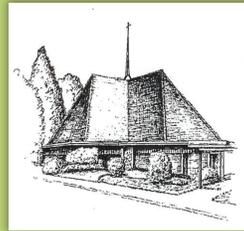


# Grace GATHERINGS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

*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."*

## God's Work, Our Hands



**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.***

## Prayers

*This prayer list is a compilation of the requests we have received at Grace from August to Sept. 20. For a more timely update to the prayers, send your email address to [prayers@grace97330.org](mailto: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.*

### Illnesses and Other Concerns:

- ⇒ Marcia Parks, Dan Hallgrimson's cousin,
- ⇒ Laury and Sara Frazer, Andrea Barnhurst's friends
- ⇒ Larry Williams, Sandra William's brother-in-law
- ⇒ Ellie Rodakowski, Kathy Scroggins' mother
- ⇒ Tom Edgerton, Mary Stephens' brother-in-law
- ⇒ Marion, Steve Bender's mother
- ⇒ Jody Parker
- ⇒ Patricia "Pat" Olson
- ⇒ Darlene Buss, Cathy Mueller's Sister in Law
- ⇒ Scotty and his Family
- ⇒ Mary Jane Weber
- ⇒ Steve Whittet, Cathy Mueller's niece's former husband

### Deaths:

- ⇒ Bernard Bender, Steve Bender's father
- ⇒ Bob Hewitt, Carol Erickson's brother

## They have Moved

**Sylvia and Dean Aulerich** have moved to The Caring Place. Their phone number will remain the same but new address is

750 NW 23<sup>rd</sup> St., Apt. 117  
Corvallis, OR 97330

## 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, AF

**Facebook Administrator** - Rebekah Hadlock

**Financial Secretary:** Mary Stephens

**Nursery** - Nate Olsen

**Office Administrator** - Andrea Barnhurst (eff. 6/4)

**Office Assistant** - Jody Parker

**Organist/Pianist** - Sunghie Kim

**Prayer Chain** - Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens

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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)

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### 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

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**Campus Ministry at Luther House**

Mike Ostrom, Pastor, 541.753.5213

**Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers**

Norma Moody, 541.754.2555

## Brother Christopher Buckley Resigns

We are sad to report that Brother Christopher notified us that he is resigning his post here at Grace effective Christmas Day. On August 28, he wrote, in part:

*After almost four years of ministry at Grace, I have decided that it's nearly time for me to leave. Working at Grace has been at the same time extremely frustrating and extremely rewarding, and at the end of the day I'm grateful for it all.*

*In discernment with my spouse, my counselor, and my order, I have come to the decision that I can't keep working at Grace and keep my health and happiness, so, it's time to start working out yet another transition in your congregation.*

*Knowing just how much change has been going on, and just how destabilizing it can be to have to find a new music director, I will not simply pick up and leave. That would be both unprofessional and unkind. If desired, I am willing to continue serving as music director while the search for my successor gets going, but not longer than Christmas Day. My hope is that that will give you ample time to plan for the next chapter.*

*This is a decision I have been trying to avoid for quite some time, and while it brings me great sorrow to finally make it, it brings me a deep peace. Of course, I will happily and openly respond to any and all questions or concerns you may have.*

*I wish you all the very best of what God has in store.*

Our blessings go with Brother Christopher as he enters this new chapter of his life. We will miss his merry music making and his responsiveness to our concerns. We will plan a farewell later this fall to celebrate his time among us and bid him farewell.

The Worship and Music Committee, under the auspices of the Congregational Council, has usually formed a search committee for this position, composed of representative members of the congregation. It is our hope to do so again. If you have input, contact Pastor Wendell or Michael Beachley, who is the Worship and Music chair, or any member of the Worship and Music Committee. The Congregational Council will ultimately hire this staff member.

In the interim, we will revise the position description, notify potential applicants, by both conventional and electronic means, of the position opening, select and interview candidates, and ultimately present a finalist to the Congregational Council. We hope to be able to announce the search com-

### **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  
Mon., Tues, & Friday

## October 2019 Grace Gatherings Insert

Grace Lutheran Church and the Oregon Synod are very busy this Fall. The October issue of Grace Gatherings has a special Oregon Synod insert. This insert can be found on the colorful paper inside the printed copies of Grace Gatherings. This insert can also be found on the Grace Lutheran Church website under the "Newsletter" heading and at the following link: <https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-October-Insert.pdf>

Additional copies of this insert can also be found in the Church Office.



## What's New for our Tuesday Bible Study

Please join us every Tuesday from 1-2:30 pm in the Fireside Room for study and engaging conversation.

We are now studying the 5<sup>th</sup> book of the Pentateuch, Deuteronomy, which literally means 2<sup>nd</sup> law. Do you know what the first law is? If not, come and find the answer to this question as well as other answers and also many more questions.



**Technically, Moses is the first person to download files from the cloud using a tablet.**



October 10  
**2nd Thursday's  
Women's  
Luncheon** at  
The Brass Monkey  
@ 11:45am

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

## G.I.F. Fine Art Sale

The Stewardship Committee is seeking donations of fine art from individuals in our congregation. Proceeds from the sale of art will be used to finish paying off the mortgage.

If you have a piece of art you would consider donating, please call Mary Ann Brenan 541.230.1696

## Globaliers — Grace Book Discussion Group

### 2019-2020 Global Book Group Schedule

**October 3, 12:00 pm**

Mary Ann Matzke — "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption" by Bryan Stevenson

*Just Mercy* demonstrates the extent to which brutality, unfairness, and racial bias continue to infect criminal law in the United States. But at the same time that Stevenson tells an utterly damning story of deep-seated and widespread injustice, he also recounts instances of human compassion, understanding, mercy, and justice that offer hope.

**November 7, 12:00 noon** — "Astoria: Astor and Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire" by Peter Stark

**December 5, 12:00 noon** — "Gateway to the Moon" by Mary Morris



**Partners in Faith— Friday, October 11, 2019 6:00 p.m.  
Potluck in the Fireside Room followed by Apple Tasting and playing  
"Apples to Apples"**

**Please bring a dish to share, apples will be provided**



This year Faith In Practice is celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of medical mission trips in Guatemala in which many members of Grace have taken part. October 5-12, 2019 will see Sue and Frank Davis, Linda Samuels and Ron Anderson traveling to Antigua, Gua-

temala to serve on the FIP Pharmacy Team. We will be working to prepare the medications that will be used by the Faith In Practice Village Teams in 2019-20. Other members of Grace will most likely be serving on some of these teams.

All volunteers pay their own travel and accommodation expenses. Faith In Practice relies on donations from individuals to pay for medical supplies, equipment for patient care and transportation of patients. I hope you will consider supporting our medical mission team with a gift to Faith In Practice. If you are unable to donate at this time, your prayers are ALWAYS appreciated. Consider this an opportunity to help serve patients who would otherwise not receive urgently needed medical care throughout Guatemala.

It's very easy to help FIP on-line at [donate.faithinpractice.org/644](https://donate.faithinpractice.org/644) – you can search for a specific pharmacy team member if they have set up a Share the Mission page or enter their name in the comment section. If you prefer to donate by check, please enclose your gift in an envelope to Faith In Practice, 7500 Beechnut St, Ste 208, Houston, TX 77074.

Please write Pharmacy Trip #644 and/or one of our names on the memo line.

The FIP website at [faithinpractice.org](https://faithinpractice.org) has more information on the organization - check out the BLOGS, search for “pharmacy” to see pictures from all the past trips – how many Grace people can you find? You will also see pictures of the wonderful Guatemalan young people we are privileged to work with during our week of pharmacy work.

Maybe you would like to join us some year?!?

Thanks in advance for your prayers of support for this very important medical mission work in Guatemala!

## Fall Worship

We're off! The new pattern of one worship service this fall is a rousing success. Our first few Sundays have been well attended and inspirational. While it is too soon to call it an unqualified success, we are certainly headed in that direction. We have chanced upon a few bumps in the road, but for the most part we adjust to them as we encounter them. It has been especially nice to have a final sending for all ages at 11:40, when all ages gather for one final launch into the week ahead. Here is our schedule for those who need a prompt:

### Sunday Mornings

*Music Rehearsals before worship*

**9:30 a.m. – Worship**

10:30 a.m. – Fellowship Time

**10:45 a.m. – Christian Education** for all ages

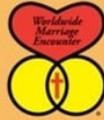
11:40 a.m. – Sending for all present for Christian Education (in the Fireside Room)

11:45 a.m. – Stepping out into the world for service

*For more information on how we got to this point see July's article on page 8.*



FALL  
IN  
LOVE  
all over again



Rekindle your love for each other –  
celebrate the love you cherished when  
you first met and discover new  
dimensions of that love on a Marriage  
Encounter Weekend

November 1-3, 2019  
Vancouver, WA

For more information, visit  
[www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) or contact  
Carl & Dallas Anne Presley, 206-522-6849  
or [lnorthwest@gmail.com](mailto:lnorthwest@gmail.com)

## Blessing of the Animals, October 6, 2019

October 4 each year is the Commemoration of Francis of Assisi, a renewer of the church. As is often the case, the actual day does not fall on a Sunday this year, so we will celebrate a few days late, October 6. One of the things Francis was reputed to have done was preach to the animals and bless them. In honor of Francis' care and concern for the birds of the air and beasts of the field, we are again planning a blessing of the animals here at Grace, October 6, 2019.

This is a great celebration when you are invited to bring *your* own animals, especially your pets, to church that Sunday. We will bless all those that come during our worship service. If your favorite animal is too shy, large or rambunctious or lives in the wild, you may bring a picture or representation of the animals that are important to you. In recent years, several people brought photos on their cell phones. These photos may include pets or it may be a picture of animals of the wild. As in the past, we will have cleaning materials at hand in case of accidents. There will also be a critter-free zone, for those who have allergies. A cleansing of the sanctuary is scheduled sometime the following week.



## Fall Worship Highlights

Here are some of highlights between now and the end of the year:

- Oct 6 **Blessing of the Animals**
- Oct 27 **Reformation Sunday**
- Oct 27 **Confirmation Sunday**
- Nov 3 **All Saints Sunday**
- Nov 28 **Thanksgiving Eve Service**
- Nov 28 **Pass the Pie Fellowship**
- Dec 1 **First Sunday in Advent**





## Birthday Blessings!

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

Meg Aulerich	10/02	Robyn Vega	10/11	Kathy Scroggins	10/21
Howard Meyer	10/02	Lee Strandberg	10/12	Hannah Hellberg	10/22
Tom Orwick	10/04	Cammie Bella	10/13	Lyla Hougum	10/23
Christopher Koenig	10/06	Chloe Hellberg	10/13	Ted Williams	10/23
Judy Winkler	10/06	Katie Hardenburger	10/14	Mary Roth	10/24
Todd Donner	10/07	Carolyn Kradjan	10/14	Tom Kiersky	10/25
Sylvie Schroeder	10/07	Victoria Zeller	10/14	Bridget Palmgren	10/27
Carol Freeman	10/08	Mackenzie Burnett	10/15	Mark Gourley	10/29
Krista Washington	10/08	Lida Brauner	10/18	Sarah Davis	10/30
Kay Larson	10/09	Carol Tribes	10/18	David Rogge	10/30
Maxine King	10/10	Heidi Junge	10/19	Carol Warloe	10/30
Freda Vars	10/10	Cy Stadsvold	10/20	Kris Wilburn	10/31

## Pastor Wendell's Second Sunday Class *Genesis Migrants*

Each month Pastor Wendell leads a discussion group. Often the group works on a worship and music topic. This year, we are going to look at the major characters of the book of Genesis. If you recall your Sunday school lessons, you may remember that many of these folks were migrants. With this knowledge, we hope to not only look at the biblical migrations of our faith bearers, but also make connections with more recent history and current events.

October:	Adam and Eve and the Families of the Earth
November:	Noah and his Family of Eight
December:	Abraham and Sarah
January:	Ishmael and his mother, Hagar
February:	Isaac and Rebekah
March:	The Tragic stories of Lot's Daughters, Dinah, and Tamar
April:	Jacob with Rachel and Leah
May:	Joseph Goes to Egypt

## September Council Minutes

September Council Minutes, along with minutes and notes from all previous Council and Executive Committee meetings can be found in the church office. Feel free to stop in and read the notes, or join us at a council meeting. You may also contact our council secretary, Shelley Chamberlin, to request a copy of the minutes.

## Offering Gathered at the September 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Worship

Once again, we had another excellent day for gathering with friends and partners in Christian ministry at the Labor Day Weekend Sunday worship in Central Park. The offering received that day totaled \$1,920.60. It will be forwarded to the 509J School District to be split between the Homeless Education Fund, and the Student Opportunity for Success Fund. This donation will help fund emergency assistance and supportive services such as school tutoring, help with transportation, access to weekend meals, emergency clothing, eye exams, glasses, school supplies, hygiene items, and other necessities on a case-by-case basis.

## Annual Salmon Bake

**When:** October 6, 2019 12:30pm - 2:30 pm

**Where:** Willamette Park Shelter, Corvallis

**Cost:** *FREE* Donations Accepted and will support the Sack Lunch Ministry at Grace

**Sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church**

**Men's Ministry and High School Youth**



## Pop Into Grace—Popcorn Collection

**Microwave Popcorn** –Preparatory to participation in the Downtown Business Association's annual Halloween event, the Communications Committee is asking for donations of boxes of microwave popcorn. We would like to distribute up to 1,000 packets. There is a large yellow collection box in the Fireside Room where they can be left – deadline is Sunday, October 27. Thank you.

## Grace Worship Helpers!!

For some time now, Grace Altar Guild has been using a program called Sign Up Genius to schedule our volunteers for Sunday morning services. Acolytes were added a while back – and now Communion Assistant spots are available for online signups. The website lets you see what dates are available, who else is serving, and will add the signup to your calendar and send you a reminder email if you desire.

The people on the current email list of those willing to help out with communion have received a link to the Grace Worship Helpers signup. If you would like to be added to the list for any of these opportunities to help out, please email or call Linda Samuels ([linda.m.samuels@gmail.com](mailto:linda.m.samuels@gmail.com) or 541-929-4222) or notify the church office.



Please consider joining in on these wonderful and fun ways to enhance the worship times at Grace Lutheran!!!

## Luther House Campus Ministry

**Dinner Church** - Monday 5:30 pm—7:00 pm

**Luther House Cafe** - Tuesday 10:00 am—Noon

Starting October 8, 2019

**Building Bridges** - Wednesday 6:00 pm—7:30 pm

Starting October 2, 2019



### SAVE THE DATE!

Lutherfest 2020 is set for **Sunday, February 23, 2020**, 1:30-4:30 pm @ the Boulder Falls Conference Center in Lebanon. Lutherfest is a craft beer and artisan cheese pairing event. Proceeds from ticket sales support Luther House Campus Ministry, your ELCA college ministry at Oregon State University. Mark your calendars and plan to join the fun on February 23rd!

## OSU Football Parking at Grace

Again this Fall, Luther House is offering home game football parking starting two hours before kickoff in the Grace Lutheran Parking lot, corner of Kings and Harrison. Proceeds will support Luther House programming this year. Check the OSU schedule for game dates and start times:

<http://www.osubeavers.com/schedule.aspx?path=football>.



### As promised in the Sunday bulletin, here is 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, Debbie Kuehn, Norma Moody, Juan Guzman, Jerry Koester. *(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 is 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 worship. 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:

- **Singers!**: Glenn Chaffin, Sue Davis, Carol Erickson, Netsie Griffith, Marshall Hill-Tanquist, Tom Kiersky, Ardis Koester, Jaya Lapham, Darlene Leklem, Norma Moody, Erin Radniecki, Sue Speulda, Donna Wernz, Jim Wernz, Sandie Williams,
- **Instrumentalists!**: Michael Beachley, Wendell Hendershott, Angie Kingsley, Dave Lundahl, *These folks may sing too.*

If any of these names are incorrect, please let the office know at [office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org).

## Unlocking the Caring Potential of Our Congregation



On the morning of Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, twelve of us from Grace will be going to Eugene to attend an introductory workshop to Stephen Ministries. For those already involved in some form of care ministry at Grace, it will provide affirmation and information. For those thinking about becoming more involved in a specific ministry of caring it will provide information and inspiration. In the coming weeks and months, we hope to become more organized to better meet the pastoral care needs within our congregation. If this is an area of ministry in which you might envision yourself serving, attending this workshop is highly recommended. To register, please contact Pr. Netsie directly or through the church office.

The workshop will feature these three sessions:

### **SESSION 1: Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief**

Sample the quality of Stephen Minister training firsthand  
Develop grief ministry skills you can put to use right away

### **SESSION 2: An Introduction to Stephen Ministry**

Explore the life-changing value of this ministry  
Discover how to bring Stephen Ministry to your congregation

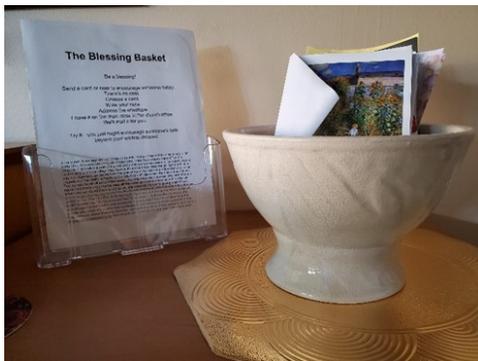
### **SESSION 3: How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way**

Learn to integrate faith into everyday caring and relating  
Experience the Christ-centered nature of Stephen Ministry



## Do you know what the Blessing Basket is?

### Do you know where the Blessing Basket is?



Once a woman who went through some hard times happened to keep all the cards and notes she received in a basket. When she wondered if she could go on, she reached into her “blessing basket” and found renewed encouragement from the friends and family who had invested thoughts and prayer in her. She said that, in those tough days, one look inside the Blessing Basket would remind her, “It’s not over and God IS in control.” With newfound energy she looked again at her basket and wondered how she could become a blessing to the people who made the basket that held such hope and encouragement for her. This began a movement called The Blessing Basket Project. You may find out more about this project at: <https://www.tenbythree.org/>

Our blessing basket at Grace has turned into a Blessing Bowl. The bowl was handmade by Julie Weber as an award for the winner of the Bread Bowl Contest between us and Emmaus Lutheran Church in Eugene to see who raised the most money in a given period to alleviate world hunger. We won, so the bowl is ours and has now been turned into our Blessing Bowl. Inside you will find cards that you might send to someone in need of encouragement. All you have to do is write a note, address it, and the church will pay the postage and mail it. By so doing, you will be a blessing to the recipient of your card. You will find the bowl in the Fireside Room on top of the cabinet against the wall opposite the fireplace.

## Taize Prayer

7pm on the First Sunday of the Month at the **Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan;**  
**Corner of 35th and Harrison in Corvallis**  
**541-602-6895**

### Upcoming Dates in 2019:

October 6, 2019    November 3, 2019    December 1, 2019

## Youth @ Grace

### Congratulations to our Confirmands! Sunday, October 27

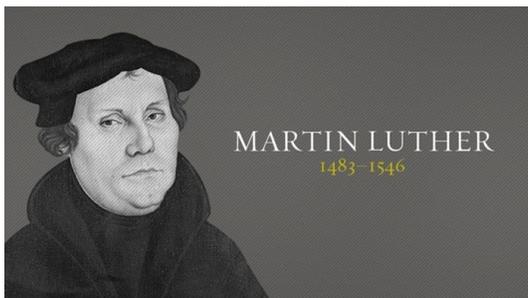
Grace's Confirmands are delightful gifts of God! Join us on October 27 as we welcome Rachel Burnett, Mackenzie Burnett, and Evelyn Vega through important thresholds in the life of faith. Rachel and Mackenzie will be baptized and Evelyn will affirm her baptism as all three are confirmed and join us as adult members in the body of Christ.



*Stir up in us the gift of your Holy Spirit:  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,  
the spirit of joy in your presence,  
both now and forever. Amen*

*ELW, 236*

Pictured: Isaac, Rebekah, Silas, and Avi Hadlock with some of the 15 sock puppets made for them at Grace Sunday School's "Let My People Go!" very special event on 9/22. Together we learned more of the long story of God setting people out of slavery and leading them to new lives. Rebekah, Silas, and Avi will carry our puppets (and lots more good things) to Gondar, Ethiopia, where they will work this October on the Corvallis Sister City trip to set up a kindergarten for the people there. We look forward to hearing their stories and pray for their



"Listen, God is Calling"  
Come see the award-winning "Luther" film!

Oct 20, Oct 27, and Nov 3  
10:45 am in Ronnenkamp Hall

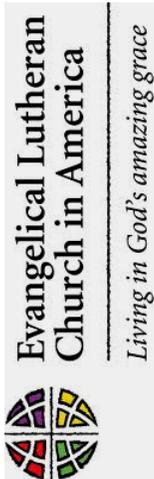
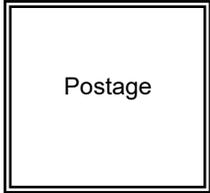
Martin Luther didn't know it when he was struggling - but God was using those very challenges to call him to help re-form the church, to make it fresh and full of life as God's holy people sent into and for this world. We'll watch the Luther film in three parts, for some guided listening for God in the midst of our life, calling to us now. Confirmation students, high schoolers, young adults, mid and older adults are all invited. Our listening together is a gift to the world!

## Reformation, 502 Years Later

The Reformation did not stop in 1517. In 1519 Luther debated the esteemed Dr. Johann Eck in Leipzig, Germany. Dr. Eck was known for his debating skills, but Luther's insistence that *sola scriptura*, scripture alone, was seen by the reformers to be the capstone of Christian teaching which held up the edifice of Christian faith and doctrine.

Grace Lutheran Church

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



## Adult Bible Study—September, October, and November 2019

### Responding to God's Grace

The broad purposes for this quarter's study are to appreciate and rejoice in God's grace and faithfulness shown to the people of God in incidents in the Old and New Testaments, to grasp the responses to God of believers long ago, and to reflect on God's gracious and faithful dealings with us today. Such grace calls for our personal and communal response of faith, gratitude, and reliance on the Holy Spirit to live in ways that praise and honor God.

### Our Writer

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