

# GraceNotes

A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP & MUSIC

## **SPRING CONCERT**

May 4, 2014 | 4:00 pm

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CREATION STEWARDSHIP

## **SIMPLICITY FAIR**

Sunday, April 27 with Anne Basye

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

## **WEEKEND AT CAMP**

Another great end-of summer retreat, worship, and church picnic

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# STAY WITH US

*'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.'* Luke 24:29

As Christ's death began to sink in, and before his resurrection was known, some of the disciples began to escape Jerusalem and head away. I can imagine that some had the thought to go home, and others had maybe no other thought than to leave. On the



road to Emmaus, late in the afternoon, two came across a fellow traveler with whom they shared the tragic news of the day. That traveler was Jesus. It is fascinating that they didn't recognize him...but why would they? They had likely no experience with personally meeting someone who had just died. Not all would have been with him as he raised Lazarus; our own modern minds would collapse at the thought.

As the light grew dimmer and it was time to end their travels for the day, they could see that their new companion was heading on without them. Their famous words, immortalized in almost every evening prayer liturgy 'stay with us...'. Haunting words begging to not be left alone in the growing dark. This, at times, can be the life we share with those first disciples. A realization that the day is almost over and the need for Christ to remain with us. In this famous account, Jesus is recognized in the breaking of the bread, and as their eyes are opened, they no longer see him...curious. As our eyes recognize Christ in bread and wine, we too now see. We see the world in all of its hurt and brokenness. We see our lives as not completely whole. However, we still see Christ. We see Christ in the neighbor and the stranger and we rejoice because of it.

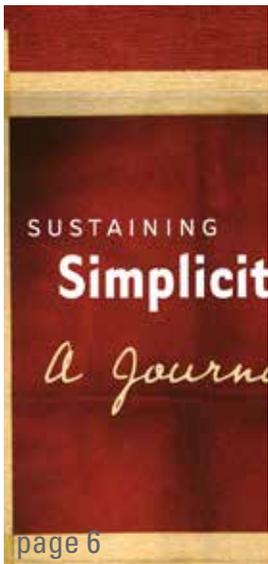
Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! We are no longer alone in the coming dark, and seeing Christ, we are ready to continue our journey. We are ready to worship and engage the world around us. The disciples no longer headed away...but back. The way forward for them had changed in seeing Christ. May your way forward be changed as well.

Peace,  


Rev. Matthew A. Smuts, pastor



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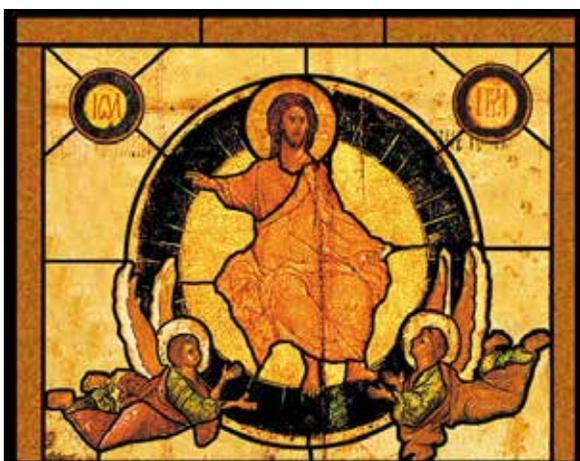
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# FROM BACH TO MUHLY

This May 4 spring concert at Grace will include music from the Baroque to the “hot new generation of musical composers.”

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Text by Tim Getz



**I**N OUR LAST newsletter, I wrote to you about the benefits of enhancing our choir with a small number of professional singers. They add stability and confidence to our volunteer singers, and assist us in learning music faster and with a higher degree of excellence than we would be able to achieve without them.

The cost of these singers (we currently employ two) is relatively inexpensive, and a terrific value overall when one considers the quality they add to our music program, and consequently, serve as a draw for new members who may be attracted to a congregation with well-presented worship and music. However, our regular annual budget does not cover the full cost of these singers; about half of it is paid using a fund of specially-designated gifts.

We are excited this spring to offer you the opportunity to contribute to this fund, both to ensure that our current singers can stay on board, and also perhaps to add to their ranks in the future! On Sunday, May 4, at 4:00 pm, there will be a very special concert in our sanctuary. Each of our current section leaders will be featured. Mark Tendall will sing selections from Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Mystical Songs." Our new soprano soloist, Angelique Zuluaga, is a Baroque specialist with master's degrees in both vocal performance and early music from Indiana University. Angelique will dazzle us with movements from Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata #51, "Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen" (Praise God in Every Land). The choir will be on hand to sing some of their favorite anthems from the past season, and Gretchen Rauch will play a handbell solo, "Be Still, My Soul" (Finlandia). We'll also have some special guests. My friend Tysen Dauer,

new to the Bay Area, will play piano and organ pieces by Nico Muhly, part of the hot new generation of classical composers. Muhly's music is both accessible and entrancing. My friend Katherine Delafkaran (who sang in my children's choir at a previous church, now grown up!) will perform on the viola. And of course we'll have treats and a chance to mingle after the performance. It's sure to be a spectacular afternoon. Please come, and invite your friends!

You'll be invited to donate to our Concert Fund as a part of the event on May 4. If you can't be here, please consider making a contribution to the fund all the same. Simply write a check to Grace Lutheran Church with "music" in the memo line. It will be much appreciated!

Also, be sure to have Thursday evening, May 29, on your calendar for the annual Lutheran/Episcopal Ascension Day service at Stanford Memorial Church. I will be the organist again this year and singers from Grace will participate in the combined choir. Our speaker will be the Rev. Susan Briehl. Susan was formerly on staff at Holden Village and has teamed with renowned musician Marty Haugen to produce many beloved hymns and pieces of liturgical music. She is a fantastic, engaging, spiritually powerful speaker. It is sure to be a memorable evening.

Alleluia, Christ is risen indeed! ♦



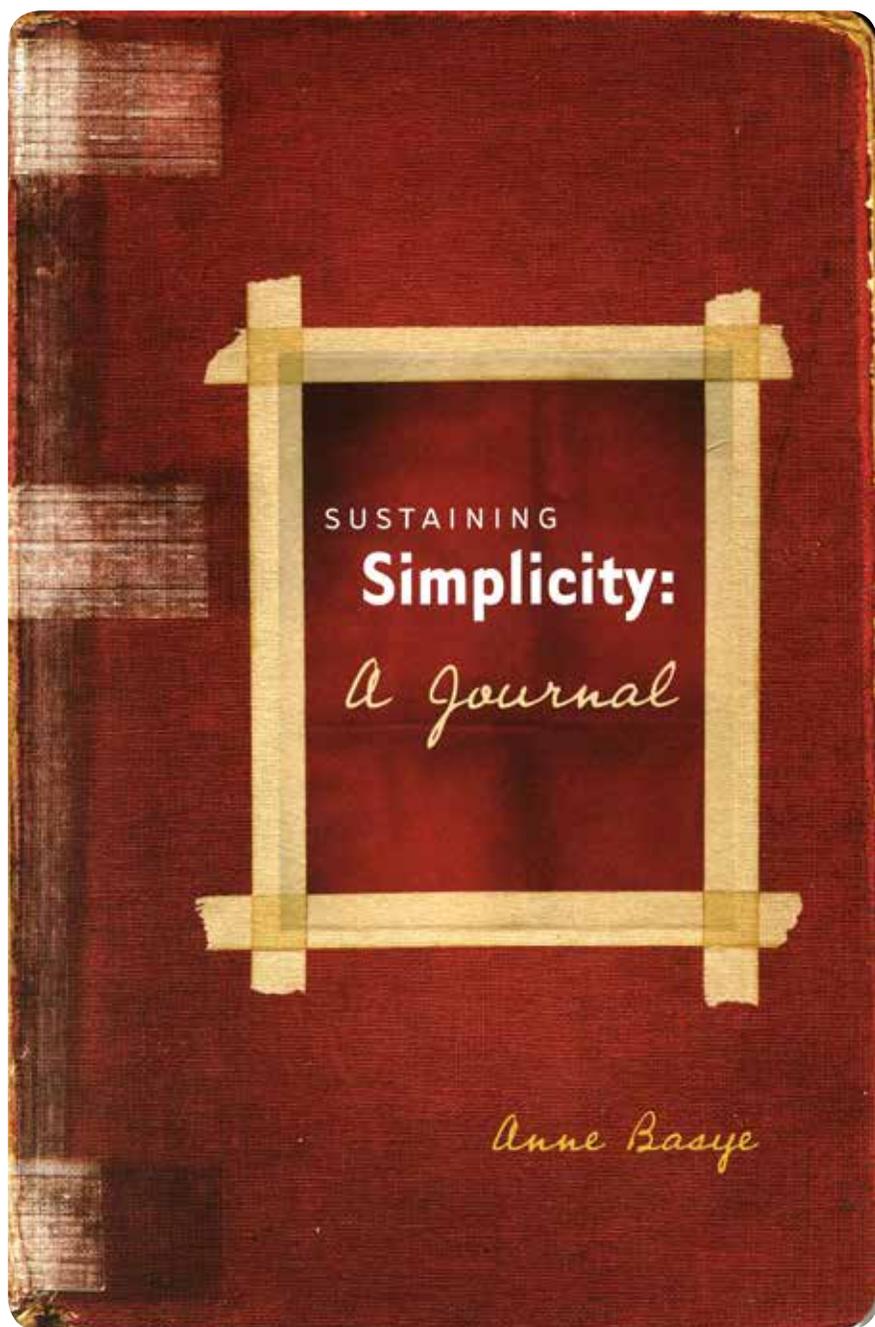
**TOP RIGHT**  
*Rev. Susan Briehl,  
Ascension Preacher*

**BOTTOM LEFT**  
*Angelique Zuluaga,  
Soprano*

**BOTTOM CENTER**  
*Mark Tendall,  
Baritone*

**BOTTOM RIGHT**  
*Tyson Dauer,  
Piano, Organ*





## Sunday, April 27 with author Anne Basye

8:30 am

Worship

9:45 am

Adult Forum

10:45 am

Worship

Noon

Simplicity Fair



# Sustaining Simplicity

Sunday, April 27 | Worship | Forum | Sustaining Simplicity Fair

After many years of living simply in a big city, Anne Basye, author of *Sustaining Simplicity: A Journal*, finds that sustainable living in Mount Vernon, Washington, involves zero waste projects, inter-county buses, and growing and storing food.

She believes in the power of churches as cells of resistance to the excesses of consumer culture and looks forward to getting to know you on April 27.

Join us for a day to learn a simpler way of life and, thereby, make a difference in our care of creation. Anne's presence with us and our Simplicity Fair will be an opportunity for community, deepening

your understanding of the necessities of this life, and a source for practical ideas to make your life simpler.

The Simplicity Fair will include all kinds of activities including a bicycle repair clinic, sustainable lunch, more with Anne Basye, commuting alternatives, and more!

# The Theology of the Hammer

Grace is looking to re-engage with Habitat for Humanity in 2014 through the *Thrivent Builds* program. Habitat was founded to put love into action... everyone can use the hammer as an instrument to manifest God's love. Habitat founder Millard Fuller called this concept "The Theology of the Hammer."

For the ninth consecutive year, Thrivent Financial is committing millions to stabilize, strengthen, and secure communities through this unique partnership.

For 2014, Grace is planning both local and international projects...

## Thrivent Builds Repairs

We are gathering names of those willing to join a local Thrivent Builds Repairs work project sometime in the summer or fall. Repairs are typically roofs, siding, or other critical projects; we partner with low-income homeowners to increase their safety and prevent foreclosure. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex, or email Bruce FitzGerald if you are interested.

## Thrivent Builds Worldwide—Generous Hearts Plant Seeds of Hope

Imagine yourself—your children—living in a "home" made of tin and cardboard. You do all that you can to provide for your family. But the forces of nature are against you. Hurricanes, mudslides, and earthquakes sweep your dreams away, along with your make-shift home. And the cycle of poverty begins again...through no fault of your own.

As a Thrivent Builds Worldwide trip participant, you'll help build simple, earthquake-resistant houses. You'll work alongside partner families who are gracious and giving and whom you'll soon call friends. You'll help restore hope...by building a home.

Elizabeth Hood recently completed training as a Team Leader for Thrivent Builds Worldwide projects. Her next project is set for El Salvador from August 2 to August 10--if you are a Thrivent Benefit Member, Thrivent even pays for a portion of your trip!

As Elizabeth shares "This will be my fourth Habitat for Humanity trip, and I can't imagine a year without doing one. It is very hard work, but the most rewarding thing I have ever done. We fly into El Salvador and get to see a bit of the country, have a little fun, visit a local church, and spend five days building a home for a deserving family! El Salvador has been my favorite build so far! The people and the children are so loving, wonderful, and kind, they will always hold a special place in my heart."

For those interested, there will be a meeting after church on May 4 to learn more about the trip. Please contact either Elizabeth Hood or Bruce FitzGerald if you have any questions.

## Food for Families

Over 60 families in Palo Alto are served each week at the South Palo Alto Food Closet. We do not include the single and homeless folks in that number since they are served in other places. We do not give out meals like our Tuesday night dinners at Grace, or sack lunches, but we give out bags of groceries to folks who have incomes that are low enough to come to pick up supplemental groceries to feed their families. Our community has the reputation of being affluent, so it may be hard to imagine needing food in such a community as ours.

We are glad the children in our Sunday School have had the opportunity to share with others through this program. And we hope all adults will think of these 60 families that come to the Food Closet each week (over 200 families in a month) as they are shopping in the stores. Second Harvest gives us tuna, but to provide a variety of protein, we like to get other canned meats from the churches—Spam, chicken, sardines, Vienna sausage, and the like. Produce off your trees is very welcome. Those soups, condiments, jams, coffee, and tea are on the shelf only a day or two before they go out the door. Thank you for remembering!



SOUTH PALO ALTO

food closet

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

## Ecumenical Hunger Program

Our quarterly volunteering on March 16 was a great success! EHP had, only the day before, executed a very successful gala to raise money for capital improvements. Our crew assembled many food boxes and arranged food shelves after an enlightening tour of the campus.

Our next volunteer opportunity will be **Sunday, June 22, from 1-3 pm**. All ages are welcome, and they ask only that volunteers wear close-toed shoes. Contact Vicar Nikoli for more information!

## Meal Ministry | TUESDAY, MAY 20

Volunteer opportunity involves assembling food pans (all materials are provided) and serving food to our guests. Arrive at either 3:30 pm for food assembly or 5:00 pm for serving, or both! Email Vicar Nikoli for more information or to sign up.

# We Listened, Heard, & Spoke

## THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TEAM:

*Timo Ahonen*  
*Julie Buckley*  
*Mark Cravens*  
*Elizabeth Katz*  
*Andrew Mellows*  
*Don Ostrus*  
*Erik Rausch*  
*Mary Schlatter*  
*Pastor Matt Smuts*  
*Aarika Riddle, Chair*

On April 6, 2014, at a Special Congregational Meeting, 64 of 66 members present voted on a written ballot to proceed directly into a spring capital campaign for a project to include a new and enlarged narthex, repairs to the sanctuary roof and steeple, replacement of the parking lot, and benevolence. The benevolence piece will be 10% of what is raised in the campaign, and we will seek input from the congregation in creating a plan for this benevolence that impacts those beyond Grace's campus, yet includes elements of sweat-equity in order to physically engage our Grace community.

The capital campaign team made this recommendation to church council based on these key take-aways from the Listening Phase:

- Grace is a welcoming community that highly values worship and music
- There is a desire for deepened relationships and faith formation
- Busy lives and hectic schedules make it increasingly difficult for people to navigate their way to Grace outside of Sundays
- There is a strong sense that our current campus does not embody our sense of hospitality and community

We have a strong passion for service and mission. By expanding the narthex and addressing deferred maintenance, we:

- Provide a clearer entrance to our place of worship enabling everyone, visitor and member, a large and warm welcoming space to build relationships and community
- Dramatically enhance the utility of the one space on campus that everyone uses, as worship is the core of our community and the common point of connection
- Show good stewardship of what was given to us by our preceding Grace family by addressing the parking lot, sanctuary roof, and steeple

Over the next several weeks, the campaign will be in full swing. You can expect events, activities, written materials, conversation, worship elements, and spiritual life components that help tell the story of this campaign and what we envision for the future of Grace. We are excited for what lies ahead and to walk with you all in this journey.

Peace,  
 The Capital Campaign Team

Text by  
 Aarika Riddle



## HERITAGE SOCIETY:

<i>Autumn &amp; Gary Bea</i>	<i>Martha Meyer</i>
<i>Barbara Behling</i>	<i>Dr. Norman Olson</i>
<i>Amrette &amp; Jerry Butler</i>	<i>Dr. Donald Ostrus</i>
<i>Joanie Caroon</i>	<i>Gretchen Rauch</i>
<i>Miriam Casey</i>	<i>Rev. Cora Scheel</i>
<i>Mary &amp; Mark Cravens</i>	<i>Carol &amp; Donald Scifres</i>
<i>Kathy &amp; Bruce FitzGerald</i>	<i>Ans &amp; David Vroom</i>
<i>Marianna &amp; Robert Kraus</i>	<i>Karen &amp; Rev. Randall Wilburn</i>
<i>Chris &amp; Dan Logan</i>	<i>Janet &amp; Stewart Wobber</i>
<i>Andrew Mellows</i>	<i>Barbara &amp; Donald Zepp</i>

# Celebrate Heritage Sunday at Grace

Text by Martha Meyer

Heads up! Stay tuned! This summer Grace will honor the members of the Heritage Society, those who have given or pledged a gift to Grace's Endowment Fund. Plans are underway to have a special speaker who will share information about the importance of an endowment and the planning of your estate for the benefit of yourself, your loved ones, and your church.

There will be a Heritage Society Reception to honor the people who have remembered Grace Lutheran Church in their estate plans. Special honor will be given to the late Dr. Norm Olson who was generous to Grace in life and in death.

He was especially dedicated to the health and welfare of adults and children in Cameroon and Tanzania, Africa, even leading a tour of seven Grace members there in 2001. It is entirely fitting that this year's endowment gifts have been given to work important to Norm: malaria nets, the Fistula Foundation, and the prevention of human trafficking.

The Endowment Committee: Martha Meyer (Chair), Amrette Butler, Bob Kraus, Dan Logan, Don Ostrus, Rev. Cora Scheel, Rev. Matt Smuts, David Vroom, Don Zepp

# Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

“Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day. You shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.” Ralph Waldo Emerson



**LOVE THE THEME** for the Western States Youth Gathering this summer, Epic Fail | Epic Faith. I have been thinking a lot about this theme as I wait for the youth to turn in their deposits and I begin planning for this trip. No one likes to face their failures, being reminded about them is like reliving them all over again. All your same fears and insecurities creep back in and you feel the sting of that failure as if it just happened to you.

But we have hope and faith that tomorrow will always be a new day, a fresh start. As Pastor Scott said, we are KNOWN by a God that has given us an epic kind of faith and

given us grace to be forgiven that allows us have a clean slate each new day.

I had a rough week with my computer hard drive crashing, a ton of planning for summer, Holy Week and Easter, a To Do list a mile long, and newsletter articles all due—and I was ready to just give up yesterday. So I took the night off, relaxed, watched some TV, and went to bed early. Today, I got up, ate breakfast, put an inspirational song on repeat, and read this quote. I was done with yesterday, today was a new day. I could start today anew and accomplish everything I needed to. It is a pretty great feeling to get things done. We all feel like sometimes things will never get done, we all fail—but trusting God to give you a new day tomorrow to get it done is pretty great. I hope and pray that you have more successes than failures and that when you do fail, you know that you are loved more than you could ever imagine by our God, and that you always have a new day tomorrow.



Text by  
Elizabeth Hood,  
Director of  
Children, Youth,  
& Family Ministry

# Children, Youth, and Families

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## SENIOR SUNDAY | MAY 11 | 10:45 AM

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A tradition for many years at Grace, Jan Curtis of the quilting group just told me last Sunday that they counted all the youth they have done quilts for through the years, and they have made over 70 quilts. Amazing to think of over 70 youth—and now adults—out there who have been given a quilt from Grace as a way to show them that they are always loved and cared for by this community.

I just wanted to say a big thank you again to the quilters, Jan Curtis, Mary Schlatter, Autumn Bea, Amrette Butler, Gloria Yu, Helen Lamons, and Joan Ferguson.

Please join us again for another memorable Senior Sunday on May 11 at the 10:45 am service. We will present our High School Senior Youth with quilts and send them off to their new adventure!

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## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY | JUNE 1 | 10:45 AM

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Every year we help our eighth graders to transition a major life milestone, moving from middle school into high school. On this Sunday, we congratulate them on completing our three-year confirmation program at Grace, and help to usher them into life as adults in the church.

We have 10 confirmands this year, we are so excited for such a large class, we will be creative in how we celebrate them this Sunday so that they each have a moment to shine! Please keep in mind that your support for them on this Sunday is important. The service will be of average length, so don't worry about a long service, but do come out and support our fine youth as they make a big life transition. It always helps to hear from adults about how loved and supported you are when your whole life seems to be changing.

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## END OF THE YEAR CONFIRMATION RETREAT | APRIL 25-27

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This is a great weekend at Mt. Cross, full of faith and friendship, a great end to the program year for our eighth graders and a great way to build on the year for our sixth and seventh graders. During this weekend, our eighth graders often work on wrapping up their confirmation experience by meeting with Elizabeth and Pastor Matt to talk about what they have learned and how they have changed.

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## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

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We are planning to have Summer Sunday School again this Summer! We will announce dates soon.

Preschool - Grade 5 will meet in Brown Hall for group Sunday School that will include cooking, crafting, and science experiments! We are looking for adults in the congregation who would be willing to teach one Sunday this summer in a pair or on a team! We have all the lessons and will be there to help. It will be a blast, we had a lot of fun last summer. Keep an eye out for our adventures.

Grades 6-12 will also have group Sunday School. We will do a mix of movies with faith discussions, crafts, and service projects. Again, we are looking for adults who would be willing to teach one Sunday this summer! We will provide you with everything you need—and a guarantee that you will have fun.

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## DAY CAMP! JULY 7-11

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We are so excited for Day Camp this summer, we already have a lot of children signed up. Don't miss your chance to be part of this great week! Tell your friends. This camp costs only \$100 for an entire week of fun from 9 am - 3 pm every day! We play, sing, dance, create, learn, and grow in our faith.

**You can help by helping to prepare lunch for our staff and high school volunteers or by bringing in snack! Let me know if you want to help.**

The whole church community is invited to attend our Thursday evening Day Camp Potluck: dinner followed by a short performance of the songs and skits learned by the children throughout the week. The children love performing, and it would mean so much to them to see you there!

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## GRACE SUMMER CAMP AT MT. CROSS | JULY 20-25

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Every summer, Elizabeth picks a week of camp when she can take all the youth from Grace up to have a great week of summer camp all together. I can't tell you how important camp is to the development of children and youth. It provides countless benefits for them as they grow, learn, and explore. It is a safe place for them to be truly themselves and realize that they are loved without condition by God who created the nature around them they get to explore.



## Western States Youth Gathering

WESTERN STATES YOUTH GATHERING | JUNE 27 - JULY 3

We have 12 high school youth signed up to take a wonderful adventure this summer! We will be traveling down to southern California to California Lutheran University for the Western States Youth Gathering. There will be hundreds of high school youth from all over the western states there, ready to play, serve, and learn! Here is a quote from one of the organizers of the event.

"I get to attend an exciting event this summer, the title EPIC FAIL, EPIC FAITH. We all have them, failures. I have a list far too long for this post. I am also known by a GOD who has placed EPIC FAITH in me and asks me to use that faith as my world lens." Pastor Scott Maxwell-Doherty, campus pastor at CLU.

Keep an eye out for ways to support our youth going on this trip! We will be doing a few fundraisers, coming very soon! We will be selling Hot Dogs for lunch at CMT. You can always keep us in your prayers as we travel.

# Preschool Improvement Campaign

We're hoping to raise \$20,000 this year to provide some much needed TLC to our classroom and play yard: we'd like to replace our 14-year-old carpet, paint the classroom and bathroom, repair the wooden play structure, and replace the leaky bike shed. We know that many of you have a history with and love for the preschool and our kids; any contribution your household can manage will help to keep the preschool the wonderful environment it is and would be much appreciated! Contributions can be made to Grace Lutheran Preschool and are fully tax-deductible. Questions? Please contact Teacher Penny at [preschool@gracepa.org](mailto:preschool@gracepa.org).



# Elementary Retreat@Mt. Cross

*Earlier this year, I took an energetic group of children from Grace to Mt. Cross for the Sierra Pacific Youth Committee Elementary Retreat! It was a wonderful weekend, and I am always glad to take children to camp, a place where they can relax, be themselves, and learn about God. It is amazing to see little ones see God in totally new ways there.*



# LEARNING TO LEARN

Text by Nikoli Falenschek



I had just taken a test in one of my survey-level art history courses at Concordia...

**RIGHT PAGE**  
*Close-ups of different materials: leather, leaf, rice, paper*

**NEXT PAGE**  
*Four seasons affecting nature*

**I** KNEW I ACED it, as I didn't have any problems with any of the names, dates, or titles of the slides. One thing did bother me, however: *I knew I would forget all of that information in less than a month.* I began to wonder at myself...What was I really doing here? How can I call myself a student if all this learning is just passing through like water out of a hose?

Distraught, I hurried back to my dorm room and called my dad. After the usual pleasantries—slightly truncated as there was this pressing issue to speak about—he asked the big question, “How’s your day so far?” Well, after relating the predicament of my learning versus retention paradox, he told me something that I’ll never forget. He said, “Nikoli, you don’t go to college to learn things, like dates and names. That might happen accidentally, but that’s not the real reason for going. You go to college to learn how to learn.”

To learn how to learn? Suddenly, my life made sense again, having added purpose once again to the very

busy and overwhelming lifestyle occupied by 18 credits a semester. The truth of that phrase can be so helpful in the face of busy lifestyles everywhere, where people crowd your calendar for attention, and each responsibility assumes you know everything about everything. That is unrealistic. And yet, we learn how to learn, so that we can adapt in this fast-paced world.

The same is true with our spiritual development and growth. We are never done exploring our relationships with God, each other, and the created world around us. No matter when you might mark an endeavor complete, God’s work is never complete. We are continually being pulled into another day filled with learning, peace, love, and cooperation. Every moment here at Grace is unique: every worship service, coffee hour, Sunday School time, Confirmation class, soup supper, adult forum, Tuesday night meal. These events offer to each of us avenues of growth and connection with the divine in others, the love in our neighbor. ♦



# Together Rising:

## Adult Education and Spiritual Formation

Many members of the Grace community take on a spiritual discipline during Lent, but how many of us have ever thought about breathing new life into our faith journeys during Easter and beyond? Like Lent, Easter is a season, and therefore offers a perfect opportunity for a sustained but short-term commitment to a new practice. This Easter season Adult form sessions will focus on creation stewardship, beginning with a visit from Anne Bayse, a free-lance writer and author of *Sustaining Simplicity* on April 27. In May we'll continue the focus on creation stewardship and also offer a book study of Reza Aslan's *Zealot* with Pastor Matt on May 11 and 18. Summer learning opportunities will include several sessions on the Mormon faith with Vicar Nikoli. Adult Forum meets in the Chapel on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:30, with occasional sessions in the Fireside Room. Check the announcement board as you walk onto campus Sunday morning for details!

Wishing you a blessed Easter,  
Barbara Pitkin, Bob Kraus, Geri Horsma, Fran Harris, Vicar Nikoli, and Pastor Matt

During Lent, dark colored abstract forms flew above the space, ominously casting shadows on the space below. Framed by dark strips of brown flags, the mobiles remind us of the dirt, grime, and darkness of a broken world--vertical arches an image of beauty unattainable, unreachable. This brokenness has transformed in the redeeming and resurrecting light of Easter. The forms are now white-misted birds, casting bright reflections instead of shadows; the brown flags have become colorful crosses, each with a message written by congregation members about beauty, faith, presence, love, and thankfulness; vertical arches have become horizontal, as the love and eternity of God's love becomes manifest in this world, in Jesus Christ the human being, in all of us.

### Men of Grace | Summer Is Coming

We will be taking a break from the monthly Sunday evening gatherings. In order to gather some momentum and really evaluate the needs of this group, a short hiatus is in order. Stay tuned for more information about when we'll start up again! Also, contact Vicar Nikoli if you have any ideas for this group's direction!!

## Young Adults

### Brunch | Sunday, May 25

We're switching from the second Sunday to the fourth Sunday of each month! Let's get together for some brunch and conversation at the Palo Alto Breakfast House in Midtown!! Meet at Noon, and if you're the first one there feel free to get us on the waiting list! Contact Vicar Nikoli or Elizabeth for more information!!

### Pub Theology | Friday, May 9

Fellowship mixes with casual theological discussion at Pub Theology. Come out at 7pm for a great time!! The topic of discussion: *Heaven and Hell: What Are They Anyways?* The location: Steins Beer Garden in Mountain view. Contact Vicar Nikoli or Elizabeth for more information!!

## Sunny View Retirement Home Celebrates 50 Years of Service

Please come and celebrate with them! They have several activities that are being planned and they hope you will come and join them. So save the dates—mark your calendars. The activities are:

- Saturday, May 17 | Noon - 3 pm—Car Show in their parking lot.
- Friday, June 13 | Time TBA—Carnival
- Tuesday, June 24 | 2 - 4 pm—Anniversary Celebration
- Thursday, July 3 | 6:30 pm—Evening Concert
- Thursday, August 7 | 6:30 pm—Evening Concert
- Saturday, September 20 | Time TBA—Benefit Dinner and Casino

All activities will be held at Sunny View Retirement Home, 22445 Cupertino Road, Cupertino 95014. Need more info? Please contact June Vilen, (650)327-0847.

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### SUNNY VIEW FASHION SHOW

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Sunny View Auxiliary will present a Fashion Show on May 21, 2:30 pm, at Sunny View Retirement Home. There will be valet parking, and the Fashion Show is free of charge. What could be better than that? It will be held in the Rose Garden, and promises to a fun day for all. So mark your calendars! If you are interested, call June Vilen (650) 327-0847 for more information or free tickets.

# The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint

This month we have a book review from Jan Curtis, one of our regular library patrons. It's especially timely because Pastor Nadia is the "cover girl" on the April 2014 issue of Sojourner's Magazine (available in the library).

We are continuing to wrestle with the library automation system, but are making progress. There are a number of books overdue that we need to track down and barcode. Look around for any you might have, or if you hear from us, look again and harder! ■

Mary Ashley, Librarian

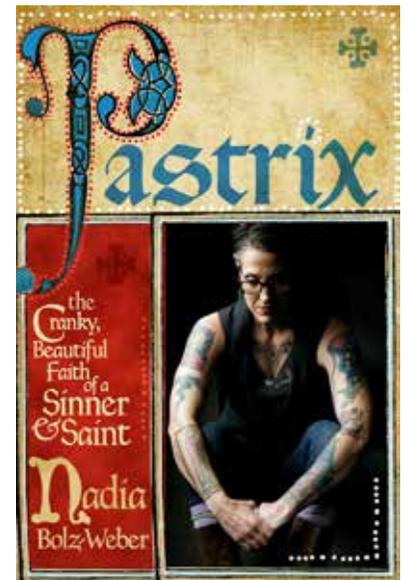
## *Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint*

Nadia Bolz-Weber    Review by Jan Curtis

Whew, what a read! Gene and I watch a PBS program called "To the Contrary," moderated by Bonnie Erbé, on Saturday mornings. A recent segment saw the women on the panel, from different sides of the political spectrum, discussing Pr. Nadia and her church. It was almost comical listening to these well-educated, very puzzled women trying to relate Pr. Nadia to what they "knew" about the Christian church! (We're Lutheran. They don't know about us.)

Pr. Nadia had been a stand-up comic; her arms are covered in tattoos, albeit tattoos with religious themes, and she occasionally uses pretty foul language in the book. She was reared in the Church of Christ, but became an ELCA Lutheran pastor, is married to a Lutheran pastor, and has had two children with him. The House for All Sinners and Saints, the ELCA mission church she pastors, ministers to the LGBTQ folk of Denver, Colorado, and is anything but "traditional" in the sense some Lutheran churches are. However! The book is chock full of Gospel, grace and mercy, woven through excerpts of her (younger, rough, full of struggle) life and the journey to her present ministry among what many Christians might call unlikely congregants. She is so very human and honest and real.

Pastor Nadia is a good writer. If you can get past the occasional "language," she's worth reading and certainly worth paying attention to. I liked the book.



## Servants and Stewards

"Send us to be your servants in every place." So goes our prayer following communion on a recent Sunday. This is what we are called to be, servants to our fellow man. Whether practiced in ancient times or modern times, there is ample opportunity for each of us to be good servants and stewards of God's gifts. Within our congregation, Grace members answer the call by supporting South Palo Alto Food Closet and Ecumenical Hunger Programs that provide food to the hungry, by advocating for a green environment via letter-writing campaigns to elected state and federal officials, as well as supporting a hydrologist in Africa whose wells provide clean drinking water in remote communities, and by advocating for global reduction of greenhouse gases to save our environment.

Under this roof, we know these servants and stewards as members of the Social Ministry Team. These, and many other members, faithfully answer God's call to care for all creation. In this season of new beginnings, perhaps each of us can pause to evaluate our own talents and seek opportunities to apply them for the benefit of the planet and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.



# Council Notes

The main order of business at the March Council meeting was consideration of a recommendation from the Capital Campaign Team to define the scope of the project for which funds would be raised in our capital campaign. Council endorsed the recommendation of the Capital Campaign Team (which had also been endorsed by the Finance Committee) to bring a motion to the congregation: Resolved that Grace Lutheran Church proceed directly into a spring capital campaign for a project to include a new and enlarged narthex, repairs to the sanctuary roof and steeple, replacement of the parking lot, and benevolence. At a Special Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, April 6, the congregation approved the motion with a written vote of 64 in favor and 2 opposed. Many thanks to the

members who came to the meeting, and especially to the Capital Campaign Team.

The Council will hold its annual retreat on May 10. We will discuss reports from our committees, which have taken time to reflect on their work during the past year as it relates to the Identity and Guiding Principles statement adopted in 2011. We will also spend some time thinking about our ministry moving forward, particularly as it relates to the results of the CAT survey completed by the congregation in December, and discussing budgeting issues.

Blessings in this Easter season,  
 Maria Derrick, Grace Council President ■

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## COUNCIL LIAISONS:

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*Dave Bohn: Social Ministry*

*Al Brudos: Finance*

*Julie Buckley: Capital Campaign Team, Mutual Ministry, Endowment*

*Tom Conn: Personnel, Worship and Music*

*Maria Derrick (President): Children's Ed*

*Ray Ernenwein: Youth Ministry Team*

*Gail Foelsch: Preschool*

*Twila Forbes: Library*

*Elizabeth Katz (Vice-President): Capital Campaign Team, Stewardship*

*Holly Lucke: Vicar Nikoli's Lay Committee*

*Don McElravy: Personnel*

*Katy Siegel (Secretary): Youth Ministry*



## August 23–25, 2014 Grace Lutheran Church Weekend at Camp!

ALL ARE WELCOME,  
 Grace family and friends

Programming all weekend: Beach Day, Worship at Camp, Church BBQ, Crafts, Hiking, Campfire, Games, and so much more! Spend a day—or the weekend—with your family from Grace.

Middle School and High School Youth, we have a special event for you this weekend!! Friday evening we will meet at Grace and carpool up to camp for the night. Early the next morning, we will head to the Boardwalk and Beach at Santa Cruz for a whole day full of fun on the Boardwalk!! Later that night, we will return to camp to join our families for a big campfire with everyone from Grace. Stay the night at camp and wake up for breakfast, worship, and the annual church picnic! It will be an awesome, brand new, fun weekend. Don't miss out! This is going to be a great summer and we hope that you will join us!



**Membership at Grace?  
 Baptism?  
 First Communion?**

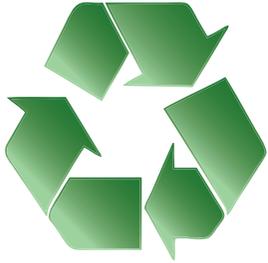
Contact Pastor Matt at  
[pastormatt@gracepa.org](mailto:pastormatt@gracepa.org)

## New Member Sessions

**Mondays, April 28, May 5, and May 12 | 7-8:30 pm**

Our next New Member Classes will be held on Monday evenings from 7-8:30 pm on the Mondays listed above. Childcare will be provided, if needed. These classes are intended for those who are interested in joining Grace Lutheran Church, or are merely curious and want to learn more. All are welcome. The purpose of these classes is to make your relationship with

this community of faith more intentional, build relationships with other members of Grace, and learn more about this community, our mission and dreams. Please RSVP with Pr. Matt directly if you are interested, and let him know if you will need childcare and we will arrange it. [pastormatt@gracepa.org](mailto:pastormatt@gracepa.org)



Printed on 30% post consumer recycled paper

## Sunday Worship

8:30 & 10:45 am

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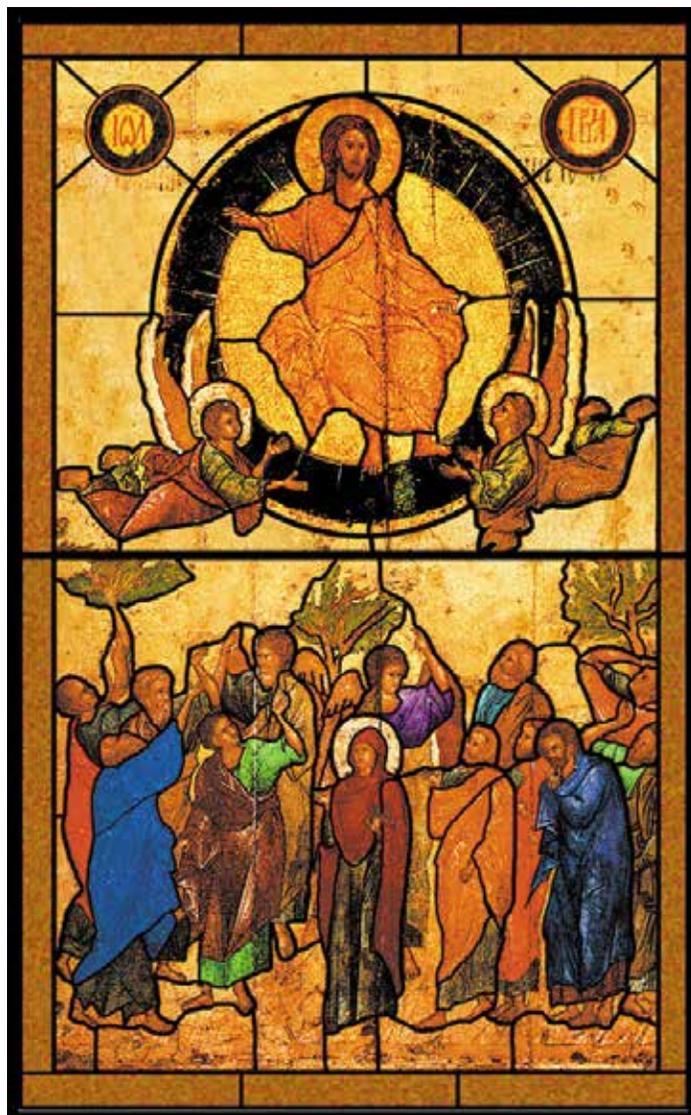
Also broadcast on Cable 30

Sundays 11 am | 8:30 pm

Mondays 12:30 pm



**Evangelical Lutheran  
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God's work. Our hands.  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)



# The Ascension of Our Lord

32<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
Episcopal-Lutheran  
Celebration

29 May 2014 | 7:30 pm

Preaching:

The Rev. Susan Briehl

Presiding:

The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Keeves

# Stanford Memorial Church