



# Grace Newsletter

September 2023

## Beware of Text Scams—

Several members have received texts claiming to be from Pastor Brooks asking for donations or in some way to respond. **THESE ARE SCAMS!**



Pastor Brooks will never reach out to you via a text asking for money or for you to contact him immediately. If you get a text claiming to be from Pastor Brooks please take time to LOOK at the PHONE NUMBER. And if you are still unsure, please call the church or call him directly. Unfortunately scammers are intelligent and the fact that they somehow know that you are connected to his name is mind-boggling. If Pastor needed your assistance in any way he would speak with you directly. Please be vigilant against these criminals and simply block the number and delete the text.

## Sunday Evening Service—

JOIN US FOR A  
**4TH SUNDAY**  
**PRAISE AND WORSHIP**  
**SERVICE**

September 24 at 6 PM

PRAISE MUSIC, SCRIPTURE,  
 HOMILY & PRAYER



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.**

### WHEN:

Wednesday Weekly Sessions  
6PM—8PM  
August 17—November 9

Surviving the Holidays Sessions  
November 15 6:00 PM  
November 18 10:00 AM

### 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 [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org),  
search on our location and register there.

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# BEING PRUNED TO BECOME MORE FRUITFUL

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." John 15:1-2*

This month I'm sharing a devotion from my mom's favorite devotional book, "Streams in the Desert".

It is comforting to think of trouble, in whatever form it may come to, us, as a heavenly messenger, bringing us something from God. In its earthly aspect it may seem hurtful, even destructive; but in its spiritual outworking it yields blessing. Many of the richest blessings which have come down to us from the past are the fruit of sorrow or pain. We should never forget that redemption, the world's greatest blessing, is the fruit of the world's greatest sorrow. In every time of sharp pruning, when the knife is deep and the pain is sore, it is an unspeakable comfort to read, *"My Father is the husbandman."*

Doctor John Vincent, a Methodist Episcopal bishop of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, and a leader of the Sunday school movement in America, once told of being in a great hot-house where luscious clusters of grapes were hanging on every side. The owner said, "When my new gardener came, he said he would have nothing to do with these vines unless he could cut them clean down to the stalk; and he did, and we had no grapes for two years, but this is the result."

There is rich suggestiveness in this interpretation of the pruning process, as we apply it to the Christian life. Pruning *seems* to be destroying the vine, the gardener *appears* to be cutting it all away; but he looks on into the future and knows that the final outcome will be the enrichment of the vine's life and greater abundance of fruit.

There are blessings we can never have unless we are ready to pay the price of pain. There is no way to reach them save through suffering.

~ Dr. J.R. Miller

*"I walked a mile with Pleasure,  
She chattered all the way;  
But left me none the wiser  
For all she had to say.*

*"I walked a mile with Sorrow,  
And ne'er a word said she;  
But, oh, the things I learned from her  
When sorrow walked with me."*

When we first moved here I decided to plant some grapes in my back yard. I would do it differently if I were to plant them now but the point of this devotion /

newsletter article isn't about poor planning but about the value of pruning.

The first year I planted the grapes I just let them grow as they wished in order to let the roots get as established as much as they could.

The second year I let the vines grow without too much trimming but began to train up a main trunk and a couple of cordons (the "limbs" of the grape vine that would be supported by wire).

By the third year the vines were beginning to grow nicely so I decided to just let them do what they wanted to do. I thought it made sense for the plant to get as much foliage as possible because it was this that would really feed the plants.

By the fall of that year I realized that was a mistake. The vine that was on the very end of my row of grapes had grabbed hold of my neighbor's chokecherry tree and climbed to the top. When I pulled the vines out of his tree, I stretched them across my yard and they were easily forty-feet long.

Although it's counter-intuitive, I've learned that, if I want a good yield of fruit, I must prune the vines regularly throughout the summer. I must trim off new grape clusters that the vine wants to put out throughout the summer and trim back the vines themselves so the vine will put more energy into the fruit that I want to be able to pick for harvest.

Experiencing that, I can understand this devotion from "Streams in the Desert" much better. I had never really understood what Jesus meant when he said in John 15, *"Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit."* It seemed like He was treating the vine that was bearing fruit just like the vine that didn't bear fruit. But now I know differently. A vine that is pruned and cared for produces much more fruit and is much healthier.

As we walk through life God "prunes" us by allowing us to experience the consequences of living in a broken and sinful world. As this happens we experience sadness and sorrow, pain and difficulty. But these are necessary for our health and vitality as children of God. We learn the priorities of life and experience the love of a Father who gives us hope in and through every circumstance of life.

And as we do this we are able to point others to our God who loves us so much. I'll 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. 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. 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.

**New Member Introduction—**On September 10th during service we will officially be introducing our newest members. Now some of them may not seem that new because our last introduction was some time ago, (August 29, 2021 to be exact) but regardless, we want to be sure and recognize them. Also going forward, we have added this event to our calendar and will be introducing members on a regular basis in the months of March and September. We hope that members will join us downstairs after service to meet and visit with our newest members. Although not all may be in attendance on the 10<sup>th</sup> here is the list of our members since our last introduction:

- Zane, Carrie & Beau Bass
- Curt & Vickie Boeder
- Kenzie Brooks
- Bruce Burns
- Tiffany Caagbay
- Chelsea Fuller
- Greg & Janis King
- David & Alice Krause
- Tyler & Amanda Larson
- Brenda Morgan
- Robert Nichols
- Michael Randolph
- Bill & Tanya, Olivia & Delilah Rigg
- Roberta Rigg
- Diane Roberson
- Debbie Saunders
- Terry & Linda Smith
- Nathan Volk



## 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 14-25, 2024. 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.bencoter@gmail.com](mailto:randall.bencoter@gmail.com)



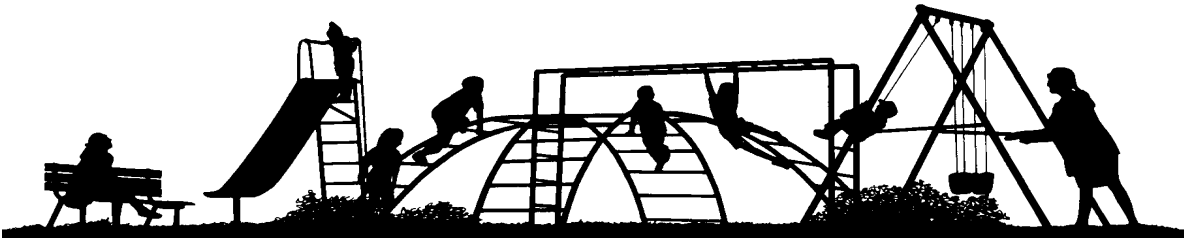
Our next meeting will be held on September 17th. We will be discussing “The Lobotomist’s Wife” by Samantha Greene Woodruff. Our meeting place is at Marilyn Seay’s.

**A summary:** Since her brother took his life after WWI, Ruth Emeraldine has had one goal: to help those suffering from mental illness. Then she falls in love with charismatic Robert Apter—a brilliant doctor championing a radical new treatment, the lobotomy. Ruth believes in it as a miracle treatment and in Robert as its genius pioneer. But as her husband spirals into deluded megalomania, Ruth can’t ignore her growing suspicions. Robert is operating on patients recklessly, often with horrific results. And a vulnerable young mother, Margaret Baxter, is poised to be his next victim. Margaret can barely get out of bed, let alone care for her infant. When Dr. Apter diagnoses her with the baby blues and proposes a lobotomy, she believes the procedure is her only hope. Only Ruth can save her—and scores of others—from the harrowing consequences of Robert’s ambitions. Inspired by a shocking chapter in medical history, *The Lobotomist’s Wife* is a galvanizing novel of a woman fighting against the most grievous odds, of ego, and of the best intentions gone horribly awry.

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.

**Fall Festival**  
**Saturday Oct. 7th**  
**Mark Your Calendars for**  
**now, more details to come!**





## Preschool News!

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

We are so excited to be back in school after a wonderful summer break. We are welcoming 16 sweet little kiddos into our Pre-K class and we are sure that they are all eager to learn and have fun. We will be working on beginning skills like using scissors and holding our pencil/crayon correctly. We will be working hard on learning classroom rules and how to be a good friend. Our class motto is "Be Kind Like Jesus!" All year we will be working on how to write and say the letters in our names, along with all the letters in the alphabet and the sounds they make. We will be working on numbers, counting and beginning math skills & fine motor skills. As always at the top of our list is working on growing our knowledge and love for Jesus! We look forward to a wonderful year ahead and lots of new adventures!

Ms. Amanda Gigray & Ms. Cheri Nichols

A little teacher info:

Ms. Amanda is starting her 9<sup>th</sup> year teaching here at Grace. She loves helping our little friends grow in their love of learning. Amanda is a Caldwell native and has been married to Will for 22 years. They have 4 children (3 boys & 1 girl) and they are her pride and joy. She enjoys crafting, camping and of course teaching!!

Ms. Cheri is starting her 2<sup>nd</sup> year teaching here at Grace. She loves helping our friends grow in their explorations especially science and God's great outdoors. Cheri is a military kid and has been married to Robert for 6 years. Together they have 6 children (3 Boys & 3 Girls) who are the center of their world, after God of course! She enjoys camping, kayaking, hiking, anything outdoors, teaching and sharing!

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

We are so excited to start the new school year. After a fun summer, we look forward to getting to know all the new kiddos, and helping them on their journey of learning all about our Lord and the love he has for us. Our class is full this year with 12 children.

We are grateful to be welcoming Mrs. Dee to our three-year-old class this year. Mrs. Dee has been married to Myron for 35 years and has two grown children. She spent 20 years working in Caldwell schools.

Ms. Micky is starting her fourth-year teaching here at Grace. She has been married to Rich for 15 years and they have one child together. Rich has three grown children and Micky has four grown children.

Mrs. Dee & Ms. Mickey



**PRESCHOOL STARTS  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH**

## Concordia Circle/LWML—

Our next meeting is Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Barbara James is providing the devotion and Carol McIntyre & Connie Stadick are hosting. Please contact Carla Shields with any questions. What is LWML? Here is their mission statement:



“The mission of the Lutheran Women’s missionary League is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church – MO Synod in affirming her relationship of the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.”

## Getting to know our family—



*Grace’s September Spotlight focuses on Mel Clausen, a ninety-three old resident of Grace Assisted Living, who spent most of his adult work-life being a “change agent” for the Bureau of Land Management and quietly making a difference.* Mel was born in Lindsey, Nebraska June of 1930, the fifth son of a Nebraska farmer and the first in his family to graduate high school. Grade school at that time consisted of first through eighth grades and was conducted in a one-room schoolhouse two miles from home. “By the fourth grade I knew all the information,” shared Mel, “because I listened!” Because of WWII, Mel’s two older brothers were sent to the Pacific front and Mel was forced to drop out of school for a year to help on the farm. After enlisting his pastor’s help, the two were able to convince Mel’s dad to allow him to attend high school rather than farm. This involved moving to town, finding housing, and earning an income to pay for room and board. The ever-observant Mel noticed that Roose-

vvelt’s Civilian Conservation Corps had installed power lines along rural roads but farmhouses were still using oil lamps to provide light since there were no electrical lines from these utility poles to homes. With a desire to help others, Mel took this problem to an electrical company and was hired to install the lines. One and a half years later, Mel was a journeyman electrician, earning enough to pay his way to college. One semester into college the Korean War broke out and Mel was off to the front lines after volunteering for the Marines. Following his stint in the service, Mel finished his first year of college at Wayne State Teachers’ College in Nebraska and then transferred to the University of Idaho in Moscow where he sought a degree in Forestry and Civil Engineering. It was during this time Mel met his wife Gert through a friend from Nebraska who was attending school in Moscow. Gert, also from Nebraska, married Mel October of 1956. Two years later Mel graduated college and took a job in Boise for a relatively new government agency, The Bureau of Land Management, where he designed logging roads. During his years with the BLM Mel worked in Alaska, the Pacific Northwest and California, traveling for the Forestry Division. It was during these travels, Mel observed large, expensive equipment (often duplicated) sitting idle, resulting in wasted taxpayer money. This prompted him to write a six-page letter that eventually reached the Secretary of Interior, who met with Mel and implemented his ideas to reuse equipment and to develop the Interagency Fire Center.

While serving as District Manager in northern California, Mel identified a 13-mile area of pristine BLM forested land, “A place where people could walk peacefully. Where animals could be seen.” Thus, a proposal for preserving the area was submitted and accepted. Mel Clausen making another lasting contribution along life’s journey.

Following his stay in California, he was sent to Colorado—Canyon City—as District Manager to take care of some issues there. After six years in Canyon City, Mel was again on the move to the big timber area of the Oregon Coast. Here he became involved with environmentalists in the spotted owl controversy. He convinced sceptics that these owls could live as well, if not better, in second growth timber as opposed to old growth timber. Researchers were convinced following nightly visits to second growth timber, because more hoots were heard here than in the old growth timber!! Mel retired from his District Manager position in 1988. He then became involved with some “genetic forestry guys” to develop *perfect* trees. These tree experts identified and marked trees that were exceptional specimens as to size, disease resistance etc. After identifying 50 such trees, cones from these trees were collected and “orchards” grown. These atypical trees, grown in their own “nursery”, cross-pollinated thus producing **Super** trees which are today being planted all over the West.

Following this experience, Mel returned to Boise to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. By this time Mel was well known for his accomplishments in forestry and civil engineering as well as working with others to accomplish goals, so it was no surprise that Winthrop Rockefeller chose him to educate foreign students in Resource Management. Mel Clausen answered the call and headed to Pakistan to convince the Eastern mind of the benefits of working together, utilizing each person’s expertise. For six weeks he worked in a hostile environment but to no avail. The Eastern mind could not grasp the concept of working together for the good of the whole.

These days Mel can be found in his room with a stack of books by his easy chair. His daughter keeps him well supplied from the local library. Sunday mornings Mel can be found attending Adult Bible Class and Divine Worship Service with his daughter and grandchildren.

# 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:

- Terry & Cathy Reinke
- Bill & Tanya, Olivia & Delilah Rigg
- Roberta Rigg
- Lee & Diane Roberson
- Kathy Robinson
- Donna Rookstool
- Charles & Paula Row
- Charlie & Jacquie Rowen
- Mark & Cindy Runyan
- Cathy Sage
- Sarge Sargent
- Debbie Saunders



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*from Portals of Prayer*

**Holy Cross Day (September 14):** Dear Lord, heavenly Father, You gave us Your only Son to redeem the World. The cross, an instrument of torture, became His throne. His thorn-encircled brow became His crown of glory. His body, bloodied and battered, became our redemption. His sacrifice became the once-for-all sacrifice on our behalf. May we keep our eyes focused on the suffering and death of our Lord, for it is the place of our salvation. In Jesus’ name. Amen”

**For the Sick:** Great Physician, You created us and mourn with us when illness harms our bodies. In His great love, Your Son healed many who were sick, giving a glimpse of the full restoration to come upon His return. We ask You to have compassion on Your children who are sick and heal them according to Your gracious will. In their time of illness, may they remember Your blessings and rely on You more fully to Your glory. 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 – Amy Soud, Teresa Owens, Dave Vorderstrasse, Wayne Snavelly, Jerry Bengtson, Jim Nelson, 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, Bob Downen, Janice Beaudry*

*Mental health – David Ledington*

*Physical Therapy – Gary Meyer*

*Rehabilitation – Judy Odette, Carol Moore*


*Deaths- Jim Lindbloom, Jay Hartsock, Bryson Wells*

*We also remember and pray for our Shut-In’s – Lucy Anderson, Mel Clausen, Margaret Edmiston, Flo Hopkins, Dorothy Jaime, 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***

# September

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<p><i><b>23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.</b></i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i><b>Colossians 3:23-24</b></i></p>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details.
<p><b>3</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study</p>	<b>4 Labor Day</b>	<p><b>5 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Preschool</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i></p>	<p><b>6 Preschool 4's Bulletin Deadline</b> 6:00 pm GriefShare</p>	<p><b>7 Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</b> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters</p>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details.
<p><b>10</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship</p> <p>6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study</p>	<p><b>11 Preschool 4's</b>  <b>6:00 pm Concordia Circle/LWML</b></p>	<p><b>12 Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</b> 6:00 pm Board of Elders 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>13 Preschool 4's Bulletin Deadline</b> 6:00 pm GriefShare</p>	<p><b>14 Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</b> 1:00 pm Board of S&amp;F 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters</p>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details.
<p><b>17</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study 6:30 pm Book Club</p>	<p><b>18 Preschool 4's</b></p>	<p><b>19 Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</b> 9:30 am Preschool Chapel</p>	<p><b>20 Preschool 4's Bulletin Deadline</b> 6:00 pm GriefShare</p>	<p><b>21 Preschool 3's &amp; 4's Newsletter Deadline</b> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters</p>	<b>22</b>	<p><b>23 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Fall</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship – Call Terry Hensen for details.</p> 
<p><b>24</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship</p> <p>6:00 pm Praise &amp; Worship Service 6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study</p>	<p><b>25 Preschool 4's</b></p>	<p><b>26 Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</b></p>	<p><b>27 Preschool 4's Bulletin Deadline</b> 6:00 pm GriefShare</p>	<p><b>28 Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</b> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters 7:15 pm – 20s/30s Bible Study</p>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship – Call Terry Hensen for details.