

The Means of Grace



SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

God Has a Better Idea

If there was ever a guy who had a right to think God had deserted him, it was Joseph. His ten older brothers couldn't stand the sight of him because their dad preferred him above the rest. One day, when they were all far away from the old man, the ten older ones decided to kill Joseph. While they were discussing the details of how to do him in, they got a better idea. A caravan of traders happened by, and the ten brothers sold Joseph into slavery. Surely, they figured, he wouldn't live long as a slave, and the guilt for his death would be on someone else's head.

Dragged off to a foreign land, Joseph was bought by a royal official. The official took notice of Joseph's honesty and administrative abilities and placed him in charge of his mansion.

Just when Joseph's situation appeared to be improving, things began to go badly. His boss's wife wanted to have an affair with him. Being a man of principle, however, Joseph wouldn't go near her. Miffed by his refusal, she told her husband that Joseph had tried to rape her, and Joseph was pitched into prison.



At that point, no one would have blamed Joseph if he had deserted his faith and screamed, "There is no God! Or, if there is, He's the devil himself!" But that's not what happened. Joseph did not give up on God. More importantly, God did not give up on Joseph. You see, God had a plan to create good out of the bad things that happened to Joseph.

A few years later, the king of the land had a dream that disturbed him a great deal. No one in the land could interpret the dream—no one, that is—except Joseph. The dream had two parts: first, seven fat cows were eaten up by seven skinny cows. Then seven full ears of corn were devoured by seven scrawny ears. God revealed to Joseph the meaning of the dream: after seven years of bumper crops, the land would experience seven years of famine.

The king was so impressed by Joseph's explanation that he made him his top official. Joseph was placed in charge of storing the surplus of the seven prosperous years so people could survive the seven years of famine.

Well, when the famine arrived, guess who showed up in search of grain? You guessed it—Joseph's ten famished brothers. Now, if this were a Hollywood movie, Joseph would have reaped revenge, subjecting his brothers to ten ghastly, gory, gruesome deaths. The true story, however, is much more dramatic. With tears in his eyes, Joseph forgave them and said, **"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives"** (Genesis 50:20).

The Bible promises, **"And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose"** (Romans 8:28). This does not mean those who trust God will never suffer. It means they will never suffer without a purpose. Evil people may cause all sorts of suffering and conflict, but God promises to make their purposes backfire and result in blessing.

As Joseph sat in his jail cell, he did not know exactly what good would result from his plight. Nonetheless, he trusted God would keep His Word. In your case, when you trust in Christ as your Savior from sin, you can rest assured God is caring for you, and you will never experience trials without a purpose.

In the midst of what seem to be insurmountable difficulties, do not turn away from God. Rather draw closer to Him and trust in His promise from the Bible: **"... God is faithful; He will not let you be tested beyond what you can bear. But when you are tested, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it"** (1 Corinthians 10:13b). His Word.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Sunday September 18, 2022/ Pentecost 15 /Ministry Celebration Sunday

Flowers Susan Hartwig
9:30 AM Worship
10:30 AM Fellowship
11:00 AM Bible Study
11:00 AM Sunday School

Monday September 19, 2022

Tuesday September 20, 2022

8:00 AM Catechism
10:00 AM Circuit Mtg.
6:00 PM Steering Committee

Wednesday September 21, 2022

8:00 AM Catechism
9:15 AM Chapel
3:30 PM Worship Committee
4:30 PM BIC
6:00 PM Meeting
6:30 PM Google Meet Bible Study

Thursday September 22, 2022/GLS Picture Day

8:00 AM Catechism
6:30 PM Council / BOE

Friday September 23, 2022

8:00 AM Catechism
Member Visits

Saturday September 24 ,2022 /LWMS FALL RALLY AT GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

8:00 AM Worship Preparation
9:30 AM Registration
10:00-3:00 Pm Rally/Lunch provided

Sunday September 25, 2022 - Pentecost 16

Flowers: Marilyn
9:30 AM Worship
10:30 AM Fellowship
11:00 AM Bible Study

Esad Golic, Tamara Golic's father, diagnosed with Nodular Melanoma to his scalp. Further testing and treatment are being explored. We pray that God blesses him with complete healing!

Sean Evans, Ron Evan's son who has been diagnosed with Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He has started treatment. We ask our gracious Lord for complete healing and the comfort and reassurance that only He can provide.

Wendy Gelnett who request prayer for a family friend, **Lauren**, a young mother who will be undergoing surgery for tumors in her brain and lungs.

Norma Delong & family whose niece, Annie, was called home to heaven

Michelle Glasheen, whose uncle, Rick, was called home to heaven



What's Happening @ Grace



Vacant Home Demolition & Fire Damage – UPDATE ON BIDS

This past week one of the garages and homes on our school properties was set on fire. Thankfully that same day we were also getting a bid from a contractor to demolish the homes. We are pursuing 2 more bids. We are hopeful that this can be accomplished in the fall. Recent vandalism, fires and attempted break-ins at school have given this project more urgency to find completion. An initial bid of about \$82,000 has been received for the removal of all three houses. Additional bid for abatement and salvaging materials into addition to demolition are also in hand and coming in. Please contact Pastor Bitter, Mr. Eternick, or Dan Paschke if you have connections or helpful information about achieving this goal.



Weekly Mowing!

Please consider signing up for fall lawn care. The lawn at church needs to be cut every week. Thanks to Ed Gillespie, Roger Schrab, the Juan & Sue Garcia and everyone else who has helped over the summer. We could use more help this fall!



Weekly Cleaning!

Please consider signing up for fall church cleaning. The church building needs to be cleaned each week. Thanks to everyone who has helped clean over the summer! Special thanks to the ladies of our Mary & Martha who spent a day cleaning and organizing.

Weekly Fellowship Food & Drinks

After worship refreshments & fellowship! Please consider signing up to host on a Sunday by providing coffee, drinks and food. Thanks to everyone who has helped over the summer!



Weekly Altar Flowers

Please consider signing up for bring altar flowers. We need flowers every week!



**Sunday, September 18th
10:45 (following worship)**

Voter approval for council to accept bids to demolish homes next to school with gifts already given for that purpose.

Let's help Olivia!



\$250

raised of \$4,500 target
by 2 supporters

Give Now

Share

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to this effort to help **Olivia Baker** and her fellow nursing students at WLC to travel to Zambia to help others. If you would still like the opportunity to assist them, please click on the link to find out more about this wonderful learning experience. As always, thank you for your prayers as they prepare now and for their travels in January!



<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/olivia-baker7>

(press ctrl and click you mouse to open link)

Or, go to justgiving.com and search for Olivia Baker

Story

In January 2023, I will embark on a two week immersion experience to learn about healthcare and culture in Zambia. I'll have the opportunity to observe healthcare in a children's hospital, government clinic, special needs school, and a rural clinic. I will also have the chance to perform vision screenings and teach health to children.

As you can imagine, a trip of this magnitude comes at a considerable cost. I am responsible for securing the funds necessary to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. I need your help to be able to afford the cost of traveling to Zambia to share the love of Jesus while gaining valuable cross-cultural healthcare experience. Will you please consider a financial contribution to help me make it to Zambia?

Please note that contributions toward my individual fundraising goal are not considered charitable for tax purposes under IRS regulations.



SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS & SUNDAY SCHOOL

NEW TIME! 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. Bible Study will be offered for teens and adults.

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

September 18th, 2022

Ministry Celebration Sunday



Please join us on September 18th as we celebrate our ministry together at Grace!

- Worship!
- Grace School students sing!
- Installation of GLS 2022-2023 staff!
- Ministry plan presentation!

Please plan to join the celebration!

Mission to the Children (MTTC) Mexico 2022- Fall Update

Pastor's Corner Update:

"When the way you have typically done something changes on you, how would you adapt to it? ... Mission to the Children (MTTC) has ... had to go through some changes itself. With the passing of Pastor Alejandro Sanchez in 2021, our churches and villages in northern Sonora have been vacant. With the rapid increase of drug cartel violence that is harming bystanders and facing off against the Mexican army, it is next to impossible to have a consistent American presence. These unexpected changes have not helped our efforts to spread the gospel and show God's love in northern Sonora."



"That does not mean that MTTC has given up or taken a break... In-person support has pivoted to remote support as MTTC uses the rural internet infrastructure to equip and encourage the faithful. Consistent American presence was replaced with supply runs and day trips to Sasabe that is within minutes of the border crossing. Action in the local mission field has turned into patience as we fervently pray for the cartel violence to subside and the Lord to provide a permanent pastor to shepherd the vacant flocks... Though the methods may have changed, MTTC is still focused on spreading the gospel and showing God's love in northern Sonora." -- Pastor Tim Patoka

22nd Annual School Supply Drive

This fall Mission to the Children is once again collecting school supplies for the children and teachers in northern Sonora, Mexico. The supplies are taken to Sasabe, a town just minutes from the U.S. border. Volunteers residing in the villages in Sonora will then pick up the supplies from Sasabe.

I thank you for your generous donations last Spring. Those items were taken to three different villages last May. Once again, I will travel to Tucson, and will be able to take only a few boxes to the Mission's office in Tucson. I am asking that you do NOT donate heavy items such as paper, (including spiral notebooks, journals, loose-leaf paper, composition notebooks, etc.) or large 3-ring binders since the boxes I'm checking have a weight limit. However, you may donate gift cards (Target or Walmart) ... and cash/checks are also welcomed.



Please make your check payable to **Mission to the Children** or **MTTC**. Please bring your donation to:

Grace Lutheran Church, Portland OR by **September 25, 2022...** or
Grace Lutheran School, Portland OR by **September 24th, 2022**

Suggested school supplies:

1. Pencils and erasers
2. Small bottle of glue
3. Glue sticks
4. Scissors
5. Rulers
6. Protractors
7. Crayons
8. Colored pencils
9. Pens
10. Band aids AND
11. Backpacks/book bags (especially needed by high school students)
(Backpacks need to be large enough to fit a spiral notebook.)

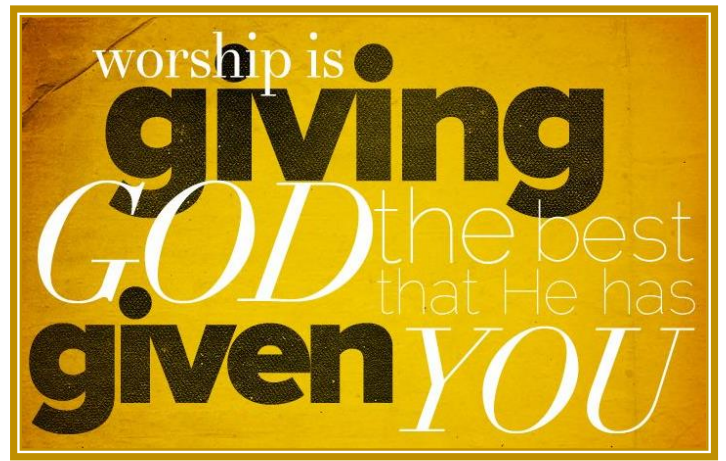
**Mission
to the
Children**
Tucson, Arizona


P.O. Box 42223
Tucson, AZ 85733

**Misión
Para los
Niños**
Sonora, Mexico

Please remember the following rules regarding donations: We cannot take any outdated items, no used items (i.e., glue, crayons, backpacks, etc.), or opened items (i.e., band aids, not in a sealed package). Currently Mexico is NOT allowing MTTC to bring children's vitamins into the country. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Leann Breza via email, lbreza@gmail.com . To find out more about MTTC in Mexico, there is a great website with information and newsletters about recent trips to the villages; www.missiontothechildren.org

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OUR BEST



We are asking you to prayerfully consider how you can give your best to the Lord to support the gospel ministry at Grace.

At the voters meeting last month...

- The 2022-2023 budget was approved.
- In order to have a balanced budget an 20% increase in giving was approved.
- All GLS teachers were given raises in salary in our plan to meet or exceed synod code in the next 3 years.
- An increase in fundraising efforts in the next year will be necessary to meet the budget.
- We are prayerful asking our Lord to move his people's hearts to meet a special gifts goal of 50K.
- Efforts to better promote the school were discussed and plan to remove the dilapidated houses next to the school is underway. There will be special giving opportunities to make this possible as well.
- New signage on the back of the school is now visible from 205 to better promote the school. Members are encouraged to make a special gift for this as well.





LWMS Fall Rally

Cascade Circuit

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

Registration - 9:30 am

Rally 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Lunch provided

Hosted by Amazing Grace & Hope Lutheran Churches

AT Grace Lutheran School

2252 SE 92nd Ave. Portland, Oregon

“The Lord Added More”

Acts 5:14

Guest Speaker

Pastor Joel Nitz - Hmong Mission in Vietnam

Please send your Mission monies by **September 17th** to our Treasurer:

Linda Andresen

3203 SE Vineyard Rd #23

Milwaukie, OR 97267

We hope to see you there!



“LWMS IS WOMEN DEDICATED TO SERVING JESUS BY INCREASING AWARENESS OF, INTEREST IN, AND SUPPORT OF THE MISSION OUTREACH OF THE WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD (WELS).”



TRUNK



or

TREAT

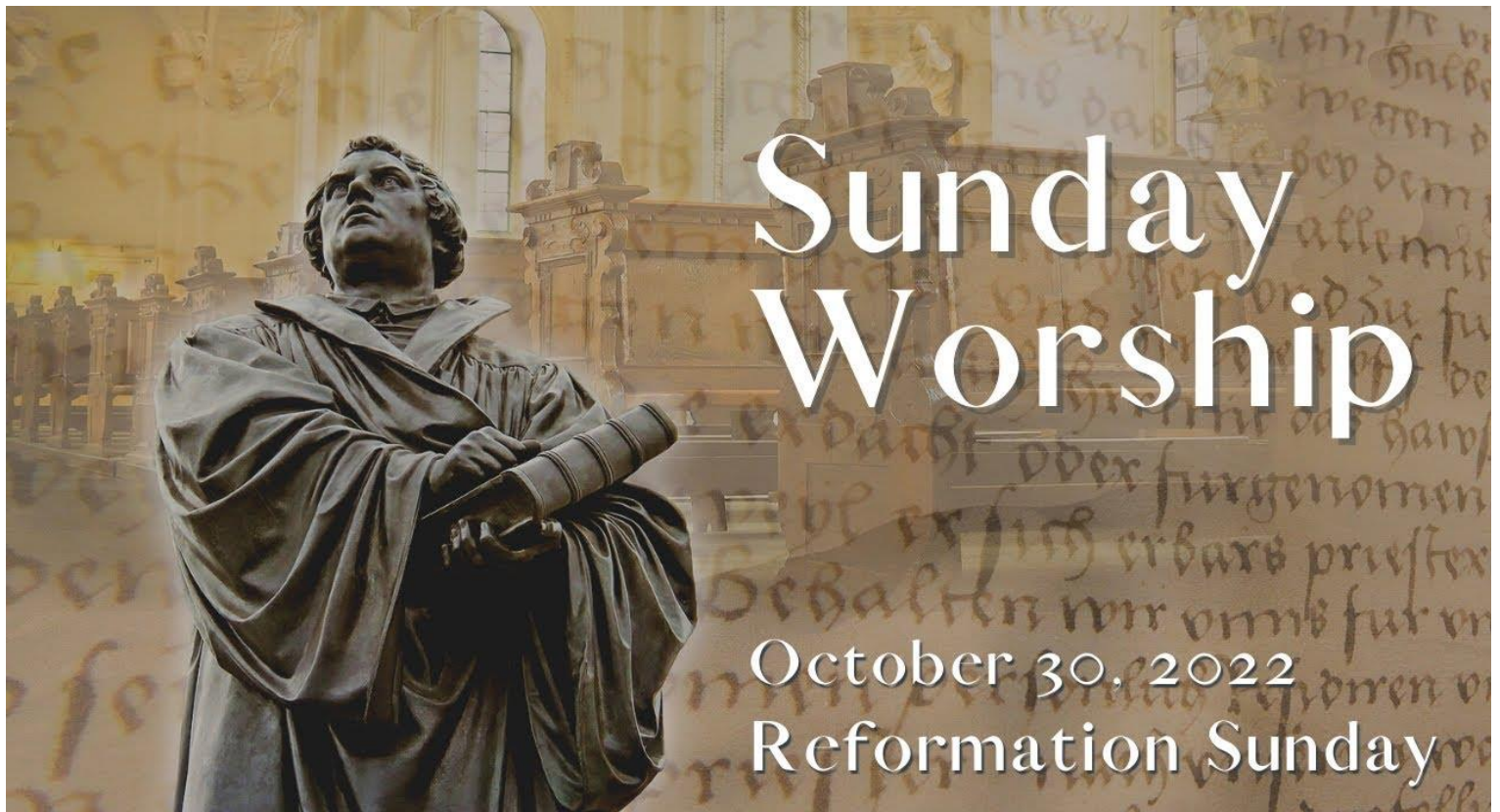
GRACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

● TRUNK DECORATING CONTEST ● CANDY GIVEAWAY ● GAMES ● ACTIVITIES

Join us for trick or treating, food, games, and activities!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29th, 2022, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

2252 SE 92ND AVE. PORTLAND, OR 97216 QUESTIONS: 503.777.8628



Please, plan to celebrate!

Worship at 9:30 AM

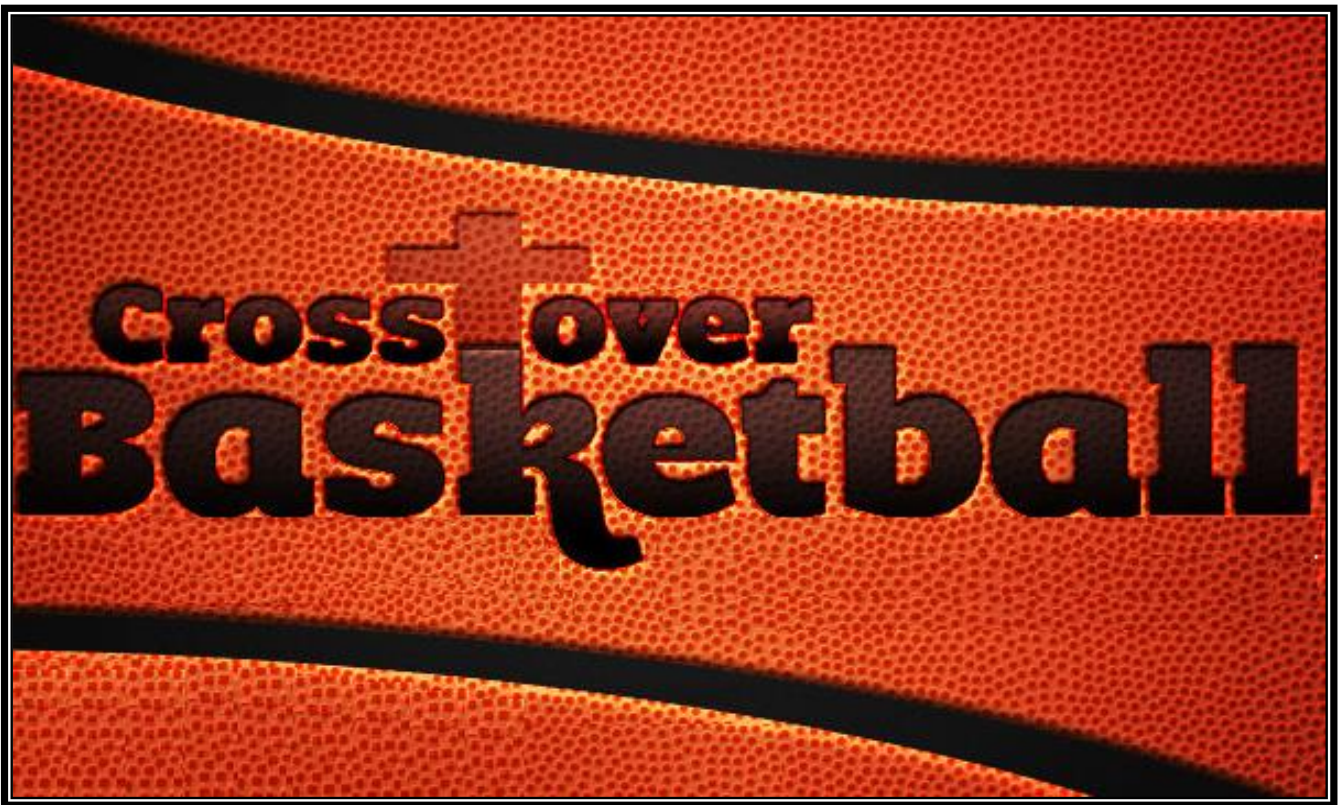
Thank God for the gifts we treasure from the reformation.

New Member Welcome

Welcome our new members at Grace Lutheran Church

Reformation PotLuck & BBQ

It's what Lutherans do!



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.

Bringing your friends.

Get some exercise.

Dunk on someone.

Have fun.

Live your faith.

Boards & Committees at Grace

Church Council

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



Board of Education

Dan Paschke – Chair
 Michael Godish – Board Member
 Dave House – Board Member
 James Settje – Board Member
 Thad Bitter – Pastor
 Justin Eternick – Principal



Steering Committee

Mark Leitzke – Chair
 Penny Hung – Secretary
 Dan Hehr
 Judy Wilson
 Freddie Delgado
 Noelle Leitzke
 Itai Mudzongo
 Warren Menche
 Elvita Engelgau
 Jim Stewart
 Thad Bitter – Pastor
 Justin Eternick – Principal



Board of Elders

Craig Baker – Head Elder
 Courage Mudzongo
 Len Stadler
 Pastor Bitter



Worship Committee

Marilyn Baer
 Mark Leitzke
 Sue Hartwig
 Melissa Baker
 Olivia Baker
 Pastor Bitter



Mary & Martha

Sara Hehr – Co/Presidents
 Susan Lewallen – Co/Presidents
 Linda Bern – Secretary / Treasure
 Faye Rutstein – LWMS Representative
 Pastor Bitter



Trustees

Ed Gillespie
 Brian Boyer
 Matt Ginnow
 Kyle Leitzke



DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF PENTECOST 15, 2022

Sunday **Judges 16:22-24**

- ❖ Peruse chapters 13 to 16 to recall the story of Samson and its focus.
- ❖ What is the significance of verse 22?
- ❖ How did Samson lose his great strength? Is the Philistine god Dagon really responsible? Explain.
- ❖ Describe the scene before us? What is happening? Why is Samson really where he is?
- ❖ What was his problem as is the case with all of us? Psalm 119:36; James 3:15-17.

Monday **Judges 16:25-28**

- ❖ Why were these multitudes of people present in one place? What was their purpose?
- ❖ What was God's purpose? They came to praise Dagon but who was really in control?
- ❖ As the people ridiculed Samson what was God arranging through Samson?
- ❖ How do we know that Samson apparently had repented? V. 28
- ❖ Is it possible for God to forgive Samson? Explain. Psalm 130

Tuesday **Judges 16:29-31**

- ❖ Describe Samson's feat as he died? What happened to all the Philistines? Why had they gathered? Where was Dagon when all of this happened?
- ❖ Do you think perhaps Samson's last thought was "thank you, Lord"?
- ❖ How do the words of scripture apply here to Samson and us? Proverbs 10:15-17; Romans 6:22-24.

Wednesday **Galatians 6:12-13**

- ❖ What was Paul's purpose in writing this Epistle? See Gal. 1:1-9
- ❖ Why were some people trying to force other people to be circumcised?
- ❖ Why does Paul call this an act of the "flesh"? What spiritual value is there in circumcision?
- ❖ About what are people boasting as described in verse 13? Look again at Rom. 6:22-24.

Thursday **Galatians 6:14-16**

- ❖ How can we be crucified to the world?
- ❖ Where does Paul suggest we put our boasting? Galatians 5:1-6
- ❖ Seek to define the words peace and mercy of Christ as they apply to you. Jeremiah 4:4.

Friday **Matthew 16:21-23**

- ❖ What far reaching and striking announcement did Jesus make to His disciples?
- ❖ Focus on the words "far reaching" and "striking"?
- ❖ How did the disciples react to this announcement? Why?
- ❖ What had Peter confessed just moments before this?
- ❖ How does this reaction conflict with the previous one?
- ❖ What was the key to Peter's earlier response and missing from this one?
- ❖ How does Jesus underscore that something was missing? v. 23 Hebrews 10:22-24

Saturday **Matthew 16:24-26**

- ❖ Let's examine verse 24. Focus on these items: What is a disciple?
- ❖ What does it mean to take up one's cross? How and why do we follow Jesus?
- ❖ What does verse 25 mean to you? Focus on "losing life" and "gaining life".
- ❖ What are your answers to the questions in verse 26? MT. 6:17-34

Grace Lutheran Church – September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Worship Prep
4 PENECOST 13 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	5 	6 8:00 AM Grace School K-8 First Day	7 8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 9:15 Chapel 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class	8 8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 3:30 GLS Staff Mtg. 6:30 PM BOE	9 8:00 AM Catechism Cl.	10 Worship Prep
11 <i>Communion</i> PENECOST 14 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Class 11:00 Sunday School	12 Grace Preschool First Day	13 8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 10:00 AM Mary & Martha	14 GLS Grandparents Day 8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 9:15 Chapel 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class	15 8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 6:30 PM Council Mtg.	16 8:00 AM Catechism Cl.	17 Worship Prep
18 <i>Celebration Sunday</i> PENECOST 15 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Class 11:00 Sunday School	19	20 8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 10:00 AM Circuit Mtg 6:00 PM Steering Com.	21 8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 9:15 Chapel 3:30 Worship Comm. 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class	22 GLS Picture Day 8:00 AM Catechism Cl.	23 8:00 AM Catechism Cl.	24 LWMS at SCHOOL  Saturday, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022 Registration - 8:30 am Rally 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Lunch provided
25 <i>Communion</i> PENECOST 16 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Bible Class 11:00 Sunday School	26	27 8:00 AM Catechism Cl.	28 8:00 AM Catechism Cl. 9:15 Chapel 4:30 BIC 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class 7:00 PM Elders Meeting	29 8:00 AM Catechism Cl.	30 8:00 AM Catechism Cl.	