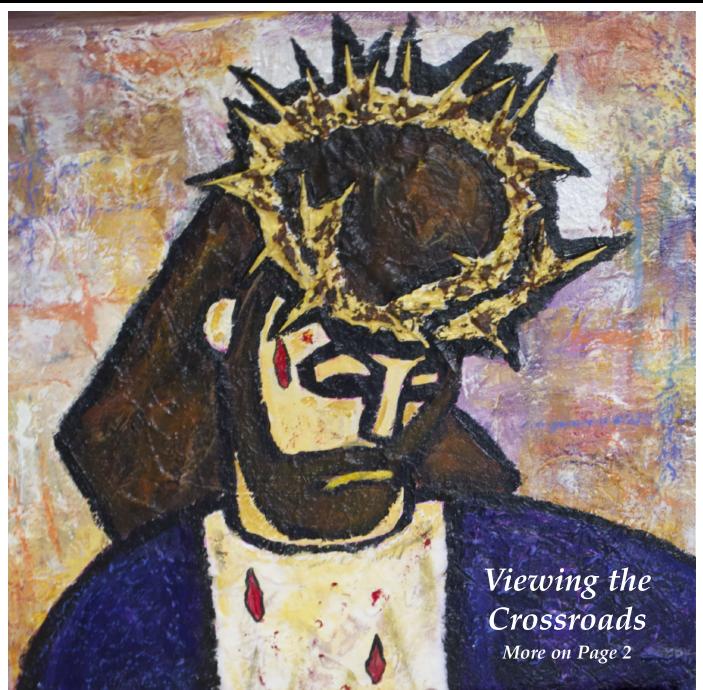


We are called to proclaim the Word and celebrate the sacraments. We gather in Christian community for nurture and support. We are sent out in service to others.

A Monthly Newsletter



Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.



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

G R A C E L U T H E R A N C H U R C H



Sat. Sun.	May 12 May 13	8:30 a.m 3	Beer, root beer, and cider brewing Ladies Hat and
Sun.	May 27	4 p.m.	Bonnet Day Benefit Concert for Ugandan Orphans
Sat.	June 2	9 a.m 2	Church Work Party
	June 9-16		Holden Village Trip
Sun.	June 24	Noon - 1	Semi-Annual Meeting
Sun.	July 8	3 p.m 5:30	Root Beer Social at the
Sat.	July 28	9 a.m 2	Parsonage Church Work Party
Sat.	Aug. 25		Worship at the Shelton Prison
Sat.	Sep. 15	9 a.m 2	Church Work Party

Beer Brewing Date Set

May 12 is the date selected for beer, cider and root beer brewing in Edmonds. Sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. There are menus with all the beer options listed. Please select your favorite brew and down the write name and how much you want (e.g., ½ batch, ¼ batch, etc.) We will gather early at the church, carpool to



Kingston, walk on the ferry; then, we can walk from the ferry to the brewery. Everyone is welcome (men and women). GLC



The Kanoni, Uganda market place where some of our students do their grocery shopping.

The wonderful Annual Benefit Concert for the Ugandan orphans is planned for Sunday, May 27, at 4:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church. This remarkable musical event features an exciting lineup of talented musicians of all ages—pianists Odette Jennings and Lisa Lanza; violinists Rinnah Becker and Marley Erickson; and cellist Madelyn Kowalski. In addition, we are so pleased that Jeni Little and Jim Espenson will sing some special songs they have planned just for the concert, and members of the Grace Choir will sing a Zimbabwean traditional hymn of praise, joined by the marimba group "Rugare" (with Lisa Lanza on marimba!) Do not miss this event, which promises to be a beautiful and uplifting experience with a wonderful purpose.

To further benefit the Uganda orphans, the annual plant sale event is being organized. Watch the Sunday Bulletins for dates and time.

If you have further questions, call Sharon Dembro at 385-4045. GLC

Grace Artists Grace the Passion

Featured on the front page is a painting by Roberta Bymers depicting the crucified Christ for the exhibition, *Viewing the Crossroads*, hosted by the First Baptist Church. Other Grace artists contributing beautiful art for the exhibition were Nina Daly, Glora Sutton, Ruth Haase and Patt Roche.

Before the art was placed in the exhibition at the First Baptist Church, it was displayed for the Grace Lutheran congregation in the fellowship hall. Each piece received serious attention by the viewers who were pleased for the opportunity to see the work of our very own artists. We are blessed to have such talented members in our congregation. GLC

G R A C E			•				•	
		E R		N I		R		



I tend to think of my faith journey as somewhat uneventful and uninteresting to others.

I have heard other women's testimonies and have been amazed at what they have lived through and how far they have already traveled on their journey. Often I look at my own faith journey and feel that I am miles behind them. But the Psalms remind me that I am where God wants me to be. Everyone has a different 'story' and journey.

One of my most comforting thoughts is that my journey began when I was in my mother's womb. It is amazing to think that God knew me and loved me then and continues leading me on the path. The Psalm that speaks to my heart is Psalm 139 – God knows each of us personally and is with us always.

I was baptized as an infant and always taken to Mass by my mother. She also made sure that all five children studied our Catholic faith at weekly Catechism classes.

I had a 1950s childhood. My mom took turns driving us weekly to the church across town for Catechism. She was able to transport the children of three other families also, since we had a station wagon and there were no seat belt laws!

I remember telling my mom once that someone called me a "Christian" but that I said I was a "Catholic," not a Christian! Thankfully, my mother took the opportunity to explain it to me.

I received my first communion at age seven after a year of instruction. I knew it was important when I wore a new white dress and a veil, but it was also scary knowing I had to confess my sins to the priest—even if he couldn't see me.

My paternal grandmother lived two blocks away, and we were allowed to roam freely between the two homes. I was the only granddaughter living in the same town for 13 years, so she and I developed a very close bond. I often spent the night with her and can still hear her saying the 'Lord's Prayer' and the 'Angel of God' prayer at bed time with me.

When I got older, I tended to drift in and out of church for a few years. But after Jim and I were married and had our first child, I felt the importance and responsibility of teaching Stacie about God.

As a young adult I tried to read the Bible once or twice but could not seem to understand the message. Remember, it was probably the King James Version with no study helps. Besides, that was not something we were encouraged or taught to do in my church then.

When we moved to Port Townsend in 1985, I tried attending both the Catholic and Lutheran churches as we had done in the past. On one of the first Sundays while at church with Jim, I heard mention of a Wednesday Bible study class. This really grabbed my attention and piqued my curiosity. I attended every week after that for four years until I started working on Wednesdays. It was in these classes that I first remember fully understanding that I was "saved by grace" – not anything I could or should do. Finally, the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ had real meaning for me personally. I found myself wanting to worship and praise God for reasons other than just "fire insurance." Up to that point, attending church had been a duty rather than a time to praise and worship God.

My biggest revelation came when our 15-year-old son, Ryan started talking to us about a "personal relationship" with Jesus. I have to admit that he had to explain to me exactly what he meant. I had never heard it put in those terms before. He had developed his faith further with the Young Life youth group and experiences at their camps. I was amazed at how quickly his faith and knowledge of the Bible grew. I realized through our discussions that I wanted that personal relationship with Jesus!

So, through the mentoring of loving pastors, fellowship at Grace, studying my Bible, events like Via de Cristo and all the special opportunities that Pastor Coe offers for growth, I am still excited to be on my journey. Thank you all for being part of it! GLC

Managing Grief: Tap Into Your Spiritual Traditions and Beliefs *by Karrie Cannon, MSW*



One of the most important resources to turn to when mourning the death of a loved one is our faith. Many bereaved have told me about using their spiritual practices to find meaning and eventual peace of mind in trying to integrate their losses into their suddenly different worlds.

In particular, our faith can bring comfort, and in many instances, a sense of relief and meaning to the loss of loved ones. Here are some ways to explore your beliefs to find peace and ultimately the motivation to begin the process of acceptance of the death.

1. Think about the people who come into your life to help at this time, the meaningful things you read, the unexpected things that just seem to come out of nowhere and give comfort. Can you believe that God knows you are in need and is remembering you? Look for ways that God tries to connect with you. Many choose God to be their therapist, and believe He is with them, especially in time of need.

2. Love has long been considered a most powerful force for dealing with the fear and worry that are common responses when mourning. Love protects. God works through love. That's why our support networks are so useful. You will also feel better if, even as you are hurting, you show love for others through service. Create a routine of caring.

Focusing on how to love in separation—a critical spiritual task — will also keep your loved one alive in your heart as you begin the major task of accepting his/her loss. It will give you a spiritual boost. And, most important of all, love yourself without limits. Be good to yourself. Give yourself a gift every day.

3. Use traditions and rituals as vital supports in dealing with transitions. You can create new rituals for starting each day, remembering your loved one, or trying to establish a new habit or routine. Rituals stabilize and help us connect. Perhaps you may want to start a tradition of celebrating the deceased's birthday or special anniversary.

4. Read books about the legitimacy of sorrow. Don't deny the pain. Many divine figures grieved. Jesus grieved. Give

yourself permission to grieve as long as you feel it is necessary. Embrace your grief and allow it to run its course. Be assured that your grief is not only normal; it is the only kind in the world, because each relationship is one of a kind.

5. Many people (including Lutherans) believe in the doctrine of The Communion of Saints. It is essentially the belief that deceased loved ones who go to heaven are aware of what we are experiencing here on earth. There is nothing wrong with talking to the deceased loved one, or hoping for a sign that the loved one is in a better place. If you don't get an answer, be patient and persist. Believe that you will be heard and never abandoned. Remember our Christian hope of eternal life and the power of the Holy Spirit. This hope and power means:

- God knows what you're going through.
- God loves you, wants to help you and have a relationship with you.
- You can ask God for ideas on how to deal with a vexing problem.
- You can grieve and remind yourself that God will guide you through your ordeal.
- Some day you will be reunited with your loved ones.

6. Pray for the wisdom to make the right choices. Coping well and good grief are all about wise choices. For example, intentionally starting new routines, freely expressing what you are feeling, takeing a break from your grief, and employing selfcare on a regular basis are all based on the power of choice. For months or years your choices will pave the way for integrating loss into life. Pray as you would talk to your best friend. Ask for strength, but seek wisdom to choose.

Most of us have a spiritual yearning. Be open to how your everyday spirituality (kindness, active caring, compassion, and the understanding that we are all connected) can play a major role in bringing comfort and new meaning into your life at this time of great turmoil. Talk to others who have similar beliefs and allow your intuition to become part of your decision making process. You possess the ability to grow through your great loss and find inner peace. **GLC**



Stewardship

by Mark Dembro

We're keeping up strong financial giving in the spring of 2012 as we move toward the summer. Our monthly totals for the first quarter are:

anuary	\$16,577		
February	\$10,039		
March	\$11,874.		

With these first three months, we are \$627 over our budgeted giving year- to-date. That is, in our budget approved at our annual meeting in January, we counted on January through March 2012 giving of \$37,863. But, actually we gave \$38,490 – \$627 more than we counted on for our budget. Good!

Our solid giving has built our general fund to a healthy \$11,385 as of March 31. (The general fund is the money we use to pay all of our essential expenses, such as utilities and staff salaries for our pastor, musicians, secretary, and custodian.)

Although our 2012 giving is off to a strong start, pledge cards have been slow to come in. Our 2012 budget is \$151,451, but, as of Sunday, April 22, we had turned in 2012 pledges to the general fund totaling only \$48,130. Pledge cards are an important part of our good stewardship in that they provide clear statements of our personal commitments to support our church financially. Let's all make sure we get our pledge cards in. I know many of us in the joyous excitement of Easter didn't remember to bring our pledge cards to church. Good news – there's still time! If you need a pledge card to fill in, please notify the office or me. GLC



from The Joyful Noiseletter Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane



You probably have heard Thrivent mentioned occasionally and may wonder about it. Most of you know that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a fraternal benefits company. As such the IRS requires that some of its income be set aside for charitable causes. This is done mostly through Care in Communities, which is administered by area chapters, and Thrivent Choice Dollars. The former is accomplished through a matching funds process and the latter by direct grants of "dividends" to approved organizations (such as Grace) as they have been assigned individually by holders of certain Thrivent qualifying products. These usually deal primarily with some type of insurance or investment instrument.

In cooperation with Thrivent during 2011, Grace Lutheran Church held fund drives producing gifts of \$3,336, received chapter matching of \$2,016 and Thrivent Choice Dollars of \$5835 for a total of \$11,187. Of this, \$9,282 was expended as follows: ECHHO \$1,000; Port Townsend Food Bank \$1,200; Grace misssions and projects: quilting fund \$1,750, pencil box \$1,200, organ repair \$1,000, bathroom remodel \$1,000, Uganda Orphans Christmas \$500; Jumping Mouse Children's Center \$500; Community Center Senior Meals \$600; and misc. \$282.

Our first quarter 2012 event, which was for the homeless shelter, yielded \$1,492, of which \$792 came from our fund

Where else can you have your gifts multiplied by three?

drive, \$300 from the chapter match, and \$400 from choice dollars. Before our volunteer stint at the shelter, we gave the shelter an unrestricted \$500 grant for general expenses; then, we spent \$158 on meal preparation. Our current homeless shelter fund balance is \$884.

So far this year, we have used Thrivent Choice Dollars to purchase a new piano cover; to match the Holden 50th anniversary service offering in a donation to Holden Village; and to provide the pizza lunch for the April 28 landscape work party. We also will do the July 1 hot dog event-with appropriate accompaniments.

Now we are engaged in our second quarter matching event. The focus of this effort to show how a minimum of just \$1 given by each person each week from April 1 to July 1 will provide our food bank with a generous boost. Where else can you have your gifts multiplied by three with maximum results? Use your spring 2012 food bank envelope regularly. The hot dog extravaganza is an additional bonus! GLC

Snapshots of Grace Co



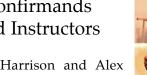
Have Cross, Will Travel

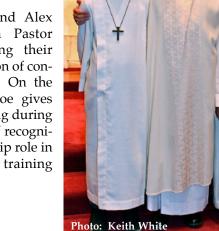
If you have been to one of our Taizé services or some of our Holden Evening Prayer services, you know that we have a beautiful, large candle holder in the shape of a cross. The candle holder is filled with sand into which we put small prayer candles as part of our worship. Until recently, this cross-shaped candle holder was very awkward to move. It would not fit through the church doors and took two people to set up and take down. So we called on the chief engineer, wood worker and jack (Bob) of many trades. Here is the great solution that Bob Haines constructed. (Travel ready - left; setup - right) Many thanks and compliments to Bob Haines for his design and construction of this device.



Confirmands and Instructors

Eli Harrison and Alex Brown pose with Pastor Hutchison following their successful completion of confirmation training. On the far right, Pastor Coe gives Linda Wolff a big hug during a special moment of recognition for her leadership role in the confirmation training program.









She Huffs and She Puffs and She Blows Those Candles Out!

She did it! Kathy Gibson blew out all the candles on her birthday cake while celebrating her 85th birthday. The quilting group hosted a special party for Kathy where she won the highly coveted Golden Iron award. The Golden Iron is only awarded to those quilters who have proven themselves expert in the specialized field of quilt ironing. Congratulations, Kathy!



G R A C E L U T H E R A N C H	U R	C H	



Taylor Mills (left) leads the congregation during a Lenten evening service (left).

The sanctuary is prepared to receive worshipers for Palm Sunday service (right).





Confirmands Gather With Their Families Eli Harrison (left) and Alex Brown (right) are congratulated by their families following their presentation to the congregation.

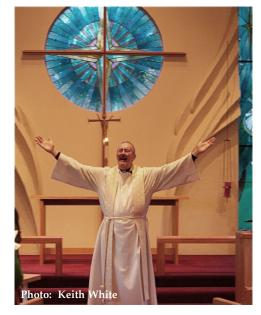


Saturday Night Vigil

The Saturday night vigil becgins with prayer and the lighting of candles (left).



Candles help light our way duriing the dark times.



Christ Has Risen! Alleluia!

Council Summary by Linda Cooley

The treasurer reported another good financial month. Income for the quarter exceeded the budgeted income amount.

Marrowstone Pottery has been contracted to make a new baptismal font and it should be ready for a May 20 baptism.

The last two courtyard benches are complete and installed. A new deck and stairs have been installed outside the conference room.

The sanctuary piano is in need of repair as it does not have sufficient volume. Estimates for the repair are being gathered.

Holden Evening Prayer will be presented the first Wednesday evening of the month beginning May 2. [Ed. note: Date changed subsequently to June 6.]

Lisa Lanza will present a benefit concert for Ugandan students/orphans on May 27 at 4:00 p.m. at Grace. The choir and a marimba group will be among the performers.

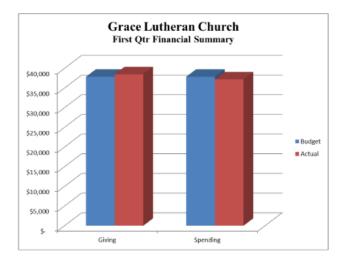
The issue of the alarm system was revisited and some further research will be conducted.

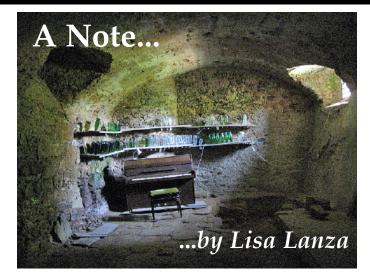
Capital projects approved for completion in 2012 (including sanctuary door upgrade, new floor surface for narthex and other narthex enhancements, new entrance walkway at parsonage and paint/stain parsonage) were estimated to cost \$2,844 more than the budgeted amount for 2012. Council approved funding the balance with funds in the earmarked building fund. GLC

Grace Lutheran Church First Quarter 2012 Financial Summary

	Budget	Actual
Giving	\$37,863	\$38,493
Spending	\$37,863	\$37,182
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For the first quarter of the year, we have received a little more giving than we budgeted and spent a little less than we budgeted. Everything is looking good. Thank you all and praise the Lord. – Pastor Coe Hutchison GLC





Dear Friends at Grace,

By the time you receive this May issue of *Voice of Grace*, I will have already spent a week in northern Italy with my sister, Julie, visiting Venice, Verona, Padua, & Mantova, and will just be arriving at my final destination, Bordeneuve, in the south of France, in the Midi-Pyrennes region near a town called Boussens. I will spend another 10 days here on a "piano retreat." Here I will be mostly in solitude, living in a barn studio with a piano, adjacent to a main house where the owners live. I will share meals with them in the evenings. This is a residency that I applied for during the time that my mother was dying. It was hard to talk about it with her, to talk about the future knowing that she wouldn't be here when I returned, to

hear all about it. But she was so happy for me to be going back to our beloved Italy and also that I was taking time for myself to further explore the gift that she passed to me, our love of music.

I have taken piano trips abroad in the past. Each time the seed of an idea for such a trip was sprouted, it seems like God just picked me up and made the path super easy for me. All of the details were taken care of, even to the tune of finding an affordable

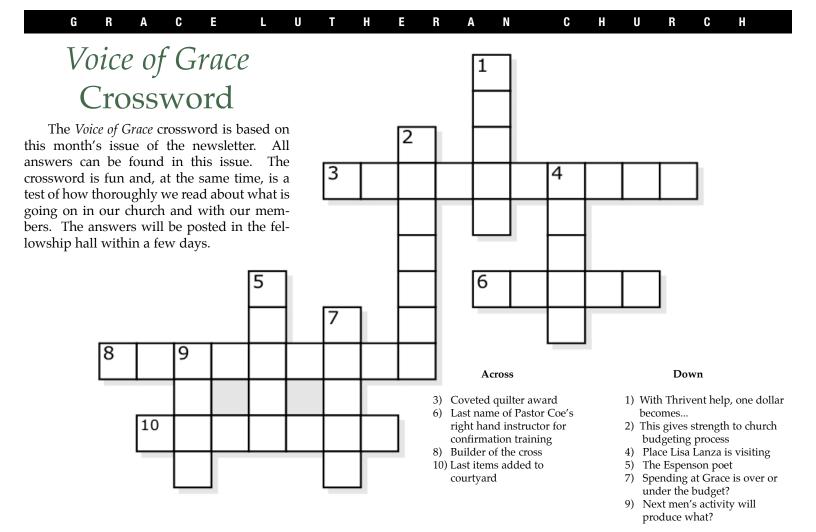


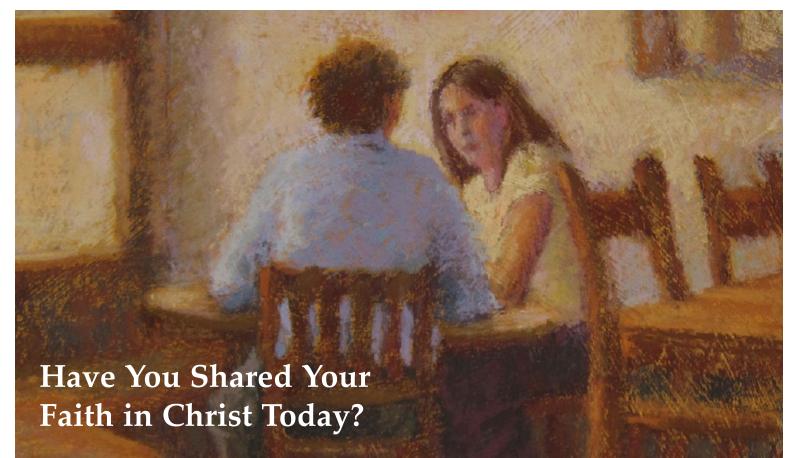
Canal in Venice, Italy

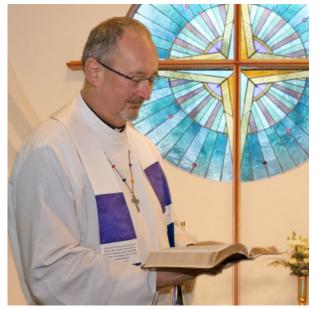
flat in London for three months, renting a piano easily, and learning that the neighbors upstairs were both completely deaf, so I did not have to worry about bothering them with my practicing at any hour!

So far just planning this trip has been blessed with many "synchronicities" which remind me that my Creator is on my side, and at my side, delighting in my delight, providing me with all that I need. I can't wait to share my stories when I return as well as some new music to play for you all! See you on the 20th. With much love, Lisa

PS The photo was taken during my last piano trip in 2009 at Castelfranc, near Toulouse, in one of my favorite places to practice. I think it was once a wine cellar – mighty comforting. GLC







From Our Pastor: "Alex Brown and Eli Harrison Confirmed"

At our Easter Eve service on April 7, 2012, Alex Brown and Eli Harrison were confirmed in a joyous celebration. They have been studying for a year and half with Pastor Coe and Linda Wolff as their primary instructors. Many members of Grace came and spoke to the confirmation class sharing how their faith interacts with their daily life. Alex, Eli, Pastor Coe and Linda wrote the following letter thanking all of these speakers:

Dear Sharon Dembro, Jim Little, Lucy Hladecek, Bob Haines, Jim Hladecek, Jeni Little, Corinne Bugbee-Smith, Michelle Haines, Mark Dembro, Linda Gaenicke, Jane Schwencke, Jim Espenson, Linda Hinkie, and

Neil Potthoff,

Thank you for coming to speak to our confirmation class. It was very helpful to hear real people talking about how their faith is real and makes a difference.

Thank you for sharing with us your faith lives, giving us tips, and telling us about your experiences. Also, thank you for helping us understand some of the things we will experience, and also showing us that faith will get us through anything that comes our way. Thank you all for opening our eyes as to how to listen to God. Thank you for showing us how much God can play into our lives and

how we can share our faith with friends. All of this has shown us how in-depth religion can be. Thank you very much. God bless you, Alex Brown, Eli Harrison, Linda Wolff & Pastor Coe

Also as part of their class, the confirmands wrote their own creed which they presented to the congregation during their confirmation service. Here is their creed:

Confirmation Creed By Alex Brown and Eli Harrison

I believe in the Holy Trinity:
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in God the Father:
He created everything.
He loves us always, shows us mercy and is slow to anger.
He protects us from evil and guides us.
He gives us eternal life.

I believe in Jesus, the only Son of God:
He did good works and miracles.
He taught us about God and helped us understand the Scriptures in our everyday life.
He died and rose for us.
I believe in the Holy Spirit: Who is our leader, our body guard, protector and conscience. Who keeps us in the faith and gives us power.

Amen.

When you next see Alex or Eli, please be sure to congratulate them on their confirmation and to give them a warm welcome as adult members of Grace Lutheran Church.

From Our President: "God knows that I love my music!"

I have always loved music. I remember as a young boy back in Mankato, Minnesota, where I grew up, my mother would play the piano and I always enjoyed that. My sister also played the piano and did quite well. It was in the third grade that I recall a talent show at our school performed by the students. I wanted to be a part of the show so badly. The only thing I knew how to play on the piano with any confidence was "chop sticks." As the time grew near I boldly approached my teacher and volunteered to play the piano. Little did she know how limited my talents were. Somehow my sister had gotten wind of the fact that I had volunteered to play and she knew I didn't have a clue what I was doing. I am sure she was trying to save me from embarrassment or hurt when she informed the teacher of



my situation. The teacher was very wise and kind and she broke it to me gently that I wasn't going to perform that day. I still thank her to this day for that saving grace.

Now that I am older and wiser I sometimes realize I am still playing "chop sticks," but I love every minute of it. Music has been such a blessing to me. I have met so many wonderful people playing music. Many of you may know my friends, Dennis and Jennifer Johnsen, who have performed numerous times at Grace. They know music and have taught me a lot. In fact, they have taught me the secret of the little black dots on the pages of music! The Johnsens and I have played at many venues such as Kah Tai, Discovery View, Sea Port Landing and the list goes on. It is so heart warming to see the smiles on the residents' faces when we play, and sometimes there are even tears from those who remember a song from long ago.

In our Via de Cristo group we talk about our closest moment to God. I would like to share with you my closest moment to God that happened on Good Friday. My grandson, Isaac, who is seven years old and in the second grade, came to our house for a "sleep over" on Good Friday. He likes music as well and was excited to hear his Papa Jim sing at church. He asked if he could sing "By the Mark" with Jeni Little and me as we practiced just before the service. Jeni and I were honored to have him sing with us. He was thrilled to have done that. Dianne told me later that as Jeni and I sang the song during the service, Isaac, who was sitting in the pew with her, was singing along just as if he were in the balcony with us.

After we got home, Isaac went into our office for some time. When he came out he handed me a piece of note paper, then, turned around and went back into the office. He had written some lyrics of his own so that we could sing together. It is hard to express what I was feeling inside – how this little boy had shown such a love for Jesus in those words touched my heart. I have scanned his original note which I will cherish forever. Here are the translated lyrics:



I can find the Lord in my heart The Lord is my Savior The Lord is great The Lord is great I can find the Lord in my heart

And done from Isaac to Papa Jim

It's amazing how this action by a little boy brought me so close to God that evening. These close moments with God are very uplifting and heart felt and seem to last a long time. I know that there are many different ways to come close to God and I have had many different experiences that were not music related, such as a beautiful morning with bright sunshine showing off the snow covered mountains of God's creation as I drive past the Port Townsend airport and through Beaver Valley. There is so much to remind us of God's love that it is easy to have those close times with God. I pray you will have those close times as well.

Psalm 7:17 I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.

Yours in Christ,

James K Lopens



Grace Lutheran has traditionally had a scholarship program and that program is back with some revisions and with current funding. At its annual meeting in January, the congregation revised the requirements for the program and passed the annual budget including up to \$2,000 for scholarships. Scholarships are potentially available to members of Grace Lutheran Church who are attending a school of higher education. An application must be submitted and must consist of the following.

- a. An appropriate grade transcript
- b. A brief, but comprehensive, narrative outlining the

applicant's educational plan, financial plan, and personal achievements as demonstrated through church, school, community, and work activities.

- c. Two or three letters of recommendation reflecting the applicant's personal characteristics and accomplishments.
- d. Students requesting renewal of the scholarships will submit an unofficial transcript and a letter of request.
- e. If the applicant is a graduating senior from area high schools the Uniform Scholarship Application Form may be submitted along with items needed in the requirements of Items a through c above.

Applications will be accepted between May 1, 2012, and May 18, 2012. They should be turned into the church office no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2012.

The endowment committee will serve as the scholarship selection committee and will recommend applicants to the church council for approval. Priority for awards will be given to applicants in this order;

- a. Applicants enrolled in a Lutheran seminary
- b. Applicants enrolled in a Lutheran college
- c. Applicants enrolled in any other school of higher education

If you have questions concerning the scholarship program please contact Jim Hladecek, chair of the endowment committee. GLC



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 pastorcoeh@gmail.com cell 206-369-0606 parsonage 360-385-2281 Secretary: 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, james@hladecek.com