



We invite you to pray for Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday, December 10, 2023 is Appeal Sunday. During worship, we are invited to bring forward our enclosed Statement of Intent, offering our gifts to God. You may also mail your Statement of Intent to the church office or fill out an online Statement of Intent.

Then on Sunday, January 28, 2024 we will announce the current results of our **Grace Fully Giving!** commitments, including the number of Statements of Intent received and the faithful response of the congregation. We will celebrate the results together at our Annual Meeting and following with a potluck! We invite you to celebrate with us.

We are excited about the opportunities to meet the needs of the church and community in 2024. Together our faith family will make **Grace Fully Giving!** a remarkable journey.



**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**  
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# Grace Fully Giving!

STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2024

## Introduction

At Grace Lutheran Church we spread God's word, build relationships and serve our unique downtown community and its needs. Jesus shows us that true faith doesn't stay locked within the walls of a church building. He calls us to love one another and care for one another as God cares for all of creation. Our ministry and mission can be summed up simply as **"Love God, Serve Others"**.

**Grace Fully Giving!** is an expression of this faith community's passion for caring for the least of our brothers and sisters.

**Grace Fully Giving!** is an expression of our love for God's Word expressed in our music, worship services and commitment to growth in faith.

**Grace reaches out to people in need** – in need of food, clothing, justice, love, peace and understanding. Our well established Food Pantry feeds those hungry in body. Grace abounds in generosity and care as we partner with many strong Community Ministries; Ugandan Little Lambs Learning Center, Crop Walk, Meals on Wheels, The James Project, Holiday Food Baskets, McClelland School, Hat, Scarf and Glove Tree, Salvation Army Overflow Shelter and Washington Street Mission – just to name a few. We find a way and create opportunities to make a difference in people's lives!

**The people of Grace welcome all who are hungry in spirit.** We come together in our beautiful and inspiring worship services. We nurture our faith with emphasis on Bible study, Grace Forum, Sunday School and growth in our Youth Ministry.

As we grow in faith, love for others and involvement, God calls us to make a strong statement about the enthusiasm in which we support Grace. The coming year will have challenges, so prayerfully we join together to affirm our commitment to God's work in the world and our lives.







## Ministry Initiatives

With an additional \$10,600 (\$204 per week) we will be able to continue and expand the following ministries and mission.

### Grow in Faith:

At Grace, young people grow in their relationship with God. They learn to Love God and Serve Others in all they do. This nurtures the congregation and allows the church to flourish.

In the coming year we will expand the impact we have on our youth as we:

- Allow for seven of our high school youth to participate in the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- Provide support for participation in Crossways Confirmation Camp (Junior High Youth) and Leadership Lab (Senior High Youth) at Augustana College
- Provide the opportunity to attend the CSIS Youth Gathering in Carlinville
- Encourage our High School youth to take an active role in the Holiday Happening, leading the youngest children at Grace.



### Grow in Music Ministry:

At Grace, we sing together. It's at the core of our identity. Through music we experience God's love for everyone.

The college-aged, young professional musicians who provide beautiful music for worship meet Grace members who are genuinely interested in their lives and welcoming of their faith journey. Young people hear plenty these days about judgmental, legalistic churches. We show we are something entirely different than that. We show...Grace!

In the coming year we will invest in our music ministry as we:

- Provide funding for 1-2 additional singers in the choir
- Have guest instrumentalists of all kinds join us on a more regular basis

### Grow in Serving Others:

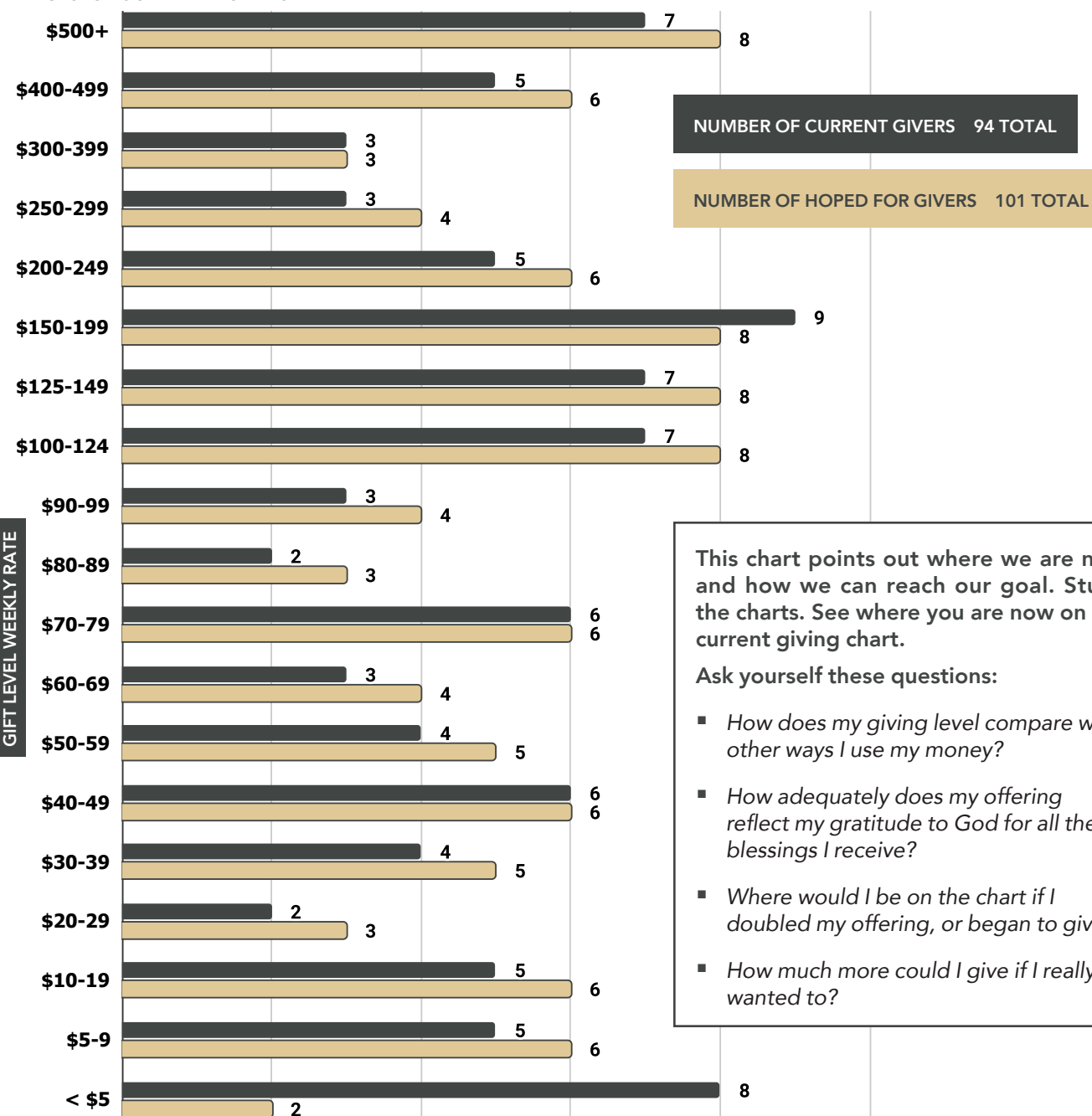
The Food Pantry at Grace provides an outward expression of our passion for caring for the least of our brothers and sisters. Food insecurity plagues Springfield. Grace will continue doing something about it!

In the coming year we will:

- Help our clients locate other food pantries and micro pantries for the additional support they need
- Broaden our base of large donors
- Seek further grants from corporate Springfield

## Grace Lutheran Church

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This chart points out where we are now and how we can reach our goal. Study the charts. See where you are now on the current giving chart.

Ask yourself these questions:

- How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?
- How adequately does my offering reflect my gratitude to God for all the blessings I receive?
- Where would I be on the chart if I doubled my offering, or began to give?
- How much more could I give if I really wanted to?