

Growing in Grace

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, **"Isn't Christianity just a psychological crutch?"** Perhaps surprisingly, a good answer to that question is, "Yes, it is indeed!"

Of course, more needs to be said, but, more or less, just as some people are fully dependent on crutches, we Christians are fully dependent on God. But, as someone wittily put it, "If Christianity is a psychological crutch, then Jesus Christ came because there was an epidemic of broken legs."

As the Bible says, "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind." [Eph 2:1-3]

In other words, and to continue with the crutch analogy, Christianity is not just about us needing a crutch but whole new legs. Our legs weren't simply broken but dead as Ephesians shows us. To ever walk again, our old useless legs would have to be replaced entirely. Or, speaking in terms of salvation, there is no way for us to save ourselves. To say Christianity is a crutch is speak far too well our ability to save ourselves without Jesus.

However, in a good news and bad news situation, while Jesus was never obligated to save us, He did indeed save us due to His abundant love and mercy. To continue in Ephesians, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." [Eph 2:4-7]

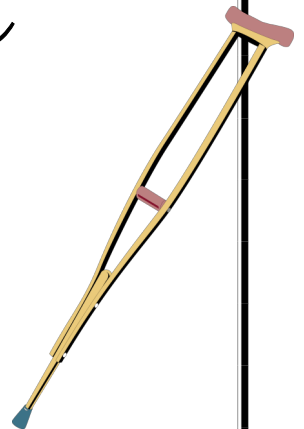
To return to the crutch analogy, we could say that we did indeed desperately need a crutch for our hopeless legs, but we could not afford one. Actually, that's yet again speaking too well. It's not that we didn't have quite enough to afford a crutch and not even that we had no money for one, but that we already owed the person offering the crutch more money than we could ever repay. Blessedly, Jesus offers us, and everyone else, a free crutch due solely to His grace.

OCTOBER 2023

And, to keep beating this crutch analogy, the new legs we received are not normal legs, but unbreakable legs that can run without ever getting tired. [Isa 40:31] In other words, Jesus didn't just save us, though He did do that, He brought us to new life in Him so that we were made to be like Him. Our new lives are as eternally save in Jesus as surely as Jesus is in heaven right now.

In the end we must embrace the crutch analogy because our Bible does so emphatically. To finish our section in Ephesians, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." [Eph 2:8-10]

Pastor Joshua



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



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GRACE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER

gccc@gracescappoose.org



BIRTHDAYS

Oct 2	Rudie Pletz
Oct 8	Sydney Liao
Oct 10	Jim Hoag
Oct 17	Tim Nelson
Oct 26	Jan Surry
Oct 28	Karen Lile
Oct 31	Gail Walker

ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Pat Hoag

October 9 (50)

Pete & Vicki Krenz

October 25 (48)



Bible Quiz – The Life of Joseph (as reported in Genesis)

1. What were the names of Joseph's father and mother?
2. What special gift did Joseph's father give to him?
3. What was Joseph's second dream about?
4. What horrible thing did Joseph's brothers do to him?
5. What was the name of the man who first bought Joseph?
6. Who were the two men in prison whose dreams Joseph interpreted?
7. Why did Pharaoh release Joseph from prison?
8. What were the names of Joseph's children?
9. What did Joseph do to his brothers the first time they came to him?
10. What did Joseph say to his brothers after their father died?

WRITE YOUR ANSWERS DOWN 1-10 AND TURN INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY OCTOBER 20TH TO BE ENTERED INTO THE NEXT DRAWING. NO ONE SUBMITTED ANSWERS FOR SEPTEMBER.



In August 2023 Grace Lutheran Church experienced Plate Contributions of **\$8,983.62** versus Expenses of **\$14,002.79** resulting in a **\$5,019.17 operating deficit**. GCCC raw income came in at **\$75,348.00** versus raw expenses at **\$50,438.07** resulting in a **\$24,909.93 operating surplus**. Combined results for GLC and GCCC, then, is a **\$19,890.76 operating surplus**.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Wentz, Treasurer

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

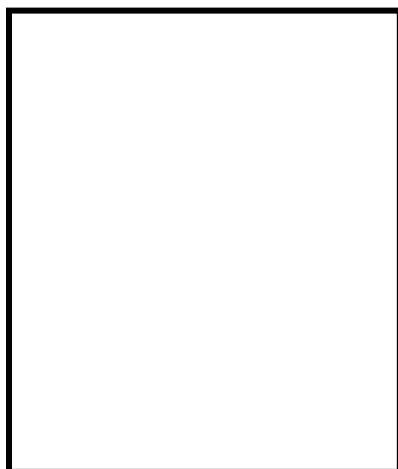
On August 27th, we held our Voter's Meeting and approved our new officers and budget for the coming fiscal year. A copy of our 23-24 budget can be requested if you would like a copy.

The following church officer terms went into effect on September 1st.

- ♦ President: **Vacant**
- ♦ Vice President: Jan Surry (Acting President)
- ♦ Secretary: Carole Covlin
- ♦ Treasurer: Janet Wentz
- ♦ Elders: Bill Covlin & Steve Layton
- ♦ Trustees: Steve Layton & Steve Surry
- ♦ Financial Secretary: Carole Pletz



(Continued on page 4)



It will soon be time for us to join together to celebrate Martin Luther's great proclamation of faith called The Reformation. Please join us on Sunday October 29th. Our program about the Reformation will start at 3:00. We will celebrate songs that Luther himself composed expressing his deep feelings and understanding of God's word. To remind and inform us of Luther's mission, our scripture readers have agreed to read some short explanations of various aspects of the Reformation. We hope it will be informative and interesting. Learn how the newly invented printing press fueled the fire of the movement. Do you understand how the "indulgences" inflamed Luther's disappointment with the Catholic Church and ultimately led him to nail his 95 theses to the church door? You will soon know!

Following our program at 4:00, we will enjoy a wonderful Lutheran tradition – the potluck! Please bring anything to add, but German inspired dishes would be appreciated. There are many recipes available on the internet. I have several recipes and will gladly share them if necessary. The church will provide bratwurst, buns, and sauerkraut. A sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have any ideas for events or activities, please let me know.

Gail Walker

Fellowship Coordinator



(Continued from page 3)

- ♦ Asst Treasurer: Judi Hayes w/backup Janet Johnson (both were appointed at September Council)
- ♦ Altar Care: Karen Lile (appointed)
- ♦ Missions: Carole Covlin (appointed)

We really need to fill our President position, please pray that someone will be willing to step into this important role in our church. We would also like to find a replacement to fill the Head Usher position. Steve Pollard has been doing this for year's and he is very involved in our youth program at Grace. If you would like to take this on, please talk to one of the Elders or Steve P.

At the Voter's meeting, the members voted to destroy and rebuild a new sign base as well as replace the existing deteriorating reader board/sign at a cost of approximately \$11,500. We will use the Cieloha Memorial Funds to fund the majority of the project. There was also a proposal brought to the members to purchase a church van, that motion did not pass.

In His Service,

Janet Wentz, Treasurer

REFORMATION PROGRAM



COMING SOON

Luther sparked the Reformation in 1517 by posting, at least according to tradition, his "95 Theses" on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany - these theses were a list of statements that expressed Luther's concerns about certain Church practices - largely the sale of indulgences, but they were based on Luther's deeper concerns with Church doctrine.

3PM PROGRAM

4PM DINNER

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



Mission Servants met on Tuesday, September 6th in the Fellowship Hall at Grace. Our main topic was setting our calendar of activities for the year.

We have been collecting school kits for Lutheran World Relief. These will be packed on Sunday, October 1st following the church service. Our Cheerful Comforters have been diligently working on quilts even through the summer. We will be having Quilt Sunday and the Blessing of the Quilts and School Kits on October 1st.

On Saturday, October 7th, Mission Servants will be hosting the West Hills LWML Zone Rally. Our guest speaker is Joyce Schultz from Child Beyond International. Registration begins at 9:00am followed by the blessing of the in-gathering of infants and children shoes, singing, and Joyce's presentation. We have a special activity planned after a short break and then lunch will be served while we also have our business meeting. We are excited to host this event for the West Hills Zone.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 3rd in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30. All ladies are welcome. Hope you will join us!

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Covlin,

President, West Hills Zone

**"YOU SHALL
LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR
AS YOURSELF."**
- Galatians 5:14b





Church bazaars are a great way to bring people together and raise funds for the church. Our holiday bazaar supports our Mission Servants & our youth group. We plan to hold this event annually, and offer a variety of items such as handmade crafts, baked goods, jewelry, books, toys, and more.

Bazaars are an excellent opportunity for people to socialize and get to know each other better while supporting a good cause. However, organizing a church bazaar requires a lot of planning and effort. It can be challenging to coordinate volunteers, collect donations, and set up the event. **If you are interested in volunteering, please see Jan Surry.**

Volunteer Opportunities—See Sign Up Sheet outside the church office:

- ☉ Setup 6pm on Friday, November 3rd
- ☉ Greeters
- ☉ Tear Down 3:30pm on Saturday, November 4th
- ☉ Food Service at Café Grace—food handler's license, preferred
- ☉ Book Fair in the Preschool Room
- ☉ Donate bake sale items

Our church receives a small participant fee from vendors which is split better LWML & our youth group. LWML will also have a table to sell quilts made by our Cheerful Comforters and miscellaneous rummage table items. 100% of these sales from this table goes directly to LWML. We are also adding “Café Grace” to the event. Participants can buy a lunch & take a break in the café (aka daycare room). Funds from the café go to LWML.

We are also in discussion about hosting a book fair in the preschool. More to come on this!

In conclusion, church bazaars can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone involved. Bazaars provide an opportunity for people to come together, socialize, and support their community. **Please consider volunteering!**

In His love,

Jan & Robbie

Bazaar Coordinators



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!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 <u>Communion</u> 9A ABS - DAYCARE 10:15A Worship & SS <u>CAKE</u> <u>CONFIRMATION CLASS</u>	2 4:30P Elders Meeting (Zoom) << Blessing of the Quilts & Kits 10/1	3 10A LBS 5:00P Mission Servants	4 10A Cheerful Comforters		6 9:30A GCCC Board 6:30A MBS	7 West Hills Zone LWML Rally 9:00 to 1:00 @ Grace
8 9A ABS - NO DAYCARE 10:15A Worship & SS <u>NO CONFIRMATION CLASS</u>	9 6P GCCC Staff Meeting	10 10A LBS	11 10A Cheerful Comforters	12 4:15P Board of Ed	13 6:30A MBS	14 
15 <u>Communion</u> 9A ABS - DAYCARE 10:15A Worship & SS <u>NO CONFIRMATION CLASS</u>	16 5:00P Church Council Meeting (Zoom)	17 10A LBS <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	18 10A Cheerful Comforters	19	20 6:30 MBS	21 
22 <u>FAMILY SERVICE</u> 9A ABS - DAYCARE 10:15A Worship <u>CONFIRMATION CLASS</u>	23 	24 10A LBS	25 10A Cheerful Comforters CHEERFUL QUILTERS WILL BE PACKING UP QUILTS 10/25 AND SHIPPING 10/27	26	27 6:30A MBS	28
29 9A ABS - NO DAYCARE 10:15A Worship & SS 3P Reformation Program 4P German Potluck	30 <u>NO CONFIRMATION CLASS ON 10/29</u>	31 10A LBS HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HALLOWEEN!				
						• ABS=Adult Bible Study • LBS=Ladies Bible Study • MBS=Mens Bible Study • GCCC=Grace Christian Children's Center • SS=Sunday School

October

Everyday Faith from CPH

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

Read
1 Samuel 17:37.
Draw what you hear in
this verse.

2

Read
1 Samuel 17:48-49.
Recap the story.

3

Read
2 Samuel 12:13-15.
Are consequences fair?

4

Read
Psalm 51:3-4.
Read about confession in
Luther's Small
Catechism.

5

Read
Psalm 51:15.
Find these words in the
order of Matins on page
219 in **Lutheran Service
Book**.

6

Read
2 Samuel 12:16-18.
What is fasting?

7

Read
2 Samuel 12:19-20.
Sing "Sing with All the
Saints in Glory" (LSB 671).

8

Read
2 Samuel 12:21-23.
Pray for those who are
mourning the death of
a loved one.

9

Read
Micah 6:4.
Memorize this verse.

10

Read
Exodus 2:4-6.
Find a piece of media
about this Bible story.

11

Read
Exodus 2:7-10.
How did Miriam show
bravery?

12

Read
Exodus 15:20-22.
Listen to music from
Sunday's service and
dance to it!

13

Read
Numbers 12:1-2.
Ask an adult about a time
he or she questioned God.

14

Read
Numbers 12:4-9.
What was Miriam's sin?

15

Read
Numbers 12:10-13.
Pray for someone who
needs healing.

16

Read
Luke 10:25-28.
Where else does the
Bible talk about these
commandments?

17

Read
Luke 10:29.
Name the families that
you live by.

18

Read
Luke 10:30-31.
Pray for the people
experiencing homelessness.

19

Read
Luke 10:32.
Why do you think the
priest and the Levite
passed him?

20

Read
Luke 10:33-35.
How do these actions
showcase love?

21

Read
Luke 10:36.
Pray: God, help me
show compassion.

22

Read
Luke 10:37.
Brainstorm ways to
show mercy in your
neighborhood.

23

Read
Ruth 1:16-18.
Ask an adult about a
person who told him or her
about Jesus.

24

Read
Ruth 2:1-3.
Look up what the word
glean means.

25

Read
Ruth 2:4.
Practice greeting others
around your table.

26

Read
Ruth 2:12-13.
Look up the definition
of the word **refuge**.

27

Read
Ruth 3:12.
Who else in the Bible is
called a redeemer?

28

Read
Ruth 3:16-17.
Find a food bank to
volunteer at or donate to.

29

Read
Ruth 4:10-12.
Pray for an engaged
couple you know.

30

Read
Ruth 4:13-15.
Pray for a couple you know
who are new parents.

31

Read
Ruth 4:16-17.
Find Ruth's name in
Jesus' lineage.



I AM LOVED

In the first article, I described the current identify crisis that is plaguing our culture today, along with the Biblical answer that our identify is in Christ (see Gal 2:20). Now I want to start discussing twelve (12) key truths regarding our identify in Christ, the next in sequence being that I am loved. 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.

God loves you.

God designed you to be exactly who you are, and He loves you just as you are. In a world where love is conditional, we need to know that God’s love is unconditional. The Bible describe God’s love as deep, wide, long, and vast. Unlike other relationships, God’s love is not based on what we do, but on who He is and who we are – His special creation.

*Eph 3: 14-19 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, **being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.***

Love isn’t just something that God does, it’s who He is. God is love. God gives His love freely and generously. Like our identify, God’s love is something that is received, not achieved.

*1 John 4: 7-11 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, **for God is love.** 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

God did not wait four us to love Him. In fact, the very opposite is true. It was because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our sin, that God made a way to make us alive together with Christ.

*Romans 5: 6-8 For when we were still without strength, [d]in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 **But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

*Ephesians 1: 3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love**, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

God is good. He is steadfast and unchanging. He is faithful, trustworthy, and loving.

You are loved by God.

In His Service,
Steve Pollard, Board of Education

August's Multigenerational Car Wash

On Sunday, August 13th, for a couple of hours after church, several church members participated in a car wash as a fund raiser for GLC's youth program. We raised over \$500 for our youth ministries and we are all thankful for your generosity.

Most of our youth who are actively attending church with their families, plus one more, participated. But as you know, our youth program is rather small right now, so many of our not quite so youthful members volunteered and assisted in the car wash as well, be it in washing cars or serving and cooking food. We (those of us in youth ministry) want to say thank you to everyone who participated as well as those who stayed after church and waited in line to get their car washed. It was, and still is, greatly appreciated. Below is a list of people who helped with the car wash. When you get a chance, I would encourage you to give each of them a word of encouragement and thanks.

Our Youth

- Hezeka (Ki) Wiley
- Suzie Wiley
- Fallon Bargas
- Josephine Burum-Tankersley
- Matthew Boren

Not Quite So Youthful

- Joshua and Jennifer Wiley
- Robbie Burum
- Steve Pollard
- Tom and Dee Dee Morse
- Lynnda Fuller
- Jan and Steve Surry
- Cindy Squires
- Lesle Ruby
- Bill and Barb Lacy
- Sam Hunt

I think this is everyone, but if I missed mentioning you, please forgive me as my memory is not perfect. Just know that you are appreciated even if you are not listed here.

With warm Regards,

Steve Pollard



September Events

Labor Day Closure.....Sept. 4
First Day of Preschool.....Sept. 5
September 11t.....Sept. 11
Johnny Apple Seed Day.....Sept. 26
National Coffee Day.....Sept. 29

Past Month's Photo



Messages from our Teachers

Our summer fun is wrapping up and we are getting ready to kickoff our Fall curriculum beginning September 11. We recognize that starting a new school year can be quite intimidating for both kids and parents, however our daycare staff wants you to know that we are here to make this transition as easy as possible. Kids will be learning their 1,2,3's, A,B,C's along with songs, arts and crafts, movement and also participating in our daily devotions, Bible stories and twice a week chapel time. We believe GCCC is one of the best places to build a great foundation of learning! We cannot wait to start learning together.

-Miss Noorah, Daycare Program

The Fellowship kids have had a great summer! They are enjoying their first weeks of the new school year.

This month has been filled with our Bug, Jungle, Space, Disney and Olympic themed weeks. The kids got to enjoy a visit from the bug lady, hearing about Dinosaurs from Pastor Josh, and hearing about God's promise to Abraham that his decedents would be as great as the number of stars, Queen Esther and how we all have been created for "such a time as this" and finally a reminder that if we believe in Jesus, we can grow in our faith by reading our Bibles and finishing the race just like Paul mentions in 2 Timothy 4:7. Memories have certainly been made. Ask your kid(s)to recall all the things we have learned and the fun we have had.

We look forward to seeing several of them during our before and after school program! Thanks for a great summer GCCC Fellowship Kids!!!

- Miss Jen, School-aged Program

Welcome preschoolers!

I'm so excited to be spending this school year with you. We will be growing on your interests and skills, developmentally facilitating a better learning environment and experience! We will grow in our faith of our Lord Jesus Christ and build those cornerstones that will help you for the rest of your lives! My overall goal is to help get you ready for kindergarten, whether it is next year or the year after that! I can't wait to share all of our fun school activities with you guys.

- Miss Allison, Preschool Program

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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Walk 4 Life 2023



GO TEAM



www.columbiapregnancycenter.com