

April - May 2012

Easter Sunday ~ April 8



Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:11-12

# Grace Lutheran Church

Joyfully Proclaiming Christ in word and deed!!

## Grace Notes

Check website for up-to-date calendar: [www.bellgrace.org](http://www.bellgrace.org)



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### And then there is Holy Week

By the time you receive this issue of Grace Notes we will be concluding the fifth week of Lent and moving toward Holy Week.

Holy Week observances began in Jerusalem in the earliest days of the Church, when devout people traveled to Jerusalem at Passover to reenact the events of the week leading up to the Resurrection.

Egeria was a Christian woman who traveled widely during the period of 381-385 A.D. and wrote about Christian customs and observances in Egypt, Palestine, and Asia Minor. She described how religious tourists to Jerusalem reenacted the events of Holy Week. On Palm Sunday afternoon, the crowds waved palm fronds as they made a procession from the Mount of Olives into the city. Of course, the observances must have begun quite a number of years before Egeria witnessed them, or they wouldn't have been so elaborate. It's just that Egeria's description is the earliest we still have. The tourists took the customs home with them. Holy week observances spread to Spain by the fifth century, to Gaul and England by the early seventh century. They didn't spread to Rome until the twelfth century.

This year Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday, April 1, 2012 and ends on Saturday, April 7 at 6:00 p.m. In most churches, the decorations are red to symbolize the blood of martyrdom. Some churches remove all decorations on Maundy Thursday in preparation for Good Friday, veiling anything that can't be removed in black. The special days of Holy Week are of course Palm Sunday (or Passion Sunday), Holy Thursday (or Maundy Thursday), and Good Friday. In some churches Holy Saturday is observed with an Easter Vigil service which is held in the evening and is one of the earliest forms of worship in the Christian church. The time from sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Day is also known as the Triduum, which is Latin for "three days."

The purpose of Holy Week is to reenact, relive, and participate in the passion of Jesus Christ. Throughout Holy Week at Grace Lutheran Church you will have many and various opportunities to participate in worship as you journey with Jesus on his final days for us. I invite you to partake of as many worship opportunities as you are able.

A Blessed Holy Week to you. I appreciate our ministry together. See you in church.

Pastor Tim



"Knitters" will meet in Grace's Library April 16th at 7pm & May 21st at 7pm

P-Patch Groundbreaking April 14!



### Grace Garden is Growing Friends!



Even before we break ground on April 14, we have started reaching out to the neighbors of Grace and they are responding. We have rented four plots to neighbors so far and have received donations and pledges

totaling over \$500. There are still about fifteen plots available, so contact us now to reserve your place in the garden.

Email: [gracegarden@bellgrace.org](mailto:gracegarden@bellgrace.org) or call 425-454-4344 for more information.

## From Your Council President

Greetings to you all!

Can you feel it? There's change in the air. I'm told it's spring. There have been many days lately when I know that groundhog was absolutely right this year, "6 More Weeks of Winter."

Beyond the weather, I am beginning to feel something new. There is a feeling of newness around us and it is not the weather, it is us. It's us and this place around us called Grace Lutheran Church. A new prayer garden, new faces, old faces we haven't seen for awhile and a feeling of hope. There's chatter in the courtyards and I don't know when I have seen as many as I did yesterday at Coffee Hour. Nothing special happening, just people, sitting and enjoying being together.

We are learning who we are, where we want to go and what we want to do. To me, that is exciting and feels very good.

I am humbled and honored to be your Council President during this period of time. A time of Transition, a time of Growth and a time of Faith. Faith more than anything. Now, as much as at any time in the life of Grace Lutheran Church, we need to have faith. Faith, not only in Jesus Christ, but faith that we can do almost anything we want, as long as we believe and we do it together.

As I just wrote that last paragraph, I got to thinking that Jesus told us all to have the faith of a little child and then I remembered yesterday. As Pastor Tim was welcoming and inviting all to the Lord's Table, little Joshua Santjer took off running towards the altar from the back of the church. His Mom, breathlessly, close behind. Joshua had faith. Faith that there was something good waiting for him up front.

At first I was just amused and then I asked myself, "Why aren't We? Why aren't we all running to the altar? Running to the gift of grace and salvation?"

Maybe we are, each in his or her own way. But I ask you all this: Can't we all run together?

This is going to be an exciting year. Comings, goings, excitement and changes. Let's join together and make this year a memorable one. One that we can all say we are proud of and one that we can all say we had a part in.

Please, step up, be heard, take part and above all... Have Faith!!! It's going to be a great trip, come along.

See You in Church,

Michael Niebauer  
Council President

### Grace Council Members 2012

Michael Niebauer  
President, Finance, Stewardship

Marcia Bodin  
Vice President, Worship & Music, Prayer Garden

Kris Brown  
Secretary, "Keep in Touch"

Bill Bockman  
Fellowship Liaison

Marilyn Hansen  
Social Concerns Liaison

Robin Hansen  
Property Liaison

Tanya Riebeling  
Education Liaison

Bob Smith  
Evangelism Liaison

Pastor Tim Wolbrecht

### **Non-voting Members**

Danna Anderson  
Treasurer

Ruth Kindschi  
Financial Secretary

We, your Transition Team, have been working to guide you through the transition process. We have met with Bishop Boerger and Pastor Jerry Buss from the NW Washington Synod. We met with Pastor Gary Dalenius of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and Pastor James McEachran from St. Andrews Lutheran Church. We will be meeting with leaders from several other area churches and people in the community at large—school principals, city leaders, neighbors, etc.--asking for ideas, insight, and possible ways to work cooperatively. We have written to people who used to attend Grace regularly, but no longer do, telling them they are missed, and asking them if there was some specific reason why they no longer attend Grace.

Most importantly, we have collected your comments from the several adult forums we have conducted so far and what we hear from our members is:

- We need to be more Christ-centered in our thinking. The church is not about us; it is about Christ.
- We need to be more aware of each other as members; need to notice when someone is absent and contact them.
- We need to communicate better within our congregation (how we are making a difference locally and globally) through website, newsletter, phone calls, visits, announcements.
- We need to communicate better outwardly (who Grace Lutheran Church is, what we are doing, and why they should join our mission) through website, street sign, personal invitation by members, Synod on-line newsletter.
- We consider ourselves friendly and open, but need to be more intentional about being inclusive, making everyone feel welcome.
- We need to know more about the demographics of Bellevue and the needs within our community. Perhaps our passions and skills will overlap with some of those needs.
- Our beautiful facility should be used more often for educational and cultural outreach: music, lectures, community services (tax assistance, estate planning), interest groups (birding, kite flying, etc.).
- Some members want to preserve traditional Lutheran liturgy and hymns. Other members would like to try new things that would perhaps draw in new members who were not raised in the Lutheran church.
- We want Grace Lutheran Church to continue and we are frightened right now because of attendance numbers and finances.

The Transition Team (Rod Nelson, Eva Mader, Claudia Thompson, Danna Anderson) will continue to gather your comments and ideas as we move forward through this process. Our email is: [glctransition@bellgrace.org](mailto:glctransition@bellgrace.org), you can talk with us in person, or drop a note in the Transition mailbox in the church office.

### Grace Garden

We had our first P-Patch Garden meeting at Grace on March 11. We will lay out approx. 20 individual plots of 100 sq ft each. We would like the long bed along the fence to be used to grow flowers for use in the church. Donated produce will be delivered to the Hopelink food bank weekly. We will have rental agreement forms the gardeners will fill out and printed guidelines they will follow. We will be asking for donations of compost and wood chips (for the pathways) to help keep costs down, but we will need cash donations from anyone and everyone to help build the garden this first year. We need to rent a tractor to till the soil, need to build compost boxes for the gardeners to use, and need to redirect the irrigation in that area to efficiently water the vegetables. Please help in any way you can. Contact: [gracegarden@bellgrace.org](mailto:gracegarden@bellgrace.org)

## Social Concerns News

*A note from Sophia Way to Grace for household donations in January, 2012:*

“Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

A very heartfelt thank you for your generous donations of household goods to the women of Sophia Way. The week following your donation, 3 women moved from the shelter into apartments. Because of your donations we were able to supply these women with the needed necessities to build a home. You provided them with dignity and a new start in life. That is a very good thing!

Many blessings and much love, Janet Olin, Sophia Way”

**February:** Grace hosted forums related to Friends of Youth and Sophia Way

**March:** Grace is hosting 32 gentlemen in Congregations for the Homeless. Available to them are breakfast, lunch makings and dinner and a warm place to sleep. CFH now has a trailer providing showers and a washer and dryer. Thanks to the several churches who joined Grace in providing meals and all of Grace members who came to let them in and assist in serving. And a special thanks to those at Grace who helped provide meals our last week. We were given the opportunity to offer over 3000 meals.

**May:** Coming again in mid-May is the 3.5 mile (or shorter Golden Mile) CROPWALK. 75% of the donations goes to Church World Services and 25% is evenly split between Hopelink and Emergency Feeding services locally. You can gather your friends and walk or donate at church. Watch for the information to be announced.

Also in May is a Sophia Way Spring Fashion Night at which current and past clients gather for dinner, fun and enjoy choosing a spring outfit or two or three! Donations of large-sized clothes and underwear are very welcome. Bring them to church and Gail D’Alessio will deliver. Everyone will need a spring lift with the weather we’ve been having!

**June:** Grace will be providing meals for Sophia Way again.

**NEEDING TO SHARE FURNITURE?** Home2Home is local and picks up!!! They provide furniture for Sophia Way and Congregations for the Homeless for new housing for those clients successfully fulfilling their journey from the street to independent housing.

## Russia News *by Eva Mader*

Word has come from Moscow that the letters of invitation that Bishop Boerger sent have been received. Now Bishop Dietrich Brauer and the Dean of the Central Deanery, Pastor Lena Bondarenko, can get take the next step, to apply for visas to enter the United States. They are planning to be in our Synod from May 10 – 20, to attend the Synod Assembly, where Bishop Brauer will have an opportunity to briefly address the assembly and, hopefully, to stimulate interest in the Synod-to-Synod Companion relationship. They also hope to meet with many of the partnered congregations, of which there are ten at this time, to give them an update on synod issues as well as specific congregations. Lynne Charleston from Grace as chairperson of the Synod’s task force “Team Russia” expects to plan a meeting with Bishop Brauer and Pastor Bondarenko at Grace, to give all interested members an opportunity to inform themselves first-hand about the present situation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in European Russia.

## Quilters

Our Wednesday morning quilting group has been busy. We’ve taken quilts and baby quilts to Harrington House and we have a "stack" more ready for delivery. Before we send them off, they will be "blessed" one Sunday morning this spring. We are in need of more sewers and also someone to work on the tieing/finishing table. You are invited to join us on Wednesday mornings, 10:00 a.m. in Pearson Hall. We work until 2:00 and do take a lunch break -- we bring our own sandwiches and prepare coffee!!

Also, we are in need of cotton fabric for quilts. All colors/patterns are welcome and can be left for us in the office.

Questions -- please contact Merrilee Kipfer at 425-747-2334 or [okipfer@comcast.net](mailto:okipfer@comcast.net).

## Report of Lutheran Counseling Network

by Eva Mader

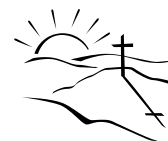
As congregational representative to LCN I attended their annual meeting held at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle on February 26, 2012. Reported was a noteworthy "bump-up" of counseling income, due to an increase over the previous year in the number of clients served. Donations for 2011 remained at average levels. Client need is outpacing donations received. Their goal is to have enough donation funds to cover half of the standard fee per service hour. Because they do not have the funds to do this, LCN staff donated almost \$10,000 of therapy services in 2011 above what was provided by the donation fund. Help with this would be appreciated. 100% of donations received goes for low fee client support. Appreciation was expressed for donated space by 23 congregations, of which Grace is one.

For the benefit of new attendees a presentation was done about who LCN is as a community and this was well illustrated when half of the meeting was devoted to a memorial for Aimee Rhoads, one of the counselors who lost her life on December 18, 2011 in a boating accident while diving in Florida. The assembled counseling staff as well as some members of the board reflected on how the loss of their colleague, mother of a young daughter, had affected them individually and how they continue to support each other and what they are learning about themselves through this process. Rarely have I witnessed such a moving expression of true community, with their united conviction: "We are not going to let darkness win."

## Visit Grace's Prayer Garden!

This morning I spent some time listening to the birds in the Prayer Garden. There were patches of blue sky and a little sunlight shone down...beautiful, peaceful.....almost finished. For me, it is a reminder of the hope we have in Christ. The words on the Celtic Cross are a blessing, a prayer, and a reminder....something we receive, if we are willing....the blessing of God's Light.

May The Blessing  
Of God's Light Be On You  
Light Without and  
Light Within



The Easter Sunrise Service will be held in the Prayer Garden at 6:30am. What a wonderful way to begin, in the early hours, the Resurrection Sunday celebration!

## People in Worship

Sign up to serve as a Worship Assistant, Lector, Usher, Acolyte, Sound Operator, or host Coffee Hours. If you have questions about these opportunities, ask Kipp. The clipboard with the *April-May schedule* is on the counter in the Church Office...or call or email Jane w/dates of availability.

**Please sign up....So many ways to serve!**

425-454-4344

[bellgrace@integra.net](mailto:bellgrace@integra.net)

Thank you!

## April Circles

**Wednesday Circle will meet April 11th** at 10am in the home of Helen Ryan.

**Thursday Circle will meet April 12th** at 10am in Grace's Fireside Room. Bible Study: 1 Samuel 1:1-2:11 (Hannah). Please bring a sandwich to share.

## May Circles

**Wednesday Circle will meet May 9th** at 10am in the home of Peggy Nelson

**Thursday Circle will meet May 10th** at 10am at Millie Lider's home, Evergreen Court, 900 124th Ave NE. Bible Study - 1 Samuel 25:2-44 (Abigail)

**Happy Birthday!****April**

Phyllis Reininger	4
Robert Barnes	6
Ted Baseler	8
Edith Ronberg	8
Nicole Wilde	8
Soren Hansen	10
Jeff Chelgren	12
JoAnne Baseler	13
Julia Haugland	16
Kael Fisher	20
Max Henningsgaard	20
Samantha Minthorn	21
Helen Ryan	22
Tanya Graham	25
Kristi Sahlinger	28
Lois Jackson	29
Christopher Chelgren	30

**May**

Steven Chelgren	2
Marjorie McMains	2
Elisabeth Pfaff	2
Erik Brockman	3
William Sahlinger	4
Kristen Hodge	5
Rebecca Nelson	8
Andreas Harnecker	10
Margaret Santjer	10
Elizabeth Domorad	11
Thomas Domorad	11
Sean Finn	12
Cheryl Nelsen	19
Rosalie Riffle	19
Emily Wright	19
Laura Zimmerman	20
Mary Brockman	21
Chester Haugland	23
Trevor Baumann	24
Mildred Lider	25
Joshua Santjer	29
Robin Bickness	31
Rod Olson	31

*Please let me know if I missed a birthday. ~Jane*

**Books to Check Out from the Grace Church Library****Transcending Loss by Ashley Davis Bush**

An inspiring new approach to the lifelong process of grieving. The author asserts that death doesn't end the relationship, it simply forges a new type of relationship -- one based not on physical presence but on memory, spirit, and love.

This is a book about death and grief, yes, but more importantly it is a book about love and hope. I have learned from [my interviews with] courageous people about pain, struggle, resiliency, and meaning. Their stories show that over time, you can learn to transcend even in spite of pain. We all get broken by life sooner or later because loss is the price we pay for living and loving. But experience shows that we can become stronger at the broken places and find the opportunity in crisis. I hope this book will help you move beyond grief and will guide you on your journey through time of healing and transcendence." -- from the introduction.

**The Year of Living Like Jesus: My Journey of Discovering What Jesus Would Really Do by Ed Dobson**

This is the often bizarre, albeit fascinating, story of a devout Christian who chose to spend a year living like Jesus, much as a small boy might mimic his daddy. He daily steeped himself in the gospels and prayer, consulted a rabbi for Jewish perspective and participated in Jewish holy days. Dobson concluded that living like Jesus is difficult but he also showed that we can make it harder than it really is. -- from the publisher

**Listening is an Act of Love: A Celebration of American Life from the StoryCorps Project edited by Dave Isay**

Drawn from the work of StoryCorps, the largest and most ambitious oral history project in American history, comes this tapestry of the stories Americans have been sharing from their lives to leave behind to their loved ones.

In its two permanent public recording booths in New York City, at Grand Central and at Ground Zero, and its two mobile booths touring the country, StoryCorps, the most ambitious oral history project in American history, has collected the memories of people from all fifty states and every imaginable walk of life, background, identity group, age, and state of mind-more than ten-thousand in all. It is a wondrous nationwide celebration of our shared humanity, capturing for posterity the stories that define us and bond us together. In small towns and big cities, from Indian reservations in the Pacific Northwest to army bases in North Carolina, StoryCorps has brought people together to share the treasures of their lives in story.  
- from the publisher

**Bridal Shower ~**

**All ladies are invited** to a Bridal Shower for Betty Reimer's daughter, Ellen. Join us in Grace's Fireside Room on **April 29th at 2pm.**

## **The Northwest Washington Synod Of The Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (ELCA)**

Every day members of congregations in the Northwest Washington Synod are making the world a better place. In far reaches of the globe, and right here in our neighborhoods, we reach out to our neighbors who are in need.

Locally our members help the homeless and the hungry by offering lunch and dinner, donating to food banks, hosting Tent City, and by providing transitional housing and personalized support. The Synod Hunger Team encourages congregations to support the ELCA Hunger Appeal and in 2010 our congregations gave \$329,563 to the Hunger Appeal. Globally we have developed strong ties to Russia, Ethiopia, Tanzania (Masai Girls School) and Haiti. We also support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's (ELCA) vision to end malaria (ELCA Malaria Campaign), ELCA Disaster Response and the Strategy on HIV/AIDS.

### **What is a Synod?**

The English word synod comes from two Greek words *syn* + *hodos* that mean "together road." A synod is the people of the congregations and other ministries traveling the way of faith together. Within the ELCA, a synod is also an administrative and missional geographic region, overseen by a bishop who provides direction to staff, a synod council, and volunteers from its congregations for vision, support, and resources to carry out mission and ministry. (The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger was elected bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod in 2001, and re-elected to a second term in 2007. He will conclude this call in 2013.) Synods vary greatly in size, geography, membership, staffing and program. There are 65 synods in the ELCA that are grouped into nine regions. In 2010 the ELCA had 4,541,309 members and 10,008 congregations. The churchwide offices are located in Chicago, Ill; [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

The offerings given by congregations support all three expressions of this church (congregations, synods and churchwide). How does this work?

In your congregation you support ministry within your congregation and local outreach in your community. The portion of congregational giving to the synod, called mission support, enables the Northwest Washington Synod to assist congregations and rostered leaders as they work in their communities and throughout the world. Churchwide responds to the ministry opportunities in the US and globally to further the mission of this church. Some mission support funds may return to your congregation in the form of grants, services, programs and resources.

### **What is the Northwest Washington Synod?**

Geographically the Northwest Washington Synod includes the area from Kent/Des Moines to the Canadian border, as well as the San Juan Islands. There are 109 congregations in the synod and around 45,000 baptized members. In addition to congregations the synod has 13 new mission starts located in Bellevue, Bothell, Burlington, Edmonds, Everett, Sammamish, and Seattle; three second site congregations located in Mukilteo, Renton and Seattle; and two campus ministries located in Bellingham and Seattle.

The Northwest Washington Synod Assembly is the highest legislative authority in the synod and meets annually to conduct business. Between meetings of the assembly, the synod council serves as the board of directors and the interim legislative authority. The synod office is located at St. John United Lutheran Church in Seattle; [www.lutheransnw.org](http://www.lutheransnw.org).

### **Making Progress**

by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop

Last year at the Synod Assembly it was reported that a child dies of Malaria every 45 seconds. At the last Synod Council meeting, Dianne Johnson, Associate in Ministry and member of Council, reported that this statistic has changed. It is now, one child dies every 60 seconds. That is still not good, but it represents that fact that as the world is giving attention to fighting this disease, the fight is making progress.

We have a long way to go. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Malaria Campaign is this church's way of responding with the rest of the world to this reality.

The ELCA is working with companion churches in Africa so that the administrative costs of this effort will be less than one might expect. That is one of the benefits of being part of a larger church. Our regular benevolences (often called mission support) pays for the administrative costs of much of what this church does when it comes to relief work and disaster response.

Many groups around the world are now responding to the issues related to Malaria. Basketball and soccer leagues are focusing on nets. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is taking a leadership role in the effort. The United Nations Foundation is leading one approach to fighting this disease. This is an opportune time to address the threat of malaria.

As reported, a small step has been taken on this journey. For the next three years the ELCA will be actively seeking support for our part of this campaign.

There are a variety of ways that members of this synod can support this work. Contributions can be made through your congregation, who can then forward the funds through the synod to the churchwide organization. All of the funds collected are sent to support the appeal. Direct contributions can be made through the ELCA website.

I am told that people today want to know that their monetary gifts are making a difference. I would argue that support of any of the church's appeals and mission support does that. I can specifically say that support of the ELCA Malaria Campaign will save lives. I invite you to join with me in supporting this campaign.

More information about the ELCA Malaria Campaign can be found at [www.elca.org/malaria](http://www.elca.org/malaria).

## Grace Lutheran Church

*"Joyfully proclaiming Christ in word and deed!"*

### Grace Lutheran Church

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Bellevue, WA 98004

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Fax: 425-688-0939

E-mail: [bellgrace@integra.net](mailto:bellgrace@integra.net)

#### Sunday Schedule

10:00am Worship

11:15am Education Hour

Tuesday Matins, 9:30am Worship

#### Wednesday Schedule

9:00am Bible Study

7:00pm Evening Worship



#### Weekly:

**Sunday** 8:30am Choir Rehearsal  
10:00am Worship  
11:15am Education Hour

**Tuesday** 9:30am Tuesday Matins  
10:00am Prayer Group  
11:00am Staff Meeting

**Wednesday** 9:00am Bible Study  
10:00am Quilters  
7:00pm Evening Worship

**Saturday** 9:30am Ensemble Rehearsal

#### Monthly:

**Wednesday Circle** meets at 10am on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, often in member homes

**Thursday Circle** meets at 10am on the 2nd Thursday of each month, often in Grace's Fireside Room.

**GLC Book Group** meets at 10am, the last Thursday of the month.

#### Holy Week and Easter at Grace

*Darkness gives way...Celebrating a new day  
and new life!*

#### **Palm Sunday**

April 1st • 10:00am

#### **Maundy Thursday Worship**

April 5th • Noon and 7:00pm

#### **Good Friday Service of Darkness**

April 6th • Noon and 7:00pm

#### **Easter Sunrise Service**

April 8th • 6:30am

#### **Easter Sunday Festival Worship!**

April 8th • 10:00am

*There will be a Special Coffee Hour  
and Children's Easter Activity after the service .*