

The Means of Grace

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

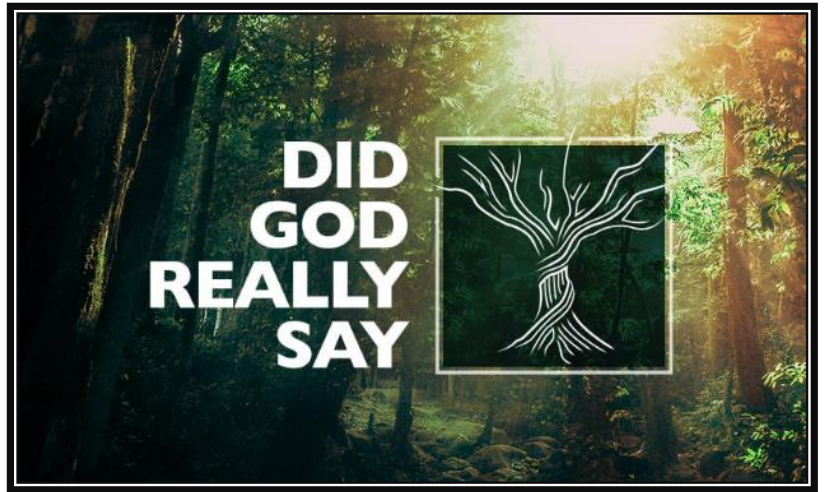


Twisted Truths

“Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?” Witnesses are asked to take that oath in court.

Perhaps you have been asked to take such an oath before. In an election year every political candidate wants us to believe that they are telling us “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing

but the truth” ... but we know better. It seems that people are always twisting the truth and we would like some assurance that we are being told the truth.



Twisting the truth is certainly not a new phenomenon, and it doesn't only occur in election years. Twisting the truth goes all the way back to the beginning of time in the Garden of Eden when the Devil told the first lie.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” 2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” 4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Genesis 3:1-5 NIV)

In fact, that is all the devil can do. He lies. Jesus describes him like this, “When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44). The devil loves twisting the truth. Can you see that in how he tempted Eve? He took God's words, twisted them to change their true meaning, and tried to convince Eve that it was what God had really said.

Fast forward about 6000 years. Still today the greatest dangers to our faith come when people who claim to be speaking for God twist the truth. “God is love, so all lifestyles are acceptable.” “Jesus says not to judge, so you have no right to point out sin.” “Jesus died for everyone, so there’s no way God would ever send someone to hell.” We could fill pages of twisted truths that the Devil has convinced people to believe today. The problem with twisted truths is that usually they sound good, they look morally acceptable, and they make us feel good... and that’s what makes them so dangerous. Paul spoke about those who twist the truth. *“In fact, such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”* (2 Corinthians 11:13-14)



So how do we know what is truth, what is a “twisted truth”, and what is a total lie? Eve knew just what to do. She answered the devil’s first half-truth with the Word of God: “God did say...” Yes! The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit that destroys the devil’s lies. The writer of Hebrews said, *“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It penetrates even to the point of dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, even being able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart.”* (Hebrews 4:12)

Except, does the devil only tempt us one time? Sadly, no. He came right back to Eve with another twisted lie, and Eve finally gave in and sinned. The Devil only leaves us until he sees another opportune moment to attack us. Attacked, when the devil has opportunity to whisper in our ears and to place doubts in hearts, fear in our minds, lust in eyes, and evil in our hands. Attacked, when we are placed right in the midst of our greatest weaknesses, our most difficult addictions, and our favorite sins. Attacked, when we are at our weakest physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Attacked, when we are ridiculed for our faith as Satan tries to convince you that there has got to be an easier way to live than by the cross. And when Satan attacks what is going to enable you to “stand your ground”? Are you prepared for that moment?

Paul writes, *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”* (Ephesians 6:10) When we grow stronger in our knowledge and understanding of God’s promises we grow stronger in the truth, because *“his word is truth”* (John 17:17). We need God’s Word in our hearts and minds and homes. What could you do to make God’s Word even more a part of your family’s routine? In the morning when you rise. In the car while you drive. With you family as you eat. In your beds before you sleep. Throughout the day there are more opportunities to grow stronger in God’s promises than there are opportune moments for Satan to attack us. *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.”* That’s the truth. That’s the whole truth. And that’s nothing but the truth. So help me God!

THIS WEEK AT GRACE CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Sunday September 6, 2020

9:30 AM Worship Service in person
and livestream grace-wels.net/worship or facebook.com/GraceWELS

OFFERINGS CAN BE MAILED TO THE CHURCH-

7610 NE FREMONT

PORTLAND, OREGON 97213

OR online at: bit.ly/GracePortland

Monday September 7, 2020

Pastor in office

Tuesday September 8, 2020

GLS SCHOOL YEAR STARTS!

Pastor in office

Wednesday September 9, 2020

Bible Class this week (Google Meet) 6-7PM

Thursday September 10, 2020

Pastor in office

Friday September 11, 2020

Pastor out of town

Saturday September 12, 2020

Pastor out of town

Pastor in office-Sermon Preparation

Sunday September 13, 2020

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

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A Family of Ministries For Christian
Worship, Education and Care

VOTERS MEETING UPDATE:

Two key items were approved at our semiannual voters meeting last Sunday.

- The 2020-2021 fiscal year budget was approved as present.
- Dan Paschke was elected to replace Ed Gillespie as our Second Vice President / School Board Chair. Congratulations Dan! Thank You Ed!



Cheri Lockart who continues to recover at home after sustaining serious injuries from a fall this summer. This past week Cheri was also tested positive for the Corona Virus.

Dan Hehr who suffered from and serious infection in his foot required hospitalization and surgery this week. A toe needed to be removed and Dan is still hospitalized and recovering.

Theft / Malicious Activity Report



Another theft occurred this past week at church as 4 of our security cameras were stolen. An increase in malicious activity around the church and school has occurred this summer. Vandalism, theft, vagrancy, multiple broken window, destruction of property has all become almost a weekly occurrence. If you're in the area, please keep an eye on our properties and report anything suspicious.



MISSION FESTIVAL SUNDAY

September 13th, 2020

Guest Pastor Paul Bourman

9:30 AM

Κηρυξάτε το ευαγγέλιον

Preach the Gospel

Meet the Principal

Hello Grace families,

My name is Justin Eternick and I am the new principal and 7th/8th grade teacher at Grace Lutheran School. My wife (Sara) and I moved from Ohio about three weeks ago and are loving the time learning and enjoying the Portland area. I am excited to meet and learn more about you and how I can better serve you at Grace, but for now, here is a little bit about me.

I was born in Milwaukee, WI and grew up in a small town called Waterloo in Wisconsin. I attended a Lutheran Elementary school where I had the unique experience of having both my mom and dad as teachers. I then attended an Area Lutheran High School and graduated in 2009. I received my bachelor degree at Martin Luther College where I double majored in elementary and secondary education. I taught two years of high school at Michigan Lutheran Seminary and spend the last four years as a principal and 7th/8th grade teacher at a Lutheran Elementary School in Ohio.

I met my wife, Sara, my freshmen year of college and we were married in Portland a little over four years ago. We really enjoy cooking, hiking, gardening, and spending time with our dog, Piper. I also enjoy watching many different sports and participating in them when the opportunity presents itself.

Although this school year will be much different than any other year, I really look forward to working with the students and pray that God continues to bless the school and families at Grace!

In Christ,

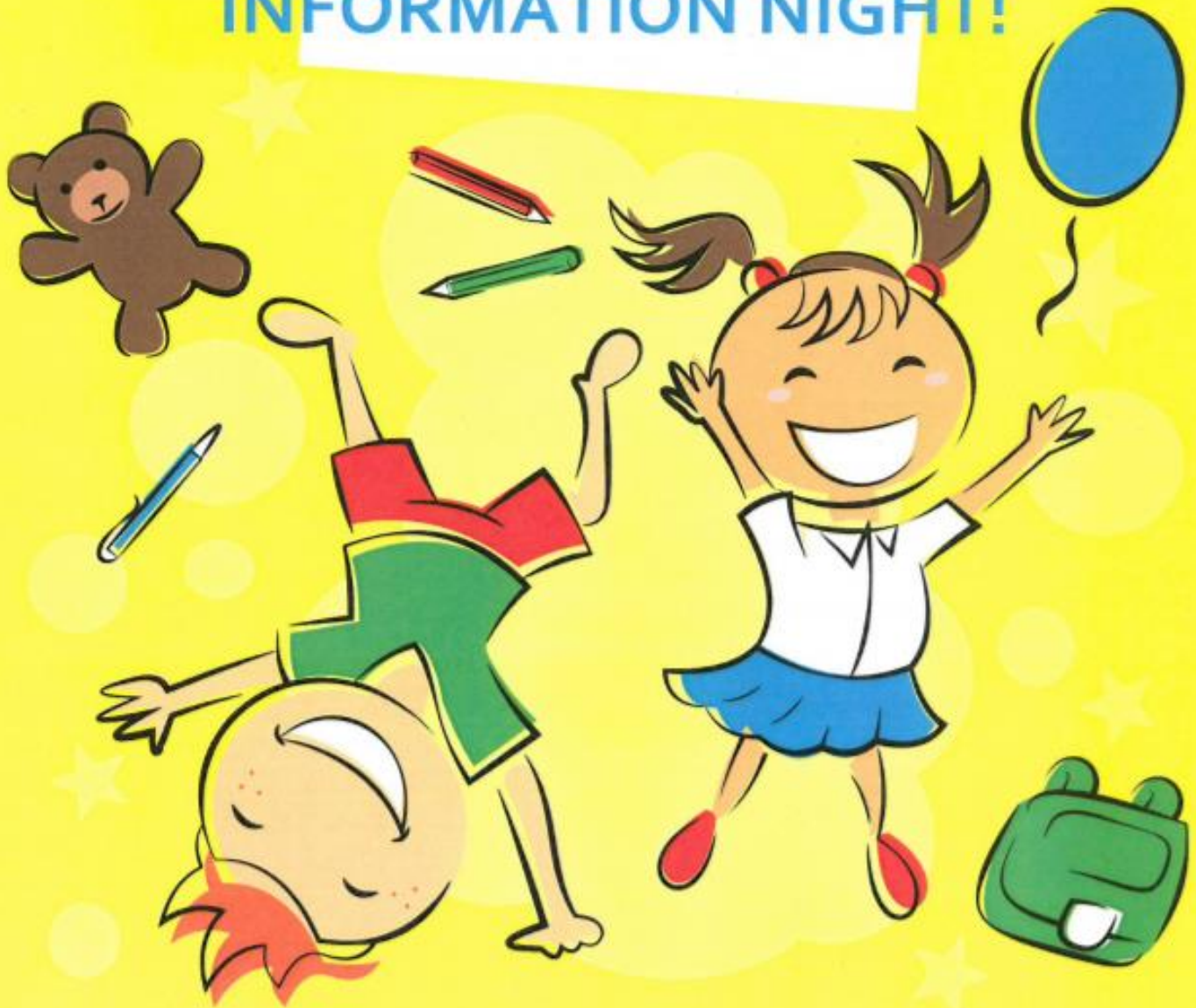
Justin Eternick
Principal & 7th/8th Grade Teacher
jeterick@grace-wels.net
(503) 777-8628



Sunday, September 20th
INSTALLATION
9:30 AM

PRESCHOOL

INFORMATION NIGHT!



9th SEPT.

6:30 pm

Precious Lambs

2252 se 92nd ave. Portland Or. 9723

Outside on the playground. General information and question and answer time. Masks and social distancing required. Meeting is not mandatory but encouraged.

Thank You to everyone who has helped at school this summer! Painting. Flooring. Carpeting. Lighting. Landscaping. Repairs. Cleaning. Security Cameras. The list could go one and on....
THANK YOU!



Cedar Chips

If you didn't get a chance to help with any of the things listed above or you would like to help some more... There is currently about 12 yards of cedar chips in the playground area at the school. We need to get them spread before school starts on Tuesday. If you can help with some LABOR on the LABOR DAY weekend that would be tremendously helpful. Please contact Pastor Bitter or Matt Ginnow (702)592-5227 if you have any questions

Ministry plans at Grace in September:



September 8th – GLS school year begins

Grace Lutheran School plans to reopen for the school year with distance learning. We know that distance learning does affect our families and puts extra stress on you as the parent. Please know that the Grace Lutheran School staff will continue to work with you to make sure your child is receiving the best education possible. It is our plan to return to in-person classes as soon as the state and metrics allow us to.

September 20th - Christian Education Sunday

We are planning to have our “Christian Education Sunday” on the 20th. We will install our new principal and 7-8 teacher, Justin Eternick, into his call at Grace School. We will also install our staff of teachers for the 20-21 school year. Tammy Godish (preschool director), Melissa Tanner (preschool teacher), Susan Hartwig (K teacher), Joanna Hafner (1-2 teacher), Jessica Acota-Ware (3-4) teacher, Megan Schwartz (5-6 teacher), Justin Eternick (7-8 teacher). Please plan to join us in person or online for this special Sunday.



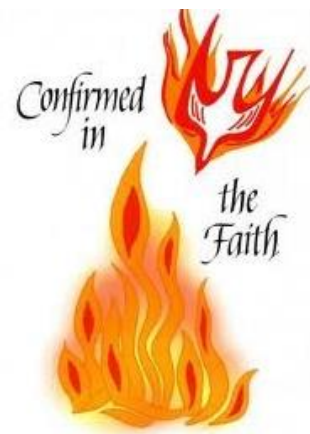
September 20th – Sunday Morning Sunday School / Bible Study

We are currently planning a distance learning Sunday School curriculum to begin our fall schedule. We are also discussing the possibility of in-person Sunday morning adult bible study or an addition Google Meet Bible Study on Sunday mornings. Please watch for details.



September 27th – Confirmation Sunday

We have 3 student eligible for confirmation this year. Traditionally this would have happened in May. We had hoped that by the fall COVID restriction would have been lifted allowing us to worship with a full congregation, but that doesn't appear to be the case. Please plan to join us as you are able to celebrate the confirmations of Rebekah Bitter, Noah Tanner, and Keith Garner on September 27th.





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 14, 2020

Sunday Joshua 4:1-7

- ✚ Look at the previous chapter and discuss the crossing of the Jordan. How did it go?
- ✚ What part of the crossing indicated the Lord's involvement?
- ✚ What instructions did the Lord give the people? What were they to do as they prepared for the crossing and then carry out during the crossing?
- ✚ What purpose would this moment serve in the future? See verse 6

Monday Joshua 4:8-9

- ✚ Why did this whole project go? What was the message of the monument?
- ✚ What is a similar message we have for people when they ask about it? 1 Peter 3:15
- ✚ How does this crossing of the Jordan reflect on the whole trek from Egypt?
- ✚ How is there a similar thought of the trek from Eden to Golgotha to the Garden tomb and on to heaven? How does all of this bolster our faith?

Tuesday Romans 13:1-2

- ✚ How is God closely involved in government? How does this work? V. 2
- ✚ In essence then if we rebel against government we rebel against whom?
- ✚ If we then disobey the rules and laws of government with whom must we deal?
- ✚ What happens to government which sometimes makes this very difficult? Acts 4:26; 1 Corinthians 2:6; Colossians 1:16; Titus 3:1.

Wednesday Romans 13:3-7

- ✚ Who needs to be afraid of the "powers that be"? What word describes the attitude of the God-fearing people toward government?
- ✚ Why should our attitude toward government be a "matter of conscience"?
- ✚ What do verses 6 and 7 mean to us?
- ✚ What are some characteristics that we should ask God to give government officials? Hebrews 13:17

Thursday Romans 13:8-10

- ✚ For what alone should we be indebted to another human being? What does that mean?
- ✚ What is a nice summary of commandments 4-10? How can loving people as friends solve a lot of problems?
- ✚ How does this relate to our attitude toward government? What is a word other than love which sums up our feeling toward "the powers that be"? 1 Peter 3:17

Friday Matthew 16:13-16

- ✚ What vital question did Jesus ask one day? Has anyone ever asked you this question?
- ✚ How about you? Have you asked it of someone? What happened?
- ✚ What wonderful answer did Peter give?
- ✚ Does Peter's answer profess a saving faith? Explain.

Saturday Matthew 16:17-20

- ✚ How did Jesus evaluate Peter's answer? Was Jesus pleased? Explain.
- ✚ On what will Jesus build His Church? On Peter or on his confession? Explain.
- ✚ What wonderful privilege has Jesus given his disciples?
- ✚ Do we have that privilege? Do we exercise it? Mt. 28:18-20