

January 2019
volume XVIII
issue 1



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace GATHERINGS

*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
manifesting with caring
hearts and helping hands
the good news of the
Kingdom of God."*

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of Grace Lutheran Church is set for
Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 1:00 pm

Business at Hand: We are to elect new Congregation Council and Synod Assembly members. In addition, we will consider and adopt a budget for 2019. Church Council will be finalizing the proposed budget to be forwarded to the congregation at their January 14th meeting. As we review and celebrate how God has been faithful in the accomplishments of the year past, we will be looking to where God is leading us in the future.

A sandwich lunch in Ronnenkamp Hall precedes the meeting in the sanctuary.

As 2019 unfolds beyond our Annual Meeting at the end of January, we anticipate having some future decisions to make regarding our plans for worship, pastoral staffing and the assets we have in our two rental properties. (See separate article regarding the process for discussing our worship.)

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.



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

www.grace97330.org



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

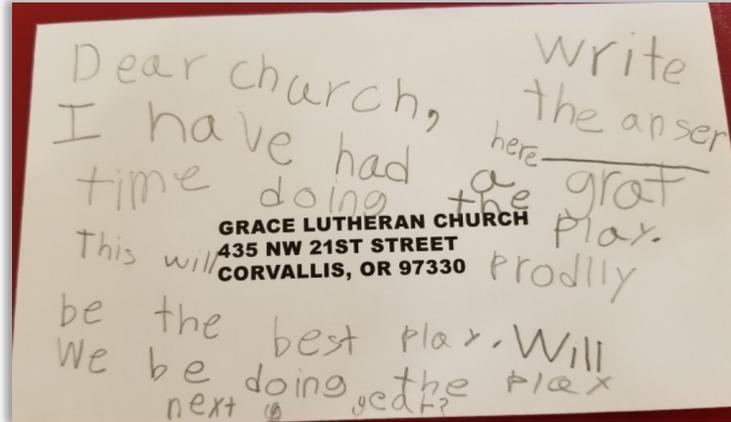


Prayers

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 made the Children's Nativity Pageant a success!



Illnesses and Other Concerns:

- ⇒ Lenora Bond, Nancy Hemming's mother
- ⇒ Tony Smith
- ⇒ Marilyn Walsh
- ⇒ Mary Scarpholt, Pr. Wendell's cousin
- ⇒ Tracy Reindel, Pr. Wendell's goddaughter
- ⇒ Mary Conser, Jaya Lapham's mother
- ⇒ Terry Biggs, friend of Jaya Lapham
- ⇒ Dewayne Edwards, friend of Grace Lutheran
- ⇒ Dave Lundahl's mother, Dorothy
- ⇒ Bev Raze
- ⇒ Bev Raze requests prayers for her cousin, Donna McWalter and her husband, George
- ⇒ Mary Ann Hall
- ⇒ David Werth, Gloria Werth's son

Birth:

- ⇒ Cora Eleanor, born November 29th, in Tampa, Florida, to Chris and Ellyn Kamke

Death:

- ⇒ Richard Hibbard, Anne Schroeder's brother
- ⇒ Ed Biggs, friend of Jaya Lapham
- ⇒ Roslyn Sadler, former member of Grace Lutheran
- ⇒ Sandra Schultz, Pastor Wendell's cousin
- ⇒ Emmie Ash, Shelly Lundahl's cousin's child

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

Longing for Light

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.*

From the hymn, "Christ, Be our Light," ELW #715, v.1, text by Bernadette Farrell



I must confess that this time of year I long for more light. The daylight is too short for me. As you read this we will at least be beyond the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year, yet the lengthening of days cannot come quickly enough for me. Since I am not a morning person and consequently a morning walker, it is difficult to get my daily walk in before the sun sets. Thus, I'm often walking just before dusk or at dusk.

This means I'm often walking as the light is changing. It's often these times of days when one might be surprised by some impressive light displays through spectacular sunsets (and, if you're a morning walker, stunning sunrises). Sometimes, the interplay of light and shadow provide beauty and depth to the scenery around us. When we lived in Idaho, I commuted over Horseshoe Bend Hill. Don't let the 'hill' part of the name deceive you. It was actually a mountain pass with five runaway truck ramps on the steepest parts. In winter when there was snow on the hill, I was often awed by how the light reflected off the snow at different times of day and the contrast between snow, clouds, sun, moon and stars.

When I think of light as a metaphor for our spiritual lives, light is a symbol for revelation, sight, insight and life. Just as wakefulness does not come to us without sleep, or spring flowers and leaves without winter dormancy, so spiritual sight and insight does not come without waiting through spiritual darkness. Then, when it does come, it is a gift and comes in many forms and variations, some very subtle and some blazingly bright.

While I can turn a light switch on, I can't create light. If electrical power is out, I cannot, by my own will, bring light into being. I am dependent upon electricity. Likewise, I can't fabricate spiritual insight by anything I do. I can only receive it. Like the leaves and stalk of a plant bend toward the sunlight, I can turn towards Christ, our light, longing and ready to receive spiritual light from its very source.

Of course, our times of spiritual darkness and spiritual light may or may not parallel the seasons of the year and hours of the day, but the seasons and hours can be our teachers. They can remind us how to wait, how to receive and show us that we are not abandoned to everlasting darkness but that light will come. So, we look; we long, and we rejoice over the variations of light in its many forms. We also humbly remember that God makes us light so that others may see God through us. Thanks be to God, then, for the gift of light.



Inviting you to join me in my longing and my rejoicing,
Pr. Netsie

*"...your light must shine in people's sight, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven."
(Matt. 5:16 NJB)*

Pastor Netsie Griffith

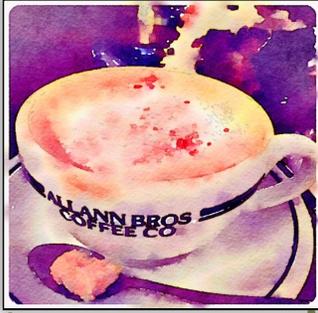
Contact Information
Cell: 541.223.3455
Email:
netsie@grace97330.org

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



January 10
**2nd Thursday's
Women's
Luncheon** at
TBD — Call Office
@ 11:45am

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

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

Looking for growth, inspiration and spiritual companionship in the new year? If so, a great place to find it is on Tuesday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm in the Fireside Room at Grace Lutheran. At this time and place a committed group of folks gathers for these very things. On . . .



January 8th – We resume weekly study of the New Testament book of Hebrews.

January 22nd – Cammie Bella will be our guest presenter. Her topic will be “Soul Friends: Spiritual Direction – what is it and is it for you?”

January 29th – Back to Hebrews

Cammie is a member of Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, a Spiritual Director, Retreat Leader and Lay Preacher. In November of 2017 she led our Fall Women's Retreat at Camp Magruder. She is an excellent and engaging teacher so mark January 22nd on your calendar and look for further details regarding the topic of her presentation that day.

Pastor's Sunday Class: “Time After Time”

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, generally as they happen, so we are going with the Title, “Time after Time.” In January on the 13th, we will look at Christmas, and on February 17, the third Sunday of the month, we will be in Epiphany. 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.

Invitation to the Grace Library PNACL Meeting

The Library Committee invites you to attend a Pacific Northwest Association of Church Libraries Mid Willamette Chapter meeting. It will be on Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 2 pm. We will have refreshments and treats for you. We will not only show off our new Children's Library, we will also have the Librarians from Scio Baptist, Brownsville Baptist Churches and churches from Albany and Corvallis, such as the First Presbyterian Church talk about their Libraries. So if you would like to share, meet some fun people and learn about the process of running a Library, come to the quarterly meeting. We are a good bunch of people and love to share our knowledge.

Adult Bible Study—January 2019

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.

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:

January:

Distribute Committee documents to Congregation

February:

Opportunities for small group discussions on the following dates:

Saturday, February 9 (Time to be determined)

Sunday, February 10 (9:45 a.m.)

Wednesday, February 20 (7 pm)

Saturday, February 23 (Time to be determined)

Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to attend one of these discussions.

March:

A congregational meeting has been scheduled for March 17th to make a decision.

April through August:

Inform Congregation of the decision made and what was learned.

September:

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

Getting to Know Grace's Library: Book Review

transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians

by Austen Hartke

In the March 2018 *Living Lutheran* magazine there was an interview with Austen Hartke. He "is the creator of the YouTube series *Transgender and Christian*, which seeks to understand and interpret Scripture related to gender identity and transgender people. His online work became the basis for" this book. Austen was baptized into the Lutheran church as an adult and embraces Luther's both/and of saint and sinner – we are fully each. The book weaves together the stories of trans peoples' experiences and stories of the Bible. Many people were interviewed for the book to share their stories and help support the efforts of expanding resources for trans people. There are lots of suggestions on finding more information and groups in the Notes and Further Readings sections.

Favorite sentence:

"What would the church be like if we just accepted people for who and how they were, and loved them there first, before anything else?"

---Linda Samuels

Welcome, Noel Vineyard!

We rejoice and welcome him into the body of Christ and into the mission we share to join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Noel came to Corvallis from Reno, Nevada to attend Oregon State University and recently graduated with a degree in Geographic Information Science. A couple of years ago he was invited to Grace to participate in the music program where he initially sang in the Chancel Choir. When he learned that Grace Alive! needed a drummer he then stepped into that role. Over time the music and word of God took root in him, and he inquired about the possibility of being baptized. Thus it was that meetings with Pr. Wendell and catechetical instruction with Br. Christopher Buckley culminated in the baptism we witnessed and in which we participated at the 11 am worship service on the ninth of December.

As a student and after graduation Noel has worked as a composer of Electronic Dance Music and a Bouncer. His interests are music performance, weight lifting, football and baseball. As long as he continues to live in Corvallis he plans to continue to serve as a musician here at Grace. We are thrilled to be blessed by his musical talents and presence with us. It might be, at some point, that future employment in his field of study will lead him to a new city and new community of faith. Because of this we are grateful for how God has brought us together and the mutual blessing that has emerged.



Luke 9:48



01/01 George Custer
01/01 Tessa Gourley
01/02 Sylvia Aulerich
01/02 Linda Burt
01/02 Margaret Samuels
01/02 Julie Erickson
01/03 David Lundahl
01/05 Jenny Olsen
01/11 Bill Strohle
01/11 Inge Daeschel
01/12 Scott Berdahl
01/14 Julie Koenig
01/15 Dorothy Miles
01/20 Daniel Strand
01/21 Kathleen Kuehlwein
01/21 Midori Stock
01/21 Sarah Wayt
01/22 Tom Cardinali
01/25 Aaron Reher
01/25 Kelly Kiersky
01/25 Eli Weber
01/26 Lew Nelson
01/26 Aaron Kiersky
01/26 Cameron Osborn
01/28 Shane Mueller
01/29 Carl Grosz
01/31 Mark Speulda
01/31 Michael Hadlock

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. 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.

There are still plenty of tickets on hand for this year's **Lutherfest**, a beer & cheese pairing benefit for Luther House Campus Ministry @ OSU. Tickets may be purchased at Lutherfest.Luther-house.org or by calling [541-753-5213](tel:541-753-5213). Lutherfest will be held on Sunday, February 24th at 1:45 pm at Boulder Falls Center in Lebanon. Enjoy the company of good friends and some very tasty local craft beers and cheeses!

Grace Gallery

Ten exhibits have adorned Grace Gallery in Ronnenkamp Hall during its first year.

Slated for January is a real treat -- "Quilted Possibilities," modern interpretations in fabric, thread, and imagination, by Cyndi Wahrmund. A longtime textile artist, Cyndi has previously shared her beautiful creations with the Grace Lutheran congregation via the Easter chausable, altar table cloths, Pastor Netsie's Advent stole, and other smaller pieces. She has also created liturgical art for other congregations, as well a variety of imaginative expressions using thread and fabric. Common themes are joy and appreciation in everyday objects. Thanks, Cyndi!



Coming February 20 are oil paintings and watercolors by the late Rosemary Stephens, mother of Bruce Stephens. On deck for April and early May is "Paragons of Nature," photographs of animals from God's creation.

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

A Very Happy New Year to the supporters of Grace Center. It is always a pleasure at the end of a time to hear that efforts have been a successful. When for one reason or another one of our participants must leave Grace Center there is an exit interview in which the staff has a chance to review the Center experience. In the case of Sandy, who had Alzheimer's disease, she needed more care than her loving husband Hank could do by himself. She had been attending the Center since 2014 and he said she really enjoyed it. This gave Hank needed respite. He said she started at one day a week. One of the things Hank appreciated most was the scholarship program which allowed her to come more often, and it included a free shower a week. Hank said he always felt comfortable going to the staff with questions. They always answered quickly. The staff was very welcoming.

On his and Sandy's 58th wedding anniversary there was a late Thanksgiving dinner, and Hank wrote a poem to read to the family. Here are some of the verses of his longer loving poem:

"TO MY SANDY AND MY FAMILY

For 58 years, my Sandy Kay,
Always together, day and night,
No matter what, side by side.

But many changes are coming soon.
So long I've tried to care for her.
But the time has come I must accept.

For both our sakes, I need more help,
To give her the care that she deserves.
My Sandy Kay must leave our home,
that we have shared so many years."

- Betty McCauley



Camp Lutherwood

2019 is Lutherwood's 60th anniversary year!

Camp Lutherwood is hiring summer 2019 staff — please go to their website for the application and additional information. Please pass along this information to anyone you might know who would be interested in summer camp positions.

You are invited to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Camp Lutherwood Association. It will be held on Saturday, January 26th, 2019, from 1-3pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Albany, Oregon. Come find out what CL's goals and vision are for the coming year.

If you have any questions, please contact the CL office at 541-998-6444.



Corvallis Men's Cold Weather Shelter

Grace will be working with the Corvallis Men's Homeless Shelter again this year from Sunday, January 20 to January 26. As in other years, we need quite a number of volunteers to make this happen.

- The shelter is again across the street from the 1st Alternative Coop, South location.
- We will not be serving breakfast.
- No shift is longer than 3 hours except for the overnight shift.
- We are not required to provide dinner this year, as Stone Soup will be providing Soup and bread every evening. HOWEVER, you can certainly bring dinner if you want to give the men a change. If you are going to bring dinner, please note on the signup form. I will be contacting those who want to provide food so that we can coordinate with Stone Soup.
- You may also bring snacks like crackers and fruit that the men can take with them to fill up until their next meal.

The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Fireside Room — there are a number of shifts left to fill.

Contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your faithful service with this annual project.

Sue Speulda
541-760-1544
susan.speulda@gmail.com

Globaliers — Book Discussion Group

First Thursdays in the Fireside Room @ 7pm

- 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 Winchester
- 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

December Council Minutes

President:

Bob Keith

Vice President:

Kathy Vohland

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 Strohle

Kendra Wollert

Church Council minutes from the December meeting can be viewed in the office, along with minutes from all previous meetings.

Thinking about how you might serve at Grace in 2019? Willing to give your time and talent for the mission of our church? Are you free one night a month to attend a fairly brief and enlightening meeting with fellow Grace members? If so, talk to Bob Keith, Pr. Netsie, or Pr. Wendell about the possibility of joining our Church Council. Help us guide the parish and make plans for the future.

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. *(if you provide this service and your name is not here, please let the church office know, 541.757.1600)*

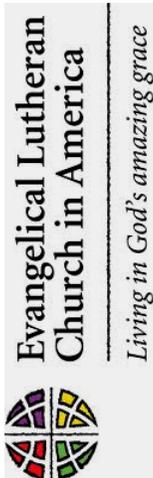
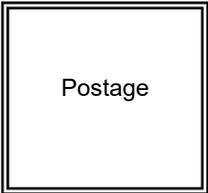
As promised in the Sunday bulletin, here's the list of our Sunday Musicians:

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

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

Grace Lutheran Church

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



Partners in Faith

Friday, December 11, 2019

6 PM

Fireside Room

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

Program at 7 pm is a White Elephant Gift Exchange. Bring something wrapped to partake.

Please contact the office
with any questions.

No "partner" needed, all are welcome!

