

The Means of Grace

July 28, 2024



Two friends were on a hike when they come to a canyon with two bridges spanning across a raging river below. The hikers had to choose which bridge to cross on. The first bridge was supported on both ends with thick concrete. Massive steel girders spanned across the river, and were overlaid with solid oak planks. It looked like you could drive a tank over it. The other bridge was an oddity. It was constructed out of cardboard and fastened together with duct tape and wire hangers. The rain the night before had left the cardboard sagging somewhat, but it still was nevertheless, by definition, a bridge.



The two friends mulled over their options and soon the first friend announced, “I’m going to go cardboard! Are you with me?”

“Have you completely lost your mind!” his friend said “That bridge couldn’t hold up if a bird landed on it. I’m going on the steel bridge. You might want to reconsider your choice....”

But his friend was already on his way and as he started out across the sagging cardboard bridge he didn’t have the slightest concern about its strength. He had no worries or fears or doubts in fact he was humming a happy song as he boldly stepped onto the flimsy bridge!

At the same time the other friend started on his journey across the big concrete and steel bridge and he was completely *terrified*. His palms began to sweat, his heart was pounding, and there was a tremor in his hands. He couldn’t take his eyes off of the fast moving river far below. Thinking it would help to better disperse his weight, he even began to crawl slowly across the steel bridge that was reinforced with concrete.

So, here’s the question. Who do you think made it safely to the other side? The person with the strong faith or the person with the weak faith? I think we all know that while the person on the cardboard bridge may have had a strong faith he didn’t make it across because his faith was placed in something that was very weak. And while the person with weak faith may have had a lot of worries and doubts and fears we know that he made it across because his faith, even though small, was placed in something that was very strong.

Jesus said, **“If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.”** You see, faith, no matter how strong it may be, when placed in something that is humanly weak, worldly unreliable or spiritually factious will always result in failure and even death. Yet even the smallest amount faith, when place in the Lord Jesus Christ, it will always result in victory - no matter how impossible the circumstance... even death! And why? *Because the smallest amount of faith has access to the full Christ!*

Sunday July 28, 2024-Pentecost 10

Flowers: Charlene Clark

Comm. Prep. Jensen

9:30 AM WORSHIP

10:30 AM FELLOWSHIP

11:00 AM Call Meeting

Monday July 29, 2024

Tuesday July 30, 2024

WELS National Worship Conference Kenosha, WI

Wednesday July 31, 2024

6:30 PM Bend Bible Study

Thursday August 1, 2024

Friday August 2, 2024

Saturday August 3, 2024

9:00 AM Cleaning GLS

Sermon Preparation

Sunday August 4, 2024 Pentecost 11

Flowers:

9:30 AM Worship

10:30 AM Fellowship

11:00 AM

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 who will be having foot surgery on Friday of this week.

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



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 following worship.

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!



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.

Wednesday Google Meet

This Wednesday Pastor Bitter will be in Bend to meet with the mission core group and conduct bible study. This will take the place of our regular Wednesday Evening Google Meet bible study this week. You should receive an Google Meet invite on Wednesday this week if you'd like to remotely join our study in Bend. We are learning about outreach and how to connect with people – one soul at a time.



Opportunity to help!

Today, we have some troubling news to share with our congregation. This past week, Kyle and Noelle Leitzke's bank account was compromised, and their entire life savings, including the proceeds from their recent home sale, totaling approximately \$26,000, were stolen. Due to the nature of the scam, the bank is unable and unwilling to make restitution or compensate the Leitzkes for their loss.

As a family of believers, we have the opportunity to stand together and offer our assistance, support, and prayers for the Leitzkes, who are fellow believers and called workers. God has blessed all of us in various ways, and when our love for Jesus is put into action, God can do amazing things through His people!

This is how we have come to know love: Jesus laid down His life for us. And we also should lay down our lives for our brothers. Whoever has worldly wealth and sees his brother in need but closes his heart against him—how can God's love remain in him? Dear children, let us love not only with words or with our tongue but also in action and truth. (1 John 3:16-18)

How can you help?

With your words:

- Pray that God would move the banks to compensate the Leitzkes for their financial loss and restore their savings.
- Pray that God would bless the Leitzkes with courage, patience, trust, and love for the Lord and each other during these difficult days.
- Pray that God would prevent further actions by those who seek to harm and steal from others.
- Offer any wisdom or advice you might have based on your own experiences in overcoming similar issues.
- Send them a card, email, text, or voicemail to encourage them and remind them of God's promises.

And with your actions: We will be setting up a fund at Grace Church to accept financial gifts to help the Leitzkes overcome this loss and restore their savings account. Please consider a generous gift.

We felt it was important for our family of believers to know that someone we love has been hurt and to provide an opportunity for us to show the love of Jesus that fills and overflows into our lives.

Thank you for your support and compassion.

Blessings,

Pastor Bitter and Grace Church Leadership



An opportunity to join the staff at Grace School / Preschool!

If you would like to apply for either position or have any questions please contact Tammy Godish at 503-312-4230.

Preschool Aide (Part time)

If you love smiles, hugs, eyes full of wonder, and most especially sharing God's love and word then you should join our team! Precious Lambs Preschool is looking for a classroom assistant on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays in 24-25!

Requirements and Qualifications:

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must enroll in the Central Oregon Background Check system within 3 days of hire. Assistance will be provided.
- CPR/First Aid certified (Training Provided)
- Appreciate working with children in the 3 to 6-year-old age range
- Must be punctual
- Able to get up and down and work on the floor.
- Proficient and following written/verbal instructions
- Early Childhood Education not required. Training will be provided.



Responsibilities:

- Assist lead teacher and assistant teacher in implementing a variety of activities throughout the day both structured and unstructured.
- Monitor the health and safety of the children in the classroom.
- Support children in their emotional and intellectual development.
- Maintain a clean and organized environment.
- Light janitorial
- Maintain friendly and professional communication and relationships with parents and staff.
- Occasional special events outside of the regular hours of school. (Negotiable)

Compensation:

- 18.50 per hour

Grade School Extended Care Position

Do you like hanging out with some pretty great kids? Do you want to work a little, but not alot? We have the perfect job for you! Our extended care program is looking for an Aide for Monday thru Friday (only scheduled school days) from 3:00pm to 5:15pm.

Requirements and Qualifications:

- Pass the Oregon Central Background check.
- Be available to work scheduled hours and be punctual
- CPR/First Aid certified (Provided)
- Able to work independently
- No experience required. Training will be provided.

Responsibilities:

- To provide care directly after the end of the school day.
- Clear, friendly and professional communication with parents and staff.
- Proficient at following written/verbal instructions.
- Help with snacks and personal care
- Provide supervision for students who need to do homework
- Provide active play both outside and in the gym
- Support children in their emotional and academic needs while in your care
- Checking in and out students on the Brightwheel app. (training provided)
- Light janitorial
- Securing and locking the building if last out

Compensation:

- 18.50 per hour

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.



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 10 2024

Sunday 1 Kings 3:5-6

- Describe what is happening to Solomon, newly crowned King of Israel.
- What did God in love offer Solomon? What did Solomon say in response? Of whom does Solomon speak with respect and kindness?
- What are some terms of honor and respect did Solomon use regarding his father David? Why was David such a person?
- Why should every Christian be worthy of such praise? Are we? Acts 10:22; Titus 1:7-9; Titus 2:10-11; 13.

Monday 1 Kings 3:7-9

- Describe Solomon's humility before God? Use Solomon's own words.
- How does Solomon feel about the people God is to rule? 8
- What is the one thing for which Solomon asks? What one Word covers all of the things Solomon asks? Prov.1:1-3; 1:7; 2:1-3; 2:6-10; 1 Cor.1:17-30.

Tuesday 1 Kings 3:10-15

- How did God feel about Solomon's answer to God's offer?
- How did God answer Solomon's request? How unique is Solomon?
- What bonus did God throw in because he asked for wisdom? 13-15.
- How do wisdom and the bonus gifts connect? Proverbs 9:10-13.

Wednesday Romans 8:28-30

- What special blessing from God does Paul here identify? What does "called for His purpose" say to us about this thought?
- Study the sequence of events in verses 29-31. How does 31 clarify the doctrine of predestination for us? Romans 11:25-33; 2 Peter 1:1-11,

Thursday Romans 8:31-35

- What is the most important quality of a Child of God? 31
- What is the most comforting aspect of being a child of God? 32-34
- Who would dare to go against Jesus? 35
- What powerful words of Jesus come to mind? Matthew 28:18-20.

Friday Matthew 13:44-46

- What is the powerful message of these two parables? How much is the Gospel worth?
- How does the Gospel stack up against all the wealth of the world in value?
- Where does all of this put the word and church in our lives? Matthew 6:33

Saturday Matthew 13:47-54

- How is the Gospel like a net? When will the separation of "good and bad fish take place? Who will determine who goes where?
- How is the Gospel both an old and new treasure? How are both revealed?
- How can we benefit from both the old and the new treasurer? Isaiah 55:10-12; 59:21.

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			