



Grace Newsletter

February 2017

New AM Adult Bible Studies—

Beginning Sunday, March 5 two new studies will be offered:

- A Lenten Series taught by Amy Hubach held downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.
- A Marriage Enrichment class taught by Chuck & Connie Stadick held upstairs in the three year old preschool room.

Look for a sign-up sheet this month.

Serving Grace—

Do you know that there are many ways to serve Grace?

- **Sign Evangelism Team** – join the team that changes the leader board outside for the church & preschool each week. The list is rotating so the more people we have the fewer number of times throughout the year you have to change it.
- **Coffee Hour Host** – sign up to host coffee hour once or twice a year! We all enjoy a good cup of coffee and a tasty treat after service. The church supplies everything except the goodies; hosting coffee hour is a great way to meet everyone who comes by to grab a cookie or two!
- **Greeter** – another way to serve & get to know your Grace family is by extending a hand of greeting and a “Hello” to those worshipping with us as they enter the sanctuary.
- **Office Assistance** – we regularly need help sorting, folding, taping, counting and labeling such things as our Newsletter and bulletins. Having an extra hand or two is a “huge” help.
- **Other options** - join the choir, join the audio/visual monitoring team, bring in fresh cut flowers for the altar, occasionally helping our Trustees, etc.

We might have missed a few but helping out with any of these is a wonderful way to serve Grace.

If you are interested in helping please contact Hope Farrell in the church office at 459-4191, send an email to graceonkimball@gmail.com or speak with her on Sunday’s at church. She will be happy to answer any questions you may have and get you added to our Serving Lists.

Prepare Your Heart! —

Be sure to learn all about the planning and preparation of the 37th Biennial LWML Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 22-25, 2017, by reading the host newsletter, *Above All*, or the winter edition of the *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*. Make plans for your accommodations and have your convention shirt ready for packing. Invite and encourage family and friends to enjoy the planned events, sights and sounds of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Pray for continued blessings upon the efforts of all involved in the preparation of this national event. **Please consider volunteering to help with the convention.** Take advantage of a registration discount for serving at least two 4-hour shifts. Send your Call for Workers form in as soon as possible to receive your assignment and a discount coupon before you register. A packet with a special registration form will be mailed to you; **please do not use the form included in the Quarterly.** For up-to-date convention information, see future issues of the *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly* or visit the website at www.lwml.org/2017-convention. More details can be found on your district LWML website (utahidaholwml.org). Download the Call for Workers and Convention Logo Polo Shirt order forms and share them with others.



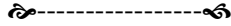
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“A Holy God Who Makes Unclean People Clean.”

“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” (Revelation 21:2)

What do you look like to yourself and what do you look like to God. A member shared the following article with me a couple of months ago and I thought it well worth sharing with you.



“Next Sunday, wear something to church that represents how you actually see yourself.”

What if your pastor said that? And what if the people did it? What would we see?

We’d see a 15-year old in the youth group dressed like a call girl. The boys in her school think porn defines sexual normality so they harass her to text them nude pics. Her most recent boyfriend said he’d take her to the movies if she would have sex with him. So she did. She does this in exchange for cheap affirmation that she matters, that she’s pretty. Then she sits in the pew, mumbles the Lord’s Prayer. But she feels dirty and deeply ashamed.

A 41-year old man wears a shirt the same size he wore in college. That was when his life came to a crashing stop. He was 21-year old, driving home drunk from a frat party, when a woman crossed the dark street. Every night since, he sees her face, twisted in a scream. He’s married now, three children, owns a lawn care business. But inside he’s still a junior in college, blood smearing his hands, the poison of self-loathing coursing through his veins.

A 33-year old woman wears a white T-shirt with the words “Human Garbage” on the back. After two disastrous marriages, three kids with three different men, a failed stint in rehab, and a current boyfriend more into video games than her, those two words pretty much sum up how she sees herself. “I’m just trash. Use me up and throw me away. I sure don’t deserve to be in this church. But, here I am, a piece of filth in the pew.”

And you? What would you wear to church that represents how you actually see yourself?

My favorite dirty word in church comes up in the confession of sins as we say, “I confess that I am by nature sinful and unclean.” We talk plenty in church about being sinful. We need to talk a whole lot more about being unclean.

Our only problem isn’t just sin. We preach about right and wrong, morality and immorality. And we should. But what’s wrong with us goes much deeper. We experience shame, self-hatred, false guilt. We feel unclean.

But we need to recapture a crucial spiritual truth found in the Old Testament: *a holy God makes unclean people clean and holy again.*

In the old days of Israel, being unclean did not mean you were guilty of doing something wrong. What made you unclean could be an affliction you were born with (like a skin disease), a recurring physical condition connected with blood, or an action that put you in bodily contact with death.

You became, for a time, ritually unclean. Not sinful. Not immoral. To be unclean meant you bore in your own body the effects of a creation in bondage to decay.

But God provided for these unclean believers. In rituals of purification, usually involving water, the uncleanness was washed away. The water, full of God’s word, purified and sanctified these people.

Though we are no longer under the OT purity laws, we are still part of the same creation in bondage to decay. All of us, for one reason or another, are not only sinful but unclean. We bear in our minds and hearts and bodies the effects of a world gone wrong.

That’s where Jesus meets us. He doesn’t say, “Clean yourself up and then come to me.” or, “Once you’ve overcome your struggles, then I’ll accept you as my own.” He says, “Come to me, all you who are ashamed, who feel like trash, who are abused, confused, and afraid, and I will give you peace.”

The Son of God absorbed our uncleanness into himself. He made himself ritually impure when he touched lepers, a hemorrhaging woman, and a corpse. He was a sponge for the world’s impurity.

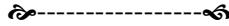
And he still is. Jesus holds us in the wet embrace of baptism. In that word-filled water, he is present to transfer our uncleanness to himself. His holiness washes over us as our unholiness drains into him. He becomes unclean. And we become clean, holy, as pure as the love of God himself.

When we come and confess our sin and uncleanness at church, Jesus removes what represents our shame and puts on us the pure white robes of the sons and daughters of God. We wear the garments of the innocent. In Christ we are clean. We are holy. We are just the way our Father wants us to be.

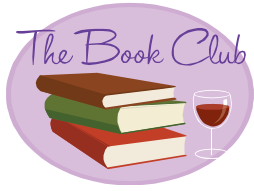
What defines you is not the abuse you suffered, the disease you bear, the worthlessness you feel. What defines you is the God who holds you. Your Father says, “Listen, you are my child. I am your

Abba, your dad. I love you. You are a reflection of my heart. You are my own flesh and blood. Nothing will ever change my love for you. You are mine, and I am yours, now and always.”

You are not a failure, a victim, a slut, or trash. You are the Father’s son, the Father’s daughter. You are Jesus’s brother or sister. Your place is at God’s table, where his children laugh and feast and bask in the glow of the Father’s smiling face.



Have you ever said, thought or felt like God must hate you as you struggle with one sin after another? I know I



The next gathering of the Grace Book Club will be on Sunday, **February 26** at 7:00 pm. Meeting place is TBD. We will be reading and discussing “The Shack” by Wm. Paul Young.

Summary: Mackenzie Allen Philips' youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation, and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later in the midst of his "Great Sadness," Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgment he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack's world forever. In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant *The Shack* wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him. You'll want everyone you know to read this book!

Any and all women are invited to join us for a heartfelt talk and a glass of wine! If you have any questions, you can call Janet at 801-518-7319.

Join Us Feb. 8th at 7PM—

The Ugandan Kids Choir will be performing here at Grace Lutheran Church on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 7 PM. The choir consists of ten children – five boys and five girls, ages 8-12, who perform traditional African singing, dancing and drumming with incredible energy and joy along with contemporary Christian music. **This event is open to the public.** So invite your friends and come join us. If you have any questions please speak with Hope Farrell.



have. But, as His baptized and repentant children, God doesn't hate us. It breaks His heart when you do things that cause yourself pain but it doesn't make Him hate You.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again, God loves you just as you are. But he loves you too much to leave you the way you are. He will make whatever changes in Your life that you need to bring you more peace and joy. But as He is doing that He wants you to rest in His promise of love and mercy, to give yourself into to His care knowing that He isn't done with you yet.

God bless you and I'll see you in church!

Pastor Brooks

Next Council Meeting—

Is on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7:30pm.

Next Elder's Meeting—

Is on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 6pm.

Truth Connected Family Conference—

Saturday, April 22 10 AM-3 PM
 Grace Lutheran Church & School in Pocatello, ID
 Our speaker this year is Tyree Sterling from Dare to Share. Tyree will be presenting to both youth and parents about the importance of having a "faith at home game plan." There will open discussions on not just sharing your faith, but living you faith. Lunch will be provided. Cost for the conference is \$5 per person or \$20 a family.

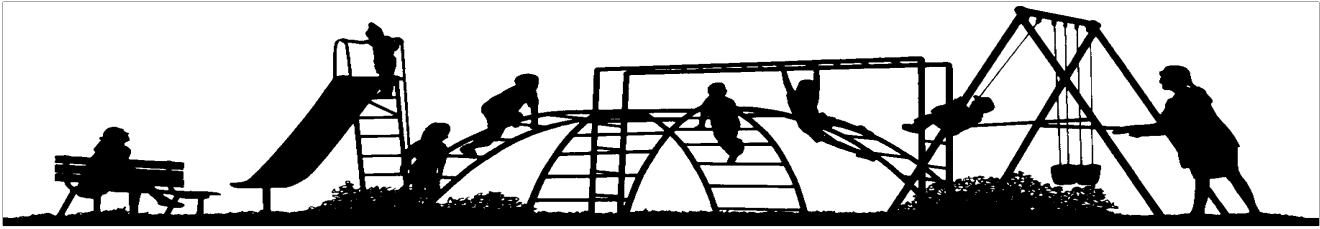
Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study—

7 PM at Amy's House. This study will be looking at *The Gospel of Mark: The Jesus We're Aching For* by Lisa Harper. Follow Jesus through His days of early ministry to the cross and discover what it fully means to be the recipients of His overflowing compassion and the very reason for His all-consuming passion.

Praying for our Church Family—

When you enter church on Sunday, February 5 you will notice hearts hanging from the ceiling. Each heart has listed on it names of a family unit (whether you're a family of one or a family of many...) from Grace, including preschool families. Please reach up and take heart. Take that heart home, place it in a prominent place (the refrigerator, the window above you kitchen sink, etc.) and every time you look at the names listed - pray for that family. Each heart will also have a verse from the Bible on it, so if you don't know how to pray for that family - pray the Scripture over them. Thank you, in advance, for your participation.





Grace Lutheran Preschool

Remaining 2016-2017 CALENDAR

<i>March 27 – 31</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
<i>May 2 – 4</i>	<i>Parent Teacher Conferences</i>
<i>May 18</i>	<i>Last Day of Preschool</i>
<i>May 18</i>	<i>All Preschool Celebration (6:30PM)</i>

4 Year Old Class

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We began January learning about the wise men who visited baby Jesus; and finished the month celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week. For NLSW we had dress up days, games, activities, devotions and crafts focusing on 'Built upon a Rock,' referring to Isaiah 26:4 "Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock." We learned letters R & K, and this month will learn A, M, N, and V. Our Valentine's class party will Tuesday, the 14th. The students have been doing excellent with sorting, counting and adding. Most of them have mastered the sounds, out of order, of the letters we've learned. Handwriting skills are improving every week, and they are really grasping concepts. What a wonderful class we are blessed with.

In His grace,
Mrs. Christiansen & Ms. Patti



3 Year Old Class

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Due to all of the "school closed days" we finally were able to have our Christmas party on January 17th. The children had a fun time opening their gifts and eating birthday cake and ice cream. All of them seemed to be very happy to be back in school. The weather has given us a lot to talk about and experience for our subject "winter." We talked about feelings and how we can experience many different feelings and that it is important to remember not to "take our feelings out on one another" unless they are happy ones. We covered John the Baptist and Jesus' Baptism. Many kids thought it was "disgusting" that John ate locusts.

Because of the limited number of school days in January we will still be covering letters J, D, P, numbers 10, 11 & 12, and the color blue in addition to the new ones. Our Bible verse for February is "Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind." Deuteronomy 6:5. We will talk about some of the miracles that Jesus performs and the story of the "Good Samaritan."

We will celebrate Valentine's Day on Thursday, Feb. 14th. We are decorating special boxes to hold the valentines. You may start bringing your valentines on Thursday, Feb. 7th. Here are the names of the children if you choose to participate:

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Andrew	Bonnie
Beau	Capri
Cooper	Cassie
Gunner	Cece
Nolan	Lyla

We have one birthday this month. Happy Birthday wishes go out to Nolan whose birthday is on the 5th.

Thank you to everyone for their understanding and patience with the closed school days. We will be making the four days up. We will make up two days in February and two days in March. We will have school on Wednesday, Feb. 15th and Wednesday, Feb. 22nd. In March we will have school on Wednesday, March 15th, and Wednesday, March 22nd. Please make note of these days. This will be communicated on your monthly calendar that is sent home as well. Let's all pray for nicer weather from here on out.

Mrs. Farrell & Mrs. Gigray



LWML / Concordia Circle—

Concordia Circle/LWML meets monthly on the first Monday of each month. Their next meeting is on Monday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Hostess is Sandy Smith-Mouchka and devotions will be given by Amy Hubach. Please contact Barbara James with any questions or if you would like to become a member of LWML.

Come to the Banquet!

You are cordially invited to join in attending Lutheran Community Services Annual Banquet and to learn about the LCS mission to support refugee students and adults living in the Treasure Valley. There is no cost to attend. You will be invited to support LCS programs with a gift or pledge.

When? Sunday, Feb. 26, 3:00 p.m. Social Time, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Dinner & Program

Where? The Clubhouse Event Center, 7311 W. Potomac Dr., Boise (just off Cole Road)

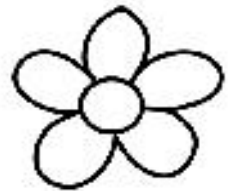
RSVP by Feb. 20, online at www.lcsnw.org/RSVP

For additional information contact Charlotte Combe, [208-323-0997x12](tel:208-323-0997x12) or [208-724-4998](tel:208-724-4998) or ccombe@lcsnw.org

Bingo Night

Family Game Night
Saturday, February 18
6 PM in the church basement
Dinner will be served!

ALL YOUTH FLOWER DELIVERY



TO THE RESIDENTS OF
AUTUMN WINDS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12
AFTER CHURCH
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED
...THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER...
GALATIANS 5:13

M S M

Middle School Ministry

Middle School Monday
February 27 @ 6:30 PM
Snacks, Games &
Bible Study

high school youth

LATE NIGHT WITH
FRIENDSHIP CELEBRATION
FRIDAY, FEB. 24 @ 6:30 PM
SNACKS & GAMES AT FRIENDSHIP UNTIL 8:30
WAHOZ UNTIL MIDNIGHT
COST \$25
(INCLUDES ALL THE NEW STUFF AT WAHOZ)

I consider that
our present
sufferings are not
worth comparing
with the glory that
will be revealed
in us.
Romans 8:18

WINTER RETREAT

High School Winter Retreat
at Camp Perkins March 3-5
\$100



2017 District High School
Youth Gathering
at Concordia University,
Portland, OR
July 19-23, 2017
Cost: \$325
Registration forms have
been emailed to all families

High School Bible Study

Sunday Nights at 6:30 P.M.

February 12, 19 & 26 No Bible Study on February 5

February 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<div style="border: 2px solid blue; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Reminder: Pastor & Amy are attending the DCE Conference in Leavenworth, WA Jan. 31-Feb 2 **No Tuesday night Bible Study on Jan. 31**</p> </div>			<p>1 <i>Preschool: 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>2 <i>Preschool 4's & 3's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters 7:45 pm Exercise</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship in Denny's at Flying J</p>
<p>5 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion <i>Board of Education</i> No H.S. Bible Study Greeters: Jerry & Patti Lawson</p>	<p>6 7:00 pm LWML / Concordia Circle</p>	<p>7 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> 9:30 & 12:30 Pre-K Chapel 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Amy's 7:45 pm Exercise</p>	<p>8 <i>Preschool: 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline  7:00 p.m. Ugandan Kids Choir</p>	<p>9 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters 6:00 pm Theology on Tap 7:45 pm Exercise</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship in Denny's at Flying J</p>
<p>12 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship <i>Board of Trustees</i> All Youth Flower Delivery at Autumn Wind see p. 6 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study Greeters: David & Vicki Lewis</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i>  7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Amy's 7:45 pm Exercise</p>	<p>15 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> Bulletin Deadline 7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>16 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> Newsletter Deadline 1:00 pm Quilters 7:30 pm Council 7:45 pm Exercise</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship in Denny's at Flying J 6:00 pm Family Bingo Night see pg. 6</p>
<p>19 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study Greeters: Dick & Peggy Ledington</p>	<p>20 President's Day</p>	<p>21 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> 9:30 & 12:30 Pre-K Chapel 6:00 pm Elder's 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Amy's 7:45 pm Exercise</p>	<p>22 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> Bulletin Deadline 7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>23 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> 6:00 pm Theology on Tap 7:45 pm Exercise</p>	<p>24 6:30 pm H.S. Youth Late Night at Friendship</p>	<p>25 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship in Denny's at Flying J</p>
<p>26 Transfiguration Sunday 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 6:30 H.S. Bible Study 7:00 pm Grace Book Club Greeters: Jim & Anita Lindbloom</p>	<p>27 6:30 p.m. MSM see p. 6</p>	<p>28 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Amy's 7:45 pm Exercise</p>	