

GraceNotes

A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

RALLY DAY

BACK TO SCHOOL BACK TO GRACE!

Sunday School, Worship, BBQ!
PAGES 4, 8, and BACK COVER

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

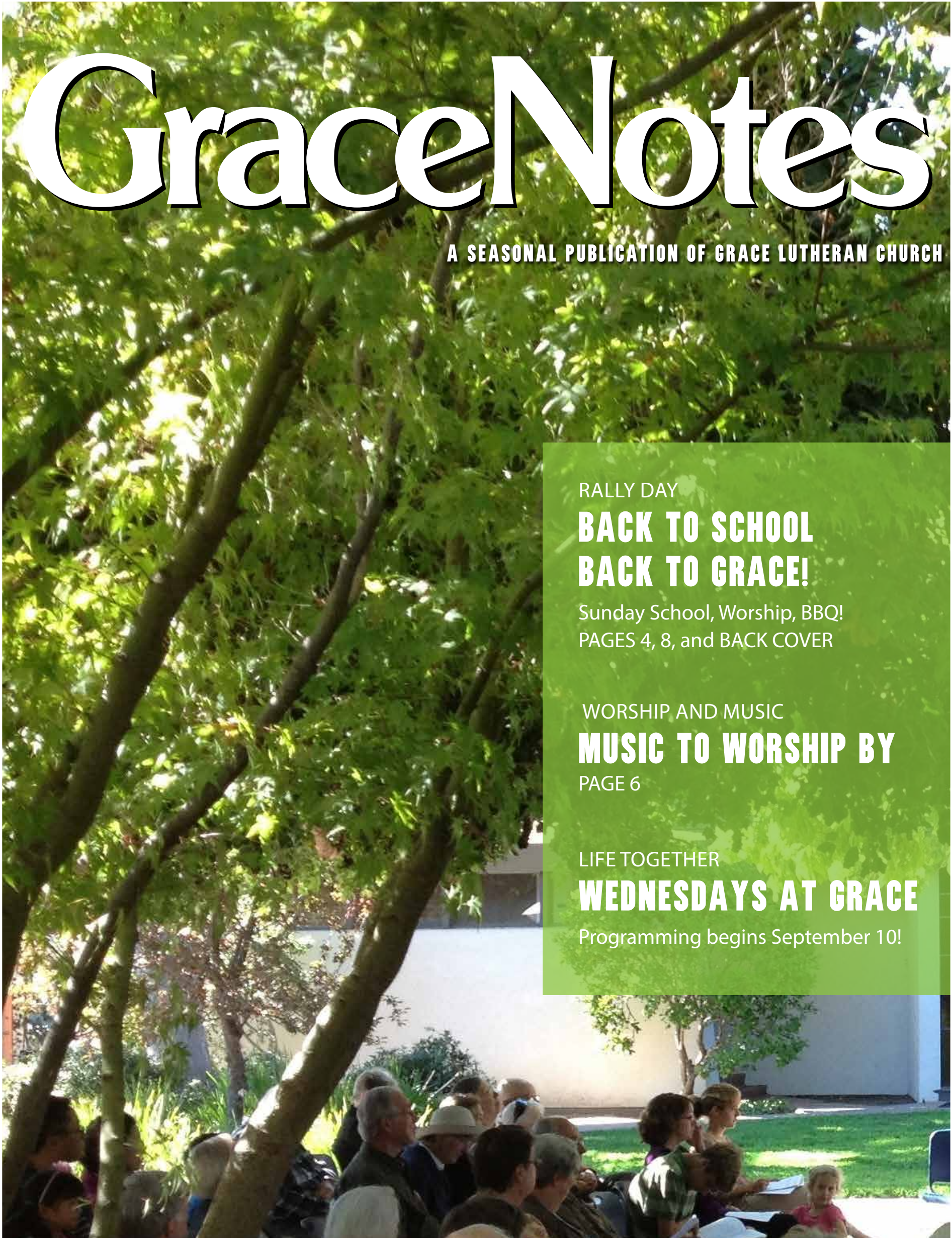
MUSIC TO WORSHIP BY

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LIFE TOGETHER

WEDNESDAYS AT GRACE

Programming begins September 10!



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Back to school, Back to Grace!



It's another transition point in the year. We are more than a week from Labor Day as I write this, but already into the Fall as I get back into the routine of getting kids to school. The summer is already fading and mornings somehow feel cooler, even if they aren't really yet. A new year begins in fits and starts in ways for which we are ready and in ways for which we are not.

It's a time for familiar routines to begin again, but also a time perhaps for new routines. We have all been busy here and there with the special rhythms of summer. In some cases traveling and visiting in distant places, or enjoying the season closer to home. For those of you reading this article who are already a part of the Grace community there is likely the sense of settling back into your Sunday faith practices in this faith family and reconnecting with those who have been, likewise, traveling. It's a great time of re-engaging in a life giving community as we experience Christ's love for this life and us as individuals as experienced together.

For those reading this article who are not already a part of this faith community, perhaps there is a piece of your heart wondering and yearning. Know that you are welcome and that at Grace there is always a place for you. This newsletter will share many ways in which to deepen your faith and be connected authentically with others who are in this journey of life as well. We look forward to meeting and welcoming you!

Peace,


Rev. Matthew A. Smuts, pastor



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COVER PHOTO
Outdoor Worship
by Elizabeth Hood



a place for you

Labyrinth Dedication | Fall 2011

ADULT EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION 2014-2015

Growing in Faith—Together!

This fall, challenge yourself by taking advantage of one of the many opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and service at Grace!

1

a **fun** place
to develop
meaningful
relationships

2

a place for
spiritual
development
and life-long
learning

3

resources to
address your
questions
about God
and faith

4

a healthy and
safe place to
belong that
is a support
community
as you move
through life

5

equip your
child(ren)
with tools
to find their
spiritual
way into
adulthood

6

a place to
build a family
tradition
of service
towards
neighbor



▶▶ Please contact Pastor Matt with any questions

*a place for you***Fellowship Groups:****Retiree Rendezvous Potluck**

Second Thursday, 12:00 noon | Brown Hall
 Contact: Pastor Cora Scheel

Women's Breakfast

Second Saturday, 8:30 am | Fireside Room
 Contact: Pastor Cora Scheel

Women's Circles

Miriam Circle: First Tuesday, 7:30 pm
 Contact: Miriam Teeter
 Ruth Circle: Monday mornings
 Contact: Mary Carlson

Men's Breakfast

Every Tuesday morning | 7:00 am
 Palo Alto Breakfast House
 Contact: Pastor Matt Smuts

Young Adults

Second Sunday Brunch, 12:00 noon
 Contact: Nikoli Falenschek

Exercise Group

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30 - 9:30 am
 Contact: Marianna Kraus

Service Opportunities:**Wednesday Work Crew**

Second and Fourth Wednesday, 8:30 am
 Contact: Steve Madsen

Quilters & Crafts

Wednesdays, 10:00 - 11:30 am
 Contact: Jan Curtis

Breaking Bread Meal Preparation

Every fifth Tuesday, 3:30 pm
 Contact: Linda Pomeroy

Breaking Bread Meal Clean-up

Every Tuesday, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
 Contact: Jerry Strom

Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP)

Opportunities for fellowship and service on selected
 Sundays after church.
 Contact: Nikoli Falenschek

Educational Opportunities and Bible Studies:**Adult Forum**

Sunday mornings, 9:45-10:30 am
 Contact: Pastor Matt

Families and Faith

Seasonally - Advent/Lent, 9:45-10:30 am
 Contact: Elizabeth Hood/Mariel Spengler

Middle School Mentors

First Sunday, 9:45-10:30 am (with some exceptions)
 Contact: Mariel Spengler

Mom's Bible Study

Time to be arranged with participants
 Contact: Mariel Spengler

Open Bible Study (Sunday texts)

Thursdays, 9:45-10:30 am | Fireside Room
 Meets periodically in the Fireside Room
 Contact: Pastor Matt Smuts

Sunday Adult Bible Study/Book Discussion

Sundays, 10:30-11:30 am | Library
 Contact: Pastor Matt Smuts

Music Programs for High School age and older:**Adult Choir**

Wednesday evenings, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
 Contact: Tim Getz

Bell Choir

Thursday evenings, 4:30 - 5:45 pm
 Contact: Tim Getz

Spiritual Development & Worship:**Sunday Servants**

A deeper participation in worship - many opportunities!
 Contact: Tim Getz

Evening Prayer in the style of Taizé

Second Sundays, 7:00 pm
 Contact: Tim Getz

Labyrinth

Open and available 24/7
 Contact: Pastor Matt Smuts

Please contact Pastor Matt with any questions





Come one, come all to another season of musical opportunities at Grace!

CHANCEL CHOIR

Our Chancel Choir, or the “adult choir,” is open to any singer of high school age and up. We rehearse on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm and will begin on September 3. The choir sings a wide variety of music and sings most Sundays, September through May. We welcome singers of any experience level, from beginners to the most experienced.

Are you interested in singing but worried about the level of commitment? Contact me (tim@gracepa.org) and let’s work out a deal! Perhaps an every-other-week schedule might work for you. Or maybe you’d like to make a short-term commitment. You could join now and sing just the fall Sundays. Or join in November for Advent and Christmas. Our year falls fairly naturally into blocks of about two months’ length.



Music Ga

PRAISES RING

Praises Ring is the name of Grace’s handbell choir. We rehearse on Thursday afternoons from 4:30-5:45 pm and will begin on September 11. The bell choir rings in church about one Sunday each month; this year that will usually be the second Sunday of the month, plus Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. We’re always looking for a few good ringers! Although we own a full five-octave (61 note) set of handbells, we ideally need 13 people to make use of the full set. Last year we had nine people for most performances, meaning we usually had to limit ourselves to three octaves (37 notes) of bells. No prior experience with bell ringing is necessary, although some basic music-reading ability is helpful. We’ll teach you all the rest!

CHILDREN’S CHOIR

Our Children’s Choir rehearses late on Wednesday afternoons. We divide into two subgroups, in order to focus our activities in an age-appropriate way. Grades 4-8 arrive at 5:30 pm. Choir is not just for little kids! Middle school youth who are attending Confirmation class later in the evening are especially encouraged to continue in choir. This upper elementary and middle school group focuses on music reading, worship leadership, vocal development, part singing, and music literature appropriate for their stage of development. They also learn to be leaders and vocal models for the younger children. Grades 1-3 join the older children at 6:00 pm for the second half of rehearsal. During this segment we sing simpler unison songs and sometimes play musical games. We learn a lot but have a good time doing it! Rehearsal for both groups ends at 6:30 pm. The children’s choir sings in church about once a month. Our first rehearsal is September 10!

Please be welcome to contact me at any time (tim@gracepa.org) with questions regarding our music programs. Everyone is welcome! If you’re interested in participating but are unable to be present for the first rehearsal, don’t let that stop you—just drop a line to let me know when we might expect you.

TAIZÉ STYLE EVENING PRAYER

Our monthly service of Evening Prayer in the style of Taizé continues on the second Sunday of each month. This quiet, deeply contemplative form of worship originated in the ecumenical religious community of Taizé in

aloro!

Burgundy, France. The community of about 100 brothers draws thousands of people (mostly under age 30) every summer for a time of spiritual reflection and renewal. Taizé worship consists mainly of singing, and we are familiar with some of their music already. Much of it consists of very short musical phrases repeated over and over to become a sort of mantra; we often sing these types of songs during the distribution of Communion on Sunday mornings. I have personally taken two weeklong retreats in the Taizé Community itself, and have experienced this form of worship to be moving and life-changing. Our next Taizé service at Grace will be Sunday, September 14, beginning at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. I look forward to seeing and singing with you there!

SUNDAY MORNINGS

When we gather for worship every Sunday morning, every person in the room has something to contribute, whether large or small, to the combined voice of the assembly. When we sing hymns and other parts of the service together, we become an audible and visible sign of the Body of Christ. Our adult choir, handbell choir, and children’s choir provide leadership and enhancement of this undertaking, but we all make the music together every Sunday. I thank God every week for all of your voices, and I look forward to another exciting year! ♦



by Tim Getz
Director of Music Ministry

Rally Day - Sept. 7!

Our Sunday school program is available for the whole family! We offer Sunday School for everyone from infants and preschoolers through adults. The program runs September through May, each Sunday from 9:40-10:40 am. Sunday School Opening takes place every Sunday in the sanctuary at 9:40 am. Parents are welcome to join us in prayer and song!

Why Sunday School? This is a wonderful time to give your child an understanding of the Bible stories and who Jesus is, providing a faith foundation—a base for their faith development.

Join us at 9:30 am on September 7 for Rally Day Sunday School Opening in the Sanctuary! We will introduce the teachers to everyone, and then dismiss the children to their first Sunday of class, while Elizabeth, the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, meets with the parents to talk about the schedule for the coming school year!

Then make sure you plan to stick around after church at 11:45 am for a lot of fun for your whole family! BBQ lunch, bounce house and so much more!! All to celebrate the beginning of a new year of Sunday school at Grace!

Sunday School Opening: Every Sunday in the sanctuary at 9:40 am

Celebrate the beginning of a new year in Grace!



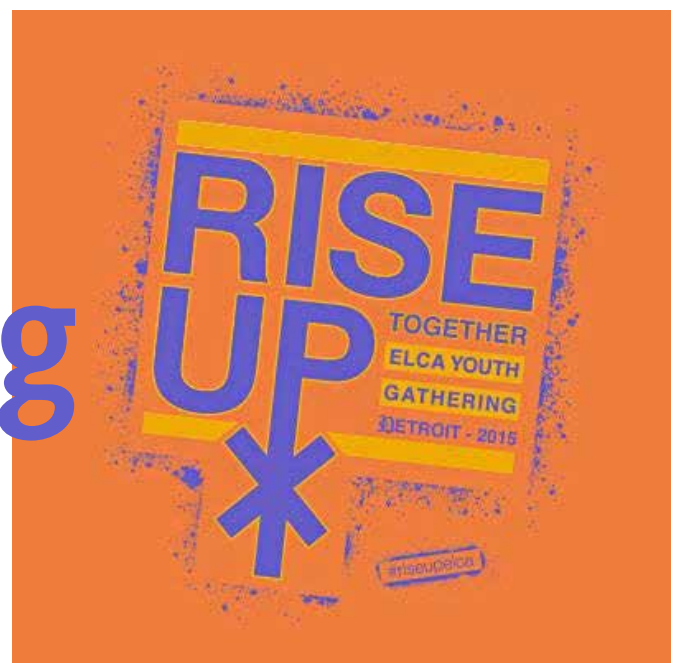
ELCA National Youth Gathering

Where: Detroit

Theme: Rise Up Together

Save the dates! July 14-20, 2015

SUMMER 2015



Informational Meeting Sept 7, RALLY DAY, at 10 am in the Youth Room

Current eighth graders through high school seniors this school year. The Gathering welcomes youth entering grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 in the fall of 2015, and 2015 high school graduates.

Parents and Youth—please plan on attending this meeting! There will be lots of important details and information.

Deposits Due: October 1 or now! The sooner, the better! (October 1 is a very hard deadline, so get your deposits in early!) \$150, Checks made out to "Grace Lutheran Church"

DAY CAMP

This summer at Grace we hosted a great big, huge, successful Day Camp!! We had almost twice as many children as we had last year, almost 70 children, we had a team of 7 young adult counselors from Mt. Cross, two host families, 8-10 high school and college youth volunteers, 5-10 adult volunteers making snacks and lunches throughout the week, and so many other people who made this week possible!

Thanks to the Schumann's and Barbara Larsen for being our host families! And a HUGE thanks to Maria Derrick for being in charge of lunches and snacks!

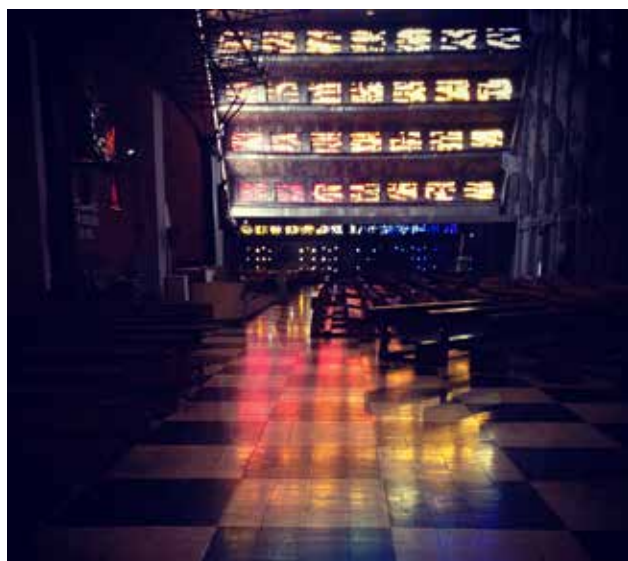
We were thrilled with the turnout this year and the support of the community at Grace! We had a wonderful closing program and potluck dinner Thursday evening, and many wonderful days of camp filled with fun, faith, and learning.

Thank you to everyone who made Day Camp possible this year!! We can't wait till next year!

CAMP AT MT. CROSS

I had the joy of accompanying 10 youth from Grace up to Mt. Cross for a week of sleep-away camp.

I was able to bounce around from group to group taking pictures, listening in on Bible studies, encouraging to catch one more wave, running hand-in-hand with the littlest ones during all-camp games, and giving a hug when one was needed. I have said it before and I will say it again, camp is so important to the development of our youth and their faith. It is a safe place to grow and experience faith in a new environment, and every single time I take youth to camp, I see them understand their faith in a new way, see God in a new way, open up to the world around them, and to take time to take a deep breath and let it go, which is so important. I think we all need a little more camp in our lives.



TOP
Summer Day Camp @ Grace

ABOVE RIGHT
CMT: The Disappearance of Mirabelle Van DeVeer

ABOVE LEFT
Grace Girls at Mt. Cross

LEFT
Western States Youth Gathering

BOTTOM
Grace @ Mt. Cross



Shed's Up!



making a place *for grace*

Next Steps!

As you have read here, we have had a fantastic response to the capital campaign and it keeps rolling on! The next steps are coming along as well. Shortly, we will be submitting a loan pre-qualification application to the Mission Investment Fun of the ELCA, and with that information we will come back together as a congregation for final approval on moving ahead. Exciting times! Look for these steps to come mid-Fall. Thank you all for your support and you have not yet pledged, please consider doing so through the links at www.gracepa.org

We are excited to report that through the summer, our response has increased to \$1.2 million pledged, with more still coming in. Thank you to everyone who has helped us reach this amount and expressed your commitment to this vision for Grace Lutheran Church.

If you haven't already, we hope you will consider your response to this vision and help move us toward *making a place for grace*. Please complete your pledge card and return it to us by mail, in the offering plate, or dropping it off in the church office. If you need a new pledge card or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Capital Campaign Team or Pastor Matt. **Electronic gifts to the campaign can be made by visiting www.gracepa.org and either making a one-time gift or setting up a new recurring gift.** If you would like envelopes for your pledge, you can pick those up in the church office. This is a three-year campaign running through June 2017, and new gifts are welcome at any point.

We look forward to engaging with you all over the next three years as we celebrate different phases of this vision becoming a reality. Thank you again for the wonderful energy around this vision. We have had a terrific response to far and are encouraged as pledges and gifts continue to roll in. Thanks for joining us on this journey of *making a place for grace*. ■

Peace,
Capital Campaign Team
Aarika Riddle, Chair

Timo Ahonen
Julie Buckley
Mark Cravens
Elizabeth Katz

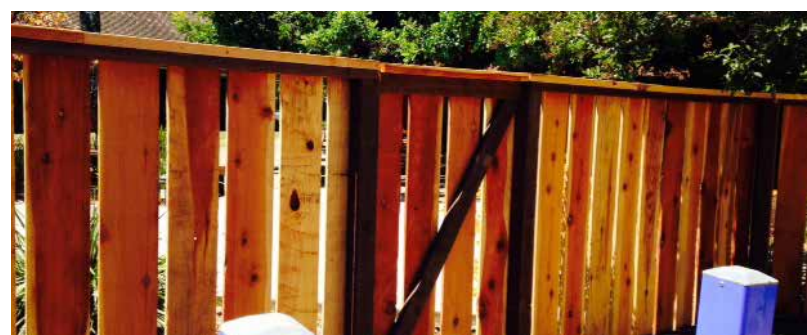
Andrew Mellows
Don Ostrus
Erik Rausch
Pastor Matt Smuts

Summer is over and school has begun. It was a busy summer full of camps and remodeling. The parents and alumni raised enough money to have the classroom painted (including the ceiling), a new, wonderful, rat-free shed built, new shelves for the shed, and a new fence. For the last month, we have been going through all of our "stuff," recycling it, giving it away, and putting some back. Its a big job, as we haven't had the room painted in 14 years. As for the shed...it is wonderful! I think I am excited about the shed more than anyone! Next, we will raise money for a new carpet...it is also 14 years old and the wear and tear of the sand and hundreds of little ones is showing. Ben Teeter has made us a very special mural in the bathroom...just beautiful...he has done an amazing job! Please come by and see all the changes to the preschool, all are welcome.

Our apple tree is full of apples, even our baby tree has apples on it. The children and parents will be coming to school for Apple Pie Day on August 27, 28, and 29. If you are around, come make an apple pie!

Our morning MWF class is full with 24 children in it, the T/TH morning has 14 (we would love to have a few more girls in this class), and the MWF afternoon class is desperate for some girls (13 boys and 1 girl). So if you know of any girls 3 or 4 years old... please tell them about us!

Krista McDermott will be joining us as a teacher this year. We are lucky to have her join our staff, she will bring energy and creative ideas. We are looking forward to a wonderful year! ■



God's work. Our hands.



With autumn comes a new program year for Grace Lutheran. The Stewardship Committee is looking forward to another exciting year! We think it is a great time to shine a light on the gifts of time and talent given generously by members. We have chosen to feature three of the many who volunteer at Grace—often behind the scenes.

Steve Madsen—Steve is a 39-year member of Grace. Currently, he heads the Wednesday Work Crew. This volunteer crew does many of the “handyman” activities of the church—replacing light bulbs, painting, tree-trimming, and even some plumbing and electrical work. They also take on some special projects. The Wednesday Work Crew was organized initially by Al Larsen who was looking for help for all the work he was doing to keep Grace running. After Al’s death, Steve was asked to head the crew. Steve reports that it is mainly a men’s group—but there is no reason to keep it that way! They always need more crew! They work for 2 or 3 hours on two Wednesday mornings each month.

In addition, Steve volunteers time as an usher, lector, and communion assistant. When asked what drives him to volunteer at Grace, he said, “I like the place, I like the people, and I want to do what I can with skills that I have.”

Jack and Sue Koepfgen—Jack and Sue have been members for 23 years at Grace. Currently, they share the duties of the Financial Secretary. It was a spur of the moment decision! When Jerry Butler retired as Stewardship Chair and Financial Secretary, Grace decided to separate the two jobs. Richard and Linda Van Horn had agreed to share the Financial Secretary position before they knew that they would be moving away. In early 2013, Grace needed to fill the position quickly, and Jack and Sue stepped forward. The job entails recording family offerings, based on data from the counters, into CCB. CCB provides the periodic individual statements that Grace members receive. In addition, they create a category listing that is provided to the bookkeeper.

Jack and Sue both volunteer as greeters and communion assistants, and Jack serves as a lector and at Tuesday dinners. When asked what moves them to volunteer at Grace, they said “To give back to Grace. We feel good about being involved. Members can find a niche for their talents, and there is always a need.”

Steve, Jack, and Sue are like many at Grace—stewards of their faith and this community. All of our volunteers are “Making a Place for Grace.” Thank you! ■

Miriam Circle Miriam Circle meets every first Tuesday of the month, beginning in October and ending in June. We meet in the Fireside Room at 7:30 pm. We begin with coffee and dessert and a time to visit with one another. Then, we have a leader each month to present a Bible study, or about church music and hymns, or about Grace’s books in the library, or information on Mt. Cross, etc., depending on our month’s leader’s expertise.

We invite you to join with Miriam Circle to get more acquainted with others in the congregation, and for a social time, together with learning new things. We have three potlucks during the year, one in October when we start up again, a Christmas party and potluck in December, and one in June when we end for the year. These begin at 6:30 pm. This is a good time to expand your friendships at Grace. ■

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Exercise Group In the early 1990s I asked if it was possible to start an exercise group in Brown Hall and got the OK. Our group was small and our instructor was a tape. It’s now a DVD. Over the years some people have come and some have gone. For a long time, our group was only women, but about a year ago Greg Vasutin joined us. We are dedicated and have been together for many years. I believe that our secret is that we all have grown in so many ways and we are not just an exercise group but are a friendship and support group. We laugh together, we share, and we pray together, and when we cannot meet in the summer because of all the other activities, we really miss each other.

Come check us out and find that Brown Hall, between 8:30 and 9:30 am on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, is a physically, mentally, and spiritually healthy and fun place to be. ■

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Grace Quilters Mary, Autumn, Jan, Gloria, Joan, Amrette... Grace’s Quilters has grown to six people who meet on Wednesday mornings in Brown Hall from 10:00 ‘til 11:30 or a bit later. We make, from nearly all donated materials, the “9-Square” quilts for our students graduating from high school (we expect at least nine graduates in May of 2015), Project Linus blankets for children in need of comfort, school bags for Lutheran World Relief, and we also take on various projects to support, for instance, Bright Stars of Bethlehem or other needs that come to our notice: people suffering from tsunami or tornado...

Designing and part of construction is done in Brown Hall; sewing is done at home. We learn as we go, and help each other. One member sews for us but can’t attend the meetings. We miss her. We also think of dear Helen, our Emeritus member... We enjoy working together. Not everyone attends every week; we’re quite flexible. New people are always very welcome. Come and see! We talk and laugh and design quilts and it’s fun! ■



PEACE IN THE STARFISH HABITAT

“And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.” Colossians 3:15

Text by Elizabeth Hood

I just returned from my fourth Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent Builds trip and a jam-packed summer full of wonderful trips, youth gatherings and camp! It has been a whirlwind and a blast. I feel like I could sleep for about a week, but there is so much to do to prepare for the end of the summer and Fall! Last week in Youth Group, we talked about the fall and what our focus would be. The youth chose the word “peace.” This is a word that I find myself spending a lot of time thinking about. Mostly in this crazy busy season, I think of it for myself, how do I find peace in the midst of busyness? But then I think about others who have peace, those who instinctively know peace. The family we worked with in El Salvador had that peace. They have very little and yet don’t worry, they are happy to have what they have and trust God. I envy that peace. That peace comes from God, from trust, from prayer. That is what we will focus on this Fall in High School Youth Group. This year we are trying something new with a “Youth Leadership Team:” they will help to plan and lead High School Youth Group, and I am so excited to work with them to dream and plan. I think that for them, achieving peace is hard with the pressures of high school and life, but we will find lots of creative ways to try.

Also when we think of peace, we inevitably think about the world around us, we talked about this on Wednesday night, how overwhelming this can be, too. There is a lot going wrong in this world, a lot of pain and suffering. We all said prayers for people around the world who won’t go to bed in a safe place. The thought of trying to help can be seemingly impossible, how could we even begin to make a dent in the problems of this world. Here is a poem that may help.

Every evening in El Salvador on the week of the build, we did a daily reflection, I asked different people on my team to lead them. One night Sharon, a teacher from New York read this poem. I shared this idea of this poem on Wednesday as I told the youth about my trip. This poem kept coming up as we worked and wondered how we were making a difference.

One day an old man was walking down the beach just before dawn. In the distance he saw a young man picking up stranded starfish and throwing them back into the sea. As the old man approached the young man, he asked, “Why do you spend so much energy doing what seems to be a waste of time?” The young man explained that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun. The old man exclaimed, “But there must be thousands of starfish. How can your efforts make any difference?” The young man looked down at the starfish in his hand, and as he threw it to safety in the sea, he said, “It makes a difference to this one!”

The whole group really related to this poem because we often wondered if we were using our talents and money in the best way possible by going on this build, would our money be better served without us there? But being there changed this family’s life forever. If not us, then who? We made a difference for that ONE family and by sharing about the mission of Habitat, hopefully someone else will build, and it will matter to that ONE person. See, together we can make a difference. How can you help spread peace? Don’t give up cause you feel like you can’t make a difference. ■



Immigrants and the Church

Summer has been slow in the library with some breaks for vacation. We are still struggling with the computer system, which takes time from other library work. But now new books are on order, with something for everyone, and they should be out on display by the time you read this. We hope to see many of you in the library to check out the new arrivals, which are displayed on the two desks and the children's table, and also advertised on the window posters.

The issue of illegal immigration has become a very controversial topic, especially with the influx of children and teenagers crossing the U.S. border. A recent issue of *Publishers Weekly Religion Bookline* highlighted new books from Christian publishers that tackle the issue from a Christian perspective, and these are the ones I have ordered that will be available in the library.

Immigration: Tough Questions, Direct Answers, by Dale Hanson Bourke, is part of author's series of Skeptic's Guides by IVP Press. It sheds light on key terms and concepts, historical events, and current concerns. "I write as an ordinary Christian trying to make sense of difficult topics," she says.

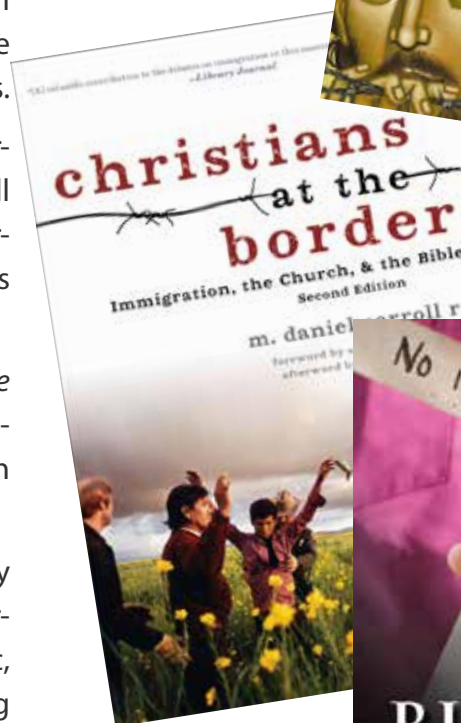
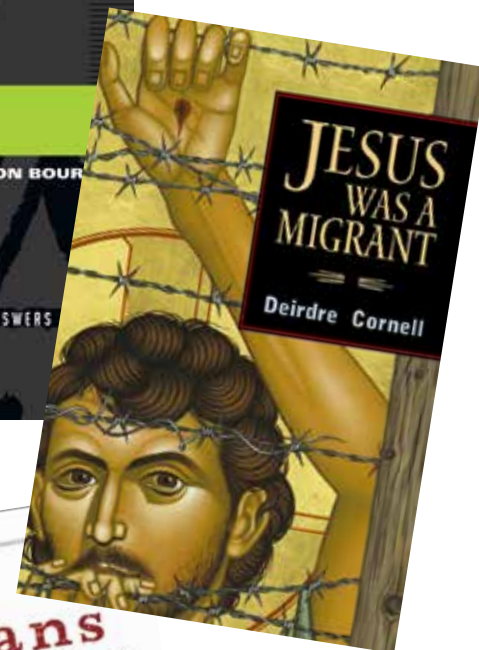
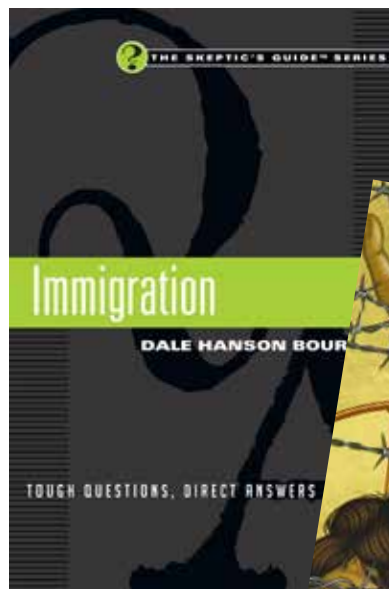
Jesus Was a Migrant addresses the subject from a Biblical and Catholic perspective. Deirdre Cornell, the author, has lived in Mexico as a Maryknoll lay missionary and worked with migrants in New York. She offers her personal experiences as a way of explaining what being a migrant means and what the compassionate response should be.

M. Daniel Carroll R., the author of *Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church and the Bible*, is both a Guatemalan and an American, and a professor of Old Testament at Denver Seminary. He empathizes with both sides of the struggle, challenging each to learn more about the other.

Bishops on the Border: Pastoral Responses to Immigration, is edited by Kirk Smith, the Fifth Episcopal Bishop of Arizona. He compiles first-person narratives on immigration from an ecumenical group of Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, and United Methodist bishops who are based along the U.S.-Mexico border.

These books try to explain both perspectives, in the hope that people will listen to each other compassionately and try to deal with a difficult situation with care and dignity. I hope they will be of interest to you. ■

Mary Ashley,
Librarian



SOUTH PALO ALTO food closet

670 East Meadow Drive | open Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 10 - 2

With summer produce coming in, our clients are enjoying zucchini and tomatoes. We are thankful for all of the gardeners who share their bounty with us. This saves us from spending on fresh produce and allows us to spend, instead, on milk and eggs. As always, we need cereal and condiments and cooking oil. We also like to get canned meat, like Spam or chicken, as these provide a nice change from tuna, peanut butter, and beans as shelf stable protein.

Please place your donations in the yellow box in the narthex. Thank you so much! ■

Church Council

Another busy summer is coming to an end at Grace. Our campus was lively with youthful exuberance during many weeks with CMT, Day Camp, and Preschool Camp, and Sundays were busy with regular worship, and Sunday School or other activities for people of all ages almost every week. Our staff and committees have been busy planning for weeks (if not months!) for the new programming year that will begin soon, and there will be many opportunities for worship, service, and learning for everyone. Council has been kept informed of these plans through regular reports from Pastor Matt, Vicar Nikoli, and committee liaisons.

We heard regular reports from Pastor Matt about synod activities, as well as details about what is going on at Grace. In addition, Vicar Nikoli shared reports about his varied work. We took time at his last meeting in July to express our appreciation for his ministry with us over the past year, and to wish him well as

he carries on with his studies. His presence has truly enriched our congregation. Finally, we heard reports from the Capital Campaign Team about the progress of the *making a place for grace* campaign, in addition to reports from the Finance, Youth, Children’s Christian Education, Stewardship, and Adult Education and Spiritual Formation committees.

At our June meeting, Council thanked outgoing members Al Brudos, Tom Conn, and Elizabeth Katz, who served with generous spirits during their terms. In July, we welcomed new members Nate Calhoun, Sabine Kabel-Eckes, and Jim Schlatter, who were elected at the June congregational meeting. At our August meeting, we elected our officers for the year, and volunteered to serve as liaisons to one or more of our congregation’s committees.

Blessings,
Maria Derrick, Past President ■

COUNCIL

- Dave Bohn
- Julie Buckley
- Nate Calhoun
- Maria Derrick
- Ray Ernenwein, President
- Gail Foelsch
- Twila Forbes
- Sabine Kabel-Eckes
- Holly Lucke, Vice-President
- Don McElravy
- Jim Schlatter
- Katy Siegel, Secretary

A few more words from the Vicar

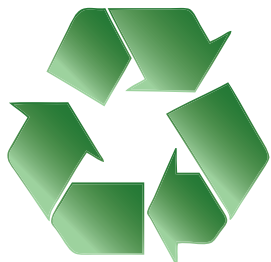
Nikoli Falenschek

I couldn’t have asked for a more supportive and loving community in which I lived and learned this year! Thank you all so much! Grace will forever be a home for me and a continuing influence in my ministries to come. I have been so blessed here! And, my last days were filled with nothing but heartfelt words and generous gifts. Maggie and I are blown away by your generosity. Thank you!!

There and Back Again

Vicar Nikoli just completed his required 12 month internship here at Grace and has moved back to Berkeley to begin his final year of seminary instruction. As mentioned on his last Sunday, we were considering our need for continued staffing and his need for part time work this year and have come to a happy solution. Vicar Nikoli will continue to be at Grace on Sundays and Wednesday evenings to assist with our programming and for many it may seem that he never left. He will be with us up at the Mt Cross picnic and then beginning Rally Day, September 7.





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Sunday Worship

8:30 & 10:45 am



Also broadcast on Cable 30

Sundays 11 am | 8:30 pm

Mondays 12:30 pm



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a place for you

Sunday, September 7

**Rally Day kicks off Fall Programming!
 Sunday School | Worship | BBQ | FUN!**

