



GRACE GATHERINGS

FEB 2012

Volume X Issue 2

GRACE GATHERINGS IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION
OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, CORVALLIS, OREGON 97330

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Grace Lutheran Church is a
"Reconciling in Christ"
congregation, welcoming gay and
lesbian believers to become
members and to share in the
sacramental and general life of
this congregation.
We affirm that we welcome all
persons regardless of race,
gender, sexual orientation, age or
national origin.



Our VISION is
"to be a Christ-centered
Community who
welcomes all, grows in
faith, and reaches out
in love."



Our MISSION is
"to follow Christ into our
community and world
manifesting with caring
hearts and helping hands
the good news of the
Kingdom of God."



Mardi Gras Dinner & Silent Auction

February 18th 2012 6-9pm

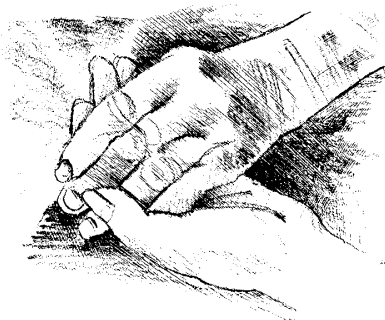
Ronnenkamp Hall

Please join us for an evening of laughter, music, friendship and great food! Jambalaya, Blackened Chicken, Shrimp Canapés are just a few of the menu items! Tickets are available for \$25 per person, contact Todd Weber at 541-757-1812. Proceeds will benefit our youth's trip to New Orleans for the ELCA National Youth Gathering July 18th-22nd.



2012 ELCA Youth Gathering
citizens with the saints
Ephesians 2:14-20

Community of Grace



This prayer list is a compilation of the prayer requests we have received at Grace from December 8, 2011 – January 13, 2012. For a more timely update to the prayers, send your email address to prayers@grace97330.org, and ask to be part of the prayer list.

Pray for Erik Leklem's safety in Afghanistan and discernment and patience in his work.

Pray for Gloria Wegelt who strained her back and is having a tough time getting around.

Prayers of healing are requested for Kristie McLeod, a former member of Grace and friend of Cathy and Jeff Mueller, who lives in Chandler AZ. She had surgery for an aneurysm and is recovering.

Margie Kinch requests prayers to give her strength in dealing with some parental issues.

Keep Marilyn Walsh in your prayers as she recovers from a staph infection in her knee.

Keep Grace member, Orano Grindahl, in your prayers as he is experiencing some health concerns.

Marilyn Lesmeister's step father, Elmer Weiss, died 12-30-11 in North Dakota. Please keep Marilyn's mother, Irene, Marilyn & Jeff and all their family in your prayers.

Pray for Ruth Alexander recovering from brain surgery to remove a tumor and for decisions and procedures related to her follow-up treatment.

Sue Speulda requests prayers for her youngest sister, Ellen, who had a very bad year in 2011 with eye and back surgery, home underwater and in foreclosure (although they received a loan modification in October) and other health problems. She lost her job at the beginning of December, again putting them at risk of losing their home, and was

recently diagnosed with shingles. Pray that Ellen and her family can stay strong as a family and in their faith during these extremely trying times.

Pray for Dave and Carol Triebes and their family on the death of Dave's brother Steve

Continue to keep Mary Jane Weber in your prayers. She is recovering from a medical procedure performed at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

Keep Ron & Marilyn Walsh in your prayers, Ron had surgery January 13th.

Prayers of thanksgiving:

Please offer prayers of thanksgiving for Karen Guzman. The third scan showed that no additional bleeding in the head has occurred, and the existing blood accumulation within the head has begun to dissolve and be absorbed into the skin. Please pray for continued recuperation from the head injury and a return to a normal daily routine. We are also thankful for the many members of Grace who have showered us with flowers and cards on our 45th wedding anniversary. Continue to pray for Karen who now attends Grace Center five days a week and also receives palliative care at home from Hospice due to the progression of Parkinson's and dementia.

Continue prayers of healing and **thanksgiving** for Kristie McLeod. The doctor and nurses are calling her a Christmas miracle.

From Jim and Donna Wernz:
Our new grand-daughter has arrived!!



Sophia Renee' Hinshaw
Born December 12, 2011
at Overlake Hospital, Bellevue Washington
8:28 am
8 lb. 1 oz.— 20 inches
Thank you Lord for this blessing.

A gigantic thank you to the caring and generous people of Grace for their many and thoughtful gifts for **House of Zion**. They were received with deep gratitude.

Community of Grace

All Members and Friends of Grace!

Our next Pizza Potluck is on Feb. 12th in the Ronnenkamp Hall after the 11:00 service. We'd like to invite you to a time of Food, Fellowship, and Fun at our intergenerational Pizza Potlucks! We invite all of our church family and friends for an old-fashioned potluck, only with a generational twist of pizza being the main course! Please sign up on the sign up sheet at church if you are planning to attend so that we can order the correct number of pizzas. The cost is \$4 per person/\$10 per family or a free will offering. We also ask that you bring a side-dish or dessert to share. Drinks and table service will be provided. Come and connect with our church family!



A Thank You

"Thank you for helping me get compression stockings. In a world that is so troubled, you surely are a light. A Blessed New Year the whole year through."

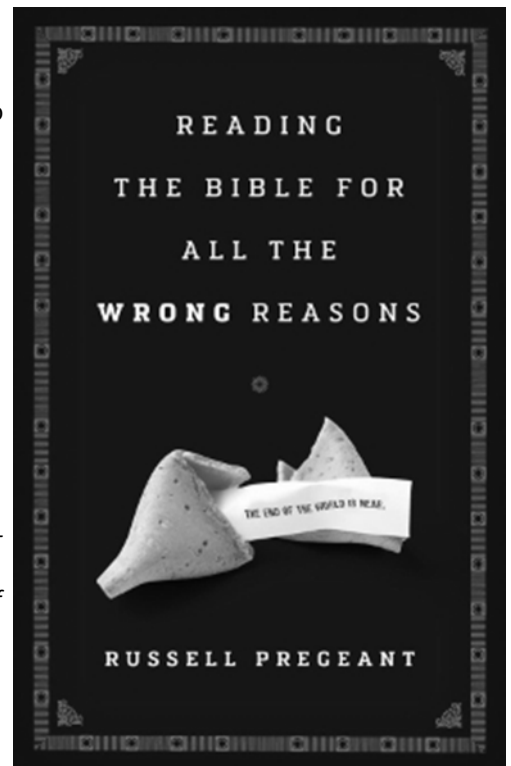
This note came from a person whom we helped through the Ida Irgens-Moller Fund. Ida was a member of our congregation who sought to help those in need in our community. If you would like to contribute to help others, make a check out to Grace Lutheran and write "Ida Fund" in the memo line. You may place it in the Sunday offering plate. There is a plaque in her honor in the Fireside Room by the children's table for Ida also loved children.

Musical Instruments Needed

Do you have a musical instrument that you are not using? Please put it to good use! Pr. Belle Mickelson has a unique ministry to 18 Native villages in Alaska. She was called to use music to counter the extraordinarily rate of hopelessness and suicide in the remote villages. An incredible bluegrass fiddler, Pr. Belle and her son teach children, adolescents, and adults to create music and celebrate life. They work through schools, the church, and village councils. Please email sharon.rosenkoetter@oregonstate.edu if you have an instrument to donate. Anything from a harmonica to a cello is welcome.

Join the GRACE READS Challenge!

Every member of Grace is challenged to read the book, *Reading the Bible for all the Wrong Reasons*, by Russell Pregeant this month. If you accept this challenge, be prepared to have your approach to the Bible refreshed, renewed, or even radically transformed. Here's what one reader says about this book: "In this thoughtful and accessible book, Russell Pregeant engages important questions about reading the Bible. He tackles tough contemporary issues ranging from biblical authority to care for the earth, from the rapture to evolution, from sexual and gender issues to the nature of salvation and the doing of ethics. What emerges is the contribution of the Bible to a compelling vision of the common good and of a just life lived in relation to a gracious God." — Warren Carter, Professor of New Testament, Brite Divinity School



The Tuesday Bible Study group is now engaged in a chapter by chapter study of this book. You are welcome to join them at any time. **If unavailable on Tuesdays at 1 p.m.**, however, you are invited to consider the possibility of attending one of two book discussions to share your reflections and insights in response to reading this text. The first will take place on **Saturday, March 3rd from 10:00-11:30 a.m.** The second will be held on **Thursday, March 1 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

There are a couple of ways you can acquire a copy of this book. Leave your name in the church office or with Pr. Netsie, and she will see that you get a copy. If you are able to reimburse us for the cost, great. If not, donate whatever you're able. The cost of the book is approximately \$12. If you have abandoned paper books for electronic ones, an electronic copy is also available for \$9.99 for your Kindle, Nook, I-Pad, Droid Phone or I-Phone.

February Schedule for Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday Bible Study group meets in the Fireside Room from 1:00-2:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. Consider joining us. Below is our February schedule.

February 7

Neither Fact Book nor Catechism: Rethinking Biblical Authority, pp. 21-34, *Reading the Bible for all the Wrong Reasons (RBWR)*

February 14

Neither Science nor Anti-Science: Genesis, Geology, the Big Bang, and Darwin, pp. 35-50, *RBWR*

February 21

Neither Crystal Ball nor Horror Show: Understanding Biblical Prophecy, pp. 51-62, *RBWR*

February 28

Neither Rigid Rule nor Billy Club: The Nature of Biblical Ethics, pp. 63-83, *RBWR*

Ways to Engage and Be Engaged by the Bible



Pastor's Days Off:

Pastor Wendell's Day Off – Tuesday

Pastor Netsie's Day Off – Thursday

Pastors' Joint Day Off – Friday

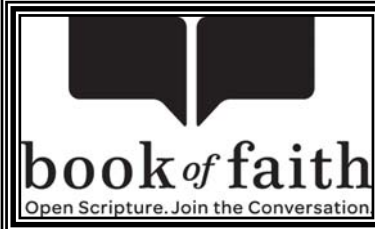


**November Staff meeting on
Wednesday, FEB 1 at 12 noon!**

Fireside Room

Paid and unpaid staff will meet with pastors.

*Agenda topics for discussion should be left at the
office with Cindy Lee at 541.757.1600 or
office@grace97330.org.*



In 2008, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) launched the *Bible: Book of Faith* initiative, a five year collaborative effort leading up to the ELCA's 25th anniversary in 2012. It sprang from a resolution of the 2007 Churchwide Assembly which stated such an initiative should have the "... goal of raising to a new level this church's individual and collec-

tive engagement with the Bible and its teaching, yielding greater biblical fluency and a more profound appreciation of Lutheran principles and approaches for the use of Scripture." The Lutheran Study Bible utilized by many of the members of the Tuesday Bible Study group as well as others was one product of this initiative. The workbook we used last fall for our study of Genesis was yet another resource sparked by this initiative.

As we think of our individual and collective engagement of the Bible here at Grace, what are some of the things that come to mind? Here are some that come to my mind:

- ◆ Last month we presented Bibles to our 3rd graders. The Bibles we present to our children are not just any, old Bible, but the *Hands-On Bible* with great, elementary student appeal. These Bibles have lots of activities, graphics, charts, color and character accompanying the biblical text to engage the minds and imaginations of our children. Once the Bibles are presented, the recipients are also given some challenge exercises to help introduce them to the potential of this new gift and how to begin making good use of it right away.
- ◆ Groups of people of all ages gather for the purpose of studying the Bible, specifically on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Tuesday afternoon. In the process of dialogue, reflection, interaction with the text and with one another, we engage and are engaged by scripture in ways impossible when studying the Bible as an individual. On the other hand, individual study of the Bible strengthens the contributions one is able to make when joining a group study. Both are important.
- ◆ Worship, the prayer of the day, the hymns and songs we sing spring from and are inspired by the biblical texts of the day. Through it all, the Holy Spirit points to the good news of God's love, forgiveness and renewal made possible by Jesus, the Christ. Music, liturgy, sacrament, and prayer are all elements of worship through which we might engage and be engaged by scripture.
- ◆ Scripture is shared as a source of comfort and strength during hospital visits, home visits, and over coffee (sometimes even over beer).
- ◆ This past year, our church council has begun each meeting with a devotional reflection on a passage from Ephesians.
- ◆ As a member of Grace, you have been presented with a *Grace Reads Challenge* (see more information elsewhere in this newsletter). It's a challenge for every member of Grace to read the book, *Reading the Bible for all the Wrong Reasons*, so that we might have a collective experience of reflecting on how it is that we read the Bible and why that matters.

What comes to your mind when you think of how the Bible engages and is engaged at Grace?

A statement on the Book of Faith website (www.bookoffaith.org) reminds us that "*Many . . . are biblically illiterate, unsure of how to engage Scripture. Many . . . are unaware of the rich Lutheran insights that have been helpful in understanding the many ways that God engages us through the Bible. The challenge of Book of Faith is to address these realities directly and to experience more fully the power of the Word.*" So, may we continue to engage the living Bible and be engaged by the Bible in ever new and meaningful ways here at Grace.

My offering of words for the biblical Word, Pastor Netsie

Groundhog Day



Clip art © by Dixie Allan,
<http://webclipart.about.com>

There is a text for February 2, Luke 2: 22-40. It is the story of Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to the temple forty days after he was born. February 2, Groundhog Day, is forty days after December 25. It's also called the Presentation. The Bible account is quite full of many details, but as I looked at this text again, I was struck by the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph. Even though they were brand new parents, they took time to provide a faith context for their new baby. I think their example provides a good opportunity for parents and grandparents to reflect on this young family and consider how they themselves might provide a spiritual context for their own children and grandchildren. For that matter, aunts, uncles, godparents, and other family members can do the same.



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Pastor Netsie Griffith

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Contact Information:

Pastor Wendell Hendershott

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Corvallis OR 97330

In our busy lives, there are lots of demands that are put on parents and grandparents. It would be very easy to let those demands obscure the faith dimension of life, by the sheer number of things we try to pay attention to. Yet Mary and Joseph were busy people too. Remember they were some distance from their home in Nazareth and Bethlehem, where they stayed, was a six mile walk from the Temple in Jerusalem. Still they made the effort. It probably wasn't easy, but they made the Temple visit their priority.

One of the things that made it natural for Mary and Joseph to take Jesus to the Temple was that they were aware of their own need for spiritual nourishment. It wasn't only about Jesus, it was about their own need for God as well. As such, they themselves were active in their Jewish faith. It sounds quite probable they also had family nearby who helped them and supported them in these things as well. By attending to our own faith we can help our families in their own faith practices. Families are always complex, however, and the way we share our faith with our family has to be done with love, kindness, humility and respect.

Sometimes we are separated from our families by miles and time zones. Yet there are still ways we can communicate. A letter is a rare commodity these days, but young people still like to get mail with a stamp on it. A confirmation date or baptismal anniversary is a natural time to send something, yet something might be sent for no special reason at all, just because we care for someone. It might be a letter or a simple card. It might have a small gift or faith reminder. It might just be a post card. Since I went away to college, my own mother has always sent letters throughout the years, she just sits down every once in a while and writes a letter. Lately she's been including a blessing as part of the conclusion, "The Lord bless and keep you!" I like that.

We can also take advantage of all the new media opportunities and there're so many of them: email, facebook, twitter, text messaging to begin with and more things are being developed every day. The trick is to find out how your kids and grandkids like to communicate and learn how to do it yourself. Sometimes we wonder what we might say. Quoting a favorite Bible verse is always an option. So is including a line from a hymn or song or Christian poetry.

The trick to it all is to keep our own faith connections alive so that things are genuine. The way to do that is to keep in touch with others in your life who are faithful people as well. That is one of the things that this community of Grace is called to do, to be a faithful witness to the goodness of God in Jesus Christ. We reach out to others in loving and supportive ways so that we may be there for each other. When that happens, and it does, then we build a community of faith that supports and builds up all our relationships: family, friendships, church, community and world.

Look to the example of Mary and Joseph this Groundhog Day. Remember that they cared for their son's spiritual connections. Then, go and do the same. You might even send them a card *this* Groundhog Day.

By Pastor Wendell Hendershott

Congregational Council Meeting Minutes



Executive Committee Members

President: Mary Ann Brenan

Vice President: Kathy Vohland

Secretary: Ron Walsh

Interim Treasurer: Hal Brauner

Minutes of Council Meeting

held January 9, 2012

Attendance: Max Power, Iona Trapp, Carol Warloe, Becky Kiersky, Pr. Netsie Griffith, Jim Leklem, Dcs. Donna King, Kathy Vohland, Rick Osborn, Ron Walsh, Pr. Wendell Hendershott, Anne Orwick, Mary Ann Brenan, Hal Brauner, Michael Beachley. Excused: Sharon Rosenkoetter

Opening devotion was Ephesians 6: 1-10.

Treasurer's report. Accepted. Including 2011 shortfall and the expected 2012 income, there is about a \$24,000 shortfall to meet obligations for 2012. Attendance figures for 2011 show an average weekly attendance of 158.

Finance committee report: accepted.

Motion 1: That the budget presented to the congregation at the annual meeting should note that an additional \$10/month per giving unit will balance the proposed budget. Carried.

Nominations committee: a list of potential candidates was presented.

Council retreat: will be held at Luther House Friday evening March 9 and Saturday March 10. Kathy Vohland will be council liaison to the retreat.

Annual Meeting:

Motion 2: that each council member supply 12 sandwiches for lunch after the 11 a.m. service and prior to the 1 p.m. annual meeting. Carried.

April Council meeting: will be Tuesday April 10, 2012.

Fundraisers: Because of a number of fundraisers scheduled, a Valentines fundraiser requested for Grace Center was deferred to the future. It was suggested that a request go the Grace Foundation.

Retiring council members Becky Kiersky, Kathy Vohland and Sharon Rosenkoetter were thanked for their service.

Pastors Report:

Pr. Netsie On Saturday February 25 and Thursday March 1 there will be a discussion of the book *Reading the Bible for All the Wrong Reasons* by Russell Pregeant.

Pr. Wendell Pastoral Counseling Center will be here in March.

Property report: Some yard equipment needs to be replaced.

Discipling Ministries report: February 12 is Friendship Sunday at Grace.

Respectfully submitted – Ron Walsh – Secretary

Council Members for 2011

Michael Beachley

Becky Kiersky

Jim Leklem

Anne Orwick

Rick Osborn

Max Power

Sharon Rosenkoetter

Carol Warloe

Iona Trapp

Season Begins



Ash Wednesday: February 22, 2012

We want you to be aware that Lent begins February 22 this year with Ash Wednesday. Last year the Worship and Music Committee had plenty of time to plan for it, because it began in March. This year, because Lent is earlier, the plans are a little more sketchy, but we have decided to have both evening and daytime Lenten Services again this year. (see the article on Daytime Lenten Services) We have also decided to continue our practice of beginning Lent with the Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes. The ashes remind us of our connection with the earth and are a sign of the great damage and cost of sin to humanity.

There will be two services on Ash Wednesday at 12:30 and 7:00 p.m. Because of the solemn nature of the day, we will not have a soup supper that night. On the Wednesdays after Ash Wednesday, we have often had a light soup supper preceding the Lenten Worship time, though final plans for that have not been solidified as of the writing of this article. Keep watching the bulletin, webpage and ListSERV for more information about those.

Daytime Lenten Services

This year we will again be having Daytime Lenten Services. It worked very well last Lent and we want to provide an opportunity for those who do not like to drive at night to come to a Lenten Service.

This year Lent begins on February 22, which is Ash Wednesday. There will be two services that Wednesday, at 12:30 and 7:00 p.m. Both services will feature imposition of ashes. After Ash Wednesday, we will move the daytime service to Tuesdays, so that it may coincide with the Tuesday Bible Study. Each Tuesday Lenten Service will begin at 12:30 pm as they did last year. Some may want to go to the Lenten Service and then stay for the Bible Study while others will go home.

The Daytime Lenten Service is a little different than the evening service, but some of the things will be the same as well. There will be Scripture, music and a short inspirational message. We hope you can attend.

Prayer in Everyday Life

Pastor Wendell Hendershott will present a class on Prayer this coming spring. There will be three classes offered, each on a different aspect of prayer. We will explore such topics as: the role of healing prayer and prayer candles here at Grace Lutheran. We'll also try to answer some questions about prayer: Isn't prayer just a waste of time? Does God really hear our prayers? Do our prayers change God's mind? How can someone develop a meaningful prayer practice? Each session will be a stand-alone presentation, so you don't have to attend them all to plug into or out of a class.

The sessions are being scheduled for Ronnenkamp Hall during the 9:45 education hour. The dates have been chosen, but may change so we won't clutter your calendar with something that might change. At this point we are planning to begin the middle of April and continue into May. In keeping with the independent topics on the theme, the classes won't be held on consecutive Sundays, instead, they will be interspersed with other adult and intergenerational offerings. Stay tuned for more information.

Jump In!



Nothing of any consequence happens at Grace unless someone like you decides to make it happen. **JUMP IN! be the difference.** Great things are a series of small things brought together with flair, passion, precision and care. Our church community is really a sum of its parts. Deciding to be a part of our church community is a choice each of us makes. And the sum of those decisions is the difference we make. **JUMP IN! be the difference.** No one else can contribute your unique combinations of talents, energy, insights and ideas. What you do does make a difference. **JUMP IN! be the difference.** This monthly column will celebrate the people who make the difference at Grace—acknowledging the people who often do so much, with so little, for so long. Thank you! for **JUMPING IN! to be the difference!** **ANYONE** can submit a name and describe how that person made a difference at Grace for inclusion in the newsletter. Send contribution by email to: office@grace97330.org, RE **JUMP IN**

Guatemala Mission— Faith in Practice

Many of you may recognize **Jenny Olsen** as an energetic Sunday School teacher, Kid's Garden assistant, and enthusiastic worship participant. You may know her as a caring Family Practice doctor in Albany. Did you also know she is headed to Guatemala again this year in April?

You probably often see **Linda Samuels** helping with Altar Guild, making coffee or washing dishes for various events, and even vacuuming the floors of Grace sometimes. She will be traveling with Jenny in April.

Jenny is going on her third Faith in Practice (FIP) mission trip as a physician and **Linda** is going on her sixth trip as a pharmacist. They will be traveling to Guatemala to serve on a village team providing medical and dental care to over 2000 people in four days. Their work will be to treat the people in remote villages for acute problems and to screen for needed extensive treatment and surgery. Not only does FIP provide health care but they also train local people to help improve the health of their neighbors and to build and improve local medical clinics in the outlying areas of the country. In addition, they support Casa de Fe (the Guatemalan Ronald McDonald House) of Antigua where families and post-surgery patients can stay before their long trips back to their villages. Some of this year's Grace Fair Trade Fair funds are going to help this ministry.

As in past years, Linda and Jenny really need your prayers and positive thoughts to support them in this venture. And although team members will be paying for their own trips, the mission of Faith In Practice has many additional expenses that are necessary to ensure that each volunteer team has the medicines, supplies, equipment, transportation, housing, and patients for a productive and successful mission trip. It takes a lot of work beforehand by the FIP staff and local people to make these mission trips happen.

Donations, if you are able, can be made online at faithinpractice.org (click Donate Now, then choose Share the Mission). They will be Trip #321 (village Robinson). Jenny is ID#24223 and Linda is ID#12558. Checks can also be mailed to Faith in Practice, PO Box 4976, Houston TX 77210-4976. Please put the ID# on the check so they can thank you personally.

For more information, visit faithinpractice.org— the General Information video is a great presentation and look for pictures and blog of Trip #321 in April!



Keeping folks informed on the latest goings on, stopping those ugly rumors that raise their heads, and sharing the latest insights is the focus of this column. Questions are welcomed relating to confusion, frustrations, and comments. Look no further than *right here* every month for answers. Send questions to office@grace97330.com, RE: Ask Miz Gracie

Ask Miz Gracie



Q. Why does the church always look so good on Sunday mornings? How does that happen?

A. I am so so so glad you asked that question! Have you noticed listings for Altar Guild in the bulletin on Sundays? This is a group of people who help the pastors get things ready for our services every Sunday morning.

Here is more fancy information:

The Ministry of the Altar Guild

excerpts taken from S. Anita Stauffer's [Altar Guild Handbook](#)

"In response to all of God's mighty acts, we are called to offer ourselves to God's service. The basic motivation for serving in the altar guild – or in any other work of the church – is gratitude.

Members of the altar guild are grateful servants: servants of God, servants of God's people, servants of the liturgy, and servants of the worship space.

Joy is the cardinal attribute of the **servants of God**. Whether it is preparing the altar, polishing vessels, removing wax from linens, arranging flowers, or pressing vestments, the work is never a burden but is always a privilege."

I could add to this list of joyful tasks decorating the church and sanctuary for special seasons like Christmas and Easter, working with the wonderful acolytes we have in our church, making sure all the candles are ready to do their job, and helping the pastors be ready to do exciting things during our worship.

Q. Can I help get the church ready for Sundays and special celebrations?

A. Another excellent question! Yes, of course you can help—in whatever way you are able. Watch for notices of work parties—like last summer when we organized and repaired the Christmas tree decorations.

If you would like to see what goes on behind the scenes on Sunday morning, just talk to someone on Altar Guild. Linda Samuels and Sandy Beachley help keep things organized but whoever is there on Sunday could assist you. Everyone is welcome to join us—we could really use some more help. It is truly a joyful privilege to help the church in this way.

Women's Homeless Shelter

Help Wanted!

Are you willing to humble yourself to be a servant to one of the lowest classes in our society? Can you spare an evening or a night to ensure those that have none can sleep in a bed, warm and indoors?

Corvallis Women's Homeless Shelter opened in November and will stay open until the end of March. We have heard your cry to serve homeless women in the community and we have responded. Now, we need you to keep this shelter open! Grace has volunteered to staff the Women's Shelter located at Nazarene Church in Lewisburg from **Sunday, February 19 through Saturday, February 25.**

There are a lot of hours to cover and either a lot of people volunteer some of the time or only some people volunteer a lot of time. I hope and pray for the former. At the women's shelter there are two shifts, one from 5:45 to 11 and one from 11 to 7:30. That is 35 opportunities for the Women's shelter.

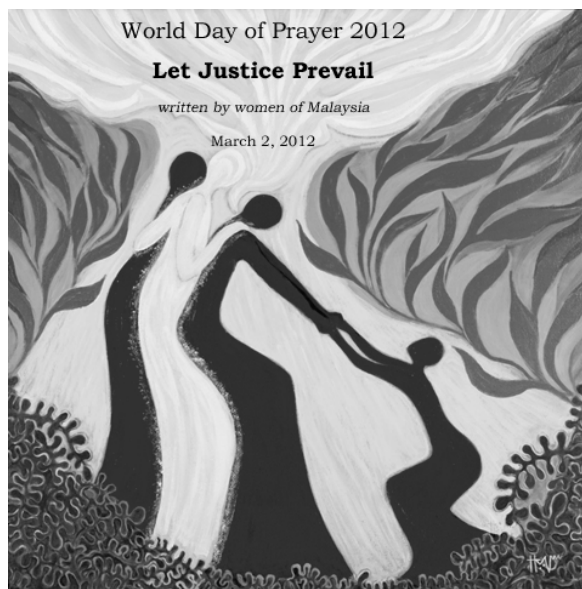


Kathy Vohland is coordinating for the Women's Shelter. Please contact Kathy at church or call Kathy at 541-738-0390. A sign-up sheet will be located in the Fireside Room. Look for the displays in the Fireside Room.

Mark Your Calendars . . .

World Day of Prayer Event

You are invited to a World Day of Prayer observance on Friday, March 2, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 4515 SW West Hills Road, Corvallis, OR 97330. Following the program, we invite you to stay for snacks and fellowship.



The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. The Women's World Day of Prayer started in the USA in 1884.

- It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration – the first Friday of March – to which all people are welcome. It is a movement which brings together women of various races, cultures and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. (source: World Day of Prayer USA)

This year's theme is **Let Justice Prevail** written by women of Malaysia. *As we prepare for World Day of Prayer 2012, we are reminded by the women of Malaysia that in the midst of diversity, it takes courage, compassion and active engagement for justice to prevail. In their context, they are aware of opportunities for discord and injustice and say, "We are continuously learning to tolerate, understand and accept one another." Therefore, they begin the 2012 worship service with "Selamat datang"—"Peace and welcome." This greeting is a reminder that harmony as a people is rooted in peace and welcome.* Additional information is available at www.wdpusa.org. There is also a Wikipedia article about its history.

We expect members from First United Methodist Church, Grace Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church, First Christian Church, and First Congregational United Church of Christ to attend. We need a volunteer from each congregation to read brief paragraphs or scriptures. If interested in reading, please contact Pr. Netsie at netsie@grace97330.org or 541-757-1600.

Health and Discipling Ministries

A Prayer for Grace Gatherings

Lord, grant us gentleness of spirit and understanding of heart so that we may enfold Your earth in lasting friendship and eternal peace. Amen

Another little note:

If your troubles are deep seated and of long-standing, try kneeling.

CPR/AED class

with Todd Washington as the instructor

At Grace Lutheran , Saturday February 4 from 9:30 - 11:30am.

Cost will be \$25.00 for Church members. Call Kay Larson 541-752-0754 or Marna Renshaw 541-757-1426 for reservation. Payment can be made the day of the class.

HEALTH HINT

Did you eat some spicy food & now your tongue is burning?

Drink some milk instead of water to get relief. Capsaicin is the potent compound that gives chilies their fiery hotness. Milk contains the protein casein, which helps disengage capsaicin to relieve the discomfort.



3rd Graders Receive Bibles!

Congrats to our 3rd Graders — Aaron Davis, Brooke Donner, Julia Donner, Michael Gallagher, Kaden Graves, Christina Lundahl, Katie Olsen, Kaili Saathoff — who received “Hands on Bibles” on January 22nd and read the lessons for us in worship on January 22nd.

May you be blessed by all the stories you will read!

Feb. 12 is Friendship Sunday!

Kids — bring your friends, this is so much fun!

9:45 am: *Heroes & Sheroes of the Bible!* carnival games & café, in the Basement

12:15 pm: Pizza Potluck, in Ronnenkamp

Feb 12 is “Bread for the World” Info Day

9:45 am in Ronnenkamp Hall

Led by Sharon Rosenkoetter & Jim Leklem

Did you know that Grace is engaged with *Bread for the World*? We pray and learn about hunger, give our resources and time to help end hunger in our community, the nation, and the world. Feb 12 is an opportunity to learn how *Bread for the World* helps us do this, and how it urges our nations leaders to use their influence to end hunger. Come ponder together what our congregations’ “next steps” in the fight against hunger might be.

OSU Lambing Barn Field Trip

Potential Date: Feb 26

Watch for news about our annual field trip to visit the lambs! OSU’s “open dates” for the Lambing Barn aren’t announced as of this writing — so our plans our tentative for now, but we’ve heard that Feb 26 is a likely good date. Watch for more info and plan to join the fun. What better way to ponder all the Good Shepherd does for us!



Up Coming Events



Pastor Netsie Griffith & Pastor Wendell Hendershott

Health Ministers - Kay Larson & Marna Renshaw

Director of Discipling Ministries - Donna King

High School Ministry Director - Todd Weber

Director of Music Director - Ali Schwartz

Organist - Lena Mealy

Custodian - Sarah McKenny

Nursery - Tarah Renshaw

Administrative Assistants - Cindy Lee & Jody Parker

Bookkeeper - Linda Weaver

Prayer Chain—Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens

Grace Gatherings Editor - Kathy Scroggins

If you would like a visitation or to schedule an appointment with a member of the ministerial staff, please call the office at 541.757.1600. Hours are 8-4 weekdays. You are welcome to leave a message on the answering machine after hours at 541.757.1600. Visit our Grace web page at: www.grace97330.org

Pastoral Counseling Center

Anthony Terndrup, Director, 541.753.9217

Campus Ministry at Luther House

Jim Norlie, Pastor, 541.753.5213

Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers

Norma Moody, 541.754.2555



**FEB 15th at noon
for MARCH 2012 newsletter**

office@grace97330.org



Send prayer requests for,
e-mail prayer.chain
to prayers@grace97330.org



22 – 28 JANUARY: Grace staffs Men's Shelter

29 JANUARY: Annual Congregational Meeting, 1:00p, Sanctuary

4 FEBRUARY: CPR/AED Class, 9:30a

5 FEBRUARY: possible Souper Bowl of Sharing

9 FEBRUARY: Women's Luncheon, 11:45a, Old World Deli

12 FEBRUARY: Friendship Sunday, *Bread for the World* Info Day, Pizza Potluck

14 FEBRUARY: Valentine's Day

18 FEBRUARY: Mardi Gras Dinner & Silent Auction

19—25 FEBRUARY: Grace staffs Women's Shelter

22 FEBRUARY: Ash Wednesday, 12:30 and 7p

25 FEBRUARY: GRACE READS discussion group, 10a

(for those not able to come to Tuesday afternoon Bible Study group)

26 FEBRUARY: possible OSU Lambing Barn Field Trip

28 FEBRUARY: Women's Luncheon, 11:45a, New Morning Bakery

1 MARCH: GRACE READS discussion group, 7p

(for those not able to come to Tuesday afternoon Bible Study group)

2 MARCH: 2012 World Day of Prayer

Welcome to the Newest Member of Our Staff

Linda Weaver ended her training period and became our new bookkeeper during the month of January. Formerly employed as Human Resources Manager by the City of Corvallis, she came out of a very short retirement period to accept this part-time position. We are delighted to welcome her to our staff. If you happen to be in the church on Mondays or Wednesdays look for her in the Bookkeeper's Office (or traveling between her office and the main church office) and introduce yourself.

February Birthdays

02/03	Custer, Patrick
02/04	Triebes, David
02/04	Zwang, Bob
02/07	Briskey, Keri
02/07	Hostick, Tobias
02/09	Kelly, Roberta
02/09	Koester, Ardis
02/09	Wernz, Donna
02/11	Vega, Emily
02/12	Beilby, Jon
02/13	Musil, Sue
02/14	Chrostowski, Vivien
02/15	Vigeland, Anna
02/16	Winter, Ameila
02/18	Mesecar, Phyllis
02/19	Zwang, Bonnie
02/20	Beck, Eileen
02/20	Joss, Randall
02/21	Beck, Brenda
02/21	Zeller, Debra
02/21	Boysen, Kerry
02/21	Briskey, Paul
02/23	McEldowney, Anita
02/23	Logan, Toney
02/23	Giblin, Karli
02/24	Koester, Jerrold
02/24	Olsen, Katie
02/25	Werth, Gloria
02/25	Paulson, John
02/25	Donner, Brianna
02/27	Martin, Joy
02/28	McKenney, Sarah
02/28	Milleman, Brandy
02/28	Perry, Michael
02/29	Brown, Madi

Celebrating a



Sheltering Our Souls: Sowing the Seeds of Happiness A Retreat for Women February 24-26, 2012 Camp Magruder



Neuroscience and experiential research have shown that some of us are by nature "happier" and more resilient than others. Apparently we are born with a "set point" of happiness and return to that despite temporary "highs" and "lows". Some of our happiness is, of course, due to external circumstances. There is a growing body of literature, however, that attributes quite a large percentage (up to 40%!) of our happiness to "intentional choices". This retreat will provide some foundational information on our "equation" for happiness but will focus mainly on the intentional choices we make to boost our happiness. We will have some fun activities to try, resources and even some "homework" to take home with us to try out. "Happiness" in this retreat is not defined as the "ha-ha" feeling of perpetual optimism, but rather a sense of deep peace and contentment, despite external circumstances. This is truly one's spiritual journey and we will be tapping into the Source of All, Our Trinitarian God, as we explore tools to find ourselves in a "peaceful stance" more and more of the time.

For more information, please contact:
Beth Dieker, Missioner for Ministry Development
Episcopal Diocese of Oregon
503-407-0312
bethd@diocese-oregon.org

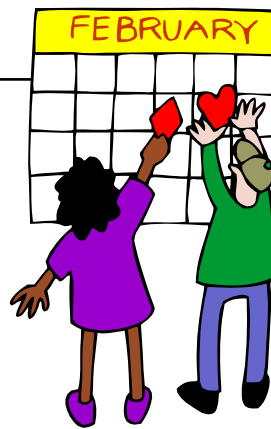
(Editors note: Camp Magruder is on the Oregon coast just south of the small community of Rockaway Beach)

February Calendar

Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran Church

425 NW 21st Street
Corvallis, OR 97330
541-757-1600
www.grace 97330.org



January 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:30 AM Traditional Service 11:00 AM Contemporary Service 12:00 PM Annual meeting lunch 1:00 PM Annual Meeting	30 6:30 AM Midvalley Healthcare Advocates Reunion	31 1:00 PM Tuesday Bible Study 5:00 PM OR Family Support Network Parent Group	1 12:00 PM Staff meeting 3:30 PM Library meeting & work party 6:00 PM OR Family Support Network Youth Move 6:45 PM Chancel Choir Practice	2 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Round Table Meeting	3	4 9:30 AM CPR/AED class
5 8:30 AM Traditional Service 11:00 AM Contemporary Service	6 4:00 PM Executive Committee meeting 7:00 PM Worship & Music Committee	7 1:00 PM Tuesday Bible Study 7:00 PM Finance Committee	8 12:00 PM Communication Committee Meeting 6:00 PM Oregon Family Support Network Teen Group 6:45 PM Chancel Choir Practice	9	10 4:30 PM Corvallis Chinese School	11
12 8:30 AM Traditional Service, Friendship Sunday 11:00 AM Contemporary Service, Friendship Sunday 12:15 PM Pizza Potluck	13 6:45 PM Council Meeting	14 9:00 AM Quilting Ladies 1:00 PM Tuesday Bible Study 5:00 PM OR Family Support Network, children w/ Developmental Disabilities & Autism	15 3:30 PM Library meeting & work party 6:45 PM Chancel Choir Practice	16 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Commissioners meeting 7:00 PM International Book Group	17 Mardi-Gras fundraiser set-up 4:30 PM Corvallis Chinese School	18 Mardi-Gras fundraiser set-up 6:00 PM Mardi-Gras fundraiser dinner for New Orleans Trip
19 Women's Cold Weather Shelter Staffing 8:30 AM Traditional Service 11:00 AM Contemporary Service	20 Women's Cold Weather Shelter Staffing 7:00 PM Benton County Master Gardener general membership meeting	21 Women's Cold Weather Shelter Staffing 1:00 PM Tuesday Bible Study	22 Women's Cold Weather Shelter Staffing 12:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service 6:45 PM Chancel Choir Practice 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	23 Women's Cold Weather Shelter Staffing 3:00 PM Property Committee meeting 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Committee Meeting	24 Women's Cold Weather Shelter Staffing 4:30 PM Corvallis Chinese School	25 Women's Cold Weather Shelter Staffing
26 8:30 AM Traditional Service 11:00 AM Contemporary Service	27	28 9:00 AM Quilting Ladies 1:00 PM Tuesday Bible Study 5:00 PM OR Family Support Network Parent Group	29 6:45 PM Chancel Choir Practice	1 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Boy Scouts Round Table Meeting	2 4:30 PM Corvallis Chinese School	3

International Book Group & Grace Center

International Book Group.

Expand your knowledge, broaden community, and spark your inspiration—join our reading group! Books of an international flavor are selected by the Book Group once a year. At the monthly meeting we encourage lively discussion led by a member of the Group. The Book Group meets on the third Thursday at 7pm from September through June, **except December**. Come for one time or come every month! Just come!

Point of Contact: Ardis Koester, 541.752.7803



The February book for discussion by the International Book Group is Globish: How the English Language Became the World's Language by Robert McCrum. Pastor Wendell Hendershott will lead the discussion beginning at 7:00pm in classroom 7. You are welcome to join in whether or not you've read the book.

From the back cover comes this summary of the book.

"A small island in the North Atlantic, pillaged for hundreds of years by marauding neighbors, becomes a dominant world power whose spreading influence carries its language and literature everywhere on earth. Then, across the Atlantic, a colony of that island becomes the military and cultural colossus of the twentieth century.

What happens next is unprecedented. While the global dominance of the Anglo-American power seems to be on the wane, The English language acquires a new life of its own. Decoupled from its British and North American past, it is now able to zoom across time and space, a global phenomenon as never before, to become a supercharged lingua franca. In the twenty-first century, writes Robert McCrum, 'English plus Microsoft = Globish.' Globish charts the spread of global English from 'crazy English' in China to the call centers of Bangalore."

For discussion participants who read ahead, it should be noted that the March and May books have changed dates. The March book will be The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope and the May book will be Journal of an Ordinary Grief.

March 15, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope by William Kamkwamba & Bryan Maeler. C 2009. Discussion led by Mary Ann Matzke *William Kamkwamba was born in Malawi. He wanted to go to school, but was forced to drop out during a famine. He read a library book on energy and built a windmill from scrap materials to provide his family with electricity and water.*

April 19, Curfewed Night: One Kashmiri Journalist's Frontline Account of Life, Love and War in His Homeland by Basharat Peer. Discussion led by Sharon Rosenkoetter. *Basharat Peer was raised in Kashmir, then left the area and later returned as a journalist. He writes about what he has seen and about the accounts of others in this war-torn area.*

May 17, Journal of an Ordinary Grief by Mahmoud Darwish, translated by Ibrahim Muhawi. Discussion led by Marilyn Walsh. *The "grief" is the loss of a Palestinian family's lands to the Jewish settlers in Israel. The book offers insights into the minds of the Palestinians, Israelis and Israeli Arabs through prose, poetry and diary memoirs.*

June 21, In the Country of Men by Hisham Matar. Discussion led by Kathy Vohland. In this novel, a nine-year old boy, Suleiman, is caught up in his family's political involvement in a rebellion against Qaddafi in Libya in 1979. He doesn't understand what is happening to his family, his friends and his neighbors. Most of all he doesn't understand the dangers, the changes around him and the relationships of the people he loves.



Valentines for Grace Center

Many of the elderly and disabled people who come to Grace Center remember the old lacy Valentines, the loving or humorous cards that were such fun to get. Would you like to bring some of that love and joy to the participants in the Center? There will be a Valentine Box designated "Valentines for Grace Center" in the Fireside Room. Let's fill it with our cards, home-made or store bought, to be delivered to the Center on February 14th. They will be especially pleased if children will make cards for the "grandmas and grandpas" who may not have children to get cards from.

Note the pictures and brochures near the box about all the beneficial activities going on in the Center. Let's overwhelm them with the love we have for them, the program Grace Church started more than 28 years ago. We're proud of its progress. (Cards to thank the staff for their loving care would also be appreciated.)

Bring your cards to the Valentine Box by Sunday, February 12th. Thank you!



**Mardi Gras Dinner
& Silent Auction
February 18th 2012
6-9pm
Ronnenkamp Hall**

**Get ready for Lent and help send our youth
to New Orleans for the ELCA National Youth
Gathering in July.**

**Experience
GRACE**

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Corner of Kings & Harrison

435 NW 21 Street, Corvallis, Oregon 97330

541.757.1600

Email at office@grace97330.org

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