



GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

February 2024

Monthly Ministry Focus

Grace Lutheran Holy Smokers

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” - Acts 2:42

The *Holy Smoker* Ministry has been busy outlining its plans for the 2024 calendar year. Our first event will be a presentation and training by **Dr. Lyda Garcia** on **March 2 from 12:00—6:00 p.m.** **A dinner will follow the training.** We invite our congregation to come out and hear Dr. Garcia speak to Grace members and the community on **“Meat Quality and Barbecue”**. This event is open to our entire Grace family, plus a couple of other churches are being invited. Dr. Garcia holds a PhD in Meat Science from Texas A&M University and leads a nationally-competitive meat judging team. ([Lyda G. Garcia | ANSCI \(osu.edu\)](mailto:Lyda.G.Garcia@ANSCI.osu.edu)) Tickets are \$20 per family, and we ask you to bring a covered dish. We will prepare the meat for dinner during the training. We would like to have 50-100 people in attendance. You may get your tickets at our table in the Welcome Area between services on February 11 and February 18; or by contacting Brian Strobel (brian.strobel16@gmail.com) or Jack McGee (jackmcgeef15@gmail.com). The **deadline to register is February 18.** We hope you and your family will join us for this event.

This is the tenth year of ministry for the Holy Smokers, and our mission statement has two parts:

1. We spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout our church and our community by preparing and serving a quality meal of smoked meats.
2. We promote the spiritual health and well-being of our ministry members through devotions and fellowship.

Membership—The Holy Smokers is a men’s ministry of Grace Lutheran Church members. There are no specific qualifications or skills required to join the Holy Smokers. Our group is open to men ages 16-90.

Brian Strobel is our Lead Smoker, and took over for our Founder Bruce Collet. Our Board is comprised of Dave Ishee, Jack McGee, Harvey Booher, Phil Bohlken, and Don Thaemert. Our other teammates include: Scott Zimmerman, Craig Schmitt, Craig Emerson, Steve Peterson, Bruce Collet, Sam Jones, Charlie Stine, and Dennis Laneman. Our newest member is Matthew McCarthy, our new DCE Intern who recently joined our ranks! There’s a heavy Texas and former military presence in our group.

Phil Bohlken and Bruce Collet led the re-design of the smoker starting in October 2022, and finished last spring. It really is a thing of beauty to see. We invite you to take a look.

We have prepared beef, pork, and chicken during previous years, and discuss this with the requestor for the event. We have our own recipes, plus add to our repertoire through guests such as Pastor Zach Bauer (nationally-known smoker, Pastor, and author) and now Dr. Garcia. Some special events from last year included the First Offenders Day Reporting Center (DRC) outings; Pastor Jake’s installation; plus Pastor Rich’s retirement event where we prepared beef tenderloin. It was all-hands-on-deck for that one.

For our Saturday smokes, we have a fellowship time after the meat is loaded into the smoker. So bring your lawn chair. We aim to respect your time, and be targeted



(Continued on page 2)

Holy Smokers (Continued)

on which projects we accept. The planned and informal discussions are impactful. We like serving with the Women of Grace for many of the events. Consider joining our group, and volunteer with us at our next event! We'd love to have you!

~ Brian Strobel



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** at 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.



GraceNet is published monthly by
Grace Lutheran Church - LCMS

9076 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923
Phone: (865) 691-2823 Fax: (865) 691-4895
E-mail: glc@visitgrace.org

Reverend Danny Anderson, Senior Pastor
Reverend Jake Childers, Associate Pastor

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

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

GraceNet Staff

Debbie Booher, Editor

Anna Wilson

LaTina Haynes

Email to Editor:

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 10th of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

AARP Tax-Aide

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 from February 6 to April 9, 2024. Contact information for phone or website arranged appointments will be published in February 2024.



Lutheran Women in Mission

The LWML Ladies wish to thank EVERYONE who helped us reach our 2023 goal for Mid-South District MITES. All grants have been paid and some unfunded requests can now be considered! What a great gift we can give to so many who are in need of help as we all spread God's love through our area and the world beyond. Watch for more information about our gatherings for inspiration and fellowship as we "serve the Lord with gladness."



New VIA de CRISTO Weekend Coming

April 18-21, 2024



Have YOU considered attending this spring VIA de CRISTO weekend, April 18-21. See the bulletin board across from the church mail boxes for further information or ask one of these Grace members about their Via de Cristo experience.

Sheila/Paul Wittke
 Pastor Rich Elseroad
 Pastor Steve/Freddy Skov
 Don/Nancy Thaemert
 Chris/Dina Augustus

Craig/Chris Emerson
 John/Chris McCay
 Dan Wilson
 Roland Thompson
 Others

A VIA de CRISTO weekend is three days in length, beginning on Thursday evening and ending the following Sunday evening. The participants live, study, worship and commune together daily. Fourteen talks are given, nine by lay people and five by clergy. Following each talk, small roundtable discussions focus on the main points of the talk and a poster is done. The talks, in an overlapping fashion, present the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The titles of these talks indicate their content: Ideal, Piety, Study, Sacraments, Action, Obstacles to Grace, Leaders, Environment, Life in Grace, Christian Community, and Total Security. VIA de CRISTO gives those attending a living understanding of basic Christian Lutheran truths. Also, there is music and singing, food and fellowship, a time for laughter and for prayer.

Keep an open mind and heart in making your decision to attend VIA de CRISTO. Many of those who have attended wondered whether they should go. Now that they have attended, they want to share this wonderful gift from God. Please understand that their experience attending VIA de CRISTO was unique, and all the conversations in the world will not become a substitute for your weekend. You need to experience a weekend yourself to obtain its full and life-enriching value.

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 at:

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

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

2/1	Bill Johnson	2/14	Robert Schmid
2/1	Wyatt Keeton	2/15	LaWanda Duenckel
2/1	Rich Neubauer	2/15	Kemper Smith
2/1	Molly Payne	2/16	Bill Drake
2/1	Richard Sturk	2/16	Clay Schmidt
2/2	Jane Chaney	2/17	David Larson
2/2	Erin Colbert	2/17	John Rowlands
2/3	Marjorie Jergesen	2/18	Gwen Erpenbach
2/4	Dustin Knoernschild	2/18	David Kessler
2/5	Alan Bush	2/18	Camdyn Malone
2/5	Cheryl Herbold	2/19	Daniel Bueckman
2/6	Erik Aanestad	2/20	Rebekah Jones
2/6	Gary Schneider	2/20	Ted Murphy
2/6	Brigitte Stapel	2/20	Spencer Roisler
2/6	Catherine Strobel	2/21	Steve Hardin
2/8	Kaison Reed	2/21	Zoe Harter
2/8	Linda Sturk	2/21	Jennifer Pettiford
2/9	Helen Horlbeck	2/21	Anna Thompson
2/9	Trent Howe	2/21	Jacob Wilson
2/9	Terri Maples	2/22	Luke Frizzell
2/9	Crystal Swafford	2/22	Ruth Kabela
2/10	Larry Albers	2/23	Isaiah Baserman
2/10	Parker Bevins	2/23	Todd Stock
2/10	Caryn Cole	2/24	Kathy Bohlken
2/10	Gina Oster	2/24	Pat Kopp
2/10	Mike Radochonski	2/25	Eileen Miller
2/11	Evelyn Abraham	2/27	Nancy Smith
2/11	Abigail Payne	2/27	Dylan Martin
2/11	Jo Ross	2/27	Lois Robinson
2/11	Viv Ross	2/27	Nathan Curtis
2/12	Colin Campbell	2/28	Claire McCay
2/13	Kristin Kennedy	2/29	Dale Borchardt
2/13	Joel Roettger	2/29	Max Haase
2/14	Troy Howe		

A Prayer for Lent

Dear Christ, hasten to me. Release me from my sins. Free my arms from the chains of evil, that I may embrace you. Lift the scales of ignorance from my eyes that I may see you. Why do you delay? What are you waiting for? You are my God and my Lord, you are my refuge and strength, you are my glory and my hope. In you I put my trust. Dear Christ, hasten to me.



~ Aelred of Rievaulx (12th century)

FEBRUARY

Anniversaries

2/4	Gary & Kitty Pruett
2/7	Paul & Frieda Guthrie
2/14	Linda & John Hults
2/18	Scott & Nancy Surprenant
2/23	Elmer & Geri Croushore (67)
2/27	Hank & Mia Jones

Bible Quiz

Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage:

“Dear friends, let us ___ one another, for ___ comes from God. Everyone who ___ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not ___ does not know God, because God is ___.”

- A. believe
- B. help
- C. love
- D. forgive



Answer: C (see 1 John 4:7-8, NIV)

February Scripture of the Month

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

~ Psalm 51:1, NIV

February 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 February .

~ Frieda Guthrie

<i>DATE</i>	<i>THEME</i>	<i>VERSE</i>
February 4	Jesus cares for us.	<i>Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)</i>
February 11	We turn to Jesus when we're afraid.	<i>Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)</i>
February 18	Jesus forgives us.	<i>If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)</i>
February 25	We have faith in Jesus.	<i>He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. (Titus 3:5)</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. The classes will take place 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. The group will serve in Guatemala from July 14-21, 2024.

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

News from Sarah Parrish, Mission of Christ Missionary in Costa Rica

Sarah joined the MCN team in Costa Rica in September.

During the months of December and January, the schools in Costa Rica are on summer break which means changing up what ministry looks like in Parrita for a bit! Our LightHouse team has been organizing summer clubs to stay connected with the high schoolers and provide a safe and fun environment to stay active and in touch with our team. These clubs are three days a week, reaching different neighborhoods for an hour each, including an art club, basketball club, volleyball club, and English club.

This has been a great opportunity to connect deeper with students that we see often at the high school, as well as connect with new students that we look forward to seeing in the high school this upcoming year. It is also a blessing to be able to spend time in different communities in Parrita to better know the area and open our eyes to more ministry opportunities around us.

New Hybrid Financial Peace University February 18—April 21

*Is 2024 the year you resolve to finally gain control of your finances? Do you desire to be generous, but struggle with stewardship? You are not alone! Our new Hybrid format for **Financial Peace University** is the best of both worlds—watch the lesson videos on your own during the week, then connect and learn with others in person. Classes will include discussion, hands-on activities, and getting your questions answered by our certified financial coaches. Free childcare is available. **Sundays 6:30-8:00 p.m.** in the Grace Fellowship Hall.*

Visit www.fpu.com/9DCCDA for more details and to save your seat!

God-Shaped Hole

Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: *"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."*

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed *"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee."* And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!



Stages of Marriage

When I first heard about stages in marriage four were mentioned. I recently checked on-line, and we are up to eleven. This will deal with the four I know.

When first married the couple is infatuated with each other. "How was I so blessed that this wonderful creature chose to join with me in marriage?" You are absolutely certain you and your spouse will have none of the difficulties you might have seen your parents or others experience.

But, one day you are saying to each other, "I had no idea you feel that way about..." We all grow up with "life commandments" from the home of our parents. A frequent example is whether you squeeze the toothpaste tube from the bottom or the middle. Two people who grew up in different households learned different ways. Now they are together under one roof and need to find their own common way. Not only are there ordinary differences, but you notice your spouse has actual faults. You may find some of your spouse's faults rude, hurtful, or embarrassing.

In the next phase you start your program to change and improve your spouse. There is a saying that men marry women hoping they never change, but they always do. And, women marry men hoping they will change, but they never do. People like to be accepted. They do not like to be someone's project to be changed and improved. The sweetness and mutual admiration so frequent in the early days of marriage disappear and may be replaced with feelings of rancor and loneliness. You may think you made a mistake and your true soulmate is out there somewhere. It is a good time to remember the love God describes in marriage is a selfless and giving kind of love that loves regardless of whether the one loved deserves it or is lovable.

Eventually, the two spouses give up on trying to change each other. Part of that may be a greater awareness of one's own faults. It is difficult to expect perfection from another when you more fully realize what it means that you are not perfect, either. Some of making peace with your spouse's faults may be a realization it is not his or her intent to be rude or to embarrass you. Perhaps you are being too sensitive and others do not consider your spouse's faults rude or embarrassing. Lowered expectations will help you a lot. Watch how your spouse's friends interact with your spouse. How are they able to enjoy your spouse's company despite things that make you crazy? Could it be those things are not the problem you see?

Finally comes what I call the old shoe phase. All of us have an old pair of shoes that are not much to look at. They may even have holes. Yet, they are incredibly comfortable and you would not trade them for any new pair. Make sure you stick around in your marriage for the old shoe phase.

~ 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



Antibiotics Reduce Stomach Bleeding Caused by Aspirin

Although regular long-term aspirin use is recommended for some people to prevent heart attacks and strokes, it comes with the risk of stomach bleeding. Although rare, aspirin use can cause internal bleeding; by thinning the blood, it can make stomach ulcers bleed. A study published in "*The Lancet*" found that a short course on antibiotics can kill a type of bacteria called "*Helicobacter pylori*" (H. pylori) that causes stomach ulcers. Volunteers who tested positive for H. pylori were given either an antibiotic or a placebo. Although protection decreased with time, during the first two and one-half years, those who received antibiotics were less likely to be admitted to the hospital due to ulcer bleeds than those who took a placebo. Chris Hawley, professor of gastroenterology at the University of Nottingham in England said, "*The findings of the study have shown that ulcer bleeding can be significantly reduced following one-week course of antibiotics.*"

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



Ash Wednesday

Worship

February 14, 2024

6:30 p.m.

**“The cross,
with which the ashes are traced upon us,
is the sign of Christ’s victory over death.”**

—Thomas Merton