.

Worship & Music – Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is overseen by W&M and we would love for you to be part of this team. Altar Guild members usually serve one month per year, setting up the altar for worship, changing out the paraments, and making sure items are in the right place for service. There is training and written directions for those who are new to this service opportunity!

Worship & Music – Worship Assistants

You don't have to join the Worship & Music committee to participate in Worship roles! You can volunteer to be a Worship Assistant as a Greeter, Lector (lesson reader), Petitioner (prayer reader), Communion Assistant, Acolyte, Crucifer, and/or Usher. These positions are not restricted by age – you're never too old! There is training and/or instructions available for all these roles.

Youth & Family

Chair: Elsa Edwards

Youth & Family meets every-other month, doing the work of supporting the children, youth, and families of Grace. One of the biggest goals of this ministry is to help guide our children and youth in their relationship with God. Y&F is also working on new opportunities to connect more fully with “family”, seeking ways to support the adults in our kids' lives.

Committee members help recruit volunteers, give feedback and suggestions for programming, and participate in various Young Youth, Youth, and Family activities.

There are other ministries and roles at Grace that are not listed here – if you'd like to serve in one of those ways, please add that to your Time & Talent form!