



Grace GATHERINGS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



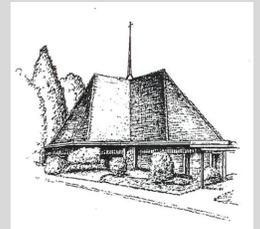
We believe that God loves us without regard for our race or culture, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, physical or mental health, life circumstance or socio-economic situation. Therefore, we extend that same grace-filled love to you.

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."*



Lent & Easter 2018

Wednesday Lenten Services continue through March 21st

Wednesday Evening Schedule

6 PM Soup Supper
7 PM Evening Prayer
7:25 PM Choir rehearsal

Holy Week and The Triduum

March 25, 8:30 and 11 AM, **Palm Sunday**, Procession with Palms
March 29, 7 PM, **Maundy Thursday**, Worship
March 30, **Good Friday** — 1-3 PM, Stations of the Cross; 7 PM, Worship
March 31, 8 PM, **Easter Vigil**, Worship

April 1, **Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of Our Lord**

Festival Worship 8:30 and 11 AM
Easter Breakfast 9-10:30 AM

Easter Egg Hunt will happen when then kids are ready

(see pg. 6 for additional information)

Save the Date

- **April 1st** — Easter Sunday
- **April 7th** — Churchwide Spring Clean-Up
- **April 28th** — Regional Synod Gathering at Grace Lutheran
- **May 19th** — Synod Assembly
- **August 5-10** — Summer Day Camp



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



**There will be an updated directory in 2018. Thank you for your patience as we figure out what it will look like.*

Prayers

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

Thanks:

Thank you to all who supported my "February Adventure" through prayers, cards, and well wishes. Your prayers were answered and I am recovering, especially with gratitude for being a member of the most loving church family ever." — Kathy Vohland

"I expect to pass this way but once; any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

— Etienne De Grellet

Thank you to everyone who so graciously sent their greetings of care and condolence at the death of my father. Your heartfelt words and prayers have touched our lives. — Pr. Wendell and family

Illnesses and Other Concerns:

- * Gloria, for healing after a fall
- * Robert and Sophie Grow, for healing and support
- * Gayle and her granddaughter Talia, as Gayle goes through cancer treatment
- * Bob Schoning, for strength and healing
- * Jo Rhineheart Logan, for healing
- * Ryan Richards, for healing after heart surgery
- * Tonia, friend of Grace Lutheran, for peace of mind, healing, and shelter
- * Carol Freeman, for health and healing
- * Bev Raze, for her knees and her health care team
- * Marna Renshaw, for continued healing from her knee surgery
- * Anna Upenieks, for healing
- * Georgine Thompson and Ray Sanders, for comfort and strength
- * Harold Benson and family, for comfort and strength
- * Owen Hamilton, a 3 year-old with hemophilia
- * Mary Ann Brennan, for an upcoming medical procedure, good health and healing
- * Linda Roberts, for continued healing
- * Jean Grosz, for health and healing
- * Kathy Vohland, for continued healing

Death:

- * Jim Watt, uncle to Donna Wernz
- * Lee Hendershott, Pr. Wendell's father

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 — The Invocation of a Blessing

Last month both Pr. Wendell and I, at different times, were invited to provide an invocation for the opening of the Senate session during this short legislative session year. In the process of pondering what to share in the short two minutes of allotted time, my eyes were drawn to a book recently removed from my shelf of tried and true resources. The book was John O'Donohue's *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*.

Under the section of the book titled "Callings" was the below "Blessing for a Leader." As I read through it I thought, "This is it." These are words that offer a variety of gifts to elected leaders depending upon need and receptivity. If one is in need of encouragement to do that which is just beginning to blossom it can be found here. If another is in need of a corrective to misguided leadership that too is found here. Refraining from that which is unbefitting of human interaction and courage to engage in that which is difficult but offers grace, forgiveness and growth opportunities for others is all here.

A few days after I shared this blessing with all in the Senate chamber that day I shared it again with the members of our 2018 Church Council here at Grace. I did so because leadership is an interesting state of being. Some people aspire to be leaders. Others do everything possible to avoid leadership. I call this the "Moses Syndrome." "Certainly, not me God. You must mean my brother, Aaron. He's got what you need. Not me." So, it is that we sometimes unexpectedly find ourselves in positions of leadership and wonder how it happened.

Yet, if you're a high school student in a room full of second graders, you are a leader. If you are a math whiz in a room of others struggling with basic arithmetic, you are a leader. Are you an exceptionally skilled knitter among a group of knitters? You are a leader. Acknowledging and embracing leadership can sometimes be one of the most frightening things a person does. Yet, in some area or some aspect of our life at some period in our life, we are all called upon to lead, ready or not.

At such times may we seek to emulate those whose leadership truly has been, is and continues to be a blessing. So, as inspiration, I offer to you the words of John O'Donohue offered to others last month.

BLESSING FOR A LEADER

by John O'Donohue

May you have the grace and wisdom
To act kindly, learning
To distinguish between what is
Personal and what is not.
May you be hospitable to criticism.
May you never put yourself at the center of things.
May you act not from arrogance but out of service.
May you work on yourself,
Building up and refining the ways of your mind.
May those who work for you know
You see and respect them.
May you learn to cultivate the art of presence
In order to engage with those who meet you.
When someone fails or disappoints you,
May the graciousness with which you engage
Be their stairway to renewal and refinement.
May you treasure the gifts of the mind
Through reading and creative thinking
So that you continue as a servant of the frontier
Where the new will draw its enrichment from the old,
And you never become a functionary.
May you know the wisdom of deep listening,
The healing of wholesome words,
The encouragement of the appreciative gaze,
The decorum of held dignity,
The springtime edge of the bleak question.
May you have a mind that loves frontiers

So that you can evoke the bright fields
That lie beyond the view of the regular eye.
May you have good friends
To mirror your blind spots.
May leadership be for you
A true adventure of growth.

In his book O'Donohue says, "The language of blessing is invocation, a calling forth. This is why the word *may* occurs throughout the book; . . . the word *may* is the spring through which the Holy Spirit is invoked to surge into presence and effect. The Holy Spirit is the subtle presence and secret energy behind every blessing."

Thus, I end this article with my own attempt at a blessing. May the Holy Spirit invoke, call forth from you and from us all those unique things which we have to offer that others need to receive. May such a calling lead to our own growth and the growth of this community of faith into which we are all called.

— Pr. Netsie



Graphic by Dan Erlander

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



March 8th
2nd Thursday's
Women's
Luncheon at
Angry Beaver
@ 11:45am



March 27th
4th Tuesday's
Women's
Luncheon at
New Morning
Bakery
@ 11:45am

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Beginning on Tuesday, March 6th, we engage in a book study of *The Parables of Judgment* by Robert Farrar Capon, one of three books Capon has written on the parables of Jesus.

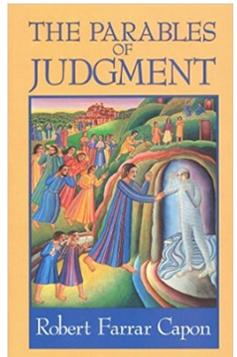
We have discovered through our study of the gospels that certain aspects of many of Jesus' parables are challenging to say the least. Those parables which present us with the greatest challenge are categorized as "Parables of Judgment." Judgment has been a concept that has traditionally been approached with fear, trembling and foreboding. Yet Capon helps us to see the promise and good news of judgment.

We hope you will be encouraged to join us as we begin this interesting new focus for our time together.

We gather weekly on Tuesdays from 1-2:30 pm in the Fireside Room.



Tuesday
BIBLE STUDY



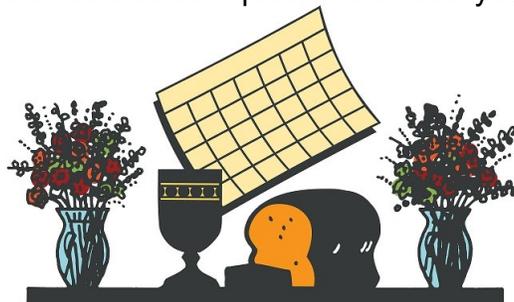
Pastor Wendell's Sunday Class

By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism

Pastor Wendell class on Luther's Small Catechism continues on **March 11**, with a look at **Holy Communion**. The class book, *By Heart*, reviews the five chief parts of the catechism, written for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, is encouraging each congregation to take a new look at the Small Catechism on this anniversary. This is an excellent opportunity 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. Our class usually meets the second Sunday of each month in Ronnenkamp Hall.

Altar (Guild) Call

Grace's faithful Altar Guild need help keeping the glass communion cups clean. Washing can occur at either church or home. All are welcome to join — young, old, male, female, etc. Many hands make light work — please speak with Linda Samuels to ask questions or add your name to the list. Linda can be reached at 541.740.4990.



ALTAR GUILD

We Make Things Happen

You can too...

Sunday Adult Bible Study with Frank & Sue

The broad purposes for this quarter's study are to affirm the mercy and faithfulness of God to the Hebrew people, the church, and to Christians today; to recognize God's demand for faithful obedience; to rejoice in the resurrection and in the coming of the Holy Spirit; and to increase our praise, adoration, and thanks for God's mercy, forgiveness, and faithfulness to us.

Our Writer

Margaret A. Krych is Charles F. Norton professor emerita of Christian Education and Theology at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, where she served as a faculty member for thirty-one years. She retired in 2008 from her position as the seminary's associate dean of graduate education. She continues to teach occasional seminary courses and to write. She is an ordained ELCA pastor and lives in Pennsylvania with her husband, Arden, also a retired ELCA pastor.

For the Grace Weekly Update

Lesson 1	March 4	The Lord Will Provide	Genesis 22:1-3, 6-14
Lesson 2	March 11	There is No God like You	2 Chronicles 6:12-21
Lesson 3	March 18	The People Gave Thanks to God	2 Chronicles 7:1-9
Lesson 4	March 25	God's Word of Rebuke and Promise	2 Chronicles 7:12-22

Ten Rivers Food Web Nutrition Program

"The New Era of Nutrition"

Discussion with Mike Waters, MA, Health Promotion Coordinator
Ten Rivers Food Web Nutrition Program

**Sunday, March 4th
9:45 - 10:45 am in Ronnenkamp Hall**

We're in the new period of plant based nutrition. Farmers markets, whole, and "clean" foods. But is all of this really new? Join us for this interactive information session on the community, regional and national buzz on a new (but old?) way of eating more directly from the land.

- What is a "Food is medicine" or "Veggie Rx" program? What does it mean to you?
- What is the new world of "Foodaceuticals" and "Nutraceuticals"?

You will leave with some action steps to get started, if you want to move your healthy eating in this direction.



Spring forward on Sunday, March 11th

Don't forget to set your clocks forward
before you go to bed on Saturday
so you aren't late for worship!

Holy Week at Grace

Palm Sunday: Again, this year we will gather under the entry porticos before each service for the blessing of the palms and process around the sanctuary 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.

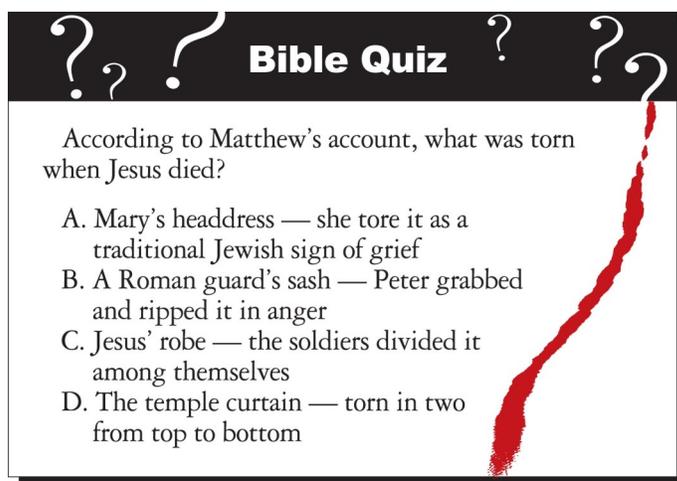
Triduum: (The Three Days) The three days before Easter are called The Triduum [pronounced TRIH-dee-oom] which is the Latin term for three days. The Triduum is a call to three days of prayer in preparation for Easter and the resurrection celebration of Christ.

The first day is Maundy Thursday: from Jesus' command (Latin: *mandatum*) that we love one another. The evening service at 7:00 pm 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. The evening service at 7 pm 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. The evening service at 8:00 pm 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 reaffirmation, re-decorating of the altar and the first resurrection communion of Easter.

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 (9:00 - 10:30) will be a breakfast in Ronnenkamp Hall with an Easter Egg hunt for the little ones.**



Bible Quiz

According to Matthew's account, what was torn when Jesus died?

- A. Mary's headdress — she tore it as a traditional Jewish sign of grief
- B. A Roman guard's sash — Peter grabbed and ripped it in anger
- C. Jesus' robe — the soldiers divided it among themselves
- D. The temple curtain — torn in two from top to bottom

Answer: D (See Matthew 27:51.)



Stan Miles	03/03
Shelley Chamberlin	03/04
Ron Larson	03/05
Adele Neukomm	03/05
Kristana Burt	03/06
Jaya Conser Lapham	03/07
Michael Gallagher	03/07
Michael Kinch	03/09
Shelly Lundahl	03/09
Lillian White	03/09
Becky Kiersky	03/10
Kathy Vohland	03/16
Matthew Aulerich	03/18
Todd Weber	03/19
Carol Guard	03/20
Doris Peters	03/20
Maia Gelser	03/21
Diane Stadvold	03/21
Sarah Aulerich	03/24
Carol Kamke	03/24
Kathryn Kamke	03/24
Phillip King	03/24
Allie Palmgren	03/25
Scott Shaff	03/25
Nathan Speulda	03/25
Nathan Williams	03/25
Peggy Custer	03/26
Wanda Parrott	03/27
Kathy Farnsworth	03/28
MaryJane Weber	03/28
Alexander Zeller	03/28
Marilyn Lesmeister	03/29

Grace Personnel

**Pastor Netsie Griffith &
 Pastor Wendell Hendershott**

Bookkeeper - Robin Comforto

Custodian - Sam McKay

Director of Discipling Ministries - Donna King

Director of Music Ministries - Br. Christopher Buckley

Facebook Administrator - Rebekah Hadlock

Financial Secretary: Mary Stephens

Nursery - Nate Olsen

Office Administrator - Carol Terrill

Office Assistant - Jody Parker

Organist/Pianist - Sunghie Kim

Prayer Chain - Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens

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, 541.602.2818

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 Strohle, 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

Miracles at Kings and Harrison

Up until just a few years ago, Grace Stewardship would identify a special ministry that our faith community could support through special end-of-year financial giving. We raised thousands of dollars each year in this way and still met our financial commitments through regular offerings to support the many ways we serve in ministry and mission at and through Grace. We called this annual opportunity to give “Miracle at Kings and Harrison.” In many ways this was not the only miracle, but testament to the many “Miracles at Kings and Harrison.”

The Stewardship Team had an opportunity last spring to join with the Church Council and met with Susan Kintner, our Assistant to the Bishop. She reminded us that Grace is an outstanding, vibrant congregation in the Oregon Synod. At the recent Annual Meeting, our co-pastors reminded us of this fact. Why? Because we change lives. We are testimony to God’s work alive in and through the people at Grace Lutheran at Kings and Harrison.

Many of us do not see the everyday miracles that happen at and through Grace. Our two pastors do. Pastor Wendell gave an example this week to the Stewardship Team of a homeless person desperately needing a ride to Salem. One call and a member of Grace drove this individual up to Salem. A survey last year found about 20,000 hours given annually by our church laity to serve in ministry and mission. Lead by our pastors and staff, we are a living example of 1 Peter 2:9 “a royal priesthood of believers.” Our two pastors and staff work to equip and send us all out in mission and ministry. As we are changed, so are we able to serve and change the lives of others.

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, we passed a \$23,000 deficit budget. Deficit budgets are an estimated shortfall between what our Stewardship Team estimates members will give and what our Finance Committee estimates it will take to support our existing pastors and staff to lead us in ministry and mission. The Stewardship Team relies on pledges in the fall to estimate giving for the upcoming year. 38% of those who pledged last fall committed an increase in giving for 2018 through their regular offerings, yet we still came up short despite an increase in giving units within our church community. Fact is that many do not participate in pledged giving. Passing this deficit budget reflects a decision by our congregation to have the Stewardship Team create a new opportunity for our church community to support the ongoing Miracles at Kings and Harrison by increasing pledged giving.

We are seeking your help. If you did not pledge last fall, you can help us close this deficit budget gap by pledging support within your means for ongoing ministry and mission at Grace. If you have already pledged and wish to adjust your amount, you can also make a positive impact to reduce this deficit budget gap. Please look for a letter from the Stewardship Team in the upcoming weeks about pledged giving to support the ongoing Miracles at Kings and Harrison.

— Dave Lundahl, Chair of Stewardship Team



Grace Lutheran Church

Twelfth Annual
Chili Cook-Off & Potluck

March 4, 2018 12:30pm

Where: Ronnenkamp Hall
Open Entries: Bring Pot of Chili, Chili Name by 12:30pm
Chili Awards: Best, Runner Up, Most Healthy & Most Popular

Fundraiser: 2018 Youth Gathering
Sponsored by Men's Ministry & Thrivent Financial

THANKS so very much to each and every one of you for doing a great job making the Chili Cook-off lots of fun and a very productive fundraiser!

Your total for the day stands at \$915.20 + a \$25 IOU + 3 of the 4 cookie orders not yet paid for + whatever other gifts we don't even know about yet. As you know, Grace Foundation will be matching what you earn 2:1 - which means the total for today will be over \$2745.

Thanks for all the chili makers, the bakers, the set-up & take down crew, the PR team, the Men's Ministry, Thrivent, the Foundation, and to everyone who came to taste each of the 11 great pots of chili.

What an awesome day!

Globaliers — Monthly Book Club

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.

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

The winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, as well as five other awards, *The Sympathizer* is the breakthrough novel of the year. With the pace and suspense of a thriller and prose that has been compared to Graham Greene and Saul Bellow, *The Sympathizer* is a sweeping epic of love and betrayal. *The Sympathizer* is a blistering exploration of identity and America, a gripping espionage novel, and a powerful story of love and friendship.

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

What happens when an adventure travel expert—who's never actually done anything adventurous—tries to re-create the original expedition to Machu Picchu?

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

Begin to consider what books we wish to read and discuss in 2018-19. Nominations will begin in March, with a vote scheduled in May.

Grace Gallery

Thank you, Cy Stadvold, for sharing your beautiful landscapes last month. Currently there is a broad display of Linda Burt's work to take in and appreciate. Linda uses a variety of media to capture nature and beloved Oregon locations.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ◆ March 2-April 15 | Linda Burt |
| ◆ April 16-June 1 | Rev. Joel Nickel |
| ◆ June 2-August 1 | Kathryn Honey |
| ◆ August 2—September 15 | Jim Wernz |
| ◆ September 16—October 31 | Mary Stephens |
| ◆ November 1—December 15 | Norma Moody & Woodworkers |



We are planning a woodworkers' display. Calling all woodworkers to produce small items for sharing. Anyone else who wishes to have a showing in the Grace Gallery, please share your interest with one of the pastors.

Luther House News

Lutherfest! Did you go? Thank you to those who purchased tickets and attended this year's fundraiser. Blessings to all who make this campus ministry a priority — we couldn't do it without you. Mark your calendars now for Lutherfest 2019!



Camp Lutherwood News

Grace Lutheran was represented by Patrick Schroeder, Kendra Wollert and Pr. Netsie Griffith at the annual meeting of the Camp Lutherwood Oregon Association held on Saturday February 3rd in Albany at Good Shepherd Lutheran church. Below are highlights they took away from the meeting.



From Patrick Schroeder - On the marketing side, 2017 was an exciting year at Lutherwood. Now users can view the Lutherwood homepage on phones, tablets and computers with new mobile friendly version of the site. The site is more streamlined and easy to navigate and all the information is up-to-date. Lutherwood was able to upgrade their park signage in 2017. Some of the contributions came from the print on online, "Signage Project". The campaign reached the goal of \$8,000 in about two months and is a great example of how new online marketing techniques can be combined with fundraising.

From Pastor Netsie – While summer, faith-based programming for children and youth continue to be the high priority and focus of Camp Lutherwood, encouraging year round usage of the camp continues to be pursued. Strategic visioning by the Board of Directors continues to work on a plan for the remodeling of the existing lodge and the addition of a year-round retreat center. In 2019 Camp Lutherwood will celebrate its 60th Anniversary. It is hoped that there will be a firm plan in place by the anniversary year for a building project.

One of many projects that were completed in 2017 was the renovation of the Outdoor Chapel. This project was made possible through a partnership with the Northwest Youth Corps in Eugene. They provided the staff, labor, expertise, and supervision for this undertaking, while trees from the camp were used for new seating. Our 2017 Day Camp group from Grace and Good Samaritan were one of the first groups to use the new chapel, as it had very recently been completed when we were there for our day at camp last summer.

While the camp continues to be ably led and blessed by the leadership of Executive Director, Andrea Scofield, we were introduced to new staff members and continuing staff members assuming new roles. Of course, we were also reminded that this is the time of year when Lutherwood is recruiting their summer staff, so if you are interested in serving on staff or know of someone who would be an asset to Lutherwood's staff, please contact the camp.

From Kendra Wollert – Camp Lutherwood Oregon has created a wider range of mission opportunities outside of traditional summer camp offerings. New possibilities include outdoor school, leadership camp, and adventure weeks where campers can go river rafting or learn survival skills. Another facet in their future goals is a brand new retreat center, ideal for adult groups wishing more comfortable accommodations. A feasibility study is underway as they do not want to feel strapped financially during the process. Staff counselors are needed for 2018 summer camps as well as volunteers to help during their two work days scheduled for May 12th and June 9th.

Grace Center News

February is a fabulous month for celebrating. The first special day was Chinese New Year, and after that Valentine's Day -- especially fun. They decided to have a court from which the participants would vote for the King and Queen. Staff nominated the princesses and princes whose pictures were on the wall by a ballot box. Participants voted for their favorites, and elected the royalty on a gala Valentine's Day. The delighted couple wore crowns and danced the first dance in the beautiful dining hall decorated by OSU's Center for Civic Engagements. OSU's Healthy Aging Club donated the treats, cookies, and Valentine fruit cups. Thank you, students. Our participants love meeting young people! There was live music and everyone danced, even the ones in wheelchairs! It was a wonderful day.

February also had Mardi Gras, which Grace Center celebrated with masks for everyone. There is always something to look forward to at the Center.

— Betty McCauley



Partners in Faith Friday, March 9, 2018 Fireside Room

Potluck starts at 6 pm — bring a dish to share and your own place setting(s).

At 7 pm, join us for an interactive presentation entitled:
We are all Immigrants: A Peasant's Tale.

Sharon and Larry Rosenkoetter will share slides and description of a peasant's story, starting in the 1400s in German and concluding in Corvallis in the present. After 20 minutes of learning about the peasant's family, others present may each share 2 minutes about their ancestors or an object from their long ago family of origin... Indeed, we are all immigrants.

Church Council Minutes

Attendance: Bob Keith, Shelly Lundahl, Hal Brauner, Rebekah Hadlock, Shelley Chamberlin, Dick Junge, Jaya Lapham, Sue Musil, Lew Nelson, Kendra Wollert, Nancy Strohle, Pr. Netsie Griffith, Pr. Wendell Hendershott, Donna King. Absent: Kathy Vohland



Meeting was called to order at 6:50pm with President, Bob Keith presiding.

Devotions were led by Pr. Wendell based on Hebrews 2:1-4. Key points from the passage were that we should stay true to Christ's message of God's great love. Testimony is provided by witnesses, God's mighty acts and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed among us.

Consent Agenda:

The Consent Agenda was accepted which included: Executive Council Minutes of February 7, 2018, Communications Team. There was no report from the Personnel, Stewardship and Property Committees.

Grace Foundation report was removed to place items for ratification before the council. Moved, seconded, passed (MSP) 1) Board members Shelly Lundahl, Hal Dick, and Kathy Vohland for new 3-year terms, Pr. Wendell as Ex-Officio, and Juan Guzman as a new member; 2) a matching payment of \$14,473.37 toward GIF initiative in current year; 3) a 2:1 match of up to \$10,000 on funds earned toward sending youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in June, from the Edna Schultz memorial fund.

Pastors/Staff Reports:

Pr. Netsie:

Highlights from her written report: She, Kendra Wollert, and Patrick Schroeder attended the Camp Lutherwood Annual Meeting Feb. 3 hearing about new staff, and plans for adapting to reality of fewer summer campers and less traditional use of church camps. They hope to develop camp to a year-round retreat center attracting more Outdoor School and other ongoing programs. A feasibility study for a capital campaign is underway. They are also recruiting counselors for this summer's camp operations.

Provided communion instruction to Calla and Hannah Shaff, and Noah Geist.

Pr. Wendell:

From his written report, Pr. Wendell highlighted: Thanks for expressions of sympathy and condolence on the passing of his father, Lee Hendershott. He planned to leave Sunday (2/18) after worship to spend some time in Seattle area with his mom and brother.

The Rental house that had been vacant for several months is now rented.

Jim Norlie will preside and preach Feb. 25, the council retreat weekend.

Donna King, Discipling Ministry:

Donna highlighted Mike Waters of 10 Rivers Food Web will be a special guest Mar. 4, during the education hour, emphasizing food system relationships and the personal and global value of increasing plant-based eating.

The Chili Cook-Off will also be held March 4 with proceeds (including match from the Grace Foundation) to benefit Youth preparing for the church-wide Youth Gathering in Houston this summer. A Healthiest Chili award will be added this year.

Treasurer Report – January was a good month. Contributions exceeded budget, and expenses also exceeded budget, partly as 10% of contributions contributed to Gifts to the World. Contributions on Dec. 31 were deposited in January. The full mortgage payment for January was paid from the General fund prior to the Annual Meeting where the budget was amended to cover the principle from GIF funds. Current cash status is good at ~\$91,000. An explanation of Restricted Funds was given for new members. Hal addressed a question of the monetary value of keeping the rental houses: typically the total rents contributed ~\$11,000 to the general fund, and rental income has helped cover property costs of Grace, e.g. roofing the sanctuary.

Continuing Business:

Council Retreat planning- bring transcribed notes from study of Christine Pohl's book Living Into Community; members are asked to pay as able the cost of \$134 per person; carpools were arranged.

Certificates of Appreciation were signed for outgoing council members- Sharon Rosenkoetter, Ardis Koester, Jim Wernz.

Congregational Picnic date of June 10 was chosen, with a location recommended as Avery Park, Thompson Shelter. Jude Geist will be asked to lock in the reservation.

New Business:

Recognizing that the approved congregational budget has the possibility of reducing the combined time of the pastors from 1.5 to 1.0 FTE by this July 1, council and pastors discussed ways to explore with the congregation how ministries may change with less of their time involved. The pastors presented a survey format whereby members can indicate their high priority pastoral activities; the lists include their current activities in all ministry areas at Grace. When an electronic version of their survey is ready, paper copies will be distributed at Grace over four consecutive Sundays, and a link will be sent to members. A cover letter explaining the questionnaire's intent of facilitating conversations will be drafted and reviewed by the Executive Committee. Shelly Lundahl is preparing the online version; Lew, Kendra, and Shelly will compile the combined results.

Council Elections:

Council elections proceed by first a nominating ballot where any member's name can be entered, then elections from the nominees for each office.

Councilors and terms: Nancy Strohle accepted 1-year term, Kathy Vohland's name was drawn for a 2-year term, Kendra, Sue, Shelley, Jaya are elected to 3-year terms.

Officers elected by paper nomination and vote are: President-Bob Keith, Vice President- Kathy Vohland, Secretary – Shelley Chamberlin. Treasurer Hal Brauner and Financial Secretary Mary Stephens were approved by voice vote.

Installation of council members will be February 18 in each worship service.

Reminder/Assignment of Devotion & treats. March – Bob Keith

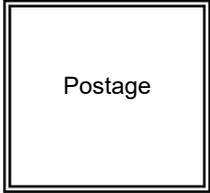
Closing Prayer was led by Pr. Netsie. Adjourned at 10:00 pm

Submitted by Shelly Lundahl, Secretary

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

Grace Lutheran Church

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Many people spread
their cloaks on the road,
and others spread leafy
branches that they had
cut in the fields.

MARK 11:8, NRSV

