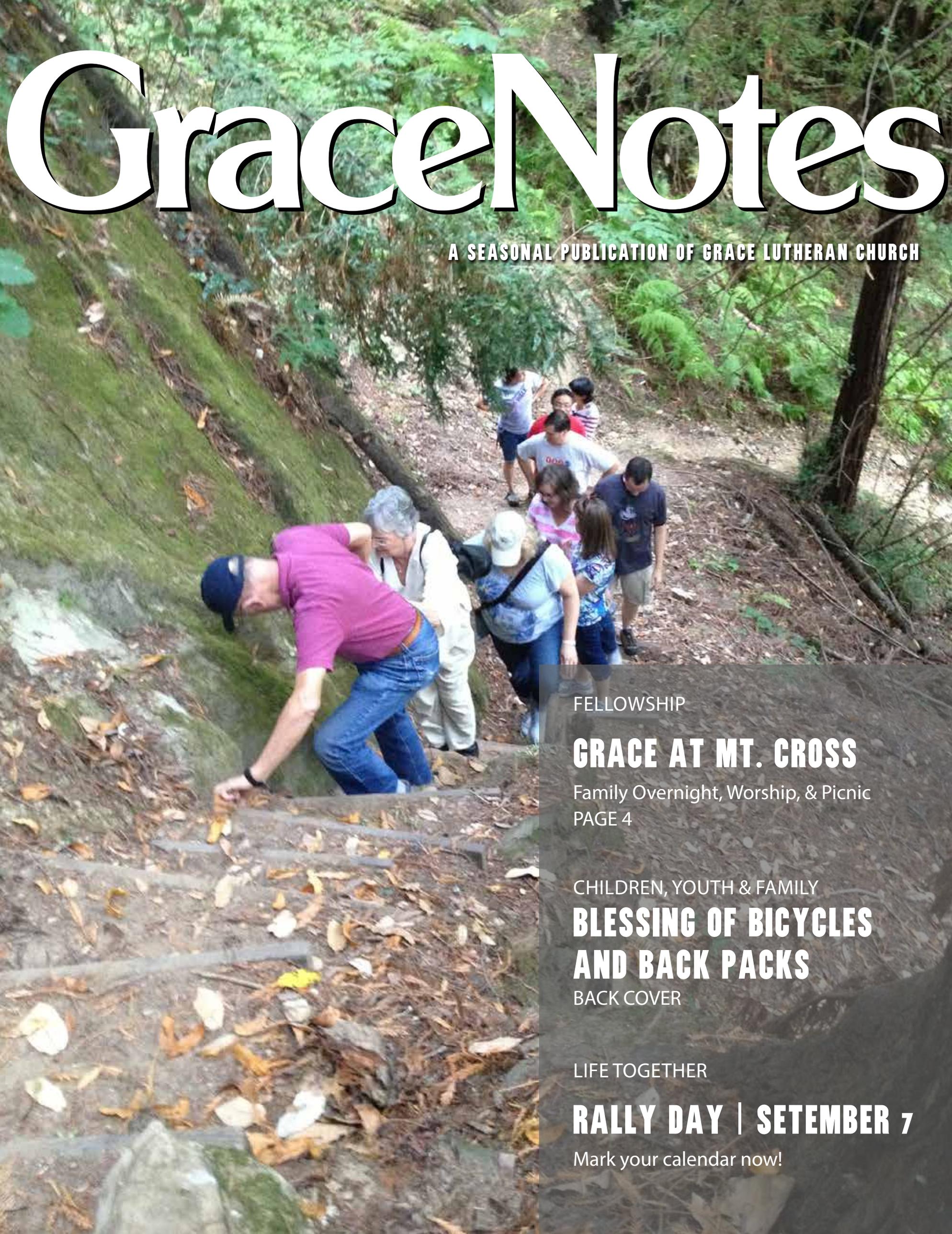


GraceNotes

A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



FELLOWSHIP

GRACE AT MT. CROSS

Family Overnight, Worship, & Picnic
PAGE 4

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

BLESSING OF BICYCLES AND BACK PACKS

BACK COVER

LIFE TOGETHER

RALLY DAY | SETEMBER 7

Mark your calendar now!

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Ordinary Time

#aplaceforgrace

Without a lot of fanfare, we slide from Holy Trinity Sunday into the great wash of Sundays after Pentecost. This is also a time when we move from the intensive key Sundays of



our capital campaign to the living of our way into making a place for grace. All of this movement suggests now and the future, but in the life of the church we call it Ordinary Time.

What does it mean for us that ordinary life and time is about God's will for our lives...perhaps it is making a place for grace? Perhaps this is our practice time as people of faith. This is a season of different rhythms and patterns, a season of rest and play, but to say it a little differently, an opportunity to reflect on the last year and the one to come.

What does it mean as an individual and as a congregation to define Ordinary Time, our regular existence as making a place for grace? What does it mean for us from a standpoint of facility? What does it mean from a standpoint of hospitality?

I would encourage you to reflect this summer on Grace and your own life alongside Grace and consider how this new sense of Ordinary Time might call you into new ways of living. Consider new ways of making a space for others through hospitality, generosity, and faith that Christ has already made a place for us, purely by grace, and now we have been called to live into that same welcome for others.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Matthew A. Smuts". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rev. Matthew A. Smuts, pastor



page 4



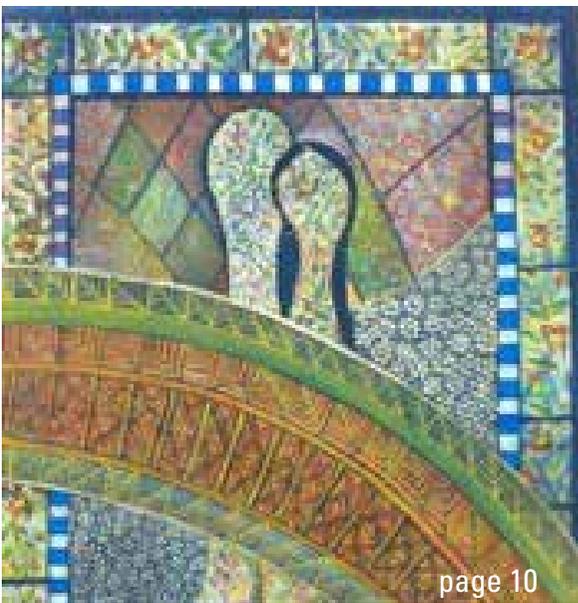
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COVER PHOTO

Mt Cross
by Pastor Matt Smuts

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Grace @Mt. Cross

by Pastor Matt Smuts

#aplaceforgrace



August 22-24, 23-24, or just 24

This year, as has been our recent pattern, we will be heading up to Mt Cross for the last weekend of August. The youth will go up for the whole weekend, concluding with our BBQ and fun on Sunday afternoon. Families interested in coming up Saturday afternoon will stay in the cabins at Mt Cross and join in afternoon fun, dinner, campfire, and then worship on Sunday morning before the BBQ. Otherwise, you're welcome to come up just for Sunday, and enjoy worship at camp at 10:45 am and roll into the BBQ.

Online registration is available from Grace's homepage (www.gracepa.org) and is easily found. If you have any difficulty registering or have any questions about the weekend, please contact Pr. Matt at pastormatt@gracepa.org

This is a great opportunity to build relationships with other families at Grace and make the most out of your Fall. Come along! You'll be glad you did!

Worship & Picnic

Sunday (only) August 24
10: 45am (Worship) - 4 pm
FREE!

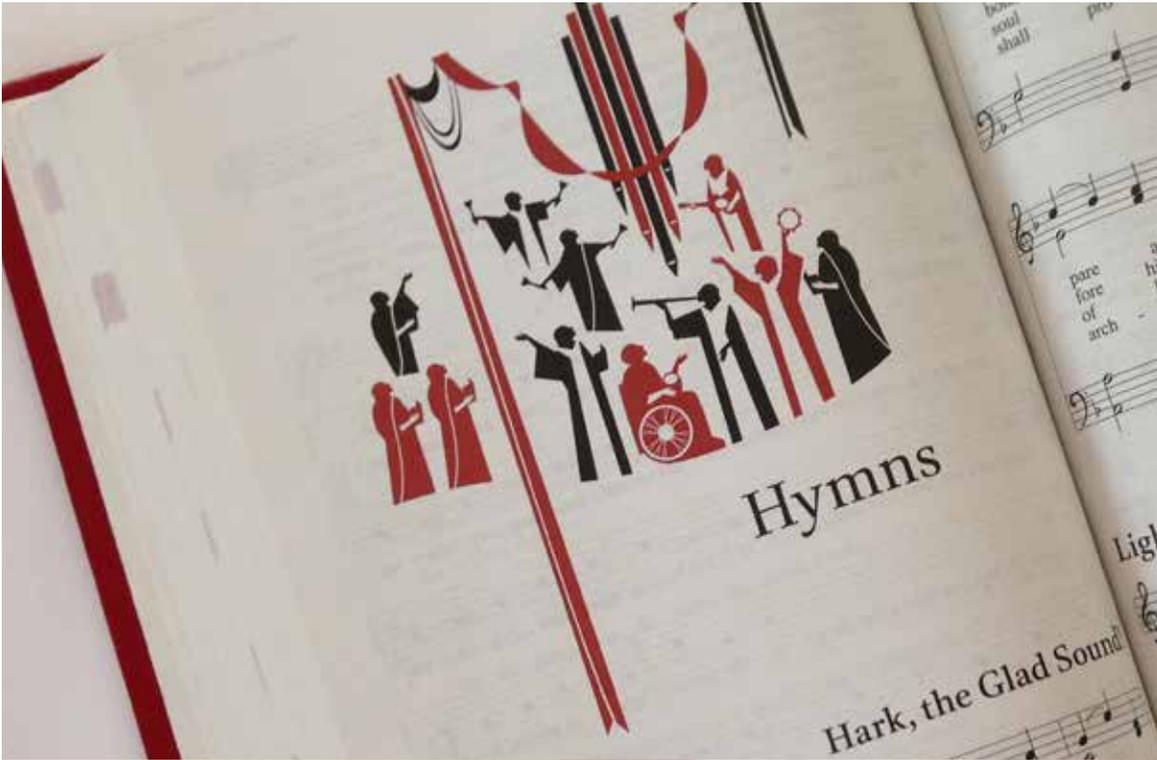
Family Overnight

Saturday (3pm) Aug. 23 -
Sunday Picnic, Aug. 24 (ends@4 pm)
\$45/person OR \$150/family

Youth Weekend

Friday (7pm) August 22 -
Sunday Picnic, Aug. 24 (ends@4 pm)
\$125/youth





The Most Important Choir



HAVE A MASTER'S degree in Sacred Music, jointly administered by Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and Saint Olaf College. I remember vividly the day that I auditioned and interviewed for admission to this program. The interviewers were John Ferguson, organ professor at Saint Olaf, Anton Armstrong, the conductor of the Saint Olaf Choir, and Paul Westermeyer, professor of Church Music at Luther Seminary and administrator of the Sacred Music program. I played the organ for them in Boe Chapel, I conducted the Saint Olaf Choir itself in a rehearsal of F. Melius Christiansen's "Lamb of God Most Holy," and I was asked to sight sing what must have been the most obscure hymn in the green Lutheran Book of Worship, which I'm quite certain I have never sung again. And then started the questions. Ferguson asked, "What is the most important choir in any church music program?"

I invented what I thought was quite a decent answer about how important the regular presence of the adult choir is for worship leadership, but that children's choirs were also important for

by Tim Getz
Director of Music Ministry

developing young faith as well as musical skills. And then, there was an awkward silence...until Ferguson piped up again and said, "But what about the congregation?"

Of course, he was right. In the Lutheran tradition especially, the united voice of the entire worshipping assembly in hymnody and other liturgical music is the very essence of worship. It is a vehicle for proclaiming the Word, for praying together, and for forming community. All of our voices—big or small, untrained or polished with years of study and experience, rehearsed or unrehearsed—join together to create worship on Sunday mornings. We need everyone!

Dietrich Bonhöffer, in his book *Life Together*, writes:

"It is not you that sings, it is the Church that is singing, and you, as a member of the Church, may share in its song."

I love this quote, first because it takes the focus off of any one individual's voice. I can't count how many people have said to me, "You really don't want to hear me sing," to which my response is always, "Yes, yes I do." The Church needs the voices of the whole community. I also love the quote because it implies further that the song never ends. Year in and year out, as the seasons come and go, the Church continues to sing. Summer is a great time to appreciate the "congregational choir," as our rehearsed choirs are on their summer break.

Of course, the rehearsed choirs are also valuable. They enrich our worship with music that is too challenging to accomplish without rehearsal. They can provide leadership for newer musical material that may be less familiar. They do provide faith formation and musical training for children. And they are important vehicles for small group fun and fellowship.

Mark your calendar for some fun musical activities at Grace this summer!

SUMMER CHOIR | JULY 20 AND AUGUST 10

This is open to everyone, current choir members, friends, or anyone who would just like to give choir a "test drive." Children and youth entering grades 4 and above also are welcome. We will meet at 9:45 am to rehearse, and sing the same day at the 10:45 service.

KIDSING | JULY 27 AND AUGUST 17

Part of Summer Sunday School on these two Sundays will involve practicing a song to sing at the beginning of the 10:45 service.

HANDBELL WORKSHOP | AUGUST 3

For current and prospective handbell choir members: we will unlock some of the "secrets" of handbell ringing and just have fun making music together. This will NOT involve a church performance.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

And finally, one of my favorite summer activities: outdoor worship! We will worship in the courtyard under the trees at 10:45 on July 6, August 3, and August 31. See you in church this summer! ♦



Share Your Story

We are all children, grandchildren, or great (sometimes multiple) grandchildren of immigrants—if we aren't immigrants, ourselves. The Midpeninsula Community Media Center, located in Palo Alto, is compiling stories of how, when, and why people came to the United States. Several members of Grace have contributed stories about arrivals that range from as early as 1637 to as recently as 1970. Check out the site, and you'll see that many of them were pastors. You can share your ancestors'—or your—stories, too.

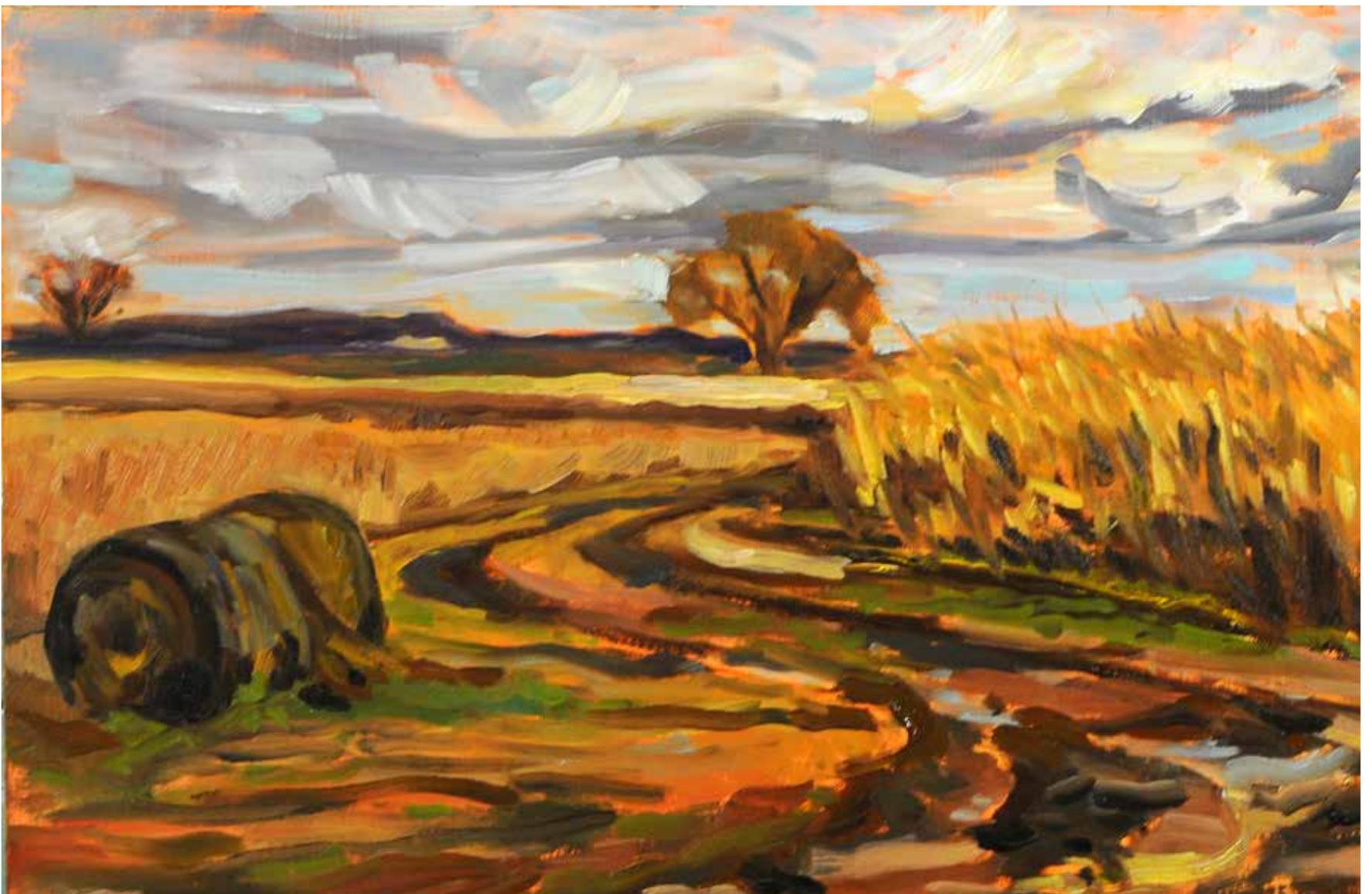
<http://madeintoamerica.org/tag/gracelutheran/>

SUMMER HARVEST

Leviticus 19

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.

Text by Nikoli Falenschek, Art by Joan LeBoeuf



For me, and I think for many others, summer has become a time devoted to refocusing, realigning, filling voids, relaxing, reacquainting, and just “getting away from it all.” I’ve been in school my entire life, and so this time of year has also brought a tremendous amount of freedom, with which I usually explored all the things I didn’t have time for in the school year. In my hometown of Becker, MN, summer meant one worship service instead of two and smaller attendance because people would take their families to lake cabins. Summer is a time when the Sun, so hot and direct that you practically melt and become one with the asphalt beneath, gives us an excuse to laze around, tanning ourselves and soaking up the pool water.

There’s never been a question in my mind that summer is about “ME” time...Until now. This is the first summer where I continue to work in the same job that brought me through the fall and winter. Sure, I’ve worked summers before, but this is my first year-long, full-time gig, and it’s given me a different perspective on summer. Not only is it hotter outside, but I’m not cloaked in darkness on my rides to and from Grace. The days are longer in the summer. Longer days—not more hours in a day, but more hours of light in a day. When I get home, I don’t feel like getting ready for bed because the sun has disappeared. Instead, I feel as if I have an opportunity to do something else, that my day and energy supply isn’t over, that the sun’s resilience to twilight’s pull lends energy to my schedule. The days are longer in the summer. What should I do with my extra hours?

In fields of hours, let us glean for ourselves and our families, but let us reserve at least the edges for God, the poor, and the alien. Summer daylight is a gift, a larger field from which we might find time to be laborers in God’s world. Instead of reserving all extra time for relaxation and vacation, take time to see the brokenness around you and tend to it. Find a place to volunteer on a regular basis, like weekly; take up a writing project and send a thank-you note or an “I’m thinking of you” letter to someone you haven’t talked to in a while; develop a new prayer practice; read scripture for an hour every day; there are a limitless amount of opportunities to leave the edges of your fields for God, the poor, and the alien.

I would love to hear how you’re leaving the edges of your field, what new thing you’re doing with the extra daylight. Send me an email or a note if you would like to share!



Young Adults

JULY 11 AND AUGUST 8 | PUB THEOLOGY

These nights offer valuable time to discuss questions pertaining to faith that you’ve always wanted to ask. Email Vicar Nikoli or Elizabeth for details.

JULY 27 | PHILZ AND BRUNCH

Come out for fellowship and reconnect with the other young adults from Grace!! Leave the courtyard at 9:40 for Philz, and we’ll be back in time for the second service. And then, at Noon-ish, we’ll have brunch at the Palo Alto Breakfast House in Midtown. Come to one or both!



SOUTH PALO ALTO

food closet

What’s on Your Grocery List?

We’ve got a list for you! It is the list of the things we most wish were on the shelf because Second Harvest does not provide them and SO MANY people want them. We really would like to see them on the empty places on the shelves. We are so thankful you think of the Food Closet when you are shopping! Here is the list:

- Jam and Jelly
- Juice in quarts
- Spam, salmon, sardines and other non-tuna canned meat
- Single serving, pop-top protein meals
- Dried fruit
- Condiments, especially mayo, catsup, and ranch dressing
- Oil, especially the 32 oz size

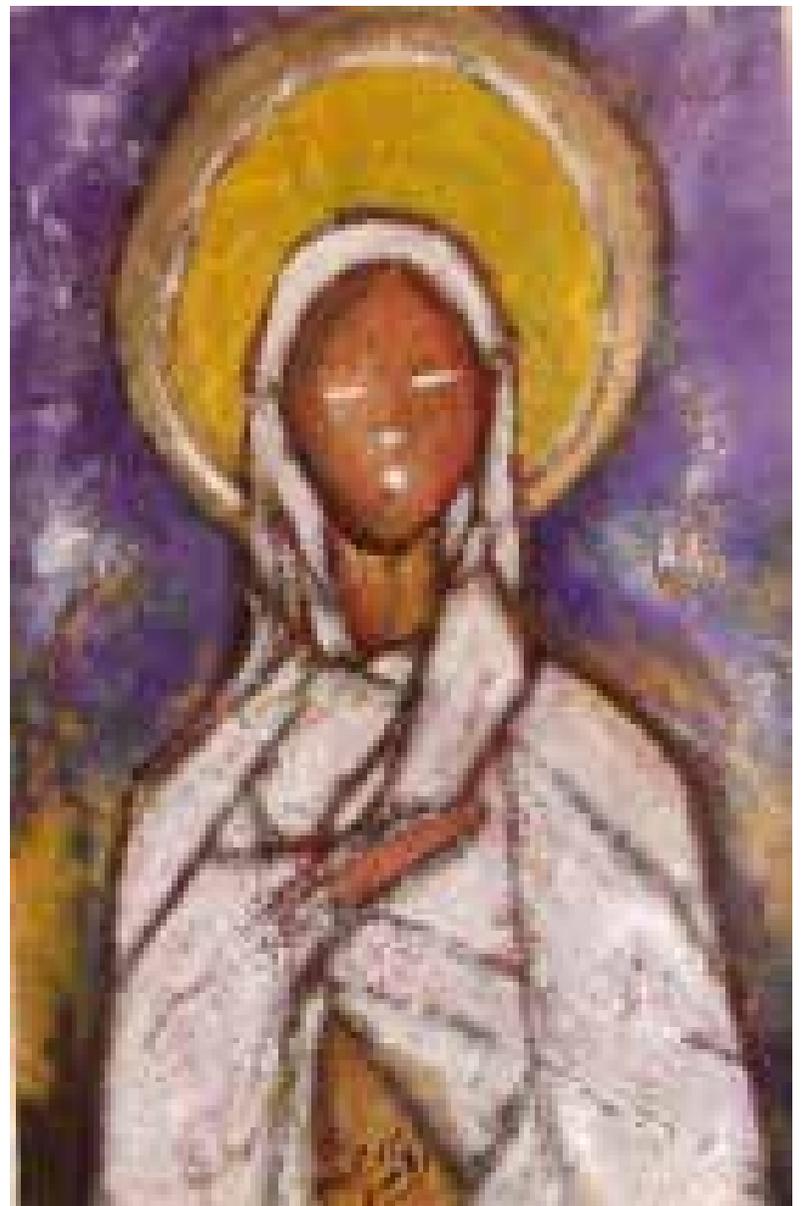
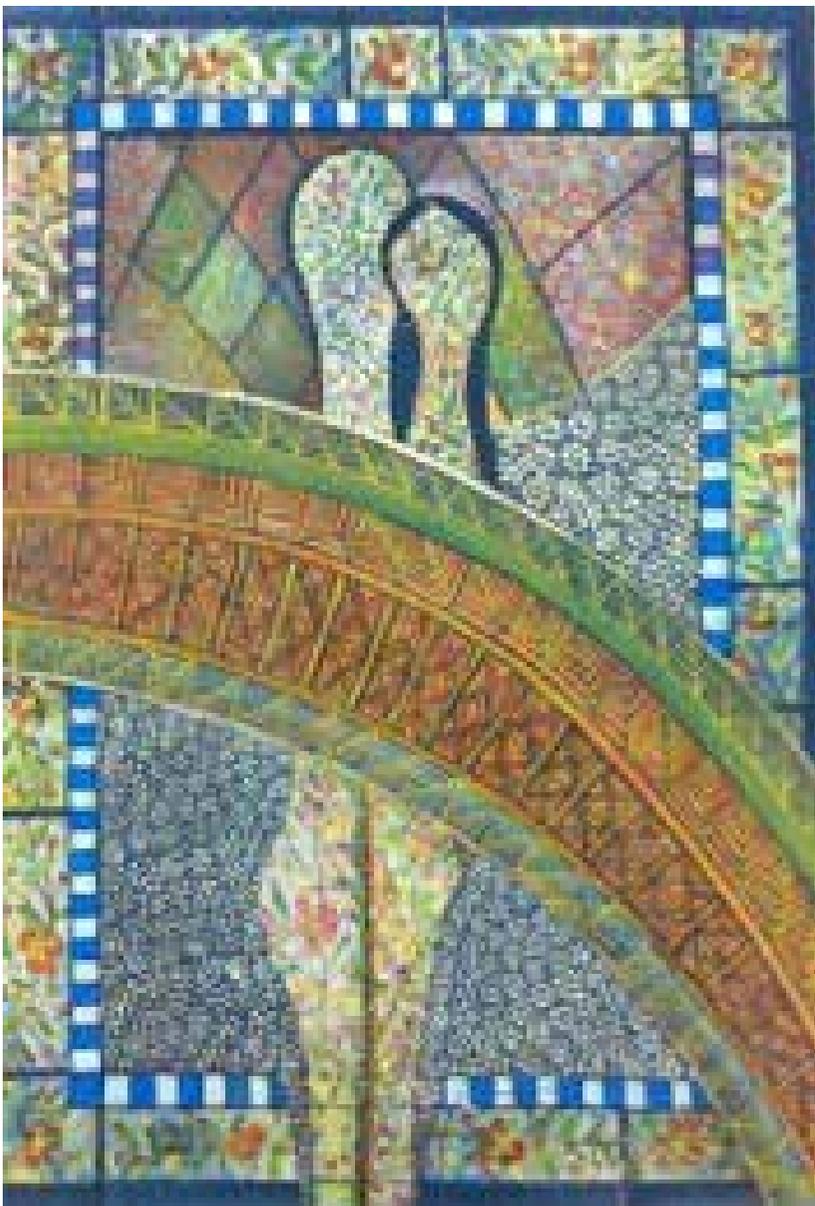
We are so happy you save your egg cartons. We really need them for the eggs donated by stores when one or more is broken or the box is damaged—and the good eggs need to go into clean cartons to be given away to every family—or from the large packages we buy at Costco when Second Harvest does not provide enough.

Thanks so much for filling that yellow box in the narthex so fast!!!!

GALLERY @GRACE

Art hanging in the chapel from Dar al-Kalima University, College of Art and Culture is for sale—stop by and check it out!

Text by Martha Meyer



Cultural Heritage and Community Development in Bethlehem, a Message of Hope

One of the international education programs that Social Ministry supports is Dar al-Kalima University, College of the Arts and Culture in Bethlehem. Through education, music, sports, and art: Hope is what we do! These aren't just words...hope is alive and well in a region of the world that many people consider hope-less.

Grace member Martha Meyer is a Northern California area representative for Bright Stars of Bethlehem. In early May, she attended the dedication of the new Cultural Heritage and Community Development Building in Bethlehem. This new facility will provide an even greater space for people of all ages to explore the richness of their culture through culinary arts, sports, leadership training courses and much more. As Mitri Raheb said at the dedication ceremony, "We are building a country...stone by stone; empowering a community...person by person; and creating institutions that offer life in abundance."

Martha and the Social Ministry Committee are scheduled to do a presentation, including a short DVD, during the Forum on Sunday July 27. You are all invited.

THE GRACE CHAPEL has once again become an art gallery during the month of July. Thanks are due to fifteen artists from the West Bank, Palestine, and our Vicar Nikoli's artistic skill and good eye. Nineteen paintings are for sale; these have been selected and juried by the Art Department at Dar al-Kalima University, College of Art and Culture.

LEFT

*Love in the
Palestinean Way*

Yousef Al-rajabi

RIGHT

*Holy Mary
symbol of purity*

Layla Hamdieh

BELOW

Jerusalem

Taleb Dweik

Following artistic pursuits is a challenge in the best of living conditions. Yet these paintings are expressions of creative artists who are living in dire circumstance enduring limitations we cannot fathom. Many of these artists' works have been shown in solo and group exhibitions in Egypt, Denmark, Sweden, and the USA.

All proceeds from the sale will go directly to the artist.





Preschool Notes

May was a very busy month for the preschool. We had bike day, where we decorated our bikes to get them ready for May Fete Parade. We had a great turnout for the parade, 35 children and their families! Cinco de Mayo was a blast with our homemade tortillas, amazing hats, and doing the Mexican hat dance. We celebrated Mothers' Day by making finger-squished strawberry jam. Our mothers think it's the berry best! The end of May was spent getting ready for our picnic with our families, and enjoying all the friendships everyone made during the school year. It is hard to say goodbye, but the children we send on their way are ready for new adventures.

Summer camp had six weeks of themes. Trickster Tales, Dinosaurs, Space, Circus, Folktales and Cooking, and ending with a week of Oceans and Pirates. Everyone is always welcome to come join in our fun...stop by, stay and play!

If you are interested in school in the fall, call the preschool at 650-493-8942, or Penny at 650-814-9949. We have space available in our Tuesday/Thursday morning and Monday/Wednesday/Friday afternoon classes.

It has been exciting to see, hear, and feel the energy around the vision for our *making a place for grace* campaign! We have had a great response so far with \$1.1 million pledged, and more still coming in! Thank you so much to those who have helped us reach this amount and expressed your commitment to this vision for Grace Lutheran Church.

If you haven't already, we hope you will consider your response to this vision and help move us toward making a place for grace. Please complete your pledge card and return it to us by mail, in the offering plate, or by dropping it off in the church office. If you need a new pledge card or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Capital Campaign Team or Pastor Matt. Pledges and/or gifts can also be made through the Grace website at www.gracepa.org This is a three year campaign running through June 2017, and new gifts are welcome at any point.

Thank you to our leaders and members who made both advanced and generous commitments. Your leadership, confidence, and enthusiasm for this vision gave us a strong start going into this campaign. We would also like to acknowledge the volunteers who worked to make the many components of this campaign possible. We couldn't have done it without you and are grateful for your time, energy, and hard work.

We had some wonderful events take place over a period of four weeks. We enjoyed a Grace Family Reunion on May 18 with the opportunity to engage with one another and build community. There was a special Retiree Rendezvous. And thanks to Mark and Mary Cravens for generously hosting an adult event at their home on June 7. Not only did we get to partake in these terrific events, but we were treated to a series of videos that told the story of how several members have made a place for community, service, faith, and others here at Grace.

We appreciate the wonderful energy around this vision, we are thrilled with the great response we have received so far, and we are encouraged as we look ahead to this vision being realized. Thank you for joining us on this journey of *making a place for grace*.

Peace,
Capital Campaign Team
Aarika Riddle, Chair

Timo Ahonen
Julie Buckley
Mark Cravens
Elizabeth Katz
Andrew Mellows

Don Ostrus
Erik Rausch
Mary Schlatter
Pastor Matt Smuts



Science and Food and Faith! Oh, my!

We have an exciting summer planned for our children grades Pre-K-5! Here is the schedule, please note locations.

- June 22 | Carol Patterson | Brown Hall
- June 29 | Kids Movie in the Chapel | Kirsten Baird | Congregational Meeting Day
- July 6 | Day Camp Sunday | Games in the Courtyard
- July 13 | Autumn Bea | Ed Wing
- July 20 | Cora Schumann | Brown Hall
- July 27 | Tina Basler and KidSing! with Tim Getz (*the children will help lead worship with a song for the 10:45 am worship*) | Brown Hall
- Aug 3 | Cora Schumann | Brown Hall
- Aug 10 | The Ritchies (Anne and Wyatt) | Brown Hall
- Aug 17 | Elizabeth Hood and KidSing! with Tim Getz (*the children will help lead worship with a song for the 10:45 am worship*) | Brown Hall



Animate Faith and Animate Bible

Middle School and High School Summer Sunday Faith Series

Over this summer we will offer a faith discussion series for our youth on Sunday mornings in the Youth Room at 9:45. Lots of different adults within the congregation will lead this series.

- June 22 | God Faith is a Quest | Wally Reiher
- June 29 | Genre: Rhythms of Text—Jose Morales
- July 6 | Outdoor Brunch | Elizabeth
- July 13 | Bible: A Book Like No Other—Lauren Winner
- July 20 | Testaments: One Story, Two Parts—Rachel Held-Evans
- July 27 | Grace: Love is the Bottom Line—Jay Bakker
- Aug 3 | History: Parchment to Pixel—Phyllis Tickle | Katy Siegel
- Aug 10 | Church: An Imperfect Family | Bruce Reyes Chow
- Aug 17 | Elizabeth



from TOP RIGHT

Quilters: Autumn Bea, Mary Schlatter, Joan Ferguson, Amrette Butler, Jan Curtis

High School Graduates: William Garvey, Angela Pomeroy, Sydney Williams, Eric Foelsch

Western States Youth Gathering: Hanging out with Bishop Mark Hanson

Confirmation Class 2014

TOP LEFT

Preschoolers at the May Fete Parade

BOTTOM LEFT

Day Camp at Grace 2014

A good time for a good book

Summer is a good time to find some time to relax with a good book. We're getting new books and media all the time. Watch for the covers to appear in the library window. The items themselves are on display on the desk in the library, with other recent items on display on the table just inside the door to your left. And we also keep a rotating selection on the cart in the narthex, where you can check something out right on the spot.

We have another book review from Jan Curtis to feature in this issue. ■

Mary Ashley,
Librarian

The Rocks Don't Lie: A Geologist Investigates Noah's Flood

by David R. Montgomery

I enjoyed this book very much. Its subject is the pretty basic, though complicated, geology of the formation of the earth over many millennia. The author takes exception to the Creationists among us, and takes us through the long history of natural science's interaction with faith, beginning with the ancient Greeks and Romans, on through the sixteenth to twentieth centuries, weaving the story of the arguments over whether Noah's Flood, from the Bible, was a world-wide catastrophe or a regional one. He contends, reasonably, that there have been many very bad regional floods, any of which could be considered "world-wide" by the people they affected.

The author begins with a massive flood in Tibet, followed by a chapter about his climb through the Grand Canyon, illustrated by little line drawings of the different rock layers he passed on the way up from the bottom, explaining just why a world-wide deluge could not have carved out the Grand Canyon, despite some Creationists' views.

Another chapter discusses plate tectonics, which I remember learning about in the mid-1950s, and that theory of how high mountains were formed. Earlier centuries apparently believed the high mountains were left over from Noah's Flood. Some Christians from the early centuries were offended by the Alps,

Montgomery says; to them, they were a very ugly sign of the brokenness of Creation, and surely not a result of God's pre-Flood creation of a beautiful, perfect Earth. It took a long time to begin to understand how fossils were actually laid down in places like the Alps, and to understand the layers of rock, some slanted at odd angles and in peculiar strata. I

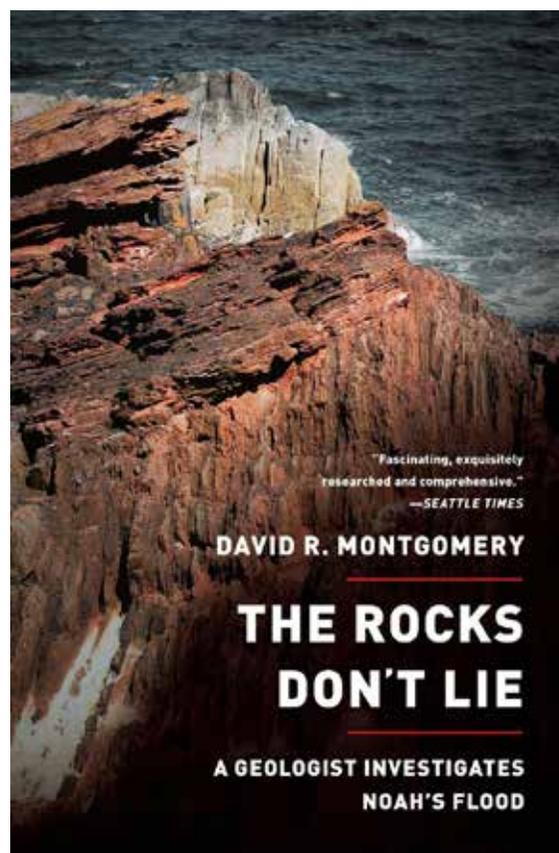
didn't know there are some fossils that have been found upside down! How could that be? He explains...

The massive deluges caused by the breaking of ice dams in rivers at the edges of the last glaciation was also something new to me; apparently there was a really huge flood in North America in ancient times, when a prehistoric lake situated between Hudson's Bay and the Great Lakes broke through its ice dam, in fact, several times over hundreds of years. Ice floats, Montgomery said, so these dams were bound to break eventually and often,

given enough time.

Montgomery tells a good tale, with evidence gathered from many different sources. The final chapter is titled "The Nature of Faith" with notes, sources, and an extensive index at the end of the book. I like footnotes.

Jan Curtis



Council Notes

Our Capital Campaign, making a place for grace, has begun! Praise God! Council has been busy this Spring hearing about and supporting the Capital Campaign Team in its work preparing for and running our campaign. We are extremely grateful for their faithful work, and especially for the generosity of our members who have pledged, as of this writing, over \$1.1 M for this project.

In addition to paying attention to progress on the capital campaign, Council has also kept an eye on our regular income/expenses, and regularly heard reports from Pastor Matt and Vicar Nikoli about what is happening both at Grace and within the wider ELCA body. In addition, we heard reports from the Youth Team and the Children's Education Committee.

In the midst of a busy season, Council also met for our annual Spring retreat, where we spent some time intentionally reflecting on the results of the CAT survey, completed by

members last December. This was our first chance to spend time together mulling over areas in our ministry where our members think our congregation is particularly strong, and areas where we could improve. In addition, as has been our custom recently, we reviewed self-evaluations from our committees, as they considered how their work resonates with our Identity and Guiding Principles statement, which was adopted in 2011.

Our annual Spring Congregational Meeting was held between services on Sunday, June 29. In addition to hearing updates about the ministries of our staff and committees, we also heard from the Capital Campaign Team and elected new council members.

Blessings,
 Maria Derrick, Grace Council President ■

COUNCIL

Dave Bohn

Julie Buckley

Nate Calhoun

Maria Derrick

Ray Ernenwein

Gail Foelsch

Twila Forbes

Sabine Kabel-Eckes

Holly Lucke

Don McElravy

Jim Schlatter

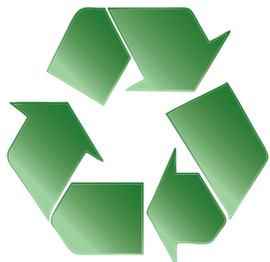
Katy Siegel

Time and Talent!



Gifts of time and talent are stewardship in action. The stewardship committee is grateful for and appreciative of the many Grace members who worked hard to make the Capital Campaign a success. Many more opportunities for gifts of time and talent lie ahead as we continue on the road of Making a Place for Grace!





Printed on 30% post consumer recycled paper

Sunday Worship
 8:30 & 10:45 am
 <<>><<>><<>><<>><<>>
 Also broadcast on Cable 30
 Sundays 11 am | 8:30 pm
 Mondays 12:30 pm

**Blessing of
 Backpacks
 & Bicycles**



**SUNDAY
 AUG. 17**



WATCH THE WEBSITE AND ENOTES FOR DETAILS!

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

Sunday, September 7

Rally Day kicks off Fall Programming!

Mark your calendars NOW!

