

January 2024
volume XXIII, issue 1

Grace GATHERINGS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

435 NW 21st Street

Corvallis, Oregon 97330



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ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL REPORT

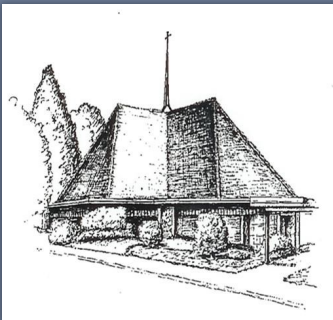
2024 Annual Meeting and 2023 Annual Report

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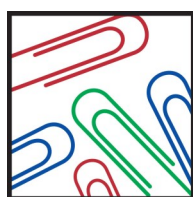


Grace Lutheran Church of Corvallis is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. Whoever you are, Whatever your past, However you live, Whomever you love – You are welcome here.

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 commu-
nity and world manifesting with
caring hearts and helping hands
the good news of the Kingdom
of God.”



Office Hours

Church Staff Schedule

Monday and Thursday (on site):
9am—4pm

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

If you reach our voice mail, please leave a
message. We do check voice mails
regularly.

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Giving at a Glance Support the many ministries of Grace Lutheran

Contributions as of December 19, 2023

Contributions for the Month of
December: \$17,914;
December Budget: \$35,800;
First 3 Weeks Giving: \$17,914
Weekly Budget: \$8,960;
(4 weeks in December);
YTD contributions: \$276,248;
YTD budget: \$298,950

Grace Personnel

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

Kristin@grace97330.org

Office Administrator - Andrea Barnhurst
office@grace97330.org

Director of Music Ministries - Bryson Skaar
Bryson@grace97330.org

Percussion - Kelsey Bleck

Bookkeeper - Robin Comforto
bookkeeper@grace97330.org

Financial Secretary: Mike Franklin

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

Custodian - Outside Contractor

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:

Adele
Sue S.
Millie
Sue M.
Dan J., Former Director of Music
Pam (Junge niece)
Mike, friend of Grace member
Kathy V.
Ali B.
Carol G.
Rusti, Kathy B.'s mother
George, Sharon R.'s brother
Trish and family, Neighbor of the Wernz's daughter
Bret, Andrea's brother
Jaya's nephew
Capella, Jaya's sister
Meghan, Niece to Cathy M.
Cathie, friend of the Rosenkoetters
Shirley C.
Connie and Jason
Teens and Families in crisis

Prayers of Comfort

For the Family of Hal Brauner

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Briskey family on the birth of James

Other Concerns:

For an end to gun violence and war; for our houseless and hungry neighbors; those who are fighting wildfires, storms, floods, droughts, earthquakes and for support staff and relief workers; for our BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ siblings who experience exclusion, hate daily; for the Vineyard Cluster churches...



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 Strohle	01/11
Scott Berdahl	01/12

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
Henry Briskey	01/31
Michael Hadlock	01/31
Mark Speulda	01/31

Pastor Emerson Remy Remmers

Contact Information

Cell:

Email:

revremy@grace97330.org

Office Hours

Mon.-Thurs: In the Area

Friday: Sabbath

Saturday: Day Off

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

It is my delight and honor to be your new pastor! Thank you to everyone who has already made me feel so welcome. I can't wait to journey with you in faith. January we will be having several Rendezvous with Remy events! These events will allow me to meet more of you in smaller groups. You can get to know me and I can get to know you. We tried to create a variety of events, so that there are a variety of ways to engage. God created a beautifully diverse creation and having a diverse set of events is one way to honor God and each other. That being said fellowship events are an amazing way for all of us to get to know each other. If you can't make the ones in January, do not fret I have a feeling these will not be the only events of this kind. Dinners, walks, game nights, are wonderful ways of being in community with one another.

I have been so blessed by you this past month. Thank you for the wisdom and grace you have shown me. As the months go by I would love to learn more about the rituals that are meaningful to you. When you think back to your time at Grace (or even other churches), what rituals, hymns, bible studies, or small groups made you feel deeply connected to our Creator? What moments inspired a breakthrough in your own spiritual life? One of my favorite parts of the liturgy happens almost every service is the Confession and Forgiveness. Here is where we confess our sins as a community and as a community receive grace and forgiveness. There are times every week in which my actions harm my neighbor. Where I make judgements on my neighbor, don't help others where I had the capacity to, and I know I participate in larger systems where I don't know the ramifications. Was this product that I bought made ethically? Did they pay their workers a living wage? Can I even afford a different product? We don't always know all the consequences to our actions when we are called to love our neighbor.

How then should I keep track of these things? Should I just stop trying to be good and ethical if there is no point? Breathe. God doesn't keep a tally sheet of all the good and bad you do waiting to smite you if you have one more tally in the bad column. Life is more grey, and God loves and cherishes you. God gives you his grace which frees you to better love your neighbor.

Yes, we should try to limit our harm to one another, and try to put more good in the word. God gives us grace. This is not a net sum game. In the Confession and Forgiveness part of the liturgy we confess all the ways knowingly and unknowingly we have failed. And we ask for God's grace. God tells us there is nothing you could do to lose my grace or my love. You are always my child and I want good things for you.

Before each service I like to remind my assistants that don't worry if you mess up, say the wrong word, or do something out of order – grace abounds. God will show up even if we say the words wrong, even if there is unresolved conflict, even if I trip and fall on my face up the aisle. Because of God's grace for us, we are more graceful with each other and ourselves. After we confess our sins the person who is leading the service forgives us our sins, so that we can better live in community with each other.

Pronouns! We all use pronouns every day. Gender is how we relate to ourselves and each other. Gender is a way that many people have related to each other. If you have ever attended a women's or men's group and felt like the environment allowed you to be more vulnerable because of the gender around you, you've experienced how gender is important. Language is imperfect and something that we have constantly changed to better reflect the truth that we feel. The pronouns you should use to refer to me are they/them/theirs. This best reflects my gender. This will be a learning curve, and we will have grace with one another. If you get it wrong, I will try to say "ouch". Then you are given the opportunity to try the sentence again with the correct pronoun. It's going to take some time, and we will show each other grace as we learn.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Remy



- Sun. January 7 at 11:30 am -
Pot Luck and White Elephant
Bingo

- Sat. January 13 at 5:30 pm -
Winter Bonfire and Pot Luck
Grace will provide hot dogs. Side Dishes
must require no electricity

**- Sun. January 21 after
worship -**
Zoom Coffee Hour

- Sat. February 10 at 10 am -
Rendezvous walk at
Starker Arts Park
Meet in the Parking Lot

**Join us for Food and
Fellowship
as we get to know Pr. Remy**

Space is limited at each location, please
contact Kendra W. for availability at each
location and to RSVP

January 3 at 5pm
The Rosenkoetter's

January 9 at 5:30pm
The Junge's

January 17 at 6pm
The Hadlock/Beachley's

January 22 at 6:15 pm
The Wollert's

January 31 at 5:30pm
The Wernz's

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 TBD

Disaster Preparedness Committee

Andrea Barnhurst, 541.757.1600

Safety Committee—TBA

Outreach Committee—Rob Beltran



Out and About Coffee Hours

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

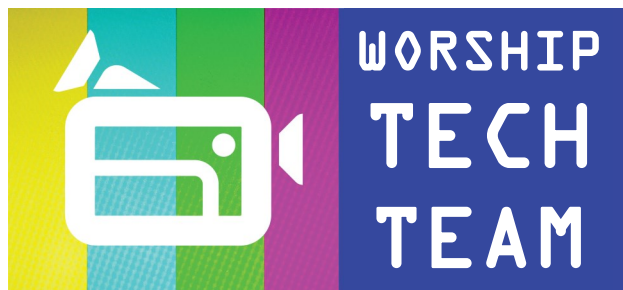
Please contact Kristin to set up a location or drop by Luther House to see her.



Choir Practice Thursdays at 5:30 pm

Please contact Director of Music for more information

All are Welcome



Caden Buck
Shelly Lundahl
Bruce Stephens
Mary Stephens
Domnique Williams



Luther House
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State University

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28, 2023
Following Worship

This year, the Annual Meeting will remain in person only

ANNUAL REPORT

2023 Annual Report

The Annual Report will be available no later than January 14, 2024. Printed copies will be available in the church entry and electronic copy can be found at the link below

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-Grace-Lutheran-Church-Annual-Report.pdf>

Bridge Grant

January 14-15

(evening Sunday through afternoon Monday)

High schoolers! Join us at Luther House to learn about creation care thru worship, fellowship, small groups, and a service project at Avery Park! Email kristin@grace97330.org for more info!

Gather: Rivers of Mercy

Wednesday, January 24, 6-8pm
at Block 15 in South Town

Pub theology and conversation for folks 18-35. Email kristin@grace97330.org, and find us on Instagram at [gather.rivers](https://www.instagram.com/gather.rivers)

Board Game Day

Luther House

Saturday January 27 from 12-6pm

For folks 18-35, come learn a new game, play an old favorite, and enjoy some company at Luther House!



Thursday, January 11, 2024

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



Courtyard Memorial Project

The Courtyard is a special architectural feature of our church. With tender loving care, the shrubbery and flowers and the tree are maintained to make this an inviting space. It is a space for social gathering. It is a quiet space for personal reflection. It is a space for worship such as Lenten service campfire prior to Easter Sunday.

The Courtyard will be renovated with a new walking surface to fix the concrete deck that is cracked and uneven causing a safety problem. The Property Committee envisions the new walking surface to be 12-inch square pavers that are rose and grey colored and installed in a checkerboard pattern. The rose colored pavers will be the memorial pavers that can be inscribed with the individual's name and date.

The Property Committee is requesting special contributions from individual members and former Grace members to fund this renovation project with the pavers. The project cost is estimated to be \$21,000; the Grace Foundation has graciously agreed to fund \$14,000 as matching funds (2:1 ratio) for the \$7,000 to be contributed from individual members. Checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church to the escrow account "Courtyard Memorial Project" will ensure that your contribution is recorded as a charitable contribution.



NEW YEAR, NEW RESOLUTION:
RESOLVE TO
PROTECT
YOUR LEGACY



If you are interested in learning more about how to be prepared for a disaster, please contact Andrea in the church office.



Sunday, January 7, 2024

Baptism of our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 14, 2024

Second Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 21, 2024

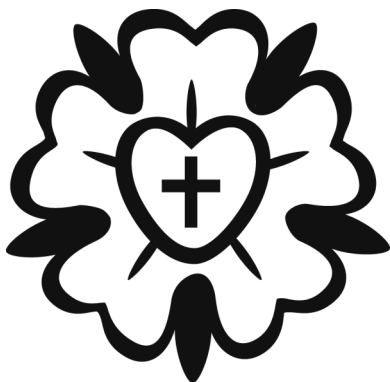
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 28, 2023

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

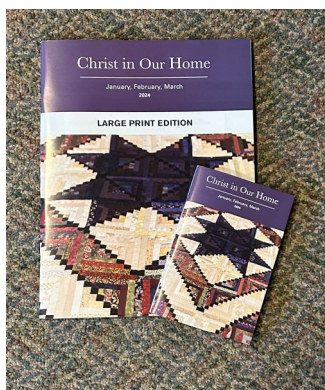


December 2023 Council Minutes, Executive Committee meeting, and other interesting items can be found in a binder on the church office counter. Should you want them emailed to you, please just notify us at office@grace97330.org. You are also welcome to attend council meetings, should you want to know 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.

December 2023 Meeting Minutes can be found online at:
<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Council-Meeting-Minutes-12-11-23-00000002.pdf>

President: Dave Lundahl	Council Members: Jeff Beck
Vice President: Meredith Junge	Charlotte Chrisman
Secretary: Nancy Hemming	Frank Davis
Treasurer Elect Bob Keith	Angie Gallagher
Financial Secretary: Mike Franklin	Mike Franklin
	Marshall Hill-Tanquist
	Robyn Vega
	Carol Warloe
	Kendra Wollert



Christ in Our Home

January—
March 2024

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



On Second and Fourth Tuesdays
at 11:45 am

January 9, 2024
New Morning Bakery

January 23, 2024
El Sol de Mexico—9th Street



Wisdom Seekers Book Group

New Book Starting January 18

The Wisdom Seekers Book Group will be starting a new book on Thursday, January 18th - *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. An NPR review states, "As he's done throughout his spectacular writing career, McBride looks squarely at savage truths about race and prejudice, but he also insists on humor and hope."

Meetings are at noon every Thursday via Zoom, covering about 30 pages each week.

Please join us for some fun discussions! If you would like to do so, please contact Mark Klopsch at klopschm@comcast.net so that he can add you to the Zoom invitation.

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)

January 2024 Newsletter
[https://grace97330.org/Foundation/
news/2024_01.html](https://grace97330.org/Foundation/news/2024_01.html)

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

Contact Linda S. for more information



Grace's Global Book Club

Meeting is the first Tuesday of Each Month
1 pm in the Fireside Room

Complete 2023/2024 book list
<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Global-Book-Club-Readings-for-2023-2024.pdf>

Upcoming books for 2023

January 2

The Water Defenders How Ordinary People Saved a Country from Corporate Greed

February 6

Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope by
Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WeDunn.

March 5ar

Hannah's War by Jan Eliasberg

April 2

Three books with the same title
The Only Woman in the Room

Book Suggestion: *Gospel Parallels*

From Jody Parker

The Grace Church Library has a book of *Gospel Parallels A Synopsis of the First Three Gospels* of the Revised Standard Version. Good Reads has this to say about a later edition of the Grace Church Library copy: "A classic since 1949, *Gospel Parallels* presents Matthew, Mark and Luke printed side-by-side for easy and enlightening study. Using a parallel arrangement of columns, *Gospel Parallels*, highlights differences and similarities in language and chronology between the first three gospels. This unique reference tool will benefit anyone interested in examining the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Preachers will find this work useful for creating a complete picture of the life of Christ. Students of the English Bible will use it to come to their own conclusions about the variations in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Advanced scholars will use the scholarly apparatus to study the textual variations in the earliest known Greek and Latin Manuscripts."

I have found it interesting to look and compare the gospels for a quick reference study. It is easier and less cumbersome than going thru the New Testament Bible itself and trying to locate the passages. If you are curious and would like to enhance your study of Jesus and the New Testament and would like to develop study skills, then this handy book is one you will enjoy to read and peruse. It's also handy to have and practical if you are doing a Bible Study group.



CHURCH LIBRARY
News

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.