



Rally/Fall Kick-off 2023

# GraceNotes



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through Epiphany 2024**

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*Pastor Friederike*

Rev. Friederike Wekel,  
Associate Pastor



# There is a time for everything

For everything there is a season, and a time for every  
matter under heaven. . . — Ecclesiastes 3:1

I don't know exactly why these famous Bible verses come to my mind while watering my garden on a hot August evening. It is already getting dark and the noise of the day settles down; the cicadas pick-up, and everything seems to drift into a sort of calmness.

And I wonder why sometimes verses like "There is a time for everything" feel so true and sometimes they sound like hollow calendar mottos that you've read too often...

There is a time for everything—I think it is true. But I also think that it is our life's challenge to accept this knowledge, to ingest it, and to make it part of who we are. To realize where we are in our life, in that very day—and identify the time we're in, personally or as society.

For Pastor Matt, it was time for his sabbatical: time for days spent outside of routine rhythms, to take a step back, to widen the view beyond daily life, the congregation, and Palo Alto. For me, after serving at Grace for four years, it is time to step up, learn things about ministry that were, until now, not part of my job. It will be a time of intense activity, and I am sure that there will be challenges that I will have to overcome, but it will also be a very formative and strengthening experience.

And right now, as we are about to start the programming year, as we all fall back into our daily routines after the sweet break of summer, it might be a good question to pause on: What is the time for you now? Can you embrace it? What does it cost to embrace it?

You might ask what does all this have to do with faith? With God? Well, everything. It requires the same active passiveness to listen beyond our thoughts and see beyond our tunnel view.

May God bless our journey throughout this season and help us experience "our time."

Pr Friederike 



# Sunday School and Fall Kick Off!

## September 10

8:30 am | Worship

9:40 am | Sunday School Opening  
(in the Sanctuary—all ages!)

- Little Lutheran's and Parent Meet and Greet in the Narthex Nook
- K-5, Middle School, and High School classes
- First Mentor Sunday!
- Adult Forum

10:45 am | Worship

11:45 am | Courtyard Lunch and Bounce Slide

**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 slide, 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. □





# READING EXODUS

*as*  
*Spiritual Journey*

## Adult Forums

Sundays | 9:45am | Chapel

Adult Forums are the Sunday programs that Grace offers between worship services for everyone who is interested. They happen from 9:45 to 10:30am in the chapel, in the education building right across from the parking lot.

We’ve put great topics together this fall, and have different speakers lined up. We are looking forward to seeing you and enjoying an interesting fall.

### Adult Forum: Reading Exodus as Spiritual Journey

The book of Exodus traces the journey of God’s people from captivity in Egypt towards their Promised Land. It relates key moments in Israel’s past that are celebrated by Jewish people down to the present day, including Passover and the establishment of the covenant at Sinai. Christians inherited this rich legacy, and Exodus’s stories of liberation and covenant constitute the first reading in our worship services at Grace for much of this fall. During Adult Forum in September and October, we will explore these stories more deeply and reflect on their relevance for our own faith journeys. Join us for sessions led by Barbara Pitkin and Pastor Friederike on September 17, September 24, October 1, October 8, and October 15, from 9:45-10:30, in the chapel!! □

9/10 | PR. FRIEDERIKE  
On Hospitality - A commandment

9/17, 24, 10/1,8,15  
BARBARA PITKIN/PR. FRIEDERIKE  
Reading Exodus as spiritual journey

10/22 | GINA IMLACH  
Meet Miss Gina,  
our new preschool director

10/29 | TIM GETZ  
Reformation of Music

11/5 | DALE LOEPP  
“Beyond Life” in the Bible  
Old Testament

11/12 | DALE LOEPP  
“Beyond Life” in the Bible  
New Testament

11/19 | BARBARA ERICKSON  
Estate Planning

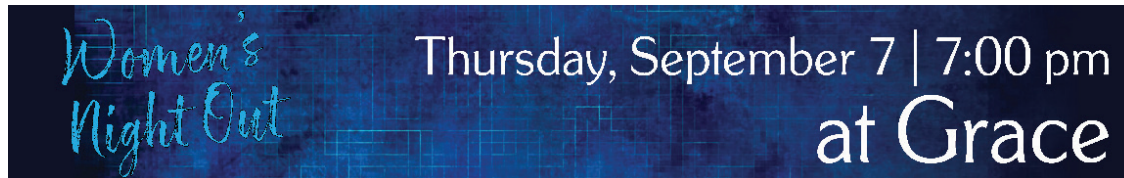
11/26 | PR. FRIEDERIKE  
On Grief



# Women of Grace

There is lots going on again this year! Plans for two women's retreats, one at Grace in September, and one at Mt. Cross in April. There is also a women's night out every month that you can look forward to, or imagine that, even host!

Dates for your calendar:



## WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT | FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

We meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7pm at a location determined by the host and published prior to the event. If you want to be in charge of a meeting, you get to decide where we meet: You discovered a new cuisine and want to share it? You have a new (or old) favorite topic that might be interesting for others? You just want to offer a place to socialize? You are a fan of picnics? You discovered a speaker, a book, a movie that we should know? You want a game night? Everything is possible. And it can be anywhere: in your home, a restaurant, a park, at church, at the beach. You decide if and how we eat (Is it a potluck, do you cook, on your own or with a friend, or everyone pays for themselves at a restaurant...)

To sign-up for hosting, be in touch with me ([pastorf@gracepa.org](mailto:pastorf@gracepa.org)). I am looking forward to more evenings that make me think, laugh, learn, and enjoy your company!

Pr Friederike ☐

## Fall Women's Retreat: *You are beautiful, my Love!*

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**  
**10AM - 4PM | BROWN HALL**

Most of you should already have received emails with invitations for our fall women's retreat: On Saturday, September 30, from 10am - 4pm, we will come together in Brown Hall. This time, let's dive into the poetry of the ***Song of Songs*** and connect this ancient love language with our image of inner and outer beauty today. I am looking forward to a day filled with fun and laughter, deep and honest conversation, and a lot of food for thoughts to take home!



Pr Friederike ☐

# November

In November, it's time again to talk and think about what comes after this life—and maybe make some plans.

Here is an overview over all events at Grace this November:

Saturday, November 4 at 7pm is our special evening service for surviving families. It is a Taizé-style service for parents, siblings, and grandparents of deceased children (of any age).

Sunday, November 5 is All Saints Sunday. During both worshipping services, we will read the names of our deceased members from the past year and light candles for all our beloved.

Dale Loepp will lead Adult Forums on what ideas, themes, and theologies are in the bible on what comes after we die: "Beyond Life" in the Bible in the Old Testament (11/5) and in the New Testament (11/12).

Also, Barbara Erickson will lead an Adult Forum on Estate Planning; and Pastor Friederike will lead one forum on grief. ☐



Are you a parent who lost a child during pregnancy, infancy, or in adult age? Are you a sibling that grieves the death of a brother or sister? Are you a surviving grandparent? We know that the death of a child often leaves very deep scars and a grief that accompanies you throughout your whole life: you carry the grief—sometimes it carries you—but even years later, it's always there. On the eve of All-Saints-Sunday, **Saturday, November 4**, we at Grace will hold a special evening service for surviving families at **7pm** (about 30min). For any questions, please send an email to [pastorf@gracepa.org](mailto:pastorf@gracepa.org). ☐



# GRACE OUTDOORS

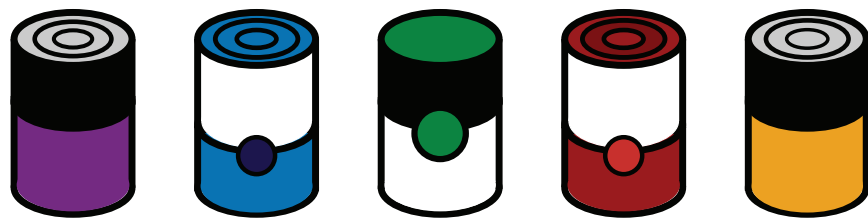
Mark your calendars for a fall season of Grace Outdoors! Join us for moderately-paced hikes in the beautiful hills all around us, followed by a meal at a local brew pub. Sign ups begin soon on MyGrace. Please contact organizers Chris Dunlap (703-673-6234) or Ann Alexander for details!

**September 16, 8 am:** Arastradero Preserve, 5.2 miles, 705'.

**October 14, 2 pm:** Windy Hill, 7.5 miles 1,650'.

**November 4, 2 pm:** Rancho San Antonio, 5.5 miles, 380'.

**December 9, 9 am:** Russian Ridge, 4 miles, 500'. ☐



## Canned Food Drive

Supporting Families in Need  
through Ecumenical Hunger Program

**First Saturdays, 10 am - 12 pm**  
drop-off in the church parking lot | stay to help

## and Grace Work Day

### CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Grace is working to help support our neighbors by holding a collection for the Ecumenical Hunger Program (EHP), an East Palo Alto non-profit assisting local families with food and other basic needs each first Saturday of the month. EHP is in need of any donations such as \*non-perishable food, disposable diapers, common household goods such as bedding and towels, basic cleaning supplies and toiletries. If you are unable to drop off your contributions on the first Saturday, just bring them to church on Sunday and find the bright blue wagon. We will see that your donation gets to EHP and those who are in need of your help. ☐

*\* Unopened, unexpired items in their original packaging.*

### WORK DAYS

Are you more the once a month hands-on person? Then our work days are exactly what you must be looking for! On the first Saturday of the month, 10-noon, we get busy and (sometimes) dirty and do what needs doing at Grace. Weeding, cleaning, nailing, painting... Grace has a huge campus and somethings always need repair or sprucing up! Put it in your calendar and join in! The more, the merrier - and the quicker done... Contact Pr Friederike (pastorf@gracepa.org). ☐





## Sunday, October 29, 2023 | 2 pm

Sign up at [events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/menloparkca](https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/menloparkca)  
Please use the 'Grace Lutheran Church' team for registration

The Mid-Peninsula CROP Walk is set for Sunday, 29 October, at 2 pm. Festivities will get underway at 1 pm featuring nametags, live music, and refreshments. This past year our congregation set a new high for the number of walkers from our church. As we set a record at the 2021 Walk for the most funds raised, this makes two years in a row Grace Lutheran Church Palo Alto has set records. Let's make it a three-peat!

As a wealthy community there are many in Palo Alto who do not see the face of hunger in our neighborhoods. Yet it is there in families where jobs have been lost, spouses have separated, and children suffer from eating disorders. Hunger is also in the communities around us. It is for this reason that the Mid-Peninsula CROP Walk designates 25% of all donations to the *Ecumenical Hunger Project* (EHP) in East Palo Alto.

While our particular Bay Area Walk designates recipients of this initial portion of our funds, participants are at liberty to designate where the remaining 75% of the funds are directed. Many in our congregation designate Lutheran World Relief using the following URL: <https://lwr.org>.

Signing up to participate in the walk is easy. Whether as a walker or as a donor, you can participate by logging in to the Walk webpage and joining the *Grace Lutheran Palo Alto team* at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/menloparkca>. You can also review the smiles and camaraderie at our facebook webpage: <https://www.facebook.com/midpencropwalk>.

Both a virtual and live walks are featured again this year. The church team may be found on the events webpage from the pull-down menu. Look for the 'Grace Lutheran Palo Alto' name in the pull-down list of teams on the Mid-Peninsula Crop Walk web link. Then add your name as a walker or donor. If a walker, begin fund raising. For further information on how to participate, please contact Lee Taubeneck, 650-518-6747. □

# God's work. Our hands.

As people of faith, we are called to help others with our time and talents. Some of our Mission Partners are in need of volunteers to work at their facilities. Please prayerfully consider joining them.

Ecumenical Hunger Program needs volunteers for a variety of jobs. Their biggest need is on Tuesday and Wednesday morning or afternoon. Please contact LaKesha Roberts @ [lakesha@ehpcare.org](mailto:lakesha@ehpcare.org). EHP is located at 2411 Pulgas Avenue in East Palo Alto.

South Palo Alto Food Closet needs volunteers to help with food distribution. A number of Grace members have been dedicated volunteers over the years; please see Lois Holl for more information. The Food Closet is located at the Covenant Presbyterian Church at 670 East Meadow Drive in Palo Alto.

Thank you! □

## Wednesday Night Dinner Cooks

Do you like to cook, also for a bigger crowd? In a team or just by yourself? Then please be in touch with Pr Friederike to get more information on our Wednesday Night Dinner Cooks. You would be one of several to be in charge (in a team or by yourself) of a Wednesday Night Dinner, about every 6 weeks, from September through May. Let Pr Friederike ([pastorf@gracepa.org](mailto:pastorf@gracepa.org)) know if you have questions or want to learn more! □



# Confirmation Classes

Faith is something that develops and shapes us throughout our whole life. It's a continual process. The questions we have regarding our lives and choices change over time—and therefore it is good to be met where you are with your questions, with your experiences, doubts, challenges, hopes, and expectations—especially when you are a teen.

Therefore, we at Grace have a confirmation program that speaks to all facets of middle schooler life with room to explore your own faith. To ask questions. Express doubt. Discuss theories and life choices. Build community. Play games. To build corporate feeling, trust and the conscience of being part of a group are invaluable experiences, and an important part of what we want to offer our confirmands. The program consists of several components:

**Wednesdays** are Confirmation Class days! You can choose either the Zoom-class from 4:30-5:30pm or the in-person on Campus class from 7:00-8:00pm. We use different creative, fun, and playful approaches that promote interaction and encourage the confirmands to dive deep into their own faith, feelings, and opinions. We will talk about their life experiences and link them to Lutheran Christian contents, stories and values.

**The other five components of the Grace Confirmation Program are:** **Sunday School** (each Sunday between services), **Mentor Program** (once a month meetings with an adult member of Grace during Sunday school time), **acolyting** during the worship services (watch for the sign-up list), **Worship Notes**, and off-site options such as participating in **camps and retreats**. Sundayschool and the mentor program take place between our Sunday morning worship services. Acolyting will start up again on Rally Day—keep your eyes peeled for training sessions. Also on Rally Day, the confirmands will receive their Worship Notes to fill in during services. We are really excited that the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee (SPSYC) is planning a Middle School Retreat again this year: **Mark November 10-12, 2023 in your calendars**.

The Confirmation Program at Grace Lutheran is traditionally an age-mixed program for Middle Schoolers. If you have a 6th, 7th, or 8th grader that would like to join, please be in touch with Pr Friederike (see email below).

Confirmation Classes will start on **Wednesday, September 13. There will be a parent night on Wednesday, September 6 at 7pm on Zoom.**

For any questions or more information, please send an email to Pr Friederike (pastorf@gracepa.org).

We are looking forward to seeing your middle schooler! ☐

**Pr. Friederike**

## Retiree Rendezvous Potluck

Whether you are retired, or are still working, maybe you have time to make it to a **social lunch potluck on the third Thursday of the month**. We meet in Brown Hall. We'll have a different topic and/or guest speaker every month, a staff member or outside speaker to inform us about interesting topics or just enjoy the time we have together. Our first rendezvous is on September 21. No need to sign up, just come!

If you have questions or interesting topics for the meeting, please, be in touch with Pastor Friederike (pastorf@gracepa.org) ☐

## Thursday Morning Bible Study

Join Pastor Friederike each Thursday morning to talk about the readings for the coming Sunday. We will meet in the library (right off the parking lot) from 10:30-11:30am, but you can also join by Zoom. Check our website (gracepa.org) for the link. ☐



Much of our life as a church family is focused on Sundays, but there is so much more that happens in our lives that we need to share. We gather every Wednesday to share our lives and time as we have dinner and gather for music, learning, and discussion. **And everyone can come! Join us for Life Together!**

**4:30 | Confirmation** (online)

**6:15 | Dinner!** Enjoy a different meal every week prepared by skilled cooks from our congregation!

Bring yourself for \$10 (children 12 and under are free) or your whole family for not more than \$25... truly the best and most delicious deal in town!

**7:00 | Confirmation** (in-person); **High School Youth; Adult Choir**






# Grace Lutheran Preschool

On August 14, we officially started the 2023 -2024 school year at Grace Lutheran Preschool and we could not have done it without the leadership, dedication, and resources that have been provided. As I was finishing up on Friday, I was overwhelmed with gratitude to all of you. On two Saturdays, June 3 and August 5, many church members rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to finish all the work that needed to be done in order to be ready for the children on Monday.

The transformation of the classroom, playground, and program have been nothing short of a miracle and although we have been very intentional in making sure that we honor the history of the preschool, we are also very excited to embrace the future—and I know that God has great plans for us!

This year we have expanded our programing to include full and extended day programing, and this has allowed us to open up care to many more families in our community. If you know someone who may be looking for a preschool, please make sure to give them my contact information: [gina@gracepre.org](mailto:gina@gracepre.org) 



**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT**  
*Preschool teachers Ella Jackson, Felicity Ackers, and director Gina Imlach*



Grace Lutheran Preschool  
**ENROLLING NOW!**



[gracepre.org](http://gracepre.org)



Friend-filled, play-based curriculum.

**NEW** program includes half day, full day, and extended day options.

for children ages 2-5





# MARK YOUR CA

“ With busy schedules and tons of activities, I know you need to make choices about family to be present at Grace for all of the amazing oportunites to build commun

## Sunday School

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.

## Retreats

Retreats at camp are a vital part of faith formation for youth of all ages. Throughout the year we gather several times at Mt. Cross Camp for a weekend of learning, making new friends, and connecting with nature and God.

### Fall Kick Off!

9:30 am  
Sunday School for all ages  
11:45 am  
Lunch and fun!

9/10

### Youth & Parents Meeting (grades 8-12)

ELCA Youth Gathering  
Youth Room

9/27

### Elementary Retreat (grades 3-5) and Middle School Retreat

Mt Cross

11/10-12

### Blessing of the Animals

10:45 am  
(outdoor worship)

10/1

### Trunk or Treat

6 - 9 pm | A'  
Grace Pai

10/20

### How to Observe the Season of Advent

10:00 am

### Advent Festival

12/3

11:45 am | Courtyard  
All ages crafts  
and family fun  
Soup and lefse lunch

### Sierra Pacific Youth Committee Planning Retreat

Mt Cross

10/13-15

### Middle and High School Movie Night

9 pm – 11 pm | Youth Room

12/17

### Christmas Program

9:30 am

# LENDARS NOW!

where to spend your time. This year, I invite you to find new ways for you and your family here! “ —Elizabeth Hood, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

## Trunk or Treat

Join us for a spooktacular Halloween party at Grace! Come in costume and trick or treat in the church parking lot! Prizes, Games, and Candy! Lots of fun for the whole family.

## Advent

Start the day with a learning time on how to observe Advent more intentionally this season! Followed by after worship lunch and crafts. Make an Advent wreath, advent crafts, and eat lots of soup and lefse for lunch! All are welcome.

### How to Observe the Season of Lent

10:00 am

2/4

### Palm Sunday

9:30 am

Prayer Stations for all ages

3/24

### Last Day of Sunday School

5/19

### Rite of Confirmation

10:45 am

2/13

### Pancake Dinner Youth Fundraiser

6-8 pm | Narthex

### Easter Vigil

Middle/High School  
Easter prep/pizza!

3/30

### Senior Quilt Sunday

6/2

### High School Retreat

2/24-26

Mt Cross

### Communion Class

10:00 am

3/23

### Easter Celebration & Brunch | Egg Hunt

9:30 am | Courtyard

3/31

7/15-21

### High School Youth Summer Trip | ELCA National Youth Gathering

California Lutheran University

TBD

### June | Summer Camp @ Mt. Cross

grades K-8





## Mentor Sundays 2023-2024

September 10	January 28
October 22	March 10
November 5	April 14
December 3	May 5

We are excited for another year of the middle school Mentor Program, forming bonds between caring adults and our middle school youth participating in confirmation. Our theme this year is **Seen, Known and Loved**. We will be exploring faith and prayer practices and thinking about how we can be loving and welcoming at Grace. □



### Decorate a trunk or just come for the treats!

- **FREE Pizza Dinner** in the narthex (church lobby) and narthex patio starting at **6pm**
- **Guessing Jars** with candy prizes **6-7:30pm** hosted by our Middle School Youth
- **Trunk or Treating! 6:30-7:30pm**  
*Awards given just before 8pm*
- **Haunted House 7-8pm**  
by our High School Youth
- It is going to be a **SPOOKTACULAR** night!!  
All ages are welcome! Costumes welcome!

### Want to decorate your trunk? THERE ARE PRIZES!!!

Be at the church between 5:30 and 6pm to decorate your trunk; we will start Trunk or Treating at 6:30pm. I will save a parking spot for you! ALL TRUNKS WILL BE PARKED ON THE SIDE CLOSER TO CHURCH. Contact Elizabeth@gracepa.org now to reserve your parking space. □



Eat...  
Laugh...  
Talk...  
Create...  
Enjoy!





Elizabeth Hood  
Director of Children,  
Youth & Family Ministry



## Seminary Update

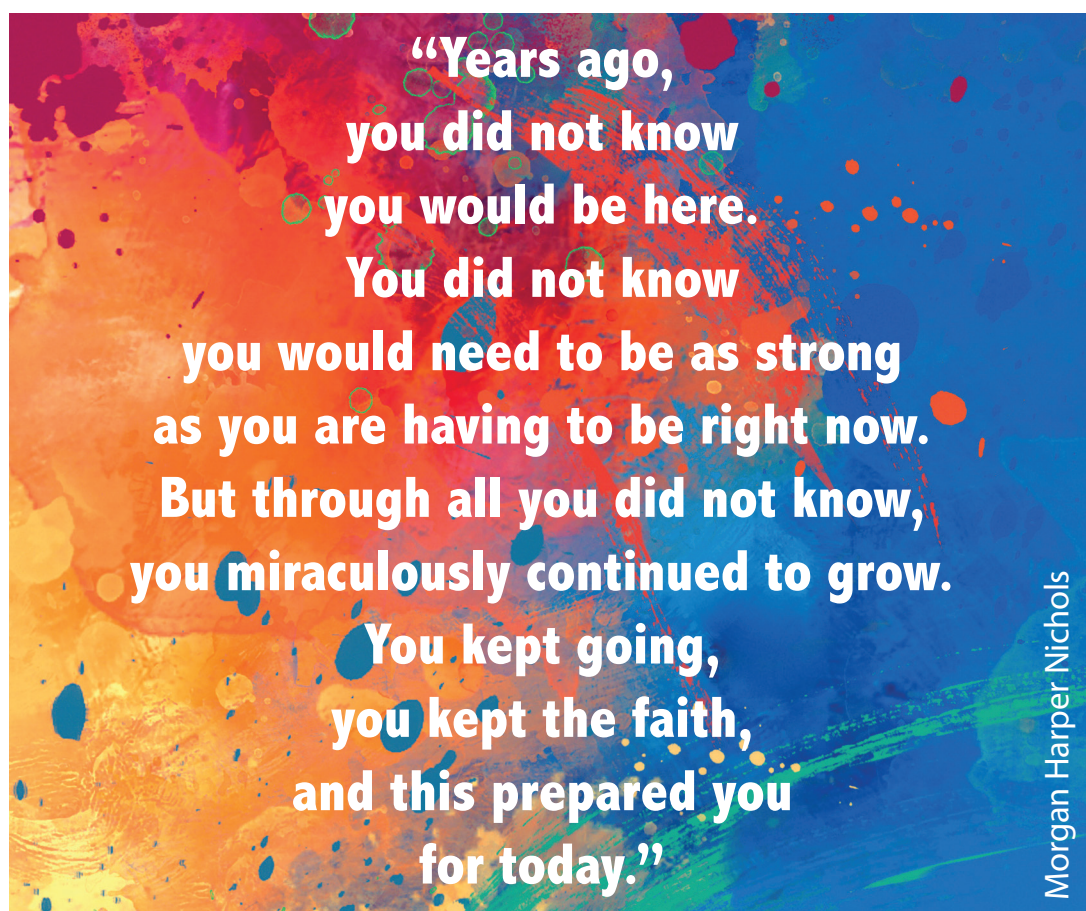
This fall I return for my second year of seminary for my Children, Youth, and Family masters program! I will graduate in May, and then Grace will discern calling me to serve Grace as a Deacon and continuing my ministry here. This fall I am taking a few classes and doing my Clinical Pastoral Education or CPE. I will be serving in my current role as co-lead for the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee and an online cohort group.

We currently have four youth from Grace serving on that team: Charlotte Lungren, Rebecca Derrick, Annika Kulawik and Ty Cutler. ☐

## ...no matter your pace

As I prepare for fall and all the excitement and busyness, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. Did I plan enough? Do enough? But then every once in a while I stop and remember all that I have gone through. This past year from last August till now was honestly one of the hardest years of my life. My mom was diagnosed with stage four breast cancer and a tumor was found and removed from her spine resulting in months of physical therapy and treatment that is ongoing. I moved my mom via airlift from one island and back for her surgery. I fought with insurance and Medicare for her coverage, almost non stop. All of this was happening as I started my masters program and continued to work full time.

Then out of no where my brother died of a heart attack sending my whole family into chaos and sadness. Then with very little notice I had to fly home and pack up my mom's apartment since she has been in long term care since December. The weight of everything often felt like too much, but I survived. One Sunday in the midst of all of this someone sat down next to me to check in and I said, "I am surviving that's about all I can do right now." They looked me in the eye and said, "You know you are remarkable, right?" I shrugged and they continued, "A lot of people wouldn't have been able to handle all this, and you did. It is miraculous." I haven't been able to stop thinking about this interaction and the way it made me realize everything written in the words below:



Morgan Harper Nichols

My challenge for you and for myself is to give ourselves a little more credit—we often are hard on ourselves, always pushing and asking if it is enough. But maybe you can also make room this fall to pause and give yourself credit for where you are now and all the ways you have grown and were strong. You are always growing and changing, and that is worth celebrating! ☐





# Summer Recap



## CAMP

In June I took a handful of youth to Mt. Cross for a week of camp. We had a great time, played games, had campfire/worship, and so much more! We love going to camp!

## VBS RECAP

This summer over five Wednesday evenings we gathered together ALL Generations at Vacation Bible School with dinner and great activities. It was amazing and we welcomed several new families! ☐







### WSYG RECAP

Fifteen of us went to Western States Youth Gathering this summer joining up with Bethel Cupertino to drive down to Thousand Oaks. We participated in outdoor worship, learning, and made 500 health kits for Lutheran World Relief. Then we went to Disneyland and had a great day there before coming back. It was a wonderful trip!







# Music

Summer has flown by as it seems it always does, and we're gearing up now for another exciting year of musical opportunities at Grace!



Tim Getz  
Director of Music

Our **Chancel Choir**, or the "adult choir" is open to any singer of high school age and up. **We will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 6 from 7:00-8:30 pm**, and will sing at the 10:45 service most Sundays beginning September 10. The choir sings a wide variety of music, accompanied and *a cappella*. Life Together dinner at 6:15 makes Wednesday evenings stress-free; you'll come to choir fed and happy! We welcome singers of any experience level, from beginners to the most experienced.

Are you interested in singing but not sure you can commit to every week? Contact me ([tim@gracepa.org](mailto:tim@gracepa.org)) and let's work out a deal! Perhaps an every-other-week schedule might work for you. Or maybe you'd like to make a short-term commitment. You could join now and sing just the fall Sundays. Or join in November for Advent and Christmas. Our year falls fairly naturally into blocks of about two months' length.

**Praises Ring** is the name of Grace's handbell choir. **We rehearse on Thursday afternoons from 5:30-6:30 pm** and will begin on **September 14**. The bell choir rings in church about one Sunday each month, plus Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. We're always looking for a few good ringers! We own a full five-octave (61 note) set of handbells, and ideally need 13 people to make use of the full set. No prior experience with bell ringing is necessary, although some basic music-reading ability is helpful. We'll teach you all the rest!

A short term **Children's Choir project** will meet for just six weeks in November and December, with a performance at our children's Christmas program on December 17, and perhaps at a Sunday service in December or January if people are available. We will meet from 12:00 to 12:30 on Sundays for the length of this project. I'll remind you again when the time comes closer. Stay tuned! If it is successful we will do another one after the New Year.

Finally, are you an **adult** who has ever thought something like, "I like to sing but my voice isn't very good," or "I always wish I had learned how to read music"? **NOT CHOIR** is the place for you! In this Thursday night class, really a combination of singing and social hour, we relax and have fun learning the basics of congregational

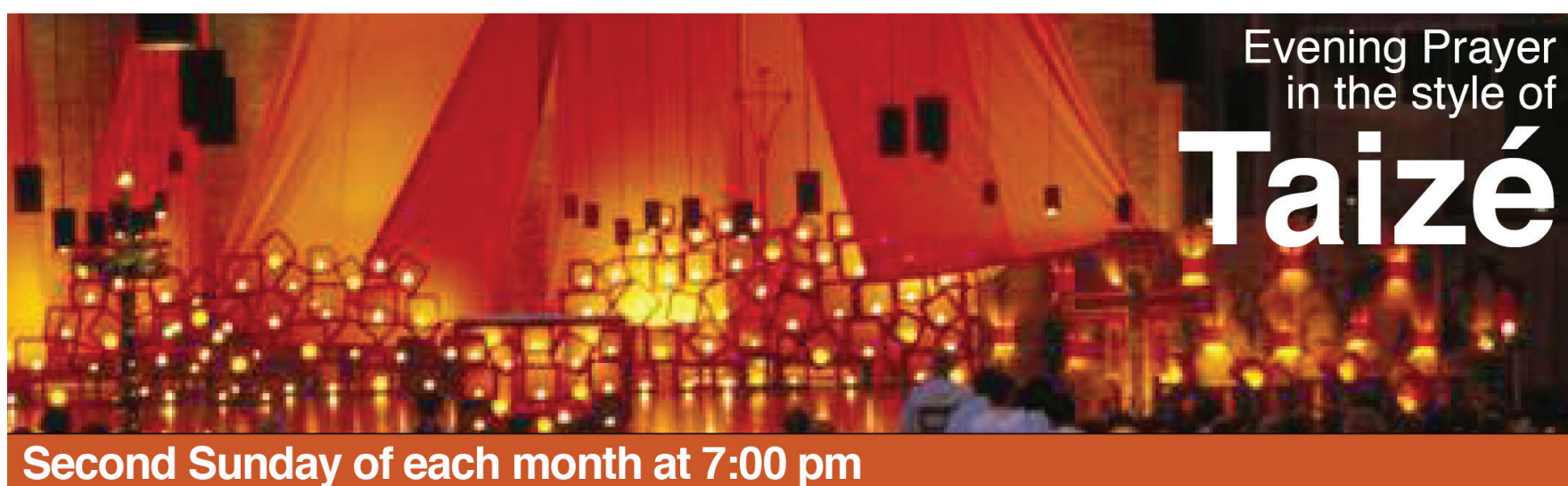
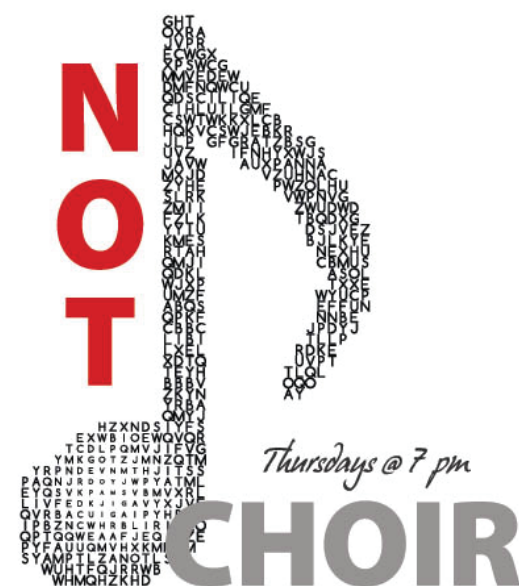


singing. We start at the very beginning, starting with the assurance that no-one's voice is terrible and everyone's voice is needed! We sing just for the joy of it and try on some basics of vocal production. This is "how to sing" for adults who have never had a voice lesson or sung in a choir. We also practice some simple music reading skills. You might be amazed at how quickly you can learn to read the melody line of a hymn, even with no prior knowledge! We preview the hymns that will be sung in church on the upcoming Sunday, and (what seems to be the participants' favorite part) I've always got a video or three to show! **NOT CHOIR** meets on Thursdays from 7:00-8:00 pm, every week but the first Thursday of each month, beginning on September 14. We will NEVER perform! Sometimes there might be cookies, ALWAYS there is laughter!

Please contact me at any time ([tim@gracepa.org](mailto:tim@gracepa.org)) with questions regarding our music programs. Everyone is welcome! If you're interested in participating but are unable to be present for the first rehearsal, don't let that stop you—just drop me a line to let me know when we might expect you.

Our monthly service of **Evening Prayer in the style of Taizé** continues on the second Sunday of each month. This quiet, deeply contemplative form of worship originated in the ecumenical religious community of Taizé in Burgundy, France. The community of about 100 brothers draws thousands of people (mostly under age 30) every summer for a time of spiritual reflection and renewal. Taizé worship is mostly singing: Much of it consists of very short musical phrases repeated over and over to become a sort of mantra. 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 at 7:00 pm** in the front of the Sanctuary. I look forward to seeing and singing with you there!

When we gather for worship every Sunday morning, every person in the room has something to contribute, whether large or small, to the combined voice of the assembly. When we sing hymns and other parts of the service together, we become an audible and visible sign of the Body of Christ. Our choir and handbell ensemble provide leadership and enhancement of this undertaking, but we all make the music together every Sunday. I thank God every week for all of your voices, and I look forward to another exciting year! ☐







## Synod Assembly, September 15-17 | Burlingame

This September, our synod assembly will take place in Burlingame—with the goal to elect a bishop. Four adult members of Grace will be there alongside Pr Friederike: our people from our council will be present—Susan Choquette (Council President), Yvonne Baur (Vice President), and Eric Mellum. Also Eric Brudos, our new treasurer, will join in.

We also have very active youth in the Synod Youth Committee who will be there: Charlotte Lungren, Annika Kulawik, Ty Cutler, and Rebecca Derrick! This is really something to be very proud of: nine members from Grace will be at the Synod Assembly and with nine votes, have some say in who will become the new bishop. May the Holy Spirit guide them! □



## New Members Class

Are you new to Grace? Would you like to meet other new people? Would you like to learn more about the congregation? And maybe you want to join Grace as a member? Then this is for you!

Pastor Matt and Pastor Friederike will host a new members class on the first three Sunday mornings in January (7, 14, 21) between the worship services. Mark you calendars and also let Pr Friederike know so she can start to put the group together.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Pr Matt and Pr Friederike (pastorf@gracepa.org) □

## Rock & Pop meet Musical



*Unlimited Free -  
Grenzenlos frei*

Songs from  
**Michael Bublé,  
Frank Sinatra,  
QUEEN, ABBA,  
Robbie Williams,  
Cats and many  
more**

**Sunday, October 8, 2023**  
2:30 pm doors open / 3 pm concert

**Sara Dähn**  
Singer & Lyrist

**Thomas Blaeschke**  
Composer, Bandleader & Entertainer

Germany's Artists of the Year  
Laureate of many International Competitions  
incl. Nashville, NYC and Vienna  
Performed in 21 countries & many big names, e.g. for German  
Chancellors, EU-President, California's State Treasurer

## Eric Brudos



Eric Brudos has over thirty years of broad experience serving investment funds and growth companies in portfolio management, operating and advisory roles. Since 2017 he has been advising growth companies on corporate finance matters. Prior roles include Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Portfolio Management roles with institutional investment advisers and Chief Investment Officer of a family office. He began his career at PwC, serving as a senior manager.

On the ELCA Foundation Board of Trustees, since 2017, Eric has served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board as well as Chair of the Audit and Finance Committees. During his tenure on the Board, the ELCA Foundation became a Separately Incorporated Ministry and has completed a strategic planning process which is currently in the process of implementation.

Eric resides with his wife Ginger in Menlo Park, CA. They have three adult children, Taylor (32), Maddie (28) and Jack (23).

He is a Certified Public Accountant (Inactive) in California and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Luther College, Decorah Iowa. Welcome Eric! □



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
3149 Waverley St, Palo Alto, CA 94306

Tickets: \$ 30 in advance / pupils \$ 15  
(\$ 33 after Oct 7 and at the door)

Ticket orders per  
eMail:

Mail@  
VoiceOverPiano.com





# Council Notes

Over the summer, we saw continuing work funded by the *Generations of Grace* capital campaign: flooring repairs and new paint in the education building, new roofing on preschool and parts of Brown Hall, a new ceiling in the preschool, paint in Brown Hall, and updates to the parsonage. I'd like to commend the property committee for their time and energy in making these renovations happen! We also saw the preschool enter a new chapter as Gina Imlach joined the staff as our new preschool director.

At the annual meeting in August, the congregation approved the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The new budget includes a small increase in staff salaries in recognition for all they do in serving our congregation.

In August, we wished Pr. Matt blessings and godspeed on his well-deserved sabbatical. Council is committed to ensuring Pastor Friederike and the entire staff have the support they need during these months. We look forward to hearing about Pr. Matt's adventures when he returns to the office on December 15.

I would like to thank Wyatt Richie, who has been Grace's treasurer for the past 23 years! Wyatt's steady hand at Grace's financial helm over the years has helped ensure our financial stability so we can focus on doing God's work in the world. Our ability to weather the pandemic and emerge financially strong and stable is in large part due to Wyatt's leadership. Thank you, Wyatt!

It is also my pleasure to welcome Eric Brudos as Grace's new treasurer! Eric joins the Finance Team with a wealth of experience in finance and is well equipped to ensure Grace's continued financial stability. (Read more about Eric in the article on the facing page...)

At the August council meeting, Council elected the leadership team for the new fiscal year. Please join me in welcoming Yvonne Baur and Anna Girsen to the to the leadership team. I will move from Secretary to President, Yvonne will be Vice President, and Anna will be Secretary.

As the new council president, I'd like to welcome our new council members Tom Cutler and Barbara Erickson! I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank out-going council members Gerrie Phillips and Erik Rausch for their commitment to Grace and their leadership over the last six years. Additionally, I want to recognize Yvonne Bauer and Ilse Wiechers who are continuing their service on Council in a second term.

At the start of each fiscal year, the social ministry committee and council make recommendations for budgeted missions (i.e., the annual benevolence given from our offering). This year we continued, at the same percentages as last year, our commitment to the following ministry partners: Bread for the World, Bright Stars of Bethlehem, Ecumenical Hunger Program, Heart & Home (new addition), Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services, South Palo Alto Food Closet, Reconciling Works, Mt. Cross, California Lutheran University, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, and the ELCA Synod. We can all be proud of the impact our offering has through these organizations.

If you're interested in staying abreast of the work that Council is doing on behalf of the congregation, go to Grace's website ([gracepa.org](http://gracepa.org)) and visit MyGrace! > Groups > Members > Files to find copies of council motions and annual reports for the last several years.

Finally, as we move into fall, be sure to mark your calendars for Rally Day on Sunday, September 10, when we kick off our programming year. After the second service, Council will host the Rally Day BBQ. Please join us for food, fellowship, and fun! □



Susan Choquette  
Grace Council President

- COUNCIL
- Susan Choquette,  
President
- Yvonne Baur,  
Vice President
- Anna Girsen,  
Secretary
- Steve Baird
- Scott Bandy
- Tom Cutler
- Christopher Dunlap
- Barbara Erickson
- Matthew Lungren
- Eric Mellum
- Lee Taubeneck
- Ilse Wiechers



# Grace Lutheran Church

3149 Waverley Street Palo Alto, CA 94306 650.494.1212 [gracepa.org](http://gracepa.org)



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

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Broadcast on Cable 30

Sundays 11 a.m. | 8:30 p.m.

Mondays 12:30 p.m.

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Livestreamed on the Grace YouTube  
channel. Links at [gracepa.org](http://gracepa.org)

## Sunday School and Fall Kick Off! September 10, 2023

8:30 & 10:45 am

### Worship

9:40 am

### Sunday School

all ages, infants to adults

11:45 am

### BBQ Lunch and Bounce Slide

**All are welcome!**

