



# Harbinger

www.graceevanston.org • churchoffice@graceevanston.org September 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

## Youth Trip 2013

by Jarrod Gaither



Harvest Farm is a 209-acre ranch located an hour north of Denver, Colorado, just outside the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. It's home to 72 men who have voluntarily chosen to reside there as part of their long-term treatment for substance abuse issues. Their goal (according to Harvest Farm's website: [www.harvestfarm.net](http://www.harvestfarm.net)): "(to) gain the skills, stability, and self-esteem necessary to become productive, self-sufficient members of society."

The residents spend their days tending to this fully functioning farm (complete with chickens, goats, cows and the biggest pig I've ever seen), producing a wide variety of cash crops, including silage corn, sugar beets, pumpkins, and pinto beans. They also lovingly tend to an impressive garden that helps to feed Harvest Farm's 72 residents and their guests. Jeff and I, along with 9 other youth (from Trinity, Evanston and St. Luke's, Park Ridge) and 2 other chaperones, had the wonderful fortune of being such guests for this year's youth service trip.

Our group arrived in Denver early Sunday afternoon and had a special stop to make before heading to the farm: The House for All Sinners and Saints. The church's founder and pastor, Nadia Bolz-Weber, was a keynote speaker at last year's youth gathering (you can see and hear her amazing presentation by performing a search on YouTube) and made a sizable impression on our youth- so we were thrilled when the opportunity to worship with the House's congregation presented itself. The church's tight-knit community was welcoming and accommodated all who visited... no small feat on this particular day! Since presenting at last year's gathering (in front of

35,000 spectators, no less), Nadia's congregation has seen more than its fair share of visitors, and on the Sunday we attended, they had their biggest turnout ever. The members honored their belief in hospitality, going out of their way to find a seat for every person. I was pleased that the youth were able to witness how this faith community celebrated their relationships with each other and how they spent their time in worship. You, too, can learn more

about The House for All Sinners and Saints at [www.houseforall.org](http://www.houseforall.org).

Following worship, we loaded up the cars and left Denver for Harvest Farm. 6am came very early the next morning, but we were all awake and alert for breakfast and orientation. Our happy campers did a wonderful job of overcoming shyness and initiating conversations with the residents over breakfast- and all other meals, for that matter. It made me proud to see how right off the bat, Jeff and the other youth were invested in forming relationships during our stay. And while we could have spent all day sitting in the mess hall visiting, there was work to be done. Each day following breakfast, we were split into three groups: maintenance, agriculture and garden. The day's tasks were dependent upon which had the highest priority, and varied between tending to animals, mending fences, painting structures, picking vegetables for dinner, weeding -oh, the weeding!- and bailing hay. Jeff's first day involved building a chicken coop. I, unfortunately, wasn't around to see it, but I hear he's gained impressive chicken-wrangling skills as a result!

**September 1 - Worship Returns to 10:45AM**



We worked alongside the farm's residents for the entirety of the day. Each of our youth was able to hear the stories of their co-workers; where they came from, their stories of addiction and loss, their hope and what being at Harvest Farm has meant to them. And every night, the youth would tell us adult leaders about what they had learned and how they identified with similar (and not-so-similar) struggles in their lives and the lives of loved ones.

By the end of the second day our group was on a first-name basis with half the camp and were being met with smiles and warm greetings. Every few hours, I would walk around the farm with another chaperone to see how everyone was faring, which quickly became my favorite chore. Not because I was getting out of my weeding responsibilities (well... maybe a little because I was getting out of my weeding responsibilities) but because it did my heart wonders to see our young adults actively engaged not only with their labors, but also with the residents. Their efforts to form connections and learn from this experience were commendable.

But it wasn't all work! We skipped out on the farm Wednesday afternoon to take a hike in the mountains. Our group was joined by two adventure guides from nearby Sky Ranch Summer Camp—they spent the whole week with us, actually— and navigated us to Gem Lake for some communing with nature. A 3.4-mile hike up a mountain was met with a little grumbling from the troops, and Jeff stepped up as a leader, energetically leading our pack up the trail. It was a beautiful walk, filled with mountainous vistas we residents of the prairie don't get to see often enough. The trek was tiring, too, and a stop at a local pizzeria before going home was a much-needed pit stop.

Thursday was a regular workday and our last on the farm. Our workers bid farewell to the residents, thanking them for hosting us, and after dinner, we were treated to a bonfire as the sun set. Two of the residents joined us, sharing their testimony of how God has worked in their lives and their hopes for the future, which led into large-group reflection in regard to the trip as a whole. It was a beautiful, peaceful evening and we all slept well, gaining strength for the next day's big adventure... white water rafting.

We left the farm immediately after breakfast Friday morning, cars packed back up with all our baggage, to make the 7:30 am kick-off for our rafting trip. I was a little nervous, but Jeff, as usual, was cool as a cucumber. At the suggestion of the highly trained and confidence-bolstering raft guides, the youth boarded onto separate boats, leaving the adult chaperones a raft of their own. The reason for this was soon made apparent, as grouping all of the chaperones into one raft made for easy splash targeting by the youth. We chaperones got some great volleys in, but the campers won the day. We all won the day, come to think of it, as a fantastic time was had by all and the trip ended on the highest of notes.

Our physically exhausted but spiritually energized group found our way into our own beds around 1am Saturday morning. Even though I was beyond beat, I stayed awake for a while, trying to process all that happened on that great adventure.

Jeff and I can't thank the congregation enough for supporting us and making it possible for this trip to happen. Jeff made us all proud, serving as a representative of our church family and putting forth his best attitude and efforts. I need you all to help me hold him to his word that he'll be up for next year's trip, too! And I look forward to future trips as well, continuing to serve alongside those youth I know and learning more about those coming of age. I look forward to witnessing all the wonderful gifts Grace's youth have to offer!

Peace, Jarrod





## Bonnie Gunzenhauser Appointed Interim Dean at Roosevelt University



Bonnie Gunzenhauser has been appointed interim dean of Roosevelt University's College of Arts & Sciences, succeeding Lynn Weiner, who stepped down to become University historian.

An Evanston resident, Ms. Gunzenhauser is recognized for her distinguished scholarship and teaching and for her ability to work collegially with faculty in all academic disciplines. An expert on the way literacy shapes political identity both in 18th-century Britain and today, she joined Roosevelt in 2003 and has held multiple faculty and administrative positions throughout her time at Roosevelt.

## Washington Elementary School Wins Top Prize in District 65 Battle of the Books Competitions

In a true show of force, both the Spanish and English Battle of the Books teams from Washington Elementary School won first place in their respective District 65 competitions. Approximately 12 teams from District 65 schools competed in the district-wide competitions after having won their individual school battle.

The District 65 Spanish competition – *Desafío de los libros* – was held on April 26th. The winning team was Washington's *Los Tres Bananas* (The 3 Bananas) and was comprised of **Cecilia Galicia**, **Cristal Rodriguez-Montoya** and **Oliver Pacheco**.

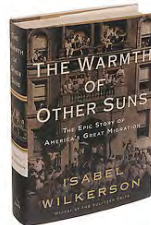
The District 65 English "battle" was held Friday, May 17th at Chute Middle School and was won by Washington's *Super Creative Fireworks*, comprised of **Ciara Connell**, **Simon Perez** and **Freskida Sejdiu**.

Both competitions challenged 4th and 5th graders from elementary and magnet schools across all of District 65 to stretch their vocabulary and comprehension skills. Students read between 12 and 20 books from a list of choices and completed journal sheets for each book. The competitions were set up in a game-show format, requiring students to answer tough questions on the books they read. The "battles" were attended by students, families and other representatives of the participating schools and the competitions were judged by teachers and librarians from District 65 as well as Evanston Public Library.

Washington School is the largest public elementary school in Evanston and is the host to Evanston's largest Spanish-English Two-Way Immersion Language Program (TWI). The Washington School community is a dynamic, multi-cultural community that pulls from all of Evanston's neighborhoods, with over half of our student body coming from low-income households.

[from Evanston Sentinel – June 2013]

## GRACE NEWS & EVENTS



### Grace Book Group

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

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



### CALLING ALL SINGERS

Singers of all abilities at Grace are invited to sing with the choir in worship this fall. Choir resumes singing on Sunday, September 8th. Rehearsals are one Sunday a month after worship and each Sunday morning the choir gathers at 10:15. Fall rehearsal dates are September 15th, October 13th, and November 10th at 12:15. Choir sings songs of prayer and praise from many different cultures and styles. For more information, talk with Mark Bowman, markleby@comcast.net or 773-316-8892

## September Birthdays

- 09/01 Bob Carroll
- 09/04 Delanie Boon  
Isaac Watson Jr.
- 09/07 Rachel Stark Inch  
Ginny Ayers
- 09/12 Ron Graef
- 09/13 Jeff Miller
- 09/14 Martha Johnson
- 09/15 Marvin Ericksen
- 09/22 Leslie O'Connor
- 09/23 Gregory Otte  
Max Wright
- 09/27 Rebecca Kohnken
- 09/28 Simone Daley
- 09/29 Alice Schubert



### Learn a New Name!

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

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

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

# SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## September 1

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Kaari Reiersen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Kaari Reiersen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Connie Wood  
**Music Director** ..... Christine Collins  
**Lector** ..... Anne Shafer  
**Cantor** ..... Russ Kohnken  
**Acolyte** ..... Joanie Daye  
**Ushers** ..... Russ Kohnken, Nate Brown  
**Coffee Hour** ..... TBD  
**Altar Care** ..... Lisa Kosnik & Nancy Starkman  
**Nursery Care** ..... Deb Mitchell  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Jan Blackburn

## September 8

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Jen Rude  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Jen Rude  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Carolyn Utech  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Craig Gonder  
**Cantor** ..... Kelly Hackett  
**Acolyte** ..... William Thacker  
**Ushers** ..... Russ Kohnken, Nate Brown  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Helen & Larry Yarbrough  
**Altar Care** ..... Ann Stevens & Nancy Mathyer  
**Nursery Care** ..... Ann Stevens  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Ann Stevens

## September 15

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Joe Flint  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Ann Stevens  
**Cantor** ..... Reggie Bruce  
**Acolyte** ..... Thandi Steele  
**Ushers** ..... Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Bill & Jan Blackburn  
**Altar Care** ..... Ann Stevens & Nancy Mathyer  
**Nursery Care** ..... Nina Alvarez  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Jill Flaherty

## September 22

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Rachel Stark Inch  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Dan Nehring  
**Cantor** ..... Lisa Kosnik  
**Acolyte** ..... Zora Ruen  
**Ushers** ..... Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Marilyn Grinager Mason & Nell Ferguson  
**Altar Care** ..... Caitlin Sellnow, Janet Wright  
**Nursery Care** ..... Nancy Schubert  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Ann Stevens

## September 29

**Presiding** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Preaching** ..... Pastor Daniel Ruen  
**Assisting Minister** ..... Jarrod Gaither  
**Music Director** ..... Mark Bowman  
**Lector** ..... Sarah Carson  
**Cantor** ..... Caitlin Sellnow  
**Acolyte** ..... Cecilia Galicia  
**Ushers** ..... Sydel Reeves & Ann Stevens  
**Coffee Hour** ..... Martha Fry & Bob Shoaf  
**Altar Care** ..... Caitlin Sellnow, Janet Wright  
**Nursery Care** ..... Deb Mitchell  
**Altar Flowers** ..... Dorothy Nagelbach





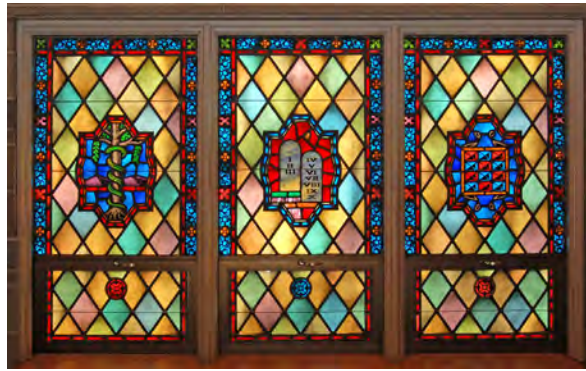
## CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF A PLACE FOR GRACE

This December marks 75 years since Grace became a congregation, and we are planning a number of events to mark the occasion and set our sights on our future as a courageous, caring community.

On Saturday, October 12th, we will be walking from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1334 Wesley, where Grace's founding members had their roots, to Nichols Middle School, 800 Greenleaf, which served as Grace's home for 15 years, ending in Grace's Fellowship Hall with refreshments and music. Bethlehem and Nichols each will be presented with a gift from our Courage Fund in recognition of their roles in Grace's history. People may walk the entire route, or sponsor walkers, with pledges going to the Courage Fund, or plan to greet the walkers at one or more of the three sites on the route. Details about times and how to pledge will appear in upcoming bulletin, Grace Notes, and Community Time announcements.

Former Pastor Stefan Rickman will be our guest preacher on October 20th. On November 17th we will recognize our legacy as a supporting community for worker priests and honor those dedicated clergy. We also plan to have special music and musicians throughout the fall.

We are planning a community service project for the fall. This year also is the 25th anniversary of the ELCA and the 150th anniversary of Evanston's charter as a city, and we will be taking on a project



that will recognize the importance of those connected histories and will take our congregation's faith values beyond Sunday worship.

On Saturday, December 7th, we will host an open house at Grace. Grace members will have an opportunity to contribute to the "Mother of All Pot-lucks" that is planned for that day, or help with decorating. There will be

photo displays throughout the building and musical and dance performances in the sanctuary. Watch for details in upcoming announcements.

Sunday, December 8th will be the culmination of our anniversary, with a celebratory worship service being planned by the Worship Committee. On that day a time capsule, which the children and youth of Grace will help to fill, will be placed in a cornerstone of the church. A special coffee hour reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.

We want to include former members, friends of Grace, and partners in ministry in our anniversary events. If there is someone in particular you want to be sure to invite, please give his/her name and contact information to Marie in the church office.

Let's have some fun, do some good, and make some joyful noise!

**Anne Laurence**





## Threads of Grace

Through this gallery of photos, Threads of Grace shares close-ups of the items blessed and delivered to Evanston Hospital in July. These items, in a range of preemie sizes, went to the Infant Special Care Unit. Evanston Hospital is one of only 10 designated Level III Regional Perinatal Centers in Illinois. Among other services, the ISCU offers support for infants who are born early or very small.



Kim Brown and Jan Blackburn knit this collection of colorful and bright hats. The crayon shows the size required.



Nancy Starkman and Gail Lamont delivered our gifts to Tia Wallace, from the Volunteers Department, who shepherded them to the ISCU. Nancy smiles here. Gail clicked the photos.



Nancy Starkman hopes the babies and moms enjoy the gowns she has sewn as much as she enjoyed selecting the fabrics.



Carolyn Utech produced a bevy of beautiful quilts. We hope this arrangement shares detail that you would not see if they were in a stack.



Gail Lamont knit these yoked sweaters

Steve Mosco may be asked to give knitting seminars now that we have seen this matching lavender blanket and outfit he created.





Many thanks to Helen Yarbrough who submitted the following pledge to your editor last spring. Although it didn't make it into the Harbinger for earlier issues, it seems important enough to print it now, several months later.

## 2013 Stand Against Racism Pledge

[read together on Ridge Avenue on Friday afternoon, 4/26/13]

I take this pledge, fully aware that the struggle to overcome and eliminate racism will not end with a mere pledge, but calls for ongoing transformation within myself and society:

### I pledge:

- To look deeply and continuously in my heart and in my mind to identify all signs and vestiges of racism;
- To rebuke the use of language and behavior towards others that is born of such racism;
- To root out such racism in my daily life and in my encounters with persons I know and with strangers I do not know; and
- To expand my consciousness to be more aware and sensitive to my use of overt and subtle expressions of racism and racial stereotypes;

### I pledge:

- To challenge any expression of racism in my presence by family, my children, my friends, my co-workers, and those I encounter; and
- Not to patronize companies known to engage in racial discrimination and the perpetuation of racial stereotypes;

### I pledge, within my means:

- To support candidates for public office who prominently, openly, enthusiastically promote racial equality in all aspects of human affairs; and
- To actively support the YWCA, as well as other organizations working to eradicate racism from our society.

### I commit myself:

- To Stand Against Racism and Discrimination of any kind; and
- To a lifetime of promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all people in my community and in the world.

### Eliminating racism, Empowering women, YWCA Evanston/North Shore

For information about ongoing Racial Justice Programs, or to see our extensive list of racial justice books, films, and websites, go to:

[www.ymca.org/evanston](http://www.ymca.org/evanston) or contact Eileen Heineman, [ehineman@ywcae-ns.org](mailto:ehineman@ywcae-ns.org) or 847-864-8445, ext. 158.



## UAFA Memorial calling for comprehensive immigration reform that includes the families of LGBT people passed by the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

ReconcilingWorks thanks all who worked so hard to bring this memorial resolution before their synod assembly for passage.

The Uniting American Families Act (UAFA) memorial, submitted to the churchwide assembly, was passed by the assembly without being called out of en bloc by the assembly for debate, meaning it was endorsed by the assembly without debate.

### Assembly Action

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the .... synods related to the Uniting American Families Act;

To affirm the Uniting American Families Act or its equivalent in the Congress of the United States;

To request the presiding bishop of this church to communicate to the president and members of Congress the action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly; and

To encourage rostered leaders and members of congregations in this church, if consistent with their individual bound consciences, to support the Uniting American Families Act, or its equivalent, to their elected representatives and encourage them to co-sponsor and to support a just, comprehensive reform of U. S. immigration law that includes the principles of the Uniting American Families Act.

For further information, see [ReconcilingWorks.org](http://ReconcilingWorks.org).



## ELCA calls for Voting Rights for All Citizens



**President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act of 1965 while Martin Luther King and others look on**

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, passed a resolution calling for voting rights for all citizens to be guaranteed. The resolution was submitted by Kwame Pitts, Metropolitan Chicago Synod. The resolution passed 811-39.

Bishop Wayne Miller, Metropolitan Chicago Synod, spoke in favor of the resolution, saying that the Supreme Court decision to strike down portions of the Voting Rights Act "will not stand." Pr. Kimberly Vaughn, Northeast Ohio Synod, spoke eloquently in support of the resolution, calling out the church for the silence she has heard on this subject thus far from this church.

The resolution called for local, state and federal governments to not only guarantee the right to vote to all citizens but also to eliminate all laws, ordinances or regulations that discriminate on racial or ethnic bases in the exercise of that right.

The resolution further calls on the presiding and synodical bishops to support publically and advocate for legislative proposals that guarantee all citizens the right to vote. It asks the Conference of Bishops to include an educational session on voting rights in their 2014 meetings. Members of the church are asked to advocate and engaging in local efforts in support of voting rights. Churchwide staff is asked to identify and publicize resources advocating for voting rights.



## ELCA assembly adopts social statement on criminal justice

PITTSBURGH (ELCA) -- Voting members of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) adopted "The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries" -- a social statement on criminal justice -- Aug. 16 with a 882 to 25 vote.

The call for a statement on criminal justice emerged from concern among ELCA members over the "massive levels of incarceration in the United States," said Cynthia Osbourne, chair of the ELCA task force charged with leading this church in a study about criminal justice and the development of a proposed social statement for the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to consider. She introduced the social statement to the assembly earlier this week.

While commending positive aspects of the system, the statement conveys dissatisfaction with many areas about the criminal justice system that urgently need reform.

"The task force was formed in response to concerns expressed from ELCA synods about the alarmingly high incarceration rates in the United States," said Osborne.

She said the United States ranks among the top two or three countries in the world in percentage of people under control of a criminal justice system -- one out of 31 adults and, for people of color, as high as one out of 11.

The statement affirms the fundamental principles of the U.S. criminal justice system, such as due process of law and the presumption of legal innocence, and it also recognizes serious deficiencies -- overly harsh sentencing and persistent inequalities based on race and class. It calls ELCA members to ministry and compassion through some practices: hearing the cries of those affected, accompaniment, hospitality and advocacy. It asks members of this church to recommit themselves to visiting the prisoner; correct the flawed criminal justice system; participate in God's work with hands and hearts and to hear the cries of people affected.

The 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly authorized the development of a social statement on criminal justice. The task force has been studying the issues and providing resource material for members since 2008.

The social statement on criminal justice is available at [www.ELCA.org/criminaljustice](http://www.ELCA.org/criminaljustice).

For information contact:

Melissa Ramirez Cooper, Manager of Public Relations  
773-380-2956 or [Melissa.RamirezCooper@ELCA.org](mailto:Melissa.RamirezCooper@ELCA.org)

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

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

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



## Openly-gay, partnered Pastor Tita Valeriano Celebrant at Churchwide Assembly Worship Service

The Rev. Tita Valeriano, ordained Lutheran minister, pastor, mission developer, openly-gay, partnered, mother, member of the Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries's Proclaim, presided as celebrant at the Friday worship service during the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.



A graduate of the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Tita has served as a congregational pastor, as Secretary for Youth in Church and Society for the Lutheran World Federation, as a campus pastor, and as the Regional Officer for the Lutheran World Federation located in the ELCA offices in Chicago.

ReconcilingWorks celebrates this historic moment and Tita's witness and leadership towards full inclusion.

Of her life journey, Tita has said "To have been born in the Philippines, a third generation Lutheran and the youngest in a family of twelve children, to be born with all the gifts and weaknesses that I have, everything of who I am and now serving in this context of North America; those, I believe, are gifts of God to me. Of course I did not choose my gender, or my nationality, or my sexual orientation, but I have been honored to be a participant in this journey God has given me, to live out these gifts."

## ELCA acted on Israel and Palestine proposals

PITTSBURGH (ELCA) -- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committed to supporting a peaceful resolution to the conflict between Israel and Palestine and took measures to ensure that commitment Aug. 17 during the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly here.

Voting members considered a series of proposals -- known as memorials from the ELCA's 65 synods -- throughout the week. With an 812 to 45 vote, voting members approved a memorial designed to continue this church's awareness-building, accompaniment and advocacy on behalf of peaceful resolutions in the Middle East.

The action commits this church to learning more about the experiences of both Palestinians and Israelis and their mutual fears, aspirations and hopes; work to convey the concerns and perspectives of Israelis and Palestinians that dispel stereotypes and caricatures and promote better understanding; lift up the voices within both communities, especially those of victims of violence, that seek peace with justice through nonviolent responses to the conflict; continue to help alleviate the humanitarian needs; support U.S. funding that promotes peace and cooperation for all parties; and to continue to pray for brothers and sisters in the Middle East and for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The action also calls for evaluating possibilities for investing in specific Palestinian economic endeavors and other projects that would promote peace and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians; and to provide a report with recommendations to the April 2014 meeting of the ELCA Church Council.

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During the week, voting members received greetings from the Rev. Munib A. Younan, president of the Lutheran World Federation and bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land; Rabbi Steve Gutow, president and CEO, Jewish Council for Public Affairs; and Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia, former secretary General, World Sikh Council - American Region.

Prior to the churchwide assembly, ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson joined 29 other Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders in a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry welcoming his "announcement on July 19 that agreement has been reached 'that establishes the basis for resuming direct final status negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis.'" The leaders said they "are committed to mobilizing broad public support for active, fair and firm U.S. leadership for peace," offered prayers for his efforts and said they are prepared "to activate members of synagogues, churches and mosques across the country to support bold American leadership.

## ReconcilingWorks celebrates the Election of Bishop Elizabeth Eaton as Presiding Bishop

ReconcilingWorks celebrates the election of Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to a six-year term as Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) on August 14, 2013 at the Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Bishop Eaton said in her five-minute speech to the churchwide assembly prior to being elected presiding bishop that she thought the decisions made in 2009 were the right ones. She was the only candidate for presiding bishop to voice any opinion on those decisions. She also thanked those who chose to remain in the ELCA following those decisions, despite not being in support of those decisions.



ReconcilingWorks is also grateful to them for remaining and organization members "commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation, meeting people where they are, listening, praying together and telling our stories of faith."

Emily Eastwood, Executive Director, said "We applaud the election of Bishop Eaton and look forward to the ways in which our mutual ministries may be enhanced through collaboration. It is no accident that, in the same year that the first woman has been elected presiding bishop, a synod of the church has also elected the first openly-gay and first Native American bishop to serve our church.

"God is doing new things, leading us through the Holy Spirit on what is sometimes a surprising and now heartening journey of faith as the body of Christ."

**Submitted by Stephen Padre, Director of Communications, Reconciling-Works - [communications@ReconcilingWorks.org](mailto:communications@ReconcilingWorks.org)**

# September Calendar

Every Sunday 10:45 Worship followed by coffee hour

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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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