

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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**PAID**

Blaine, WA

Permit No. 41



## **Worship Service**

Sunday 10:30 am

Sunday School and Bible Class 9am

### Upcoming:

Lent Schedule—Wednesday Worship

Service 7:00pm

Cares Committee—Tuesday, 3/11 @ 1:00pm

Easter—Sunday, April 4

March 2021

## Blessed March!

I pray your journey this Lent has much for you to ponder and reflect upon as you prepare for the Easter celebration to come.

I was listening to a song by XTC the other day that I had listened to a number of times in the past but had never really noticed the words before. The song is called "Dear God". It starts out positively: "Dear God, hope you got the letter and I pray you can make it better down here. I don't mean a big reduction in the price of beer."

But then it turns on God pretty quickly: "But all the people that you made in your image, see them starving on their feet 'cause they don't get enough to eat from God. Can't believe in you."

It is interesting how the song takes a fact from Scripture, "people - made in your image" and then twists truth by putting the fault for starvation at God's feet. Even though God sends the rain down for believers and unbelievers and provides enough food for the whole world; our faulty distribution system, our inability to share is somehow God's fault. When generous people do share and corrupt governments confiscate the donations and use it as leverage to control their people, that is God's failing too.

It made me think about all the times that the devil takes a fact from Scripture and then twists it to try and put the fault at God's feet. He did it at the beginning in the garden. "Did God really say to not eat of the fruit of the tree at the center of the garden? If you eat from the tree you will be like God and know good and evil." That was actually true. The problem is they already knew good. God had created good all around them. The only new thing that came from eating the fruit was the knowledge of evil and it has been with us ever since.

In spite of that, God still provides all that we need physically, emotionally and spiritually but there is always someone around twisting the problems of this world into some sort of failure by God and sometimes we are the ones doing the twisting.

The song continues: "Dear God, sorry to disturb you but I feel that I should be heard loud and clear. We all need a big reduction in amount of tears and all the people that you made in your image, see them fighting in the street ' cause they can't make opinions meet about God. I can't believe in you."

Again the song takes sad realities of our fallen world that we should all be very concerned about and puts the cause on God. There is no personal responsibility let alone accountability of the sinful human race. We are sinful so that is God's fault. If He had just made us sinless the world would be paradise. However, God did make us sinless and gave just one rule and Adam and Eve couldn't resist the lies of the devil. It feels like if God had made us so that we couldn't break the rules to protect us from sin then the complaining culture would scream bloody murder about the tyrant that won't even let us make our own mistakes. God can't win with some people.

The song concludes: "I won't believe in Heaven and Hell. No saints, no sinners, no devil as well, no pearly gates, no thorny crown, you're always letting us humans down. The wars you bring, the babes you drown. Those lost at sea and never found. And it's the same the whole world round. The hurt I see helps to compound. The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost is just somebody's unholy hoax. And if you're up there, you'd perceive that my heart's here upon my sleeve. If there's one thing I don't believe in, it's you, dear God."

It is a sad picture of how hopeless life looks when you turn all the evils of the world on God. Instead of trusting in God and following His lead to strip some of the evil from this world we instead strip God from the fabric of our lives. This leaves us with a world more broken and no God to carry us through which we all need so desperately. I pray that you find your peace, hope and love in God this day and all your days. If there is anything that I or the church can do to help support you on this journey through life don't hesitate to reach out.

Peace to you in Christ! Love, Pastor

## Cares Committee & Volunteers

**When:** Thursday, March 11th, 2021

**Time:** 1:00pm to 3:00pm

**Where:** Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

What: We'll be preparing the upcoming 2021 Birthday cards for April, May and June. Once again, if time permits I'd also like us to make up cards for our shut-in's and others that we haven't seen in church for awhile.

Needed: 6 to 8 masked willing workers. Birthday, Get Well and Thinking of you or Holiday greeting cards if you have them.

Please RSVP Gretel at the church office, or me at (360) 332-7311, as we have to limit the number of helpers due to Covid guidelines.

## Preschool News

February was all about friendship. All year long we have been making such great friends and it was a blast to celebrate those friendships! We had a wonderful friendship party with lots of Valentine's to share with everyone.

There were some really cold days in February and we got to explore ice and frost out on the playground. Winter can be so cool!

We are so grateful for the time together this year and that we have been able to have class in person. It is so sweet to watch the class build friendships and get to be a part of their learning experience!

## Listen

"Listen. Listen God is calling through The Word inviting, offering forgiveness, comfort and joy!"

Meaningful Connection. Sound familiar? It is something we've been focusing on this year. Our connection with God that flows out to those around us. This month let's listen.

This Lent we listen. We listen to our music. We listen to our friends. We listen to God's Word. We listen to our parents. We listen to the world around us.

Not only do we listen, God listens! What a great relief that is! When we call out to Him He listens. He doesn't judge us; He listens.

When I lived in Raleigh I really learned this very thing. I was working with the youth at St. Raphael's and we talked about how God wants us to come to Him no matter what, no matter when. He wants us to hear what we have to say. He doesn't cringe. He sits, sees and listens. Just like Jesus did with the woman at the well in Samaria. (Check out John chapter 4 for the rest of the story.)

He listened. He didn't judge. He listened and loved. Just like the line from the song at the beginning of this little article. Jesus was offering forgiveness, comfort and joy to the lady at the well, and He offers it to us too!!!

We have a God who sees us and calls us to see those around us. We have a God who listens!

May we have ears to hear!

Kelley/Mrs. Z

## **That's the point!**

If prayer stands as the place where God and human beings meet, then I must learn about prayer. Most of my struggles in the Christian life circle around the same two themes: why God doesn't act the way we want God to, and why I don't act the way God wants me to. Prayer is the precise point where those themes converge.

--Philip Yancey

## **Prayer is talking, Meditation is listening**

Listening works best with a quiet mind. There are so many things to be concerned about that telling God, asking God, sharing my heart with God frees up my mind to listen. God offers His peace and my mind is quiet so I can receive it, that's the sweet part.

It's been nearly a year of not much fun and a lot of mayhem. The Bible tells us there is a time for everything, a time to sing and a time to mourn. During the remaining time of this Pandemic my prayer is that we trust God with our minds, hearts, and souls. I hope that we will come together again to sing praises as a group, to fellowship in person, and to reach out to our communities with more love and compassion.

In this time of social isolation, the season of Lent, the end of winter and the beginning of spring know that God hears our prayers. He is good all the time.

--Gretel

## **You Are Wonderful!**

People travel to wonder  
at the height of the mountains,  
at the huge waves of the seas,  
at the long course of the rivers,  
at the vast compass of the ocean,  
at the circular motion of the stars,  
and yet they pass by themselves without wondering.

— St. Augustine

## **Paying it back — and forward**

During the pandemic, acts of kindness seemed especially meaningful. Last spring, as Covid-19 hit Native American communities particularly hard, an interesting transatlantic outreach occurred. Donations from Ireland began appearing in a relief fund for Navajo and Hopi families, leading administrators to suspect the account had been hacked. Then they realized a cross-generational payback was underway.

In 1847, Choctaw Tribe members sent \$170 overseas to Ireland to help with Potato Famine relief. That generosity was never forgotten, and by May 2020, people in Ireland had contributed more than \$4 million toward pandemic assistance for relatives of people who'd helped their ancestors. Many donors included an Irish proverb meaning "In each other's shadows the people live."

The concept of paying it forward dates back to a 1784 letter by Benjamin Franklin. It also echoes Jesus' Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). How might you live out this practice today?

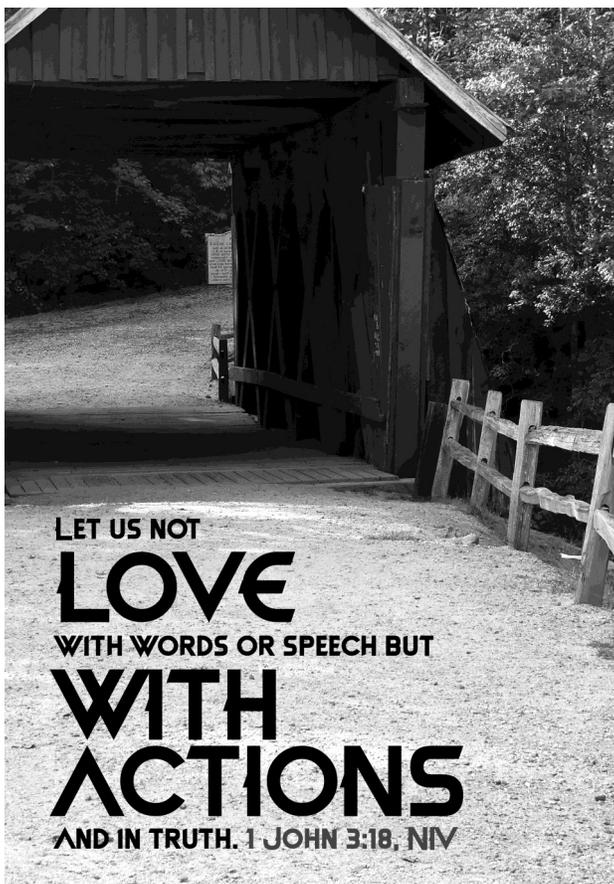


## A bountiful life

“Life is given to you like a flat piece of land,” said actress Jeanne Moreau. “I hope that when I’m finished, my piece of land will be a beautiful garden.”

God, who put the first human in a garden to care for creation, blesses us with talents and resources to wisely manage. In gardening terms, God gives us the plot of ground, the seed, the wisdom and strength to bring forth beauty and abundance. Yet we do the work, with God’s help, to make it a reality. Like Adam, we till, but God gives the increase. God’s provisions and our labor bring the garden — and our lives of stewardship — to fulfillment.

As stewards, we ponder: When God calls us home, what will our garden be like, and what will it have produced?

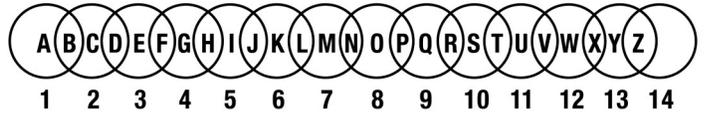


LET US NOT  
**LOVE**  
WITH WORDS OR SPEECH BUT  
**WITH**  
**ACTIONS**  
AND IN TRUTH. 1 JOHN 3:18, NIV

# Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



$\overline{1,2}$   $\overline{3}$     $\overline{6}$   $\overline{5}$   $\overline{7,8}$   $\overline{2,3}$     $\overline{1}$   $\overline{7,8}$   $\overline{2,3}$

$\overline{2}$   $\overline{8}$   $\overline{7}$   $\overline{8,9}$   $\overline{1}$   $\overline{10}$   $\overline{10}$   $\overline{5}$   $\overline{8}$   $\overline{7,8}$   $\overline{1}$   $\overline{10,11}$   $\overline{3}$

$\overline{10,11}$   $\overline{8}$     $\overline{8}$   $\overline{7,8}$   $\overline{3}$     $\overline{1}$   $\overline{7,8}$   $\overline{8}$   $\overline{10,11}$   $\overline{4,5}$   $\overline{3}$   $\overline{9,10}$ ,

$\overline{3,4}$   $\overline{8}$   $\overline{9,10}$   $\overline{4}$   $\overline{5}$   $\overline{11,12}$   $\overline{5}$   $\overline{7,8}$   $\overline{4}$     $\overline{3}$   $\overline{1}$   $\overline{2}$   $\overline{4,5}$

$\overline{8}$   $\overline{10,11}$   $\overline{4,5}$   $\overline{3}$   $\overline{9,10}$ ,    $\overline{5,6}$   $\overline{11}$   $\overline{10}$   $\overline{10,11}$     $\overline{1}$   $\overline{10}$

$\overline{5}$   $\overline{7,8}$     $\overline{2}$   $\overline{4,5}$   $\overline{9,10}$   $\overline{5}$   $\overline{10}$   $\overline{10,11}$     $\overline{4}$   $\overline{8}$   $\overline{2,3}$

$\overline{3,4}$   $\overline{8}$   $\overline{9,10}$   $\overline{4}$     $\overline{1}$   $\overline{11,12}$   $\overline{3}$     $\overline{13}$   $\overline{8}$   $\overline{11}$ .

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV

Covid Humor:

Pretty wild that we used to eat cake after someone had blown on it...

Good times...





# March

2021

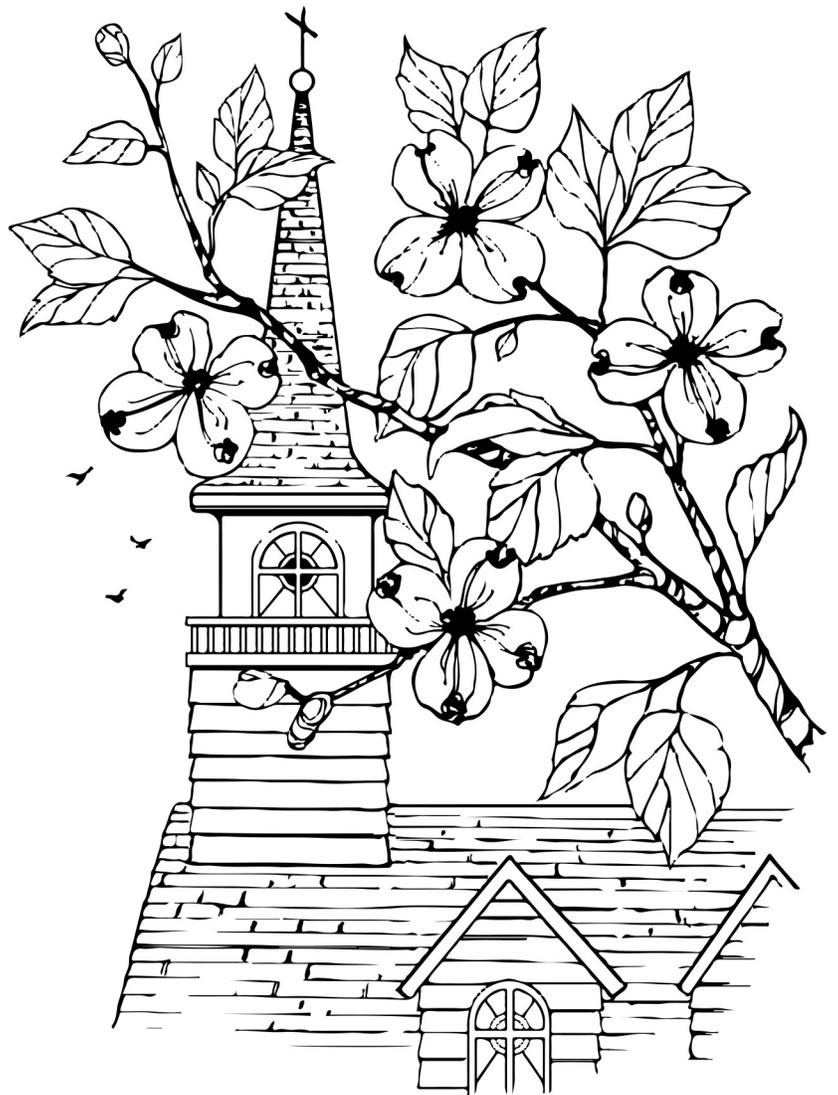
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Lent Service 7pm	4	5	6 MEN'S Bible Study 8 am
7 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship w. Communion	8	9	10 Lent Service 7pm	11 Cares Committee 1-3pm	12	13
14 <b>Daylight Savings Begins</b> 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship	15 <i>NewsLetter DEADLine</i>	16	17 Lent Service 7pm	18	19	20 MEN'S Bible Study 8 am
21 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship w. Communion	22	23	24 Lent Service 7pm	25	26	27
28 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 Worship	29	30	31	Maundy Thursday 7pm	Good Friday 7pm	



- 1 Sharon Neem
- 2 Rochelle Halldorson  
Gracie Renskers  
Owen Liebert  
Mickaylah Tevelde
- 3 Susan Allen  
Caitlin Phelps-McDonald
- 4 Kristin Nawman
- 5 Mardella Montgomery
- 8 Jared Liebert  
Holly Johnson
- 9 Karmen Terris
- 10 Mike Halldorson
- 11 Shirley Pukaluk
- 13 David Hrutfiord  
Steven Hrutfiord
- 15 Robert Onyon
- 17 Rosetta Johnson
- 18 Courtney Carleton  
Susie Hollarn
- 19 Marsha Wahl

- 27 Tamera (Holleman) Mastropoalo  
Justin Bleazard
- 28 Leona Olason
- 29 Harold Olason  
Jeremy Hinchey
- 30 Jodi (Robbins) Beveridge
- 31 Elizabeth Liebert  
Nicki Cortez

23 Max & Josie Shelton



# PUZZLE

## BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

**Directions:** Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.

-  VDEO \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 8:8)
-  LWO \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 102:6)
-  GEELA \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 40:31)
-  TOKRS \_\_\_\_\_ (Jeremiah 8:7)
-  APROSWRS \_\_\_\_\_

“Are not five \_\_\_\_\_ sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ... Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many \_\_\_\_\_.”

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, stork, sparrows

### Bible Quiz

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they’d had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?

- A. carrots and potatoes
- B. onions and garlic
- C. fish and leeks
- D. melons and cucumbers



Answer: A (See Numbers 11:4-6.)

## FOR THE BIRDS

Display this recycled craft to care for feathered friends.



### What you need:

- Peanut butter or vegetable shortening
- Plastic knife
- Empty toilet paper tube
- Bird seed
- A plate
- String

### What you do:

1. Spread peanut butter or vegetable shortening on the tube, covering the entire outside surface.
2. Pour bird seed on a plate and roll the tube in the seeds.
3. Thread string through the tube and tie it to make a loop.
4. Hang the bird feeder outside. When seeds are eaten, coat the roll again.

