

The Means of Grace

March 31, 2024



If you woke up this morning and I gave you a million dollars in cash, how would you feel? I think that most of us would feel extremely grateful! *Best day ever!* Do you think, at least for the rest of that day, anybody would be able to get you into a bad mood or ruin your day? Probably not. Would you agree?

Now, what if I said I'd give you a million today, in fact, let's make it 10 million... but, you couldn't wake up tomorrow. You're done. You're dead. The money will be gone, and no one else gets it. Would you take it? Absolutely not. Would you agree?

So, just to be clear, what you're saying then is that waking up, *just waking up*, is worth more than 10 million dollars? REALLY? Then why don't you feeling that way every morning when you wake up and open your eyes?!

Did you ever think about it that way? I don't think any of us do. That's why when we get up we're already bummed out and in a bad mood, thinking it's gonna be another bad day, and the world's not fair, and everybody hates me, and I'm out of shape, and don't have enough money, and blah, blah, blah...

You guys! *You woke up!* You're already into a 10-million-dollar day, and there should be nothing that can ruin it! And, if today doesn't work out the way we want it to, do you know what tomorrow is? *Another 10-million-dollar day!*

But really, you are worth far more than 10 million dollars. You are worth far more to God. We forget how much we are worth. If this past holy week taught us anything, it was how much we are worth to our Father in heaven. Holy Week brought us to our worst day ever... to the most shameful of days. You know the day. The day we told God that we didn't know him or care about him. The day we denied, betrayed, forsook, abandoned, whipped, mocked, and crucified him. Yeah, on that day, we decided to nail the Savior to a tree.

On that day, God paid for all of our sins... but not with gold or silver (you are worth more than that!) but with his holy precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. Your greatest debt has been paid... a debt that has eternal consequences. Your debt of sin has been paid in full and it cannot ever be collected again, changed in terms, or taken away from you.

If you woke up this morning knowing your greatest debt is paid in full, how would you feel? I think that most of us would feel extremely grateful! *Best day ever!* Do you think, at least for the rest of that day, anybody would be able to get you into a bad mood or ruin your day? Probably not. Then why aren't you feeling that way every morning when you wake up and open your eyes?!? That's what Paul means when he says, "For me to live is Christ!" That's what Easter assures us of every day!

That's why we say, "HAPPY EASTER!"





Sunday **March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday**
 7:00 AM SUNRISE WORSHIP SERVICE
 8:00 AM BREAKFAST
 9:30 AM EASTER WORSHIP
 10:30 AM FELLOWSHIP

Monday **April 1, 2024**

Tuesday **April 2, 2024**
 8:00 AM 7-8th Grade Confirmation

Wednesday **April 3, 2024**
 8:00 AM Individual Confirmation
 8:30 AM Chapel-Pastor Kraklow
 9:00 AM 7-8th Grade Confirmation
 6:00 PM Google Bible Study Meeting

Thursday **April 4, 2024**
 8:00 AM 5-6th Grade Confirmation

Friday **April 5, 2024**
 8:00 AM 7-8th Grade Confirmation
 9:20 AM PK Jesus Circle
 Afternoon Member Visits

Saturday **April 6, 2024**
 9:00 AM Confirmation
 Sermon Preparation

Sunday **April 7, 2024**
 9:30 AM Worship
 10:30 AM FELLOWSHIP
 11:00 AM Sunday School
 11:15 AM Bible Study
 6:00 PM Basketball

IN PRAYER

Vanessa Hayden, wife of Greg Hayden. Greg has worked at our school during the repair and restoration process. This week Vanessa was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. We pray God blesses her treatment with great success and ask our gracious God for a miracle of complete healing.

Dorothy Elsasser was called home to heavenly glory this past week. We praise God that he has made her well again in heaven's glory and we long for our reunion. A memorial is planned for May 11th at 11 AM at Grace Church.





Sunday SCHOOL

ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD
Growing in Faith Together

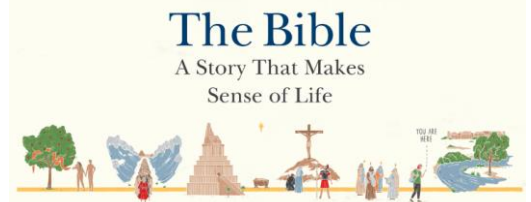
Sundays at 11:00 AM

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



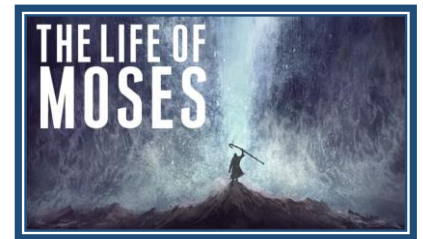
Sundays at 11:15 AM

Please plan on joining us after worship on Sundays for Bible Class as we continue our study of the Story of Scripture. Teens to adults!



Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

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

We are beginning our Confirmation Classes for students who are not able to attend during the week at GLS. This class is especially for 6th - 9th graders but younger students are also welcome to attend.



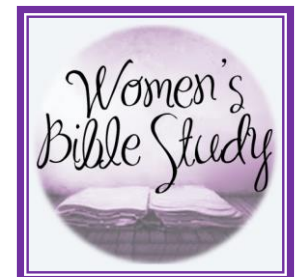
Saturday APRIL 27th at 8:00 AM

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.



Saturday APRIL 13th, 2024, at 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study

Please join us at Grace School on Saturday, April 13th at 10:00 AM for our new Women's Bible Study. Childcare will be provided. Come spend some time in God's Word together!



What's Happening @Grace

Weekly Fellowship Food & Drinks



THANK YOU to those who have been so faithful in providing all the goodness we enjoy after worship! Please consider contributing and supporting the goodness we enjoy after worship each Sunday! Your gifts are appreciated!

Mowing! – The grass needs to be cut every week!

We need to cut every week again. Please consider signing up for spring and summer lawn care. The lawn at church needs you... can you sign up for a weekend to cut? **THANK YOU** to those who have been so faithful in taking care of the church property and making it beautiful!



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!

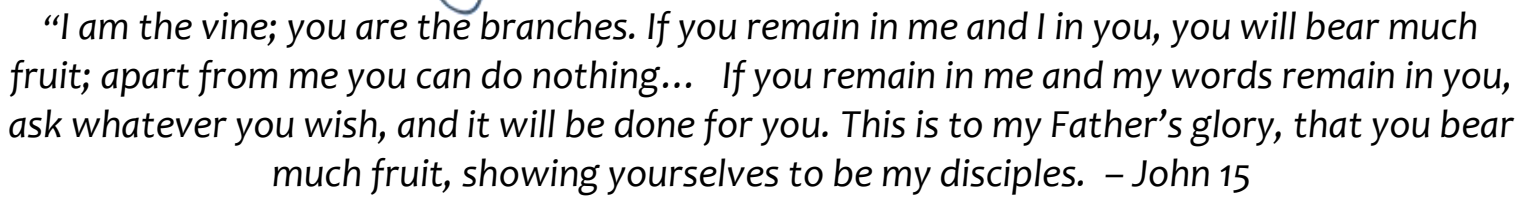
Altar Flowers – Every week!

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





We are *One Together* in ministry. Jesus is the Vine we are the branches and connected to him we will produce much! In fact, connected to Him all things are possible! This fall we will be asking you consider what your “branch” is in our ministry together. Connected to Jesus what gift do you have to use? Our *One Together* logo will help us identify your branch and your area of ministry to use your gift in. It is our prayer that together we discover that while we all have different gifts and abilities we are indeed *One Together* in Christ.

Look at the logo above. Think about what each symbol might mean and what area of ministry you can serve in!

Runners - Fellowship Events, Health, Well Being

Bible - Devotions, Bible Studies, Sunday School, Christian Education

Hand w/Leaves - Grounds Care, Altar Flowers

Money - Fundraising, Investment, Treasurer, Budgeting

Chrismon - Service Setup (Vestments Switching, Candles, Communion Setup/Cleanup), Worship Banners

Globe - Outreach, Missions

Open Door - Greeting

Praying Hands - Prayer Groups

Heart on Plate - In reach, Shut ins, Ill/Injured/Hospitalized, Fellowship Refreshments

Gear - Trustee, Facility Cleaning/Repair

Music Notes - Choir, Chanter, Vocalist, Instrumentalists, Organ, Piano

Little Hand in Big Hand - Nursery Care, Assist New Parents or Parents in General

Lectern - Liturgy/Readings, Elders, Bible Studies

Hand in Hand - Serve on Committees/in Groups - Care Committee for Called Workers, Mary Martha, Ushers, Church Council

Dove - Inreach, Visiting Shutins, “Sunshine Member” (sends cards on various occasions)

Wedding Rings - Couple's Inreach/Support, Marriage

Grace School

RUNNING TO REBUILD

<https://pledgeit.org/running-the-extra-mile-for-grace-lutheran-school>

Running to Rebuild

I think you probably all remember the ice storm that hit the Portland area this January. Thousands of people felt the effects of the ice and cold- being left without power, making homes cold, and for some even having their pipes burst leaving an enormous amount of damage behind.

Grace Lutheran School was not immune to the damage. During the storm, pipes burst inside their kindergarten and pre-school classrooms leaving the rooms completely unusable. Efforts have been ongoing to restore these classrooms, but the financial toll has been significant!

This April 19th, I (Pastor Bourman) am running in the [Banana Slug Backyard Ultra](#). It's a crazy running event. Here's how it works! Every hour, on the hour, each runner will line up on the start line and run a 4.16 mile loop. (Why that number? So that every 24-hour period marks exactly 100 miles!) You are free to run whatever pace you like. If you run quickly, you have more time to rest. If you run slowly, you don't tire as quickly. The race has no finish line, and only ends when there is only one person left.

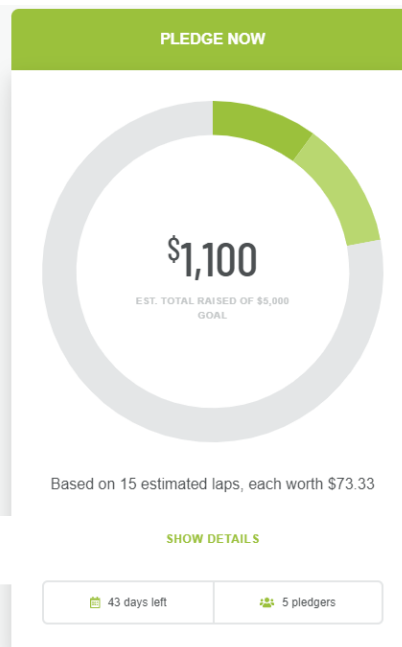
If you're interested in a video of how this race works, [click here!](#)

I am asking you to support Grace Lutheran School by pledging. If you pledge \$5 per loop and I run 5 loops, the donation is \$25. If you pledge \$40 per loop and I run 5 loops, the donation is \$200 total.

Please do consider giving, whether it's a little or a lot! Each dollar will go directly to Grace Lutheran School's efforts to restore the classrooms of its youngest students!

[COLLAPSE](#)

<https://vimeo.com/823175441>

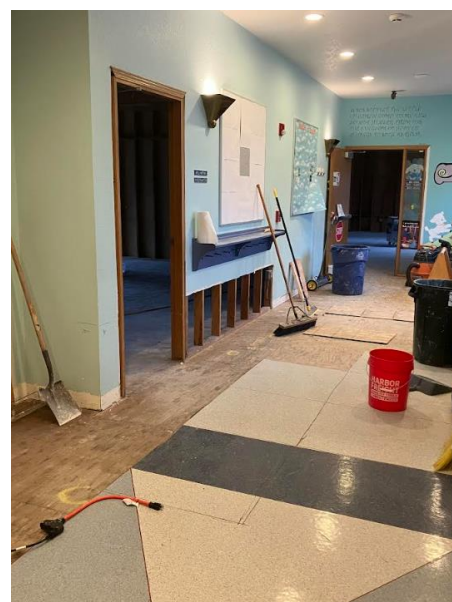


SHARE THIS CAMPAIGN



GRACE SCHOOL RESTORATION & REPAIR PROGRESS

During this past winter storm our Preschool and Kindergarten classrooms were affected by a pipe burst, necessitating a temporary relocation to the gym and office area. Thank you to everyone who has been able to stop in and lend a hand. You have made a significant difference! We also had a very large tree fall on our property.



IN OUR CIRCUIT!



International Youth Rally

WELS International Youth Rally attendees come from huge churches in big cities and small churches in farming communities, from Alaska to Texas. And everywhere in between. No matter where you come FROM, when you come together at a youth rally, you're home! Home with your family of believers.

That's a big family! You get to say the Lord's Prayer and sing praises to our Savior with thousands of people. That WILL give you goosebumps.

A youth rally is designed for teens. Workshops hit timely teen topics. Performances and recreation are planned with teens in mind. There's time to discuss

issues, time to eat, time to play frisbee, and time to just chill!

Some have said that the youth rally changed their lives. I won't go as far as to say that it WILL DEFINITELY change yours or the lives of your church's teens. But it may: one may be motivated to pursue the ministry; another may meet a new lifelong friend; another may confide in a workshop leader about a struggle with temptation. Front and center at the youth rally is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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. Details on costs and registration dates will soon

follow but mark your calendars and make your plans today! If you have any questions call or email Pastor Tembreull: pastor@corvallislutherans.org or 5412316189. You can also follow Lutheran Bible Camp-Oregon on Facebook.

Come join us!

LWMS Cascade Circuit **SPRING RALLY**

Grace Lutheran Church, Portland, Oregon

Saturday, April 27, 2024 9:30 am – 3:00 pm



“Rooted in Hope”

Guest Speaker: Mr. Chris Mundstock

Teacher at Peridot-Our Savior's Lutheran School,

San Carlos Apache Reservation

Activities Devotions Fellowship Music

Lunch Mission Displays Door Prizes

Please send your mission money by April 20, 2024 to:

Brenda Cowdery, 6872 SE Borwick St. Hillsboro, OR 97123

Please wear GREEN and bring an UMBRELLA

for a special Cascade Circuit photo shoot!!



EVERGREEN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

FROM THE DISTRICT

We are so grateful for the ministry we have at Evergreen and the families we get to share the gospel with. It was such a blessing to have the accreditation committee come in with a fresh set of eyes and say good things are happening at Evergreen. It is exciting to be part of the growth of our teens and the growth of our school. Thank you to YOU, for being a huge part of our growth. Let me know if you would like to set up a meeting to discuss some of the things we are working on and how you can be part of it.

Thank you for all your support. We are all in this together. Thank you again for joining us in our mission.
In Christ, Ryan Schmeling - Director of Mission Advancement



Event Overview

Location: Walk the red carpet into the transformed ELHS gymnasium

Attire: Glitz and glam for your red carpet debut! Or come as you are. I need to theme dress.

Dining: Catered by Alumni owned business, My 4 Sons BBQ.

- Prime Rib or Grilled Chicken Breast
- House Salad
- Green Beans Sauteed with bacon
- Garlic Roasted Potatoes
- Rice Pilaf

Enjoy freshly popped popcorn, and drinks while you peruse the silent auction items!

How long should I plan for a babysitter?

- Arrive between 5 & 5:30PM allowing for plenty of time to view auction items, play a game, chat, grab a drink, enjoy the musical styling of our students, and delve into dinner.
- Dessert Auction will close around 7:45PM.
- Live Auction will begin around 8:00PM.
- Checkout opens approximately 9PM wrapping up the evening.

Who's Attending?

- A wonderful group of amazing friends from around the Puget Sound, who love & support our students.
- We suggest that guests be 18 and older.
- A fabulous group of student and adult volunteers ready to assist you!

Join us for the

Evergreen Lutheran High School

Reel Delight Auction

April 13, 2024 | 5PM

The Goal

Supporting our Evergreen Eagles physically by upgrading our gym sideline chairs and academically by upgrading the classroom technology.

The Auction

The auction is two-fold:

- 1) The silent auction will run online. There is no charge to bid.
- 2) The in-person event - dinner, entertainment, and the *Live auction* will be in the ELHS Gymnasium, you will not want to miss it!

Location

Held on our beautiful campus.

Address: 7306 Waller Rd E, Tacoma, WA 98443

FROM THE WELS

We invite all singles (widowed, divorced, or never married) to join us at the 2024 WELS/ELS Singles Retreat for a weekend of fellowship and fun! The retreat will be April 26-28, 2024 at Camp Shiloh in Pittsburg, TX. Our theme is "Living In Our Season". The price is \$150. You can register at wels-els-singles.com/2024-texas-retreat (<http://wels-els-singles.com/2024-texas-retreat>). Any questions can be sent to texassingleswels@gmail.com.

We have included 2 of the poster/flyer sizes below. We have also included an attachment of a full size page flyer. If interested in other sizes, please feel free to visit the website listed above. These include a QR code for those that would like quick access to the link. Please feel free to use and share these!

We appreciate your helping us reach out to those who are single in our churches. Let us know if you have any questions!



WELS & ELS SINGLES RETREAT

LIVING IN OUR SEASON
April 26-28, 2024
@Camp Shiloh • Pittsburg, Texas

REGISTER BY APRIL 8TH
www.wels-els-singles.com/2024-texas-retreat



LUTHERAN Adoption CONFERENCE

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS
ESTHER 4:14

TO CONNECT,
ACT AND IMPACT
THE FUTURE OF
BIBLICALLY-BASED,
CHRISTIAN
ADOPTION



 **APR 10-11, 2024**

 **HYATT REGENCY
INTERCONTINENTAL
AIRPORT
HOUSTON, TX**

Each week we will highlight ministry reports in the WELS annual report:



Called to serve

WELS Christian Aid and Relief

WELS Christian Aid and Relief reflects Christ's love and compassion to those suffering as the result of disasters or other hardships as well as through humanitarian aid distributed through WELS' home and world missions.

Leaders from WELS Christian Aid and Relief traveled to a predominantly Hindu country in South Asia early in 2023 to see how humanitarian aid grant money is being used there. While there, Christian Aid and Relief leaders attended the following humanitarian aid events:

- **Sewing schools:** These schools provide women with a skill that enables them to set up a small business in their village and earn income to support their families. The women are given the foot-pump sewing machine on which they are trained.
- **Free medical camps:** These two-day medical camps serve about 500 people, offering basic dental, medical, and vision care.
- **Education for young mothers:** Infants and toddlers are weighed and given check-ups. Participants receive information about proper nutrition and basic food staples.
- **Smokeless stove distribution:** Many heat their homes and cook their meals over open fires inside their homes. The smoke causes respiratory illnesses and negatively impacts vision. At this event, one hundred smokeless, wood-burning steel stoves with chimneys were distributed, offering families a safer alternative.

"It's a joy to know that these acts of kindness lead to many opportunities to share the reason for our hope in Christ," says Daniel Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief. WELS is working with 89 congregations and 7,000 Christians in this area of South Asia.

Domestically, WELS Christian Aid and Relief provides matching grants of up to \$2,500 to self-supporting WELS congregations once a year to carry out compassion ministry in their communities. In October 2023, WELS Christian Aid and Relief approved a Community Care and Compassion matching grant for Christ, Denver, Colo., to assist the congregation as it reaches out to Venezuelan migrants in its area.

Only a month after receiving the grant, Paul Biedenbender, pastor at Christ, Denver, noted: "After a Bible study on baptism, six children were baptized (two others will be soon when the fathers have a day off of work). Combined with a similar event two weeks before, we have baptized 15 children. Warm clothing and coffee during the week keeps bringing people in who then also receive pastoral care."

For more information, visit wels.net/relief.

The impoverished island nation of Haiti is experiencing increasing gang violence following political unrest. The Latin America mission team is in regular contact with Haitian Lutheran Pastor Rona Abraham, who is currently safe. He and his family reside in the northern part of the country, which has been less affected than the south. Many of WELS-affiliated Lutheran churches, schools, and orphanages—and our Christian brothers and sisters who serve them—are in the south. [WELS Christian Aid and Relief](#) is exploring ways that WELS might be able to bring aid to those who are suffering. However, the current security situation makes this very difficult. WELS Christian Aid and Relief will continue to explore options and provide updates if it finds an opportunity to help. In the meantime, continue to keep the people of Haiti in your prayers.



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



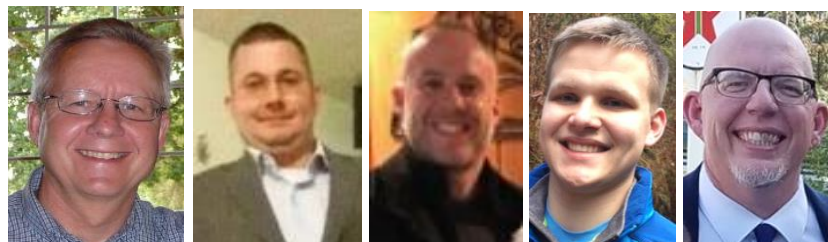
Mary & Martha

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 EASTER 2024

Sunday Isaiah 25:6-8a

- ❖ What mount in Jerusalem on which we have focused recently does Isaiah mean?
- ❖ What happened there? What then is the rich feast referred to here?
- ❖ What shroud has been removed? What does this do to the wages of sin?

Monday Isaiah 25:8-9

- ❖ How long will this conquest of death stay in effect?
- ❖ What is the disgrace of all people which is wiped away?
- ❖ What has our gracious God done for us through all of this? For how long?

Tuesday 1 Corinthians 15:19-20; Cf, verses 1-18

- ❖ What is Paul's point with verse 19?
- ❖ Of what two things does Christ's resurrection assure us?
- ❖ How certain is Christ's resurrection? Why?
- ❖ How is Christ the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep (died)?

Wednesday 1 Corinthians 15:21-23

- ❖ What man brought death into the world?
- ❖ What had God promised Adam and Eve if they were to eat of the forbidden fruit?
- ❖ How and when does our "being made alive in Christ" begin?
- ❖ If there are first fruits what must follow?
- ❖ Discuss our certainty of the resurrection and eternal life.

Thursday 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; 50-58

- ❖ What in essence will Jesus hand over to the Father?
- ❖ Who are some enemies that trouble us constantly?
- ❖ Are these spiritual or physical enemies? Explain. Cf Ephesians 6:10-12
- ❖ How will the last enemy, death, be destroyed for us?

Friday Mark 16:1-5

- ❖ Why hadn't the women anointed Jesus' body on Friday?
- ❖ What did they do as soon as the Sabbath was over on Saturday evening?
- ❖ What was a burning question among them as they walked toward the tomb?
- ❖ Why was that a concern?
- ❖ What did they see as they arrived at the tomb? What alarmed them? Why?

Saturday Mark 16:6-8

- ❖ What was the angel's reassurance to the women?
- ❖ What instructions did he give them?
- ❖ What were the feelings of the women as they went on their way? Why?
- ❖ Why are our feelings quite different as we celebrate the Resurrection?