

A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Advent/Christmas 2016

Grace Notes

a place for you

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Matthew Smuts

pastormatt@gracepa.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Rev. Tuhina Verme Rasche

pastortuhina@gracepa.org

VISITATION PASTOR

Rev. Cora Scheel

pastorcora@gracepa.org

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Elizabeth Hood

elizabeth@gracepa.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Tim Getz

tim@gracepa.org

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Penny McDermott

preschool@gracepa.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Gretchen Rauch

office@gracepa.org

COPY EDITOR/COORDINATOR

Marie McElravy

publications@gracepa.org

Next Issue: Lent 2017

Publication Deadline: February 9, 2017

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



It's interesting to me that most people think of this as a Christmas hymn. I suppose it's primarily because most people in the world do not give Advent much thought, if they're even aware of it at all. Christmas is that time we celebrate Emmanuel (God with us) as historical event. It's a time that we think back to something God has already done. It's certainly akin to the successful delivery of a baby and the quiet sleep that follows with a full heart. Christmas is arrival, it is a profound milestone in the journey.

This article has been rolling around in my head while we all reflect on the recent election of our new President-elect Donald Trump. I am mindful that there are some here at Grace, in Palo Alto, and certainly across the country who are coming to this moment in time as if it were Christmas. It is done, the time has arrived. My prayer is that the best of their hopes for our country are realized and **that we may all work together** to ensure that those best things are celebrated and nurtured.

In truth, this great and ancient hymn is an Advent hymn. It is a cry for the arrival of Christ in the midst of deep darkness. This darkness is messy, aspirational, painful, hopeful...full of human kinds of things. In the time of Christ, there was great oppression and pain. He was born to a family who would soon be refugees, who sought to find a way in a hostile world.

I am mindful that in California, Palo Alto, and at Grace in particular, there are many who are feeling great Advent darkness following this election. Many are fearful, based on campaign rhetoric. I know that as a white, straight man that it is impossible for me to tell others that they have nothing to worry about. My prayer is that the worst of their fears for the future do not come to pass, and **that we may all work together** to ensure that those worst fears don't happen—by protecting those most vulnerable.

Peace to you in these days. Our congregation, the Body of Christ, is #aplaceforgrace for all people so **that we may all work together**. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Peace,

Rev. Matthew A. Smuts, Senior Pastor



page 4



page 8



page 13

APPROVED



page 9

contents

between

Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

HOW ARE THINGS IN BETHLEHEM?

Social Ministry raises funds for Dar al-Kalima University with a raffle full of fabulous prizes

TURKEY IN THE STRAW, I MEAN CLOSET

Dollars for Turkeys envelopes help provide Thanksgiving feasts for the hungry

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

Game day, service projects, and cookie exchanges—oh, my!

CHRISTMAS AT GRACE

Christmas Eve services at 4pm, 6pm, and 9pm. Christmas Day and New Year's Day at 10am.

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON...

Concerts galore - including to in the popular GraceNotes Live concert series

GRACE'S ENDOWMENT: MAKING A DIFFERENCE NOW

Through Heritage Fund grants, the endowment fund makes a difference NOW and in the future

MAKING A PLACE FOR GRACE

It's not too late to take part in *making a place for grace*

COVER PHOTO

Christmas at Grace 2015 by Elizabeth Hood

between

“Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.”

Text by Pastor Tuhina Verma Rasche

THE SEASON OF Advent deeply resonates in my bones. I think it is the liturgical season that so mirrors our present day as followers of Christ. We live in the between times, where we feel a sense of longing, anticipation, waiting, and hoping. With the preparation of the Christ child born within our midst over 2,000 years ago, how could we not want to be that close to God manifest in flesh and to have that personal and communal experience when God took on our form to know our very lives and experiences? At that same time, we wait for the resurrected Christ to come again, that second coming where the wrongs of the world will be righted, where the world as God created it in those first days of creation will return to such grace and peace.

Yet we find ourselves in the “in between” time of Christ being born within our midst and Christ coming again. This is the time when we cling to the rhythms of our liturgy and to our sacraments. When we gather together as Christian community and profess Christ among us through song, the Living Word, and the tactile elements of water, bread, and wine. We know that in these between times, Christ is with us, among us, feeding us, and working through us. May we always remember that Christ works through us. We may enter into difficult areas of conversation and being; may we hold one another in our differences, but may we also awaken to the needs of our neighbors around us in this season of waiting, watching, and yearning. ■

Rev. Tuhina Verma Rasche

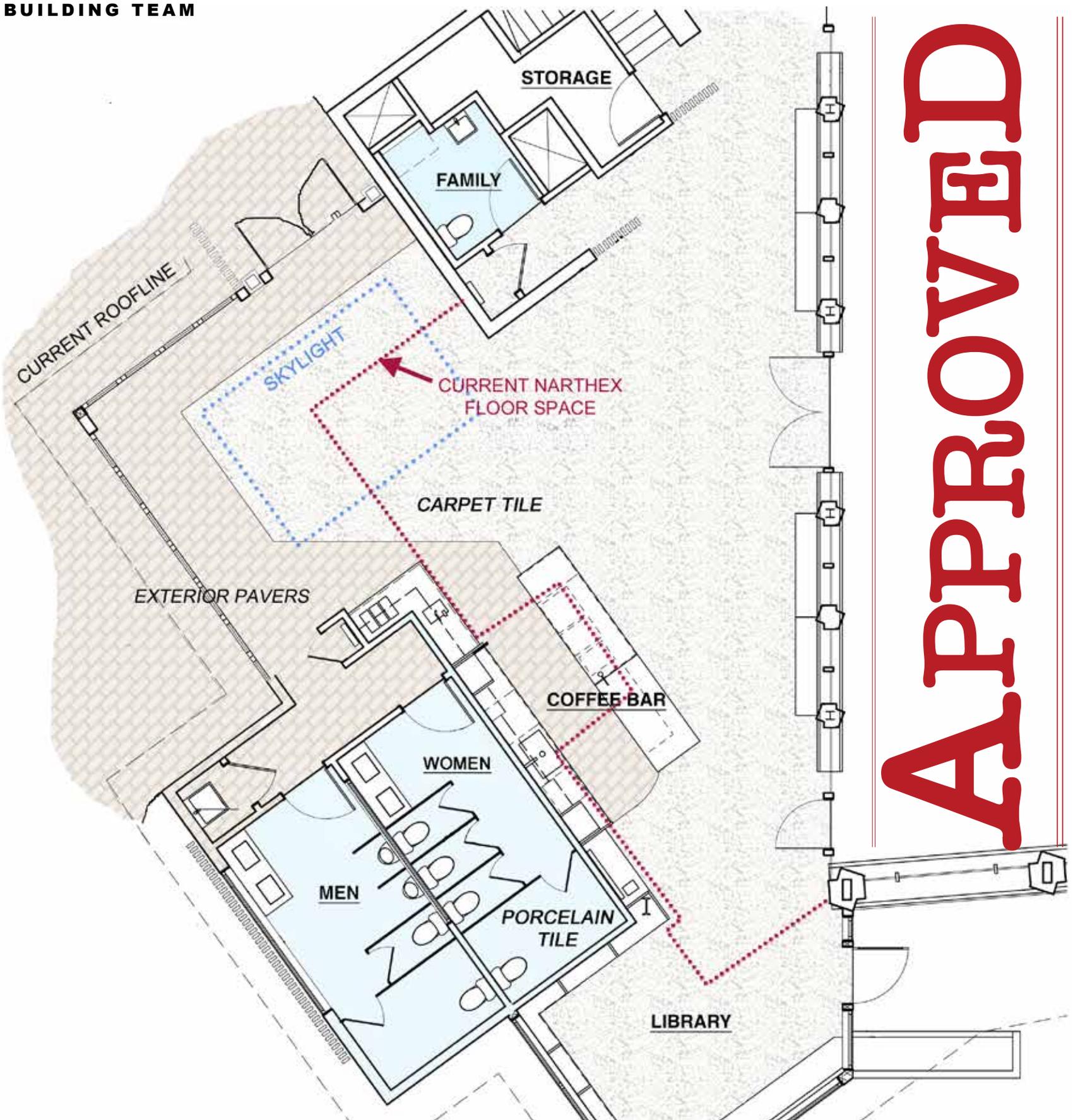
Photo Exhibition

The Social Ministry Committee is happy to be a sponsor of the first Karimeh Abboud Photography Award Exhibition in the San Francisco Bay Area. Twenty-two works by ten artists will be exhibited at churches in the Bay Area, starting with St. Mark's Lutheran Church's Heritage Hall on Sunday afternoon on December 4. The public is invited to enjoy the exhibit on Sunday afternoons from noon until 3 pm, and Wednesday evenings during Advent.

Sponsors include the Lutheran Chapel in Berkeley, Thrivent Financial, St. Mark's Lutheran in San Francisco, Grace Lutheran in Palo Alto, the Sam Mazza Foundation, Dr. Timothy L. Bridge of San Francisco, and Jan Carl Silverman of Artistry Printing of Los Gatos.

The ten young artists employ a diverse approach in storytelling and use different mediums to create expressions about society and life in current-day Palestine. They come from Gaza, historical Palestine, and the West Bank. Many have studied at Dar al Kalima University College of Arts and Culture, which is supported by Bright Stars of Bethlehem.

For more information, contact the members of the Social Ministry Committee: Bruce FitzGerald, Chair; Gary Bea, Joanie Caroon, Bill Cutler, Martha Meyer, Bob Northcott, Pastor Tuhina Rasche, and Jane Garvey (Council Liaison).



APPROVED

LAST MONTH'S (TEENSY) report testified to the City's approval for us to proceed with our narthex plan. So...what did the Planning Department actually approve?

There's inside stuff and outside stuff in our plan. The fun part is the inside stuff—the remodeled and expanded narthex. The outside stuff has both beautification aspects (landscaping the parking lot and the terrace bordering the narthex) and environmental aspects (capturing and treating all the water

runoff from our parking lot before it leaves our property). The "site" issues still have a lower fun factor than the narthex itself, though. Let's save the outside stuff for another time.

We have loved, nurtured, refined, and ultimately been forced to abandon two previous narthex designs over the past 18 months. The first design was squashed by the Historical Review person at City Hall as being too different from the current architecture. The second one envisioned some esthetically quite appealing features (an entrance through the brick wall, a loft with no center support post), but the projected costs of addressing the associated structural challenges turned out to be beyond our funding capacity. The Building Team whimpered and whined for a few days after being

ABOVE
Approved plan for the expanded Narthex space.

RIGHT
Indoor/Outdoor lines are blurred in the new design.

forced to say farewell to each of those earlier designs. That background of suffering has made the evolution of our current design all the sweeter. We hope you will like the taste of it, too.

The narthex design approved by our Team, our architect, and City Hall is shown in the accompanying diagram. It would require several pages to describe the details and rationale for all the various design elements—we'll leave that commentary for future direct presentations and conversations. For now, I'll just point out a few of the strong features related to the diagram:

- First and foremost, it's way more spacious than our current narthex. For comparison, the current usable floor area (i.e., not counting closets) is indicated by the red dotted line.
- It's way brighter than our current narthex. The exterior walls from the main entrance to the restroom block are *entirely glass*! The large skylight will provide both light and delightful shadows.
- Right now, all of our restroom facilities are cramped into the space labeled "Family" and "Storage" on the diagram. There will be lots more elbow room in the new space—not to mention hot water!
- We'll have hard, decorative flooring in areas that may get wet or messy (coffee bar, drinking fountain/bottle filler, trash receptacles, terrace outside). The "walk, talk, and sit" areas will have carpet tiles for comfort and durability. (Pay no attention to the colors on the diagram; they simply distinguish the materials.)

- Are you inside or outside? One becomes the other in our new narthex space. The glass walls mentioned earlier can fold completely to the side as shown in the second diagram. The narthex flows out to the terrace, and the terrace flows back into the narthex. That blending occurs even with the glass walls closed—the outdoor pavers creep underneath the walls and spread along the floor, beckoning us to bring a cup of coffee outside. (For the lemonade lovers, the cart will be kept in its "garage" beneath the coffee bar island and, weather permitting, will be rolled out to the terrace for serving.)

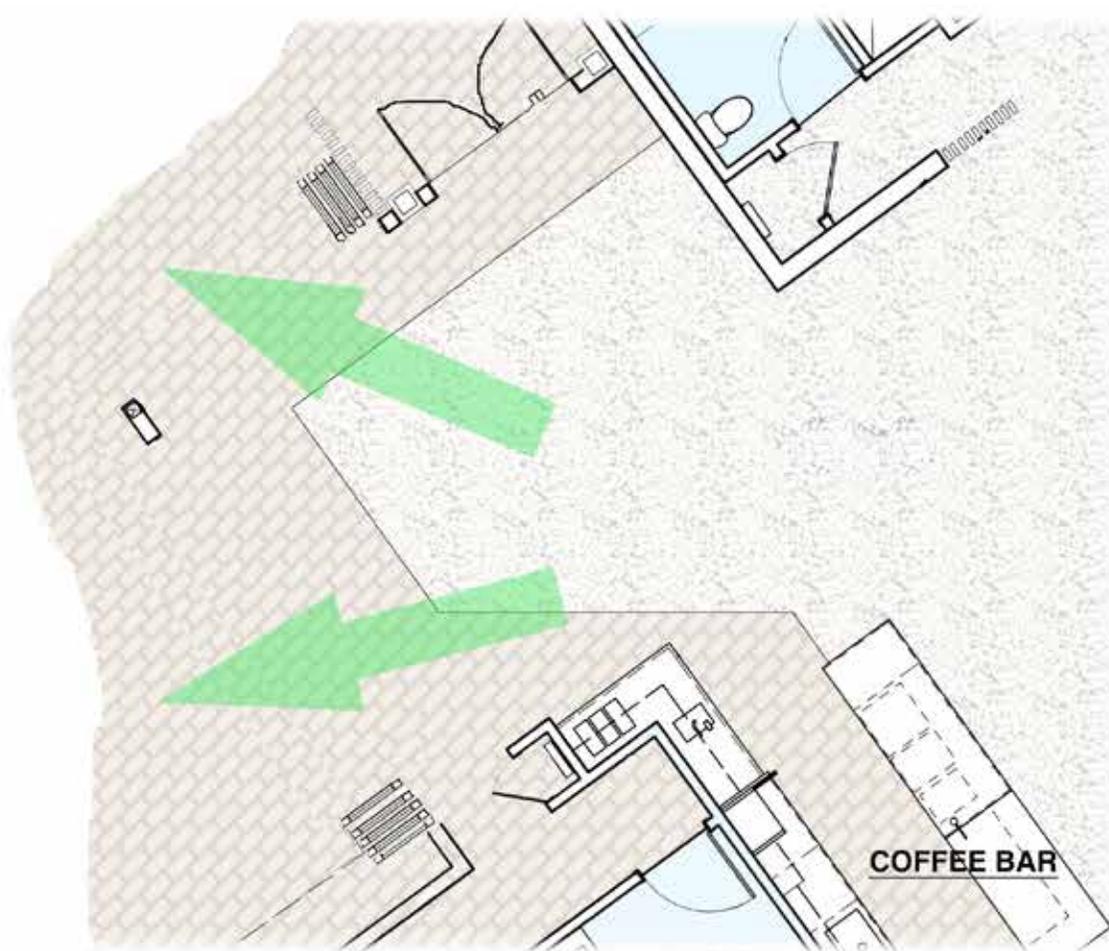
There are myriad details yet to consider: Where are electrical outlets needed? How should we heat the space? Can we heat it without needing to heat up the entire sanctuary in the bargain? What are the best options for appliances? What materials, fabrics, and colors shall we choose? Do we really need hot water?

(JUST KIDDING! No need to ask—there will be *plenty* of hot water in the new facility.)

We'll keep you posted on progress as we move further into the nitty gritty of nailing down the particulars. If you have questions in the meantime, don't hesitate to flag down one of the Team members. Our next major objective is to prepare detailed specifications that we can use to solicit bids from potential contractors and builders for our project. Obviously, we need a project that Grace can afford to complete. If you have space on your prayer list, an extra mention in the highest of places regarding the efforts of the Building Team would be appreciated. ■

Thanks,

Jim and the Building Team





Advent to Epiphany Raffle for Dar al-Kalima

Thanks to the generosity of members and friends of Grace Lutheran, the Social Ministry Committee will have these outstanding items for our annual Advent to Epiphany Raffle.

- Sailing for a Day on the Bay: thanks to Dimitry and Lois Holl
- "La Boheme" tickets for two to the San Francisco Opera on Sunday afternoon, June 25, 2017: thanks to Nelda Kilguss
- Apple AirPad 2 - 9.7 in: thanks to Russ and Mara Yarp
- Docent Tour of the Mazza Castle in Pacifica for 20 people, includes wine reception: thanks to Jeanette Cool, Executive Director of the Sam Mazza Foundation
- Modern Quilt or Wall Hanging in autumn colors: handcrafted by Autumn Bea
- A Case of Customized Peacock wines: thanks to Lois and Gordon Peacock

The tickets are \$10 for one ticket, or \$25 for three tickets. The drawing will take place at the Mazza Castle on Epiphany Sunday, January 8th. Winners need not be present for the drawing. The beneficiary of this raffle will be the Scholarship Fund at Dar al-Kalima University, College of Arts and Culture, in Bethlehem, Palestine.

Any questions? Contact marthameyer@sbcglobal.net or Autumn Bea and Gary Bea at adbea6@gmail.com

Turkeys and the Food Closet

The food closet board voted at the last meeting that we would continue to give out Safeway gift cards for our families so they can select items of their choice for holiday meals. (Not everyone likes or can use an entire turkey.) Grace has always been so very generous at this time of year with financial donations for this purpose.

You will find the "Dollar\$ for Turkey\$" envelopes in the pews for your convenience. Make your checks out to Grace, and then the total will be sent to the food closet. We thank you in advance for supporting these holiday gifts. ■



Each year we partner with Ecumenical Hunger Project (EHP) to provide Christmas presents for families who might not otherwise receive any.

To participate in the Angel Tree Project:

1. *Between November 27 and December 11, pick up tags from the Angel Tree in the narthex*
2. ***You must sign out the tags that you take so that we know who has which tags!***
3. *Please select and purchase one or two gifts per person. In order to be sure that family members receive roughly equivalent gifts, plan to spend about \$30-\$50, total, per person.*
4. ***Wrap your gift and securely attach the gift tag.*** *Gift cards can be placed in a sealed envelope, with the gift tag securely attached. Gift receipts are welcome, as they facilitate exchanges, but are not required.*
5. ***Please deliver your gift(s) to church NO LATER than Sunday, December 18, so that they can be delivered on time.***
6. *Keep the second gift tag (with gift ideas) at home, as a reminder to pray for that person during the holidays.*

Thank you for your generous demonstration of God's love!

There is hope and expectation in the beautiful story that has been told over and over for thousands of years. A story about a refugee family looking for a place to stay and welcoming a precious baby boy into the world: a baby who would bring us God, a baby who would be God with us. That God would choose to come to this earth as a helpless baby, as an innocent baby, as pure love—says so much about our God—and how God chooses joy in a world that would hunt him down and crucify him on the cross. God sent a baby into a world with King Herod, and so many other enemies, a dangerous and unsafe world. It doesn't sound too different from what we see around us now. We aren't called to safe, easy lives. We live in a dangerous world. We aren't called to live in fear, but to choose love. God chose joy and love when he gave us Jesus.

In this season we wait with hope. We wait in the darkness of the winter. We wait for the light of joy: love and light of Jesus' birth. But as we wait, how are we making room for Jesus? How are we welcoming the stranger, the refugee, the immigrant? If we just wait, we miss the point. If we just wait, but don't prepare, we miss out. If we just wait and don't welcome, we miss experiencing the full expression of humanity. We are responsible for making sure there is room at the table for everyone, and that there isn't just an empty seat, but that we fling open our doors and welcome people in.

How will you wait and prepare this season? ■

Elizabeth Hood

Preparing

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



**ELCA YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
AT LUTHERIDGE IN NORTH CAROLINA**

-Elizabeth Hood

Earlier in November, I was selected, with two youth from the Sierra Pacific Synod, to attend the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in North Carolina. We gathered with more than 100 other youth and adults from all over the US to learn and grow our leadership skills. The director of Youth Ministry for the ELCA, the Director of Worship, and the Director of Youth Gathering were all there. One main item they talked about was all the different areas of ministries in the ELCA. The youth really loved learning this! We learned about ELCA World Hunger and Young Adults in Global Mission.

Our synod has a Youth Committee that leads and plans three retreats over the year. Theresa Landi is the youth representative to the synod council, Inger Smuts is the president, and I serve as the district's adult representative. We work very hard throughout the year, have planning retreats, and attend synod assembly where the youth have a vote. It is a really wonderful way for the youth to grow as leaders in their faith and in their communities.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are in full swing and we would love for you to join us for Sunday School! We meet every Sunday in the Sanctuary at 9:45 am for Sunday School Opening. (Sunday School will not meet on December 25 or January 1.)

We are currently starting to sing and rehearse for our Christmas Program—a brand NEW program called Child of God! We will perform this only once, on Sunday December 11 between church services, so make sure you come and see them that day!!

**Saturday, December 10 | 10 am
Christmas Program Rehearsal in the sanctuary**

**Sunday, December 11 | 10 am
Performance (Meet in Brown Hall at 9:45 am)**

SAVE THE DATE

July 10-14, 2017 | Day Camp at Grace

Save the date for summer fun and faith! Online registration begins in January.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

December 17 | Christmas Service Project and Party

We will gather to do some good, working all together on a service project, then transition into a "Gift Exchange Party"! This year we are doing a Christmas Sock Exchange! Everyone will bring a fun/crazy/creative pair of socks stuffed with inexpensive gifts (less than \$10) and we will draw numbers to pick socks! It will be a blast! Bring a friend, and have them bring a "Sock Gift."

Youth Group meets every Wednesday at 7 pm except December 28 and January 4.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRIES

December 11 | Middle School Family Cookie Day!

Bring your whole family along, we will have lots of fun! We will gather in Brown Hall on Sunday afternoon from 12 to 2 pm to decorate Christmas cookies to share with local firefighters in thanks for their service to our community. ALL are welcome!

We just had a great Middle School Retreat at Mt. Cross, put on by the Synod Youth Committee! Inger, Theresa, and I all helped plan and lead the event. Youth from Grace attended, and it was a blast. The theme was "Let your heart have courage! Be Brave"

WOMEN OF GRACE

**December 18 | 6 pm
Christmas Cookie Exchange and Wine Party**

Join us for a cozy evening in, at the home of Mary Cravens, we will provide hot apple cider and wine, and you bring the cookies! Bring 2-3 dozen cookies, you can bunch them up in small packs so they are easy to trade or just bring them hot off the cookie sheet. Either way we will eat lots of cookies and bring a bunch of cookies home!

And mark your calendar now for the:



Sunday, February 12 | 12 PM

All Girls, Ladies, Friends, and Sisters are welcome to an afternoon tea with snacks, crafts, and fun in Brown Hall. Bring a friend and be sure not to miss out! ■

**DATES FOR
DECEMBER**

**DECEMBER 4
Mentor Sunday**

**DECEMBER 10
Saturday:
Christmas Program
Rehearsal (10 am)
Sanctuary**

**DECEMBER 11
Sunday: Cookie
Decorating Project
(12-2 pm)
Brown Hall**

**DECEMBER 11
Sunday School
Christmas Program
(10 am)
Sanctuary**

**DECEMBER 17
Saturday: High
School Service
and Fun Night—
Christmas Sock
Exchange**

**DECEMBER 18
Sunday: Women
of Grace Christmas
Cookie Exchange
and Wine Party
(6 pm)
Cravens Home
271 Iris Way
Palo Alto 94303**

**DECEMBER 24
Saturday:
Christmas Eve
Family Worship
(4 pm)
Sanctuary**



4:00 pm • 6:00 pm • 9:00 pm | December 24

Christmas at Grace

10:00 am | Sunday, December 25

10:00 am | Sunday, January 1

Welcome to Christmas at Grace! This year, our services will be fairly similar to one another at 4 pm, 6 pm, and 9 pm. While similar, they will not be the same. The 4 pm service will feature our children's choir and have youth and children in other roles as well. The 6 pm service will include the chancel choir, bell choir, and instrumentalists, and members of the chancel choir and instruments will return at 9 pm. We invite you into the warmth of Christmas as we gather in candlelight and celebrate the birth of Jesus in song and prayer!

Worship continues on Christmas morning with a service at 10 am. We are very excited about these opportunities and look forward to seeing you on Christmas Eve and Day!

The Light of the World

As Christians, we have entered the season of Advent and will soon transition to Christmas and Epiphany. We are at the very beginning of our journey through the church's liturgical calendar where we anticipate, then celebrate, the birth of baby Jesus, followed with adoration by the Magi, who manifest the word of His birth.

The first twelve weeks of the church's new year are the subject of Adult Forum this winter season. With shorter, darker days, and cooler temperatures, the light that Christ brings into our hearts and homes is a welcoming thought.

All are invited to attend the Adult Forum! Although the Sunday morning time is scheduled from 9:45-10:30 am, you can arrive late, after you finish previous responsibilities, or leave a little early to fulfill other commitments. ■



OUR HYMNAL MARATHON in October was a lot of fun on many levels. Playing every hymn in the hymnal was a great personal challenge for me, and it was gratifying to have so many people who love singing come to experience it. Perhaps its greatest gift to me, though, was the discovery of many, many wonderful songs I had either forgotten or never really known before. Several of these new discoveries have been sprinkled into our worship this fall already, and there are more to come. One that we will sing during Advent seems particularly appropriate given the extraordinary challenges the world has faced in 2016. “Light Dawns on a Weary World” is by Mary Louise Bringle (b. 1953), a Presbyterian from North Carolina. The text speaks not of present reality, but of hope for a better future. The text is inspired by passages from the book of Isaiah. In an essay in *The Hymn* (Autumn 2006), Bringle writes: “Isaiah’s vision (is) of a truly just community—one in which harmonious relationships are restored not only among human beings but also between humans and the natural world.”

*Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people’s dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.*

*The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

*Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children’s dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.*

*The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

*Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures once forlorn
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.*

*The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.*

Group singing has long been known as a means of creating community, which is one of the reasons it is so essential to the experience of worship. I pray that the words and melodies we sing this Advent and Christmas season bring all of us into closer relationship with the incarnate God in Christ, and with each other. May this gift of community, in turn, inspire us to be God’s hands in this weary world. ■



Tim Getz,
Director of Music Ministry



Saturday, December 3 | 4 pm

Messiah Sing-along

Christmas portion plus selected other sections

With no rehearsal, but only a spirit of adventure, anyone who wants to sing along with our choir will be most welcome. We will have scores available, but bring your own if you have one!

Directed by **Scot Hanna-Weir**

Conductor of the the choirs at Santa Clara University and the Santa Clara Chorale



Wise AND Foolish Virgins
with Orchestra Gloria

Soli Deo Gloria
Allen H Simon
Artistic Director

Featuring Bach's Cantata 140, "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"

Christa Pfeiffer, soprano
Robert Stafford, baritone

Sunday, December 4, 3:30 p.m.
Grace Lutheran, Palo Alto

SV SILICON VALLEY BOYCHOIR
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, JULIA SIMON

A Winter's Night

Works by Mendelssohn, Vivaldi, Bob Chilcott, and John Rutter
featuring boys and young men from
Cupertino, Los Altos, Menlo Park, Mountain View,
Palo Alto, Redwood City, Santa Clara, and Sunnyvale

Catherine Doyle • Kaia Richards
Allen Simon • Julia Simon, conductors
Brian Connor, pianist

Saturday, December 10, 2016 • 4:00 pm
Grace Lutheran Church • Palo Alto
3149 Waverley St. & Loma Verde
General \$15 • Student/Senior \$10 • under 5 free
Tickets at the door • svboychoir.org

The Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra
Frederic Palmer, Director
Greta Haug-Hryciw, Assistant Director

A Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 11, 2:30 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church
3149 Waverley St., Palo Alto
Admission Free

The program will feature the canzona La Spiritata by Giovanni Gabrieli, three settings of the Renaissance melody, Fortuna Desperata, an instrumental arrangement of the popular French song La Mer with Jay Kreuzer, harmonica, a movement from Vivaldi's Concerto R. V. 581 with Gregor Dainaghi and Hilary Port soloists and the suite La Joie by Georg Philipp Telemann.

The location of this concert is wheelchair accessible. The Mid-Peninsula Recorder Orchestra is an affiliate of the San Francisco Early Music Society. For further information please visit our website at mpro-online.org or call Frederic Palmer at 650-591-8648.



Sunday, January 8 | 3 pm

Sonos Handbell Ensemble

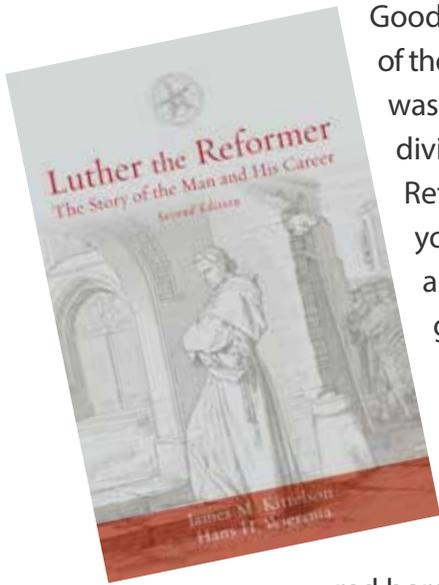
A Concert for Twelfth Night

Just back from their 18 day concert tour of Japan, Sonos brings a blend of holiday favorites, classical masterpieces, and Asian folk music to this concert for Twelfth Night.

Directed by **James Meredith**



The Key to the Library: Where do I find what?



Good news! We have purchased half a dozen copies of the new second edition of *Luther the Reformer* that was featured in the last Grace Notes. The copies are divided between the cart in the narthex and the Reformation/Luther 500 display in the library. If you borrow one, please be sure to check it out and keep the loan to three weeks, so everyone gets a chance to read it.

Have you looked at all the Luther 500 materials on display in the library? They are located in the middle of the south wall (to the right as you come in) on two shelves outlined with a red border. You'll find books, videos, and some magazines. Items are all available to check out for up to three weeks.

You might also stop by the library to look at our display of Advent and Christmas materials. Lots of Christmas stories for children, activity books, craft suggestions, Advent and Christmas devotions, and some videos and music as well.

Mary Ashley

You might wonder how to find books if they aren't in a special display. The Grace Library has its own classification system, developed more than 50 years ago when the library was first established. The letters of the alphabet are assigned subject categories. Some letters have sub-categories. Within categories or sub-categories, books are arranged by author. There is a key to letters and categories posted on the cabinet door. So go to A for autobiographies, biographies and memoirs, B and B-2 for Bibles and related dictionaries, concordances, commentaries and interpretations, C for (church) history, CB for children's books, etc. AV material is shelved on a free-standing "spinner" to the left of the door.

If you'd like to get more involved with the library, there are many opportunities to help out. Write a book review for Grace notes, barcode books, manage circulation, arrange displays, read book reviews, and research new purchases. If you are interested, please contact me at meashley@pacbell.net or call 650-494-1829. ■

Deadline for Heritage Fund Grant Requests

As is our custom, the Endowment Committee is accepting requests from Grace members and committees for funding from our Heritage Fund. This Fund, valued at more than \$300,000, makes grants for Grace-related programs that are not in the church budget, including community projects in which our members are involved.

In the past we have funded Grace youth programs, community programs like Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition, and international programs such as Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem and Lutheran World Federation.

Request forms are available in the church office. The deadline for consideration is December 31. We anticipate having about \$12,000 available for grants in 2017. If you have any questions about this, please contact Dan Logan at danlog100@hotmail.com, or Martha Meyer at marthameyer@sbcglobal.net. ■

Year's End

We are getting to that busy time of the year when the kids are "super" excited and the adults are frantically trying to ensure that everything on their checklists is complete. I am sure each of us has a lot that needs to be done before we can ring in a new year. But the Stewardship Committee wants to take a minute to thank you for your incredible generosity this year. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure allow us to continue God's mission in a meaningful way.

Before year end, take a minute to review your contributions. Are you on track to meet your pledge commitment? If you received an unexpected bonus this year, or are exploring ways to reduce your 2016 taxes, consider an additional contribution prior to December 31. And remember contributions to Grace can be taken as an itemized deduction on your tax return. Any questions? Contact Marilyn Aden (csomba@aol.com) and Carol Ezrati (crutlen@rutlen.com). ■



Council Notes

Nate Calhoun
Grace Council President

As we move into the beginning of the new church year, the council is excited about the progress on the planning for the new narthex. After many bumps in the road and countless revisions, we are finally approaching the end of the planning process with city of Palo Alto and hopefully will have final approval from the planning department very soon. From there, we will move on to the building department where we will work through the details of how to execute the approved plans.

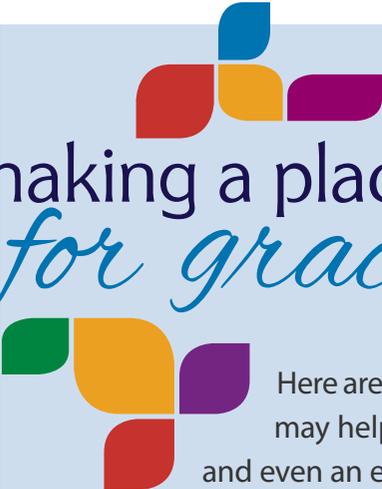


planning phase is a significant milestone that could only have been achieved with the tireless efforts and creativity of the building team and our architect. At some point in the near future, there will be a congregational meeting to confirm both the plans and financing for the project.

While we still have a number of steps to go before construction can begin, the completion of the

The timing is uncertain, but there is the possibility that things could start to happen quickly once we can officially move beyond the planning phase, so look for more updates to come! njccalhoun@hotmail.com. ■

- Kimberly Badtke
FINANCE
- Nate Calhoun, President
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION
- Mary Cravens
ENDOWMENT
- Gail Foelsch
PRESCHOOL, BUILDING
- Jane Garvey
SOCIAL MINISTRY
- Elise Grangaard
STEWARDSHIP
- Sabine Kabel-Eckes
ADULT ED
- Holly Lucke
PERSONNEL
- Don McElravy
PROPERTY
- Ryan Riddle, Vice President
WORSHIP & MUSIC
- Jim Schlatter
BUILDING TEAM
- Katy Siegel, Secretary
YOUTH MINISTRY



making a place for grace

If you haven't participated in the *making a place for grace* capital campaign yet, it is not too late! Or perhaps you are interested in making an additional gift to the campaign--that is great, too!

Here are some frequently asked questions that may help you in deciding how to participate, and even an envelope to make it easier!

- When does the giving period end?
Responses for the *making a place for grace* capital appeal will continue through June 30, 2017.
- Can we give in ways other than cash?
Absolutely! You are encouraged to think of other assets in addition to cash gifts. For many people, this is an appealing way to give. Giving stocks, CDs, bonds, property, or other appreciated assets as a charitable donation can provide tax benefits for you. If you would like to discuss these opportunities, you may contact either your financial advisor or our Kairos and Associates consultant, Kristin Wiersma, at (651) 815-1516.
- How does my gift to *making a place for grace* affect my annual giving to Grace's ongoing ministry?
It doesn't! Your *making a place for grace* gift is a new and totally separate commitment, above and beyond what you give to Grace's ongoing ministry needs.
- Will my response be kept confidential and not shared with the entire church?
Yes. While giving is not completely anonymous, giving is treated with confidentiality, and your gift to the *making a place for grace* capital appeal will be known by only a select few in the church office and leadership team. Just as we do with annual gifts for the operating budget, we know this information is personal and sensitive and we will treat it as such.
- How much should I give?
Pray about what amount would represent a generous sacrificial gift to the *making a place for grace* appeal and would reflect your commitment to the future vision of Grace Lutheran Church.
- What will happen after this appeal is completed in June?
The amount raised in this first campaign will determine the amount we will need to raise in a follow-up campaign to help service/reduce our debt, tackle major maintenance, and, God willing, pursue new dreams!
- What if I have additional questions?
Feel free to talk with the capital campaign team members, members of church council, or Pastor Matt Smuts. Pastor Matt can be reached at pastormatt@gracepa.org or (650) 494-1212. ■

3149 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94306
650.494.1212



www.gracepa.org

Grace Lutheran Church



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



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.
www.elca.org



4:00 pm • 6:00 pm • 9:00 pm | December 24

Christmas at Grace

10:00 am | Sunday, December 25

10:00 am | Sunday, January 1