

The Means of Grace



February 21, 2021

Someone I know asked me about Lent...

Unlike Christmas and Easter Sunday, Lent is one part of the Christian calendar that is not usually well known in the secular world. When a friend or family member from outside the church asks you about the season's traditions and significance, you can share the beauty of the Good News through your answers.

So, what is Lent, exactly?

Lent is the 40-day preparation for the events surrounding Easter, namely the suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is observed by many major Christian denominations, including Lutheranism, Catholicism, and others.

Why is Lent 40 days long?

This reflects the time Jesus spent in the Judean desert. According to the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke in the Bible, Jesus fasted for 40 days and forty nights and overcame direct temptations from Satan during this time.

What are the major special days during and around Lent?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Holy Week is the final week of Lent, starting with Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Then, Maundy Thursday remembers the Last Supper, Good Friday commemorates Jesus' crucifixion, and, finally, Easter Sunday celebrates Jesus' resurrection.

Do you have to give something up for Lent, like meat or a habit?

Some Christian denominations practice fasting, prayer, and study during Lent. These are not Biblical requirements, but many believers see these behaviors as ways to help them focus on the meaning of Jesus' life, sacrifice, and resurrection.

How did Jesus act in the days before he was crucified?

Jesus understood that he was going to die and rise again, and he lived and taught perfectly to the very moment he gave up his life for us. [John 19:30](#) states his last three words were simply, "It is finished!"

But if you know Jesus rose from the dead, why does Lent seem so dark and sad?

Jesus' suffering was physical, mental, and spiritual. He carried all of the sins of the world on his shoulders so that we would not have to receive the punishment we deserve. God gave up everything for us, and the reverent tone of Lent is many Christians' way of recognizing and respecting this great price he paid. Most importantly, however, this solemn time keeps Christians looking forward to Easter morning when Jesus triumphantly conquered sin and death. Because Jesus lived, died, and rose for us, we will enjoy eternal life with him in heaven.

A Guide To Lent

How to Answer
Questions About the Season



The Hands of the Passion

Midweek

February 17th—Ash Wednesday, 6:30 pm—“Hands of Repentance” (Tax Collector) Luke 18:9-14

February 24th—Devotion, 6:30 pm – “Hands of Betrayal” (Judas) John 13:21-30

March 3rd—Devotion, 6:30 pm - “Hands of Misguided Zeal” (Peter) John 18:4-11

March 10th—Devotion, 6:30 pm – “Hands of Hypocrisy” (Caiaphas) Mark 14:55-65

March 17th—Devotion, 6:30 pm – “Hands of Brutality” (Soldiers) Matthew 27:27-31

March 24th—Devotion, 6:30 pm – “Hands of Self-Preservation” (Pilate) Matthew 27:15-26

Holy Week

March 28th—Palm Sunday, 9:30 am - “Hands of Praise” (Disciples and Crowds) Mark 11:1-11

April 1st—Maundy Thursday, 6:30 pm – “Hands of Humility” (Jesus) John 13:1-5,12-17

April 2nd—Good Friday Tenebrae, 6:30 pm – “Nail-Pierced Hands” (Jesus) Luke 23:32-34

Easter

April 4th - Easter Sunrise, 7:00 AM

April 4th – Easter Festival, 9:30 AM “Life-Giving Hands” (Jesus) John 20:19-23

EVENING DEVOTION will begin at 6:30 pm on Wednesday February 24th. Due to COVID restrictions we cannot yet plan to have our traditional potluck dinners. Please join us in person at Grace Church or online every Wednesday at 6:30 PM for our Lenten devotions as we journey to Jerusalem with Jesus.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Sunday February 21, 2021

8:30 AM Adult Bible Study in person

9:30 AM Worship Service in person

and livestream grace-wels.net/worship or facebook.com/GraceWELS

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH-

7610 NE FREMONT

PORTLAND, OREGON 97213

OR online at: bit.ly/GracePortland

Monday – February 22, 2021

Tuesday – February 23, 2021

Pastor in office

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

Wednesday February 24, 2021-

Pastor in office / Chapel Chat

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

9:00 AM BIC @ GLS

1:00 PM Google Meet Confirmation

6:30 pm Lenten Devotion – “Hands of Betrayal” (Judas) John 13:21-30

in person or grace-wels.net/worship or facebook.com/GraceWELS

Thursday – February 25, 2021

Pastor in office

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

Friday – February 26, 2021

Pastor in office

9:30 AM Preschool Devotion

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

1:00 PM Google Meet Confirmation

Saturday – February 27, 2021

Pastor in office/Sermon Preparation

Sunday – February 28, 2021

9:30 AM Worship Service in person

and livestream grace-wels.net/worship or facebook.com/GraceWELS

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH- 7610 NE FREMONT PORTLAND, OREGON 97213



A Family of Ministries For Christian
Worship, Education and Care



Cara Luke – Cara has been diagnosed with Thyroid cancer and a plan for surgery and treatment is being determined. We ask our gracious God for courage, strength and complete healing.

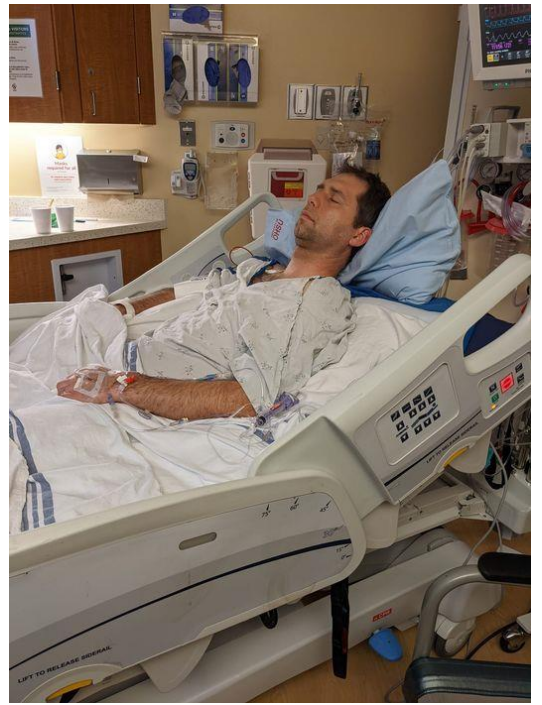
Joe Belter - former member at Grace before moving to North Bend, OR. Joe suffered a massive stroke this past week and is being treated at OHSU. His wife, Jessie, is staying in Portland to be near Joe while their children are being cared for by their Grandparents in Coquille. We pray for full and complete healing, for strength through this process, for Joe's brain to stop swelling and for that blood pressure to go down. We pray for rest and positivity. We pray for resilience for both Joe and the kids, for patience and stress/anxiety to be taken from all of us. We pray for peace that surpasses all understanding.

Help for the Belters

This is the message that Jessie Belter sent out on Friday:

My God is big. He is a miracle worker.

Please pray for my sweet husband. He had a stroke this morning and we found out he has a congenital arteriovenous malformation (avm). Basically he was born with blood vessels that weren't formed correctly and they burst this morning. He has a very large bleed on the left side of his brain, rendering his right side paralyzed (hopefully temporarily). He was life flighted from our local hospital to OHSU. He is expected to have surgery next week after they attempt to control the bleeding more.



Lots of thanks to all of you for praying for Joe and my family, my parents and all the help that has been given already and offered. Many have asked how to help and it would appear these are some ways we could use additional help:

- Meals, simple, like really simple meals 😊 even pbj type meals are welcome and appreciated. (Ask Pastor Bitter for contact information)
- Taking kids for an hour or two so my parents can take the dog for longer walks or just have a break. They can bring kids to you. This would likely be a more day of/day before request as we're kind of living day to day right now.
- There is a Fred Meyer on the way to where I'm staying, so e-gift card for essential items
- Food, I only drove it once so far but I'm trying to eat dinner on my way to where I'm staying so something on the way. We stopped at subway last night. Safeway. Fred Meyer.

But honestly, prayer is really what I'm seeking. I pray for full and complete healing, for strength through this process, for Joe's brain to stop swelling and for that blood pressure to go down. I pray for rest and positivity. I pray for resilience for both Joe and the kids, for patience and stress/anxiety to be taken from all of us. I pray for peace that surpasses all understanding. I thank God for the hands and feet He is providing.

Congregation Mission Offering subscriptions and statistics received



Every year at this time, WELS congregations submit their Congregation Mission Offering (CMO) subscriptions. These subscriptions represent the offerings that congregations prayerfully intend to provide for the work of the synod.

The subscriptions have now been received for 2021.

We're pleased to report that 98% of WELS congregations submitted CMO subscriptions for calendar year 2021. Those subscriptions total \$21,620,000. This level of CMO subscriptions is down slightly (0.6%) from actual CMO receipts of \$21.7 million in calendar year 2020, but it is 2.4% better than the originally approved plan of \$21.1 million for calendar year 2021. We thank God for moving his people to provide this generous support for the mission, ministry, and administrative work of WELS.

Congregations have also finished submitting their annual statistics for the year 2020. More than 95% of the congregations provided statistics on membership, worship attendance, confirmations, baptisms, and funerals as well as information on school enrollments and offerings. Even though the goal is to have 100% of congregations submitting statistics, the percentage of WELS congregations submitting statistics compares very well with other church bodies. These statistics are being compiled and will be available in the coming weeks.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

For more information about the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, including a directory of local congregations, visit wels.net.

A sunset scene over a mountain range. The sun is low on the right, casting a warm glow over the clouds. In the distance, three crosses are visible on a ridge.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

In Person & Live Streamed on Facebook
Starts Sunday, October 11th
8:30 – 9:15 AM Grace Church

A landscape scene featuring a vibrant rainbow arching over a misty field. The foreground is a lush green field, and the background shows a line of trees under a soft, hazy sky.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS
ENDURES *Forever*

Bible History Lessons
With Applications
From Luther's Catechism



Sunday School Lessons for Remote Learning

Attention Parents! In light of current challenges related to classroom gathering, our church is introducing a new approach to Sunday school!

This year Sunday School lessons will be taught by experienced WELS teachers and will be available free via YouTube. The engaging and age appropriate Lesson Videos will tie to printed Student Lessons that our church will provide to you at no cost. This new approach presents an easy yet meaningful way for you to encourage your child's faith in Christ.

Each week, you will receive an email from Pastor containing all the lessons and the YouTube links. Simply print the appropriate lesson and click on the appropriate You Tube link for your child and bring Sunday School into your home!

Each week we will also feature a book of the bible. In the announcements we will include the book from the previous week and the new book feature for this week.

We will also include the YouTube link for the previous week's Chapel Chat from Grace School with Pastor Bitter or Mr. Eternick.

May God bless your child as we together continue to share His love with the next generation!

Pastor Bitter

PROVERBS

AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #20



AUTHOR: SOLOMON

is the primary author with others contributing



WRITTEN: 970-675 BC

The book of Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings, many of which are attributed to Solomon. Proverbs urges the reader to make decisions based on wisdom, justice, and righteousness ([Pr 1:3](#)). His sayings are sometimes direct instructions ([Pr 1:10](#)), sometimes general observations ([Pr 20:14](#)).

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Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

The book of Proverbs directs Christians to live God-pleasing lives and also shows the consequences of sin. The book has been called the Sermon on the Mount of the Old Testament. Both instruct believers on how to live lives of love. Solomon, a man of wisdom and great insight, wrote most of this book. He proclaims that real wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord.

MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. **Proverbs 3:5**

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. **Proverbs 31:10**

Solomon rules with wisdom and justice, and all Israel prospers ([1 Ki 4:20, 25](#)). The writer of [First Kings](#) gives us an idea of just how wise Solomon was:

“Solomon’s wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. He also spoke 3,000 proverbs, and his songs were 1,005. He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon even to the hyssop that grows on the wall; he spoke also of animals and birds and creeping things and fish. Men came from all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.”

([1 Ki 4:30, 32-34](#))



The Eagle Message

Grace Lutheran School

DECLARE HIS PRAISES

COMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

February Friday Fun Days

February is Mr. Eternick's least favorite month, so in order to cheer him up we are going to have some Friday **Fun Days** Friday, February 26 – **Classroom Color Day** – each classroom has choose a certain color to wear –

Kindergarten – White

1st & 2nd – Red

3rd & 4th – Yellow

5th & 6th – Pink

7th & 8th – Black

Participation in these Fun Days is not mandatory.

Return to Full Time, In Person Classes

We greatly appreciate your patience, kindness and flexibility through this transition to full time classes. It's been wonderful to see all of our students back in our hallways, classrooms and on the playground. As we continue to adjust to everyone being in the building at the same time, we will be working hard to stay safe and healthy.

Some reminders:

- Students have morning snack time during their recess break, and their lunch either before or after their noontime break.
- Recess will be outdoors as often as the weather allows, so make sure students wear suitable clothes and have jackets and shoes for outside activities.
- Classroom windows will be open for fresh air, so students might want to dress in layers for cooler days.
- When it is your turn to drop your child off, please pull all the way up to the yellow post or to the car in front of you. This will allow several cars to drop off their children at once. Please make sure they have their masks on and are prepared to get out of the car quickly when it is their turn, to help things move along smoothly.

Recess Supervisors Needed

Now that students will be in school all day, we are in need of Recess Supervisors. If you are willing to volunteer to be a lunchtime recess supervisor, (11:30 – 12:30) please contact Mrs. Kraklow in the school office 503-777-8628 or lkraklow@grace-wels.net Those who sign up to volunteer will be given information to receive the Covid-19 vaccination.

Bottle & Can Collection

This fundraiser is going great and we send a big thank you to everyone who has brought in cans & bottles already. **We've received \$1,725.04 so far!** Gather up the cans and plastic bottles from your Super Bowl parties and bring them in to school to support this fundraiser! You can pick up Blue Collection Bags when you come to school, or ask one of the staff members.

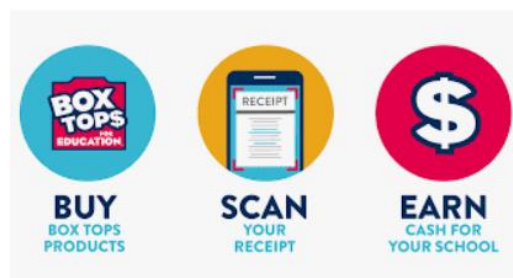
IN PERSON LEARNING!

So that we can continue to enjoy the blessing of being able to attend school in person – please:

- ✓ Stay home if you are sick.
- ✓ Stay home if you *think* you may be sick.
- ✓ Wear a mask over your mouth and nose.
- ✓ Remember to social distance.
- ✓ Wash or sanitize your hands often.
- ✓ Limit your indoor gatherings

Box Tops for Education

All you need is your phone! Download the Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then use the app to scan your store receipt *within 14 days of purchase*. The app will identify Box Tops products on your receipt and automatically credit your earnings online. When families use the Box Tops app to scan their store receipt, our school earns 20¢ for each product. We recently received a \$34.70 check thanks to the purchases made by our school families.



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF Lent 1 2021

Sunday Genesis 6:1-3

- ❖ What was happening to the wonderful and pure world God had created?
- ❖ How is this depicted in the behavior of God's people?
- ❖ What does it mean when God says "his Spirit will no longer dwell in people"?
- ❖ What shows that God will not have a "kneejerk" reaction and wipe them out? How patient is God?
- ❖ What two qualities of God are apparent here? Proverbs 5:21-23; 1 Timothy 1:15-17.

Monday Genesis 6: 4-14

- ❖ What was God's evaluation of the world in Noah's day relative to wickedness?
- ❖ How did God's wayward people make him feel?
- ❖ How many would God allow to survive and keep the human race going? What are their names?
- ❖ Even after 125 years of time for repentance what did God still see?
- ❖ What would happen according to God's plan?
- ❖ How does Genesis 3:15 put together God's two-fold feeling about sinners? John 3:16.

Tuesday Genesis 6:17-22

- ❖ Describe the flood which God sent. In addition to the eight adults what else was in the ark?
- ❖ What was the two fold purpose of preserving animals?
- ❖ Discuss the various aspects of God's plan and comment on the thoroughness of the plan.
- ❖ Did God overlook anything? Explain.
- ❖ What greater catastrophe does this picture along with our hope? Matthew 25:34-46

Wednesday 1 Peter 3:18- 20

- ❖ Describe Jesus decisive victory over sin, death and hell?
- ❖ What do you think Jesus preached to the spirits or souls in hell?
- ❖ Did he preach a second chance? Cf v. 21; Luke 16:19-30 especially verse 30; 1 John 5:3-5
- ❖ When do we need to take care of "the business" of receiving faith through the Word?

Thursday 1 Peter 3:21-22

- ❖ How does the Ark of Noah picture baptism? Agree or disagree: As the water of the flood lifted the Ark and kept Noah's family from destruction so the water of Baptism lifts us out of the filth of sin and damnation.
- ❖ How does Peter describe the blessings of baptism and their source?
- ❖ Could the message to the souls of those in hell have been, I and all believers are going to heaven and you who didn't believe are staying here forever? Mark 16:15-16

Friday Mark 13:22-27

- ❖ Who are the false Christs and prophets? Can they really do signs and wonders?
- ❖ What do the words "to lead astray" tell us about their purpose and goals?
- ❖ About which coming of Jesus is He speaking, first or final? Does it matter?
- ❖ What are some signs that the day is upon us? Describe the last day?
- ❖ When should we be ready for Him? Matthew 24:35-37

Saturday Mark 13:28-36

- ❖ What is the lesson of the fig tree what is its application for us today? Eph. 2:10
 - ❖ What does Jesus mean with verses 30-31?
 - ❖ What directive does Jesus give to us to make sure we are ready when he returns?
 - ❖ How should we spend our time as we await our Lord's return? Romans 15:4-6
- Questions and suggested scriptural verses based on English Standard Version (ESV)