

January 2023  
volume XXII, issue 1

# Grace GATHERINGS

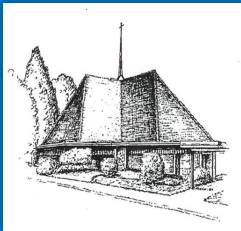
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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."*

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.*

## ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 29, 2023  
Following Worship**

This year, the Annual Meeting will return to in person.

## 2022 Annual Report

The Annual Report will be available no later than  
January 13, 2023 at the link below.

<https://bit.ly/3YV4afd>

## Grace Personnel

**Interim Pastor**—Dorothy Nielsen

541-377-1354

[prdorthy@grace9330.org](mailto:prdorthy@grace9330.org)

**Youth and Family Minister** – Kristin Young

406-417-1720

[Kristin@grace97330.org](mailto:Kristin@grace97330.org)

**Office Administrator** - Andrea Barnhurst

[office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org)

**Office Assistant** - Jody Parker

[jody@grace97330.org](mailto:jody@grace97330.org)

**Director of Music Ministries** - Bryson Skaar

[Bryson@grace97330.org](mailto:Bryson@grace97330.org)

**Percussion** - Kelsey Bleck

**Bookkeeper** - Robin Comforto

[bookkeeper@grace97330.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.

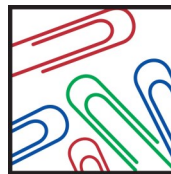
Visit our Grace web page at: [www.grace97330.org](http://www.grace97330.org)



## 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  
December 28, 2022**

Contributions for the Month of

December: \$24,597;

December Budget: \$38,500;

First 3 Weeks Giving: \$24,597;

Weekly Budget: \$9,695;

(4 weeks in October);

YTD contributions: \$288,140;

YTD budget: \$310,675

## 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](mailto:prayers@grace97330.org)*

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

### **Prayers:**

Linda & Tim  
DeAnn (sister of Cathy M)  
Cleo, Colby, Madelaine, Lydia and Shawn  
Berni and Doreen  
Mar & Jan  
Halley, family of Dan and Molly  
Michael, Becky's family friend  
Marilyn  
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)  
James, Jody's Father  
Steve, Cathy M. BIL  
Kaitlin and her Dad, Friend of Andrea  
Donna and Herb H.  
Gloria W.

Families in crisis  
Teens struggling w/ depression & their parents

### **For those grieving:**

Josephine Parker (Jody's Mother)  
Ted W.  
Pr. Jane

### **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.**



## 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 |
| Cameron Osborn     | 01/26 |
| Shane Mueller      | 01/28 |
| Michael Hadlock    | 01/31 |
| Mark Speulda       | 01/31 |

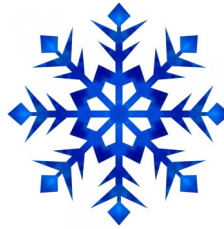
**Pastor Dorthy Nielsen**

*Contact Information*

Cell: 541-377-1354

Email:

[prdorthy@grace97330.org](mailto: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,

Happy New Year 2023! May the grace and mercy of our Savior continue to walk with you into the coming days and years.

So the calendar yields a change in the year number, a new month and opportunities for new beginnings. The tradition of making resolutions for the coming year seems like a good idea. Statistics tell us that something like 80% of Americans make resolutions at this time of year, but only around 8% fulfill their resolutions. Yet the need for change and transition is in reality always among us.

In a 1989 interview on his book, *The Vindication of Tradition*, American ecumenical theologian Jaroslav Pelikan explained his perspective on tradition versus traditionalism: "Tradition is the living faith of the dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of the living. Tradition lives in conversation with the past, while remembering where we are and when we are and that it is we who have to decide. Traditionalism supposes that nothing should ever be done for the first time, so all that is needed to solve any problem is to arrive at the supposedly unanimous testimony of this homogenized tradition."

The age old question on the lips of our young children has always been "why?" During times of transition this is one of the questions we need to ask ourselves and each other. Why? Why are we needing to change? Why have we done it this way in the past? Why can't we try...?

The other question we need to keep at hand is "What?" What is the "what" of transition and change? What is the goal? What needs to be let go? What can be embraced? What could "God at work among us" that invites us into change and transition?

These are good questions for churches as well as our individual lives. Each day is a new opportunity for looking back and ahead. The past and the future are meeting today. How does our yesterday help us understand who we are today and where we are headed tomorrow?

We believe "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) But that does not mean change doesn't happen for the Church, for

followers of Jesus. Change is a constant, a part of what life is. The verse from Hebrews is about our foundation: the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is God-with-us, is unchanging. What changes is us, our understanding and faith in who Jesus is. We believe that God's grace is unchanging, and that we do not have a full understanding of the expansive grace of God in our lives and the beloved cosmos.

Pelikan's perspective, "Tradition is the living faith of the dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of the living" tells me that if we let the past dictate what the goal for the future is, we are dead-in-the-water. We will be stuck in one place and not grow in faith and understanding, and will do things the way we always have without paying attention to the ways God is moving and working among us now.

That's one of the challenges that plagued people of faith during Jesus' ministry. Some things were different with Jesus and some things were even more orthodox with him. That's the conversation that tradition has. Traditionalism says "this is how we always do it." But tradition engages in the past and the future today to ask the questions "Why?" and "What?"

So as you consider resolutions and the on-going transitions of our time, keep the conversation going. Ask the good questions. Consider the past and the coming days and how God is calling us into the new horizon before us.

I am reminded of something transitions specialist William Bridges said: "We resist transition not because we can't accept the change, but because we can't accept letting go of that piece of ourselves that we have to give up when and because the situation has changed." Dear friends, let's make a resolution to trust God for the coming year, letting go of whatever needs to be released, so that we can embrace the whys and whats of God's grace.

In Christ, with hope and peace,  
Pastor Dorthy+



## 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



Heartfelt thanks to the generous  
and thoughtful members of Grace  
who donated gifts for  
House of Zion.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Sunday Activities**

Jan. 1—New Years Day Fellowship

Jan. 8—Intergenerational Potluck

Jan. 15—Constitution Discussion

Jan. 22—New Member Recognition

Jan. 22—Thank You Mary Gathering

Jan. 29—Congregation Annual Meeting

### **Quilters**

Wednesday, January 11 and 25 at 1pm

### **Ladies Luncheon**

Tuesday, January 10 and 24 at 11:45 am

### **Global Book Club**

Tuesday, January 3 at 1pm

### **Blood Drive**

Thursday, January 18

# Welcome, New Members

## New Member Recognition Sunday, January 22, 2023

If you are interested in learning what it means to be a member of Grace or would like to become a member of Grace, please contact Pr. Dorothy for more information.

We will be recognizing our new members during worship on January 22, 2023



### Reckoning with Racism 2023

The Oregon Synod is offering a six month course to continue learning, listening, and engaging with the role the church is called to take on in anti-racist work. You can register at this link:

[You can register here](#)

or visit with Kristin if you would like more information. Join us as we take this step in faith toward reconciliation.



### Intergenerational Potluck

January 8, 2023 in Ronnenkamp Hall  
following Worship.

. Join us for food, fellowship, and fun in the form of the game Fishbowl!



# Thank You

To all who assisted in making our 2022 Nativity Program a Success.  
We could not have put this on without everybody's help and support.





## Re-Opening Committee Disbands

Grace Lutheran Church Re-Opening Committee which was started over two years ago for the purpose of monitoring the protocols we follow for COVID and making necessary changes, has made the decision to disband. This decision was made due to the fact that with a majority of church members being vaccinated and that we are at a stage where the worst of the pandemic is behind us....there is no longer a need to meet on a monthly basis to make changes in our protocols related to COVID-19. We will still be watching local and national changes in COVID cases that would implement a need to restart this committee. In the meantime, this does not discount the importance of the following:

- STAY HOME IF YOU FEEL SICK! Is it allergies? A cold? , RSV? COVID? It is hard to tell the difference and the best way to protect others is to stay home if you are unwell.
- Get vaccinated if you haven't already.
- Get boosted if you are eligible. Most adults (12+) are eligible for one booster and those folks aged 50 and over and/or that are immunocompromised are eligible for a second shot.
- The CDC recently approved COVID-19 boosters for children 5-11.
- Wash your hands frequently.

At this time, duties currently performed by the reopening committee are being reassigned to other Grace committees or committee officers to follow through. This will include but is not limited to Grace facility uses and requests. At this time, we would also like to remind everybody that Grace doors will continue to remain locked unless Sandcastle Preschool is in session. Grace office hours will stay the same until a new pastor is called and is on site where we will then determine and update open office hours.

Committee members included; Ron Larson, Nancy Hemming, Andrea Barnhurst, Rebekah Hadlock and Bob Keith

## A Special Thank You to Mary Stephens, Outgoing Financial Secretary.

After 27 years Mary Stephens is stepping down as our Financial Secretary. This is a remarkable gift of time and talent in support of the mission in ministry here at Grace. In this position, she has kept the confidential financial giving records for our congregation – providing quarterly (and now every four months) Statement of Giving Reports to all with a record of financial giving in a calendar year. She has also been a faithful member of the Stewardship Committee in providing an annual estimate of giving to help establish viable budgets and to support the many other special giving initiatives such as the annual “Miracle on Kings & Harrison” in the late 1990s and early 2000s and “Giving It Forward” in the 2010s.

Mary will be replaced by Mike Franklin who has been working with Mary since this past summer to transition into this important role.

On behalf of the Congregation, thank you Mary!!

Dave Lundahl, 2022 Council President.

**Please join us on Sunday, January 22, 2023 following worship to  
recognize Mary for all her hard work.**



## Sunday Readings for January 2023

### January 1, 2023

#### Name of Jesus

Numbers 6:22-27  
Psalm 8  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:15-21

### January 8, 2023

#### Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

### January 15, 2023

#### Second Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

### January 22, 2023

#### Third Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

### January 29, 2023

#### Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12



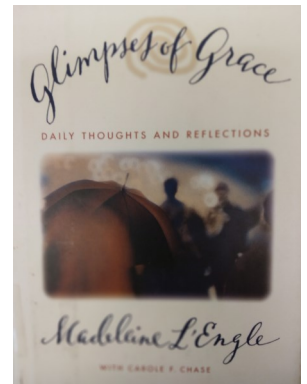
## Daily Devotional Literature for the New Year By Jody Parker

Are you looking for a daily devotional book to read for the upcoming New Year this 2023? You can find one of several of these devotional books in our Grace Church Library. We have seven volumes of daily readings to keep you spiritually inclined in the prospective new year. I have found daily inspirational readings that I use to start my day to be reflective, thoughtful and contemplative. They are an incentive for meditation and transformation. If you have always wanted to try a devotional, now is your chance. Get a jump on that resolution to start the new year out right! You can

check out one of our volumes from the Library. You can even keep it and read it the entire year. It's not mandatory that you bring this type of literature back within a few weeks. Take and begin a new healthy habit of well-being and check out a Devotional you can read the entire year!

We have three daily devotionals by Youngdahl, *This is God's World*; *This is God's Day*; and *Live Today*. We have two daily devotionals by William Barclay, *Daily Celebration*, and *Daily Celebration Volume 2*. and one by J.B. Phillips titled, *for this day* and a lovely one by Madeline L'Engle, *Glimpses of Grace*.

Drop by Grace Church on a Monday or a Thursday when staff is here to let you in, or Sunday morning.



## December 2022 Council Minutes

December 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](mailto: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.

December 2022 Meeting Minutes can be found online at:  
<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Congregational-Council-Meeting-12-12-22.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

## Upcoming Constitution Discussion

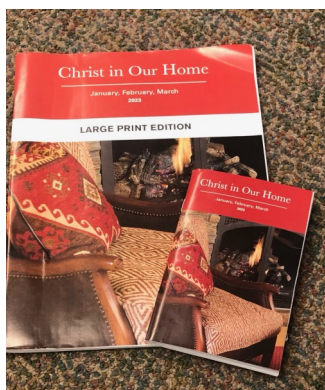
A discussion period is being scheduled for Sunday morning, January 15, 2023 to discuss upcoming changes to Grace's constitution.

A number of constitutional changes are going to be proposed at this congregation meeting that you should be aware of. Some of these changes are simply changes to the ELCA's Model Constitution for Congregations made at the Churchwide Assembly this past summer and require a congregation approval prior to changing our constitution to reflect the model constitution language. A second change to our bylaws is a simple change but will then allow a significant amount of our committee organizational structure to be changed by continuing resolution (as well as bylaw) as opposed to currently only allowing changes as bylaws. What that means is that instead of committee organizational language being approved by vote of the congregation, they would be able to be made by either through the congregation or the council.

The purpose of making this change is to allow the council to be more nimble in modifying the constitution to reflect the organizational structure as it exists at any point in time. Currently, there is much less than a 1 to 1 relationship between our current committee structure and the structure prescribed by the constitution. By making the amendment referenced above, that will allow the council to bring the constitution into line with how we are currently operating as well as suggest some changes and then to be more nimble in reaction that either fits into the organizational structure or to modify the structure to reflect what is actually happening.

To that end, a task force has proposed a new structure (currently only in spreadsheet format, not constitutional language) that the council has adapted in principle. That spreadsheet will be presented at this meeting with any input taken into account before writing constitutional language (in a continuing resolution). This spreadsheet will then be presented at the congregation meeting for approval of the concepts represented prior to development of continuing resolution language.

The constitution verbiage changes and the referenced spreadsheet will be distributed in the near future.



## Christ in Our Home

January -  
March 2023

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 and Fourth Tuesdays in  
January at 11:45 am

January 10

At Old World Deli

January 24

At Panera



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

## Global Book Club

Next Book Club Meeting  
Tuesday,  
January 3  
at 1pm  
Fireside Room

So You Want To Talk  
about Race  
by Ijeoma Oluo



Thursday, January 19, 2023  
In the parking lot at Grace

Please contact Marna Renshaw for more  
information



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](http://stonesoupcorvallis.org) or write [stonesouphelp@gmail.com](mailto: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



**Luther House**  
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State University

## Work Party at Luther House

We are looking forward to welcoming Pastor Hallie at the end of January, as well as students for the winter term, and we need your help! The Luther House property needs a bit of sprucing up, including trimming shrubs, pruning plants, clearing out old growth, and more! We'll be working rain or shine or...whatever (it's Oregon)! Join us on Saturday, January 14 from 10am to 12pm. Please bring your own gloves and small hand tools. Dress for all weather.