



# Harbinger

www.graceevanston.org • churchoffice@graceevanston.org

May 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**

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**Marie O'Brien  
Parish Administrator**

•

**Steve Brunger  
Sexton**

## CRS Day of Faith in Action in Springfield

Last week, Grace sent several members to Springfield, IL for the Community Renewal Society's Day of Faith in Action. More than 460 adults, youth and children from more than 75 member congregations jumped on the bus to lobby our elected officials, to rally and to pray.



This year we stood up to secure second chances for people with nonviolent criminal records, and won passage of House Bill 3061. After four years of staying record-free with a nonviolent felony charge, this bill ensures a citizen can apply for work without fear of being turned down because of their past. Of course, the police and federal government will still have access to these records. No police or law enforcement agency fought this bill, nor did any business group or chamber of commerce, especially after we made reasonable changes to it. Now it goes to the Senate, where we believe it has a very good chance of advancing. If it passes, it will immediately change the lives of tens of thousands who have already been out of jail for four years or more, allowing them to re-integrate back into society by applying for jobs, to support and raise their families, to pay their taxes—not enter back into the prison system which, as you know, costs taxpayers more money and further destabilizes communities all over the state. Also, Governor Quinn is issuing an executive order that will remove criminal background pre-screening questions on state employment applications, which is an incredible victory in and of itself!

All of this is a great lesson in persistence, hope and the power of working together as people of

faith to inspire change. Bob and Gail Lamont, Bob Carroll, Joe Flint, Ginny Ayers and I were up 'dark and early' (4:30am or thereabouts) on Tuesday, April 16 so we could make our bus departure from Irving Park Baptist Church. We piled in with many north side Community Renewal Society members, and settled in for the

long ride to Springfield. Before we arrived we were briefed on the specific bills and meeting topics for the day. Most of us were placed with an Evanston group made up of Grace and the Evanston Unitarian Church. We had great spirit and organization, already having won meetings with Senator Daniel Biss and Representative Robyn Gabel earlier in the week. We met two other reps outside of our district at the rail (the area next to the entrance of the House). Our mission was to ask all representatives of the state to fight for HB 3061 and also include the titling of guns, background checks, and penalties for lost and stolen firearms in an upcoming bill already put forth by Speaker Mike Madigan.

It wasn't until we went to the cafeteria for lunch that I realized how many of us in orange CRS shirts were there: more than 460 made the trip this year, and it was an impressive sight (the first year I went we had about 150 people). Almost 500 CRS members met with dozens of reps from all over the state throughout the day, standing in line at the rail for hours, trying to catch reps as they left their offices, tirelessly calling and texting their offices to get some face time. One of the pastors who led the final prayer vigil spoke about how he mistakenly believed for years that if he just voted, he was taking care of his civic duty. "But no," he went on, "you need to add your voice to your vote!" That's what we experienced together in Springfield this year.

Once we were finished with our meetings, we held a nonviolent action in the capitol rotunda. When we

*Grace Annual Meeting*

**May 5, 2013,**

**Mark your calendar and plan to attend  
the meeting.**

Continued on next page

### Faith in Action, Continued

arrived in Springfield we were all given a name of someone who had been killed by gun violence to wear on our backs, so when the call went out in the rotunda, all 460 of us (how tragic that with more than 500 deaths in 2012, even we couldn't bear the total name count on our bodies) lay down on the ground showing our tags. It was a kind of 'die-in', meant to ritualize the darkness of what guns and hatred continue to do in the City of Chicago. We then held a brief prayer vigil near the Lincoln Statue and boarded the buses for home. It was an exhausting day, but an energizing one.

I hope you might consider joining us next year, as we build more people of faith into a powerful and loving advocacy bloc to inspire change in our communities. Add your Christian voice to your vote! If you have any questions, please email Pastor Daniel at [pd@grace-evanston.org](mailto:pd@grace-evanston.org) or speak to one of our Grace group who attended.





## Grace Council Candidates:

### Jarrold Gaither

I have been a member of Grace for the past 3 years, joining shortly after my partner Jeremy and I moved to Evanston. I decided to join Grace after seeing what a caring, progressive and socially-conscious community it is. Before moving to Evanston, I spent 8 years as a special educator; first in Naperville and then in the Chicago area. I've spent the past three years assisting in the operation of Jeremy's photography business. I've made a lot of great memories working with the high school youth at Grace, chaperoning summer trips for the past two years. This summer, I'm looking forward to making more memories during the youth service trip to Colorado.

### Martha Fry

I have been a member of Grace since our oldest son was a baby and now as a college sophomore he towers over me! My husband Bob and I were first attracted to Grace by its proximity to our home, but we quickly came to appreciate the closeness of the community we have found here. We have three children, Ben, Sam, and Julia. I asked to be considered for a position on the council because I want to support the church, yet also see it as an opportunity to connect with the members of Grace. I co-lead the Sunday School program when my sons were younger, served on the worship committee, am a consistent ground beef casserole maker and have created some of the presentations for the Capital Campaign. I look forward to diving into this effort with a great deal of excitement and energy.

## Courage Fund Matching Fund Gift Announced!

An anonymous donor at Grace has offered to match up to \$5,000 if we can raise that same amount by June 1, 2013, which would help us to meet our more than \$20,000 left to realize the \$75,000 goal. Are you willing to make a contribution, thus helping us to meet that goal? All amounts are welcome, and if several people offer small amounts that can quickly add up to \$5000.

## Summer Youth Service Trip - 2013

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 28th to Harvest Farm, a residential facility for adults who are in recovery from substance abuse. The treatment plan at this unique 209-acre facility includes training on a fully functional farm and equips the residents with the work skills they'll need to find gainful employment once their recovery is stable. Our group will participate in the Farm's Youth Servant Project, helping out with the farm, kitchen and any area of need. 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



### Coffee Hour!

I'm starting to work on a new Coffee Hour Schedule and if you haven't had an opportunity to serve as part of hospitality and welcoming on Sunday morning, please consider it. The new schedule starts in June. You are asked to serve once or twice a year. In the good weather, we gather outside after worship. Your first time, we will help you find your way around the kitchen. If you would like to be added to the schedule, please e-mail me at [schubertn@com-cast.net](mailto:schubertn@com-cast.net).

Nancy Schubert



### Sunday, May 5: Farewell Lunch for PD and Family

There will be a catered Departure Celebration Luncheon for all in the Fellowship Hall after worship. A congregational resource guide will be handed out and questions answered about Grace's time of renewal, development and exploration.

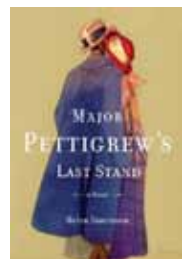


## May Birthdays

- 05/03 Nancy Schubert
- 05/03 Susan Dodt
- 05/04 Barry Buck
- 05/07 Kara Sokol
- 05/08 Nancy Mathyer
- 05/09 Nate Johnson
- 05/16 Tony Garcia
- 05/18 Martin Inch
- 05/18 Marie Auguste
- 05/21 Melanie Gibbons  
Madelyn Boon
- 05/22 Philip Kohnken
- 05/23 Nancy Van Brundt
- 05/24 Helen Yarbrough
- 05/28 Paula Wendland

### Grace Book Group

Our next book group will meet on June



23rd, 3:00 - 5:00 at the home of Carolyn and Dave Utech, 165 N. Canal St., #1329, Chicago, 60606, 312-441-9631. We will discuss **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand** by Helen Simonson.

Then in August/September we will discuss Billy Lynn's **Long Halftime Walk** by Ben Fountain. Place and date to be arranged.

# MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## May 5

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Megan Sawyer  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Megan Sawyer  
**Lector** ..... Les Inch  
**Cantor** ..... Lisa Kosnik  
**Acolyte** ..... Logan Spies  
**Ushers** ..... Larry Yarbrough & Jon Flaherty  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Nancy & Mark Mathyer  
**Altar Care** ..... Christian Lantry & Deb Mitchell  
**Nursery Care** ..... Deb Mitchell  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Dorothy Nagelbach

## May 12

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Jarrod Gaither  
**Lector** ..... Marilyn Grinager Mason  
**Cantor** ..... Reggie Bruce  
**Acolyte** ..... Joanie Daye  
**Ushers** ..... Russ Kohnken, Nate Brown  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Kim & Danny Brown  
**Altar Care** ..... Christian Lantry & Deb Mitchell  
**Nursery Care** ..... Dee Johnson  
**Altar Flowers** ..... TBD

## May 19

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Jen Rude  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Jen Rude  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Carolyn Utech  
**Lector** ..... Ann Stevens  
**Cantor** ..... Dominique Baptiste  
**Acolyte** ..... William Thacker  
**Ushers** ..... Russ Kohnken, Nate Brown  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Joe & Vicki Mayne  
**Altar Care** ..... Helen Yarbrough & Sue McDaniels  
**Nursery Care** ..... Nancy Schubert/Cici Galicia  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Dee Johnson

## May 26

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Kaari Reiersen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Kaari Reiersen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Paul Bailey  
**Lector** ..... Larry Yarbrough  
**Cantor** ..... Nate Johnson  
**Acolyte** ..... Thandi Steele  
**Ushers** ..... Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf & Cecilia Galicia  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Carolyn & Dave Utech  
**Altar Care** ..... Helen Yarbrough & Sue McDaniels  
**Nursery Care** ..... Nina Alvarez  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Jill Flaherty



## Worship Notes: The Summer Plan

Well, we're finally at the cusp of an exciting summer at Grace. It's a great opportunity for this congregation to work together relationally and intentionally, to discover new things about yourselves and 'the way things have been done,' so that when I return from Sabbatical we might have better information, new challenges and a more empowered Body of Christ.

As many of you know, Pastors Kaari, Jen and Raquel will be working closely with our Director of Music, Mark Bowman, to design and lead inspiring worship at Grace while I am away. Also, we will have three (maybe four?) preachers from the congregation to add to the mix: Jarrod Gaither, Joe Flint and Brian Vinson. The full schedule will be released in your Sabbatical Resource Guide on Sunday, May 5th at the celebration luncheon, after the annual meeting. The Worship Committee will team up with Jen, Kaari and Raquel as well as others who attended the leadership retreat. They will form a Super Summer Resource Team, making sure weekly worship duties are covered and enhanced. They have some exciting ideas to try while I'm away, so give them your support, and bring your ideas and questions to them. You can talk to Mark Bowman, any of the pastors filling in, or members of the standing worship team: Sue Graef, Bonnie Gunzenhauser, or Rachel Stark-Inch.

God's Peace and Joy to you, and I will look forward to our reunion (back at the Welcome Table) on Sunday, September 8th!

**Pastor Daniel Ruen**

## Upcoming Adult Ed offerings

### *Carmelo Alvarez*

Pastor Raquel and her husband, Pastor Carmelo, have led lives of courageous service in Latin America, especially during the military juntas of the 1980's. Come and hear their inspiring story for Sunday, May 5th and Sunday, May 12th at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall

Adult Ed Movie Night: Perhaps there will be one offered this Summer? Look for more info in the Gracenotes and Bulletin!

## Decorate Your Head and Make Your Heart Feel Good!

Pastor Katie Hines-Shah and her family were members here at Grace for about a year or so. One Easter, Pastor Katie wore a fabulous fuchsia fascinator. She continued to wear it regularly on those Sundays when she sat in a pew. Then she received a pastoral call to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hinsdale. She realized to her horror that, as presiding pastor, she would not have the opportunity to wear her fancy (but liturgically incorrect) hat any more. So Pastor Katie gave her hat to Grace to be auctioned off to benefit the Courage Fund. Last year, Jan Blackburn won the auction. After wearing it several times, she decided to auction it off again. This year, I won the auction and wore the fascinator for Easter. I had such fun that I want to share the good times.

Therefore, you, too, can wear the fabulous fuchsia fascinator for a donation of \$5 (or more) to the Courage Fund. Consider being glamorous for a graduation, magnificent on Mother's Day, wonderful at a wedding. Best of all, be the person who turns heads at Grace on the Sunday of your choosing. It will be a churchly "Where's Waldo?" as members wonder who will be especially gorgeous on the coming Sunday. Perhaps you think you have to be brave to wear this. Remember, giving to the Courage Fund can be an act of courage as well as grace.

To schedule yourself or a friend or loved one to wear THE HAT, email me at [carolyndave@att.net](mailto:carolyndave@att.net).

**Carolyn Utech**



Happy Mother's Day!

## Threads of Grace...The Work Continues.

All those who knit, crochet, or sew are busy making clothing for premature babies. Because these babies come early and unannounced, parents are usually not ready for them with appropriate clothing. Since Evanston Hospital has expressed gratitude for our previous donations of clothing for premature infants, we continue to try to fill this need. Our target date to complete this project is June 30th. See Gail Lamont for patterns.

Threads continues to meet the first Wednesday evening of the month at 7 PM at church. Projects are discussed and novice knitters (especially this writer) are given instruction and encouragement. But, if one more night out doesn't work for you, no worries. It's your crafts that really matter.



As we are always trying to expand our group and our gifts beyond these church walls, Gail Lamont represented Threads at "Unity Weekend" held at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, April 19-21, 2013. Gail joined knitters from various faith groups in the "Knit One, Purl Two" session. She shared our past projects (banners, Linus Project, Premie Clothing, Chemo Caps, Evanston School Children's Clothing Association scarves, and Chicago Uptown Ministry hats, scarves and gloves) with those who attended. They were glad to get these project ideas for their own groups.

One last thing...if clothes for preemies are not your calling, we always need more prayer shawls. Just ask anyone who has received one, how much this gift can lift spirits and heal. Any of us (including this writer) can give you patterns for prayer shawls. All you have to do is knit or crochet and pray!

**Ginny Ayers, for Threads**





## Farewells from Amy and Megan



While it's absolutely startling that my time as an MIC student at Grace is drawing to a close, I am excited to announce my internship placement for next year! I will be serving as the intern at Lake Chelan Lutheran Church in Chelan, WA (an hour away from where I did an artist residency in December), with the final three months spent as the pastoral intern at Holden Village. I was selected for this site through an ELCA program called Horizons; the program offers financial help to smaller rural/urban/upstart congregations that otherwise wouldn't be able to afford an intern. Lake Chelan Lutheran is in a very small town; most of the area is a mixture of apple and cherry orchards as well as scores of vineyards. I'm excited to serve in a church that has an art director as well as a strong adult catechumenate (a program that prepares a new believer for baptism), as well as the opportunity to go back to Holden to do ministry, not only studies. I will miss all of you that I've gotten to know in this past year, but I am so thankful that I've been able to have a church home, even if briefly. It's going to be a whirlwind moving from Chicago to Washington in August, but I'm psyched to begin the next chapter of the seminary journey!

Thanks for thinking of us! Hope all is well, and I will see you Sunday!

**In peace,  
Megan**

***Hello Grace community!***

I can't believe my time at Grace is winding down already! It has been such a fantastic experience worshiping with you all and trying my hand at preaching and teaching a bit too. I have truly relished the opportunity to walk with you all through the seasons this year. Thank you for everything. On Monday April 15th I found out where I am going on internship for the next year. I will be traveling and moving to the Dallas/Fort Worth Tx area in the height of the heat of late August! I will be interning at Calvary Lutheran Church in Richland Hills, Texas! I am very excited for this next step on the road to my Masters of Divinity and ordination in the ELCA! Actually, by that time I will be graduated from U of C with my MSW in June as well! A few tidbits about the church I will be serving in the upcoming year: Calvary is a pretty sizable congregation with a high energy pastor, Phil, an associate pastor and a full time youth minister. What drew me to Calvary was their commitment to looking outward from their church in various ways. Pastor Phil is always on the go and ready to meet people in the community. He is open to the Holy Spirit leading to "missional moments" and conversations, and he encourages his staff to do the same. They really seem to meet people where they are. Pastor Phil values connecting on a relational level--similar to what PD emulates at Grace. I think working with PD and serving Grace this year has been a great training ground for what lies ahead. Pastor Phil is open to my learning goals of preaching and teaching as well as learning about community outreach and ways of doing ministry. Calvary is bustling with life across all age groups and in Pastor Phil's words, "it will be like an internship times three," so when I finish at Calvary I will have many tools for first call ministry.

Thank you again for the warmth and encouragement I have felt at Grace. I still marvel at the absolute blessing the passing of the peace always is at Grace and will surely attempt to foster this type of community wherever I go in my future ministry! I will continue to pray for you all and your phenomenal church. Have a wonderful year and best wishes!

**Sincerely,  
Amy Gillespie**

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## Pastor Dawn Mass Update

A recent article in Christian Century magazine featured a former interim minister for Grace, Pastor Dawn Mass. Pastor Dawn is now senior pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in Wauconda, IL. Her associate, Pastor Ben Dueholm, wrote about a series of sermons they developed together, featuring the lives of saints, both ancient and modern. They decided to weave these saints' lives into sermons based on the common lectionary, and they resolved to make their sermons more than mere historical lectures.

For Reformation Sunday, the sermon focused on a New World reformer, 16th century priest Bartolome de las Casas, an antislavery

activist. Another sermon compared the life of 13th century Princess Elizabeth of Hungary with our present-day princess culture. Other saints included 19th century Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, 20th century martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Lemyah Gbowee of Liberia.

Pastors Dawn and Ben found the congregants at Messiah became fascinated with the lives of these saints and asked for expanded discussions about them in their adult forum series.

**Dave**

## Our ELCA Dollars at Work.

*From: ELCA News, April 15, 2013*

ELCA concludes its earthquake-relief efforts in Haiti

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has concluded its relief and recovery efforts in Haiti following the January 2010 earthquake - the most powerful to strike Haiti in more than 200 years.

Nearly 250,000 people were killed, 300,000 injured and more than 1 million people were left homeless as a result of the earthquake. Through Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA members responded by donating more than \$12.5 million dollars to support relief efforts, which were conducted in partnership with the Lutheran Church in Haiti and The Lutheran World Federation.

According to the Rev. Raquel Rodriguez, director for the ELCA Latin American and Caribbean Continental desk, ELCA members "can see the fruits of their generosity."

Funds provided by ELCA members supported immediate and long-term recovery that rebuilt communities, and restored and sustained lives.

In Gressier, located near the Haitian capital of Port au Prince, new community centers were built to provide space for training and education projects established by the Lutheran Church in Haiti. These projects include vocational training to teach workers how to build homes that are stronger and more disaster-resistant and a Montessori-based primary school.

In addition to these projects, there are income-generating endeavors such as a dairy that sells yogurt processed from locally-produced milk, guest house facilities for visitors to the church and a factory that creates and sells vibrated cement blocks. These sturdy blocks were used for the construction of each of these facilities and other rebuilding efforts.

The Lutheran Church in Haiti anticipates that these projects will generate income "not only for people in this community, but also for the church. Part of the income (to be) generated will come back to the church for mission and evangelism. So, it is really important to celebrate all the things that have been enabled by the funds that ELCA members have provided," said Rodriguez.

ELCA funds sent to Lutheran World Federation supported the federation's construction of a newly created community called The Gressier Model Village with 150 homes and a community center -- all built to resist earthquakes and hurricane-force winds and rain. Families started moving into the village this spring. Dr. Carl Stecker, ELCA director for global diakonia, attended the February 2013 dedication ceremony and toured the community.



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

"A lot of the rhetoric [talk] immediately after the earthquake by former Presidents Clinton and Bush and others in the international community was 'let's build Haiti back better' and this was a way we as the Lutheran church have responded with our partners in the Lutheran World Federation," said Stecker.

The ELCA's long-term relief providing housing, education and life-skills training "is a very affirmative way of accompanying the people in Haiti. Not only in the immediate (aftermath), but in a way that will have long-lasting effects," said Rodriguez.

In the midst of the recovery efforts, disaster funds were also provided to help contain an outbreak of cholera. The church responded to the epidemic by establishing programs to teach Haitians about the causes of cholera and ways to prevent the spread of the disease. The program continues through a grant from ELCA World Hunger.

The ELCA is a member of The Lutheran World Federation, a global communion of 143 member churches in 79 countries worldwide, and is the communion's only member church from the United States. The Lutheran Church in Haiti is pursuing membership in the federation.

For information contact:

Candice Hill Buchbinder

773-380-2877 or [Candice.HillBuchbinder@ELCA.org](mailto:Candice.HillBuchbinder@ELCA.org)

<http://www.ELCA.org/news>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Lutherans>

Living Lutheran: <http://www.livinglutheran.com>



# May Calendar

Every Sunday 10:45 Worship followed by coffee hour

Sunday School During Worship

May 5 Annual Meeting, New Member Sunday, Farewell Lunch  
for Pastor Daniel and family

May 12 Pastor Daniel and family last Sunday before sabbatical

May 12 Mother's Day

May 27 Memorial Day



Find us at [GraceEvanston.org](http://GraceEvanston.org)



## Grace Church Council

Les Inch, Chair,

Jon Flaherty, Nathan Johnson, Danielle Keifert,  
Dorothy Nagelbach, Holly O'Connor, Laura Wally

# Grace

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