



# Grace Newsletter

February 2025

## Calling Crafters—

Would you like some company when working on your craft? Feel free to join this group. Our crafters are meeting again on Thursdays at 1:00 PM downstairs in the fellowship hall. Some of them work on knitting, crocheting, diamond dotting, or cross stitching. Contact the church office or Carol McIntyre with any questions.



## Grace Senior Singles—

Brenda Morgan will be overseeing the Senior Singles in 2025. You can contact her at 530-370-0902. If you wish to be on Grace Senior Singles group email list, please contact Karen Waits at 208-960-2670 or email address at [kwaits15369@gmail.com](mailto:kwaits15369@gmail.com). Looking forward to meeting you and having you join our activities in the near future.

## Youth Groups—

Starts August 18<sup>th</sup>!

High School Youth Group:

### Ignite

"Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame."  
-Romans 12:11

Starts August 18<sup>th</sup>!

Romans 12:2

5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Group:

### Transformed

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."  
- Romans 12:2

Both groups meet at 6:00 PM here at the church on Sundays. Contact Lynnette Boeder or Greg King with any questions.

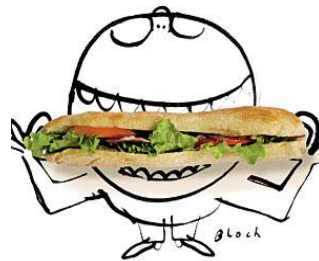


## February 22 at 5PM—

Join us for fun, games and pizza! All ages welcome. Bring your families and friends. Contact Lynnette ([lboederdfm@gmail.com](mailto:lboederdfm@gmail.com)) or the church office with any questions and to let us know if you will be attending.

## Youth Fundraiser—

Order sub sandwiches for your Superbowl party or simply for your lunch on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. The youth will be making subs on Saturday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> to be distributed on Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup>. Get your order in by February 5<sup>th</sup> to support the Youth on their future mission trips.



Order forms are available on the Family Board in the entryway or call the church office to place your order (208) 459-4191. If you like cookies, you can order some of those too!

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## *“Three Beloveds”*

Many individuals will do various things this month to express their love. Recent studies found that:

- Consumers will spend close to \$192 to celebrate their Valentine.
- Roughly 6 million people get engaged on Valentine’s Day.
- Around 224 million roses are grown specifically for Valentine’s Day
- Chocolate contributed \$2.5 billion to the total \$4.1 billion in seasonal valentine sales.

These statistics and others show that love is related to spending money on gifts such as rings, roses, and chocolate. However, these and other gifts of love in this world will eventually tarnish, be consumed, or wilt. As a result, expressions of love in this world are often fleeting.

When we open our Bibles with the concept of “love,” we discover something profoundly moving. The first use of the word “love” highlights the deep bond between a father and his son. In Genesis 22:2, we hear the heartfelt words spoken by the Lord to Abraham: “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” The word “love” comes from the Hebrew word “*ahab*,” which translates to a general type of love, akin to how we might express our affection for our partners, children, or cherished pets. Yet, before Abraham was to follow through with such a heart-wrenching task, the Lord intervened by sending the Angel of the Lord to stop him. Instead of Isaac, a ram was provided as a substitute. Genesis 22:13 says, “And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns.” Abraham’s heart must have been greatly relieved as he took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering instead of his beloved son. What an incredible and touching story!

This story of Abraham and Isaac foreshadows the beautiful expressions of love found in the New Testament. In the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—the first use of “love” again portrays the relationship between a Father and a Son, this time during Jesus’ baptism. In Matthew 3:16-17, we read, “And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened

to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’” The term “beloved” translates from the Greek word “*agapetos*,” which conveys a deep, unconditional love. This time, the Son would be the sacrifice—not as a substitute, but as a selfless offering. Jesus is introduced to us as the Lamb of God, who comes to take away the sins of the world. Not only that, but this lineage of love extends to John’s first use is found in 3:16, where we discover God’s incredible compassion: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” Jesus will bring such forgiveness and eternal life by fulfilling what He said in John 15:13, “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.” Unlike Isaac, Jesus faced this sacrifice without a substitute. His loving act of laying down His life on the cross, followed by His glorious resurrection three days later, ensures that forgiveness and everlasting life. What a powerful testament to unconditional love!

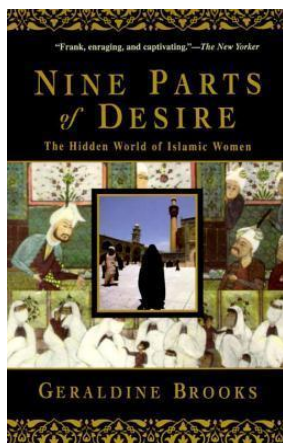
How do these gifts become our own? This leads us to our third and final beloved. In our own baptism, we, sons of Adam and daughters of Eve, become something wonderful. We become God’s beloved children. For it is there where we are born again, born above, by the water and the Spirit. God showers us with His love, forgiveness, and salvation. Hear these beautiful words of reminder that 1 John 3:1-3, “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.” Unlike the gifts of worldly love, the love of God lasts far beyond Valentine’s Day. It lasts forever!

Your brother in Christ,  
Pastor Jason Gullidge  
Song of Solomon 2:16



**Our next gathering** of Grace Book Club is on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 m. We will be discussing "Nine Parts of Desire: The Hidden World of Islamic Women" by Geraldine Brooks. Meeting place will be at Sandy's.

**A summary:** Nine Parts of Desire is the story of Brooks' intrepid journey toward an understanding of the women behind the veils, and of the often contradictory political, religious, and cultural forces that shape their lives. Defying our stereotypes about the Muslim world, Brooks' acute analysis of the world's fastest growing religion deftly illustrates how Islam's holiest texts have been misused to justify repression of women, and how male pride and power have warped the original message of a once liberating faith. As a prizewinning foreign correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, Geraldine Brooks spent six years covering the Middle East through wars, insurrections, and the volcanic upheaval of resurgent fundamentalism. Yet for her, headline events were only the backdrop to a less obvious but more enduring drama: the daily life of Muslim women.



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.

## Vote for mission recipients—

# MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



Mission giving is budgeted by the Board of Stewardship & Finance. This budgeted amount is for local community services, the Northwest District of the LCMS and World Missions. We also give monthly to the Worship Anew program through our Board of Outreach. Please take the time to vote for 2 local and 1 international/national organization. The voting sheets are available on the counter below the mailboxes in the entryway at church. Place the voting sheets in the offering plate, give to an Elder or place in the office mailbox. Voting deadline is February 16th.

## Groundhog Day February 2—



**Fun Fact:** Records kept by the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club show Phil has predicted 108 continued winters and only 21 early springs as of 2024.

According to the Stormfax Almanac, that works out to a 39% accuracy rate.

## PURCHASE YOUR AUCTION TICKETS HERE! Just scan the code below.

### Grace Lutheran Childcare Center

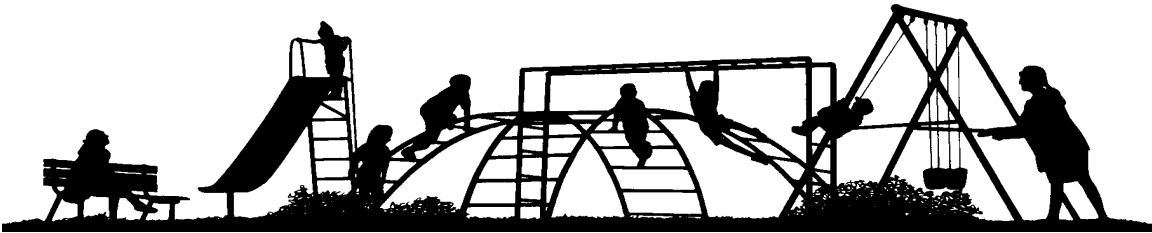
### Dinner & Auction

Tickets go on sale today!

Look for Dee, Liz or Cindy after church if you need assistance, or scan the QR code here!

**\$40 a seat or \$500 for a table.**

**THE AUCTION COMMITTEE** is still seeking personal items from the members of our congregation to be donated and auctioned off at the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Grace Lutheran Church, Preschool, & Childcare Center fundraiser on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. These items to be auctioned might be: a cabin in the woods, a wine pairing meal for 8, water color lessons, party baskets, personalized art, etc. Additionally, if you have something nice that is unused or unwanted around your home, we would be glad to consider it for the auction. If you have any ideas for this type of auction item or you know someone who would be willing to donate, please notify Greg King or Janet Brooks.



## Preschool News!

### 4-Year-Old Class

January was

about celebrating all things winter! We welcomed the kids back with a New Year's Glow Party. The kids wore neon colors, we colored a 2025 picture with neon/highlighter markers, blew up neon balloons and then watched it all glow in dark with our black lights! We learned about arctic animals and how they live in the cold weather. Our science experiment this month was to cover our hands in Crisco and put them in ice cold water to see if we could feel the cold. This was to show the kids how arctic animals extra blubber keeps them warm in the arctic waters. We made snowflakes, penguins, snowy owls, polar bears and played in water beads and ice. We read "Sneezy the Snowman" and then had fun creating our own "melted snowman" and saying why they thought their snowmen melted. The kids have been working hard on practicing writing letters and sounds. Our learning focus was on the letters P, C, and S, the numbers 12 to 14, the star shape and the colors white and gray.

January Bible Verses: "Whoever believes will be saved." - Mark 16:16 & "God is an everlasting Rock." - Isaiah 26:4. We focused on the stories about John the Baptist, Jesus' Baptism, Fishers of Men, The Lord's Prayer & House on the Rock. We made a craft out of construction paper for the kids to demonstrate John baptizing Jesus. We made fun fish out of Cd's and paper and made bracelets to remind us of the Lord's Prayer. We learned about how a house built on rocks is sturdier than one on sand by doing our own experiment and watching how water washed away the sand and made the house fall and the one on rocks didn't fall down.

Ms. Amanda Gigray & Ms. Cheri Nichols

### 3-Year-Old Class

Our class has re-found our rhythm after Christmas Break, and we have enjoyed being back in the classroom with our littles. With the playground having been under construction, as well as the frigid weather Brrrr, we have spent extra time indoors in January crafting, painting winter clothes, and learning the skill of lacing mittens all to include our learning focus of winter. The kids adore BIG story books that we have incorporated during our circle time and often choose to forfeit free play time to be read to instead. Planes, trains, and automobiles and all things transportation were also a learning focus. The kids enjoyed being a train transporting their items of choice, most definitely while shouting "CHOO CHOO", and hearing "ALL ABOARD!" We have kept on and continue using their "smart finger" to follow along with the words in short story books as they followed directives to color the various types of cars in different colors and ended with their own attempt to draw their very own idea of a train car on the final page in their book. They also practiced learning to sort train cars by color and with encouraged effort did an amazing job to line them out in groupings. We shared Jesus as a boy and his being lost in the Temple, playing hide and go find to have them explore how it must have felt to lose something, or someone, important and how happy Mary must have felt when she found her lost son. We fished and talked about disappointment when we don't catch annnny fish and trusting Jesus when we are frustrated. Then we talked about how Jesus provided fish because Simon and Peter trusted and obeyed, and that He wants each of us to also to be "Fishers Of Men" in sharing Jesus by asking those around us to follow and fish for Jesus, too. Our Bible verse for January was "Jesus grew in wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him" Luke 2:40. Our colors were white and gray, our shape was a star, our letters were Pp, Cc, Ss, and our numbers were 12, 13, and 14.

We look forward to February as we continue to LOVE on these littles and find joy in their love for learning!

Ms. Andrea & Ms. Martha



Next meeting is Sunday, February 2 after church downstairs in the room east of the fellowship hall. All women are welcome to join. Carla & Patti are hosting and Jacquie is providing our devotion. Contact Carla Shields if you have any questions.



*Returning God's Blessings*

Considering distributions from your estate that will directly support ministries of the Church may present competing priorities that have existed in you throughout your life.

Greg and Deb sat down after Christmas to have a serious conversation about their future goals for the distributions of their estate, especially those that will go to ministry. For the last twenty years, Deb has been involved in an afterschool outreach effort through a local urban congregation that has opportunity to provide tutoring and intentional sharing of Jesus with young children. Greg is a trustee at their own congregation and is known as the guy who fixes everything. In their conversation, Greg expressed his desire to make a gift to their congregation's endowment fund, specifically for long-term care of the building. Not surprisingly, Deb desires to support the local congregation involved in the children's ministry. At first, they were getting into a bit of an argument, as both were passionate about their feelings. Finally, Deb said, "I think we need to ask someone to help us work through this. Maybe it doesn't need to be an either-or proposition."

Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can be the one to talk and pray with you as you discern God's will. Contact Lois Anderson at [loisandersonlwml@gmail.com](mailto:loisandersonlwml@gmail.com)

### PRAYERS

#### Prayer requests—

Please submit your requests for prayer by phone (208) 459-4191 or by email to [graceonkimball@gmail.com](mailto:graceonkimball@gmail.com). 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.

***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***



If you do not keep your Portals of Prayer books, please consider returning the books to the church. They will be distributed in the future as part of prison ministry. There is a box in the entryway to place them in



#### Keep in our Prayers—

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

*Cancer – Sharon Andrews, Dana Brooks, Patrick Knee, Don Southard, Teresa Owens, Dave Vorderstrasse, Wayne Snavelly, Jerry Bengtson, Jim Nelson, Penny Storms Jeffries, Gary Olufson, Jerry Shaffer, Denise Shaffer, Doris Powell, Dave Koontz, Patti Wood*

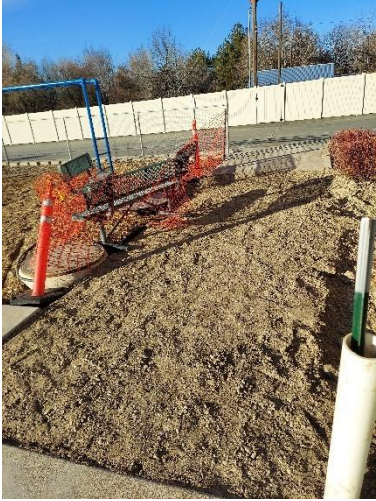
*Liver – Bryant Neal  
Heart–Brook Van Leuven, Janice Beaudry, Gregg Nanninga (on heart transplant list)  
Mental health – David Ledington  
Broken hip recovery – Patty Eckman  
Back surgery recovery – Mark Kroll*

*We also remember and pray for our homebound members – Janice Beaudry, Jerry Bengtson, Jack Carter, Mel Clausen, Margaret Edmiston, Rayaline Hartsock, Flo Hopkins, Gail Meyer, Irene Pedro, and Charles & Paula Row.*



# Grace Lutheran Childcare Center—

October 2, 2024 – Construction Started

January – sewer updated; playground almost restored and cabinets delivered and going up.



*February 2025*

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p><i>2 Timothy</i></p> <p><i><sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup> For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.</i></p>						<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship at a member's home.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion</p> <p>Concordia Circle/LWML after service 12:15 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Youth Groups</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Preschool 4s</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Preschool 3s &amp; 4s</p> <p>9:00 am Women's Morning Bible Study 6:00 pm Women's Bible 6:00 pm Childcare Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Preschool 4s <b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Preschool 3s &amp; 4s 9:15 am Preschool Partners 9:30 am Preschool Chapel 9:50 am Pre-K Buddies</p> <p>1:00 pm Crafters 1:00 pm Board of Stewardship &amp; Finance</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship at a member's home.</p> <p>1:00 pm Youth making Sub sandwiches for Superbowl</p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 12:15 pm Confirmation Class Sub sandwiches handed out</p> <p>No Youth Group Meetings</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Preschool 4s</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Preschool 3s &amp; 4s 11:30 am Preschool Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm Women's Bible 6:00 pm Board of Elders</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Preschool 4s <b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Preschool 3s &amp; 4s</p> <p>1:00 pm Crafters</p> <p>6:00 pm Auction Committee Meeting</p>	<p><i>Valentine's Day</i></p> 	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship at a member's home.</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 12:15 pm Confirmation Class</p> <p>6:00 pm Youth Groups</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>  <p>No Preschool 4s</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Preschool 3s &amp; 4s 9:00 am Women's Morning Bible Study 4:00 pm CEA Event 6:00 pm Women's Bible</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Preschool 4s <b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Preschool 3s &amp; 4s 9:30 am Preschool Chapel 1:00 pm Crafters</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:00 am Group Bible Fellowship at a member's home. 5:00 pm Family Game Night with Pizza</p>
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship Trustee &amp; Education Board meetings after service 12:15 pm Confirmation Class 4:30 pm Youth Groups at Friendship Celebration 6:30 pm Grace Book Club</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Preschool 4s</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Preschool 3s &amp; 4s</p> <p>6:00 pm Women's Bible</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Preschool 4s <b>Bulletin Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Preschool 3s &amp; 4s</p> <p>1:00 pm Crafters</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	