

Grace GATHERINGS

WELCOME

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.



Holy Week

Palm/Passion Sunday April 9

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship
9:45 am Education Hour

Maundy Thursday April 13

7:00 pm Worship with Communion

Good Friday April 14

1–3 pm Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm Worship

Easter Vigil April 15

8:00 pm Worship



Easter

Easter Sunday April 16

8:30 am Worship
9:30 am Easter Breakfast (see pg 11)
10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt
11:00 am Worship

See Details Inside—Page 6

Eggs Needed

We need lots of filled plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 16. Empty eggs are set out in the Fireside Room. Take as many as you'd like, fill them with Easter surprises, and bring them back before Easter. We'll hide them and the kids will be delighted! Thanks!



This prayer list is a compilation of the prayer requests we have received at Grace from Feb 21 to March 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.



Maud Corl
c/o The Caring Place
750 NW 23rd St., #201
Corvallis, OR 97330

Prayers

Illnesses and Other Concerns:

- Rodolfo Guzmán, brother to Juan Guzmán, for heart trouble
- Alex Weed, Becky Kiersky's great-nephew, for cancer treatment & healing
- Bobbie Kelly, for health & healing
- Ellie Carson, for recovery from surgery
- Jeff Mueller, for ongoing issues with his heart and ALS
- Peggy Vinson, Robin Comforto's mother, for health
- Kevin Nelson, Pr. Wendell's friend, for health & healing
- John King, for health & healing
- Jean Peterson, neighbor of the Lundahls, for her broken arm
- Barb, Cathy Mueller's sister-in-law, for cancer treatment & healing
- Lilly & Hunter Hansen, grandchildren of Donna & Herb Hansen, who have become ill while on a mission trip

Birth:

- Welcome Leo Bucy & Francis Bucy, great-grandchildren of Betty McCauley. Please pray for Randi Bucy, mother of Leo, who had some complications after delivery.

Marriage:

- Congratulations to Georgine Thompson & Ray Sanders, who were united in marriage on March 5th

Death:

- Claretta Ayers, Ryan Harrington's grandma, who passed on March 19th (She had her purple prayer shawl with her, and will be buried with it — thank you, prayer shawl team for your love and prayers.)
- Betty Tobiasson, Michael Beachley's 100 year old aunt. Prayers for the Beachley and Hadlock families.

Clarification:

- Last month, in error, we reported the passing of Mary Ann Matzke's father, Charles Martin. He is indeed alive and in improved health. Please keep the Martin and Matzke families in your prayers.

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.

April Schedule for Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study



Tuesday
BIBLE STUDY

Our Spring Break does not coincide with that of the Academic year, but we will be taking a break during Holy Week and the first week of Easter. Thus we will meet the first and last Tuesday of April but not the middle two. It looks like this:

April 4 and 25: Bible Study in the Fireside Room

April 11 and 18: No Bible Study Sessions

Most people are familiar with or have heard of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" found in chapters 5-7 of the gospel of Matthew. But you may not know that this is one of five of Jesus' discourses in this particular gospel. Though not as long as the "Sermon on the Mount," the other discourses are the "Mission Discourse" found in chapters 9 and 10, the "Parables Discourse" found in chapter 13, the "Community Discourse" found in chapter 18, and the "Eschatological (End Times) Discourse" found in chapters 24 and 25. We've made it through the first of Jesus' discourses in Matthew, and you are invited to join us for our study of the rest as well as everything that comes in between.

In April **we meet in the Fireside Room on the Tuesdays indicated above from 1-2:30 p.m.** If your schedule doesn't allow you to be with us for the whole time you are welcome to come for part of the time.

Adult Bible Study

God Loves Us

"God is love" (1 John 4:8) is a truism we learn as children. This study will focus on the love of God within the context of the biblical witness to the basic character of God in relationship with Israel and the early Christian community. We will explore several of the stories and metaphors used to depict the character of God's divine love, concluding with a more detailed look at the story of Jonah. This prophet's encounter with the fish was but one step along the circuitous route that demonstrated God's lavish love even for the dreaded enemies of Israel, and for those on whom we would most like to see God's wrath displayed.

Our Writer

Rodney R. Hutton is Emeritus Professor of Old Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He continues to teach an occasional course at the seminary, as well as engaging adults in theological study in local congregations.

April 2	God as Our Shepherd	Psalm 23
April 9	God's Saving Love in Christ	John 3:1-16
April 16	Easter Breakfast	
April 23	God's Reconciling Love	Romans 5:6-11; 8:31-39
April 30	God's Preserving Love	John 10:1-15
May 7	God's Sustaining Love	Jonah 1:7-17
May 14	God's Love Preserved Jonah	Jonah 2
May 21	God's Love for Nineveh	Jonah 3
May 28	God's Pervasive Love	Jonah 4

Pastor's Page

Are All Welcome Here?

Pastor Wendell Hendershott

On January 29, 2017, Grace Lutheran, at its Annual Meeting, adopted its second welcome statement as part of our ongoing process of being a Reconciling in Christ Congregation. Our first one was adopted 16 years earlier at another Annual Meeting. The first one passed by a fairly close vote. This new statement passed unanimously. There were no nays, nor abstentions voiced. Doubtless, not everyone in the congregation was there, but those who were there by and large supported the statement.

Now comes the really hard work of putting the welcome into action. We can talk about welcome until we are out of breath, but the real task of welcome is the implementation of the way we receive others into our midst. Moreover, the task is made doubly difficult when we welcome new folks as those who have been here for some time begin to wonder about their own welcome as the congregation grows and evolves with the arrival of new folks. Whenever new folks come, change comes with them and adaptations and adjustments become necessary.

That being said, let's examine the welcome statement a little closer. We first encounter a sort of preamble, a first glance welcome. And the preamble is ambiguously broad. It is hoped the preamble will draw people into the text to see where those first words take us and whether or not we are really serious about welcoming others.

The first paragraph begins with a statement of faith that God loves us. God's incomparable love is the basis for our welcome of others. Since a main objective was to welcome people of different sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions those are stated explicitly, but the feedback we got from the congregation was that there was a need to expand that welcome to a broader segment of society and the welcome goes to folks with all sorts of different life circumstances. Since God loves broadly we also extend that love broadly as well. It is not that we *only* love those mentioned in this paragraph--there is a further expansion of the welcome below in the text--but rather that we explicitly mention those who have at times been excluded.

The second paragraph is something of a confession. Welcoming the other is hard work and we don't always do it well. Nonetheless, God still calls us to this difficult work of reconciliation in order to change us from a self-centered community to one that is a living expression of God's extravagant mercy. Though sometimes we are flawed and in need of improvement in this regard, that doesn't keep us from trying.

Some folks have said we should just say, "All are welcome here." So in this final paragraph we say just that and we emphasize that welcome as beginning in Christ's name. If there is anything missing in the words above, we hope this welcome-to-all conclusion will fill that in.

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@grace97330.org

Pastor Wendell's

Days Off

Tuesday & Friday

Continued on page 5

Pastor's Page Cont.

Continued from page 4

The final sentence is an even deeper welcome to invite others into the process of making our vision of welcome a true reality. Those who come to Grace Lutheran Church honor us with their presence and deepen our understanding of what it means to be the diverse people of God in this place. By inviting others into the participatory endeavor of reception we acknowledge that the business of welcome is something that we cannot do solely on our own. We need others to join us if we are to truly be a hospitable people.

I hope this will not be our last welcome, but rather I hope we will take this as a beginning to the actions we will take to express further welcomes. At the 75th Anniversary banquet, I remarked that Grace is an incubator in this community. We get things started and we do that through our welcome of others and our interactions in the community at large. We are always re-learning what it means to do that. In this 500th anniversary year of the reformation we might be said to be reforming this statement in the spirit of *semper reformanda*, always reforming. My hope for this statement is that it becomes the impetus for even more expressions of welcome to come.

Am I Welcome at Grace?

The question has come up, what if I disagree with the new Welcome Statement? In our Lutheran practice of theology, we have always had a conscience exception. If in good conscience after having examined an issue biblically and theologically we find we cannot agree with it, then we have the option, even the responsibility, of voicing that opinion. The stipulation is that mutual respect of conscience is accorded on both sides of any issue of conscience.

That exception around this particular issue was expressly noted in 2009 when the Churchwide Assembly passed the resolutions allowing for same-sex unions and clergy in same-sex, committed relationships to be part of the official rosters of this church. Those who disagree, because of conscience, are permitted to disagree and will not be forced to go against conscience. So, yes, if because of your biblical and theological outlook you disagree with the welcome statement, you too are welcome here.

**New Welcome Statement can be found on the front page*

Annual Spring Clean Up

*Saturday, April 8th
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

There are many tasks to tackle, both inside and out. Everything from cleaning the sanctuary to pruning and weeding the shrubs and flower beds outside. We will spread bark mulch in the afternoon. Enjoy the fellowship time with other Grace members on Saturday during the "work party" and during the BBQ lunch beginning at 11:30 am.

-- Ron Larson, Property Committee



The next
Partners in Faith
event is on Friday,
April 21st.

The evening will
begin with a potluck
dinner at 6:00 pm in
the Fireside Room.
Bring a dish to share
and your own place
setting(s).

Activity this month is
a take on Antiques
Roadshow. Bring
something old and
treasured to share
with the group.

Call Sue Musil for
info at
541.745.5511



Holy Week Services Explained

Palm Sunday: A small change: **This year we will gather under the entry porticos before each service** for the blessing of the palms and process into worship together. Wear warm clothes and be prepared for rain! We begin the day reading the gospel of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, but quickly switch to the account of his suffering and passion.

Triduum: The Three Days The Three days before Easter are Called The Triduum [pronounced TRIH-dee-oom] which is the Latin term for three days. The three days are a call to three days of prayer in preparation for Easter and the resurrection celebration of Christ.

The first Day is Maundy Thursday, from Jesus' command (Latin: *mandatum*) that we love one another. The **evening service (7:00)** emphasizes service to one another and features foot washing (we have a hand washing option for the timid) and a special service of Holy Communion. The service ends with the stripping of the Altar.

The second Day is Good Friday. It is called Good, because Jesus shows God's love for us through the cross. **(7:00)** features quiet reflection on the crucifixion through the passion narrative in the gospel of St. John.

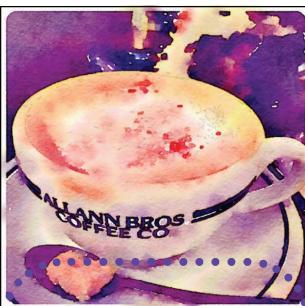
The third and final day is Holy Saturday, the day of the Easter Vigil. This **evening service (8:00)** begins an hour later than the rest to take advantage of the dark. It **begins in the courtyard** with the lighting of a new fire, reading of first testament deliverance stories, a baptismal re-affirmation, re-decorating of the altar and the first resurrection communion of Easter. Members of the Episcopal Church Good Samaritan have traditionally joined us here for this service in recent years.

Easter Sunday is the crown of the Church Year. This is the day we celebrate Christ risen from the tomb. Our **services will be at their regular times 8:30 and 11:00** with celebrations of Alleluias, and the singing of your favorite Easter Hymns and Songs. **Between worship (9:30 - 10:30) will be a breakfast in Ronnenkamp Hall with an Easter Egg hunt for the little ones.**

Observation of Stations of the Cross

During Lent people of all ages at Grace along with Luther House students have been creating colorful renditions of 14 Stations of the Cross on 7 Coloring Boards. After they are finished being colored, they will be utilized during the Sunday School time on Palm Sunday, giving our Sunday School children an opportunity to learn about this church tradition.

On **GOOD FRIDAY**, they will be placed in the sanctuary of Grace Lutheran from 1-3 pm for an opportunity for anyone interested to walk through them as part of one's Good Friday observance. Scripture and prayers will be provided at each station for personal meditation and reflection for those availing themselves of this opportunity.

Women's Luncheon

**April 13
2nd Thursday's
Women's
Luncheon at
Farm Home
@ 11:45am**

**April 25
4th Tuesday's
Women's
Luncheon at
New Morning
Bakery
@ 11:45am**



Like us on facebook:

Grace Lutheran Church-
ELCA-Corvallis

**There are several
Grace Lutheran
Church facebook
pages. The above
title will get you to
our page.**

Altar Guild Easter Flowers/Plants

Would you like to help the Altar Guild decorate the chancel with Spring Flowers for Easter? And add to Grace's springtime landscaping? Look for the form in the April 9th bulletin or the church office and return in the offering plate or church office no later than Wednesday, April 12th, so we can include names in the Easter bulletin. Please contact the office with any questions.

Lutheran World Relief

Two weeks ago, after hearing the wonderful song "Light Your World" at the end of the 11:00 service, I have been thinking of what I can do this next month to "light my candle!" A flyer for the LWR Ingathering had come a number of weeks before and had mentioned the current need for **Project Promise Personal Care Kits**. If the congregation would help me light *my* candle, thereby making it *our* candle, and we are able to collect at least 75 kits (being the 75th Anniversary year) we can all feel the flames in our heart.

Each kit should contain (all new items, in good condition):

- One light weight bath size towel (20"x40" to 52"x27") (dark color recommended)
- Two or three bath size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult size toothbrush in its original packaging. Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business size envelope; *no plastic bags or wrap*
- One STURDY comb, remove packaging (no picks or fine toothed combs)
- One metal nail clipper, remove packaging

We will need to have the kits at the church no later than Wed., May 3rd so that they can be delivered to St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Beaverton by May 5.

Thank you one and all for helping me with this project. Please call me with any questions, or if you just want to make a monetary donation toward supplies — 541.286.4537.

— Marna Renshaw

Blood Drive



American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life

The next Red Cross Blood Drive is on Wednesday, April 12th in the Fireside Room.

Contact Marna Renshaw at 541.286.4537 for information or to schedule an appointment.

All (blood types) are welcome!

No Way to Treat a Child

Wednesday, April 12, at 7 PM

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library — 645 NW Monroe Ave.

Presentation: No Way to Treat a Child (NWTTC), a joint project of American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and Defense of Children International-Palestine. (<http://nwttac.dci-palestine.org/>)



Free and everyone is welcome.

Local sponsors include: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Corvallis; and Veterans for Peace, Linus Pauling Chapter (<https://vfpcorvallis.wordpress.com/>)

Thomas Beilman, NWTTC regional coordinator, will share his experiences and insights gained through several trips to Palestine/Israel, including a fact-finding delegation last summer with Inter-faith Peace-Builders. He will share with us the many ways we can contribute to the growing momentum towards ending the Israeli occupation and its military detention of children, thereby giving peace and justice the opportunity to flourish in that troubled land. Program includes the short film, "Detaining Dreams" - stories of four Palestinian children and their families undergoing the ordeal of Israeli military detention.

For more information - Gretchen Newlin, 541-740-4207

Global Book Group

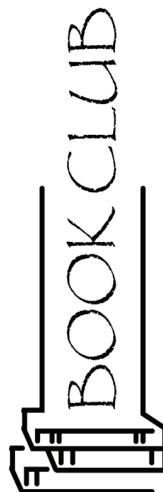
Welcome, any and all, to our happy band, as we seek to explore new worlds beyond our country and culture. Books for discussion are voted on by the group each May. We meet the **first Thursday of each month** except December. Time is 7 p.m. until approximately 8:30. As you can see the list is getting a bit short. That means **we are beginning to choose books for next fall** already. You may submit your book suggestion by email to Sharon Rosenkoetter or bring them to an upcoming meeting of the group.

Questions? Please give me a call: Sharon Rosenkoetter 541-752-1846;
sharon.rosenkoetter@oregonstate.edu.

April 6 ***They Would Never Hurt a Fly*** by S. Drakulic
Led by Carol Erickson

May 4 ***The Warmth of Other Suns*** by Isabel Wilkerson
Led by Darlene Leklem

June 1 ***Krakatoa*** by Simon Winchester
Led by Pastor Wendell



Thanks to our March 12th Sermon Panelists!

Six members of our congregation all parents of children ranging in age from toddlers through a freshman in high school agreed to participate in a Q. and A. sermon format for both our worship services that morning. Panelists at the 8:30 a.m. worship were Erin Radniecki, Michael and Rebekah Hadlock. Those who served as panelists for the 11 a.m. worship were Jude Geist, Rachel Harrington and Jeff Palmgren.

If you missed worship that Sunday, you may hear the 8:30 service panelists by clicking on the "Sermon" box on our website, www.grace97330.org or you may read Erin's and Michael's written responses below to the questions posed (not all of which were covered during our limited time during worship).

Q. How do the challenges you face given the culture, community and times in which we live reflect the importance of your ties to this faith community?

Erin: I think that in this time where society/culture focuses so much on the individual, being part of a faith community reminds us that 'it's not all about me'. It forces us outside of ourselves, even when it is difficult and takes energy.

Michael: Exercising a spiritual practice provides a foundation. Believing in and falling back on a spiritual base allows a person to land back and rest when the world provides challenges. Grace in particular has an accepting culture which allows people to be comfortable with who they are.

Q. Here in the NW there are more people in your age group who do not attend church than do attend. You are pretty unique and special in this part of the world. How does this reality and other factors challenge your ties to and participation in this faith community?

Erin: The reality that other people in my age group do not attend church does not challenge my participation. I don't need my friends or coworkers to approve of my faith in order to feel comfortable exercising it, and I don't hide the fact that I'm part of a faith community. The challenges in participating come from a lack of time and energy; that there are only so many hours in a day and so many things that I need and want to do. I expect this to only increase as Mason gets older and more of our family's free time is spent on his activities. For these reasons I carefully guard my time and am careful not to over commit.

Michael: It feels like it mostly affects my children. Not having the people and activities we had when we were younger makes it harder for children to be involved in Church groups.

Q. As we look to the next 75 years of the life of Grace Lutheran church and beyond, what is something that you think is important for us to carry into the future?

Erin: Continue to be open to all, affirming the value of each person as a Child of God.

Michael: Teach faith based living and the practice of spiritual health. All ages can benefit but continuing to teach children will carry the practice to the future.

Q. We live in a mobile society, thus some of us, including your pastors, have had or will have an opportunity to participate in the life of other congregations. What is something that you think the whole church, not just this congregation, but the church in general needs in order to remain vital and life giving in the future?

Erin: The church needs to be open to new interpretations of what 'church' is. What has worked for and appealed to people in the past may not resonate with people in the future (or even right now). For example, church activities have traditionally centered around worship, with education and outreach opportunities on the side. What would happen if this were reversed? If our focus was on projects related to caring for our neighbors and creation - emphasizing the common concerns that we share with the greater community - and worship was on the side? As fewer people attend church over time, when we talk about welcoming people to participate we're talking about welcoming people who have no experience with a faith community, and my question is always "why?". Why would someone who has no church background choose to participate in a faith community? Those common concerns are the places where we can meet people and engage them. And who knows, maybe they'll stick around for worship.

Michael: The church and the spiritual foundation it provides is a great foundation for people that have problems. Everyone has problems. Therefore, there will always be a place for the church. Providing a stable/open place for people to come and exercise spiritual health will continue to be a key role of the church.

Q. As we celebrate both the gift of grace and the gift of Grace Lutheran Church, what is one specific thing at Grace Lutheran for which you are thankful and celebrate this day?

Erin: I'm thankful for the interest that the congregation takes in our family, and for making attending church with a young child seem possible.

Michael: The spiritual teachings and foundation it provides for our family.

April Birthdays

Johnny Corkill	4/01
Martina Vega	4/02
Zachary Weber	4/03
Eric Kamke	4/04
Dick Junge	4/06
Teri Briskey	4/07
Dale Weber	4/08
Carol Erickson	4/09
Hal Dick	4/09
Stephen Aulerich	4/09
Christina Lundahl	4/10
Betty McCauley	4/11
Harold Brauner	4/11
Jeff Palmgren	4/11
Ellen Gelser	4/12
Millie Babb	4/14
Michael Beachley	4/14
Caitlyn Zwang	4/15
Ryan Erickson	4/15
Calla Shaff	4/15
Larry Boersma	4/16
Wendell Hendershott	4/17
Aaron Davis	4/17
Marilyn Walsh	4/18
Terry Renshaw	4/19
Susan Speulda	4/22
Joyce Signer	4/23
Kendra Wollert	4/23
Kyah Weeber	4/23
Sharon Rosenkoetter	4/24
Eleanor Harrington	4/25
Mason Moody	4/26
Linda Samuels	4/27
Angie Gallagher	4/27
Kimberly Parrott	4/27
Kris Warloe	4/28
Doris Volk	4/29
Todd Washington	4/29



Grace Personnel

**Pastor Netsie Griffith &
Pastor Wendell Hendershott**

Director of Discipling Ministries - Donna King
Director of Music Ministries - Br. Christopher Buckley

Organist - Sunghee Kim

Custodian - Sam McKay

Nursery - Maricsa Ramos & Morgan Whisenhunt

Office Administrator - Carol Terrill

Office Assistant - Jody Parker

Bookkeeper - Robin Comforto

Prayer Chain - Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens

Facebook Administrator - Sue Speulda

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

Teams & Committees

Property Committee - Ron Larson , 541.752.0754

Communications Committee
Mary Ann Brenan, 541.230.1696

Sunday Hospitality
Dayle Christensen, 541.752.6233

Reception Hospitality - Position Open

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 - Iona Trapp, 541.207.3886

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

Pastoral Counseling Center

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

Campus Ministry at Luther House
Jim Norlie, Pastor, 541.753.5213

Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers
Norma Moody, 541.754.2555

Youth @ Grace

You are invited!

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 16th

9:30 – 10:45 am in Ronnenkamp Hall

With an Easter Egg Hunt for children around 10 am!

All donations (up to \$1000) will be matched by Grace Foundation, and everything given will help Grace Youth and Luther House students participate in the global *LutherGarten* celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation!

Grace Youth, their parents, and some of the Luther House students will be cooking you a delicious hot breakfast on Easter morning. Ham, scrambled eggs, French toast, and other treats will be on the menu. We hope you'll come join us for this wonderful community tradition. Everyone is welcome!

There is no set fee for the breakfast, but your donations will go for a great cause. This year Grace youth are partnering with the Luther House students to participate in the global *LutherGarten* project celebrating this year's 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. We've set a goal of \$2000 for our share of this project. Come help us do something that will bring hope for years to come!

500 years ago, Pastor Martin Luther posted 95 Theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany that sparked a Reformation in the church and world. Today, sponsors from all around the world are planting a garden of 500 trees in Wittenberg Germany – and another 500 partner trees in their own hometowns – to remember this history and to bring new hope to the world.

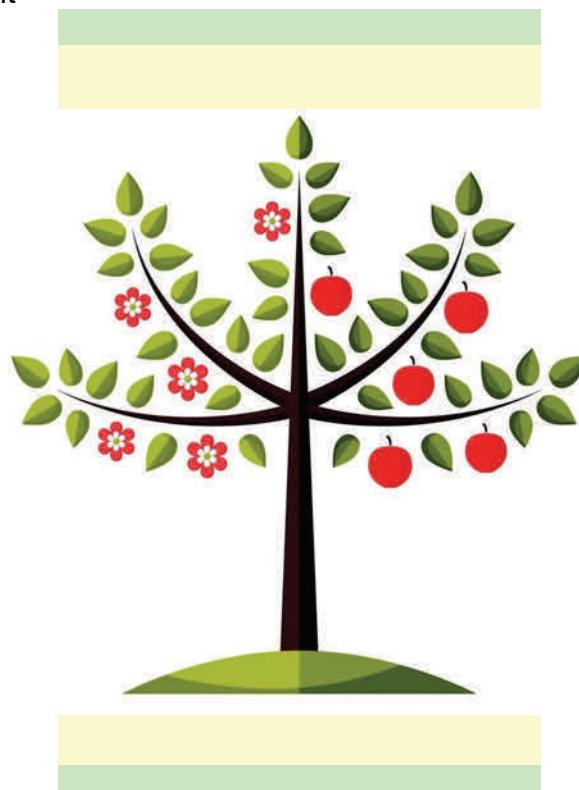
The *LutherGarten* tells a story that begins more than five centuries ago, then spreads around the world and will continue into the future. Trees are a gift of grace. They create space and connection between people, last longer than we do, bring shade, bear fruit, benefit ecosystems, transform communities, and serve as tangible way to tell the story of the theology of the Reformation.

We want to be part of this exciting project. Grace Youth and Luther House students are sponsoring one tree in the *LutherGarten*, and hope to plant two partner trees here in Corvallis soon after Easter. All trees will be marked with a plaque naming us and our connection with the Reformation 500 celebration. We think something growing, global, bearing gifts, begun, but never complete is the perfect way to celebrate faith.

For an interactive map showing sponsors of the *LutherGarten*, visit <http://www.luthergarten.de/baumpaten-weltweit-englisch.html> We'll be the first in Oregon to sponsor a tree. Come to the Easter Breakfast and help us reach our goal!



Summer Plans? Hold the Dates for Day Camp!



Luther House News

LUTHERFEST 2017 IN REVIEW

Thanks to 253 enthusiastic guests, generous sponsors, a terrific planning team, supportive beer and cheese vendors, OSU speakers representing fermentation science and the on-campus creamery, student leaders, and lots of volunteers, Lutherfest 2017 was a great success. We raised almost \$10,000 for Luther House programming in 2017. A traveling trophy was awarded to Our Saviour's Lutheran (Lebanon) as the congregation with the largest contingent of guests present. Nine gift baskets were presented to lucky ticket holders. The planning team is already looking ahead and has chosen Sunday, February 25, 2018, as the likely – but tentative – date for Lutherfest 2018. Save the date, get your tastebuds ready, and plan to join the fun.

LUTHERGARTEN PROJECT

Luther House students and youth from Grace Lutheran (Corvallis) have decided to join forces and raise enough money (500€) to plant a commemorative tree in Wittenberg, Germany, at the Lutheran World Federation's Luthergarten <http://www.luthergarten.de/welcome.html> in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It will be planted April 18. Names of both ministries will appear on the plaque that identifies "our" tree. A scripture chosen by our groups will also appear on the plaque: "For you shall go forth in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands" (Isaiah 55:12). Our very own Markus Woltjer will visit the tree this summer and take pictures to send our way when he travels to see his grandparents who live in Wittenberg. A condition of the tree planting in Wittenberg is that we plant one or more trees in Corvallis to reinforce the Reformation celebration locally. Plans are underway to select a tree and location for this purpose. Our fundraiser is the annual Easter Breakfast, April 16, 9:30-11:00 in Grace's Ronnenkamp Hall. All donations will help us reach our goal. They'll be supplemented with Thrivent Action Team dollars to offset expenses for the breakfast. Please join us for breakfast and help us reach our goal.

CALL COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK

A team of six people – Mark Bringman, Erin Radniecki, Frank Davis, Sandi Phibbs, Chris Sims, and Kelly Cooper – has been named to serve as the Call Committee that will search for Pr. Jim's successor. They've already had a couple organizational meetings and received paperwork for prospective candidates. Please keep them in your prayers as they sift through candidate information, assess the needs and opportunities for pastoral leadership at Luther House, and eventually select a person who will take this ministry into its next chapter.

LUTHER HOUSE MONTH AT GRACE

Spring always means that Luther House is featured during adult education hour at Grace Lutheran Church, Corvallis. This year is no different, except it's Pr. Jim's last chance to lead the class as campus pastor. In an effort to think together out loud about the scope of his ministry at Luther House since 1995, he's offering a three-part series under the broad title "So, What Have I Been Doing for 22 Years?" Each week he'll answer that question by focusing on a distinct theme – "Providing Hospitality" (April 23), "Building Community" (April 30), and "Inspiring Service" (May 7). You're invited to join the journey and be part of the conversation as he reflects on ministry as it's been and imagines ministry as it might be. It's free and open to the public. All classes meet in the Ronnenkamp Hall, 9:45-10:45.



Grace Center News

I hope you have all noticed the poster for Grace Center's Jubilee – our annual fundraiser. It was once held at the Center in the fall but is now a spring dinner at the Adair Club House. Call the Center or a board member about tickets at \$50 each. It would be great to have Grace Church well represented at the event to show that we continue to support the service we started so many years ago.

Why do we need a fundraiser anyway? It serves around 60 people every month, with about 26 in the Center on any one day, depending on their needs. Some participants come two or three times a week, some full time as their families work. Others come occasionally to have help with showering or to enjoy a massage. In 2016 31% of the budget paid 17 employees (10FTE) who care for individuals who have had strokes or recent surgeries and need our gym for physical therapy. Our people with memory problems are stimulated in art classes. 23% of budget goes for program expenses from lunches to art supplies, and 23% for administrative expenses such as pay roll services. Even phones and computers need to be up to date.

Of course now we are also into a capital campaign to pay for our building. The initial "silent phase" has raised over half of the \$1 million for the current building. We will also need another half a million for an operating endowment. We are on the way. As Wayne Kradjan, chair of the campaign committee said, this is "positioning Grace Center to serve the rapidly growing aging population in our community."

- Betty McCauley

Save the Date: SATURDAY, April 22nd

The Grace Center Jubilee, our annual fundraiser, is now in the Spring!

We hope to see you at this year's Jubilee celebration, on Saturday, April 22, from 5:00-8:30 pm, at Adair Clubhouse. The event will begin with hors d'oeuvres and drinks in the garden with live music and a diverse silent auction selection to peruse. A variety of drink choices will be available from local wineries and breweries. A sit down, buffet dinner will follow, and a live auction will take place during dessert. Our goal this year is to raise \$25,000. We count on the funds raised to support our program.

Tickets to the event are only \$50 per person. I would be happy to assist you with ticket purchase. You can complete the form below and either email it to Grace Center, make your reservation on-line using our website (www.gracecenter-corvallis.org), or mail your check (payable to Grace Center) to 980 NW Spruce Ave, Corvallis, OR 97330. Credit card sales may require that you present your card in person for processing. Please make your reservations in advance as seating is limited to the first 140 reservations.

Please indicate the number of tickets you wish to purchase:

NUMBER-- _____ X \$50 per ticket = \$ _____

I am unable to attend; please accept my tax deductible contribution of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Reservations will be held at the door. For more information call 541-754-8417



Council Meeting Minutes

**Congregational Council
Meeting Minutes**
March 13, 2017
6:00—9:10 pm
Attendance:

Hal Brauner
 Pr. Netsie Griffith
 Rebekah Hadlock
 Pr. Wendell Hendershott
 Dick Junge
 Donna King
 Ardis Koester
 Jaya Lapham
 Shelly Lundahl
 Sue Musil
 Lew Nelson
 Anne Orwick
 Sharon Rosenkoetter
 Jim Wernz

Guests:

Dave Lundahl
 Carol Warloe
 Gordon Matzke

Special Guest:

Susan Kintner
Asst to the Bishop of OR Synod

Devotions were led by Ardis Koester reading 1 Cor. 12:1-11 on the variety of spiritual gifts.

Sharon Rosenkoetter was welcomed as accepting the position of council member until the next election.

A discussion time with Susan Kintner focused on recognizing current trends in church demographics and finances while creatively looking for options for doing community ministry that best uses Grace resources.

Consent Agenda:

The Consent Agenda including the Council Minutes of the January 9, 2017, the Executive Committee Minutes of March 7, 2017, the Stewardship Committee Report of March 8, 2017, a Summary of the Joint Stewardship and Finance Committee Meeting with Pastor Glenn Chase February 9, and the Property Committee Report of February 23, 2017 was accepted. Moved, seconded, and passed. (MSP)

Item removed from the Consent Agenda:

Grace Foundation asked the Council to ratify a grant of \$3000 toward the Reformation@500 project with OSU to fund music, speaking, and art events in October 2017. (MSP)

New Business:

- Review of the Council Retreat and discussion of the conversation with Susan Kintner was tabled until the next council meeting.
 Date of Council 2018 retreat to be last weekend in February

Continuing Business:

- 75th Anniversary- A banquet celebration was enjoyed with 108 people, complementary music selections, a slide show, reading of a poem by Dottie Humbolt, and review of the GIF campaign success to date. Interest in making more of the history book material widely available, possibly through the website. The council sent Thank you cards to Anniversary Committee members. worship on March 26 will include Martha Maier, former associate pastor.
- Reformation@500 was introduced- a series of events in October 2017. Prs. Wendell & Netsie, Donna King, and Jim Norlie are on the planning team.
- Council ministry liaisons were confirmed.

Church Picnic will be July 9 as a kick-off for the day camp program. Pr. Netsie will contact Jude Geist to review the Lions Shelter at Avery Park.

Officers/Staff Reports:

Pr. Wendell noted that Roger Lundquist has passed, but he had communed him just prior. The defibrillator is getting fixed, and the pastors have plans for time-off for the week after Easter.


President:

Bob Keith

Vice President:

Anne Howard-Orwick

Secretary:

Shelly Lundahl

Treasurer:

Hal Brauner

Financial Secretary:

Mary Stephens

Council Members:

Pr. Netsie Griffith

Pr. Wendell Hendershott

Rebekah Hadlock

Dick Junge

Ardis Koester

Jaya Lapham

Sue Musil

Lew Nelson

Sharon Rosenkoetter

Jim Wernz

Council Minutes Cont.

Pr. Netsie reported that Randy Joss is stepping down from the Communications Committee, but his leadership has been greatly appreciated. The sermon panels March 12 had positive feedback. Carol Terrill and Jody Parker will be out of the office 4 days for the Lutheran Staff Association Conference in Coeur d'Alene, ID.

Donna King, Discipling Minister, highlighted the up-coming activities and educational opportunities. The High Schoolers, Middle Schoolers and Luther House students are planning to jointly sponsor a tree in the Lutergarten in Germany to be planted April 18, 2017. For the tree plaque students chose Isaiah 55:12, which is on Luther House wall. High Schoolers are studying Bonhoeffer's book Discipleship. Pastor Norlie's last classes will be April 23,30, May 7. During Friendship Sunday students packed 75 bags of food for donations.

Hal Brauner, Treasurer noted that while January contributions were below budget, expenses were normal. February had high income with normal expenses. One large gift accounted for the current surplus.

Closing Prayer was led by Pr. Wendell Hendershott.

Adjournment,

Shelly Lundahl, Secretary

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

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, Kathy Vohland (*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, Norma Moody, Anne Orwick, Sue Speulda, Ellen Swanson Topness, Donna Wernz, Sandie Williams, Glenn Chaffin, Mason Cooper, Steven Evans-Renteria, 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

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Living in God's amazing grace

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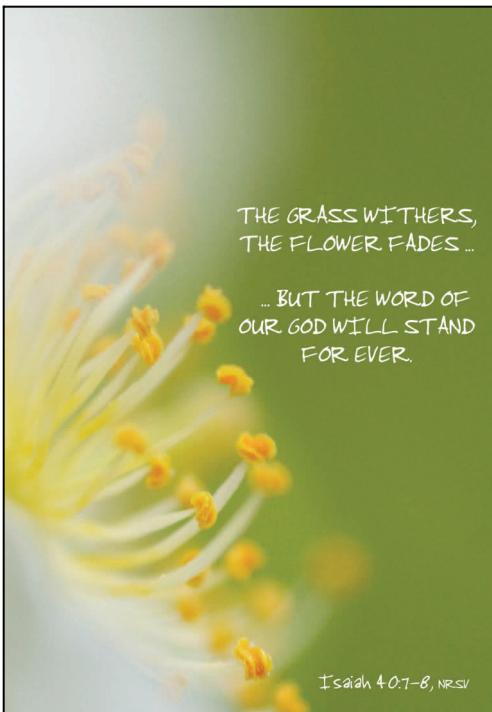
Grace Gatherings deadline for the May issue

is April 20th

Send articles/photos to office@grace97330.org

Grace Gatherings

volume XVI • number 4



Nametags

To remind and encourage us to wear our nametags, the Nametag Stand has been moved to a more prominent place in the narthex as one enters the sanctuary. If you have lost your nametag contact the church office during the week and ask for a new one to be made for you. Wearing your nametag will help our new members as well as others become better acquainted.

Yoga Update

Yoga classes at Grace continue but have now been consolidated into one time slot on two different days of the week.

For those who prefer an evening class, come on . . .

Mondays at 5:45 p.m.

For those who prefer a morning class, come on . . .

Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m.

Both classes are held in Ronnenkamp Hall. There is no fee but participants are welcome to make a donation.