



# GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

June 2021

## *Will You Make 50 Years?*

**R**ecently two famous billionaire couples had a breakup of their marriages. Jeff Bezos, of Amazon fame, and Mackenzie Bezos were married in 1993, had four children and were married for 26 years. Jeff Bezos currently ranks as the richest person in the world, despite his divorce. Reportedly he has a net worth of more than \$200 billion. Obviously it was not money problems that caused their breakup.

Bill Gates, of Microsoft fame, and Melinda Gates married in 1994 and had three children. They were married for 27 years. Currently Gates is the 4<sup>th</sup> richest person in the world at something like \$144 billion net worth. Financial issues again were not the culprit in dividing them.

Money issues may make one of the top five issues that bring on divorce but it is nowhere near the top. The number one issue leading to divorce is a lack of commitment. Six percent of marriages will make it to their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Of course, this takes in the fact that a spouse may die before they reach that anniversary. The *average* marriage in America lasts 8 years.

The way the Bible describes marriage greatly differentiates from what we see across the American landscape. Our culture emphasizes feelings/romance over commitment/covenant. The Bible's take on marriage in Ephesians 5:22-33 is so countercultural that it is offensive to modern ears. Wives submitting to their husbands as to the Lord are likened to the church submitting to Christ. And husbands loving their wives as they love their own bodies are likened to Christ loving the church and sacrificing Himself for it.

The Christian marriage then is to be characterized by commitment, sacrifice and selflessness. The joy of marriage is that you have someone who is for you and on your team. No one and nothing comes before your spouse. You are to be mutually submissive to one another. Self-centeredness is marital cancer and is to be fought against. We are to love one another, forgive one another, and serve one another as Jesus has done for us.

Every marriage has its ups and downs. Frankly there are times when you may hate your spouse. People married 50 years and longer have told me that they had times when they were extremely angry at their spouse and their marriage was on shaky ground. But the Holy Spirit empowers us to love and forgive and that is what happened to these couples as love flourished once again.

In my own marital counseling I have seen that the first year of marriage (regardless of whether they had been living together for some years) is the most vulnerable to breakup. If they would stay together for five more years things generally improved greatly. Couples who have put their children as a priority instead of their spouses are also vulnerable to divorce.

Jeff Bezos and Bill Gates were self-centered and therefore unfaithful. Neither of them submits to Christ. They live for themselves and follow their feelings. Marriage for them so many others is about meeting their needs.

For us, who are in Christ, God has given us in marriage, a helper and a friend. What makes marriage great and lasting is that we have a best friend in our spouse and an even greater and mutual friend in Jesus Christ.

Will you make 50 years? I hope so! Keep your spouse as a priority and keep on serving one another and imitate Jesus, and I guarantee your marriage will flourish.



~ Pastor Rich

## LWML News

**T**he **Lutheran Women in Mission** will be meeting in Convention this June 25 - 27 in Lexington, KY, to choose Grant Recipients and a new National Goal for 2021-2023. Nine ladies from Grace are planning to attend and be inspired by all the Mission stories from around the world. Our own Susanna Beeler will be a Young Woman Representative at this Convention and will be treated to special events for service and connecting with other young women from our area to serve the Lord together. Thank you for helping us collect old eye glasses to take to this Convention to be refurbished and help others in need.

Recently, our local **LWML** group sent donations to Restoration House, 2nd Harvest Food Bank, Random Acts of Flowers, and Smokey Mountain Service Dogs. We appreciated the suggestions to help others in our area and spread God's love in our own community. We will meet again on **June 12 at 10 a.m.** in the Grace Fellowship Hall to hear Andrea Muench's mission stories from her time in Russia. You're **ALL** invited to join us for a cup of coffee and fellowship.



## Lutheran Public Radio

**D**o you love the old hymns, chorales, and sacred music? You can livestream it on your computer via :

[lutheranpublicradio.org](http://lutheranpublicradio.org)

You can also use Amazon Alexa ("Play Lutheran Public Radio") or get an app for Ipad or iPhone, Android from Tunein, iTunes, or any other app search. Ad free music with a message of Christian music down through the ages seven days a week.



### UPDATE:

*We will no longer be offering the opportunity for monthly drive-thru Communion as we return to normal services following COVID.*



## 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** at [kdmcgee08@gmail.com](mailto:kdmcgee08@gmail.com) (865-384-9834) or **Ev Brown** ([evbrown@gmail.com](mailto:evbrown@gmail.com) (865-870-5603)). 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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Articles for GraceNet are due by the **1st 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 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.*

# GRACE STEWARDSHIP

🕒 TIME    🌱 TALENT    💰 TREASURE

## *Good Stewards for our Good Shepherd*

***The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*** -Psalm 23:1 (ESV)

Psalm 23 portrays God as our Good Shepherd in a moving illustration of how He protects and cares for His flock in this life and for eternity. The text of this well-known and loved passage serves as the foundation for countless sermons, studies, prayers and memorial services. It is regarded as a Christian favorite for the comfort and hope it brings, and many reading this article may be able to recite it from memory. But why stop there?

***The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it...*** -Psalm 24:1 (NIV)

David's next Psalm begins with a verse simple in its straightforwardness, yet more complex in its application, and certainly worthy of our reflection. God is acknowledged as the sovereign Creator, holding authority over His entire creation. The Genesis account reveals much about mankind which still holds true for us today: male and female were created in God's own image, Adam was instructed to work and provide order by taking care of the land and naming the animals, and Adam and Eve were commanded to be fruitful and multiply to fill the earth and subdue it. Psalm 24:1 both confirms that all Creation belongs to God and reinforces that our role is not 'owner', but remains as a 'steward', or a person appointed or employed to look after, provide order, manage and care for another's property. Understanding this concept of Biblical Stewardship and maintaining this perspective is central to who we are and what we've been called to accomplish in life and ministry.

***Connect. Grow. Serve.*** -Grace Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Like Psalm 24:1, this statement is seemingly direct, and has become part of our culture through weekly affirmation during worship. Yet as with all relational concepts, executing our mission well can become difficult when we dig deeper into the detailed "hows" of living out our roles as members of our congregation, our community, and the larger Christian Church. We often struggle when faced with situations where we must humbly admit our lack of control: when we feel overwhelmed by limited time or energy to complete our demanding to-do lists; when we lack clarity as to our 'purpose' or 'calling' in our personal life or career; when we lose or lack what we consider 'our' possessions or financial assets. By refocusing our perspective to align with Biblical Stewardship, we are reminded that God is in control, and we take comfort in knowing we can call on Him for guidance, direction, and strength to carry out the work He would have us do for His glory.

### **Psalm 24:1 Summer Workshop Series**

The Mission of the Stewardship Ministry is to equip God's people at Grace to effectively and efficiently use the resources God has entrusted to us for His purposes. Our team is here to provide informative, practical workshops that will help members serve God with the time, talent and treasure He has blessed us with. This summer, we will focus on addressing common challenges that often hold us back from fulfilling service: not enough time, not knowing where we fit in ministry, or not enough money. Join us as we explore ways to jump these hurdles and better understand how you were uniquely made to Connect, Grow, and Serve at Grace, and live out the mission God has given us!

### **Save the Dates!**

**June 27 Time Management:** Getting started on managing your time.

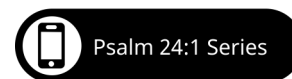
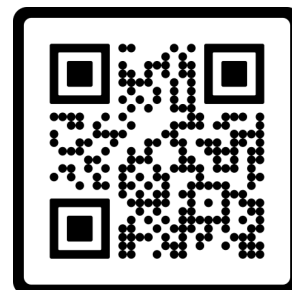
*Come check it out if you don't think you have time to serve God because you're living with a chaotic schedule.*

**July 18 Spiritual Gifts:** Getting started on using the unique talents God has given you.

*When someone says "serve God" do you want to hide in a corner because you're afraid you'll be asked to do something you're not good at or don't enjoy? It's time you find out how to serve God in a way that utilizes your unique skills and interests.*

**August 22 Budgeting Basics:** Getting started on telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went.

*Are you constantly concerned about money? Come learn how to make it work for you and bless others instead of letting it worry you.*





6/1	Taylor Martin	6/18	Kelly Dodson
6/1	Michael Newport	6/18	Scott Pafford
6/1	Brandi Shipwash	6/19	Steve Crum
6/3	Isabelle Meade	6/19	Mason Meyers
6/4	Ursula Hays	6/20	Dan Kleckley
6/4	Sally Parkman	6/20	Kelly Masters
6/6	Whitney Kaul	6/21	John Cleland
6/6	Benjamin McCay	6/21	Mitch List
6/6	Paul Pankow	6/22	Stanton Oster
6/7	Zachary Calcutt	6/22	Jenny Payne
6/7	Carol Haase	6/22	Erin Strickland
6/8	Ryan Harter	6/23	Bev Knipp
6/8	Jonathon Wooden	6/24	Landon Cleland
6/9	Larry Belt	6/25	Becky Daenzer
6/11	William Dreke	6/25	Tom Glisson
6/11	Barbara Frizzell	6/26	Todd Duenckel
6/11	Logan Mackley	6/26	Ezekiel Farrabollini
6/11	Ella Roettger	6/26	Anza Solomon
6/11	George Roettger	6/27	Heather Hatfield
6/11	Spencer Smiley	6/27	Heidi Hicks
6/12	Stanton Elseroad	6/27	Marissa Scheibe
6/12	Stephanie Elseroad	6/27	Quentin Smith
6/12	Donna Maier	6/27	Luke Smithy
6/12	Kyle Theilmann	6/28	Joy Akeley
6/14	Ian Butler	6/28	Patrick Buchanan
6/14	Linda Schmid	6/28	Kellye Glisson
6/15	Arlene Fisk	6/28	Joan Scraggs
6/16	Stuart Elseroad	6/28	Carol Synstelien
6/16	Bethany Piehl	6/29	Bill Couch
6/16	Derek Wilson	6/29	Ethan Hoppe
6/17	Jason Bangert	6/30	David Williams
6/17	Mary Holden		

6/2	Simon & April Calcutt
6/3	Lynette & John Duncan
6/3	Sarah & Josh Hunter
6/6	Chris & Dina Augustus
6/6	Byron & Becky Strickland
6/7	Bob & Patricia Strickland
6/8	Jason & Caroline Bangert
6/10	Timothy & Shirley Wolfram
6/11	Bill & Ruth Couch
6/11	Pastor Rich & Susie Elseroad
6/12	Stanton & Aubrey Elseroad
6/12	John & Deborah Rowlands
6/13	Cory & Michelle Mollenhour
6/13	Scott & Laura Scraggs
6/14	Jim & Elizabeth Blank
6/14	Rev. Phil & Kathy Bohlken
6/14	Melinda & Jacob Curtis
6/14	Linda & Jeff Jaekel
6/14	John & Christine McCay
6/14	Nathan & Lisa Scheibe
6/14	Eugene & Arlene Stern
6/15	Larry & Carolee Granquist
6/16	Lee & Pam Baker
6/16	David & Leslie Poker
6/21	Joe & Bev Knipp
6/22	Larry & Cydne Albers
6/22	Casey & Tyler Bailey
6/22	John & Carrie Cleland
6/22	Andrew & Alana Harter
6/24	David & Sandi Larson
6/25	Taylor & Dylan Martin
6/26	Troy & Cai Shafer
6/27	Brent & Caitlin Kothe
6/30	Stuart & Annie Elseroad

## June Scripture of the Month

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.*

~ James 1:5

## Bible Quiz

**C**omplete this proverb: "Like snow in \_\_\_\_\_ or rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool."

- A. springtime
- B. summer
- C. seedtime
- D. autumn



*Answer: B (see Proverbs 26:1, ESV)*



## June 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

DATE	THEME	VERSE
June 6	Obey God	<i>So be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in all the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess. (Deuteronomy 5:32-33)</i>
June 13	Pray for God's direction.	<i>If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)</i>
June 20	Honesty is important to God.	<i>The Lord detests lying lips, but He delights in men who are truthful. (Proverbs 12:22)</i>
June 27	God uses hard times to help us grow.	<i>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)</i>



## Operation Christmas Child

Since COVID so rudely interrupted this year, we are revamping our "20 in 20" campaign for 2021. Boxes can be donated year round, there are updates on how to pay, and we are ready to help with any questions you may have about this ministry. Don't feel like packing a shoebox? We will gladly accept donations for any items you would like to donate towards a box. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Frieda Guthrie at [childrens-min@visitgrace.org](mailto:childrens-min@visitgrace.org) or Paul Guthrie at [pgvint3@gmail.com](mailto:pgvint3@gmail.com)

~ Blessings,

Paul and Frieda Guthrie





## Vacation Bible School 2021

July 26-29

9:00 a.m. — Noon

Ages 3 years old—5th grade

We need children to attend and people of all ages to volunteer. For volunteers, we need story tellers, music leaders, craft leaders, and a decorator. Childcare is available for volunteers. To register, please go to [www.visitgrace.org](http://www.visitgrace.org) For more information, you may contact Frieda Guthrie at [childrensmin@visitgrace.org](mailto:childrensmin@visitgrace.org)

## 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



## Supplements Fight COVID-19 Cheap Drug Cuts COVID Death Risk by 80 Percent

**A** study that was published in the journal, "Nutrition," found that supplements including vitamins C and D are a safe, effective, and economical means of keeping COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases at bay. Zinc and DHA (docosahexaenoic acid), an omega-3 fatty acid, are also important. Adrian Gombart of the Linus Pauling Institute stated that the problem is simply that people are not getting enough of these nutrients. This could ultimately destroy an individual's resistance to infections. He urged taking a daily multivitamin along with at least 200 additional milligrams of vitamin C, and a total of 2,000 IU of vitamin D.

A recent study from Liverpool University found that Ivermectin, an inexpensive drug that treats head lice, reduces the risk of dying from COVID-19 by 80 percent in hospitalized patients. Only 8 out of 573 patients treated with Ivermectin died, as opposed to 44 out of 510 patients who took a placebo. An earlier study found that Ivermectin, which is a prescription antiparasitic drug that can cost less than \$20, eliminated all of the virus from the body within 48 hours of taking a single dose. The research is currently awaiting peer review before being published. However, there are currently many physicians who are prescribing Ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19.

## *The Same Mighty Power*

**P**eople sometimes said I just had to go with them to a special rally because the speaker was really on fire and so full of the Holy Spirit.

See, though, what St. Paul wrote about God at work in us. *“I pray that the perception of your mind may be enlightened so you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the glorious riches of His inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power to (toward, in) us who believe, according to the working of His vast strength. He demonstrated this power in the Messiah by raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavens.”* (Ephesians 1:18-20, see also Ephesians 3:20.)

Who is it that was involved in raising Jesus from the dead and is also at work in us who believe? “...concerning His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who was a descendant of David according to the flesh and who has been declared to be the powerful Son of God by the resurrection from the dead according to the Spirit of holiness.” “Spirit of holiness” is an expression meaning “Holy Spirit.” (Bauer, Arndt & Gingrich, [A Greek-English Lexicon](#)..., ἁγιωσύνη. Quotation: Romans 1:3-4) The mighty power that raised Jesus from the dead is the Holy Spirit and He is also at work in you with that same mighty power!

At about this point we ask where are the visible manifestations of that power. We do not see miracles or healings. But, consider for a moment what the New Testament says about what we are and what the Spirit does in us.

*“Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I tell you about these things in advance—as I told you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”* (Galatians 5:19-21) Have any of these things ever gotten you into trouble and caused you regret? Have you ever wished one or more of these were not so apparent in your life?

The Spirit of God shows Himself in us through quiet things that make us different. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control.”* (Galatians 5:22-23) Have you ever wished for more of any of these? Have you ever been hurt because you had too much of any one of these?

Often God’s Spirit is at work in us doing quiet things that are big changes in us. A man I knew said he used to be quick to punch anyone who got in his way. But, he began worshiping in church every week and others noticed a change in him. God’s Spirit was changing him from the inside, and others noticed.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

## *Summer Youth Opportunities*

### ***Youth Pool Party—June 6, 2021, Crestwood Hills Recreation Center—1:00-4:00 p.m.***

Youth, come and enjoy fun in the sun! \$5 per person. Please RSVP to Ashley Meyers.

### ***Middle School Summer Serve—June 9-11, 2021***

Our Middle Schoolers will be partnering with local Knoxville organizations to serve our city. We will be staying at Grace and spending time bonding, worshiping, and learning between serving others. To sign up, contact DCE Ashley Myers at [youthministry@visitgrace.org](mailto:youthministry@visitgrace.org).

### ***High School Mission Trip—July 11-17, 2021, Copperhill, TN***

Our High Schoolers will be doing renovation and repair work in impoverished communities. We will be staying at a high adventure camp and enjoying fun activities between serving others. If you would like to sponsor a student or make a donation, please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church with “Youth Mission Trip” in the memo line.

***Please pray for our students as we prepare to serve!!***

*JUNE 20, 2021*

# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER  
HAS BESTOWED ON US, THAT WE SHOULD BE  
CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD! **1JOHN3:1NKJV**

Grace Lutheran Church-LCMS  
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E-mail address: [glc@visitgrace.org](mailto:glc@visitgrace.org)  
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and  
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)  
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)  
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

TO:



*"Connect ~ Grow ~ Serve"*