



GRACE

Viviendo por Gracia
Lutheran Church & School

February 21, 2021

Weekly Devotion

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

Mark 9:2

Remember Who Our God Really Is

Do you wonder why Jesus chose to bring his disciples to that mountain and briefly reveal his true glory to them? We find a clue in the first three words of today's verse: "After six days." As we look at this event, God wants us to keep in mind what had happened six days earlier. And what was that?

Six days earlier, Jesus told his disciples that he was soon going to die by crucifixion. At this point, Jesus is nine months away from his death, and he knew his disciples were going to see it happen. He knew they were going to see some very difficult things that were going to challenge their faith and make them wonder if following Jesus was worth it. So Jesus showed them a glimpse of his true glory. He gave them a reminder of how different and beautiful our God really is.

Based on what they were going to see, that was an important reminder for them, just as it is for us. We also have times in life when it doesn't seem like anything good is happening, when our faith is challenged, and when the troubles of this world make us wonder if we have the right to expect anything glorious from the God who promises us so many good things.

The day of Jesus' transfiguration is a reminder that we do. Just as Jesus bolstered the fragile faith of his disciples with a brief reminder of his glory, he invites us to find strength for our journey by remembering, moment-to-moment, who our God really is. He invites you to look past the human skin and see the glorious identity of our Savior, always eager to love, always

ready to forgive, always ready to sacrifice whatever is necessary to be there for you when you cry out to him.

Prayer:

Father in heaven, help me to remember everything Jesus is and everything Jesus did so that I will never forget that I am your own child through him. Amen.

Taken from: <https://wels.net/dev-daily/dd20210218/>

Church Announcements

Photos for Directory – Anne Zastrow will be taking photographs for the new church directory on **Sunday, February 21st**. Please stick around for a photograph and dress up how you want to appear in our next directory! Thanks.

Congregational Meeting – There will be a congregational meeting on **Sunday, February 28th**, for the sake of describing, reporting, and eventually seeking feedback on the V.T.O. effort made recently by a select team from Grace. The goal of the Vision-Traction-Organizer model is not be-all and end-all, neither is it exclusive. It is a participatory model that ensures and values forward progress toward agreed-upon goals. To that end, please attend the meeting between the services on February 28th!

Pastor Timothy Flunker – Pastor Flunker will be our guest preacher on **Sunday, February 28th** for both English and Spanish language worship services. Pastor Flunker is a WELS missions counselor for Spanish-speaking congregations throughout our synod and in that role he advises, assists and simply "gives a break" to Spanish speaking pastors across the U.S.

Service Need – If you are willing to be trained in the Hymnsoft program for playing hymns during the worship services when a live organist is not available, please let Pastor Z know. Thank you!

V.T.O. Report – Please see attached report which covers Grace's core values.

Lenten Service – Wednesday the 24th, **4pm at Redeemer** – (Zastrow)

7pm at Grace – (Zastrow)

On-Going Events

Worship Times – 9:30 English & 10:45 Spanish (under COVID restrictions with masks, distance, and no congregational singing).

Sunday Bible Study – Bible study Sunday morning at 8:30am at Grace. Study will begin on the revised synod statement on the roles of men and women which is also slated for discussion as a synod at synod convention this summer (2021). We will meet in person (under COVID restrictions with masks and distance) in the upstairs classroom (former 5th-8th).

Digital Worship – A recording of the in-person Sunday morning worship service will be posted sometime after Sunday morning. The services will continue to be live-streamed with a smart-phone on Sunday mornings, however, at www.Facebook.com/GraceLutheranYakima/live.

*** Pastor was asked recently to make the bulletin for each Sunday available to people who watch our livestream in real time (Facebook.com/GraceLutheranYakima/live, 9:30a Sundays). If you're one of those people, you can find the bulletin available digitally before the worship service (usually by Friday) by visiting the link attached in the body of the Streams email.

What's Been Happening – February 14-20

- Pastor held a special opportunity for people to come in and receive the ashes on the morning of Wednesday, February 17th. This would be an opportunity to offer something in Spanish, and something to the community that semi-churched or "unchurch Christians" from the community might try, etc. In the end, just two Grace members took advantage, but in the future consistency may be considered an asset.

- Catechism youth instruction continues to be offered in a mixed digital and "real life" format. Due to extremely varying levels of attendance, the lessons of the class book are being treated as individual sections and lessons are tackled according to attendance, with each student having the right to progress on their own terms as well (and review their work with Pastor).

- Dave Smith, Dave Kamppi, Pastor Z and Catherine kept the sidewalks clean at Grace this past week during the snowfall.

WELS Resources

- **Lutheran Meditations Radio Ministry** – Tune in to 1380 AM radio and 104.5 FM radio at 8am to hear Pastor Teske’s Sunday messages.
- **LWMS** is women dedicated to serving Jesus by increasing awareness of, interest in, and support of the mission outreach of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). Check it out at lwms.org.

Prayer Requests

Carol Butler – prayers requested for fluid accumulation in her body. The doctors have prescribed some new medications and she would like prayers that, as God wills, they will work well for her.

Kelley Family – Prayers for peace and comfort.

Family of Ed Peterson – prayers for peace and comfort

Corae Temple – prayers for recovery

Family of Sandy Sullivan – prayers for peace and comfort

Doug Evans – healing

Judy Caspar (organist of Ellensburg congregation) – health and strength

Marlen Rieker – hospice care, peace and comfort

Wanda Lennon – health and strength

Bill & Joy Altenhein – health and strength

Ewald Ehlers – strength to walk

Gregory Willy – Carol’s grandson, healing

Good Hope Lutheran Church (Ellensburg) – prayer through transition

Good Faith Lutheran Church (Cle Elum) – prayer through transition

Prayers for our Homebound Members

Norm Campeau
Ewald Ehlers

Marlen Rieker
Dorothy Johnson

Vision Traction Organizer Report

of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Yakima, WA

For Weeks of February 21st & February 28th

WHAT ARE GRACE'S CORE VALUES?

When the Grace V.T.O. team assembled mid-January, it began by working out what makes Grace tick, especially in a unique or different way from other congregations. Think of it as, "What does the Grace congregation *prioritize*?" This determination wasn't meant to be aspirational (i.e. not a goal) but more of an honest assessment of where our values currently lie. This is the listing that the Grace V.T.O. team came up with, in no particular order:

- Relationships
- Focus on grace
- Cross-cultural ministry
- Emphasis on Biblical literacy
- (theological sense)
- Early childhood ministry
- Community focus
- Care for the elderly

The reason for making this assessment is that the V.T.O. team was going to be asked by Pastor Vogt to maximize the noble, Spirit-prompted priorities that already exist at Grace while making plans and goals for the future.

HOW ARE "RELATIONSHIPS" A CORE VALUE OF GRACE?

The V.T.O. Team that assembled mid-January generally agreed that Grace has a relationship-driven culture. Individual members value each other and the accrued history they have together. "Do you remember...?" and "Remember how..." is a common saying here, and anecdotes about former personalities, quirky and beloved, abound. (There are weaknesses to be found in the greatest strengths – sure! – but for now, we're focusing on the positive.) The people of Grace have come a long way together, and in so many ways, our congregation is that much stronger for it.

HOW IS "BIBLICAL LITERACY" A CORE VALUE OF GRACE?

Grace has a great degree of biblical literacy among our members, a truism that can almost certainly be attributed to our long-running parochial school. (A certain Ladies Bible Study held jointly with Redeemer also deserves a great deal of credit for that, etc.) A brief mention of Moses, David, Elijah or Barnabas will demonstrate that many of our members can roughly place each figure in the 2,000+ years of history covered from Genesis 11 to Revelation 22 and can relate an important event or two from their lives. That's a very high degree of biblical literacy compared to the world-at-large!

HOW IS "GRACE" A CORE VALUE OF GRACE?

Our congregation lives up to its name by recognizing that God's actions for human salvation are at the heart of the Scriptures. Sure – Moses, David, Elijah and Barnabas are good people to know. But our congregation doesn't substitute knowledge for faith, either. Jesus is what matters, and sharing in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus involves so much more. Through what is preached and what is shared among us, Grace puts grace (the undeserved love of God) at the center. Tragically, that's pretty different from world Christianity, too.

(More "Core Values" to Come)

Our Current 90-Day Period: January 15th – April 15th