

# The Means of Grace

AUGUST 7, 2022



**2 Corinthians 9:6 - The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**

The owner of a large estate once gave his gardener some red roses to take home to his wife. The flowers, however, never made it to their intended recipient. On the bus that afternoon, the gardener sat next to a widow who spoke of her loneliness. Knowing his wife would understand, he gave the roses to the lonely widow and brightened up her day.



But the widow didn't get home with them either. At the grocery store, she came upon a tearful young girl. The girl's mother was very ill. "Here," the widow said, handing the flowers to the girl. "Give them to your mother; tell her I'll be praying for her tonight."

Gratefully, the girl accepted them and took them to her mother. The roses cheered the bedridden woman, but even she didn't keep them. "They're too beautiful not to share," she told her pastor when he came to visit the next day. "I'd like the church to have them." So the pastor took them and placed them in the sanctuary where his congregation could see and enjoy them. After the service, the minister gave single roses to some of the church members as they left. The beauty of the flowers was extended once more before they wilted.

Like a flower that leaves its fragrance on the hand of the giver we can be generous with the gifts that God gives to us. In other words, you are blessed so you can be a blessing to others! Every good deed, every selfless kindness, every thoughtful action which comes from a heart full of faith—a heart touched by the abundance the Lord has freely given—has a way of blessing the giver and multiplying the gift. Like the ripple effect of a stone tossed into water, the circles that emanate can reach many unseen shores.

So it is with the greatest love of all. Jesus' redemptive work on the cross comes to us through God's Word. By the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, we are made clean and acceptable to God through faith in the salvation Christ has won for us. This is God's gift to you. God's fragrance, the perfect sacrifice of His Son, is offered to everyone. Share it the next chance you get! You are blessed so you can be a blessing to others!

# THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

## Sunday August 7, 2022/ Pentecost 9

FLOWERS: Iris Schaumburg

9:30 AM Worship

10:30 AM Fellowship

## Monday August 8, 2022

## Tuesday August 9, 2022

## Wednesday August 10, 2022

## Thursday August 11, 2022

9:00 AM GLS staff Meeting

## Friday August 12, 2022

Member Visits

## Saturday August 13, 2022

Pastor in office

8:00 AM Worship Preparation

## Sunday August 14, 2022 - Pentecost 10

Flowers Sue Lewallen

Comm. Prep Gillespie

9:30 AM Worship

10:30 AM Fellowship

4:00 PM Jesus Care Ministry at Edwards Center

Since pastor will be gone, there will NOT be Google Meet Bible Class this week. See you next week!



## IN PRAYER



**Iris Stoffer** in your prayers as she struggles with asthma problems.

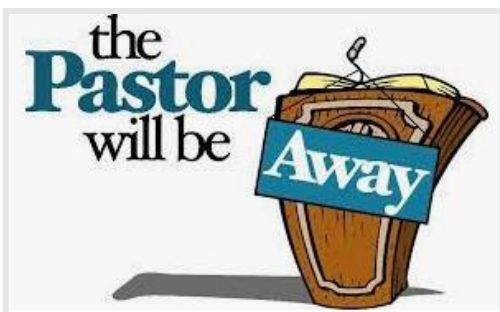
**Matt & Kali Bitter**, Pastor & Kim's nephew and his wife who God blessed with the gift of a son, **Henry**, this past week. Respiratory complications required care in the NICU in Fargo. We praise God that his chest tube was removed and he is beginning to heal.

**Nancy Evans** who is recovering from complications from arthritis. We pray for relief and healing!

**Jerry Bern** who is beginning cardiac care for his heart. We pray that God blesses the test and procedures with great success and complete healing.

**Shirley Baker** is now living w/her daughter after taking several falls in her home. She is now living at 15433 Se Baron Loop Rd, Happy Valley, 97086. She is also doing better being with family and feeling a little more strength.

**Pastor & Kim Bitter** who will celebrate their 29<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 14<sup>th</sup>.



Pastor Bitter will be away this week August 8-14 and later this month August 22-28. Thanks to Justin Eternick and Larry Glasheen for leading worship on the Sundays that Pastor will not be here. For ease of scheduling, our communion schedule will change in August. **We will celebrate the Lord's Supper on August 21<sup>st</sup>** instead of the normal 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays. In case of emergency, Pastor Bitter can still be reached on his cell phone while he is away. 503-290-6316.

## Jesus Care Ministry - Opportunity

Our Oregon Circuit Congregations are working on an opportunity to serve together each month at the Edwards Center in Aloha, OR.



Jesus Cares Ministry serves the developmentally disabled with a simple, loving and wonderful ministry. Each congregation will be asked to provide volunteers in a rotation to help with this important ministry in our area. Please watch for more information!

**Volunteer!** All our congregations are encouraged to participate and sign up to volunteer. By “volunteer” we are just asking you to attend the worship service at the Edwards Center and learn about how you can participate in this awesome ministry.

**August 14<sup>th</sup> at 4pm** --- that’s our date for our first service!

**Sign up!** We would like an idea of how many volunteers to plan on.

**Side note-** this community of people with disabilities is statistically about 10x more susceptible to COVID than the average person, and so as of right now....

- 1- The homes are dealing with a huge outbreak of COVID, about 12 of their group homes are completely locked down.
- 2- Volunteers, as of right now are required to wear a mask while they are with the people.

# WELS Day At The Hillsboro Hops

August 21, 2022



## Hillsboro Hops vs Eugene Emeralds

Join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and baseball!

- On Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 1:05 pm, the Hillsboro Hops baseball team will square off vs the Eugene Emeralds.
  - Every WELS Church is welcome to come! Once our tickets are purchased, we will all be seated together, and will receive a shout-out on the billboard!
  - Our goal is to have the chance for all of us to be together for some summer fun!
  - Tickets will cost \$12. Please let your pastor know if you will be coming and give the money to him.
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- **FREE TICKETS!** Thanks to Freddie Delgado & Les Schwab Grace has access to free tickets to the game. Please sign up at church or let Pastor know if you would like to go!

# What's Happening @Grace

## Outreach in Bend

Our district's effort to restart our church in Bend continues. God blessed us with opportunities to canvass in Bend in mid-July. Look for more opportunities to reach out to Bend in the coming months.



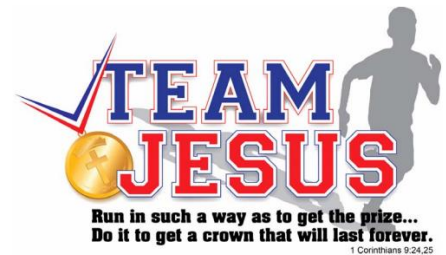
## Vacant Home Demolition

We are continuing to explore and receive bids to demolish the vacant homes and clear the properties next to our school. We are hopeful that this can be accomplished by the fall. Recent vandalism, fires being set on the properties and attempted break-ins at school have given this project more urgency to find completion. Please contact Pastor Bitter, Mr. Eternick, or Dan Paschke if you have connections or helpful information about achieving this goal.



## Soccer Camp

We had a great week of soccer camp! Thanks to all our volunteers who contributed in so many ways to making our camp run smoothly each night! Please pray for all our families that attended asking God for continued opportunities to build relationship and share the Gospel!



## Weekly Mowing!

Please consider signing up for spring and summer lawn care. The lawn at church needs to be cut every week.



## Weekly Cleaning!

Please consider signing up for summer and fall church cleaning. The church building needs to be cleaned each week.



## Weekly Fellowship Food & Drinks

Fellowship Hour is back! Please consider signing up to host on a Sunday by providing coffee, drinks and food.



## Weekly Altar Flowers

Please consider signing up for bring altar flowers. We need flowers every week!



## Mary and Martha

We will meet on Aug 16 at 10-12. The focus of our meeting will be to clean our kitchen with a brief business meeting!



# SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS & SUNDAY SCHOOL

**STARTING: SEPTEMBER 11  
NEW TIME! 11:00 AM**

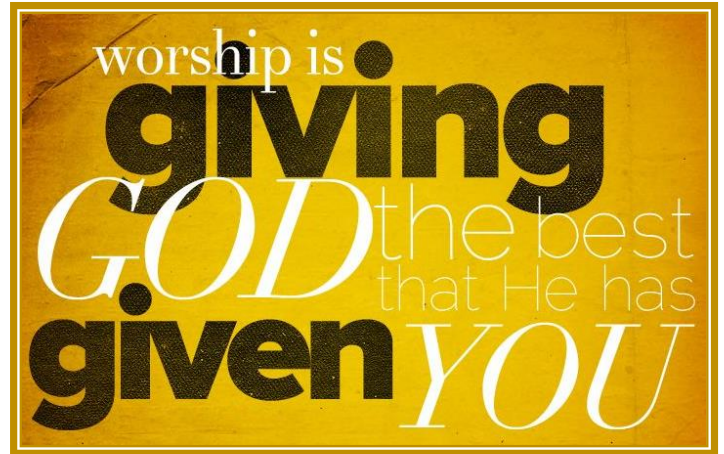
Please plan on joining us after worship on Sundays starting September 11<sup>th</sup> for Bible Class and Sunday for every age!

Following worship each Sunday we will continue to offer our refreshments & fellowship AND we will be adding to our opportunity for fellowship by offering Bible Class and Sunday School from 11:00 – 11:45. Please, plan to join us!

Sunday School will be offered for kids Preschool – 8<sup>th</sup>. Bible Study will be offered for teens and adults.

If you are interested in helping teach... please contact Pastor Bitter or Craig Baker.

# OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OUR BEST

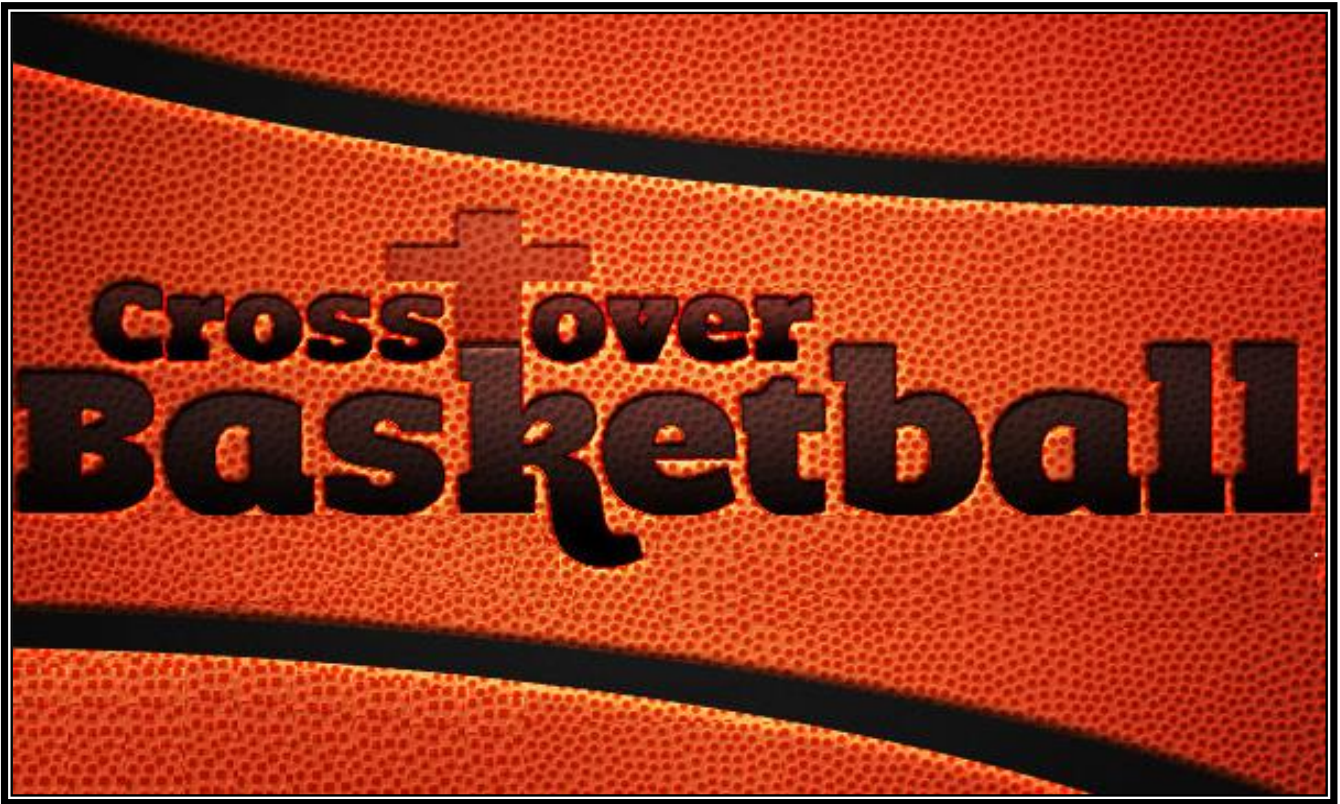


We are asking you to prayerfully consider how you can give your best to the Lord to support the gospel ministry at Grace.

At the voters meeting last month...

- The 2022-2023 budget was approved.
- In order to have a balanced budget an 20% increase in giving was approved.
- All GLS teachers were given raises in salary in our plan to meet or exceed synod code in the next 3 years.
- An increase in fundraising efforts in the next year will be necessary to meet the budget.
- We are prayerful asking our Lord to move his people's hearts to meet a special gifts goal of 50K.
- Efforts to better promote the school were discussed and plan to remove the dilapidated houses next to the school is underway. There will be special giving opportunities to make this possible as well.
- New signage on the back of the school is now visible from 205 to better promote the school. Members are encouraged to make a special gift for this as well.





We would like to start our “Cross-over” Basketball nights again at our gym at Grace School again.

**Opportunities will be  
announced over the summer.**

If you, or a group, would like to help organize, plan and carry out these basketball evenings please contact Pastor Bitter.

**All you need to do is come and open the gym!**

**This event is for adults – high school age or older.**

**Bringing your friends.**

**Get some exercise.**

**Dunk on someone.**

**Have fun.**

**Live your faith.**



# Boards & Committees at Grace

## Church Council

Juan Garcia – President  
 Dan Paschke – 1 VP & BOE Chair  
 Jon Cohrs - 2 VP & Secretary  
 Thad Bitter – Pastor  
 Justin Eternick – Principal



## Board of Education

Dan Paschke – Chair  
 Michael Godish – Board Member  
 Dave House – Board Member  
 James Settje – Board Member  
 Thad Bitter – Pastor  
 Justin Eternick – Principal



## Steering Committee

Mark Leitzke – Chair  
 Penny Hung – Secretary  
 Dan Hehr  
 Judy Wilson  
 Freddie Delgado  
 Noelle Leitzke  
 Itai Mudzongo  
 Warren Menche  
 Elvita Engelgau  
 Jim Stewart  
 Thad Bitter – Pastor  
 Justin Eternick – Principal



## Board of Elders

Craig Baker – Head Elder  
 Courage Mudzongo  
 Len Stadler  
 Tyler Hafner  
 Pastor Bitter



## Worship Committee

Marilyn Baer  
 Mark Leitzke  
 Sue Hartwig  
 Melissa Baker  
 Olivia Baker  
 Pastor Bitter



## Mary & Martha

Sara Hehr – Co/Presidents  
 Susan Lewallen – Co/Presidents  
 Linda Bern – Secretary / Treasure  
 Faye Rutstein – LWMS Representative  
 Pastor Bitter



## Trustees

Ed Gillespie  
 Brian Boyer  
 Matt Ginnow  
 Kyle Leitzke



# DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF PENTECOST 9 2022

**Sunday** Joel 3:12-14

- What obviously is the harvest about which Joel is writing?
- What words give us the hint of this special and far reaching harvest?
- What are some similarities between an earthly harvest and the eternal harvest? v. 13
- Pick out some words which make this a special event? Cf. Matthew 9:36-38

**Monday** Joel 3:15-16

- How does Joel describe the coming of the last day in these words?
- For whom will this day seem like this? How will it seem for us?
- Why will these two differing views exist? Matthew 24:30-35
- Consider the comfort and hope in the last two lines of verse 16?
- In the midst of all the frightening happenings on the last day, to whom does the day belong?
- Read 2 Tim. 4:7-9

**Tuesday** 1 Peter 4:1-5

- What made Jesus suffer? What causes our suffering in this life?
- If we are done with sin through Christ whom will we avoid?
- What kind of lives will we seek to live? Whose example will we put aside?
- Who are the pagans? Colossians 3:4-6

**Wednesday** 1 Peter 4:5-8

- To whom are all people accountable? What does this mean?
- Explain and discuss verse 6. What does it mean to you?
- What does God mean when he says the end is “near”?
- What does it mean to be spiritually alert and sober?
- What one word says it all in regard to being faithful? V. 8, 1 John 4:7-12

**Thursday** Matthew 13:24-30

- Describe the farmer’s dilemma? Did the farmer plant the weeds? Explain.
- Why do we need to be so careful in pulling weeds in a field or garden?
- How did this farmer decide to deal with the situation?
- Keeping in mind that this is a parable which is designed to teach us a spiritual lesson what parts of this story are significant?

**Friday** Matthew 13:36-40

- Who is the farmer who plants the good seed? What is that seed?
- What is the field? Whom does the good seed produce?
- Who is the enemy and who are the weeds he plants in the world?
- What does the harvest picture? What happens to the weeds?
- Read Matthew 24:42-44; Matthew 25:31-46

**Saturday** Matthew 13:41-43

- Whom will Jesus send on the last day to clean the weeds out of his field?
- What does verse 42 teach us about hell? What is wrong with this attitude? I won’t mind going to hell because that is where my friends will be?
- How are the righteous described in verse 43? How do the last words of this verse encourage us? Hebrews 11:1-3; 15-16; Luke 1:46-50; Ephesians 3:4-6.

# Grace Lutheran Church - August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>3</b> 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class	<b>4</b> 6:30 PM Council / BOE Joint Meeting	<b>5</b> Member Visits	<b>6</b> Worship Prep
<b>7</b> PENECOST 9 <b>9:30 Worship</b> 10:30 Fellowship				<b>11</b> 9:00 AM GLS Staff Meeting		<b>13</b> Worship Prep
<b>14</b> Communion PENECOST 10 <b>9:30 Worship</b> 10:30 Fellowships 4:00 PM JCM at Edwards Center		<b>16</b> 9:00 AM GLS Staff First Aid / CPR Training 10:00 AM Mary & Martha	<b>17</b> 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class 6:30 Steering Committee Meeting		<b>19</b> Member Visits	<b>20</b> Worship Prep
<b>21</b> PENECOST 11 <b>9:30 Worship</b> 10:30 Fellowship 1:00 PM HOPS Game Hillsboro				<b>25</b> GLS Back to School Night		<b>27</b> Worship Prep
<b>28</b> Communion PENECOST 12 <b>9:30 Worship</b> 10:30 Fellowship		<b>30</b> 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	<b>31</b> 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class 7:00 PM Worship Mtg.			