

# The Means of Grace

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022



In the early days of our country a weary traveler once came to the banks of the Mississippi for the first time. There was no bridge. It was early winter, and the surface of the mighty river was covered with ice. Could he cross over? Would the ice bear his weight? With much hesitation and great fear, he began to crawl on hands and knees across the ice thinking that if he evenly distributed his weight he could keep the ice from breaking. About halfway across he suddenly heard the sound of singing behind him. He turned to see a man driving a horse-drawn load of coal across the ice and happily singing as he went. Here he was --- on his hands and knees trembling in fear that the ice would not support his weight! And there went that man, his horses, his sleigh, and his load of coal, upheld by the same ice on which he was fearfully crawling! What was the difference? One knew the ice had been tested and was strong the other wasn't sure.



**And Pharisees came up and in order to test Him asked.** (Mark 10:2a)

We get this a lot in the Gospels. Someone comes up to Jesus and asks Him some hard question in order to "test Him." But what does that mean? Is it a bad thing to do?

You'd sort of think so, given that most of the people doing it are acting like enemies. We hardly ever hear about someone saying, "Good answer, Jesus!" even when it's clear to all the listeners that Jesus has said something incredibly wise. Mark 12:32 is about the only case I can think of, where a scribe appreciates what Jesus says about the most important commandment. All the other questioners seem to disappear from the story—they slink out, and some of them even conspire to kill Him. This is the kind of testing that has a bad heart behind it—and it's the kind of thing God forbids when He says, "**You shall not put the Lord your God to the test**" (Deuteronomy 6:16a).

But then there's the other kind of testing—the kind that you do when you're about to put your foot on a rock, and you put a little weight on it first, to make sure it's solid. The kind of testing you do when you think you've got a piece of gold, but you're not totally sure yet. When you test like this, you aren't trying to hurt anybody. You're trying to find out the truth, so you can move forward. And that is the testing that God encourages when He says, "**Put Me to the test**" (Malachi 3:10b). That is what He asks us to do when He says, "**Taste and see that the Lord is good!**" (Psalm 34:8a).

Jesus wants us to test Him in this way—to put our weight on Him, and discover how stable He is. To check what He says and does, and discover that He is the pure, true gold, with no falsehood mixed in. Testing in this way results in a stronger, happier faith—because we see, day after day as we trust Him more and more, that Jesus is indeed telling us the truth. He really does have the power to save us to the uttermost—because He is the One who has died for us and risen again, to be our Savior forever (see Hebrews 7:25). You don't have to fearfully crawl across God's promises, you can go with joy and confidence singing God's praises!

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

### Sunday September 25, 2022/ Pentecost 16 /Holy Communion

Flowers Marilyn Baer  
Comm. Prep Hehr  
9:30 AM Worship  
10:30 AM Fellowship  
11:00 AM Bible Study  
11:00 AM Sunday School

### Monday September 26, 2022

### Tuesday September 27, 2022

8:00 AM Catechism

### Wednesday September 28, 2022

8:00 AM Catechism  
9:15 AM Chapel  
4:30 PM BIC  
5:00 PM Google Meet Bible Study  
6:30 PM Steering Committee

### Thursday September 29, 2022

8:00 AM Catechism  
3:30 PM Worship Committee  
6:00 PM Elders Meeting

### Friday September 30, 2022

8:00 AM Catechism  
Member Visits

### Saturday October 1, 2022

8:00 AM Worship Preparation

### Sunday October 2, 2022 - Pentecost 17

Flowers:

9:30 AM Worship  
10:30 AM Fellowship  
11:00 AM Bible Study

**Esad Golic, Tamara Golic's** father, diagnosed with Nodular Melanoma to his scalp. Further testing and treatment are being explored. We pray that God blesses him with complete healing!

**Sean Evans, Ron Evan's** son who has been diagnosed with Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He has started treatment. We ask our gracious Lord for complete healing and the comfort and reassurance that only He can provide.

**Wendy Gelnett** who request prayer for a family friend, **Lauren**, a young mother who will be undergoing surgery for tumors in her brain and lungs.



# What's Happening @Grace



## Vacant Home Demolition & Fire Damage – UPDATE ON BIDS

This past week one of the garages and homes on our school properties was set on fire. Thankfully that same day we were also getting a bid from a contractor to demolish the homes. We are pursuing 2 more bids. We are hopeful that this can be accomplished in the fall. Recent vandalism, fires and attempted break-ins at school have given this project more urgency to find completion. An initial bid of about \$82,000 has been received for the removal of all three houses. Additional bid for abatement and salvaging materials into addition to demolition are also in hand and coming in. Please contact Pastor Bitter, Mr. Eternick, or Dan Paschke if you have connections or helpful information about achieving this goal.

## Weekly Mowing!

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



## 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. Thanks to everyone who has helped over the summer!



## Weekly Altar Flowers

Please consider signing up for bring altar flowers. We need flowers every week!



# Let's help Olivia!



\$500

raised of \$4,500 target  
by 5 supporters

Give Now

Share

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to this effort to help **Olivia Baker** and her fellow nursing students at WLC to travel to Zambia to help others. If you would still like the opportunity to assist them, please click on the link to find out more about this wonderful learning experience. As always, thank you for your prayers as they prepare now and for their travels in January!



<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/olivia-baker7>

(press ctrl and click you mouse to open link)

Or, go to justgiving.com and search for Olivia Baker

## Story

In January 2023, I will embark on a two week immersion experience to learn about healthcare and culture in Zambia. I'll have the opportunity to observe healthcare in a children's hospital, government clinic, special needs school, and a rural clinic. I will also have the chance to perform vision screenings and teach health to children.

As you can imagine, a trip of this magnitude comes at a considerable cost. I am responsible for securing the funds necessary to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. I need your help to be able to afford the cost of traveling to Zambia to share the love of Jesus while gaining valuable cross-cultural healthcare experience. Will you please consider a financial contribution to help me make it to Zambia?

Please note that contributions toward my individual fundraising goal are not considered charitable for tax purposes under IRS regulations.



# SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS

&

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

**NEW TIME! 11:00 AM**

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 – 8<sup>th</sup>. Bible Study will be offered for teens and adults.

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

# Mission to the Children (MTTC) Mexico 2022- Fall Update

## Pastor's Corner Update:

“When the way you have typically done something changes on you, how would you adapt to it? ... Mission to the Children (MTTC) has ... had to go through some changes itself. With the passing of Pastor Alejandro Sanchez in 2021, our churches and villages in northern Sonora have been vacant. With the rapid increase of drug cartel violence that is harming bystanders and facing off against the Mexican army, it is next to impossible to have a consistent American presence. These unexpected changes have not helped our efforts to spread the gospel and show God's love in northern Sonora.”



“That does not mean that MTTC has given up or taken a break... In-person support has pivoted to remote support as MTTC uses the rural internet infrastructure to equip and encourage the faithful. Consistent American presence was replaced with supply runs and day trips to Sasabe that is within minutes of the border crossing. Action in the local mission field has turned into patience as we fervently pray for the cartel violence to subside and the Lord to provide a permanent pastor to shepherd the vacant flocks... Though the methods may have changed, MTTC is still focused on spreading the gospel and showing God's love in northern Sonora.” -- Pastor Tim Patoka

## 22nd Annual School Supply Drive

This fall Mission to the Children is once again collecting school supplies for the children and teachers in northern Sonora, Mexico. The supplies are taken to Sasabe, a town just minutes from the U.S. border. Volunteers residing in the villages in Sonora will then pick up the supplies from Sasabe.

I thank you for your generous donations last Spring. Those items were taken to three different villages last May. Once again, I will travel to Tucson, and will be able to take only a few boxes to the Mission's office in Tucson. I am asking that you do NOT donate heavy items such as paper, (including spiral notebooks, journals, loose-leaf paper, composition notebooks, etc.) or large 3-ring binders since the boxes I'm checking have a weight limit. However, you may donate gift cards (Target or Walmart) ... and cash/checks are also welcomed.



Please make your check payable to **Mission to the Children** or **MTTC**. Please bring your donation to:

Grace Lutheran Church, Portland OR by **September 25, 2022...** or  
Grace Lutheran School, Portland OR by **September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

### Suggested school supplies:

1. Pencils and erasers
2. Small bottle of glue
3. Glue sticks
4. Scissors
5. Rulers
6. Protractors
7. Crayons
8. Colored pencils
9. Pens
10. Band aids AND
11. Backpacks/book bags (especially needed by high school students)  
(Backpacks need to be large enough to fit a spiral notebook.)

**Mission  
to the  
Children**  
Tucson, Arizona



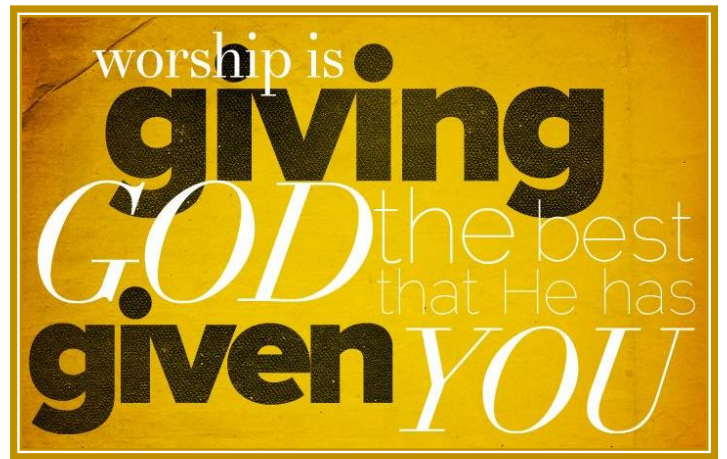
**P.O. Box 42223**  
**Tucson, AZ 85733**

**Misión  
Para los  
Niños**  
Sonora, Mexico

Please remember the following rules regarding donations: We cannot take any outdated items, no used items (i.e., glue, crayons, backpacks, etc.), or opened items (i.e., band aids, not in a sealed package). Currently Mexico is NOT allowing MTTC to bring children's vitamins into the country. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Leann Breza via email, [lrbreza@gmail.com](mailto:lrbreza@gmail.com) . To find out more about MTTC in Mexico, there is a great website with information and newsletters about recent trips to the villages; [www.missiontothechildren.org](http://www.missiontothechildren.org)



# OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OUR BEST



We are asking you to prayerfully consider how you can give your best to the Lord to support the gospel ministry at Grace.

At the voters meeting last month...

- The 2022-2023 budget was approved.
- In order to have a balanced budget an 20% increase in giving was approved.
- All GLS teachers were given raises in salary in our plan to meet or exceed synod code in the next 3 years.
- An increase in fundraising efforts in the next year will be necessary to meet the budget.
- We are prayerful asking our Lord to move his people's hearts to meet a special gifts goal of 50K.
- Efforts to better promote the school were discussed and plan to remove the dilapidated houses next to the school is underway. There will be special giving opportunities to make this possible as well.
- New signage on the back of the school is now visible from 205 to better promote the school. Members are encouraged to make a special gift for this as well.





# TRUNK



or

# TREAT

GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

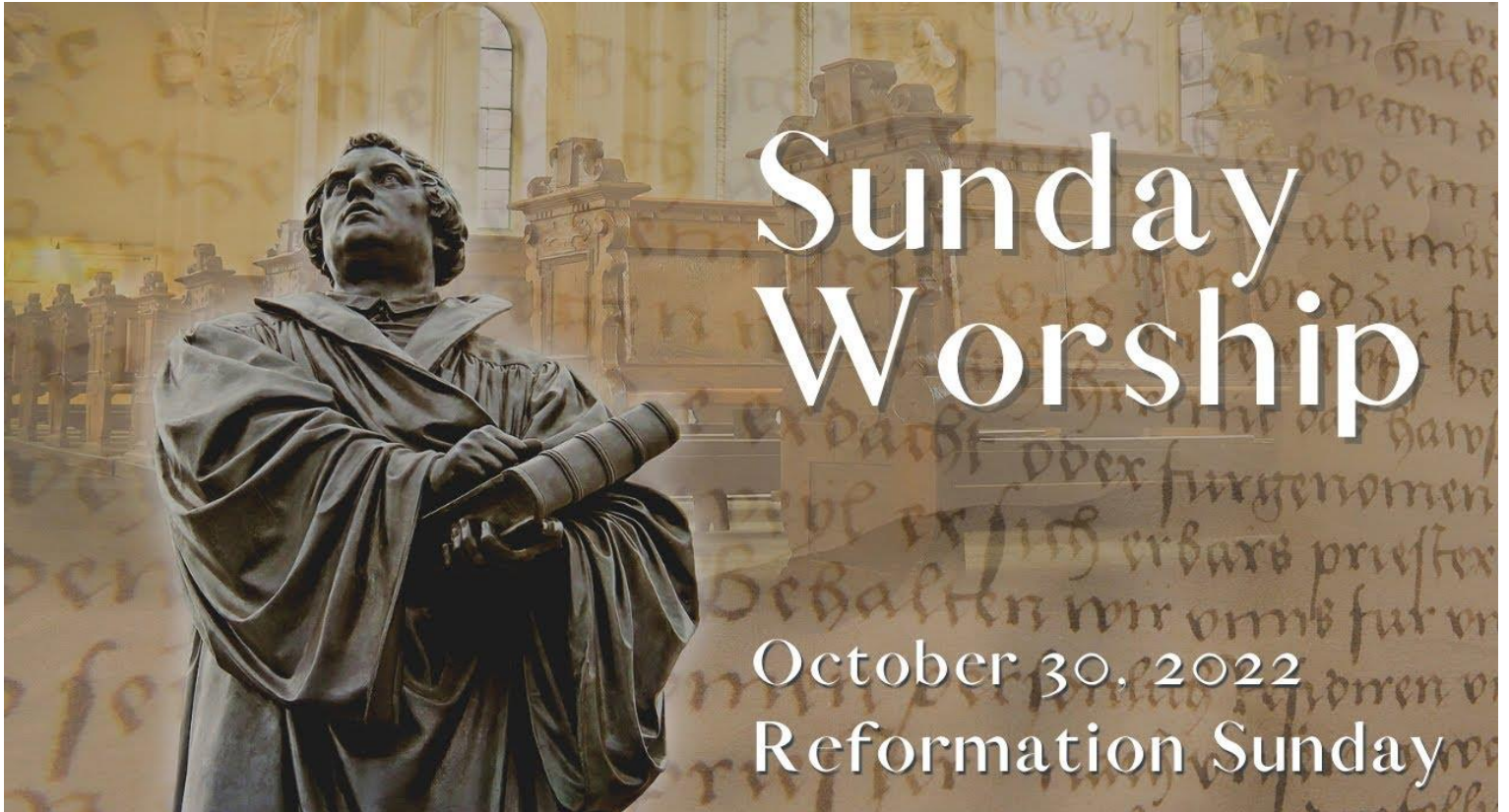
● TRUNK DECORATING CONTEST ● CANDY GIVEAWAY ● GAMES ● ACTIVITIES

Join us for trick or treating, food, games, and activities!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29th, 2022, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

2252 SE 92ND AVE. PORTLAND, OR 97216 QUESTIONS: 503.777.8628





**Please, plan to celebrate!**

**Worship at 9:30 AM**

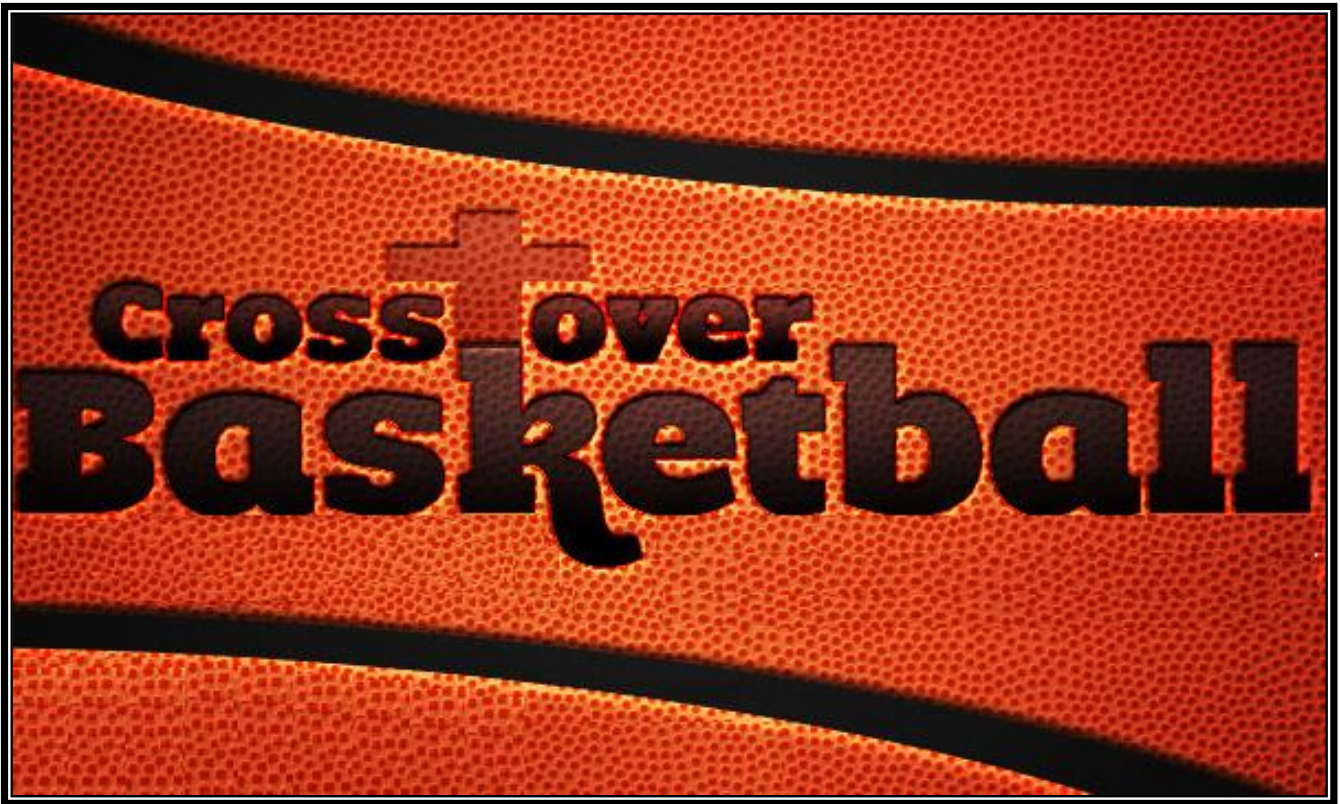
Thank God for the gifts we treasure from the reformation.

**New Member Welcome**

Welcome our new members at Grace Lutheran Church

**Reformation PotLuck & BBQ**

It's what Lutherans do!



**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.**



# 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



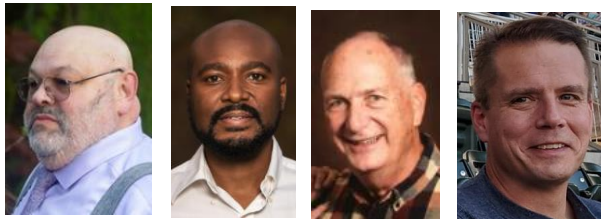
## Steering Committee

Mark Leitzke – Chair  
 Penny Hung – Secretary  
 Dan Hehr  
 Judy Wilson  
 Freddie Delgado  
 Noelle Leitzke  
 Itai Mudzongo  
 Warren Menche  
 Elvita Engelgau  
 Jim Stewart  
 Thad Bitter – Pastor  
 Justin Eternick – Principal



## Board of Elders

Craig Baker – Head Elder  
 Courage Mudzongo  
 Len Stadler  
 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 PENTECOST 16, 2022

### Sunday Ezekiel 33:7-9

- ✓ What vital assignment has God given Jeremiah? What does this mean?
- ✓ What dire warning does God give Jeremiah? What serious responsibility has God given Jeremiah?
- ✓ What is the other side of the coin? What happens if Jeremiah warns the wicked?
- ✓ How do we fit into this picture? Romans 6:1-14

### Monday - Ezekiel 33:10-11

- ✓ How did Israel feel when God “pressed down” on them because of their wickedness?
- ✓ What feeling did God use to make them feel their sins? V. 10
- ✓ What simple solution did God provide for them? V. 11
- ✓ What is God saying to Israel and also to us when he says, Turn, Turn? 2 Peter 3:8-10

### Tuesday - Galatians 2:11-14

- ✓ What kind of behavior on Peter’s part disturbed Paul? What did Paul call this behavior? Why?
- ✓ What was Peter abusing with his behavior? V. 14.
- ✓ Why did Peter’s use of a certain custom cause offense among the Gentiles?
- ✓ What is the difference between custom and a scriptural doctrine? Acts 15:1-21

### Wednesday - Galatians 2:15-18

- ✓ What words clearly sum up the message of sin and grace?
- ✓ What does it mean to be justified by faith? How does such faith come to be?
- ✓ Does Jesus promote sin? Who alone promotes sin?
- ✓ If Jesus were to promote sin wouldn’t that mean rebuilding what he destroyed on the cross? Explain. Proverbs 15:6

### Thursday - Galatians 2:19-21

- ✓ What do verses 19-20 mean? Romans 6:1-15
- ✓ Look at verse 20 again. What motivates us to avoid sin
- ✓ What reality exists if righteousness comes to be through the law?
- ✓ What elements of salvation do we have because of faith in Jesus?

### Friday - Matthew 18:15-17



- ✓ These words serve as a guide for dealing with unrepentant sinners in the congregation?
- ✓ What motivates us to take the time and effort to deal with an unrepentant sinner?
- ✓ What is our goal? Even if we excommunicate someone what is still our goal?
- ✓ If a person persists in his lack of repentance unto the end. What hope is his?

### Saturday - Matthew 18:18-20

- ✓ Explain verse 18 as it applies in this context.
- ✓ How does agreement of two or three in the area of Church discipline affect church discipline? Can one person carry out an excommunication?
- ✓ What is the significance of “gather in my name”? Why is it important to carry out church discipline/ What can happen if we don’t? Hebrews 12:1-13



# Grace Lutheran Church – September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>PENECOST 13</p> <p><b>9:30 Worship</b></p> <p>10:30 Fellowship</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> 	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Grace School K-8 First Day</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 9:15 Chapel 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 3:30 GLS Staff Mtg. 6:30 PM BOE</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Worship Prep</p>
<p><b>11</b> Communion</p> <p>PENECOST 14</p> <p><b>9:30 Worship</b></p> <p>10:30 Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 Bible Class</p> <p>11:00 Sunday School</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Grace PreSchool First Day</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 10:00 AM Mary &amp; Martha</p>	<p><b>14</b> GLS Grandparents Day</p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 9:15 Chapel 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 6:30 PM Council Mtg.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Worship Prep</p>
<p><b>18</b> Celebration Sunday</p> <p>PENECOST 15</p> <p><b>9:30 Worship</b></p> <p>10:30 Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 Bible Class</p> <p>11:00 Sunday School</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 10:00 AM Circuit Mtg 6:00 PM Steering Com.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 9:15 Chapel 3:30 Worship Comm. 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class</p>	<p><b>22</b> GLS Picture Day</p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl.</p>	<p><b>24</b> LWMS at SCHOOL</p> 
<p><b>25</b> Communion</p> <p>PENECOST 16</p> <p><b>9:30 Worship</b></p> <p>10:30 Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 Bible Class</p> <p>11:00 Sunday School</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 9:15 Chapel 4:30 BIC 5:00 PM Bible Class 6:30 PM Steering Com</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 3:30 PM Worship 6:00 PM Elders Meeting</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Catechism Cl.</p>	