

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 Blessed Day at Grace Lutheran

The Installation of Pastor Sean Janssen



Worship - Sundays, 10:30 a.m /
Online at gracelutheranpt.org



September / October 2021

Grace Lutheran Church, 1120 Walker Street, Port Townsend, WA 98368 - (360) 385-1595 www.gracelutheranpt.org



Installation Day!

On Sunday, August 22, 2021, Pastor Sean Janssen was installed as our shepherd by Bishop's Associate Rev. Rebecca Shjerven. We have been waiting for and working toward this for over a year, and now we feel so blessed! Pastor Sean and his family arrived here in July from Montana. Following the service there was fellowship time (two cakes and coffee!) and the opportunity to meet Pastor's wife Vanessa and their 3 children: Liana (10), Cameron (8) and Holden (6).



Welcome



Pastor's Message



For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Romans 8:38-39

There is a lot of excitement, enthusiasm and energy around beginning a new call to ministry here at Grace Lutheran Church.

Some of the tasks associated with this are fun and life-giving: meeting new people, learning what passions we share and just appreciating the beauty we live in. Others are much more mundane: unpacking boxes and putting books on shelves, setting up online accounts and creating a new email signature.

The latter, however, caused me to ponder for a bit: what is my favorite verse of Scripture? I decided I don't really have one ... at least not one that suits every occasion. I have a favorite parable (that of the Good Samaritan), for instance, but that's a pretty lengthy sign-off to append to a message such as "Thanks for sending me that file with a list of birthdays!"

I wanted something short enough it might actually be read by an occasional recipient. I landed on the passage from Romans above. It was not as brief as I first had in mind and probably will be ignored more often than not in messages I send. But it is well-known and well-loved and in the end, I felt the Holy Spirit tap me on the shoulder and say, "This is it." That and ... "Don't overthink this. You have a lot of other things to do."

I look back on that moment sitting in front of a computer screen a few short weeks ago and in hindsight, it holds greater import. On my third Tuesday as your pastor, we received new guidance from federal, state and local officials. The Covid-19 pandemic's latest phase has brought us to the point of a renewed recommendation to wear masks indoors again, regardless of vaccination status. I have to confess the news felt to me a lot like having the wind taken out of your sails. The re-opening of the church for in-person gatherings and the re-opening of the entire state had been long-awaited. Now, we have been plunged back into at least a measure of the uncertainty and anxiety we were emerging from, due to the rising spread of the Delta variant. Not only that, but evidence indicates the latest wave could have been avoided with wider acceptance of the vaccine.

This is frustrating and it takes an emotional and spiritual toll. Nevertheless, I know that we can endure because we have endured. Paul's encouragement to the churches in Rome reached believers who were in the midst of persecution that continued for years.

Viruses are covered in "anything else in all creation," of which he wrote. We cannot predict the next relaxation of recommendations, mandate or any other sort of update with absolute certainty. Yet we are people of faith and believing in the words the Spirit inspired Paul to write can lessen our fear. They can strengthen our resolve. They can inspire us to persevere. They can assure us of one thing that cannot and will not be taken from us.

Christ's love.

There is a lot of that, too.

Plenty enough to go around.

Amen.

Pastor Sean

Rally Day! September 12
Cheers to Linda and Penny for decorations and setup!



A Goodbye

by Sonia Frojen



Hello Grace Lutheran Church congregation. This is Sonia Frojen, writing to share some news. After much thought and prayer, I've decided to leave Port Townsend (and Grace Lutheran) for Seattle. I am moving this September. My life in Port Townsend, since

2003, was made richer by my arrival at Grace Lutheran in the fall of 2015. I hope to find a new congregation in Seattle and will keep in touch. My email is: soniafrojen@gmail.com and my mailing address will be: Sonia Frojen; 1211 E. Denny Way #A43; Seattle, WA 98122.

Thank you for your kindness and your generosity. I have always felt at home here, and I hope to visit occasionally. Part of my heart is here with you in this incredible sanctuary, and I am so grateful to call many of you dear friends.

In God's Love, Sonia Frojen

About Sonia

by Lois Sherwood

For the past two years, our scholarship committee has invested the Chris Kimball Vocational Scholarship in Sonia Frojen and for good reason. Few aspects of Sonia's life story are conventional, but they fit together to create a story that is transformational.

Early in life, Sonia was handed responsibility and opportunity to develop a sense of self. As a young girl, she helped her mom plan the logistics of family trips. Through her family travel, she explored the National Parks and grew to appreciate spending time outside in the elements. Eventually her family moved to Alaska, where her sense of self in the outdoors flourished.

After High School, she thought she was on a traditional trajectory of college with a B.A. in Environmental Ethics and Policy with aspirations of law school. That was upended by a summer as a deckhand on the Schooner Adventuress. While she explored the Salish Sea on the Adventuress that summer, she discovered that the experience was far richer as she shared her passion for sailing and ecosystems with youth.

After her summer on the Adventuress, she found employment in the boatyard in Port Townsend, but soon realized that this environment was filled with toxins that were harmful to her body. It also lacked the energizing aspects

of opening horizons for youth. This led her to a new career path. She helped guide and teach the Employment Education Training through Jefferson Juvenile Services through the Courts. The program taught soft skills of job readiness (showing up on time, filling out paperwork, interviews, and time management) as well as hard skills of marine trades (boatshop, wood working, knot-tying, sailing and boat handling). She worked with a parole officer to help young people who had a brush with law enforcement, to be given a chance to learn from their mistake and have exposure to more and different kinds of opportunities in our maritime community.

Seasonally she worked with the Northwest Maritime Center where she supported others as captain for some of the junior high programs offered in cooperation with Port Townsend Schools. As her role at the Maritime Center grew, she was able to accrue the sea time and skills she needed for Captain licensure. In 2015 she sat for and passed her US Coast Guard Master's License.

Concurrent to this, Kelley Watson, a Career and Technical Educator at Port Townsend High School was developing a Maritime training program. Elements of this are offered through Port Townsend High School, and others through a dedicated program at the Northwest Maritime Center. Ms. Watson recognized Sonia's unique gifts for engaging students and guiding them to get excited about the opportunities and challenges of the maritime trades and brought her on as an instructor.

Then Covid changed everything. Many teachers describe the challenges they faced during this time as 'soul crushing'. Covid time exposed the depth of the needs of students that extend so far beyond the classroom, and the lack of resources to address them.

As an educator, she used her skills to create opportunities for students to 'be teachable' and be open to learning. She applied this lesson to her life, and realized that it was time to set a new course. On this next journey she plans to bring all of her past life experiences to find ways to reach youth. Sonia will be moving to Seattle this fall to pursue further training in addiction counseling so she can help youth at a deeper level.

Sonia is hoping that this pause that she is taking from teaching in Port Townsend might help her realize some important parts of her life that she wants to let go of, and also recognize the parts to foster and nourish.

We will miss Sonia in our midst, but we can be assured that her life will continue to unfold in unexpected and remarkable ways, and she will continue to transform the lives of people around her.

God Speed, Sonia! Go in peace.

Grace Gallery

At The Gallery

by Nina Daly



One day, we went for a walk on the beach. The tide was out and the waves were starting to come back in. It was the perfect time to get my feet wet, and well, sometimes my knees. I was very thankful for a day away from work and blessed to be living in such a beautiful place. Kicking through the waves, I felt like a child at play

enjoying God's creation.

Creating artwork has that feeling sometimes. When things are coming together, I can't wait to get the paint on my canvas. It is so sweet that we have a place at Grace to display art.

It's been a while since I've written about the basics of displaying art at Grace so I thought this would be a good time.

Who Can Show Art? Open to one and all regardless of age. Artwork includes paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics, sculpture, greeting cards, woodworking, etc.

How Many Pieces of Art Can You Show at a Time? Up to three pieces depending on participation. When there is a low turn-out, people can show more.

How Large Can Artwork Be? No larger than 18x24 inches. Pictures should be framed. Stretched canvases do not need to have a frame. Three-dimensional art is displayed on the cabinet.

How Often is Art Changed Out? Every three to four months. We meet at the church and set up the work together. If you are unable to come, but have art, let me know and arrangements will be made.

Each piece of art will have an identification tag with name of artist, title, and medium. There is also a space to notate

if the piece is for sale. If it isn't, put NFS (not for sale) on it. If you are interested in selling it, and don't mind having your personal information displayed, include your email or phone number.



Nina Daly—This was inspired by a walk I took during my lunch hour when the poppies were in bloom



Gloria Sutton—This is a photo of a portrait I did of Jerry's oldest sister (oldest of his siblings and of his 7 sisters) who will be 100 in November. She lives in Stillwater, MN in the same town as her 2 remaining (twin) sisters

Spreading The Seed— What Your Support Has Made Possible

by Sharon Dembro

Harunah Mugonza, an orphan we supported from the time he was eight years old, graduated university with a degree in clinical medicine and opened a village health clinic three years ago. He writes that the rent on the clinic space will increase substantially due to new taxes. Haruna's plan is to build a clinic, so that what now goes in rent can be used for medicines and equipment. He estimates a total cost of \$8,000. I asked him to send us more details.

Dear Mrs. Sharon and Mr. Mark Dembro,

I am very glad to communicate to you. I thank God for keeping you safe.

In Uganda we have been in lockdown for 42 days. I thank God for keeping me safe. I am about to get the second dosage of the vaccines .

The clinic is going on well and works 24 hours daily. I thank God for saving my patients .I am glad to say that I have never lost any patients to death.

However, most people die in Uganda due to very long distances to health facilities and poor services. My desire is to build a clinic that will give best healthy services to the country and will support other poor orphans and families. At the moment I have bricks, sand for plaster and stoney sand and stones. I am to start with one block that will have six rooms and these shall be for laboratory, scan room, x-ray room, reception, consultation room, and dispensary.

Just Show Up!

SHOW UP!

Life's crazy...
It's cold...
I want to sleep!
What matters is just to "show up!"

SHOW UP!

Too much pain
Lots of problems!
What matters is just to "show up!"

SHOW UP!

Mind racing...
Body scurrying...
What matters is just to "show up!"

SHOW UP!

Peace elusive...
Tasks unending...
What matters is just to "show up!"

Marty Richards 3/2010

Prayer Angels

The Prayer Angels are quietly working behind the scenes at Grace Lutheran. When members request prayers, of course, those petitions are lifted up during our worship. They are also sent out in emails for our members to include when they pray. If you would like to receive these Prayer Update emails, please contact the church office.



Almost six years ago, the Prayer Angels were started. Every three months, the list of prayer requests are split between a small group of people who have committed to praying for the two or three names that they have been given. As long as your request remains on the prayer list, someone is praying for your concern.

I'm writing this for two reasons. Please know that your concerns are being prayed upon. It is helpful to keep the office updated and let us know of any changes so that our prayers are current. My other reason is for you to consider joining the Prayer Angels. Our numbers are shrinking and it will be harder to continue our work with less people sharing the list.

If you can join us, please contact the church office or call or text me.

Blessings,
Dee Dee Norman
570-856-0131

Quilters News

by Linda Gaenicke

The quilters meet every Monday and we are producing quite a lot of quilts. We have one quilter who sews at home and one who sews half days on



Monday. We could use another person who sews, and we could use a person to keep our material boxes in order. Keeping them in order by size and color sure helps us.

Thanks to Patt Roche, we had a wonderful windfall of money. She discovered that a table we used for our coffee was really very valuable, and she listed it on Ebay. The money she received for it will pay for the batting that we use.

We were also blessed to receive two loads of good material which really helps when designing the quilts.

We welcome anyone who wants to come, even on a part-time basis.

Altar Guild News

by DeeDee Norman



We are all excited about resuming our worship time together. Because in-person worship is expanding, the altar guild is gearing up for the time when restrictions are in our rear view mirror. Some people have committed to being part of the altar guild (thank you!) but we need more people to join. It is true that “many hands make light work.”

Calling all bakers (or want-to-be-bakers)! When communion at the altar rail resumes, there will be a need for loaves of bread. We have a recipe and the main supplies. Volunteers are needed to pick up the pre-packaged supplies from church and bake the loaves at home. Each batch will provide loaves for the month. If we have 4-6 bakers, you'll need to bake 2-3 times each year.

Have you noticed the banners in the sanctuary? Banners are a beautiful, artistic way to express faith in our worship. Please consider helping to create banners to add to those that we already have.

To recap what is happening in the altar guild:

1. We are looking for new and previous members to commit to this sacred ministry.
2. We need people to bake bread at the beginning of the month 2-3 times per year.
3. We are looking for people who are willing to create new banners to be displayed in our sanctuary.

If you can help, or you have questions, or if you have an opinion or idea, please contact me by phone, text, or email. Thank you



Let's fill the coffee fund jar.

A Movie Review: *MUCIZE*

by Linda Gaenicke

Once in a while a movie comes along that I just must tell people about. David and I were looking for something different and chose a Turkish movie on Netflix. As we watched we became more and more impressed with the story line and were not disappointed with the movie at all. The movie *Mucize* shows the dedication of a teacher, life in isolated villages, family and tribal traditions, and discovering love. Yes, there is humor, a little drama, and an insight to education and its importance to all people.

If you decide to watch it make sure you get English closed captioning. Good watching!

Why Worry?

Submitted by Ann Bambrick

There are only two reasons to worry;

You are either successful or you are not successful.

If you are successful, there is nothing to worry about.

If you are not successful,
there are only two things to worry about.
Your health is good, or you are sick.

If your health is good, there is nothing to worry about.

If you are sick,
then there are only two things to worry about.
Either you are going to get well, or you are going to die.

If you are going to get well,
you have nothing to worry about.

If you are going to die,
there are only two things to worry about.

You are either going to Heaven, or you are going to Hell

If you are going to Heaven,
you have nothing to worry about.

If you are going to the other place, you will be so busy shaking hands with old friends that you will not have time to worry—

so, why worry?

A Prayer for Patience

Dear God, heavenly Father, all too often we are quick to become frustrated and angry. Make us patient, ready to endure trials that come our way, knowing you will work things for our good. Make us patient, willing to continue, believing your promise that we can do great things for you. Make us patient, bearing with others in their weaknesses and sin, realizing that we too are sinful creatures. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

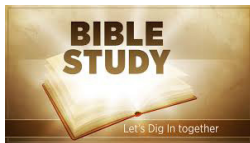


The Men of Grace held their annual BBQ on Friday, August 20th, at the Kala Point Beach. A good time was had by all!



What is Lectionary Study?

by Mary Ronen



Every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a small group gathers in the church and on Zoom for Lectionary Study. You may wonder, well, what is this all about?

This is when we dig deep into the meaning of the text of the lessons for the following Sunday. But, it is more than Bible study. It's a great chance to find out what God is telling us individually. We discuss what that passage is saying to us personally. Maybe it's simply finding out more about the culture of the time. Great discussions often go meandering about before coming to a conclusion. Or maybe no conclusion is found—it can remain a mystery to ponder about later.

For me, this is wonderful time spent. I always come away with something I didn't know. It is also a great fellowship time to get to know each other better on a personal level. Come join us, all are welcome!

Happy Birthday!

September

Crissy Dunlap	17
Tori Twedt	19
Mark Dembro	26
Jim Argites	30

October

Andy Dinkelman	1
Gloria Sutton	1
Liana Janssen	5
David Nelson	12
Dick Dinkelman	15
Mark Hinkie	15
Jerry Danner	16
Marty Richards	20
Nina Daly	23
Robin Kosin	26



Let's fill this up.

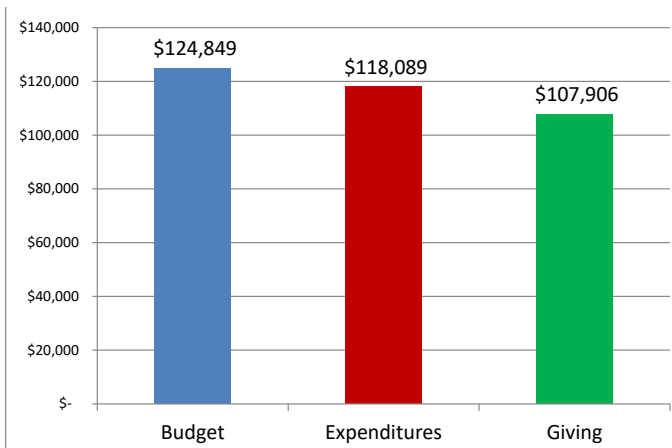
Mark Your Calendar

Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Events:

Sundays, 9:15 a.m., Adult Forum
Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Worship with Holy Communion
Mondays, 10:00 a.m., Quilting for World Relief
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m., Lectionary Bible Study
Fridays, 8:00 a.m., Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
at the Roadhouse

Saturday, September 25, 11:00 a.m., Art Gallery Setup,
Saturday, October 2, 4:00 p.m., Blessing of the animals

Grace Financials



Church Council

President: Mary Ronen

maryronen@gmail.com

Vice President: Al Smith

Secretary: Betty Oakes

Ministers:

Resources (Treasurer): Dennis Struecker

Fellowship: Jim Norman

Facilities: Jim Little

Worship/Music: Nina Daly

Stewardship: Mark Dembro

Social Concerns: Don Fristoe

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Office Manager: Crissy Dunlap

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Organist/Pianist: Lisa Lanza

Sunday School Superintendent: Linda Wolff

Editor Voice of Grace: Mary Ronen

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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.

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