

Growing in Grace

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

We will keep diving into some the challenging questions we might face from people when they know we are Christians. This month let's see what answers the Holy Bible has concerning, "What do Christians believe about death and dying?"

Right away, we can answer a part of this question. We, as people saved by Jesus, need have no fear whatsoever about dying. As we are told, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" [1 Cor 15:54-55]

While we might be concerned about what will happened to our loved ones when we die (though even with that we should simply trust God), we do not need to be concerned about what happens to us when we die as we are clearly told about that. As Paul also wrote just before he basically mocked death in that former quote from the Bible, "Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality." [1 Cor 15:51-53] And Paul also tells us, "Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord." [1 Cor 5:8]

But just because we are told something about what will happen to us when we die, we do not know everything. As Paul said, there is still much mystery about our lives after death. You may have noticed that two passages just listed seem different than each other. One, the first one from 1 Corinthians 15, seems to indicate that we will have bodies, whereas the second one, the one from 1 Corinthians 5, seems to indicate that we will be absent from our bodies.

There is, of course, no discrepancy. It seems that the moment we die, we go immediately to be with Jesus, though we do in only in our spirits. But when Jesus returns it seems that His faithful

February 2024

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followers that have died will be resurrected into their new "imperishable" bodies at which point His followers who are still living on the earth will receive the same. As we are told, "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will

(Continued on page 2)



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



THE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod

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GRACE CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S CENTER
gccc@gracescappoose.org



Anniversaries

Feb 6 Bart & Janet Grabhorn (36)



Birthdays

Feb 1 Eleanor Hull

Feb 11 Barb Lacy

Feb 11 Marilyn Stender

Feb 20 Cheri Layton

Feb 21 Bill Lacy

Feb 24 Carole Covlin

Feb 25 Carole Pletz

Feb 26 Gene Oster

(Continued from page 1)

always be with the Lord." [1 Thes 4:16-17]

But there is only one reason anyone could ever receive such a blessing. We could never earn it as earning something of infinite value, eternal life, makes no sense. Of course we know that it is through Jesus that we receive the blessings, but it is important that we realize that is only by Jesus' death that saved us from death. As we are told, "For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life." [Rom 5:10]

So, while we need never fear death because we know where we are going, there would seem to be something else we want to be sure to understand about death. While we can be fearless in the face of death, that doesn't mean death is good. As we are told, "The last enemy to be destroyed is death." [1 Cor 15:16] Note the contrast in that verse. Death is evil but it is a totally defeated evil. Death was never a part of God's original plan for His people [Gen 2:16] and it will not be a part of God's plan when Jesus returns, but it is a reality we must deal with now. I

t is because of this that we, as Christians, can have mixed feelings

about death. We know that when our loved ones in the faith die, they will go to be Jesus and therefore be in far, far better place than they were when they were alive on earth with us and we can rejoice about that. As we are told, "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep." [1 The 4:13-14] But we can and do still miss those who have gone to be with Jesus because they are not with us. Even the Godliest people can feel such sorrow.

As David said after the death of his good friend Johnathon, "Jonathan lies slain on your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan." David, the man lamenting his friend, was the same man who knew that he would reunite with those who had died after he himself died. [2 Sam 12:23]

So it would seem that we do have to fear death, but we can still treat it like an enemy.

Pastor Joshua



In December 2023 Grace Lutheran Church experienced Plate Contributions of **\$8,550.06** versus Expenses of **\$15,155.78** resulting in a **\$6,605.72 operating deficit**. GCCC raw income came in at **\$54,453.00** versus raw expenses at **\$54,286.78** resulting in a **\$166.22 operating surplus**. Combined results for GLC and GCCC, then, is a **\$6,439.50 operating deficit**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Wentz, Treasurer

Jan Surry, VP

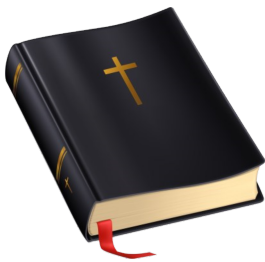


GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

51737 South Columbia River Hwy, Scappoose OR 97056

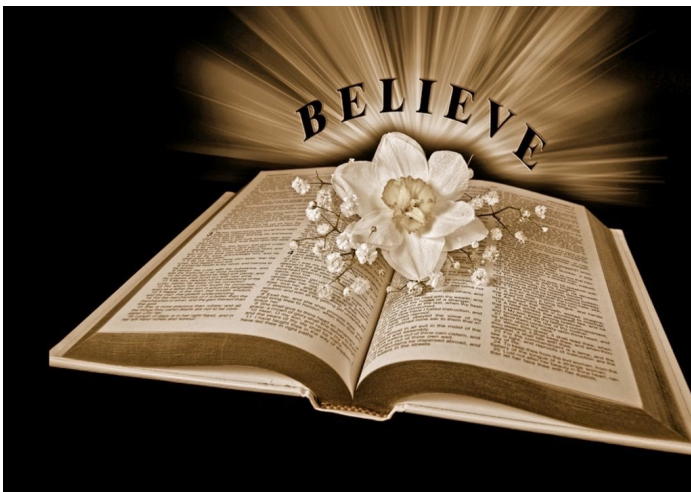
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024

09:00 AM - 02:00 PM



Bible Quiz – Kings, Pharaohs and Other Rulers – Questions

- 1) What king of Israel had a reputation for driving chariots furiously?
- 2) What king did Esther marry?
- 3) What Syrian king besieged Samaria?
- 4) What Egyptian king murdered King Josiah?
- 5) What king of Judah had to be hidden from Queen Athaliah?
- 6) What king set up golden bulls at Dan and Bethel?
- 7) What king of Judah was murdered by two of his court officials?
- 8) What king of Israel angered Elisha by only striking arrows against the ground three times?
- 9) What king of Israel showed mercy by only executing his father's murders but sparing their families?
- 10) What king of Judah was stricken with leprosy?



- 1) . 2 Kings 9:14-28
- 2) . Esther 2:16-17
- 3) . 2 Kings 6:24
- 4) . 2 Kings 23:29-30
- 5) . 2 Kings 11:1-3
- 6) . 1 Kings 12:25-33
- 7) . 2 Kings 12:20-21
- 8) . 2 Kings 13:14-19
- 9) . 2 Kings 14:1-6
- 10) . 2 Kings 15:1-7

Bible Quiz – Kings, Pharaohs and Other Rulers – Answers



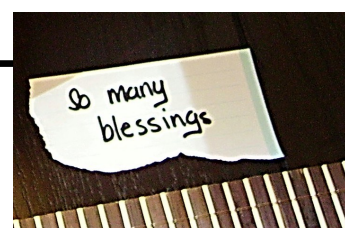
Though we had to cancel the potluck and bingo on January 14th because of the weather, Mission Servants were able to meet on their regular date on January 9th. We are super proud of our Cheerful Comforters who have made 40 more quilts since the October 2023 delivery of quilts and school kits to LWR.

We received a lovely “thank you” card from Columbia Care for the gifts our congregation donated to them (giving tree).

In His love,
Carole Corlin,
 President



- ☞ Ladies Lunch Out will be on February 11th at the Country Inn following church services. Theme—Love. Gail Walker is the lead on this fellowship outing.
- ☞ Ash Wednesday is on February 14th with a church service and potluck. “Season of Hope” will be introduced. This is a collection of donations to purchase animals, clean water, seeds or stoves to help others in need to increase their income and improve their livelihood.
- ☞ Sunday, February 18th, “Season of Hope” for LWR Heifer Program will begin. It will continue through Lent and end on March 29th.
- ☞ Other mission projects which will begin after Easter include Blessing Bags (GCCC will participate), Health Kits or collection of Soap for LWR. Discussion on other projects will continue.
- ☞ West Hills Zone will have their Spring Gathering at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Beaverton on Saturday, March 2nd. Project “Linus” is the theme and activity. More info to follow. All ladies at Grace are invited! Talk with Carole Covlin or Carole Pletz.
- ☞ Next meeting for Mission Servants – Tuesday, February 6th at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall.



Cheerful Comforters

LWR distributed its first quilts in 1945 to families in war-torn Europe following the Second World War. Within a decade, the ministry was reaching around the globe to villages far removed from the world's attention. Today, an average of 300,000 quilts are lovingly given worldwide each year.

LWR Mission Quilts are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. Your careful adherence to our quilt-making guidelines will ensure that every quilt is useful, consistent and fair.



JOIN US

WEDNESDAYS @ 10A

| LWR INGATHERING | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------|----------|----------|---------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| SW IDAHO ~ OREGON ~ SW WASHINGTON ~NORTHERN CALIFORNIA~ALASKA | | | | | | | | | |
| October 27th and 28th, 2023 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | TOTALS | | | | | |
| | Quilts | Blankets | Soap | School Kits | Personal Care Kits | Fabric Kits | Yardage | Baby Care Kits | Total |
| | (ca) | (ca) | (#'s) | (ca) | (ca) | (ca) | (no. of pieces) | (ca) | Weight |
| ALASKA | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| IDAHO | 412 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1737 |
| OREGON | 1695 | 0 | 0 | 1595 | 131 | 36 | 60 | 236 | 11831 |
| N CALIFORNIA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 154 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 473 |
| SW WASHINGTON | 394 | 0 | 0 | 345 | 146 | 15 | 0 | 32 | 2814 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 2508 | 0 | 0 | 2169 | 295 | 51 | 60 | 268 | 16859 |

| LWR INGATHERING | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| SW IDAHO ~ OREGON ~ SW WASHINGTON ~ NORTHERN CALIFORNIA~ALASKA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| October 27th and 28th, 2023 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OREGON | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name | City | Quilts (ea) | Blankets (ea) | # Soap (#'s) | School Kits (ea) | Personal Care Kits (ea) | Fabric Kits (ea) | Yardage (no. of pieces) | Baby Care Kits (ea) | Total Weight Weight | | |
| Bethany | Warren | 37 | | | | | | | | 107 | | |
| Bethesda | Eugene | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Calvary | Hillsboro | 11 | | | | | | | | 44 | | |
| Calvary | Stayton | 12 | | | 3 | | | | | 48 | | |
| Central Lutheran | Eugene | 96 | | | | | | | | 480 | | |
| Christ Community | Lebanon | 107 | | | 54 | 1 | | | 19 | 584 | | |
| Christ the King | Tigard | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community of Christ | Portland | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Emanuel | Cornelius | 27 | | | | | | | | 97 | | |
| Emmaus | Eugene | 21 | | | 301 | | | | | 922 | | |
| Emmaus Evangelical | Redmond | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Faith | Junction City | 25 | | | | | | | | 77 | | |
| Faith | North Bend | 22 | | | 80 | | 12 | | | 375 | | |
| Faith Evangelical | Roseberg | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Faith Lutheran | Clatskanie | 10 | | | 43 | | | | 31 | 310 | | |
| Faith | Albany | 33 | | | 77 | | | | | 350 | | |
| Fir Lawn | Sweet Home | 67 | | | | | | | | 220 | | |
| First | St. Helens | 30 | | | | | | | 21 | 167 | | |
| Gethsemane | Portland | 28 | | | 110 | | | | | 482 | | |
| Grace | Scappoose | 101 | | | 100 | | | | | 647 | | |
| Grace First | Bend | 48 | | | 112 | | | | | 405 | | |
| Grace Lutheran | Corvallis | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grace Lutheran | Eugene | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Holy Cross | Portland | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Immanuel | Woodburn | | | | | | | | | | | |

January Events

Facility Closure Jan. 1-2
 School District Closure..... Jan. 1-5
 (Preschool will be closed; GCCC will remain open for school-aged students)
 School District Closure..... Jan. 15
 (Preschool will be closed; GCCC will remain open for school-aged students)

Past Month's Photos



Messages from our Teachers

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe Christmas has come and gone. It is always bitter sweet to pack up the decorations and start fresh! We had such a wonderful time in our classroom this December focusing on the real reason for the season - Jesus! We learned about Advent, the weeks leading up to Jesus' birth, along with why Jesus came to earth as a baby. We also did several other fun crafts like making gingerbread houses, peppermints for our candy tree and snowflakes as well as continuing to learn our letters, numbers, colors and shapes. We had a wonderful Christmas party before break including an indoor snowball fight that was full of lots of giggles and squeals! Memories are so important and we love making them with the kids. As we closed December, we talked about the upcoming New Year and how in 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, "if anyone is in Christ (believes in Him as their Savior) they are a new creation." Newness of life is what we strive for as we begin 2024 teaching your children more of the foundations that are so important in their learning journey.

-Daycare Program, Miss Noorah

The New Year is finally here! Welcome 2024! Goodbye to 2023. That year is behind us. Your children have learned all about the best gift we have been given. The Messiah, Jesus and his birth. Now is the time to learn about winter things. What is hibernation? What animals hibernate. Also in growing in their knowledge of Arctic animals and their habitats. Your students will enjoy learning through fun winter activities such as snowflakes and snowmen. We will also be diving into Capital and Lowercase letters and each sound each letter makes. We still would love to see your families represented in our classroom, if you wouldn't mind emailing me a family photo to preschool@gracescapoose.org or send a photo via BrightWheel that would be much appreciated. With that being our "Classroom Family Tree" is growing and growing still! We as a Staff here at GCCC hope you all had a Merry Christmas! I can't wait to see all the learning experiences I can share with your children in this new year.

-Preschool Program, Mrs. Allison

Grace Lutheran Church
 Sunday Service @ 10:15am

Daycare Program

Curriculum

Week 12: Jan. 3-5

Phonics: Jj (Joy)

Bible Story: David Bringing the Ark of Covenant to Jerusalem

Bible Memory: Psalm 118:24

Math: Spatial Relationships

Science: Sounds/Music all instruments.

Week 13: Jan. 8-12

Phonics: Kk (King)

Bible Story: Elijah

Bible Memory: Colossians 3:2

Math: Spatial Relationships

Science: Mirrors and Reflections

Winter & Seasons: Jan. 15-19

Recap of Lessons

Week 14: Jan. 22-26

Phonics: Ll (Listen)

Bible Story: Jonah

Bible Memory: Jonah 2:1

Math: Classification

Science: Fish

Week 15: Jan. 29- Feb. 2

Phonics: Mm (Mighty)

Bible Story: Daniel in the Lion's Den

Bible Memory: Exodus 20:4-5a

Math: Classification

Science: Animal Habitats

Preschool Program

Curriculum

Letters: J, K, L

Numbers: 7

Colors: White

Shape: Triangle

Self Help Skill: Putting on a Hat and Scarf

Bible Stories: "Elijah" and "Jonah"

Bible Verses:

- "This is day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24
- "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." Colossians 3:2
- "Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly." - Jonah 2:1
- "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

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"



Let Robbie or Mr. Tom know. We are looking to add a few NEW faces to **our already amazing** Sunday School Team. Our current team is:

- ☞ Mr. Tom
- ☞ Robbie Burum
- ☞ Kristin Person
- ☞ Steve Person
- ☞ Steve Pollard (backup)



Sunday School volunteers are required to be background checked in compliance with our Safe Sanctuary guidelines. If you have any questions regarding this, please see Robbie.

Each Sunday that youth Sunday School is offered, we have 2 volunteers lead a lesson together.

- ☞ 1 volunteer is the "sermon/lesson" provider and the other volunteer coordinates the craft/snack/activity portion of the lesson.
- ☞ For example, Mr. Tom provides the structured service portion (prayer, offering, lesson) and I provide the activity portion.

If you have any questions about being a Sunday School volunteer, please see Mr. Tom or Robbie.



Message from the Treasurer

I thought it was a good time to update you on our financial status since our budget approval at the August Voters Meeting. These amounts are through the month of December.

As expected, we have been experiencing a deficit on the GLC side. Our monthly budget was projected to produce a deficit of about \$5,400, which has been pretty accurate. On the GCCC side it has been mixed, some months with surplus and others with a deficit. As we said at the budget meeting that GCCC will not produce the surplus that it has in the past mainly due to our salary schedule revision to be more in line with NW District wages. We have been keeping track of our totals for the fiscal year so far in the Operating Reserve account, and at the end of December it has a negative (deficit) balance of \$15,595.24. This is the total deficit between GLC & GCCC we have experienced over the past 4 months. In January, GCCC increased fees and our director has kept a good handle on staffing and budget. I am hopeful that we will start to see that negative balance decrease over the next months.

We currently have a certificate at InRoads Credit Union, which will mature in February. The certificate has a current rate of 3.93% and so far on our \$250k balance we have earned \$9,390.06 in interest. The council decided this month that we would reinvest \$200k in another 5 month certificate at a rate of 5% once it matures.



We also have funds with Lutheran Church Extension Fund earning a 1.25% interest rate and the current balance on this is \$135,570.28 and will not mature until 5/16/27.

Overall, our bank accounts' balance total \$563,864.88. This includes our checking account, savings account, InRoads Certificate, LCEF fund and GCCC Accts Receivable.

In His Service,

Janet Wentz, Treasurer

February

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|-------------------------------|
| CONFIRMATION CLASSES 2/4 2/11 2/25 | | PHILIPARE FOR ADULT BIBLE STUDY 2/4 2/11 2/25 | | 1 6:15P Girl Scouts | 2 6:30A Mens Bible Study | 3 9A Red Cross Blood Drive |
| COMMUNION 4 9A Adult Bible Study 10:15A Worship, SS CELEBRATIONS CAKE AFTER SERVICE-12ETON | 5 5:30P Elder's Meeting (Zoom) | 6 10A Ladies' Bible Study 5:30P Mission Servants | 7 4:15P BOE Zoom 10A Quilters <i>Stephanie Robert Pastor—Early Release 1:30-4:00CC to Fellowship Hall (770) on Wednesdays.</i> | 8  9:30A GCCC Board 6P GCCC Staff Meeting | 9 6:30A Mens Bible Study | 10 |
| 11 9A Adult Bible Study 10:15A Worship, SS LADIES LUNCH OUT AFTER CHURCH | 12 | 13 10A Ladies' Bible Study | 14 ASH WEDNESDAY 10A Quilters 6PM Potluck & Service <i>* POT will be available by 5:30P (per menu for Luncheon Potluck)</i> | 15 6:15P Girl Scouts | 19 6:30A Mens Bible Study | 20 |
| COMMUNION 18 9A Adult Bible Study 10:15A Worship, SS MCW SLEETTER DEADLINE! ... 2/19 | 19 6A-6P GCCC in Fellowship Hall— PRESIDENT'S DAY 5:00P Church Council | 20 10A Ladies Bible Study | 21 10A Quilters 6PM Potluck & Service <i>* POT will be available by 5:30P (per menu for Luncheon Potluck)</i> | 22 | 26 6:30A Mens Bible Study | 27 |
| 25 9A Adult Bible Study 10:15A Worship 11:30A Fellowship Meeting | 26 | 27 10A Ladies Bible Study | 28 10A Quilters 6PM Potluck & Service <i>* POT will be available by 5:30P (per menu for Luncheon Potluck)</i> | 29  6:15P Girl Scouts LEAP YEAR | YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL "SS" 2/4 2/11 2/18 | |

Servant Schedule

| | COMMUNION | | ASH WEDNESDAY | COMMUNION | LENT SERVICE | YOUTH IN SERVICE | LENT SERVICE |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| FEBRUARY | 4 | 11 | 14 | 18 | 21 | 25 | 28 |
| Elder | Steve Pollard Jan Surry | Rudie Pletz Steve Layton | | Steve Layton Janet & Don Wentz | | Steve Pollard Steve Pollard | |
| Ushers ** | Steve Surry | Rudie Pletz | | Justin Friend (train ing) | | Baylee Lankow (training) | |
| Greeter* | Cindy Squires | Dee Dee Morse | Pat Hoag | Leslie Ruby | Sherry Shaffer | Janet Johnson | Tom Morse |
| Scripture Reader | Steve Layton | Carole Pletz | | Don Wentz | | Rudie Pletz | |
| Acolyte* | Matthew Boren | Matthew Boren | Elder | Baylee Lankow | Elder | Baylee Lankow | Elder |
| Altar Care | Lynnda Fuller | | | Gail Walker | | | |
| Altar Flower | | | | | | Pletz | |
| Music | Lynnda Fuller | Judi Hayes | Lynnda | Judi Hayes | Judi Hayes | Lynnda Fuller | Lynnda |
| CELEBRATORY CAKE | Steve & Cheri Layton | | | | | | |
| Youth Sunday School | Tom & Robbie | Person Family | | Tom & Robbie | | FAMILY SERVICE | |
| Adult Bible Study | Steve Layton | Steve Layton | | Steve Layton | | Steve Layton | |
| Mens Bible Study | Steve Pollard | Steve Pollard | | Steve Pollard | | Steve Pollard | |
| Ladies Bible Study | Dee Dee Morse | Dee Dee Morse | | Dee Dee Morse | | Dee Dee Morse | |

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



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024 Potluck Schedule

- February 14 – Ash Wednesday – Gail Walker – Chef's Choice
- February 21 – Vicki Krenz – Mexican
- February 28 – Deb Liao - Casseroles
- March 6 – Gail Walker - Italian
- March 13 – Vicki Krenz – Soup & Salad
- March 20 – Deb Liao – Chef's Choice
- Thursday March 28 – Seder Meal & Potluck (all circles)



Please call/text Gail if you have any questions or need additional help.

503-396-1077