

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 Wish for the New Year

Dear Lord, please give me...

A few friends who understand me and remain my friends;

A work to do which has real value, without which the world would be the poorer;

A mind unafraid to travel, even though the trail be not blazed;

An understanding heart;

A sense of humor;

Time for quiet, silent meditation;

A feeling of the presence of God;

The patience to wait for the coming of these things,

With the wisdom to recognize them when they come.

- Author Unknown

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



January 2023

Pastor's Message

*Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world.
The light no darkness can overcome.*

You read this with the melody of Holden Evening Prayer resounding in your head, didn't you?

If so, fair enough. It echoes in my mind throughout much of the Advent season, not just when we sing it together. Not just in the minutes before the service would start or as I would sometimes hum it as I walked home afterward.

We will be back in a "Holden season" soon enough. Believe it or not, Lent is lurking not too far around the corner.

Until then, let there be light.

There's a little more in each day. There has been ever since the last night Holden Evening Prayer was scheduled at Grace, which coincided with the winter solstice, the longest night of the year.

The increasing natural light is helpful to us. Vitamin D, biological rhythms and all that.

But the light of Christ provides a much greater lift.

The birth of Jesus is the incarnation of God with us. God come to live among us. Showing up in the dark of night and providing a light that cannot be extinguished.

His light draws us to him. Just as the Magi were drawn to him. Just as the thousands who came to hear him preach and fulfill God's Word were drawn to him.

There's a reason so many medieval artists honed techniques to portray light around Christ. It draws the focus of our eyes and attention to him. In addition to the skill of the artists in reproducing the effects of light, the architecture of great cathedrals were sometimes designed to illuminate particular paintings or sculptures on specific days of the liturgical calendar and/or at specific times of day devoted to prayer.

When Grace hosted clergy from across the Peninsula from Belfair to Forks early last month for the Bishop's Eucharist, it warmed my heart to hear from colleagues who had either never visited our sanctuary or had not done so in many years. Bishop Richard Jaech introduced the worship service with recognition that the space reflects so well the place where we live, with its vivid color and inspiration that included imagery from the surrounding sea.

The way the light plays in the space, whether due to the time of day or the season or some combination thereof, draws our attention. The design centers the cross of Christ and when I lift up the host and the chalice as we celebrate communion, I am often reminded of the sentiments of my professor of historical theology, Dr. Michael Aune. The Eucharist should engage all our senses, not the least of which is the ability to see where Christ promises to be truly present, in the bread and wine, his body and blood.

I invite you to pay attention to the light of Christ in these first days of 2023, wherever and however it shows up. As we are the body of Christ, we should expect to see his light among us. In our worship, in our fellowship, in our service and in our walk together as followers of the path God has set out before us. I pray that we may faithfully bear that light as he continues to draw the world to him and his everlasting love and grace.

In the light of Christ's holy presence,

Pastor Sean



Uganda Children's Christmas Gifts Were Delivered

The Uganda government discouraged gatherings due to Ebola and Covid so Kenneth delivered the Christmas gifts (a pair of shoes and a backpack) at our childrens' schools or homes. Happy smiles!

Thank you so much for supporting these special children!

Sharon Dembro

Here are a couple of sample smiles!



Josephine



Kevin

A Note from Kenneth

Dear Sharon and Mark, plus the entire congregation at Grace,

God is good all the time, and all the time God is good and that is His nature! On behalf of my own family, and of our orphans, I share this honor to wish you a happy New year 2023. May our loving Lord grant you protection on your lives and save you from all kinds of trouble through the year 2023. May you all be blessed in Jesus' name our Savior. Thank you for supporting the deserving orphans through their education.

God bless you

Kenneth



Hangry. How many of you know that feeling when you've waited a little too long to get your lunch, your blood sugar is low, and you're feeling so irritable that every little thing makes you feel like you're gonna snap? Hangry= hungry + angry. I've have had a few go-rounds with this hangry thing myself.

Sometimes we forget that we need spiritual food, too. Without it, we can be spiritually hangry. Worship is like our weekly meal for the soul. We gather around the altar table and God serves us multiple courses to satisfy our hungry hearts: God's word proclaimed and preached, Christ's body shared in bread and wine, and the Holy Spirit shared in the fellowship of community. We are fed and invited to go out and invite others, to share the good news of a feast in a world where so many people are not just spiritually hangry, they are starving.

This message is excerpted from "Dinner Church: Food for a hangry world" by Heidi Eickstadt in the December 2016 Cafe online magazine.

Why I Keep My Sunday Bulletin

by Linda Gaenicke

Every Sunday, as I leave the church service, I notice that so many of us hand the bulletins back to the usher. Why? I like to keep mine for several reasons. First, I can always re-read the lessons. Sometimes I find a special part of the lessons that give me tools to continue my Christian path in life. Second, there is a weekly schedule of events at church or other places. I don't know about you, but I tend to forget when or what times things are happening. Third, the prayer list. There are so many people on the list that I need to be reminded who needs special prayers that week. Maybe just a short glance at the list during the week might encourage me to take just a little time for prayer for someone on the list. Fourth, when realizing that someone might be interested in attending Grace Lutheran, I have invited them and passed on the bulletin to them so that they know the address and times of services.

Feeding the Homeless at the Shelter

On December 5, 6, 7, and 9, Jeni and Jim Little, Steve and Marijo Brantner, Don Fristoe, Pastor Sean, Carol Kong, Janet Nelson, Dennis Strueker, and Amy Ostheimer served up delicious meals at the Homeless Shelter: Manhattan-style clam chowder, corn muffins, cookies; Baked potato with all the fixings, brownies with caramel sauce; salmon, brown rice, vegetable medley; and chicken noodle casserole. Plus 16 lunches for December 10.

All in all, it was a very successful week for Grace at the shelter. Jenni and the crew served between 15 and 17 people, which was at least three times the number of people from last year. She also noted an increase in numbers of females this year. The people were respectful, pleasant, grateful, and a joy to serve. While it may not tackle the issue as to why we have hungry people, it *does* address the immediate need. I believe this is where we are best serving our Lord.

My heartfelt thanks to all who participated in this project, and a special thanks to Jeni and Jim Little who put this all together with a smile. You truly were epitomizing "Gods's Work, Our Hands."

Blessings,
Don Fristoe
Social Concerns

Why January?

Do you ever wonder how January 1 came to be the first of our New Year? Well, according to *almanac.com*, the new year was celebrated for the first time in 45 B.C. on January 1 when the Julian calendar took effect. "January" is named for Janus, an ancient Roman god of beginnings and endings, doors and gates, passageways and transitions. The Gregorian calendar used today was first introduced in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII, and he continued to start the year in January.

The new year is a good time to look back on the "old" year, and January is a good time to reflect and make New Year's resolutions. One way to do this is to start a fresh calendar beginning with the first day of the year and fill in the blanks with ideas for home or work projects and personal improvement.

A Look Back

Looking back over 2022, here are a few memories

Sunday School returned!



The Uganda Concert returned May 22 for the first time since the Covid pandemic began.



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.

On August 29 we gathered with Judy for a house blessing by Pastor Sean at her Habitat house site. Prayers were written by friends then placed in the walls.



More memories...

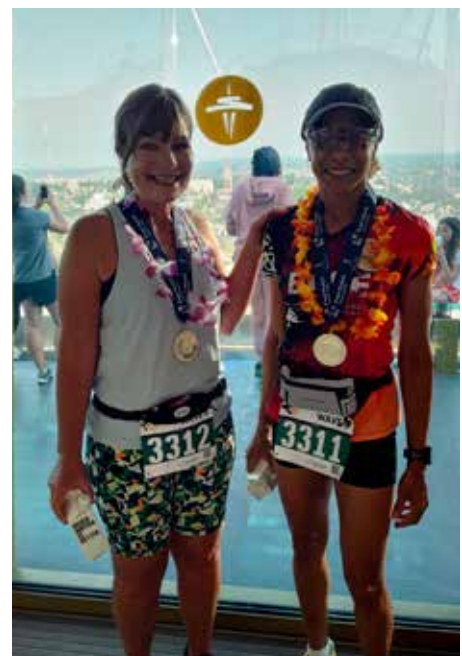
In September Rally Day had a tropical theme. For God's Work Our Hands Sunday, we deep-cleaned up our space for the first time since the pandemic began for the benefit of our congregation and guests in our building.



October brought the Blessing of the animals; Pastor Appreciation Day...



...Reformation Day and quilts, and Jeni climbed the Space Needle!



Quilters Hold Silent Auction Fundraiser for Lutheran World Relief

The Quilters were given this quilt unfinished. Now completed, it could be yours. The bidding will open Sunday, January 22, and close February 12. The Bid Sheet is posted in the fellowship hall near the quilt.



This quilt would make a lovely wall hanging, lap quilt, or Valentine gift. The provenance is unknown, but it was likely made in Jefferson County between 1990 and 2010.

Technical detail: Most of the quilt is hand-pieced and hand-quilted, made of 100% cotton fabric and thread. The backing is a solid white cotton and the quilting design, mostly hand-quilting, can be seen on the back. This quilt's combination of an inner border of traditional piecing compliments the hand-stitched appliqué. Finely appliquéd, the central floral motif and the floral border displays the skill of the maker who invisibly sewed the design with 12-16 stitches per inch.

Design: The central floral arrangement is surrounded by a basket weave pattern, machine-pieced, and set on point within three borders. The central motif is accented by the limb, floral buds, and birds perched on the boughs in each corner of the block. The

frame, comprised of on-point pink squares on a green ground is proportionate to the design. Finishing the design is the appliquéd border which was carefully planned to reflect and echo the central motif and flow in a gentle wave. The maker's choice of color is charming, particularly the red fabric chosen for the four birds and the gradation of green color within the basket weave section.

Our Christmas celebration included good food and white elephant gifts. The tree was a knockout!



Homeless dishes - do any of these belong to you? Please claim before February 1 or they will be given to Goodwill.



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

Lot 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

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

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

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

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, 3rd Tuesdays, 5:15 p.m.

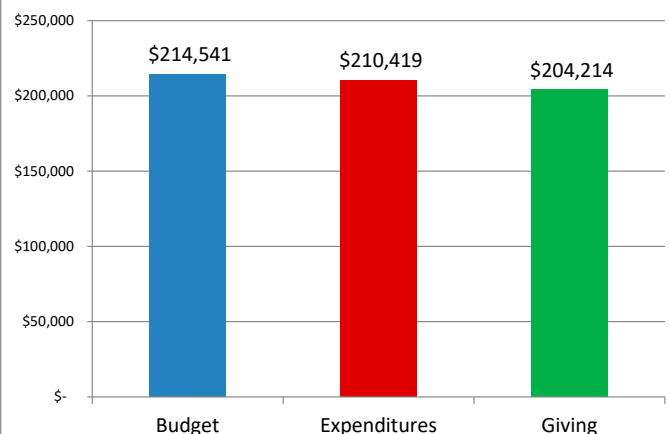
Ash Wednesday, Wednesday, February 22. Time TBD



Let's fill this up.

Grace Financials

Year to Date through December 31, 2022



Grace Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Sean Janssen
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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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