

October 2020  
volume XIX  
issue 10

# Grace GATHERINGS

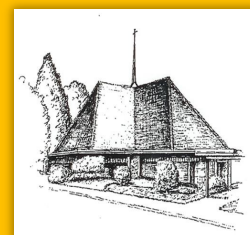
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

**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.



## God's Work Our Hands Beach Clean Up - September 27, 2020

We had a fantastic turnout for the God's Work, Our Hands-Nye Beach cleanup youth project on Sunday! What an amazingly beautiful day with our Grace family! Thank you to all who participated in the meeting and on clean up day!  
(Not pictured: Mary Stephens and the Radniecki family)

## *Prayers*

*This prayer list is a compilation of the requests we have received at Grace throughout the month of September. For a more timely update to the prayers, send your email address to [prayers@grace97330.org](mailto:prayers@grace97330.org), and ask to be part of the prayer list.*

## Prayers

- ⇒ Jan Cressman, Pastor Netsie's friend
- ⇒ Sister of Dorothy Miles
- ⇒ Nicole Mandley, Andrea Barnhurst's friend
- ⇒ Todd Martinez
- ⇒ Helen Hildebrandt
- ⇒ Darlene Leklem  
(<https://posthope.org/darleneleklem>)
- ⇒ Bali
- ⇒ Russell Wilson, visitor at Grace

### Wild Fire Prayer Requests:

- ⇒ All of those affected by the wild fires in Oregon
- ⇒ Jason Tragani and Family, Andrea Barnhurst's brother
- ⇒ Brother of Kathy Scroggins
- ⇒ Niece and Great Niece of Kathy Scroggins

### Marriage:

- ⇒ Katie Bode and Kory Plakos

### Address Change:

Whitney Lindquist  
The Alexander Bend  
1125 NE Watt Way # 437  
Bend OR 97701

## *Grace Personnel*

**Interim Pastor**—Dorothy Nielsen

**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

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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](http://www.grace97330.org)

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### **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

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**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**



## Reformation Sunday

On the last day of October 1517, Martin Luther took the bold and momentous step of declaring his substantial concerns about the Roman Church. He committed what amounted to 'civil disobedience' in those days by nailing his grievances on the wooden door to the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany which was then part of the Holy Roman Empire. The document became known as Luther's 95 Theses. This simple act by this simple Augustinian monk set off a continuing revolution in the Western World about not only the relationships between God and Humankind, the nature of a Good Life, and the precepts of the Roman Church, but perhaps as importantly, the substance and meaning of Social and Personal Revolution. Corruption was so ubiquitous in the Church, even from the Pope Leo X himself, that Martin worried this massive conflict like a dog worries a bone.

To the Church fathers, God's acceptance and justification of Human activity was influenced and judged by how one behaves, acts, and performs during one's life. But to Martin, it was abundantly clear that God's loving Grace is ever present, ever giving, ever available to all who would simply accept and have Faith in it. To come to the eternal presence of God is assured upon one's end of this temporal existence, and made clear by the sacrifice upon the Cross by Jesus, who is the Christ, the Anointed One, the Savior, the Lord, the Son of God. It is that simple, and it is that glorious.



We don't get there by the good works we do; that destination is already assured by God's Grace. To take it one step further, God's Grace provides us with the power and means to actually do these good works. But the gift of Grace is immutable, freely given, eternal. This one fact is what sets aside Lutherans from all other denominations of theological understanding. To accept and to have Faith in this fact is to embrace this Grace, and this in turn frees us from fear, anxiety ... Despair ... and what the Lutheran theologian Søren Kierkegaard calls "Sickness unto Death", drawing from John, 11:4. Freedom from this illness allows each of us to exercise our individual agency in this world, an exercise in response to God's loving Grace.

Reformation Sunday is the day set aside, the last day of October each year, as a reminder of our freedom from Sin, and our personal responsibility to recognize this magnificent gift from God ... to Reform our own individual lives in response to God's Grace. This doesn't happen once. This doesn't happen even one hundred times. This happens each and every moment of our temporal lives on this planet as a way of living and breathing and acting within God's Presence. If Sin is "missing the mark", then Reformation is the "redirecting" of our lives on a continuing basis to achieve that "mark".

The key concept here is the concept of Faith. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews, 11:1). This idea, this reality alone is worthy of a lifetime of contemplation. We do not accept this "blindly" as one accepts a cult concept. This is the awareness of eternal possibilities and the expectation of their coming into being. And even more exciting, the awareness of our individual agency in bringing these possibilities into fruition.

So, when I get up in the morning, I pray that I accept God's Grace and act in Faith that my life will proceed in fulfilling God's loving plan for this Cosmos. Thanks be to God.

Michael Beachley

## 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.

## TALENT SHOW

### Grace Talent Show

If you missed the virtual talent show or would like to see it again, the link to the video can be found at.

<https://youtu.be/5MBEkw5Gagc>

Congrats to our winners Isaac Hadlock, Seamus Harrington, and Mason Radniecki. Also Congratulations to our runners up Ellie Harrington, Avi Hadlock, Kendra Wollert, Michael Beachley, and Erika Lundahl

## 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.

### Giving at a Glance

#### Support the many ministries of Grace Lutheran

##### Contributions as of September 10, 2020

Contributions for the Month of September: \$ 10,742;  
September Budget: \$ 19,900;  
Last 2 Weeks of Giving: \$ 10,742;  
Weekly Budget: \$ 4,975;  
YTD contributions: \$224,040;  
YTD budget: \$ 223,050

##### Contributions as of September 18, 2020

Contributions for the Month of September: \$ 17,849;  
September's Budget: \$ 19,900;  
Last Weeks of Giving: \$ 5,419;  
Weekly Budget: \$ 4,675;  
YTD contributions: \$231,747;  
YTD budget: \$ 228,025

## 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 email Elizabeth at [CorvallisSewingBrigade@gmail.com](mailto:CorvallisSewingBrigade@gmail.com) 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](http://CorvallisSewingBrigade.org)



### Are you getting face irritation from Wearing a Mask?

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](http://quitnow.net/Oregon).

## Interim Pastor Dorthy Nielsen to join us October 1, 2020

Pastor Dorthy Nielsen will be joining us on October 1, 2020 as a full time interim pastor, her fourth experience as an interim pastor. Residing in Silverton, Oregon, Pastor Dorthy comes to us with very positive remarks and praise from our Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar. Her time at Grace Lutheran will be anywhere from nine months to 18 months.

While Pastor Dorthy will be leading us in worship, music and communion she will also lead the transition team (to be selected) and self-study process and into Phase III of the Call Process.

Her values and mission as an interim pastor are: a ripe time, Kairos time where we will explore the questions:

- Who are we?
- Who is our neighbor?
- What is God calling us to be?

Pastor Dorthy mentions five focal points to help us through this process; *heritage, leadership, mission, connection and future*. She goes on to say..."Interim-transitional ministry focuses on the unique context, traditions and ministries for the congregation. I do not come with a prescriptive plan for the faith community. Nor do I come with synodical agendas for you. This is a God thing."

We welcome Pastor Dorthy. She will be commuting from Silverton where she lives with her husband, John Dallum and dog Millie. Her schedule in the office at Grace is currently being negotiated.

Blessings,  
Bob Keith, Council President





## Birthday Blessings!

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

Tom Orwick	10/04
Judy Winkler	10/06
Todd Donner	10/07
Sylvie Schroeder	10/07
Carol Freeman	10/08
Krista Washington	10/08
Kay Larson	10/09
Maxine King	10/10
Freda Vars	10/10
Robyn Vega	10/11
Lee Strandberg	10/12
Carolyn Kradjan	10/14

Lida Brauner	10/18
Carol Triebes	10/18
Cy Stadsvold	10/20
Kathy Scroggins	10/21
Lyla Hougum	10/23
Tom Kiersky	10/25
Bridget Palmgren	10/27
Mark Gourley	10/29
Sarah Davis	10/30
Carol Warloe	10/30
Kris Wilburn	10/31

## 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](mailto: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.

## In Memory

### All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is Sunday, November 1, 2020. Because of Covid-19 and no in-person worship services, All Saints Sunday will look a little different. This year, a list will be emailed out in October with the known Saints for the last year. To add saints to the list, we would request that you contact the church office at 541-757-1600 or email the office at [office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org) prior to Tuesday, October 26, 2020 to ensure your saint is added. A full saints list will go out with the Live Worship link for Sunday, November 1, 2020 and will also be included in the November issue of Grace Gatherings. This saints list will include all saints who passed away between November 1, 2019 and October 26, 2020. If you have any questions please contact the office.

## September Council Minutes

September 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](mailto: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.

September Meeting Minutes can be found online at:  
<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Council-minutes-09-14-20.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:**  
Meredith Junge  
Jaya Lapham  
Jim Leklem  
Dave Lundahl  
Anne Schroeder  
Sandie Williams  
Kendra Wollert  
Vacant: 2 Spots



## Farewell Netsie and Wendell

A video of the farewell celebration can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7yvD2s-Co80&t=201s>

Pictures below are the gifts given to Pastor Wendell and Pastor Netsie. Gifts included a painting of Mary's Peak, a Necklace and a Key chain





## Adult Bible Study – September 2020

### Love for One Another

His hands damp from kneeling before his disciples and washing their feet, Jesus returns to the supper table and tells them, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34).

In Christ we are commanded to love our mothers, our BFFs, the dear couple at church with whom we sit almost every Sunday, and old friends far away. Just as Jesus loved Peter, so we are called to love our family and friends.

And just as Jesus love Judas Iscariot, we are called to love the men who dropped bombs on Damascus and those who shot up Columbine, Virginia Tech, and Parkland schools.

What? I'm not going to love those people.

Just as Jesus loved Thomas, we are called to love the ones who doubt the decisions our pastors and congregational leaders make, organize secret petitions, and announce they'll leave if they don't get their way.

Yes, love them. Just as Jesus loved Judas and Thomas.

It's not as easy to love some people as it seems at first glance. That's why we need three months to dig into this study of Jesus' commandment to love one another.

Who will help us?

The Holy Spirit will breathe on us and blow open the pages of our Bibles. There we'll meet Joseph of the magnificent coat. And we'll encounter his brothers too. Yes, them. Then David appears on the scene. And Saul, that troubling figure. Complicating everything is Jesus telling us in no uncertain terms to love those in our lives who are like Saul and like Joseph's brothers. With a story, Jesus shows us that people we hate might understand more about his love than we do.

Who will help us with these challenging tasks? Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, most certainly will show us love with his basin of water and towel. He will tell us that we might visualize God's love in us when we examine a vine and its branches. The apostle Paul will help us too. Finally, the writers of 1 John and the book of Acts will speak to our questions about loving one another and will inspire us to love with their glimpses of love in the early church.

### Our Writer

When Pastor Susie Gamelin retired, she understood that God was calling her to "wash feet." She serves addicts, families in poverty, and those who, like her husband, Tim, struggle with the loss of their mental and/or physical capacities. When asked "How are you?" Susie responds, "Grateful."



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



Find our Live 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](http://www.grace97330.org)

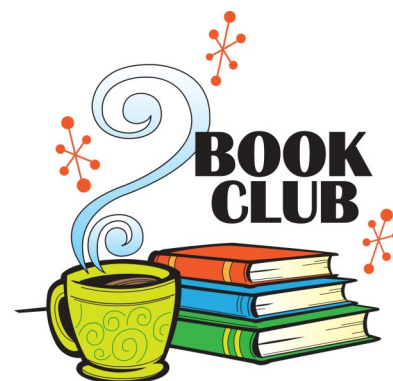


## October meeting of the Grace Globaliers

Grace Globaliers, a book group focusing on international and cross-cultural issues, If you are interested in attending, contact Mary Ann Matzke at [maryann.matzke@gmail.com](mailto:maryann.matzke@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

**Oct. 1, 2020 at 12 pm.-** "Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood" by Trevor Noah and led by Ardis Koester.

Trevor Noah, a well-known comedian and host of "The Daily Show", tells his wild coming-of-age tale during the twilight of apartheid in South Africa. It's a story that begins with his mother throwing him from a moving van to save him from a potentially fatal dispute with gangsters, then follows his path to self-discovery.



### Upcoming Meetings:

Nov. 5 - "House Made of Dawn" by Scott Momaday and led by Sharon Rosenkoetter.

Dec. 3 - " Vikings in the Attic: In Search of Nordic America" by Eric Degni and led by Carol Kamke.

## Connecting via Phone

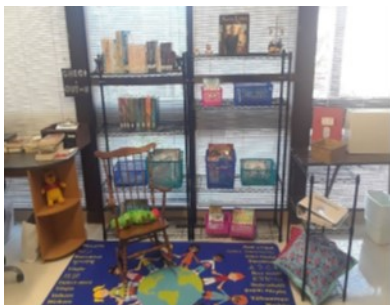


Thanks to those members of Grace who have taken on a ministry of checking in on some of the more isolated members of our community during this time of "sheltering at home." Given this, there may still be a need for conversation that we have not anticipated. If you're someone who would like to be assigned 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.



## An Update from the Grace Library

Some of you may remember that it gets pretty warm in the library room during the summer with the sun beating in from our beautiful Grace Courtyard. Often some of the library windows are left open to let in the cool night courtyard air. But it was recently discovered that along with refreshing cool air some of the ash from our recent Oregon wildfires made its way into our library. You can see that our children's books are located right beside the windows – and some of the books received a dusting of ash. Fortunately we were able to clean them without damage. We were also able to clean the shelves, floor, window sills, rug – not only of the ash but also a few months accumulation of dust, dead insects, sewing group pins, etc. And we got the children's books organized in their bins so when you check one out (<https://www.librarycat.org/lib/GLC-Library>), we will be faster in checking it out to you and getting it delivered!!



## Transitioning and Fraud

With limited person to person contact, no in-person worship services, groups meeting via zoom, and now as we transition to a new interim pastor, it is hard to know exactly what contact is really from staff at Grace Lutheran Church. We have been made aware of multiple emails being sent to church members saying they are from staff at Grace. These emails do not come from a Grace email address, but are sometimes hidden in the senders name so it can be confusing. We are now also being made aware of text messages being sent to church members where the sender is claiming to be a staff member at Grace. The text messages we have been made aware of are using incorrect titles of staff members. All of these emails typically have a couple things in common... Typically in the first email they will say they are really busy and need you to do them a favor. If you do respond, they will then typically ask you to purchase gift cards for them and they will have the church reimburse you. Please be aware of these scams and please note the information below to always investigate prior to returning an email or text.

- ♦ All email addresses coming from staff members at Grace will come from our [grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org) email addresses. The individual may be office (Andrea Barnhurst), Bookkeeper (Robin), or a name such as Donna, Jody, or Hayden.
- ♦ Pastor Wendell and Pastor Netsie have cleaned out their offices and work computers. No emails that are related to Grace will come from Wendell or Netsie.
- ♦ Please note the Title of our office staff. These titles can be found on page 2 of *grace Gatherings*.
- ♦ If Grace is needing some form of financial funds or gift cards for our outreach, requests will typically come through the [office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org) email.

If you ever have any questions, please contact the office to verify.

## Photo Directory Insert

An insert for our 2019 Photo Directory with updated and additional contact information is now available. Please contact the church office to request a copy. Please call 541-757-1600 or email at [office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org)



## A word from Grace Center

To Grace church in another time of change:

In the beginning, the Grace church social ministry committee saw a need for services for adults in day care, and it was established in what is now called our Ronnenkamp Hall. It was entirely different then from Grace Center now. We had no way of knowing how changing the times would be. Furthermore, technologies hadn't existed to handle the great needs that came in 2020! To help us understand it, I asked one of our co-directors, Rene Knight, what we needed to have in our newsletter this month. How is the center coping with the pandemic, closing the center, and still having to serve our participants? I realized that only our directors could explain it properly, so I'm going to send you Rene's answer. I am so proud of the way Rene and Tera have used their skills and imagination and love of our participants to adapt ways to meet great needs when the State has required us to close our doors temporarily. Here is Rene; Tera is out this week but would surely agree:

"During these uncertain times Grace Center continues to adapt to ongoing changes due to the pandemic. The center is now offering alternative services which includes limited in-person services at the center. Participants and their family caregivers can elect to participate in our telemedicine program which allows weekly access to our nurse to discuss any health care needs pertaining to an individual's care plan. Ongoing daily "live" telehealth sessions via Zoom are available for participants to login at 10am and 1pm for exercise, activities, and social engagement. The center provides each participant a monthly kit with various activities to utilize when following along in a telehealth session. Individual counseling sessions for participants and Family Caregiver support groups continue to be provided through telehealth. To learn more about the updates and changes to the center you can check out our Virtual Tour video on our website at [gracecenter-covallis.org](http://gracecenter-covallis.org). Additionally, if you find yourself looking for ways to cope during the pandemic, I suggest you checkout the Grace Center FREE 2020 Aging Summit "Adapting in Changing Times". Access is available on our YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/GraceCenterforAdultDayServices>. You will hear from experts on topics such as "Navigating the COVID-19 Pandemic", "Living with Worry & Uncertainty", and "Sleeping in Stressful Times". The Aging Summit not only provides valuable information, it is also a fundraiser for the center. This year the Aging Summit had four generous matching gifts of \$1,000 each. I am happy to report that all four matching gifts were met through donations and support received from the community. Thank you!"

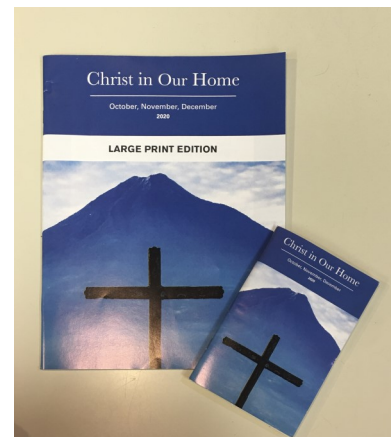
The Annual Aging summit and the Annual Open House events were held in September. If you couldn't attend those virtual times they were recorded. You can view the recordings as noted above by Rene.

Betty McCauley

## Christ in Our Home Devotional October, November and December 2020

Due to our building being closed and all in-person worship being suspended at this time, The new Christ in Our Home daily Devotional booklets are available by request and can be mailed to you. Please contact the office to request a copy.

Contact the office at 541-767-1600 or  
[office@grace97330.org](mailto:office@grace97330.org)



## Camp Lutherwood

As Oregon and the surrounding area face devastating wildfires, Camp Lutherwood Oregon is praying for you and your congregations. Here at camp, we've luckily been far away from the fires themselves, but we're still experiencing poor air quality. May you all stay safe, well, and secure.



### **Register for Spirit of Harvest on October 7, 2020**

With Spirit of Harvest just around the corner! In the midst of COVID and fires around the NW, we are excited to share inspirational stories from campers, past summer staff and supporters of camp. Visit our website and find the Spirit of Harvest page all about the upcoming live-stream event. From there, you can register to attend, easily make a donation, and learn more information about auction items and how to connect. Please spread the word and share this event with your congregation members. Thank you again for all of your support of Camp Lutherwood.

### **COVID-19 & Camp Lutherwood Oregon**

According to the Governor's office, Lane County has been approved for Phase 2 operations. We are following the guidelines of the local health authorities and government mandates to ensure the safety of families, guests, volunteers and our staff. In an effort to remain safe and healthy, we are shifting into a phase of being open for guests by private appointment only. You must contact our office to make arrangements about time and date to ensure that we are able to accommodate all safety requirements. Please contact us at 541-998-6444 or [office@lutherwoodoregon.org](mailto:office@lutherwoodoregon.org) for more information and to make your request.

Check out the COVID News link on our website for any additional updates.

### **How We're Upgrading Sites and Facilities**

Camp is far from quiet these days. Construction continues on the Dining Hall/Kitchen, and we are still hoping for a completion date in the coming weeks. Preliminary work has begun on the permits for the new Upper Cabin restroom 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. As we begin remodeling the A-frame bathrooms, we appreciate any and all gifts to help us complete this project. Watch our social media for updates on what's happening at Lutherwood!

## 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.







## Lutheran Disaster Response

### Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"  
(Psalm 46:1).

Friends,

Hurricane Laura, a powerful Category 4 storm, has hit Louisiana and parts of Texas with devastating force, causing at least three deaths, major damage and leaving hundreds of thousands without power. With extremely dangerous storm surge and winds of at least 150 mph, it's one of the most powerful storms to hit the area in a century, and it left widespread destruction in its wake. Given the complexities caused by COVID-19, sheltering those impacted will be a challenge.

Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response (Upbring) and the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast and Southwestern Texas synods, which are assessing the immediate needs and initiating a response. While the extent of the damage is not yet known, we will accompany devastated communities from immediate relief through long-term recovery. This is an important part of Christ's call to our church.

Please give today. Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those whose lives have been devastated by Hurricane Laura. Gifts designated for "Hurricane Response" will be used entirely (100%) for hurricane response efforts until they are complete.

Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes. Please join me in prayer and partnership, and stay connected to the latest events and our response to this and other disasters through our [Facebook page](#).



Please donate [HERE](#) or at the link below to support Oregon Synod congregations and congregation-related organizations providing relief and aid related to the fires.

To our knowledge, all ELCA church buildings have made it through the fires so far.

We've already heard from many congregations who are using the financial, physical, and people resources of their church to provide space for camping or trailers in parking lots, portable showers and toilets, shelter, and meals for those in need. Thank you!

Information on how congregations and individuals can help, and how congregations and ministries can receive monies from this fund is coming soon.

<https://oregonsynodelca.givingfuel.com/oregon-wildfires>

## Traveling through the Sundays after Pentecost

### Sunday, October 4, 2020 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### Introduction

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

#### Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 5:1-7

*The song of the vineyard*

Psalm 80:7-15

*Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)*

Philippians 3:4b-14

*Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ*

Matthew 21:33-46

*The parable of the vineyard owner's son*

#### Prayer of the Day

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



### Sunday, October 11, 2020 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

#### Introduction

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

#### Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 25:1-9

*The feast of victory*

Psalm 23

*You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)*

Philippians 4:1-9

*Rejoice in the Lord always*

Matthew 22:1-14

*The parable of the unwelcome guest at the wedding feast*

#### Prayer of the Day

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**





Find the Bible online at [bible.oremus.org](http://bible.oremus.org)

## Sunday, October 18, 2020 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Introduction

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

### Readings and Psalm

Isaiah 45:1-7

*An earthly ruler as the instrument of God's will*

Psalm 96:1-9

*Ascribe to the Lord honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)*

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

*Thanksgiving for the church at Thessalonica*

Matthew 22:15-22

*A teaching on giving to the emperor and to God*

### Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



## Sunday, October 25, 2020 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Reformation Sunday

### Introduction

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

### Readings and Psalm

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*I will write my law in their hearts, says the Lord*

Psalm 46

*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)*

Romans 3:19-28

*Justified by God's grace as a gift*

John 8:31-36

*Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth*

### Prayer of the Day (Alternate)

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

