Voice of Grace

FALL 2026

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.



During our Good Friday service on April 3, worshipers were invited to participate in lighting candles on the cross. This new cross was built by Steve Brantner from wood reclaimed from paneling originally in the Grace sanctuary. (Photo courtesy of Tammy Rumpel.)

ELCA

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Message from the Pastor

The “Voice” of Grace is back for the first time in the year since editor Mary Ronen left us with a parting gift before her move to Southern California. And what a year it’s been! With much gratitude to Chelsea Rosenberger, who is finishing her first year managing the office and has done so fantastically, this issue is presented with more than voice. It is a feast for the eyes, of color; for the heart, of storytelling; and a faithful recount of where we’ve been in such a pivotal year.

Besides Chelsea joining our staff, Elise Sinclair has been through the liturgical calendar with us twice now, Rolf Vegdahl has brought a new spark to our joyful choir and Tammy Rumpel took on the books. As the Spirit would have it, we came all the way back around and Crissy Dunlap is back to keep our finances in order once again. Whew, what a ride!

Please enjoy this issue and keep your submissions of photos, writings, found things and food for thoughts and spirits coming. (And Mary, when your copy reaches you, we hope it meets with your approval!)

Mahalo and aloha,

Pastor Sean





KayDee Weddle gave birth to her son Caleb Kenneth Sheard at 8:16 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22! He weighed in at 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 17 inches long.





Installation of Pastor Ben Nickodemus at Trinity Lutheran in Port Angeles on January 10 (left) and Evening Prayer at the Byberg Preaching Conference in Seaside, Oregon Jan. 26 (above). (Photos courtesy of Pastor Sean.)

Grace Highlight Reel

Gratitude & Welcome

During her time as the choir director at Grace, Jeannie Oneppo created beautiful musical offerings for our worship services. We are grateful and appreciative of her many musical talents and the leadership of our choir! Jeannie will still sing with us from time to time. She graced us with a beautiful Introit on Easter morning.

In the spring we welcomed Rolf Vegdahl as our new choir director at Grace! Rolf comes to us with many years of experience with church and choral music. He has also spent time at Holden Village, where he worked with Marty Haugen, creator of our beloved *Holden Evening Prayer* and *Now the Feast and Celebration* worship settings. Rolf is a talented composer himself. Some of his compositions are featured in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship 2018 companion hymnal *All Creation* Sings. Several of the songs our choir has sung are his inspired work and more are underway!



Jeannie Oneppo on dulcimer, guest mountain dulcimer player Mary Hedberg and guest guitarist Diana Hughes accompanied the Grace choir on Sunday, Dec. 21. (Photo courtesy of Anna Vaughan.)



Jeannie Oneppo sang a powerful rendition of "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" in honor of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Sunday, Jan. 18 accompanied by her husband Vince Oneppo on the alto saxophone. (Photo courtesy of Anna Vaughan.)



Do You Love to Sing?
Come and Join the Grace choir and meet some friends!

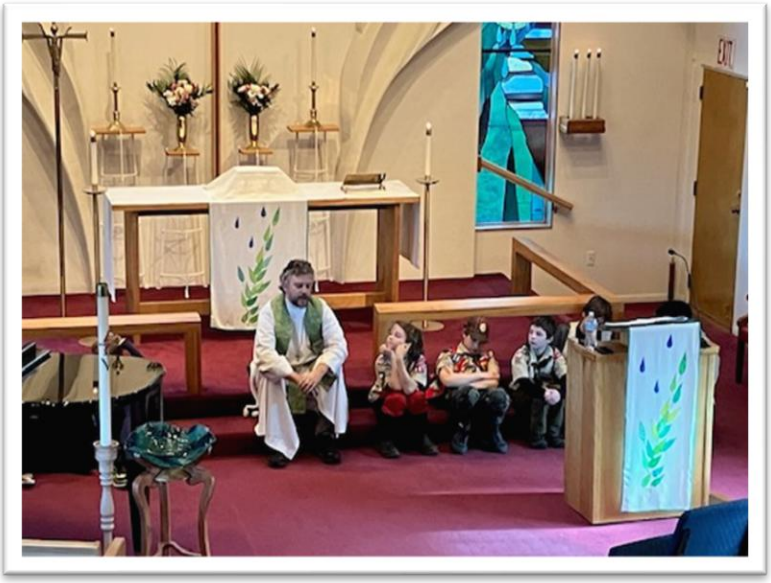
Choir practices are Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to come and lend their voice to the choir. Choir typically sings two Sundays a month during the fall through spring months (until Pentecost Sunday), with special anthems on Christmas Eve and during several services that take place during Holy Week.

Scout Sunday

On Sunday, Feb. 8 Grace celebrated Scout Sunday. Observed annually by the Girl Scouts and Scouting America organizations, it is a tradition recognizing the contributions Scouts make to their faith communities. All of Grace's children are either active in scouting or have been involved in the past. We are also blessed with some powerhouse Scout leadership in Jim Little and Lois Sherwood. Alyssa Fuehrer and Vanessa Janssen are active Scout Leaders. Chelsea Rosenberger was a leader for numerous years of Cubs.

Scouts supported our worship service Feb. 8 through altar guild, as greeters, lector and provided treats for fellowship time.

In Sunday School the kids learned about the Good Samaritan and how as followers of Jesus everyone is our neighbor and deserves kindness, even if they are a different religion (or political party – a topic the kids brought up all on their own). We talked about how the Golden Rule is a common denominator across most religions around the globe and how it ties to Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan. In that spirit, we celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Day a bit early (it was Feb. 17 this year) by creating encouraging cards to share with family, friends and teachers.

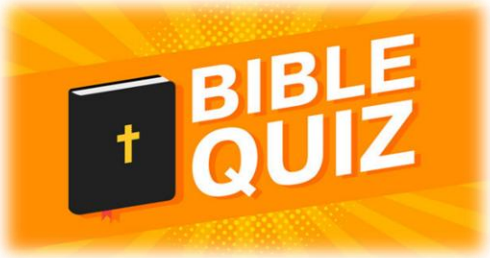


Pastor Sean shared a message with our Scouts on Feb. 8 as part of Scout Sunday, an annual tradition in scouting that helps youth focus on reverence. You can tell some of these kids had a sleepover the evening before. (Photo courtesy of Dee Dee Norman.)

What do *You* Remember from Sunday School?

As we start a new year of Children's & Youth Sunday School here at Grace Lutheran Church, it's fun to look back at what the kids have learned already! How many questions can *you* answer?

1. Can you name the original 12 Disciples?
2. How many books of the Bible are traditionally attributed to Paul's authorship?
3. Who was considered to be the first person converted to Christianity in Europe?
4. What disciple was elected to replace the one that betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver?
5. What church holiday celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit?
6. Which prophet was cleansed for service by an angel touching a hot coal to his mouth?
7. Which prophets were only children when God called them into service?
8. In Jesus' parable about lost sheep and coins, how many of each lost item are sought and rejoiced over?



1. 12 Disciples: Peter (Simon), Andrew, James (Son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James (Son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus (Jude), Simon the Zealot, Judas Iscariot
2. 13: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews
3. Lydia (Acts 16:11-40)
4. Matthias (Acts 1:15-26)
5. Pentecost
6. Isaiah (Isaiah 6:6)
7. Jeremiah and Samuel
8. 1 sheep and 1 silver coin (1/100 sheep and 1/10 silver coins) (Luke 15:1-10)





Miriam Gaenicke and Jim Bowman show some real teamwork during the white elephant gift exchange. (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean.)



Corinne Bugbee-Smith and Al Smith enjoying the holiday festivities at Grace. (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean.)

Save the Date!
The 2026 Grace Christmas Party will be after worship on Sunday, Dec. 13.



Pastor Sean in his collar hat, a Christmas gift from the Gaenickes. (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean.)



Tim Tibbals anxiously awaits the white elephant gift exchange. (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean.)

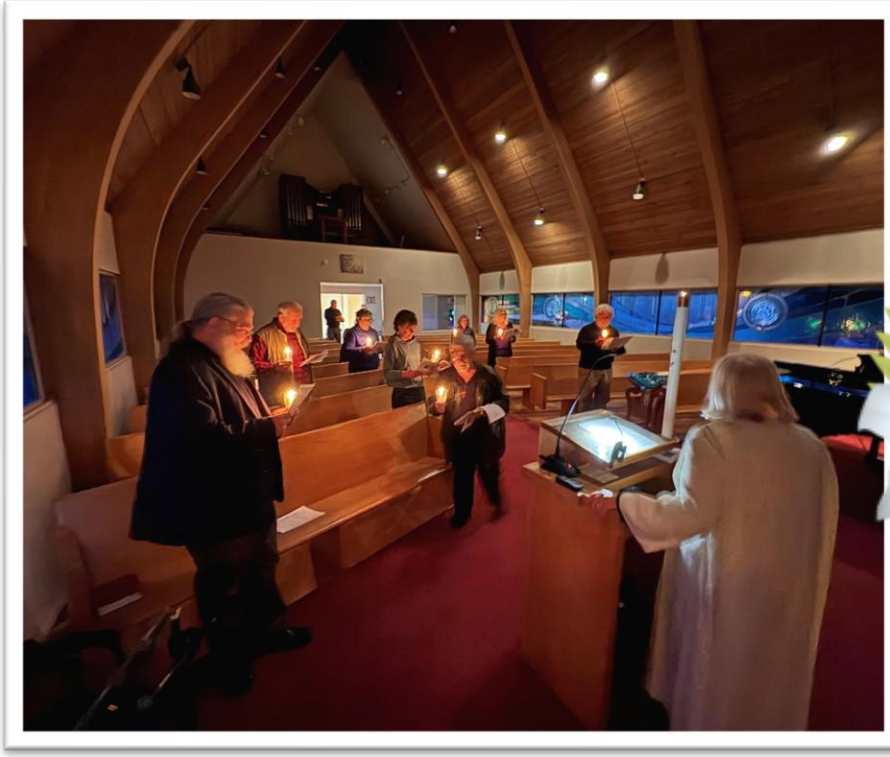








It was a wet Palm Sunday on March 29 but this didn't stop Pastor Sean, Tammy Rumpel, Elise Sinclair or Jim Little from attending the community celebration. (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean.)



The people of Grace gather for the Vigil of Easter service on April 4. (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean.)

Easter Vigil



Holy Week 2027

Palm Sunday – March 21
Maundy Thursday – March 24
Good Friday – March 26
Holy Saturday – March 27
Easter Sunday – March 28

Want to help organize the Easter Potluck Brunch?
Let the office know!







The men of Grace Lutheran gathered for their Annual Men's BBQ on Friday, July 10 at the Kala Point gazebo. Though the weather pushed things back a week spirits were not dampened, nor the competitive spirit during the bocce ball tournament.

Rally Day



All plates and places were full on Sunday, Sept. 13 for our annual Rally Day BBQ Potluck! Thank you to everyone that brought food to share, helped with setup, cleaned up and spoke about their ministries as we got the program year started here at Grace. A special shout out to Jim Little for grilling and Jim and Dee Dee Norman for procuring Thrivent funds for the festivities!



Evie and Jermiah Fuehrer get wrapped up in the fun of Sunday School kick off! (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean.)



Prizes added some cheer to the Rally Day festivities. (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean.)



Vanessa Janssen, KayDee Weddle and the baby bump are all smiles on Rally Day. (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean.)



Liana Janssen gives Rally Day an enthusiastic thumbs up. (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean.)

Fellowship Committee needs you! We are looking for a few good people to put the "fun" in our other church functions. Please consider taking on one of our fabulous fellowship events at Grace. Contact the office if you are interested.

Words of Inspiration & Contemplation

Enough to Go Around

A submission from Linda Gaenicke

I think a lot of us, whether we grew up with hand-me-downs or the very best of everything, carry around an old message of not enough to some degree, in some variation.

But when we pay attention to the many blessings God has so graciously and generously poured out everywhere we look, when we feel grateful for all those blessings, when we realize that God really does love us – then those worries and fears go away and a new sentence comes to mind: "We have enough that we can share, and someone else will have plenty, too!"

Didn't Jesus keep talking about love? Jesus kept telling and showing his disciples (us!) that there's not only enough of that to go around, there's so much that we can share it with all our neighbors and families and friends and even strangers, and then they'll have plenty to share, too! Can it be true?

Yes. We can trust Jesus' words and example. Perfect love – Christ's love – casts out fear (1 John 4:18b), so we don't have to worry. We don't have to be afraid. There really is enough to go around, and more. Jesus wouldn't have it any other way.

This message is excerpted from "Plenty to share" by Audrey Novak Riley from the February 1, 2017, blog (https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?)





Pray Boldly

For some of us, praying is second nature, while for others, praying out loud is a bold step. If you're not used to praying as bold action, you may feel uncertain – or even silly – about trying it. Trying new things is good. Praying with boldness is what we are called to do. It will change the world, and us.

Here is a list of ways you might pray boldly. Try doing a different prayer idea every day for a week, or try one idea a week for 7 weeks.

1. Invite a group of friends to pray with you.
2. Pray for something that you think is impossible. Journal about it and record what happens.
3. Prayer-walk your neighborhood. Pray for the people there.
4. Try praying aloud in a big group setting, like a Bible study group or in church.
5. Try a new prayer posture. If you usually sit when praying, try kneeling, for example.
6. Pray over a meal out – at school, work, or in a restaurant.
7. Share a song, a story, or a joke with God as you pray. Or draw a prayer for God and color it.

This message is excerpted from "I Am She" a 2009 resource of the Women of the ELCA.

Close Enough to Feel The Weight

A submission from Dee Dee Norman

I did not wake up that morning expecting to carry a cross.

I was just passing through.
Just another man in the crowd.
Just another face in Jerusalem.
Just another pilgrim with dust on my sandals and plans for the day.

I had children to think about.
Work waiting.
Responsibilities.
A life that felt ordinary.

And then Rome interrupted me.
The soldiers' hands were rough.
They did not ask.
They seized me.
"You. Carry it."

I remember the weight of it before it ever touched my shoulders.
The splintered wood.
The metallic scent of blood already soaked into it.
The murmuring crowd.
The sound of women weeping.
The hatred.
The chaos.

And then I saw Him.
His back was torn open.
His face barely recognizable.
Blood matted in His hair.
A crown of thorns pressed into skin.

He was trying to carry it.
Trying.
But His body was giving out under the weight.

And suddenly, that weight became mine.
I wanted to protest.
I wanted to say, "This is not my fight. I have done nothing wrong. I do not belong in this story."

But before the words could leave my mouth, the wood pressed into my shoulder.
The cross was heavier than I imagined.
It dug into flesh.
It scraped bone.
It pressed the air out of my lungs.

And I was angry.
Angry at the soldiers.
Angry at the crowd.
Angry that my day had been interrupted by someone else's suffering.

But then I looked at Him.
He was close enough that I could hear His breathing.
Labored.
Shallow.
Determined.

His eyes met mine.
There was no resentment there.
No shame.
No apology.
Only love.

Love?
For me?
I was the one forced to carry His cross.
I was the unwilling participant.
The drafted helper.
The man caught in the wrong place at the wrong time.
And yet when His eyes met mine, it felt like I had been chosen.

Chosen.
I thought I was helping Him.
But somewhere between Pilate's Hall and Golgotha, I realized something terrifying and holy, He was letting me carry it.

The weight on my shoulders was wood and blood and splinters.

But the weight on His shoulders was the sin of the world.
My burden was temporary.
His was eternal.

And still…
He let me step into it.
He let me feel the heaviness.
He let me taste the cost.
He let me walk beside Him in the suffering.

I had planned to simply observe Passover.
Instead, I carried the Lamb.

I did not know then that this cross would not be the end.
I did not know that three days later the stone would roll.
That death would bow.
That the One I walked beside would rise in glory.

All I knew was the weight.
And sometimes I think about that day when my life was interrupted by obedience I did not volunteer for.

I have come to understand something since then.
Some crosses we do not choose.
Some burdens find us.
Some callings feel forced upon our shoulders by circumstances we did not pray for.
But if you look closely—
He is always near.

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Breathing.
Bleeding.
Walking beside you.
And what feels like punishment
What feels like interruption
may be invitation.
What feels like inconvenience
What feels like interruption
may be invitation.
What feels like inconvenience
may be initiation into glory.

I thought Rome conscripted me.
But Heaven had written my name into the story long before that morning.
I carried His cross for a mile.
He carried mine for eternity.
And now when I feel the weight
may be proximity.
of obedience,
when I feel pressed into service I did not plan,
when suffering brushes up against my life without permission—

I remember His eyes.
And I no longer ask,
"Why me?"
I whisper instead,
"Let me be close enough to feel the weight."

(Posted by Sarah Trent on February 20, 2026 on Facebook.com)



Library Refresh Underway!

Dee Dee Norman and Chelsea Rosenberger have been working on sprucing up the library. They have cleared out a lot of books that have been collecting dust but not seeing a lot of use. There are some new resources taking their place.

We have some new additions to the Children's Section! Kids are welcome to borrow books from the library and take them home to read. There are new picture books, The Chronicles of Narnia series and some other current series that have Christian.

New books in the Social Concerns Section!
In a world that gets increasingly polarized, Christianity is seeing a divide as well. How did we get here? Having grown up in the ELCA, Chelsea was confused by the views people she knew expressed as "Christian" and did some light reading. She has shared a few popular books with the church including:

- *The Kingdom, The Power, and The Glory: American Evangelicals in the Age of Extremism* by Tim Alberta
- *Separation of Church and Hate* by John Fugelsang
- *Jesus and John Wayne* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez

Wondering what the ELCA has to say about issues of our time? The ELCA teaches that faith is active in love (Gal. 5:6) and love seeks justice in public relationships and social structures (Amos 5:24). Social teaching is our church's official teaching and policy. It also provides guidance for moral discernment and action for individuals in the ELCA. There are three kinds of social teaching documents:

- *Social statements* address significant social issues and institutions and are adopted by a two-third Churchwide Assembly vote.
- *Social messages* address narrower, timely topics of contemporary concern and are based on the framework provided by statements. Social messages are adopted by the ELCA Church Council.
- *Social policy resolutions* are the third type of social teaching documents. These are typically brief and establish specific policy-related directives on matters of immediate social concern.

There are now copies of these statements, messages and some policy resolutions in the library. Several have small - group Bible studies available through the ELCA website. If there is one you are interested in, let the office know and we can print you a copy!

Little Colored Flags

by Linda Gaenicke

Getting out of the car and smelling the fresh air of Sequoia National Park and seeing the large trees in the early morning sunlight made the long ride from the San Juaquin Valley worth the trip. My friend Charlotte signed me up for a volunteer work weekend of planting trees. A weekend in the woods with provided shelter and food and all I had to do was plant a few trees. What an ideal offer!

A small hike brings us to a lovely octagonal building where most of the other volunteers are already nibbling on snacks and meeting each other. My friend introduces me to the job leader, Abe, a robust middle-aged man who greets me with a firm handshake and hands me my weekend schedule. Wait a minute … schedule? Am I seeing a typo on it? 5 a.m. breakfast? Really? My friend says: "Live with it. It will be fun."

We realize there are no sleeping cabins in sight. Leader Abe tells us that we cannot sleep in the building as food is being prepared there. He points to the porch around the building and says, "Just find a spot." In an instant, all the places under the eaves of the building are taken. This leaves Charlotte and I unrolling sleeping bag on the outer edge of the porch. "OK ," I say to myself, "I can handle this." Bathroom facilities are pointed out to us, just a short walk down "over there." If I squint my eyes, I can see it between the trees. Washing up means a single faucet on a metal pipe sticking out of the ground. Where is the warm water? Don't think or even ask about it. I start to realize I have stepped into a camping *Twilight Zone* weekend.

Early morning is welcomed. I had slept little due to something sniffing around my head and another something crawling over me several times during the night. I let the sleeping bag lie and make a grand dash to the facilities … which leads to a line of fellow volunteers also wanting to use said facility. UGH!

The gong sounds for breakfast and I am surprised at how wonderful and plentiful it is. Everything you could imagine and lots of variety. We have 45 minutes to eat and then pick up your packed lunch bags and get on the waiting truck. Truck? Where are we being taken? Most of us are too sleepy to even ask.

After a short ride, Leader Abe tells us to unload and sit down to listen to his directions. On our left, we are shown a huge container full of tools: shovels, axes, leather work gloves, hats and T-shirts stating that we are a volunteer tree planting group. Little colored flags placed a week before mark where we are to plant the trees. Each colored flag represents a species of tree and we are to match the colored flag on the stick to the flags placed earlier in the planting area. Leader Abe also states that we will be working in a family camping area and since the campers are probably still asleep, we should work quietly for the first few hours.

Ok, so far I figure I can still do this, until we see a truck – yes, truck – full of trees all of which are about 12 feet tall and standing upright in wooden crates. Are there more volunteers coming? No, just 25 of us who are already there. OK, now I really cannot do this!

Charlotte and I take a crate of trees and tools and look for an area marked by flags. Wait! The whole darn place is full of little colored flags! Hundreds of them. Yes, hundreds! We are stuck in a hell of little colored flags! Together we find an area of ground and drop our work equipment along with the crate of trees and start to dig.

"The ground is rather hard," says my friend. After half an hour on hands and knees with a small axe we had a hole deep enough to plant one tree. We match the flag color with the tree, add a tad of fertilizer and plop! In goes the tree. Gently patting it down and calling for the water brigade to wet it, we move on to the next flag. Dig, match, plop, fertilize, cover and call for water. Repeat. Over and over and over.

What time is it? Coffee break time. Some of the campers have brewed us coffee and even brought snacks for us. One man served us with a huge live colorful parrot on his shoulder. With each cup of coffee that he hands to us, the parrot greets us with, "Good morning."

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Leader Abe walks by and asks if we have emptied our crate yet. He then sets another one next to us and points out another spot to plant. Gee, that area looks level … So over we walk, dragging the crates and tools behind us. Clank! The shovel hits something hard. O.K., we just move over a little and start again. Clank again. Rock. Since there is a flag next to it, we keep digging. The rock is over a foot long and just as deep. We dig it out and plant the tree: plop, fertilize, cover and call for water. It is now 9 in the morning. Yes, just 9! There are words said that day that could melt some of the rocks we are digging out.

Around noon, we break for lunch, sitting in the shade near the river and drinking the cold water and other drinks Leader Abe brings us. We are too tired and daunted by the number of trees still in the truck to talk. We start our digging pattern again. By this time if we encounter a rock with the first shovel, we simply move the little colored flag over a foot or two. Charlotte and I always look to make sure Leader Abe is not around. Crate by crate the truck is slowly emptied. We are tired, dirty and hungry.

On the hike back to the shelter, the smell of steak fills the air and we walk faster with hope that there really is steak. There is steak and lots of other great food choices. The cold beer hits the spot too. Various desserts tempt us and we spend time sharing the day's work stories with each other.

My sleeping bag has never felt so good. It is chilly! We both add extra blankets. Several hours later, I am regretting that beer I drank and must find the facilities. The blanket feels heavy as I move. I realize I am now under about six inches of snow. The shoes that are next to my sleeping bag are also full of snow. By now I am *desperate* to get to the facilities. My flashlight fell off the porch when I was asleep. I have to depend only on the moonlight. I start out full of fear of the forest noises and shadows that reflect on the snow. I am happy to meet another volunteer walking quickly… until he recommends I make a lot of noise as a bear was spotted in the area. I don't remember ever walking so fast to and from a place before that night.

With snow on the ground, we start for work early in the morning and work hard to keep warm. Campers again offer coffee and hot chocolate. Some campers offer other *warmer* spirits and now we are warm and happy tree planters. This second day means another truck slowly emptied. By the end the snow is almost gone but it is even colder. Dinner is followed by a near-freezing night with the little creatures racing up, down and under us. Sleep is impossible.

A last breakfast in the shelter is followed by a round-up talk of our work and a huge thank you from the Forest Service. We planted 913 trees! Charlotte and I watch little colored flags fluttering next to young newly planted trees. They make the area look magical.

One last question is asked of the Forest Service: Just how many of the trees will survive? The answer is … with luck, about one-*third*.



Some Things You Might Not Know About Me

by Jim Norman

Having recently completed my 80th trip around the sun, I thought I might let my church family know a little of my history. I was born in Marshalltown, Iowa on April 14, 1946, the second and quite possibly the best son of Howard (Hob) and Martha Norman. Dad was a farmer and Mom was a homemaker and farmhand. We moved twice after I was born, ending up in extreme northwest Marshall County where I began my schooling in a one-room school, which was actually two rooms, one upstairs and one downstairs. The following year I started first grade in the school that I would eventually graduate from. I gained a sister and another brother during my time at that school.

We were surrounded by Normans. My grandfather and his brother moved to the area along with many others from Yadkin County, North Carolina in the 1800s (Tar Heels, they were called). They married two sisters from the same area of North Carolina. Union, Iowa still celebrates Tar Heel Days … kinda like Rhody festivals here: with plenty of food, a parade, tractors everywhere ... just a good time including a hay auction and golf tournament. My other grandfather
was proud of his time as a horse Marine in World War I. He and my grandmother lived about a half-hour drive south of us and we would make the trip a couple Sundays a month for a big dinner with all the relatives on Mom's side. Mom was a pie maker and we always travelled with at least three pies. The roads at the time were mostly gravel but they were groomed in such a manner you could drive 60 mph with no problem, *unless* you came over the top of a hill to see a slow-moving farm tractor… which could cause three pies to soil the two young men in the back seat.

When I was a senior, Dad sold all the farm equipment and bought a truck. We moved from the farm into town (Union, Iowa) where he made his living hauling livestock and grain for local farmers. I was able to walk to school after having driven there my first three years of high school. Though I did enjoy my first experience living in a house with indoor plumbing.

The area was traditionally very conservative politically. Our family attended Liberty Friends Church in Liberty Township. The minister during my youth was a hellfire and damnation kinda guy. I don't recall any real sermons about Jesus and his love. When I left home, I left church until I started attending a Lutheran church with Dee Dee's family six years later.

After I graduated from high school, I bounced around various jobs then joined the Navy the following February. Dad's truck was hit by a train while I was in boot camp so the Red Cross stepped in and got me home for the funeral.

The Navy sent me to school in Albuquerque, New Mexico after I completed boot camp. After school I was sent to Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Virginia. From there I went to Mayport, Florida to board the aircraft *carrier USS Shangri-La*. Then it was off to Guam to the submarine tender *USS Proteus*. Next I was stationed in Colts Neck, New Jersey at Naval Ammunition Depot Earle, which led me to my bride just before heading back to Guam. We had a two-and-a-half-year tropical honeymoon while I was stationed at the Naval Magazine, Guam. We survived Typhoon Pamela while there and I also took part in Operation New Life, welcoming and vetting Vietnamese refugees after the collapse of Saigon. We also enjoyed sightseeing around the island.

My regular job in the Navy was the storage, maintenance and systems testing for our Cold War nuclear weapons. We called ourselves "Keepers of the Dragon." No one else called us that because no one knew what we were up to beyond the security checkpoints.

Upon my departure from the Navy after 12 years, I worked for a trucking company in rural "PA" – the state, not the town west of Port Townsend. After a few months we were able to purchase our first home with the help of family, just in time to welcome our first child.

Before our second child I had moved on to a chemical production job. I took some courses at East Stroudsburg University and was able to advance within the firm to eventually become the Quality Assurance Manager. While employed there, we adopted our third child, a baby girl from South Korea. I spent 20 years with that company before I was recruited by an old friend who had started his own company in partnership with Mallinckrodt Baker (now Avantor Performance Materials). By this time our eldest was in the Navy and our second child was getting married. He would soon be joining the Navy too. During those same 20 years I was able to finish my time toward retirement from the Naval Reserve.

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I promised my new boss 10 years and gave him 14. I must admit though that those last few were fairly low-key compared to the stress of the first 12. My job was to build a quality system capable of passing audits by the FDA and potential customers. After 12 years, I was able to pass off the bulk of my work to the first person I had hired shortly after I began working there.

Dee Dee and I both retired in 2015 and moved to Port Townsend. We feel blessed to have been able to make such a move to place us near our children and also to have found Grace Lutheran.

Shoutouts and Notes of Gratitude

Thank you to Marijo Brantner for organizing the Meal Train for Corinne Bugbee-Smith and Al Smith after Corinne's surgery! Thank you to all of you who answered the call and provided meals, prayers and care!

Thank you to Marc Helgeson, Jim Little, Tammy Rumpel, Dee Dee Norman and Linda Gaenicke for training new participants and/or putting together materials for Sunday Worship and sharing Grace Ministry opportunities with us at the Volunteer Fair on Feb. 15!

Thank you to all our soup providers during Lent: Laura Anderson, Steve & Marijo Brantner, Beth Bowman, Miriam Gaenicke, Robin & Mike Kosin, Jeni Little, Lynette McMinn, Tammy Rumpel, Lois Sherwood, Elise Sinclair and Alice Tibbals

Thank you to Steve Brantner & Jim Little for switching out the burned-out fluorescent bulbs in the Sunday School room for bright new LEDs! We are so glad we can see now!
With Gratitude,
Chelsea Rosenberger, Dee Dee Norman & The Sunday School Kiddos



Bishop Keith Marshall provided pulpit supply on Sunday, March 15.



Holden & Liana Janssen, diligent little curb painters! (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean.)

Thank you to Jim Bowman for taking the lead on organizing a warm welcome for Bishop Marshall's visit on March 15! Thank you to everyone who stepped in to share about our history and ministries during the open forum time at coffee hour during Bishop Keith's visit.

Thank you to everyone that helped clean our church up for spring on Saturday, May 2 during our work party!

Thank you to Steve Brantner and his work crew for resealing the concrete around the church!

Thank you to Steve Brantner and the Janssen family painters for revamping our handicap parking area out front!

Thank you, Kathleen Shelman, for adding some new plants of interest to the front flower bed!

Thank you Barbara Gould, Carol Kong and Gwen Howard for keeping the lavender alive through the warm summer months.

Grace on the Move

Jefferson Interfaith Action Coalition





Jefferson Interfaith Action Coalition's Valentine's Day prayer vigil for "A Call to Love." (Photos courtesy of Pastor Sean)

Pastor Sean shares a message on love as one of the faith leaders who participated in the Valentine's Day prayer vigil. (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean)





INDIVISIBLE PORT TOWNSEND



Mark & Sharon Dembro represented the Jefferson Interfaith Action Coalition at the July 18 Indivisible Port Townsend National Voting Rights Weekend of Action with their grandson Max. Max blessed Grace with a beautiful offertory hymn on July 19, playing Chopin's "Prelude in E Minor."

RHODY FESTIVAL
JEFFERSON COUNTY
WASHINGTON



Jeni Little, Jeannie Oneppo and Tammy Rumpel participated in and helped with this year's Rhody Run on May 17. (Photo courtesy of Tammy Rumpel.)



Alyssa, Benny, Jeremiah, Felicity & Evie Fuehrer pick up their Rhody Run packets from Tammy Rumpel on Sunday, May 17. They also helped with the Grand Parade on Saturday, May 16. (Photo courtesy of Jeni Little.)

The "All City Choir"(below), with numerous Grace members, at the Annual Ugandan AIDS Orphans Benefit Concert on June 14. (Photo courtesy of Pastor Sean.)









Pastor Sean Janssen (Rotarian), Jim and Jeni Little (dedicated community volunteers) and Lois Sherwood (Rotarian) delivered dictionaries to Chimacum Elementary, Sunfield and Salish Coast Elementary schools in May. Sunrise Rotary is one of the many community groups Grace opens its doors to during the course of each week. The Rotarians said the best part of delivering dictionaries is watching the students open their dictionaries and becoming excited about discovering words!

Jefferson County foodbank Association

Brinnon Port Townsend Quilcene Tri-Area



Evie, Felicity, Jeremiah and Benny Fuehrer, along with Micah and Josiah Rosenberger and several of their fellow scouts participated in multiple food drives this last year to support the Jefferson County Food Bank Association.

Opportunity with Lutheran Migrant Solidarity Network

In partnership with the Lutheran Migrant Solidarity Network our entire congregation is invited to write supportive, uplifting letters to individuals held at the Northwest ICE Processing Center in Tacoma. Every person deserves to know they are seen, remembered and not alone. Whether you write a single postcard or several pages, your words offer a vital reminder of human dignity, care and solidarity. Please reach out to our Minister of Social Concerns, Karin Hastings, with questions. Your notes may be left in Karin's mailbox in the narthex. She will combine them and deliver them to the ICE Processing Center.



2026 Quilts for Lutheran World Relief are Off!

On Monday, Nov. 2 the quilters of Grace Lutheran Church shipped their second batch of quilts to Lutheran World Relief for the year. Our hardworking quilters created 149 quilts to be shipped around the world to places where natural disaster or war strike. They can be used for bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. The quilters have also gifted nine quilts locally to the those living in tiny homes serviced by organizations helping people move out of homelessness.

Interested in helping with this ministry? Join the quilters each Monday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Grace fellowship hall!



Lutheran World Relief Quilts made by members of Grace and our local community await their blessing before being shipped around the world! (Photo courtesy of Tammy Rumpel.)



Travels with Flat Jesus











Dee Dee Norman shared a Flat Jesus with each of our Sunday School families to take along on their summer travels as a fun reminder that Jesus is always with us. Along the way Flat Jesus camped, hiked, took multiple ferries, flights and a cruise, visited family, broke bread at several restaurants, rode a Ferris wheel, attended a Renaissance festival and even went to a water park! Flat Jesus really traveled the globe this summer. Sites visited included (but were not limited to):

Moran State Park, Orcas Island, WA ● Silver Falls State Park, OR ● Tokyo, Japan ● Maui, Hawaii
Fire Mountain Scout Camp, WA ● Inside Passage of Alaska ● Glacier National Park ● Yellowstone National Park
San Diego, CA ● Fort Worden State Park, WA ● North Bend, WA ● Coeur d'Alene, ID ● Wall Drug in South Dakota
Rochester, MN ● Baraboo, WI ● St. Regis, MT

Jesus is always with us!

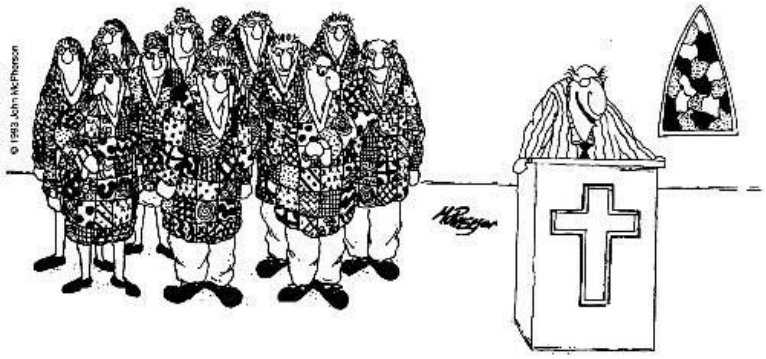
The Last Laugh



Comic relief provided by Miriam Gaenicke



Comic relief provided by Miriam Gaenicke



"Many thanks to the Ladies' Quilting Club for the new choir robes."

Comic relief provided by Linda Gaenicke

Grace Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Sean Janssen
revseanjanssen@gmail.com

Office Manager: Chelsea Rosenberger
gracelutheranpt@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Crissy Dunlap
gracelutheranptfinance@gmail.com

Accompanist: Elise Sinclair

Choir Director: Rolf Vegdahl

Grace Council for 2026

Executive Committee

President:	Al Smith
Vice President:	Lois Sherwood
Secretary:	Stacy Toner
Treasurer:	Tim Tibbals

Members At-Large

Jim Bowman
Steve Brantner

Grace Committee Ministers for 2026

Worship & Music:	Sharon Dembro
Stewardship:	Mark Dembro
Facilities:	Steve Brantner
Social Concerns:	Karin Hastings
Fellowship:	Vacant

Fellowship Committee needs you! Please consider!