

# The Means of Grace

APRIL 21, 2024



Acts 3:1-8 & 16b ... One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. 6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God... faith in His [Jesus'] Name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.



This once crippled, but now healed man got more than he bargained for! Read Acts 3 and you'll notice that he wasn't asking to be healed. He wasn't looking to be saved. He certainly wasn't expecting to be enlisted in a movement to bring about the new creation. He just wanted some spare change, maybe get a free lunch out of the deal. But, by faith in Jesus, he is swept up in a miracle and a dangerous, high-stakes, exhilarating mission that will stretch them all past their breaking point, demanding of them beyond what they could have managed on their own, ultimately unleashing God's healing for the whole creation—blessing and joy and praise beyond knowing. But it started with just a request for a little help.

And maybe that's all you need from Jesus today. Just a little help. A little extra money. An answered prayer that you'll get better or feel better. Some wisdom for a difficult decision. Whatever it is that you're asking of Jesus, or of His people, it's probably too small. And mixed in, you're probably asking for the wrong things, or the right things in the wrong proportion, or at the wrong time, or for the wrong reasons. But that's okay. It's just a starting point. Jesus will take you wherever you are. So, whatever it is, go ahead, ask it. You can trust Jesus to take care of it, in His time, in His way, and for your good.

Because He cares for you. He loves you. He created you and died and rose again for you, lives and reigns and will return for you. And in the meantime, He has all the resources, all the connections, all the power to help, heal, save, and make new—materially, spiritually, relationally—and He promises to do just that in God's time, to free you from sin and evil, to align you fully with God's will, to make you like Him in His death, so that you will, one day, share in His resurrection, in His life and perfect health.

So, ask Him—ask Him for whatever you think might help today. And realize that what you are getting in Him, in this Person, this Friend, this Mentor, King, and a Brother with a story like no other, Jesus will be more than you bargained for.



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 21, 2024 Easter 4</b>
<b>Flowers:</b>	<b>Faye Rutstein</b>
9:30 AM	WORSHIP
10:30 AM	FELLOWSHIP
11:00 AM	Sunday School
11:15 AM	Bible Study
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 22, 2024</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 23, 2024</b>
8:00 AM	7-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
6:30 PM	Elders Meeting
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 24, 2024</b>
8:00 AM	Individual Confirmation
8:30 AM	Chapel-Pastor Bitter
9:00 AM	7-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
6:00 PM	Google Bible Study Meeting BEND MEETING
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 25, 2024</b>
8:00 AM	5-6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
6:30 PM	Church Council/Leadership Meeting
<b>Friday</b>	<b>April 26, 2024</b>
8:00 AM	7-8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation
9:20 AM	PK Jesus Circle
Afternoon Member Visits	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 27, 2024</b>
9:00 AM	Confirmation
8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
9:30-3:00 PM	LWMS Rally at Grace Lutheran Church
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 28, 2024 Easter 5</b>
<b>Comm. Prep:</b>	<b>Jensen</b>
<b>Flowers:</b>	<b>Charlene Clark</b>
9:30 AM	Worship with HOLY COMMUNION
10:30 AM	FELLOWSHIP
11:00 AM	Sunday School
11:15 AM	Bible Study
6:00 PM	Basketball

#### **IN PRAYER**

**Randy Jensen** remained hospitalized this past week at Kaiser recovering from spinal stenosis surgery. Randy has now improved enough to continue his recovery at Good Samaritan hospital in the rehabilitation program for the next 3 weeks.

**Bob Gelnett**, Wendy Gelnett's father who is struggling with cardiac and breathing issues. We ask our gracious Lord for protection and healing.

**Carol Baker**, Trish Settje's mother who has suffered a stroke. We pray for the Lord's almighty and compassionate hand to cover her with strength and healing. We also ask God to grant the Settje's safe travel to California to visit her.

# Grace Church Financial Update



***“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing... If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. – John 15***

*We are One Together in ministry. Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches and connected to him we will produce much! In fact, connected to Him all things are possible!*

**The approved budget:** Our Grace budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024 is set at **\$490,000** which calls for weekly gifts of **\$9423**. Last week’s gifts totaled **\$13,349.35**. (This included a special gift of \$10,000)

**Year to date:** As of last week, the total amount of gifts we should have reached is **\$395,769**. However, at week 42, the amount in gifts we have received for the Lord's ministry is **\$319,080**.

**Shortfall:** Currently, there is a gap of **\$76,689** between the amount received and the amount budgeted.

*We are grateful for the gifts of love that God’s people have brought! This past week in addition to our weekly gifts several members have approached our leadership at Grace and have committed to make gifts to the Lord that will cover the shortfall and address some of our additional expenses! We praise God for moving the hearts of his people to express their love for Christ in such a generous manner!*

**Weekly Gifts:** It’s important to note that while our budget shortfall will be covered we still have an approved budget which requires **weekly gifts of \$9423**. We pray that every member at Grace is moved by their love for the Lord to give as generously and faithfully as He has enable each to do. The Apostle Paul encouraged the church with these words **“Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver. God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will overflow in every good work... You will be made rich in every way so that you may be generous in every way, which produces thanksgiving to God through us. (1 Corinthians 9:7-8,11)**

## **Additional expenses:**

- At the moment it would appear that our insurance will not cover the total cost of the school restoration from this winter’s pipe burst and water damage.
- We are also in dire need of roof repair at the school.
- The demolition cost and fees for the properties next to school have greatly exceeded the bid that PMG gave to us.

*Grace Ministry has been blessed with many financial miracles for many years. God is good! We pray that God's children will give generously and joyfully according to His will. We are One Together in ministry.*



# Sunday SCHOOL

ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD

*Growing in Faith Together*

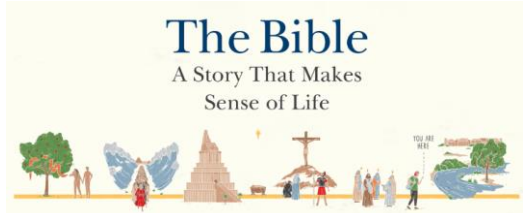
## Sundays at 11:00 AM

Please plan on joining us after worship on Sundays for Bible Class and Sunday for every age! Following worship each Sunday we will continue to offer our refreshments & fellowship AND we will be adding to our opportunity for fellowship by offering Bible Class and Sunday School from 11:00 – 11:45. Please, plan to join us! Sunday School will be offered for kids Preschool – 8<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping teach... please contact Pastor Bitter or Craig Baker.



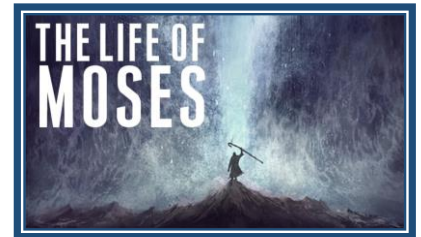
## Sundays at 11:15 AM

Please plan on joining us after worship on Sundays for Bible Class as we continue our study of the Story of Scripture. Teens to adults!



## Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

Please plan on joining us on Wednesdays by clicking on to our Google Meet study. This fall we will begin a new study on the story of Moses. Join us as we discover the ways that God graciously equips us to bless others.



## Saturdays at 9:00 AM

We are beginning our Confirmation Classes for students who are not able to attend during the week at GLS. This class is especially for 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> graders but younger students are also welcome to attend.



## Saturday APRIL 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM

Men's breakfast and bible study! Bring your sons! Once a month we will plan to meet again for bible study and breakfast at 8:00 AM at the SCHOOL! Please let Pastor Bitter know if you'd be interested in attending or helping organize.



## Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

### Women's Bible Study

Childcare will be provided. Come spend some time in God's Word together!



# Sisters in Faith ♦ Sisters in Christ



## **NEW – Women's Bible Study!**

**Our Sisters in Faith – Our Sisters in Christ – Our Sisters in Scripture**  
Seeing God's strength and faithfulness in the lives of women.

**At Grace Lutheran School**

*Childcare will be provided at Grace School by teens*

# What's Happening @Grace

## Weekly Fellowship Food & Drinks



**THANK YOU** to those who have been so faithful in providing all the goodness we enjoy after worship! Please consider contributing and supporting the goodness we enjoy after worship each Sunday! Your gifts are appreciated!

## Mowing! – The grass needs to be cut every week!

We need to cut it again every week. Please consider signing up for spring and summer lawn care. The lawn at church needs you... can you sign up for a weekend to cut? **THANK YOU** to those who have been so faithful in taking care of the church property and making it beautiful!



## Weekly Cleaning! – The church needs cleaning every week!



Please consider signing up for spring and summer church cleaning. The church building needs to be cleaned each week and we could use your help! **THANK YOU** to those who have been so faithful in cleaning the Lord's house and making it ready for worship!

## Altar Flowers – Every week!

Please consider signing up for bringing altar flowers for our Sunday Worship. **We need flowers every week!** Signup sheet is located in the Fellowship Hall on the north facing wall.



**PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP TO HELP. WE NEED YOU**



# THE MARY MARTHA GROUP



## SOMETHING NEW- GRACE MARKETPLACE BOARD

Mary and Martha group has sponsored a new bulletin board called Grace Marketplace. The purpose is to give GLC members a place to post items they wish to sell/give that they no longer need. MM will take the responsibility of managing the board. The guidelines are posted on the board. You may post an item with a small photo or a good description on a notice no larger than 3x5 ins. The contact info will be a phone # with the person's last name. At the top of the notice please place the date posted. Notices will remain on the board no longer than 1 month or until removed by the owner.



## GERMAN PRETZELS

Mary and Martha ladies will be making German Pretzels May 9 and May 10. If you have an Electric Mixer and would like to learn to make them, please talk to either Sara Hehr or Linda Bern to sign up.



# Supporting Our Neighborhood Foodbank – April 2024

Mainspring Foodbank appreciates your continued support.

In March we donated 20 lbs. of food and 10 lbs. of clothing.

For **April**, please continue to donate basic food items, focusing on:

- **Peanut butter & jelly**
- **Canned protein** (tuna, chicken, & beef)

If you are doing any spring cleaning, please consider donating any unwanted clothing to Mainspring.

Remember the clothing should be clean and in good condition. Especially appreciated items are:

- **Men's clothing** (all sizes, clean & in good condition)
- **Brand-new socks** (all sizes)

You may bring your donations anytime. Mary & Martha will then deliver the donated items by the end of April. There are baskets in the fellowship hall to place your food donations as well as clothing items.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or text Leann Breza, (360) 921-6673.

Mainspring Foodbank most-needed foods: (please **no expired items or opened packages**):

- ✓ Canned proteins like tuna, chili, salmon, ham
- ✓ Soup
- ✓ Rice
- ✓ Cooking oil
- ✓ Peanut butter
- ✓ Cup of noodles
- ✓ Canned vegetables
- ✓ Canned stew
- ✓ Canned fish
- ✓ Canned beans
- ✓ Pasta (all varieties)
- ✓ Pasta sauce
- ✓ Instant oatmeal
- ✓ Instant potatoes
- ✓ Shelf stable milk
- ✓ Juice
- ✓ Condiments
- ✓ Fruit snacks
- ✓ Crackers
- ✓ Sugar free snacks
- ✓ Snacks for high school students



## MAINSRING

### April Items:

- Brand-new socks (all sizes)
- Men's clothing in good condition



# AT GRACE SCHOOL



## The Eagle Message Grace Lutheran School DECLARE *His* PRAISES

April 16, 2024

### Chapel Service at 8:30 on Wednesday

We will have our weekly school-wide **Chapel Service** on Wednesday morning at **8:30**. Pastor Janisch will lead our worship this week. An offering envelope is being sent home for your child's mission offering.

We will support mission work at **Peridot-Our Savior's Lutheran School** on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in Arizona for the *Second Semester*. Your gifts will help ministry at the school to reach more children and their families with the gospel. <http://www.poscrusaders.org/> Offerings gathered so far total \$347.97. Thank you.

### Grade School Olympics THIS Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

**Grades 3-8** will be participating in the Lutheran Grade School Olympics on **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** at Franklin Pierce High School 11002 18<sup>th</sup> Ave. East, **Tacoma, WA**. See the **attachment** for the **schedule** of events. Concessions will be available for purchase from My4Sons <https://my4sonsbbq.com/>. *The forecast for Tacoma on Saturday is for partly cloudy skies; temperatures from mid-50s to mid-60s. Remember to wear sunscreen!* If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Eternick, [jetermick@grace-wels.net](mailto:jetermick@grace-wels.net)

### Financial Aid applications are available

The time frame to apply for financial aid for the 2024-2025 school year continues **through May 15, 2024**. If you would like to apply for financial aid, please fill out the application (**attached**) and submit the form **with your most recent 1040 tax form**. In order to process your financial aid application, **you MUST include the 1040 form and be current with your tuition payments**. If you have any questions, please contact our Board of Education Chairman Josh Luplow or Financial Aid Chairman Dan Paschke at [financialaid@grace-wels.net](mailto:financialaid@grace-wels.net).

*Families will be informed of the Board of Education/Grace Lutheran Church voters decisions regarding financial aid by **June 30**.*

### Final Days for Fundraiser for School Repairs

Pastor Paul Bourman (Theo's dad) is helping to raise funds for ice storm repairs at Grace Lutheran School. To help raise funds for GLS, we are asking you to consider pledging a dollar amount for each loop that Pastor Bourman runs in the race on **Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>**. To make a pledge, please click this link <https://pledgeit.org/running-the-extra-mile-for-grace-lutheran-school>

For example, if you pledge \$5 per loop and he runs 5 loops, the donation is \$25 total. If you pledge \$10 per loop and he runs 20 loops, the donation is \$200 total. **The classroom that donates/pledges the most will get a pizza party with Pastor Bourman! So far, the Kindergarten classroom has collected the most money!!** The **student** who guesses how many **miles** Pastor Bourman runs will get a gift card!

**Donations/Pledges can be made through Friday April 26. Funds collected so far total **\$3,112.50!****

Donations can also be brought to the school office - cash, or checks made out to "Working Eagles". Thank you!

### Fred Meyer Rewards

Thanks to everyone who has linked their Fred Meyer rewards card to our school account. These funds help pay for technology costs for our students. Make sure to link your rewards card with Grace Lutheran School (GLS) on Fred Meyer Community Rewards! Here's how to make sure your card is linked:

Sign up for or login to the Community Rewards program by linking your card to GLS at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards).



### K-8 students sing on Sunday May 5

The K - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be singing two songs at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Hillsboro on **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** for their 10:00 worship service. Members at Beautiful Savior include current GLS students Owen & Gwen Setniker, as well as GLS alumni, and alumni parents and supporters.

# RUNNING TO REBUILD

<https://pledgeit.org/running-the-extra-mile-for-grace-lutheran-school>

## Running to Rebuild

I think you probably all remember the ice storm that hit the Portland area this January. Thousands of people felt the effects of the ice and cold- being left without power, making homes cold, and for some even having their pipes burst leaving an enormous amount of damage behind.

Grace Lutheran School was not immune to the damage. During the storm, pipes burst in the gymnasium and pre-school classrooms leaving the rooms completely unusable. Efforts are now ongoing to repair the classrooms, but the financial toll has been significant.

This April 4th I am running a 6 mile loop around the school grounds. Every hour I run, I will be raising \$137 for the school. So that even if you pledge \$5, you are free to run as many loops as you like. If you run 10 loops, you will have raised \$1,370. The race has no finish line, and only ends when you say so.

If you're interested in a video of how this race works, [click here!](#)

I am asking you to support Grace Lutheran School by pledging a dollar amount for each loop that I run. For example, if you pledge \$5 per loop and I run 5 loops, the donation is \$25 total. If you pledge \$10 per loop and I run 20 loops, the donation is \$200 total.

PLEDGE NOW

\$2,055

EST. TOTAL RAISED OF \$5,000 GOAL

Based on 15 estimated laps, each worth \$137

[SHOW DETAILS](#)

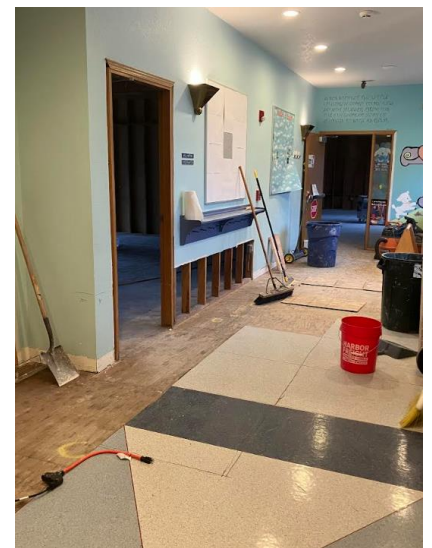
14 days left

14 pledgers

## GRACE SCHOOL RESTORATION & REPAIR PROGRESS

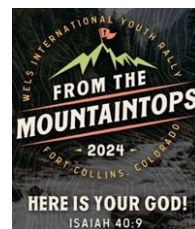
### NOW THE WORK BEGINS!

Many thanks to everyone who has commitment time and talents and money to help us begin to restore the school following the water pipe break this winter. Thanks especially to Paul Bourman and Noelle Leitzke for their fundraising efforts. Thanks to Jason Tanner for spearheading the restoration work. Thanks to everyone who has help with insurance claims. We encourage everyone to look for opportunities to volunteer to help in the coming months.



## FOR THE OREGON CIRCUIT!

**International Youth Rally** June 25-28 at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO



**Hillsboro Hops WELS Day** June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 PM. Please register at <https://hopeintigard.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2279558>

**Grace Soccer Camp** May 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. Evenings at Grace School  
Free! Preschool – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade. Registration coming soon!



**Family Festival!** Saturday, August 10. Location to be determined. A gathering for the whole circuit. Music. Entertainment. Family fun for everyone!

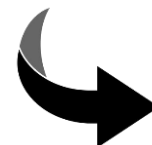
## CANYONVIEW SILVERTON IS BACK... OREGON BIBLE CAMP!



Lutheran Bible Camp returns to beautiful Camp Canyonview in Silverton June 23-28. This is a wonderful opportunity for children going into grade 4-12 to make new Christian friends and spend time with old ones. Daily devotions, Bible studies, and the example of Christian adults will help feed and nurture the faith. Crafts, outdoor skills, sports, swimming, and other activities from the crazed mind of Pastor Tembreull provide fun for everyone and opportunities to build friendship and teamwork.

Details on costs and registration dates will soon follow but mark your calendars and make your plans today! If you have any questions call or email Pastor Tembreull: [pastor@corvallislutherans.org](mailto:pastor@corvallislutherans.org) or 541.231.6189. You can also follow Lutheran Bible Camp-Oregon on Facebook.

**PLEASE LOOK ON THE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION**



# Registration is open! Lutheran Bible Camp June 23-28

Lutheran Bible Camp is for young men and women who will be going into the 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades next school year (fall 2024).

**Early Registration:** April 21-May20- \$315

**Registration:** May 21-June 10- \$325

**Late Registration:** June 11-22- \$335

Registration includes three professionally prepared meals a day, room and board, and camp facilities.

Drop off will be on June 23, from 4:00-5:00PM

Closing Service and pick up June 28: 6:30 PM

Registration is online. You may use the QR code to find the registration site, find it on the Lutheran Bible Camp – Oregon on Facebook page or go to [trinityeugene.org/bible-camp-registration](http://trinityeugene.org/bible-camp-registration). Please like and follow our Facebook page for information and updates.

## Questions:

Pastor Luke Tembreull: 5412316189

[pastor@corvallislutherans.org](mailto:pastor@corvallislutherans.org)

Pastor Mark Swanson: 9206096204

[mdws89@gmail.com](mailto:mdws89@gmail.com)



Checks can be made out to "Lutheran Bible Camp" and mailed to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 2685 NW 13<sup>th</sup> St., Corvallis, OR 97330

## About Lutheran Bible Camp:

This year our theme is: **Safe on|the Rock**

As our lives in this world can seem unstable and uncertain, we can always rest secure on the solid rock, our unchanging God.

- Our goal is to encourage young people in their faith, build Christian character, and make Christian friends in a safe environment, while having as much fun as we can manage.
- This camp is overseen by WELS pastors and supervised by pastors, teachers, and members of the Wisconsin Synod and Evangelical Lutheran Churches of Oregon and SW Washington.
- All meals are professionally prepared and served buffet or family style so that everyone gets enough to eat. (Special diets will be accommodated with advanced notice.)
- We sleep in cabins divided by age. (The girls will bunk across the river from the boys.) You will bring your own bedding (sleeping bag/pillow) Bathrooms and showers are near all cabins.
- Our primary activity each day will be Bible Study and open discussion. We will also enjoy various crafts and activities. In the afternoon we play sports, swim, and explore the creek. After dinner, the whole camp joins in activities, and the evening ends with a devotion and campfire songs. (Campfire dependent on fire danger.)

Lutheran Bible Camp is run entirely by volunteers; however, facility costs are unavoidable. It is our goal that no one is kept from camp due to costs. If costs are the reason a child cannot attend our camp, please email Pastor [Tembreull](mailto:Tembreull) for financial assistance.

***Come join us!***

**LWMS Cascade Circuit **SPRING RALLY****

**Grace Lutheran Church, Portland, Oregon**

**Saturday, April 27, 2024 9:30 am – 3:00 pm**



***“Rooted in Hope”***

**Guest Speaker: Mr. Chris Mundstock**

**Teacher at Peridot-Our Savior's Lutheran School,**

**San Carlos Apache Reservation**

*Activities    Devotions    Fellowship    Music*

*Lunch            Mission Displays            Door Prizes*

Please send your mission money by **April 20, 2024** to:

***Brenda Cowdery, 6872 SE Borwick St. Hillsboro, OR 97123***

Please wear **GREEN** and bring an **UMBRELLA**

**for a special Cascade Circuit photo shoot!!**



**Evergreen Calls:**

- Emily Muir *ACCEPTED* call to Lakeside Lutheran High School, Wisconsin
- Ryan Schmeling, ELHS *HOLDING* call to MLC, New Ulm, MN
- Brent & Lacey Sorn (Parkland / ELHS) *RETURNED* calls to Apostles, San Jose, CA
- Joseph Schmudlach ELHS *HOLDING* call to Onalaska Lutheran High School, WI

**Pacific Northwest District Convention – June 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Location:** Evergreen Lutheran High School at 7306 Waller Road East, Tacoma, WA 98443.

**Presentation / Theme** — Rejoice! The Christian’s Battle Cry. Prof. Joel Russow of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will present on three areas of strengthening relationships and extending Christlike love to lonely and hurting hearts. “In this world you will have trouble.” We live in a world of death, mourning, crying, and pain. The bruising troubles of this life and the heavy barrage of the devil’s attacks leave hearts, relationships, and homes lonely and hurting. But Jesus also said, “Take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

**Lay Delegate Attendance and Credentials** — “Each congregation of the district shall be represented by a lay delegate, who shall be certified to the secretary of the district by his congregation” At this biennial convention each congregation seats one male lay delegate to represent your church and to vote. For that reason we ask that you would provide your delegate the proper materials and the credentials (Online Delegate Form) from the congregation they represent.

**District Dues** — Since “all expenses of the district convention... shall be paid by the membership of the district” your dues help cover convention expenses and provide modest travel equalization subsidy for those serving in the outer regions of our large district, as well as provide counseling for our called workers in the PNW.

**Report to the Twelve Districts** - Each congregation will receive one printed copy of the report by late May. A full electronic version will be available online in the first week of May. Please review the online material before the convention, so you are informed on discussions that may take place at the convention. Additionally, Floor Committees are being assembled to divide up the RTTD for summary and celebration at the convention.

**Elections** – Positions on the presidium and within the district be elected at this convention. This year, we have the privilege of electing our next District President following President Steinbrenner’s move to Wisconsin.

## FROM THE WELS

The number of vacancies for pastor, teacher, and staff minister positions continues to present a real challenge for congregations throughout our synod. At the direction of last summer's synod convention, a special task force has been formed to study the issue of enrollment at our synodical schools and bring recommendations regarding how we can encourage more young people to prepare for the public ministry.



Thankfully, we are approaching the month of May when some relief will be provided for the vacancy situation. The Conference of Presidents will be meeting as the synod's Assignment Committee to assign teacher and staff minister candidates from Martin Luther College (MLC), New Ulm, Minn., and to assign pastoral candidates at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), Mequon, Wis., to their first calls.

**This year at MLC**, 145 candidates will be available for assignment. Some of those will be teachers who will be assigned to their first calls; others who were assigned for one year last year will either be permanently assigned to the call in which they are now serving or be re-assigned to new locations. Thirty-seven of the candidates are restricted in where they can serve due to marriage or other circumstances. Many of these will be assigned in May; others will receive assignments in the weeks and months after call day. **CALL DAY IS MAY 18<sup>th</sup>.**

**At WLS**, 27 men will be assigned as pastors. Most of those will serve in parishes; several will be assigned to one-year calls in one of our ministerial education schools as tutors. The Assignment Committee, with the input of the seminary, will also assign 40 men as vicars in congregations throughout our synod. Many of those will be assigned as "Vicars in Mission" to home mission congregations. **CALL DAY IS MAY 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Assignment days** at MLC and WLS are joyful days—joyful for the young men and women who learn where God will have them serve in the ministry and joyful for the members of the synod who see God keeping his promise to send workers into his harvest field. Keep giving thanks to God for these gifts to his church and keep praying that God will provide even more workers in the years to come.

**Board for Home Missions:** The BHM will meet on April 18-19 to review and evaluate new mission requests. It is with great joy that we can report that the request to start a new mission in Bend, Oregon was approved by the BHM. This means that a pastor will be call from the field or requested from the Seminary to lead this new mission effort.



Each week we will highlight ministry reports in the WELS annual report:

## Congregational Services



WELS Congregational Services exists to encourage and equip congregations for faithful and fruitful gospel ministry.



**Matt Brown** (left) and **Don Tollefson** at the Harris County jail with some of the devotion books provided by Institutional Ministries.

### PRISON MINISTRY

**"The prisoners are able to live their faith. . . . It's amazing to see how God works [and] gets his Word out through these guys,"** says Matt Brown about his ministry at the Harris County jail.

Since 2017, Brown, pastor at Abiding Word, Houston, Texas, has been ministering to prisoners at the Harris County jail, the third largest jail in the country with more than 10,000 prisoners. With the support of his congregation and help from volunteers, Brown has reached more than 3,000 prisoners with God's Word. Not only have Brown and the volunteers shared God's Word with the inmates but they also have preached the gospel to healthcare and detention workers.

**"God's Word does work,"** says retired pastor Don Tollefson about his experience volunteering at the Harris County jail. "Many [prisoners] are open and willing to listen—they're at this point in life that they need something that is more than themselves."

Dave Hochmuth, director of WELS Prison Ministry, says, "Jesus died for these people too. . . . There are some huge barriers to getting people back to the body of Christ, and we need people who have the heart for that, who are willing to reach out to somebody who is not like them."

Numerous partnerships have developed to support this ministry. WELS Prison Ministry provides training for the volunteers. Brown uses existing materials from Institutional Ministries, WELS Prison Ministry, Time of Grace, and WELS Multi-Language Productions to preach the good news of Jesus to the inmates. Having some of these resources available in both English and Spanish has increased the reach even more, especially as other chaplains have begun to use these materials.

Through the partnerships and relationships formed, thousands of people have heard God's saving Word. "This is what God has called us to do—to serve in love," says Brown.

Learn more about how you can get involved in prison ministry work in your community or through serving as a pen pal at [wels.net/prison-ministry](https://wels.net/prison-ministry).

## Look what's coming in 2024

WELS Congregational Services is coordinating three national conferences in 2024:

June 25–28

**WELS International Youth Rally**  
Fort Collins, Colo.

July 28–30

**WELS Women's Ministry Conference**  
Pewaukee, Wis.

July 30–Aug. 2

**National Worship Conference**  
Kenosha, Wis.

Learn more at [wels.net/events](https://wels.net/events)

### DID YOU KNOW?

The 2024 WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts will feature a 120-voice festival choir with full orchestra, a 120-voice high school honor choir with full orchestra, and a 70-voice children's choir.



# 2024 National Conference

*on Worship, Music,  
and the Arts*

*Sing a New Song to the Lord*  
**July 30–August 2**

CARTHAGE COLLEGE | KENOSHA, WIS.

## CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- 50+ presentations
- Plenary address: “Lutheran Worship: What Now?” by Rev. Jonathan Bauer
- Vendors offering music, art, instruments, and professional services to congregations and individuals
- Concerts and recitals
- Keyboard and choral reading sessions on new repertoire
- Festival Choir (with full orchestra), high school Honor Choir (with full orchestra), and Children’s Choir

**REGISTER**  
EARLY-BIRD RATE  
UNTIL APRIL 30  
REGULAR RATE  
AFTER MAY 1



# Boards & Committees at Grace

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Juan Garcia – President  
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Jon Cohrs - 2 VP & Secretary  
Larry Glasheen – Ministry CFO  
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Thad Bitter – Pastor  
Justin Eternick – Principal



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Thad Bitter – Pastor  
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Craig Baker – Head Elder  
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Len Stadler  
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Tyler Hafner – GLS Custodian



# **DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF EASTER 4 2024**

*Each week our devotional thoughts come from our archive of devotions crafted by the now sainted Pastor Warren Widmann during his retirement years*

**Sunday Ezekiel 34:25-27. Please note double meaning – Spiritual and physical**

- Israel is in captivity because of spiritual slavery.
- What does God promise here regarding release from this slavery? Romans 8:5
- What does God also promise in the physical sense?
- How do God's promises of the spiritual and physical apply to us?

**Monday Ezekiel 34:28-31**

- Spiritually speaking who are the "beasts of the land"?
- What promise does God make regarding these beasts?
- What promise does God make regarding our physical needs and protection from the environment in which we live?
- What picture does God use to give us comfort and hope both spiritually and physically? Who are we? 1 John 3: 1-10

**Tuesday Revelation 7:9-12**

- What does John see? Who are all of these people he sees?
- Discuss the various points of their song which describes their presence where they are? Who else was there? What were they doing? Describe their song.
- What will we be doing in heaven day and night? Revelation 12:10

**Wednesday Revelation 7:13-14**

- What is meant by the "white robes"? In what were they washed and how?
- Who obviously is the Lamb? How does he fit into "washing the robes"?
- What before and after spiritual pictures emerge here and also in Isaiah 1:18; 61:10?

**Thursday Revelation 7:15-17**

- What will be the final status of God's people? What will their existence be like?
- What will be totally missing from our lives in eternity?
- What precious relationship with the Lamb which already exists and will continue forever?
- Read Isaiah 59:21




**Friday John 10:22-26**

- Look at the verses of chapter 10 which lead up to these verses.
- What picture has Jesus developed there regarding his followers?
- Where is Jesus? Who approaches Him? What is their question AGAIN?
- What is the problem these people have which is reflected in their question?
- How much of Christianity is based on faith? How much of our Christian faith defies human logic? Isaiah 59;21

**Saturday John 10:27-30**

- What does Jesus have to say about His Sheep, namely, believers?
- What does Jesus promise to do for His Sheep, His believers?
- How does Jesus' Father fit into this picture? If God is with us, who can harm us?
- Think about and consider the hope and comfort all of these readings give us.
- What is the hope we have?

# Grace April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation	<b>3</b> 8:00 AM Indv Confirm 8:30 AM Chapel 9:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class	<b>4</b> 8:00 AM 5-5 Confirmation	<b>5</b> 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 9:20 AM PK Jesus Cir.  Afternoon Member Visits	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM Confirmation
<b>7</b> <i>Easter 2</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday Sch 11:15 Bible Study	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b> 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 10:00 AM Mary Martha 3:30 PM Staff Meeting	<b>10</b> 8:00 AM Indv Confirm 8:30 AM Chapel 9:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 3:30 AM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class Bend Meeting	<b>11</b> 8:00 AM 5-5 Confirmation 6:30 PM GLS Board of Education	<b>12</b> 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 9:20 AM PK Jesus Cir.  Afternoon Member Visits	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Confirmation 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study
<b>14</b> <i>Easter 3</i> 9:30 Worship Communion 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday Sch 11:15 Bible Study	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 AM Circuit Meeting Trinity, Eugene	<b>17</b> 8:00 AM Indv Confirm 8:30 AM Chapel 9:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class	<b>18</b> 8:00 AM 5-5 Confirmation 6:30 PM Church Council Leadership Meeting	<b>19</b> 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 9:20 AM PK Jesus Cir.  Afternoon Member Visits	<b>20</b> 9:00 AM Confirmation Erda Krieder Memorial
<b>21</b> <i>Easter 4</i> 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday Sch 11:15 Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 6:30 PM Elders	<b>24</b> 8:00 AM Indv Confirm 8:30 AM Chapel 9:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 6:00 PM Google Meet Bible Class  Bend Meeting	<b>25</b> 8:00 AM 5-5 Confirmation	<b>26</b> 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 9:20 AM PK Jesus Cir.  Afternoon Member Visits	<b>27</b> 9:00 AM Confirmation 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast & Bible Study  LWMS Rally Grace Church
<b>28</b> <i>Easter 5</i> 9:30 Worship Communion 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Sunday Sch 11:15 Bible Study	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:00 AM 7-8 Confirmation 3:30 PM Worship Comm	