

Grace Newsletter

January 2017

LWML / Concordia Circle—

Concordia Circle/LWML will meet Monday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Please contact Barbara James with any questions.

THANKS! —

I just want to thank everyone who helped this Advent season with the children's Christmas program and all of the decorating. Thank you Karen Southard for making the beautiful blue cloths to be draped in the sanctuary - the "starry" night was perfect. Thank you also to Ken McIntyre, Chuck Stadick, Don Southard, Marlee Hubach, Jerry & Patti Lawson & Don Schuster for putting up all the foil to black out the church - and for all who helped rip it down when we were finished. Thank you to Carla Shields, Angela Bow, Tara Daniel, Lorene Schuster, Mark & Ellie Elli & Hope Farrell for helping with the vignettes and/or glow in the dark presentation of the Christmas story - for either helping with sound, turning out lights, helping dress the kids and/or light up set. Thanks to all the kids, youth and adults who participated in the vignettes and glow in the dark program: Thomas Farrell, Miles Kilzer, Hailey Christiansen, Maddie Elli, Kolby Rau, Chase Upton, Kaleb Rau, Olivia Elli, Jayson Bow, Maya Hubach, Maddie Mar, Greg Farrell, Maria Weymouth, Rebecca Weaver, James Christiansen, Kayelea Bow, Eli Daniel, Jake Daniel, Alex Christiansen, & Tim Christiansen.

Amy Hubach



Have You Made Your New Year Resolution?

Resolve to be a volunteer at the 37th Biennial LWML Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 22-25, 2017. The goal statement for the convention is: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, through Word and Sacrament, I will proclaim **Jesus Christ above all**. Convention attendees will have the opportunity to be encouraged through worship and Bible study; equipped to share His message of salvation; and engaged in celebrating God's faithfulness and serving the Lord with gladness.

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.** Download the Call for Workers and Convention Logo Polo Shirt order forms and share them with others. More details can be found on your district LWML website (utahidaholwml.org). 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.



In This Issue

From the Pastor	page 2
Upcoming Events	page 3
Preschool	page 4-5
Youth Activities	page 6
Calendar of Events	page 7

“This Is a Truth We Can Stand On”

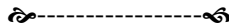
“So you must live as God’s obedient children...you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.” (1 Peter 1:14-15)

The election for a new president took place almost two months ago. Never in my memory have I heard or read so many harsh comments on both sides of the aisle.

As I write this, the Electoral College delegates are casting their votes and it is being reported that, within the hour, Donald Trump will officially be declared President-elect. This is significant because I’ve never seen an election where it was even a question if the Electoral College might change the predicted outcome, not even the election between George Bush and Al Gore.

I know there is deep disagreement between many people about who should or should not be taking the Oath of Office on January 20, 2017. There are many who firmly believe the candidate who lost would have destroyed America and there many others who just as firmly believe the candidate who won will destroy America. Sadly, our country remains deeply and painfully divided.

Therefore, I want to revisit what I shared in our November Newsletter, but from a slightly different perspective. As Christians, while we are citizens of America, our true citizenship remains in heaven. What you will read below comes from an article written by Pastor Joe Pease before the election had taken place. Please consider his words carefully.



The fire started on a dark, dry and windy summer night. What started as a small blaze in a local shopping district soon spread down a tight, winding road of apartments as people fled their homes in terror. The fire quickly spread in all directions, ultimately devastating three of the city’s 14 districts and damaging 10 in total.

Rumors about the arsonist spread as quickly as the fire and soon people speculated it was the emperor himself who started it. Nero, anxious to divert attention away from himself, blamed a controversial cult that had recently sprung up in the Roman empire. This fast growing group followed some crucified criminal from the outskirts of the empire and had caused Nero nothing but trouble. Blaming them killed two birds with one stone. And so Nero launched the most infamous persecution of Christians in church history.

This all happened in 64 A.D., around the time many scholars believe the book of 1 Peter was written. While it’s likely the book was written before the fire, there’s no doubt Peter was writing to a community of believers being increasingly persecuted for their beliefs. The message of Jesus had always been heresy to the Jewish community and was at best tolerated by a Roman empire that didn’t understand these monotheists who claimed their messiah was the one source of truth. But as 1 Peter was being written this tension was turning to hostility. Christians were scared. Should they fight for political power? Rebel against the empire? Betray their beliefs to not ruffle feathers?

It’s in this context Peter writes these words: *“So you must live as God’s obedient children...you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.”*

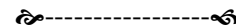
And then: *“For the Lord’s sake, submit to all human authority – whether the king as head of state, or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right...respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.”*

Peter first reminds these small bands of Christ-followers they’ve been set apart. They are God’s kids now. Don’t compromise. Don’t give in. But then, remarkably, he tells them to respect human authority. Honor Emperor Nero. Respect EVERYONE, not just those people in your community but even those you disagree with and who feel like your enemy. And remember, Jesus is the King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

It’s so easy for Christians to believe what they see on the news: that one way or the other the fate of the world rests in the right candidate or a Supreme Court appointee. Yes, those things DO matter, because we have the great gift of living in a country where we can participate in government. It remains our job to advocate for truth and justice as we can. But when voting day passes and the dust settles, the sun will rise and the world will still be literally dying for hope. And the real hope that is needed by all people won’t come from our next president no matter who it is.

As followers of Jesus Christ we have such a beautiful message to share. We get to tell the story of a group of people who lived in a culture where they didn’t fit in. But they faithfully loved God, their neighbor and each other and the power of the Holy Spirit lit up the Roman Empire with an all-consuming fire. But this fire didn’t destroy, it brought restoration and hope. Nearly two thousand years later the Great Fire of Rome is just a story we learn in history class.

But the Church is stronger than ever, still shining in communities, cities and countries with the burning light of the gospel. And that will never change.



As I said in November, though we don’t know what God’s will for America may be, we will continue to pray, “Father, may thy will be done in the United States of America as it is in Heaven!” At the same time we continue to do the work He has given us to do – share the hope that is ours in the crucified and risen Savior with everyone God puts in our life.

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

Pastor Brooks



The next gathering of the Grace Book Club will be on Sunday, **January 29** at 7:00 pm. Meeting place will be at the Brook's residence. We will be reading and discussing "The Undoing of Saint Silvanus" by Beth Moore.

Silvanus" by Beth Moore.

Summary: Only God knew why Jillian Slater agreed to return to New Orleans on the news that her father had finally drunk himself to death. It's not like they were close. She hadn't seen him--or her grandmother, the ice queen--in almost 20 years. But when Adella Atwater, the manager of her grandmother's apartment house, called and said Jillian's expenses would be paid if she'd fly in for the burial, a free trip to New Orleans was too intriguing to resist. What Adella didn't tell her was that the apartment house wasn't a house at all and, whatever it was, bore the dead weight of a long and painful history. As soon as Jillian meets the odd assortment of renters and realizes that her grandmother had no idea she was coming, she hatches a plan to escape. But the investigation into her father's death quickly unfolds and Jillian is drawn into the lives of the colorful collection of saints and sinners who pass through Saint Silvanus. Jillian walks into a web of spiritual and personal danger borne out of her family's broken history, and despite Adella's wildest efforts, only God himself can orchestrate the undoing of all that is going on at Saint Silvanus.

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.

Host Families Needed—

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 will be open to the public. The children and their chaperones will need housing for two nights, Tuesday, Feb. 7 and Wednesday, Feb 8, the choir will depart on Feb. 9 after lunch. We need **three Host Families**. If you are interested in hosting please speak with Hope Farrell.



 **UGANDAN
KIDS CHOIR**



A Shield & Refuge Ministry Special Presentation—

Grace Lutheran is hosting a special presentation by Shield and Refuge Ministry

on Saturday, January 28 from 9:30-Noon at Friendship Celebration in Meridian.

A Shield and Refuge Ministry is a specialized ministry to polygamists desiring to escape the FLDS. Doris Hanson, a former polygamist, will be sharing her story of escape, the ministry that she has been called to and how large the polygamist world really is - even in our own backyard here in the Treasure Valley. A Shield and Refuge Ministry is currently building the "Hagar Home," a safe house for women who are fleeing their polygamist family. For more information please go to: <http://www.shieldandrefuge.org/>

Please join us in Meridian on January 28 for this extraordinary and eye opening presentation.

Next Elder's Meeting—

Is on Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 6pm.

Next Council Meeting—

Is on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7:30pm.

Next Voter's Meeting—

Is on Sunday, Jan. 22 after service.

Tuesday Night Women's Bible

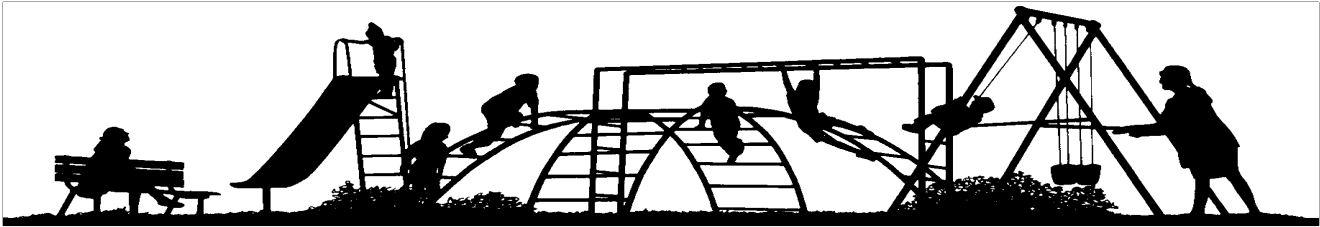
Study—will begin January 10 at 7 PM at Amy's House. This study will be looking at *The Gospel of Mark: The Jesus We're Aching For* by Lisa Harper

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—

Over the next 12 months we will be going on a prayer journey together as a church family. January 1, 8 & 15 please pick up a prayer post card. On that card, write what you need prayer for. You may write your name or choose not to - it's up to you. Those cards will then be dispersed to a person who will pray for you. Again, this can remain anonymous if you choose. If you cannot make it to church during those weeks, please contact Hope Farrell to share your prayer request with her.

If you would like to be a pray-er during the month of January, please let Hope or Amy know.



Grace Lutheran Preschool

Important Dates this Month:

January 10th – School Resumes

January 22 - 28th – Lutheran Schools Week

January 29th – Preschool Children Sing During Worship Service

4 Year Old Class

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Such an exciting time of year. We finished the Old Testament stories with Jonah and the whale and begun the New Testament with Christmas. We're sounding out small words with the letters we've learned. The students have greatly improved their problem solving skills with the help of mazes, rug games, and board games like checkers and Concentration. The snow gave opportunity at recess to build snowmen and snow angels. Ken McIntyre taught us how to play Fox and Geese, the kids love it.

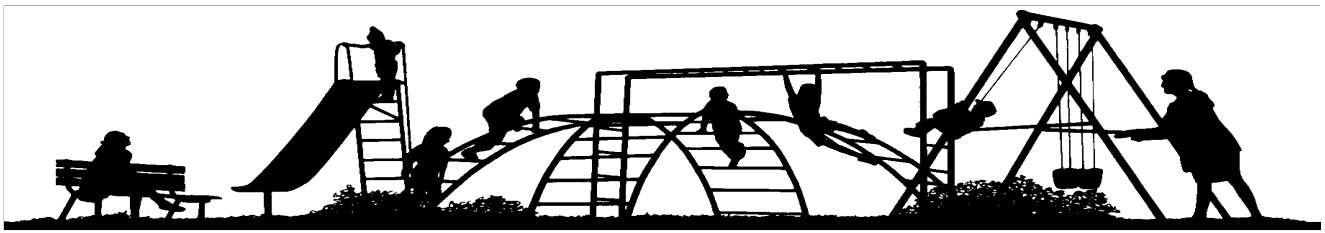
Our letters were J, D, P and B. Our Bible verses were: God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9, "Do not be afraid, you have found favor with God." Luke 1:3, Blessed is the King. John 12:13, and A Savior has been born. Luke 2:11.

We did so many wonderful crafts including: letter J is for Jesus candy cane, popsicle stick Christmas tree ornaments with buttons, coffee filter angels, greens stripes on red paper Christmas tree, hand & foot print angels, reindeer antler headbands, and baking. The kids enjoyed rolling, baking and wrapping their salt dough handprint keepsake gifts. Be sure to look at the paper snowmen on the bulletin board in the hallway. The Christmas program went very well. We were told this is the highest attendance for this event. Thank you so much for coming.



The world needs a STABLE influence

In His grace,
Mrs. Christiansen & Ms. Patti



3 Year Old Class

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December was all about the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, playing in the cold and making crafts associated with the Christmas season. Enough snow fell this month to make snow angels, snowballs, and cold fingers. We go outside for recess every day for fun and fresh air, so please remember to send your child with warm coats, hats, gloves and snow boots.

The children learned that Jesus was born for everyone and loves everyone no matter where you live on the earth. They traveled to several countries getting their passports stamped along the way.

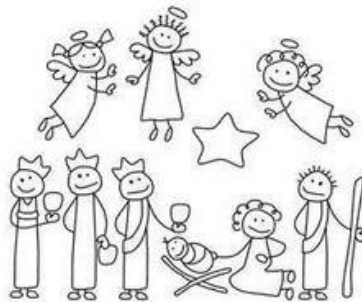
We will learn more letters (Q, G, & S), numbers (10, 11 & 12), and colors (focusing on green). Our Bible verse will be "Jesus grew in wisdom and the grace of God was upon him." Luke 2:40. We will talk about Jesus as a boy; introduce John the Baptist and Jesus's baptism.

We will be celebrating Lutheran School's week the week of Jan. 22, with wearing "mismatched" cloths on Tues. and wearing hats and/or crazy hair day on Thursday. We are also inviting the children to sing during our worship service on Sunday, Jan. 29. We will be sending songs home to practice.

We have one birthday this month. Happy Birthday wishes go out to Cece whose birthday is on the 6th.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Children's Christmas program last month. The children did a wonderful job singing and we hope everyone enjoyed the glow in the dark play. It is always special sharing the Christmas message with our preschool families. We look forward to the children singing this month on the 29th.

Mrs. Farrell & Mrs. Gigray



Save the Date to Celebrate LCS

Come Celebrate "We Are LCS!" at the Lutheran Community Services Annual Banquet on Sunday, February 26, 2017, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Clubhouse Event Center (on Potomac Drive off of Cole Road across from Boise Towne Square Mall) in Boise. Contact Charlotte Combe at [208-323-0996 ext. 12](tel:208-323-0996) or ccombe@lcsnw.org to reserve your seat. If you or someone you know would like to help by sponsoring this event or becoming a table host, please contact Charlotte Combe.

Note: Table hosts supply the names of friends and family they would like to invite to join them at the event and the LCS Office sends out the invitations. There are several sponsorship levels available and a sponsorship pledge can be fulfilled over the year.

All Youth Snow Tubing

AT BOGUS BASIN
SATURDAY 21
COST: 16 FOR TUBING
PLUS 5 FOR PIZZA
SIGN UP BY JAN. 8



M S M

Middle School Ministry

**Middle School Monday
January 23 @ 6:30 PM**

**Snacks, Games &
Bible Study**

Love, Give, Live

a trip through the Bible with
our 1st, 2nd & 3rd grade
students



This is a 4-week class

January 8-January 20 during the Sunday school hour

This is a class for parents & children to do together

The purpose of Love, Give, Live is to place a Bible into the hands of every child, teach them how to use it and explore the plan of salvation from Genesis to Revelation. Each child needs their own Bible & a highlighter.

If you have questions about what type of Bible to buy, please contact
Amy Hubach

and to the LORD a
new song, for he
has done marvelous
things; his right
hand and his holy
arm have worked
salvation for him.

psalm 98:1

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: \$299
Registration forms have
been emailed to all families

High School Bible Study

Sunday Nights at 6:30 P.M.

January 8, 15, 22 & 29

January 2017

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion No H.S. Bible Study Greeters: Rebecca Weaver, Gale Edmonds	2	3 <i>Christmas Break – No Preschool</i> 7:45 pm Exercise	4 <i>Christmas Break – No Preschool</i> Bulletin Deadline No Choir Practice	5 <i>Christmas Break – No Preschool</i> 1:00 pm Quilters 7:45 pm Exercise	6	7 <u>8:00 am</u> Group Bible Fellowship in Denny's at Flying J
8 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship <i>Board of Education</i> <i>Board of Trustees</i> 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study Greeters: Barbara & Dawna James	9 7:00 pm LWML / Concordia Circle	10 Preschool Resumes <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Amy's 7:45 pm Exercise	11 <i>Preschool: 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 7:30 pm Choir Practice	12 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters 6:00 pm Theology on Tap 7:45 pm Exercise	13	14 <u>8:00 am</u> Group Bible Fellowship in Denny's at Flying J
15 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study Greeters: Chris & Natalie Kelpin	16	17 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> 9:30 & 12:30 Pre-K Chapel Newsletter Deadline <i>6:00 pm Elder's</i> 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Amy's 7:45 pm Exercise	18 <i>Preschool: 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 7:30 pm Choir Practice	19 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters <i>7:30 pm Council</i> 7:45 pm Exercise	20	21 <u>8:00 am</u> Group Bible Fellowship in Denny's at Flying J All Youth Snow Tubing at Bogus Basin see p. 6
22 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship <i>Annual Budget Voter's Meeting w/ Potluck</i> 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study Greeters: Jon & Margaret Kilzer	23 6:30 p.m. MSM	24 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Amy's 7:45 pm Exercise	25 <i>Preschool: 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 7:30 pm Choir Practice	26 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> 6:00 pm Theology on Tap 7:45 pm Exercise	27	28 <u>8:00 am</u> Group Bible Fellowship in Denny's at Flying J
29 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion 6:30 H.S. Bible Study 7:00 pm Grace Book Club Greeters: Alex & Sarah Kroll	30	31 <i>Preschool: 4's & 3's</i> 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Amy's 7:45 pm Exercise	