



GRACE NOTES

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 46 WOODLAND STREET, HARTFORD, CT 06105 860-527-7792

Come to a Cool Harvest Potluck and Film Screening

Sunday, October 16, following worship

Cool harvest potluck dishes use items that contribute to global warming the least. Local, organic, home cooked.

Food connects us to some of the most important questions of our time. The food choices we make – individually and as a society – affect not only our health, but the health of the planet and all of Creation. Our food

system is also one of the leading contributors of greenhouse pollution causing climate change.

Win a prize for the most interesting dish, “coolest” dish, least complicated and more. Prizes include home canned goodies, Fair Trade Products, ???

Nourish: film screening

As seen on PBS and endorsed by Heifer International. Narrated by Cameron Diaz.

What is the story of my food? Where did it come from, and how did it get to me? Food connects us to some of the most important questions of our time. The food choices we make create a ripple that is felt around the world.

Cool Potluck Ideas

There are many variables that go into determining if a meal is climate-friendly or not. Here are some guidelines to help you prepare a Cool Harvest dish for the upcoming potluck and film screening. The lists of foods below will give you a general sense about which to increase (more climate-friendly choices), and which to decrease (foods with a high climate *foodprint*). These lists were gleaned from the experts over at the Cool Foods Campaign and Climate Friendly Food, programs of Interfaith Power & Light, and can be used as a general guide.

Favor these ingredients

Local when Possible of all...
Organic seasonal veggies and fruit
Organic grains
Organic, grass-fed meats
Organic dairy
Organic corn and soy
Whole foods

Reduce these ingredients

Imported or faraway foods
Conventional veggies and fruit
Factory farmed animals
Factory farmed dairy
GMO grains, such as corn and soy
Processed foods
Heavily packaged and/or frozen foods

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Note from Pastor

The peace of God; the God of peace

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The church in Philippi was probably Paul's favorite. At least most people think so. That probably wasn't fair. (In church we talked about "fair" and "unfair" back on September 18th.) But there you have it. The Philippian congregation had been partners with Paul for years in giving, receiving, working, and rejoicing. They also now shared the same agony as Paul, as persecution began to rise up against them. So Paul wrote to them with particular simplicity and warmth and spirituality. He calls them his joy and crown.

Paul urges them not to worry about anything. Telling them not to worry was a courageous thing to do. I have found, if somebody tells me they're worried, and I tell them not to worry, I could just possibly get my teeth bashed in. People don't like to be told they're wrong and, in effect, telling someone not to worry is telling them they are wrong.

But Paul is not denying that there is plenty we could be worried about. The Philippians were worried about persecution. Persecution against Christian was suddenly very real and

getting worse. We at Grace don't worry about persecution (at least not against Christians), but we could be worried about the number of people in our neighborhood who are unchurched. We could worry about the struggling schools in Hartford. We could worry about joblessness in our community, which seems to be getting worse instead of better. We could worry about our chronic budget deficit.

Paul is not even saying we should not be prepared against these things. Of course the Philippians needed to prepare as best they could to live in a climate of persecution. They needed to become clear about what they believed, be prepared to tell their story, build up one another in the faith, and teach one another how to live in the face of danger. Of course we at Grace need to do all we can to reach out to our neighborhood, especially the unchurched, to be in partnership with them to defeat poverty and bring the Good News of Jesus' love for us all. We need to support schools and campaign for jobs. Closer still to home, we need a plan for dealing with

our budget deficit and for being good stewards of our investments. The Council expects to propose such a plan for consideration at the congregational meeting in November.

We can't do it all by ourselves, though, praise the Lord. Knowing that, and before we do any planning at all, first we have to stop worrying, and Paul tells us exactly how to stop. "Do not worry about anything," he says, "but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

Instead of worrying, in other words, how about spending our energy thinking about what our requests of God should be? Probably something about helping Grace do what matters to God. With thanksgiving.

As a result, "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding," Paul promises, "will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Even without our asking.

The God of peace be with you always.

Pastor Steege

A Sacred Trust: A Fall Forum on Religion and the Environment

Film: *A Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash*

with Commentary by Brent Blackwelder, past president of Friends of the Earth

Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT

Join us for a showing of "A Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash," a stunning documentary that examines our dependence on oil, showing how oil is essential for almost every facet of our modern lifestyle. "A Crude Awakening" argues that the era of cheap oil is in the past. Drawing on an international cast of energy experts and thinkers, the film challenges the conventional wisdom that oil production will continue to climb, and instead presents a picture of a planet facing economic meltdown and conflict over its most valuable resource. "A Crude

Awakening" explores oil's rocky relationship with human progress in locales ranging from ancient Baku, Azerbaijan to dusty oil patch town McCamey, Texas, and hints at a humbler way of life built around sustainability and alternative energy. One commentator said, "The point of 'A Crude Awakening' seems to be like that of an alarm clock. Its function is to wake people up. To rouse them from their slumber. If you haven't encountered this information anywhere else then it will do the trick."

After the film, Brent

Blackwelder, who recently retired as president of Friends of the Earth, will discuss ways we can go forward. He will present ways to overcome the obstacles standing in the way of achieving a clean energy economy.

The forum also will feature small-group discussions, closing with a plenary feedback session.

Cost: \$25; \$20 for students
Co-Sponsors: Hartford Seminary and the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

Sunday School gets off to a 'sweet' start

Even though there was a serious congregational meeting that same morning, the congregation of Grace had its priorities right during Second Hour on the 11th of September. First they stopped for ice cream (with all the toppings) at an old-fashioned Ice-Cream Social, and welcomed our children to the new Sunday School year. During the meeting that followed, **Louisa Barton-Duguay** and **Randall DeRosa** entertained the

children with stories and music – the music still going strong when the adults' meeting was long over.

The first official day of class was September 18th. Teachers were commissioned and blessed during worship that morning, and the congregation sent the children off to class at the end of worship with our traditional prayer and blessing.

Led by **Chad and Phyllis Thompson** and volunteers,*

the children have begun with digital story telling and making videos to share in a future Second Hour. If you know of kids age 5 - 11 to invite to Sunday School, please do.

* Volunteers are urgently needed. Two or more adults are needed each week to help with this important ministry. Please see, call (413-827-9434), or e-mail (thompswil5@gmail.com) the Thompsons and let them know when you can help.

Bell Choir launches new season

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn 850)

One of Grace's most joyful noises comes from the Bell Choir, which rehearses from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Thursday mornings.

We are especially grateful to **Dale Eberhardt** who did double duty last year as Organist and Bell Choir Director while **Mildred Unfried** recovered from shoulder surgery. This year we welcome Mildred back as she returns to conduct the Bell Choir, which plays for Sunday morning worship approximately once a month. Grace is blessed to have such able musical leadership from both Dale and Mildred.

Playing in the Bell Choir, besides making an important contribution to worship at Grace, is also a whole lot of fun! If you can count to four and tell which little notes are black or white and higher or lower than the others, you qualify. Please speak with Mildred, or just show up at 9:30 a.m. any Thursday morning, beginning October 6.

“Building More than a House...” with

A Bunch of Guys!

- Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.
- Emanuel Lutheran Church, 311 Capitol Avenue, Hartford
- Free Admission – Free Will Offering
- Refreshments will be served after the concert!

Come hear Knute Ogren and the Guys as they lift their voices for a great cause! This concert will benefit the Hartford County Thrivent Build for the Lebron Family at 192 Laurel Street on Asylum Hill. Many volunteers throughout our Thrivent

chapter have worked hard to make this home. Come celebrate! All proceeds will go directly to Hartford Habitat for Humanity and are tax deductible.

Please remember, worship begins at 9:30am each and every Sunday. The psalmist says, “I was glad when they said unto me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord.’” Join us for worship each Sunday.

Congregation declines solar panels

On a written ballot, the Congregation Council's proposal to install solar panels was rejected by a vote 22 to 13 when the congregation met at a special meeting on October 11. Following a question-and-answer period and extensive discussion, the

sense of the congregation seemed to be that, although they favored the idea of solar panels for many good reasons, it is important to address the issue of our current budget deficit before making further capital investments. The federal stimulus that had

made the proposal attractive will expire this fall. Members of the congregation expressed the hope that there will be similar opportunities at a more opportune time, since the savings that can be realized by the use of panels would be substantial.

Council Corner

We focus on the cross by **nurturing faith** (Matt.28:19-20) and **servicing others** (Matt.25:34-36).

The Congregation Council met Saturday, September 10 and, with the full membership present, devoted a large portion of the agenda to its on-going discussion of issues regarding the congregation's chronic deficit. Focusing on our mission statement (above) and the question of what it means to be church, the Council continued to seek ways to decrease expenditures, increase income, and review its policy regarding a cap on spending our investment funds. Ideas included reducing the number of issues of *Grace Notes* and offering on-line editions, and increasing the number of

groups using space in the building and making appropriate donations for this use. The Finance Committee was asked to review our present budget line by line to see if reductions in expenses are possible.

A task force was assigned to compile the results of the meeting into a draft plan to be reviewed at the October Council meeting for presentation at the Annual Meeting November 6. With the understanding that there is no magic, instant solution to an on-going deficit issue, it was noted that congregational growth and financial stability are closely linked.

With the need to increase income, the Council voted to approve a Stewardship campaign for the fall, and reviewed a new space use agreement template.

In other business, the Council approved the designation of the Friday Evening Gathering as a worship service to include weekly Holy Communion (see article), and appointed a task group to research and provide a proposal for a Safe Church policy for Grace, as strongly suggested by the ELCA.

The next meeting of the Council will be Saturday, October 8, at 9 a.m.

St. Mark, Glastonbury, calls new pastor

On Sunday, August 21, the congregation of St. Mark welcomed and invited the Rev. Lydia Wittman-Grebe to be its next pastor. She will begin her call with St. Mark in early November. Pastor

Wittman-Grebe has lived in the Pacific Northwest for the past seven years, having most recently served in her first call as pastor of a long-established, rural congregation in Washington state. She studied

Communication and Theology at Concordia University in St. Paul, MN, and graduated with her M. Div. from the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Friday Evening Gathering includes Holy Communion

At the recommendation of the Worship Committee, the Congregation Council approved the designation of the Friday Evening Gathering as a regular worship service to include Holy Communion on a weekly basis.

The Friday evening format, led by **Darrell Urban**, who chairs the project, begins with a free supper for the neighborhood. The meals are prepared by **Louisa Barton-Duguay, Nancy Urban, Waneta Wiggins**, or occasionally from one of several gifted volunteer cooks from the neighborhood. A faithful crew of participants from the neighborhood comes in early to peel, chop, and slice the vegetables and help set up the Community Room. Since so many who attend from the immediate neighborhood live below the poverty line, the program qualifies for partnership in FoodShare, which means the meal costs Grace very little.

The meal is followed by guided conversation, sometimes a special program, plenty of song, and prayer, finishing with an invitation to the Lord's Supper for those who would like to participate. The evening begins at 6 p.m. and usually finishes about 7:30 – clean-up is done by 8.

Attendance on Friday evenings continues to grow, averaging between 45 and 50, except for a picnic on August 26 when attendance reached 80. **Ruth Rempt** and a group of her friends provided special sing-along music that evening.

It is hoped that long-term members who normally worship on Sunday mornings will stop by on Friday evenings, especially if they know for some reason they will not be at worship on a given Sunday. People are always needed to help welcome and host our first-time visitors from the neighborhood. It would also be helpful to have a few more

volunteers help with clean-up at the end of the evening.

This successful program stemmed from the work of the Visioning Group, led by **Susan Carey**, which over the past two years has helped us focus on Holy Listening – to the Word, to one another, and to the neighborhood. As predicted by our Synod evangelism resources, opportunities like this to reach out in ministry with our immediate neighbors have come up well before the end of our visioning, which is in fact an on-going process.

Sunday attendance up

Meanwhile, summer attendance on Sunday mornings, always expected to be smaller than the rest of the year because of vacations, has increased from an average of 38 in 2010 up to 43 during the summer months this year. The Holy Spirit is clearly at work at Grace!

Noontime Prayer Circle on Wednesdays

The front doors of the church are open on Wednesdays and all are invited to stop by for half an hour of prayer from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. In nice

weather you'll find the chairs set up under the cherry tree on the front lawn.

Please join us. If this is not possible, consider setting aside

a moment for your own prayer at that hour on Wednesdays, joining us in Spirit, and remembering the Circle as we pray together.

Horn of Africa drought continues

Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and other countries in the Horn of Africa and the East Africa region continue to experience the worst drought in 60 years. Two years of sporadic rain – and the driest year since 1951 – have resulted in severely reduced access to drinking water and major crop and livestock loss. The UN estimates that 11.6 million people are at risk, including 2.2 million malnourished children. 500,000 of these children face imminent life-threatening conditions. In hard hit areas, like south central Somalia, masses of people are leaving their homes in order to meet their basic need of food and water.

The overall impact of this crisis stretches across the entire East Africa region. On

the eastern border of Kenya, at the Dadaab refugee complex, over 1,300 new refugees, mainly from Somalia, arrive daily. In southern Ethiopia, an estimated 2,000 Somali refugees arrive daily, seeking refuge in Dolo Odo. In both camps, immediate needs are being met by the Lutheran World Federation, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

What you can do

Pray:

The act of leaving your home in search of the resources of life can be a terrifying and exhausting activity, with some people moving as far as 300 miles on foot. Please keep these people in your prayers, that God will continue to

oversee their journey and will be with all those working to keep at bay the greater impacts of this disaster.

Give:

Gifts to ELCA Disaster Response help us to provide immediate and effective support to communities which are in need. Please consider giving to support the needs of this response and others like it. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Give through Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church or send your check directly to: ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-9300. Write "Horn of Africa Drought" or "Where Needed Most" on your check's memo line.

One-week mission trips to Honduras

Have you ever wanted to go on a Mission trip, serve people in a foreign country, rediscover your faith, travel and get close to new people in

a new land? The New England Synod is hosting two different Mission trips to our partner church in Honduras, Feb 19 - 25 and April 14 - 21.

For more information contact Pastor Jim Hazelwood at jim@STandrewRI.org or call 401-322-0088.

Correction

The August *Grace Notes* article about the Build Us Up, Lord campaign indicated that 29 months remain. The correct number should have been 39 months. We have time! We regret the error.

*By the grace of God, we are a Lutheran congregation,
diverse in worship, Christ-centered in fellowship,
committed to prayer, deepening of faith,
and the stewardship of the gospel and God's world.*

People of Grace

We rejoiced on the morning of September 4th as we received **Bear Edward Alexander McLaren** into the community of faith through

the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Bear is the son of **Andrea Sokolowski and Jamal McClaren**, the grandson of **Barbara Ruhe**

and **Ken Sokolowski**, and the great-grandson of former members **Helga and George Ruhe**. Bear's sponsor was **Alexis Crowley**.

Thank you

Thank you to **Lou Oliver, Mavis Smith**, and everyone who put on our wonderful annual Ice Cream Social to kick off the Sunday School year. A good time and many calories were enjoyed by us all!

Thank you to **Petre McAdams**, who has agreed to serve as a Counter, replacing **Bodo Jahn**, who has served as a Counter for many months. Petre will serve with **Bruce Klotz, Donna Phelan, and Brian Phelan**. A "Counter" is not a piece of furniture, by the way. Our Counters may be

found in the office after worship every Sunday morning, counting and recording our offerings and preparing our bank deposits. We give thanks to God for their ministry, and to each of them for sharing their gifts of time and talent with us.

Welcome to our Women's Bible Study

Grace's **Women's Bible Study** has resumed its study of *Bad Girls of the Bible!* The group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Emma Coleman Carr's house.

From Eve to the Woman at the Well, Delilah to Sapphira, this study brings us closer than ever to women of Scripture whose lives are filled with important lessons and insights for women today.

Newcomers are always welcome! Emma's address is 19 B Woodland Avenue, Bloomfield. For directions, call Emma at 860-243-5201. If you'd like a ride, call Pastor at church.

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of

my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and

your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hearts.

PLEASE NOTE:

The submission deadline for the November 2011 edition of Grace Notes is October 15th. Please forward information to Sally Nolen (sallynolen@live.com) by this date. Thank you.

www.graceistheplace.org

