

An impressionistic landscape painting featuring a dense forest of green trees in the foreground and middle ground. The sky is filled with soft, blended colors of blue, white, and yellow, suggesting a bright, hazy day. The overall style is painterly and atmospheric.

To Know Christ
and to
Make Christ Known

Everything Matters
Wisdom from Ecclesiastes



graceinracine.com
262.632.2111
3626 State Road 31, Racine, WI 53405

WELCOME TO GRACE CHURCH!

VISITING GRACE?

It's great to have you here today, and we'd love to connect with you! Visit graceinracine.com or scan the QR code on the next page to let us know you visited, ask questions, submit prayer requests, or indicate an area of Grace Church that is of interest to you.

Stop by the Welcome Table outside the sanctuary, we'd love to meet you!

If you have something that is weighing you down today, please come down front after service and we will pray with you. You can also share your request on the connection card and our prayer team will lift your need up to the Lord.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE

["Psalm 90 \(Satisfy Us With Your Love\)"](#)

PRAISE

Welcome Isaac Miller, Director of Care Ministry
Call To Worship [Colossians 3:15-16](#)
["Psalm 150 \(Praise The Lord\)"](#)

RENEWAL

Baptism Clint Klepp, Elder
["This I Believe"](#)

PROCLAMATION

Reading of the Word [Ecclesiastes 4:7-16](#)
Prayer of Illumination
Preaching of the Word Pastor Mike Matheson

RESPONSE

"Bind Us Together"
Communion
["What Love Is"](#)
Benediction Pastor Matthew Lautz

*The sanctuary will continue to be used for prayer and reflection following the service. We invite you to come down front if you have a prayer need.
Head to the Commons for fellowship after service.*

CARE MINISTRY

PRAYER FOR HEALING & RECOVERY

Please pray for healing and recovery for those hospitalized or recently discharged: Stu Erdenberg, Fay Borgeson

CELEBRATE RECOVERY (CR) Meets Tuesdays at 6:30pm in the Loft. CR is a safe place to find support if you are struggling with a difficult season of life. CR is not just for addicts; it is for all of us who need to go deeper in Christ when life gets hard. Don't struggle alone - please join us for hope and encouragement every Tuesday evening.
Contact Gabe Stalker at celebraterecovery@graceinracine.com

JOURNEY GROUPS FOR WOMEN

Begins September 14th

Meets every other Thursday for 12 weeks at 6:30pm

Journey Groups are communities of care where stories of pain and abuse can be spoken, heard, and redeemed. Journey groups provide opportunities to open your soul to a deeper understanding of your past, to have courage and integrity in current relationships, and to grow in connection with the Author of your story.

Scan the QR code or contact Gayle Manske manskegayle61@gmail.com for more information.

GRIEFSHARE

Begins Saturday, September 16 // Meets from 9am - 11am

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through the loss of a loved one. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Join us as we look to the Lord for healing, care, and comfort. To learn more and register, scan the QR code at the back of your worship guide or visit graceinracine.com/caregroups

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

LAST WEEK

Attendance: 584
Giving: \$45,669

2023 GIVING

Year to Date: \$1,037,677
+/- Budget: -\$79,699

SERMON REVIEW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are for *after* the sermon and can be used for Life Group discussion, one-to-one discipleship, or personal reflection and application.

As we continue along in our walk through Ecclesiastes, the latter half of chapter 4 presents to us a contrast between living a life in isolation from others and one surrounded by accountable relationships. The one accentuates the vanity of our toil and the other brings us something good and beneficial. It is a passage that teaches us the essential place that community must have in living a good life.

Discussion Questions

1. Last week, the Preacher in Ecclesiastes talked about the vanity of envy and contentment with what you have. How were you personally challenged with the message from last Sunday?
2. In verses 4:7-8, we are given a picture of a man who strives without regard to people in his life. What conclusions does this type of person come to eventually? Is there an example from your own experience where you saw the vanity of working in isolation?
3. Verses 4:9-12 shows us the good of true relationships and community. Even though we probably agree that 'two are better than one', why is it that we often resist getting around people and living in community? What makes going it alone so tempting?
4. Verse 13 tells us that being a poor wise youth is better than being an old foolish king. What is the point of the short story that follows? How do we avoid becoming like the old king as we advance in years also?
5. As Americans, what cultural influences do we have to battle against in avoiding the folly presented to us in this particular text? How might this be a prudent word for us specifically?
6. How does the work of Christ fulfill for us the need for community and accountable relationships? Do you view participation in the body with the same level of personal necessity as this passage (and the whole New Testament) would indicate?

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

[Ecclesiastes 4:7-16](#)

Pastor Mike Matheson

ALONE TOGETHER

CLASSES

We are excited to offer classes that will help you to grow in your pursuit to know Christ in an ever-growing, ever-increasing way. These classes are aimed to help you grow regardless of where you are in your walk with Christ. Below are the descriptions of the classes we're offering.

Register using the QR code or at graceinracine.com/classes.
Childcare is available.

Beginning September 10th at 11am

Making Sense of the Bible: A Walk Through the Books of Scripture

Teacher: Chris Amundson

Meets: Sunday Mornings, 11am, beginning September 10th for 8 weeks

Oftentimes, opening up the Bible can be an initially intimidating experience. With it being a collection of 66 books by approximately 40 different authors and written in 3 different languages; it can feel a bit overwhelming but it doesn't need to be. During these 8 weeks, Chris will give an overview of each book of the Bible and how they all fit together perfectly into one cohesive revelation of God's ultimate plan.

One-to-One Bible Reading

Teacher: Patrick Tetzlaff and Erin Fleming

Meets: 11am, beginning September 10th for 4 weeks

This is an easy and grassroots way to connect with others around God's Word! We will go through David Helm's book, One-to-One Bible Reading. The goal of this class is to give you the tools to start your own 1:1 Bible reading with a friend.

Understanding Poetry: A Guide to Reading the Psalms

Teachers: Luke and Kristin Greenwald

Meets: Sunday Mornings, 11am, beginning September 10th for 8 weeks

Does the thought of reading the Psalms make you shiver or feel lost in a storm? Come join us as we feast on the richness of poetry in the Psalms. After taking this class, we hope to grow in our ability to faithfully experience the Psalms in all of the beauty they express.

GRACE HAPPENINGS

SENIOR ADULT BIBLE BRUNCH

Thursday, August 24 // 10:30am

This ministry is a great opportunity to experience fellowship, study the Bible, and connect with other seniors. Anyone age 55 and up is welcome.

IG-NITE

Resumes September 13 // 6:15pm

Intentional Growth Nite is our midweek children's ministry! For children age 3 - 5th grade. Scan the QR code to register your child(ren)!

SERVE AT HALO

Today! 4pm

Join us as we meet the physical needs of the people we serve with a meal. Afterward we have time of music, gospel presentation, prayer, and fun!

MISSIONS PRAYER HOUR

August 21 // 7pm // Room A29

All are welcome to come pray for our global field workers and the nations where they serve.

MISSIONARY CARE MEETING

Saturday, August 26 // 9am

Room A18

Be part of an exciting new ministry to care for our missionaries on and off the field. Contact Cindi Due for more info: cindidue@me.com.

STUDENT MINISTRY BLAZE

Resumes September 13

Jr. High: 6:30pm

Sr. High: 7pm

No registration required!

WOMEN'S RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE!

November 3 - 5, 2023

Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake, WI
Speaker: Glenna Marshall,
author of "Everyday Faithfulness"
Registration will open August 27th.

MISSIONS

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER - INFO SESSION

Learn more about this great opportunity and serve alongside others from Grace!

Saturday, August 26 // 10am-Noon

International Community Center //
4208 S Howell Avenue, Milwaukee
(less than 30 mins. from Grace)

Learn more about volunteering with immigrants and refugees on Milwaukee's south side (ESL, Citizenship, tutoring, classroom childcare).

For more information contact:
Joe Kobriger – globalteam@graceinracine.com (262) 939-5152



Scan here for all of the Worship Guide links!