



Grace Time and Talent Opportunity Descriptions 2021

Over the last year, our Grace Ministries have adapted and adjusted to do God's work in our community in shifting circumstances. What hasn't changed is our call to worship God and serve our neighbors, and we continue to be dedicated to this holy call. In this document, you'll find descriptions of how our Committees are functioning at this time, and how your gifts can be connected to the opportunities and needs in our church and our community.

Once you've read these descriptions, **please use the [Google Form](#) to share your interest in ministry work.** Then, our Committee Chairs will be in touch to welcome you into (or back to!) these ministries.

If you have any questions, please contact Pr. Rachel.

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

Grace Committees & Ministries 2021

Ministries are listed alphabetically

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. 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.

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.

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 (currently via Zoom). We wisely invest funds and use the dividends and interest on grant requests as an extension of Grace's annual budget. 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 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 oversees 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 via Zoom when needed. During the pandemic, Sunday School for Grace children has included video lessons (recorded by committee members and other volunteers) and at-home kits. The Committee has also delivered Blessing Bags to support students and teachers, and continued to recognize Milestones as they have been able.

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 also follows up with visitors, sharing a coffee mug and information about Grace. 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.

One of Grace's 2021 goals is to refurbish the Nursery. Committee members will be part of consultations and planning for this goal.

Outreach

Chair: Linda Ranges

The Outreach Committee is currently meeting monthly via Zoom. We have just partnered with three local organizations for our 2021 Partnership Grants. This 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.

Outreach facilitates these Grace-supported ministries: Family Promise, Hunger Outreach, Race & Reconciliation, Bereavement, Habitat for Humanity, and Angel Tree & Easter Baskets of Blessings.

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: Irene Pointon

Much of Parish Life's work has been paused during the pandemic. As precautions allow, the committee will return to organizing weekly hospitality refreshments, parish meals, and the annual picnic. Fellowship has been one of the most-missed aspects of Grace during the pandemic, and this Committee's dedication to fellowship is vital!

Irene Pointon 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 has been meeting via Zoom during the pandemic. 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 issue 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

This ministry is multi-faceted in that it supports local non-profits in the community 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 Zoom Meetings, occasionally take on tasks concerning Place of Grace, and promote Place of Grace when applicable. For more information, reference the annual report for various data points.

Property

Chair: Jim Alfors (outgoing)

The Property Committee oversees many projects related to the physical buildings and property at Grace. The Committee keeps a master Property Committee Project list, and members often pick a task from this list and work with a partner (or partners) to get the project done. Currently, the committee is not meeting in person, but projects are being done individually or in small groups.

When asked why he's passionate about this ministry, Jim Alfors said, "There are always Property projects that need to be done. I enjoy fixing things, working at Church inside and outside." If you enjoy a hands-on project with quickly-visible results, this committee may be for you!

Public Relations

Chair: Donna Richter

Committee members participate in monthly meetings and are continuously observant to things related to Grace, both in terms of internal communications and perceptions, as well as external communications and perceptions. Public Relations has been meeting on Zoom and working on projects at home as needed.

The committee does undertake projects from time to time. Last year Public Relations helped to create a new church website and looks forward in the near future to creating new materials promoting programs at Grace. Committee members bring different talents to the committee.

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 one of Grace's newer ministries, 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. During the pandemic, Rachel's Ring continued to stay in touch electronically and work remotely. In 2020, 230 cards were made and sent. 2021 is already going strong, with cards for Easter sent and for graduations underway.

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.

Stewardship is meeting monthly via Zoom. 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 their stewardship 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.

During the pandemic, this group has met via Zoom, continuing to support the adapting WELCM programming that has grown even during COVID! With some recent partnership changes, the Advisory Board is transitioning to a Grace committee, and will be adjusting as it establishes a new structure. Generally, 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 are supportive of students and greet them when you see them in church or around the campus. Members will 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 has been meeting via Zoom since April 2020. A lot of W&M duties could not be done this past year due to the church building being shut down and/or limited. However, by working in shifts and inside precautions, the Committee decorated the church for Christmas and Lent.

W&M prepares the Worship space for the services so that everything is ready for the members on Sunday morning. Sharing all the things that come under the W&M committee allows anyone and everyone to take part in making our weekly services happen.

This Committee schedules worship assistants, approve the committee budget monthly, make decisions on where to purchase Altar flowers (Florist), Lilies at Easter, Poinsettias at Christmas. W&M makes sure the organ and piano are maintained and keeps up with the purchase of music. W&M also discusses upcoming worship services and Baptisms, purchases new banners and provides maintenance for all the banners.

Additionally, you don't have to join the committee to participate in Worship & Music roles! You can volunteer to be a Reader, Worship Assistant, Acolyte, Altar Guild (monthly), and Usher (monthly). Some of these roles are on hold at this point in our precautions, but please let W&M know if you're interested for when these roles return!

Youth & Family

Chair: James Sidden

Youth & family has been meeting via Zoom during the pandemic, supporting the children, youth, and families of Grace in regards to Youth programming. One of the biggest goals of this ministry is to help guide our youth with their relationship with God.

Committee members help recruit volunteers, give feedback and suggestions for programming, and participate in various Young Youth & Youth activities. Recently, Youth & Family has been brainstorming ways to connect more fully with "family", seeking ways to support the adults in our kids' lives.

James Sidden values this ministry because of "the chance to serve the church and help our kids grow" and believes others will, too.