




Grace Gatherings
Congratulations
Class of 2020

You are God's good gifts for a world that needs
you very much!





Natalie Cardinali, daughter of Thomas and Denise Cardinali, graduated in December 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from the Rochester Institute of Technology. In addition to her classwork, Natalie completed four co-op learning experiences – three at Microsoft and the last at Measures for Justice in Rochester, New York. During her senior year, she and Tom drove cross-country, stopping at many National Parks and sites of interest. In January she moved to Bellevue, Washington where she now lives with her adopted cat, Buffy. She works at Microsoft in Bellevue as a Software Engineer in a division that supports Microsoft's internal needs.

Sarah Davis, daughter of Joel and Laura Davis, graduated from Corvallis High School in June. She has a beautiful singing voice and has sung with the Heart of the Valley Children's Choir since she was a child. At Grace, Sarah sometimes sang in a Trio with her mom and aunt for worship and has served as one of the lecturers in our new video worship format. Next year, Sarah will attend Oregon State University and Linn-Benton Community College to major in biology. She plans to work in genetics and, someday, to publish a book.

Emily Jean Griffith, great-niece of Pastors Netsie and Wendell, graduated from high school in Montrose, Colorado on May 24, 2020. From 6th through 12th grades Emily competed in gymnastics as a member of the Black Canyon Gymnastics Club (BCGC). She excelled as a gymnast, winning medals on all apparatuses (floor, beam, vault and bars) as well as medaling as an all-around gymnast. During high school Emily was a youth cadet with the Civil Air Patrol based in Montrose. This summer she is working at Sun Sports Unlimited (the family business) in Gunnison, Colorado and is also coaching gymnastics at BCGC.

Silas Hadlock, son of Mike and Rebekah Hadlock graduated from Corvallis High School in June. He plans to enter Linn-Benton Community College to work toward an Associate in Applied Sciences, with an emphasis in welding. Silas has a passion for soccer and action. At Grace, he travelled with our group to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, and has served as narrator for the Nativity and as lector for worship. Silas is considering attending OSU after completing his Associate degree, but, if not, he will continue in life "upholding my values and always trying to do what is important and right."

Sydney Joss, daughter of Randy and Jacqueline Joss, graduated from Linfield College in McMinnville, Oregon. Sydney's interest in Mass Communications is reflected in her major and in her activities. She created a company, "Sydney Claire Productions," for freelance work, and, through it filmed television commercials, social media and website content, radio ads, and documentaries. She also produced content for wineries, home stores, real estate, and financial groups. Sydney served as Executive Producer for the Associated Students of Linfield College, creating Instagram and TV content for the show "World of Wildcats." Sydney hopes to work as a Video Editor, Photographer, Videographer, or Social Media Director, either in Corvallis or Portland.

Joshua Larson, grandson of Kay and Ron Larson, graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering. He is searching the job market.

Travis Larson, grandson of Kay and Ron Larson, graduated from Oregon State University with a Master of Science in Civil Engineering. He will be working for a Civil Engineering firm in Salem.

Kayla Looney, granddaughter of Ron and Kay Larson, graduated with a Master of Science in Analytics from the University of Georgia. She is working for General Electric in Houston, Texas.

Sam McKay, from Hillsboro, Oregon, graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering and a minor in Chemistry. For the last several years, Sam served as Grace's much-appreciated janitor and also worked as a dishwasher at Kappa Delta Sorority. As an Environmental Engineer, Sam wants to help improve the quality of our water bodies and sources (streams, lakes, and groundwater.) He hopes to "save some fish and other aquatic life, and to better the quality of people's lives, too." Another of Sam's dreams is to work on sustainable homes and to help introduce people to more sustainable life-styles. He plans to spend the summer exploring with friends and visiting his folks in Rogue River, OR. In August he will take the Fundamentals of Engineering exam and then will transition to a job.

Laurel Megale, niece of Grace's Administrative Assistant, Jody Parker, graduated from Western Oregon University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Visual Communications and Design. She is an accomplished artist and hopes to work in the field of character design for games, TV, and movies.



Sebi Rodriquez-Vars, grandchild of Charles and Freda Vars, graduated this year from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

Mia Rodriquez-Vars, granddaughter of Charles and Freda Vars, graduated this spring from Montclair High School in Montclair, New Jersey.

Erika Schuette, niece of Kathy Farnsworth, graduated from high school at Cascades Academy in Bend. She will be going on to the University of Wyoming next to major in Zoology. Erika loves to explore and will continue to pursue the hobbies that she loves best – rock hounding and horseback riding.

Martina Vega, daughter of Jose and Robyn Vega, graduated from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience. During college, Martina travelled and studied internationally and formed a special interest in International Relations. She hopes to work in economic development and human rights, ideally in Latin America.

Reed Vega, son of Robyn and Jose Vega, graduated from Crescent Valley High School in June. Throughout High School Reed was extensively involved in 4-H and the Benton County Fair. At Grace, he travelled with our group to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. He plans to attend Colorado State University to study Construction Management (and is also looking forward to the Mountain Biking and Snowboarding Colorado has to offer!)

Simeon Windibiziri, nephew and godson of Cathy Mueller, graduated May 19th from Baker University in Kansas with a degree in Business and Finance Management. At Baker, Simeon received a leadership award given to outstanding business majors. He will begin working June 15th for Hill's Pet Nutrition in Springfield, MO, where he will serve as a Territory Manager.

Christine Wong, participant at both Luther House and at Grace, graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and an emphasis in Applied and Computational Mathematics. During her sophomore through senior years at OSU, Christine served on the Leadership Team at Luther House. For the last year and a half, she also served as our OSU Liaison for Grace Evangelical Lutheran Outreach (GELCO.) In that role, she connected via e-mail with Grace's OSU student visitors, welcoming them, and telling them a bit about both Grace and Luther House. This summer Christine will intern as a Software Engineer at Ride Report in Portland, Oregon. After that, she will continue on to graduate school at Portland State University to work toward a Master's in Mathematics. In the future, Christine hopes to work in the tech industry as a developer or an engineer. She sends her greetings to all of us. She hopes that we are all staying safe and healthy during these times, and that we will meet again some day. "Thank you for your love, kindness, and support during these past four years. You have helped me become a better Christian and a better person!"



Lord God,
you have called your servants
to ventures of which
we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden,
through perils unknown.

Give us faith
to go out with good courage,
not knowing where we go,
but only that your hand is leading us
and your love supporting us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship,
Evening Prayer*

Grace Lutheran Church
Corvallis, Oregon
June 2020