

The Means of Grace

March 12, 2023



Exodus 24:12-18 - The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the Law and the Commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses rose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we return to you. And behold, Aaron and Hur are with you. Whoever has a dispute, let him go to them." Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights.

It's hard to imagine what this experience would have been like for Moses. All through the book of Exodus, it's plain to see how God had His hand in the events in Moses' life. His narrow escape as an infant from the murderous intention of an anxious king and then again when he was being hunted for having killed an Egyptian, God was priming him for a major role in the history of the children of Israel.

By the time he was ascending Mount Sinai, Moses had already led a remarkably full life. After taking refuge in Midian and encountering God in a burning bush there, he returned to Egypt. There he met with Pharaoh and declared on God's behalf: "Let My people go, that they may hold a feast to Me in the wilderness" (Exodus 5:1b). But Pharaoh wouldn't hear of it, and fierce plagues sent by God were soon let loose.

Even before arriving at Mount Sinai, Moses was integral to God's unfolding plan of redemption. He witnessed the first Passover, Israel's exodus east from Pharaoh's army, and the destruction of Egyptians in hot pursuit at the Red Sea. But it was at Mount Sinai where Moses must have felt he experienced God's greatest intervention: the giving of the Ten Commandments. These, now, inscribed on stone, were words to live by—words to guide God's people on their way to the Promised Land.

And immediately—in no uncertain terms—the Commandments prompted the people's response to the God who saved them. We, like them, are sinners: lost, and broken beyond repair. Here then, in this moment of grand disclosure, is Moses in his greatest role yet: the law-giver who points to Jesus: the Life-Giver.

We don't stand a chance keeping God's Law. It condemns our sin utterly. But Jesus, God's only Son, took the Law's full penalty for our sins. He fulfilled the Law, and through faith in Him as Savior gives us His victory.

"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This He set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him (Colossians 2:13-15).



Sunday March 12, 2023, Lent3/Holy Communion

Comm. Prep Jensen
8:30 AM Choir
9:30 AM Worship Service
10:30 AM Fellowship
11:00 AM Sunday School/Bible Class
6:00 PM Crossover Basketball

Monday March 13, 2023

6:00 PM Crossover Basketball at Grace School

Tuesday March 14, 2023

8:00 AM Confirmation Class
10:00AM Mary Martha Meeting
3:30 PM Worship Meeting
Every Member Meeting

Wednesday March 15 - 2023

8:00 AM Confirmation Class
9:00 AM Chapel
6:00-7 PM Lenten Dinner & Devotion – welcoming our teachers conference

Thursday March 16, 2023-No School, Teacher Conference at Grace

8:00 AM Teacher Conference at Grace Church

Friday March 17, 2023 – No School, Teacher Conference at Grace

8:00 AM Teacher Conference at Grace Church
Afternoon Elder Care Visits

Saturday March 18, 2023

7:00 AM Forged-Men's Bible Study & Breakfast
10:00 AM BIC
Sermon & Service Prep

Sunday March 19, 2023, Lent 4

8:00 AM Confirmation Class
8:30 AM Choir
9:30 AM Worship
10:30 AM Fellowship
11:00 AM Sunday School/Bible Class
6:00 PM Crossover Basketball

Trish Settje – Whose mother has been diagnosed with cancer. We ask our gracious Lord to provide strength and comfort to Trish and the Settje family and peace and healing to her mother.

Friend of Charlene Clark Family – Charlene's daughter, Michelle, is a Kindergarten teacher with a student whose Grandfather David (49-year-old) suffered a stroke. We continue to pray for healing and complete recovery.

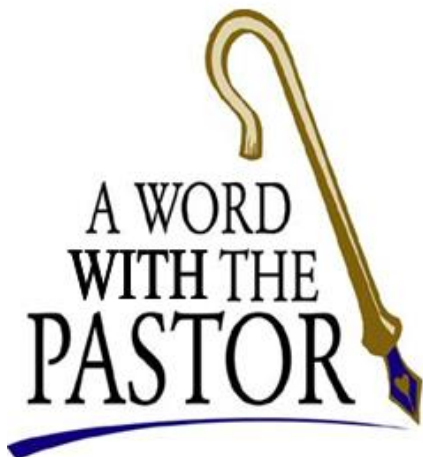
Don Stoffer who had carpal tunnel surgery this past week. May God grant quick healing!

Shirley Baker took a fall at her daughter's house. May God continue to watch her and protect her!

Sara Eternick who is recovering from recent tonsillectomy surgery.



Every Member Visit 2023



Every Member Visit (EMV) with Pastor Bitter

In 2023 we are planning to give every member at Grace the opportunity to sign up and schedule a personal or family visit at Grace Church or School with Pastor Bitter and an elder to discuss your personal plan for ministry and how we can serve the Lord together with all the gifts he has given to Grace Congregation. The first sign up opportunities are today!

This week's EMV time slots are on Tuesday. Each time slot is 30 minutes and we will meet at pastor's church office.

LENTEN DINNER & DEVOTIONS

POTLUCK DINNER BEGINS AT 6:00 PM (if possible please arrive a little early so all the food can be out at 6:00). Please bring a main dish to share of your choice! Remember to bring enough to feed 10 or more.

EVENING DEVOTION WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 PM. Our dinner will be available throughout the devotional time so if you cannot arrive until 6:30PM please still come and have *dinner during the devotion!* We will "wrap up" everything by 7:00. Our hope is that we can offer an evening for your whole family!



~~March 8th – Dinner & Devotion 6:00 pm~~
~~John 17:1-7 – Glory Be To Jesus~~

March 15th – Dinner & Devotion 6:00 pm
Romans 12:1-2 – Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted

March 22nd – Dinner & Devotion 6:00 pm
1 Peter 3:18 – Christ the Life of All the Living

March 29th – Dinner & Devotion 6:00 pm
John 19:5 – O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Sundays in Lent

**HIS
FINAL
STEPS**



~~TO BETHANY — March 5~~

TO THE TEMPLE – March 12

TO BE GLORIFIED – March 19

TO HIS ENEMIES -- March 26

INTO JERUSALEM – April 2nd

Board of Elders

Craig Baker – Head Elder

Courage Mudzongo

Len Stadler

Josh Luplow

Pastor Bitter



The Elders shall assist the pastor in caring for members and coordinating ministries to encourage our members in nurturing their faith in Worship, Christian Education, In reach, Outreach, and Stewardship.

- **Every Member Visit (EMV):** The Board of Elders are assisting Pastor Bitter in beginning an EMV. Our initial plan to schedule 4 EMV days a month alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays each week as it works in coordination with Pastor's schedule. In the first phase, members will sign up for a 30 minute visits. In the second phase, members who did not sign up will be contacted to schedule a visit. In the third phase, home visits will be requested for members who have been unable/unwilling to participate. As they are available one of our 4 Elders will try attend some of the visits. Some members would like to meet with Pastor privately. Our goal is to assist members in identifying gifts and encouraging everyone to worship and serve the Lord in our ministry together at Grace. A predetermined short survey and spreadsheet to be used during the EMV will help us accomplish this goal. While this is an important part of our ministry, the Elders would remind the council and leadership that it is a significant commitment of time to carry out an EMV and can take up to a year to accomplish.
- **Care for Called Workers (CCW):** The Elders have established the framework for the CCW and are finalizing its implementation. While helpful, information / programs from the synod was designed for very large congregations. Much of information needed to be "paired down" in order to fit our needs. Thanks to Josh Luplow for his work on this. Currently 4 women and 3 men have agreed to serve or are prayerfully considering. In the past, the CCW has served Grace as a resource and conduit for our workers to get support & encouragement and express needs and concerns. In the past 3 years' former committee members have moved and the CCW has needed to be rebuilt following COVID. Initial plans are to gather committee members, train and discuss our plans for this ministry and fully implement in the spring.
- **Sunday School:** Attendance and participation in Sunday School has been growing. Regular visitor and prospect children have also started participating with a high mark of 22 children in attendance on February 19th... a 633% growth from our average of 3 last year! Committed teachers, volunteers, leaders and changing to after worship has been blessed by God. Sunday School children participated in children's devotions during Advent, our Christmas Day Service and are currently preparing for Palm Sunday and Easter.

- **Bible Studies:** The Elders believe that it is important to offer Grace Members as many opportunities as possible to be in the Word together. In addition to our ongoing regular bible studies on Sundays and Wednesdays we will also be adding a monthly opportunity called “*Healthy Marriage*” for our married couples and those planning to get married. While Lent is a difficult time to begin another bible study we feel that it is a critical time to focus on marriage and it is our goal to begin offering this class on the last Saturday in March, the 25th. Additionally, we have added a monthly Saturday men’s bible study “*Forged*” as a companion to our monthly women’s bible study at Mary & Martha. Also offered weekly at Grace are regular confirmation classes, BIC classes, and Christian Family counseling at Grace church and school.
- **Fellowship:** The Elders are trying to offer opportunities to every age group to gather for Christian fellowship. *ROOTED* offers opportunity for our 20 – 30 somethings. (Grace will be reassuming this group since the circuit has not been able to meet with success.) *CrossOver Basketball* offers opportunities to play at Grace School on Sunday and Mondays. (Ben & Aaron Baker). *Mary & Martha* offer women of Grace opportunities to meet and serve. (Sara Hehr, Linda Bern, Sue Lewallen). And, we are pleased to announce that a youth group for *Grace Kids* has been started. (On February 10th The Great Cookie Scarf took place. 8 youth were present led by Stephanie Delgado and Gabby Baker.) Grace also continues to offer Youth Lutheran Bible Camp and Ypouth Soccer Camp in the summer.
- **Worship:** The Elders in conjunction with our worship committee are planning Wednesday Lenten dinner and devotions under the theme “*Songs of Lent*” and we are following a Sunday Lenten theme of “*In His Final Steps*”. Continuing to encourage our members to make worship an important part of every week will also be part of our ongoing EMV. We continue to serve many souls each Sunday in state and out of state and around the world via our FB Live stream that cannot attend in person. We are averaging 80-90 on a Sunday in person and 30-40 online. Many thanks to Aaron Baker for continuing to build our Ushers group.
- **Shut in Visits:** The Elders continue to ensure that our elderly and shut in are visited. Shirley Baker, Dorothy Elsasser, Cheri Lockhart, Edna Krieder, Michael Lewallen, Avilla Rehbein are currently shut in. Pastor Bitter also has had opportunity to visit those in hospice who are friends of Grace. Many thanks to Randy & Darlene Jensen for making sure our shut in member are visited on a weekly basis!

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Baker
Head Elder – Grace Lutheran Church

What's Happening @Grace

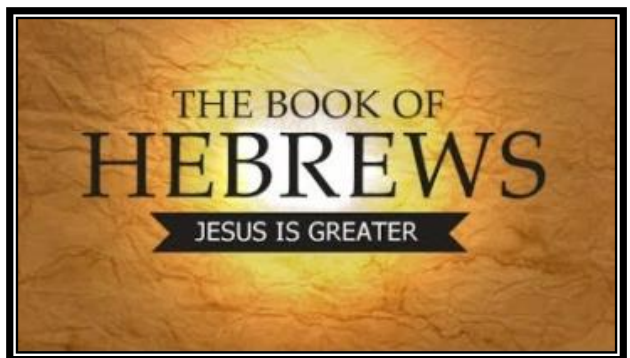
Sunday Confirmation Class at 8:00 AM

We are beginning our Confirmation Classes for student who are not able to attend during the week at GLS. An email was sent out last week to gauge interest and find a time that would work. We have decided to offer Confirmation Class on Sunday mornings at 8:00 AM before morning worship. This class is especially for 7th - 9th graders but younger students are also welcome to attend. Classes begin next Sunday, October 23rd at 8:00 AM.



Wednesday Google Meet at 6:00 PM

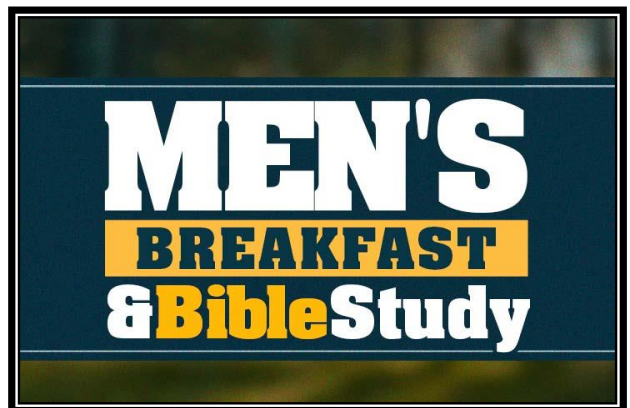
During Lent Google Meet will be replaced with our Wednesday Dinner and Devotions



Saturday Men's Bible Study

We are planning to begin a men's bible study on **Saturday, March 18th**. To begin with, once a month we will plan to meet for bible study and breakfast.

Please let Pastor Bitter know if you'd be interested in attending or helping organize!



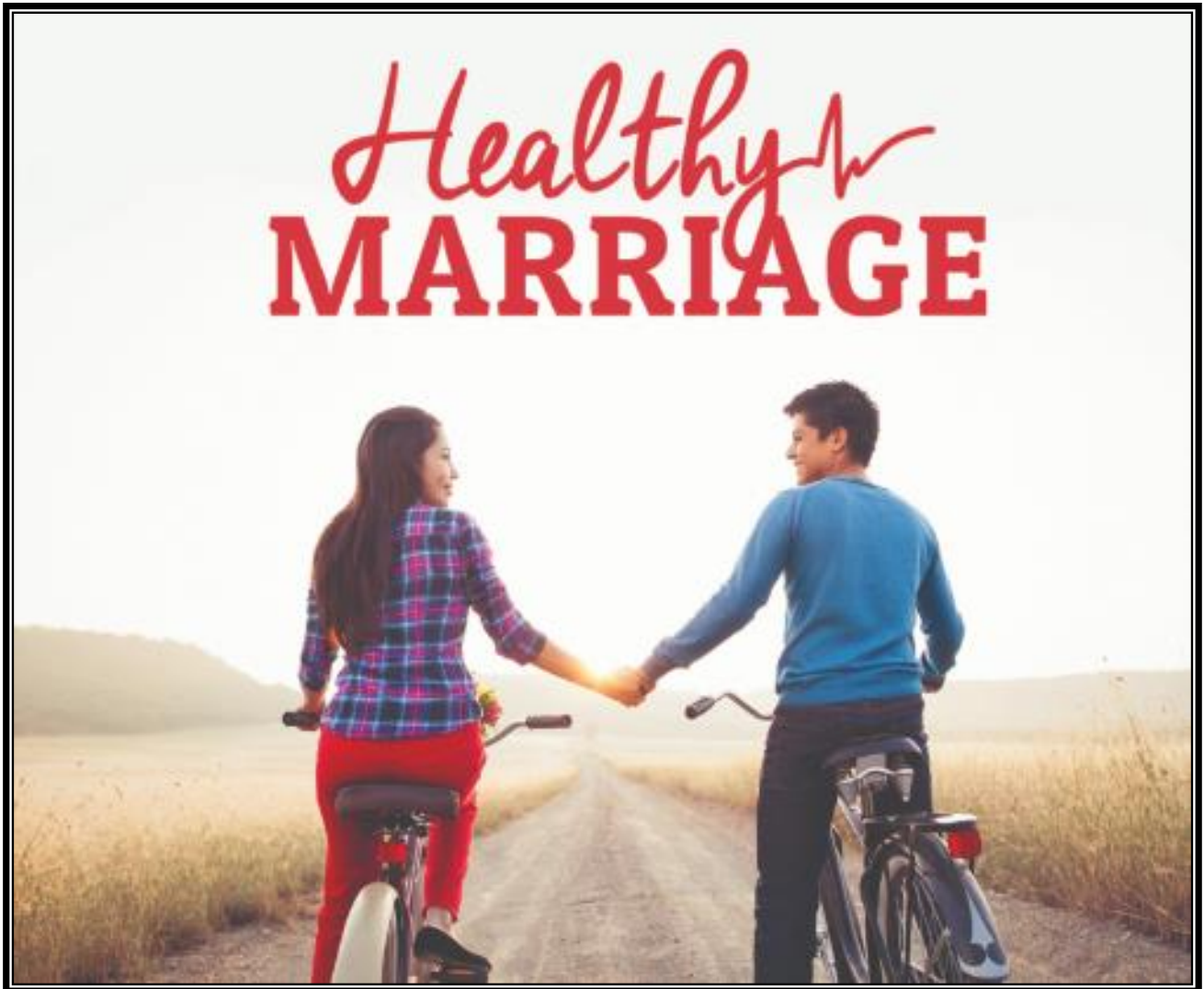
Couples Class – Coming Soon

Getting married? Just Married? Been Married? This class is for you. We all want to have a healthy marriage.

Healthy Marriage will help you learn those "dimensions of a healthy marriage." More than that, Healthy Marriage will equip to you to practice them and maintain the health of your marriage for years to come. Please look for more information about this class and opportunities to sign up in the coming weeks.



Coming in April 2023...



March is busy at Grace!

Midweek Lent. Every Member Visits. Spring Break. Conference.

So, instead of trying to squeeze in our new Healthy Marriage Class we are going to wait until after Easter in April to offer it.

Please look for more information and opportunities to sign up in the coming weeks!



1 1:00 AM

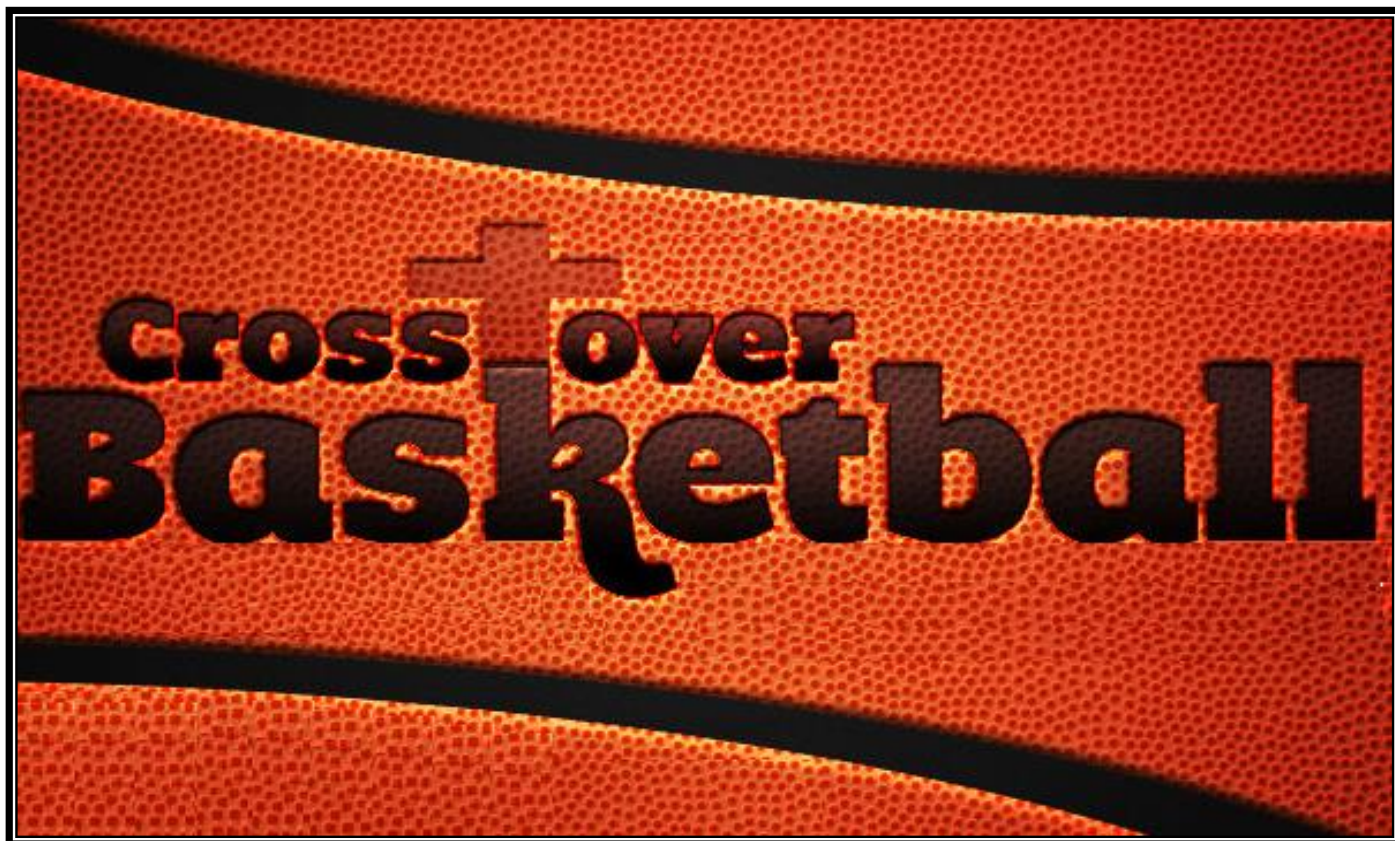
**SUNDAY
SCHOOL
&
SUNDAY
BIBLE CLASS**

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 AND we will be adding to our opportunity for fellowship by offering Bible Class and Sunday School from 11:00 – 11:45. Please, plan to join us!

Sunday School will be offered for kids Preschool – 8th.
Bible Study will be offered for teens and adults.

If you are interested in helping teach... please contact Pastor Bitter or Craig Baker.



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

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.

6:00 PM Sundays & Mondays

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



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
Pastor Bitter



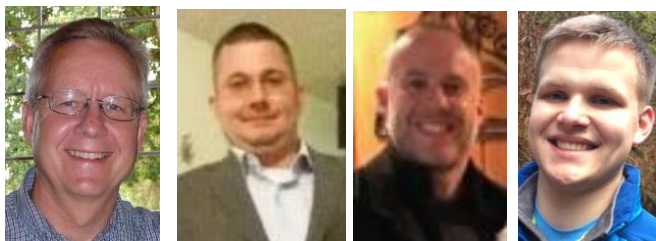
Mary & Martha

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 LENT 3 2023

Sunday Isaiah 42:14-20

- How does God describe the spiritual condition in Israel?
- What did God do for a long time? V. 14. 2 Peter 3:9.
- What will eventually happen? 15-21. 1 Kings 24:15.
- What seems to be Israel's main problem? Vv. V. 17.
- What are some words which describe how bad off they were spiritually?
- How does this condition apply naturally to all of mankind? Eph. 2:1-5.

Monday Isaiah 42:16, 17, 18-21

- What spiritual light will shine and lead them?
- What pictures describe a reawakening of Israel under the hand of God?
- How does God feel about the results of His Law and promise as they do their work? V.21
- What is there in heaven over every sinner who repents? Is. 49:13; Luke 15:7,
- Should this motivate us to share Jesus? Explain.

Tuesday Ephesians 5:8-9

- What is darkness? What is light in the Lord?
- What does it mean to be darkness?
- What does it mean to be light in the Lord?
- What does it mean walk in "the light of the Lord"? Eph. 5:11; Rom. 13:12.

Wednesday Ephesians 5:10-14

- How do we discern what is pleasing to the Lord?
- We should avoid the unfruitful works of darkness and do what?
- What alone can expose the works of darkness?
- What is anything that becomes visible? ! Timothy 6:11-20.

Thursday John 9:1-7

- Whom did Jesus meet one day? What significant question did the disciples ask Jesus?
- Does this question and answer apply to us today? Who brings trial and trouble upon us? Job 1-2
- What does the story of Job teach us about God's involvement in these matters? Also see v. 3.
- In one word when is the time to do the Lord's work? V. 4
- What was the end result? Once again what is revealed about Jesus? Mt. 9:36; 14:14.

Friday John 9:13-17 (read the words between the two sections)

- Of course, the Pharisee's got involved. What was their "password"?
- The man explained how he was healed and what was their response? V. 16.
- The man disagreed and said, He is a prophet. Matthew 16:13-16
- They couldn't agree among themselves about Jesus. What did they do to the blind man?

Saturday John 9:35-29 (read words between sections)

- What is significant about the conversation between Jesus and the former blind man?
- When Jesus identified who he was what did the man do?
- By worshipping Jesus what honor did he bestow on Jesus?
- What other kind of blindness which is much more serious did Jesus heal for this man? John 7:10-11

Grace Lutheran Church - March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 9:15 AM Chapel 7:00 PM Lenten Worship at Grace Church (Postponed Ash Wednesday)	2 8:00 AM Conf. Cl.	3 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. Afternoon Elder Care Visits	4 10AM BIC Service / Sermon Prep
5 <i>Lent 2</i> 8:00 AM Conf. 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Cl. 11:00 AM Sun. Sch. 6:00 PM Basketball	6 6:00 PM Basketball	7 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 6:00 PM Elders Mtg.	8 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 9:15 AM Chapel 6:00 PM Lenten Dinner & Devotion	9 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. Every Member Visit	10 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. Afternoon Elder Care Visits	11 10AM BIC Service / Sermon Prep 
12 <i>Lent 3</i> 8:00 AM Conf. 8:30 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship with Comm 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Cl. 11:00 AM Sun. Sch. 6:00 PM Basketball	13 6:00 PM Basketball	14 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 10:00 AM Mary & Martha 3:30 Worship Mtg. Every Member Visit	15 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 9:15 AM Chapel 6:00 PM Lenten Dinner & Devotion	16 No School Teachers' Conference At Grace		18 7:00 AM FORGED Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 10AM BIC Service / Sermon Prep 
19 <i>Lent 4</i> 8:00 AM Conf. 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Cl. 11:00 AM Sun. Sch. 6:00 PM Basketball	20 6:00 PM Basketball	21 10:00 AM Circuit Mt At Corvallis Every Member Visit	22 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 9:15 AM Chapel 6:00 PM Lenten Dinner & Devotion	23 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. 6:00 PM Grace Leadership Meeting GLS OPEN HOUSE 5-7 PM	24 8:00 AM Conf. Cl. Afternoon Elder Care Visits	25 10AM BIC Service / Sermon Prep
26 <i>Lent 5</i> 8:00 AM Conf. 8:30 AM Choir 9:30 AM Worship with Comm 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Cl. 11:00 AM Sun. Sch. 6:00 PM Basketball	27 6:00 PM Basketball	28 GLS No School - Spring Break	29 6:00 PM Lenten Dinner & Devotion	30 Every Member Visit	31 Afternoon Elder Care Visits	