

March 2023
volume XXII, issue 3

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.

40 days OF LENT

Mid Week Worship and Soup Supper

March 1

At Grace Lutheran Church

March 8

At Grace Lutheran Church

Hosted by Luther House

March 15

At 1st Presbyterian Church

March 22

At Episcopal Church of
the Good Samaritan

March 29

At Grace Lutheran Church

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday—April 6

7pm

At Episcopal Church of
the Good Samaritan

Good Friday—April 7 7pm

First Christian Church

Easter Vigil—April 8 7pm

Grace Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday

April 9, 2023

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.

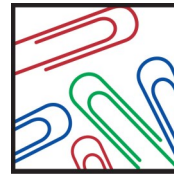
Visit our Grace web page at: www.grace97330.org



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
February 24, 2023

Contributions for the Month of

February: \$18,972;

February Budget: \$29,600;

First 4 Weeks Giving: \$18,972;

Weekly Budget: \$5,920;

(5 weeks in February);

YTD contributions: \$63,322;

YTD budget: \$59,480



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:

Cleo, Colby, Madelaine, Lydia and Shawn
Halley, family of Dan and Molly
Michael, Becky's family friend
Marilyn
Jena's unborn baby
Hal D
Linsay and daughter, family of Marshall
Jaya's mother and sister
Pam (Junge niece)
Kaitlin and her Dad, Friend of Andrea
Donna and Herb H.
Jena and Family, niece of Linda S.
Mike, friend of Grace member
Rhoda, family member of Pr. Dorthy
Dayle C.
Denise, friend of Andrea B.
Members of Fir Lawn Lutheran Church—Sweet Home
Families in crisis
Teens struggling w/ depression & their parents

For those grieving:

Betty McCauley
Mar R, Former Grace member
Sally, sister of Mary Jane W.
Ashley M., friend of Pr. Dorthy
Ron Olson
Wayne Wahrmond

Other Concerns:

For an end to violence against each other; for the
People of Ukraine and Russia; the people of Turkey
and Syria, 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.*

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Stanley Miles | 03/03 |
| Ron Larson | 03/05 |
| Adele Neukomm | 03/05 |
| Michael Gallagher | 03/07 |
| Jaya Lapham | 03/07 |
| Bryson Skaar | 03/07 |
| Michael Kinch | 03/09 |
| Shelly Lundahl | 03/09 |
| Lillian White | 03/09 |
| Becky Kiersky | 03/10 |
| Kathy Vohland | 03/16 |
| Todd Weber | 03/19 |
| Carol Guard | 03/20 |
| Doris Peters | 03/20 |

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Maia Gelser | 03/21 |
| Leighton Nichols | 03/21 |
| Diane Stadsvold | 03/21 |
| Carol Kamke | 03/24 |
| Phillip King | 03/24 |
| Allie Palmgren | 03/25 |
| Scott Shaff | 03/25 |
| Peggy Custer | 03/26 |
| Wanda Parrott | 03/27 |
| Kathy Farnsworth | 03/28 |
| MaryJane Weber | 03/28 |
| Marilyn Lesmeister | 03/29 |
| Keith Foster | 03/31 |



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 Grace,

The Ida Fund needs to be replenished!!!

Some of you have asked how the Ida (pronounced EE-dah) Fund is doing, if funds are needed. During the pandemic the number of requests for assistance went down, most likely because for a time the office was closed. Even phone call requests were fewer. As we have staffed the office on Mondays and Thursdays, and installed an intercom at the door to communicate with staff, more people have been asking for help.

Until recently, Bottle Drop bags and random donations for the Ida Fund have sustained our ability to give limited help. It has mostly been gas vouchers, a month paid for car insurance, medical bill, contribution to rental deposit, an overdue utility bill, and the like. The requests for help have now grown rapidly; to the point that some Thursdays are so filled with walk-ins that it is a challenge to get work done in the office.

There has been some discussion among leaders that we need volunteers to be in the office on certain days to take on the assistance requests. I am not convinced that is what is needed. It takes some training and a great deal of patience and listening to discern the needs and decide the best help to offer. It is emotionally draining work, and needs to be confidential.

Then I got an email from Vina Moses Center. Could we meet. YES!

The day after the Annual Meeting in January, I met with a VMC program coordinator and someone from St Vincent de Paul to explore possibilities. This meeting got me excited. I agreed for Grace to become a partner in the Benton County Financial Assistance Network. It is comprised of Vina Moses Center, We Care, Casa Latinos Unidos, St Mary's Catholic Church, St Vincent de Paul, and Grace Lutheran Church. VMC surveyed other churches and no others have discretionary funds. However, many churches financially support VMC and We Care. They also get

non-government grants from other sources.

Here's how this is working...VMC staff, open M-F for assistance, engages with a client to discover the need and works with them to make a plan. Through the collaboration of the Financial Assistance Network, VMC asks each partner to contribute a portion of the need. VMC provides the information on where to send the support. Since Feb 1 over \$1400 from the Ida Fund has joined with other funds to help eight families stay in their homes so that they can start fresh with less worries.

Grace is still giving out gas vouchers and assisting with other requests as they come. Our partnership with VMC means our neighbors aren't running all over town trying to cobble together bits of assistance.

So, to answer the question "How is the Ida Fund doing? Does it need more funds?" The answer is YES! Funds are needed so that we can continue to collaborate with VMC and our partners in Corvallis to provide meaningful, significant help to those struggling through challenging times.

The Stewardship Committee decided to sponsor a Lenten Service Project of Thank Offerings for our Ida Fund. If you are interested in adding this discipline of giving to your Lenten journey, you can pick up a label to wrap around a jar or can and daily collect money with a word of thanks for God's abundant grace in your life.

Other donations can be given directly through Grace, either via a check with memo noting Ida Fund, or through our website donation portal for special offerings.

We are in the process of reconstituting the Social Outreach Committee to strengthen our relationships with local helping organizations and inspire you with Ida's heart. If you are interested in being on this committee, please contact Pr 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

Meredith Junge

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 - Cathy Mueller

Hospital Visitation Team - Dale Weber,
541.757.3043

Mission Groups - Bob Saathoff, 541.929.3045

Stewardship Committee

Mary Ann Brennan

Disaster Preparedness Committee

Andrea Barnhurst, 541.757.1600

Safety Committee—TBA

Outreach Committee—TBA

Campus Ministry at Luther House

Pr. Hallie Parkins, Campus Minister

Kristin Young, Interim Outreach Minister

Melissa Clark, Office & Hospitality Coordinator

Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers

Norma Moody, 541.754.2555



Easter Choir

Please watch for more information on rehearsal time for the Easter Choir.



Disaster Preparedness Discussion

The Disaster Preparedness Committee is excited to host a monthly discussion on Disaster Preparedness. Each Month we will host a 1 hour discussion on the 3rd Sunday of each month in the library starting at 11:30 am. Each month we will talk about a different topic and have presentations, discussions and activities for all to learn. This discussion is for all, no matter your experience or knowledge, we can all grow and learn from each other.

March 19—Having a Plan and Go Bags

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea in the church office at office@grace97330.org or on Thursdays at 541-757-1600





College Student Care Packages

We will be collecting monetary, food, and gift items up to Sunday, March 5, and assembling packages during fellowship that day.



First Sunday of the Month Pot Luck

March 5, 2023
following Worship

Join us for food, conversation, and filling out March Madness brackets--prizes for the most accurate brackets at the end of the tournament!

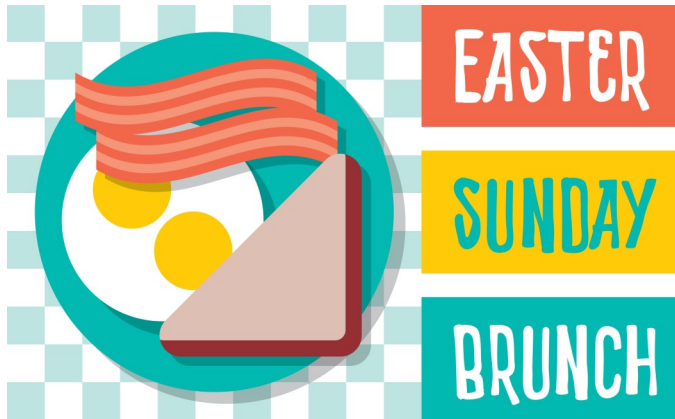


Youth in the Community

Our youth are vastly gifted, and we want to support them as they share their gifts with the community! Kristin will have a whiteboard in the Fireside Room that families can add to, as well as an online option. Let us know what our youth are up to, from music and theater to sports and 4H!



Saturday, March 18 at Hoodoo or Willamette Pass?



Easter Brunch

Grace's youth will be hosting brunch between Easter services as a fundraiser for the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Set-up will be Saturday, April 8 (time TBD) in Ronnenkamp. We will also have Easter eggs available a few weeks in advance for congregants to fill for our Easter egg hunt.



Yard Clean Up Work Party Saturday, April 1, 2023 8:30 am—12 pm



Sunday, April 23, 2023

Kristin will be in touch with families about youth roles and additional information.



Thursday, March 16, 2023 In the parking lot at Grace

Please contact The American Red Cross to sign up or for more information



Sunday Readings for March 2023

March 5, 2023

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT — THANK OFFERINGS FOR IDA FUND

In 1955, Ida (*Ee-dah*) Irgens Moller, a Danish immigrant, along with husband, Helge, became members of Grace. By the early 1970s she discovered there was a need for emergency assistance for families in crisis. For a time she quietly dropped off groceries and warm clothes on doorsteps where she knew the need was great. She soon realized it was more than one person could address, and she helped found FISH, an outreach organization to provide assistance in Corvallis.

Ida was chair of Grace's social ministry committee. She had a friendship with another caring woman, Vina Moses, who had been gathering warm clothes and other helpful items to be given freely to anyone in need. When Vina's compassion outgrew her own home, Ida convinced Grace to let Vina use one of their rental cottages on the corner of Kings and Harrison, until it outgrew that house and moved to a larger space.

As of February 2023, the Ida Fund, established by Grace over 40 years ago to continue Ida's compassionate care of neighbors in crisis, has renewed its relationship with the Vina Moses Center. Through VMC, a collaboration of churches including Grace's Ida Fund, is helping with significant needs in our community. The fund is also helping with gas vouchers and other incidental needs, like car registration renewal, a utility bill, or medical bills. As a result the funds are low.

Through the Stewardship Committee's Lenten Service Project, we are collecting donations to fund the Ida Fund so that it can continue to make a difference in our community. Thank you for whatever you can give.

Click here to print your LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT — THANK OFFERINGS FOR IDA FUND

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Lent-2023-Service-project.pdf>

Annual Meeting Update Report on Constitution Discussion

For those of you at the annual meeting, you will recall that a major part of the discussion relative to the constitution changes centered on the removal of the words, “*proclaiming God’s love for the world*” from the description of the responsibilities of a minister of Word and Sacrament (Pastor). It was the consensus of those present that I contact the secretary of the ELCA, Sue Rothmeyer (who I happen to know from previous encounters), to make sure the words would be reinstated in the model constitution. As an aside, this change was in a part of the model constitution preceded by an asterisk (*) so cannot be changed at the congregation level. Failing to accomplish the desired results, through the office of the secretary, other potential “fixes” on my part were authorized by consensus.

The good news, when I called the ELCA secretary’s office, The Rev. N. Keith Fry, the executive for administration in the secretary’s office returned my call. His first comment was that he could tell me what our concern was – he was correct. They have already had a lot of comment on this item. He explained what we already knew, the constitution change was presented on the 2019 assembly floor so was brought to the 2022 assembly for approval. Furthermore, he said that prior to presentation at the 2022 assembly, they had combed the minutes of the 2019 assembly, trying to find something that would allow them to leave the subject phrase in, they found nothing and were dutybound to present it as approved in 2019. However, it is certainly on their agenda to correct in 2025, we need do nothing on that end.

He said in some synods, congregations are adding a continuing resolution that picks up on the language that had been left out. I asked if we could do that since there is an asterisk on that section of the constitution. He said continuing resolutions are allowed as long as they do not change what is already present in the constitution.

Since continuing resolutions can be approved by a 2/3 vote of the congregation council, a continuing resolution was prepared and presented at the February congregation council meeting more than nine (9) people (2/3 of 13 voting council members) approved it. Therefore, the continuing resolution below has been added to our constitution:

C9.03.A23. This congregation also affirms every minister of Word and Sacrament shall proclaim God’s love for the world.

Yours in Christ,
Mike Franklin

February 2023 Council Minutes

February 2023 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.

February 2023 Meeting Minutes can be found online at:
<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Council-Meeting-Minutes-02-13-23-00000002.pdf>



President:
Dave Lundahl
Vice President:
Meredith Junge
Secretary:
Nancy Hemming
Treasurer:
Hal Brauner
Financial Secretary:
Mike Franklin
Council Members:
Jeff Beck
Charlotte Chrisman
Frank Davis
Angie Gallagher
Mike Franklin
Marshall Hill-Tanquist
Pr. Dorothy Nielsen
Robyn Vega
Carol Warloe
Kendra Wollert



Heroes Among Us...Melanie Dobson



Author Melanie Dobson spoke to the Library Mid-Willamette Chapter of Pacific NW Assoc. of Church Libraries on January 19 from Portland, by Zoom. Melanie has just finished editing her latest book that is coming out next Fall. She describes her writing as close to her heart because it is about “ordinary people doing extraordinary things to love their neighbor and help them.” She has found many people like this in History. WWII has been a topic where people who she has met and interviewed for her historical fiction novels. Her novels are “Time-Slip” alternating stories with WWII and present day.

When the Russians invaded Ukraine February 24, 2022, the similarities of ordinary people doing extraordinary things hit home for Melanie. She wanted to meet some of these people. A friend of her family, Tom Baker, would be taking a missionary team to Romania and Western Ukraine in August of 2022. Melanie and her husband took the opportunity to go help. For two weeks they worked giving out 8,000 bags of food, helping with sheltering refugee children. They worked their best to encourage the folks living there. In the towns in Ukraine, churches and schools doubled as shelters where they helped bring food and resources to overwhelmed and desperate people. Melanie’s most heartfelt job there was to help get rooms ready at facilities to take out 300 of the most at risk children.

Dobson described a former celebrity in Romania who had been in prison and was a martial arts fighter. He began helping at the border with a dozen sandwiches. Seeing their need, he began to help them and ended up with his mission of helping tens of thousands of people who were flooding the border by bringing them coffee and truck loads of food.

Melanie had an unexpected experience with meeting a Publisher who had translated her books, *Catching the Wind* and *Hidden Among the Stars*, into Romanian. Also, there was a grandmother she met who shared with her the story of her firsthand account of communism in Romania. Melanie’s mission of being in Ukraine was truly a blessing for an author.

by Jody Parker



Stories that stir
the heart and soul
melaniedobson.com



Luther House
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State University

Upcoming Activities and Volunteer Opportunities

Work Party

Saturday, March 25, 2023
9am—12pm
At Luther House

Coffee and Snacks provided

Evening Student Dinner and Conversation

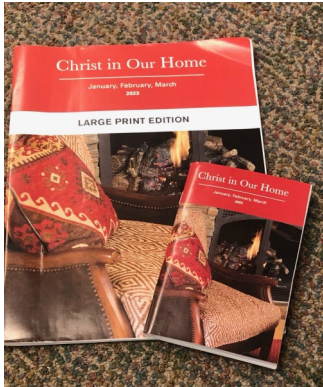
Sundays at 7pm

If you would like to sign up click the
link below or contact Melissa at
Luther House

[https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/10C094AAEAC2EA3FDC61-
sunday](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094AAEAC2EA3FDC61-sunday)

Lenten Evening Prayer

Thursdays at 7pm



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

March 14

At Cascade BBQ on Kings

March 28

At New Morning Bakery



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

Next Book Club Meeting
Tuesday,
March 7
at 1pm
Fireside Room

The Lost Chapters by .
Leslie Schwartz

Global Book Club

Quilters and Sewing Group

Grace
Lutheran
Church
Foundation



Foundation News Website:

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

March 2023 Newsletter

[https://grace97330.org/Foundation/
news/2023_03.html](https://grace97330.org/Foundation/news/2023_03.html)

2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 1pm
In the Sewing Room in the Basement

Contact Linda S. for more information

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



Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers of Corvallis

Call 541-757-0980

501 NW 25th Street
Corvallis, Oregon 97330

email us: caregiversvic@gmail.com
Open Monday-Friday 9 - noon

VOLUNTEER INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS of CORVALLIS is a service organization whose mission is to help older and/or disabled adults live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. Volunteers from Grace Lutheran Church and 6 other local churches provide transportation to and from medical appointments; take those in need shopping or go shopping for them; make friendly visits and offer respite care for family caregivers. Building wheelchair ramps, chair platforms, and handrails is another vital part of V.I.C.'s ministry. Their office at St. Mary's Church is open Monday-Friday from 9:30 until noon. If you would like to become a volunteer or ask for assistance, please call 541 757 0980, visit their website at www.caregiversvic.org, or send an email to caregiversvic@gmail.com