



**December  
2016**

*Grace*  
**GATHERINGS**

*Advent & Christmas  
Sunday Worship Service Schedule*

- Dec 4**   Worship with Communion 8:30 & 11:00 AM  
          Sunday School and Nativity rehearsal 9:45 AM
- Dec 11**   Nativity Worship with communion 10:00 AM
- Dec 18**   Advent Worship with Communion 10:00 AM
- Dec 25**   Lessons and Carols with Communion 10:00 AM
- Jan 1**     The Name of Jesus with communion 10:00 AM

*Regular worship times and Sunday School will return on  
January 8, 2017*

*Grace Lutheran Church is a  
"Reconciling in Christ"  
congregation. "Reconciling in  
Christ" congregations welcome  
persons of all sexual orientation  
and gender identities.*

*We affirm that we welcome all  
persons regardless of race, gender,  
sexual orientation, age or  
national origin.*

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

*Our MISSION is "to follow Christ  
into our community and world man-  
ifesting with caring hearts and help-  
ing hands the good news of the  
Kingdom of Christ."*



**Grace's Own Advent  
Devotional Booklets**

**Available Now — Free!**

Look for the basket of little books with blue covers and pick up your copy of the Advent Devotion booklet today. Written by members and friends of Grace, and illustrated by the kids of our congregation, these devotion books have become one of our multigenerational traditions. This year 63 people (ages 2 1/2 to 85+) worked together to bring it to you!

"Lighten Our Journey" follows, candle by candle, the lighting of the Advent Wreath. Through scripture, hymns, art, and meditations, we invite you to notice the light of Christ entering our world. Feel free to take as many as you like to share with friends and family members!

**More Advent & Christmas schedule information on page 10**

## Prayers



***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@grace 97330.org, and ask to be part of the prayer list.***

### Thanks:

"We just want to **thank everyone** from the congregation. There were many visits, best wishes, prayers, and pastor care with communion. Thank you for rides to the hospital as well. Love to you all." *-Ed & Mary Ann Hall*

**THANKS** to Anne Orwick and her crew of volunteers for providing another great Advent Greens Making event the last Sunday in November!

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 Brennan who guided us through the process, Mary Stephens who ran the power point, Carol and Kris Warloe who provided Christmas trees and Sue Musil who procured Thrivent dollars which added produce from this year's Farmers' Market.

### Illnesses and Other Concerns:

- Ron & Marilyn Walsh
- Gerald Buss, Cathy Mueller's father
- Betty Evans, Helen Hildebrandt's sister
- Karen Strand

### Death:

- Edward Heise, Sue Davis' father.
- Stan Miles' mother
- Bill Nelson, Lew Nelson's brother
- Jim Leklem's brother
- Dee Nath, sister to Johnny Corkill and daughter to Pat Corkill

### Celebration:

- Proud parents Tony & Karen Smith take great pride in congratulating their son Kyle for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout on July 27, 2016. His Court of Honors was held on September 6th. Please see bulletin board for a copy of achievements, programs, and letters.

### Phone & Address Updates:

- Meg Aulerich = 2789 SW Titleist Circle, Corvallis, OR 97333
- Dorothy Miles = sdamiles@outlook.com
- Karen Strand = has moved to Stoneybrook, Room 209
- Ida Stemple = cell 541.231.3553



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.

*Annikka Howe*  
Age 9—Grade 4

## Learning with Grace



### Tuesday Bible Study Concludes the Study of Revelation

On Tuesdays from 1:00-2:30 pm, we are engaged in the challenge of “Interpreting the Mystery of Revelation.” We will conclude this study during December as outlined below.

Each session features a video presentation by Dr. Craig Koester, Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. Koester has taught numerous seminary courses and parish workshops on the book of Revelation and authored the book, *Revelation and the End of All Things*. Here’s the Schedule for the final Sessions in December:

December 6 – Part Six: Revelation 17-18

December 13 – Part Seven: Revelation 19-22

Join us in the Fireside Room for lively discussions and ongoing new insights regarding God’s word to us and our ministry to carry the Word incarnate to others.

In Pr. Netsie’s previous absence, a special thanks goes to Jim Leklem for leading the first four sessions of this study, to Mary Ann Brennan for convening and closing the group, and to Jody Parker for the audiovisual set-up.

The Tuesday Bible Study will take a three week holiday break from December 20-January 3 and will resume again on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, topic to be announced in the January issue of Grace Gatherings.

## *Renewing our Welcome*



**Join the pastors,  
and Reconciling Works Board Member, Leo Bancroft,  
in the Fireside Room at Grace**

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>**

***From 10:30 am – 12 pm***

**As we explore how to deepen our welcome to those of all  
gender expressions, gender identities and sexual orientations.**



**On SUNDAY, DEC. 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 am in Ronnenkamp Hall the pastors will  
lead another session for those unable to be with us on Saturday.**

*On January 21, 2001, Grace Lutheran became a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Congregation. Now as we move beyond our 15<sup>th</sup> year as an RIC congregation and into our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, an update of our Welcome Statement is necessary to truly reflect our commitment to welcome persons of all gender identities and expressions.*

## Hope in the Bougainvilleas

### *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*

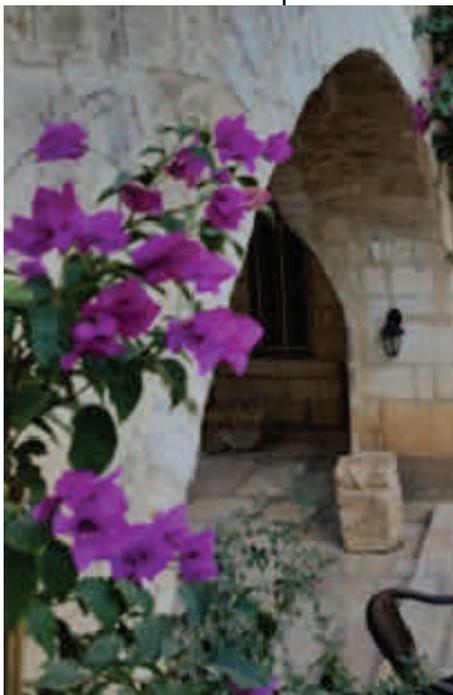
The first few weeks of the month of November, Pastor Netsie and I went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Israel, the Palestinian Territories and Jordan. This land is indeed a place of many contrasts and contradictions: climate, elevation, landscape, rural/urban, religion, politics, economy, water availability, language, philosophy, security, gates, walls, checkpoints, guards, military, police, tourists, workers, cultures, ancient, modern, poverty, wealth, all shoved together in a tiny space. All these contrasts sit next to one another in remarkable proximity. We saw how these contradictions came into play with one another, turning into a blast of juxtapositions: So much interplay, so much complexity, so many contradictions, so much anger, so little compromise all slammed against each other.

Simply the hilly topography alone was enough to surprise us, but then overlaid upon the terrain were all the other variables mentioned above and more, that we often found our heads whirling from the confusion of the variables surrounding us. Here a slum, abutting against the security wall over there, where, on the other side of the wall was an oasis of new construction with gardens and parks. The slum was where the Palestinians lived; the parks were for the Israelis; and the gardens often for the tourists.

Yet in spite of all this diversity, there was an incredible sameness to it all as well. Most of the land was dry when we were there. It was, after all, autumn, the time before the winter rains, in a year already parched by months of drought. The hills, and there are many, many hills, were dusty and rocky and barren for the most part. Those parts not dry were irrigated, yet while there were small patches of green, non-natural, manufactured and always between the patchy green was the natural rocky brown of the desert. Even the green of the olive trees blended into the similitude of the ground. There was much more brown and desert than green.

The brown was indicative of the how easily hope dies when there is no one there to tend and water it. Land without water was lifeless. The tan of the rock was ubiquitous, in the cities as well as the countryside. The cities were themselves made of the rocks, limestone rock for the most part, the same stuff the hills were made of. Still, pushing up out of the barren soil and rocks, however, were occasional bougainvillea vines. Sometimes in a pot, often springing from a small patch of soil, at other times pushing through a mere crack in the pavement spreading up a wall then cascading down the other side. They might be anywhere and they turned up in almost every unexpected place.

No one told us, when we were planning our trip to Israel, that we would be encountering so many bougainvilleas throughout our travels. This drought tolerant, thorny plant is perfect for the climates of the places we traveled: The land, with its frequent juxtapositions, had one thing in common; all had places where this colorful plant thrived in full floral display. Bougainvilleas have two kinds of leaves. They have the green kind that most plants have that make the chlorophyll and transfer energy between nutrients, air, sun and soil. They also have showy, colored leaves, as well, surrounding tiny white flowers whose purpose seems to be to attract pollinators. These colored leaves, which may be bright pink



## Pastor's Page Cont.



or purple, white, orange, scarlet, or yellow are what make the plants attractive to humans as well. The beauty of these brightly colored leaves is striking. They create an intifada, literally an uprising, of bright color in the midst of all the barren browns of the land.

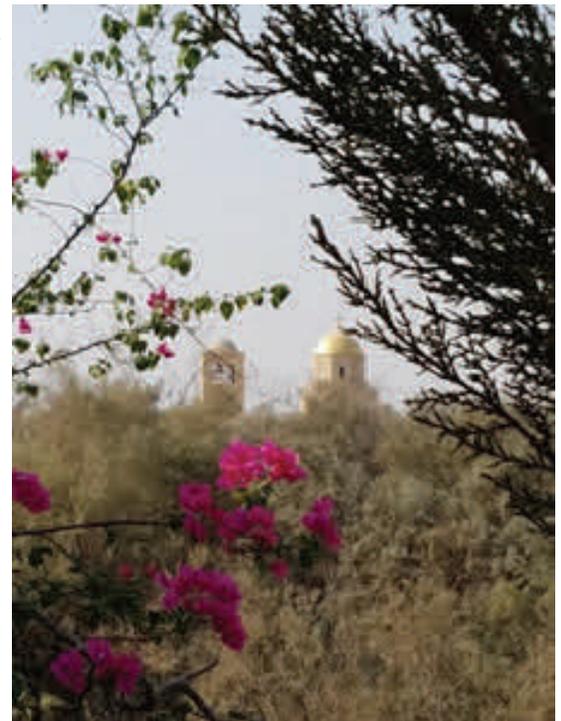
It is this splash of color that reminded us of the bright hope of Jesus Christ who promised to be a beacon of peace to the peoples of this land of many competing shades of sameness. Into the midst of all the unyielding rock comes the promise of new hope and new mercy, the grace of God taking on flesh to be one with us in the dusty hills of Judea, Samaria, Galilee and the land beyond the Jordan, a bright splash of hope to speak to the unyielding lack of compromise of stiff-necked people.

The bougainvillea is not native to the Levant, but comes from another land. Still, though it was an outsider, it adapted well to the deserts of the Levant, took root and grew well there. It was a stubborn intruder who would not allow the status quo to keep it from growing to blossom and showing forth a new hue, a new appearance, a bright hope in the midst of dreary similarity.

So Christ also comes with hope into our lives when we are wearied by the dreary sameness of our existence: the same old politics, the uncertainties of newly elected leadership, the hateful slurs of speech we thought were put behind us, the old prejudices we wished had been laid to rest, the fear-mongering that sets our teeth on edge, the bullying that frightens our children, the terrors that keep us in our place, the anxieties that keep us awake at night. Christ comes and takes on our flesh and blood realities and makes us and all things new with the grace and mercy of God, transforming us with the multi-colored splendor of God's bright hope for the morrow.

It is not by accident that God chose the Holy Land, that intersection of humanity, to enter into our human story. In the fullness of time, at the crossroads of civilizations, Christ took the initiative to put up a tent among us in order that our self-involved selves might see God's vision for the whole of humanity. Then, once we see the potential for hope, God begins to turn that vision of hope into the reality of hope. Advent points us anew to this reality of hope, ushering us to the full hope of the Nativity, where Christ promised, becomes Christ born for us. Into our real lives is born a real Savior, who is Christ the Lord, the true blossom of hope.

by *Pastor Wendell Hendershott*



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.**

## Grace Personnel & December Birthdays



### *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** - Tiana Posler  
**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](http://www.grace97330.org)

### **Teams & Committees**

**Property Committee** - Ron Larson, 541.752.0754  
**Communications Committee**  
 Randy Joss, 541.929.9360  
**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

12/1	Norma Moody
12/2	Hal Lindsley
12/2	Joan Sandeno
12/5	Briita Orwick
12/5	Sydney Joss
12/6	Jeff Mueller
12/6	Jude Geist
12/7	Meredith Junge
12/8	Nancy Strohlein
12/9	Jamie Pettingill
12/14	David Bella
12/17	Denice Rickard
12/19	Kathryn Honey
12/19	Sam Gelser
12/20	Sara Gelser
12/23	Ron Walsh
12/26	Ted Carlson
12/26	Jessica Saathoff
12/27	Cathy Mueller
12/27	Lars Orwick
12/28	Anna Wayt
12/28	Jim Wernz

The **Annual Christmas Story Play** by the Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled Community and Friends will be on Wed, 12/7 at 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church at the corner of 8th and Monroe. You are cordially invited to attend. A reception will follow in Dennis Hall.



## Pictorial Addendum to Pr. Netsie's Nov GG Article

These pictures are provided as an addendum to last month's article on the Nassar family and Tent of Nations. Pictured are the rocks at the entrance to the property stating in multiple languages, "We Refuse to Be Enemies;" the dining table where our group of 25 was the recipient of Palestinian hospitality with the provision of a tasty lunch; Pr. Wendell and Pr. Netsie with Daoud Nassar at the entrance to the farm; solar panels providing necessary electrical power; and water tanks for household water.



# Grace News

## Women's Luncheon



Dec 8  
**2nd Thursday's  
Women's  
Luncheon at  
Stoneybrook  
at 11:45am**

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

Leaders of some of our interfaith communities in Corvallis have made a commitment of meeting together on a somewhat regular basis.. They thought others from their faith communities might also appreciate an opportunity to get together. Thus, there will be an **interfaith vegetarian potluck** at The Friends Meeting House (3311 NW Polk St) Dec 18 from 5:30 to 7:30pm for anyone interested in becoming better acquainted with our partners in faith in Corvallis. All are invited.

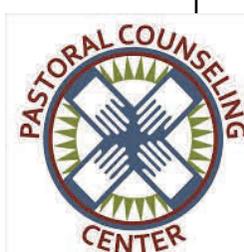
Faith Lutheran Church, Albany - at the corner of Queen Avenue and Elm Street - is having a "**Longest Night Service**" on Wednesday 21st December at 7 pm. Pastor Mark is organizing it, and has been in touch with local funeral homes to let them pass along to any of their clients about this **special service in which the realities of grief at the holidays can be addressed**. You might contact Faith Lutheran if you wish more information — 541.928.7660.

### **Our Stewardship Emphasis Is Nearly complete**

We hope you have participated in the Sundays of our 2016 Stewardship Emphasis and have learned more about the ministry and mission of Grace Lutheran Church. We built on last year's theme:

#### **Growing, Reaching And Caring for Everyone**

This comprehensive look at how we use our Time, Talents and Treasures and how we care for all creation. Again this year we are lifting up several areas of ministry for your consideration. There is still time to turn in your stewardship commitment for next year as we move to building a budget for 2017. The complete stewardship timeline is posted on the operations bulletin board.



**Feeling the "winter blues"? Stressed out by the holiday season?**  
The professionals at the **Pastoral Counseling Center** can help you and yours this holiday season with individual therapy and couples counseling to address winter's depression, anxiety, stress, and substance abuse. We are skilled at integrating your faith and spirituality with the counseling -- should you wish. PCC can bill all insurance plans, and we offer an adjusted fee schedule if you are uninsured or money is tight this time of year. Call 541.753.9217 to schedule an appointment. Offices located in Albany, Corvallis, and Lebanon.

### **Important Note about End of Year 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 2016, we need to receive it in the church office by Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. This will give our bookkeeper time to record it properly given the parameters and limitations of our accounting software.

# Grace News

## International Book Group -- Globaliers

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. New meeting days are the **first Thursday of each month** except December. Time is 7 p.m. until approximately 8:30. Given the list early, we can tackle books ahead of date.

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

January 5      *Deep Down Dark* by Hector Tobar  
Led by Ginna Sloan

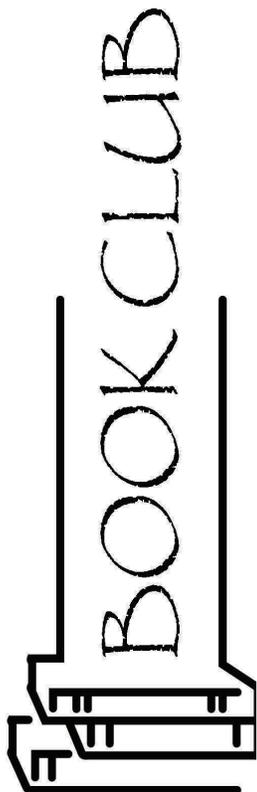
February 2     *Homegoing: A Novel* by Yaa Gyasi  
Led by Carol Boersma

March 2        *Adventures in Anthropocene* by Gaia Vince  
Led by Sharon Rosenkoetter

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



*Partners  
in  
Faith*

The next **Partners in Faith** potluck on Friday, December 9th, will feature Movie Night — with a viewing of “A Christmas Story”. The film is a family favorite which holds up well to repeated viewings. Join us for some laughter and nostalgic charm. I double-dog dare you!

The evening will begin with a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Bring your table service and a dish to share.



## Advent & Christmas



Want to get involved? **Our Children's Nativity Service will be Dec. 11<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, Nov 20, 9:45 am (sharp!)  
 — Sunday, Nov 27, 9:45 am (sharp!)  
 — Sunday, Dec 4, 9:45 am (sharp!)
- Speaking Parts — Sunday, Nov 27, 12:15 pm  
 — Sunday, Dec 4, 12:15 pm  
 — Saturday, Dec 10, 8:30 – 11:30 am
- All Participants — Saturday, Dec 12, 9:30 – 11:30 am

### Advent Services

Advent comes quite early this year. The first Sunday in Advent is November 27 and our first Advent service is November 30. Advent is the season when we look forward to the coming of Christ. There are always four Sundays in Advent, and this year there will also be four Wednesdays with midweek Advent services. (Some years there are only three.) As in recent years, a soup supper will precede each worship service at 6pm. There will soon be a sign up in the entryway if you would like to make soup for us one Wednesday.

We will again feature Holden Evening Prayer as the main part of our Advent Wednesdays as well. This is a prayer service that is sung. It was composed for Holden Village, a Lutheran Retreat Center, in the Washington Cascades, in the winter of 1985-86. It is a delightful matching of the ancient texts of the Vespers service (evening prayers) with gentle music conceived in a winter setting deep in the Cascade Wilderness.

In addition we will have music rehearsals on Wednesday nights. The Chancel choir will rehearse at about 7:30 or as soon as Evening Prayer ends.

### Advent Wednesday Night Schedule

- 6:07 Soup Supper (Give or take 7 minutes)  
 7:00 Holden Evening Prayer  
 7:30 Choir (*We will begin right after Evening Prayer*)

## Christmas Eve Services

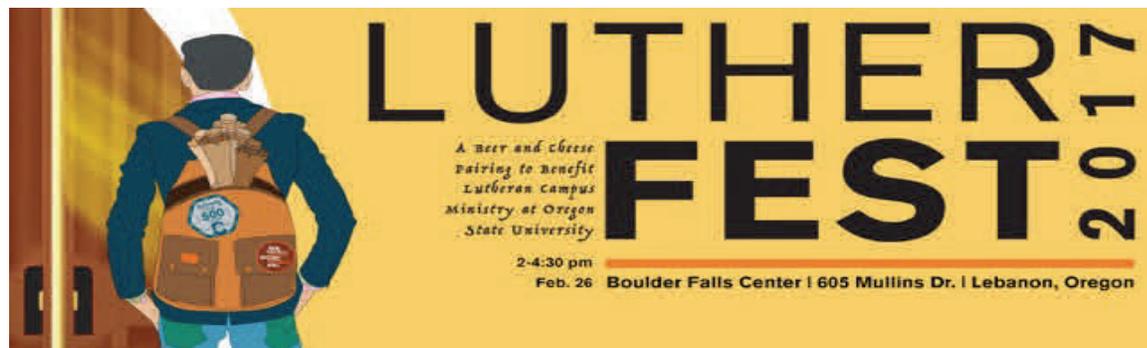
*December 24*

- 5:00 p.m. Manger Service  
*with Candlelight & Communion*
- 10:00 p.m. A Celtic Christmas  
*with Candlelight & Communion*



*There will be worship on both Christmas Day and New Years Day.*

## Luther House



### LUTHERFEST 2017, TICKET SALES OPEN DECEMBER 1

Lutherfest 2017, the fifth annual Luther House Beer and Cheese pairing benefit, is just around the corner – Sunday, February 26, from 2:00-4:30 pm at the Boulder Falls Event Center, Lebanon, Oregon.

Again this year guests will be treated to six seated-and-served pairings of Oregon artisan cheeses and craft beers accompanied by fresh Pacific Northwest appetizers. You'll be able to pose for your free memory photo, chat with vendors, mingle with friends, learn about craft brewing and artisan cheese-making in Oregon, hear testimonials from active Luther House students, possibly win a gift basket, and visit vendor tables after the party (bring your charge card or debit card with you). A new feature this year is the Lutherfest Traveling Trophy that will be awarded to the congregation with the most guests present.

Individual tickets remain a great value at \$50. Buy a Table of 8 for \$350 (a savings of \$50). Because of our generous sponsors – Grace Lutheran Foundation (Corvallis), St. Mark Lutheran Endowment (Salem), Faith Lutheran Endowment (Albany), Atonement Lutheran Endowment (Newport), and Ron and Virginia Mohr of Thrivent Financial – every dollar in ticket sales will directly support student programming and outreach in 2017. **Ticket sales open December 1. Only 220 tickets are available. Online purchases only at [lutherfest.luther-house.org](http://lutherfest.luther-house.org).**

Here's your opportunity to get that holiday gift for the person who's hard to please. Or, invite seven friends and enjoy an afternoon together. Or, treat yourself to a delicious afternoon sampling local fare. Or, just support Luther House because you care about our ministry on campus. Whatever your reason, we're grateful for your support and look forward to seeing you at the party.

Questions? Call 541-753-5213 or email [info@luther-house.org](mailto:info@luther-house.org).

### THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays nearing, our thoughts turn to gratefulness as we at Luther House think of all those who support our ministry on campus – individuals, congregations, Region 1 synods, and the ELCA. All gifts large and small are crucial to making this a healthy, financially-sound ministry. Thank you from all who benefit from your generosity – students, faculty, university staff, and the whole campus community. In case you've missed the opportunity to send a financial gift to Luther House this year, there's still time to make that year-end gift. Just visit [luther-house.org/donate](http://luther-house.org/donate) to make a secure online donation or send a check to Luther House, 211 NW 23rd Street, Corvallis, OR 97330. May your holidays be bountiful, beautiful, and bright.

## Grace News



[www.grace97330.org](http://www.grace97330.org)

Check the calendar tab for updates

### Men's Shelter

**Monday, January 16 through Sunday, January 22 are the dates Grace will staff the Corvallis Men's Homeless Shelter. It is not too early to sign-up.**

The Corvallis Men's Homeless Shelter opens in November and will stay open until the end of March. The Men's shelter continues to serve about 35 men a night. It located at 530 S.W. Fourth St.

There are a lot of hours to cover and either a lot of people volunteer some of the time or only some people volunteer a lot of time. I hope and pray for the former. At the Men's Shelter we need two to three people from 6:30 to 11pm, one person from 11 pm to 7 am and one person per night to bring food. So, that is 28 to 35 opportunities for the Men's shelter.

Frank Davis is coordinating this effort for the Men's Shelter. Please contact Frank at church or call at 541-220-8155. A sign-up sheet will be located in the Fireside Room. Look for the display in the Fireside Room. There is a new sign-up procedure using the web-based Sign-Up Genius. Frank is currently signed up for all the positions. Let's not leave it that way for long.

Frank will provide training on Sunday, January 8 between services in Ronnenkamp Hall.

The shelter has endured some controversy this year, but there are still those in need to serve. Even if you have served before, come and share some insight with others. Let's call it the Homeless Sheltering Small Group Ministry meeting. (Doesn't Frank always have treats at his meetings?)



Helping our  
**Neighbors in Need**

### **Annual Meeting Scheduled**

The annual meeting of Grace Lutheran Church is tentatively set for  
1:00 p.m., Sunday, January 29, 2016

**Business Contemplated:** Elect new Council members, ratify constitutional changes, consider a new welcome statement, consider chancel renovations, and adopt a budget

A sandwich potluck lunch is planned for noon

## Grace Center / House of Zion

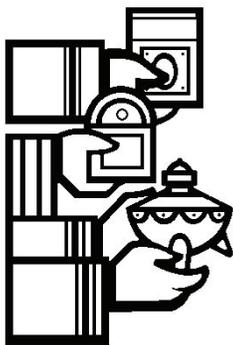


The October excitement at Grace Center was their annual Bazaar. They all take part to the best of their ability. It ran three days and was very successful. You remember last month I told you about their trip to the coast that was financed by Bazaar savings. The Participants Council, a very successful group, decides on important issues like this; it gives them a sense of independence to have the Council, and the staff appreciates their thoughtful ideas. Board members took turns sitting at the desk to handle the sales. (We also stole moments to buy our own holiday gifts because they were really nice.) The meeting room was filled with trees hanging with ornaments they had made. Tables were piled high with quilted pot holders and pillows and table runners. (Volunteers have aided and taught them quilting ways. I wonder who I'll give the "Quillow" to that I bought... a pretty blanket that folds into a pillow.) There were samples of their award winning jams (County fair judged) and jars of rice and pasta to make soup when you are very busy. There were many more things, of course. No wonder that it was a success.

Last month I also told you about the Memorial garden that is in the planning stage to be opened some time in 2017. But the pavers will be available for sale very soon. Families could be ordering them for memorials or for honoring members. Profits from these sales will go directly into the Capital Campaign fund. You can feel good about contributing toward the purchase of our "Here to Say" building. You may have noticed that the other part of the building has been removed now, so we stand on our own. It looks more attractive that way.

You should be receiving the annual appeal letter from the Center very soon. We are hoping that you will be generous again this year in contributing to the Center's budget. We are so grateful for the support of church members and community for making Grace Center possible. Thank you all so very, very much. Very sincere and warm wishes from Grace Center's board and staff... and, of course, from the participants in the Center, for a beautiful Christmas season.

—Betty McCauley



The **ELCA church in Woodburn, House of Zion**, again asks for our help for their **annual Christmas outreach**. Our contributions are an essential and enormous help in their ministry of serving the Hispanic community. Gift baskets filled with tags for suggested gifts will be placed in strategic places 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 19th.

*Muchas Gracias amigos!*

## Council Meeting Minutes

### Congregational Council Meeting Minutes

**November 14, 2016  
6:50-8:35 pm**

**Attendance:**

**Michael Beachley  
Bob Keith  
Donna King  
Ardis Koester  
Jaya Lapham  
Shelly Lundahl  
Sue Musil  
Anne Orwick  
Kathy Vohland  
Jim Wernz**

**Absent:**

**Hal Brauner  
Pr. Netsie Griffith  
Pr. Wendell Hender-  
shott  
Dick Junge  
Lew Nelson**

### Grace Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting

**Devotions** were presented by Jim Wernz on Col. 1: 11-20

**Consent Agenda:**

The Consent Agenda included only the Council minutes of the October 10, 2016 meeting. It was accepted. MSP

**Items removed from the Consent Agenda:**

**Grace Foundation Report** included a request to ratify \$2,500 from the Ronnenkamp Fund to pay for the registration fee for up to 10 women to attend a women's retreat at Holden Village in February. The motion to ratify the request was passed, MSP.

**Worship and Music and Property Committees** met jointly to discuss the revision of the Chancel area. They will meet again before the December Council meeting.

**Continuing Business:**

**RIC discussion:** Attention was called to the feedback notes taken at the October 16 forum. Additional sessions are planned for congregational feedback and input.

**Nominating Committee:** Additional representatives from the committees are needed. These representatives should not be Council liaisons.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee** report generated lengthy and robust discussion.

**Officers/Staff Reports**

**Pastors' written reports** were included in the packet even though they were absent.

**Donna King, Discipling Minister,** reported the first all Sunday School Servant Breakfast was a success with the youth requesting the event be repeated. The Advent Devotion Books are almost ready for distribution. There is a campus/community planning group beginning to plan for Reformation 500 events on campus and in the community.

**Treasurer's Report:** Hal Brauner provided a written report noting income is below budget at this time. Ardis Koester reported from Stewardship Committee the return of commitment cards is below expectations compared to previous years.

**New Business:**

**A letter** from Carol Erickson regarding a Grace Classified website was referred to the Communications Committee. A second suggestion for C. Erickson was to send notes or cards to infrequently attending members.

**Message** from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on "With New Voices - the Small Catechism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" was put on hold until the Pastors' return.

## Church Council Con't



**President:** Jim Wernz

**Vice President:** Bob Keith

**Secretary:** Ardis Koester

**Treasurer:** Hal Brauner

**Financial Secretary:**

Mary Stephens

**Council Members:**

Anne Orwick

Dick Junge

Jaya Lapham

Kathy Vohland

Lew Nelson

Michael Beachley

Pr. Netsie Griffith

Shelly Lundahl

Sue Musil

Pr. Wendell Hendershott

**Jaya Lapham** expressed appreciation for support to attend the recent RIC conference in Portland. Also, she announced an upcoming concert on December 10 at the Unitarian Church presented by the LGBT group, Confluence Chorus. The title of the concert is "Jingle My Bells". Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$12 for seniors and students.

**Devotions** for December will be presented by Kathy Vohland.

**Closing Prayer** was offered by Jim Wernz reading a Veterans' Day Prayer.

### Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

*Ardis W. Koester, Secretary*



*Alyssa Weeber  
Age 6*

*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:

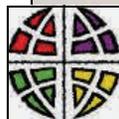
Thanks to our wonderful, dedicated Grace on the Move Drivers, who provide and/or coordinate rides to worship and Bible Study for those in need of transportation: Ron & Kay Larson, Marna Renshaw, Wayne & Carolyn Kradjan, Darlene & Jim Leklem, Anne & Tom Orwick, Debbie Kuehn, Judy Winkler, Norma Moody, 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, organist, accompanies the choir and plays 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, Denice Rickard, Sue Speulda, Donna Wernz, Sandie Williams, Glenn Chaffin, Wendell Hendershott, Marshall Hill-Tanquist, Jerry Koester, Milt Larson, Lynn Wenzell, Jim Wernz
- **Grace Alive!** Michael Beachley, Wendell Hendershott, Tom Kiersky, Dave Lundahl, Angie Kingsley

# Baptismal Birthdays for December

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
*Living in God's amazing grace*

Gail Bartee	12/?
Jan Byers	12/?
Seth Byers	12/16
Wendy Geist	12/5
Marjorie Kinch	12/12
Norma Moody	12/26
Ida Stemple	12/23
Bill Strohle	12/9
Georgine Thompson	12/27
Leslie Weeber	12/2
Bryan Williamson	12/6



## Grace Lutheran Church

*Corner of Kings & Harrison*  
 435 NW 21st Street  
 Corvallis, Oregon 97330  
 541.757.1600  
 office@grace97330.org

Postage



everyone is  
**welcome**

**Grace Gatherings deadline for the January issue is Tuesday,  
 December 20th.  
 Send articles/photos to office@grace97330.org**