

The Means of Grace



MAY 9, 2021

Comfort in the midst of conflict: Revelation 1

The title is one of the opening words of the book. “Revelation” is an accurate and helpful translation of the Greek word which is also rendered “Apocalypse.” Immediately we hear that the book’s ultimate author is Jesus Christ, who gives it to show (make known, reveal) what is going (what must) to take place. His intended audience is “his servants,” those who already know him and listen to his voice. Revelation isn’t intended to comfort unbelievers... its purpose is to assure Christ’s believers of his victory.

As always, when Jesus speaks he does so not to confuse and discourage but to comfort and encourage his flock. Although his words are sometimes difficult to understand, we remember that these words are spoken by our Savior. He has spoken to us before. We look to other words he has given us, remembering that he is our Good Shepherd. He speaks in order to lead and guide us. We trust that he won’t tell us anything in this revelation that goes against other very clear words that he has revealed to us in the Bible. This spring on summer our devotions will walk us through this book as God reveals His victory to us. Each week we will approach our study with humility, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal his truth to our hearts. These words are from God himself, through Christ, given to John, the disciple whom Jesus loved.

Conflict

That’s important to remember! Like John, all those who hear these words are loved by the One who speaks. That’s important to remember because it wouldn’t have looked like that at first glance. It may not have felt like that to John and his fellow first-century believers. It sometimes doesn’t look or feel that way for 21st-century Christians either.

John was in exile. He was on an island . . . literally. He had been forcibly removed from family and friends, congregation and comforts, to Patmos. Because of his faith in Jesus and his faithfulness in proclaiming the good news of Jesus, he was punished. The year was likely A.D. 95. The Roman Emperor Domitian was leading an active and often brutal persecution of the Christians in his empire. There was conflict for the church. They might have been asking, “Does God love us? Does he care about us? Are we precious in his sight? Are we sons and daughters of the Great King? Will he come for us?”

Comfort

The church is his bride and needed to hear from her Bridegroom. She needed assurances that he was still in charge. She needed reminders of his real and unending love. She needed to hear that she was his precious possession and that she possessed all that was rightfully his. She needed his comfort in the midst of conflict. And that is what he graciously and generously gives her. We need to hear his voice too. We need comfort in the midst of our conflicts. Our prayer is that we would hear just that as we study this beautiful Revelation of Jesus.



Adapted from FIC series by Pastor Tim Westendorf

THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Sunday May 9, 2021 Flowers for the Altar-Karin Schmidt

8:30 AM Adult Bible Study in person

9:30 AM Worship Service in person with Communion

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

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH - 7610 NE FREMONT



A Family of Ministries For Christian
Worship, Education and Care

Monday May 10, 2021

Tuesday May 11, 2021

Pastor in office

8:00 AM 5-6 Confirmation Class

10:00 AM Circuit Meeting in Tigard

Wednesday May 12, 2021

Pastor in office

8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation Class

1:00 PM Distance Learning Confirmation Class

2:00 PM BIC at GLC

6:00 PM Google Bible Study – Messages from Jesus

Thursday May 13, 2021 – ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Pastor in office

8:00 AM 5-6 Confirmation Class

Friday May 14, 2021

Pastor in office

8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation Class

1:00 PM Distance Learning Confirmation Class

Saturday May 15, 2021

Pastor in office

Sermon Preparation

Sunday May 16, 2021 – ASCENSION OBSERVED

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Warren Widman: who continues to struggle with health issues at home.

Todd Hafner: Tyler Hafner's brother who continues to recover from the effects of COVID.

Mary Ellen Hafner: Tyler Hafner's mother whose health is diminishing and awaits the Lord to call her home to heaven's glory.

Andrew Hartwig: who continues to struggle with diabetic episodes as we pray for complete healing and comfort.

Pastor Mark & Janet Swanson: The Swansons are returning to Wisconsin this week as Janet's mother is placed into Hospice care.

Pastor Joe Johnson & Amazing Grace as the Lord has led Pastor Johnson to return his call to Michigan and remain at Amazing Grace





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!

- We have some new shrubs to plant this week. Please contact Pastor Bitter if you would like to plant.
- Putting items into the basement. If you can help carry some things into the basement this week please let pastor know.



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

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

JOEL

AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #29

Joel issued the call to repentance during a plague of locusts and reminded God's people of the coming Messiah.



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET JOEL



WRITTEN: UNCERTAIN

Old Testament: 39 Books

29

New Testament: 27 Books

Joel is the second minor prophet, who ministered to the Southern Kingdom of Judah. In the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles and they began speaking in tongues and Peter explains that this is what Joel prophesied about in Joel 3:28–32. Interestingly, Joel has the highest concentration of imperative verbs of all the Old Testament books: 1.1% of the Hebrew words are commanding verbs.

FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

Locusts. Locusts everywhere. When God was delivering Israel from slavery in Egypt, He sent a plague of locusts on the Egyptians' crops. Now, hundreds of years later, He was judging His people with the same kind of plague for straying from Him. But God also sends His prophet: Joel.

MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

JOEL 2:28 After this, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions.

JOEL 2:12-13 Even now, declares the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and grief. Tear your heart and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in mercy, and he relents from sending disaster.

Important Points about the Book:

"What the grasshoppers have left, the swarming locusts have eaten. What the swarming locusts have left, the young locusts have eaten. What the young locusts have left, the mature locusts have eaten."

- **Joel 1:4** The precise distinctions between the four Hebrew terms for locusts are not certain. The terms may refer to types of locusts or to different stages of the locusts' life cycle (though the terms do not occur in the same order in 1:4 and 2:25). Etymologically the four terms seem to refer to *gnawers*, *swarmers*, *hoppers*, and *destroyers*. In any case, the point of the heaping up of terms is total destruction. Joel explains to the people what the Lord wants from them: repentance and He will bless and restore them again when they repent. Judah will again become a land of plenty.



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.



everyoneoutreach.com

The WELS Commission on Evangelism has developed a new program called “Everyone Outreach” to help focus congregations and their members on Jesus’ command to make disciples.

“If you look at WELS churches that are growing, the main ingredient is that they have an outreach culture,” says Eric Roecker, director of WELS Evangelism. “The idea of this program is to create that culture so that every member and every ministry are focused on reaching the lost. Then it becomes clear that outreach is not an afterthought or something the evangelism committee does. It is who we are and what we do.”

This personal witnessing mindset is important in post-Christian America. “People who aren’t interested in Christianity in any way aren’t going to be reached by corporate outreach for the most part,” says Roecker. “It’s going to take each of us showing love to our unchurched friends and neighbors and then looking for opportunities to lead them to the gospel.”

Roecker is quick to point out that Everyone Outreach is not going to train people how to do outreach. Instead, it is designed to help a congregation discover its thought habits and develop new thinking and behaviors that build a culture of outreach.

The program begins with a two-day workshop at the congregation, where facilitators will use group exercises and reflection, grounded in God’s Word, to explore and adjust the congregation’s culture.

But it isn’t just a one-and-done experience for the congregation. Attendees will leave with an outreach partner and their own personal commitment statements for accountability and encouragement. The program also will provide ongoing support through e-mails, text messages, meeting starters, and sermon thoughts, which will reinforce the changes that were discussed in the workshop.

The commission has worked closely with Kurt Nitz, a lay member at Christ Our Savior, Rockford, Mich., and also an expert on culture transformations, to put together the program. This spring, 40 pastors will be trained to facilitate the workshops, with the plan to start offering workshops to congregations this fall.

Learn more about Everyone Outreach at everyoneoutreach.com.

Next Mary and Martha meeting has changed to May 18^h at 10:00-12:00 in the fellowship hall. All COVID-19 precautions will apply. That said, there will be coffee and treats! Bible study and lots to discuss! Hosting is Cathy Gillespie

Mary and Martha are collecting old medication bottles for use in the Africa Medical Mission. Please bring them to church by June 6th. You may leave the medication bottle in the church kitchen. If you have any questions please contact Faye Rutstein at 360-931-9020





COME JOIN US!
CASCADE CIRCUIT
LWMS RALLY

SATURDAY JUNE 12, 2021

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON

<http://www.peacelutheranvancouverwa.com/>

CALL OF THE WILD

ALASKA MINISTRIES

Guest Speaker—Pastor Fred Voss

Shepherd of the Hills—Anchorage, Alaska

Chaplain—Anchorage Police & Fire Departments

9:30 REGISTRATION

10:00-2:30 RALLY

Livestreamed and In Person

RSVP to lkraklow@grace-wels.net by 6-7-21

Please send **Mission Offerings** by *June 7th* to:

Cascade Circuit Treasurer Lynn Kraklow

13112 NE 28th St. Vancouver, WA 98682

SEE YOU THERE!



The Eagle Message

Grace Lutheran School

DECLARE *His* PRAISES

May 4, 2021



Teacher Appreciation Week May 3 - 7

Our teachers have gone above and beyond for our school and students this year. We aren't able to host a luncheon for them like we usually do, but please take some time to let them know how much you appreciate them in your own special way.

Bottle and Can EXTRA Fundraiser collects over \$500!

Thank you for helping us add funds to our [BottleDrop](#) account in the last two weeks. 79 bags of cans & bottles were turned in for \$510.30! Some of these funds will be used for our Last Day of School picnic.

Please continue to gather up your cans and plastic/glass bottles and bring them in to school to keep supporting this fundraiser. [Blue collection bags](#) are available from the office - just ask for them.

Many thanks to the students and parents who came to help with our [Work Day](#) on Saturday.

Precious Lambs Preschool NOW ENROLLING

Our Preschool is now accepting students for the 2021-2022 school year. Please contact the Preschool Director, Mrs. Tammy Godish, at tgodish@grace-wels.net or 503-312-4230 for more information or to register.

Openings available for Recess Helpers

We still have a few openings left in May, on Tuesdays and Fridays, for Recess Supervisors to oversee our students during the noon recess time - 11:30 to 12:30. Please contact Mrs. Kraklow in the school office (503-777-8628 or lkraklow@grace-wels.net) if you can help us out. Thanks!

The [May calendar](#) was sent home last week. Please note that our [last day of school](#) will be [Thursday, May 27, from 8:00 to 3:00.](#)

8th Grade Graduation

Our 8th graders will have their Graduation service on [Tuesday, June 1st](#) at Grace Lutheran [CHURCH](#), starting at 6:30.

REMEMBER THESE ONGOING FUNDRAISERS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

Fred Meyer Community Rewards

Today, we received \$80.91 from the Fred Meyer Rewards program! Make sure to link your rewards card with Grace Lutheran School (GLS) on Fred Meyer Community Rewards! Here's how to make sure your card is linked:

- Sign up for or login to the Community Rewards program by linking your card to Grace Lutheran School at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you help GLS earn a donation!
- You still earn your personal Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
- You can get a Rewards Card at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.

Box Tops for Education - How to earn for our school

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 school's earnings online. Twice a year, your school will receive a check and can use that cash to buy whatever it needs! Great news! If you shop for groceries online or have digital receipts, you can submit your email receipts to earn Box Tops for your school! Visit the [app or website](#) for more details and to see a full list of participating retailers.

Phone: 503-777-8628 Fax / Second line: 503-230-1354

www.grace-wels.net

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



Dedication Sunday

The day finally arrived! Costa Maya Ministries had dreamed for several years of having its own worship space, and God answered our prayers. On April 4 we had our first full Spanish Sunday service in the new building. It was also the restart of regular Sunday services after Covid forced us to move to small group ministry.

That day God gave us the enormous blessing of filling up our new worship space to capacity with some people standing outside in the doorway to hear the Word. Our congregation responded to the need for helping hands by pitching in with cleaning up the construction dust and dirt, preparing decorations, bringing food for a potluck, public Bible readings, ushering and set-up. We had a pinata (made by a young woman in the church) and Easter egg hunt for the kids. Local ex pats from Canada (James and Elizabeth) made a cross banner with Luther's seal in the middle. Also, Jerry played a song on electric piano and sang. It was great to see all the participation that welcomed the community to our new church.

The biggest blessing of God's grace was that the Easter message of the resurrection of the dead in Christ to eternal life made it to the ears of nearly 120 people, many of whom were first-time visitors. Additionally, a baptism coincided with our Easter celebration!

We're calling this "Dedication Sunday #1." It's normal here to move in and start using a church building once the basics are done, even well before the finishing touches -- So we're in! And we're completely out of the old rental space, with the exception of the apartment.

There will be a "Dedication Sunday #2" when more of the details are done. Please stay tuned for announcements through the newsletter and Facebook page of Costa Maya Ministries so you can find out more and possibly join us in Mahahual.

We thank the many supporters who have brought us to this day under God's guidance and direction. Pray that the Lord gives us wisdom to use the space in the best way to bring the gospel to Mahahual! ~Meghan Mortenson



<https://youtu.be/GUwRTZJVKXc>



Online donations may be made at www.Costamayaministries.org
or by check payable to
Costa Maya Ministries
c/o Fred Starck
2818 Jennifer Lane
Johnsburg, IL 60051

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF EASTER 6 2021

Sunday **Acts 1:1-5**

- What are the various thoughts Jesus squeezed into the first two verses?
- What is a summary of the instructions to the disciples? v3
- What very basic instruction is recorded elsewhere? Matthew 28:18-20. Luke 24:44-49
- On one occasion he gave them a very vital instruction. v4
- To whom does he refer once again as He ends His earthly ministry? v5
- How would you sum up the ministry of Jesus during those 40 days after Easter? Luke 24:44-49

Monday **Acts 1:6-11**

- What concept did the disciples still not grasp? v6
- What vital answer did Jesus give? How and when will they understand?
- What were the disciples doing as Jesus disappeared into heaven?

Tuesday **Peter 4:12-17**

- Should serious trial and tribulation afflict us? Why or why not?
- Should such happenings surprise us?
- Why is it suggested that we rejoice when such things happen?
- For whom are we suffering? Why is this something in which to glory?
- Why is it a privilege to bear the Name of Christ/Christian? 1 Cor.8:1-12

Wednesday **1 Peter 1:6-11**

- List the various bits of advice God gives us through Peter in verses v6-9.
- Describe the role of Satan in all of this. What does God call Satan? v8
- What has God made of us? What is God's role in all of this?
- Can we depend on God to protect and help us? Romans 8:26-28
- Explain the God of all grace. V. 10

Thursday **John 17:1-5** **Read entire chapter first.**

- What four events would Jesus have in mind which would glorify Him?
- What hour has come? Who besides Jesus will be glorified at the same time?
- What is the significance of the message in 3 and 4 for us people? Mt. 7:29; 9:6.
- What is Jesus' request in verse 5? How will returning "home" to heaven glorify Jesus?

Friday **John 17: 6-9**

- **How did certain people become Jesus' disciples? What did Jesus do for them? 6**
- **What have these men obeyed? What do they know? 7-8**
- **For whom else did Jesus pray? Why? For whom does Jesus NOT pray? Why not?**
- **How does Jesus help us with our prayers? Hebrews 8:19-20.**

Saturday **John 17:10-11**

- **How does Jesus proclaim His equality with God in 10? John 17:20-22.**
- **What is Jesus asking for in our regard in this part of His prayer?**
- **How can this happen? John 8:31-32; 1 John 2 – a good chapter to read to bring this week of devotions to a close.**