

Lent/Easter 2017

Goodness GRACIOUS

A message from the heart of Pastor Janice Kibler

Dear Friends –

Happy Anniversary! Eighty years ago, on May 11, 1937, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized. The worshipping community had grown from 7 people in 1924, to 40 people in 1937, and ministry was growing in the community, particularly with CU. On Sunday, May 16 of that year, a dedication of the “Arapahoe Chapel” (1428 Arapahoe) was held, followed by a music festival that evening. It was a joyous celebration of God’s gifts of hope and presence in this world, and in this community. Elbe Geer, our only member who remains from those days, remembers the adventures of those early years.

Over the last 80 years, this congregation has seen tremendous change. Not only has the City of Boulder changed, the world in which we live has changed. Days before the dedication in 1937, the Hindenburg burst into flames. Also in that month, the Golden Gate Bridge was opened. Japan invaded China that year as FDR began his second term as the president of the United States. The world was changing then, as it is now. This congregation, then and now, has a call to be a sign of hope in a fast-moving and unsteady world. We have a call to carry the light of Christ to those

For our anniversary, we are invited to engage in celebrating God’s gifts of hope and presence with us. April 30, our worship will be a music fest as we rest in God’s faithfulness in the past, and trust God’s presence in the future. Through the year, we will be lifting up the ministries of Lutheran Family Services, recognizing our partnership as they dedicate each day to carrying the light of Christ to families, older adults, foster kids, and refugees who know firsthand the shadows of this world. Thanks to the generosity of the Grace Foundation, gifts will be matched to LFS, and we have set the goal of \$8000 (\$16,000 when matched) as our anniversary gift this year.

Other celebration events this year include a picnic for the community (students and long term residents) in Beach Park in August, noting that Beach Park is also celebrating 80 years. And in October, we will have a festive time of worship when we invite former members to be with us. In all of these activities, may we be a sign of God’s presence and faithfulness as we share grace and hope with others.

Peace, Pr. Janice



Rooted in Grace
+
*Reaching out
in Christ’s
Love*

The newsletter of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
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*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

Pastor Janice E. Kibler

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IN THIS ISSUE...

From Pr. Janice	1
Grace Giving Update....	2
Council News.....	3
Designated Giving.....	4
Sundays in Lent	5
Wednesdays in Lent	6
Holy Week	7
Music at Grace.....	8



FIRST FRIDAYS

with Grace

Bring drinks and an appetizer to share.

March 3, 6pm Would you like to host?

April 7, 6pm host: Kibler/Williams

May 5 , 6pm host: Lan Zeckser

June 2nd 6pm host: John & Nelda Gamble

July 7th:6pm Would you like to host?

August 4th:6pm host: Kurt and Karen Lichtfuss

GRACE GIVING

\$ 21,816.00 budget
\$ 21,727.05 actual giving
\$ 88.95 behind

Thank you for your generosity in 2016! In addition to your giving for our operating budget, you gave a total of \$17,604 to ministries beyond our walls through our monthly designated offerings. That was all doubled because of the match from the Grace Foundation.

From our operating budget we gave \$5600 to Lutheran Campus Ministry at CU.

*Also from our operating budget, we gave \$28,151 (10% of our budget) in **mission support** to the Rocky Mountain Synod and ELCA for the work we do together in outdoor ministries, campus ministries, global missionaries, new ministries, and staffing synodical support for congregations.*

*The budget we passed for 2017 had a reduced amount of **mission support** because it is a percentage of our total budget, which is less this year. The Foundation voted to give a one-time gift of \$2000 to the Rocky Mountain Synod so that those ministries would not feel the pinch of our reduced operating budget. Way to go, people of Grace!*



Grace Council Leadership 2016-17

Anne Peterson.....	President
Tom Dozier.....	President-Elect
Gordon Day.....	Past-President
Bruce Matheson.....	Treasurer
Art Ray.....	Member-at-Large
Jenny Mileski.....	Member-at-Large
Marci Roschke.....	Member-at-Large

Report from our Council President, Anne Peterson

The most significant change to note at Grace since the last report has been the departure of Amy Munding as office administrator and the hiring of Meredith Preston to replace her. Meredith brings a wealth of professional experience to the job and is being assisted through the transition by Amy.

Voting members unanimously adopted the proposed 2017 budget at the annual meeting on January 22. Pr. Janice's position, at her own request, has been reduced from 80% to 70%. She says we are a spiritually healthy congregation that requires less care and mediation than many other churches! The reduction in her salary will allow us to expand our matching funds program for designated offerings. As we emphasized last year, this reduction in time is always subject to change if our needs for pastoral care increase.

Members of the congregation provided lunch for the Wonderland Creek Habitat for Humanity construction crew on Dec. 10. If the Holy Spirit manifests itself in wind, we had an abundance of both that day, making grilling hot dogs and burgers and keeping everything from blowing away a challenge. We served about three times as many people as we had been told to expect, but nobody went away hungry. We also had the opportunity to walk through the four units at the site, one of which will house a family that Grace helped sponsor in December.

We are in the planning stages for commemorating both Grace's 80th anniversary and the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We hope to raise \$8,000 to contribute to Lutheran Family Services as part of our celebration. It's going to be an exciting year, so stay tuned for further developments.

Anne F. Peterson
Council President

Thank you, people of Grace, for the ways you celebrated the birth of Christ in your gifts to others. Not only did you provide lunch for Habitat crew members, you gave \$1415 for Habitat for Humanity, which was matched by the Foundation. In addition, you gave generously to a family who will soon be moving into their new home. And... you gave an abundance of gifts for refugees through Lutheran Family Services. You are wonderful managers of the grace and wealth that God has trusted in your hands to be used for the good of God's world.

Welcome to our new office administrator, Meredith Preston!

Meredith began on February 1, and brings a wealth of experience in marketing and writing to her work with us. She is a member of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, and lives in Louisville with her husband Hank and their son, Zane. Meredith worked in politics in both California and Washington, D.C. for a decade after graduating from The University of the South in Sewanee, TN. In Los Angeles, she served as Vice President of Corporate Communications for a worldwide public relations firm, after which she founded her own business, Preston P|R. She married and moved to Kentucky, where she lived for eight years before moving with her family to Boulder. She is a published author and freelance journalist and has recently been working as a substitute teacher. Meredith's office hours are still being finalized, and you can check her work schedule in our Sunday bulletin until they are. She is here three days a week from 10:00 – 3:00, and will be worshipping with us every other Sunday. Be sure to introduce yourself to her! She can be reached at office@graceboulder.org.

DESIGNATED OFFERINGS 2017

Each month, the Grace Council designates a local agency for our designated gifts, an extension of Grace's ministry into the community, lifting up the good work and ongoing relationships that these agencies have. **Thanks to the Grace Foundation, all gifts through our designated offerings will be matched dollar for dollar in 2017. Thank you for your generosity.**

January – Cristo Rey – this Spanish-language ministry in Denver reaches out to the local community. Poor in material gifts but rich in spirituality, they are appreciative of the support of partner congregations. Grace gave \$1325 (matched to be \$2650) to this ministry.

February –Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains <http://www.lfsrm.org/> With Tim Zeckser and CEO Jim Barclay present with us on Feb 5, we learned about the new programs LFS is developing with foster teens, job training for refugees, and advocates for seniors in the healthcare system. Our gifts will help launch those initiatives, in addition to supporting ministry with refugees & asylees, foster families, older adult caregivers, teen pregnancy prevention, disaster response and more.

March - New Beginnings Church is a ministry led by Pr. Terry Schjang, and is located inside the Denver Women's Correctional Facility <http://www.newbeginningsdwcf.org/> God is at work in this growing ministry, which now includes a Spanish language service. They are dependent on outside offerings to supplement the offerings of time and talents that the women inside the walls contribute.

April – EFAA will be the recipient of our offerings, as they provide for families in need in Boulder County.

In addition to your generosity to our designated offerings each month, on Super Bowl Sunday you gave \$217 to the Harvest of Hope Food Bank (and lots of food, too) and a week later for Valentine's Day you filled a tub overflowing with gifts to SafeHouse. Thank you for being salt and light in this world!

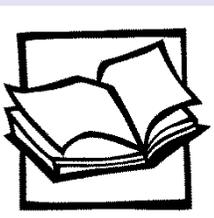


Behold, I Make All Things New – Sundays in Lent 2017

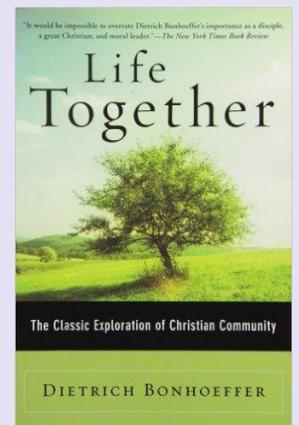
“I already know everything I need to know.” Those words ended the conversation. There was no room for any new thought or information. Everything was settled, and there was no space for change. Certainly Jesus encountered that same attitude, and during Lent, we will read some of the richest stories in scripture about Jesus opening minds, opening hearts, and doing something new in the lives of people who thought they had it all figured out. We will remember Jesus with Nicodemus, who thought that having all the right knowledge made him good enough. We will hear the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well, who was convinced that she had a defined place in the world, and it wasn't very high. Then there is Lazarus, and his sisters Mary and Martha, who thought that the death of their brother was the end, and that Jesus didn't care. They didn't know everything they needed to know – Jesus had more. Come and learn. Come and trust.

+ *A Grace-Filled Lent* +

Christian Life in Difficult Times: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Christian Community, led by Kurt Lichtfuss Sunday mornings in Lent, 8:45



Using Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life Together as a guide, this five week course starting March 5 will explore Christian roles in modern times by taking an outsider's view of current events in the world and the United States. Using Lent as a backdrop, the course will challenge you to reconsider your thoughts, words, and deeds as we follow Bonhoeffer through his ideas on community, days with others, days alone, ministries, as well as confessing and communion. All are welcome and encouraged to attend as many of the classes as they are able. Outlines of the chapters will be provided at each class, though all are also encouraged to read the chapters ahead of time. Copies of the book are available in the narthex for \$10.



Lenten Midweek Supper and Study with Pr. Greg Mileski

Supper begins at 6 in Fellowship Hall, followed by the Study

Martin Luther had a goal of connecting ordinary people to their faith. He translated the Bible into German so that folks could read it, but he also wanted to help them understand the teachings of the Church—he wanted to put theology into ordinary language, too.

This Lent, we'll take a look at the remarkable book he created to do so, the Small Catechism. In its pages, Luther outlined the basics of the Christian faith, taking complex theological ideas and explaining them clearly in just a few sentences. Five hundred years later, it's still a treasure of our Church.

Most of us have been given a Small Catechism from time to time—when we were confirmed or maybe when we joined a new congregation—but have you explored its pages? Come and join us this Lent as we take a walk through a book that is at once both simple and complex, straight-forward yet inviting.

March 8—The Ten Commandments

Supper hosted by Eastern Stars

God freed the people from slavery and Israel became a holy nation. But what next? How should the people live? Moses came down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments (and a few more, to be honest). How do we understand these statements from God? Are they rules to be followed? Laws that must be always kept? How can this gift from God shape our lives without becoming a work that we *have to do*?

March 15—Apostles' Creed

Supper by Costco, with a sign up for serving and cleaning up

We say the same words. Every. Week. How many times have you stood there, blindly reciting this creed? Is that what a creed is for? Why even have one? Do we need a new one? Here we'll look at why we have creeds, what they're for, and why this one is worth keeping.

March 22—The Lord's Prayer

Supper hosted by the Nurture Committee

“Lord, teach us to pray.” “When you pray, pray like this...” Jesus, the Son of God, gave us a prayer to pray. When you stop to think about it, that is a pretty astounding gift—a prayer, straight from God incarnate! What is contained in this gift? How, exactly, *did* Jesus teach us to pray? We'll take a look at the prayer that has been prayed for 2,000 years.

March 29—Sacraments

Supper hosted by Voyagers

Baptism and Holy Communion. Water and bread and wine. It all seems so simple—and in many ways, that's exactly the point! But what's the reason behind these practices? How can such simple things be so important? Are they so important after all? What do sacraments *do*, exactly? Come, and see how God's promises become tangible for us.

April 5—Blessings

Supper hosted by Still Waters

In writing this magnificent little book, Luther wanted to bring the Church into the people's homes. He wrote small prayer practices, devotionals that could be part of the people's daily Christian life. How can we incorporate the *practice* of Christianity into our days? How might we use these to shape the living of these days? In this session, we'll talk about ways to make alive our Christian prayer practice each and every day.

A Grace-Filled Holy Week



On Palm Sunday, April 9, we raise our palms as we proceed into the sanctuary with a song of praise on our lips. Come and participate in the passion story of the days leading to the death of Christ.

Maundy Thursday, April 13, we gather at 7pm to receive the words of grace and freedom that come with forgiveness and welcome. The most visible sign of that forgiveness and welcome is the invitation to come to the Lord's table, where we are called "friend."

Good Friday, April 14, we join with other Christians in Boulder at Mountain View United Methodist Church (355 Ponca Place) in remembering the events of Good Friday, and reflecting on God's incredible love for us in Christ. A soup supper is provided at 6 so that we might have time to talk with new and old friends. Worship begins at 7pm.

Easter Worship will be filled with joyous music as we celebrate the life and hope we have because of Jesus' resurrection. A reflection will be held at Green Mountain Cemetery at 8am, and worship in the Grace sanctuary is at 10am.

Sign up to help with set-up, clean-up, serving, or bringing food for our Easter Breakfast on April 16 at 8:30.

Lutheran Campus Ministry at CU update from Grace's Liaison:

Patty Meyers



LCM is an active ministry. Night Church takes place each Sunday evening at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, and Bread + Belonging is the weekly Tuesday evening gathering. A retreat at Rainbow Trail is part of the spring ministry with students. A major event coming up is a trip to the Holy Land, when ten LCM students (the majority of them involved in the El Camino mentoring program being funded by a grant from the Lilly Foundation) plus Pastor Zach and Melanie Ferraro will be joined by 3 students from Clemson University as they spend 9 days in May in Israel. Melanie is a former Program Assistant for LCM, and gave a report to us at Grace following her first time leading young adults to Israel/Palestine.

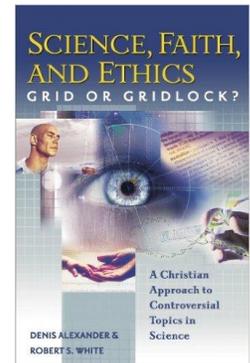
Looking ahead, the date for the next beer tasting has been set for Saturday, September 30. Save the date now for a fun evening that supports Lutheran Campus Ministry.

Boulder Area ELCA Congregations

On March 2, clergy and representatives from the Boulder ELCA congregations (Atonement, Grace, Mount Calvary, Shepherd of the Hills, Trinity) are meeting at Shepherd of the Hills in Gunbarrel to consider how we can be a common witness in the community, particularly as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. How can we support each other, and how can we work together for the good of our community? We will be joined by a representative of the Community Foundation, who will help us understand our context and the needs around us. We are Christ's Church – better together.

The Tuesday Book Group

invites you to join them in reading *Science, Faith, and Ethics: Grid or Gridlock*, starting March 7. The book's subtitle is "A Christian Approach to Controversial Topics in Science." Written by Denis Alexander and Robert White, topics include the new genetics, reproductive technologies, cloning, evolution and intelligent design, the environment and global warming, and sustainable consumption. What does the Christian faith have to offer to those topics and debates? The group meets in Fellowship Hall each Tuesday at 11:45. Bring a sack lunch and come and learn. Books are available by contacting Ron Schwiesow.



Musical Grace Notes

“The Magic Flute” – featuring our very own Josh DeVane, Charles Daniel and Katia Kotcherguina, will be presented by CU March 17-19. “The Magic Flute” is a timeless fairy tale from Mozart which blends together whimsical humor and irresistible melodies to tell the gripping story of a prince who must outwit an evil queen to be united with his true love. It will be sung in German. Josh sings the role of Papageno. Katia sings the role of Pamina. Charles sings the role of Monostatos. As is common in opera (because the demands are so great on the voice), lead roles are double-cast. Josh and Katia are both singing on Friday and Sunday. Charles is singing on Saturday. Come and enjoy the story!



Ekaterina (Katia) Kotcherguina will be performing a recital at Grace on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:30. The recital is required for her Performance Certificate in Opera and Solo Vocal Performance at CU. The evening will feature an assortment of composers, including Villa-Lobos, Schoenberg, and Tchaikovsky, among others. Her collaborative pianists will be Nathália Kato and Maria Kurchevskaya. The recital is free and open to the public, with a special invitation to her friends at Grace.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness Hymn Festival



Sunday, April 30, we celebrate God's faithfulness to us during these 80 years as we join our voices in praise. With brass players joining our talented musicians, we will be led in hymns and songs that express our gratitude to God. Joy, thankfulness, hope, and trust are the marks of our worship on this music-filled day.

CONTACT US!

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