

# Grace GATHERINGS

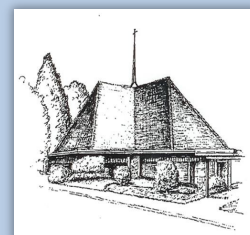
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



*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."*



**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.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

**The annual meeting of Grace Lutheran Church  
is set for  
Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 12:30 pm**

**Business at Hand:** We are to elect new Congregation Council members and Synod Assembly voting members. In addition, we will consider and adopt a budget for 2020. At their January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting the Church Council will be finalizing the proposed budget to be forwarded to the congregation. 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 will precede the meeting in the sanctuary.***

Thanks to those who designated Thrivent Choice funds which will be used to cover the cost of lunch. So, there is no charge. Please come and enjoy.

## Prayers

*This prayer list is a compilation of the requests we have received at Grace from November to December 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*

## 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:

- ⇒ Bernadina Smith, Tony Smith's mother
- ⇒ Larry Williams, Sandra Williams' Brother in law
- ⇒ Jack, Worship visitor's husband
- ⇒ Sidney, Sandra Williams' granddaughter
- ⇒ DeAnn Windibiziri, Cathy Mueller's sister
- ⇒ Anna Upeneicks
- ⇒ Terri Moore, Cathy Mueller's Friend
- ⇒ Pati Peyer, Cathy Mueller's Cousin
- ⇒ Frank Hedges, Mary Stephens' Brother in law
- ⇒ Jim White, The Thomases longtime friend

### Deaths:

- ⇒ Bonnie Jung
- ⇒ Bernadina Smith, Tony Smith's Mother
- ⇒ Anna Upeneicks

To find updated information on the Grace Lutheran Church Foundation and to see past and current newsletters including the January 2020 newsletter, go to the foundations webpage at

<http://grace97330.org/Foundation/news/newsletter.html>

## Grace Personnel

**Pastor Netsie Griffith &  
Pastor Wendell Hendershott**

**Bookkeeper** - Robin Comforto

**Custodian** - Sam McKay

**Director of Discipling Ministries** - Donna King

**Director of Music Ministries** - Seeking

**Facebook Administrator** - Rebekah Hadlock

**Financial Secretary** - Mary Stephens

**Nursery** - Mackenzie & Rachel Burnett,

Christina Lundahl, Katie Olsen & Melissa Smith

**Office Administrator** - Andrea Barnhurst

**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](http://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 Strohlein,  
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



## Epiphany: After the Baby; Living into New Revelations

A year ago this past December, Logan Greeley, was cast as our baby Jesus for the 2018 Nativity worship. Just a year later his mother Brandy shared this post on her Facebook page.\*

*Pregnant Brandy: "I'll make baby food pouches from scratch; I'll steam apples and broccoli every day, and I won't ever give him processed food!"*

*Present-day Brandy: "You want Cheese-Its? You sure you don't want this broccoli floret first? Maybe just a little taste? It's your favorite! What about this half-eaten apple? ... (sigh) ... Fine. Here's your Cheese-Its. Go spread them around the living room with abandon. Love you. But you're having carrots for dinner, mister!"*

Before the arrival of the baby; before the arrival of a new job; before the arrival of a new home; before the arrival of a new year, we have dreams and visions. We imagine the best, brightest and most wonderful possibilities and then we turn them into expectations. Then, as expectations have a tendency to do, they dissolve into reality. When this happens, our response might lead us to despair bemoaning existential truths. "I'm not the perfect parent; I'm not the perfect pastor; this isn't the perfect home (it has some issues); this turned out not to be the perfect year."

We can either remain in this state of despair brought about by failed expectations, or we might see this as an opportunity for not only accepting ourselves and others for who we are, but for being open to new revelations (epiphanies) of what God is doing in our midst. We are not perfect people. Those around us are not perfect people. The gift of parenting and home ownership comes with challenges as well as pleasant and unpleasant surprises.

Mary and Joseph were confronted with such a challenge and surprise when Jesus was 12.

<sup>41</sup>Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ... <sup>43</sup>When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them

From a parental perspective, one can easily imagine that this experience was a nightmare for Joseph and Mary. Yet, what they learned and what we learn again and again is that Jesus comes into our world not on our terms within our limited and flawed understanding but on God's terms.

In the midst of all its messiness and imperfections, God comes into our lives and into our world. God transforms failures, brokenness, and unrealistic expectations into revelations of what God is able to do with us and in spite of us. Jesus came to love us into being new people, not perfect people, but new and renewed people whose flaws and wonders point us to the unconditional love of God. Jesus came to love the church into being a new church, not a perfect church, but a new and renewed church whose flaws and wonders point us and others to the unconditional love of God. So it is that we "Sing a New Church into being / One in faith and love and praise." (Sr. Delores Dufner, OSB) Let's join together in the year, 2020, in proclaiming this good news.

Blessed Epiphany and Happy NEW Year!

Pr. Netsie

\*Used with permission of Brandy Greeley

### Pastor Netsie Griffith

#### Contact Information

Cell: 541.223.3455

Email:

[netsie@grace97330.org](mailto:netsie@grace97330.org)

Pastor Netsie's

Days Off

Thursday & Friday

### Pastor Wendell Hendershott

#### Contact Information

Cell: 541.223.3503

Email:

[wendell@grace97330.org](mailto:wendell@grace97330.org)

Pastor Wendell's

Days Off

Mon., Tues, & Friday



January 9  
**2nd Thursday's Women's  
Luncheon**  
At Historic Old School Cafe  
**@ 11:45am**

January 28  
**4th Tuesday's Women's  
Luncheon at**  
*New Morning Bakery*  
**@ 11:45am**

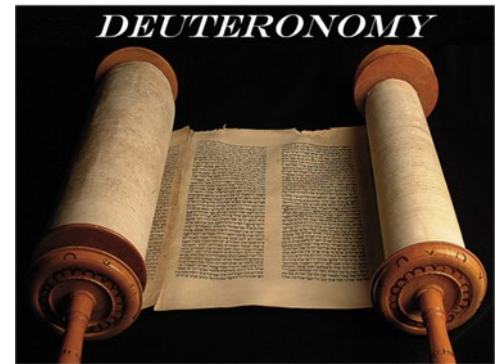
## Tuesday Bible Study

I think those of us who have been studying Deuteronomy feel it should have a warning like one sometimes hears on the radio. "Be aware that what you are about to hear (in this case read) has some graphic detail that might not be suitable for all listeners (readers)." As we are discovering there are some very difficult passages in Deuteronomy that stand in stark contrast and contradiction to other parts of the Bible. Yet, it is there, and we need to know it is there. What we do with that knowledge is a challenge for us and makes us grateful to have study partners.

There are other parts of Deuteronomy that inspire and sustain us. Through it all, our God is a God of promise who feeds us with a living Word that supersedes time, culture, human error and evil. We learn so much from sharing this journey together.

So, consider joining us on Tuesday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm, as we seek to hear and talk to one another about what words of love and life have shaped and continue to shape us as God's people.

**After our holiday break we look forward to resuming our weekly sessions on January 7.**

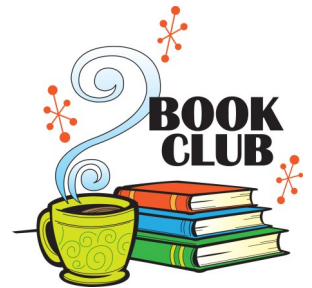


## Globaliers — Grace Book Discussion Group

### January 2020 Meeting

**January 2, 12:00 noon in the Library**

Carol Erickson — "The Food Explorer" by Daniel Stone



## Partners in Faith

**Friday, January 10, 2020 at 6 PM in the 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. Gifts should be between \$5 and \$10.

Please contact the office with any questions.

*No "partner" needed, all are welcome!*



## December Council Minutes

December Council Minutes, Executive Committee meeting, and other interesting items can be found in a binder on the church office counter. Should you want them emailed to you, please just notify us at [office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org). You are also welcome to attend council meetings, should you want to know what is going on or have something you would like to talk about.

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



**President:**  
Bob Keith  
**Vice President:**  
Rebekah Hadlock  
**Secretary:**  
Shelley Chamberlin  
**Treasurer:**  
Hal Brauner  
**Financial Secretary:**  
Mary Stephens  
**Council Members:**  
Pr. Netsie Griffith  
Nancy Hemming  
Pr. Wendell Hendershott  
Jaya Lapham  
Jim Leklem  
Dave Lundahl  
Sue Musil  
Lew Nelson  
Sandie Williams  
Kendra Wollert

## Godspeed and Farewell for Br. Christopher Buckley

During Br. Christopher's last Sunday with us, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, we took time to wish him Godspeed and Farewell and send him on to other Christian communities with God's blessing and our gratitude. In his time with us he has enlivened our worship with his musical gifts and leadership. For this we are very grateful.

Thanks to Molly Hallgrimson and her Worker Bee hospitality crew for hosting a wonderful brunch in Christopher's honor. After his final worship services with us on Christmas Eve, Christopher left to begin a training program to become a Certified Nursing Assistant and is employed by Corvallis Manor. So, some of us will most likely see him from time to time in his work there. We wish him, AJ and all their family many blessings, as he moves forward to a new calling.

## Stephen Ministry Update



We continue to ponder what assets enrolling in Stephen Ministry might bring to Grace Lutheran. If you are interested in considering what might be involved in becoming a Stephen Minister or just wish to learn more about this opportunity for training for pastoral care, please let us know.

## Blood Drive

Another American Red Cross Blood Drive coming up Thursday January 23 2020. The efforts of Grace Lutheran Church members have always been greatly appreciate. Our last drive was a success with meeting the goal of 18 units. So as coordinator I thank you. Please call Marna Renshaw at 541- 286-4537 for an upcoming appointment on January 23, 2020.





## An Afternoon with the Bishop

February 15 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church, Albany Oregon

930 SW Queen Ave, Albany, OR 97321

Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar will be joining us on this Saturday afternoon and sharing exercises in spirituality and prayer. We look forward to the opportunity to get to grow in faith, to learn some different forms of prayer and to get to know our newly installed Bishop of the Oregon Synod. We hope that you can join us on that day!

## Dialogues on the Refugee Crisis Begins January 26 10:45 am in Ronnenkamp Hall

In a world that is too polarized it is imperative that we learn how to engage one another's differences in ways that open us to possibilities rather than focus solely on problems. In this "Dialogues Project" we will do just that. We will engage in real dialogue facilitated by elders *and* youngers. We will practice relational skills that can help us form connections and create space for new insight. We will expand our imagination with videos and well-researched information about the refugee crisis around the world. And we will ponder scripture and our call to work together as the body of Christ given for the life of the world. You are invited to join the conversation...

I want there to be a place in the world  
where people can engage in one another's  
differences in a way that is redemptive,  
full of hope and possibility.

bell hooks





## Birthday Blessings!

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

George Custer	01/01	Inge Daeschel	01/11	Kelly Kiersky	01/25
Don Freeman	01/01	William Strohlein	01/11	Eli Weber	01/25
Tessa Gourley	01/01	Scott Berdahl	01/12	Aaron Kiersky	01/26
Sylvia Aulerich	01/02	Dorothy Miles	01/15	Lew Nelson	01/26
Clare Boysen	01/02	Daniel Strand	01/20	Cameron Osborn	01/26
Linda Burt	01/02	Kathleen Kuehlwein	01/21	Shane Mueller	01/28
Julie Erickson	01/02	Midoriko Stock	01/21	Carl Grosz	01/29
Margaret Samuels	01/02	Sarah Wayt	01/21	Katie Bode	01/30
David Lundah	01/03	Thomas Cardinali	01/22	Michael Hadlock	01/31
Jenny Olsen	01/05			Mark Speulda	01/31

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

Each month Pastor Wendell leads a discussion group. This year, we are looking 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 forbearers, but also make connections with more recent history and current events.

January 12:	Ishmael and his mother, Hagar, Gn 16; 21.8-21
February 9:	Isaac and Rebekah, Gn 24.1—27—28
March 15:	<i>Tentative date</i> , The Tragic stories of Lot's Daughters, Dinah, and Judah's Daughter-in-law, Tamar Gn 34 & 38.
April 19:	Jacob with Rachel and Leah Gn 29-33, 35-36
May 17:	Joseph Goes to Egypt, Gn 37, Mt 2. 7-23.

## Wisdom Seekers

The Wisdom Seekers will be starting a new book, *Olive, Again*, by Elizabeth Strout, on January 9<sup>th</sup> in the Confirmation Room. They meet every Thursday at noon and read about 30 pages a week. If you enjoy lively discussions, laced with laughter, please join us! If you have any questions, please call Mark Klopsch at 541-752-1957 or Kathy Farnsworth at 541-231-2260.

## GIVING IT FORWARD UPDATE

In 2015 the Stewardship Committee began working on a plan to pay off the church mortgage, which at that time was about \$384,000. In December of that year, the Giving It Forward initiative was launched and by the end of 2016 over \$100,000 was raised. The Grace Lutheran Foundation agreed to match up to \$130,000 and a generous anonymous donor added a challenge match of \$30,000. As of mid-December 2019 we have received a total of \$344,600 and the mortgage balance is currently \$37,790! There is approximately \$20,000 in outstanding pledges and match monies still to be received. We have less than \$9,000 of additional pledges to reach our goal! Donations are still being sought. Let's get the mortgage completely paid off in 2020!

## Grace Lutheran Art Auction Event

March 14, 2020

5:30pm - Food and Wine Pairing

6:30pm - Art Auction

Tickets: \$30 each (Limited to 130). Tickets go on sale January 14, available online or in the church office.

Food

Cheese & Wine Pairing Table

Chocolate & Wine Pairing Table

Meat, Seafood & Wine Pairing Table

Wine provided by Lumos Cellars

For more information, see the link below

[https://grace97330.org/art\\_auction\\_2020/](https://grace97330.org/art_auction_2020/)



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

## Thanksgiving Basket Thank You Letters

Dear Grace Lutheran – I just want you to know how grateful I am for the wonderful thanksgiving food you brought to me at my home! It was amazing. And, thank you David and Shelly; you were so sweet to me and my family! My family was very impressed with your church doing this for us. Dear friends, thank you again. - *Lea A. Lutz*

To everyone at the Grace Lutheran Church—

I wish to thank each and everyone . How special you are and how special I felt when I received my Thanksgiving Basket from you all!

With all of my love, - *Valerie J. Shelley*



## Luther House Campus Ministry

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

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

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

### Lutherfest Tickets now on Sale!

Lutherfest tickets are on sale now! For more information and ticket sales, please visit <http://www.luther-house.org/programs/lutherfest/> or call Luther House at 541-753-5213.



## Taize Prayer Service

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:

January 5, 2020	February 2, 2020	March 1, 2020
April 5, 2020	May 3, 2020	June 7, 2020

### 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).

## Corvallis Men's Cold Weather Shelter

Did you know that it takes approximately 3500 volunteer hours to run the Corvallis Men's Shelter? This is where you all come in. In 2020, our week at the shelter is February 23-29, instead of in January. The shelter is doing things a bit differently in that it is open to all community members to sign up. However, this week has been blocked out for Grace.

The shelter has a new volunteer coordinator this year. His name is Mike Jager and he can be reached at [corvmensshelter@gmail.com](mailto:corvmensshelter@gmail.com) or by phone 541-621-9059 with any questions.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- team leader 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
- check-in (1) 5:30 pm– 8:00 pm
- bag checkers (1) 5:30 pm– 8:00 pm
- evening food servers (2) 6:00 pm– 8:30 pm
- staff backup (1) 8:00 pm – 11:00 pm
- overnight (1) 11:00 pm - 7:00 am

Note that our week does include Ash Wednesday, however, I am sure that our congregation can also cover that evening.

To see what slots are available, access SignUp Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054badaa2ba4f58-corvallis>. Once you determine what slot you will volunteer for, email me at [susan.speulda@gmail.com](mailto:susan.speulda@gmail.com) or call me at 541-760-1544.

### Measure

A measure of society is its attitude toward vulnerability.

Do we measure up?

When I see people huddled, sleeping bags,  
Not the comfy bed in a warm room.

Do we measure up?

When we have such a fear of saying  
I'm struggling.                      Inside I'm crumbling.  
Where a frank conversation is seen as revelation.

A measure of society is its approach to vulnerability.

When we walk on by,  
Do we measure up?

~Author Unknown~

I believe that Grace Lutheran Church measures up.

Sue Speulda, Homeless Shelter Coordinator

## Grace Gatherings

### January 2020 Inserts

Ali Briskey's Baby Shower Invitation  
(January 4th @ 2 pm)

Grace Lutheran Church Library– Meet the Author

God's Work Our Hands—Thank you from Corvallis  
Parks and Recreation

Nativity Thank You from Donna King

# Camp Lutherwood



## Camp Lutherwood Annual Meeting

Save the date for Saturday, February 1st for the Annual Meeting of the Camp Lutherwood Association. The meeting will be held from 1-3pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Albany. More details coming soon.

## Creek Restoration Work Day

Save the date for special winter Work Day on Saturday, February 8 to help with a creek restoration project. All ages are welcome and lunch will be provided. Watch for more information in January.

## Summer Registration Now Open

It's time to register for Summer 2020! Be sure to register before January 15th to take advantage of the Early Bird discount!

## Summer Staff Applications

Camp Lutherwood is now accepting applications for all positions on our 2020 summer staff. This includes nurses, lifeguards, food service staff and more! Applicants must be 18 years old prior to June 13, 2020. Check out our website at [www.lutherwoodoregon.org/employment](http://www.lutherwoodoregon.org/employment) for more information and to apply. Contact Charlotte at 541-998-6444 or [charlotte@lutherwoodoregon.org](mailto:charlotte@lutherwoodoregon.org) with any questions.

## Food Service Positions Open at Camp

Camp Lutherwood Oregon is hiring for year round and seasonal kitchen team! Positions include: Head Cook and Kitchen Manager, Assistant Cook, Kitchen Assistants, and Dishwasher. More information including job descriptions and applications can be found on our website at [lutherwoodoregon.org/employment](http://lutherwoodoregon.org/employment) in early January.

# Grace Center News by Betty McCauley

As I type in the Happy New Year greeting for 2020 it reminds me of how grateful I am for the years that we have continued to grow and prosper. It has been with the support of all who give of your time and talent, as well as your financial generosity. Thank you so much. Looking back just this year we had successful events, like our Open House this fall and the second Aging Summit. This meeting is an example of the Center reaching out to caregivers in our community who need understanding as we work to provide the care planned in our daily schedule. It realizes that the program we design meets the needs of whole families. Our Holiday Bazaar, Bingo nights with the Elks, for example, make the daily programs possible.

I'm told that the total of our Phase I *Here to Stay* Capital goal reached 75% this year. Again, thank you all. We also hit all-time highs for participant daily census counts several months over the year.

Now we have a whole year ahead of us. In February there is coming an event called "Move Around the World with Grace". It is an intriguing title. I'm looking forward to it.

# Thank You

Christmas blessings to the generous folks at Grace who donated gifts for House of Zion. Since House of Zion is a small congregation that gives help for many in their area, your gifts are greatly needed and deeply appreciated. God bless you all. Thanks also to Wayne Kradjan for once again delivering the gifts.  
—Carol Erickson

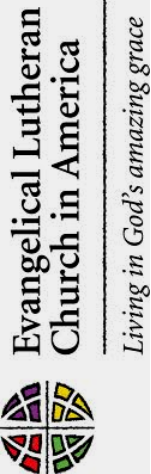


## Grace Lutheran Church

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



Postage



### **Director of Music Ministries**

October 26, 2019

Grace Lutheran Church, in Corvallis, Oregon, seeks a musically qualified person to direct choirs, vocalists, and instrumentalists; coach audio-visual operators; and help plan and coordinate worship services during weekly and special church events. For an application and more information, contact the church office at:

[office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org)

Grace Lutheran Church      541-757-1600  
Kings and Harrison Blvds.  
435 NW 21<sup>st</sup> St.  
Corvallis, OR 97330

## **Adult Bible Study—December 2019 to February 2020**

### **Honoring God**

This study explores how worship in its many forms honors God. When we gather for worship or set ourselves individually to pray, we enter into a relationship with God and with God's people. By exploring some of the first people who heard the word of God, the Hebrew people, we can see that caring for the law and the commandments by housing them in the ark of covenant was the beginning of a long history of honoring God. The stories of David and his people bringing the ark to Jerusalem and then Solomon housing God's name in the temple reveal careful ritual practices. Looking at the dedication of the temple and God's specific requirements about its design and proportion and the presence of the ark as God's throne, we comprehend that nothing is arbitrary; nothing haphazard.

The New Testament biblical passages fill out the picture of what it means to honor God by reminding us of Mary's visit to Elizabeth and the role of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' conception and birth. Finally, we consider Jesus' own teachings on worship as prayer and care for those in need. Worship, then, becomes not only public gatherings centered in word and sacraments but private listening to and address to God through prayer.

We will see how worship is shaped by faith and how worship nurtures faith. Faith is formed by worship, and the ways we worship determine to a great extent what we believe about God, ourselves, and our relationships with our neighbors. The aim of giving honor to God is to increase our love for God and for our neighbors.

### **Our Writer**

Melinda Quivik has served as a seminary professor of worship and preaching, as president of the North American Academy of Liturgy, and as a pastor in Montana, Michigan, and Minnesota. Her Augsburg Fortress books include *Remembering God's Promises: A Funeral Handbook* (2018), *Leading Worship Matters* (2013), and *Serving the Word* (2009).