Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Matthew 5:5

Meekness. How do you define that word? What does it mean to be “meek”? It seems to me that the world defines “meekness” as “weakness.” To the world, the meek are weak and simply doormats for the happy people of the world to wipe their feet on. Right? Yet today we are called upon to be “meek.” Maybe we should form a group called DOORMATS, an acronym that stands for "Dependent Organization of Really Meek And Timid Souls — if there are no objections." Our motto could be: "The meek shall inherit the earth — if that's okay with everybody else." Our symbol could be a yellow traffic light — we proceed with caution. Is that what it means to be “meek”?

Well, not if you understand it from Scripture's perspective. In fact, according to Jesus, “the meek shall inherit the earth.” But what does that mean? And how is that possible? When the Bible speaks of meekness, it is a powerful virtue and great blessing.

Perhaps the meekness that Scripture speaks of is best pictured as a little boy walking with his father, as his father holds his hand. Yet in that moment, is the boy weak? Certainly not. He’s with his father. And even though he is perhaps only holding onto a single finger of his father, he still has access to the full strength of his father. He’s relying on his father’s strength, not his own.

That’s meekness. That’s what Jesus is calling us to. When we are meek, we are relying on the infinitely greater strength of another — our Father! And even though our faith may be as small as a mustard seed, we are strong because even the smallest amount of faith in Christ has access to the full Christ!

That’s why the Apostle Paul could say that for Christ’s sake, we can delight in being a doormat for the happy people of the world. “For Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak (meek), then I am strong!” (2 Corinthians 12:10). Through Christ, we are “strong enough to be gentle” because we are totally God-dependent. Perhaps that’s a good definition of what it means to be “meek” — “strong enough to be gentle.”

When Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (Matt. 5:5), He was speaking with an Old Testament accent. A thousand years before, King David had written it when he said, “The anav [‘meek’] shall inherit the land.” The “anav,” or meek, are the polar opposite of the arrogant. They are completely God-dependent. In the Psalms, God feeds them (22:26), leads them (25:9), and adorns them with salvation (149:4). They cry to Him (9:12), they are glad in Him (34:2), and they seek Him (69:32). The world might treat them like a doormat, but the meek “delight” in that kind of persecution because they know that their strength and victory are found in Christ. If that’s the definition of being meek, sign me up! VICTORY... in Jesus.
Sunday   August 18, 2024, Pentecost 13
Flowers:  Charlene Clark
9:30 AM   WORSHIP
10:30 AM  FELLOWSHIP

Monday   August 19, 2024
Tuesday  August 20, 2024
Wednesday August 21, 2024
6:00 PM   Bend Bible Study
Thursday  August 22, 2024
Friday    August 23, 2024
Saturday  August 24, 2024

Sermon Preparation

Sunday   August 25, 2024 Pentecost 14
Flowers:  Virginia
Comm.:   Luplow
9:30 AM   Worship
11:00 AM  20 Years in Ministry Celebration/Farewell to the Bitter

Sean Evans – Ron (Nancy) Evan’s son whose cancer has become active
again. We ask our gracious Lord for courage, patience, strength and healing.

Linda Bern whose surgery was rescheduled for August 16th

Greg Baer whose health is deteriorating as he struggles with
treatment for brain cancer.

Ben Baker who left this past week for basic training at Ft. Moore, GA.

Bill Hartwig who was hospitalized in Spokane this past week with very low blood pressure.
The Hartwigs have returned home for further testing and medical care.

CALL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Dear members of Grace Lutheran Church,
On Sunday, July 28th I received the call to serve as your pastor. God himself, the same God
who loved us and gave himself up for us, has called me through you. I’m honored to
receive this call!

I ask for your prayers in the coming weeks as I deliberate. Please also keep the
congregation I currently serve, Amazing Grace Lutheran, in your prayers. After a little
research, I have a feeling that no matter what happens, I have a difficult decision ahead of
me. Sometimes the hardest things for a Christian to decide between are two good choices!

I would welcome contact from you! You can email me at italiano.luke@gmail.com or text or call me
at (262)343-4887. If I don’t pick up right away, please leave a message so I know you’re not a scam caller,
and I’ll call you back as soon as I’m able. I’m eager to get to know you, though, so don’t hesitate to contact me!

You are in my prayers. Our God is good, and he promises to hear us.

In Christ,
Pastor Luke Italiano
Amazing Grace, Florence, Kentucky
A CELEBRATION AND A FAREWELL FOR THE BITTERS

Sunday, August 25th 11:00 AM

This will be Pastor Bitter’s last Sunday at Grace and give more of his family opportunity to come.

Come Celebrate Pastor Bitter’s 20th year at Grace and say “farewell” to the Bitters as they move to Bend to start a new church and ministry.

There are sign-up sheets in the entryway.

Pastor will begin his new ministry in Bend on September 1st. An installation service will take place in Bend on Friday, September 20th in the evening. Location to be determined. Details to follow.
Dear family of believers at Grace, on behalf of my whole family we wanted to thank all of you. The outpouring of love, support, prayers, and gifts we have received has been overwhelming. The grace you have shown to our family has helped turn a very difficult situation into a blessed reminder of God’s great love, which He shows through his family of believers. John 13:35 “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another”. We are confident that God has many more blessings prepared for us and will use this trial both now and in the future for His glorious will. Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”.

Thank you all once again,
Kyle, Noelle, Magnolia, and Colt Leitzke.

Weekly Fellowship Food & Drinks+

During the summer we will all have the opportunity to sign up and host a Sunday. Please consider being a host for our fellowship hour. If you have questions on hosting please speak to Cathie or Virginia.

Mowing & Church Property
THANK YOU to Roger Schrab for faithfully maintaining the grounds at Grace Church and making it beautiful! Please consider signing up and helping him with summer lawn care.

Church Weekly Cleaning!
The church building needs to be cleaned each week and we could use your help! THANK YOU to those who have been so faithful in cleaning the Lord’s house and making it ready for worship!

Altar Flowers
Please consider signing up for bringing altar flowers for our Sunday Worship. We need flowers every week! Signup sheet is located in the Fellowship Hall on the north facing wall.

Grace Fellowship Hall - Rental
Grace Church leadership has agreed to rent our fellowship hall space and parking lot to Amazon Prime Films for crew meals while they are in the area filming a new series. The filming company will be providing catering, security, garbage disposal, liability insurance, and cleaning for each use. We are letting our congregation know because the fellowship hall will not be available for use on these dates and we ask you to plan accordingly:

Tuesday, August 6 from 8AM to 6PM
Thursday, August 29th from 4PM to 9PM
Friday, August 30th from 1:30PM to 11PM
Wednesday, September 4th from 6AM to 4PM
Thursday, September 5th from 10AM to 8PM
Friday, September 6th from 10AM – 8PM

Grace Lutheran Church – Portland, OR

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE - JOHN 3:16

MILITARY SUPPORT & RESOURCES

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

GLC Website - http://www.grace-wels.net/

GLC Facebook Website - https://www.facebook.com/GraceWELS/

Bible Gateway Website: https://www.biblegateway.com/

WELS Synod resources for US Military members - https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/military-services/

Dear Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Grace Lutheran Church in Portland Oregon,

Your church wants you to know how much we love you and appreciate the Service that you give to our loving and merciful gracious savior Jesus Christ and our nation. Our salvation was paid for by Jesus, our freedom is allowed by God, it takes servants of all our U.S. Military branch members to ensure our way of life of freedom. Thanks be to God for each and every one of you!

We would like to be of service to you. Listed above is weblinks to attend GLC worship service both live. The Facebook link will allow you to see our archived services if time doesn’t allow for you to join us live. Need access to a bible? See the link to Bible Gateway, we recommend the EHV and NIV versions.
JOIN US IN CELEBRATION

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

50th Anniversary

SEPT | SUN 8 | 2024

WORSHIP IS AT 10:30 AM
LUNCHEON FOLLOWS AT 12 NOON
13112 NE 28TH ST., VANCOUVER, WA 98682

RSVP: LOIS
360-719-2149
ENGELLOIS@GMAIL.COM
Supporting Our Neighborhood Foodbank: July-August 2024

The staff at Mainspring thank you for your continued support of the foodbank. Our donation for May & June totaled 92 lbs., consisting mostly of food and some hygiene items. Thank you, thank you!

For **July & August**, please continue to donate basic food items, focusing on:

- Peanut butter & jelly
- **Canned protein** (tuna, chicken, & beef). (Thank you for the big package of canned tuna in our last donation.)

If you have a green thumb and don’t know what to do with all your produce from your garden, please contact me and I will try to deliver your extra produce to Mainspring in a timely manner. You can call or text me, (360) 921-6673 with that information.

Mainspring is also grateful for **hygiene items** (toothpaste & toothbrushes that are new and never used please). Any type of **camping equipment** is also appreciated.

You may bring your donations anytime. Mary & Martha will then deliver the donated items by the end of August. There are baskets in the fellowship hall to place your food donations as well as clothing and hygiene items. If you have any questions or concerns, please call or text Leann Breza, (360) 921-6673.

Mainspring Foodbank most-needed foods: (please **no expired items or opened packages**):

- Canned proteins like tuna, chili, salmon, ham
- Soup
- Rice
- Cooking oil
- Peanut butter
- Cup of noodles
- Canned vegetables
- Canned stew
- Canned fish
- Canned beans
- Pasta (all varieties)
- Pasta sauce
- Instant oatmeal
- Instant potatoes
- Shelf stable milk
- Juice
- Condiments
- Fruit snacks
- Crackers
- Sugar free snacks
Have you ever just felt down? We have all endured and experienced circumstances in our lives that bring sadness. It could be rejection, loss of a job/close friend, repeated failure at a goal or task, or a canceled flight while traveling. Submitting to these feelings and sinking further into acknowledging the lows is easy. At these times I try to remember two people in the bible who showed us a different way. Paul and Job, are great examples of showing true faith in God at all times. While Paul was in prison, he praised God. While Job had everything taken away, he stayed close to his Lord. While this year’s theme is “Shinning Together” we want to remind ourselves, that regardless of what is happening in our lives, in our neighborhoods, or country, we have joy, peace, and the living Word to share. We should wake up every day knowing of our salvation through Christ and shine His light together for others to see. Here is a look at events from this summer.

- **Welcome new staff.**
  - Jayden Stanossek, our new MLC grad and Science teacher is officially moved in and is now a Washingtonian. We will install her at our opening service on August 27th at 6:30pm.
  - Kelsey Churchill (Birsching) will be our new administrative assistant and the first point of contact by phone and for visitors to our school. Kelsey is a 2014 grad of Evergreen and 1 of 6 Birsching children who have all graduated from our school.

- **Summer Camps** – We hosted six summer camps this year. (Volleyball, cheer, basketball, drama, flag football, and science discovery.) With hundreds of students on campus throughout the summer, we are extremely thankful for the successful camps, the dedication of our coaches, and the coachability of our campers. Thank you to all involved, and we pray you had a fun week and learned some new things.

- **Current enrollment** for next school year is sitting between 105-110. Up from finishing last school year at 96. We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to educate these students and share God’s Word with them this coming year.

- **Evergreen Workday August 10th starting at 8am-noon.** We would love for all our Evergreen supporters to come and help beautify our campus for our upcoming school year. There will be jobs for all ages with coffee and donuts to energize you.

- **New School Year Opening Service and Student Orientation** will be on Tuesday, August 27th at 6:30pm. The service will be followed by orientation in which we will share information with families about the upcoming year.

- **Freshman Orientation will be on August 28th from 8am-12:00pm.** This is an opportunity for our freshmen to get on campus and familiarize themselves with their classroom schedules and teachers.

- **August 29th is the official 1st day of school for all students.**

- **A few dates to keep in mind for this 1st semester.**
  - October 4 – Grandparents Day
  - October 25 – Eagle Day
  - November 2 – Homecoming
  - November 8 – Veteran's Day Service
  - December 3 – Giving Tuesday
  - December 20 – Christmas Concert
  - January 29 - ELHS Future Eagle Night

We are so excited for this upcoming school year. It is great to see all the events on our schedule and enrollment being over 100 again. This wouldn’t be possible without your help. Your support and donations provide financial aid to our families, making tuition affordable. Your volunteering at our events and workdays allows us to showcase what God has blessed Evergreen with. We are partnered together with you and our Association to provide a Christian Education for our families. We love being able to do that with you. Thank you for supporting us and partnering with us in this invaluable mission.

In Christ,
Ryan Schmeling - Director of Mission Advancement
Rschmeling@elhs.org 715-220-1442
Boards & Committees at Grace

Church Council
Juan Garcia – President
Josh Luplow – 1 VP & BOE Chair
Jon Cohrs - 2 VP & Secretary
Larry Glasheen – Ministry CFO
Dan Paschke – GLS Finance
Thad Bitter – Pastor
Justin Eternick – Principal

Board of Education
Josh Luplow – Chair
Michael Godish
Dave House
James Settje
Tamm Godish - Preschool
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
Sue Hartwig
Melissa Baker
Olivia Baker
Jacob Meyer
Pastor Bitter

Mary & Martha
Sara Hehr – President
Elke Werner – Vice President
Linda Bern – Secretary
Cathie Gillespie - Treasure
Leann Breza – LWMS
Pastor Bitter

Trustees
Ed Gillespie
Brian Boyer
Matt Ginnow
Kyle Leitzke
Tyler Hafner – GLS Custodian
DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF PENTECOST 13 2024

Sunday  Proverbs 9:1-2
- What is wisdom in the spiritual sense?
- What is the Spiritual house which wisdom has built?
- Seven is often the number which pictures God’s dealings with man.
- Using that picture to what building might the seven pillars refer? Hebrews 3:1-7
- To what feast might verse 2 refer? Hebrews 12:20-25

Monday  Proverbs 9:3-6
- Whom might the maids doing the inviting represent?
- Who are the simple and those who lack judgment spiritually?
- What is the feast to which everyone is invited? How do we qualify? Hebrews 12:22

Tuesday  Proverbs 9:6
- What are our simple ways?
- How do we get to really live both here and in eternity?
- What is the “way of understanding”? How alone can we understand that way?
- Read John 1:23; 14:6; Ephesians 1:12-14.

Wednesday Ephesians 5:15-17
- In the spiritual sense what is the distinction between wise and unwise?
- What opportunities do we see around us? How do we take advantage of them?
- What would be the height of foolishness? V. 17 1 Corinthians 1:1-25.

Thursday Ephesians 5:18-20
- What is the difference between filled with the Spirit and debauchery?
- What does verse 19 suggest as a good way for Christians to communicate with each other?
- Discuss the significance of verse 20 in our daily lives?

Friday  John 6:51-54
- What gift of God more than anything else makes us God’s people?
- How does faith fit into Jesus discussion here?
- How alone can we eat his flesh and drink his blood?
- What will be the end result of eating and drinking Jesus flesh and blood will bring us?

Saturday  John 6:55-58
- How does our faith remain strong and even grow?
- In verse 57 what three entities are connected? How does this happen?
- What is the difference between the manna of old and the bread of life?
- Read 2 Peter 3:14-18.
**August 2024**

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**Reflecting On 20 Years In Ministry**

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**Note:** The events listed are subject to change and should be confirmed with the church or organizer.