



God's Grace 2020

"I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and give you a future filled with hope." Jeremiah 29:11

As Grace Lutheran Church celebrates 125 years of ministry in the La Grange area, we are grateful to those who have gone before us making Christ known in our community. They have provided buildings that support our ministries, reached out to meet the needs of members and strangers and gathered disciples to continue the mission of our church. But God is not done working at Grace Lutheran Church. As promised through the prophet Jeremiah, **God has plans for us!** He has prospered us and even now gives us a future filled with hope. Having spent months discerning Vision 2020, we can now see the parameters of what our ministry might look like and how our ministry will be enhanced and strengthened as we dedicate ourselves to becoming the congregation God needs and intends us to be in La Grange... *A more vibrant, growing, thriving congregation committed to growing faithful disciples and deeply embedded in our community and in our world.*

GOD'S GRACE 2020 is our three-year appeal to gather over \$2 million to begin accomplishing our goals set forth in Vision 2020. And over the years, Grace Lutheran Church has been a congregation that gives to others in benevolence and outreach and gives generously to accomplish the mission and goals set before us as God's people.

Our Vision 2020 is ALL about the ministry we have the opportunity to do, allowing us to enhance the ministries for community outreach, hospitality, worship, families, faith formation, caring and education.

A. COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Making a difference as we discern and meet our neighbors' needs

- **Ministry:** We will generally have an outward focus and develop a greater presence in our community through partnerships with community organizations and other churches.
- **Facility:** We will renovate our Fellowship Hall and create quality space which can be used for community gatherings and groups. We will update the kitchen, providing a more usable space for congregation and community events. We will also relocate the Library which can be a gathering place as well as a resource for the community.

B. HOSPITALITY: Becoming a more invitational and welcoming community of faith.

- **Ministry:** Members will be encouraged to invite others to "Come and see Jesus!" because of their joy in growing as disciples. Our hope is to increase our diversity and numbers as we include others in our ministry and make them feel part of Grace.
- **Facility:** The exciting renovation of our entrance area creates a Welcome Center and additional gathering space as a connection between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. We will also be a more inclusive and inviting church as we open the entire building to those who have physical challenges by adding an elevator and renovated handicap accessible restrooms.

C. WORSHIP: Expanding worship options will bring more people as we gather to celebrate.

- **Ministry:** We will develop additional times and styles of worship, perhaps including a Saturday night service and a Sunday morning more contemporary service, in addition to excellent traditional worship.

- **Facility:** Sanctuary renovations will include modifications in the altar area supporting a variety of worship styles and other uses of the space. The lighting and sound systems of the Sanctuary will be upgraded to provide a more positive worship experience. We will also encourage greater participation in worship for those with physical challenges by adding ramp access to the Chancel area and flexible seating in front and back of the Sanctuary.

D. FAMILIES: Attracting and engaging this growing demographic in our community

- **Ministry:** An integrated ministry for families with children from birth through high school is envisioned: family activities, youth groups, faith formation for all, parent study, support groups and intergenerational activities and connections.

Facility: Our facilities will be child and family friendly. With the addition of an elevator, our facility will be much more versatile and able to provide more space for activities and learning.

E. FAITH FORMATION: Growing disciples with a heart for ministry

- **Ministry:** Help members grow in their faith and become enthusiastic about inviting others into their faith experience. We will bring people together to explore, share, and grow in faith through various avenues which have been proven to be effective (eg, small groups).
- **Facility:** With the addition of an elevator and changes to existing space, our facility will provide a variety of spaces from large meeting rooms to more relaxed spaces for smaller, more informal interaction.

F. CARING: Enriching our strong ministry of nurture and care among members of Grace

- **Ministry:** Continuing to make connections during key life events, such as baptisms or funerals, of a loved one is important for ensuring that Grace thrives in the hearts of our members. We will also continue to seek out new opportunities for older adults including additional intergenerational activities and sharing their gifts of experience and knowledge with younger members of the congregation.
- **Facility:** Enhanced accessibility of our facility, expanding the parish nurse office space, opening our space for community groups and providing more access to support group meeting rooms will help these ministries grow.

G. EDUCATION: Meeting changing needs within the community and promoting the programs we offer

- **Ministry:** As needs within the community evolve for education opportunities, be that pre-school, after school programming and or Bible Study, we will look for ways to meet those needs in order to better educate and introduce more families to Grace.
- **Facility:** Our already renovated classrooms, planned elevator, and proposed changes to existing meeting rooms will support an increase in use for education purposes.

The GOD's GRACE 2020 Appeal will involve spending the majority of the capital raised to transform our building, allowing us to fulfill the plans for ministry described above.

As our staff is in transition, our staffing plan is not as well developed, but our Vision 2020 provides us with direction for deciding what our staff should look like by 2013. We will use 80% of campaign resources to transform our facility and 20% to grow our ministry. We will also set aside \$50,000 to begin funding of an Endowment Fund, which will be a new vehicle for giving and a new source of funding for future ministries.

Our vision, and we believe it is God's plan, is for Grace Lutheran Church to be a more vibrant, growing, thriving congregation committed to growing faithful disciples and deeply embedded in our community and in our world. We praise God as we celebrate 125 years of ministry and prepare for God's plan that we will prosper in our future filled with hope.