

# 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.*



## Lesson at the Pastor's Feet

Many people with cameras don't have them when the ideal picture presents itself. In this case, however, Brad Lee caught Hazel, Chuck and Barb Thompson's granddaughter, as her interest was piqued in the Sunday Service on Rally

Day.

We don't know what was going on in Hazel's mind, but we can certainly attest that Pastor Coe was captivating her.

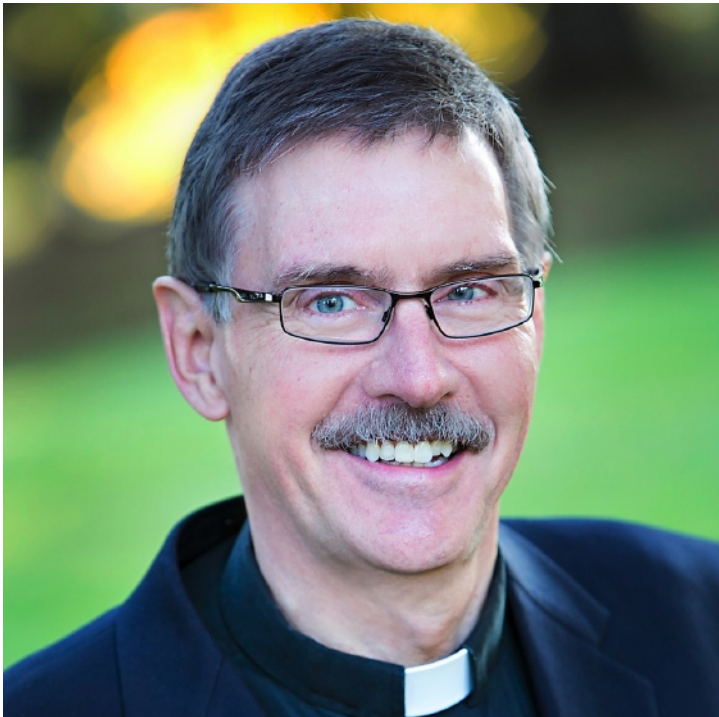
Sunday Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.



October 2015

# ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission

by Bishop Rick Jaech



What do Mitchell, Savannah, Bryce and Hannah have in common? They are four young people from our Synod who have committed the next year of their life to serving in ministry around the world. They are doing this through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program (YAGM). The ELCA carries out many exciting and crucial ministries. One of the ELCA ministries that I especially appreciate is the YAGM program.

This month (September 2015), 74 young adults, who have just graduated from college, will begin working as volunteers in ELCA related ministries in Argentina, Cambodia, Columbia, Central Europe, Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, South Africa and the United Kingdom. They will be engaged in a variety of activities, including congregational ministry, human rights work, development projects, healthcare, education and youth work.

The four YAGM workers from our Synod are:



**Mitchell Helton, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, who will do educational and parish ministry in Jerusalem/West Bank.**



**Hannah Webber, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, who will do youth and parish ministry in Knowle, United Kingdom.**



**Savannah Schneider, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, who will do development work and teach English in Bavel, Columbia.**



**Bryce Knutzen, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Olympia, who will do youth ministry in Tollesbury, United Kingdom.**

In addition to giving a year of their time and energy, YAGM volunteers also raise \$4,000 to help pay for their living costs of food, housing and transportation. The ELCA recruits sponsors who help provide the additional \$7,000 for living costs.

Along with the important ministry they do during their year of YAGM service, these young people return to church life in the United States with increased gifts of wisdom, spiritual insight and commitment to service. Many YAGM's become lay leaders in local congregations and a significant percentage enter seminary.

I invite you to offer prayers of thanksgiving to God for these four YAGM volunteers as they follow Christ and offer their lives and gifts. Pray also for their effectiveness, safety and joy throughout the coming year. They are models to all of us of how we might give ourselves in new ways and bring God's love and care to all around us.

*"God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He, Himself, is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there."*

— C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity



## Pastor's Message: "2025"

In a late August sermon, I asked the question, "What needs to change in order to make our worship and congregational life meaningful, accessible, understandable, and useful to the next generation?" That question has generated lots of interesting conversation.

I get a sense that people are really ready to tackle this question and see where God is leading us. That's exciting because it is not just change for the sake of change, but truly God is leading us forward. And when God leads, it is always exciting, fruitful, and life-giving.

As we begin discussions about the future, we remember God's admonition throughout Scripture to "Be not afraid." While the future may bring change, we don't need to fear the change, because we do not walk the path alone. This is God's church, not ours, and God will take it where it needs to go. It is not our job to make sure the church survives, the Holy Spirit will do that work; it is simply our job to follow the Holy Spirit. We need not fear the future, because the future is in God's hands.

So, what do we do? How do we answer this question? Where do we begin? The perfect questions! Let's begin with prayer. I would invite you to join me in the following prayer (or something similar) as we begin this journey.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the joy, comfort and love we enjoy in our congregation. We praise you for the experience of your presence with us. And now, Lord, we sense the call of your Spirit to reach out to the next generation and invite them into this joy, comfort and love. Guide us as we consider how best to share our faith with others. Help us to listen – to each other – to those to whom you may be leading us – and especially to you. Thank you, Father. We remember that this is your Holy Church and that its future is safe in your hands. We pray these things in Jesus' name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Having begun with prayer, I think the next step is to get together and share what we might be hearing in response to our prayer. To that end, everyone is invited to an evening forum on Wednesday night, October 28, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We will brainstorm, share, and listen to ideas about how we might begin to approach this question. Everyone's ideas are important, so please come and share your thoughts.

This is exciting! It is important! Come and be part of the future. What will Grace Lutheran look like in 2025?



*God Bless,  
Pastor Coe*

# Memories of the Men's Summer BBQ

*photos by K*

The men of Grace Lutheran Church enjoyed their annual BBQ with brats, burgers, sides and fellowship at the Kala Point beach BBQ facility. Jim Little, long known for his culinary expertise manned the grill. Plates were loaded by Bob Haines, Dave Peterson, Earl Kong and Pastor Coe in the bottom photo.



The men gather around the table to enjoy their lunch and each other's company.

Pastor Coe and Tom Larsen take a moment in the sun to talk.



# Q and Bocce Ball Competition – 2015

*Keith White*

Bocce Ball requires a specific skill set. Shown below, Ted Gifford employs steely concentration, while Earl Kong throws in the Jamaican Jump for emphasis; then, Dennis Struecker follows up with an artistic ballet move that leaves Jim Little in awe.



# A Good Lesson

*Author Unknown*



A young man, a student in one of our universities, was one day taking a walk with a professor, who was commonly called the students' friend, from his kindness to those who waited on his instructions. As they went along, they saw lying in the path a pair of old shoes, which they supposed to belong to a poor man who was employed in a field close by, and who had nearly finished his day's work.

The student turned to the professor, saying: "Let us play the man a trick: we will hide his shoes, and conceal ourselves behind those bushes, and wait to see his perplexity when he cannot find them." "My young friend," answered the professor, "we should never amuse ourselves at the expense of the poor. But you are rich, and may give yourself a much greater pleasure by means of this poor man. Put a coin into each shoe, and, then, we will hide ourselves and watch how the discovery affects him."

The student did so, and they both placed themselves behind the bushes close by. The poor man soon finished his work, and came across the field to the path where he had left his coat and shoes. While putting on his coat he slipped his

foot into one of his shoes; but feeling something hard, he stooped down to feel what it was and found the coin. Astonishment and wonder were seen upon his countenance. He gazed upon the coin, turned it round, and looked at it again and again. He then looked around him on all sides, but no person was to be seen. He now put the money into his pocket, and proceeded to put on the other shoe; but his surprise was doubled on finding the other coin. His feelings overcame him; he fell upon his knees, looked up to heaven and uttered aloud a fervent thanksgiving, in which he spoke of his wife, sick and helpless, and his children without bread, whom this timely bounty from some unknown hand, would save from perishing.

The student stood there deeply affected, and his eyes filled with tears. "Now," said the professor, "are you not much better pleased than if you had played your intended trick?" The youth replied, "You have taught me a lesson which I will never forget. I feel now the truth of these words, which I never understood before: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"



# What Are Your Suggestions?

In September, Pastor Coe provided 3x5 cards and asked the congregation for suggestions on sermon topics or adult forum topics. The suggestions are all listed below. As Pastor Coe explained, ALL suggestions are welcome; however, it is possible that not all suggestions will be used. If you have further suggestions, feel free to email Pastor Coe at:

[pastorcoeh@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcoeh@gmail.com).

Following are the suggestions so far.

- The true meaning of "separation of church and state." Has this become "divide and conquer?"
- Has the force of social pressures altered theology and church doctrine? How do these two play out and interact in our church lives?
- Martin Luther and his life and why we are Lutherans
- Vanity
- How Jesus' response to people might influence how we deal with dementia in our midst
- Social justice as a Christian imperative
- Repentance and grace
- Another sermon series
- White privilege and the role of white people in dismantling racism
- Heaven
- We only hear words from the men in the early church. Can we learn about women in the church? What have they said? What do we have to learn from them?
- Examine the differences between Bible references that don't apply to our culture today and those that are timeless and applicable.
- Don't change anything.

- What was Jesus' real attitude toward the rich or wealthy?
- Homosexuality and the Bible, how do we treat what the Bible says? Where does love come into it?

Keep your suggestions coming. Additional 3x5 cards are available in the fellowship hall. You may submit your suggestions on any format including emails to the pastor.

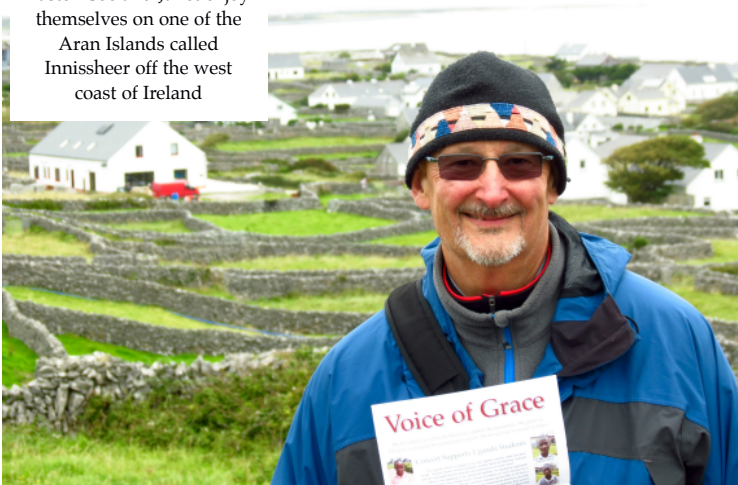


The annual brunch to support Lutheran Community Services is Sunday, November 8, 2015, at the Kitsap Conference Center in Bremerton. The brunch is free, and there will be an opportunity to give and support the ministries of LCSNW. The social hour starts at 12:30 and the buffet and program at 1:30.

Come join us for this event, "Soaring into Tomorrow," which will offer a great opportunity to learn about and support our Lutheran social services agency for the Kitsap and Olympic peninsulas. This Lutheran agency represents God's work in the larger community with people in need. In our area many of these programs support older adults.

For more information please contact me, Marty Richards, 360-379-1250 or [mrichard\\_2002@yahoo.com](mailto:mrichard_2002@yahoo.com). We will car pool from Grace to Bremerton after church on Sunday, November 8. Hope that you can join us.

Pastor Coe and Janet enjoy themselves on one of the Aran Islands called Innisheer off the west coast of Ireland



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CAN YOU SCROLL BACK UP?

08-07-2015

# Rally Day 2015



"A Day at the Beach!" was the theme for the Rally Day Barbecue following Sunday, September 13, service. The congregation was encouraged to come to church in beach garb, and it seemed that everyone took the challenge seriously, appearing in decidedly relaxed beach attire.

Fellowship chair, Karen Erickson, coordinated the event with the help of the fellowship committee and many fun-loving

congregation members: Linda Gaenicke and Penny Westerfield, two of our resident creatives, put their very creative minds together and designed the beautiful décor. Linda created the ingenious little beach flaps that led us all into the

fellowship hall from the sanctuary and the front door. Penny constructed sandcastles with all manner of beach treasures, such as starfish, shells and beach glass for the tables, and her sister, Sandy Wefel, suggested and gathered beach driftwood to enhance the décor. In addition, Janet Hutchison, Kathy Gibson and Lucy Hladecek participated in planning and setting up the fellow-



ship hall and helped in serving and cleaning up.

Of course, no Lutheran gathering is complete without food...and it was plentiful and delicious, thanks to our grillers, Jim Little, Dave Peterson and Dave Gaenicke plus many others in the congregation who provided beautifully crafted salads and appetizers. Our very successful Rally Day was topped off with Ice cream Sundaes.

Thanks to all who helped make this the best "Day BBQ at the Beach" ever!

## World Tour: *Voice of Grace*

Mary Ronen (center) is pictured enjoying a beautiful Hawaiian Island morning in a photo op with her sisters, Nancy (holding the *Voice of Grace*) and Linda, during a recent visit to Nancy's home on the island of Hawaii.



The newsletter pops up in many different places in the world via the members of our congregation. Be sure to take a copy of the *Voice of Grace* on your next journey and capture it in a photo to illustrate your adventures!

### Church Council

**President:** Jim Hladecek

james@hladecek.com

**Vice President:** Mary Ronen

**Secretary:** Betty Oakes

**Ministers:**

**Resources (Treasurer):** Dianne Espenson

**Facilities:** Jim Little

**Worship/Music:** Nina Daly

**Stewardship:** Don Fristoe

**Social Concerns:** Earl Kong

**Fellowship:** Karen Erickson

### Church Staff

**Pastor:** Rev. Coe Hutchison

pastorcoeh@gmail.com

cell 206-369-0606

parsonage 360-385-2281

**Administrative Assistant:** Crissy Dunlap

gracelutheranpt@gmail.com

**Organist/Pianist:** Lisa Lanza

**Choir Director:** Colleen Johnson

**Sunday School Superintendent:** Linda Wolff

**Editor, *Voice of Grace* and church Web site:**

Jim Hladecek, jim@hladecek.com