



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

April 2024

Meet Matthew McCarthy Director of Christian Education (DCE) Intern

If you have not met me yet, my name is Matthew McCarthy, and I am the DCE intern at Grace Lutheran Church. The main mission of a DCE is to equip families in the Body of Christ for spiritual maturity, service, and witness in home, job, congregation, community, and the world. In practical terms, I will be working with Grace's middle school and high school students to develop lifelong followers of Christ. On Sundays, you can find me connecting and loving our students during 9:30 a.m. Sunday school.

I grew up in East Texas in the city of Tyler. I was the first born of three, and I have a sister in college at Dallas Baptist University, and a brother in high school. My two parents were lifelong Lutherans and were both deeply involved in my home church. My mother played keyboard in our praise team, and my father filled the role of a children's director. Growing up I attended every Sunday service, meeting, and event my church hosted. I developed a familiarity with the church that grew into a deep love and for God and my faith. I became deeply involved with Trinity's youth group, and after a few years of mentorship and lots of undeserved grace, my DCE convinced me to attend an event at Concordia Austin called MYR. MYR, or Missional Youth Retreat, is an event intended to encourage high school students to think through their calling and a career in ministry. I went to this event three times and can trace a portion of my passion for ministry and my love for Concordia Austin to this retreat. I was set on DCE ministry by the time I graduated high school and attended Concordia Austin right after graduation in the fall of 2019.



Once I arrived at Concordia, I attempted to get connected with their student ministry. I began to serve by running tech for the on-campus, student-led ministry known as the Refuge. After a few months I developed the courage to give the message one week, which led to me being pulled in as the next speaking coordinator for the Refuge. I served in this volunteer role for three years and began to learn what it meant to be in ministry.

In my Freshman year I met Kyra, who I married this past June. My time at Concordia had its fair share of adversity, having Covid start my second semester, and tension with the Synod my senior year. Through it all, I had a great time at Concordia and learned many invaluable lessons.

While I am not sure what the future holds for me in terms of career, I do know that my calling is to ministry and the spreading of the Gospel. On top of staying a DCE, I have considered pursuing seminary and pastoral office, as well as entering the academic world to become a professor. I deeply enjoy the subjects of theology

and philosophy and would love to be able to engage in theological discourse as a career.

In my free time I enjoy reading, playing table-top games with friends, and my ongoing pursuit to learn both guitar and bass guitar. I am excited for my time to serve Grace Lutheran Church and would love to thank the church for how open and welcoming it has been to my wife and me. I look forward to what God has in store for us!

~ Matthew McCarthy

New VIA de CRISTO Weekend Coming

April 18-21, 2024



What is the purpose of VIA de CRISTO? VIA de CRISTO is based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on VIA de CRISTO 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 CRISTO 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 CRISTO is open to married couples, and single men and women. Prayerfully consider attending this spring retreat for a renewal of your walk with the Lord. The retreat is April 18-21. For applications, see the bulletin board near the church mailboxes.

Lutheran Women in Mission

The LWML will be hosting a one-day retreat on **Saturday, April 6**, from 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. The topic is Social Media's Impact on Youth, which can be both positive and negative. Presenters include our Deaconess Intern, Christina Childers and Emily Hager, PhD, of TN Suicide Prevention Network Survivors of Suicide Loss. The retreat will include a Bible study, collection for LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors), singing, fellowship, and lunch with a freewill offering. Sign up across from the coffee bar or contact Susan Heitner.



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/pastordannygraceknoxville/breakfast-lunch-meeting>

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** 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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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.

Our 2024 Confirmands

Ava Belen Aanestad

Josephine Leanne Ross

Sela Rose Aanestad

Vivian Laura Ross

Lila Nico Borchardt

Regan Scarlett Schmidt

Andrew Christopher Collins

Quentin Bryce Smith

Olivia Grace Dodson

Lilah Grace Vesser

Brynna Katelyn Oberhaus

Claire Elise Roettger



These special young people were confirmed on **Sunday, March 24, 2024**. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin this new chapter of their spiritual walk with Christ.



Childers' Baby Celebration

Saturday, April 27
12:00—2:00 p.m.



All members of Grace Lutheran are cordially invited to join us in the Family Life Center on **Saturday, April 27** for a celebration of **Christina and Pastor Jake's soon-to-arrive bundle of joy!** This event will focus on fellowship and food and will give us a chance to meet their families, who will also be in attendance. Here are some details about the celebration:

- Sign up to attend at the coffee bar by **Sunday, April 14**.
- Sign up to bring a dish to share at the coffee bar.
- Each family is asked to **provide a favorite Bible verse** at the event to be marked in a keepsake Bible for the new Mom and Dad.
- You are encouraged to use the online registries to provide gifts prior to the event. Please watch the Sunday bulletins for more details about the online registries once they are finalized.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this wonderful time of celebration and fellowship and watch for additional details in the weekly church bulletin.





4/1	Elise Murphy	4/17	Hannah Haller
4/2	Brett Kothe	4/17	Laney Pafford
4/2	Andrea Muench	4/18	Grady Newport
4/4	Sam Jones	4/18	Randy Wylie
4/4	Vicke Pyles	4/19	Andrew Collins
4/5	Leona King	4/20	Melanie Brye
4/5	Doug Kothe	4/20	Kyle Larson
4/5	Mike Masters	4/22	Janella Beeler
4/7	Jane Jones	4/24	Brad Hicks
4/8	Riley Beemer	4/24	Nathan Rowlands
4/8	Lila Borchardt	4/25	Joyce Dunn
4/9	Mel Beech	4/26	Ashley Myers
4/10	Larry Holden	4/26	Elijah Roth
4/11	Gloria Brazelton	4/26	Cathy Schade
4/11	Hope Elseroad	4/27	Nancy Haase
4/11	Hannah Hughes	4/27	Terry Turner
4/13	Sarah Hunter	4/28	Lucas Campbell
4/13	Caitlyn Swafford	4/29	Bethany Peterson
4/14	Morgan McCay	4/30	Sylvia Belt
4/14	Regan Schmidt	4/30	Jim Brown
4/15	John Duncan	4/30	Joe Schmitt
4/15	Harrison Masters	4/30	Eugene Stern

*Springtime brings new life,
resurrection and hope.*

Bible Quiz

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"



Answer: B (see John 20:19, 21)



4/12	Dan & Kim Kleckley
4/14	Dale & Melinda Borchardt
4/14	Colin & Claudia Campbell
4/15	Ted & Carol Haase
4/16	Bill & Melanie Brye
4/16	Eric & Helen Horlbeck (63)
4/23	Joel & Stacy Roettger



VBS—Celebrate the Savior!

July 15-18, 2024

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

All children 3 years old—5th grade are welcome to attend. We are also accepting volunteers of all ages. For more information, contact Marlene Landon at (865) 567-3578 or mtlintn@aol.com

April Scripture of the Month

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

~ John 13:34-35, NIV

April 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 April.

~ Frieda Guthrie

<i>DATE</i>	<i>THEME</i>	<i>VERSE</i>
April 7	Jesus is alive!	<i>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies." (John 11:25)</i>
April 14	Believe in Jesus!	<i>Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)</i>
April 21	God gives us gifts to serve Him.	<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>
April 28	Trusting God makes us brave.	<i>Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)</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@visitgrace.org or Paul Guthrie at pgvint3@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting this important ministry!



Where Are You Going?

Often God steers us in new directions. We are attracted, guided and then taken into a serving experience which builds God's mission. Please pray about responding to either or both of the mission experiences planned by Grace.

English Learning for Immigrants at Pelican Lutheran Church, Naples, Florida

For two years some members of Grace have been traveling to Naples, Florida to help Pelican Lutheran Church teach English to immigrants. Please consider joining the group going to Naples, **June 24-28, 2024**.

Child Beyond Orphanage Ministry in Guatemala

Child Beyond is an orphanage ministry in Guatemala that Grace has been supporting. We are recruiting a team of Grace members to do a project in Guatemala for the orphanage and their ministry. Please consider volunteering, **July 14-21, 2024**.

Please prayerfully consider serving in one or both of these ministries. For more information, please contact **Rev. Paul Muench, Paul.Muench@concordia.edu**

Connect to Costa Rica

Finishing Up Summer Clubs

Similar to the month of December, January was filled with continuing our summer clubs, watching them come to an end, and prepping for the upcoming school year. It was such a joy to watch the fruit that came from our effort to have a consistent presence in the community this summer. Although it took some time to build up regular attendance for our clubs, it was awesome to see the same kids coming back and the excitement they brought to participate.

Now that school has started up again after summer, it has been so exciting to see the kids that we built relationships with over the summer now in the high school. What a gift and a great opportunity it was to utilize our time away from the high school to build relationships with more students! Between all of our different clubs: volleyball, arts and crafts, basketball, and English club, we have not only had the opportunity to get to know students we knew from before but also get to know a whole new group of students that we may have not had the opportunity to reach before. Praise God for giving us that opportunity this summer!

January Team Retreat

In early January, we had two members from Mission of Christ Network, Mike and Cindy Rodewald, come down and lead a team retreat for us. It was a great opportunity to dive deeper into the culture and context that we are serving in as well as focus on growing closer as a team. It was a week full of great educational sessions and lots of time to bond as a team. We are so thankful for their time spent here and all that they were able to bring to the ministry here!

Beginning of the School Year

We are so excited to be back at the high school! Classes started about 3 weeks ago and it is so great to see the halls filled once again and to be back in our normal space building relationships with students. It has been exciting for me to see the personal growth I experienced over the summer with seeing significant improvements in my Spanish-speaking skills as well as seeing the benefits of feeling more settled here. As I adjust to the heat, culture, and find a good routine, I am amazed by how much more energy I have now to be more present and engage more with the ministry happening here. I am so excited to see what this school year brings and the doors that God will open for me to connect with students!

As we worked to prepare for this school year, one thing we really wanted to focus on was consistency in the high school. With the growing team that we have, it has opened doors to have more face time at the high school with our ministry as a whole. This meant reworking our team schedule. Now we are able to be there 5 days a week, engaging with students each and every day. It has already been exciting to see the impact that it has had on the students since our answer to their questions of "Will you be here again tomorrow?" is always "yes."

I am so grateful for you all and am blown away by the amount of support I have received! God is so good and it has been a great blessing to watch Him work through you all to create such an incredible support team.

~ **Sarah Parrish**
Mission of Christ Network

Faithful Servants

On January 31 of this year, our dear member Tom Matthews and his wife, Juanita, retired from Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc., after 35 years of successful ministry of Bible translation.

Dr. John Chesnut, President/CEO of Wycliffe Bible Translators USA, writes:

We thank the Lord for Tom and Juanita and their significant contribution to the work of Bible Translation.

Tom and Juanita followed the Lord's leading in attending Wycliffe Quest in 1987, and linguistic training at TXSIL in 1989-90. They were assigned to the Tanzania Group and the Zinza translation program in 1991. Tom established translation training for Tanzanians using their national language of Swahili. God gave Juanita the desire of her heart to teach middle school at West Nairobi School in Nairobi from 1999-2020. Tom completed a Master's degree in check draft Scriptures and mentor translation teams, working as a Wycliffe volunteer. He also served as Chair of the Executive Committee of the Uganda-Tanzania Branch from 2013-18.

As most of you know, Tom is facing some very serious health issues. Tom and Juanita have been faithful servants of God's kingdom. Please continue to pray for them as they face the significant challenges that have been placed before them regarding Tom's health and thank God for their work in expanding the kingdom.

AARP Tax-Aide Coming to an End

This is the second tax season that Grace Lutheran Church will be hosting an AARP Tax-Aide site for free preparation and e-filing of federal and state individual income tax returns.

This site will be managed by Allen Schultz, who has volunteered with the Tax-Aide program for 16 years. The program always needs more volunteers to help taxpayers with their tax filing requirements. The program provides all the training necessary to provide this service. No prior knowledge of taxes or experience in this field is needed. If interested or have questions, please contact Allen (865-947-0334) or sign up at www.volunteers.aarp.org.

AARP membership is not required to volunteer for this program or to participate in having your tax return prepared. The Tax-Aide program is national in scope, therefore, this site will be open to the greater Knoxville community.

Operating days for this site are planned for Tuesdays through April 9.



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



Daily Glass of Wine Slashes Dementia

A new double-blind, placebo-controlled study at Georgetown University Medical School found that Resveratrol, a compound in red wine, has been shown to stop the progression of a biomarker associated with Alzheimer's disease. Investigators gave people with mild to moderate Alzheimer's either a highly purified form of Resveratrol in varying dosages or a placebo for one year. Those who received increasing dosages of the compound (up to a gram twice daily) showed no change in blood levels of Amyloid-beta 40 (a protein linked to Alzheimer's). Levels rose in those taking a placebo. In another study published in the British Medical Journal, it was found that drinking a daily glass of wine can halve the risk of developing dementia in the future. In addition, French researchers found that teetotalers during middle age had a 47 percent increased risk of developing dementia compared with those who drank from one to the weekly limit of 14 units (four ounces or 1/2 glass). The researchers also suggested that moderate amounts of alcohol lowered the risk of a heart attack and stroke.

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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



RISEN JESUS,
as spring blossoms,
around us,
MAY YOUR LOVE
BLOSSOM IN US,
that we might share its
fragrance and brilliance
WITH OTHERS.