

SUMMER 2024

ISSUE 2402

#GRACENOTES

GRACENOTES

A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF

Grace Lutheran Church



ORDINARY TIME

Ordinary, in this context, comes from the Latin term ordinalis, meaning ‘numbered’ or ‘ruled’. This title simply refers to the ongoing and rhythmical nature of the season. Just like everyday life, there is a rhythm to the days and the weeks. - Roman Catholic Church

The **purpose** of this season is to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts and callings discerned during the Easter Season and commissioned on the Day of Pentecost. - the United Methodist Church



We begin again! Our church year has two parts...the first half is about the life and earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. The second part that we have just begun is about our lives and our calling as baptized children of God. This year this time shift pivots on Confirmation Sunday and Quilt Sunday and all of their joy. It seems perfectly right to me that these transitions also coincide with different weather and schedules. School is out, the summer trips begin, and we start to reset or rebalance from what may have been a recent intense season of work or study. Perhaps it’s an example for us about the unhealthy expectations and demands that are placed on us by the world and how we are to work towards a healthier balance. Our baptismal life is lived in community for the sake of love rather than for the purpose of productivity.



Speaking of love, this ordinary time pivot also coincides with reminders of God’s broad love for all creation and all of God’s children. In June we celebrate Pride month and all it’s peaceful and joyful gatherings. We are reminded of our Reconciling in Christ association reflected in our longstanding logo and welcoming statement. You might find it humorous that Bishop Jeff Johnson saw our logo (designed by Gretchen) and said, “Now that’s rainbow done right!” We are looking forward to participating in Silicon Valley pride at the end of August . . . keep a look out for details!

As we move towards the end of the summer, we begin to pull back together, starting with our Weekend @ Mt Cross (with new housing options . . . see article!) and then quickly to Rally Day and then we are back to our fall patterns. Although perhaps now with summer close behind we have retained some healthy practices for re-creation and rest with the busy-ness of this life. The ordinary rhythms continue, but in a different way.

As you consider the patterns of these summer months, know that our community continues to gather regularly as a part of these cycles. Think of your Sunday sabbath beginning with Grace as a way to frame the rest of all the things that take place in your life. Something that keeps you grounded...and not in an individual way, but in a planted in community kind of way. ❖

Peace,

Rev. Matthew A. Smuts
Senior Pastor

SAVE THE DATE!

Elizabeth’s last Sunday at Grace will be July 14 ... and we are planning a Celebrate Elizabeth celebration for noon that day after the second service! Don’t miss it, and contact Pr Matt if you’d like to help with the event.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS THREE & FOUR!

This summer will see the final touches on the Generations of Grace Campaign begun in the Fall of 2021 just as we were starting to come out of the deepest part of the pandemic. Our big courtyard evening celebration that Fall was an amazing regathering of our community propelling us to make significant changes to the Education Building. We will be celebrating all that has been accomplished in September with opportunities to tour all of the improvement!

THIS Fall we will kick off our next campaign, but we are starting out a little differently than we have the last couple of rounds. We will take some time soon this summer to get feedback from the congregation through our consultants on priorities for the campaign as we build momentum to tackle the next elements of the campus. There's always a little more roof to be done, but we are looking at several different improvements, including the potential for a major upgrade to the interior courtyard spaces from the Ed Wing to the Brown Hall/Office area. There's already excitement growing for what might be possible. Stay tuned . . . more to come soon! ❖



SENIOR PASTOR
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Rev. Friederike Wekel
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tim@gracepa.org

ACTING PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
Felicity Taylor
felicity@gracepre.org

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER
Gretchen Rauch
office@gracepa.org

PRESCHOOL LEADER- SHIP TRANSITION

Regina Imlach, our director for the last year, has been out since mid-March for surgery that unfortunately did not do what was hoped. She is pursuing medical disability and will not be returning to the preschool. We are so grateful for all of her hard work in the transition and the smooth handoff to Felicity Taylor and Gina Rogge shows how much she did for us. We are deeply grateful. ❖

NEXT ISSUE:

Fall 2024

PUBLICATION DEADLINE:

August 22, 2024
(end of day)



REPEAT AGAIN & AGAIN



Friederike Wekel

The Rev. Friederike Wekel,
Associate Pastor

While I write this, early Monday morning, because I missed the deadline last Thursday (Sorry, Gretchen!), I hear the birds singing outside. Well, singing might be not the right word. It's certainly not song birds with their beautiful melodies. It's more like "ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti-ti" - which makes it sound more like me asking my kids to do something. Again. "Can you please clean up?" And again: "Can you please clean up?" And five minutes later: "Can you please clean up?" And then after the sixth time: "I already asked you five times to clean this up. Do it now!" - I leave the level of raised voice up to your imagination - but I can honestly admit that it's not the same throughout all asks.

And then the story of Jonah comes to my mind who God asked to deliver his message to the people of Niniveh. But Jonah didn't want to be a prophet as little as my children want to be the ones cleaning up. And God, too, has to ask several times.

We learn through repetition. But to be honest: Not as much through repeating questions of cleaning up as through our own experiences. Repetition shapes us. And one of the most important repetitions for me is worship. Worship in its entirety. The unchanging structure of worship helps me to let go. Singing hymns together teaches me to not race in my own tempo. I love to say the creed and the prayer together with the whole congregation and let my voice just become a part of the crowd. There is so much strength in the chorus of our voices. I hear the support of our community. I hear I am not on my own. Our voices carry each other. While preaching and listening to sermons the message of God's love for us humans and to care for my neighbor sinks in deeper and deeper, becoming part of my identity and shaping my understanding of "Who am I and what am I here for?" slowly but steadily. And of course, communion: A meal, bread and wine, as a reminder that our brokenness is not who we are, but also not an excuse to try to stop to love more. A shared meal where everyone is welcome, everyone. God doesn't exclude, so we should practice that too. Communion is one way to practice that.

The word "practice" is really a good word for my understanding of what we do during worship. We really practice. We do it again and again. And again. And we have to do it that way so that there is an effect. And we also experience and practice during worship what we take with us out into the world, into our daily lives: A mindset of openness towards our neighbors, a forgiving and caring attitude. And the inner certainty of being loved ourselves. And don't get your hopes up: We'll never graduate from the practice stage.

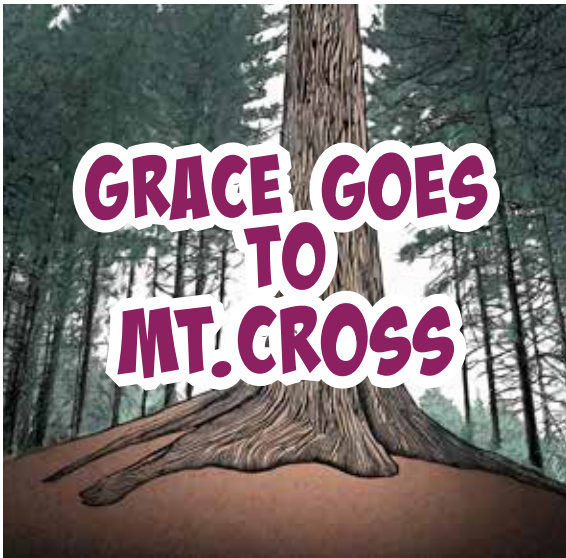
This all is nothing you can internalize from coming to church only one Sunday a year. It requires practicing, repetition, again and again. And it requires a community, like you, my people of Grace.

Kindly, Pr. Friederike ❖



On **Saturday, September 14**, all women and those identifying as women are invited to gather for our Fall Women's Retreat. Our topic this time is "roots" - and we will explore our roots from different perspectives: Where did you come from? Who did you grow up to be? What shaped you? Were you uprooted? Replanted? ... There are so many themes for discussions swirling in my head already and I am really excited to have them with you!

Join the women of Grace on Saturday, 9/14, from 10am-4pm in Brown Hall. And your friends are always welcome, too! Lunch and snacks will be provided. All we need is you! ❖



FUN SUMMER WEEKEND FOR KIDS, ADULTS, YOU!

AUGUST 16-18

HIKE, SWIM, CAMP, CLIMB, OR JUST COME FOR THE S'MORES!



GRACE GOES TO MT CROSS: ROOTS TO SHOOTS— GENERATIONS OF GRACE

Come to our ROOTS TO SHOOTS. GENERATIONS OF GRACE retreat at Mt Cross.

From August, 16-18, 2024, Grace goes to Mt Cross again and you should be part of this adventure. There are several housing options, from lodge, cabin, and camping to hotel in shared or single settings. Or you come up for just Saturday!

As every year, we will have a mix of activities for all ages, including archery, swimming, hiking, and climbing. We'll sing and worship together, eat s'mores, discover nature, and deepen our faith. Sign up now on our website gracepa.org: On the sign-up form you will find more details on the weekend. ❖

CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, May 19, five 8th graders affirmed their faith in church: Anna Bauer, Lukas Bauer, Jacob Guhr, Alexandria Lungren, and Philip Romahn. I was so stunned and moved by their faith statements. Accompanying them through three years of confirmation class, it was amazing to hear how confident and honest they were about their faith in front of the whole congregation. I am very, very proud!

Filled with all these memories, I am looking forward to start up our Confirmation Classes again in September. If you or your child is interested in our Confirmation Program, mark your calendar:

On Wednesday, September 4, at 7pm, there is a hybrid confirmation parent night on campus in the library. The following Wednesday, September 11, confirmation classes start up again: There are two time slots available 4:30-5:30pm and on-campus class 7-8pm start up again. Depending on the confirmands need, there can be an online and one in-person class. That Wednesday, September 11, our Life-Together-Dinner (6:15-7pm) starts back up again: So you don't have to plan for dinner that night.

If you have any questions before that about our program, please, don't hesitate to send me an email: pastorf@gracepa.org.

I am looking forward to another year with your (and my) Middle Schoolers!

Pr Friederike ❖



Women's Night Out

LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD

We are looking back on a year of interesting Women's Nights with a broad variety of topics: from a favorites party, watching *Barbie* together, learning about the Japanese art of Furoshiki (the art of gift wrapping with cloth) and a cookie exchange, over a dinner at Mike's Diner, creating herbal kitchen gardens, to talking about menopause, cooking strawberry jam, and finally hearing about Gisa's trip to Zimbabwe.

We have already nailed down the first two women's nights in our upcoming programming year: In



September, Gisa Romahn will introduce us to the art of glass work. And in October, we'll be creative with colors.

The women of Grace meet every first Thursday of the month from 7-9pm. Depending on what is scheduled for the night, we meet in different locations.

If you would like to learn about our women's programming, please, don't hesitate to be in touch with me.
Pr Friederike ❖

Our new name reflects our new mission!

RETIREE RENDEZVOUS BECOMES CONNECTIONS CAFÉ

There you go! A little "poem" to celebrate the new name and the new concept that we have been trying out for the last couple of months:

*All is new
at Retiree Rendezvous!*

With a great new team consisting of Kay Marie Ferguson, Geri Horsma, Andrew Mellows, and Lee Taubeneck, we have been working on creating more opportunities for the more senior members in our congregation.

Starting in August 2024, we will be meeting from 2-3pm every second and fourth Thursday of the month in the (yet to be named) new space in the education wing. Our goal for Connections Café is to create ample opportunity for socializing and exchange, but also to offer information on topics of

interest and importance: Financial and future planning, healthy aging, and technology skills are part of our next programming year as well as presentations about music, art, and history. We are always looking for your input and your ideas on what we can improve and add!

*See you soon
on a Thursday afternoon!*

(Sorry, I can't stop rhyming now...)

Pr Friederike ❖



A TIME TO REST



Tim Getz,
Director of Music



By now you may have heard that I'll be going on sabbatical for three months this fall, beginning in the middle of August. Surprising even myself, I've now enjoyed over 14 years as Grace's Director of Music, including weathering the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and its aftermath. On top of my "day job" at Grace, I've spent the better part of the past six years in leadership of back-to-back national conventions of two major professional organizations: The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians last summer, and the American Guild of Organists next month. I'm feeling more than ready for this extended break, and I give thanks to you, the people of Grace, for caring for the needs of all of Grace's professional staff by offering us these periodic opportunities for spiritual and professional development and for rest.

I've been asked what I'll be doing during my three months away. Well, quite a lot, actually! Spread throughout the fall, I'll be spending one week each in three places renowned as centers of spiritual retreat and interesting approaches to group music-making. My first destination is Holden Village in the Cascade Mountains in Washington. This remote Lutheran retreat center is accessible only by boat, not by road! I've known of Holden for many years and have never had a chance to go until now. From there I'll go to see my parents at their cabin in the Black Hills in South Dakota, and then in September, I'll travel across the Atlantic to visit the Iona Community, housed in the 6th century Iona Abbey on an island off the west coast of Scotland. Today Iona is home to an ecumenical Christian religious community that is especially interested in issues of peace and justice around the world. Finally, in October, I'll complete my series of retreats by spending a week in the Taizé Community in France. As you know, I'm a big fan of Taizé's style of singing and contemplative prayer, as well as the community's devotion to Christian unity, holy simplicity, and its welcome to young people. This will be my third time visiting Taizé, but the first since 2008.

There will be time for play as well. While we're in Scotland already, Dale and I will indulge our passion for long-distance hiking by tackling both the West Highland Way and the Great Glen Way, covering 175 miles by walking essentially from Glasgow to Inverness. Some people carry camping gear; we prefer to spend our evenings in the village pubs and sleep in warm, dry B&Bs! After the walk, we'll head to England for a few days in the Lake District and in North Yorkshire reuniting with friends, and I'll go on to Taizé from there.

Evening Prayer in the style of Taizé

Second Sunday of each month

at 7:00 pm



We'll be home for a few weeks, (getting a taste of what retirement feels like, I joke) and in November comes the icing on the cake: a trip in the other direction, across the Pacific to New Zealand. Lots of sightseeing and more outdoor play, on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to a land where the days are getting longer, not shorter, in November!

And what will be happening with the music at Grace while I'm away? I'm very happy to say that my friend **Duane Soubrous** (pictured right) will serve as **Acting Director of Music** this fall. His first Sunday will be August 18 and his last will be November 24. Although not everything I do will be covered in its entirety, Duane will play organ and piano and lead our choir this fall. Duane has subbed for me on a number of occasions over the past 10 years or so, originally as a college student home on break! He's since completed a master's degree in organ and served in interim positions in several Peninsula-area congregations. I know you will be in good hands, and I'll look forward to seeing you again in December!




Interested in giving choir a try with no commitment? Summer Choir will meet on two Sundays this summer: Come at 10 am on July 7 and August 4 to rehearse an anthem that we will sing at that same day's 10:45 service. No muss, no fuss! On July 7 our anthem will be "My Grace," written for us by our own Julia Simon; its words from 2 Corinthians are inscribed on our altar and also happens to be one of the Scripture readings for that day. ❖

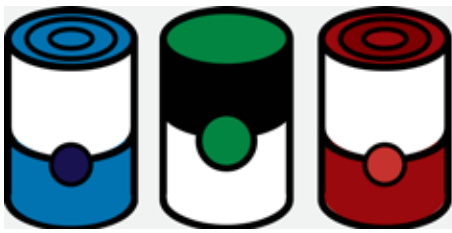
Sunday, August 11 | 10:45 am

Back to School

This annual outdoor service in the courtyard includes:

- Blessing of bikes, backpacks, briefcases, walkers, etc.
- Preschool teacher installation
- Sabbatical send off for Tim following the service





Canned Food Drive

Supporting Families in Need | **First Saturdays, 10 am - 12 pm**
through Ecumenical Hunger Program | drop-off in the church parking lot
#GraceSocialMinistry-in-Action



Art - Wine - Beer - Fundraisers
Music - Food - Poetry -
Dancing - Games - Speeches!

June 22nd - 12 to 5p.m.
97 Hillview Ave.
Los Altos, CA 94022

JUNE TEENTH FESTIVAL
HILLVIEW PARK
LOS ALTOS

KNOW JUSTICE
KNOW PEACE

Featured Sponsors:

Community Sponsors:

Justice Vanguard

Please join the Grace Social Ministry Team in celebrating Juneteenth - our newest national holiday! Juneteenth has also been called Jubilee Day, Freedom Day, and Emancipation Day. Juneteenth traces its origins back to Galveston, Texas, where on June 19, 1865, Union Soldiers landed in the city with news that slaves were free.

We will be gathering at the 5th Annual Juneteenth Festival, hosted by Justice Vanguard in Los Altos. It is an afternoon of art, music, food, beverages, speeches, dancers, and more! ❖

First Fruits

Stewardship 2024/2025

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

Global Refuge
Lutheran Immigration
& Refugee Service

Recognizes

Grace Lutheran Church

Palo Alto, CA

CSA

TOP GENEROUS CONGREGATION

On behalf of all of us, thank you for your generosity in 2023!

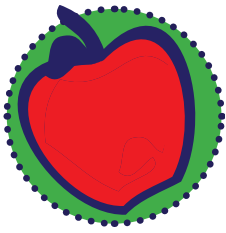
Dan Beirne

Director of Mobilization & Faith Relations



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: We have had an AMAZING response to our pledge program for the 2024/25 fiscal year. We have honestly never seen anything like it. (you can still pledge through the Grace Connect link at www.gracepa.org) A few key details:

- 94 Pledges to last year's 88.
- Net increase in pledges is \$143,097 which is over DOUBLE any of the previous 10 years!!
- Households with a pledge in this current year who made a pledge for the coming year have increased their pledge by 21% on average.
- 64 new or increased pledges to 9 down or removed pledges.
- Our pledged figure in our budget will likely go from this year's \$706,000 to \$800,000!
- There are other ups and downs, but we expect a budget that is substantially higher than last year. Simply remarkable! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! ❖



Grace Lutheran Preschool

It has been an exhilarating year at Grace Lutheran Preschool. The children have been the architects of their learning, exploring open-ended art activities and bringing their creativity into the classroom. They have actively participated in transforming our dramatic play area, turning it from a playhouse to a beauty salon and now a veterinary clinic. Their involvement was not just limited to bringing in a stuffed animal of their choice, but they also shared it amongst peers, decided which tools to add, and how to operate the clinic. This is a testament to the limitless power of creativity when children are allowed to shape their environment and lead their learning.



Felicity Taylor,
Acting Preschool Director

Summer time 2024! We are traveling around the world and gathering input from the children on what this would look and feel like to them. We have already discussed what the dramatic play would transform into and decided that an airport would be perfect since we will travel worldwide. We will explore culture, food, art, games, and music worldwide and end our summer session with a multicultural celebration. ❖



AND NOW...

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

My last newsletter article—what is left to say but, “Thank you!” Thank you for loving me and supporting me, encouraging me, grieving with me, celebrating me, volunteering with me, and changing me for the better!! It has been an honor to walk alongside and serve with you and love you!!

15 years is a long time. So many photos, so many trips, so many events, so many children sermons, and so much more!! I will always treasure this time that we had together. I started working here when I was 28 years old, I served here for all of my 30’s and celebrated my 40th here. I have had 15 communion classes, 15 confirmations, 15 senior quilt Sundays and so much more. I am beyond grateful and will hold onto these memories through out my life.

I hope that next year you will all join me at my ordination and we can celebrate once more together! ❖

“And now
after everything:
I know this:
There is a reason
I am here.
And that reason
is bigger than me.
So I will carry on
with great faith
beyond what I can see.
in pursuit of bold courage,
on the adventure
of the journey.”

- **Morgan Harper Nichols**



Ty Cutler
Grace Youth in Ministry
Summer 2024



Anika Smuts
Grace Youth in Ministry
Summer 2024



High School Youth Group meets each Wednesday in the Youth Room

Welcoming rising 9th graders!

On Wednesday, June 5, we welcomed the rising ninth graders into youth group. We are excited to have new youth joining us this summer! It was so special to have a public affirmation of their faith with a wonderful confirmation service this year!

- June 12
- June 19
- July 3
- July 10: Elizabeth’s last youth group



SENIOR QUILT SUNDAY | 6/2/2024

SUMMER @GRACE!

We at Grace LOVE CAMP!! I have loved taking youth to camp many summers in my ministry!! This summer the theme is God's LOVE on Tour! Several youth from Grace signed up and I am planning to be at Mt. Cross with them Sunday-Thursday to help out and have fun! ❖

Elizabeth's Final Sundays at Grace:
July 7, July 14

SPSYC We held elections for the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee in March. Charlotte Lungren and Annika Kuliwik were reelected, and Sophia Butler, Margaret Choquette and Saana Ahonen were newly elected! We will also attend the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly in Fresno in June. ❖

SUMMER 2023 | ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IN NEW ORLEANS

There are 16 youth and chaperones going to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. The theme is Created to Be. We have been created to be ourselves. Created by the Holy One. Since the last time the ELCA came together for an ELCA Youth Gathering, our young people have experienced several major life events. Still today, we are experiencing an ongoing public health crisis mixed with an economic and political crisis. However, we can rest assured that we are created to be in relationship with one another.

- *We are created to be brave, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged.*
- *We are created to be authentic, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator.*
- *We are created to be free, to be transformed by the gospel.*

- *We are created to be disruptive, to work for justice for all our siblings.*
- *We are created to be disciples, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God.*

Our host city, New Orleans, has always been its true, authentic self. Our theme, "Created to Be," highlights the arts, music and soul of this beautiful, vibrant and resilient city. New Orleans was built to host and be a city where all God's children come together.

We plan to dive deeper into justice, mental health and anti-racism conversations throughout the gathering. These are hard conversations, but our church desperately needs to have them. We also hope to foster relationships and be a sanctuary for one another. We are saint and sinner simultaneously, and we need forgiveness when we aren't or can't be brave, authentic, free, disruptive disciples. ❖

ENDOWMENT GRANTS



The Endowment Fund continues to support the mission of Grace Lutheran Church now and for the long term. The fund is invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pool Trust. The Market Value as of 12/31/2023 was \$842,793 which was up from last year due to addition bequest contributions from Legacy Society from the past year and some market value appreciation. The Fund valuation as of 4/30/2024 was \$838,797.

Under the Council approved guidelines 50% of the total 2024 grant funds available will go to the Grace Operating Budget, and up to 25% will go to internal Grace grant requests, and up to 25% to external grant requests.

Based on our three year quarterly averaged formula as defined by the Endowment Charter the fund was able to distribute, in total, grants of \$12,500 to the Operating Budget, \$6244 to the internal grants and \$5673 to the external grants.

Internal grants awarded:

- ELCA Youth Gathering Chaperones \$4800
- Grace Outdoor Support for the Tomales Kayak adventure \$944

- Senior Support for Drivers etc. \$500

External grants awarded:

- Young Women's Freedom Center Santa Clara County \$1000
- PLAEP Partners for Life Advancement & Education Promotion in Zambia \$500
- Augusta Victoria Hospital (ELCA sponsored) \$1500
- Rise Against Hunger \$2073
- Mt. Cross Climbing Equipment \$ 1100

We are most blessed for this opportunity to serve Grace Lutheran Church and our community with these gifts.

The Legacy Society is named for the group of people who have or intend to contribute to the Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund. To join the Legacy Society you only need to inform a member of the Endowment Committee, or the Church Office of your intention to include Grace Lutheran Church in your estate plan.

Respectfully

The Endowment Committee ❖



Heart + Home
collaborative

Grace's newest mission partner Heart + Home Collaborative (H+H) recently wrapped up their 2023-24 women's shelter season. H+H is a non-profit women's shelter serving the unhoused in Palo Alto, California since 2012. The volunteer-run shelter provides temporary, seasonal shelter at different places of worship in Palo Alto for six weeks at a time. While Grace did not provide shelter space this past season, we supported H+H through our mission giving and providing dinners.

Here's a message from the H+H team:

"Earlier this week, we wrapped up our 2023-24 women's shelter season. This year, we had over 100 people volunteering onsite, over 80 bringing dinner, and a whopping 650 muffins baked for our participants! Thanks to your support, we provided six months of shelter – which equates to over 1,500 nights indoors for unhoused women.

We're immensely grateful for the support you've shown and continue to provide." ❖

COUNCIL



Dear Friends,

At our May Council meeting, it was humbling to hear how responsive you have all been to Grace's **First Fruits Stewardship Campaign!** As the Finance Committee and Council put together the budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, having pledge information is critical to the planning process. Thank you for your support of Grace's ministries!

Susan Choquette,
Council President

Council:

Susan Choquette,
President

Yvonne Baur,
Vice President

Anna Girsén,
Secretary

Steve Baird

Scott Bandy

Tom Cutler

Christopher Dunlap

Barbara Erickson

Matthew Lungren

Eric Mellum

Lee Taubeneck

Ilse Wiechers

In March, Council approved funding for several internal and external grant awards recommended by the **Endowment Committee**. These grants are funded by Grace's Legacy Fund. Internal awards include funds for Grace Outdoors activities, ELCA Youth Gathering chaperones, and support for driving seniors to Grace activities. External awards include funds for the Young Women's Freedom Center in San Francisco, Partners for Life Advancement & Education Promotion (PLAEP) in Kitwae, Zambia, Augusta Victoria Hospital (provides medical care to Palestinian citizens), Rise Against Hunger, and Mt. Cross (climbing equipment for younger children). Grace's generosity is at work locally and around the world!

From June 5-7, Pastors Matt and Friederike will be joined by me, Maria Derrick, Mary Hanna-Weir, and Holly Lucke at the **Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly** in Fresno. Several youth from our congregation will also be in attendance as part of the Synod Youth Council.

Moving into the fall, we will wrap up the final stages of the Generations of Grace capital campaign and have an opportunity to celebrate our hard work. To help guide us with our next **Capital Campaign**, Council has engaged GSB Consulting. GSB has tremendous experience working with congregations across the country to develop successful capital campaigns. You will have an opportunity to provide input to help identify and prioritize the next set of repairs and improvements to enhance our campus. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

Finally, please mark your calendars for the **Annual Congregational Meeting** that will be held on **Sunday, August 25**, between services. In addition to highlighting the activities of the past year, we will be voting on the 2024-2026 budget and new council members. I hope you will plan to attend.

Peace to you all. ❖

MEET THE LIBRARIAN: PAM MORGENFELD CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Last fall, I offered to help organize, maintain and curate the children's books in Grace's library. It's been some time since picture books have been a regular part of my days as my youngest son is headed to college in a few months. I thought it would be fun to delve back into children's literature while filling a need for the Grace community.

Please feel free to contact me with book recommendations or other suggestions for improving the children's library. ❖





Grace Lutheran Church

3149 Waverley Street Palo Alto, CA 94306 650.494.1212 gracepa.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Sunday Worship

In-Person (Sanctuary) 8:30 a.m.

In-Person (Sanctuary) 10:45 a.m.

«»«»«»«»«»«»

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

ALL GENERATIONS VBS!!

Wednesday Evenings (ALL AGES, Young and Old) | June 12 to July 10 | 6-8pm
Remember how fun VBS was when you were little? Let's do that again!

Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to invite you to our All Generations Vacation Bible School, "Tree of Healing," at Grace Lutheran Church. This special event will take place every Wednesday from. Join us as we gather around our table to share in the joy of a meal and fellowship. The evenings will be filled with exciting crafts and activities, engaging Bible stories, and uplifting songs.

Details:

- **When:** Every Wednesday from June 12 to July 10
- **Time:** 6:00 - 8:00 PM
- **Where:** Brown Hall, Grace Lutheran Church
- **Who:** All ages are welcome!

Come and experience the warmth and community of our church family. Whether you're young or young at heart, there's something for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to sharing this meaningful time with you. All are welcome!



WE ARE LOOKING for VOLUNTEERS to help with rotations for storytelling, art, music and more!! Contact Elizabeth to sign-up. ❖