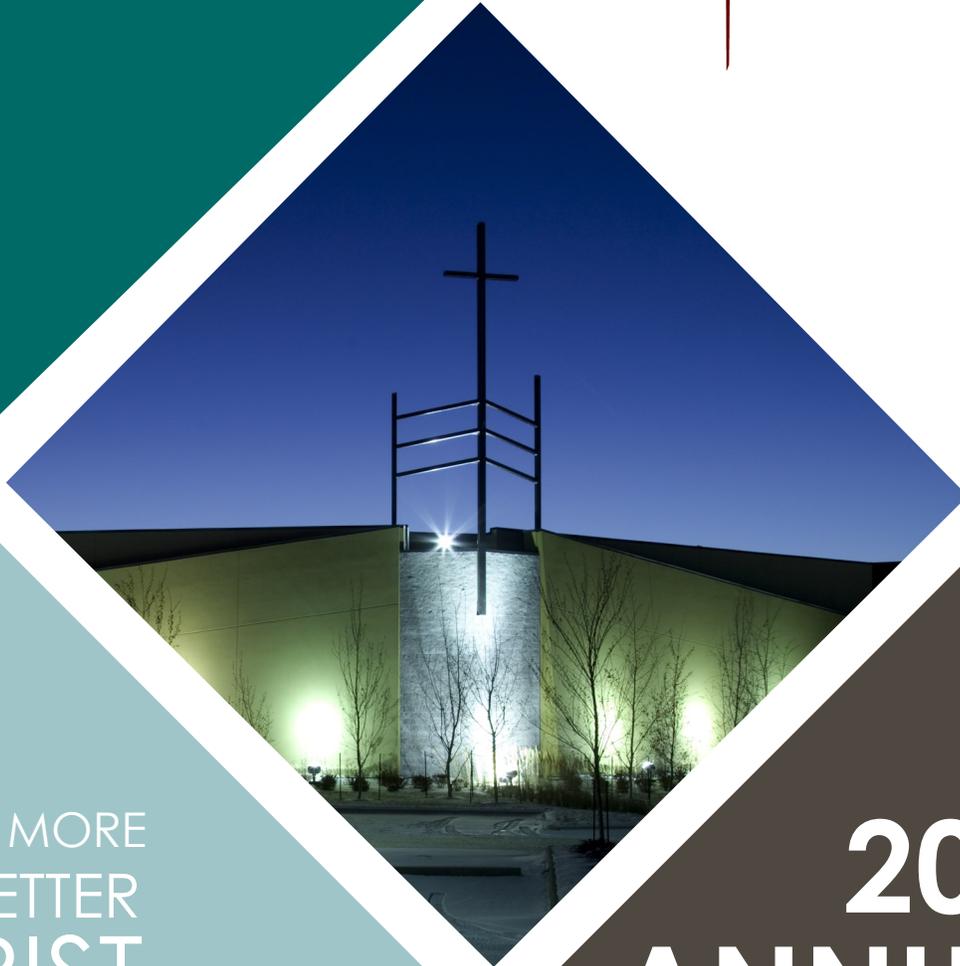




Grace Point
CHURCH OF GOD



MAKING MORE
AND BETTER
CHRIST
FOLLOWERS

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

GRACE POINT CHURCH OF GOD



780.466.8290



720 - 62 Street SW



gracepointchurch.ca

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JUNE 24, 2018 @ 6:00 PM

VISION

*To be a life-changing
community of God's
grace and love for
the world.*





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MESSAGE FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

BUYING INTO GOD'S ECONOMY

"I will send you such a blessing in the sixth year that the land will yield enough for three years."
Leviticus 25:21 (NIV)

God is telling the Israelites here that if they follow His commands – in this case, allowing their fields to lie fallow every seven years - He will provide for them and care for their needs (in abundance!) even if what He's asking them to do seems counterintuitive or contrary to human reason.

A good question we can ask ourselves in this regard is: Do we trust God to provide for us by following His guidelines in being faithful stewards of what He's entrusted to us? Or will we take control and try to make it and provide for ourselves on our own? Will we, by faith, buy into His economy, or will we depend on ourselves? That was the ultimate question then in this exchange between God and His people, and it's the question ultimately facing us as we head into a new ministry season and budget year.

I'm living into this truth more and more, that as my good, loving, caring Father, God will provide for me, not just spiritually, but physically, emotionally and relationally as well. When we follow God's commands and steward faithfully what He's entrusted to us, when we give back to Him what is actually His, when we continue to make investments in God's Kingdom by obediently giving back to Him a tithe of our income, as well as sacrificially give offerings, we can expect God's abundant provision.

"Will we, by faith, buy into His economy, or will we depend on ourselves?"

If, on the other hand, we choose not to heed God's commands, we skate right by God's provision and miss the grand adventure of living in His economy. The choice is ours. To those of you who continue to invest in the ministries of Grace Point that seek to extend God's Kingdom locally, regionally, nationally and globally, by giving of your time, talents and financial resources, I am grateful. You know well the joy and blessing of storing up treasure in heaven and making investments that echo in eternity. May you continue to be an encouragement to those who are growing in their obedient giving.

My heartfelt thanks also goes to the Staff, Elders, Board of Trustees and various ministry teams for their faithful service and continued investment in the Grace Point church family. We are better and stronger together.

May God's Kingdom come and may His will be done through us here at Grace Point as we seek to make more and better Christ-followers. And, may the joy of giving and living into the divine economy be yours!

George Lutzer





Above: the Youth Worship Band leading at a Youth "Deeper" Event (March 2, 2018).

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

WORSHIP SERVICES

Meeting together each Sunday morning to worship God as a body of Christ is crucial for individual spiritual growth, and fuels community. Ephesians 4:16 says, "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." There are many components (often behind the scenes) that ensure our corporate worship time together is experienced with care and excellence.

The front line faces for people walking through Grace Point's doors are the Welcome Team. These 36 to 40 ushers and greeters are responsible for weekly greeting, communion support and usher duties during the worship service. They are also a connecting point for newcomers, providing information at the Welcome Centre, and assisting with next steps regarding further involvement at Grace Point Church.

The context of the worship service is initially set by worship team members. These teams of musicians, sound techs, and video and lighting techs work together to help create an atmosphere for the congregation to worship our great God together. In the coming year, these 50 members look forward to branching out with team nights, songwriting circles and jam sessions with hope to broaden artistic strength, and to build community.

YOUTH WORSHIP BAND

From October to May, five volunteers gave of their time to coach 11 youth what it means to worship God in life, specifically through the avenue of music. In addition to averaging about two rehearsal sessions a month and leading the group singing time for four youth events, this group's primary focus was to examine what it looks like to worship with their heart, their mind, their skill and their lives.

"It was encouraging to witness the youth's participation and enthusiasm in regards to learning beyond just the music, diving into deep and meaningful conversation about the value of preparation, feelings vs. truth about God, access to God through the cross, what truly matters in life, and much more." (Randy Schultz)



Above: Elementary children singing a song at the Advent Celebration Service (December 17, 2017).

PRAYER

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." 1 John 5:14 (NIV)

Prayer is the way in which we communicate with God, as well as build community as we pray together. Several prayer teams meet at various times to bring Grace Point's congregation, as well as individuals in it, before the throne of God. It is powerful to see, and to know, that God's people are praying:

- German Senior Group (10-12 people) weekly
- English Team (6-8 people) twice a month
- Kids Pray (14 people) once a month
- Four prayer teams (20 people) alternating each Sunday
- Prayer chain (28 people)

GRACEKIDZ

After the children are dismissed from the worship service, children ages three to grade five learn about how Jesus impacts their lives. The main lesson is taught by Pastor LuAnne or Joy, and then teachers reinforce the concepts through hands on activity and conversation

points in the classroom. Fifty-six leaders and approximately 170 regular attenders made GraceKidz possible this past year.

"Each week after the large group teaching portion, we ask the kids to sit in silence for one minute to spend time in prayer asking God what it is He wants them to remember, understand, or act on from what they've learned. The kids have leaned into this practice in a special way." (LuAnne Birkholz)

ROUTE 67

Thirty-seven pre-teens in grades six and seven participated in Route 67, a ministry providing a bridge between GraceKidz and Youth.

Following their dismissal from the worship service, they meet to wrestle with their faith questions, and learn how to apply God's Word to their lives.

NURSERY

GraceKidz Nursery provides care and supervision for the littlest people in our Grace Point family during the Sunday morning worship service. Twenty-three dedicated volunteers ensure that the young ones of about 33 families are well looked after while their parents participate in the worship service.



Above: Child Dedication Service led by Pastor LuAnne (May 13, 2018).

CHILD DEDICATION

One of the beautiful things we get to see at Grace Point is the addition of children to our church family. When these families decide to covenant with God to be diligent in discipling their child, they often choose to publicly dedicate them to God. This past year, we had over 20 children dedicated. Our church body loves to celebrate this occasion with these precious children, as we covenant to assist in raising them for God's glory and to see His purposes for their lives unfold.

GERMAN SENIORS

After 21 years of offering a worship service in the German language, our seniors celebrated their last German service on Sunday, September 3, 2017. We are thankful for everyone who has sacrificed and given of themselves to serve the German seniors of the past two decades. Pastor Karl Kaefer continues to provide a weekly German Bible study as well as pastoral care for the German seniors.

BAPTISM

Making a public proclamation of faith and commitment is an important component of a Christ-follower's faith journey. This past year 23 people, over a spectrum of ages, were baptized. A highlight was our Easter Sunday service, where individuals symbolically declared the freedom of Christ's resurrection in their lives!



Above: Pastor Craig about to baptize youth at the November 19, 2017 Baptism Service.



GROWING A COMMUNITY OF CHRIST FOLLOWERS

125 AWANA CLUBBERS

- 17% are not connected to a local church.

AWANA participants raised approximately \$1,100 for AWANA GO Ministries in Haiti!

OVER 20

Youth & Youth Leaders got baptized this ministry year!

80-100 YOUTH

actively participating in GPC Youth Ministry.

- 15% are not connected to a local church.

CHILDREN

As children learn to navigate today's world, the role of the church in their lives is vital. It is important that they understand they are loved by God, and that He desires a special place in their hearts and lives.



AWANA®

The goal of AWANA is to produce young people who understand God's Word and choose to obey it. AWANA stands for "Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed" as taken from 2 Timothy 2:15. It says, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who is not ashamed and who correctly handles the Word of Truth."

This past year, approximately 125 Clubbers worked through handbooks (which are based on Scripture memory) to earn badges. About 50 volunteers help to embed scriptures in the hearts and minds of these children, while also incorporating fun-filled games and events.

"The family from the community we are connected to were so incredibly impressed with the AWANA Grand Prix. They had no idea what to expect and were in awe of all the setup and thought that went into it. Their boys have loved their AWANA experience. I am still hoping they will come to church with us but that seems to be a step they are not yet ready to take. I have invited them a number of times. I think this is a huge ministry for our church." (a Grace Point mom)



KIDS PRAY

Prayer is a powerful tool for children to deepen their relationships with God. This past year, 12 kids and four adults met once a month to learn more about prayer, how to pray, and different ways to pray. It's so wonderful to see enthusiasm and delight in the children!

YOUTH



CORE YOUTH

Above: Prayer of Commissioning for the Chile Youth Missions Team (March 18, 2018).

Teenagers are at a point in their lives where anything is possible. It is crucial that at the many crossroads they encounter, the firm foundation of a life rooted in Christ is laid before them.

This past year, the expanding youth ministry was split into two groups - Senior Youth on Thursday nights and Junior Youth on Friday nights with periodic joint events throughout the year. There are about 80-100 youth who actively participate in weekly events, as well as 40 volunteers who pour into the lives of these youth.

In addition, a group of Senior High youth went to Santiago, Chile (in partnership with Gideons International in Canada) and shared the Gospel while handing out over 7,000 scriptures. They were witness to over 450 people coming to faith in Jesus Christ!

HIGHLIGHTS

- over 20 youth & youth leaders got baptized this ministry year
- 15% of our youth are not connected to a local church
- Organizations being impacted by our youth ministry include
 - ⇒ Kids with Cancer
 - ⇒ GPC Single Parents Ministry
 - ⇒ Basically Babies
 - ⇒ Go Missions – Santiago, Chile

NOTE FROM PASTOR CRAIG

"I would like to take a moment to thank everyone at Grace Point for all of the support and grace and patience you as the Grace Point family have given me over these last eight years.

Although it is difficult to say goodbye, I fully recognize that God has done some incredible things in Core Youth through the parents, youth leaders, and the youth themselves. We have seen some incredible growth both in physical numbers and also in discipleship. I pray that the momentum doesn't waiver, and that people see an opportunity to step up

and take this ministry to the next level. I think of the scripture about the workers and the harvest in Matthew 9:35-38.

I hope and pray that discipleship continues and that the value of discipleship continues to be the main focus of youth ministry. I am excited for what the leadership has in store for the future of, not only this youth group, but also the Church Body as a whole. Thank you again for the support over the years and for allowing me the opportunity to speak into the lives of the youth at Grace Point. I will never forget this experience and look forward to seeing what the future has in store!"



CHILE MISSIONS TEAM

The group that went down to Santiago, Chile came back on fire and excited to share about their experience, but more importantly excited to get involved in the church community and sharing the Gospel with those who haven't heard it yet.

"Something that has impacted me has been talking to strangers in different plazas and seeing how open they are to talking about religion and what they believe, and how open they are to new ideas. At first it was really difficult for me to do, and I was very tentative about going up to people, but after talking to so many people, it's getting easier and easier to just go up to almost every person I see, wanting to share the Gospel with them." (youth team member)



YOUNG ADULTS

There is great value in having people journeying alongside of you.

GPCYA

Grace Point Church Young Adults (GPCYA) exists to foster safe places for people to be themselves and to connect with others. About 30 young adults and four volunteers participated in GPCYA events and discussions this past year.

ADULTS

We were created by God to live, and journey through life in authentic community. Therefore, it is important that there are opportunities and venues where adults can dig deeper, work through tough issues with a mature biblical perspective, and develop meaningful relationships.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

About 50 women from all seasons of life gathered together on a weekly basis to learn more about living for Jesus. There is beauty in having such a diverse group of women, across a spectrum of ages, journey together. These women, under the leadership of Heidi Belter and three other facilitators, encouraged, prayed for and supported each other in tangible ways.

CONNECTING & SERVING

We have over 300 volunteers that serve together at Grace Point! From the tellers who count the Sunday tithes and offerings, to those who help with maintenance tasks, to those who ensure the library is stocked and orderly, there are many behind-the-scenes volunteers who faithfully serve and who are instrumental in the life of Grace Point.

CARE MINISTRY

When families or individuals are in need of a bit of extra support, our Hamper and Meals ministries are there to help. Whether it's a ready-prepared meal to share after a surgery, illness, a loss or a new addition to the family; a food hamper to help stretch the budget; or someone in temporary financial need, we see the Grace Point church family step up.



ATHLETICS

Ramp Up Sports is an outreach-focused ministry seeking to connect adults in the Edmonton area with God and one another through recreational athletics, through an encouraging and engaging atmosphere, relationship building and thought-provoking discussions.

On average, there are about 300 participants that drop in to play various sports, and approximately 130 people that participate in leagues and tournaments. From these participants, about 25% are from Grace Point church, while about 75% are not. This would not be possible without the 25 Grace Point volunteers and more volunteers from outside GPC.

*"I've played sports in a lot of different places, arenas, gyms, churches, and for the first time I feel like I am playing within a faith community."
(Ramp Up Sports Attendee)*

JUST US MINISTRY

The Just Us Group provides an opportunity for single parents to build relationships with others in similar situations; offer support and inspiration to one another in a welcoming, God-centered environment. Ten parents were equipped with tools for success through speakers on topics such as financial planning, organization, relationships and home maintenance, while 15 children prepared special crafts.





MULTIPLYING OUR
FAITH
BY SERVING OUR
WORLD

UP

*Jesus spent time with
His Father
(Luke 6:12)*

IN

*Jesus invited others in
and shared like with them
(Luke 6:13-16)*

OUT

*Jesus reached out to a
lost and lonely world
(Luke 6:17-19)*

FAMILIES ON MISSION

Grace Point Church has various missional groups who are living UP-IN-OUT lives together. These mid-sized groups, across a spectrum of ages, gather on a regular basis to pray, encourage serve and share life together.

SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES MISSIONAL COMMUNITY

At Grace Point, we have a significant number of single parent families. There is a missional community that seeks to serve this group of single parent families monthly by preparing lunch for them, enjoying fellowship with them, creating space for speakers to come in to assist the parents in dealing with issues they're facing, and by playing with their children while the parents are in session. This group is looking to invite more individuals and families to join their missional community in supporting our single parent families. Talk to Pastor George for more information.

COMMUNITY WITH IMPACT

This missional community's mission is "as you go proclaim that the Kingdom of heaven has come near." They desire to impact the people that they live close to, work beside, and rub shoulders with. A highlight for many of them this past year was facilitating the "Journey to Easter" event at Grace Point.

"The Journey to Easter event was daunting for many of us, but so rewarding. One family emailed and said, "thanks so much for bring the Easter story to life for me and my kids. It is great to take time to learn what Easter is all about, amidst the commercialization of this weekend." (Pastor Dan)



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

This missional community's mission is to be a community of Christ-followers who seek to bring hope to families in crisis by serving, caring and being present at the Ronald McDonald House.

This group of 31 people (eight families) provide and serve a meal, as well as run a craft table, once per month at Ronald McDonald House.

"In my religion we take care of the needy, but this is community in love and action."

- a Hindu father at Ronald McDonald House

COMMUNITY TO THOSE THAT ARE HURTING

This missional community is a group of 22 people of all ages (five months to over 60). They meet twice a month for lunch right after the Sunday worship service. Their mission is to bring hope to those who are hurting. Over this past year, they have invited disabled friends to a special Christmas event and have provided a place to connect for those who have started to attend Grace Point Church.



COMMUNITY FOR MUSLIMS MINISTRY

Over the past 10 years there has been an increase of Muslim immigrants to Edmonton. The number is estimated to be close to 100,000 in Edmonton and Area. Engaging Muslims, either international students or refugees, with the love of Christ is what this Missional Community is focused on. They have been connecting with many families from different backgrounds to serve them and share the hope of Jesus Christ.

This Missional Community meets every second week and facilitates events within the Muslim community such as BBQ's, Christmas programs, kids programs and fundraisers.

A Syrian couple shared that they have nobody else in their life who they can trust like they trust members of this Missional Community. Some other international students are saying, "we feel like we have a 'family' that we can relate and belong to."

COMMUNITY WITH A YOUTH FOCUS

This missional community is excited to focus on bringing together people with a passion for youth growing in their relationships with Jesus, whether that is in a church context or a parachurch ministry. This group consists of families with youth in the Core Youth Ministry, families working with international students, and youth leaders from the Core Youth Ministry. This group of 12-15 people gather together to learn study God's Word, worship together, and share stories about what God is doing in their respective youth-focused ministries.

IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

“One of my highlights was listening to the children sing “He Knows My Name.” I love that this message to music will resonate in their minds and hearts. “I have a Maker, He calls me His own, He’ll never leave me, no matter where I go.” (Pastor LuAnne)

“One kid that lives in the community asked more information about baptism and what that means. I was able to sit down with the family and describe what baptism was and what it means to follow Jesus.” (Pastor Dan)

70%

Of the children that attended the Athletes in Action Camps were non-GPC participants.

SUMMER CAMPS

Summer camps provide a wonderful and inviting way for children to hear the gospel message, while also establishing great friendships and learning various skills.

ART CAMP

“God saw all that he had made and it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31)

Instructors from Clay for Kids, Kids Can Sew and Red Poppy Design equipped and encouraged 75 children from grades one to six to be creative and to try various art techniques. This venture would not be possible without the 21 volunteer leaders.

ATHLETES IN ACTION CAMPS®

Athletes In Action camps provide athletes with opportunities to develop their skills and fundamentals, learning from elite college/ university players and coaches. This past summer, 40 volunteers along with the amazing Athletes in Action staff, ministered to and coached 145 children who have completed grades one to six. These children learned fundamental skills in soccer and basketball as well as hearing about God’s love for them.



SHARING OUR SPACE

Having a positive impact in our community is important. In order to provide opportunities for our neighbours to get to know us, our facilities are well-utilized during the week:

- Canadian Blood Services mobile blood clinics
- Ellerslie Campus School
- Ellerslie Community League Board meetings
- Ellerslie Community League Family Movie Nights
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Ellerslie Road Preschool
- UNITE worship service

MISSIONS PARTNERSHIPS & PROJECTS

The Partnerships & Projects team was commenced in 2013. The purpose was to add structure and criteria to GPC's charitable giving. The goals are to demonstrate good stewardship in reviewing and selecting project opportunities, ensure consistency, and enhance GPC participation in local, national and international initiatives.

Over the past five years Grace Point, through the Partnerships & Projects initiative, has funded;

- Haiti Children's Aid Society
- Canadian Church of God Ministries
- Athletes in Action
- Gideons
- Grace Outreach (GO) Ministries
- Pleasant Valley Church of God (Vernon), church re-development
- FAZDI – centre for drug and alcohol rehab in Brazil

INTERNATIONAL

- 3Worlds Roundtable: Overseeing missions in Europe and the Middle East
- Haitian Children's Aid Society (HCAS)
- Gideon's International



HCAS
HAITIAN CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

HCAS provides funding and support for Haiti Children's Home (HCH) in Nirvard, Haiti. In addition to new projects, the daily provision of basic amenities, medical care, education, recreation and spiritual enrichment, Haiti Children's Home empowers and supports their community by providing:

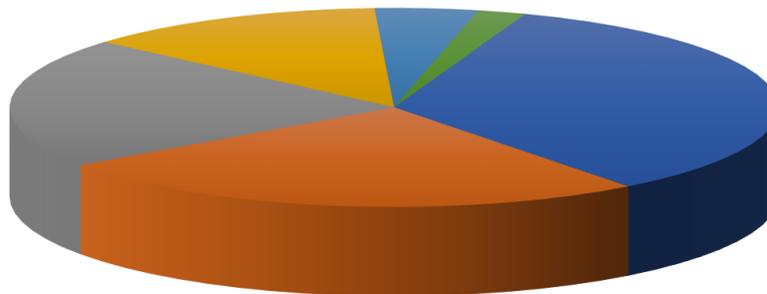
- Full-time care for orphaned and abandoned children
- Foster Care program
- Community Clinic
- Temporary care for ill & malnourished children
- Nutrition/Milk Program
- Pre-school & Primary Education



GO GRACE
OUTREACH
MINISTRIES

GO Ministry serves teams reaching Muslims locally and internationally through training and equipping, meeting practical needs and sharing the Good News. There is one Christian missionary for every 450,000 Muslims world-wide and there are around 100,000 Muslims living in Edmonton and area.

Grace Point Church of God
2017/18 Missions Allocation



- Canadian Church of God Ministries
- Grace Outreach (GO) Ministries
- Haitian Childrens Aid Society
- Pleasant Valley Church Re-Plant (Vernon, BC)
- Staff Missions Support
- Gideon's International in Canada

LEADERSHIP AND STAFF 2017/18

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Provides stewardship and management of the finances and the facility operations

- Henry Rempel *Chairperson*
- Barry Thompson *Secretary*
- Heidi Buchsdrucker *Treasurer/Board member*
- Terry Kemp *Board member*
- Reed Schofield *Board member*
- Rod Sonnenberg *Board member*

BOARD OF ELDERS

Provides spiritual guidance and oversight to the pastoral staff and ministries

- Jim Stokoe *Chairperson*
- Sharon Bitzer *Member*
- Tony Kurian *Member*
- Anita Schimke *Member*
- Phil Switzer *Member*

PASTORAL STAFF

- George Lutzer *Lead Pastor*
- Egbert Lubek *Discipleship Pastor*
- LuAnne Birkholz *Children's Pastor*
- Craig Robertson *Youth Pastor*
- Dan Schultz *Athletics/Community Service Pastor*

SUPPORTING STAFF

- Lucy Grenke *Director of Operations*
- Gaylene Beach *Director of Media/Production*
- Heidi Belter *Women's Bible Studies*
- Angie Depner *Office Administrator*
- Olga Dyck *Custodial Team*
- Katja Niessen *Custodial Team*
- Wally Niessen *Custodial Team*
- Adria Switzer *Music Director/Program Assistant*
- Joy Verner *Children's Ministries Assistant*



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