

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

June/July 2011

Mid-Week Service Schedule

Mid-week Holy Communion Services began again on May 18. The services are generally on the first and third Wednesdays of each month except for dates when Pastor Coe has a conflict. The services, which begin at 7:00 p.m., include an informal Holy Communion and usually guitar music. The schedule through August is as follows:

June 1

July 6

July 20

August 3

We hope to see you at one of these delightful services.

Changes to Kah Tai Worship Schedule

Some changes have been made to the dates that Grace will offer a worship service at the Kah Tai/Life Care Center. The following list shows the new schedule:

May 29 – 2:00 p.m.

July 31 – 2:00 p.m.

October 2 – 2:00 p.m.

Please plan to come and participate in this wonderful ministry.

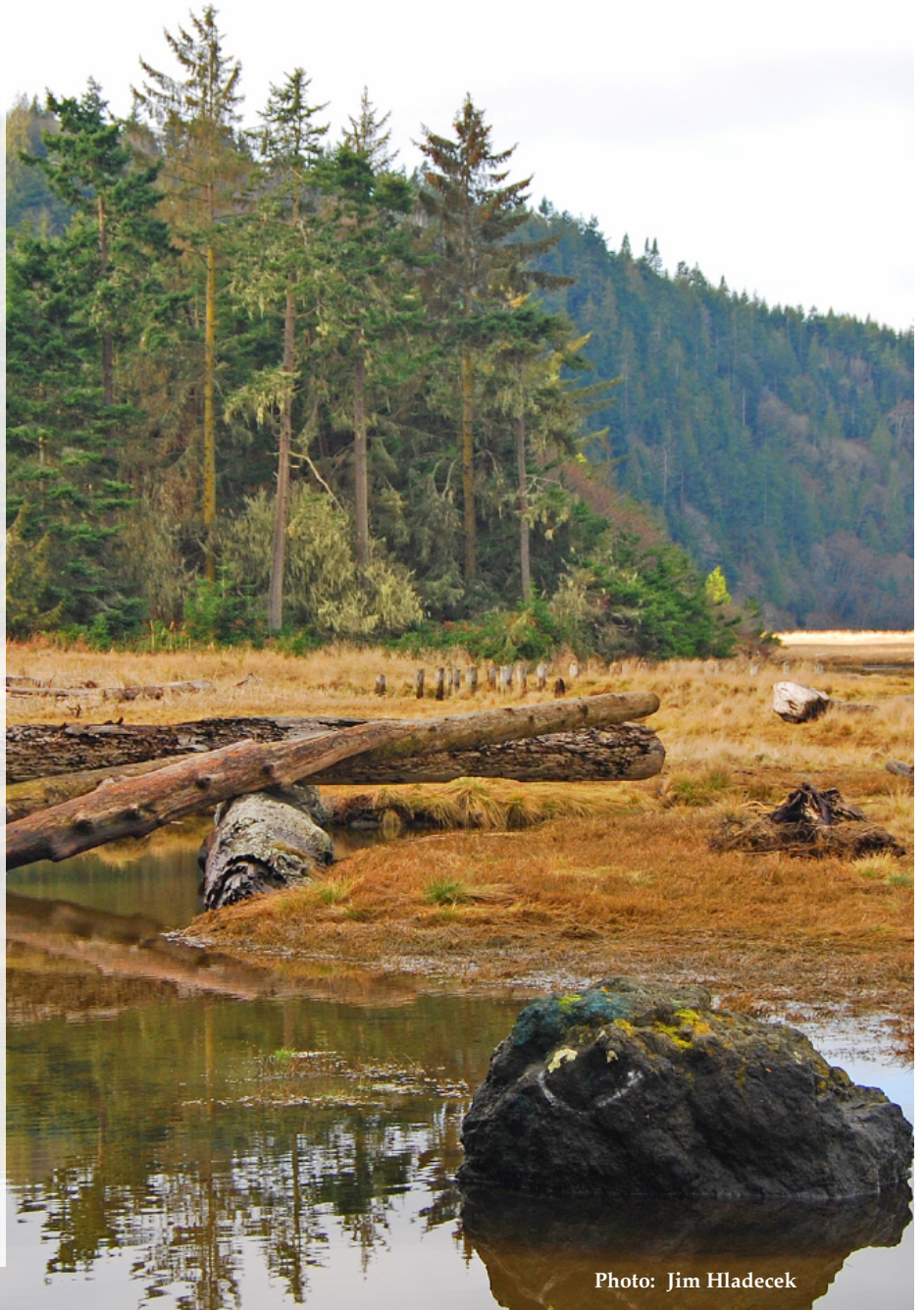


Photo: Jim Hladecek

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.



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

New Members: Mark and Linda Hinkie

by Sue Peterson

Mark & Linda grew up in the Lutheran tradition and first met at Concordia College, St. Paul, MN. Most recently, they transferred from Peace Lutheran Church, Pella, IA. Their favorite Bible passage is 1st Corinthians, chapter 13, the gift of



love, with "Love Endures Forever" as the heading for their wedding banner which will soon be over 35 years old.

They grew up in Minnesota and still have extended family there. Pella Corporation, manufacturer of Pella Windows & Doors, put them in Pella, IA, many times but also took them to

Chicago, Cincinnati, Portland, OR, and Harrisburg, PA. It was during their time in Portland that they fell in love with the northwest. They feel as though Port Ludlow has been their home for over eight years, when their journey to find a retirement home first began. Often during their visits to the area, they would attend Grace's Saturday evening worship services. The warmth of the congregation and its mission kept them coming back and led to their decision to join once they retired last year – Mark from Pella and Linda from twenty-six years of teaching.

They have two sons, Todd by birth and Ociel by mutual adoration. During Todd's junior year in high school, Ociel, a foreign exchange student from Mexico, lived with them. After Todd's graduation, he spent a couple of months in Mexico with Ociel's family. Ociel's mom recruited a young woman to help Todd with his Spanish. Their friendship grew over the years, Todd and Alejandra fell in love. Ten years later they were married, with weddings in Mexico and Minnesota last fall. Todd and Ale live in Fairfax, VA, where Todd is an attorney administering government contacts for the Defense Department. On the other hand, Ociel, returned to obtain his college degree from Augsburg College and married a Minnesota girl, Jamie. They live in Chicago where he works for Pella Windows and Doors as a sales representative.

Linda and Mark have discovered that the Pacific Northwest, the Midwest, and Mexico make a pretty good travel triangle, and they enjoy time in all three.

Their favorite song is Christopher Cross's "Sailing" which is also a main passion. They hope to finish unpacking in Port Ludlow and begin exploring the wonderful waters here this summer. Their favorite movie is *Dances with Wolves*, but they didn't mention any plans that include wolves or dancing. GLC



Blessing of the Quilts

The Grace quilters completed 110 quilts which have been blessed, packed and shipped to the ELCA contributing to a national total of 32,000.

Synod Assembly Report

by Pastor Coe Hutchison

Jim and Dianne Espenson and Pastor Coe and Janet attended the Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly May 13 and 14 at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound near Centralia, Washington. The Assembly agenda was packed with excellent speakers, reports, considerations of resolutions and budgets and inspiring worship.

The theme for the assembly was Health and Wholeness. Our keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, a professor of homiletics (preaching) at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Rev. Satterlee spoke passionately of God's desire for health and healing for all of us. He told moving stories of God answering prayers for healing.

Our assembly worship was powerful and inspirational. During our communion service, Hang Mo Son, a new Korean pastor, was ordained. He has been called to a Korean Lutheran congregation in Federal Way.

The assembly approved the synod budget which was significantly decreased from the prior year due to lower giving. Sadly, over the last couple years the synod has lost five congregations. The good news is that there are six new mission starts in the synod. Much of the positive focus of the assembly was on these new mission starts and how we can support and encourage them. The assembly elected new officers and passed three resolutions. The first resolution expressed support for the "1000 Mission Friends" appeal which is a fundraising effort to assist new mission starts. The second resolution was to renew and revitalize the attention of congregations on local and world hunger issues. The third resolution asked congregations to pray



Jim Espenson, Diane Espenson, Janet Hutchison and Pastor Coe relax for a moment.

and advocate on behalf of those who are suffering as a result of HIV and AIDS.

There was an opportunity to attend workshops and Pastor Coe attended a workshop on Parish Nursing, Jim Espenson on the congregation as a non-profit business and Dianne Espenson on the Book of Faith Initiative.

Overall, this was an excellent assembly with a very positive and encouraging atmosphere and lots of good news. Thanks to the congregation for allowing us to attend. GLC

Sheriff Tony Hernandez Speaks at Men's Breakfast

Jim Espenson chaired the Saturday morning breakfast of the men of Grace Lutheran Church and guests from other churches in the area. The men provided the breakfast with the



Dave Peterson and Sheriff Tony Hernandez share coffee and conversation.

special hotcakes flipped up by Jim Little. Prayer, song and fellowship was the order of the day.

Speaker Sheriff Tony Hernandez, a Lutheran, took the morning to share his thoughts and message with the group. Tony pointed out that, in addition to the resources of the police and sheriff's department, an orderly, safe society depends on us all, especially members of the local churches who set an example for living and look out for those in our community in need of special care and attention. GLC

"It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

C. S. Lewis

Resurrection of the Soldiers by Stanley Spencer

Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere, England 1926 – 1932

compiled by Susan Reid



How do we look at a painting such as this? Its title certainly leaves the viewer with no doubt as to the painter's intended subject, though it must be noted that the painting is not of Christ's resurrection, but the fallen of World War I and our own. It is also unlike any other resurrection scene we have encountered. Regardless of the time other resurrections were created, we are used to seeing a victorious Christ as the central figure, angels accompanying the faithful to Heaven, the damned desperately attempting to escape from the fiery bowels of the earth. Resurrection scenes are full of intense action and emotion, both reassuring and horrifying, depending on the viewer's anticipation of his/her own status with God on the day of judgment.

In obvious contrast, Spencer's painting has none of these elements. Oddly, the first image that may catch our eye is a pair of newly-awakened mules being stroked by their handler. The next conspicuous image is of a young soldier in deep contemplation of a crucifix. One must look carefully to find Christ Himself. He is in the upper center of the painting, behind the young soldier and his crucifix. Christ, wearing a white robe, receives the cross from each soldier's individual grave, now

symbols of their faith and their eternal union with their savior in Heaven.

As one surveys the details in the altarpiece, one will see many soldiers emerging from their tombs, but they are not maimed or bloodied. Some clasp arms or shake hands as they re-unite with friends. Some look intently at the crosses they are carrying, perhaps in deep thought about what they have just experienced. Other soldiers perform a variety of ordinary daily, religious, or military activities. Others wind puttees, fold blankets, polish buttons, or care for the animals, also killed in battle. Spencer stated that no one is in any hurry in this painting. He said that he felt that the Resurrection will be a peaceful occasion and very positive. He explained that everything is resurrecting into a state of happiness and peace. The Resurrection of the Soldiers, in conjunction with the smaller 19 paintings on the chapel's side walls, "becomes the visible emblem of brotherly love, of men's charity to others: . . . Christ sits receiving the soldiers' crosses, but we have no sense that he is judging. Rather, he is welcoming these who have died and are risen. Already the blessed of his Father, they have earned the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world through their charity to each other . . ." GLC



Jane and Konrad Schwencke, Dianne and Jim Espenson and Kathy Gibson all attended a Via de Cristo retreat weekend April 28 through May 1. From the sound of their reports, it was an inspiring and moving weekend, full of God's love. For more information on Via de Cristo, check out the Web site at www.vdcww.org or talk to Pastor Coe or Janet. GLC

ECHHO Receives Grace Award

by Jim Hladecek

This article is the first in a series of three to acquaint the reader with the organizations being supported by grants from the Grace Lutheran Church endowment fund. This year the members of Grace Lutheran are providing awards to three different local organizations: ECHHO, Young Life, and the Uganda HIV Aids Orphans. The award to ECHHO, \$500, was recommended by the endowment committee (Jim Hladecek, Diane Threlkeld, Susan Reid and Pastor Hutchison) and approved by the church council.

ECHHO, Ecumenical Christian Helping Hands Organization, was organized in 1997 by three lay Stephen Ministers of Port Townsend First Presbyterian Church – Bruce and Jeanette Travis and Shirley Champion – who had determined that there were elderly and disabled in Jefferson County struggling with challenges related to health problems. The new non-profit corporation’s effort was soon supported by the majority of east Jefferson County churches.

Over the years, ECHHO has grown to the point where it is making a remarkable impact on the needs of our sick and handicapped neighbors. During 2010 ECHHO provided individual care to 849 people; 1,929 contacts with care receivers and distributed 1,461 pieces of medical equipment to 700 people. This level of service can only be provided by the efforts of many community volunteers. Volunteers provided 2,998 hours of service during the year and drove over 40,500 miles getting patients to their medical appointments and other important appointments. Clearly, ECHHO is an organization worthy of the support of Grace Lutheran. **GLC**



Have You Shared Your
Faith in Christ Today?

ECHHO Case History – A

ECHHO volunteers drive a 76-year-old woman to regular medical appointments in Sequim. Although she can barely get around, even with the help of a four-wheel walker from ECHHO, she is an example of cheerfulness and positive attitude. On Sundays she takes Dial-a-Ride to shop at the local food co-op and have lunch with friends. The wisdom and encouragement she shares always leave people feeling uplifted and inspired.

ECHHO Case History – B

An 87-year-old man requested rides to kidney dialysis in Bremerton two or three times a week. Each trip and treatment took seven to eight hours. ECHHO volunteer drivers rose to the task, making the journey there and back 19 times totaling 1,492 miles. His wife accompanied him each time; they were very grateful for the rides and the cheerful support they received from the volunteers during his challenging final days.



“Your mother who prayed daily for you since you were born is on Line 1, and your wife who worked to put you through seminary is on Line 2.”

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
©Erik Johnson
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Bishop Tutu Giant of the World

by Linda Gaenicke

On Friday evening, May 13, we had the opportunity to hear Bishop Desmond Tutu speak at the Tacoma Dome. The purpose of the event was to gather people to be more involved in the community of Tacoma and its surrounding areas.

Bishop Tutu's main message was that God always needs a human partner to accomplish his purposes. He used several stories from the Bible to get his point across: Noah and Mary being two of them.

He also reminded us that Christ fed 5,000 in just one day, but now we must carry out this example and feed the starving of the whole world. Using his delightful story telling methods, he asked us if when we see the hungry, do we think that hamburgers will float down from heaven? We must provide the fish



and bread so God can perform the feeding. He also stated that governments spend trillions on mass destruction, but only a fraction of their budgets feed the starving.

He recalled Moses and the freeing of the Hebrew slaves and said that now it is our job to free other people in slavery comparing that to Rosa Parks, who one day was just too tired to give up her seat. She was the person who partnered with God to start the Civil Rights movement. Elaborating further on that theme, Bishop Tutu said, "Oppression is not solved by a lightning bolt; people suffered; God waited for human partners. Cooperation happened between humans and Nelson Mandela could walk free and I could vote for the first time in 1994."

"Arch" as his friends call him, also asked us if we knew how God must feel when He looks on and sees God's children celebrating the death of God's other children.

We were deeply moved by his way of expressing his ideas; however, it was at the end of the evening while a performance was being presented and a wonderful Gospel singer was belting out a moving song that I noticed he had quietly returned to the stage. With one hand to on the podium to support himself, he also held up his cell phone and was doing wonderful little dance in time to the music. I know that when I remember Bishop Tutu, I will remember him standing off to the side of the stage dancing to Praise the Lord. **GLC**

Sai Graduates

by Sharon Dembro

Sunday, May 8, was a very special day. Sainozim Abdelhakimovich Nurov graduated from Louis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. Many of you remember the skinny sixteen-year-old with basic English who came from Tajikistan to attend Port Townsend High School five years ago. He graduates with an A- average, native fluency and innumerable friends. Even better – he retains the enthusiasm for life, the openness to new ideas and experiences and the determination to use his many talents for the good of his people – all the things that initially motivated the Sai Support Group to undertake what, in hindsight, looks like a nearly impossible task. It wouldn't have been possible without the support of members of Grace who then prevailed on other institutions and members of the community.

A dozen Port Townsend supporters were there for the big day. We couldn't have been prouder as faculty and administration members congratulated us on 'our' graduate. The Dean of Students put his arm around Sai's shoulders and said, "I see so many talented, hard working students coming to Louis & Clark, but I see far fewer who open themselves to others and give as much of themselves as Sai has."

On May 21, Sai boards a plane for home. He is as nervous as every graduate about leaving the security of school – but the challenges he faces are even greater. Please keep him in your prayers as he begins this tough and exciting chapter of his life. I'm sure we haven't heard the end of Sai Nurov! Here are his words for you:

"Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. I can't thank you enough for what you have done for me, but I will do my best to help others and accomplish things that you will be proud of. You have been so caring, loving, generous and supportive of me during my time in the U.S. Without you, none of this would have been possible. I will never forget you. Sai"

One of his supporters made him a beautiful quilt as a graduation gift. He loved it because the quilting consists of the names of all the people and institutions that helped him on his way – including Grace Lutheran Church and individual members. It will hang on his wall in Dushambe – a constant reminder of what love in action can do. **GLC**





From Our Pastor: “Walking with God”

When I was young we had a tradition in our family. After a big family dinner together, we would all go out for a walk around the neighborhood. The whole family would go. We would have three generations out walking together. We would walk and talk and hold hands, and, as a child, it was a wonderful time for me. I remember that we would just be getting to dessert at the dinner table and I would be asking if we could go for a walk after dinner. In the last few weeks, I was struck by the realization that we are continuing that tradition in our family. My mother is now in a memory care facility and my father in a retirement apartment. Now our family walks around the circular hallway where my mother is living. She moves along very slowly with her walker and my dad is with us. We still hold hands and we still talk and it is still a precious time. My mother is always ready to “go for a walk.”

I know that you have walked with a loved one – perhaps a spouse, perhaps a child or grandchild. You hold hands, you share the experience. It is truly wonderful. Imagine that now – going for a walk with someone very special to you. You walk slowly because there is so much to experience. You hold hands so that you experience it together. Have you got that picture? It is a precious time isn’t it? That is God’s plan for his relationship with you. God’s plan is to walk in the garden with you and the rest of his human creation. God wants that kind of a relationship with you – to share time together – to delight in each other’s company. God walks with us from our birth, when our small hands just wrap around God’s pinky finger. God walks with us through the years when our hands are strong and we reach out to God for reassurance and encouragement. God walks with us in our later days when we walk slowly and our hands are weak. In those latter years, God still holds our hand and whispers promises of the life to come, eternal life, where we can continue our walks forever without walkers or wheel chairs or impaired memory or aches or pain. Walking with us is God’s plan, and it is a good plan indeed. God bless you all.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!



*God Bless,
Pastor Coe*

From Our President: "Why Men's Ministry?"



The men of Grace had a men's ministry in the past and always seemed to enjoy them. We started a formal men's ministry about 10 years ago, the same time that we started our men's Bible study. Unfortunately the men's breakfasts and events kind of faded away for a number of years.

It was the coaxing, prayers, and support of the men's Bible study group that gave me the renewed desire to start the men's ministry again. I prayed that the Holy Spirit would let me know if this was what I was supposed to do. I am sure the Spirit spoke to me through the likes of Neil Potthoff, Ralph Williams and many others, letting me know that there is a need for this ministry in our church.

I truly believe that this ministry is a very critical component of our faith life. It not only brings the men of Grace closer to Christ and to each other but it also gives us an opportunity to bring our unchurched brothers into a Christian environment that is non threatening to them. There are many that say "I haven't been to church since I was a kid."

We select speakers that will not only tell their story but weave that story around their faith life. We have had two great speakers since starting this spring. Bill Wolfe the pastor of New Life Church spoke about "being at the right place at the right time." Then, we had Sheriff Tony Hernandez who spoke about how we can help lighten the load by "being a helping hand through our men's ministry." Our next speaker will be Pastor Coe, who will share his story.

The "Motion" band plays uplifting music, usually in a Bluegrass style, and the men join in singing. The breakfasts are always the greatest, and we always put at least three grapes on each plate so our wives know we are eating healthy.

The outings that we plan are designed to invite our brothers who do not have a church home. We make them comfortable through such activities as: making beer, salmon fishing, baseball games and a variety of other events.

As you know, most men aren't great talkers; at least my wife would tell you that. Men are generally known as fixers. When Dianne comes home from work and wants to tell me about her day, I immediately want to start fixing all the things that may have gone wrong for her at work. I have all these solutions. Come to find out all she wants to do is just share her day with me, not to fix it. I guess there are just some things duct tape can't fix.

So with all of this being said, evangelism can be accomplished with very little conversation. We can show God's love by the way we greet our brothers as they arrive and by the way we interact with each other, tell our own stories (however short they may be), listen to our brothers and let them share their thoughts and concerns.

We share God's love with our prayer, music, food, and fellowship. It is always clear to me that the Holy Spirit is present at our men's breakfasts and that's what makes all of this so valuable. I thank God every day for this men's ministry and I look forward to our continued time together as "Men in Motion."

Yours in Christ,

"As the Father has sent me, so do I send you." (John 20:31)

Habitat Caravanners Feast at Grace

Sunday, May 15, the Habitat Caravanners were served dinner at Grace Lutheran. One caravanner had worked on 200 homes and is ready to get started on these. Also attending were the families and their sponsors who will receive the four homes that are being built on Eddy Street, just off of Hastings. Members of the Habitat staff were also present to sign up volunteers for whole or half-day work schedules. There are many jobs available, so consider working on this fun project. If inter-



Janet Hutchison and Lucy Hladecek keep the coffee cups and water glasses filled.

ested, contact Bob Threlkeld for more information. You may also just drop by the building site on Eddy Street to see the progress.

Also, heartfelt thanks to those who cooked and also brought food. Thanks also to the set-up, kitchen help and those who helped clean up after. Your talents and gifts were so appreciated by the 55 people who enjoyed a meal with us.
GLC

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

Voice of Grace: World Tour

The world is a big place and we are finding that the *Voice of Grace* is traveling to many different locations. Most recently Penny Westerfield and her friend, Betty, found themselves in an exotic location named Disneyland! Penny said, "I just returned from eight days in Disneyland and have been going over the almost 400 pictures I took!! Yikes. I was with my friend (and future church member) Betty. We had so much fun!"

You, too, can get your picture in the *Voice of Grace* by remembering to take a copy of the newsletter with you the next time you travel. Have someone take your photo holding/reading the newsletter with an identifiable scene in the background. Join that select group of people who never travel without their personal copy of the Grace Lutheran Church *Voice of Grace*. **GLC**



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