

August 2026
volume XXV, issue 8

Grace GATHERINGS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

435 NW 21st Street

Corvallis, Oregon 97330



Farewell Julia Potluck in the Park

Sunday, August 2 12 - 4 pm
Thompson Shelter at Avery Park

Please join us in the park as we celebrate and say
Farewell to Julia who has been interning at Luther
House Campus Ministry.

Grace Members please bring a main dish to share.
Sides and Desserts will be shared by members of
Good Sam and Campus Ministries.



VBS 2026

August 10-14

Registration now open
Grace Kids VBS - Just like Me! - August 10 -14 -
Grace Lutheran

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact
Jessica jemigh13@gmail.com
A Background check will be required for all
volunteers.

Grace Personnel

Pastor E. Remy Remmers (They/Them)

revremy@grace97330.org

Vicar Melanie “Mel” Bowman (She/Her)

vicarmel@grace97330.org

Office Administrator - Andrea Barnhurst

(She/Her)

office@grace97330.org

Director of Music Ministries - Bryson Skaar

(He/Him)

Bryson@grace97330.org

Percussion - Kelsey Bleck

Bookkeeper - Cobie deLespinasse (She/Her)

bookkeeper@grace97330.org

Financial Secretary: Mike Franklin (He/Him)

Prayer Chain - Cathy Mueller & Bruce Stephens

prayers@grace97330.org

Custodian - Outside Contractor

Grace Alive!

Kelsey Bleck, Bill Briskey, Sue Davis, Tom Kiersky,
Dave Lundahl, Donna Wernz, Jim Wernz

Tech Team

Bruce Stephens, Mary Stephens, Shelly Lundahl,
Taylor Hall

Updated Church Staff Schedule

Monday and Thursday

(on site):

9am—4pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and

occasional Friday (off site):

9am—4pm

If you reach our voicemail, please leave a
message. We do check voicemails
regularly.



Support the many ministries of Grace Lutheran

Giving Info at a Glance

Contributions as of July 24, 2026

Contributions for the month of

July: \$14,188

July budget \$33,300

1st – 3rd weeks' giving: \$14,188

Weekly budget: \$8,325 (based on 4 weeks)

YTD Contributions: \$183,819

YTD Budget: \$196,975

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.



Birthday Blessings!

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

James L	08/01
Charles V	08/05
Judy G	08/06
Wayne K	08/08
Kimberly D	08/11
Shirley L	08/11
Archer S	08/12
Anne P	08/13
Bruce S	08/14
Laura D	08/17
Judith Q	08/17
Nathaniel O	08/18
Larry B	08/19
Wendy G	08/20
Oliver W	08/20
Silas H	08/21
Linda N	08/22
Ken K	08/22
Joel H	08/23
Noah G	08/24
Charles M	08/25
Liam P	08/25
Gerald E	08/26
Whitney L	08/26
Neil C	08/31

Siblings in Christ,

Heaven is declaring God's glory; the sky is proclaiming his handiwork.

Psalm 19:1 CEB

July has been such a Gift. I started this month at Lutherwood for confirmation camp with two of our youth starting their confirmation journey. Starting this journey in God's creation filled with love and joy reminded me of all my memories from camp. We had bible studies, reflected on themes of belonging and inclusion, had late night cookie heists, sang and worshiped God, fell out of canoes and more. This faith we have leads us to live better lives here and now. It is not solely to get into heaven later. Jesus helps us love ourselves and each other better here on earth. There's no better place to learn that than camp.

When I got back from camp, I saw that the property committee has been hard at work and the new bell tower had been installed! Thank you for all your hard work designing, raising funds, getting contracts, building and everything else that went into this project. The next time you are in our courtyard make sure you go see it!

Then Grace welcomed our Vicar Mel, had a river baptism, and got to go and celebrate two ocean baptisms. I know I missed some of what we did this July and thank you for being a such a vibrant community. August will also be a delight with VBS around the corner, and prepping for our fall kick off. It is a blessing to walk alongside you in faith. I am eager to see where God will lead us this program year. Thank you for being you.



Pastor Remy

Pastor E. Remy Remmers
(They/Them)
Contact Information
Email: revremy@grace97330.org

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: In the Area
Friday: Sabbath
Saturday: Day Off

I am writing this in my first week at Grace. In fact, it is my fourth day, and I have to say that I am loving it! You all have been so welcoming, and my husband, Rick and I feel like part of the family already. I feel like we “fit” with this wonderful community. Being that we are family now, I thought I would tell you a bit about myself.

I was born in Northfield, Minnesota, and I have lived in many different places since then. Oregon is the seventh state I have lived in. I recently told Rick we need to move one more time because I prefer even numbers. I first felt a call to ministry in August of 1995. For all the years since then I have felt the tug. God can be persistent! I kept asking myself, “Do I want to be a pastor?” I realized a few years ago that I was asking the wrong question. The question is not “do I want” but rather “what is God asking of me?” Once I realized that, I simply needed to go where God was leading. I say “simply” and that may not be the right word. It has not been a simple journey. But every step of the way God has put people in my path that validate my call to ministry. It can happen that God asks us to do things that are outside our comfort zone. And sometimes it might be difficult to know if this feeling that I should be doing something is coming from God. If you keep getting the same message and you are unsure, there are a few things that might help you to discern the path ahead. First, of course, is prayer. Second, talk to people that you trust. And third, be patient. Sometimes answers can take a while, but God is faithful and won’t give up on you!

As I sit in my dining room on my work-from-home day, I can hear the thunder and see the dark clouds in the sky through the window behind me. I have just read the passage in 1 Kings where Elijah hears God in the silence but not in the wind, the earthquake or the fire. Sometimes we are unsure if what we are feeling or hearing is God. In these situations, I advise you to open your heart, pray, and keep listening. The answer will come to you.

Vicar Mel

Vicar Melanie “Mel” Bowman
(She/Her)
Contact Information
Email: vicarmel@grace97330.org

Office Hours
Mon.-Thurs: In the Area
Friday: Sabbath
Saturday: Day Off

Council Corner

Summer is a slower time around Corvallis and similarly, around Grace. But that does not mean we stop. We continue some activities, have some specifically summer activities and reload to hit the ground full speed in the fall.

We have special summertime events such as VBS, hymn sings at Common Fields and yes, our trivia aficionados continue to compete weekly. We also either start or in some cases complete the planning for fall and beyond. Things like the education program, special worships for special Sundays going forward at least as far as Christmas, planning the fall stewardship campaign and special congregation events, and even the planning for the upcoming Wednesday noon hour music breaks we offer to the community. In addition, the day-to-day operation of the church continues – committee and council meetings, preparing the bulletins, all the other preparations for Sunday worship and this year, integrating Vicar Mel into our processes – plus many other things I have left out.

All of this brings me back to SignUpGenius. We have a relatively small congregation trying to do many things, punching way above our weight-class. And, we're doing a good, no, great job of it. However, continuing at this level also creates burnout. That's why we invest in tools that help our "doers" avoid busy work that can be done other, easier ways. SignUpGenius is just one (1) of those tools. Everyone can help by using tools such as SignUpGenius so less time can be spent preparing and more time can be spent doing.

SignUpGenius is easy to use, simply click on this link: [GELC Membership: Volunteers: January 26 through June 2026](#) and it will take you directly to a page which will have tabs at the top. Click on the one that has a range that contains the current date, in the current case, that would be "July 2026 through December 2026," on the right side. Once there, You can scroll down the page to the date you are interested in volunteering to help with worship. There are places to volunteer for communion assistants, ushering, altar guild and Coffee Fellowship Servers. All of the positions ask for at least two (2) people per Sunday. If this is your first time and you need instruction, simply sign up next to someone that has already signed up for that position that Sunday. You can work together and even get to know someone better. Or, you can talk to someone that does a particular thing you are interested in and ask them about it first.

Bottom line, you can save volunteer time and very easily volunteer to serve on Sunday mornings. If you are afraid you will take someone's position, don't be. Most people keep doing the service as they individually find it easier to do it themselves than to find someone else. They would be more than happy to share the load.

See you in church.

Mike Franklin, Council President

President

Mike Franklin

Vice President

Frank Davis

Secretary

Gary Hertel

Treasurer

Robin Comforto

Financial Secretary:

Mike Franklin

Council Members:

John Baggenstos

Angie Gallagher

Todd Greeley

Meredith Junge

Holland Smith

Susan Speulda

Robyn Vega

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

Karen S
Ron A
Anita U
Ali B
Martha A
Pam A, friend of Bob K
Katie C, Friend of Shelly L
All Those impacted by the Fires

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Dawn D

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



Link to Sunday Servants Sign Up Genius

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AFA92DABF94-64425146-volunteers#/>

Sunday Readings for August

Sunday, August 2

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9

11th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Sunday, August 23

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28



Tie Dye Event

Wednesday, August 5 at 5 pm

Bring a white item to Tie Dye along with a bucket or ziplock bag to bring your item home afterwards



Summer Hymn Sing

Saturday, August 16 at 11 am
at Common Fields

Tie Dye and Hawaiian Shirt Sunday

Sunday, August 23

Wear your Tie Dye or Hawaiian Shirts to Worship



Trivia Night

Tuesday, August 18 at 7 pm
at The Angry Beaver

Teams & Committees

Property Committee - TBD
Communications Committee— Dave Lundahl
Sunday Hospitality—Meredith Junge
Events Hospitality—Sue Davis
Growing Young Ministry: TBD
Altar Guild - Linda Samuels,
Worship & Music Committee—Sue Davis

Finance Committee - Bob Keith
Personnel Committee - Gary Hertel
Caring Ministry Team - Marshall Hill-Tanquist
Stewardship Committee - Robin Comforto
Climate Resiliency Task Force—Johanna
Lundahl
Outreach Committee—Elaine Franklin



Backpacks for Garfield

We are collecting backpacks for Garfield Elementary. Backpacks need to be big enough to fit a folder and library book.

Please put in yellow box in the fireside room.

If making a monetary donation, please note "Backpacks"



Float Trip

Sunday, August 23

Starting at 2 pm

We will meet at Crystal Lake Boat Launch

Please be aware of regulations around
Licenses and allowed floats.

Life Jackets are encouraged.

Welcome New Member Charlie

Charlie is a 3rd year at Oregon State University studying biochemistry and molecular biology with a minor in music performance. Her interests are as diverse and ever-changing as her hair colors, with singing, painting, and going to the gym currently on top. Charlie has a passion for music and is currently in the OSU chamber choir and president of the Divine all treble no club on campus. She is also currently working in a food science lab on campus and studying to be a genetic engineer one day! In her free time she enjoys nature, community, anything artistic, and looking at her (super huge) muscles in the Dixon mirrors. Charlie is a professional chatterbox so don't be afraid to say hello wherever you may see her!



Sewing/Prayer Shawl Ministry

2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 1 pm
In the Grace Basement



Ladies Luncheon

2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 11:45 am

August 11
Tap Room

August 25
Papa's Pizza

Global Book Club 2026/2027

First Tuesday of Each Month in the Grace Library
Starting in September

September 1
Women of the Silk by Gail Tsukiyama

October 6
James by Percival Everett

November 3
Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James
McBride

December 1
Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

January 5
In the Midst of Winter by Isabel Allende

February 2
Code Name Helene by Ariel Lawhon



Grace Gallery Display

A Display of Bald Eagles in honor of the 250th
annivesary of the United States

Collection by Larry and Sharon Rosenkoetter



Labor Day Service

Sunday, September 6

Garage Sale

Saturday, September 26

Share the Love

Friday, February 12



Generations of the Rainbow All Ages Queer Camp

September 18 - 20, 2026
Camp Lutherwood

\$250 - 400 Sliding Scale
Scholarships Availalbe

Questions? Please Contact Pr. Remy

Community Garden Day



SATURDAY,
August 1st,
AT 10 AM

Canterbury House
2615 NW Arnold Way
Corvallis, OR 97330



Bring your gardening gloves and join students in helping get the Canterbury Garden planted for the fall!

RSVP to Intern Julia
Phone: 206-518-7058

The New Grace Bell Tower



Thank You to Everybody who made this project successful.