

December 2020
volume XIX
issue 12

Grace GATHERINGS

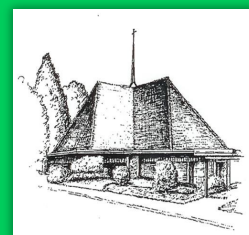
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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.



A Drive-by Youth Nativity Event Saturday evening, December 19, 5-8 pm

2020 Everything is different including the Nativity program. Instead of a youth nativity pageant during a Worship service, the Christian Education team will work with youth and families to create an outside drive-by Nativity experience with the story proclaimed in music, signs, lights, and a living creche scene with youth playing the character parts and a few real animals. Visitors will enter through the alley on Tyler Ave. and drive slowly past the scenes, exiting onto Harrison Blvd.

We will need help with art, tech, music, or promotions. To volunteer, please contact [Rebekah Hadlock](#) or [Shelly Lundahl](#). Families should look for notes soon regarding details for youth parts or involvement. Please click [HERE](#) to see this [list](#) for items we're looking for, either as donations or for borrowing. These include power strips, long outdoor extension cords, lights, and decorations.



Advent greetings, dear people of Grace,

Growing up with a mother who loved to cook, I learned how to make edible stuff. That is my favorite creative outlet. As a child, standing on a chair at the stove, I watched my Mom stirring the drippings to make gravy until she handed off the whisk to me. "Keep stirring," she would say, pouring in the flour water. She walked me through all the steps until I knew them without her guidance. Gravy takes a lot of stirring!

All four Prayers of the Day for Advent begin with the words, "Stir up." For the first Sunday of Advent, "Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come." The second, "Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son." On the third Sunday, "Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears..." and finally, for the fourth Sunday of Advent, "Stir up your power, Lord Christ and come."

Do you sense the stirring in this Advent season that is just beginning? Stirring is about mixing, blending, but it is also about disturbing, agitating, and moving. When you cook or bake, stirring leads to combining different things together in order to make something more than any of the ingredients can produce alone. Stirring...

One thing I enjoy making is bread. The recipe I use has five ingredients: bread flour, yeast, sugar, salt, and water. First, I measure the bread flour, which has a higher protein content than all purpose or pastry flours. A packet of instant yeast (a modern convenience) is added. Then a few teaspoons of sugar to feed the yeast. Salt is added, which strengthens the gluten strands to hold the carbon dioxide the yeast will produce as the dough rises, and finally the warm water to combined everything together.

The stirring evenly distributes the ingredients, so that it all becomes dough. After the stirring comes the waiting, the punch-down, the pans greased, and the oven preheated. And after a bit more waiting, wonderful, fresh, yummy bread is baked and ready for eating. Well worth the wait.

Advent's stirring is God's work. We invite God's stirring, Jesus' stirring, the Holy Spirit's stirring in our lives. And just like cooking, God's stirring can be messy work. People of different walks of life, with varying ideas of how to do things, on separate journeys in faith, yet combined by God into the Body of Christ. Put together, not like a Frankenstein monster, but the Body of Christ with all its working parts. Stirred up to be God's holy and beloved people--everyone belonging, different yet needed, to become what God has been "cooking up!"

Have you sensed the stirring? Can you invite God to stir you up? Agitate you? Disturb you? Blend you? Let me tell you, I have been noticing God stirring things at Grace. Stirring up Advent worship on the first three Wednesdays of December. This will not be like it has been in the past. In spite of the pandemic, God is stirring things up through us. The kids' Nativity program has gotten stirred up! There is need of more help to keep up with the stirring so that the story of God-with-us, Immanuel, Jesus can be told in an expanding way in the Corvallis community. A Drive-through Living Nativity!

With the latest shutdowns, there are heavy concerns for our local businesses, for people living on the edge, for our relationships. God is stirring among us, stretching us, salting us for strength and endurance so that when this is all over, the newness God has been combining in us will come to fullness. And the waiting will not be in vain. When God stirs things up, it is for the feeding and healing of the world.

In Advent we watch, we wait, we wonder at God's stirring in us and among us. "Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come!" Come, Lord Jesus, come!

In Christ, hope and gratitude,

Pastor Dorthy+

Pastor Dorthy Nielsen

Contact Information

Cell: 541-377-1354

Email:

prdorthy@grace97330.org

Pastor Dorthy's

*On Site Working Days
Thursday & Sunday*

*Off Site Working Days
Monday - Wednesday &
Saturday*



Just a Note!

In recent days I have discovered that some of you have tried to email me, and got returned emails. Please note that my name is spelled with **one** "o." If you add an extra "o" I will not get your message! Maybe some day I will tell you how I got my name, and you can share with me how you got yours.

Pastor Dorthy's email address: prdorthy@grace97330.org

Recipes for Homemade Communion Bread

During this pandemic, we have been using Zoom after worship to participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion, live, non-recorded. I would like to share some recipes. Two of them I have refined from a recipe I found online. The gluten-free wafers I have not made, so maybe someone would like to make it and update us. This could be a good activity for families, in preparing for Holy Communion.

Communion Bread 1

3 Tablespoons of all-purpose flour
1 Tablespoon of olive oil
1 Tablespoon of water
Light sprinkle of salt (optional)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix all ingredients together. Knead a little with your fingers, then shape into a ball. Place ball on parchment covered baking sheet; flatten the ball. Using a sharp knife, you can lightly cut a cross or score into squares for easy breaking. Bake for 10-15 minutes at 400 degrees. Makes a 4 inch diameter wafer, enough for 4 people.

Communion Bread 2

3 Tablespoons of bread flour
1 Tablespoon of olive oil
1 Tablespoon and 1 teaspoon of water
Light sprinkle of salt (optional)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix all ingredients together. Knead a little with your fingers, then shape into a ball. Place ball on parchment covered baking sheet; flatten the ball. Using a sharp knife, you can lightly cut a cross or score into squares for easy breaking. Bake for 10-15 minutes at 400 degrees. Makes a 4 inch diameter wafer, enough for 4 people.

Gluten-free, grain-free Communion Wafers

2 cups of almond flour
1 egg
3/4 teaspoon of salt

By Trisha Gilkerson

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Blend together in a high-powered blender or food processor, or by hand. Roll the dough between 2 sheets of parchment paper until very thin, about the size of a penny. Cut into squares using a pizza cutter or knife. Carefully transfer wafers on the bottom parchment to a baking sheet. Bake 10-11 minutes or until the edges start to turn golden. Store wafers in the refrigerator until needed.



Prayers

This prayer list is a compilation of the requests we have received at Grace throughout the month of October. 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

- ⇒ Darlene and Jim
- ⇒ Helen and Emery
- ⇒ Mario
- ⇒ Lucas and his parents Dan and Liz
- ⇒ Bret, brother of Andrea
- ⇒ Iona
- ⇒ Lydia
- ⇒ Kathy

Deaths:

- ⇒ Paul Clikeman, family of Mary Ann and Gordon Matzke
- ⇒ Father of Kendra
- ⇒ Myron Zastrow, brother of Darlene
- ⇒ Norm Filipiak, Father of Kendra
- ⇒ Colleen, beloved dog of Kathy

Updated Contact Information:

We have updated contact information for the names listed below. Please contact the church office to request updated contact information.

Patrick and Anne Schroeder

Grace Personnel

Interim Pastor—Dorothy Nielsen

Bookkeeper - Robin Comforto

Custodian - Outside Contractor

Director of Discipling Ministries - Donna King

Director of Music Ministries - Hayden Talley

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

Percussion - Kelsey Bleck

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

Bob Keith, 541.990.2883

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



Please **PRAY** for those
affected by **COVID-19**



A Word from the Worship and Music Committee

Greetings, seasonal and otherwise, from the Worship and Music Committee. Our activity as a group has been dramatically changed in this Time of Covid. Where we were only 5 earlier, we are now 10, and we meet weekly on ZOOM to discuss next Sunday's services and other issues as they arise. And as you might expect, we have come to know and understand each other on a far more personal basis than before. The work of the Committee is substantial. We are called to do more things and spend more time than we have ever done. We are constantly imagining how we can make our worship experiences more meaningful, perhaps simpler, but always inviting. Of major concern is the distinct possibility of burnout, that silent drain of energy and focus that sits and waits for any of us. But we know it, and we are always preparing for the possibility.

The Committee has received a letter of resignation from Hayden Talley, our Director of Music Ministries. Hayden's spouse, Anne, has been accepted into a Master's degree program in Berlin, Germany to study in her career field. It is an opportunity that one can hardly turn down. Even though we are saddened at his departure, we strongly raise up his spirit and contributions to our worship experience and to this congregation. While we will miss his affable character and talent, we are happy for Anne's future possibilities.

The Committee has been charged by the Congregational Council to form a task group to conduct a search for Hayden's replacement. We have already had discussions in this regard, and we will march forward. Hayden's departure is expected to be on December 19 with some possibility of a later date in February depending on Anne's entrance date and their immigration process.

Be assured that we do have some very talented musicians in our Worship Team, and they are most capable of carrying on. This change is not new to us. It won't be the last one. This is simply the next step in our congregational life together. We will move forward with smiles knowing that we have our God embracing ourselves and our efforts in warm and loving care. A little prayer for us now and then will help immensely.

Blessings upon Hayden and Anne. Thanks be to God for his time with us.

Michael Beachley, chair
Worship and Music Committee

Giving at a Glance

Support the many ministries of Grace Lutheran

Contributions as of November 19, 2020

Contributions for the Month of November: \$ 15,145;
November's Budget: \$ 28,000;
Last 2 1/2 Weeks of Giving: \$ 15,145
Weekly Budget: \$ 7,000;
YTD contributions: \$270,787;
YTD budget: \$ 276,900

Contributions as of November 27, 2020

Contributions for the Month of November: \$ 18,672;
November's Budget: \$ 28,000;
Last 2 Weeks of Giving: \$ 3,527
Weekly Budget: \$ 7,000;
YTD contributions: \$274,314;
YTD budget: \$ 290,900

Ways to view Worship Services

The different ways to view the worship service has expanded over the pandemic. We have moved from prerecorded videos, to live stream worship videos and are excited to announce that weekly services are now being broadcast on Channel 29 on Sunday at 10 am. See the list below for all the ways to view the service and spread the word to others.

- Click the link through the worship email
- Go to our website www.grace97330.org and find that weeks worship information
- Subscribe to us on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcu6Umlkeeqd9g4UuZ0ksqg> and watch the live worship at 10 am on Sundays
- Tune into Channel 29 on Xfinity (Comcast) to watch the previous weeks Worship Service. Broadcast will occur on Sundays at 10 am.



Grace Library: Kate Breslin, Author

The Grace Church Library group had a Zoom meeting with the Mid-Willamette Chapter of the Pacific Northwest Associations of Church Libraries (PNACL) on October 13. Following a get-together chat, guest speaker Christian author Kate Breslin, spoke on her books. Breslin writes historical fiction. Breslin's topic of choice tends to be on WWI with British heroes and heroines. Breslin stated she loves to do the historical research and her tales are as authentic as possible.

Grace Library has bought three of her books. They are: *Far Side of the Sea*... British nurse in WWI German occupied Brussels, Evelyn Marche spends her days at the hospital and her night working at a café...or so it seems. *High as the Heavens*...In 1918 England, Lieutenant Colin Mabry spends his days decoding messages for MI8 after suffering injuries at the front, when he receives an urgent summons by carrier pigeon from Jewel Reyer—a woman who saved his life and whom he believed to be dead, and *Not by Sight*, In the spring of 1917, all of Briain's attention is on the WWI war front and the thousands of young men serving their country on the front lines. Jack Benningham, dashing heir to the Earl of Stonebrooke, is young and able-bodied but refuses to enlist despite the contempt of his peers.



These three exciting books by Kate Breslin can be checked out by you at any time. Our whole collection of books from theology, Jesus and Paul, devotionals, autobiographies and biographies, as well as fiction are available for check out. Take a look at our TinyCat online Grace Library catalog, which you can access through our website at Grace97330.org, or call the Office Line at 541-757-1600 and let us know that you would like a book and we can get it to you!!



Worship Service Attendance

Most, if not all of us probably remember the importance of attendance while in school. Making sure you were marked in attendance not only made sure you did not miss anything in class, but could prevent calls to your parents or visits with the principal. Now a days, students marked absent from class, typically get a call home... But why is it important to be marked that you were in attendance at Church. Making sure you are marked in attendance at Grace Lutheran Church prior to Covid was easy and routine. The clip boards would come around and you would fill out the spaces for you or your family. Even though making sure your attendance was recorded was easy, how many understand what this means? This means more than church staff knowing who was in attendance, or how many bulletins to print, or even how many sets of communion the Altar Guild needs to prepare.

Your attendance is just one piece that allows Grace Lutheran Church to know who in the congregation is a voting member in our annual meeting and at Oregon Synod Assembly. Along with attendance, your contribution and your receiving of communion play a roll in knowing who can vote. Numbers of attendees are also important for yearly paperwork that Grace staff prepares for reports requested by the Oregon Synod.

Since Grace closed the doors in early March, we have struggled knowing who was attending the worship services. We know how many views our videos are getting, but who is viewing it and how many people are viewing it on one screen is not known. The importance of knowing who was attending our worship services has become a very large concern and how we would gather additional information. Committees and Church Council have been compiling ideas some of which you may have heard such as emailing the church office with your attendance, but this has only reached a handful of people who attend the zoom communion.

We believe we may have gathered some ideas to reach as many people as we can. Below you will find a list of ways to record your attendance at Worship Services. Only one form is necessary and please make sure you mark how many attendees there were in your household or on your screen.

- Printed Attendance Sheets: Printed attendance sheets can be found in the printed copies of grace Gatherings or by request. Please return this sheet via mail or email to the church office
- Electronic Attendance Sheets: An electronic version of the attendance sheet can be found in the newsletter email and at the link below. Print a copy and either mail or email it to the church
<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Service-Attendance-Sheets.pdf>
- Web-based Google Form: Please fill out the web-based Google form to record your attendance.
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUoE7Ch3eWxqudwLfFoHm-eqUtXG-X2kQ1kt8d65ToTTBtRA/viewform>
- Email the Office: Email the church office at office@grace97330.org with your attendance.
- Call the Church Office: Call the church office at 541-757-1600 and let Jody or Andrea know your attendance.
- Comment: Comment in the Live Stream or in the Comment section of the upload you watched. If you have questions on how to do this, please contact Andrea in the office.

If you have any questions please contact Andrea in the office on Thursdays.

Grace Foundation

The Grace Foundation December Newsletter can be found here
http://grace97330.org/Foundation/news/202012_GLCF_newsletter.pdf



If you go to the hospital . . .

It used to be that our pastors and the members of our Hospital Visitation Team could go to the hospital and see if any of our members had been hospitalized. In these days of Covid-19, however, we are unable to go into the hospital lobby. Neither can we receive information over the phone. So, if you become aware that any of our members or family of our members have been hospitalized, the pastor would greatly appreciate you sharing this with them. Also, please know that we will respect any and all requests for confidentiality.

Come Join Wisdom Seekers

The Wisdom Seekers will be starting a new book on Thursday, December 3rd - "A Pilgrimage to Eternity: From Canterbury to Rome in Search of a Faith" by Timothy Egan. The author embarks on a thousand-mile pilgrimage through the theological cradle of Christianity. The book jacket states, "A thrilling journey, a family story, and a revealing history, *A Pilgrimage to Eternity* looks for our future in its search for God."

The Wisdom Seekers book group meets every Thursday at noon on Zoom. To be added to the Zoom invitation, please contact Mark Klopsch at mark.klopsch@oregonstate.edu.

Reminder

For contributions to count for the 2020 year, all contributions must be deposited into the bank in 2020. With limited in office work days, please make sure your contributions are received to the church prior to Christmas.

November Council Minutes

November 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. 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.

November Meeting Minutes can be found online at:
<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Council-Minutes-11-9-20.pdf>

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



President:
Bob Keith
Vice President:
Rebekah Hadlock
Secretary:
Nancy Hemming
Treasurer:
Hal Brauner
Financial Secretary:
Mary Stephens
Council Members:
Meredith Junge
Jim Leklem
Dave Lundahl
Pr. Dorthy Nielsen
Anne Schroeder
Sandie Williams
Kendra Wollert
Vacant: 2 Spots

The first Christmas at Grace

By December of 1949 the process of rebuilding the Adair chapel which had been dismantled and moved piecemeal to 21st and Tyler was underway. The roof and beams and walls were in place, and there was a make shift chancel with the altar placed in front of a dark red velvet hanging. But the walls and floor were rough boards, and The heat consisted of a stove in the rear Northwest corner. There we're no front steps, and those attending walked up a slanted entrance made of boards.

Christmas had to be celebrated, however, and the church must appear festive for Sunday school program that had been carefully rehearsed. The remedy was to cover the walls and front with pine tree and large branches. Suddenly the church had the appearance of a forest glen with the dark Army pews set the mind set. Certainly it was very cold for everyone but the lucky few seated by the stove which radiated heat for a few feet around it.

Charles was a baby so we came early to be near the stove. John was 3 1/2 and along with the other children had been told to dress to be warm so he was snug in wool blue pants and a red sweater. Every one sang as the Sunday school children trooped up from an equally rough basement built with the generosity and work of the Ronnenkamps. The procession was led by the angels with their wings glittering with tinsel, shepherds, wisemen in bath robes and finally all the children hurrying after — older ones first. We looked for John and saw a streak of red and blue dashing past the lines to the front where he looked in and at the big sparkling tree at the front.

The songs went well, and parents listened anxiously to the recitations. For days John would only say his piece from behind a large living room chair at home, but Dolly Brye, his teacher whom he loved dearly, persuaded him to try saying it on the steps. We were amazed to see him actually saying it as he hopped forward and finally ending with a big jump off the front of the platform and running to sit beside Dolly. I'm not sure who was more pleased at the whole thing — John, Dolly or we as parents.

Later that night at bedtime I began telling John how the wings of the angels had been made when he interrupted me and said, ' but, mommy, they were real!' Who was I to spoil such faith?

The scene was simple and primitive: the Christmas story never would have a more appropriate setting amid the dark trees, the sparkling lights and colors. Molly Strand, wife of the OSU president at the time, said it was her most meaningful Christmas Eve. I think all there were touched by the words, the scene, the earnest children and the thankfulness in having our own sanctuary at last.

Paul and Dorthy Weswig





Birthday Blessings!

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

Norma Moody	12/01	Kathryn Honey	12/19
Jude Geist	12/06	Sara Gelser	12/20
Meredith Junge	12/07	Pat Olson	12/23
Nancy Strohlein	12/08	Jessica Saathoff	12/26
Gabri Bilotta	12/09	Cathy Mueller	12/27
Jamie Pettingill	12/09	Anna Wayt	12/28
Denice Rickard	12/17	James Wernz	12/28

December meeting of the Grace Globaliers

Grace Globaliers, a book group focusing on international and cross-cultural issues, If you are interested in attending, contact Mary Ann Matzke at maryann.matzke@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

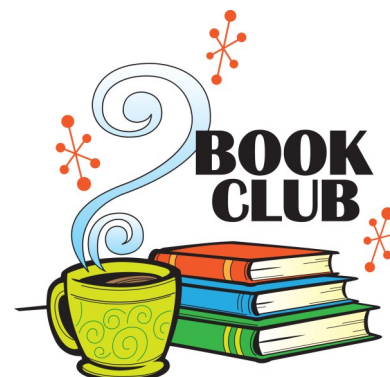
Dec. 3 at 12:00 pm- "Vikings in the Attic: In Search of Nordic America" by Eric Degni and led by Carol Kamke.

This is a light-hearted romp through experiences of Scandinavian immigrants who were the ancestors of many of us. This is a fun and easy read that will teach us all a lot about both the Old Country and the New. The author is a professor at a Lutheran college in Minnesota.

Upcoming Meetings:

Jan. 4 - "The Red Tent by Anita Diamant and led by Mary Ann Matzke

February 4 - Red Bricks by Anne Muccino and reviewed by her sister, Margie Nairm



Grace Gatherings

While the church is closed, printed copies of Grace Gatherings are available by request. Please contact the church office to request a printed copy of Grace Gatherings to be mailed to your home.

Photo Directory Insert

An insert for our 2019 Photo Directory with updated and additional contact information is now available. Please contact the church office to request a copy. Please call 541-757-1600 or email at office@grace97330.org



Adult Bible Study December 2020, January and February 2021

We will continue to email to those that wish until we are able to meet together again. Contact Frank or Sue at fssndavis@msn.com if you wish to get the Bible Study lessons or ZOOM with our class on Wednesdays at 6 pm. Stay well.

Call in the New Testament

During this quarter we will examine God's call in stories found in the New Testament. Of course, the greatest call came to Jesus. The other calls in the new Testament led to the extension of Christian ministry into the known world.

The call stories of the Old Testament are probably better known than those in the Christian scriptures, the New Testament. We can name Moses' call in the burning bush story. We remember that Isaiah's call in the temple resulted in his saying, "Here I am, Lord, send me." We may recall from Sunday school days the call of the young Samuel in Eli's house in the middle of the night. And the lineup of Jesse's sons that ended up with David being anointed as the future king has shaped our expectations of what God's call looks like.

While it's true that the Old Testament narratives of call have a bit of drama, they are not the only way God calls people. Jesus taught his disciples that everyone brings something to the table when it comes to bringing God's realm to everyday life. And God doesn't call only those who are qualified. Quite the opposite – often God empowers the very people we would not expect.

From foreign wise men to rich women to gentle old men, God provides what is needed through ordinary people like you and me. We have our own unique calls to bring the good news of God's love to our friends, families, neighbors, and coworkers.

The goals of this study include developing a broader and deeper understanding of God's call and an appreciation for the ways people respond positively to that call. We will gain familiarity with several books of the New Testament and the call stories found there.

Our Writer

Chip Borgstadt is called husband, dad, and grandpa and is also blessed to be called pastor of Bethesda Lutheran Church in Moorhead, Iowa, and St. John Lutheran Church in Dunlap, Iowa. He and his wife love to travel, garden, and spend time with family.

Growing Young Cohort

We decided in March to make sure Grace elevates families up and prioritize them. The Christian Education committee read the book *Growing Young* over the summer, a research-driven book on how to grow youth. We then signed up for a 9 month Growing Young Cohort, or group, last month, along with 49 other congregations across the world, to learn *how* to grow young. Many ideas have already blossomed from our participation; soon you will have the opportunity to take a Growing Young Cohort survey of our church and how we view youth and families. We will be organizing Empathy Training soon, so we can better understand things from a younger persons perspective. You will also have the opportunity early next year to take part in an 8 week course on Growing Young that we will host for Grace. It takes more than just a few people to prioritize youth and families to make it happen. We need EVERYONE on board. Think about what Grace would look like if we didn't have any families, or youth? If we don't turn things around, that thought will become reality. We know that is not what you want, so please consider joining us for the things that help make our Grace congregation...family.



Camp Lutherwood

BottleDrop Holiday Give 2020

This holiday season, BottleDrop Give is contributing up to \$15,000 to all fundraisers through a combination of matching donations and prizes. This is a great opportunity to give back to camp as we work toward purchasing a coffee bar for the dining hall! To participate, simply drop off your BottleDrop blue bags from Camp Lutherwood Oregon to any BottleDrop location between November 15-December 1. Learn more about the Oregon BottleDrop Give program and how to get blue bags sent to you on our website or by contacting the camp office at 541-998-6444.

Mark the Calendar!

The Annual Meeting of the Camp Lutherwood Association will be held on Saturday, February 6th at 9:30am on Zoom. More information will be sent in December.

Tentative Summer 2021 Dates

With COVID-19, this summer will look different at camp. We are preparing to adapt typical camp programming to ensure the health and safety of all of all campers, staff and guests. We commit to offering an outdoor experience that will be safe and adaptable. The dates listed for 2021 are tentative and we will continue to publish updates as more information becomes available. We look forward to seeing you around the campfire soon!

Schedule can be found at:

<https://www.camplutherwood.org/generalinformation>

COVID-19 & Camp Lutherwood Oregon

At this time camp is open to guests by private appointment only. Please contact the office to make arrangements to ensure that we are able to accommodate all safety requirements at 541-998-6444 or office@lutherwoodoregon.org for more information and to make your request.

Cold Weather Shelters in Corvallis

Unity Shelter is a collaborative effort - the joining of the Corvallis Men's Shelter, Room at the Inn Women's Shelter, and SafePlace / Safe Camp. Together we are aiming to more effectively meet the growing need for shelter in our community, exacerbated by the pandemic and by the arrival of winter. We're aiming to support this work with wide partnership in the community.

You're invited to find out more about Unity Shelter by attending our Virtual Tour of Homes on Friday, Dec. 4 at noon. In this 40-minute Zoom gathering you'll meet several Unity Shelter staff and volunteers, and learn about the range of shelters for those who have no homes to shelter in; from camping to micro shelters, to indoor shelters during COVID. First Alternative Co-op is partnering with Unity Shelter and offers a \$5 discount coupon for all who attend the gathering. For more information, visit www.unityshelter.org, or use this link to RSVP and register for the Dec. 4 event: <https://forms.gle/uQfX4iVHtMBTHoGC6>

Luther House Campus Ministry

Luther House is open again and meeting with OSU Students.

See Luther House's facebook and website for the latest update.

Luther House can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/lutherhouseosu/>

<http://www.luther-house.org/>



A word from Grace Center

A high point in October came with renaming Grace Center's boardroom to be the Alexis Walker Community Room, in memory of an early board member. A generous donor, Cindy Noble, had offered to match contributions toward Grace Center's capital campaign in Alexis' memory up to \$10,000. She is now never to be forgotten as the campaign topped \$20,000. Thank you, our generous friends.

Dr. Alexis Walker served on the Grace Center board from 2001 to 2004. She contributed her expertise and care of families as she was OSU's chair in Human Development and Family Sciences and later co-director of the School of Social and Behavioral Health Sciences. She was awarded the Felix Berardo Scholarship for mentoring from the National Council of Family Relations. Alexis believed that Grace Center helped improve the lives of seniors/adults and their caregivers by promoting independent living and respite. I like to think that many of our staff, educated at OSU, brought Alexis' values with them.

It has been suggested that we let people know other rooms can be named as memorials. And the garden beside the entry has opportunities to name in memory of loved ones.

Betty McCauley



Connecting via Phone



Thanks to those members of Grace who have taken on a ministry of checking in on some of the more isolated members of our community during this time of "sheltering at home." Given this, there may still be a need for conversation that we have not anticipated. If you're someone who would like to be assigned a "phone friend," please call the church office, 541-757-1600, and leave a message to let us know. We will make sure someone gets in touch with you.



Traveling through Advent

Sunday, December 6 Second Sunday of Advent

Introduction

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 40:1-11

Good news of God's coming to a people in exile

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

*Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God.
(Ps. 85:13)*

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Waiting for and hastening the day of God

Mark 1:1-8

John appears from the wilderness

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sunday, December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

Introduction

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden

Psalm 126

The Lord has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Kept in faith until the coming of Christ

John 1:6-8, 19-28

A witness to the light

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Find the Bible online at bible.oremus.org

Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Introduction

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

Readings and Psalm

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

The Lord's promise to David

Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)

Romans 16:25-27

The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ

Luke 1:26-38

The angel appears to Mary

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.



Thursday, December 24 Nativity of Our Lord I Christmas Eve

Introduction

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7

Light shines: a child is born for us

Luke 2:1-20

God with us

John 1:1-5, 14-16

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.



Traveling through Christmas

Sunday, December 27 First Sunday of Christmas

Introduction

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 61:10--62:3

Clothed in garments of salvation

Psalm 148

*The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven.
(Ps. 148:13)*

Galatians 4:4-7

Children and heirs of God

Luke 2:22-40

The presentation of the child

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



2020 Advent Guide

Find out ways to celebrate Advent at home with this 2020 Advent Guide.

2020/11/Grace-Advent-Guide-Book-

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Grace-Advent-Guide-Book-2020-b.pdf>



Wednesday Advent Services Holden Evening Prayer

Worship Video will be available on YouTube on Wednesdays. Watch for the email with the link starting Wednesday, December 2, 2020.