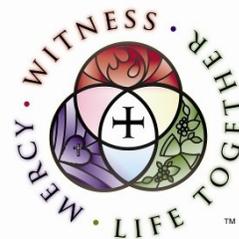


Growing in Grace



FEBRUARY 2023

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

This month we will continue to explore arguments for the existence of God. This month's argument is a strange one, The Ontological Argument for the Existence of God. It is strange because it doesn't rely on anything that can be observed; this one is all about logic. The Moral Argument we went over a few months back relies on the fact we can all acknowledge the morals exist. The Cosmological Argument relies on the fact the universe exists. But the Ontological Argument is just about thinking about God. It's also strange because it doesn't prove God exists but more leads a thinker down a path that implies He does though possibly with a hard to explain dissatisfaction.

The argument can be presented in several ways, but we will just go over two, one pretty basic, the other a bit more complicated.

The first Ontological Argument comes from Anselm, an eleventh century Christian philosopher. Essentially, he said that God is a being than which no greater can be conceived and that such a being must exist because existing is greater than not existing.

As you might see, this definition has issues, but it is hard to say why. It seems as if the argument is saying God must exist, so He exists.

One possible way to think this argument through would be to consider what "great" attributes God must have to be God. For example, God would have to be the most powerful being or God's will could be overcome. The God of the Bible is omnipotent. Like Job said, "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted." [Job 42:2]

Also, and with possibly a more modern understanding, God must be loving. The God of the

Bible is perfectly loving. As we're told, "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." [1 John 4:9]

When understood in that sense, we might say something like, "If power and love exist, then God is the most powerful and loving being that can be imagined."

But, as was said, the Ontological Argument for the Existence of God can shown in another way in a slightly more complicated manner.

Everyone can think of a being that which no greater be imagined.

That being exists in the imagination.

That being could exist in reality.

Existing in reality is greater than only existing in the imagination.

So, the greatest being that can be imagined must exist in reality.

Hope all that makes sense!

Pastor Joshua

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GRACE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER

gccc@gracescappoose.org



FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

Feb 1	Eleanor Hull
Feb 11	Marilyn Stender
Feb 20	Cheri Layton
Feb 24	Carole Covlin
Feb 25	Carole Pletz
Feb 26	Gene Oster

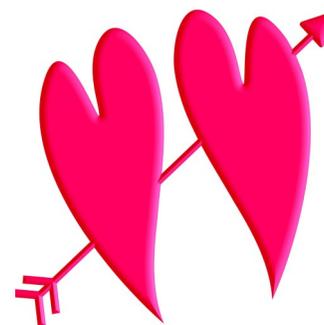
Anniversaries

Bart & Janet Grabhorn Feb 6

Genesis 1:27-28: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' "

Bible Quiz – Teacher, Teacher – Questions

1. With what miracle did Elijah bless the widow of Zarephath?
2. What miracle was done through the bones of Elijah?
3. What did Elijah do to make an ax head float on the surface of the water?
4. Who was healed of leprosy when he followed Elijah instructions?
5. What kind of bird fed Elijah in the wilderness?
6. What river did Elijah part by striking it with his mantle?
7. What did Elisha do to make the poisonous stew edible?
8. What happened to the Syrian soldiers when Elisha prayed?
9. How long did Elijah say that rain would be withheld?
10. What did Elisha prophecy about the Shunammite woman?



Bible Quiz – Teacher, Teacher – Answers

The answers are not posted!!!! No, we did not forget. Write your answers down 1-10 and turn into the church office. Pastor Joshua or I will randomly select one person to receive a surprise! January's winner was Gail Walker. She was the winner of an "Assortment of Valentine Cookies".



In December 2022, Grace Lutheran Church experienced Plate Contributions of **\$7,886.62** versus Expenses of **\$13,994.60** resulting in a **\$6,107.98 operating deficit**, which was covered by a transfer from GCCC. GCCC raw income came in at **\$54,415.00** versus raw expenses at **\$50,008.73** resulting in a **\$4,406.27 operating surplus** before the transfer to GLC. Combined results for GLC and GCCC, then, is a **\$1,701.71 operating deficit**.

- ☞ We are still in need of someone to provide childcare during adult bible study every Sunday. This will be a paid position.
- ☞ We are also in need of an Assistant Treasurer to help the Treasurer, and an assistant to back up the Secretary.
- ☞ Grace is looking to start a **"Fellowship Committee"**. See Janet or Jan for more information.

Please contact Janet Wentz or Jan Surry for council information.

In His Service,

Janet Wentz, President

Jan Surry, Vice-President



THE SPIRITUAL CORNER

“Gift Card Prayers”



I am sure several of us received some type of gift card as a Christmas present. I love to get gift cards, and I also like to give them. I think it is one way that the person you are shopping for can truly get something they need or want. In some cases, gift cards provide a possible night out for dinner at a place other than McDonalds. I know in my family, at Christmas, Rich and I will end up with at least one Applebee's Gift Card in our presents.

I guess I started thinking about gift cards and what they can offer to people after one Sunday church service.

As we walked out of the service a stranger was standing in the narthex. He was trying to communicate with Pastor Joshua that he needed some type of help. This communication was not easy as the stranger was a mute.

Pastor and Robbie searched the church office to see if we had any gift cards on hand. Sometimes we have gas gift cards, sometimes we have Burger King or McDonald's gift cards. As they became busy on their search, I asked the stranger if he would like to come to the fellowship hall for a cup of coffee and some cookies. He gestured “yes” to me.

I was pretty amazed when we walked into the fellowship hall. There was a good number of folks gathered around and enjoying each other's company. As the stranger and I walked into the room, the room seemed to get quiet and I will admit that most of the people in the room did not even acknowledge the person that was with me. He was offered a “hello” and some cookies by one person. He grabbed his cup of coffee and went sat down at a table. I noticed that no one sat down at the table that he was at. He sat there all alone. A room full of people and a stranger alone at a table.

I spent a few seconds just watching and observing and wondering why we tend to treat people that do not look like us, do not dress like us, cannot speak like us, or need some sort of help, etc., differently than we treat the people we are familiar with.

I then went and sat down by the man at the table to share coffee and cookies. Pastor Joshua came and joined us. Pastor explained that we were all out of gift cards and that we do not have cash on hand to give out. Pastor and the man exchanged a conversation using a pencil and a pad of paper. The man looked sort of lost and not sure what to do next.

I asked him if he needed a ride somewhere. He relayed to me that he had a car but needed some cash for gas as his car was almost on empty.

Next thing I knew, the stranger was gone. The fellowship hall had emptied out and somehow, I ended up sitting at the table alone.

I found myself somewhat amazed at what had taken place in a matter of less than 20 minutes. We were out of gift cards for someone who needed some help. He looked different than us, so few people reached out and offered a smile to him. People sort of stepped away from the stranger.

The following Sunday at church another stranger appeared. A drifter arrived in time for Adult Bible Study. He joined in. He participated. He attended the church service. He even said he might return. People introduced themselves and welcomed this stranger. He did not ask for any kind of help.

Two Sundays, two strangers, two people treated differently. One asking for help, the other just participating. I still wonder why they were treated differently.

Jesus tells us that He comes in many forms. He is in the stranger on the street, the drifter, the homeless person, the one needing gas money. Do we not take the time to see Him when we look at others who are in need, or are different than us?

What will you do next time you see a stranger that just wants to share a cup of coffee, needs five bucks for gas, or needs someone to sit and pray with them? Will you see Jesus in this person?

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”

Matthew 25:35

*Debbie Weaver,
Spiritual Director*



LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

Those coats that you seldom wear can be just the thing for someone in need this winter. Please join Grace Lutheran Church and Grace Christian Children's Center as we gather coats to be distributed by the Community Action Team. Please place them in the barrel in the Narthex.

Lent begins at the end of the month. An article describing our Mission Project for Lent "Season of Hope" is in the newsletter. See how you can bring joy that lasts through this time of prayer and repentance into the future. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd.

Mission Servants meet the first Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30. Our **next meeting is Tuesday, February 7th**. You are always welcome to join us.

In His love,
Carole Covlin,
President



"As we walk through the season of Lent together, let us announce to the world that the Hope of Christ makes a new season possible" Lutheran World Relief.



Mission Servants, joining with Lutheran World Relief, will be sponsoring "A Season of Hope" during Lent this year.

Lent is generally a time when we think about "giving something up". Rather than "give up" something, join us this year in "providing hope" to those in the world through your offerings.

Starting on Sunday, February 19th and going through Good Friday on April 7th, special "Season of Hope" giving envelopes will be available for you to place a special offering in.

These offerings will be gathered over the Lenten weeks and then Mission Servants will decide what "Season of Hope" item(s) can be purchased through Lutheran World Relief to support those living in poverty.

Items such as medical supplies, hens and chicks, playground toys, piglets, goats, sheep, fruit tree seedlings, etc. are among the most needed items for the people supported through Lutheran World Relief. Watch for more details to come as we journey this Lenten season together and offer a "Season of Hope" to those in need.

Deb Weaver, Mission Servants



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It is like Netflix but Christian-based. Download the app and click on the link below:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/GLC>

The Mission of RightNow Media - Our mission is to work with the global church to inspire people to love others before self and Christ above all.

[The RightNow Media App](#)

The world's largest library of Bible study videos — available anytime, anywhere. Download The RightNow Media App on google or apple playstore.



JOIN US FOR



February 22, 2023

6 PM Potluck

7 PM Service

"REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST AND TO DUST YOU
SHALL RETURN" ECCLESTIASES 3:20

Grace Lutheran Church



LENT 40

it's a spiritual journey

Lenten Potluck 2023

February 22: Chef's Choice

March 1: Mexican

March 8: Casseroles

March 15: Italian

March 22: Soup & Salad

March 29: Chef's Choice

It will Renew you...

FEBRUARY 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
WE WANT YOU						
<p>COMMUNION</p> <p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9A Bible Study 10-15A Worship & SS <p>BIRTHDAY CAKE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 pm, Potluck to welcome Karen Keneshan, GCCC Director 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:30P Elders Meeting (Zoom) 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10A Ladies Bible Study 5:30P Mission Servants 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10A Cheerful Comforters Scappoose School District—Early Release 1:30-6 GCCC in FH 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30A GCCC Board 4:30P Board of Education 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9A Bible Study 10-15A Worship & SS <p>JESUS LOVES YOU. THE GREATEST VALENTINE!</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10A Ladies Bible Study <p>VALENTINE'S DAY</p>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10A Cheerful Comforters 6pm GCCC Staff Meeting Scappoose School District—Early Release 1:30-6 GCCC in FH 	<p>16</p> <p>6:30A Mens Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>COMMUNION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9A Bible Study 10-15A Worship & SS 	<p>20</p> <p>PRESIDENTS DAY—GCCC IN FELLOWSHIP HALL 6-8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:00P Council Meeting (Zoom) 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10A Ladies Bible Study <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10A Cheerful Comforters ASH WEDNESDAY 7PM SERVICE Scappoose School District—Early Release 1:30-6 GCCC in FH 	<p>23</p> <p>6:30A Mens Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9A Bible Study 10-15A Worship <p>No Sunday School—attend Church with Families</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10A Ladies Bible Study 	<p>29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY SCHEDULE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL 10:15 AM CHURCH SERVICE @ SUNDAY SCHOOL. 		



Servant Schedule

February		5	12	19	22	26
		Communion		Communion		Ash Wednesday
Elder	Steve Pollard	Steve Layton	Bill Covlin	Rudie Pletz	Rudie Pletz	Rudie Pletz
Ushers **	Don Wentz	Barbara Lacy	Steve Surry	Steve Surry	Rudie Pletz	Rudie Pletz
	Janet Wentz	Bill Lacy	Jan Surry	Janet Johnson	Carole Pletz	Steve Pollard
Greeter*	Cindy Squires	Leslie Ruby	Deb Weaver	Carole Pletz	Carole Pletz	Pat Hoag
Scripture Reader	Don Wentz	Deb Weaver	Matthew Boren	Matthew Boren	Matthew Boren	Steve Layton
Acolyte*	Matthew Boren	Matthew Boren	Matthew Boren	Matthew Boren	Matthew Boren	Matthew Boren
Altar Care	Debbie Weaver	Debbie Weaver	Karen Lile	Karen Lile	Karen Lile	Matthew Boren
Altar Flower	Stender	Stender	Stender	Stender	Stender	Carole Pletz - happy birthday
Music	Lymnda Fuller	Judi Hayes	Judi Hayes	Judi Hayes	Judi/Lymnda	Judi Hayes
Sunday School	OT3 - Lesson 11	Jesus Loves You: The Greatest Valentine!	OT3 - Lesson 12	OT3 - Lesson 12	OT3 - Lesson 12	ATTEND CHURCH WITH FAMILIES
Youth Bible Study	Tom & Robbie	Robbie	Steve & Kristin	Steve & Kristin	Steve & Kristin	--
Adult Bible Study	Rudie Pletz	Rudie Pletz	Rudie Pletz	Rudie Pletz	Rudie Pletz	Rudie Pletz



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GRACE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER

This first month as the new director came with so many rewards and adjustments! I am just so grateful to be here and be a part of fulfilling this purpose that God had planned for me in this season!

New faces at GCCC:

Sierra McCall joined our GCCC family as a Teacher. She comes with two years of experience at a state certified facility where she worked as an aide and then as a teacher in the toddler classroom. She is looking forward to working in our daycare room and our with our kindergarteners and 1st graders in our after school program.



Chelsea Towell joined our GCCC family as a Teacher Aide I. She comes with experience as a Sunday School director at her previous employment/church. She is amazing with kids and we cannot wait to see where God leads her in this new season with us at GCC!

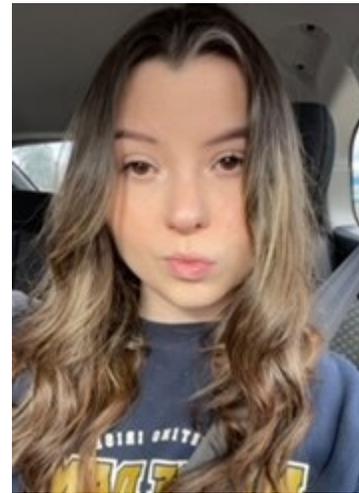


WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GRACE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER



Alissa Baughman joined our GCCC family as a teacher aide. She has a year of experience in a state certified facility. She is currently assisting our preschool room and has been an amazing addition to our team!

Alyssa Holtz joined our GCCC family as a Teacher Aide I. She is currently a senior in high school. She will be assisting in our daycare room as well as the Fellowship Hall in our after school program.



GCCC Chapel Teacher:



Jennifer Matson has been doing an amazing job in leading chapel time in our daycare program. Her eagerness to teach our little ones the love of Jesus is truly inspiring!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GRACE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER



GCCC's Philosophy Statement

As an important ministry of the Grace Lutheran Church congregation, Grace Christian Children's Center believes that children need a solid foundation on which they can build. Childhood is a time like no other. It's a time for exploring, creating, playing and discovering about one's self. It's a time for learning about our identity in Christ, for meeting the world, for learning how to learn and for being accepted just the way they are.

Our curriculum is based on providing your child with experiences that will enrich and enhance each child's spiritual life, their cognitive, language, social, emotional, physical and creative development.

Our experienced teaching staff understands that each child is a unique person with an individual pattern and timing of social, physical, and intellectual development. We embrace the belief that parents are the first and most important teachers of their children. Parents are welcome visitors in the classroom at all times and we value their input in our program.

Our program does not discriminate because of race, color, sex, marital status, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, lifestyle, or disability in program admittance, activities or employment. We do not tolerate discriminatory behavior.

Our program is welcoming, respectful and accepting of all families. Our program is open to all age-eligible children; including children with special needs, if reasonable accommodations can be made. Each child's needs are addressed with parents on a one-to-one basis.



Our Mission Statement

Where Caring People enrich the lives of Children and Families through Christ-centered learning.



Love Your Neighbor as Yourself, Matthew 22:39. What a great time of year to reinforce this simple truth.

God's Faithful Love, Psalm 107:1. While they're reminded to love others, kids should also be reminded that God loves them. We love because He first loved us!

Love One Another, John 15:17. This is Jesus' single "new commandment."

For God So Loved the World, John 3:16. God calls us to love sacrificially, just as He loved us and gave Jesus for us.

Serve One Another Through Love, Galatians 5:13. A strong admonition from Paul.



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

51737 S. Columbia River Highway
Scappoose, Oregon 97056

**COMMITTED TO SHARE AND GROW IN
THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST!**

**CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB
WWW.GRACESCAPPOOSE.ORG**



Welcome Potluck for
Karen Kenehan & her
family. Karen recently
accepted the position as
the Director at our
Children's Center.

February 5th at 4pm

*Jesus Loves You
The Greatest Valentine!*

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL

2/12 @12:15AM