

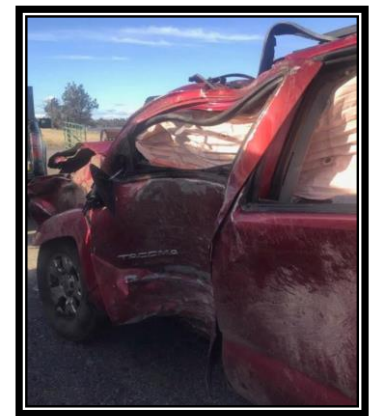
# The Means of Grace



January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Thank you to everyone who offered up prayers, provided generous gifts of love, and reached out to us with words of encouragement and support following our car wreck last month. There are not enough words to express our thanks and love for you all.

While there are still aches and pains as our bodies & minds continued to recover, every day we wake up in the morning knowing how blessed we are. It is said that MERCY is when God spares you from what you deserve. GRACE is when God gives you what you do not deserve. And, to be BLESSED is when God is generous with both. Every morning we wake up blessed by God's grace and mercy.



As details have emerged it is truly a miracle of God's mercy and grace that He not only saved our lives but also spared all of us from any serious injury. Looking at the truck it is obvious that this could only be a miracle of God's protection and provision.

Some would say that these are defining moments in our lives... moments when God's provision saves us from disaster, sickness and death. Yet, I know that that provision and protection happens for all of us every day, thankfully, just not in such obvious ways every day. But make no mistake, happens for all of us, every moment of everyday.



Yet, really, there is only one moment in time that defines us. There is only one moment that allows us to wake up new every morning redeemed, restored and forgiven. There is only one moment that truly saved us from disaster and death. That moment happened on a dark Friday afternoon, on a cross just outside of Jerusalem, when God's mercy and grace saved us in the most miraculous way possible... and three days

later his mercies were new for every morning to come when Jesus rose from the dead. That is the moment that defines us. That is the moment he saved us.

***"Nevertheless, I keep this in my heart and for this reason I have hope! By the mercies of the LORD we are not consumed, for his compassions do not fail... they are new every morning! Great Is thy faithfulness."*** Lamentations 3:21-23

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

### Sunday January 10, 2021

8:30 AM Adult Bible Study in person

9:30 AM Worship Service in person with Communion  
and livestream [grace-wels.net/worship](https://grace-wels.net/worship) or [facebook.com/GraceWELS](https://facebook.com/GraceWELS)

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH-

7610 NE FREMONT

PORTLAND, OREGON 97213

OR online at: [bit.ly/GracePortland](https://bit.ly/GracePortland)

### Monday - January 11, 2021

6:00 PM BOE Meeting

### Tuesday - January 12, 2021

Pastor in office

10:30 AM Confirmation Class

### Wednesday - January 13, 2021

Pastor in office

8:00 AM BIC @ GLS

10:30 AM Confirmation Class

1:00 PM Google Meet Confirmation

6:00 PM Google Bible Study

### Thursday - January 14, 2021

Pastor in office

10:30 AM Confirmation Class

### Friday - January 15, 2021

Pastor in office

9:30 AM Preschool Jesus Circle

10:30 AM Confirmation Class

1:00 PM Google Meet Confirmation

6:00 PM Council Meeting

### Saturday - January 16, 2021

Pastor in office/Sermon Preparation

### Sunday - January 17, 2021

9:30 AM Worship Service in person

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

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**Cheri Lockhart** – Cheri continues her recovery with assisted care. If you'd like to send a card to encourage her, please send to her home address. 3120 NE 37<sup>th</sup> Ave. Portland, OR 97212

**Dorothy Elsasser** – Has returned to her nursing care home as she recovers from COVID19.

**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

**Michael Jurgens**, cousin of Pastor Bitter who has successful triple bypass surgery this week and is home recovering.



A Family of Ministries For Christian  
Worship, Education and Care

A sunset scene over a mountain range. The sun is low on the right, casting a warm glow over the clouds. In the distance, on a hill to the left, three crosses are visible against the sky.

# SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

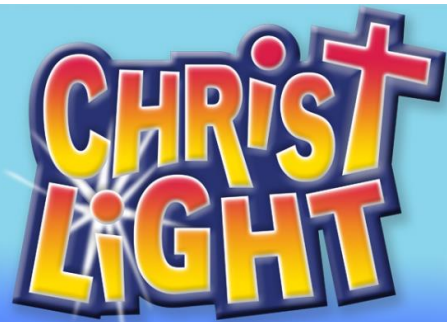
**In Person & Live Streamed on Facebook**  
**Starts Sunday, October 11th**  
**8:30 – 9:15 AM Grace Church**

A landscape scene featuring a vibrant rainbow arching over a misty field. The foreground is a lush green field, and the background shows a line of trees under a soft, hazy sky.

## **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*

# II CHRONICLES

## AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #14



AUTHOR: Most likely: **EZRA**



WRITTEN: AROUND 340 BC

**Covering the time period of 975 BC through 525 BC**

14

Old Testament: 39 Books

New Testament: 27 Books

**CLAIMS TO FAME:** Contains the history of King Solomon finishing the temple.

### FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

- Solomon prays to God for wisdom instead of long life, power, or money, so he is given all.
- The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon.
- King Cyrus of Persia rebuilds the temple after releasing Israel from the Great Exile to Babylon.

### MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

"If my people, who are called by my Name, humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

God said to Solomon, "Because this was on your heart, and you did not ask for riches, possessions, and honor, or for the lives of those who hate you, or even for many days of life, and because you have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself so that you can judge my people, over whom I have made you king, <sup>a</sup>wisdom and knowledge will be given to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, the likes of which the kings before you never had, nor will those who come after you." 2 Chronicles 1:11-12

## Important Points about the Book:

- 2 Chronicles starts with the famous story of Solomon asking for wisdom. It continues with information and stories about Solomon building the Temple through Chapter 8.
- The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon in Chapter 9.
- 2 Chronicles covers the reigns of all the kings of Israel and Judah after the split of the united kingdom of Kings Saul, David, and Solomon.
- Like the Kings, this book gives little snippets about each king and notes whether they grieved or pleased the Lord. (Only a handful, all from Judah, pleased the Lord.)
- The closing chapter, 36, summarizes the 70 years of captivity in the Great Exile and also summarizes Cyrus, King of Persia, releasing the Jews to go home and his funding of the rebuilding of the Temple.



# The Eagle Message

## Grace Lutheran School

### DECLARE *His* PRAISES

January 5, 2021

Welcome back and Happy New Year from  
Grace Lutheran School!

Special thanks to everyone who brought  
holiday treats and gifts for the school staff.

#### Looking Ahead:

Mon, Jan. 18 - No School Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day

Tues-Fri, Jan. 19-22 - Testing for Grades 3 through  
8

Thurs, Jan. 28 - No School Parent Teacher  
Conferences, *as needed*, BY PHONE

Fri. Jan. 29 - No School Teacher In-Service

#### Fred Meyer Rewards

As you do your **After Christmas Sale shopping**,  
please use your Fred Meyer Rewards card or take  
a moment to register your Fred Meyer Rewards to  
contribute back to: "Grace Lutheran Church &/or  
School" (2252 SE 92nd Ave, Portland OR 97216)

[https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-  
rewards-4](https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4)

#### Bottle & Can Collection Fundraiser

Remember to save and bring in the cans and  
bottles from your **holiday celebrations!**

You can pick up **Blue Collection Bags** when you  
come to school. Keep filling those bags with  
*Oregon deposit* containers. Plastic, aluminum, &  
glass go in the same bag - 20 pounds or less!  
(please fill bags only halfway with glass bottles -  
thanks).

#### Student Immunization updates

If your children received any new immunizations  
during the Christmas vacation, please bring  
updated information to Mrs. Kraklow in the school  
office. All school immunization information must be  
sent in to the Oregon Health Department by **next  
week**, so it is very important to take care of this  
promptly.

#### ❄ School Cancellations / Snow Closures ❄

**All GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL AND  
PRECIOUS LAMBS PRESCHOOL closures will be  
announced over the local TV and radio stations and  
their websites.** Here is the link to check for weather  
related school closures or delays for Grace  
Lutheran School & Precious Lambs Preschool.  
<http://www.flashalert.net/news.html?id=1488>. Set  
this link on your favorites list. Closures or delays  
will also be listed on the TV news "crawl" at the  
bottom of the screen as **"Grace Lutheran Sch. &  
Precious Lambs Presch."**

Parents will also receive a text message and email  
from **Gradelink** when we have a late start or cancel  
school.

So that we can continue to enjoy the  
blessing of being able to attend school in  
person - please:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Stay home if you *think* you may be  
sick.
- Wear a mask over your mouth and  
nose.
- Remember to social distance.
- Wash or sanitize your hands often.
- Limit your indoor gatherings

# DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

## Sunday Isaiah 49:1-4

- Whom is Isaiah addressing with these words? Are we included? Explain.
- When was Isaiah called? How had God prepared Him for His work?
- Whom could this description also mean?
- Who is in charge of Isaiah's work? Who was in charge of Jesus' Work? John 5:31-40
- If God controlled Isaiah and Jesus, what about us?

## Monday Isaiah 49:5-7

- According to these words who can be a servant of God? Why can anyone be a servant of God?
- What is meant by the phrase God is my strength?
- How would you answer God's question, Is it too small a thing to be my servant? Is in beneath you?
- Isaiah and Jesus were God's servants. Who is next? James 1:1-3

## Tuesday Acts 13:38-41

- What precious truths set forth does Paul want his hearers to know?
- Why are these truths so precious and stand above all else in importance?
- What powerful warning does Paul issue about these truths? John 14:5-8
- What makes living in this world such a challenge for us? How can we deal with it?

## Wednesday Acts 13:42-49

- How was Paul's preaching received? What basic encouragement did Paul give?
- Who turned out on the following Sabbath? What do you suppose was going on during the week?
- Do we share Christ between Sundays? Explain.
- However, a "fly soon flew into the ointment? Who was it? What was their problem?
- What was the purpose of Paul and Barnabas? Who should hear the Gospel first?
- However, what would happen when the Jews rejected the Gospel? How did this sit with them?
- What had God made of these people? What had they done with this blessing?

## Thursday John 1:29-31

- Read John 1:19-28 and discuss John's witness about Jesus.
- What statement of John clearly identifies Jesus? Who is he and what is he to do?
- Should this have been surprising information for the Jews? Why not?
- What was John's purpose? Who is guiding John? By whose authority John work?

## Friday John 1:32-34

- How was Jesus identified to John? How is Jesus identified to us?
- How did John come to know that Jesus should be baptized?
- How did we come to know that precious truth and apply it to ourselves?
- What precious truth did John reveal about Jesus?
- How do we become God's "chosen ones"? Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:4-6

## Saturday John 1:35-41

- How did Jesus pass off some of his disciples to Jesus? How did Jesus receive them?
- Why did Jesus say what he did? What important truth did he want to make clear?
- What do you think Jesus talked about that to convince them he was the Messiah?