

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

April 2011



Reflections of a Prayer Retreat

On March 19 and 26 Pastor Coe conducted prayer retreats at Grace Lutheran Church. The first retreat began with morning prayer and reflection. The appropriateness of that beginning was underscored by the bright sun, a rarity these past few weeks, streaming through the stained glass windows creating marvelous colored reflections as shown in the photo to the left.

The retreat provided time for silent reflection and communication with God. It incorporated opportunity for adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. Most important, the participants had the opportunity to have a quiet, peaceful and silent time with God, not only to talk to God but to listen.

Watch for prayer retreats in the near future.

A Prayer by Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going, I do not see the road ahead of me, I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. (Merton, Thomas, 1976. *Thoughts in Solitude*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.) †

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.



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

New Members: Tom & Nina Daly by Sue Peterson

Proper pronunciation of Nina’s name requires a long “i” sound (as in nine). Daly has a long “a” sound (as in day).

We’ve been privileged to hear Nina’s beautiful singing voice, and we certainly treasure her gift. Tom is that wonderfully supportive fellow who sits next to her and smiles proudly as she graces our worship with that gift.

They came to Port Townsend on a leap of faith from Mokena, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. They had visited Nina’s cousin several times here and always loved it. Nina’s cousin was a shrewd businesswoman who bought and refurbished several small homes in Port Townsend. Much to their surprise, they learned upon her death that she had willed one of the homes to Nina. Nina and Tom rented it out for a few years; then, they decided to take that leap of faith. They drove from



Illinois, and, without planning or realizing it, they arrived on April 20, 1997 — it would have been her cousin’s 79th birthday.

Tom worked for Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois prior to their move. He retired from Olycap at the Community Center in Chimacum where he had been the director. He now

Tom & Nina Daly’s favorite Bible verse:
“Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged; for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9b).

helps out a good friend and is a major support to Nina as she works in a stressful but rewarding job for Jefferson Mental Health at Discovery School, a day treatment program.

Several of Nina’s cousins live in the Port Townsend area, and a brother lives in Hawaii, but most of their family live in Illinois. The major family member is Roma, a springer spaniel!

Nina and Tom love to walk her. Nina enjoys singing and painting. Tom is interested in professional baseball and Sherlock Holmes. Their favorite movie is *The Quiet Man*. When they were dating their favorite song was *Lady* by Kenny Rodgers. †



Council Highlights by Linda Cooley

Dianne Espenson discussed the audit procedure and stated that a formal report will be forthcoming. At this point things look very good.

There was discussion regarding recent changes to the Grace Lutheran Church Web site and it was concluded that the Web site is much improved and meets the needs of our congregation and visitors to the site.

It was noted that there appears to be about a 10-15% increase in overall church service attendance in the past few months.

The council approved the Grace Endowment Committee’s recommendation for the following contributions:

ECHHO	\$ 250
Uganda Orphans	\$ 2,700
Young Life	\$ 550

There will be a potluck breakfast at 9:15 a.m. on Easter Sunday. †



What'll Ya Have? Martin's Malt or Luther's Root Beer?

by Jim Hladecek

The Men in Motion are moving again. Council President Jim Espenson announced that the next excursion for the men of Grace Lutheran and other churches will be a ferry ride to Edmonds and the Where-U-Brew establishment known as Gallagher's. Gallagher's provides all the fixin's for brewing and bottling your own beer, cider or root beer. If you enjoy a good brew now and then, you will certainly enjoy a beverage that you brewed yourself or, in this case, with the men of the church.

The date has yet to be set; however, in the meantime, Jim Espenson will be coordinating with the men to set a date and develop an approximate idea as to how much beer needs to be brewed. That is a critical bit of information since Gallagher's



The steam beer vats that represent the beginning of the brewing process.

needs to know how many vats to reserve for our group.

Making a batch of beer at Gallagher's takes about two hours total brew time. Upon arrival, the group will decide what style of beer to brew. That can be the hardest part of the excursion since Gallagher's is prepared to brew everything from wheat beers to ambers, pale ambers, stouts and everything in between. The actual process runs two weeks to allow for the full fermentation process. Then, the men or a delegation, go back to Gallagher's to pick up their fully brewed, aged and bottled beer.

If you are interested in participating in this Men in Motion excursion, or you would like to order bottles of beer, or non-alcoholic root beer, contact Jim Espenson for further information. †

What Does Your Faith inspire?

God's word has inspired a response in us: In Uganda, AIDS orphans receive an education; in Port Townsend, the hungry are fed through the food bank and winter shelter.

How has God's word inspired you personally? Planning can help you make a huge difference. Learn more about what you can accomplish using planned giving, charitable trusts, wills, charitable gift annuities or life insurance. For further information, contact Jim Hladecek.



"All right, I want to know how my sermon notes are being leaked to you for the purpose of being prematurely posted on your web site!"

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
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The Lutheran Tradition of Individual Confession and Absolution

Each service of Holy Communion, begins with corporate confession and forgiveness. We leave a space of silence in that part of the service so that each of us may recall our own individual sins. We hear the pastor proclaim God’s forgiveness of our sins as an entire congregation.

Perhaps you weren’t aware that there is also a rich Lutheran tradition of individual confession and forgiveness. This is when you take the opportunity to meet with the Pastor and, through the prayers suggested, confess your individual sins. The Pastor then speaks the words of God’s absolution



directly to you, individually. I have availed myself of this rite of confession and absolution and have always found it very meaningful. You can find this beautiful liturgy in the green Lutheran Book of Worship on page 196.

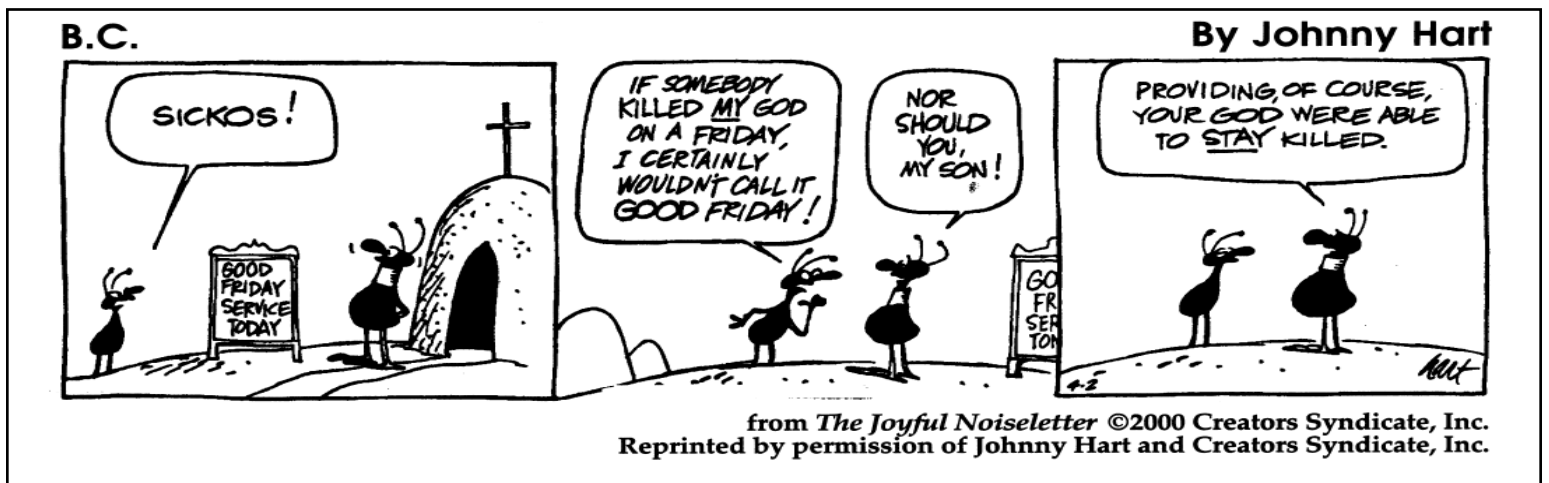
Lent and Holy Week are a wonderful time to make use of this powerful rite of the Church. Be assured that your confession will be held in the strictest confidence. I invite and encourage you to consider this rite as part of your Lenten discipline. Please call Pastor Coe to make an appointment to make your confession and hear God’s words of forgiveness spoken directly to you. In Christ’s love, Pastor Coe. †

Seeking: Flower Coordinator



We have beautiful flowers behind the altar nearly every week of the year (except Lent when the altar is bare). These flowers are given to the glory of God and frequently in memory of loved ones or recognition of birthdays, anniversaries or other special events. There is a signup list for providing altar flowers on the bulletin board in the narthex. We are looking for someone to volunteer to be our flower coordinator. This person would take responsibility for getting the slots filled on the flower chart and would provide reminders to those who have signed up for flowers. This person could also be of great assistance to those providing flowers by communicating what is expected and where and how to arrange for flowers to be prepared. If you (or you and a friend) would be willing to take on this responsibility, please contact the office. It would be a great service to our congregation and a support to our Sunday worship. †

"We meet no ordinary people in our lives."
— C.S. Lewis



Holy Week and Easter Services

April 17 – April 24

The Passion and Palms

Passion (Palm) Sunday – April 17, 10:30 a.m.

As we hear the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His Passion, we prepare once again to hear of the great mystery of our salvation and God's love for us.

Maundy Thursday – April 21, 7:00 p.m.

From the Latin word *mandatum* we remember on this day the two *new commandments* of our Lord: to love one another as he has loved us, and to "Do this in remembrance of me."

The Service of the Word for Healing follows the stripping of the Altar.

Good Friday – April 22, 12:00 Noon

Walk with Jesus through the last hours of his earthly life and reflect on the meaning of those hours for your life today. This is a powerful and meaningful worship experience.

Good Friday – April 22, 7:00 p.m.

The Tenebrae or Service of Darkness calls us to remember and even feel the awful consequences of sin and the magnitude of our Lord's sacrifice. We leave the Service in silence, pondering our Lord's suffering and death on the cross.

The Great Vigil of Easter – April 23, 7:00 p.m.

On this night, greatest of all nights of the year, the past, present and future of salvation become merged into the here and now for us. We rejoice in the mystery of our salvation and renew our own Baptismal vows. This is the first Service of Easter.

The Resurrection of our Lord – April 24, Easter Day

Festival Worship – 10:30 a.m.

*Renew now, all heavenly choirs of angels,
and for the victory of so great a King,
sound the trumpet of salvation!*

Our Easter celebration includes the fellowship of our **wonderful potluck breakfast at 9:15 a.m.** Please bring your own table setting and food to share.

(Please note that there will be no forum or Sunday school on Palm Sunday or Easter)



From Our Pastor: *“Following Jesus: What Difference has it Made?”*

One of God’s most profound works in my life has been calming life’s storms and providing a lasting and stable foundation. Early in my life, I worked to please bosses, elected officials, co-workers, whoever happened to be in sight at the time. Henri Nouwen’s description was apt,

*“At issue here is the question: ‘To whom do I belong? To God or to the world?’ Many of my daily preoccupations suggest that I belong more to the world than to God. A little criticism makes me angry and a little rejection makes me depressed. A little praise raises my spirits, and a little success excites me. It takes very little to raise me up or thrust me down. Often I am like a small boat on the ocean completely at the mercy of its waves” (Nouwen, Henri, 1992. *The Return of the Prodigal Son*, p.42. New York: Doubleday).*

Over the years, God has calmed some of those waves, as my identity has been more deeply and solidly formed in Christ’s love. God’s love has sustained us through children with cancer, careers and jobs that ended unsatisfactorily and many other ups and downs of life. God has calmed the waters and provided a foundation that has held up through the storms of life. *“I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house, but could not shake it, for it was well built” (Luke 6:47-48, NRSV).*

With time, I have come to learn the way home, home to Jesus. It is a home that is safe and secure. It is a home that is never far away and in which I can abide. I can always make the short trip home with a few minutes of abiding prayer. It is a home where I am loved, forgiven and strengthened to go out and love others with the same love that I know at home.

Now, as a pastor, I have the privilege of looking into people’s eyes and hearts and assuring them of Christ’s love and sacrifice, Jesus’ gift of himself, crucified for them. There are no more precious words and no greater privilege.

I still follow Jesus because there is no one else who has the words of eternal life; there is no one else whose love sustains me, no one else who calms the storms of the world and provides a foundation to withstand whatever life sends our way. But frankly, it is too light a word to say that I still “follow” Jesus. It is much more accurate to say that I cling to Jesus, with every ounce of strength. And Jesus seems to respond back, “Hold on tight; it’s an exciting ride.”

*God Bless,
Pastor Coe*

This article was written by Pastor Coe Hutchison for Grace Lutheran’s Voice of Grace and as a guest contribution to Christine Sine’s Godspace Blog.

From Our President: *“The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People”*



While I was still working for the Postal Service I had an opportunity to take on additional workload by becoming a facilitator for the Quality of Life Employee Involvement process with the United States Postal Service. As part of the preparation for facilitating this process, I traveled to Salt Lake City to study *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. While this was fairly secular in nature, I found myself comparing this to my spiritual life.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People was written by Stephen R. Covey. While the intent of his writing encourages a holistic, integrated approach to solving personal and professional problems by becoming principle-centered, I found myself thinking in terms of becoming Christ-centered.

The first habit is “be proactive.” Covey writes about the “freedom to choose” which I consider free will. His freedom-to-choose model shows that there is a stimulus and a response, self-awareness, imagination, independent will, and conscience. This certainly speaks to me of God’s gift of free will.

I believe that the “stimulus” is our calling to follow Jesus. We have the freedom to follow Christ or not; the response is up to us. We have independent will and our conscience to help us decide. More than conscience we have prayer and the Holy Spirit to help us decide. But all of this is of no use unless we take the initiative to follow Christ. When we take initiative, we must recognize our responsibility to make things happen. I like to think of it this way: I cannot sit in a pew in church and wait for Pastor Coe to create my relationship with Christ for me. He certainly gives me a ton of tools to do that; however, unless I do something with them what good are they?

Covey also writes about the circle of influence. There is an outer circle and a small inner circle with the outer being the circle of influence and the inner being the circle of concern. Again I consider the outer circle to be God’s plan for us, our ability to walk with Christ every day, and the inner circle to be our worries and troubles that keep us from building that relationship with him. If we continue to live in the inner circle, that circle will begin to get larger as we spend all of our time worrying about why things are the way they are. But if we live more in the outer circle and leave our worries at the foot of the cross, our circle of influence, or God’s plan, will continue to grow and flourish. Once we begin living this way, the circle of concern becomes smaller and we can focus our thoughts on Christ.

God has given us free will and responsibility. Look at the word response-ability, the ability to choose our response. Because we have Christ in our lives, we are proactive and not reactive. When we are Christ-centered, we have taken the opportunity to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“The good soil represents the heart of those who truly accept God’s message and produce a huge harvest – thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted” (Matthew 13:23 NLT).

Yours in Christ,



Grace Lutheran Church kicked off a special 2011 campaign to raise \$18,000 on behalf of the 21 Uganda AIDS orphans supported by the congregation. Grace has been providing for their education and related expenses with the help of our program

coordinator in Uganda, Kenneth Kasule. Without our financial support, it is very doubtful that these children would have access to education.

The overall campaign goal of \$18,000 includes the tuition goal of \$12,600 (representing \$600 per student) and additional related expenses of \$5,400. To date, congregation members have pledged a total of \$10,950 toward tuition, leaving a balance of only \$1,650. There is still time to reach our goal! The remaining budgeted amount of \$5,400 will be raised through concerts, plant sales and other events this year. These funds will be used for the children's health care, school supplies and incidental expenses and will also provide a small stipend for Kenneth Kasule (\$50 per month) for his work with the children. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and faithful coordinator.

Tuition pledges are still needed. Please contact Jim Hladecek for a pledge card. Pledge any amount; you may choose to pay now or incrementally through the year. This is your opportunity to make a big difference in the life of a young, hopeful and motivated student, who lacks only the means to acquire an education for future success. †



Spring

by Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89)
submitted by Susan Reid

Nothing is so beautiful as spring—
When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?
A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
In Eden garden. Have, get, before it cloy,
Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

Church Council

President: Jim Espenson
espenson@cablespeed.com

Vice President: Roberta Bymers

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Facilities: Dave Peterson

Worship/Music: David Gaenicke

Stewardship: Mark Dembro

Evangelism: Joan Bender

Education & Youth: Kathy Gibson

Community Concerns & Social Ministry: Bob Threlkeld

Congregational Concerns & Fellowship: Floyd Thompson

Youth Representative: Brian Snelgrove

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Coe Hutchison
pastorcoeh@gmail.com
cell - 206-369-0606

parsonage - 360-385-2281

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