

2025/26 Program Schedule

Check the online calendar to confirm @ gracepa.org

Weekly

Sundays

- Worship | 8:30 & 10:45am year round
- Sunday School/Children's Music | 9:45am Sept-May
- Adult Forum | 9:45am Sept-May

Tuesdays

- Men's Breakfast | 7:30am year round

Wednesdays Sept-May (check online calendar)

- Quilters | 10am
- Life Together Dinner | 6:15pm
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 7pm
- Confirmation - Zoom | 4:30pm & On Campus | 7pm
- High School Youth Group | 7pm

Thursdays Sept-May (check online calendar)

- Bible Study | 1pm
- Connections Cafe | 2pm 2nd/4th Thursdays
- Handbell Choir Rehearsal | 5pm

Monthly

- GraceMakers Crafting - first Saturdays 10am-4pm
- Women's Night Out - first Thursdays | 7pm
- Work Day | 10am-Noon - 2nd Saturdays - check calendar
- Evening Prayer in the style of Taizé - 2nd Sundays | 7pm
- Grace Outdoors (Fall dates 9/13, 10/25, 11/8, and 12/13)
- Middle School Youth Group Event
- High School Youth Group Event
- Young Adult Event

Periodic/Annual

- Blessing of Backpacks and Bicycles - August 10, 2025
- Rally Day! Start of fall programming - September 7, 2025
- AppleFest - September 28, 2025
- Blessing of the Animals - October 5, 2025 | 10:45 service
- Beer & Hymns - Fridays, 10/17/25 and 1/23/26 | 5:30pm
- Trunk or Treat - Friday, October 24, 2026 | 6-8pm
- Reformationfest! - last Sunday of October
- Advent Festival - November 30, 2025 | 11am
- Celebrate Grace! - January/February
- Men's Events

Retreats

- Grace Goes to Mt Cross - annual pre-fall Congregational retreat at Mt Cross Aug 22-24, 2026
- Men's Retreat - at Mt Cross Apr 24-26, 2026
- Women's Retreats
 - one daylong on campus Sept 20, 2025
 - one weekend at Mt Cross Mar 13-15, 2026
- Synodical Retreats at Mt Cross
 - Elementary & Middle School (3rd-8th) 11/14-16/2025
 - High School (9th-12th) 3/6-8/2026
- Summer High School Trip!



Grace Lutheran Church
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA | GRACEPA.ORG
3149 Waverley Street Palo Alto, CA 94306

Youth Group: Join our Youth Group for a fun mix of activities, from engaging discussions and community service to exciting social events. It's a great way to connect with peers, grow in your faith, and be part of a supportive community. Youth Group meets weekly from 7-8:30pm on Wednesdays in the Youth Room. Contact Emily for more information!

Confirmation: Join our Middle School Confirmation Program and strengthen your faith through interactive activities and creative challenges. Build resilience, connect with friends, and grow together in a vibrant, supportive community. Confirmation Classes take place on Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 on zoom, and 7-8pm in the Middle School Room. For more information contact Pastor Friederike!

Quilting: Our quilters meet Wednesdays from 10:30am-12pm in Brown Hall to work on the quilts for Grace's High School Seniors and the wider community. If you are interested in quilting or learning to quilt, this group welcomes you. First meeting is on 9/17. Contact Pr Friederike for questions.

Chancel Choir: Open to any singer of high school age and up. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 pm, and we sing most Sundays at the 10:45 service. All voice parts are invited, but we'd love the balance of a few more tenors and basses! No audition is required.

Sunday School & Adult Forum: Experience our Sunday School Program for all ages, from infants to adults, where we foster community and support faith development through every stage of life. Join us to strengthen connections, grow spiritually, and be part of a vibrant, multi-generational community. Sunday School & Adult Forum happen weekly from 9:45-10:30am between worship services. Contact Emily for more information!

Connections Café: Connections Café happens bi-weekly, on the second and fourth Thursday from 2-3pm in the Emmaus Room. This group for the more senior members of our church gathers over coffee/tea and treats to connect with each other and learn a little something new from a wide range of topics and speakers. Connections Café is a space where relationships grow and community deepens. Want to know more? Contact Pr Friederike

Praises Ring: Grace's handbell ensemble rehearses on Thursday afternoons from 5:00-6:00 pm. The bells usually ring in church on the first Sunday of each month, plus Christmas Eve. No prior experience with bell ringing is necessary, although some basic music-reading ability is helpful. We have a couple of spots open this year; contact Tim Getz if interested.

Life Together Dinner: Join us for Life Together Dinners every Wednesday from 6:15 to 7 PM, where everyone is welcome to enjoy a meal and build community - and then head off to our Bible Study, choir, youth group, or confirmation class. Questions? Email Pastor Matt

Work Day: With a number of exceptions (check the calendar!) we will be meeting from 10am to noon on the second Saturday of the month with tasks to accomplish on campus. This is a great opportunity to provide support to the Grace community, help us as a congregation focus our limited maintenance resources on tasks that truly need a professional, and build relationships while working together. This is your church . . . let's dig in! Contact Pastor Matt

Bible Study: Dive into our Weekly Adult Bible Study for a deep, engaging exploration of scripture and ancient history with Pr Matt or Pr Friederike. Enhance your understanding, share insights, and strengthen your faith and get a glimpse of Sunday's sermon. Join us Thursdays from 1-2pm in the library. Interested? Contact Pastor Matt!

Women's Night Out: Join our fun-filled monthly gathering on the first Thursday of the month, 7-9pm. No topic is off limit: we cover everything from faith to menopause and cooking strawberry jam. Connect with other women while deepening your faith and building a strong, supportive community. Would you like to learn more? Contact Pr Friederike.

Grace Makers: Join us for Grace Makers, a monthly gathering that celebrates creativity, craftsmanship, and community! Whether you're working on a personal project or trying out a new craft, this is the perfect space to connect with others while exploring your creative side. We meet on the first Saturday of the month from 10am-4pm in the Emmaus Room. Drop in whenever you can! For more information contact Pr Friederike

THINGS TO DO AT GRACE

Grace Outdoors: Calling all outdoor enthusiasts! Join our monthly hike to explore beautiful trails, connect with fellow church members, and enjoy the great outdoors together, followed by a relaxing pub stop for food and fellowship. Fall dates: 9/13, 10/25, 11/8, 12/13 Interested? Email Pr Matt!

Grand-Friends: This program connects our senior members with our Preschool children. Maybe you like to read or craft, celebrate special days and festivals, play or just spend time with preschoolers once in a while - you are welcome to join the team! Please contact Pr Friederike to learn more.

Communion Delivery: At Grace, we believe that no one should feel disconnected from the heart of our community—especially those who are unable to attend worship in person. That's why, on the first Sunday of each month, we extend the table through our Communion Delivery Ministry, bringing the sacrament to those who are homebound. We are currently looking for drivers who can help deliver communion once a month, and for a coordinator who can call recipients ahead of time to confirm their availability and help organize the schedule. To learn more, receive communion at home, or get involved, contact Pastor Friederike.

Men's Ministry: This is an expanding ministry at Grace that includes breakfast every Tuesday morning at a local cafe for those who can make it, and this fall will include two dinner get togethers as well. In the Spring we will continue, but put our second Men's Retreat on the calendar now as the last one was a huge hit. It will be April 24-26, 2026! This program is intended to build relationship within your faith community in ways that will deepen your faith, and create a social counterweight to the loneliness affecting our society today. Contact Pastor Matt with any questions.

Young Adults: This brand new program will be headed up by Emily King-Nobles, our new Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministry. Loosely this is described as post-college and pre-kids although some events will include college aged as well. This group is for Grace young adults who grew up through our programs and are now back and local and looking for their place in the world as well as Lutheran young adults from across the nation here because . . . well, Stanford & Silicon Valley. This is a great opportunity to build relationships and to know that there is a place for you! contact Emily.

PROGRAM STAFF:



SENIOR PASTOR
Rev. Matthew Smuts
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DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH,
AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
Emily King-Nobles
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2025/2026 Key Dates for Your Calendar

2025

September

- 7 Rally Day Sunday - start of fall programming Worship/Sunday School/BBQ
- 20 Moments: Women's Retreat at Grace
- 28 AppleFest - potluck lunch and lots of Apple-y Activities

October

- 5 Blessing of the Animals 10:45am Outdoor Service
- 17 Beer & Hymns II, 5:30pm (Emmaus Room)
- 24 Trunk or Treat 6-8pm
- 26 Reformation Sunday
Reformationfest Brats & Beer!

November

- 1 Service for Surviving Families 7pm
- 2 All Saints Sunday
- 8 Preschool Fair 10 am – 1pm
- 9 GraceMakers Craft Fair (Brown Hall) 12 – 6 pm
- 14-16 Elementary & Middle School Synod Retreat at Mt Cross
- 30 Advent: **Single 10am Service**
Advent Festival 11am (Brown Hall)

December

Sunday Worship During December (Advent/Christmas): **Single 10am Service**

- 6 Messiah Singalong 3-4:30pm
- 14 Christmas Play during Worship 10am
- 17 Church & Preschool Christmas Dinner with Preschool Christmas Play 6-8pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship 4 & 6pm
- 25 Christmas Day Worship at 10am

2026

January

- 23 Beer and Hymns III 5:30pm (Emmaus Room)

February

- 18 Ash Wednesday

March

- 6-8 High School Synod Retreat at Mt Cross
- 13-15 Women's Retreat at Mt Cross
- 29 Palm Sunday

April

- 2 – 4 Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday with Easter Vigil
- 5 Easter Sunday
- 19 Confirmation Sunday
- 24-26 Men's Retreat at Mt Cross

May

- 31 Quilt Sunday

June

- 27 - July 1 Western States Youth Gathering at Cal Lutheran! (For those completing 8th-12th Grades)

August

- 21- 23 Grace Goes to Mt Cross - day and weekend ptions for the whole congregation