



THE GOOD NEWS OF GRACE

September 2025

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of
Grace Lutheran Church
1408 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555
Volume 9 Issue 7



If – Then / Because – Therefore

Dear People of Grace;

We all have preferences. We may not be conscious of the roots of our preferences – family traditions, reactivity to family traditions, culture, popular fads, etc.. Tastes, color, clothing, automobiles, type of home in which you live, yes of course politics... these can all be understood as preferences for this or that.

Your thoughts on scripture and theology in general can be understood that way, too. Do you prefer living by the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes (if you had to choose)? Do you prefer the Gospel of John, or Luke? Do you prefer to work for justice, or do you concentrate on being personally prepared for the Second Coming of Christ? Is the death of Jesus God's answer to Empire, or about satisfying the wrath of God? Theories, principles, and teachings based in scripture, we must admit, have some amount of preference. One example from history: Martin Luther found great inspiration in the writings of the Apostle Paul, especially focusing on unearned grace that frees the person from the ways of "the Old Adam", whereas the Roman Catholic teaching of his time focused much more heavily on St. Peter, the Keys to the Kingdom and the role of the church in granting grace (read forgiveness) according to the way the Church was organized. Both perspectives are supported in scripture.

In scripture, we come across many passages that use "if/then" statements. If you walk in the ways of God, following God's commandments, then you will prosper and be blessed. We also encounter "because/therefore" statements. Because (or since) we have been justified through Jesus Christ, we have peace with God.

I tend to be a "because/therefore" person, while acknowledging the existence of plenty "if/then" verses. If/then, for all the promise and clear steps toward holiness, is ultimately for me a failure of my own abilities. My own will gets in the way. Living more through the perspective of "because/therefore", I feel freed up to receptivity of the life of the Spirit.

Because God has claimed me in baptism into Christ, therefore I live with an underlying trust that I am always and forever held in God. Because God has provided for me and my family, therefore I will look to the needs of the neighbor with generosity. Because... therefore... helps me live with holy imagination.

Try this for yourself. Prayerfully examine God's love for you and think of the because's and the therefore's that have unfolded for you, perhaps even without you realizing it at the time.

Peace to you,
Pastor James Aalgaard

THE MISSION OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



To proclaim and celebrate the gospel of Jesus Christ through word and sacraments so that a community of believers is created, trained, nurtured, and sent into mission.

Fall Worship Schedule Begins September 7

We will return to our Fall schedule on **Sunday, September 7**, with worship at **10:30 a.m.** Please join us!

Important scheduling note: September 14, 21, and 28, we will not be able to worship at Grace due to the work being done at the Elliott Street entrance. Instead, we will be joining Celebration Lutheran Church in East Wenatchee (801 8th St NE) for their 10:00 a.m. service those Sundays.



Building Update

Gravel is being placed and prepped for the patio. Storage of items from the fellowship hall and other parts of the building happened August 21. The firewall project in the fellowship hall and downstairs is progressing. Final clearance from the city is pending for our new water main. Trim and painting of the new entry are in progress, as well as window installation. The week of August 25, excavation is beginning outside the new entrance to accommodate drainage, concrete, and new sidewalk. **Please note:** if you have mobility challenges, the access ramp/walkway will be unavailable. We will provide updates as we learn information about the timing of that area.



Working on the kitchen's plumbing



The Fellowship Hall is cleared out in preparation for several projects in the space.



Tom Gausman leads a tour of the construction site.



Melanie McQuaig signs a narthex door frame with a blessing.



Furnishings are moved to a new storage unit in preparation for a new IT/file room.



FROM THE DESK OF INTERN LAURA

Hello, people of Grace!

Last Saturday, Guy and I rolled up with a car full of boxes, and before I could even wonder how we'd manage, the O'Daffers and crew had everything whisked inside ready for unboxing. That was just the beginning of the welcome I've received in this first week. Pastor James and Dawn introduced me to the local theatre scene (who knew that "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" would be such a great introduction to Wenatchee culture?). Elsa prayed on the spot during the Kid's Talk—take that, seminary training! Mark made sure I didn't leave worship without a Twinkie in hand—proof that manna comes in many forms. Nancy gave me a pep talk strong enough to last a whole internship. And nothing says "home" like a basket of cards hanging on my office door on the first day.

I've met church leaders, joined staff for lunch, sat with council (who are banging out this building project like a boss), and gathered around the Word with new friends. Internship is about "pastor and people" learning together, and if this first week is any clue, it's going to be a year full of grace, laughter, and joy. I am deeply grateful to begin this journey with you.

Blessings and peace,
Intern Laura



Music Groups Resume Rehearsals after Summer Break

Grace's music ensembles enliven and enrich our worship experiences. We rejoice in the addition of vocal and instrumental groups, involving dozens of talented people of school age and beyond. We invite new members in all of our groups at any point during the school year. Fall is an ideal time to explore this opportunity. For further information, or to volunteer, contact Director of Music Ministries Ruth Anderson at the church office.

Rehearsals resume after Labor Day:

Bells of Grace (teens-adults) meets in the balcony on Wednesdays, 6:15-7:15 pm beginning September 3.

Voices of Grace (teens-adults) meets in the balcony on Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 pm beginning September 3.

Ukulele Ensemble (teens-adults) meets in the Rehearsal Room on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm beginning October 14.

Drum Circle (all ages) meets in the Rehearsal Room on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:30-6:15 pm beginning October 14.

Growing in Grace (children age 3 and up) meets periodically throughout the season

Brass Ensemble (teens-adults) rehearses prior to festival worship services

Join an Ensemble ... A month, a season, a year, a lifetime. You'll be glad you did...

Discernment Sharing & Listening Groups

You should receive a call from one of the facilitators to invite you to a session. If the session times you are offered won't work for you, there will be other times available. These are one-time informal small group gatherings designed to talk about needs in our congregation and our community and how you think God is guiding Grace Lutheran to minister to those needs.

We are using four questions to guide our discussion:

1. What two specific needs are you aware of in the community that surrounds Grace?
2. What gifts/strengths does Grace have to meet those needs?
3. In what ministry areas is there energy and focus at Grace Lutheran for faith-filled ministry?
4. What does the mission and ministry of Grace mean to you?

Facilitators are: Ruth Westby, Kristin Thorstenson, Meghan Johnson, David Brushwood, John McQuaig, Alan Smith and Riva Morgan. Reach out to one of them if you have specific scheduling needs.



Generations in Grace hike in the Canyon 2 meadow
– a glorious day!

Hike and Seek

Our final Hike and Seek of the summer was an evening hike to Castle Rock. It was a beautiful hike. The entire trail was in the shade when we started up at 6:45. There were 8 of us and we all managed to stay together until we split up and some went to the viewpoint just below the castle and the rest of us hiked and scrambled to the top. When we started down the lights were starting to come on in the valley below and we got to the cars just before we would have needed flashlights.



ENDOWMENT FUNDS FOR DISTRIBUTION Deadline is September 10

We are pleased to announce the opening of project applications for an Endowment Fund distribution this year. We have \$30,000 to distribute, thanks to the turnaround in the financial markets. To date our church has given over \$347,000 from this fund to God's work within our church, community, nation & world. We look forward to seeing what beneficial proposals this money can be put towards.

Proposal criteria:

1. Should promote giving & ministering to others.
2. Should benefit programs or people outside your family.
Should be submitted or sponsored by a GLC member or team.
3. May include programs/ projects for GLC but should be for items outside the normal operating budget.

Applications are available in the narthex or on the [resources page of our website](#).



AUGUST 2025

Grace Lutheran's August Game Night held at Celebration Lutheran Church during renovations.

3rd Friday of each month

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Celebration Lutheran Church

801 8th St NE, East Wenatchee



A small but mighty group enjoyed fun games, good food, and great fellowship at our August Game Night. We hope to see more of our friends next month—**Friday, September 19**—6:00—8:00 p.m. Please join us.

September Worship Assistants

	Acolyte	Assisting Minister	Lector	Altar Guild	Tech	Communion Assistant
9/7	Josh Gale					
9/14						
9/21						
9/28						

Worship at Celebration Lutheran
10:00 a.m.
September 14, 21, & 28

Seeking Worship Helpers

Volunteer helpers make our worship run smoothly. We would love to expand our volunteer pool. [Here is a link to a "google sheet"](#) where you can put your name on an open slot. If you are having a hard time navigating the google sheet, please call (509-663-2189) or email our [church office](#) or [Pastor Aalgaard](#) and we can help.

Please note! The google sheet is a single document that can be changed (and added to) by anyone who has the link. You are very welcome to add your name to a slot that's empty, but please do not remove others' names or otherwise change the form.

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, September 7 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

Sunday, September 14 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

Sunday, September 21 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13

Sunday, September 28 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31

Morning Prayer

We invite you to Morning Prayer, meeting Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. (as an effort to accommodate people's work schedules). The following is a description of our typical morning prayer routine:

- + a time of reflecting/sharing together about the upcoming scripture for Sunday
- + lighting candles during a time of informal prayers, which can be offered aloud or silently
- + light refreshments and fellowship afterward at approximately 7:40 a.m.

It's a great way to start the day! Hope to see you there.

PRAYERS OF GRACE

- ♦ *Dan Martinson (Ann Martinson-Bartlett's brother)* – prayers for continued healing for his heart and for medication refinement.
- ♦ *Lillian Welton* - prayers for healing after valve replacement surgery on August 20.
- ♦ *The Family of Patty Christensen* - Patty died on August 8. Prayers for peace and comfort for the family. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, October 11 at 1 p.m. at Grace.
- ♦ *Dan Hutchison* - prayers that he will be able to receive help for a medical concern. Also, emotional support for Joe Trowbridge as he navigates this time for Dan.
- ♦ *David Thomas (Marshall Thomas' brother)* - prayers for healing as he faces serious health issues.
- ♦ *Elizabeth Revelise (Chris Prince's wife)* - for healing, strength and the rebuilding of immunity as she finishes chemotherapy.
- ♦ *Jim Wurl* - as he builds strength to walk.
- ♦ *Bonnie Howeler* - now living in an adult care home in Kirkland.
- ♦ *Paul Arndt* - pulmonary fibrosis which is untreatable.
- ♦ *Erling Rivedal* - receiving hospice care.

To submit a prayer, please call (509-663-2189) or email our [church office](#) or [Pastor Aalgaard](#). Please share with us details that are pertinent to the request. If you are asking us to pray for a person other than yourself, please seek that person's permission. Prayer requests are published for four weeks. You are welcome to resubmit your request if you would like it to remain on the list longer. Updates are welcome, also. We will do our best to help your request have a balance of privacy protection and sharing information. The ministry staff at Grace reserves the right to edit requests.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dane Schmidt	9/2	Asher Didesch	9/12	Wanda Ashcraft	9/24
Chad DuLac	9/5	Hailey Melton	9/14	Della DuLac	9/24
Milt Herman	9/5	Marshall Thomas	9/16	Sue Garness	9/25
Bob Bartlett	9/6	George Asan	9/20	Corinna Nelson	9/25
Mike Kintner	9/6	Gary Otheim	9/20	Dave Brushwood	9/26
Virginia Hwang	9/8	James Aalgaard	9/21	Kris Paxman	9/26
Greyson Zanol	9/8	Jackson Dymond	9/22	Mike Sweeney	9/28
Tom Redmon	9/9	Linda Sinnett	9/22	Courtney Coe	9/29
Gerri Kern	9/10	Jesson Vogt	9/22	Tami Woolsey	9/29
Elsa Vogt	9/11	Suzanne Helgersen	9/23		

*Thank
You*

Sisters and Brothers in Christ at Grace Lutheran,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1050 for the hospital, Secondary School and Travel for our Sister Synod of the UKD in Tanzania.

If anyone in your congregation is interested in traveling there in June 2026 we are accepting applications. They are on our [website](https://nwimsynod.org/): <https://nwimsynod.org/>

Janet Boyer for NWIM Synod

To the Grace Lutheran Church community –

Thank you for helping LCC International University finish the 2024-2025 financial year well. Your generous gift to the Annual Fund made a valuable impact toward the transformation of students' lives.

Thank you for your commitment to the mission of LCC. May God bless you.

With Gratitude,

Marlena Wall

President, LCC International University

TREASURER TALK :**7/31/25 Results**

Offerings for the first seven months totaled \$256,699. This is \$5,801 under budget. Offerings for the first 7 months compared to last year are down by \$14,064. Interest income for the first 7 months totaled \$47,389. This is over budget by \$29,889. Expenses were \$300,551 which is \$16,034 under budget. Resulting Net Margin \$3,537 compared to the projected deficit of \$36,585.

	Jan-July 2025	Jan-July 2025	2025 Budget	Variance
Total Offerings, & Misc	\$270,763	\$256,699	\$262,500	(\$5,801)
Total Interest	<u>\$42,593</u>	<u>\$47,389</u>	<u>\$17,500</u>	<u>\$29,889</u>
Total Income	\$313,266	\$304,088	\$280,000	\$24,088
Operating Expenses	(\$304,909)	(\$300,551)	(\$316,585)	\$16,034
Net Margin (Deficit)	\$8,357	\$3,537	(\$36,585)	\$40,122

Cash on hand is \$435,459 which includes Treasurer Reserve of \$40,000 and the Deficit Reserve of \$258,500.

	07/31/24	7/31/25
Cash Surplus Position	\$130,787	\$136,959
Treasurer Reserve	\$40,000	\$40,000
Deficit Reserve	<u>\$258,500</u>	\$258,500
Total	\$429,287	\$435,459

[Dennis Burgett](#)

COUNCIL CORNER

August 19, 2025

- Construction project is ongoing with windows, permitting, and concrete work. New completion slated for late November to December.
- Member directories are complete and available (one per household). Many thanks to Tami Woolsey for her management of the project.
- The Semi-Annual Congregation meeting has been moved to October 19th due to scheduling conflicts.

2025 TEAM & COMMITTEE LEADERS

Arts:	Marshall Thomas
Building & Grounds:	Dave Coe, Tom Gausman
Endowment:	Karen Zanol
Faith Formation:	<i>Open</i>
Fellowship:	<i>Open</i>
Graceful Garden:	Linda Sinnett
Pastoral Support:	Julie Banken
Staff Support:	<i>Open</i>
Social Concerns:	Mike Sweeney, Bob Bartlett
Stream Team:	Marlena La Paz
Worship:	Kathy Gavin
Youth & Community:	Sue Coe
Memorial Garden:	Ernie Bentsen

2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Suellen Harris
Vice President:	Dave Coe
Treasurer:	Dennis Burgett
Secretary:	Chad DuLac
Members-at-Large:	Tory Schmidt John McQuaig Paula Salter Tami Woolsey

SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM

What's Happening Fall 2025

Gods Work Our Hands Sunday - September 7th

- This year we will be collecting Junior High and Senior High Coats for the Kidz 4 Coat Drive. A tub will be in the narthex.

Make a Difference Day - October 25th

- The church will be collecting Junior and Senior High Coats and sorting the coats. We will be using the Methodist Church again this year. We will need volunteers. Watch for more information.

Christmas Gift Cards for WHS experiencing Homelessness

- A Christmas Tree will be setup in the narthex where individuals can pick a tag with a dollar amount and store to purchase gift cards. Individuals can write a check to Grace Lutheran Church and in the memo line write WHS Gift Cards.

Other information

- The team is looking into supporting a respite adult day care that will open in March and will take place at the 7th Day Adventist Church.
- We are wanting to support a family from Afghanistan who arrived in the valley.

Packing Friendship Update

Packing Friendship, our weekend backpack program, is beginning the 15th year of providing food to local students. During the 2024 - 2025 school year, our team of volunteers provided almost 1,500 bags of food to students at Washington Elementary School, Foothills Middle School, and Pinnacles Prep. We will be serving the same three schools again this year. More than 20 other churches and services organizations provide food for students at the other schools throughout the Wenatchee and Eastmont School Districts.

We typically start the school year with a food drive - you probably remember the paper bags with lists of food. Due to our construction project, we will **not** be holding a food drive this fall. We may have one in the winter months, so please watch for details. At press time, we are exploring options for storing food and packing bags while we don't have access to the Fellowship Hall. We may need more volunteers to assist with shopping for and transporting food - we are still trying to figure out the logistics. If you are interested in helping, please contact [Jen Pearson-Gale](#).

As always, we appreciate the support of our church family and volunteers—this program couldn't happen without you!

ANNA & MIRIAM CIRCLES

Anna Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 16, at 10:00 a.m. at Grace. If you have questions, feel free to contact [Linda Sinnett](#) or [Faye DeJong](#).

Miriam Circle will meet on Tuesday, September 16, at 7:00 p.m. at Grace. If you have questions, please contact the church office.

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 p.m. Arts Team	3 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	4 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 6:30 p.m. Book Club	5	6
7 10:30 a.m. Worship	8	9 3:30 p.m. Building & Grounds Team 5:00 p.m. Social Concerns Team	10 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	11 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m. BeFrienders 5:15 p.m. Worship Team 6:30 p.m. Book Club	12	13
14 10:00 a.m. Worship at Celebration Lutheran	15	16 10:00 a.m. Anna Circle 6:00 p.m. Church Council 7:00 p.m. Miriam Circle	17 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	18 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 5:00 p.m. Graceful Garden 6:30 p.m. Book Club	19 6:00 p.m. Game Night at Celebration Lutheran	20
21 10:00 a.m. Worship at Celebration Lutheran	22	23	24 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study 6:15 p.m. Bells of Grace 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace	25 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 6:30 p.m. Book Club	26	27
28 10:00 a.m. Worship at Celebration Lutheran	29	30				

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

1408 Washington Street

Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555

(509) 663-2189

Return Service Requested**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF****Pastor James Aalgaard**

pastor@glcwen.org

Pastor

Deacon Ruth Anderson

deacon@glcwen.org

Director of Music Ministries

Laura Olsen

intern@glcwen.org

Pastoral Intern

Jen Pearson -Gale

office@glcwen.org

Office Administrator

Ann Martinson-Bartlett

Office Assistant

SUNDAY WORSHIP**10:30 a.m. - September 7****10:00 a.m. - September 14, 21, & 28**
at Celebration Lutheran, East Wenatchee**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS****Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.****Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.****CONTACT**

(509) 663-2189

office@glcwen.org**WEBSITE**www.glcwen.org