

The Means of Grace

July 21, 2024



And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10:10

“So what position did you play?” I get asked that question sometimes when people walk into my office and notice the football trophy, cleats, team photo and football letterman letters on my shelf. Most of the time they don’t bother to look at the date on the trophy, the age of the cleats, or the year of the photo. “Yeah,” I tease. “I’ve aged really well since 1962. No, actually, those were my dad’s” I say. “He was *really* good.” And then the inevitable question comes. “Did you play?” To which I must admit, “Well, I was on the team but I wouldn’t call what I did playing... I called my position “left out”.



I can joke about it now, but in the moment it was pretty disappointing. No one wants to be “left out”. We’d all like to be among the chosen. Being chosen is an important part of being human. Being chosen means you’re valuable. When we were kids we all wanted to be chosen when captains were picking teams at recess. No one wanted to be left out. When we were in high school we all wanted to belong and have our crush choose us to ask out. No one wanted to be left out. Even as adults we all hoped to be chosen after that job interview. No one wants to be left out.

In the time of Jesus there was a wall around the temple area in Jerusalem. This wall was there for one reason: to keep out the Gentiles and anyone else who was not allowed to enter the holy places by the laws and customs of Israel. If somebody tried to break through anyway, he was subject to death.

If I had lived in those days, I would have had to stand outside. I would have hated it. To love the Lord and look toward His worship and not be allowed in—how sad and lonely that would be. It would cause a lot of bitterness and anger to left out.

But this is not God's plan for His people. When Jesus came, He said to the Jewish people listening to Him, *"I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. So there will be one flock, one Shepherd"* (John 10:16).

Jesus came to lay down His life on the cross to save all people—Jews and Gentiles alike, foreigners and native born. No one is to be left out of His kingdom. He died for us all, and He rose from the dead so that everyone who believes in Him may become children of God—no longer outsiders, but insiders, beloved forever. Citizens of heaven.

We have our own exclusions today. Some people reject others based on class or race or nationality. Others do it based on wealth or education. But Jesus' blood wipes away all this. To Him, all that matters is this: "Are you a person I died for? Do you believe in Me to save you? If so, you are My own." There can be no higher honor, and no greater blessing. We belong to the One who loves us forever—and He didn't leave anyone out... he died once *for all*.

Sunday July 21, 2024-Pentecost 9

Flowers: Faye Rutstein

9:30 AM WORSHIP

10:30 AM FELLOWSHIP

11:15 AM Bible Study

Monday July 22, 2024

Tuesday July 23, 2024

Wednesday July 24, 2024

6:30 PM Google Meet Bible Study

Thursday July 25, 2024

Friday July 26, 2024

Saturday July 27, 2024

Sermon Preparation

Sunday July 28, 2024 Pentecost 10

Comm. Prep. Jensen

Flowers: Charlene Clark

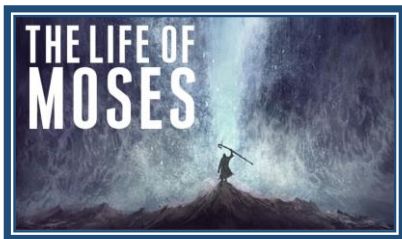
9:30 AM Worship

10:30 AM Fellowship

11:00 AM CALL MEETING!

Ruth Werner who fell and required hip surgery. She will finish rehabbing at Village Health Care in Gresham on July 20 and then return home to finish her recovery. Praise God!

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

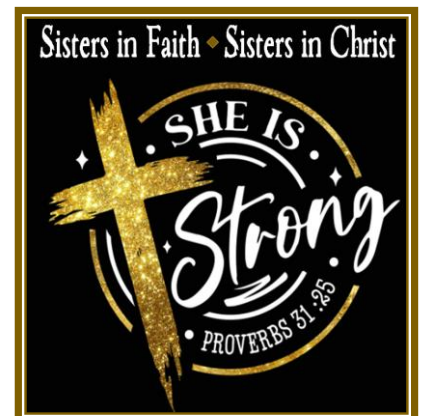


Wednesday Google Meet – Moses the Hebrew

Please plan on joining us on Wednesdays by clicking on to our Google Meet study. This fall we will begin a new study on the story of Moses. Join us as we discover the ways that God graciously equips us to bless others.

Women's Bible Study - JULY 20

Childcare will be provided. Come spend some time in God's Word together! Next meeting: July 20!





A CELEBRATION AND A FAREWELL FOR THE BITTERS

A NEW DATE!
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.

What's Happening @Grace

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.

Weekly Cleaning! – The church needs 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 – Every week!

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.

CALLING OUR NEXT PASTOR - CALL MEETING JULY 28th at 11:00 AM

The process has begun for calling our next Pastor. Thank you for filling out the survey to help us understand what we would like to see in our next pastor's age, gifts, abilities to help us address our ministry needs.

District President Dan Lange will provide us this information to put together a call list for Grace and he will be with us to conduct the call meeting on July 28th.



We don't know whose picture will be in the announcement but God already knows who our next pastor will be and is preparing him for the moment he receives our call. Please continue to lift up this man in your prayers!



SING TO THE LORD!

A Song Service of Christian Music Old and New



Saturday, August 10th | Grace Lutheran School

2252 SE 92nd Ave. Portland, OR

Song Service Begins at 4pm

Picnic and Fun to Follow

Please Bring a Side Dish or Dessert to Share!

Please RSVP to Lynn Kraklow at lkraklow@grace-wels.net



Grace School Cleaning Day

We are looking for as many volunteers as possible to help clean up the school property on:

Saturday, August 3

Starting at 9:00 AM.

Some of the projects on the list include:

- laying down new mulch
- raking up leaves
- picking up garbage
- pulling up weeds.



If we have enough volunteers, we would also like to begin the **installation of the new blinds** that were purchased this last year!

If you can help in any of those ways, please sign up on the table in back of the church. We look forward to making our school campus look great for the Circuit Picnic on August 10 and the start of the new school year!

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
- Snacks for high school students



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 9 2024

Sunday Numbers 27:12-14

- What instructions did God give to Moses? What did God show Moses?
- Why did Moses and Aaron not enter the Promised Land? Numbers 20:23-2
- What would happen to Moses on the mountain?

Monday Numbers 27:15-17

- Why did Moses not object to what God said?
- What was Moses main concern at this time?
- Who alone could control Israel?
- What would need to be a prime characteristic of the new leader?

Tuesday Numbers 27:18-23

- Discuss the instructions God gave to Moses?
- How does this ceremony compare with the ordination and installation of Pastors?
- Who is to see and understand this whole ceremony?
- How did Moses respond to God's instructions?
- What can we learn from such quick obedience?

Wednesday Hebrews 13:7-8; 17-19

- About what kind of leaders is the Holy Writer speaking?
- What are somethings these leaders do for God's people?
- What should we do for our leaders? Why?

Thursday Hebrews 13:20-23

- Discuss the various characteristics of the great Shepherd.
- What is the request made in the prayer at the end of this section?
- List and discuss several points of the prayer.
- Discuss the significance of the last few words of the prayer.

Friday Mark 6:30-31

- What is their reference about when they said "all that we have done and taught"?
- Consider the first 8 verses of this chapter.
- What else had happened just before this which likely "shook" the disciples?
- What did Jesus then do with His disciples? How important was this? Explain.

Saturday Mark 6:32-34

- What do you think was Jesus' intent with getting off alone with his disciples?
- What happened which changed Jesus' plans? Why did Jesus change his plans?
- How did he help the plight of the people?
- How does what Jesus did apply to us today?

Grace July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30 PM Bend Mission	4 5 	6	
7 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:30 Leadership Meeting	8	9 10:00 AM 	10 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class	11 9:00 AM GLS Staff Meeting	12	13 HIKERS GROUP 8:30 AM 
14 9:30 Worship Communion 10:30 Fellowship 10:30 Leadership Zoom with DP 11:00 AM Annual Meeting	15	16  Musicians Practice for Circuit Gathering HOPE, Tigard	17 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class	18	19	20 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 
21 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:15 Bible Study	22	23	24 6:00 PM Google Meet BibleClass	25	26	27
28 9:30 Worship Communion 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 AM CALL MEETING	29	30 WELS National Worship Conference Kenosha, WI	31 6:00 PM Bend Mission			

