



Grace Newsletter

March 2017

Boise Rescue Mission Can Castle—

The youth are participating in the Can Castle for the 4th year in a row! There will be a barrel in the entry way where you can drop non-perishable food items beginning on March 1. All food must be collected by March 27, when the middle school youth will build the castle on Middle School Monday. Questions? Please contact Amy Hubach

12 Months of Prayer—

March: 10,000 Reasons for Praise

You will notice a large frame in the hallway by Pastor's office. During the month of March - our church family will focus on Praise to our God, our Savior, our Comforter. Please take a moment each week to write down a praise and clip it to the twine in the frame. May we be a voice that shows the world that our God is to be praised! ***Therefore I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name.***

Psalm 18:49

Lenten Cross—

During the season of Lent families will have the opportunity to take Lenten devotions to do together. You may also sign up for a Lenten cross. Like an advent wreath, the cross will lay on a table and have candles that are to be lit for each week during lent. The middle candle, a white candle, is to be lit on Easter to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sign-ups will begin February 26. Crosses will be available on Ash Wednesday.

Reverse Lent: A Different Kind of Fast—

For a different type of family devotion do a different kind of fast. Each week there will be a reading, some discussion questions, an action and a prayer. The actions of the Reverse Lent help the individuals focus on God and others during the season of Lent. Actions include gathering food items, water bottles, school supplies, gently used clothing, and creating personal care kits. Each week or at the end of the season, bring your items to church and place them on the "hill to the cross" remembering Jesus' sacrifice for us. Organizations that will receive the items collected are: The Salvation Army in Caldwell, Lutheran World Relief, Boise Rescue Mission, Love INC, and Washington Elementary. ***"This is the kind of fast day I'm after: to break the chains of injustice, get rid of exploitation in the workplace, free the oppressed, cancel debts.***

Plan Now to Attend—

The 37th Biennial LWML Convention is in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 22-25, 2017. Have you heard that these special guests will be there?

- LCMS President Matthew Harrison will be the proclaimer at the opening worship service.
- Rev. Allen Anderson, LCMS Rocky Mountain District President will be the proclaimer at the closing worship service.
- LWML Past President Ida Mall will be the keynote speaker.
- Deaconess Betty Knapp will be the Bible study leader.
- Wendysue Fluegge will be the song leader.
- Jan Struck will provide humorous interruptions as Katie Luther.

Please pray for our special guests and convention leaders as they prepare to help us proclaim "Jesus Christ Above All." **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.

In This Issue

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

“The Last Enemy Still Brings Pain – But Not Forever!”

“For [Jesus] must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.” (1 Corinthians 15:25-26)

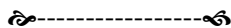
On Ash Wednesday, March 1, Lent 2017 officially begins. Once again we make our journey with Jesus as He walks to Jerusalem fully knowing that He will die on a cross on Good Friday. Even though He knew Good Friday would be followed by Resurrection Sunday, Jesus did not *want* to die. He knew He had to die. It was the will of His Father that He complete the mission of our salvation. But Gethsemane speaks clearly. He didn't *want* to die.

And neither do we. As we make our way through this life we all know that death awaits us at some time. One day we will draw our last breath. And even though we know that Resurrection Day awaits us, we don't *want* to die. Probably for different reasons than Jesus. But nonetheless, none of us *want* to die.

It isn't only Lent that reminds us of death. In less than two months this winter we said farewell to five members of our Church family. Each death, each funeral, each graveside committal is a reminder that death continues to stalk its victims.

And victims we are. As Paul declares, death remains our enemy until the day Jesus returns to put an end to its tyranny. But that day has not come yet as our “last enemy” continues to claim our loved ones.

A few months ago my Mom shared the article below with me. It was written by a retired RN who is a member of her congregation and was published in their church newsletter. Though she still mourns my Dad's and brother's death Mom found this woman's words helpful and comforting.



What is it about death that seems so devastatingly final? Didn't God tell us from the days of the Garden of Eden we would die? Death is as sure to follow birth as a sunset follows the sunrise.

The last 10 years of my nursing career I worked as a Hospice Nurse. Not a day passed that I didn't think about death and dying. The experience did serve to deepen my faith and trust in God even as I was reminded each day that nobody escapes death.

Some deaths certainly appeared worse to me than others. Watching a person struggling to live is difficult to witness. While we all hope that God, in His supreme kindness, will allow us to die in our sleep, the chances of that happening are actually pretty slim. Our bodies are programmed to live. And as they are dying, most people struggle as they stave off death.

Witnessing a death is often filled with inexplicable sadness and helplessness. But I've come to believe there is more happening during this process than we are able to witness. I have

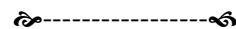
experienced enough of people in the end stages of life to believe that God does not abandon us as we die. He is present in the midst of this struggle, and it is Him who gives both peace and comfort, both to the one dying and to me.

When a person dies, I honestly trust that God has His hand in the process. He understands that death frightens us so He does not abandon us. An image that has helped me immensely is to think of death as a person sailing away and over the horizon. We will not see them again this side of heaven. But that person has not disappeared. They have simply moved beyond our view. Yes, the earthly body is left behind. But the person we just “lost” is not lost. They are home, reunited with God.

So if Dad's soul has gone home, why should that devastate me so? Yes, I am left to weep and mourn. I will miss Dad's physical presence so very much. And I ask, “Am I wrong to be so selfish?” I don't think so. God created us, even our strong emotions. It is impossible to live life as if our loved one never existed.

So as I dig deeper and cling to my Christian faith, while I miss my dad, I know I can rejoice for him – even in death. HE is the lucky one. And one day, I will be the lucky one, as well. I, too, will draw my last breath here on earth and get to enter the loving arms of my Lord.

Maybe we can think of our birth as a round trip ticket. The first half of our journey begins as we draw our first breath here. We never know when we've begun the trip back. We just know that someday we WILL return to our true home. In the meantime we trust, love and praise our God as we strive to do His will.



While our death is certain, as God's people we are never without hope. This side of heaven the last enemy still brings pain – but not forever! Jesus **will** return and death, weeping, mourning and tears will be no more.

With every funeral I attend or conduct, Jesus' words in John 11:25-26 become sweeter and sweeter:

“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”

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

Pastor Brooks

My Funeral Plans - Not Afraid of Death

Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

As God's people we know that Jesus' Easter victory assures us of our own victory over death and the grave. The fact that each of us will face death means we have a great opportunity to express our faith in a positive way at the time of, and even after, we die. The confidence with which we face the difficult subject of death speaks volumes about our confidence in the Lord who has conquered death and the grave for us.

One way we can do this to make our wishes about our funeral or memorial service known to our loved ones before we die. And we have an easy way for you to do this.

In the magazine rack on the right side of the mailboxes you will find sheets titled: *My Funeral Plan*. You are invited to pick up as many as you might need, fill them out and then tell your family where they can be found in the event of your death. You can even bring them to the church and we will file them for you here (Hint: don't place them in a safety deposit box because that can often be inaccessible until various legalities are taken care of, usually after the time of the funeral).

Consider these blessings if you do this:

- You help your family know that the hymns, Bible verses and other details of your funeral are what you want.
- You have the opportunity to speak with them not just about plans for your funeral but also about the joy that is yours because you know that, in Christ, your future is secure.
- You can speak to those who will attend that service about the sure and certain hope that is yours because of your faith in Jesus Christ.

Lenten Theme, Holy Week and Easter Schedule

You are probably aware that this year marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. On October 31, 1517, a Roman Catholic monk named Martin Luther posted 95 Theses for debate and discussion on the chapel door in Wittenberg, Germany. Little did he know that this would begin a process that would profoundly affect his world and ours.

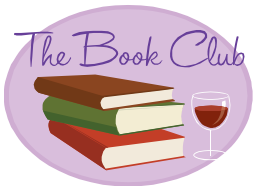
Luther believed Lent was an ideal time to teach the Christian faith. This year we are going to take his advice in our Midweek Lenten Services to do this under the theme *The Art of Living by Faith*. With the exception of Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, we will gather on Wednesday evening for a light supper at 5:30 pm, Hymn sing in the sanctuary at 6:15 pm and Worship from 6:30-7:15 pm.

I pray you will be able to join us this Lent as we make our way with Jesus to the cross of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter.

Midweek Lenten theme:

The Art of Living by Faith: Reflections for Lent from Luther's Small Catechism

Ash Wednesday Mar 1, 7:00 pm	<i>"The Christian Life Is the Art of Living by Faith" - Romans 4:13, 16</i>
Lent 1 Mar 8	<i>"Our Need for Faith: First Commandment" - Psalm 22:9-10</i>
Lent 2	<i>"Creation: First Article" - John 1:1-4</i>
Lent 3	<i>"Redemption: The Second Article" - Romans 1:1-4</i>
Lent 4	<i>"Re-creation: Third Article" - Genesis 1:2</i>
Lent 5	<i>"The Battle Cry of Faith: Lord's Prayer" - Matthew 6:9-13</i>
Maundy Thursday Apr 13, 7:00 pm	<i>"The Cup We Bless...The Bread We Break: Holy Communion"</i> <i>1 Cor. 10:16-17</i>
Good Friday Apr 14, 7:00 pm	<i>"The Day Creation Fell Apart" - Romans 5:8</i>
The Resurrection of Our Lord	<i>"A New Day-A New Life-A New Creation!" - Job 19:25-26</i>



The next gathering of the Grace Book Club will be on Sunday, **March 26** at 7:00 pm. Meeting place is TBD. We will be reading and discussing "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman.

Summary: Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him "the bitter neighbor from hell." But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations. A feel-good story in the spirit of *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* and *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, Fredrik Backman's novel about the angry old man next door is a thoughtful exploration of the profound impact one life has on countless others. "If there was an award for 'Most Charming Book of the Year,' this first novel by a Swedish blogger-turned-overnight-sensation would win hands down" (*Booklist*, starred review).

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.

LWML / Concordia Circle—

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

Next Council Meeting—

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

Next Elder's Meeting—

Is on Tuesday, March 21 at 6pm.

Change Your Clocks—

Daylight saving time begins on Sunday, March 12. Move your clocks ahead one hour the evening before!



Truth Connected Family Conference—

When: Saturday, April 22
10:30 AM-3 PM

Where: Grace Lutheran Church & School in Pocatello, ID

Tyree Sterling from Dare2Share will be leading sessions on faith discussions in the home with a special emphasis on how to share your faith with your LDS friends. Sign up today with Amy - cost is \$20 for a family or \$5 individual.



It's here.

Please pick your directory up from Hope Farrell or Sherrie Prien out in the entryway before/after church services this month. If you would like a directory but did not have a picture taken or submitted there is a nominal fee of \$5 to cover the cost of the additional directories.

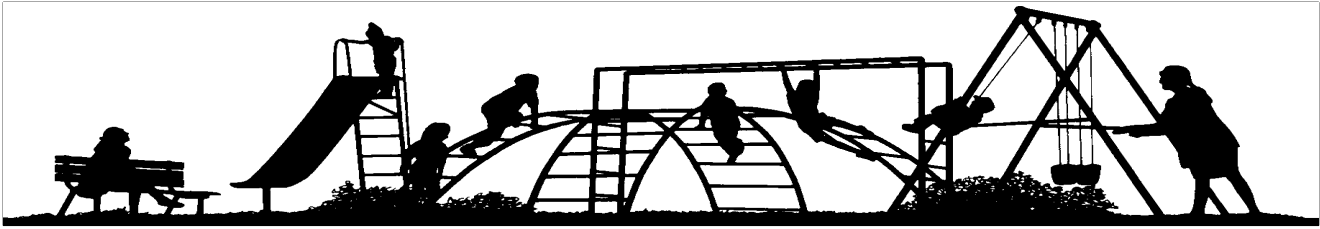
Reminder:



A convenient, consistent way to help our church grow

Grace Lutheran Church & Preschool has an Electronic Giving option available for your convenience. Electronic Giving is a convenient, consistent way to help our church grow. Consider scheduling a recurring electronic contribution today. It's easy! You will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis.

Get started today! Ask for an authorization form in the church office. Or visit our church website.



Grace Lutheran Preschool

4 Year Old Class

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"Building a spiritual & educational foundation for living in His grace."

This is our class motto. We created it last summer partly for the new website, but more importantly to sum up what we do. We're proud to teach children about God's word, and His promise that He is always with us. We Praise God for adding to our Preschool family. Our new student, Maylee, puts the Pre-k class total to 26. Thankfully we have morning and afternoon sessions.

We've been focusing on: John the Baptist - Whoever believes will be saved. Mark 16:16; Jesus' baptism - This is my Son that I love. Matt. 3:17; the disciples - I will make you fishers of men. Matt. 4:19; and the Lord's Prayer. We'll finish learning the uppercase letters and will focus on lower case letters. Some of our students are beginning to sound out and read short words that end in: ad, am, an, ap, ar, at. We start with very simple words they can sound out phonetically; as they progress we move forward with new words. It's very exciting for them to be able to sound out letters, make a word and read with confidence.

The students are grasping math concepts. We've been working on sequencing, correct order, categorizing, adding and subtracting. These are building blocks for moving forward. They've also been learning more/fewer, far/near, and same/opposite. Our crafts integrate the letters and Bible stories we're learning. The rug games are a highlight and have greatly improved their hand-eye coordination. We're having a great time learning new songs and dancing in the classroom.

In His grace, Mrs. Christiansen and Ms. Patti

3 Year Old Class

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"Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind." Deuteronomy 6:5. Ask your child to recite the Bible verse for last month. They can all say it from memory. Like every month, February was filled with a lot of love; cutting out hearts, decorating Valentine boxes, singing and learning about Jesus's love for us through his miracles. We have completed two of our four make up days and are having a great time. The weather is warming up and it isn't taking quite so long to get ready to go outside and enjoy the warm sun.

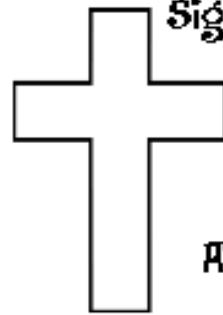
Nolan's mom who is a dental hygienist visited us last month for "Dental Awareness" month. All the children know that "sugar bugs" are not good for their teeth. Thank you, Mrs. Hoadley, for teaching our class about the importance of brushing and knowing what foods are good for our teeth. We also talked about nutrition, having a balanced meal and the importance of limiting those "very tasty" treats. We have one birthday this month. Happy Birthday wishes go out to Andrew whose birthday is on March 30th.

Our Bible verse for this month is "I am the way, the truth, and the life." John 14:6.

Mrs. Farrell & Mrs. Gigray

F₂ A₁ M₂ I₁ L₂ Y₁₀
G A M E
 N₁ I₁ G₂ H₂ T₂

Friday, March 24
 6 PM in the church basement
 Dinner will be served!



Sign up today for your
 Lenten Cross
 to use with your
 family devotions.
 Also available is the
 "Reverse Lent"
 devotional



Middle School Ministry

Middle School Monday
March 27 @ 6:30 PM
Snacks, Bible Study & the
Can Castle Tournament

Thursday, March 16
 Meet at church at 4 PM
 \$10 at the door

THE ROCK & WORSHIP
ROADSHOW

Rend Collective
 Steen Curtis Chapman
 Francesca Battistelli & many more!

You're here to
 be light, bring-
 ing out the God-
 colors in the
 world. God is
 not a secret to
 be kept.
Matthew 5:16

WINTER RETREAT
 High School Retreat March 3-5



Middle School Retreat March 17-19

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 PM

March 5, 12 & 19 No Bible Study March 26

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>All are from the dust, and to dust all return. Ecclesiastes 3:20 (ESV)</i></p> 			<p>1 Ash Wednesday Preschool: 4's</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline 10:30 Foundations of Faith 6:30 pm Ash Wed. Service Choir Practice after Service</p>	<p>2 Preschool 4's & 3's</p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 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 6:30 H.S. Bible Study</p> <p>Greeters: Larry Lund Richard Von Dach</p>	<p>6 7:00 pm LWML / Concordia Circle</p>	<p>7 Preschool: 4's & 3's 9:30 & 12:30 Pre-K Chapel</p> <p>5:45 pm Exercise 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Amy's</p>	<p>8 Preschool: 4's</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline 10:30 Foundations of Faith 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Hymn Sing 6:30 Lenten Service Choir Practice after Service</p>	<p>9 Preschool: 4's & 3's</p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise 6:00 pm Theology on Tap</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship in Denny's at Flying J</p>
<p>12 Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship <i>Board of Trustees</i> <i>Board of Education</i> 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study</p> <p>Greeters: Ty & Rene Lyon</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Preschool: 4's & 3's</p> <p>5:45 pm Exercise 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Amy's</p>	<p>15 Preschool: 4's & 3's</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline 10:30 Foundations of Faith 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Hymn Sing 6:30 Lenten Service Choir Practice after Service</p>	<p>16 Preschool: 4's & 3's</p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters 4:00 p.m. Rock & Worship Road Show 5:45 pm Exercise 7:30 pm Council</p>	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship in Denny's at Flying J</p>
<p>19 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship w/ Holy Communion 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study</p> <p>Greeters: Ken & Carol McIntyre</p>	<p>20 Spring Begins</p> 	<p>21 Preschool: 4's & 3's 9:30 & 12:30 Pre-K Chapel</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline 5:45 pm Exercise 6:00 pm Elder's 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Amy's</p>	<p>22 Preschool: 4's & 3's</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline 10:30 Foundations of Faith 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Hymn Sing 6:30 Lenten Service Choir Practice after Service</p>	<p>23 Preschool: 4's & 3's</p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise 6:00 pm Theology on Tap</p>	<p>24 6:00 p.m. Family Game Night see p. 6</p>	<p>25 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship in Denny's at Flying J</p>
<p>26 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship</p> <p>No H.S. Bible Study 7:00 pm Grace Book Club</p> <p>Greeters: Linda McAuslan Patricia Haffner</p>	<p>27 6:30 p.m. MSM see p. 6</p>	<p>28 <i>No Preschool: Spring Break</i></p> <p>5:45 pm Exercise 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Amy's</p>	<p>29 <i>No Preschool: Spring Break</i></p> <p>Bulletin Deadline 10:30 Foundations of Faith 5:30 Soup Supper 6:15 Hymn Sing 6:30 Lenten Service Choir Practice after Service</p>	<p>30 <i>No Preschool: Spring Break</i></p> <p>Bulletin Deadline 1:00 pm Quilters 5:45 pm Exercise</p>	<p>31</p>	