

The Means of Grace

June 9, 2024

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.



Sunday June 9, 2024-Pentecost 3

Flowers: Charlene Clark

9:30 AM WORSHIP

10:30 AM FELLOWSHIP

Monday June 10, 2024

Tuesday June 11, 2024

10:00 AM Mary Martha Meeting

Wednesday June 12, 2024

6:00 PM Bend Mission

Thursday June 13, 2024

Friday June 14, 2024-Flag Day

Afternoon Member Visits

Saturday June 15, 2024

8:30 AM Hikers Group

Sermon Preparation

Sunday June 16, 2024 Pentecost 4

Flowers: Fathers Day

Hartwig's 48th Wedding Anniversary

9:30 AM Worship

10:30 AM FELLOWSHIP

11:00 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Bible Study

Prayers for our Graduates!

Please let Pastor Bitter know if you have a graduate (grade school, high school, college, etc...) whom you would like recognized and for us to lift up in prayer.

Eighth grade graduates: Ric Luplow, Lilly Glasheen, Mason Meacham, Emma Larson, Sophia Sali, Daniel Kosmyna.

High School: Rebekah Bitter, Keith Garner, Aaliyah Depper

College: Olivia Baker, Deona Muehe



What's Happening @Grace

Weekly Fellowship Food & Drinks

THANK YOU to Cathie Gillespie and Virginia Peterson who have been so faithful in providing all the goodness we enjoy after worship! 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! – The grass needs to be cut every week!

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. The lawn at church needs you... can you sign up for a weekend to cut?



Weekly Cleaning! – The church needs cleaning every week!



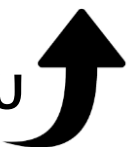
Please consider signing up for spring and summer church cleaning. The church building needs to be cleaned each week and we could use your help! **THANK YOU** to those who have been so faithful in cleaning the Lord's house and making it ready for worship!

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.



PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP TO HELP. WE NEED YOU





This past Sunday evening, May 5th, 2024 the Lord of the Church extended a Divine Call to me through the PNW District Mission Board to serve as the first pastor and home missionary in Bend, OR. I am humbled to receive this Call and grateful for the opportunity to consider how my gifts may best serve the kingdom of God by continuing in Portland or going to Bend. Holding these calls provides us all with a unique opportunity to pray for one another and the ministries we carry out. As always, all the leaders, members and friends of Grace Church are welcome to call, email, message, or text me your thoughts. I truly appreciate your input!

Grace Church Financial Update



"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing... If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. – John 15

We are One Together in ministry. Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches and connected to him we will produce much! In fact, connected to Him all things are possible!

The approved budget: Our Grace budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024 is set at **\$490,000** which calls for weekly gifts of **\$9423**. Last week's gifts totaled **\$121,510.35** (of which \$110,000 was a special gift.)

Year to date: As of last week, the total amount of gifts we should have reached is **\$452,307**. Praise God, at week 49, the amount in gifts we have received for the Lord's ministry is **\$499,394**.

Currently, due to special gifts, we are **\$47,087** ahead of the amount budgeted.

We are grateful for the gifts of love that God's people have brought! This past week in addition to our weekly gifts several members have approached our leadership at Grace and have committed to make gifts to the Lord that will cover the shortfall and address some of our additional expenses! We praise God for moving the hearts of his people to express their love for Christ in such a generous manner!

Weekly Gifts: It's important to note that while our budget shortfall will be covered we still have an approved budget which requires **weekly gifts of \$9423**. We pray that every member at Grace is moved by their love for the Lord to give as generously and faithfully as He has enabled each to do. The Apostle Paul encouraged the church with these words **"Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver. God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will overflow in every good work... You will be made rich in every way so that you may be generous in every way, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. (1 Corinthians 9:7-8,11)"**

Grace Ministry has been blessed with many financial miracles for many years. God is good! We pray that God's children will give generously and joyfully according to His will. We are One Together in ministry.

HIKERS GROUP!

Saturday, June 15

Fall Creek Falls in Washington
3.4 miles round trip.

It's a beautiful hike for everyone.
Please bring snacks for the hike
and picnic lunch for after.

We will meet at Grace Church at
8:30 AM to carpool or you can
come to the trailhead at 10:00 AM
(Please don't leave valuables in your car)

Directions will be printed out for pickup at church.










To park a NW Forest Pass or National Park Pass is required.

Contact Dan Paschke with questions or if you need more information.
608-698-5394



Falls Creek Falls
Central Gorge, Washington

Autumnal shot of Falls Creek Falls.

Hike Details	 Type: Out and back	 Distance: 3.4 miles round trip	 Elevation Gain: 750 feet	 Difficulty: Easy
Trail Features	 Family Friendly: Yes	 Restrooms: Yes	 Trailhead Pass: No	Trailhead Passes Guide
Trail Details	 		Directions & Travel Tips	

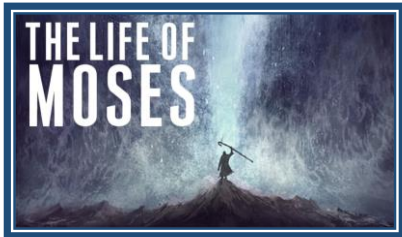
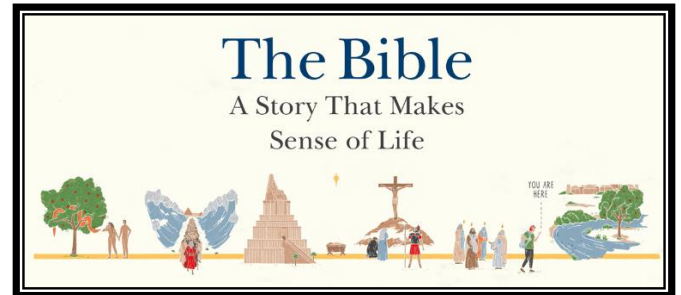


Sunday SCHOOL

ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD
Growing in Faith Together

Sundays at 11:00 AM

Please plan on joining us after worship on Sundays for Bible Class and Sunday for every age! Following worship each Sunday we will continue to offer our refreshments & fellowship with Bible Study for the whole family!



Wednesdays at 6:00 PM -Paused for Summer

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.

Saturdays at 9:00 AM

On break until next fall. 5-8th graders are welcome to join the class in September.



Men's Bible Study

Men's breakfast and bible study! Bring your sons! Once a month we will plan to meet again for bible study and breakfast at 8:00 AM at the SCHOOL! Please let Pastor Bitter know if you'd be interested in attending or helping organize.

Women's Bible Study

Childcare will be provided. Come spend some time in God's Word together! JUNE 22nd at Grace School at 10:00 AM.



Supporting Our Neighborhood Foodbank: May-June 2024

The staff at Mainspring want to express their appreciation for our congregation's ongoing support of the foodbank. In April we donated 31 lbs. of food and 4 lbs. of clothing.

For May & June, please continue to donate basic food items, focusing on:

- Peanut butter & jelly
- Canned protein (tuna, chicken, & beef)

As we enter the summer months, socks (new or nearly new, all sizes) are appreciated. 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 June. There are baskets in the fellowship hall to place your food donations as well as clothing 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 highschoolers

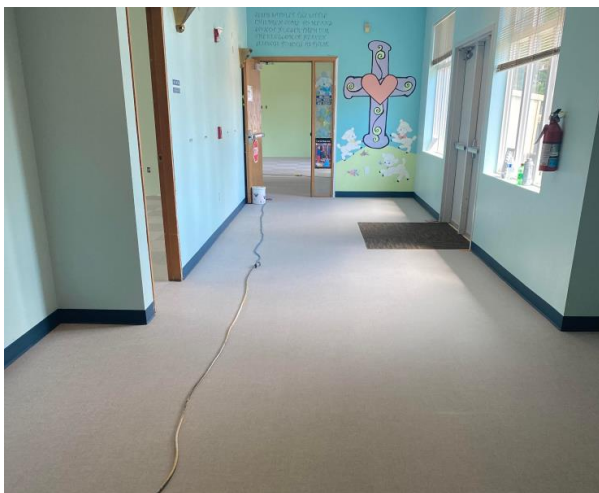


GRACE SCHOOL RESTORATION & REPAIR

PAINTING! ROOF! CARPET! FLOORING!

Many thanks to everyone who has commitment time and talents and money to help us begin to restore the school following the water pipe break this winter.

Thanks to the Tanner family, Ed Gillespie and all our volunteers!



FOR THE OREGON CIRCUIT!



Hillsboro Hops WELS Day

June 16th, 1:00 PM. Please register at

<https://hopeintigard.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2279558>

Oregon Circuit Family Gathering! Saturday, August 10 at Grace School

Picnic! Music! Entertainment! Games! Family fun for everyone! A gathering for the whole circuit. We would like to gather as many musicians from our circuit as possible. Every instrument is welcome!



Calling All Musicians!

Who?

For musicians, I will work hard to make sure that everyone who wants to play is able to, but perhaps I'll suggest that only those who are past a beginner's level should sign up. Remember that the voice is a wonderful instrument as well!

Where?

Our first get-together as musicians will be June 20th at 6pm at Hope- 12559 SW Main Street, Tigard. Hope will provide dinner for everyone!

Why?

We'd like to gather all our musicians to prepare for our circuit gathering on August 10!

How?

To make this easier, I created a little form for any prospective musicians who would like to participate. <https://hopeintigard.churchcenter.com/people/forms/753633>

This will help us gather some information and help me plan ahead- and will also allow the musicians to have access to our database of sheet music.



CANYONVIEW SILVERTON IS BACK... OREGON BIBLE CAMP!



Lutheran Bible Camp returns to beautiful Camp Canyonview in Silverton June 23-28. This is a wonderful opportunity for children going into grade 4-12 to make new Christian friends and spend time with old ones. Daily devotions, Bible studies, and the example of Christian adults will help feed and nurture the faith. Crafts, outdoor skills, sports, swimming, and other activities from the crazed mind of Pastor Tembreull provide fun for everyone and opportunities to build friendship and teamwork. Registration is online at <https://trinityeugene.org/bible-camp-registration>

If you have any questions call or email Pastor Tembreull at: pastor@corvallislutherans.org or 541.231.6189. You can also follow Lutheran Bible Camp-Oregon on Facebook.

Camp Opportunity - Counselor: The Lord has been blessing Lutheran Bible Camp since we restarted two years ago. Many children have already been registered for camp and we are looking forward to some new faces. This means we have an opportunity to extend the invitation for a few more counselors for the week of June 23-28. If you are interested in serving our Oregon churches in this way, please contact Pastor Luke Tembreull: pastor@corvallislutherans.org or 5412316189.

What's the cost? – PLEASE CONSIDER BEING A SPONSOR!

Door Offering for Sundays in June

- \$335 per camper registration. Lodging, all meals, snacks, activities, crafts all included. **We will be doing fundraising and asking for people to sponsor campers which will hopefully greatly reduce or eliminate the cost!**



Registration is open!

Lutheran Bible Camp

June 23-28

Lutheran Bible Camp is for young men and women who will be going into the 4th – 12th grades next school year (fall 2024).

Early Registration: April 21-May20- \$315

Registration: May 21-June 10- \$325

Late Registration: June 11-22- \$335

Registration includes three professionally prepared meals a day, room and board, and camp facilities.

Drop off will be on June 23, from 4:00-5:00PM

Closing Service and pick up June 28: 6:30 PM

Registration is online. You may use the QR code to find the registration site, find it on the Lutheran Bible Camp – Oregon on Facebook page or go to trinityeugene.org/bible-camp-registration. Please like and follow our Facebook page for information and updates.

Questions:

Pastor Luke Tembreull: 5412316189

pastor@corvallislutherans.org

Pastor Mark Swanson: 9206096204

mdws89@gmail.com



Checks can be made out to "Lutheran Bible Camp" and mailed to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 2685 NW 13th St., Corvallis, OR 97330

About Lutheran Bible Camp:

This year our theme is: **Safe on the Rock**
As our lives in this world can seem unstable and uncertain, we can always rest secure on the solid rock, our unchanging God.

- Our goal is to encourage young people in their faith, build Christian character, and make Christian friends in a safe environment, while having as much fun as we can manage.
- This camp is overseen by WELS pastors and supervised by pastors, teachers, and members of the Wisconsin Synod and Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Oregon and SW Washington.
- All meals are professionally prepared and served buffet or family style so that everyone gets enough to eat. (Special diets will be accommodated with advanced notice.)
- We sleep in cabins divided by age. (The girls will bunk across the river from the boys.) You will bring your own bedding (sleeping bag/pillow) Bathrooms and showers are near all cabins.
- Our primary activity each day will be Bible Study and open discussion. We will also enjoy various crafts and activities. In the afternoon we play sports, swim, and explore the creek. After dinner, the whole camp joins in activities, and the evening ends with a devotion and campfire songs. (Campfire dependent on fire danger.)

Lutheran Bible Camp is run entirely by volunteers; however, facility costs are unavoidable. It is our goal that no one is kept from camp due to costs. If costs are the reason a child cannot attend our camp, please email Pastor [LukeTembreull](mailto:LukeTembreull@corvallislutherans.org) for financial assistance.

Two Summer Conferences To Attend!

WELSWORSHIPCONFERENCE.NET

2024 National Conference

on Worship, Music, and the Arts

Sing a New Song to the Lord
July 30–August 2
 CARTHAGE COLLEGE | KENOSHA, WIS.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- 50+ presentations
- Plenary address: "Lutheran Worship: What Now?" by Rev. Jonathan Bauer
- Vendors offering music, art, instruments, and professional services to congregations and individuals
- Concerts and recitals
- Keyboard and choral reading sessions on new repertoire
- Festival Choir (with full orchestra), high school Honor Choir (with full orchestra), and Children's Choir

REGISTER
 EARLY-BIRD RATE UNTIL APRIL 30
 REGULAR RATE AFTER MAY 1





REGISTRATION RUNS THROUGH MAY 31
 \$150 EARLY-BIRD RATE UNTIL APRIL 30
 \$175 MAY 1-31

REGISTER AND LEARN MORE AT
 WELSWOMCONFERENCE.NET




WELS WOMEN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE
JULY 28-30, 2024
 THE INGLESIDE HOTEL • PEWAUKEE, WIS.

The foundation for the conference is Luke's account of the spread of the kingdom of God through God's chosen apostles and everyday believers. Learn from these early Christians how you too can be emboldened and empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the Word!

WHO IS THIS CONFERENCE FOR?
 Everyone! This conference is for any woman who is passionate about the spread of the Good News of Jesus in our world today, no matter her age and background. New to the faith or seasoned, married or single, this conference will encourage, equip, and empower you in your walk of faith.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Four inspiring keynotes and a wide variety of breakout
- In-depth spiritual growth sessions
- Uplifting worship and devotions
- Delicious meals, snacks, and refreshments
- Ample opportunities to connect and network
- Ministry displays with helpful resources
- Curated marketplace of WELS women-owned shops
- Northwestern Publishing House bookstore

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
 @WELSWOMENSMINISTRY
 Subscribe to the WELS Women's Ministry newsletter at wels.net/subscribe.

 **WELS**
 CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA

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
Mark Leitzke
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 3 2024

Sunday Genesis 3:8-9

- ✓ Since this is early in the Book of Genesis, who are the man and his wife and what had just happened?
- ✓ Why did Adam and Eve hide from God?
- ✓ Did God know what had happened? What do you think he wanted them to do?

Monday Genesis 3:10-13

- ✓ What excuse did Adam use for hiding? How did God respond to that excuse?
- ✓ How did God go right to the heart of the matter? Whom did Adam blame?
- ✓ Who ultimately got the blame? Explain how the serpent (Satan) is responsible for all sin?
- ✓ What were Adam and Eve feeling?

Tuesday Genesis 3:14-15

- ✓ How does God lay all of this on Satan? Is he excusing Adam and Eve? Verses 16 and following.
- ✓ How will God solve this problem? Who is coming to do it?
- ✓ Are we at all responsible for our sins?

Wednesday Revelation 20:1-3

- ✓ What do these words picture?
- ✓ Who bound Satan? How did he do this? What does this mean for us?
- ✓ The thousand years represent the New Testament era, that is, right now. What comes next? What will happen to Satan and all unbelievers? Matthew 25:41-44

Thursday Revelation 20:4-6

- ✓ Who are those who were beheaded? What was their crime?
- ✓ What do you think the first resurrection is? Does that apply to us believers right now?
- ✓ What is the second death? How have we escaped that?
- ✓ The thousand years is right now. How do we reign with Christ right now?













Friday Mark 3:20-27

- ✓ What charges were leveled against Jesus by his family and by the Jewish leaders?
- ✓ What picture did Jesus present?
- ✓ How does this picture illustrate the foolishness of what they said previously?
- ✓ Study verse 27. Whom did Jesus come to bind? Cf. Rev. 20:1-6 above.
- ✓ How does this solve a big problem for us?

Saturday Mark 3:28-35

- ✓ What happens to all of our sins? Why?
- ✓ What does the Holy Spirit seek to work in our hearts?
- ✓ How does unbelief become the unforgiveable sin?
- ✓ Whom does Jesus consider His family? How does this relate to us?

Grace June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 CONFIRMATION 9:30 Worship Communion 10:30 Fellowship	3	4  Pacific Northwest DISTRICT Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod	5	6 11:00 AM Fire Check at GLC	7	8
9 Pentecost 3 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:15 Bible Study	10	11 10:00 AM Mary Martha	12 6:00 PM Bend Mission	13	14	15 HIKERS GROUP 8:30 AM 
16 Pentecost 4 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 1:00 Hops Game 	17	18	19	20 6:00 PM  Musican Practice At Hope, Tigard	21	22 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study 
23 Pentecost 5 9:30 Worship Communion 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 AM Church Council - Leaders	24 	25 Elders Meeting 	26 Bend Mission 	27 	28 	29 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 
30 Pentecost 6 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:15 Bible Study	