



# Grace Newsletter

December 2023

## Advent Devotional Booklets—

Printed booklets of “What Child is This?” by Lutheran Hour Ministries will be available in the entryway on the counter on December 3rd. Feel free to take one for yourself or to give to a friend. They can also be found online at [lhm.org/advent](http://lhm.org/advent).



## Worship Anew—

The Worship Anew half hour Lutheran service has aired on Channel 6 since the pandemic in 2020. It airs at 9:00 a.m. and has been well-funded by individual and congregational donations. As long as funds continue to come in we will continue to broadcast. Each airing costs \$600. If you would like to donate to Worship Anew please send your financial gifts to Grace Lutheran Church, 2700 S. Kimball Ave., Caldwell, ID 83605 noting “Worship Anew” in the memo line or you are welcome to use our online giving option found on <http://gracelutherancaldwell.org>



## Family Focus Night—

Join us at 5:00 PM on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> to paint the below. Ages 7 & up are welcome to join.



Cost is \$25 per painter! If you show up on Saturday to paint, please bring cash if you have not already paid. Contact Lynnette with any questions.



## Children’s Christmas Program—

This event is being held on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. Practice is on 12/3, 12/10 and 12/17 during Sunday School Hour. We will also practice on Saturday 12/16 at 1:00 PM. Please contact Lynnette if you are interested in participating. Her phone # is (503) 320-5416 and her email is [lboederdfm@gmail.com](mailto:lboederdfm@gmail.com).

## All Youth Christmas Party—

This year’s party will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at the Boeder’s. All youth are welcome. Contact Lynnette for details.

## High School Bible Study—

We will not be meeting on Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> or January 1. Study starts back up on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

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# “NO VACANCY”

“There was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

You can almost hear the innkeeper saying to himself: “How can I turn them away? They seem like a nice couple and she is so close to the time of her delivery. But I don’t have no place for them, every room is taken. But wait! There is some room out in the stable. They can go there as long as they don’t mind sharing their space with a few animals. At least it will be warm and quiet.”

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*“And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”*

Luke 2:6-7

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It’s a familiar story – and the ending is just the beginning. What happened in that stable was God’s gift to the whole world. The Jews’ long-awaited Messiah was born! But little did they know that this was not just the Messiah for the Jews but the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham. *“I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing....and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”* Genesis 12:2-3

That tiny baby born in Bethlehem was the one who would bring salvation for all people. He would grow from infancy to adulthood. He lived so that He

might die and rise again so that we, who put their trust in Him, would have the promise and the assurance that we will live with Him in heaven forever.

But these days leading up to the celebration of Christmas are a good time to ask ourselves the question: “Am I like that innkeeper?” Am I too busy? Are all the different “rooms” of my life already so filled that there’s no place for Jesus? Do I just give Jesus the “stable” – that place reserved for the less important things in my life?

Or am I willing to clear a place, move things around, reprioritize and give Jesus the best place, the first place in the home of my life.

This Christmas let’s take down the “No Vacancy” sign in our heart. Let’s hear again the wonderful news:

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*“Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

Luke 2:11

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Let not our hearts be busy inns  
That have no room for Thee;  
But cradles of the living Christ  
And His nativity

*Author unknown*

God bless you all and I’ll see you in church.

*Pastor Brooks*

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## Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

*On Wednesdays, worship will begin with a soup supper from 5:30-6:15, a hymn sing at 6:15 and service begins at 6:30.*

**Sunday, December 3**

Wednesday, December 6

**Sunday, December 10**

Wednesday, December 13

**Sunday, December 17**

Wednesday, December 20

**Sunday, December 24**

Sunday, December 24 - 7:00 pm

**Monday, December 25 - 10:00 am**

**“The Advent of Our Lord” - Mark 1:1-15**

“The Foretaste of Fashion” - Genesis 3:14-21

**“Our Lord’s Authority over the Satanic Realm” - Mark 1:21-34**

“An Envious Style” - Genesis 37:1-4

**“Our Lord’s Authority over Sin” - Mark 2:1-17**

“Clothed in Conviction” - Jonah 3:6-10

**“Our Lord’s Authority over Death” - Mark 5:21-43**

“Robed in Righteousness” - Isaiah 61:10 & Exodus 28:15-30

**“Wrapped Up With Love” - Luke 2:1-2**

## Christmas Viewing Options—



FEEL THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

**COMMUNITY DRIVE-THRU LIVE NATIVITY**

THURSDAY-SATURDAY: DECEMBER 7TH-9TH  
4:30 PM-7:30 PM  
16989 HWY 20/26 CALDWELL, ID 83607

**NO COST ADMISSION - EVERYONE INVITED  
COME ENJOY & TAKE A TREAT TO-GO**

We invite you to bring non-perishable food items like canned soup, tuna, peanut butter, mac & cheese, spaghetti sauce & pasta and diapers for local organizations helping those in need.  
Donations are not required.



Our next gathering of Grace Book Club will be Monday, **December 18<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing "The Master Craftsman" by Kelli Stuart. Our meeting place will be at Colleen Fuller's.

**A summary:** In 1917, Alma Pihl, a master craftsman in The House of Fabergé, was charged to protect one of the greatest secrets in Russian history--an unknown Fabergé Egg that Peter Karl Fabergé secretly created to honor his divided allegiance to both the people of Russia and the Imperial Czar's family. When Alma and her husband escaped Russia for their native Finland in 1921, she took the secret with her, guarding her past connection to the Romanov family. Three generations later, world-renowned treasure hunter Nick Laine is sick and fears the secret of the missing egg will die with him. With time running out, he entrusts the mission of retrieving the egg to his estranged daughter, Ava, who has little idea of the dangers she is about to face. As the stakes are raised, Ava is forced to declare her own allegiance--and the consequences are greater than she could have imagined.

This modern-day treasure hunt from award-winning author Kelli Stuart transports you into the opulent and treacherous world of the Russian Revolution to unearth mysteries long buried.

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.

## 20s/30s Group—

If you are in your **20s or 30s** (or around there) we would love for you to join us once a month at the Boeder's home to watch and discuss *The Chosen*. This month we will meet on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> for our Christmas Party from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Please reach out to Lynnette for an address. Appetizers and children are always welcome!



## Reminder for Board Leaders—

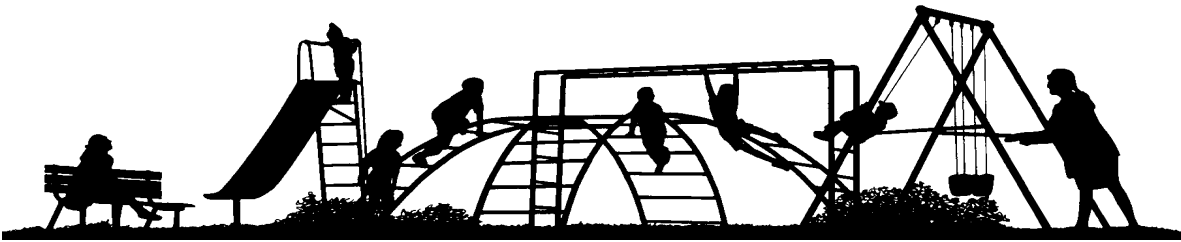
To all board chairpersons, please have meeting dates and time into Hope so they can be entered into the bulletin at least a week before your scheduled meeting. Also, board reports for our 2024 annual report are due Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Our next voter's meeting is January 14, 2024.

## Church Officers for 2023—

On Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at our Congregational Voter's meeting all current church officers were re-elected to serve again in 2023.

- Chairman: Chuck Stadick
- Recording Secretary: Dee Volk
- Financial Secretary: Mike Pierce
- Treasurer: Ken McIntyre

Thank you all for your continued service to our church.



## Preschool News!

### 4-Year-Old Class

November was the month of being thankful! We spent the month talking about things we are thankful for like God, Jesus, family, friends and our pets. The kids cut out leaves and told us what they were thankful for to decorate our thankful tree in the classroom. We worked on our fine motor skills making our own festive corn with pony beads and pipe cleaners. We made special placemats for our Thanksgiving feast and had fun drawing our own Turkey directed drawing masterpieces. Our mini-Thanksgiving feast with our special guests was so much fun. We hope everyone had a wonderful and restful Thanksgiving break. Our learning focuses this month were the letters Q-H-T, the numbers 7-8-9, the square shape, and the colors blue and brown.

November Bible Verses: "You shall have no other God before me." - Exodus 20:3 & "God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9. Our Bible Stories: The Ten Commandments, David and Goliath, Daniel and the Lion's Den, & Jonah and the Big Fish. We pretended to be David and use a sling shot to hit the tree (Goliath) outside and this was not quite as easy as some thought it would be. We also made pretend sling shots to take home. We made lion masks for Daniel and the lion's den and made our own big fish to put Jonah in and out of. We talked about being thankful for Jesus and made thankful crosses.

Ms. Amanda Gigray & Ms. Cheri Nichols

### From Parents.com: Encourage Fine Motor Skills

1. **Teach the pincer grasp.** To help your child learn to pick up small items like Cheerios using their thumb and forefinger, stuff an empty baby-wipe container with scarves, and then let them try to pull them out. You can also give her toys that have dials, switches, and knobs.
2. **Embrace his/her filling and dumping obsession.** Your toddler will likely load every toy possible into a plastic bin—only to spill it out and start over. While this activity may seem dull, it takes integrated muscle movements, concentration, and cognitive reasoning. Other ways to boost grip and finger strength: squeezing a wet sponge or looking for toys that are buried in sand.
3. **Let the stacking begin!** Your child needs hand and wrist stability to place blocks with control. Large wooden ones are easiest for toddlers to manipulate. Once she gets the hang of it, you can switch to smaller building materials—but hold off on interlocking bricks until they are at least 2.
4. **Facilitate creativity.** Most kids can make a mark with a crayon at around 15 months and scribble by age 2. Big crayons are best for little hands, but you can also give them large pieces of chalk and finger-paints to express themselves.
5. **Be patient with utensils.** Have your child start using a fork and spoon at every meal. If they make a mess or struggles, resist jumping in to help—let them try to figure it out on their own.

Find more helpful tips: <https://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/development/physical/child-developing-motor-skills/>

### 3-Year-Old Class

It is Winter time for sure! Every day we come in from the playground with red cheeks and red noses, so make sure your little ones have coats, hats and mittens. We started our "Preschool Partner" program and it has been fun getting to have members of our church read with each of our kids and sit with them in Chapel too. A big thanks to all who came to our Mini - Thanksgiving Feast and to those who helped with serving and clean-up. It was a great way for everyone to get to know each other. What a blessing it is to share a meal with our kiddo's parents and partners.

Our Bible verse last month was "Give thanks to the Lord" Psalm 136:1. Our letters were C, O, U, and our color was brown. The shape was oval and the numbers were 7,8, and 9. Hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving.

Ms. Micky and Mrs. Dee



## Concordia Circle/LWML—

Christmas Dinner and Party is on December 4 at 6:00 p.m. The event will be held at the church. We will be having a gift exchange that evening (Gift limit of \$20). Please contact Carla Shields with any questions. Over 40 women have signed up. Sure to be fun!



In conjunction with the Christmas Party, Concordia Circle will be having an ingathering for "The Blessing Box" in Caldwell and the congregation is invited to participate. The Caldwell Police Department has a Blessing Box in front of the police station where anyone can come and take unperishable food as needed. For Decembers, members may leave their donated non-perishable food item in the entryway and a member of LWML will take all donations to the Blessing Box.

Concordia Circle has a sign-up sheet for Advent Soup Suppers. The suppers begin Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board by the flower calendar. Check the sign-up sheet for openings.

## Getting to know our family—



*December's Homebound Spotlight has a unique focus, highlighting a couple rather than an individual.* Although born in different states, **Charles and Paula Row** met through a mutual friend while Paula was attending Links Business School in Boise. GOD had a plan. Paula was born in Michigan but her family moved to Malta, ID when she was but eight months old and it was here Paula spent the first eight years of life. Filer High School in the Twin Falls area is her Alma Mater. After high school, Paula moved to Boise to attend Links Business School and it was during this time Paula met and married Charles. While on a trip, the two decided to "tie the knot" in Elko, Nevada. Paula shared, "I called around and found a Lutheran Pastor who would marry us and then I contacted both sets of parents who were able to come and be with us." Married since April 14, 1970, these two are still very devoted to each other.

Following graduation from Links School of Business, Paula was employed first by the Nursing Department at Boise State, then by the Accounting Department and finally by the Purchasing Department, working five years in each area. Continuing to use her business skills, Paula accepted a position at Washington Federal Bank. For several years she used her expertise to own and operate a family restaurant in Emmett, ID. "That was hard work," she said "and during our 'young and foolish' years." One of seven children and a native Idahoan, Charles was born and raised in Boise. He is an Army Veteran spending two years in Germany as a Medic. After being discharged, Charles tried several different jobs before settling at the Boise VA hospital. Here he developed his culinary skills working as a chef. A disabling shoulder injury, resulted in Charles leaving food services and being moved to the Engineering Department where he no longer had to lift and move heavy objects. It was also during the VA years that the Rows had a farm in Emmett, Idaho and raised beef in their "spare time" while both were working their regular jobs. The days were full. Charles was confirmed at the Lutheran Church in Emmett but these days the couple is virtually homebound due to medical issues. They are a delightful couple, warm and friendly, still with pleasant smiles. Presently they are living with their daughter in Emmett.



Returning God's Blessings

Learning to acknowledge the abundance of God's blessings to us is the beginning step of putting together the gift plan within our overall estate plans. "Did you have a good Christmas?" Beginning December 26<sup>th</sup>, you will probably hear that expression a lot. Most answer with a litany of the gifts they received, or the parties or gatherings they attended. Sam was asked that same question by his good friend Daniel. At first, Sam felt awkward, finding it difficult to formulate an answer. But then he remembered something very unique about this Christmas. He and his wife had been working with their LWML Gift Planning Counselor to put together an estate plan, that would certainly include inheritance for family but would also include a bold commitment of financial support to their favorite ministry and a missionary halfway around the world.

Through regular communication, they had pictures of people who had been baptized and come to faith through that mission activity. They kept all those pictures on their refrigerator. This year, they purposely planned to share their estate plans with their kids. They began by telling them about inheritance. Then they spread out all those pictures from the refrigerator all over the kitchen table where they were sitting, talking about their intended gift for ministry. To their shock and joy, their children didn't even ask questions about inheritance but asked their parents to tell the stories of these who are now part of Jesus' Kingdom. "That time of sharing with our kids was the highlight of my Christmas holiday," Sam said. "Now my kids are asking how they can be part of supporting the same missionary." Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor will encourage you throughout the process, to bless your family beyond inheritance, by including them in the privilege and joy of financially supporting the Lord's work, resulting in the salvation of many. To get started on your plan contact Lois Anderson at [loisandersonlwml@gmail.com](mailto:loisandersonlwml@gmail.com)

**Treasure Valley Chapter Lutheran's for Life.** Plans are in motion for the Boise March for Life which is scheduled for January, 20, 2024 with a Matins service at Good Shepherd Lutheran and a luncheon to follow. For those able we will carpool to Julia Davis Park and march to the capital. Please RSVP for the luncheon as Subway sandwiches will be

ordered. RSVP to Jacquie at 208-871-7862. . If you were not aware of how to become a member of Lutherans for Life, membership requires an annual membership of \$45. You can make your checks to Lutherans for Life and in the note area include #352 Treasure Valley Chapter. The address is 1101 5th ST Nevada, IA 50201-1816. When you include the chapter name and number, LFL will give back 20% to the chapter.

## PRAYERS

### Church Family Prayers—

Since February of this year, we named and prayed for each of our members reaching the end of the alphabet in November. We will be starting up our family prayers again in February. 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, 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.



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### *from Portals of Prayer*

**For the Sick** ~ “Lord Jesus, look with favor upon those who are sick today in both body and mind. Bless them with good caretakers, friends, and family who will meet their needs as they recover. Heal them from all of their afflictions, and give them proper rest so that they would regain their full strength soon. Send the Comforter to assure them of Your mercy, love, and forgiveness and to give them confidence in Your promise of salvation. In Your name. Amen.”

**Christmas Season** ~ “Heavenly Father, this Christmas season, increase our faith that we may see Your grace more clearly and find all Your promises fulfilled in Your Son, the Christ Child. Strengthen our hope that we may find the presence of Christ reassuring as we face our future. Grant peace on earth and steadfast love as we live and work together as servants of Christ. In the name of our newborn Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.”

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### Keep in our Prayers—

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

*Cancer – Teresa Owens, Dave Vorderstrasse,  
Wayne Snavely, Jerry Bengtson, Jim Nelson,  
Penny Storms Jeffries, Gary Olufson, Bill  
Tibbetts, Jerry Shaffer, Denise Shaffer, Do-  
ris Powell, Dave Koontz, Patti Wood*

*Liver – Bryant Neal*

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

*Mental health – David Ledington*

*Physical Therapy – Gary Meyer*

*Rehabilitation – Judy Odette, Carol Moore*


*Deaths – Loraine Navis*

*We also remember and pray for our Shut-In’s – Janice Beaudry, Mel Clausen, Margaret Edmiston, Flo Hopkins,  
Dorothy Jaime, Erma Ledington, Gary & Gail Meyer, 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.*

# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship 10:30 am Concordia Circle to decorate tree. 5:00 pm Family Focus Night – Painting Class
<b>3</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 9:15 am Parenting Class 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 12:00 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study	<b>4</b> <i>Preschool 4's</i> 6:00 pm Concordia Circle/LWML Christmas Dinner/Party	<b>5</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i> 9:30 am Preschool Chapel	<b>6</b> <i>Preschool 4's</i> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Service	<b>7</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details
<b>10</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 12:00 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study	<b>11</b> <i>Preschool 4's</i>	<b>12</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i> 6:00 pm Elder's	<b>13</b> <i>Preschool 4's</i> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Service	<b>14</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i> 1:00 pm Board of S&F 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters <span style="color: red;">6:30 pm Preschool Christmas program</span>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details 1:00 pm Christmas Program Setup
<b>17 Christmas Program</b> 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Christmas Program No Communion 12:00 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm Youth Christmas Party at the Boeder's	<b>18</b> <i>Preschool 4's</i> 6:30 pm Grace Book Club at Colleen's	<b>19</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i> 9:15 am Preschool Partners Read (3s) 9:30 am Preschool Chapel	<b>20</b> <i>Preschool 4's</i> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 10:30 am Pre-K Reading Buddies 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Service	<b>21</b> <i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters 7:00 pm 20s/30s Christmas Party at the Boeder's	<b>22</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details
<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 7:00 pm Carol & Candlelight Service	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 10:00 am Service with Holy Communion	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Bulletin Deadline</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details
<b>31 New Year's Eve</b> 10:30 am Family Worship	<b>No Preschool – Christmas Break</b>					
<span style="color: red;"><i>Matthew 2</i></span> <span style="color: red;"><i><sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.</i></span>						