

# GraceNotes

A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SOCIAL MINISTRY

## **HUNGER**

Our annual Lenten focus on hunger issues  
PAGE 4

ADULT ED | WORSHIP

## **LENT AND HOLY WEEK AT GRACE**

From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday  
PAGE 6

REFORMATION 2017

## **LIBERATED BY GOD'S GRACE**

The Reformation turns 500  
PAGE 14

## PASTOR

Rev. Matthew Smuts  
pastormatt@gracepa.org

## VISITATION PASTOR

Rev. Cora Scheel  
pastorcora@gracepa.org

## PASTORAL INTERN

Vicar Nikoli Falenschek  
vicarnikoli@gracepa.org

## DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Elizabeth Hood  
elizabeth@gracepa.org

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Tim Getz  
tim@gracepa.org

## PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Penny McDermott  
preschool@gracepa.org

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Gretchen Rauch  
office@gracepa.org

## COPY EDITOR/COORDINATOR

Marie McElravy  
publications@gracepa.org

Next Issue: Easter 2015

Publication Deadline: March 26, 2015

# Kairos | Opportunity

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. Mark 16:8.

An opportunity is coming to Grace Lutheran Church of Palo Alto. In church talk, we might use the term 'kairos' to describe time in a way that is non-linear . . . God's time. We are entering into this new calendar year with a lot of momentum . . . building plans are being finalized for consideration by the congregation; hundreds of thousands of dollars given in the last year to the operation of the ministry of Grace, the capital campaign for campus improvements, as well as to our endowment; 17 youth will be heading to Detroit for the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer and much, much more.



In the midst of that momentum fall two related pieces. First, an Easter Sunday from the Gospel of Mark which concludes with the text quoted above. A reminder to us that our ministry to the world and community around us is daunting and that even the message we carry can be intimidating. Second, out of left field but square in the middle of that Easter challenge, we have become aware of a pastor who is relocating to the area, has interests in Social Ministry and Adult Faith Formation and an openness to a part time position. In addition, this is a candidate who would broaden our ability to make connections with our diverse community. As we were not looking for this, it causes me to believe God is up to something here at Grace.

I put this before you even as the council and a special team for discerning this question are deep in thought regarding this path. This will be an important and exciting piece of our stewardship pledge program coming next month as the financial sustainability is a big piece of the puzzle. You will be hearing more about this in weeks and months to come, but I could not contain the excitement anymore! Consider how you might pray for God's time at Grace and how our generosity might bring that time . . . now.

Peace,

Rev. Matthew A. Smuts, pastor



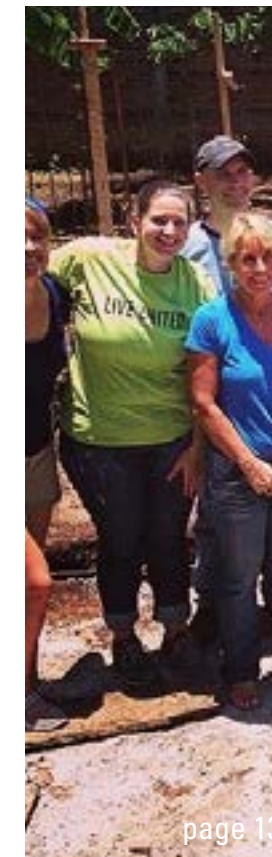
page 6



page 9



page 10



page 13



### COVER PHOTO

God put a rainbow in the sky  
by Elizabeth Hood

## contents

### 104! SOCIAL MINISTRY: HUNGER

Social Ministry focuses on issues surrounding hunger during this contemplative season

### 105 LENT

A shift in focus on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings

### 108 JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

Penitence as a force for life

### 109 KAIROS

When eternity steps into time

### 109 MOVING FORWARD

Making a plan!

### 110 LOVE: THE WORD OF THE YEAR

We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

### 111 MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR...

Sunday School, Middle School, and High School - Spring and Summer Dates

### 112 MARDI GRAS | PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Fun Activities for YOU | Great Fundraisers for the Youth!

### 113 THRIVENT BUILDS WORLDWIDE

Is El Salvador in your future?

### 114! CELEBRATING 500 YEARS

Liberated by God's Grace

### 114! A LOVE THAT NEVER ENDS

Mt Cross brings another great day camp to Grace this summer

### 115 A NEW YEAR

Moving forward into our new fiscal year

Text by Bob Northcott

**B** READ FOR THE WORLD is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad.

*As a Covenant Congregation, Grace*

*Lutheran has promised to contribute financially*

*to Bread, to pray for an end to hunger, and to*

*conduct an annual offering of letters.*

*Our Lenten pilgrimage takes place at a time of*

*deep division in our country. Partisan politics*

*and violence in our cities make our prayers more*

*urgent than ever. Persistent poverty and stagnant*

*wages have left one out of five children living in*

*families that struggle to get enough to eat.*

# Bread for the World Seeks to End Hunger

## About the 2015 Offering of Letters: Feed Our Children

The 2015 Offering of Letters "Feed Our Children" urges Congress to reauthorize a Child Nutrition Act that can close the hunger gap. Nearly 16 million U.S. children live at risk of hunger. The legislation that Congress is considering this year authorizes several important anti-hunger programs, such as the National School Lunch Program and the Summer Food Service Program. With improved access and investment, we have the opportunity to reach more children in need.

Bread for the World is urging Congress to renew our federal government's major child nutrition programs, including those for school meals, summer feeding, and the WIC (women, infants, and children) nutrition program for pregnant and new mothers along with their small children.

Every five years, Congress must re-authorize the law that funds these programs, which have helped millions of children over the decades. Thanks to the leadership of Bread for the World and its church partners, the 2010 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act expanded and improved these programs.



**ABOVE**

*Well-fed children are healthier, have fewer behavioral problems, and learn more easily. This can translate into getting better jobs and being more productive when they become adults.*

*Photo: Joe Molieri / Bread for the World*

### Seasons at the Food Closet

We are so glad you are thinking of our food closet when you shop. As winter progresses, the numbers we serve grow, as seasonal workers are often unemployed. An additional snafu is that some of the usual food we get from large donors is backed up in ports on the west coast. So as you are cruising in the aisle at the market, think tuna, especially in packets for the homeless, peanut butter and jam, cereal especially for kids like Rice Krispies and Cheerios, canned beans, oil, all condiments, and chili. In the last year or two, we have added a lot more fresh vegetables that come from Second Harvest or we buy with gift money, so we are proud of giving out a lot of very nutritious items.

Thanks for all your donations!

# Hunger around the world

Reforming U.S. food aid continues to be an important goal for Bread for the World. The agency for international development (USAID) has a strategy that addresses both direct and underlying causes of malnutrition. Developing sustainable agriculture in the world's most needy countries and those hit by disaster is part of that goal. In West Africa, ravaged by Ebola, the number of people facing hunger is expected to double. Many fields are without farmers...exactly at a time when children and others need as much nutrition as possible.

Elena and Antonio live on a farm in northern Argentina. They grow fruits and vegetables in their organic garden and raise chickens and pigs. They are also active members of a local cooperative of veteran farmers who teach their methods to other farmers. Elena and Antonio got started in this project with the help of the Iglesia Evangelica Lutherana Unida.

**Sample Letter**

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

As your constituent, I urge you to support the Child Nutrition Act that can close the hunger gap. Nearly 16 million U.S. children live at risk of hunger. Bread for the World is urging Congress to renew our federal government's major child nutrition programs, including those for school meals, summer feeding, and the WIC nutrition program for pregnant and new mothers along with their small children.

I am appalled that more than 800 million people around the world go to bed hungry. Approximately 165 million children under age five—or 1 in 4—are stunted, leading to lifelong conditions of poor health, impaired cognitive and physical development, and diminished productivity. The economic costs alone of child under-nutrition are substantial. The 2014 Worldwide Threat Assessment specifically cited food insecurity as a "destabilizing" threat to U.S. national security. Hunger is a global crisis, and Congress must address it.

(Your name and address)

Did you know that there are more Lutherans in Indonesia than there are in the ELCA? One of the largest Lutheran churches maintains an orphanage called Mamre. There, 58 children aged 3 to 19 live in a village of tidy houses thanks to support from Lutheran World Federation and ELCA World Hunger. The devastating 2004 tsunami that destroyed so many lives and communities accounts for the presence of many of these children.

"Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone?" The Gospel of Matthew (7:9-11) presumes the certainty that we feed our children without hesitation. For the sake of our children, we can be a voice that urges Congress to adopt policies that feed and nourish all children. Giving children a healthy start in life benefits individuals, communities and the country. ■

## Writing a Letter

Grace will have an official Offering of Letters Sunday in late March. Look for the announcement. Tables, letter writing materials, and sample letters will be provided.

You don't have to wait for the official letter-writing day at church. Here are some tips and addresses of your representatives:

- 1** Writing is simple and should take only a few minutes.
- 2** Ask for specific action using this sentence or your own words: "I urge you to support the Child Nutrition Act and other food programs for children."
- 3** Give reasons for your request. For example, share a personal story about what motivated you to write.
- 4** Write your name and address at the end of the letter and on the envelope so the members of Congress know that you are one of the people they represent.

Rep. Anna Eschoo  
241 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Sen. Barbara Boxer  
112 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Sen. Dianne Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

# Lent: Opportunities for the Forty Days

Lent is typically a time when Christians devote extra time and attention to faith growth. Preparing for Holy Week, we journey through the season of 40 days with renewed commitment to Christ and service. There are many paths that one can take. Some choose to give up or give away something as a way of lessening our own forms of attachment; others take on a practice that will foster discipleship. The members of the Adult Ed and Spiritual Formation committee invite you to reflect on what might draw you closer to God in this special time of reflection and preparation.

There are a number of great resources available at Grace to assist you as you find your way. If you haven't been to the library recently, perhaps you might drop in to select a book or a video, and consider sharing it and discussing it with a friend or family member. The labyrinth is a marvelous spiritual tool that is open 24//7. Walking the labyrinth before you worship on Sunday or as you wait for confirmation kids on Wednesday is a practical and meaningful way of prayer. Opportunities for service present themselves throughout the year, but you might commit to helping with Tuesday homeless dinners or the Ecumenical Hunger Project as part of a Lenten discipline as you recall Jesus' outreach to the poor and needy in his time on earth.

Adult Forum sessions during Lent will consist of conversations around important topics identified by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. The "Claimed, Gathered, Sent" curriculum invites participants to engage around what it means to be church, be Lutheran, be church together, be church for the sake of the world, and be in cooperation with worldwide mission partners. Please join us on Sunday mornings in the Chapel from 9:45-10:30 for discussion led by Pastor Matt.

During the Easter season we will continue the conversation about being church in the world with Adult Forum sessions on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the role of the Christian churches in the opening and eventual fall of the East German Democratic Republic, and creation stewardship. We will also continue the opportunity for study of the scriptural texts for the day with the preaching pastor during the education hour. Please know that all are welcome!

Questions? Please be in touch with Pastor Matt.



LENT  
@ Grace  
-from ashes to Easter

ASH WEDNESDAY  
February 18, 2015 | 12 & 7 pm



## Imposition of ashes and worship

**Ash Wednesday's evening service begins with Soup Supper at 6:30 pm. At 6:45 pm, all the children and parents will come with me to the Narthex for a simple activity.** We will have paper for the children to draw their faces and what they will look like with the ashes. **Parents and children can then continue into worship together at 7 pm.** We will hang the pictures in the Narthex for all to see on the following Sunday.

Year after year, I see how excited children get as they approach the altar for imposition of the ashes—and how proud they are when they walk away. They may not fully understand the significance, but they do understand their connectedness to the church and to God through this act.

## Wednesdays in Lent

**February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25**  
6:30 pm | Soup Supper  
7:00 pm | Holden Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary

During Lent, as we move closer to Holy Week and Easter, many people find it a helpful spiritual practice to take additional opportunities for worship beyond Sunday morning. The setting of the sun and lighting of lamps in the evening is an ancient and traditional time of day for prayer in many religious traditions.

Soup Supper in Brown Hall starting at 6:30 pm. Sign-up in the Narthex, or call the office (650.494.1212), to volunteer to bring soup, mac 'n cheese, or bread for our weekly meal together.

Holden Evening Prayer in the Grace sanctuary at 7 pm on Wednesdays during Lent will be a peaceful, reflective time of singing, scripture, interactive worship, service and prayer.

## Holy Week @ Grace

**Palm Sunday | March 29 | 8:30 & 10:45 am**

Watch the Sunday bulletins and eNotes for information on this year's Palm Sunday activities especially for children, youth, and families during the Sunday school hour.

**Maudy Thursday | April 2 | 7 pm**

We invite children, youth, and families to this service. We will celebrate First Communion, as well as have lots of ways for children and youth to be involved in the worship experience, such as foot washing, communion, and individual absolution. Last year, the children of Grace washed the feet of all the adults—and it was beautiful to see them experiencing Jesus in this way!

**Good Friday | April 3 | 12 & 7 pm**

This service is important in understanding Easter, and can be a great conversation starter for you and your family.

**Easter Vigil | April 4 | 8 pm**

This is a really wonderful service for children, youth, and families. We change locations: we start outside around a fire, there is story telling, music, and song, and we end with a campfire and s'mores! Bring the whole family for a great night of adventure.

## Easter Sunday | April 5

**Festival Worship | 8:30 am**

**Easter Brunch | 9:00 - 10:30 am**

Fresh Fruit, Breakfast Casseroles, Delicious Pancakes, Hot Coffee and Tea \$5/person | \$20/family Youth Fundraiser

**Easter Egg Hunt | between worship services**

10:00 am—children 5 years and younger

10:15 am—children 6 years and older

Meet in Brown Hall to start the hunt!

**Festival Worship | 10:45 am**

# Our Song on Our Journey

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song  
*Jésus, je voudrais te chanter*



I've written before about the image of Lent as a journey or pilgrimage; it's a powerful concept to me. Christ is on his way to the cross during these weeks, although he is not yet at the cross. Through the weekly readings of the gospels during Lent, we walk with him, first through his temptation in the desert, and then on to Jerusalem. In Lent, we not only walk with Christ to the cross, but also with each other through the journey of life. And this is where penitence comes in, as a force for life, rather than just to make ourselves feel bad. We can strive to do right by those around us, to listen more than we speak, to do no harm to other people or any of creation. We fail at this all the time, but then we can remember that Jesus is also walking with

us. Lent is a good time to practice interdependence and mutuality so that it becomes a life habit.

A hymn that's been resonating with me a lot lately, and that will close our worship each Sunday during this year's Lent is "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song." This hymn, originally in French, comes to us from L'Arche Community, a spiritual organization with local houses throughout the world. The community enables people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities to share their lives in communities of faith and friendship. Community members are transformed through relationships of mutuality, respect, and companionship as they live, work, pray, and play together. It is in one

of these communities in Ontario, Canada, where the theologian and author Henri Nouwen spent the last ten years of his life, and where it is said that Nouwen experienced his deepest fulfillment in life. (Learn more at [larche.org](http://larche.org).) May we be inspired in our Lenten journeys this year by the spirituality of L'Arche Community and the words of this wonderful hymn.

*Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;  
 I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go;  
 you alone are our life and our peace and our love.  
 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.*

*Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.  
 May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.  
 May the earth and the sea and they sky join my song.  
 Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.*

*As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,  
 to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.  
 For you saved me by giving your body and blood.  
 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.*

*I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;  
 but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.  
 And with all of the family you saved by your love,  
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.*

(ELW #808, ©1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus) ■

by Tim Getz



## Pledge Time

The 2015/2016 Pledge Campaign is almost here. Our contributions for the Annual Pledge Campaign cover our annual operating costs, such as utilities, staff salaries, the youth program, and our broader mission to provide social ministry. As you may recall, we are in the process of changing the timing of our budget and pledge campaign. In previous years, the budget and pledge campaign was for a calendar year. This year, we are changing our budget and pledge campaign to the period July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016.

At the annual meeting on January 25, we heard that the budget for the first six months of 2015 will be based on 2014. As we look forward to the 2015/2016 year, opportunities in the area of staffing and service will be examined. Watch for more details on these opportunities. In the meantime, the key dates for the 2015/2016 Pledge Campaign are:

- Stewardship Sunday | March 22
- Pledge Sunday | March 29

Thank you for your ongoing support of the mission of Grace Lutheran Church.

The Stewardship Committee

## Update from the Building Team



FEBRUARY 4, 2015 The Building Team has the privilege of representing the congregation as together we embark on the journey of bringing Phase I of the Campus Master Plan into reality. This initial phase of campus renewal will include long overdue maintenance of our parking lot and sanctuary roof, repairs to our leaky steeple, and (especially!) an expanded narthex that will provide a more welcoming and functional entryway for all who pass through. The objective of our early work is to define more specifically the elements of the project and their respective cost estimates so that, before summer comes, the congregation will have sufficient information to vote on whether to proceed with construction and the associated financial arrangements.

The full Team (named below) met with our architect, Alex Bergtraun, in December for preliminary discussions of some desired attributes of the new narthex, the sequencing of the project, the various permitting issues, and the need for early involvement of a general contractor in the planning process. We subsequently addressed the latter point with our go-to engineering contact on the staff of the Mission Investment Fund. Her recommendation was, indeed, to bring a contractor on board to work with the architect from the beginning. The alternative, to have the architect work alone to create detailed plans and then put the plans out for competitive bidding among contractors, may seem like a lower-cost approach. However, it entails serious risks of subsequent conflicts and expensive change orders as construction proceeds. As a result, predicting the actual cost of the project becomes significantly more uncertain—not in a good way.

So, the Team's primary task for February is to bring in at least two candidates for our general contractor for

interviews. We will then select the firm that will join us and become an additional part of the team going forward. We want to have all the bases covered when we stand before you at the Congregational Meeting and ask for a "Go" vote.

One last tidbit of January activity to report: A pipe organ expert who is familiar with our instrument stopped by for a conversation with the architect and some interested individuals (Pastor Matt, Tim Getz, Andrew Mellows, Pastor Matt, and me) about some of the ramifications of the narthex redesign and construction. The organ pipes may need special care during construction, but no red flags arose about potential interference with the project. Yay!

We will, of course, keep you informed of our activities and progress. Since our commitment is ultimately to represent you, though, please don't hesitate to ask any of us what's going on. We appreciate your interest!

- Timo Ahonen
- Christina Buttler
- Mary Cravens
- Gail Foelsch
- Doug Hohback
- Barbara Larsen
- Steve Madsen
- Andrew Mellows
- Jim Schlatter, Chair
- Pastor Matt Smuts

## Heritage Fund 2014 Grants

The Heritage Fund makes grants to non-budgeted Grace programs at the end of each year, based on requests from church committees. This year the Fund is supporting three requests:

- Two chaperones for the seventeen Grace youth attending the National Youth Gathering in Detroit this summer—\$3,000
- Scholarships at Dar al-Kalima University—\$1,000
- Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition for Freedom Summit—\$500

The Heritage Fund has received gifts and bequests from members, and has been managed by the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust since 2010. The Heritage Fund will continue in perpetuity because grants are made from interest earned, not from the principal.



Photo and Text by Elizabeth Hood

## We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

The past few years, I have chosen a word of the year to help guide me. This word can be something to nourish, challenge, a word to wrestle with and grow into. The word that chooses us has the potential to transform us. I usually don't get to go home for Christmas because airfare is very expensive and I work on Christmas, but this year, a very good friend of mine surprised me by buying a ticket home for me! As I sat on the beach on New Years Eve watching the sunset, I thought about what my word might be. As I was taking pictures of the sunset, the word "love" came to me, so I wrote it in the sand. At first I thought, "That isn't my word," or I wasn't quite sure what to do with that word. So I rested with it.

A few days before, I was spending time with my group of best friends, who are really like family, and I looked down and saw a piece of coral that looked like a heart. I quickly picked it up and handed it to my friend. A minute later, I looked down and saw another heart, and then another, and then another, in total I probably found five or six! I gave them all to my friend.

Days later, I went back to the same beach and thought, I wonder if I could find some more hearts to keep for myself this time, and then thought, what are the odds of finding more hearts on the same beach? But sure enough, as I

walked, I found heart after heart. On my last day home, I went back to the same beach with my mom hoped against hope to find more hearts. I had brought the few hearts I had from the other day to take a picture of them in the sand. Just before I left the beach to head to the airport, I walked down the beach one last time and found a heart at the waters edge, and then another, and then another. I almost cried as I walked. I couldn't believe that I had found so many hearts, and then I thought about my word, which I was so unsure about, and then I knew that God must have been laughing at me! Love was meant to be my word this year.

I took the hearts down to the water to rinse off the sand, and I thought about this word love, and what it meant for me. Was I supposed to receive love or give love? I was wrestling with the purpose of the word. As I washed the hearts off, a wave came and one of the hearts fell into the water and was washed away, but I didn't mind. I had found so many, I felt blessed! I returned to my mom and felt the need to give her one of my hearts, so I picked one out for her and gave it to her. I then took all the hearts and laid them in the sand for a picture. I quickly realized the time and had to get going to the airport, so I packed up my stuff, threw the hearts in a bag and left the beach.

On the plane, I was doing some reading for a Coaching Training that I had attended at the ELCA in Chicago this fall. The book was all about baptism and our lives in a community of God's people, and over and over again, the book talked about God's love for us. I laughed and cried as I read the words again and again, "God Loves You." I thought more about giving love



away and I thought, wouldn't it be great if I had 12 hearts to give one away each month this year?! But I couldn't remember how many I had packed away in my bag, and then I thought about the picture I took, so I looked it up on my phone...12 hearts exactly, after I lost one in the ocean and gave one to my mom.

So this year, I will give and receive love. I will be open to God's using people and places around me to speak directly to me, and I will give my hearts away.

How is God speaking to you? How will you love this year? How will you give and receive love? ■

## Sunday School

ELEMENTARY RETREAT | MARCH 6 - 8 | MT CROSS

Grades 3-6

Bay Area Lutheran retreat for elementary-aged youth that we from Grace Lutheran Church will be attending as a group.

I will be taking our group up for the weekend and serving as our chaperone and leader. It will be a wonderful weekend filled with learning and fun, as well as lots of new friends!

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT

Our Sunday School Mission Project for the this season is Health Care Needs for the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto. Each Sunday during Sunday School opening we will collect the items listed below as our offering. Please make time over the next few weeks to let your child pick out and purchase these items. They love helping others and making a difference!

- Deodorant
- Body soap and lotion
- Toothpaste
- Body wash
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Disposable diapers, sizes 5 and 6

TEACHER APPRECIATION | MAY 3

Last day of regular Sunday School | May 17  
(Summer Sunday School is planned for this summer!)

## Middle School

EASTER EVE DECORATING PARTY! | APRIL 4 | 5 PM

Pizza Dinner, then filling eggs with candy and decorating Brown Hall

CONFIRMATION RETREAT | APRIL 25-27

For all confirmation students!! Especially our eighth graders. Join us for a weekend of fun, learning and laughter.

RITE OF CONFIRMATION | JUNE 7 | 10:45 AM SERVICE

All are welcome to join us for this wonderful celebration of our youth and their faith!

## High School

As always, lots of exciting things are happening with our High School youth. Our Youth Leadership team is hard at work planning a few fun events coming up, such as...

- Youth Room Work Day
- Bowling Adventure
- Lock In
- Bi-weekly high school lunches at Gunn and PALY and breakfast for the Menlo Park youth continue.

EASTER EVE DECORATING PARTY! | APRIL 4 | 5 PM

Pizza Dinner, then filling eggs with candy and decorating Brown Hall

SENIOR SUNDAY | MAY 10

This is a special service where we take a moment to honor and recognize our graduating high school seniors. The Grace quilters have been working all year on quilts for these youth, and we will present them at the 10:45 am service.

This Spring, we will send out College Care Packages for our Grace College students to let them know that we are sending them love and prayers! Anne Ritchie is helping to organize this project.

## Mt. Cross Summer Camp July 19-24, Week 6



Grace youth will go up to Mt. Cross together with Elizabeth this summer!! Email [elizabeth@gracepa.org](mailto:elizabeth@gracepa.org) with questions. You can register online at [www.mtcross.org](http://www.mtcross.org) A fantastic week of fun and adventure!! Hope you can join us!



**Christian Music Theatre Summer 2015 - Our 30th Year @ Grace!**  
**Priority registration due by Tuesday, Feb. 17** (church and preschool)

Info and forms: [graceCMT.org](http://graceCMT.org)

Session 1 | 9 am - 4 pm | June 8 to 12, 2015

**Promised Land** | Performance: June 12 at 7:30 pm

Sessions 2A & 2B | 9 am - noon; 1 - 4 pm | June 15 to 26, 2015

**Spirit of the Universe** | Performances: June 25/26 | 7:30 pm

Session 3 | 9 am - 4 pm | July 27 to 31, 2015

**Don't Shut Us Out** | Performance: July 31 at 7:30 pm

Sessions 4A & 4B | 9 am - noon; 1 - 4 pm | August 3 to 14, 2015

**The Greatest Treasure** | Performances: August 13/14 | 7:30 pm

## ELCA Youth Gathering | July 14-20

Lots of Fundraisers coming up! We will have monthly meetings to prepare and learn about this gathering and Detroit, as well as lots of Bake Sales!



TUESDAY

February 17 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm

**Mardi Gras Pancake Supper!**

Fundraiser for ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit

Come one, come all!! All you can eat!!

\$10 per person! \$25 max per family



# Parents Night OUT

Elizabeth Hood, Grace Lutheran Church Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry and our High School Youth will be hosting a Babysitting Night, as a Fundraiser for our Youth Gathering Trip to Detroit this Summer!!

We will make a Pizza Dinner all together, play in the preschool yard, make arts and crafts and more!  
 Both you AND your child are guaranteed to have a wonderful evening!

**Saturday, March 14 | 4-9pm**

2 years and up (Potty Trained)  
 3hrs (\$45 1 Child, \$60 for 2, \$80 3 or more)  
 5hrs (\$65 1 Child, \$90 for 2, \$100 for 3 or more)

**Please reserve your spot**  
 by emailing [elizabeth@gracepa.org](mailto:elizabeth@gracepa.org)

# Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

Grace members have been busy with a number of building and repair projects through Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity. This is a multi-year, multi-million dollar mission partnership between Thrivent Financial and Habitat for Humanity International. Since 2005:

- More than 525,000 Thrivent volunteers have logged 4 million volunteer hours
- \$200 million+ has been committed/donated by Thrivent and its members

4,300 homes have been built, rehabbed, or repaired. Grace supports this important ministry, both on the international and on the local level:

### THRIVENT BUILDS WORLDWIDE—EL SALVADOR TRIP AUGUST 8 - 16

Elizabeth Hood will be leading another trip to El Salvador. This year, it is from August 8 to August 16.

As a Thrivent Builds Worldwide trip participant, you'll help build simple, earthquake-resistant houses. You'll work alongside partner families who are gracious and giving and whom you'll soon call friends. You'll help restore hope...by building a home.



If you are a Thrivent Benefit Member, Thrivent even pays for a portion of your trip!

Please contact Elizabeth if you would like to learn more.

### THRIVENT BUILDS REPAIRS

A number of Grace members have spent a Saturday volunteering for local Thrivent Builds Repairs work projects. In late January, we joined volunteers from other Lutheran congregations to remove old siding, clean out the crawlspace and install new sheets of plywood at a family home in San Jose.

Our next project day is Saturday, March 14. Please contact Bruce FitzGerald if you are interested in joining the work crew!



**ABOVE (inset)**

*Elizabeth Hood leads a Thrivent Builds Worldwide to El Salvador (August 2014)*

**RIGHT**

*Grace Lutheran Members volunteer with Thrivent Builds Repairs*



Even almost eight years into the decade of preparation the 500th anniversary of the Reformation seems just around the corner! Keep your eyes open for information as it comes. Pastor Matt is going to hear Bp Käßmann from Germany at PLTS, who is one of the key planners surrounding these events. This global observation by 80 million Christians worldwide will have many facets including travel opportunities. We are also excited about what this might mean for our relationship with our neighboring Catholic sisters and brothers. There has been a lot of dialogue internationally between the Lutheran World Federation and the Vatican to understand how this observance is used for the unity of Christ's followers.

The main theme for the celebrations is **'Liberated by God's grace.'** In addition to that main theme, there are three sub-themes:

- Salvation - NOT FOR SALE**
- Humans - NOT FOR SALE**
- Creation - NOT FOR SALE**

Look for more information coming! or, if you can't wait, go to the LWF's page for this event: <http://www.lutheranworld.org/reformation-2017>

## Council Notes

The church council was pleased to see 2014 close with Grace Lutheran Church having accomplished so much over the last year and gaining even more momentum as we continue on into 2015. From both a financial standpoint and ministry perspective, 2014 demonstrated the many blessings here at Grace.

Financially, with over a half million dollars already raised in the capital campaign in just the first six months—and the endowment fund also substantially buoyed this year, Grace is well-positioned to achieve its long-term aspirations. In the near-term, 2014 saw us close the budget slightly under target, both on operating expenses and offering income, ending with small deficit overall. At our annual congregational meeting on January 25, we voted to approve a six-month budget that reflects a largely flat expense profile with exceptions made for a 3% increase in staff salaries and some allowance for higher benefits costs. Please see the office if you would like to review a copy of the annual financial report, including the first-half 2015 budget. Because our fiscal year is shifting six months,

the stewardship campaign will get underway this spring, and we will present a twelve-month budget in July.

The council also formed an ad hoc staffing strategy committee in December to help us consider future staffing possibilities relative to ministry. Sabine Kabel-Eckes, Holly Lucke, Nate Calhoun, along with Pr. Matt, are spending a couple of months studying whether additional staff would enhance Grace's ability to fulfill its vision and identity goals. They are conducting some interviews within the congregation and working to discern what type of staff (for example, vicar or part-time associate pastor) would best serve Grace's needs, along with the affordability of any recommendation.

The council closed 2014 with deep appreciation for the generosity of the congregation and the dedication of the staff, and with much optimism that 2015 will also be a year of great things at Grace Lutheran Church.

In Christ,  
Ray Ernenwein, Grace Council President

### COUNCIL

- Dave Bohn  
STEWARDSHIP, SOCIAL MINISTRY
- Julie Buckley  
MUTUAL MINISTRY, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
- Nate Calhoun  
SOCIAL MINISTRY
- Maria Derrick  
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION, FINANCE
- Ray Ernenwein, President
- Gail Foelsch  
PRESCHOOL, BUILDING COMMITTEE
- Twila Forbes  
WORSHIP AND MUSIC
- Sabine Kabel-Eckes  
ADULT ED AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION
- Holly Lucke, Vice President  
PERSONNEL
- Don McElravy  
STEWARDSHIP
- Jim Schlatter  
BUILDING COMMITTEE
- Katy Siegel, Secretary  
YOUTH MINISTRY

## Our 2015 Theme: "A Love that Never Ends"

Theme Verse: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Deuteronomy 6:5

Loving God and loving others sounds simple, but living it out gets more complicated. People of faith have often been called to do difficult things—to pack up and go when called, to speak difficult truths in challenging situations, to believe in God's promises, and to love even our enemies. In 2015, campers will learn about their calling to love God and others from people of the Old Testament who struggled to do the same.

- Monday: God's covenant with Abraham
- Tuesday: Water in the Wilderness
- Wednesday: Ruth & Naomi
- Thursday: Jonah & God
- Friday: Jeremiah's Call

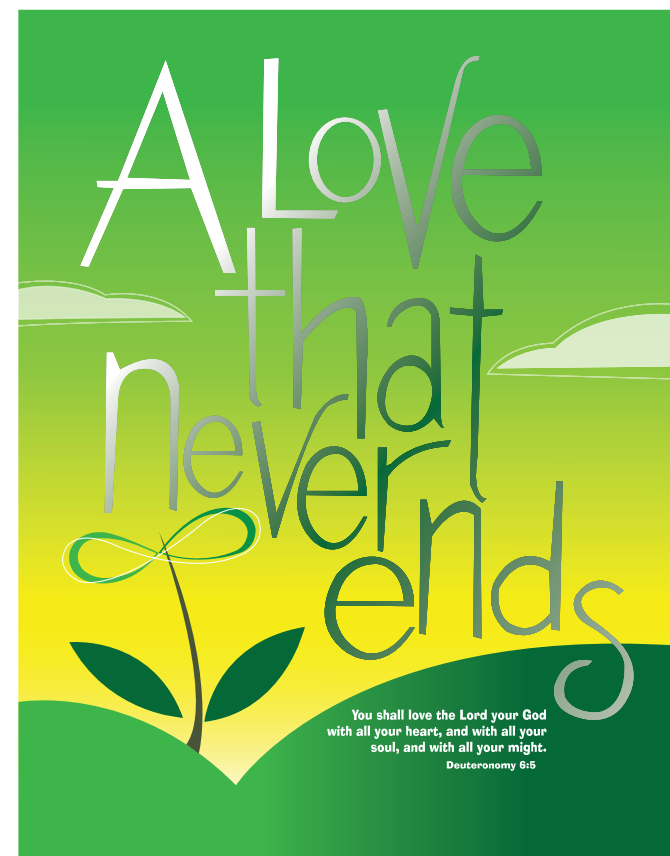
**\$110/ one child**  
**\$60/each additional child**  
**in the same family**

**July 6-10, 2015**  
**Monday-Friday | 9 am - 3 pm**

**July 9, 2015 | 6:00 pm**  
**Potluck & Program for campers,**  
**their families, and the entire**  
**Grace community**

Register online at:  
**[www.gracepa.org](http://www.gracepa.org)**

# Summer Day Camp @ Grace Lutheran



*This year, we are simplifying the paperwork for this program. Registration is completely online! Just fill out the online form completely and pay with a credit/debit card.*

## One day at a time

The library is filled with books for Lenten contemplation. A number of them are in standard devotional format, with 40 entries with Bible verse, explanation, questions for contemplation, and a prayer. Many others are less structured, or deal with different subjects. You might try looking at a book of religious art, focusing on one pictured artwork a day and what it means to you. Reading a poem is another way to prompt thoughtfulness on life and faith. Any of our books in the I (for Inspirational) section could be read a chapter at time.

I like the idea of reading a memoir one chapter or bit at a time during Lent. Many of these are accounts of personal journeys, overcoming hardship or illness, or finding one's true path. You could find someone, family member, friend, another Grace member or two, to read the same thing and discuss how it inspires you. Also, don't overlook our video collection. You might find something there to watch that would invite thoughtfulness.

Mary Ashley

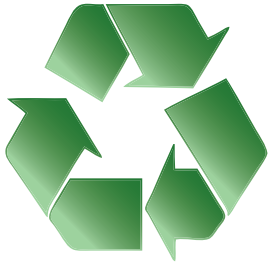


3149 Waverley Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
650.494.1212

[www.gracepa.org](http://www.gracepa.org)



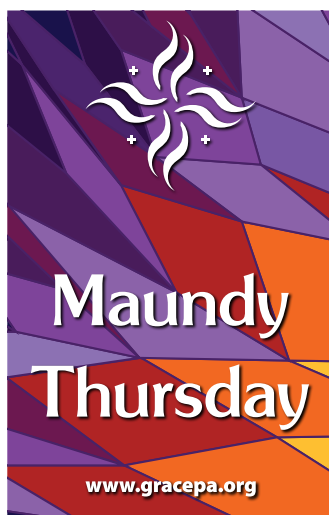
# Grace Lutheran Church



Printed on 30% post consumer recycled paper

**Sunday Worship**  
8:30 & 10:45 am  
«»«»«»«»«»«»  
Also broadcast on Cable 30  
Sundays 11 am | 8:30 pm  
Mondays 12:30 pm

 **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)



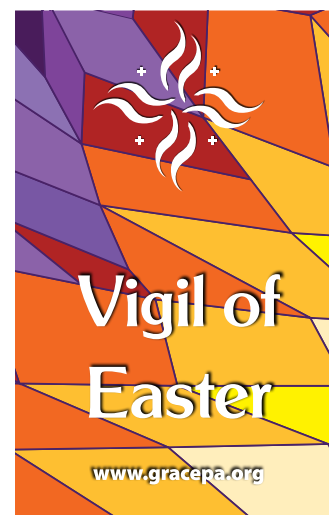
**Maundy Thursday**  
[www.gracepa.org](http://www.gracepa.org)

**April 2**  
7:00 pm



**Good Friday**  
[www.gracepa.org](http://www.gracepa.org)

**April 3**  
12 noon  
& 7:00 pm



**Vigil of Easter**  
[www.gracepa.org](http://www.gracepa.org)

**April 4**  
8:00 pm



**Easter Sunday**  
[www.gracepa.org](http://www.gracepa.org)

**April 5**  
8:30 am  
& 10:45 am