



# Grace Newsletter

August 2023

## Coffee/Fellowship Hour—

**Hosts are needed!** The sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall on the door next to the kitchen counter.

You may also send an email or call the church office to sign up. The church supplies the coffee, juice, napkins, paper plates & plasticware.

You supply the snack and clean-up.



## August 20th—



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Sunday school starts up on August 20<sup>th</sup>, bring in your backpack to receive a special blessing during worship service. All children are invited to attend. Sunday School begins at 9:15 a.m. Our Sunday School teachers and Preschool teachers will receive a special blessing as well.

## Sunday Evening Service—

JOIN US FOR A  
**4TH SUNDAY**  
**PRAISE AND WORSHIP**  
**SERVICE**  
**AUGUST 27 at 6 PM**  
**PRAISE MUSIC, SCRIPTURE,**  
**HOMILY & PRAYER**

## Newsletter Update—

*This is our last newsletter paper copy being mailed. September's newsletter will be sent via email. If you do not have an email address and you still want a paper copy please call the church office at (208) 459-4191.*

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# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH PARKING GARAGE

*“Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ...without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” Eph. 2:12-13*

Have you ever lost something very, very precious to you? Janet and I have.

We were taking our youth group from South Dakota to meet another youth group at a church in Minnesota where a close friend was the pastor. One of the things we did with them was to go to the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul.

We had our own three children with us (ages 3, 7 & 9) and when we got to the museum everyone but the other pastor and I went in while we went to the parking garage to park. But Lucas had stayed in the van, probably because he was having fun in the big car. Janet assumed I'd see him...but I didn't.

When I went into the museum and walked up to Janet she said, “Where's Lucas?” And I said, “He's with you.” And she said, “No he's not!”

We ran back to the parking garage hoping he was locked in the car but...no Lucas! He must have slipped out right behind me and I didn't see him. We started calling his name and desperately looking around...and still no Lucas! It seemed like eternity but was probably only a few moments before a group of people came by and asked if we were looking for a little boy in a red shirt. Another group had found him wandering and taken him into the museum to contact someone who could help reunite him with his parents.

We ran back to the museum and, by the grace of God and the kindness of strangers, there was Lucas, sitting on the counter surrounded by friendly faces. Unless something like this has happened to you, you can't begin to imagine the relief we felt as Janet held Lucas and wept tears of relief.

As hard as that was for us, it can't begin to compare with the pain and sorrow our God felt when Adam and Eve sinned. They, and we, were truly separated from Him and destined to remain so...forever. That's what Paul refers to in the verse at the top of this page, Because of sin Adam and Eve and all their descendants were *“separated from Christ...without hope and without God in the world.”*

But, in His infinite mercy, God had a plan to bring us back to Himself. And our reconciliation with God came with a huge price. God's one and only Son gave Himself up, suffered and died on the cross. And when He cried out, *“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”* He was experiencing the hell that was to be our destiny.

But it's not our destiny anymore! We were once lost but *“Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”*

What joy to know that, in this life, we have a God

who is always with us, watching over us, taking care of us. What a relief to know that there is now nothing that can *“separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Romans 8:39 What a hope we have as we look forward to the end of all the pain and death of this world when Jesus returns to take us home.

But not everyone has that same joy, relief or hope. Think about it...as you walk down the streets of our city you are seeing the faces of people who are still *“separated from Christ...without hope and without God in the world.”* No hope because they do not know Jesus.

And that's why we're here. Those people are why you and I were left here when we were baptized. We're here to provide opportunities and pathways to introduce others to Jesus.

Quite honestly, this is the one reason I am so excited about the possibility of starting an Early Learning Center. I believe many of the people who will take advantage of the all-day care and preschool education for their children at our ELC need Jesus, too.

Our Early Learning Center here in Caldwell will be like that parking garage in St. Paul. It will be the place where lost people will, by the grace of God and the kindness of strangers (that's you and me), be introduced to their loving Savior and God.

Can you imagine the joy God will have for each lost soul that is found? We have been given the opportunity to provide a place where we will meet a bunch of people we would never meet anywhere else, people with whom God would have us share the joy, relief and hope He has given to us through His Son.

If we embrace this ministry, our Early Learning Center will be the place where:

- little ones will be taught about Jesus and loved by their Christian teachers for hours every day;
- the families of those little ones will get to know us as we provide natural opportunities to gather together;
- these same families will have a place to turn when they experience the brokenness that comes from living in a broken world.

But this will only happen if we embrace the challenge of beginning that Early Learning Center.

What price are we willing to pay for this opportunity? What is the price of one soul who comes to faith because we were willing to step out in faith? Only God knows the true worth of a human soul. For Him, it was worth the life of His Son. What is it worth to us?

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.**



**Parents Night Out—**The Board of Outreach will be hosting a Back-to-School Parent's Night Out on August 18th from 5:30-9:00 pm. We will serve dinner and a snack, provide crafts and games. Parents, enjoy an evening out or use the time to gather those school supplies. We ask that all children be potty trained. Please RSVP to the church office (208) 459-4191 or to Colleen Fuller (701) 570-1517 by the 15th.



Our next meeting will be held on August 20th. We will be discussing "When the Meadow Blooms" by Ann Gabhart. Our meeting place is TBD.

**A summary:** If any place on God's earth was designed to help one heal, it is Meadowland. Surely here, at her brother-in-law's Kentucky farm, Rose and her daughters can recover from the events of the recent past—the loss of her husband during the 1918 influenza epidemic, her struggle with tuberculosis that required a stay at a sanatorium, and her girls' experience in an orphanage during her illness. At Meadowland, hope blooms as their past troubles become rich soil in which their faith can grow. Dirk Meadows may have opened his home to his late brother's widow and her girls, but he keeps his heart tightly closed. The roots of his pain run deep, and the evidence of it is written across his face. Badly scarred by a fire and abandoned by the woman he loved; Dirk fiercely guards his heart from being hurt again. But it may be that his visitors will bring light back into his world and unlock the secret to true healing.

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.

## Concordia Circle/LWML—

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



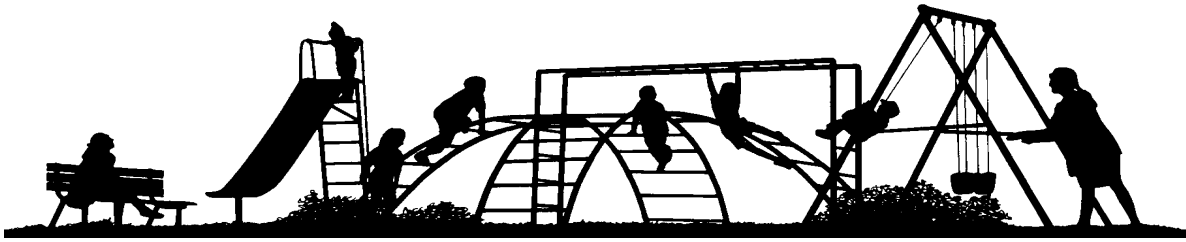
*Returning God's Blessings*

This article was not available in time for publishing.

## 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 [randall.benscoter@gmail.com](mailto:randall.benscoter@gmail.com)





**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.

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

## **PRESCHOOL REMINDER**

**Parent Information Night/Open House**

**6:30 PM, Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Downstairs in the Fellowship Hall**

After the presentation parents will meet with the child's teachers in separate groups and then head upstairs to view their child's classroom.

If this is your child's first year attending our preschool, please bring their immunization records if you haven't already turned them into the office. Children will need a backpack or school bag to bring home their school papers/crafts during the school year.



# The importance of a united front

**My wife and I disagree about our daughter, and it's affecting my daughter's attitude. I'll say she can't go somewhere until she finishes homework, then her mother lets her go. I'll take her phone; her mom will give it back. It's making my daughter hate me. What can I do?**

You have to convince your wife that a united front is in everyone's best interest. Otherwise, it will damage the family and turn your daughter into a certified princess (not the good kind).

Parents need to agree on the right course of action for their children, and once a decision is made, both should support it totally. That's what it means to put forth a united front, and it's essential in helping children grow into thriving, high-character adults.

As any parent should know, a big part of the job is ensuring that kids don't always get everything they want. This helps them distinguish right from wrong, teaches them to respect boundaries, keeps them safe, and instills self-discipline. It also helps prevent them from becoming spoiled brats.

So continually issuing split decisions is one of the worst things parents can do. Suppose Dad tells his daughter her shorts are too short, then Mom says they aren't. Or suppose a parent decrees "two weeks without a phone," and the other parent slips it back the next day. These situations teach kids that there are no roadblocks to getting their way; there are only speed bumps and detours— or, worse, mean people and useful people.

But suppose Dad says, "You can't go out tonight." Then the daughter turns to Mom, who says, "If your Dad says you can't, then you can't." This may trigger a useless tantrum, but in the long run, it teaches the child to adapt to inconveniences. It shows her that no means no.

Putting forth a united front requires pre-parenting. You have to discuss rules and boundaries before there's a crisis, not make things up individually as you go.

And if you can't agree on the boundaries, you must at least agree to back each other up. If mom says no, then dad needs to say no, too, no matter how crazy he thinks mom's decision is. This will teach the child that rules actually apply to her, and she can't just run to another authority figure to obtain a more

desirable decision.

There are lots of reasons parents fail to put forth a united front. Sometimes they legitimately disagree on the course of action. In that case, they must compromise, like adults are supposed to do.

Often the reason one parent undermines another is dependence on feelings over doing what's best for the child's long-range development: Mom might feel pity for the child Dad has punished. Or maybe she's just trying to induce cheap adoration from the child; it's easier to be adored when you're the "good guy."

Such emotional reactions, however, eventually turn you from a parent into a tool. Children rarely respect overindulgent parents. They become conditioned to offer superficial devotion only when your services are desired. That's the definition of a spoiled brat, and it's often catalyzed by a divided front.

Divided fronts teach kids that relationships are a tangle of recourses. They lead kids to look for cracks and loopholes. United fronts teach them that relationships require compromise and shared values, always with the best interests of others in mind.

To convince your wife to agree to a united front, I suggest sharing with her how it can strengthen your family. When spouses disagree on parenting decisions, it causes conflict, and constant conflict is cancerous to families. Divided fronts also encourage children to have tiered respect for parents, even to love one parent more than the other; imbalances of that nature are equally cancerous. They're not much different than when parents favor one child over the other.

The united front has power because it helps detoxify the family of conflict and imbalances, providing moms, dads, and kids with the emotional security that only a stable family can provide. Parents should make employing it among their highest priorities.

Jody Stallings

*Originally published in the Moultrie News.*

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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:

- Bryant & Lisa Neal
- Rob, Cheri & Adam (Dickson) Nichols
- Steve & Debbi Nisula
- Elizabeth Osmus
- Gary & Jan Parfit
- Becky & Alli Parry
- Jeff & Margie Pate
- Irene Pedro
- Jefty & Karen Pickett
- James, Anjelika, Amelia, & Alisyn Pickett
- Mike & Lillian Pierce
- Mike Randolph



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*from Portals of Prayer*

**For Teachers:** Gracious Lord, how blessed we are to have compassionate and caring teachers in our lives. They are a gift, as You continue to fill them with grace and truth. Bless them, O Lord, especially when the hours get long and their patience thin. Restore to them the blessed vision of the greater purposes to which You call them: to glorify You and to bless those whom they serve. Through the name of Jesus, our great teacher. Amen”

**For Sunday Schools:** Gracious and merciful God, Your Son, Jesus, grew in wisdom, stature, and favor with You. Grant to our Sunday Schools faithful teachers to teach, nourish, and guide our children by Your Word of truth. Be with all students, that they may hear and inwardly digest Your Word. Let Your Word be the lamp to their path in life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

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**Keep in our Prayers—**

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

*Cancer – 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*

*Back Surgery – 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, Mel Clausen, 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***

# August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b></p>	<p><b>STARTS THE 20TH</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00 am Call Committee</p>	<p><b>3</b> 1:00 pm Quilters  5:30 pm Board of Outreach</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details.</p>
<p><b>6</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00 am Call Committee</p>	<p><b>10</b>  1:00 pm Quilters 1:00 pm Board of S&amp;F</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details.</p>
<p><b>13</b> 9:15 am Preschool Board Meets 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00 am Preschool Staff meeting</p>	<p><b>17</b>  1:00 pm Quilters</p>	<p><b>18</b>  <b>5:30 pm Parent's Night Out</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details.</p>
<p><b>20 Rally Day/Backpack Blessing</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion  6:30 p.m. Book Club 6:30 p.m. H.S. Bible Study</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>24</b>  1:00 pm Quilters</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship – Call Terry Hensen for details.</p>
<p><b>27</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship  6:00 pm Praise &amp; Worship Service</p>	<p><b>28</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>  <b>6:30 pm Preschool Parent Information Night</b></p>	<p><b>31</b>  1:00 pm Quilters</p>	<p><b>Psalm 27:1</b> The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?</p>	