



# GRACE

*Viviendo por Gracia*  
Lutheran Church & School

March 21, 2021

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**John 3:16**

### **The Gift**

My grandparents grew up as neighbors. In fact, my grandfather remembered the day that Grandma was born. They dated for seven years as they couldn't afford to get married during the Depression. They were married for 68 years. The only night they slept in separate beds was when one was in the hospital. When Grandma died, Grandpa felt every pillow at the funeral home to see if it was soft enough for his bride. Shortly after, Grandpa died of a broken heart—shared experiences cement relationships.

Consider the shared experiences between God the Father and God the Son. Together they conferred before creation, "Let us make mankind in our image" (Genesis 1:26). Together they could reminisce how they rescued Noah and his family during the flood. Together they delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt. Together, together, together. Imagine how close that relationship was and is. And yet, at just the right time, God the Father sent his Son into the world. God the Father so loved the world that he gave "his one and only Son."

We can't even fathom what a tremendous gift this was! It's so easy to go through life and look at what we don't have. Or we look at the gifts that God has given us with a bit of disappointment. "That's it, Lord? Isn't there something more?" But when we take a step back and look at the gift that God has given us, when we consider that God gave us "his one and only Son," we realize a little more what it means that God so loved the world. And I pray, we will never say, "That's it?" again. Savor the sweetness of this indescribable gift.

### **Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, help me to never take you for granted. Open my eyes to see what a testimony you are of the Father's love for me. Amen.

Taken from: <https://wels.net/dev-daily/dd20210318/>

## **Church Announcements**

**Grace Yard Day THANK YOU** – A special thank-you to Dave Smith, Dave Kamppi, Rick & Sandi Wandler, Pastor & Anne Zastrow, Chey Temple, Dee Ekstrom, Dennis Roth, Catherine Ball, and Pastor Teske who all helped out with church yard clean-up and renewal this past Saturday. Everything looks so great! In order to finish up the project, anyone that is available is invited to attend this Saturday (March 20th) at 9am to continue with the hauling of branches and the laying of mulch, etc.

**Holy Week Schedule** – This year's Holy Week services will parallel the service times of previous years. Maundy Thursday will be a 7pm English service, Good Friday will be a 7pm bilingual service, and Easter Sunday will be 9:30am English and 11am Spanish.

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

7pm at Grace – (Zastrow)

**Congregational Voters Meeting Change** – For the sake of Leadership Team availability, the congregational voters meeting first scheduled for April 18th has been moved to April 25th between the worship services. Thank you for accommodating the change!

## **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](http://www.Facebook.com/GraceLutheranYakima/live).

\*\*\* Digital bulletin available using the link attached in the body of the Streams email.

## What's Been Happening – March 14-20

-Church yard day was a success thanks to Dave Smith, Dave Kamppi, Rick & Sandi Wandler, Pastor & Anne Zastrow, Chey Temple, Dee Ekstrom, Dennis Roth, Catherine Ball, and Pastor Teske who all helped out with church yard clean-up and renewal this past Saturday. Everything looks so great! Here's a glimpse of the action.



-Grace Leadership Team met on Tuesday, March 16th, and received reports on the ongoing work at Grace. Items of business touched on quotes received for the sidewalk replacement out front, pastoral efforts, finances, continued ownership of V.T.O. process, etc. The quotes received for cement work and asphalt driveway repair came in slightly higher than they were in fall (when Voters approved the project) and so they will be presented at the April voters meeting for re-approval and then acted on as quickly as possible.

-Greg and Joan Riese came to church on Tuesday morning to be trained in the "during worship" side of the Hymnsoft program. Qualified players now include Dave Kamppi, Anne Zastrow, Greg and Joan Riese. Pastor is currently setting up the playlist or "script" prior to each service. Please let him know if you're willing to be trained for in-worship participation in this way, or set-up, or whatever you can do! Thanks.

-Dave Smith and Dennis Roth have been spending this week doing follow-up on the clean-up day (purchasing and hauling additional mulch, etc) as well as making repairs to leaking irrigation pipes on the big lawn of church and recently re-discovered in-ground irrigation at the parsonage.

-The due date for Pastor and Andrea Cherney's first child is this Tuesday, March 23rd! Keep the Cherney family in your prayers and thank God for this wonderful blessing.

## **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**

**Gregory Willy** – The Camden/Willy families would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers throughout Gregory Willy's cancer diagnosis and treatment.

**Dave Smith, Jr** – prayers regarding medical issues related to his heart for the past week

**Corae Temple** – prayers for recovery

**Doug Evans** – healing

**Judy Caspar** (organist of Ellensburg congregation) – recovery from vein surgery for leg, 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

**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 March 21<sup>st</sup> & March 28<sup>th</sup>

### WHAT IS GRACE'S CORE FOCUS?

Every organization must exist for a reason – or it will cease to exist. The federal government, the local hardware store, and your grandma's Bridge club all exist with a purpose or a *focus*. That focus may be clearly valuable or it may seem frivolous to an outsider, but nevertheless it is there. And an organization without focus will not be an organization for long. Perhaps you've seen a Bridge club devolve into a gripe club or witnessed the decline of a multi-generational business when the inheritors just didn't understand what their parents' business was *actually* about – or they couldn't translate an older focus into a new approach.

In mid-January, Pastor Matt Vogt asked our V.T.O. team to put Grace's "core focus" into words. Our core focus is the justification for our existence. It's the reason we plan, meet, call workers, accept offerings of time, talents, and treasures, etc. God spare us from drifting away from our focus! We would deserve the inevitable hollowing-out which would follow.

And so appropriately, the V.T.O. team took its answer from the Scriptures. Around the time of his ascension, Jesus gave us our core value directly: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them" (Matthew 28:19). It's worth remembering that "*make disciples*" is a progressive and ongoing verb that doesn't end for any individual, say, at the moment of conversion. Growth in the Word is ongoing, and it doesn't end at the beginning! So your V.T.O. team took inspiration from a previous Grace mission statement as remembered by Jonathan Hood, and adapted it to come up with:

**"We live to GROW in the grace and knowledge of Christ,  
and to GO and make disciples."**

(2 Peter 3:18, Matthew 28:19)

### WHAT IS GRACE'S NICHE?

Pastor Vogt then asked us to come up with a niche – one particular aspect of the pursuit or fulfillment of our core value that makes Grace stand out among Christian churches. (Permit a brief comparison from the business world. Think of Pizza Hut, Little Caesar's, Papa Murphy's, MOD, etc. They may all have a common core value in serving up pizza, but they each have a respective niche as well, don't they? Price points, flavors, ingredients, ambiance, etc.)

Your V.T.O. team believed that the radical honesty and preoccupation with a faithful reading of Scripture that stems from our Reformation heritage was the key to Grace's niche. We are not afraid to talk about sin, because the Scriptures talk a lot about sin. We have the advantage of preaching an absolutely unlimited gospel because (surprise!) the Scriptures teach an unlimited gospel. Your V.T.O. team saw and liked a certain wording of that idea from a WELS mission congregation in Arizona, and decided that our niche was best said:

**"Honest about sin, confident about grace."**

**Our Current 90-Day Period:** January 15<sup>th</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>