

The Means of Grace

September 17, 2023



Psalm 103:1-2 - Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.

“Did you see the game yesterday?!?” In countless workplaces on Monday morning, across these United States, that will be an exclamation and question that will be spoken again and again by friends and coworkers around coffee makers and water coolers. What will follow will be a lively discussion about our team and our players... especially if our team won and our favorite players did well in fantasy. We’ll praise the coach for his in game decisions and adjustments. We’ll praise the players for their game saving runs, throws, catches and tackles. We’ll praise the excitement of a hard fought, heart pounding victory. In fact, what will happen around coffee makers and water coolers on Monday won’t be something additional to the game’s enjoyment from the previous day... it will be the pinnacle of it: our excitement and praise.



Praising is a fully human, communal activity—it’s the mountaintop of joy. But, like every other mountaintop experience, it doesn't last. It's not that the qualities of the praiseworthy thing have vanished, rather, it's that our enjoyment doesn't last. The lively lunchroom banter gives way to spreadsheets, job sites and deadlines. For something that is so vital for making us fully human, it's strange that it doesn't last.

Like a lot of things in this mortal life, this life is a series of let-downs—fading memories, fleeting joys, ephemeral praise. For instance, your favorite player might get hurt on the 4th play of the game and suddenly all the praise is over before it even started. It is then we might wonder, “So, is this all there is?” Perhaps the fleeting nature of our praise shows us that we are not yet giving the praise we were created to make. And so we must confess, “Lord your greatness is beyond our highest praise!”

That's how the poets who penned the book of Psalms saw it. They believed that praising is our purpose and that praising our Creator will be the fulfillment of our deepest longing, our greatest joy. And, to miss out on that, to be left out, to not have a place in heaven’s sanctuary that would be the greatest loss of all. And so, when the psalmist prompts his own soul to bless the LORD, to remember all the LORD's benefits, he knows that praising the Creator will be the fulfillment of his greatest joy. And we know that when the risen Jesus returns—Jesus who once suffered that hell for us on the cross—when He returns to raise the dead and make all things new, then comes the victory, then the enduring joy, and then the ceaseless praise.

Sunday September 17, 2023 - Pentecost 16

Education Sunday/GLS sings today.

Flowers: Sue Hartwig

9:30 AM WORSHIP

10:30 AM Fellowship

11:00 AM Bible Class/Sunday School

6:00 PM Basketball

Monday September 18, 2023

6:00 PM Basketball

Tuesday September 19, 2023

8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation class @ GLS

10:00 AM Circuit Meeting at Grace

Wednesday September 20, 2023

8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation class @ GLS

9:00 AM Chapel

6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class

Thursday September 21, 2023

6:30 PM Leadership Mtg.
Council/BOE/Elders

Friday September 22, 2023

8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation Class @ GLS

Afternoon Visits

TILM (Truth in Love Ministry) @ GLS

Saturday September 23, 2023

9:00 AM 5-8 Public Confirmation

Sermon Preparation

Sunday September 24, 2023 Pentecost 17

Comm. Prep. Hehr

9:30 AM WORSHIP /with Holy Communion

10:30 AM Fellowship

11:00 AM Bible Class/Sunday School

6:00 PM Basketball



Dan Hehr who had surgery for bladder cancer Friday. We pray for healing and strength!

Carol Widman who moved back to the Friendship Health Center at 3320 SE Holgate Blvd in Portland for her continued rehab following a stroke earlier this month.

Chris Boughton, Jason Tanner's mother, who is undergoing treatments to address a non-malignant brain mass. We pray for continued success in her treatments and complete healing.

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 spring and summer church cleaning. The church building needs to be cleaned each week and we could use your help!



Weekly Fellowship Food & Drinks

Please consider signing up to host a Sunday by providing coffee, drinks, and food. A signup sheet is in the entryway at church.

Hiker's Group!

Thanks to everyone who participated in our hike along the Salmon River Trail! Please look for more information soon about our next hike! *Many thanks to Dan & Laura Paschke for organizing!*



Vacant Home Demolition

We have finally received city approval for the demolition of the third house. We are hopeful demolition can occur in the next few weeks. Following demolition the basement "holes" will be filled and then removal of septic and concert driveways and pads will follow. After the land is cleared of homes and debris the ground will be level, dead trees and brush removed and perimeter will be fenced.

New Roof at GLS

It is also our hope that much, much needed new roof at Grace School will be installed in the next few weeks as well.



NEW Fall Bible Studies & Sunday SCHOOL

ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD
Growing in Faith Together



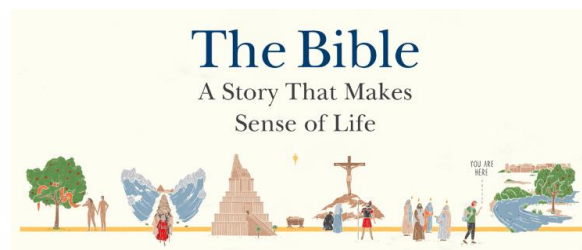
Sunday, September 17th at 11:00 AM

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.



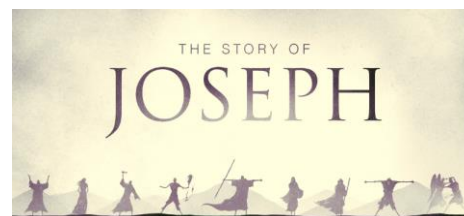
Sunday, September 17th at 11:00 AM

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!



Wednesday, September 13th 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 Joseph. Join us as we discover the ways that God graciously equips us to bless others.



Saturday, September 16th 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.



Starting again on a Saturday in October...

Men's breakfast and bible study! Bring your sons! Once a month we will plan to meet again for bible study and breakfast. Please look for information in the coming weeks. Study will begin in October. Please let Pastor Bitter know if you'd be interested in attending or helping organize!



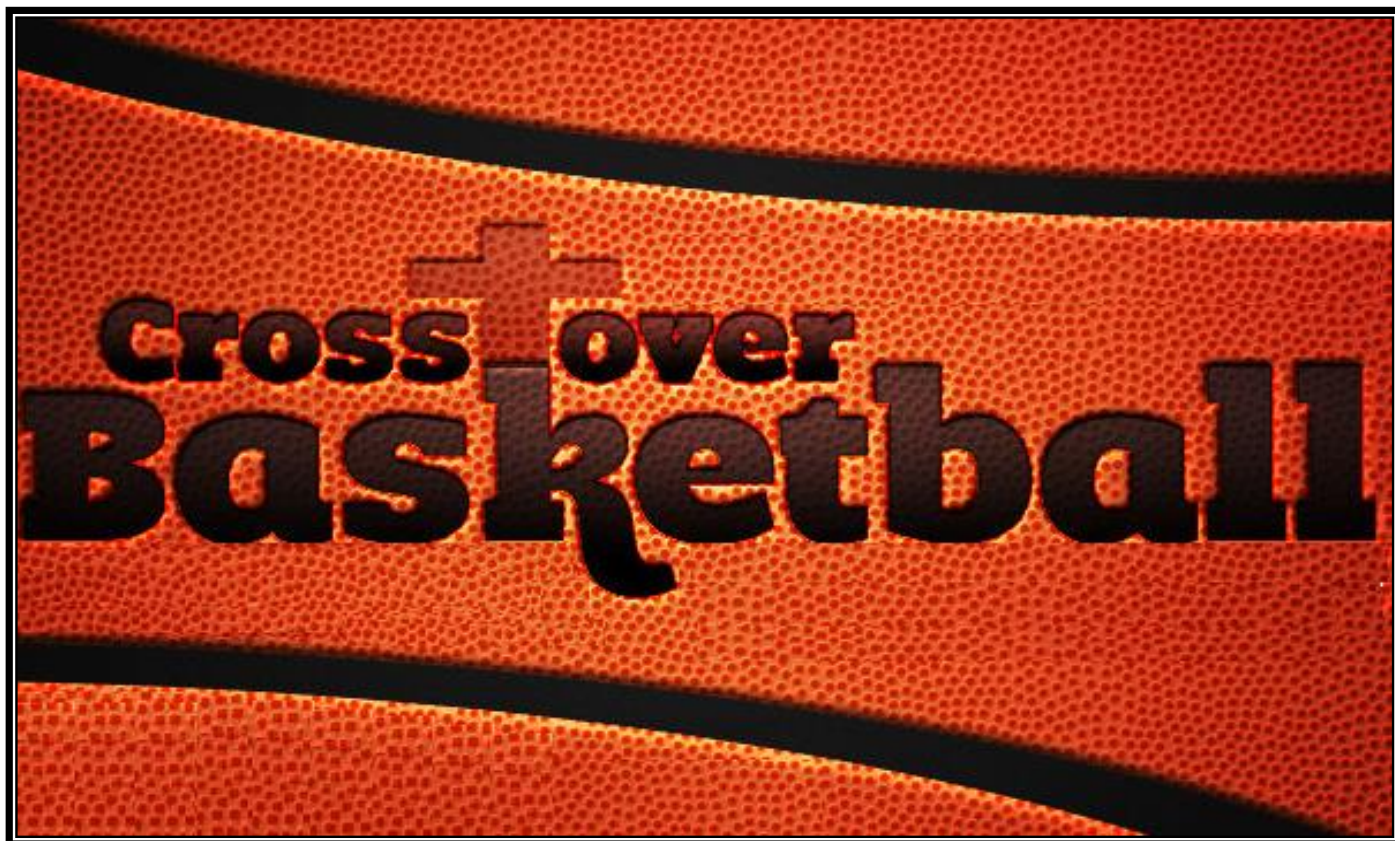
September Sermon Series

IF
GOD
IS FOR US
WHO CAN BE
Against us?
ROMANS 8:31



“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing... If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. – John 15

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.



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.

Bring your friends.

Get some exercise.

Dunk on someone.

Have fun.

Live your faith.

6:00 PM Sundays & Mondays



The Eagle Message Grace Lutheran School DECLARE *His* PRAISES

September 12, 2023

Chapel Service at 8:30

We will have our weekly school-wide Chapel Service on Wednesday mornings at **8:30**. An offering envelope is **ATTACHED**, for your child's mission offering. We will support mission work in Thailand for the first semester. Take a look at the bulletin board next to Mrs. Leitzke's room for more information. Thank you.

Extended Care

Extended Care (3:15 - 5:30 PM) is offered Monday through Friday, on days we have school. If you would like to sign-up or have questions about Extended Care, please send an email to Tammy Godish at tgodish@grace-wels.net. If you would like to stop in the office to sign-up, please do so as well. The registration form and information are **attached**.

Students sing at Grace Lutheran Church THIS SUNDAY, September 17th

The Kindergarten through Eighth Grade Students are scheduled to sing at Grace Lutheran Church, 7610 NE Fremont St. **THIS Sunday September 17th** for the 9:30 worship service. Everyone is welcome to stay for Fellowship & refreshments, Bible Class and Sunday School after the service. A map to Grace Lutheran Church is **attached**. Contact your child's teacher with any questions.

Bottle & Can Recycling Fundraiser

This fundraiser is going great and we send a big thank you to everyone who has brought in cans & bottles already. Since we started this fundraiser we have collected almost **\$5,000!!** Keep those clean, dry Oregon recyclable cans and plastic/glass bottles coming. Collection Bags can be picked up at school or contact the office to have bags sent home with your student.

*We're looking for some **helpers** to take the full bags of cans from school and drop them off at the recycling center. If this sounds like something you can do for our school, please contact Mrs. Kraklow in the office - 503-777-8628 or lkraklow@grace-wels.net.*

Grandparents Day TOMORROW Wednesday, Sept 13

All Grandparents of our Kindergarten through 8th grade students are invited to **Grandparents Day on Wednesday, September 13th** starting at 8:00. The day will include time from **8:00 TO 8:30** to meet other grandparents, worship together at our Chapel Service at **8:30**, spend time with your grandkids in their classrooms or on the playground from **8:50 to 10:00**, and enjoy **BRUNCH** with them at **10:00**. See you there!



September Hot Lunch/Brunch TOMORROW Sept. 13

We offer Hot Lunch once a month here at school, planned, prepared and served by parent volunteers. Our first Hot Lunch/Brunch of the year is set for **Wednesday, September 13th at 10:00 AM**. The meal will include: eggs, sausage, tater tots, waffles and orange juice. Students should still plan on eating their own breakfast, and bringing a light lunch/snack for later. **Cost per person is \$5.00.** Lunches can be paid for by the month, quarter, half or the whole year (10 lunches = \$50). Make it easy on yourself and pay for the whole year or a few months at a time. Payment can be made with exact cash or checks made payable to *Working Eagles*. The lunch purchase is optional. Please remember to **send a snack** for your child even if they are having Hot Lunch.



Picture Day is **THIS week Thursday, September 14th**. An updated order form with package and price details is being sent home today AND is **attached** to the email version of this newsletter. The form sent last week did not have an option for ordering Class Photos. Please complete and return the order form **FOR EACH STUDENT**, including payment with a check, the **EXACT amount of cash**, or information to charge your credit card account. Families are not required to purchase photos, but each student will have their picture taken for the yearbook and our school records.

AT EVERGREEN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL...

Sharing Jesus through excellence in Christian Education.

That young people may realize their God-given potential, Evergreen Lutheran High School values:

- Spiritually mature hearts through the study of God's Word
- Christian life and service through Christian education
- Communicating with and supporting families
- A welcoming, safe, and functional learning environment
- An engaged association
- An outreach and evangelism focus
- A pursuit of excellence

All students thrive in Christian love through our Christ-Focused Culture

- The Word is treasured (Psalm 19:9-10).
- The Word is lived.
- Law and Gospel are properly divided and applied in everything.
- Relationships are agape-love motivated ones.
- There is an encouraging environment.
- Spoken and written words are "captive to Christ" (2 Cor 10:5)
- There is an appearance that reflects thankfulness for what Christ has done.
- All instruction integrates the Word of God.
- Christ is shared; there is a mission mindset.

This week is packed with activities! Here is a quick reference of Eagle events for your reference. Always check the app, or www.elhsathletics.com for changes to the game times. Game locations, addresses, stats, and more are available online at www.elhsathletics.com. The online and app calendars are updated in real-time! Watch ELHS gym home games and many of our away games online on the NFHS network <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/.../evergreen-lutheran-high...>



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4PM BOYS SOCCER @ SUMMIT ATLAS
SEPTEMBER 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:30PM JV VOLLEYBALL @ CHIEF LESCHI • 6PM VARSITY VOLLEYBALL @ CHIEF LESCHI
SEPTEMBER 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4PM GIRLS SOCCER VS. SUMMIT ATLAS
SEPTEMBER 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6PM VARSITY VOLLEYBALL VS. SOUND CHRISTIAN
SEPTEMBER 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:30PM GIRLS SOCCER @ AUBURN ADVENTIST
SEPTEMBER 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12PM FALL CHEER CLINIC • 3:30PM FALL KICK-OFF • 6PM FOOTBALL VS. WISHKAH VALLEY

WELS NEWS

College is hard.
Don't leave your faith life at home.
We can help.



So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. Colossians 2: 6-8

In 1920, the first campus ministry program began at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. For 100 years, thousands of young adults have found spiritual comfort, community, and encouragement through WELS campus ministries around North America. WELS Campus Ministry, a ministry of WELS Home Missions, continues that legacy by providing resources and support to congregations that serve these college students during a critical transition point in their life. The WELS Campus Ministry Committee currently provides over 40 campus ministries with financial support and assists hundreds of other congregations in their campus ministry outreach.

HEY STUDENTS!

The world is your oyster! New horizons, new opportunities, so many doors open for you. How exciting to go off to college and finally become a grown up and begin YOUR life! Make sure to take your faith with you! There are campus ministry programs and contact pastors around the United States and Canada that want to help you navigate the twists and turns of college life.

HEY CAMPUS MINISTRY SUPPORTERS!

Do you remember when you were 18-21 years old? What an exciting time of your life! The world is your oyster! New horizons, new opportunities, so many doors open for you. How exciting to go off to college, finally become a grown up, and begin YOUR life!

However, the devil knows how to strike when the iron is hot. There is perhaps no better time for him to attack than when a young adult goes off to a public college or university. No one is waking you up in the morning to go to church on Sunday. There are plenty of opportunities to forgo a Godly lifestyle and experience all the world has to offer. Faith can be tested. Faith can be tried. Faith can even be lost.

That's where WELS Campus Ministry fits in. Campus Ministry, a ministry of WELS Home Missions, exists to provide resources, support, and encouragement to WELS congregations that serve college students around the United States and Canada. What a vital ministry this is at such an important time of transition!

Boards & Committees at Grace

Church Council

Juan Garcia – President
Dan Paschke – GLS Finance
Josh Luplow – 1 VP & BOE Chair
Jon Cohrs - 2 VP & Secretary
Thad Bitter – Pastor
Justin Eternick – Principal



Board of Education

Josh Luplow – 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
Jacob Meyer
Pastor Bitter



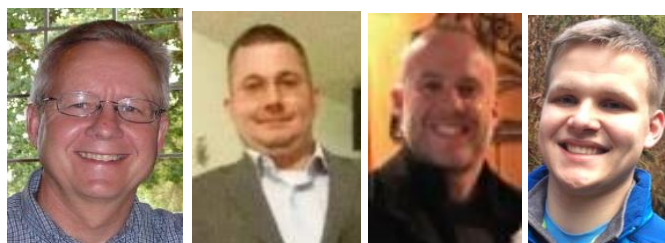
Mary & Martha

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



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF PENTECOST 16 2023

Sunday **Isaiah 35:4**

- Who are those with fearful hearts? Describe a fearful heart.
- Why should people be strong and not fear? Hebrews 13:5
- Who will come with divine retribution and save us?
- Discuss the application of this to us today.

Monday **Isaiah 35:5-6**

- Whom and what do these verses describe?
- Discuss the spiritual lesson of verse 6? What part of Jesus' work does it describe?
- What powerful motivation do we have to be patient in times of stress and pain?
- Read Psalm 37:4-6.

Tuesday **Isaiah 35:7**

- How does this scene go counter to reality?
- What spiritual picture comes to mind here?
- What spiritual lessons are there for us in these verses from Isaiah? VV. 4-7.

Wednesday **Acts 3:1-5**

- Describe the scene which is unfolding here?
- How common was this scene? How common is it today?
- What was the man expecting? Why did he wait in vain?
- Do we sometimes wish we could do more for such people?
- What cautions might there be for going overboard in giving such help?

Thursday **Acts 3:6-10**

- What did Peter say? What did Peter do?
- How can we help such people when we don't have any money to give and can't perform miracles?
- What greater miracle has God performed for us?
- Do we have reason to be thankful as this healed man was? Explain.



Friday **Mark 7:31-35**

- Describe the man and his problem? What did he expect from Jesus?
- Describe the process Jesus followed. Why do you think he went through all of this?
- How long did it take for results? Why did Jesus do these miracles in His day?

Saturday **Mark 7:36-37**

- Why do you think he told the man to tell no one?
- Why were they constrained to tell people?
- What does Jesus tell us about spreading the good news of Jesus?
- Why are we reluctant to share the good news?

Grace Lutheran Church - September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 4:00 PM Bitter / Barnum Rehearsal (Offsite)	2 5:00 PM Bitter / Barnum Wedding (Offsite)
3 Pentecost 14 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM BIC 6:00 PM Basketball	4  6:00 PM Basketball	5 8:00 AM First day of school GLS 9:00 AM Opening Chapel		7 First day of Preschool GLS	8	9
10 Pentecost 15 9:30 AM Worship With Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Class 11:00 AM Sun Sch 6:00 PM Basketball	11 6:00 PM Basketball	12 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 10:00 AM Mary & Martha 3:30 PM GLS Staff Mtg.	13 Grandparents Day GLS 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 9:00 AM Chapel 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class 7:00 PM Bend Outreach	14 8:00 AM 5-6 Confirmation	15 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation Afternoon Visits 4:00 PM Private Baptism	16 9:00 AM 5-8 Public Confirmation 1030 AM BIC Toddy Memorial at Grace Church
17 Pentecost 16 9:30 AM Worship Education Sunday GLS Sings 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Class 11:00 AM Sun Sch 6:00 PM Basketball	18 6:00 PM Basketball	19 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 10:00 AM Circuit Meeting at Grace	20 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 9:00 AM Chapel 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class	21 8:00 AM 5-6 Confirmation 6:30 PM Leadership Mtg. Council/BOE/Elder	22 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation Afternoon Visits TILM Event (Truth in Love Ministry) At GLS	23 9:00 AM 5-8 Public Confirmation 1030 AM BIC
24 Pentecost 17 9:30 AM Worship With Communion 10:30 AM Fellowship 11:00 AM Bible Class 11:00 AM Sun Sch 6:00 PM Basketball	25 6:00 PM Basketball	26 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class	27 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 9:00 AM Chapel 3:30 PM Worship Co 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class 7:00 PM Elders 7:00 PM Bend Outreach	28 8:00 AM 5-6 Confirmation	29 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation Afternoon Visits	30 9:00 AM 5-8 Public Confirmation 1030 AM BIC