

The Means of **Grace**

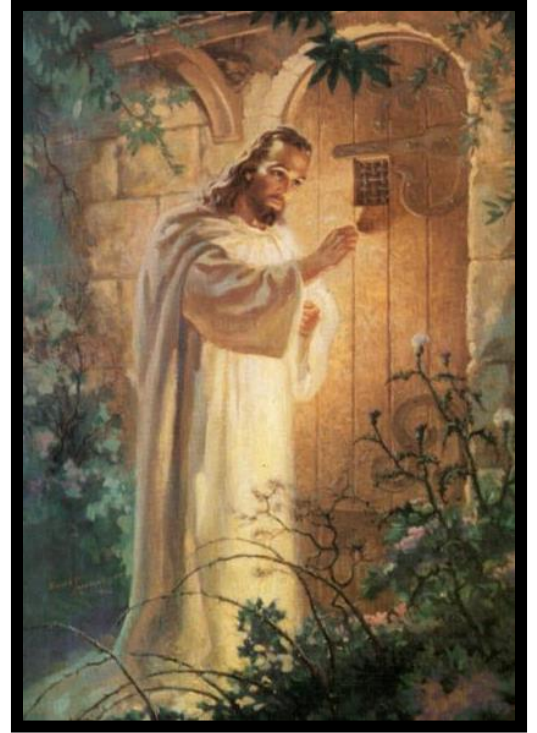


JULY 31, 2022

Psalm 119:151 - But You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are true.

In the longest chapter in the Bible, there are five short words that ring like a melodious bell in the harsh roar of modern history: "But You are near, O Lord." And in another section of the Bible, in a rarely read chapter, occurs a sentence that hits the target in the bullseye when you're looking for an answer to what's wrong with the modern world.

Ahaz, king of Judah, turned his back on God. Not that he became altogether irreligious, mind you! After all, the king had to worship something. That is, he must believe in something outside of himself. So he did; he turned to idols. The sacred record reports that "he shut up the doors of the house of the LORD," and that "he made high places to make offerings to other gods." Then comes that well-aimed sentence: "But they [the idols] were the ruin of him and of all Israel." When men turned their back on God and begin to love and trust something else more than they love and trust God, the result is always ruinous (see 2 Chronicles 28).



God can be as real to us as He was to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. God can be as true to us as he was to Abram during his pilgrimage from Ur of the Chaldees to the Promised Land. God can be as evident to us as he was to Moses by the burning bush. And God can be as close to us as he was to David when he wrote, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

Now I can imagine someone might ask, "How do you know that God is near? Have you seen Him?" The answer is no; I have not seen Him. But I have seen many indications of God's nearness. I see His majesty in the mountains and in the clouds; I see His greatness in the stars and in a drop of water; I see His power in the storm and the tiny atom. But all this is like the flickering of a candle compared with the noonday brightness of His revelation as given in this Bible!

It is there we find God's love. It is in the Scriptures we read of God's Son, Jesus Christ. We read of His life, His obedience to God, and His ministry to us. We read that He took our sins to the cross, died there, was buried, and three days later rose in resurrection victory.

As fallen creatures, our sin keeps us from appreciating God's nearness. Remember it is Christ Himself who says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20).

It is because of Jesus that we can draw near to God and away from those things that would be as idols in our lives. For each of us, Jesus stands ready, waiting, knocking on the door of our hearts.

May today be the day you hear Him knock on yours.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Sunday July 31, 2022/ Pentecost 8

FLOWERS: Charlene Clark

9:30 AM Worship

10:30 AM Fellowship

Monday August 1, 2022

Pastor in office

Tuesday August 2, 2022

Pastor in office

Wednesday August 3, 2022

Pastor in office

6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class

Thursday August 4, 2022

Pastor in office

4:30 PM BIC

6:30 PM Council / BOE

Friday August 5, 2022

Pastor in office

3:30 PM BIC

Member Visits

Saturday August 6, 2022

Pastor in office

8:00 AM Worship Preparation

Sunday August 7, 2022 - Pentecost 9

Flowers

9:30 AM Worship

10:30 AM Fellowship

IN PRAYER



Warren Menche continues to recover at home following hip replacement surgery.

Iris Stoffer in your prayers as she struggles with asthma problems.

Stevie Luplow has struggled with kidney stones for the past month. Surgery this past week was successful to remove the kidney stones and begin a path to recovery.

Matt & Kali Bitter, Pastor & Kim's nephew and his wife who God blessed with the gift of a son, Henry, this past week. Respiratory complications required care in the NICU in Fargo. We pray for recovery and good health!

Nancy Evans who is had complications this past week with arthritis flare up. We pray for relief and healing!

Shirley Baker is now living w/her daughter after taking several falls in her home. She is now living at 15433 Se Baron Loop Rd, Happy Valley, 97086. She is also doing better being with family and feeling a little more strength.

WELS Day At The Hillsboro Hops

August 21, 2022



Hillsboro Hops vs Eugene Emeralds

Join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and baseball!

- On Sunday, August 21st, at 1:05 pm, the Hillsboro Hops baseball team will square off vs the Eugene Emeralds.
- Every WELS Church is welcome to come! Once our tickets are purchased, we will all be seated together, and will receive a shout-out on the billboard!
- Our goal is to have the chance for all of us to be together for some summer fun!
- Tickets will cost \$12. Please let your pastor know if you will be coming and give the money to him.

Jesus Care Ministry - Opportunity

Our Oregon Circuit Congregations are working on an opportunity to serve together each month at the Edwards Center in Aloha, OR.



Jesus Cares Ministry serves the developmentally disabled with a simple, loving and wonderful ministry. Each congregation will be asked to provide volunteers in a rotation to help with this important ministry in our area. Please watch for more information!

Volunteer! All our congregations are encouraged to participate and sign up to volunteer. By “volunteer” we are just asking you to attend the worship service at the Edwards Center and learn about how you can participate in this awesome ministry.

August 14th at 4pm --- that’s our date for our first service!

Sign up! We would like an idea of how many volunteers to plan on.

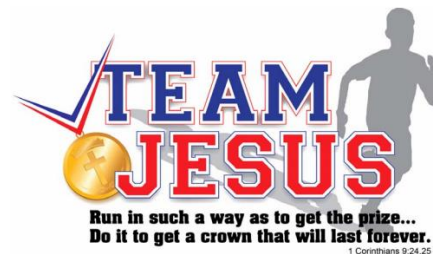
Side note- this community of people with disabilities is statistically about 10x more susceptible to COVID than the average person, and so as of right now....

- 1- The homes are dealing with a huge outbreak of COVID, about 12 of their group homes are completely locked down.
- 2- Volunteers, as of right now are required to wear a mask while they are with the people.

What's Happening @Grace

Soccer Camp

It was HOT... but we had a great week of soccer camp! Thanks to all our volunteers who contributed in so many ways to making our camp run smoothly each night! Please pray for all our families that attended asking God for continued opportunities to build relationship and share the Gospel!



Outreach in Bend

Our district's effort to restart out church in Bend continues. God blessed us with opportunities to canvass in Bend in mid-July. Look for more opportunities to reach out to Bend in the coming months.

Vacant Home Demolition

We are continuing to explore and receive bids to demolish the vacant homes and clear the properties next to our school. We are hopeful that this can be accomplished by the fall. Recent vandalism, fires being set on the properties and attempted break-ins at school have given this project more urgency to find completion. 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 spring and summer lawn care. The lawn at church needs to be cut every week



Weekly Cleaning!

Please consider signing up for summer and fall church cleaning. The church building needs to be cleaned each week



Weekly Fellowship Food & Drinks

Fellowship Hour is back! Please consider signing up to host on a Sunday by providing coffee, drinks and food.

Weekly Altar Flowers

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



7 Churches

of

Revelation



Ephesus



Smyrna



Pergamos



Thyatira



Sardis



Philadelphia



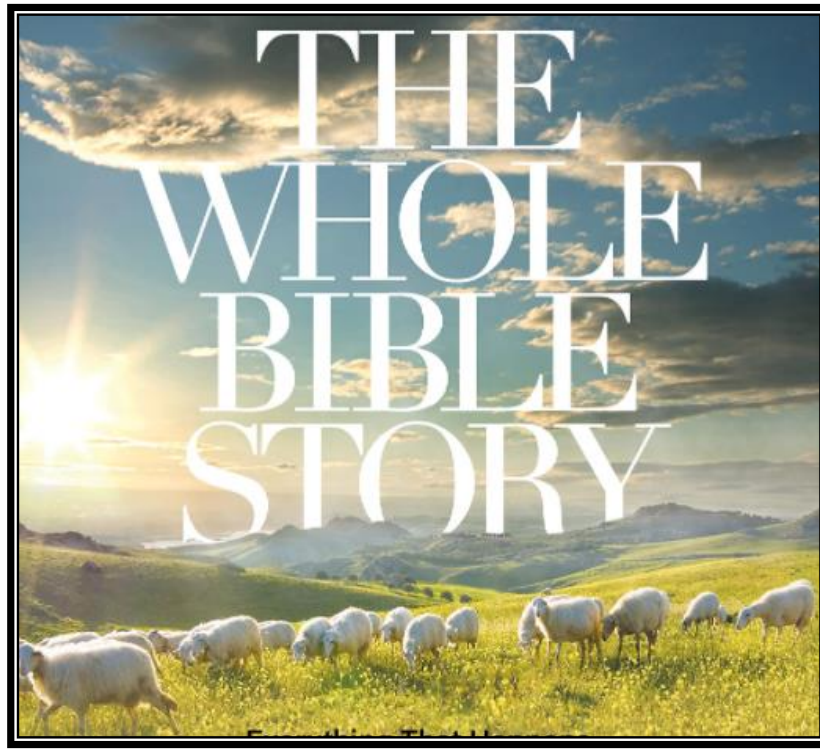
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Wednesday Evenings at 6PM

On Line via Google Meet

(Invite will be sent via email)

COME WALK WITH US IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S LOVE



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study will break for the summer starting June 5 and restart in September.

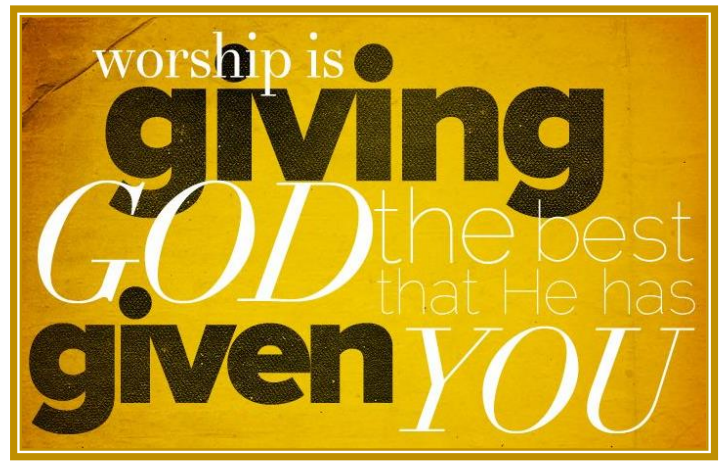


**SUNDAY
SCHOOL**
Make the Connection

Sunday School will also break for the summer starting June 5 and restart in September.

We will spend some time this summer “rebuilding”
“replanning” and
“revitalizing” our Sunday School program for the fall. If you’re interested in helping please let pastor know!

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OUR BEST

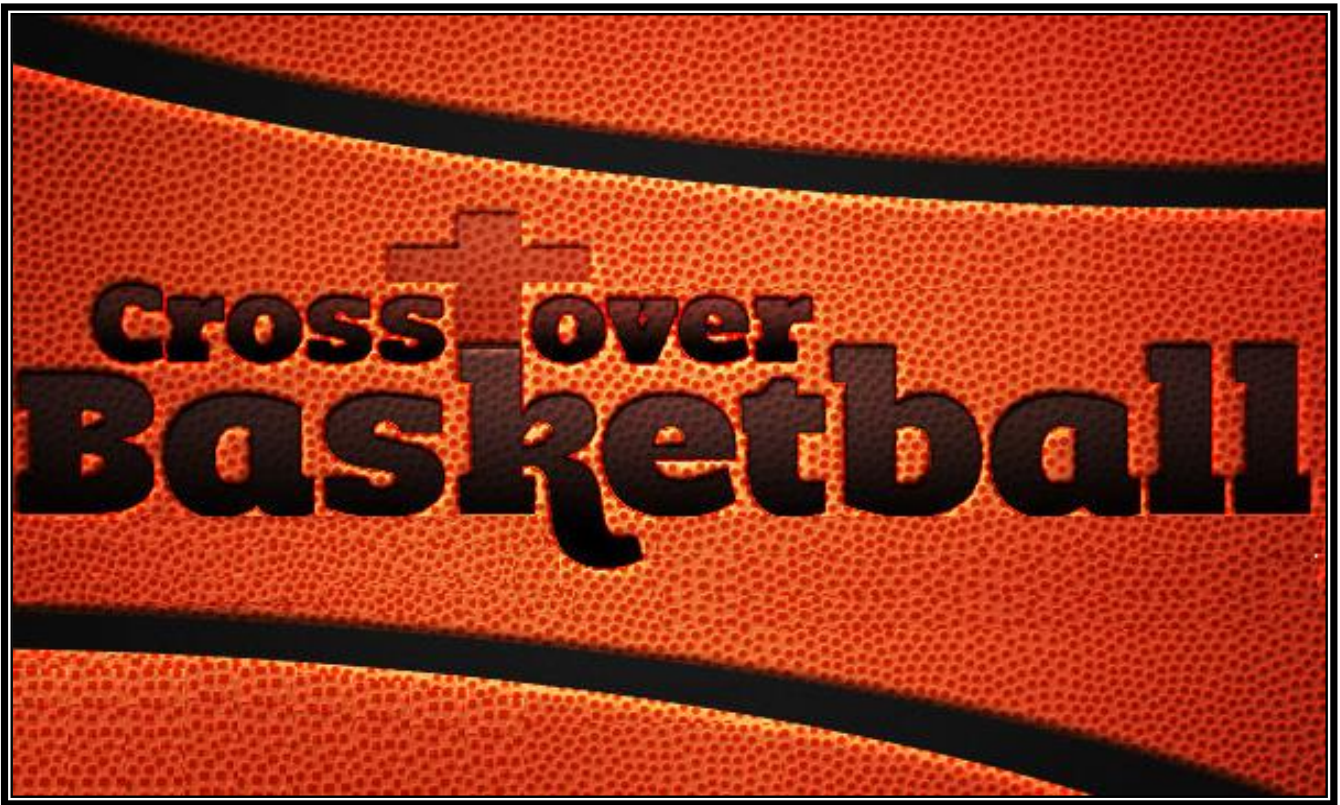


We are asking you to prayerfully consider how you can give your best to the Lord to support the gospel ministry at Grace.

At the voters meeting last week...

- 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.





We would like to start our “Cross-over” Basketball nights again at our gym at Grace School again.

**Opportunities will be
announced over the summer.**

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
 Tyler Hafner
 Pastor Bitter



Worship Committee

Marilyn Baer
 Mark Leitzke
 Sue Hartwig
 Melissa Baker
 Olivia Baker
 Pastor Bitter



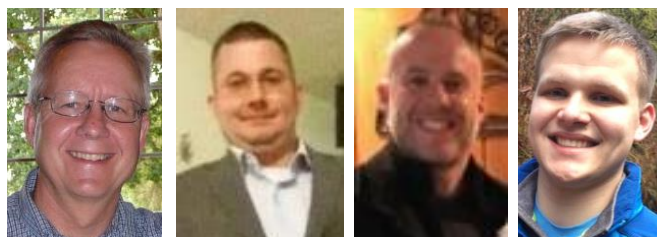
Mary & Martha

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 8 2022

Sunday Isaiah 55:10-11

- ✓ What is the purpose of the rain and the snow? What is their function?
- ✓ What are the ultimate purposes in watering the seed and the ground?
- ✓ How does this relate to how God's Word works? What can we expect from God's Word?
- ✓ What does God expect the Word do for us? John 6:67-69

Monday Isaiah 55:12-13

- ✓ Read Isaiah 53 to get a deeper insight into these words of Isaiah 55.
- ✓ What will be the cause of this joy and peace?
- ✓ What is Isaiah seeking to convey by speaking of the joy and peace of nature?
- ✓ When was there ever joy and peace in nature?
- ✓ Who is deserving of renown for all of this joy and peace?
- ✓ What is the spiritual message of the contrasts in verse 13?
- ✓ Is there a contrast between sin and grace the focus here? Explain.

Tuesday Acts 13:1-4

- ✓ Read Acts 17:16-32 to fix the context. Describe Paul's approach to ministry?
- ✓ On whom did Paul depend for leadership in his ministry?
- ✓ How did Paul interact with Aquila and Priscilla?
- ✓ In what two-fold way did Paul use the situation of Paul being involved in an outside business?
- ✓ What is meant today by the designation "tent ministry"?
- ✓ Paul worked with them during the week and made a living but what did he do on the Sabbath?
- ✓ How do you think that would work today?

Wednesday Acts 18:5-8

- ✓ After his break from full-time ministry what did Paul do after his helpers arrived?
- ✓ What was the focus of Paul's ministry? What should be our focus? 1 Cor. 1:13-2:2.
- ✓ How did the Jews react to Paul's preaching as described above? How did Paul react?
- ✓ However, when Paul went next door to preach to the Gentiles who followed?
- ✓ What does this teach us about "our helper" after we speak to people about sin and grace?
- ✓ Read John 14:15-27

Thursday Acts 18:9-11

- ✓ Describe this brief scene. In essence what is God doing?
- ✓ How does God direct His Church today? How do we know where to share the Gospel?
- ✓ How does God encourage us today as he encouraged Paul? 1 Corinthians 15:58

Friday Matthew 13:1-9

- ✓ What always seemed to happen when Jesus went somewhere? Describe this scene.
- ✓ What is a parable? Why did Jesus use this method of teaching?
- ✓ Think about and discuss this earthly story? What does Jesus mean in verse 9?
- ✓ Matthew 17:5 What is the difference between "listen" and "hear"?

Saturday Matthew 13:18-23

- ✓ Note the word listen as opposed to the word hear. What is Jesus' point in this switch?
- ✓ Note and discuss the various kinds of "soil" into which God's word falls as it is preached to people in this world?
- ✓ What is the preaching of the word to accomplish? 2 Peter 3:17-18; John 15:1-17

Grace Lutheran Church - August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class	6:30 PM Council / BOE Joint Meeting	Member Visits	Worship Prep
7 PENECOST 9 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	8	9 10:00 AM Mary & Martha	10 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class	11 9:00 AM GLS Staff Meeting	12 Member Visits	13 Worship Prep
14 Communion PENECOST 10 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 4:00 PM JCM at Edwards Center	15	16 9:00 AM GLS Staff First Aid / CPR Training	17 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class 6:30 Steering Committee Meeting	18	19 Member Visits	20 Worship Prep
21 PENECOST 11 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 1:00 PM HOPS Game Hillsboro	22	23	24	25 GLS Back to School Night	26	27 Worship Prep
28 Communion PENECOST 12 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	29	30 6:30 PM Elders Meeting	31 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class 7:00 PM Worship Mtg.			