



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

September 2024

Focus Ministry

Grace Children's Ministry

In the halls of the children's wing here at Grace, there is a C.S. Lewis quote that says, "Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work." Children have always had a special place in my heart. That's why I feel blessed beyond measure to be the Director of Children's Ministry here at Grace! At the end of the day, my goal is for every child to know that they are loved by their Grace family, by me, and most importantly, Jesus!

When asked to write this article, I had no idea what to say or where to start; and let's be honest, I didn't want to talk about myself. So, I decided to highlight the programs I oversee and the lovely volunteers who are willing to serve the Lord, their church, and the families and children of Grace. When you see the volunteers listed, feel free to thank them for all they do.

The Children's Ministry covers children from birth to 5th grade. Before a child is born, they are signed up for our *Cradle Roll* program. This program is organized by **Sandy Heath**. She prepares the packets and gifts that are given to the families of the newborns. Sandy then finds sponsors who will give the families cards, pamphlets, and books supporting them in the child's development both physically and spiritually.

We have a great *Nursery* filled with staff who love babies and toddlers as much as I do! They lovingly care for children during the Sunday services and any other special events that may occur. Our nursery coordinator, **Brenda Gaddis**, keeps everyone scheduled, trained, and everything germ free.

Our large event this summer was *Vacation Bible School*. **Marlene Landon** (who has volunteered in Children's Ministries for 35 years) once again fearlessly jumped in to lead it! She's organized curriculum and crafts, as well as recruited volunteers. Planning and preparation began in January, and during the week of July 15-18, we welcomed 150 children onto Grace's campus. Approximately 75 percent of the children attending were not Grace

members, and we have many children who return year after year! It's a great testimony to the heart of the volunteers and to the program itself.

On Sunday mornings, you may have heard our children's choir, *Joy-Full Noise*, sing at the 8:00 or 9:30 service. **Deb Wolfe** leads them in various songs and sometimes they partner with the adult choir. One of my favorite sounds is to hear children singing and this group does not disappoint! Check

them out on December 8th at 5:00 for our annual Christmas program.

Our mid-week program is called *Joy Group*, which meets on Wednesday nights during the church service. We have various Bible lessons, do crafts, and play games. Our summer lesson was based on the creation story (using Legos) for the younger class, 3-year-olds through 2nd grade; and the 3rd through 5th grade class covered the Old Testament. *Joy Group* is led by **me, LaTina Haynes, Rachel Stock, and Rich Cole**.



(Continued on page 2).

Children's Ministry *(Continued from page 1)*

Sundays are our busiest days. From 9:30 to 10:40 is our *Sunday School* time. We have classes available for 2-year-olds through 5th grade. Our curriculum covers a great mix of Old and New Testament and in three years, we will have covered the entire Bible. This is a fast-paced class with music, games, snacks, and of course the lesson. These classes are led by **LaTina Haynes, Linda Dreke, Aubrey Elseroad, Margie Frizzell, Rebekah Jones, Brianna Ross, Anna Wilson, Jessica Abraham, Alison Vick, Andrew and Alana Harter, Amy Teague, and Leah Weeks**. During the summer, they took a well-deserved break and returned on Rally Day, August 11, ready to go. During the summer, we combine classes and parents volunteer to teach. Overall, they have 46 collective years of service here at Grace!

During the 11:00 service, we have *Children's Church*. Children aged 4-years-old through 3rd grade are dismissed before the sermon. They receive an age-appropriate Bible lesson and return to the service during the announcements. It is led by **Kristine Meade, Anna Wilson, Laura Big Eagle, Margie Frizzell, and Susan Klemmer**.

I have other volunteer staff not yet mentioned. **Hank Jones** leads our monthly Sunday school opening. He gives

a lesson, leads music, and ends with a magic trick. His patience knows no end. He has been leading this for at least 15 years! **Becky Strickland** is our snack guru! She stealthily stocks the downstairs classrooms with the all-important snacks! Combined with her teaching Sunday school, she has been a volunteer for over 10 years! **Cydne Albers** is our Sunday School secretary. She has held this position for over 25 years! She takes weekly attendance and helps in other areas as needed.

It is my joy and honor to work alongside everyone mentioned above! There are never enough words to express what they mean to me! Most are long-term volunteers, serving for over 5 years or more! Their love and dedication for God and the children of Grace cannot be beat! I enjoy being able to work alongside them and provide everything they need to make each program successful. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for any of the programs mentioned above or would like to volunteer during the week, feel free to contact me anytime! I have an open-door policy and would love to talk and pray with you.

~ Frieda Guthrie

Grace Prayer Team Welcomes Requests

The 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 (865-384-9834) or **Ev Brown** ebbrown3@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.

Coffee or Lunch with Pastor Danny?

Pastor 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/>

Circuit Convocation

Saturday, September 28, 10:00-5:00

**Praise Lutheran Church
315 Southdowne Drive, Maryville, TN**

Join us as we gather to worship and learn about area LCMS Ministries, including our very own: **Holy Smokers, Lutheran Disaster Relief, and Deaconess Christina Childers**. There will be a meal at noon and a Worship Service at 4:00. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tennessee Right to Life Fundraising Banquet

Tuesday, October 15—6:00 p.m.

**Bridgewater Place, 205 Bridgewater Road
Knoxville, TN**

As a sponsor, Grace has a 10-seat table. If you would like a complimentary ticket, contact the church office: awilson@visitgrace.org.

Anniversary Luncheon

IN HONOR OF THOSE MARRIED
50 PLUS YEARS
WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

SEPTEMBER

SAT 21 NOON

Grace Lutheran Church
Family Life Center

RSVP to AdriAnne by September 11
865-776-9804, aakothe@gmail.com



New Fall VIA de CRISTO Weekend Coming

October 17-20, 2024



What is the purpose of VIA de CHRISTO? VIA de CHRISTO is based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on VIA de CHRISTO itself, but on the local church. The objective of the movement is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, and communities. It is based on solid Lutheran teachings.

VIA de CHRISTO is intended for lay people from every walk of life, for pastors, for people who live strong and active lives in Christ, and also for those who seek to be renewed and strengthened in their relationship with Christ and the people around them. VIA de CHRISTO is open to married couples, and single men and women. Prayerfully consider attending this fall retreat for a renewal of your walk with the Lord.

For applications, see the bulletin board near the church mailboxes. Talk to some of our members who have experienced this weekend: Roland Thompson, Dave/Janice Ishee, Brian/Catherine Strobel, Sheila/Paul Wittke, Craig/Chris Emerson, Pastor Rich, John/Chris McCay, Pastor Steve/Freddy Skov, Pastor Jake, Don/Nancy Thaemert, Chris/Dina Augustus and others.

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

9/1	Fisher Smith	9/21	Jessica Turner
9/3	Erica Lewis Gambrell	9/22	Nathan Bretscher
9/3	Barbara Schmitt	9/22	Isaac Hembree
9/4	Darryl Mackley	9/22	Shirley Wolfram
9/4	Kim Kleckley	9/22	Charles Vesser
9/5	Debbie Bretscher	9/23	Jeff Behnke
9/5	Ruth Couch	9/23	Debbie Booher
9/5	Craig Schmitt	9/23	Kathy Pankow
9/6	Charlotte Cole	9/23	Nick Frizzell
9/6	Remi Hicks	9/23	Mary Krempasky
9/7	Drew Martin	9/23	Denise Hart
9/7	Mia Borchardt	9/24	Chris Augustus
9/9	Carmita Wright	9/24	Andrew Cole
9/10	Jennifer Kessler	9/25	AdriAnne Kothe
9/11	Cooper Turner	9/25	Becky Wrasman
9/11	Carmie Lee	9/26	Charlie Stine
9/12	Ava Kothe	9/27	Sherri Buchanan
9/13	Sheila Brill	9/28	Lauren Strickland
9/13	Stephen Smith	9/28	Robert Schmidt
9/14	Sophia Strobel	9/28	Maddie Kreiss
9/15	Melissa Hardin	9/29	Kellie Sexton
9/15	Brad Moore	9/29	Mia Jones
9/16	Suzi Schmidt	9/29	Laci Brill
9/18	Ashley Cruise	9/29	Pastor Roger Reckling
9/19	Connie Pinchak	9/29	Jan Grebe
9/20	Erik Jones	9/30	Andrew Brill
9/20	Maureen Campbell	9/30	Carol Neubauer
9/21	Jack Buchanan	9/30	Nicole Spradlin



SEPTEMBER Anniversaries

9/1	Steve & Melissa Hardin
9/1	Gary & Joretta Schneider (68)
9/2	Michael & Amanda Newport
9/2	Richard & Susan Wright
9/3	Mike & Sheila Donnelly (58)
9/3	Joan & Allen Scraggs (58)
9/6	Larry & Carol Voorhees (54)
9/10	Maureen & Ken Campbell
9/11	George & Ruby Roettger (53)
9/11	Randy & Jenni Wylie
9/15	Wayne & Laura Sikora
9/19	Steve & Kathy Crum (54)
9/21	Ivonne & Ken Robertson
9/24	Don & Nancy Thaemert
9/24	Erik & Kristen Walker
9/26	Jeanine & Antonio Smith
9/29	Allen & Mary Schultz (51)
9/29	Lisa & Allen Smith



September Scripture of the Month

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

~ Matthew 19:14, NIV

Bible Quiz

When Jesus asks a Samaritan woman for a drink, at which site related to the ancient Israelites is he resting?

- A. the edge of the Jordan River
- B. beside the Red Sea
- C. Jacob's well
- D. the Pool of Bethesda



Answer: C (see John 4:6)

September 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 August.

<i>DATE</i>	<i>THEME</i>	<i>VERSE</i>
September 1	God helps us when we're afraid.	<i>He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:3-4)</i>
September 8	God gives us what we need.	<i>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23:5-6)</i>
September 15	God is patient with us.	<i>The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters. (Psalm 23:1-2)</i>
September 22	Honor God by obeying Him.	<i>Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. (Deuteronomy 6 :5-6)</i>
September 29	God tells us how to respect others.	<i>Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor. (Matthew 19:18-19)</i>



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a year-long effort for children around the world who would not otherwise receive gifts for Christmas. Please consider filling a shoebox(es) during 2024 to bless a child. If you don't want to fill the box yourself, you can contribute funds for a box and we'll fill it for you. If you don't know what to put in a box, there's information in the Children's wing on suggestions for items. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Frieda Guthrie at childrensmin@visit-grace.org or Paul Guthrie at pgvint3@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry! Boxes are available in the Children's wing and in the Family Life Center Lobby.



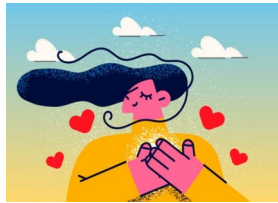


LWML EAST TN Zone 2024 Fall Retreat Eagle Rock Camp

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)*

Our 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

How Things Got to Be as They Are

I enjoy knowing how things got to be as they are. Many puzzling things become clear.

As the western Roman Empire fell Greek learning was largely lost to the West. Islamic scholars in the east and the Byzantine Empire preserved Greek learning. As Arabs took over Spain they brought libraries with Greek documents. When the Arabs were pushed out of Europe later, those libraries fell to Western scholars and Greek learning was again available. The Crusades also captured documents by Greek authors that had been in Islamic hands. Later the Byzantine Empire fell and Greek documents made their way west.

There was saying in the Middle Ages that, *"Theology is the queen of the sciences, and philosophy is her handmaiden."* Theologians eagerly mixed Greek philosophy with theology. Roman Catholics leaned on Aristotle. People like Zwingli made use of Plato. The thinking of Aristotle heavily influenced Roman Catholic teaching about the Lord's Supper so that bread and wine were believed to be changed into the body and blood of Christ. Zwingli was very much influenced by Plato and referred to baptism and the Lord's Supper as only outward ordinances representing inner spiritual realities. That is something you may hear today from Zwingli's spiritual followers. Noteworthy is that excitement over Greek learning meant pre-Christian Greek philosophy became a framework for Christian theology among some.

Plato believed spiritual things within our minds are reality. Material things are only illusions. Our physical bodies are inhabited by an evil twin of ourselves that pulls us to do things we know are bad for us. It creates harmful desires in us. Death is a friend because it will free our good soul from our evil bodies and their troubling urges. The people of Corinth had absorbed this thinking over four centuries. Then Paul came proclaiming Jesus and His resurrection. His good news for them in 1 Corinthians 15 was that they would be getting new bodies for eternity—no separation from bodies to reunite with the great world soul as they had hoped. Yet, the Gospel was turned people's hearts and Paul built a congregation there.

Zwingli applied Plato to baptism and the Lord's Supper. He considered both only material things, and therefore of no value, except that Jesus commands them. The important thing was for someone to think about faith and remembering what Jesus did.

The New Testament says the same benefits we receive by faith are given also through baptism: rebirth (Titus 3:5), forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38, 22:16), bestowal of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13), membership in God's people—the church (1 Corinthians 12:13), salvation (1 Peter 3:21), new life now and the promise of the resurrection from the dead (Romans 6:3-11). For Zwingli and his descendants baptism is a command to keep. For Lutherans it is an act by which God blesses us with His grace and makes us His.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

HealthLine

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

~ Sheila Wittke



Cure for High Blood Pressure

According to a study published in *"Nature Genetics"*, British researchers have identified a gene variant that causes a common type of high blood pressure and a way to cure it. A tiny nodule present in one in 20 people with hypertension produces a hormone, aldosterone, that controls the amount of salt in the body. Researchers discovered that a gene variant in some of the nodules leads to a large, but intermittent, overproduction of the aldosterone hormone. Too much aldosterone causes an overload of salt and drives up blood pressure. Individuals with hypertension caused by an excess of aldosterone are resistant to successful treatment with commonly used drugs for hypertension, putting them at an increased risk for heart attack and stroke. Researchers found that surgically removing one of the two adrenal glands cures hypertension, even severe cases, with no further treatment required. An individual can live with only one adrenal gland. Also, an adrenalectomy is the surgical removal of one or both adrenal glands, and is done if the adrenal glands make too many hormones, or if there is cancer in the adrenal gland. Researcher Morris Brown, M.D., of Queen Mary University of London said, *"Because the aldosterone nodules in the study were so small, we are now investigating whether momentary cauterization of the nodule is an alternative to surgical removal of the whole gland."*

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E-mail address: glc@visitgrace.org
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

