

Pastor Larry Richardson
2016 Annual report

We, Pastor Norma and I, have now completed our first full year as your interim pastors and both of us are grateful and honored to serve you. Pastor Norma and I divided up our duties so that she gets all the difficult tasks and I get all the easy ones. A brilliant division of labor! She has worked diligently with the council and commissions as well as bringing the congregational records up to date, revising the constitution, and working to streamline the accounting process. And much more.

I am responsible for the Monday morning adult bible study, confirmation, follow up on inactive members, the Bread of Life home communion program, assisting Stephen Ministry, visits, calls, and other miscellaneous tasks that Pastor Norma assigns me from time to time. And I get to share the joy of leading worship, presiding over Holy Communion and preaching.

The year has gone by quickly and, although I have enjoyed everything I have done, the highlight for me has been teaching confirmation. This congregation has a highly intelligent and faithful class of confirmands and confirmation parents and your confirmation lay leaders are dedicated and skilled. In fact, I have taught confirmation students for nearly 40 years and this class, and the one last year, have been my most gratifying classes by far. There have been some past classes that compared favorably, but none better. (And, of course, I've had some classes that made me consider early retirement or murder, but that's another story and probably not one that belongs in an annual report.)

My personal observations over this past year have reinforced my initial thoughts regarding Grace Lutheran Church: This is a congregation of great faith and commitment and one that has been, and still is, truly blessed by God. I look forward to our next few months with you and sharing the joy you will experience when you welcome your new pastor.

Pastor Larry Richardson