

GraceNotes

A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

CAMP CAMP CAMP!

Summer is a time of renewal
PAGE 4

SOCIAL MINISTRY

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

Where will you begin?
PAGE 13

REFORMATION 2017

LUTHER 500

Sprechen Sie Deutsch?
PAGE 15

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Stay | Burning

One of my favorite texts at this time of year is from the evening of the very first Easter. Jesus had been executed a few days prior and people in devastating grief were starting to drift away . . . away home, leaving Jerusalem and looking bleakly forward. Two



of Jesus' followers were on the road to Emmaus and ran into a stranger as they walked who they engaged in conversation over the tragic events that had happened in Jerusalem. The stranger began to speak to them using scripture about hope in tomorrow and the promise found in Jesus death. As evening began to fall, they were about to stop for the night with the stranger continuing alone, but they begged him to stay also . . . 'stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over' (Luke 24:29).

It surprises me the number of times, in our lives of faith individually and as a community, that the Holy Spirit comes to us in a way that we don't recognize immediately. Just as the disciples didn't recognize Jesus immediately as the stranger on the road. Sometimes the Holy Spirit comes where we might expect it like worship or in some other space that we feel we have created for God, but sometimes it's not. Individually, it may be a chance encounter with a friend or even a stranger where God barges in. As a community, it may be in opportunities that we did not expect. One piece is consistent though and comes from the first Easter account as well. As the disciples were reflecting on their encounter and were surprised that they had not recognized Jesus presence with their eyes . . . they reflect, 'were not our hearts burning within us as he was talking to us on the road?' (Luke 24:32)

The Holy Spirit continues to move among us in mysterious ways. However, it often involves a burning of the heart and a sense of hope and joy in tomorrow. Still your own soul as we travel through this season of Easter, this season of Hope that your heart might also be warmed and your future be given hope.

Peace,

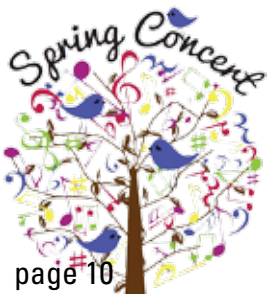

Rev. Matthew A. Smuts, pastor



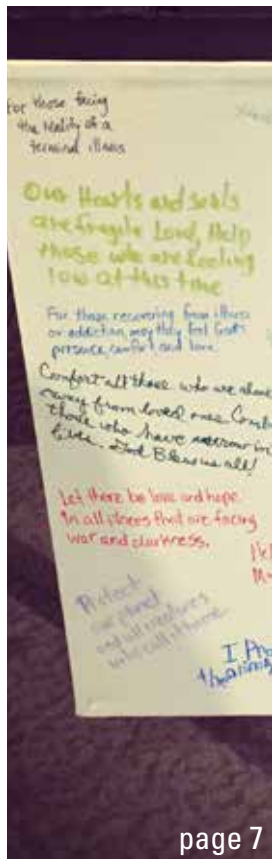
page 4



page 6



page 10



page 7



page 12

COVER PHOTO

Easter 2014

contents

04! SUMMER AT GRACE

Camp, camp, and more camp! Don't think you need to be 12 and under to participate!

05! WORSHIP

The 'work' of worship is a ministry of the people

08! BUILDING TEAM UPDATE

We are excited to see this process moving forward

09! KAIROS

Learning and giving - in God's Time

10! JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

One person's lenten faith journey

11! ASCENSION | MEMORIAL CHURCH

The joint Lutheran/Episcopal celebration at Stanford plays host to The Rev. Becca Stevens

12! DRIVE US TO DETROIT

Churchwide BBQ Fundraiser is an opportunity for good food and good fellowship

13! CREATION STEWARDSHIP

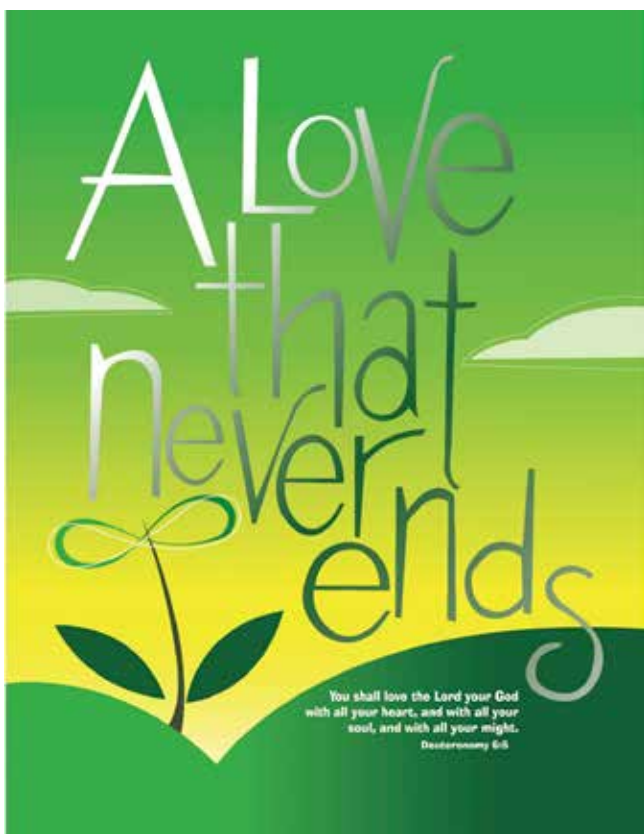
Put your faith into action, find your creation passion

14! EVENTS FOR THE FAMILY OF GRACE

From Bible study to Confirmation, with a bit of breakfast on the side

14! LUTHER 500

Preparing for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation



July 7 - 11, 2014 | 9 am - 3 pm

Summer Day Camp at Grace

Thursday, July 10 | 6:00 pm

Evening Potluck & Program for campers, their families, and the whole Grace Community

for children currently in Kindergarten - fifth grade (options for younger children—Inquire by e-mail)

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

In a typical day, your camper will experience:

- Worship
- Small Group Time (Bible lessons, art projects, crafts, and fun games)
- Snack and Lunch
- Large Group Activities (all camp)
- Sing Alongs
- Quiet Time

Families are invited to join in our closing worship each day!

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

**Questions? Elizabeth Hood
elizabeth@gracepa.org**

www.gracepa.org/daycamp

We are so excited for Day Camp this summer, we already have a lot of children signed up. Don't miss your chance to be part of this great week—tell your friends! This camp costs only \$110 for an entire week of fun from 9 am-3 pm every day! We play, sing, dance, create, learn, and grow in our faith.

You can help either by helping to prepare lunch for our staff and high school volunteers or by bringing in snack! Let me know if you want to help. The whole church community is invited to attend our Thursday evening Day Camp Potluck: dinner followed by a short performance of the songs and skits learned by the children throughout the week. The children love performing, and it would mean so much to them to see you there!

August 28 - 30, 2015

Grace Lutheran Church Annual Weekend at Mt. Cross!

Programming all weekend: SAVE THE DATE!!

Spend time in the Santa Cruz mountains, worship at camp, attend the annual church BBQ (free!), make crafts, go hiking, roast marshmallows over the campfire, hang out and play games, and so much more! Spend a day—or the weekend—at Mt. Cross with your family from Grace.

This weekend will include a Confirmation Retreat (welcoming our new sixth graders!) and special events for the high school youth.

Don't miss out! This is going to be a great summer and we hope that you will be a part of it!

Sign-up at www.gracepa.org

Summer Sunday School

We are planning to have Summer Sunday School again this Summer! We will announce dates soon. Preschool-Grade 5 will meet in Brown Hall for group Sunday School that will include cooking, crafting, and science experiments! We are looking for adults in the congregation who would be willing to teach one Sunday this summer in a pair or on a team! We have all the lessons and will be there to help. It will be a blast, we had a lot of fun last summer. Keep an eye out for our adventures.

Grades 6-12 will also have group Sunday Gatherings. We will do a mix of movies with faith discussions, crafts, and service projects. Again, we are looking for adults who would be willing to teach one Sunday this summer! We will provide you with everything you need—and a guarantee that you will have fun!

Summer Camp at Mt. Cross | July 19-24

Every summer, Elizabeth picks a week of camp when she can take all the youth from Grace up to have a great week of summer camp all together. I can't tell you how important camp is to the development of children and youth. It provides countless benefits for them as they grow, learn, and explore. It is a safe place for them to be truly themselves and realize that they are loved without condition by God, who created the nature around them they get to explore.

Ministries Ministering



by Tim Getz

MOST WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES list the names of their staff members in their weekly bulletin, and many of those start at the top of the page: “Ministers: the baptized people of God,” or some other words to that effect. The idea is this: when we gather for worship, we are **all** ministers, assembled to pray, sing, praise, celebrate communion, and be sent forth in mission. This shared leadership is based on Paul’s description of the church in First Corinthians: “For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:12)

The ministries of the baptized are many, and include: readers, ministers of communion, prayer leaders, cantors and other musicians, ushers, greeters, and more. All of these individual ministries contribute to the health of the one body.

It is sometimes thought that we have a variety of lay people “assisting” in worship only to ease strain on the pastor, or perhaps to provide a few extra hands for the distribution of communion. The truth goes beyond that: there are actually only a few key points in the liturgy that are in fact the pastor’s job: offering absolution, praying the Prayer of the Day, reading the gospel and preaching the sermon, praying the Great Thanksgiving for the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and pronouncing the blessing (benediction) as the service comes to a close. All the rest is OUR job as the baptized people of God! Even large congregations with more than one pastor on staff can and should involve as many lay people as possible in leadership at every service.

TOP LEFT
Easter Procession 2014

RIGHT
Headed to the Elementary Retreat at Mt. Cross.

TOP and BOTTOM RIGHT
Elementary Retreat at Mt. Cross



Our **ushers and greeters** help people feel welcome at church, and keep a special eye out for people who might be new to our community. They distribute bulletins, answer questions, and receive the offering. It's a great ministry for whole families, adults and children, to handle together.

Our **readers** prepare readings from Scripture at home and then read them clearly and expressively during worship. They can be adults, youth, or children—anyone who is able to communicate the texts in a way that helps the listeners understand what is being read. We often schedule two per service, which both allows more people to be involved in this ministry and enables the congregation to hear a greater diversity of voices.

Communion assistants help with the distribution of wine or grape juice at Holy Communion. This is a relatively easy task (all you need is a fairly steady hand for pouring from the chalice!) and usually requires four people at every service.

You've probably never thought of the **choir** and other **musicians** as ministers, but they are as well! Whether they are leading all of us in our singing of hymns and responses, or performing other music as proclamation or prayer, the ministry of music is an important way for many to express their baptismal calling.

The **Assisting Minister**, far from being "pastor's helper," fills an important role that is historically parallel to that of an ordained deacon. (This is still an ordained ministry in some denominations.) The Assisting Minister leads many of the prayers during worship, most notably the Prayers of Intercession. In some congregations, the Assisting Minister might actually be trained to write these prayers personally in advance. In other places (including at Grace), the prayers are adapted from a published model. The Assisting Minister is responsible for preparing the table for the celebration of Holy Communion, and often distributes bread alongside the pastor. Some Assisting Ministers may chant the psalm or other liturgical music if they are comfortable doing so and well-rehearsed, but singing is not a requirement for performing this role.

The **Altar Guild** works behind the scenes to prepare the bread, wine, and tableware for Holy Communion each week, usually setting up on Saturdays and cleaning up after worship on Sundays. Although you usually can't see them during worship, their ministry is priceless!

In addition to my music responsibilities, I've been coordinating the schedule for our lay ministers since this past fall. We currently have about 75 people serving in one or

Mark your calendar now for this year's Spring Concert, **Sunday, May 17, at 4:00 pm** in the sanctuary with treats and conversation afterwards. Our vocal soloists, Mark Tendall and Angelique Zuluaga, will perform, along with the Grace Choir and other surprises! Contributions to the Grace Music Fund are welcomed to help defray some of our annual expenses not included in the regular church Operating Fund. We hope to see YOU here!



**Sunday, May 17
at 4:00 pm**

more of these various ministries at Grace. I'd be thrilled to add at least 75 more! One of our goals is to incorporate as many *different* people as possible every Sunday. Many hands make light work! More importantly though, a deeper participation and investment in the worship life of the congregation is immensely rewarding, both for the individual and for the community. I hope you'll consider joining us. Contact me at tim@gracepa.org (or just flag me down after church some Sunday) and we will find a place for you. Happy Easter!

Lenten Evening Worship | Prayer | Service by Elizabeth Hood

This year we decided to do something a little different during Lent and we planned 5 weeks of an evening service with prayers and service. We also transformed the sanctuary to feel more intimate.

With the purple curtains draw and the light lowered, we sang Holden Evening with flute and guitar. We offered up our gifts and talents with song, prayer and service. We worshiped with creative and interactive prayer art. These weeks have been a blessing to me and will be a blessing for all those who will receive our gifts. We made 10 throw blankets for the elderly, 100 blessing bags for those in need, 100 snack packs for children who go without, Easter Care Packages for our college youth, and more!





Update from the Building Team

You may recall from the previous edition of Grace Notes that the near-term focus of the Building Team was to select a general contractor who will oversee the construction effort that will:

1. take our Phase I plans
2. examine them in excruciating detail
3. figure out what the entire project will cost
4. help convince the Congregation, and then the City, that we have excellent plans
5. add shingles, bricks, glass, asphalt (and, of course, other materials that are more alluring, but which will be revealed at a later time)
6. build this thing!

On the basis of two-hour interviews and evaluations of background materials submitted by each of the two candidate firms, we came to the unanimous conclusion that W. L. Butler Construction, Inc., is the company best suited to bringing Grace's Phase I plan into reality. Both candidates had successfully completed projects of similar size and scope to ours for non-profit clients, and both were commended by architects who had worked with them and by our in-house voice of experience, Doug Hohbach. A key distinguishing factor in Butler's favor was the formality and level of organization used in executing their construction projects. Butler prides itself on the efficiency and regularity of communications among the project team of builder, architect, and client. Once the project gets underway, there are weekly meetings to update all interested parties on project status versus schedule and budget, key decisions that must be made (and by whom and by when) to keep the project on schedule, any issues that have arisen, and selection of any subcontractors involved in upcoming work. All of the proceedings and associated decisions are documented so that the entire story of the project from beginning to end, including as-built drawings, will be captured in the Butler documentation scheme. That characteristic was a key component of the decision to make W. L. Butler our choice for Grace's General Contractor.

In our initial conversation with Frank York, President of W. L. Butler, we outlined our first big dilemma: The task of generating a detailed project budget will cost money (on the order of \$20,000), but the money won't be available unless and until the Congregation officially votes to proceed with Phase I construction. But the Congregation cannot approve the project without knowing what it will cost. In (generous!) response, York offered to provide Grace with a preliminary budget estimate in time to support a presentation to the Congregation before summer is upon us. This budget evaluation will be done at no charge and with no contractual obligation. Thus, Butler is beginning work for Grace on faith, without requiring payment or even approval paperwork of any kind. Clearly, our relationship with W. L. Butler is off to a great start!

The Team:
 Timo Ahonen
 Christina Buttler
 Mary Cravens
 Gail Foelsch
 Doug Hohbach
 Barbara Larsen
 Steve Madsen
 Andrew Mellows
 Jim Schlatter, Chair
 Pastor Matt Smuts



Butler is aware of the tight timeline involved in soliciting Congregational approval before the end of May. The Project Leader and the Estimator from Butler have already spent more than three hours on campus with our architect, Pastor Matt, Jim Schlatter, and Doug Hohbach, looking methodically over the scene from the shingles on the rooftop to the heater in the basement—a tour not for the faint of heart, by the way!

You can anticipate hearing lots more details over the next several weeks as we lead up to a Special Congregational Meeting to consider and, we hope, authorize a launch of Phase I construction. Meanwhile, rest assured that your Building Team is continuing its relentless pursuit of your interests in these exciting times. Again, if you ever want to know what's going on, just ask us!

Looking at Church in the World

During Lent, attendees at the Sunday morning Adult Forum reflected on the question “What is it to be ‘church?’” through study of the *Claimed, Gathered, Sent* series led by Pastor Matt. During Easter we turn our attention to instances of faith in action, with Adult Forum sessions on climate change, the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the key role of the German churches in the political changes 25 years ago. All are welcome! Adult Forum meets Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:30 in the Chapel. The topic for the week is announced in the weekly enotes mailing and posted on the “Welcome” board that you see as you arrive at Grace.

During Easter, we also continue the Sunday morning text study of the scriptural lessons of the day, meeting in the Fireside Room from 9:45-10:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to deepen understanding and relevance of the biblical texts read in worship. Please join us!

Looking ahead, the 500th anniversary of the beginnings of the Reformation is on the horizon, with planning underway for celebrations commemorating Martin Luther’s posting of the 95 Theses in 1517. We at Grace are already thinking about our congregations’ role in these events—including a trip to Germany in 2017 to mark the occasion!

Wishing you a blessed Easter,
The Adult Education and Spiritual Formation Committee

Heritage Sunday

On May 3, Grace Lutheran Church will celebrate the Heritage Fund and the members who have participated in establishing this endowment fund. This is a perpetual fund, the purpose of which is to support the mission of Grace Lutheran Church from its earned interest. Currently, the Heritage Fund is valued at nearly \$300,000.

We are pleased to have a guest preacher from Cal Lutheran University, Pastor Kapp L. Johnson, J.D. He will also lead the Forum discussion and will attend and speak at the Heritage Club luncheon. As a Lutheran Pastor, a Senior Lecturer at Cal Lutheran University, and a lawyer, Pastor Johnson will provide insights into stewardship through estate planning.

Heritage Club:

Autumn and Gary Bea

*Barbara Behling**

Amrette and Jerry Butler

Joanie Caroon

Miriam Casey

Mary and Mark Cravens

Kathy and Bruce FitzGerald

Marianna and Robert Kraus

Chris and Dan Logan

Andrew Mellows

Martha Meyer

*Dr. Norman Olson**

Dr. Donald Ostrus

Gretchen Rauch

Rev. Cora Scheel

Carol and Donald Scifres

Jim Thissell

Ans and David Vroom

Karen and Rev. Randall Wilburn

Janet and Stewart Wobber

Barbara and Donald Zepp

**Deceased*



The spring Pledge Campaign is in full swing amidst a lot of activity at Grace—Lent, Easter, kids preparing to go to national Youth Gathering, building plans! It feels like our “Kairos moment.” This year, for the first time, we have shifted the fiscal year at Grace. The new budget year will run from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016, to better align expenditures with the programming year.

Pledge packets were mailed recently to members, and we look forward to your prayerful consideration of continued financial support for programming and day-to-day operations at Grace Lutheran Church. Information about our hopes and dreams, including the possibility of expanded staffing, can be found on the Grace website. Pledge Sunday is scheduled for March 29 for members who want to make their commitment in person. Again this year,

God’s Time

we also have the opportunity to make an annual pledge online at www.gracepa.org. Once all pledges have been received, the Finance Committee will tally the pledges and, along with Council Leadership, draft a budget for consideration by members at a special June Congregational Meeting.

Reminders about essential dates will be made periodically. However, if you should miss one and need information or want to pledge online, check out the new button on the website that links donors to the pledge page.

Thank you for your generosity, your prayerful stewardship of all that God has given you, and for keeping Grace—both people and programs—in your giving plan and your prayers!

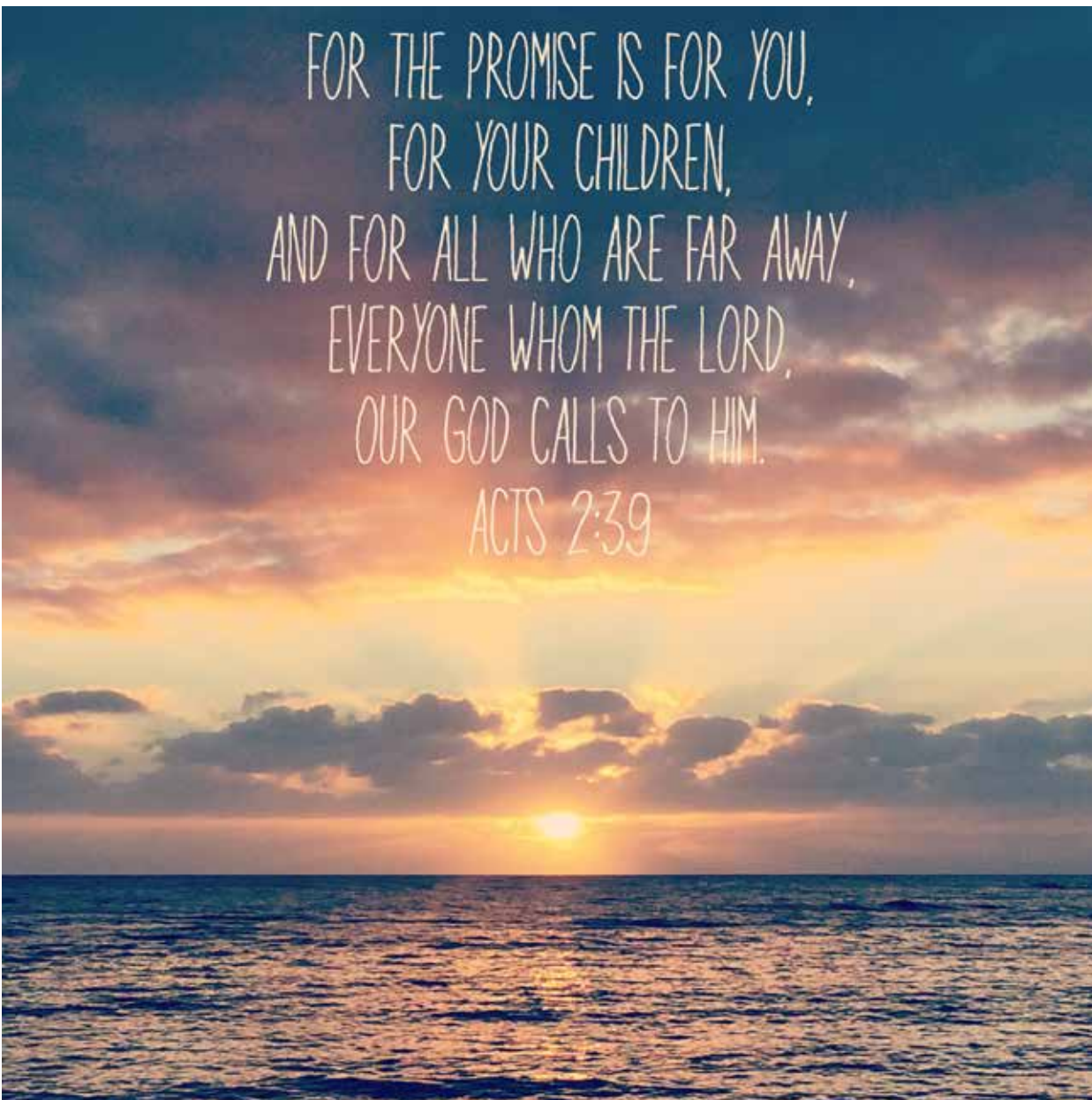


I have been participating in Lent Photo a Day this year as my Lenten discipline. Every morning I look up the new word and ponder that word throughout most of the day. This year, I used photos I had taken over the years and added words or Bible verses to them to illustrate that day's word. Here are just a few of my favorite words and photos.



Journey through LENT

by Elizabeth Hood



LEFT PAGE:
TOP LEFT
Dust

TOP RIGHT
Forgiven

BOTTOM LEFT
Go

RIGHT PAGE:
TOP LEFT
Water

TOP RIGHT
Beauty

BOTTOM LEFT
Promise

Celebrate Ascension Day At Stanford's Memorial Church

Episcopal Lutheran Campus Ministry at Stanford welcomes the Rev. Becca Stevens to Memorial Church for Ascension Day 2015, bringing together Lutheran and Episcopal churches from around the Peninsula. The Rev. Becca Stevens is the founder of Magdalene House and Thistle Farms, working to combat sex trafficking and to provide a community for women coming out of it. Stevens, an Episcopal priest serving as chaplain at St. Augustine's at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn, has authored eight books and has been featured on NPR, PBS and CNN, among other media outlets. She was named by the White House as one of 15 Champions of Change.



When: Thursday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Stanford Memorial Church (450 Serra Mall, Stanford, CA)



ELCA Youth Gathering Update! We are FUNDRAISING!! Thanks for your support!!

Drive Us to Detroit!

featuring



Grace Lutheran
BBQ Dinner
April 15
7-9pm

Get tickets in advance!
or just show up!

From Grace to the World

I have been welcomed as part of this community for about eighteen months, and I have loved every bit of it. Grace Lutheran is a place founded on love and actualized in relationships. These relationships have acted upon me, and even pulled from myself, hope for the Church's (catholic/world) *loving* presence in the world. This place is more than buildings or an official non-profit organization: this place is a family, complete with challenges, disagreement, and support. We are a community of individuals, joined together for the sake of the Gospel. In the face of a broken world—cultures of work, school, dependence, violence, and oppression—we still gather as a community to say that God empowers us to something different. We gather to dream together, courageously naming our hurts and hopes to each other. And, we grow together towards a different future.

This is the place that welcomed me as a Vicar, a servant trained and yet in training. More than this, you have all welcomed me as part of the Grace Lutheran family. You have taken an interest in my life, my formation, my family, and my well-being. In turn, you have fed me with your own stories and selves. We have come to give each other love, and we have supported each other in the mission we share: to live out Christ's Gospel in the world. At times, we may

be called to service, at others learning, teaching, following, leading, laughing, crying, speaking, listening, etc.—and, many times in the last eighteen months, our calls have overlapped. You have all accompanied me in exploring Palo Alto and God's ministry therein.

Maggie and I want to thank you for the love you have shown us, which we are sure you will continue to show us in coming years. We ask for your prayers, and we will lend you ours. We have been assigned to the Central/Southern Illinois Synod. On May 23, we will move away from the Bay Area for all the foreseeable future, and we will mourn the parting from friends and places we have come to know so well, and that have in turn known us. Thank you for all of your love and support! We will keep in touch—letting you know about where we end up, etc.—and we will continue to inquire as to Grace Lutheran goings-on also. Thank you!!

Nikoli





**Meran Youth Group Fundraiser
Dinner and Silent Auction
26 | 4-7 pm | Brown Hall
Food To Go or Dine In**

Buy online or from any of
the youth! www.gracepa.org

Beyond the Yellow Box

We are so grateful for Grace's generosity in filling up that yellow box in the narthex, usually on a weekly basis. Thank you!

Lately we have needed more people to work at the Food Closet. Our volunteers give two hours once or twice a month. It is a sit-down job or a stand up fill-the-bags job; either job takes about 5-10 minutes to learn and a time or two with someone who has done it before. We have met so many great people from many churches this way.

We hope there will be Grace members who are able to give a little time each month for this purpose. The main constraint is that the times we are open are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. And we need two or three volunteers for each time: 10:00-noon and noon-2:00; that's about 50-60 people per month!



Joanie Caroon, who coordinates volunteers, would love to hear from you at (650) 968-8266. And we think you will have a good time.

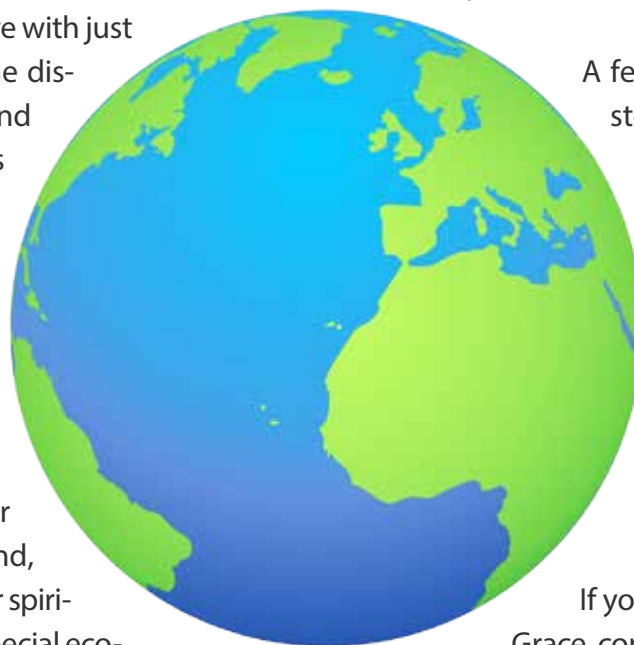
Mary and Paul Carlson

Creation Stewardship: Faith|Action

How do we reconcile the urgency to take action to correct numerous and serious human abuses of God's creation with the difficulty of finding hope in the face of such an enormous task?

In our faith! Following Jesus' initiative with just a few loaves and fishes at hand, the disciples distributed what they had and somehow, the multitude of 5000 was fed. Likewise, we can begin with what we have, join with others doing the same, and the challenge will be met.

Yes, creation is big, and no one can take on the the whole thing. The opportunities are many: concerns for clean air, clean water and clean land, the value of open space as a place for spiritual renewal, the loss of species or special ecosystems and protecting the ones that still survive, whether it is wise to release genetically modified organisms into the



environment and into our food chain, outrage at the environmental injustice imposed on the powerless by powerful polluters and exploiters of the environment? Where might you begin?

A few Sundays ago Pr. Matt, preaching on the Gospel story of Jesus turning over the tables of the money changers in the Temple, urged us to be dangerous like Jesus. Where you find good creation stewardship, praise it, and where you see bad, confront it. Communicate your views through letters to the media and to politicians. Contribute your money and your time. Decide which creation stewardship issue moves you, find an organization that addresses that issue in ways you can support, and join up.

If you want to help with Creation Stewardship action at Grace, contact me at bigbillcutler@aol.com. I envision a group working together via e-mail with no meetings (well, maybe one or two as we get started) to emerge a plan of action and carry it out.

From Christmas to Easter: Poetry

Last December I was searching online for the title and complete version of a Christmas poem I had just a fragment of, and I found the information in an essay titled “The Poetry of Christmas” published on PBS’s *Religion & Ethics Newsweekly* website (www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/). The essay was interesting, and cited a book that sounded even more interesting: *Divine Inspiration: The Life of Jesus in World Poetry*. I acquired a copy for the library and have enjoyed browsing through it, recently in the section on the Passion. The editors call it “an effort to bring together examples of the fresh, varied, and unpredictable ways in which the words of the Gospels have inspired poets in the past and continue to inspire poets today.”

The library has a small collection of poetry books, under the call number P, including two recent volumes by Christian Wiman, the editor of *Poetry* magazine and a lecturer in religion and literature at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. *Every Riven Thing* is a prize-winning poetry collection published in 2010, and *My Bright Abyss:*

Meditation of a Modern Believer, is a meditation on faith and poetry in the context of the author’s cancer diagnosis. It has received excellent reviews.

With Easter approaching, one other poetry book I enjoy is actually aimed at children. It is in the F (for Festivals) section because I think it can be equally enjoyed by adults. *At Jerusalem’s Gate: Poems of Easter*, by Nikki Grimes, is a collection of simple poems expressing the thoughts of participants and observers of the Passion. It is beautifully illustrated with woodcuts.

All of the above books are currently on display with other Lent and Easter books in the library. I have also left copies of “The Poetry of Christmas” essay, and another, “On Easter and Updike,” on the magazine table in the library. ■

Mary Ashley

Youth Group

Bowling | May 2
So much fun!!

Young Adults

Dates for Brunch

April 12
May 31
June 21

Middle School Ministry Events

On these Sundays, we are gathering just after church for food and fun! Hope that YOU can join us and bring a friend!!

April 19
May 3
June 14

Senior Sunday | May 10 | 10:45 am

A tradition for many years at Grace! Amazing to think of over 70 youth—now adults—out there who have been given a quilt from Grace as a way to show them that they are always loved and cared for by this community.

A big thank you goes to the quilters: Jan Curtis, Mary Schlatter, Autumn Bea, Amrette Butler, Gloria Yu, Marie McElravy, Helen Lamons, and Joan Ferguson. Please join us for another memorable Senior Sunday on **May 11 at the 10:45 am service**. We will present our High School Seniors with quilts and send them off to their new adventure!

Confirmation Sunday | June 7 | 10:45 am

Every year we help our eighth graders through a major life milestone, the move from middle school into high school. On this Sunday, we congratulate them on completing our three-year confirmation program at Grace, and help to usher them into life as adults in the church. We have ten confirmands this year! We are so excited and will be creative in how we celebrate them this Sunday so that they each have a moment to shine! Please keep in mind that your support for them on this Sunday is important. The service will be of average length, so don’t worry about a long service, but do come to support our fine youth as they make this big life transition. It always helps to hear from adults about how loved and supported you are when your whole life seems to be changing.

Grace Men’s Breakfast

7 am Tuesdays | Palo Alto Breakfast House

The Grace Men’s Breakfast has picked up several men rotating through at various frequencies. Anyone is welcome to join us for this great time of fellowship and sharing. We meet every week at the Palo Alto Breakfast House on Middlefield Road and there is no need to RSVP.

(lunch anyone?)

We are exploring the possibility of adding a lunch in addition to the rotation. Keep your eyes peeled and, if you have a preference of day and or location, be in touch with Pastor Matt at pastormatt@gracepa.org

(make that dinner!)

Finally, we are wondering about the possibility of a larger Men’s event in April/May that is perhaps a low key dinner of sorts. If you have any thoughts or interest in that, again, let Pastor Matt know.

Thursday AM Discussion

10:30am Thursdays | Library

Every week at 10:30am Pastor Matt leads a discussion on the readings for the coming Sunday. No experience is necessary and every week is a stand alone event. The readings are supplied so just come for the discussion... it’s your chance to impact the coming sermon!

Council Notes

The church council has been busy this spring on multiple fronts. Each one of our council liaisons have reported that the committees at Grace have great plans in place for 2015. Additionally, the council has had Elizabeth and Tim share a retrospective on 2014 along with their goals for 2015 - we're very thankful for their talents and commitment to creating vibrant youth and music programs.

A major focus area for the council has been transitioning from the successful capital campaign to seeing our collective vision fulfilled through a building plan. To that end, the building team has taken several important steps to move the exciting campus master plan project forward. A general contractor has been selected, and the contractor is working with our architect to create a cost estimate tied to our project's specifications. Look for a congregational meeting to be scheduled in mid-May where we'll review the specific building proposal and seek the congregation's

formal approval for the loan that's necessary to fully fund the construction. The building team also plans to hold some informational question-and-answer sessions in late April/early May between church services. So, we hope you can attend those to see the specific architectural drawings and learn more about the proposals.

The council has also reflected on the opportunity to enhance Grace's ministries through the potential addition of a part-time associate pastor. We're excited by this possibility but also recognize that the financial viability of this depends on an enthusiastic response to this year's stewardship campaign. As you make your giving decisions for the coming year, thank you for prayerfully considering this kairos moment.

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
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PERSONNEL

Don McElravy
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Jim Schlatter
BUILDING COMMITTEE

Katy Siegel, Secretary
YOUTH MINISTRY

Sierra Pacific Synod Synod Assembly

May 29-31 | Sacramento

This is the annual business meeting of the synod and the first one in 10 years or so to be held in Sacramento! This year we will be looking for delegates to attend, however, going along with us will be Inger Smuts and Elizabeth Hood representing our District on the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee and Theresa Landi running for synod council as the youth representative. Grace will be well represented at this annual gathering of the synod family. There are usually around 500 people in attendance at the synod assembly.



June 19-25, 2017
www.luther500festival.com

We are very excited to begin exploring a possible trip to Germany in 2017 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Pencil in the dates so you might go as well! Pastor Matt will be attending a leader's advance trip this Fall to begin getting things in place. This event will be part worship, part service, part tour, part fun . . . and is intended for any and all ages! For example, Pastor Matt is hoping his whole family can attend. They are expecting this festival to have roughly 500 people in attendance.

The other piece of the 500th observance is how we at Grace Lutheran Church Palo Alto observe this milestone locally in October of 2017. Only very preliminary conversations have taken place at this point, but we are excited for the opportunity to raise our visibility in the community and to continue to reform the whole wider church. More to come!

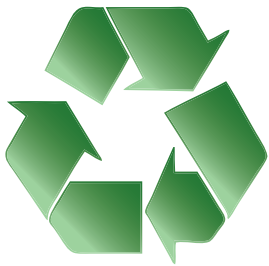


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www.gracepa.org



Grace Lutheran Church



Printed on 30% post consumer recycled paper

Sunday Worship

8:30 & 10:45 am

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Also broadcast on Cable 30

Sundays 11 am | 8:30 pm

Mondays 12:30 pm



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Church in America

God's work. Our hands.
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Easter Sunday is April 5!

Festival Worship | 8:30 am and 10:45 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!