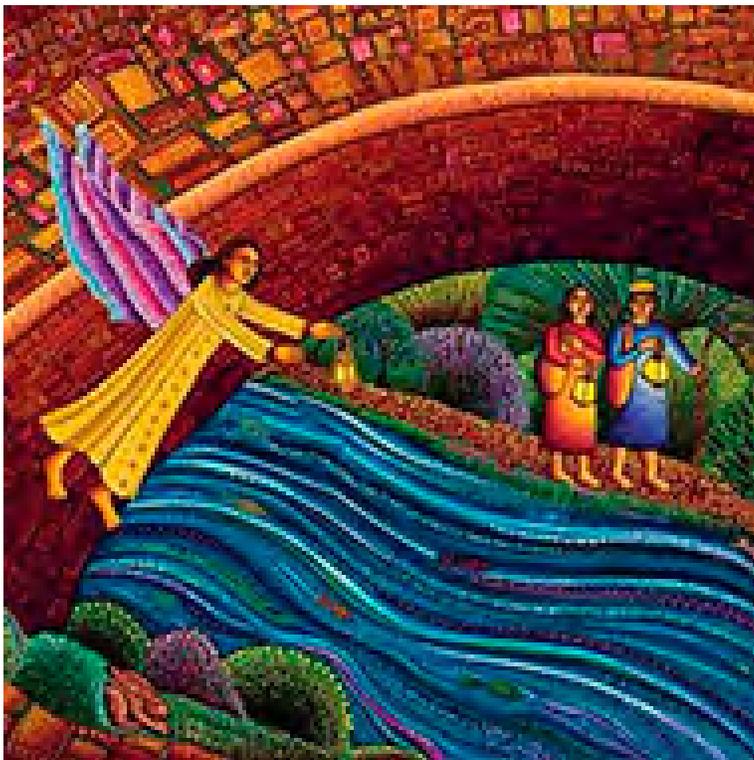


Voice of Grace

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.

What is AMMPARO?



AMMPARO. Do you know what that is? Many people don't, and neither did I. AMMPARO stands for Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. It is a commitment by the ELCA to accompany vulnerable children today and in the future. There is a Spanish word, "Amparo," which means protection, shelter.

On November 30, we heard presentations by Rev. Jay Alanis, Executive Director of the Lutheran Seminary Program of the Southwest. and by Mary Campbell, Program Director for AMMPARO, at First Presbyterian Church. More about Rev. Alanis can be found at his website, jayalanis.com.

The ELCA website has a variety of resources and publications about AMMPARO. Go to elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO.

ELCA has long held the position that we must care for those who have had to flee their homes and countries because of persecution or violence. Visits by ELCA leaders and staff to the US-Mexico borders found many children, some with families, others alone, who had fled due to violence. In 2016 the ELCA Church Council established the AMMPARO program. Its goal is to

support programs already in place and to advocate for improved systems that protect the children. A video about AMMPARO Migration Strategy can be seen at elca.org/ammparo.

Many churches are becoming Welcoming Congregations. This is a powerful way to respond to God's call in Matthew 25 – to welcome Jesus as the stranger who comes to us. These congregations agree to welcome migrant children and families, listen to their stories, pray for them, and provide emotional and spiritual support. They will accompany migrants to access local and other services as needed. More information on this can be found by contacting Mary Campbell, AMMPARO coordinator, at mary.campbell@elca.org.

Does something like this appeal to you? Pastor Coe welcomes your thoughts.

Worship 10:30 a.m.



December 2019/ January 2020

Advent at Grace

Our 2019 Advent theme at Grace Lutheran is “Jesus Was A Refugee.” In connection with this theme, we are learning and serving.

We are learning to consider Jesus’ life from the perspective of a refugee. As Rev. Jay Alanis (guest preacher on December 1) pointed out to us, Jesus, the Prince of Peace, began and ended his life in violence. Shortly after Jesus was born, King Herod sent death squads into Jesus’ community killing all boys less than 2 years old. Fleeing this violence and responding to the leading of an angel, Joseph took Jesus and his mother and walked to Egypt, a long and arduous journey, especially with an infant. Rev. Alanis wondered aloud with us, “Who offered hospitality to the Holy Family on that long journey? Did anyone?” The Holy Family traveled to Egypt where they would have been aliens with no community and no support. Their accent and language would have labeled them as foreign, as not belonging. Jesus was indeed a refugee, born into violence.



And we know about Jesus’ torture, crucifixion, and death at the hand of Roman and religious authorities. The Son of God, Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace, certainly knew violence. He knew homelessness, and hunger. So the question for us is, “If Jesus was a refugee, how do we respond to refugees in our day and age? How do we serve those who are fleeing violence, seeking a new home, a new beginning?”

In at least a partial answer to those questions, we have a number of Advent programs. We are preparing backpacks that will be distributed by World Relief to people released from detention at the Tacoma ICE facility. Some of the backpacks may also go to Dove House and local agencies. Please read about the details of this program in another article in this issue of the Voice of Grace.

Kicking off our Advent activities was our event titled Engaging the Border: Theology and Practice which was held at First Presbyterian church. Rev. Jay Alanis from Lutheran Seminary Program of the Southwest and Mary Campbell from the ELCA AMMPARO program were our speakers.

We are also buying Christmas gift cards for children and families served by the Jumping Mouse Children’s Center. We are serving meals at the Port Townsend Homeless Shelter, December 8 to 11. We will be purchasing tents and supplies that will be distributed by Discovery Behavioral Health. We are providing Christmas gifts for our Ugandan orphans. In all these ways, we are serving those around us both near and far - those who are seeking warm and dry shelter, warm meals, and a future with peace and love.

We are learning and we are serving this Advent. But it doesn’t stop here. This is only the beginning as Christ is born once more into our lives. Our learning and serving will continue into the New Year and beyond.

May the baby Jesus, who experienced life as a refugee, fully human, and fully divine, be born in you this Christmas. As He lived as the Prince of Peace in the midst of violence, may you know His peace in the midst of our sometimes crazy and broken world.

*God bless,
Pastor Coe*

A devotional by Henri Nouwen

Advent Waiting

Most of us consider waiting as something very passive, a hopeless state determined by events totally out of our hands. The bus is late? We cannot do anything about it, so we have to sit there and just wait. It is not difficult to understand the irritation people feel when somebody says, “Just wait.” Words like that push us into passivity.

But there is none of this passivity in Scripture. Those who are waiting are waiting very actively. They know that what they are waiting for is growing from the ground on which they are standing. Right here is a secret for us about waiting. If we wait in the conviction that a seed has been planted and that something has already begun, it changes the way we wait. Active waiting implies being fully present to the moment with the conviction that something is happening where we are and that we want to be present to it. A waiting person is someone who is present to the moment, believing that this moment is the moment.

Homeward Bound Update

December 2, 2019

In late November representatives from Homeward Bound updated the Grace Lutheran Council and Homeward Bound team on the status of their project.

Here are the key points of their presentation:

- The Homeward Bound board is fully filled and up-to-speed on the project.
- Homeward Bound has hired Terrapin Architects to revise their designs and cost estimates.
- The original budget for the completion of the building from start to finish was approximately \$830,000. The revised estimates, still being reviewed, are closer to \$1.8 million. If these estimates are finalized, Homeward Bound will need to raise another \$1 million.
- They plan to apply for permits in December and start construction next March with tenancy by the end of 2020.
- Their eventual, long-term, plans include parking for Grace Lutheran and construction of additional units on the existing Homeward Bound property as well as additional units on property currently owned by the church. They propose providing permanent access and parking in exchange for two church-owned lots at the bottom of the parsonage property.

They handed out an artist's conception of their eventual complete development. This is "way down the road," but it provides an idea of what they are thinking about. Copies of this drawing will be posted in the Fellowship Hall.

The Grace Lutheran Council is considering the best approach to ensure our access and parking as early in the process as possible. Watch for additional updates.



Grace Advent Backpack Program

by Pastor Coe

This Advent season we are filling 40 backpacks which will be distributed by World Relief to detainees released from the Tacoma ICE facility. Some of the backpacks will also go to Dove House and possibly other local agencies.

We are asking individuals or small groups to take one of the backpack pictures off the wall of the fellowship hall (women's backpacks have colored highlights, men's are plain blue). There is a short shopping list on each picture. You are asked to purchase a reusable water bottle and to provide a short note or encouragement or support. If desired, you can also purchase suggested optional items of: a light poncho, bandana, and warm cap. Please bring your items back to church, put them in a men's or women's backpack as appropriate (stored under the round table in the Fellowship Hall) and then bring the backpacks forward at the time of the offering in church. We will decorate our Advent altar with these backpacks.

The backpacks have already been filled with basic items such as underwear, socks, toiletries, snacks, and a flashlight. Thanks for your participation. These backpacks will be greatly appreciated.

Mary's Note

Where has the year gone? What happened to last spring, for example? Did I sleep through it? As I am gathering my thoughts to write this on this cold December day, I am trying to remember what was it I did then? That brings me up short – whatever it was, it did not stick with me or make that much of an impression. I wonder why that is?

I thought about this, and I decided it must have something to do with the fact that we – meaning I – tend to just float by without “living in the moment.” Yes, I know. If I were a regular diarist, I would be able to just go back and read my entries. But – says I – there really wasn't anything to write about; it was all so ordinary.

But wait. That can't be true. God has given us this wonderful world, and there are daily and moment-to-moment things and people and events to appreciate and wonder about. It's not ordinary. It's something to be thankful for. And, there are things to be sad about such as the friends who are said goodbye to because of relocation or due to death. We can't forget that either.

My simple conclusion is that it really is important to live in the moment. We need to “be still and know that I am God.” That IS living in the now. I can't hear God if I am not still and listening, nor can I know his presence.

So - here it is - Advent; Christmas with all its joy and wonder is nearly here. It's a perfect time to start living in the now, and, yes, even to start journaling.

Have a blessed and joyful Christmas season.

Mary



**Tree Trimming Day
Sunday, December 8
Photos submitted by Ann Bambrick
Isn't it a beauty!**



My Holden Village 2019

by Sonia Frojen



And now the Lord said, “eat bread, at least 3 times a day even when you’ve not been eating gluten for awhile.” Then work manual labor for at least 6 to 7 hours a day doing work that creates sore muscles. Then go on hikes to places that are so beautiful that you wonder at Creation and how you got so lucky. This hike gives you enough energy, barely, that you may or may not make it back to the Holden Village proper just in time to eat more bread and make more friends. With all of this eating and connecting, you may never come back to your ‘original size.’ Oh, and was the free ice cream mentioned?

Next up, evening vespers with beautiful candlelit singing and worship with many chances for connection to God and to strangers who are now friends. Heaven is this place. To have been at Holden Village with many members of Grace Lutheran, to have scattered Konrad Schwencke’s ashes along the river, and to have been witness to the incredible beauty of nature and the people at Holden, this leaves a lasting impression. Until the next time I return to Holden Village, it will remain a place that helps to bring me peace.



I was able to move cords and cords of wood in a line called a ‘chain.’ We moved wood from where the dump truck unloaded into small spaces under chalets and lodges in preparation for the coming winter months when snow would inhibit wood-moving. Many conversations happened in this chain and friendships and laughter were direct results of shared work. At night we worshipped in Koinonia sanctuary and opened our hearts to God and rest for another day of work.



ODE TO MAVERICKS

by Sonia R. Frojen

I’ve been a maverick for barely a week
Every night when I go to sleep
My shoulder muscles remind me
Why Holden is a place of ‘we’
To be of service with a rock & roll team
in a place of high esteem
fills my spirit with grati-tude
to move gigantic piles of wood
I even wore three holes in my glove
and I leave Holden with a heart full of LOVE

Help the Quilters

The Quilters need people to tie quilts. This just involves tying a knot. We are just a little behind and have a stack of quilts to tie. We have had some wonderful men tie for us and their work is appreciated. We could use the help before and after the holiday season.

Women’s 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, bender98368@msn.com, or Mary at 360-301-4550, maryeronen@gmail.com.

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone for their generous giving for the Grace Lutheran Shoe ministry. We raised \$1,470!

Holden Village 2019



During the last week of September, a group of hardy souls made the trip up Lake Chelan to Holden Village. Their mission was to spend a week working to help get the lodge ready for the winter. They worked hard and played hard.

Holden Village was a place close to Konrad Schwencke's heart. This was a perfect time and place to remember Konrad and scatter his ashes.



A Meditation

submitted by Corinne Bugbee-Smith

I have been receiving the daily meditations of Franciscan Father Richard Rohr for several years now and they have had—and continue have—a very powerful impact on my spiritual journey and understanding of God. This particular meditation expresses so well what I have come to believe about how I am to embrace the whole of God’s creation. And how NOT to behave, even in regards to my unexpressed thoughts. I quote Fr. Rohr: Each of us moves things along in the direction of violence every time we fail to love. Sharing this with you means that you are free to call me out if I do something that is negative and, therefore, hurtful. Be kind, please.

Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditation

From the Center for Action and Contemplation

Week Forty-five

The Field of Love

Thursday, November 7, 2019

The physical phenomenon of *quantum entanglement* is a wonderful illustration of the interconnected nature of reality, both spiritual and material. Allow me to try to explain in layperson’s terms: In quantum physics, it appears that *one particle of any entangled pair “knows” what is happening to another paired particle—even though there is no known means for such information to be communicated between the particles, which are separated by sometimes very large distances.* [1] Perhaps we could compare this to phenomena such as bilocation, mental telepathy, providence, or synchronicity.

Most people of faith, however, have credited such frequent happenings to angels, the intervention of saints, or God, which is honestly as good a way to talk about these things as any—except this makes them exceptional, supernatural, or one-time anomalies instead of the implanted norm. Non-believers might ignore or deny such things or call them mere “accidents” or chance. All we seem to know is that “we” did not do this by any of our contrivances. It just “happened” by seemingly unseen or chaotic forces.

The Christian tradition clearly points to this entanglement. In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes that “the life and death of each of us has its influence on others” (14:7, Jerusalem Bible). The Apostles’ Creed affirms our belief in “the communion of saints.” There is apparently a positive inner connectedness that we can draw upon if we wish. It seems to me that quantum entanglement is a foundationally Christian concept, which is now finding voice in modern science.

I like to describe this phenomenon as the experiential “force field” of the Holy Spirit. One stays in this positive force field whenever one loves, cares, is in solidarity with, or serves with positive energy. In Trinitarian theology, the Holy Spirit is foundationally described as the *field of love* between the Father and the Son. When people stand in this place and rest in love as their home base, they become quite usable by God, and their lives are filled with quantum entanglements that may result in very real healings, forgiveness, answered prayers, and new

freedom for those whom they include in the force field with them. (Is that what it means to pray for someone?) Conversely, there are people who carry death wherever they go; they can pull almost anyone into their negative force field. (Is this hell?)

I know that when I regress into any kind of intentional negativity toward anything or anybody, even in my mind, I am actually hurting and harming them and myself. Each of us moves things along in the direction of violence every time we fail to love. In one of my favorite books, *An Interrupted Life*, a young imprisoned Jew in Nazi Germany, Etty Hillesum, says straightforwardly, “Each of us must turn inwards and destroy in [ourselves] all that [we think we] ought to destroy in others. And remember that every atom of hate we add to this world makes it still more inhospitable.” [2] It surely follows that each of us moves things along in the direction of healing and wholeness each time we choose to love. It is always a choice and a decision.

We must deliberately choose to be instruments of peace—first of all in our minds and hearts. This is conscious *quantum entanglement*. God is not “in” heaven nearly as much as God is the force field that allows us to create heaven through our intentions and actions.

Adapted from Richard Rohr, “Quantum Entanglement,” the Mendicant, vol. 4, no. 6 (Center for Action and Contemplation: November 2014), 1.

Grace Gallery

by Nina Daly

Artist Favorites at the Gallery

While we were setting up our artwork in October, I asked the artists “What is your favorite artwork?” They replied as follows:

Earl Kong - Earl smiled and said that his wife Carol wanted him to paint a field of daisies on a hill. He said, “This was my best stab at it and Carol said that it was very good.” Earl’s other favorite is a picture with a collection of eclectic faces. “I saw a few faces and decided to make more faces. This is a result of hallucinations from my medication.”

Gloria Sutton - Gloria said, “I like to paint old barns, country scenes and animals.” Check out Gloria’s country scenes and her pastel picture of a cat.

Nina Daly - My favorite picture I submitted is of two Madrona trees. I used acrylic paint and tissue. The trees are trees I see on a walk I take during my lunch hour. I enjoyed working with tissue and getting the peeling effect and tried to make the trees look like they are moving. The other favorite was a late entry I submitted of a poem I wrote about prayer during the last Via de Cristo weekend.



See next page

Gallery from previous page

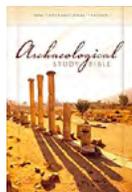
New Year's Resolution - More Artists

Our next art setup is January 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Grace Gallery has been blessed with a variety of artwork, and it is my hope that more people will participate in the new year. Since its inception, we have shown paintings, drawings, art from retreats and bulletins, baskets, ceramics, chalices, vintage uniform stitchery, photography, etc.

Attending the art setup is not required in order to show art. Special arrangements can be made. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me. See you in church!

Nina's Book Review

by Nina Daly



NIV, Archaeological Study Bible,
by Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., PhD

I have in the past read the Bible in its entirety. The Archaeological Study Bible has generated my interest in reading it again. This version of the Bible not only maintains my interest, but generates more interest, as I take my time to read and let everything soak in my mind and heart.

The Archaeological Study Bible has color photos of art and places from ancient times. There are timelines and maps that are helpful in connecting when books in the Bible were written and what was happening in history during that time.

The Kindle downloadable version (2336 pages) is available on Amazon for \$7.99.

Wednesday Morning Text Study

by Jane Schwencke

Sarah Young, author of many devotional books, writes these devotions as if the words are coming from Jesus Himself. The following words are from her book *Jesus Always*.

Study and meditate on Scripture. Let it saturate your heart and mind, changing your way of thinking. Permeate your prayers with biblical concepts and content. As you stay in close communication with Me, the Joy of My Presence is yours!

A small group has been faithfully gathering to study the Bible texts for each Sunday. This study group has been meeting since the 1970's. The first group met at the home of Dot Little, (Jim Little's mother). When the group became larger the conference room at church was the meeting place. Though many of the original members have left us for greener pastures in Heaven, the group still meets regularly to study God's Word. This prepares us for the following Sunday's sermon and worship which is centered around the texts we have studied and are read by the lectors and pastor.

Please prayerfully consider joining us on Wednesdays beginning January 8 at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room as we "study and meditate on Scripture." You won't be disappointed. And Pastor Coe might add, "It also helps me when preparing my sermons!"

Looking Back on 2019

It was another busy year here at Grace:

In December 2018, 660 cookies were baked by members of our congregation, bagged and tagged with a greeting inviting folks to attend Christmas worship at Grace. Church members delivered them to their neighbors with a smile and a greeting.

The quilters discovered that the Homeless Shelter needed bedding for their 31 beds, and so 31 quilts were delivered.



A

Koinonia gathering with joyful members of Emmanuel Apostolic Church in Bremerton was held here on March 31.

A Habitat for Humanity home that Grace members worked on was dedicated and delivered on March 23.

Konrad Schwencke and Jim Little were honored with awards on Scout Sunday, March 10. Jim Little received the Silver Beaver Award, which is the highest award for adults in scouting.



Jim and Konrad

A very successful Orphan concert was held on May 26

We said good bye to Konrad Schwencke at a memorial service on July 7. On July 13, we said goodbye to Kim Hayden at her memorial service.

On May 12, we led worship at the women's prison in Purdy, and on March 2 we attended worship at the men's prison in Shelton.

A group attended the Fall Work Week at Holden Village September 28 – October 5.

There were three half-day prayer retreats and one full-day retreat.

We purchased a beautiful new/used piano.

Meet the Corwiths

by Mary Ronen



Molly (on the floor); Kanon and Thor (in the chair.)

I recently had the pleasure of sitting down to coffee with Bess Anne and Jeff Corwith in their beautiful home on Marrowstone Island. I was greeted very warmly by both Molly, their Landseer Newfoundland, and their cat, a Norwegian Forest Cat named Kanon (Kanonslag means firecracker in Danish). I didn't have the opportunity to meet the other cat who is named Thor. Thor is a very shy Ragamuffin.

They say their life has been full of Grace. They were married in Grace Lutheran in Corvallis OR, and their church in Anchorage was named Amazing Grace Lutheran. And now, here they are, again at Grace Lutheran.

They have a long history of becoming fully involved in their church lives. They take pleasure in seeing what needs to be done, then doing it. Jeff has served as council president, treasurer, and secretary. Bess Anne has also been council president and chair of several committees.

Bess Anne grew up in Salem, OR and graduated from the University of Oregon. Jeff grew up mainly in Colorado. Bess Anne is a mathematician by trade and taught junior high school math in Oregon. She ended up crunching numbers and working with drilling software for Phillips Petroleum in Oklahoma and Norway. Jeff graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in Golden CO with a degree in petroleum engineering. His first assignment with Phillips Petroleum was in Santa Barbara. He went from there to Stavanger, Norway. His specialty is reservoir engineering – where he models the behavior of the oil and gas thousands of feet below the surface of the ground. Then he makes recommendations on how to place, drill, and operate wells to get the most benefit.

They met in Norway while they were both working for Phillips Petroleum Co. While in Norway, their triplet daughters were born. They moved from Norway to Oklahoma where they lived 9 years. When an opportunity arose to relocate to a cooler climate in the northwest, they moved to Anchorage, Alaska. Their daughters all call Alaska home now.

Jeff and Bess Anne have three grandchildren ages 1, 5 and 7, who they see two or three times a year. Their daughters and grandchildren were the main reason Jeff and Bess Anne decided to settle in Washington - it is an easy three-hour flight to Anchorage, making it easy – but not too easy – to visit.



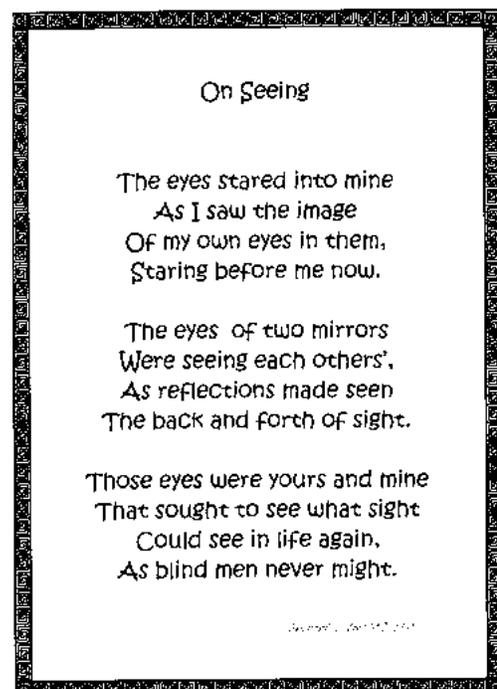
The Corwith family.

After 13 years in Anchorage, Jeff was transferred to Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, where they stayed for three years. There, they belonged to an LCMS church. (LCMS in this case stands for Lutheran Church of Malaysia and Singapore.) Jeff retired from Conoco Phillips in 2013 and started work for a tiny company in Denver working on projects to use carbon dioxide emissions to rejuvenate old oil fields while simultaneously storing the carbon dioxide underground.

Jeff now works from home as a petroleum reservoir engineering consultant. Bess Anne is doing a bird count for Cornell. She counts how many of each species that she can identify.

Jeff and Bess Anne both have discovered that there is creativity in everyone, if you let it come out.

Bess Anne is a self-taught fabric artist. She creates beautiful quilts. She paints on fabric and is an excellent seamstress. She created paraments for their church while in Malaysia and recently created paraments for us. At the present time, she is working on a fabric display depicting Advent and Epiphany combined. You will be able to see a sample displayed in our Grace Gallery.



An Update from Uganda - November 3, 2019

Dear People of Grace:

We hope you are doing well. It sounds like fall was especially beautiful in the NW with all the colorful leaves. By now they have probably fallen, and it is a bit more gray and damp. It is the rainy season here, too, with intense downpours at least once a day. Claus and I are here in a remote corner of S.W. Uganda, not far from the northern border of Rwanda. We are spending a week at a small mission hospital, established in 1958 in a place called Kisiizi, to serve the health needs of the people in this area. (Kampala, the capital, is an 8-hour drive towards the west.) The land here is lush, verdant, and ripe with fruits and vegetables of every kind (especially now, during the rainy season). This southern part of Uganda is known as some of the richest agricultural land in the world, along with the area in northern Rwanda and eastern DRC (Congo). Unfortunately, the DRC is struggling with both a civil war and an Ebola outbreak, so we won't be heading there. Though just south of the equator, we are in the mountains, and it is quite cool at night (high 50's), requiring wool blankets, and in the 60's or low 70's in the day. The people here are quite poor materially, but thankfully, they do have enough to eat. One of the biggest barriers to their health is paying for transport to the hospital clinics for routine care and emergencies and paying for surgery. Here Claus is working with a team of 8 in his study program, learning about the workings of the hospital, seeing patients, standing in on surgeries, and researching the healthcare insurance scheme that they have for the outlying communities. There is a beautiful waterfall a short walk from the hospital and we are enjoying some local hikes. This week is a respite, a field placement away from the frenetic city of Kampala where we are residing for 6-weeks, the final locale for the LSTM course. We are staying in a guesthouse owned by Ethiopians, with a restaurant adjacent. They are so friendly, it feels like family. We are in a busy part of the city, across from the mall (which has everything), down the road from the Alliance Francaise and Goethe Institute (whose library I use), not far from the national museum, and within walking distance to the huge Makerere University, where Claus attends classes (almost as big as the U.W.) All have cultural offerings we have been able to enjoy. Since there are almost no stop lights and no crosswalks, and 'boda boda' motorcycle taxis seem to

appear out of nowhere at high speed, walking anywhere and crossing traffic takes all one's patience and wits. There are few taxis and almost no buses, except for those that they pack to the gills, that stop every few yards it seems, and are rather dangerous as well. It is a real contrast to sleepy Moshi, TZ. The people are outgoing, witty and fun-loving. Their excellent English makes it easier to get to know people well than in Tanzania where they speak mostly Swahili. I have met with Kenneth several times, and with him I have gone to schools to meet the children and their teachers. He is a wonderful human being, so compassionate and supportive of the children. Next Friday, I will attend his 6-year-old son's (John Smith) kindergarten graduation! I also was thrilled to meet Vivien, who Grace sponsored for most of her schooling, who has just completed her internship year after medical school and will begin working in medicine, soon. Transportation is quite a problem since they don't have a good bus system. Kenneth mostly takes motorcycle taxis to get to the children's homes or schools and they are quite dangerous. Last year his driver crashed, and he broke his leg. We are scrounging to find safe transport to more outlying schools because I do not feel safe on the motorcycles. I hired an Uber taxi once, but the round-trip was a long distance and costly. I have also been working with Watson, the librarian and director of the national museum literary project (to support and promote Ugandan writers, of which there are a growing number.) From the museum library collection, we will be purchasing books for a mobile library for the thirty scholarship children. In the meantime, Kenneth and I will be visiting more children at their schools, and Christine in her village. On the 17th of Nov., we will have our celebration with most of the scholarship kids (mostly in grades 6, and 8 through 11.) The grade 7 and grade 12 students are taking their national exams which are quite important. Their test results determine where they will be able to continue to study and whether they will be able to concentrate on the subject of their choice. It has been a wonderful stay in Uganda, so far, and we are grateful for our health and good fortune to be here. Claus is learning much about tropical medicine and infectious disease that he hopes to be able to use to serve those in need, and I am loving having time to write. We hope everything at Grace and in Port Townsend is well.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all.

Warm wishes, Teresa and Claus Janssen



Support of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Congregation

As you have probably heard, Fr. Peter, the priest at St. Mary's was recently ordered to leave the country when his visa was not renewed. Fr. Peter has returned to his home country of Ghana and we understand he has arrived safely. If you would like to write a letter of encouragement to Fr. Peter, he can receive mail at:

Fr. Peter Adoko-Enchill
St. Teresa's Minor Seminary Amisano
PO Box 27, Elmina, Ghana, W. Africa



On December 12, some Grace Lutheran members processed with St. Mary's Latino congregation celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe. Also participating were Patty Dunnire and Brad Lee.

Find Time

Find time for family, it is the nucleus of our lives.
Find time for work, it is the backbone of success.
Find time for prayer, it is the source of inner peace and strength.
Find time for laughter, it is a healing balm.
Find time for playing, it is a return to youth.
Find time for helping others, it gives a greater purpose to life.
Find time for love, it is by loving that we are loved.
Find time for thinking, it is a fountain of inspiration.
Find time for dreaming, it is our link with the wonder of the universe.
Find time for planning, it helps us find the time we need for the first nine.

Anonymous

Orphan Christmas Gifts

Kenneth hopes that this Christmas we can fund mattresses for the twelve children we added to the program this year (the cost per mattress is \$41) and provide a pair of shoes for each of our 31 children (\$28 a pair.) If you are able to contribute to their Christmas gifts, please make your check payable to Grace Lutheran and indicate that it is for the Orphan Christmas. Many thanks!



Grace Choir, photo submitted by Brad Lee.

December Prayer Retreat Excerpts

Some prayer samples were handed out at the December Prayer Retreat. Here are two of them that you might like.

A Prayer of Martin Luther

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasures of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give. AMEN

From 2000 years of Prayer, ed. Michael Counsell (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 1999)

Thoughts in Solitude – Thomas Merton

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

Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude (New York: Farrar, Straus & Girooux, 1976)

