

Grace GATHERINGS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

435 NW 21st Street

Corvallis, Oregon 97330



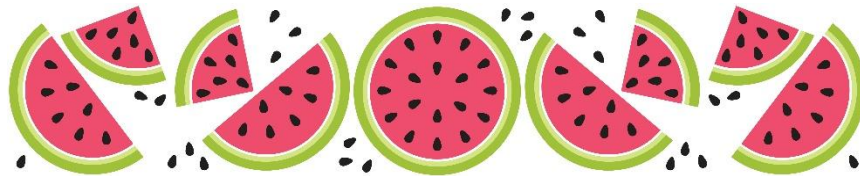
Welcome Vicar Mel to Gace!



Vicar Melanie Bowman will be starting at Grace on Sunday, July 19.

She will be installed during our July 19 Worship Service and we will be hosting a Welcome Celebration following Worship in Ronnenkamp Hall.

We understand that you want to get to know her, so please watch for information on upcoming fellowship times and events happening this summer.



Summer Hymn sing

3rd Saturday of June, July and August
11 am to 12 pm
At Common Fields

Next Hymn Sing:
Saturday, July 18, 2026

Updated Church Staff Schedule

Monday and Thursday
(on site):
9am—4pm

**Tuesday, Wednesday and
occasional Friday (off site):**
9am—4pm

**If you reach our voice mail, please leave a
message. We do check voice mails
regularly.**



Support the many ministries of Grace Lutheran

Giving Info at a Glance

**Contributions for the month of
June: \$14,394**

June budget \$16,100

1st – 4th weeks' giving: \$14,394

Weekly budget: \$3,220 (based on 5 weeks)

YTD Contributions: \$162,344

YTD Budget: \$165,780



Global Book Club

**The Global Book club will return in September
2026**

**Discussions are Held on the First Tuesday of
each Month at 1 pm in the Grace Library**

2026/2027 Book List

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/2026-2027-Global-Book-Reading-list-ver-2.pdf>

Grace Lutheran Church

Welcome Statement Approved 2026

Grace Lutheran recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us.

We are called by Jesus to love God and one another, to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without stipulations.

We welcome you to join us, no matter your race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical abilities, mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, background, or where you are in your faith journey.

You are a unique and beloved child of God. You are accepted and affirmed just as you are - with all your differences and all your gifts.

We commit ourselves to embracing each other as siblings and to the work of racial equity, social and economic justice, and environmental care.

You are absolutely invited to join us in this lifelong journey.

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.

We need each other and our sincere hope is by being in community together we will know that God is near.



**Pastor E. Remy Remmers
(They/Them)**

Contact Information
Email: revremy@grace97330.org

Office Hours

Mon.-Thurs: In the Area

Friday: Sabbath

Saturday: Day Off

Siblings in Christ,

This month we will welcome our Vicar! Vicar Mel will be starting Sunday July 19th! If you are in town, please consider prioritizing coming in person to meet our Vicar. We are in the process of creating welcome events throughout the month of August so you will opportunities to meet Vicar Mel in small groups. Stay tuned for those events!

What is a Vicar? Vicar is a title that we are using to say Pastor in training. A Vicar is an intern but a Vicar is not someone that you can boss around to do the errands you don't want to do. The Vicar will be spending time floating between the ministry areas of Grace. She will not be in charge of one area. This 12-month period is essential to help the vicar learn the life of the church. What is it like being a Pastor during Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Common Time etc.? What is it like responding to emergencies and visiting people in their homes and the hospitals? Pastors do many things, and this year of being a Vicar helps with that practical pastoral formation to lead us into the future of the church.

What does this mean for you? Well, Vicar Mel will be trying new things here at Grace. Before you say that's not how we've always done it, we get the opportunity to share in the joy of trying something new. Vicar Mel might start something that could be your new favorite thing that you will want to do it the next year. Regardless of how it goes it will be a learning experience. We will strive to live into our namesake and have Grace with one another as we try new things. The sign of failure is not an event going poorly but it is when we stop trying. We often find out who we are in the struggle. This Community of Grace has been through many seasons. We are a unique place. We have so much to teach and to learn. I am so excited to journey together in this process. I think this will really open up new possibilities for us, and give us this opportunity to live into our faith in exciting ways.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us.

.Peace,
Pastor Remy

Grace Lutheran Church Council

June Council Meeting Minutes:

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/June-Council-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

A Word from our Council President

First, I would like to remind you (along with other announcements in this issue of Grace Gatherings and announcements at worship), July 19 begins a new Chapter in the History of Grace Lutheran. We welcome Melanie Bowman, Vicar Mel, to Grace Lutheran. To my knowledge, which may be faulty on this but no one has taken issue with me yet, may be the first vicar/intern we have had at Grace since I was in confirmation back in the very early 1960s! This is a great opportunity for all. For Vicar Mel, it is training for ministry in a congregation setting in preparation for her first call. For us, it is first an opportunity to join in that training process but also an opportunity to have more leadership in areas that best facilitate Vicar Mel's training for that first call. Be sure to wear your nametags, greet her and take the opportunity to work with her!

Some recent news items have included:

- **Elimination of TPS (Temporary Protective Status) for Hattian and Syrian refugees**
- **H.R. 22 2026 SAVE Act (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act)**
- **Oregon Synod of ELCA Landback to NAYA (Native American Youth and Family Center)**

All three (3) of the above items are an effort to attack the status quo in our country. The first two (2) fill our news sources daily either pro or con, dependent on your news source. However, they are both efforts to maintain the power of those already in authority. To not let "others" in. To the extreme, there are those that honestly believe that the U.S. was founded as a "Christian" nation.

No doubt, many of the founders were either refugees themselves or the offspring of refugees that were escaping religious persecution. The nation was founded on general principals that had been present in civilizations at least since the time of Hammurabi, the sixth Amorite king of ancient Babylon in Mesopotamia, about 1792 to 1750 BC. As I like to say, that was "a couple of days ago!" The Bible's 10 Commandments as given to God's people, echo many of these ancient rules. Yes, our country was founded on good rules on which to operate a country of many people! Yes, those rules include in some manner, the total intent of the 10 commandments which were the Hebrew's rules, not the Christian rule of Mark 12: 31 as Jesus responded to the scribe, "*Jesus answered, '...³¹The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'...*".

In truth, this nation was founded understanding, among other things, the 15th Century Doctrine of Discovery which "... originated in the 15th century through a series of **papal bulls** issued by the Catholic Church, including *Dum Diversas* (1452), *Romanus Pontifex* (1455), and *Inter caetera* (1493), which authorized Christian explorers to seize lands inhabited by non-Christians and convert the inhabitants to Christianity. These decrees were intended to legitimize European expansion during the Age of Exploration, particularly by Portugal and Spain, and established the idea that non-Christian peoples could not hold legitimate title to land." (From an AI internet search).

This use of this principal continued as this country moved west, where the early settlers took what land they wanted with no consideration to the previous users. In those times treaties were signed, they almost all were eventually broken, sometimes multiple times.

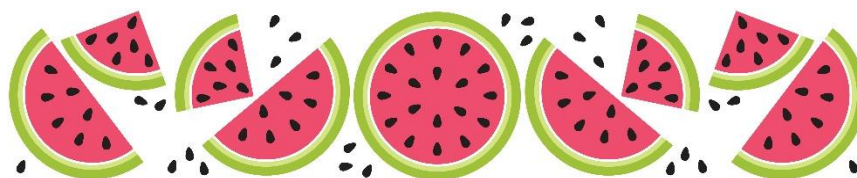
Against this backdrop, the third item above, the Oregon Synod "Landback" to the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) is an effort to reverse this process, to return the land (not a gift) as a reparation to its first users and from whom the land was "stolen." This is your church in action – at the State/Synod level.

You regularly see our local congregation making itself known in food bank volunteerism and donations, Pride events, providing food (sack lunches) both at Grace and to Vina Moses not to mention numerous other sharing events throughout the year – local, national and international. This is what it is to be church – you are all a part of it! Further information on the Oregon Synod landback can be found by clicking this link:

<https://grace97330.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Land-Back-in-NE-Portland.pdf>

July Birthdays

Tina R	07/02	Erika L	07/20
Sandie W	07/04	Tim S	07/20
Ron A	07/05	Nicole G	07/21
Jody P	07/05	Kristin Y	07/23
Anne H	07/05	Mary S	07/24
Natalie C	07/07	Abigail F	07/25
Dayle C	07/08	Dana H	07/29
Rebekah H	07/10	Dean A	07/31
Pat C	07/13	Edward H	07/31
Anthony C	07/14	Jose V	07/31
Marna R	07/15		
Marshall H	07/17		
Keith L	07/17		



Prayers

*If you have a prayer request,
please send it to prayers@grace97330.org
If you would like to be added to the prayer chain mailing
list, please contact Andrea in the church office.*

Prayer Request

Merle M., brother of Gordon M
Jake S, neighbor of Holland and Kassandra
Ron A

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Shane M. after his car accident

Scanning this QR Code is another way to add
prayers to our prayer chain and prayers in
worship



New Christ in Our Home

July—September 2026

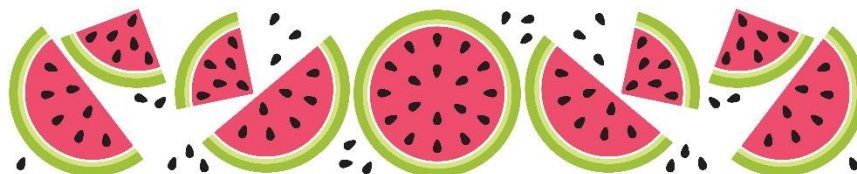
Now Available in the Church Entry. Please contact Andrea in the church office if you would like a copy mailed to you.

Ladies Luncheon

11:45 am on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month

July 14th – Wise Cracks

July 28nd – Killer Burger



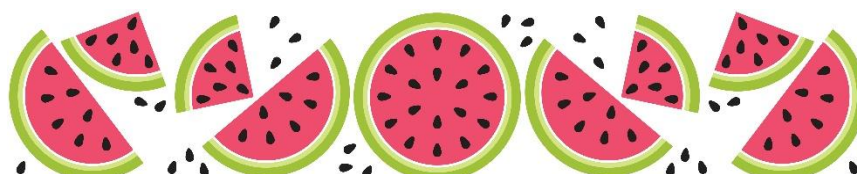
Red Cross Blood Drive Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Please contact The American Red Cross to sign up or for more information

Trivia Night

Tuesday, July 21, 2026
7 pm at the Angry Beaver

Please note the new location and day of the week.



Vina Moses Back to School Drive

Socks and T Shirts for ages 5 - 18

Deadline for Items is Sunday, July 26

Backpacks for Garfield

Backpacks need to be big enough to fit a folder and library book

If making a Monetary donation: Please note Backpacks



Vacation Bible School August 10-14, 2026

Registration now open

[Grace Kids VBS - Just like Me! - August 10 -14 - Grace Lutheran](#)

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Shae.

A Background check will be required for all volunteers.



Albany Pride 2026

Thank you to everybody who helped make our booth at Albany Pride a Success!

