

A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Easter 2016

GraceNotes

a place for you

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Burning

“Were not our hearts burning within us?”

Luke 24:31,32

Last month I quoted this passage in reference to Christ being tangible to us in our journey. As we live into this text in its rightful Easter season, I resonate strongly with



the burning-ache experienced by the disciples. It's not unusual in our society today to hear someone say, "wow, s/he is on fire!" meaning that they are really focused on and excelling at something...or the flip side of that expression is to be "burned out." Assigned for the evening of Easter, this text talks to us about a different kind of burning. There is almost the sense of an ache...all from listening to Jesus explain the scriptures to them on the Road to Emmaus.

How often do we feel that burning? I think that often the details of this life overwhelm us in ways that make it difficult to focus our attention on Christ. This political season, we can certainly see many people who appear to be on fire, though it is often more spectacle than enlightenment. Perhaps that's how we feel at times...all the heat from stress and feeling like we're barely keeping up, rather than drawing closer to the light and life of Christ.

As we transition from Good Friday to Easter, we are drawn to Christ in a way that gives us courage and hope in tomorrow...the place where Christ is already present and preparing our way. We are Easter people and, as such, people of hope.

Christ is risen!

Peace,

Rev. Matthew A. Smuts, pastor

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The Colors of Easter by Elizabeth Hood

SOCIAL JUSTICE AT

“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Text by Pastor Tuhina Verma Rasche, photo by The Rev. Jason Chesnut - The Slate Project, Baltimore MD
The Church Center of the United Nations

IT HAS BEEN a whirlwind first month as the Associate Pastor of Social Ministry and Adult Faith Formation at Grace! My first day of ministry was a very full one, especially with the installation service taking place my first day; this is a day that will long remain in my heart as the welcome from the people of Grace was beautiful and astounding. It has been wonderful getting to meet parishioners at Sunday and Wednesday worship services, Wednesday Quilts/ Crafts, Thursday morning Bible study, confirmation classes, and over cups of coffee in the neighborhood. And there are still many groups, many committees, and many activities to still visit! Grace is a vibrant place where the Holy Spirit is at work, and it is an honor and joy to accompany you in ministry.

This first month has also been busy, both at Grace and participating in the actions of the global Lutheran church. As a pastor who cares deeply about social justice in our neighborhood and beyond, it was a particular honor to be a member of the Lutheran World Federation delegation at the United Nations 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). I was a member of a smaller ELCA delegation sponsored by ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Young Adults. It was amazing to see people from all over the world come together to talk about human rights. The right to food and water. The right to safety. The right to adequate health care. The right to economic stability. Some of the discussions were beautiful, and some were outright frustrating.

There was much celebration at the 60th anniversary of the CSW, but there was also a realization that much work still needs to be done for justice and equality in the world.

It was probably one of the most “both/ and” Lutheran experiences of my ministry thus far. Within the ELCA delegation, there were many conversations taking place about the intersection of faith and social justice. As a child of God and a citizen of the world, I strongly believe that the church must take a stand for justice, grace, and mercy. One of the ways to make that stand is to be present in local, state, national, and international policies. Another way is to bring the stories of the CSW back to my local community, and back to you. I look forward to sharing with you this experience of social justice at work and how the church can actively engage and participate to ensure the petition in the Lord’s Prayer that states:

“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, *on earth as it is in heaven.*”

In reflecting on the Lord’s Prayer and in looking in the face of neighbors from all over the world coming to tell their stories of working for justice and equality, I could not help but see the risen Christ. As we enter into the Easter season professing our Alleluias, let us find opportunities to see the risen Christ in our neighbor, in Palo Alto and beyond.

Rev. Tuhina Verma Rasche

HOME & BEYOND



The Light has returned

When the whole community lifts its voice as one, our hearts are opened...

Text by Tim Getz, photos by Elizabeth Hood and David Hastings



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Getz".

Tim Getz, Director of Music Ministry

NOW THAT I'VE been at Grace for six years (Wow, where did that time go?!?), I feel safe to start off my column with a shocking statement: As a musician, I don't particularly enjoy performing. The thought of playing to a rapt audience of hundreds of silent and carefully-attuned listeners usually just makes my heart race, my palms sweat, and my fear of failure blow up like a balloon. I don't bask much in applause.

And now you're wondering, "Who hired this guy, anyway?" "Is Tim unhappy?" Not in the least! The very reason I love being a musician in church is that it isn't really about performing at all. It's about getting to share in the joy of music-making with a community of friends. I love working with other musicians individually and in small groups to create music together. We sing, we laugh, we sometimes cry, and we are spiritually moved by the beauty we create as we prepare for each Sunday's worship

LEFT
*Children's Choir on
Christmas Eve*

RIGHT
Easter Worship 2015

My very favorite thing of all is to facilitate the singing of the entire congregation at worship on Sundays. Congregational singing is a hallmark of the Lutheran tradition. When the whole community lifts its voice as one, our hearts are opened to hear, receive, and respond to God's Word.

Which leads me to another inflammatory statement: The Sundays when I feel the most successful are the Sundays that feel like I've done the least amount of work. Am I just lazy? No! It means that on those Sundays we are communicating with each other musically in such a way that it is easy for me to encourage the singing with minimal effort.

When I am leading the congregation in song, whether at the organ or the piano or with no accompaniment at all, 90% of what I am doing is listening to you. In fact, typically I do NOT sing myself, so that I can better pay attention to what is going on

in the room. I am constantly asking myself questions as we sing: Do we need to go faster, or slower? Would a stronger sense of the beat be helpful, or not? Should I play louder, or softer? Should this song get a longer introduction to set the mood, or does the service just need to move along at this point? Countless decisions are made on the spot, in response to what I am hearing from the congregation in the moment. I normally have planned two or three different ways a hymn might go in advance, and I often play differently at 10:45 than I did at 8:30.

There are times when congregational singing takes on a life of its own. These are the moments that move me to tears, and when I most feel that I have done my job well. During Lent, we have been singing very ancient chants during the liturgy that have no accompaniment—they predate the invention of any keyboard instrument. We now know them well enough that all I have

to do is get them started, and you all sing them more strongly than almost anything else we ever sing in worship. Sometimes I can hear that a hymn is being sung so heartily—and even in four part harmony—that all I can do is stop playing and just listen to you sing. On a couple of occasions we have been singing something simple during communion, and I've stopped playing, got off the bench, and gone to receive communion myself...and you are still singing when I return. These are the gratifying moments, and they never fail to bring me tears of joy.

*The Light has returned as it came once before,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.*

—Peter W. A. Davison, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, hymn 861, stanza 5

Happy Easter!



Letter Writing for Climate Action

Earth Day is Friday, April 22. May has been announced as the month of worldwide Break Free mobilizations, keeping the momentum of the recent Paris Climate Conference to keep carbon fuels in the ground. In support of that action, Sundays during April will be devoted to writing letters to our leaders in Washington, asking their support for strong measures to curtail greenhouse gas emissions. Get your thoughts together about what you'd like to say, and look for the letter writing table in our narthex.

On Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22, events are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first celebrated in 1970, and is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network, and celebrated in more than 192 countries each year. Below are some of the other ways suggested by the Earth Day Network to make an immediate and personal difference this year, on Earth Day and every day. www.earthday.org has links to help you!

Here is a sample letter:

Dear (Senator or Representative),

Climate disruption presents an immediate, existential threat to human civilization and, plausibly, to all higher life on Earth. So I ask you, in conjunction with the worldwide movement to maintain the momentum of the Paris Climate Conference, to enact strong measures that curtail greenhouse gas emissions and keep carbon fuels in the ground. I also ask you to provide assistance to those of limited means whose lives will be disrupted by the coming transformation to carbon-free energy.

BUY LOCAL PRODUCE
Eat healthier and help reduce your carbon footprint by buying local produce. Take the pledge and we'll show you how to find local produce near you.

EAT LESS MEAT
The meat industry generates nearly one-fifth of the man-made greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Help make a difference by limiting your meat consumption.

START COMPOSTING
More than a billion pounds of food are thrown away every year. Help make a difference by turning your food waste into soil.

STOP USING DISPOSABLE PLASTIC
Help end our obsession with plastic and protect the environment. Take the pledge to stop using disposable plastic.

REDUCE YOUR FOOTPRINT
Take the Ecological Footprint Quiz and learn how you can reduce your impact on the planet.

EARTH DAY 2016
TREES FOR THE EARTH

END JUNK MAIL
Junk mail is not only a major inconvenience, it also has an extremely negative impact on the environment. Help reduce the amount of junk mail you receive.

RECYCLE YOUR E-WASTE
Every year, thousands of old electronic devices are thrown into landfills, polluting the environment, when they can be recycled. Pledge to recycle your e-waste.

EARTH DAY NETWORK

Adult Education and Spiritual Formation

We welcome Pastor Tuhina Rasche to Grace Lutheran, Palo Alto, and to the Adult Education and Spiritual Formation committee! The team looks forward to Pastor Tuhina's inspiration, leadership, and guidance. As this article goes to press, preparations are underway by the team for Adult Forum sessions to include topics from ELCA Social Statements.

ELCA Social Statements have been developed as teaching and policy documents for leading the church's response to some very difficult societal issues. These core statements are designed to challenge and aid congregations in deliberation and action to accomplish God's work with our hands. Social Statements of the ELCA have been published since 1991. The three most recent statements address Human Sexuality, Genetics, and Criminal Justice; they were published in 2009, 2011, and 2013.

In each Sunday Forum session, we will examine a different social statement with the goal of understanding the ELCA's response and asking ourselves "is there an opportunity for Grace members to respond?" If so, how?

The schedule for looking at ELCA Social Statements will be:

- APRIL 10 | An introduction to ELCA Social Statements: What are they and why do they matter?
- APRIL 17 | Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture
- APRIL 24 | The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries
- MAY 1 | Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All
- MAY 8 | Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice
- MAY 15 | Women and Justice: A Social Statement Under Development

As we enter the Easter Season, please remember that all are welcome to attend the Adult Forum which meets weekly from 9:45-10:30AM in the chapel. Feel free to drop in as you complete other responsibilities at Grace, or to participate as your schedules permit. We have many choir members attending regularly, and then departing in time to meet their choir commitments. This is a time to listen, learn, participate, and deepen our understanding of scriptures, related social topics, and other issues related to Grace and Christian life. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Please note that the Adult Forum on April 3 will focus on the state of the congregation as Grace prepares for our stewardship program. **

Committee: Geri Horsma, Frances Harris, Sabine Kabel-Eckes (Council Liaison), and Pastor Tuhina.

Think Nutrition

by Mary Carlson for the South Palo Alto Food Closet

The Food Closet is trying to provide as many fresh foods to our families as we can. Some we get from Second Harvest, but we are so happy to get folks' extra garden produce—vegetables and fruits. The sooner we get them after they are picked, the better the quality we can offer our clients. With restricted incomes, they find these really nutritious items are very expensive to keep in their diet.

The grocery items that our stocking person said were running low are tuna, salmon, sardines, meat soup, chili, crackers, garbanzo and black beans, and canned fruit.

Thank you for remembering us so faithfully! ■



SOUTH PALO ALTO
food closet

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

Thrivent Members,

Think of Grace in 2016! Have you directed all of your 2015 designated Thrivent Choice Dollars®? Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial have until **March 31, 2016**, to direct any remaining 2015 Choice Dollars to Grace Lutheran Church. After that date, the unused Choice Dollars expire. Choice Dollars really add up, and at no cost to you! Thank you for thinking of Grace!

For more information about Choice Dollars: Visit Thrivent Financial's Website: www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/ or call 800-847-4836 to contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY



COUNTER CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

Middle school movie outing

High school movie night

PALY lunch

Elementary retreat

Palm Sunday interactive prayer activity

Wednesday evening Lenten prayer activity

Worship and service on Wednesdays in Lent

Thursday Bible study coloring

Coloring pages we worked on during Lent





Lenten Evening Worship Prayer | Service

With the purple curtains drawn and the light lowered, we sang Holden Evening Prayer with flute. 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 over 200 snack packs for children who go without, Easter Care Packages for our college youth, and 120 Pencil Pouches for Dia De Los Ninos in Pescadero.

Paddling Along March 2016



During the several weeks since our previous report, the Building Team has resembled the oft-quoted duck—outwardly appearing inactive while busily paddling under the surface. Most of the behind-the-scenes effort has been directed at the process of gaining the City of Palo Alto’s approval for the narthex expansion project. All the various City departments (Planning, Fire, Historical, Building, Public Works, and perhaps others we have yet to encounter) want to know the details of our plans as they relate to their particular areas of responsibility and regulation. Their scope of interest includes the entire campus, not only the narthex construction for which we are seeking a permit.

Examples of the breadth of the issues that have been raised thus far:

- The new narthex is required to have a sprinkler system. Is a similar level of protection necessary for the sanctuary itself?
- The only fire hydrant serving our property is at the corner of Waverley and Loma Verde. It doesn’t meet current specifications, and some areas of our campus are farther from the hydrant than the length of standard fire hoses. We must bring that aged hydrant up to code PLUS install an additional hydrant within hose length (150 feet) of the Sunday School classrooms.
- The City has no record of the Preschool’s existence—that needs tidying up while we are updating the rest of Grace’s operating permits.
- Although the parking lot is not formally included in the project for which we are seeking a construction permit, it is definitely a significant topic of concern for the Fire (for ingress and egress pathways for their trucks) and Planning (for total number of parking spaces versus facility seating capacity) Departments. Paperwork from 56 years ago describes the exact same parking issue being negotiated when the sanctuary was

built, but the intended increase in narthex square footage reopens the conversation. The City’s announced posture going in is the same as in 1960: we are far short of the code requirements for parking spaces.

Overall, we view these kinds of issues as passageways through the City Hall maze, not dead ends. Some will just take more paddling (and quacking) than others. One measure of our progress is the fact that our project has been advanced from the “Preliminary” review classification to the “Minor Architectural Review” status. The latter category allows for review at the staff level rather than involving scrutiny by the full Architectural Review Board. The Board meets only once a month, so it is definitely a favorable circumstance that we can move forward independently of that constraint on timing.

As for tangible progress, you may have noticed the absence of the two cages that had been sitting on top of the 35-foot high brick wall at the rear of the sanctuary. (The cages contained speakers that were used to broadcast the sound of church bells throughout the neighborhood back in the day when neighbors didn’t complain about such things—long, long ago.) That accomplishment by an intrepid and fearless work crew (Roger Ashley, Gary Bea, Steve Madsen, Andrew Mellows, and Greg Vasutin) has cleared the way for the task of repairing the glass in the spire. The Team has been obtaining quotes for that work, which will be done when a week of dry weather can be assured—probably April or May.

If you happen to reside within 600 feet of the Grace property lines, you will be receiving your own evidence of our progress. The City will be sending postcards to our neighbors with a short description of our project and an invitation to submit comments, questions, or concerns to which the Building Team will be asked to respond. We hope that hard hats will not be needed.

Looking forward, we are committed to replying without delay to any questions or requests from the City. The goal is to finalize our basic design to the City’s satisfaction as soon as we can. Then we can generate a detailed cost estimate in preparation for bringing the project to the congregation for a vote to proceed with construction. There will be ample opportunity for Grace members to examine the proposed new narthex design and its features before being asked to vote. Meanwhile, feel free to ask us what’s going on—and we’ll keep paddling.

The Building Team



2	0	1	5
2	0	1	6



driving mission

Grace Lutheran Church Giving Thanks

GRACE NOTES LIVE ~ a concert series
Grace Lutheran Church • 3149 Waverley Street • Palo Alto, California 94306 • (650) 494-1212 • www.gracepa.org

September
S19T **Sibelius for the Whole Family**
Jussi Makkonen, cello and
Russamari Teppo, piano
3:00 pm

October
F9J **The Choirs of Stavanger Cathedral, Norway**
Oddgeir Kjetilstad and Jorunn Lovise Husan, conductors
Ivan Sarajishvili, organist
7:30 pm

December
S5T **Messiah Singalong**
(Christmas portion)
Scot Hanna-Weir, conductor
Tim Getz, organist
2:00 pm

January
S10N **Sonos Handbell Ensemble**
James Meredith, conductor
3:00 pm

February
S27 **Shades of Love: Beloved Opera Arias**
Angelique Zuluaga, soprano,
and others
4:00 pm

March
S19T **California Lutheran University Choir**
Wyant Morton, conductor
7:00 pm

April
S17N **A Baroque Afternoon**
Angelique Zuluaga, soprano,
and others
4:00 pm

May
S22N **Annual Grace Music Spring Concert**
Grace Chancel Choir and friends
4:00 pm

KEY DATES: KICKOFF SUNDAY, APRIL 10 AND PLEDGE SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Our next budget begins on July 1 of this year, and the Stewardship campaign will be upon us shortly after Easter. We are excited about many of the things happening at Grace. Particularly, we are excited about Pastor Tuhina Rasche beginning her ministry with us and the impending addition of our new narthex sometime this year. Our new budget is likely to include many familiar elements, including keeping our staff current in their compensation and blessing the ministries of the synod and beyond through our benevolence outside of Grace.

In light of all of this excitement, we are stopping to ask about how we all are thankful to God in our lives as individuals, as family, and as a community. We are excited about how this gratitude has been expressed in our stewardship towards the mission and ministry of Grace this last year, and hope that you look forward to increased energy in the year to come. Please consider how you might participate in that growing energy by increasing your giving and support as well!



ABOVE

First Communion Class makes bread for the Maundy Thursday service

RIGHT

Marking the sign of the cross



Young Adults | (Pub)lic Theology

Together with University Lutheran Church, on Thursdays from 6-8 pm. Location varies (in Palo Alto).

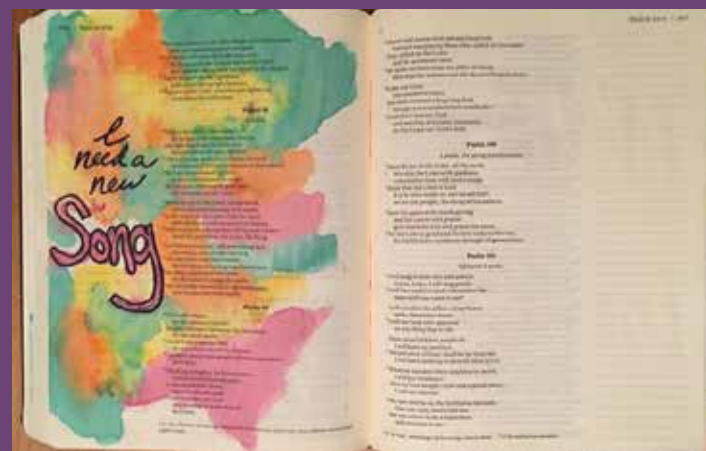
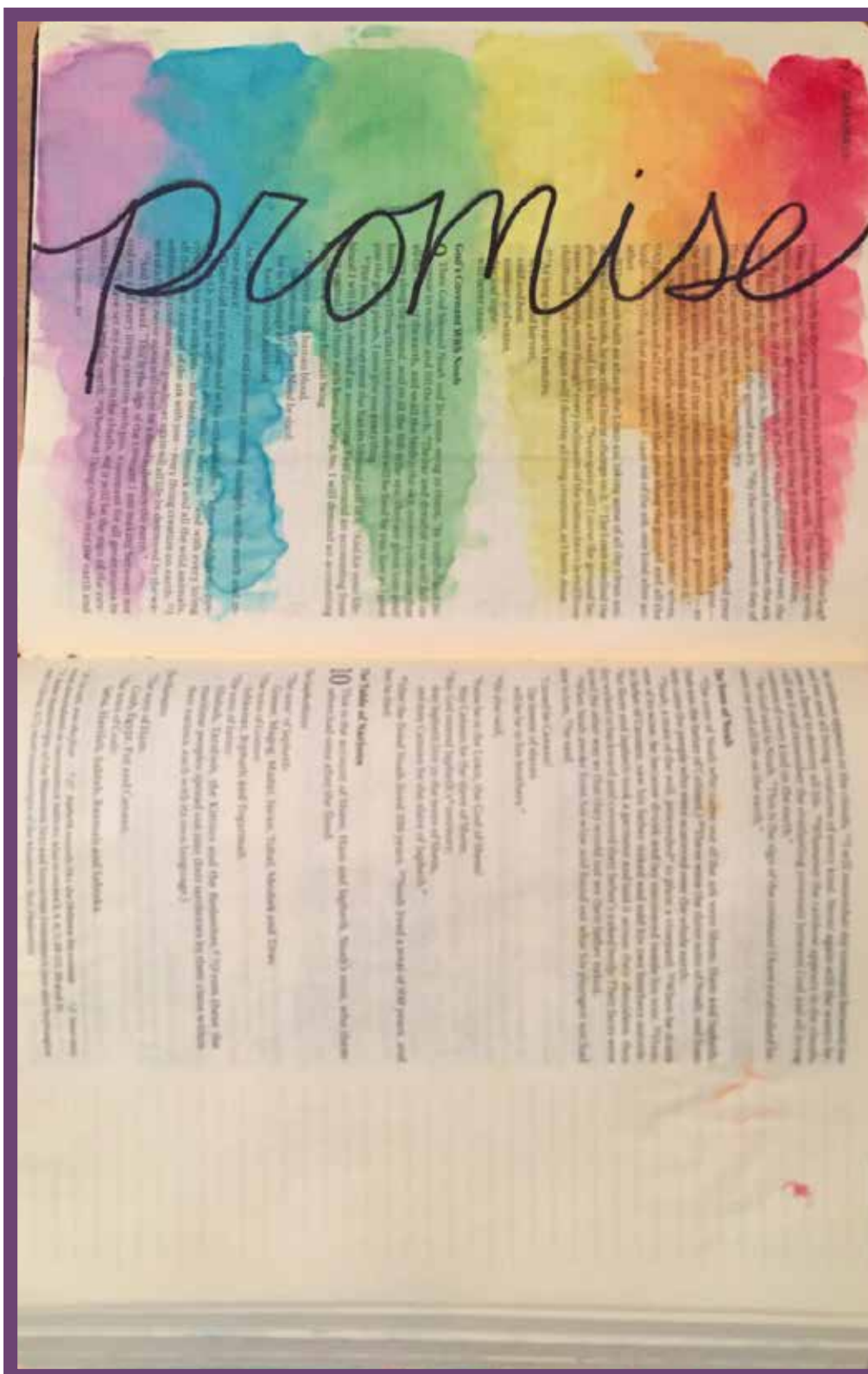
April 14 | Jesus Politics

May 12 | Love your neighbor



FAITH & Creativity

I'll be honest and say that I have not read my Bible cover to cover...



HAVE SPENT MANY years studying and reading the Bible, but I have never read it all the way through. I love the beauty of the words and the richness of the stories, but have a hard time sitting down to just read it.

This year, I have learned something new about myself, something I should have known all along because I grew up with an art teacher for a mother: I need to be creative! I love to build and create things. I love thinking of new ways to do something, solve problems, and create. I have learned that without this in my weekly life I feel lost, like something is missing. Whether it is taking photos, thinking up a fun new activity for youth group, praying with sticky notes, hanging ribbon in the sanctuary, draping fabric, or painting, all these things give me life.

I am very visual and love seeing pictures and images of new ideas, or new recipes. I can't cook something that I can't see. I use a website called Pinterest, a visual

electronic bulletin board, to catalog ideas and images that inspire me. This last year, every time I visited the site, I saw images of people who were painting in their Bibles. They were taping, drawing, watercoloring, using stickers, and using their Bibles in a way I had never seen before.

One key to all the images I loved was wide margins on the pages. My Bible didn't have these—and was already well used from summers at camp and years of youth ministry. I wanted a blank canvas, so I took the plunge and ordered a brand new Bible with wide margins, and waited in anticipation.

I did research and cataloged images I was inspired by. I knew there were pages I didn't like, they were too much. I like the simplicity of the pages with just color and words added to emphasize the words and passages that stood out to me. I had read articles that said it might seem hard to start, too much pressure,

but to just start: there is no wrong way to do this, it is YOUR Bible. These words rang in my ears. What passage would I start with? My favorite? That seemed too scary, to mess up my favorite verse with my first attempt?!

I started simply with just watercoloring one color on a page. To look back at those first pages, they are very simple, but I was just getting my feet wet. Once I got going, I couldn't stop. I think that first night I started coloring my Bible, I did five or six pages.

Needless to say, it was then, when my hands were inked up and my forearms smudged with watercolor residue, that I realized my need for creativity and my longing for those words and stories that were written thousands of years ago, but still hold meaning for me today, here and now. What a beautiful combination of faith and creativity! Through this, I have found something that gives me life and gives me joy.

As I learn to work creativity into everything I do, and learn new ways to express this in my daily life, I am reading and recreating my Bible in a new way that makes the pages come to life.



Elizabeth Hood

Elizabeth Hood, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry

M A K E   **Psalm 100**
    **A**  
J O Y F U L 
  **N O I S E**
DAY CAMP 2016

July 11-15, 2016

Monday - Friday | 9 am – 3 pm

July 14, 2016 | 6 pm

Thursday evening Potluck and Program for campers, their families, and the entire Grace community

\$95/child;

\$140/child with extended care

Day Camp is a unique blend of outdoor ministry and congregational ministry. In this joint effort between Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences and Grace Lutheran Church, we'll have all of the program elements—counselors, Bible studies, worships, supplies, and curriculum—for a week of faith-focused, community-building activities. This is going to be a great week!!

NEW THIS YEAR: EXTENDED CARE!

We know that it can be hard to drop-off and pick-up campers on time from Day Camp (normal hours are from 9AM-3PM). Extended care is available as an option for families that need earlier drop-off and later pick-up. Parents can drop campers off anytime between 8–9 AM and pick up anytime between 3–5:30 PM.

Day Camp is for campers entering Kindergarten through sixth grade



www.gracepa.org/daycamp

Grace Lutheran Youth & Preschool Fundraiser BBQ Dinner and Silent Auction

featuring



April 24 | 4-7 pm
Brown Hall

Food to Go or Dine In!
Buy tickets in advance
from any of the youth

Children, Youth, and Family

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are planning once again to do Summer Learning for All Ages! We are working hard to plan game- and art-based activities this summer.

UPPER ELEMENTARY EVENT!! NEW!!! APRIL 17 | NOON – 3 PM

Just for our students in grades 3, 4, and 5!!
Lunch and Movie Afternoon in the Youth Room!

CAMP AT MT. CROSS | JULY 17-22

Every summer, Elizabeth picks a week when she can take all the youth from Grace up to have a great week of summer camp together. I can't tell you how important camp is to the development of children and youth. It provides countless benefits 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.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

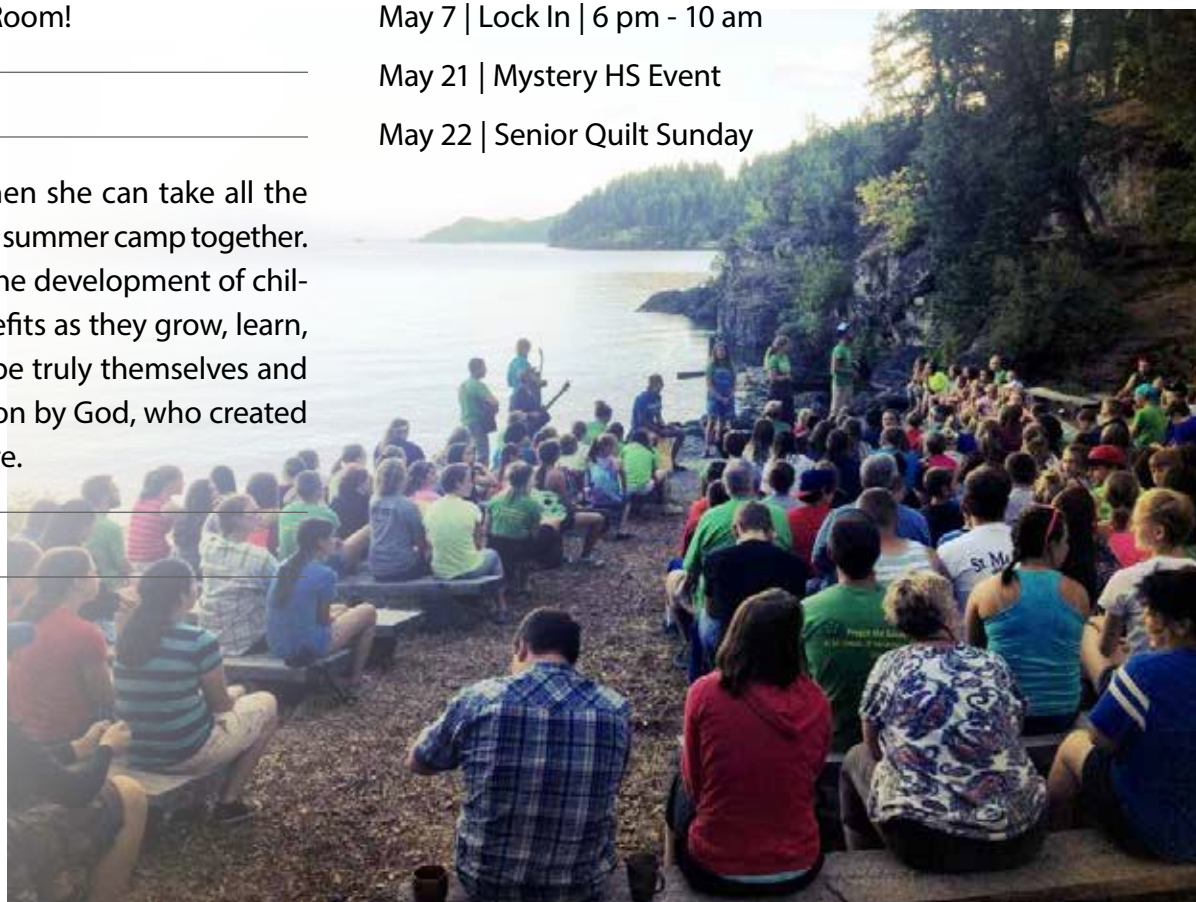
- April 10 | Sky High Sports!! | noon for all middle school youth
- April 17 | Mentor Sunday
- May 15 | Confirmation

HIGH SCHOOL: SUMMER SERVICE AND ADVENTURE TRIP!

July 23-30 | Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in MONTANA
Service work and lots and lots of fun! We are going to work in a local community and spend a week at camp!

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

- May 7 | Lock In | 6 pm - 10 am
- May 21 | Mystery HS Event
- May 22 | Senior Quilt Sunday



Looking at Race

Mary Ashley

Controversial police shootings that cause protests; politicians calling for walls to seal off our borders and deportations based on religion and ethnicity; fears of terrorism fueling stereotyping and hate crimes: these are present-day realities in the USA. Here are some new books featured in the library that analyze the undercurrents of racism in our country and discuss how to move forward to understanding. They are all short, enlightening reads that give us much to think about and ways to change for the better.

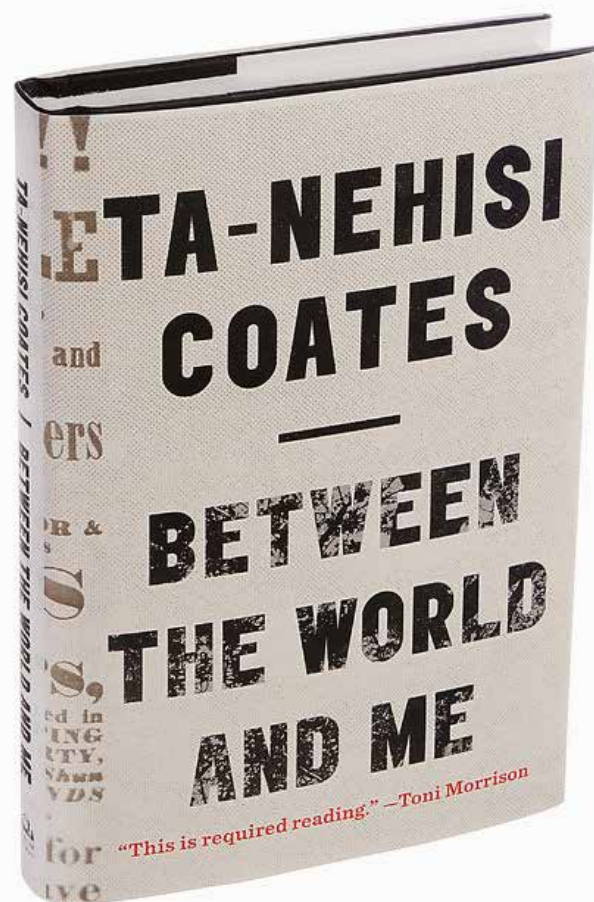
Ta-Nehisi Coates offers a powerful new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis in his critically acclaimed book *Between the World and Me*. Written in the form of a letter to his adolescent son, it illuminates the past, confronts the present, and offers a vision for the way forward.

Nobel Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison calls Coates' book "required reading." Ms. Morrison's most recent novel, *God Help the Child*, is a story about devastating consequences of a light-skinned mother who rejects her dark-skinned child. How do children overcome what is done to them in their youth when they become adults? This small (178 pp.) book has a large lesson to absorb.

Christian writer and political activist Jim Wallis examines racism in his new book, *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America*, and calls on us to transcend racial categories and see in one another the image of God.

Pastor Tuhina has recommended *We Too Sing America* by lawyer and activist Deepa Iyer. Ms. Iyer documents the struggles of South Asian, Arab, Muslim, and Sikh immigrants to win acceptance and racial justice in the years since 9/11, and suggest ways for moving forward to an equitable and inclusive multiracial society.

Finally, theologian, blogger, and activist Drew G. I. Hart offers, in his new book, concrete practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice: *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*.



Church Council

Ray Ernenwein
Grace Council President

COUNCIL

This spring, the Council has been busy shepherding the business of the Church forward through several important milestones: 2015 was an amazing year of progress on many fronts, and the momentum continues in 2016!

We are thrilled to have Pr. Tuhina onboard as part of the ministry team. Not only is she already enriching our Sunday worship services, but she is developing plans to enhance other dimensions of the Grace community. For example, I personally recommend that you join in on her adult forum sessions



between services. The discussion about the prodigal son that she recently facilitated was deep and insightful—bringing this timeless parable forward to a modern context. Look for her to outline her ministry engagement plans and to socialize those with the congregation soon. Many thanks go out to the call committee for their effort in bringing Grace and Pr. Tuhina together, and to the congregation for the generous stewardship that made this outcome possible.

Also along the lines of stewardship, the capital campaign fund is rapidly approaching \$1M in receipts. We are financially well-positioned as the Building Team, our architect, and City of Palo Alto officials continue to carefully coordinate our proposals. Expect to see progress reports from the Building Team later this spring. As soon as possible, we will schedule congregational information sessions to share the construction proposal details and answer questions.

In additional ways, 2016 promises to be an exciting year at Grace. Youth programs and community service projects abound, the music ministry continues magnify the Good News in so many inspirational ways, and planning for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation continues apace—just to name a few. I invite you to explore the many opportunities here and to shape our course through these exciting times.

In Christ,
Ray Ernenwein, Grace Council President

Dave Bohn
STEWARDSHIP, SOCIAL MINISTRY

Kimberly Badtke
ENDOWMENT

Nate Calhoun
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Ray Ernenwein, President
FINANCE

Gail Foelsch
PRESCHOOL, BUILDING TEAM

Jane Garvey
CMT BOARD, SOCIAL MINISTRY

Elise Grangaard

Sabine Kabel-Eckes
ADULT ED AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Holly Lucke, Vice President
PERSONNEL

Don McElravy
STEWARDSHIP

Ryan Riddle
WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Jim Schlatter
BUILDING TEAM

Katy Siegel, Secretary
YOUTH MINISTRY

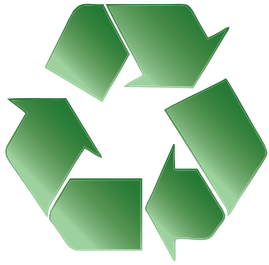


JOINT LUTHERAN-EPISCOPAL
ASCENSION DAY SERVICE
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 7:30 PM
STANFORD MEMORIAL CHURCH
Former ELCA Presiding Bishop
Mark Hanson, preaching

3149 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94306
650.494.1212
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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Easter Sunday is March 27!

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 — 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!