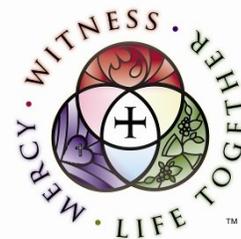


# Growing in Grace



MARCH 2023

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

As I have been doing for the last few months, I am going to continue with arguments for the existence of God. I am doing this to strengthen our faith as well to give us ways to answer people's questions about God so that their road to salvation might have fewer obstacles.

The one I will review today is called the "Teleological Argument for the Existence of God." It can also be called "The Design Argument," but it's more fun to use big words like teleological because they make you sound smart. (Though it is best if you really know what those big words mean or sooner or later you'll not look so smart after all.)

Quite some time ago someone, William Paley, came up with a good way to explain the design argument, the Watchmaker Analogy. It goes like this:

**In crossing a heath, suppose I pitched my foot against a stone, and were asked how the stone came to be there; I might possibly answer, that, for anything I knew to the contrary, it had lain there forever: nor would it perhaps be very easy to show the absurdity of this answer. But suppose I had found a watch upon the ground, and it should be inquired how the watch happened to be in that place; I should hardly think of the answer I had before given, that for anything I knew, the watch might have always been there. ... There must have existed, at some time, and at some place or other, an artificer or artificers, who formed [the watch] for the purpose which we find it actually to answer; who comprehended its construction, and designed its use. ... Every indication of contrivance, every manifestation of design, which existed in the watch, exists in the works of nature; with the difference, on the side of nature, of being greater or more, and that in a degree which exceeds all computation.**

In other words, if while walking along a trail you came upon a watch laying ground you would assume that watch was created by an intelligent person and not that the watch just happened to come into existence on its own or came to be there on the trail though natural processes. Likewise, the fact that earth and all that life that is on it exists, it is reasonable to assume someone designed all of it and that the person that designed all that must be enormously powerful and vastly intelligent because as hard as a watch would be to make, the earth and life on it are almost infinitely more complex. After all, watches can obviously be created by a human being whereas no human has ever created another earth filled with life.

The Watchmaker Analogy doesn't automatically lead one to the Christian God, but it does at least lead someone to admit not just the possibility of God like the Bible describes but that believing in such a God is reasonable.

There are, of course, some objections. One of the primary ones is that people can look around to the world that this supposed god created and find fault. They might point out that there are such things as earthquakes, death by old age and some kinds of diseases that cause life to suffer that the world itself naturally produces. Then there are those things the lifeforms on the earth do to each other like murder, slavery and hatred. I have reviewed this objection before; it's The Problem of Evil.(cont. pg 3)

### GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



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**GRACE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER**  
[gccc@gracescappoose.org](mailto:gccc@gracescappoose.org)



### BIRTHDAYS

Jennifer Mock	3/1
Dave Brown	3/10
Kimberly Wentz	3/11
Alee Eason	3/13
Doug Warneke	3/19
Jacob Eason	3/22
Suzie Wiley	3/28

### Anniversaries

Rudie & Carole Pletz 3/1 (15)

**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 – Miscellaneous

1. To which tribe of Israel did King Saul belong?
2. How many years did it take Solomon to build the Lord's temple?
3. Jeroboam made two of what kind of idol?
4. Which member of Simon's family did Jesus heal?
5. Which of Saul's sons reigned for two years over Gilead?
6. What two organs are specifically to be sacrificed as a part of the peace offering?
7. According to the law, how many days did a leprous person have to be quarantined?
8. What fruit does Pharaoh's chief cupbearer mention when he retells his dream to Joseph in prison?
9. How did Elisha clean the water at Jericho?
10. Who was the King of Salem that blessed Abram?

## 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 by Thursday, March 23rd. Pastor Joshua or I will randomly select one person to receive a surprise! February's winner was Cheri Layton.*

## THE SPIRITUAL CORNER

### “Submitting to God’s Will” Prayers



Listening to one of Pastor’s sermon a few weeks ago we were asked “Are you submitting to God’s will?” This got me thinking about how we listen at times, and then at other times, we do not listen.

Take our dog Bronco for example. He is in obedience training where he is to listen to my commands and obey when I ask him to. He will practice daily all the things he has learned and I will be impressed with how he listens to me. He is submitting to my will.

Then class time rolls around and all the games begin. He becomes his own dog during class. He will roll his eyes when I speak a command. He will take his time thinking about what I have asked him to do. Sometimes He just flat out does not listen to me at all. He will not submit to me whatsoever. It is hard to keep saying week after week to our instructor “He doesn’t act this way when we practice during the week.” I am pretty sure she is not believing me anymore.

And how do I submit to God’s will when He calls upon me to do something I truly do not want to do? I’m pretty sure He has seen me roll my eyes once or twice while He’s speaking to me. I am sure He has seen me practice His ways daily only to stumble and fall away when I think He’s not looking.

Submitting to God’s will can catch us off guard at times. I think of the past few months at our home.

Being asked to move away from my friends, my church, my town, and all that I have known for so many years seemed like an impossible task for me. Was this truly God’s will? Were we really supposed to pack up our

house and move to a town where I will know no one? Am I being asked to search for a new church and to start over somewhere else?

So, when Pastor Joshua mentioned “Are we willing to surrender to God’s will?” I really was not sure how to answer the question.

Surrendering a lot of times means giving up something. Giving up control of our situation, giving up our normal way of thinking and living, giving up things we know and totally turning everything over to God.

When I searched “How to Surrender to God?” here is what I found:

Trust HIM as HE moves by yielding to HIS will  
Lean on HIM for strength when the fear comes by agreeing to give up fighting  
Remember how HE has been faithful in the past and giving up anxiety over the what-ifs.  
Praise HIM even when it feels hard by giving up our right to be the hero.

So, what is God asking you to surrender?

Is it your plans for today? For next year? Is it moving to a new town and leaving the familiar behind?

I am not sure what the next few weeks or months, or even the rest of the year holds for our household and me.

If submitting to God’s will means surrendering what I have known as the normal for many years, I guess I better get going. I think it is time to trust that HE’s got me no matter what the future holds.

Just like stubborn Bronco trusts in me to keep him safe, I too need to learn to trust the God that has held me all my life.

*“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”  
Philippians 4:13*

*Debbie Weaver,  
Spiritual Director*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Briefly put, The Problem of Evil is only a problem if there is a such thing as absolute good and evil. Without a god outside of humanity defining good and evil, anything we don’t like is just opinion. But if there is a God, then there is a The Problem of Evil. More importantly, the God the Bible describes dealt with it. He came down to this wonderfully made, yet terribly corrupted, earth and became evil for us to overcome that evil for us. Someday, the world will return to perfectly running watch it was always meant to be. *Pastor Joshua*



In January 2023 Grace Lutheran Church experienced Plate Contributions of \$22,690.29 versus Expenses of \$14,169.08 resulting in a **\$8,521.21 operating surplus**. GCCC raw income came in at \$48,040.00 versus raw expenses at \$55,475.90 resulting in a **\$7,436.90 operating deficit**. Combined results for GLC and GCCC, then, is a **\$1,084.31 operating surplus**.

- ☞ 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 has started a “**Fellowship Committee**”. As of right now, Angelica Karcher is facilitating the meetings as the committee gets up & running!

Please contact Janet Wentz or Jan Surry for council information.

In His Service,

*Janet Wentz, President*

*Jan Surry, Vice-President*

Name :

Age :

## Jesus is Alive Color by Number

Color each section by the colors shown in the list at the bottom of the page.  
If you don't have all of the colors listed or find an area that's not numbered, make your best color choice.



- 1.Flesh 2.Pink 3.Yellow 4.Light Blue 5.Purple 6.Light Gray 7.Medium Gray 8.Black 9.Light Brown 10.Brown 11.Dark Blue 12.Medium Green 13.Light Green 14. Dark Green

Turn into the Church Office for a chance to win a special prize! Entries due Thursday, March 23rd. Additional copies are available on the Elder's Table.



# LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

The “**Season of Hope**” during **Lent** for Lutheran World Relief that began on February 19<sup>th</sup> continues to collect funds until Good Friday. Mission Servants will send the monies after Easter and also choose what the funds are to be used for.

**March for Mites:** The month of March is a good time to check your Mite Boxes, pray for the recipients of the grants for national LWML and the Oregon District, and hold your sisters in Christ up in prayer.

**SAVE THE DATE:** **April 22** there will be a West Hills Zone Rally at Living Savior Lutheran Church in Tualatin. The theme for the Rally is “R and R” -Refreshed and Restored. Our Bible verse is “For I will satisfy the weary soul and every languishing soul I will replenish.” Jeremiah

31:25. The ingathering for the Rally is for the Tualatin Schoolhouse Pantry (canned food, flour, cereal, pasta, dry pet food, diapers, paper towels, See website for most current needs). Deb Weaver will be leading a Soul Collage. MORE INFO COMING IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER.

Mission Servants meet the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is March 7, 2023. All Grace gals are invited to attend.

In His love,

*Carole Covlin, President*  
West Hills Zone

**Dear Sisters in Christ,**

**You are cordially invited to Living Savior Lutheran Church on April 22, 2023 for “R & R = Refreshed and Restored”. We will have the pleasure of singing and devotion with Pastor Kevin Fenster and if you have never done a “Soul Collage” you will have the opportunity to do one with us.**

**Lunch will be provided! An ingathering is to benefit the Tualatin Schoolhouse Pantry. You can check out the most needed items on their website or just bring some canned or boxed food, toilet paper, ladies sanitary supplies or socks (men, women or children).**

**9-9:30 Registration and light breakfast. Mark your calendars for a fun day with your Christian sisters. We will end about 1:00 following lunch.**

In His love,

*Carole Covlin*



# 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...*



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
& CHILDREN'S CENTER**



**HAPPY  
EASTER**

**JOIN US FOR EASTER SERVICES**



**APRIL 9TH**

**8:30 AM BREAKFAST**

**9:45 AM EASTER EGG HUNT**

**10:15 AM WORSHIP**

**51737 COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY, SCAPPOOSE, OR 97056**

**503-543-6555 | [WWW.GRACESCAPPOOSE.ORG](http://WWW.GRACESCAPPOOSE.ORG)**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GRACE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER

February has been a fun month for us at GCCC!

### Parent's Night Out

On February 10, 2023 our staff hosted an event where our students had a movie night with pizza, crafts, and dessert! Parent's enjoyed their time with a date night in the meantime!



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GRACE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER

## Valentine's Day

Every child in the daycare program were able to decorate a box where they were able to receive cards and goodies from their peers!

Our preschool classes had a Valentine's Day party and also did their own Valentine's Gram exchange!



## Before/After School Program's First Token Store

Our school aged kids have been working hard to earn early tokens and were able to use it at their first



# 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 Mission Statement**

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



### WHAT CAN CHILDREN UNDERSTAND ABOUT EASTER?

Young children may not be able to grasp some of the more complex truths of the Bible, but they CAN understand...

- The love of God
- The reality of Jesus
- Trust in the truths of the Bible

As time and experience take their course, each child will face the serious questions of sin and its consequences, death and eternity. While young children will not understand the entire story of Easter (the crucifixion and resurrection), there are elements that they can understand...

- God's special love is shown in the Bible for all people including us.
- God is all-powerful and can know and control things that we cannot.
- God cared and provided for people in the Bible and still provides for us today.

In His love, *Robbie*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GRACE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER



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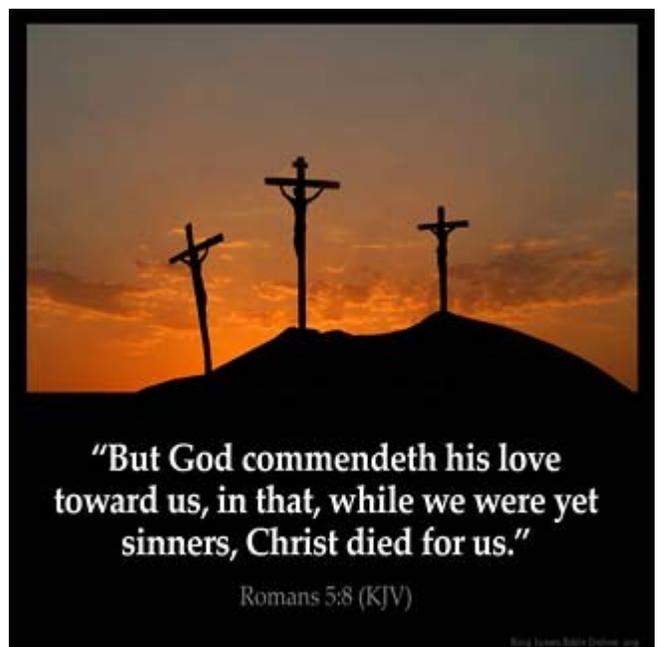
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**"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

Romans 5:8 (KJV)

King James Bible Project, Inc.

# MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>COMMUNION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9A Bible Study</li> <li>10-15A Worship &amp; SS</li> </ul> <p><b>BIRTHDAY CAKE &amp; BOARD GAMES</b></p> 	<p>4:30P Bible Meeting (Zoom)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10A Ladies Bible Study</li> <li>5:30P Women Servants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10A Cheerful Confessions</li> <li><b>LENTEN POTLUCK</b></li> <li>SPIN POTLUCK</li> <li>MEDICAN</li> </ul> <p>Scaggsdale School District—Early Release 1:30-6:00C in PM</p>	<p>1:30P GOCOC Board</p> <p>4:15P Board of Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30A Women Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p><b>EMERGENCY CHILDREN'S CHOIR</b></p> <p>9PM</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9A Bible Study</li> <li>10-15A Worship &amp; SS</li> </ul>	<p>5:00P Council Meeting (Zoom)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10A Ladies Bible Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10A Cheerful Confessions</li> <li><b>LENTEN POTLUCK</b></li> <li>SPIN POTLUCK</li> <li>ITALIAN</li> </ul> <p>Scaggsdale School District—Early Release 1:30-6:00C in PM</p>	<p>6:30A Women Bible Study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30A Women Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>And Over Board Over</p> <p>9-2 pm</p> 
<p><b>COMMUNION</b></p>	<p>5:00P Council Meeting (Zoom)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10A Ladies Bible Study</li> </ul> <p><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10A Cheerful Confessions</li> <li><b>LENTEN POTLUCK</b></li> <li>SPIN POTLUCK</li> <li>SOUP &amp; SALAD</li> </ul> <p>Scaggsdale School District—Early Release 1:30-6:00C in PM</p>	<p>6:30A Women Bible Study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30A Women Bible Study</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9A Bible Study</li> <li>10-15A Worship</li> </ul> <p><b>No Sunday School — attend Church with Families</b></p>	<p><b>SPRING BREAK—GOCOC IN FELLOWSHIP HALL</b></p>	<p><b>SPRING BREAK—GOCOC IN FELLOWSHIP HALL</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10A Cheerful Confessions</li> <li><b>SPRING BREAK—GOCOC IN FELLOWSHIP HALL—LENTEN POTLUCK</b></li> <li>SPIN POTLUCK</li> <li>CHEF'S CHOICE</li> </ul>	<p><b>SPRING BREAK—GOCOC IN FELLOWSHIP HALL</b></p>	<p><b>SPRING BREAK—GOCOC IN FELLOWSHIP HALL</b></p>	



# Servant Schedule

	Communion		Communion	
<b>March</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>
Elder	Steve Layton	Steve Pollard	Rudie Pletz	Bill Covlin
Ushers **	Steve Pollard Cindy Squires	Deb Weaver Rich Waver	Jan Surry Steve Surry	Janet Wentz Don Wentz
Greeter*	Lesle Ruby	Cindy Squires	Pat Hoag	Janet Johnson
Scripture Reader	Phil Soth	Deb Weaver	Carole Pletz	Don Wentz
Acolyte*	Matthew Boren	Matthew Boren	Matthew Boren	Matthew Boren
Altar Care	Karen Life		Gail Walker	
Altar Flower	<b>EASTER LILIES</b>			
<b>Sunday School</b>	<b>OT3 - Lesson 13</b>	<b>OT3 - Lesson 14</b>	<b>OT3 - Lesson 15</b>	<b>ATTEND CHURCH WITH FAMILIES</b>
Sunday School	Tom & Robbie	Steve & Kristin Person	Tom & Robbie	--
Adult Bible Study	Steve Layton	Steve Layton	Steve Layton	Steve Layton





**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

51737 S. Columbia River Highway  
Scappoose, Oregon 97056

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

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[WWW.GRACESCAPPOOSE.ORG](http://WWW.GRACESCAPPOOSE.ORG)**

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**Welcome!**

Pictured: Pat Hoag, Karen & Kevin Kenehan  
February 2023