# A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH Reformation 2016

a place for you

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# 499 - Liberated by God's Grace



No, that's not an error code. This October 31, 2016 will mark the 499th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation kicked off by Martin Luther by nailing his 95 Theses to the door of the Schlosskirche (Castle Church) in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517. We will certainly have a festive day on Sunday, October 30, including our annual Reformationfest following the second service at noon. Not to be missed!

This date also marks the beginning of our countdown to 2017, the 500th anniversary

of the reformation. Many different parts of the Lutheran tradition have been deep in planning for this observance. This includes the Lutheran World Federation, which is like a United Nations for Lutheran churches around the world. They have brought to us themes for these observances that are worth sharing.

#### Liberated by God's Grace

- Salvation Not for Sale
- Human Beings Not for Sale
- Creation Not for Sale

Read more about these themes to understand how the Reformation theme of liberation continues to be profoundly relevant to our times. May we continue to be a reforming movement within the church catholic.

https://2017.lutheranworld.org

Peace, cn

Rev. Matthew A. Smuts, Senior Pastor



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30 | 11:45 am | Brats, Sauerkraut, I worite salad or dessert to share. med games and puzzles. WEAR RED! nut Eating, Conversation Having FUN favor

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# reforming REFORMATION

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What is the relevance of the Reformation today?

Text by Pastor Tuhina Verma Rasche

HESE ARE JUST a few of the questions discussed in the new Wednesday Night Adult Christian Education program, titled "Ever-Reforming," that looks at the Reformation. This time is used to explore not just an overview of Reformation history, but a how-to for tying the events of the Reformation into our lives of faith today. It is important to learn our history to better understand our present, and to vision to where the Holy Spirit will lead the church in the future.

The discussion in this time together has led me to think this: as Lutherans, we are always called to reform the church. Until Christ's return, we will never yet be who we are called to be, we will always be a people of semper reformanda. Part of that reformation is having the ability to be accountable to one another. Another part of that reformation is having a unique ability to critique the church (yes, one of your pastors is completely admitting to that)! As a tradition of faith that takes the Reformation not just into its history, but also into its future, the coming year will be a fruitful time to consider how each of us has a role to play as a member of the Body of Christ.

In addition to the "Ever-Reforming" class taking place Wednesday evenings, the Sunday Adult Forum is focused on one of the most popular documents to come out of the Reformation: The Small Catechism. While The Small Catechism is an important document of study primarily associated with youth confirmation, this is such a rich faithfilled document that it continues to inform the faith lives of people young and old. It can greatly inform our lives of faith today.

The Reformation is a living event. While its start was attributed to Martin Luther's hammering the 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517, it is an event that ripples into the present day. As the ELCA, we are continually trying to find ways to answer the calls of the Holy Spirit, even when that call is difficult and when that call encourages us out of our comfort zones to proclaim the Gospel message of the resurrected Christ. Part of living into the Reformation today is continuing to study Scripture, learn from one another, learn about our history, and be open to where the Holy Spirit is moving us to be the church in the days to come.

#### REFORMATION



## hym·nol·o·gy /himˈnäləjē/ •

noun

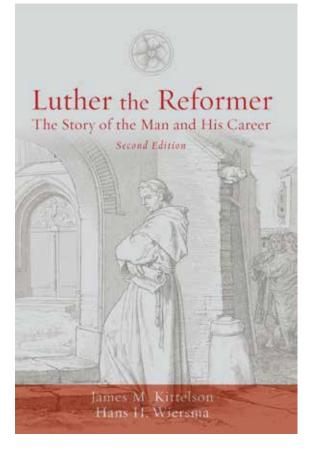
the study or composition of hymns.

Tim Getz, Director of Music Ministry

OST LIFE-LONG LUTHERANS are aware that the most significant changes in worship at the time of the Reformation in the 16th century were the translation of the liturgy from Latin into various local languages, and the introduction of congregational singing into the liturgy. New hymns were written by the hundreds during this time by Martin Luther, himself, and his friends and followers.

Many of these hymns are still found in our hymnal, but only a few are sung regularly. Their melodies can sound a bit strange to our post-modern American ears, and the words are often more heady than heartfelt. But they're an important part of our heritage, and as part of our Reformation observances this 500th anniversary year, we'll be learning a few more of them.

When hymn-singing was first introduced (before there were very many of them), hymns functioned more like liturgy, and the same ones were sung every week. We've been singing the classic hymn of praise, "All Glory Be to God on High" already each Sunday this fall. Martin Luther, himself, recommended a particular post-communion hymn to be sung every Sunday, "O Lord, We Praise You" (#499 in Evangelical Lutheran Worship). Beginning on Reformation Sunday, October 30, and continuing through November, we'll sing this hymn at the end of our worship. It's an odd but boisterous tune...some of these old German hymns sound to me like they ought to be sung with a stein of beer in hand. I hope you'll enjoy learning it. May the old become new again!



This new edition of Kittelson's *Luther the Reformer* is by son of Grace Lutheran Church, Dr. Hans Wiersma.

Amazon.com says: "For nearly thirty years, James M. Kittelson's Luther the Reformer has been the standard biography of Martin Luther. Like Roland Bainton's biography of the generation before, Kittelson's volume is the one known by thousands of students, pastors, and interested readers as the biography that gave them the details of this dramatic man and his history.

The accolades were well deserved. Fair, insightful, and detailed without being overwhelming, Kittelson was able to negotiate a "middle way" between the many directions of historical research and present a more complete chronological picture of Luther than many had yet portrayed.

For this revised edition, Hans H. Wiersma has made an outstanding text even better. The research is updated, and the text is revised throughout, with an emphasis on retaining the tone and pace of the original. Additionally, the volume has an entirely new map and image program, updated bibliographies, improved timelines, and other features to enhance the reading experience.

It's a great volume, greatly improved."

This book can be found at amazon.com

N OCTOBER 31, 2016 Pope Francis, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) President Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan and LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Junge will lead the Joint Ecumenical Commemoration in Lund Cathedral and Malmö Arena. The arena in Malmö can host up to 10,000 people with the entire proceeds of the ticket sales supporting projects of The Lutheran World Federation and Caritas Internationalis with Syrian refugees in the Middle East.

The joint Ecumenical commemoration will consist of two parts, a Common Prayer in Lund Cathedral and an event in the Malmö Arena that is open to wide participation. Pope Francis, LWF President Bishop Dr Munib A. Younan and LWF General Secretary Rev. Dr

N OCTOBER 31, 2016 Martin Junge will lead the Common Pope Francis, Lutheran Prayer and the event in Malmö in World Federation (LWF) cooperation with leaders from Church President Bishop Dr of Sweden and the Catholic Diocese Munib A. Younan and of Stockholm under the theme "From Secretary Rev. Dr Martin Conflict to Communion - Together in Hope."

> The event in Malmö Arena will be a stage for activities focusing on the commitment to common witness and service of Catholics and Lutherans in a world, wounded and broken by conflict. Highlights of the joint work of LWF World Service and Caritas Internationalis will be featured, including care for refugees, peace building, and advocacy for climate justice.

> Further information on the Joint Ecumenical Commemoration is available on the website lund2016.net.







The second annual season of our church concert series, "Grace Notes Live," is getting underway, and I'm thrilled about this year's schedule. We have planned a great variety of monthly programs, including the return of some of last year's most popular programs, and some new ones, as well. Programs are generally just 60-90 minutes in length, suitable for the whole family. Admission is by free-will offering. Donations will, in some cases, go directly to the performers, and, in other cases, will benefit the music program at Grace Lutheran Church.

This fall we begin a year-long celebration leading up to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, in October of 2017. Several of our concert events this year will help us observe this important commemoration, beginning with our next one on November 5, at 4:00 pm. This will be a recital of music by Lutheran composers, with a special focus on Johann Sebastian Bach. Singers Angelique Zuluaga, Malin Walrod, and Sandra Dager will perform Bach's works, along with trumpeter Alex Groth and flutist Beverly Radin. This top-notch professional program will also include music by Handel, Telemann, Mendelssohn, and Grieg. On December 3, we will repeat last year's popular sing-along of the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah. With no rehearsal, but only a spirit of adventure, anyone who wants to sing along with our choir will be most welcome. We will have scores available, but bring your own if you have one! We will again be directed by Scot Hanna-Weir, a member of Grace and conductor of the choirs at Santa Clara University and the Santa Clara Chorale.

The programs continue after the New Year with more exciting offerings. See the sidebar to this article for a complete calendar. Flyers listing the entire series are also available here at church in the racks outside the worship space. Please take one or several, and give them to anyone who might be interested in hearing some great music. We hope to see you here!

Tim Getz, Director of Music Ministry

# GraceNotes Live 2016-2017

#### Saturday, November 5 | 4 pm **The Lutheran Heritage of Music**

- Angelique Zuluaga, soprano
- Malin Walrod, mezzo soprano
- Sandra Dager, soprano
- Alex Groth, trumpet
- Beverly Radin, flute
- Tim Getz, piano and organ

#### Saturday, December 3, 4 pm

#### **Messiah Singalong**

- Scot Hanna-Weir, conductor
- Tim Getz, organ

#### Sunday, January 8, 3 pm

#### **Sonos Handbell Ensemble**

James Meredith, conductor

#### Saturday, February 25, 4 pm

#### **Contemplative Keyboards**

- Tysen Dauer, piano
- Tim Getz, organ

#### Saturday, March 25, 4 pm

#### **Bach Cantata Vespers**

- Featuring several area Lutheran church choirs
- Instrumental ensemble

# New Bank?

There are a lot of ways that I miss God's calling to make a difference in the world around me.

Text by Pastor Matt Smuts



OME OF IT is through being inattentive, but much of it is because it's sometimes hard, inconvenient, not cool...to name just a few excuses. However, there are a few spots in my life where I have imperfectly tried to change my behaviors and actions to line up more with what I perceive God is calling me to be about. Recently, this coalesced in an area of my life related to my bank.

My accounts are with Wells Fargo Bank. It has worked for me for many years, although I suspect it has worked better for them. With the recent news of unauthorized account openings, I became very disappointed. However, the part that really compelled me to do something was hearing

of the employees fired because they were not opening enough accounts, i.e. not participating in the scheme. At that point, I realized I had been participating in this by banking with them and I needed to make a change.

This week I opened a checking and savings account with a credit union and will begin moving away from Wells Fargo. It's a new credit union, the ELCA Federal Credit Union. You read that right. Our church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, now has a credit union. My hope and prayer is that this shift will allow me to partner with a financial institution that shares my values. It's a small step, and Wells Fargo certainly won't miss me. However, it makes a difference to me in my walk of faith. I am happy to chat about my experiences if you have any questions.



www.elcafcu.org

#### CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY



#### MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Middle and high schoolers all play a huge role in our JamBOOree celebration! Our middle school youth are in charge of our Trick or Treat house—they hand out all the candy for our little trick-or-treaters. Our high school youth are responsible for our Haunted House! After JamBOOree winds down, we gather in the Youth Room for a Halloween Movie Night! Middle School Youth are welcome to stay for Movie 1, a PG rated Halloween movie. High Schoolers are welcome to stay for Movie 1 and Movie 2, which is a PG13 movie, usually a little scarier. As always, friends are welcome all night!

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am:

- Children (and their parents) join us at the front of the Sanctuary and put a sticker on our attendance chart!
- We begin with singing and music with our Director of Music Ministry, Tim Getz.
- Offering is a big part of learning and growing in Sunday School. This fall we are collecting full size toiletry items to support health and wellness. They will go to Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto.
- Little Lutherans gather weekly in a parent-led and -taught class, a growing faith community for little ones and parents, now meeting in the Preschool.

#### CONFIRMATION

We have added a new class at 4 pm on Wednesdays for those youth who were having trouble making it at 7 pm. We have the biggest Confirmation class we have had in years, 28 students! Wow, what a great start to this year! On October 23 after the 10:45 am service, we will go on a Middle School Adventure to a CORN MAZE! Parent Drivers NEEDED. Please contact Elizabeth. Our next Mentor Sunday is November 6.

#### JAMBOOREE TIME!

You are invited to the annual Grace JamBOOree!! If you have never been to JamBOOree before, it is a potluck/ party with a Fall/ Halloween Festival theme—fun for the whole family! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors! Parents can enjoy a seat outside around the fire pit while the kids check out the Haunted House provided by the High School Youth! Other activities include:

- Trick or Treat House and Games for children of all ages!
- Guessing Jars full of mysterious treats.
- Costume Parade for everyone who wants to dress up!
- Arts and Crafts and lots of sweets for all to enjoy.
- DON'T MISS THIS PARTY!!

#### ADVENT FESTIVAL!!

November 20 | immediately after the 10:45 am service

After church, prepare for Advent and Christmas by making an advent wreath, crafting, eating warm soup, and getting your fill of lefse!! This is a lunch-time event for the whole Grace family, all are welcome. We gather in Brown Hall for warm homemade soup, fresh lefse made by our high schoolers, crafts for all ages, wreath making, and lots of great conversations. Don't miss out. We will also make tags for the Angel Tree and prepare our care packages for our college youth! We hope to see you there.

#### COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESS REQUEST

College: ? Address: ?? Updates: ??? It's that time of year again!! We need to know where your College Youth are: what are their NEW addresses? Please send them in an email to office@gracepa.org (or log in to CCB and update their address) so that we can make sure to send them a care package this fall. Thanks so much to Anne Ritchie, who will help to put our packages together this year! We love staying connected to our college youth and knowing what they are up to in the world! Feel free to send an update!





It might seem too soon, but our music groups at Grace like to be prepared, and we will soon start rehearsing our music for the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you'd like to be part of a musical ensemble during the holidays, now is the time to join! Children's choir (grades 3-8) meets from 5:30-6:30 pm on Wednesdays, adult choir meets from 7:00-8:30 on Wednesdays, and the handbells ring from 5:30-6:45 pm on Thursdays. Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing!



Want to go to Germany with Grace next summer?

## Luther500 Festival July 18 - 25, 2017

The Grace Lutheran 2017 Luther500 Festival will be an event to remember! We have just over 100 signed up to go and we have space for a few

more...singles, couples, families. Let us know! One does not need to be a member of Grace Lutheran Church, or live in the area, or even the continent, for that matter, to go.

Check out www.gracepa.org for all the details, and contact Pastor Matt at pastormatt@gracepa.org with any questions. You will be glad you went!

# It's not too late!

Three years ago marked the official start of our capital campaign journey. After six months of intentional listening and preparing (with the help of consultants Kairos and Associates), we came together in the spring of 2014, inspired with a unified vision: making a place for grace.

This campaign focuses on the following:

- Enlarging the narthex to provide a clearer entrance to our place of worship and create a large, versatile space that encourages conversation, gathering and community
- Renovations and repairs to the parking lot, sanctuary roof, and steeple—necessary maintenance that will allow us, and future generations, to benefit from our beautiful sanctuary
- Using 10% of dollars raised in this campaign to go toward benevolence opportunities aligned with the interests and priorities of the members of Grace.



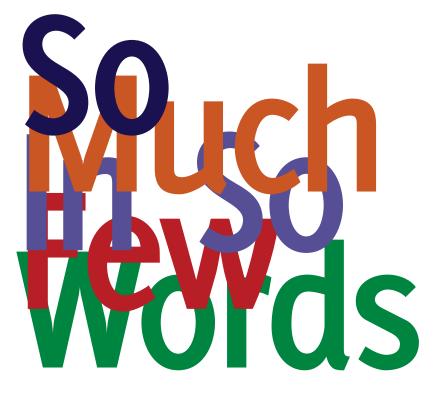
I'm pleased to report that to date, we have raised \$1 million! Thank you for joining us on this journey and for helping to make this vision a reality.

A lot has happened since we launched this campaign in 2014. Babies have been born and baptized, employment situations have changed, new members have joined the congregation. There is just longer than six months until the campaign comes to a close in June 2017. If you have yet to contribute, it's not too late! I invite you to participate and join our efforts. Please prayerfully consider your generous response to this bold vision for making a place for grace.

Be on the lookout in next month's Grace Notes for ways to get involved and contribute. In the meantime, please feel free to contact Pastor Matt or me with any questions.

Peace, Aarika Riddle Chair, Capital Campaign Team

#### CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

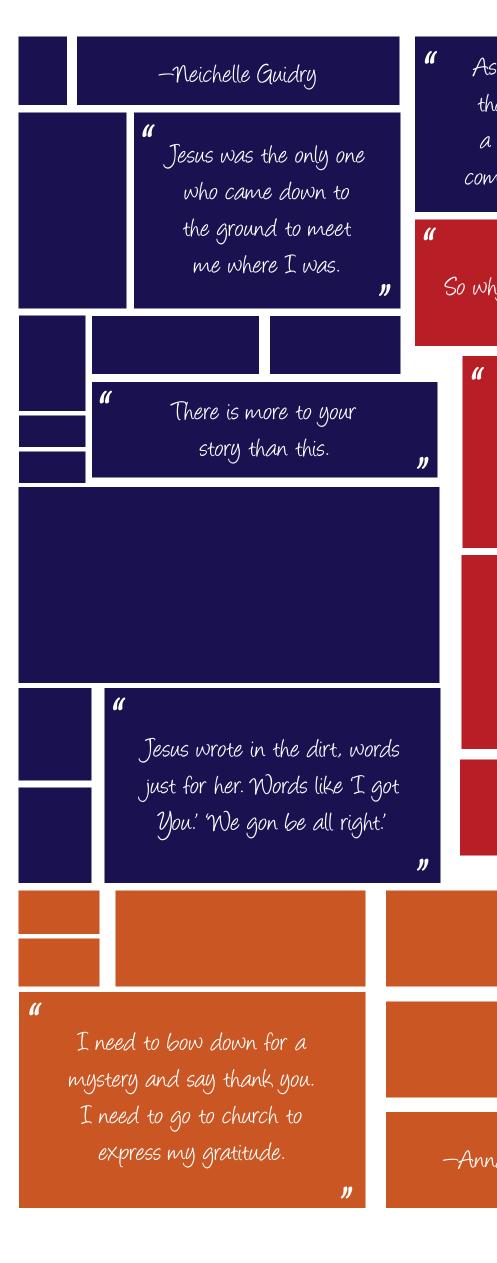


I am so lucky. I try really hard to not take my blessings for granted, and this is one I hope I won't. I serve, and now lead, the Hospitality Team for the ELCA Extravaganza, which means that now, my way is paid for. And that means that I got to use my continuing education money this year to attend a conference called "Why Christian?" that was held in Chicago. It started last year and sold out, and came back this year with even more excitement surrounding the event. The event gathers people from all different backgrounds and a lot of different faith journeys to come together to ask, "Why Christian?"

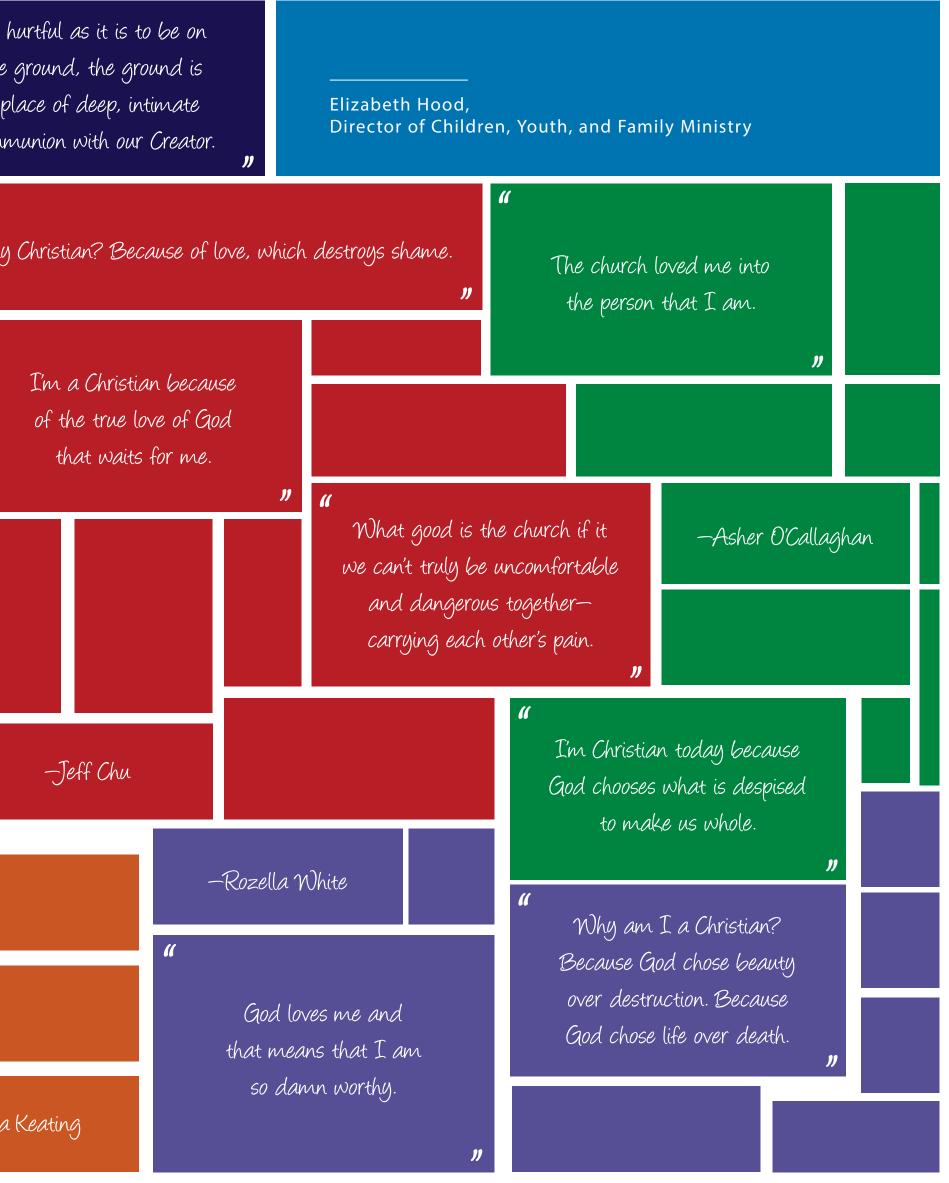
In a broken world full of broken people, "Why?" In just two days we heard story after story, personal testimony and truth poured out, heard the Gospel proclaimed and worshiped in the most beautiful and simple ways. Tears were shed, and smiles and laughter abounded. We heard from people who had lost their faith, people who had lost all hope, and people who, despite all of that, have clung to Jesus.

As I boarded my flight home with a full and overflowing heart and mind, I found it hard to put what I had just experienced into words. I still find it hard because there was just so much truth, so much heart, so much pain, so much forgiveness, and so much love, too much to put into words. I did walk away with my cup overflowing and an assuredness that what I believe, what I have always believed—what I work for and teach and try to live out every day—is worth it and worthwhile. And there is still reason to cling to Jesus and the Gospel because our broken selves and broken world need it.

I live-tweeted the event so that I could remember some of my favorite quotes from the speaker. I love to share a few with you now. I was blessed by their words and inspired to continue to love and serve and welcome people into the unfolding story of God and Jesus, who welcomed all with radical hospitality and loved all with open arms. I hope that you, too, are blessed by these words.



#### CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY



**GRACE**NOTES 13



## Joan Northcott

# The library is people, too.

The Grace Library has lost a tireless advocate and volunteer with the passing of Joan Northcott. She was already a long-time library volunteer for Carolyn Jenny when I agreed to take over the librarian job in 2003. She showed me the ropes and helped get me started, but never wanted the 'librarian' title. It was a great pleasure to work with her and become friends with her and Bob. I will miss her as a friend and co-worker.

The library has been on hiatus with Joan's illness and my extended travels. I was happy to see that checkouts and returns continued, with quite a stack to deal with this week. New books and videos will soon be appearing. The list of new books and videos in anticipation of the "Luther Year" is increasing, and I'll be reviewing and choosing a few more of those, along with other new material. Keep checking the Reformation/Luther display shelves in the library and the new book display in the library windows.

I would welcome anyone who has thought of volunteering in the library to contact me. Come find out about how the library runs and the many different tasks that need to be done. Help keep our Grace Library a great resource for everyone.

Mary Ashley

# BRIEF Report from the Building Team

Last month's full-page report described a large package of tangible accomplishments by your Building Team, including a full page of photos and diagrams. By most standards, certainly by those of the Building Team, it was an epic article—truly humongous!

In contrast, this month's report comes in a package so small that I'm impressed that you've even spotted it and read this far. So, what is in this small package?

A BIG THING! After enduring nearly two years of having our parade of designs get rained on, the sun has come out. WE HAVE BEEN AFFIRMED AT LAST! The City of Palo Alto Planning Department has accepted our design and cleared us to begin work with the Building Department to procure the necessary building permits. We still face many details and, especially, cost calculations before we can bring the complete project to a congregational vote. For the moment, though, we are happy just to be in sunshine.

# The Mundane & the Milestones

Our lives are measured in milestones—a new school year, birthdays, graduations. We gear our lives around holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is easy to focus on these events, but the majority of our days are not an "event." We are molded by our day-to-day activities. Our lives are defined by the small things we do every day.

In stewardship, we focus on time, talent, and treasure. We gear up for the annual pledge campaign. We read the church bulletin and check the calendar for upcoming events to more fully participate in our faith community. We talk to Pastor Tuhina about volunteering for the meal on Tuesday, or Mariel Spengler about becoming a confirmation mentor, or Steve Madsen about the Wednesday work crew. All of those things are important parts of our stewardship journey. And fun! But our relationship to God is also defined by the small things we do every day. Daily prayer and attending worship define who we are—children of God.

# **Council Notes**

The council has two exciting updates to share. The first day-to-day maintenance activities easier: Now anyone

is that Q1 giving is up 23% from last year. There are no guarantees about what that means for the rest of the year, but considering last year was our strongest fiscal performance in the past 10--it's a very good start! We continue to be truly blessed by the generosity and engagement of the congregation.

The second update is about the progress of the newly formed

Property Committee. They have been hard at work over the past few months creating a detailed accounting of all our existing facilities across the campus and parsonages. In the past, we have always been able to find someone who knows things like where the extra light bulbs are stored, where the electrical panels are for each of the buildings, or where to set the timers for the outside lights. We have also been able to evaluate individual facility/maintenance issues as they come up, determine whether something should be fixed or replaced, and then allocate money as needed. The property committee has used existing detailed drawings of the campus and updated locations of switches, panels, shut-off valves, and utilities that will make

will be able find what they're looking for without having to track down the one or two people who happen to know. More importantly—updating the detailed accounting of when items were built/purchased/ installed, their estimated life and replacement year plus estimated replacement cost, provides information that allows for longer term planning and prioritizing needs. This will help us identify smaller items before

they become inconveniences and identify larger items far enough in advance to consider inclusion in future capital campaigns. This is the perfect complement to our recent change to separate our capital and operating budgets so that we can be more proactive and intentional about addressing our capital needs. We look forward to additional updates as they continue their work!

Nate Calhoun

**Grace Council President** 

The other minor note from council is that we have finally settled on committee liaison assignments. There are not many changes since we only have one new council member this year, but the current assignments are listed nearby.

#### COUNCIL

Kimberly Badtke FINANCE

Nate Calhoun, President CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Mary Cravens ENDOWMENT

Gail Foelsch PRESCHOOL, BUILDING

Jane Garvey SOCIAL MINISTRY

Elise Grangaard STEWARDSHIP

Sabine Kabel-Eckes ADULT ED

Holly Lucke PERSONNEL

Don McElravy PROPERTY

Ryan Riddle, Vice President WORSHIP & MUSIC

Jim Schlatter BUILDING TEAM

Katy Siegel, Secretary YOUTH MINISTRY

# The Food Closet Needs You!

The Food Closet does a remarkable job for the amount of foodmoving and distribution that is done with a relatively small number of volunteers who give varying amounts of time. We need someone with a flexible schedule, strong back, and big vehicle to do part of the pick-up and delivery. This typically involves about 2 hours at a time—to be negotiated—that fits your schedule, just like the 2 hour commitments that regular weekly or monthly and substitute folks give for handing out groceries: 10-12 or 12-2, Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. So if you can give a couple hours a week or month, we DO have a job for you! Call Joanie Caroon or Mary Carlson. And we have our list of hoped-for items that includes: **condiments**, **oatmeal**, **cooking oil**, **tea**, **ground coffee**, **single serving meals**, **cold cereal and pop-top vienna sausages**, **sardines**, **small flour and sugar**, **crackers**, **jam**, **and honey**.

Remember that most of our families are small and do not have lots of storage space, so they prefer smaller containers, as do we.

Thank you for your continued gifts to the Food Closet.

3149 Waverley Street Palo Alto, CA 94306 650.494.1212

www.gracepa.org

Scace Lutheran Church



# **Sunday Worship**

8:30 & 10:45 am

«»«»«»«»«»«»

Also broadcast on Cable 30

Sundays 11 am 8:30 pm

Mondays 12:30 pm



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands. www.elca.org