



Spirit of Grace

A Lutheran-Methodist Cooperative Church

May 2021

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In 2020 Lutheran World Relief reached 616,210 neighbors in need in 23 countries with \$11.1 million dollars worth of quilts, care kits, and masks. 264,585 quilts and 19,960 blankets were dispersed to people in the Honduras devastated by hurricanes, to people in Lebanon impacted by the Beirut explosions, to refugees from Syria and those in the Ukraine who lacked adequate shelter and heat.

The quilters of Spirit of Grace shipped on May 8th quilts that were made from May 2019 to February 2020. Due to the pandemic, regional quilt collections did not take place in May 2020. Since the quilters were not able to meet throughout this last year the number of quilts being shipped is not as great as in years past. Despite the year being different, the quilters continued to be busy sewing quilt tops at home. Now that the quilters are able to meet once again, there are many quilt tops ready to become finished quilts for Lutheran World Relief. —Dottie Gilbertson

LWR Quilters at Spirit of Grace: Dottie, Sally Havig, Marlene Lahti, Rose Miller, Adeline Schull, Roberta Schweller, and Bette Yenne. Bob Havig helped this year with packing the quilts for shipping.



Imagine the comfort and care you feel when you snuggle under a comforter or wear a piece of clothing made or worn by a loved one. That’s the feeling you share through an LWR Quilt. In a simple combination of fabric and thread, you reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope — you are not alone. First and foremost, recipients use their LWR Quilts to shield against the cold and rain, and for warm bedding. But their versatility also makes quilts useful as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother’s back.



**Donations to Spirit of Grace’s
Quilting Expenses
are always welcome!**

Donations cover quilt batting, occasionally small supplies like yarn or fabric, and shipping. Make check payable to “Spirit of Grace” and put LWR Quilting on the memo line.
Thank you!

From our Interim

PASTOR

Pastor Sue Seiffert
971-272-3743
spiritofgracepastor@gmail.com

It is the month of May and it is still the Easter season! I had plans for this month. A couple of weeks ago, I had a rough idea of what I thought it would look like. But it isn't going to be quite what I anticipated. I thought that since I have now been vaccinated, that I would start to make some in person visits, following covid protocols, of course. But then I started to fill in my calendar and life got complicated.

May begins with the Oregon Synod Assembly; a good chunk of time in front of Zoom. Then, my brother is coming from Minnesota for a week, so I will be taking some vacation; no Zoom, but I will be visiting with my brother instead other sorts of visits. Then, I discovered a continuing education course I would like to take in the third week of the month. It will be a full forty hours over Zoom, not counting some optional sessions that look interesting. Since it is over Zoom, this even that normally costs several hundred dollars plus transportation and lodging will be only \$75. Sign me up. And then there's the matter of a mandatory workshop that I have to take every four years. Technically I could wait a year. But if I do it this year, it will be cheaper online and it will be presented by some leaders in the field who should be very interesting. So, I'm now signed up for more than sixty hours of Zoom in the month of May, in addition to the regular zooming I do every week!



CHANGE

So, my original plans for May have changed. Change happens. It's disappointing to realize that I will not have time to do what I wanted to do. Yet, I know that the month will be full of opportunities for learning new things and I trust I will be renewed for ministry. I cannot do everything. I have to make choices.

Life involves making choices. We may want to go in one direction, but then we are confronted with limitations. Or we discover unexpected opportunities. Or both challenges and new possibilities at the same time! The pandemic has certainly created limitations, but it has also help us discover new things. While I look forward to a time with less Zoom and more in person experiences, I expect Zoom to continue to be part of my life and part of the new rhythm of congregational life. I expect that some meetings will remain on Zoom instead of having several people get into cars and drive to a building for an hour or two. But not all meetings! And I know that some churches are planning to have "hybrid" worship: worship that is both in person and online.

As pandemic restrictions lift and we begin to resume some activities, we will continue to have questions and wonder how to do things. I expect that it will be a time of experimentation and learning as we go. And that is good. We don't have to have all the answers at once. It is good to be flexible, to realize that we can adjust and change as circumstances change. It is how life works!

Meanwhile, the transition time continues to unfold. The Call Committee is at work while the whole congregation is in prayer. We pray for the Call Committee and Bishop Laurie. We pray for all pastors who are seeking a new call. We pray for God's guidance in this mutual discernment process. And we pray for trust and patience. No one can predict how long it will take. Often God's time is not the schedule we would have chosen. But God is with us!

On another page, you can find the Transition Time Progress Chart. Notice how many items have been checked off! And remember that this is the point where the Call Committee has to honor the confidentiality of the candidates and not share any details with us.

Trust in God. Celebrate Easter and Pentecost and Holy Trinity.

Peace, *Pastor Sue*

Pastor Sue's Schedule

May 2021

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
a.m							1
p.m							Women's Spirituality
eve							Study at Home
a.m	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
p.m	Worship	Work at Home		Vacation	Vacation	Vacation	Vacation
eve				X	X	X	X
a.m	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
p.m	Vacation	Work at Home	Text Study	ELCA Bishop Lectionary	Interim Pastors' Meeting	Sabbath Day	Study at Home
eve	X				MAMA	X	
	X				Book Group	X	
a.m	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
p.m	Worship	Continuing Ed.	Boundaries Workshop	Continuing Ed.	Boundaries Workshop	Continuing Ed.	Study at Home
eve		X	Continuing Ed.	X	Continuing Ed.	X	
		X	X	X	X		
a.m	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
p.m	Worship	Work at Home		Work at Home		Sabbath Day	Study at Home
eve			Text Study	ELCA Bishop Lectionary	Book Group	X	
						X	
a.m	30	31 Holiday					
p.m	Worship	Memorial Day					
eve		X					

Please note that this is subject to change!! (Remember that Pastor Sue is two-thirds time). She will answer the phone or respond to e-mails at any time other than the spaces that are **VACA** or **X'ed** out.

Pastor Sue continues to work from home, but she is eager to interact with people via Zoom, telephone or e-mail (see contact info on page 2). Please feel free to contact her. When in doubt, call Jennifer in the church office, as she will have the most updated schedule.

Interim Time Progress Chart

- √ Say "Farewell" to Pastor David King
- √ Contract with Interim Pastor
- √ Welcome Interim Pastor Sue Seiffert
- √ Select and commission Transition Team
- √ Transition Team begins work – organization and orientation
- √ Transition Team plans ways to collect information, ideas, visions
- √ Transition Team gathers information through various methods
- √ Transition Team analyzes information
- √ If necessary, Transition Team gathers more information
- √ Transition Team may make recommendations to the Board
- √ Transition Team uses the information and assessment to draft the majority of the first version of the Ministry Site Profile ----
- √ The Board reviews and completes the Ministry Site Profile
- √ The Ministry Site Profile is presented to the congregation for review
- √ The Ministry Site Profile is submitted to the Synod office
- √ Call Committee is formed
- √ Call Committee meets with Pastor Sue Seiffert for orientation
- √ Call Committee meets with member(s) of the Transition Team to review the Ministry Site Profile in detail
 - √ Call Committee prepares information packet about the congregation and the community; plans the interview process
 - √ Call Committee receives candidates' names and profiles
- ⇒ **Call Committee reviews information, interviews candidates, checks references**
- If necessary, Call Committee receives more names and profiles; repeats the process**
- Call Committee recommends a candidate to the Board**
- Candidate visits the congregation**
- Terms of call are negotiated**
- The Board calls a Congregational Meeting to vote on the candidate**
- A call is extended and accepted**
- Say "Farewell" to Pastor Sue Seiffert**



Call Committee

Linda Boris, Debby Chenoweth,
Dottie Gilbertson, Margaret Godard,
Tyler Sibley, and Craig Terry.

May Worship

The Easter season continues through most of the month of May. Worship will continue to begin with the Thanksgiving for Baptism, so you may want to have a small bowl of water available.

Holy Communion will be celebrated every week during the live Zoom worship (it will not be recorded, so it will not be part of the worship service post on Facebook). Please have bread in some form (a small roll or a cracker or a hot dog bun, anything that is available) and some wine or juice. The bread may be placed on a plate and the wine or juice in any cup or glass. It is recommended that the bread and wine remain covered by a napkin or cloth, but not essential.

May 23 is Pentecost. You are encouraged to wear red and/or have red decorations and/or have red candles. Be prepared to celebrate!

Pastor Sue will continue to make use of an object at some point during worship. Everyone is encouraged to their own version of the object.

May 2 – heart

May 9 – Pastor Sue on vacation

May 16 – dice

May 23 – red balloon

May 30 – a triangle (musical instrument, a block, a piece of cloth, a piece of paper, anything with three corners)

Vigil for Justice and Love

Tuesday May 11 from 5-6pm at the Salmon Fountain at 2nd and State Street, downtown Hood River. Sharing, Singing, Standing in Solidarity and being in Silence. To show our love for our neighbors, we will wear masks and maintain physical distance. Hosted by Somos Uno/Building Community Connections, a committee of Gorge Ecumenical Ministries.



Ringling Bells in Remembrance

In remembrance of members of the Hood River community who have died from Covid-19, people will ring bells throughout our county every Friday at noon. You are welcome to come to Spirit of Grace and safely sit in your car, while Sharon rings the Asbury bell.

Greetings from the Board to members of Spirit of Grace!

We are currently looking at various options and costs to either remodel or remove the Outreach House. Nothing has been decided yet. There are so many aspects to consider before a decision is made. We will keep you posted. There is also progress in opening the Church building for in person gatherings, with health guidelines of social distancing, mask wearing, and sanitation procedures as in wiping surfaces that are touched. The Quilt group has been authorized to meet since it is a small group and meets only twice a month. Again we will keep you posted of more openings.

Sharon Poynter, Board Secretary

Meeting Minutes

Spirit of Grace Board & SPRC Meeting March 02, 2021 via Zoom

Those present: Pastor Sue Seiffert, Board members :Shelley Oates, Tom Hart, Sharon Poynter. Bob White, Gordon Leigh.

Representing SPRC: Jill McBee, Ty Sibley, Rose Miller, Sharon Pantley.

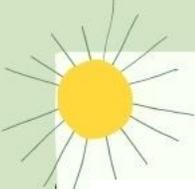
Purpose of Meeting: Review, edit, complete the Ministry Site Profile document and Review the Seven Reflections document.

Pastor Sue opened with prayer. We then started with reviewing the MSP as Pastor Sue presented the document on her screen, going through in detail making changes and corrections along the way. This took up a good hour. Next we reviewed the Seven Reflections with input by SPRC members. This was accepted in tact. Then the SPRC left the meeting allowing the Board to complete the “5 Mutual Expectations” section p.10 of the MSP. This task took up the remainder of the next hour with much input and discussion. Also we reviewed Part IV: Commentary p.12 MSP, clearing up language and making some additions for clarification. Pastor Sue was editing the document as we went along and will send the updated version to us all. A motion to approve this version of the MSP document was moved by Bob White and seconded by Gordon Leigh. We all voted to approve. This will now be sent to the congregants Sun. March 7 to peruse thru the following week. If approved on the 14, it will then be sent to ELCA Oregon Synod for application. Final discussion revolved around the current status and recommendations of meeting in person for church activities. According to our District Supervisor, Tim Overton Harris, this can’t happen until a plan is submitted. Shelley will work on a document which matches the County guidelines for public gatherings. Meeting Minutes continued: Discussion and update of the Outreach House will be brought to our next Board meeting. This meeting was Adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Sharon Poynter, Board Secretary

FISH AND SPIRIT OF GRACE GARDEN

WE WELCOME YOU TO THE GARDEN



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Tuesdays 5:15-6:15pm Thursdays 9-10am

These times will be repeated weekly!
If you plan to come, please let me know
at fishgardenvc@gmail.com! Or text me
Marly at (317) 750-1922.

GENERAL REMINDERS

We ask that everyone please wear a mask and maintain
distance in the garden!
If you are feeling ill, please stay home.

We recommend bringing gardening gloves and wearing
closed toed shoes. Tools can be provided for, but feel free
to bring your own if you wish.

Time to Bee Busy



"The mason bee native to our area is the Blue Orchard Mason Bee, *Osmia lignaria*, which emerges in early spring about the time dandelions start blooming. In addition to a bee house filled with tubes about 8 mm in diameter, they need moist clayey mud to seal individual eggs into their own room where they'll eat the pollen mom has left behind to give them energy to spin their cocoons. Mason bees have a flying range that's limited to about 300 feet, or the length of one football field, and they collect pollen from almost any flower type.

Mason bees are wonderful pollinators because they're hairy little creatures that collect pollen all over their bodies, unlike honey bees that only carry pollen on their legs. These gentle bees very rarely sting and are critical in food production so make a home for them in your yard."



Linda & Nathan Boris	25
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Ray Ishizaka	7
Carol Kyger	14
Sharon Pantely	15
Lee Huckins	16
Erica Gerald	17
Jill McBee	20
Adeline Schull	25
Donna Fitch	29
Carolyn Peyton	30



Spirit Of Grace Worship Links

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81548310619>

<https://hoodriverchurch.com/>

This brings you to Spirit of Grace’s website, where you click on “Zoom”(in blue lettering) to access worship.

To access worship by phone (audio only) call one of the following numbers, **1-669-900-9128** (San Jose) **1-253-215-8782** (Tacoma) and then enter the “Meeting ID” of **815 4831 0619**.

If you miss a live Zoom worship service, you can watch a recorded version at:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/HoodRiverChurch/videos/?ref=page_internal

Prayer Requests can be sent to
Carol Kyger cckyger@gmail.com 541-386-6341

Backup for Carol is Donna Fitch
 fitcheshr@gmail.com 541-386-4043

Weekly Reflections

May 2 1 John 4:16

How do we abide in God’s love?

May 9 John 15:15

What does it mean that Jesus calls us “friends”?

May 16 John 17:15-16

What does “not belong to the world” mean?

May 23 Acts 2:17

What visions and dreams and prophecies have you experienced?

May 30 John 3:8

Where have you seen the Spirit blowing in your life?



Spirit of Grace

1140 Tucker Road
Hood River, Oregon 97031
Phone: 541-386-3993
Email: office@hoodriverchurch.com
Web site: hoodriverchurch.org

Sunday Worship Times

Zoom Worship Service 10:00am
Zoom Fellowship 11:00am

Education Times

Check with the Church Office

Office Hours during COVID

Pastor (Interim)

Sue Seiffert
Please call the church office

Staff

Jennifer Fowler
Office Manager & Financial Secretary

Mon 9am to 2pm
Wed 9am to 2pm
Thurs 9am to 2pm

Linda Boris
Pastoral Assistant



Board of Directors

Pastor
Tom Hart, Co-Chair (2021)
Sharon Poynter (2021)
Shelley Oates Co-Chair (2020)
Gordon Leigh (2020)
Michele Sibley (2022)
Bob White (2022)

Finance Committee

Pastor
Debby Chenoweth (2021)
Dottie Gilbertson (2022)
Muriel Ishizaka Treasurer
Jennifer Fowler Financial Secretary
Tom Hart Payroll
Shelley Oates Board Liaison

Ministry Team Leaders

Worship Linda Boris, Dottie Gilbertson
Children & Youth
Men's Ministry Marv Turner
Women's Ministry Kris White
Outreach Debby Chenoweth
Prayer Chain Carol Kyger
Reception Jill McBee & Pat Crompton
Building Rick McBee

Music Ministry

Organist/Piano Dottie Gilbertson & Audrey Bentz
Choir Audrey Bentz & Sharon Poynter

Staff Parish Relations

Jill McBee (2020)
Ty Sibley (2020)
Rose Miller (2021)
Sharon Pantley (2021)

Representatives

Oregon Synod Assemble Bette Lou Yenne
Oregon-Idaho Annual Conf.

**Call
Committee**

Linda Boris Margaret Godard
Debby Chenoweth Ty Sibley
Dottie Gilbertson Craig Terry



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