



# Grace Newsletter

May 2025

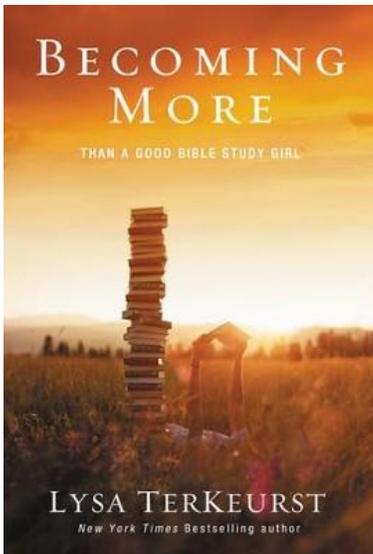
## Congregational Meeting—

Our next congregational voter's meeting is May 18<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will begin following a potluck lunch. The Council is meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm to finalize the agenda. Note: cakes are being provided as the dessert in honor of those graduating from High School this year. If you would like something other than cake, feel free to bring in a favorite.



**Potluck Information:** If your last name begins with the letters **A-J**, bring a meat dish; **K-R**, bring a hot side dish; **S-Z**, bring a salad.

## Women's Bible Study—



This group is reading Lysa TerKeurst "*Becoming More Than A Good Bible Study Girl.*" This is a six-session small group Bible study that helps you figure out how to trade in going through the motions for the spiritual healthy and vibrant life for which you long. "I really want to know God, personally and intimately." Do those words resonate with you? You're tired of just going through the

motions of being a Christian: Go to church. Pray. Be nice. That spiritual to-do list just doesn't cut it. But what does? How do you step out of the drudger of religious duty to experience a living, moment-by-moment, deeply intimate relationship with God?

**You are welcome to join them on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm. They started just last week so if still interested, contact Carla Shields.**

## High School Graduates—

*Congratulations!*

Beau Bass will be graduating from Ridgeview and Alex Christiansen and Izzy Mancini will be graduating from Marsing.

## Confirmation Group—

Last gathering is May 11<sup>th</sup>. Will start up again on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Youth Group—

Last gathering is May 4<sup>th</sup>. Will start up again in September.



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES  
[www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)

**The Lutheran Hour®** final broadcast for our area on KBOI 670 AM ended April 27, 2025. To find other airings, visit [lhm.org/guide](http://lhm.org/guide). The weekly broadcast of The Lutheran Hour is also available at [lutheranhour.org](http://lutheranhour.org), on the Connected by LHM mobile app, on Sirius XM Family Talk Channel, and platforms like Spotify, iHeartRadio, dialing in on your phone, and more.

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# *“I AM the Resurrection & Life”*

*By Pastor Jason Gullidge*

There are apps for all sorts of things. You can find apps for your Bible, others to remind you to take your medicine or communicate with your doctor, apps to watch videos, and applications to take and edit your pictures. Other apps keep you updated on your friends, and there are still more for playing games. A few months ago, I came across an app that intrigued me, titled “I am.” This app sends daily affirmations, including I am not my negative thoughts, I am confident in my ability to change my life, and I am excited about the person I am becoming. According to its creators, it is supposedly designed to “help rewire our brains, build self-esteem, and change negative thought patterns.”

When I saw this app, my mind drifted elsewhere, specifically to the Bible. One place was those notable passages that appeared in the Gospel of John. In this Gospel, Jesus makes seven statements that begin with the words: “I am.” These “I am” proclamations deepen our understanding of Jesus and His ministry. Therefore, in light of the Season of Easter, this article will focus on the one that Jesus spoke to Martha at the death of her brother Lazarus: “I am the resurrection and the life.”

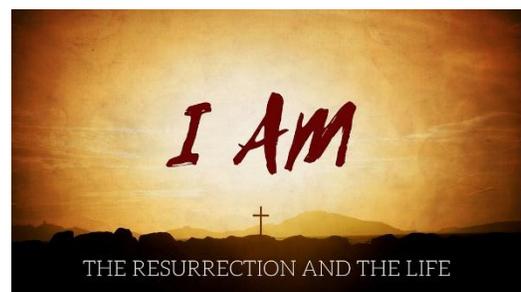
“I Am.” This statement traces back to the Old Testament. When God revealed Himself to Moses in the burning bush, He gave His servant His name as: “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you’” (Exodus 3:14). Thus, in Judaism, “I AM” is unmistakably understood as the proper name for the Lord. Therefore, whenever Jesus makes one of these “I am” statements, it conveys something more profound than merely stating His existence and identity. Jesus is, in fact, claiming deity; He is identifying Himself as God. Therefore, when Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life,” He is saying, “Jesus, the Lord, is the resurrection and the life.”

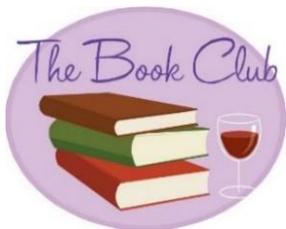
Jesus then stated, “The Lord is the resurrection.” What does He mean by this? This phrase relates to what Paul expresses in 1 Corinthians 15. In verses 42-43, Paul wrote, “So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.” Likewise, it connects to what we affirm in our Creeds: “I look forward to the resurrection of the dead” and “I believe in the resurrection of the body.” Each of these phrases pertains to the resurrection on the Last Day, when the Lord will raise our bodies, renewing them without sin, sickness, pain,

sorrow, or death, connecting them to our already redeemed souls. However, when Jesus spoke these words to Martha, He was addressing something beyond the Last Day. Just before these words, we hear the conversation between Jesus and Martha that led to this point: “Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’” Martha replied, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’” What great promises for individuals who trust in Jesus! However, Jesus declared something additional. He was stating to Martha and us readers today that He is the only source of resurrection. He alone can raise the dead.

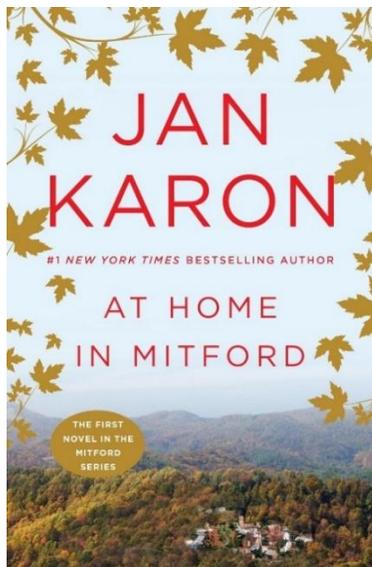
Jesus added to His resurrection claim with, “and the life.” This most certainly points to everlasting life for all believers in Christ. We see an example earlier in the Gospel of John when Jesus spoke to the ruler of the Jews named Nicodemus. After alluding to the future gift of baptism, Jesus was recorded saying in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” It’s akin to what we recite in the Creeds, “life everlasting” and “the life of the world to come.” What a fantastic promise for individuals who trust in Jesus! Once again, Jesus is saying something more: He declared He is the Lord, the only source of true and everlasting life. Jesus is the only way we can live for all eternity in paradise. He alone brings true life.

And after saying these words, Jesus, our Lord, went to work. Jesus did the only thing that the Lord could do. Jesus rose His friend Lazarus from the grave. Jesus will come again. Jesus will come on the Last Day outside of our graves by raising the lowly bodies of us believers in Him into glorious and perfect bodies that will connect with our risen souls. And then we are with Jesus in eternal life in paradise forever. All these things are only possible because of Jesus, the Lord, the I AM, the resurrection, and the life. Amen.





**Our next gathering** of Grace Book Club is on Sunday, April 27 at 6:30 m. We will be discussing "At Home in Mitford" by Jan Karon. Meeting place will be at the church.



**A summary:** The first novel in #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Jan Karon's beloved series set in America's favorite small town: Mitford.

It's easy to feel at home in Mitford. In these high, green hills, the air is pure, the village is charming, and the people are generally lovable. Yet, Father Tim, the bachelor rector, wants something more. Enter a dog the size of a sofa

who moves in and won't go away. Add an attractive neighbor who begins wearing a path through the hedge. Now, stir in a lovable but unloved boy, a mystifying jewel theft, and a secret that's sixty years old. Suddenly, Father Tim gets more than he bargained for. And readers get a rich comedy about ordinary people and their ordinary lives.

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.

### Holy Land Trip—

Pastor Randy and Carlene Benschoter will be hosting a Holy Land Faith Enrichment Tour February 17-26, 2026 with an optional 4 day Egypt extension. In all we will visit about 50 Biblical and historical sites. This is a wonderful trip if you have ever wanted to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. If anyone is interested or has questions, contact Pastor Randy at 208-634-9516 or [randall.benschoter@gmail.com](mailto:randall.benschoter@gmail.com) for details and answers.



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## DON'T MISS OUR



June 7<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

To Sign up - Scan the QR Code

<https://gracelutherancaldwell.org/community-service/>

Or talk to Cathy Reinke or Carla Shields





## Preschool News!

### **4-Year-Old Class**

April was packed with all things Easter, spring & earth day! We celebrated Easter by learning about Palm Sunday, The Empty Tomb, The Great Commission and Ascension and also making some super fun Easter crafts. We had a fun family project where we sent home a plastic easter egg with each child and a paper to write clues on. They had to find something small enough to fit inside the egg and give us 3 clues for the class to guess what was inside. We've had so much fun seeing what everyone brought and trying to guess what they have inside. We started our butterfly and spring unit. We had some fun little caterpillar friends arrive in our classroom and we are 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 conferences and we enjoyed meeting with all of our parents and getting to share all of the wonderful growth each of our children have had this year. We also painted kites and look forward to flying them in May. 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: "Hosanna, Blessed is the King." - John 12:13 & "He is not here for He has risen." - Matthew 28:6. Bible Stories: Zaccheus, Palm Sunday, The Empty Tomb, The Great Commission & Ascension, The Holy Spirit.

Ms. Amanda Gigray & Ms. Cheri Nichols

**END OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION ON MAY 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

### **3-Year-Old Class**

In like a Lion, out like a Lamb! April was packed with all things celebrating the resurrection of our Savior and the joy of Easter. While welcoming spring we had a surprise visit and were grateful to Maggie for sharing her young lambs at the preschool! We painted kites and watched them take flight. We started a project where we will get to see seeds sprout and grow. We have worked on letters Ee, Ff, and Gg. We have mastered our shapes, with a few forgetting's now and again, and most of our colors are confidently shared when we ask. We continued working on patterning, cutting, and introduced graphing. It's very challenging to not eat the crackers on our graph, intended for shape, and amount recognition!

April Bible Verse: "He is not here, He is risen!" Our bible stories Psalm Sunday, The Last Supper, Jesus arrested and crucified, the Rise of Jesus, Doubting Thomas, and Faith in what we cannot see.

We enjoyed having our conferences where we had the opportunity to express how truly amazing each of our preschoolers are. They came to us as seedlings, have blossomed individually as flowers, and transformed into a brightly colored, beautiful bouquet. Thank you for sharing their beauty with us.

Ms. Andrea & Ms. Martha



Next meeting is Monday evening at 6:00 pm on May 5. All women are welcome to join. Jean Anderson and Donna Rookstool are hosting and Barbara James will be providing our devotion. Contact Carla Shields if you have any questions.

### All Occasion Cards—

Concordia Circle has cards for sale for all occasions. Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, & Anniversary to name a few. Purchase a card or a box of cards for any occasion. Cards are located downstairs in the glass display case. Contact Barbara James for help.



### Camp Perkins

## VOLUNTEER AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES

#### SUMMER STAFF



**Camp Assistants**  
16+ yrs of age  
Housekeeping  
Food Service  
Maintenance

**Counselors & Leadership**  
18+ years of age

#### WORK WEEKENDS

MAY 23-26  
OCT TBD

Keep your camp beautiful and safe!  
Free weekend for the whole family!

#### SUMMER COOKS

Provide nutritious and delicious meals for staff, campers and guests!

#### HEALTH CARE VOLUNTEERS

Care for the physical health of the campers and staff from Sunday afternoon through Friday morning.





Camp Perkins Lutheran Outdoor Ministries 

## PRAYERS

### Prayer requests—

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

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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, Patrick Knee, Don Southard, Teresa Owens, Dave Vorderstrasse, Wayne Snavely, Jerry Bengtson, Jim Nelson, Penny Storms Jeffries, Gary Olufson, Jerry Shaffer, Denise Shaffer, Doris Powell, Dave Koontz, Patti Wood, Kathy Tesmer, Mike Hardin*

*Liver – Bryant Neal  
Heart – Terry Hensen, Brook Van Leuven, Janice Beaudry, Gregg Nanninga (on heart transplant list)  
Mental health – David Ledington*

# Grace Lutheran Childcare Center—

October 2, 2024 – Construction Started

April 2025 – window trim done, special entry shelf installed, some mirrors hung, sidewalk track completed, ground is being leveled for grass, some trees & plants planted. Moving right along!



May 2025

| <i>Sunday</i>                                                                                                                                                      | <i>Monday</i>                                                                                                                                                                      | <i>Tuesday</i>                                                                                                                     | <i>Wednesday</i>                                      | <i>Thursday</i>                                                                                                                          | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i>                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                   | <i>"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace<br/>as you trust in him,<br/>so that by the power of the Holy Spirit<br/>you may overflow with hope."<br/>Romans 15:13</i> |                                                                                                                                    |                                                       | <b>1</b><br>Preschool 3s & 4s<br>9:15 am Preschool Partners<br>9:30 am Preschool Chapel<br>9:50 am Pre-K Buddies<br><br>1:00 pm Crafters | <b>2</b>      | <b>3</b><br>9:00 am Group Bible<br>Fellowship at a<br>member's home.  |
| <b>4</b><br>9:15 am Christian Education<br>10:30 am Family Worship<br>with Holy Communion<br><br>12:15 pm Confirmation Class<br><br>6:00 pm Senior Night BBQ       | <b>5</b><br>Preschool 4s<br><br>6:00 pm<br>Concordia<br>Circle/LWML                                                                                                                | <b>6</b><br>Preschool 3s & 4s<br><br>6:00 pm Women's Bible<br>Study                                                                | <b>7</b><br>Preschool 4s<br><b>Bulletin Deadline</b>  | <b>8</b><br>Preschool 3s & 4s<br><br>1:00 pm Board of Stewardship &<br>Finance<br>1:00 pm Crafters                                       | <b>9</b>      | <b>10</b><br>9:00 am Group Bible<br>Fellowship at a<br>member's home. |
| <b>11 Mother's Day</b><br>9:15 am Christian Education<br>10:30 am Family Worship<br><br>12:15 pm Confirmation Class<br>Last class until September 14 <sup>th</sup> | <b>12</b><br>Preschool 4s                                                                                                                                                          | <b>13</b><br>Preschool 3s & 4s<br>11:30 am Preschool Staff<br>Meeting<br>6:00 pm Board of Elders<br>6:00 pm Women's Bible<br>Study | <b>14</b><br>Preschool 4s<br><b>Bulletin Deadline</b> | <b>15</b><br>Preschool 3s & 4s<br><b>Last Day of School</b><br><br>1:00 pm Crafters<br>5:00 pm Council<br>6:30 pm Preschool Celebration  | <b>16</b>     | <b>17</b><br>9:00 am Group Bible<br>Fellowship at a<br>member's home. |
| <b>18</b><br>9:15 am Christian Education<br>10:30 am Family Worship<br>with Holy Communion<br>Voter's Meeting/Potluck                                              | <b>19</b>                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>20</b><br><br>6:00 pm Women's Bible<br>Study                                                                                    | <b>21</b><br><br><b>Bulletin Deadline</b>             | <b>22</b><br><br><b>Newsletter Deadline</b><br><br>1:00 pm Crafters                                                                      | <b>23</b>     | <b>24</b><br>9:00 am Group Bible<br>Fellowship at a<br>member's home. |
| <b>25 Summer Sunday Starts</b><br>9:15 am Christian Education<br>10:30 am Family Worship<br><br>6:30 pm Grace Book Club                                            | <b>26</b><br>                                                                                   | <b>27</b><br><br>6:00 pm Women's Bible<br>Study                                                                                    | <b>28</b><br><br><b>Bulletin Deadline</b>             | <b>29</b><br><br>1:00 pm Crafters                                                                                                        | <b>30</b>     | <b>31</b><br>9:00 am Group Bible<br>Fellowship at a<br>member's home. |