



# Grace Newsletter

July 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 Bencoter 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.bencoter@gmail.com



## Preschool Registration—

**Our preschool registration is open!  
Both AM classes are full!  
Now let's fill the afternoon classes!**

New registrations will be placed in the respective PM class that run from 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm. We will open an afternoon session once we have 10 registrations in the Pre-K class and/or 8 in the 3-year-old class. If the PM classes fill AM parents have the option to move to the PM and vice versa.

See page 4 for more information and/or visit our website to register:

<https://gracelutherancaldwell.org/tuition-and-registration/>



## Evening Sunday Service—

JOIN US FOR A  
4TH SUNDAY  
PRAISE AND WORSHIP  
SERVICE

JULY 23 at 6 PM

PRAISE MUSIC, SCRIPTURE,  
HOMILY & PRAYER

## Newsletter Update—

**Please be sure to read the outside cover for important information regarding changes to the delivery of our monthly newsletter effective September 2023.**

VBS Volunteers



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# PRAYING IN JESUS' NAME

*"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" John 16:4*

The following article is by Pastor Donavon Riley and can be found in full on 1517.org

## Praying to Receive What's Ours

Prayer is often described as trying to hail a taxi in the rain. You're standing there, getting soaked, and no matter how much you wave your arms, no one seems to notice you. So when Jesus tells us to pray in his name, we think of it as if he's some sort of divine Uber driver who will take us where we need to go.

But, that's not prayer. Prayer is not just about asking for things. It's about receiving what has already been given to us in Christ. When we pray in Jesus' name, we are acknowledging that everything we *really* need has already been accomplished through his death and resurrection. We are simply asking to receive what is already ours.

And yet sometimes prayer feels like we're shouting into the void. We ask for things and it seems like no one is listening. Or worse, we get what we ask for and it turns out to be a disaster. So what do we do? Do we give up on prayer? No, we keep praying. We keep turning to Jesus.

For people that don't know the love of Jesus, I believe the only thing that makes life bearable is their irrational belief that tomorrow will be better than today. And in an odd way, for Christians, the only thing that makes prayer bearable is our irrational belief that God is listening and that he cares.

And sometimes that belief does feel irrational. We look at the world around us and we see chaos, suffering, and evil. We wonder how a loving God could allow such things to happen. But....prayer is not about getting God to fix our problems. It's about asking for the strength to live in the midst of chaos, suffering, and evil at the same time that God is destroying them.

Jesus assured his disciples that, *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"* John 16:33. This is the heart of the gospel – that in the midst of all the pain and death that occurs in this world, there is still hope. There is still love. There is still Jesus.

So when you're going to pray, pray in Jesus' name. But don't expect him to be your genie in a bottle. Don't expect him to make your problems disappear. Instead, trust that he is with you *in the midst* of your problems, to bring about a greater good for you....

He's not promising us an easy life, a life free from pain and suffering and disappointment. He's not saying that we won't have problems, that we

won't make mistakes, that we won't fall short. He's saying that even in the midst of all that, we can have hope, we can have peace, we can have joy, because he has overcome the world.

He's saying that we don't have to be afraid, we don't have to despair, we don't have to give up, because he is with us, he is for us, he is defending us. He's saying that we can face anything, anything at all, with confidence and courage and faith, because he has already won the victory.

I don't know about you, but I can really relate to Pastor Donavon when he says, *"sometimes prayer feels like we're shouting into the void."* There are times when we cry out and feel all alone. And it's in these times that our faith is truly tested. When that happens, we have to hold on to two things.

First, hold onto to the truth that Jesus has already secured our salvation. His life, death and resurrection are God's assurance that the worst thing we will ever face this side of heaven is taken care of in the victory He has won for us through the cross and empty tomb. Because Jesus lives, we shall also live, forever!

And, second, since He has made us His beloved children by faith in Christ, He is now our loving Father. And we can know with certainty that He is listening to us. He may not be answering us the way we want Him to but that doesn't mean He isn't answering us. We have to be okay with the fact that God, who knows all things, may be saying "No" to us. Not because He doesn't care for and love us. Quite the opposite. He cares for and loves us too much to give us everything we want. We may *think* we know what's best but, as sinful human beings, we can be very wrong about many things.

And we must also remember that a time of testing isn't intended to see if we pass or fail. The time of testing is about strengthening us for what lies ahead.

As I'm writing this, we just heard the news of the collapse of the submarine that was carrying five men to the site of the Titanic. It has been suggested that one of the main reasons it failed is because the submersible hadn't been fully tested to be able to withstand the pressure at the depth it had to go.

God loves us so much that He doesn't want us to collapse under the weight of the problems this world brings. And that's why He tests us, makes us stronger, so when the real tests take place we're ready for them.

So, we pray. We pray for anything and everything, knowing that God is listening and that He will answer in the way that is best.

See you in church,  
*Pastor Brooks*



## LCEF—

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), not only does your investment grow, but it also contributes to the growth of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ministries all over the world. Investing in LCEF is investing in the future of the church. LCEF offers a variety of investments at competitive rates. Visit [lcef.org/investment-rates](http://lcef.org/investment-rates) to view current rates and to apply online (it's fast and easy)! LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Check out their Young Investors Steward Account. Children can earn extra credit for "A" grades and/or when they complete 10 or more hours of a service project.

## 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! 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 July.**



You are welcome to bring in flowers for the sanctuary for in memory of, in honor of, or just because. If you would like to do so please sign up on the flower calendar. It is located outside Lynnette's office. You may bring in either one or two vases of cut flowers or even one or two 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. Also, 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 a Sunday.



Our next meeting will be held on July 30th. 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.

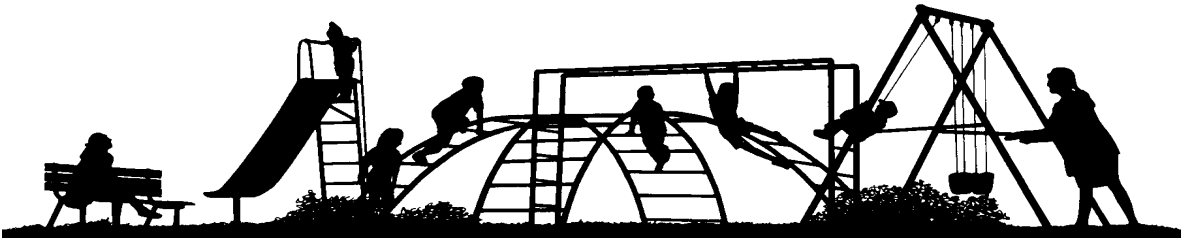
Now, Jack Phillips shares his harrowing experience for the first time in this powerful new memoir. *The Cost of My Faith* is Jack's firsthand account from the frontlines of the battle with a culture that is making every effort to remove God from the public square and a government denying Bible-believing 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.

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, July 27<sup>th</sup> and returning August 1<sup>st</sup>. This ranch is a nonprofit organization and is trusted locally and nationally as a leader in the field of mental health care for children and their families. Each day, YBGR's employees work with close to 1200 youth throughout Montana who struggle with controlling emotions and behaviors. YBGR has impacted more than 10,000 youth and their families since 1957 through Residential Services in Billings, Community Based Services throughout Montana, and the Yellowstone Academy in Billings. Thanks in advance to our chaperones, Pete & Jean Anderson, Patti Lawson, and Carla Shields. Please contact Lynnette Boeder at [lboederdfm@gmail.com](mailto:lboederdfm@gmail.com) if you have any questions. 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!**

## **REGISTRATION IS OPEN School Starts September 5<sup>th</sup>**

### **Four/Five-Year-Old Class**

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday**

**Registration Fee: \$190**

*(Secures spot & is not refundable after August 1, 2023)*

**\*Monthly Tuition: \$190**

**September - May**

### **Three/Four-Year-Old Class**

**Tuesdays & Thursdays**

**Registration Fee: \$105**

*(Secures spot & is not refundable after August 1, 2023)*

**\*Monthly Tuition: \$105**

**September - May**

### **Class Sessions:**

**Morning Session: 9:00 - 11:30 A.M. (Full for both age groups)**

**Afternoon Session: 12:00 - 2:30 P.M. (Spaces available)**

10 student min. to open a 4-year-old PM session + 8 student minimum to open a 3-year-old PM session.

All students must be toilet-trained to enter the program.

### **Parent/Teacher Information Night**

**Wednesday, August 30th 6:30 p.m.**

**Downstairs in the Fellowship Hall**

For more information call 459-4191 or visit: [gracelutherancaldwell.org](http://gracelutherancaldwell.org)

\*Tuition is due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month.

Monthly \$5 discount available for autopay via **checking/saving** payments.

(Registration is also available at: <https://gracelutherancaldwell.org/tuition-and-registration/>)

### **Concordia Circle/LWML—**

Our next meeting is Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Please contact Carla Shields with any questions.



### **Getting to know our family—**

*This newsletter section will be back in September.*



This article was not available in time for publishing.

# Implement these ideas for a fruitful summer for your kids

Are you concerned about your children's progress? Do you worry that you could be doing more to help them become thriving, independent adults? Summer is the perfect time to change that. Here is my 12-step summer program to strengthen your kids for the next school year and beyond.

1. Go on vacation. If everyone practices patience, it will bring the family closer, all at the right time of year. By going on vacation over the summer, you won't have to go during school, causing your kids to fall behind and forcing a poor, tired teacher to catch them up. Crazy as it sounds, vacation times make the best times for vacations.

2. Reduce tech consumption. It's strange. The same parents who force-feed their kids carrot sticks and slather them from head to toe in SPF 100 will turn around and give them a digital Pandora's box containing virtually every kind of evil in the world. If you don't stop them, your kids will spend more of their summer online than off, so instigate a program to decrease their tech intake. One idea is to make screen time a privilege that must be earned by reading: an hour of reading per hour of screen time is a good ratio. Speaking of reading...

3. Learn about books. Read aloud as a family every night. Take a weekly trip to the library. Start a family book club. Reading is a key that opens many other doors, so find ways to encourage (or force) your child to do it.

4. Do things together. An excellent safeguard against mental health issues is a stable, loving family. Start a weekly game night. Begin a hobby with your child. If you don't go to a church or place of worship, summer is the perfect opportunity to try it together.

5. Establish a work ethic. Assign chores, teach kids to do them well, and lay down a timeline for getting them done. Don't let your kids get into the habit of going to bed at 3 a.m. and waking up at noon. If they're old enough, make them get a job.

6. Fix a character problem. Is your child lazy? Ungrateful? Rude? Develop a plan together with rewards and consequences to work toward improving the troublesome trait.

7. Emphasize safety. Kids get hurt a lot during the summer. Resist the impulse to give control of golf carts and motorbikes to bored, immature kids. Review safety protocols for swimming, boating, and other potentially risky ventures. Institute a curfew.

8. Get to know their friends. Don't always slough off your kids at their friends' houses; invite the friends to yours. Spend some time talking with them (but not too much, or they won't come back).

9. Visit family. How long has it been since you've seen Aunt Edna in Idaho? Plan a trip to go see her. Kids benefit from getting to know their extended families.

10. Learn each other's love languages. Take the online love language test as a family for insight into strengthening your relationships.

11. Teach a skill. Show your child the basics of cooking, home repair, car maintenance, or frog breeding. (Okay, maybe not frog breeding.) And if you have no skills of your own (like me), learn one together.

12. Talk. Get off your own phone and find out who your kids really are. You don't need to be a helicopter parent to discover their likes and dislikes, their personality traits, and their developing values. You just have to spend time with them.

In implementing any of these ideas, remember that consistency is essential. It's easy for everyone to get slack over the summer. But you've got a two-month window to nourish your children and help build a lasting relationship with them. This won't just help the kids but will benefit the whole family. Be grateful for that opportunity, and don't squander it.

Jody Stallings

Jody is an award-winning writer and teacher from Charleston, South Carolina. ([jodystallings.substack.com](http://jodystallings.substack.com))

# 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:

- Dick & Peggy Ledington
- Sharon Lewis

- Dave, Vicki, Haley & Dalton Lewis
- Jim & Anita Lindbloom
- Forrest & Sandi Lockhart
- Larry Lund
- Bob & Vicky Mallon
- Linda McAuslan
- Ken & Carol McIntyre
- Ryan, Jessica, Reagan & Margaret McMorris
- Gary & Gail Meyer
- Becky, Eldon & Addie Moler
- Brenda Morgan
- Jake & Glenda Nash
- Loraine Navis



## from Portals of Prayer

**Belonging to God (Saturday, July 1)** ~ ““Many celebrate and rejoice in God’s good gift of country. These celebrations can renew a sense of belonging and thankfulness for all the ways God blesses us in this place. Yet sometimes even our own country can seem foreign to us. In his first epistle, John tells us, “The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him” (1 John 3:1). We don’t always have the peace and wisdom around us that we know is god’s will. So while we enjoy our place in this world, we still hope for something better. Our hope is certain. God has promised something better and has even begun it in us. Through our Baptism, we were made members of His heavenly kingdom, even as we await to see it fully revealed. When Jesus returns, He will take us to with Him as part of the new heavens and the new earth, as one big family gathered around the throne. Even as we celebrate being part of a country, may we all the more celebrate being part of God’s family as His beloved children through Faith in Jesus, our Brother. What great love He gives to us? “Lord, what great love You have given us to call us Your children! Make us mindful of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, that we may share Your love together in our heavenly family. In Jesus’ name. Amen””

## Keep in our Prayers—

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

*Cancer – 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*

*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*

*We also remember and pray for our Shut-In’s – Lucy Anderson, Margaret Edmiston, Flo Hopkins, Erma Ledington, Gary & Gail Meyer, 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***

# July 2023

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						<p>1 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details.</p>
<p>2 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Independence Day</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>5 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00 am Call Committee</p>	<p>6  1:00 pm Quilters</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details.</p>
<p>9 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00 am Call Committee</p>	<p>13  1:00 pm Quilters 1:00 pm Board of S&amp;F</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details.</p>
<p>16 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p>19 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00 am Call Committee</p>	<p>20  1:00 pm Quilters</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship – Call Terry Hensen for details.</p>
<p>23 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship</p> <p>6:00 pm Praise &amp; Worship Service</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00 am Call Committee</p>	<p>27  1:00 pm Quilters</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship – Call Terry Hensen for details.</p>
<p>30 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship</p> <p>Youth on Mission Trip</p>	<p>31  Youth on Mission Trip</p>	<p><i>Psalm 16:1-2 NIV</i></p> <p><i>Keep me safe, My God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.”</i></p>				

Youth Mission Trip – July 27<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>