

GraceNotes

A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a place for you



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Life

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:68-69



The summer is drawing to a close, and its different rhythms and patterns are giving way to the familiar paths of Fall. However, here at Grace, unlike other years, the routine and the fantastic seem to lay over one another in this coming season. Our capital project is picking up steam with serious conversations with the city and exciting sharing to come soon as a congregation. We have not done new construction at Grace in 50 years. Also, this last Tuesday a Call Committee was formed from the will of the congregation

at our congregational meeting. Their work will begin very soon for a part-time associate pastor for the first time in 15 years here at Grace. While Sunday School and many other elements of our regular life together pick back up starting Sunday, September 13, we have some amazing grace-filled energy in these unusual times and projects! A sense of life and vitality!

When Simon Peter expresses his commitment to follow Christ, it is clear that he is not saying that it is easy or fun. Rather, he is acknowledging that following Christ is hard and often in the face of cultural headwinds...but it is life! It is in the midst of this challenging and broken life that we engage in the challenging and life-giving path of discipleship in Christ. This is something that is done in many ways individually... but is most profound and lively when engaged in community.

My challenge to you is to dive in. I do not promise that it is easy, or that it will fit your schedule like a glove, or that it will make you the coolest person at the office. I do promise that it will bring you new life.

See you soon!

Rev. Matthew A. Smuts, pastor



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Annual Picnic at Mt Cross, and the 8:30 and 10:45 worship services at Grace 8/30/2015

FOCUS ON: Reformation

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself with love. (Eph. 4:15-16)

Text by Barbara Pitkin



WITH THIS ELOQUENT but also earthy analogy to the intricate mysteries of the human body, the author of the letter to the Ephesians exhorts each of us to grow more and more into Christ so that we can fulfill our calling and, through exercising love, build up his body in the world.

Our ELCA slogan phrases the call to build with love more directly: “God’s work. Our hands.” But we need to remember the piece about growing up into Christ as well—for it is through our individual connection to the “head” that our hands are equipped for service.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH DEVELOPMENT

At Grace, there are many opportunities for each person to deepen his or her relationship to Christ through learning, fellowship, and service. The Adult Education and Spiritual Formation committee would like to make you aware of some of the options available for adult spiritual development through participating in classes, Bible studies, service opportunities, fellowship groups, and music programs. For a full listing, please see the list of offerings for 2015-2016 that accompanies this article.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum provides a regular educational opportunity for faith growth for adults. Forum meets on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:30 in the Chapel (near the library in the Ed Wing). A highlight of the fall is an eight-session series on the heritage of the Reformation, with an eye toward the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of Luther’s posting of the 95 Theses, in 2017. Please join us, starting on September 6, for presentation and discussion of Luther’s famous theses, Calvin and the Reformed Tradition, the Reformation in Finland, the Reformation and music, and more! We will even have a report on the preparations for celebrating the Reformation’s birthday in Germany—and a preview of a possible congregational trip in 2017! During November, Adult Forum will study the Gospel of Luke. In December, the time of Advent, sessions will focus on the Holy Land and the music of advent and Christmas.

Questions? Please contact the office or Pastor Matt.

Adult Education and Spiritual Formation Committee: Geri Horsma, Frances Harris, Sabine Kabel-Eckes (Council Liaison), Barbara Pitkin, Pastor Matt. ■

BOTTOM LEFT

*Zentralbibliothek
Zürich - Effigies
praecipuorum
illustrium atque
praestantium aliquot
theologorum –
Fictitious dispute
between leading
Protestant reformers
(sitting at the left
side of the table:
Luther, Zwingli,
Calvin, Melancthon,
Bugenhagen, and
Oecolampadius) and
representatives of
the Catholic Church,
surrounded by
important Protestant
reformers*



September

September 6:

Reformation 1: **Luther’s 95 Theses**
(Barbara Pitkin) | Labor Day weekend

September 13:

Reformation 2: **Calvin and the
Reformed Tradition** (Sabine Kabel-
Eckes) | Rally Day

September 20:

Reformation 3: **Reformation in
Finland** (guest: Jarmo Tarkki)

September 27:

Reformation 4: **Lutherans in America**
(Pastor Matt)

October

October 4:

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Preaching** (Barbara Pitkin)

October 11:

Reformation 6: **Reformation Music**
(Tim Getz)

October 18:

Reformation 7: **Report on
celebrations in Germany 2017**
(Pastor Matt)

October 25:

Reformation 8: **Reformation Sunday**
(Pastor Matt) | Reformation Fest (noon)



TWENTY *awesome* WAYS TO GROW IN FAITH

FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE, EDUCATION, MUSIC, and WORSHIP

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

[01] Retiree Rendezvous Potluck Bring your favorite food, hot or cold, appetizer, or dessert on the **THIRD Thursday of every month** in Brown Hall. We share our food at noon and then open our ears to listen. Coming this fall: Pastor Matt; Niveen Sarras (Palestinian seminary student currently on internship at Advent Lutheran in Morgan Hill); and the recent travelers to El Salvador: Elizabeth Hood, Tim Getz, and David Vroom.

[02] Women's Breakfast and Conversation Enjoy good food and conversation on the **second Saturday of every month** beginning at 8:30 am in the Fireside Room. We take turns supplying breakfast so just bring yourself and your appetite.

[03] Women's Circles Miriam Circle welcomes all! We meet monthly from October through June, on the **first Tuesday of the month** from 7:30-9:00 pm in the Fireside Room. We have social time with dessert and refreshments at 7:30, and a leader for Bible study, or books in our library, or what's going on with music from our hymnals or the greater ELCA, or a book review—from guests who come each month. Join us for our October potluck at 6:30 pm in the Fireside room, or Christmas party in December, and again, a potluck in June at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you starting in October! If you have any questions please contact Miriam Teeter at 650-494-1175

[04] Young Adults Anyone who is finished with school or continuing school, married or single—all are welcome as we meet once a month or more for social activities. Everything from Beer Brewing Classes, potluck lunches, movie day, wine tasting to after church brunch. The goal is to provide fellowship opportunities, as well as a place to have relevant conversations about faith.

[05] Exercise Group A group meets in Brown Hall three times a week for exercise—**Monday, Wednesday & Friday** from 8:30 - 9:30 am. The video used can be approached at varying levels of intensity - perfect for any level of fitness. All are welcome!

06 **Wednesday Work Crew** The Wednesday Work Crew meets the **second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month at the church from 8:30 am to 11:00 am. We perform minor repairs such as: check and replace burned-out light bulbs, painting, tree trimming, carpentry, electrical, and plumbing. If you would like to join our crew, please contact Steve Madsen (s8madsen@yahoo.com). If you would like to help, but at a different time, contact Steve Madsen.

11 **Sunday Adult Forum** Read more about this weekly opportunity for spiritual growth on pages 4 and 5..

12 **Middle School Mentors** This program pairs an adult member of the congregation with one of our middle school students. They all gather **once a month on Sundays** for group game time and one-on-one conversations. This program is such a blessing and a way for us all to share our faith.

begin on September 2. 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.

17 **Handbell Choir** Rehearse **Thursday afternoons** from 4:30-5:45 pm, beginning September 17. The bell choir rings in church about one Sunday each month. We're always looking for a few good ringers. No prior experience with bell ringing is necessary, although some basic music-reading ability is helpful. We'll teach you all the rest!

18 **Worship Leaders** Assisting Ministers, Lectors, Communion Assistants, Ushers, Greeters, Congregation. So many ways to be an integral part of the worship experience!

19 **Altar Guild** helps prepare for worship each week by setting up for communion and cleaning up afterwards. The time commitment is minimal, about two out of every ten weeks, but the rewards are worth it. It may look like we're just preparing a meal, washing dishes, and doing laundry, but our service gives us the chance to be in a quiet sanctuary with a perfect opportunity for a little reflection and prayer.

07 **Men's Breakfast**

Every Tuesday at 7 am at the Palo Alto Breakfast House in Midtown. Come when you can for breakfast, fellowship and mutual support. See you there!

08 **Quilters & Crafts** Grace's quilters meet on **Wednesday mornings** from 10 - 11:30 in Brown Hall. We are a busy, involved, talkative group, and often bring our own "show and tell" projects to share with each other. We have made blankets for Project Linus, book bags for Lutheran World Relief, twin-sized quilts for adolescents aging out of foster care, pillowcase dresses for Africa, and various and sundry large quilts for special benefits (such as Bright Stars of Bethlehem) and special people. We use donated fabrics and purchase batting. Quilts for our students graduating from high school have been an ongoing project since the 1990's. We cut squares and design quilts and blankets at church, and cut more squares and sew at home. Please do stop by on a Wednesday morning. We'd love to have you! Never done this before? We'll happily show you how.

09 **Tuesday Meal Preparation** Two crews of Grace members prepare and serve the Breaking Bread meal for the hungry on Tuesday afternoons at Grace. Rotation is once every five weeks. Contact Linda Pomeroy or Pastor Matt if you can help!

10 **Thrivent Builds** 40 Habitat offices in over 25 cities across the nation will be participating in a national event called "A Brush with Kindness", painting 150 homes for qualified and needy families. Habitat East Bay/Silicon Valley has selected **Saturday 9/26** to partner with Menlo Park Presbyterian Church who is funding this day along with Wells Fargo. 5-10 spaces are open to Grace members who would like to participate. Contact Bruce FitzGerald:

13 **Open Bible Study** (Sunday texts). Every **Thursday morning** in the library Pr. Matt leads a conversation on the texts for the coming Sunday. Drop in any time, as each session is stand alone. No experience is necessary . . . all are welcome!

14 **Tuesday Meal Clean-up**

As Christians worshiping in prosperous Silicon Valley, Grace members have ample opportunity to put their talents (time) to work in the service of others. One such opportunity happens every Tuesday, late afternoon, as Grace hosts a weekly dinner for the homeless. Some of our fellow members arrive at 3:30 pm to prepare and serve dinner to the homeless (third Tuesday only). Other members arrive at 5:15 pm to do dishes and clean up the kitchen. Neither activity requires great skill, only the willingness to serve others. At present, Grace needs additional volunteers for both activities. Please consider volunteering one Tuesday a month. For more information and to sign up, contact Sue Koepfgen (skoepfgen@gmail.com) or Fran Harris (frharris5@aol.com).

15 **Library Open every Sunday morning**, most Wednesday mornings, and other times by contacting the office, the Grace library is a well-curated collection of books, periodicals, media, and reference materials relating to faith and religion. Stop in and check something out!

16 **Chancel Choir** Open to any singer of high school age and up. Rehearses on **Wednesdays** from 7:00-8:30 pm, and will

20 **Labyrinth** Open and available 24/7 labyrinths are currently being used worldwide as a way to quiet the mind, recover a balance in life, encourage meditation, insight, self-reflection, stress reduction, and to discover innovation and celebration. There is no right way or wrong way to walk a labyrinth. Use the labyrinth in any way that meets what you need while being respectful of others. ■

music music music

Come one, come all: the musical opportunities await you!

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 2**. 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.

Our **Children's Choirs** rehearse late on **Wednesday afternoons**. We will divide into two choirs, in order to focus our activities in an age-appropriate way. **Grades K-3** meet from **4:30-5:15 pm**. During this rehearsal, we sing simpler unison songs and sometimes play musical games. We learn a lot but have a good time doing it! **Grades 4-8** rehearse from **5:30-6:30 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. The children's choirs will sing in church about once a month. Our first rehearsal is **September 16**.

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 17**. The bell choir rings in church about one Sunday each month; this year that will usually be the fourth Sunday of the month, plus Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. We're always looking for a few good ringers and we could definitely make use of a few more hands this year. No prior experience with bell ringing is necessary, although some basic music-reading ability is helpful. We'll teach you all the rest!



Tim Getz, Director of Music Ministry

You are 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 rehearsals, don't let that stop you—just drop me a line to let me know when we might expect you.

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 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 week-long 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 13** beginning at **7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. I look forward to seeing and singing with you there!

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!

Worship Beyond Music

I've long talked about how worship is a continuous cycle that does not end when our hour together is over on Sunday mornings. We meet with our community to hear God's Word and be fed with his body and blood, and we are sent forth into service until the next week when we are called together again.

You've probably heard that I spent a week this summer in El Salvador, along with Elizabeth Hood and David Vroom, participating in a Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity project. It was a powerful, life-changing experience, out of my comfort zone in many ways, and a lot of hard work! Just as important as building a house for a family that needs one, was building relationships, both with the local Salvadorans and with the diverse team we worked with from across the United States. I arrived home from this trip after midnight

on a Sunday morning and was in church preparing for worship just seven hours later. But I'll have to say, being home and together with my Grace family was in many ways a highlight of my week. Being with you all, sharing my experiences, and singing and praying with you brought all of the experiences of the week into focus. It affirmed the work I had done in El Salvador and energized me for the future. This is the essence and the excitement of worship. We need each other. See you in church!

Music Beyond Worship

Sibelius for the Whole Family

A concert celebrating the sesquicentennial of the birth of Jean Sibelius in September (see page 10 for details).

The Boys and Girls Choirs of Stavanger Cathedral (Lutheran), Norway

Friday, October 9, 7:30pm

Stavanger Cathedral is the oldest cathedral in Scandinavia and has been in continuous use since its construction in the early 12th century. The boys and girls choirs will perform along with cathedral organist Ivan Sarajishvili. A free-will offering will be taken. Host homes are needed for small groups of singers and adult chaperones for the night of October 9th. Please contact Tim Getz if you are interested in hosting! ■

SIBELIUS TOUR

SEPTEMBER 19, 2015
Jussi Makkonen & Ruusamari Teppo



Saturday, September 19 - 3pm

Grace Lutheran Church
3149 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306
Reception following concert

Hosted by:
The Finnish Language School of Silicon Valley
Finnish Lutheran Church of Sunnyvale
San Francisco Finlandia Foundation

On Saturday, September 19, the first concert in Grace's new concert series takes place at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary. Jussi Makkonen is a well-known cellist from Finland and Ruusamari Teppo is a pianist from Dallas and great granddaughter of Jean Sibelius. The concert is given in cooperation with the Finnish Language School of Silicon Valley, the Finnish Lutheran Church of

Sunnyvale and the Finlandia Foundation SF Bay Area Chapter. The program will be very suitable for kids. Jussi has produced a beautiful children's book about Jean Sibelius ("Melody Forest") and he will interperse stories about Sibelius with his wonderful music. Join us here on September 19, and watch for more dates in our series!

Sunday, September 20 - 10:45 am Worship

Grace Lutheran Church
3149 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306

**Sponsored by: Finlandia Foundation National,
San Diego's House of Finland, Finnish Lutheran Church**





WILD AND PRECIOUS LIFE

There were weeks this year that seemed like they would never end, and others that went by way too fast. A year full of ups and downs, unexpected events, sad and scary moments, and uncontrollable laughter. Tears that never seemed to end and joy that couldn't be contained. But the thing about this year is that it isn't any different from any other year. Maybe the balance of joy and sadness was different or maybe it happened in different timing than last year, but the thing is that THIS is just life. Full of ups and downs, and we are the constant. We can choose how we want to respond to all the experiences that come at us.

Working in Children, Youth and Family Ministry means that my year ends in a week or two, and I start a brand new year on our Fall Kick Off on September 13. Happy New Year Y'all!! I reflect on everything that happened this year, what worked and what didn't. The best part is taking a moment to start again and dream of what this next year will look like. This week, six years ago, I was packing up my life and moving to Palo Alto to start a new adventure and dream about what my life could look like—and lucky me, six years later, I am still doing that! This new year holds so much promise and excitement.

This year I hope to do just as this list says: Pray Big. Worry Small. Trust God. Love People. Laugh More. Stress Less. Have Fun. Live Free. And most importantly, do more of what I love.

Every day is a new day and has a freshness full of promise and excitement.

"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" - Mary Oliver, "The Summer Day" ■

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY



This summer at Grace we hosted a successful Day Camp!! We had about 35 children, we had a team of five young adult counselors from Mt. Cross, two host families, six to eight high school and college youth volunteers, five to ten 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 the Wettersten's 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!



Sunday School and Fall Kick Off!!

September 13

8:30 am | Worship

9:30 am | Sunday School

10:45 am | Worship

11:45 am | Courtyard Lunch and
Bounce House

**All are welcome to celebrate the start of
a new year of Sunday school at Grace!**

At 9:30 am, join us for Rally Day Sunday School Opening in the Sanctuary! We will introduce the teachers, and then dismiss the children to their first Sunday of class. Elizabeth, the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry, will meet with the parents to talk about the schedule for the coming school year. 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 houses, and so much more!!

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 9:30-10:40 am. Sunday School Opening takes place every Sunday in the sanctuary at 9:30 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. ■



Detroit Retread

After a long year of fundraising and so much support from this community, WE DID IT, we got to Detroit, and we had a fantastic week! We felt so loved and welcomed into this city that has gotten such a bad reputation. We felt safe and connected to the community there. We spent our first day on a riverboat cruise in between the US and Canada, and danced with hundreds of other youth from all over the US and the world. What a great way to start a week of work and celebration! The first night, we sat in our seats at Ford Field in a sea of brightly colored Lutheran youth and did the wave with 30,000 of our new friends. The next day, we participated in our first day in a rotation of three days, Proclaim Justice. We got on a bus and headed into a neighborhood that had lost its community center and its school, and didn't even have curbside trash pick up. We split up into small groups and moved out to a corner, roadside, or back yard, as in my group's case. My group was in charge of clearing out a backyard of a house that had either been abandoned or the people evicted. The whole house had been gutted and left to rot in the back yard—and we cleared it all out in just a few hours. The city of Detroit promised the Youth Gathering that if we did that work in neighborhoods all over the city, they would come and pick up the trash we left on the curb—and they did! We continued to have a great gathering, growing, learning, and loving in Detroit. We can't wait for Houston in 2018!!

How did we proclaim justice at #RiseUpELCA?

- 1,847 mural boards painted
- 600 neighborhoods affected
- 319 vacant homes boarded up
- 3,200 vacant lots cleared of debris
- 1,425 backpacks distributed
- 36 urban gardens installed
- 99 picnic tables built
- 26 dumpsters filled

God's Work. Our Hands.





Children Youth and Family Year Overview



Mark your calendars now!

September 11 | High School Joint Church Lock IN @ Grace

September 13 | Fall Kick Off! | 9:30 am Sunday School for all ages | 11:45 am Lunch and fun!

October 2 - 4 | High School Beach Retreat

October 4 | Blessing of Animals | 10:45 am

October 25 | ReformationFest | Lunch and Celebration | Noon | In the Courtyard | All are welcome

October 30 | JamBOOree | 6 - 9 pm | All Ages | Potluck Dinner | Brown Hall

October 30 | Middle and High School Movie Night | 9 pm - 11 pm | Youth Room

October 30-31 | JamBOOree High School Lock IN | 9 pm - 9 am

November 13-15 | Middle School Retreat | Mt. Cross

November 22 | Advent Festival | 11:45 am | Brown Hall | All ages crafts and family fun | Soup and Lefse Lunch

December 20 | Christmas Program | 9:30 am

January 6 | Wednesday Epiphany Celebration | All ages

February 14 | SweetHeart Party | Noon | All girls and women are invited!

February 26-28 | Elementary Retreat | Mt. Cross

March 20 | Palm Sunday - family celebration | 9:30 am

March 27 | Easter celebration and brunch | Egg hunt

May 15 | Rite of Confirmation | 10:45 am

May 22 | Senior Quilt Sunday | Last day of Sunday school

June 12 | Summer Sundays begin! | All generations

Progress!

Your Building Team continues the quest to get us to the point of actually building something. There has been progress, but we still have items needing attention and resolution before the narthex walls start trembling in anticipation. These are a few of the current focal points:

Hazardous Materials (Hazmat): A thorough inspection, sampling, and analysis of the construction materials used for the narthex and the sanctuary roof was completed by Focus Environmental, the firm we selected to perform that work. Fifty separate laboratory analyses were done on samples taken from the narthex ceiling, walls, and flooring. A roofing contractor was brought in to assist with sampling the full cross-section of the sanctuary roof (and repairing the resulting holes when he was finished).

The final hazmat report confirmed most of our expectations. The narthex ceiling and the sheet-rocked areas of the walls contain asbestos. The paint and sealants on the walls contain lead, as does a plastic coating applied under the roof shingles. The implication for the narthex is simply that the demolition work will need to be done by contractors certified to work with hazardous materials, and the work area and waste materials will be totally encapsulated with plastic sheeting so that all hazardous materials are contained and removed safely. The lead-containing coating on the roof can be handled most safely by leaving it in place and covering it with new shingles.

City of Palo Alto Interactions: Neither the Building Team nor the various Palo Alto departments like surprises; so we have been ramping up our informal contacts with Palo Alto officials to keep them abreast of our plans and to become aware of any potential regulatory impediments to moving forward with our design. One interesting conversation involved a city planner responsible for recognizing and preserving Historical Resources—typically buildings more than 50 years old with some unique architectural or cultural history that warrants protecting. We could hire an architectural historian to assess the historical relevance of our sanctuary building and Leslie Nichols, its architect, but an official designation as a Historical Resource doesn't

appear to have benefits to Grace beyond bragging rights. Tangible benefits are primarily tax breaks, not useful to a non-profit organization. Nevertheless, the planner indicated that it is his job to evaluate our plans with an eye toward historical preservation, regardless of whether an official declaration has been made.

Other topics that are part of the ongoing conversations include:

- The Fire Department needs a water hydrant placed so that their truck can be within 125 feet of the hydrant and reach the furthest corner of the furthest building with a 150-foot hose. (That is not the case currently.)
- Adding square footage to a public building normally requires installing a sprinkler system for the entire space. Alex Bergtraun (our architect) has initiated the discussion of alternatives that will avoid sprinklers in the worship space.
- The parking lot layout is an ongoing conversation as well. Fire trucks need a wide aisle and cannot make tight turns. The City wants one shade tree planted in the lot for every ten parking spaces, but on the other hand they don't want us to diminish our total number of spaces in our narthex expansion project. Bicycles, anyone?

We shared details of our current narthex design with the Church Council at its August meeting, but we are holding back on "going public" with it until we are confident that we have a project a) that Palo Alto will allow us to build and b) that we can complete with the available funding resources.

See you when we get there—stay tuned!

The Building Team ■

Jim Schlatter

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



Mary Ashley

Here's some new fiction for fall

Glorybound, by Jessie van Eerden. Sisters Aimee and Crystal have taken vows to become prophets at Glorybound Holiness Tabernacle where their father was preacher before he skipped town. They take care of their mother, and follow their paths until a new teacher from Chicago arrives and attempts to reunite the family.

Good Kings Bad Kings, by Susan Nussbaum. The author invites us into the lives of a group of typical teenagers, except that they live in an institution for juveniles with disabilities, and have little or no control over their fate.

Lila, by Marilynne Robinson. Lila, homeless and alone after years of roaming the countryside, steps inside a small-town Iowa church—the only available shelter from the rain—and ignites a romance and a debate that will reshape her life.

The Mirrored World, by Debra Dean. Set in St. Petersburg during the reign of Catherine the Great, the author reimagines the life of revered and mysterious St. Xenia of Russia.

Pastors' Wives, by Lisa Takeuchi Cullen. The lives of three women converge and intertwine at a Southern megachurch when Ruthie follows her Wall Street husband from New York to take a job at the church. Candace, the church's "First Lady", will stop at nothing to protect her church and her husband. Ginger, married to Candace's son, is determined to bury her calamitous past.

Kind of Kin, by Rilla Askew. A new state law making it a felony to harbor undocumented immigrants throws a family into turmoil when the patriarch is sent to prison for sheltering migrant workers. ■

Stewardship: More than Money

Webster's dictionary defines a steward as "an officer or employee in a large family, or on a large estate, to manage the domestic concerns, supervise servants, collect rents or income, keep accounts, etc." Traditionally, we view stewardship in the context of giving to the church and the proper management of financial affairs of the congregation. Certainly, that is important. Our extended church family's financial support allows us to continue God's mission. Thank you for your ongoing financial contribution.

But a steward's role extends beyond financial matters. Stewardship is also a matter of how we spend our time and talent. Some of us are organizers; some of us are musicians; some of us are listeners. God has blessed each of us with unique talents. The time and talent of our members allows each of us to make a difference in our community. This publication discusses many ways that the Grace community provides opportunities for us to use our time and talent. As we begin the new program year, let us prayerfully examine how we can fully participate in God's mission by committing ourselves to support God's work. ■



SOUTH PALO ALTO
food closet

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

Small Can Be Big

Thank you for continuing to remember the food closet needs even through the summer. You might think of the following items we are looking for at this time: crackers, individual-sized raisins, small tuna in pop-top cans, vienna sausages, small oil, and, as always, condiments, kid and raisin bran cereals, and high protein soups.

If you have a few hours a month to give to work with a great group for a good cause, please give Joanie Caroon or Mary Carlson a call. ■

Council Notes

Ray Ernenwein
Grace Council President

The church council kicked off the year by welcoming new council members: Jane Garvey, Elise Grangaard, and Kimberly Badtke; and thanking departing members for their service: Maria Derrick, David Bohn, and Julie Buckley. First on the council's to-do list this season has been forming the call committee, which is commissioned to search for a part-time associate pastor—a position that was authorized in June's annual congregational meeting.



The call committee will work according to Grace's constitution and ELCA synod guidelines to represent Grace to the candidates and to evaluate applicants relative to our needs. We are hopeful that the process can be accomplished this fall. Serving on the call committee are: Mark Cravens (co-chair), Nate Calhoun (co-chair), Lois Holl, Evelyn Guernsey, Renee Flemish, Martha Meyer, Bob Northcott, and Sabine Kabel-Eckes. They will get underway with their work soon and report back to

both the council and the congregation as they make progress on this important task.

The council also continues to oversee the progress being made by the building team. Palo Alto city officials and our architect continue to exchange information and work towards aligning on a final set of blueprints. In August, the council viewed an animated 3-D rendering of a preliminary view of the future narthex. It was exciting to see the congregation's vision for our campus start to come into focus. Look for future announcements

and information-sharing opportunities as planning firms up this fall.

Finally, the council has reset its committee liaison connections. They are shown at right.

See you at Rally Day on September 13 and in worship this fall! ■

Raymond A. Ernenwein

COUNCIL

Dave Bohn
STEWARDSHIP, SOCIAL MINISTRY

Kimberly Badtke
ENDOWMENT

Nate Calhoun
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Ray Ernenwein, President
FINANCE

Gail Foelsch
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Twila Forbes
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Sabine Kabel-Eckes
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Holly Lucke, Vice President
PERSONNEL

Don McElravy
STEWARDSHIP

Jim Schlatter
BUILDING TEAM

Katy Siegel, Secretary
YOUTH MINISTRY

Social Ministry

Why should you join the social ministry committee?

- You have a passion for service and want to advocate for it. For instance, you feel little kids should not go hungry, especially while we waste food. You can get involved in Bread for the World, communicating with our legislators what we see as the priority to care for the poor and hungry, or you could volunteer at the food closet, handing out groceries to the elderly, working poor, and disabled or on Tuesday nights, serving meals.
- You want to give shelter to the homeless. Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent Builds is building houses and rehabbing old ones. See Bruce FitzGerald.
- You hate injustice. Maybe you could help Martha Meyer with the advocacy work around human trafficking or the occupation of Palestine.

- You worry about the world your children and grandchildren will inherit. Will it be livable? Do what you can to address climate change along with others from Grace, like Bill Cutler and Timo Ahonen.
- You have a ministry in mind that we are not covering and you want it to be worked on now.
- You want a say in how our benevolence funds are spent.
- You want to serve on a fun, dynamic committee that gets things done, but only meets when needed (four to six times a year).

How do you join?

- Give your name, phone, and email to Joanie Caroon or any member of the committee.
- Come to a meeting. ■

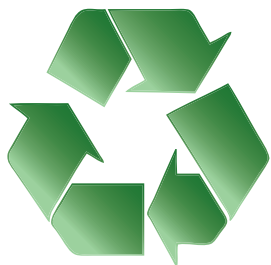
Joanie Caroon,
Social Ministry Chair

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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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