

# GROWING TOGETHER IN GRACE

RENEW » REFRESH » REJOICE



# GENEROSITY BOOK

## WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT GRACE? WHAT DO YOU FIND MEANINGFUL FOR YOUR LIFE THROUGH THIS COMMUNITY OF FAITH?

“I love and appreciate the atmosphere of inclusion. There is an honest expression of welcome for everyone, not just in the words in the bulletin, but in the everyday actions of the congregants and the leadership.” –Patricia Pugh

“I love the music and the all the choices one has for everyone.” –Barbara Zepp

“I feel that by helping Grace I am helping the community because of their various programs and by just being there. – Don Zepp

“Grace has been our church home since 1974. Our family arrived with two toddlers, all unaware of a time change, an hour late for our first church service here. Nevertheless, were greeted warmly and invited to return, which we did. We have grown with Grace through Sunday schools, youth groups, confirmations, a daughter’s wedding, a granddaughter’s baptism and confirmation, and recently a memorial remembrance for a mother, grandmother, great grandmother. We are most grateful to the Grace staff for their kindness, compassion, support, and understanding to help us move through these transitions. In daily life we continue to appreciate and give thanks for the Grace community and the gifts of fellowship, friendship, and opportunities for continuing spiritual growth offered to each of us.” –Geri Horsma

“A safe place, which is like a second family to us and a welcoming community for all.” – Jack Koepfgen

“Generosity can be shown in many ways. For me in my life now it has been meaningful and appreciated through the live streaming. I am unable to go to church so I watch it from home and it is a part of my Sunday receiving the spiritual lesson for the day and week. Also is the communion delivered to me at home. They have become a very important part of Generosity to me. Grace Lutheran has been my church for 70 years and it is my spiritual place for my life.” –June Vilen

“I love that there are so many ways to connect. From Wednesday night Life Together, to handbell choir and Chancel Choir, Community Connections Cafe, and Sunday school for all ages, etc., plus all the fun events like Apple Fest and weekends at Mount Cross in Felton, there’s a place for everyone to find a way to meet fellow congregants outside of Sunday services. All these activities really create a sense of community!” – Kay Marie Ferguson

“Primarily, the liturgy, Scripture, music and preaching. The beauty of how we do all this, and especially Holy week, Easter, Advent, Christmas. The Adult Forum and Bible study. Oh. Pastor Friederike’s retreats.” –Jan Curtis

“What I love about Grace are the people. This community has helped support me through a difficult past couple of years personally as I navigated a divorce and health issues simultaneously. My daughter and I were always welcomed with open arms and open hearts, and I am deeply grateful to know the Grace community is here for us.” – Ilse Wiechers

“Seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well.” – MATTHEW 6:33

## WHO TAUGHT YOU ABOUT GENEROSITY? HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

“Nobody taught me about generosity. I just observed as I grew older how it is so important to help when the need is there. It might just be a small thing, but it could mean a lot to a person or situation that would help. I am 92 and I now know how important to be a little kind, thoughtful, generous, charitable, etc. means to everyone. Just observing and growing older with more needs is what taught me how important it is.” –June Vilen

“I grew up in an immigrant community where people automatically helped each other. It was just what was done. Problem? Help fix it. A dance in the community hall to benefit an old woman who lived with her adult son...their house burned down. Some of our un-needed furniture went to Hilda and Albert.” –Jan Curtis

“I learned about generosity from my father, who was a Lutheran minister. He taught me that even if we don't have the financial means to give, we can give our time and kindness through acts of service to others.” – Ilse Wiechers

“Our parents modeled generosity each day of their lives. They shared time, talents, and produce with friends and community through several family moves. They were always reaching out to help others whether through sharing musical talents, sports coaching, service, and friendship which showed their caring love for others in their families and communities. They were cherished role models for us for us growing up and as adults.” –Geri Horsma

“My mum taught me about generosity through her involvement in local organizations, helping those in need. She showed me that giving back is about actions, not just words. Watching her made me realize how important it is to care for others.” – Joachim Klein

“My mother, by observation!” –Barbara Zepp

“My dad, Chuck, my father in law, Lou, my wonderful husband, Andrew. These amazing men demonstrate giving of time and money to many different causes. Over the years, I’ve watched them donate to their churches, lead Boy Scout Troops, volunteer for their country, counsel congregants through Stephen Ministries, coach and referee soccer, and give generous monetary gifts to grandchildren.” – Kay Marie Ferguson

“Every time I take a step in the direction of generosity,  
I know I am moving from fear to love.” – HENRI NOUWEN

## WHAT IS THE MOST GENEROUS ACT YOU HAVE EVER WITNESSED?

“The most generous act I have witnessed was shown by Jane, a woman who for years ran the food closet that Grace supports. During the pandemic she singlehandedly contacted clients, took their orders, shopped for and delivered their food. She did this because she knew they had no viable alternatives and she did it at peril to her own health and safety. Jane really knows the meaning of generosity.” –Patricia Pugh

“It is hard to pick the most generous act you have ever seen, but we have all observed many people hurting through hurricanes, tornadoes, wars, illness, and tragedies and because of that we see many generous acts.” –June Vilen

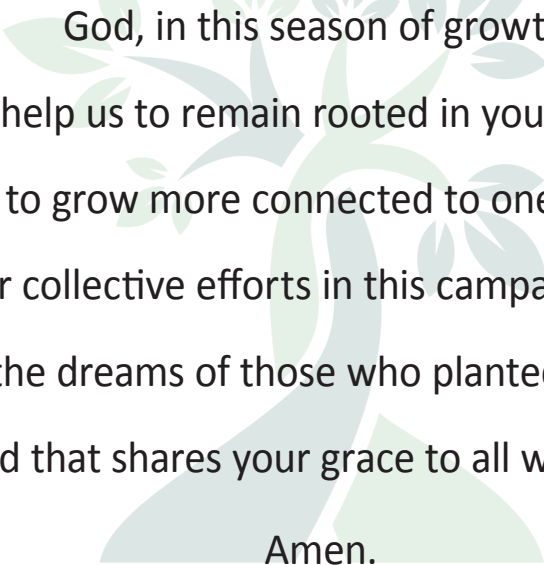
“Anna Wiersma, ten years older than I, who grew up in Amsterdam during WWII did many things to help the unfortunate. She was a dear friend and a prayer partner. We, and Ann’s husband Hylke, too, worked with Les Roberts in Grace’s kitchen on Tuesday nights feeding the homeless and others in need. Cold, wet, rainy night: shivering man came in for the hot meal. Ann popped out of the kitchen, probably with a couple of tea towels from the pantry to dry his soaking feet, and pulled off her own long socks to put on him, saying they were dry and warm.” – Jan Curtis

“The most generous act I think I have witnessed came when Andrew and I were visiting his parents in Maryland nearly twenty-five years ago. While we were having dinner with them, my husband’s cousin, Matt, who was going to grad school nearby, stopped in. He was clearly distraught and through tears told us that his brother had just died. Immediately, my father in law, Lou, got up from the table gave him a reassuring hug, and whisked him away to listen to Matt process his grief for over an hour. Lou continued to be a support for him throughout this sorrowful time. This generous, and immediate, giving of self is something I will never forget.” – Kay Marie Ferguson

“The most generous act I have witnessed was when the husband of a young woman in the ICU who had suffered a tragic accident resulting in severe brain damage chose to withdraw life support and donate her organs to help save the lives of others.”  
– Ilse Wiechers



“I am the vine, you are the branches.  
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit.” – JOHN 15:5



God, in this season of growth,  
help us to remain rooted in your love  
and to grow more connected to one another.  
May our collective efforts in this campaign bear fruit  
that reflects the dreams of those who planted this congregation  
and that shares your grace to all we serve.  
Amen.



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