

The Means of Grace

September 1, 2024

"And now, O Israel, listen ... Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children

- Deuteronomy 4:1a, 9

I have a friend who, on the day his son was born, began a tradition of reading a chapter from the Bible each night before family prayers. It might sound trivial—what can a newborn understand of the stories we read? But we adults remembered, and over the years, as his son grew up, he continued the practice. Now that young man knows the Lord and is growing in his faith as an adult.



There is nothing more important than passing on the Christian faith to our children and grandchildren. If you trust in Jesus and know what He has done for you—how He is your life, hope, and salvation—what can you do to pass that blessing on to your family?

Moses faced a similar question in his final speech recorded in Deuteronomy. Knowing that he was about to die and that Israel would need to pass on their faith to future generations, he appealed to their experiences since leaving Egypt. He reminded them of the Lord's deeds—the rescue from slavery, the parting of the Red Sea to escape the Egyptian army, the provision of manna and water in the barren wilderness, and protection from their enemies (see Deuteronomy 11, 8, and 23:4-5). Moses summarized it this way: they needed to remember all the good things the Lord had done for them, trust in Him without forgetting, and share those stories with their children and grandchildren, so that future generations might also trust in the Lord.

This principle is crucial for us too, isn't it? As Christians, we remember the marvelous things the Lord has done for us—how He came into the world as a human being, enduring the same hardships and suffering we face. We know how Jesus saved us by laying down His life on the cross to free us from sin, guilt, and evil; and how He rose from the dead, promising to share that victory with those who trust in Him. We know these stories—now let's share them with our children and grandchildren. Let's make it part of our bedtime routines, tell them during long car trips, or use them to offer comfort when they are afraid or lonely. By doing so, we help ensure they, too, come to know and believe in the one true God who loves them more than anything... as His children.

Sunday September 1, 2024, Pentecost 15

Flowers:

9:30 AM

Worship

10:30 AM

Fellowship

Monday

September 2, 2024 -LABOR DAY

Tuesday

September 3, 2024

8:00 AM

First day of school at GLS

Wednesday

September 4, 2024

Thursday

September 5, 2024

Friday

September 6, 2024

Saturday

September 7, 2024

Sunday

September 8, 2024 Pentecost 16

Comm. Prep. Gillespie

Flowers:

9:30 AM

Worship with Holy Communion

11:00 AM

Call Meeting/Voters Meeting

10:30 AM

Fellowship

11:00 AM

Call Meeting



CALL MEETING / VOTERS MEETING- Next Sunday, September 8th, 2024, following our morning worship we will be presented with another call list from which we will issue a call for our next pastor at Grace. Please plan to attend!



Thank You
2004 to 2024



Words cannot fully express our gratitude for the outpouring of love and generous gifts from our family of believers at Grace since we announced our move to Bend, especially last Sunday! The multitude of cards, gifts, and messages has been both humbling and inspiring. Your encouragement through messages and prayers has greatly uplifted us as we embark on this new chapter in our lives and ministry.

As we start this new mission while staying in the Pacific Northwest, we hope and pray that we can continue to cherish and maintain the friendships God has blessed us with over the past 20 years in the Portland area. We love you all deeply. We will keep Grace's ministry in our prayers and look forward to witnessing how God's plan unfolds in both Portland and Bend. God bless you all.

The Bitters

What's Happening @Grace



Amazing Grace Church has found a new worship location 615 High Street, Oregon City. It is an event center space in the heart of Downtown Oregon city. We pray that that this new worship space will be a blessing for their congregation, and place of evangelism for spreading God's Word on the southeast side of the metro. Amazing Grace would like to thank Grace Church & School for opening their space for use over these past years and wish us God's blessings in our continued ministry in Portland.

Weekly Fellowship Food & Drinks

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 & Church Property

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.

Church Weekly 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

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.

Grace Fellowship Hall - Rental

Grace Church leadership has agreed to rent our fellowship hall space and parking lot to Amazon Prime Films for crew meals while they are in the area filming a new series. The filming company will be providing catering, security, garbage disposal, liability insurance, and cleaning for each use. We are letting our congregation know because the fellowship hall will not be available for use on these dates and we ask you to plan accordingly:

~~Tuesday, August 6 from 8AM to 6PM~~

~~Thursday, August 29th from 4PM to 9PM~~

~~Friday, August 30th from 1:30PM to 11PM~~

Friday, September 6th from 10AM – 8PM

Monday, September 9th – date changed

Tuesday, September 10th – date changed



Grace Lutheran Church – Portland, OR

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON THAT
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE -
JOHN 3:16

MILITARY SUPPORT & RESOURCES

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US



GLC Website - <http://www.grace-wels.net/>

GLC Facebook Website - <https://www.facebook.com/GraceWELS/>

Bible Gateway Website: <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

WELS Synod resources for US Military members - <https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/special-ministries/military-services/>

Dear Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Grace Lutheran Church in Portland Oregon,

Your church wants you to know how much we love you and appreciate the Service that you give to our loving and merciful gracious savior Jesus Christ and our nation. Our salvation was paid for by Jesus, our freedom is allowed by God, it takes servants of all our U.S. Military branch members to ensure our way of life of freedom. Thanks be to God for each and every one of you!

We would like to be of service to you. Listed above is weblinks to attend GLC worship service both live. The Facebook link will allow you to see our archived services if time doesn't allow for you to join us live. Need access to a bible? See the link to Bible Gateway, we recommend the EHV and NIV versions.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATION



50th Anniversary

SEPT

SUN
8

2024

WORSHIP IS AT 10:30 AM
LUNCHEON FOLLOWS AT 12 NOON
13112 NE 28TH ST., VANCOUVER, WA 98682

RSVP: LOIS
360-719-2149
ENGELLOIS@GMAIL.COM



Supporting Our Neighborhood Foodbank: July-August 2024

The staff at Mainspring thank you for your continued support of the foodbank. Our donation for May & June totaled 92 lbs., consisting mostly of food and some hygiene items. Thank you, thank you!

For **July & August**, please continue to donate basic food items, focusing on:

- **Peanut butter & jelly**
- **Canned protein** (tuna, chicken, & beef). (Thank you for the big package of canned tuna in our last donation.)

If you have a green thumb and don't know what to do with all your produce from your garden, please contact me and I will try to deliver your extra produce to Mainspring in a timely manner. You can call or text me, (360) 921-6673 with that information.

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 August. There are baskets in the fellowship hall to place your food donations as well as clothing and hygiene 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



Have you ever just felt down? We have all endured and experienced circumstances in our lives that bring sadness. It could be rejection, loss of a job/close friend, repeated failure at a goal or task, or a canceled flight while traveling.

Submitting to these feelings and sinking further into

acknowledging the lows is easy. At these times I try to remember two people in the bible who showed us a different way. Paul and Job, are great examples of showing true faith in God at all times. While Paul was in prison, he praised God. While Job had everything taken away, he stayed close to his Lord. While this year's theme is "Shinning Together" we want to remind ourselves, that regardless of what is happening in our lives, in our neighborhoods, or country, we have joy, peace, and the living Word to share. We should wake up every day knowing of our salvation through Christ and shine His light together for others to see. Here is a look at events from this summer.



**EVERGREEN LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL**

- **Welcome new staff.**

- **Jayden Stanossek**, our new MLC grad and Science teacher is officially moved in and is now a Washingtonian. We will install her at our opening service on August 27th at 6:30pm.
- **Kelsey Churchill (Birsching)** will be our new administrative assistant and the first point of contact by phone and for visitors to our school. Kelsey is a 2014 grad of Evergreen and 1 of 6 Birsching children who have all graduated from our school.

- **Summer Camps** – We hosted six summer camps this year. (Volleyball, cheer, basketball, drama, flag football, and science discovery.) With hundreds of students on campus throughout the summer, we are extremely thankful for the successful camps, the dedication of our coaches, and the coachability of our campers. Thank you to all involved, and we pray you had a fun week and learned some new things.

- **Current enrollment** for next school year is sitting between 105-110. Up from finishing last school year at 96. We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to educate these students and share God's Word with them this coming year.

- **Evergreen Workday August 10th starting at 8am-noon.** We would love for all our Evergreen supporters to come and help beautify our campus for our upcoming school year. There will be jobs for all ages with coffee and donuts to energize you.

- **New School Year Opening Service and Student Orientation** will be on Tuesday, August 27th at 6:30pm. The service will be followed by orientation in which we will share information with families about the upcoming year.

- **Freshman Orientation will be on August 28th from 8am-12:00pm.** This is an opportunity for our freshmen to get on campus and familiarize themselves with their classroom schedules and teachers.

- **August 29th is the official 1st day of school for all students.**

- **A few dates to keep in mind for this 1st semester.**

- o October 4 – Grandparents Day
- o October 25 – Eagle Day
- o November 2 – Homecoming
- o November 8 – Veteran's Day Service
- o December 3 – Giving Tuesday
- o December 20 – Christmas Concert
- o January 29 - ELHS Future Eagle Night

We are so excited for this upcoming school year. It is great to see all the events on our schedule and enrollment being over 100 again. This wouldn't be possible without your help. Your support and donations provide financial aid to our families, making tuition affordable. Your volunteering at our events and workdays allows us to showcase what God has blessed Evergreen with. We are partnered together with you and our Association to provide a Christian Education for our families. We love being able to do that with you. Thank you for supporting us and partnering with us in this invaluable mission.

In Christ,

Ryan Schmeling - Director of Mission Advancement

Rschmeling@elhs.org 715-220-1442

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
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 15 2024

Sunday Proverbs 25:6

- ✚ How do “exalt yourself” and arrogance relate to each other? What does this mean?
- ✚ From the spiritual perspective who is the King referred to here?
- ✚ Who are God’s great men? Who alone can put us in their company? Acts 2:39

Monday Proverbs 25:7

- ✚ Who alone can honor us spiritually? How humiliating would it be for God to say to us
- ✚ “You don’t belong here?”
- ✚ What is there in our lives for which we can say I did this by myself without God?
1 Cor. 12:1-3
- ✚ What does Paul mean when he says by the grace of God I am what I am? 1 Cor. 15:10

Tuesday James 2:1-4

- ✚ Why does James invoke the name of Jesus as he speaks of favoritism?
- ✚ Did Jesus show any favoritism on the cross? Explain. Mark 16:16
- ✚ Consider the example of James? Does that still happen in our day? Explain.
- ✚ How do these thoughts relate with the Proverbs passage?

Wednesday James 2:5-7

- ✚ What does James mean with verse 5? What often motivates the rich in earthly things? Is earthly wealth wrong? What can make it wrong?
- ✚ What alone should motivate us in our relationship with all people?
- ✚ How does the wrong motivation blaspheme “the name of him to whom we belong”?
- ✚ To whom do we belong? Why and how? Acts 15:7

Thursday James 2:8-13

- ✚ Discuss the royal law found in scripture which James quotes.
- ✚ How does showing favoritism to some negate this law?
- ✚ How do you understand verses 9-11?
- ✚ Discuss the phrase “mercy over judgment”. What does it mean to us?

Friday Luke 14:1,7-11

- ✚ What was a prominent Pharisee? Why was he invited to the luncheon?
- ✚ Why did Jesus go?
- ✚ What did Jesus notice about the people who came? What advice did he give them?
- ✚ How does Jesus advice apply to us? Do we have an arrogant streak in us? Explain. James 4:16.

Saturday Luke 14:12-14

- ✚ What advice did Jesus give to His host?
- ✚ What will be the benefit for his host if he follows Jesus’ advice?
- ✚ What is Jesus seeking to teach us with these lessons?
- ✚ What example did Jesus give us in regard to our attitude toward all people?
Romans 11:22