

GRACE



LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE GOOD NEWS OF GRACE

July 2020

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of
Grace Lutheran Church
1408 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2555
Volume 4 Issue 6

Thoughts About Culture (and Kinship)

“Go... teach them to obey my commandments.” (from Matthew 28)

*“I have become all things to all people,
so I might by all means save some.” (from 1 Corinthians 9)*

Dear friends in Christ,

Years ago, I was very surprised to learn that culture and cultural differences should be recognized and studied in large AND small ways. I was somewhat aware of the larger ways to understand culture: American culture as compared to other countries, Christian culture compared to other religions, cultures of various languages and ethnicities. I could operate well, I thought, with a standard set of assumptions and definitions. Also, in all honesty, I thought that I could avoid discomfort by populating my relationship circles with people I thought were most like me.

Then, the lid blew off of my understanding when I realized the often-overlooked influence of “smaller” cultural difference. There is a culture in one’s workplace. There is family culture. In religion, there is cultural difference not only between faiths, but also between faith communities (the cultures of Celebration Lutheran Church in East Wenatchee and Grace Lutheran are different). The complexities of culture related especially to one’s values, lived experience, and personal histories gave me the feeling that I was standing at the base of a very high mountain, and was expected to climb. (Where I grew up, mountains existed in photos only.) I didn’t feel like I could be a cultural tourist anymore. To use another metaphor, I got a sense that I was all of a sudden in a mine field, not wanting to make mistakes, not wanting to offend, not wanting to be so curious about the difference of the other that my attention made the other feel like a cultural specimen. Philosophically, I wondered how in God’s name could communication and common understanding between people even happen!

The above scripture quotes lift up two possible missteps about culture, on entering the culture of another. Followers of Jesus are people who are sent. There is something worth sharing with the world, and my hope is that you get a reminder every time you engage with this congregation. One misinterpretation of the Matthew verse, often called the Great Commission, assumes that the culture of the other needs to be corrected, or even superseded by the culture of the missionary. “Teaching them to obey” must mean demanding that the other culture must divorce themselves from their own treasured past and be ever-so grateful that the Gospel (in particular the gospel-bearers) came into their lives. Now, they can “get it right.” Can you see the problem with this? Cultural dominance creates a lot of collateral damage. Cultural communities are forced into a position where they grieve the loss of so much good in what came before. This approach creates a kind of spiritual cultural classism that isn’t easily shaken. This is a topic of great exploration and study and has led to a radical rethinking of mission movements. When Jesus prayed “I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly”, I am certain he was not calling for cultural erasure.

Continued on next page

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.

Next, a verse from the Apostle Paul: “I have become all things to all people.” What an awesome thing to aspire to: the idea that I could be so like, so similar to the other that there are absolutely no barriers to their understanding of the gospel message. This verse seems to speak of the possibility that I can so deeply and thoroughly understand another person that they can’t even detect any difference between themselves, and me. We could be fused with one another as a means to further the gospel. Well, I hope you can see this is impossible. The damage caused by taking this idea to its logical conclusion is that I (as the one sent) become nothing, a kind of blank page or a piece of foil that gets pressed onto the totality of the other. I don’t think the other is really looking for copies of themselves. Is there another way to “be”?

The word “kinship” comes to mind. I see that to mean, “I am me. You are you.” Kinship does not repel you from me, or me from you. Kinship creates space for exploring and marveling over one another’s difference. When both choose to resist not the culture of the other, but rather the impulse to overpower the other, there can be a gentle, tender new growth that can be nurtured over time. It’s tough work, and I have not arrived. I can tell when it works, and I’m slowly getting better at noticing when it doesn’t.

Be healthy, and safe, dear people of Grace!

My days off in July: 6, 13, 20, 27

Together! Pastor James Aalgaard

10@10

Each Wednesday and Friday we have a chance to gather and learn together with our "10@10" videos on Facebook. We want to make sure you know that **you don't have to have a Facebook account to see the videos, and that you can see them anytime after they are published.** Just go the Grace Lutheran Church Wenatchee Facebook page and click on the “Videos” link on the left side of the page, or just click [here](#), to see all of the GLC Facebook videos. You will find links to some of our most recent 10@10 videos below. We hope you will take a few minutes to explore some of our content.

[10@10 Friday, June 26](#)

[10@10 Wednesday, June 24](#)

[10@10 Friday, June 19](#)

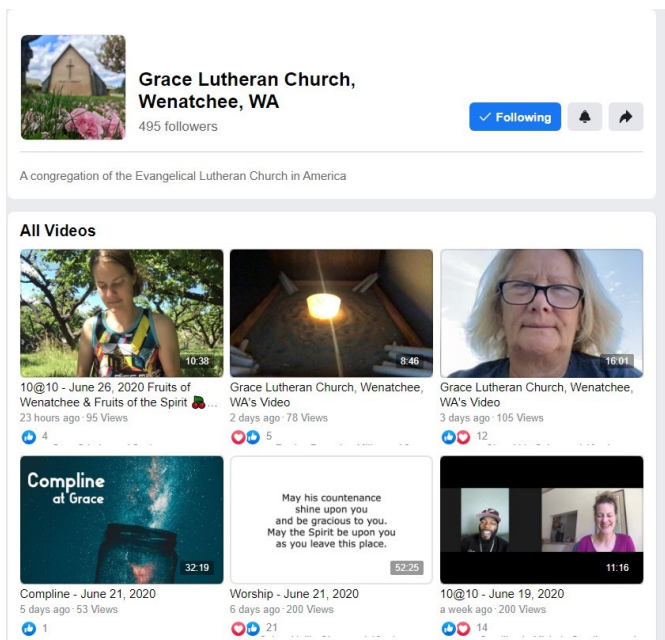
[10@10 Wednesday, June 17](#)

[10@10 Friday, June 12](#)

[10@10 Wednesday, June 10](#)

[10@10 Friday, June 5](#)

[10@10 Wednesday, June 3](#)



The screenshot shows the Facebook profile for Grace Lutheran Church, Wenatchee, WA. The profile picture is a barn in a field. The page name is "Grace Lutheran Church, Wenatchee, WA" with 495 followers. Below the profile information is a section titled "All Videos" displaying a grid of video thumbnails. The videos include:

- "10@10 - June 26, 2020 Fruits of Wenatchee & Fruits of the Spirit" (10:38, 23 hours ago, 95 Views, 4 likes)
- "Grace Lutheran Church, Wenatchee, WA's Video" (8:46, 2 days ago, 78 Views, 5 likes)
- "Grace Lutheran Church, Wenatchee, WA's Video" (16:01, 3 days ago, 105 Views, 12 likes)
- "Compline at Grace" (32:19, 5 days ago, 53 Views, 1 like)
- "Worship - June 21, 2020" (52:25, 6 days ago, 200 Views, 21 likes)
- "10@10 - June 19, 2020" (11:16, a week ago, 200 Views, 14 likes)



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

BEING A NEIGHBOR IN YOUR HOME & ON YOUR BLOCK

"God has told us what is good: to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God"

We are excited to offer an option for VBS created by Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Prior Lake MN. The theme is "Being a Neighbor In Your Home & On Your Block". It is created to be shared in neighborhoods or in homes. We have chosen to run the program on the following Tuesdays, July 28, August 4, 11 and 18 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Crafts and snacks will be dropped off at each house and you will be given a Zoom link to connect to for the class. We would like to encourage you to invite family and friends that are in your "safe" bubble to participate with you. If you are interested and/or have any questions please contact Beth at youthandfamily@glcwen.org.

The weekly themes are:

- The Walls Fall Down
- The Good Neighbor
- Talking Donkey
- Jesus Stands Tall

SUMMER OF SERVICE

As gathering in a large group is not recommended, we have come up with a list of options for your family or friends to do in a small group. If you would like to connect with Beth on one of these options, please email her at youthandfamily@glcwen.org.

- YWCA Thrift Store – Sorting: contact Laura Cale at YWCA NCW laura@ywcancw.org
- YWCA Mural – creating and painting a mural for the YWCA – contact Beth youthandfamily@glcwen.org
- Upper Valley MEND – gleaning fields for the Community Harvest program – contact Blakely Browne at gleaning@uvmend.org
- Small Miracles - help distribute lunches for children. Volunteers are needed at various locations, Monday through Thursday, beginning July 6. Please visit their website smallmiraclesncw.org for more information and to sign up.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
North Central Washington



SCENES FROM THE LUTE LOOP



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Robin Brown	7/2	Kathy Fulkerson	7/13	Olivia Morgan	7/21
Annie Stefanides	7/2	Brent Cunderla	7/14	Kaden Nestor	7/22
Molly Salter	7/3	Inku Hwang	7/14	John Evans	7/24
Elizabeth DuLac	7/4	Judy Lawson	7/17	Karl Lapo	7/24
Ron Johnson	7/4	Tony Gott	7/19	Shirley Houghland	7/28
Mel Radford	7/5	Donald Hatch	7/19	Andrea King	7/28
Abbey Fenhaus	7/7	Joanne Hanson	7/20	LaNita Williams	7/28
Helen Hunter	7/8	Colt Melton	7/20	Jane Hensel	7/29
Molly Gavin	7/10	Henrik Bentsen	7/21	Abby Reed	7/29
Rebecca Lake	7/11	Alexa Hwang	7/21	Brita Eisert	7/31
Marilyn Schiefelbein	7/11				

Virtual Worship

Facebook

Click [here](#) and watch for the "Facebook Premiere" which will show "live" on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and remain on our page afterwards for viewing anytime.

Zoom

Grace Lutheran Sunday Worship (and coffee fellowship)

Time: 9:00 a.m., with fellowship following worship

To join Zoom on a computer/tablet/smartphone, click here:

<https://luthersem.zoom.us/j/271972685>

Meeting ID: 271 972 685

To call in for Zoom (listen only):

- Dial the number for your area (highlighted number for Wenatchee)
- When prompted, dial 271 972 685 #
- You may be asked to press # one more time
- That's it! You should be in after that.

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose) <- use this number for Wenatchee

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://luthersem.zoom.us/u/adxhTqiFHY>



Virtual Coffee Fellowship

Sign onto Zoom (following the instructions above) following worship for virtual coffee fellowship! Pour yourself a cozy beverage and call or sign in to meet and catch up with the Grace community. People will be randomly put into smaller virtual "rooms" for more intimate conversation. All are welcome!

ANNA AND MIRIAM CIRCLES

Please stay tuned for information regarding future Anna Circle meetings once we are able to gather together.

Please contact Melanie McQuaig (melanie@mcqw.com or (509) 665-9000) for more information about Miriam Circle.

CONGRATUALTIONS TO OUR GRADUATES



SOCIAL CONCERNS TEAM

Members in Need Fund:



With current events regarding COVID-19, we acknowledge that some of our members will experience financial difficulties. There is a confidential process for financial help for our members and people who are involved in our faith community. The Members in Need Fund can help a household with up to \$300 per calendar year to help meet expenses. Forms are available on the resource tab of glcwen.org. The form can be printed, filled out, and mailed to the church. You can also email a copy to pastor@glcwen.org.

Applications are reviewed by a small committee consisting of the Pastor, Council President, and team leader of the Social Concerns Team.

Food Drive Challenge:

As many of you know, the Social Concerns Team along with several members of our congregation started a food drive the first of June and will continue to September 13th, 2020 (GOD's Work. Our Hands Day). The purpose of the food drive is to help support Wenatchee Valley Area Food Banks. The Social Concerns Team has committed up to \$10,000 to match what monies can be raised by the church. If the church can raise \$10,000, that means \$20,000 or more will be raised for the Wenatchee Valley Area Food Banks. As of June 23rd, the congregation has distributed 24 Thrivent Action Team Cards. An additional seven cards have been approved and are in the mail and \$750 in cash has been collected. In total the congregation has raised \$8,500. We are very close to our goal of \$10,000. With the Social Concerns Team match we have \$18,500, just \$1,500 short of our goal of \$20,000.



Currently the Food Banks are in need of food items (except onions & potatoes). The monies from the Federal Government will not kick in for a while, and with the COVID 19 crisis the need is great. The following are some food banks that are being supported by this drive:

- 1) Lighthouse Ministries
- 2) Upper Valley MEND (Leavenworth)
- 3) Community Action Council/Stuff the Bus
- 4) Serve Wenatchee/Stuff the Bus
- 5) St Vincent De Paul
- 6) Holy Apostles
- 7) The WHS Panther House

How you can be a part of the food drive:

For current Thrivent Members, Thrivent Action Team Cards make it easy to live generously. It starts with a simple question: "Who can I help and how?" In this particular case, you can help the Wenatchee Valley Area Food Banks by logging into your account and filling out the online application for the \$250 Action Team Card to support this event.

For Non-Thrivent Members there are two options:

1. Become a member of Thrivent. You can do this by going online to <https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/>. First, you decide on whether you want to be a Full Benefit Member or an Associate Member. From there, you can fill out an application online, download an application, or contact Jim Mayer at 509-669-8978. Once you receive your membership card you can set up an account and login. You will then fill out the application for the Thrivent Action Team Cards.
2. If you choose to donate monetarily, you can make your check out to Grace Lutheran Church with a notation of Wenatchee Valley Area Food Banks, and mail your check to the church.

Thrivent is a member organization serving Christians. As a member, you will get financial guidance, exclusive offers and opportunities to help others. When you join Thrivent, there is more to membership than you realize. Thrivent helps our community of more than 2 million members be wise with money while giving them access to exclusive member benefits and opportunities to give back – across town and around the globe.

GOD'S Work Our Hands:

GOD's Work Our Hands Day will take place on September 13th, 2020. This year's projects are Packing Friendship and The Wenatchee High School Panther House. More information will be available in upcoming newsletters.

ELCA NWIM Synod:

The Social Concerns Team has been awarded a \$2,000 COVID 19 block grant from the ELCA-NWIM Synod for the GLC Packing Friendship program. The monies will be spent to stock shelves for GLC Packing Friendship this coming school year.



Families in Need Update:



The Social Concerns Team has been working with the Wenatchee Valley Follies Guild to help a family we are calling "Family L". The team has helped "Family L" to obtain legal assistance and to contact the appropriate individuals at DSHS. They also provide financial assistance and financial guidance when appropriate, and have worked with the county and city to repair their lot from the flood damage of August 2019. They continue to help the adults obtain their GEDs.

With the monies received from the COVID19 Block Grant from the NWIM Synod, the team is taking on an additional family. "Family P" consists of a mother, grandmother, a 13-year-old son, a high school age daughter and an older son who graduated from high school last year. The mother and high school age daughter are working in a warehouse. The older son, who graduated from high school a year ago has a baby at home who he takes care of. The grandmother takes care of the 13-year old son. The father is no longer living, so the only source of income is the mother and high school aged daughter. Members of the Social Concerns Team will be meeting with "Family P" to assess the best way to help this family.

Noisy Offering:

As soon as we are back to church, we will start promoting the Noisy Offering. We will have the boxes for everyone to put the coins in. Until then, we would like everyone to save your coins.



Tune in for Our Weekly Virtual Gatherings (on Facebook unless otherwise indicated)

Sunday

- ◆ Worship, 9:00 a.m. (also via Zoom, contact GLC office)
- ◆ Fellowship Time via Zoom, following worship
- ◆ Jr./Sr. High School Youth group, 6:30 p.m. (via Zoom, contact Beth)
- ◆ Compline, 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday

- ◆ 10@10, 10:00 a.m.
- ◆ Lectionary Study (via Zoom, contact Intern Jenna), 11:00 a.m.

Thursday

- ◆ First Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

Friday

- ◆ 10@10, 10:00 a.m.

TREASURER TALK:

GRACE'S GENEROUS GIVINGS – MAY 2020

	Jan-May 2020	Jan-May 2019			4/30/20	4/30/19
Total Offerings, Misc	\$173,089	\$213,715		Cash Position	\$24,074	\$84,172
Operating Expenses	<u>(201,447)</u>	<u>(218,128)</u>		Treasurer Re- serve	<u>44,500</u>	<u>51,968</u>
Net Margin (Deficit)	(\$28,358)	(\$4,413)		Total	\$68,574	\$136,140

Just a reminder-Cash position was reduced by \$40,000 at yearend and Special Projects fund established, thus the large variance in cash available between 2019 and 2020.

As we continue on with COVID restrictions...Comparing January through May 2019 and January through May 2020, total offerings are down \$40,626. Expense comparison reflects reduction of \$16,681 for the same time period. Overall the 2020 year-to-date deficit is (\$28,358). This compares to budget estimate of (\$12,591).

FOX TRUST UPDATE. The value of the monies transferred in March was \$2,375,875. We then transferred \$1,000,000 to certificate of deposit with ELCA Mission investment fund, distributed \$100,000 in tithing, with remainder to brokerage account \$1,275,587. Balance of brokerage account as of 5/31/20 is \$1,435,904. The sale of the East Wenatchee property is scheduled to close July, 2020.

Gwen Sparks, Treasurer. 630-4239.

Council Corner

- 10% tithing from Fox Gift (brokerage portion) to be taken from UBS and disbursed to ELCA, NWIM Synod and Social Concerns.
- Council working to revise/ finalize weapons policy for Grace as part of Employee Handbook.
- Council seeking estimates to replace Grace's van as well as options to repair/gift/ or sell old van.

2020 TEAM & COMMITTEE LEADERS

Arts:	Phil Gregg
Building & Grounds:	Open
Endowment:	Karen Zanol
Faith Enrichment:	Jody Marquardt
Fellowship:	Shirley Leslie
Intern:	Trish Simmons
	Andy Sheets
Pastoral Support:	Micah Florea
Staff Support:	Ernie Bentsen
Social Concerns:	Kay Fisher
Worship:	Denise Miller
Youth:	Open

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Chad DuLac
Vice President:	Cathy Sweeney
Treasurer:	Gwen Sparks
Secretary:	Jody Marquardt
Members-at-Large:	Riva Morgan
	Monte Olson
	Ann Bartlett
	Andy Sheets

PRAYERS OF GRACE

Please contact Colleen Smith with any prayer requests, either by phone at 679-1742 or by email at glcprayerpartners@gmail.com. We welcome all prayer requests.

George Aalgaard (Pastor Aalgaard's father) - *comfort and strength through a chronic health issue*
Della Brett - *overall health, grieving the death of her sister Deda*
Walter Brooks
Patty Christensen - *thanks for healing and prayerful support*
Genevieve Crosby - *continued prayers for Genevieve and for her son and grandson*
Bob Curtis - *continued health support*
Vera Curtis - *thanks for healing and recovery*
Eric DeJong - *recovery from cancer*
Marv Dunbar - *prayers for health*
Anne Erdmann
Don Evenhus - *continued prayers for health*
Chuck Graves
Anna Guthrie - *support while in Indonesia*
Shirley Houghland - *healing*
Bonnie Howeler - *continued adaptation to visual impairment*

Gerri Kern - *continued health and peace of mind at this time of life*
Monte Olson - *continued recovery*
Carol Sunada - *prayers for health*
Beatrice Tate - *for her daughter, also grieving the death of her daughter Deda*
Wanda Rivedal - *prayers for patience and strength*
Jackie Carmichael - *for comfort and strength with a chronic health issue*
James Hodgson (Shirley Leslie's brother-in-law) - *continued prayers as he starts cancer treatment*
Charlene Hodgson, (Shirley Leslie's sister) - *continued prayers for ongoing heart problems as well as other health issues*
Ruthella Skagen - *peace in the midst of cancer treatment*
Thelma Allen - *prayers for Linda Luke's mom for health issues*
Tony Fisher - *for ongoing health issues*
Kay Fisher - *for recovery from surgery*
Gary Nelson - *prayers for healing*

LECTIONARY READINGS

July 5 5th Sunday after Pentecost	July 12 6th Sunday after Pentecost	July 19 7th Sunday after Pentecost	July 26 8th Sunday after Pentecost
Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136 Romans 8:26-39 Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom) 4:00 p.m. Grace Readers 6:00 p.m. Reopening Committee	2 8:00 a.m. First Prayer 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	3 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook)	4
5 9:00 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Zoom Hangout 9:00 p.m. Compline	6	7 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	8 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom) 4:00 p.m. Grace Readers 6:30 p.m. RIC	9 8:00 a.m. First Prayer 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	10 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook)	11 4:00 p.m. Alumni Youth Zoom Hangout
12 9:00 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Zoom Hangout 9:00 p.m. Compline	13	14 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Youth Team	15 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom) 4:00 p.m. Grace Readers 6:00 p.m. Reopening Committee	16 8:00 a.m. First Prayer 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	17 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook)	18
19 9:00 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Zoom Hangout 9:00 p.m. Compline	20	21 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. Miriam Circle	22 Newsletter Deadline 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom) 4:00 p.m. Grace Readers	23 8:00 a.m. First Prayer 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	24 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook)	25 4:00 p.m. Alumni Youth Zoom Hangout
26 9:00 a.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Zoom Hangout 9:00 p.m. Compline	27	28 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. VBS (Zoom) 6:00 p.m. Council	29 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook) 11:00 a.m. Lectionary Study (Zoom) 4:00 p.m. Grace Readers	30 8:00 a.m. First Prayer 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	31 10:00 a.m. 10@10 (Facebook)	

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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor James Aalgaard pastor@glcwen.org	Pastor
Beth Smallbeck youthandfamily@glcwen.org	Minister of Youth & Family
Jameson Varpness music@glcwen.org	Director of Music Ministries
Jenna Bergeson intern@glcwen.org	Intern
Judy Olson olsonjm@nwi.net	Organist
Rich Smallbeck rsmallbeck63@gmail.com	Facilities Maintenance Manager
Jen Gale office@glcwen.org	Office Administrator
Roxanne Reindl finance@glcwen.org	Finance Manager

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 a.m.

COMPLINE

Sundays at 9:00 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**As of this publication date, church offices are closed
Due to COVID-19. We are working from home and
checking voicemail and email messages regularly.
Please don't hesitate to contact us.**

PHONE: (509) 663-2189

WEBSITE

www.glcwen.org