



# Grace Newsletter

May 2024



### It's that time of year again!

Clean out those closets, garages and storage sheds. Let those items you no longer use be a blessing to someone else.

Bring those crafts you have been working on to sell and enjoy great company, maybe even make some new friends.

In addition, this year the youth will be serving a BBQ lunch to raise money for missions and the National Youth gathering.

All are welcome, this is for the whole community. There is no charge for a spot, but we ask that you call Colleen (701)570-1517 or the church office to register (just name and phone #) so we have some idea how many to expect.

Remember whatever items you bring that do not sell must go home with you 😊. We hope you will join us to sell or shop, stay for lunch and catch up with friends old and new.

### Attention All Grace Singles—

Are you single, wanting to socialize, and interested in meeting other singles who attend Grace Lutheran Church? If so, please mark your calendar and plan on attending a meeting in the fellowship hall downstairs on May 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Other singles will be present and we will discuss our ideas regarding social activities of interest to all. Coffee and cake will be served. Should you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact Mike Randolph.

### Teacher Position Available—

We are seeking a part-time preschool teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. Contracts begin in August and the first day of school is September 3. The position is for the 3-year-old class which meets Tuesday & Thursday. Education and/or experience with early childhood education is preferred. For additional information please contact Lillian Pierce (208 467-1437) or Grace Lutheran Church (208 459-4191) or submit your resume to graceonkimball@gmail.com.



Please communicate this opportunity to anyone you think might be interested.



To our High School graduates:  
James Christiansen (Marsing, ID)  
Thomas Farrell (Caldwell, ID)

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## *“NOW AND NOT YET”*

May has two important celebration days this year; the Ascension of our Lord and Pentecost. Both of these were part of the early church’s big three celebrations along with Easter. (Christmas came later about the third century.) The Ascension of Jesus is a BIG deal. The Easter season is seven weeks long according to the church calendar. (That is because it marks the Biblical 50 days until Pentecost from Easter.) During the first 40 days up until the Ascension, Jesus was showing himself to the disciples to prove that he was alive and teaching how all the Old Covenant was fulfilled in Himself. He wanted them to be very sure of those facts because on the day that he would ascend to heaven bodily he would commission them as his witnesses.

At the 40-day mark during the Easter season Jesus ascends to heaven. The disciples of course are staring up into heaven in awe when the angel appears to them. Ascension is really a critical transition day. It is a “now and not yet” moment. The “now” is that Christ is risen from the dead. The “not yet” portion is because the second great event is still coming. Jesus said wait. Wait in Jerusalem for the Pentecost. Fifty days after Easter (Pente =50) is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would enable them to accomplish the task given them.

You and I live in a “now and not yet” time. We live in between Christ’s first coming for salvation and second coming in judgement and final victory. We know the fruits of salvation, forgiveness, faith, and the assurance of eternal life. Our “not yet” is the knowing and experiencing the fullness of eternal life, the consummation of our salvation. In the mean

time we rejoice in the resurrection but await our own personal resurrection. In the meantime, we have that same task as the disciples. Though we are not physical eyewitnesses of the resurrected Christ, we have the new life, faith and the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives leading us to the final moment of either our death and resurrection or Christ’s visible return. Thus, we can rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit calling, gathering and enlightening us in the faith along with all believers throughout the world. In the mean time we wait for Christ’s return and work serving our Lord and those around us spreading the great good news.

Because Ascension always falls on a Thursday it is easily overlooked. On Sunday May 12th we will celebrate the Observation of Christ’s Ascension and then on May 19<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Pentecost. Come and enrich your faith on those special holy days.

**CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

Pastor Randy





## LET'S BUILD! Fundraiser

On Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> the voter's approved moving forward and securing a

loan to build a childcare center that will offer care for up to 100 children (infants through age 5).

We have set a goal of raising \$100,000 from either actual donations or future pledges. We have raised/received donations/pledges totaling \$15,000 to date. Feel free to drop in your birthday or anniversary donation as part of this fundraiser as well. If writing a check, please note that it is for the childcare center in the memo line. We have a thermometer in the entryway showing our progress. You may also 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.

The city approved the plans for the new sewer line coming off of Poplar Street and we are now waiting on the architect for final plans.

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.



Our next gathering of Grace Book Club is on Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We will be discussing "Saving My Assassin: a Memoir" by Virginia Prodan".

**A summary:** At just under five feet tall, Virginia

Prodan was no match for the towering 6' 10" gun-wielding assassin the Romanian government sent to her office to take her life. It was not the first time her life had been threatened--nor would it be the last. As a young attorney under Nicolae Ceausescu's brutal communist regime, Virginia had spent her entire life searching for the truth. When she finally found it in the pages of the most forbidden book in all of Romania, Virginia accepted the divine call to defend fellow followers of Christ against unjust persecution in an otherwise ungodly land. For this act of treason, she was kidnapped, beaten, tortured, placed under house arrest, and came within seconds of being executed under the orders of Ceausescu himself. How Virginia not only managed to elude her enemies time and again, but how she also helped expose the appalling secret that would ultimately lead to the demise of Ceausescu's evil empire is one of the most extraordinary stories ever told.

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.



Grace Lutheran Church is offering training in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and Basic First Aid, all in one four (4) hour class. Training will be provided by the Caldwell Fire Department. Those who successfully complete the class will be issued a certification card valid for two years. There is no cost for this training.

Training will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in the downstairs coffee room on Saturday, May 18, 2024 and Saturday, May 25, 2024. Each class is limited to six (6) students. Class will begin at 9:00 AM and end at 1:00 PM. It is expected that more classes will be available after October, 2024.

Sign-up for classes began on April 14, 2024. A sign-up sheet is on the wall in the lobby near the entrance to the sanctuary. If you have any questions regarding these classes, please contact Mike Randolph.

## PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION



**IS OPEN!**

**Register early and by May 15<sup>th</sup> to pay a lower registration fee for the 2024-2025 school year.**

The 3-year-old class meets on Tuesday and Thursday.  
(6 SPOTS OPEN)

Fee is \$95 then goes up to \$105 after May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Tuition cost is \$105 monthly.

The 4-year-old class meets 4 days a week  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

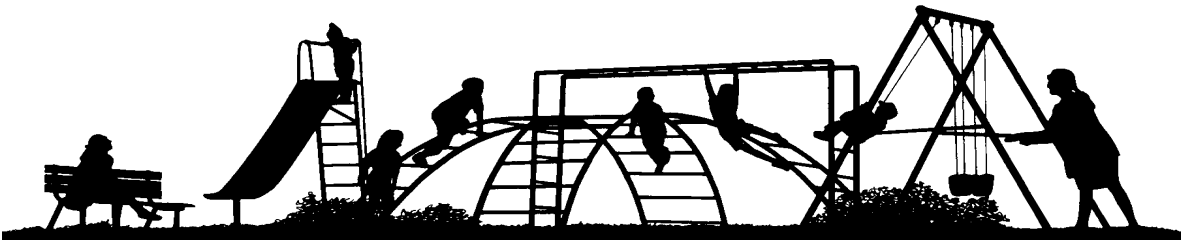
(4 SPOTS LEFT)

Fee is \$180 and then goes up to \$190 after May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Tuition cost is 190 monthly.

Your child must be the respective age  
by September 1<sup>st</sup> to enroll into either class.

Register via our website: gracelutherancaldwell.org



## Preschool News!

### 4-Year-Old Class

April was packed with all things spring, & earth day! We finished off learning about Easter with our stories about The Great Commission and Ascension. We introduced fairy tales reading about Jack and the Bean Stalk, The Three Little Pigs & Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We planted "magic" beans and have been watching them grow up just like Jacks. We had a surprise visit from Ms. Patty with her baby chicks and ducklings! They were so cute and soft. We have enjoyed seeing so many little friends this spring. We started our butterfly and spring unit. We had some fun little caterpillar friends arrive in our classroom and we will patiently wait for them to turn into butterflies. Earth Day was April 22<sup>nd</sup> and we celebrated with a fun craft and nature walk. With spring comes lots of new plants and we have been planting seeds and watching things grow like grass & sunflowers. We had a fun game of "Find the Lost Sheep" in the sanctuary where the kids had to search for 100 sheep (cotton balls) and this helped reinforce out Lost Sheep bible story. Our learning focus was on the letters G-E-F, number review 1-10, the rectangle shape, the AABCC pattern and all the colors of the rainbow.

April Bible Verses: "For Whoever is not against us is for us." Mark 9:40 & "Seek the Lord and his strength..." 1 Chronicles 16:11 Bible Stories: The Great Commission & Ascension, The Holy Spirit, House on the Rock (redo from snow days), The Lost Sheep.

Ms. Amanda and Ms. Cheri



**IS THURSDAY**

**MAY 16<sup>th</sup>**

**AND OUR END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION  
STARTS AT 6:30 PM-SAME DAY!**

### 3-Year-Old Class

April was a fun month. We planted flowers and got to watch them grow. Some very cute puppies came for a visit. We did a fun Mrs. Wishy-Washy project that we hung in the hallway. Our learning focus in April was the letters X, Y & Z. We reviewed numbers 1-20, the color gray and the shape rectangle. We have had a great school year and sad to see it coming to an end. Thank you so much for sharing your kiddos with us. They are all such a blessing.

Ms. Micky and Ms. Lillian

## Concordia Circle/LWML—

Next meeting is May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm downstairs in the fellowship hall. Peggy will be giving the devotion and Donna R. and Jean A. will be hosting.



# LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

**A Spotlight on Life Event** will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 5009 W. Cassia St., Boise on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the free event will begin at 10am until 3pm, lunch will be served. The Treasure Valley Chapter #352 Lutherans for Life will be assisting. Please RSVP Jacquie for lunch at (208) 871-7862.

Lutherans for Life Executive Director, Rev. Michael W. Salemink will be presenting life issue awareness and education to our local Lutheran congregations and community, this is an exceptional opportunity. Pastor Salemink will be speaking on two chosen topics: Assisted suicide/euthanasia and Sexuality & Gender.

Beginning at 10:30 am until noon:

### **Going Gracefully: A Better End-of-Life Approach Than Assisted Suicide**

Assisted suicide has become legal in Canada, California, Colorado, and our nation's capitol. Now Hawaii, Maine, and New Jersey have decriminalized it too. How can Christians compassionately affirm God's gift of life in situations of pain, impairment or advancing age? We'll examine assisted suicide's statistics and solutions, evaluate autonomy, pain, quality of life, and death with dignity, explore the Gospels better way, and offer suggestions for upholding life in congregations and communities.

Beginning at 1pm until 3pm

### **This Is My Body: Christian Compassion and Courage Concerning Sexuality and Gender**

Our culture is wrestling with questions about sexuality and gender. Many of our communities, congregations and families are struggling with these issues as well. How do our bodies reflect and confess the grace of God? For what privileges and responsibilities has He made us male and female? How can we incorporate and care for individuals experiencing suffering and temptation related to sexuality and gender? How may we speak truth and show love in such sensitive situations? We will be motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will examine instruction from Scripture, engage observations of science, and explore opportunities for servanthood.



*Returning God's Blessings*

“My congregation won't know what to do with a gift if I leave something from my estate.” That is where the conversation turned between two friends having coffee one afternoon. The other responded, “I thought our Church had an endowment fund. Have you considered giving to that?” “I hate to admit it, but I really don't know what it is about. I've heard financial reports at congregational meetings, but it just seemed like numbers. It's my fault, but I have never investigated what that fund does.”

This experience is quite common for many of us. Our world is so full of information that we have to decide about what we will consider and when we will consider it. It may be true that we haven't spent much time thinking about charitable gifting from our estates and so we have not paid much attention to something like our congregation's endowment fund, or future ministry fund.

So where do we start? Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor is trained to assist you in creating a gift plan that blesses the family you love and the ministries you care about. Part of that work for gifting to ministry might be some research, identifying the proper recipient of a gift from your estate. Maybe your questions are similar to what others have already asked. Or maybe the Gift Planning Counselor knows exactly who to ask. For assistance, contact Lois Anderson at [loisandersonlwml@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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*

**The Ascension of Our Lord (May 9)** ~ “Ascended Lord, You send the Holy Spirit to work through Your Word and Sacraments in Your church. Keep the church today in Your peace. Though Your kingdom comes even without my prayer, I pray that it would come to me today also as I hear, read, and meditate on Your Word. Keep me mindful each day to thank You for Your mercy and to look eagerly for Your return in glory. Amen.”

*Note:*

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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For those of you who have not yet heard the good news, it was announced last Sunday that Pastor Jason Gullidge from Jerome, ID has accepted our call. We do not at this time have a start date as there are many things that have to be taken care of. We will keep you updated. We thank our Father by praying:  
***Dear Father, we are all so blessed and grateful that you have directed Pastor Jason Gullidge to accept our call to be our next Pastor. We pray for the congregational family that he will be leaving and ask that you comfort, guide and bless them in their efforts when seeking a new shepherd. Thank you for answering our prayers, we pray this in Jesus’s name. Amen***

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**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, Gregg Nanninga (on heart transplant list)  
Mental health – David Ledington*

*We also remember and pray for our homebound members – 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.*

***Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16.***





| <i>Sunday</i>                                                                                                                                                                        | <i>Monday</i>                                                                           | <i>Tuesday</i>                                                                                                            | <i>Wednesday</i>                                                                                                                    | <i>Thursday</i>                                                                                                                   | <i>Friday</i>                                                         | <i>Saturday</i>                                                                             |
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| <p><i>“Commit your work to the Lord,<br/>and your plans will be established.”<br/>Proverbs 16:3</i></p>                                                                              |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                           | <p><b>1</b><br/><i>Preschool 4's</i><br/><b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p>                                                               | <p><b>2</b><br/><i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i><br/>1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters</p>                                                  | <p><b>3</b></p>                                                       | <p><b>4</b><br/><b>Community<br/>Yard Sale</b><br/>9:00 am -2:00 pm</p>                     |
| <p><b>5</b><br/>9:15 am Christian Education<br/>10:30 am Family Worship<br/>with Holy Communion<br/>11:30 am VBS Meeting<br/><br/>6:00 pm H.S. Senior BBQ at<br/>the Boeder's</p>    | <p><b>6</b><br/><i>Preschool 4's</i><br/><b>6:00 pm<br/>Circle/LWML<br/>Meeting</b></p> | <p><b>7</b><br/><i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i><br/>9:15 a.m. Reading<br/>Partners (3s)<br/><br/>6:30 pm Women's Bible</p> | <p><b>8</b><br/><i>Preschool 4's</i><br/><b>Bulletin Deadline</b><br/><br/>10:30 am Pre-K Reading<br/>Buddies (4s)</p>              | <p><b>9</b><br/><i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i><br/>1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters<br/>1:00 pm Board of<br/>Stewardship and Finance</p> | <p><b>10</b></p>                                                      | <p><b>11</b><br/>9:00 am Group Bible<br/>Fellowship - Call Terry<br/>Hensen for details</p> |
| <p><b>12</b> <b>Mother's Day</b><br/>9:15 am Christian Education<br/>10:30 am Family Worship</p>                                                                                     | <p><b>13</b><br/><i>Preschool 4's</i></p>                                               | <p><b>14</b><br/><i>Preschool 3's &amp; 4's</i><br/><br/>11:45 am Preschool Staff<br/>6:00 pm Board of Elders</p>         | <p><b>15</b><br/><i>Preschool 4's</i><br/><b>Bulletin Deadline</b><br/><br/>6:00 pm Council Meeting<br/>6:00 pm Singles Meeting</p> | <p><b>16</b> <b>Last Day - Preschool</b><br/><br/>1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters<br/><br/><b>6:30 pm Preschool<br/>Celebration</b></p> | <p><b>17</b></p>                                                      | <p><b>18</b><br/>9:00 am<br/>First Aid/CPR<br/>class</p>                                    |
| <p><b>19</b><br/>9:15 am Christian Education<br/>10:30 am Family Worship<br/>with Holy Communion<br/><br/><b>Voter's Meeting<br/>after Service<br/>with Graduate Celebration</b></p> | <p><b>20</b></p>                                                                        | <p><b>21</b></p>                                                                                                          | <p><b>22</b><br/><b>Bulletin Deadline<br/>Newsletter Deadline</b><br/><br/>Caldwell Graduation<br/>(Thomas Farrell)</p>             | <p><b>23</b><br/><br/>1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters</p>                                                                               | <p><b>24</b><br/><br/>Marsing Graduation<br/>(James Christiansen)</p> | <p><b>25</b><br/>9:00 am<br/>First Aid/CPR<br/>class</p>                                    |
| <p><b>26</b><br/>9:15 am Christian Education<br/>(No Sunday School)<br/>10:30 am Family Worship<br/><br/>6:30 pm Grace Book Club</p>                                                 | <p><b>27</b> <b>Memorial<br/>Day</b></p>                                                | <p><b>28</b></p>                                                                                                          | <p><b>29</b><br/><b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p>                                                                                       | <p><b>30</b><br/><br/>1:00 pm Quilters/Crafters</p>                                                                               | <p><b>31</b></p>                                                      |                                                                                             |