

August 2020
volume XIX
issue 8

Grace GATHERINGS

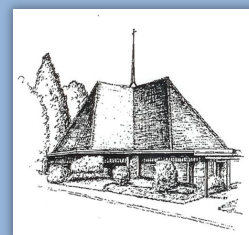
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Whoever you are, Whatever your past, However you live, Whomever you love – You are welcome here.



*Our VISION is
“to be a Christ-centered
Community who
welcomes all, grows in
faith, and reaches out
In love.”*

*Our MISSION is
“to follow Christ into our
community and world
manifesting with caring
hearts and helping hands
the good news of the
Kingdom of God.”*



We believe that God loves us without regard for our race or culture, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, physical or mental health, life circumstance or socio-economic situation. Therefore, we extend that same grace-filled love to you.

The work of welcome is hard; the way of love is always a work in process. But we're committed to the biblical call of reconciliation and to change what we need to, both personally and as a community, so that we – all of us together – become a living sign of God's extravagant grace.

In Christ's name, all are welcome here. We are honored by your presence and by your participation in helping us make this vision of welcome a reality for all people.

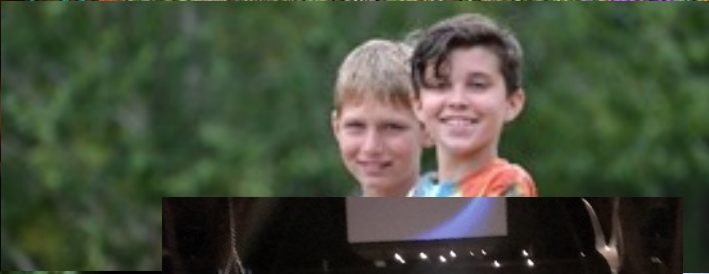


Church Council Members and staff at the Council Retreat, March 8, 2020; Current Council members not pictured: Bob Keith, Jim Leklem and Sandie Williams. L to R: Jaya Lapham, Pr. Wendell Hendershott, Dcs. Donna King, Kendra Wollert, Meredith Junge, Anne Schroeder, Rebekah Hadlock, Nancy Hemming, Pr. Netsie Griffith, and Dave Lundahl



Photos by Pastor Wendell





2009-2020

From Here to Tomorrow

Given that Grace Lutheran is a congregation filled with people who love to travel, many of you have experienced firsthand that the trip you planned is not always the trip you took. Along that line I can say that the “Farewell to Grace” that Wendell and I envisioned is not the “Farewell to Grace” that is happening.

Back in May when we announced our retirement, we thought surely, by August, we would be able to gather outdoors on August 23rd for food and festivities and in the sanctuary on August 30th for our last worship service at Grace. Now, in the arrival of August, we see that the COVID-19 Pandemic is no respecter of our timeline, desires and plans. So, as we have been doing since March, we are, once again, jettisoning what we originally thought we would be doing and adapting to doing things differently always keeping in mind the health and wellbeing, the shalom of the members of this congregation.

So, in this final “Grace Gatherings Pastor’s Article,” I recall that Dag Hammarskjöld once said, “For all that has been, ‘Thank you.’ For all that is to come, ‘Yes!’” Putting this sentiment together with the inspiration received from Pr. Melissa Reed’s Pandemic Easter Litany, perhaps the best way to say good-bye is to take time to reflect both on what we are not able to do and also on what we can do and are doing. So, I’ll give it a try.

There will be no last chance to rise with you on a Sunday morning, to welcome you all sitting side-by-side (as we once did) to begin a full in-person worship service with shoulder-to-shoulder Holy Communion that need not be excluded from or fit into a half hour video format. Yet, I will remember the miracle of the gathering of God’s people when at 8:30 and 11 am, it sometimes looked sparse but by 8:35 and 11:10 am, the congregation sometimes doubled in size. I will remember the energy of our summer services that spilled into the hope of a new, 9:30 am worship. Though I won’t be with you, I will smile when I imagine how joyful it will be one day when, unmasked and unrestricted, you will gather again, side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder with contagious energy and gratitude.

For all that has been, O God, thank you. For all that is to come, yes!

Seeing and being with the children of our congregation gathered together on the steps of the chancel will not happen again for me. Yet, I am grateful for the times I have had this spring and summer to see some of our children and their parent or grandparents when they have come to be videotaped ringing the church bell for our online worship. Some of these children Wendell and I had the joy of baptizing at our church’s font and what a gift to see how they have grown and are being nurtured and encouraged in the life of the church. Some of the youth who have participated in our online worship by serving as lectors, reading scripture, were baptized by others, but we have still had time with them at church and confirmation sessions to see them grow and, some, finally fledge with the blessing and prayers of this community of faith.

For all that has been, O God, thank you. For all that is to come, yes!

I will not be able to have a final opportunity to stand behind the altar at Grace Lutheran, together with you as the gathered Grace to engage in the words and liturgy of the Great Thanksgiving, share the words of consecration as I look into your faces, and joyfully place the embodied bread of Christ into your warm, waiting, and wanting hands. Yet, I will remember that it was my humble privilege to celebrate this holy sacrament with you in this place of grace for eleven years. I rejoice that, at some point in the future, you will have an opportunity to, once again, gather around the altar at Grace and look into the eyes of another one of God’s called servants and experience anew physical and spiritual communion with God and with one another.

For all that has been, O God, thank you. For all that is to come, yes!



Bridget Lee Palmgren on the day of her baptism with Pastors Netsie and Wendell, July 22, 2018

As in past times, when worship is over, and we are being sent to carry the love and work of Christ into our world, I won't have one, concluding time to look into your eyes, shake your hand or give a hug and see, up close, what you have meant to me and to the life of this congregation. Yet, through all the times I have done this in the past, it is a reminder of that which is most important and has the greatest meaning. It is to remember what you, as an individual, and you, as a church community mean to God. So, through pictures on a page and pictures in my mind, I will remember you and your various baptized vocations of service in the world and the collective memory you take with you of what God has done for and through this congregation and will yet do in the future. Through you, future pastors, future members, future ministry, carried out in compassion and love to a world in need, will be blessed.

For all that has been, O God, thank you. For all that is to come, yes!

So much more could be added to this litany and so much more will come to mind in these last weeks and days of service at Grace, but I leave you with a few pictures that capture a few fleeting but significant moments. I also leave you with the reminder that from here to tomorrow we need not know the future but only who it is, our compassionate, merciful God, who holds the future with a love that will not let us go.

With gratitude too great for words for eleven and a half years of ministry,
Pastor Netsie



Prayers

This prayer list is a compilation of the requests we have received at Grace throughout the month of July. For a more timely update to the prayers, send your email address to prayers@grace97330.org, and ask to be part of the prayer list.

Prayers

- ⇒ Darlene Leklem
- ⇒ Marna Renshaw
- ⇒ Laury "Butch" Frazer and wife Sara, Andrea Barnhurst's Friends
- ⇒ Simeon Windibiziri, Cathy Mueller's Nephew
- ⇒ Shirley Caro, Visitor to Grace
- ⇒ Joe Raleigh
- ⇒ Isaac Hadlock
- ⇒ Rev. Chris & Becky Smith, Mike and Elaine Franklin's former Pastors
- ⇒ Ida Faye Gunstanson, Pr. Netsie's stepfather's sister
- ⇒ Nancy Hult and her husband, Sten, Dave Lundahl's Aunt
- ⇒ Sandy
- ⇒ Steve Moody, Norma Moody's Son
- ⇒ Andrea Gilland and family, Andrea Barnhurst's long-time friend
- ⇒ Jane Dean, wife of Noble Dean
- ⇒ Andrea Barnhurst and Bali
- ⇒

Deaths:

- ⇒ Larry Blus, Former Members of Grace
- ⇒ Noble Dean, Pastor Wendell's former Thrivent representative

Grace Personnel

Pastor Netsie Griffith

Pastor Wendell Hendershott

Bookkeeper - Robin Comforto

Custodian - Outside Contractor

Director of Discipling Ministries - Donna King

Director of Music Ministries - Hayden Talley

Facebook Administrator - Rebekah Hadlock

Financial Secretary - Mary Stephens

Nursery - Mackenzie & Rachel Burnett,
Christina Lundahl, Katie Olsen & Melissa Smith

Office Administrator - Andrea Barnhurst

Office Assistant - Jody Parker

Organist/Pianist - Sunghee Kim

Prayer Chain - Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens

If you would like a visitation or to schedule an appointment with a member of the ministerial staff, please call the office at 541.757.1600. You are welcome to leave a message on the answering machine at any hour.

Visit our Grace web page at: www.grace97330.org

Teams & Committees

Property Committee - Ron Larson, 541.752.0754

Communications Committee

Bob Keith, 541.990.2883

Sunday Hospitality

Dayle Christensen, 541.602.2818

Events Hospitality

Molly Hallgrimson, 541.753.8581

Christian Education Team

Deaconess Donna King, 541.757.6636

Altar Guild - Linda Samuels, 541.929.4222

Worship & Music Committee

Michael Beachley, 541.754.5501

Finance Committee - Hal Brauner, 541.753.0023

Personnel Committee - Nancy Strohlein,
541.926.5747

Hospital Visitation Team - Dale Weber,
541.757.3043

Healing Prayer Team - Sue Davis, 541.924.2922

Mission Groups - Bob Saathoff, 541.929.3045

Stewardship Committee

Dave Lundahl, 541.757.1358

Campus Ministry at Luther House

Mike Ostrom, Pastor, 541.753.5213

Volunteer Interfaith Caregivers

Norma Moody, 541.754.2555



Please PRAY for those
affected by COVID-19

Tuesday Bible Study

The Ending of One Era and Beginning of Another

Dear past, present and future Bible study participants,

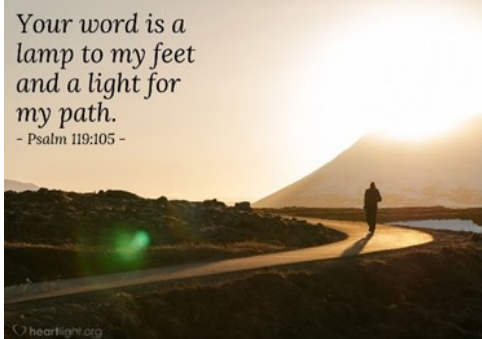
This is my last "Tuesday Bible Study" article to submit for publication in Grace Gatherings. Back on March 10th when our group last met, we had no idea that this would be our last actual session before I would relinquish my call to Grace Lutheran as one of your pastors. Thus, our joint study of Deuteronomy* came to an abrupt halt, and we have not been able to come together as a group since that time.

While we will not have the opportunity to complete our interrupted study (see my note below on that), we hope to have one final, outdoor, masked, physically distanced gathering. It is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 18th**, but the time and location has not yet been determined. Stay tuned for that via email.

Please know that this Tuesday time and commitment in which some of us have been engaged has been a true highlight of my ministry here at Grace for the past eleven years. During this time, we have studied the four gospels, almost all of the New Testament, many books of the Old Testament and have also engaged in studies of scripture based theological books by contemporary biblical scholars and writers as well as benefitted from a few video courses.

Some of you who are part of this group have participated in it longer than my time here. Thus, it has preceded me and, I truly believe, will continue after I am gone. Your commitment to gathering for the study of God's Word, caring for one another as well as those not in the group and those who have moved away is deep and strong. Thus, one era is ending, but another will, eventually, begin. It may morph a bit. Perhaps, you'll meet on Wednesday instead of Tuesday or at a different time of day. Through it all, God's Word will always be there to be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path. (Psalm 119:105)

With you, a lifelong student of God's Word,
Pr. Netsie



Your word is a
lamp to my feet
and a light for
my path.

- Psalm 119:105 -

**If you are interested in individually completing the study of Deuteronomy, speak with Jody Parker or Linda Samuels about some of the commentaries and resources in our library that might help you do this.*

If you go to the hospital . . .

It used to be that our pastors and the members of our Hospital Visitation Team could go to the hospital and see if any of our members had been hospitalized. In these days of Covid-19, however, we are unable to go into the hospital lobby. Neither can we receive information over the phone. So, if you become aware that any of our members or family of our members have been hospitalized, the pastors would greatly appreciate you sharing this with them. Also, please know that we will respect any and all requests for confidentiality.



**Women's Luncheons
are canceled
until future notice**

Address Changes

Donna Blus
12900 SW 9th St., # 231
Beaverton Lodge
Beaverton, OR 97005

Thank you to everyone who has helped us with our partnership with the Oregon Bottle Drop.

In Early December 2019, we created a fundraiser account with the Oregon Bottle drop to help with the funding of our Ida Fund. Our Ida fund helps people in our community who are in need of assistance with bills, gas, car repairs, prescriptions, etc.

Although the doors of Grace have been closed through the Covid-19 pandemic, our doors are still "open" to help community members in need. We continue to hand out sack lunches, gas vouchers, and help community members in need of emergency assistance.

In June and July, we have raised almost \$350 towards our Ida Fund!

Blue bottle drop bags are always available in the church office. You can contact the church office and on Monday and Thursdays we can bring them out to you and limit our contact. Helping Grace with our bottle drop and Ida Fundraiser is easy. All you need to do is pick up a blue bottle drop bag from the office which already contains a label, fill it up with cans and bottles according to the instructions, and return the bag to the Oregon Bottle Drop Center located at 1111-B NW 9th Street in Corvallis or at 2141 Santiam Highway SE in Albany. There is no need to count the cans or to put them in the machines. They will do it for you and will credit Grace for your donation.



For more information, questions or to get a blue bottle drop bag, please contact the office at 541-757-1600 or email at office@grace97330.org. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the church has limited in person office hours, but email and phone messages are checked regularly and the church office is open by appointment on Mondays and Thursdays.

Grace Gatherings

While the church is closed, printed copies of Grace Gatherings are available by request. Please contact the church office to request a printed copy of Grace Gatherings to be mailed to your home.

Free Cloth Face Masks Available Sewers needed

From Elizabeth Wyatt & the CorvallisSewingBrigade:

We can help get cloth masks or face shields to anyone free of charge. Folks can go to bentoncounty.recovers.org and click on "I have a need" for the fastest turn around time and easy tracking for us (these requests come right to us). If you would like to volunteer to sew cloth face masks, the need is still very much alive! Info on how to volunteer can be found at CorvallisSewingBrigade.org



****New Article****

Here is an article and video if you or somebody you know is struggling with irritation from wearing a mask.

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/rashes-breakouts-how-to-treat-common-side-effects-of-wearing-masks-192226820.html>

Smoking, vaping and COVID-19

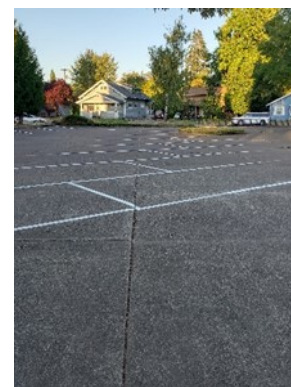
Here are three important things to know about COVID-19 and smoking or vaping:

- People who smoke or vape are at an increased risk of developing more severe symptoms of COVID-19
- Smoking or vaping doubles the risk of developing respiratory viruses, such as COVID-19
- If you quit, your health can improve within days and weeks, which could increase the odds of recovering more quickly if you get COVID-19

If you or your loved one need help quitting, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or visit quitnow.net/Oregon.

Thank you, Property Committee Members!

On Wednesday, July 15th and Saturday, July 18th, Ron Larson along with members of the Property Committee repaired striping in our parking lot, painted directional signs, and painted curbing. It was hot, labor intensive work. Thanks to you all for a job well done! It greatly improves the appearance and functionality of our parking lot. Here's some pictures.





Birthday Blessings!

Please let the office know if there is a birthdate listed incorrectly, or if we have omitted someone in error.

James Leklem	08/01
Charles Vars	08/05
Judy Grindahl	08/06
Wayne Kradjan	08/08
Kimberly Daeschel	08/11
Shirley Loe	08/11
Archer Schroeder	08/12
Anne Pettingill	08/13
Orano Grindahl	08/14
Bruce Stephens	08/14
Laura Davis	08/17
Judith Quam	08/17
Nathaniel Olsen	08/18

Larry Burt	08/19
Wendy Geist	08/20
Oliver White	08/20
Silas Hadlock	08/21
Linda Noland	08/22
Ken Kingsley	08/22
Joel Howe	08/23
Noah Geist	08/24
Charles Meslow	08/25
Liam Pettingill	08/25
Gerald Erickson	08/26
Whitney Lindquist	08/26
Neil Christensen	08/31

How to ask for a Prayer Request to the Grace Prayer Chain

We at Grace are very fortunate to have an email Prayer Chain and have had this for many years. The proper way to have a prayer request sent out is to simply email the information to prayers@grace97330.org. This will ensure your request is sent out in a timely manner. You may do this for prayers for yourself or someone else who is in need of prayers. Before requesting prayers for someone else, please seek that person's permission to place them on the prayer chain. Some people wish personal prayer requests not to be made public. If you are not currently on the Prayer Chain and want to be added, contact the church office.

Outdoor Worship Service Canceled

We received word from the Corvallis Parks that they are canceling all permits and events in the parks this summer. Please stay tuned to the weekly emails for more information on possible alternative worship services.



July Council Minutes

July Council Minutes, Executive Committee meeting, and other interesting items can be found in a binder on the church office counter. Should you want them emailed to you, please just notify us at office@grace97330.org. You are also welcome to attend council meetings, should you want to know what is going on or have something you would like to talk about.

July Meeting Minutes can be found online at:

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Council-Meeting-Minutes-7-13-20.pdf>

*Church Council Reports are
always available in the
church office for you to read.*



President:
Bob Keith
Vice President:
Rebekah Hadlock
Secretary:
Nancy Hemming
Treasurer:
Hal Brauner
Financial Secretary:
Mary Stephens
Council Members:
Pr. Netsie Griffith
Pr. Wendell Hendershott
Meredith Junge
Jaya Lapham
Jim Leklem
Dave Lundahl
Anne Schroeder
Sandie Williams
Kendra Wollert
Vacant: 2 Spots

Pastor Transition - an update

Most recently, Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar from the Oregon Synod has requested that Grace Lutheran church council supply her with a salary range and benefit package for the interim pastor. This was completed this last week and now Phase II continues with the Office of the Bishop in search of an intentional interim pastor. This search will take as long as needed to find the right fit for Grace Lutheran Church but we anticipate the hiring of an interim pastor by mid September. After the interim pastor is selected.... the next step is to put together a transition team that will be responsible for getting the congregation ready before the call committee begins the work of calling a new pastor. Stay tuned!

Bob Keith
Council President

Adult Bible Study – June, July, and August 2020

We will continue to email to those that wish until we are able to meet together again. Stay well.

Many Facets of Wisdom

In this study you will explore the many facets of wisdom as recorded in the book of Proverbs, the gospels, and the letter of James. The Old Testament has a rich tradition regarding wisdom, especially embodied in the canonical books of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes, and the apocryphal/deuterocanonical books of Sirach and Wisdom of Solomon. There is no simple definition of “wisdom” because it has multiple facets. Ancient Jewish tradition teaches these truths about wisdom:

- Wisdom includes practical knowledge of how the world and human life work, including how to make decisions that are just (see 1 Kings 3:16-28 for one famous example).
- Human wisdom is limited.
- Wisdom is both a gift from God and the result of human pursuit.
- Ultimately, wisdom comes only from God, and so can only be found if one starts with “fear of the Lord.”

When reading the wisdom traditions, we run the risk of losing sight of the active, saving grace of God that frames them. But, Proverbs doesn't mention Abraham, the Law, the covenants, or the temple either. That doesn't mean such things didn't matter to the writers. It means these tenets of faith are assumed, and we should not forget them as we read the wisdom texts. Likewise, the writer of the letter of James hardly mentions Jesus, but that doesn't mean the writer finds him unimportant. James is focused almost completely on the “therefore” of how we ought to live, but that cannot stand without the “because” of what God has done through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. God's gracious actions for salvation are the assumed context within which to understand these wise words.

The New Testament writers saw Jesus as someone who taught divine wisdom. They used Jewish tradition of personified wisdom to express who Jesus is and why he matters. Jesus is the incarnate wisdom of God, active in the very creation of the world, who has entered the world to invite all people to the feast of life and to bring to fullness the life God intends. He is God's wisdom for the world.

Our Writer

Brian Peterson has served as pastor of congregations in Minnesota and Virginia. Since 1998 he has been a faculty member at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina, where he lives with his wife, Rev. Linda Anderson. When not teaching or writing, he enjoys astrophotography and playing with his grandchildren.

Giving at a Glance

Support the many ministries of Grace Lutheran

Contributions as of July 10, 2020

Contributions for the Month of July: \$ 9,544;
July's Budget: \$ 23,000;
Last 2 Weeks of Giving: \$ 9,544;
Weekly Budget: \$ 5,750;
YTD contributions: \$173,039;
YTD budget: \$ 172,250

Contributions as of July 23, 2020

Contributions for the Month of July: \$ 24,378;
July's Budget: \$ 23,000;
Last 2 Weeks of Giving: \$ 14,835;
Weekly Budget: \$ 5,750;
YTD contributions: \$187,873;
YTD budget: \$ 183,750

Find our Sunday Worship
services on facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/Grace
Lutheran Church-ELCA-Corvallis](https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurch-ELCA-Corvallis)

Or on our Website at:

www.grace97330.org



DVD's for each Sunday's worship video are available upon request. Please contact the church office to request a copy. Please call 541-757-1600 or email at office@grace97330.org



Virtual Talent Show

Grace Lutheran Church is excited to announce an upcoming Virtual Talent Show. This talent show is scheduled for Friday evening, September 11, 2020 via Zoom.

Do you enjoy music, creating Tik Tok videos, do you have an amazing animal who does tricks, or do you have a non-musical talent? We want you to take part in this virtual talent show. The possibilities of entries is endless and categories will be created based on interest. If you are interested, please contact Kendra Wollert so she can know who is interested. Deadline for interested parties is Sunday, August 30, 2020.

No child is too young and no adult is too old to take part. We want to see all the many talents that Grace has to offer.

Kendra can be reached via phone at 541-243-3025 or via email at Wollertkendra@gmail.com

Grace Council is looking to meet the needs of our families and Youth

As a result of a family and youth survey from February and subsequent Grace Council Retreat in March, church council has been figuring out ways to address the needs of our families and youth.

If you missed the video that featured council members Rebekah Hadlock and Kendra Wollert that was featured in the July 19, 2020 worship service, please click the link below to see what council is working towards in supporting our current families in hopes of recruiting more families and young adults.

Video can be found at: <https://grace97330.org/?p=10440>

Mask Requirements, Covid Tracking, and Executive Orders.... What does this Mean for Grace?

It seems like everyday something changes in the world, and we start changing the way we do things at Grace.

Over the Last 2 months there have been so many changes at Grace Lutheran Church you may not see or know of unless you have been in the building and looking, The Reopening Committee has been working very hard in adapting to the changes necessary at Grace Lutheran Church because of COVID-19. There are still many things that are left undecided at this point, but many procedures and protocols are already in place and being used.

If you see and read the "This Week at and away from Grace" emails or have been in our building, you have probably seen the signs and notices about the new "Sign in Stations" located at 3 of the main entrances/exits at Grace. The one most people see is the one just inside the main entry at Grace, but there is also one located just inside the outside door to Ronnenkamp Hall from the parking lot and one just inside the side door into the sanctuary from the parking lot. Each station contains the same items. For Grace to do its part in Covid tracking, we ask that all individuals entering Grace fill out the form provided. At each sign in location you will also find 2 containers for the writing utensils, one for "clean" and one for "used". Hand Sanitizer and masks are also provided for any individual who is in need of a mask or wants to use hand sanitizer. Please make sure you follow the posted instructions at each location to maintain the safety of all the individuals entering Grace. This information has already been very helpful as many of the office staff did not realize how busy Grace really is on a given day when office staff is not present in the building.

The reopening committee has been working on creating protocols for all small groups who want to use our building. These protocols can be found at:

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Grace-Protocols.pdf>

Some additional protocols that apply to all individuals entering Grace include the requirement that all individuals wear a mask when entering the building. Grace does have individually wrapped masks at each sign in station in case you do not have one or have not brought one. It is very important that even if you are just walking into the entry to grab something or quickly stepping into the church, that everybody's health and safety is taken into account and masks are worn.

One of the newest protocols was the installation of the Plexiglas shield that was installed at the office accordion door. You may have also noticed that the office door is remaining locked. We understand this is a big change as prior to this protocol being set in place, the office was one of those places that everybody entering the church had access to. The reason for this is to try and minimize the direct interaction between staff members and other individuals. Services that can be done through this new "Transaction window" should be done through the transaction window. We understand, that not everything can be done like this, and there are needs in which entering the church office is necessary. We do ask that you be respectful of this new system and if your needs can be done through this window, that they be done this way. This window will also allow staff members to remain behind Plexiglas at the time when community members are once again allowed access to the building. A huge thank you goes to Ron Larson for the design, crafting, and installation of this shield.

The reopening committee continues to meet weekly via zoom to discuss what is happening at our church and when the church will reopen. At this time, we are not allowing any outside groups to meet at Grace and there is still talk about how and when to start in person church services.

As of August 1, 2020, the codes to ALL lockboxes have been changed. To maintain the health and safety of all individuals entering Grace, the reopening committee decided to change the codes of the lock boxes. To request the new code, please email the office at office@grace97330.org or call 541-757-1600

Camp Lutherwood

Join us for Campfire!

All are invited to join us for our last campfire of the summer on Friday, August 7th at 7pm PST on Zoom. We have a great evening planned for campers, families, adults and all who love camp. Email office@lutherwoodoregon.org for a Zoom link & password to join the fun!



COVID-19 & Camp Lutherwood Oregon

Camp Lutherwood Oregon is not open to any guests until at least July 31st. All planned 2020 summer programs have been suspended. We are following the guidelines of the local health authorities and government mandates and will consider possible events for families and adults, as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Governor's office issued a final decision around the opening of summer camps yesterday, June 1st, saying, "After much consideration, and in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority and local public health officials, our office will not be allowing overnight camps to operate this summer. We are seeing increased cases in migrant housing and other settings involving overnight programming and, when it comes to Oregon's children, we can't take the risk of opening overnight summer camps."

We have added a COVID News link on our website where updates will be posted with any new information, which you can visit at <http://www.lutherwoodoregon.org/covid-news/>

SPIRIT OF HARVEST: Save the Date! Wednesday, October 7, 2020, 7-8PM

Join us for an online gathering to celebrate the Spirit of Harvest that lives year-round at Camp Lutherwood Oregon. Despite the challenges of the past year, including the destruction of our main lodge from the fire and the suspension of summer programs due to COVID-19, there's so much to celebrate and share. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 7, 2020, from 7-8PM, as we continue to share more about the Spirit of Harvest Festival in the coming weeks!

Using COVID for Camp Site & Facility Upgrades

Camp is far from quiet these days. Construction continues on the Dining Hall and we are still hoping for a completion date in the coming weeks. Preliminary work has begun on the permits for the new bathhouse as well. In May, we received an \$18,000 grant from the Grey Family Foundation for deferred maintenance projects around camp. This time without any guests is allowing us to complete much needed projects and upgrades. Watch our social media for updates on what's happening at Lutherwood.

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Connecting via Phone



Thanks to those members of Grace who have taken on a ministry of checking in on some of the more isolated members of our community during this time of "sheltering at home." Given this, there may still be a need for conversation that we have not anticipated. If you're someone who would like to be assigned a "phone friend," please call the church office, 541-757-1600, and leave a message to let us know. We will make sure someone gets in touch with you.



Luther House Campus Ministry

**At this time, Luther House is closed
and all campus ministry activities are suspended.**

Follow Luther House on facebook for devotions and
Luther House updates.

Luther House can be found at:
<https://www.facebook.com/lutherhouseosu/>



Grace Center News

The months go by and Grace Center remains closed because of the distressing pandemic. However our directors tell us that the Grace Center nurse continues to make twice weekly phone call check-ins to all of the participants and the center also continues to make weekly exercise and activity videos for the participants to follow along with at home (see Grace Center's YouTube channel; a link is available at the bottom of the Grace Center website). In addition to these continued practices, plans are now being made for fall events. If we can't open our doors in the traditional way we can use technology to answer some of the needs of the community caring for our loved ones.

In September, as we did last year, we will note National Grandparents Day with an open house on Sunday, September 13th. However, it will be a virtual event! A video will show you from room to room around Grace Center. It will highlight all the program and center changes made to be ready to safely reopen when the State allows us to welcome our participants back. The video debuts at 1pm that day on the Grace Center website (www.gracecenter-covallis.org) and will be available to view on-going.

That same weekend, on the day prior, the popular Aging Summit will have its 3rd annual event, this year's theme being "Adapting to Changing Times". The summit will take place on Saturday, September 12th, from 9am to 12:30pm. To avoid another group gathering, it will be offered as a webinar this year. There will be speakers including a geropsychologist and two doctors teaching on topics such as worry and uncertainty, sleeping in stressful times, and navigating COVID-19. A panel of experts will also be available to answer questions on all things aging. Free admission; donations are accepted. Attendees must register in advance at www.gracecenter-covallis.org or 541-754-8417.

GRACE CENTER'S 3RD ANNUAL

aging
summit



Traveling through the Sundays after Pentecost

Sunday, August 2, 2020 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 55:1-5

Eat and drink that which truly satisfies

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Ps. 145:16)

Romans 9:1-5

The glory of God's people Israel

Matthew 14:13-21

Christ feeding five thousand

Prayer of the Day

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



Sunday, August 9, 2020 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others

Readings and Psalm

1 Kings 19:9-18

The LORD speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb

Psalms 85:8-13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

Romans 10:5-15

Hearing and confessing the word of faith

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus walking on the sea

Prayer of the Day

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



Find the Bible online at bible.oremus.org

Sunday, August 16, 2020
11th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

A house of prayer for all peoples

Psalm 67

Let all the peoples praise you, O God. (Ps. 67:3)

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile

Matthew 15: 21-28

The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter

Prayer of the Day

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



Sunday, August 23, 2020
12th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 51:1-6

The enduring foundation of God's salvation

Psalm 138

O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

Romans 12:1-8

One body in Christ, with gifts that differ

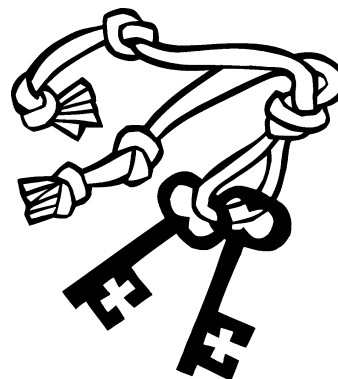
Matthew 16:13-20

The profession of Peter's faith

Prayer of the Day

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



Traveling through the Sundays after Pentecost

Sunday, August 30, 2020
13th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

Readings and Psalm

Jeremiah 15:15-21

God fortifies the prophet against opposition

Psalm 26:1-8

Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

Romans 12:9-21

Live in harmony

Matthew 16:21-28

The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter

Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.



Special Things Happening in our Online Worship in August

August 2 – The 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Reception of new members,
Mike and Elaine Franklin
Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar will be our
guest preacher.

August 23 – The 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Confirmation of Eli Geist and Isaac Hadlock
in a service of Affirmation of Baptism

August 30 – the 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Farewell and Godspeed to Pastors Netsie
and Wendell



Pictures of Grace provided
by Mary Stephens

Cover Photo of Mary's peak
Provided by Mary Stephens

