



# GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

July 2024

## *Focus Ministry: Operation Christmas Child*

**A**s many of you know, I have been a volunteer for Operation Christmas Child for 7 years, but it has been in my heart for over 20 years. Why does this ministry have such a sweet spot in my heart? It's love for Jesus, the desire to spread the Gospel around the world, and their love for children!

In 1993, Franklin Graham was asked to fill shoeboxes for children in the Balkans for Christmas. Due to the generosity of Samaritan's Purse and its supporters, 28,000 children received a shoebox filled with gifts, toiletries, and other items. Today, it has grown to over 220 million shoeboxes given, and 170 countries and territories have been reached. Most often, these boxes are the first time a child has received a gift. Each gift opens the door for the Gospel to be introduced to the child, their families, and their communities! Many children say it's the first time they ever felt love by someone else and by God.

Every year during the third week of November, thousands of volunteers, like me, prepare to collect the shoeboxes brought in by those who pack them. By the time a child is given a box, that box and its recipient have been prayed over numerous times! I honestly believe that God knows which child will receive each box and the Holy Spirit guides what goes in each one. There are numerous testimonies that prove this is true! Some examples include:

- ◆ A child needed shoes to attend school--and the shoes in his box were a perfect fit!
- ◆ One child was visually impaired and needed books in braille and tactile toys. He received the prescribed items in his box! His parents and physician were amazed!

- ◆ The last example I will give is a story about twins. Their mother was late getting them to the distribution location and didn't arrive until the event was over and everything cleaned up. Then mom and her twin boys arrived. The volunteers scrambled and found one box. When they apologized to the mom, she thanked them and told them that the boys had very little, and they were used to sharing. To everyone's amazement, the box held two of everything!

Never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit working in the shoeboxes!



The most important gift given is the Gospel! Each time boxes are given; the child receives the Gospel message. Since 2009, a 12-lesson program has been offered to these children called The Greatest Journey. Over 40.5 million children have attended and 20.2 of them now proclaim that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior! Churches have been started and Bible studies have been formed because of this.

As a year-long volunteer, I am already preparing for National Collection Week. Grace is one of over 4500 drop-off locations in the United States.

This means that we welcome hundreds of individuals and other churches or businesses onto our campus. This gives us an opportunity to pray with them and minister to them while they're here. Last year during collection week, a person dropping off a box walked in, looked around, and said, "I'm so glad you're here! I need you to pray for my sister!" We don't just collect shoeboxes; we also build relationships with our community.

*(Continued on page 2.)*

## Operation Christmas Child *(Continued)*

This month will be Christmas in July, so look in your mailbox and bulletin for information to fill boxes or donate individual items to fill boxes at a later date. If you have any questions, please reach out to me. There is so much more I could say about this wonderful ministry, but I will close with this verse: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* Matthew 28:19.

Operation Christmas Child does this one box at a time!

~ Frieda Guthrie



A Hungry, Little Caterpillar  
is on the way!

Ladies of Grace, please join us for a  
Baby Shower celebrating

**Sara Reeb**

Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm  
Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

Sara is registered at [Babylist.com](http://Babylist.com)  
[www.babylist.com/list/sara-reeb](http://www.babylist.com/list/sara-reeb)

## Coffee or Lunch with Pastor Danny?

**P**astor Danny would like to share a cup of coffee or meal with you—no strings attached! You can sign up to meet with Pastor Danny <https://calendly.com/pastordannygraceknoxville/breakfast-lunch-meeting>

## Where 2 or 3 Are Gathered . . .

**F**riends, Rod and Terri Maples are holding a time of prayer on the **2nd Sunday** of each month at **11:00 a.m.** in the Church Library. Their prayer focus is for the ministries of our church. All who wish to join them are welcome to gather for prayer. All prayerful people are graciously invited to join them. God's kingdom grows with prayer!

The Library is located at the end of the long hallway in the Children's Wing.

## Grace Prayer Team Welcomes Requests

**T**he Grace Prayer Team is constantly at work! If you have a prayer request that you would like prayed over by the Grace Prayer Team, we welcome your requests. Please contact **Kristin McGee** [kdmcgee08@gmail.com](mailto:kdmcgee08@gmail.com) (865-384-9834) or **Ev Brown** [evbrown3@gmail.com](mailto:evbrown3@gmail.com) (757-870-5603). The request will then be passed on to the team. We continue to welcome Prayer Team members as well. If you are interested in praying for the needs submitted by our church family, please contact Kristin or Ev with your interest.



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Grace Lutheran Church - LCMS

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Articles for GraceNet are due by the **10th of each month**  
for the  
following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by the 10th of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.



***New Fall VIA de CRISTO  
 Weekend Coming***

***October 17-20, 2024***

Check out the bulletin board across from the church mail boxes or ask some of the many Grace members who have been through this special life experience: Roland Thompson, Pr. Jake, Dave/Janet Ishee, Brian/Catherine Strobel, Sheila/ Paul Wittke, Craig/Chris Emerson, Pr. Rich, John/Chris McCay, Pr. Steve & Freddy Skov, Don/Nancy Thaemert, Chris/Dina Augusta and others.

What is VIA de CRISTO? It is a Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ." VIA de CRISTO is a method of living your Christian faith as a life style. It begins with a structured three-day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. It is a combined effort of lay people and clergy toward renewal of the church. VIA de CRISTO is the Lutheran expression of other three-day Cursillo-based movements. However, VIA de CRISTO is inter-denominational and welcomes any and all Christians to attend. This is an international movement through all walks of life.



***Congratulations to our Graduating  
 Class of 2024***

Christian Academy of Knoxville:

***Tom Holden***

Farragut High School:

***Alli Duenckel***

***Noah Roettger***

Homeschool:

***Andrew Cole***

Hardin Valley Academy:

***Eva Borchardt***

Pellissippi State Community College:

***Joseph Angelino***

***Patrick Angelino***

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville:

***Rheagan Haynes***

***Katie Natour***

***Sophia Strobel***







7/1	Dina Augustus	7/13	Henry Hannah
7/1	Harvey Booher	7/14	Brennan Cleland
7/1	Jesse Smithey	7/14	Alex DeTrana
7/2	Carrie Cleland	7/16	Eleanor DeTrana
7/2	Genevieve Elseroad	7/16	Michael Ivens
7/2	Craig Emerson	7/16	Todd Roisier
7/3	Emily Bretscher	7/16	Paul Wittke
7/3	Taylor Brown	7/17	Donna Bueckman
7/3	Emberlyn Harper	7/17	Eric Schmidt
7/3	Eric Horlbeck	7/17	Rachel Stock
7/3	Sandi Larson	7/18	Eddrick Weeks
7/3	Rod Maples	7/19	Tom Theilmann
7/3	Juanita Matthews	7/20	Pastor Jake Childers
7/4	Tom Cruise	7/20	Larry Granquist
7/4	J.R. Ray	7/20	Ralph Harness
7/4	Ivonne Robertson	7/20	Joyce Holcomb
7/5	René Mackley	7/20	Pam Rogers
7/5	John Stegner	7/20	Antonio Smith
7/6	Benjamin Muench	7/21	Freia Micha
7/6	Amy Teague	7/24	Linda Roberson
7/6	Bernard Wrasman	7/25	Daniel Keller
7/7	Megan Kleckley	7/26	Elizabeth DeTrana
7/7	Kristen Reinke	7/27	Everett Bloom
7/7	Ella Ross	7/27	Alexandra Roettger
7/8	Daniel Augustus	7/28	Eila Aanestad
7/8	Daniel Schmidt	7/28	Reagan Haase
7/9	Jamie Duenckel	7/28	Jeff Jaekel
7/9	Rick Jones	7/28	Christine McCay
7/9	Bryan Payne	7/28	Holly Mings
7/9	Amy Williams	7/28	Bryon Strickland
7/10	Britta Aanestad	7/29	Holly Blankenship
7/10	Eleanor Anderson	7/29	Breanna Frizzell
7/10	Jani Farr	7/29	LaTina Haynes
7/11	Chip Hannah	7/29	Paul Price
7/11	Lew Stoner	7/30	Cheryl Pipe
7/12	Wendy Butzine	7/30	Darlene Reinke
7/12	Wendy Sterling	7/30	Laura Smithey
7/12	Al Streufert	7/30	Amy Spradlin
7/13	John French	7/31	Matthew Dreke



7/1	Larry & Sylvia Belt (62)
7/1	Rick & Jane Jones (58)
7/1	Charles & Lois Robinson (63)
7/3	Mike & Kelly Masters
7/4	Michael & Morgan McCay
7/4	Bernard & Becky Wrasman
7/6	Everett & Pat Bloom
7/8	David & Kemper Smith
7/10	Pastor Jake & Christina Childers
7/10	Peter & Mary Belle Early (59)
7/12	Paul & Andrea Muench (55)
7/13	Kevin & Erin Kragenbrink
7/15	Philip & Traci Roth
7/16	Mitch & Carrie Fisher
7/20	Jim & Ev Brown (50)
7/20	Mike & Kathy Murphy
7/20	Scott & Brittany Pafford
7/22	Jeff & Amy Spradlin
7/24	Tom & Susan Lewis
7/24	Darlene & Ken Reinke
7/29	Stephen & Rhonda Williams
7/31	Roger & Esther Reckling (58)

## Bible Quiz

**W**hat kind of musical instrument is mentioned in the final poem of Psalms as a means to praise the Lord?

- A. brass
- B. percussion
- C. strings
- D. woodwinds
- E. all of the above



*You can always give without loving, but you can never love without giving.*

~ Various Sources

Answer: E (see Psalms 150:3-5)

## July Children's Curriculum Themes

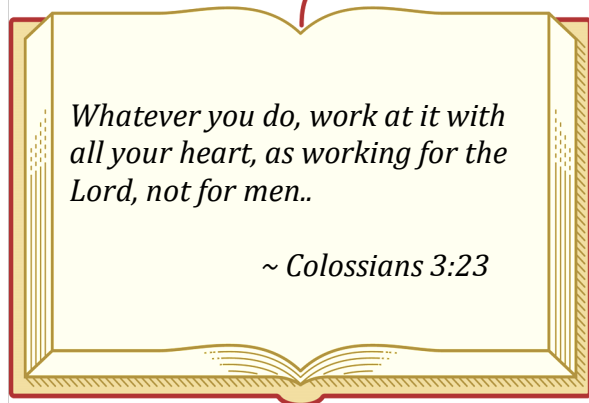
In an attempt to connect the adults and children of Grace just a bit more, I will be letting people know the theme and verse of the week in our children's Sunday school classes. I would love it if the adults would join in memorizing or at least talking about it to the children as they see each other in the halls. Listed below are the themes and scripture for June.

~ Frieda Guthrie

<i><b>DATE</b></i>	<i><b>THEME</b></i>	<i><b>VERSE</b></i>
July 7	<b>God wants us to do what's right.</b>	<i>Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:18)</i>
July 14	<b>We can serve God anywhere.</b>	<i>Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. (Colossians 3:23)</i>
July 21	<b>God wants us to forgive.</b>	<i>Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. (Colossians 3:13)</i>
July 28	<b>God protects us.</b>	<i>God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Psalm 4:13)</i>



### July Scripture of the Month



### Redeeming "Wasted Time"

In *Just Like Jesus*, Max Lucado writes that the average American spends a total of six months waiting at stoplights, eight months opening junk mail, 18 months looking for items we've lost and five years standing in line. All the while, many of us grumble: "What a waste of time! I could be doing something much more important! *Where* are my keys?"

But Lucado suggests that we give these moments to God. Rather than whispering to ourselves, we can speak to God in prayer. "Simple phrases such as 'Thank you, Father,' 'Be sovereign in this hour, O Lord,' 'You are my resting place, Jesus' can turn a commute into a pilgrimage," he writes. "You needn't leave your office or kneel in your kitchen. Just pray where you are. Let the kitchen become a cathedral or the classroom a chapel. Give God your whispering thoughts."

When we do this, "the common becomes uncommon," Lucado adds. What's more, "wasted" time becomes valuable; boring waits become meditative; the lost — your time, if not also your keys — is redeemed.

## LWML EAST TN Zone 2024 Fall Retreat Eagle Rock Camp

7143 Flats Road, Tallassee, TN 37878  
www.eaglerockcamp.com

**September 27, 4:00 pm – September 29, 10:00 am**



### *Joy in the Journey*

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,  
for those who are called according to His purpose.  
(Romans 8:28, ESV)*

**O**ur very own East TN LWML Drama Mama's will be presenting a four-act skit, using various game show formats to provide the setting for the main character, Suzy Christian as she progresses in her spiritual journey. In addition to our skit, four "Joy in the Journey" Bible studies will enrich our own spiritual journeys.

**SUMMARY:** Suzy Christian finds herself on a journey in "The Game of Life". Each game show that she participates in is another step in her spiritual journey, where she faces trials and temptations as well as growth and victory. We see puzzling things happening to Suzy Christian, and she doesn't understand why she is experiencing these puzzling things and trials. But the skit attempts to show how God is using even those difficult experiences in our life for our good and the good of others.

**THEME:** The retreat theme is "*Joy in the Journey*" and the Bible verse is, "*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.*" Romans 8:28, ESV.

**LOCATION:** Eagle Rock Camp is a place for fellowship, fun, learning and soaring views. The wrap-around porches of the Lodge, Bunkhouse, and Dining Hall invite you to soak in the panoramic views and peace that God's creation brings in Tallassee, Tennessee. Come see and experience what LWML EAST TN Zone 2024 Fall Retreat has to offer at Eagle Rock. We know you'll love it.

**REGISTRATION:** Now through September 4, 2024

**REGISTRATION FORMS:** Contact Susan Heitner or  
[www.midsouthlwml.org/web\\_documents/EastTNZoneFall2024RetreatRegistration.pdf](http://www.midsouthlwml.org/web_documents/EastTNZoneFall2024RetreatRegistration.pdf)



## SALTY

**T**his homily is meant to encourage and inspire you to do your part in a world that is unraveling and spiraling downward. What can we do in view of this rapid cultural decline? The answer is found in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where He says to His followers: "You are the salt of the earth." In that statement Jesus is explaining how we can be a blessing in a hurting and broken world: **Be Salty!**

In the Greco-Roman culture salt was highly valued. They called it "white gold." Taxes and wages were often paid in salt. Against this historical backdrop, Jesus called His disciples to embrace four priorities as they lived life in this broken world.

We all know that salt preserves food and protects it from contamination. Before refrigeration was available, salt was commonly used to keep foods from going bad. Salty Christians must be a cleansing antiseptic in any society helping to prevent corruption and to promote the good. To do that properly we must put the Lord Jesus Christ first over everything, over our passions, over our possessions, and sometimes even over other people. The Bible says that we are to be in the world but not of the world. If we are to be salty we must go out of our comfort zone and engage unbelievers in conversation for the sake of the Gospel. (1 Peter 3:15). We are called to be active in good deeds, with a good attitude, and a good testimony of God's mercy and grace which changes lives.

Secondly, salt was a symbol for purity for they said that it came from the sun and the sea. When refined salt is

brilliant white and glistens in the sun. So salty Christians are called to be pure in speech, pure in conduct, pure in attitude, pure in morals. Impurity renders us stagnant but purity makes us useful to God and to others in every way. "That you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work." (Colossians. 1:10).

Thirdly, salt makes things taste better. Salt has an amazing ability to add flavor to foods. So also the Christian is called to effect the world by trying to make life better. We are called to bring hope to the depressed, comfort to the hurting, peace to the worried, clarity to the confused, and life to the dying. We don't want to be "tasteless" Christians. We want to live in such a way as to make the pursuit of God very desirable.

And fourthly, salt makes people thirsty. As salty Christians we are to try and make people thirsty for God—thirsty for Him who is called the Water of Life, the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, the Bible says that *blessed are those who hunger and thirst for Christ's righteousness.* (Matthew 5:6). He is the only One who can truly satisfy people's spiritual hunger and thirst.

And so it's time to get out of the saltshaker and into the world for Jesus.

~ Pastor Steve Skov

## HealthLine

**P**lease note that everything written in this column will be backed by research, various studies and facts. There will be no personal opinions.

~ Sheila Wittke



## Healing with Magnetic Waves

**A**t a Spring Medical Conference, Dr. William Pawluk, M.D., presented a lecture on the effectiveness of Pulsed Electromagnetic Field (PEMF) therapy for reducing inflammation by stimulating the Adenosine Receptor (a molecule that regulates tissue function in the body). PEMF is a form of magnetic therapy whereby magnetic waves are pulsed into the body. This can penetrate deeply, but very safely into the body's tissues. The PEMF therapy can target the body as a whole using a PEMF mat; or it can be localized to a specific region aiming to improve overall health and well-being. PEMF therapy is beneficial for a wide range of conditions, from pain management to heart disease, bone disorders, sleep quality, migraines, multiple sclerosis, and neurological disorders. The human body tolerates magnetic therapy very well because PEMF interacts with the natural ionic charges in the body. Adequate amounts of electrolytes (such as salt) are necessary for PEMF to deliver maximum benefits. PEMF therapy has been used in many physician's offices for over 30 years with much success, such as: fractured bones healed at twice the normal rate, concussion symptoms alleviated with a few treatments, and post-surgical healing boosted with pain being eased. This therapy has become invaluable to treating slow-healing wounds and ulcers. There are very few adverse effects from PEMF therapy, and those that do appear are usually mild and can be minimized with the adjustment of the magnetic wave intensity. Many physicians recommend that this therapy will become a standard of care for post-surgical and post-fracture healing.



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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and  
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

TO:



**Connect ~ Grow ~ Serve**

