



# GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

August 2023

## Jesus in the Movies

If you go to the movies today, stream them or watch them on cable TV you are likely to be besieged by vulgarity, extreme violence and a promotion of LGBTQ+ themes. Many films feature non-stop usage of the “f word.” Thankfully there is a lot of variety and truly some inspiring films. In this article I want to mention three films that truly moved me and involved Jesus and our faith in Him.

*“The Chosen”* is a TV series which depicts Jesus and His disciples. It began back in 2017. It takes liberties while sketching out the personalities of the various disciples and their interactions with each other and Jesus. I really like the way Jesus is portrayed.

For instance, Matthew, the tax collector, who Jesus calls to follow him is shown to be a very odd man and more an academic type in contrast to the fishermen. His mannerisms and less manly posture contrast especially with Peter and John. He could be seen as on the spectrum. He is most loveable and is part of these disciples who all have their quirks, but all are enamored with Jesus. It also has Mary Magdalene as a main character who joins the other disciples in following Jesus.

One scene in the last episode of the first year that truly thrilled me dealt with Jesus’ encounter with the woman at the well (John 4). The portrayal of Jesus as He reveals He is the Messiah and how He treats this woman I found to be extremely stirring.

You can see the Chosen for free by just Googling where to find it. It is also on Amazon’s streaming service.

The second movie is the *“Jesus Revolution.”* It is about the spiritual movement in the 1970s that brought “hippies” and thousands upon thousands of young people to Christ. The three main characters are Lonnie Frisbee

(played by Jonathan Roumie, the actor who plays Jesus in *The Chosen*), Chuck Smith and Greg Laurie, a pastor who is still going strong today.

Regardless of what you think about the theology of the movement you have to be amazed at the size of this revival. Music played a huge role as well as more authentic preaching and teaching. Calvary Chapel churches came out of this revolution. It was a world-wide phenomenon helping countless young people come out of a drug culture and addiction.

The final movie is, *“The Sound of Freedom.”* This small budget movie is the true story of Tim Ballard played by Jim Caviezel, who played Jesus in *The Passion of the Christ*. It is about sex trafficking of children especially in South America. It is a harrowing and dramatic rescue of this little girl enslaved and used by pedophiles. The emotional theme for the entire movie is: “God’s children are not for sale.”

According to current statistics one million children are trafficked for the sex trade or as enslaved workers every year. It is a global problem. Thailand and India are in the top five for child prostitution. Two thirds of all human trafficking take place in Asia.

The movie has soared at the box office earning over \$100 million to date. It has become controversial for leftists linking it to the QAnon political conspiracy movement. I was shocked by a dear friend who said that Jim Caviezel was all wrapped up in the QAnon movement. I didn’t even know about QAnon and I had to look it up. I am a fan of Caviezel and believe him to be an honest and true brother in Christ. I think this is too important a film to miss!



~ Pastor Rich

**Pil-grim-age**

"Time spent intentionally seeking Jesus"  
 Take 3 days to spend time seeking Jesus...  
 The world will still be here when you get back"



**When: October 19-22, 2023**

**The VIA DE CRISTO weekend is a time to focus on Jesus, God's GRACE to us working through fellow Christians. It literally means "Way of Christ"**

**What can I expect?** You will hear, experience, feel God's GRACE in you and how it can work in our everyday lives.

**Are you up to a "spiritual challenge"?** (Only you can answer)

**What is expected of me?** You should come with an open mind and heart so the Holy Spirit can reach you.

**Is VIA DE CRISTO Lutheran?** YES, it is founded in Lutheran theology and solid scripture.

If you are interested in learning more, check out the bulletin board across from the church mailboxes in the hall. Talk to someone who has experienced this special weekend: Craig/Chris Emerson, Paul/Sheila Wittke, Pastor Steve/ Fredrica Skov, Pastor Rich, John/Chris McCay, Don/Nancy Thaemert among many others.

**Parents' Day Out—Fall 2023**

*Now taking registrations for Fall 2023*

*Starting Date: September 5*

*Classes available: 2s, 3s and Pre-K*

*Cost \$160 per month*

*You do not have to be a member to attend*

*Email: carolinabl4@yahoo.com*

**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** ([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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9076 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923  
 Phone: (865) 691-2823 Fax: (865) 691-4895  
 E-mail: [glc@visitgrace.org](mailto:glc@visitgrace.org)  
 Reverend Richard M. Elseroad, Senior Pastor  
 Reverend Danny Anderson, Associate Pastor  
 Reverend Jake Childers, Associate Pastor

Website: <http://www.visitgrace.org>

Articles for GraceNet are due by the 1st of each month for the following month's edition.

**GraceNet Staff**

**Debbie Booher, Editor**

**Anna Wilson**

**LaTina Haynes**

**Email to Editor:**

**[dbooher0510@gmail.com](mailto:dbooher0510@gmail.com)**



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.

*Our Pastor's*  
**RETIREMENT**

*Save the Date!!!*

**Sunday, October 29, 10:00 a.m.**  
**ONE SERVICE ONLY**

***Pastor Rich's final sermon followed by a Retirement Celebration. Time: TBA***



***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 at:

<https://calendly.com/pastordannygraceknoxville/breakfast-lunch-meeting>



***Prayer Time for Church Ministries***

**O**n the ***first Sunday of each month***, we will be meeting in the church library from ***11:00-11:45 a.m.***, to pray for the many ministries of Grace Lutheran Church. Our requests will come from weekly church programs, monthly newsletters, and emails from ministry leaders. This will be an ongoing ministry in and of itself.

If you are a ministry leader or know of special ministry concerns, please e-mail requests to Rod Maples at [rodmaples@comcast.net](mailto:rodmaples@comcast.net)

***Next meeting: August 6, 2023***

***Lutheran Women in Mission***

**C**alling ALL women to plan to join us at the Eagle Rock Retreat on ***October 6-8, 2023***. The theme of "*For Such a Time as This*" from Esther 4:14 will be presented with a Bible study by Miriam Maasel Neumann. There will also be crafts, songs, skits, hikes, and the most beautiful sunrises you have ever seen.

More information is available in the Grace Coffee Bar area or go to the following website:

[www.midsouthlwml.org/district-retreats](http://www.midsouthlwml.org/district-retreats)

You may also contact Kathy Bohlken at (360) 771-2685. Sign up now!!



***Confirmation Registration***

**I**t's time to register for 7th-8th grace confirmation classes. If your son/daughter will be in confirmation this year, please let Pastor Jake know and plan to attend the ***Parents Meeting*** on ***Wednesday, August 2, at 6:30 p.m.*** in the Bible Study room outside the Family Life Center. Contact Pastor Jack for more information at:

[pastorjake@visitgrace.org](mailto:pastorjake@visitgrace.org)





8/1	Ted Haase, Jr.	8/18	Cydne Albers
8/2	Kitty Pruett	8/18	Noah Roettger
8/3	Donna Cummings	8/18	Stacy Roettger
8/3	Pastor Rich Elseroad	8/20	Carolee Granquist
8/3	Les Grebe	8/20	Caleb Shipwash
8/3	David Smith	8/20	Kathy Treffert
8/4	Donna Anderson	8/20	Dan Wilson
8/5	Carol Herbold	8/21	Charles Robinson
8/5	Diana Holden	8/21	Fredrica Skov
8/6	Nolan Campbell	8/22	Chris Emerson
8/7	Elisa Hoppe	8/22	Leon Mollenhour
8/8	Pat Bloom	8/23	Jessica Abraham
8/8	Tonia Collins	8/23	Claudia Campbell
8/8	Haven Cruise	8/24	Paul Guthrie III
8/8	Joe Dew	8/24	Paul Guthrie IV
8/8	Marianne Drake	8/25	David Koelsch
8/8	Margie Frizzell	8/26	Aubrey Elseroad
8/8	Davis Masters	8/26	Megan Kabela
8/8	Caden Pafford	8/26	David Poker
8/9	Kylie Cruise	8/27	Sandy Heath
8/9	Sandy Seay	8/27	Sam Smithey
8/10	Brock Kothe	8/27	Timothy Wolfram
8/10	Allen Schultz	8/28	Fred Haase
8/11	Eric Kleckley	8/28	Keira Shafer
8/11	Tina Stine	8/29	Brynna Oberhaus
8/11	Remy Tunstall	8/29	Esther Reckling
8/12	Katherine Duncan	8/29	Ruby Roettger
8/13	Cameron Smith	8/30	Lynette Duncan
8/13	Austin Strobel	8/30	Keegan Estrada
8/14	D.J. Wilson	8/30	Kiera Estrada
8/15	Dave Harjala	8/30	Ray Maier
8/15	Tom Lewis	8/31	Sherry Colwell
8/15	Vonnie Scott	8/31	Frieda Guthrie
8/17	Susanna Dorsey	8/31	Abigail Kabela

## Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles. The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

- A. a stick
- B. a new bowl
- C. bread
- D. salt



Answer: D (see 2 Kings 2:19-22)



8/4	Kim & Carmie Lee (50)
8/5	Steve & Mary Krempasky
8/8	Paul & Theresa Angelino
8/8	Jim & Teri Stoddard
8/8	Brian & Catherine Strobel
8/10	Bob & Gail Kurtz
8/11	Nathan & Debbie Bretscher
8/13	James & Randi Ray
8/14	Darryl & René Mackley
8/14	Jon & Kathy Treffert
8/15	Karl & Kristin Kennedy
8/15	Pastor Steve & Fredrica Skov (58)
8/16	Van & Ashley Bevins
8/16	Tim & Tonia Collins
8/16	Ralph & Christine Harness (67)
8/16	Joe & Barbara Schmitt
8/18	Fred & Nancy Haase (50)
8/18	Brian & Whitney Kaul
8/19	Paul & Sheila Wittke (62)
8/20	Mel & Carolyn Beech
8/21	Paul & Kathy Pankow
8/23	Scott & Kim Zimmerman
8/25	Tom & Kellye Glisson
8/27	Dave & Sandie Harjala (57)
8/27	Sandy & Randy Heath

## August Scripture of the Month

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

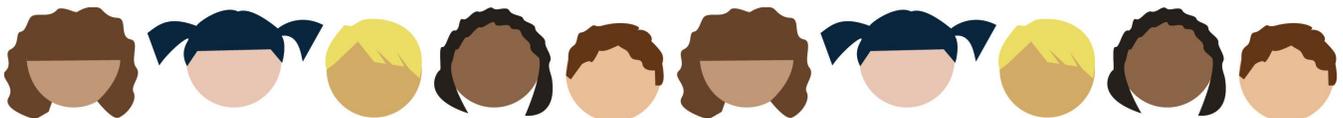
~ Romans 12:2, ESV

## *August 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.

~ Frieda Guthrie

<i><b>DATE</b></i>	<i><b>THEME</b></i>	<i><b>VERSE</b></i>
August 6	<b>We seek God's forgiveness.</b>	<i>If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)</i>
August 13	<b>God helps us face challenges.</b>	<i>Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. (Colossians 3:23)</i>
August 20	<b>Everyone can serve God.</b>	<i>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)</i>
August 27	<b>God brings us hope when we're hurting.</b>	<i>But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)</i>



## *Operation Christmas Child*

Operation Christmas Child is a year-round opportunity to share the spirit of Christmas with children around the world who would not otherwise receive gifts. Please consider filling a shoebox 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](mailto:childrensmin@visit-grace.org) or Paul Guthrie at [pqvint3@gmail.com](mailto:pqvint3@gmail.com).

Thank you for supporting this important ministry!



## *Mission for Christ Network (MCN)*

**R**ev. Dr. Fungchatou Lo and his wife Dr. Kalia Lo serve as Mission of Christ Network missionaries among their own people in Southeast Asia endeavoring “to seek, save and equip the Hmong people for Kingdom growth.” Their work includes theological education and discipleship training across several countries as well as church planting and the support of local pastors and evangelists. While they and those with whom they serve often face intense persecution for professing Christ – persecution which has included police raids and arrests as well as family ostracism – they are experiencing a tremendous working of the Spirit as in village upon village people hear the Gospel for the first time and believe!

In December 2022 alone, through the work of the Lo’s and their partners, 6,656 individuals heard the Gospel, 227 people confessed Christ as their Savior, 88 people were baptized, and they started 8 new ministries. Praise be to God for His love and mercy for the Hmong and the work of His Spirit to bring many into God’s Kingdom!

In January, Fung and Kalia were visiting a congregation when they met a woman who had recently lost a young baby. After learning the child had not been baptized because she was told children needed to be 12 years old before they could be baptized, Fung went and talked with the local pastor. This led to an invitation to teach the whole church about the promise, blessing, and power of baptism for all people. After just 3 hours of instruction, they were invited to baptize 26 children, one only a few days old!

The Lo’s are one couple among Mission of Christ Network’s 42 mission partners who Intentionally Proclaim the Gospel across 20 countries. Whether serving in their country of origin or as Americans in a foreign country, all MCN mission partners work alongside a local partner organization (hence the “Network”!). In this way Hungarian Christians and Ethiopian Christians and Hmong Christians (and so on) direct the ministry which reaches their own people with the Gospel. Mission of Christ Network provides “human resources” – missionaries well trained and supported to come alongside these overseas partners in proclaiming the light, love and peace of Jesus Christ.

Go to [missionofchrist.org/ways-to-donate/](https://missionofchrist.org/ways-to-donate/) or [missionofchrist.org/prayer-opportunities/](https://missionofchrist.org/prayer-opportunities/) to see how you can support Gospel proclamation around the world!



## *Welcome,* **New Members**

Marc & Margo Anderson

Fletcher & Becky Armstrong

Dale Borchardt

Melanie Butler

Pastor Jake & Christina Childers

Bobbie Dunn

Rhonda Guerry

Eric & Hannah Hughes

Mike Ivens

Dan & Marieke Keller

Devin, Jennifer, Addison & Camdyn  
Malone

David Smith

Nicole Spradlin

Carson, Allison, Anna & Rachel Vick

Kim & Janis Wold

***We are so happy to have you as members of our Grace family!!***

## *How Things Got to be as They Are*

**I**njoy 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 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*

**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*



### *Put on a Happy Face to Feel Happier*

**A** study published in "NATURE HUMAN BEHAVIOR" found that by simply smiling, we can feel happier. Participants were divided into three groups, each testing a well-known technique: (1) mimicking facial expressions of actors seen in photos; (2) moving the corners of their mouths to their cheeks using only their facial muscles; and (3) using the "pen-in-mouth" technique, which moves the facial muscles into a simulated smile shape. Researcher Fernando Marmolejo-Ramos Ph.D., of the University of South Australia said, "Two out of three of these conditions generated noticeable increases in happiness, providing a compelling argument that human emotions are linked to muscle movements. The pen-in-mouth technique didn't achieve the same mood changes, possibly because the simulated mouth shape wasn't as representative of a smile. In other words, knowing that we can 'fake it 'til we make' is a reassuring proposal."

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Grace Lutheran Church-LCMS  
9076 Middlebrook Pike  
Knoxville, TN 37923-1557  
(865) 691-2823  
Fax: (865) 691-4895  
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)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

TO:



*Connect ~ Grow ~ Serve*

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Do not be conformed to this world,  
*but be transformed by  
the renewal of your mind,*  
that by testing you may discern  
what is the will of God.

ROMANS 12:2, ESV