

Grace Episcopal Church

Mt. Clemens

Annual Meeting

January 25, 2026



Contents:

2-3.....	Annual Meeting Agenda
4.....	2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
5.....	Candidates for 2026 Vestry
6.....	2026 Candidates for Convention Delegates
7.....	Vestry Grid & Proposed Change to Parish By-Laws
8-14.....	Financial Report
15.....	Altar Guild
15.....	American Lutheran Church
15.....	Book Club
16-17.....	Building & Grounds
17.....	Christian Education
18.....	Fueling Kids Futures
18.....	Grace Food Pantry
18.....	Hearts for Homes
19.....	Lay Eucharist Ministry (L.E.M.)
19.....	Macomb County Winter Shelter
20.....	MCREST
20.....	Music
21.....	Outdoor Sign
21.....	Outdoor Food Boxes
21.....	Parish Administrator
22.....	Pastoral Care
22.....	Prayer Group
22.....	Publications Coordinator
23.....	Social Media Coordinator
23.....	Stewardship
24.....	Sunday Supper
24.....	Technology Committee
24.....	Ushers
25.....	Vergers
25.....	Vestry Report
25.....	Wednesday Supper
26.....	Worship Committee
26-27.....	Rector Report
28.....	2025 Membership Report

The Annual Parish Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church

The purpose of Annual Meetings Our diocesan laws, national church laws, and/or parish By-Laws require that our parish hold annual meetings, each January, *at which 10% of the voting membership must be present, to:*

- Adopt By-laws
- Elect lay leaders to the Vestry by “majority”, that is one more than half of the voting members present
- Elect three voting members to be delegates to the annual Diocesan Convention

Communicant in Good Standing

Any communicant who, during the preceding year, has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and in working, praying and giving for the spread of the kingdom of God, shall be considered a communicant in good standing of the congregation.

Voting Member: An adult communicant who has been a communicant in good standing of his/her congregation for not less than six (6) months shall be eligible to vote at annual or special meetings of the congregation.

By standing for election to Vestry, nominees agree to:

- Make a financial pledge to the church
- Regularly participate in the worship and ministry of the parish
- Come to meetings regularly and prepared
- Act as liaison to ministries in the parish.
- Sign the Vestry Stewardship Statement and Covenant of Right Relations
- Take diocesan classes regarding Sexual Ethics and Diversity

Agenda

1. Appointment of a Clerk
2. Call to Order
3. Establishment of a Quorum
4. Opening Prayer
5. The Approval of the 2025 Minutes
6. Nominations for Vestry and Diocesan Convention
7. Voting
8. Proposed Change to By-Laws
9. Written and Verbal Reports
10. Review of 2025 Financials and Presentation of the 2026 Budget – Gary Keranen
11. Election Results if Needed
12. Thank You to Retiring Vestry Members
13. New Business
14. Questions or Comments
15. Closing Prayer

2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

I. Appointment of Clerk

- A. Cheryle Kahl will act as clerk.

II. Call to Order

- A. Meeting was called to order by Pastor Steve at 11:42 P.M.

III. Establishment of Quorum

- A. Sufficient members present to establish quorum

IV. Opening Prayer

- A. Offered by Pastor Steve

V. Approval of 2024 Minutes

- A. Correction of date year from 2014 to 2024.
- B. Correction of Mike Zubas spelling of name
- C. Move to accept and approve as amended, passes

VI. Nominations for Vestry, Diocesan Convention and Deanery

- A. Vestry nominations
 - 1. Ernie Simon
 - 2. Don Siefkes
 - 3. Sharon Potter
- B. Diocesan Convention Delegates
 - 1. Shirley Lappi
 - 2. Pam Sherry
 - 3. Kris Eckert will be third delegate.
 - 4. Lucy Smith will serve as alternate.
- C. Deanery—Tish Germain will serve

VII. Voting/Acclimation to Accept Candidates

- A. Agenda item #7 passes; elected as presented

VIII. Verbal Reports

- A. Weds. supper serving close to 250 meals a week—number over double from one in report.
- B. Winter Shelter—Ann Farrell
 - 1. Grace provided three dinners in drop-off format for approximately 100 servings per meal.
 - 2. Discussion that advertising for participation needs to be increased.
 - 3. Members of WAVE (mobile showering program) also involved.
 - 4. Partnership with King of Kings Lutheran Church in Shelby

IX. Review of 2024 Financials and 2025 Budget Presentation—Gary Keranen

- A. Total Liabilities and Equity—\$577,174
- B. Market valuation varies and will be amended
- C. Greatest challenge attracting new members—especially young ones
- D. \$33,000 should be in bank if projections hold true
- E. Trends more important than randoes
- F. Insurance costs more than doubled
- G. Ministries must fundraise for operating costs
- H. Food ministries are challenged to provide funds to support needed food
- I. \$10,000 moved from Memorial fund to General fund
- J. Raises not given in 2024, given in 2025 to Josh, Marchea, and Alice
- H. Financial Comments from Co-Warden Mike Oakley
 - 1. Try to keep positive perspective
 - 2. Grace has had a long history of fellowship, outreach, and financial challenges.
 - 3. Biggest challenge—attracting new members. How?
 - a. Open church for visitation such as during Santa Parade
 - b. Coffee, hot chocolate and cookies were distributed
 - c. Tours of building
 - d. Successful Euchre tournament brought in many outside visitors—two parties planned for next year
 - e. Cookie walk brought in many outside buyers—some came back to Grace for service.
 - f. Lonny interested in putting a band together with Josh and others
 - I. Thank you to retiring treasurer Ann Farrell and vestry members Scott Satterly, Lori Simon and Cheryle Kahl
 - J. Gary Stevens will be taking over as treasurer. Printed envelopes are made available in pews

X. New Business

- A. Gay Gillespie—discussion regarding needed transparency from vestry, especially with “possible merger” with American Lutheran Church
 - 1. Pastor Steve addresses shared ministry with ALC during his sabbatical
 - 2. Service at ALC At 9:00 A.M., Grace at 10:30 A.M.
 - 3. ALC hired new pastor—Pastor Julie
 - 4. Committee on shared ministry remains, but investigation into sharing a pastor has been tabled.
 - 5. Shared activities with ALC continue
 - 6. Lucy assures that vestry will try to communicate better
 - 7. Tom Stotz cautions to be careful with language. “Merger” isn’t “shared ministry.” Merger was never discussed.
 - 8. Pastor Julie is open to continued shared activities between ALC and Grace

XI. Questions or Concerns

- B. Questions on Rectory Update
 - 1. Listed with Anton Sowerby Realty
 - 2. Proposed to rent for \$2,000 a month

XII Closing Prayer offered by Pastor Steve

Meeting adjourned 12:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryle Kahl, Clerk

Candidates for Vestry, 2026



Maragret Morgan

I am interested in being on the Vestry to help our Church run smoothly. I enjoy organizing events and fundraisers. I like helping. I want our parishioners to feel included in the Grace Church family. If we can include their ideas and suggestions, they feel they ARE a part of our Church. We are a loving and giving Church and I enjoy being part of Grace.



Selia Tuten

I come to Grace as a lifelong Episcopalian. I was baptized confirmed and married At Christ Church Dearborn. My two daughters were also baptized at Christ Church.

My first husband and I were married at Christ, however my husband of 52 years died

In 2019. I was asked to join the vestry in 2012 and enjoyed my term and “retired” but that didn’t stick, and I rejoined only to become the junior warden. Christ Church like any Church had problems and opportunities to meet. We had the opportunity to sell a portion of the church property and that while a financial boom to the church, became a challenge when the building plans were revealed. We also had an Arabic congregation worship in both the Chapel and Church. This was both an opportunity and a challenge, as the church services were bilingual.

Candidates for Convention Delegate, 2026



Kris Eckert



Pam Sherry

Vestry Grid

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
VESTRY MEMBERSHIP LIMIT	9	8	7	7	7	7	7
Class 2023-2025							
Bill Siewert	X						
Dash Heath	X						
Martha Houser	X						
Class 2024-2026							
Mike Oakley	X	X					
Mike Zuubas	X	X					
Lucy Smith	X	X					
Class 2025-2027							
Ernie Simon	X	X	X				
Sharon Potter	X	X	X				
Don Siefkes	X	X	X				
Class 2026-2028							
Celia Tuten if elected		X	X	X			
Margret Morgan if elected		X	X	X			
Class 2027-2029							
Person 1			X	X	X		
Person 2			X	X	X		
Class 2028-2030							
Person 3				X	X	X	
Person 4				X	X	X	
Person 5				X	X	X	
Class 2029-2031							
Person 6					X	X	X
Person 7					X	X	X

Proposed Change to the Parish By Laws

Resolution ...

In Article VI, Section 2, change the first sentence, “There shall be a vestry of nine (9) members, comprised of Communicants in Good Standing.” To this: “There shall be a vestry of seven (7) members, comprised of Communicants in Good Standing.”

2025 Financial Report

Grace Parish Giving Profile													
Row	Column									A	B	C	D
										Updated as of 11/28/2023		Updated as of 12/22/2022	
										2024 Pledge Info		2023 Pledge Info	
1										Units	\$	Units	\$
2	Pledges Received									39	163,890.00	53	194,659.00
	PRIOR YEAR PLEDGE UNITS												
3	No Pledge Rec'v as of Date Indicated									18	40,470.00	12	7,372.00
4										57	204,360.00	65	202,031.00
	Giving Record in previous year EST. No Pledge Recv for year indicated												
5										34	13,000.00	25	6,916.00
6										91	217,360.00	90	208,947.00
7													
8													
9													
10	Concentration Risk Information												
11										Units		Units	
	Pledges > \$100 a Week for Year Indicated												
12										11	114,820.00	10	104,015.00
13										52.82% of Giving Base		49.78% of Giving Base	

Grace Condensed Balance Sheet									
Updated 1/17/2026					Amended 2/25/2025	Amended 2/25/2024		Amended 4/07/2022	
				A	B	C	D	E	
1	Assets			Dec 31,2025	Dec 31,2024	Dec 31,2023	Dec 31,2022	Dec 31,2021	
2	Unrestricted								
3	Opportunity Interfaith Fund			10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
4	Chk'g, Savings & Mutual Funds	#1		492,435	374,394	358,735	388,491	448,163	
5	Gift Undesignated								
6									
7	Restricted								
8	Doll Memorial Fund			12,673	21,417	29,327	35,217	56,936	
9	Designated								
10	Operating Fund	#2		59,635	35,091	53,607	19,830	54,030	
11	Building & Grounds Capital Fund			30,378	48,062	48,389	92,055	96,729	
12	Parish Ministries			86,276	61,832	76,077	97,151	94,914	
13	Fr Bob's Food Shelf CD			0	21,040	21,010	6,040	6,040	
14	Rector's Discretionary			1,341	1,007	1,522			
15			Total Assets	692,738	572,843	598,667	648,784	766,812	
16	Liabilities								
17	Accounts Payable			0	0	2754	0	0	
18	New Rector Search Encumbrance								
19	Gift \$ - Deferred Revenue	#3		100,000	0	0	0	0	
20	Gift Undesignated								
21	Fund Equity								
22	Restricted Fund Balances			12,673	21,417	29,327	35,217	56,936	
23	Designated Fund Balances			177,630	167,032	200,605	215,076	251,713	
24	Unrestricted Funds Balance			402,435	384,394	365,981	398,491	458,163	
25									
26			Total Liabilities, Def. Rev. & Equity	692,738	572,843	598,667	648,784	766,812	
#1 Investment valuation as of the latest statement of market value (EDOMI@09/30/25 and Wells Fargo as of 12/31/2025). All EDOMI 2025 cash dividends were allocated to the Operating Fund . The Net 2024 Market to 2025 Market Adjustment is outlined below									
				Investment Acct at Mkt Value	2025 Cash Transfers in (out)	2025 Mkt Adjustment	Investment Acct at Mkt Value		
				1/1/2025			12/31/2025		
27	EDOMI Growth & Inc. Fund			189,786	(41,339)	27,663	176,110		
28	Wells Fargo Investment Accounts			181,110	0	35,249	216,359		
29	Doll Fund (EDOMI Growth & Inc. Fund)			21,417	(10,505)	1,762	12,674		
				0		64,674	405,143		
#2 In response to COVID-19 the US Federal Government the PPP loan program. The parish qualified for a \$30,415 forgivable loan. if certain conditions are met the loan is forgiven. As of 12/31/2020 the parish has met those conditions and the loan proceeds were taken into the Operating Fund revenue. Additionally, Macomb County had received certain COVID relief monies from the federal government. The parish applied and received a grant for \$10,000 to support utilities cost which support all our various food distribution / feeding programs The grant monies were taken into the Operating Fund as of 12/31/2020									
The Parish did not meet the loan criteria for the 2021 PPP2 Loan / Forgiveness program.									
#3 In December 2025 the Parish received notification of a gift of \$211,858. A check of \$100,000 was received. The monies were deposited in the investment account. The vestry has not allocated the monies to any ministries thus at 12/31/2025 the gift was recorded as Deferred Revenue									

Row #	Grace Episcopal Church						
	Updated 1/17/2026	Operating Fund					
	Column Label	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Account Name	2021 TTL Actual	2022 TTL Actual	Amended 2023 TTL Actual	Amended 2024 TTL Actual	2025 TTL Actual	2025 Budget
							Adopted 2026 Budget
1	Income						
2	Ordinary Income						
3	Operating Fund Contributions						
4	Misc. Gifts	500	0	0	0	0	0
5	Non-Pledge Income	766	13,383	21,283	42,049	26,786	15,100
6	Plate Offerings	2,649	1,793	4,939	4,616	6,857	4,500
7	Pledge Income	213,318	196,128	189,160	173,072	214,115	202,880
8	Total Operating Fund	217,233	211,304	215,381	219,737	247,758	222,380
9	Other Operating Fund Income						
10	Advertising Income						
11	Parking	280	0	0	0	407	500
12	Rent Parish Hall	1,450	4,950	6,715	1,575	2,268	2,300
13	Rent Rectory Bldg.	19,800	18,600	20,475	15,600	5,200	16,800
14	Sanctuary Rental	0	300	0	0	0	0
15	Restricted Accounts	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	Scrip Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Unbudgeted Income	3,133	3,122	30,438	12,600	11,990	1,990
	Unrestricted Accounts (Cash Dividends)	9,677	9,822	10,446	11,949	8,260	11,000
18							
19	Total Other Operating Fund	34,340	36,794	68,074	41,724	28,125	31,790
20	Total Ordinary Income	251,573	248,098	283,455	261,461	275,883	254,170
21	Fund Raising		600	7,729	8,227	5,834	5,900
22	Pledge Matching Gift						
23	PPP Loan forgiveness						
24	Transfer from Other Assets	10,050	10,000	55,000	25,904	60,000	10,000
25	Total Income	261,623	258,698	346,184	295,592	341,717	270,070
26	Expenses						
27	Buildings & Grounds						
28	B&G - General Expenses	22,020	23,651	26,680	29,602	26,909	30,000
29	Church Electric	9,727	8,520	10,110	9,384	11,397	10,000
30	Church Gas	5,038	7,407	8,057	6,159	7,968	7,500
31	Church Insurance	10,974	12,549	14,299	17,100	19,440	18,000
32	Church Phone/Internet	1,544	1,823	3,090	4,339	5,017	4,400
33	Church Water	864	1,137	2,684	1,348	1,586	1,300
34	Rectory Gas Electric & Water	1,674	1,407	4,262	1,604	3,658	2,400
35	Property Taxes - 22 Church	1,282	4,059	1,703	4,443	0	0
36	Total Buildings & Grounds	53,123	60,553	70,885	73,978	75,975	73,600
37	General Operating Expenses						
38	Advertising Expense	148	524	29	0	25	250
39	Bank & On line Fees/Charges/Fees	9	441	1,369	745	599	750
40	D.R.I.V.E. Membership	0	0	0	0	0	0
41	Diocesan Pledge	23,215	24,272	23,591	24,242	28,153	28,153
44	Music	689	1,083	575	412	303	1,000
45	Office Equipment	5,430	2,724	8,534	2,193	2,536	2,400
46	Office Supplies	5,381	7,916	9,472	11,673	10,189	12,000
47	Payroll Service	171	234	322	288	288	325
48	Postage	207	478	707	0	0	500
49	Hall Rental Expense	0	0	0	0	0	0
50	Unbudgeted Expense	816	1,162	1,669	4,232	570	500
51	Worship	433	197	165	119	408	200
52	Total General Operating Expense	36,499	39,031	46,433	43,903	43,071	46,078
53	Rector						
54	New Rector Search Encumbrance	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	Annuity in Lieu of Health	0	0	0	0	0	0
56	Health Ins	20,866	22,132	21,322	22,488	25,257	23,678
57	Dental /Life Insurance	125	1,504	1,504	1,504	1,598	1,512
58	Pension	10,869	13,042	11,274	15,899	13,042	15,491
59	Continuing Ed.	910	650	2,066	673	520	1,000
60	Auto & Professional Expenses (#6)	1,050	385	0	0	0	0
61	Rector's Cell Phone	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,320	1,320
62	Rector's Discretionary Acct.	765	650	700	600	900	900
63	Rector Sabbatical Funding	400	0	0	0	0	0
64	Rector's Salary	82,750	82,750	86,060	86,060	86,060	86,060
65	Total Rector	118,935	122,313	124,126	128,424	128,697	129,961

Row #	Grace Episcopal Church						
	Updated 1/17/2026		Operating Fund				
	Column Label	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Account Name	2021 TTL Actual	2022 TTL Actual	Amended 2023 TTL Actual	Amended 2024 TTL Actual	2025 TTL Actual	2025 Budget
66	Salaries/Expenses - Other Employees						
67	Administrator	15,590	22,760	23,265	20,010	19,424	20,896
68	Administrator - Pension	594	2,182	2,304	1,720	1,696	1,881
69	Accountant		1,780	6,596	6,970	8,253	7,800
70	Christmas Bonuses	600	550	300	900	900	900
71	Contractors (Temp Help)	0	0	0	0	0	0
72	FICA/Medicare	2,421	3,254	3,354	3,364	3,470	3,548
73	Music Director	17,998	17,998	15,401	17,000	17,780	17,680
74	Cleaning Service	15,715	15,860	15,770	15,646	16,475	16,224
75	Sexton - Pension	0	0	0	0	0	0
76	Supply Clergy	240	2,117	1,474	3,406	1,432	3,000
77	Total Salaries/Expenses - Other Employees	53,158	66,501	68,464	69,016	69,430	71,929
78	Total Rector/Other Salaries/Expenses	172,093	188,814	192,590	197,440	198,127	201,890
79	Other Ministries Funding						
80	Altar Guild Funding #1	140	1,000	1,000	0	0	0
81	Children's' Formation Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
82	Christain Ed General	0	1,000	0	0	0	0
83	Deacon's Education Funding #3	0	0	0	0	0	0
84	Evangelism Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
85	Health Ministry Funding	0	0	0	0	0	0
86	Other Outreach Funding	0	1,000	0	0	0	0
87	Parish Life Funding	719	500	0	0	0	0
88	Prison Ministries	830	1,000	500	0	0	0
89	Stewardship Funding	158	0	1,000	0	0	0
90	Total Other Ministries Funding#	1,847	4,500	2,500	0	0	0
91							
92	Total Expense	263,562	292,898	312,407	315,321	317,173	321,568
93							
94	Surplus (Deficit) for Year	(1,939)	(34,200)	33,777	(19,729)	24,544	(51,498)
95							
	Unbudget Inc.			(30,438)	(12,600)	(11,990)	
	Net Fund Raising Inc.			(7,729)	(8,227)	(5,834)	
96	Tranfers from Investments			(55,000)	(25,904)	(60,000)	
97	Surplus (Deficit) for Year prior to items outlined above			(59,390)	(66,460)	(53,280)	

Grace Church 2025 Parish Ministries 1/17/2026									
Row #	Column Label	A	B	C	D	E	F		
			Trans In (out) to other Funds	12/31/2025 YTD Rev Excluding Trans out to other funds	Trans Out (In) to other Funds	12/31/2025 YTD Exp Excluding Trans out to other funds	12/31/2025 YTD Balance		
0	Updated 1/16/2026	1/1/2025							
1	Grace Community & Operational Support								
2	3020 Sabatical & Search Fund	6,300.00		0.00		0.00	6,300.00		
3	3025 Flower Fund	2,119.27		710.00		1,367.36	1,461.91		
4	3026 Coffee Hour Sub Fund	809.95		484.82		123.96	1,170.81		
6	3027 Memorial Fund	2,233.00		6,451.00		0.00	8,684.00		
7	3030 Altar Guild	815.87		90.00		311.06	594.81		
8	3035 Parish Life Sub Fund	1,163.80		0.00		0.00	1,163.80		
9	3037 Stewardship Sub Fund	551.54		0.00		0.00	551.54		
10	3038 Hospitality/ Events (150Th Anniver	1,339.02		0.00		84.90	1,254.12		
11	Christian Formation			0.00					
12	3031 Children's Formation	569.58		0.00		0.00	569.58		
13	3032 Christian Formation	787.41		0.00		224.15	563.26		
14	3034 Evangelism Sub Fund	299.10		0.00		0.00	299.10		
15	3036 Rector's Continueing Ed	0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00		
16	Outreach Activities			0.00					
17	3050 Blessings in a Backpack	0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00		
18	3051 Community Supper (Note #1)	15,821.13	1,908.00	39,989.44	7,000.00	20,784.12	29,934.45		
19	3052 Fr Bob's Pantry (Note #2)	11,948.98	21,065.02	19,284.10	8,000.00	19,804.33	24,493.77		
20	3053 Sunday Supper	2,917.30		450.00		1,513.11	1,854.19		
21	3054 MCREST	5,959.94		0.00	3,066.13	1,893.81	1,000.00		
22	3055 MCREST Butler	2,941.90		0.00		2,755.99	185.91		
23	3057 Prison Ministry	(0.00)		0.00		0.00	(0.00)		
24	3056 Health Ministry	0.00		0.00		0.00	0.00		
25	3058 Warming Center Week	0.00	1,145.45	0.00		1,145.45	0.00		
26	3059 Gen'l .Outreach Holding / Starter F	3,859.31		2,538.31	1,145.45	864.13	4,388.04		
27	3060 In / Out	19.67		0.00		0.00	19.67		
28	3061 Outreach Rm # 1	150.00		0.00		0.00	150.00		
29	3068 Fund Raiser	450.00		2,563.00	1,908.00	0.00	1,105.00		
30	3069 Fueling Kids Foture	775.00		1,677.00		1,920.00	532.00		
	General Fund Raising Activities	61,831.77	24,118.47	74,237.67	21,119.58	52,792.37	86,275.96		
	Notes								
	#1 In 2025 \$13,600 of Estate bequest were received								
	#2 In 2025 Fr Bob's CD was liquidated to support the ministry. Additionally \$5,600 of Estate Bequest.								
31	3015 Bld'gCap Fund	48,062.23		11,850.00		29,534.08	30,378.15		
32	3008 Rector Discretionary	1077.11		3,222.00		2,958.50	1,340.61		

Updated 1/17/2025															
Row #	Column Label			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	
					Unrestricted Bldg Gen Proj	Music Improv Proj	Vestry Designated				Insurance claim		Restricted Grant	Restricted Roof Fund Raiser	Restricted
18	Balance 12/31/2020 amended 2/17/2021		41,639	41,639	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
19	Parish Donations		2,129	2,129											
20	Fund Raisers														
21	Capital Drive Donations		48,855	48,855											
22	Roof & Sanctuary Insur Claim Rev		49,491							49,491					
23	A/C Furnace Repairs		(1,428)	(1,428)											
24	New Alarm Sys		(7,971)	(7,971)											
25	Freezer Repairs		(1,518)	(1,518)											
26	Roof Repairs - Hall/Kitchen		(400)	(400)											
27	Misc. Repairs		(1,829)	(1,829)											
28	Roof & Sanctuary Repairs		(32,669)	(499)						(32,170)					
29	Bell Tower Temp Repair		(139)							(139)					
30			0												
31	Balance 12/31/2021		96,159.46	78,977.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,182.00	0	0	0	0	
32	Parish Donations		23,150.00	20,150.00	3,000.00										
33	EDOMI Grant		10,000.00	10,000.00											
34	Fund Raisers		600.00	600.00											
35	Capital Drive Donations		59,650.00	59,650.00											
36	Roof & Sanctuary Ins Claim Rev		30,518.16							30,518.16					
37	Bell Tower Temp repairs		(2,410.52)							(2,410.52)					
38	Interior Sanctuary Repair & Painting		(64,009.46)	(18,720.00)						(45,289.46)					
39	Electronic Signage		(18,765.00)	(18,765.00)											
40	New Alarm Sys-Bldg 22		(5,743.41)	(5,743.41)											
41	Misc Repair-JSL		(1,113.81)	(1,113.81)											
42	Landscaping Improvements		(2,650.00)	(2,650.00)											
43	Church Office & Hall Re-Roofing		(30,380.00)	(30,380.00)											
44	New Clavinnova		(2,949.99)		(2,949.99)										
45	Transfers within project sub-accounts		0.00		0.18					(0.18)					
46	Balance 12/31/2022		92,055.43	92,005.24	50.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	
47	Parish Donations		2,375.00	2,375.00											
48	EDOMI Grant														
49	Re-build of A/C hall roof pad		(2,615.00)	(2,615.00)											
50	Roof top A/C & Heating Units		(19,483.00)	(19,483.00)											
51	Church Chimney Re-buid		(13,998.00)	(13,998.00)											
52	Church Front Dr & Court Yard Cement		(9,945.00)	(9,945.00)											
53															
54	Balance 12/31/2023		48,389.43	48,339.24	50.19	0.00									
55	2024 EDOMI Grant		12,545.00	12,545.00											
56	Parish Donations		3,500.00	3,500.00											
57	Side Walk Repair		(648.00)	(648.00)											
58	Exterior Handrail Replacement Bldg 22		(1,675.00)	(1,675.00)											
59	Computer Technology (Sun. Broadcast)) Update		(2,959.20)	(2,959.20)											
60	McKernan Inc Rear entry Door Relacement (Deposit)		(5,545.00)	(5,545.00)											
61	McKernan Inc Rear entry Door Relacement (Final Paymnt		(5,545.00)	(5,545.00)											
62															
63	Balance 12/31/2024		48,062.23	48,012.04	50.19	0.00									
64	2025 EDOMI Grant														
65	Parish Donations		11,850.00	11,850.00											
66															
67	Ace Pro Painting (Bldg 22 Rectory- Rentovation)		(6,118.83)	(6,118.83)											
68	New Rear awning		(5,225.00)	(5,225.00)											
69	Grounds (Garden Re-work)		(1,350.00)	(1,350.00)											
70	Computer Technology (Sun. Broadcast)) Update		(710.20)	(710.20)											
71	Lift Repair (Replace Photo Eyes)		(1,987.00)	(1,987.00)											
72	Electrical Update Rectory Bldg (Spectron Electric)		(4,893.05)	(4,893.05)											
73	Boiler Replacement		(9,250.00)	(9,250.00)											
74															
	Balance 12/31/2025		30,378.15	30,327.96	50.19										

Altar Guild

Our current members are; Sandy Atkinson Donna Chapman, Fran Merlo, Jill Cottrell, Karen Davenport, Barb Keranen, Tish Mastro Burns, Wendy Oravec, Marliee Racine, Ann Strevel and Ann Farrell.

We welcomed Kris Eckertt and Dave Farrell to the Altar Guild this year!

We are blessed to have our faithful Altar Guild members who quietly and carefully prepare the altar each week as well as clean and decorate for the holidays, wedding and funerals. Thank you for all you do.

If you are interested in ordering flowers for the altar, please sign up on the list in the hallway. We will take care of ordering the flowers and their delivery. The cost for the flowers (2 bouquets) is \$30.00 and should be paid by check to Grace Episcopal Church with “flowers for altar” in the memo field. You may drop your envelope in the collection plate during the service or send it in the mail.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us in this service. Please contact Ann Strevel or Ann Farrell for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Farrell and Ann Strevel.

American Lutheran Church

In September of 2024, Pastor Steve received a call from our diocesan office asking if Grace would be interested in talking with American Lutheran Church (ALC) about shared ministry.

Our vestry met with their Leadership Council, and we created a working subgroup from our two congregations to plan events that our two congregations could do together. We have since been collecting pop tops to support their outreach program and we have continued having joint services every other month rotating locations between Grace and American Lutheran Church. Feedback has been positive about our combined services, and we are planning to continue these throughout 2026. Our vestry has not met again with the leadership council from American Lutheran since the initial meeting and there is no planned meeting in the immediate future. So, for the time being, we are continuing the same relationship with them.

Book Club

The book club meets every other month at the church on the second Thursday of the month. We meet in the Guild Room at 6pm. We have chosen a variety of amazing books over the years, and our discussions have been lively and usually fun. We welcome any newcomers who want a good read followed by a chance to join with friends for constructive criticism. Meeting information is available in Sunday bulletins and monthly newsletters.

Please call Ann Strevel for further information.

Ann Strevel

Buildings & Grounds Committee

2025 Work Accomplished Summary

The Buildings & Grounds Committee completed a wide range of maintenance, safety, and improvement projects throughout 2025 to ensure the safety, functionality, and appearance of Grace Church facilities, including the church building, hall, rectory, grounds, and parking areas.

Interior– Rectory

- Cleaned carpet in the rectory
- Cleaned walls in the rectory
- Repaired walls in the rectory
- Painted walls in the rectory
- Cleaned sewer lines in the rectory
- Replaced boiler in the rectory
- Replaced faucet in the rectory kitchen
- Replaced light bulbs throughout the rectory
- Removed wood fireplace from the rectory

Interior– Church, Hall, Classrooms

- Cleaned and waxed hall floors
- Stripped and waxed hall floors
- Trimmed outdoors in the hall
- Trimmed outdoors in the basement
- Repaired and replaced wood on the hall ramp
- Cleaned carpet in the yoga room
- Cleaned carpet in the Sunday School room
- Installed drywall under basement stairs by the furnace room
- Installed new towel dispenser in the kitchen
- Added safety bars to the railing by the kitchen door

Mechanical & Building Systems

- Replaced filters in GFA furnaces
- Installed new gas meter in the church building
- Tested backflow preventer for sprinkler system
- Cleaned grease trap
- Switched Mitsubishi units to air conditioning for summer
- Switched Mitsubishi units to heat for winter

Safety, Fire & Code Compliance

- Recharged fire extinguishers in both buildings
- Inspected and maintained fire extinguishers
- Completed elevator repairs
- Completed elevator inspection
- Sprinkler system blown out for winter

Audio/ Visual & Worship Support

- Installed new choir microphones
- Purchased new batteries for handheld microphones

Buildings & Grounds Committee (Cont.)

Grounds, Exterior & Parking Lot

- Graded garden area
- Added approximately 5 yards of topsoil
- Added approximately 600 yards of sod
- Replaced awning in the parking lot

Housekeeping & Operations

- Delivered new detergent for the dishwasher

Respectfully submitted by the Building & Grounds Committee

Tom Murphy

Christian Education

Children's Program

We have not had an active Sunday School program for children since the pandemic started but we always have activity sheets and coloring materials in the back of the sanctuary hanging in see through plastic bags that anyone may hand out to any parent who brings in younger children on a Sunday. We have had a few younger children occasionally attend the 10:30 service throughout 2025 and we greatly appreciate your attentiveness and patience with them as we seek to accommodate them in the sanctuary throughout the entire service. If you have ideas on how we may grow our Sunday school program or if you would like to join us in creating one, please contact Pastor Steve.

Adult Program

Our Adult Christian formation had a few tracks throughout 2025. The first was our bible study which had two different focal points. The first group meets on Sunday mornings in the Guild Room at 9:30 between the two services and had a regular attendance of between 8-12 people. The focus on Sundays is on the readings of the day, so no advance preparation is needed, anyone may join in the conversation. This is an in-person only group, there is no Zoom option. Then on the second Friday of every month, Kris Eckert facilitates an evening bible study at 6:30 with different topics exploring a variety of books in our scriptures.

The second, branch of our adult Christian education took place during Lent with two different components. First, we continued watching the series, THE CHOSEN, which follows the public life and ministry of Jesus and his disciples. This was season four and we viewed one episode per week and had lively discussion about each. The second adult program we followed during this season was a Lenten Bible Study that was created and distributed by our Episcopal Church Center in New York City. The title was THE WAY OF LOVE built on then Presiding Bishop Curry's book. This study group met every Sunday during Lent at noon.

Fueling Kids Futures (formerly Blessings in a Backpack)

Fueling Kids' Futures is an organization that helps provide weekend meals to at need students. During the week, those students often qualify for supplemental meals through the school, but on the weekends, they are on their own. Through the assistance of Sam's Club, we provide 6 meals per weekend for \$160.00 per student for the school year. We get the shipments of food once a month for the district and then pack the food weekly for distribution to the students.

For the new school year, we are serving 220 students in the preschool and elementary school, nearly as many as last year, as the Mt. Clemens School District faces plenty of challenges. Our volunteers from Grace Church, two other parishes, and a collection of others are back at it, packing bags weekly for the children. We are thankful for all of those who volunteer their time and efforts. We can always use a few more volunteers to help pack on Tuesdays. For specific details, contact Donna Oakley at 586-322-4725.

We had a successful fundraising drive in the fall and reached our goal to raise the funds needed before the school year started. Of course, we are looking ahead to fund next year's efforts.

You can help as the months progress by saving your "F and "K" dollars (the letter on the dollar bill) and turning them in at the church. Our treasurer will then forward the donations to the Mt. Clemens chapter of Fueling Kids' Futures. There are also brochures outside the church office to explain the program and provide directions for donating (or you can contact one of us).

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Michael and Donna Oakley

Grace Food Pantry

Our pantry continues to supply those facing "food insecurity" in Macomb County. We serve about 300 people each month, families, elders and the homeless on the street. We are open three mornings a week, manned by volunteers, many from our community who feel called to serve.

We receive lots of food donations from other area churches and Christmas gifts from individuals. We are also blessed with grants from Meijer for several thousand dollars each year. The county supplies us with food twice a month which helps greatly. Everything else, we purchase in order to keep up with the need.

We witness all the time how we have touched lives, helped families and fed the elderly. We help those who live on the edge.

Gay Gillespie, Pantry Manager

Hearts for Homes

2025: **Hearts for Homes (H4H)** provided assistance to 45 families (91 Children). Our families received assistance with security deposits to acquire safe and affordable homes of their own, eviction assistance to prevent homelessness and also household items, furniture and gift cards.

2026 Fundraising:

- Euchre Tournament: Grace Church, March 12, 2026
- Annual Golf Outing: Cracklewood Golf Club June 26, 2026

Lay Eucharistic Ministry (L.E.M.)

Total L.E.M. membership has remained at six members. We are always looking for more L.E.M. members and would welcome anyone who may be interested in this ministry. Please feel free to contact us.

Gary Stevens

Macomb County Winter Shelter

This month, our church partnered with First United Methodist Church to actively support the Macomb County Warming Shelter program, which is housed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Warren. The shelter began its seasonal operations on December 21, 2025, providing essential services to homeless individuals in our community. Each evening, guests are welcomed into a safe and warm environment, where they have the opportunity to spend the night, enjoy a hot meal, and receive care and support from compassionate volunteers representing various churches throughout the county. Each church involved in the program dedicates one week of service during the shelter's operating season.

During our assigned week, our congregation was fortunate to have 28 dedicated volunteers who generously contributed their time and energy over three Grace days. Among these volunteers, six were members of American Lutheran Church, exemplifying the strong spirit and commitment within our faith community. Their involvement played a crucial role in the success of our efforts and highlighted the collaborative nature of our service.

Kirsten Blackburn, serving as our chef and kitchen manager, took charge of planning, shopping and preparing delicious and nutritious meals with assistance from her cooking crew. All meal preparation and cooking took place at Grace, after which the food was packed and transported to the shelter. Meals were served from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and grab-and-go breakfasts were prepared for guests to take with them in the morning.

A dedicated group of volunteers managed the registration and check-in process for guests, while also organizing coats and personal belongings. At the end of each night, volunteers ensured that the kitchen and dining rooms were thoroughly cleaned and ready for use the following day.

This initiative would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our volunteers and the broader church community. The generosity and compassion demonstrated by everyone involved made a meaningful difference in the lives of those we served. Thank you to all who participated and contributed to the success of this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Farrell

MCREST

We hosted our last MCREST program in May 2025 as we housed and fed approximately 30 men for an entire week. This program is being moved out of the local churches and housed at the MCREST building which is a few blocks away from Grace. This ministry would not have happened without the tireless efforts of Martha Houser and her family, so thank you to all of them and thank you to everyone who donated time, money and work to support this ministry over the years.

Music Ministry

The Grace Episcopal Choir is a music ministry composed of volunteers who lift their voices at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service. They are a spirit-led group of prayerful and supportive individuals who come from various backgrounds and musical experiences, and strive to share the message of Christ in song.

The choir meets for rehearsal for one hour on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. When necessary, audio recordings of the selections are emailed for revisiting throughout the week. On Sundays, the choir meets once more one hour prior to the service in the sanctuary for review. The choir enjoys a summer break when not meeting and serving during the months of September (Stewardship) to May (Pentecost).

The selections vary in musical genre, and while they reflect the mood of the liturgical season and draw cohesion between the themes of the Sunday scripture readings, the driving force of the music ministry has been consistent; to promote the core beliefs of love, forgiveness, charity, peace, and unity of all people in Christ Jesus.

Throughout the year, special vocal and instrumental selections and accompaniment are generously provided by several members of the church, choir, and other guests. The music ministry seeks to be a welcoming department where anyone with a desire to share their musical talents to glorify God and uplift the spiritual community may participate.

We anticipate continued consistency and growth in our membership, developing our harmonies and repertoire, and lending our time and talents to local appropriate events. This past year saw the choir working collaboratively with the American Lutheran Choir (Clinton Twp.) for joint worship services and musical outings at the Martha T. Berry Nursing Facility (Mt. Clemens) where they were received joyfully by the residents.

Lastly, this past year, members of the 8:30 a.m. Sunday service have been positively receptive to enhancing their worship service with congregational and instrumental musical selections. The music ministry seeks to render service when appropriate for the further unification of the body of Christ, and to “bind us together with ‘chords’ that cannot be broken.”

Submitted respectfully by,
Joshua Dulin
Minister of Music

Outdoor Sign

The outdoor sign has become a valuable tool for our church. We communicate our church values and current events to the community. If you have an event or quote you would like to see on the sign, please let me know by emailing me at: pamschafer1965@gmail.com. Please keep the quote to 20 words or less.

Pam Schafer

Outdoor Food Boxes

I have been going to Variety Foods for 3 years every other week to collect a donation from them. They donate outdated snacks, pastries, candy and pop. We use this donation to fill the food boxes in front and back of the church. Sheri Borsa (spelling?) and others fill the box every day. If you are here and see an empty box, please feel free to fill it with the goods in the black cabinet in the pantry in the social hall.

When we get a large donation we share with the Sunday and Wednesday Suppers, the Saturday Wave Showers and the Warming Center.

Thank you to everyone who has helped with this ministry.

Pam Schafer and Kirsten Blackburn

Parish Administrator

The role of Parish Administrator at Grace is one that rarely looks the same from day to day, which can make it challenging to fully summarize. At its core, however, my work is focused on supporting the daily operations of the parish so that Grace can continue to function smoothly and serve our community effectively.

My primary responsibilities include managing daily communications by answering emails and phone calls, receiving and sending mail, and assisting with the creation and distribution of publications and flyers. In addition, I assist with parish name tags and oversee the printing, filing, and placement of bulletins, newsletters, and other parish materials. I maintain organized records of invoices, service reports, as well as past bulletins, newsletters, and annual reports for parish reference.

I facilitate hall and sanctuary rentals by meeting with renters, creating and managing contracts, and coordinating access through temporary key cards on scheduled rental dates. Information is regularly shared with the community, helping individuals connect with Grace's community outreach programs. I also make purchases on behalf of the parish and ensure that items are distributed to their appropriate locations.

One of my larger ongoing projects has been creating and maintaining the Grace website as it exists today. The website is updated regularly with weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters, Vestry minutes, current events, and links to recorded robocalls. I also keep the hallway bulletin boards up to date with thank-you cards, event information, rental notices, Vestry minutes, and flyers that support parish life at Grace.

In addition to my administrative duties, I assist with bookkeeping to support Alice and help keep financial processes running efficiently. This includes printing checks, organizing invoices and ensuring they are paid, sending thank-you letters for donations, and managing checks and cash received outside of Sunday collections.

Because the work at Grace is so varied, I am certain there are tasks I have missed mentioning. All of this work is done with the goal of supporting the clergy, Vestry, and parishioners, and helping Grace continue to run smoothly and serve faithfully.

Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care Team provided spiritual, social, emotional and other physical assistance to our Grace members who needed in home support. This ministry was carried out through phone calls, texts, in-home visits, driving people and the United States Postal Service. Our team consisted of four parishioners and Pastor Steve and typically met monthly by Zoom, but due to some unforeseen reasons, our team did not meet online for the last few months of the year, but we continued to provide pastoral care to our Grace parishioners. During our meetings we would discuss the pastoral needs that surfaced and determine how to meet them. There was always back up ready to support each person in this ministry. In addition, Pastor Steve took communion to parishioners who were homebound or in health care facilities. Pastor Steve also provided training for two additional parishioners to take communion to our homebound members. If you would like more information or to sign up for the training, please contact Pastor Steve. Everyone is welcome and no prior experience is needed!

Prayer Group

The prayer group began several years ago under the leadership of recently departed, Sue Schlanbusch, and when she could no longer chair and attend our meetings, she was so very pleased that we continued her vision.

The group meets monthly at the church, usually on the second Saturday, to discuss and update the prayer list. Personalized prayer cards are then mailed to each person, provided we have their address.

As our prayer requests increase and the list continues to grow, the congregation no longer verbalizes each individual during prayers of the people but is reminded that the names are found near the back of the bulletin.

Adding or removing someone to the list is as simple as contacting the church office or Pastor Steve or me.

Anyone interested in this ministry is most welcome to join.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Cottrell

Publications Coordinator

I took on the role of publications coordinator when I began creating the bulletins for both services in late February 2025; my role expanded to include crafting our monthly newsletter, Amazing Grace, beginning with the August issue. Soon afterward, I worked with Pastor Steve to launch a new E-mail address dedicated to receiving submissions for both the bulletin and the newsletter, giving parishioners an easy way to send in announcements and articles of all kinds and be sure they reach the right people. That address, bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org, is mentioned in every bulletin and is posted in the hallway leading to the church hall. Please send anything you would like included in the bulletin and/or the newsletter to that address. The bulletins are finalized on Wednesday evenings, while the deadline for newsletter submissions is the third Wednesday of the month. Thank you very much!

Social Media Coordinator

As the Social Media Coordinator for Grace Episcopal Church, I steward our online presence with the goal of communicating clearly, welcoming graciously, and supporting the mission and ministries of the parish.

A consistent social media presence has become an important extension of church communication and outreach. Through Facebook, we are able to share worship schedules, parish announcements, ministry updates, seasonal messages, and community events in a timely and accessible way. It also serves as a gentle point of connection for visitors and community members who may be exploring the church for the first time, offering them an inviting introduction to who we are and what we value.

In this role, I manage the church's Facebook page by planning and publishing posts, maintaining a consistent tone and presentation, ensuring information is accurate and up to date, and responding to messages or comments as appropriate. I also coordinate content around special services, holy days, parish events, and other significant moments in the life of the church.

Parishioner engagement and participation are essential to a meaningful and authentic online presence. I encourage members to like and share posts to help extend our reach, and to submit relevant announcements, photographs, or ministry highlights that may be appropriate for posting. This shared effort helps our communications reflect the full life of the parish and strengthens connection within our church community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Grace Episcopal Church in this capacity.

Warmly,
Calysta Rene Saxton
Social Media Coordinator

Stewardship

This is a topic that many people don't like to discuss, but it is built into our annual Episcopal liturgical cycle. Stewardship is often thought of just as being about money, but it really is broader than that. Our denomination talks about stewardship as the sharing of the blessings that God has given us. We place these resources into three categories: Time, Talent and Treasure. For better or for worse, the focus typically winds up on the Treasure section, and we talk about it as our "pledge", and we ask everyone to fill out a pledge card. For our stewardship drive in the fall of 2025, we received a total of 42 cards turned in for a total pledge amount of \$207,624.00 to be given in 2026. And then there are additional givers who do not turn in a pledge card, so Gary Keranen will go over the entire financial picture and 2026 budget at the annual meeting.

On the flip side of this physical pledge card there is space for people to write in how they would like to share their Time and Talent with Grace for the coming year. For whatever reasons, this section is often overlooked but it is just as important as the financial side. Our congregational ministries would not exist if it wasn't for the generous time and talent that some of our parishioners share to make these things happen. Finally, you may not know that our Episcopal denomination has a program called, "The Episcopal Network for Stewardship", (TENS). Our diocese pays a yearly subscription for this program, and each parish is given free access to use all the resources provided by TENS. We have been utilizing this program since the pandemic and probably will continue to do so, but we are always looking for new ideas, so if you would like to share your thoughts, time and knowledge to participate in our stewardship efforts, please contact Pastor Steve.

Sunday Supper

The Sunday Supper ministry serves meals each week from Sunday, November 2nd and continues each Sunday from 4-5 pm with the last supper on March 29th. Then, First United Methodist Church offers Sunday lunch through the spring, summer and early fall.

Our loyal cooking and serving groups from local churches and other organizations have returned which we are very grateful! Grace cooks and serves 3 times during the winter and twice during the summer.

We could not put on our suppers without the support of the groups that cook and provide the food. We have a core group from Grace who support the supper with set-up, monitoring the church and clean up.

I would like to extend my thanks to Charlie Arnold, Kris Eckert, Sue Sargent! We couldn't do it without your support.

We also thank the Grace community that help make this ministry possible. The out pouring of kindness and generosity restores my faith in humanity each and every week.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please let us know!

Thank You,

Ann & Dave Farrell
Sunday Supper Coordinators

Technology Committee

This year brought several improvements, including the addition of a new team member and the launch of simultaneous streaming on YouTube and Facebook. We also introduced a choir microphone, helping the choir come through more clearly for both in-person and online participants.

Ushers

The eight usher teams performed their duties well throughout the past year. Coverage was maintained consistently for worship services. This work was carried out effectively even though many members of the usher teams also serve on other church committees. The primary challenge this year was a change in personnel. One of the usher teams retired, and forming additional usher teams is a priority for the coming year. Volunteers are requested and encouraged to sign up. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all usher volunteers for their faithful service and dedication to Grace Church.

Respectfully submitted
Tom Murphy

Verger

Verger ministry remains available for all appropriate occasions, as decided by Fr. Steve.

Vestry Report

While still looking for ways to address the ever-increasing financial concerns of our church, 2024 saw the vestry focusing on community and connection—seeing many ideas come to fruition. Josh Dulin has initiated activities during coffee hour involving a range of projects with the intention of connecting people during an already established fellowship time. Plans are underway to more visibly acknowledge the behind-the-scenes work of our hardworking Grace members. Efforts were made to more closely connect our homebound members including assembling and delivering seasonal gift bags. Lucy Smith headed a successful name tag project creating name tags for everyone stored on metal grids at both church entrances, and usage is increasing as a new habit is formed. Name tags were especially helpful as we shared a pastor and combined services with American Lutheran Church in Mount Clemens this summer. Pastor Steve's sabbatical this past summer presented the vestry and congregation many opportunities to show creativity and exuberance as we found ways to function in his absence. We were able to adjust to a one-service summer, compromising on format and times that would accommodate both 8:30 and 10:30 attendees. Combining with American Lutheran for occasional potlucks, services, and activities demonstrated ways that we can be stronger together. The vestry was also involved in solving bookkeeping, office help, and technology challenges, trying to be ever mindful of Marsha's ever-growing job description while looking for ways to support her. Fire safety was addressed and improved with the expertise and follow-through of our dedicated Buildings and Grounds members. Audio issues were solved by purchasing a new audio system, with suggestions as to how to better serve our hearing impaired members. The departure of the InterFaith Center for Racial Justice as a tenant left the rectory empty. Hoping to replace this significant income, the rectory was repainted, refurbished, and is nearly ready to list with a realtor. Pastor Steve successfully pursued having the tax status of the rectory income to tax exempt, freeing up funds for the general fund. Community visibility and hopes to attract new members have been and will continue to be a constant vestry goal. Our dedicated and talented co-wardens, Lori Simon and Mike Oakley have done much to address this mission. The vestry is proud to be made up of members who are able to work cooperatively, considering all points of view as well as new ideas. As Lori Simon, Scott Satterly, and Cheryle Kahl complete their terms on vestry, new members will be welcomed soon.

Wednesday Supper

The Wednesday Community Supper has been serving a home cooked meal every Wednesday since 2008. We serve about 120 meals each week to the homeless, sheltered, seniors, vulnerable adults, families in need of stretching their food budgets and anyone who just wants company while enjoying a free dinner out.

Worship Committee

Our worship committee typically meets only 4 times a year to plan our Sunday worship for the various liturgical seasons. We met in person and on Zoom throughout 2025. People sometimes think that the worship in any church is the sole responsibility of the clergy. While it is true that the priest has the final say, it is really a collaborative work of many people coming together to plan and facilitate our worship every week. On our worship committee we have people who serve on the altar guild, technology committee, music ministry, and members who are ushers, lay eucharistic ministers and lectors. We try to represent all the groups that are involved in our worship services. Throughout 2025 we have continued our regular pattern of hybrid worship at 8:30 and 10:30 on Sunday mornings. At the early service people may attend in person and Pastor Steve uses his laptop to broadcast the service over Zoom. The 10:30 service also has an in-person and online component, but our technology committee members facilitate the broadcasting of this service on YouTube.

We are always open to having more people join us on the worship committee. You do not need any experience, and you don't have to be involved in any of those groups mentioned above. If you come to worship at Grace, you are invited to join us on this committee to plan our services! If you are interested, please talk with Pastor Steve.

Rector Report

Throughout 2025 we have been investigating ways to increase our presence in Mt. Clemens and to invite more people into our Grace community.

For example, our Buildings and Grounds committee has been very busy coordinating and overseeing a multitude of building maintenance and repair jobs. Just when they finish one project another one always needs attention. Please see their report for a full listing of all the work that has been done in 2025. Speaking of Buildings, we are currently working with the Mt. Clemens Fire Marshal to bring all our buildings up to code; we have completed one round of repairs the last two months of 2025 and we hope to have the final work done in the early part of 2026. We are currently engaged in conversation with a prospective tenant who wants to lease the rectory and use it as a day care center, but we must complete repairs, obtain a certificate of occupancy from the city and be approved by our diocesan standing committee before we can officially lease the building. We will keep you posted as things progress.

It is also important to know that throughout 2025, our Grace outreach ministries have continued to provide food to more hungry people than in 2024 through our Food Pantry, Wednesday Community Supper, Sunday Soup Kitchen, and Fueling Kid's Futures. We thank all the volunteers who coordinate and staff these important ministries!

We hosted our last MCREST program in May 2025 as we housed and fed approximately 30 men for an entire week. This program is being moved out of the local churches and housed at the MCREST building which is a few blocks away from Grace. This ministry would not have happened without the tireless efforts of Martha Houser and her family, so thank you to all of them and thank you to everyone who donated time, money and work to support this ministry over the years.

Our newest outreach and advertising programs continue to be the Mt. Clemens/Macomb County Pride weekend at the end of the summer and the Santa Parade the Saturday before Thanksgiving. At these events we pass out cookies baked by Scott Satterly and his team of high school chefs, which are placed in bags with stickers on them promoting Grace along with printed flyers that talk more about us.

Rector Report (Cont.)

We also opened our church doors for the Santa parade and Ann Strevel gave about 30 people a tour of the sanctuary and our beautiful stained-glass windows! A small number of parishioners also marched in that parade behind a Grace banner that Pam Schaefer provided – we hope to have more parishioners march with us in 2026!

We also held several fundraisers in 2025 that raised several thousand dollars for Grace. Christa Carpenter was instrumental in coordinating the Quarters for A Cause event in September. Margaret Morgan has also created a few fundraisers with dinners at local restaurants and a musical bingo event that Christa also helped coordinate. We are also very grateful for the ongoing leadership of Brooke Steel-Lau who created and continues to lead the Cookie Walk in December, and for all the volunteers who bake cookies, help set-up and clean-up and for everyone who buys cookies! If you have a fundraising idea for 2026, please contact Pastor Steve!

Other outreach happens when we regularly pass out various items to people who come to our door during office hours and through the priest's discretionary fund, we were also able to assist folks with money for rent, utilities, medical bills, gasoline, motel stays and other emergencies. We also host the Macomb County mobile health van monthly and the WAVE shower trailer on most of the Saturday mornings throughout 2025 which includes breakfast a warm place to sit for a few hours. Thanks to Ann and Dave Farrell who coordinate this WAVE program at Grace. And thanks to our entire parish community for supporting our outreach programs!

Our regular routine of having two worship services on Sunday that may be attended in person or viewed online has worked very well. Our two bible study offerings on Sunday and the second Friday of the month have flourished and our special services during Advent and Lent are also well received. We are especially grateful to the many people who serve in our worship related ministries, i.e., Altar Guild, Ushers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Vergers, Technology Committee, Choir Members, Musicians, Worship Committee and Greeters, because they are the ones that make our Sunday services possible! We always welcome anyone who would like to serve in any of our ministries!

We have also partnered with American Lutheran Church during 2025 for bi-monthly combined services alternating our places of worship. It is always a joy to hear the combined choirs singing and seeing our pews filled!

THANK YOU for being part of our faith community!

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

2025 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Total Membership	120
Active Members	75
Baptisms	5 <i>Samuel Denryter, Eli Murphy, Isabella Gratti, Calysta Saxton, Sydney Priguglio-Newby</i>
Burials	9 <i>Kent Schwandt, Karen Blackburn, Therese Marcotte, Jim Smith, Ranson Erskine, Nina DiGaetano, Dolora Paull, Paul St. Peter, Carolyn Siewert</i>
Confirmations	1 <i>Sabrina Gabrielle Gillis</i>
Marriages	0
New Members	4 <i>Calysta Saxton, Daniel Kleinstuer, Sabrina Gillis, Stephen Gammicchia</i>
Receptions	0
Transfers Out	1 <i>Julie Saph</i>

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Average Sunday (ASA)	70	66	65	60	52	67	86	87	96
In Person	65	60	59	53	42	42	86	87	96
Online	5	6	6	7	10	25	0	0	0
Christmas	117	108	111	110	95	43	159	159	140
Easter	132	115	115	124	67	32	168	270	203

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Average Sunday (ASA)	104	115	110	112	110	71	74	70
In Person	104	115	110	112	110	71	74	70
Online	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Christmas	168	246	222	183	170	84	70	138
Easter	233	256	270	281	154	135	124	117