

LENT/EASTER 2024

ISSUE 2401

#GRACENOTES

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A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF

Grace Lutheran Church



# THERE AND BACK AGAIN

Now on that same day when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene, two disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. Luke 24:13-16

The story of the disciples on the way from Jerusalem the evening of Easter has always been a powerful one to me. They left Jerusalem convinced that their Lord had died and that the story was over . . . they walked into the evening and the gathering darkness consumed with conversation on the events that had happened. So consumed, in fact, that they could not see that the stranger that came alongside them in their journey was Christ himself!



Holsten Gate | Lübeck

I have been on a long journey. For the first time in my almost 28 years of ordained ministry, I went on a sabbatical. I will be forever grateful for the encouragement and support of this congregation, the staff, and Pr Friederike in particular for her additional responsibilities that made this profoundly generous time possible. This journey brought me alongside many strangers through the months and countries. Many of these people were with me for just a moment, and others for more meaningful periods of time. However, all of them were Christ to me . . . although I suspect I did not always see or appreciate it. Isn't the journey of this life like this? We move through our days and years often very distracted by the worries that keep us up and keep us from recognizing Christ in those who come along side of us.

As we approach Lent, we experience an opportunity. An opportunity to remove something from our regular routines . . . or as I like to think, perhaps to add something. Taking intentional time to slow down, to treasure the world around us and to see Christ alongside us in our journey. Lent has often been seen as dour or depressing. It's seen as a season to give up something treasured. However, there is a description of Lent that has resonated with me powerfully over the years. That Lent is a time of austerity, but not an austerity that connotes a lack of joy. There is a sense of spring cleaning, or of training for a race, or of returning to a simple less hectic pace, or perhaps to add a spiritual or relational exercise for these 40 days.

When Easter dawns on us, we can then celebrate for the week of weeks that our tradition calls for, knowing that we are ready to do so! The flowers bursting forth, and leaves shading our way remind us of the irrepressible force for life that the resurrection brings. May this Lenten season be a deliberate deep time for you, and may your emerge on the other end of these 40 days ready to experience the joy of new life where we did not expect it. It is a real joy to be back from sabbatical to walk with you into these holy days. ❖

Peace,

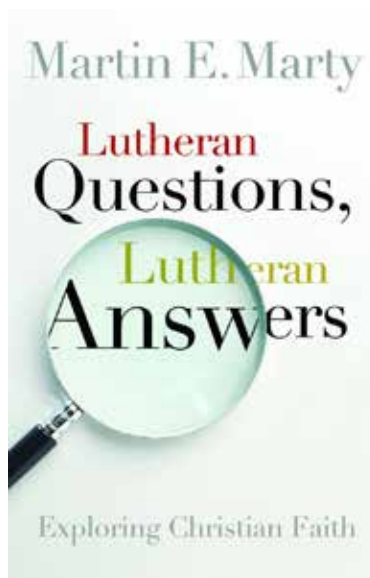
You can experience my  
Sabbatical in detail on my  
blog: [www.matthewsmuts.net](http://www.matthewsmuts.net)



# ADULT DISCUSSION TOPICS

## SUNDAY FORUMS & LENTEN WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

During the season of Lent, beginning Sunday, February 18, we will be working our way through an excellent little book written by famed Lutheran theologian, Dr. Martin E. Marty titled, *Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers*. Consider purchasing this book at your favorite online retailer. Even without the book, the discussions should be very accessible for anyone interested in the topics. The reason for this selection is that Lent is often a time for returning to the basics. This comes from the earliest of Christian generations where the tradition of baptizing on the night before Easter with the season of Lent being a time of preparation and learning about the faith became the norm. We look forward to seeing you there! ❖



### 9:45-10:30AM SUNDAY FORUMS

February 18 - **The Bible**  
February 25 - **Jesus Christ**  
March 3 - **The Holy Spirit**  
March 10 - **The Church**  
March 17 - **The Sacraments**

### 7-8PM WEDNESDAYS IN LIBRARY

February 21 - **God**  
February 28 - **Humanity**  
March 6 - **Salvation**  
March 13 - **Worship**  
March 20 - **Christian Life**

## MOUNT CROSS UPDATE!

Mount Cross is in the first steps of a very exciting new chapter! Our own Mary Hanna-Weir has skillfully guided the board as chair over the last few years through the pandemic, through the loss of all staff, and then through a search for a new executive director to a phase of a new executive director and largely full year round staff. There were some very difficult moments, but way ahead of schedule, the camp has returned to fully normal operations and balanced budget. Pastor Matt was elected as Board Chair entering his second three year term and we are all looking forward to the likely largest capital investment in the property in the last 40 years or more. Exciting things are happening, and we hope to get Andrew Templeman, the new executive director back to Grace some Sunday to hear more about the good things happening there! ❖



### SENIOR PASTOR

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NEXT ISSUE:  
**Summer 2024**  
PUBLICATION DEADLINE:  
**May 30, 2024**  
(end of day)

What does it take to be kind?

# ON KINDNESS

The Rev. Friederike Wekel,  
Associate Pastor

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Something I have been thinking about a lot lately is kindness. What does it take to be kind? What does it mean to be kind?

I guess to be kind you need a certain attentiveness, considerateness. Being aware of your surroundings, observant. And it needs some spontaneity, because you will need to act in the spur of the moment.

Kindness shows in lots of ways. How good it feels when people are watching out for each other. Those who experience kindness feel like receiving a gift—and those who give as well. And sometimes, all it takes is just a short phrase...

How does kindness sound to you? Or what gesture of kindness that you received stands out to you?

On one day in your Lenten devotional I will invite you to think about it. And I have been thinking about starting a kindness-challenge during Lent as well, because who doesn't like a good challenge? It's a good cause, and it is for a framed window of time—how motivating! But then, isn't at least being kind something we should aspire to be year around, all our life? Is it so very difficult? What does it take to be kind? What does it take YOU to be kind?

And I will just throw this verse out here for you to think about:

*As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.*

Colossians 3:12

Kindly, Pr. Friederike ❖





# LENTEN GUIDEPOST

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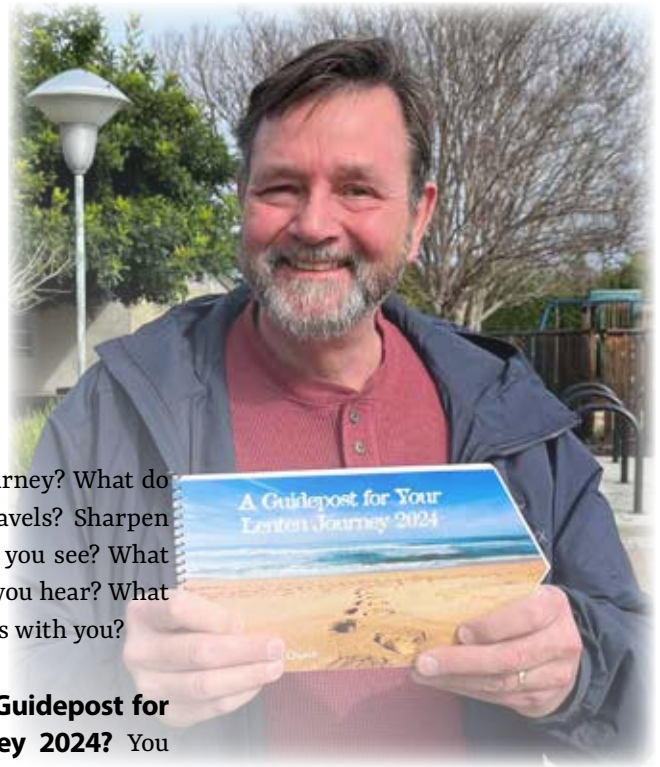
The Bible is full of stories of traveling people. As Baptized, we have often been declared to be a wandering people as well—not completely settling into the here and now, but living in the tension between the now and the not yet of God’s reign in our world.

The season of Lent is a great time to think about this tension and live into it. As Jesus walks from the mountain top of his Transfiguration to the mountain top of Golgotha, we are invited to walk along. I invite you during this Lenten season to think about what home is to you. What does

it mean to be on a journey? What do you need for your travels? Sharpen your senses. What do you see? What do you feel? What do you hear? What do you miss? Who goes with you?

How do you get the **Guidepost for Your Lenten Journey 2024**? You can pick it up in the narthex on Sundays. A guidepost—that is all it wants and claims to be. You still have to do the walking!

Good way and God’s presence  
in your travels,  
Pastor Friederike and Gretchen ❖



Above: Mark Cravens displays the new Lenten Devotional. (Thanks to Mark, Steve Madsen, and Evelyn Guernsey who helped with assembly!)

## REPORT ON NEW MEMBERS CLASS

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On Sunday, January 28, we received new members during the worship service. We are excited that 9 households joined our congregation. Please welcome with us: Denise Sallaberry, Kristoffer and Caitlin Donhowe with Matti and Risa, Sandra and Rainer Kremmeicke, Sumitha Pauli and Dhayanand Francis with Tara Dhayanand, Julia and Joachim Klein with Hendrik and Laura, Meike Seiter-Bauer and Matthias Bauer with Anna, Lukas, and Ella, Bradley Jassie Starleaf, James and Jennifer Donald with Annabelle and Ariel, and Susan and Jason VanThomme. ❖



# Confirmation CHURCH

During Confirmation Class in January and early February, the confirmands are working on a special project: After some basic conversation about “church” and the different uses of the word in English, they started to plan, design, and create their own church campus—and everything necessary that goes with it. They are free to decide the Christian denomination, the country, the region (urban/suburban/rural). But they also have to think about the implications of their choices. What community will they be serving? What does their worship look like? What staff will they employ? How do you communicate faith in your church? What programs are you offering? Do you have a school, preschool, community garden? What buildings do you need?

They will present their results sometime during Lent on a Sunday morning after the services in the narthex. Please engage them about their projects! Because it helps all of us to think through what kind of community we are, want to be, and should be.

Pr Friederike ❖



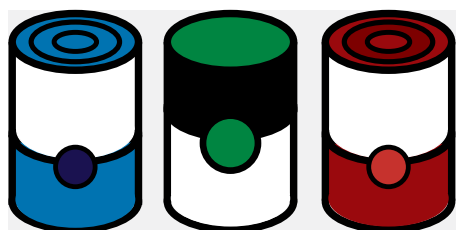
This year, on May 19 at the second service, five 8th graders will confirm their faith: Alex Lungren, Anna Bauer, Jacob Guhr, Lukas Bauer, and Philip Romahn. ❖

## WORK DAYS

You are more the once a month hands-on person? Then our work days are exactly what you must be looking for! On the first Saturday of the month, 10-noon, we get busy and (sometimes) dirty and do what needs doing at Grace. Weeding, cleaning, nailing, painting... Grace has a huge campus and somethings always need repair or sprucing up! Put it in your calendar and join in! The more, the merrier—and the quicker done... Contact Pr Matt (pastormatt@gracepa.org). ❖



We are so very grateful for your generosity and notes of appreciation—at Christmas time and throughout the year! We are blessed to work among this community of faith! ❖



Canned Food Drive  
Supporting Families in Need  
through Ecumenical Hunger Program  
First Saturdays, 10 am - 12 pm  
drop-off in the church parking lot  
and Grace Work Day





# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## Women's Retreat at Mt Cross:

Join the women of Grace time outside enjoying and for a weekend away: From discovering nature, dive Friday, April 19, through into theology, worship Sunday, April 21, 2024, we together, and relax—to lose will spend time together our of our day-to-day mind at Mount Cross Camp in and find more of our soul. the Santa Cruz Mountains Sign-ups will open soon. under the evergreen canopy Friends are welcome! of the redwoods. Working Looking forward to this with our topic “And into special time! the woods I go, to lose my mind and find my soul.” Pr Friederike ❖ (John Muir), we will spend

## Women's Night Out

We had a couple of fabulous women's nights in the first half of this programming year, and we will just continue with very diverse and exciting topics:

On **March 7**, Kay Marie Ferguson will introduce us into the art of creating an herbal kitchen garden for your countertops. On **April 4**, Professor Leah Millheiser (MD, FACOG, NCMP) from Stanford University School of Medicine, Department of OB/GYN will give us a presentation about Menopause and answer questions. It's Strawberry Time in May: On **May 2**, we Sharon Tobias will teach us how to make delicious Strawberry Jam in Brown Hall Kitchen.



Our last Women's Night Out this programming year on **June 6**, will take us the home of our member Gisa Romahn for a lovely June summer night. I am very much looking forward to all the different topics and conversations we will have and share!

Peace,  
Pr Friederike ❖

## LIFE TOGETHER DINNER

Do you need to eat now and then? Yes? Well, surprise, surprise, we've got you covered at least on Wednesday Nights: Join our dinner from 6:15-7pm, cooked by different members of Grace every week. Enjoy the time together, the food, and good conversation. And afterwards, you are invited to join the Wednesday night programming options: an **adult education** group led by Pr Matt on varying topics, the **chancel choir** rehearsal with Tim, **confirmation** class for middle schoolers with Pr Friederike, or **youth group** with Elizabeth. We love to be a community—and we love it even more with you!



PS: If you also like to cook, please be in touch with Pr Friederike to get more information about Wednesday Night Dinner cooks. You would be one of several to be in charge (in a team or by yourself) of a Wednesday Night Dinner, about every 6 weeks, from September through May. Let Pr Friederike (pastorf@gracepa.org) know if you have questions or want to learn more!

# GROUP SINGING

Tim Getz,  
Director of Music



The phenomenon of group singing is a topic I've been interested in for many years. Who sings? Why do people do it? What meaning do people find in making music with others, and how does it make them feel?

Singing is deeply human. Nearly everyone has a voice, a built-in instrument with the capacity to make sound. We use our voices for communication, to express the whole range of emotions— pleasure, sadness, anger, pain, and joy— and to create beauty. An individual can do this alone, but something even more magical happens when our voices blend to create music together. The joining together of breath, sound, and common purpose builds community and creates a door for the Holy Spirit to enter.

In many societies around the world, singing is a deeply ingrained and everyday part of the culture. In places like ours with less connection to folk traditions, vocal music-making has been more and more relegated to professionals. But singing is certainly still something everyone CAN do, and we do still see glimmers of it in our culture: We sing “Happy Birthday” regularly, a few brave souls sing at sporting events, and we do a lot of singing at church!

Martin Luther lived at a time when people sang every day at work, at the tavern, and at home, but church singing had largely devolved to choirs and the clergy.

Luther himself loved to sing, and he observed how important it was: singing words aids memory, and he realized that he could teach the Bible along with his new theological concepts through song. He also understood how the participation of the whole congregation could help people connect more fully with the experience of worship. Luther encouraged the writing of new songs for church, and the first collections of these hymns were published exactly 500 years ago this year, in 1524! Some of the melodies sound a little strange to us today, but in 1524 their style would have been very comfortable and easy to learn for people living in that time and place.

The community of Taizé, in France, has also devoted significant attention to creating music that everyone, not just professionals, can sing. Founded as a modern monastic community in the 1940s, Taizé began attracting visitors from all over Europe and beyond in the 1960s, and today on





# NOT CHOIR

*Thursdays @ 7 pm*

almost any day of the year, hundreds or even thousands of people are visiting there on retreat. To welcome these guests and help them enter more fully into worship, the community has created a distinctive style of short, repeated song that focuses the attention of the gathered community and deepens prayer. We practice this type of prayer and song at Grace on the second Sunday of each month at 7 pm.

Our “Not Choir” gathering on Thursdays at 7 pm has changed a bit in focus over the few years we’ve been meeting. Designed originally as a class where we could work on improving vocal skills, it’s morphed more into a social time where we sing for the pure joy of it. We still do a little bit of experimenting with vocal technique and with music reading. But a lot more of what we do is exploring music: discovering the richness and variety of vocal music as practiced around the world and at all times in history. We sing a lot from our hymnal, and sometimes from other sources. And those who attend regularly have learned

how much I love YouTube! I’m constantly on the hunt for examples of singing, hymns especially, in every style and cultural tradition imaginable. This singing happens in churches of course, but sometimes in other surprising contexts! The Advent devotional you all received in December, with something to watch or listen to each day, was a little taste of the kinds of videos we watch in Not Choir every week. The hour or so I spend combing YouTube on Thursday afternoons in preparation for that evening’s Not Choir is one of the most fun hours of my week, maybe second to actually sharing the material later the same evening! Along with the videos, we usually “preview” the hymns that will be sung in church on the upcoming Sunday—a great way to prepare for worship! Anyone is welcome to visit Not Choir at any time... there’s no real sequence to it and you don’t need to have started from the beginning. Welcome!

I look forward to every opportunity when we can sing together. See you soon! ❖

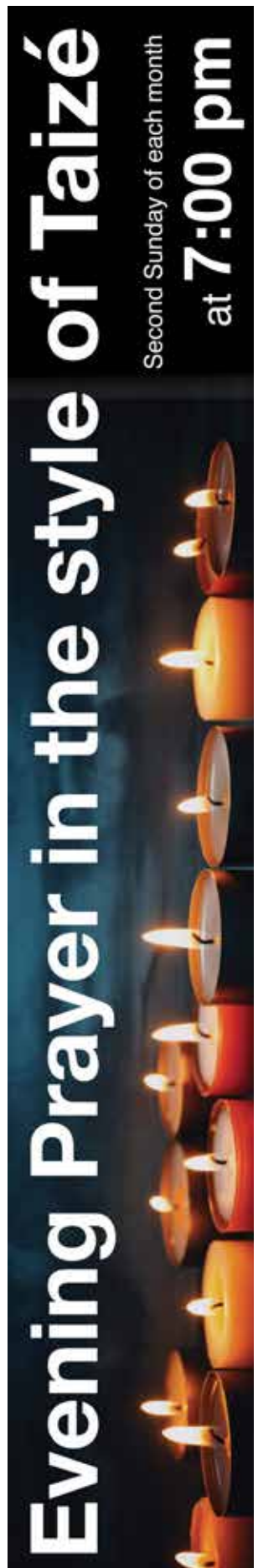
## A TIME FOR PEACE

In celebration of the Treaty of Utrecht and a call for peace in our time, this concert features the Utrecht Te Deum of George Frederic Handel, Bach’s uplifting Lobet den Herrn and Bach’s Orchestral Suite #3 featuring the Air on a G String. Soloists include Rita Lilly, Katherine Nägele-Lin, Alexander Frank, and Sepp Hammer under the direction of Allen H Simon accompanied by Orchestra Gloria.

**Saturday, March 9, 3:30 pm**  
**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**1700 Santa Clara Ave.**  
**Alameda**

**Sunday, March 10, 3:30 p.m.**  
**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**3149 Waverley St.**  
**Palo Alto**

Tickets are \$30 General; \$25 Student/Senior. Grades K-8 are free. Order online and receive a discount: <https://sdgloria.org/soli-deo-gloria-tickets/> or call 510-522-1702  
Visit: <https://sdgloria.org> ❖











# CELEBRATE!

We have just finished our first half of the school year and I could not be happier with our progress! We began this journey as strangers and have quickly become part of the Grace community. We began this year with only a few children signed up with hopes that our enrollment would grow with time, and it has. We currently have 25 children registered in various programs and have had to hire a fourth teacher to support in the classroom. With the love and support of the Grace community, I can only imagine this trend will continue.

Gina Imlach,  
Preschool Director

Some of the things to celebrate:

- Our first Preschool Fair was held here at Grace where we hosted 22 local preschools on-site connecting with each other and with prospective families. From that fair we now have a list of 12 additional families who have shown interest in our program.
- This year was the first year that we combined the children's Christmas performance with the annual Christmas dinner. What a great event this was as we shared the performance and a wonderful meal together! *(see photo at left)*
- We are currently working with church council and Community Care Licensing to expand our program into the Fireside room where we will focus on developing a 2-year-old program. This will allow us to offer a program that is not available in any other preschool in the area.
- Tim Getz and Elizabeth Hood are coming into the classroom a couple times a week to offer a music program to our little ones and to introduce Bible stories to the children. THANK YOU!



*Regina Imlach*

These are just *some* of the things to be celebrated and there is still so much more to come! If you have a little one and are looking for a preschool program, I would love to give you a tour. You can schedule one by going to our website and picking a date and time that works for you. ❖

Top left to  
bottom right:  
exploring,  
creating,  
pretending,  
learning,  
performing



## Grace Lutheran Preschool

# ABUNDANCE

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



My word of the year for 2024 is **abundance**. I feel like so much of our lives are spent in worry and fear—we often have a scarcity mindset. We worry we won't have enough money, or enough food, or enough education, or we simply won't be enough. That is a lot to worry about, but God assures us over and over again not to worry, not to fear, and to live abundantly. So this year I am choosing to do that. I often stop and am grateful for even small moments of abundance. This new practice has been joyful and I am thankful for this word and how it is helping me to be more grateful in my everyday life. It is easy to think the worst or live in fear, but I don't believe that is why our God calls us to. I believe we are being called into abundance. We are provided for generously. We are loved generally and abundantly. Even in moments of want, there is abundance.

(Artwork was made by a friend, she sent me these cards when I told her this was my word for the year.)

How might you center yourself this year, this week, or even this day in abundance? How might you celebrate little moments of gratitude? How might you share that abundance with those around you?

This year I choose to live in God's great abundance and I hope you will too! ❖



*Elizabeth Hood*

## COMMUNION CLASS | March 23, 10am

For children ready to learn about Communion. If your child or youth hasn't started receiving communion, or has started to try it out, we would love to invite you and your child to participate in our Communion Class! I will host a two hour in person parent and child communion class on **Saturday, March 23 at 10am**. We will gather and learn together, discuss the role of communion in worship, answer questions, and provide ideas for you to use at home. We will bake bread, too. It is lots of fun! At least one parent must be present, but both are welcome. We will be offering communion on Maundy Thursday at 7:30pm on March 28 for your child to participate. Please contact Elizabeth with any questions, or if you are planning to join us. ❖







**ELCA Youth Gathering Events**

Jan 14th we will launch the Envelope Project with 144 envelopes to raise over \$10,000!!

Feb 7th we will be doing Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner Fundraiser in the Narthex and I need youth to be there after school to set up and make pancakes!! 6-8pm is the event

Feb 11th (Payment Due)

March 17th we will meet after church at noon in the Youth Room to have a youth and parents getting ready meeting! Lunch provided. Noon-2pm

March 30th - Pre Easter Vigil Party & Pizza and Cinnamon Roll Prep!

March 31st- Easter Breakfast Fundraiser

April 14th we will have a Youth and Leaders Getting-Ready Meeting Lunch provided. Noon-2pm (Payment Due)

April 20th- BASH in Sacramento with ALL SPS YOUTH

May 18th- Volunteering Night 5-8pm

June 9th Final Meeting Parents and Youth | noon

July 15-21 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans

**CREATED TO BE**

SUNDAY SCHOOL

**CANNED FOOD DRIVE**

LET'S FEED THE HUNGRY

**WE NEED CANNED VEGGIES**

Bring to Sunday School Opening

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Elizabeth  
elizabeth@gracepa.org

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday 9:45AM

Join us for song, affirmations, stories, crafts and so much more!

### MENTOR SUNDAYS

9:45AM-10:45AM

January 28 • March 10 •

April 14 • May 5: Thank You Brunch - Gratitude Practice

### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Every Wednesday 7-8:30PM

Prayer, Check In, Laughter and Fun for ALL ❖



# Upcoming High School Events

<b>JAN 13</b> 7 PM - 10 PM <i>Paint &amp; Movie Night</i>	<b>FEB 10</b> 7 PM - 10 PM <i>Movies and Games</i>	<b>MAR 1-3</b> MT. CROSS CAMP <i>High School Retreat</i>
<b>MAR 30</b> 5PM-8PM <i>Cinnamon Roll Prep &amp; Easter Vigil Pre Party</i>	<b>MAR 31</b> 8:30AM-11AM <i>Easter Breakfast</i>	<b>APR 20</b> ST. JOHNS SACRAMENTO <i>SPS YOUTH BASH</i>
<b>MAY 18</b> 5PM-9PM <i>Volunteering Night</i>	<b>JUN TBD</b> <i>Hang with Bethel Cupertino</i>	<b>JUL 15-21</b> ELCA YOUTH GATHERING New Orleans!

Contact  
[Elizabeth@gracepa.org](mailto:Elizabeth@gracepa.org)  
 for more information

# SPSYC HS RETREAT

SPECIAL GUESTS  
 JOE DAVIS AND DAVE SCHERER  
 MARCH 1-3 @ MT.CROSS




# MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

January 28- Noon-2pm  
 Lunch and Movie

March 10 -Noon-2pm  
 Lunch and Game Day

March 30-  
 Pre- Easter Vigil Party  
 & Pizza

April 14- Noon-2pm  
 Lunch and Bike

May 5 - Noon-2pm  
 Lunch and Hike

## HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT AT MOUNT CROSS MARCH 1-3

We will be holding elections for the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee which Rebecca, Ty, Annika, Charlotte and I currently serve on. We would love to have you join us! ❖



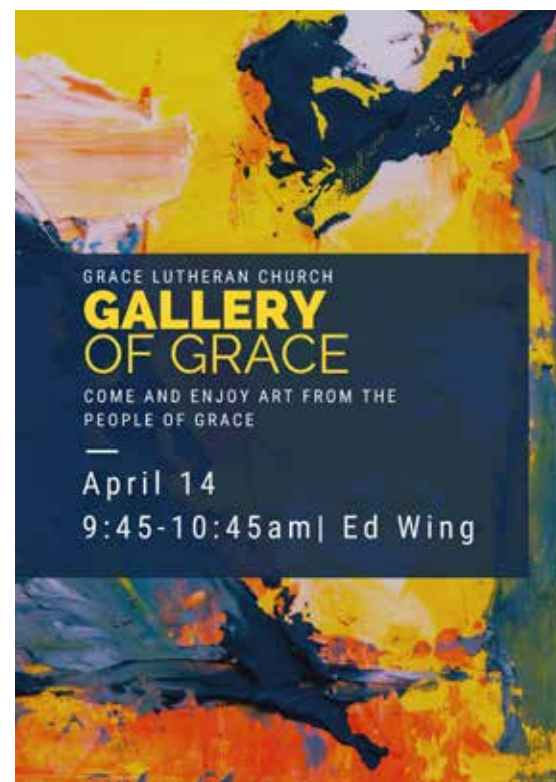
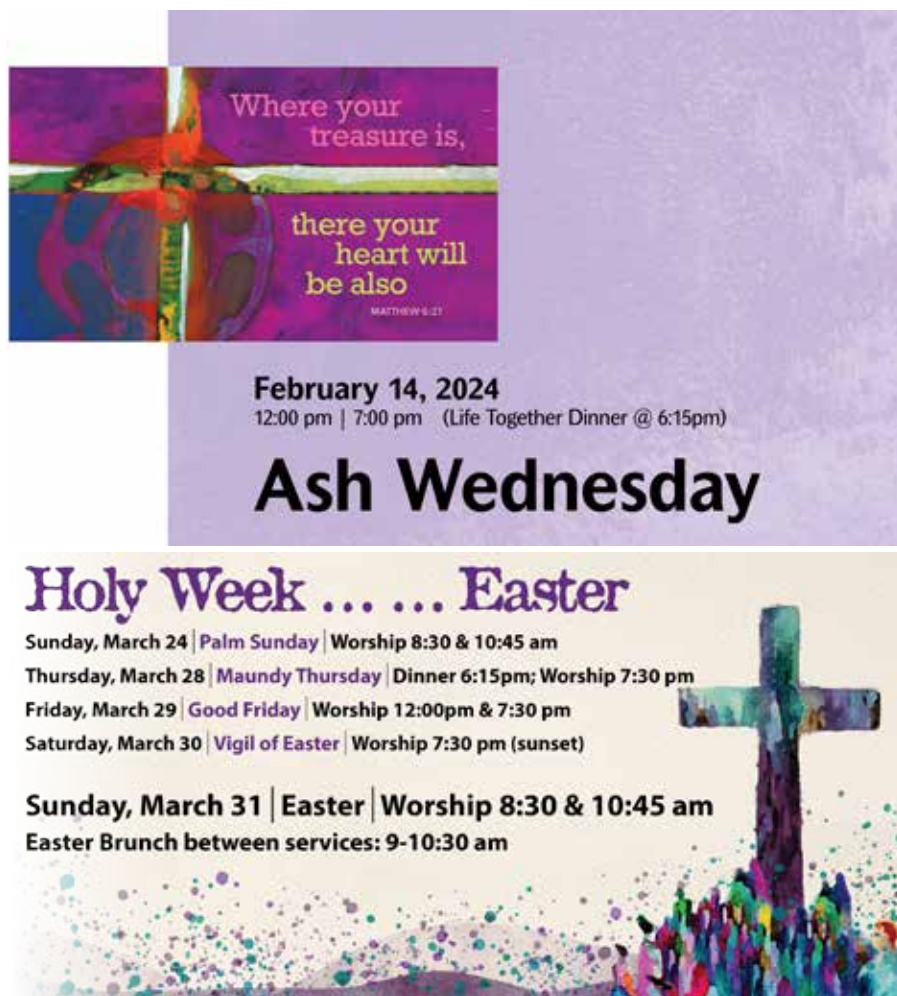
# SUMMER@GRACE!

This should be a surprise to no one that we at Grace LOVE CAMP!! Both Pastor Matt and myself worked at camps in college and they are a huge part of our faith journeys! This summer we are hoping that lots of you will join us at Mount Cross the week of **June 16-21** for a special week of camp that all ages of youth can join in together. The theme is **Created to BE!** K-2 grades can participate in a half week program to get them used to the idea of camp, while 3-8 grades can participate in a full week of camp with lots of amazing options! To register or check out the full program visit the Mt. Cross website. Feel free to reach out with any questions, happy to chat! ❖

## ALL CHURCH VBS WEDNESDAYS

(ALL AGES, Young and Old) Remember how fun VBS was? Let's do that again! Dinner and all the fun of VBS for the whole church family. Beginning June 12 | 6-8pm. ❖





Now offering two monthly meetings instead of just one!

# RETIREE RENDEZVOUS

Each month please join us for a twice monthly event with Retiree Rendezvous. We will now be meeting from **2-3pm** in Brown Hall for light refreshments (cookies, snack, coffee, tea) on the **SECOND** and **FOURTH** Thursdays of the month. Generally, the meeting held on the 2nd Thursday will be for socializing and games while the meeting on the 4th Thursday of the month will be for a speaker on topics important to the group. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Heres the line-up so far:

- **February 8** - Introduction of the new format for Retiree Rendezvous with Q & A.
- **February 22** - We will host a speaker from Avenidas to explain all their programs
- **March 14** - A speaker from the City of Palo Alto Link Program will give an overview of their program with Q & A.
- **March 28** (Maundy Thursday)**NO RETIREE RENDEZVOUS**
- **April 11** - Socializing and Games
- **April 25** - Andrew Mellows will speak on: Technology at Grace
- **May 9** - Grace Staff speaker
- **May 23** - Guest Speaker (TBD)



# SOUTH PALO ALTO FOOD CLOSET



During Lent each year, we highlight our ministry partners working to alleviate hunger in our community and throughout our nation. In addition to the monthly gathering of food and diapers for the Ecumenical Hunger Program, *each week during Lent we will also gather food for the South Palo Alto Food Closet.* Grace was a founding member of the Food Closet in the 1970's. It is located nearby at Covenant Presbyterian Church on East Meadow Drive.

Look for the wagon in the narthex and drop off **canned food, cereal, cooking oil, and peanut butter** for the South Palo Alto Food Closet. Please see Lois Holl if you have any questions about the Food Closet. She is a frequent volunteer. Thank you! ❖

# ENDOWMENT GRANTS



Each year the Endowment Committee invites Grace members to submit grant applications to the Legacy Fund, which is a permanent resource to support the mission and life of Grace Lutheran Church.

- **Internal** Grace-related grant requests address one-off needs that are not included in the normal church operating budget, which may include one-time or unforeseen circumstances. Suggested grant amounts are \$500-\$2,000, up to 25% of the total grant amount for the year.
- **External** qualified non-profit grant requests should be supported by strong knowledge and sponsorship of the organization by the Grace recommending member. Priority is given to organizations and programs that support the local community, or for national or international organizations that have strong ELCA ties.

Suggested grant amounts are \$500-\$2,000 up to 25% of the total grant amount for the year.

- **Grace Operating Budget** 50% of the total grant amount will support the Grace Operating Budget.

Applications will be reviewed by the Endowment Committee at the end of February and recommended to the Church Council at their March meeting. Applicants will be notified via email shortly after the Council review. Thank you and we look forward to assisting the church with its mission, and assisting the broader community in 2024.

**The Legacy Fund is made possible by contributions from past and current Grace members. To learn how to include the Legacy Fund in your estate/bequest plan, please contact the church office.** ❖



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Grace Outdoors (GO!) is a new effort to offer programs for those who love to be active in God's creation. All are invited to participate in any activities that look fun and friends are always welcome. See you soon!

# GRACE OUTDOORS

1. **February 17, 9:00 am:** Purisima Creek Redwoods. Hike from sweeping ocean views to the spectacular redwoods in Half Moon Bay and back up again. This hike is strenuous - 7.5 miles 1800' elevation. Leader: Ann Alexander
2. **February 24, 10:30 am:** (Rescheduled) Stanford Dish. Hike the grassy hills of this beautiful Palo Alto landmark. This hike is easy/moderate - 3.7 miles 530' elevation. Leader: Chris Dunlap
3. **March 23, 9:30 am:** Foothill Park. Enjoy the oak forests and peaceful lake in the hills above Palo Alto. This hike is moderate, 3.8 miles 650' elevation. Leader: Andy Ferguson.
4. **April 27, 9:30 am:** El Corte de Madera. Hike through majestic redwoods and fascinating sandstone formations. This hike is moderate, 4.9 miles 826' elevation. Leaders: Gail Rogers and Ann Alexander
5. **May 18, 10:30 am:** Shoreline Lake Paddle and Picnic. Enjoy a relaxed morning of kayaking or paddleboarding followed by a picnic. This event is easy/suitable for all. Leaders: Ann Alexander, Chris Dunlap, Gail Rogers
6. **June 1, 6:00 pm:** Tomales Bay bioluminescence paddle. Experience the breathtaking beauty of Tomales Bay bioluminescence on a nighttime guided kayaking trip. This event is suitable for physically active beginners, and will require payment. Leaders: Ann Alexander and Chris Dunlap ❖



# COUNCIL



Happy New Year, Dear Friends!

I hope you all had a joyful Christmas season! From Tim Getz's musical advent devotional to the preschool Christmas pageant and dinner, to welcoming Pastor Matt back from sabbatical, the activities at Grace during Advent and Christmas had something for all generations at Grace.

Susan Choquette,  
Council President

## Council:

Susan Choquette,  
President

Yvonne Baur,  
Vice President

Anna Girsén,  
Secretary

Steve Baird

Scott Bandy

Tom Cutler

Christopher Dunlap

Barbara Erickson

Matthew Lungren

Eric Mellum

Lee Taubeneck

Ilse Wiechers

At our January meeting, Council covered a variety of topics. We heard an update from Treasurer, Eric Brudos about how the 2023 calendar year ended and what the finance team anticipates for the rest of the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Barbara Erickson reported about the **Legacy Fund** status and noted that the application period for grants to the Legacy Fund has been extended to Feb. 9. The Endowment Committee will present grant recommendations to Council in March.

Council also formed a team to consider Elizabeth Hood's desire to be called by Grace as an ordained deacon. This team will explore Grace's need for a deacon on staff in this capacity, consider budgetary implications, reflect on other issues as appropriate, and then make a recommendation to Council. Deacons are rostered Ministers of Word and Service with the same call process/guidelines as Pastors who are Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Ordained Deacons are a new ministry in the ELCA since 2017. The team is comprised of a cross-section of church committee representatives and includes Maria Derrick from CYFT (Children, Youth, & Family Team), Julie Buckley from Mutual Ministry, Yvonne Baur from Finance & Council, as well as myself as Council President, and Pr. Matt.

In February and March, we move into a time of reflection during Lent and the resurrection of Easter. Council will hold our first retreat since the pandemic in February. We will use this time together for reflection and planning, paying careful attention to the needs and mission of Grace. Some of that planning will be focused on stewardship and budget planning for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. We will also take up preliminary planning for our next capital campaign cycle. To continue the care and stewardship of our physical spaces, our capital campaigns typically cover a three-year span. The **Generations of Grace** capital campaign was delayed one year due to the pandemic and concludes this fall. (I know we've all been enjoying how the roof over Brown Hall and the preschool no longer leak, as well as all the improvements to the Education wing—renovated restrooms, new windows, carpet, asbestos abatement, and new paint!) Council will review a proposal for our next capital campaign. Stay tuned for updates as we identify a new set of repairs and improvements to enhance our campus.

Finally, Council enjoyed seeing the congregation at the annual **Celebrate Grace** event on January 27—such a fun event to gather and celebrate one another!

Peace to you all. ❖



# Grace Lutheran Church

3149 Waverley Street Palo Alto, CA 94306 650.494.1212 [gracepa.org](http://gracepa.org)



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

### Sunday Worship

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

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

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**Broadcast on Cable 30**

**Sundays 11 a.m. | 8:30 p.m.**

**Mondays 12:30 p.m.**

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**Livestreamed on the Grace YouTube channel. Links at [gracepa.org](http://gracepa.org)**

## Holy Week ... .. Easter

**Sunday, March 24 | Palm Sunday | Worship 8:30 & 10:45 am**

**Thursday, March 28 | Maundy Thursday | Dinner 6:15pm; Worship 7:30 pm**

**Friday, March 29 | Good Friday | Worship 12:00pm & 7:30 pm**

**Saturday, March 30 | Vigil of Easter | Worship 7:30 pm (sunset)**

**Sunday, March 31 | Easter | Worship 8:30 & 10:45 am**

**Easter Brunch between services: 9-10:30 am**

