

May 2022



# WORDS OF GRACE

*Monthly Newsletter*

## *Inside the Issue*

### THIS MONTH'S PASTOR'S PAGE...

...is on hold, as we prepare to launch Small Group ministries! Watch for the details to come in the next few weeks!

### A LOVELY LADY REFLECTION

In this month's Women's Reflection, Dorothy Erickson shares about a lovely lady from her own life who has inspired her.

### DON'T MISS THESE NEWS & NOTES!

- Small Group Info Meetings
- Upcoming Budget Q&As
- Church Softball News
- Whole Woman Conference
- Green Lake Campout Activities

## MAY HIGHLIGHTS...

- May 1 Worship with Communion
- May 5 Small Group Info/Intro Meeting, 6:30pm  
National Day of Prayer, 6:30pm Vet's Park FDL
- May 8 Mother's Day, Roses for Life Sale
- May 12 Missions Team meets at 6:30pm
- May 14 Whole Woman Conf. @ Radisson FDL
- May 15 Grad Sunday
- May 19 EFCA Pastor's Luncheon @ GRACE, noon
- May 22 Budget Q&A following worship  
Last day of Kid's Classes, AWANA
- May 24 Budget Q&A Meeting, 7:30pm
- May 27-30 GREEN LAKE CAMP OUT
- May 30 Memorial Day (Church Office Closed)



"We can see hope in the midst of hopelessness. We can see peace in the midst of chaos. We have a hope that the world does not have. We can see clearly that all things work together for the good of them that love Him and are called according to His purpose."

- Priscilla Shirer

**STAFF VACATION: CAROL IS OUT OF OFFICE MAY 26 - JUNE 1**

# NEWS & NOTES



## Looking for an opportunity to bless some of our local Pastors?

On May 19th we are hosting the EFCA Region 9 Pastors' MAY luncheon & meeting. Instead of catering the meal, we've decided to put together our own menu. You can help out by donating items! **We are in need of: 3 desserts (9x13 pan size), 2 fruit salads, 2 regular salads (enough to feed 10 people), 3 large bags of chips, 2 cases of water, & 2 bottles of Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ sauce.** If any of these items are something you'd be willing to provide please sign up at the Info Booth. **All items need to be to the church by 10:00am on Thursday, May 19th.**



## SAVE THE DATE! Vacation Bible Camp August 1-5, 2022

**G'DAY, MATE! ARE YOU READY FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME?** VBC is for kids 4k thru 5th grade. We'll experience the unforgettable wildlife, culture, and beauty of Australia while exploring the wonder and value of life. Registration for participants will begin in June so stay tuned. **This is also a great volunteer opportunity & we can't do this without you! A list of needed donations will be coming soon. Contact Traci Soeller or Jen Koenigs with any questions & to get involved.**

**SUNDAY, MAY 8TH IS MOTHER'S DAY!** Stop by the fellowship hall to buy your mom, grandma, or the special "mom" figure in your life some roses. All proceeds go to support Right to Life!



Don't forget to bring your "change" to church for our "Change A Life" Mission box project. Boxes are located at the Info Booth and up in the Fellowship Hall. Our goal is to collect \$50 a month to go to the kids at Mahali Pa Maisha in Kenya.



CHURCH LEAGUE SOFTBALL IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER. THIS CO-ED LEAGUE IS OPEN TO AGES 16 & UP. GAMES BEGIN ON MONDAY, MAY 2ND. SIGN UP TODAY AT THE INFO BOOTH! PLEASE CONTACT MITCH SWANSON WITH ANY QUESTIONS AT [MSWANSON130@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MSWANSON130@GMAIL.COM) OR (920) 960-5858.

The full schedule will be sent out at a later date. Even if you don't plan to play come on out and cheer on the Grace Team to victory!

## THE MEMORIAL DAY CAMPOUT IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! MAY 27-30 AT THE GREEN LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER.

There are still a couple of sites left if anyone still wants to join us. Cost is \$130 for the weekend. Contact Roland or Mary Ritzema [ritzema5@yahoo.com](mailto:ritzema5@yahoo.com).

**Even if you don't plan to campout you are welcome to join us for lots of fun activities throughout the weekend.** Saturday morning is the famous Princeton Flea market. Sunday afternoon bring a picnic lunch & lawn chairs and join the campers at the campsites. *You're welcome to connect with the Ritzema's & join their group at site 14 for lunch.* The afternoon is spent playing horseshoes, tennis, lawn games, biking, visiting with friends, even swimming for those brave enough to face the cold water. In the evening, make plans to stick around for bonfires and s'mores at the campsites. **Come out and enjoy this fun weekend of fellowship & fun with the Grace Family!**

We are looking for someone to take over organizing this yearly event beginning next year in 2023! Contact Mary Ritzema or the Grace Office if this sounds like something you'd be interested in helping with!



## You're Invited! Join us for the National Day of Prayer.

Thursday, May 5, 2022 | 6:30-7:30pm  
Join us at Veteran's Park in Fond du Lac for a time of worship & prayer with other believers from around the city as we pray for our community, nation & world. **All are welcome!**



<i>Mark YOUR Calendar!</i>	Sun., May 15 - Graduation Sunday
	Sun. May 22 - Budget Q&A following worship
	Tues. May 24 - Budget Q&A meeting 7:30pm
	Sun. May 29 - No Youth Meeting
	Mon. May 30 - Office Closed for Memorial Day

## GET "PLUGGED IN" TO THESE WEEKLY PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AT GRACE!

- 8:45am Sunday Mornings at Grace Church
- 6:30pm Tuesday Evenings Corporate Prayer at Grace Church
- 6:30am Wednesdays Men's Prayer Prayer Room
- 8:00am Thursday Mornings Men's Coffee Fellowship & Prayer at Grace

Don't forget about our weekly prayer & encouragement connections! See the weekly email for login details!

## Whole Woman Conference

Saturday, May 14th | 8:30-3:30pm \$40 (includes lunch)  
Radisson Hotel, 625 W. Rolling Meadows Dr. Fond du Lac, WI  
**COME ENJOY THIS ENCOURAGEMENT-FILLED EVENT! WITH SPEAKERS: RHEA BRISCOE, JANETTE STONE & CHRIS SCHIEK.**  
Enjoy vendors, a tasty lunch, inspirational speakers, a selection of FREE BOOKS (cash donations welcome) & fellowship with other believers! Register at [www.janettestone.com](http://www.janettestone.com). Contact Justeen Bond with any questions: (920) 872-2180 or [justeenb@centurytel.net](mailto:justeenb@centurytel.net)

## MAY AWANA SCHEDULE

- May 1 - Goofy Glasses Night
- May 8 - Happy Mother's Day (NO AWANA)
- May 15 - Sundae-Sunday (Bring your favorite sundae topping!)
- May 22 - AWANA Store (Last meeting till the fall!)





# Monthly Reflection

## Reflections About a Lovely Lady

Submitted by Dorothy Erickson

During a Women of Purpose gathering last spring, our focus was on the subject of “The Virtuous Woman” as described in Proverbs 31. Though one often thinks of this passage as a prescription for the ideal wife and mother, we wanted to consider and draw out the truths God intends for every woman’s life, regardless of age, marital status, educational achievement, employment situation, with or without children, etc. As we examined Proverbs 31, we concluded that the key characteristic that makes a woman truly virtuous, *more precious than jewels, and whose worth is far above rubies or pearls* (vs 10) is found in verse 30...***Charm and grace are deceptive, and [superficial] beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord [reverently worshiping, obeying, serving, and trusting Him with awe-filled respect], she shall be praised. (Amplified Bible).*** This verse surely has universal application to all women.

There are many admirable character traits attributed to the Proverbs 31 woman. She is trustworthy, devoted, loving, hard-working, productive, prepared, prudent, and even enterprising. She brings a willing attitude to her responsibilities and develops and stewards those skills needed for her God-given tasks, both in the home and in the public arena. She exercises godly wisdom in her finances and expresses encouragement, comfort, and sound counsel in her conversations. She extends kindness, care, and generosity to family, friends, and strangers alike. Above all, she *loves the Lord her God with all her heart and with all her soul and with all her mind* (Mt 22:37). It is this love relationship that enables her to live out a life of success, competence, and purpose because the Proverbs 31 woman is “*His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that she should walk in them*” (Eph 2:10).

Do you know such a woman? I am blessed beyond measure to say that I do!! Allow me to introduce to you my dearest “mother-in-love”, Annette (Yes, there are at least 2 wonderful Annette Ericksons out there!).

I know her as my spiritual mother, my “Naomi”, and lovingly as “Mom”. For nearly 45 years, I have had a front row seat to observe, study, applaud, and seek to apply these virtuous traits as lived out in this real-life Proverbs 31 woman.

Mom was a trustworthy, devoted, and admiring wife of her husband, George for over 58 years. She comforted, encouraged, and did him only good and not evil all the days of their marriage (vs 11-12). They shared life spiritually, professionally, and parentally, in times of both great joy and deep sadness. They edified one another and lived life as helpmates per God’s design. In Dad’s last year of life, he surprised Mom with a custom-designed gold “31” pin as his way of praising her as a woman of virtue (vs 28-29). She cherishes this piece of jewelry and its significance.



As a mother of four and homemaker, she worked hard with willing hands in delight (vs 13) and looked well to how things went in her household (vs 27). Mom provided for her family by earning extra income as a piano instructor and through a 25-year career as the county's most beloved kindergarten teacher. She was thrifty and financially wise through bargain shopping and repurposing old things to give them new life. What little time she had remaining once her day-to-day job responsibilities were met, she made sure the family's clothing was in order, meals prepared, and lunches made. She surely did not eat the bread of idleness (vs 27) and was always in the planning mode for the schedule up ahead (vs 25).

The growth of her spiritual life has always been a priority for her (vs 17). She is a faithful prayer warrior and intercessor, keeping a small notebook nearby to record prayer requests. She was the first person to ever pray over me, when I separated my shoulder in a biking accident years ago.

She and Dad would pray with people in the middle of the night and made routine hospital and retirement center visits to reach out to those struggling with sickness and health issues (vs 20). Because she memorized scripture at a young age, she is equipped to offer "a word in due season" for a given situation (vs 26). She led, participated in, and enjoyed women's ministry programs of all kinds in her church and community. In retirement, she became an avid reader of Christian materials of which now I am the beneficiary.



Annette has been known to be a prolific letter and notecard writer in an effort to express her care and concern as she cultivates relationships with friends and family. In recent years, her Christmas letter list included nearly 100 contacts. Her kindnesses are recognized and respected far and wide.

Certainly, Mom did not undertake all of these endeavors at one time. Rather, there were seasons in her life when some responsibilities took priority over others. As she approaches the age of 94, her world has become smaller and physical limitations loom larger. Yet, she continues to extend warmth, kindness, and gratitude to all who cross her path and her love for the Lord remains strong and steadfast.

This lovely lady of whom I write and from whom I am still learning, though praiseworthy, is not perfect. She would be the first to tell you "that He Who began a good work in me will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil 1:6) and "that apart from Him she can do nothing" (Jn 15:5).

Whatever successes or accomplishments she has experienced in this life, she readily gives credit and praise to the Lord. Thanksgiving to Him and to others is her first remark, when asked about her life. Yes, I have learned that through a committed and loving relationship with the Lord Jesus, any woman can live out a fruitful, virtuous, God-honoring life. May the Lord give us a greater awareness of, and appreciation for, those Proverbs 31 women in our midst. I believe they are more prevalent than we realize.

If you have not had a spiritual mother, mentor, sister, or friend, and you recognize the need for such a person in your life, or perhaps you would like to fill such a role yourself, be encouraged to talk with the Lord about this and ask Him to bring someone alongside of you to share life in this special way. The Women of Purpose groups may be a starting point for you to interact and become acquainted with other women who *reverently worship, obey, serve, and trust the Lord with awe-filled respect.*

# The Anchor Holds

by Jack Witte

**And Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten who were cleansed?  
But the nine... where are they?" Luke 17:17**

Take time to read Luke 11-19 if you will. It's the story of the ten men who had the dreaded disease of that time, **leprosy**. Lepers were scorned by all the people around them, yet when they approached Christ, He saw them as they stood at a distance shouting, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When Jesus saw them He told them to go show themselves to the priests, for He had healed them. As they ran to tell the priests, one of them realized *what Christ had done* and immediately came back to thank Him.

The words of Jesus above can be quite haunting, for they remind me of the many times I have experienced God's blessings, yet have *failed to thank Him for His goodness*. Sometimes it is so easy to get caught up in the excitement and joy of answered prayer that I forget to thank my God who supplied my need and answered my request.

If you know me, you know I love to play golf. It's a simple pleasure that I truly enjoy and God has blessed me with many, many opportunities to play all around the country. I have often said, "If God doesn't allow me to play another round of golf, He certainly hasn't cheated me!" Yet, this simple pleasure, this simple blessing is one I often take for granted. A. W. Tozer once wrote, "Sometimes I go to God and say, 'God, if you never answer another prayer while I'm alive here on this earth, I will still worship You as long as I live and in ages to come, for what You have already done.' God's already put me so far in debt to Him that if I were to live one million millenniums, I couldn't repay Him for what He has already done for me."

Next time God brings one of those simple pleasures, those simple blessings into your life- like eating a delicious meal, or having a place to call home, or spending time with a good friend, or getting a good report from your doctor, or even standing on a tee driving a little white ball down the fairway- **Thank Him**. We all are indebted to our Almighty God ... beyond measure.

*Lord, help each of us to be in constant awareness of Your wonderful blessings, and may we always thankful for what You do for us each day. We anxiously look to today in anticipation of how You will work in each of our lives.*

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## Secure amid the waves...

I copied these words from a card our friend Shari recently sent us. It reminded me of the quote I always use at the end of each "Anchor" ... **Your Anchor will hold, in spite of the storms.**

We live in turbulent times. This world in which we live is very disturbed, and each day we walk on shaky ground and raging seas. We see more than an abundance of hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and floods, and other disasters. Daily we deal with health issues caused by COVID 19, or cancer, or many other medical issues. We deal with rising inflation, forced bankruptcies, rising prices causing financial ruin.

All around us war is being raged for power and control, and even in our own country we face political corruption. It seems like whenever things are going right, trouble comes. Someone once said, "When trouble comes to your door, introduce it to our Lord Jesus Christ." No matter how raging the world is around us, we are wise to fix our eyes on Jesus. Hebrews 6:19 reminds us, "*We have this hope as an Anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*"

As a believer in Christ, we are a part of "a kingdom that can't be shaken." (Hebrews 12:28) The world around us can crumble before our eyes, but our **ANCHOR** is the Son of God, and we have His assurance that He will keep us safe "**SECURE AMID THE WAVES**", with hope for the future and security for today.

Do you want that assurance, the hope we have for our future in Christ? You just need to invite Him into your heart and make Him Lord of your life. Is today the day?

***It's God's desire to be part of our everyday lives, it is for us to make Him part of it.***

***Your Anchor will hold ... in spite of your storms!***



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 www.gracechurchfdl.org

**CORPORATE PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES:**  
 Sunday mornings at 8:45am  
 Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm  
 Wednesday AM Men's prayer at 6:30am.

*All meet at  
 Grace Church  
 building*

## GRACE CHURCH STAFF

**Head Pastor & Chief Shepherd - *Jesus Christ***

**Lead Pastor - *Brad Rutherford***

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**Custodial Assistant - *Jen Koenigs***

**Elder on Call: Friday, Saturday & Sunday**

(920) 948-9262

## Offering & Attendance

3/06/2022	\$9,103	145
3/13/2022	\$4,940	152
3/20/2022	\$3,945	163
3/27/2022	\$14,193	160

March Weekly Ave: \$8,045.25 155

**Weekly average needed to meet budget  
 \$10,142**

Year to Date Givings \$370,927

Year to Date Expenses \$385,439

**SHORTFALL: \$14,512**

**Totals reflect March month-end totals**

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please submit information for the  
 June *Words of Grace*  
 to the church office by **May 15th.**  
 You can contact the office at (920) 922-7211 or  
 office@gracechurchfdl.net

**Office Hours are:**  
 Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:30pm  
 Friday 8:00am-11:30am