



Harbinger

www.graceevanston.org • churchoffice@graceevanston.org September 2012

Grace Lutheran
Church of Evanston
1430 South Blvd.
at Wesley
847.475.2211

**Grace Is An Open
And Affirming RIC
Congregation**

Rev. Daniel Ruen
Pastor
pd@graceevanston.org

Rev. Kaari Reiersen
Colleague in
Ministry

Chloe Martinez
Office Manager

Steve Brunger
Sexton

Vision

To Be God's
Kingdom Bursting
Open in the World.

Core Values We Value:

The Gospel of Jesus
Christ

Putting Faith into
Action Courageously

Diversity

Peace

Faith Development

A Caring Community

Experiencing God

Weekly Worship

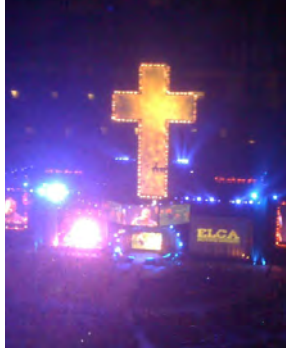
Tens of Thousands: Sinners and Saints

When 33,000 Lutheran high-schoolers gave Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber two standing ovations, I knew something important was happening.

I was sitting high in the New Orleans Superdome with Jarrod Gaither (our adult youth coordinator), our Grace youth (Sam Shoaf, Rools Jean, Nate Brown), and dozens of other Chicago-area youth who had journeyed together to the ELCA National Youth Convention.

Pastor Bolz-Weber had led a life of drug use, alcoholism, lying, stealing, promiscuity and rebellion before meeting her partner who was studying to become a Lutheran Pastor. She began attending church with him and, at an adult confirmation class, she was exposed to the Lutheran concept of being simultaneously 100% Sinner and 100% Saint. It blew her away:

"I thought, 'Oh my Gosh: I have an enormous capacity for the destruction of myself and other people, but I have an enormous capacity for kindness, too—and someone finally explained that to me.'"



"So you know why I'm a Lutheran?" thundered Pastor Bolz-Weber. "Because you are the first people in my life who gave me language for what I had experienced to be true, and I'm so grateful. It changed my life."

Pastor Nadia is a tall and generously tattooed person. She went on to say how one of the first things she no-

ticed in Lutheran churches she'd attend was that no one looked like her. If she and her friends were to be exposed to the powerful Lutheran message of grace and simultaneity, they would have to "culturally commute" to fit in our churches. So, she began a Lutheran ministry called "The House of All Sinners and Saints" that strives to include the young and old who may not fit the cultural stereotypes of many mainline churches.

The combination of her appearance, her honest truth-telling, and her support of our theological tradition had a powerful effect on everyone present, youth and adult alike. I think I said to Jarrod that hers was the most direct and poignant Lutheran interpretation of the Gospel I have ever heard.

Continued on next page



New Orleans



As the week continued I was impressed with how each speaker went to the heart of their pain—whether it was because of gender discrimination, racism, disability, drug use, bullying or homophobia—not flinching from the realities that they and so many of our youth struggle with. Tens of thousands of kids would go quiet as the speakers shared the realities of their lives and connected those problems with the lives of our youth. When they spoke of the transforming power of Jesus' role in their lives, it had that much more impact.

These were not perfect Christians, carted up onstage to present a wholesome and whitewashed public relations image. They were perfect Sinners and Saints, willingly taking us from death to new life, and I daresay I was proud to be a Lutheran that whole week, to have our young people spoken to with such maturity and courage.

My time with Sam, Rools and Nate was truly special, set in a context of Christian peacemaking, witness and action. More than once I watched how they gracefully interacted with one another, with youth from all over the country, and in our small and large group discussions. We served, studied, sang, worked, played and traveled with great love, spirit and humor (and I don't think we were once beaten on the ultimate Frisbee court at the convention center...our guys have skills!).

Our week in New Orleans (July 17th – 23rd) would not have been possible without you. Your generous gifts, your prayers and your support meant we could give our youth the experience of a lifetime. I pray they will always remember what it was like to drop our \$2,000.00 congregational check off at the 100 Wells display, representing Grace as the swiftly maturing, seeking, growing young men that they are.

Jarrold Gaither was deeply involved in the planning and implementation of this trip. His positivity, hard work and attention to detail made it smooth and satisfying. Please thank him when you get the chance. I am also thankful for our continued cooperation with Trinity Lutheran Church and the Chicago Youth Ministry Network of Churches that worked so well together to bring hundreds of kids and adults to the convention this year. We are blessed with a strong, strong spirit of cooperation, thanks be to God.

"Here's what you need to know about this Lutheran thing you have, this Lutheran liturgy and theology and the whole tradition: It is a feast," proclaimed Pastor Nadia. "And it is a feast to be shared. I'm here to tell you that people are hungry. People are hungry. You have a feast entrusted to you, and they are ready for it."

I say: let's eat that feast. Let's share that feast, my dear sisters and brothers. Tattoos are, of course, optional.

**The Peace and Joy of Christ,
Pastor Daniel**



CHURCH KEYS (No, not that kind!)

Key Survey:

Do you have any keys for the Grace Church facility? During the month of September, the Property Committee will be surveying the Grace membership to see who has GLC keys. If you do, we would like you to let us know. We want every Grace person who needs access to have access. However, security and logistics are ongoing concerns. Discovering who has access to the facility is timely, especially in view of the new renovation. Please email Jan Blackburn at blackburn.bj@att.net with information about the keys you hold. Below is a list of descriptions to use.

Key Roundup:

GLC seems to need to have new keys copied regularly to provide access for a wide range of purposes. However, we suspect that a significant number of keys are "out there" that are no longer being used, hiding on hooks or key rings, in drawers or key jars.

Please check around to see if you have a key (or keys) that you are not using nor expect to need it and return it to the church. What we request is that the key be tagged or at least write on the envelope what you think it will open--(suggestions below), put in a sealed envelope (to keep it contained), and give to Jan Blackburn or Chloe or leave in the church office. We will sort, test, and catalog them for future use.

Here are the suggested key descriptions:

- Education Wing front entry glass doors (blue and/or green)
- Sanctuary
- Sacristy
- Sunday School Rooms
- Nursery
- Janitor's Closet (EdWg)
- Music Director's Office (2 keys)
- Church Office (2 keys)
- Office Alley Door (old)
- Furnace Room (pre-renovation)
- New renovation door keys: A, AA, AAA, Furnace Room
- Shed
- "Don't Know"
- Other?



Thanks for your assistance and support in this undertaking. Call or email if you have questions.

Jan Blackburn

(847)475-8022 or Blackburn.bj@att.net

New Music Director!

I'm pleased to announce that Mark Bowman will be coming to Grace as our new Music Director -- his first Sunday with us will be September 9. Mark brings many years of experience as a church musician and worship leader in Chicago-area churches and seminaries, and the search committee is excited to bring his gifts to Grace. Please introduce yourselves to Mark and make him feel welcome, and please note that Les and Rachel Inch will be hosting an open house at their home on Saturday, October 13 so that anyone with interest in music at Grace will have a chance to talk with Mark. Meanwhile, I'd like to thank the stalwart search committee for all of their excellent work during the search process: when you see Christine Collins, Susan Graef, Hazel Jacobs, Nate Johnson, Rachel Stark Inch, Nancy Van Brundt, and PD, please give them your thanks as well!

Bonnie Gunzenhauser, search committee chair

Welcome for Mark Bowman

The congregation is invited to an Open House, Saturday October 13, 2012 to welcome Grace's new Music Director, Mark Bowman. Please join us, beginning at 6:30 PM at the home of Rachel Stark Inch and Les Inch, 5837 N. Talman Avenue, Chicago 60659; they will be serving appetizers and desserts. An RSVP is requested so they know how many to plan for. You can RSVP by telephone [773-728-6768] or email Rachel [starkinch@aol.com] or Les [linch679@gmail.com].

Are You Interested In Social Justice Issues?

Have you been wondering what you can do to help others in your neighborhood or around the world?

We would love to have your participation and input for ideas that Grace can tackle.

Please join our new Grace online social justice Yahoo group (try saying that seven times fast).

If you would like to join, email:

Joe Flint: jflintlpcp@yahoo.com or Lisa Kosnik: ligo79@yahoo.com

Once you have joined, please fill out the poll and indicate issues of interest.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

November 21, 2012

Once again, Interfaith Action invites everyone to its annual Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, November 21st. This year Beth Emet the Free Synagogue will host the celebration. The speaker will be F. Bill Tkachuk from St. Nicholas Catholic Church, and choirs from Beth Emet and Second Baptist Church will raise their voices in praise and gratitude. All are welcome!



GRACE NEWS & EVENTS



Grace Book Group News

Our next book group will meet on Sunday, September 16th, at Carolyn and Dave Utech's home, 165 N. Canal Street, #1329, Chicago, IL 60606, 312-441-9631. (Call them for info re directions and parking.) We will discuss **Cutting for Stone** by Abraham Verghese.



Marketplace

Interfaith Action Of Evanston Partnering With GFS Marketplace

At a June ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of Evanston's GFS Marketplace store, manager Brian Wells presented Interfaith Action Director Sue Murphy with a \$1000 check to mark their commitment to Interfaith Action's mission. In addition, he announced that GFS's employees will prepare and serve meals at Second Baptist's soup kitchen four times a year.

GFS Marketplace has also enrolled Interfaith Action in its Fun Funds program, a way for Interfaith Action's supporters to earn money for IA by shopping at GFS stores. Check out www.gfs.com to view the variety of products and services the store offers.



September Birthdays

- 09/01 Bob Carroll
- 09/07 Rachel Stark Inch
Ginny Ayers
- 09/12 Ron Graef
- 09/13 Jeff Miller
- 09/14 Martha Johnson
- 09/15 Marvin Ericksen
- 09/19 Jenny Lee
- 09/22 Leslie O'Connor
- 09/23 Gregory Otte
Max Wright
- 09/27 Rebecca Kohnken
- 09/28 Simone Daley
- 09/29 Alice Shubert



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

September 2

Preaching Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister Rachel Stark Inch
Lector Anne Shafer
Acolyte David Thacker Julia Shoaf
Ushers Russ Kohnken, Nate Brown and Jan Blackburn
Coffee Hour Clare Tallon Ruen and Karla Daye
Altar Care Tim Schannep and Nancy Stewart
Nursery Care Deb Mitchell

September 9

Preaching Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister Andria Morse
Lector Bill Blackburn
Acolyte Cecilia Galicia
Ushers Russ Kohnken, Nate Brown and Jan Blackburn
Coffee Hour Martha Fry and Bob Shoaf
Altar Care Ann Stevens and Nancy Mathyer
Nursery Care Ann Stevens

September 16

Preaching Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister Kim Brown
Lector Joe Mayne
Acolyte Julia Shoaf
Ushers Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf and Cecilia Galicia
Coffee Hour Nancy Stewart and Nancy Starkman
Altar Care Ann Stevens and Nancy Mathyer
Nursery Care Dee Johnson

September 23

Preaching Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister Paul Bailey
Lector Barry Buck
Acolyte Faloside Tawio
Ushers Jan Blackburn, Bob Shoaf and Cecilia Galicia
Coffee Hour Lonny Miner
Altar Care TBA
Nursery Care Nancy Schubert/Cecilia Galicia

September 30

Preaching Pastor Daniel Ruen
Assisting Minister Connie Wood
Lector Mark Mathyer
Acolyte Zora Ruen
Ushers Sydell Reeves and Ann Stevens
Coffee Hour TBA
Altar Care TBA
Nursery Care Nina Alvarez

Worship Notes

This will be an exciting fall for us at Grace, with our new Director of Music, Mark Bowman, beginning on September 9th, and Megan Sawyer and Amy Gillespie, our 2012-2013 Ministry in Context students, starting with us that same day. Please look for Mark's open house info (at the home of Les and Rachel Stark-Inch) and brief introduction elsewhere in this issue. More complete bios of Mark, Megan and Amy will be in next month's Harbinger. Every year at our church is a new season of God's unfolding, surprising and challenging grace—this year proves to be another exciting and inspiring season.

Pastor Daniel

The Gospel in Seven Words

Christian Century magazine recently challenged some of its contributing authors and theologians to find a way to boil the Gospel message down to its essentials in seven words, or less. A recent issue of the magazine published replies from fifteen religious thinkers (but also gave each one an additional 75-word paragraph to explain what they meant by those pithy sayings.)

I wonder what people at Grace church would come up with in response to such a challenge?

What is the Gospel message in its essence? Imagine you are trying to explain this idea briefly, before your listener turns away, or your reader flips to another page. What might provoke the hearer to ask a follow-up question?

Give it a try. Send your *Gospel in Seven Words* (or less) to Marilyn Mason, Harbinger Editor, or to the Grace church office. Maybe we can find a way to post your ideas and have a discussion about them.

David Utech

Adult Education Schedule

The Grace Adult Ed schedule for the fall is focused on an important theological issue, especially for Christians: Prison reform. Jesus spoke powerfully and enigmatically about “the prisoner” more than once in his ministry. What was it about prisons and prisoners that made Jesus so vocal about those who were incarcerated? Don’t we need to punish people for their crimes and require places to ensure societal safety from dangerous people? How do we balance these reasonable needs with the alarming statistics of mass incarceration in our country?

Join us for two months of focused discussion, study and avenues of action. I hope to see you there! - PD

Adult Ed begins on Sunday, September 9th at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall

- 9/9/12: The New Jim Crow Book discussion #1
- 9/16/12: The New Jim Crow Book discussion #2
- 9/23/12: Intro to the ELCA Criminal Justice Draft Statement
- 9/30/12: Terri Gens of LSSI’s Prison and Family Ministry
- 10/7/12: David Weasley of The Night Ministry on homeless youth and issues of incarceration
- 10/14/12: Eddie Bocanegra of The Community Renewal Society and the FORCE initiative
- 10/21/12: Final forum on the ELCA Criminal Justice Draft (responses due by 10/31/12)
- 10/28/12: Wrap-Up Discussion on Issues of Criminal Justice Reform, Action Steps, Grace’s Role in the Future, etc.



“Helping Families in Homeless Situations Regain Stability”

Grace Lutheran Church has hosted Family Promise guests for 2 years. We were invited to participate by Brek Peterson who assured us that the volunteers would get a great deal out of the giving.

He couldn’t have been more accurate.

When guests “move in” for the week, the church suddenly is bursting with activity and seems appropriately used. Evenings are warm and social and the kitchen is full of kindly cooks and yummy food. Kids from Grace and from Family Promise mingle and laugh—shoot pool, read, run around, watch movies, do homework, learn crafts...

One of the nicest aspects is the meeting ground not only between host and guest, but also among hosts. We share duties with St Nick’s Catholic Church and also get meal help from St John’s Armenian Church.

The workload is well divided so if you are interested, sign up or just come visit some evening the first week of October.

Jobs include:

- Setting up the rooms the weekend before.
- Cooking for guests and hosts (anywhere from 6-16, the more guests the more cooks) and serving and cleaning up with help from families.
- Spending the evening and overnight (due to the early day these folks face—van pickup by 7am—evenings are quiet and sleeping at church really isn’t bad, but those of us who do sleep at Grace might fight you for the privilege).
- Not true! You’re welcome to join us. We usually have a Grace Kid sleep over one night, too. Here is a link to an online calendar.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0ApWJTPpvFDFddG9rQzN1TDBJNzZIRIZ4NnFmS2lyU2c#gid=0>

See you September 30th—October 7th!

Clare, Brian and Barbara

<http://www.fpcnorthshore.org/>

Family Promise





Excerpts from The Interfaith Dialogue, September 2012 – Full copy of these and other interesting articles can be found at Interfaith Action's website: www.InterfaithActionofEvanston.org.

Interfaith Dialogue in Evanston

By Claire Fisher & Eileen Wiviott

The Interfaith Dialogue Committee's mission is to expand opportunities for interfaith conversations within our community. Our last three Gatherings were devoted to this topic. At our September 2011 gathering we introduced the topic and gathered ideas for further dialogue. January's event featured three professional storytellers with an interfaith theme. May's Gathering included a spirited drum circle, more faith-journey stories, and thoughtful small-group discussions.

All this has resulted in several ongoing interfaith activities. Once a month a group of deeply committed people meets to talk about various topics such as prayer, social action, peace, justice, race and faith. Every other month an interfaith knitting group meets at different houses of worship to share thoughts and experiences. Currently the committee is discussing how we can share sacred service – social action work using interfaith teams.

We continue to welcome your ideas on how we can increase collaboration and understanding across our faith traditions. To join the knitting group, contact Liz Stout: eglizard@aol.com. To start or join a dialogue group or to share other ideas, contact either Claire: clairefisher@gmail.com or Eileen: ewiviott@hotmail.com.

Report from the Director

By Sue Murphy

Every weekday morning at 6:30, I walk into the Hospitality Center at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, flip on the lights and start the

coffee. The room is neat and quiet except for the perk of the pot and the hum of the fans. I set out food and juice for a light breakfast, plug in the phones and unlock the front door. Men and women are already waiting to come in, followed by a volunteer who will spend the morning greeting guests and guiding them to our room.

The room rapidly fills with people and conversation. Guests eat, nap and make phone calls. At 8:00 the computer room opens and the trainer begins assisting guests as they work on their resumes, apply for positions or simply check their email. The employment counselor arrives at 8:30, and people line up to get information about available jobs. They are provided with transportation to get to interviews, voicemail accounts and encouragement as they search for employment.

The Hospitality Center is filled with voices, laughter and, occasionally, snoring! As the morning passes, people ask for various items. And then it is 10:45. Time to finish eating, wake up and turn off the computers. The room is filled with "thank you" and "see you tomorrow" and "good-bye." I lock the door. And the room is quiet, neat and ... lonely!

An average of 35 people come to the Hospitality Center every weekday morning. Ten years ago, the average was 14! Our population and our needs have increased with the decline in our economy. With your help [Grace collects food and beverages for the Hospitality Center each 3rd Sunday of the month] we attempt to meet their needs as they search for employment and help them become contributing members of the Evanston community.

Dangerous Women Creed

by Lynne Hybels

Dear God, please make us

dangerous women.

May we be women who acknowledge our power

to change, and grow,

and be radically alive for God.

May we be healers of wounds and righters of wrongs.

May we weep with those who weep and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

May we cherish children, embrace the elderly, and empower the poor.

May we pray deeply and teach wisely.

May we be strong and gentle leaders.

May we sing songs of joy and talk down fear.

May we never hesitate to let passion push us, conviction compel us, and righteous anger energize us.

May we strike fear into all that is unjust and evil in the world.

May we dismantle abusive systems and silence lies with truth.

May we shine like stars in a darkened generation.

May we overflow with goodness in the name of God and by the power of Jesus.

And in that name and by that power, may we change the world.

Dear God, please make us dangerous women.
Amen.



The Old College Try...

Learning sciences doctoral student **Danielle Keifert** is currently working on writing her dissertation proposal. She and her advisor have settled on extending the project she has been working on for the past two years. That work focuses on studying young children in their everyday activity both at home and at preschool. A recent paper she submitted to the International Conference of the Learning Sciences won an award for best student paper. The School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern (which houses her program) wrote up a description of that work, as follows:

Learning sciences doctoral student Danielle Keifert won the award for best student paper at a recent international conference in learning sciences. Her paper documents the ways in which very young children encounter opportunities for scientific inquiry in their everyday lives. "Understanding these early childhood practices is a necessary first step in drawing on these practices as resources for science inquiry learning," says Keifert. She presented her paper entitled "*Young Children's Everyday Inquiry: A Field Study of a Young Girl's Play Across Contexts*" at the International Conference of the Learning Sciences, held in Sydney, Australia, in July 2012. This conference serves as a forum for academics in learning sciences, an interdisciplinary field that originated at Northwestern University in 1991.

Keifert is a fellow in the Multidisciplinary Program in Education Sciences. This doctoral training program is designed to develop a cadre of scholars trained to conduct relevant and reliable research on pressing policy and practice issues in education.

Alison Laurence is in her second year of a Masters program in Public History at the University of New Orleans. Her thesis is on the public perception in America of dogs during World War I. She also is working part-time as a docent at a house/museum in the French Quarter.

Mary Mathyer, a junior at Kalamazoo College, left Monday August 27th for a 6 month study abroad program in Kenya.

Kalamazoo College has a long time relationship with University of Nairobi, and this year 11 Kalamazoo students are enrolled. Mary and her fellow travelers each live with a host family in homes around Nairobi. Mary's host family consists of a father who works for the UN and is away for 6-8 weeks at a time, a mother who is a student as well, and an 11 year old sister named Ciiku. They live in a suburb on the edge of the city and have hosted US students previously for 3 week stints but never a long term family stay.

Mary's course load at University of Nairobi will include Kiswahili, Geographies and Developments and her choice between Kiswahili 2, oral literature, a gender class or a politics of Africa class. She

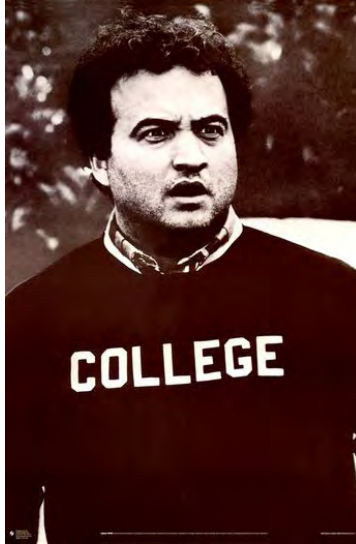
will also be working on an internship in an area of interest. She is hoping to work with a Kenyan theater company since theater is one of her majors at Kalamazoo College.

Mary will have the opportunity to travel around Kenya on excursions during her stay. She is excited about visiting the Indian Ocean and viewing the wildlife at the Kenyan National Park just outside of Nairobi. A trip to the animal orphanage is planned in the next few weeks and her host mother is hoping to lead a climb of Mount Kenya.

Mary is chronicling her experiences in a blog. If you would like to follow her adventures, the web address is <http://marytakesonthe.world.tumblr.com/>. She returns February 11, 2013.

Christine O'Connor is starting a 5-year (if she is lucky...) PhD biology program at the University of Oregon. She will be studying evolutionary genetics relating to stress and aging. She will also be tormenting undergrads as a TA.

Leslie O'Connor is starting her senior year at Vanderbilt University. When/if she graduates in May with a degree in Economics she plans to have a job or a place in grad school. Her parents are pulling for the job plan.



Greg Otte is at John Carroll University (just outside Cleveland), expecting to graduate in 2014. He is studying Finance. He has been enjoying college more as he has been able to take more business classes and fewer core classes. Over the summer he coached a travel baseball team, worked at Andy's Custard and did some house painting. He is hoping to combine a Finance related job next summer with continuing to coach youth baseball.

Doug Otte attended the University of Dayton as a freshman. This year he is taking a year off, taking some classes at Oakton and actively seeking a job (anyone have any leads?). He hopes to return to UD next year and pick up his studies in Education. Doug hopes to teach history at the high school level when he graduates. He spent a semester doing classroom observation last year that made him feel sure that this was the right course of study for him. Last summer he taught swim lessons to kids at a public pool in Wilmette.

Nell Yarnall, daughter of Nancy Stewart & Jim Yarnall, is studying Communication Sciences and Disorders at Butler University in Indianapolis. She is a junior.

We apologize if any college students were left out. Please send in your information and it will run in the next Harbinger.

Get ahead on the Bethel Brain Train

In early September, Bethel New Life is launching *The Brain Train*, a childhood educational program that draws on established research to improve the academic skills of children on Chicago's West Side. Taking a solution-oriented approach, it is designed to help children who are behind in school catch up with their peers academically and achieve a higher level of success in the classroom.

The program's preliminary launch site is Spencer Elementary Technology Academy, a public elementary school located less than two miles from Bethel's main campus. Through an innovative collaboration between Bethel New Life, the school's administrators and teachers, and parents of the students, The Brain Train will be part of the school's daily curriculum.

To learn more about this exciting initiative, please read more on Bethel New Life's website: Why the Brain Train is different: www.bethelnewlife.org.

Churches & businesses:

Learn how to help with the Bethel Christmas Store at Bethel's September 17th meeting

Bethel New Life is seeking new partners for their third annual Bethel Christmas Store this December. This amazing three-day event requires more than 20 church/business partners and 600 volunteers to make a joyful Christmas for 750 West Side families. Watch their YouTube video to learn more, and don't forget to share the video with your friends, co-workers, and congregations!

Christmas Store Partnership Kick-off

Monday, September 17, 2012 • 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

1234 N. Arlington Heights Road • Arlington Heights, IL 60004

- Get an overview of the Bethel Christmas Store
- Discuss ways volunteers can participate
- Find out which gifts went like hotcakes
- Tell Bethel staff how to help you engage your church members or coworkers
- Share creative ideas with other church and business partners
- Meet the Bethel team bringing this project together

To RSVP, or for more information, please contact Sara at sspoonheim@bethelnewlife.org by Wednesday, September 12th.

Give to Bethel while you shop

Through Bethel's partnership with The Giving Seed, you can join the new age of philanthropists who are shopping online while instantly giving to Bethel. Learn how on their website! www.bethelnewlife.org.

HOW RARELY I HAVE STOPPED TO THANK THE STEADY EFFORT

A person speaking
pauses, lets in
a little silence-portion with the words.
It is like an hour.
Any hour. This one.
Something happens, much does not.
Or as always, everything happens:
the standing walls keep
standing with their whole attention.
A noisy crow call lowers and lifts its branch,
the crow scent enters the leaves, enters the bark,
like stirred-in honey gone into the tea.
How rarely I have stopped to thank
the steady effort of the world to stay the world.
To thank the furnish of green
and abandon of yellow. The ancient Sumerians
called the beloved "Honey," as we do.
Said also, "Borrowed bread is not returned."
Like them, we pay love's tax to bees,
we go on arranging the old notes in different orders.
Desire inside A C A G G A T.
Forgiveness in G T A C T T .
In a world of space and time, arrangement matters.
An hour has no front or back,
except to those whose eyes face forward,
whose tears blur thought and stars.
Five genes, in a certain arrangement,
will spend this life unrooted, grazing.
It has to do with how the animal body comes into being,
the same whether ant or camel.
What then does such unfolded code understand,
if it finds in its mouth the word important --
the thing that can be carried, or the thing that cannot,
or the way they keep trading places,
grief and gladness, the comic, the glum, the dead, the living.
Last night, the big Sumerian moon
clambered into the house empty-handed
and left empty-handed,
not thief, not lover, not tortoise, just looking around,
shuffling its soft, blind slippers over the floor.
This felt, to me, important, and so I looked back with both
hands
open, palm unblinking.
What caused the fire, we ask, meaning, lightning, wiring,
matches.
How precisely and unbidden
oxygen slips itself into, between those thick words.

Jane Hirshfield

Second Baptist Church

SUNDAY, October 14, 2012, 2:00 p.m.

North Shore CROP HUNGER WALK!



- **CROP Hunger Walks** are interfaith, ecumenical, hunger-relief events that bring the community together in a common mission: **helping hungry people at home and around the world.**
- **The North Shore CROP Hunger Walk** is a non-competitive, 5K fundraising walk that raises funds for 5 local agencies that feed hungry people, **including our own Tuesday Soup Kitchen.**

Second Baptist Church will serve as host congregation for this year's CROP Walk and lead the effort towards eliminating hunger in the Evanston and Rogers Park communities. **Here's how you can help:**

***Be a walker and join the SBC Team – our church goal: 150 walkers, \$15,000**

(Calling all ministers, officers, leaders, ministry group members – we need your participation.)

- Donate to a walker • Donate a healthy, wrapped snack • Be a sponsor
- Join the CROP Walk Planning Committee
- Volunteer: crossing assistants, registration table, refreshments & rest stop, publicity
- Use your web skills and help us design a powerful website for information, registration and online fundraising
- Contact a CROP Walk Committee member to walk, donate or volunteer
 - Arlene A. Jackson, arlene.a.jackson@gmail.com, 847-804-0739
 - Barbara Harvell, bwell@rcn.com, 773-209-4801
 - Pat Drinkwine, pdrinkwine@ameritech.net, 847-475-1919

*Walkers are asked to obtain donations in any amount. A *minimum* suggested goal is \$150 per walker. Local funds raised will be divided between the following organizations: The Ark/Rhea Segal Food Pantry, A Just Harvest, Soup at Six Evening Meal, Interfaith Action Hospitality Center, Tuesday Interfaith Soup Kitchen at Second Baptist Church.

September Calendar

Every Sunday 10:45 Worship followed by coffee hour

Sept 3 - Labor Day

Sept 16 - Book Group

Sept 30 - Family Promise



Find us at GraceEvanston.org

Grace Church Council

Les Inch, Chair,

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

Grace

Grace Lutheran Church of Evanston
1430 South Blvd.
Evanston, IL 60202
Voice: 847.475.2211
Fax: 847.869.9442