



GRACE

Viviendo por Gracia
Lutheran Church & School

April 18, 2021

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

-John 20:30,31

The Reason the Bible Exists

Why did John write his Gospel? For that matter, why does the whole Bible exist? Today's passage gives this answer: to bring you to faith in Jesus.

John's Gospel is the eyewitness testimony of John. He didn't make it up. He saw it with his own eyes. He lived it. Then he wrote down what he saw so that the Holy Spirit would use it to bring you to faith.

Why is this important to know? Many people assume that the Bible is a collection of religious fiction. They say that if you believe that Jesus actually performed miraculous signs and that he factually rose from the dead, then your brain must be mush because those things do not happen.

But the Bible presents itself as a factual book that was written to give people faith. You probably do not realize how much importance you place on eyewitness testimony. In the courtroom, eyewitness testimony is the difference between whether someone is pronounced guilty or innocent. Reporters cover events with eyewitness accounts of what happened. For a claim to be taken seriously—in Bible times or our times—eyewitness testimony is important.

The apostles witnessed Jesus' miracles. They saw him crucified and risen. They knew he was dead, and then they saw him alive. Their eyewitness testimony has been handed down to you so that you can know who Jesus is and what he has done—that he is God in the flesh who died on the cross to take away your sins and rose from the dead to guarantee your salvation.

And their testimony was written not only to tell you what happened but also so that the Holy Spirit would work through it and you would have eternal life in Jesus' name. What a blessing! You do not have to guess or try to figure out what God did or when he did it. It is given to you in his Word.

Prayer:

Son of God, I praise you for giving me eternal life. Amen.

Taken from: <https://wels.net/dev-daily/dd20210415/>

Church Announcements

Corae Temple Funeral – Funeral will be held at Grace on Friday, April 16th at 10am. Interment will follow at Terrace Heights Cemetery, rejoining at Grace for a meal.

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society – 2121 Virtual Spring Rally will be held via zoom Saturday, April 17th 9am-noon. Please see attached flyer for more information!

***Redeemer will host the virtual event in the fellowship hall for those interested in participating with a group. April 17th, 9am-noon, coffee and tea will be served. Please bring a snack for yourself if needed. Contact Carol Stuebs if you have any questions (833-7989).

Congregational Voters Meeting – Upcoming quarterly voters meeting will be held on April 25th between the two services.

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.

*** Digital bulletin available using the link attached here tiny.cc/GraceBulletin or in the body of the Streams email.

What's Been Happening – April 11 - 17

The Leadership team met this Wednesday afternoon. The business and discussion revolved around the upcoming cement sidewalk repair, the upcoming voters assembly (on April 25th between the services), security measures in view of an uptick in crimes in our neighborhood, continued V.T.O. communication, Pastor's service to the Ellensburg and Cle Elum churches, our financial process, and other items. Upon written request from Mike and Sandy Martin, they were granted release from membership at Grace and the Wisconsin Synod.

It's springtime, and Catherine's classroom has begun the raising of their butterflies and ladybugs couched in their learning about the life stages of these insects.

Maxine Gilbreath has reactivated the whole funeral-prep network in advance of Corae Temple's funeral on Friday. At different times late this week, Maxine G, Tammy F, Dave S, Dennis and Donna, Dee E, Connie L and others showed up to prepare for the fellowship following the funeral. It's really, really good to see some lively activity around an event again at Grace! Go and get your shots so that we can keep up the progress.

Prayer Requests

Temple Family – Prayers for peace and comfort

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

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



Evergreen Circuit

2021 Virtual Spring RALLY

Saturday April 17th, 9:00am - Noon

Join Our Zoom Meeting

Sheila H. is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting

Topic: LWMS Evergreen Circuit Spring Rally

Time: April 17, 2021 09:00am Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/91693903444?pwd=cXBkc25tT0l1aUtVSjhVbXR1SXArUT09>

Meeting ID: 916 9390 3444 – Passcode: 168604

Speaker: Stephen Wiesenauer, East Asia Missionary

<https://wels.net/serving-others/missions/asia/>

- Attend as an individual or if you are able set up a Zoom Group at your church or in your home and attend the rally together.
- Turn in freewill or Mite Box mission offerings by April 8th to Sue Rittierodt, 1618 98th St. S, Tacoma, WA 98444.
- Please RSVP to your church contact by April 12th

SPRING Rally

Vision Traction Organizer Report

of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Yakima, WA

For Weeks of April 18th & 25th

WHAT 6-YEAR GOALS DID THE V.T.O. TEAM PUT FORWARD?

After thoroughly discussing Grace's mission, our strengths, values, and group characteristics, the next thing Pastor Vogt asked our team to do was to come up with a vision for where they would like our congregation to be in six years' time. That vision should be somewhat realistic, he said, and then explained that after establishing our six-year goals we would be tasked with working backward through time to set three-year, one-year, and ninety-day goals based on what was decided. The V.T.O. team then decided on the following goals to shoot for by 2027:

- That we would be a recognized part of the fabric of our community.
- That we would have a weekly worship attendance of 75 in English and 35 in Spanish (~200 baptized members).
- That our PreK program would have 20 kids in enrollment and 1.5 dedicated full time staff.
- That we would have 3 members doing elder work for the congregation.
- That we would have six small groups and sixty percent membership participation in them (outside of Sunday morning worship).
- That we would have a formalized and approved plan for making our facilities disability-friendly.
- That at least one regular attendee of Spanish-language worship would be on the Leadership Team.

HOW DID THE GRACE V.T.O. TEAM ARRIVE AT THESE GOALS?

These goals were suggested by the team members and were prompted by our core strengths and values (reported on previously). Usually they were suggested in some other form (like "one-hundred and twenty in English worship,") and then adjusted upwards or downwards by the discussion that followed. They represent areas of ministry that we're engaged in regularly already (like worship), areas of ministry we've lapsed in or left things neglected (like elders), and areas of improvement that we've been talking about for some time (like disability access).

HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO REACH THESE GOALS?

Firstly, it bears repeating that these V.T.O. team goals have not been formally accepted by the voters. When Grace ultimately does formulate a long-term ministry plan, the voters assembly of the congregation will have the final say on what those goals are. Secondly, those goals may be adjusted as we gradually implement and experience the "traction" section of the planner. Finally and most importantly, the way V.T.O. (really, any good planning) works is that the bigger goals are broken down into smaller, more manageable goals. In upcoming reports you will be able to see how the team parceled out these intimidating goals over time. And remember that movement in any direction is always, always better than standing still and watching the world go by. We have a mission!

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