

A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rally 2017

Notes from Grace



a place for you

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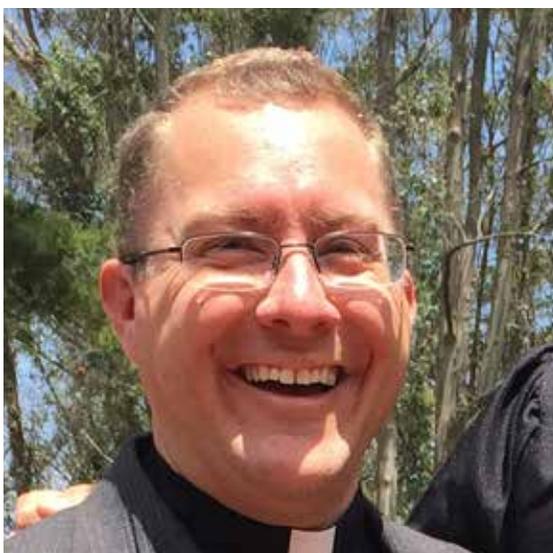
Next Issue: Reformation 2017

Publication Deadline: October 5, 2017

The Body of Christ

For where two or three are gathered
in my name, I am there among them.
Matthew 18:20

Here we are again at the start of a new fall. School has begun, and confirmation along with all of our Life Together programming is set to begin again in the next few weeks. These are the seasonal rhythms that move us through the year. Our daily rou-



tines continue, but may change a bit. We also experience exceptional events in our own lives, and the lives of our community, that go beyond the seasons. We have been to funerals, baptisms have been celebrated, and perhaps even a wedding! As a community we are watching construction happening, while at the same time remembering our historic trip to Germany from July.

In the midst of all that is common, or perhaps exceptional, we know that Christ is present. It is this community that sustains us in hard times and celebrates with us in joyful times. However, it is Christ in our midst that causes us to be that kind of holy and life-giving community, the body of Christ. Without him we are simply a collection of individuals. With Christ, we are shaped into his body for the sake of the world.

In this time and life, we were made for community like this. Don't forget to invest yourself in it. You will be surprised at the peace you experience.

Peace,

Rev. Matthew A. Smuts, Senior Pastor

COVER PHOTO

Baptism, Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Eisleben, Germany 7/21/2017

Mellie Bandy, Lucy Ma, and Philip Ma were baptized in the same font and church as Martin Luther.



Sunday School and Fall Kick Off!! September 10

8:30 am | Worship

9:30 am | Sunday School (all ages!)

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, 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—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. ■

This year we observe the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The ELCA's anniversary theme, "Freed and Renewed in Christ," reminds us of the gospel's promise that we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. This is work that we do every day – serving our community in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people.

The service projects will be similar to those from last year:

1. Volunteering at Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP)
2. Habitat for Humanity / Thrivent Builds
3. Campus beautification / Sunday school set-up
4. Assembling Lutheran World Relief school kits.

Bruce FitzGerald, Social Ministry Committee

God's work
Our hands

Saturday, September 9, 2017

ECUMENICAL HUNGER PROGRAM

EHP's mission is two-fold: To sustain their neighbors through immediate crises, and to help them regain stability and independence. EHP provides food, clothing, household essentials, support, and advocacy to their neighbors to sustain and help them. EHP serves working families, seniors, people with limited incomes, and those who have both emergency and on-going needs in East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and surrounding communities. The service projects with EHP are in their Food Area (sorting and stocking, assembling food boxes) and Warehouse (sorting donations such as clothing, household items, assisting as needed).

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PAINTING PROJECT

Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. They revitalize neighborhoods, build affordable and sustainable housing solutions, and empower families through successful homeownership. The project, which takes place in San Jose, will be repainting a mobile home.

CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION/ SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOM PREPARATION

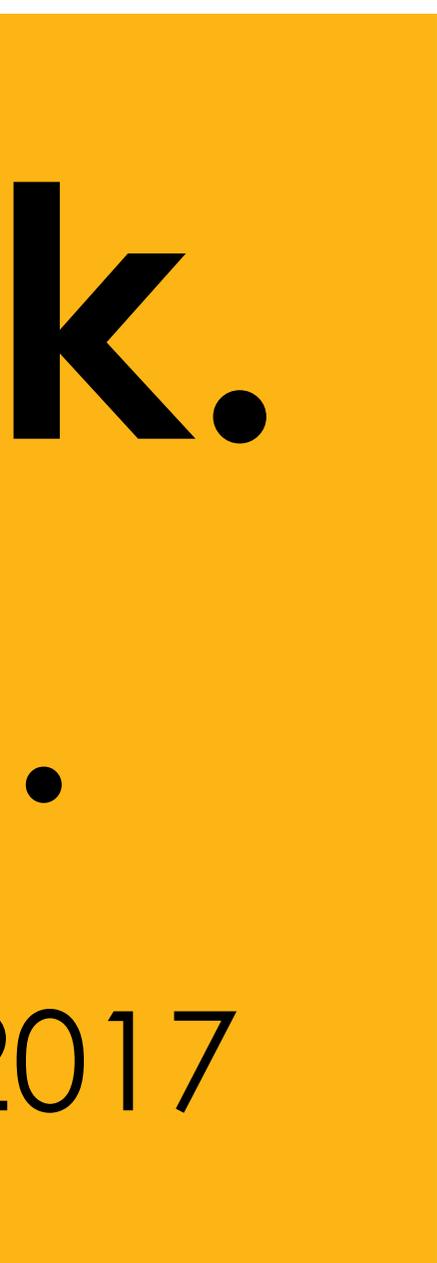
Help get our campus ready and looking beautiful in time for Rally Day Sunday! Cleaning up around campus and preparing the Sunday School Classrooms are great ways to be on campus and rally together for the upcoming church program year!

LWF SCHOOL KITS

School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future! Help assemble School Kits for Lutheran World Relief that will be sent all over the world! ■

Donate supplies for Lutheran World Relief school kits. Please bring to worship or the office:

- **70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"**
- **30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other**
- **pencil sharpener**
- **pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)**
- **unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers;**
- **black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink);**
- **box of 16 or 24 crayons**
- **2 1/2" eraser**



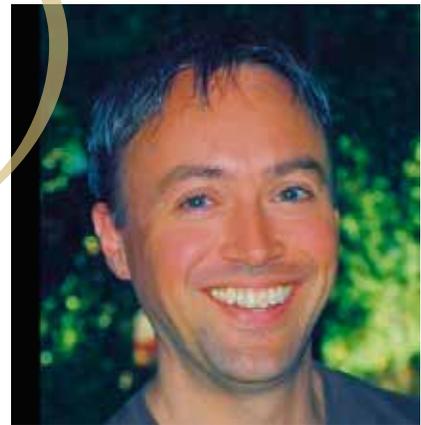
Yellow Box: Open During Construction

The yellow box that collects Food Closet items has moved—with our services—to Brown Hall for the construction. We hope you will find it hiding under a table near the door to the hallway. We are always in need of egg cartons, kid-friendly soup, and cold cereal, jelly, honey, oil in a quart or less, condiments, ground coffee, oatmeal, and canned meats. Tuna is fine too, but we do get it from Second Harvest, so the others are particularly popular. Excess veggies and fruit from your garden and trees are really helpful.

We also are in serious need of volunteers for two hours Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, a few times a month. Call 650 968-8266 to sign up and arrange a short orientation for your first shift.

We would LOVE to hear from you! ■

music @ Grace



Our several musical ensembles are beginning their new seasons, and I invite you to consider joining us!

Text by Tim Getz, Director of Music Ministry



While we were in Germany this past summer I took two opportunities to attend worship in Lutheran congregations on Sunday mornings: once in the Berliner Dom and once in the Town Church in Wittenberg. Both were large assemblies with enthusiastic congregational singing. As we continue in the 500th anniversary year of the Lutheran Reformation, it was a joy to worship with our fellow Lutherans in another part of the

world. And I was reminded again about the tremendous unifying power of liturgical worship. Although I can understand some German, I certainly don't understand everything, yet there was never a moment I didn't know what was happening in the service. It's more or less the same thing we do here at Grace, week after week! The service in Berlin included a baptism, and both were celebrations of Holy Communion. Many of the songs were familiar... in fact I now believe that you haven't lived until you've had a chance to sing the Jamaican hymn "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" auf Deutsch! These services are among the highlights of my many wonderful memories of summer 2017.

Now, on to fall!

Our several musical ensembles are beginning their new seasons and I invite you to consider joining us:

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 6**. 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. No audition is necessary, just come give it a try any Wednesday. We’ll be delighted to see you.

Praises Ring is the name of Grace’s handbell choir. We rehearse on **Thursday afternoons** from **5:30-6:45 pm** and will begin on **September 14**. The bell choir rings in church about one Sunday each month, plus Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. This fall we will also be working on a special combined bell choir project with one of our neighboring congregations, Covenant Presbyterian Church on Meadow Drive. We can always use another ringer or two. No prior experience with bell ringing is necessary, although some basic music-reading ability is helpful. We’ll teach you all the rest!

Choir for Grades 4-8 rehearses late on **Wednesday afternoons** from **5:30-6:30 pm**. Middle school youth who are attending Confirmation class either before or after choir rehearsal 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 will sing in church about once a month. Our first rehearsal is **September 13**.

I am in contact with parents of kids in Grades 1-3 to determine if we have enough interested families to have a choir of that age also. If you haven’t heard from me already and are interested in this opportunity, please be in touch to be sure I have you on my e-mail list!

High school singers have more than one option: continuing in the youth choir at 5:30 on Wednesdays, or joining the adult choir at 7 pm (although this does meet at the same time as Youth Group). We may also consider forming a high school choir that practices for short bursts before a single event, rather than having an ongoing schedule.

Please be welcome to contact me at any time (tim@gracepa.org) with questions regarding our music programs. Everyone is welcome!

“**Grace Notes Live**,” our monthly concert series, will continue in the coming year, although we’ll be starting a bit later as our construction project draws to a close. You’ll see a lot more details in the next newsletter, but for now mark your calendars for these two events:

Festival of Bells

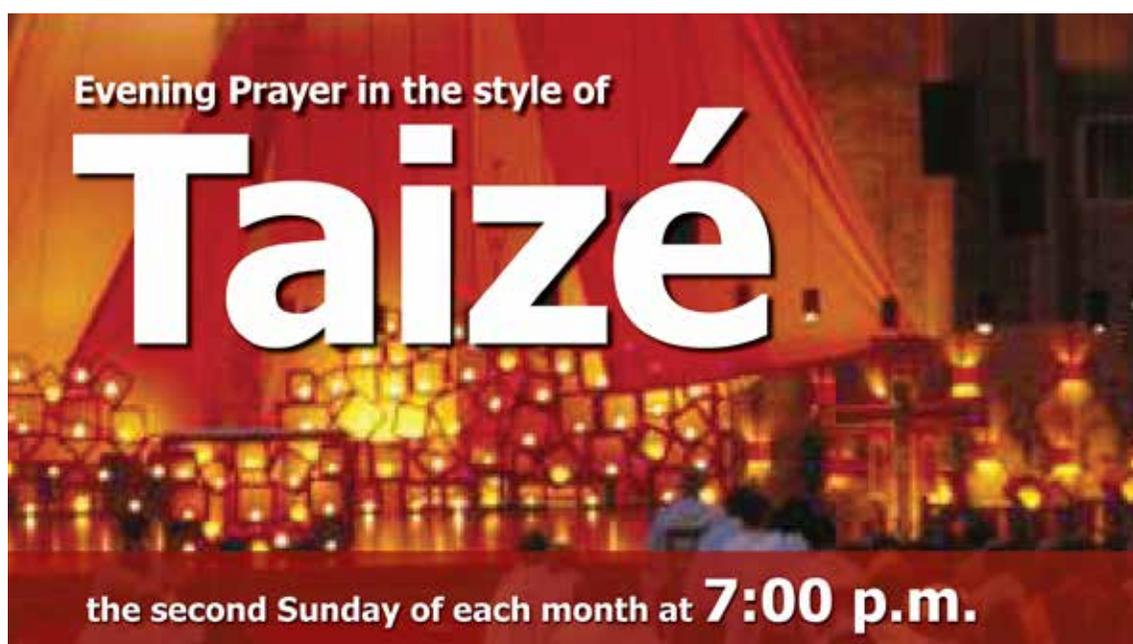
Saturday, November 18, 4 pm
at **Covenant Presbyterian Church,**
670 E. Meadow Drive

with handbell choirs from Grace Lutheran Church and Covenant Presbyterian Church

Third Annual Messiah Singalong

Saturday, December 9, 4 pm
this year with string ensemble accompaniment!

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 weeklong 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 10** beginning at **7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. I look forward to seeing and singing with you there!



Something for everyone!

Beginning September 13

- 4:30 pm Confirmation (afternoon option)
- 5:30 pm Children's Choir (grades 4-8)
- 6:15 pm Dinner in Brown Hall (\$5/person; \$20/family)
featuring the fabulous cooking of Dale Loepp!
- 7:00 pm Confirmation (evening option)
High School Youth Group
Adult Choir

Growing in Faith: Learning and Life

Opportunities for learning are abundant in Silicon Valley, from fabulous community libraries to top-notch universities, and we are awash in options to learn and grow. *(Read more about some of the many faith/community building activities and groups you can find at Grace on pages 10-11.)*

As we resume our fall schedules at Grace, consider the opportunities for spiritual enrichment provided through the Adult Forum sessions on Sundays.

Adult Forum meets on Sundays, from 9:45 - 10:30 am, in the Chapel. All are invited to attend these sessions. Together we learn, enrich, and extend both our individual and our community Faith journeys through Bible studies, group discussions, and videos relevant to the gospel lesson.

While Sunday is the designated day for group faith formation, don't forget about A Study of Luther's Small Catechism for Adults that you might have at home. Luther's text offers great insight into the meaning of faith and life as a Christian.

Watch for bulletin and Email notices as Adult Forum topics are announced (such as the Germany trip recap, or Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's upcoming visit), and mark them on your calendars. We look forward to seeing you there!

From the Heart: Stewardship at Grace Lutheran

"Making a Place for Grace"/"God's Work. Our Hands." have been continuing themes of our vision for building, creating, marching forward, doing, being in the community!

Right now, some results of our stewardship are smack in front of us, as we can actually "see" what is happening at Grace Lutheran. But in the middle of doing, we must stop, look around, and be grateful! Stewardship, after all is from the heart. At its finest, stewardship is about what God has done for us.

At Grace Lutheran, we are thankful and grateful for many who give time, share talent, give money. In our excitement at what we see and with a new program year just around the corner, let us be grateful for a God who guides us, blesses us, leads us, and challenges us in making a place for His grace!



Children, Youth and Family Year Overview

Mark your calendars now!

September 10 | Fall Kick Off! | 9:30 am Sunday School for all ages | 11:45 am Lunch and fun!

October 1 | Blessing of Animals | 10:45 am

October 13-15 | Elementary Retreat 3-5 grades | Mt. Cross

October 27 | JamBOOree | 6 - 9 pm | All Ages | Potluck Dinner | Brown Hall

October 27 | Middle and High School Movie Night | 9 pm - 11 pm | Youth Room

October 29 | ReformationFest | Lunch and Celebration | Noon | In the Courtyard | All are welcome

November 10-12 | Middle School Retreat | Mt. Cross

December 3 | Advent Festival | 11:45 am | Brown Hall | All ages crafts and family fun | Soup and Lefse Lunch

December 17 | Christmas Program | 9:30 am

February 1 | Celebrate Love! | Noon | Lunch
Everyone is invited to celebrate and share love!

February 23-25 | High School Retreat | Mt. Cross

March 25 | Palm Sunday - Prayer stations for all ages | 9:30 am

March 31 | Easter Vigil | Middle/High School Easter Prep/Pizza!

April 1 | Easter celebration and brunch | Egg hunt

May 6 | Rite of Confirmation | 10:45 am

May 20 | Senior Quilt Sunday | Last day of Sunday school

June 4-8 | CMT: Spirit of the Universe | K-6 Grades

June 11-15 | CMT: Don't Shut Us Out | K-6 Grades

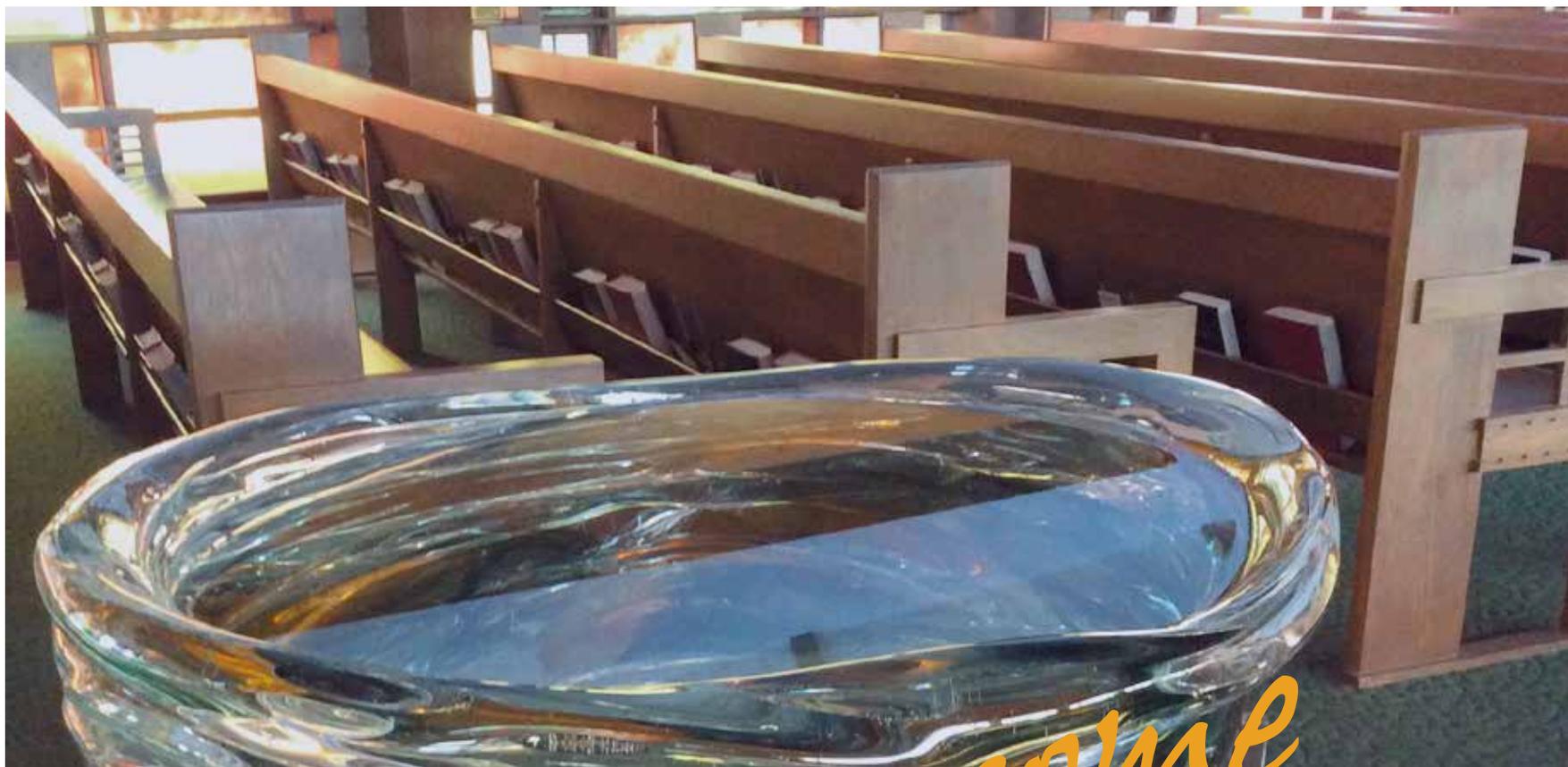
June 18-22 | CMT: Esther | K-6 Grades

June 25-28 | CMT Special Edition: Promised Land | **7-12 Grades!**

June 25 - July 2 | ELCA National Youth Gathering- High School Youth | Houston, TX

July 9-13 | Day Camp 2017 | K-5 Grades

July 30 - August 10 | CMT: The Greatest Treasure | K-6 Grades



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.

[02] Women's Breakfast & Conversation
Enjoy great food and conversation on the **second Saturday each month** beginning at 8:30AM 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 7:30-9:00PM

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. Hope to see you starting in October! If you have any questions please contact Miriam Teeter at 650-494-1175

Ruth Circle meets the third Monday of each month 10:00AM-12:00PM during the school year, except December. We drink a little tea or coffee with cookies or cake when we come to chat, have a little discussion, usually led by Pastor Cora, then home for lunch at noon. We enjoy getting together at homes of ladies who come, and are happy to welcome any new ones who would like to join us; contact Mary Carlson, secretary.

[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. Contact Elizabeth (elizabeth@gracepa.org)

[05] Exercise Group A group meets in Brown Hall three times a week for exercise—**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** from 8:30 - 9:30AM. The video used can be approached at varying levels of intensity - perfect for any level of fitness. We move and stretch for an hour, never on the floor. Do join us, we talk and laugh and move our bodies. It's fun. 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 to 11:00AM to do repairs and maintenance of the church's facilities. Our mission is to keep the lights on and keep the water running where it should and not running where it shouldn't. If you are interested, contact Steve Madsen. (s8madsen@yahoo.com)

11 Sunday Adult Forum A weekly opportunity for spiritual growth with relevant and interesting topics.

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.

16 Chancel Choir Open to any singer of high school age and up of any experience level. Rehearses on **Wednesdays** from 7:00-8:30PM, beginning on September 6. The choir sings a wide variety of music and sings most Sundays, September through May.

17 Handbell Choir Rehearse **Thursday afternoons** from 5:30-6:45PM, beginning September 14; ring 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 Altar Guild generally working in teams of two, is responsible for preparing 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 quite sanctuary with a perfect opportunity for a little reflection and prayer. **We would love to have some new faces on the team!** Sounds like a good fit for You? Please contact Maria Derrick or the church office.

07 Men's Breakfast

Every Tuesday at 7 am at Bill's Cafe in Midtown. This is a casual time to catch up and support one another. New faces are always welcome and there is no need to RSVP. Feel free to drop in when you are able. It will enrich your experience of Sunday morning worship by deepen your relationships with other men in the congregation.

08 Quilters & Crafts A group of women has been making quilts and Project Linus blankets for many years in Brown Hall. We meet on Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 11:30 or "pushing 12:00." Cut squares... design...then take home to sew quilt tops. Return, "sandwich" top, batting and backing, take home and do final sewing.

There are currently five of us working together, with another one sewing at home. We can certainly use more help, especially this year when we have many quilts to make for our high school graduates; there's also a rumor in the group that another very large quilt is needed for an auction to benefit Dar al Kalima, plus, always, Linus blankets.

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 Pastor Matt if you can help! (pastormatt@gracepa.org)

10 God's work. Our hands. Join us for upcoming Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent Builds work days. We are helping seniors and low-income families stay in their mobile homes—some of the last remaining affordable housing in the Silicon Valley—by helping with paint and maintenance so these families can stay in their communities. Projects are scheduled for Saturdays; the next one is on September 9. Please contact Bruce FitzGerald for more information.

13 Open Bible Study (Sunday texts). Every **Thursday morning at 10 AM** in the library Pastor Matt leads the 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 worshipping in prosperous Silicon Valley, Grace members have ample opportunity to put their talents (time) to work in the service of others. Every Tuesday Grace hosts a weekly dinner for the hungry. Some of our fellow members arrive at 4:30 pm to prepare and serve dinner (see opportunity # 09). Other members arrive at 5:15 pm to wash dishes and clean up the kitchen. Neither activity requires great skill, only the willingness to serve others. Please consider volunteering. For more information and to sign up, contact Pastor Tuhina (pastortuhina@gracepa.org).

15 Library Open every Sunday morning, or available any other time that someone on campus can unlock the door. Check out is self-service. We also maintain a cart in the narthex with rotating material for checkout. Wednesday mornings are on-site work time for the library committee. We welcome volunteers, book/video reviews, and book/video suggestions. Contact Mary Ashley at 650-494-1829 or meashley@pacbell.net.

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

20 Labyrinth Available 24/7, labyrinths are currently being used world-wide 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. ■



Elizabeth Hood,
Director of Children, Youth,
and Family Ministry

Words have power.

This is something I have always held to be true. I wrote one of my senior theses with the theme of words and quotes. Words can make you feel and see things you never knew. Words can change your emotions and your mood. Song lyrics and quotes have power to inspire. Speeches and sermons can cause you to dream and plan.

This summer, I was honored to lead another Habitat for Humanity team in Budapest, Hungary. We were an all female team—only eight people, but we were mighty. Before we had the opportunity to meet the family we would build for, we knew just a little about them—a single mom and her three daughters, who had been living in a shelter for two years after leaving an abusive husband and father. Just hearing those words was meaningful to me. Growing up with a single mom who taught me everything about being strong, brave, and kind, I was honored to build for this family with my team.

We worked in a small, over 100 year old apartment in the outskirts of the city. Each morning and afternoon, we boarded the local bus and tram and commuted to work, just like everyone else. We rode home covered in plaster and mortar, getting frequent lingering looks from people who weren't used to seeing women work in construction. One day, coming home with a Hungarian friend from the work site, a man on the train asked in Hungarian why we looked the way we did. She answered that we were building, he said in disbelief, "No!" She and I both nodded yes and went on our way. In our week building in Budapest, we got lots of looks and stares from passersby. Once, as we unloaded our truck with supplies, a mom pushing a stroller did a double take of me in my hard hat and then gave me a quick nod of approval or being impressed. We were shattering an image of what women can do there—it was awesome!

On two occasions we got to meet with the family, and on our last day we got to spend a bit more time getting to know them via a translator. Words exchanged and translated, but still powerful. We asked about the girls: what they liked in school, what they wanted to be? They asked what our jobs are. Cancer researcher, engineer, military flight mechanic, seminarian, youth minister, police dispatcher... not common jobs for women in Hungary. Each of their faces at hearing our careers were priceless. Then we told them about our week and

what we had done in their apartment. The rooms had changed a lot in just a few days: demolition, plumbing, wiring, plaster, new walls and more. When our first new wall went up, I asked if we could write in the wall and our supervisor said yes! I started out by writing our team name and the date, then had each team member sign, then I wrote that we are wishing them love, joy, happiness and peace. When we started saying our good byes, I shared with them that we had written inside their walls, which were now closed up. I shared that we laughed a lot in their new home and that I hoped they would laugh a lot in it as well. When my words were translated to the mom, she started to cry. She said, "We will feel your laughter and it will bring us joy." Then everyone there, construction supervisor, assistant, local coordinator, and my whole team started to tear up. Her words will forever be in my heart. Our words had power. They would feel our words in their home months later when they move in. I have been so blessed to lead these trips and learn about these families and be a small part in their lives. I hope that our words and our work continue to bless them for many years to come.

I think about this in the context of my role here at Grace, and how many words have been shared—in Sunday School, in Confirmation, in Worship, in Youth Group and in relationships. So many words. This last weekend I went on our HS Beach Retreat, on my eighth year of being at Grace. My first weekend at Grace I was also at the beach house!

Words carry weight and have power, and sometimes we have no words. Words fail. Sometimes all we can do is be present. I have learned that a lot of ministry is in words—conversations, bible verses, E-mail, and texts—but also a lot of ministry is just being there. When words fail, being there is enough. God enters into our silence and our hearts, and provides peace and love. I'm thankful that God gave me lots of words to share and gave me the wisdom to know when to be silent and listen. Thankful for words—so many beautiful words and people in my life. ■



WSYG DREAM BIG Recap

This summer, 18 of us traveled via bus with Bethel Lutheran Cupertino (plus their group of 7) to Thousand Oaks, CA to California Lutheran University for the Western States Youth Gathering (WSYG), a regional gathering that takes place every three years. We gathered with over 600 other high school youth to learn about God's Big Dreams for us! I had the great honor of serving on the planning team for the event and was in charge of one of the days. I had six camps come in from all over the western states and lead everyone in team games to get to know each other better! It was a great day and a great gathering. We learned about people all throughout the bible who dared to dream big dreams and how that is what God does for us. We laughed, worshiped and had a lot of fun. As always growing closer together as a Youth Group!



Day Camp Recap

This summer at Grace, we hosted a successful Day Camp!! We had about 35 children, a team of four young adult counselors from Lutheran Retreats Camps and Conferences, a handful of high school volunteers, more than five adult volunteers making snacks and lunches throughout the week, and so many other people who made this week possible!

A HUGE thanks to Maria Derrick and Jennifer Turner 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!

BUILDING TEAM



What You See Is What Is Happening

Hooray! The Building Team is actually building! The start of Summer brought the long-awaited start of actual physical work on the narthex remodeling and parking lot renovation. There have been occasional surprises as we opened walls and dug in the dirt, but we simply process the necessary Change Orders to the work plan and continue on our way. The Building Team did not convene formal gatherings over the summer months – we “met” via e-mail exchanges when decisions had to be made.

If you take a look at the site, you know pretty much what we know about the progress of the project. It is moving at a good pace with the startup kinks behind us. The large, four-foot-deep bioswale trench down the center of the parking lot has been filled with the prescribed lower layers of gravel for drainage and upper layers of soil for the plants that will ultimately grow there. Curbing around the perimeter of

the parking lot has been completed – the grading and asphalt are being deferred until the time when heavy trucks are no longer maneuvering around the area.

Do you want to make a lasting mark to witness your support of this momentous project in Grace’s history? When rough walls are up but have not yet received their final coverings, we will have a ceremony during which we all can write our names on the walls and have them be permanently sealed underneath the finished surfaces. Pay attention to the various Grace news sources for announcements of the details and the timing. We don’t want anyone to miss this opportunity, and we especially don’t want any latecomers to think they can write stuff on the finished walls!

Catch up with one of the occasional tours after a Sunday morning service to really see what is happening.

PHOTOS

Far left: the new parking lot bioswale

Top right: the new library

Middle right: the new restrooms

Bottom spread: the new narthex and patio

Your Building Team -- A Happening Group
[Contact: Jim Schlatter, jim@schlatter.us]



Open for Business

The Grace Library is open for business on the fringes of the construction zone! It's just a brief walk across the courtyard, so come check out the new books one of these Sundays. In this issue, I am featuring several books recently added to the Grace Library that are Christianity Today Book Award winners in various categories, along with comments from the magazine on their merits.

Apologetics / Evangelism

Making Sense of God: An Invitation to the Skeptical, by Timothy Keller (Viking)

"*Making Sense of God* is not a parade of logical evidence for God, but rather a profound reflection on the existential realities of being human. Keller asks, simply, "Is the secular view of the world capable of making sense of the things secularists themselves properly value: freedom, individuality, justice, community, rationality, personal meaning, human rights?" His answer is a convincing no. Not only does Christianity make rational sense, Keller argues, but it also does justice to the totality of human experience. His points are gracefully presented and delivered without a hint of overstatement or triumphalism." —Gregory Koukl, founder and president, Stand to Reason

Christian Living / Discipleship

Crossing the Waters: Following Jesus through the Storms, the Fish, the Doubt, and the Seas, by Leslie Leyland Fields (NavPress)

"Drawing from a trip to Israel and from her family's lives as salmon fishermen on a remote island in Alaska, Fields shows what it means to be a child of God in the world today. We get a clear picture of what Jesus was doing with his disciples, his followers, his critics, and his family helpfully intersperses her own family's stories of adventure, risk, calm, and loss. Her command of language, allegory, and Scripture is impressive." —Lore Ferguson Wilbert, blogger at Sayable.net

Culture & The Arts

75 Masterpieces Every Christian Should Know: The Fascinating Stories behind Great Works of Art, Literature, Music, and Film by Terry Glaspey (Baker)

"The prevailing assumption is that evangelicals and art don't really get along. Glaspey deftly undermines this idea by making the case for integrating a range of masterpieces into Christian tradition. He does this in the best way possible, not by offering conceptual reasons why Christians should care about art, but by getting down to business and revealing the work itself, piece by piece. Any book that attempts a survey of sorts, especially one covering hundreds of years and multiple genres, runs the risk of superficiality. Glaspey manages to avoid this with his concise, illuminating essays that accompany each piece." —S. D. Kelly, essayist

Fiction

The Confessions of X by Suzanne M. Wolfe (Thomas Nelson)

"In this gripping, beautifully written historical novel, Wolfe brings the ancient city of Carthage to life, immersing readers in the experiences that shaped the theology of Augustine of Hippo. In her deftly told and well-researched story, the unnamed woman whom Augustine loved and lived with for 13 years rises from the footnotes of history to become a dynamic, fully-fleshed character. Their relationship shows us an achingly real love, heartrending self-sacrifice, and the way that beliefs are shaped by experiences in the beautiful and terrible world." —Amy Peterson, writer and assistant director of honors programming, Taylor University

Politics / Public Life

Seeking Refuge: On the Shores of the Global Refugee Crisis by Stephan Bauman, Matthew Soerens, and Issam Smeir (Moody)

"The authors of *Seeking Refuge* have managed quite an achievement in clearly explaining the complexity and importance of the global refugee crisis—and showing how the church should respond. *Seeking Refuge* informs without being pedantic, and calls us to action without browbeating. The approach is an outstanding example of what Karl Barth supposedly said about holding the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. While there are many worthy causes Christians should support, *Seeking Refuge* persuasively argues that God is especially calling his church in this moment to love mercy and act justly for the sake of our refugee neighbors near and far." —Micah Watson, professor of political science, Calvin College

Spiritual Formation

You Are What You Love: The Spiritual Power of Habit by James K. A. Smith (Brazos)

"Too many Christians pay attention only to what they think and assert—without letting their attention probe what they actually practice and love. *You Are What You Love* is an invitation and a guide to that deeper look. With rich wisdom and inviting grace, we are encouraged to cultivate holy and reliable rhythms of worship rooted in the rich tradition of life-giving liturgy." —Alan Fadling, president, Unhurried Life, Inc. ■

Mary Ashley

2017-2018 Church Council



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If you smelled apple pies at Grace Lutheran on Wednesday or Thursday, it must have been the preschool kids baking again! Our first day of preschool each year is apple pie day. The children pick an apple or two from our very old (and very delicious!) apple tree to make an apple pie. It is hard to wait until the end of class to taste a slice—some of us just can't wait! The first month of school is exciting for all of us. We will be making cookies, "mini me"s, maybe have a beach day if the weather is still hot, celebrating Mexican independence day, painting, making collages, singing, dancing, making volcanoes, listening to stories, and making new friends! Whew!

We have some openings in our classes and would love some new friends. Children ages 2 years 9 months through young fives can join our classes: MWF 9:00-11:30, MWF 12:30 to 3:15, and T/TH 9:00 to 11:30. We even have a lunch bunch! Come by and visit, join the class, and have some fun! Call the preschool at 493-8942, or Penny at 814-9949. ■

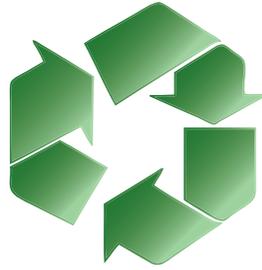


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