

The Means of **Grace**

November 29, 2020

The signs that Christmas is near: **THE TREE**

The Christmas tree is easily one of the most recognizable symbols of the Christmas season. Some believe that Martin Luther may have been the first to set up an evergreen tree in his home and decorate it with candles. The tree as a symbol for Christmas, however, goes all the way back to the beginning of time when God placed two special trees in the Garden of Eden: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God gave special instructions to Adam and Eve regarding these trees: Don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or you will die. One day in the garden, Satan, in the form of a serpent, tempted Adam and Eve to eat from this tree. Adam and Eve both ate fruit from the tree and had to answer to God for their sin. But before God told them of the consequences, he first gave them a promise. This was the first promise of the Savior, who would be born to pay for that sin in the garden as well as the sins of the entire world. This promise was found in God's curse on Satan, who would be defeated by the Savior's death on another tree.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel. (Genesis 3:15)

God's plan for the Savior is like a red thread woven through the fabric of the Old Testament, reminding believers of the Messiah and his work for them. The Holy Spirit spoke through the prophet Isaiah about another tree. He was speaking of the promised Messiah. But the picture doesn't stop with a tree. He also speaks of the work the Messiah would do on earth. This Prince of peace would return his people to the state of perfection that they had in the Garden of Eden. The first chapter of the gospel of Matthew shows how Jesus' family tree grew from the seed of Adam and Eve to its sturdy trunk in Abraham, Jacob, and David, all the way to the branches of Joseph and Mary.

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. (Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:2; Isaiah 11:1-3)



THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Sunday November 29, 2020

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 November 30, 2020

Pastor in office

Tuesday December 1, 2020

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

Pastor in office

Wednesday December 2, 2020

9:00 AM Member Meeting

6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class

Thursday December 3, 2020

Pastor in office

Friday December 4, 2020

Pastor in office

Saturday December 5, 2020

Pastor in Office-Sermon Preparation

Sunday December 6, 2020

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



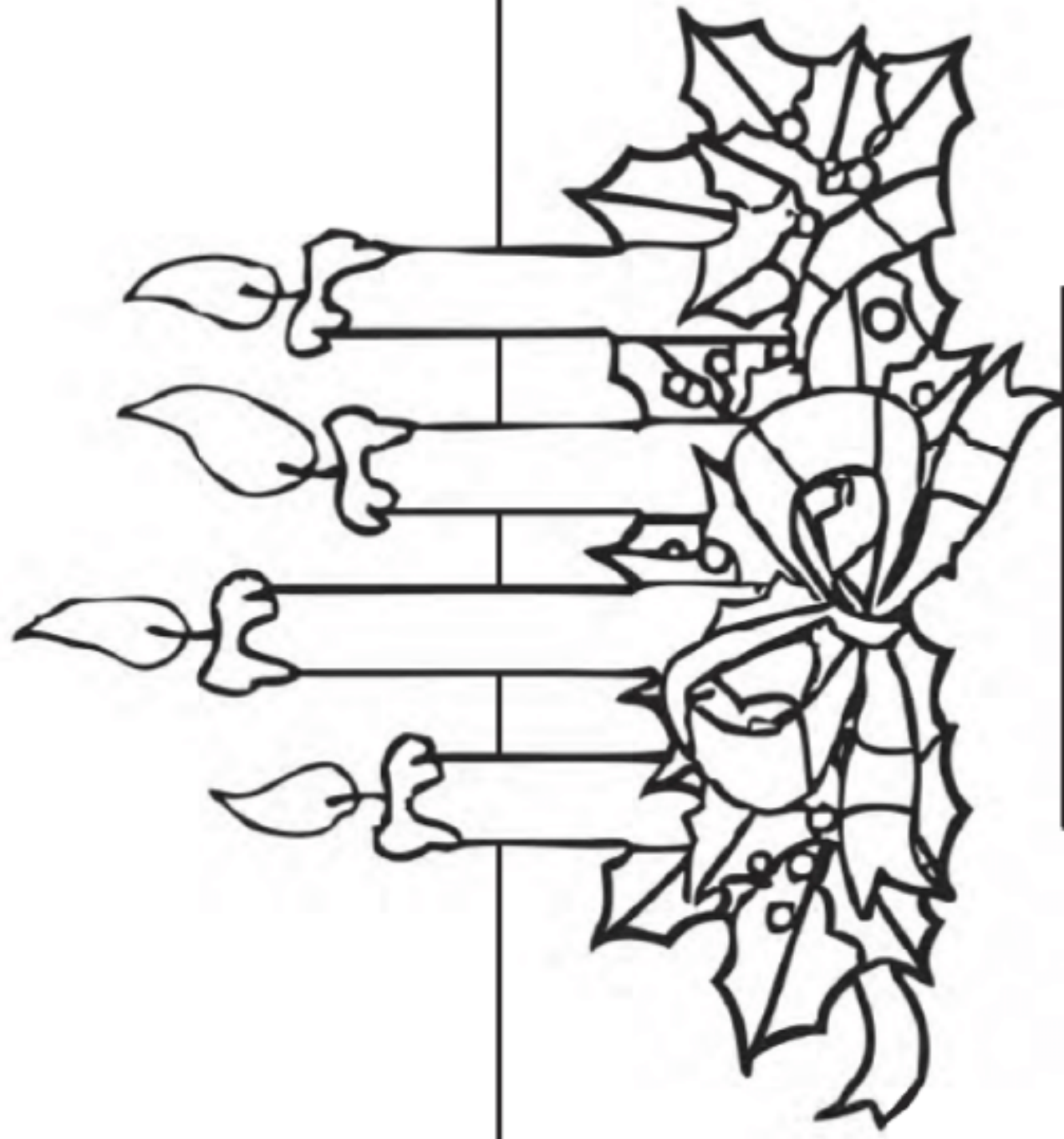
Cheri Lockhart – Cheri was re-admitted to the hospital after another fall at the nursing home. If you'd like to send a card to encourage her, please send to her home address. 3120 NE 37th Ave. Portland, OR 97212

Dorothy Elsasser continues to be cared for at Whitewood Gardens and would love a card to encourage her! 2027 SE 174th Ave. Portland, OR 97233

Todd Hafner, the brother of Tyler Hafner, continues to show improvement! Cards to encourage the Hafners can be mailed to: 16315 SE Rhone St. Portland, OR 97236

Nancy Evans is at home recovering from knee replacement surgery. We give thanks our gracious God for successful surgery and we ask Him to provide continued and quick recovery!

Sonora Baker Sonora's MRI scans look stable and clear. There will likely next visit with neurology to figure out why she's experiencing these symptoms.



Advent Wreath

COLOR THE ADVENT WREATH!

Please use this as a devotion during Advent with your family. Each week color in the proper candle and talk about what it means. Everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, can color and submit their pictures! Pictures can be submitted at the end of Advent by mailing to the church or school or sending as an attachment to Pastor Bitter's email at tbitter@grace-wels.net.

THE PURPLE / BLUE CANDLES

The traditions of Advent include the color of dark "royal" purple or Sarum blue. Both symbolize preparation, repentance and royalty to welcome the new King. Sometimes blue is also used to remind us of how Jesus still comes to us through baptism.

THE ROSE / PINK CANDLE

One of the candles is rose-colored and can symbolize the blood of Jesus that takes our sins away or it can also symbolize "joy" because Jesus has come to take our sins away.

THE WHITE CANDLE

The large white candle in the middle of the wreath is the Christ Candle. The candle is white because Jesus came to live a perfect, holy life for us. As we light the Advent candles we are reminded that with each day that passes we are getting closer to not only celebrating Christmas, but we are also reminded that soon Jesus is coming again.

THE EVERGREEN WREATH

The candles are all placed in an evergreen wreath because evergreen is a symbol of eternal life. Sometimes purple ribbons are used to remind us that the King of kings will be born soon.

1. THE PROPHECY CANDLE

In the picture, the shortest candle is the prophecy candle. Its color is purple/blue. It represents the prophecies that told people about who Jesus was, where he would be born, and what he would do as our Savior. There are 4 candles because it reminds us that almost 4000 year past between God' promising a Savior to Adam & Eve and Jesus birth in Bethlehem.

2. THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE

In the picture, the next shortest candle is the Bethlehem Candle. Its color is also purple/blue. Possibly the candle's name and symbolism came from the preparation that took place in Bethlehem prior to the Savior's birth there. You see, there was no preparation made in Bethlehem for this great event. The homes and inns of Bethlehem had no room to receive the newborn Savior. He had to born in a stable. After 400 prophecies over 4000 years they should have been prepared! The Bethlehem candle reminds us that we need to be prepared to meet Jesus too when he returns.

3. THE SHEPHERDS' CANDLE

In the picture, the second tallest candle is the Bethlehem Candle. Its color is pink/rose. The Shepherd's Candle represents the joy of telling other people about Jesus. It is easy to put the candle's name and symbolism together. Scripture tells us, *"And when they had seen it they made known abroad the saying which was told concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told the shepherds. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen."* The shepherds were glad that their Savior was born, they were thankful to God that he had sent the angels to tell them this wonderful news, and so the shepherds couldn't help but tell others everything that they had heard and seen.

4. THE ANGELS' CANDLE

The fourth candle is called the Angels' candle. Its color is purple/blue. The Angels' is to represent how the angels announced Jesus birth on Christmas and it reminds us that Jesus will come again with those same angels on the Last Day. Angels announced Jesus birth and angels will announce Jesus return!



November 29th, First Sunday in Advent (9:30 AM Worship)

Please join us for our Advent worship!

December 2nd Advent Devotion & Bible Study (6:00 PM)

Please join us for our midweek Advent devotion and bible study

December 6th – Second Sunday in Advent (9:30 AM Worship)

Please join us for our Advent worship!

December 9th Advent Devotion & Bible Study (6:00 PM)

Please join us for our midweek Advent devotion and bible study

December 12th at 3:00 pm - Celebrate the Posada!

Please make room for Christ at Christmas with us in this special celebration.

December 13th – Third Sunday in Advent (9:30 AM Worship)

Please join us for our Advent worship!

December 16th Advent Devotion & Bible Study (6:00 PM)

Please join us for our midweek Advent devotion and bible study

December 20th at 9:30am – Grace Lutheran Church & School Christmas Service

This year our children will help spread the greatest news ever told. Did You Know that in Jesus God became human to save us! It's the most important thing you can know!

December 23rd at 6:00 pm – Advent Devotion / Preschool Christmas Program

Please join us for this wonderful program of Precious Lamb praising the Savior.

December 24th at 7:00 pm – Grace Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Service

Please join us on Christmas Eve for Christmas Awe

December 25th at 10:00 am – Grace Lutheran Church Christmas Day Service

Christmas Day and Sunday morning worship!

January 31st at 7:00 pm – Grace Lutheran Church New Year's Eve Service

Celebrate the New Year with us!

Wednesdays Midweek
December 2, 9, 16, 23



ADVENT



Weekly Advent Devotions will be emailed to you on Wednesdays in a YouTube link. Since we cannot gather together for our annual dinner & devotion this year at church please use the YouTube devotion with your families at home during each week of Advent.



PLAN TO ATTEND CHRISTMAS AT GRACE CHURCH!

We will celebrate Christmas!

Services will be in person and livestreamed

**DID YOU
KNOW?**



**December 20
9:30 am
Grace Church**

**Preschool
children's
program**



**December 23
6:00 pm
Grace Church**

Christmas Eve



**December 24
7:00 pm
Grace Church**

**THE
JOY OF
CHRIST
MAS**

**December 25
10:00 am
Grace Church**

A landscape photograph showing a sunset or sunrise over a mountain range. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is a bright, glowing orb on the right side. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of mountains are visible, with three crosses standing on a ridge to the left.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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

A landscape photograph of a green field with a line of trees in the distance. A soft, colorful rainbow arches across the sky above the trees. The scene is misty or foggy, giving it a serene and ethereal feel.

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

1 KINGS

AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #11



AUTHOR: UNKNOWN



WRITTEN: 550 BC

Although not identified, many reasons within 1 & 2 Kings point to Jeremiah as the writer.

Covering the time period of 975-850 BC

11

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

CLAIMS TO FAME: Contains the stories of the prophet Elijah, one of the most important prophets, who appeared at the Transfiguration with Jesus and Moses in Matthew 17.

FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Solomon decides which woman is the real mother of the baby.
- Solomon builds the Temple.
- Elijah confounds the prophets of the false god Baal and gets hundreds of them killed.

MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

"Then the LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is passing by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains and shattered rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹²After the earthquake there was a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a soft, whispering voice. – 1 Kings 19:11-12

Important Points about the Book:

- 1 Kings continues the stories that began in 1 Samuel and continued in 2 Samuel. 1 Kings covers the reign of David's son, King Solomon, known as the wisest and wealthiest man alive.
- The death of King Solomon occurs in Chapter 11.
- In Chapter 12, Solomon's son Rehoboam causes an uproar when he increases taxes instead of decreasing them, according to the request of the people via the elders. The kingdom splits into two and remains two kingdoms until the Babylonian invasion and exile, beginning in 586 BC.
- The story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal is in 1 Kings 18. However most of 1 Kings after the split in the kingdom are snippets of each of the kings. They include the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah. Each snippet says whether that king did good or evil in the eyes of the Lord. Most did evil!



From Your Church Council & Board of Education:

Another proposal from builder Rick Reynolds to purchase the properties next to our school has been submitted for our review. Please look for special meetings in the coming weeks to discuss this matter with the congregation before we present it to the voters.

Opportunities to give....

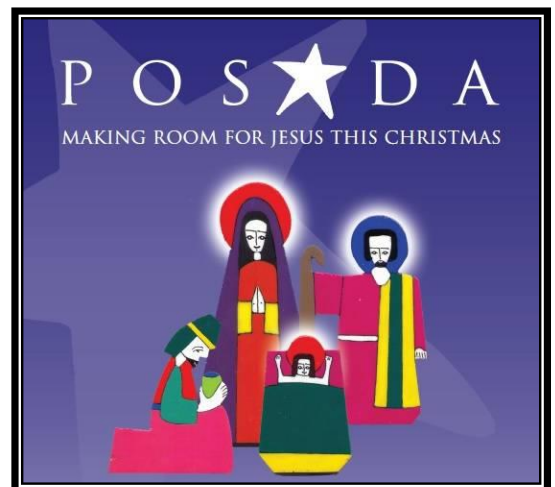
THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

In the current COVID-19 environment, there will be no food collection at church. Instead Mary& Martha are asking for donations to a cash fund which will be given to the Food Bank. A collection basket is located on the Check In table as you enter church and will be available through Nov. If you have any questions please see Joanne Twomey .



December 12th - Posada

Saturday, December 12 is the date we had selected to have our annual Posada. It won't be our traditional Posada... but our event will still focus our attention on the wondrous birth of Christ and how we should all "make room for Jesus" at Christmas. If you would like to be part of the discussion and planning, please contact Pastor Bitter or Juan Garcia. More detailed information will be available soon.





The Eagle Message Grace Lutheran School DECLARE His PRAISES

NOVEMBER 24, 2020

12:30 student pick up

Parents who pick up their children at 12:30 - please do not enter the gated area until 12:25 to allow preschool parents to pick-up at 12:15 PM. If you come early, please park in front of the school until 12:25. Also, please make sure to pull over to the far right side while waiting to pick-up. Finally, pull up to the yellow post to drop-off and pick-up your child. Thank you!

Chapel Chat

Check out Mr. Eternick's Chapel Chat from Nov. 18, at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5DF4TP3dVY>

Bottle & Can Collection Fundraiser

From America Recycles Day (November 15) to Giving Tuesday (December 1), BottleDrop will be matching 20% of funds raised by participating nonprofits through their Blue Bag collections.

Bring in your bottles and cans during this time to make this fundraiser even more successful. Make sure to gather up your beverage containers from your Thanksgiving celebrations!

Since we started this fundraiser we have collected \$1009!! You can pick up Blue Collection Bags when you come to school. Fill the bags with Oregon deposit containers. Plastic, aluminum, & glass go in the same bag. Stuff your Turkey – Not your bags - 20 pounds or less! (please fill bags only halfway with glass bottles – thanks).

Christmas service recording at Grace CHURCH

ALL students (K-8) will meet at Grace Lutheran **CHURCH** (7610 NE Fremont St.) on **Tuesday, Dec. 15th** in order to record their songs for the Children's Christmas Service, which will be livestreamed on Sunday, Dec 20th. **ALL** students will meet at the CHURCH, **NOT** at the **SCHOOL**, to record their songs, **at these specific times**: Kindergarten – 8 to 8:15; 1st & 2nd – 8:15 to 8:30; 3rd & 4th – 8:30-8:45; 5th & 6th – 8:45-9:00; 7th & 8th – 9:00 to 9:15.

In order to follow social distancing guidelines, we have to limit how many people are in the church to 25. Students will need to stay in their cars, until it is their scheduled time to sing. When students are finished with their songs, they will go back to their cars and can go home for the rest of the day.

Thank you everyone for doing daily health checks and keeping your children home when necessary, and for protecting each other so that we can continue to enjoy the blessing of being able to attend school in person.

Mission to the Children Gift Boxes For Northern Mexico



Dear Members of Grace,
On behalf of Mission to the Children, Leann Breza and I would like to express our “heart-felt” thanks for the generous donations received for the children of Sonora, Mexico. We collected more than expected! We received \$480.00 from the school children and \$970.00 from our Grace Church members! In addition to this, Peace Lutheran, Trinity in Eugene and Beautiful Savior in Hillsboro, collected another \$760.00!

We were not only able provide all the gifts for the village of Tubutama, but other villages as well, during this Advent Season.

These Posada celebrations are lead by Pastor Alejandro, who begins with the “gospel-filled” Christmas message, along with songs of praise. Mission to the Children also provide a hot meal for the celebration, followed by a piñata filled with candy. It’s a highly anticipated event each year, and a wonderful time to share God’s Word. We just wanted to make sure that this year would be no different.

The Lord has certainly blessed us all here at Grace above and beyond...and it’s a wonderful opportunity to be able to pay it forward. For some of these children, it may be their only gift.

And please be praying for the children of Sonora, Mexico.

Again, thank you so much for sponsoring the gifts for so many children!

Blessings on the rest of your Holiday celebration!



Susan Garcia 281 455-9622 slgarcia077@gmail.com

Leann Breza 360 921-6673 lrbreza@gmail.com



ONLINE GROUP STUDY

6:00 – 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS

An invitation and link will be sent to your email.

If you don't get an email with an invite and link please call
Pastor Bitter at 503-290-6316.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF ADVENT 1 2020

Sunday **Isaiah 63:16-17**

- Who cannot help us in time of need? Why not?
- Who alone does help us? What important thoughts do we find in the last line of 16?
- What does the first line of 17 suggest? Why would God forsake them?
- What is the plea of the prophet? What does he seek from God? Rev. 6:10.

Monday **Isaiah 64:1-4**

- What Is Isaiah's prayer? Do we feel like this at times? Explain.
- What is Isaiah suggesting God do? 2,3. Why? 3
- What is Isaiah's reference to Mt. Sinai say God has done to show his presence?
- What does God say to them and us in such times? Ephesians 4:1-16

Tuesday **Isaiah 64:5-8**

- Who joyfully works righteousness? What have people done to need to be saved?
- What have we all become? Like what is our own righteousness?
- What is the significance of the last half of 6?
- Who calls on the Lord by nature? What is God's attitude toward us? 7
- How did we become what we now are? Galatians 3:1-14.

Wednesday **1 Corinthians 1:1-3**

- How does the Apostle identify himself? How did he come to be an Apostle?
- How does he identify the Church at Corinth? What were its members called? Rom.1:7.
- How did these people testify that they belong to God? 2
- Who alone has grace and provides peace between God and man? HOW?

Thursday **1 Corinthians 4-9**

- Why is Paul thankful for himself and the Corinthians? Why do we thank God daily for what we are and for all Christians and what they are?
- How many spiritual gifts do we lack? Why or why not?
- Who will sustain us and for how long? How can we best show our appreciation?
- What is the prize for which Jesus is sustaining us? James 1:12; Rev. 2:10.

Friday **Mark 13:32-34**

- Who alone knows the day and the hour of the last day?
- In view of that when should we expect our LORD's return?
- What does it mean to stay away and how do we do that?
- What are the consequences of not being ready when the King returns?
Mt.25:1-45. What will we miss out in and what will we receive?

Saturday **Mark 13:35-37**

- Is God speaking of physical or spiritual sleep? Define spiritual sleep.
- What is the only thing we do know about Christ's return? What part of the day or night will be return? When should we be ready?
- What does it mean to stay awake? Galatians 6:1-5.

2021 Prayer Calendar

WELS Mission Journeys

This full color 8 1/2" x 11" calendar includes:

- Monthly Mission Article
- Monthly Bible Passage
- Missionary Contact Information
- Prayer Requests

2021 Prayer Calendar

Name _____

Congregation _____

Shipped to: () Home () Church

Shipping Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Prayer Calendar

Number of copies: _____ (\$10 plus shipping)

TOTAL COST: \$ _____

Shipping Costs

When enclosing payment with your order, please include shipping costs, using the following table. We reserve the right to bill for actual shipping costs when the charges exceed the schedule.

Merchandise Total	Shipping
\$10	\$5
\$20	\$8
\$30-\$50	\$12
\$60-\$200	\$15
Over \$200	Contact Central Office

LWMS Central Office • 11200 W Greenfield Avenue • West Allis, WI 53214
www.lwms.org • centraloffice@lwms.org

2021 LWMS PRAYER CALENDAR USES

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Monthly Mission Article

- Use it as a monthly bulletin insert.
- Use the information for a church newsletter article.

Monthly Bible Passage

- Memorize the passage and ponder it in your heart.
- Include it with the monthly bulletin insert and/or church newsletter article.

Missionary Information

- (Missionary birthdays, anniversaries, emails, and addresses)
- Send birthday, holiday, and encouragement cards to mission workers and their families. Get your church groups involved with this!
 - Pray with your congregation and individually for mission congregations.
 - Become familiar with WELS mission fields and missionaries.

Calendar Pages

- Place the calendar where you will see it often throughout the day and be reminded to pray.
- Jot down daily prayer reminders as you learn of specific needs. Pray for unbelievers and those hearing the gospel for the first time.

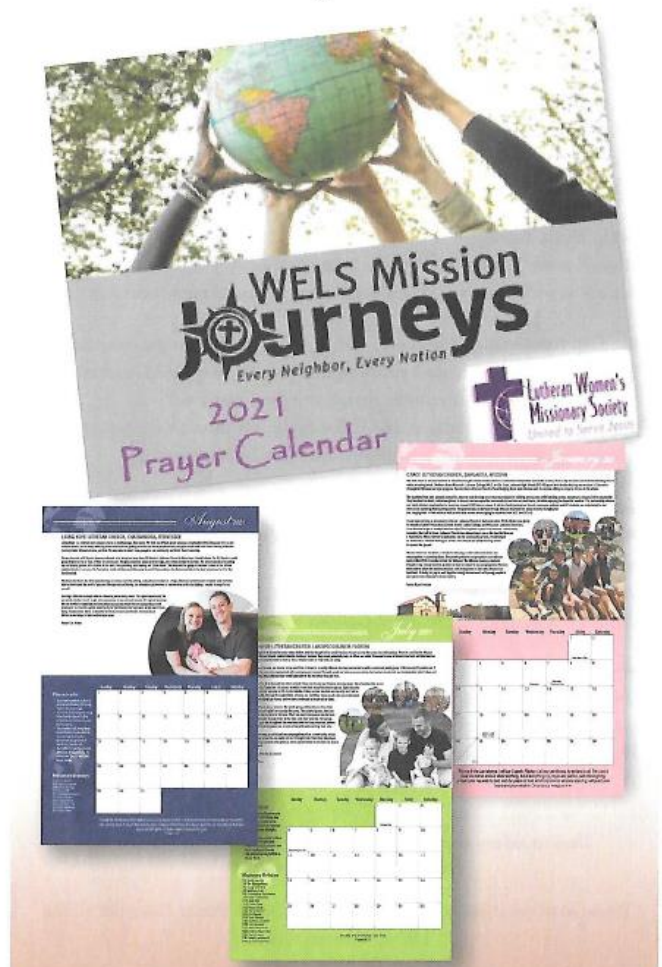
General

- Give it as a gift to teachers, pastors, shut-ins, and friends.
- Include it in care packages to college students and military members.
- Pray to be a strong and faithful LWMS member.

Due to safety concerns the calendar information cannot be reproduced on any website.

Please send other ideas of how to use the LWMS Prayer Calendar to the LWMS Central Office.

LWMS Prayer Calendar



2021 LWMS Prayer Calendar

Have you ever wondered what being a home or world missionary is like? As LWMS mission-minded women, we pray for our missionaries, we encourage them, and we support them with our gifts, cards, and financial gifts. But, as you send that support, have you ever really tried to put yourself into the missionary's situation? The 2021 LWMS Prayer Calendar features groups who have done just that.

Focusing on the relatively new Mission Journeys program, the LWMS 2021 Prayer Calendar features 12 different mission locations where volunteers became "lay missionaries," helping the established missionary and his congregation reach out to communities with the life-giving gospel. From Tennessee to East Asia, from Florida to Colorado, from California to Ukraine and locations in between, you have the opportunity to read all about Mission Journeys experiences. It is our prayer that by reading these inspiring articles, you may decide to use your God-given talents on a mission journey of your own!

In addition to the monthly articles, the authors have submitted photos of their specific Mission Journeys teams, included prayer requests that relate to their articles, and provided Bible passages that have been an inspiration to them. You will also find a listing of the missionary birthdays for each month, which allows you to remember them on those special days with cards, letters, or gifts. On the back pages of the calendar you will also find more contact information for all WELS home and world missionaries.

The calendars make wonderful gifts for the called workers in your congregation, your congregation's prayer group, shut-ins, friends, relatives, and anyone who has a love for missions. They also make great door prizes at women's events and Christmas parties. Be creative in using them!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORDER ONE, PLEASE CONTACT
FAYE RUTSTEIN @fayzelady@comcast.net