



# Harbinger

www.graceevanston.org • churchoffice@graceevanston.org

May 2014

**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.

**10:45 Worship  
Every Sunday**

**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

## Triumph Hall

by Tim Schannep



My name is Tim Schannep. My husband Tony Garcia and I have been members of Grace going on seven years. I've served on Church Council, and both of us were involved in the establishment of Micah 6:8, the group that formed at Grace when the ELCA was considering giving equal rights to LG-BTQ clergy.

After reading several articles and watching documentaries on issues related to aging LGBTQ people, I became very fearful of what the future would be like for Tony, myself, and others I love. Then last June, when Tony was hospitalized, a doctor came into his room to do a basic exam. We spent several minutes explaining our relationship to the doctor; nevertheless, he said he would come back later and do the exam. I then asked if he would do the exam if I left the room. The doctor said yes, so I went into the hallway with my head down, knowing I had been put in my place. Later, when I talked to my own doctor about what had happened, she said there was no need for me to have to leave the room, but that I had done the right thing to make sure Tony got the prompt care he needed. So I have seen firsthand what lies ahead for Tony, myself, and those I know and love.

There currently are 3 million LGBTQ seniors in this country, and in less than 10 years there will be 4 million. Research conducted by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law in 2006 predicts the number of LGBTQ seniors in Chicago will be 114,449.

When I was growing up, lesbian and gay people were considered to have a mental disease or defect and

were forced to undergo lobotomies or shock treatments. Some were permanently placed in institutions. The American Psychiatric Association declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder in 1973, but our brothers and sisters in the transgender community were not declassified until 2012. This leaves me and many I know not trusting many types of care and treatment.

The retirement portfolios for LG-BTQ seniors are not as secure as that of the general public because of past – and current – job discrimination. This gap was not recognized sooner because the LGBTQ community has been focused on fundraising and caring for each other for the past 30 years of the AIDS epidemic.

A study released by the Equal Rights Center at the end of February – yes, just 3 months ago – shows that discrimination is rampant against same-sex couples seeking senior housing. The Equal Rights Center conducted 200 tests across 10 states to measure the extent of adverse, differential treatment against a senior seeking housing for oneself and a same-sex partner. When pairs of testers, one LGB and one heterosexual, visited the same senior housing facilities, in 48% of the tests the LGB tester experienced at least one type of adverse, differential treatment when compared to the heterosexual tester. In one case, the LGB tester reported being told that a \$4,500 deposit was required, which was not required of the heterosexual tester. LGB seniors were often presented with higher rental prices, more burdensome application requirements, less availability and fewer amenities.

Continued on next page



**CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK AND  
ANNUAL MEETING 5/18/2014**



**Discuss Grace! Vote for new Council members! Have a wonderful lunch!**

The Equal Rights Center’s study reinforces the fear I have of the treatment I will receive, not only from the staff but also the heterosexual seniors living in these communities (the acceptance rate of LGBTQ persons by those over 65 years of age is 20%, which I interpret to mean that 80% do not want to be around me).

So, without new retirement, assisted living and nursing home facilities being built, and without the training, accreditation and certification of current medical personnel in the respectful care of LGBTQ seniors, these brave people who have fought the fight for social justice all their lives to make changes for the whole society will go back in the corner and into the closet to spend their final years in fear.

Now let’s go to a more positive place. I have been trying to put into practice Gandhi’s famous quote, “be the change you wish to see in the world.” I began investigating what was happening in Chicago for LGBTQ seniors, and I came across an article in the Huffington Post about a local designer who had just completed three years of research for her Masters Degree in Interior Design, focusing on housing for LGBTQ seniors. After an initial phone call I met Vea Cleary, a creative force to be reckoned with. Together we co-founded Triumph Hall, and we have completed a year of hard but positive work. We’ve met with many politicians, developers, health care providers, community organizations, and on and on. The facility we intend to open will be called Triumph Hall, to celebrate all the LGBTQ creative geniuses from the past to the present who have left their mark on society. When you enter Triumph Hall’s welcoming center you will see a time line going around the building recognizing those people and their work. Our plan is to have 200 independent living units, 40 assisted living units, and 20 nursing care units, with flexibility on the numbers as the project proceeds. We will have 10 units set aside for individuals who have fallen through the cracks, where they can reside while they obtain appropriate IDs and other paperwork to enable them to move on in the community. Of course there will be no discrimination at Triumph Hall, so it will be open to the LGBTQ community and our straight allies.

To help us all better understand this complex and urgent issue, we are very happy to have the opportunity to present the documentary “A Place to Live: the Story of Triangle Square,” about the first LGBTQS housing development in the United States. It will be shown on Friday, May 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in Grace’s Fellowship Hall. A \$10 free-will offering is suggested, but all are welcome regardless of ability to pay. Vea Cleary and I both will be there and will be able to facilitate a conversation after the film showing about this critical need.

Tim Schanep



### March Treasurer’s notes

**General Fund.**

Received \$22,934.64 contributions, \$1080 designated for capital fund and \$45 for Interfaith Action Hospitality Center. Payments totaled \$24,397.97 (this includes the mortgage). If all payments to date had cleared the bank, we would have a deficit in the account of \$1378.39. To date, \$4260 has been sent to the Metropolitan Synod as our benevolence.

A number of people made contributions directed at specific bills taken from our ‘bill board’. As a reminder, the bill board is one tool to inform the congregation of where our financial resources go.

First quarter contribution statements were sent out to those for whom I have email addresses.

**Capital fund.**

Received \$755 in direct deposits plus the \$1080; net deficit \$144 relative to mortgage.

**Courage fund.**

Received \$980 in direct deposits. \$150 check to Translife Center using funds collected from the benefit concert. Not much has been disbursed recently because several members of the committee have been out of town and we’ve not received suggestions recently from members (to my knowledge).

**March summary:**

Account	General	Capital	Courage
Money in	21,854.64	1835	980
Money out	22,418.97	1979	150
Change	-564.33	-144	830

**YTD summary:**

Account	General	Capital	Courage
Money in	57,153.44	5,199	4,840
Money out	66,181.46	5,937	4,600
Change	-9,028.02	-738	240



Happy  
Mother’s  
Day







AS OFTEN AS YOU DID  
IT FOR ONE OF MY  
LEAST BROTHERS, YOU  
DID FOR ME.

### Save The Dates For Soup Kitchen:

Grace will be hosting the soup kitchen at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,  
1004 Greenwood in Evanston on the following dates in 2014:

**July 27th • September 7th • October 12th**

## Music Ministry at Grace

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** Several Grace children are expressing interest in singing and making music together. This summer we'll plan some opportunities for children to sing together and in worship. Any children/families interested in being part of a children's choir, contact Mark Bowman, Rina Campbell, or Taína Encarnacion-Rodriguez. We will confer with interested families about how best to schedule this over the summer.

**SPECIAL CHOIR PERFORMANCE:** The Grace Choir will sing The Gospel Mass by Robert Ray in worship on Sunday, June 15th. All singers are invited to join the choir for this spirited and soulful musical presentation. Rehearsals are Sunday, May 4th after worship and Saturday, May 31, 10:00a.m. Interested persons can talk with any choir member or Mark Bowman.

**PIANO for Fellowship Hall:** Grace would like to have an acoustic piano for use in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Anyone who knows of a small piano in good condition that needs a new home can contact Mark Bowman or Rachel Stark Inch.



## Threads of Grace

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Spring Fundraising Project for next winter's hats and gloves for the homeless. An array of

knit and sewn goods, which included dolls, angel pins, mermaids and ornaments created by former Grace member Paula Wendland, and sent from Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, brought in \$227.00 at our sale on Palm Sunday.

Threads members continue to work on knit and crocheted scarves and hats for next winter and offer lessons to anyone who wants to learn to knit or crochet on Sundays at coffee hour. So far four people have received instructions on "nifty knitters," a simple apparatus for making hats and scarves. We're happy to report that three of them are young people who are completing their first projects. Those interested in participating should look for our table at coffee hour.



# GRACE NEWS & EVENTS



## LGBTQ Gathering

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning persons and families of Grace are invited to gather on Sunday, May 18th, at 5:00p.m. at the home of Mark Bowman

(5352 N. Kenmore Avenue, #3, Chicago). Grilling food provided; bring food/drink to share.

For more info, contact Mark Bowman 773-316-8892 or Jen Rude 773-954-4930.



## Nursery Volunteers Sought

The future of the church are the children, please consider volunteering for nursery.

Contact Deb Mitchell at dmitchell22358@hotmail.com or 312-485-7178.



## May Birthdays

**Nancy Schubert (5/3)**

**Barry Buck (5/4)**

**Kara Sokol (5/7)**

**Karla Daye (5/8)**

**Nancy Mathyer (5/8)**

**Nate Johnson (5/9)**

**Lisa Kosnik (5/14)**

**Tony Garcia (5/16)**

**Marie Auguste (5/18)**

**Carl Brownell (5/18)**

**Martin Inch (5/18)**

**Ava Daye (5/20)**

**Madelyn Boon (5/21)**

**Philip Kohnken (5/22)**

**Nancy Van Brundt (5/23)**

**Talitha Stark (5/24)**

**Helen Yarbrough (5/24)**

**Emmitt Wilson (5/30)**



Godly Play on a Lovely Day

# MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## May 4

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Joe Flint  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Claudia Perry  
**Cantor** ..... Russ Kohnken  
**Acolyte** ..... Emma Mosco Flint  
**Ushers** ..... Larry Yarbrough, Jon Flaherty  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Nancy Stewart, Nancy Starkman  
**Altar Care** ..... Christian Lantry, Deb Mitchell  
**Godly Play** ..... TBD  
**Nursery Care** ..... Ann Stevens  
**Flowers** ..... Jan Blackburn

## May 11

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Jarrod Gaither  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Randy Warren  
**Cantor** ..... Caitlin Sellnow  
**Acolyte** ..... Logan Spies  
**Ushers** ..... Sarah Carson, Nate Brown, Nancy Schubert  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Marilyn Mason, Nell Ferguson  
**Altar Care** ..... Christian Lantry, Deb Mitchell  
**Godly Play** ..... TBD  
**Nursery Care** ..... Nina Alvarez  
**Flowers** ..... Dorothy Nagelbach

## May 18 - Grace Annual Meeting

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Paul Bailey  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Sarah Carson  
**Cantor** ..... Kelly Hackett  
**Acolyte** ..... Joanie Daye  
**Ushers** ..... Sarah Carson, Nate Brown, Nancy Schubert  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Helen Yarbrough, Larry Yarbrough  
**Altar Care** ..... Caitlin Sellnow, Janet Wright  
**Godly Play** ..... TBD  
**Nursery Care** ..... Nancy Schubert  
**Flowers** ..... Dorothy Nagelbach

## May 25

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Carolyn Utech  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Craig Gonder  
**Cantor** ..... Reggie Bruce  
**Acolyte** ..... Alice Wilson  
**Ushers** ..... Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Carolyn Utech, Dave Utech  
**Altar Care** ..... Caitlin Sellnow, Janet Wright  
**Godly Play** ..... TBD  
**Nursery Care** ..... Joe Flint  
**Flowers** ..... Dee Johnson

## Worship Notes: May

Tongues of fire over each of our heads and 'The Gateway to the Green Season' fast approaches. Five Sundays of Easter are celebrated until the Day of Pentecost on June 8th. We will celebrate that Sunday with many languages, songs and expressions of faith. We plan to bring back personal faith sharing for the Green Season, as it garnered such positive responses from last year. Personally, I can't wait to hear some, as I missed out on these while I was on Sabbatical Break. In the meantime, enjoy Eastertide. The Paschal Candle will burn each Sunday as we process the Gospel into the midst of the people. Take time to feast, to pray (and to play) with joy, remembering the stubborn hope of the one come among us again, Jesus Christ.

I will see you at the Welcome Table, Sisters and Brothers!

Pastor Daniel



Zora and her friend Liz at the IPI Rally



## Day of Faith in Action in Springfield

Several Grace members (Pastor Daniel Ruen, his wife Clare, and their children Zora and Isaac, as well as Gail and Bob Lamont, Bob Carroll and Ginny Ayers) and Zora's friend Liz Krema joined others from the Community Renewal Society for a Day of Faith in Action, focusing on Prison Reform and the Fair Tax Campaign. See photos included with this article. For more information about that day, you can check the website: <http://www.communityrenewalsociety.org/newsroom>.



Members of Grace with a CRS member who helped us with our lobbying.



Fair Tax Prayer Vigil at front steps



CRS members gather for final prayer and song in the rotunda



## A PLACE TO LIVE: *The Story Of Triangle Square*

Addressing the  
critical need  
for affordable  
housing for LGBTQ  
older adults

Triumph Hall  
Co-Founders  
Vea Cleary +  
Tim Schannep  
will be on hand to  
support conversation

Friday May 23rd  
7:00 P.M.

Grace Lutheran Church  
1430 South Boulevard  
Evanston, IL 60202  
parking lot available

\$10.00 Suggested  
Donation  
But all are welcome

Be the change you wish to see in the world.... -Gandhi

### **A Place to Live: the Story of Triangle Square**

A documentary about the first LGBTQ housing  
development in the United States for lesbian, gay,  
bisexual, transgender, queer and straight  
ally senior citizens

**Screening on Friday, May 23rd, 2014**

**7:00 p.m. at**

**Grace Lutheran Church**

**1430 South Boulevard, Evanston**

The screening will be followed by a facilitated  
conversation.

A \$10 free-will offering is suggested, but all are  
welcome regardless of ability to pay.

**Questions? Call the Church office at 847-475-2211**

## Graceful Swimmers



**Kaari Reiersen, Ann Stevens, and Les Inch**

What a weekend three Grace members recently had. Ann Stevens, Kaari Reiersen and Les Inch met up at the Illinois Masters State Swimming Championship right across the border at the RecPlex in Pleasant Prairie Wisconsin April 5th – 7th. Not surprisingly Ann, who swims for the Evanston Masters Team, participated in 11 events earning 51 points for her team which overall came in 4th [out of 39]. Ann has been swimming for many years and is well known at events. Word has it she has a swim suit, goggles and towel packed at all times ready to hop in the car or plane for events all over the world. Kaari, who swims with the Northwestern Aquatics Club, is a powerhouse! In her age group, she took 1st place in three of her four events and 2nd in the remaining one. Like Ann [who took 2nd place in her age group] and Les [who took 4th in his], Kaari competed in the 200 Yard Backstrokes, dropping nearly three minutes from her seed time. Her stellar showing earned 34 points, helping her team of five earn their 24th place ranking. Les swims at the Galter Life Center and his team, the Swedish Fish, took 5th place, a fantastic showing for this relatively new team. In 2010, two Swedish Fish participated in the State Meet and earned 1 point and last place.



**Ann Stevens and Les Inch**

This year's 5th place showing was an achievement and the Swedish Fish Head Coach was awarded Coach of the Year. Les earned 17 points this year and tried to keep up with Ann by participating in 10 events.

We know there are more Graceful Swimmers in the pews, goggles and suits at the ready for any opportunity to take the plunge. We invite you to come

join one of our teams – always great fun and fellowship. We are now in the open water swim season. Les is the captain for a Swedish Fish Swim Across America [SAA] Team [[http://www.swimacrossamerica.org/site/PageServer?pagename=CHI\\_Home](http://www.swimacrossamerica.org/site/PageServer?pagename=CHI_Home).] This Lake Michigan swim starts at Ohio Beach and raises funds to support cancer research at Rush Medical Center. All are welcome. Talk with Les if you have any questions. He'd be happy to swim with you and help you train for the event.

**Regards, Les**

## Caitlin Sellnow

I moved to Evanston in 2012, and started attending services at Grace shortly thereafter. I grew up Lutheran so I was raised to believe that, if you don't start your Sunday with a few stately hymns and a fellowship hall cup of coffee, you're doing Sunday mornings wrong. I started looking for Lutheran churches close to my apartment as soon as I moved in. Grace was only the second church I visited,



**Caitlin Sellnow**

but I felt at home instantly, and became a member in 2013. Since then, I've gotten more involved with the congregation. I've enjoyed being a cantor, singing with the choir, and helping with altar care.

I grew up in Rochester Minnesota, home of the Mayo Clinic. (When I tell people where I'm from they say either, "I've never heard of it" or, "My uncle got a kidney transplant there!") Before I moved to Evanston, I served in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Baltimore for two years. I worked as a "community builder" in a place called Remington neighborhood, doing a bit of whatever seemed necessary to help the low-income community. I helped residents fill out assistance forms, hosted community dinners and organized visiting student volunteers, among other things. If you know any college kids looking for something to do after they graduate, I highly recommend LVC. I am happy to talk about it with anyone who's curious.

Now, I am working and studying at Northwestern University. I work as a front desk attendant in the Department of Molecular Biosciences. I know more about Molecular Biosciences now than I did when I started, but that isn't saying much. At least I've learned to answer the phone with, "Molecular Biosciences, this is Caitlin" without getting the syllables all mixed up and sounding drunk. And, I can make great coffee. So I have the most important parts of the job down. I study creative nonfiction writing in the School of Continuing Studies. I'm about half-way through the program, taking one course a term, and hope to graduate some time in 2016. If you ask me what I want to do once I've earned my graduate degree, I am not likely to have a good answer for you. I don't know if I'll ever be able to make a living as a writer. Someday, though, I would love to have a job that uses my enhanced verbal skills. For now, I am content just having a job that funds my studies. In my spare time, I like to embark on overly complicated, often ill-fated baking projects. My motto is: When in doubt, add sprinkles!

I feel fortunate to have the Grace community so close by. If I had to, I would ride the El for an hour to get to a place as special as Grace. But I'm glad I only have to walk a few blocks!



## Bruce-Alvarez Family

Reggie and I initially met in 2006 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the Christian Theological Seminary. He was working there as the seminary's helpdesk coordinator. I was a student pursuing a Master's in the Psychotherapy and Faith program. Because of developing health conditions and with having a little one, I moved to Chicago to be closer to my parents. Reggie and I later reconnected and married in 2012. Our family consists of our son Tyler and our two daughters, Darian and Naia. Tyler, our 21 yr. old, lives in New Albany, Indiana pursuing his passion for music composition. He attended IU-Southeast campus. During Tyler's spare time you will find him playing and writing music. Darian, our 19 yr. old, lives in Indianapolis, Indiana and is less than a month away from finishing her senior year in high school. She will be attending Ivy Tech in Bloomington, Indiana in the fall to pursue her love of the culinary arts. During Darian's spare time you will catch her baking, doing crafts, singing, and praise dancing. Naia, our free spirit 6 yr. old, attends Juliette Lowe Elementary School in Arlington Heights, Illinois. She loves Theater Arts and you will find her either singing, dancing, or acting.

Reggie was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana. He grew up in the Missionary Baptist Church. He sang in the mass choir and the male chorus. He currently works at Advanced Technology Services in Schaumburg, Illinois as a TOC help-desk representative.

I was born in San Jose, Costa Rica. I grew up in the church, and followed in my dad's footsteps with the Disciples of Christ Church. I am a full time student at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology pursuing my Re-Specialization Certificate in BCBA. We currently live in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. During our spare time we love to explore the sights and sounds of Chicago.

My favorite poet Dr. Maya Angelou once said, "We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color." This philosophy is the main thing that brought us to enter the front doors of Grace. Reggie and I lived several years in Indianapolis, Indiana and we realized that there was a huge segregation in the communities of faith. This always puzzled us and honestly went against what we thought was God's representation of church. From reading the "Who we are statement" in the GRACE Website and attending a service, we realized this was a faith community that spoke, believed, and celebrates the beauty of diversity.

Social Justice has always been huge with me because of the work my parents (Carmelo and Raquel) did in Central America. My par-



Nina Alvarez & Reggie Bruce, Naia & Tyler, Naia, Darian

ents instilled in me the importance of social justice. In Central America and here, injustice has taken various forms from religion, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity...and unfortunately this list is long. Various communities of faith that we have attended talked about these injustices, but they are not dealt with. The Grace Community acts upon these issues through Crop Walk, Day of Faith in Action, Threads of Grace, Soup Kitchen, and the Community of Care, as just a few examples.

The last reason why the Bruce-Alvarez household finds ourselves at home with Grace is the unique and welcoming word that is served at Grace. From the first visit we felt the LOVE. This love has led us to be involved in the Worship Committee, singing, nursery, helping with Godly Play, Soup Kitchen, and finally the Couples' Bible Study. The Couples' Bible Study has been fulfilling in both our lives and has helped our relationship grow as a couple. If you would like to speak to Pastor Daniel about Couples' Bible Study, which is open to all partnered couples, hetero- and LGBT, please feel free to contact him at [pd@graceevanston.org](mailto:pd@graceevanston.org).

Nina Alvarez

## Palm Sunday Dancers



# May Calendar

Every Sunday 10:45 Worship followed by coffee hour  
Sunday School During Worship

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**May 18** Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch,  
after worship



## Grace Church Council

Les Inch, Chair,

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



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# Grace

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