

# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Blaine, WA  
Permit No. 41

## **Worship Service**

Sunday 10:30 am

Bible Class 9am



## *Pastor's Message:*

### **Christ and Creation**

Is this world just something we pass through? Is Jesus only concerned about your soul? Or does God have a much fuller vision of life for you? *Christ and Creation* explores the wonder of God's creation, teaching us how to live in community with creation, faithfully and responsibly tending to the world God has made and entrusted to our care.

What kind of art would lead God's people into the depth and the wonder of his creation, care, and recreation of the world? In October we will look at some art that does this but primarily our sermon series opens the pages of Scripture and explores the wonder of creation. The author, Rev. Dr. David Schmitt, holds the Gregg H. Benidt Memorial Endowed Chair in Homiletics and Literature at Concordia Seminary. The responsibilities of this position involve teaching courses in homiletics and literature and serving as a resource to the church-at-large, through writing, speaking, and conducting workshops and symposia.

The first picture will be of the risen Christ, ascended into heaven and ruling at his Father's right hand. What you see in this image is that Jesus is the Second Adam. God has placed all things under his feet. He was there at the first creation and he now rules over creation itself until he returns and brings about the restoration of all things. As we engage in care for creation, we are living in the rule of Christ, the Second Adam, awaiting the restoration of all creation and the full fruition of eternal life in him. This is the image that opens this sermon series: Christ, the Second Adam, who rules over all creation.

The rest of the sermons in this series will open that image and explore what it means for Christians to believe that Christ rules over all things. When the story of creation is opened, it leads the viewer into an explosion of color and life. In this sermon series, as God's people explore what it means to confess that Jesus rules over creation, they experience an explosion of color and life as they encounter this world. The second picture explores the experience of delight in creation. God has surrounded us with a created world that continuously sings his praise. The biblical witness opens our eyes to see God's delight in creation and creation's delight in God. In the second sermon, God's people will learn to join creation's praise.

The third picture explores what it means to be part of the community of creation. Human culture has often been set in opposition to the natural world. In Revelation, however, as God gives John a vision of the throne in heaven, John sees that both creation (Rev. 5:11-14) and culture (Rev. 7:9-12) gather before the throne of God to sing. In anticipation of that day, God has made a covenant with both his human creatures and all living creatures (Gen. 9:1-17). The third sermon will examine that covenant and the complexity of life that it describes. We are to live in community with all creation, caring for all living creatures and yet receiving from God's hand living creatures for our sustenance. This good design of God creates a life of caring consumption that will be the subject of the sermon.

The fourth picture explores what it means for Christians to listen to God's word and live in hope of Christ's return. Ecological engagement can be exhausting and, at times, dispiriting. However, the fourth sermon encourages God's people in congregations to be engaged in ecological initiatives. It asks that they approach these things not as temporary programs, quick fixes to lasting problems, but as a way of life in the kingdom where we anxiously await Christ's return, looking forward to his recreation and restoration of all things. Whereas some pictures suggest a world framed by a faint memory of creation and fearful anticipation of final judgment, this final sermon will guide Christians in ecological conversations that are framed by a firm sense of the past (God's original creation and our fall into sin) and a faithful vision of the future (Christ's return and restoration of his people as he recreates all things). Knowing the past, God's people repent for sin that has destroyed creation; knowing the future, God's people live in hope of God's final recreation and restoration. Thus, we enter the world and ecological conversations in repentant hope. We are honest and forthright about the sinful abuse of God's creation and yet we are also confident and filled with hope as our faithful action embodies the first fruits that forecast that final day.

May our October be filled with the blessings of God's creation!

*Pastor*





LHM offers many resources to equip Christians for outreach in their families and communities. Research shows that one of the most effective ways to be prepared for the Spiritual Conversations that will come up in your life is to be connected to God's Word. And so, Lutheran Hour Ministries is committed to providing resources to aid in that connection!

### Daily Devotions

#### Empower your study of the Scriptures with LHM's Daily Devotions.

With messages based on the church calendar's three-year lectionary, individual devotions are based on Psalms, the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Gospel texts. Additional devotions explore a hymn from the *Lutheran Service Book*, a "classic" text from some LHM resource, and a sermon excerpt by a previous Speaker for **The Lutheran Hour**. Each day's audio is provided by Speaker Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. ***The Daily Devotions offer an excellent opportunity to study God's Word through text and reflection questions.*** Go to [www.lhm.org/dailydevotions](http://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions) to read today's devotion or subscribe to receive devotions via email.

### LHM Mobile Apps

#### Use LHM's mobile apps to inspire your faith and keep you centered in your Christian walk.

You can access **The Lutheran Hour**, Daily Devotions, video Bible studies, and **Project Connect** booklets—all with the touch of your finger. ***Studying God's Word was never so easy***, and they're FREE to download and use wherever your phone or computer is. To access through either Google Play or Apple App Store, go to [www.lhm.org/apps](http://www.lhm.org/apps).



#### Keep the words in front of you everyday:

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

With the turmoil and unrest of our country and our world we need these good words. Otherwise, our minds can become dwelling grounds for negativity.

There is a time to be still, read your bible and know that God is good.

There is also a time to call a friend and share some good words. Offer encouragement to someone who may be lonely, chances are it will lift your spirit as well.

Read [Philippians 4:6-8](#) for more good words.

Grace Budget Draft Summary	2020 Actual Jan—Aug (Based on preliminary figures)	2020 Budget
Income	132,231	156,744
Expenses	134,813	156,744
Excess Revenue / (Shortfall)	(2582)	0



# OCTOBER

## 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship w. Communion	5	6	7	8	9	10 MEN'S Bible Study 8 am
11 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	12	13	14	15 NewsLetter DEADLINE	16	17
18 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship w. Communion	19	20	21	22	23	24 MEN'S Bible Study 8 am
25 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31

### BIRTHDAYS

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 Ann Johnson                                       | 10 Kellie Faulkner    |
| 2 Fred Hartman<br>Ryan Thompson                     | 13 Gavin MacArthur    |
| 3 Hannah Phelps-McDonald                            | 18 Roy Delong         |
| 4 Anabelle Terris                                   | 20 Kyle Thompson      |
| 5 Daizy Dehnke                                      | 22 Svenna Hrutfiord   |
| 7 James Aguirre<br>Marilyn Mitchel<br>Sophia Delong | 23 Lisa Berg          |
| 8 Joan Gregory                                      | 27 Linda Thompson     |
|   | 29 Stirling MacArthur |
|   | 30 Christie Rector    |

