

The Means of Grace

January 12, 2025



"Isaiah 43:1-3a, 4-5a, 6b-7 - But now thus says the Lord, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. ... Because you are precious in My eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. ... bring My sons from afar and My daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by My Name, whom I created for My glory, whom I formed and made."

This is one of the bits of the Bible that I read most often when I am feeling sad or abandoned—when I'm wondering if God really cares about me, after all. God is speaking to the people of Israel, who are just about to go into exile from their homeland—but He's also speaking to us, every human being who has come to trust in Him and who lives under His care.

And this is what He says to us, most clearly: He says, "I love you." He says, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine." We are not abandoned, we are not alone in the universe. The God who made everything has chosen us to be His very own. He has called us by our own names, so there is no danger He might have mistaken us for someone else! No, we really are the ones that He wants, the ones that He has chosen to be His treasure—difficult as that can be to believe.

And because we belong to Him, we are safe forever, no matter what may happen to us in our lives. As Jesus tells us, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand" (John 10:27-28). Death itself cannot destroy us; we belong to the One who died to break the power of evil over us, and who rose from the dead three days later—never to die again. With such a Savior, how could anything destroy us?

Why has He done all this? He says it very simply: "Because you are precious in My eyes, and honored, and I love you." The God of the universe is saying that to you, you personally: "I love you." And if anything more than His bare Word could be needed, He has signed this statement with His own blood.

With such a God, how can we do anything but live—and love Him back?

Sunday January 12, 2025 – Epiphany 1, Baptism of the Lord

Flowers:

Comm. Prep: Bern

Ushers: Hafner
Delgado
Luplow
Meyer

9:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 AM Fellowship

11:00 AM Call Meeting



Monday January 13, 2025

-- Standardized Testing Grade 3-8 begins through Friday

Tuesday January 14, 2025

-- Mary and Martha Meeting – 10:00AM

Wednesday January 15, 2025

-- Chapel – 8:30AM

Thursday January 16, 2025

Friday January 17, 2025

Saturday January 18, 2025 -- Hiker's Group @ Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center – 9:00AM

Sunday January 19, 2025 – Epiphany 2

Flowers:

Ushers: Hafner
Delgado
Luplow
Meyer

9:30 AM Worship

10:30 AM Fellowship

11:00 AM Sunday School and Bible Class

PRAYERS

~ For all those affected by the California Wildfires

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.



Fellowship Hosting Sign Up

Cathie and Virginia have been outstanding doing our fellowship goodies. It is time we, as a congregation, start taking on some of this work so they can have a break. They will continue doing goodies on the first week of the month. Please sign up to take over a week of fellowship goodies! Sign up with a friend or two! There will be a sign up sheet on the board located by the fellowship hall and entryway door. If we don't have anyone signed up, there will be no goodies that week.



Mary and Martha Meeting

We hope to see you at the Mary and Martha Meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 10:00AM at church!



Hiker's Group Meet-Up

We will be meeting on Saturday, January 18th at 9 am at Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center: 4000 SW Fairview Blvd., Portland, OR 97221

Parking Information: There is a pay-to-park lot at the Hoyt Arboretum Visitor Center on Fairview Blvd. Parking costs \$2/hour or \$8/day and is enforced from 9:30am to 8pm daily. Meters take credit cards and coins, or use [Parking Kitty](#) App to pay with your phone. Additional parking is also available at trailheads on SW Fischer Ln and SW Fairview Blvd and by the Winter Garden. Please be sure to carefully look for “No Parking” signs along park roads.

Please reach out to Laura or Dan Paschke with any questions! (Laura's Cell# 920-210-7570)

NEW ENTRANCE AND SANCTUARY DOORS PROTOCOL

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Beginning this Sunday, January 12, and continuing until further notice, we will be locking the front and side doors as the chimes signal the start of our worship service. Once the doors are closed, our ushers will be ready to welcome latecomers inside. This measure is being taken to prevent potential risks.

Furthermore, we will be closing the doors leading from the narthex to the sanctuary at the start of the Bible readings. This will minimize distractions, allowing us to fully immerse ourselves in and appreciate God's word together. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

WELS SYNOD CONVENTION DELEGATE NEEDED

The bi-annual WELS Synod Convention will be held at Martin Luther College from July 21 to July 24, 2025. As a district, we need to provide 7 male lay delegates, 1 teacher called worker, and 4 pastors. Grace congregation is currently scheduled to represent the district this year. If you are able to attend and represent the district, please speak with Juan Garcia. We will need to provide a response by January 31.

I had the blessing of participating in one of these conventions, and it was a truly uplifting experience. Approximately 500 pastors, teachers, and lay delegates will gather to discuss synod business. Delegates are assigned to various committees to work on resolutions presented at the event. The most impactful and memorable moments for me were during the opening and closing services, where everyone sang with such passion.

Once we have a delegate from Grace, the convention planning committee will reach out directly to the delegate with further information.

Thank you for considering participating.

Financial Giving to the Lord at Grace FY24-25

Giving	Sunday	Year	Year To Date	Week Avg
\$ 8,463.00	7/7/2024	Actual	\$ 207,840.82	\$ 7,697.81
\$ 4,841.63	7/14/2024	Budget	\$ 524,524.34	\$ 10,087.01
\$ 3,084.00	7/21/2024	Diff	\$ (64,508.36)	\$ (2,389.20)
\$ 4,679.00	7/28/2024			
\$ 14,798.15	8/4/2024		Weeks Complete	27
\$ 12,975.92	8/11/2024		Weeks Remaining	25
\$ 3,875.00	8/18/2024		Needed per Week to make Budget	\$ 12,667.34
\$ 5,899.00	8/25/2024			
\$ 12,107.42	9/1/2024			
\$ 2,436.00	9/8/2024			
\$ 3,580.00	9/15/2024		Report Date	1/8/2025
\$ 2,919.00	9/22/2024			
\$ 3,566.00	9/29/2024			
\$ 7,583.00	10/6/2024			
\$ 4,074.00	10/13/2024			
\$ 7,714.00	10/20/2024			
\$ 4,584.00	10/27/2024			
\$ 5,960.00	11/3/2024			
\$ 5,382.00	11/10/2024			
\$ 2,257.00	11/17/2024			
\$ 4,402.00	11/24/2024			
\$ 29,058.00	12/1/2024			
\$ 2,438.00	12/8/2024			
\$ 12,940.00	12/15/2024			
\$ 2,828.00	12/22/2024			
\$ 27,160.70	12/29/2024			
\$ 8,236.00	1/5/2025			
\$ -	1/12/2025	Giving	Sunday	
\$ -	1/19/2025	\$ -	4/13/2025	
\$ -	1/26/2025	\$ -	4/20/2025	
\$ -	2/2/2025	\$ -	4/27/2025	
\$ -	2/9/2025	\$ -	5/4/2025	
\$ -	2/16/2025	\$ -	5/11/2025	
\$ -	2/23/2025	\$ -	5/18/2025	
\$ -	3/2/2025	\$ -	5/25/2025	
\$ -	3/9/2025	\$ -	6/1/2025	
\$ -	3/16/2025	\$ -	6/8/2025	
\$ -	3/23/2025	\$ -	6/15/2025	
\$ -	3/30/2025	\$ -	6/22/2025	
\$ -	4/6/2025	\$ -	6/29/2025	

Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Bring the complete tithe to the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Just test me in this, says the Lord of Armies. See whether I do not open for you the windows of heaven and pour down blessing on you, until there is more than enough. Malachi 3:10



The Eagle Message
 Grace Lutheran School
Shining Together Matthew 5:16

January 7, 2025

Welcome Back and Happy New Year from
 Grace Lutheran School!
 Special thanks to everyone who brought holiday
 treats and gifts for the school staff.

Chapel Service at 8:30

We will have our weekly school-wide Chapel Service, on Wednesday mornings at **8:30**. Pastor Janisch will lead our worship this week. An offering envelope is **attached** for your child's mission offering. We will support mission work at *Saviour of the Nations Lutheran Church in Vancouver, British Columbia* for the first semester. Offerings gathered so far total \$754.79. Next Wednesday will be our last opportunity to give to this mission. We will support a new mission in the Second Semester.

Immunization/Vaccine records

If your child received any new immunizations or vaccines during the Christmas vacation, please bring updated information to Mrs. Kraklow in the school office, **especially if you received a letter from her requesting additional information.** All immunization information must be sent in to the Oregon Health Department by **NEXT WEEK**, so it is very important to take care of this immediately.

Testing for 3rd - 8th grades NEXT WEEK

Students in grades 3 through 8 will be taking standardized tests next week January 13-17. **Please see that your child has a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast to give them energy for test taking.**

* **COLD WEATHER CLOTHING** *

RECESS WILL BE OUTDOORS AS OFTEN AS THE WEATHER ALLOWS, SO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CHILDREN WEAR SUITABLE CLOTHES AND HAVE WARM JACKETS, AND SHOES THAT ARE APPROPRIATE FOR OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

Early Release THIS FRIDAY January 10th

Kindergarten through 8th grade students are released at **11:45 this Friday, January 10th**. Please pick up your children promptly at 11:45.

* **School Cancellations / Snow Closures** *

We want to remind our families that we send out our emergency alerts via text & email through Brightwheel. If you are not receiving the texts & emails, please contact the school office at lkraclow@grace-wels.net with the best phone number & email address where we can reach you.

January Hot Lunch

This month's Hot Lunch will be served on **Tuesday, January 21st**. The meal will include Ground beef nachos, veggies, churros and drinks. Cost is \$5 per person.

Fred Meyer Rewards

As the new year begins, please take a moment to register your Fred Meyer Rewards to contribute back to: "Grace Lutheran Church &/or School" (2252 Se 92nd Ave, Portland, OR 97216). There is no added cost to you! Please forward this opportunity to help our school, to family & friends.

•Fred Meyer Community Rewards:
<https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4>



Bottle & Can Collection Fundraiser

Save the bottles and cans from your holiday gatherings for this fundraiser. You can pick up **Blue Collection Bags** when you come to school. Fill the bags with **CLEAN, EMPTY Oregon deposit** containers. Plastic, aluminum, & glass go in the same bag - 20 pounds or less! (please fill bags only halfway with *glass* bottles, the other half can be filled with cans and *plastic* bottles - thanks).



EVERGREEN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Happy New Year!!

One of my recent devotions had me considering the Parable of the Lost Son. As you read through that parable, which character do you typically resonate with? Do you consider yourself the lost son, wandering and living in sin, coming back to your Father (God) with your tail between your legs asking for forgiveness? Or are you the other brother judging the actions of others, thinking you are better and more deserving than an equal share from your Father (God)? I think as a church body, we sometimes need reminding that we all are equal, equally deserving of hell. No matter if you have been in the church your whole life or faith the size of a mustard seed, God's forgiveness is for all. If I could encourage one goal this year, let's show grace and compassion as God shows us. Let's not judge but welcome without judgment and share God's Word with love.

In all things, do them to the glory of God. Here are some of the things that have been happening at Evergreen.

- Giving Tuesday was one to remember. We started with a match of \$20,000 from the Lutheran Legacy Foundation then \$30,000 with an additional \$10,000 from a supporting couple and surpassed both. We finished with over \$69,000 raised for the ministry of Evergreen. Thank you to all who were able to be part of this special day, thank you to our sponsors who stepped up and matched the gifts on this day, and thank you parents for trusting Evergreen with your kids and partnering with us to help you raise students who know their Savior and his love for them.**
- December 4-7 Evergreen took 13 students who had an interest in visiting Bethany Lutheran College and Martin Luther College as possible college paths in their future. We pray this trip got them thinking about ways they can use the gifts God has given them in their future careers.**
- Since losing our Campus Pastor in 2018, it has always been our goal to bring the spiritual guidance and support of another back onto our campus in a full-time capacity. For years we have been monitoring our growing class sizes and the academic needs of our students. While we are so grateful for Dave Habeck (looking to retire this year) and the local pastors who have filled in and supported Evergreen, the board at its last**

meeting felt like now is the time to pursue this goal. The next steps were discussed at the Association meeting on January 5th, and a decision was made to call a Campus Pastor. Please pray for the leadership of the pastor to whom the call will be extended as they shepherd the Evergreen flock, and pray for the continued support of Evergreen to be able to support added positions on our staff and the financial impacts they bring.

- December 20 was this year's Christmas Concert. What a blessing to have our students use their gifts to praise God and direct our Christmas focus on the birth of our needed Savior. With over 500 in attendance, it was wonderful to celebrate together and start our Christmas break off with Jesus on our hearts.
- January 26th will be our next Evergreen Sunday at Parkland Lutheran Church. Future Evergreen Sundays are scheduled for Feb 9th at Christ the King in Bremerton, and March 2nd at Faith Lutheran in Tacoma.
- January 30-Feb 1 the Evergreen Drama production will be shared with our grade schools and open to the public to come and watch. You can buy tickets online to reserve your spot.
- On February 14 (Valentine's Day) we will be hosting our annual Career Day again. We love this day and being able to share the gifts and knowledge of our district with the interests of our students. We have collected occupations of interest from our students and hope to have our speakers locked down over the next few weeks.

What a blessing you, our donors, are from across the country to support our ministry at Evergreen. At Evergreen we have a specific mission and ministry to support families "train a child in the ways of the Lord" and to educate and prepare them not just in the Word but in the academics of the world. Families choose to send their kids to Evergreen for many reasons: Christian Education, opportunities, small class sizes, and personal relationships with teachers and peers. As a supporter of Evergreen, you are partnering with these families in pursuit of these goals. **THANK YOU** for valuing Evergreen and the importance of teaching these things in a broken world for our families!

In Christ,

Ryan Schmeling

Director of Mission Advancement

Rschmeling@elhs.org

715-220-1442

Tax ID #91-6184677

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.



Supporting Our Neighborhood Foodbank – January & February 2025

As we begin a New Year, I want to thank you for your faithful support of Mainspring Foodbank. Our donation in December of 47 pounds consisted of Christmas gifts and clothing. In 2024 our total donations to Main Spring were:

- Food -- 358 pounds
- Clothing -- 115 pounds
- Other (hygiene items, gifts, etc.) -- 60 pounds (plus one tent)

The grand total for 2024 was 543 pounds! Thank you, thank you!!!

For **January & February**, please continue to donate basic food items focusing on:

- **Peanut butter & jelly**
- **Canned protein** (tuna, chicken, & beef)

With winter still here, Mainspring could also use the following items:

1. **Blankets** (in good condition & clean)
2. **Sleeping bags**
3. **Coats & jackets** (all sizes, clean & in good condition)
4. **Men's clothing**

You may bring your donations anytime. Mary & Martha will then deliver the donated items by February 28th. There are baskets in the fellowship hall to place your food donations as well as clothing 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
- Snacks for highschoolers

February & March Items:

- Coats, all sizes in good condition
- Men's clothing
- Blankets in good condition
- Sleeping bags

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
Justin Eternick – Principal



Board of Education

Josh Luplow – Chair
Dave House
Dan Paschke
Tamm Godish - Preschool
Justin Eternick – 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 - Treasure
Leann Breza – LWMS



Trustees

Ed Gillespie
Matt Ginnow
Kyle Leitzke
Tyler Hafner – GLS Custodian

