

# Voice of Grace

*We are called to proclaim the Word and celebrate the sacraments. We gather in Christian community for nurture and support. We are sent out in service to others.*

A Monthly Newsletter

September 2011

## Original 56-Year-Old Roof Replacement Begins



The roof of Grace Lutheran Church survived the snow, rain and winds of the Pacific Northwest for over 50 year. The original wood shingles were showing signs of wear and badly needed replacement. Following a successful fund raising effort by the congregation, the funds for replacement were secured.

The photo above illustrates the addition of substantial insulation (thick grey sheeting) covered by additional plywood. The final covering will be completed in slate-grey standing-seam steel. GLC

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.



Adult Forum & Sunday School 9:15 a.m.



# How Do You Paint a Church in One Day?



Dave Peterson and Janet Coe brave the heights to paint the upper portions of the sanctuary.

## ...With Lots of Volunteers!



“Many hands make light work” is the punch line of the old joke that was so applicable at Grace Lutheran Church during the paint work party. Mark Hinkie and Lucy Hladecek paint and tape outside the fellowship hall.

Jim Little takes out the squeaks and dips in the floor by shoring up the foundation.



Mark Hinkie, Penny Westerfield, Roberta Bymers and Harlan Wolff paint the west wall and perform detail work on the church sign.

A visitor swings by to check out the paint job and give approval.







## From Our Pastor: "On Vacation!"

Pastor Coe and Janet Hutchison are on vacation cruising in Alaska and touring the British Isles with close friends. In this recent email photo from Skagway, Pastor Coe and Janet display their recent copy of the *Voice of Grace* as part of our "Voice of Grace world tour fellowship project."

Remember to take a copy of the newsletter with you when you travel so we can keep in touch as well as watch our newsletter travel the world. Send your photos to Jim Hladecek (james@hladecek.com) for inclusion in the next issue.

## Uganda AIDS Orphans Project Update *submitted by Sharon Dembro*

I spoke with Kenneth Kasula a few days ago. He is holding his between-term meeting with the children to which he has invited a representative from an NGO sponsored by USAID to talk about AIDS prevention. Coe sent the greetings below on behalf of Grace. -Sharon

*Dear Kenneth and children:*

*Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We hold you in our prayers and remember you daily. Your faith and hard work and perseverance are inspiring examples for all of us. May God bless you and be with you as you meet this coming weekend.*

*We are enjoying beautiful summer weather here in Port Townsend at Grace Lutheran Church. It is warm, but not too hot and the sky is a beautiful blue. Wonderful things have been happening at Grace Lutheran as God has poured out his abundant blessings upon us. Two weeks ago, 20 people arrived at church early on a Saturday morning and we painted nearly the whole building in one day. We are very proud of our church and now it looks very nice and well cared for. God will bless us even more within the next month with a new roof. Our existing roof is nearly 50 years old and needs to be replaced. Everyone's generosity and God's blessings have been abundantly obvious as we have raised the money to*

*put on a new roof that will last another 50 years.*

*As we have experienced God's blessings in these ways we have heard again and again about God's great love for his people. We have been reading in the book of Romans in the Bible that, "There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus" and "For I am convinced that neither life, nor death, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor power, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." What wonderful promises God makes to all his children! As Christians we know that sometimes life can be challenging or difficult, but that God is with us every step of the way.*

*God promises this same great love to every single one of you. Each of you is precious in God's eyes and you are also precious in our eyes at Grace Lutheran. We pray that your coming school term will be successful and that you will all be safe and healthy. We close this letter with the same words that we close each of our worship services at Grace Lutheran.*

*May God bless you and keep you, may God make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, may God lift up his countenance to you and give you peace, now and forever. Amen!*

*In the name of Jesus Christ,  
Pastor Coe*



Kenneth attending the "graduation" lunch prepared and served by students at the catering course just completed by one of our orphans - Jane Namugayi. Each could invite one guest and Kenneth was Jane's choice.



# The Calling of St. Matthew by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio

## 1599-1600 Contarini Chapel, Milan

*Compiled by*

On September 21, we celebrate St. Matthew's feast day. We are also in Year A of the lectionary, so most of the Gospel readings are taken from Matthew's account. This analysis of Caravaggio's masterwork, *The Calling of St. Matthew*, may provide readers a lasting and vivid image of this remarkable event.

Of all the apostles whom Jesus chose, we know the most about Matthew. He was from Capernaum, located on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. We know he was a tax collector, one of the occupations forbidden to Jews, as was his father, Alphaeus. Rome collected three principal kinds of taxes, a land tax, a head tax, and a customs tax of 2% to 5% of the value on goods being transported. A tax office or booth would be located near a city gate or port to collect the customs tax. Matthew collected customs taxes at the port of Capernaum from fishermen exporting dried fish, farmers shipping surplus crops to a larger city, and others engaging in commercial trade to other areas. Each province was divided into tax districts. Local citizens were impoverished by Roman taxes. Men who aspired to this occupation would bid for the contract of collecting taxes in their district. The bid amounted to the money they were contracted to pay the Roman government; whatever they collected over that amount was theirs to keep, and many became wealthy through this system. When Jesus calls Matthew, that is exactly where Jesus finds him, sitting in the tax office with some of his cronies, counting the day's take.

Far more serious than being despised by most of the Jewish and Gentile population, tax collectors (or publicans as the KJV translates) were viewed as ritually impure and were excommunicated from worship and the Jewish community in general. These greedy, often wealthy men whose love of money occluded their love of God were considered beneath contempt—but they did have friends. Matthew prepares a large banquet in Jesus' honor shortly after being called, inviting his friends. To eat with a Gentile or tax collector was considered by the strict Pharisees to render one spiritually or ceremonially unclean. Uncleanness was conveyed by touch and association. Even a house entered by a tax collector was considered unclean. "The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, 'Why do you eat and drink with tax-collectors and sinners?'" (Luke 5:30)

But there is another fact about Matthew that was probably buried deep in his own subconscious, obscured but never quite forgotten. In Mark and Luke, we learn that Matthew is known as Levi until he is re-named Matthew, just as Simon Peter becomes Peter. The name Levi identifies him as a member of the tribe of Levi. The Levites were designated as Israel's priestly class, holy attendants in the Temple. But our Levi had wandered far from his ancestors' sacred calling. He was not even



allowed in the local synagogue at Capernaum. Levi was a man whose daily employment profoundly violated his true God-given identity. Jesus knew that Levi needed a new identity, a new purpose, a new reason for living.

Turning our attention back to Caravaggio's masterpiece,



# Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio

## Levi's Chapel, Rome

by Susan Reid



we are privileged to witness the moment in which Jesus calls one of his most controversial apostle. Levi and his assistants sit in the gloom of the tax office, hardly noticing Jesus and Peter's entrance. Caravaggio radically contrasts the tax collectors' elegant clothing to the simple robes and bare feet of Jesus and

Peter. Although this may seem oddly anachronistic—seventeenth century Italian finery versus first century peasant garb—it would have quickly reminded Caravaggio's viewer (as well as today's viewer) of the continual and eternal conflicts between the secular and sacred worlds.

The dramatic point of the picture is that for this moment, no one does anything. Christ's appearance is so unexpected and his gesture so commanding as to suspend action for a shocked instant, before reaction can take place. A gesture of his right hand, all the more powerful and compelling because of its languor, summons Levi. Surprised by the intrusion and perhaps dazzled by the sudden light from the just-opened door, Levi draws back and gestures toward himself with his left hand as if to say, "Who, me?" His right hand remains on the coin he had been counting before Christ's appearance. In another second, Levi will rise up and follow Christ. He will abandon his wealth and way of life, and, in instantaneous faith, he will obey Jesus' seemingly simple command "Follow me." The Gospel accounts are the same, Luke's being the most immediate: "And he got up, left everything, and followed him."

While researching this article, I came across a commentary by a pastor who didn't use the vocabulary or content of art historians or biblical scholars, but his words captured the essence of this story. The pastor said this:

"Think what Levi feels like when he hears those two words ["Follow me"] tap-tapping like a door-knocker on his soul. He is being called to leave his lucrative trade as a tax collector to become almost a beggar, sustaining himself on the sometimes meager contributions made to his Rabbi or Master. In an instant he is being called from wealth to poverty. But I don't think the issue of poverty really enters into his decision. Only one thing matters, and it matters very deeply – oh, so deeply – to Levi: Jesus has sought him out and selected him on purpose. That Jesus would even engage him in conversation is a marvel. He is despised. He is hated. He has been ostracized from respectable society. And Jesus cares enough about him to stop by when not required by law to do so. Jesus accepts him. Jesus loves him – the most unloved man in Capernaum. And Jesus calls him personally: 'Follow me.' Since he was a boy he hadn't imagined himself a righteous man. Now he is being called to accompany a holy man on his itinerant travels. How bizarre! How wonderful! I don't think that the money has any allure for him in the face of this simple request: 'Follow me.' That he is wanted, needed, by this Prophet, this Miracle Worker, this incredible Teacher, is enough for him."

And to this day, Jesus calls us by name to follow him on a faith journey that leads us from poverty to unimaginable riches. GLC





Members of Grace Lutheran Church and guests are invited to join the special class, Lutheranism 101, that will begin in the near future. The class is designed to get down to the nuts and bolts of Lutheranism. If you think you have been a Lutheran for so long there is nothing else to learn...think again. This class will be oriented to the new Lutheran as well as the "experienced" Lutheran. The course will cover various subjects that will address any of those nagging little questions you may have, in addition to other topics, such as:

- What is different about being a Lutheran?
- How do the various religions compare?
- What are the seasons of the church year?
- How do you share your faith with someone?
- What are the three personal spiritual rituals?
- How do you banish the devil from your presence?  
(One of Martin Luther's favorite methods – break wind!)
- What are the five weirdest laws in the Old Testament?

The course promises to be instructive, informative, interactive and entertaining. Sign-up for Lutheranism 101 in the fellowship hall and indicate the best times for you to participate.



Church of the Covered Dish by Thom Tapp



"And in the future, when you take up the offering I would appreciate it if you didn't say 'stick-um up'"



Grace Cinema is back after the summer break. Mark your calendars for Friday, September 16, 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Come and enjoy a film with all the adrenaline pumping spirit of an exciting sporting event – golf! The movie is *The Greatest Game Ever Played*. It is based on a true story directed by Bill Paxton and starring Shia LaBeouf and Stephen Dillane.

Movie reviewer Bret Fetzer states: *You wouldn't think a movie that uses the game of golf as a metaphor for class struggle could be so entertaining. The Greatest Game Ever Played stars Shia LaBeouf (Holes) as Francis Ouimet, a golfer who, in 1913, rose from caddy to U.S. Open champion at the age of 20—despite the resistance of the powers that be, who thought it unseemly for a lower-class plebian to play the sport of gentlemen. Ouimet's main competitor is Harry Vardon (Stephen Dillane, The Hours), a British professional, still considered one of the greatest players of all time, who fought his own class battles. The two go head to head in a genuinely gripping match, deftly balanced against the juxtapositions of their personal struggles. Is it sentimental and formulaic? Is the outcome a foregone conclusion? Yes, but it doesn't matter—formulas exist because, when executed with verve and dexterity, they work. Bill Paxton, best known as an actor (One False Move, Apollo 13), steps into the director's chair and hits all the right notes, aided by an excellent cast playing colorful characters, a vivid recreation of the time period, glowing cinematography, and an expert pace. The Greatest Game Ever Played works.*

As always, Grace Cinema provides plenty of free popcorn and soft drinks so you can sit back and enjoy the movie on our huge screen with surround sound.





## From Our President: "Thank You!"



I don't know why I bother wearing socks, because God continues to knock them off every time I turn around. We have been so blessed over the years, and God continues to bless us so generously.

I was so amazed to see how fast the funds came together for the roof project. I believe that this is a reflection of God's love and how much our church means to all of us. It was not only the money but the willingness of our church members to turn out for the painting of the church. I could hardly believe that almost the entire church was painted in one day.

As you probably noticed, my last month's article was written to gain interest in the paint project and the roof fund raising, which were almost completed by the time the article was released. How amazing is that?

First of all, I thank God for all he has done for us and how his Spirit is moving in our church. Also, I thank each and every one of you who helped in so many different ways to make our church home just that – a "church home."

I could go on for pages trying to thank every one who contributes to our church in one way or another. We are indeed a family of God and our service to God and each other shows it. I am honored and humbled to be the council president of the family of Grace, all of us who serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer

Philippians 1:3

*Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. I always pray for you, and I make my requests with a heart full of joy because you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.*



# Member Photo Updates

Over the years, Grace Lutheran Church has posted photos of our members on the wall. This highlights the total Grace Family for the benefit of new members, the public and for a record of our membership. We have added photos were then



added to the phone directory to help new members and others recognize the names and faces and find the appropriate numbers. As new members join the church, we take that opportunity to add their photos as well.

Plan to attend one of the upcoming photo shoots on either September 21 or 28 fol-

lowing Sunday service.

If you are content with your existing photo, there is no need for you to update at this time; however, if you feel the need to change your image, sign up for the photo shoot on the form available in fellowship hall.

**REMEMBER! Do not wear any shade of green on the day of the shoot.** Your photo will be taken against a special green screen and a background will be added later. If you wear green it will not be recorded. If for example, you chose to wear a green shirt on that photo day, your head would appear to float in the air.

"Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him."

— C.S. Lewis

## Have You Shared Your Faith in Christ Today?



It is easy to tell when your children are growing up. They stop asking where they came from and start refusing to tell you where they are going.

### Church Council

**President:** Jim Espenson  
espenson@cablespeed.com

**Vice President:** Roberta Bymers

**Secretary:** Linda Cooley

**Ministers:**

**Resources (Treasurer):** Anne Argites

**Facilities:** Dave Peterson

**Worship/Music:** David Gaenicke

**Stewardship:** Mark Dembro

**Community Concerns & Social Ministry:** Bob Threlkeld

**Congregational Concerns & Fellowship:** Floyd Thompson

### Church Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Coe Hutchison  
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**Secretary:** Crissy Dunlap  
gracelutheranpt@gmail.com

**Organist/Pianist:** Lisa Lanza

**Choir Director:** June Mills

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Linda Wolff

**Editor, Voice of Grace and Church website:**

Jim Hladecek, james@hladecek.com