



Grace Newsletter

February 2026

Childcare Center—

Our center provides a safe, loving, Christ-centered environment where children grow, play, and learn through hands-on experiences. We proudly serve children ages 3 months to 5 years. If you or someone you know is looking for quality childcare with a faith-filled approach, we'd love to welcome new families into our community!"



- Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday 6:30 am – 6:00 pm.
- Office Phone: (208) 402-5340
- Email: gracechildcarecaldwell@gmail.com
- Website: gracelutherancaldwell.org/childcare

Preschool—

Is it February already! Only 4 months remain in this school year and we have so much we want to share and teach our children. This month it is all about Dental Health/Nutrition and loving our neighbors as our Lord commands us to do. Children made snowmen last month out of paper. Maybe they will get some snow this month so they can make real ones.

Just a reminder that if the Caldwell school district closes for weather, our preschool classes will be cancelled as well. Who knows if we will even get any snow this year.



Our next reading day is Tuesday, February 24 at 9:30 AM. The children really enjoy reading in the little groups and do so enjoy taking the books home to read to their parents.



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/>

“Heart”

What shape is most intimately associated with Valentine’s Day? The heart. But why the heart? According to the Medfield Historical Society, its significance may be rooted in a legend. This legend tells of a compassionate man named Valentine who devoted his life to aiding Christians facing persecution and enduring harsh imprisonment under Roman rule. To uplift these individuals and remind them of God's enduring love, Valentine is said to have meticulously cut hearts from parchment, presenting them as symbols of hope and encouragement to these oppressed Christians. Tragically, his selfless acts of kindness led to his capture and eventual execution, an event that certain churches commemorate each year on February 14th. Many Americans spend money each year on chocolates, flowers, and sentimental cards with hearts. These might relate to a different legend.

Today, we continue our study of phrases found in the Bible. We are going to look at one that deals with the “heart.” Listen to these words: “A man after my own heart.” In our society, the phrase “a man after my own heart” carries a special significance. We often use it in everyday conversations to describe someone whose personality traits, hobbies, or interests resonate deeply with our own. For instance, as a child, I began my love for history. I was found regularly studying history. Upon seeing me, my dad would often say with a smile and sometimes even a chuckle, “Jason, you are a man after my own heart.” We shared a love for history and frequently discussed it.

This phrase, “a man after my own heart,” finds its roots in the Old Testament. King Saul was becoming increasingly corrupt as a ruler. One day, he offered unlawful sacrifices. As a result, God’s prophet named Samuel came to Saul, saying, recorded in 1 Samuel 13:13-14, “You have acted foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.” A few chapters later, Samuel was sent by the Lord to anoint a new man to be Israel's future ruler, named David. Therefore, this raises an interesting question.

What did God’s spokesman mean by “a man after God’s own heart”? Most people assume it means that David had a heart that God was pleased with. They base it on 1 Samuel 16:7. It is there that we hear, prior to David’s anointing, “But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.’” In addition, a millennium later, in a sermon at the synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia, the apostle Paul remembered God’s affirmation of David. He added, “He will do everything I want him to do.” It is these verses, along with the original verse in 1 Samuel 13, that lead people to believe there was something in David’s heart that drew God near to it.

Therefore, was it something David did? To be honest, David was not that good. If you recall, David was flawed. He lusted after one of his mighty men’s wives. Not only did they commit the thought of adultery, but they also carried out the act. It resulted in an unwanted and unwed pregnancy. Tries to cover it up by trying to make this faithful soldier come home from the front with the desire to reconsecrate the defiled wedding bed. And when this fails, David sends orders to his general to have Uriah killed by the hands of Israel’s enemies. And then tried to cover it up by marrying the widow. David definitely does not look like a man who deserves the title of “man after God’s own heart”.

Why, then, was David given this title? It is the same way you are given this title. God freely chooses us to be His own out of His love, not based on the worthiness or character of those He selects. It is now by His grace that we obey Him, succeed, and are blessed (Deuteronomy 4:34-40; 7:6-16; 10:11-15). Paul also articulates God's way of freely choosing by grace alone and transforming us into the likeness of Christ, who reveals the Father's heart of love. Hear these words from Romans 8:29-30, "the ones whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son ... and the ones whom he predestined, these he also called; and the ones whom he called, these he also justified; and the ones whom he justified, these he also glorified." Thank God for His grace!

Take heart! This love and grace find their completeness in God’s riches at the expense of Christ, the promised Son of David and Son of God, which He paid on the cross with His blood and life. And by doing so, we men and women at baptism are made into God’s people after His own heart. Come and receive His love and grace every week!

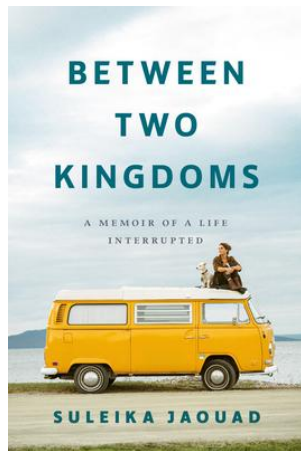


Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Jason Gullidge
Psalm 51:10



Our next gathering is scheduled for Sunday, February 22 at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing "Between two Kingdoms" by Suleika Jaouad. Meeting place: Lori Hardin's residence.

A summary: A searing, deeply moving memoir of illness and recovery that traces one young woman's journey from diagnosis to remission and, ultimately, a road trip of healing and self-discovery. In the summer after graduating from college, Suleika Jaouad was preparing, as they say in commencement speeches, to enter "the real world". She had fallen in love and moved to Paris to pursue her dream of becoming a war correspondent. The real world she found, however, would take her into a very different kind of conflict zone. It started with an itch - first on her feet, then up her legs, like 1,000 invisible mosquito bites. Next came the exhaustion, and the six-hour naps that only deepened her fatigue. Then a trip to the doctor and, a few weeks shy of her 23rd birthday, a diagnosis: leukemia, with a 35 percent chance of survival. Just like that, the life she had imagined for herself had gone up in flames. By the time Jaouad flew home to New York, she had lost her job, her apartment, and her independence. She would spend much of the next four years in a hospital bed, fighting for her life and chronicling the saga in a column for The New York Times.



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.



The calendar for 2026 is up! You are welcome to bring in flowers for the sanctuary for either in memory of, in honor of, or just because. Just sign up on the 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 using the dry erase marker attached to the calendar.

2026 Church Officers—

Chairman: Chuck Stadick
 Recording Secretary Cindy Runyan
 Financial Secretary Mike Pierce
 Treasurer: Carrie Bass

2026 Board Members—

Elders:
 Aaron Christiansen Terry Reinke
 Mark Elli Charlie Rowen
 Michael Randolph

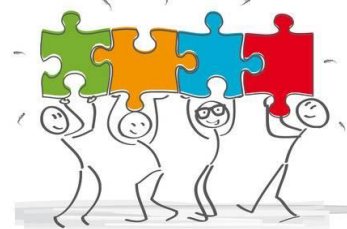
Education:
 Elizabeth Lane Brenda Morgan
 Patti Lawson Carla Shields

Trustees:
 Mike Hardin Robert Nichols
 Dave Henderson Bill O'Dea
 Terry Hensen Mark Runyan
 Mike Houston Don Southard
 Greg King Myron Volk

Stewardship & Finance:
 Pete Anderson Miles Kilzer
 Curt Boeder Ken McIntyre
 Mark Ellis

Outreach:
 Mary Cabral Dee Volk
 Cat Golden Emiley Walling
 Cathy Reinke

Preschool/Childcare Center:
 Jimmy Boeder Lorrie Houston
 Christa Gullidge Bobby Lane



May our Lord guide each and every one of us to support the above people who have graciously chosen to serve our church this year. If you would like to serve on one of these boards, please reach out to one of the board members and let them know of your interest.



All women are welcome to join us for our next meeting on Sunday, February 1st after church in the Sunday School area.



“I have a question for you. Have you ever read through all the paragraphs in your will? I did recently on a rainy afternoon when there was nothing else to do and I had no idea I ever signed a document that addressed so many topics.” Those words were shared with Rita by her friend Rene. Rita responded, “I find legal documents and estate issues so complicated. I’m glad I can have someone else lead me through that challenge.”

Returning God’s Blessings

Sometimes we may think that an estate plan is simply a will, a trust and a couple of POA documents and that the fees an attorney charges for that stack of papers is too expensive. However, an estate plan is more than just a stack of yellowing papers. The plan comes out of discussion, prayer, and thinking, discerning how God wants you to distribute the things He has entrusted to your care once He calls you home to Jesus. The real value of the estate plan is found in the plan, not just in some documents. It takes some work to create that plan.

Many don’t know where to get started in creating their first plan or reviewing an old plan, so they take no action at all. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started. It begins with organizing your pertinent information. It continues with honing the goals you have, not just for family inheritance but support of ministry as well. Then clear information can be shared with your attorney, so they can draft documents that take into consideration legal concerns, making sure your goals are on paper and will be respected and accomplished someday. To get started in this faith journey, contact Lois Anderson, loisandersonlwml@gmail.com, Cell: 208-954-3534



Use Raise Right 365 days a year, 24/7 to buy gift cards to over 500 retailers and support our childcare center! Go to raiserright.com and click “sign up” or download the “Raise Right” App and join a program. Use enrollment code B8YIASKE8ZV6. For questions or assistance please contact Elizabeth Lane (405)326-9985 or Kim Hill (405)474-3405. We would be more than happy to walk you through the process!

RaiseRight

Join us during Lent—

Wednesdays, February 25th – March 25th

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



Prayer requests—

Please submit your requests for prayer by phone (208) 459-4191 or by email to 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***





We continue to pray for those dealing with:

Cancer – Bunnie Welshons, Sharon Andrews, Don Southard, Teresa Owens, Dave Vorderstrasse, Jerry Bengtson, Jim Nelson, Penny Storms Jeffries, Gary Olufson, Jerry Shaffer, Denise Shaffer, Doris Powell, Dave Koontz, Patti Wood, Kathy Tessmer, Mike Hardin
Heart – Janice Beaudry, Gregg Nanninga (on heart transplant list), Katherine Clark

Liver – Bryant Neal
Mental health – David Ledington



February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Preschool 3s meet every Tuesday & Thursday 9:00AM-11:30AM Preschool 4s meet every MTWTH 9:00AM-11:30AM Women's Morning Bible Study with Lynnette = WMBS Women's Evening Bible Study with Carla/Cindy = WEBS Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study with Cathy = WTMBS			<i>"We Love Because He First Loved Us" – 1 John 4:19 (ESV)</i>			
1 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion Concordia Circle/LWML meets after service in Sunday School area. 12:15 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Youth Group	2  6:00 pm New Member Class	3 9:15 am WMBS 6:00 pm WEBS 6:00 pm Men's Theology on Tap – Fellowship Hall	4 Bulletin Deadline	5 9:30 am Preschool Chapel 9:30 am WTMBS 1:00 pm Crafters	6	7 9:00 am Weekly Fellowship at a member's home
8 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 12:15 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Youth Group	9 6:00 pm New Member Class	10 9:15 am WMBS 11:45 am Preschool Staff 6:00 pm WEBS 6:00 pm Elders	11 Bulletin Deadline	12 9:30 am WTMBS 1:00 pm Crafters	13	14 Valentine's Day 9:00 am Weekly Fellowship at a member's home 
15 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion 11:45 am Board of Trustee's 12:15 pm Confirmation 1:15 pm Private Event 6:00 pm Youth Group	16  No Pre-K class 6:00 pm New Member Class	17 9:15 am WMBS 6:00 pm WEBS	18 Bulletin Deadline  6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 9:30 am WTMBS 1:00 pm Crafters	20	21 9:00 am Weekly Fellowship at a member's home
22 9:15 am Christian Education 10:30 am Family Worship 12:15 pm Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Youth Group 6:30 pm Grace Book Club	23 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 pm New Member Class	24 9:15 am WMBS 9:30 am Preschool Reading Buddies 6:00 pm WEBS	25 Bulletin Deadline 5:30 pm Soup Supper 6:15 pm Hymn Sing 6:30 pm Lenten Service	26 9:30 am WTMBS 1:00 pm Crafters	27	28 9:00 am Weekly Fellowship at a member's home