



Grace Newsletter

March 2023



GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. We will be meeting weekly for 13 weeks. The program is nondenominational and features biblical concepts for healing from your grief.

GriefShare is for people grieving the death of a family member or friend. We understand that there are other losses in life that create feelings of grief. You might be experiencing a job loss, a divorce, estrangement from a child, or the loss of friends because of a move. This grief is real, but it is not the kind of grief discussed in GriefShare sessions. We encourage you to ask a pastor, counselor, or church leader for help in finding resources that will be of specific help in your situation.

A weekly session will include: opening with a prayer, welcome & covering any announcements, a workbook discussion, watching a video, engaging in small group discussion and a wrap-up.

WHEN:

Wednesdays
10AM—12PM
March 15—June 7

WHERE:

Grace Lutheran Church & Preschool
2700 S. Kimball Avenue
Caldwell, ID
Basement—Fellowship Area

CONTACT:

Colleen Fuller (701) 570-1517 or
Church Office (208) 459-4191
to register or you may go online to grief-share.org, search on our location and register there.

No Registration Fee

Childcare will be provided as needed.

Sunday Morning Class—

Starting Sunday, March 5th 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/>.

Parent's Night Out—

Preschool and Church Family Parents - mark your calendars for Friday March 31 and drop off your kiddo's here at the church at 5:30 PM for a night out or a relaxing night in. Just remember to pick them up at 9:00 PM. :). A meal will be served, games will be played and an Easter craft will be created. Please let the church office know how many kiddos you will be dropping off by calling (208) 459-4191 no later than by Sunday, March 26.



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A TIME FOR TEARS OF SORROW AND JOY

“O...my people, put on sackcloth, and roll in ashes; make mourning as for an only son, most bitter lamentation, for suddenly the destroyer will come upon us.” Jeremiah 6:26

Signs can bring us great joy or sadness. I was privileged to be with my wife as each of our children were born. There were certainly signs that told us the time was getting closer. And it wasn't that long ago that I sat at the bedside of my mother watching as the signs of her death drew nearer. Two very different signs. Anxiety came with both but there were certainly different outcomes. One brought joy with new beginnings and the other brought deep sadness and loss.

With Lent we begin a journey toward Christ's death on Good Friday and His glorious Easter resurrection. Easter is a very happy celebration because on that first Easter Jesus rose from the dead. But Easter is also a very serious day because Jesus had to die on Good Friday to pay for our sins. So, in Lent, to prepare our hearts to celebrate, we also take time to consider the cost Christ had to pay so that we might live with Him forever.

The verse at the top of this page is from the prophet Jeremiah. As with most prophets, Jeremiah's task was a thankless one. God had given Him a difficult message. He was to pronounce God's judgement on the people of Judah as a result of their wickedness.

Their sin was a familiar one, one which all of God's faithful prophets had delivered: unfaithfulness. In the early chapters of Jeremiah God speaks to His people with words such as these: *“My people have changed their glory for that which does not profit...for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.”* Jeremiah 2:10-13

It was this sin that the words at the top of the page address. Sackcloth and ashes are signs of sorrow and mourning. Jeremiah tells the people that they should be mourning for they had exchanged the true God for false gods of wood and stone. Unfortunately, we aren't much different. We may trust in the wood of our homes or the stones of our jewelry to keep us safe. Or perhaps more often we trust in the false gods of money markets and mutual funds. Yes, we too have dug cisterns that can't hold water. If you don't believe me just look at what a virus can do to your stock portfolio.

The people of Israel forsook the Lord, the spring of living water, and dug their own cisterns. But, He said, their cisterns were broken, they could hold no water – a picture of relying on gods that could do them no good. And neither can ours.

It's interesting that Jeremiah doesn't accuse the people of lying or stealing or cheating or killing or committing adultery. These are actually sins we prefer to consider because we can point to them and say, “I don't do that!” But the sin that was unacceptable to God was not giving their loyalty to Him. That's a First Commandment kind of sin. The sin of putting trust in things other than the Lord alone. The sin which leads to all sins.

At their heart, sins aren't so much about actions but attitudes. The “I can take Him or leave Him,” attitude; or “I'll worship if it's convenient and if it doesn't interfere with my other activities,” attitude; or “Oh, I believe in God, but this area of my life is none of His business,” attitude.

If any of these sound familiar, God is saying to you, *“O...my people, put on sackcloth and roll in ashes.”* These attitudes require repentance because they aren't simply attitudes, they're sins – sins that can lead to destruction. *“O...my people, put on sackcloth, and roll in ashes; make mourning as for an only son, most bitter lamentation, for suddenly the destroyer will come upon us.”* Jeremiah 6:26

For the people of Jeremiah's time the destroyer came in the form of an army that demolished their country, their temple and their lives. But the ultimate destroyer is death. On Ash Wednesday we received ashes upon our foreheads, reminding us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Death still reigns in our world. It is the ultimate result of our sinfulness. If we weren't sinful we wouldn't die. It's that simple. Jeremiah says that this should move us to repentance, to sackcloth and ashes and mourning as if we had lost our only son.

Lenten is a 40-day journey that culminates on Good Friday. It was there that God the Father did in fact lose His only Son. On Good Friday God the Father mourned as His Son hung on the cross. But I wonder if His mourning was not so much for His Son but for us. After all, Jesus' death on the cross was the result of His plan for our salvation. Maybe God's mourning was more for what caused His Son to go to the cross: for all the sinful actions and attitudes of people everywhere. Mourning and sorrow marked those six hours that Friday in heaven, while hell rejoiced. But on Easter Sunday the tables were turned. For on Easter the destroyer was destroyed; death was defeated.

But that doesn't mean death doesn't happen anymore. And whenever it does it serves as a grim reminder of our sin. Death happens but, because of Jesus, it no longer destroys. As Paul said, *“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* 1 Corinthians 15:56-57

Lent is a time of repentance, of remembering that we are sinners. But Lent is also a time of remembering that God did what was necessary to take away the guilt and power of sin. And this is what gives us hope, not just in Lent, but throughout all the seasons of our life.

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

Pastor Brooks

Online Sermons—

Sunday & mid-week sermons are available at www.gracelutherancaldwell.org. The sermons are located under the RESOURCES tab. Once there click on SERMONS. This will bring you to a menu of sermons listed by the latest date. If you have any questions please contact the church office.



Change Your Clocks—

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



Join us during Lent—

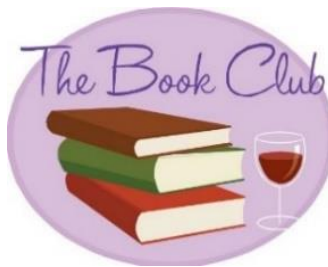
Wednesdays, March 1st – March 29th



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

Winter Jam Concert Event—

Youth & Families - Thursday, March 23rd 7:00 PM - ExtraMile Arena in Boise
World Vision presents Winter Jam Tour; hosted by NewSong & produced by Premier Productions, Christian music's biggest tour, is back for 2023 with headliners: We the Kingdom and Jeremy Camp and a solid lineup of acts including Andy Mineo, Disciple, Austin French, NewSong and featuring for the first time Dove Award-winning new artist of the year Anne Wilson. \$15 Donation at the door. Initial plans are to go to dinner and then to the event. All welcome. Watch for more details to come from our DFM.



Our next gathering of Grace Book Club will be Sunday, **March 26th** at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing "The Rose Code" by Kate Quinn. Just a heads up: the book is just over 600 pages. Our meeting place will be at Marilyn Seay's residence.

A summary: 1940. As England prepares to fight the Nazis, three very different women answer the call to mysterious country estate Bletchley Park, where the best minds in Britain train to break German military codes. Vivacious debutante Osla is the girl who has everything—beauty, wealth, and the dashing Prince Philip of Greece sending her roses—but she burns to prove herself as more than a society girl, and puts her fluent German to use as a translator of decoded enemy secrets. Imperious self-made Mab, product of east-end London poverty, works the legendary codebreaking machines as she conceals old wounds and looks for a socially advantageous husband. Both Osla and Mab are quick to see the potential in local village spinster Beth, whose shyness conceals a brilliant facility with puzzles, and soon Beth spreads her wings as one of the Park's few female cryptanalysts. But war, loss, and the impossible pressure of secrecy will tear the three apart.

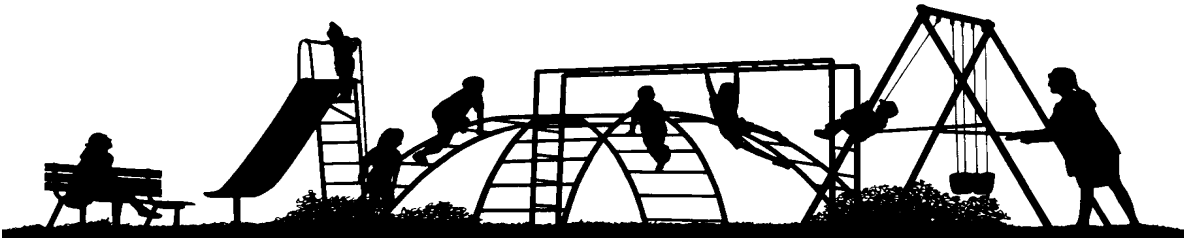
All women are welcome to join us for a heartfelt discussion and a glass of wine! If you have any questions call Hope at (208) 405-6080.

Childcare during Worship—

Attention parents, we are now offering child care during worship service. There will be two adult volunteers in the Preschool 3's classroom (the door straight ahead as you pass the bathrooms) ready to watch your kiddos for you before the service starts. You can bring them in right away, or whenever works best for you. You can bring them in after the children's message, or pick them up before communion! Whatever works best for you. And do not feel like you have to bring them to child care, this is just something we felt was important to offer to families. Babies up through around age 5 are welcome!



With that being said, we are also in need of volunteers for the child care. We would need two adults each Sunday to be in the Preschool 3's room to watch the kiddos. On communion Sundays we will have a system in place to make sure you are able to slip into the sanctuary during that time. Our hope is you would only have to volunteer one Sunday every few months if we have enough volunteers. A printed sign up is available in the basket outside of the Director of Family Ministry office door. Feel free to contact Lynnette with any questions. Her email is lboederdfm@gmail.com



Preschool News!

4-Year-Old Class

February was the month of friendship & love! We celebrated Valentine's Day with a fun little Valentine's party, made lots of Love Bugs, heart hedgehogs & worked on drawing the heart shape all month. We celebrated Presidents Day learning about George Washington & Abraham Lincoln. Dental Health Awareness month was in February and we learned all about how to keep our teeth healthy We made a glittery tooth fairy and other crafts as well as activities like "toothpaste slime." Our learning focus was on the letters N-V-M, the numbers 15-16-17, the heart shape, and the colors pink and purple.

February Bible Verses: "Have courage. It is I. Do not be afraid." - Matthew 14:27 & "Love your neighbor as yourself." - Luke 10:27. We focused on the stories about Jesus calms the storm, Jesus walks on water, The Mustard Seed & The Good Samaritan. We had so much fun learning about all the amazing things Jesus can do and learned that even though we may be small if our faith is big and we share it with others we can do anything!

Spring is Coming!! Spring Break is March 27th - 30th. (No School)

Ms. Amanda Gigray & Ms. Cheri Nichols

Tips for Brushing Children's Teeth!

February was national dental health month and time was spent learning just how important dental health really is! Here are some take home reminders for you:

- Brush their teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste.
- Help your child brush their teeth until they have good brushing skills.
If your child is younger than 6, watch them brush. Make sure they use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste and always spit it out rather than swallow.
- Ask your child's dentist to apply dental sealants when appropriate.
- Drink tap water that contains fluoride.

3-Year-Old Class

February flew by and we are continuing to grow and learn here at Grace! We learned a lot about nutrition and the five food groups, the kids enjoyed discussing good foods for us and foods that we should only eat a little of! Eating nutritious foods fit right in with discussing dental hygiene and why it is important to take care of our baby teeth so we can have healthy adult teeth as well. Valentines is always a great time for us to talk about love and why we are so blessed to have God, family and friends in our lives. We celebrated with a Valentines party where we played a fun game and had some yummy treats. Don't worry, just a few 😊!

We discussed that Jesus is a healer and that he can perform many miracles, from walking on water to save his friends, to healing lepers and blind men. We talked about how he can still perform miracles in our lives and how we always have a friend in Jesus! The kids enjoyed also learning about the story of the lost sheep and trying to find the hidden sheep in the classroom.

Our bible verse was "Love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind" Deuteronomy 6:5. Our color was pink, shape heart, letters-B, R, K, A, and numbers- 14,15,16.

Love, Ms. Micky and Ms. Hannah

Concordia Circle/LWML—

Meets on Sunday, March 5th after worship downstairs in the Sunday School area. Hosts are Nancy and Sharon and the devotion will be given by Jacquie. In April we will be moving back to meeting on Monday nights; however, our starting time will be at 6:00 p.m. vs. 7:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. will be the regular meeting time going forward. Please contact Carla Shields with any questions.



Getting to know our family—

In an effort to know our church family better, Concordia Circle is featuring a monthly article on those members confined to their homes due to age, illness or disability. *This month's spotlight is on our brother Bryant Neal.*

Although born in Whittier, California March 29, 1963, Bryant has lived in Idaho for over 30 years. Baptized in 1994 at the age of 31, Bryant says, "Just put down I was born in Christ and that was really when my life began. Before that I just wandered around." He found Grace Lutheran about that time when a friend, Dave Henderson, invited him to church. He and wife Lisa were married at Grace August 2, 1997 and renewed their vows at Grace on their 20th wedding anniversary. Bryant and Lisa have two daughters and four grandchildren.



Following high school graduation at age sixteen, Bryant joined the Navy serving 10 ½ years as an aviator. Once that service was over, Bryant transitioned into managing retail stores while obtaining a college degree. Currently he teaches on-line classes to students who are deployed and/or preparing for separation and a new career.

These days Bryant and Lisa are also into ranching, running a few head of cattle and raising chickens (Grace members have benefited from Bryant's beef jerky and his eggs!!). The Neals are quite self-sufficient, as most of their food is home-grown.

A liver transplant is in Bryant's future, hopefully soon. At the time of this interview, he was scheduled to return to Salt Lake on February 20th in preparation for the pending surgery. May GOD go with you, Bryant.



Ministry leaders often appreciate unrestricted gifts to their organizations that allow leaders to apply the dollars to the current pressing needs when received. A danger of such unrestricted gifts is that they can become generic in our minds, and we don't imagine what the benefit will be some day, robbing God's intended response of joy from giving ("God loves a cheerful giver"). However, predicting future needs can be tricky.

Returning God's Blessings

Three sisters taught Sunday School for all their adult lives. They loved children and appreciated the chance to share Jesus with them. Their estate plans all included gifts to support the Sunday School. But today, that same congregation is planted in a community where only 1.5% of the people are below the age of 18. You can see how difficult it would be for the congregation to use substantial gifts for supporting Sunday School when there are no children.

Gifts can be earmarked for certain ministry projects. Yet it is always a good idea to include language that gives ministry ability to redirect dollars if the planned need no longer exists in the future. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you think about the language that makes the most sense for your favorite ministry. Contact Lois Anderson at loisandersonlwml@gmail.com or Cell: 208-954-3534



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

PRAYER PAGE

Church Family Prayers—

We started up our church family prayers last 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:

- Dana & Janet B.
- Lucas & Abi B.
- Paul & Kenzie B.
- Loretta B.
- Bruce & Pam B.
- Mary C.
- Aaron & Julie, Hailey, James, Alex & Tim C.
- Katherine & Connor C.
- Mel C.
- Judy C.
- Michael & Travis D.
- Tara, Jake, Emma, Eli & Avery D.



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*from Portals of Prayer*

**Lent** ~ “Merciful Father, may this season of Lent not merely be a season of forty days but also a lifestyle of continual vigilance to the severity of m sins and to the fullness of Your forgiveness. May I be continually aware that through Jesus’ suffering and death on my behalf, this forgiveness is mine, today and every day. For all the ashes of broken dreams, disappointments, and betrayals, You are the resurrection healer. Replace the ashes of my sinful life with joy in the Gospel of Jesus, in whose name I pray. Amen”

**The Annunciation of our Lord (March 25)** ~ “Dear Lord, today we celebrate Your presence with Mary. The angel Gabriel’s news of her role in Your plan for salvation was unexpected. Yet she responded with the faith that only You can impart and allowed her life to be arranged according to Your will. Empower us with that same faith to overcome any fear and trust Your promise of a future more glorious than we can imagine. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

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Keep in our Prayers—

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

Cancer – Steven Jakcsy, Amy Soud, Teresa Owens, Dave Vorderstrasse, Wayne Snavelly, 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, Bob Downen

Lung – Sherrie Prien, Julie Frazier

Mental health – David Ledington

Rehabilitation – Judy Odette, Carol Moore

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.



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. *Philippians 4:6*



March 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Matthew 4:17 <i>“From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”</i></p>			<p>1 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Service</p>	<p>2 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship – Call Terry Hensen for details.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>6 <i>Preschool 4's</i></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>8 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Service</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details. TURN CLOCKS AHEAD AN HOUR!</p>
<p>12 Daylight Savings Starts 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study</p>	<p>13 <i>Preschool 4's</i></p>	<p>14 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 6:00 pm Elder Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>15 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am Griefshare 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Service</p>	<p>16 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 11:00 a.m. Pre-K Reading Buddies 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters 5:30 pm Board of Outreach 7:00 pm Family Group at Lynnette's</p>	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship – Call Terry Hensen for details.</p>
<p>19 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study</p>	<p>20 <i>Preschool 4's</i> 1st Day of Spring</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>22 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 10:00 am Griefshare 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing (Preschool Children) 6:30 pm Lenten Service</p>	<p>23 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship – Call Terry Hensen for details.</p>
<p>26 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 6:30 pm H.S. Bible Study 6:30 pm Grace Book Club</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No Preschool – Spring Break</p>		<p>31 Parent's Night Out 5:30 pm</p>	
		<p>6:30 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>10:00 am Griefshare 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Service</p>			