

The Means of Grace

July 25, 2021

Comfort in the midst of conflict: Revelation 21 -22:5

“Blessed with milk and honey. A sight that refreshes. Full of unknown joy. Radiant in glory. Bliss beyond compare. Jubilant with song. Bright with angels. Serene daylight. Rich, green pasture.”

Wow! That sounds wonderful, doesn't it? Those are some of the words and phrases used by 12th-century monk Bernard of Cluny in his hymn “Jerusalem the Golden” to describe the eternal home of rest that awaits God's redeemed children. His words are extremely comforting and encouraging for the church militant, which is so often weary and oppressed in this world. The words seem to be drawn, at least in part, from Revelation 21–22:5.

New heaven and earth

After writing of the final judgment of Satan and the world, John witnesses a breathtaking and glorious scene. He sees a new heaven and a new earth in place of the familiar ones. We are not given details about how this will happen and what, exactly, this new heaven and earth will look like. However, there are some important things to note. God himself is there, dwelling with his people in the most complete and permanent way. Sin and its effects are gone. Sighing, crying, and dying are things of the past and not found there. This new home with all the peace and plenty is a free gift, given as an inheritance by the Lord to his believing and victorious children in Christ.

New Jerusalem

John sees something else (v. 2). It is the Holy City, the new Jerusalem. What, or more to the point, who is the new Jerusalem? While it is quite natural to equate Jerusalem with a place where the saints dwell, a careful reading of this chapter (and Galatians 4:21-31) indicates that the new Jerusalem is a name for the saints themselves. It's personal. This is especially evident when that Holy City is referred to as the Lamb's beautifully dressed bride in several places. Wedding and marriage imagery are used to describe the Lord's covenant people in both the Old and New Testaments. The repeated use of the number 12 (symbolizing all believers in Christ) and its multiples is another indication that here John sees the church triumphant. Her sparkling and stunning beauty is given to her by God himself through her relationship with Jesus. The Lord is fully and constantly present with his people there. They have no need for a special place of worship (temple) or any outside sources of light (sun, moon, lamps). His special and intimate presence in the city makes the whole place one of worship and light. Those who dwell there are completely safe and secure. No enemies can ever enter.

The vision continues into the next chapter with a scene that reminds us of the Garden of Eden. Paradise is fully and wonderfully restored. God is the fountain of life and source of light for his people. They are able to see him clearly and serve him fully. They live and reign with him forevermore. It's the way it's supposed to be—the way it will one day be.

Author: Timothy Westendorf is pastor at Abiding Word, Highlands Ranch, Colorado. October 2019 FIC



THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Sunday July 25, 2021

Communion Prep-Marilyn Baer

Flowers for the Altar-Charlene Clark

8:30 AM Adult Bible Study in person

9:30 AM Worship Service

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

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH - 7610 NE FREMONT

11:00 AM Church Council

Monday July 26, 2021

6-8 PM-Soccer Camp @ GLS

Tuesday July 27, 2021

Pastor in office

6-8 PM-Soccer Camp @ GLS

Wednesday July 28, 2021

Pastor in office

6:00 PM No Google meet this week.

6-8 PM-Soccer Camp @ GLS

Thursday July 29, 2021

Pastor in office

6-8 PM-Soccer Camp @ GLS

Friday July 30, 2021

Pastor in office

Hospital/Shut-ins visits

Saturday July 31, 2021

Pastor in Office-Sermon Prep

Sunday August 1, 2021

Flowers for the Altar-Marilyn Baer-Parents 73rd Anniversary

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](https://www.facebook.com/GraceWELS)

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Carol & Warren Widmann: As Pastor Widmann's health has rapidly declined we pray that God blesses the Widmann's with healing, strength and courage. Pastor Widmann will be staying at 3583 SE 49th St. Portland, OR 97206 if you'd like to visit or send a card.

Grandfather of Cole Schwartz, who has been diagnosed with early stage of cancer.

Member Need: Errol Carlson has moved in to a senior care facility and would like a ride to church on Sunday mornings. If you can help please let pastor know so we can register you as an authorized person to pick him up. Thanks! His new address is Courtyard at Mt. Tabor, 6323 SE Division, St. 97206
Facility Phone: 503-772-9795



A Family of Ministries For Christian
Worship, Education and Care





Be Still

and know that I am God.

Sunday, July 25, 2021 at 9:30 AM

A special morning worship service with
guest musician Mike Westendorf & Family

*"I will sing of the Lord's great love forever, with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations!" - Psalm 89:1-4*

Since 2006 Mike Westendorf and his team have helped churches and Christian organizations bring the peace, hope and joy of the Gospel to their communities through concerts, special worship services, musical bible studies and speaking engagements. We're passionate about helping you connect with your community, whether that's the family, your church or your neighborhood. How can we help you inspire your community with the hope of Jesus?



VOTERS' MEETING

At our voters meeting this month ...

The proposed budget for 2021 – 2022 fiscal year was approved.

The approved budget is challenging and only by the grace of God will it be met! Pray. Participate. Serve. Grow. Give. Our church budget is our opportunity to plan for next 12 months at our church and school locations and ask God to bless us.



The Reports On Ministry for the past 12 months were approved.

Pastor Bitter and Principal Eternick reported on the ministries at the church and school over the past fiscal year. While COVID made everything challenging God continued to bless us. Over the next year, a long range plan will be built that will involve the entire congregation and every area of ministry, we are ONE TOGETHER.

The Voters elected Juan Garcia as our new President at Grace and thanked Larry Glasheen for his years of service.

Please join together in prayer, lifting up Juan Garcia as our new president and asking God to continue to bless Larry in his new role as Chair for our new Financial Oversight Committee.



Juan Garcia



Larry Glasheen



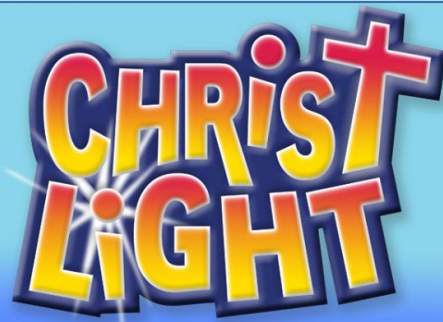
SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

**In Person & Live Streamed on Facebook
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!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Make the Connection

*I teach
Sunday School
what's your
superpower?*

A red and blue Superman logo is positioned at the bottom left of the text.

Wednesday Evenings at 6PM



Online via Google Meet
(invite will be sent via email)

NO CLASS THIS WEEK

DUE TO SOCCER CAMP AT GLS



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.

Upcoming EVENTS

Make Plans to Be a Part



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.

Welcome to Carol's
 *Downsizing Sale*
Proceeds of this sale will aid Carol's having to move to a different apartment.

July 18th, 25th & August 1.
Sale will take place
after morning service
on each Sunday.
Spread the word.
Invite your friends!
Many nice items!



JULY 26-29 · 6-8 PM

GRACE LUTHERAN SOCCER CAMP

WHAT TO EXPECT:

***SKILL BUILDING *GAMES *DEVOTIONS
*PARENTING DISCUSSIONS *SNACKS *FREE EVENT**

GRADES PRE-K TO 8 & PARENTS



To register by July 16, scan the QR code

Address: 2252 SE 92nd Ave. Portland, OR 97216 Questions? Email: glsoffice@grace-wels.net

**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 9 2021

Sunday 1 Samuel 3:1-3

- What was Samuel doing? Scan Chapters 1-2
- What obstacle was there in getting the Word out to the people? V. 1
- What was the situation with Eli?
- Why was God grooming Samuel to succeed Eli instead of Eli's sons? 2:12-36
- What is the Ark of God? Deuteronomy 10:1-10

Monday 1 Samuel 3:4-9

- Who called out to Samuel as he slept? Who did Samuel think was calling him?
- What did Eli finally figure this out and tell Samuel what to do?
- Does God call out to us? How? What are we to say? 1 Corinthians 12:3

Tuesday 1 Samuel 3:10

- What is the message which God had for Samuel? See following verses
- What was Samuel's response to God's message?
- What is the difference between hearing and listening?
- How does the phrase "I am listening" color Samuel's response to God?
- Discuss this word of scripture "blessed are they who hear the Word of God and do it"?

Wednesday Colossians 3:12-14

- Who are we in relation to God? What has God made of us?
- List all of the special qualities Christians are given by God through His Word.
- Consider and discuss each one and what it means in our lives.
- What does love do for all of these qualities? What is the source of such love?
- Give examples of how we can exercise such love in our daily lives. Proverbs 10:12

Thursday Colossians 3:15-17

- Consider the peace of Christ and how it rules our hearts.
- How can the word of Christ dwell in us richly?
- How do we teach and admonish one another? How does thankfulness fit in?
- What is to govern everything we say and do? 1 Corinthians 1:10.

Friday Luke 10:38-39

- Into whose home did Jesus come? These women had a brother. What was his name?
- What powerful event involving him and Jesus took place later? John 11
- What were the activities each of the sisters carried out on this visit of Jesus?
- How do you assess what each did? Can both be praised? Explain. 1 Cor. 1:37.

Saturday Luke 10:40-42

- What was Martha's complaint about Mary? Was it a valid complaint? Explain.
- What was Jesus' answer to Martha? How do you understand this answer?
- Agree or disagree: The ideal would be a Mary\Martha person rolled into one.
- Which are you – a Mary or a Martha or are you the combined one? Which should be our goal?