

A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lent 2017

GraceNotes

a place for you

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Recognized

but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. Luke 24:16



Perhaps you have seen videos of people so intent on their phones that they have stumbled or knocked in to something. It can be funny when it's not us, but it is telling that we are constantly being bombarded by messages that crowd out any other awareness. Often we are bombarded by media trying to shade our view of the world around us. In Walter Brueggeman's book, *Sabbath as Resistance*, he suggests that these forces in society have a corrosive effect on how we view our neighbor. Instead of being the people we are called to love, they become our competitors and

enemies...people to be feared. All of this happening in the face of immigration raids, refugee clamp downs, and uncertainty about the world at large makes us anxious, fearful, and longing for hope.

Right after that first Easter, while the resurrection was still uncertain, Jesus ran into two disciples on the road to Emmaus. However, they didn't recognize him through their tears as the world and their lives seemed profoundly hopeless and fearful. It is when Jesus broke bread with them that their eyes were opened and they recognized him. Every week, we gather for that same bread. We recognize those around us as sisters and brothers and recognize Christ in our midst. This rhythmic life in Christ gives us that hope to see Christ in our neighbors. This holy communion binds us to Christ in ways that take away our fear and lead us to service of neighbor.

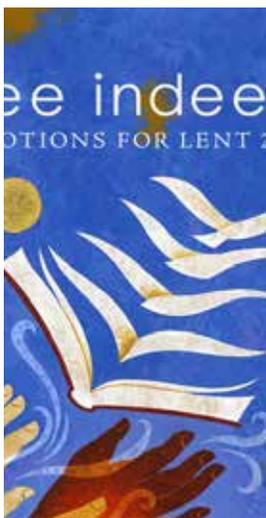
May you see Christ in your neighbor this holy season, and may you see God's neighbors as your neighbors.

Peace,

Rev. Matthew A. Smuts, Senior Pastor



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COVER PHOTO

Lent 2016 by Elizabeth Hood & Matt Smuts



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

What is Triduum?

Text by Tim Getz, Triduum art from *Sundays and Seasons* ©2006 Used by permission.



Make regular attendance at worship an important part of your Lenten practice. In addition to Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 10:45 am, we will worship every Wednesday during this season. On Ash Wednesday, March 1, we practice an extended form of Confession, and receive ashes on our foreheads as a reminder of our mortality. We also celebrate Holy Communion as the ever-present reminder of God's forgiveness. Services are at Noon and 7:00 pm. On each of the succeeding Wednesdays in Lent, we will sing Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm. This year we are trying out a new musical setting by Aaron David Miller that is reminiscent of the beloved Holden Evening Prayer. Soup suppers will be served at 6:15 pm. Finally, make plans to observe Maundy Thursday, April 13; Good Friday, April 14; the Vigil of Easter, April 15; and the Day of Resurrection itself, April 16. See you in church!

The week culminating with Easter Sunday celebrates the central event of our Christian faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The great "Three Days," or the *Triduum*, are really one extended celebration of this central event. In our worship this week, we do not simply recall events of the past; rather, we commit ourselves afresh to Christ and share anew in his saving death and resurrection.

Thursday, April 13, is Maundy Thursday. The word “Maundy” comes from a Latin word which means “command.” The service is centered around Jesus’ new commandment to “love one another as I have loved you.” We receive individual forgiveness of our sins, ending the discipline of Lent. Those who choose may participate in the washing of feet, Jesus’ sign of selfless love. Together we celebrate the Holy Communion, instituted by Christ on the night before he died. Those who have been preparing for first communion will commune with us for the first time. Children and youth are involved throughout the worship experience, including the foot washing, communion, and individual absolution. Last year, the children of Grace washed the feet of the adults— and it was beautiful to see them experiencing Jesus in this way! The service ends in darkness and silence as we prepare ourselves for Good Friday, the most solemn day of the year. The service will begin at 7:00 pm and last a little over an hour.

Friday, April 14, is Good Friday. What’s so “good” about it? This is the day we receive God’s greatest gift. Our Lord died on the cross to save us all from our own deaths. We will hear again the story of his passion and death from the Gospel of John. We will pray together and reflect in silence. We will be startled by the starkness of his death. This service is important in understanding Easter, and can be a great conversation starter for you and your family. Services are at Noon and 7:00 pm.

Saturday, April 15. This is the night! Easter is the Christian Passover, and tonight we “pass over” from darkness to light, from death to life. The service is in four parts, beginning outdoors in the courtyard with a Service of Light. We gather at a burning campfire, the Paschal (Easter) candle is lit, in the dusk its candlelight is passed to each person, and a hymn of praise to God for the light is led by the cantor.

Next comes the Service of Readings. In ancient times this was a true “vigil:” stories of God’s saving acts throughout history were told all night long, as the people waited for the rising sun, their assurance of the

Resurrection. At our vigil service, we sit in the intimate space of the chapel and listen to four stories from the Old Testament, creatively expressed and accompanied by prayers and hymns.

The third part of the vigil is the Service of Holy Baptism. Easter has long been associated with baptism and new life in Christ. We move to the font and hear a reading from the book of Romans describing Baptism as the Christian’s dying and rising with Christ. This is one of the most powerful acts in all of the Easter Vigil. All the readings we have heard thus far lead up to this moment. We all renew our own Baptismal vows and are symbolically sprinkled with water from the font.

Suddenly, all the lights in the church come on, and the fourth part of the service begins! We hear the Good News of our Lord’s resurrection, sing songs of joy, and celebrate the feast of his Supper. We depart with joyful Alleluias. The Easter Vigil, rich with meaning and symbolism, lasts about 1 ½ hours. We end the evening back at the campfire, making s’mores. Bring the whole family for a great night of adventure! The service begins at 7:44 pm, the moment of sunset, on Saturday, April 15.

On Sunday, April 16, our celebration continues at 8:30 and 10:45 am with choir, organ, and brass leading us in singing Easter’s songs of joy. We hear again the resurrection story and share again in Holy Communion. The story is complete! Alleluia! Jesus is risen!

Easter breakfast: 9:00-10:30 am Easter Sunday. Fresh fruit, breakfast casseroles, delicious pancakes, hot coffee and tea. \$5/person, \$20/family. Youth fundraiser

Easter Egg Hunt between worship services. Meet in Brown Hall to start the hunt! 10:00 am—children 5 years and younger. 10:15 am—children 6 years and older. ■

A Lot to Think About

IN SEVERAL RECENT issues of Grace Notes, you have seen diagrams and read commentaries about our design for a more spacious and more welcoming new narthex that will provide a pleasant experience for all who step into that space. Unfortunately, your actual first impression of Grace Lutheran Church is not stepping into the narthex—it is turning your car into our parking lot. Ugh! We have patched and recoated the crumbling asphalt surface over the years, but it is clearly long overdue for a total makeover. That is why the parking lot is an important element (and expense!) of our current building project.

So, what's the big deal about the parking lot? Can't we simply apply another inch of asphalt and repaint the parking stripes? Read on! Once you have the City of Palo Alto's attention focused on your project, you are subject to all the regulations that apply to all the work being done. To our surprise and chagrin, the parking lot has spiraled up to be more challenging to get permitted than the narthex. To see why, start by checking out the diagram of our Existing Parking Layout. How many of the twelve numbered deficiencies had you spotted? (The first three are the easy ones—they get less obvious after that.)

A Dozen Deficiencies

LAYOUT

1. The asphalt is broken and uneven, causing puddles (ponds?) and poor drainage.
2. There isn't room to expand the narthex, along with its adjacent terrace.
3. The traffic flow is confusing. You cannot access all the parking spaces without exiting and re-entering the lot. If a visitor inadvertently enters the center drive, he is doomed.
4. The parking arrangement leaves some "leftover" areas unused.

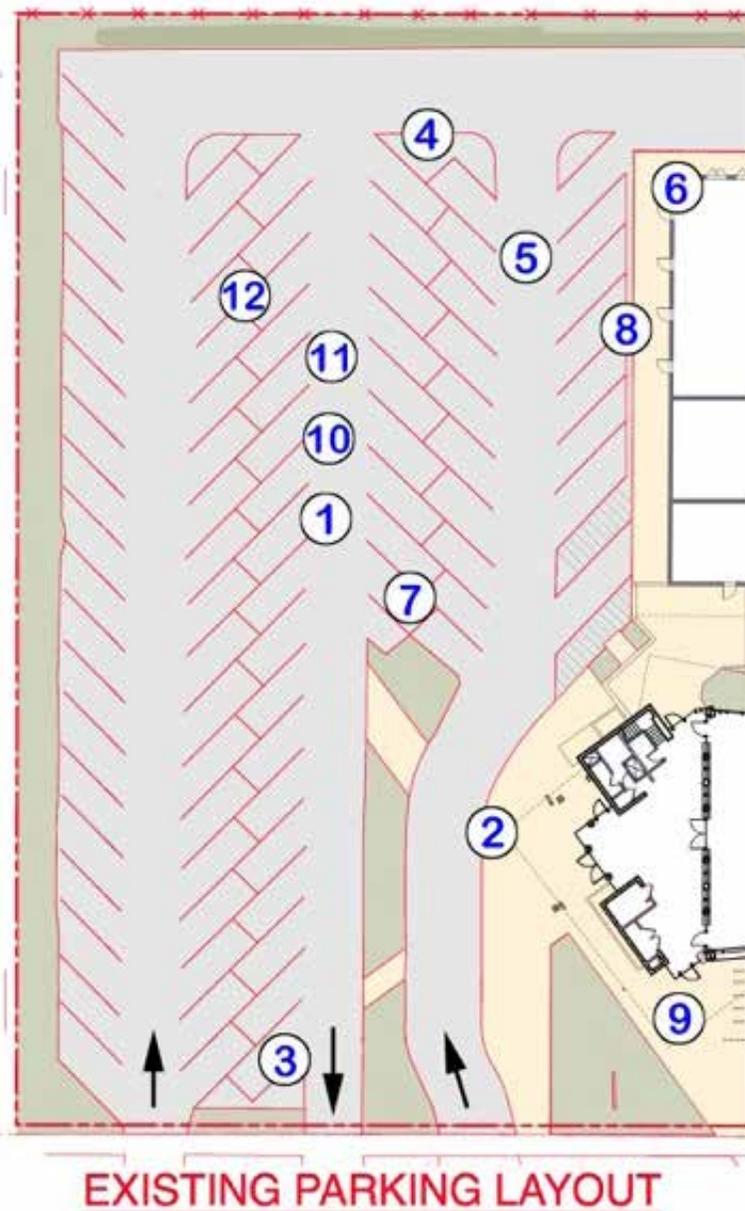
SAFETY

5. Narrow aisles and tight turns prevent access for fire engines.
6. The nearest fire hydrant (corner of Waverley and Loma Verde) is more than 300 feet away from this corner of the building. Fire trucks typically carry only 125 feet of hose line.
7. Lighting is inadequate for safe access to your vehicle after dark.
8. Children exiting classrooms are only a few feet from moving cars.

REGULATIONS

9. Impermeable concrete surfaces (shown in beige) are undesirable because they route the rainwater runs into the storm drains, rather than into the ground.
10. There is insufficient shade to minimize the "heat island" effect.
11. Rainwater (excepting the puddles!) drains from the parking lot into storm drains.
12. As if the 11 items above weren't enough in themselves, the City declared that they all must be corrected WITH NO NET LOSS OF OUR 82 PARKING SPACES!

Accommodating this multidimensional collection of requirements involved several meetings with City staffers, relentless creativity by our architects, and many drafts. The final Proposed Parking Layout successfully addressed all the regulatory demands and was granted approval. Specifically, with respect to the Proposed Layout diagram:



ABOVE
Existing Parking Layout.

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

A Dozen Remedies

LAYOUT

1. The existing asphalt will be pulverized in place to avoid waste hauling. When blended with the underlying material, it forms a base for applying the fresh asphalt layer on top.
2. The right-hand driveway will be shifted to accommodate the narthex and terrace.
3. The three one-way driveways will be reduced to two two-way entrances. Either one will provide access to all parking spaces in the lot.
4. The revised configuration has no unused "dead zones".

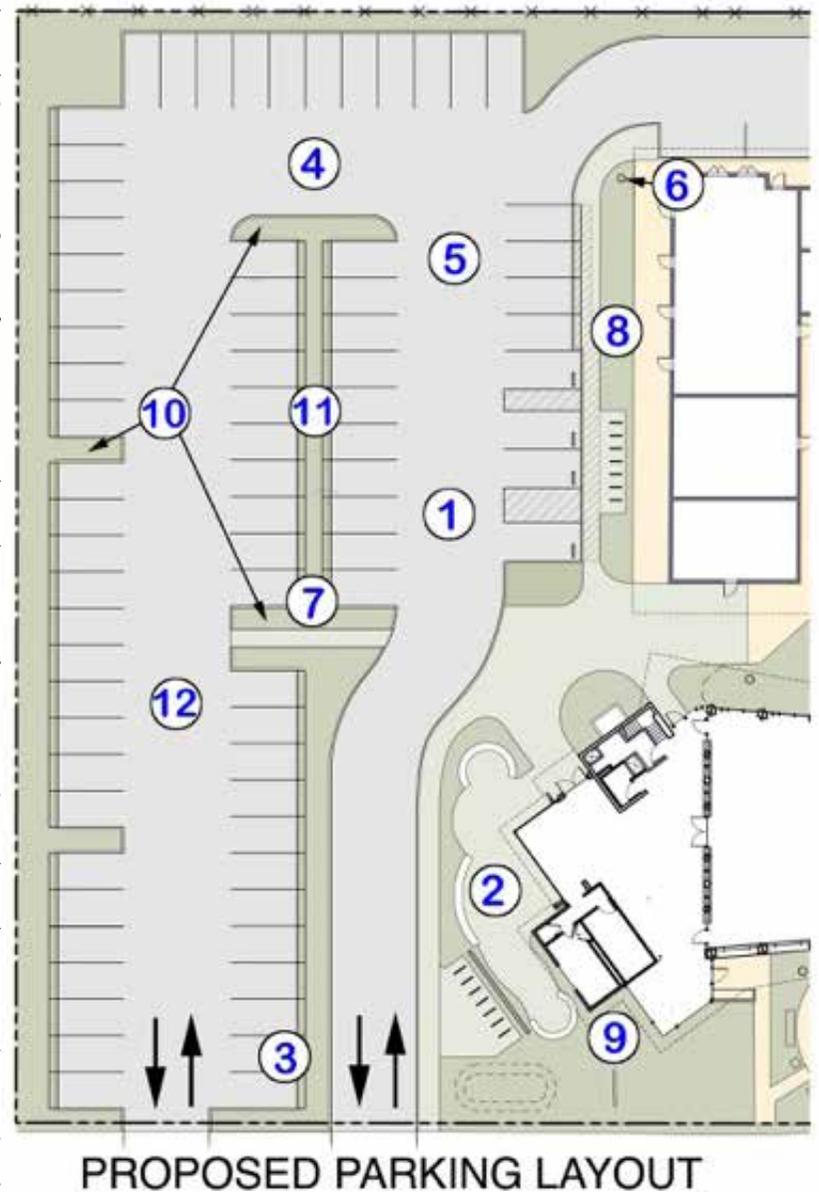
SAFETY

5. All City fire engines can fit within the new aisles and turns.
6. A new fire hydrant will be installed to complement the existing hydrant on the street corner so our entire property will be adequately protected.
7. New lighting will cover the full parking lot.
8. Spacing between the classroom doors and moving cars will be more than doubled.

REGULATIONS

9. All of the concrete surfaces surrounding the narthex will be replaced with permeable pavers and landscaping.
10. Tree planting areas will be provided to meet the requirement that, within 15 years, 50% of the parking lot must be in shade.
11. The lot will be graded so that rainwater will collect in a center, planted swale rather than flowing off the property into storm drains.
12. As the diagram shows, several of the City requirements use up precious square footage in the parking lot. Under those circumstances, the only option (we tried really hard!) for maintaining the 82 parking spaces is to have them straight-in, at a right angle to the curb. If you shop at Costco, you already have the appropriate skills for straight-in parking.

There is no doubt that we would have ultimately been forced to bring our parking lot up to current environmental standards. However, we were blindsided by the City's ruling that simply changing the incoming driveway for our modest narthex expansion project would necessitate bringing our entire parking lot into compliance. We are still grappling with the budgetary implications of the City's position, but we are pleased that we have an overall plan for both the narthex and the parking lot that the City has approved. ■



Jim Schlatter and the Building Team

Sunday School

Our Sunday School Mission Project for the this season is Socks and Undies for Ecumenical Hunger Program. Each Sunday until March 12, we will collect NEW child-sized socks and undies during Sunday School opening. Please make time over the next few weeks to help your child pick out and purchase these items. They love helping others and making a difference!

March 12 | 3-5 Grade Movie Afternoon!!

April 9 | Palm Sunday | Prayer Activity Stations for all ages!

May 21 | Last day of regular Sunday School | (Summer Sunday School is planned for summer!)

Day Camp

July 10-14 | Monday - Friday | 9 am-3 pm |Day Camp

July 13 | 6 pm | Thursday evening Potluck and Program for campers, their families, and the entire Grace community

Day Camp is a unique blend of outdoor ministry and congregational ministry. In this joint effort between Lutheran Retreats, Camps, and Conferences and Grace Lutheran Church, we'll have all of the program elements—counselors, Bible studies, worship, supplies, and curriculum—for a week of faith-focused, community- building activities. This is going to be a great week!!

We know that it can be hard to drop off and pick up campers on time from Day Camp (normal hours are from 9 am-3 pm). Extended care is available as an option for families that need earlier drop-off and later pickup. Parents can drop campers off anytime between 8–9 am, and pick up anytime between 3–5:30 pm. WE MUST HAVE a minimum of five children. Day Camp is for campers entering Kindergarten through Sixth grade.

College Youth

This spring, we will send College Care Packages with our love and prayers to our Grace college students! Anne Ritchie is helping to organize this project.

Young Adults

Keep an eye out for a Pub Theology event with University Lutheran. Coming soon!

Middle School:

March 5 | Middle School Event | Escape Room | 12-3

April 9 | Palm Sunday | Prayer Activity Stations for all ages!

Middle School Easter Eve Decorating Party!

April 15 | 5 pm Pizza Dinner, then fill eggs with candy and decorate Brown Hall

Rite of Confirmation

May 7 | 10:45 am Service

All are welcome to this wonderful celebration of our youth and their faith! Keep an eye out for some fun.

May 21 | Last day of regular Sunday School | (Summer Sunday School is planned for summer!)

High School

Monthly high school lunches at Gunn and PALY

March 18 | Social Event | TBD

Easter Eve Decorating Party!

April 15 | 5 pm Pizza Dinner, then fill eggs with candy and decorate Brown Hall

April 16 | Easter Breakfast

High School Summer Trip is the Western States Youth Gathering June 26-July 2 at California Lutheran University We will drive down and go to Disneyland and then attend the WSYG at CLU, it will be a great week!!

Senior Sunday | May 21

This is a special service where we take a moment to honor and recognize our graduating high school seniors. The Grace quilters have been working all year on quilts for these youth. We will present them at the 10:45 am service. ■



“I believe that faith in general and Christianity specifically have the antidote to hate. If hate is fueled by fear rooted in scarcity, Christianity promotes a message of love steeped in abundance. If hatred comes to be because of disconnection, Christianity offers a reality that is based in sacred connection—with God, with each other and with ourselves. If hating someone is lived out in actions that do violence to the humanity of another, Christianity offers a way of being that invites us to recognize the Divine in each other and love out loud.” Rozella White

We have been having weekly conversations in Youth Group about how LOVE is greater than hate. We read this reflection last night and had lots of great conversation. We talked about how our connectedness to one another is what cultivates love.

When we don’t know someone, it is easy to not like them or to dismiss them. I see this all the time with high schoolers. Youth who might be unlikely friends in high school go on a summer youth trip and realize they have something in common and become friends!

Jesus tells over and over again to love our neighbor. For years people have debated and discussed and asked who is our neighbor, and I think the answer is simple, humanity. We are all humans. We are all called to love everyone. No one said it would be easy, and maybe, before love, we can cultivate compassion for our neighbor.

We talked last week about how people who are hurt then hurt other people. If we look at our neighbors with the lens that they might be hurting, how could that help us have compassion for them? How we feel about ourselves and our lives directly affects how we treat other people. The more we hurt, the more we hurt others.

Which brings us back to our connectedness, we aren’t built to live our lives on our own. We need community, we need others, we need love. I am so thankful that I get to cultivate a community in Youth Group: we cultivate community, friendship, understanding, and love.

How are you cultivating love in your life? Community? Family? Neighborhood? Let’s all be better about loving one another, loving our neighbors, and creating space for love. ■



Elizabeth Hood

Reprinted from the Sierra Pacific Synod Newsletter, January 25, 2017

Being an Involved Youth

As a high school student, many things in my life are constantly changing. One thing that has stayed constant during the past two years, however, has been my involvement in the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee, or SPSYC as we like to call it. After running as a district representative during my sophomore year of high school, I've held the positions of Vice President and now President.

Not only are we the voice of the youth in our synod, but we get to share our gifts with other youth by putting on annual elementary, middle, and high school retreats. There's nothing better than watching campers come out of their shell to sing camp songs, do crafts, and meet other people their age who also go to church, something not everyone can experience often.

Now that I'm a senior in high school and am about to graduate, I've been reflecting on the past four years and looking back at what I've accomplished. Out of all the groups I've been a part of, nothing has been as fulfilling as being President of SPSYC. Through this position I've been able to have many incredible experiences such as being a voting member at our synod assembly, meeting Bishop Eaton, learning how to build a retreat from scratch, and creating valuable relationships with pastors, youth workers, and other youth in our synod.

One of the highlights during my term thus far has been my trip to the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit at Lutheridge camp in North Carolina this past November. There I had a chance to talk with youth representatives who also hold leadership roles in their synods as well as learn about what our church is doing around the world. At this event I had the honor of hearing speaker Mikka McCracken, Director of ELCA World Hunger. Her passion and enthusiasm for fighting global issues inspired me to bring back what I had learned at the summit to other youth in my synod.

From February 24-26, 2017, SPSYC will be welcoming Mikka McCracken as the keynote speaker for our annual high school retreat at Mt. Cross Ministries, our local Lutheran camp. We know that her passion and enthusiasm will help inspire the youth of our synod to get involved locally in order to make a difference in their own communities and beyond. Between sessions we will be partnering with Mt. Cross to use their high ropes courses, have campfires, and engage in meaningful conversation with other youth from across the synod.

On the last day of our retreat we will be holding elections for our committee. If you or a youth at your church is interested in the retreat or running for our committee, more information can be found on our website, spsyc.org. This retreat will be a great experience for anyone looking to deepen their relationship with God, connect with other high schoolers, and become more involved in our church by running for SPSYC. On behalf of SPSYC, I thank you for your continued support of our ministry. We hope to see you at our next retreat! ■

Blessings,
Inger Smuts
Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee President



Lutheran Music

We are now well into our year-long observance of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, and as part of that observance we have been reacquainting ourselves with some of the hymns written during the earliest years of the Reformation. We've sung hymns by Martin Luther himself, including the famous "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," the Advent hymn "Savior of the Nations, Come," and his communion hymn "O Lord, We Praise You." We've also sung hymns by some of Luther's contemporaries, such as Elizabeth Cruciger's "The Only Son from Heaven" and "All Glory Be to God on High" by Nikolaus Decius. We'll be continuing to include these hymns in our repertoire as the year progresses. During Lent we will sing "O Christ, Lamb of God" published by Luther's colleague Johannes Bugenhagen as well as Luther's own "Out of the Depths I Cry to You," a setting of Psalm 130.

I've written and spoken before about how the melodies of some of these German hymns from the sixteenth century can sound quite foreign to our post-modern American ears. They are often based on ancient chants and are written in keys that musicians call "modes," which are neither major nor minor. Because the modes are unfamiliar to us and the rhythms somewhat irregular, these melodies can seem difficult, and sometimes even "gloomy." You may perceive this gloom in Luther's Easter hymn "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands." The title seems morbid, and the key of not-quite D minor sounds sad to our ears, but the words are joyful indeed:

*Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands for our offenses given,
BUT now at God's right hand he stands and brings us life from heaven.
Therefore let us joyful be and sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

We will sing this hymn a few times during this year's Easter celebrations. I look forward to conversations with you about your experiences getting to know these largely forgotten hymns from our heritage.

Make plans now to join us for the March event in our *GraceNotes Live* concert series! The Grace Lutheran Church choir will be joining forces with the choirs from Palo Alto's other two ELCA congregations, First Lutheran and University Lutheran, for a Bach Cantata Vespers. Soloists will include our own Angelique Zuluaga, Mark Tendall, and Allen Simon, as well as singers from the other congregations. The choirs will be accompanied by an orchestra of strings, oboes, and organ. This event will be on Saturday, March 25, at 4:00 pm, in Grace's sanctuary. Since the vast majority of the vocal music by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) was written for liturgical use, the music will be presented in the context of a service of Evening Prayer.

Bach's cantatas, written to be performed every week in his church in Leipzig, Germany, provided commentary on the Gospel reading appointed for each Sunday. The cantata our choirs will sing is #23, *Du wahrer Gott und Davids Sohn* (You the True God and Son of David), first performed in Leipzig in February, 1723. The Gospel for that day was Luke 18:31-43, Jesus' healing of a blind man in Jericho. We will use that Gospel at our Evening Prayer service, and the next morning at our regular services, we will hear another story of a blind man's healing, John 9:1-41. Bach's cantatas often conclude with a hymn that would have been familiar to his congregation, and the last movement of this cantata is a setting of Bugenhagen's "O Christ, Lamb of God."

The service will also include a Magnificat attributed to Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707, an important precursor to Bach), and unaccompanied anthems by Jean Berger (1909-2002) and Ola Gjeilo (born 1978). ■



Saturday, March 25 | 4:00 pm

Bach Cantata Vespers

**Grace, First, & University
Lutheran Choirs**
with soloists Angelique Zuluaga,
Mark Tendall, and Allen Simon
and orchestra



Tim Getz



Coming Soon: Pledge Campaign

Our 2017/2018 pledge campaign will begin in late March. As we get ready for our annual campaign we would like to address a few questions regarding the pledge process.

Why do we do an annual pledge campaign?

The annual pledge campaign is an integral part of church finances. It allows the Finance Committee to predict annual contributions and prepare the 2017/2018 annual budget. Our goal is to spend no more than we receive. Our planned expenses (such as church operations, children's programs, staff salaries, etc.) are directly tied to the financial commitments made during the pledge campaign.

How does the church fund its operations?

Grace Lutheran is 100% self-supported. This means that our contributions are the main source of funding for the church's activities and community outreach. No funding is provided by the ELCA.

How are the dollars spent?

The dollars go to operating the church (for example, keeping the lights on), funding programs for all ages (Sunday school, confirmation class, Bible Studies, New Member Classes), mission giving, staff salaries, etc.

How do we determine how the dollars are spent?

The Finance Committee prepares an annual budget and presents it to the congregation for its approval. The budget reflects the needs of the church, the congregation, and our community. This year, we anticipate the congregational meeting to review the budget will occur in late May.

When can we expect to receive our pledge packet?

Pledge packets will arrive the first week of April. The completed pledge card can be returned by mail or on Pledge Sunday—April 9.

Who should I contact if I have any questions?

Contact Marilyn Aden (csomba@aol.com) and/or Carol Ezrati (crutlen@rutlen.com). ■

Endowment Committee Makes Allocations for 2016

The Endowment Committee has acted on the requests for the 2016 disbursements from the Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Fund. The three recipients are:

- Adult Education’s request for \$3,178.29 to replace the chairs in the Chapel. These 40 chairs will be in a harmonious color and similar in style to those used in Brown Hall.
- Social Ministry Committee’s request for \$3,600 to fund a year’s tuition at Dar al-Kalima University, College of Art and Culture.
- Social Ministry’s request for \$1,000 for the local work of Habitat for Humanity.

Members of each committee are involved in each project for which a grant was given.

The Endowment Committee suggests that church committees think about making a request for 2017. The requests will be due by December 30 of this year for dispersal in early 2018.

We are grateful for all the gifts, both current and estate gifts, that have been invested with the ELCA Mission Endowment Fund, thus providing for these distributions.

If you have any questions, you may contact any of these Endowment Committee members by telephone or in person. ■

The Endowment Committee

Martha Meyer (Chair)

Mark Cravens

Don Ostrus

Pastor Cora Scheel

David Vroom

Donald Zepp

Pastor Matt (Ex Officio)

Mary Cravens,
Council

Representative.



is Becoming Reality

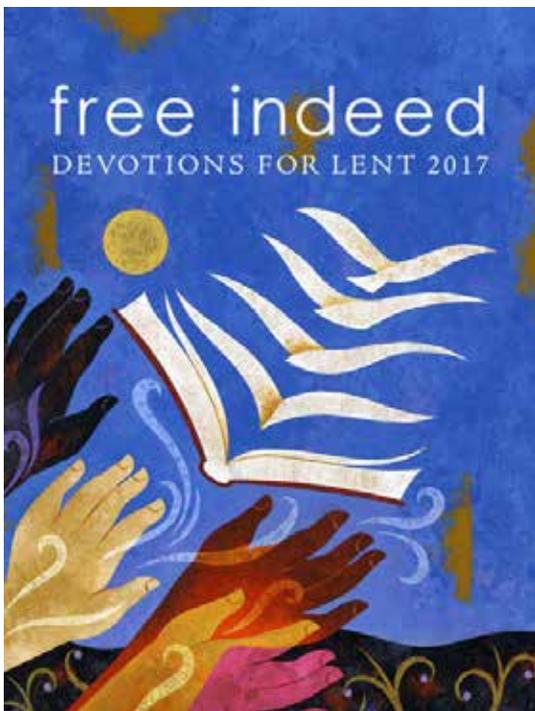
The end of the *making a place for grace* capital campaign is in sight. As the city prepares to give us their stamp of approval on the project, you can too! If you haven’t participated in the campaign—or if you would like to make an additional gift—there is still time. Help push us past the finish line and join those who have contributed more than \$1,076,500 toward ensuring this vision becomes reality.

If you have any questions about the scope of the project or how to make a contribution, please contact Pastor Matt.

Thank you to everyone who has already supported this endeavor. It is an exciting time in Grace’s history! ■

Peace,
Aarika Riddle, Capital Campaign Chair

Don't Give Up Reading for Lent



As Lent and Easter approach in this celebratory year of all things Luther, is it any surprise that a new publication from Augsburg Fortress, the ELCA publisher, is a book of devotions for Lent featuring readings by Martin Luther? The publication is *Free Indeed: Devotions for Lent 2017*. It's very popular, and is currently backordered, but we have ordered several copies which are to be shipped February 20 to arrive in the library before Ash Wednesday, March 1. Watch for them in the library but, if you don't want to wait, you can

purchase the e-book version for Kindle, Nook, or Google for \$2.00, and have your own copy. Head to Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com, or GooglePlay.com, according to your e-reader of choice.

Mary Ashley

This beautiful, full-color devotional takes you through Lent with daily readings from Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, reflection, and prayer. Free Indeed invites you to reflect on Martin Luther's guide to the basics of Christian faith during the Lenten season, and within the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. I've downloaded it onto my Kindle.

Another book for Lent that just arrived also has an online connection. *40 Days, 40 Prayers, 40 Words: Lenten Reflections for Everyday Life*, by Bruce Reyes-Chow, provides multiple ways for people to connect around a common Lenten prayer. Every devotion is framed around a single word and includes a short scriptural passage, inspirational prayer, and reflection, along with barcodes to scan with your smart phone for more information and discussion at #40wordprayer.

Of course, the Grace Library also has a large variety of traditional books for Lenten reading, including several of the 40-Day Journey series published by Augsburg Fortress. These present thoughts from a particular author for each day, along with prayers, Bible verses, questions and journaling prompts. Martin Luther, Maya Angelou, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Joan Chittister are among the authors featured.

And finally, N. T. (Tom) Wright, author of the popular "New Testament For Everyone" series of Bible commentaries has now weighed in with a three-book series "Lent for Everyone" offering commentary on each day's designated Bible reading for all three years of the lectionary cycle.

Make it a point to visit the library, or the cart in the narthex, and find something to read during Lent. ■

Bread for the World

As part of Grace's commitment to Bread for the World, church members are encouraged to write our federal elected representatives, urging them to make funding decisions that put our country and the world on track to end hunger. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice moved by God's grace to advocate for a world without hunger. Grace undertakes this effort each year during the season of Lent.

On March 26, the Social Ministry Committee will have a table set up in the Narthex with a supply of paper, envelopes, and addresses for our U.S. Senators and Members of Congress. Please stop by the table and write letters that day. We will then gather all the letters and bless them during worship before sending them on to Washington D.C.

If you can't be there on March 26, please consider sending an e-message via the Bread for the World website: <http://www.bread.org/2017-offering-letters> ■

Thank You!
Social Ministry Committee



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Council Notes

Nate Calhoun
Grace Council President

Over recent weeks and months the Council has been focused on two main items: staffing plans following the departure of Pastor Tuhina and progress on our capital projects.



After several conversations during recent Council, Finance, and Mutual Ministry meetings, we determined the first step in addressing staffing needs will be the formation of a committee to evaluate our needs and hiring options. This will be a similar process to what was done two years ago, prior to the formation of the call committee that extended the call to Pastor Tuhina. While many of the same needs still exist from our findings in 2015, enough time has passed for the activities to be repeated before we can be certain of our next steps. The plan is to be able to form the committee quickly and have some direction by the end of the Spring. The one decision we have made (mostly based on time constraints of the application process) is to not bring on a vicar during this cycle that would have started in August 2017.

From our capital projects, we are excited about the completion of both the roof and main repairs to the steeple. Unfortunately there is a minor leak in the steeple that still needs to be addressed. However, the inconvenience of the leak during the recent storms

is balanced by the entertainment of the debate around the question “Is it ok to say that the roof is ‘done’ if the choir still gets wet when it rains?”

For the narthex and parking lot project, we expect to have final signoff of construction documents from the building department by the time this has been published. The significance of this accomplishment

that has been longer than two years in the making cannot be overstated. We continue to be blessed by the effort and talents of the building team as they have worked through challenges. With final plans, we have been able to start a formal bidding process with three contractors. Our hope is to be able to review the bids and make a selection by the end of February. After that, we will call a congregational meeting to review the plans and approve the financing.

The last item to note that will have a significant impact on both our staffing options and capital projects is the continued generosity of the congregation. We are truly blessed to be able to proceed with our big plans in 2017 with both confidence and excitement because of our strong financial position.

See you in church! ■

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



SOUTH PALO ALTO food closet

Meeting food needs | Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm
670 East Meadow Drive Room 9 (at Covenant Presbyterian Church)

Seems as if there are a lot of folks at the food closet lately standing in line to get served. Fortunately, we also take in quite a bit of food. This is working! On these cold days we love to be able to give away soups and crackers and jams and jellies to go with the peanut butter. Those canned meats are very popular, too. You can leave your donations in the yellow box in the narthex. Thank you for all you bring. It is really appreciated!



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Grace Lutheran Church

ASHES TO EASTER

Ash Wednesday

March 1 | 12 pm and 7 pm

Sundays in Lent

March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2
Worship | 8:30 and 10:45 am

March 12, April 9

Taizé Evening Prayer | 7 pm

Wednesdays in Lent

March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5

- Soup Supper | 6:15 pm
- Evening Prayer | 7 pm

Soup Supper in Brown Hall starting at 6:15 pm. Sign-up in the Narthex, at Soup Supper, or call the office (650.494.1212) to volunteer to bring soup, salad, or bread for our weekly meal together.

Evening Prayer in the sanctuary at 7 pm on Wednesdays during Lent will be a peaceful, reflective time of singing, scripture, interactive worship, service, and prayer.

Also broadcast on Cable 30

Sundays 11 am | 8:30 pm

Mondays 12:30 pm

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

April 9 | 8:30 and 10:45 am

Maundy Thursday

April 13 | 7 pm

Good Friday

April 14 | 12 pm and 7 pm

Easter Vigil

April 15 | 7:44 pm (Sunset)

Easter Sunday

April 16 | Festival Worship | 8:30 and 10:45 am
Easter breakfast | 9:00-10:30 am Easter Sunday.

Fresh fruit, breakfast casseroles, delicious pancakes, hot coffee and tea. \$5/person, \$20/family. Youth fundraiser

Easter Egg Hunt between worship services. Meet in Brown Hall to start the hunt! 10:00 am—children 5 years and younger. 10:15 am—children 6 years and older.

