



Grace Newsletter

January 2023



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

High School Bible Study—

Weekly Bible Study starts back up on January 8th. They meet in the High School room downstairs in the church at 6:30 p.m. Please remember to get your Dutch orders in by 6:00 p.m.

Monthly Newsletters—

The deadline for submitting articles for our newsletters is the 3rd Tuesday of every month. We try to have the newsletter to the post office by the 26th or 27th of the month so that people receive it right before or either on the 1st of the next month. This newsletter goes out to members, non-members, and all of our preschool families totaling around 205 families each month. If you have something that you think would be interesting to our audiences please feel free to contact Hope so it can be considered. Please know that is very helpful to have information turned into the office by the deadline. It takes about a week to put the newsletter together, from reminding some to submit their articles/announcements, to finding information, if nothing is submitted, to editing, then on to printing, folding, assembling and preparing for mailing. It is understood that sometimes you are unable to meet the deadline. Just check with the church office if you have something after the deadline. If there is space, information can still be added or if possible it can be saved to go into a future month. Also, if you know of someone who would like to receive a copy please contact the church office so they can be added to the mailing list. A huge "Thank You" goes out to all those who have stepped in to help with this monthly task.

Family Group Bible Study—

This group will meet on January 12th at 7:00 pm at Lynnette's home to watch Episode 3 of Season 1. Anyone is welcome to join. Contact Lynnette with any questions or to let her know you will be attending.

THE CHOSEN

"Although our New Year's resolutions may quickly crumble, God's plans never fail." – Charles Stanley

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“THE NAME OF JESUS” AND NEW YEARS DAY

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

“And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.” Luke 2:21

This month I'm sharing another article from 1517.org because I believe it says what we all need to hear so well.

January 1st is both a celebration of a new year and the celebration of a little-known festival called the “Name of Jesus.” The name of Jesus means “Yahweh (the LORD) is salvation” or “God saves.” The name Jesus is the Greek translation of the Aramaic version of Joshua. Now think about Joshua. He is the one who took over for Moses as the leader of the ancient Israelites. Moses was not allowed to bring Israel into the Promised Land of Canaan. He led them through the waters of the Red Sea. But due to his anger, Moses was barred from leading Israel through the waters of the Jordan. A new leader would guide them. Joshua: God saves, or in Greek, Jesus.

Maybe it is just coincidence (although I doubt it) that Moses, the bringer of law, could not get the people into the Promised Land. It would take Joshua: God saves. Jesus. The law can't do it, but Jesus can. Only Jesus can deliver us from this desert wandering into a heavenly Promised Land flowing with milk and honey. Only Jesus. Only God Saves.

Now think about all the water in these stories. Water bookends the Israelites' journey. They were baptized into Moses in the Red Sea. They were saved from Pharaoh and his army. Remember that they were trapped: Philistines and the Mediterranean to the north, desert to the south, Pharaoh's army marching from the west, and the Red Sea to the east. They needed a miracle. They needed a water miracle. And they got one. On that day *“all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.”* 1 Cor 10:2

But what did that get them? More wilderness. Still, they were given a promise from God, a promise of a Promised Land. At the end of their journey, there was water again: the Jordan River. “Crossing Jordan” has become a metaphor for the Christian death. We cross the Jordan into the Promised Land of heaven.

Were we not also trapped? With sin and temptation on every side and the devil and his army marching from the west like Pharaoh, we were trapped. We were born trapped. We needed a miracle. We needed a water miracle. And we got one. This time we are baptized into Christ and His gospel and not Moses who is the law-giver.

But what does that get us? A forty-year wilderness journey through this life. But still, there is a promise, a Promised Land. And when the time comes, it will be Joshua, Jesus, who will lead us across Jordan to heaven. Water again.

Christians are given a new name at baptism. We are

given the Triune name of Father, Son, and Spirit. We are branded as those belonging to God. We are marked as ones redeemed by Christ crucified. We are made the legal heirs to the Promised Land of heaven. Until we cross Jordan, we hold on to this watery promise. Moses can't get us there, but Christ can. Keeping the law can't get us there, but the gospel forgiveness of Jesus does. Moses only gets us into the wilderness; Jesus takes us to paradise.

Not all is lost in this desert dreary journey. Baptism is a death and resurrection into Christ. Every day is a new day for the baptized. The old is gone, and the new arrives. The old sinful nature is crucified in daily repentance, and the new person arises to live.

Our secular version of this death and resurrection is often met with law. At this time of year, new resolutions replace bad habits. “I'm going on a diet...going to the gym...eating better...keeping my temper...being more patient...” and on and on and on. But how well does that work? I fail and just feel guilty because I can't. The good things I want to do, I don't do. And the bad things I don't want to do, I do. Romans, chapter 7 tells us the truth about the power of resolutions!!

Knowing this, doesn't God's New Year become more delightful? The old is gone, and the new has arrived. Our secular version of this death and resurrection is often met with law. New resolutions replace bad habits. New attitudes replace old grudges. The problem, of course, is that the old sinful nature keeps popping back up in our lives. The resolutions, as we all know, rarely last. Very few of us have been able to completely let go of an old grudge no matter how far back it goes in our personal history.

But baptism is different. Baptism is an act performed on us. It's a promise from God to us, not a promise from us to ourselves. He kills us (law), and he raises us (gospel forgiveness). For you and me, every day is New Year's Day because we are baptized. Every day is a new day.

So Happy New Year! And Happy Baptism! Here's your new beginning, your daily new beginning! You belong to Christ. You have died and have been raised with Him. His name marks you. The Name of Jesus brands you. Joshua: God saves. Jesus.

Michael Berg

I've got to say that again – “Every day is a new beginning” because every day is a new day of forgiveness. All because of Him who was named “*Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*”

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

Pastor Brooks

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.



Flower Calendar

You are welcome to bring in flowers for the sanctuary for either in memory of, in honor of, or just because. If you would like to participate please sign up on the 2023 flower calendar. It is located outside Lynnette's office. You may bring in either one or two cut or potted flowers as there are two shelves available to set them on. We also offer the option for people to donate to a flower fund that will cover the cost of flowers for those Sunday's when there are no sign-ups. Just indicate that your donation is for the flower fund. You may request that the church order the flowers for you at your expense. Please contact Patti Lawson if you would like this option and be sure to still sign up on the calendar for that Sunday.

Merry Widows—

This group meets on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Come to talk, drink coffee, and enjoy a snack. Please contact Sharon Lewis 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. 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, **January 29th** at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing "Hidden Places" by Lynn Austin. Our meeting place will be at Connie's.

A summary: A deep yearning for home had led Eliza to Wyatt Orchards ten years ago. Now widowed with three young children, she faces mounting debts and the realization it is all up to her. But she has no idea how she will run an orchard alone. When a stranger appears at her doorstep, Eliza guesses he is no different than the other out-of-luck characters searching for work during the Depression. But the familiarity with which Gabe tends to the farm raises unanswered questions. With a vulnerable heart, she is unwittingly drawn to his gentle ways. But Eliza also fears that Gabe hides a past and motives that could jeopardize all she has fought to attain for herself and her children.

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 would like to thank everyone who donated to this fundraiser and who worked on making these wonderful ornaments. We will be sending a check for \$500 to the African Children's Choir.



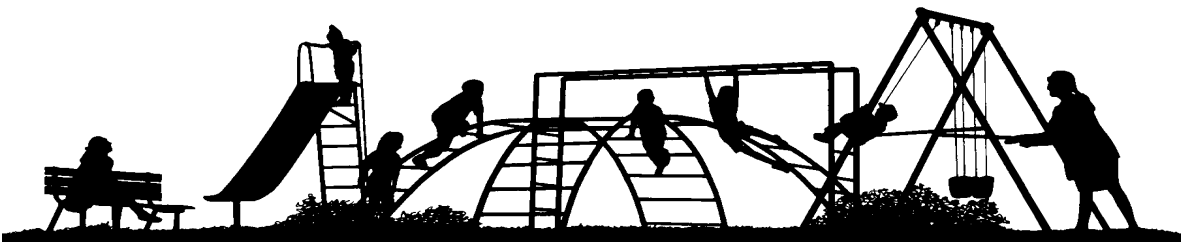
Reminder for Board Leaders—

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.

Congregational Meeting—

Our first meeting for 2023 will be on Sunday, January 8th after church service. Our main agenda item is to approve the budget for 2023. We will not be having a potluck. We will be ordering in taco's & burritos. See you there!





Preschool News!

4-Year-Old Class

December was focused on celebrating Jesus and learning about his birth. Our kiddos worked hard to learn songs for their Christmas program about the special journey Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. We had tons of fun making Christmas crafts like a candy cane to represent "J" for Jesus, decorated stockings to hang by our pretend fireplace, did a directed drawing of a reindeer, made Christmas trees, wreaths as well as pretend Christmas lights and a super-secret present for our parents. We celebrated our last day of school before break with a pajama day, birthday cake for Jesus and a gift exchange for our kiddos. Our learning focus was on the letters W-K, the numbers 10-11, the oval shape, and the color green.

December Bible Verses were: Do not be afraid, you have found favor with God. - Luke 1-3 & A Savior has been born. - Luke 2:11. Bible Stories: Angels visit Mary & Joseph, Mary visits Elizabeth, Jesus is born, Shepherds see the Star & Wise Men visit. For bible crafts we made a beautiful angel to remind us of the angels visit, a manger with baby Jesus on a star, we also made faux stained-glass windows of the nativity scene and a three wisemen craft.

Reminder: Christmas break is Dec. 26 - Jan. 5. Classes resume on January 9, 2023!!

We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!!

Ms. Amanda & Ms. Cheri

Benefits & Importance of Reading to Children (<https://www.all4kids.org/>)

Reading at home with your preschoolers comes with many benefits, here are just a few!

- Supports cognitive development
 - Improves language skills
 - Prepares for academic success
- Develops a special bond with your child

3-Year-Old Class

It's the most wonderful time of the year! We love Christmas here at Grace Lutheran Preschool! December was filled with so much fun learning about Jesus' birth. We had fun singing happy birthday to him and eating birthday cake. Yum! The Children really enjoyed the book exchange they had with their friends as well. Our Christmas Program was a great success, it was so sweet to see all the kids singing and having fun.

December was also a great time for us to spend time reviewing numbers (1-10) and learning about the letters Q, G, and S, the shape star and the color green. Our bible verse was "Jesus has been born for you" Luke 2:11. The Children are doing a great job and we are so blessed to have such a great group of kids. Thank you, parents and grandparents, for sharing your children with us and all you do at home. You're doing a great job! We are so excited to see what the new year brings and are so eager to continue to watch and help the children grow. See you back on Tuesday, January 10th.

Love, Ms. Micky and Ms. Hannah



Concordia Circle/LWML—

Officers for 2023 are: President – Carla Shields

Vice President – Lillian Pierce

Treasurer – Carol McIntyre

Secretary – Lorene Schuster (Jacquie Rowen).

Next meeting is January 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Please contact Carla with any questions.



Thank you to all who served, cleaned up, and/or donated food & funds to our Advent Soup Suppers. A donation will be given to the Caldwell Meals On Wheels program in the amount of \$1053.20.



**Caldwell Meals
On Wheels**



Returning God's Blessings

Sharon was having coffee with her good friend, Karen, a week after Christmas. Sharon was sharing how much fun she had giving gifts to her family over Christmas. Karen shook her head, indicating she was very displeased with the same experience in her family. When pressed by Sharon for the reason for that reaction, Karen said, “They are all so entitled. They just expect things and don’t really appreciate the gift.”

Teaching each other to appreciate “the gift” is why God designed families. It begins with appreciating the gift of Jesus to be our Savior. That faith then spreads out into thankfulness and appreciation for all the items shared and the time and energy expended. Teaching an understanding of gifting is crucial to a Christian family.

Planning your Christian estate is a crucial element of teaching gifting. As you put the pieces of your plan together, you can celebrate with family how the gifts you have planned for them will bless them someday. You can encourage them in advance to receive the gifts with thanksgiving and begin to think about how they will also become good givers. You can share with family the reasons why you are planning gifts to support ministry, making it possible for ministries to share Jesus even after the Lord has called you home to heaven. You can invite family to celebrate those ministry gifts as well.

Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can assist you in putting your plan together and preparing you for family celebration of the gifts of God. Contact Lois Anderson at loisandersonlwml@gmail.com or Cell: 208-954-3534

Lutherans for Life: New Chapter Formed & March For Life Information

Greetings in Christ,

There is a new Chapter of Lutherans For Life (LFL) being formed in the Treasure Valley.

A meeting at Zion Lutheran, 404 Nectarine in Nampa on January 14th at 2pm

will be held to adopt the constitution and bylaws for the new Chapter. Plans for the January 21, 2023, Boise Walk for Life will also be in topic. To become a voting member of Lutherans for Life go to lutheransforlife.org All are invited to attend this important meeting whether voting or not voting.

You are partners with us! You are a wonderful blessing to Lutherans For Life, and we are grateful for the opportunity to stand side by side with You and expand our Gospel-motivated voice For Life mission outreach.

God’s blessings to our Lutherans For Life Community!

Charlie and Jacquie Rowen, Chairpersons for Treasure Valley Lutherans For Life



**Lutherans
For Life**

BOISE MARCH FOR LIFE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023

11:00 Matins service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5009 Cassia Street, Boise

11:30 Sandwich lunch at Good Shepherd (RSVP required)

1:00 Gather at Julia Davis Park to March to the capitol.

There will be a freewill donation for the sandwich lunch, but **separate RSVPs are required for lunch**, so we know how many sandwiches, chips, and sodas to order. Please RSVP to (530)919-2475 before noon on Friday, January 20, 2023.

Please register separately for the actual March at lcms-life.org before January 10. This is important, as LCMS will only send caps and placards for those who have registered.

Update from your Early Learning Center Committee

On January 22 directly following worship there will be a special congregational information meeting to discuss the status of the Early Learning Center. Lunch will be provided. Our committee is gathering information and plans to present information regarding:

- An operating budget for both 50 students and 100 students,
- An update on costs for building dedicated to the ELC. We are also hoping to have conceptual drawings of such a building.

In order to properly prepare for this meeting, sheets will be provided prior to and at the regular January 8th Voter's meeting with some questions for your input. We are particularly interested in:

- Do you feel you have a clear understanding of why we are hoping to begin an Early Learning Center ministry?
- Are you aware of the ministry opportunity and ELC provides and does this excite you?
- What specifically would you like addressed at the January 22nd meeting?
- If the Early Learning Center building plan goes forward would you be open to an internal Capital Campaign requesting prayer and financial support for this ministry?

Thank you and please continue to pray for this possible mission to our Caldwell community.

Church Family Prayers—

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

The Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6) ~ “Dear Lord, You led the Wise Men by the light of Your star to worship the newborn King. Lead us to worship and believe in Jesus as our King and Savior. Open our ears to hear Your Word, which gives us the light of Your truth in this dark world. Shine the light of Your love and forgiveness through our lives, that the whole world may know You, the light of the world. In the name of Jesus. Amen.”

The Baptism of Our Lord (January 8) ~ “Sinless Lord Jesus, when You entered the waters of Your Baptism, You took on all of our sin. When we entered the waters of our Baptism, we took on all of Your righteousness. You are truly our substitute! Thank You for washing us clean in the name of the Father, who created us, the Son, who redeems us, and the Spirit, who sanctifies us. Help all Christians to live in that truth. In Your name I pray. Amen.”

Keep in our Prayers—

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

Cancer – Lanny Berg, 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

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.

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion "Gotta Go Goodies" Coffee Hour	2 7:00 pm Concordia Circle/LWML	3	4	5 1:00 pm Board of S&F 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters 6:00 pm Council	6	7 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship.
						
8 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Installation of Church Officers Congregational Meeting 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study	9 <i>Preschool 4's</i> 1:00 pm Merry Widows	10 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i>	11 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline	12 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters 7:00 pm Family Group at Lynnette's	13	14 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship.
15 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion Board of Education 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study	16 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	17 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> Newsletter Deadline 9:15 am Preschool Partners Read 9:30 am Preschool Chapel 6:00 pm Elder's	18 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 5:30 pm ELC	19 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters	20	21 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship.
22 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship Special Congregational - ELC meeting after service 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study	23 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	24 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i>	25 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline	26 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters	27	28 8:00 am Group Bible Fellowship.
29 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study 6:30 pm Grace Book Club	30 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	31 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i>	<i>Isaiah 40: 30-31</i> <i>Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.</i>			