

RALLY/AUTUMN 2025

ISSUE 2504

#GRACENOTES

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A SEASONAL PUBLICATION OF

Grace Lutheran Church





# HEALTHY RESILIENCE IN GRACE

*Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*



The fall is starting! There is a lot to be excited about, in particular our growing momentum in worship attendance and stewardship. That's not to mention the imminent arrival of Emily King-Nobles as our new Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministry! Fall can bring on stressors as well with the start of school and other activities. We know that stress deeply here in Palo Alto in the tragic loss of another teen a week ago by suicide. I have been reflecting, as you know, on issues of community and I am particularly mindful of the gift that Grace Lutheran Church is for community and what it means for your health, the health of your children and youth, and for the health of the world around us.

Going a handful of times a year to the symphony is glorious! However, you are not going to become proficient in the violin doing that. You need to practice regularly. Distance running for exercise and health is a regular thing as well, not once or twice a year. Learning a new language is another example that requires regular relationship and practice...not simply a single weeklong trip to another country. Likewise, deepening our faith, community, and health is something we do BOTH regularly AND together.

Is your goal to live your life in a way that promotes health and builds resilience the way God created you to live? Your doctor will tell you that building social capital in community will extend your life. If you like digging into the research, look up US Surgeon General Dr Vivek H. Murthy's advisory "Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation." Faith communities like Grace are excellent (and increasingly rare) ways to build this capital. Engagement in Grace Lutheran Church is a way to live a healthier life, a way to build resilience at all ages, and a way to build relational skills and social capital with all kinds of different people over a long period of time. Are we ourselves living and raising our children to be resilient and prepared for healthy community life as they themselves become adults...parents...grandparents...? We seem to do a good job at raising them to be good at math or soccer, but are we building resilience in them in a way that sets them up to succeed as human beings and thrive in the way God intended? To be successful human beings in addition to competent in their profession? Our local society and community push many priorities, but not all of them lead us to the road of wellness.



If these are your hopes and dreams, I would encourage you to spend your time with your calendar this fall and perhaps remove a few things on it. Make sure that activities that last a school year or athletic season are not short changing the life long benefits of intergenerational community. Remember that at any point in our lives, we can pivot deeper into relationships, community, and faith in a way that, to reference Ecclesiastes above, keeps us warm together in a world that can be bitter cold at times.

I very much look forward to seeing you soon. Let's do this life together! ❖

Peace,

Pr Matt

Cover photo: Elementary & Middle school retreat at Mt Cross



## MEN'S MINISTRY @ GRACE

We had an amazing first time retreat up at Mt Cross Camp this last April and are looking to continue to build this program in the new year. In a society rife with loneliness, men are often more challenged in finding healthy spaces to build relationships and community. This ministry is for you! It is currently expanding and based on a 3-legged stool, **weekly breakfast**, **periodic dinners**, and an **annual retreat**. Get more out of life at Grace, and start making some new relationships and find your place in community.

- **Tuesdays @ 7:30 Breakfast** at Papas & Eggs in Mountain View on Old Middlefield
- **Sunday, October 5** from **6-8pm** Dinner at Pr Matt's Home (the Parsonage!)—more to be scheduled.
- **April 24-26 | Men's Retreat at Mt Cross...**both two-night and Saturday-only options ❖



## COOK WITH PR MATT! LIFE TOGETHER DINNERS!

Returning Wednesday, Sept 10 @ 6:15pm

Our beloved Life Together tradition returns with 6:15pm dinner in Brown Hall beginning again on Wednesday, Sept 10. We will be doing dinner a little differently this year...in that I (Pr Matt) will do the shopping and menu arranging, but will want 3-4 people to help pull off and then cleanup dinner. I am REALLY looking forward to spending time in this way and hope you might be willing to volunteer to help. Keep a look out for signups! I am hoping that volunteering periodically from 5pm to 7:30 or so is an easier option for you to help...and I look forward to conversation! Contact me at [pastormatt@gracepa.org](mailto:pastormatt@gracepa.org) if you are willing to help! ❖

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NEXT ISSUE:

**Advent/Christmas 2025**

PUBLICATION DEADLINE:

**November 13, 2025**

*(end of day)*



# THE BALANCING ACT OF BEING HUMAN – AND THE LIFE LONG JOURNEY OF ACCEPTING IT

The Rev. Friederike Wekel,  
Associate Pastor



The carved inscription on our altar bears a verse that has accompanied me my whole life: “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” This verse was given to me by my parents on the occasion of my baptism—and it is a verse I have wrestled with over and over again. There are so many different ways of reading this verse, ripping it out of context, making it sound condescending, emphasizing just the wrong words. And so, sadly, for a long time, I read it as: For YOU, weakling, grace is sufficient. That’s all you deserve.

In an environment that counts on performance and success, grace is not a hard-charging currency. It is, well, just for weaklings. But if we are honest and look at our human condition, imperfect, limited, broken, then we all are weaklings.

For a very long time now, one of my favorite songs has been **“After the Storm” by Mumford & Sons**. I can listen to it on an endless loop. But it is not only the music that I find soothing. The lyrics use strong images that in turn evoke many memories of my own. But how about you read (and listen—*use the QR link to the song*) for yourself:

## After The Storm

And after the storm,  
I run and run as the rains come  
And I look up, I look up,  
on my knees and out of luck,  
I look up.

Night has always pushed up day  
You must know life to see decay  
But I won’t rot, I won’t rot  
Not this mind and not this heart,  
I won’t rot.

And I took you by the hand  
And we stood tall,  
And remembered our own land,  
What we lived for.

And there will come a time, you’ll see, with no more tears.  
And love will not break your heart, but dismiss your fears.  
Get over your hill and see what you find there,  
With grace in your heart and flowers in your hair.

And now I cling to what I knew  
I saw exactly what was true  
But oh no more.  
That’s why I hold,  
That’s why I hold with all I have.  
That’s why I hold.

And I won’t die alone and be left there.  
Well I guess I’ll just go home,  
Oh God knows where.  
Because death is just so full and man so small.  
Well I’m scared of what’s behind and what’s before.

And there will come a time, you’ll see, with no more tears.  
And love will not break your heart, but dismiss your fears.  
Get over your hill and see what you find there,  
With grace in your heart and flowers in your hair.

And there will come a time, you’ll see, with no more tears.  
And love will not break your heart, but dismiss your fears.  
Get over your hill and see what you find there,  
With grace in your heart and flowers in your hair.



The lyrics carry weight. They hold space for grief, for faith, for the quiet courage it takes to keep going. The imagery is strong, and each line seems to unlock a memory, a moment, a reminder of what it means to be human: broken and tired, and at the same time, defiantly hopeful and trying.

And that's where 2 Corinthians 12:9 comes in with a different way of reading it:

**"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness"** is a spiritual reorientation, accepting our humanness. When Paul says this, he's pleading for relief—for the removal of a burden. Instead, God offers something more profound: sustaining grace, not by removing the weakness, but by meeting him in it.

That's exactly what "After the Storm" seems to understand. It doesn't promise an escape from the storm—it meets you inside it. That isn't shallow optimism. It's the kind of promise that comes from someone who's been through something and made it out the other side—scarred, maybe, but not destroyed. It echoes Paul's experience of grace not as the absence of pain, but as the presence of love and strength in the midst of it.

This song doesn't rush to fix things. It simply sits with the storm—and gently reminds me that after it, there is still love, still peace, still something worth holding onto. Like God's loving presence in it and through it all. Have faith and courage and get over your hill to see the what you'll find there!

Whatever loop you feel caught in right now, may this song, this verse—and this moment—remind you that you're not alone in it. That your g/Grace community is with you. That God is with you.

Pr. Friederike ❖



*Have you experienced the loss of a child—during pregnancy, infancy, childhood, or even in adulthood? Are you a sibling mourning a brother or sister, or a grandparent carrying the grief of losing a grandchild?*

*The death of a child leaves deep and lasting scars. Grief becomes a lifelong*

*companion—sometimes you carry it,*

*and other times, it carries you. Even after many years, it remains part of your story. You are a member of surviving families! On the eve of All Saints Sunday, **Saturday, November 1**, we will hold a special evening service of remembrance for surviving families at Grace at **7pm** (about 30min). If you have any questions, please reach out to [pastorf@gracepa.org](mailto:pastorf@gracepa.org) ❖*

## NEW MEMBERS CLASS

### New to Grace? Join Our New Members Class!

Are you new to Grace and curious to learn more about our community? Would you like to connect with others who are new as well—and perhaps explore what it means to become a member?

If so, we warmly invite you to our New Members Class, led by Pastor Matt and Pastor Friederike, on three Sunday mornings this Fall: October 12, 19, and 26. Classes will take place between the worship services, starting at 9:45am.

Whether you're ready to join or just want to learn more, this is a great opportunity to get to know Grace and meet others on a similar journey.

Please let the pastors know if you'd like to attend. We look forward to welcoming you!

— Pastor Matt & Pastor Friederike ❖





# CONFIRMATION AT GRACE:

## BUILDING FAITH AND BUILDING COMMUNITY

Faith is not a one-time decision—it's a lifelong journey. It evolves with our experiences, questions, and challenges. For young people especially, adolescence is a time filled with change: emotional, social, intellectual, and spiritual. That's why this season of life is such a meaningful moment to intentionally explore what faith looks like—and to do it within a supportive community.

At Grace, our Confirmation Program is designed to walk alongside middle schoolers (grades 6–8) as they ask real questions, face big emotions, and begin to think more deeply about what it means to be a person of faith in the world today.

But Confirmation at Grace is more than just learning about beliefs—it's about building relationships, learning to live in community, and discovering how shared values can anchor us in the storms of life.

### Why Community Matters

In a world where young people are constantly navigating social pressures, technology, and identity questions, a strong, values-based community provides something rare: belonging without judgment. Our Confirmation Program gives students a safe space to bring their whole selves—questions, doubts, joys, and struggles—and be met with openness and care.

Through regular gatherings, mentorship, worship participation, and shared experiences like retreats and camps, students learn what it means to be part of something larger than themselves. They see firsthand how faith is not just a personal belief, but something that is lived out in relationship with others.

And here's the beautiful truth: when kids feel grounded in community, they build resilience. They're more likely to feel confident, supported, and capable of navigating life's challenges—because they know they don't have to do it alone.

### What the Program Includes

Confirmation Classes take place weekly on Wednesdays, with two flexible options to fit your family's schedule:

- 4:30–5:30 PM (Zoom)
- 7:00–8:00 PM (In-person)

Sessions are interactive and creative, connecting students' life experiences with Lutheran Christian teachings. We don't just lecture—we talk, reflect, laugh, and explore together.

Additional program elements include:

- Mentor Program & Sunday School – Monthly meetups with an adult mentor during Sunday School in Brown Hall, beginning on Rally Day.
- Acolyting – Students take part in worship by serving as acolytes. Training begins shortly after Rally Day.
- Worship Notes – Tools to help students stay engaged and reflect during worship services.
- Retreats & Off-Site Activities – Including the SPSYC Middle School Retreat (Nov. 14-16, 2025), where students deepen connections and enjoy time away in nature.

### Important Dates

- Parent Info Night: Wednesday, September 3 at 7:00 PM (Hybrid – in the library or via Zoom)
- First Class: Wednesday, September 10

If your child is entering 6th, 7th, or 8th grade and would like to be part of this journey, or if you have questions about the program, please reach out to Pastor Friederike at [pastorf@gracepa.org](mailto:pastorf@gracepa.org).

I can't wait to welcome your middle schooler into this formative, faithful, and fun experience!

Pr Friederike ❖

# BAPTISM

Whether you're new to church, returning after some time away, or simply exploring what faith means for you or your child, baptism can be a meaningful next step.

At Grace, baptism is a way to mark belonging, new beginnings, and being part of a supportive community. It's not about having all the answers—it's about saying yes to the journey.

If you're curious, want to learn more, or are ready to start the conversation, we'd love to connect with you. No pressure, no expectations—just an open invitation.

Reach out to [pastorf@gracepa.org](mailto:pastorf@gracepa.org) or [pastormatt@gracepa.org](mailto:pastormatt@gracepa.org) for more info or to set up a time to talk. ❖



## CONNECTIONS CAFÉ

The planning team of our Connections Café has worked hard and we have come up with a variety of topics for this Fall!

### **8/26 – Navigating MyGrace & Our Website**

Join Andrew Mellows for a helpful session on how to make the most of MyGrace and our church website.

### **9/11 – Meet Emily: Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministry (CYYA)**

Come get to know Emily King-Nobles and hear about her vision for ministry with our younger generations.

### **9/25 – Field Trip: Cantor Arts Center at Stanford**

A cultural outing to explore art and community together in our neighborhood.

### **10/9 – How to Deal with Scamming**

A conversation with Officer Michael Kan, an expert from the Palo Alto Police Department.

### **10/23 – Outdoor Fire Safety & Insurance**

Stay informed with this important session (speaker TBD).

### **11/13 – Mental Health and Meditation for Healthy Aging**

Explore practical tools for emotional wellness and spiritual balance.

### **11/27 – Thanksgiving Week – No Meeting**

We are looking forward to welcoming you on the **second** and **fourth Thursdays** of each month in the Emmaus Room—we meet over coffee/tea and treats to socialize and learn about something new! ❖

**2-3pm** in the Emmaus Room | **SECOND** and **FOURTH** Thursdays





# WE GATHER TOGETHER

Tim Getz,  
Director of Music

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Getz".

Some years ago, a task force at Grace created, and the congregation approved, a set of Guiding Principles to provide a framework for the life and work of this Christian community. It's possible that you don't know about them, or maybe have forgotten—I had forgotten about them myself until I saw them printed at the back of this year's Annual Report! It's an outstanding document, and I find myself particularly drawn to these words about worship:

Grace Lutheran Church is called to be, first and foremost, engaged in Christ-centered worship. Worship is the common experience in our community that leads us toward lives of grace. Our sacramental and liturgical worship engages all of our senses and embodies the best of our tradition.

And what do we do when we worship? We gather together in one place, we hear the words of scripture, we pray, we receive the sacraments, and we adorn it all with music, particularly YOUR music, the united voice of the assembly. When we gather for worship every Sunday morning, every person in the room has something to contribute, whether large or small, to the combined voice of the community. When we sing hymns and other parts of the service together, we become an audible and visible sign of the Body of Christ. And there is no need to worry whether your voice is any good! The German theologian and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote: "It is the voice of the Church that is heard in singing together. It is not I who sings, it is the Church that is singing, and I, as a member of the Church, may share in its song."

Of course, we have ensembles who provide leadership and enhancement of the Church's song, and as usual at this time of year, it is time for them to reconvene after a much-deserved summer break!

Our **Chancel Choir**, or the "adult choir," is open to any singer of high school age and up. We will begin weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, September 3 from 7:00-8:30 pm,

and will sing at the 10:45 service most Sundays beginning September 7. The choir sings a wide variety of music, accompanied

and a cappella. We welcome singers of any experience level, from beginners to the most experienced. All voice parts are invited, but we'd love the balance of a few more tenors and basses! No audition is required.

Are you interested in singing but not quite ready to take the full plunge? Contact me ([tim@gracepa.org](mailto:tim@gracepa.org)) and let's work out a deal! Perhaps an every-other-week schedule might work for you. Or maybe you'd like to start with only a short-term commitment. You could join now and sing just the fall Sundays. Or join in November for Advent and Christmas. Our year falls fairly naturally into blocks of about two months' length.

Praises Ring is the name of Grace's **handbell ensemble**. We rehearse on Thursday afternoons from 5:00-6:00 pm and will begin on September 11. The bells usually ring in church on the first Sunday of each month, plus Christmas Eve. We own a full five-octave (61 note) set of handbells, and ideally need 13 people to make use of the full set. We have a couple of spots open this year, so do let me know if you're interested. No prior experience with bell ringing is necessary, although some basic music-reading ability is helpful. We'll teach you all the rest!

A short-term **Children's Choir** project will meet for just six weeks this fall, learning a song or two during the Sunday School opening time and singing at the beginning of the 10:45 service on October 19. Parents: plan now to bring your children as many Sundays as possible to help make this a successful experience!



**Beer and Hymns** in July was a fun-filled experience of community and music-making, with over 50 people gathering at church on a Friday evening to sing together in a relaxed environment with food and a beverage. Make plans to join us for the second edition on Friday, October 17 at 5:30!!

Our monthly services of **Taizé** evening prayer continue on the second Sunday of each month at 7:00 pm. This is a quiet, meditative service with lots of singing, a great way to cap off the weekend and prepare for the week ahead. Having recently experienced again the common prayer in the Taizé Community itself, I'm more enchanted than ever by the simple, yet profound experience of this form of community-building and prayer.

Looking forward to another exciting year! ❖



# Choir & Bells

**Choir begins Wednesday,  
September 3 at 7pm**

**Bells begin Thursday,  
September 11 at 5pm**

Interested? Contact [Tim@gracepa.org](mailto:Tim@gracepa.org)

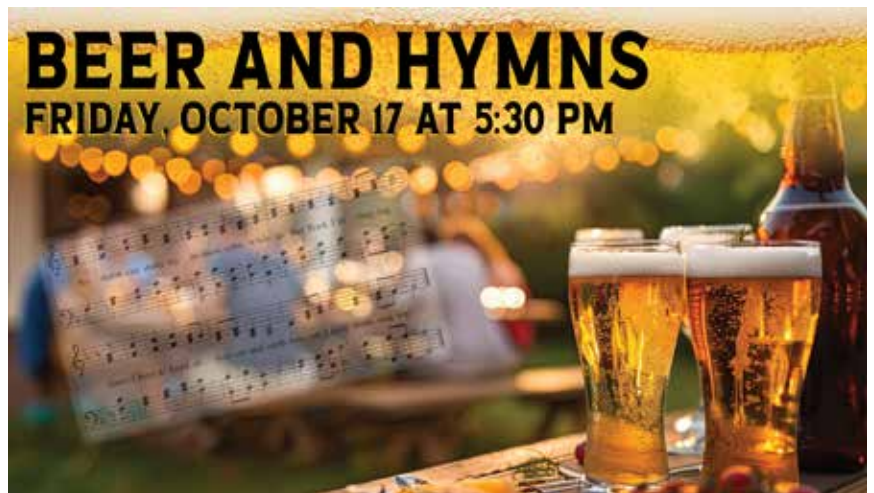
## Children's Choir Project

Learn songs during Sunday School opening  
Sing in church on Sunday, October 19 at 10:45



## BEER AND HYMNS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 AT 5:30 PM



## Evening Prayer in the style of Taizé

Second Sunday of each month  
at 7:00 pm





It's that time of year—**Rally Day is here!** Join us as we start into another year of worship, learning, celebration, and fun for the whole family. Whether you're returning or brand new, there's a place for you in our Sunday rhythm.

### Why Sunday School and Adult Forum?

These 45 minutes between our services are a wonderful gift to your whole family. It's a time for everyone—from toddlers to teens to adults—to explore the Bible in age-appropriate ways, ask meaningful questions about faith and life, and grow together in community. It's not just education—it's the foundation of a lifelong faith journey, built side by side with people who care.

Come reconnect, grow deeper, and celebrate all that God is doing in our midst. We can't wait to see you there! ❖



Grace Lutheran Church  
**RALLY DAY**  
Sunday School & BBQ  
Sunday, Sept 7, 2025

8:30 and 10:45 AM  
**Worship**

9:30 AM  
**Sunday School**

12:00 PM  
**Lunch + Fellowship**

 Grace Lutheran Church  
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA | GRACEPALO.ORG



Children, Youth, & Family Team invites you to

# Applefest

Potluck Lunch & Activities  
Bring something apple-y to share!  
September 28, 2025  
12:00 pm in the Courtyard

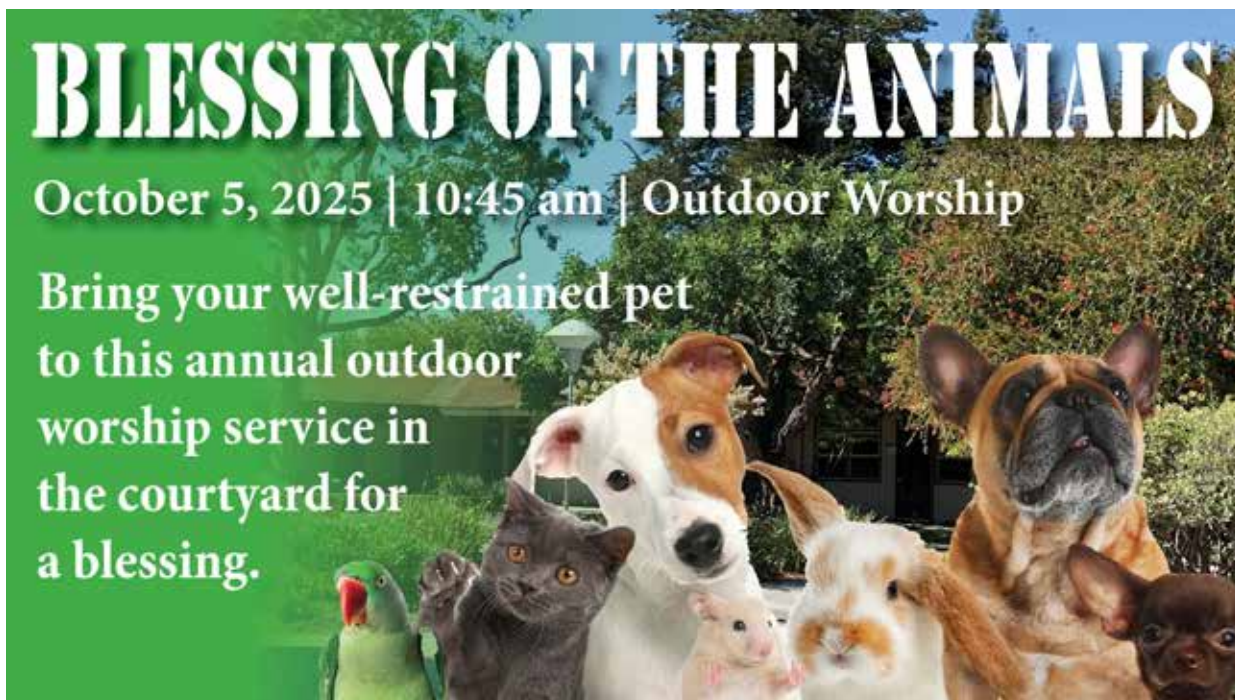
Join us Sunday, 9/28, in celebrating all things apples. There will be lunch and activities for everyone—from craft to quiz and games, apple tasting and more...

Sign up through GraceConnect to bring something apple-y to share.

Be part of the fun  
12–2pm in the  
courtyard :). ❖



**INVITE A FRIEND!**



# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

October 5, 2025 | 10:45 am | Outdoor Worship

Bring your well-restrained pet  
to this annual outdoor  
worship service in  
the courtyard for  
a blessing.





PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

# Grace Lutheran Preschool

*growing together in grace*

We are close to the end of summer and are ready for another year of Preschool. Our classroom had a makeover this summer, and we are thrilled to welcome our families back to a freshly painted room and new flooring. Environments play a vital role in supporting children's learning. The layout of our classroom is open, inviting, and filled with natural materials that inspire creativity and discovery. We view children as curious beings and construct their knowledge through exploration, play, and collaboration. We are excited to see what the 2025-2026 school year will bring.

Our monthly parent coffee and grandfriends events were a huge success last school year, and we look forward to continuing these special events.

We value the strong connection between home and school and encourage families to be actively involved in their child's preschool journey. Our open-door policy welcomes families into our classroom to share their creative talents, stories, cooking projects, musical talents, or crafts with the children.

Over the past few years, a visit to a pumpkin patch in October has become an annual event for Grace Lutheran Preschool families.

We also encourage families to participate in Grace Lutheran Church's annual Trunk or Treat event.

We wish everyone peace and blessings.

Felicity and Gina

Co-Directors, Grace Lutheran Preschool ❖

Felicity Taylor and Gina Rogge,  
Preschool Co-directors



**YOU are invited!**



**Decorate a trunk or just come for the treats!**

- **FREE Pizza Dinner** in the narthex (church lobby) and narthex patio
- **Guessing Jars** with candy prizes hosted by our Middle School Youth
- **Trunk or Treating!**
- **Haunted House** by our High School Youth
- It is going to be a **SPOOKTACULAR** night!! All ages are welcome! Costumes welcome!

**6-8pm**  
**Friday, October 24, 2025**  
**Join in the fun!**

Hey kids! Get ready for a night of costumes, candy, and crazy fun at our **Trunk or Treat** on **Friday, October 24** from **6:00 to 8:00 PM!**

Come in your spookiest, silliest, or sparkliest costume and walk through our parking lot full of cars with decorated trunks and tons of treats. Bring your friends—everyone is welcome!

Tell your grown-ups: if they want to decorate a trunk or help clean up after the fun, they should let Emily (emily@gracepa.org) know!

We can't wait to see you there for a spooktacular time! ❖

**Reformationfest!**  
Sonntag, der 26. Oktober 2025  
11:45 am (after church)

Brats, sauerkraut, beer,  
& rootbeer provided.

Bring a side dish/dessert to share.



**Wear RED** and celebrate with us the **508th anniversary** of nailing it—meaning theses to a church door in Wittenberg. As Lutherans, **we like a good BBQ**—so there will be all kinds of food, including sauerkraut and some other German specialties for Reformation **Sunday, October 26**. The brats and sauerkraut are provided, so bring along your favorite side dish/salad/dessert and join us at **noon in the courtyard!** ❖

**NOV 14-16, 2025**  
ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE  
SCHOOL RETREAT



**MARCH 6-8, 2026**  
HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT



**ACT justly**  
**LOVE mercy**  
**WALK humbly**  
MICAH 6:8

**BY youth**  
**FOR youth**



Visit our website  
[spseca.org/spsyk](http://spseca.org/spsyk)  
for more info!

The annual **Elementary and Middle School Retreat** for kids **grades 3-8** organized by the Youth Committee of our Synod is a fun way to connect with other kids from congregations in the Sierra Pacific Synod. We usually take a bunch of kids up to Mt Cross into the fall forest of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Under “You Belong” (Ephesians 2:19) kids (and chaperones) gather from **Friday, November 14 (7pm) through Sunday, November 16 (11am)** for the magic that only camp can bring. Early Bird sign-up is \$225 through 10/24, after that the cost will be \$275. For more information, contact Emily (emily@gracepa.org). ❖

**Advent Wreathes**  
**Seasonal Crafts**  
**Ornaments**  
**Food**  
**Community**  
**LEFSE!**

**JOY**

Sunday, November 30, 2025 11:00 am in Brown Hall

**Advent Festival**



This is a beloved classic at Grace: On **Sunday, November 30—Advent 1**—you are invited to participate in our annual Advent Festival. What do you need to get into the mood for Advent? A **wreath**? Come and make it! Other special **seasonal crafts** and **ornaments**? We got you covered! Some special **food**? Come and enjoy **lefse!** Join us at **11am in Brown Hall!** ❖



**\$10/PERSON; \$25/FAMILY; CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE**

**dinner**

**WEDNESDAYS @ 6:15 PM IN BROWN HALL**



# HI GRACE CHURCH!

Emily King-Nobles,  
Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministry



Emily

The summer has flown by, and Fall Programming at Grace is just around the corner! I'm excited to share that Rally Day, September 7, will be my first official Sunday with you all. Thank you for your patience during this time of transition and for continuing to support our children and youth ministries. I look forward to meeting you in person and beginning this new chapter of life together at Grace.

As I load up my car and prepare for the cross-country drive to California, the word "journey" keeps coming to mind. Graduating from college and moving to Palo Alto to begin this role marks the start of a new journey, one I take on with great anticipation. This is also a new journey for Grace and for our children, youth, and young adults. Thank you for trusting me to walk alongside them. My prayer is that each person involved in these ministries comes to know just how deeply loved and chosen they are.

In Matthew 4:19, God encounters Peter and Andrew and challenges them to follow Him into ministry saying, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of people". As we begin this journey together, following God's call on our lives, I'm filled with joy and peace for what's ahead.

More detailed programming info will be shared soon, but here are some important dates to save:

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

- September 3, 7:00-8:30 PM: First High School Youth Group with Emily!
- September 7: Rally Day Sunday – Celebrate the start of Sunday School with games, food, and a bounce house!
- September 28: AppleFest Sunday
- October 24: Trunk or Treat
- November 14–16: Elementary & Middle School Retreat at Mt. Cross Camp
- November 30: Advent Festival
- December 14: Christmas Play during Worship
- March 6–8: High School Retreat at Mt. Cross Camp

*Stay tuned for details about the 2026 Summer High School Mission Trip—dates and location will be announced soon!*

## YOUNG ADULTS

- September 13, 10:00 AM – Meet-up at Peet's Coffee (3904 Middlefield Rd) for fellowship and connection

Moving forward, there will be monthly programming for young adults. All are welcome! Please reach out if you have ideas or suggestions for future gatherings.

More Fall programming updates will come your way soon as I get settled in. In the meantime, feel free to contact me with any questions or ideas. I'm so grateful to be starting this journey with you! ❖

# GRACE OUTDOORS

## 1. **Stanford Dish Hike**, September 13, 9:30 am.

This easy/moderate hike up to the iconic Palo Alto landmark will be followed by a trip to another local landmark, the Dutch Goose. Led by Gail Rogers and Chris Dunlap.



## 2. **Crystal Springs Bike Ride**, October 25, 9 am.

This event offers a choice between a shorter moderate ride to the end of Canada Road near the Crystal Springs Reservoir and back to Woodside, or a longer moderate+/strenuous ride looping back down through the hills to Rossatti's, where we'll all reconvene for lunch.



## 3. **Huddart Park Hike**, November 8, 9 am.

This moderate+ hike will take us through the majestic oaks and fall colors of Woodside's Huddart Park. Those who wish can convene afterwards at Buck's Restaurant in Woodside.

## 4. **Purisima Creek Long Loop Hike**, December 6, 9 am.

This strenuous 10-mile hike will wind down through a redwood forest, and climb back up again past a babbling creek until we break through to sweeping ocean views. Those who wish can gather for lunch afterward at Alice's Restaurant.

Ann Alexander for Grace Outdoors ❖

## WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT

Every first Thursday of the month, the women of Grace gather from 7-9pm. For what, where, and how—these three are variables that you too can help determine: If you would like to be in charge of a women's night, let me know. You decide where and how we meet and what we will be doing. Nothing, honestly, nothing is off topic for our group (something I am really proud of!).

Our first Women's Night of this programming year will take place on **September 4, 7-9pm, at Hoover Park** at the picnic tables: We will have an end-of-summer potluck picnic! Aside from some food/drink to share, bring a blanket (to sit on or wrap yourself in) and a sweater. I am looking forward to catching up with all of you after this long summer break!

In **October (10/2)**, **Yvonne Baur** will teach us the secret of how to bake **German Pretzels**—just in time for our Reformation Fest! We meet from **7-9pm in the Brown Hall kitchen**. Keep your eyes peeled for more details! ❖

## FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Our lives are shaped not just by years, but by moments—small, powerful glimpses of meaning that stay with us long after they pass. Whether it's a quiet conversation, shared laughter, or an unexpected encounter with grace, these moments become the heart of our stories and the spaces where we often meet God.

Join us for this year's Fall Women's Retreat on Saturday, September 20, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM in the Emmaus Room, as we reflect on the moments that have shaped us, and the ones we're still living into. Come for connection, conversation, and a meaningful pause in the midst of your everyday life.

I hope to share some of these moments with you. ❖

**Fall Women's Retreat**  
September 20, 2025 | 10am - 4pm  
Emmaus Room

moments





## ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS!

Our annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, August 17 and once again we had a lot to celebrate! Our worship attendance and giving have continued to grow, we have begun the projects for Capital Campaign 4: Growing Together in Grace, and with the arrival of Emily King-Nobles, our new Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Ministry, we are operating with a full staff this fall.

We feted Andrew Mellows for his so-many-years-of-service-to-the-congregation that we can't count them! We also thanked Susan Choquette and Lee Taubeneck for their service on council and welcomed Eric Brudos and Sumitha Pauli, both new to the council, with Anna Girsén and Eric Mellum continuing in new terms.

The annual report can be found in the narthex and permanently online in the Member Group on **MyGrace** under Files. ❖

## GRACE MAKERS

### Where Creativity and Community Come Together

Grace Makers is a monthly gathering for anyone who enjoys creating—whether you're working with yarn, paper, fabric, digital tools, or something uniquely your own. It's a relaxed, come-as-you-are space to unplug, get inspired, and share your creativity in community.

Bring your own project—knitting, crocheting, scrapbooking, LEGO building, sewing, mending, paper crafts, woodburning, Cricut designs, or even fixing that vintage typewriter you've been meaning to tackle—and join us!

Whether you're a seasoned maker or just starting out, Grace Makers is a place to:

- Work on personal or collaborative projects
- Learn from others and swap creative ideas
- Enjoy the joy of making together
- Share snacks potluck-style
- Bring a friend—or come make new ones



Projects from past gatherings have included crocheting, digital scrapbooking, LEGO builds, clothes mending, stereo repair, dollhouse design, handmade bookmarks, and more. Whatever you're working on (or hoping to start), there's a seat at the table for you.

We meet on the first Saturday of every month in the Emmaus Room at Grace. Drop in anytime between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM: Come for an hour or stay the day—craft, create, and connect.

All are welcome! ❖

## GRACE MAKERS FAIR

Mark your calendars for the first-ever Grace Makers Fair on Sunday, November 9, from 12:00 to 6:00 PM in Brown Hall! This family-friendly event is a celebration of creativity, curiosity, and community, bringing together makers of all kinds from the Grace congregation—engineers, artists, crafters, scientists, hobbyists, and more. It's a wonderful opportunity to see what your fellow Grace folks are passionate about outside of Sunday mornings.

The fair will feature a wide variety of displays, demonstrations, and hands-on activities, including handmade goods, DIY science experiments, interactive art projects, and creative tools and techniques. Many items will be available for sale, so come ready to shop, support, and be inspired. Be sure to stop by the High School Fundraising Café for tasty snacks and drinks, with proceeds supporting our youth programs.

Whether you're a maker, a supporter, or simply curious, all are welcome! If you'd like to participate as a maker, use the Grace Connect QR Code to sign up. ❖





# Grace Lutheran Church

3149 Waverley Street Palo Alto, CA 94306 650.494.1212 [gracepa.org](http://gracepa.org)



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

### Sunday Worship

**In-Person** (Sanctuary) 8:30 a.m.

**In-Person** (Sanctuary) 10:45 a.m.

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**Broadcast on Cable 75**

**Sundays 11 a.m. | 8:30 p.m.**

**Mondays 12:30 p.m.**

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**Livestreamed on the Grace YouTube  
channel. Links at [gracepa.org](http://gracepa.org)**

Children, Youth, & Family Team invites you to

# AppleFest

**Potluck Lunch & Activities**

**Bring something apple-y to share!**

**September 28, 2025**

**12:00 pm in the Courtyard**