



for an extended time with my wife Clare, daughter Zora, and son Isaac. While I intellectually understood the importance of making my family a priority during the Sabbatical time, I was not prepared for the emotional impact of such a gift. You have given me an awareness of how much I've missed out on my children's lives and how much more I need to be in touch with Clare. Because of this I am experimenting with taking Saturdays off instead of Mondays, as Saturday

is the day when we might all be together. So far, we all agree it's something worth fighting for.

THANK YOU

for the opportunity to be inspired by other musicians at the Primavera Sound music festival in Barcelona, Spain. This is a picture of a band member from one of my favorite 90's bands, The Breeders. I used to see them perform at First Avenue in Minneapolis, so it was particularly special to see them play together again so many years later in such a beautiful location. At the festival I saw dozens of bands and felt like a college kid all over again. It was an incredible international experience!



THANK YOU

for the opportunity to go back to the small medieval church in Taize, France, where I had my first deep prayer experience after deciding to attend seminary. In this small chapel on the hillside of the town, there is this stained glass window of St. Francis, created by one of the Taize brothers. Working on the cross-hatching of this piece was a very meditative and spiritual exercise for me. This drawing will always remind me of the stillness of prayer, the power of the small things, and the relationship between us and God's creation.



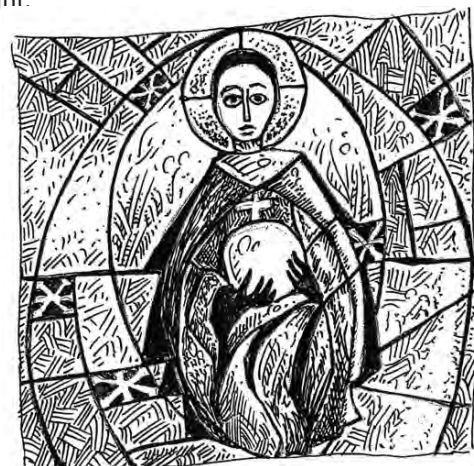
THANK YOU

for the time I spent at Taize, the ecumenical prayer community in central France. In this journal entry, I write the words of a Taize chant that brought me to tears, as I sat near the front of the church. Taize was where so much of my pastoral call began and was nurtured. To be back there during this extended sabbatical time for song, prayer, meditation and conversation was moving, humbling and energizing.



THANK YOU

for the gift of time and creative energy for me to show an interest in drawing again. I took small photos of each stained glass window in the main Taize church with my iPhone and over the course of the European trip I referred back to them and sketched them in pencil, then applied the inking. I have not drawn like this for years and years, so to feel I could spend time on something like this was pure delight.



Now, as I look back on this I wonder: was that only for me or did he - in he - using it on thousands of young, sending young people every year? How hilarious would it be if someday I meet a fellow clergy person who says, "Hey! That's my call story!" I would give it up for Brother Sebastian, acknowledging that when you're got a good line - you use the hell out of it. See: Here are the stained glass windows from the main Nave.



22:50 Someday NACHTZUG to Prague

I'm in a six person couchette that's much nicer than the four person Elipsos compartments. Leave it to the Germans. However, I sat a hell



→ dose of "EVERYTHING MUST BE IN GOOP ORDER" attitude when the Nachtzug conductor almost refused to take my Enxail pass because it was torn. He let me stay on after I promised to mend it. There are



four other nice men on this trip with me. We introduced ourselves: 2 just-out-of-college kids from Ohio and a Czech/German named 'Manwe' (upper left bunk) and a Bavarian below me named 'Jane'.

The kid. We talked about his time in Tula, ecumenism, faith, his trip through Europe. It was like hanging out with a tolerant surfer dude-Christian. We waited at the Mainz-Loube station together and marveled



at class on the TGV to have a hymn was great. I got a little red and was able to get me directions from the cafe guy. He also sold me an



→ e the speed of the TGV trainie flashing by. I took some video of one to show the kids. His train left earlier than mine, so we grayed together and I waited another hour with my train departed.



→ Ticket so I didn't have to scramble to buy one in order to make my connection. I started reading SAGA, and it's violent, racy and really good. Not age-appropriate stuff - probably not 42-year-old Lutheran Pastor Appropriate stuff, but he the saying goes: To be an effective pastor you gotta have one foot in the gutter.

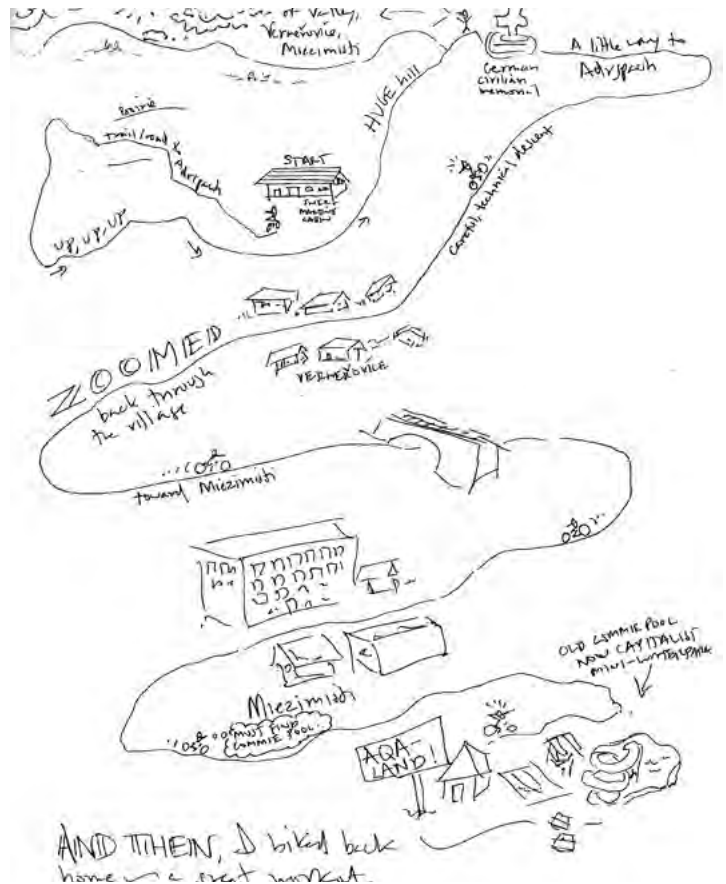


THANK YOU

for more time to draw more windows! As I reached the end of the trip I got better at stylizing the figures and the backgrounds. If you look at the Magi window on the upper right and the annunciation just below it you may see that I was improving in my work. I also reinterpreted my take on these scripture passages because of the time I spent on the drawings, most pointedly with the interesting look of Jesus on the donkey as he enters Jerusalem. Art is a way in to many things, not the least of which are new perspectives.

THANK YOU

for fun and adventure. This is a map of a bike trip I took one afternoon in the Czech Republic. We were staying with good friends Martin and Snek near the Polish border when one day I awakened



from a nap, borrowed their son's mountain bike and took off for an amazing ride up the side of a high ridge and then all the way back down past their place and into town. I was in search of an old communist-era swimming pool I had discovered back in 2001. Now it's a full-fledged western-style water park called, 'Aqua-Land.' I miss the old commie pool; it was much bigger and not so obnoxious. Bring back the Soviet-style swimming pools, I say!

THANK YOU

for lazy days with my family in Paris. We did not scurry from here to there, trying to see as many tourist sites as possible. We spent our time primarily in cafes as a family drinking good beer, eating great snacks, sketching and drawing. It was also the place where I met up with my dear friend Mimi, where we played music together at an open mic venue. This is a scene from Place Maubert, where we took a family friend to lunch and lounged around for a couple of hours. This piece was done with pen alone, no rough pencil sketch. I just allowed the pen and visual impressions to appear without worrying about any mistakes. I was relaxed and happy the entire time.



THANK YOU

for the chance to make another album with some incredible people. This is a drawing of the control room at Electrical Audio, a studio in Chicago where I mixed my new album, "Faster With You." I spent weeks in rehearsal with my band (drummer Wendi Freeman and Bassist Jon Graef) as well as a full week of recording in Crystal Lake, IL with my old family friend, Kurt Festge at the engineering controls. We don't have a gig yet, but the album is almost done and we hope to get a show in early to mid October. All copies of the album will be free for Grace members....although it's not the type of music most of you would enjoy. It's loud, fast and heavy...so keep it low or maybe don't listen to it at all. :) It's filled with songs about scripture stories and faith issues, but all of this is approached obliquely so it achieves a kind of dual quality: the songs could be about a relationship, or about God, or both. I'm looking to play music for people who would not easily set foot in a church, to bring into the world our denomination's more welcoming interpretation of Jesus' message.



THANK YOU

for the time to read some amazing books:

1. **Cloud Atlas** by David Mitchell: One of the best literature-like sci-fi books I've ever read. Highly recommended for anyone who doesn't like science fiction.
2. **Three big Comic Trades: Collections of Saga and Daredevil**: I was a huge comics fan and a collector of comics in high-school and college. This is the first time I've gotten back into them.
3. **Devil in the White City** by Erik Larson: Everyone's been telling me to read this since we moved to the metropolitan Chicago area; now I see why.
4. **The God of the Small Things** by Arundhati Roy: easily one of the most tragic—and beautifully well-written—stories I've ever read.
5. **This is Your Brain on Music** by Daniel Levitin: a rocker turned neuroscientist, he taught me that music does not exist in space, it is instead vibrations in the air that our inner ear is attuned to

interpret. Music is a subjective human experience, akin to how we cannot see in infra-red...but it doesn't mean infra-red doesn't exist, or that some other species could not recognize it.

6. **In the Garden of Beasts** by Erik Larson: this book gives one a sense of how not only can we delude ourselves into thinking 'it could never happen here,' it also poignantly communicates the thug-gish nature of the early days of Nazi power (Also: I learned that the U.S. ambassador's daughter at the time was likely the most provocative ambassador of sex seen before or since in the history of the U.S. foreign service).
7. **Inferno** by Max Hastings: An absolutely thrilling history of the Second World war told through the personal experiences of many types of people who suffered and fought through it. A pre-eminent WWII scholar, this is his only book that tells the entire story of the war in one volume
8. **Iron Kingdom: The Rise and Downfall of Prussia, 1600-1947** by Christopher Clark: If you're going to read about WWII and the Nazis in other great books, you might as well get the whole—and I mean the WHOLE - story. This is a fascinating book that covers the implications of the Protestant Reformation and the simultaneously impressive and terrifying formation of the German national character over the centuries. I learned that not only were the German people and rulers really no different from any other foreign power at the time of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries (and therefore cannot be so easily scapegoated by us or anyone else), I also learned that Germany's nationalist and militaristic behavior was possibly determined by the fact that they were landlocked, brutally attacked and decimated (see: The Thirty Years' War, 1618-1648) for much of their first years. In other words: because of their geographic and militarily vulnerable situation Germans developed an overriding sense that they were always about to be annihilated by someone, that they were always at risk, that they needed more space. It is so often this kind of worldview which can lead any person, community, or state to unspeakable acts of terror—much like in Germany in the 1940's. Prussia, as a state and as a concept, was abolished in 1947 by the allied victors because they feared this collective consciousness would inevitably rise again if they did not obliterate it completely.

PD did a second session on Sunday, September 22nd, to hear impressions from Grace members. We will set a date for him and his family to share photos and other stories.

If anyone would like a larger copy of individual drawings that person can email PD at PD@GraceEvanston.org and he will be happy to provide one that goes along with the Thank-You Sheet.



GRACE NEWS & EVENTS

Grace Book Group

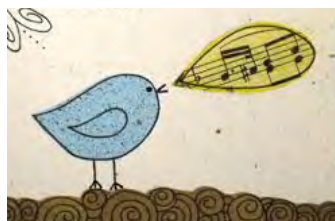


Our next book group will meet on November 10, 3:00 - 5:00 at Nancy and Mark Mathyer's home, 1212 Cleveland, Evanston 60202, 847-492-1422. We will discuss *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson.

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

Possible future books may be:

- *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
- *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson
- *The Burgess Boys* by Elizabeth Strout
- *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers
- *The Orphan Master's Son* by Adam Johnson



CALLING ALL SINGERS

Singers of all abilities are invited to sing with the Grace choir on Sunday mornings. We sing a diverse repertoire of praise and prayer music to God.

Monthly rehearsals are usually on the 2nd Sunday of each month (October 13th) after worship. For more information, contact a choir member or Mark Bowman (markleby@comcast.net or 773-316-8892). Lift up your voice and sing!

October Birthdays

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| 10/02 | Thorsten Ericksen |
| 10/03 | Lonny Miner
Lionel Walder |
| 10/04 | Ann Stevens
David Thacker Jr |
| 10/06 | Scotty Payton |
| 10/07 | William Thacker |
| 10/08 | Fred Nagelbach |
| 10/09 | Alexander Schiffer |
| 10/10 | Barbara Carqueville |
| 10/14 | Les Inch
Jon Flaherty |
| 10/16 | Keith Ericksen |
| 10/17 | Russ Kohnken
Kelly Boon |
| 10/24 | Diana Mayne |



Another Sabbatical!!!!!!!!!!

This time the Supper Club is taking a sabbatical until January 2014. In looking at the calendar for the fall, with Family Promise, the CropWalk, Book Club, a shower and wedding, five events planned for Grace's 75th anniversary and the additional gatherings around Thanksgiving and Christmas, we've decided to wait until January to begin our dinners.

Look for more information in December for a "Taste of Greece" Potluck at church, a "Kitchen Shower" for some needed items for Grace's kitchen and a Grace Gourmet Cook-off in the Spring.

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 6

Presiding Pastor Daniel Ruen
Preaching Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister Kim Brown
Music Director Mark Bowman
Lector Peg Haar
Cantor Dominique Baptiste
Acolyte Zora Ruen
Ushers Sydell Reeves & Ann Stevens
Coffee Hour Helen & Larry Yarbrough
Altar Care Susan Graef & Nancy Schubert
Nursery Care Deb Mitchell
Altar Flowers Dee Johnson

October 13

Presiding Pastor Daniel Ruen
Preaching Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister Paul Bailey
Music Director Mark Bowman
Lector Thandi Steele
Cantor Jan Blackburn
Acolyte Zinzi Steele
Ushers Larry Yarbrough & Jon Flaherty
Coffee Hour Joe & Vicki Mayne
Altar Care Susan Graef & Nancy Schubert
Nursery Care Nina Alvarez
Altar Flowers Ann Stevens

October 20

Presiding Pastor Daniel Ruen
Preaching Pastor Stefan Rickman
Assisting Minister Rosario Thacker
Music Director Mark Bowman
Lector Janet Wright
Cantor Nate Johnson
Acolyte David Thacker
Ushers Larry Yarbrough & Jon Flaherty
Coffee Hour Dorothy Nagelbach, Nancy Schubert
Altar Care Christian Lantry & Deb Mitchell
Nursery Care Nancy Schubert
Altar Flowers Jill Flaherty

October 27

Presiding Pastor Daniel Ruen
Preaching Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister Ron Graef
Music Director Mark Bowman
Lector Scott Payton
Cantor Bonnie Gunzenhauser
Acolyte Logan Spies
Ushers Sarah Carson and Nate Brown
Coffee Hour Clare Ruen & Karla Daye
Altar Care Christian Lantry & Deb Mitchell
Nursery Care Ann Stevens
Altar Flowers Dee Johnson

Retracing our Journey to a Place for Grace

On Saturday, October 12, Grace members and friends will retrace our journey as a congregation by walking from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1334 Wesley, where Grace's founding members had their roots, to Nichols Middle School, 800 Greenleaf, where we worshiped for 15 years, ending at Grace. You can walk, bike or drive any or all legs of the walk, sponsor walkers, with pledges going to the Courage Fund, or join us at Grace for refreshments and music. We will meet at Bethlehem at 2 p.m., beginning with a short rite of reconciliation led by Pastor Daniel and Bethlehem's Pastor Mark Broeker and a presentation to Bethlehem from our Courage Fund. We then will proceed to Nichols School, where we will present the school with a gift from our Courage Fund, including the "Nickels for Nichols" that our children are collecting. Finally, we will end up at Grace for some fun! Grace is pretty active at 75!

Pastor Stefan Rickman Is Coming!

Former Grace pastor Stefan Rickman, now pastor of Risen Lord Lutheran Church in Colorado, will be preaching at Grace on October 20th. Pastor Stefan served Grace from 1996 until 2005. During that time we became a Reconciling in Christ church, developed core values to guide our congregation, began offering communion to children, and dug our first garden. Pastor Stefan's wife, Natalie, also will be in church that day. Be sure that you're in church that day too, to hear Pastor Stefan's message and catch up with him about his ministries and his family...or meet him for the first time!

Save the Date for MayaWorks Sale Nov. 17, 2013

Both MayaWorks and Maggie's Organics will have beautiful and useful items for sale in Fellowship Hall on Nov 17th.

Please plan to join before and/or after worship - buy fair trade for your holiday gifts! More details to come.

For more information, go to mayaworks.org and maggiesorganics.com

Grace Church Council September 2013 Meeting Summary

The Grace Church Council met on Sept. 11 at 7:00pm. Members present included Pastor Daniel, Martha Fry, Laura Wally, Nate Johnson and Les Inch. The Council discussed several topics:

1. The Council welcomed Pastor Daniel home. PD provided a brief report and the Council supported the plan to hold two forums in upcoming weeks for PD and the Grace family to meet and learn about the sabbatical experience for PD and for Grace.
2. Grace employee health benefits package designation: it is open enrollment time and the Finance Committee reviewed the insurance options and recommended remaining with the same Plan enjoyed by Pastor Daniel and Marie O'Brien.
3. Pastor Daniel's day-off: in the past PD has taken Mondays off. Based on his and his family's experience during the sabbatical, he requested to change his day off to Saturday from Monday. This allows him to participate more fully in family activities. The Council spent a good deal of time talking this through and considering any ramifications. The Council supported PD switching his time off to mid-day Friday through Saturday.
4. Nate Johnson, liaison to the Finance Committee provided a detailed report as Treasurer Russ Kohnken was unable to attend the meeting. The Finance Committee has been discussing whether Grace should make a lump sum payment toward the mortgage principal and work with Thrivent to re-amortize the loan payments. The goal is to lower the monthly mortgage liability. The Committee will continue the discussion at their next meeting in October. The future of the Courage Fund is also under consideration as the original five-year Fund comes to a close this December 2013.

The Finance Committee will hold two upcoming informational meetings to discuss Grace's financial situation in preparation for crafting and proposing the 2014 Church Annual Budget. The informational meetings are scheduled for Sunday, October 13 @ 9:30am and Sunday, November 10 @ 9:30am. All are welcomed. In addition, smaller and/ or private meetings can be arranged for anyone who is interested. Some individual Grace members may be approached and asked if they would meet with a Council member to discuss their thoughts on Grace's finances. The annual budget meeting is set for Sunday after worship services, November 24, 2013.

5. Research of companies that conduct background checks for volunteers with Godly Play has been completed. A final decision is forthcoming and there will be a "test run" to learn the process and manage any information received. At this time only Pastor Daniel and Council President Les Inch will see any background reports that are received.
6. Grace received a CD of the 2013 Synod Assembly with the remarks of Bishop Wayne N. Miller and others. Les Inch recommended the Council listen to these remarks and consider how we can share them with the congregation. PD will make a copy for the Council. Anyone who would like to also hear the remarks can contact Les.
7. Other items: new pew cards have been printed and are now placed in pew racks; the Church office is getting a new computer and a make-over of sorts. The office will be painted and carpet cleaned the weekend of September 20-21
8. Next meeting is scheduled for Wed, Oct 9 @ 7pm



Threads of Grace

Like to Learn or Know Someone in the "Used-To" Category?



Threads of Grace, our needlework ministry, welcomes you and all your friends and family. Are you interested in learning how to knit, crochet, sew, or quilt? Do you know a friend or family member who "used to" practice one of our needlecrafts and could use a purposeful activity now? You or your loved ones might live out of town. (Many items have been mailed to us.) Some members meet on the First Wednesday of the month from 7-9 pm at the church. Come when you can. Leave when you must. You might be too busy to attend a meeting. You are still a welcomed member. Work on the projects at home, at the airport, while waiting anywhere.

Don't think of this activity as just a "ladies" group. We know that there are men and students with these talents. Are you curious? Don't be bashful. All skill levels are welcome. If our regular time does not work for you, another time or coffee hour sessions can easily be arranged. Contact Gail Lamont (773) 338-6195 or find her or any Threads member at coffee hour.

Our current project has been a favorite for years -- easy for beginners and expressive for those with more experience. We're making adult scarves and hats for Uptown Ministry in Chicago and the

Evanston Interfaith Action Hospitality Center. Men make up half of the people who visit these centers. We hope to purchase their favorite, crew caps. Please think of brown, black, navy, or grey men's scarves, or colors of your choice, for part of this contribution. For a break, switch to making a "fun" scarf for ESCCA, Evanston School Children's Clothing Association, for a student from fourth to eighth grade.

Online Assets

- ***KnittingHelp.com* or *CrochetingHelp.com*** have terrific videos to help you learn for the first time or brush up on techniques that you once knew.
- ***Appalachian Morning***: Free Patterns from Yarn Companies offers a giant list of major yarn companies that offer free patterns. Some ask you to register with them, many others give patterns without registration. It is a bonanza.
- If you lose this article, just remember to google:
Free Knitting (or Crocheting) Lesson Videos or List of Major Yarn Companies.

Update to Grace's Strategic Plan

As part of Grace's Strategic Plan, developed last year, our Mission Statement is To courageously live out our faith by sharing grace with each other and the communities we serve. Grace's Vision Statement is that All God's people will feel accepted, challenged, and cared for by Grace Church.

Goal 1: To improve information sharing within the church community and communication with the community at large.

The first objective to meet this goal is to create and maintain improved internal communication. A new member directory was created late last year and made available in paper and electronic format for Grace members and attendees. A pictorial directory was established around the bulletin board in the Grace hallway allowing members to put names to faces. In addition, a bulletin board was installed in the Grace hallway that has been updated periodically. More attention is needed to fully address and maintain an up-to-date contact list of members of the congregation and to maintain an up-to-date activities calendar both on the web site and within the church building.

The second objective is to expand media presence for internal and external communication. The Harbinger and Grace Notes have become a steady communication mechanism that members rely upon to stay up to date on Grace. These mechanisms also serve to inform members of local and state issues of interest to the broader community of faith and action. Additional progress is needed in the social media arena.

Also, as part of that objective, the Grace Church council via an ad hoc committee was to create a welcoming packet that can be given to visitors, and to create a small group who would do follow up personal calls to visitors. The packet has been completed and a visitor committee has been set up. A pew card has been designed to replace the pink sheets and help the Welcoming team keep track of visitors. The Welcoming Team has also been following up with guests with a card thanking them for joining us in worship.

Goal 2: To improve church administration to effectively support the pastor.

The first objective was to determine the needs and process for filling a parish administration position. That objective was achieved: Marie O'Brien was hired in February 2013 as Grace's Parish Administrator.

Goal 3: To establish an integrated continuous path of faith development programs

The first objective of Goal 3 was to establish a clear set of goals for children's education, to be reviewed yearly. "Godly Play" parents and facilitators met on 7/20/13 to articulate and plan for upcoming

session. Efforts to establish a system for background checks may open lines of communication between panel members, made up of parents, to advance communication. Godly Play has become quite successful, with 30 children at the program on Sunday, September 15th. Clearly the issue of children and youth education is a major one that warrants special attention.

The second objective, to expand programs for youth, was to be met by creating a panel of youth to determine the needs of the congregation for a youth program. No panel has yet to be established.

The third objective is to expand the programs for adults by creating a panel to look at options in adult education. Grace council education chairs met with adult education leaders on August 20th to examine the current state of the program and to plan for the future.

The fourth objective is to develop multigenerational events by creating a small ad hoc committee to plan several multigenerational events each year. The 75th Anniversary Committee is planning a "Nickels for Nichols" fund drive that the children will do including a congregational walk to Nichols School as part of the celebration. In addition, the CROP Walk will be a multi-generational event.

Goal 4: To extend our outreach to the greater community.

The first objective was to evaluate current programs and identify new community opportunities and act on them. This objective was to be met by the church council, the Courage Fund, and congregants.

Two congregational meetings are scheduled to begin the 2014 budget discernment process. These meetings will help decide Grace's level of commitment to and identify which Partners in Ministry (Belevolences) to be supported in 2014. Meetings are scheduled for 10/13/13 and 11/10/13, with a budget approval meeting set for 11/24/13.

Grace will also participate in the Hands at Work Program with other Evanston churches this October. The project is a community needs assessment and decision-making process whereby churches can determine local needs and action steps to address and meet those needs.



ELM Hires the Rev. Jen Rude as Program Director

Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM) has hired our first ever program director, the Rev. Jen Rude!

Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries' work with LGBTQ rostered leaders, seminarians and ministries has expanded enormously in the past few years. The ELM Board of Directors felt the vital next step was to provide the staffing support these growing programs need.

From a solid pool of talented candidates, we found a clear choice in Jen.

Jen brings considerable program experience to this role, developed over her 8+ years at the Night Ministry and Resurrection Lutheran Church. Jen has done significant anti-oppression work, and has excellent experience working with youth and young adults. Jen has been serving as the volunteer Proclaim program chair for the past few years and currently serves on the ELM Board of Directors. Jen attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. She received a B.A. in Religion with Gender Studies and Psychology minors. Jen earned her divinity degree from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA. Jen was extraordinarily ordained in 2007 and received onto the ELCA Clergy Roster in 2011.

Jen's role will be directing ELM's three programs: Proclaim, Candidacy Accompaniment, and Ministry Engagement. Her first day will be October 1. Jen's position is full-time and she will be working from our Chicago office at St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square. Jen will join Executive Director Amalia Vagts to round out the staff for Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries.

Freed and compelled by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to proclaim God's love and seek justice for all, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries envisions a church where all may serve God according to their callings. The mission of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries is to expand opportunities for Lutheran LGBTQ rostered leaders and their ministries in order to proclaim God's love and justice for all people. Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries does this work through three main programs: Candidacy Accompaniment, Ministry Engagement, and Proclaim—a professional community for Lutheran LGBTQ rostered leaders and seminarians. Learn more at www.elm.org.



Fall is here, and so is the Crop Walk!

This year's Walk will be held on October 20th, offering a wonderful opportunity for Grace members to fight hunger both worldwide and in our North Shore communities. Second Baptist Church (located at 1717 Benson Ave. in Evanston) will be the starting line, where walkers will take their first steps at 2:00pm. The 5K route will weave through Evanston's downtown neighborhood, but the exact route is yet to be determined as there are multiple construction projects in progress in that area. Regardless of the route, the leisurely walk will have several stops for refreshments to keep participants energized.

All funds raised by the Crop Walk are divided between six organizations that fight hunger. The first is Church World Service, which applies 75% of the total funds to their global humanitarian relief programs. The remaining 25% is divided equally between five local organizations that fight hunger in our community: The Ark, Second Baptist Church Tuesday Soup Kitchen, Soup at Six Evening Meal, Interfaith Action Hospitality Center and A Just Harvest.

There are many ways you can help! The first is to obtain a walker donation form and collect sponsorships from your friends and family—and then join us on the actual walk! If you can't make it to the walk, you can show your support by sponsoring one of Grace's members that will be walking on that day. A third way to pitch in is to donate directly to the North Shore Crop Walk website: www.crophunger-walk.org/evanstonil. Finally, volunteers are needed on the day of the race to supervise crosswalks and staff the refreshment stands. All of these methods are much appreciated and help in the fight against hunger locally and globally.

Visit the Crop Walk table after service every Sunday between now and the day of the walk to learn more about how you can help!

Report from the Director of Interfaith Action [where our food donations go, collected each 3rd Sunday]

It is 10 am and 95 degrees outside in Evanston. It feels nearly that in the Hospitality Center. I'm hot. I'm whining. I'm complaining. I am going home to sit in front of the fan and eat ice cream. I may go to a movie. Maybe two. I think about which air conditioned restaurant I will go to for dinner.

Spending the morning with me are 35 people who are also hot, but they are not complaining. They say they are happy for a place to eat breakfast and use the computers. Some nap in front of the fans. I ask them where they will go when the Center closes at 11 am. It is Tuesday, so many will go to the soup kitchen for lunch. It is hot there, too, they say, but they are grateful for the food. After that some will go to the library and read for awhile. Burger King is a great spot if you have money for a burger and coffee. If there is money on their link card, some purchase their dinner at Whole

Foods and enjoy eating it there. Anyone over 50 can head to the Levy Center if they have transportation. The lakefront is an option, too. Our guests are generous with their link card purchases and have wonderful, shared picnics.

Eleven o'clock is approaching. People are packing up their belongings and heading out the door. They tell me they hope I will have a cooler afternoon. And they thank me for having the Hospitality Center open. They thank the job counselor for helping with their resumes. They thank the computer trainer for being there to help them. They thank our door volunteer for helping even when it is hot. They invite us to the lakefront tonight for a hotdog and greens.

I think I know where I'll have dinner tonight.

By Susan Murphy

News from Danielle Kiefert in Seattle, Washington

It's been busy out here every day! I'm staying with family friends, Ben (a pastor friend) and his wife Jen, and their three lovely children Emma (13), Aiden (11) and Izzy (9), so there's always lots going on at home these days.

My research is going well, at least the initial part of the project. I'm following up on a study my advisor and colleagues conducted four years ago with preschoolers in the Seattle area. At that time we studied the kids both at home and in preschool to better understand the relationships between learning in these settings. I'm continuing the study currently by following up with four of those young children now that they are in elementary school (2nd and 3rd grade), once again studying them across multiple contexts.

So far all of my observations have been at home, trying to capture these kids' routine activities during summer. Now that school has started, I'm hoping to begin observing in schools as well. That part still needs some work, however, as getting approval from the schools has proved an ongoing challenge. Hopefully very soon I'll have that approval, and before the end of September I'll be observing these kids across home and school contexts. I'll also be beginning observations in out-of-school places like soccer practice, theater workshops, and other informal learning spaces. The goal of the project is to move away from thinking of contexts like home, school, after-school clubs, or church) as isolated from one another. Instead we imagine contexts as related to each other and permeable to the movement of children and their ideas and practices. By thinking of the relationships between children's experiences in these multiple spaces, I hope to have a better sense of the actual lived experiences of young people.

By imagining not only the affordances within a context for certain kinds of learning, but also the affordances in the interaction between contexts, I hope to better understand the bridges and barriers faced by young children as they move across these multiple spaces and try to make sense of their world.

[In response to my questioning the term affordances, Danielle had this to say:]

Affordances is a word folks in my field borrowed from the design literature to describe what a designed object affords (something like an ice skate affords sliding on the ice but not walking on other surfaces). We think of affordances in the field of learning as the kinds of activities that a setting affords. For example, Godly Play affords lots of questioning and brainstorming of ideas, but doesn't particularly afford or reward memorization of the story. I'm looking at what kinds of learning and activity are afforded or supported at home, school, and in other settings.

I'm also looking at how learning is supported for kids as they cross settings. An example of that is the way school forces itself on home through homework, thereby affording crossing over of school activities into the home side. On the flip side, school rarely if ever allows home to cross into the school space. In fact, most school is designed in large part NOT to afford the learning kids do in non-school spaces to influence what happens in school.

I'm interested not only in what learning happens in each setting, but what learning happens and is supported (or afforded) as kids move between spaces. Kids have to make sense of all the things they learn across the settings in their lives. All I'm trying to do is understand how they do that now, what helps, and what makes it harder, so that down the road we can design better learning spaces and relationships between spaces so kids don't have to do all that work of making sense of their world on their own.

Down the road, I hope to provide other researchers with better knowledge and inquiry practices, taking into account the multiple spaces in which children live.

I'll be back in October sometime, but still not sure when. All depends on those silly schools that won't get back to me!!! *[We hope you're back soon, Danielle – ed.]*

Joan and Ava Daye in recent issue of Evanston Roundtable

Joan Daye with her dog, Smoke, and her sister Ava Daye with dog Robin sit outside the YMCA's "Dog Day at the Y" event. Their reaction? "Awesome" and "cool."

"Dog Day at the Y," as it was called, came about because the Y's two pools were being readied for their annual fortnightly cleaning, explained Lori Siegel, senior director of Youth Development and associate operating officer. "That gave us the idea to host the dog fundraiser, since the pool was scheduled to be completely drained and acid-washed right afterwards anyway," she said.

Evanston Swims! Is a community-based program to provide free swimming and water safety lessons to Evanston residents. It is part of the Evanston 150 celebration, an offshoot of the "Water, Water Everywhere" initiative to ensure that every Evanston child can swim. Wagging Hearts is a 2-year-old pet-rescue organization that finds foster and "forever" homes for shelter dogs and cats. Their slogan, "The love of a pet is one of life's greatest gifts," is displayed prominently on the organization's web site.

Ms. Siegel said Evanston Swims! And Wagging Hearts each received about \$250 from the \$10-per-dog suggested donation. Some 40 dogs and 60-70 people participated.

While the four-legged swimmers were fairly mute on the experience, their owners were anything but. Asked to comment on how her dog, Smoke, enjoyed the swim, Joan Daye said, "It was cool." Her sister, Ava, holding her dog Robin, chimed in with "awesome."



Joan Daye with her dog, Smoke, and her sister Ava Daye with Robin outside the YMCA's "Dog Day at the Y" event.

ELCA Churchwide Reflections

by Amelia Vagts

Last Friday at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, I heard an excellent sermon preached on Matthew 15:21-28, the story of the Syrophoenician woman. In it, I heard good news for LGBTQ people and especially those called to places where they have not been welcomed.

In this passage, we heard a difficult truth – that Jesus didn't always welcome everyone. When a woman from outside the Jewish faith approached him for a miracle to save her daughter, first the disciples turned her away. Then Jesus did. She persisted and in a stunningly frank exchange she made it clear that she was able to accept whatever Jesus had to offer. Her faithfulness changed Jesus. As biblical scholars note, this is a turning point for Jesus and leads to a great expansion of his ministry to people outside the Jewish faith.

The pastor didn't mention LGBTQ people, but as I sat among a dozen or so LGBTQ pastors, candidates and seminarians as I listened to his sermon, I could only think of the faithfulness of people who have been rejected at many turns, but continue to follow a call to ministry. I sat next to a pastor who served faithfully as a pastoral associate for nearly 20 years before her congregation decided to move forward and ordain her extraordinarily. I sat near a clergy couple who were placed in separate rooms by their candidacy committee and quizzed about their relationship. I sat near someone who was selected for a full tuition scholarship from the ELCA's Fund for Leaders several years ago, and who still awaits first call. I sat near another pastor whose candidacy committee told him that he was one of the best candidates for ministry they'd ever seen, but that they could not approve him due to the ELCA's (then) guidelines. Despite these barriers, each of these pastors has followed her or his call to ministry, and the church is better for it. These are just a handful of the stories that surrounded me that morning.

I was sitting among many Proclaim leaders because one of their colleagues, the Rev. Tita Valeriano, was presiding at the service. Just a few seats down was the Rev. Guy Erwin. Just four years ago, our own church policies prevented both Tita and Guy from being recognized as ELCA clergy. And due to their faithfulness and the persistence and faithfulness of many before them and alongside them, these leaders can now do the ministry to which they were called. And I believe that the church has and will continue to change as a result.

The 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly was a powerful experience because of moments like these. I was deeply grateful to be there to show my gratitude for the leadership of Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and to recognize where he has led this denomination. And I'm thrilled to welcome Bp. Elizabeth Eaton as Presiding Bishop!

I couldn't agree more with Presiding Bishop Elect Elizabeth Eaton's words that she shared in a press conference following the election: "The election of the woman to the office of presiding bishop is a fulfillment of his ministry of making this church a welcoming place," [Eaton] said.

We're still on a journey and there is a long way to go before the diverse gifts of all are recognized. But we're on our way. I'm thankful for the prophetic vision and witness of LGBTQ pastors, their congregations & ministries, and the ELM donors who support this work.

Former Grace Member Barbara Hiller named Chief Administrative Officer of District 65 for 2013-14

At a special School Board meeting on August 23, the Board members present unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Hiller to serve as the District's Chief Administrative Officer for the coming school year while the School Board conducts a search for a permanent superintendent to replace Dr. Hardy Murphy, who after 13 years as superintendent abruptly resigned on August 9 to pursue consulting opportunities.

In announcing the appointments School Board President Tracy Quattrochi said, "We are so fortunate that Barb Hiller has agreed to serve as our chief administrative officer. She has spent almost 30 years of her professional career in District 65, working as a teacher, mathematics curriculum coordinator, principal of Nichols Middle School and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Because of her long history with the District, she knows many of the faculty and staff with whom she will be working, and her experience will be invaluable to the day-to-day operational management of our schools."

"I care very much about this district," said Ms. Hiller. "And because I have worked with many of the people in District 65, I know firsthand that with the support of the teachers and staff, principals and central office administrators, together we will make sure that the Evanston/Skokie school community has a smooth transition this year."

"There is a strong teaching staff. There is a strong administrative staff. I hope the community feels like there is a partnership. I'm looking forward to a wonderful year."

In a separate interview, Ms. Hiller told the Evanston RoundTable, I'm as excited today as I was when I first stepped into a classroom 30 years ago. And that's what education should be – we can bring excitement back to the District."



October Calendar

Every Sunday 10:45 Worship followed by coffee hour

- Oct 2 - Threads of Grace
- Oct 6 - Pet Blessing at Grace
- Oct 12 - 75th Anniv. Event - Grace Walk
- Oct 13 - Budget Meeting
Choir Rehearsal, 12:15-1:15
Soup Kitchen
- Oct 20 - 75th Anniv. Event - Rev. Stefan Rickman Preaching
Crop Hunger Walk



Find us at GraceEvanston.org



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