

# *The Means of* **Grace**

**June 6, 2021**

## **Comfort in the midst of conflict:**

### **Revelation 6-7**

Most are aware that this world is fraught with peril. People strive to protect themselves and their loved ones from physical harm. But how many live with an awareness of the ultimate threat to humanity?

The Lamb opens the seventh seal to reveal it . . . tick, tick, tick . . . 30 silent minutes pass, as if to say, “This is important! Pay attention!”

#### **The first five trumpets**

The final seal lifts the curtain on a new scene—a vision of seven angels with trumpets. The details are difficult, but the main message becomes clear if we keep some things in mind: Remember the words of Jesus about the coming end of the world (Matthew chapter 24).

It is worth noting that the most important parts of his speech, which speaks of false teaching (false prophets and messiahs) and its devastating effects (spiritual deception, increase of wickedness, love growing cold), are missing from the first six opened seals.

The vision of the trumpets is ushered in by the opening of the final seal—another view of the future. Reading Matthew 24 and these chapters can show the connection. The seals and trumpets cover the same time frame, both ending with the last judgment, showing that these trumpet activities are happening alongside the physical calamities.

Many faithful Christians before us have seen in this vision a picture of false teaching and ungodly living from the time of Jesus’ ascension until his return. As you read about the first five trumpets (Revelation 8:6–9:12), focus on the truth that change or denial of God’s life-giving, light-giving Word causes the ultimate damage and destruction to people in our world.



## The sixth and seventh trumpets

The sixth trumpet is rather extensive, covering multiple chapters ([Revelation 9:13–11:14](#)). We first hear of a vast and vicious army bent on destruction. Then John sees an angel whose description fits Jesus himself. Giving a scroll to eat depicts the receiving of God's Word (cf. [Ezekiel 3](#)). The message of salvation in Christ brings sweet comfort to the believer's soul. It also becomes the source of sour discomfort when the gospel and its messengers are ridiculed and rejected. Even so, John and all believers are called to speak the Word of Christ to the nations.

Important symbolic numbers are introduced in chapter 11 (1,260 days = 42 months = 3 and a half times/years). Being half of the covenant number 7, they seem to represent the full New Testament age where the truth of God's Word is continually challenged by false teaching, false believers, and a hostile unbelieving world. Believers who share the truth will be few in number in comparison with the unbelieving world. But their surprising influence and effectiveness is because they speak the powerful Word of God.

Many times throughout history, God's Word is all but muted, even in the visible church. The two witnesses, who represent this ongoing reality, remind us of God's faithfulness. Their death seems to show that, toward the end, Satan will be allowed to virtually silence God's truth altogether. But by God's grace, it will be a short time.

In the very end, God's Word and its faithful witnesses are vindicated, a comfort to which we cling. The seventh trumpet sounds, and the end comes.



# THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

## Sunday June 6, 2021 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Flowers for the Altar-Kirby Williams 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Communion Preparation-Hehr/Gillespie

8:30 AM Adult Bible Study in person

9:30 AM Worship Service

and livestream [grace-wels.net/worship](https://grace-wels.net/worship) or [facebook.com/GraceWELS](https://facebook.com/GraceWELS)

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH - 7610 NE FREMONT

## Monday June 7, 2021

## Tuesday June 8, 2021

Pastor in office

## Wednesday June 9, 2021

Pastor in office

1:00 PM BIC in home

6:00 PM Google Bible Study – Messages from Jesus

## Thursday June 10, 2021

Pastor in office

## Friday June 11, 2021

Pastor in office

## Saturday June 12, 2021

Pastor in office

Sermon Preparation

## Sunday June 13, 2021

Flowers for the Altar-Charlene Clark

8:30 AM Adult Bible Study in person

9:30 AM Worship Service in person

and livestream [grace-wels.net/worship](https://grace-wels.net/worship) or [facebook.com/GraceWELS](https://facebook.com/GraceWELS)

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Sonora Baker:** it was discovered that her tumor cannot be operated on at this time which means she will begin chemo treatments. If you'd like to stay connected with the Bakers or send Sonora a card mail can be sent to: PO Box 967 Owosso, MI 48867

**Carol & Warren Widmann:** As Pastor Widmann's health as rapidly declined we pray that God blesses the Widmann's with healing, strength and courage.

**Ramona Saatkamp** is requesting prayers: for her sister, Ruth, and her family, and also their mom. They ALL have covid;

**Cara Luke** in her treatment for thyroid cancer.

**Virginia Jacobs** was hospitalized for 2 days due to an infection. She is home now, but still recuperating.

**Gabby Baker** who this past week graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran College. Congratulations!

**Aaron Baker** graduates from ELHS this Saturday and received the Eagle award for music. Congratulations!

**Emile Delgado** who graduates from Columbia Christian Academy. Congratulations!

**Austin Fung** who graduates from Columbia Christian Academy. Congratulations!

**Zachary Passadore** who graduates from Clackamas High School. Congratulations!

**Daniel Delgado, Ganpin Zhang, Zachary Boyer-Finn** who will be confirmed on Sunday, June 6th.



A Family of Ministries For Christian  
Worship, Education and Care







## Weekly Mowing!

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

## Weekly Cleaning!

Please consider signing up for spring and summer church cleaning. The church building needs to be cleaned each week and we could use your help!



## Various jobs for this week!

- Clearing out the attic over the communion / banner room. Heavy boxes. Steep steps. Strong arms and legs needed.



# SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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



**GOD'S FAITHFULNESS**  
**ENDURES** *Forever*

**Bible History Lessons  
With Applications  
From Luther's Catechism**



## ***Sunday School Lessons for Remote Learning***

Sunday School will be on break over the summer.

However, this summer we are planning to restart in person Sunday School in the fall which will require a lot of planning, promotion, and preparation.



We could use your help! If you're interested in teaching, assisting, administrating or participating in our Sunday School program in any way please contact Pastor Bitter.

It is our hope to rebuild and restart at Sunday School program that is better than ever! Please use your powers for good and join us!





# Wednesday Evenings at 6PM



Online via Google Meet

(invite will be sent via email)

ALSO ... you can join in person  
at Grace Church if you prefer at  
6:00 PM.

For the next few weeks, as a trial run, we will offer the class in person at Grace Church to see if there is enough interest in adding in person to our Google Meet.



## **MEMBER PHOTO BOARD**

**Cathie Gillespie is working at updating our membership photo board. If you are not yet included on this board, please take a copy of the membership information sheet, complete and turn it in with a colored 4x6 photo and drop it in the box located on the table at the entrance to the church. If you would like to replace your current photo, just drop the picture there with your name on the back.**

**The Mary and Martha group are having a work day on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 10AM at church to clean the newly acquired upholstered chairs in the fellowship hall. More helpers are welcomed! Supplies and machines will be furnished.**







## Convention Registration

Just a reminder to REGISTER for FREE by June 7. While you register you will be able to sign up for the Annual Business Meeting, our interactive IGNITE session, and virtual chat rooms to bring us together for some virtual fellowship. We look forward to seeing you online June 24-27, 2021!

### Speaker Information

#### Home Missions:

Rev. Allen Kirschbaum, Spirit of Life, Caledonia, Michigan  
Rev. Ryan Kolander, Palabra de Vida, Detroit, Michigan  
Rev. Bradley Wright, Risen Savior, Mansfield, Ohio

#### World Missions:

Gary and Beth Evans, Central Africa Medical Mission  
Stephen Wiesenauer, East Asia  
Abram Degner, Paraguay  
Matthew Doeblner, East Asia

#### Devotions:

Rev. Joel R. Voss, Resurrection, Centerville, Ohio  
Rev. Troy Jacobs, Abiding Word, Maineville, Ohio  
Rev. Robert J. Krueger, Immanuel, Findlay, Ohio  
Rev. Alex Groth, Beautiful Savior, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Rev. Paul Schulz, LWMS Pastoral Advisor, Grace, Safford, Arizona

Rev. Jonathan Zietlow, LWMS Pastoral Advisor, Grace, Critvitz, Wisconsin

Rev. Snowden Sims, Michigan District President, St. Paul, Columbus, Ohio

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[Click here to register and for more Convention information.](#)

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE  
A NEW MISSION PARTNERSHIP WITH:**



After spending a lovely time in the Cancun area with family and friends, it was time for Sue and me to prepare for the long car drive to Mahahual. We would be visiting the mission and celebrating Día del Niño (Children's day) with the members; I don't think we could have chosen a better Sunday! We purchased a piñata and candy for the children to celebrate this special day.

On Saturday, May 1, we arrived late in the afternoon. We were greeted by Missionary Martin Vallesky, who was busy preparing for the following day. We had brought a large duffel with 35 backpacks for the smaller children and 15 larger ones for the older kids. We had also purchased craft items, bracelets, cross necklaces, cross door hangers to hand out after the service.

Sue and I set out early Sunday morning to purchase snacks for Bible class and after the service. That morning the driver called in sick, and Meghan had to take his place driving and collecting families, so we were in charge of snacks, juice, and coffee. The kitchen needed a little TLC due to all the ongoing construction, and soon some of the church member women joined us. They seemed so proud of their new kitchen! We introduced ourselves and had a wonderful visit before the service.

Meanwhile, staff members Meghan and Chris were busy filling up their vans, as they picked up member families in time for the service. And soon, the church was full! The service theme honored the children, as Missionary Vallesky delivered a message about the adoption of God's children.



Several of the older children did the lesson readings. Meghan's friend Jennifer led the children with the familiar song, "This Little Light of Mine" (Esta Lucecita Mía). At Pastor's request, I had the chance to say a few words about our connection with Martin's family back in Houston and spoke of the gratitude I have for the support of Martin's father, Pastor Vallesky, over the years.



Soon came time for the breaking of the piñatas! Plenty of candy for all! We prepared a light lunch for the children, and there were lots of happy faces. After the piñatas, we handed out the backpacks. No one left empty-handed!

We stayed to clean up while Meghan and Chris returned the members to their homes. We had plenty of time to tour the impressive new building and to see the adjacent house (it needs lots of work).

We had a lovely time visiting with the staff at Missionary Martin's favorite seafood place, The Big Fish. It was a great opportunity to hear their vision for the ministry and how we can support them. We returned to the US with two projects for our congregation in Portland:

1. Shoes/sandals for every child
2. Warm clothing for the children for the cold months

What an honor it was to have the opportunity to visit the mission and see how the Lord is working in the lives of these precious souls in Mahahual. We hope to be back soon.

Humbly yours in Christ, Juan



## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF PENTECOST 2

**Sunday        Numbers 6:22-26**

- ❖ Describe the instructions God gave to Moses.
- ❖ Who was to speak this blessing on the people? Who is Aaron? What is his role?
- ❖ Look closely at the three statements of blessing God gave Moses and pick out the words and phrases which help with the understanding of this blessing. John 14:25-28; 14:26; 15:26.

**Monday        Numbers 6:27**

- ❖ Review again the various parts of the blessing noted in the previous verses.
- ❖ What do you understand with the instruction of God, "Put my name on my people"?
- ❖ Read 2 Corinthians 6:16
- ❖ List the many blessings bestowed upon Israel and continues to bestow upon us.
- ❖ Describe the ABUNDANCE of God's blessings bestowed upon us.

**Tuesday        1 John 5:5-6**

- ❖ What alone is the secret to overcoming the world?
- ❖ Water is baptism but baptism has no meaning without blood. Whose blood? 1 Jn.1:17
- ❖ What is THE truth and who is the SPIRIT OF TRUTH?
- ❖ How does the Spirit of truth get involved in water and blood as noted above?

**Wednesday    1 John 5:8-9**

- ❖ Why is the testimony of God greater than the testimony of men?
- ❖ Why should it be easier to believe the testimony of God than the testimony of men?
- ❖ Summarize God's testimony regarding His Son found in His word and brought to us by the spirit of truth. John 14
- ❖ What makes this testimony far better than anything we can conjure up?

**Thursday        1 John 5:10-12**

- ❖ What word in verse 10 describes the difference between the saved and the damned?
- ❖ What does God call those who separate God's testimony and conjure up their own?
- ❖ According to God's testimony on whom does eternal life rest?
- ❖ What is the difference between those who have Jesus and those who don't?

**Friday        John 16:12-13**

- ❖ This is Maundy Thursday. What does Jesus mean when he says the disciples "can't handle" any more teaching now?
- ❖ Why will the Spirit of Truth speak with greater authority? What will he speak to us?
- ❖ What will the Spirit of Truth reveal to us?
- ❖ How many times do the words Trinity and Triune appear in scripture?
- ❖ Should this be a concern? Explain.

**Saturday        John 16:14-15**

- ❖ How will the Spirit of truth glorify Jesus v. 14?
- ❖ Summarize what is meant by that which belongs to Jesus and the Father?
- ❖ Explain how we see both the unity and the individuality of the three persons of the Triune God in all of these readings for this week.
- ❖ How many doctrines of scripture can be accepted only by faith?