

The Means of Grace

November 21, 2021



Fourteen teachings that define being Lutheran:

6. You are the Church – believers in Jesus

What is the church supposed to look like? In Luther's days, there were differing views about what the church looked like. The Roman Catholic Church considered the one holy church to be the church of Rome. Others, sought a church that was pure in members and ministers. They tried to create a perfect church and community where God's law reigned supreme and everyone was living holy lives. Both views emphasized the outward nature of the church.

Luther went back to Scripture. Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). The one holy church is not a visible organization. Instead, the church is made up of people who believe in Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:2)... the "invisible church". Therefore, God only knows members of the holy Christian church because only God can see faith in a person's heart (2 Timothy 2:19). We know where the church is because believers gather around the Word and sacraments, but in these visible congregations there will always be hypocrites (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43).



The church always will be under attack from false teachings and worldly influences (Matthew 7:15; 2 Timothy 3:1-5). But the church will endure because the Word of God will endure (1 Peter 1:23-25). We have God's promise that when the Word is proclaimed, he is at work to accomplish his purposes (Isaiah 55:10,11). That is why the church gathers around the Word and sacraments and uses the Word and sacraments. Jesus promised his presence when believers gather in his name (Matthew 18:20). The Spirit is at work through the gospel of Jesus, bringing unbelievers to faith and strengthening the faith of believers (Romans 10:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:13,14; John 3:5,6; Titus 3:5).

When we see believers and the gospel under attack, we can wonder if God is still at work and if the church will endure. But we find comfort in God's promise to preserve and bless his little flock (John 10:27-30; Luke 12:32). Instead of getting envious about larger church organizations, we endeavor to faithfully do the work Jesus has given his church to do. Believers simply proclaim the gospel and administer the sacraments (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15).

Luther summarized this well when he confessed in the Smalcald Articles, "We do not concede to them that they are the church, and frankly they are not the church. We do not want to hear what they command or forbid in the name of the church, because, God be praised, a seven-year-old child knows what the church is: holy believers and 'the little sheep who hear the voice of their shepherd.' This is why children pray in this way, 'I believe in one holy Christian church.' . . . Its holiness exists in the Word of God and true faith" (Part III, Article XII).

THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Sunday November 21, 2021

Flowers for The Altar-Mary Martha Group

8:30 AM Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

9:30 AM Worship Service

and livestream grace-wels.net/worship or facebook.com/GraceWELS

11:00 AM – Confirmation Class at Church

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH - 7610 NE FREMONT

11:00 AM - Confirmation Class

Monday November 22, 2021

Pastor in office

Tuesday November 23, 2021

Pastor in office

8:00 AM 5-6 Confirmation Class

Wednesday November 24, 2021

NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break at GLS

Pastor in office

6:00 PM No Google Meet- Class will resume on December 1, 2021

7:00 PM Thanksgiving Worship Service

Thursday November 25, 2021-Happy Thanksgiving

NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break at GLS

Friday November 26, 2021

Pastor in office

NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break at GLS

Home bound / Nursing Home Visits

Saturday November 27, 2021

Pastor in Office-Sermon Prep

Sunday November 28, 2021

Flowers for The Altar-Faye

Communion Prep-Gillespie

8:30 AM Adult Bible Study / Sunday School

9:30 AM Worship Service

and livestream grace-wels.net/worship or facebook.com/GraceWELS

11:00 AM Confirmation Class

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH - 7610 NE FREMONT

PRAYERS:

The Hafner Family – God blessed them this week with the gift of a healthy baby boy.

Theodore Ralph was born on Thursday November 18 at 5:15 pm. 21 inches long and

8#13oz. Joanna required some extra care after the birth but is doing well and the

family hopes to be release to go home this weekend.

Homebound. As the Holiday season approaches please keep in prayer and make efforts to visit our members who would love to be in church with us but cannot attend

due to health limitations. **Dorothy Elsasser Cheri Lockhart, Dwight Twomey, Errol Carlson, Shirley Baker, Vivian Fleener, Steve Vonfeldt, Arvolla Rehbein** . Please let us know if you know someone we can visit or add to our list to prayer for – whether they are a member or not!



A Family of Ministries For Christian
Worship, Education and Care



PASTOR BITTER – Call to Christ Our Savior, Collinsville, IL

This past week, Pastor Bitter received another call to consider serving at a home mission start in Collinsville, IL which is just to the east of Saint Louis, MO. Please keep Pastor Bitter in your prayers as he deliberates the calls to Grace and to Christ Our Savior. As always, you are encouraged to communicate your thoughts to Pastor Bitter about our ministry together at Grace. Below is the call acknowledgement letter that was sent to the members at Christ Our Savior this past week.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest! This past Monday evening, November 8th, the Lord of the Church extended a Divine Call to me through your congregation to serve as the pastor at Christ Our Savior in Collinsville. I am humbled to receive your Call and grateful for the opportunity to consider how my gifts may best serve the kingdom of God in the Collinsville area.

I look forward to speaking with your leaders and I would welcome the opportunity to speak with anyone from Christ Our Savior or Martin Luther who would like contact me. My contact information is below – call, email, text. In addition, I will be speaking with the leaders and members of Grace, here in Portland, Oregon where I am currently serving.

As I prayerfully consider where to serve the Lord, I ask that you please keep me and my family in your prayers, as well as God's people here in Portland, OR. Please be assured that Christ Our Savior and the ministry at Martin Luther will be in my prayers and in the prayers of the members of Grace as well.

As with many of our pastors, I grew up in the Midwest (Oakfield, Wisconsin) and served at Grace, LeSueur, MN for the first 8 years of my ministry. However, over the past 17 years I have become very familiar with life on the West Coast and living in a large urban city like Portland. Portland and Collinsville / Saint Louis have many differences... and many similarities.

In the city, I love the multi-cultural opportunities that are all around us. I love the world mission field that exists in every neighborhood. Life in this city forces me to think about what it means to be a Christian as I come into daily contact with people who don't look, think, or believe like I do. Yet, when I think of each of them as a precious soul to be won for Jesus, I have to leave behind whatever attitudes I might have about people who aren't like me and see them for who they are, blood bought souls who God loved so much he sent his Son to save! On a daily basis the city forces me to think about the question posed to Jonah "Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

At Grace in Portland I have many responsibilities. As a pastor at Grace Church we care for about 260 souls of our members each day. At our school I serve as the campus pastor for about 120 students Preschool – 8th grade and teach religion and confirmation classes to the 5th – 8th grades. In our district I also serve as the Circuit Pastor for Oregon. All this work brings me great joy!

In addition to the ministry at Grace I'm also a husband and a father. I've served as a pastor for the past 25 years and for the past 28 years God has blessed me with a loving supportive wife, Kimberly, and 5 children who bring joy into our lives every day. Our oldest son, Tyler, is 26 and lives and works close to Portland. Our oldest daughter, Mikayla, is 25, married, and works as a relator in Little Rock, Arkansas. Our middle son, Noah, is 23, and our youngest son, Josiah, is 20. Both are living at home and working in Portland while studying power management and taking online classes at Bismarck University. Finally, our youngest daughter, Rebekah, is 15 and is a sophomore at Gladstone High School near Portland.

I wanted to share a little information with you about my family as I acknowledge this call because that dynamic also plays a large part in deliberating a call. We ask that you would lift us up in your prayers over the next few weeks. I am confident that the Lord will lead me to a decision that will be a blessing to his kingdom and will, above all, bring him glory.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me by extending to me this Divine Call. May our gracious Lord continue to richly bless us as we serve him day by day.

Yours in Christ,

Thad Bitter
Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church



November 24th at 7:00 PM
Grace Lutheran Church

As part of your Thanksgiving celebration
we hope you will join us to give thanks to
One who gives us all that we have to be
thankful for!

HAGGAI

AT-A-GLANCE



O.T. BOOK #37



AUTHOR: THE PROPHET HAGGAI



WRITTEN: 526 BC

Haggai is the tenth of the Minor Prophets, the last 12 books of the Old Testament. When Most of the Minor Prophets wrote about the coming destruction of Judah, Israel, or the surrounding nations, but Haggai is different. Like Zechariah and Malachi, Haggai shows up on the scene long after the destruction took place.

Old Testament: 39 Books

37

New Testament: 27 Books

Haggai blends history and prophecy like no other Minor Prophet. Most of these books are collections of discourses and visions, but Haggai mixes short messages from God with the way people respond to them.

FAMOUS STORIES INCLUDED:

After spending 70 years as captives in Babylon, the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem. The Persian emperor Cyrus issued a decree: the Jews were to rebuild the temple of the Lord. Zerubbabel, who was of the royal line of David, led the Jews back home.

MOST FAMOUS VERSES:

Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." - Haggai 1:5-6

Important Points about the Book:

- Haggai wrote from Jerusalem when many people had returned from the Babylonian exile. Those who had returned in hope 15 years earlier were now facing dire struggles. They lacked clothing and food and had been mocked by other nations brutally about rebuilding their temple. The mocking had drained them of faith so that they had quit.
- Haggai's messages are simple and straightforward. God tells the people through Haggai to rebuild the temple first. It would keep them from falling back into errors that had caused the Great Exile.
- The book is only two chapters and focuses specifically on getting the returnees to build the temple as top priority. Such would bring unity, faith, and strength back to them.



8:30 – 9:15 AM Grace Church

Bible History Lessons

With Applications

From Luther's Catechism

Sunday School has started up again. To start we will have a combined class led by Melissa Baker.

Sunday School will meet in the room at the far end of the fellowship hall from 8:30 – 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings. Adult and older children are welcome to attend bible class with pastor in the fellowship hall. A weekly lesson will also be attached with the announcements each week.

But we could use your help too! If you're interested in teaching, assisting, administrating or participating in our Sunday School program in any way please contact Pastor Bitter.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Make the Connection



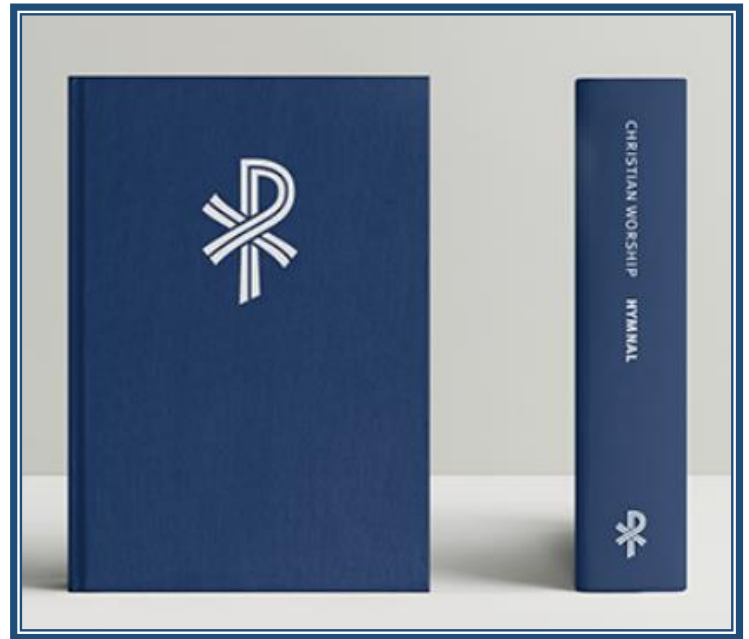


Wednesday Evenings at 6PM

Online via Google Meet
(invite will be sent via email)

The New Hymnal Is Here!

Nearly 100 volunteers served on 12 committees for the last 9 years as part of the WELS Hymnal Project.



To begin our transition to using this new hymnal in our ministry we are giving all our families an opportunity to purchase their own. The new hymnal is designed to be much more than just a book to be used in the pew on Sunday morning, it is in fact deigned to be a devotional book that can be used in your home all week!

Hymnals were ordered on Friday. We hope to have them mid-December.

If you ordered a hymnal(s) or worship books checks can be made out to Grace Lutheran Church and given to Larry Glasheen. If you mail your check to the church please include a note indicating its purpose. We pray that this new hymnal will be a blessing to our worship and your homes!

2021

Hymnal Pricing List

<i>Christian Worship: Hymnal – Pew Edition</i>	\$24.00
<i>Christian Worship: Hymnal – Gift Edition</i>	\$52.00
<i>Christian Worship: Psalter</i>	\$22.00
<i>Christian Worship: Accompaniment for Hymns, Volumes 1, 2, and 3</i>	\$105.00
<i>Christian Worship: Accompaniment for Services</i>	\$40.00
<i>Christian Worship: Accompaniment for the Psalter, Volumes 1 and 2</i>	\$70.00
<i>Christian Worship: Altar Book</i>	\$100.00
<i>Christian Worship: Pastor's Companion</i>	\$55.00
<i>Christian Worship: Agenda</i>	\$50.00
<i>Christian Worship: Planning Guide</i>	\$25.00
<i>Commentary on the Propers – Year C</i>	\$50.00
<i>Our Worth to Him: Devotions for Christian Worship</i>	\$15.00

**PLEASE
NOTE!**

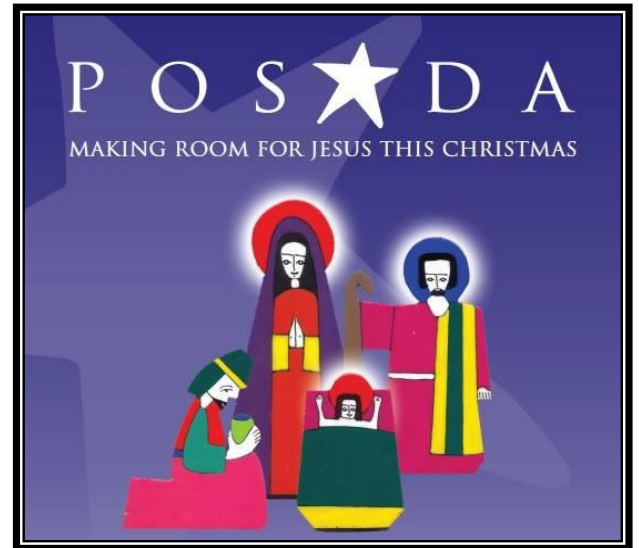
Be sure to visit nph.net/hymnorder for information about upcoming suite components such as *Musician's Manual*, *Easy Hymn Accompaniments*, and more!

Saturday, December 11th

4:00 PM Grace School

What's a Posada? It's a traditional Mexican celebration re-enacting Mary and Joseph looking for a place to stay where the baby Jesus can be born!

What will happen? We will be following two people dressed up as Mary & Joseph riding a real donkey around the school knocking on the doors asking for a place to stay. At each door Mary & Joseph will be turned away until the last door...



"Enter! Enter!" Will be the response and then the celebration will begin! Inside children will break Piñatas and all of us will enjoy a Mexican supper of tamales, churros and more!

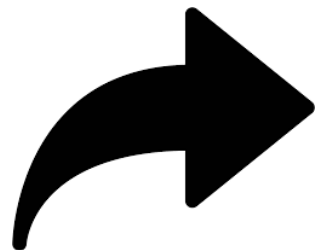


For Everyone! A great opportunity for families to prepare for Christmas in a new way. Last year the snow made for a wonderful evening and a very special Posada. Each year brings something new to the event!

Children are invited to come dressed up as angels and shepherd if they wish. We hope you and your whole family can join us for a very special Saturday, Dec 11th at Grace School!



WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please contact Juan Garcia at (281) 650-9245 if you would like to help plan or contribute to this special event! Please consider a special gift to help fund this event! In coming weeks please look for opportunities to sign up to help in various ways.





2021 POSADA SIGN UP SHEET

	Donation	Donation	Needed Donation
Ice & Water			\$15
Drinks			\$40
Fruit (Oranges & Apples)			\$40
Plates			\$40
Cups			\$20
Plasticware & Napkins			\$20
Tamales			\$375
Taquitos			\$225
Salsa			\$25
Rice & Beans			\$165
Churros			\$150
Gym decorations			\$50
Luminarias (paper bags with sand and candle)			\$60
4 piñatas			\$150
Candy			\$100
Toys			\$100
Paper bags for candy and fruit			\$0
Donkey			\$200
Hay for the donkey			\$30

2021 POSADA SIGN UP SHEET

	Volunteer Name	Volunteer Name	Volunteer Name	Volunteer Name
Set pulley for Piñata				
Piñata set up and help holding it up				
Table/Chairs set up				
Joseph				
Mary				
Donkey rental	Susan Garcia			
Get hay for the donkey	Juan Garcia			
Cup Candles for procession				
Gym decorations lights, tables, doors	Juan Garcia			
5 Food Servers/Kitchen helpers	Susan Garcia			
Luminarias set up				
2 guitar players - 1 inside & 1 outside				
2 lead singers 1 inside & 1 outside				
Gym decorations lights, tables, doors				
Cleaning and take down afterwards				



The Eagle Message

Grace Lutheran School

DECLARE *His* PRAISES

November 16, 2021

Chapel Service at **9:15**

We will have our weekly school-wide Chapel Service on Wednesday mornings at 9:15. Mr. Eternick will lead our worship this week. An offering envelope is being sent home for your child's mission offering. We will support mission work in Costa Maya, Mexico for the first semester. Offerings gathered so far total \$1,025.46. Thank you! *You do not have to fill in any of the blanks on the offering envelopes. We are just recycling some church envelopes.*

Mission to the Children gifts due next week

Grace Lutheran School is participating in the "Mission to the Children" Christmas gift giving for children living in Mexico. For most of these children, it is their ONLY gift of the season. If you want to participate, we are suggesting a gift worth \$10-15, or CASH, or a Walmart, Target or Visa Gift Card.

Please return the gifts, cash or gift cards to school by
Monday November 22nd.



Thanksgiving Vacation next week

There will be **NO CLASSES** Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 24 - 26, as we take time to thank our gracious Lord for all the blessings he has given us.



Wreath orders

- ✓ Wreaths will be delivered to school on Tuesday Nov. 30th. *We're also looking for a few volunteers on the 30th to sort & label the wreaths - let me know if you can help.*
- ✓ Orders can be picked up in the school entryway at the end of the school day or later in the week.
- ✓ We do have **extra wreaths** available for purchase. Please contact Mrs. Kraklow if you would like one of the extras, for \$25 or \$30.

December Calendar Change

Please see the updated 2021-2022 school calendar (**attached**) and note the important date changes for **Thursday, December 16** and **Friday, December 17**. There will be an **early release at 11:00 AM** on Thursday, December 16, following the Christmas service rehearsal, and **NO SCHOOL** on Friday, December 17. If you have any questions, please contact Principal Justin Eternick.



Bottle & Can Collection Fundraiser

We have a special opportunity to raise even more funds in the coming months – drop off your filled **Blue Bags** between **November 15** and **December 1** for our school to receive a 20% match from the BottleDrop organization.

Bring in your bottles and cans during this time to make this fundraiser even more successful. Make sure to gather up your beverage containers from your Thanksgiving celebrations!

Just this week we raised **\$176.20!** You can pick up **Blue Collection Bags** when you come to school. Fill the bags with clean, empty **10¢ Oregon deposit** containers only. Plastic, aluminum & glass go in the same bag - 20 pounds or less! (*please fill bags only halfway with glass bottles - thanks*). See the **attached** helpful hints.



Posada - a Family Advent Celebration

Everyone is invited to a Posada, a Mexican Advent Celebration, at Grace Lutheran School on **SATURDAY, Dec. 11th**, at 4:00. This will be a fun celebration with a live re-enactment of Joseph and Mary looking for room for baby Jesus to be born. We will enjoy breaking Piñatas and eating Tamales, Churros and other traditional Mexican food. The children will receive goodie bags. We hope that your family will join the FUN!



Weekly Mowing!

Please consider signing up for spring and summer lawn care. The lawn at church needs to be cut every week... can you sign up for a weekend to cut.

Weekly Cleaning!

Please consider signing up for summer and fall church cleaning. The church building needs to be cleaned each week and we could use your help!



MEMBER PHOTO BOARD

Cathie Gillespie is working at updating our membership photo board. If you are not yet included on this board, please take a copy of the membership information sheet, complete and turn it in with a colored 4x6 photo and drop it in the box located on the table at the entrance to the church. If you would like to replace your current photo, just drop the picture there with your name on the back.

Church Photo Directory



FALL MEMBER PHOTO DIRECTORY BOOK is currently being assembled. Please submit a picture that you would like to use in the directory to Cathie for the photo board or to pastor. We hope to have a directory in your hands by the end of the November.



The Mary Martha Group

WANTED: Gourds, Pumpkins, Squash, Flowering Cabbage/Kale Plants, Indian Corn, etc. for Church Thanksgiving decorating. Please bring to church before November 20th for set-up. Contact Susan Lewallen with questions. 503-758-2685

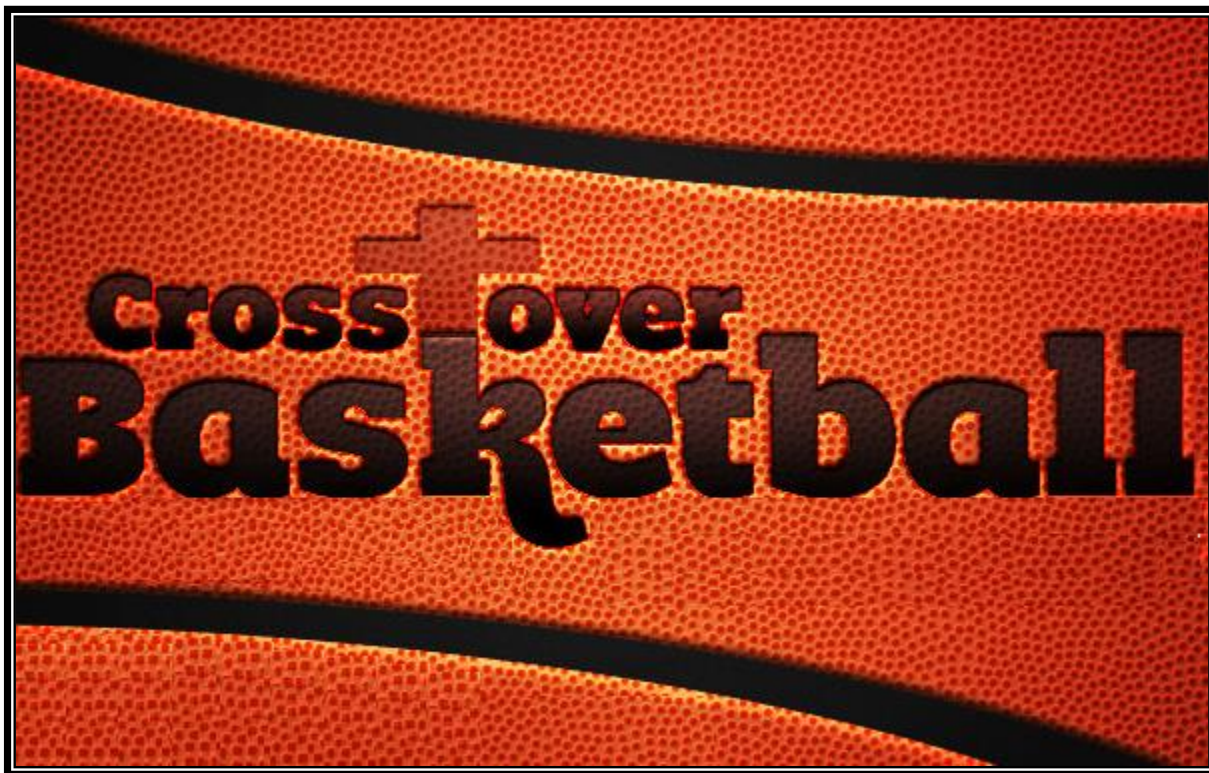


Beginning on Feb. 12, 2022, Mary and Martha will hold evening get togethers with meetings brief to hopefully include ladies who are unable to attend our day-time meetings. Make a note on your new year's calendar now! The time will be 4PM on Saturday! Plans are in the making to hold these about every 3 months.



Mary and Martha will again sponsor the **canned food drive** during the month of November! There will be bushel baskets on the pew in the fellowship hall designated for food collection. Food will be donated to the Oregon Food Bank.

Just a reminder: Please be sure and change any information for our next printing of the directory...VERY EASILY DONE... Fill out short form and drop in the box on the table at the front door. If you wish a new photo, put your name on the back and put in the box too!



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

But we need your help!

If you, or a group, would like to help organize, plan and carry out these basketball evenings please contact Pastor Bitter.

This event is for adults – high school age or older.

Bringing your friends.

Get some exercise.

Dunk on someone.

Have fun.

Live your faith.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF CHRIST THE KING 2021

Sunday Genesis 49:7-8

- It would be good to scan the previous chapter or two to get the context.
- Who is Judah in the grand scheme of things?
- Why shall Judah's sons bow down to Judah? Who will come from Judah?
- How does the picture of a lion fit into this prophecy?
- Where does a lion rank among the animals of the jungle?

Monday Genesis 49:10-12

- What is the message of verse 10 regarding the Coming one?
Note: it in essence carries forward the picture of the King of the jungle above.
- What is the message of verse 11? Can you fit blood in here? Explain.
- Sum up this picture as it relates to Christ the King Sunday? Most Kings are proud and arrogant?
How about this King? Is he arrogant? Explain. Matthew 21:4-5

Tuesday Colossians 1:13-14

- What is the domain of darkness? How have we been delivered from it? Why?
- How have we been delivered to the Kingdom of God's Son?
- Define the meaning of verse 14. What do we deserve? What do we get? Why? Romans 13:11-13

Wednesday Colossians 1:15-17

- Describe the image of the invisible God? How is Jesus the firstborn of creation?
- How is Jesus the creator of all things? John 1:1, 14
- Why does he have dominion over everyone and everything?
- What is the important meaning of verse 16?
- What does verse 17 say about Jesus' place in this world?

Thursday Colossians 1:18-20

- What does it mean that Christ is the Head of the body which is the Church?
- Go back to John 1 What is Jesus Called?
- How did Jesus arrive at his noble and lofty position? Define the word preeminent.
- What has Jesus achieved by what he did? Verses 19-20 Revelation 17:13-14

Friday Luke 23:35-38

- Think back. How did Jesus' trial before Pilate inject the idea of Jesus' Kingship into the proceedings?
- How did Jesus being a King fly before the Jewish leaders?
- When will Jesus in essence step down from the cross and come forward as the King of Kings?
- 1 Peter 2:1-10

Saturday Luke 23:39-43

- Describe the scene on the cross involving Jesus and the two criminals.
- Did either of them think of Jesus as a King? Explain. V. 42
- How did Jesus accept the identity of Kingship in his answer to the criminal?
- What comforting words did Jesus utter for the dying criminal and for every believer as we leave this life? Who is waiting for us?
- How do all of these readings picture Jesus as THE KING OF KINGS? Romans 9:32-33