

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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**PAID**  
Blaine, WA  
Permit No. 41

## **Worship Services**

Sunday 10:30 am

Bible Class 9am

Contemporary and Sunday School 4:30pm

### Upcoming:

Blessing of the Fleet 5/7 @ 1:30pm

Preschool Prep 5/9 @ 2pm

Family Dinner 5/21 after 4:30 Service



## Serve the Lord with gladness

As you have heard, we serve the Lord with our time, talent and treasure. The treasures that have been generously given faithfully for generations has made everything that we do through God in this congregation possible. Today I am going to focus on the other two.

People serving joyfully with their time and talents

A few years ago I counted all the people in the congregation that were coming to church at least a few times per year. The total was 105 people. 75 of those people still attend at least a few times per year. 15 of those people have passed away. Four have moved away, one started going to a different church some time after the border closed as he lives in Canada, seven stopped coming during COVID and rarely if ever attend currently and three others started going to a different church. Since that time we have added 27 new people who are mostly attending regularly. So we lost 30 and gained 27 sheep for close to breaking even. Of course we would all love to be growing but we can't stop death and COVID presented some unique challenges for many individuals.

Of the total 105 regular worshippers, 78 were active in one or many things either as part of the worship service like reading Scripture, choir, music, puppets, serving communion, signing for the deaf, ushering... or outside of the service like fellowship hour, serving on a committee, taking care of the property at church or at Grace House, Bible Study, Sunday School, bell tower project, VBS, funerals, Mother's Day Tea, altar guild, outreach, counting the offering, decorations, the fall festival, newsletters, insurance management, Cares committee, prayer chain, Wednesday morning Bible School, youth events, pre School, community meals, cookbook fundraiser, Easter breakfast, Easter cross, garden tour, ladies' Christmas party, stewardship Sunday, VBS parade or booth, flowers or various special projects.

Of the current 102 regular worshippers, 74 are active in mostly the same activities so roughly the same percentage although some people pulled back on the amount of time they were serving during COVID and many have not returned to serving at the same levels prior to COVID. We have added a second Sunday service in the afternoon and live streaming of all our worship services. We have also added family dinners once per month.

I am very grateful for all of the people who serve so faithfully and encourage the rest of you to experience the joy of serving your Lord through the various ministries of our congregation. I am also thankful to those of you who serve in so many ways outside of our congregation at the food bank, traveling to Africa for medical mission trips and in your families and communities.

I hope this article gives a little snap shot of now versus a few years ago and gives hope and encouragement that we can be a healthy component of our community for many years to come. The nominating committee has met twice over the last month or so and made phone calls to a variety of these servants about their interest in continued support of all that we do at this congregation. If you would like to help us in some way please call Sandie Miller, Dick Johnson, Pam Markusen or myself. Also, Susie Sanders and Hazel Rutherford have agreed to help us coordinate volunteers moving forward so you may receive a call from them from time to time to see if you are available to help.

Peace in Christ to you and may your spring be filled with God's blessings.

*Pastor*

<b>Grace Budget Draft Summary</b>	<b>2023 Actual Jan—March</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>
Income	75,155	58,044
Expenses	63,176	63,549
Excess Revenue / (Shortfall)	11,979	(5,505)

## Preschool Happenings—

We are in our final month of preschool! This year has gone by so incredibly fast. Our year has been full of wonderful new friendships. We will be enjoying our last month as we wrap things up and get ready for summer.

We were so grateful to spend the month of April praising Jesus for all he has done for us as well as welcoming in the season of spring.

May is full of celebration. We start off the month celebrating our mom's, grandma's, and aunt's and end the month celebrating graduation and the year we had.

It is full steam ahead this month, we would love your prayers as we wrap things up and send off our students to their next chapter.  
Ms. Bethany

**M is for May.** M is for Messiah. M is for Marvelous. He is Risen! He is alive! He is watching over us! He is protecting us! He is The Lord of lords! He is The King of kings! He reigns in Majesty! He is always on time! He gives us what we need! He walks with us! He is Marvelous! He is Jesus Christ our Risen Lord!

Mrs. Z



A 96-year-old lady was a faithful attendant at my women's Bible studies. She came with her lessons prepared and knew all the answers. One day a tactless member asked her, "Why do you work so hard on these lessons when you're so old and it doesn't matter?" Little Bess Elkins looked up and said confidently, "I'm cramming for my finals."

4 yr. old class

3 yr. old class



Servants	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Caeden	Steven	Caeden	Hannah
<b>ALTAR COMMITTEE</b>	Rika & Rafa	Rika & Rafa	Rika & Rafa	Rika & Rafa
<b>SCRIPTURE READERS</b>	Lenore Onyon	Gwynne Fowler Briggs	April Mouw	Joan Gregory
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Carole Aguirre		Dennis Wildermuth	
<b>USHERS</b>	Jon Huffman Dick Johnson	Jay Pukaluk	Jim Higby Dan Perse	Jon Huffman
<b>PIANIST</b>	Janet	Janet	Janet	Janet
<b>ORGANIST</b>	Brent	Brent	Brent	Brent
<b>FLOWERS</b>				



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Secretary out of the office May 1-5	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship w. communion 4:30 Worship & S.S. 1:30 Blessing of the Fleet	8 Ladies' Bible Study 7pm	9 Preschool Prep 2pm	10	11	12	13
14 <b>Mother's Day</b> 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 4:30 Worship & S.S.	15	16 <b>Newsletter DEADLINE</b>	17	18	19	20 Men's Bible Study 8am
21 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship w. communion 4:30 Worship & S.S. <b>Family Dinner</b>	22 Ladies' Bible Study 7pm	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 4:30 Worship & S.S.	29 Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31			

**BIRTHDAYS**

- |                                     |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Dave Erby                         | 16 Ian MacArthur<br>Ron Leach       | 31 Becky (Thompson) Baker<br>Andrew Muljat<br>Aoibhinn (Ee'-ven) Johnson |
| 2 Jordan Craig<br>Christine Johnson | 19 Carson Cortez                    |  |
| 6 Joan Kempinsky                    | 20 Kelli Hinchey                    |  |
| 7 Patty Berg<br>Regina Bailey       | 23 Michelle Liebert                 | <b><u>ANNIVERSARIES</u></b>  |
| 8 Anthony Liebert                   | 26 Ed Ellsworth                     | 2 Brad & Sarah Weg   |
| 9 Anna Persse                       | 28 Nathan Haslip<br>Aaron Zuch      | 15 Brent & Christine Johnson   |
| 10 Matthew Halldorson               | 29 Katie Nelson<br>Jay Liebert      | 29 Jeff & Angela Markusen  |
| 12 Stephanie (Smith)<br>Meador      | 30 Kristina Johnson<br>Leighton Day | 30 George "Jay" & Shirley Pukaluk  |