

December 2022
volume XXI, issue 12

Grace GATHERINGS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

435 NW 21st Street

Corvallis, Oregon 97330



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."*



Advent is a season of waiting. "Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord" (James 5:7, Advent 3). As we declare good news, let us encourage people to slow down, take notice, and wait.

Jesus Reminds us, "You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour" (Matt. 24:44, Advent 1). And so let us slow down this Advent, take notice of the Lord's coming and wait with hope. We know who is coming to us.

See Page 5 for the Advent Worship Schedule

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.



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

Grace Personnel

Interim Pastor—Dorothy 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

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.

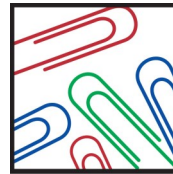
Visit our Grace web page at: www.grace97330.org



Out and About Coffee Hours

Kristin will be available for coffee and catch-up from 11:30 am to 1pm on Thursdays.

Please contact Kristin to set up a location or drop by Luther House to see her.



Office Hours

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

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Giving at a Glance

Support the many ministries of
Grace Lutheran

**Contributions as of
November 24, 2022**

Contributions for the Month of

November: \$16,854;

November Budget: \$19,500;

First 3 Weeks Giving: \$16,854;

Weekly Budget: \$4,875;

(4 weeks in October);

YTD contributions: \$257,518;

YTD budget: \$276,825



Prayers

This prayer list is a compilation of the individuals on our current prayer list.

*If you have a prayer request,
please send it to prayers@grace97330.org*

*If you would like to be added to the prayer chain
mailing list, please contact Andrea in the church office.*

Prayers:

Ted
Linda & Tim
DeAnn (sister of Cathy M)
Tom
Cleo, Colby, Madelaine, Lydia and Shawn
Berni and Doreen
Mar & Jan
Halley, family of Dan and Molly
Michael, Becky's family friend
Marilyn
Pr. Jane
Joseph, Rachel acquaintance
Meghan and her Family, Cathy's Niece
Cynara
Hal D
Linsay and daughter, family of Marshall
Jaya's mother and sister
Maxine
Pam (Junge niece)
Kaitlin and her Dad, Friend of Andrea

Families in crisis
Teens struggling w/ depression & their parents

For those grieving:

Annie Fortnum
The Rev Jim Parr Phillipson
Janice (MIL of bro to Matzkes)

Other Concerns:

For an end to violence against each other; for the People of Ukraine and Russia; the fears and anxiety of the continuing pandemics; for our houseless and hungry neighbors; those who are fighting wildfires, storm, floods, earthquakes and for relief workers;

Please hold our Call Committee in prayer as they engage in the Call Process. They are working with Synod staff, reviewing candidate profiles, interviewing, and other needs for the process to bear fruit. We will trust the Holy Spirit is at work in this process.

December

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

Kathryn Honey	12/19
Sara Gelser	12/20
Pat Olson	12/23
Jessica Saathoff	12/26
Cathy Mueller	12/27
Anna Wayt	12/28
James Wernz	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,

Now we begin the Church's liturgical calendar year...with Advent. This word speaks of the arrival of something or someone of importance, which has lasting impact.

The Church's liturgical calendar is a bit off-set from our common calendar year and is meant to help us make sacred space for the high holy days we celebrate. So, Advent anticipates, waits for, prepares for the coming of the Christ, reaching back in our history to the ancestors of our faith, to the birth of Jesus, and to Christ's coming again.

In the Cambridge Dictionary, waiting is allowing time to go by, sometimes while staying in place, until whatever you are expecting happens or until you can do something. Wait time in line for a ride at the amusement park is filled with excitement and anticipation of the fun to be had. A pregnant mother waits and prepares for the arrival of her child. There is a different excitement that fills the time of waiting.

While on vacation in November, my car's battery died and the car completely stalled in the left lane during commute time. With emergency blinkers on, I tried everything to get my car into neutral to get pushed to the side, to no avail. Ack! The troubles of technology on cars. By the time a tow truck arrived over 30 minutes of being stuck and worry about getting rear ended by other cars had worked on me. I am thankful for my sister, also in the car, who got the help, the police officer whose lights were a better signal to my stall, and the towing mechanic who gave the battery a jump start. That was difficult waiting.

Our Advent waiting gives us an opportunity to open up waiting space, sacred space for God to come to us. In the gift buying and wrapping, in cookie making, in writing Christmas messages to loved ones, and preparations for gathering, Advent comes to give us space and time to breathe and to quiet our souls, opening

up to the hope we have in the Holy One who comes to be with us.

Like a caterpillar, Advent cocoons us for the emerging of God's liberating grace which reaches out to us all the time. That sacred Advent space and time transforms us again and again. It is counter-cultural, even. We push back on the consumerism of this time of year and wait and watch for the ways God comes to us each day.

So set up your Advent wreath and mark the days. Put up your tree and decorations with a song of thanksgiving for this time. Display your creche to remember the birth of Christ. Pray and watch and wait with eager longing. The Lord God comes in surprising ways.

With Advent hope and joy,
Pr Dorthy+

Suggested prayers for:

Blessing the Advent Wreath

God our creator, the pieces of evergreen joined together in this wreath helps us mark this time of waiting and preparing for your coming. As we light the candles, grow in us the hope, love, joy, and light of your grace that comes to us through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

Blessing the Christmas Tree

God our creator, we praise you for this Christmas tree, gift of the earth and sign of your evergreen presence. As we illumine this tree, let your blessing come upon us. Send us your Son, the tender branch of Jesse, who brings us light and life. May we who stand in its light eagerly welcome the true Light that never fades. All glory be yours now and forever. Amen

Blessing of the Nativity Creche

O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around your Son, born for us. Bless us with your holy presence and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for he is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. Amen

A Word from Grace's Committees

Teams & Committees

Property Committee - Ron Larson, 541.752.0754

Communications Committee

Bob Keith, 541.990.2883

Sunday Hospitality

TBA—We Need You!

Events Hospitality

Molly Hallgrimson, 541.753.8581

Growing Young Ministry

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 - TBA

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

Mary Ann Brenan

Disaster Preparedness Committee

Andrea Barnhurst, 541.757.1600

Campus Ministry at Luther House

Kristin Young, Interim Outreach Minister

Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers

Norma Moody, 541.754.2555



ANNUAL REPORT

**Annual Reports
Deadline Extended
December 15, 2022**

Reports received after December 15, 2022 will not be included in the Annual Report.



ADVENT Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship 10am

In Person and Live Stream

Wednesday Soup Supper and Worship 6am

December 7—Grace Lutheran Corvallis

December 14—Good Shepherd Albany
(carpool/Caravan leaves Grace at 5:30pm)

Children's Nativity Program

Sunday, December 11 during Worship
In Person and Live Stream

Christmas Eve Worship

5 pm—In Person

9 pm—In Person

Christmas Day Worship

Worship Video will go live at 10am on
YouTube. No In Person Worship





Breaking News!

Kids Nativity Program: December 11 during worship. Rehearsals will be during your kids' Sunday School time. Our final dress rehearsal will be December 4 following the Pot Luck. Join us as our youth share the news of Christmas!



First Sunday of the Month potluck

December 4, following Worship. All are welcome! Bring a side dish, friends, and a favorite board or card game!

?? ?

Bible Quiz

? ??

Which of the four Gospels name(s) Bethlehem as the place of Jesus' birth?

- A. Only Luke
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Mark and John
- D. All four

Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1-7.)



Update on 2022 Financial Stewardship

Both the congregation council and stewardship committee, monthly, look at our financial stewardship to verify receipts and expenditures are in line. In general, this has been a very good year with receipts often running above expenditures and even over budget some months.

Furthermore, things are beginning to take off at Grace as we venture out after the pandemic. One of my methods of measuring a congregation's vitality is the number of children going forward for the children's sermon on Sunday mornings. For months stretching through more than a year, the number of children going forward has been around three. Lately, ten has been closer to an average number! Use of our marvelous facilities are being increased both by ourselves and outside groups. We are truly in the spring of our recovery!

That is the good news! The "however" includes offering and other receipts for the months of September and October (see graph at the end of this paragraph). These last two full month reports show that our expenditures while still below budget, have exceeded our income. Of the \$8,400 deficit in income compared to expenditures that we have accrued in 2022, \$13,049 has been in the last two months. Confusing? That says prior to the last two months we were receiving income for the year at a rate of \$4,649 above expenditures.

2022 GELC Recent Receipts/Expenditures						
	September		October		2022 Through October	
	Sept. Budget	Sept. Actual	Oct. Budget	Oct. Actual	To Date Budget	To Date Actual
Income	\$24,267	\$17,285	\$29,467	\$21,724	\$292,970	\$258,537
Expenditures	\$30,879	\$26,431	\$30,876	\$25,627	\$303,093	\$266,937
Difference	-\$6,612	-\$9,146	-\$1,409	-\$3,903	-\$10,123	-\$8,400

This trend is important for several reasons:

- That you are informed
- If you are behind on your estimate of giving, you have time to catch up before year's end
- If you are looking for somewhere to make a year's end donation for tax purposes, you might be reminded of this option.

But those reasons aside, I believe the most important reason is so that Grace can perform the ministry it is called to do here in Corvallis and through our special offerings the Oregon Synod and the ELCA, throughout the world. In early 2023 (if not before) we will, hopefully, have discovered that "perfect" match of available pastor and our congregation and will be starting a new ministry and further strengthening our ties with the Oregon State Lutheran Campus Ministry. These are exciting times! It would be great to start 2023 with a healthy surplus, as we did when we entered 2022, to cover the hard times but more importantly, to add new ministries and programming.



House of Zion, the ELCA ministry in Woodburn, that ministers to the many Hispanics in the area is thankful for any donations of Christmas gifts from Grace. Gift tag suggestions are in the baskets. Please put your gift in the big box in the Fireside Room by December 12th.

God Bless and Thank You



Sunday Readings for December 2022

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

December 25, 2022

Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

Christmas Gift Giving ideas...



Link to ELCA Gifts

<https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

Grace Lutheran Church Council invites you to consider extra giving in December to Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) for The Horn of Africa Drought

The Horn of Africa is in the midst of one of its worst droughts in recent history, severely impacting more than 15 million people across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia...the lack of water has greatly affected people's wellbeing. Food security...is causing families to lose livestock used for food and livelihoods. In some areas, men are moving their herds to find water and grazing elsewhere, leaving women and children behind to fend for themselves. Extreme droughts...are increasingly more common due to changes in climate.

LDR is supporting an ACT Alliance appeal to address the humanitarian crisis resulting from the drought in the Horn of Africa. Through this appeal, our partners in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia will provide food aid, cash-based assistance, safe and accessible water, other support and improvement strategies and climate-induced disaster risk reduction...partners are bringing water to affected areas, repairing existing infrastructure and education for local communities.

You may give to Grace with a designation for "LDR Africa" and it will be sent out at the end of the month. Thank you for whatever you can give. For more information go to: <https://www.ldr.org>



November 2022 Council Minutes

November 2022 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 Dave Lundahl stating that you would like the link to attend.

November 2022 Meeting Minutes can be found online at:
<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Council-Meeting-Minutes-11-14-22.pdf>

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



President:
Dave Lundahl
Vice President:
Meredith Junge
Secretary:
Nancy Hemming
Treasurer:
Hal Brauner
Financial Secretary:
Mary Stephens
Council Members:
Jeff Beck
Mike Franklin
Marshall Hill-Tanquist
Mary Ann Matzke
Pr. Dorthy Nielsen
Robyn Vega
Carol Warloe
Kendra Wollert
Ted Zhang

Volunteering at Grace

Our church is looking for volunteers for ushering, communion servers, altar guild, and coffee fellowship after church.

This Fall we have started using a computer on-line program for volunteering. "SignUpGenius" is easy to use. If you might be interested in being a volunteer, and are not currently receiving these emails, please let me know and I will add you to the monthly sign-up email and provide the link. You can look at the dates needed and decide if you would like to give it a try.

We have a team of people who are willing to help you learn the ropes. They are already organizing these areas. You are also welcome to talk with any of them.

Becky Kiersky - ushers
Cathy Mueller - readers and acolytes
Sandy Beachley - altar guild
Meredith Junge - coffee fellowship
Marshall Hill-Tanquist - communion servers

Thank you.
Marshall Hill-Tanquist
mhilltanquist@gmail.com



Grace Sewing/Quilting Group



We have always been known as the Quilting Group but we don't actually quilt anymore. Anyone who can cut a straight line, tie a square knot, pin and/or sew a blanket edge, or just come and chat with the group would be welcome and capable of helping with this rewarding task! Our numbers have decreased over the years and we would love to have some new energy.

The blankets we make mostly go to Vina Moses to be given to local families in need – some have been given to LWR to go to families in other countries. We will meet in the sewing room (in the basement through the Sunday School music/playroom). We plan to get together on the 2nd & 4th Wed of the month (could be adjusted) in the afternoon to avoid interfering with Sandcastle preschool kids.

Think of us if you have un-needed fabric, thread, sheets or tablecloths that could be used as quilt backs, quilt batting or maybe even unfinished quilting projects that we can find new homes for. **And please consider joining us at our gatherings!**

Any comments or questions please contact the Grace Office or Linda Samuels.

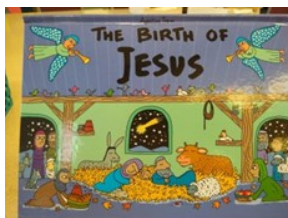
Christmas in the Grace Library

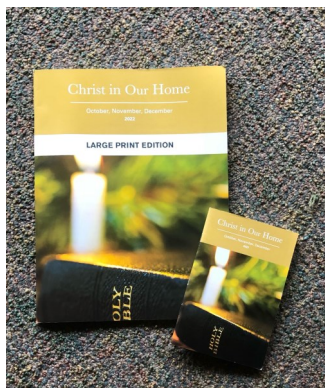
Your volunteers at the Grace Lutheran Church Library have quite a collection of Christmas books – the most fun are in the children's baskets! We are planning on a display in the Fireside Room but please visit the library to see more. And they can be checked out to take home for a while!!

If you haven't yet, check out our online catalog called Tiny Cat. There are more Christmas books – just click the Christmas link. You can get to the catalog from the Grace website under the Resource tab or visit at: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/GLC-Library>

If you would like more information – or to become a patron of our library – click on a book and then the button that says *Ask About Becoming a Library Patron*. Enter your name and email and/or phone and we will contact you. And as always, let us know if there is anything the Grace Library can do to help you keep reading.

---Linda Samuels, Jody Parker and the Grace Library group





Christ in Our Home

October-
December 2022

Copies can be found in the church entry and if you are needing a printed copy, please contact the church office.



Ladies Luncheon

On the Second Tuesday for December.

December 13 at 11:45
At The Corvallis Club (County Club)
(RSVP to Mary Ann B. by 12/11)



2022/2023
Complete book list
<https://bit.ly/3yZyHhn>

Global Book Club

Next Book Club Meeting
Tuesday,
December 6
at 1pm
Fireside Room

North to Paradise: A
Memoir. Ousman Umar,
Trans. by Kevin Gerry
Dunn



Thank you Frank and Sue Davis for your years in leading the Adult Bible Study.

Starting December 2022, The Adult Bible Study will no longer be offered at Grace. If you are interested in coordinating a Bible or Spiritual Study, please contact the church office.



Grace
Lutheran
Church
Foundation

Foundation News Website:
[http://grace97330.org/Foundation/
news/newsletter.html](http://grace97330.org/Foundation/news/newsletter.html)

December 2022 Newsletter
[http://grace97330.org/Foundation/
news/2022_12.html](http://grace97330.org/Foundation/news/2022_12.html)



Stone Soup of Corvallis needs our help

The Stone Soup program in Corvallis, which provides a free, hot meal daily to anyone in need, urgently needs additional volunteers to cook, serve, and clean up after meals. Volunteers work with experienced kitchen managers at each meal site -- St. Mary's Catholic Church and First Christian Church. Work shifts are available to fit almost any volunteer's schedule and preferences. Preferably, volunteers will commit to at least one shift per week for an extended period of time, such as months. Volunteers age 65 and older are again welcome, as Covid restrictions ease, also youth age 17 and older (or age 14-16 if working with a parent or responsible adult). All volunteers must be fully vaccinated, boosted, and able to work while masked. For more information, please visit stonesoupcorvallis.org or write stonesouphelp@gmail.com

SOUTH CORVALLIS FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

We're always looking for hosts to assist clients during our open hours:

Monday 12:15-3:15 pm
Wednesday 12:15-3:15 pm
Thursday 4:15-7:15 pm
Saturday 9:15 am - 12:15 pm

Must provide proof of COVID-19 Vaccination. For any questions, please contact:
Cathy Zollinger (541) 619-7832

Items Needed:

- Condiments
- Hearty Soup
- Cereals and Sweet Treats
- Gluten Free Items
- Fresh Produce and Backyard Eggs
- Personal Care Items
- Cleaning Supplies
- Pet Food
- Can Openers

Updates from Grace4 Center

