



**NEW  
HEIGHTS**  
CHURCH

# 2025 IMPACT REPORT



LOVE GOD | LOVE NEIGHBOR | GROW DISCIPLES



### Our Mission

Our Mission is our purpose as a community of Christ followers. It reminds us why we exist and what we are called to do.

**LOVE GOD,  
LOVE NEIGHBOR,  
GROW DISCIPLES**

### Our Vision

Our vision is the God-given dream that shows us who we are becoming as God's people.

**A CROSS GENERATIONAL FAITH FAMILY.** We believe that a healthy and vibrant faith community includes and connects people of all ages. New Heights seeks to be a community centered on Jesus, where each generation takes an active role in teaching and sharing the faith across generational lines. Together we are the Body of Christ and the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. It takes all of us actively participating to make this vision a reality.



New Heights Family and Friends,

As we conclude 2025 and look to 2026, we've created this Impact report as a way to document and celebrate all the beautiful and wonderful things God is doing in and through our faith community. And yet, we inhabit a world that pulls on us day after day. It's a world that is polarized and the lines of truth are often blurred or obscured. Many of us feel tired and worn out from ongoing political and cultural wars we experience day after day.

Into our weariness, I hear Jesus' words of invitation:

***“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”***  
- Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

Let us hear and respond to Jesus' invitation to walk and work with him, learning 'the unforced rhythms of grace.' Not only do our souls need this, but the world needs more people who live this way.

It's my prayer that this is an important expression of God's love that people experience at New Heights and The Grove. Through our community resource wing and Serve and Care ministries we see real differences being made in the lives of hurting and suffering people.

Together, as we learn and grow, we see God's work being done and God's Spirit coming to life. The ways that you have given, volunteered, sacrificed, served, loved, taught, and welcomed have created a beautiful tapestry of community life.

As we enter 2026, let us continue to listen for all the ways God is calling us forward, bringing God's Kingdom to life! May we lean into Jesus, finding rest for our souls as we continue to Love God, Love Our Neighbors and Grow Disciples!

Serving and sharing together,

Pastor Rob



# SERVE

Ministry is shared by all who are part of this faith community.

Serve and Care Ministries are a primary way our shared ministry is lived out. We share our gifts to address the social, economic, emotional, and spiritual needs in our community and around the world. Ministry is a way to put faith into action for the benefit of the church and wider community.



"I love that I get to be part of something here, something huge. I get to do my part next to awesome people, and God does the rest!"

- Youth Ministry Volunteer

**14** GUESTS PARTICIPATED IN ONE OF OUR GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS, PROVIDED BY DEACON FRANCINE RASK



**153** MISSION PARTNERS VOLUNTEERED REGULARLY FOR TEAMS, TASK FORCES, AND PROGRAMS.



**28** PRAYER & BAPTISMAL SHAWLS WERE GIVEN OUT IN 2025.



**HU** HEIGHTS UNLIMITED

The end of the year saw an increase in people utilizing Heights Unlimited.

- **1281 meals in the parks** in Black Earth and Mazomanie served to children over 12 weeks in the summer
- **155 households** per month received food and clothing
- **73,000 lbs of food** distributed
- **108 volunteers** served over **4,500 hours** in 2025
- **Backpack Buddies** served **39 children** each weekend during the school term

Partnerships:

- Porchlight for Rental Assistance
- Neighbor in Need for household goods

"The clothing is so nice, and helps us so much. Thank you so much for providing this!"

## In the World



**87** PERSONAL CARE KITS SENT TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF FOR DISTRIBUTION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.



**"CELEBRATE RECOVERY"**

CONTINUED SUPPORTING OVER 20 INDIVIDUALS ON THEIR JOURNEY TOWARDS HEALING

**142**

CHILDREN RECEIVED CHRISTMAS GIFTS THROUGH THE WISCONSIN HEIGHTS SHARING TREE.



## Trunk or Treat

**670+** COMMUNITY-WIDE PARTICIPANTS  
**70+** VOLUNTEERS



**100**

MISSION QUILTS SENT TO LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF FOR DISTRIBUTION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.



WINTER CLOTHING & BLANKETS DONATED TO THE MADISON AREA JAIL MINISTRY

## Changed People Change Lives!

Opportunities continue to expand for all ages to grow and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to become more and more of who God has created us to be.

## CHILDREN MINISTRIES

Through a small ELCA Ministry with Children Grant, we added sturdy outdoor children's benches, outdoor "tree-stump" cushions, outdoor art easels (made by a Mission Partner), and new murals in the upstairs Children's Canopy hallway. We also offered parenting resources, including a Love & Logic class, an Online Safety for Our Kids training, and a three-part Building Our Foundation on a Rock parenting series. We help children engage with worship through hands-on tools that invite them into the rhythms of the church year. Families participated through Advent Sticker books, Holy Week Boxes, and Maundy Thursday/Good Friday storybooks.



# 110

**CHILDREN**, INCLUDING 22 NEW FAMILIES, LEARN AND GROW THROUGH FFN PROGRAMMING

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

**High School Youth Group Continues Growing!**  
Includes dinner, HU food packing, large group learning, and small groups!

**30 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS** ATTENDING WEEKLY, WITH **12 ADULT MENTORS**

**35 CONFIRMATION STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS** GROWING DURING FFN



"Wednesdays are the best day of the week! There's Homework & Hangout, then FFN!"



# SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## PARENT'S DAY OUT

**53 CHILDREN WITH 45 YOUTH / YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS**

"When I get bigger I am going to be a Family Faith Night Teacher and a VBS counselor just like the big kids!"  
- VBS participant

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**66 SENIOR HIGH, YOUNG ADULT, AND JUNIOR COUNSELORS**, CREATED, HOSTED, AND FACILITATED

**128 CHILDREN PARTICIPATED** (INCLUDING 26 TOTS)



## RETREATS

**38 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED** IN THE FIRST YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP

**32 HIGH SCHOOLERS AND 30 MIDDLE SCHOOLERS** ATTENDED RETREATS

**23 ADULTS PARTICIPATED** IN THE WINTER RETREAT



Family Faith Night continues to be a meaningful weekly gathering, welcoming over 140 guests for dinner, engaging children and adults in age-based faith development, and creating space for small-group connection and support at every life stage.

**74 VOLUNTEERS** (TEACHERS, MEAL VOLUNTEERS, AND SMALL GROUP LEADERS) MAKE MINISTRY HAPPEN EACH WEEK!

**36 HIGH SCHOOLERS** ACTIVELY SERVING AS TEACHERS AND CLASSROOM HELPERS!

## ADULT MINISTRIES



**ADULTS ATTENDING 8 SMALL GROUPS**

# 89



# WORSHIP

## ENGAGING, FAMILY-FRIENDLY, SPIRIT-FILLED

In worship we connect with God deeply, and are drawn to God's presence through music, prayer, and Spirit-filled teaching.



# 50+

**PARTICIPANTS**  
GATHERED FOR THE  
ANNUAL "O COME  
LET US ADORE HIM"  
WOMEN'S RETREAT



## First Youth Led Worship

# 20

**HS YOUTH** LED THE CONGREGATION FOR ALL 3 SUNDAY SERVICES IN FEBRUARY! STUDENTS HELPED ON VOLUNTEER TEAMS, PLAYED THE WORSHIP MUSIC, AND LED UP FRONT!



## New Mission Partners in 2025:

# 42 INDIVIDUALS 13 HOUSEHOLDS

Plus 9 Mission Partners by baptism/dedication

## Sunday Worship

# 307



**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE** WITH **251** IN-PERSON, **56** ONLINE



## First Outdoor Worship Service

OUR FIRST OUTDOOR WORSHIP WAS A CELEBRATION OF OUR NEW COURTYARD SPACE!

**3 MISSION PARTNERS** SHARED THEIR FAITH STORIES FOR WORSHIP

**8 WORSHIP LIFE TEAMS** FAITHFULLY SERVED EACH SUNDAY

# 519

GATHERED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER PROVIDED WEEKLY FOR ACTIVE DHH WORSHIP ATTENDEES





In 2025, The Grove continued to grow as a vibrant, well-used community space. We celebrated the addition of a new courtyard, the refinishing of the gym floor, and improvements to our front sidewalk entry, making it drive-up and wheelchair accessible. Programs continued to thrive, facility rentals reached new highs, and more and more individuals and groups chose The Grove as a place to gather, connect, and thrive.

# Moments That Made 2025!



14



VARYING PROGRAM OFFERINGS WERE CONTINUED OR LAUNCHED FOR THE FIRST TIME

50+ RENTALS WERE HELD ON CAMPUS



\$16,000

WAS RAISED THROUGH GRANTS AND GENEROUS COMMUNITY DONATIONS TO REFURBISH OUR WELL-USED GYM FLOOR.

Thanks to the generosity of Steve Olson, our Courtyard was completed in Summer of 2025.

Over 300 people gathered for our Courtyard Celebration, marking the opening of this new community resource!

**WHAT A BEAUTIFUL CHURCH!** We, God's people, are the Church - thank you for showing up, serving, and growing with us in 2025. As we look ahead to 2026, we do so with gratitude for what God has done among us and anticipation for what is still to come.



OUR FRONT ENTRY WAS REDONE TO INCLUDE A DRIVE UP AND WHEEL CHAIR ACCESS.

## THE GROVE'S MISSION STATEMENT:

A place and space where people: **GATHER, CONNECT, AND THRIVE**



## MISSION STATEMENT:

To inspire children to live with confidence, learn with curiosity, and love with purpose.

NHNK TOOK ITS FIRST BIG STEPS IN 2025, BECOMING FULLY LICENSED AND OFFICIALLY WELCOMING CHILDREN INTO THEIR PROGRAMS.



16



CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN AFTER SCHOOL CARE



3

STAFF HIRED AND TRAINED, READY TO CARE FOR KIDDOS WITH LOVE!

CHILDREN ALREADY ENROLLED FOR SUMMER CARE!

27



**PRESCHOOL PROGRAM LAUNCHED, PROVIDING HANDS-ON LEARNING FOR SOME OF OUR LITTLEST ONES!**

9

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN 3-4YR. CARE



AS THEIR FIRST YEAR OF OPERATION, IT LAID A STRONG FOUNDATION, WITH GROWTH IN ENROLLMENT AND PLANS ALREADY UNDERWAY TO EXPAND AGE GROUPS AND CAPACITY NEXT YEAR.

As New Heights continues to grow and fulfill God's Mission, **your gifts to God's work here are essential** for the health and vitality of our ministry together.

Most importantly, we are able to directly **impact** the lives of hundreds of people of **all** ages in our community. We couldn't do this without you!



YOU CAN GIVE ELECTRONICALLY ON OUR WEBSITE OR USE THE VANCO MOBILE APP



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CONNECT WITH US



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