

Growing in Grace

Jul/Aug 2023

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Let's keep on trying to answer some of the tough questions that we, as Christians, may encounter. This month's question, "Why does God allow suffering?"

This question is basically a rephrasing of "The Problem of Evil." The problem of evil points out what some see as a problem with the way Christians understand who God is. It goes like this: if there is suffering, or evil, in the world that means the God either doesn't care about the suffering or is powerless to stop it.

There are a number of ways to answer this supposed dilemma. One would be to point out that if there is no God then there is no problem of evil because there is no evil. I've written about this before. Without God alone establishing what is good and what is evil, the only option left is people defining what is good and evil, but if people do that, no one person's opinion of good and evil is better or worse than anyone else's because we are all equally human. What is unjust suffering to one person might be well deserved justice to another or not really suffering or irrelevant.

There is another way for us to answer this question. We could point out that suffering may be for our good even if it doesn't look like it is. Take what happened to Job. He went through unimaginable suffering and his suffering was evil and undeserved.

If we allow our suffering to draw us closer to God like Job did, then anything we go through will be worth it because it leads to infinite blessings and eternal life with God. Also, we can rest assured that God is with us always and no suffering we go through can separate us from Him.

In that sense, one person's suffering may draw someone else to God also. We can look to people, like Job, to see how they dealt with their suffering and be encouraged to trust God in the midst of suffering like they did.

But there's another way to think about why God allows suffering, but it is not an answer that most people want to hear or are even willing to accept. Once again, look to Job. It is true that he was drawn closer to God through his suffering. Indeed, God actually spoke to Job. (It's hard to

imagine of way to get closer to God than by directly speaking to Him.) But note what God didn't tell Job. God never told Job why God Himself allowed him to go through such terrible and unjust suffering.

That would seem to mean we may never find a sufficient reason that God allowed us to go through suffering. At that point we have but two choices, trust God or trust ourselves. If we trust God and are right that means our suffering will draw us closer to Him which will eventually bring us to live with Him forever. But if we trust in ourselves and we think we are right in that there cannot be a sufficient reason for our suffering, then we are left with purposeless suffering which would mean our suffering is meaningless. But that can't be correct because we think us suffering is wrong which it couldn't be if it were truly meaningless.

One thing that we must keep in mind about this question is that it is a deeply personal one. When we talk to others about suffering it is not likely to just be a theoretical discussion but one that brings up real memories of suffering and pain. But that is what the love and grace of Jesus is for. Jesus offers real life solutions to real life problems. We are the means that He typically uses to reveal those solutions so we must answers these questions with gentleness and respect.

Pastor Joshua

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



THE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod

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Scappoose, Oregon 97056
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GRACE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER

gccc@gracescappoose.org

JULY

AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

July 9 Jeanne Hutton
 July 14 Susan Milke
 July 15 Steve Pollard
 July 19 Cindy Squires
 July 22 Phil Soth
 July 25 Pete Krenz
 July 25 Pam Ruddell
 July 28 Tina Ulmer
 July 31 Pam Soth

ANNIVERSARIES

July 14 Steve & Cherie Layton (44)
 July 15 Tim & Connie Nelson (51)

BIRTHDAYS

August 17 Judi Hayes
 August 20 Evelyn Fricke
 August 25 Vicki Krenz
 August 25 Melissa Lapping

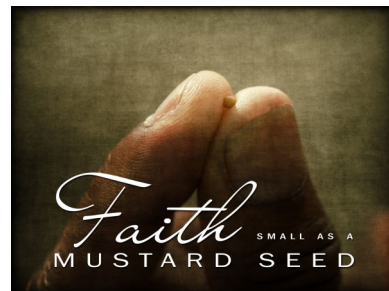
ANNIVERSARIES

August 1 Bill & Carole Covlin (59)
 August 9 Gary & Deb Liao (28)



Bible Quiz – The Parables of Jesus

- 1) In the Parable of the Sower, how many kinds of soil are there?
- 2) In the Parable of the Weeds, who planted the weeds?
- 3) In the Parable of the Mustard Seed, what kind of animals come to live within the mustard plant?
- 4) In the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, how much did the servant owe his master?
- 5) In the Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard, how much were the laborers paid?
- 6) In the Parable of the Marriage Feast, why did one guest get thrown out?
- 7) In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, how many of the virgins were wise?
- 8) In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, how did the Samaritan get the injured man to the inn?
- 9) In the Parable of the Lost Coin, how many coins does the woman have?
- 10) In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, what kind of animal did the younger son feed?



Write your answers down 1-10 and turn into the church office by June 22nd to be entered into the next drawing. June's winner was Allison, Hunter & Braelynn Neufeld!! They will receive 100 Christian Stickers. July's contest is for everyone.



Financial News

In May 2023, Grace Lutheran Church experienced Plate Contributions of \$11,934.62 versus Expenses of \$14,584.48 resulting in a **\$2,649.86 operating deficit**. GCCC raw income came in at \$54,836.50 versus raw expenses at \$49,187.37 resulting in a **\$5,649.13 operating surplus**. Combined results for GLC and GCCC, then, is a **\$2,999.27 operating surplus**.

☉ **Ask Jan Surry about the Nominating Committee or Budget Committee.**

☉ **Next Meeting July 17, 2023 5:00 PM Zoom**

☉ **Voter's Meeting August 27, 2023 following service**

Voter's Meeting News | Council Positions

The following positions have terms that expire as of August 31st. We will be voting at our August Voter's Meeting on August 27th. If you are interested in learning more about a position or would like to be nominated, please contact Jan Surry. You can find job descriptions on our church website in the Standing Rules (copies of our Standing Rules can be found on the Elders table as well).

- ☉ President
- ☉ Council Secretary
- ☉ Treasurer
- ☉ 2 Elder Positions
- ☉ 2 Trustee Positions
- ☉ Financial Secretary

In His Service,

Janet Wentz, President

Jan Surry, Vice-President

And the Van Saga Continues

In the June 2023 newsletter, the council agreed to publish an email exchange between Phil Soth and myself regarding using \$30,000 +/- of the St. John's donation to purchase a church van. While visiting with some members and asking for their reaction to the exchange, it became obvious that I did not make one of the more compelling arguments in favor of purchasing the van very clear. This is too large of an issue to just let it coast with a wait and see approach.

While it is true that the main reason presented for acquiring the van is for use in youth ministries, it is not intended for that use only. The van is not a youth ministries van, **it would be a church van** that can be used for multiple purposes. We can use it to pick up and transport people to church who cannot drive. If the LWML group wanted to attend a conference in Eugene, they could use the van. If the quilters need to deliver a large number of quilts somewhere, seats can be removed and they can use the van to transport the quilts. If GCCC developed a need for an occasional use of the van, it is available for their use. In other words, the van is for use by all valid ministries within GLC, not just youth ministries.

Today, we live in a different city and culture than existed when we were young (before 2000). There are many single parent families. For those who are married, they are often both working long hours or even different shifts. Life becomes very busy, and many parents simply do not have the time to drive young people to events. So, if there are no drivers, there may simply be no events. I never want a valid ministry hamstrung due to a lack of transportation. Purchasing a van helps avoid this possible conflict and encourages participation from those who otherwise would not be able to participate.

Today (6/7/2023) I had a phone call with Adria Charles, who is the Director of youth and family ministries at Christ Community Church, a LCMS church in Ridgefield, WA. We are working hard to develop a relationship with our respective youth groups. We are looking at having a combined picnic in the park and we were discussing where we wanted to hold the event, either in Scappoose or Ridgefield. The event will be held on a Wednesday during the day so there will not be many parents available to drive as most are working. She is concerned that she cannot get enough seats to transport herself, her little ones, and the 11+ youth that she has in her group. She mentioned that they do not have a van and that this would not be an issue if the church had a van for their use. I just thought that this voiced concern is very relevant to the conversation we are having now regarding purchasing a church van.

We have the funds now. We also have the funds from another \$10,000 grant that can go a very long way towards funding repair or replacement of the failing sign in front of the church. One of the reasons that we never pursued a van in the past is that the cost seemed prohibitive relative to the church's cash flow. The bottom line is I believe that if we do not make the van purchase now while we have the funds available, no matter how urgent the need comes, we will not be able to purchase a van in the future, so it is now or never.

I made an impassioned comment in the previous article about not sacrificing our ministry on the altar of prudent asset management. Our currency is in people, in eternal souls, in conducting ministry and reaching people for Christ. Our stuff, be it the building or bank account, are just tools to be used in executing this ministry, not an end in and of themselves. This is why they exist – it is their purpose. Instead of sticking the money in the bank hoping some better ministry opportunity develops (which may or may not happen), I encourage you to be bold and to act with the hope (great expectation of a positive good) that our ministries at GLC will be significantly enhanced with the purchase of a passenger van. I encourage you to vote yes for the purchase of the van at the August voters meeting.

With Warm Regards,

Steve Pollard



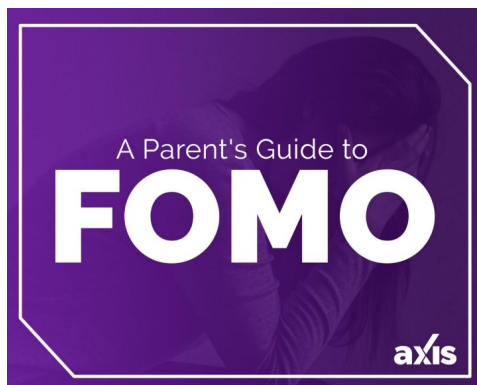
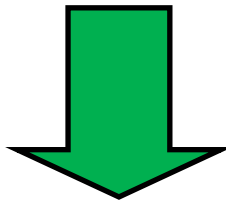


Connecting Parents, Teens, &
Jesus in a Disconnected
World

THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR IS FOMO ITSELF

Imagine yourself as a teenager again. Try to remember some of the experiences, thoughts, and feelings you had. Do any of the following scenarios ring a bell?

- You heard all about the excitement that went down at a party that you weren't invited to.
- Your friends planned a fun trip, but you couldn't go.
- You opted not to go to a movie with friends and ended up sitting at home wondering what you were missing.
- It seemed that everyone in school was whispering about something, but you had no idea what it was.
- Your summer vacation was boring and uneventful, so much so that you sat around envisioning all the exciting things everyone else at school was doing. **Provided by Axis.**



Copies of the complete parent's guide to FOMO is available on the Elders' table in the Narthex or can be found online at <https://axis.org/resource/fomo-parent-guide>.



Mission Servants will host a **Potluck and Bingo** after church on Sunday, June 25th. Dave Karcher has agreed to be our caller, and various ladies of Mission Servants will monitor and hand out prizes. **Cost per ticket is 25 cents per card for adults and 5 cents per card for children.** There *will be prizes!!* Karchers have donated several prizes; some of our ladies other prizes; and some prizes mostly for children have been from previous activities. Come and enjoy a lovely lunch and then the adventure of winning a great Bingo prize!!

School Kits for LWR will be collected beginning this month and continuing through September. Jennifer Wiley will be inventorying our current supply of materials and then put out the barrel and post the chart of what is needed. If you find good buys for 70 page notebooks, round tip scissors, ballpoint pens in black or blue, erasers, 24 count crayons, ruler with centimeters and inches, snatch them up and put them in the barrel in the Narthex. Let's see how many school kits will go to those in need!

Mission Servants next meeting will be in the fall.

In His love,

Carole Covlin, President
West Hills Zone



2023 HOLIDAY BAZAAR

FREE ADMISSION

**CRAFTS, QUILTS, FOOD, JEWELRY
AND SO MUCH MORE!**

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday, November 4th

Grace Lutheran Church

Scappoose, Oregon



SUPPORT LOCAL!



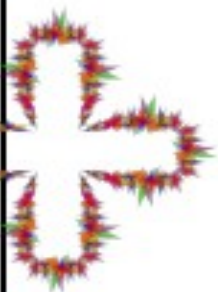
JULY 2023



Scappoose, Oregon
www.gracescappoose.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Communion 2 9A Adult Bible Study (ABS) 10:15A Worship CAKE	3  Church & Children Center Closed for the Holiday	4 10A Cheerful Comforters	5 10A Cheerful Comforters	6 6:30A Mens Bible Study (MBS)	7	1/8
9 9A Adult Bible Study (ABS) 10:15A Worship	10 4:30P Elders Meeting (Zoom)	11 10A Ladies Bible Study (LBS) @St. Wenceslaus 5:30P Mission Servants	12 10A Cheerful Comforters	13 9:30A GCCC Board 4:15P Board of Ed	14 6:30A MBS	15
Communion 16	17 5:00P Church Council Meeting (Zoom)	18 10A LBS @St. Wenceslaus <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	19 10A Cheerful Comforters	20 6P GCCC Staff Meeting	21 6:30A MBS	22
23 9A ABS 10:15A Worship	25 10A LBS @St. Wenceslaus	26 10A Cheerful Comforters	27	28 6:30A MBS	29 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 9-2 	30 FRIENDS & FAMILY 31 9A ABS 10:15A Worship FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING AFTER CHURCH

***GCCC utilizes the Fellowship Hall 6-6 during summer break.



AUGUST 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 10A Ladies Bible Study (LBS) @St. Wenceslaus 6:30P Mission Service	2 10A Cheerful Comforters	3 6:30A Mens Bible Study (MBS)	4	5
Communion 6	7 4:30P Elders Meeting (Zoom)	8 10A LBS @St. Wenceslaus	9 10A Cheerful Comforters	10 9:30A GCCC Board 4:15P Board of Ed	11 6:30A MBS	12
9A Adult Bible Study (ABS) 10:15A Worship & SS CAKE						
13 9A ABS 10:15A Worship	14	15 10A LBS @St. Wenceslaus	16 10A Cheerful Comforters	17 6P GCCC Staff Meeting	18 6:30A MBS	19
Communion 20	21 5:00P Church Council Meeting (Zoom)	22 10A LBS @St. Wenceslaus <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	23 10A Cheerful Comforters	24	25 6:30A MBS	26
27 9A ABS 10:15A Worship & SS VOTERS MEETING AFTER CHURCH	28	29 10A LBS @St. Wenceslaus	30 10A Cheerful Comforters	31 NOTE GCCC utilizes the Fellowship Hall 6am to 6pm during summer break.		



July

Everyday Faith from CPH

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



2

Read
Ephesians 6:13.

Draw a picture of everyone in your family wearing armor and holding Bibles.

3

Read
1 Timothy 2:1-2.

Pray for the leaders of your city, state, and country.

4

Read
John 8:36.

When you see fireworks today, thank God for setting you free in Christ.

5

Read
Psalm 92:13-14.

Visit a grandparent or older church member. Ask how his or her faith has grown over the years.

6

Read
Matthew 6:26.

Hold hands as a family and tell God anything you are worried about.

7

Read
Psalm 104:14.

Pray for farmers and a good harvest.

8

Read
1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

Read the section on the First Article of the Apostles' Creed in Luther's Small Catechism.

1

Read
Psalm 8:3-4.

Go outside and sing "Beautiful Savior" (LSB 537).

9

Read
Ephesians 2:19-21.

How has your church family been a blessing to you?

10

Read
Matthew 13:31-32.

Remember this: "God is active in small things, even though His presence may not be evident" (TLSB, p. 1608).

11

Read
Mark 4:35-41.

The next time it is windy or rainy, remember Jesus is stronger than any storm.

12

Read
Psalm 69:30.

Look up the definition of the word **magnify**.

13

Read
Proverbs 11:24-25.

How can you be generous this month with the gifts God has given your family?

14

Read
Galatians 6:14.

Count all the crosses in your house. Thank Jesus for dying on the cross for you.

15

Read
Matthew 13:1-9.

Read this parable outside.

16

Read
Matthew 13:19.

Pray God would protect you from the temptations of the devil.

17

Read
Matthew 13:20-21.

Pray God would forgive you for being apathetic about His Word.

18

Read
Matthew 13:22.

What "cares of the world" do you care about more than you should?

19

Read
Matthew 13:23.

Draw a picture of a bountiful garden. Label it "Growing in Faith."

20

Read
Psalm 103:8.

Look up the definition of the word **merciful**.

21

Read
Isaiah 63:7.

Thank God for His blessings, compassion, and steadfast love for you in Christ.

22

Read
Galatians 5:22-23.

Which of these spiritual fruits do you struggle with the most?

23

Read
Genesis 3:6.

Discuss how temptation often looks good on the outside but is sinful on the inside.

24

Read
Genesis 3:12.

What excuses do you give when you sin?

25

Read
Ephesians 1:7.

Repeat this three times: "In Christ, I am forgiven!"

26

Read
Colossians 3:23.

Pray that God would give you strength in your daily work.

27

Read
1 John 3:18.

How can you show Christ's love to someone in your family today?

28

Read
Matthew 5:44.

Pray for people who are mean to you.

29

Read
2 Corinthians 2:14.

Spray some perfume. Think of it as "the fragrance of the knowledge of [Christ]."

30

Read
Psalm 149:2-4.

Dance to your favorite song about Jesus!

31

Read
2 Peter 3:18.

What does it mean to "grow in the grace of . . . Jesus Christ?"



Servant Schedule

July					
	Communion		Communion		Friends & Family
	2	9	16	23	30
Elder	Rudie Pletz	Steve Pollard	Rudie Pletz	Bill Covlin	Steve Layton
Ushers **	Janet & Angelica	Robbie	Jan Surry	Barbara Lacy	Rudie Pletz
	Don & David	Josephine	Steve Surry	Bill Lacy	Steve Pollard
Scripture Reader	Don Wentz	Phil Soth	Steve Layton	Steve Pollard	Carole Pletz
Greeter	Cindy Squires	Dee Dee Morse	Pat Hoag	Leslie Ruby	Janet Johnson
Acolyte*	Matthew Boren	Matthew Boren	Matthew Boren		
Altar Care	Karen & Angelica		Gail Walker		
Altar Flower	Pletz	OPEN	TIM & CONNIE NELSON - ANNIVERSARY	J&J ANNIVERSARY	OPEN
Music	Judi Hayes	Lynnda Fuller	Judi Hayes	Lynnda Fuller	Judi Hayes
SUMMER SPECIAL SS					
Sunday School	SUMMER BREAK				
Teen Fellowship	Monday Mornings 10am @ Cathedral Coffee				
Adult Bible Study	Steve Layton	Steve Layton	Steve Layton	Steve Layton	Steve Layton



I AM UNIQUELY DESIGNED

In the first article, I described the current identity crisis that is plaguing our culture today, along with the Biblical answer that our identity is in Christ (see Gal 2:20). Now I want to start discussing 12 key truths regarding our identity in Christ, the next in sequence being that I am uniquely designed. This article is a slightly edited version of an article taken from the book “Flip the Script: Disrupting Tradition for the Sake of the Next Generation”, by Chuck Peters, Jana Magruder, and Stephanie Salvatore.

The Bible tells us that God made everything – everything in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible. All things were made by Him and for Him.

COL 1: 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Think about the weight of that truth – the ultimate Designer; the wise Creator; The Master Maker of the galaxies, the God who imagined oceans – He designed every person, student, and child who comes to your mind right now.

The Bible teaches that God, the ultimate Designer, is intentional. He is wise and purposeful. Nothing exists outside of His control, His plans, or His ultimate purposes.

REV 4:11 You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.

PS 139: 13-16 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When

(Continued on page 13)

as yet there were none of them.

Why does this matter? Because every detail about you was determined by God and crafted by His hand. Your height, eye color, the width of your shoulders, the color of your skin, the texture of your hair, the size of your feet, your smile, the way you think, your voice, your talents, your gender. They were made on purpose and for a purpose.

Voices in culture tell people that they are random, a product of chance, or even a mistake, but God says differently. God says they are unique, wonderful, special creations because they are designed by Him. He made all people who they are and how they are. God does not make mistakes. He makes masterpieces.

EPH 2: 8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

You are designed by God.

In His Service,

Steve Pollard, Board of Education





Grace Christian Children's Center

A MESSAGE FROM MISS KAREN

This month has been a very exciting and busy month at GCCC! We had two nights of our preschool graduation on June 14th and 15th, along with kick starting our summer program following shortly after! There was so much love, time, and planning that came into creating a very memorable evening for many family and friends! We truly enjoyed spreading the love of Jesus to our little ones and seeing it showcased in their graduation performances. We could have not asked for a better evening. We now are in full swing of our summer program with an average of 80-90 children attending. Each week we have a theme where Pastor Joshua and Miss Jen connects to biblical teachings, so it is really a beautiful thing to be apart of!

SUMMER WEEKLY THEMES

Week 1 (6/19-6/23): Kick-Off to Summer

Week 2 (6/26-6/30): Ocean Week

Week 3 (7/3-7/7): Camping Week

Week 4 (7/10-7/14): Christmas in July

Week 5 (7/17-7/21): Christmas in July

Week 6 (7/24-7/28): Western Week

Week 7 (7/31-8/4): Bug Week

Week 8 (8/7-8/11): Jungle Week

Week 9 (8/14-8/18): Space Week

Week 10 (8/21-8/25): Disney Week

Week 11 (8/28-9/1): Olympics Week



"Where caring people enrich the lives of children and families through Christ-centered Learning"



Grace Christian Children's Center



OUR PHILOSOPHY

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, life style, 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.

"Where caring people enrich the lives of children and families through Christ-centered Learning"



SENIOR

SUNDAY

Congrats!

LINDSAY BROWN
SYDNEY LIAO
MATTHEW BOREN





HP

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**



*Kindness is
in your blood*



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive
**Grace Lutheran
Church**

Fellowship Hall
51737 South Columbia River Hwy.
Scappoose, OR 97056

**Saturday, July 29, 2023
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**