



Grace Newsletter

February 2023

High School Bible Study—

Weekly Sunday evening Bible Study group for High Schoolers. 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.

Women’s Bible Study—

This group is discussing 1 2 3 John “LifeChange” by Karen Hinkley. They meet Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room. Contact Sarah Kroll or Carla Shields if interested.

Men’s Bible Study—

Theology on Tap. Join this group at Burger Theory in Nampa on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Meet at 6, order a refreshment, appetizer, or meal and participate in a discussion & study of 1 Corinthians. Contact Mark Elli if interested.

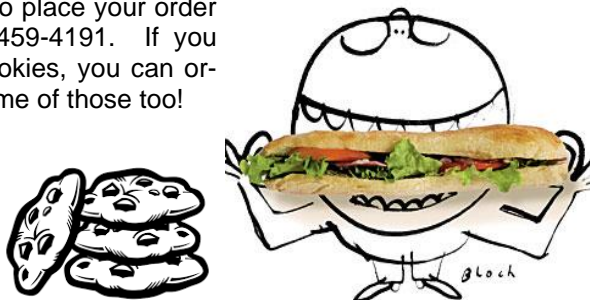
Family Group Bible Study—

This group will meet on Thursday, February 9th at 7:00 pm at Lynnette’s home to watch Episode 4 of Season 1. Anyone is welcome to join. Contact Lynnette with any questions or to let her know you will be attending.

THE CHOSEN

Youth Fundraiser—

Order sub sandwiches for your Superbowl party or simply for your lunch on Sunday, February 12th. The youth will be making subs on Saturday, Feb. 11th to be distributed on Sunday, the 12th. Get your order in by February 5th to support the Youth in their future mission trips. Order forms are available in the hanging basket outside of Lynnette’s office or call the church office to place your order (208) 459-4191. If you like cookies, you can order some of those too!



Sunday Morning Class—

Starting Sunday, February 26th Lynnette will be leading a class discussing the book “Simple Habits for Marital Happiness” from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. It will last will last 2-3 months. Reading will need to be completed each week before meeting to allow the class to be focused on discussion. (A heads up that some chapters are longer than others, and there are 7 in total). You can read more about the author at:

SIMPLE HABITS FOR MARITAL HAPPINESS



Practical Skills And Tools That Build A Strong SATISFYING RELATIONSHIP

RANDALL SCHROEDER, PH.D.

<https://cornerstone-lutheran.church/care/counseling-services/>.

Please let Lynnette know if you will be attending, as well as how many books you would like. A sign-up sheet is available in Lynnette’s basket outside her door. The books are \$12 per book and can be paid for through Hope or Lynnette. You are also welcome to purchase the book on your own if you would like. Chapter 1 would need to be read before class on February 26th. Please bring your Bible, as well as your book. All are welcome! If you are newly married, been married for 30+ years, or are not yet married but hope to be, please join us! We are all lifelong learners, especially in marriage.

One review of the book stated: “SIMPLE HABITS FOR MARITAL HAPPINESS is an incredible book that covers every aspect of a marriage to help you create a vibrant, rewarding relationship that grows stronger every day. Backed by over thirty years of experience, Dr. Randy Schroeder – a pastor and marriage counselor – helps you develop the habits your marriage needs.”

In This Issue

From the Pastor	page 2
Upcoming Events	page 1 & 3
Preschool & LWML	page 4 & 5
Prayers	page 6
Calendar	Page 7

THERE'S NO SHAME IN BEING RICH

"You are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 1:7-8

An old fable says the Devil once held a sale of all the tools of his trade to anyone who would pay their price. They were all labeled and spread out on a table: hatred, malice, envy, despair, sickness, sensuality – all the weapons everyone knows so well. But off to one side lay an item labeled "discouragement." It was old and looked almost worn out but was priced far above all the rest. When asked the reason why, the Devil replied, "With this I can open doors that are tightly bolted and, once I get inside, I can use any other tool that suits me best."

That little story describes more truth than we might imagine. We often think of the devil as having such great power to twist and turn us away from God. And most of us are on the lookout for his obvious deceit. But his most powerful weapon against us may well be that of discouragement, and especially discouragement regarding our relationship with God.

The devil, a word which literally means "the accuser," comes to us regularly, whispering his incriminations: "Shame on you." "How can you call yourself a Christian?" "Who are you that God should think about you or care about you?" "You're such a hypocrite because you know what you should do, but don't do it!" His goal is to cast doubt in our minds about God's love; to make us wonder if God really has, in His great mercy, *"saved us through the washing of rebirth and the Holy Spirit."* And quite frankly, unless the life-giving words of God's grace intercept the devil's death dealing words, we are lost.

Part of the reason it is so difficult to live as Christians is because we fail to believe that living the Christian life is not about huge spiritual battles and victories but is more often daily living that doesn't make great headlines. Oswald Chambers in his classic devotional *My Utmost for His Highest* said this: "We have a tendency to look for wonder in our experience, and we mistake heroic actions for real heroes. It's one thing to go through a crisis grandly, yet quite another to go through *every day* glorifying God *when there is no witness*, no limelight, and no one paying even the remotest attention to us... *But to do even the most humbling tasks to the glory of God takes the Almighty God Incarnate working in us.*"

That's worth saying again: *"to do even the most humbling tasks to the glory of God takes the Almighty God Incarnate working in us."* Believing and living the reality of who God has made us to be does not mean being some pious, plastic Christian. It means trusting that you are still a Christian even and especially when you have blown it. It means moving on in the forgiveness and grace which God so freely gives solely for the sake of His Son.

There's no shame in being rich. And that is what we are! We are rich in Christ. We are rich in forgiveness. We are rich in God's mercy. And because we are rich there is no shame. When we believe and accept how

rich we are in God's love we will no longer feel shame for failing to live as we ought. That doesn't mean we don't feel guilt when we fail. Of course we do. We should. The guilt which comes upon us when we fail to live properly is completely appropriate. And, in fact, it is helpful for it reminds us how much we need to regularly come to God for forgiveness and mercy.

But when we see how rich we are in Christ we do not feel *shame*. We recognize that we are both saints and sinners. Of course we are going to fail. That's part of being a sinful human being. But we do not let that stop us from doing what's right. Being a sinner and desiring to live as a saint does not make us a hypocrite. Being a sinner and desiring to live as a saint means that we recognize our need for God and His power in our lives. It means that we recognize that without Him we are doomed to failure. And it also means that with Him in our lives we can do some incredible things for Him.

In 1972, NASA launched the exploratory space probe Pioneer 10. The satellite's primary mission was to reach Jupiter, photograph the planet and its moons, and beam data to earth about Jupiter's magnetic field, radiation belts, and atmosphere. Scientists regarded this as a bold plan, for at that time no earth satellite had ever gone beyond Mars, and they feared the asteroid belt would destroy the satellite before it could reach its target.

But Pioneer 10 accomplished its mission and much, much more. Swinging past the giant planet in November 1973, Jupiter's immense gravity hurled Pioneer 10 at a higher rate of speed toward the edge of the solar system. At one billion miles from the sun, Pioneer 10 passed Saturn. At some two billion miles, it hurtled past Uranus; Neptune at nearly three billion miles; Pluto at almost four billion miles. By 1997, twenty-five years after its launch, Pioneer 10 was more than six billion miles from the sun.

And despite that immense distance, Pioneer 10 continued to beam back radio signals to scientists on Earth. Leon Jaroff, in *Time* magazine wrote, "Perhaps the most remarkable thing is that those signals emanate from an 8-watt transmitter, which radiates about as much power as a bedroom night light, and takes more than nine hours to reach Earth."

Don't be ashamed and don't quit just because you are an 8-watt Christian. Trust God to do what He said He can do. The light of Christ lives in you. You are a forgiven child of God and able to do much more than you know. That's what frightens the devil. That's why he works so hard against you. But don't listen to his lies!

God bless you and I look forward to seeing you in church.

Pastor Brooks

2023 Church Officers—

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

2023 Board Members—

Elders:

Jerry Lawson Charlie Rowen
Terry Reinke Don Schuster

Stewardship & Finance:

Larry Lund Lori Hardin
Garnett Seay Karen Southard
John Wilkinson Dick Ledington

Outreach:

Janet Brooks Colleen Fuller
MaryEtta Fredrickson Mary Cabral

Trustees:

Gene Clements Larry Fredrickson
Dave Henderson Terry Hensen
Mike Houston Mark Runyan
Don Southard Myron Volk

Education:

Mark Elli Patti Lawson
Cindy Runyan Carla Shields
Connie Stadick

Preschool:

Lorrie Houston Margaret Kilzer
Lillian Pierce Marilyn Seay

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 assist one of these boards please reach out to one of the board members to let them know.



Merry Widows—

This group is no longer meeting. If anyone has an interest in organizing it and starting it up again please contact the office.



Our next gathering of Grace Book Club will be Sunday, **February 26th** at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing “The Nature of Small Birds” by Susie Finkbeiner. Our meeting place will be at either Lorene’s home or at the church.

A summary: In 1975, three thousand children were airlifted out of Saigon to be adopted into Western homes. When Mindy, one of those children, announces her plans to return to Vietnam to find her birth mother, her loving adoptive family is suddenly thrown back to the events surrounding her unconventional arrival into their lives.

Though her father supports Mindy’s desire to meet her family of origin, he struggles privately with an unsettling fear that he’ll lose the daughter he’s poured his heart into. Mindy’s mother undergoes the emotional roller coaster inherent in the adoption of a child from a war-torn country, discovering the joy hidden amid the difficulties. And Mindy’s sister helps her sort through relics that whisper of the effect the trauma of war has had on their family—but also speak of the beauty of overcoming.

Told through three strong voices in three compelling time-lines, *The Nature of Small Birds* is a hopeful story that explores the meaning of family far beyond genetic code.

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.



FYI – This class will be offered again in March, starting on the 15th at 10 AM. Look for more specifics in March’s newsletter.

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.

Service February 22, 6:30p.m.—

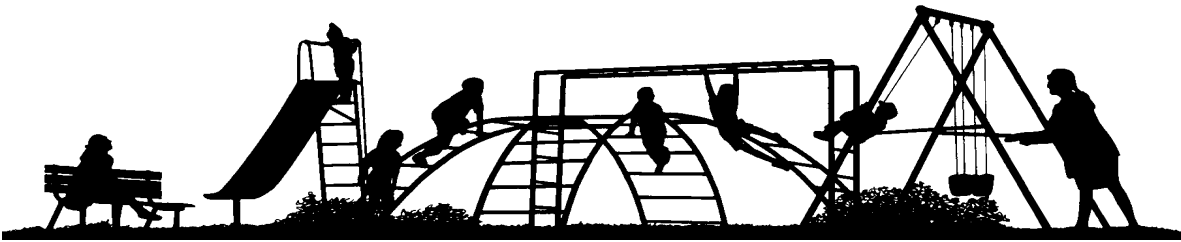


Join us during Lent—

Wednesdays, March 1st – March 29th



*Soup Suppers
at 5:30 PM
Hymn Sing at 6:15 PM
Lenten Service 6:30 PM*



Preschool News!

4-Year-Old Class

January was about celebrating all things winter! We read "Sneezy the Snowman" and then had fun creating our own "melted snowman" and saying why they thought their snowmen melted. We learned about arctic animals and how they live in the cold weather. Our science experiment this month was to cover our hands in Crisco and put them in ice cold water to see if we could feel the cold. This was to show the kids how arctic animals extra blubber keeps them warm in the arctic waters. We also made snowflakes, penguins, snowy owls, polar bears, talked about hibernation and played in water beads and ice. The kids have been working hard on practicing writing letters and sounds. Our learning focus was on the letters P, C, and S, the numbers 12 to 14, the star shape and the colors white and gray. We celebrated Lutheran schools' week with some fun dress up days. Ms. Lillian came in and gave us a presentation about owls, sang with us and gave us a pink & purple pancake letter "P" party!

January Bible Verses: "Whoever believes will be saved." - Mark 16:16 & "God is an everlasting Rock." - Isaiah 26:4. We focused on the stories about John the Baptist, Jesus' Baptism, Fishers of Men, The Lord's Prayer & House on the Rock. We learned about how a house built on rocks is sturdier than one on sand by doing our own experiment and watching how water washed away the sand and made the house fall and the one on rocks didn't fall down. We made a craft out of construction paper for the kids to demonstrate John baptizing Jesus.

Ms. Amanda Gigray & Ms. Cheri Nichols

Did You Know? Sensory Play is Important!

Children and even adults learn best and retain the most information when they engage their senses.

Here are 5 reasons why sensory play is beneficial:

1. Research shows that sensory play builds nerve connections in the brain's pathways, which lead to the child's ability to complete more complex learning tasks.
2. Sensory play supports language development, cognitive growth, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving skills, and social interactions.
3. This type of play aids in developing and enhancing memory.
4. Sensory play is great for calming an anxious or frustrated child.
5. This helps children learn sensory attributes (hot, cold, sticky, dry).

Source: <https://www.educationalplaycare.com/blog/sensory-play-important-development/>

3-Year-Old Class

What a great start to the New year it has been! 2023 has started off well, we are so happy to be back at preschool. We have been learning lots about our feelings and transportation this month. The kids have loved learning about why transportation is so important and the different ways we transport, from skateboards to planes! We have been discussing Jesus as a boy, John the Baptist, and Jesus' Disciples. It's great to see the growth from the kids- from at the beginning of the year to now. We are hearing and seeing growth in numbers and letters, love it! Ms. Lil also did a fun owl presentation for us; she had all sorts of different owls to share and even showed the children owl pellets. It was a hoot!!

This past month we focused on the colors white and blue, shape-diamond, letters- P, D, and J, and numbers 11, 12, and 13! Our bible verse was "Jesus grew in wisdom and the grace of God was upon him" Luke 2:40.

Love, Ms. Micky and Ms. Hannah

Concordia Circle/LWML—

We will meet on Sunday, February 5th after worship downstairs in the Sunday School area. Host is Carla and devotion will be given by Patti & Carla.



Next meeting is scheduled for March 5th after worship and will also be held downstairs in the Sunday School after church service. In April we will be moving back to meeting on Monday nights starting at 6:00 p.m.

Please contact Carla with any questions.



Returning God's Blessings

Dan was talking with his friend, Gary, about his estate plans.

Dan said, "My children are always prying, asking about my plans, but I don't want to tell them. I want to leave it a surprise."

Gary responded, "I am not sure that is a good idea."

Dan snorted, "Why is that?"

"This is going to be the biggest gift you have ever given them and by far the biggest gift they have ever received. Don't you want them to be prepared? Beyond that, I know you are leaving a gift to our Church in your estate. You told me about it. Don't you want them to join with you in your plan, to celebrate what God is doing?"

"You seem to know a lot about this. What made you so smart, Gary?"

"I'm not smart. Diane and I worked through our plan with an LWML Gift Planning Counselor and she helped us think about these things. I think you should give her a call. The last thing you want to do is ruin your great relationship with your children and grandchildren."

Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Lois Anderson at loisandersonlwml@gmail.com or Cell: 208-954-3534



**Lutherans
For Life**

The world today pressures people on all sides to reject God's design for human life.

The 2023 LCMS Life Conference, which is part of Making Disciples for Life, will be available for viewing March 25th at 9am-3pm, in the church basement at Grace Lutheran. Lunch will be served, there is no cost.

You also have the option to view the conference live virtually March 2-3rd for a cost of \$29 at the LCMS website.

The conference will provide Lutherans with the resources to faithfully proclaim what God's Word teaches about life, health, marriage and family.

Presentations at the 2023 conference will focus on three main subject areas: advocacy for the sanctity of human life and God's design for marriage and the family; teaching God's Word to people of all ages so they learn the truth about life, health and family; and sharing Christ's love and mercy with a focus on life, health and the family.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer of the church.

Treasure Valley Chapter, Lutherans For Life

Update from your Early Learning Center Committee

Approximately 60-70 people attended the January 22nd Congregational Information Meeting. Following the committee's presentation many good questions were asked (contact the church office for a copy of that presentation). A "straw poll" via secret ballot asking if we should continue to gather information leading to a recommendation to the Voters' of the congregation indicated great support. 55 ballots were received indicating "Yes" and no ballots indicated "Nay".

Following the meeting we received a number of comments and suggestions, the most significant of which were to:

- consider enlarging the proposed building to accommodate larger classrooms, more storage, expanded kitchen facilities and bathrooms directly accessible by each classroom and
- investigate the possibility of including infant care because parents with infants as well as 3- to 5-year-olds would desire all their children to be at one facility.

The Committee has met and is discussing these changes. We were also able to meet with a representative of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) who expressed excitement and support and also gave us information on the possibility of two financial grant sources which could significantly assist our efforts.

The ELC Committee is very thankful for the encouragement and support you have shown and ask you to continue to pray that God would bless our efforts to expand His Kingdom by sharing the message of the Gospel with our community in this new way.

Church Family Prayers—

We will be starting up our church family prayers this month. 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 and pray for those people, 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. We are praying for the following families this month:

- Lucy A.

- Pete & Jean A.
- Nola B.
- Carrie B.
- Janice B.
- Jerry B. & Sharon A.
- Jeanne B.
- Curt & Vickie B.
- Jim, Lynnette, Gabriel & Jessalynn B.
- Angela B.
- Don B.
- Jennifer, Colby & Hannah B.



from Portals of Prayer

The Transfiguration of Our Lord (February 19) ~ "Dear Jesus, we speak of mountaintop experiences as truly invigorating times. May Your glory shown to Peter, James, and John continue to shine upon me so I may have that same awe and confidence. May I be eager to follow the Father's voice upon that mountain to listen to You in all decisions I make today and all words I speak. I pray that my mountaintop joy comes directly from another mountaintop called Calvary. In Your name I pray. Amen."

Keep in our Prayers—




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

Cancer – Steven Jakcsy, Amy Soud, Teresa Owens, Lanny D. 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, Patti Wood
Liver – Bryant Neal

Heart– Katherine Clark, Pat Torrey, Laura Pennington, Brook Van Leuven, David Cuthbert
Lung – Sherrie Prien
Mental health – David Ledington
Rehabilitation – Judy Odette, Carol Moore
Deaths – Rosetta Schuster

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


February 2023


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline	2 Groundhog Day <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters 7:00 pm LWML Evening of Chat	3	4 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship.
5 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 11:45 am Concordia Circle – LWML meet downstairs 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study	6 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	7 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 9:30 am Preschool Chapel 6:00 pm Theology on Tap at Burger Theory 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study at Grace.	8 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline	9 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Board of S&F 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters 5:30 pm Board of Outreach 7:00 pm Family Group at Lynnette's	10	11 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship.
12 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship Board of Education Meeting Pick up Sub orders	13 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	14 Valentine's Day <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i>  6:00 pm Elder Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	15 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline	16 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 11:00 a.m. Pre-K Reading Buddies 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters	17	18 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship.
19 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study	20 <i>Preschool 4's</i> 	21 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> Newsletter Deadline 9:15 am Preschool Partners Read 9:30 am Preschool Chapel 6:00 pm Theology on Tap at Burger Theory 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	22 Ash Wednesday <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	23 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters	24	25 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship.
26 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study 6:30 pm Grace Book Club	27 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	28 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37			