



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

**Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 22, 2023**



17880 East Covina Bl.  
Covina, CA 91722  
[www.gracecovina.org](http://www.gracecovina.org)

# A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).

# Grace-Covina Annual Meeting

## Sunday, January 22, 2023

17880 E. Covina Blvd. | Covina, CA 91722

Church Office (626) 332-4536 | Preschool (626) 967-5855

www.gracecovina.org | office@gracecovina.org | (626) 332 - 4536 | Facebook & Youtube: Grace-Covina



Grace is a family of believers who gather in the name of Jesus Christ to experience God's love and acceptance through each other. Our intimate community is one where all are welcome, all are accepted, all are filled, and all are sent out to give as they have received.

Grace is not a place for those who feel they have found everything they need regarding their faith journey. The people of Grace feel that we are on a journey that is always progressing. We feel that we are called to walk together, as no one should ever have to walk alone. So no matter where you are in your personal journey, no matter what you believe, how sure or unsure you are, no matter where you feel your place in life is, you are always welcome at Grace.

Grace is a community of support and a community of strength. We gather to help one another through the rough times and to celebrate good times. Our community prays for one another. It is part of our duty as people of faith to lift up each other's joys and sorrows. We offer to each other what God has so greatly blessed us with - ourselves, our time, our possessions - all signs of God's gracious love.

### 2022 Church Council

President | Brenda Noriega  
Vice-President | Johna Stienstra  
Secretary | Diana Alley  
Treasurer | Robert Ordenez

#### Members-at-Large

Nancy Adzovich | Judy McGee | Cindy Skolaski  
Dave Brown (term ending)

### Volunteer/Committee Chairs

Financial Secretary | Keith McHugh  
Worship Committee | Brian Akey  
Prayer Group | Bonnie Larini  
Altar Guild | Vicki Jacobs  
A.C.T.I.O.N. Food Pantry Liaison | Cheryl Miller

### Church Staff

Pastor | The Rev. Steve Otte  
Director of Worship & Music | Jeffrey Saltonstall  
Organist/Pianist | Lily Lee  
Custodian | Laureen Alvarez  
Parish Administrator | Samantha Henderson

### Prechool Director

Christy Arreguin

### Southwest California Synod

The Rev. Brenda Bos, Bishop

### Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop

Council Positions Open for Election on January 22, 2023:  
*Member-at-Large*

## Agenda for January 22, 2023

### **-Meeting called to order**

### **-Opening prayer**

### **-Quorum**

### **-Approval of January 23, 2022 Congregational Meeting Minutes**

### **-Pastor Steve** – Opening Remarks

### **-Treasurer's Report** – Robert Ordonez

### **-Approval of 2023 Church and Preschool Budget**

### **-Elections**

Council - Member at Large (2-year term; open position)

1) Sarah Encabo

Council - Member at Large (2-year term; renewing position)

1) Nancy Adzovich

Council Officers (2-year terms; renewing positions)

Treasurer

1) Robert Ordonez

Vice-president

1) Johna Stienstra

Synod Voting Members: June 2-3, 2023 at Cal Lutheran, Thousand Oaks

- 2 confirmed members over 18
- 1 youth or young adult (under 30) - pending no additional fee

### **-Audit Committee Nominations** (3-year term; 1 open position)

### **-Adjournment**

## January 23, 2022 Congregational Meeting Minutes

- Meeting called to order at 10:46 am.
- Opening Prayer: Pastor Steve
- Quorum Met (20 members): Brenda Noriega
- Minutes from the previous Congregational Meeting, February 28, 2021. It was moved by Diana Alley, seconded by Cindy Skolaski to approve the minutes. Carried.

## January 23, 2022 Congregational Meeting Minutes (cont.)

- Pastor's Remarks: Pastor Steve recognized Miss Christy for her remarkable leadership and management of the Pre-School throughout the pandemic. He also thanked Jeff and Samantha, for their continued diligence and guidance throughout the year. He thanked the people of Grace for their faithful giving and support of the church throughout the year. Lastly, he stated that he plans on putting renewed emphasis on the Facilities Renewal Fund throughout 2022. There are a lot of projects that need to be undertaken to refurbish our church campus in 2022 to keep it viable in the years to come.
- Treasurer's Report: Robert Ordonez presented the proposed 2022 budget. The total amount of the budget is nearly equal to that of 2021. Grace ended the 2021 year in the black. There was a question regarding the amount of the EGM rental of our church campus. 2022 is more than double that of 2021. Pastor explained that it was due to the pandemic and amount of usage. They were going to return to pre-pandemic levels. It was moved by Jeff Saltonstall, and seconded by Norma Snow, to approve the budget for 2022. Carried. There was a question regarding the Pre-School budget. Robert explained that he does not prepare the Pre-School budget, but it is done by Jerry Colwell, and it is not yet complete. Robert will bring it to the council/congregation at a later date to be voted on.
- Financial Secretary's Report: Pastor stated that there would be no Financial Secretary's report this year, but did not go into detail. He did say that Sandy Streeter had resigned her position and the year that was left on her term would be filled by Keith McHugh. He also thanked Ken Linden for getting all the records up-to-date. The year-end giving statements should be available in a couple of weeks. Lastly, offering envelopes should also be available by the first part of February.
- Council Positions: The four council positions that are open for this term are President, Secretary, and two at-large positions. The four council members whose terms are finished agreed to continue on council, but some in different capacities. Brenda Noriega, President; Diana Alley, Secretary; Judy McGee, Member-At-Large; and Cindy Skolaski, Member-At-Large. These positions are for two-year terms. There is another council position available, an at-large member, for a one-year term. Nancy Adzovich volunteered to fill this position. It was moved by June Evinger, and seconded by Vicki Jacobs, to accept all five of these people to these positions. Carried.
- Audit Committee: Only one member was needed to complete the Audit Committee. The person would serve a three-year term and meet once a year to complete the audit of the church financials. Mary Encabo volunteered for this position. It was moved by Norma Snow, and seconded by Cindy Skolaski, to accept Mary as a member of the Audit Committee. Carried.
- Synod Assembly Voting Members: Pastor will be attending the Synod Assembly on Saturday, June 11, 2022, as a participant. It will be a hybrid meeting, both in person and online. There were no volunteers for this position.
- Other: Ken Linden requested that there be a brief council meeting report in the newsletter every month so the people of Grace are aware of the business being conducted by the council. This will become a regular item in the newsletter beginning with the March newsletter.
- Meeting adjourned at 11:20 pm.

## 2023 Grace Lutheran Church, Covina Budget

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET 2023		Budget 2022	Budget 2023
<b>Income</b>			
Envelope Offering		138,800	143,595
Non-Envelope Offering		970	600
Initial Offering		100	120
Preschool Donation		9,000	9,000
EGM Rent		18,200	17,160
Apostolic Assembly		5,400	6,000
TLC Quilting Rent		0	600
Food Pantry Benevolence		3,500	3,500
Food Pantry Electric Reimb.		7,000	5,100
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>182,970</b>	<b>185,675</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Wages / Salaries		39,000	40,000
Payroll Taxes		3,000	3,075
Pastor's Salary		13,800	14,520
Pastor's Housing		46,000	46,000
Pastor's Professional Expense		200	200
Pension, Medical Insurance		17,600	17,600
Supply Pastor Wages		450	500
Workers Comp Insurance		1,300	1,250
Live Scan		0	0
Continuing Education		500	500
<b>Total Personnel Costs</b>		<b>121,850</b>	<b>123,645</b>
Advertising		0	0
Software Subscriptions		0	1,140
Office Expenses/Supplies		250	250
Supplies		100	100
Conferences		1,000	1,000
Parish Education - Adult		500	500
Parish Education - Child		100	100
Offering Envelopes		350	400
Bank Charges		350	325
Paypal Fees		400	425
Website		350	200
Worship & Music		1,000	1,000
Telephone		3,250	3,000
Computer & IT		200	0
Taxes & Licenses		0	0
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<b>7,850</b>	<b>8,440</b>

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET 2023		Budget 2022	Budget 2023
Building Maintenance		0	0
Property Taxes		2,500	2,550
Security		950	1,000
Gardening		3,000	3,360
Janitorial Supplies		1,000	1,000
Pest Control		1,020	1,020
Insurance		5,900	6,200
Utilities		21,000	22,560
Equipment Repairs		0	0
<b>Total Facility Costs</b>		<b>35,370</b>	<b>37,690</b>
So Cal West Synod		8,400	8,400
Central City Lutheran Mission		0	0
Food Pantry		3,500	3,500
Lutheran Disaster Reponse		0	0
PLTS Seminary Fund		0	0
Missionary Support		0	0
Local Benevolence (Ben Lomond)		0	0
Other Benevolence Expenses		6,000	4,000
<b>Total Benevolence</b>		<b>17,900</b>	<b>15,900</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>182,970</b>	<b>185,675</b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## 2023 Preschool/Infant Care Center Budget

GRACE LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL			
2023 BUDGET			
		BUDGET	BUDGET
		2023	2022
<b>Income</b>			
	Tuition and Registration	155,000.00	130,000.00
	Infant Care	112,000.00	98,000.00
	Chapel	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>		267,000.00	228,000.00
<b>Expenses</b>			
	Wages	208,450.00	180,000.00
	Payroll Tax Expense	15,946.43	13,770.00
	Employee Benefits	10,500.00	7,000.00
	Advertising	700.00	0.00
	Payroll Bonus( 2% Tuition?Infant Care)	5,340.00	4,560.00
	Teacher & Office Supplies	2,250.00	2,355.00
	Bank Charges	240.00	240.00
	Cleaning Supplies	2,400.00	300.00
	Workers Comp Insurance	6,848.57	7,000.00
	Repairs & Maintenance	1,500.00	500.00
	Continuing Education	0.00	300.00
	Gift to Church(750 per month)	9,000.00	9,000.00
	Food	1,250.00	500.00
	Chapel to Food Pantry	0.00	0.00
	Telephone	800.00	750.00
	Water	1,250.00	1,200.00
	Taxes & Licenses	525.00	525.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>		267,000.00	228,000.00
<b>Operating Surplus (Loss)</b>		0.00	0.00

## Pastor's Report

Greetings Siblings,

I am always amazed at the end of each calendar year how quickly time has passed. And 2022 is no exception. It seems as if I last wrote my year end report just a few months ago, yet here I sit endeavoring to reflect on how God blessed Grace Lutheran, and how Grace Lutheran blessed God in 2022.

2022 was the first year since 2019 that we had an entire year worshipping in our sanctuary. That is a sentence I never thought I would type three years ago. In that regard things have returned to 'normal' or perhaps a new 'normal'. It does seem like a distant memory when the only worship we offered was virtual or outdoors, but it has not been that long ago that we lived in that reality. Personally, I have a greater appreciation for the worship and fellowship that takes place on Sundays. I hope and pray you feel the same way because there is always a chance, perhaps slim, that Covid could cause another shut down. There is nothing like worship in community! That is how God intended worship to be and it is one of the things that helps sustain our congregation. There are those, however, who remain absent from in-person worship due to a variety of reasons, which includes concerns about covid. To those who are not attending worship I hope you are able to watch the livestream on Facebook and that you also know you are still very much part of Grace. For those of you attending worship who wonder where some of those brothers and sisters have gone, may I suggest a phone call? You cannot imagine what a difference a simple call can make to folks that have made Grace their church home. So, to recap, God has blessed us with the ability to worship in person without interruption in 2022 and we have blessed God with our worship.

Grace is also blessed to have a number of ministries using our campus. In addition to the financial support we receive from those groups, for me the partnerships in Kingdom work are even more meaningful. Evangelio Gospel Ministry and The Apostolic Ministry struggled just as we did during the pandemic, and I am proud of the accommodations we made for them during the pandemic to help them remain sustainable. Though they worship in different languages and are not Lutheran, they are proclaiming the Gospel to members of our community that in some cases would not hear the Good News. Let us not forget that God is God to all and the Gospel is Good News for all peoples and cultures and we all share in the call to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. I do not see them as tenants or simply a source of income, but as partners in sharing the Good News and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Besides that, they really are wonderful people.

We also share our campus with The Action Food Pantry and that ministry remains as vital or more so than it ever has because the need in our community is as great or greater than it ever has been. They serve somewhere in the neighborhood of 60-120 families every week, providing them with bags and bags of food. They are doing God's work and I am so grateful that we can partner with them to bless so many in our community. I generally do not make appeals in my annual report, but this year is different because of how many clients the Food Pantry has served in 2022. Their food reserves are very, very low and they could use some support. So, please consider additional support in the form of food donations or financial support.

## Pastor's Report (cont.)

The other ministry I need to highlight is our Preschool. It has been a very challenging three years for Ms. Christy and her staff. You cannot imagine how much extra work and pressure they have been doing and feeling since the pandemic started. I cannot say enough to praise Ms. Christy for her leadership and her staff for their dedication to the families they serve. They care for the preschoolers as if they were their own children and they are also helping to build a foundation of faith in the hearts of each child, which is an invaluable gift to the children and their families. I am so grateful for the preschool ministry, Ms. Christy and her staff!

God has blessed Grace Lutheran for well over 60 years and though our own congregation is less active than it was in the past we are still making a huge difference in the lives of countless people and their families through our partnerships and our very own preschool ministry. God never stops blessing, but they do change over time and in this season of the life of Grace it may seem as if we are not doing much when in actuality we are doing as much or more that we ever have. We are blessed! And God is blessed by the glory he receives when the Gospel is preached whether that be in English, Spanish, or American Sign language. He is blessed when the underserved receive food in His name. And He is blessed when a child is loved and cared for and hears the name of Jesus every day. This is what the church is all about and this is what we at Grace are all about.

Finally, I have to thank our staff and those of you who give of their time, talents and treasures! It is a joy to serve with all of you in the ministry at Grace. We have had some turnover in our staff this year with Lily joining us as our organist and Laureen joining us as our custodian. Besides their gifts, they also share a passion for Grace that so many of you possess. Jeff and Samantha remain amazing partners in ministry, and I cannot imagine doing ministry without them. I am so grateful for faithful partners in ministry. I want to end this report by thanking those of you who give your time to serve at Grace. This congregation could not survive without you and I hope you feel appreciated! There is one person in particular I wish to thank and that is Dave Brown. After many years serving on Council and over 30 years serving as the President of the Preschool Board, Dave is stepping away from those positions. In addition to those leadership positions Dave has been ever present at Grace to do whatever is needed whether that be to sign checks or spearhead the replacement of an air conditioning unit and everything in between. I do not think Dave knows the word "no" because I have never heard him say it when asked to do something at the Church. He is not going anywhere or riding off into the sunset, just shedding some of his responsibilities at Grace to have more free time and possibly give others an opportunity to experience the joy of serving at Grace. I would encourage you to say thanks to Dave for all he's done.

None of knows what God has in store for us in 2023, personally or at Grace. But I do know God is faithful and His blessings will continue both with what we are currently doing and possibly with new opportunities. I invite you all to join me in prayer, asking God to guide us in 2023 and to discern new opportunities to bless others. Thank you all for the privilege of serving as your Pastor! I am truly blessed!

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Steve

## President's Report

Greetings to all members of our Grace Family,

Another year has drawn to a close; 2022 is in our rearview. Change is a constant in our lives, but we know as Christians, one thing will never change and that is God's love for us. While we are looking hopefully ahead to 2023 anticipating changes, we also acknowledge the change we experienced in 2022.

There were changes in the people who work here at Grace. Amber Brown, custodian at Grace for many years, resigned due to her health. Our wishes for good health go with Amber. The Council asked Laureen Alvarez, a volunteer at the Food Pantry and Grace's next-door neighbor, to replace her. We appreciate the way in which Laureen has stepped in and performed her job to a high level. Thank you, Laureen! Also, we have an organist! Lily Lee came to us highly recommended for her musical talents as a pianist and an organist. She will be playing twice a month for worship services. Welcome Lily! Also, Samantha Henderson, our office administrator, accepted the role of bookkeeper as well, adding another set of tasks to her duties.

The Church Council added a new member this year, Nancy Adzovich, a member-at-large, to give us a full council for the first time in many years. Keith McHugh accepted the position of Financial Secretary. Still others swapped old positions for new ones.

Other changes involved the use of our Facility Renewal Fund to make repairs to aging facilities. The purchase of new patio benches encourages people to stay and visit with friends after worship. Thanks to those volunteers who put them together and installed them. Also, on the eastern border of the church property along Larkin Drive, the dead bushes were removed and hauled away. Lastly, the north end Pre-School air conditioning unit went out and needed to be replaced in September. More improvements and preventive maintenance are planned for 2023.

Thank you, as a family, for continuing your giving to Grace, not just of money, but also of your time and talents. Giving comes in all forms, through your regular offering, the Food Pantry, Restricted Funds, like the Building Fund, the Facility Renewal Fund, to name a few. There was also a very special gift given to repair the organ by a member who wished to remain anonymous. Heartfelt thanks! There were also special opportunities for giving, like Good Gifts, Blessing Bags, the Reverse Advent Calendar, Food Pantry Food Baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Church Council, on the congregation's behalf, gives a special benevolence quarterly to Global, National, Regional, and Local organizations. This past year monies were sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief (aid to Ukraine and natural disasters in the US), Hope for Home, a permanent Homeless Services Center in Pomona, and Ben Lomond PTA. The congregation also continues to support our own Southwest California Synod.

As President, I thank you for your continuing support as we work together in the service of God and Grace Lutheran Church. Stay steadfast and be blessed.

In His Service,  
Brenda Noriega  
Church Council President

## Preschool/Infant Care Center Director's Report

2022 was our 47th year in ministry for preschool and 7th year for our Infant Care. During this time we have been able to provide a caring, learning Christian environment for our community's children.

Staffing has been exceptionally challenging this year, but our current staff is doing a fantastic job and pitching in working longer hours as they were available. As of November we are fully staffed. Thanks be to God!

Due to the pandemic we have been unable to have special events since 2019. This year we have slowly have been able to remove many of the Covid-19 restrictions which were previously in place. We happily were able to have our Halloween Carnival and are looking forward to and Christmas Program. It was so wonderful to see our families gathered and enjoying themselves. It was like a breath of fresh air.

This year we had some major repairs done. We had to put in a new A/C unit in the infant center, in the middle of major heat wave in August. We were able to have our preschool classes painted, thanks to one of our generous church members. We also replaced the carpet and the flooring in the preschool. The preschool classrooms look so fresh and clean.

We are very thankful to the many people who give their time to help in caring for our pre-school. Dave Brown has been instrumental in keeping things going around our facility and is a great leader with a kind heart. Dave has stepped down as Preschool Board President as of December 2022. One of our school board members, Candace Canchola, will be taking on the school board presidency.

Wendy Snyder continues her gracious monthly donation for the gardener here at the pre-school.

Thank you to our church and congregation for your continued prayers. We are blessed by God's graces.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christy Arreguin. Pre-School Director

## Prayer Group Report

The prayer group has had a very busy year again, especially as the COVID Crisis has continued - thankfully, we were again able to meet in person.

Meetings of the group are at 10:00 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in Room 6. Prayer requests should include a diagnosis, or reason for need, and will be in our list for about 4 weeks unless we receive a monthly update on condition. We would like to be informed of ongoing need in the case of a terminal or long lasting illness. Please notify us of any death so that can pray for the family. Please feel free to request prayers anytime by phone, text, or email.

I, personally want to thank the prayer group for their dedication and availability to our congregation. Gathering in prayer is exemplary of our Faith. God is always there, when we reach out to him. The group is available for all requests anytime day or night. Requests should indicate if you wish the need for prayers are to be kept confidential and not published in the Sunday bulletin. Send requests by email to bllarini@hotmail.com or at (626) 926-3084, submit on the web at [www.gracecovina.org](http://www.gracecovina.org), or write the request on the attendance cards on Sunday morning.

Bonnie Larini. Prayer Group Chairperson

## Director of Music & Worship's Report

Ah, 2022, the year of the organ.

You know, it's a funny thing when your keyboardist leaves and the organ sits for the better part of a year without use; no one notices if, you know, it's working fine. It wasn't. It was dead.

We managed to get on a technician in February for a diagnosis. The power supply was shot. It wasn't cheap, and decisions had to be made. Do we fix the organ with the Facilities Renewal Fund, or do we put it off? Fortunately, the church received a generous donation to not only fund the repairs, but also hire an organist.

Lent passed, Holy Week was observed, and Easter came. The Psalm team and a group of volunteers performed a piece I wrote for Easter, accompanied by Ray Snow on piano. We had a single, blended Easter Service this year, with both the praise team and computer organ music.

In June the organ technician came out and got the organ running, sort of.

You know, it's a funny thing that you don't know there's something wrong with a thing, until said thing has power, so you can find out a part of that thing isn't working. The control display panel, and a few pedals and buttons (I don't know the technical terms) weren't functional. This was going to take more time and more money to get right. We were still within the budget so a control unit was ordered. Technically, the organ was functional, so process of finding an organist can begin, believing we'll find someone in a couple of weeks...

Over the next couple months there were a number of people who inquired about the organist position. Most seemed interested until the topic of hours came up. Our fortnightly-ish schedule was an obstacle for just about everyone interviewed. I wasn't sure if we'd find anyone. It got to a point where I was playing the hymn melodies on organ over the computer generated music that I put together, whilst changing the slides. That was too much multitasking.

In August, by a combination of another pastor's suggestion, Brian Akey's doggedness, and the Holy Spirit, we got in contact with Lily Lee. Her audition was impressive, and she was willing to work with our worship schedule. This was definitely a God thing.

She subbed in for a service and then hired in September. Her exuberance and passion for keyboard instruments can be heard and felt in her playing.

You know, it's funny how long it takes to find an original computer board for an organ from 2001. In mid-October the last repair on the organ was complete.

## Director of Music & Worship's Report (cont.)

We had a blended service for Reformation Sunday, featuring the atypical combination of the praise team and the organ playing songs together. The Church did not burn down. It actually works well, as it turns out.

In the last week of November, Pastor Steve tested positive for Covid. I had to preach with little notice. Steve can never be sick again. Brian Akey and I participated in the interfaith choir for the first Thanksgiving Eve service in three years at Christ Lutheran in West Covina.

In December we finally heard Lily play piano, garnering applause from the congregation, or we were really thrilled with our offering that day, we'll let Robert figure that out. The preschool had the first Christmas Sing-along in three years, even with an epidemic of sinus infections and ear aches. As of writing this article, this is the week before Christmas. We've just had practice, and I believe it's going to be wonderful worship service. Christmas Day worship; should be fine.

On a personal note, as most, if not all of you know, my father passed away on Sunday morning, May 29. That was easily the worst day of my life, and the lives of my mother and my brother. For myself, and on behalf of my family, I would like to thank Pastor Steve for being there for me, even in text. He got the raw, real time experience we were going through. Thank you, the people of Grace for the overwhelming outpouring of love and support that my family received in the weeks and months. Thank you, for having the memorial service, and for the warm reception afterward. You were truly a light in the darkness for us.

Jeffrey M. Saltonstall  
Director of Music Ministries.

### **Organist and pianist:**

Lily C. Lee

### **Grace Praise Band:**

Jeffrey M. Saltonstall – guitar, bass, and vocals, Johna Stienstra – percussion and vocals, Lindi Otte – guitar and vocals, Mitch McCabe - guitar, Milo McCabe - drums, Marty Spradly – drums

### **Psalm Team:**

Brian Akey, Jeffrey M. Saltonstall, Johna Stienstra, Lindi Otte, Mary Encabo

### **Video editing and publishing:**

Samantha Henderson

### **Worship and Music Committee Chairperson:**

Brian Akey

