



# Harbinger

www.graceevanston.org • churchoffice@graceevanston.org

November 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

## Grace at the Dive Bar

by Pastor Daniel



Playing at The Mutiny

When I first started playing live music at open mic venues in my clerical collar I felt much closer to Jesus and his ministry. Hanging out with sinners and drinking with them (paraphrasing Luke 15:2), not necessarily waiting for them to come knocking on the door of the church, seemed much more in keeping with his active time of travel, healing and preaching. I thought that if I took time during my sabbatical to re-energize this music ministry I'd have more occasions to sit and talk with those who feel alienated from the church in different ways. I believe those conversations will still happen, but on Wednesday, October 16 when my band played its first gig at a dive rock bar on Western Avenue called 'The Mutiny' I was shocked and delighted that Grace came along for the ride.

I knew a few people from the congregation would attend, but I wasn't prepared for the full and diverse group that showed up. After my drummer, Wendi, and Jon Graef, my bassist, and I got our gear loaded in and set up we sat at the bar, waiting for our set to begin. I looked over at the door at some point and who walks in? Your council president and mine, Les Inch. I couldn't believe it. I embraced him and said, "What are you doing here?" He said, "I came to hear you play and to have a beer!" he told me. He also told me Gaylord Otte was coming a bit later, which was equally great and surprising news. What a joy it was to introduce Les to my band mates (although he's known Jon all his life) and sit with him at the bar. Gaylord did, in fact, show up soon afterwards. Rina Campbell and Peter Spies rolled in with their visiting friend from Germany. Next, Pastor Jen Rude and

her partner Deb entered with bright smiles. As our band began the first song, my wife Clare and Brian V. ran into the club.

What a thrill it was to play this loud, fast, rock n' roll—music that has always been such an integral part of me—with the support of my congregation. But wait, there's more: We were about ¾ of the way through our set and I was looking at my guitar bridge while playing when, out of the corner of my eye, I caught some crazy person gesticulating wildly in front of me. At first I thought it best not to look, but I couldn't resist. It was Peg Haar, yelling encouragement and smiling as she danced and played rock and

roll air guitar at me. She had just arrived with Nell Ferguson and they showed me what true "Rock and Roll" spirit is all about. Young members, middle aged members and elder members, gay and straight—Grace came to support me and to be a gathered assembly of forgiven sinners at the dive bar. While I had assumed there'd be conversations provoked by my wearing my clerical collar in public, what the Holy Spirit revealed to me is that my assembly, this church, is also willing to walk the road as public Christians, to be resurrection people who are unafraid to be who they are and witness in their own diverse and delightful ways.

This music ministry you've allowed me to re-ignite and integrate does have new life, as I hoped it would, but as God so often reveals to us, it is not the life we necessarily choose; it is a dynamic, living thing. It is there for us to continually discover and, with God's grace, to welcome. Stay tuned for the next gig.

Pastor Daniel

**GRACE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING NOVEMBER 24 AFTER WORSHIP**



## GLC 75th Anniversary Update

As we continue on our path of joyful celebration we have already experienced a number of events including former Grace Pastors Fred Reklau and Stefan Rickman being present to lead us in worship. Some of us experienced a walk from Nichols School, where the original GRACE members celebrated their first worship service and first communion as the new congregation named GRACE before moving to our current home on South Blvd and Wesley. We look forward to more events including a service on November 17th honoring our worker priests. These events are leading up to an exciting weekend of celebration.

On Saturday, December 7th Grace will host an Open House/Reception from 3pm to 6pm. This anniversary open house is unique because we Grace folks will be both guests and hosts to all who will come that day. We plan to use the entire building, with stations set up in various locations to serve the different foods and beverages while encouraging folks to move about (as they are able) to listen to the musical offerings in the sanctuary, view the photos and memorabilia in various locations, and partake of our refreshments.

The food/refreshments committee has decided to serve "enhanced" hors d'oeuvres and small, easily handled desserts, while hoping for a touch of elegance. Serving a variety of beverages including wine, beer, punch (non-alcoholic) and coffee is planned.

Volunteers willing to 'host' a station for part of the 3 hour time period, will be needed, as well as for other tasks. Cash donations to help cover some of the food costs are welcome (Be sure to specify the purpose on the donation check or envelope). For more information regarding refreshments, please speak to Dominique Baptiste, Carolyn Utech or Jan Blackburn.

Sunday, December 8th will be the culmination of our 75th Anniversary, with a celebratory worship service planned by the Worship Committee. A time capsule, which the children and youth of Grace will help to fill, will be placed in a cornerstone of the church and a special reception during the coffee hour will follow the service. All are welcome and you are encouraged to invite any friend of Grace.

For more information about any of these events, please contact Anne Laurence.

## All Saints Ofrenda

This year, Grace will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 3. We will continue our tradition of making an ofrenda honoring our friends and relatives who have died. The ofrenda is part of the Hispanic celebration of Dias de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead), which coincides with the festivals of All Saints and All Souls Days. Latin American families often create ofrendas that look like small altars in their homes as they remember loved ones, and they might include food, toys, symbols of activities, or items that were special to those who died.

On November 3, we will remember our own personal saints as Grace members bring in pictures and anything that helps them tell the story of a parent, grandparent, child, sibling, or friend who is no longer living. Candles will be lit, stories will be told, and people will be remembered once again.

At Adult Education on that date, we will gather in church to tell the stories and to share one large ofrenda. We encourage anyone who wishes to participate to bring their items to church on October 27, November 2 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., or on November 3 before 10:30. The items will be kept securely until they are displayed on All Saints Day.

If you have any questions or if you would like to help make the ofrenda (at 10:00 on November 2), please email Carolyn Utech at [Carolyndave@att.net](mailto:Carolyndave@att.net) or call her at 312-441-9631.



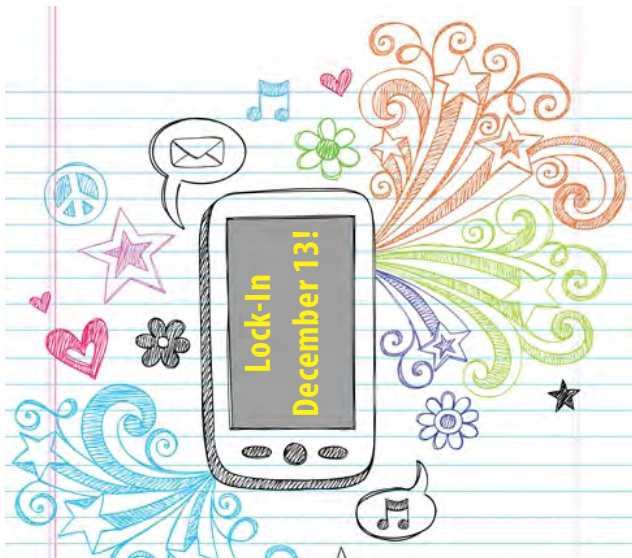
*The Day of the Dead, Diego Rivera*





## CHOIR NEWS

The Grace Choir's regular monthly rehearsal is on Sunday, November 10, following worship at 12:15 p.m. In addition, the choir has an additional rehearsal on Saturday, November 16th, at 10:00 a.m. to prepare music for our 75th anniversary celebration and Advent/Christmas. Singers of all abilities are welcome to join us to sing praise and prayer to God. For more information, contact Mark Bowman at [markleby@comcast.net](mailto:markleby@comcast.net) or 773-316-8892.



## 'Tween Theme Lock-In: December 13!

All 4th-7th graders are invited to attend a joint lock-in between St. Paul's Lutheran and Grace on Friday, December 13th. We will gather at St. Paul's at 5:30pm and pickup will be Saturday morning at 8:30am at Grace.

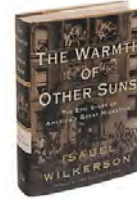
### Highlights:

- Pizza party at St. Paul's
- Icebreaker games
- Small group faith conversation
- Tag through both churches in the dark
- Late night prayer around the cross with candles at Grace
- Late night movies (for those kids who are still up!)

Please email PD if you have any questions: [pd@graceevanston.org](mailto:pd@graceevanston.org)

# GRACE NEWS & EVENTS

## Grace Book Group



Our next book group will meet on November 10, 3:00 - 5:00 at Nancy and Mark Mathyer's home, 1212 Cleveland, Evanston 60202, 847-492-1422. We will discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson.

Then on January 26th we will meet at Marilyn Grinager Mason's home and discuss *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger.



## BUDGET MEETING and POTLUCK, Sunday, Nov. 24

Annual Church Budget Potluck in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

Please mark your calendars and come for a special look forward at and congregational vote on next year's budget!



## November Birthdays

- 11/04 Kwesi Steele
- 11/05 Bill Blackburn
- 11/06 Larry Yarbrough
- 11/09 Terence Blain
- 11/12 Samera Payton
- 11/18 Ben Shoaf  
Meg Vinson
- 11/20 Carolyn Utech
- 11/21 Martha Fry
- 11/23 Anne Shafer
- 11/24 Christine O'Connor
- 11/24 Dick Kohl
- 11/25 Clare Tallon Ruen
- 11/26 Alexis Owen
- 11/28 Jason Brunger



# NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## November 3

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Connie Wood  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Karla Daye  
**Cantor** ..... Russ Kohnken  
**Acolyte** ..... Joanie Daye  
**Ushers** ..... Sarah Carson, Nate Brown  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Rina Campbell, Peter Spies  
**Altar Care** ..... Helen Yarbrough & Sue McDaniels  
**Nursery Care** ..... Ann Stevens  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Dee Johnson

## November 10

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Carolyn Utech  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... John Pedersen  
**Cantor** ..... Kelly Hackett  
**Acolyte** ..... William Thacker  
**Ushers** ..... Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf & Cecilia Galicia  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Nancy & Mark Mathyer  
**Altar Care** ..... Helen Yarbrough & Sue McDaniels  
**Nursery Care** ..... Nina Alvarez  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Jan Blackburn

## November 17

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Jarrod Gaither  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Nina Alvarez  
**Cantor** ..... Lisa Kosnik  
**Acolyte** ..... Thandi Steeler  
**Ushers** ..... Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf & Cecilia Galicia  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Russ Kohnken, Christine Collins  
**Altar Care** ..... Ann Stevens & Lisa Kosnik  
**Nursery Care** ..... Nancy Schubert  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Dorothy Nagelbach

## November 24

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Taina Rodriguez Encarnación  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Claudia Perry  
**Cantor** ..... Nate Johnson  
**Acolyte** ..... Julia Shoaf  
**Ushers** ..... Sydell Reeves & Ann Stevens  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Kari & Randy Warren  
**Altar Care** ..... Ann Stevens & Lisa Kosnik  
**Nursery Care** ..... Deb Mitchell  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Dorothy Nagelbach

## Worship Notes

November kicks off with our Annual Dia De Los Muertos Ofrenda on All Saints' Sunday. Be welcome to bring photos and keepsakes of those who have passed on, and come to a special Adult Ed at 9:30am in the sanctuary to share your stories. The rest of November builds in anticipation to Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday of the church season (11/24) and then Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st. We will have short, meditative Advent midweek services downstairs in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday night. Also, as we move closer to our 75th Anniversary Sunday on December 8th there will be special "Cornerstone" talks in worship about the various anniversary offerings and special additions Grace has sponsored over the years. I'll see you at the welcome table! - PD



Peg Haar, Jon Graef and Nell Ferguson at The Mutiny





Vietnam Nurses' Memorial.

## THREADS OF GRACE

**Threads Winter Projects Focus on Veterans,  
in Honor of Veteran's Day, November 11th.**



Did you know that one in four to one in five homeless people in the US is a Veteran? In honor of Veteran's Day, Threads has several projects for your participation.

### Adopt A Pair Of Gloves

Watch for our Glove Tree. Each \$15 donation buys a pair of water-proof, insulated gloves. Just pick an "ornament" from the Glove Tree and turn it in with your donation to the collection plate, marked Threads Gloves before Nov 17th. If you wish to acknowledge a specific Veteran, just write the name on the ornament. We'll do the rest.

### Make A Flannel Scarf

This is a great family or group kids' project, which produced a phenomenal response last year. Just visit a fabric store and purchase 1 yard of "guy friendly" patterned or solid color flannel, which will run from 45"-54" in width. Using a yardstick, draw lines @ every 6" across the width of the fabric to create 6 scarves from your 36" length. Make sure to use good scissors to cut nice, straight lines, and, "voila!", you're done. No other finishing needed.

In addition to these projects, Threads is also knitting and crocheting scarves and hats for ESCCA (Evanston School Children's Clothing Association), Uptown Ministry and the Interfaith Hospitality Center. You don't have to be an "official" Threads member to participate. Just get your finished products to us in time for the blessings.

**Sunday, November 17th – Blessing Deadline for ESCCA "fun" scarves**

**Sunday, November 24th – Blessing/Deadline for all adult scarves (all handmade and flannel cut), hats and gloves.** These items will include a healthy portion given to veterans who are among the homeless served by Uptown Ministry and Interfaith Action of Evanston Hospitality Center.

Thanks for your participation!



## SHOP FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

### Save the Date for MayaWorks Sale Nov. 17, 2013

Mark your calendars to buy your holiday gifts and shop for peace and justice. On Sunday, November 17, 2013 from 9:30 – 1:00, Grace Church will be sponsoring a sale of MayaWorks products. MayaWorks interweaves the lives of women in Guatemala and the United States by finding markets for the work of talented Mayan artisans. In addition, MayaWorks provides scholarships to Mayan girls and offers micro-loans to artisans.

Beautiful hand-made bags, purses, weavings, luggage tags, beaded jewelry, aprons, potholders, Christmas ornaments, Hanukkah runners, unique hats and booties for babies will be available at reasonable prices. This year new products include hot pads with pockets for aromatic spices, Turquoise vine necklaces, and polar bear, hummingbird, and cardinal beaded Christmas ornaments.



As a member of the Fair Trade Federation, MayaWorks is committed to paying fair wages for the labor, offering artisans opportunities for advancement, providing healthy and safe working conditions within the local context, and providing financial and technical assistance to artisans whenever possible.

This year we will be joined by Maggie's Organics (also a Fair Trade business) which will be selling socks and an assortment of organic cotton items. The proceeds will benefit Chicago Fair Trade Organization which promotes fair trade practices and businesses in the Chicago area. More information about their products can be found at [maggiesorganics.com](http://maggiesorganics.com).

Honor the deepest meaning of Christmas this year. Please your family and friends and at the same time contribute to peace and justice in our world by purchasing your gifts from MayaWorks. For more information, check the website at [www.mayaworks.org](http://www.mayaworks.org) or contact Rachel Stark Inch, 773-728-6768.



## Welcome Back, Pastor Stefan

Stefan Rickman, who was back at Grace on October 19 and 20, participating with Pastor Daniel in the wedding of Rebecca Kohnken and Joshua Heise on Saturday, October 19th, and preaching during the service on Sunday, October 20th, accepted the call to serve as pastor at Grace in June 1996 and was installed that year on September 8th. Prior to arriving at Grace, he served as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Youngstown, Ohio, beginning in December 1991. The congregation of St. Paul faced the challenges of changing neighborhood demographics and the demands of urban ministry, and Pastor Stefan shepherded them through ventures in youth outreach and ministry, new worship styles, and a renewed sense of community. He also led St. Paul through its eventual closing, presiding at their final worship service on June 30, 1996. His experiences there fortified his belief in the relevance of the church in the community.



**Natalie and Pastor Stefan Rickman this summer at a restaurant in Charleston, S.C. where they attended a family reunion – they're holding the menu.**

Stefan spent much of his childhood in Evanston, moving here with his parents and siblings when he was 8, worshiping with his family at Trinity Lutheran Church, and graduating from Evanston Township High School. Pastor Stefan did not always intend to pursue the ministry, although his grandfather and uncle were ministers. He attended Oberlin College, where he majored in history, intending to continue with graduate work and an eventual teaching career. But, while studying in London during his junior year, he met the Rev. Simon Farisani, a Lutheran minister from South Africa, whose witness prompted Stefan to examine the possible plans God had for his own life. Stefan received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Oberlin in 1987 and began studies at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago that fall.

Pastor Stefan met his future wife, Natalie Shackleford, just one week into his freshman year at Oberlin, and they were married at Trinity on December 17, 1988. While Stefan was in seminary, Natalie had a successful banking career, but eventually felt called to teaching. During Pastor Stefan's time at Grace, Natalie was able to complete

a Master of Arts in teaching degree, while also caring for their two young sons, Markus and Tobias, and began teaching in the District 65 schools.

During Pastor Stefan's time at Grace, we grew in numbers and in ministry. We became a Reconciling in Christ congregation, began offering communion to children and intentionally involving children in worship leadership, discerned core values to guide our congregation's ministries, and dug our first garden. Our Sunday school format changed to a rotational setting, where the same Bible story or theme was taught for several weeks and learners rotated to a different station each week. Rotational learning was exciting for students and teachers alike, but switching from the denominationally ordained curriculum and lesson plans was a big change, and Pastor Stefan worked hard to make sure that teachers had their own solid understanding of the lesson before presenting it to the children.

Pastor Stefan believes in relational ministry. He used the occasion of the planting of a tree in honor of his installation to make that point:

"The symbol of that tree is wonderful. Over the years it will grow and flourish, just as our time together will surely be an experience of growing and flourishing. God is good. God will bless the ministry that we do together. But one thing that is certain is that trees need roots. One of the things that I will be concentrating on right now is building those roots. I want to take time from the start for us to get to know each other...The strength of our relationships – our roots – is so very important to the health of the church and its ministry. I look forward to our time together."

Some years later, when a number of Grace members were facing personal challenges and losses, and at the same time were being supported and cared for by others in the congregation, Pastor Stefan compared our Caring Community to a phrase he recently had read in Anne Lamott's book, "Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith." She wrote: I sense that there is only one of us, that we are mosaic chips of the one." Pastor Stefan noted:

"This image of being mosaic chips of the one...expresses our common humanity, our connectedness. And I think it helps explain why we can be a caring community at Grace. Obviously, we are all individuals, autonomous and with unique, God-given gifts and characteristics. But we also recognize that what happens to you affects me, too. Your joys are my joys. Your pains are my pains. This is community. This is Church. We are one."

Remember the fear as Y2K approached? Pastor Stefan offered assurance in the face of uncertainty by describing a map that is on display in the British Museum in London.

"It is an old mariner's chart, drawn in 1525 outlining the North American coastline and adjacent waters. The cartographer made some intriguing notations on areas of the map that represented regions not yet explored by Europeans. He wrote, "Here be giants," "Here be fiery scorpions," and "Here be dragons." Eventually, the map came into the possession of Sir John Franklin, a



British explorer in the early 1800s. Scratching out the fearful inscriptions, he wrote these words across the map: "Here is God."

Pastor Stefan's last Harbinger column in October 2005 was about lobster shells, of all things:

"Did you know that, from time to time, lobsters have to leave their shells? It's a necessary part of their growth process. While they're growing, they need their shells to protect them. And yet, as a result of their having grown on the inside, their old shell must be abandoned. If they did not leave it, they would not be able to grow any more. It would become their prison...and finally their casket. The tricky part for the lobster is the brief period between when the old shell is discarded and the new one is formed. It's a vulnerable time for the lobster...For a while at least, that old shell must look pretty good. But eventually the new shell forms and a new stage of growth can begin.

Change is necessary for every kind of growth. This is true both for individuals and for congregations. Now we...you and I...will experience change...we've shared a marvelous shell. This time ahead of us may seem scary. We may feel vulnerable. But I'm confident that God will take us, you and me both, to a new place of growth and blessing. This is what God does. And to go forth trusting God...this is what people of faith do."

We asked Pastor Stefan to share his ministry and life after Grace. Here is what he told us:

"So in 2005 I discerned that it was time for me to share my gifts with another congregation, and for Grace to receive the gifts of another pastor. I accepted the call as pastor of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. I knew it would be a challenge...and BOY, was it ever! Inward looking and yearning for the glory days of the past, the congregation consisted mostly of older folks of Swedish descent. Few still lived in the neighborhood, and many experienced church primarily as a social club. They had little connection to the dynamic, diverse community that had developed around them. A handful of brave leaders joined me in lifting up a new vision of what it means to be church. Many people did not like that. A number of them hated me for it! But we persevered. The congregation opened itself to the neighborhood (hosting a farmer's market and service organizations). We tapped into the arts community surrounding us (putting on musicals and painting a huge mural on our outside wall). And we committed to being more welcoming (voting to become RIC – in a very contentious process). After five years of doing this extremely difficult work, I came to understand my time at Gustavus as an "extended" interim ministry. My image was of pushing the boulder and positioning it so that someone else could roll it down the hill. And now that's exactly what's happening! Young adults are streaming into the church. It's a lively neighborhood church again.

In 2010 I received a strange phone call from the Rocky Mountain Synod. I was told they had a newer congregation that was sputtering. The synod staff believed I had the gifts and experiences to help them do a sort of "mission start re-start." The catch was that it was in the mountains outside of Denver. But I'm a city guy!, I protested. We know that, the synod said, but please just talk to them. One thing led to another, and I accepted the call to serve

as pastor of Risen Lord Lutheran Church in Conifer, Colorado. I found Risen Lord to be a fabulous congregation (quite a bit like Grace!). The problem was that the church was a secret. They were renting a building on a back mountain road where no one could find them. Our challenge is to become more visible. For a while we worshipped in a theater (a true divine drama...with an altar on wheels!). Then we let go of the property we were buying to be the site of our future home (also in an awfully remote location). Now we are working to rent a space in a commercial shopping development. We're dreaming about what it means to be the church in the public arena...literally the church in the marketplace. Like Paul did at the very beginning!

No, I have not taken up skiing or hunting. My days off are more likely spent going into Denver to get my dose of city. We actually live down the mountain on the edge of the God-forsaken suburban sprawl. Yuck. But this allows Natalie to commute to the Denver public school where she teaches 2nd grade. Tobias is a junior at Bear Creek High School in Lakewood, serious about playing soccer and percussion. Markus is a senior at Beloit College (he never left the Midwest). He's an anthropology/ archeology major. He has no idea what he's going to do come next spring, but appreciates the fine liberal arts education he's received. He told us that!

Natalie and I are thrilled to be back at Grace to celebrate this anniversary with you."

And we are honored and blessed to have Pastor Stefan and Natalie in our midst again!

**Editor's Note:** Thanks to Pastor Stefan for stepping in to complete the service on Sunday when Pastor Daniel was unable to do so because of coughing. It was a smooth transition, as if they had planned it that way.

*Compiled by Ginny Ayers, Anne Laurence and Helen Yarbrough from the Grace archives, with updates from Pastor Stefan.*

#### Happy Thanksgiving





## Y.O.U.'s Work with LGBTQQA Youth at Grace

Y.O.U., which organization rents space at Grace, has just begun the second school year of a partnership with Links to provide a weekly safe and confidential group for middle school students who want to talk about issues of sexual orientation and gender expression. There is no identity requirement to join this group. "Safe Space" provides an outlet for some of our youth who may not fit neatly into gender norms. Some of the youth who have participated in the "Safe Space" group have experienced stigma or discrimination from peers for their gender expression and/or their real or perceived sexual orientation.

As an aspect of all-staff trainings they seek to ensure that Y.O.U. staff understand the needs and circumstances of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgendered, queer, questioning and asexual (LGBTQQA) youth in the Y.O.U. community.

At the high school level, Y.O.U. partners with Links on their weekly Evanston Pride Youth group. Y.O.U. provides an additional co-facilitator and helps interested Y.O.U. participants access this group.

Y.O.U. staff members are constantly listening to and learning from this remarkable generation of young people. Their support groups provide an opportunity for these youth to tell their adult allies how they can best provide support and how to interrupt homophobic bullying. A small group of Y.O.U. participants have attended training with the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance and shared back with the clinical staff more about how their generation understands sexuality and gender and what LGBTQQA youth are facing in their schools and communities.

Research shows that by a 30-point margin, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgendered (LGBT) youth between the ages of 13 and 17, as compared to their non-LGBT counterparts – are less likely to take part in their community. Barely half feel accepted in their community. Evanston is no exception. Y.O.U. staff members want LGBTQQA youth and youth in general to access their services in Evanston and know that Y.O.U. is a safe place.

In all aspects of their programming, Y.O.U. works to create a safe space for all their youth and reinforce messages of understanding and acceptance. In their various social-emotional groups sexuality and gender education are integrated into discussions of discrimination and bullying.

This has a much broader impact than on just those kids who may identify as LGBT. For example, Y.O.U. staff respond consistently and directly to homophobic language and often use those conversations as an opportunity to emphasize celebration of difference and build empathy. It is their goal that Y.O.U. participants will own the language and skills needed to advocate for respect and inclusion.

The LGBTQQA group that meets at Grace is for young people ages 12-14, with a couple of older youth as peer mentors. To join the group interested persons can contact Leah Seligman, [leah.seligman@youevanston.org](mailto:leah.seligman@youevanston.org), 847/866-1201, X-321, or Dawn Ravine, [dawn.ravine@youevanston.org](mailto:dawn.ravine@youevanston.org), 847/866-1201, X-236.

*Research conducted in the spring of this year - sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, done by the Harris Interactive Service Bureau and Greenberg, Quinlan, Rosner Research.*





# Christian-Muslim Interfaith Dialogue Series

First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

219 West Maple Ave • Libertyville, IL

**Wednesdays • Nov 6 & 13 & 20 • 2013**

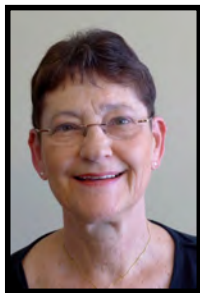
**7:00 — 8:45 PM**



Mark Swanson

## **Nov 6 • Entertaining Angels: The Whys and Wherefores of Interfaith Hospitality**

Dr. Swanson, Professor of Christian-Muslim Studies and Interfaith Relations at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) will facilitate our exploration of the following questions: Why do Christians engage in interfaith encounter and dialogue? What is it deep within our specific tradition that motivates us for and sustains us in this endeavor?



Carol Schersten LaHurd

## **Nov 13 • Hot Topics in Christian-Muslim Relations**

Dr. LaHurd, Auxiliary Faculty, LSTC, together with a Muslim graduate student will compare and contrast Muslim and Christian perspectives on: (1) Jesus and Muhammad in the Qur'an; (2) Forgiveness and Salvation; and (3) Women in Islam. Also to be addressed: some current interreligious relations activities in the greater Chicago area.



Ghulam-Haider Aasi

## **Nov 20 • Building Relationships through the study of Sacred Texts**

We will have the opportunity to share table fellowship together as we explore the ancient texts of the Qur'an and the Bible. Our focus of the evening will be on "Love of God and Love of Neighbor." This dialogue event will be facilitated by Dr. Aasi, Visiting Professor of Islamic Studies, LSTC; and Dr. Shelley, Associate Professor of Christian-Muslim Studies, LSTC.



Michael Shelley

***On Nov 20, a light supper will be served at 6:30 pm.***

Advance reservations for supper are requested.

Please call the church office (847-362-2174) or contact **Rev. Roberta Dodds Ingersoll** at [roberta@boxp.net](mailto:roberta@boxp.net).

**Sponsored by:**



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[www.firstpreslibertyville.org](http://www.firstpreslibertyville.org)

# November Calendar

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

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