



Grace Newsletter

December 2022



Junior High Snojam

January 6-8, 2023

Come play in the snow, eat great food, sit by a warm fire, build new friendships, and grow in your relationship with God through Bible study, worship, and close community.

Women's Crafting Retreats

January 13-15/16 & February 24-26/27, 2023

Grab your scrapbooks, quilts, sewing machines, and creativity. Get ready to craft your weekend away!

Winter Family Flurry

Feb 17-19/20, 2023

Join us for tubing and snowshoeing, snowmen building contests, and more! There is limited space in the comfort of the Retreat Center, so register early! Cost Varies

Senior High Snofest

March 3-5, 2023

Hang out by the fire, eat excellent food, and play in the snow while spending time in prayer and the Word with others from the region.

Men's Winter Weekend

March 17-19, 2023

Let the Man Mayhem begin! Outdoor activities include broomball tourney and snow tubing. Rent a snowmobile or bring your own.

Spring Work Weekend

May 26-29, 2023

Join in Christian fellowship while preparing camp for summer programs and the arrival of 1000+ children and families. Fri eve - Mon lunch, or any portion thereof.

Friends & Family Summer Events

July 2-7 (week-long) and July 28-30, 2023

Leave the meals, campfire, and games to us and pack your bags for a fantastic week or weekend in the mountains with your family in this screen-free, Christian community.

Contact Information

Register at: CampPerkins.org

Call: (208)788-0897

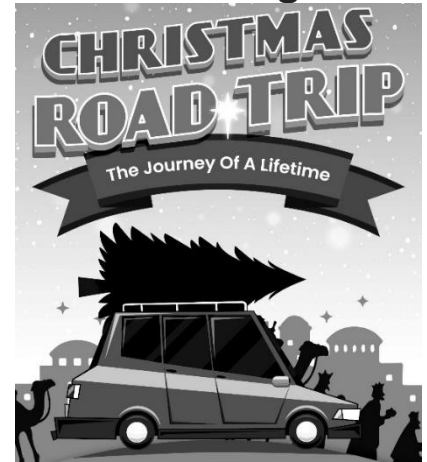
Email: info@campperkins.org

Children's Christmas Program—

This event is being held on December 18th at 10:30 AM. Practice began November 27th and will continue thru December 11 during Sunday School hour.

Please contact Lynnette if you are interested in participating.

Her phone # is (503) 320-5416 and her email is lboederdfm@gmail.com.



Family Group Bible Study—

This group will meet on December 8th in the Fellowship Hall and watch Episode 2 of Season 1.

THE CHOSEN

Anyone is welcome to join us. Contact Lynnette with any questions.

All Youth Christmas Party—

This year's party will be held on December 18th at 6PM at the Boeder's. All youth are welcome. Contact Lynnette for details.

High School Bible Study—

We will not be meeting on Sunday, December 25th or January 1. Study starts back up on January 8th.

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“But He Has Come!”

“They will call him Immanuel”— which means, “God with us.” Matthew 1: 23

This month I’m sharing an excerpt from my Mom’s favorite devotional book, “Streams in the Desert.”

*Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9: 6)
There’s a song in the air!
There’s a star in the sky!
There’s a mother’s deep prayer,
And a baby’s low cry!
And the star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King.*

A number of years ago a remarkable Christmas card was published by the title “If Christ Had Not Come.” It was based on our Savior’s own words, “If I had not come,” in John 15: 22. The card pictured a minister falling asleep in his study on Christmas morning and then dreaming of a world into which Jesus had never come.

In his dream, he saw himself walking through his house, but as he looked, he saw no stockings hung on the chimney, no Christmas tree, no wreaths of holly, and no Christ to comfort and gladden hearts or to save us. He then walked onto the street outside, but there was no church with its spire pointing toward heaven. And when he came back and sat down in his library, he realized that every book about our Savior had disappeared.

The minister dreamed that the doorbell rang and that a messenger asked him to visit a friend’s poor dying mother. He reached her home, and as his friend sat and wept, he said, “I have something here that will comfort you.” He opened his Bible to look for a familiar promise, but it ended with Malachi. There was no gospel and no promise of hope and salvation, and all he could do was bow his head and weep with his friend and his mother in bitter despair.

Two days later he stood beside her coffin and conducted her funeral service, but there was no message of comfort, no words of a glorious resurrection, and no thought of a mansion awaiting her in heaven. There was only “dust to dust, and ashes to ashes,” and one long, eternal farewell. Finally he realized that Christ had not come, and burst into tears, weeping bitterly in his sorrowful dream.

Then suddenly he awoke with a start, and a great shout of joy and praise burst from his lips as he heard his choir singing these words in his church nearby:

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

Let us be glad and rejoice today, because He has come. And let us remember the proclamation of the angel: “I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” Luke 2: 10– 11.

*He comes to make His blessing flow,
Far as the curse does go.*

May our hearts go out to the unconverted people of foreign lands who have no blessed Christmas day. “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord” (Neh. 8: 10).

Streams in the Desert: 366 Daily Devotional Readings (p. 481).
Cowman, L. B. E.; Reimann, Jim

God bless you all and I’ll see you in church.

Pastor Brooks

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule through Epiphany

On Wednesdays worship will begin with a soup supper from 5:30-6:15, a hymn sing at 6:15 and service begins at 6:30.

Sunday, Nov. 27

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Sunday, Dec. 4

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Sunday, Dec. 11

Wednesday, Dec. 14

Sunday, Dec. 18

Saturday, Dec. 24 - 7:00 pm

Sunday, Dec. 25 - 10:00 am

Sunday, Jan. 1

Sunday, Jan. 8

“A Mystery for Whom”

“Come Lord Jesus - Be Our Guest”

“A Mystery From a Sinful Heart”

“Come Lord Jesus - Your Gifts”

“A Mystery From a Sinful Heart”

“Come Lord Jesus - To Us Be Blessed”

“A Mystery the World Doesn’t Want to See”

“The Sign for You”

“Light and Life to All He Brings”

“The Un-mysterious Mystery of Human Sin”

“The Mystery of Serendipity”

Available Giving Options—

1. **Mail** - Simply put your check in an envelope and mail to: Grace Lutheran Church, 2700 S. Kimball, Caldwell, ID 83605. Please write on your check if it is for a dedicated account, e.g., missions, technology, benevolence etc.
2. **Online Giving** - You can donate by going to the church webpage at www.gracelutherancaldwell.org. On the right upper side of webpage is an icon "online giving". You can set up donations for one time or for recurring donations.
3. **Smart Phone** - A free app for your phone called "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" is available from Vanco, the company that handles Grace Lutheran's electronic transactions. Once you have downloaded the app, search for "Grace Lutheran Church and Preschool" in Caldwell, Idaho and select it. You can set up the donations for one time or recurring. Donations can be made from a debit or credit card and by fund transfer from a checking or savings account.
4. **Donation by Phone** - Vanco is also offering to do donations by phone for those who do not have access to a computer or smart phone. Call 800-675-7430 and select option 1. They will ask you to identify the church first. Then they will walk you through the donation process.
5. **Simply Giving** - This is an electronic funds transfer using a paper form. Hope Farrell in the church office can give you a form to complete and you will need attach a voided check. This option is currently the most used in our congregation.

Contact the church office at 208-459-4191 for more information or assistance.

Christmas Caroling—

Join us on December 11 to sing songs at Grace Assisted Living and possibly Autumn Wind. The date & places may change due to health concerns. Please contact Lynnette Boeder if you are interested or have any questions.

Worship Anew—

The Worship Anew half hour Lutheran service has aired on Channel 6 since the pandemic began. It has been well-funded by individual and congregational donations. The cost to run this program is \$600 a week. However, at present the fund has dwindled to the point that circuit pastors will consider the program's effectiveness and continuation at their December 13 meeting. In advance of that meeting, please share your thoughts with Pastor Brooks if you are benefiting from Worship Anew. If you would like Worship Anew to continue please send your financial gifts to Grace Lutheran Church, 2700 S. Kimball Ave., Caldwell, ID 83605, noting "Worship Anew" in the notes line.



Our next gathering of Grace Book Club will be Sunday, **December 18th** at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing "Home Work – A Memoir of My Hollywood Years." by Julie Andrews and Emma Hamilton. Our meeting place will be at Colleen Fuller's.

A summary: Home Work, the second instalment of Julie Andrews' internationally bestselling memoirs, begins with her arrival in Hollywood to make her screen debut in Walt Disney's Mary Poppins. It was closely followed by The Sound of Music, and the beginning of a movie career that would make her an icon to millions all over the world. With her trademark charm and candor, Julie reveals behind-the-scenes details and reflections on her impressive body of work - from the incredible highs to the challenging lows. She shares her professional experiences and collaborations with giants of cinema and television, and also unveils her personal story of adjusting to a new and often daunting world. This included dealing with unimaginable public scrutiny, being a new mother, embracing two stepchildren, adopting two more children, and falling in love with the brilliant and mercurial Blake Edwards. The pair worked together in numerous films, including 10, S.O.B and Victor/Victoria.

All women are welcome to join us for a heartfelt discussion and a glass of wine! If you have any questions call Hope at (208) 405-6080.

African Children's Choir Fundraiser—

The Board of Education is selling wooden Christmas Ornaments for a donated amount. All funds raised will go to support the African Children's Choir.



Reminder for Board Leaders—

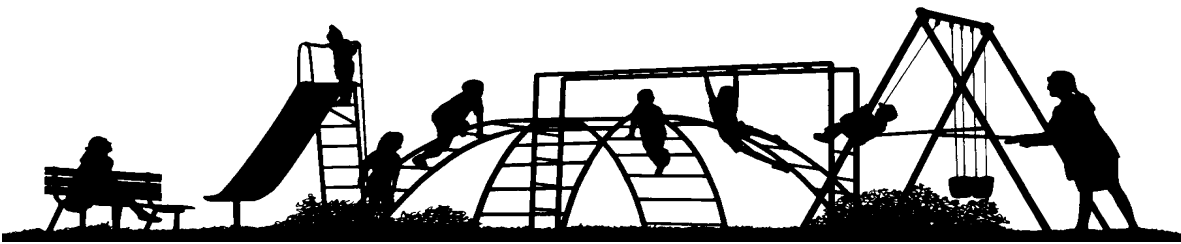
To all board chairpersons, please have meeting dates and time into Hope so they can be entered into the bulletin at least a week before your scheduled meeting. Also, reports for our 2022 annual report will be due prior to the 1/8/23 voters meeting.

Church Officers for 2023—

On Sunday, November 13th at our Congregational Voter's meeting all current church officers were re-elected to serve again in 2023.

- Chairman: Chuck Stadick
- Recording Secretary: Dee Volk
- Financial Secretary: Mike Pierce
- Treasurer: Ken McIntyre

Thank you all for your continued service to our church.



Preschool News!

4-Year-Old Class

November was the month of being thankful! We spent the month talking about things we are thankful for like God, Jesus, family and even chicken nuggets! The kids cut out leaves and told us what they were thankful for to decorate our thankful tree in the classroom. We worked on our fine motor skills making our own festive corn with pony beads and pipe cleaners. We made special placemats for our Thanksgiving feast and had fun drawing our own Turkey directed drawing masterpieces. We painted paper bag pumpkins and made candy corn suncatchers. We had so much fun at our own mini-Thanksgiving feast with our special guests. We hope everyone had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving break. Our learning focus this month was on the letters Q-H-T, the numbers 7-8-9, the square shape, and the colors blue and brown.

November Bible Verses: "You shall have no other God before me." - Exodus 20:3 & "God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9. Our Bible Stories: The Ten Commandments, David and Goliath, Daniel and the Lion's Den, & Jonah and the Big Fish. We pretended to be David and use a sling shot to hit the tree (Goliath) outside and this was not quite as easy as some thought it would be. We also made pretend sling shots to take home. We made lion masks for Daniel and the lion's den and made our own big fish to put Jonah in and out of. We talked about being thankful for Jesus and made thankful crosses.

Ms. Amanda Gigray & Ms. Cheri Nichols

From Parents.com: Encourage Fine Motor Skills

1. **Teach the pincer grasp.** To help your child learn to pick up small items like Cheerios using their thumb and forefinger, stuff an empty baby-wipe container with scarves, and then let them try to pull them out. You can also give her toys that have dials, switches, and knobs.
2. **Embrace his filling and dumping obsession.** Your toddler will likely load every toy possible into a plastic bin—only to spill it out and start over. While this activity may seem dull, it takes integrated muscle movements, concentration, and cognitive reasoning. Other ways to boost grip and finger strength: squeezing a wet sponge or looking for toys that are buried in sand.
3. **Let the stacking begin!** Your child needs hand and wrist stability to place blocks with control. Large wooden ones are easiest for toddlers to manipulate. Once she gets the hang of it, you can switch to smaller building materials—but hold off on interlocking bricks until they are at least 2.
4. **Facilitate creativity.** Most kids can make a mark with a crayon at around 15 months and scribble by age 2. Big crayons are best for little hands, but you can also give them large pieces of chalk and finger-paints to express themselves.
5. **Be patient with utensils.** Have your child start using a fork and spoon at every meal. If they make a mess or struggles, resist jumping in to help—let them try to figure it out on their own.

Find more helpful tips: <https://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/development/physical/child-developing-motor-skills/>

3-Year-Old Class

Brr!! The cold weather has really set in, and Winter is well on its way! The kiddos have really been enjoying preschool and it has been great watching them create friendships, we have some really great friends in our class. We have kicked off our "Preschool Partner" program which includes reading buddies and it has been great to see some friendships building and the kids really enjoy the one-on-one reading time, as well as having a buddy sit by them in chapel. Our mini feast was a great success and it was so heartwarming to have our kids, parents and partners all together enjoying a meal God blessed us with. Thank you all for attending and all who helped! We spent a lot of time with our kids these last few weeks talking about what we are thankful for and all the blessings that God has given us, it's so sweet to hear what the kids are thankful for. We focused on the stories of Moses last month and we talked about how we should always trust God's plan and just how powerful he is!

Our bible verse last month was "Give thanks to the Lord" Psalm 107: 1-3. Our learning focus was on the color brown, the shape was oval, the letters-C, O, U and the numbers-7, 8, 9. We hope you all had an amazing Thanksgiving and enjoy your time spent with family. See ya after the break!

Love, Ms. Micky and Ms. Hannah

Concordia Circle/LWML—

CONCORDIA CIRCLE NEWS

Christmas Dinner and Party will be on December 5 at 6:00 p.m. The event will be held at the church. We will be having a gift exchange that evening (Gift limit of \$20). Please contact Barbara James with any questions.



In conjunction with the Christmas Party, Concordia Circle will be having an ingathering for "The House Next Door" in Nampa and the congregation is invited to participate. This facility provides housing for single mothers who are furthering their education. Items being collected are dishwasher soap, laundry detergent (high efficiency only), Kleenexes, paper towels, toilet paper, \$10 Target gift card, \$15 Starbucks or Flying M gift card, \$15 Lowes or Home Depot gift cards. Items will be collected during December. For more information about this organization visit their website at <https://www.thehousenextdoornampa.org/>

Concordia Circle is making arrangements for Advent Soup Suppers. The suppers began on Nov. 30th at 5:30. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board next to Lynnette's office. If you would like to bring soup, bread or dessert, please check the sign-up sheet for openings. The proceeds from the dinners will be sent to the Caldwell Meals on Wheels to help them meet their needs to provide meals to those they serve.



**Caldwell Meals
On Wheels**

Members are selling Christmas cards. Most cards are \$5 for a box of 12. There are also all occasion individual cards available for 50 cents. These cards are located downstairs on top of the glass display case in the fellowship hall. If you are unable to purchase cards after church services, Barbara is available to help you Tuesday-Friday during church office hours. Please call her at 208-465-5084 or contact the church office directly.

Get your Holiday Cards early!



Walter and Laura married 50 years ago, when they were both 20 years old. They have been farmers, raising grain and livestock. It was hard work, but they have really enjoyed this lifestyle. They never had any children and have no other family who would like to take over the farm. In their best year, they reported \$50,000 of income. They lived a very frugal life. But now, age has caught up with them and they are worried that they won't be able to retire or have enough income.

Recently they talked to their LWML Gift Planning Counselor. They had discussion about the value of their farm. It is 700 acres, along with buildings and equipment. Based on local cost of farmland, the estimated value of their farm is over \$4 Million! They learned that they could gift the farm into a charitable remainder trust, avoiding the lump sum taxation they would experience if they were to sell the farm themselves. That charitable remainder trust would dispense 5% of its value each year to them for the rest of their lives. That would be \$200,000 per year. The best part for them was that when the Lord calls them home someday, there will be a gift to ministry roughly equal to that \$4 Million. They will divide half of that ministry gift to their home congregation and the other half to provide support for the education of future Lutheran school teachers. Humbled, they cried. They were overwhelmed that simple people like they are, could create such a gift. Contact Lois Anderson, loisandersonlwml@gmail.com, cell: 208-954-3534 if interested.

From your Early Learning Center Committee

To the members of Grace Lutheran Church & Preschool,

It has come to our attention that there appears to be some misunderstanding about the status of the Early Learning Center. *Please Note: no decision* has been made to make a recommendation for the Voters' to officially approve or disapprove this project. Our committee is still in the process of gathering information.

We have studied various possibilities and believe the best option for success would be to build a building dedicated to this ministry. We still have a lot of work to do to determine feasibility and are currently working on:

- getting firmer figures on building costs and
- developing a budget so we know how much it will cost to operate an Early Learning Center and
- contacting an architect to produce some conceptual drawings.

We have asked our congregational chairman to request a special Voters' Meeting in January to give our next update. You will not be asked to make any final decisions at that meeting. We want you to have time to consider all the information and we will make ourselves available to you.

Please speak to any of the committee members if you have any concerns or questions. We will also be sure to announce the dates and times of any committee meetings for those who would like to come and speak with all of us.

And please continue to pray and think about the value of this ministry. Ask God to help you understand His will for us all. We know it is only if He blesses us will we succeed in anything we do for Him.

Respectfully,
Your Early Learning Center Committee

Church Family Prayers—

Since February of this year, we named and prayed for each of our members reaching the end of the alphabet in November. We will be starting up our family prayers again in February. We welcome any feedback regarding our family prayers. Would you like to see any changes? Also, please note that not all members are on our prayer request emails. If you

would like to be notified of prayer requests that come into our office, please ask to be put on the “prayer chain” email distribution list. This list is different from our “general” distribution list. In the meantime, please feel free to contact the office or Pastor Brooks if you have a prayer request.



from Portals of Prayer

A Christmas Eve prayer ~ “Merciful Christ, You are God almighty, who is gracious and merciful to us. Through Your prophets and angels, You promised to dwell among us and redeem us from our sins. As it was with Joseph, aid us in obedience and trust in Your Word. Help us live in the truth of Your incarnation, knowing You are always with us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.”

A Christmas Day prayer ~ “Jesus Christ, You are the incarnate Word of God, who is God and was with God from the beginning. From nothing, You created all things and rule over it all. You are the light of the world in which nothing is hidden. Renew our joy and gladness of heart as we celebrate Your birth, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

Keep in our Prayers—

We pray God’s healing, care and comfort for those dealing with:

Cancer – Dave Vorderstrasse, Wayne Snavely, Jerry Bengtson, Jim Nelson, Gary Smith, Penny Storms Jeffries, Gary Olufson, Bill Tibbetts, Jerry Shaffer, Denise Shaffer, Doris Powell, Dave Koontz

Covid – Erma Ledington

Heart– Katherine Clark, Pat Torrey, Laura Pennington, Brook Van Leuven, David Cuthbert

On Hospice – Ron Trunnell

Liver – Bryant Neal

Lung – Sherrie Prien

Mental health – David Ledington

Rehabilitation – Judy Odette, Carol Moore, Jake Nash

We also remember and pray for our Shut-In’s – Lucy Anderson, Margaret Edmiston, Dora Evans, Flo Hopkins, Erma Ledington, Loraine Navis, Irene Pedro, Charles & Paula Row, & Rosetta Schuster.

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i>	2 5:30 pm Parent's Night Out	3 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship
4 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study	5 <i>Preschool 4's</i> 6:00 pm Concordia Circle/LWML Christmas Dinner/Party	6 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 9:30 am Preschool Chapel	7 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Advent Service	8 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Board of S&F 7:00 pm Family Bible Study	9	10 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship
11 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 1:00 pm Caroling 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study	12 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	13 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> Newsletter Deadline 6:00 pm Elder's	14 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Advent Service	15 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 6:30 pm Preschool Christmas program	16	17 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship 10:00 am Program Setup
18 Christmas Program 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Christmas Program No Communion 6:00 pm Youth Christmas Party 6:30 pm Grace Book Club	19 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	20 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> Newsletter Deadline 9:30 am Preschool Chapel	21 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline	22 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm Carol & Candlelight Service
25 Christmas Day 10:00 am Christmas Service with Holy Communion	26	27	28 Bulletin Deadline	29	30	31 New Year's Eve
No Preschool – Christmas Break						