

The Means of Grace

August 3, 2025



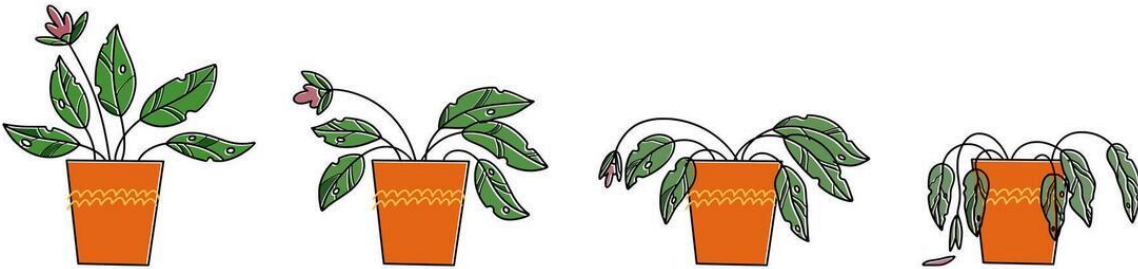
Dose of Grace (#12)

"Are you spiritually healthy?"

Add His Life Giving Word!

2 Peter 3:18 (EHV)

18Instead grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and forever. Amen.



Stagnant, withering or blooming? Stages of Christian life

It doesn't take a botanist to tell the difference between a healthy plant or a dead plant. The difficulty enters into the day-to-day care for a plant that it might grow and flower, grow and produce fruit. The gardener working at a nursery will daily walk over and touch the soil, feel if it is dry, or moist. The gardener will inspect the plant for insects, might look for nibble marks on the leaves or eggs laid under the leaves. The gardener might look for brown spots developing on the leaves, burn spots from too much sun. The gardener might inspect the color of the leaves, fading away to more yellow than green or even browning indicating a dying portion.

This plant inspection is not groundbreaking, new discoveries. We all know these things to grow a healthy, flowering plant or fruitful tree. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, used the fruitful plant to teach us how to be healthy, strong and flourishing Christians for His kingdom, for each other.

Matthew 13:23 (EHV) But the seed that was sown on the good ground is the one who continues to hear and understand the word. Indeed he continues to produce fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times more than was sown."

The newly approved million dollar ministry plan for Grace is causing an exciting buzz in our church and community! The new called workers and their families have brought a strong faith and energy to our ministry! This coming year will see a new councilman (Mr. J Tanner), new technologies (Planning Center, Service Builder), new liturgies, new songs, new families! As exciting as all these people and things are, no one and no thing from this world has the power to make us better Christians or more fruitful congregations for God's Kingdom.

From heaven, the Word of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has come down to us! His gracious Word is the nutrient rich, good soil we need to send our life's roots to tap into. His powerful life giving Word is the sunlight each of our members at Grace need to bathe in to be healthy, producing fruits of faith. His life giving Word is the water our congregation needs to grow fast and strong to withstand the pressure from our enemies and weather every storm of life. God promises that His Word is enough and will accomplish His mission.

Grace Lutheran Church is intentionally designing opportunities for every member to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior. From womb to tomb, we want to have opportunities for every soul to hear, study and learn His Word. If you are interested in helping us organize, plan or maybe teach a bible story, please let me know. Maybe we can put together a Christian Growth Team to help organize a cradle roll for families with infants, Sunday School teachers and lessons for the k-8 children, Teen bible study, Adult Bible Studies, Men's and Women's focused groups etc.

Like a good gardener, have you inspected your faith plant? How's it looking? Flourishing with fruits of faith like love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness, forgiveness and mercy? Stagnant, wilting? Let's add some pure living water, His life-giving Word, warm rays of God's undeserved love and that spiritually rich soil of God's faithful Word to tap into.

Sunday, August 3, 2025 – Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Flowers:

Ushers: Williams
Luplow, J
Baker
Luplow, A
9:30 AM Worship Service
11:00AM Fellowship



Monday August 4, 2025

Tuesday August 5, 2025

Wednesday August 6, 2025

Thursday August 7, 2025

Friday August 8, 2025

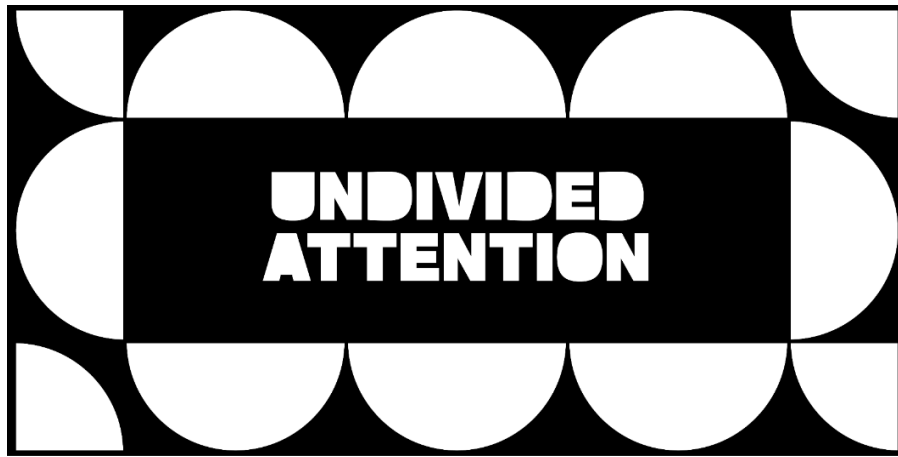
Saturday August 9, 2025 – Board of Education meeting
– Hiker's Group Meet at Lower Macleay Trail

Sunday August 10, 2025 – Pentecost 9

Flowers:

Comm. Prep: Luplow
Ushers: Williams
Luplow, J
Baker
Luplow, A
9:30 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion

PRAYERS



Worship Theme This Sunday:

UNDIVIDED ATTENTION... ON USEFUL RESOURCES

Money. Possessions. Perhaps more than anything else, those things have the power to turn our attention away from what is truly important. It is no surprise, therefore, that Jesus frequently teaches about wealth. Christ wants us to understand that it is our heavenly Father who provides us with those useful resources. But we need to know why our Father gives them: what they are useful for, and what they are not useful for. Those resources cannot give purpose or meaning to our lives on earth. They cannot give us security for life after this earth. However, the blessings God provides can bring some joy to our lives. More importantly, our wealth is extremely useful in our efforts to serve God and others. This week let us give our undivided attention to what Christ says about the useful resources our gracious Father provides to us.

Worship Next Sunday:

UNDIVIDED ATTENTION... ON HEAVENLY TREASURE

Last week Jesus warned us against overvaluing earthly wealth. This week Jesus warns against undervaluing heavenly treasure. Last week, Jesus exposed the folly of greed. This week, Jesus exposes the folly of worry, even when faced with the prospect of having a seeming shortage of resources. This week might be the bigger challenge! When it seems we lack providence or protection for our daily lives, it can be hard to avoid worry. So, Jesus asks us to give our undivided attention to him, that he might take our worries away. Jesus points to creatures that do not labor or toil yet eat every day. Even more, Jesus points to our Father who promises to give us the heavenly treasures of his kingdom. Jesus assures us that our Father will throw in any needed earthly possessions as well. We can rest from our worries, confident that our loving Father knows all we need.

What's Happening @Grace

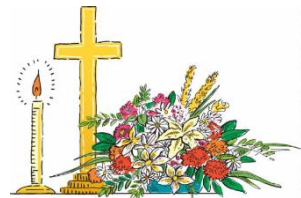


Mowing & Church Property

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 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! You are doing a wonderful job!



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.

Usher Sign-Ups

Please consider signing up to be an Usher. Sign up sheets are located by the fellowship hall and entryway door. Currently we have availability through the rest of the year. If you have any questions please contact one of the Elders.



Fellowship Hosting Sign Up

Please sign up to bring goodies in for fellowship. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

Important Events Coming Up

Sunday September 21 - 50th Anniversary of Grace Lutheran School, 2252 SE 92nd Ave. Portland, Oregon

Sunday, November 2 – Joint Reformation Celebration at “The Barn at Countryside” in Aurora, Oregon

Hiker's Group

Saturday, August 9th:

We will hike the Lower Macleay Trail in Forest Park, Portland and loop back on the Wildwood Trail. It's approximately a 2.5 mile hike.

Meet at the Lower Macleay Trailhead at 9 am.

Address:

Lower Macleay Park, 2960 NW Upshur St, Portland, OR 97210

Parking:

There is a small parking lot at the trailhead, but it fills up quickly so you may need to look for parking in the neighborhood along NW Vaughn or NW Wilson street just north of the trailhead.

Reach out to Laura or Dan Paschke with questions (920) 210-7570

Women's Fellowship Opportunity

Attention All Women!

Please join us at Tammy Goddish's home on Wednesday, August 13 at 5:00PM, for prayer, devotion, and fellowship.

This is a time to get to know our sisters in Christ, praise the Lord and have some good Christian fellowship!

If you'd like, please bring an appetizer to share.

For more information contact Jill Curry or Jessica Acosta-Ware

Projects At Grace

As we move into the summer and our school building is not as occupied, it presents us with a chance to accomplish some additional work. These items don't require any special skills and assistance in getting them done would be greatly appreciated. If you have the desire and ability to assist, here are a few items that can be tackled.

- Painting Exterior Trim
 - A section in front of the school that is about 30 feet.
 - Needs light sanding, priming at painting
- Waxing & Buffing Floors
- Bathroom Deep Cleaning
- Put new ceiling tiles in principal's office (already ordered and in the office)
- Glue/Fix laminate on cabinets in 1st/2nd grade classroom



Routine Summer Items

- Lawn Mowing (as needed)
- Clean bathrooms (1x per week until new custodian is hired)
- Wash interior doors to gym and exterior doors out of gym
- Wipe down tops of lockers
- Put out blue recycling bins and put them back (Monday for Tuesday pickup)
- Put out dumpster and put it back (Thursday for Friday pickup)

If you can help with any of these items or have any questions please feel free to contact Ed Gillespie, gillespe@sonic.net, 360-619-2380, our head Trustee, for any additional information.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES AT GRACE

Church Council & Leadership

Juan Garcia – President
Jason Tanner – 1 VP & Secretary
Josh Luplow – 2 VP & BOE Chair
Larry Glasheen – Ministry CFO
Dan Paschke – GLS Finance
John Henning – Principal



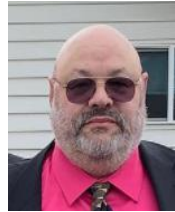
Board of Education

Josh Luplow – Chair
Dave House
Dan Paschke
Tammy Godish - Preschool
John Henning – Principal



Board of Elders

Craig Baker – Head Elder
Len Stadler
Josh Luplow
Jacob Meyer



Worship Committee

Marilyn Baer
Sue Hartwig
Melissa Baker
Olivia Baker
Jacob Meyer



Mary & Martha

Sara Hehr – President
Elke Werner – Vice President
Linda Bern – Secretary
Cathie Gillespie - Treasurer
Leann Breza – LWMS



Trustees

Ed Gillespie
Matt Ginnow
Kyle Leitzke

