

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 Clinic to Open!



See what your support can do!

Our own Haruna Mugonza, who graduated in clinical medicine and community health a couple of years ago, is building his own village clinic! Almost done! And he's naming it GRACE CLINIC!

More from Uganda is one page 7.

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



November 2022

Pastor's Message

It's no secret that Port Townsend lies, quite literally, at the end of the road. For some of us, that's a big part of why we love it here. That creates some inconveniences but the trade-offs largely work in our favor.

Geography, alongside widespread conscientiousness, has helped this area weather the COVID-19 pandemic better than most. But it can feel a bit isolating at times. On a recent trip to Berkeley for my last visit as a member of the advisory board to my alma mater, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, colleagues asked me if I knew so-and-so or this person or that person, a mix of clergy and active lay leaders in the Southwestern Washington Synod. With very few exceptions, my answer was "No."



Part of the reason this served as my last trip to Berkeley is my hope to become more involved and engaged with local and regional partners in ministry. As a result, I chose not to renew for another term on the PLTS board. On December 8, Grace Lutheran Church is tentatively scheduled to host my colleagues on the roster of pastors and deacons from the Olympic and Peninsula conferences for the Bishop's Advent Eucharist. The conferences span from Forks across Highway 101, over the Hood Canal Bridge and reach down into Belfair, where Grace veteran Julie Kanarr is pastor at Christ Lutheran Church and dean of the Peninsula Conference.

I am looking forward to it, in no small part because it's one of few opportunities there has been to connect with ministry partners from around the region since I arrived at Grace last July. A Bishop's Eucharist took place last Advent at Vinland Lutheran Church, which I attended, and just a handful of us turned out for the Under-45 Rostered Leaders conference in January at Seabeck. For lay folks, a spring series of Synod-hosted educational workshops including stops in Port Angeles and Tacoma were about it for opportunities to come together with fellow ELCA members and be church (physically) together.

More chances lie on the horizon as we emerge from the pandemic, with the first Bishop's convocation in three or four years slated for January in Seabeck. The first in-person Synod Assembly since 2019 when attendees re-elected Bishop Richard Jaech (who is also president of the PLTS advisory board) is on tap for May in Auburn. At the upcoming semi-annual meeting, delegates to the Synod Assembly will be chosen from Grace and I encourage you to pray and discern whether you might like to participate or have an idea of someone else to nominate who might be a good fit. Perhaps this is a chance you too may enjoy to see old friends or establish new contacts.

Meanwhile, closer to home, the December 8 Eucharist is set to come to Grace for little more reason than Pastor Russ Britton, our Olympic Conference dean serving at Dungeness Valley Lutheran Church, called and asked and I said, "Yes." Our recent visit for a Q&A with the Port Townsend Police Department came about similarly. My dear friend and colleague, Pastor Dan Tisdell, of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Roswell, New Mexico, said one of the greatest things about this work is having opportunities arise and just saying "Yes" to things. I pray as (gasp!) a new year lies just around the corner, to have a lot more chances to say "Yes" and see where God leads after that.

As the Epistle to the Colossians (4:5) instructs, "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."

In God's grace and peace,

Pastor Sean

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

Send pictures, articles, stories, poems, etc. to
maryeronen@gmail.com



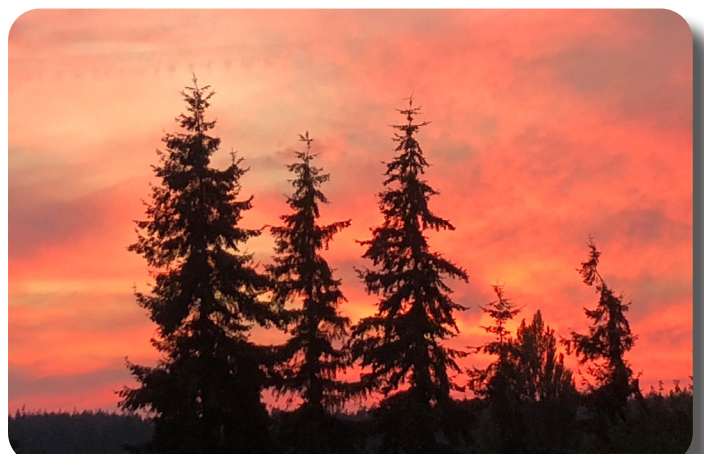
Sunday, October 30, was Reformation Sunday featuring Blessing of the Quilts. All 77 of them were packed up on the next day by the Quilters' Auxiliary to be sent on their way to those in need. Bless our quilters! Many thanks go to Lois Sherwood for this picture.

Gathering for Prayer Against Cancer

by Dee Dee Norman

Cancer is an insidious presence in our world. It has impacted all of our lives. One way to stand against cancer is to join as a community and pray. With that in mind, Grace is dedicating a time to ask God to remove cancer from our lives, our families, our world. On the last Monday of the month (as the calendar will allow), the church will be open for a community prayer against cancer at 2 p.m. Due to holiday schedules that will take place at 2 p.m. on Monday, November 21 and Monday, December 19. If you are unable to attend in person, we hope that you are able to take a moment, wherever you are, and join with us in prayer at 2 p.m. On all other Mondays, if you are able, please pause from your activities at 2 p.m. and say a prayer against cancer.

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5:16



We suffered some smoke-filled days a few weeks ago, resulting in some beautiful sunsets. This photo was taken from the church steps by Marcia Meyers.

Grace Gallery

At the Gallery

You will notice three paintings by Glora Sutton - she says, "Two of them are new and one is older. I just thought some fall scenes would be nice. All were done from photos I found."

There are some pottery pieces on the cabinet that were done by Mary during her pottery-making days. She felt that the space was looking kind of bare, so she decided to bring them in.

Art of all kinds is welcome at the Grace Gallery! Please feel free to display your work.

The Chapel at Fort Worden



One of my favorite buildings at Fort Worden is the chapel. It is the first building people see as they enter the park. It has been used as a church, rented for weddings, a venue for dances, and a meeting place. I remember attending a work retreat there. I think that may have been the first time I saw the interior with its beautiful hardwood floors.

I did not understand all the emotions involved in this painting. Why was it so difficult to finish? Why did I struggle with it?

As I completed it today, I realized that it was reminding me of our Springer Spaniel, Roma, who passed away on April 21. We had taken many walks past the chapel from puppyhood through her 14 years. In her last months, we even ran into her breeders by the chapel while they were camping at the fort. When Roma was struggling with cancer, she still wanted to do this walk. We call this walk the Roma walk in memory of her.

We adopted an adorable loving dog from our local shelter in July. We are helping him heal from his past and he is a huge source of comfort to us. He loves to go on walks so we often take him on the Roma walk.

Just a painting of a building? No, for me it is much more!



Jesus' vision

In Luke 11:1-13, the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. It was customary that each rabbi had a defining prayer, a prayer that was an encapsulation of this rabbi's essential teachings, of who this rabbi was. So, when the disciples asked him to teach them to pray, they weren't so much asking Jesus to teach them the way I have tried to learn (through classes and monasteries and prayer workshops). The disciples were asking Jesus to tell them who he was, what his vision of God was, and what his vision of those who followed him was.

"Teach us to pray" could just as well have been: Teach us to align ourselves with you. Teach us who you, in the name of God, are.

The prayer Jesus teaches, the Lord's Prayer, is a communal touchstone, a grounding point for aligning us with God's vision and God's agenda for the world. All should be fed. All should be forgiven sins and debts. All should be protected.

This message is excerpted from "Dear God, thank you for..." by Anna Madsen in the July/August 2021 Gather magazine.

Holden is taking care of things



Climbing the Needle

by Jeni Little



When Pastor Sean suggested that folks “pray about cancer” Mondays at 2:00, it sparked an idea for the *Voice of Grace*.

On October 3, 1988, I quit smoking as a wedding present to Jim. 34 years later on October 2, 2022, Carol (my running bestie) and I participated in the Fred Hutchinson “Base to Space” stair climb up the

Space Needle. (Incidentally, I hadn’t been up to the Space Needle since 1988 ... Our 2nd date.)

We both climbed to the top in 10 minutes! It was a fun, well-organized event, and all the funds raised went toward cancer research.

This event and the Fred Hutchinson “Obliterate” bike rides in August are great ways to raise awareness and money for cancer research while doing something healthy.

Carol is a cancer survivor.



Good job, Jeni and Carol

Blessing of the Animals October 1



Here's What Your Donations Accomplished

\$400 from what Grace raised for Huellas de Gigantes in the Dominican Republic provided a long-overdue water filtration system for a village in extreme poverty.



The Huellas de Gigantes (Footsteps of Giants) project in the Batey Juan Velazquez community near Monte Plata, Dominican Republic, is seeking to provide “A Special Christmas” there this year. A fellow congregant of the Janssens, Bianka Yapul Alvarez, during their time in the country heads this ministry. The goal is to raise \$5,000 to plumb two church restrooms, paint 20 houses that have not had a new coat in a quarter-century and host a Christmas music concert. For more information, go to gofundme.com and search “Special Christmas by Tiffany Thompson.” (Tiffany is a former missionary and friend of Bianka whose time in the D.R. preceded the Janssens.) Donations may be made through the website or by check to Grace Lutheran with “Dominican” in the memo.

Let Our Hearts
be Full of
Thanks and Gving

An Update From Kenneth

Dear People of Grace,

Greetings once again through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

You asked about the Ebola outbreak in Uganda. It is a new challenge for the country but the government is managing it and trying their best to control its spread. Two cases were reported in Kampala but our central region hasn't been among the affected regions yet. We pray it stays that way and we are trying to be very alert about it.

Senior four candidates started writing their final exams already and by me 11th next month, many will have finished and will start their Christmas holiday.

I have received a number of letters for children and I am delivering them. I expect responses to many of them in my December meeting with the students. I also received a card for Fatiah via post.

Please thank you so much for all the support.

God bless you
Kenneth

Altar Guild News

by Dee Dee Norman

I am overflowing with feelings of thankfulness! It's an appropriate feeling since November is here but there are many other reasons.

I am first thankful for Pastor Janssen. He has been supportive and patient as we try to find the best set-up for communion (I think that we are still working on it.) I am thankful for council as they support our ideas. They approved the use of Thrivent Choice dollars to purchase three new banners! We have two green banners and one in purple. I am thankful for the Worship committee. They never grow weary of discussing communion ideas or altar guild concerns. They always provide helpful suggestions. I am thankful for the members of the altar guild (We can always use more members!). I can only imagine how they roll their eyes as they see yet another email from me in their inbox. They roll with the changes like the champs that they are. They set up and clean up the altar approximately once every two months. (Did I mention that we can always use new members?)

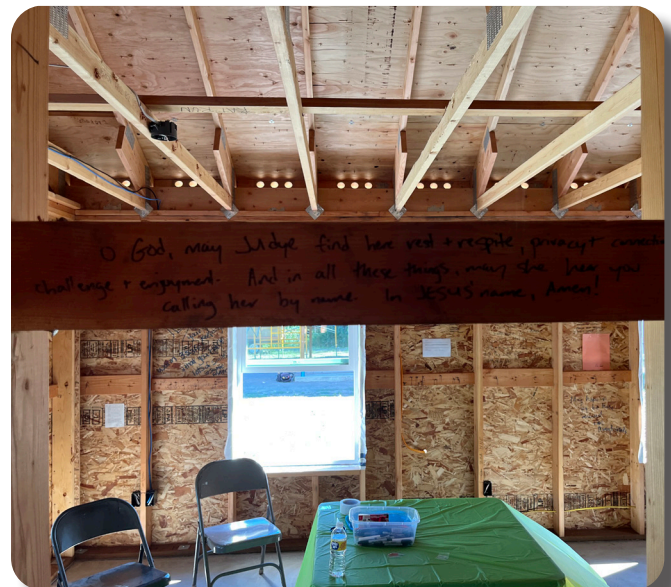
I am thankful for Jim Little. Who doesn't appreciate Jim? But I have a specific reason for appreciation in this article. I approached Jim a short while ago and asked him how we could provide a better storage area for our banners. They were all draped over one large rod to the right of the organ in our balcony. It was very hard to change banners because the ones that we wanted were always on the

bottom. We would need to remove all of the banners to get to the one that we wanted. Jim came up with a design that works perfectly. There are multiple rods now and the current group of banners (following the liturgical color) can be moved to the front of the rack. It is a marvel to behold! I invite all of you to wander up to the balcony and see it for yourselves.

Thankfulness abounds! May your days be filled with more blessings than you can count.

A House Blessing for Judy

On August 29, we gathered with Judy at her Habitat house site for it to be blessed by Pastor Sean. Prayers were written by friends and placed in the walls. It was truly a great day for Judy.



Note from Mary

The cancer prayer day was a very powerful and meaningful time for me. I was completely focused on my prayers for the care and curing of cancer for others when it came to me that although I had thanked God many times over for loved ones, I had neglected to thank Him for my own cancer recovery over 20 years ago. I think that this is probably often what happens – we care so much for others that we forget to pray for our own healing. Needless to say, I thanked Him heartily then – I have enjoyed many years of pretty good health since that time!

Thanksgiving will soon be here and I wish everyone a very happy one. I will be in California with my youngest and her family. I was fortunate to have an early Thanksgiving with other family members (including 3 great-grandsons under the age of 6!) during our recent power outage. It was pretty chaotic as I was cooking dinner on two camp stoves and one burner connected to a small generator. The house was dark and it was cold, but we had a wonderful time and I was thankful that we were all together.

There really is a lot to be thankful for.

Mary



God's Work, Our Hands Day for this year was spent cleaning up our own space. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard that day both inside and out.

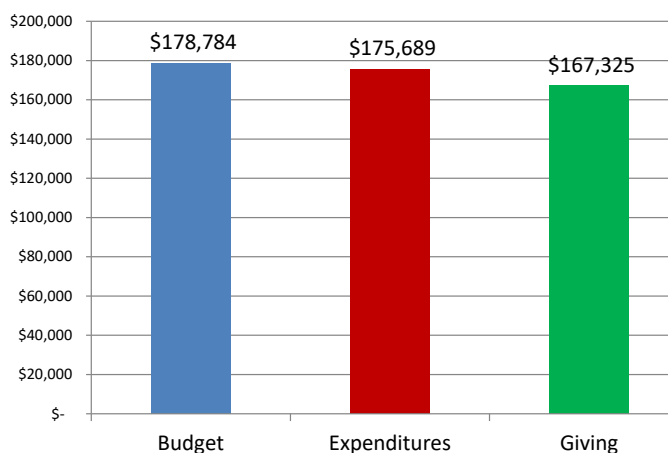
Grace Financials

Mark Your Calendar

Christian Education, Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, Sundays, 10:30 a.m.
Quilting, Mondays, 10 a.m.
Prayers Against Cancer, Last Mondays, 2 p.m.
Lectionary Study, Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m..
Real Life 101, 4th Saturdays, 11 a.m.
Men's Bible Breakfast, Fridays, 8 a.m., at The Roadhouse
Via de Cristo Reunion, 2nd & 4th Friday evenings, 5:30 p.m.
Council, 2nd Tuesdays, 5:15 p.m.

Thanksgiving Eve Service, Wed. November 23, 6 p.m.
Advent Soup Suppers, Nov. Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.
Advent Evening Holden Prayer, Nov. Wed's, 6:30 p.m.

Year to Date through October 31, 2022



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Secretary: Jan Schroeder
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Resources (Treasurer): Dennis Struecker
Fellowship: Jim Norman
Facilities: Steve Brantner
Worship/Music: Nina Daly
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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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