



Harbinger

www.graceevanston.org • churchoffice@graceevanston.org July-August 2013

**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.

Rev. Daniel Ruen
Pastor
pd@graceevanston.org

Mark Bowman
Music Director

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

Marie O'Brien
Parish Administrator

Steve Brunger
Sexton

Why the Play in Godly Play?

by Pastor Kaari Reierson



I'll be honest. I didn't commit to Pastor Daniel as my pastor right away. Accustomed as I was to the "frozen chosen" style of worship, I found myself feeling cautious about the intensity of his sermons. But I also figured the call committee probably knew what it was doing, and I trusted my fellow Grace members' judgment, so I waited in hope. He almost had me at the moment he mentioned Ultimate Frisbee, but what truly won me over was his first children's sermon. Pre-Daniel, we were accustomed to children's sermons at Grace where in an adult would sit down with a group of squirming kids, bring a prop, and deliver a short lecture interrupted by mostly amusing, sometimes embarrassing (for the parents more than anyone), but occasionally trenchant commentary from the young audience. This was what I remember growing up, and I didn't really see anything undesirable about it. If anything, I thought it was a good thing that the pastor would sometimes summarize the adult sermon, just in case my mind wandered during that event.

Well, PD had other ideas about what a children's sermon should look like. His idea was that instead

of listening to adults tell them about God, kids should play. So he told them to hide their eyes, and he went and "hid" in the back of the church by the baptismal font. The kids were just so delighted, and so was I. There was God. Not in the delivering of the message from on high to down below, like Moses bringing wisdom down from Mt. Sinai, but in the discovery of the presence of God through play. The way our Godly Play Sunday School curriculum talks about God's presence is "God came so close to them, and they came so close to God..." God comes close in Godly Play; God does not remain remote and inscrutable, something only adults understand and access.

I am firmly committed to the idea that the presence of God be accessible to Graceland Sunday School students. And Godly Play demonstrates a way to make God accessible through play. It seems to me that if you think about

it carefully, you'd probably agree that our liturgy is a ritualized form of play for adults. We dress up, we decorate with beautiful art projects, we sing, we have a special kind of walk, we tell stories, and we have special words and ritual songs. If preschool is a recent memory for you, your children, or your grandchildren, think about how many elements of the rituals of preschool parallel the rituals of Christian



Save the Date!

Sunday, July 14th, 10:00 a.m

**Join us for outdoor worship and then stay for the
all-church picnic on the lawn immediately
following the service. Watch for Details in GraceNotes.**



liturgy. We even have snack time in a circle, thanks to communion. Of course, if you are remembering one of those preschools where they were trying to teach long division to three-year-olds, worship at Grace is really not going to be like that preschool.

Like preschool and like worship, Godly Play is also highly ritualized. All the parables begin with the same set of words, I've already mentioned how Godly Play talks about the presence of God; there is a prescribed placement for different kinds of stories; and we always begin by asking, before a child enters the room for Godly Play, "Are you ready?" It's fine to be "not ready," and those who are not can sit with the doorkeeper until they are. Naturally, it's not all that fun to be sitting in the hallway while everyone else is close up to the play, so readiness usually comes on fairly soon.

We've had a fantastic year of Godly Play, with some great new teachers and people ready to volunteer at the drop of a hat (thank you!!!), a group of kids numbering anywhere from 10-40, and lots of creative, inspiring "work" happening. Godly Play is play, but there's also "work." Work time is once the children have heard the story, and they take time to reflect on the story on their own or in small groups. Sometimes they take the play materials from a story and reconstruct the story. Sometimes they "work" with Legos or clay or paint. The "work" of kids is to play; to create and to discover and explore.

By using Godly Play as a curriculum, Grace commits itself to this notion of children's work as play, of ritual as group bonding play. And I think it's a good thing. After all, adults get to play every week through the liturgy.

Scheduling Events at Grace

Marie O'Brien, Grace Parish Administrator, has been up-dating the online calendar on the Grace website. If you have any events that you would like to post, please email Marie at churchoffice@grace-evanston.org or call the church office 847-475-2211 with the event name, time, and location. This can include things like committee meetings, service groups, or social activities. Having it on the calendar will provide easy access for people to know what's going on and it will help to prevent conflicting events. To view the calendar, just go to www.graceevanston.org and click on "calendar"!

Plant Caregiver Wanted

Although she can't really be replaced, Lonny Miner, long-time member at Grace who has been working with outdoor plants on the Grace grounds for more than 15 years, is seeking to retire from that task. She is no longer able to continue this work which she has performed quite well; we are grateful for her dedicated service over the years. Included is weeding flowers in the large cement square planter located by the entrance to Fellowship Hall and weeding other plants that are located near the doors to the sanctuary. Lonny, who is quite knowledgeable about plants, is willing to provide some assistance to the volunteer who agrees to step in and continue that work. Contact the church office, 847/475-2211, if you are interested and want additional information.

June 19, 2013 Council Meeting Summary

The new Church Council met on June 19, 2013. We welcomed Martha Fry and Jarrod Gaither to the Council, and were happy to have Laura Wally and Les Inch return for a second term. Holly O'Connor, Nate Johnson, Dorothy Nagelbach, and Jon Flaherty are beginning their second year in office.

The June meeting focused on Grace's finances, and putting together a plan to make sure we have policies and procedures in place to keep the Council and the congregation better informed of Grace's finances. To that end, the Finance Committee will re-convene and is looking for another member-at-large. In the interest of being as open and accountable as possible, the Council also decided to include an article in the Harbinger that would inform the congregation of where we currently stand financially. The meeting also included a report from Laura on the Welcome Committee and a report from Nate on an upcoming Sound System meeting.

Grace Member Stephanie Kulke and Liz Dziekan, Co-Winners of Ganser Award

By Larry Gavin, *The Evanston Roundtable*, 6/5/2013

Lisa Dziekan and Stephanie Kulke, are the co-winners of the 2013 Phyllis Ganser Outstanding PTA Volunteer of the Year award, which was presented at the District 65 School Board meeting on May 20.

The award is given to a person who exhibits a commitment to the PTA goal of promoting the welfare of all school children, a willingness to work in any capacity, a spirit and enthusiasm for volunteer work and an ability to engage and involve other volunteers.

In presenting the award, Sue Ganser Levinson summarized some of Ms. Dziekan's and Ms. Kulke's many volunteer activities. Ms. Dziekan has one child at Dewey and another at Nichols. "Some of Lisa's activities have centered on raising funds for the new Dewey Library, tutoring in literacy and working on the composting program and the Dewey Edible Garden," said Ms. Levinson. "Lisa has shown an effervescence and continually ebullient spirit, ... [and she] is taking her ideas for composting and school gardens district-wide."

Ms. Kulke has two children at Dawes. "Ms. Kulke has chaired and coordinated numerous committees at Dawes. She has done communications, event planning, and has solicited for Sol Fest. She volunteers in the classroom, and helps give Dawes garden tours," said Ms. Levinson. "She's committed to ensuring that all children have access to the arts, spearheading Creative Arts Saturday. Additionally, she coordinates Multicultural Night, which celebrates the diversity in the Dawes Community."



Holding flowers, Lisa Dziekan and Stephanie Kulke, to the right, received the 2013 Ganser Award.

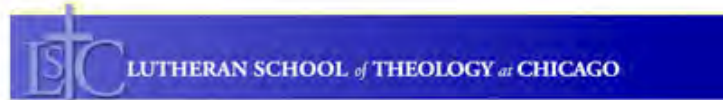
Learn a New Name!

It is our ongoing intention to learn each others' names, so the Welcome Team is asking that EVERYONE wear a name tag.



Please help us save resources by using a pin name tag if you have one. If not, a paper one is available from the ushers.

Please have your name tag (first name only is fine) on before the sharing of the peace and at coffee hour.



Online Classes at Lutheran School of Theology

- Have you ever puzzled over the meaning of the book of Job?
- Want to know more about the historical background of Paul's letters?
- Did you ever wonder how understanding Greek could make the Scriptures come alive for you in a new way?
- Or wanted to know more about Islam?
- Or the variety of religious experiences in early American history?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, there are online classes at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) for you. These classes can be taken as part of a degree program or as a non-degree student.

Go to <http://www.lstc.edu/lifelong-learners/online-learning.php> for more information or contact Scott Chalmers, director of admissions, at schalmers@lstc.edu or 773-256-0727.

Volunteer Webmaster Needed at Interfaith Action of Evanston

Interfaith Action of Evanston needs a volunteer to manage content on HTML-based website (interfaithactionofevanston.org). Duties include updating the home page with upcoming events and updating files on site as needed. HTML experience is preferred. Training opportunities are available, if you are a beginner and want to learn some basics. Time commitment: Flexible. Updates are requested as events are planned, totaling an estimated commitment of no more than an hour each month. Contact: Jackie (jgrinvalds@gmail.com)

2013 Summer Youth Service Trip

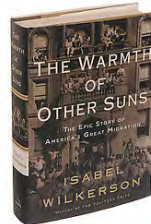
This summer, Jeff Otte and Jarrod Gaither will be teaming up with friends from Trinity and St. Luke's for the summer service trip. We'll be flying out to Colorado on July 28 to Harvest Farm, a residential facility for adults who are in recovery from substance abuse.

After our work, we've built in some time for play, and will be spending two days at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in the mountains outside of Denver. We may even be able to squeeze in a white-water rafting outing! We'll be raising funds throughout the summer and thank the congregation in advance for all of their support.

GRACE NEWS & EVENTS

One More 2013 Graduate!

Northwestern,
(Ph.D. in Civil Engineering)



Grace Book Group

Our next book group will meet on September 22nd at Ron and Sue Graef's home, 1928 Westleigh Dr, Glenview, IL 60025, 847-724-8298. We will discuss **Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk** by Ben Fountain.

Then on November 10th, we will meet at Nancy Mathyer's home, and discuss **The Warmth of Other Suns** by Isabel Wilkerson. This is a longer book, so we want to give people advanced warning to start their reading earlier than is customary.

For Evanston Residents

Recycling Fair & Equipment Display Set for July 13



The City of Evanston will be hosting its third annual recycling fair from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 13 at Evanston Township High School, located at 1600 Dodge Ave. The fair provides residents an opportunity to recycle a variety of items, securely shred documents, obtain recycling education materials, learn about construction projects, visit with "green" vendors and get a close look at some of the Streets and Sanitation heavy equipment.

July and August Birthdays

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 07/02 | Mary Mathyer
Kaari Reiersen |
| 7/05 | Emma Mosco-Flint |
| 07/03 | Vicki Mayne |
| 07/04 | Isaac Tallon Ruen |
| 07/05 | Norman Sielig |
| 07/06 | Bonnie
Gunzenhauser |
| 07/08 | Mark Pitchford |
| 07/11 | Kyle Murphy |
| 07/13 | Eun-Kyu Koh |
| 7/15 | Cassidy Boon |
| 07/16 | DeeAnn Johnson
Dave Thacker
Marvin Scroggins |
| 07/17 | Tim Schanney |
| 7/18 | Jill Flaherty |
| 07/24 | Holly O'Connor |
| 07/29 | Jonathan Graef
Anastazia Martinez |
| 08/03 | Nate Brown |
| 08/05 | Steve Brunger |
| 08/08 | Bill Repsold
Don Wendland |
| 8/9 | Rosario Thacker |
| 08/13 | Lara Galicia |
| 08/18 | Nell Ferguson |
| 08/20 | John Pedersen |
| 08/22 | Jeffrey Otte |
| 8/25 | Leighton Daley |
| 08/31 | Henry Owen 3rd
Sadie Vinson |



JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 7

Presiding Pastor Kaari Reiersen
Preaching Pastor Kaari Reiersen
Assisting Minister Carolyn Utech
Lector Bob Lamont
Cantor Stephanie Kulke
Acolyte Logan Spies
Ushers Russ Kohnken, Nate Brown
Coffee Hour Bob and Gail Lamont
Altar Care Janet Wright & Deb Mitchell
Nursery Care Nina Alvarez
Altar Flowers Jan Blackburn

July 14 - Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic

Presiding Pastor Jen Rude
Preaching Pastor Jen Rude
Assisting Minister Jarrod Gaither
Lector Marilyn Grinager Mason
Cantor Reggie Bruce
Acolyte William Thacker
Ushers Russ Kohnken, Nate Brown
Coffee Hour Holly & Jim O'Connor
Altar Care Susan Graef & Nancy Schubert
Nursery Care Deb Mitchell
Altar Flowers Jan Blackburn

July 21

Presiding Pastor Raquel Rodriguez
Preaching Pastor Raquel Rodriguez
Assisting Minister Rachel Stark Inch
Lector Brian Vinson
Cantor Lisa Kosnik
Acolyte Thandi Steele
Ushers Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf & Cecilia Galicia
Coffee Hour Nancy Stewart & Nancy Starkman
Altar Care Susan Graef & Nancy Schubert
Nursery Care Dee Johnson
Altar Flowers Jill Flaherty

July 28

Presiding Pastor Fred Reklau
Preaching Pastor Fred Reklau
Assisting Minister Paul Bailey
Lector Mark Mathyer
Cantor Jan Blackburn
Acolyte Cecilia Galicia
Ushers Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf & Cecilia Galicia
Coffee Hour Ann Stevens, Lonny Miner
Altar Care Christian Lantry & Deb Mitchell
Nursery Care Nancy Schubert/Cecilia Galicia
Altar Flowers Jan Blackburn

YES!!!

ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation is reacting with joy to today's [6-26-13] Supreme Court decisions on same-gender marriage: to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and the majority opinion that affirmed state marriage laws seeking to protect people "in personhood and dignity." The organization also rejoices in the freedom to marry that same-gender couples in California have been granted again in the court's ruling on Proposition 8 in that state.

"We as Christians consider people of all sexual orientations and gender identities worthy of dignity and respect," said Emily Eastwood, Executive Director of ReconcilingWorks. "As people of faith, we believe that with dignity and respect should come the freedom to marry and equal protection under the law. We celebrate today's

decisions." Eastwood declared this a landmark day for legal and civil protections of LGBT people and recalled another landmark in 2009 when members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) changed its policy to allow gay and lesbian people to marry in ELCA congregations in states where legal.

Just last month, the ELCA's Southwest California Synod elected a bishop, the Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin, who is openly gay and Native American, both firsts for the denomination. Bishop-Elect Erwin's life-partner is Rob Flynn.

With the court's ruling on Proposition 8, there are now 21 (of 65 total) ELCA synods located in states recognizing same-gender marriage. These synods represent 38 percent of the total ELCA membership.

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 4

Presiding Pastor Raquel Rodriguez
Preaching Pastor Raquel Rodriguez
Assisting Minister Kim Brown
Lector Ginny Ayers
Cantor Dominique Baptiste
Acolyte David Thacker
Ushers Sydell Reeves & Ann Stevens
Coffee Hour Nancy Schubert
Altar Care Christian Lantry & Deb Mitchell
Nursery Care Ann Stevens
Altar Flowers Jill Flaherty

August 11

Presiding Pastor Raquel Rodriguez
Preaching Pastor Raquel Rodriguez
Assisting Minister Ron Graef
Lector Christine Collins
Cantor Kelly Hackett
Acolyte Julia Shoaf
Ushers Sydell Reeves & Ann Stevens
Coffee Hour Helen & Larry Yarbrough
Altar Care Helen Yarbrough & Sue McDaniels
Nursery Care Nina Alvarez
Altar Flowers Dee Johnson

August 18

Presiding Pastor Kaari Reiersen
Preaching Joe Flint
Assisting Minister Rosario Thacker
Lector Susan Graef
Cantor Nate Johnson
Acolyte Zinzi Steele
Ushers Larry Yarbrough & Jon Flaherty
Coffee Hour Carolyn & Dave Utech
Altar Care Helen Yarbrough & Sue McDaniels
Nursery Care Deb Mitchell
Altar Flowers Dee Johnson

August 25

Presiding Pastor Jen Rude
Preaching Brian Vinson
Assisting Minister Ron Graef
Lector Les Inch
Cantor Bonnie Gunzenhauser
Acolyte Logan Spies
Ushers Larry Yarbrough & Jon Flaherty
Coffee Hour Susan and Ron Graef
Altar Care Lisa Kosnik & Nancy Stewart
Nursery Care Dee Johnson
Altar Flowers Dee Johnson

Grace Speaks...About Worship

The Worship Committee thanks the 24 Grace members who took the time to complete the worship survey in recent weeks. The compiled responses provide great wisdom and insight about this key aspect of our community life. As the committee reviewed the results an initial observation was that—for every strong opinion expressed, another person expressed the opposite feeling! An example of the diversity of the Grace family—there will typically be positive and negative feelings about any part of worship.

In general, the elements of worship that are experienced most positively are: preaching; Communion; musical leaders; and the appearance of the sanctuary. Elements which get more mixed review are: starting time; community time; and coffee hour. There

was strong affirmation for our ongoing attempts to balance familiar traditions with the new in worship, while acknowledging that we may tip a bit far one way or the other on occasion. There was also strong affirmation for singing as a key element of worship, while noting the difficulty of appealing to a variety of musical preferences and abilities.

The Worship Committee will review and discuss the survey responses in the coming weeks and incorporate some of the suggestions into our worship. If anyone else would like a copy of the 11-page compilation, contact Mark at markleby@comcast.net. If you didn't complete the survey and would like to do so, you can find copies in the entryway to the sanctuary.

About RIC and Grace Lutheran Church of Evanston

Lutherans Concerned/North America is an organization independent of the ELCA that was established to work for the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Lutherans in all aspects of life in the Church and its congregations. LC/NA calls for the blessing of committed and covenanted same-gender relationships and for the ordination of LGBT believers who are called to ministry.

In 1984 LC/NA introduced its Reconciling in Christ Program to recognize Lutheran communities that publicly and specifically welcome LGBT worshipers. The roster of RIC congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries and organizations now exceeds 450.

Congregations often ask why a general statement of welcome is not sufficient for RIC recognition. Sadly, it still takes a special effort to communicate a sincere welcome to the LGBT community. To this day the voices of fear and ignorance dominate the public discussion of human sexuality issues. LC/NA continues to learn of Lutheran churches that shun LGBT worshipers, and sometimes their parents, siblings, children and friends also are vilified. A general statement of welcome is heard by most LGBT people as "everybody but me," so the RIC program strives to make clear the policy of those Lutheran communities where all people truly are welcomed as full members, regardless of their sexual orientation, their gender identity, or that of their family or friends.

Here at Grace we began our journey in earnest to become an RIC congregation in 2003, when a group studied the ELCA's "Journey Together Faithfully, Part 2: The Church and Homosexuality." That study document was part of the process for the ELCA to learn together and decide on recommendations to be presented to a future Church-wide convention, particularly relating to ordination of LGBT candidates for the ministry. The members of Grace's study group concluded that:

- There should not be any extraordinary barriers to the ordination of LGBT pastoral candidates.
- The church at large should develop formal ways to recognize and bless committed same-sex relationships, even if civil authorities may not recognize those unions.
- Grace should consider becoming an RIC congregation and adopt an Affirmation of Welcome that would affirm our core values of treasuring diversity, striving to be a caring community, and seeking ways to put our faith into action courageously.

Following the study group's recommendations, our entire congregation had opportunities to join in the conversation and to explore the relevant issues in small groups or in private reflection with our pastors, Revs. Stefan Rickman and Kaari Reiersen. We especially were blessed that Pastor Kaari, as the Associate Director of the Church in Society at ELCA, was working with the diverse committee that was sanctioned by the ELCA to produce the deliberative documents and recommendations for action, so we had the benefit of her understanding of the issues and the pulse of the ELCA.



A proposed Affirmation of Welcome was submitted for consideration at Grace's May 23, 2004 annual congregational meeting.

Our congregation voted to adopt the proposed Affirmation of Welcome, which now is proudly proclaimed on our Web site and is included in our bulletin every Sunday. Our congregation also voted to register as an RIC Congregation, and Grace is listed in the LC/NA database for anyone who is searching for a local ELCA RIC congregation.

Grace's Micah 6:8 ministry came to be when a group of sisters and brothers felt called to take the next step in carrying out Grace's Affirmation of Welcome. The ministry's name comes from the simple yet profound appeal of the prophet Micah to respect and honor all members of God's creation: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?"

In May 2009 Grace took a bold step beyond our RIC identity. The Micah 6:8 ministry proposed an amendment to Grace's constitution, which the Grace church council recommended to the congregation, that would allow Grace to call a qualified minister with gifts that would be a best fit for Grace, regardless of his/her sexual orientation or gender identity. That same recommendation would be considered – and, remarkably, would be passed – at the Church-wide Assembly in August, but when Grace considered adopting it, it meant that we would be in principled non-compliance with the ELCA and in risk of sanctions by the synod. To add to our crazy gamble, at the time of the vote Pastor Daniel had only completed the second year of his service to Grace, so a clergy call wasn't even in our cards! Nevertheless, our congregation felt called to acknowledge that so many of the best candidates for ordained ministry were denied that path of service in the ELCA, and Grace unanimously adopted the proposed constitutional amendment.

When in August 2009 the ELCA Church-wide Assembly resolved to ordain qualified candidates in committed same-sex relationships, Grace no longer needed to take the next step to amend our constitution, and just like that we went from rogue congregation to joyous supporters of our denomination's determination for justice and full inclusion. Our celebration of what we saw as the essence of the call of the prophet Micah, though, was tempered by the recognition of the pain of other ELCA congregations. We continue to consider how to reconcile with congregations who disagree with us on the issue of full inclusion; we also continue to seek ways to be genuinely welcoming to the LGBT community.

If you have questions about Grace's RIC ministry or wish to become part of our welcoming initiatives, please speak with a member of Grace's Micah 6:8 group - Ginny Ayers, Terence Blain, Tony Garcia, Sue Graef, Ron Graef, Anne Laurence, Marilyn Mason, Mark Mathyer, Pastor Daniel, Tim Schannep, Nancy Stewart or Carolyn Utech.

Anne Laurence

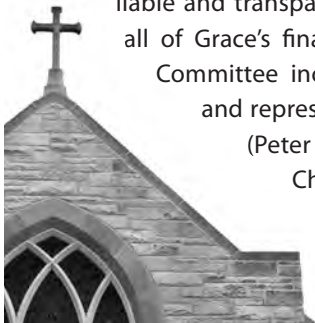
From the Council

It is hard to believe that six weeks have already passed since Pastor Daniel left for sabbatical. During that time we have continued to worship together, cared for each other and have strived to be good stewards of our many gifts. As a congregation we are more than fortunate to have the spiritual guidance of Pastors Kaari Reiersen, Jen Rude and Raquel Rodriguez and an active Worship committee under the guidance of Mark Bowman, Grace's Music Director. We also feel the support of several local pastors who made themselves available to us for emergency pastoral care. Marie O'Brien is keeping the church office humming along. Thank you all.

On Wednesday, June 19 the new Church Council convened for its first meeting. Martha Fry and Jarrod Gaither join Holly O'Connor, Dorothy Nagelbach, Jon Flaherty, Nate Johnson, Laura Wally and Les Inch. Russ Kohnken attended the meeting as Church Treasurer. Martha and Jarrod will serve as the Council's Education liaisons.

Wednesday's meeting focused mainly on Grace's finances and rightly so. At the May 5, 2013 Congregational Meeting, it was reported that Grace had fulfilled its 2012 benevolences (Partners in Ministry.) That was not accurate and the Council apologizes for the misinformation. The major deficiency was a \$9,000 shortfall to the Synod. This has been corrected and a check for that amount was sent to the Bishop on June 14 with our apology for the delay. In total, \$24,537 was provided in 2012 benevolences. These are from the operating budget, and do not include the donations made from the Courage Fund.

The error raises significant concerns, both of policy and procedures as well as Grace's commitments. On the policy and procedural front, the Finance Committee, established in April 2011 but relatively inactive over the past twelve months, will be re-convened. The Committee's purpose is to "ensure the accurate, prudent, reliable and transparent accounting of and oversight for all of Grace's financial obligations." Members of that Committee include the Treasurer (Russ Kohnken), and representatives from the Capital Campaign (Peter Spies), Courage Fund (Paul Bailey), Church Council (Nate Johnson) and members-at-large (Anne Laurence.) The Committee is seeking an additional member-at-large.



Grace will return to using Powerchurch [online version], the tracking software we have used in the past. A plan to use a QuickBooks online program was not successful. Powerchurch has been ordered. It will take some time to set up and load our data for 2013. When caught up (estimated time frame is the end of summer), we will be able to prepare contribution statements more readily and accurately maintain records.

Regarding our commitment, the Grace community is very generous in sharing our gifts. While our history is one of meeting our budgeted benevolence late in the year and even dipping into the next year, we have met them. While doing so, we are also reaching the audacious Courage Fund goal of giving away \$75,000 and working at keeping up with the \$385,000 members pledged to the Capital Campaign.

The Congregation and the Council are committed to fulfilling our budgetary commitments. However, as of June 15, 2013, we are \$20,000 short of the revenue needed to meet year-to-date 2013 expenses. This includes being on track for benevolences. To-date, \$1,870 (of a budgeted \$24,200) has been distributed for 2013 benevolences.

The Council has been asked to review paying benevolences before any other obligations are met. This was discussed with Pastor Daniel at the May Council meeting and again at the June meeting. The Council reaffirms its commitment to meet all obligations. The Treasurer, with the support of the Council and the Finance Committee, will review monthly expenditures to determine payment schedules so benevolences can be paid more timely. However, we do not feel it prudent or responsible to establish benevolences above all else as policy. Our obligations to staff and obligations to the ministries which regularly use our space (YOU, Family Promise, Samaritan Center) are equally important.

We know the challenges, so what are the solutions? We will grapple with this soon when we meet to plan the 2014 budget. We need everyone's participation as a problem-solver.

In the meantime, if you wish to make a special contribution for benevolences please do so. Mark the contribution accordingly. Also, please call a Council member with any questions. The Council meets next on July 10 at 7 PM. If you would like to join the meeting for any part please let Les Inch know.

Third Sundays = Breakfast Groceries for Interfaith Action of Evanston



On or before Sunday, July 21 and August 18, 2013 please bring supplies of groceries for breakfast, or donate cash to buy the groceries.



The Third Sunday of every month, Grace Lutheran provides a week's worth of breakfast foods for the Interfaith Action of Evanston Hospitality Center for the Homeless. During "Grace's" week, Susan Murphy and her staff will provide breakfast daily for about 40 guests at the Center.



We shop for and deliver frozen waffles, 5 or more bags of citrus fruit, 60+ yogurt cups, oatmeal packets, 8 loaves of bread, butter, jams, syrup, milk, 6 gallons of orange juice, 6 gallons of other fruit juices, graham crackers, saltine crackers, snack crackers, coffee cans and cream, 6-8 cream cheese packages, teabags, sugar, cocoa canisters in quantity, needing enough for over 200 breakfasts in five days. The shopping list usually amounts to \$160 -\$200 beyond whatever non-perishable items are donated.

Report on the Metro Chicago Synod Assembly of May 31- June 1, 2013

Bob Carroll and Ginny Ayers were chosen to be the Grace delegates to the annual assembly, held this year in the Tinley Park Convention Center. The 45-mile drive each way X4 gave us time to plan our days on the easy commutes down and discuss events in the traffic jams on the way back home.

Always Being Made New was the theme of the assembly this year in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the forming of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our national church body. The MetroChicago Synod is one of 65 synods that comprise the 4.2 million member Lutheran church in the United States and the Caribbean.

We heard reports from the ELCA representative, VP Carlos E. Pena, and we voted for candidates for the offices of Synod Bishop, Synod Vice President, and Synod Secretary. While multiple ballots were expected, all three incumbents were re-elected with only two ballots. The officers are: Bishop Wayne Miller, VP Nanette Dahlke, and Secretary Rev. Steven Srock.

Outstanding (in the opinion of your delegates) was the keynote address given by Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom, the first Bishop of the ELCA from founding in 1987 to 1995. His address included very interesting highlights of the early years with humorous mention of the debate on where to locate the national headquarters, as well as personal memories of his journey of faith from youth to his present 81 years. He reminded us all to take a chance and invite people to come to church, a habit formed from his early job selling door to door.

We heard reports from all the officers, ate lunch with the churches in our conference, and then attended workshops on topics which included: Peace in the Holy Land, Boy Scout of America troops sponsored by ELCA congregations, Ministry to same-gender couples and families, and financial issues for congregations.

A confession: we did not attend the worship service at the end of the first day because we needed to get back home for family obligations. From what we heard, we missed a beautiful service.

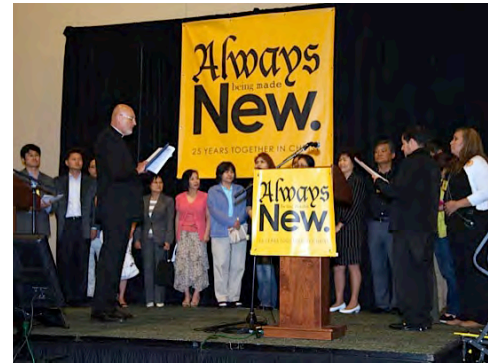
We began our 2nd day with a brief service of hymns, Bible readings, and devotions. Elections for synod council and 2 committees were held. The highlight of this day was the address on the state of the synod given

by Bishop Wayne Miller. While he gave a good report on the past history of the synod, of special note was his idea to create Affiliate Mission Communities, groups of worshipers who meet outside of traditional church buildings under the guidance of a missionary. The goal of the AMCs is outreach to those who will never affiliate with traditional congregations. The 2014 budget was passed, and several resolutions and memorials were debated and passed.

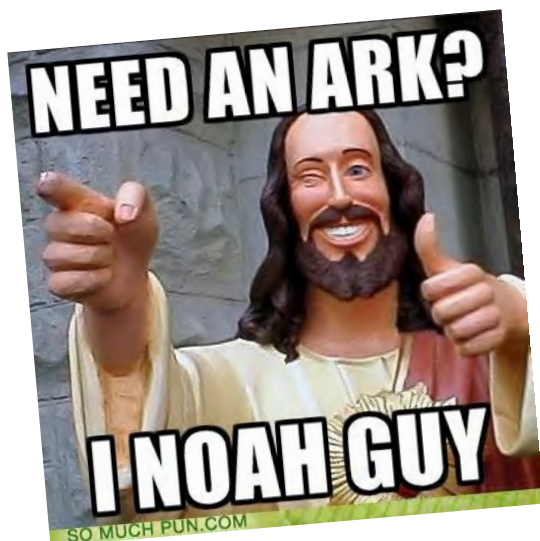
Anniversaries of congregations and individual ministers were noted. Bob and I stood up when Grace's 75th anniversary was announced, and former Grace pastor Rev. Frederick Reklau stood up when he was honored for his coming 50th anniversary of ministry. Two new congregations, Iglesia de la Santa Cruz and Naperville Yuhlin Church, were welcomed into the synod. While at the assembly, we enjoyed meeting up with former Grace member Barb Hiller from Trinity Lutheran in Glenview and Rev. Dawn M. Mass from Messiah Lutheran Church in Wauconda.

Thank you for allowing us to represent Grace at this assembly and for the exciting opportunities to hear of the work of the synod and national bodies of our Lutheran Church. While we know that we do important work in our own community, it is always broadening to realize that we are also part of state, national, and global work as well.

For much more detailed information, please see the synod webpage report on the assembly. <http://www.mcselca.org/assembly/>



Official July - August Filler Page!



The Picnic

A Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter. "This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it.. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?" The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding!"

Show and Tell

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object that represented their religion to share with the class.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David."

The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary."

The third student got in up front of the class and said, "My name is Johnny. I am Lutheran, and this is a casserole."



July - August Calendar

Every Sunday 10:00 Worship followed by coffee hour



Find us at GraceEvanston.org

Grace Church Council

Les Inch, Chair,

Jon Flaherty, Martha Fry, Jarrod Gaither, Nathan Johnson,
Dorothy Nagelbach, Holly O'Connor, Laura Wally

Grace

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