

The Means of Grace

January 22, 2023



And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, "Where will You have us go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?" (Mark 14:12)

Perfect. Helpless. Doomed.

From 2,000 years later, those are the only words I can think of to describe the centerpiece of the Passover feast, the lambs sacrificed at the temple. Every year shepherds brought their lambs into Jerusalem. They had to be perfect, without defect or sickness of any kind at all. They were certainly helpless. And they were doomed -- heading for death without reprieve.

What did Jesus think of, I wonder, that last day before His own death? He probably spent it teaching in the temple -- the lambs and their cries and the smell of blood would have been right there in front of Him. His own disciples went to buy and sacrifice one of these small creatures, and then took it away to roast for dinner. Did Jesus look into the eyes of that lamb, His own picture in miniature?



Perfect, yes. A perfect man, without sin or greed or jealousy or violence. A man after God's own heart, like His ancestor David -- a man who is God's own heart, God become flesh. There was no flaw in Him. He was acceptable for sacrifice.

Helpless? -- well, yes and no. "Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once send Me more than twelve legions of angels?" But helpless for all that, because "how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?" (Matthew 26:53-54) Jesus will not help Himself if that means failing to save us. His love for us holds Him helpless.

Doomed -- well, yes. Never was anything in the history of the world so certain to happen. God the Father willed it. Jesus' love for us drove Him to it. The Holy Spirit had promised it again and again, all through the Old Testament. Jesus would die to rescue us all.

And yet ... and yet! Those lambs in the temple would shortly be dinner, the center of a great feast for a people set free by God. Jesus, God's own Lamb, has become the center of a greater feast, celebrating the freedom He won for us by His death and resurrection. Through the body and blood He freely gives, we share in new life and joy. He is not only our Lamb, but our living Host -- our Savior.

Sunday January 22, 2023 - - Truth In Love: Missions

9:30 AM Worship Service
10:30 AM Fellowship
11:00 AM TILM Presentation
6:00 PM Crossover Basketball

Monday January 23, 2023

6:00 PM Crossover Basketball at Grace School

Tuesday January 24, 2023

8:00 AM Confirmation Class
6:00 PM Meeting

Wednesday January 25, 2023

8:00 AM Confirmation Class
9:00 AM Chapel
6:00 PM Midweek Google Meet - Letter to the Hebrews

Thursday January 26, 2023

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

Friday January 27, 2023

8:00 AM Confirmation Class
Afternoon Visits

Saturday January 28, 2023

8:00 AM Worship Preparation
10:00 AM BIC

Sunday January 29, 2023 Epiphany 4

9:30 AM Worship
10:30 AM Fellowship
11:00 AM Sunday School/Bible Class
6:00 PM Crossover Basketball

Bob Boughton – Step father to Jason Tanner. Who is in hospice and awaiting the Lord to carry his soul to heaven's glory.

Mikayla & Hayden Johnson – whose due date is January 30. We pray for a safe delivery and a healthy baby!

Weekly Fellowship Food & Drinks!

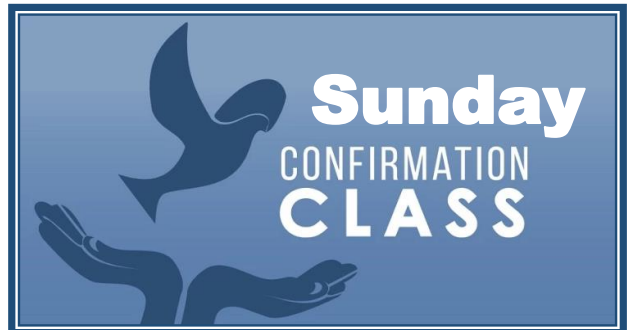
We'll be trying something new for Refreshments/Coffee Hour. Cathie Gillespie and Virginia Peterson are happy to set-up and clean up. They are asking that anyone who volunteers to bring goodies, just drop them off in the kitchen. Suggestions would be, fruit or veggies (cut-up), cookies, chips, dip, cheese and crackers or anything else you would like to bring. It doesn't have to be homemade. We appreciate all contributions. If you have any questions, Cathy can be contacted at **360-931-1466**.



What's Happening @Grace

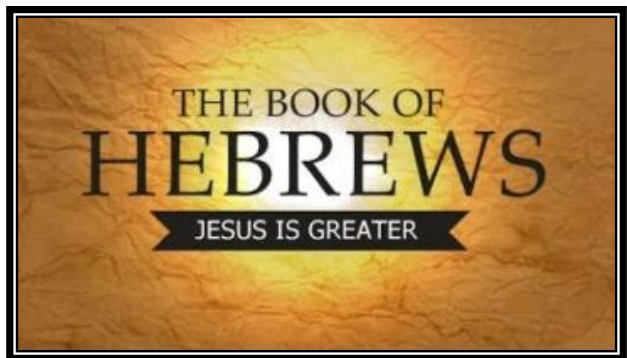
Sunday Confirmation Class at 8:00 AM

We are beginning our Confirmation Classes for student who are not able to attend during the week at GLS. An email was sent out last week to gauge interest and find a time that would work. We have decided to offer Confirmation Class on Sunday mornings at 8:00 AM before morning worship. This class is especially for 7th - 9th graders but younger students are also welcome to attend. Classes begin next Sunday, October 23rd at 8:00 AM.



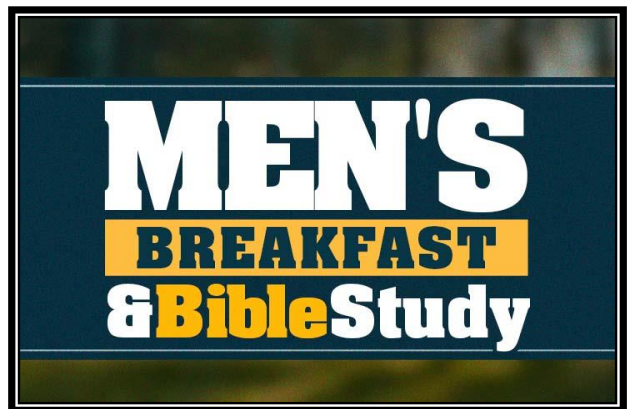
Wednesday Google Meet at 6:00 PM

Please plan to join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM on Google Meet as we continue our study of the Letter to the Hebrew Christians and are reminded why "Jesus is greater". Each week you should receive an email with a link to click on and join the bible study! Please let pastor know if you are not getting this email or if you have any questions about the class!



Saturday Men's Bible Study

We are planning to begin a men's bible study on **Saturday, February 18**. To begin with, once a month we will plan to meet for bible study and breakfast. Please let Pastor Bitter know if you'd be interested in attending or helping organize!



Couples Class – Coming Soon

Getting married? Just Married? Been Married? This class is for you. We all want to have a healthy marriage. Healthy Marriage will help you learn those "dimensions of a healthy marriage." More than that, Healthy Marriage will equip to you to practice them and maintain the health of your marriage for years to come. Please look for more information about this class and opportunities to sign up in the coming weeks.



Vacant Home Demolition – HAS BEGUN

Abatement of the vacant homes next to our school has begun! In the next 3 week they should demolished and removed! Many thanks to Dan Paschke for helping to move this project forward! Many, many thanks to our generous donors who have help to finance the demolition. Highest praise and thanks to our gracious Lord who has blessed us with this property and the ability to care for it.

Here is a general breakdown of the project:

2320 SE 92nd

Abatement: \$5,204

Demolition: \$24,640 * garage not included

Total Cost: \$29,844

2340 SE 92nd

Abatement: \$8,150

Demolition: \$25,851 * garage not included

Total Cost: \$34,001

Additional cost if we want them to demolish the two garages: \$1,512

Total cost for both outer houses and garages: \$65,357

Since these bids do not include things like utility shutoff / capping; concrete driveway removal; new fencing; fire damage tree removal we will be asking for special gifts from the congregation to complete this important project.



Weekly Mowing!

Please consider signing up for winter lawn care. The lawn at church needs to be cut regularly. Thanks to Ed Gillespie, Roger Schrab, Juan & Sue Garcia and everyone else who has helped. We could use more help this winter!



Weekly Cleaning!

Please consider signing up for fall church cleaning. The church building needs to be cleaned each week. Thanks to everyone who has helped clean over the summer! Special thanks to the ladies of our Mary & Martha who spent a day cleaning and organizing.

Weekly Fellowship Food & Drinks

After worship refreshments & fellowship! 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!



11:00 AM

**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**

**&
SUNDAY
BIBLE CLASS**

Please plan on joining us after worship on Sundays 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 – 8th.
Bible Study will be offered for teens and adults.

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

Today! January 22, 2023 – Mission Festival

Our friends at **Truth in Love Ministry** will be presenting an overview of their ministry including their relational, not confrontational witnessing approach

This presentation includes:

- An overview of the ministry
- An introduction to their 5 key pillars to build bridges, not barriers while witnessing
- Opportunities for you to get involved



Pastor Jon Leach will be with us to preach in our morning service and present in our bible class

Please plan to join us!



Connection Card

Please provide your **BEST** information. We are eager to share exciting ministry updates with you.

First and Last Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____ Spouse's Email: _____

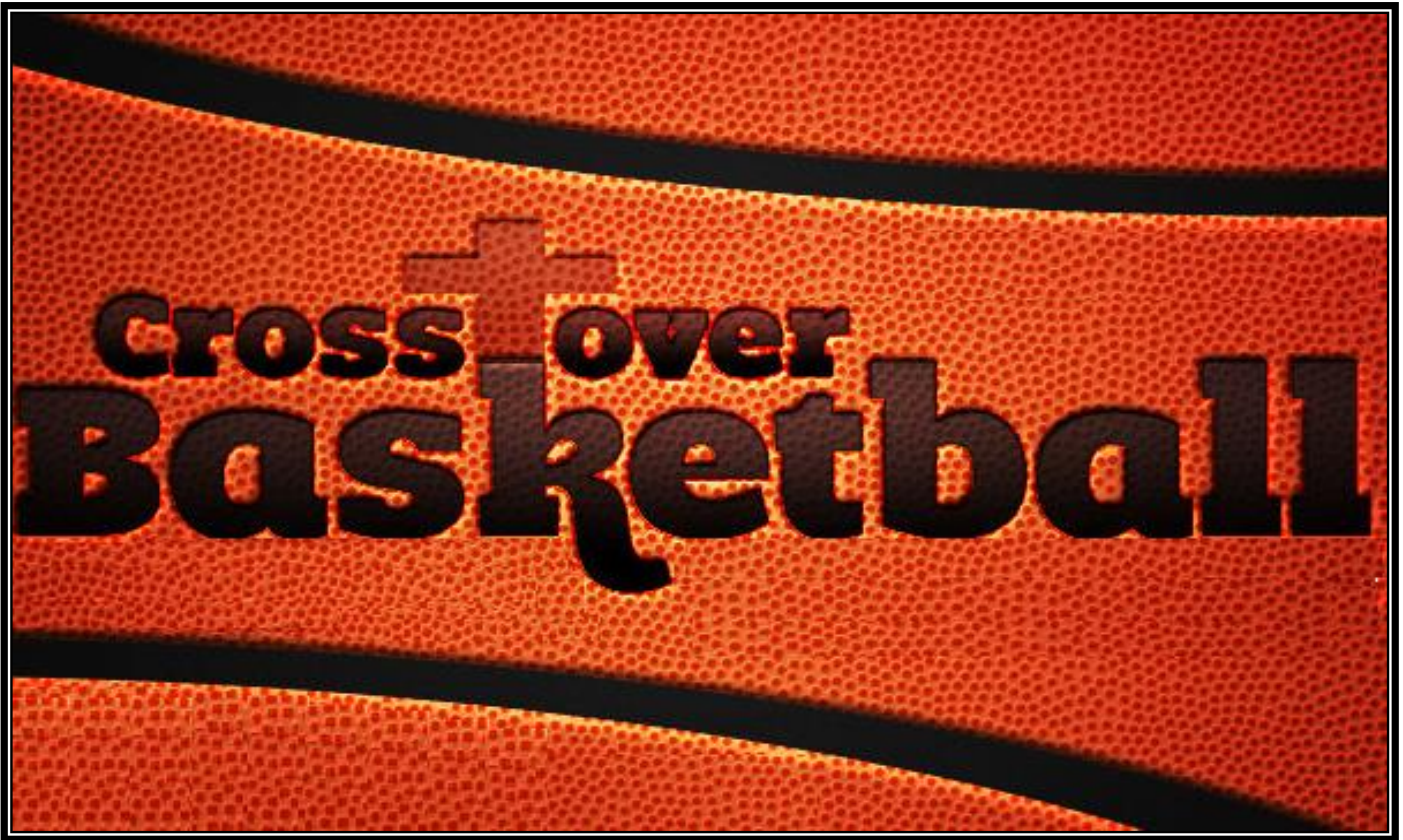
Phone Number: _____ Spouse's Phone: _____

Home Congregation: _____

Please check all that apply.

Self Spouse

- I would like Utah Mission Trip information. (Email required)
- I would like to receive more information about sharing God's Word with Mormon Missionaries. (Email required)
- I was a Mormon. Left Church In: _____
- I have a family member who is Mormon. Relationship: _____
- I would like information about leaving a gift in my will.
- Please add me to the Prayer Ministry. (Email required)



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

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.

6:00 PM Sundays & Mondays

Church Picture Directory

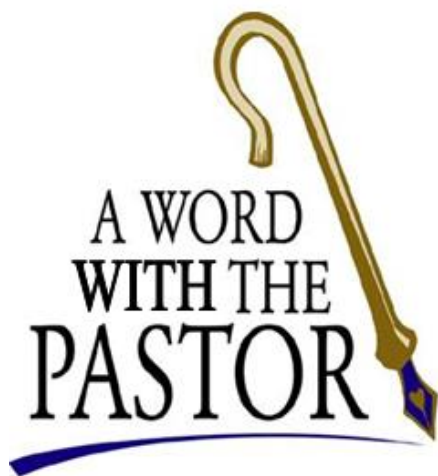
We need your help to complete the church picture directory! At church, on a table in the fellowship hall, there is a beta copy of the directory laid out on a table. **PLEASE, UPDATE YOUR FAMILY INFO AND IF YOU WISH TO HAVE A DIFFERENT PICTURE, PLEASE SUBMIT ONE TO PASTOR BY THIS WEEK.** Pictures may be a hard copy or sent digitally by text or email. We would like to have a final printed copy for everyone by January 1st. Thanks for our help!



Every Member Visit 2023

Every Member Visit (EMV) with Pastor Bitter

In 2023 we are planning to give every member at Grace the opportunity to sign up and schedule a personal or family visit at Grace Church or School with Pastor Bitter and an elder to discuss your personal plan for ministry and how we can serve the Lord together with all the gifts he has given to Grace Congregation. We hope to be ready to begin scheduling visits in late February.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5th, 2023 at 11 AM



Our semi-annual voters meeting is scheduled to reconvene on Sunday February 5th following worship. Please plan to join us as we are updated on all the areas of ministry at Grace.



Grace Church will be hosting the MLC choir on **Saturday, February 25**. We are sharing the hosting responsibilities with the other Portland area congregations. Grace members are being asked to provide 10 host families. Students are in pairs. Grace members can sign up to host in their home or pay for a hotel accommodation. A signup sheet is in the entryway at church.

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



Board of Elders

Craig Baker – Head Elder
Courage Mudzongo
Len Stadler
Josh Luplow
Pastor Bitter



Worship Committee

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



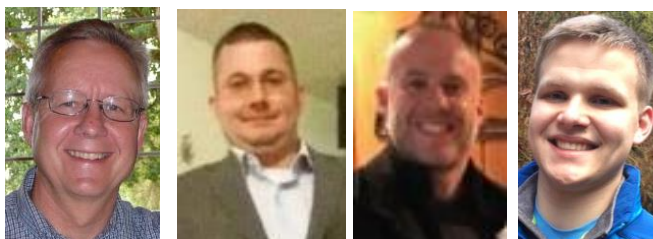
Mary & Martha

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 EPIPHANY 3 2022

Sunday **Nehemiah 8:1-3**

- This occurred as Jerusalem and the temple were being rebuilt.
- What request was made to the leaders?
- Why did Ezra comply with this request? Who attended this gathering?
- Why were the people attentive to this reading? Whose law was this?
- Why is hearing the law still good for us? Romans 3:20. Why is this important?

Monday **Nehemiah 8:5-6**

- Why did Ezra begin by speaking a blessing of God? Why did Ezra honor God?
- How did the people respond and thereby join Ezra in honoring God?
- How do you think these people worshiped God? What does this mean?
- What attitude are the people expressing by touching their heads to the ground?
- Read Proverbs 15:33; 18:12; 22: Does this mean repentance? Explain.

Tuesday **Nehemiah 8:9-10**

- What makes a day Holy to the Lord? This reminds us of the third commandment.
- Could the encouragement to “be happy” be a good substitute for “do not mourn”?
- Why did the people weep when they heard the words of the law?
- Why is the day of the Lord a day of strength?
- Are we strengthened through our worship? Why? Luke 2:9-14; 3:15-20.

Wednesday **Acts 4:23-25**

- From whom were Peter and John released? What had the Chief Priests told them? Why? Acts 4 1-22
- How is the Lord described in the address of the prayer? For what did they ask?
- What is said in verse 25 about the words of David in the Old Testament?
- Why do non-believers make an issue of the greatness of Jesus? Psalm 2

Thursday **Acts 4:26-31**

- Who is God’s anointed?
- Who are the leaders that set themselves against Jesus? Vv. 26-27. Why did God allow this? V. 28.
- Discuss the request of the believers. Vv. 29-30.
- How does God answer their prayer?
- Read Job 1. Who is the perpetrator of evil on us? Who controls it and gives us strength?

Friday **Luke 4:14-17**

- What had happened just prior to our text? Read Luke 4:1-13. Why? 1 Jn. 3:7-9.
- What event began Jesus’ ministry? Luke 3:21-22.
- What instruction did God give all mankind later on the Mount of Transfiguration regarding His Son
- Read Matthew 17:4-6
- Who is directing Jesus’ ministry? V. 14; Mark 1:12-13.

Saturday **Luke 4:18-21**

- What bold confession did Jesus make as he read from Isaiah?
- What is meant by “the year of the Lord’s favor”? Favor means grace.
- What did Jesus do after reading these verses? V. 21
- What does Jesus expect the Church to do today? Matthew 28:18-20.

Grace Lutheran Church - January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 9:30 AM Worship with Communion No Sunday School or Bible Class Today. 6:00 PM Basketball	2 6:00 PM Basketball	3 6:00 PM Elders	4 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 9:00 Am Chapel 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Cl.	5 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 3:30 Staff 7:00 PM Visit	6 EPIPHANY 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 	7 10:00 AM BIC
GLS Winter Break – No School						
8 Epiphany Observed 8:00 AM Conf. 9:30 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Cl 11:00 AM Sun. Sch. 6:00 PM Basketball	9 6:00 PM Basketball	10 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 10:00 AM Mary and Martha 3:00 PM Private Committal	11 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 9:00 Am Chapel 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Cl.	12 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 3:30 Worship Com.	13 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 11:00 AM Fleener Memorial @ Zion	14 7:00 AM FORGED Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 11:00 AM Private Memorial
15 Baptism of Lord 8:00 AM Conf. 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Cl 11:00 AM Sun. Sch. 6:00 PM Basketball	16 MLK DAY 6:00 PM Basketball GLS No School	17 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 10:00 AM Circuit Meeting 6:00 PM Leadership Meeting Council & BOE	18 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 9:00 Am Chapel 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Cl.	19 8:00 AM Conf. Cl.	20 8:00 AM Conf. Cl.	21 10:00 AM BIC
22 Mission Festival 8:00 AM Conf. 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Cl 11:00 AM Sun. Sch. 6:00 PM Basketball Truth in Love Ministry presents in worship and bible class.	23 6:00 PM Basketball	24 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 6:00 PM Elders	25 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 9:00 Am Chapel 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Cl.	26 8:00 AM Conf. Cl.	27 8:00 AM Conf. Cl.	28 10:00 AM BIC 9:00 AM Meeting
29 Epiphany 4 8:00 AM Conf. 9:30 AM Worship with Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Cl 11:00 AM Sun. Sch. 6:00 PM Basketball	30 6:00 PM Basketball	31 8:00 AM Conf. Cl.				