

The Means of Grace

March 2, 2025



John 8:12 - Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Just because you can't see the light, it doesn't mean it's not there. Take ultraviolet light, for example. Ultraviolet means "beyond violet." Violet, remember, it's on the outer edge of the visible spectrum of light. So, "beyond violet" is off the chart. Sometimes it's called "blacklight." It's an undercover light, light in disguise. Maybe you've seen someone stand under a blacklight at a party. Materials in their clothing and their teeth gleam eerily. How? It's because they absorb the unseen energy, which is then converted into visible light, giving off that signature glow. Ultraviolet lights are more than just party favors, though. They're used to detect hidden stains and cracks. They show the difference between something genuine and something counterfeit. They kill germs and cleanse surfaces. They can help your skin make vitamin D, and make some things glow, because ultraviolet light is disguised light that lights up what it touches.

Jesus once said that He is the Light of the world; but not the kind of light that you can see, at least for now. There was a time when you could see the light, when Jesus walked the earth. There was even a time when He took three of His followers up a mountain by themselves to pray. And while He was praying, He was transfigured before them. And they saw Him shine like the sun (see Matthew 17:2; Luke 9:29). But then He led them back down the mountain, back into the darkness, under cover, to accomplish His mission, to die on the cross and rise from the dead to set us free from the power of the darkness (see Luke 22:53). There will be a day when He brings His light back into the visible spectrum. A great and awesome day, when the curtain is pulled back, and Jesus will outshine the shadows and make the world new again. But for those who do not turn to Him and trust Him, that light will be unbearable judgment—a holy, blinding, fiery light that destroys the darkness, and all who try to hide in it.

God does not delight in the death of anyone (see Ezekiel 18:32). He wants all to be saved (see 1 Timothy 2:4). So now is the time when He disguises His light. Now is the time, before that final judgment, when He lets our eyes adjust, so that more would turn and trust in Him. Now is the time when He disguises His light in and with His people, in the Word He's given us to speak, hidden in the waters of Baptism that bind us to Him, present in the Holy Communion that binds us together, disguised under bread and wine. Before Jesus flips the switch in final judgment, He keeps His light out of the visible range, still shining, but disguised. It's light that you can't see but changes how you see. Light that works under the cover of darkness. Light that shows the cracks and stains we try to hide. Light that exposes counterfeits and fakes, and converts slaves of darkness into servants of the light.

Jesus said that His greatest glory was not the dazzling brightness on the mountaintop, but rather, His self-giving sacrifice in the dark on the cross (see John 12:23-36). That was His shining moment, when God's love shone on you, exposed you, cleansed you, transformed you to be His light in disguise for others.

Sunday March 2, 2025 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

Flowers:

Ushers: Elsasser
Luplow
Williams
Ware

9:30 AM Worship
10:30 AM Fellowship
11:00 AM Sunday School and Bible Study



Monday March 3, 2025

Tuesday March 4, 2025 -- Worship Committee Mtg. – 3:30PM

Wednesday March 5, 2025
-- Chapel – 8:30AM
-- Grace Girls
-- Ash Wednesday Service -

Thursday March 6, 2025

Friday March 7, 2025

Saturday March 8, 2025 -- Sisters In Christ bible study – 9:30AM

Sunday March 9, 2025 – First Sunday in Lent

Flowers:

Comm. Prep: Jensen
Ushers: Elsasser
Luplow
Williams
Ware

9:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion
10:30 AM Fellowship
11:00 AM Sunday School and Bible Class

PRAYERS

Iris Schaumburg suffered a stroke on February 18. Family was with her at the hospital where she passed away during the night. Pastor Bitter will lead a funeral service at Grace Church on Friday, March 14th, at 11:00 AM. The committal will be at Lincoln Memorial at 2:00 that same day. The family is comforted knowing where Iris is today.

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! Help will be available in the kitchen if you'd like it. There will be a sign up sheet on the board located by the fellowship hall and entryway door. It has been suggested that we do a potluck once a month to help getting more people involved.





Free Firewood!

Do you need or want firewood? We have wood taken from the trees that fell a year ago at the school. The wood is in rounds that would need to be split. Splitting can be done for those not able to. The wood is free, but any donations will go to the operation of the school and church. Contact Ed Gillespie for questions.

*Text to 360-619-2380 or call and leave a message (avoiding spam calls). Thanks!

2024 Giving Statements

Calendar year 2024 annual Giving Statements will be issued via email starting this coming week and should be completed by next Sunday, January 26th. Any questions or requests concerning Giving Statements should be directed to accounting@grace-wels.net, including if you've updated your email address in the last year. When reaching out, please include your name, envelope number, and if relevant, what your previous email of record was. If you have not received your Statement by 1/26/25, please reach out to accounting@grace-wels.net. Thank you!!



Sisters In Christ

We will be meeting for bible study on March 8th at 9:30AM at the school. We hope the ladies of the congregation will join us!

Hiker's Group

The next hike will be March 22! More details coming in the following weeks!



Iris Schaumburg Funeral

The funeral for Iris will be here at Grace on March 14th with Pastor Bitter. The ladies will be preparing a luncheon following the service. Plans for the luncheon are in process. Please let Sara Hehr or Stevie Luplow know of your willingness to help.

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	\$ 227,671.52	\$ 7,114.74
\$ 4,841.63	7/14/2024	Budget	\$ 524,524.34	\$ 10,087.01
\$ 3,084.00	7/21/2024	Diff	\$ (95,112.69)	\$ (2,972.27)
\$ 4,079.00	7/28/2024			
\$ 11,698.15	8/4/2024		Weeks Complete	32
\$ 12,975.92	8/11/2024		Weeks Remaining	20
\$ 3,875.00	8/18/2024		Needed per Week to make Budget	\$ 14,842.64
\$ 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	2/12/2025
\$ 2,919.00	9/22/2024			
\$ 3,566.00	9/29/2024			
\$ 7,583.00	10/6/2024			
\$ 3,524.00	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			
\$ 8,386.00	1/5/2025			
\$ 5,060.00	1/12/2025	Giving		Sunday
\$ 2,687.00	1/19/2025	\$ -		4/13/2025
\$ 2,681.00	1/26/2025	\$ -		4/20/2025
\$ 8,497.00	2/2/2025	\$ -		4/27/2025
\$ 5,005.70	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

February 25, 2025

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 be supporting the ministry at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Hillsboro in the **Second Semester**. Our students sang at Beautiful Savior last year and Pastor Mews leads our weekly Chapel services once a month. We have gathered \$170.37 so far.

Early Release THIS FRIDAY February 28th

Kindergarten through 8th grade students are released at **11:45 this Friday, February 28th**. Please pick up your children promptly at 11:45.

School Spirit Days

We will have some special days in **March** to show our school spirit and support for our Eagle players going to the Basketball Tournament.

Monday March 10 is Pajama Day - wear your comfy pajamas, slippers and robes. Do not bring any extra items.

Tuesday March 11 is Sports Team Day - wear shirts, hats, or the colors of your favorite Sports team (football, soccer, baseball, basketball, hockey etc.)

Wednesday March 12 is Blue & Gold Day - when all of us wear our school colors.

Students are not required to dress up on these School Spirit Days.

Thursday March 13 and Friday March 14: NO CLASSES due to the Basketball Tournament at Evergreen Lutheran High School in **Tacoma, WA.**

♥ Grace Lutheran School GIVING WEEK ♥
 Thank you for showing your love for our school through your support and generosity. We gathered **\$2,278.19** through this fundraiser ♥
 You can still donate here! bit.ly/42udetO



6, 7, & 8 Boys Basketball

There **ARE** games **Tuesday, Feb. 25 and Wednesday, Feb 26** this week.

Parent Appreciation Night Friday Feb. 28th

We look forward to seeing those of you who have indicated that you are attending our Parent Appreciation Night, this Friday, starting at 5:30.



Firewood available

Do you need or want firewood? We have wood taken from the trees that fell a year ago at the school. The wood is in rounds that would need to be split. Splitting can be done for those not able to. The wood is free, but any donations are greatly appreciated and will go to the operation of the school and church. Contact Ed Gillespie with questions;*Text* to 360-619-2380 or call and leave a message (avoiding spam calls). Thanks!




The **March calendar** is attached. Please note the days we have **NO SCHOOL** and other activities.

March Hot Lunch next Wednesday

Next month's Hot Lunch will be served on **Wednesday, March 5th**. The meal will include Orange Chicken, Rice, Salad, Drinks and Dessert. Cost is \$5 per person.

Grace Lutheran School

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Piano Lessons	4	5 Chapel Mews HOT LUNCH Piano Lessons Ash Wednesday	6	7	8
9 	10 Pajama Day Piano Lessons	11 Sports Team Day	12 Chapel Eternick BLUE & GOLD DAY Piano Lessons	13 14 NO SCHOOL Basketball Tournament		15
16	17 5th & 6th grade Field Trip Piano Lessons	18	19 Chapel Bourman Kinderkonzert 9:30 Grace Girls Piano Lessons	20 21 NO SCHOOL Teacher's Conference		22
23	24 25 26 27 28 NO SCHOOL Spring Break					29
30	31 Piano Lessons	April 1	2 Chapel Kraklow Grace Girls Piano Lessons	3	4	5
Scholastic Book Fair						

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**):

Gracelutheranchurch7610@gmail.com

- 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

