If you are looking for a different issue, click the links below.

2022 March Grace Gatherings

2022 February Grace Gatherings

2022 January Grace Gatherings





Upcoming Advent Events can be found on page 5 of this issue of Grace Gatherings.

Printed copies of this page and all December events can be found on the middle table in the church entry.



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



Grace Personnel

Interim Pastor—Dorthy Nielsen 541-377-1354

prdorthy@grace9330.org

Youth and Family Minister – Kristin Young 406-417-1720

Kristin@grace97330.org

Office Administrator - Andrea Barnhurst

office@grace97330.org

Office Assistant - Jody Parker jody@grace97330.org

Director of Music Ministries - Bryson Skaar

Bryson@grace97330.org

Organist/Pianist - Sunghee Kim

Percussion - Kelsey Bleck Bookkeeper - Robin Comforto

bookkeeper@grace97330.org

Financial Secretary: Mary Stephens

Facebook Administrator - Rebekah Hadlock

Nursery - No Nursery at this time

Prayer Chain - Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens prayers@grace97330.org

Custodian - Outside Contractor

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



New Church Directory Now Available

Printed copies of the updated address portion of the 2019 photo directory are now available.

Please contact the office or stop by the church to pick up a copy. Additional copies of the Photo Directory are still available.



Church Staff Schedule

Monday (on site:)
11am—4pm: Jody Parker

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday (off site): 9am—4pm: Andrea Barnhurst

Thursday (on site): 9am—4pm: Andrea Barnhurst

SGIVING SIMATTERS!

Giving at a Glance Support the many ministries of Grace Lutheran

Contributions as of November 12, 2021

Contributions for the Month of November: \$13,722; November's Budget: \$29,900; Last Weeks Giving: \$13,722; Weekly Budget: \$5,980; YTD contributions: \$264,241; YTD budget: \$279,560

Prayers

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

- ⇒ Jean
- ⇒ Heather, Tristan, Liam, and Kellan
- ⇒ Sarah and Andrew, Neil and Dayle's son
- ⇒ Olivia, Nancy's family member
- ⇒ Josh, his Mom, his wife, and 3 daughters;
- ⇒ Family of Ted
- ⇒ Cory, Cherise and children
- ⇒ Cy and Cynera
- ⇒ Butch and Sara, Andrea's friends
- ⇒ Bonnie, Molly's friend

Death

- ⇒ Ross Hinshaw
- ⇒ Kathy Riser

Teams & Committees

Property Committee - Ron Larson, 541.752.0754

Communications Committee

Bob Keith, 541.990.2883

Sunday Hospitality

TBA

Events Hospitality

Molly Hallgrimson, 541.753.8581

Christian Education Team

Kristin Young, 541.757.1600

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

 $\textbf{Hospital Visitation Team -} \ \mathsf{Dale Weber},$

541.757.3043

 $\textbf{Healing Prayer Team -} \ \mathsf{Sue Davis}, 541.924.2922$

Mission Groups - Bob Saathoff, 541.929.3045

Stewardship Committee

Dave Lundahl. 541.757.1358

Disaster Preparedness Committee

Andrea Barnhurst, 541.757.1600

Campus Ministry at Luther House

TBA

Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers

Norma Moody, 541.754.2555



Norma Moody	12/01
Jude Geist	12/06
Meredith Junge	12/07
Nancy Strohlein	12/08
Gabri Bilotta	12/09
Jamie Pettingill	12/09
Denice Rickard	12/17

Birthday Blessings!

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

12/19
12/20
12/23
12/26
12/27
12/28
12/28

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

Dear People of God at Grace,

And just like that...it's December! How did the time go by so quickly? And now at our second Christmas in pandemic? With continuing supply chain issues, social distancing still practiced, and masks worn we are weary, frustrated, angry, sad, lonely, hurting, and hopeful.

We are thankful for almost 6 months of being able to have both in-person and online worship, staying somewhat connected to each other, after 16 months of only online worship. Yet there is a longing in us for something more, for what has been, for what could be.

What if we can change things, you know, really change this Christmas. Advent and Christmas is a good time to think about how we can change this world, even our corner here in Corvallis.

Advent is about the coming of our God and our preparing for God's presence as well as Christ's coming again. Christmas is celebrating God coming to us in human form to heal this world God loves so intensely.

Some years ago I learned about Advent Conspiracy (adventconspiracy.org). Some pastors and their families decided to celebrate these seasons differently. They came up with four tenets for their movement:

Here's an overview of each tenet from the website (there are videos and other resources there too—check it out)

Worship Fully -- Nearly every character in the Christmas story that encountered our King responded in the same way: worship. Let's make the conscious effort to reorient our hearts toward Christ. Christmas began with worship, may it end with worship.

Spend Less -- In our hearts we know mindless consumption is not the way to celebrate Jesus. But spending less does not mean spending nothing. Rather we will thoughtfully evaluate what companies and causes we support through our purchases.

Give More -- The best gifts celebrate a relationship and most often they require our time and energy. Relational giving means that we think about the other person—who they are and what they care about. We focus more on giving our undivided presence and less on a pile of presents under the tree.

Love All – Christmas is a chance to move closer to those in crisis. We will love others as Jesus has loved us. The poor and hurting of our world can be reached by God through the way we choose to celebrate Christmas.

What if we do Christmas different this year, letting this strange time of pandemic be our springboard? Advent Conspiracy encourages giving where there is need among our siblings. Rather than giving an ugly Christmas sweater and overspending on other gifts, to instead consider giving in a loved one's name to where the needs are great.

If you are in need of any ideas you can go to goodgifts.elca.org to give a piglet, water, education, medical supplies, and a whole lot of other things to benefit siblings near and far. Anymore, this is what is on my wish list for Christmas and birthdays.

The Spirit of God is at work during these challenging times. Nothing can thwart God's ultimate will for life, well-being, and love to permeate this world. And we can bring God's loving presence in these small, generous ways.

The Spirit has been working in hidden and amazing ways during these times. Have you sensed God's presence? Do you see the new life sprouting? Where have you seen God at work lately? Look for the signs, the people, the opportunities. God comes...

Yes, the countdown to Christmas is about to begin. It is time to reclaim and celebrate the God who comes to be with us, whose love is intense, and who invites us to join in the Advent Conspiracy that not only makes a difference in the world, but in us as well.

Praise to the One Who was, Who is, and Who is to come!

Pr Dorthy+





Advent Worship Services

Sunday Advent Worship

Sundays at 10am In person and Live Stream on YouTube

Mid Week Advent Worship

Wednesdays at 7pm starting December 1 In person only

Christmas Eve Worship

Friday, December 24 at 5 pm and 9:30pm In person and Live Stream on YouTube

Please let the church office know if you plan to attend and what service. This is not an RSVP just information so we can plan on how many are Coming

Other Advent Activities



Pot Luck and Advent Crafts

Sunday, December 5 starting at 4pm See page 8 for more information



Drive Through Nativity

Saturday, December 18 from 5pm-8pm See Page 8 for more information

Kids Corner

For Those Young, Old or Young at Heart





2022 ELCA Youth Gathering: boundless - God Beyond Measure

The next youth gathering (for high school students) is July 24-28, 2022! If your high school student is interested in going, let Kristin know so she can get a group registered. Stay tuned for updates about fundraising, but please know that finances should not be a barrier to your student's ability to attend this incredible event!



College Student Addresses

Hey parents! Kristin and the GYM Committee are looking to send out the journals that have been signed by members of the congregation.

Please email Kristin your student(s)'
addresses.

Adopt a College Student

We are still looking for folks to sponsor college students! It doesn't have to be super complicated--a note and \$5 gift card can go a long way! Let Kristin know if you are interested!



High schoolers!

Kristin would love to meet up with you for coffee, tea, a walk, or a combination, to get to know you better! She will be reaching out to you to figure out something that works, and there will also be a Google Form you can fill out with times that work for you! Stay tuned for more info!



Children's Bulletins and SPARK Magazine

The Sunday Children's Bulletins and most recent SPARK magazine's can be found in the display in the Narthex.

If you know somebody who may enjoy these, please feel free to take one. Youth do not have to be attending Grace to enjoy these materials.



Heartland Christmas Donation

We have the opportunity to help collect donations for Heartland Humane Society. Heartland will provide a 32-gallon bin to fill--a list of needed items will be available by the bin. Thank you for helping support our neighbors!



Out and About Coffee Hours **New hours**

Kristin will be continuing to hold office hours at Allan's Coffee and Tea (2541 NW Monroe Ave). If you'd like to learn more about Growing Young, youth ministry and programming, or just want to visit, swing by anytime on Thursdays between 11:30am and 1pm.





Grace Drive-Thru Nativity Sunday, December 18 from 5pm—8pm

All are welcome to Grace's drive thru nativity on December 18, from 5-8pm. We are in need of extension cords and timers, Christmas tree lights, Christmas tree stands, and candy canes to hand out to visitors--if you are able to donate these items, please do! If you are interested in helping put this together, let the GYM Committee know soon. The GYM Committee will also be reaching out to youth and families about participating!

First Sunday of the Month Potluck

Our December potluck will be December 5 in Ronnenkamp, and will look a little different this time! We will have a crafting time starting at 4pm, and will have materials for Christmas mugs, swags, and Advent wreaths. At 5:30pm, we will order pizza, and folks are welcome to bring a side dish, as well. Activities will wrap up by 7pm. Most supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring any items unique to your family! Come when you can, leave when you want to!





Holiday Gifts for Kids and Families

This year we can spread Christmas cheer & Blessings with our gifts to the ELCA's Casa de Sión-House of Zion ministry in Woodburn that offers help and support to the large Hispanic community in that area. A particular need is for children's toys, but gifts of warm clothing for any age and housewares are always needed and deeply appreciated. Gifts don't have to be wrapped, if wrapped, please leave a sticker indicating age & gender appropriate. Please leave them in the box in the fireside room by December 15th. Muchas Gracias. Contact Carol Erickson if you have any questions www.grace97330.org

volume XX• number 12

A Thank You to Grace – A Giving Congregation

By Dave Lundahl, Chair of Stewardship Team

Welcome to the New Church Year! In November we see an end to the Church Year at Christ the King Sunday and Thanksgiving. This transitions quickly in December to a new Church Year with Advent and then Christmas! It's a special time to prepare and plan for how we will use our Time, Talents, Treasures and Trees to be good stewards of the many gifts that God has blessed us with.

In November, we saw once again that Grace is a giving congregation committed to support the mission in ministry at and through our church community. A large proportion of families and individuals returned estimates of 2022 giving. These estimates help the Church Council prepare a 2022 ministry plan and budget for your approval in January at our Annual Meeting.

Thank you to all!

This December, we have a special opportunity to not only realize our 2021 regular giving commitments, but to set a foundation of support for what is shaping up to be a very exciting year for Grace! We will be calling a new pastor and discovering how to forge a closer ministry tie with Luther House to support Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State. We will be expanding our hybrid worship and music ministry experiences – both online and in person from our sanctuary. We will also be expanding our Growing Young programs to more families and kids. Further, we will continue to be a hub for all sorts of individuals and organizations to serve others in our community via events like our drive-through Nativity on December 18th that will collect food donations.

Every dollar given in December over our 2021 budget, multiplies what we can do in 2022!

To build this foundation of support, please prayerfully consider making a special Christmas Offering. You can make a special Christmas Offering by mailing a check to the church, setting up an electronic bill pay through your bank, or by giving online (https://grace97330.org/who-we-are/online-giving/). You may also

give a Christmas Offering tax free! Many members of the Grace community make it an annual practice to donate through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%
20Repository/Foundation QCD.pdf
Distribution (RMD) from employer-sponsored retirement IRAs such as a 401(k) or 403(b).

If you want to know more about how to make a special Christmas Offering, please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the Stewardship Team (Dave Lundahl, Mary Stephens, Mary Ann Brenan, Carol Warloe, Lew Nelson or Pastor Dorthy).

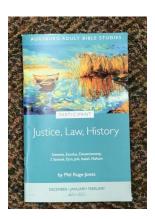
Call Committee

Please pray for our Call Committee as they begin the Call Process. Pray for the pastors who will be open to interviewing at Grace. Trust the Spirit of God at work in this process.

CC Team: Juan Guzman, Rachel Harrington (chair), Nancy Hemming, Eric Latimre (LH), Dave Lundahl, Cathy Mueller, Nate Olsen, Julia Rankin (LH), Bob Saathoff. We will miss Makenzie Burnett, who stepped down from the Team.

GRACE STEWARDSHIP IS GOING GREEN

Over the years we have noticed that the fewer people are using the offering envelopes that we send out to all families and individuals at Grace. To save the trees and this added expense to the church, we are going to try eliminating these envelopes. If you still wish to have envelops, please contact Mary Stephens (mary@stephens.org or call the church office).



Adult Bible Study Dec. 2021– Feb. 2022 Justice, Law, History

In Person Following Worship.

For more information contact Frank and Sue Davis

We are meeting in Ronnencamp Hall on Sundays after worship. Please join us. However, we will continue to email to those that wish. Contact Frank or Sue at fssndavis@msn.com if you wish to get the Bible Study lessons emailed to you or want to learn more about the class.

Justice, Law, History

The study focuses on Old Testament scriptures and the interaction between the ideal of justice, God's pursuit of justice in history, and God's gift of the law that allows humans to join in justice's pursuit. Justice flows from the heart and character of the God of Israel. The community of faith that gathers in God's name will display that very same character.

The first four sessions explore how leaders of God's people must rely on God's law as they administer justice. Deuteronomy demands that God's people be just and equitable. This call is rooted in the memory of God's deliverance of the people from slavery. In 2 Samuel, King David demonstrates justice by showing kindness to Mephibosheth, allowing his table to be set in the presence of his enemy. Isaiah describes a reign of justice and righteousness where war loses its primacy. Through the prophet Nahum, God metes out justice to Judah's enemies. Thus, justice and judgement gop together in the divine plan.

The next five sessions focus on God's justice in the live of God's people and in the gift of the law. Stories in Genesis reveal God's justice in the face of human violence and exclusion. Included are stories of Cain's murder of his brother Abel as well as Hagar and Ishmael being cast out of Abraham's household. Exodus shows the way justice looks when the ten commandments are applied to everyday life. In Deuteronomy, judges, officials, and priests work together to administer justice for God's people. Furthermore, Deuteronomy demands justice for marginalized people.

The last four sessions deal with situations in which justice seems absent. In 2 Samuel, Nathan condemns David for his acts of injustice toward Uriah the Hittite, Bathsheba's husband. In Ezra, after years of exile in Babylon. Ezra returns to Jerusalem and determines to restore respect for God's law. The voice of a foreign king sounds in these passages. Sessions 12 and 13 explore the book of Job and the way suffering calls into question not only simplistic spirituality but even our best understandings of how God's justice and power stand in relation to real evil.

A special feature of this study is access to biblical storytellers whose craft brings out the energy and emotions in which those stories marinate. Their tone and sense of presence revel the character of God and how the law functions as a wise invitation to a blessed way of living in the history in which God has placed us. Through this study may we experience the depth the Old Testament provides us in shaping faithful living in the presence of the ever-faithful God.

Our Writer

Phil Ruge-Jones is a pastor of Grace Lutheran, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and director of the Lay Scholl of Ministry for the Northwesr Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This is his eighth contribution to the AABS series. Like the collaborators he has gathered for this study, he is a member of the Network of Biblical Storytellers, International.

Author Erica Vetsch Featured in October PNACL Meeting

The Grace Church Library committee had a quarterly zoom meeting with the Pacific Northwest Association of Church Libraries. The meeting featured author, Erica Vetsch, from Minnesota. Jan Baron had read a review of her recent book, *The Gentleman Spy*, contacted her and she agreed to a meeting with us.

Vetsch writes Historical Romance Christian Fiction. She has a background as a Librarian while in college and a History Teacher in a Private School. Her specialty is American and World History. Most of Vetsch's 40 books are set in the US in the 1800's, however, her most recent books branch out in the Regency period, specifically 1810 to 1820 in Western Europe.

Vetsch began her nearly two hour presentation by explaining the process of getting a book published. She has taken the traditional method by signing with a literary agent, because the agent knows Contract Law and the business end of it all. Briefly, launching a book consists of: a Proposal sequence, then to the Publishing House and its Board, getting an Offer; assigning a definite due date for finishing the manuscript, and then on to the Editing course. This all culminates in a Marketing Plan with a strategy meeting. Authors with followers on sites like Instagram, Facebook and TikTok are a plus to the publishers. Vetsch said authors have a newsletter list of followers and when a change in publishers occurs, the author's newsletter list belongs to them and the list goes with them. This is very important. If you as reader like an author you can get on their newsletter list. This helps support them and is a big deal to an author and publisher alike. Vetsch also stressed the public and readers to buy locally from stores, in this case Christian book stores. Buying locally helps the author more than buying from Amazon, for example.

ciated with writers and their books. Such as, the fact that most authors don't make their living by writing books. In spite of having written, successfully, 40 books, she has a bookkeeping job in her husband's lumber business. Another myth to dispel, Erica stressed, is that EVERY writer needs edits. That piece of the process is just a necessity for every author.

This is how Erica writes: she comes up with a scenario. She says, "we read fiction because we like to worry." To see characters in conflict, in trouble, and we want them to get out of it. We worry about what happens if they don't get out of it. What's the characters goals? What does he or she want? What's standing in the way? Her method is: conflict, conflict, conflict. With her facility of inventing characters in situations, her husband says with each book, "it's like a whole new group of people move into our home!" Her newest book, The Debutante's Code, will be out December 7.

If you want to pursue Erica Vetsch as an author and more titles, go to her website: EricaVetsch.com



Vetsch then went on to dispel common myths asso-



Thank You

What a wonderful sight it was at church Sunday, November 14th as the congregation came together "safely, of course" to receive names of families in the Corvallis community who will receive Thanksgiving Baskets. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Mary Ann Brenan

Sunday Readings for December 2021

Sunday, December 5, 2021 2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4 Baruch 5:1-9 (alternate) Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 12, 2021 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 19, 2021 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 Psalm 80:1-7 (alternate) Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Sunday, December 26, 2021 **1st Sunday of Christmas**

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52



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.

Council continues to meet via ZOOM. To attend send an email to President Bob Keith stating that you would like the link to attend.

November Meeting Minutes can be found online at: https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Council-meetingminutes-11-08-21.pdf

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



President: Bob Keith Vice President: Kendra Wollert Secretary: Nancy Hemming

Treasurer: Hal Brauner

Financial Secretary: Mary Stephens

Council Members: Jeff Beck Mike Franklin Isaac Hadlock Rebekah Hadlock Meredith Junge Dave Lundahl Mary Ann Matzke Pr. Dorthy Nielsen Robyn Vega Sandie Williams



Annual Reports Due no later than **December 27, 2021**

It is that time again, and the annual meeting date has been scheduled.

For those who need to submit an annual report, please watch for an email with more information.

Please contact Andrea in the office with any questions.



Ladies Luncheon

On the Second Tuesday of each month

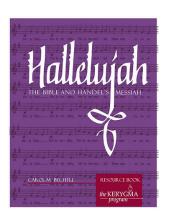
December 14 at 11:45 At New Morning Bakery



Bible Study-Faith Conversations on Wednesdays

Hallelujah! The Bible and Handel's Messiah is a Bible study that takes place on Wednesdays beginning December 1st at 10 am at Grace during Faith Conversations. All are welcome!

--Pr Dorthy+

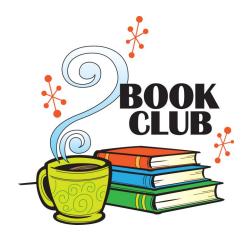




Volunteers needed

Grace is seeking volunteers to go to local Hospitals and check the Hospital List of Patients.

Please contact Dale Weber for more information



Global Book Club

First Tuesday of each month at 1pm Fireside Room at Grace

Next Meeting:

Dec. 7 – Nobody Will Tell You This But Me (As Told to Me) by Bess Kalb.

Jan 4 – – How To Avoid a Climate Disaster by Bill Gates

Complete book List: https://bit.ly/3ESkoLY



If you need a book from the Grace Lutheran Church Library, we will get it to you!! Have you checked out the new online catalog yet? Try https://www.librarycat.org/lib/GLC-Library
Or go to the Grace website, under Resources, click on Grace Library. Click on any book, then the button that says Ask About Becoming a Library Patron. Enter your name and email and/or phone and we will contact you.



Grace Lutheran Church Foundation

Foundation News Website:

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

November 2021 Newsletter

http://grace97330.org/Foundation/ news/202111_GLCF_newsletter.pdf



Luther House Website: http://www.luther-house.org/

Tuesday Lunches

Tuesday Lunches from Luther House: Luther House will be offering free lunches to students on Tuesdays from 11:30-1:30, and we need help serving! If you are available to help with this, contact Kristin about specific details and the needs for each week.





Papa's Pizza Fundraiser Thursday, December 9



Click the link below to download the flyer.

Grace center will receive 50% of all pizza sales 25% of all gift card sales

Link to Flyer:

https://gracecenter-corvallis.org/events/papas-pizza-fundraiser/

Camp Lutherwood

Summer Staff Applications

In Just TWO Weeks...Applications open for 2022 summer staff at Camp Lutherwood! Please pass along this great opportunity to young adults (ages 18+) to have the best summer job at Camp Lutherwood Oregon! More information can be found on our website (including the link to apply) at lutherwoodoregon.org/jobs