



Grace Newsletter

February 2019

Financial Status Update—

Dear brothers and sisters,

Last year the Church's expenses which are funded by your Sunday offerings (General Fund) ended with a deficit of \$2,700. In other words, we spent more than we received in offerings. This has happened in the past as well, but we had a cash reserve that was able to cover those shortfalls. That cash reserve is now depleted. We do have money in other funds that we can use to cover that deficit but those must be (and have been) replaced.

When the Church Council recognized this issue after our November 2018 Voters' Meeting a committee was formed to give recommendations for the upcoming year so we might avoid this in the future. That committee has met and recommended the following goals for this year's budget. The Church Council has accepted them as a prudent way to move forward.

- Estimate offerings for 2019 by increasing last year's offering total by 2.9%.
- Base this year's budget on the understanding that this is what we will receive in offerings.

To meet these goals the budget that was reviewed at that November Voters' Meeting was adjusted by:

- holding staff salaries and benefits at the 2018 level,
- reducing multiple budget categories to match the actual expenses for 2018,
- using church volunteers to mow, trim and do other seasonal maintenance of lawn,
- reducing the budget for World, Northwest District and Local missions.

It was this adjusted budget that was adopted in January. The Church Council has also committed to:

- developing a clearer budget report for the weekly bulletin,
- giving regular verbal updates in church to highlight the current budget situation and
- establishing and maintaining a cash reserve which equals 1-3 months of regular expenses.

Please remember, our congregation's budget is only funded by your generous offerings to the General Fund and our weekly expenses continue regularly throughout the year. We ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your offering for the General Fund this year and invite you to also consider using the option of electronic giving so that your offering will be consistent even if you should miss a service for one reason or another.

If you have any questions or would like further details about any of this, please contact Dick Ledington at dledingt@msn.com or Ken McIntyre at kmac2646@msn.com or speak with them personally.



In This Issue

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

YOU ARE A MISSIONARY!

“And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Have you ever considered yourself a missionary? Believe it or not, you are. After His triumphant resurrection from the dead Jesus gave His people the assignment to be missionaries. At the end of the book of Matthew we hear Jesus saying: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20* These words make it clear that the mission of the church (and the church is you and me, the body of Christ here at Grace) is to spread the Good News about Jesus. That means we are missionaries.

“Go and make disciples of all nations.” This means nothing less than that we are to go into the *whole world* and share the love of Christ. That’s a tall order!!! And if we think in those terms alone it’s would be awfully tempting to tell God to forget it; the job is just too big. How would we even begin?

That’s why it’s important to read the passage at the top of this page. Those words, also spoken by Jesus, are from the book of Acts. They, too, were spoken after the resurrection and they help us put His command to *“go into all nations”* into perspective.

What Jesus meant when He spoke those words is that they were to begin where they were, in Jerusalem, and that they would also be His witnesses in Judea and Samaria, and then the rest of the world. Like ripples in a pond, the message of his love would spread and grow with His church.

That’s exactly what’s been going on since these words were spoken almost 2000 years ago and also what we’re doing here at Grace. If Jesus were to speak these words to us today He would say something like:

“And you will be my witnesses in Caldwell and in all Idaho and the United States, and to the end of the earth.”

He would tell us to start where we are and move outward, telling others the Good News that He died for their sins and that they can have joy and peace forever with God through faith.

This month and next month I will be focusing on a

different aspect of Acts 1:8. This month we consider how we are *“witnesses...in the United States and to the end of the earth.”* But it’s obviously not possible for every one of us to go to the ends of the earth and tell others about Jesus. So how do we take Jesus’ words seriously?

Well, although we may not be able to go personally, we can send others who will serve as Christ’s ambassadors on our behalf. Through our mission dollars we’re able to send people to every part of the world. Grace Lutheran Church & Preschool, along with thousands of other churches of our Synod, send and support missionaries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America. In fact, it was 123 years ago that our church body sent our first international missionary, Rev. Theodore Naether, to India.

Each year we designate a portion of our annual budget for missions. We divide those funds for World Missions, Local Missions, and the LCMS Northwest District.

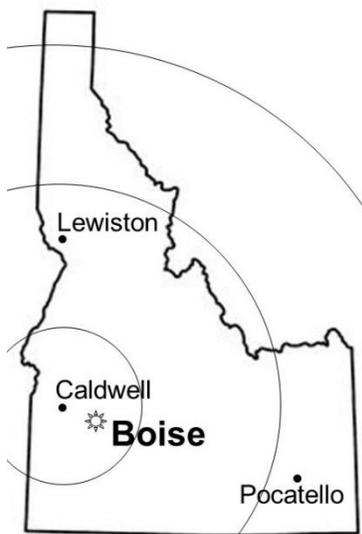
In the last two years through our World Missions giving we’ve supported International Lutheran Hour Ministries, Shield & Refuge (The Hagar Home which supports women who are exiting polygamous families), Mission Aviation Ministry (an air pilot ministry that serves indigenous peoples in Alaska) and Nichelle Dykema who was serving as a missionary to Peru.

Our LCMS Northwest District is comprised of all of the LCMS congregations in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hong Kong! The money we and other congregations send to the Northwest District is used to support the staff in our District Office as well as many ministries throughout the District. And 10 percent of the money the District receives from congregations is forwarded on to Synod so it can perform its ministry.

I will talk about being a local missionary next month. But, as you can see, through your mission dollars you **are** a missionary to the world and throughout our own country. You are sharing the love of Jesus with people you don’t even know but whom, God willing, you will meet one day in heaven. How exciting it is to be involved in this effort of love!

I pray God’s blessings for us as we continue to grow in our faith, our love for Jesus and our love for others as we fulfill Christ’s commission to be His ***“witnesses in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”***

Pastor Brooks





The next gathering of the Grace Book Club will be Sunday, **February 24** at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing "The Storyteller" by Jodi Picoult. Our meeting place is TBD.

A short summary: Sage Singer is a baker. She works through the night, preparing the day's breads and pastries, trying to escape a reality of loneliness, bad memories, and the shadow of her mother's death. When Josef Weber, an elderly man in Sage's grief support group, begins stopping by the bakery, they strike up an unlikely friendship. Despite their differences, they see in each other the hidden scars that others can't. Everything changes on the day that Josef confesses a long-buried and shameful secret and asks Sage for an extraordinary favor. If she says yes, she faces not only moral repercussions, but potentially legal ones as well. With the integrity of the closest friend she's ever had clouded, Sage begins to question the assumptions and expectations she's made about her life and her family.

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 Hope at 208-405-6080.



Concordia Circle/LWML—

Meets the first Monday of every month. The next meeting is Monday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Marilyn Seay is hosting and devotions will be given by Barbara James. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Please contact Peggy Schroeder with any questions.

Council Meeting—

The council meeting for this month is on Thursday February 21 at 7:30 PM.

Elder Meeting—

The Elder's meeting for this month is on Tuesday, February 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Outreach Meeting—

The outreach board is meeting on Wednesday, February 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room here at Grace

Education Meeting—

The education board is meeting on Tuesday, February 10th after church services.

Trustee Meeting—

The trustee board is meeting on Tuesday, February 10th after church services.



Eat at Freddy's in Caldwell and Help the Youth—

Freddy's is helping out our youth group! Come in on February 21 from 5-8 PM, bring your coupon and order dinner! The youth will be helping in the restaurant! Freddy's will donate 20% of sales to Grace Lutheran Youth during that time! Grab some coupons and share them with friends, co-workers and family! Come out and support our kids!

Suicide Education & Statistics—

In 2016:

- People ages 10-34 suicide was the 2nd leading cause of death
- People ages 35-44 it was the 4th leading cause of death
- People ages 55-64 it was the 8th leading cause of death.

(<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide/statistics/index.html>)

In 2016 Idaho was ranked 7th in the nation for suicide deaths.

And in 2017 there were 1,300,000 suicide attempts. (<https://afsp.org/about-suicide/suicide-statistics/>)

If You Think Someone Is Considering Suicide

*Trust your instincts that the person may be in trouble

*Talk with the person about your concerns. Communication needs to include LISTENING

*Ask direct questions without being judgmental. Determine if the person has a specific plan to carry out the suicide. The more detailed the plan, the greater the risk

*Get professional help, even if the person resists

*Do not leave the person alone

*Do not swear to secrecy

*Do not act shocked or judgmental

*Do not counsel the person yourself

(<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/suicide>)

2019 Church Officers—

Chairman: Mark Kroll
Recording Secretary: Dee Volk
Financial Secretary: Mike Pierce
Treasurer: Ken McIntyre

2019 Board Members—

Elders:

Aaron Christiansen Jerry Deal
Jerry Lawson Gary Meyer
Tony Osmus Terry Reinke
Charlie Rowen

Stewardship & Finance:

Mike Houston Larry Lund
Elizabeth Osmus

~~~There are 2 open positions available~~~

### Outreach:

Mary Etta Fredrickson Colleen Fuller  
Sharon Hensen Becky Parry  
Linda Symms Karen Waits

### Trustees:

Larry Fredrickson Dave Henderson  
Trish Henderson Terry Hensen  
Don Southard Chuck Stadick  
Myron Volk

### Education:

Mark Elli Patti Lawson  
Carla Shields Connie Stadick

~~~There is 1 open position available~~~

Preschool:

Lorrie Houston Margaret Kilzer
Lillian Pierce Peggy Schroeder

May our Lord guide each and every one of us to support the above people who have graciously chosen to serve our church this year. If you would like to serve in one of the open positions please contact Pastor Brooks or one of the board members.



Teacher Position Available—

Grace Preschool is seeking a preschool teacher for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year for the 3-4 year old class. This is a co-teacher position and could possibly lead into a position for the 2019-2020 school year. The class meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Education and/or experience with early childhood education is preferred but not required. For information, contact Mike or Lillian Pierce (467-1437) or Grace Lutheran Church (459-4191).

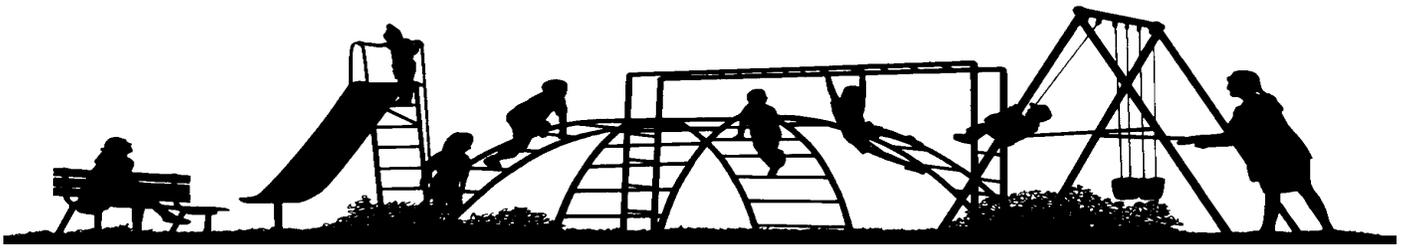


Church Family Prayers—

During each church service (starting up again this month) we will be praying for three of our church families. Families are selected alphabetically, prayed for by name and are listed in the bulletin. We now are going to list the families for the whole month in each newsletter. The postcard reminder will still be sent out in the mail reminding you of the date that you will be specifically prayed for. This month we will be praying for the following families:

Lucy Anderson
Gwen Barney
Nola Barningham
Janice Beaudry
Jan Bengtson
Jerry & Sharon Bengtson
Lanny & Jeanne Berg
Angie Boman
Angela Bow
Don & Kay Braun
Lance, Jennifer, Colby, Eli, & Hannah Brock
Pastor Dana, Janet, Stephen, Paul & Lucas Brooks





Grace Lutheran Preschool

Pre-Kindergarten

4 Year Old Class

~~~~~

Class Moto: Be Kind Like Jesus!

January was a fun month full of stories about Christmas break and presents. It finally snowed! The kids had so much fun playing in the snow and trying to build a snowman. As most of you know we have a new teacher in our class, but not new to the Grace Preschool staff. Ms. Amanda Gigray moved from the Preschool/3year olds class to our class on January 8th. This is her 4th year with our Grace family and she is excited to have the new challenge of the Pre-K class. What we learned: Letters R, K, A, M & N, Numbers 6, 7 & 8. We are working on learning about order, what comes before, after and next and also about what makes more and less.

Our Bible Verses were:

- The wise men visited Jesus. Matthew 2:1-12
- God is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:4
- Whoever believes in me will be saved. Mark 16:16
- This is my Son that I love. Matthew 3:17

Our Bible Stories were: John the Baptist and the Baptism of Jesus

Birthdays Celebrated: January 14th - William

We look forward to celebrating Valentine's in February and spreading even more of God's love.



Ms. Amanda & Ms. Patti

## *3 Year Old Class*

~~~~~

January finally gave us some snow to play in and boy oh boy did the kids enjoy it. They made snowballs, snow angels, and of course had to eat some of it too! That kicked off our crafts in making Snowmen looking up to the sky, snow globes, snowflakes, hot cocoa with marshmallows we hung around our classroom fireplace, and stamping with white paint using winter stamps just to name a few. We planned some snacks with the winter weather by having cinnamon rolls and hot cocoa with chocolate chip cookies. Mrs. Lillian, whom is graciously and fantastically filling in for the preschool room, has taught the kids all about Jesus as a boy up to Jesus choosing his Disciples this month. She has dressed the children up in characters of the stories, made crafts reflecting John the Baptist baptizing Jesus and even helped the children to make their own grasshopper rolls that we then baked and had as a snack. The children loved "going to the bakery" to roll up their rolls with her.

We did some more learning activities with the white boards as well as practiced more on the kids cutting skills and tracing lines with markers. They are doing very well so far and surprise us every week with how much they have soaked up into their minds.

February is going to bring a lot of love, reds, and pinks. We will start with our Bible verse, Love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind. Deuteronomy 6:5. We will learn about many miracles that Jesus performed, have a Valentine's Day Celebration, and a "Love" themed show and tell. Our letters this month are B, R, K, and A. Our numbers are 14, 15, and 16. Our shape of course is Heart.



All our love,
Ms. Katie & Ms. Lillian



All Youth Lock In at Grace

6th-12th grade

Friday, Jan. 22 8 PM Cost: \$25

Includes: 3 hours @ WAHOZZ,
pizza, snacks & FUN!

*Friendship Celebration will be joining us for a
sleepless night

*Adults NEEDED to drive & chaperone

*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15:13*



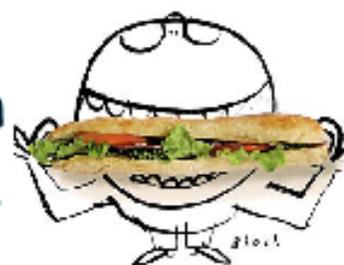
ALL YOUTH FLOWER DELIVERY

TO THE RESIDENTS OF
GRACE ASSISTED LIVING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9
11:00 AM
PIZZA AFTER!

...THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER...
GALATIANS 5:13

Super Bowl
Subsandwich
Sale Pick Up



Sunday, Feb 3
After church
in the fellowship hall

All proceeds go to the youth attending the
National Youth Gathering

MSM

Sunday, Feb. 17
6:30 PM

Middle School Ministry



February 10, 17 & 24 No Bible Study on February 3

February 2019

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p>And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
Matthew 22:37</p> | | | | | 1 | <p>2
8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J</p> |
| <p>3 Super Bowl Sunday
9:15 am Christian Education
10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion
<i>Pick up Super Bowl Sub orders
Pizza Hut Fundraiser for Scott</i></p> <p>No H.S. Bible Study
Greeters: Ron & Donna Ehlers</p> | <p>4
7:00 pm LWML / Concordia Circle</p> | <p>5
<i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i>
9:30/12:30 Chapel</p> <p>5:45 pm Exercise
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>6
<i>Preschool 4's</i>
Bulletin Deadline
10:30 a.m. Midweek Bible Class</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p> | <p>7
<i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters
5:45 pm Exercise</p> | 8 | <p>9
8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J Youth
- 11:00 am All Youth Flower Delivery see p. 6</p> |
| <p>10
9:15 am Christian Education
10:30 am Family Worship
<i>Board of Education
Board of Trustees</i>
6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study</p> <p>Greeters: Dave & Trish Henderson</p> | 11 | <p>12
<i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>5:45 pm Exercise
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>13
<i>Preschool 4's</i>
Bulletin Deadline
10:30 a.m. Midweek Bible Class</p> <p>6:00 pm Board of Outreach
7:30 pm Choir Practice</p> | <p>14 Valentine's Day
<i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters
5:45 pm Exercise
6:30 pm Theology on Tap</p> | 15 | <p>16
8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J</p> |
| <p>17
9:15 am Christian Education
10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>6:30 pm MSM
6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study</p> <p>Greeters: Mike & Lorrie Houston</p> | <p>18</p>  | <p>19
<i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i>
Newsletter Deadline
9:30/12:30 Chapel</p> <p>5:45 pm Exercise
6:00 pm <i>Elder's</i>
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>20
<i>Preschool 4's</i>
Bulletin Deadline
10:30 a.m. Midweek Bible Class</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p> | <p>21
<i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters
5:45 pm Exercise
7:30 p.m. Council</p> | 22 | <p>23
8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Denny's at Flying J</p> |
| <p>24
9:15 am Christian Education
10:30 am Family Worship</p> <p>6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study
6:30 pm Grace Book Club</p> <p>Greeters: Barbara & Dawna James</p> | 25 | <p>26
<i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>5:45 pm Exercise
7:00 pm Women's Bible Study</p> | <p>27
<i>Preschool 4's</i>
Bulletin Deadline
10:30 a.m. Midweek Bible Class</p> <p>7:30 pm Choir Practice</p> | <p>28
<i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i></p> <p>1:00 pm Quilters
5:45 pm Exercise
6:30 pm Theology on Tap</p> |  | |