



# Grace Newsletter

June 2023

## Holy Land Trip—

Have you ever thought of visiting the Holy Land on a faith enrichment tour? Now is a good time. Pastor Randy and Carlene Benscoter are hosting a 10-day trip to Israel January 8-17, 2024 with an optional Egypt extension. Even if you are mildly interested, they would be happy to answer your questions and provide you with a brochure with the itinerary and details. Contact them at 208-634-9516 or [randy.benscoter@gmail.com](mailto:randy.benscoter@gmail.com)



## Vacation Bible School—



**JUNE 19-23**

**Grades Pre-K thru 6<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00AM - Noon**



Register by scanning above code or stop by the church and fill out the registration form.

*Children must be signed in when dropped off and signed out when picked up.*

June 17 – Help Set-up for VBS 9AM / Lunch provided.  
**On Friday, June – 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be a BBQ, Dunk Tank and Bounce House**

Questions? Please contact Lynnette Boeder  
(208) 459-4191 or (503) 320-5416 or [lboederdfm@gmail.com](mailto:lboederdfm@gmail.com)

## Evening Sunday Service—

JOIN US FOR A  
4TH SUNDAY  
PRAISE AND WORSHIP  
SERVICE

**JUNE 25 at 6 PM**

PRAISE MUSIC, SCRIPTURE,  
HOMILY & PRAYER



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# SOMEDAY YOU'LL SKIP ON GOLD

*“The holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven...and the street of the city was pure gold.” Rev. 21:10, 21*

This month I'm sharing another article from 1517. It's written by Wade Johnston who is an Assistant Professor of Theology at Wisconsin Lutheran College.

## **Stones Fit for Skipping**

Ever skip rocks as a kid? Remember searching for the perfect stone? When we moved to Milwaukee, we didn't waste much time heading to Lake Michigan, and it didn't take long for the kids to start looking for stones. They'd pick up one and drop it, pick up another and give it a try. They were determined to find stones fit for skipping, and, not to brag, but they've played a lot of ball, so they can throw. It was fun to watch.

What kind of stone are you? One God should pass by, pick up, or toss aside? One the world looks at and says, "That's the one," or one for which it has little use? Are you fit for skipping or do you just keep sinking?

More than a decade ago now I developed a habit that I sometimes regret. As part of remembering my baptism, I will often take my time in the shower to give God all the stuff on my mind, heart, and conscience, with the water reminding me that God has washed all my sins away. Unfortunately, since I am a stubbornly pessimistic person, one prone to holding onto the negative, this has morphed at times into my morning shower becoming complaining time. I complain about myself. I complain about my life. I complain about whatever. Rather than stepping out of the shower joyful and renewed, I end up grumpy and defeated. When I get stuck in a rut, this only makes things worse.

I'm guessing you're sometimes at least somewhat like me. You get down on yourself, on life, and on whatever else, and not without good reason. You don't feel fit for skipping. You feel lost in the background. You feel picked up and tossed aside. And so we wonder, "What good is a rejected stone? What good is a rock no one wants to skip?"

Peter knew that feeling well. His name meant "stone" or "rock." Christ had given him that name. And yet how often had Peter failed to live up to it? How often had he not been corrected? How often had he denied the Lord, failed to listen, or chosen the wrong path? Peter knew what it was to be an unworthy stone. Do you know what never happened, though? The Lord never tossed him aside. The Lord never declared him unworthy, even when he declared him foolish. The Lord knew how it felt to be a rejected stone.

The apostle Peter reminds us: *"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."* <sup>1 Peter 2:7</sup> And because this is so, things have changed drastically for us. Peter explains, *"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his*

*own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."* <sup>1 Peter 2:9-10</sup>

Do me a favor. Take a moment and think on all the stuff you'd say in the shower. What makes you unworthy? What makes you unskippable? What makes you worth picking up and tossing away? Think on it, and then let it wash away, because it is washed away. Like it or not, as much as you'd like to grumble and wallow, it's gone. You're not that stone. You're not that rock. You're something new. You've been picked up and you will never be tossed aside.

Christ doesn't find stones fit for skipping, but he does make them. He makes them with water for water. You're his stones, and that should set us all skipping, even when we face waves, even when the world doesn't see what Jesus does.

Jesus told his disciples that he had picked them up and wouldn't let them go. He promised them: *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."* <sup>John 14:1-3</sup>

Leave the nonsense in the shower, because none of it makes sense in Christ. Leave all those words for the drain. Hear the words the living stone speaks to you, because his word is truth, and his word endures forever.

What matters isn't what you think, what the world thinks, what anyone thinks. What matters is what this living stone thinks, the cornerstone, Jesus, the One who saves, because *"there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved,"* <sup>Acts 4:12</sup> and he has put his name on you in waters better than Lake Michigan, in waters of new life, every day, for all your days. You are stones set for skipping.

I don't know about you, but it's easy for me to feel like a stone fit for being tossed aside. And it seems the longer I live this side of heaven, the more I realize how unworthy I am of God's love. This makes me so thankful that my feelings don't matter at all when it comes to God's claim on me. And that's true for you, too.

Like me, Jesus has saved you by grace and His love will never fail. And one day you will find yourself skipping, not on water but on streets of gold.

*Pastor Brooks*

## Special Voter's Meeting—

A meeting will be held on Sunday June 11<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. The Early Learning Center committee will be asking people to vote on whether or not to proceed with the ELC plan that was discussed at the Voters' Meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Attendees will be given an anonymous ballot to fill out. A sample ballot was printed in the bulletin May 28 and it will also be in the June 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday bulletin. A fact sheet that was given at the May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting is available in the church entryway. If they are all gone when you get there please let us know so we can print more. Please pray for direction on this project.

## Preschool Registration—

***Our preschool registration is open!***

***Both AM classes are full!***

***(a wait list has been started for a PM class)***

The 3-year-old class meets on Tuesday and Thursday.

Registration Fee - \$105.

Tuition cost is \$105 for 9 months.

The 4-year-old class meets 4 days a week:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

Registration Fee is \$190.

Tuition cost is \$190 for 9 months.

AM classes are from 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

PM class is from 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Register via our website:

[gracelutherancaldwell.org](http://gracelutherancaldwell.org)



## Childcare during Worship—

Attention parents, child care is available 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 for you. 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! Feel free to contact Lynnette with any questions. Her email is [lboederdfm@gmail.com](mailto:lboederdfm@gmail.com)

**There is also a sign-up sheet outside of the DFM's office for those who would like to volunteer to watch the children. We need volunteers for June & July.**



June's book has been moved to July's meeting which will be on July 30<sup>th</sup>. We will be discussing "The Cost of My Faith" by Jack Phillips. Our meeting place is TBD.

**A summary:** Master cake artist and a man of profound faith,

Jack Phillips found himself in the middle of one of the highest-profile religious freedom cases of the century. In July 2012, two men came to Jack Phillips's shop requesting a custom wedding cake celebrating their same-sex marriage. In a brief exchange, Jack politely declined the request, explaining that he could not design cakes for same-sex weddings but offered to design cakes for other occasions and to sell them anything else in his shop. Little did Jack know that his quiet stand for his Christian convictions about marriage would become a battle for the right of all Americans to live out their faith.

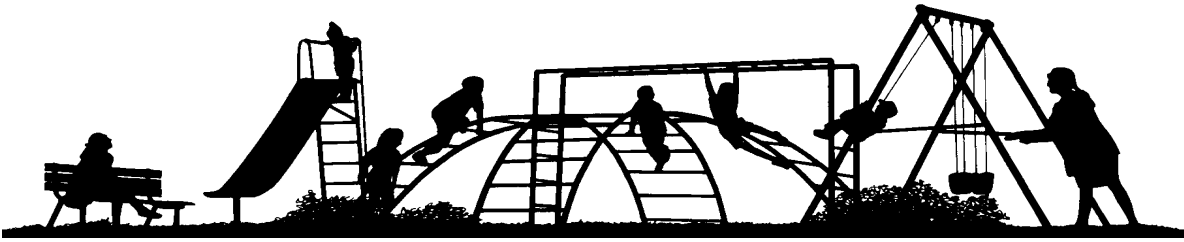
Now, Jack Phillips shares his harrowing experience for the first time in this powerful new memoir. *The Cost of My Faith* is Jack's firsthand account from the frontlines of the battle with a culture that is making every effort to remove God from the public square and a government denying Bible-believing Christians the right to freely exercise their religious beliefs. Despite a Supreme Court victory in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, the fight to protect the right of Americans to freely exercise their beliefs is more critical than ever. *The Cost of My Faith* provides new insight into the case that shook the country and offers readers courage and inspiration to stand and live out their faith when facing their own battles.

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.

## Youth Summer Mission Trip—



For our 2023 Youth Mission Trip we are heading to the Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch in Billings, Montana. There is a parent/youth information meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at the church. This meeting is very important to attend. John Boeder who is a leader at the ranch will be in attendance via Zoom to go over rules, expectations, and to answer any questions. We will leave July 27<sup>th</sup> and return on August 1<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to chaperone or just be a part of this mission trip, please contact Lynnette Boeder at [lboederdfm@gmail.com](mailto:lboederdfm@gmail.com). We would love to have at least one more adult attend and the more the better! We will be spending some time in Yellowstone on our way back home, so it is sure to be a great time, as well as an opportunity to show the love of Jesus to some youth!



## Preschool News!

### **4-Year-Old Class**

May was our last month of school and went by way too fast. We had fun learning and practicing our songs for our celebration and making outer space themed crafts like rocket ships, our own planets & moon to decorate the sanctuary with. We made caterpillar & butterfly crafts while watching our very real caterpillars go through their life cycle to become beautiful butterflies. Our butterflies didn't hatch before the last day of school, so we had a special day the week after for the kids to come have popsicles and watch the butterfly release. We made our moms "You Rock" painted rock photo holders for Mother's Day and made our dad's a super awesome gift to go home for next month for Father's Day. We had fun learning our last letters for the year. Our last day of school and preschool celebration was on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The theme was "Shine Jesus' Light" & the kids did amazing singing their songs and looked adorable for the celebration. Our learning focus for the month was on the letters Oo, Ii, and Zz, number review 1-20, the hexagon shape, the AABC pattern and all the colors of the rainbow.

Bible verses: "Everyone who calls upon the name of the lord shall be saved." - Acts 2:21 & "Love is Patient, Love is Kind." - 1 Corinthians 13:4. Our stories focus on the Holy Spirit and how Jesus showed love and kindness.

If you'd like some ideas for continuing learning over the summer this website is jam packed full of fun ideas. The teacher is so generous in providing video and materials to make learning fun and easy. <https://pocketofpreschool.com>

Have a blessed summer!!

Mrs. Amanda Gigray & Mrs. Cheri Nichols

### **3-Year-Old Class**

What a great way to end the year! Thanks so much to all the parents and grandparents who came to our celebration and shared their kiddos with us this year. We had a great last month which we spent talking about Paul and his journeys that he took for Jesus. Loving thy neighbor was a fun thing to touch up on and how we should love each other as Jesus loves us and what we can do to show love and acts of kindness to Gods people. We spent a lot of time talking about how Jesus is coming back to be with us and that we should trust in God's plan with all our hearts! We had a great time celebrating summer birthdays and touching up on all the things we learned this last year! These kids have thrived and it's been so amazing to watch them grow!

This month our bible verse was "Trust in the Lord God with all your heart" Proverbs 3:5. We reviewed all of the shapes, colors, letters, and numbers. We feel so great to have had such a successful year and hope you all have a safe and amazing summer! God Bless.

Love, Ms. Micky and Ms. Hannah



## Concordia Circle/LWML—

Our next meeting is Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. This is our last meeting until September. We are having a salad potluck dinner and there will be a speaker from “The Nesting Place”. Please contact Carla Shields with any questions.



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## Getting to know our family—

*Irene Pedro, a widow since 2019, is in the June Spotlight as another of Grace’s homebound members.* Living fairly close to church, Irene is comfortable in a senior apartment complex, only becoming homebound a year ago when she could no longer drive.



Being raised Lutheran, Irene has a very special place in her heart for Grace and her fellow church members. In 2016 she was desperately trying to find someone to build a ramp at their home for her husband who was using a wheelchair. After calling several places and being turned down, she was in NORCO and happened to mention her plight to an employee. This individual promptly shared that a lady had been in the store earlier stating her church built ramps and had left her phone number. That lady was Patti Lawson and the rest, as they say, is history!! Irene smiled as she remembered Pastor Brooks, working right alongside everyone else. When able to attend services, Irene sits up front, usually on the right side where she is close to the altar. “I want to be as close to JESUS as I can get,” she explained.

Born in Los Angeles, California in June 1948, Irene attended elementary and junior high there but because of a family move, high school was completed in Riverside, California. Following high school, Irene completed a course in cosmetology working in the field for 15 years. “I really enjoyed the work,” Irene shared. “I even won several trophies during that time.” Following her cosmetology career, Irene decided to go into sales for a while, selling ads for the newspaper. This career moved her to Oregon where she lived until returning to California to get an Associate Degree in Accounting. Irene worked in accounting until she retired in 2015.

While in Oregon, Irene met and married her husband of 28 years Leal Pedro. Leal was a widower and a Nazarene Pastor, pastoring churches primarily in Idaho. However, the first year and a half of marriage was spent in an RV touring the United States and holding Sunday Services in various campgrounds. Leal was challenged with MS all the years he and Irene were married but “GOD gave us 20 wonderful years while the illness was in remission,” Irene recalls. “He was a wonderful man,” she shares as she remembers her husband with love.

Irene is the mother of two sons, one of whom is a policeman in California, and she has five grandchildren.

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Sam attended college 44 years ago. This year, he finally retired. His work as an engineer consumed his life. To be responsible, Sam maximized amounts he could place in his 401(k) and managed to create other investments as well. Yet, because of his busyness, Sam never really thought much about using those gifts of God. His focus was on working and saving.

Yet now, in retirement, for the first time in a long time, Sam’s mind is not consumed by work. He was out for a walk on a trail near his home in the middle of the afternoon enjoying the spring day. His mind trailed off to ponder what a plan for faithfully using God’s financial gifts would look like. He was never married, without heirs, and inheritance was not a priority. Suddenly, retirement showed the opportunity laid out in front of him to plan for current and future support of his favorite ministries, like his home congregation. Yet he really didn’t know where to start. He decided to contact an LWML Gift Planning Counselor whom he just met this past Sunday after worship over a cup of coffee.

God has a habit of surprising us with more gifts than we could ever imagine we would steward for His glory. It shouldn’t surprise us. St. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 9, “*You will be enriched in every way to be genuine in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*” Is it time for you to ponder the faithful works for which God has been preparing you since before time? Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Lois Anderson at [loisandersonlwml@gmail.com](mailto:loisandersonlwml@gmail.com) or Cell: 208-954-3534

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# PRAYER PAGE

## Church Family Prayers—

We are praying for our church families each 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:

- Chris, Natalie, & Audrey Kelpin

- Donna Kendall
- Jon & Margaret, Miles, Grant & Bonnie Kilzer
- Phyllis Kimura
- Greg & Janis King
- David & Alice Krause
- Rev. Roland & Toni Kroll
- Alex & Sarah Kroll
- Mark & Mary Kroll
- Tyler & Amanda Larson
- Jerry & Patti Lawson
- Erma Ledington



### *from Portals of Prayer*

**The Holy Trinity (June 4)** ~ “On this day of celebration, I give glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What an awesome day it is to be able to praise You, my triune God. I know I can never fully comprehend all there is to know about the Holy Trinity. But I do know that You are my God who has created and saved me and now guides me to all good things. Again, I give glory to Father, Son, and Holy spirit. Amen”

**For a Faithful Confession (Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, June 25)** ~ “Jesus, You are my Lord and Savior. In my heart and mind, I know You give me Your grace, mercy, and love. But this knowledge of You in my life is not meant to be kept to myself. Help me confess what I know about You as my Lord and Savior to all whom I meet every day. Please guide me in my days so that my confession to others is always true and strong. In You 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, 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*

*Arthritis – Gary Meyer*

*Heart– Katherine Clark, Pat Torrey, Laura Pennington, Brook Van Leuven, Bob Downen, Janice Beaudry*

*Mental health – David Ledington*

*Rehabilitation – Judy Odette, Carol Moore*




*Deaths – Larry Fredrickson, Sherrie Prien*

*We also remember and pray for our Shut-In’s – Lucy Anderson, Margaret Edmiston, 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***

# June 2023

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	
 <p><i>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Psalm 100:1</i></p>					<b>1</b> 1:00 pm Quilters	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details.  10:00 am Safety Class
<b>4</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion	<b>5</b> <b>6:00 pm LWML Salad Potluck Last Meeting until Fall</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00 am Call Committee 10:00 am Griefshare	<b>8</b>  1:00 pm Quilters 1:00 pm Board of S&F	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details.	
<b>11</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship  <b>Special Voter's Meeting</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  6:00 pm Elder Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>Flag Day Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00 am Call Committee 10:00 am Griefshare Last Meeting	<b>15</b>  1:00 pm Quilters	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details.	
<b>18</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion  	<div style="background-color: #4a86e8; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; display: inline-block;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Vacation Bible School – Stellar! 9AM to NOON</h2> </div>					<b>24</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship – Call Terry Hensen for details.	
		<b>20</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 5:30 pm ELC Meeting			<b>23</b>  <b>12:00 PM BBQ, Dunk Tank &amp; Bounce House</b>	
<b>25</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship  6:00 pm Praise & Worship Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00 am Call Committee	<b>29</b> 1:00 pm Quilters	<b>30</b>	