



WORSHIP @ BUTTE PARK  
Sunday, June 5, 10am  
Bring your chair and pot-  
luck to share!



# Grace Notes

## FREE? INDEED!

A number of years ago, as we came home from our adventure to Nojoqui Falls on the first 3-day weekend of the summer, I noticed that very few flags were displayed outside homes on our street; there seemed to be very few flags anywhere. It was a strange sight, a somewhat disheartening sight.

As a child growing up in the Midwest, I looked forward to summers. It was more than school being out, or that soon we would head east to visit family; it was the parades, flags and fireworks. These were symbols and celebrations of our country and our freedom.

Beginning with Memorial Day, we would gather along Main Street to await the troops and flags that would march by. We would watch soldiers young and old – shoulders back, transported to a simpler, clearer time. We would cheer, and stand at the sight of flag. We would honor their crisp salutes with our own. The music would make our toes tap as one band followed another. We were proud of what we saw. We were proud of who we were. That evening most of the town would show up at the city band shell for an evening of patriotic music.

The day finally came when three of us from the neighborhood got together and did our own version of the Spirit of 76, in the process winning a trophy for our efforts. It was a wonderful time for us to show our patriotism, to “remember” with the rest of the nation, to celebrate, to suggest that there was a linkage between the days of the Founding Fathers and our own.

To look back on those days is to look upon an elusive time, a time of innocence, and a time of hope. With the buildup and collapse in Viet Nam, the aborted mission in Somalia, and with the recent conflicts in Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan - the ideals that we cherish

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### Special points of interest

- Worship @ Butte Park, June 5 @ 10am
- ELCA advocates for fair elections, linking faith and the public square
- How to empower foster kids to thrive



## Our Gigantic Family Tree

Many people try to learn about their family's history by going back through many generations to discover who their ancestors are. People do this because they're curious about their family tree and they're looking for their roots. That's what All Saints' Sunday<sup>2019</sup>the first Sunday after November 1<sup>2019</sup>is all about. All Saints' Sunday is like a family tree for the whole Christian family. We are reminded of all the saints who have lived and died, and those who are living now. It's not a sad time; it's a time that gives us great strength.

Life isn't always happy. It's not fun to be sick or to feel lonely. Can you imagine living somewhere where there are no other people? Some things make us feel lonely and

sad even when there are many people around us. When someone we love dies, it can be very hard to understand why this has happened. But that's one of the reasons we celebrate All Saints' Day. It reminds us that we are never really alone. We know that the people whom we love who have died are resting in God's arms. It reminds us that billions of people have sung, danced, cried, laughed, eaten, and drank in God's house throughout the centuries, just like we do now.

Think of all the people alive now who love you and whom you love. If someone really special has died, look at pictures of that person and share stories of him or her.

## *ELCA introduces initiative to address voting rights.*

### Searching For Heroes

Children copy the behavior of those they admire. Young children tend to imitate their parents and caregivers. As they reach the middle elementary grades, they begin to copy the behavior of friends, peers, and sports and entertainment personalities. Our children's faith growth can be helped or hindered, depending on whose behavior they choose to imitate. That's why we need to expose our children to people with behaviors worth copying. Share stories with your child about heroes and heroines of the faith: biblical, historical, and contemporary. Follow up these stories with conversations about these faithful people. How was their faith important to them? What can we learn from them? There may be heroes in your neighborhood or your church. Introduce your children to people for whom faith is real and active.



CHICAGO (ELCA) – Affirming its commitment to ensure voting rights for all U.S. citizens, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has introduced

ELCAvotes, an initiative to help members advocate for fair elections and engage in local efforts to guarantee the right to vote.

"ELCAvotes is about linking faith, civic engagement and theology in the public square," said Rozella White, program director, ELCA Young Adult Ministry. "It is our hope to invite more people, especially young adults, into fuller conversation as they live out lives of faith in society."

ELCAvotes was developed in response to "Voting Rights to All Citizens," a social policy resolution adopted by the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The resolution states that "members, congregations, and synods of this church be encouraged to 'promote public life worthy of the name' by speaking out as an advocate and engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens."

The ministries leading the initiative include ELCA Advocacy, ELCA Racial Justice Ministries and ELCA Young Adult Ministry.

"In this election year filled with divisiveness and at times hateful rhetoric, it is easy to forget that our electoral process exists to ensure all voices are heard in the shaping of our representative democracy," said Tia Upchurch-Freelove, program direc-

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Voting Rights*



Together, we CAN end hunger! Click on a the buttons above to find resources to learn more about the causes and cures for hunger and how our Lutheran faith gives rise to a courageous, effective and meaningful response to hunger and poverty – in our own communities and around the world!

Did you know...

...over 800 million people in the world do not get enough food each day to live healthy lives? (World Food Programme)

...in the United States, nearly 16 million children are not sure where their next meal will come from? (Bread for the World)

...about HALF of all adults in the United States aged 20-65 will need federal assistance to buy food at some point during their lifetime? (Food Research and Action Center)

Did you ALSO know...

...the world produces enough food to give every living person 2,868 calories per day? (Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.)

...the number of people living in chronic hunger worldwide has fallen 17 percent since the early 1990s? (World Food Programme)

...in 2014, gifts to ELCA World Hunger helped support over 380 anti-hunger ministries in the United

States and 250 programs in over 50 other countries – from food pantries to community gardens, from health care clinics to job training programs, and so much more?

June Benevolence: Made to Thrive. See [Made to Thrive.org](http://MadeToThrive.org)

## Church Happenings

### **Church Worship and Picnic**

As the school year nears completion we will gather as a congregation at Butte Park on June 5 @ 10am to celebrate the ministry of education at Grace and Mercy with open air worship, picnic, and celebration of those who have participated in Sunday school this year.

### **Tapping Into Faith**

Join us Friday evening, June 23rd @ 7pm @ the Hermiston Tavern for good company, drink and conversation. Join us as Jesus Rome leads us in conversation about cross-cultural worship.

### **Novel Ideas Book Club**

July's book—Crispin, The Cross of Lead, starts with.... "in the midst of life comes death." How often did our village priest preach those words. Yet I also have heard that "in the midst of death comes life." If this be a riddle, so was my life. Join us on Tuesday, June 28th @ Grace and Mercy as we seek to unravel the riddle.

### **Mental Health First Aid**

June 24th, 8-5 @ G&M Fellowship Hall. Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a Heart attack, Mental Health First Aid helps you assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. In the Mental Health First Aid course, you learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help. This one day Training is offered by Lifeways free of cost to anyone interested in increasing their confidence to intervene and refer people to helpful resources.

#### **MHFA Class**

**Friday, June 24**

**8am-5pm with lunch on our own**

**Instructors: Carol Johnson from Lifeways and Chaplain John Jeffries**

## Flag Day is June 14th

One of the great heroes of the early days of our country was John Paul Jones. He was a naval officer and to him went the honor of displaying on his ship, for the first time, the national flag of the United States. Some people may not realize that Francis Scott Key, the author of "The Star-Spangled Banner," composed four stanzas for what became our national anthem. The last stanza is as follows:

O, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand,  
Between their loved home and the war's desolation,  
Blest with victory and peace,  
May the heaven-rescued land,  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto, - "In God is our trust."  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave,  
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

-The national anthem in totality may be found in Hugh Graham, Great American Stories, Poems and Essays



### About

Made to Thrive is a proactive organization comprised of ambitious advocates who are dedicated to reshaping the lives of at-risk and foster youth. We provide mentoring, funding, equipment and transportation so they have the opportunity to experience a positive and empowering environment through sports, adventure activities, music, dance or art.

### Mission

Made to Thrive's mission is to stop the cycle of child abuse, neglect and poverty by bringing the physical and emotional benefits of sports, adventure activities, music and art to vulnerable youth.

### Vision

Our vision is to improve the lives of vulnerable youth who often find themselves hope-

less, forgotten and neglected. We believe all children deserve safe permanent families and the support they need to thrive.

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tor, ELCA Advocacy communications and grassroots outreach. "Voting is one of the most important ways Americans can be involved in our democracy. As part of our ELCAvotes initiative, we will share resources and work together to find ways to ensure all citizens have the right to vote."

ELCAvotes provides faith-based resources to encourage faithful and non-partisan voter participation and a context for all Lutherans to learn about issues such as economic and racial justice that influence voting rights. The resources also provide tools to help young adults understand what it means to be a young person of faith who is civically engaged and will help equip ethnic communities to talk about race and voting rights and the connection with the election year.

"After gaining many of the strides won during the civil rights era, voter suppression and voter restrictions still remain under attack for communities of color," said Judith Roberts, program director, ELCA Racial Justice Ministries. "The racially blatant discriminatory laws and state sanctioned violence under the Jim Crow era denied blacks and other people of color the opportunity to vote are gone. However, the U.S. Supreme Court's 2013 decision to dismantle a key provision of the Voting Rights Act removed a critical element to combat racial discrimination in voting. This removal of protection continues to have unintended consequences in extending all citizens the opportunity to fully exercise their right to vote."

Roberts emphasized that the ELCA, through the social policy resolution, has

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Grace and Mercy Welcomes You

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and ministries.

Grace and Mercy L.C.

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Hermiston, OR 97838

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Visit us on Facebook at [Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church](#)

## Safe Travels—Even While Home

Summer is here! (Is that a collective sigh of relief that I hear?)

One of the “givens” of summer is travel. Warm weather, blue skies, and open roads (and sometimes family) beckon us to see the world, and there is a lot out there to see.

Some of us wait until later to answer the siren call to travel—and so we watch the home fires.

This summer we will again set aside Wednesday evenings during July and August to provide a time to gather as a worshipping community. This was well-received last year, so I thought we might try it again for all who are in town. During this time we will use Holden Evening Prayer (a favorite), but begin and end our summer evening worship with a service of confession and healing. As we come and go, we do so in the presence and blessing of God who brings healing to God's people and God's creation. Safe Travels.



## Where world peace begins...

When Mother Teresa received the Nobel Prize for Peace, someone asked her what the average person might do to promote world peace. Her answer was simple and true. "Go home," said the kindhearted nun, "Go home and love your family."

If we do not have peace in our own hearts and reveal that peace by exercising love toward the members of our family, it is not likely that we'll do our part to reach the goal of world peace

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for ourselves and hoped for others have become illusory. As we talk of other nations and their record of human rights violations, questions arise about our own record – the wealthiest of countries cannot feed its own. It seemed that the very ideal of Freedom was under attack. It seems that we are unwilling to pay the price for freedom. Far from free, it requires sacrifice and discipline and responsibility. It is an ideal that is desired – not only here, but around the world. Witness the aborted Peoples Revolution in China, and the remembrance of that revolution; or the many episodes of the recent Arab Spring.

There is another freedom. To some it is just as illusory. To some it is just too good to be true. To some the cost is too high – for it requires sacrifice, and discipline and responsibility.

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free...So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

John 8:31b, 32, 36

During the summer we often point to the flag as the symbol of who we are as a people, as a country. All that we are is contained in that symbol – be it hope or the high ideal.

In the Church we point to the Christ. In and through Jesus we receive freedom. In his dialogue with those who grounded their “freedom” in their heritage from Abraham, Jesus reminded them that freedom is not something to be inherited, but it was a gift, and to experience the richness of this gift requires constant vigilance. It means giving oneself completely to the freedom offered – freedom known in and through the word that is Jesus; and it means that we are constant in our living in and out of the Word.

A high price? Well, yes...and no. It is a gift that is freely given; there is no cost on our part. It is a gift that exacts a great cost – both from the giver and the recipient. For it cost Jesus his life, and calls our life from us.

In these long months of remembering that lie before us, let these words echo, “If you continue in my word...the truth will make you free.”

# June 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 9:30a Quilters	3	4
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
5 3 Pentecost 10a Worship @ Butte Park— Potluck to Share	6 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 10a Next Text 2.0	7 8a Coffee @ Pheasants	8 10a Gather Study	9 9:30a Quilters	10	11
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
12 4 Pentecost 9a Worship/ Communion 10:15a Fellow- ship	13 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 10a Next Text 2.0 5p VBS Mtg @ Faith Presbyteri- an	14 Flag Day 8a Coffee @ Pheasants 5:30p Leadership Mtg.	15 9:30a Foot Clin- ic	16 9:30a Quilters	17	18
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
19 5 Pentecost 9a Worship/ Communion 10:15a Fellow- ship	20 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 10a Next Text 2.0	21 8a Coffee @ Pheasants	22 10a Gather Study	23 9:30a Quilters	24 8-5 MHFA 7p Tapping Into Faith @ Hermis- ton Tavern	25 Presentation of the Augsburg Confession
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						
26 6 Pentecost 9a Worship/ Communion 10:15a Fellow- ship	27 6:32a Next Text	28 8a Coffee @ Pheasants 5:30p Book Club	29	30 9:30a Quilters	Cave Quest—9am — Noon	
Pastor Inch—Hermiston						

## Serving God's People

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>
June 5		All Church Potluck	
June 12	Meyers	George & Rochelle	
June 19	Phil Schmidt	JoAn Hill, Phil Schmidt	
June 26	Kathleen Madore	Madore Family	

## Celebrations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>
Jun 2	Birthday	Edward Largé
Jun 2	Birthday	Connor McMichael
Jun 8	Birthday	Cheyenne Wilkinson
Jun 10	Birthday	Sheila Cozad
Jun 16	Birthday	Janet Boyd
Jun 10	Birthday	Sheila Cozad
Jun 14	Baptismal Birthday	Joseph Cooper
Jun 18	Anniversary	Flora & John Larson
Jun 18	Anniversary	Dorothy & Phil Schmidt
Jun 18	Birthday	Melissa Rosenberg
Jun 21	Birthday	Michelle Hedgepeth
Jun 22	Anniversary	Kathleen & Dan Madore
Jun 23	Baptismal Birthday	Juliette Krueger
Jun 25	Birthday	Cindy Inch
Jun 30	Birthday	Talia Armstrong

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### *Voting Rights*

stated "the guarantee that all citizens may exercise the right to vote on an equal basis is a fundamental requirement for a just society."

"We have to be a church that not only thinks about engagement and has prolific documents on our theological views as they pertain to public life, but we also have to be a church that models active, living, daring faith in Jesus Christ," said White. "Our faith calls us to action, and this initiative is one way of being a church committed to doing God's work with our whole being."