

September 2026
volume XXV, issue 9

Grace GATHERINGS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

435 NW 21st Street

Corvallis, Oregon 97330



LABOR DAY WORSHIP
IN THE PARK

FEEDING OF THE 5,000
AND ALL OF CORVALLIS TOO

SUNDAY
SEPT
6TH
10 AM

BRUCE
STARKER
ARTS
PARK
PAVILION

A photograph of a large, diverse pile of baked goods, including baguettes, croissants, rolls, and pastries, arranged on a wooden surface.A small line drawing of a church building with a steeple, labeled "Grace Lutheran Church".Logo for First Christian, featuring a red heart with hands inside, and the text "First Christian Disciples in the Heart of Corvallis".Logo for the Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan, featuring a shield with a cross and the text "Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan".Logo for First Congregational UCC Corvallis, featuring a stylized mountain range and the text "First Congregational UCC CORVALLIS".Logo for the Presbyterian Church (USA), featuring a stylized cross and the text "PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)".Logo for the First United Methodist Church of Corvallis, featuring a colorful flower-like design and the text "First United Methodist Church of Corvallis Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors."

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

Note: The Church Office will be closed on Monday,
September 7 to observe Labor Day

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 August 21, 2026

Contributions for the month of August: \$14,333

August budget: \$15,700

First 3 weeks' giving: \$14,333

Weekly budget: \$3,140 (based on 5 weeks)

YTD Contributions: \$199,070

YTD Budget: 211,720

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!

Kelsey B	09/01
Sue D	09/01
Gordon M	09/01
Jim Z	09/01
Bud H	09/04
Mark S	09/05
Shelly B	09/06
Franklin R	09/07
Dawn D.	09/09
Erika D	09/13
Kris S	09/14
Juan G	09/15
Karen S	09/15
Marjorie K	09/16
Eli G	09/18
Mary Ann B	09/19
Rick O	09/19
Martha A	09/20
Anita U	09/20
Dan H	09/22
Seamus H	09/23
Bob K	09/23
Andrea B	09/24
Avi H	09/25
Annikka H	09/25
Elaine F	09/26
Chris M	06/28
Cyndi W	09/28
Gail B	09/29
Evelyne H	09/29
Gloria C	09/30

Beloveds in Christ,

Welcome to fall! This Summer has really flown by. Last month we had VBS thank you to all the volunteers that made that week possible. We had the theme Just Like Me! Reminding us that difference is a good thing and God loves us as who we are! There were crafts and songs and games. We learned about Naaman who was cured from leprosy by being sent into a river. We used sidewalk chalk to draw the river, added fish and foliage to the side, and then Naaman (me) stepped into the river and got dunked with water which cleaned Naaman and the sidewalk chalk. Learning bible stories by acting them out really helps us remember and embody the lessons. And it's fun!

This September already seems like it will be jam packed. From Labor Day Service at Bruce Starker Arts Park, to God's Work our Hands, to Water is life Voyage, to Rummage Sale and more. There are so many opportunities to like out our faith.

One of the ways that my role has shifted is that I am a part of Campus Ministry Interim Team. Father David, Vicar Mel, Dr. Melissa Bird, and I will be providing coverage for Luther House in this time of transition. We will be co leading with the students the events at Luther House. I ask that you keep the students in your prayers during this transition. They have grown so much within the past few years and someone out there is the next Campus Pastor or Deacon that will lead Luther House where God is calling them next. We pray that the Holy Spirit guides this person to us.

On the journey with you,
Pastor Remy



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

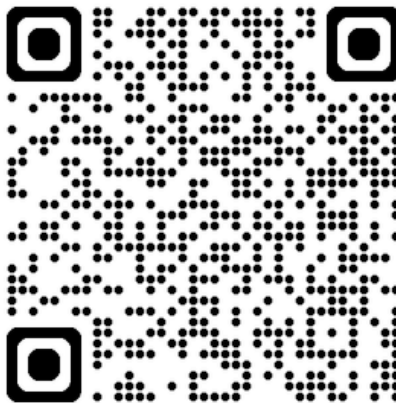
Office Hours
Monday-Thursday: In the Area
Friday: Sabbath
Saturday: Day Off

How has your summer been? I am looking forward to the end of summer and the beginning of fall, and I feel like a good re-group is in order. This is the end of my fourth week at Grace. I have used this time to get ready for the busyness of the beginning of the school year and all the planning of stewardship, confirmation class, and Advent. Things are going to get a little crazy! We had three baptisms, two at the ocean and one full immersion at a river. Welcoming our siblings into the body of Christ and into our church community is one of the most meaningful experiences for me. The gift of faith and community provides a reminder for all of us of the promises that we make at baptism and that we periodically affirm. The first of these promises is "To live among God's faithful people". When this promise is given at an infant baptism, the parents are committing to sharing life, worship, and mutual support within the Christian community. As an adult, when we affirm our baptism, this promise reminds us that living in Christian community means shared worship, mutual support and spiritual growth not only for ourselves but for the other members of the community. So we are working to fulfill our promise and helping others to fulfill theirs. As we look ahead to fall and winter, let's remember our baptismal promise to live among God's faithful people.

Vicar Mel

Sermon Evaluation Form for Vicar Mel

Please help Vicar Mel by filling out this form when she is presenting the sermon. Printed copies can be found in the Church Narthex or an electronic file can be found at the QR Code or the link below



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

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

Soon, our fall stewardship will begin – you will get letters, there will be temple talks and bulletin inserts. Sermons will emphasize stewardship. An emphasis will center around the word, GENEROSITY. At the end of the campaign, you will be asked to submit your Estimate of Giving to the General Fund in 2027.

The emphasis, as always in the fall, will be not entirely but primarily on financial stewardship. I'd like to spend a few words here talking about some of the things our donations accomplish outside of Grace Lutheran and sometimes outside of Corvallis.

In our annual budget, we include donations to local entities including Lutheran Campus Ministry (Luther House), Camp Lutherwood, Interfaith Caregivers, Lutheran Peace Fellowship and Bread for the World.

Some in our congregation choose to also donate to ELCA ministries (sometimes in conjunction with other Lutheran church bodies) outside of Corvallis and in some cases outside the US. These include the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Lutheran Disaster Response and Global Refuge (Previously Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services).

From their website, the Hunger Appeal walks alongside congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Lutheran churches worldwide and trusted partners. Your gifts fund clinics, microloans, clean water, livestock, meals and advocacy —sustainable solutions that address root causes of hunger.

They do this by listening. Congregations and global companions identify local needs and solutions; they join to make them real. With LWF and partners like Bread for the World, CWS, Global Refuge, LSA, and LWR, they accompany and support their efforts to tackle unjust systems so lasting change takes root at home and abroad. We add education and advocacy, tackling unjust systems so lasting change takes root at home and abroad.

Again from their website, Lutheran Disaster Response, operating Since 1973 has remained grounded in its mission to share God's hope, healing and renewal with people impacted by disasters. They recognize that every disaster is local and that community leaders and organizations are best equipped to address needs following a disaster. They accompany partners worldwide across the disaster cycle—response, recovery, mitigation and preparedness—providing financial support, technical assistance, advocacy and networking. This work is relational: they stand with communities, congregations, and synods, social ministry partners, community-based organizations, tribal nations, companion churches and ecumenical partners.

The third leg, Global Refuge, again from their website, has provided welcome and hope to more than three quarters of a million refugees since 1939. They are transforming lives and empowering New Americans with support and resources to begin anew.

Its legacy of compassionate service has made a difference in the lives of more than 800,000 people who have sought safety and hope in America's communities. Its history reflects its own deep immigrant roots and passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, especially those who are most in need. With over eight decades of experience walking with New Americans, Global Refuge believes in the "long welcome." This means they are providing more than just immediate support to immigrants and refugees, but standing alongside them as they rebuild their lives, navigate a new culture, find a new home, a new job, and a new sense of belonging and community.

As you make your normal, donations to the congregation, think generously and consider these opportunities as well. Remember, they are outside our budgeted commitments.

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

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

Anita U
Keith L
Jaya

Prayers of Comfort

To the Friends and Family of Maxine King

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



Sunday Readings for September

September 6, 2026

Labor Day Worship in the Park

September 13, 2026

God's Work Our Hands

September 20, 2026

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10—4:11

Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

September 27, 2026

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32



Wednesday Bible Study starts in September

Bible study will return on Wednesday, September 16 at
1:30pm in Ronnenkamp Hall



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Midday Concerts **Return in September**

Starting Wednesday, September 23
from 12:15 pm - 12:45 pm

Upcoming Concerts:

September 23

Bryson Skaar on Piano

September 30

Gods Work Out Hands **Sunday, September 13**

Come to church in comfortable clothes that you can move around in for work projects. We will have a couple different work projects after church.



Trivia Night **Tuesday, September 15** **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



**Grace Lutheran Church Fundraiser
Rummage Sale
Proceeds intended for the
Major Maintenance Project Fund**

**Saturday, September 26th
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
In Ronnenkamp Hall**

Please search your attic, basement, cupboards,
shelves and storage areas!
Can you part with some things?

All Items should be clean and in working order.
NO clothing. NO shoes. NO large furniture.
Lamps, end tables, coffee tables are OK. Limit 15
items per person

Items can be brought to Ronnenkamp Hall starting
on Saturday, September 19th
from 10 AM- 3 PM.

Other donation times to be announced.
Deadline for donations is
Friday, September 25th at NOON.

Please stay-tuned for opportunities to volunteer

More details will be announced soon

Please direct questions and interest to
Nancy Hertel
gandnhertel@gmail.com
608-576-2248

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Children's Sunday School

Starts Sunday, September 20 at 9 am
in the Basement Sunday School Room



Water is Life A Sacred Encounter with our Coastal Ecosystems

"During this year's Season of Creation, join us for a sacred encounter with Oregon's coastal ecosystem on Saturday, September 19 in Newport. Spend part of the day aboard OSU's research vessel Elakha, learning about climate stressors and exploring hands-on science on the calm Yaquina River. We will also spend time onshore storytelling, reflecting, and taking action for climate justice.

Apply by Friday, September 4 using this form:
<https://forms.gle/LPXhcgraNnFF5gfi6>.



Ladies Luncheon

2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 11:45 am

September 8
Mexico Linda

September 22
New Morning Bakery



Pets of Grace

Pets of Grace

Do you have a New Pet or would like to add a picture of your pet to the "Pets of Grace" Bulletin Board for October?

Please send in a digital picture of your pet to Andrea in the Church office or bring in a 4 x 6 picture of your pet to include on our Bulletin Board.

Blessing of the Animals is coming in October.



Sewing/Prayer Shawl Ministry

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



Salmon Bake

Sunday, October 4 from 12:30 - 2:30 pm
Willamette Park Shelter

The Salmon Bake will have a Free Will Offering. To get a head count, tickets will be handed out. For more information please contact Jude Geist, Tyler Radniecki or Shane Mueller

An Invitation from your Director of Music Ministries and the Grace Choir,

The Grace Choir resumes on September 17th! We joyfully look forward to the coming season and we extend an open invitation to anyone interested in singing and joining. Newcomers don't need experience singing in choirs and we welcome all ability levels. The Grace Choir is a great ensemble to learn in and a fun way to engage in worship. We all find a deeper expression of faith through the music we learn and share.

We rehearse weekly on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30pm. During that time we rehearse upcoming music together. Additionally, I strive to equip the choir with skills to practice independently. We learn how to warm up and use our voices in a healthy way, and how to work with practice materials. We sing about half of the Sundays during the choir season. By not locking ourselves into a weekly Sunday song, we better can digest and learn music more fully. I find this works better for building musicianship and allowing some flexibility in attendance.

Do not be shy in testing and joining in rehearsals! If you've felt the urge to sing in the choir, this is a great time to join. Each year our newcomers find footing easier as the combined experience and ability of choir grows. We are happy to be flexible with schedules and find a meaningful way you can find a place in the choir.

Sincerely,
Bryson Skaar, Director of Music Ministries

"All God's creatures got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wires
Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now"



Welcome Grace's Newest Members

Please welcome Ceara Hinz, and Madeleine Butler who were baptized at the end of July at Seal's Rock

The Wisdom Seekers Book Group will be starting a new book on Thursday, September 17th, "The Book of God" by Walter Wangerin Jr. It is an easily readable, fictionalized retelling of the Bible with stories in chronological order, based on extensive research. It is a long book, so after six weeks, we will set it aside in order to read our next book during the Advent Season.



Wisdom Seekers Book Group

We will start "The First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexities of Hope" by Kelley Nikondeha on October 29th. This reading of the Advent narratives of Luke and Matthew in their original context changes much about how we see the true story.

Meetings are at noon every Thursday via Zoom, covering about 30 pages each week.

If you would like to join us for some fun discussions, please contact Mark Klopsch at klopschm@comcast.net so that he can add you to the Zoom invitation.

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

December 1

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi

October 6

James by Percival Everett

January 5

In the Midst of Winter by Isabel Allende

November 3

Heaven and Earth Grocery Store
by James McBride

February 2

Code Name Helene by Ariel Lawhon



**Volunteer Interfaith
Caregivers
40th Anniversary Event**

Friday, October 23
Starting at 5:30 pm
at the Philomath Scout Lodge
660 Clemens Mill Road

Tickets now on Sale at:
<https://givebutter.com/c/VIC2026>



**OSU Football Parking
Fundraiser for Luther House
Campus Ministry**

Parking Opens 3 hours prior to kick off

Parking will start for games in October. Please
watch for more information on parking days.



Sign up to be a Sunday Servant.

Are you interested in being an Usher or a Communion Assistant?

Click the link below or use the QR Code to sign up using Sign
Up Genius.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AAFA92DABF94-
64425146-volunteers#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084AAFA92DABF94-64425146-volunteers#/)