



# Harbinger

www.graceevanston.org • churchoffice@graceevanston.org

Fall 2017

## Affirming, Courageous, Caring

Grace Lutheran  
Church of Evanston  
1430 South Blvd.  
at Wesley  
847.475.2211

Grace Is An Open  
And Affirming RIC  
Congregation

### OUR MISSION:

To courageously  
live out our faith by  
sharing grace with  
each other and the  
communities we  
serve.

### OUR VISION:

All God's people  
will feel accepted,  
challenged, and  
cared for by  
Grace Church.

9:00am & 11:00am  
Worship Services  
Generations at 10:00am  
Every Sunday

Rev. Daniel Ruen  
Pastor

pd@graceevanston.org

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Mark Bowman  
Music Director

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The Rev. Kaari  
Reierson and The  
Rev. Raquel Rodriguez,  
Colleagues in Ministry

•

Marie O'Brien  
Parish Administrator

•

Jackson DeLeon-Lopez  
Sexton

## How Long? Not Long.

Pastor Daniel



On Monday, August 28th I, Rabbi Andrea London of Beth Emet Synagogue, and Pastor Michael Nabors of Second Baptist in Evanston boarded a plane at 6am, headed for Washington, D.C. The *Ministers March for Justice* brought together faith leaders of many traditions to speak out against racism and white supremacy, and sought to call the government to accountability. Speakers represented faiths from across the U.S., as Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh faith leaders spoke to address myriad injustices from racial and gender-based discrimination to health care, the environment, police brutality, criminal justice, and LGBTQ justice.

We gathered with nearly 3,000 clergy from around the country, beginning our march from the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and traveling more than a mile and a half to the Department of Justice, catching glimpses of both the White House and Trump Hotel.

We called on President Donald Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions to end their pursuit of policies and objectives that hurt racial minorities and further oppress the poor — such as rolling back voting rights, enforcing mandatory minimums, and enacting harsh immigration enforcement against law-abiding immigrants. We also called on President Trump to denounce white supremacy with moral clarity and sensitivity.

While it was a powerful experience to be in the crowd of marchers and listen to the speakers, I believe the most important witness was to be with Rabbi Andrea and Pastor Michael at this event. All of us are working within Evanston-4-All's umbrella groups to respond with both mercy and justice to the increasing new normal of fear and hatred. Our local bonds of trust must be strengthened for the road ahead. Please consider

attending a congregational conversation where I will speak about how you might also become involved in the ongoing Evanston-4-All initiatives. Specifically, we'll talk about the Solidarity Response Team and the Uniting Voices Team. Please join me after the 11am worship on Sunday, Sep-

tember 24th and Sunday, October 1st in the Fellowship Hall. We'll take time to listen to your feelings and thoughts while channeling our concerns and energy into local action that might contribute to greater healing in our country.

As the rally neared its end, we gathered arms and sang "We Shall Overcome," which was the most moving aspect of the march: to stand on the shoulders of so many who came before us. This situation of racial hatred and violence is not new in our country, as we know. It is our original sin, along with the genocide of native peoples, and these recent experiences form yet another opening of the wound. We are next in line to continue the struggle for the soul of our nation. "How long?" asked Martin Luther King III when he spoke from the podium just before we sang; the crowd roared, "not long!"

The peace, strength, and joy of Christ be with you!

Pastor Daniel



Pastor Daniel, Rabbi Andrea London of Beth Emet Synagogue, and Pastor Michael Nabors of Second Baptist in Evanston

## Worship Notes: Re-Form and Return this Fall

This September and October, Grace will observe the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation through our worship and educational life together. Mark Bowman has gathered a marvelous group of Grace members to consider how we might integrate certain themes and ideas. While our plan is not yet completely crystallized, we have decided to frame the reformation in terms of the wonderful Roman Catholic/Lutheran dialogue group currently at work in Evanston.

We want to look forward, not back, as we celebrate the highest ideals of the reformers' sacrifice and legacy. We will highlight a diversity of modern reformers each week during worship as well as during mid-week online Bible studies.

I will shift the Generations curriculum around to focus on Lutheranism and the Reformation in September and October; all adults will be welcome to join us Sundays at 10am for those lessons.

Please thank Claudia Perry, Mark Bowman, Rachel Stark Inch, Sue Graef, and Connie Wood for their work on this committee as we approach the historic signing of the new Evanston Roman Catholic / Lutheran Covenant on Sunday, October 29th! We will Re-Form and we will Return to one another in faith, hope, and love.

**Pastor Daniel**



### ELCA National Youth Convention: Houston Mission

As we digest the ongoing crisis in Houston, consider this: 20,000+ Lutheran youth and their adult sponsors will be going there in July of next year. I pray they will make good use of our positive spirits, physical work, financial donations, and joy. Grace is sending our youth to the convention which will be held in late July 2018. Please speak to Jarrod Gaither about the event and how you might get involved. You could make a financial gift to help get our youth there, or help by volunteering during the fundraisers.

More info is available at <https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>.

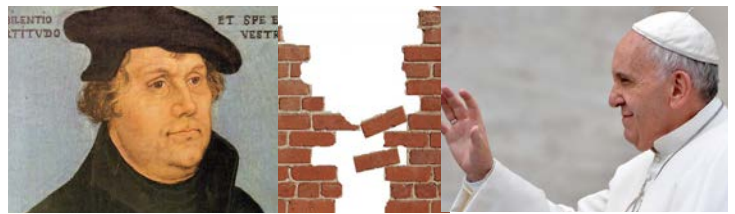
**Pastor Daniel**

### Yarn to Bibles

OK, it's not water to wine, but it's the closest that members of Threads of Grace could manage. Everyone who had contributed to sales of their handmade yarn items agreed to donate their fund to cover the remaining cost of Youth Bibles. It seemed an efficient way to eliminate a red line on the Treasurer's Report.

**Thanks, Threads!**

**Gail Lamont**



## Be a Part of History - Lutherans and Catholics

**October 29, 2017 at 3 pm at the Chapel of the Unnamed on the Northwestern Campus, 2121 Sheridan Road.**

On October 29, 2017, members of nine Lutheran and Catholic congregations will gather at Garrett Theological Seminary's Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful to sign a covenant of unity in doing God's Work. The covenant affirms our mutual beliefs as Christians, identifies our hope for future unity and lists ways for the members of the signature congregations to collaborate in activities that will further these efforts.

For the past year a team of individuals from the signature congregations have been working on a document that bridges our differences and identifies our similarities. That document will be finalized in September and be available for all to read at each of the congregations.

The ceremony will include representatives of each congregation and of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Chicago Metropolitan Synod. Plan to be there and stand with our brothers and sisters in Christ in celebrating our renewed unity.

**A second event will take place on October 31, 2017 at Holy Name Cathedral at 7pm.** This event involves a covenant of unity for Roman Catholic and Lutheran bodies for the entire Chicago Metropolitan area. Cardinal Cupich and Bishop Miller will renew the Archdiocese / Synod Ecumenical Covenant that was signed in 1989. Join others and be a part of a second historical event.

### Catholic Lutheran Marriage and Family

Rescheduled because of presenters' illness, Lutheran Catholic marriages will be the focus of an October 15 gathering at Sheil Catholic Center. We'll look at the gifts and challenges of inter-faith families. Especially if you or family members are blessed with a Lutheran/Catholic inter-church family you'll want to join us. The session begins at 3pm and will end at 5pm at the Sheil Center, 2110 Sheridan Road.

**Connie Wood**

## Pray4Peace July 1, 2017

What a beautiful morning to gather and pray for peace with our neighbors! We also said prayers for Sue [McDaniels, whose funeral was also held on Saturday, July 1st] and all those who are mourning, suffering, or battling illnesses.

I joined our group right when a squad car pulled up and 2 officers joined us in prayer. We then walked up and down the street to meet our other praying partners and were welcomed in prayers for our law enforcement officers by the Fresh Anointing Worship Center (our neighbors on Ridge and South Blvd), and the Baha'is of Evanston, who sang their songs and shared their Prayer for America with us.

Thank you all for this blessed morning that made me feel closer to each of you and our neighbors!

Peace,

Rina [Campbell]



## New Grace Outdoor Sign

The new Grace outdoor sign was dedicated on July 2, 2017. It has a cabinet with easily changeable letters. The sign, associated lighting, and landscaping were made possible by the generous donations of many members and friends.

Special thanks go to the many volunteers who contributed their time and talent to this project, especially Fred Nagelbach, Holly O'Connor, Nancy Starkman, Dee Johnson, Gaylord Otte, Clare Tallon Ruen, and Les and Rachel Stark Inch.



Many of the monetary donations were made in honor of loved ones, including Mary and Franklin Fry, Tony Garcia, Mathyer Family, Lonny Miner, ElenaJane Rebekah Pooler, Ruth and Carroll Shoaf, Talitha Stark, and Eric Utech.

Rachel Stark Inch



# REPORT FROM WORSHIP FEEDBACK TEAM MEETING, JUNE 22, 2017

**Present:** Pastor Ruen, Carmelo Alvarez, Rachel Stark Inch, Bonnie Gunzenhauser, Raquel Rodriguez, Mark Bowman, Christine Collins, Soren Koh, Susan Graef, and Sally Schlecker

*We worked in small groups to first share our own answers to the questions: How are you fed spiritually in worship? How are you left hungry? and How do you see others being fed?*

## HOW ARE YOU FED SPIRITUALLY?

- Sermons are very important. The message stays with me during the week. They [sermons] comfort me, but also make me think. They bring the text alive and help us with the week to come.
- Having memorable experiences in worship.
- Music is so important – variety is valued, with different cultural representations, but also traditional and meaningful hymns. The choir can be inspiring and contribute in surprising ways.
- The silence during the prelude and during the Confession and Forgiveness is valued as a time to let go of anxiety and prepare for worship. There may be ways to add silence to other parts of the service as well.
- Communion “feeds” us in very meaningful ways. Kneeling is meaningful to some, and being able to be next to someone, or look across the space and see the face of another. (We also discussed how to better explain or have ushers help with the “some kneeling/ some standing during communion” to visitors, because it can be confusing to know what to do.)

## HOW ARE YOU LEFT HUNGRY?

- Some are left hungry, wishing for more traditional music which helps remind them of and connect them with their faithful forebears.
- Some would like more instrumental moments, when there are no words.
- Some believe that the older hymns may describe theology which is contradictory to our core values, while others noted that some of the contemporary hymns have “weak” theology.

## HOW DO YOU SEE OTHERS BEING FED?

- Many see that even though they may not resonate with a certain style, others respond well, so the admonition that “Nobody gets what they want ALL of the time” seems fitting.
- “The main course is always there and filling, but the side dishes may sometimes be lacking in fulfillment at certain times for different people.”

## FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION:

- We need better planning so that RIC Sunday/youth Sunday/ and choir Sunday are not all on the same day.
- Applause at certain times can be awkward or even inappropriate. (For example, there was applause to show support in one instance, but it followed someone talking during community time about a friend dying, when it seemed inappropriate.)
- Is there too much politics in church? What is appropriate? Is there too much emphasis on social justice? (Soren’s response to this question was priceless: I don’t see how this can be an issue, because doesn’t the Bible say to love one another?)
- “I love the sermons and the music. Those two things are the main course and are most satisfying for me. I think the youth are great and there’s a wonderful inclusiveness of all ages and orientations.”
- “From the time that PD ran down the aisle with his newly unwrapped millennium falcon from under the Christmas tree, I was hooked. I had to come back and see what Grace was all about. It ended up being a church I’ve always wanted and didn’t know existed. Never thought I’d return to a Lutheran church. The connection he makes to scripture and what’s going on in the world as well as in the “biblical world” is great. And sometimes he makes me think even when I don’t want to.
- I find PD’s sermons to be the most inspiring/meaningful part of worship.
- The sermons let me feel like I’m not alone.
- Sometimes PD talks too fast.
- I am extremely satisfied when we use other creeds—even the one the youth developed. That helps expand my understanding of God.
- I like/prefer everything about the 9:00 AM service, including its efficiency, but I appreciate the musical offerings at the 11:00 service. I love all the talent in the congregation.
- Well-done music with contemporary lyrics and an inspiring sermon are the pieces that feed me spiritually. The rest is mostly routine and uninteresting (had enough routine in the Catholic Church).
- I enjoy the sharing of the peace WAY too much.
- More and more, I find myself craving continuity in regard to liturgy, and that leads to some dissonance for me. I crave that continuity, but at the same time, I like that Grace tries out new music/liturgy/ communion styles/ways of worship. I go back and forth on it . . . it seems like when I’m at an emotional “low”, I want what’s familiar and comfortable. When things are going great, I’m very open to and inspired by the new.
- I know I am in the minority, but I find most of PD’s sermons give me very little. I would like from time to time to hear sermons really based on the Gospel or Lessons of the Day, as opposed to social action themes.



- While the timing of the earlier service is better for our family, the way the service is run does leave me hungry—I can see how it would really resonate with some people, but for me, I feel “removed” from the spirituality. I value the way we take communion and the structure of the later service. There’s peace and clarity in ritual for me.
- I don’t care for standing for the long prayer time and wonder why that is necessary. Why do we say who we’re praying for and then name them again in the prayer? Seems to me that it could be consolidated.
- I like communion, but dislike the pilgrim style. I feel like I am in a queue for a bus. I miss being on my knees and feeling really humble.
- I am particularly resistant to male terminology for God. It’s in the liturgy and the music. I wish our language, which shapes how we think, was more gender inclusive.
- I don’t like the introduction of a more casual approach. I think it is important to have a holy space and that the people who are leading the worship should be up front, not on the side.
- I like the predictability. I come to church to be comforted. I want to hear the gentleness of knowing that we’re going to be OK.

### COMMUNITY TIME:

- I think community time is important. I’ve learned about many opportunities for service and personal growth. I think it’s good to have that reminder of just how much Grace is doing inside and outside our walls.
- Community time is the least spiritual for me. It’s inherently administrative and non-spiritual. It’s a distraction and interruption of worship. The shorter, more organized and direct, the better. Perhaps it should be done before the prelude or after the postlude – outside the time bounds of the worship service?

### MUSIC:

- Mark does a tremendous job with music selection and choir performance.
- We are blessed with so many talented individuals.
- I like the call and response music.
- Sometimes I feel like we change the liturgy too often, and we are spending many Sundays learning new songs, which makes it tough to release one’s self into the narrative of the service, and feeling the quiet meditation while singing the songs we know well.
- I love the new chimes group. Beautiful!
- I’m tired of the two songs we sing each Sunday: Let the Vineyards and The Peace of the Lord. Surely there are others.
- Choir doesn’t have enough rehearsal time. The music isn’t well-prepared. Choir and piano aren’t always together, and lyrics aren’t easy to understand. Cantors need to project more so they can be heard.

### RANDOM:

- We’re a reconciling in Christ church, but are there lost opportunities to have more programming or outreach to attract more gays and lesbians? Feels like there was a change when we lost Jen and Deb.
- I don’t have family nearby. Grace has become our family away from home.
- What feeds me is that I need to see hope in the world –that there are positive forces at work, and that the church is one of the best places for me to find that.
- What leaves me hungry is my own fault – not participating in what is offered here.
- I like to see young families with children. I’d like to see the children and new confirmands more involved in the service – reading scripture, cantoring, playing music. Nice to see a few in the new chimes group.

### TAKE-AWAY POINTS:

- We will have traditional (kneeling) communion at the 11:00 AM service all next year.
- We will continue to strive to implement more gender neutral language, or expand it. (Example: not using “lord”)
- Find more ways to add silence to the service, perhaps in the prayers as well.
- Get feedback to Mark about which hymns are meaningful.
- A task force has been set up to plan for the 500 Year Reformation.

**Submitted by Rachel Stark Inch**

## BRIDGES TO HOME UP-DATE

### Come to a Cabaret!!!

Your Bridges to Home team is making preparations for another enjoyable evening of cabaret to support the young men in residence at Our House who are ready to move on. Last winter one young man completed the program. Thanks to the good work being done at Our House and the young man's determination, he was able to move out on his own without financial support from Bridges. He was able to move in with a friend and at last report was doing well. He returns to Our House regularly to mentor the residents there. Two young men are ready to move on but it has been very difficult to find affordable housing for them.

This is why the support from Bridges is so critical. We hope to see you at Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, Oct. 7th. Watch for a flyer with more information in September. Thank you all in advance for your support.

**Late, breaking news from Sue Loellbach, Manager of Advocacy for Connections for the Homeless on Aug. 22, 2017:**

"We are very excited to share that two young men from Our House moved into a two-bedroom apartment last week. The apartment is in Evanston, not far from Our House, so Our House staff can still get to see them on a regular basis. All their stuff is moved in, they have chosen who gets which bedroom, and they are now decorating the apartment. One of these Bridges to Home residents entered Our House last October, and the other entered Our House last December. Both are employed full-time, and one of them took classes at Oakton this summer. They are both very excited about this next step for them and are very thankful for the opportunity that Bridges to Home is providing."

With that good news guiding us, we urge you to attend the "2nd Annual Bridges to Home Cabaret" on Oct. 7, 2017 at 7:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church at 3637 Golf Rd., Evanston. ALL proceeds will go toward the ongoing Bridges to Home effort to help house Our House graduates.

**Dorothy Nagelbach and Ginny Ayers**

# Bridges to Home

## Cabaret

**October 7th**  
7:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

benefiting Bridges to Home, a partnership between 5 Lutheran churches and Connections for the Homeless to support housing for Evanston young adults

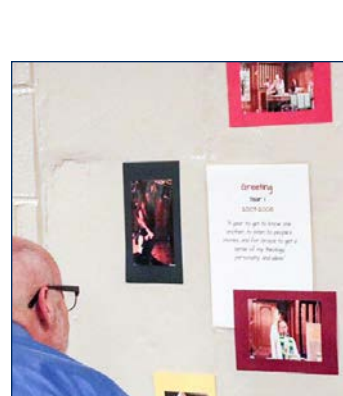
**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
3637 Golf Rd.  
Evanston, IL

**Suggested donation**  
\$20.00

enjoy savory and sweet snacks and a cash bar

If you would like to donate, please send a check to:  
Trinity Lutheran Church,  
3637 Golf Rd., Evanston,  
IL, 60203, with **Bridges to Home** on the memo line.

## Celebration of Pastor Daniel's First Decade at Grace



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

### ELCA presiding bishop responds to DACA announcement

CHICAGO (Sept. 5, 2017) – The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has issued the following statement in response to the Trump administration's announcement about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

"As we journey together through the time God has given us, may God give us the grace of a welcoming heart and an overflowing love for the new neighbors among us" –ELCA social message, "Immigration" (1997).

We are saddened today by the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which provided relief from deportation to young people who have grown up as members of our churches, as neighbors playing with our children, and enriching our communities. We pray today for those who will suffer undue repercussions due to the end of this program. As Lutherans, we regard the family as an indispensable social institution and stand firmly against policies that cause the separation of families.

As we lament this change in policy, we call on members of Congress to pass long-overdue legislation to protect young people brought to the U.S. as children, also known as Dreamers. Our churches, our schools, our communities and the country are enhanced by their presence and contributions. It is time that our immigration policy reflects their gifts to all of us.

**God's peace,**

**Elizabeth A. Eaton , ELCA Presiding Bishop**



## Washington DC Ministers March For Justice, 2017



# Grace

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