

GRACE NOTES

September 2020

Grace Chinese Lutheran Church

538 NE 127th St. Seattle WA 98125 206-362-1888 gracechineselutheran.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We hope that this greeting finds you healthy and whole. We have not seen each other in person for a long time. During this time, we have learned how precious the gift of community is to us. We miss you and eagerly look forward to the day we are able to meet in person again.

Unfortunately, it will take some time before we are able to open the church door for public worship. Last letter in August, Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee of the Northwest Pacific Synod of the ELCA as well as a document produced by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the entire church strongly urge us to be cautious. Public health experts warn us that the nature of the virus has not changed; it is still highly contagious, and our communities are still vulnerable.

The good news is, we have adapted to this situation by meeting and worshipping virtually. Below are our community events:

- **Sunday worship gathering through website.** 11:00am - 12:00pm
- **Sunday Texts Study in ZOOM** 10:00am – 11:20am
- **Saturday Bible Study Fellowship in ZOOM** 10:am – 11:30am
- **Sunrise Fellowship in ZOOM** Wednesday 9:30am – 11:00am
- **Children Sunday worship in ZOOM** 11:30am-12:00 pm
- **Women Fellowship in ZOOM** Second Saturday 10:00am – 11:00am
- **Quilting fellowship in ZOOM** Every other Sunday 11:30am -12:30pm
- **Love Me Ministry in Zoom** last Sunday 3:30pm – 5:00pm
- **Council Meeting and Spiritual Retreat in Zoom** 1st Sunday of the month

Two new ministries will soon start:

- **English Reading Club** (See details in the **English Reading Club** Column).
- **Grace Movie Theater** (See details in the **Grace Movie Theater** Column).

In the meantime, our church fellowship hall remodeling work leading by Brother Menglou Wang has never stopped. It will be ready for the community when we are able to resume our normal gatherings.

We strongly encourage you to stay in touch. Continue to tune in to our online Sunday worship, and if you are able, join our bible studies and fellowships through Zoom. Contact either Pastor Wendy or myself for pastoral care as needed. We are striving to provide pastoral ministry to support you and every family during these challenging times. *Please* let us know if you have a prayer request. Let us also contact one another through phone calls, emails, texts, or any other communication formats. May our love continue to abound and reach those among us in need.

As we walk in faith during this pandemic, we remember our dear sister Liping Lo, our brother Bud Fenstermaker, Zhenlun Li and Kurt Frenter's mother Judith Nan Reiter Nee Justeson. They are now at peace with the Lord. Let us remember them and their families in our prayers.

Dear brothers and sisters, in the letter Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica, he says: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you". Bearing the life of Christ may our lives shine through this pandemic period of the time; may the love of Christ touch the world through our faithful living.

God bless you.

Pastor Jimmy Hao

Pastor Wendy Cheung

Prayers and Concerns

With the people of the whole church, we pray for God's creation, for our world, nation, and local communities, and for all who need healing and strength, especially for:

Vivian Lo (recovering from surgery)

Xiaoyuan Liu(recovering from surgery)

Yu Jung Chao

Howard Fortune,
Del Fortune,
Paul Runnels,
Paul Tan (recovering from eyes surgery)

Greetings from Church Treasurer and Financial Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
God's peace be with you.

Our Financial Report as of 8/31/2020 is as follows:

Total Actual Income: **\$181,896**

Total Actual Expenses: **\$140,764**

Net Income: **\$41,132**

Ending Cash Balance: **\$78,445 (Unrestricted) + \$20,808 (Restricted) = \$99,253**

Please note that the above income includes:

1. **\$40,456** from Philadelphia Insurance for the church's water damage claim. The repairs are currently underway led by Wang Meng Lou and Pastor Jimmy and with the help of many brothers and sisters.
2. **\$50,000**, a one-time offering from our beloved sister Liping Lo.

Thank you for your generous contributions, and please continue supporting our church's operational needs through:

- Our Zelle email: gclc0515@gmail.com
- Check Payable: Grace Chinese Lutheran Church, 538 NE 127th St
Seattle WA 98125

Thank you,

Yours in Christ,
Yi-Ping Chen

Words from Council

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Although the epidemic is still looming, and we are still unable to resume our normal worship gathering. But it did not separate our brothers and sisters from the church; it did not separate us from each other, instead, we have more online bible studies, worship, life sharing and fellowship in Christ. Let us work together fight against the evil virus, may our hearts be even closer to the lord, May our church be fruitful with abundance.

- Secretary of the Church Council, Zijun Liu.

The pandemic outbreak is a disaster, but it did not separate us from our church, from our dear brothers and sisters, and from the love of God. Through online worship and Zoom gatherings, we continue our fellowship in Christ, especially through the increasing numbers of participation in Sunday school and bible study fellowship. What a blessing! Even though we are still unable to meet in person, but we will continue to care for each other and pray for each other. As we are looking forward the day to be together in person again, I Pray that may our hearts be nearer to the Lord in day after day. Thanks be to God! And Thank you all.

- Church outreach ministry, Zhang Jian.

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

May peace and health be with you and your loved ones. I hope this pandemic will end and our church services will be restored soon. When you come to the church for worship, you will see a renovated Fellowship Hall with new restrooms and new carpet. Thanks to our brothers and sisters for coming to the church to help with this project during this unprecedented time.

GCLC Council Member (Maintenance), Menglou Wang

GCLC English Reading Club

Welcome to the GCLC English Reading Club! We're glad you're here and invite you to join us in reading and discussing books that will broaden and deepen our faith as Christians, as Lutherans, and as members and friends of Grace Chinese Lutheran Church.

This group may be a good fit for you if you can answer "yes" to the following:

- I understand and accept that our discussions will be centered on the books we read and how we seek to bring them to life in our lives.
- I understand and accept that our discussions will involve multiple, differing, and even challenging points of view.
- I understand and accept that we may sometimes struggle to hear others with open hearts and open minds.
- I understand and accept that we will always strive to disagree agreeably.
- I understand and accept that by treating everyone in our group with love, compassion, and respect, we make true the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:11: "Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."

Discussions will take place the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. Joyce Fagel and Walt Campbell will facilitate discussions, with Pastor Jimmy Hao serving as advisor.

To join the group please text or email Joyce or Walt:

Joyce Fagel | 206-902-6103 | fagelxiao@earthlink.net

Walt Campbell | 206-351-7881 | campbell.walter@gmail.com

GCLC English Reading Club

Introduction of the First Book,

Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walk on Water, and Loving the Bible Again

By Rachel Held Evans

If the Bible isn't a science book, instruction manual, or position paper, then what is it. New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans invites readers on a journey of rediscovery as she explores the magic of the Bible, engaging the old, familiar stories in new ways that honor the past and enlighten the present. Drawing upon recent scholarship and literary analysis, Evans creatively retells our favorite Bible stories, explaining their contexts and possible interpretations, and then connects these ancient stories to our present-day ones.

From the Reading Guide.

Note:

This book draws a range of reviews, from five stars to one or zero. As members of the book club we too will have different viewpoints, which means that we can learn from one another. This will not be a debate in which to score points or convince others, but an honest sharing of our thoughts and feelings concerning the texts in the Bible and how this impacts us as Christians today.

The group will have three Zoom sessions of 1.5 hours maximum.

- Before each session, members are asked to read a portion of the book and Reading Guide for self-reflection.
- During the Zoom sessions we will take turns to express our thoughts and feelings, and respectfully listen and learn.
- It is our hope that we will all grow in our relationship with, and understanding of God's word, our Bible.

Dates and times are on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30

1. September 29th

2. October 13th

3. October 27th

Please contact Pastor Jimmy for the Zoom address.

Joyce

Grace Movie Theater

Dear brothers and sisters,

We give thanks to God for his love and guidance in this unusual period of time. Through church ministries and fellowships, our spiritual lives have been continually nurtured and sustained.

We hope that **Grace Movie Theater** may be one of those ways to enrich your spiritual life. We have prepared more than 60 movies on DVD, or Blue-Ray, most of which are Christian faith related life stories and dramas. Our brother Paul Tan will be in charge of Grace Movie Theater. The titles of the movies will be posted on our church website. You are welcome to borrow them.

For detailed information, please contact **brother Paul Tan:**

Tel: 206-245-9807

Email: pgtan53@msn.com