It’s not WHAT you do – it’s WHY

Earlier this year, I participated in a mini MBA program in Arizona led by professors from the School of Business at California Lutheran University. This past Sunday, using some of the information I learned during the program, I gave a presentation on entrepreneurship and how it applies to ministry. We watched a video clip of a man who was asked to sing the first line of ‘Amazing Grace.’

After he was done, I asked everyone to describe his singing and “Beautiful,” “Perfect tone and pitch,” and “Really good,” were just a few of the comments. Next, the man was asked to sing again, but he was to imagine that he had a horrible childhood (family in prison, shot as a child, etc.). When he was finished, once again I asked everyone to describe his singing, “Wow,” “Amazing,” “Heartfelt,” and “Inspiring,” were all shared more than once. WHAT the man was doing—singing a song—was the same both times, but it was his WHY that made all the difference.

Lately, we have spent a lot of time talking about the future of Grace. We ask, “WHAT are we going to do?” “WHAT is next?” “WHAT happens now?” These are good questions, but before we can ask ourselves the “WHAT” questions, we need to spend some time figuring out the WHY. Focusing on our WHY will help us to center ourselves and guide everything we do in God’s mission for us. Our WHY is our mission and that mission can be fluid, changing as the world around us changes.

I urge you to take some intentional time to think about what our WHY should be as a congregation that loves and serves God. When we know our WHY, we can finally answer our WHAT, and that will make all the difference.

It’s not WHAT you do, it’s WHY.

What’s YOUR why?

Blessings,
Pastor Veronica
NOTE: Bible Roots Sunday School For All Ages will be resuming the first Sunday after Easter. This year’s curriculum is called “No Experience Necessary”.

GRACE LUTHERAN
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 9
Palm and Passion Sunday
10:00 AM

April 13
Maundy Thursday
12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

April 14
Good Friday
12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

April 16
Easter Sunday
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Both Easter services will feature organist Gordon Brown. Following the 10 AM service, there will be activities for the kids. Both services will also feature a children’s message and special treats for the kids to take home.
Miriam Adeney is an Associate Professor of World Christian Studies at Seattle Pacific University and the author of many books. The books listed here are found in the Grace Lutheran Church Library and are available for checkout. If you would like to hear this author speak, plan to attend the Pacific Northwest Association of Church Libraries meeting on April 8th at 9:30am at St. Stephen and Martyr Church, 13055 SE 192nd St., Renton.

Kingdom Without Borders: The Untold Story of Global Christianity by Miriam Adeney
The twenty-first century has opened with a rapidly changing map of Christianity. While its influence is waning in some of its traditional Western strongholds, it is growing at a phenomenal pace in the global South. And yet this story has largely eluded the corporate news brokers of the West. Layered as it is with countless personal and corporate stories of remarkable faith and witness, it nevertheless lies ghostlike behind the newsprint and webpages of our print media, outside the camera's vision on the network evening news. Miriam Adeney has lived, traveled and ministered widely. She has walked with Christians in and from the far reaches of the globe. As she pulls back the veil on real Christians--their faith, their hardships, their triumphs and, yes, their failures--an inspiring and challenging story of a kingdom that knows no borders takes shape. This is a book that coaxes us out of our comfortable lives. It beckons us to expand our vision and experience of the possibilities and promise of a faith that continues to shape lives, communities and nations.

Daughters of Islam:  Building Bridges with Muslim Women by Miriam Adeney
Their clothing is often distinctive. Their values are strongly held. They love their families. They comprise nearly one-tenth of the world's population, and they live everywhere around the globe. These are women of Muslim background. Many still belong to Islam, but some now belong to Christ. In Daughters of Islam Miriam Adeney introduces you to women like Ladan, Khadija and Fatma. You'll learn about their lives, questions and hopes. You'll learn how they are both representative of and unique among their Arab, Iranian, Southeast Asian and African sisters. And you'll discover what has drawn them to Christ.

Wealth, Women, and God: How to Flourish Spiritually and Economically in Tough Places by Miriam Adeney
The Arabian Gulf--the wealthiest country in the world is located here, as is the world's busiest airport. Not many citizens are Christians. Not much religious conversion is allowed. Yet through migrant women (maids, nurses, pastors) some of the least powerful people in the great sweep of human labor exchanges today, God's grace is at work.

Books, Talk, and Tea
Read the book and join us in the church library at 10 am on the 4th Thursday of the month

April 27  The Children’s Blizzard by David Laskin
May 25   The Summer Guest by Alison Anderson

Questions? Call Judy Johnson, 425-455-1271
News from our partner congregation in St. Petersburg, Russia
by Eva Mader

As many of you know, I had to cancel my participation in the March synod trip to Russia at the very last moment, but I did manage to make it to the gate at SeaTac to “hand over” to Bishop Kirby Unti the $5000 gift from Grace as well as a personal $300 gift to go to the organ fund from Howard and Judy Johnson with the request that he present it to our partner in St. Petersburg. Pastor Schwarzkopf appeared delighted to have the bishop himself be the messenger. In an e-mail after the group’s visit he wrote as follows:

Dear Eva,

It saddened me to not be able to greet you in person. But it was a joy to receive the gifts from Grace personally from the Bishop. Many, many thanks! Each and every donation to the Organ Fund is of help, but you all have donated so much by now that your congregation is the second largest sponsor! With the gift you sent last year we were able to pay the greater part of the customs fee, so that the organ is now in St. Petersburg in storage, no longer in Stockholm, where storage cost us thousands of Euros...

During the service I preached both in Russian and in English, so that everyone could understand. Both Vlad and I did the “guided tour” through our church catacombs and after that Vlad accompanied them as they toured the city. Thus, I think, the group enjoyed a positive arrival in Russia.

In last fall’s Grace Notes, I mentioned that by having quality organ concerts St. Petri could almost cover the maintenance cost of the church complex, $62,000 annually. If they were not able to maintain this historic site, the State would lay claim to these buildings again and convert them for another use. Now that the organ—in many boxes—is in St. Petersburg, the next phase is the installation. Construction to get the organ site ready for installation is scheduled for April 24. Vlad, who is on the church council, writes that as of now, financially everything is going to plan and budget, if all the donors give what they promised. There appear to be some issues about selling tickets directly, probably much as it would be in the U.S. and it may have to be done through a company that organizes concerts. They are trying to learn a lot from the cathedral in Moscow, where they also give church concerts. Fortunately, the cantor at St. Petri has good connections to excellent organists in Europe who seem very eager to come and play in St. Petersburg, “just out of interest”, as Vlad expressed it so hopefully. Keep this project and our friends in St. Petersburg in your prayers.

Bishop Unti and Pastor Schwarzkopf

Bishop Unti, John Tefft (U.S. Ambassador to Russia), Dietrich Brauer, Archbishop, ELC Russia, at the Ambassador’s residence in Moscow
Tuesday Morning Study Group
by Eva Mader

How we do miss you, dear Margaret!
In January, when we started the course "Luther: Gospel. Law, and Reformation", we expected we would be somewhat familiar with Luther and his theology. Howard had visited Wittenberg just last year. What we have come to realize, even though we are only at lecture ten of twenty four, is that it all comes to life when you consider the times, the role of the church, the social factors, in other words, the context. Kris said it’s all more complicated than she had expected. We decided, for the purpose of this article, to discuss those aspects of the lectures that really struck us, probably because much of it is so different from today’s context. The powerful institution in medieval times was The Church. It ruled. When asked what its top priority was, Bernadine, without missing a beat, said "money". Speaking of the root of all evil...

We were surprised to learn that Luther really was not against indulgences as such, that was part of the system, like saying masses for someone with only the priest present: service for payment. What astonished us was the individual’s sense of his sinfulness and his subsequent fear. What bothered Luther and the local princes was that Tetzel was taking full advantage of the poor peasants fears and just ripping them off, with all this German money flowing into the Italian coffers in Rome. We pondered how very differently we act today, not really focusing on sin, but relying on a loving God. We were astonished at just how tormented Luther was, thinking that God hated him and actually feeling good about that because it’s what he deserved. Today we might say he had severe psychological problems.

We also thought it was fascinating to see how some minor incident, like posting some points for academic discussion—local abuses by indulgence sellers—on the church door bulletin board could snowball into a confrontation with Rome that would have resulted in Luther’s execution as a heretic, had he not had his princely protector who squirreled him away in the Wartburg. There were many “protestors” before him and after him who were not as fortunate. So why is Luther’s name so inexorably linked with the Reformation? We felt that it helps to be intelligent, but being in the right place at the right time makes something come to fruition. He was an avid writer, he expressed himself simply, people could understand him, the printing press allowed for duplication and dissemination, and, most important, he had a protector.

We appreciated the ongoing process, how Luther dug himself out of his dark hole to find salvation in the Gospel and found it difficult to comprehend how the peasants and the ordinary “burghers” could accept Roman politics, the infallibility of the Pope, the idea that you could buy your way to heaven. I guess the terror of hellfire or the prospect of excommunication or worse are enough to keep you in line. And how in the world did the priesthood think they were being celibate by paying a mistress tax to the church and being fruitful and multiplying?

We’ve been stimulated to dig a little deeper. Betty mentioned wanting to learn more about St. Augustine, whose thinking influenced Luther and we all feel a need to familiarize ourselves more with different historic periods. What was the 30 Years War, anyway?

*Martin, Martin everywhere: here at the Lutheran Cathedral in Moscow.*
*Bishop Kirby Unti with the NWWA Synod delegation, Archbishop Dietrich Brauer on the right.*
The Word Made Flesh: Praying with Body & Spirit

April 29, 2017, 9:15am – 5pm
Registration, meet and greet 9:15-9:30am

A day of renewal with options for mind, body and spirit.

Location: Peace & Spirituality Center at St. Mary-on-the-Lake in Bellevue
1663 Killarney Way, Bellevue WA 98009
Cost: $40 (includes lunch)

Led by Pastors Karen Hanson, Veronica Smith, Anne Van Kley & Debbie Boyce.

A retreat gathering women from
Grace Lutheran, Bellevue, Nativity Lutheran, Renton,
Phinney Ridge Lutheran, Seattle, & Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Issaquah

Registration deadline Thursday, April 20
Registration forms available in Grace Lutheran Church office
WE ARE GRACED BY THE PRESENCE OF... Eva Mader

Eva Mader emigrated from Germany at the age of 12. This is the story (albeit a Reader’s Digest Condensed version) of how she came to be here with us at Grace Lutheran.

Eva Dietzmann was born in the East German city of Leipzig in 1937, the product of an affair: her mother an actress and her father a publisher of plays. Surprisingly, it was her father, Gerhard, who raised her, with the help of his “live-in” parents. Hilde, an on-again-off-again girlfriend, decided she’d had enough, emigrating from Germany to the U.S. in 1930, coming back to visit every few years. When she stopped by in 1937, she was shown a “surprise”: baby Eva, prompting her to extend her stay. In 1939, before war broke out in Germany, Hilde—a U.S. citizen—returned to the States. The last years before the end of WWII in 1945, Leipzig was bombed heavily and repeatedly, which Eva remembers well, even though she was a young child.

In 1948, with East Germany being under Russian Communist control, Eva's father had given up hope of Germany ever being restored and decided that he needed to immigrate to the United States with Eva. Escaping across the border to West Germany was still possible at this time if you could hire an experienced “guide”. Gerhard and young Eva—then 10 years old—got out of East Germany and met up with Hilde in Munich, where they promptly married, which meant he would be allowed to enter the U.S. with his wife. However, there was a snag. Eva was not Hilde’s child, so she was not allowed to leave when they did. Instead, she was left behind with virtual strangers: first with a couple who were business acquaintances of her father and then with another family when the first couple no longer wanted to take care of her. Contrary to initial expectations, this went on for two years and Eva was not only living without family all this time, but she was not enrolled in school.

In 1950, Eva was finally allowed to enter the U.S. Her stepmother, Hilde, flew to Munich to retrieve her and bring her to New York City to be reunited with her father. Eva says, “Mummy (what she called Hilde) was my savior!” Eva arrived not speaking any English, so was immersed in the language by listening to the radio every night at home and by attending public school—where she was relentlessly bullied for her language and her clothes. In six months time, she was fluent in English. We have “Mummy” Hilde to thank not only for Eva’s presence in the United States, but also for her Lutheranism. Eva was unchurched when she arrived in New York City in 1950, but Hilde was a Lutheran and saw to it that Eva was baptized at age 12 and later confirmed.

Eva went to Barnard College in New York where she studied Sociology. During a post-graduate year spent in Berlin on a Fulbright, she met Horst Mader, whom she married six years later. She returned to the States to do graduate work in Germanics at Johns Hopkins, returning to Germany 3 years later to teach at an American college and eventually marry. Horst and Eva spent their early years together in Seattle (2 years), England (2 years), Germany (6 years), and then returned to the Seattle area where they have been ever since.

“Immigrant” is a word we hear a lot these days, and often with a negative connotation. But, what would Grace Lutheran Church look like without our members from Germany, Russia, Japan, and elsewhere? Are we not all enriched by diverse cultures coming together to worship, to learn, and to serve others? Are we not graced by the presence of all people in our church and community, regardless of their country of birth or religious beliefs?
Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday, dear...

Horst Mader, 4/5
Soren Hansen, 4/10
Joanne Baseler, 4/13
Helen Ryan, 4/22
Marjorie McMains, 5/2
Lee Langsted, 5/5
Rebecca Nelson, 5/8
Margaret Santjer, 5/10
Chester Haugland, 5/23
Milly Lider, 5/25
Harry Smith, 5/28
Joshua Santjer, 5/29
Rod Olson, 5/31
Bud Elliott, 6/9
Doris Burrell, 6/10
Chris Henkens, 6/12
Nell Brogren, 6/15
Keiko Knode, 6/15
Beverly LaVictoire, 6/15
Sarah Peterson, 6/17
Janice Olson, 6/18
Susan Minthorn, 7/1
Galina Derkachev, 7/5
Gail D’Alessio, 7/8
Gunter Bonnofsky, 7/17
Kristina Derkachev, 7/20
Hans Riebeling, 7/23
Merrilee Kipfer, 7/24
Anne Carr, 7/30

...happy birthday to you!

If your birthday should be listed above and is not or it is listed incorrectly, that means that we have incorrect information in the church database. Please let us know of any additions or corrections so we can be sure to reach you when needed and can be sure to honor you on your special day. Call Beth in the church office at 425-454-4344

And speaking of birthdays...

Martin and Jocelyn are so excited to announce that Baby Lawrence will be arriving September, 2017!

Jocelyn writes: While we are so excited and feel extremely blessed that God has given us this opportunity to bring a child into this world, we want to also recognize the struggles we ourselves and many others have to get this amazing blessing. To all those struggling, don’t give up, keep praying because when it happens, in whatever way God plans it to happen for you, the feeling is amazing and I would not change how it happened for us for the world!