

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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**PAID**

Blaine, WA

Permit No. 41



## **Worship Service**

Sunday 10:30 am

Sunday School & Bible Class 9am

### Upcoming:

**January 9—De-decoration:** Please join us as we gather to take down the Christmas decorations. Chili will be served.

**January 16**—Council Meeting after church.

## Minute Meditations from Pastor!

Good and Death - these two things don't seem to fit together, do they? The scriptures talk a great deal about both. From the beginning, God created humans and said this is good, but that was creating life. Life is good. But death is not good. Death is the opposite of life. Death is the end. The Good Shepherd is good too. He pulls us to his chest and embraces us with his warmth and love. He leads us all through life and watches over us. Even through the valley of the shadow of death, he is with us. This is very good. How does Good and Death go together? A Good Death is when we accept God's peace. Waiting in peace for eternal rest with family and friends; enjoying quality time together, laughing and crying. Celebrating the gift of life and knowing that one day there will be a joyous reunion in heaven. That is a good death.

Do you get sick of work? Do you get sick even of play? You just want to hide away. What starts as a shiny toy turns into the same ole same ole. Everything eventually disintegrates into sand. Even things made to last until death do us part, these days are being destroyed. Destroyed by lies. Destroyed by hate. Destroyed by toys. How do you make your marriage shiny again? How do you restore what is crumbling away? There is one thing that never loses its luster. Christ is the eternal light that shines brightly forever. There is one thing that never crumbles. Christ is the rock that you can build on. Let Christ restore you. Let Christ restore your relationships. Let Christ renew your work and play.

Do you ever feel like you are running on empty? Sometimes we get sucked into the trap of thinking of all the things we need to do. I need to give this to my job and this to my family and this to my church. Give, give, give and you end up empty. This is not God's way. We don't come to church to give. We come to church with an empty sack and we

receive forgiveness and its in the bag. We receive the Good News and its in the bag. We receive Holy Communion and its in the bag. God fills us with his gifts of mercy and love and we go back into the world and the things that used to eat at us we just reach in the bag and offer the grace that we have been given. Fill up your sack with God's good gifts at every opportunity.

Have you every felt like heaven was an unattainable place? If we get sucked into thinking that we have to earn our way in, then that would be the natural conclusion. We see our own sin, we are never too far from it. St. Paul writes that we do the things we don't want to do and don't do the things that we do want to do. Even when we try to do what is right we end up doing what is wrong. We are sinful creatures. God knows this and put the solution together to overcome our sinfulness. If we allow ourselves to be covered by the grace of God through our baptismal waters and the body and blood of Christ, heaven can become full of doors and windows. God makes the way in for us. God enables us to do what we can't do.

All truly great events happen to us; we are baptized, we are converted, we are forgiven, we are saved, we are redeemed, we are sent. Too often we start with what do we want to do instead of what does Jesus want for us. God desires for us to have unity around the truth. No Christian is meant to be an island—we are not isolated when we become one body through one bread. When something is God's doing it means it is certain and sure. We can count on the things that God has done for us. Our actions don't carry the same certainty. Every one of us has a divine work to do but some times we come through and other times we do not. It starts with humbly allowing Christ to serve us and receive the great gifts that he offers. Then we follow through on what God has molded us to do. Grace and peace to you from Christ our Lord!

## 365 days of Hope

Love came down! Our Hope is here! Let's live in that Hope, the Hope in Him. The Hope that we will be with Him forever, now in Spirit & in the flesh in Heaven. (Or well, our Heavenly bodies if they are flesh, if not, it's all good. But, ya know, the more I think about it, I'm thinkin' our Heavenly bodies are flesh, because Jesus had Thomas touch his hands & side & Jesus ate & we will eat in Heaven. we won't cry. Oh! Wait! I got a bit off track! I'll get back on the Hope track!)

Hope does not disappoint us! So, let's be encouraged by the Hope that we have. Let's share it with everyone & perhaps they'll hop on the Hope train too!

I have a Hope Challenge for you this month. My challenge to you is to memorize this verse:

Romans 5:5

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His Love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom He has given us!

If you already have it memorized - wtg! Ya see, when you have this verse imbedded in your heart you have a tremendous tool that you can use wherever & whenever! Whenever you get discouraged & start to feel blue recite your verse until you are out of your slump, because the Holy Spirit is in our hearts & we tend to forget that! Sometimes it's simply one recitation of this verse sometimes it's one hundred recitations! Regardless, it turns our eyes upon Jesus who is our Hope, the Hope for us all!!!

Here's to a great 2022!!!

Mrs. Z



### Preschool News—

The preschool teachers would like to start off by thanking you all for your continued support and prayers for this preschool program. We are so grateful to be able to be with these kids!

December was such a fun time celebrating the birth of Jesus! We had a wonderful Christmas program and we loved being able to celebrate with all of our families this year.

We enjoyed our Christmas break and are back in class as of January 3rd. We will spend the month learning all about the season of winter. Maybe we will even get to play in some snow!

January is halfway through our school year! Can you believe it?! It has been a fantastic year so far and there are so many great things to look forward to for the rest of the year!

<b>Grace Budget Draft Summary</b>	<b>2021 Actual Jan—Nov</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>
Income + Covid Inc.	209,356	221,158
Expenses	201,914	221,158
Covid Tax Credit	-28,227	
Excess Revenue / (Shortfall)	35,669	0



Making new friends and sharing the love of Jesus Christ is what friends and family of Grace Lutheran Church did on the eve on December 10th.

We greeted community families as they came in to shop for their children. We helped people pick out the gifts and pay for their new treasures. We also had lots of helping hands to gift wrap and put bows on the gifts. As families left the youth handed out homemade Christmas cookies.

Over 1000 gifts were donated this year by wonderful community church members like you. Thank you.

With your love, and prayers there are many families in our community that had a brighter Christmas.

Thanks!  
Jenny, Faith farm and family

## Lighting the way for others

When Ida Nelson, head tribal clerk of a remote Alaskan village, heard an airplane flying low after dark, she knew something was wrong. Igiugig (Igggy-yaw-gigg), population 70, isn't normally a nighttime destination. Indeed, the medevac flight was coming to pick up a sick child.

Because the local airstrip's lights had been vandalized, the plane was having trouble landing. Nelson began alerting neighbors, and within minutes, villagers lined the runway with their vehicles, headlights blazing. The pilot was able to land and then safely deliver the sick child to an Anchorage hospital. The airlift service praised the residents' determination, but Nelson describes their effort as "normal" and "ordinary."

What everyday actions can you use to provide light amid darkness? How can you shine Jesus' light in a world that needs him?



## Praise the Lord



Grace House has an additional tenant. Thanks to your support and generosity we have partnered with the Blaine School District to place a high school senior in the mother in law suite. She was sleeping on a friend's couch and needed a safe place to stay. She is a straight A student and is very grateful to have a place to live until she graduates this summer.

## Biblical resolutions

**Hold firmly to your faith** (Hebrews 4:14)  
**Assemble with the saints** (Hebrews 10:25)  
**Pray and thank God earnestly** (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)  
**Petition God for great blessings** (Malachi 3:10)  
**Yield not to temptation** (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

**Notice opportunities to serve others** (Galatians 6:10)  
**Examine yourself daily** (2 Corinthians 13:5)  
**Work diligently for the Lord** (1 Corinthians 15:58)

**Yearn for righteousness** (Matthew 5:6)  
**Exercise godliness** (1 Timothy 4:7)  
**Aim for sinless perfection** (Hebrews 6:1)  
**Redeem the time, living wisely** (Ephesians 5:15-16)

## So help me God

No matter how firm our resolutions, we can't make ourselves better people *by ourselves*. God empowers our good works when we rely on his aid.

H.P. Nichols, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century poet, wrote:

If I resolve, with the new year, a better child to be,  
'Twill do no good at all, I fear, but rather harm to me,  
Unless I try, with every day, no angry word to speak;  
Unless, each morn, to God I pray to keep me mild and meek.  
Then let me try with all my might, and may God help me too,  
Always to choose the way that's right, whatever act I do.

**Live in harmony  
with one another;  
be sympathetic,  
love as brothers,  
be compassionate  
and humble.**



1 Peter 3:8, NIV

## Be of good cheer

Near the end of every January, stories circulate about "Blue Monday," supposedly the year's most depressing day. Factors include broken New Year's resolutions, Christmas debts and cold weather. But this phenomenon actually originated as a PR gimmick. U.K. marketers invented Blue Monday as "the best day to book a summer holiday," and a psychologist they enlisted to help later admitted the saddest-seeming day became a self-fulfilling prophecy.

January may lack the excitement of December, but it doesn't have to be a letdown. Christmas is over, but Jesus isn't! No matter the season of the year or our season of life, Christians always have reason for joy: God's promises of forgiveness and eternal victory. As Jesus says in John 16:33, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (KJV).

**What does the Bible say about trash?** Well, not much. There just wasn't a lot of trash back then. Plastic hadn't been invented yet and there weren't big box stores full of items for us to purchase. The world we live in now is vastly different than during Bible times. Now we have the capability to communicate with people all over the world. We can virtually visit places far and wide within the comfort of our homes via the internet. We can shop online and have items from across the ocean shipped to us in just a few days. This world is an amazing place full of people and stuff.

God gave us everything we need to thrive. Unfortunately, we have become a consumer culture and we have filled our houses with much more than we need. The Bible tells us to be good stewards of our resources (the ones He gave to us). That means we can share our excess with others, take care of what we have and not be wasteful. The truth is we can manage our trash better to keep our resources clean, so there will be a bright future for all of God's children.

At Grace we are rethinking our trash. We already recycle and now a compost bin has been added to the Fellowship Hall. The church was gifted a Ridwell subscription so we can collectively keep usable materials out of landfill. It's the next step in recycling. There will be a collection box in the Narthex for monthly featured items. **January we're collecting CD's, DVD's, corks, and natural fiber sweaters & fleece.** These will be picked up by Ridwell and redistributed or recycled.



If you would like more information about this talk to Gretel. Together we can solve huge problems and do great things with the gifts that God has given to us.

Servants	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 31
ACOLYTES	Emily	Elee	Steve	Seth	Isaiah
ALTAR COMMITTEE	Rika & Rafa				
SCRIPTURE READERS	Lenore	April	Sandie	Joan Gregory	Jim
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Carole		Dennis		Sandie
PIANIST	Cheryl	Janet	Cheryl	Janet	Cheryl
ORGANIST	Brent Johnson				
USHERS	Dan & Ron	Jim	Jon & Dick	Jay	Ron & Jim



# JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30 Worship w. Communion	3	4	5	6	7	8 MEN'S Bible Study 8 am
	Gretel Vacation					
9 9:00 Bible Study & S.School 10:30 Worship <b>De-decorate</b>	10 Ladies' Bible Study 7pm	11 Preschool Prep 2pm	12 Annual Board Reports due	13	14  <b>NewsLetter DEADLine</b>	15
16 9:00 Bible Study & S.School 10:30 Worship w. Communion <b>Council meeting</b>	17 MLK Jr. Day Office Closed	18	19	20	21	22 MEN'S Bible Study 8 am
23 9:00 Bible Study & S.School 10:30 Worship	24 Ladies' Bible Study 7pm	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:00 Bible Study & S.School 10:30 Worship w. Communion <b>Annual Meeting</b>	31					

### BIRTHDAYS

1 Kristi Galbraith	11 Ruth Chiko	25 Kelley Zuch Jeremiah Tevelde
3 Athena Johnson Kara Hinchey Eadward Johnson	15 Jay Pukaluk	27 Ray Walser
5 Todd Pomerening	18 Charlene Liebert	28 Richard Johnson Rick Thompson
8 Laura Nelson Beckum Bleazard	19 Shane Thompson	31 Cheryl Persse
10 Delray Carleton Cynthia Thompson	21 Hunter Liebert Adeline Tucker	
	22 Carol Delong	
	23 George Holmes	
	24 Kelsy Berg	

### ANNIVERSARIES

2 Jason & Niki Wildermuth



# A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

*Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.*

Do not seek **re**\_\_\_\_\_ or bear a grudge against anyone among your \_\_\_\_\_ople, but **love** your **neig**\_\_\_\_\_ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

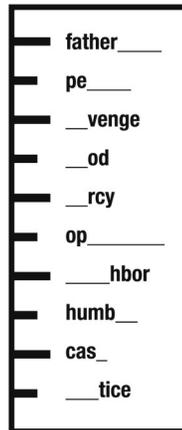
Learn to do **right**; seek jus\_\_\_\_\_. Defend the \_\_\_\_\_pressed. Take up the cause of the \_\_\_\_\_less; plead the \_\_\_\_\_e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown **you**, O mortal, what is go\_\_\_\_. ...

To act **justly** and to **love** me\_\_\_\_ and to walk \_\_\_\_\_ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

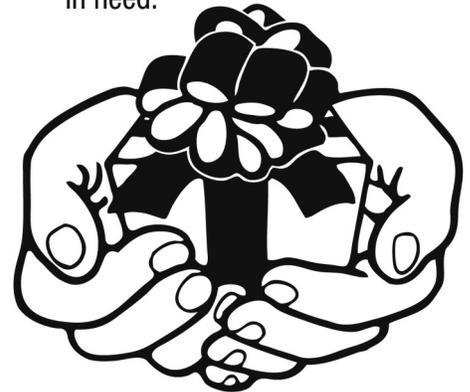


So in \_\_\_\_\_ything, do to ot \_\_\_\_\_ what you would \_\_\_\_\_ve them d\_\_\_\_to you, for this s\_\_\_\_\_ms up the \_\_\_\_\_w and the Proph\_\_\_\_\_s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

# Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.



## What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

## What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.

??? **Bible Quiz** ???

After Sarah died, Abraham remarried. What was his second wife's name?

A. Miriam  
B. Keturah  
C. Bathsheba  
D. Tamar

Answer: B (See Genesis 25:1.)