

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.

Getting Ready for Ukranian Refugees



Donations from Grace were taken July 26 to Dungeness Valley Lutheran Church and August 1 to St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Sequim. Volunteers packed 39 cleaning and bathroom kits at DVLC to help Ukrainian refugees in Tacoma get settled via Lutheran Community Services. About 75 were previously packed at Trinity United Methodist in Sequim. Perhaps that many more were to be sent from St. Luke's on August 9. We at Grace received written letters and spoken words of gratitude from the good folks at DVLC and St. Luke's. We Are Church Together! God's Work. Our Hands.

*Worship - Sundays 10:30 a.m. and
Online at gracelutheranpt.org*



September 2022

Pastor's Message

Aloha!

By the time you are reading this, you will have enjoyed worship with my friend of more than 20 years who I'm proud to call my colleague, The Reverend Paul Benz (the younger) presiding.

You know, you can still learn new things about old friends ... such as my lesson that Pastor Paul is not Pastor Paul Junior. I just figured that out at his recent ordination. His father, also known as Paul Benz, has a different middle name. Paul Benz (the elder) is a familiar character (and I do mean character) to those who have been involved through the years with Faith Action Network.

In seeking to learn about Grace prior to his visit, Pastor Paul (the younger) asked me a few questions about our particular faith community. I invited you into that conversation.

Here is our Q&A, lightly edited for brevity and to correct a couple clumsy-thumb text typos:

Q: What outreach ministries make you most proud of and excited for the people of Grace?

A: I am proud of the way the people of Grace step up and are moved by the stories of people in need of God's love and help no matter where they are. I knew of the aid to Ugandan orphans affected by AIDS in their family before I arrived. I was really touched by the outpouring when I shared a request from a friend in the Dominican Republic who is launching a project in a very poor sugar cane village there. The willingness to jump in where possible and pray and learn more about what is going on in Ukraine and with the legacy of Indian residential and day schools has been encouraging, too.

Q: What 'in-reach' ministries, whether formal or informal, bolster and demonstrate how much the people of Grace love each other?

A: There's a lot of care and concern for the "least of these" among the congregation: widows, very low-income folks, survivors of abuse, etc. People help each other out in ways many others never know.

Q: What are your 3 favorite things about Grace Lutheran Church?

A: I hate these kind of questions because I know I am going to forget something very obvious!

But shooting from the hip...

1. People here are curious and want to know more about the world they live in and what's going on all around, not only in our backyard but wherever they may go... and they like to go and travel. I can relate!
2. Though many have traveled the world over, they have chosen to be here. People love this town and this church. There's an eye for beauty. You can see it in the art in the gallery, the appreciation for music and in the stories people tell, the observations that they make.
3. We have people who live out their faith with their hearts and their minds, and while many lead primarily with one or the other, there is a nice balance and members of the body complement one another.

I hope you enjoyed Pastor Paul and his family, and I know you have welcomed them as guests with Grace-ful hospitality.

I am grateful I have been with you now as your pastor for a full cycle around the calendar, and I am full of hope and anticipation for what we can do as the people of God under the reign of Christ in the months and years to come. The Holy Spirit is moving and it gladdens my heart as I hope it does yours.

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

Pastor Sean



Pastor Rachel was a seminary colleague of Pastor Sean, and grew up in Auburn. This appeared in a recent Synod newsletter.

How are the ELCA's companion churches responding in Eastern Europe?

The Rev. Rachel Eskesen, Area Desk Director for Europe

Across Europe there has been fervent support on every level for welcoming refugees and organizing to meet their needs. For many of the Lutheran church partners in the region, this is nothing new; ministry to welcome migrants and refugees is an ongoing priority. But this time the sheer number of people arriving from Ukraine is a challenge.

I wish everyone could see these grassroots, on-the-ground efforts, complemented by organizational efforts, that are being implemented. This is not just organizations, not just pastors or congregation leaders- this is the whole community gathering to sort out donations, provide rides for people from the border and open up their homes to refugees.

There's one congregation here [in Budapest] that learned one of the 4-year-olds who was arriving and they would be hosting was having a birthday. They gathered supplies for a small celebration so that she might have some sense of normality in all of this. These are the kinds of personal, local, contextual efforts we're seeing across the region as people come together to respond to the acute needs of these vulnerable families and individuals.

I find a lot of hope in this intentional creation of space to remember that God is on the road, God is present in the violence, in the crisis and in the moments of rest.

Gifts of more than \$10 million to support relief in Eastern Europe through the ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) are already at work. In collaboration with Lutheran, ecumenical and other partners, the ELCA, through LDR, is accompanying partners in Ukraine and neighboring countries that are supporting refugees, internally displaced people and others impacted by the crisis. Donations may be included on your monthly congregation Remittance Form for the 'Ukraine Conflict' by using code IDG0103.

Response activities include:

- Cash support of refugees and displaced people.
- Emergency items such as beds, blankets and shelter.
- Food, clean water and hygiene items.
- Protection and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals and groups.
- Psychosocial care and pastoral care.
- Gender justice and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse

Lutheran Community Services Aids Refugees

Lutheran Community Services Northwest has been navigating two concurrent refugee crises.

The first began with swift withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan, prompting millions of Afghans to flee their country.

Since August 2021, LCSNW has resettled 720 Afghans in the Northwest, quickly surrounding each family with basic needs like food, clothing, transportation and monetary assistance.

Then as the war in Ukraine shook world stability, LCSNW staff and volunteers knew that we would see another refugee crisis in the community. Today, more than 550 Ukrainians are seeking LCS Northwest services, with more arriving daily.

Financial assistance to LCSNW:

- Supports ongoing case management
- Supports rent and food costs while refugees seek employment
- Assists with legal fees on the path to citizenship

For more information, visit [LCSNW.org](https://www.lcsnw.org).

Real Life Goes A-Visiting

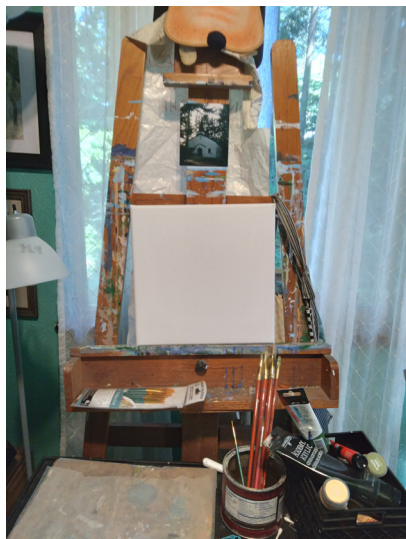


Al Smith, Vanessa Janssen and Pastor Sean brought Real Life "102" to Ann Bambrick and her son Doug (not pictured) at home on July 27. The Holy Spirit prompted Corinne Bugbee-Smith to suggest the gathering but she could not make it at the last minute. We were blessed to have Ann in worship with us July 24 for the first time since Easter!

Grace Gallery

Accessing Inspiration and Preparation in Art

by Nina Daly



An easel awaits....

everything? Well, frankly, that would be silly, especially since all of these things are wonderful gifts from God. In fact, as I write this, we have just returned from a walk where we stopped and listened to an outdoor blues concert. All right! Music and dog walking simultaneously!

The best art inspiration I have is accessing photos I have taken for ideas. Right now, I am thinking about painting a picture of the chapel at Fort Worden. I have a small canvas that would be perfect for it. I have even set it up on my easel, and am now deciding oil paints or acrylics? Since it's been a while since I've switched out art at the Gallery, acrylics may be a better option. Oils can take months to dry whereas acrylics dry right away.

My canvas is set up and my acrylics are out. Let the painting begin!

I tend to be a procrastinator when it comes to creating a piece of art these days. I think a lot of it stems from working full time and being involved in other church activities like music. Tom and I also spend a lot of time going on walks with our new dog.

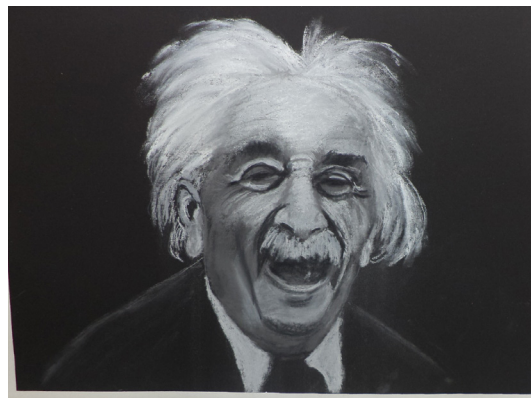
How can I complain about all of this or feel guilty about not being able to do



Ahhh!

And Glora says:

I have not done much painting lately, due to shoulder problems, however, I do have this black and white pastel portrait I did of Einstein that I entered in the fair August 12, 13, and 14.



Embodying Christ

The Apostle Paul speaks of bodies as a “temple of the Holy Spirit.”

The Message interprets it this way: “Or didn’t you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don’t you see that you can’t live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body.” (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

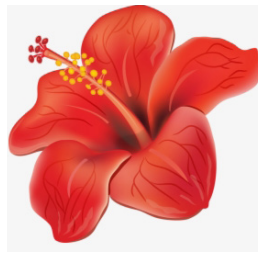
When we speak about all bodies as beloved dwelling places of God’s spirit, we begin to care deeply about harm to those bodies, both physical and spiritual. We are called to care for bodies that have too little food and water, bodies wracked by preventable disease, bodies bought and sold for other people’s depraved pleasure.

The work of loving bodies, both our own and others, is the work of God: feeding, healing, protecting and nurturing.

This message is excerpted from “Women’s bodies and the body of Christ” by Collette Broady Grund from the February 25, 2016, blog of the Women of the ELCA.

Rally Day

Mark your calendars: Rally Day is September 25th with a tropical theme, so dig out your favorite tropical (aka Hawaiian) shirt. In the coming weeks there will be signup sheets for helping and for bringing food. Bring the whole family and enjoy some good food and fun with your Grace family.



Fellowship Hour

Hosting refreshments after church is an important way of serving our congregation, please consider signing up to prepare and serve refreshments. There are instructions in the kitchen area for serving treats as well as how to make coffee. We want everyone who serves to have a good experience so please let us know if there is anything we can do better for you. Drop a note in Jim Norman's mailbox in the narthex or call 570-856-1355.

Save the Date

God's Work, Our Hands, is Sunday, September 11. Look for more information to come regarding how you can take part in this annual event.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

**We're getting a jump start on Pastor Appreciation Month
by honoring those who serve(d)
as Pastors to our Pastors and Deacons
in the Southwestern Washington Synod**

*Bishop Rick Jaech, Bishop Emeritus
Rob Hofstad and Bishop Emeritus David Wold.*

**You're invited to this Open House on
Saturday, September 24th at 11am-1pm**

Community Center Room
Baker Building at Point Ruston
4961 Main St. Tacoma, WA 98407

Park in the Public Parking garage (fee required)
at Point Ruston then walk east to the Baker Building

We look forward to seeing you there!

Southwestern Washington Synod

Did you know: We have a Facebook page
[Facebook.com/GraceLutheranPT](https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranPT)

President's Thoughts

by Mary Ronen

Grace Council recently said farewell and thank you to Al Smith, Vice-President; Betty Oakes, Secretary; and Jim Little, Minister of Facilities. No—they are not leaving Grace, thank you! They simply finished their terms of office. At the last council meeting, we welcomed new members Tammy Rumpel, Vice-President; Jan Schroeder, Secretary; and Steve Brantner, Minister of Facilities. The council is on a break now until September, when we will again meet and work together.

This brings me to something I have been thinking about lately: in the not-too-distant future, we will again look to bring new members to the council. I would encourage each of you to give some thought to considering being on council. It is a great opportunity to see and learn firsthand what makes our church tick, and to think of ways in which to help it grow. Think about volunteering, or if asked, consider saying “Yes!”

Here is something for the women of Grace—do you remember when we women met and planned things like retreats, and teas, and other fun things? I would like to see us doing that again, and I wonder if any of you might be interested? If you are, just email, phone, text, or just plain talk to me and we could see what would happen. (Why let the men have all the fun, with their bible study breakfasts and picnics and what-not?)

Grace Gallery is in need of some new artwork. As you might remember, there isn't a regular change-up of artwork. You can bring your work and display it at your convenience. There are cards available that you can fill in with your name and the name of the work. Things like paintings, photographs, ceramics, basketwork, or whatever your medium of art may be, are all welcome.

Peace and blessings to you all.

Mary

Choir News

Grace Lutheran has a new choir director, Gregg Lewis, beginning September 1.

Says Gregg, “As the choir at Grace begins to return for regular service, excitement and joy is growing. The current environment of Covid-19 is a real concern for so many. Therefore, the return of the choir will be reliant on safety guidelines determined by the Church. One remedy is we could rehearse outdoors.

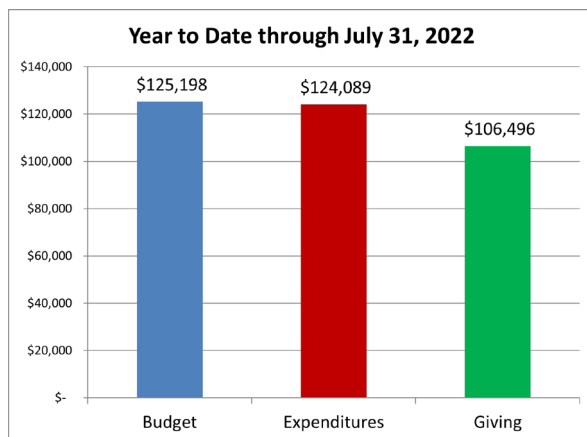
For those who would like to reach out to me personally, my email is gregorygdlewis14@gmail.com. I would love to hear from those who are comfortable returning to rehearsal and service, even though masks may still be required.”



Grace Men in Motion
had a great time at their annual
picnic at Kala Point.



Grace Financials



Mark Your Calendar

Adult forum, Sundays, 9:15 a.m. beginning October 2
Worship, Sundays, 10:30 a.m.
Quilting, Mondays, 10 a.m.
Lectionary Study, Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.
Real Life 101, 4th Saturdays, 11 a.m.
Men's Bible Breakfast, Fridays, 8 a.m., at The Roadhouse
ViadeCristo Reunion, 2nd & 4th Friday evenings, 5:30 p.m.
Council, 2nd Tuesdays, 5:15 p.m.

God's Work, Our Hands, September 11, after church
Rally Day, Sunday, September 25, after church

Grace Council

President: Mary Ronen
maryeronen@gmail.com
Vice President: Tammy Rumpel
Secretary: Jan Schroeder
Ministers:
Resources (Treasurer): Dennis Struecker
Fellowship: Jim Norman
Facilities: Steve Brantner
Worship/Music: Nina Daly
Stewardship: Mark Dembro
Social Concerns: Don Fristoe

Grace Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Sean Janssen
revseanjanssen@gmail.com
Office Manager: Crissy Dunlap
gracelutheranpt@gmail.com
Organist/Pianist: Lisa Lanza
Choir Director: Gregg Lewis
gregorygdlewis14@gmail.com
Editor, Voice of Grace: Mary Ronen,
maryeronen@gmail.com
Facebook: [facebook.com/GraceLutheranPT](https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranPT)

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.

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

CHECKLIST FOR COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Prior to Sunday morning check cabinets and refrigerator for:
(This check can be performed the prior Sunday)

- ❖ Tea, and sugar, are supplied: please notify Jim Norman Jim (570) 856-0131) if low.
Contact Crissy at church if coffee supply is low.
- ❖ Milk, half and half, and juice will need to be supplied by you if not available in sufficient quantities.
- ❖ If you need help, ask Linda Gaenicke or Jim Norman.
- ❖ Try not to use paper plates or plastic utensils.

GUIDES FOR HOSTING

- ❖ Sunday morning start the brewer and make a pot each of regular coffee and decaf. (It takes 5 minutes for the brewer to warm up.) At present, we are making one regular pot of coffee and one small pot of decaf. Small pot is in the kitchen.
 - The brewer will also supply hot water for tea, fill the appropriate carafe.
 - This might already be accomplished by those attending Adult Forum.
- ❖ Before the service or after you commune, set up your baked goods, etc.
 - Current guidance is to keep things simple with only cookies, fruit, or similar items served by hosts using tongs unless individually wrapped.
 - You may also include some individual wrapped candies or some nuts served by the hosts using a serving spoon.
 - Check the freezer for gluten free items
- ❖ Depending on attendance, you may need to brew additional coffee. Ask how many would like more coffee. It is expensive and pouring it out is a waste. OK to take home extra coffee.
- ❖ After serving is concluded, wipe down the tables and load the dishwasher but only run it if it is full.
- ❖ Put away any dishes or items that are on the counters.
- ❖ Turn off the lights.