



Grace Newsletter

March 2024

Parent's Night Out—

Preschool and Church Family Parents - mark your calendars for Friday March 22 and drop off your kiddo's here at the church at 5:30 PM for a night out or a relaxing night in. Just remember to pick them up at 8:30 PM. :) A meal will be served, games will be played and an Easter craft will be created. Please let the church office know how many kiddos you will be dropping off by calling (208) 459-4191 or by sending an email to graceonkimball@gmail.com no later than by Monday, March 18.



New Member Introduction—On Sunday, March 10th during service we will officially be introducing our newest members. Our last introduction was in September of 2023 and we have several new members to introduce since then. 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 10th here is the list of our members since our last introduction:

- Jemila Chellappa
- Scott Hansen
- Dale & Glenda Kuhlmann
- Mark & Vicki Ellis
- Rayaline Hartsock
- Bobby, Elizabeth, Ruth, Eddie & Arthur Lane
- Ryan McMorris
- Carly & Evelyn Thomas
- Emiley Walling

Welcome to Grace!



Volunteer to bring in flowers for our worship service on Sunday. Bring them in for in memory of, in honor of, or for "just because". Sign up on the calendar that 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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Does Lent have to be gloomy?

I heard a comment by someone more than once that “Lent seems so gloomy”. Maybe it the time of the year as winter still keeps raising it dreary head. Maybe it’s the holdover of shorter days with less sunshine. Does Lent have to be gloomy? There are several Biblical and historical things that we might look at to answer this question.

Historically, in the early church, the 40 days prior to Easter were a time of intense preparation for those who were being instructed in the faith and would be baptized into the faith and make their commitment to faith in our Lord Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Thus, it was a time of instruction and spiritual growth. Public penance was used for serious sins of new believers as evidence of discipleship. Gradually that was replaced by private penance.

Everyday practices of the faith life that Jesus talks about in the Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew 6, which were part of the Jewish faith life, were extended as good practices for developing a pious and God-fearing life. Giving to the needy, prayer and fasting were three pillars of practice spoken of by our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount as important but not to do them in a showy fashion.

The observation of Lent, while not commanded anywhere in Scripture is a good practice of the faith if done for the strengthening of one’s faith. In flood story, 40 days of rain God cleansed the earth in physical, moral and spiritual impurity through water even as he saved Noah and his family. Moses was 40 days on the mountain before God gave the Ten Commandments. Elijah was 40 days on a spiritual journey as well as the 40 days of temptation of our Lord as he began his ministry. Thus 40 becomes a number associated with a spiritual journey, especially one of preparation.

Do we have to observe Lent? No! No more than we have to celebrate Christmas as part of the church year or Thanksgiving or Independence Day as part of our national calendar. Yet there is benefit if used and observed appropriately. Does it have to be gloomy? No! But certainly, the somberness of our Lord’s preparation for suffering and death are a part of the story

of our salvation. By growing in appreciation of that portion of His work on our behalf it enriches our understanding of God’s grace and how much richer our understanding of the victory that is Christ’s and ours through Easter. Lent is always be forward looking to that great event of the resurrection.

As the writer of Ecclesiastes says, **1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; 4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;** Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 4 (ESV)

Within the Church calendar we may be more somber for a time with our Lord as we learn of His willingness to follow the Father’s plan of salvation and we can then rejoice in the resurrection victory in appreciation for the suffering. Just as we observe the seasons of the calendar year and note that each has a different mood so we are free to observe the Church calendar and walk through a variety of seasons in faith with our Lord.

It is interesting that John in his gospel spends half of his writing (more than 10 chapters) about Jesus words and the events of the last week of Jesus life. John has much to convey about the life, ministry and the words of our Lord during this important time of Jesus’ life.

May our Lenten journey not be simply gloomy but one that is enriching as you practice and live your everyday faith life. Then as we gather on Easter, we have greater joy and comfort because we have pondered our Lord’s journey on our behalf in order to give us the victory. We don’t wallow in misery but are preparing for a great and victorious celebration of the resurrection. By the way, the Easter season is also 40 days in length. I’ll see you on this journey. Easter is coming soon!

Pastor Randy



We are building a childcare center!

At a special voter's meeting held on Sunday, February 4th the voter's approved moving forward and securing a loan to build a childcare center that will be able to care for up to 100 children (infants through age 5).

If you would like to contribute to the cost of making this wonderful ministry outreach happen, just go to our website://gracelutherancaldwell.org and click on the green online giving button which will take you to our giving page where you can select the tile that looks like the image above.

Is it your birthday or your anniversary? How about making a donation to the childcare center in the amount of your age during your birthday month or in the amount of the numbers of years you have been married during the month of your anniversary?

We have been approved for the loan and the paperwork for securing the loan is almost complete.

We will keep you updated on the steps going forward. In the meantime, if you have questions please contact Myron Volk, Trish Henderson or Janis King.

Confirmation/Palm Sunday—

The following four young adults are being confirmed on Sunday, March 24:

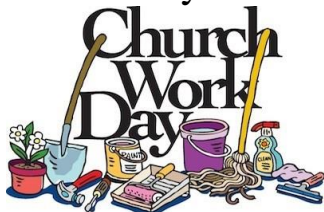
Tim Christiansen
Connor Clark
Avery Daniel
Eli Daniel

Join us on the 24th in celebration of their special day.

Spring clean-up for Easter—

We have lots to do and the church needs your participation. Lunch is provided and you are welcome to bring a dessert to share if you like. A sign-up sheet is in the entryway. Contact Myron 208 573-5665 if you have any questions.

Join us Saturday March 16th



Our next gathering of Grace Book Club will be Sunday, **March 24th** at 6:30 PM. We will be discussing "Thomas Jefferson: A Biography of Spirit" by Thomas S. Kidd. Our meeting place will be at Lori Hardin's. Thank you to

Lorene for hosting last month's get together. A few of us had not yet finished the book but we were inclined to finish it after hearing feedback from the other attendees. Overall, we enjoyed the book but it wasn't one of our favorites.

A summary: Thomas Jefferson was arguably the most brilliant and inspiring political writer in American history. But the ethical realities of his personal life and political career did not live up to his soaring rhetoric. Indeed, three tensions defined Jefferson's moral life: democracy versus slavery, republican virtue versus dissolute consumption, and veneration for Jesus versus skepticism about Christianity.

In this book Thomas S. Kidd tells the story of Jefferson's ethical life through the lens of these tensions, including an unapologetic focus on the issue where Jefferson's idealistic philosophy and lived reality clashed most obviously: his sexual relationship with his enslaved woman Sally Hemings. In doing so, he offers a unique perspective on one of American history's most studied figures.

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.

Join Us During Lent—

Wednesdays, February 21st – March 13th

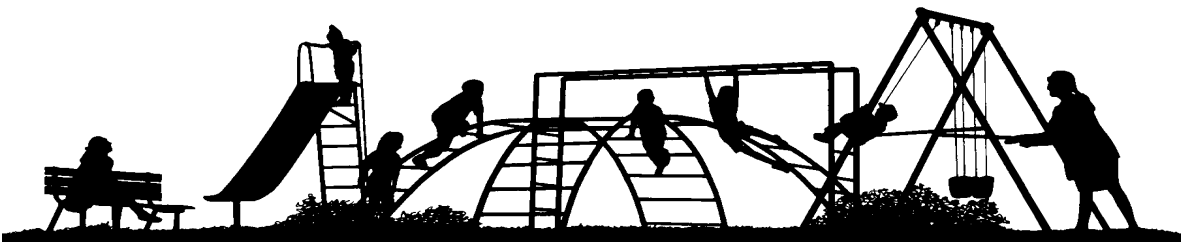


*Soup Suppers
at 5:30 PM
Hymn Sing at 6:15 PM
Lenten Service 6:30 PM*

Holy Week Schedule—

3/24
Palm Sunday & Confirmation
10:30 AM
3/28
Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM
3/29
Good Friday Tenebrae 7:00 PM
3/31
Easter Sunrise 7:00 AM
Easter Breakfast 8:00 AM
Easter Festival Worship 10:30 AM





Preschool News!

4-Year-Old Class

February was the month of friendship & love! We celebrated Valentine's Day with a fun little Valentine's party, made lots of Love Bugs, heart hedgehogs & worked on drawing the heart shape all month. We celebrated Presidents Day learning about George Washington & Abraham Lincoln. Dental Health Awareness month was this month and we learned all about how to keep our teeth healthy. We made a glittery tooth fairy. We had a visit from Smiles 4 Kids to help us learn how to take care of our teeth! Our learning focus was on the letters N-V-M, the numbers 15-16-17, the heart shape, and the colors pink and purple.

February Bible Verses: "Have courage. It is I. Do not be afraid." - Matthew 14:27 & "Love your neighbor as yourself." - Luke 10:27. We focused on the stories about Jesus calms the storm, Jesus walks on water, The Mustard Seed & The Good Samaritan. We had so much fun learning about all the amazing things Jesus can do and learned that even though we may be small if our faith is big and we share it with others we can do anything!

Ms. Amanda and Ms. Cherie



Spring is Coming!!

Spring Break is March 25th - 28th. (No School)



3-Year-Old Class

Last month we celebrated Valentines Day and experienced seeing all God's children showing so much love in their hearts! We decorated valentine boxes and had a classroom party with games and treats. A big thank you to the parents for bringing in refreshments. We read bible stories about Jesus walking on water, how he can heal sick people and how Jesus is like a Shepherd with his sheep, when we feel lost Jesus finds us and comforts us.

Our Focus for the month of February was Letters B, R, K, A, our shape was a heart and colors were pink and red. Our numbers were 14, 15, and 16. Our Bible verse was "Love the Lord with all your heart and soul and mind" Deuteronomy 6:5.

We also learned about the five food groups and how important it is to eat all different kinds of foods, and that we need to take care of our teeth especially after eating candy. Two nice ladies from a dental office in Caldwell visited our class and talked to us about how to brush our teeth and why. They brought their dinosaur stuffy with big teeth and showed the children how to go around in a circle with their new toothbrush on their baby teeth two times a day and explained that when their baby teeth fall out big teeth will come in! We all need to brush our teeth to get rid of the "sugar bugs". Sugar bugs make holes (cavities) in our teeth therefore encouraged the children to brush every day. Each kiddo got a bag full of treasures (toothbrush and toothpaste and floss) to take home to mom and dad. Thank you, Smiles 4 Kids, for visiting us. Ms. Micky and Mrs. Dee

Concordia Circle/LWML—

Our next meeting will be on March 4th at 6:00 pm downstairs in the fellowship hall. Jacquie will be giving the devotion and Nancy and Sharon are hosting. Concordia Circle has boxed and individual Confirmation Cards and Easter Cards available. Individual cards are 50 cents and a box of 12 is \$5. For assistance with these or any other greeting cards contact Barbara James or Bunnie Welshons.



UPCOMING EVENTS



LWML WESTERN ZONE Spring Event

Saturday, March 23, 2024
Registration: 9:00-9:30

Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church
765 W Chinden Blvd, Meridian, ID

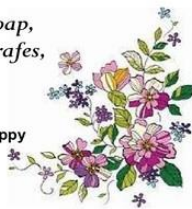
I Shall Not Be Shaken
*He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress,
I shall not be greatly shaken. Psalm 62:2*

Bible Study Leader: Rev. Dan Jones

Suggested Donation \$5
Lunch Provided

Ingathering: Kitchen Shower for Kuna Lutheran Church
Kitchen Towels, Dish Clothes, Dish Soap,
Clear Water Pitchers, White Coffee Carafes,
Tongs, Small Serving Spatulas,
Monetary Gifts for Larger Items

For additional information contact: Karolyn Rippy
(208)454-0535



2024
UTAH-IDAHO DISTRICT
CONVENTION

LIVING IN THE LIGHT

April 26-28, 2024

RIVERWOODS CONFERENCE CENTER
615 Riverwood Pkwy,
Logan, UT 84321
(435) 750-5151

REGISTRATION
TO OPEN LATE
FEBRUARY
10TH ON OUR
WEBSITE!



A gift planning counselor is a built-in companion for the journey so that you don't have to go through the estate planning process alone.

"I am so tired of having to do everything by myself," said Jenny to her friend Marsha. "Since Frank died, there has just been so much to do, and I have to do it all by myself. I never realized how much he took care of."

Returning God's Blessings

"I know what you mean," Marsha responded. "It's spring and I know it will be time to mow the grass soon. Bob always used to take the mower into the shop every March to get it tuned up. But I have no idea how I could get my mower into the back of my vehicle. I'm so worn from trying to do all this."

The experience of Jenny and Marsha is common to many people who have been married for some years, with a spouse who has now gone to heaven. Handling finances, investments and even legal questions falls into the category of things one spouse might have always handled.

The good news is that tackling the job of putting an estate plan together, or maybe just tweaking a plan that already exists, is something with which an LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help. The counselor has been through many plans and knows what to do to get you prepared to speak with your professionals. They are part of your family of faith. They are here to help. To get connected for this journey, contact Lois Anderson at loisandersonlwml@gmail.com

PRAYERS

Prayer requests—

Please submit your requests for prayer by phone to (208) 459-4191 or send an email to graceonkimball@gmail.com. You may also fill out a prayer request form that is located in the bottom far right corner of the mailboxes in the entryway. Give that form to Pastor Bencoter or place it in the office. Also, please note that not all members are on our prayer request distribution/contact list.

If you would like to be notified of prayer requests that come into our office, from and for our members please ask to be put on the “prayer chain” email distribution list. This list is different from our “general” distribution list.



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*from Portals of Prayer*

**Palm Sunday (March 24)** ~ “Dear Father in heaven, Your Son, Jesus, rode in lowliness on a borrowed donkey into Jerusalem, humbling Himself and emptying Himself for our sakes. In Your mercy, help us to humbly and patiently walk the way to Calvary with Jesus, that we may also share in His bodily resurrection on the Last Day, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

**The Resurrection of Our Lord (March 31)** ~ “Heavenly Father, as Adam brought death into the world in the Garden of Eden, so from the garden tomb, Your Son, Jesus Christ, has brought life and bodily resurrection into the world. Grant that we may ever be joined to Him as branches to a vine, that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit and enjoy the fellowship of the new creation in Christ eternally, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.”

*Please note:*

We have a few portals of prayer books in the entryway if you would like to pick one up. Also, if you do not keep your Portals of Prayer books for reference, please consider returning the books to the church office. They will be distributed in the future as part of prison ministry. There is a box in the entryway to place them in

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Keep in our Prayers—

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

Cancer – Dana Brooks, Don Southard, 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, Laura Pennington, Brook Van Leuven, Bob Downen, Janice Beaudry, Gregg Nanninga (on heart transplant list)
Mental health – David Ledington
Rehabilitation – Judy Odette, Carol Moore

We also remember and pray for our Shut-In’s – Janice Beaudry, Jerry Bengtson, Jack & Helen Carter, 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.




March 2024


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>- For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.</i> Isaiah 61:11					1	2 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for detail
3 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 11:45 pm Board of Education 11:45 pm Board of Trustees 12:00 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study	4 <i>Preschool 4's</i> 6:00 pm LWML Meeting	5 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 9:15 am Preschool Partners Read (3s) 9:30 am Preschool Chapel	6 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Service	7 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters 1:00 pm Board of Stewardship and Finance	8	9 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details Spring Ahead! Turn clocks forward!
10 Daylight Saving 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship New Member Introduction during service 12:00 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study	11 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	12 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 11:45 am Preschool Staff 6:00 pm Board of Elders	13 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Service	14 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters	15 6:00 pm Family Focus Night Pizza & Movie	16 9:00 AM Church Spring Clean Up
17 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 12:00 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm H.S. Bible Study	18 <i>Preschool 4's</i>	19 1st Day of Spring <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> 5:00 pm Board of Outreach	20 <i>Preschool 4's</i> Bulletin Deadline 10:30 am Reading Buddies (4s) 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Service	21 <i>Preschool 3's & 4's</i> Newsletter Deadline 1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters	22 5:30 pm Parent's Night Out	23 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details
24 Confirmation Sunday 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 6:30 pm Grace Book Club	25	26	27 Bulletin Deadline	28 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	29 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	30 9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship - Call Terry Hensen for details
31 Easter Sunday 7:00 am Sunrise Service 8:00 am Easter Breakfast 9:15 am Christian Education (with Easter Egg Hunt) 10:30 am Easter Festival Service with Holy Communion	<div style="border: 2px solid #0070C0; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Preschool Spring Break – 25th thru 28th </div>					<div style="text-align: center; color: #0070C0;"> He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Matthew 28:6 </div> 