

December 2018
volume XVII
issue 12



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

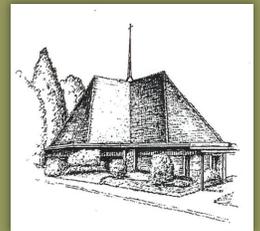
Grace GATHERINGS

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



*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."*



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.

December at Grace Lutheran

Sunday Morning Worship

- Dec 2** **Worship** with Communion 8:30 & 11:00 am
Sunday School and Nativity rehearsal 9:45 am
- Dec 9** **Worship** with Communion 8:30 & 11:00 am
Sunday School and Nativity rehearsal 9:45 am
- Dec 16** **Nativity** Service with Communion 10:00 am
- Dec 23** **Worship** with Communion 10:00 am
Caroling at Conifer House following worship
- Dec 30** **Lessons and Carols** with Communion 10:00 am
The 1st Sunday of Christmas

Regular worship times and Sunday School will return on Jan 6, 2019

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2018

New Service Time for 2nd Service

- 5:00 pm Manger Service**
with Candlelight & Communion
- 9:00 pm A Celtic Christmas**
with Candlelight & Communion



Additional information on back cover.



This prayer list is a compilation of the prayer requests we have received at Grace from Oct 21 to Nov 20. For a more timely update to the prayers, send your email address to prayers@grace97330.org, and ask to be part of the prayer list.



Orwicks

1727 SW Evans St.
Portland, OR 97219

Anne: 541-602-6939

anne.orwick@gmail.com

Tom: 541-207-6826

orwicks@hotmail.com

**Please remove their PO Box and home telephone number from your address book.*

Prayers

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

Illnesses and Other Concerns:

- ◇ Perry Skoglund, Lew Nelson's brother-in-law, for health concerns
- ◇ Paul Hallgrimson, Pr. Dan's brother, for health concerns
- ◇ The people affected by recent California wildfires, especially those in Paradise and Malibu. Please keep them in your prayers as they navigate life with substantial loss and change, the realities of staying in shelters, and mudslides from the upcoming rain
- ◇ Nancy Hemming, for healing after eye surgery
- ◇ Sue Musil, for healing for her leg
- ◇ Ruth Hendershott, Pr. Wendell's mother, for good health
- ◇ Pam Kluth, for healing after breaking her arm
- ◇ Pat Curran, for ongoing treatment for melanoma
- ◇ Pr. Jim Norlie, as he continues with his cancer treatment
- ◇ Charlene Gardner, Juan Guzman's sister-in-law, as she recovers from surgery
- ◇ The Mueller family
- ◇ Christopher Buckley, for aches and pains — Lord, keep him pain-free as we go into the Advent/Christmas season
- ◇ Alyson Kingsley, daughter of Ken and Sue Kingsley and sister of Angie, for health and healing

Death:

- ◇ Paul Franklin, long-time resident of the Corvallis area, and father to previous Grace member Mike Franklin
- ◇ Richard Grow, friend of Jaya Lapham
- ◇ Rev. Gerald Buss, Cathy Mueller'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.

Year End Contributions

Thanks so much for all the faithful and generous contributions this past year which have sustained and generated important ministry. Please know that if it is important for you to have a contribution recorded as a gift received in 2018, we need to receive it in the church office by Sunday, December 30. This will give our tellers time to make a deposit and our bookkeeper time to record it properly.

Pastor's Page

The Advent of God, Our Theme for Prayer

While we have talked at length about the Advent season, I would like to explore how we might use the time of Advent to go deeper into prayer. Of course, this presumes we have a prayer time to begin with. If one has not taken up the habit of praying, perhaps the first step might be simply to establish a regular time to pray. It can be as simple as making an appointment on your phone to remind you to pray at a certain time each day. In the busy days of December, starting a regular prayer time might be quite a challenge, but with some persistence, and permission to begin anew after faltering, by Christmas a new prayer practice may have developed.

Once you have decided on the time you will need a place. That place may be determined by the time. A specific place set aside for prayer is a big help. It may simply be where you find yourself. A place with few distractions is a big help. An easy chair, your desk, a place in your home, a room little used, the kitchen table, some place next to a bookshelf are all possibilities. Choose something that will be a place for you.

Of course, once you have the time and place, you will need some content. Here is where you must know yourself. I believe you must be realistic. There are only three things needed: Scripture, a prayer text and resolve.

Scripture may be as simple as using the daily Advent devotional Grace Lutheran does each year. If that is not your cup of tea, there is a daily lectionary in the Red ELW Hymn book. You may email Pastor Wendell wendell@grace97330.org and he will email you a copy or print one for you. Beyond that, there are many list of Scripture readings. In our entry, there is *Christ in Our Home*, a daily devotion guide with a simple Bible Reading related to the Sunday lessons, along with some prayer suggestions and a meditation on the text. There are also ecumenical resources. Many people like the Moravian Daily Texts: <https://www.moravian.org/> you may buy a copy of the 2019 texts or you may have them emailed to you free. (Use the same web link.) The website also tells you the background of the Texts.

Of course, you will need something to pray. If you have prayed for some time, that may come to you quite easily, so go ahead and pray from your heart, but if not, you may like to have some helps. Each day of the Advent booklet has a prayer with it. That will help you see how other people pray. Again, *Christ in Our Home* has some prayer helps one for each day, plus a morning and evening prayer in the back. That red ELW Hymnal has pages of prayers, not only the Sunday Liturgy (ELW pp94-221), but also the morning and evening prayers (ELW pp 295-331) plus page after page of prayers for special needs. (ELW pp 73-87). In addition, all the Psalms and most of the hymns are prayers. You might even sing them. You might have an old Hymnal or one from another church that is a help as well. If you are short on time, you might use the Jesus prayer to fall back on: Jesus Christ, Lamb of God, have mercy. Amen.

In conclusion, let me say you will need a certain resolve to pray every day. It is better to say a short prayer than no prayer at all. The practice of praying regularly will lead to regularly praying. There may be seasons when the prayers are brief. There may be times when a longer meditation is needed. Regular and daily prayer is an opportunity for Christ to come to us and stay with us. It is a filling with the Holy Spirit. Prayer is an encounter with the God who created us to be creatures of prayer.

Wendell Hendershott

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



December 13
**2nd Thursday's
Women's
Luncheon** at
Dizzy Hen
@ 11:45am

January 22
**4th Tuesday's
Women's
Luncheon** at
New Morning
Bakery
@ 11:45am

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

We continue our study of the book of Hebrews.

Yet, new members are welcome to join us at any time, and we are pleased that we have had some new faces and voices blessing our gathering. Ordinarily, we meet in the Fireside Room every Tuesday from 1-2:30 p.m. We will, however, be taking a holiday break. Thus, we will not meet on Tuesday, Christmas Day, or Tuesday, New Year's Day.

There are more Old Testament references in Hebrews than any other book of the New Testament, so, by studying Hebrews, one learns much about both testaments of scripture. Hebrews is a rather unique book. While considered to be written in the genre of a letter form, many biblical scholars find it to be quite different from the other letters of the New Testament. Some think of it as an extended sermon. Join us to find out what you hear and see in this testament and proclamation of faith from the early years of the Christian church.



Tuesday
BIBLE STUDY

Hebrews 2:1



We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

Pastor's Sunday Class: "Time After Time"

Next Class: December 9

Pastor Wendell has a class in Ronnenkamp Hall during the Education Hour, beginning about 9:45. It usually falls on the second Sunday we are studying the church seasons as they happen, so we are going with the title, "Time after Time." In December, we will be in Advent, and on December 9, we will look at Advent. Then on 13 we'll engage in a retrospective of Christmas. Each month, therefore, we will look at a different season, when we are in or near that season.

We hope this excursion through the meaning of the church year will help to broaden our understanding of how Christians keep time throughout the year and how we use the different seasons and celebrations to deepen our understanding of the Christian faith and the loving grace of Jesus Christ our savior.

Wisdom Seekers

Meets Around Noon: Every Thursday, except Thanksgiving and Other Thursday Holidays

You may have noticed that Wise Women is no longer meeting at Luther House. Instead, the group now meets in room seven, in the east hallway, under the watchful eye of the confirmation photos. In addition, they have changed their name to Wisdom Seekers to indicate that men are also welcome.

At present, the group is making its way through the Gospel of Thomas. After Thomas, the group will take up the 1927 Willa Cather novel, *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. This book has been included in several lists of the 100 best books and was chosen by the Western Writers of America to be the seventh best "Western Novel" of the 20th century. The novel is based on the life of the first archbishop of Santa Fe and takes us into the history of the Southwest United States.

Partners in Faith

Partners in Faith will not be meeting in December. See you in January — not 100% sure what our activity will be, but there is one vote for the much anticipated and ever entertaining White Elephant Gift Exchange. Stay tuned for updates...

Adult Bible Study—December 2018

Our Love for God

The word love appears 538 times in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Less frequently used are believe (160 times) and sin (418 times). One of the most widely known verses about God's love for us is Jon 3:16. There are many other verses that declare how much God has loved us, even when we have not been worthy of that love. What is our response to such grace? It is to love God in return.

Love is a defining characteristic of Jesus' followers and is something we are expected to show not only God but also to others. That love is most directly expressed in our care for those around us and for all creation.

So, this quarter we study God's demands for our complete and undivided love as we work our way through Deuteronomy and Psalms. We will reflect on our response to God's love in the advent of Christ and explore the epistles' interpretations of the nature and extent of our responses to God's love in Christ. Our study concludes with passages from three psalms that glorify God.

Our Writer

Chip Borgstadt is an ELCA pastor, serving as a transitional pastor and consultant to churches in Nebraska. His most enjoyable vocation, however, is the delightful role of husband, father, and grandfather. That's where he experiences God's love the most and is inspired to love God for the blessings of wife, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandson, and granddaughter.

Lesson 1	Dec. 2	Love and Devotion	Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Lesson 2	Dec. 9	Choose to Love and Serve God	Joshua 24:1-24

Two Services or One

Last spring when we went through our listening process, one of the questions that came up in each of the meetings was whether or not it might be beneficial for Grace to move from our two services on Sunday mornings to one service. This past summer and fall the Worship and Music Committee and the Christian Education Committee each had discussions on the implications of switching or staying with the same schedule. Those committees have finished their work and now it is time for the congregation to engage in the process. To that end a proposal is being forwarded to the council to distribute the information from the two committees and involve the congregation in deliberative conversations. We continue to invoke God's guidance and ask where and how the Spirit is leading us in regard to this decision.

Here is the proposed timetable:

December: Finalize committee documents & present timetable to Congregational Council

January: Distribute Committee documents to Congregation

February: Small group discussions

March: Make decision about final outcome

April through August: Inform Congregation and Community about the decision

September: Continue with present two worship services or fully implement the decision to go to one service.

Thanks-Giving Baskets & Pie

Thank you to all who participated in our Thanksgiving Activities. We are especially appreciative of all of you who provided food for the Thanksgiving Baskets so that people with limited income might have a festive Thanksgiving.

A highlight for many was the Pass the Pie Fellowship on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. The pies were delicious and we thank Marna Renshaw and Cathy Scroggins for their leadership in this festive feast.

Grace Gallery

The **Grace Gallery** is a visual worship space in Ronnenkamp Hall. The Gallery shows the creations of Grace members and friends who praise God through their art.

Thanks to these Grace Gallery exhibitors from the past year: Marjorie Kinch, Larry & Sharon Rosenkoetter, Linda Burt, Pr. Joel Nickel, Kathryn Honey, Cy Stadvold, Jim Wernz, Mary Stephens, Erno Koch (via Pr. Joel Nickel), Jon & Jan Leverenz (via Ted Carlson).

Coming in January: Cyndi Wahrmund

Anyone wishing to show art work in any medium, please notify the Church Office.

Currently in the Grace Gallery there is a display of **Silkscreened Christmas Cards of 57 years** by **Jon & Jan Leverenz**.



Former members of Grace Lutheran Church, the Leverenzes annually created small masterpieces to send to their family and friends, including Grace member Ted Carlson. Jon Leverenz was a faculty member at OSU, but not in the Art Department, rather the College of Engineering. Jon and Jan and their two children, Susan and David, sent the cards every year “as a labor love.” We are grateful to **Ted Carlson**, now a resident of Lake Oswego, for sharing these wonderful creations with us. They certainly convey the spirit of Grace to all who see them.

Welcome, New Members!



On Sunday, November 18th, we welcomed five people into our membership here at Grace Lutheran. Four transferred their membership from Lutheran churches outside the state and one became a member through her baptism.

Abigail Lynn Foster, at 15 weeks old, was brought to the baptismal font by her parents, **Jaime Lynn Foster** and **Keith Patrick Foster** and accompanied by her 2 ½ year old brother, **Grayson Thomas Foster**. Grayson was baptized a little over two years ago at Hope Lutheran Church in Bozeman, MT, and his membership as well as that of his parents, Jaime and Keith, were transferred from that congregation. The Foster family currently live in NW Albany but hope to move to Corvallis soon, as both Keith and Jaime are employed by Oregon State University. A big attraction to Grace for them is that it is a congregation where ALL are welcome. They appreciate the welcome they have received and feel it is the right spiritual home for their family. Keith has a special interest in alleviating hunger and food insecurity. Jaime is interested in worship, education and possibly singing in the choir at a future time. Both enjoy hiking, stand-up paddle boarding and running.

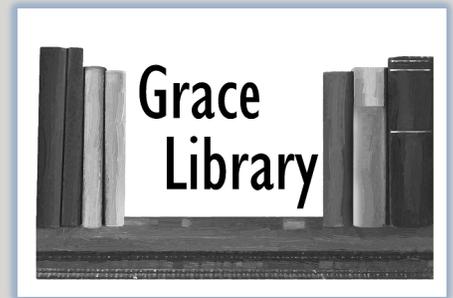
Doreen (Bonnie) A. Jung was also received into membership on the same day and at the same service as the Foster family. She transferred her membership from the Lutheran Church of the Cross in Rialto, CA where she had been a member since 1959. During her years at her congregation in California, she served on church council, worked in the office and sang in the choir. Bonnie has five adult children and one step daughter. Two of her daughters have also recently moved to Corvallis which they intentionally chose as a great place in which to establish new homes and to be closer together as a family. In her short time at Grace Bonnie has not hesitated to participate in activities outside Sunday worship. She attended the November Women's Gathering, went to Partners in Faith and has joined the Tuesday Bible study group. Her hobbies include doing needlework, reading, playing cards and doing puzzles.

Foster family and Bonnie, we rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Getting to Know Grace's Library: Book Review

Travel as a Political Act by Rick Steves

I'm sure most of you know of Rick Steves (an ELCA Lutheran from the Seattle area) and his travel shows and tour groups. I have never traveled with him but love his travel philosophy of getting to know the people in the countries we travel to. In this book, with chapters on the European Union, Turkey & Morocco, Iran, Denmark, the Holy Land and El Salvador, he explores how travel can broaden our knowledge and perceptions of the others we share this world with.



Favorite paragraphs and sentences:

"When we travel – whether to the 'Axis of Evil' or just to a place where people yodel when they're happy, or fight bulls to impress the girls, or can't serve breakfast until today's croissants arrive – we enrich our lives and better understand our place on this planet. We undercut groups that sow fear, hatred, and mistrust. People-to-people connections help us learn that we can disagree and still coexist peacefully."

"On returning from a major trip, you sense that your friends and co-workers have stayed the same, but you're....different. It's enlightening and unsettling at the same time."

"That's why I believe that lessons learned from our travels can better equip us to address and help resolve the challenges facing our world. We travelers are both America's ambassadors to the world... and the world's ambassadors to America."

Enjoy and learn from your travels!

Linda Samuels

Church Council Opportunity



A church is a place to worship God, study the Scriptures, and enjoy the fellowship of other Christians.

Behind the scenes is a network of people conducting activities that keep the building open, functioning and supporting our faith. With the leadership of the Pastors, additional members of the congregation support activities that fulfill the church's mission.

A significant group that represents the congregation and provides congregational leadership is the Church Council. The Council's purpose, members, and obligations are defined in the Church Constitution.

Twelve members of the congregation serve on the Council along with the Pastors. These lay people serve a 3-year term starting when they are elected at the Annual Meeting in January of each year. Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month in the evening, beginning at 6:30 and continuing until the agenda is completed, usually by 9:00.

Council members are also liaisons with committees, attending their meetings and reporting the decisions, recommendations, and actions to the Council.

It is an honor as well as a responsibility to serve on the Council. As we approach the January Annual Meeting Bob Keith, President, and Kathy Vohland, Vice President, will be contacting potential candidates about their willingness to join this governing body. Prayerfully consider accepting this nomination and support those nominated.

Christmas Eve Service Survey Results

During two worship services this fall we had a survey of those in worship through an insert in the bulletin. Here was the preamble to the survey:

We usually have two Christmas Eve Services, one at 5:00 pm and the second at 10:00 pm. In the spirit of rest and accessibility, the possibility of moving the second Christmas Eve worship service to 9:00 pm is being entertained. We would like to know what you think. You can help us by filling out this short questionnaire.

Here are the broad results:

Which Christmas Eve Service do you usually attend?

5:00 pm: 41 10:00 pm: 23 Blank: 5 varies or both: 3 NA: 3

Would you be in favor of moving the late service to 9:00 pm?

Yes: 42 Blank 9 No: 6 OK: 5 NA: 2

There was one each for the following: "0," Yes, if in town, if more can come, indifferent, no opinion, our family stays home for Christmas Eve.

Significantly, of the 23 who indicated they now attend the late service 20 were in favor of changing to 9:00, three were not.

If we moved the service to 9 pm would you attend?

Yes: 31 No: 15 Maybe: 10 Blank 7 Out of town: 2 Not if there is a 5:00 service: 2

There was one each of the following: Depending on format, if in town, one or the other, sounds good.

This question probably should have indicated that we were only thinking of moving the 10 pm service to 9 pm and though most people took it that way, some may not have thought in those terms.

A significant number, more than a dozen, of those who attend the 5:00 pm service indicated they would or might attend at 9:00 pm. The vast majority of those who attended the 10:00 service in the past, said they would attend at 9:00, even if they were not for the change from 10:00 to 9:00. Nearly all the "no" responses were from people who attend at 5:00 pm.

Do you have any other comments about Christmas Eve worship times?

Blank: 43 Families need Priority: 6 Love/like the Celtic: 4

Two each for the following: 5:00 is good for families, Don't change 5:00, usually out of town, 8:00 would be good.

One Each for the following: It's OK because 10 isn't a vigil, need both times, J, All things change, what's best for Christopher and the other leaders? I'll come at 9 or 10, Love it, Contemporary Music? 10 too late, I miss the Nativity, move the early service to 4:00, one service, Thanks for asking us, we don't attend so we'll give no opinion.



Grace-filled Downtown Trick-or-Treating

"Pop Into Grace" popcorn packets were handed out at the annual downtown Halloween event on Halloween afternoon. Mark & Sue Speulda, Marna Renshaw, Kathy Vohland, Linda Noland, Darlene Leklem, Bob Keith and Dorothy Miles prepared 716 popcorn packets. Kendra & Ed Wollert, Shelly Lundahl, Rachel Burnett, Evelyn Vega, RJ Young, and Bob Keith distributed the popcorn & lollipops downtown. Thank you to everyone for helping with this **Grace community outreach project.**

--Mary Ann Brennan, *Communications Committee Chair*





Norma Moody	12/01
Hal Lindsley	12/02
Joan Sandeno	12/02
Jude Geist	12/06
Jeff Mueller	12/06
Meredith Junge	12/07
Nancy Strohle	12/08
Gabri Bilotta	12/09
Jamie Pettingill	12/09
David Bella	12/14
Denice Rickard	12/17
Sam Gelser	12/19
Kathryn Honey	12/19
Sara Gelser	12/20
Karen Nunery	12/22
Pat Olson	12/23
Jessica Saathoff	12/26
Cathy Mueller	12/27
Anna Wayt	12/28
Jim Wernz	12/28

Birthday Blessings!

Please let the office know if there is a birthdate listed incorrectly, or if we have omitted someone in error.

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 - Paris DeMers

Office Administrator - Carol Terrill

Office Assistant - Jody Parker

Organist/Pianist - Sunghee 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 - Dale Weber,
541.757.3043

Healing Prayer Team - Sue Davis, 541.924.2922

Mission Groups - Bob Saathoff, 541.929.3045

Stewardship Committee

Dave Lundahl, 541.757.1358

Campus Ministry at Luther House

Mike Ostrom, Pastor, 541.753.5213

Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers

Norma Moody, 541.754.2555

Save the Date: Lutherfest — February 24, 2019

Mark your calendars! Lutherfest will be on Sunday, February 24, 2018 from 1:45-4:30pm at the Boulder Falls Center in Lebanon, Oregon; the doors will open at 1:45pm. **Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased online from the Luther House web site (luther-house.org/programs/Lutherfest/)** For the second year, the Lutherfest Traveling Trophy will be presented to the congregation with the most guests in attendance. Consider buying a table of 8 for \$350 to enjoy the afternoon with seven of your friends! Consider buying a \$50 individual ticket as a Christmas gift for that hard-to-shop-for person in your life.

At this year's Lutherfest we will confer Pastor Emeritus status on Pastor Jim Norlie. We want to recognize his 20+ years of distinguished service to Luther House and continue to capitalize on his gifts for education and development. There will be an opportunity at the event to contribute to a fund which will endow his new role with us. Please pass the word to all who would be interested in honoring Pastor Jim's ministry in this way.

Luther House News

Luther House programs will be on hiatus during OSU's Winter Break and will resume Jan. 7. Enjoy the holidays and see you in the new year! Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Pastor Mike Ostrom

Camp Lutherwood



Easy Guide to Holiday Giving

When you support camp with your financial gifts, you support a place for all to hear the message of God's love, and be transformed to live a life of faith and service. Here's how you can be a part of transforming lives this holiday season:

· Amazon Smile

Go to smile.amazon.com, select "Camp Lutherwood Association" as your charity of choice, and .5% of your purchase will go directly to us once you start shopping!

· Bottle Drop

You can give back with your holiday bottles and cans! Just designate your bottle drop money to "Camp Lutherwood Oregon" when you drop off your bottles at any bottle drop location, or designate them online and support your favorite summer camp.

· Thrivent Choice or Action Teams

If you are a Thrivent member, don't forget to designate your Thrivent Choice dollars! Or, apply for a Thrivent Action Team with an event benefiting the camp. Contact us for more details.

· Text-to-Give with Vanco

Text (541) 566-4868 to give a gift instantly! It's safe and secure through Vanco Payment Solutions.

We hope you have a blessed holiday season, and think of us when you think of who you want to share your holiday cheer with!

Ida Irgens-Moller Fund

Thank you to all those who contributed to the Ida Fund over the past year. Ida Irgens-Moller had a heart for people who were in need. To honor her giving spirit, the congregation has named a fund in her honor to help with little financial emergencies. We supply gasoline to people who find themselves low. We may purchase a pup tent, a bicycle tire, a prescription, the fee for an ID card, or any other small need. Most of our assistance is less than \$50.00. If you would like to help with this modest ministry, you may make a check payable to Grace Lutheran Church and put "Ida Fund" in the memo line. It is a fine way to contribute something extra at the end of the year.

Grace Center News



Grace Center for Adult Day Services is mighty proud to announce that our Director of Operations, Rene' Knight, has been named the 2018 Professional of the Year by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. The honor is awarded annually to individuals who have demonstrated professional excellence in care, compassionate performance above and beyond expectations and a dedicated commitment to individuals living with dementia, according to a release.

The Alzheimer's Foundation CEO said Rene' "is a hard-working caregiver who works tirelessly to put her clients' need first". Her dedication is to serving individuals living with dementia, their family, staff, and the community that this distinction represents.

Rene' has worked for Grace Center for more than 11 years and has had more than 25 years of experience. We are grateful for all that she does every day to make the Center run well, in addition to the loving attention she gives our participants. I've seen her kindness in action as she interacts with them around the Center.

On Dec. 12th, at Papa's Pizza, we plan to show our love and appreciation to Rene' when Papa's Pizza is hosting a PIZZA DAY For Grace Center. In the evening (at 6pm) we plan to celebrate Rene's honor. Join us as we let her know that we're proud of her.

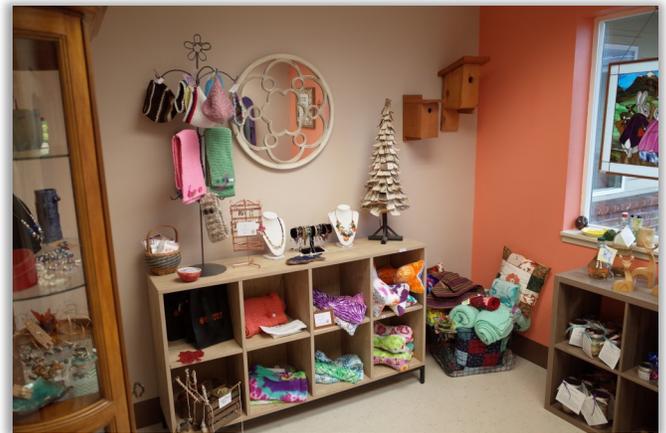
Grace Center Holiday Bazaar

On Thursday and Friday, Dec .6th and 7th, Grace Center will introduce an ongoing Gift Shop. It will be open on a regular basis next year... (yes 2019 is coming!) For now this bazaar will be an opportunity for you to try it out for two days. Hopefully even buy a few Christmas gifts. It will also be open for you to see during the rest of the month. If you wish to buy an item you see, come to the office and one of the staff will come to let you purchase.

Almost every item in the Gift Shop will be made by the Center participants, (or with help of volunteers.) This Bazaar for Christmas will feature special goodies of the season: jam and friendship bread, as well as many items that our participants are good at making all the time. This includes ceramics, jewelry, scarves and hats, bird houses, and a new one – tortilla warmers! (Tera had to tell me what they are... come and see.)

Happy Holidays!

Betty McCauley



Stewardship Responses

Thank you for those of you who have turned in your stewardship responses already. We are assembling next year's budget and it would be a great help to us to turn yours in, if you have not already done so. An easy way to get the information to our Financial Secretary, Mary Stephens, is to complete a simple Good Docs form, available at the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/s7ndsUwoOk3HiC2b2>

PAPA'S PIZZA PARLOR
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We are hosting a PIZZA DAY at CORVALLIS PAPA'S PIZZA for:

**GRACE CENTER
ADULT DAY SERVICES**

Bring this flyer into Papa's Pizza on **December 12th** and the organization will receive **50%** of the value of the food you purchase! You also have the choice of purchasing **Fundraiser Bucks** that are good for all future purchases. These Bucks will earn 25% of their value for the organization.

Please come into Papa's and help us out!
With your support on **December 12, 2018** we can have a really successful fundraiser!
Beverages and delivery orders are excluded.
These flyers **cannot** be distributed at Papa's Pizza.
This fundraiser flyer is valid **ALL DAY** only on specified date.

Join us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/PapasCorvallis

Total Food Order \$ _____
All Gift Certificates Purchased 25%\$ _____

November Council Minutes

November 12, 2018 – 6:45 pm

Devotion was read by Kendra Wollert – Rev 21: 1-6a – Book of Hope.

There were no guests to introduce.

Those in attendance: Lew Nelson, Hal Brauner, Kathy Vohland, Kendra Wollert, Shelley Chamberlin, Shelly Lundahl, Pr. Netsie Griffith, Pr. Wendell Hendershott, Jaya Lapham, and Donna King.

Excused Absences: Rebekah Hadlock, Nancy Strohleim and Dick Junge.

Agenda Discussion Items:

Kathy Vohland moved to accept items on the Consent Agenda, accepting meeting minutes from September 10, 2018. It was MSP to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

Officers/Staff Reports:

Pastor Wendell:

Jim Norlie continues with chemotherapy.

Parking Lot Lighting. LED lights will replace the sodium vapor bulbs.

The preference from the congregation for the Christmas Eve Service is 9:00 pm.

Mary Stephens is compiling stewardship responses.

Pastors' next Sunday Class is on December 9th.

Advent Services using Holden Evening Prayer will be held on the first three Wednesdays of December.

Outreach to Beit Am. Following the horrific shooting at the Tree of Life Jewish Synagogue in Pittsburg on October 27th, both Pr. Netsie and Pr. Wendell reached out to Rabbi Philip Bressler, the new Rabbi at Beit Am, our local Jewish congregation here in Corvallis. Rabbi Phil welcomed Gordon and Mary Ann Matzke as representatives of Grace Lutheran at their October 28th Prayer Vigil. Grace Alive! member and baptismal candidate, Noel Vineyard, has helped with subsequent requested support during regular services at Beit Am. Mutual gratitude was expressed between Grace members and the Beit Am community.

Pastor Netsie:

The Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service and "Pass the Pie" Fellowship will be held on Wednesday, November 21st at 7:00 pm.

The next Synod Regional Meeting will be hosted by Grace Lutheran on Saturday, February 16, 2019. We will be working on the next phase of Congregational Vitality.

Doreen (Bonnie) Jung has requested to be received into membership on November 18th. She will be transferring her membership from the Lutheran Church of the Cross in Rialto, CA. where she was member for many years. It was moved to accept Jung as a new member. Lew Nelson seconded. MSP.

Grace 2018 Women's Gathering was held on Saturday, November 10th. It was a wonderful day of reflection, relationship building and worship. The topic was "*Being Good News in a Challenging World*" and was led by Bonnie Beadles-Bohling from Portland.

Our concern for our sister council member, Sue Musil, continues as she recovers from her wound. We now have two Grace members on hospice, Anna Upenieks and Jeff Mueller. Also, Carol Freeman and Pat Curran are in our prayers, having been recently diagnosed with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy.

The Downtown Trick or Treating was once again successful this year. Our Communications Committee organized our participation in this event hosted by the Corvallis Downtown Association. Thanks to Mary Ann Brenan, Bob Keith, Shelly Lundahl, Evelyn Vega, Rachel Burnett, RJ Young, Kendra and Ed Wollert for participating.

The annual Byberg Preaching Workshop will be held on January 21-23rd in Seaside, Oregon (new location). Pastors Wendell and Netsie hope to attend this year.

Deaconess Donna King:

Anne Orwick is coordinating the "Children's Nativity Service" to be held on Sunday, December 16th at 10:00 am. All kids of our congregation, grandchildren, and community kids are invited to participate.

Camp Lutherwood will no longer offer day camp. It is not feasible for them to offer "on location" day camps. Shelly Lundahl and our local day camp leaders have already begun thinking about ways to keep it going forward for next summer.

The Advent Devotion Books will be available Sunday, December 2nd. For the first time, some devotions will be in Spanish (with translation) and some in English. The 2018 Advent Devotion Book Team is Hal Dick, Pr. Netsie Griffith, Meredith Junge, Sharon Rosenkoetter, Linda Samuels, Pr. Wendell Hendershott and Donna King.

Treasurer's Report: —Hal Brauner

Grace is right on target for the "stretch" budget on the income side. November and December estimated income and expenses are usually higher in December.

The 2019 draft budget will be presented to Council on December 10th.

Continuing Business:

* Bob Keith read a "Thank You" card that Grace received from Lincoln School for our participation in "God's Work...Our Hands" project held on September 9th.

President:
Bob Keith
Vice President:
Kathy Vohland
Secretary:
Shelley Chamberlin
Treasurer:
Hal Brauner
Financial Secretary:
Mary Stephens
Council Members:
Pr. Netsie Griffith
Pr. Wendell Hendershott
Rebekah Hadlock
Dick Junge
Jaya Lapham
Shelly Lundahl
Sue Musil
Lew Nelson
Nancy Strohleim
Kendra Wollert

November Council Minutes Cont.

- * Pr. Netsie: The Healing Prayer Ministers met and would like to recruit new members to be on the Prayer Team.
- * Update on Document re: one service vs. two services: Donna King's comments regarding input from discussions of the Christian Education Committee: Aware of three issues: Patterning, Connectivity, and Identify of the "community among our congregation"
 - * Our Path Forward? Pr. Wendell suggested the congregation have conversations before Easter, April 21, 2019.
- * Council Nominations Update: We have a potential new nominee for one of the two council positions opening up. Nancy Hemming has expressed interest.

New Business:

- * Congregational Vitality Index: What is a Vitality Congregation? Pr. Netsie advised that the information from the research and evaluation was last updated in 2014. Discussion was on whether the council will want to redo the Index or revisit the report from 2014. Question was asked by Lew Nelson on how the results were shared with our congregation. Summary was sent to the congregation. Do we want to look at our strengths in the church by the number of services and then update the Index in 9-12 months?
- * Kendra Wollert made a motion to table the discussion on the Congregational Vitality Index until December. At that time reports of the committees would be prepared for conversation. Motion seconded by Kathy Vohland. MSP
- * Pr. Netsie: For the December council meeting, members were asked to share one thing from the Congregational Vitality Index report that is significant. Please get feedback from other members.

Reminder/Assignment of Devotions and Treats:

December: Rebekah Hadlock - 1 Cor 1:3-9

January: Jaya Lapham - Act 19: 1-7

Pr. Wendell closed the meeting with a prayer.
Meeting Adjourned at 9:01 pm
Minutes submitted by Secretary, Shelley Chamberlin

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

Globaliers — Book Discussion Group

First Thursdays in the Fireside Room @ 7pm

- December 6** Carol Erickson Noon Discussion: *The Cave*, Jose Saramago
Evening Discussion: *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*,
The Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and Douglas Abrams
- January 3** Jaya Conser *It's Better than It Looks: Reasons for Optimism in an Age of Fear*, Gregg
Easterbrook
- February 7** Marilyn Work *The Man Who Loved China: The Story of an Eccentric Scientist*, Simon Win
chester
- March 7** Linda Noland *The Best We Could Do* (graphic novel): An Illustrated Memoir
- April 4** Mary Ann Matzke *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*,
David Grann
- May 2** Carol Kamke *Exit West*, Mohsin Hamid
- June 6** Darlene Leklem *Midnight at the Pera Palace: The Birth of Modern Istanbul*, Charles King
- September 5** Sharon Rosenkoetter *From the Land of Green Ghosts*, Pascal Khoo Thwe

Please contact Mary Ann Matzke with any questions at 541-753-3729 or maryann.matzke@gmail.com

Grace Lutheran Church

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



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

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Advent Greens Celebration

9:45 am, Dec 2 (in Ronnenkamp Hall)

Come join our annual intergenerational Advent Celebration! Make an advent wreath, a swag for your door, a mug bouquet, or a great paper chain to decorate with. Save the date, it's lots of fun!

Children's Nativity Service will be Dec. 16th

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 or Donna King, Nativity Coordinators, if you have questions.

Rehearsal Times for Nativity Service Participants

- Song Practices — Sundays, Dec 2 & 9, 9:45 am (sharp!)
- Speaking Parts — Sundays, Dec 2 & 9, 12:15 pm
- Dress Rehearsal — Saturday, Dec 15, 8:30 – 11:30 am (Speaking Parts)
- Saturday, Dec 15, 9:30 – 11:30 am (All Participants)

Advent Wednesdays 2018

Advent arrives later than usual this year. The first Sunday in Advent is on December 2nd, and our first Wednesday Advent service is on December 5th. All of this will likely make it feel like a brief holiday season.

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

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

It uses the pattern which evolved through the prayer practices of the early church. It is a delightful matching of the ancient texts of the Vespers service (evening prayer) with gentle music conceived in a winter setting deep in the wilderness of Washington's Cascade Mountains. It was composed for Holden Village, a Lutheran Retreat Center, in the mountains northwest of Lake Chelan, in the winter of 1985-86. As soon as Evening Prayer ends, the Chancel Choir will rehearse, at approximately 7:30.

Advent Schedule: Wednesday Nights (December 5, 12, 19)

- 6:00 Soup Supper
- 7:00 Holden Evening Prayer
- 7:30 Choir (or when Evening Prayer is completed)

