

# Is God Fair? He Is Merciful!

September 27,  
2026



18<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
after Pentecost

**Welcome, guests!** We're delighted you could join us. If you have questions or need more information about our church, any member of Grace will be happy to help. This folder contains all the details about our services, with congregational responses indicated by indentation and bold text. Please take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church entrance; only the pastor and elders will use it. Restrooms are to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

**THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS:** What is our God like? Over the next four Sundays, the Church hears Jesus tell four parables which reveal characteristics of our God. Today's lessons cause the worshiper to ask: Is God fair? No, he's not. He doesn't give us what we deserve, and that's called mercy. In fact, he gives us what we don't deserve, and that's called grace. Our God is inconceivably gracious.

**MORNING PRAYER:** Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE:** COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION— CW, p.15



# OPENING HYMN:

#305

FROM THE DEPTHS OF WOE I CRY TO YOU

**\*\*Please Stand for the Last Verse\*\***



1 From depths of woe I cry to you; Lord, hear me,  
2 Your love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out  
3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in  
4 My soul is wait - ing for the Lord As one who



I im - plore you. Bend down your gra - cious ear to me;  
my trans - gres - sion. The best and ho - liest deeds must fail  
my own mer - it; It rests up - on his faith - ful Word  
longs for morn - ing; No watch - er waits with great - er hope



My prayer let come be - fore you. If you kept  
To break sin's dread op - pres - sion. Be - fore you  
To them of con - trite spir - it. That he is  
Than I for his re - turn - ing. I hope as



rec - ord of my sin And held a - gainst me  
none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear your  
mer - ci - ful and just— This is my com - fort  
Is - rael in the Lord; He sends re - demp - tion



what I've been, How could I stand be - fore you?  
strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.  
and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.  
through his Word. We praise him for his mer - cy.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-3, alt.; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 4.  
St. 4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress.  
Tune: AUS TIEFER NOT (87 87 887) Martin Luther, 1483–1546, alt.



In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

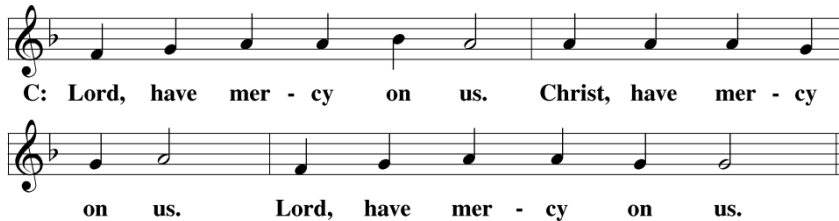
## CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

# **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

*KYRIE*



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



## **PRAYER AND PRAISE**

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

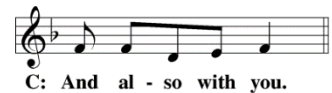
# **GLORY BE TO GOD**

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS*





### PRAYER OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

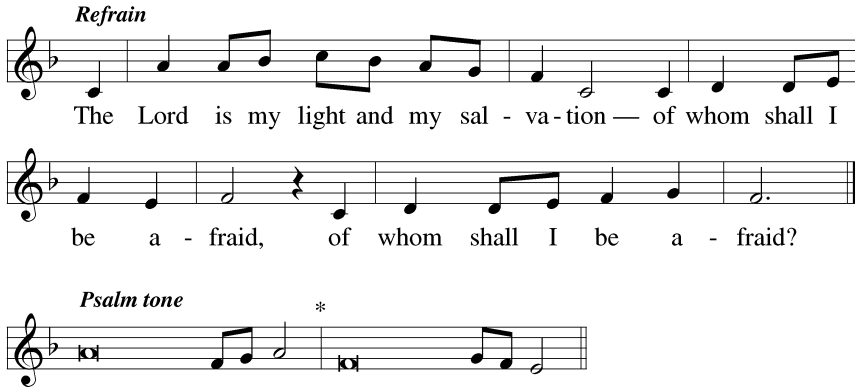
### FIRST LESSON:

### ISAIAH 55:6 – 9

*How gracious is God? His call to repentance doesn't extend only to backsliding Christians. His call to return to him isn't restricted to upright citizens. His invitation to call on him is not reserved for sensible, suburban folk with 2.1 children and a white picket fence. The LORD calls the ungodly and wicked men who worship lust and self. God's plan to save sinners by grace soars above all that we could conceive or imagine.*

***Seek the Lord while he may be found! Call on him while he is near! Let the wicked man abandon his way. Let an evil man abandon his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will show him mercy.***

***Let him turn to our God, because he will abundantly pardon. Certainly my plans are not your plans, and your ways are not my ways, declares the Lord. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my plans are higher than your plans.***

*Refrain*

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;\*  
be merciful to me and answer me.  
Do not hide your face from me,\*  
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper.  
Do not reject me or forsake me,\*  
O God my Savior.

*Refrain*

Though my father and mother forsake me,\*  
the LORD will receive me.  
I am still confident of this: \*  
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD;\*  
be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

## SECOND LESSON

## PHILIPPIANS 1:18B – 28A

*Paul's confident words remind us that because of God's inconceivable grace, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Life lived under such grace is life filled with joy and ordered by God's wisdom.*

***Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, because I know that this will turn out for my deliverance, through your prayer and the support of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. This matches my earnest expectation and hope that I will in no way be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, so even now, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. Yes, for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I am to go on living in the flesh, that will mean fruitful***

*labor for me. Yet which should I prefer? I do not know. I am pulled in two directions, because I have the desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far. But, it is more necessary for your sake that I remain in the flesh. And since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and will continue with all of you, for your progress and joy in the faith. And so by my coming to you again, my goal is to give you even more reason to boast in Christ Jesus. Just conduct yourselves in a way that is worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come to see you or am absent, I may hear about you that you are standing firm in one spirit, contending together with one soul for the faith of the gospel, not frightened in any way by the adversaries.*

#### VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Alleluia. (2 Corinthians 12:9a)



#### GOSPEL

#### MATTHEW 20:1 – 16

*What is our God like? Jesus teaches us with a story, but we struggle with the lesson. The reality is this: God is not fair; rather, he is inconceivably gracious. One---hour---workers receive the same as those who bore the heat of the day.*

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



*“Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. To these he said, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.’ So they went. Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, ‘Why have you stood here all day unemployed?’*

*“They said to him, ‘Because no one hired us.’ “He told them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.’*

*“When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: ‘Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!’*

***“But he answered one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last.”***

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

***\*\*Please Be Seated\*\****

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

# HYMN OF THE DAY:

#390

## SALVATION UNTO US HAS COME



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace  
2 What God does in his law de - mand And none to him  
3 It is a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God his law  
4 Yet as the law must be ful - filled Or we must die  
5 Since Christ has full a - tone - ment made And brought to us



and fa - vor. Good works can - not a - vert our doom;  
can ren - der Brings wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand  
has giv - en That sin - ners can them-selves re - deem  
de - spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled,  
sal - va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad



They help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to  
For man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has  
And by their works gain heav - en. The law is  
Our hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for  
And build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a -



Je - sus Christ a - lone, Who did for all the  
not those pure de - sires The spir - it of the  
but a mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred  
us the law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's  
lone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my



world a - tone; He is the one Re - deem - er.  
law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.  
sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.  
venge - ance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.  
life in - deed, For you have paid my ran - som.

6 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise  
To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
The God who saved us by his grace—  
All glory to his merit!  
O Triune God in heav'n above,  
You have revealed your saving love;  
Your blessed name be hallowed!

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: ES IST DAS HEIL (87 87 887) *Etlich Cristlich liden*, Wittenberg, 1524, alt.

## SERMON TEXT:

**MATTHEW 20:1 – 16**

## SERMON THEME:

**GOD IS GENEROUS IN HIS MERCY**

### CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

**OFFERING** – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

### PRAYER FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

**Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.**

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

**Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love to our family members and neighbors.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament, bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly toward those who live in Redmond and its surrounding cities. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

**Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

**Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.**

*Special Prayers and Intercessions*

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

*Silent prayer.*

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

**Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

*\*\*Please Be Seated\*\**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**#318**

**SENT FORTH BY GOD'S BLESSING**

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con -  
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing, To God ev - er -

fess - ing, The peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take  
liv - ing, The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will

leave. The sup - per is end - ed; Oh, be now ex -  
face. Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er

tend - ed The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be -  
car - ing, Em - brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and

lieve. The seed of his teach - ing, Re - cep -  
 race. With your feast you feed us; With your  
 tive souls reach - ing, Shall blos - som in ac - tion for  
 light now lead us; U - nite us as one in this  
 God and for all. His grace did in - vite us; His  
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing With  
 love praise shall u - nite us To work for God's  
 praise and thanks - giv - ing Give hon - or to  
 king - dom and an - swer that his call.  
 Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, b. 1916, alt. © 1964 World Library Publications, Franklin Park, IL, [www.wlpmusic.com](http://www.wlpmusic.com).  
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Tune: THE ASH GROVE (66 11 66 11 D) Welsh folk tune.

**\*\*Please Stand\*\***

## THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -  
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

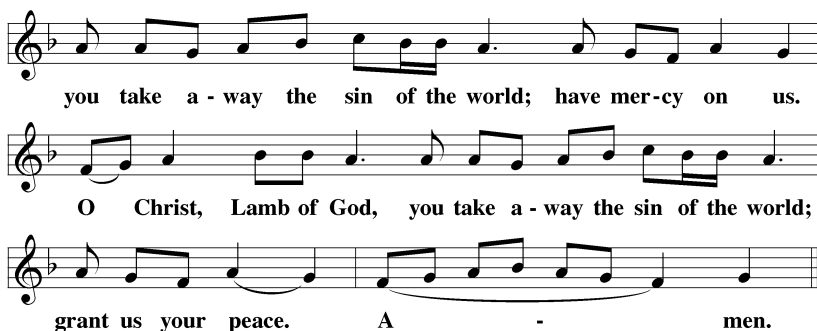
C: A - men.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

## CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*AGNUS DEI*

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

### DISTRIBUTION

*DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul's guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: "For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord's body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself." Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.*

**\*\*Please Stand\*\***

### SONG OF SIMEON

*NUNC DIMITTIS*



O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

### CLOSING PRAYER

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness, you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

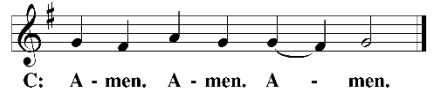


## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

## CLOSING HYMN:

**#384**

BY GRACE I'M SAVED



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound - less;  
 2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior,  
 3 By grace! Oh, mark this word of prom - ise  
 4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble,  
 5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing;



My soul, be - lieve and doubt it not. Why wa - ver  
 Came down to earth to bear our sin. Was it be -  
 When you are by your sins op - pressed, When Sa - tan  
 In trib - u - la - tion's fur - nace tried— By grace, de -  
 In Je - sus' prom - ise I re - joice. For though I



at this word of prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er  
 cause of your own mer - it That Je - sus died your  
 plagues your trou - bled con - science, And when your heart is  
 spite all fear and trou - ble, The Fa - ther's heart is  
 know my heart's con - di - tion, I al - so know my



false - hood taught? So then this word must true re -  
 soul to win? No, it was grace, and grace a -  
 seek - ing rest. What rea - son can - not com - pre -  
 o - pen wide. Where could I help and strength se -  
 Sav - ior's voice. My heart is glad; all grief has



main: By grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.  
lone, That brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.  
hend God by his grace to you did send.  
cure If grace were not my an - chor sure?  
flown Since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text: Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–61, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZÜNGEN HÄTTE (DRETZEL) (98 98 88) Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775, alt.

### WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the sole source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, assuming His human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins forgiven for all people and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return, when all believers will be with Him in heaven, all unbelievers will be condemned to eternal torment, and this present world will be destroyed.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Letter of Intent:** The council has signed the letter of intent to lease the property at 798 NW 5<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 102, Redmond. Copies of the letter are available for you to preview.

**Sunday School teachers:** We plan to begin our children's Sunday School on October 4. If you would like to teach or assist in any way, we will meet after the service today's service.

**Bible Information Class:** We are paused until Thursday, October 15. We still have room for more; we meet at 6 p.m.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study:** Please consider attending our Sunday morning adult Bible Study as we study Paul's letter to the church at Philippi.

**Midweek Bible Study:** Our Tuesday evening Bible Study will be paused until October 20 at 6 p.m. We will meet at Gary and Lani Carroll's home (3211 SW Umatilla Rd.) to study Isaiah, or you can join us on Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

**WELS Pastor / Teacher's Conference:** We have been invited to attend the WELS NW district pastor and teacher's conference, October 14 to 15 in Bend. Please contact Pastor Emmons or Mavis Vandelicht for conference details.

**General Pastor's Conference (GPC):** Pastor Emmons will be heading to the GPC in Bloomington, MN. September 29 to October 2. While he is out of town, you can contact Elder Gene Baldwin at 541-610-9978 for emergencies.

**Lutheran Military Support Group Retreat:** Pastor Emmons will be in Rochester, MN, October 6 to 13 for the retreat. He will share Ephesians 6, encouraging people to be ready in God's word when struggling with combat-related issues and injuries.

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