

Grace GATHERINGS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

435 NW 21st Street

Corvallis, Oregon 97330



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4 during Worship

Each year on October 4 is the Commemoration of Francis of Assisi, a renewer of the church. One of the things Francis was reputed to have done was preach to the animals and bless them. In honor of Francis' care and concern for the birds of the air and beasts of the field, we are again planning a blessing of the animals here at Grace, October 4, 2026.

This is a great celebration when you are invited to bring your own animals, especially your pets, to church that Sunday. We will bless all those that come during our worship service. If your favorite animal is too shy, large or rambunctious or lives in the wild, you may bring a picture or representation of the animals that are important to you. In recent years, several people brought photos on their cell phones. These photos may include pets or it may be a picture of animals of the wild. As in the past, we will have cleaning materials at hand in case of accidents. There will also be a critter-free zone, for those who have allergies.

Over the last year, many people have enjoyed our "Pets of Grace" on the bulletin board. If you have a new pet or would like to add a new picture of your pet to our bulletin board, please email Andrea in the Church Office with your picture so we can update and grow our "Pets of Grace". Email pictures to office@grace97330.org



Salmon Bake

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

The Salmon Bake will have a Free Will Offering.

For more information contact Shane Mueller or Tyler Radniecki

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 for the month of
September \$20,885 – September
budget \$16,900

1st – 3rd weeks' giving \$20,885 –
Weekly budget \$4,225 (based on 4
weeks)

YTD Contributions \$223,040

YTD Budget 230,675

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.



Dorothy L	10/04
Tom O	10/04
Judy W	10/06
Todd D	10/07
Julia R	10/07
Krista W	10/08
Maxine K	10/10
Freda V	10/10
Robyn V	10/11
Lee S	10/12
Kassandra S	10/13
Sabina H	10/14
Carolyn K	10/14
Mackenzie B	10/15
Lida B	10/18
Carol T	10/18
Kathy S	10/21
Lyla H	10/23
Tom K	10/25
Bridget P	10/27
Mark G	10/29
Sarah D	10/30
Carol W	10/30
Kris W	10/31



Siblings in Christ,

This was a busy September. Several of you were apart of a research trip on the Elakha led by Kelsey Lane and Madeleine Bulter. They did a fantastic job connecting care of creation to our faith. Our faith calls us to be active and care for our home. Soon we will have an event where we get to hear from those that went on this trip. One of the invitations for those on this trip was to write their own psalm about creation. Writing psalms is such a grounding prayer practice connecting us to our ancestors of faith.

This past month I had the joy and honor of cofacilitating a retreat at Lutherwood. This retreat was called Generations of the Rainbow. This camp was for queer individuals and families with queer individuals. I was part of the worship team and lead two bible studies (one kid friendly and one for adults). I have a deep love of the stories of the bible. One of these bible studies was exploring the story of Joseph in Genesis. You might be familiar with the musical adaptation Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor dream coat. Joseph was given a garment by his father. Translators have not known what to do with this phrase כֶּתֶנֶת פָּסִיִּם (Ketonet Passim). Some have translated as coat of many colors, long robe with sleeves, or ornamental robe.

There are issues translating it this way. Firstly, this phrase Ketonet Passim is gendered feminine. Ancient Hebrew has grammatical gender. Each word in Ancient Hebrew has a gender. Men's clothing was always gendered in the masculine. If something could be worn by multiple genders, it would be gendered in the masculine. Another route to go with translation is to look up where else this is used in the bible (and other sources from the same time period). The only other time this is used in the Bible is to describe the dress of a princess. There is a strong possibility that a more correct translation is Joseph and the pretty princess dress. When I learned about this in seminary my heart was filled with such hope. There were people like me in the bible! Those that were at this camp were filled with hope too! Many had never been around this many other queer Christians. May we let our inner Joseph shine and help others shine bright too.

God sees us as we are. God delights in our uniqueness. God grieves when the world is not as accepting as God. May you feel God's love this month, celebrating your uniqueness, calling you into community and joy.

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

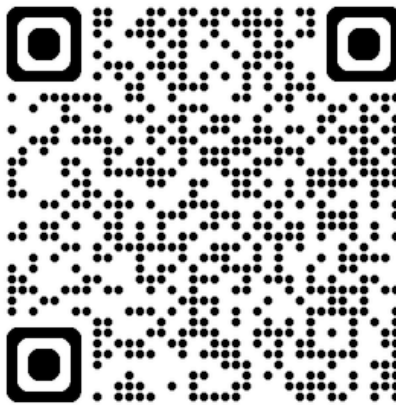
As we move into our Stewardship campaign for the year I am thinking about "stuff". Stewardship brings to mind caring for the earth and creatures and stewarding the monetary gifts with which we have been entrusted as well as being a good steward of my time and talents. But I think of "stuff" as being a key element of stewardship as well. My home (for now) is in Arizona. I have a house with most of my things. Furniture, kitchen goods, a shed full of tools and things I am saving for when I need them, tons of photos and mementos, and so many things that I have collected over the years. For the last year I have lived on the campus of my seminary in Dubuque, Iowa and this year I am here in Corvallis. I am living quite nicely without all of my things that seem so important. By the time I get back to Arizona I will have been away for three years. If I have lived without these things for three years I think it means I could live without them forever. These things are weighing me down. And the things I am saving in the shed for a time when I may need them? Maybe someone else needs them right now. Maybe it is time for me to let go of much of my "stuff" and hold on to the things that I use day-to-day and that are really important. Maybe holding on to so many things is closer to hoarding than I am comfortable with. The rummage sale was a great opportunity to rid myself of things that clutter my life. My clutter can be another person's treasure. And less clutter in my life means more bandwidth for the important things. I see sharing my stuff with others as a way of being a better steward of God's gifts

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

<https://bit.ly/45EgYv5>



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

One of the things your congregation council has struggled with this year has been the congregation's organizational structure and trying to get all the committees up and running. That has proven to be true in some areas more than others as some of our committees work very well and efficiently. One of the areas of concern is GYM, Growing Young Ministry.

Many of you may know the history of GYM better than I, but it started slightly before we returned back to the congregation. First, what is GYM? It is our intergenerational programming dealing with education and activities. For a few years after its inception, naturally just before covid brought everything to a stop, it was primarily run by a few committed people and a committee with staff assistance. As time progressed, staff became more and more involved, to the point of being the primary leadership and planner. This worked well, at the expense of developing new leaders. Burn out also ensued.

Now, without a staff person specifically hired for this purpose, we are having difficulty picking up all the areas such as high school and adult education and intergenerational activities. We have been most fortunate and blessed by a very active group of OSU students that have taken a very active interest in our youth education. They have been remarkable.

Last month, I wrote about fall being the typical time for our stewardship campaign and touched on stewardship being more than just our financial contributions. This is what I was talking about – a need for leadership and other volunteers for this (GYM) ministry – We have several reading groups that are doing well – might they work even better if they were coordinating with each other? I don't know but doesn't it sound like a discussion we should have and filled with potential possibilities? Are there other venues of education that can be added? Again, I don't know but another good discussion. How about intergenerational activities? That is now primarily fulfilled by our monthly potlucks. Are there other things we/you have experienced here, elsewhere or something else that just sounds exciting? Let's get a group to discuss!

In short, we need volunteers in this area (and other areas as well). We have been discussing a time and talent questionnaire as a part of our stewardship program but that is not yet developed. In the meantime, please, please, please let it be known if you are interested in these types of activities (specifically GYM but others as well) and even better, willing to organize! You can write a note and give it to Pastor Remy, Vicar Mel or a member of the Executive Committee, Robin Comforto, Frank Davis, Mike Franklin or Susan Speulda.

Please, prayerfully consider this. Think of what you would like to do/lead and whether you can lead it or not, then let us know. Or, if you think you would like to organize a group to oversee all the activities, we are particularly looking for that type of leadership. Let us know! PLEASE!

See you in church.

Mike Franklin

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

Jaya
Andrea B's Brother
Jessica, Houghlum Granddaughter
Wendy, Denise C's Friend
Chris G, Jude G dad
Callum, famiy member of Cathy M

Prayers of Comfort

For the Family and Freinds of Keith Levien
To the Friends and Family of Steve Thompson
To the Family and Friends of Loretta Peterson

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



Sunday Readings for October

October 4, 2026

Blessing of the Animals

Job 39:1-18
Psalm 121
Luke 12:13-21

October 11, 2026

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18, 2026

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25, 2026

Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

Trivia Night

Tuesday, October 20
at 7 pm
at The Angry Beaver





Midday Concerts

from 12:15 pm - 12:45 pm

Upcoming Concerts:

Oct 7

Emma Nichols, Soprano with Bryson Skaar on Piano

Oct 14

Zachary Duell on Organ

Oct 21

Bryson Skaar and Erik Crew, Jazz Duo

Oct 28

Halloween Music with Bryson Skaar

Nov 4

Silent Film with Live Soundtrack by Justin Schepige

Nov 11

Kaiya Miller, Soprano with David Nicholas

Nov 18

Kelsey Bleck, Erik Crew, Bryson Skaar perform Jazz from Video Games



All Saints Day

Sunday, November 1, 2026

On all Saints Day we read the names of those who passed in the last year.

To Add your Saint, please write it down on one of the printed copies throughout the church or email Andrea in the church office. Featured Saints are to be those who have passed away between November 1, 2025 and present.



Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 25



Trunk or Treat Saturday, October 24 3-5pm

If you would like to decorate your trunk, please arrive at 2 pm to allow for set up prior to the event.



Children's Sunday School

Sundays at 9 am
in the Basement Sunday School Room

Choir

Practice is on Thursdays at 5:30 pm

For more information, please contact Bryson Skaar

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



Ladies Luncheon

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 11:45 am

October 13th - Taco Vino

October 27th - Asian Market



Wisdom Seekers Book Group

**Thursdays at 12 pm
Via Zoom**

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.



Sewing/Prayer Shawl Ministry

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



**Fall Stewardship Campaign
October 2026**

Please watch for emails, bulletin inserts, Temple
Talks, and mailings coming in October



Luther House
Lutheran Campus Ministry at Oregon State University

Volunteers Needed

Friday, October 9 from 10 am to Noon

Hello Grace family!

We have an exciting event coming up at the Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry and we need your help.

Friday, October 9 10 AM-Noon

Help us prepare food bags for students! Join us at Luther House as we prepare food bags for the "food box" in front of Luther House. This fun and easy volunteer opportunity helps us nourish students as they return to school.

RSVP to Melissa Bird at lhouse@peak.org so we know how many volunteers we have!



OSU Football Parking Fundraiser for Luther House Campus Ministry.

Luther House Campus Ministry has made the desition to not do OSU Football Game Parking Fundraiser this year.

We want to thank all fo those who have supported this fundraiser in the past years and we will watch to see what happens in the 2027/2028 school year.

Global Book Club 2026/2027

First Tuesday of Each Month in the Grace Library

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

March 2

"Everything is Tuberculosis: The History and Persistence of our Deadliest Infection" by John Green



**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>



The photo above shows the group that went on the Elakha Research trip. The photo below shows some reasearch in process



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#/>