

# 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.*



When I preached for Epiphany, I chose to do a children's sermon for the whole sermon. The kids first built the Nativity to meet Jesus the baby, then deconstructed the Nativity to find Christ revealed as God on Epiphany. I was channeling Pastor Fosser. In one Epiphany sermon, he described Christmas as when Christ is revealed as human and Epiphany when he is revealed as God. This stuck with me. I decided to change it up by using the kids as my teaching assistants.

*Lolo Sherwood*

*Worship - Sundays 10:30 a.m.*



*February 2024*

## Pastor's Message

Why have you been given an assignment to complete during the sermon as of late?

In my defense, it's myself who gets to have homework as a result.

And I don't only say this because I see how much homework my wife brings home now as part of her new gig this fall and winter.

Your assignments won't be graded. I didn't join the Lutheran church until my 20s so, for better or worse, I skipped confirmation class. Apparently many of you are still traumatized by the requirement of taking and turning in sermon notes. But this is not that.

What you have seen to this point has been a page in the Sunday bulletins with a couple of questions to ponder during the sermon. Then you are asked to add your name and share those reflections with me (and whoever might turn out for Tuesday's lectionary study discussion).

This comes out of Mary Ronen, Marijo Brantner, Lois Sherwood and I participating last fall in a six-week course, "The People's Sermon: Revitalizing Your Congregation's Preaching Ministry," led by Dr. Shauna Hannan. Dr. Hannan had been my preaching professor during my last year of coursework at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. It was also her first year on the PLTS faculty.

Having just completed a three-year term on the advisory board for the seminary, it seemed like a great opportunity to kill two birds with one stone. Support the alma mater and also help get some of our lay preachers from the pre-Pandemic Era at Grace back into action with, if nothing else, a refresher course. Well, maybe three birds, as we worked on a 2024 budget.

A wonderful thing about where we live is it is well off the beaten path. A maddening thing about where we live is it is well off the beaten path. By Synod policy, I'm away six Sundays a year from the pulpit, four for vacation and up to two for continuing education. Another ordained minister receives \$200 plus mileage and bridge or ferry tolls as reimbursement for "pulpit supply." Retired clergy, those serving special ministries like campus pastors and chaplains, and pastors on leave from call are not abundant on the peninsula. They seem to like to cluster around places like Tacoma, Olympia and Vancouver for some strange reason. An irrational fondness for freeways and fast-food options? I don't know. And some really do love to come up here ... but usually just once a year. In the best-weather months.

Whenever we have a lay preacher and a Service of the Word, there's a reduced expense and they are easier to find. You(!) are eligible. By the time you're reading this, you will have heard Marijo preach on Reign of Christ Sunday, ushering us from the end of one year in the church calendar to the Advent of a new one, and on the first Sunday after the Epiphany. Lois delivered a child-centric message for Epiphany, bringing to life the story of the Magi and the child Jesus. For which I am grateful.

But as your sermon notes will not be graded, completion of Dr. Hannan's class is also not required to take on this task. You remain eligible.

Lay preaching is wonderful. It's good to hear more from one another, in depth and with courage and vulnerability alike. Yet this is just one of many ways we can have a more encompassing and inclusive preaching ministry at Grace. The feedback forms, which will now be available in the back of the sanctuary by the ushers, are just one element our cohort decided to try out at the conclusion of the "People's Sermon" course. At the urging of the confirmation class veterans in our study group, the questions you are asked to consider are simple and they are few. Only two. They may not stay the same. You are welcome to suggest different ones after you've had a few rounds with these.

Another approach is the extended time for our weekly lectionary study on Tuesdays, including time not only to look ahead to the appointed lessons for the upcoming Sunday but to reflect on the previous and make connections. These are only a few simple things but my hope in engaging with Dr. Hannan's course material is that the preaching ministry of this church may better engage you. That could mean you step in and preach one day. For most of you, it probably will not. However, I do want you to understand your voice is welcome. The better we understand one another and immerse ourselves in God's Word as a communal exercise, the stronger our proclamation can and should become. You have a



*see next page*

unique insight on the Word... and when you share it, it adds something to the way we wrestle with it, interpret and ultimately live into it.

Sometimes clumsily, sure. Baby steps.

But for the 45 or 46 Sundays out of the year when I step into the pulpit, I want to communicate with you, church, not in only one direction. This is not just about when I'm gone but when I am here the overwhelming majority of the time as well. Your story adds to our story and our story is ultimately part of God's story. Influenced by it but the closer we are drawn to it, yes, I believe, integrated with it.

Thank you for participating in this experiment and being willing to step out and try a new thing.

Peace to you and Lenten eve blessings,  
Pastor Sean

## Uganda Orphans Christmas

Submitted by Sharon Dembro

*This year Kenneth suggested a pair of shoes and a towel as our Christmas gift for the children at a cost of \$45 per child. Many thanks for helping to brighten their Christmas!*

Dear Congregation at Grace Lutheran Church,

I want to inform you that Dr. Vivien Nanfuka is so happy for our support toward her education and she tells me that she sees a bright future ahead of her. I don't know if I told you that she now has a baby but is very much enjoying her job. Four months ago Dr. Vivien called me. She told me "Brother, I promised myself something I did not disclose to you and now I want to tell you about it because I am now in a position to do it. You taught me that there is joy in helping others and I said to myself that when I finish school and get a job, I would come to offer a hand to continue your ministry. If it was not for you and those great friends at Grace, I would be nowhere! I have something small and my heart tells me I don't have to wait and please let me do it. I want to start sending you 100,000 Ugandan shillings (\$26 U.S.) each month to support your work. I was blessed and I need to be a blessing to others"

So Dr. Vivien for the last four months has been sending me 100,000 Ugandan shillings. I have these funds from Dr. Vivien and I very much wanted you to know about them. If you agree, I can use this fund to offset Albert's debt with the school so that he can be allowed to write senior four National exams.

God Bless You,  
Kenneth Kasule

## Community, Adoption and Faith

by Miriam Gaenicke

Adoption and Faith DEFINE me. What do these two elements have in common and how do they relate to me? THE ANSWER: My Global Community of Faith—India, Germany and America. For me, this concept begins when I was given up for adoption to a loving German Lutheran missionary family in Gadag, Karnataka, India. Let's begin with three Lutheran pastors: Praelat Helmut Pfeiffer, Dekan Martin Schubert and The Reverend David Gaenicke. They accurately demonstrated the Lutheran community. Praelat Pfeiffer picked me up from the hospital and took me to his daughter's (Dorle Polster, my late foster mother) family for pristine foster care. Dekan Schubert was my father's boss and Rev. David Gaenicke is MY DAD! These three men also presided at my baptism in Neuenstadt am Kocher, Germany. Truthfully speaking, this meaningful connection did not dawn on me until I went church exploring in 2012.

"Why (ELCA) Lutheran?" is THE ultimate question. I had found finally my answer. It lies not in a guilt-ridden manner of obligation, but in a healthy sense of grace and joy. Let's not forget that without them, I would not be here to tell this story! It is truly amazing how God paves our individual faith paths. Even though I visited several different churches, I kept coming back to the 'Gold Standard' of Christian denominations which gracefully accepted me and did not preach discriminatory theology.

Equally important, community is found in many aspects of my life: Toastmasters, church, and for many in our own ethnic groups. Given this logic, my community of faith should be with the Indian population. My adoption by Westerners blows this expectation to shreds. Consequently, there's absolutely NO ethnic NOR religious fit. Yes, ethnicity speaks volumes as I did not find my own form of ethnic community (often virtual) till I was 28 years old. These were my fellow Indian adoptees with whom I could empathize 100%. Given my unique scenario, one would think I would abandon my Lutheran connection since I had created my own ethnic community. Is this logical thinking? NO. The primary difference is my faith has been with me since birth, while continuing to guide and strengthen me in building genuine community from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

Finally, the next time you see someone who does not fit the 'Lutheran German/Scandinavian mold,' please introduce yourselves & you will quickly discover that Body of Christ APPLIES TO ALL OF US.

*"Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace so certain that you could stake your life on it one thousand times." – Martin Luther*

## Via de Cristo ... Again

by Mary Ronen

My Via de Cristo was Weekend 9 in 2013. The theme verse for that weekend was 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Each Weekend has a theme verse and a song. This past year was Weekend 19, the verse was Isaiah 46:4 and the song was "Same God" by Elevation Worship. A person new to Via de Cristo is called a pilgrim. One can attend as a pilgrim only once – but can return many times as a volunteer making the weekend happen for new pilgrims.

When I attended as a pilgrim, I had no idea what to expect. Little did I know the effect it would have on me and my faith. I was reminded of God's love for us all, even me. I became more aware of the importance of being in community.

A Via de Cristo weekend is well-planned and structured. There are morning and evening chapel services, communion, prayers, and lots of music. Meals and snacks are provided – there is no going hungry here! There are daily presentations by Via de Cristo alumni and by members of the clergy which are educational, personal and passionate. Discussions among the pilgrims follow the presentations.

I have returned each year since then, helping to make the weekend happen. It's a joy to give back some of what I experienced; and I always come away with something new to think about.

The Via de Cristo experience is one that is hard to explain; it is something you have to experience for yourself. I think everyone should experience this very special weekend.

## Another Via de Cristo Weekend

by Don Fristoe

As Nina Daly and I drove over to Black Diamond to yet another weekend at Via de Cristo (my fourth as a team member, or "Cha"), we reflected on those past years and wondered if we had the strength and wherewithal to keep doing these weekends in the future. For Chas, it's four days of hard work and little sleep. I confess that I was leaning toward making this one my swan song.

A little history: my first weekend was as a "Pilgrim" in the spring of 2013, details of that weekend will be in a later article. I will however, tell you that I left that first weekend with two thoughts: 1) EVERYONE needs to go to this! 2) I wanted in! I desperately wanted to be on the other side; the giving side of this amazing program. I wanted others—everyone—to experience what I experienced. Something was shouting in my ear "If you give, you will get." Was that the Holy Spirit? I highly suspect it was.

So in short, I returned in the spring of 2014 as a Music Cha. It took a lot of work and extra time, but you couldn't wipe

the smile off of my face the whole four days. Climbing into bed deliciously exhausted late at night, and getting up at the crack 'o dawn was the norm, and that was okay. I knew that in my own small way, I was doing something important, something vital. I came home tired, but so fulfilled, and feeling every bit as joyful as I had hoped.

I was unable to return to VdC until the fall of 2019 due to family commitments, and I couldn't wait! It marked a beginning of my personal healing, and a return to normalcy. It was so good to be back. But I also noticed something. I was getting older, and coming home much more tired than I previously had. Was I going to be able to continue this joyful work that had meant so much to me? For the first time, I wasn't sure of the answer. Covid and cancer both took their toll, shutting down the camp and slowing me down personally between 2020 and 2022. I waited until the last minute to say yes to joining the 2023 team, my spiritual needs having won out.

This weekend, I never worked harder or slept less, but what a joy! Was it worth it all? You bet it was! If I played even a minute part in bringing even one person closer to Christ, you bet it was! If even one seed was planted in one person, you bet it was! If even one person felt their life changing just a little, you bet it was!

I imagine I'll have the same thoughts and misgivings next year.....on the way over to another exciting Via de Cristo Weekend.

## Via de Cristo Revisited

by Nina Daly

I first attended a Via de Cristo Weekend in 2017. My weekend was Weekend 15. I have served on a team ever since. Each Weekend has a theme verse and a song. This year, Weekend 19, the verse was Isaiah 46:4 and the song was "Same God" by Elevation Worship.

This year was a different year for me. I was assigned to the prayer team. Two weeks before the Weekend I was asked to do a rollo (15 to 20 minute talk) that I had done in 2019. The woman who was supposed to do the talk had a family emergency and could not attend the Weekend.

Since my original rollo was written before the pandemic, I needed to make quite a few changes including incorporating a different song. All of this made me rely on God more than myself.

I still remained on the prayer team that Weekend, but also had the joy of being prayed for by my team before and after my rollo. Pastor Sean was also there praying for me. I went in to do my talk and felt an inner calmness that only God could give me.



## *Now I get it.*

by Pastor Sean

I first heard of the “three-day movement” concept just out of high school. My father-in-law-to-be went on a “Walk to Emmaus” with my future sister-in-law’s boyfriend. I was not a Christian but I was a “seeker.” It sounded interesting but it was not for me at that point in time.

I wouldn’t even hear whisper of it again until I entered seminary and had colleagues who gushed about their experiences of a Lutheran “cursillo” in Cuernavaca, Mexico. I knew the Spanish term meant a “short course (of instruction)” but I didn’t give it much consideration. A trip to central Mexico did not fit into my starving-student-with-a-family budget.

As a pastoral intern in southern Arizona, I became a bit more accustomed. My supervising pastor, The Rev. Mark Perry, and his wife Linda, were experienced “cursillistas” in the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) program. Without giving away all the surprises that await a “pilgrim,” or first-timer at one of these distinctive spiritual retreat weekends, Pastor Mark and Linda took me to a closing worship service after our two Sunday services at Sierra Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Vista, 75 miles north to Tanque Verde Lutheran in Tucson.

We were there to pick up our congregation’s nursery supervisor from her pilgrim weekend. Some of the most active members in the church were there as “kitchen chas,” a term then unfamiliar and admittedly strange to me. The way they lit up while aproned up caught my notice and the worship service proved lively and bright.

Our pilgrim packed up her camping mattress and sleeping bag from a couple nights spent on the gymnasium floor at the sizable urban church along with what I would later understand to be her “palanca.” At age 19, she had been new to her role in the congregation but her invitation had been extended in no small part to encourage this young woman in further developing as a leader there.

So when I arrived to begin my call here at Grace, I knew enough about the movement not to be totally unfamiliar when Don, Nina, Mary, Jim and Dee Dee invited me to attend the twice-monthly gatherings of GLC members active as cursillistas. I was touched when they invited Vanessa and I to be pilgrims at the Via de Cristo Western Washington Weekend #18 in 2022, the first to take place following the Covid pandemic. I had a certain amount of nervousness as Pastor Coe and Janet were participants and I knew it might be awkward as their successors entering this unfamiliar environment. Yet, without giving away too many of the surprises the weekend had to offer, let me just say my concerns were unwarranted and we each walked away with a renewed feeling of God’s love and care for us. In many ways, it came through the Holy Spirit

at work in the cursillistas working as “chas,” both from Grace and also from many other congregations, some ELCA, some Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and others with no Lutheran affiliations whatsoever.

The group from Grace made it very clear I could and should enjoy my pilgrim experience not as a pastor but as any other pilgrim and follower of Christ. I did my best. But it’s not always easy to take off a hat everyone understands a person to wear.

I cannot say I found it totally unexpected to get a call from Pastor Coe last spring inviting me to be on the pastoral team at VdC #19 for Western Washington. I said yes then but as I came to learn would be a shared experience among Grace cursillistas working as chas, I arrived that November weekend with regret I had signed up. In the intervening months, Vanessa had begun full-time work teaching at Blue Heron Middle School. Liana joined the volleyball team and her brothers were earning new belts in jujitsu and badges in Scouts. I had been elected and agreed to serve as president for the Port Townsend Sunrise Rotary Club. Advent lurked just around the corner. I felt like I had a million things to do and not enough time to do them. This weekend would only pull me away and put me further behind in my efforts to juggle so, so many balls.

Well, I mentioned VdC includes surprises. This probably shouldn’t be a surprise by now but nonetheless I found myself surprised by the ways in which God showed up. God showed up to help me pray through particular concerns and connect with one pilgrim in particular and my first “rollo,” said half-jokingly to be Spanish for “long boring talk,” hit the marks it needed to hit. I came home not-so-much further behind but rejuvenated in returning to the responsibilities that belonged to me.

We extended, very belatedly, invitations to some folks at Grace who seem like they might be a good fit for the experience VdC has to offer. No takers on such short notice but VdC #20 is coming this November. I have another offer, this time from retired LCMS pastor Ken Wyneken, to participate again as part of the pastoral team. I haven’t inked (pixeled?) my commitment but I am leaning heavily toward it. Whether I go or not, I am hopeful with more lead time, we may have pilgrims anew who might appreciate embarking on this journey.

I promise that at Via de Cristo Western Washington at least... you will enjoy a nice bed and won’t have to sleep on a church gym floor.

***Did you know*** We have a Facebook page  
*Facebook.com/GraceLutheranPT*

# Grace Gallery

## Giving Thanks

A big thank you to Jim Little and Steve Brantner for the hard work they put in plugging multiple holes and painting the gallery walls. They request that small nails and push pins be used when putting up pictures to keep the walls in good shape.

## At the Art Gallery

### Request for Stations of the Cross Lent Art— Calling All Artists, Writers, and Quilters

We are starting a new season. As I write this article, Lent is less than two weeks away. Last year we showed our Stations of the Cross artwork depicting Christ's journey to the cross and grave. There are still many stations that do not have any artwork depictions. I made a promise to myself that this year we would try to fill some of those empty slots, and hopefully have more people participating.

Artwork can consist of paintings, sculptures, poetry, collages, quilts, etc. The artwork should be ready to hang or display. The artwork should be in place by Palm Sunday, March 24. We will be setting up the art on Saturday, March 23 at 2:00 pm. If you cannot attend, let me know and special arrangements can be made.

I will have a sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall with the available stations listed. There will also be a page for you to take home with your station on it and a devotion to help you as you create your artwork.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.  
No feet but yours, no hands but yours.  
Yours are the eyes through which the  
compassion of Christ  
is to look out on a hurting world.  
Yours are the feet with which He is to go  
about doing good.  
Yours are the hands with which He is to bless all  
now.

*St. Teresa of Avila*

Submitted by Linda Gaenicke



Martin Luther believed that God's ultimate intent for the universe is that it be freed from oppression and evil. The kingdom of God, ushered in by Jesus, embodies an ethic of wholeness, justice, and fullness of life, which is God's will for the universe. We live in constant conflict, however, with evil forces that keep us from experiencing that wholeness.

Luther believed that we Christians have the responsibility to be part of this struggle, not to withdraw from it. In all that we do, we are God's partners in the world, promoting love, justice, and the well-being of all God's creation.

Although Luther understood the need to live under structures and laws for the sake of order, he also believed that the dictates of love require that we actively resist those laws when they support evil and oppression. Christians are involved both in the promotion of good and in the active struggle against evil. What unjust structures do you see in society today? In a democratic society such as ours, how can we speak out against such unjust structures?

*This message is excerpted from "Called to be Political," a 2020 resource of the Women of the ELCA.*

## Show Up for Yourself

In an episode of On Being, a radio show and podcast hosted by Krista Tippett, interviewer Lily Percy asked writer and teacher Alex Elle what the word "self-care" meant for her. Elle replied, "What it means to me is showing up for myself so that I could show up for other people."

I want to show up for other people. But first I must show up for me. Even when I cannot afford what our current consumer self-care culture tells me I need, I can remember and claim my own God-given loving abilities for caring for myself. I can show up for me by integrating and noticing seemingly simple, daily acts of self-care that are not planned, yet are available. Such small moments of rejuvenation would be missed in a hurried schedule. Moments like: A hug. A quiet sip of tea. Gazing at the sky. Pages read in a book. The smell of fruit in a bowl.

I welcome these moments. I embrace each moment as a gift that grounds me in God's love, growing my empathy, compassion, and love for myself and others.

*This message is excerpted from "Simple moments of self-care" by Jennifer Ohman-Rodriguez in the January/February 2022 Gather magazine*

## *A Note From Mary:*

You may notice some “old news” in this edition of the *Voice of Grace*. Many items were submitted hoping to be included in the December issue. But, as you now know, that edition wasn't to be. I went to my daughter's in California for Thanksgiving, and while there I fell, and spent the next 4 weeks in a rehab facility then two more weeks at my daughter's until finally being allowed to travel back home in mid-January. Those submissions, mostly pictures, are still important and so they are included now. Forgive me if I missed your favorite one. Enjoy!

**In September,** Anna moved into her new apartment.



**In October,** The Quilters sent 80 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. The Men's Auxiliary helped with the packing and delivery to Seattle.

Four quilts were given to Dove House.



**In October,**

Jeni Little finished the October Base2Space stair climb up the Space Needle, a fundraiser for Fred Hutch Cancer research.

**October** was Pastor Appreciation month! Everyone enjoyed the delicious cake.



**October** saw another successful WAVE Food Drive!

A total of 1,696 pounds of food were donated by the community. Our congregation monetary total was \$1,581.

The following excerpt was received from the Jefferson County Food Bank Association:

"Dear Jefferson Community,

"... we are overwhelmed with gratitude.

The WAVE fundraiser's remarkable success, raising over \$20,000, is a testament to the strength of our community ... We are profoundly grateful for the support you've provided to our organization, which serves as a lifeline to the individuals and families in our community.

In the aftermath of the pandemic, the needs of our clients have grown exponentially. Unfortunately, our donations have not kept pace with the increasing demand, making your recent contribution all the more critical to the success of our association. The funds raised through the WAVE fundraiser will enable us to continue our mission to provide nutritious food to those who are struggling, ensuring that they have access to the basic necessities they need to lead healthier, more stable lives...

...We would also like to extend our gratitude to all the volunteers, donors, and members of your congregation who supported this event. Without your collective efforts, this fundraiser would not have been possible. Your kindness and selflessness serve as a shining example of what can be accomplished when we join forces to make a positive change in our community."



## November Veterans Day Celebration



The Blue Heron Middle School held an assembly on November 9 in honor of Veterans Day. The assembly included the entire school and was run by the students. Local veterans were asked to participate. Veterans from Grace Lutheran Church were Marc Helgeson, Jeanne Dirksen, Dennis Struecker and Vanessa's father, Rocky Knickbocker.

Vanessa Janssen coordinated the student participation. The students directed questions to the veterans. The student band played the national anthem.

At the conclusion of the event, the American flag was folded along with commentary by a student delegation on the meaning of each fold. Several students came forward and thanked the veterans for their service.



Pictured here are the Scouts and our Sunday school kiddos at the Legion during the Veterans Day program.

## The Monday Quilters Christmas Sale!



On December 2 and 3, shoppers found many lovely handmade items while relaxing with a cup of coffee and cookies. Quilters raised \$1,800, which will help to pay for shipping the quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

## Our Christmas tree was decorated

on December 3 following the service. As usual, it was the "best tree ever!"



Our annual white elephant Christmas party on December 17 was enjoyed by all.

## Lucy Hladecek Memorial



A memorial was held for Lucy Hladecek on December 31, after church. Following the service, refreshments were served in the fellowship hall.





## Tammy's 2024 Budget Thoughts

Tammy Rumpel, Church Council Vice President, served on the budget committee for the last 3 years. She personally witnessed just how lean the budgets are for Grace.

The Proposed 2024 Budget appears to be significantly less than the 2023 budget by roughly \$18,000. But let's look at the gifts that have made this \$202,000 budget possible. There are 2 significant gifts:

- The accompanist and choir director positions have been changed from salary to Contract Labor and are paid **per event**. The Choir Director earnings in 2024 will again be paid by the George Hanson fund. There is not enough in this fund to cover the choir director earnings for 2025, thus both positions will need to be covered by annual giving in 2025.
- We have the gift of about ~ \$20,000. Because health insurance premiums for Pastor are now being covered as part of Vanessas's insurance as a teacher with PT schools. This could change if she should change employers.

The cold hard numbers from 2023 show that last year we spent more than our "offering plate giving" by \$15,665. This has been the case for every year since 2019. It can be shown how the numbers add up to be a cumulative shortfall of \$77,990 for the last 4 years. (See Mark Dembro)

The question is: How can we achieve or keep within this 2024 budget? How can I help to meet this goal?

However, let us not hang our heads and shrug in despair. Let us focus and look at our gratitudes.

Quickly answer these questions:

- What year did you first start attending Grace Lutheran?
- How many years ago?
- What is your favorite part of this physical building? (windows, kitchen, courtyard...)
- What is your favorite service? (Easter, Holden, Christmas eve, Ash Wednesday, Sunday service – any Sunday?)
- What is your favorite part of the service? (Children's sermon? Choir singing, Prayers, communion ....)
- What person or persons from this congregation (current member and/or former member) have made an impact on you? Hold that memory for a moment.

Now—think about: How can each of us share what we find is important about Grace with someone we know? Ideally with someone that does not currently or regularly attend Grace Lutheran?

Where can each of us take ownership here at Grace to help out? (Altar guild, usher, counter, lector, cleaning, organizing, wiping tables or sweeping after coffee hour, putting tables up for quilting, emptying the dishwasher, pulling weeds, sweeping the columbarium patio, etc.)

How can each of us, in every day - find a way to shine with God's light and God's love - everywhere we go?

How can we make it absolutely necessary - that we need to slide to the window walls - because we need "Room in the Pews" for more people to attend each service??

We need to challenge ourselves to be "Creative!"  
Thank you!

## Farewell, Lisa

On January 28 we honored and paid tribute to Lisa Lanza as she goes into semi-retirement after 15+ years of being our accompanist. Not only did she play the piano beautifully, she helped to make our choir be at their best. She invited local musicians to perform not only in our sanctuary, but also the annual Ugandan concert.



## Changes in Church Leadership

Grace congregation acknowledged outgoing president Mary Ronen while electing Al Smith to serve in that capacity. Also elected were Don Fristoe to continue as council-at-large and Dennis Struecker as treasurer.

Linda Gaenicke was elected to serve on the Endowment committee and Marty Richards as member of the nomination committee for 2024.

### Did You Know?

Did you know that you can make your donations on the church website, [gracelutheranpt.org](http://gracelutheranpt.org)? You can schedule them to be automatically deposited if you wish.

## Land Acknowledgment Adopted

The following land acknowledgement was adopted at the January council meeting:

“We gather together here as Grace Lutheran Church on ancestral lands of the S'Klallam People. We express our gratitude for our S'Klallam neighbors and honor them in their care for these lands and their ongoing contributions to this community.”

To learn more about the practice of land acknowledgments, visit [elca.church/gathering/about/land-acknowledgment](http://elca.church/gathering/about/land-acknowledgment).

### 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](mailto:maryeronen@gmail.com)

### Mark Your Calendar

Worship, Sundays at 10:30 a.m.  
Quilting, Mondays at 10 a.m.  
Prayers Against Cancer,  
Lectionary Study, Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.  
Ash Wednesday, February 14  
Soup Suppers, Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.  
Holden Evening Prayer, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.  
Real Life 101: Fourth Saturdays at 11 a.m.  
Men's Bible Breakfast, Fridays at 8 a.m., at The Roadhouse  
Via de Cristo Reunion, 2nd & 4th Friday evenings at 5:30 p.m.  
Council, 3rd Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA 

### Save the Date

Southwestern Washington  
Women of the ELCA

Spring Retreat at Black Diamond Camp

April 19 - 21, 2024

-more info to follow soon-

THERE! THAT OUGHT TO  
DISPEL THE MYTH THAT WE'RE  
AN ELDERLY CONGREGATION  
THAT DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO  
REACH OUT TO YOUNG PEOPLE.



*Let's fill this up.*

### Grace Council

**President:** Al Smith  
[alsmithinpt@gmail.com](mailto:alsmithinpt@gmail.com)  
**Vice President:** Tammy Rumpel  
**Secretary:** Jan Schroeder  
**Ministers:**  
**Resources (Treasurer):** Dennis Struecker  
**Facilities:** Steve Brantner  
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