

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.

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."



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

January 2021
volume XX
issue 1

Grace GATHERINGS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Drive Through Nativity 2020 December 19, 2020



Thank you to everybody who helped make the 2020 Drive Through Nativity a success. See page 9 for the full list of all the helpers.

If you missed the Drive Through Nativity go to the link below to see the video.

<https://grace97330.org/NativityDriveThru/NativityDriveThru.mp4>



Thank you to everybody who brought donations.

We collected over 400 pounds of food that went to South Corvallis Food Bank

Prayers

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

- ⇒ Helen Hildebrandt
- ⇒ Darlene Leklem
- ⇒ Lucas, infant son of Dan and Liz Miller
- ⇒ Paula, friend of Grace
- ⇒ Paul, friend of Jaya
- ⇒ Cleo, Colby, Lydia and Shawn, Jaya's sister and family
- ⇒ Joy
- ⇒ Paul, Pr. Netsie's stepfather
- ⇒ Jessica, Andreas's sister in law
- ⇒ Ruth, mother of Wendell

Deaths:

- ⇒ Lew Williams
- ⇒ Emmery Hildebrandt

Grace Personnel

Interim Pastor—Dorothy Nielsen

Bookkeeper - Robin Comforto

Custodian - Outside Contractor

Director of Discipling Ministries - Donna King

Director of Music Ministries - Bryson Skaar

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**

Dear People of Grace,

New Year's greetings to you all, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. May God's great gift fill you with hope, joy, love, and peace.

Marking time...that's what we are doing. Marking time the world has spun around the sun...365.25 days. Marking time that the sun's light is increasing in length...by minutes. Marking time in our own lives. Time is neither good nor bad. Time, or spacetime if you are into Einstein, is one of the ways we define our days.

The hopes for the coming calendar year is marked with time. A time when we can get one of the vaccines, which then leads to our hopes for a time when we can gather. The predictions are for summer. We must wait to see how that develops. And that waiting time can be filled with hope and plans as well as grief and anxiety.

All this time talk is about *kronos* time...chronological time. This is not how God marks time. God's time is called *Kairos* time: a time that is pregnant with possibilities; a time that seems delayed yet comes at the needed moment; a time that God appoints. There's no way to hurry God up. We have tried that before on many occasions. God's *Kairos* time is not an easy place to live into, as we are people who are in a hurry, or have certain things that have to happen when we want it to happen. *Kairos* time is in that place we call liminal time. Not limbo. Liminal.

The word *liminal* comes from the Latin word *limens*, which means "limit or threshold." Theologian Richard Rohr defines liminal time in this way: "It is when you have left, or are about to leave, the tried and true, but have not yet been able to replace it with anything else. It is when you are between your old comfort zone and any possible new answer. If you are not trained in how to hold anxiety, how to live with ambiguity, how to entrust and wait, you will run...anything to flee this terrible cloud of unknowing."

Rohr goes on to talk about how some ancient cultures called it "crazy time." Some of us might agree. Rohr describes liminal time as "that time, when an acrobat has let go of one swinging trapeze and is in mid-air, anxiously seeking the grasp of another who is swinging their way." Ok, so my tummy just got a "whee."

In this time of pandemic, in this time of transition for Grace, this liminal time is filled with God's possibilities, which will come at the appointed time, after the people of Grace have done the necessary work. It won't take too much or too little *kronos* time. However, it will take the needed time for God's vision to be revealed to us.

And so, in this *kronos* and *Kairos* time we are living in, we need to hold onto our faith, and each other, as well as the promises God has made to all of creation. That we are not alone, but God is with us. Liminal time is about crossing thresholds into a new place/space where God already dwells. What thresholds are you crossing into these days? Who and/or what accompanies you during this liminal time? If you are accompanied by anxiety or depression, there are people to help, including your doctor. Are you travelling this time with hope? Share your hope with others. Are you walking with confusion or loss? Someone would like to support you.

During these liminal times it is important to pay attention to what is going on internally, and face it head on. Remember, there are no mind-reading classes. Your family and friends might not be aware of what is going on with you. That means we need to be asking and telling each other during these liminal days, so that we can accompany each other, to get through the threshold of a new era, a new year, a new time.

*"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
Isaiah 43.19*

With hope and confidence in Jesus,
Pr Dorothy+

Pastor Dorothy Nielsen

Contact Information

Cell: 541-377-1354

Email:

prdorothy@grace97330.org

Pastor Dorothy's

On Site Working Days

Thursday & Sunday

Off Site Working Days

*Monday - Wednesday &
Saturday*

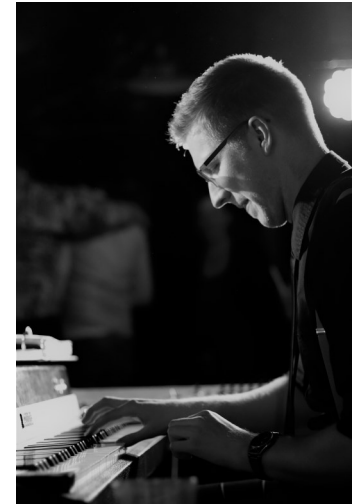
Sharing Thoughts About Stewardship...

When I was a young child, every Sunday my mother would wrap coins in a tissue for me to place in the offering plate at Sunday school. All these years later, thanks to my mother's guidance and God's blessings, it continues to be an honor and joy to give monetarily and to share my time and talents. Grace Lutheran Church is indeed alive and well, thanks be to God. *Mary Ann Brenan, Stewardship Committee member*

^d Welcome Bryson to Grace

Hello Everyone, my name is Bryson Skaar and I am happy to be Grace Lutheran's new Interim Director of Music Ministries. I'm excited to be joining this wonderful community and I am looking forward to mutually worshipping and praising with our music. Even distanced I hope to impart the joy, comfort, and strength music can add to our worship, and I look forward to the celebrated day we can join voices together in person.

To give a brief introduction of myself, I'm a local musician who works regularly at Oregon State University, DTW Productions, and the Corvallis Community Choir. Prior to joining Grace Lutheran I was a keyboardist with Peace Lutheran for 10 years. I grew up in Philomath and then attended OSU for a Bachelor's Degree in Music, Piano Performance, under the tutelage of Dr. Rachelle McCabe. My degree focused on classical studies, but throughout my musical upbringing I've developed an appetite for improvisation and composition. In addition to classical music, I really enjoy performing contemporary styles such as jazz, funk, gospel, hip hop, R&B, and latin. There is so much freedom of expression in music and so many wonderful people I get to work with being a musician. That is something I regularly give thanks and praise for. I look forward to our time together, and thank you for welcoming me to Grace Lutheran!



Giving at a Glance Support the many ministries of Grace Lutheran

Contributions as of December 11, 2020

Contributions for the Month of December: \$ 16,631;
December's Budget: \$ 45,100;
Last 2 Weeks of Giving: \$ 16,631;
Weekly Budget: \$ 11,275;
YTD contributions: \$291,098;
YTD budget: \$ 313,450

Contributions as of December 25, 2020

Contributions for the Month of December: \$ 30,914;
December's Budget: \$ 45,100;
Last Weeks Giving: \$ 12,478;
Weekly Budget: \$ 11,275;
YTD contributions: \$305,381;
YTD budget: \$ 324,725

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.



Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting 2021

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2021 via zoom. Please watch for more information coming soon from the church.

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. 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.

December Meeting Minutes can be found online at:
<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Council-Minutes-12-14-20.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. Dorothy Nielsen
Anne Schroeder
Sandie Williams
Kendra Wollert
Vacant: 2 Spots

Grace Lutheran Church Staff and Office Hours

Grace Lutheran Church's office staff continues to work hard in keeping Grace running as efficiently as we can. Throughout the pandemic, the Grace office has been open on a modified schedule. As we continue to move through the pandemic, we continue to work on a modified schedule to keep our staff healthy and safe.

The following is information about current office and staff hours:

- Monday – 11 am – 4 pm – Jody Parker, Office Assistant On site
- Tuesday – 9 am – 4 pm – Andrea Barnhurst, Office Administrator off site
- Wednesday – 9 am – 4 pm – Andrea Barnhurst, Office Administrator off site
- Thursday – 9 am – 4 pm – Andrea Barnhurst, Office Administrator on site
- Friday – 9 am – 4 pm – Andrea Barnhurst, Office Administrator off site
- Robin Comforto, Bookkeeper – off site
- Pr. Dorthy – See page 3 for hours
- Answering Machine is picked up regularly but not typically on weekend
- Changes to regular office and working hours will be posted in the weekly email or on the entry doors

Although many staff members are working remotely, it is important to understand that staff members are only available during normal working hours. Many staff members do not have their work email forwarded to their phones or personal email, and although some may have personal numbers for staff members, staff members are not obligated to answer church members after normal working hours. It can be hard for some to work from home and to not have the disconnection between home and work, and to feel like they need to be “on call” because they are able to connect into their work computers just by walking into another room, but it is super important for all of our staff to not feel like they are “on call” and to have the separation between work and home. We ask that church members who have personal numbers of staff members, to respect the office hours of staff members and to not call, text, or email staff members during non work hours.

We hope some time in 2021, we can feel safe in opening our doors again and staff members can once again work full time in the offices at Grace. We plan to keep church members updated and let all know when the church office will reopen in some capacity.

Thank you!

A big thank you to everyone who was part of Grace's Advent midweek Holden Evening Prayer, Advent Sundays, and especially Christmas Eve worship service. The creativity and the music and the technical work was an act of love and worship by: Sunghee, Tom, Sue, Collette, Dave, Kelsey, Erica, Mary, Bruce, Shelly, Christina, Johanna, Donna and Jim, and Michael. Thank you so much.

And a big thank you to Linda Samuels and the Altar Guild for decorating the tree with Chrismons for the Advent and Christmas worship services.

We wanted to put Christmas together in time to submit the recording to Channel 29 so that it would be available on TV for those who are not able to join us online. Because we recorded the worship service, I was able to worship with my husband, John, and my sister, Lisbeth, on the 24th. This was, for me, a beautiful, worshipful experience.

Grace is blessed with great musical and technical talent. I am so grateful to all of them.
In Christ, with hope for the New Year!

Pr Dorthy+

Are you Prepared?

Dear Grace Lutheran Church family,

The people of Grace are not immune to natural disasters. From the flooding of the river in April 2019 to the more recent Wild Fires in Oregon and as we continue through the current Covid-19 pandemic, we only see a glimpse of what is out there. . Natural disasters happen everywhere and all the time and more are to come.

With the help of The Oregon ELCA Disaster Preparedness Team, Grace Lutheran Church is working on creating a Disaster Preparedness committee. This committee will consist of 4-5 individuals and work on collecting and implementing ideas in how Grace can spread information about disaster preparedness to our Grace family. This committee will also be working on a list of ways Grace can help our community if a disaster were to occur locally.

If you have knowledge on disaster preparedness, have an interest in disaster preparedness or natural disasters, or are just interested in joining this committee please contact Andrea Barnhurst in the office. All meetings will be held in a safe manner with the health and safety of all members in the front of our mind. We hope to gather for the first time or have an interest meeting some time in February 2021.

Andrea Barnhurst
Office Administrator
Grace Lutheran Church
541-757-1600
office@grace97330.org



The New Christ in our homes is still on its way to the church. Please watch for an announcement for when it is available for pick up in the office.



Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross needs your help. As we continue to move through this time of uncertainty, fear, and sickness the need for blood can not be greater. Our last blood drive was held with great success in September, and our next blood drive at Grace is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021 from 10 am to 4 pm in the Grace Parking Lot. Cleanliness, Safety and Social Distancing will be priority to keep all safe. Please call Marna Renshaw at home at 541 286-4537 or her cell at 541-760-7174. Every little bit helps to save lives.



2020 Drive-Thru Nativity Creators & Helpers

Nativity Coordinators – Rebekah Hadlock, Shelly Lundahl, Denise Cardinali, Cathy Mueller, Kendra Wollert

Drawings and Paintings – Avi Hadlock

Storyboard Design and Woodworking – Michael Hadlock

Storyboard Words and Stenciling – Rebekah Hadlock, Christina Lundahl

Storyboard & Sign Painting – Avi Hadlock, Evelyn Vega, Melissa Smith, Chrissy Veach, Mackenzie Burnett, Rachel Burnett, Christina Lundahl, Caitlyn Gillamout, Anne Schroeder, Denise Cardinali, Katie Olsen, Bob Keith

Lit-up Creche, Welding & Spray Painting – Silas Hadlock, Avi Hadlock

Lit-up Creche, Restrunging of Lights – Rebekah Hadlock, Michael & Sandra Beachley

Music – Shelly & Dave Lundahl, Bruce & Mary Stephens, Michael Hadlock

Character Recruitment & Costuming – Cathy Mueller, Shelly Lundahl

Live Nativity Characters – Rebekah & Mike Hadlock, Silas Hadlock, Avi Hadlock, Isaac Hadlock, Archer Schroeder, Wil Schroeder, Sylvie Schroeder, Anne Schroeder, Eli Geist, Noah Geist, Evelyn Vega, Sandra Beachley, Shelly Lundahl

Tree Donations, Procurement & Transport, Decorating – Starker Forests, Kendra & Edwin Wollert, Michael & Rebekah Hadlock, Silas Hadlock, Isaac Hadlock, Avi Hadlock, Carol Kamke, Dana Howe, Eila Howe, Cathy Mueller, Shane Mueller, Michael & Sandra Beachley, Donna King, Dave Lundahl

Publicity & Communications – Shelly Lundahl, Rebekah Hadlock, Donna King, Dave Lundahl, Pr. Dorthy Nielsen, Bruce & Mary Stephens, Andrea Barnhurst



2020 Drive-Thru Nativity Creators & Helpers

Equipment & Supply Donations – Gordon & Mary Ann Matzke, Ardis & Jerry Koester, Jim & Donna Wernz, Shelly & Dave Lundahl, Donna King, Carol Erickson, Michael Beachley, Grace Altar Guild, Denise & Tom Cardinali, Wayne & Carolyn Kradjan, Erin Radniecki, Jim & Nancy Hemming, Mike & Elaine Franklin, Kendra & Ed Wollert, Ardis & Jerry Koester, Netsie Griffith, Wendell Hendershott, Linda Samuels, Bob Keith, Ron Larson, Becky Kiersky

Safety Elves – Parents, Denise Cardinali, Cathy Mueller

Christmas Lights Design & Installation, Spotlights – Denise & Tom Cardinali, Rebekah & Mike Hadlock, Cathy Mueller, Michael Beachley, Ron Larson, Shane Mueller

Property Arrangements – Ron Larson

Food Donations – Michael Beachley

Drive-thru Counter – Shane Mueller

City Communications – Michael Beachley

Set-up & Take-down – Cathy Mueller, Shane Mueller, Carol Kamke, Kendra Wollert, Michael & Rebekah Hadlock, Silas Hadlock, Avi Hadlock, Isaac Hadlock, Robyn & Jose Vega, Evelyn Vega, Martina Vega, Laura & Joel Davis, Aaron Davis, Debbie Kuehn, Donna King, Denise & Tom Cardinali, Anthony Cardinali, Jaya Conser Lapham, Shelly & Dave Lundahl, Erika Lundahl, Jo Lundahl, Christina Lundahl, Bob Keith, Anne & Patrick Schroeder, Archer Schroeder, Wil Schroeder, Sylvie Schroeder.

Thank you to all!

**This project took many helper elves and the list is growing even as our newsletter goes to press. If we missed anyone, we appreciate your help and regret the omission.
Our great thanks to everyone who helped with the 2020 Nativity!**



Birthday Blessings!

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

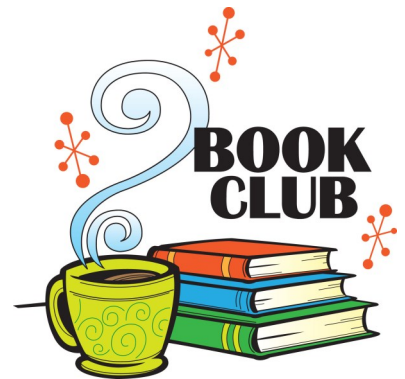
George Custer	01/01
Don Freeman	01/01
Sylvia Aulerich	01/02
Linda Burt	01/02
Margaret Samuels	01/02
David Lundahl	01/03
Jenny Olsen	01/05
Inge Daeschel	01/11
William Strohlein	01/11
Scott Berdahl	01/12
Dorothy Miles	01/15

Daniel Strand	01/20
Kathleen Kuehlwein	01/21
Midoriko Stock	01/21
Sarah Wayt	01/21
Thomas Cardinali	01/22
Lew Nelson	01/26
Cameron Osborn	01/26
Shane Mueller	01/28
Carl Grosz	01/29
Michael Hadlock	01/31
Mark Speulda	01/31

January meeting of the Grace Globaliers

The next Grace Globaliers book group will be Thursday, January 7, at noon on Zoom. We will discuss "The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant and led by Mary Ann Matzke. The book is in Dinah's voice, a woman only briefly hinted at in the Book of Genesis. It recounts the story of Jacob, his four wives, and his twelve sons, but from the point of view of ancient womanhood - the world of the red tent. For more information and the Zoom link, contact Mary Ann at maryann.matzke@gmail.com.

On Thursday, Feb. 4, we will have the author of "Red Bricks" on Zoom with us as her sister, Margie Nairn, leads us in a discussion of "Red Bricks" by Anne Muccino. Do join us!



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.

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.



Ways to log your attendance.

- 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.

Empathy Zoom meeting

The Growing Young Cohort of the Christian Education Committee is inviting all Grace members to a one-hour Zoom session examining Empathy at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16. Cammie Bella, a local retreat and class leader, spiritual director and licensed lay preacher, will lead us as we discover the power of our words and how to listen with presence. All ages are encouraged to attend, as we will also explore optimizing intergenerational conversations. For more information, contact Wendy Geist, 541-801-1840.

Zoom information:
Meeting ID: 875 1362 4311
Passcode: 169325

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87513624311?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87513624311?pwd=WmlPMtBpNW1STFBuTOVDRFRNUEpLQT09)
[pwd=WmlPMtBpNW1STFBuTOVDRFRNUEpLQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87513624311?pwd=WmlPMtBpNW1STFBuTOVDRFRNUEpLQT09)



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.

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.



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/>



Grace Center News

With a hearty Happy New Year to all the supporters of Grace Center in Grace Church, (our earliest enthusiastic friends) I start 2021 with hope in my heart. There will be a better year ahead. In learning of careful planning now, the Center will continue through challenging situations. This staff will creatively serve within the restrictions that must be faced. The Center is still closed to full house operations because of the corona virus problem; however, Grace Center appreciates enormous support from the community at large. That has allowed the staff to stay employed, and they in turn provide our participants and their caregivers the services they need.

With Tera gone we have a single Director again. Rene' Knight, who runs an active and capable ship, has been with us for many years. Other responsibilities have been reassigned. I've been appreciating Denise, now the Outreach Coordinator, who talked about alternative services that can adapt practices to keep the participants safe and healthy during the pandemic. Examples include virtual nursing services like health evaluations and care conferences offered. Daily "telepathic" activities and exercise classes with limited in-person numbers are offered. There are YouTube sessions and kits with supplies for those who can keep active at home. Watch these articles for activities that supporters have attended in past times. Grace Center is on for another year! When a fundraiser comes along be generous as you always have been! Don't let a tiny virus get us down!

Betty McCauley

Camp Lutherwood



Mark the Calendar!

The Annual Meeting of the Camp Lutherwood Association will be held on Saturday, February 6th at 9:30am on Zoom. Each Association congregation (those who give to camp during the calendar year) receive one vote. Attendees can register starting now: [REGISTER HERE](#)

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.

The Season After Christmas



Advent Discovery Boxes

for the Sunday School crew this year. The boxes were filled with creative devotions and lots of things to do to help wait for Christmas.

Sunday, January 3 Second Sunday of Christmas

Introduction

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Readings and Psalms

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock

Sirach 24:1-12 (alternate)

Wisdom lives among God's people

Psalms 147:12-20

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 (alternate)

We sing, O Lord, to your holy name. (Ws. 10:20)

Ephesians 1:3-14

The will of God made known in Christ

John 1:10-18

God with us: the incarnation of the Word

Prayer of the Day

God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, 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, January 10 Baptism of Our Lord

Introduction

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

Readings and Psalm

Genesis 1:1-5

God creates light God creates light

Psalm 29

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

Acts 19:1-7

Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus

Mark 1:4-11

Revelation of Christ as God's servant

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.



Sunday, January 17, 2021 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Introduction

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

Readings and Psalm

1 Samuel 3:1-10

The calling of Samuel

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

You have searched me out and known me. (Ps. 139:1)

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Glorify God in your body

John 1:43-51

The calling of the first disciples

Prayer of the Day

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.



The Season After Epiphany

Sunday, January 24, 2021 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Introduction

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

Readings and Psalm

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Repentance at Nineveh

Psalm 62:5-12

God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Living in the end times

Mark 1:14-20

The calling of the disciples at the sea

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.



Sunday, January 31, 2021 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Introduction

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

Readings and Psalm

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The prophet speaks with God's authority

Psalm 111

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Limits to liberty: the case of food offered to idols

Mark 1:21-28

The healing of one with an unclean spirit

Prayer of the Day

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

