

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.

Clean-Up Day at Grace

Many hands made for light work sprucing up the inside as well as the outside.



A more modest landscaping effort helped, too.



Not pictured: Kit Rosenberger hauling off A TON of these rocks!



A delicate touch.



Someone had to be supervisor...

Worship - Sundays 10:30 a.m.



August 2023

Pastor's Message

Beautiful. Colorful. Historic. Majestic.

Heavy.

All that and more described the roughly three dozen canoes representing indigenous peoples from all across the Pacific Northwest that landed Wednesday, July 26, at what we know as the beach at Fort Worden State Park.

For the *nəxʷsʔáyəm* (“new-skl-eye-emm,” meaning “strong people”), better known as the S’Klallam, the landing is near the historical village of qatáy. Newcomers of European descent burned that village to the ground in 1871. It is part of a painful and shameful history here and across the continent, the effects of which echo to the present day.

As more than 100 volunteers from the community that now lives here gathered to learn and prepare for volunteer work several days prior to the landing, we heard from leaders of the three sister tribal governments of the S’Klallam, the Lower Elwha Klallam, Jamestown S’Klallam and Port Gamble S’Klallam.

The canoe journey, officially the Paddle to Muckleshoot concluding Sunday, July 30, at Alki Beach in Seattle, is healing medicine for the S’Klallam that they want to share with us, these tribal leaders said. It is an offer that abounds with grace that those of us who benefit from the wrongs done to them across many generations do not deserve.

This medicine is not just for healing relationships but it also aids recovery from substance abuse disorder, said Loni Greninger, vice chairwoman and director of social and community services for the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe. The Paddle is a 100 percent clean and sober event. Rampant substance abuse is a tragic and deadly result of the theft of native lands, displacement, and broken treaties and promises, as native peoples are pushed to self-medicate to treat psychological, economic and spiritual wounds. I grew up with the same story most of us got in school—that American Indians were genetically unprepared to handle alcohol, a sad but unavoidable and unintended phenomenon. More recent research just within the past decade has begun to debunk that legend, citing a stronger link to trauma, especially adverse childhood experiences. Comparing apples to apples, substance abuse rates are no higher than in white populations that have faced similar circumstances.

The form of medicine brought with the canoe journey also tends to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. For four years, this event had to be postponed. While COVID rates remained higher among native populations and reservations such as that of the Makah were long closed off from outsiders, the global pandemic impacted all of us.

My own volunteer work turned out to be a much lighter load than I expected. The canoes began to arrive hours ahead of schedule given favorable sea conditions. I only lent a hand on the last handful to land. Many hands made it much lighter work, particularly with a strong (in number, muscle and youth) contingent from the East Jefferson Rivals football team. I think our council vice president Tammy Rumpel got in more heavy lifting than I did, preparing to feed the masses camped out and gathered at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds to celebrate.

The canoe landing represents just the latest opportunity we have had at Grace to learn about the history of native peoples in our area, the current relationships between the tribes and the modern population of the Olympic Peninsula, the impact of residential schooling forced upon natives by government and church leaders, and long-overdue efforts to heal and build toward better reconciliation, especially between the church and those whose original ancestral lands we gather, worship, and live out our daily lives upon.

One of the most visible and meaningful ways we can attend to this healing work is a land acknowledgment, recognizing the original inhabitants of this land and that they are still here, not just a historical memory. It is a commitment the ELCA makes in its 2016 Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, which gave a five-century long blessing of the taking of non-Christian lands by Christian settlers, and reiterated in the more recent denominational declaration to American Indian and Alaska Native People. An example of a land acknowledgment prominent in Port Townsend can be found on the wall of the Northwest Maritime Center, near the entrance to the Velocity coffee shop.

We at Grace are blessed with some special opportunities to do this work and do it thoughtfully and purposefully. The Southwestern Washington Synod has a relationship with a native artist who carves wooden plaques with a



see next page

congregation's land acknowledgment and a map of the nearby area, for use in our buildings. I attended a reading of "Willow Whoops: A S'Klallam Girl Follows the Cimehan Trail in Qatáy," a children's book by author Alex Erickson, a Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe member, last summer at the Port Townsend Library. There I met Loni. Loni extended an offer to help us out in creating a land acknowledgment and even to visit and share with us following a Sunday service. Speaking with her again at the canoe journey volunteer orientation, we renewed the commitment to welcoming her for a visit despite the fact that each of us has been quite busy in the interim.

There are numerous resources to assist congregations in developing a land acknowledgment for use within worship, printed in bulletins and/or on narthex or outdoor signage, available at elca.org and directly from the tribes. Loni provided an example of one used by the Olympic Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Port Angeles. It includes acknowledgment that these ancestral lands of the S'Klallam "were regarded and stewarded from a spiritual perspective. The S'Klallam believe that the Creator gave them the lands to steward, and therefore the connection to the lands is spiritual. As the land is stewarded well, the Creator and the land will in turn provide for humankind."

There are important dates approaching this fall, in recognizing both the harm done and healing to be done between the church and native peoples. Orange Shirt Day recognizes the impact of residential schools on Sept. 30 and Indigenous Peoples Day falls on Oct. 12. On the nearest Sundays to those dates, we will hang the orange banner as requested by the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association, created by Dee Dee Norman for our sanctuary. And as we consider a land acknowledgment, I ask that we do so thoughtfully, prayerfully and respectfully.

háʔnəŋ cən! ("ha-nung-sin," as we learned at the volunteer orientation) Thank you!

Pastor Sean

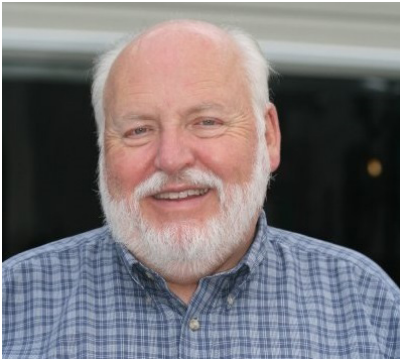


Pictured here are some of the many many tribal canoes at Fort Worden. The white tents are where the elders are located. Blessing of canoes, welcoming and much singing and ceremony takes place near them

Tammy Rumpel, council vice president, volunteered serving meals to hundreds of tribal elders, canoe pullers and members of the community at the Fairgrounds.



Pastor Fosser Memorial



Pastor Howard Fosser, who served for 23 years at Grace prior to his retirement in 2008, died Feb. 25 at age 80. Grace hosted a memorial service for Howard on July 23 with interment of his ashes in the courtyard columbarium.

Grace completed the courtyard and columbarium project near the end of Howard's call. A beautiful reception in the Fellowship Hall brought together family and friends of Pastor Fosser afterward, representing connections across multiple generations.

As Pastor Howard's ashes were committed to their resting place, Pastor Sean, as presiding minister, and Pastor Phil Nesvig, Howard's friend from seminary and the preaching pastor at the service, shared the recitation of the prayer that is also engraved on the memorial wall next to the niche:

"Rest eternal grant him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him."

Danners' Grandchild is Baptized

Elowyn Ryan Odell, granddaughter of Grace members Jerry and Gail Danner, was baptized during the July 2 outdoor worship service in the courtyard.



Russell Jaqua: Sculptor, Blacksmith & Friend

by Jerry Schnell

My wife, Eve, and I moved to Port Townsend in 2001 when I retired. We were attracted by the scenic setting and also by the culture of local artists. Eve was an accomplished artist (acrylics, sculpting) who liked the quirky, original, fun-loving artists we had met on our trips to Port Townsend. We first met Russell in a spiritual group. For some reason, I assumed that he was a musician. Russell seemed to be quiet, almost shy. He had a good sense of humor and often shared self-deprecating stories about his history and travels.

A few months later, I read in *The Leader* about an upcoming lecture featuring a local artist/blacksmith. My only concept of a blacksmith was limited to husky men shoeing horses that I had seen in movies. I was intrigued by the idea of a blacksmith as an artist. As a biochemist, I knew a very little bit about the properties of iron and steel. I was looking forward to the lecture.

Russell was the artist/blacksmith; he gave a marvelous lecture that amazed me. He had studied and become an expert on the physical and chemical properties of iron and many forms of steel. Russell genuinely understood why the heat and hammering and stretching worked under his expert and artistic hands. Russell really understood his media. He was a genuine artist. I learned a lot that day about iron and steel that was new to me. Before I left the room, I shook Russell's hand and said, "I am proud to know you." I will always remember that day.

We got to know Russell as a friend, but he rarely talked about his craft. We gradually learned about Russell's artworks that are located in Port Townsend. We are blessed that some of Russell's greatest works of art are permanently anchored in Port Townsend. On the second floor of the Port Townsend Library, I admired the fireplace door designed and created by Russell. A birder friend of mine pointed out the heron sculpture that sits atop the bus depot near the Safeway store. Russell designed and built that beautiful aluminum work of art. And a few days ago, I participated in a worship service held in the Columbarium of Grace Lutheran Church. I am in awe of what Russell did combining basalt crystals with tiles and memorial plaques. It is a true work of art that always affects me. I believe that Francis of Assisi would appreciate it as well.

Another Potential Life-Saving Resource



We have been instructed (many thanks to Chuck Thompson!) in the use of the automatic external defibrillator (AED) and there is also another potentially life-saving resource in our narthex. Perched atop the mailboxes is a resealable bag containing naloxone (brand name Narcan), a drug that can

prevent death in the case of an opiate overdose. If you come across an unconscious person where drug overdose is suspected, first call 911 and then the medication can easily be administered as a nasal spray. Naloxone can also be acquired free of charge by anyone at Jefferson County Public Health next to QFC and carried in a purse or glove box.

Quilting and More

by Linda Gaenicke

On the second Monday that I belonged to Grace Lutheran, Kathy Gibson invited me to attend Monday Quilters. I repeatedly told her that I did not quilt but will go along with her for just one Monday. Sixteen years later I am still attending the Monday quilters. On Mondays I have found a group of ladies who just love to sort, measure, cut, iron, and sew. There are no rules as to what you are required to do. For me, it seems that I always end up getting strips ready to sew and sometimes putting together a strip quilt. My quilting friends come from all backgrounds and are such a delight to spend time with watching the creation of beautiful quilts. During our lunch break, news of each other is shared with a great deal of laughter. I feel so blessed to spend Mondays with them. At times, there are wonderful baked goods for dessert and of course the coffee pot is always on. Visitors are always welcome to drop in for a cup. An important part of the Monday quilters are the men who are loyal every time we need to roll, tie and box the quilts.

But I have been thinking about those members who do not want to quilt. Maybe you don't want to spend a Monday quilting. Lutheran World Relief has other items that you can work on at home with very little effort or cost. **Personal care kits** are easy to assemble. **School kits** are also easy to gather the items needed. **Baby care kits** are another way to serve and show your love.

None of the above kits require a set day or time to work on them and most of the items can be purchased for very little cost. One person or two or three might want to try making a kit and see if this is another way to serve those

in need. Maybe a couple of the men of the congregation might want to try a school kit.

Yes, we are being pulled in many directions with so much going on in the world. Taking time out in our busy lives to make a quilt or a kit will make a huge difference in the life of the receiver.

There will be printed instructions available on the table in the parish hall.

New Baptismal Font

Lynn Bender arranged for and donated this beautiful baptismal font to Grace Lutheran in memory of his wife, Joan Bender, who passed away November 3, 2020.



Sunday School Artwork

Sunday School is on break until fall. Their artistic efforts have adorned the library.



Wanted! People to Sew Quilts!



Some of our sewers are taking a rest this summer and some of the quilters will be there every Monday at 10:00 a.m. No expert experience is needed—just sew a straight line. We provide machines, material, and thread. If you would rather sew at home, just choose and pick up a quilt

of squares or strips that is ready to be sewn. There is no stress on time to complete it. Your help will be appreciated.

Questions? Contact Gwen Howard at (360) 385-0927 or Linda Gaenicke at gaenicke@msn.com



Let's fill this up.



Listening for God

Some Christians practice listening to God in a more formal way, as with meditation or centering prayer but listening for God or becoming aware of the presence of God can also be simple. Are there ways you notice God in the ordinary details of your daily life and surroundings?

Perhaps you notice God in the greetings of your family members or pets, a glimpse of nature, the weather, a meal, or a news story. Or it might happen in pausing for a moment, in the shower or while waiting for the microwave, in your car or while looking out of the window, or in taking a breath and knowing God is right there with you. We are also invited to pay attention to God's wisdom and help, which sometimes seep into the corners of our lives in ways we might not expect. You might ask: Is there something God is inviting me to learn about in the events of my day today? Or are there ways God is already responding to my prayers for the people I love?

This message is excerpted from "On the knees, off the chest," by Heidi Haverkamp in the July/August 2021 Gather magazine.

Prayer and action for an end to violence

You can't change what you don't know. So how much do you know about the impacts of colonization on Indigenous people in past generations and in the present?

When we know the truth and embrace it, we begin the process of building and strengthening right relationships with our Indigenous neighbors. To that end, in April 2023, the ELCA launched a Truth and Healing Movement. Watch a video of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton announcing the creation of the movement on the WELCA website.

The MMIW (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women) effort, within the Truth and Healing Movement, advocates for the end of violence against Indigenous women and draws attention to the high rates of disappearances and murders of Indigenous women and girls. The root causes lie in colonization and historical trauma, racism, and sexual objectification.

"Women of the ELCA has been involved in the anti-trafficking effort for nearly two decades. It is only natural, then, that we continue this important justice work with a focus on MMIW," says Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director. The Jefferson Interfaith Action Council is planning a peace gathering with an emphasis on Indigenous voices at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18, location TBD.

This message includes excerpts from "ELCA's Truth & Healing Movement calls us to learn about MMIW," by staff of the Women of the ELCA, from the April 27, 2023, blog of the Women of the ELCA.

Birthday Party!

July 17th was a special day for Betty Oakes and Linda Gaenicke when they both celebrated their 80th birthdays with the help of Grace congregation. There was cake and other goodies, and special music by Don Fristoe. A good time was had by all! Many happy returns, Betty and Linda!



The Crow

Several years ago at a Grace Christmas party, we had a white elephant gift exchange. It became very competitive. My 3 grandchildren opened it first. They loved it! Then Laura A. stole it from them. Then Linda G. stole it from Laura. After the game, Linda gave it to my grandchildren. They were so excited! Come to find out, their dad has an aversion to birds and the kids found it in a give-away pile. The kids rescued and hid the crow until I was at their house and they snuck him into my car. The next Christmas, I gift wrapped him up for my son-in-law—who refused to take him home. (A good family laugh.) So now the three kids asked me to give him to Linda at her 80th birthday. I hope that he lives a happy life with you.



The crow returns home. Diane Espenson's granddaughter presents the crow to Linda.

Dianne Espenson

A note from Linda Gaenicke

I was so thrilled to see the crow again. He is trying out several places where he would like to be placed. So far, the yard looks like a possibility. I just can't let him leave the house just yet. I just love him. Thank you.

Help Needed

Do you have an interesting picture, or have you written a story or a poem? Or do you just have something of interest you want to say? The *Voice of Grace* wants to hear from you.

The pay? Not so much (well, none, really.) But just imagine seeing your work in print!

Email Mary at maryeronen@gmail.com

Grace Gallery

At the Gallery

Welcome Artists!

by Nina Daly

Gallery 101

It's been a while since I have explained how the Grace Gallery works. All artists of all ages are welcome to show art work. We have what is called a progressive gallery since artists work at different speeds. This is totally self serve. There is a limit of three pieces of art unless there are open spaces. Keep artwork to a size no larger than 18 x 24 inches. Three-dimensional artwork is also welcome and can be shown on the table. Gallery cards are in a basket on the table. There is space for your name, title, and a place for a phone number or email if you are open to selling your artwork.



Glora Sutton usually enters some paintings in the county fair. Glora says, "So this year I thought I would enter some that kind of reflected what part of the fair is about....a photo of my cow picture." She bought a barn board frame for it. She will also be entering one of sheep and another of baby chicks.

A Poem

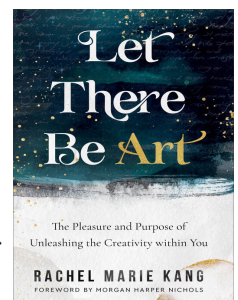
by Judy Best

It is hard to be negative
When you are grateful.
It is hard to be depressed
When you choose to allow
Joy in.
These are choices you and
I make on a daily basis.
Is the glass half full or half empty?
Are you one to enjoy each
Moment as it comes
Or are you one to
Let the moments take
You by surprise and do a lot
Of complaining even
if it is a good thing?
Complaining gets one stuck
in a vicious cycle of tearing of
The soul in
Jagged,
Ragged
Pieces of condemnation
Telling the self something
Is wrong with the basic essence
Of who I am.
Whereas Joy delights in who I am
And in the world I live in and
The people I live with.
It is a choice we all can make. I choose Joy.

Book Review, by Nina Daly

Let There be Art, by Rachel Marie Kang

I read this book when I was off for a week in June. I took it out of the digital library and ended up buying a copy for myself. It is such a beautiful inspiring book!



Rachel Lang approaches art with a Christian perspective. God the Creator made us all as creative individuals. We are meant to create: be it art, music, photography or putting together a meal for family and friends.

Her words and stories are like a quilt on a chilly day. Whether you consider yourself creative or not, this book is for you.

Telling our Stories: “Getting to Know You”

by Marty Richards

Each of us is unique and has an individual story. A person's story connects with others in many ways. Often though, we are unaware of others' stories because we have not heard theirs nor shared ours. We “find out” their background by going to a funeral or reading an obituary. And often we think, “I wish I would have known that about them while they were alive and we could have shared a mutual connection.”

Grace Lutheran Church has many new faces in our midst since the Covid shutdown. And we may not know all of these persons. Then there are those of us who have been here years and still don't know each other except to say hello. We could all benefit from knowing each other better. Before the pandemic, the *Voice* did sporadic stories of some of our members and they did help to build community at that time.

Because each of us has a story, we have a **great opportunity** to share those stories via the *Voice of Grace* by writing our own story to be shared. We can get to know each other better. And you can share them with your friends and family. Your story becomes a legacy to them.

Stories don't have to be long. They can be what we want them to be. They can include family, work, retirement time, hobbies, projects, your faith journey, your passions, and/or anything else that is important to you.

Let's each challenge ourselves and each other to share our stories. We would like **you** to share your story. Have questions about writing stories? Call or text Marty Richards. You can email stories to Mary Ronen for inclusion in the *Voice*.

My Story - Who Am I?

by Mary Ronen

Following up on Marty Richards' article, let me be the first one to break the ice. I must admit, this is not easy—talking about myself. I'll give it a go and hope that others will follow suit. Marty makes a good point, we know each other—sort of—but we really want to know more.

I was born into a Lutheran family and raised that way. I fell away for some time, mostly due to laziness. Some years back, maybe it was 2003 or so, I discovered Grace Lutheran. I started out attending Saturday evening services and have been very happy here ever since. It felt a little like “coming home.” Admittedly, it is a challenge sometimes, traveling 30 minutes each way. How did I get here? Let me tell you.

In 2001, I was diagnosed with primary liver cancer. The cancer would not have been found, possibly for years, except for a diligent physician who wouldn't give up. Tests were done, and a diseased gallbladder appeared to be the problem. During surgery though, cancer was found on my liver. Scared? Yes! This seemed to me to be a wake-up call. I needed the community of church and I needed God in my life.

I feel honored to be here, and I take pleasure in doing what I can to serve God and to serve Grace and to give back.

I was mostly a stay-at-home mom, with brief stints in the working world. Ken and I had three boys and two girls, and we lost two premature baby girls in the '60s. When our youngest left for college, we felt it was time to move on. In 1990, we discovered Port Ludlow and decided that was where we wanted to live out our lives. A couple of years later, we finished our daylight basement and brought my parents to live with us. They stayed until they passed on, both of them in 2000.

I filled my days volunteering and, for a while, for fun I played around with clay—hand-building things like platters and “gnome houses.” Ken enjoyed his days fishing in the 16-foot boat we purchased. He usually had enough salmon and crab to share with our neighbors. Unfortunately, he passed away in 2006 due to ocular melanoma spread to his liver.

Things like the newly-formed computer club kept me busy as a board member for many years. In 1998, I helped to start up the *Port Ludlow Voice* and I am still very much involved with that. I like crossword puzzles and I crochet a little. I read some— not as much as I would like to though.

Now in my 80s, I still find it important to try to do what I can to make a difference. A couple of years ago, I became a part-time caregiver and this has been very rewarding. It's surprising to me that so many people of my age are lonely. Whose families are too busy or don't even seem to care. They will talk for hours to me, a stranger to them. We don't need to be caregivers to be listeners, though.

In this crazy world of today, more caring for others is needed. Just think. The more we care, the better off everything would be! That is something I feel is important to pass on.

I'd like to add one more thing here—in recent years I came to know something about Via de Cristo. (You may have heard it mentioned by some here at Grace.) Via de Cristo involvement is working in the growth of my faith and in helping me to see ways in which I can make a difference, even if just small ones.

I don't know just now how long I can continue as a caregiver. So, what's next?

Miriam Gaenicke's TOP 10 PK (Pastor's Kid) Tidbits!

10. There are 6 of us here at Grace Lutheran Church!
9. We are a significant part of the global unspoken siblinghood.
8. PKs possess an instinctive sense regarding Church lingo, behavior and etiquette.
7. As a small kid, I thought my Dad wrote the entire liturgy! Keep in mind. We were also the only Lutheran church in town.
6. The British comedy "Vicar of Dibley" clearly demonstrates my childhood! "Old School vs. Newer School" is THE universal eternal battle!
5. I strongly feel the Pastor should know my name! Hence, my preference for smaller congregations.
4. Lake Wobegon was perfect family entertainment and kept the peace on our summer PNW road trips. I'm still convinced it's not fictitious, especially after my visit to the Twin Cities, Minnesota.
3. I can tell you LBW (Green) hymn numbers and Settings 1 & 2 page numbers from memory!
2. The MOST FAMOUS (living) Lutheran Pastor's Kid: Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel!
1. Once a PK, ALWAYS a PK!

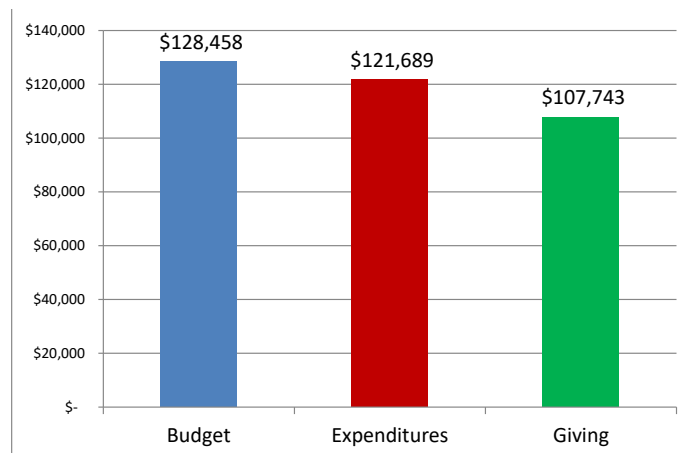


Feeding the hungry May 3 in the front yard.

Mark Your Calendar

Worship, Sundays, 10:30 a.m.
 Quilting, Mondays, 10 a.m.
 Prayers Against Cancer, last Mondays of each month, 2 p.m.
 Lectionary Study, Wednesdays, on Vacation
 Real Life 101 resumes Sept. 30, 11 am.
 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, 5:30 p.m.
 Women's Book Study, on Vacation
 Rally Day, Sunday Sept. 24, 10:30 a.m., in Courtyard

Grace Financials Through July 31



Grace Council

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Secretary: Jan Schroeder
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