



Grace Newsletter

January 2024



Congregational Meeting—

Our first meeting for 2024 will be on Sunday, January 14th after church service. Our main agenda item is to approve the budget for 2024. We should also have an update on the childcare center. Please bring in a dish to share. If you last name begins with: A-F meat, G-L a hot side dish, M-Se a salad, Sh-Z a dessert. See you there!



Year-end Board Reports—

All Boards and Organizations, please have your year-end reports submitted to Hope no later than Friday, January 5 so the annual report will be ready for the above-mentioned meeting on the 14th.



High School Bible Study—

Starts up on Sunday, January 7th. Students in 9th grade thru 12th are welcome to join. Feel free to bring a friend or two as well. Get your Dutch Bro's order into Lynnette before gathering to meet at 6:00 p.m. This group meets downstairs in the High School room. Contact Lynnette with any questions.



Flower Calendar

You are welcome to bring in flowers for the sanctuary for either in memory of, in honor of, or just because. If you would like to participate please sign up on the 2024 flower calendar. It is located outside Lynnette's office. You may bring in either one or two cut or 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. You may also 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 that Sunday.

Worship Anew—

The Worship Anew program airs on Channel 6 at 9:00 Sunday morning. It provides a half hour worship service led by LC-MS pastors. Worship Anew is an excellent option for those who are unable to attend worship at their congregation and a supplement to those receiving Word and Sacrament regularly. Each Sunday broadcast costs \$600 to air. Consistent support has allowed the program to be aired for over three years. If you would like to financially support this program in 2024, please send those gifts to Grace Lutheran Church, 2700 S. Kimball Ave., Caldwell, ID 83605, noting "Worship Anew" in the notes line. You may also visit our website://gracelutherancaldwell.org and click on the online giving button and then the Worship Anew tile.



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WELCOME to GRACE

Pastor Randy & Carlene

From the Vacancy Pastor

Happy New Year! Now that Pastor Brooks has retired, I will be assisting the elders and congregation in providing pastoral care for its members. Some of you know me and others may not. Let me introduce myself. I am Pastor Randy Benscoter and have come out of retirement to serve Grace Lutheran in a part time, limited capacity role. My wife is Carlene and we live on the east side of Nampa. We have a grown son Joel and his family (2 grandchildren) who live in Gilbert, Arizona. I have served as a Regional Missionary in Papua New Guinea and as a pastor in Power & Fairfield, Montana, Buhl, Idaho, Wasilla, Alaska, McCall & Cascade, Idaho, and Florence & Reed-sport, Oregon (44 years in all). I have also served in a variety of circuit and district roles as well as being on the Camp Perkins board on two occasions. Carlene is a retired nurse. I look forward to bringing God's Word as we worship our gracious God and serve each other and our community.

The one thing that you and I have to hang on to as we enter this new year is our Lord Jesus, the Word made flesh. He is our Emmanuel, "God with us". He is the Word of God who lived among mankind and knows our every joy, hurt and need. We enter into this new year not knowing exactly

what twists and turns our lives may experience but we do know that He is with us every step of the way. One of my favorite verses is **Romans 8:28 (ESV)**. "**And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose**". While we don't know what the days, weeks, months or the year 2024 may bring we know that it is in God's hands for our ultimate good. Whether we suffer or rejoice in God's blessings, He is there with His presence.

As we gather for worship and celebration of the Sacraments, he is there. If we are serving our neighbor, He is there. Whether sleeping or awake, He is there. That is the joy that we have just celebrated with the Christmas season and continue to celebrate.

On my first Sunday with you we will observe the story of the wisemen worshipping the Christ child as we enter the Epiphany season. We too will worship Him, the Savior of the World and our personal Savior. May we grow in grace and knowledge and service as we gather each week.

Blessed New Year to each of you in the name of our Lord Jesus.

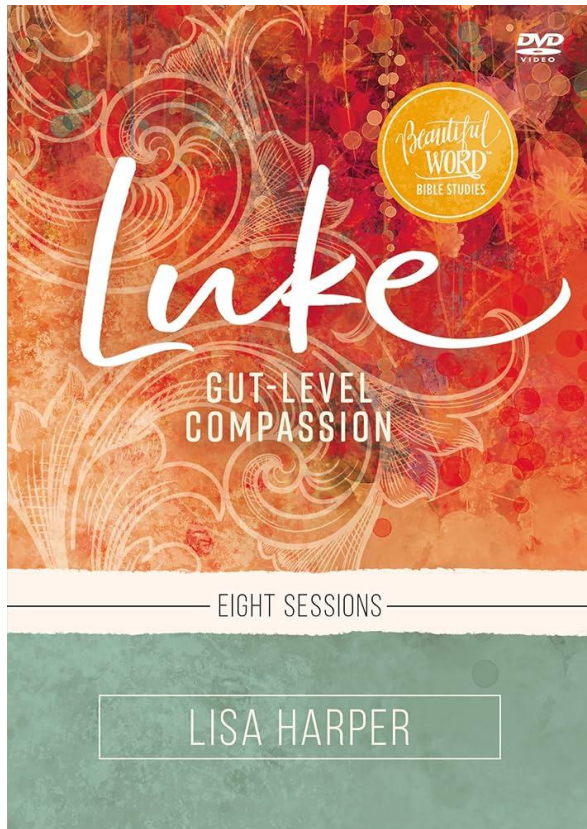
Pastor Randy



Women's Bible Study—

STARTS JANUARY 16TH – 6:30 PM
CHURCH CONFERENCE ROOM

Contact Carla Shields or Sarah Kroll with any questions.



Family Focus Night—

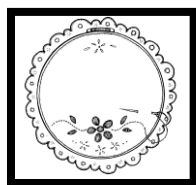
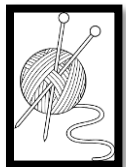
TATER's &

Join us at 5:00 PM on Saturday, February 3rd downstairs in the fellowship hall. Contact Lynnette with any questions at lboederdfm@gmail.com



ATTENTION Crafters—

Do you have a craft, crochet, knitting, cross-stitch, embroidery project that you just can't seem to get done? Bring it to the church fellowship hall on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. and work on it. This will give you an uninterrupted one or two hours per week to focus on your project. Great time to get to know your fellow crafters."



Our next gathering of Grace Book Club will be Monday, **January 28th** at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston. Our meeting place will be at Sandi Lockhart's.

A summary: With haunting sympathy and piercing immediacy, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* tells the story of Janie Crawford's evolving selfhood through three marriages. Light-skinned, long-haired, dreamy as a child, Janie grows up expecting better treatment than she gets until she meets Tea Cake, a younger man who engages her heart and spirit in equal measure and gives her the chance to enjoy life without being a man's mule or adornment. Though Janie's story does not end happily, it does draw to a satisfying conclusion. Janie is one black woman who doesn't have to live lost in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams, instead Janie proclaims that she has done "two things everybody's got tuh do fuh theyselves. They got tuh go tuh God, and they got tuh find out about livin' fuh theyselves."

Our meetings have moved back to the 4th Sunday of the month. 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, **January 25th at 7:15 p.m.** to watch the next episode. Please reach out to Lynnette for an address. Appetizers and children are always welcome!

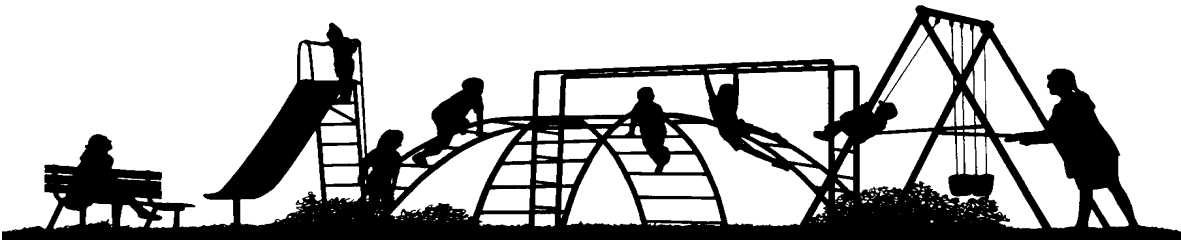
Israel Trip Update—

Due to the situation in Israel, the trip planned for January has been converted to a "**Footsteps of Paul**" tour based out of **Greece**. The dates have also changed to **October 10-20, 2024**. This is an 11-day tour which is a cruise-based tour of 7 nights with overnights in Athens anchoring each end of the tour. Some of the port sites we will visit are Athens, Corinth, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Berea, Istanbul, Ephesus, Patmos, Syros, Pergamum, and Miletus. Each of these port stops has multiple sites to experience. There is also an optional 3-day extension to Rome for more Pauline sites as well as the Vatican and Sistine Chapel. If you have questions just ask Randy or Carlene. 208-634-9516

Church Officers for 2024—

- 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

December was focused on celebrating Jesus and learning about the journey Mary & Joseph had to make to Bethlehem and his birth. We also learned about the shepherds and wise men visiting him. Our kiddos worked hard to learn songs for their Christmas program and sing-a-long. We had tons of fun making Christmas crafts like a candy cane to represent "J" for Jesus, a directed drawing of a reindeer, made Christmas trees, wreaths as well as pretend Christmas lights and a super-secret present for our parents. We had our first family project and the children created a paper stocking to share with the class and hang by our "fire place!" We celebrated our last week of school before break with fun dress up days, a birthday cake for Jesus and a gift exchange for our kiddos. Our learning focus was on the letters W-K, the numbers 10-11, the oval shape, and the color green.

December Bible Verses: Do not be afraid, you have found favor with God. - Luke 1-3 & A Savior has been born. - Luke 2:11. Bible Stories: Angels visit Mary & Joseph, Mary visits Elizabeth, Jesus is born, Shepherds see the Star & Wise Men visit. For bible crafts we made a beautiful angel to remind us of the angels visit, a manger with baby Jesus on a star, we also made faux stained-glass windows of the nativity scene and a three wisemen craft.

Reminder: Christmas break is Dec. 25 - Jan. 4. Classes resume on January 8, 2024!!

We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a Very Happy New Year!! Ms. Amanda & Ms. Cheri

DID YOU KNOW: Sensory Play is Important! Children and even adults learn best and retain the most information when they engage their senses.

Here are 5 reasons why sensory play is beneficial:

1. Research shows that sensory play builds nerve connections in the brain's pathways, which lead to the child's ability to complete more complex learning tasks.
2. Sensory play supports language development, cognitive growth, fine and gross motor skills, problem solving skills, and social interactions.
3. This type of play aids in developing and enhancing memory.
4. Sensory play is great for calming an anxious or frustrated child.
5. This helps children learn sensory attributes (hot, cold, sticky, dry).

Source: <https://www.educationalplaycare.com/blog/sensory-play-important-development/>

3-Year-Old Class

December was filled with so much fun learning about the Nativity and our Bible verse was: "Jesus has been born for you" Luke 2:11. We learned about the Angel that came to Mary to deliver a very important message so we made an angel ornament for them to take home and hang on their tree. We had a Nativity craft with Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. We talked about the Shepherds and the Kings that came for Jesus' birth and just simply celebrated Jesus all month long. Several kiddos had their family come see our Christmas Program sing along. Thank you to everyone for your supporting your child's education and their special events. We are eager to see what the New Year brings for each of our little ones who are growing and learning more and more every day. Our letters last month were G, Q and S, the shape was a star and the color was green and we reviewed the numbers 1-10. See you back on Tuesday January 9th.

Ms. Micky and Mrs. Dee

Concordia Circle/LWML—

Our next meeting will be on January 7th after church.



Thank you to all who brought in undies and socks for our local veterans during the month of November. There were 229 undies and 158 pairs of socks collected and dropped off at our local veteran's office. We also collected shelf stable items to fill the Caldwell Police Department's Blessing Box during the month of December. Again, thank you for your generosity and for supporting our missions.

Getting to know our family—



Will be back next month.

BOISE MARCH FOR LIFE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024

11:00 Matins service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
5009 Cassia Street, Boise

11:30 Sandwich lunch at Good Shepherd (RSVP required)

1:00 Gather at Julia Davis Park to March to the capitol.

Please RSVP to Jacquie (208) 871-7862.



Lutherans
For Life

If you were not aware of how to become a member of Lutherans for Life, membership requires an annual membership fee 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.

Bringing order and simplicity is a goal of all estate planning.



Returning God's Blessings

Louis and Brett were having coffee, the day after Christmas. Both were sharing with each other about how much their families have changed. Children are talking about retirement. Grandchildren are out of college and advancing in their careers. Brett said to Louis, "When Sally and I put our estate plan together 25 years ago, we felt a great responsibility to provide for our family, as they seemed to have so many needs. But now it seems to have changed somewhat. Even my youngest grandchild is better off financially than I am. But I do have a grandchild with special needs, and we are wondering what we should do for her. We also think a lot about our Church and its future as times are changing. We are also stirred by the LCMS missionary who talked about the impact of the Gospel on families over in Kenya. We know we need to update our plan, but it seems so complex and chaotic. We just don't know where to start."

Brett's predicament is not uncommon. Most people find that their life situations and the tug of the Gospel urge them to update their gift plans. We certainly do not live in a static world. It is therefore a good practice to review the gift plan within one's estate plan every so often, whenever you feel life has changed. That look may certainly bring some effort. But that is just good stewardship of God's things. We want to do well with God's gifts, to make sure our families see Jesus through our care for them, and the world sees Jesus through our support of ministry.

In a bigger project, having some help always makes it easier. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you create a roadmap for working through this process. In the end, you will have peace of mind knowing you are doing the Lord's will. To get started on your journey, contact Lois Anderson at loisandersonlwml@gmail.com

PRAYERS

Church Family Prayers—

Since February of last 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 Benscoter if you have a prayer request. You may also fill out a prayer request form located in the bottom far right corner of the mailboxes in the entryway. Give that form to Pastor Benscoter or place it in the office.



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**from Portals of Prayer**

**The Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6)** ~ “God, by the leading of a star, You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Over the next weeks, we will rejoice to meditate on readings that emphasize Jesus as both God and man. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

**Sanctity of Human Life Day (January 22)** ~ “Loving Creator, Author of life, we thank You for our role in family life and for the gift we share with You in creating others in Your image. May we and our children be in discipleship and friendship with Jesus, who alone is the way, the truth, and the life. May we praise You always. May we teach You to our children and others, not so much by words as by example. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

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A prayer for our Pastor Brooks ~ Wonderous God, we thank you for Pastor Dana Brooks, Janet and his family and for our life together in this congregation and community. As they have been such a blessing to us, so now continue to bless them as Dana begins his retirement. Grant Dana & Janet peace and contentment, leisure and good health, and a richness of life that comes from knowing you as Creator, Redeemer and Comforter. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Keep in our Prayers—

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

Cancer – Don Southard, Teresa Owens, Dave Vorderstrasse, Wayne Snavely, 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, Laura Pennington, Brook Van Leuven, Bob Downen, Janice Beaudry
Mental health – David Ledington
Rehabilitation – Judy Odette, Carol Moore
Deaths – Gary Meyer

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



❄️ *January 2024* ❄️

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Years Day	2	3	4 1:00 pm Board of Stewardship & Finance	5	6 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details
Preschool – Winter Break						
7 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 11:45 am Concordia Circle 12:00 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study	8 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	9 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 6:00 pm Board of Elders	10 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 6:00 p.m. Call Committee	11 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	12	13 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details
14 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 12:00 pm Catechism Class Congregational/Voter's Meeting & Potluck 6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study	15 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	16 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 9:15 am Preschool Partners Read (3s) 9:30 am Preschool Chapel 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	17 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline	18 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 9:30 am All Preschool Field Trip – Trains 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters	19	20 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details 5:00 p.m. Pastor's Retirement Dinner
21 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 12:00 pm Catechism Class 12:00 pm Board of Education 6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study	22 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Newsletter Deadline	23 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	24 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline	25 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters	26	27 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details
28 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 11:45 am Trustees Meeting 12:00 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study 6:30 pm Grace Book Club	29 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	30 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study	31 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 10:30 am Pre-K Reading Buddies	<u>Isaiah 40: 30-31</u> <i>Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.</i>		