

# The Means of Grace

OCTOBER 11, 2020

Germany. 1936. Adolph Hitler is rising to the pinnacle of his power. The masses who follow him feed his egomaniacal hunger for glory and power. Many are caught up in the frenzy of the masses... it's hard to do what's right when you're in a crowd that says otherwise. That's the very definition of oppression. That is why this may be one of the greatest pictures ever taken.

The photo was taken in Hamburg at the launch of a German warship which Hitler himself was present for. Do you see why this is such a fantastic photo? In the crowd one man refuses to raise his arm to give the Nazi salute. The man's name was August Landmesser. I don't really know anything about him except what this picture tells me about him...

and just based on that I wish I could be more like August Landmesser. It was by pure chance that one of this children recognized their father when this long lost photo was published in a German newspaper in 1991. How proud his children must have been! Their father had stood up for what was right in the face of what he knew was wrong. Be this guy!

Oppression is evil. Listen to Solomon's stark assessment of our world: *"Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed—and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors—and they have no comforter. And I declared that the dead, who had already died, are happier than the living, who are still alive. But better than both is he who has not yet been, who has not seen the evil that is done under the sun"* (Ecclesiastes 4:1-3).

What sad, powerful words! Aren't they true? How many people are crying with no comforter? The answer to oppression isn't as simple as more education or better opportunities or changes in laws. We need even more. We need someone to change hearts. To dry tears. Who can do that? I'll give you a hint, it's not any political leader.

Only Jesus. As we see and address the oppression in our world, may God's Word draw us all closer to Jesus. There is only One who dries tears. There is only One who speaks truth to power. In fact, only One who has all power to one day make everything right. There is only One who brings the dead to life. Only One who died for every evil under the sun. Only Jesus. Oppression is real. It is evil. But we're not alone. We're not without a comforter. In fact, we have a conqueror. We have Jesus and only Jesus!



## THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

### Sunday October 11, 2020

8:30 AM Adult Bible Study in person

9:30 AM Worship Service in person

and livestream [grace-wels.net/worship](https://grace-wels.net/worship) or [facebook.com/GraceWELS](https://facebook.com/GraceWELS)

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH-

7610 NE FREMONT

PORTLAND, OREGON 97213

OR online at: [bit.ly/GracePortland](https://bit.ly/GracePortland)

### Monday October 12, 2020

Pastor in office

### Tuesday October 13, 2020

Pastor in office

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

### Wednesday October 14, 2020

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class – This We Believe

### Thursday October 15, 2020

Pastor in office

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

### Friday October 16, 2020

Pastor in office

8:00 AM Confirmation Class

### Saturday October 17, 2020

Pastor in office-Sermon Preparation

### Sunday October 18, 2020

9:30 AM worship Service in person and livestream [grace-wels.net/worship](https://grace-wels.net/worship) or [facebook.com/GraceWELS](https://facebook.com/GraceWELS)

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**Cheri Lockart** – continues to be hospitalized with kidney problems and effect of COVID.

**Todd Hafner** – brother of Tyler Hafner, who remains stable in the hospital on oxygen as he is treated for the effects of COVID19. We also pray for Todd's wife, **Deb Hafner** who tested positive for COVID19 and has mild symptoms.

**Edna Kreider**, Shirley Angell's mother who celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on Friday.

**Karl Werner** who celebrates his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on October 13th.

**Karl & Ruth Werner** who celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 14<sup>th</sup>

A sunset scene over a mountain range. The sun is low on the right, casting a warm glow over the clouds. In the distance, three crosses are visible on a ridge.

# SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

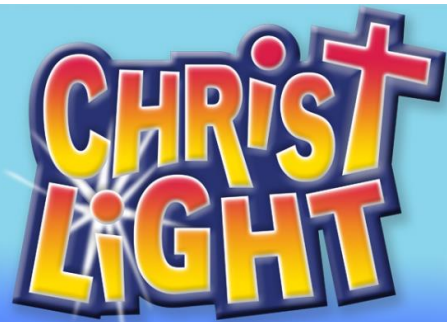
**In Person & Live Streamed on Facebook**  
**Starts Sunday, October 11th**  
**8:30 – 9:15 AM Grace Church**

A landscape scene featuring a vibrant rainbow arching over a misty field. The foreground is a lush green field, and the background shows rolling hills and trees under a soft, hazy sky.

**GOD'S FAITHFULNESS**  
**ENDURES** *Forever*

**Bible History Lessons**  
**With Applications**  
**From Luther's Catechism**





## ***Sunday School Lessons for Remote Learning***

Attention Parents! In light of current challenges related to classroom gathering, our church is introducing a new approach to Sunday school!

This year Sunday School lessons will be taught by experienced WELS teachers and will be available free via YouTube. The engaging and age appropriate Lesson Videos will tie to printed Student Lessons that our church will provide to you at no cost. This new approach presents an easy yet meaningful way for you to encourage your child's faith in Christ.

Each week, you will receive an email from Pastor containing all the lessons and the YouTube links. Simply print the appropriate lesson and click on the appropriate YouTube link for your child and bring Sunday School into your home!

Each week we will also feature a book of the bible. In the announcements we will include the book from the previous week and the new book feature for this week.

We will also include the YouTube link for the previous week's Chapel Chat from Grace School with Pastor Bitter or Mr. Eternick.

May God bless your child as we together continue to share His love with the next generation!

Pastor Bitter



### **October 11 - Sunday Morning Bible Class Returns!**

As you are willing, able, and comfortable we will begin offering our Sunday morning in person bible study again **on OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup>**! We will be studying the great bible history stories and see how God tell us about himself and what we teach and believe as it is applied in Luther's Small Catechism.

### **October – Church Cleaning & Lawn Care**

We will still need lawn care at the church throughout the fall. THANKS to George & Barb Dahl and Juan & Sue Garcia for all their work and help every weekend! We could use more people who are able and willing to help. Please contact pastor if you'd like to join our lawn care and cleaning team!

### **November 1st – Reformation Festival Service**

#### **Celebration of Thanks for Mark Leitzke's Ministry**

Please make plans to join us for our Reformation Service as thank God for preserving the truth of his promises to us in Scripture alone, by faith alone, through grace alone. We will also celebrate the ministry of our former Principal, Mark Leitzke, as he begins retirement.

### **November 15<sup>th</sup> – Installation in Eugene**

Former son of the congregation, Mark Swanson, will be installed as the new pastor at Trinity in Eugene. A time for the service as not yet been announced. We praise God that after almost 2 years the vacancy at Trinity has been filled and all of our Oregon Circuit congregations are fully staffed with called workers.

### **December 12<sup>th</sup> - Posada**

We are not sure how or if we will be able to have a Posada this year... but discussion and planning will begin soon. Saturday, December 12 is the date we had selected to have our annual Posada. If you would like to be part of the discussion and planning, please contact Pastor Bitter or Juan Garcia.

**THANK YOU!** Many thanks to Matt Ginnow for all the time and effort he has given to our school in September! New lighting, cameras, and this gift of a cross in the back of our school. Also, great thanks to Ed Gillespie for all the time & effort putting in new water heaters (not pictured) in the classrooms. Thank you!





# Cascade Circuit Mission Celebration

with insights from Pastor Paul Bourman  
on the Tigard mission re-start  
(formerly Gethsemane Lutheran Church),  
Riverside, California and Malawi  
and Central Africa Medical Missions

*Online and at*  
**Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, OR**

**Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 11:30**

**RSVP** to Barb VanKleek [barbvk@yahoo.com](mailto:barbvk@yahoo.com) by October 15,  
if you will attend **in person or online**  
to provide enough socially distanced space for everyone  
OR to send you the link for the live streamed version.

Send **mission money by Oct. 15** to Treasurer  
Lynn Kraklow 13112 NE 28th St. Vancouver, WA 98682



## ONLINE GROUP STUDY

6:00 – 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAYS

An invitation and link will be sent to your email.  
If you don't get an email with an invite and link please call  
Pastor Bitter at 503-290-6316.



# **DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF PENTECOST 19 2020**

## **Sunday      Genesis 12:1-3**

- ✓ Describe the various elements of God's instructions to Abram. What was he to do?
- ✓ What are some plans God has in mind for Abram?
- ✓ How will all the families of the earth be blessed through Abram?

## **Monday      Genesis 12:4-8**

- ✓ How did Abram respond to God's instructions? Why is age a significant factor in this?
- ✓ As Abram settled into his new homeland what is the first thing he did? Why?
- ✓ List some things which emphasize Abram's faith and trust in God?
- ✓ Do we have such a faith as this? Explain.

## **Tuesday      Philippians 3:4b-7**

- ✓ Read the entire section, Phil.12:4b-11.
- ✓ What seems to be the tension with which Paul is dealing in this section of scripture?
- ✓ From the human perspective how does Paul assess himself?
- ✓ What is Paul saying about himself relative to being saved by the law?
- ✓ What is Paul's clear assessment of all of this? V. 7

## **Wednesday Philippians 3:8-9**

- ✓ Why does Paul come to such an assessment regarding his works?
- ✓ To whom is Paul comparing himself?
- ✓ From where does Paul receive his righteousness?
- ✓ What word is the key here as it was with Abram?
- ✓ Can you and I work out our salvation better than these hero's of faith?
- ✓ Why must we fall into their Camp as well when it comes to salvation?

## **Thursday      Philippians 3:110-11**

- ✓ Why are Christ's power and resurrection important factors for God's people?
- ✓ What does Paul mean when he says he wants to share in Christ's sufferings?
- ✓ What is Paul's ultimate goal? How does that fit in with our goals?
- ✓ How attainable is Paul's goal for Paul and for us?

## **Friday      Luke 14:25-26**

- ✓ Think about and talk about what it costs us to be a disciple? What does this mean?
- ✓ What position does Jesus wish to hold in our lives? Why?
- ✓ Discuss the significance of verse 27 in your life?
- ✓ Why does Jesus need to be "number one" in our lives?

## **Saturday      Luke 14:27-33**

- ✓ Discuss the two illustrations Jesus uses to make his point about cost?
- ✓ What is the first question which comes to mind when striking out on a new venture?
- ✓ What are the consequences of NOT considering the cost of being a disciple?
- ✓ Isn't verse 33 a bit harsh? What does this verse mean and why is it important?