



“I am the  
**light**  
of the world”

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

# Grace GATHERINGS

**Whoever you are, Whatever your past, However you live, Whomever you love – You are welcome here.**



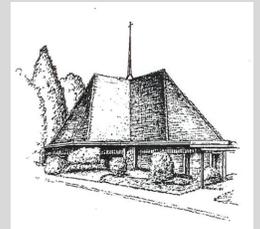
We believe that God loves us without regard for our race or culture, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, physical or mental health, life circumstance or socio-economic situation. Therefore, we extend that same grace-filled love to you.

The work of welcome is hard; the way of love is always a work in process. But we're committed to the biblical call of reconciliation and to change what we need to, both personally and as a community, so that we – all of us together – become a living sign of God's extravagant grace.

In Christ's name, all are welcome here. We are honored by your presence and by your participation in helping us make this vision of welcome a reality for all people.

*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.”*

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



## Advent & Christmas

### *Sunday Morning Worship Service Schedule*

- Dec 3**      Worship with Communion 8:30 & 11:00 AM  
                 Sunday School and Nativity rehearsal 9:45 AM
- Dec 10**     Worship with Communion 8:30 & 11:00 AM  
                 Sunday School and Nativity rehearsal 9:45 AM
- Dec 17**     Nativity Worship with communion 10:00 AM
- Dec 24**     Advent Worship with Communion 10:00 AM
- Dec 31**     The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas  
                 Lessons and Carols with Communion 10:00 AM

*Regular worship times and Sunday School will return on Jan 7, 2017*

## Christmas Eve Services

**December 24**

**10:00 a.m. Advent Carols**

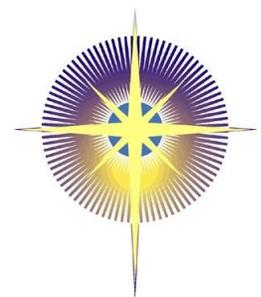
*with Advent Hymns & Communion*

**5:00 p.m. Manger Service**

*with Candlelight & Communion*

**10:00 p.m. A Celtic Christmas**

*with Candlelight & Communion*





This prayer list is a compilation of the prayer requests we have received at Grace from Oct 21 to Nov 20. 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.



**Nancy & Bill Strohle**  
PO Box 1498  
Albany, OR 97321

\*Only one address update this month, but if you're reading this, please email the office for a chance to win a prize...  
office@grace97330.org  
Just mention that you read about this in the December newsletter.

## Prayers

### Thanks:

**RE: Ida Fund:** On Giving Tuesday we did not ask you for a special contribution to the Ida Fund, but instead extended a thank you for your faithful response to the needs of people in our community over the past year. The congregation at Grace Lutheran has been especially generous this year and we have been able to help more people than ever. Together with your work to provide sack lunches for hungry people we have been graciously thanked hundreds of times by those who have been blessed through your generosity.

This year the Grace Lutheran Church Ida Fund has helped people with ID's, birth certificates, funeral expenses, work boots, bandages, propane, batteries, utility payments, dental care, prescriptions, camping fees, rent, gasoline, school fees, a down payment on a car, a muffler, and much, much more. Most of our assistance is quite modest, but to those who are making ends meet, it becomes a blessing. In return we get thanked with a genuine smile.

**(Editor's Note: We gave over 96 sack lunches out in November — almost double our previous high month of the year.)**

**Dear treasured Bible Study and Women's Retreat participants** – Almost as great as going on the retreat [had I been able to go] was the flood of warm and loving wishes that came to me. You'll never know what a comfort that has been. While I slowly recover from my trauma I read and re-read all my kind and thoughtful and uplifting messages from you. How dear you all are to me! Thank you so much!

I feel very blessed that with my frontal fall, I did not injure myself more. I am certainly doing all I can to let my body recover and know that God is here with me through it all. Although the eye specialist let me know I should not expect much vision to return to my left eye, I still remain optimistic as to the future. I am each day adjusting to the imbalance of vision in each eye. [The beginning of December] I should have reconstructive surgery so will likely look like Mrs. Frankenstein for a couple more weeks. We'll see. In the meantime, a blessed and a very personal Christmas knowing you have uplifted my spirits during this Advent. Love you all, Helen

### Illnesses and Other Concerns:

- ♦ Helen Hildebrandt — for continued healing after her fall
- ♦ Carol Freeman — for healing and health concerns
- ♦ Sarah Christensen — for healing and her new kidney
- ♦ Judy, Sue Speulda's friend — thanksgiving for her healed liver and prayers for continued good health going forward
- ♦ Joe Gordon — for healing after back surgery
- ♦ Robin Comforto — for continued healing after pneumonia
- ♦ Nicole Gelser — continued healing after wisdom teeth extraction
- ♦ Bev Raze — for strength, confidence, and hope as she prepares for her upcoming knee replacement surgery on December 11th
- ♦ John & Maxine King — for health and strength
- ♦ Anna Upenieks — for health and strength

### Baptism:

- ♦ Lincoln White — November 19th

### Death:

- ♦ Juan, Jose Vega's father

*Please pray for those not included on this list, by request or accidental omission. Pray for those who are infirm and/or secluded.*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous, and all for your love's sake. Amen.

## Pastor's Page

### *Time of Silence, Time of Peace*

As we move toward the winter solstice, the nights are becoming longer. Adding to this darkness was also the change from daylight savings time to standard time. At first I mostly noticed the umbra in the evenings because of the time switch; now I also notice that the dawn is coming a little later each morning as well. That effect is doubled in our neighborhood as we are surrounded by tall fir trees.

There is also another darkness abroad in our world these days. Hardly a day goes by without some breaking news story that tells of a tragedy in one place or another. The summer was filled with wildfires and hurricanes. We have heard of large earthquakes as well. A couple times a day we read about a sexual impropriety perpetrated by a political or entertainment personality. Even churches are not safe places.

Some days we just want to turn off the news and some of us have done just that to get rid of the rancor and haranguing. Yet, that is neither a safe nor a wise option in the long run. Keeping ourselves in the dark may only increase dangers. Still, constant news, constant social media, constant intrusions remind us that we do need a sabbatical from time to time.

Advent may be such a time. A time to step back from the business, a time to set aside a time to get away from the business of December to contemplate the peace the Christ brings to a world full of turmoil. We may even want to set part a space for sanctuary that is protected from the rush of holiday excess. One spot, that is always open, is the little chapel, at the top of the stairs, as you enter Ronnenkamp Hall, which is accessible whenever the building is occupied. Oftentimes it is a place apart in space and time and quiet, even as other activities buzz quietly in the background.

Before Advent begins, on December 3, this year, plan to include some time for your spiritual nourishment. There are many Advent devotionals, including one we produce right here at Grace. These daily inspirational pieces can help focus on Christ and bring deeper meaning to the season. You might open your Bible for inspiration. There is a good daily Bible reading guide in the back of the Red Hymnal. This year begins on p.1132. You might also take advantage of mid-week services, in addition to Sunday worship.

Most of all, take some time for silent reflection on the coming of Christ. Let the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit guide you as you journey through the Advent season. Remember the Christ who promised to come again at the close of the age. Remember the Baptizer in the wilderness who asked people to be honest about their shortcomings. Remember the extended family that dwelt so close to God. Remember the trip of Mary and Joseph to the Little town of Bethlehem. Remember too that Christ comes each and every time we encounter God's Word in the scriptures.

—Pr. Wendell

#### *Pastor Netsie Griffith*

##### *Contact Information*

*Cell: 541.223.3455*

*Email:*

*netsie@grace97330.org*

*Pastor Netsie's Days Off*

*Thursday & Friday*

#### *Pastor Wendell*

##### *Hendershott*

##### *Contact Information*

*Cell: 541.223.3503*

*Email:*

*wendell@grace*

*97330.org*

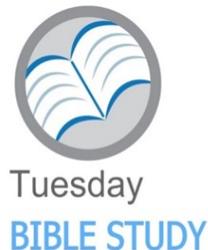
*Pastor Wendell's*

*Days Off*

*Tuesday & Friday*



## Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study



We will meet the first two Tuesdays in December, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. We will then take a three-week holiday break and resume meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>. We gather at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room and conclude at 2:30 p.m. If it's not possible for you to be with us for the whole time, you are welcome to join us later or to leave earlier. New members are always welcome.

As we finish our study of Matthew's gospel we will temporarily be in sync with the church year calendar and then very much out of sync. Our study of Jesus' 5<sup>th</sup> and final discourse recorded in Matthew's gospel referred to as the "Eschatological Discourse" will parallel the emphasis on Jesus' second coming at the beginning of our Advent season. Eschatology is a theological term which simply means the study of the "end times." Christ's coming and presence at the end of time is always the focus of the first Sunday of Advent. So, for just this short time our study will line up with the Church year calendar. After that our study will take us into Jesus' passion, death and resurrection while we focus on Jesus' birth and the epiphanies around the beginning of his ministry during our worship times. Thus, it will be an interesting exercise to have this dual focus and see what we learn from it.

## Pastor Wendell's Class

### *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism*

Pastor Wendell is continuing with his class on Luther's Small Catechism. *By Heart* is material that reviews the five chief parts of the catechism, just in time for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. The Congregational Council heard that our Presiding Bishop is encouraging each congregation to take a new look at the Small Catechism on this 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. So this is one of the opportunities you will have to delve into this handbook of our faith. The five chief parts are The Ten Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism with Confession, and Holy Communion. Each month we will look at a different part until we cover the whole catechism.

Because there are a number of offerings for adults this autumn, the Sunday of the class may vary from month to month, but we hope to have plenty of notice to let you know when these will be, Our next class is December 10 in Ronnenkamp Hall.

**If you would Like the Book:** You may order the book *By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small catechism* by calling or texting Pastor Wendell at: 541-223-3503.

Dec 14

2nd Thursday's  
Women's

Luncheon at  
Wild Wings  
@ 11:45am

Nov 28th

4th Tuesday's  
Women's

Luncheon at  
New Morning  
Bakery  
@ 11:45am

## Thanks for Giving

A **big thank you** goes out to all of you who participated in this year's **Thanksgiving Baskets**. We especially want to thank those who delivered that basket to each recipient as well as all those who contributed. Special mention goes to Mary Ann Brenan who guided us through the process, Mary Stephens who ran the power point, Carol and Kris Warloe who provided Christmas trees, and Denison's Farm for assisting us with Farmer's Market Gift Certificates (more of your Thrivent Dollars at work).

## Year End Contributions

Thanks so much for all the faithful and generous contributions this past year which have sustained and generated important ministry. Please know that if it is important for you to have a contribution recorded as a gift received in 2017, we need to receive it in the church office by Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. This will give our bookkeeper time to record it properly.

## Sunday Adult Bible Study with Frank & Sue

### Faith in Action

Mention “Faith in Action” and some folks recoil, thinking “Oh, no! Here comes the accusation that we don’t practice what we preach!” But the flip side can be, “Oh, good! Call those lukewarm, hypocritical Christians to account!” In this study we will face the facts that we are not perfect and our faith and actions do not always match. We will also face the fact that faith and action are inseparable, or as Martin Luther held, that faith is active in love. Luther pointed out in *The Freedom of the Christian 1520* that where there is true faith, there is genuine love for the neighbor. Luther’s insights about faith and action will enrich each one of these sessions.

To help us get off to a good start, we can frame this entire quarter with some words from Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” Faith is pure gift from God. We give thanks for it, rejoice in it, and live in it; however, we don’t have to prove it or create it. We cannot. Ephesians 2:10 points out how good works then flow from this gift of faith: “For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our very way of life.” Faith and good works are inseparable. Faith is active in love. God’s grace in Jesus Christ is present in us and around us, making this life of faith active in love possible. There it is. God knows very well how to work through ordinary people like you and me.

Speaking of God and ordinary people, we’ll find both in these Bible study sessions. Two key things: (1) God in Jesus Christ and the Spirit is the main actor, and without God’s grace and power, we won’t get too far in acting on our call to faith and action; (2) The grace of God in Christ Jesus sets us ordinary people free and empowers us to do all kinds of good in this world. That is exciting good news, don’t you think? So come along and meet some biblical pioneers of the faith (who were plenty ordinary themselves) and contemporary, ordinary people of faith like the senior citizen who saves a policeman’s life, Steve who wants to serve in Rwanda, Isabella who gets the grandkids to church, and more. Their experiences of faith active in love are meant to challenge us and also to give us strength and hope in our ordinary, everyday journeys of faithful discipleship.

### Our Writer

Jeanette Bialas Strandjord – wife, parent, grandparent, and retired ELCA pastor – believe that Bible study is crucial in the life of all congregations and hopes it will continue to increase. Painfully aware that her faith and actions do not always match, she depends on the gracious forgiveness of God.

Lesson 1	Dec. 3	Faith in Jesus	Acts 3:1-21
Lesson 2	Dec. 10	Faith to Discern	Acts 13:1-12
No Class — Dec 17, 24, 31. Classes will resume on Sunday, Jan 7.			



## House of Zion

The ELCA Church in Woodburn, House of Zion, has asked for our faithful help with their **annual Christmas outreach**. Our contributions are an essential and enormous help in their ministry of serving the local Latino community. Gift baskets filled with tags for suggested gifts have been placed around Grace Lutheran and the big box will be in its usual place in the Fireside room for your donations. Gently used clothing and toys are always appreciated as well. Please bring the gifts (unwrapped is preferred) to church by Monday, December 18th.

*Muchas Gracias amigos!*

# Walking with Grace 2017

Nineteen women enjoyed the 2017 Women's Retreat at Camp Magruder on the Oregon Coast in early November. Leader Cammie Bella skillfully led participants through enlarging circles of grace from personal to societal. Worship leader Pastor Netsie guided Celtic vespers, site-appropriate hymns heartily sung, and a closing Eucharist for All Saints' Sunday. Linda Samuels led early morning yoga and quilt tying, Sharon Rosenkoetter set the tone for Painting as Meditation, Kathy Vohland taught bookmark making, Ardis Koester shared a challenging puzzle, and Shelly Lundahl brought games. Darlene Leklem arranged carpools and made coffee, more and more coffee. Donna Wernz made glorious music. All 19 women pitched in and helped in myriad ways. Participants colored blessing cards for Helen Hildebrandt, who was much in our thoughts as she missed the retreat due to serious injury in a fall the day prior.



Always present was the sound of pounding surf from the mighty Pacific Ocean just a couple hundred feet outside the lodge. Food was healthy and wholesome, while snacks and wine were abundant.

But mostly women talked and listened and talked and listened some more, sharing our challenges and hopes as we walk with grace, alone and together. Evaluations showed that this was a valuable and meaningful experience for those able to attend. We hope to have future retreats for Grace and friends, with some single-day and in Corvallis, others away for a weekend, and yet another a return to Holden Village, perhaps in 2019.



## Advent 2017

Advent arrives later than usual this year. The first Sunday in Advent is on December 3, and our first Wednesday Advent service is December 6 (St. Nicholas' Day). All this will likely make it feel like a brief holiday season.

As in recent years, a soup supper will precede each worship service at 6:00 pm. There is a sign up in the entryway if you would like to make soup or make other contributions to our evening meal one Wednesday.

We will use Holden Evening Prayer for our Wednesday worship. We have had many requests that we use this setting of Vespers. The pairing of the music and the poetry of this service lend themselves well to the December ambience of the Advent holidays. These prayers are sung, for the most part, and with many of us now familiar with the music, we sing it quite well. If it is new to you, the confident singing of those around you will help you learn it fairly quickly.

It uses not only the format that is found in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal, but also the pattern which evolved through the prayer practices of the early church. It is a delightful matching of the ancient texts of Vespers service (evening prayer) with gentle music conceived in a winter setting deep in the wilderness of Washington's Cascade Mountains. It was composed for Holden Village, a Lutheran Retreat Center, in the mountains north-west of Lake Chelan, in the winter of 1985-86. As soon as Evening Prayer ends, the Chancel Choir will rehearse, at approximately 7:30.

### **Advent Schedule: Wednesday Nights (December 6, 13, 20)**

6:00 Soup Supper

7:00 Holden Evening Prayer

7:30 Choir (or when Evening Prayer is completed)



## Year-End Finances

At the end of every year people in the congregation are asking how we did financially. Each year is a little different. Sometimes we end the year quite well; other times not as good.

Because we had a very large gift at the end of 2016, we have been in the black for all of 2017. That is an amazing accomplishment, because that means that the rest of the members of the congregation were also regular givers as well. So thank you for your faithfulness. You are an amazing and generous congregation. You have been faithful in many ways, not only through monetary contributions, but also in the giving of your time and abilities and in your stewardship and care of the earth.

One of the realities facing us is that we don't think we will see that same large gift again this December. There are some other possibilities however:

One is that we may need to make some budget cuts for 2018. If that were to happen it would probably mean cutting the time and salaries of our pastors. Though there are other salaries which may be cut, those other staff cuts would mean elimination of those staff people altogether and the essential ministry that they enable. Be assured that changes in staffing would necessitate the wisdom and discernment of the whole congregation before that would take place.

Another possibility is that there may be a generous gift or two that someone is contemplating. Those come our way from time to time. We rejoice when that happens, but it is not always forthcoming.

A third possibility is that we pay off our mortgage. With matching funds from the Foundation and another generous donor, we are only about \$20,000 from that prospect. It is possible to pay off our mortgage freeing our large mortgage payment for other ministry. It is nearly within our reach. Watch your mailbox for a letter from the Stewardship Committee about how that might come to fruition.

We never know until the end of the year just what the books will show. What we do know is that God has been faithful to this congregation for over 75 years. God has given us the resources to be resilient. We expect that whatever happens, God's faithfulness will ensure that there will be a congregation on this corner of Kings and Harrison which will follow Christ into the world around us to touch the lives of others with the good news of the gospel.

## Grace Youth

### Advent Devotion Book

“Joy to the World!” is the theme for this year’s Advent Devotion Book. We just celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation – so this Advent marks Reformation 500 +1. It is a year in which all of us will be invited to respond, to add our “+1,” our own “I believe” and “I will,” further into the future God is creating for us. Writers and artists from Grace will help us imagine joy made alive now. Look for the baskets filled with little books with blue covers – available free beginning on the first Sunday in Advent (Dec. 3). Help yourself and share with friends!

Advent Wreath by Eli Geist



### Advent Celebration —

#### Come Make an Advent Wreath, Swag, or Mug Bouquet!

**9:45 am, Dec 3 (in Ronnenkamp Hall)**

Come join our annual intergenerational Advent Celebration! Make an advent wreath to take home, a swag for your door, or a mug bouquet to keep or give. Kids can make a great paper chain to decorate with, too. Greens are free. There is a small charge (to cover costs) if you need candles, wreath frames, mugs, or decorations (or bring supplies from home if you like). It’s always lots of fun. Thanks to Anne Orwick for coordinating this fun event, to the Warloes for the greens, and to Becky Kiersky and Shelly Chamberlin for helping with the mug bouquets. ALL ages are invited and welcome. So fun!

Want to get involved?

#### Our Children’s Nativity Service will be Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>

Don’t miss this wonderful tradition – and invite those you know to get involved, too! Kids of our congregation, grandchildren, and community kids are all invited to participate. Please talk with Anne Orwick, Nativity Coordinator, if you have questions.

#### Rehearsal Times for Nativity Service Participants

- Song Practices — Sunday, Dec 3, 9:45 am (*sharp!*)
- Sunday, Dec 10, 9:45 am (*sharp!*)
- Speaking Parts — Sunday, Dec 3, 12:15 pm
- Sunday, Dec 10, 12:15 pm
- Saturday, Dec 16, 8:30 – 11:30 am
- All Participants — Saturday, Dec 16, 9:30 – 11:30 am



#### Desk Available

We have a happy “problem” in the youth room – not enough room! One day we discovered that, if even half our high schoolers show up at one time, we didn’t have places to be. So we’re rearranging, adding pillows, and updating the room to make it a fit for who we are today. We’re not done yet, but already we’ve added lots more room and opened up some creative energy in our room. We found a great looking, full-sized desk in the back of the room that we don’t have space for. Would anyone like it? It’s available for a donation to the Youth Fund! Ask Donna King for more details or to take a look.

#### Fund Raising is Now Beginning –

#### “Team Grace” is Going to the 2018 Youth Gathering!

6 youth and 2 adult leaders will represent Grace at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston this summer. The first fund-raising projects are now beginning. The beautiful and commemorative “Luther Rose” Christmas ornaments are SOLD OUT – so, if you like, please purchase a slightly less retro “Feeding the Flock” cookbook (\$5). All proceeds will help cover travel costs to the Youth Gathering. Pictured here is half of our team – (L to R) Silas Hadlock, Christina Lundahl, Reed Vega, and Shelly Lundahl. Not yet pictured are the other half of our team – Avi Hadlock, Abby Schuerman, Kaili Saathoff, and Rebekah Hadlock.





# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1	Norma Moody
12/2	Hal Lindsley
12/2	Joan Sandeno
12/5	Briita Orwick
12/6	Jeff Mueller
12/6	Jude Geist
12/7	Meredith Junge
12/8	Nancy Strohlein
12/9	Gabri Bilotta
12/9	Jamie Pettingill
12/14	David Bella
12/17	Denice Rickard
12/19	Kathryn Honey
12/19	Sam Gelser
12/20	Sara Gelser
12/26	Ted Carlson
12/26	Jessica Saathoff
12/27	Cathy Mueller
12/27	Lars Orwick
12/28	Anna Wayt
12/28	Jim Wernz



## Grace Personnel

**Pastor Netsie Griffith &  
Pastor Wendell Hendershott**

**Director of Discipling Ministries** - Donna King  
**Director of Music Ministries** - Br. Christopher Buckley  
**Organist/Pianist** - Sunghee Kim  
**Custodian** - Sam McKay  
**Nursery** - Nate Olsen  
**Office Administrator** - Carol Terrill  
**Office Assistant** - Jody Parker  
**Bookkeeper** - Robin Comforto  
**Prayer Chain** - Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens  
**Facebook Administrator** - Rebekah Hadlock

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. You are welcome to leave a message on the answering machine at any hour.

Visit our Grace web page at: [www.grace97330.org](http://www.grace97330.org)

### Teams & Committees

**Property Committee** - Ron Larson, 541.752.0754  
**Communications Committee**  
Mary Ann Brenan, 541.230.1696  
**Sunday Hospitality**  
Dayle Christensen, 541.602.2818  
**Events Hospitality**  
Molly Hallgrimson, 541.753.8581  
**Christian Education Team**  
Deaconess Donna King, 541.757.6636  
**Altar Guild** - Linda Samuels, 541.929.4222  
**Worship & Music Committee**  
Michael Beachley, 541.754.5501  
**Finance Committee** - Hal Brauner, 541.753.0023  
**Personnel Committee** - Nancy Strohlein,  
541.926.5747  
**Hospital Visitation Team** - Jim Wernz,  
541.929.6794  
**Healing Prayer Team** - Sue Davis, 541.924.2922  
**Mission Groups** - Bob Saathoff, 541.929.3045  
**Stewardship Committee**  
Dave Lundahl, 541.757.1358

### Hope & Wholeness Counseling

Dr. Julie Evans, Ph.D., Clinical Director 541.753.9217

### Campus Ministry at Luther House

Mike Ostrom, Pastor, 541.753.5213

### Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers

Norma Moody, 541.754.2555

## Globaliers — Monthly Book Club

2017-2018  
First Thursday of Each Month  
Fireside Room @ 7pm

This looks to be a promising year for **Grace's Global Book Club**. **All are welcome** for one, several, or all of the discussion sessions. Participants are encouraged to read the book before the discussion, but those who are interested in the title may come and listen in as well.

12-7 ***Ebola: The Natural and Human History of a Deadly Virus***, David Quammen  
Led by Sharon Rosenkoetter

Just 111 pages, this book describes the detective story to learn what causes this dread disease and where it resides when it is not active in humans. Just one of a variety of viruses that come from animals, occasionally transition to humans, and mutate rapidly, ebola is a prototype for many other conditions -- SARS, Nile fever, AIDS, swine flu, hantavirus, Marbug -- that are poorly understood but could cause a world pandemic. This book is about the science of trying to unlock their mystery. It leaves to other authors the medical descriptions of ebola. Quammen is a highly recognized science writer. All are invited to attend.

1-4-18 ***Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis***, J.D. Vance  
Led by Ardis Koester

2-1 ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings***, Maya Angelou  
Led by Pastor Wendell

3-1 ***The Sympathizer: A Novel***, Viet Thanh Nguyen  
Led by Carol Erickson

4-5 ***Turn Right at Machu Pichu***, Mark Adams  
Led by Carol Warloe

5-3 ***Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity***, Katherine Boo  
Led by Juan Guzman

6-7 ***The Girl Who Wrote in Silk***, Kelli Estes  
Led by Darlene Leklem

9-6 ***From the Land of Green Ghosts: A Burmese Odyssey***, Pascal Khoo Thwe

10-4 ***When Heaven and Earth Changed Places***, Le Ly Hayslip with Jay Wurts

## Grace Gallery

In the striking new gallery created in Ronnenkamp Hall by Ron Larson, showings of artworks in various media are planned. Most artists who will show in the gallery are members of Grace, but occasionally visiting artists will present. Anyone wishing to reserve a time for showing is invited to tell one of the pastors. To date, the following have been scheduled:

- ◆ Oct. 15—Dec. 1
- ◆ Dec. 2-Jan. 15
- ◆ Jan 16- March 1
- ◆ March 2-April 15
- ◆ April 16-June 1
- ◆ June 2-August 1

Sharon and Larry Rosenkoetter  
Marjorie Kinch  
Cy Stadvold  
Linda Burt  
Rev. Joel Nickel  
Kathryn Honey



Rev. Nickel is a retired Lutheran pastor from Salem, Oregon, who creates enamelware liturgical art. He spoke at Grace Lutheran Church a few months ago when he presented a program about the art in the church building, which was designed by Ernest Schwidder.

All Saints — November 5th, 2017

*For all the saints who from their labors rest*

- Johnny Corkill
- Dee Nath
- Ruth Craig
- Roger Lindquist
- Joyce Signer
- Betty Evans
- Richard Leklem
- Alexander MacPherson
- Alice Miles
- Terry Stephens
- Janet Johnson
- Richard Foss
- Cecil Phillips
- David Kolden
- Sue Klein
- Gail Kugler
- Bettie Jensen
- Pr. John Paulson
- Merle Dahlstrom
- Robert Lee
- Paul Doescher
- Betty Tobiasson
- Ron Walsh
- Jo Quamme
- Gary Larson
- Merle Hemming
- Arnold Ruse
- Paul Showalter
- Bill Nelson
- Lois Nelson
- Nathan Anderson
- Al Spencer
- Marlene Johnson
- Norma McPherson
- Claretta Ayers
- Harry Ayers
- Polly Jeneva
- Ellie Lessard
- Helen Hummer

## Stewardship Has Sailed

This year we looked at the many ministries of Grace Lutheran Church during our Stewardship Emphasis. Nov. 5 was Stewardship Sunday and many of you have already responded, though several of you are just turning your pledges in now. Your response is a big help to use as we prepare for the 2018 budget year. There is still time to return those pledge cards. If you have misplaced yours there are still some in the office. If you have already turned yours in, we thank you for your response.

## Halloween Thanks

On Thursday, October 26th, Mark Speulda, Kay Larson, Marna Renshaw, Linda Noland, Mary Ann Brennan, and Allison & Emily Holpuch (daughters of Sarah Holpuch, who teaches at Sandcastle) packaged 806 bags of popcorn.

On Tuesday, October 31st, Bob Keith, Shelly Lundahl, and Mark & Sue Speulda passed out those 806 packages of popcorn (along with hundreds of Tootsie Pops) in downtown Corvallis.

Thank you to each of these people for their help in inviting the community to pop in and “Experience Grace”!

## Thrivent

Thrivent members have some ability to distribute “Thrivent Choice Dollars” to Grace Lutheran or other charitable causes. Please don’t let those funds sit idle. If you have any questions about Thrivent, please contact one of the pastors or Sue Musil.



## In the Community

### Christmas Story Play

You are cordially invited to The “Annual” Christmas Story Play — presented by the Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled Community and Friends. The event will be held at Suburban Church this year on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:30 pm. Suburban is located at 2760 SW 53rd Street, Corvallis. Reception to follow.

### Training for Allies of Immigrants

“**Know Your Roles**” featuring a free lunch and training for allies of immigrants, is scheduled from noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9, at Albany First Christian Church, 432 Ferry Street SW. Lunch includes beans, rice and chile verde prepared by Taqueria Alonzo. The lunch, though free, requires a ticket that can be obtained at [tinyurl.com/yc8c65uu](http://tinyurl.com/yc8c65uu) by 10 a.m. Dec. 4. Benton County District Attorney John Haroldson will lead off the afternoon with a talk starting at 12:45 p.m. The 1 to 3 p.m. training, led by the Rural Organizing Project, will provide allies of immigrants with information about the detention industry and concrete ways to support people who are affected by it. The Rural Organizing Project has been organizing for justice in rural Oregon for 25 years. “Know Your Roles” sponsors are Albany First Christian Church, Casa Latinos Unidos de Benton County, Community Action for Racial Equity, Corvallis Branch of the NAACP, Linn-Benton Health Equity Alliance, Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center, Linn County Democrats and Showing Up for Racial Justice. For more information, call 541-203-0842.

### A Lutheran Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The ELCA Oregon Synod through the Mid-Willamette Valley Latino Ministry cordially invites you to join them as they celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe. Bishop Dave Brauer Rieke will be presiding at Eucharist. The service will be followed by a delicious Mexican dinner. All are welcome! Saturday, December 9, at 4 pm. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 303 N. Church St., Silverton.

### Confluence Chorus

Confluence Chorus, LGBTQ Community Chorus is performing, "Creating Peace: With Light" at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2945 NW Circle Blvd, Corvallis, on Saturday, December 10th @ 4:30pm.

Go to [ConfluenceChorus.org](http://ConfluenceChorus.org) to purchase tickets — \$15 general and \$12 students and seniors.

### Handel’s Messiah — Candlelight & Carols

Corvallis Repertory Singers present Monumental Moments in Choral Music with Handel’s Messiah on Saturday, December 16, at 7 pm, and Sunday, December 17, at 3 pm. The event will be held at First United Methodist Church, Corvallis, and led by Steven Zielke and Raymund Ocampo. Find additional information online at [repsing.org](http://repsing.org). Tickets range from \$10-25.

## Camp Lutherwood News



### Camp Lutherwood Annual Meeting

2018 Annual Meeting of the Association

Saturday, February 3, 2018

1-3 pm

Good Shepherd Lutheran, Albany

Come hear about all the success of 2017 and learn about plans for 2018!

RSVP to Lutherwood office at 541.998.6444 or [office@lutherwoodoregon.org](mailto:office@lutherwoodoregon.org)

For additional information about Camp Lutherwood, please visit [www.lutherwoodoregon.org](http://www.lutherwoodoregon.org)

## Luther House News

### Lutherfest 2018

Mark your calendars! Lutherfest will be on Sunday, February 25, 2018 from 2:00-4:30pm at the Boulder Falls Center in Lebanon, Oregon; the doors will open at 1:30pm. This year we are excited to feature cheeses from at least three creameries who have not participated in Lutherfest before. We will again have a photo section for you and your friends to capture the moment in a biergarten-style setting.

Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of December and can be purchased online from the Luther House web site. For the second year, the Lutherfest Traveling Trophy will be presented to the congregation with the most guests in attendance. Consider buying a table of 8 for \$350 to enjoy the afternoon with seven of your friends! Consider buying a \$50 individual ticket as a Christmas gift for that hard-to-shop-for person in your life.

### Rite of Installation

On Sunday, January 21st at 3:00 pm, Pastor Mike Ostrom will be officially installed as pastor at Luther House. The service will be held at Grace Lutheran and will feature the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer liturgy, gifts of students, and worship leadership by Oregon Synod staff. A special offering will be collected to support the ministry of Luther House. Join us for worship and a reception afterwards.

## Grace Center

Holiday hype seems to explode as November closes, so I was looking toward Grace Center's annual holiday bazaar. However, there won't be one this year; things are changing with the purchase of the building. As we will be able to expand into some unused space, plans are on the way for an ongoing gift shop. Many of our participants with handwork skills will feel good about their own shop, and gifts may be found all year around.

Tera tells me that other plans include renovation of space for a multipurpose room which can be used for more dining room if needed. Or it may be a room to teach families, for example, how to help elderly or disabled members with personal needs. Also, a second shower will be helpful, and a hair washing station as those found in beauty salons. These facilities will enable spouses to request services for a partner who needs personal care. Finally, a guest bathroom will be welcomed.

All these additions will be very useful. I'm sure the contributions of all Grace Center friends have been important in making plans come true in the coming months. Thank you all. And may you have a very merry Christmas.

— Betty McCauley



## Men's Cold Weather Shelter

I was lucky enough to have a preview tour of the new Corvallis Men's Homeless Shelter the day before their open house a few weeks ago. I spoke to the people volunteering that day. There were OSU students, Habitat for Humanity volunteers, United Way volunteers and others. I saw what passion and compassion they had for making a winter place for those who had nowhere else. It made me think of how our congregation has shown that compassion in the past and how I know we can do it again in January. Our week this year is January 14 through January 20, 2018.

I have volunteered for a number of years for Grace's week and as hard as it may be to see the men and their situations, I felt very good that I was able to make things a little better for them for the short time I was there. I think you will feel that way, too.

Since I am new at this, I am not quite ready to start getting signups, but should be soon. Until then, please pray for those at the shelter and think about how you can help. We will need volunteers for snacks, overnight stays and evening stays. I will also provide a list of items that would be very useful for the men.

One more note:

I was given an information packet to help me get started and inside the front cover there was the following poem:

### The Elephant in the Room

I am the elephant in the room.

I am your mother, father, son, daughter, a relative or even someone you may have worked with.

Just because I am homeless, doesn't mean that I am any less a human being than you are,

When you walk by me and look down on me just remember

In a heartbeat...you can be right where I am,

Be kind and if you pass me by, try to offer me help.

I may need it.

I never expected to be here

but I try to make the best of it,

When you wake up in your warm bed remember,

I'm out there somewhere trying to get through the tough days,

I am the elephant in the room,

But I know that you can see me.

All I ask for is a prayer.

Peace be with you all.

~~Terry Ickes (2014) former homeless man, New Hampshire

Food for thought, isn't it?

Stay tuned for news. Blessings and prayers to you all.

— Sue Speulda



**Partners in Faith will not be meeting in December,  
but will return in January, 2018!**

CHURCH COUNCIL

**President:**

Bob Keith

**Vice President:**

Ardis Koester

**Secretary:**

Shelly Lundahl

**Treasurer:**

Hal Brauner

**Financial Secretary:**

Mary Stephens

**Council Members:**

Shelley Chamberlin

Pr. Netsie Griffith

Pr. Wendell Hendershott

Rebekah Hadlock

Dick Junge

Jaya Lapham

Sue Musil

Lew Nelson

Sharon Rosenkoetter

Jim Wernz



Church Council Reports  
are always available  
in the church office  
for you to read.

Grace Council members wish you a  
Merry Christmas!

To help decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season, we are asking for contributions to our Altar Guild flower fund or your own poinsettias to use for Christmas Eve services. Please fill out the form in the church office or bulletin insert. If you are making your donation in honor or in memory of someone, please have your form into the church office before Tuesday, December 19th, so we can include those names in the Christmas service bulletins. Thank you! Watch for a date to help decorate the Christmas Tree.

 Altar  
Flowers

**As promised in the Sunday bulletin, here's the list of those providing transportation:**

Thanks to our wonderful, dedicated Grace on the Move Drivers, who provide and/or coordinate rides to worship and Bible Study for those in need of transportation: Ron & Kay Larson, Marna Renshaw, Wayne & Carolyn Kradjan, Darlene & Jim Leklem, Anne & Tom Orwick, Debbie Kuehn, Judy Winkler, Norma Moody. *(if you provide this service and your name is not here, please let the church office know, 541.757.1600)*

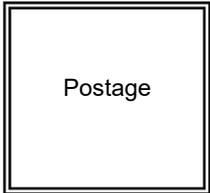
**As promised in the Sunday bulletin, here's the list of our Sunday Musicians:**

All are grateful to the many members dedicated to bringing the gift of music to our Sunday worship services. Our Director of Music Ministries, Christopher Buckley, lends expertise and dedication to provide us with joyful music. Sunghee Kim, accompanies the choir and plays organ for our early worship service. We are also grateful for the many volunteers who provide special music from time to time. In addition we want to recognize those who provide music Sunday in and Sunday out:

- **Chancel Choir:** Sue Davis, Carol Erickson, Netsie Griffith, Ardis Koester, Jaya Lapham, Darlene Leklem, Anne Orwick, Erin Radniecki, Sue Speulda, Donna Wernz, Sandie Williams, Glenn Chaffin, Mason Cooper, Michael Eclavia, Wendell Hendershott, Jerry Koester, Marshall Hill-Tanquist, Noel Vineyard, Jim Wernz
- **Grace Alive!:** Michael Beachley, Wendell Hendershott, Tom Kiersky, Dave Lundahl, Angie Kingsley

# Grace Lutheran Church

Corner of Kings & Harrison  
435 NW 21st Street  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
541.757.1600  
www.grace97330.org



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

*Living in God's amazing grace*



**Thank you to Linda Roberts and her trusty sidekick, Fiona, for the faithful weekly upkeep of the Sanctuary pews!**

### Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of Grace Lutheran Church is tentatively set for  
1:00 p.m., Sunday, January 28, 2018

**Business at Hand Includes:** Elect new Council members and adopt a budget  
*A sandwich lunch is planned for noon*