

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.

Grace's Immigrant Family



Choy Vong (#1 from right to left, in a red jacket), Tin Vong (in black jacket), Kiu Vong (with a hand in a pocket), and Kin Vong (with hands on her knees). This was our first Christmas in America.



Choy and his wife visited Grace on August 18, a welcome surprise.

Forty years ago, Grace Lutheran sponsored a refugee family from Viet Nam. One of the members of that family is Choy Vong. Mr. Vong recently reached out to Grace to thank the congregation for assisting his family as they made their new start in America. He has written a heartwarming poem to the congregation in thanksgiving. The picture, taken in the front yard of previous member, Marge Duvall (now deceased), is of Choy and his siblings on their first Christmas in America.

Re: Thank you from the bottom of our heart

August 15, 1979, my most memorable day
I came to America on that special day.
My life has been blessed, I pray
In more ways than I can say.
America has always been in my heart
Until the day I may one day depart.
Her blessings were bestowed upon me
In more ways than anyone can see.

see page 2

Worship 10:30 a.m.



August/ September 2019

Your Grace Lutheran Church sponsored me
With two thousand dollars, the start up fee.
Your church sponsors gave me food, clothes and love.
My 3 siblings and I appreciate them like gifts from
heaven above.

The sponsors rented us a house and taught us well
All of us four have prospered and none fell.
We have become what we can possibly be;
Nurtured and brought up like a young tree.
Implanted in a foreign land with rich soil
All we have done is to study and toil.
After years of waiting, our Mom was here.
The day of re-union was full of tears.
There was also many tears of joy
Because she could meet her 2 girls and 4 boys.
Later My older brother, Sam, arrived
Luckily, his family also survived.
San is another brother who left on a boat,
Where the sea water got to his throat.
This boat was lost in the rough South China Seas
Until he was rescued after a calm breeze.
He eventually came to stay in Bremerton
He has married and lived in Washington.

They chose America as their permanent stay
That's how our families have come to the USA.
We could not have asked for more
The way America welcomed us ashore.
All our lives have been highly blessed
In more way than we have confessed.
America is a land of opportunity
We are grateful for her prosperity.
I have become a public school teacher.
My 2 sisters have become para-educators.
My brother Tin, a mechanic, has been
Working hard since his days as a teen.
We are all blessed with children and a spouse
We are content with our jobs and our house.
Let all these truths be known
Let these good deeds be carved in stone.
Each year when August 15 comes again
We count our blessings and honor you as friends.
Each year when August 15 comes around
Our sense of gratitude is heightened abound.
On this 40th-year-in-America Anniversary
May we wish you and your church members much
prosperity.

Rally Day is Coming!

Rally Day is Sunday, August 25, and the theme this year is *"That's Amore - Celebrating God's Love Italian Style."* Burgers, hot dogs, and beverages are provided.

What is Rally Day? Typically, Rally Day is meant to kick off the Sunday School year. It's the time when summer ends and families are thinking of back-to-school things. So, you might think it's just for kids, isn't it? No, it isn't just for kids. It is for all of us.

Dictionary.com defines "rally" as bringing into order again; gathering and organizing or inspiring anew; to drawing or calling people together for a common action or effort, a recovery from dispersion or disorder or a renewal or recovery of strength and activity.

During the summer, vacations, houseguests, and other activities keep us busy, especially on weekends. By the end of summer, we are ready to gather and organize. Enter Rally Day ... to "rally!" We ask the Holy Spirit to renew us for worship, for praying, and for serving.

Rally Day is also a day to start a new project and to reach out to new members.

Don't miss it!



Pastor's Message

On Wednesday, July 31, nineteen people gathered from Grace Lutheran to talk about the humanitarian crisis at our border and the detention of children. People shared their concerns about the treatment of those seeking safety and a future in our country. They expressed heartbreak at the separation of families. There was even some anger and frustration that this is happening in our country, a land that considers the Statue of Liberty one of our symbols. The poem at the base of Lady Liberty reads, *"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

The meeting produced a large list of possible activities to support immigrants and the situation at our border. Those are described in another article in this issue of the *Voice of Grace*. Many of those ideas are being researched and we will be sharing more information at later meetings and in later *Voice of Grace* articles.

So what do I think the Bible has to say on this topic? A key verse that has been referenced by many is Deuteronomy 10:17–19 *"For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger..."*

This idea of loving and welcoming the stranger is actually prevalent throughout Scripture. Jesus' teaching is clear in Matthew 25:35–36, *"for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."* Jesus is saying that when we welcome the stranger, we welcome Him.

I know this is a difficult topic. I know we have different opinions on immigration policy. I know we have a wide range of opinions about "legal" and "illegal" immigrants. Diversity of opinion on these issues is okay. But regardless of your position on immigration policy, these are people! The vast majority are seeking help, safety, and a place to raise their families. They are seeking the exact same things all of our ancestors sought when they arrived at the shores of this wonderful land. I believe that, as followers of Jesus, we have an obligation to be humane, to show kindness and mercy and to love first. Shouldn't that be the way we treat all people? I hope so. I look forward to more discussion on this important topic. Stay tuned.



*God Bless,
Pastor Coe*

Heartache at the Border: Grace Lutheran Takes Up Immigration Concerns

by Marijo Brantner

Late in the afternoon of July 31, members and others joined Pastor Coe Hutchison in the Fellowship Hall of Grace Lutheran Church for a candid, thoughtful conversation on concerns for those would-be immigrants suffering at our nation's southwest border. Pastor requested the discourse be civil, allowing people to speak freely, and asked as well for each to consider responding to several questions: how is God moving your heart, what is your greatest concern and how do you sense God calling you to get involved?

Discussion followed Pastor's introduction, with individuals offering their views as well as suggestions for what might be done. The comments made are posted at our website, gracelutheranpt.org, without noting speakers by name with the exception of Pastor Hutchison. Several themes were repeated many times: overwhelming concern for the children of asylum seekers, genuine anger that this is happening in our "nation of immigrants," frustration with knowing clearly what to do, much uncertainty on how to act meaningfully and with evident impact that better circumstances for those in harm's way.

A number of people have been involved with one effort or another either locally or nationally; but, this was a first opportunity for Grace Lutheran members to gather and share ideas on working together toward common goals related to border immigration issues. A list of resources was provided at the outset, among them various ELCA-sponsored efforts, including the Coordinated Faith Leader Statement on the Detention of Children. That list is posted at gracelutheranpt.org/humanitarian-border-crisis-resources. In addition to those, individuals attending provided additional contacts such as the Together Rising organization, and the Tacoma Community House.

Various individuals have agreed to follow-up on specific recommendations regarding one or more of the resources or efforts identified. The complete "To-Do" List follows. It is also posted online. If you've an interest in working on any of these items, please contact the responsible person listed or Marijo Brantner (marijo@brantners.com). This is simply a beginning. Much work remains and 'more hands make light the load.' Just now, in this moment, how might God be calling you?

A second meeting, for all interested, will be held on Tuesday, August 27, at 4:30 p.m.

see To-Do Chart next page

Border Concerns	TO-DO LIST	As of July 31, 2019
<i>Action/Effort</i>	<i>Responsible</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Faith Leader Letter	Pastor Coe	Collecting signatures
Annunciation House	Steve Brantner, Keith White	https://annunciationhouse.org/
Jefferson County Immigrant Rights Advocates (JCIRA)	The Marshalls, Keith White	https://www.jcira.org/
Letter writing		
Become an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation		
Rice & Beans Community Fundraising Dinner		
Information on what's happening at border and in-country	Pastor Coe	
LIRS: Sponsor a family	Don Ehnebuske	https://www.lirs.org/
Be responsible in part for intervention		
In-country support		
Speakers from countries		
Increase local immigrant contact: build relationships		
Sponsoring a family		
Educate and demonstrate		
NW ICE Detention Center Support: books, clothes, etc.	Kathy Marshall, Keith White	https://www.ice.gov/detention-facility/tacoma-northwest-detention-center
Speakers		
Pro-immigration talking points		
Tacoma Community House Position	Sonia Frojen	https://www.tacomacommunityhouse.org/
Letter of support to Benedictine Nuns	Sonia Frojen	
Sister-church at border	Sonia Frojen	
Together Rising Campaign for Families		https://togetherrising.org/
World Relief	Kathy Marshall	https://lwr.org/
Assimilation Experience		
Paul Heins' Invitation to Speak at GLC	Pastor Coe	Scheduled 9/8/2019, 12 – 1 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church

Women's Conference at Emmanuel

The Excel Women's Conference, hosted by Emmanuel's Women's Ministry is August 23-25, at Marvin Williams Recreation Center, 725 Park Avenue in East Bremerton. Be ready to "Elevate Your Thinking."

Join them for authentic speakers, interactive workshops, networking, shopping, amazing worship, and much more. They are excited and anticipating this conference to be life-changing and a blessing to those in attendance.

For information go to www.facebook.com/events/2321652291397759.



Report on Recent ELCA Churchwide Actions

by Pastor Coe

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly took place in Milwaukee, the first half of August. There were plenty of memorials and resolutions passed and lots of other action taken, but there were a few that I thought might be especially relevant to Grace Lutheran, so I wanted to pass that news along.

Presiding Bishop Re-elected – Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was re-elected to a second six-year term.

A Commemoration of June 17 – The Assembly voted to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance in the ELCA for the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people who were shot and killed June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. You may recall it was this event that prompted me to reach out to Emmanuel Apostolic Church in Bremerton and to begin our Koinonia relationship with our brothers and sisters there.

Adopted a Resolution Condemning White Supremacy – The Assembly adopted a resolution calling all ELCA congregations to engage in “study of the structures and rhetoric that empower and fuel racism and white supremacy and to take to heart the teaching of Scriptures, so we may all be better equipped to speak boldly about the equal dignity of all persons in the eyes of God.” I look forward to working on this at Grace Lutheran.

Approved a Memorial Declaring the ELCA a Sanctuary Denomination – Here is what the news release said about this action. *“The Assembly voted to approve a memorial that declares the ELCA a sanctuary church. This is the first North American denomination to declare itself a sanctuary church body. As a sanctuary church the ELCA is committed to serving and supporting migrant children and families in communities across the country.”*

Earlier in the day, the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, joined more than 700 assembly members and others in a march and prayer vigil to the Milwaukee Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office. The march addressed concerns about the human rights of migrant children and families entering the U.S. along the southern border. Through the ELCA’s initiative, Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO), this church is committed to work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.”

This is a very bold statement by our denomination. This action makes me immensely proud of our denomination and the lengths it is willing to go to love our neighbors. However, I absolutely understand that some of you may have a very different reaction.

Our Southwestern Washington Synod Bishop Rick Jaech wrote to our churches with some further clarification. *“In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly declared that, when we preach on Sunday that Jesus tells us to welcome and care for everyone around us, then on Monday we will use our hands and voices to make sure it happens.”*

Bishop Jaech explained, *“The Churchwide Assembly’s declaration that the ELCA is a sanctuary denomination binds only the ELCA Churchwide Organization; it does not bind or obligate congregations, synods, or other organizations to be a sanctuary place. The Churchwide Assembly did not call for any illegal actions. All actions mentioned by the Churchwide Assembly are legal.”*

Bishop Jaech’s full letter is available on the Grace Lutheran website at gracelutheranpt.org/elca-sanctuary-denomination-declaration. The Presiding Bishop has also provided some talking points on the sanctuary denomination issue and those are available on the Grace Lutheran website.

What does this memorial mean for Grace Lutheran? As the Bishop explained, the memorial does not bind or obligate Grace Lutheran in any way. I think of it as leadership, encouragement, and an example.

I am fully aware that we have brothers and sisters within Grace Lutheran who are probably at all points on the spectrum on this issue. Here is my continuing commitment. I will continue to listen and engage with those who may differ from me on this issue. I value the diversity of opinion. I value each person within our congregation. And I ask all of us to do our best to listen, engage, and understand. In a recent sermon we were encouraged to “bear with one another.” Here is a great opportunity to do just that. I love you all.

Homeward Bound Update as of July 16, 2019

by Pastor Coe

Here's the latest news on Homeward Bound and their project.

Phase 1 Complete:

Homeward Bound has completed phase 1 of the project. The building has been taken off its cribbing and set on foundation walls. The foundation has been waterproofed and roughly framed for windows and doors. During phase 1, representatives of the involved parties, [Homeward Bound, City of Port Townsend, Pacific Environmental Services (primary contractor), Terrapin Architects (project manager) and Grace Lutheran] all met weekly at Grace Lutheran. We were pleased to host these meetings and to build relationships with all the involved parties. Pastor Coe, Jim Little, and Bob Haines generally attended on behalf of Grace Lutheran.

Looking Ahead to Phase 2:

Homeward Bound originally received \$840,000 from the City of Port Townsend. They estimate that they have about \$300k-\$350k left. They will need to do significant fundraising to complete phase 2. They do not yet have an estimate of the total cost of phase 2.

Phase 2 will require lots of process with the City including a conditional use permit, multi-family design review, environmental review, and a building permit. Some of these processes will require time for written public input. It will be important that Grace monitor and be involved in these processes.

There are two issues that we know of at this time that will likely require discussion/negotiation and decisions by Grace Lutheran.

The first is a water line maintenance easement. The City is proposing to put a water line up the Homeward Bound property from the southwest corner of their building near the church parking lot all the way up to Calhoun Street running along the property line between Homeward Bound and church/parsonage property. A City water line evidently usually requires a 20' maintenance easement that would allow the City to access the line for maintenance purposes. The proposal is to have this easement extend 10' onto Homeward Bound property and 10' onto church property. The property owner cannot build a permanent structure on the easement. This issue will likely come up in the fall.

The second issue is the possible land exchange that has been discussed in the past. Basically, Homeward Bound would like to give to the church the Homeward Bound owned property that is north of the church property (the property in question includes much of what we use for parking on Sunday mornings and the access off Cherry St.). In exchange they would like to receive the two lots at the bottom of the parsonage property. The discussions about the possible land exchange may begin in late summer or fall.

Our Homeward Bound team of Bob Haines, Jim Little, Joel Peterson, Al Smith, Mary Ronen, Betty Oakes, and David Gaenicke will be involved in these discussions. Any action by Grace Lutheran to grant an easement or exchange property will require a congregational discussion and vote.



Sometimes God seems gone. Even faithful Christians can feel absolutely alone. Yet every one of the spiritual mothers and fathers I've studied — including Teresa of Avila who called this feeling the “dark night of the soul” — engaged in receptive prayer. Why? Because so much of our prayer lives involves asking for help.

When we engage in receptive prayer, we open ourselves to receiving what we have asked for. When we engage in receptive prayer, we are not praying to an idea, but to the personal, holy, loving One who created us. Prayer is not just something we do. It is something God does in us.

This message is an excerpt from “The presence in the prayer” by Grace Brame in the May 2019 issue of Gather magazine.

God Said No!!

I asked God to take away my habit. God said, No. it is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up. I asked God to make my handicapped child whole, God said, No. his spirit is whole, his body is only temporary. I asked God to grant me patience. God said, No. patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned. I asked God to give me happiness. God said, No. I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you. I asked God to spare me pain. God said, No. suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me. I asked God to make my spirit grow. God said No. you must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful. I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, No. I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things. I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me. God said... Ahhh, finally you have the idea.

THIS DAY IS YOURS - DON'T THROW IT AWAY...

May God Bless You.

Submitted by Dee Dee Norman

Bible Study

Calling Grace women - would you like to come to a Bible study group? Joan Bender and Mary Ronen are looking for others who would like to join them. We are interested in starting up again with the Gather magazine Bible study, which is a really good study program that we have enjoyed in the past.

Contact either Joan at 360-379-3499, bender9368@msn.com, or Mary at 360-301-4550, maryronen@gmail.com.

Mary's Notes

Wow. This is what I sometimes wake up thinking. Me? Here? With these big shoes to fill following the likes of people like Mark Dembro, Jim Espenson, Jim Hladecek, Penny Westerfield, and all those who have held this office before me. Sometimes God gives us a tap on the shoulder, and sometimes it is a definite shove. That was my experience – the shove. One day without even thinking about it, I felt the need to say “pick me.” The words were out there, surprising me more than anyone else.

That brings me back to my beginnings here at Grace. I first walked into Grace on a summer Saturday evening, maybe it was 2003 or 2004. I had been without a church for too many years, and I felt intimidated and unsure of myself. Here, I was greeted and welcomed warmly, and was made to feel at home. So I stayed. And I came back. I don't know about other congregations, but this I do know: Grace is the best. Being a part of this congregation has played a big part on my faith path. The Bible studies, the Bethel series, Via de Cristo, all of these were very important. I learned from Pastor Fosser and then Pastor Coe. But as much, if not more, has also come from many of you who have been such inspirations to me.

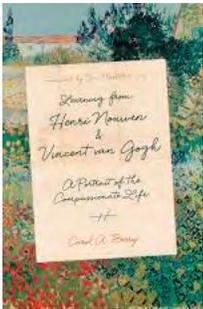
Having said all that, I am honored that you have given me this opportunity to give back; to serve God and all of you individually and collectively. I hope that if you have any concerns you will feel free to let me know. I will do my best to resolve them. If you have ideas concerning projects we can take on, activities you might be interested in, anything like that, I want to hear about them.

Yours,
Mary

A Book Recommendation

by Nina Daly

Learning from Henri Nouwen and Vincent van Gogh: A Portrait of the Compassionate Life
by Carol A. Berry



I was surprised to find a book about my favorite Christian writer and one of my favorite artists in it. The author, Carol Berry, attended a course on compassion that Henri Nouwen led at Yale University in the 1970s. The book is primarily based on these lectures. It also includes the author's insights as an art educator. It is a beautiful book with art prints interwoven throughout.

The Artist Walk

by Nina Daly

Appreciating the beauty God has given us can be accomplished in a daily walk. I find that looking at the details in nature can take me away from the cares of life and change my focus to thankfulness. During my walks, I am sometimes inspired and come up with ideas for artwork.



In my last art grouping I used mixed media, and I enjoyed it so much that I am planning on working with acrylic paint and tissue paper this time. My focus, if it all works out, will be trees and possibly flowers. So, get on some comfy shoes and come walk with me!

Have you ever looked at all the shades of green we are blessed with in the Pacific Northwest? After a good rain, when the sun comes out, all those hues, are fresh and bright. I will have to get my palette knife and paints busy to even start to portray the lushness. Breathe in the fresh air; listen to the birds singing! Awesome!



When we first came to this area I wondered about the trees with the peeling bark. Was that natural? Never saw that in Illinois! Now I realize the beauty of the Madrona tree, and I marvel at the various shades (including pink and light green) and the textures that I see. Let's rest a bit and check this one out. I am so inspired by this tree I am going to take a picture with my phone and bring it back to my studio.

Look at all the details that are shown in leaves. Check out the shapes and the colors of these oak leaves. I am looking forward to seeing them in autumn when God sets his paint brush dancing. Feeling the breeze on this beautiful day, it does seem like the trees are clapping joyfully (see Isaiah 55:12).



As we move along we approach a pathway with cedar trees. I can't even estimate the age and height of these trees. Once again such great texture that I have to stop and feel and record with a picture.

As I am moving towards home I see a cluster of daisies. It's like God is saying "Be of good cheer"! They are nodding in the breeze. Look at their sweet faces! I feel energized by my walk and ready to come up with some artwork for the next Grace Gallery showing, which is Saturday, September 28, at 10:00 a.m.



Real Life 101

Here are some of the things that came up in a recent Real Life meeting, Life Lessons I have Learned.

If you haven't joined this group, you really should try it. It is on the second Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m., unless otherwise noted.

Ann Bambrick

A smile is the most important physical attribute a person can have.

Laughter is the most beautiful sound.

Throw rugs are lethal!!!! (Ann slipped on one in her kitchen and seriously damaged her hip).

Corinne Bugbee

My life's purpose is to love God; to love God who lives in me; and to recognize and love God who lives in all people indeed, all of His creation. I have learned that I can live this purpose no matter what circumstance or situation that life brings my way.

I need to believe Jesus' "Lilies of the Field" admonition: Corinne, do not worry about your life and its needs. I am with you always, giving you everything that you need in order to deal with all of your challenges. Nothing can separate you from my love." Or - as my dear mother always said - "Don't borrow trouble. Just live for today." Not living in the present leads me to missing the beauty, gifts and messages that God wants to give me. Trying to imagine what might happen, or how God might help - or worse, IF He will help - totally limits God to my narrow view of His possibilities and insults Him by my lack of faith in His love for me.

It is impossible to smile and feel anger at the same time. Smiling also holds fear at bay.

Praying for someone with whom I am angry, or REALLY dislike calms those negative feelings. Those un-loving emotions do not fit in with my life's purpose.

Don't give advice unless it's asked for. Period.

Never, ever wear argyle knee socks when trying on swimsuits.

Laura Anderson

This is one of my life lessons: I can't do it all anymore. I have to admit to myself that I am a different person than I was even five years ago; I have to listen to my body and not just do "whatever". Another life lesson is that I need to set boundaries. I tend to take care of people. That's what God wants, but not having boundaries leads to my downfall. I need to trust my instincts no matter what. I have learned that family is so very important and even though you don't always get along you are family. I took mine for granted for a long time. When I came to town and stopped taking them for granted I got my family back.

Coe Hutchison:

God is always there. Even when I can't feel him or see him. God is there when I can't figure out what is happening.

To pray for God's will to be done in my life. I have learned that what God wants for me is immeasurably better than what I

want for myself. If God grants my wishes for myself, I'm being shortchanged. God has way better things in mind for me than I do. But that is almost always hard to remember.

God has something for me to learn from every person I meet. This includes the easy ones, the fun ones, those who are easy to love and those who are not. God works through each person and uses each relationship to draw me closer to Him and to the world for which he lived and died.

Mary Ronen

I have learned not to take myself, and sometimes others, too seriously. And I have learned that I can do more than I think I can. Sometimes.

Step out of your comfort zone sometimes. Otherwise, you just might get stuck in a rut.

Find quiet time to just be and listen for God. You just might hear him.

Beverly Williams-Hawkins

A previous pastor, Al Mustin, said, "Sometimes, you have to let go of the good in order to take hold of the better." It's the only thing I remember of his sermons and it became a guiding principle in my life. I find that when I hold what I have with a light hand I tend to better remember that my needs have always been met and I am more trusting that they always will be. That trust, in turn, allows me to be more giving. And when I am more giving, low and behold, if more of everything doesn't find its way into my open hands. This one practice has become such a part of me that I find it difficult to have my hands clutched. Even when I am sleeping, if I wake during the night and find my hands clutched I open them immediately and go back to sleep. There's an old Gospel song that goes like this: You can't beat God's giving, no matter how hard you try. The more you give, the more He gives to you. So keep on giving, because it's really true. That you can't beat God giving, no matter how you try.

Betty Nelson

I finally learned patience. I have cats and that has helped me with that. Patience and acceptance go hand in hand, don't they?

Janet Hutchison

I have learned to trust in God and His love for me. To have acceptance of my life and to be thankful for where I am in any situation.

Chris Kimball

When I'm disappointed, I tell myself that there's something to be learned from the situation. Life's cup is half full, not half empty.

Elaine Shore

Perhaps the most recent lesson that I've learned from my life is gratefulness. Back in October of last year I began to feel like something was going very wrong physically. I had been so healthy. I could keep up with my much younger friends in my exercise class. I took my good health for granted. As Christmas neared new things appeared . . . shortness of breath; fear of going to sleep at night lest I stop breathing; overwhelming

fatigue; and trouble walking. Even speaking became difficult. A big problem was that I had no doctor, mine having retired, and it was difficult finding another. The one who came recommended was not taking new patients. That left me with having to go to the clinic next to the hospital. I went through many tests and was pronounced “fine”!!!! As I went out of the office, the receptionist said, “Make an appointment for a month’s check-up later.” I said, “I am not coming back. I’ve fought this unknown state of health for nearly two months and I’m getting worse by the week.” A woman in the waiting room over heard me and said, “I know a good doctor. Let’s see if I can get you in. He has people waiting to get on his case load, but I will try.”

Why would a perfect stranger would go to bat for me? I believe that it was the answer to my friend’s prayer for me. This doctor agreed to see me, and under his care I received a correct diagnosis! I was having coronary issues that no other doctor ascertained. I have received great medical care including the proper medication. I am feeling so very much better.

I feel so strongly that it was because of a friend’s prayer that I was led to a marvelous doctor who had the knowledge and skill to correctly diagnose and treat my condition. I also received wonderful caring, thoughtful, and loving care from my husband. **As a result, being grateful to God has become a driving force in my life as never before**

Judye Best

I have learned that good triumphs over evil in my life. God has turned horrible pain that has come from my life’s events into something good. God is there for me if I trust Him. He doesn’t give up on me even if I turn away from Him. I keep a gratitude journal. This keeps me focused on the good things He does for me which - in turn - helps me deal with depression.

Lucy Hladecek

I make time for my devotions every day. To make time to be with my Lord. This makes me aware of His presence. I think we all need to embrace the eighth commandment: Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. And, from Proverbs 6:16-19: There are six things that the Lord strongly dislikes, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers. I want to keep from hurting others through my words and deeds.

Listen more and do it with mindfulness. Not just hearing, but truly listening so that I can really get to know a person.

I put the effort into keeping my mind sharp. One way is to increase my vocabulary on a daily basis.

Have fun!



Pastor Coe has help on August 18!



Pastor Coe and Janet's Baltic Vacation



Wild lupine in Iceland.



The central dome of St. Isaac's Cathedral, St. Petersburg, Russia



Church on Spilled Blood, St. Petersburg, Russia



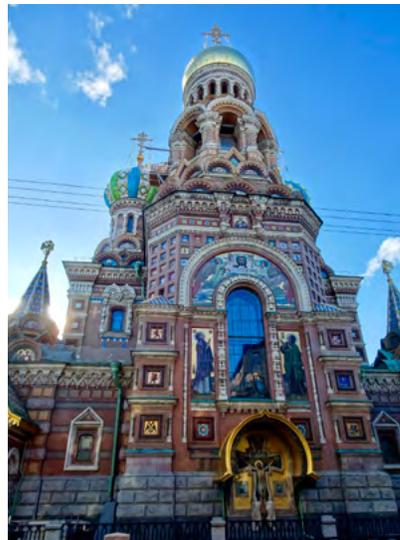
A lonely, but beautiful road in Iceland.



Nyhaven Harbor, Copenhagen, Denmark



Nevsky Cathedral, Tallinn, Estonia



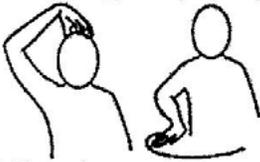
Beach Cabins, Denmark



Delft Fireplace in Catherine's Palace, St. Petersburg, Russia

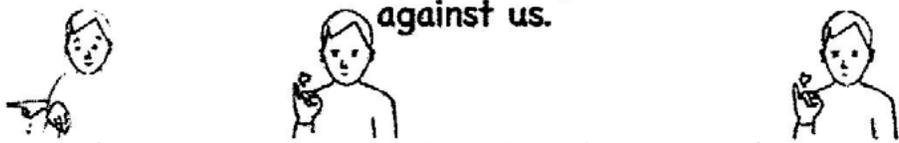
The Lord's Prayer


Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.


Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.


Give us today our daily bread.


Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.


Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.


**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
 Now and for ever. Amen**



**The Lord's Prayer
 in
 American Sign Language
 Submitted by Ann Bambrick**

Women's Picnic

Grace Women will be gathering for a picnic at Bess Anne Corwith's house on Saturday, September 14, from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Bring a salad, bread or finger food to share and maybe a friend. You may bring an optional offering for the Chimacum Backpack for Kids program.

We're hoping for a sunny afternoon to enjoy summer, friendship, and the beauty of the area. We are inviting the women of Peace Lutheran Fellowship to join us. Bess Anne will provide tea, coffee, water, plates, utensils, and a short devotion. If you have any questions, please email bacorwith@gmail.com or call 303-828-7417.

Voice of Grace Goes to Hawaii

Ann Bambrick took her copy of the *Voice of Grace* with her when she visited the island of Kauai.

Are you planning a trip? Don't forget to pack your copy! We love to see the places our friends visit.



The Bulletin Board

Mark Your Calendar

Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Events: Check out the full calendar on the Grace Lutheran website: gracelutheranpt.org/calendar

- Sunday, August 25**, 12:30 p.m., Rally Day
- Tuesday, August 27**, 4:30 p.m., Immigration Concerns meeting
- Saturday, September 7**, 11:00 a.m., Real Life 101
- Sunday, September 8**, 12:00 p.m., Rev. Paul Heins speaking
- Saturday, September 14**, 12:30 p.m., Women's Picnic at Corwith home
- Saturday, September 25**, 10:00 a.m., Grace Gallery showing
- Sunday, November 3**, 1:00 p.m., Piano Blessing and Concert

Judye Best would love to receive cards.

Judye Best
Sequim Health & Rehabilitation
650 W. Hemlock St.,
Rm. 307B
Sequim, WA 98382

Help Wanted

The *Voice of Grace* is looking for photographers to take pictures of Grace events, and writers of stories, events, poems, or ?? The pay? Not so much (well, none, really.) But - just imagine seeing your work in print! Contact Mary at maryeronen@gmail.com

Church Council

- President:** Mary Ronen
maryeronen@gmail.com
- Vice President:** Al Smith
- Secretary:** Betty Oakes
- Ministers:**
- Resources (Treasurer):** Jeff Corwith
- Fellowship:** Lucy Hladecek
- Facilities:** Jim Little
- Worship/Music:** Dee Dee Norman
- Stewardship:** Joel Peterson
- Social Concerns:** Marijo Brantner

Church Staff

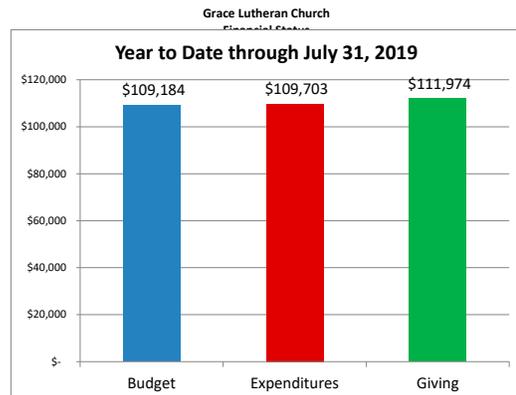
- Pastor:** Rev. Coe Hutchison
pastorcoeh@gmail.com
cell 206-369-0606
- Office Manager:** Crissy Dunlap
gracelutheranpt@gmail.com
- Organist/Pianist:** Lisa Lanza
- Choir Director:** Colleen Johnson
- Sunday School Superintendent:** Linda Wolff
- Editor, Voice of Grace:** Mary Ronen, maryeronen@gmail.com
www.gracelutheranpt.org

August / September Birthdays

Bonnie Toepke	August 3
Dave Peterson	August 8
Mary Ronen	August 11
John Lacy	Augustt 15
Anne Argites	August 18
Ben Dinkelmann	August 19
Gail Danner	August 22
Jan Schroeder	August 24
Karrie Cannon	August 27
Barbara Gould	August 28
Jim Little	August 29
Steve Brantner	August 29

Karen Swanson-Woolf	September 7
Harlan Wolff	September 8
Beverly Williams-Hawkins	September 9
Kathy Marshall	September 15
Alex Danner	September 16
Crissy Dunlap	September 17
Janie Hill	September 17
Mark Dembro	September 26
Marjorie Ehnebuske	September 27
Jim Argites	September 30

Grace Financials



Photos of church events may be published in print or online. If you do not want your picture included, please contact the office at gracelutheranpt@gmail.com or (360)385-1595.