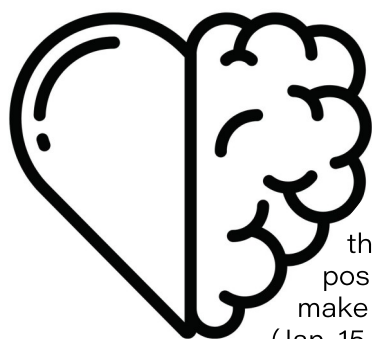




Pastor
Doug Widger
Lead Shepherd
Pastor Steve Roth
Community Care
Dr. Serena Pace
DCE - Director of
Ministries
Jennifer Chavez
Director of
Early Education
Rev. Dr. Russell
Hildebrandt
Pastor Emeritus

Mental Health and the Church - January Bible Class



Did you know nearly 70% of churches speak about mental health "rarely" or "never" on an annual basis? This is true while more than 10% of the general population (40+ million American's) suffer with various forms of mental illness each year.

Individuals and families are often neglected or stigmatized when it comes to mental illness. What does the Scripture have to say? How can the church make a positive impact on those suffering? What can you do to make a difference? Join us on Sundays for this six-week series (Jan. 15 – Feb. 19) in the Fireside Room @ 10:45. Led by Pastor Widger and Jan Runzheimer.

Explore Grace

Our next Explore Grace date is January 21st! This half-day seminar is meant for people interested in joining membership at Grace Lutheran. Contact the Church Office if you're interested or know someone who may want to attend.



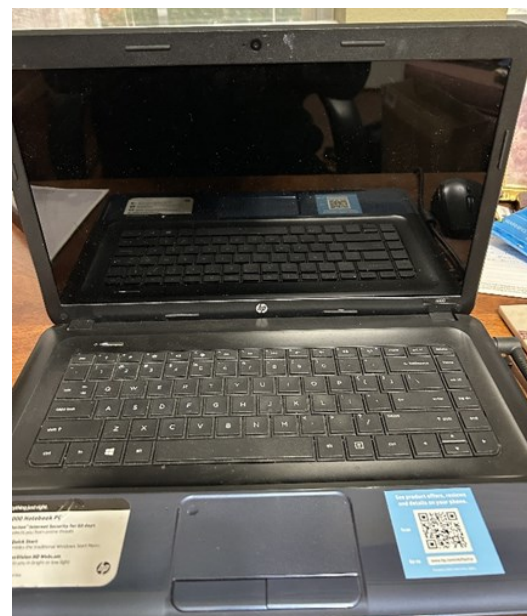
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Loving Liberia Update

Loving Liberia has been blessed this past year with many accomplishments: building a temporary school building in River Cess (Perry's home village), beginning construction on bathrooms adjacent to the temporary building, and nearing completion of fence around the school in Monrovia. Now, we are going to have our first real computer classes at our Monrovia campus. Our goal is to have 20 laptop computers by the end of January with each computer costing \$125. These laptops are refurbished and will meet the needs of our students.

On Sunday January 8th, we will be having one Bible class at Grace so we can share with you what God is doing and invite you on our journey to purchase new, refurbished laptop computers. Thank you for your support and we want to make sure we are transparent on how the funds are being spent to support 257 students in our two schools.



FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

No classes on 1/1

SUNDAY MORNINGS - All Bible classes meet from 10:45-11:45 AM

Babies/Toddlers: Nursery

Preschool/Kinder & Grades 1-6 Bible Studies: Preschool wing/GLEE hallway

Grades 7-12 Bible Study: Youth Shed

Biblical Parenting Sunday School: Library



January 22nd - Brief summer camp meeting after Bible study in the Sanctuary

April 2nd - Easter Community Event

June 26th - 29th - Vacation Bible Camp

CHEESE BALL YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Students will make cheese balls JANUARY 29th, 12 - 2 PM, includes lunch.



Sells for \$12 each! Ready in time for the Super Bowl! Freezes well! Place your orders with Serena or in the Narthex, and drop check in envelope at sign up. **Please pre-pay!** Make check out to Grace Lutheran Church; Memo - Youth Mission Camp. Cash can be given to Cynthia J. or Serena.

I am what I am by the GRACE of God



RESET HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT JAN. 14-15, \$65

SABINE CREEK RANCH, ROYSE CITY

"But by the grace of God I am what I am" 1 Corinthians 15:10a

Worship, Speaker: Pastor Travis Hartjen, Small Group Time, Games, Gaga Ball, Campfires, Archery, 2 service project options serving local & global community. Scholarships available.

TEEN GIRLS—FEBRUARY 24-25, 2023, \$35

THERE{4} is a 2-day conference designed to inspire the next generation of high school girls to boldly live out their identity in Jesus Christ. Get ready for a weekend of incredible worship, amazing speakers and creative interactions designed just for you!



"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

—1 Peter 2:9

Scholarships available.



YOUTH MISSION Bayou La Batre, Alabama

July 8-16, 2023, \$450

\$150 TOTAL DUE NOW; \$100 due 2/5

For current Grades 6—12.

Encounter the resilient spirit of Bayou La Batre as we serve through home improvement projects, elder care and children's ministries. In the evenings, we'll experience Dauphin Island, a worship service, and a tour of Bayou La Batre. We'll also encounter many community friends who have shared their community with YouthWorks staff, students and adult leaders since 1998. [Contact Serena](#) with questions.



Groups Updates

Information on all of our groups can be found anytime at grace.lc/get-connected

Braille



Braille re-starts this month! All groups will still meet in the regular basement room, but will be moving in February to MR1 (Meeting Room 1). Lots of hard work is going to making that space beautiful and functional for many more years of joyfully making braille Bibles! Contact Uvonne D. for more information.

graceSeniors

Save the date for Jan. 12th, 12 PM

YES! We are back to Jan. 12!



Bring: Salads and Desserts

Hosts: **NEED**

Devotion: Sandra

Speaker: Pastor

Juan Zamora of T2C2 Ministry



NOTE: SPECIAL DATE CHANGE

for January! Mayor Jim Ross will join us in February at our regular meeting time.

Piecemakers

Would you like to learn how to quilt? We have plenty of material and supplies for you to make your own lap quilt, or a baby quilt to give to Embrace Grace. You choose your material and design and learn the different quilting techniques.



We will still assemble quilts for LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF while you are working on your own quilt.

We will meet Saturday, January 7, 2023 at 9 am downstairs in the quilting room. For any questions, call Donita at 817-243-5716.

Book Club

This month, we are again reading "The Twelve Topsy-Turvy, Very Messy Days of Christmas" by James Patterson! Come join us to discuss together on the 3rd Wednesday of January at 2 pm - in the Church Library. Call Ruth B or [the Church Office](#) for more information.

Neighborhood Life Group

A new Neighborhood Life Group will begin meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 2 pm, starting the 3rd week of January (the 17th). This group is open for anyone to join, and will meet at Ruth Brown's home in West Arlington. The group will decide on study material together after meeting the first week and discussing. Sign ups are open now in the Narthex!

Life Groups



Get involved in Embrace Grace!

The second phase of EG, Embrace Life, begins in February. If you are interested in helping and have not participated

before, please [speak with Serena](#) or Nancy G.



Thrivent Meeting

Grace's Thrivent Financial members annual lunch meeting will be January 22nd at 12 noon, immediately following Sunday School classes.

All Thrivent members are invited, plus those interested in Thrivent membership. Thrivent representatives will be here to help direct your Choice Dollars and answer any questions. Lunch will be catered. Your rsvp is important so that there will be a meal for you. Call or text Chris Owens at 817- 247-7122.

thrivent

Comunidad de Gracia - Community of Grace Hispanic Ministry

A beautifully blessed time was had by all at Las Posadas and the ESL Christmas Party this year! Many thanks for all the support of this outreach, it is showing real fruit and it's exciting to see God at work. ESL Classes will resume on January 11th, continuing to meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

We are looking for someone to help coordinate food for our outreach ministries, like ESL and Embrace Grace. We have Thrivent funds for purchases, but we need someone to shop for the food and/or coordinate preparing meals and snacks. Please [contact Serena P \(space@grace.lc\)](mailto:space@grace.lc) if you are interested in more information!



Eyeglasses for Missions

In late January, the glasses we have collected will be packaged and sent to MOST Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term). MOST Ministries takes the glasses they receive and sorts and cleans them for their eyeglass clinics at various locations around the world. We can help others receive the gift of improved vision. Please place your glasses donation in the marked basket in the Narthex. Ask your friends and neighbors if they have glasses to donate.



From The Holy Smokers - Thank You

The Holy Smokers want to thank everyone that ordered a turkey, turkey breast or sausage for your Thanksgiving. We hope you enjoyed your order. We enjoy doing this and look forward to our next event, which at this time will be hams and mild and spicy sausage for Easter. This year we are adding a pork loin to our smoking items. Those of you that picked up your Thanksgiving order might have tasted a sample of a pork loin that we did. Watch for the pork loin on our sign-up sheet for Easter. The nice thing about a pork loin is that we will be able to sell a whole pork loin {avg. 7-8 pound}, or half a loin, or a quarter loin.



So again, thank you and remember to look for our Easter announcement.

The Holy Smokers

Thank You

Dear Grace Family,

Thank you for the wonderful basket of goodies you gifted me with. What a blessing to have Christian friends who care and do so much for others. I pray God Blesses you all richly. Thank you also for your prayers.

In Christian Love,

Carol Hall

Dear friends at Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the basket of many useful things you gave me this Christmas. But most importantly is the that someone takes the time to bring me communion. I am really blessed.

Barbara Pinnow

Charles and Gerry want to thank the Congregation for the Christmas Basket that our elder brought to us.

Also, Charlie Sparkes thanks "GRACE" for the monthly spiritual encouragement he received.

Also, Charles and Gerry Sparks thank the person who sent them the subscription of The Lutheran Witness.

Charles & Gerry Sparks

Pushpay Instruction

1. Use your cell phone text messaging feature.
2. Type (833)630-9900 in the send to line
3. Type GRACELC in the message line.
4. Press to send message.



Almost immediately you will receive a message back thanking you for your generosity.

5. Click the link shown in the message.
6. This takes you to the page where you will see our church logo.
7. You have the option to make a gift to the church's ministries.
8. You can insert the dollar amount of the gift.
9. You can choose the frequency of the gift (one-time gift or recurring gifts).
10. Choose the fund type (tithes, etc.).
11. Click Next.
12. You will be able to confirm the details you just chose, then add your credit card or bank account information, and it can be stored for you or not, as you desire.
13. Check the box to authorize the transaction.
14. Press GIVE, and you are done.



Call 817.274.1626 or email jdelcristo@grace.lc to:

- ◇ Receive a copy of *Portals of Prayer* mailed to your home.
- ◇ Be added to the group email list that receives prayer requests.
- ◇ Submit updated address and contact information.
- ◇ Receive a current Church Directory as an active Grace member.
- ◇ Submit and/or update a prayer request.

Did you know that the church calendar is available ONLINE at grace.lc? [CLICK HERE](#) to access it. Any calendar changes and/or additions made in the church office are updated online in real time!

Your Elders Are Here for You

If there is any way we can assist you with any spiritual needs or physical concerns do not hesitate to contact your elder. If you need their contact information, please request it by calling the church at 817-274-1626 or email: jdelcristo@grace.lc.

New to Grace? Reference the adjacent list. If your last name begins with "N" for example, Mike Curtis would be your assigned elder.

Joseph C. Masterson

ELDERS & THEIR ASSIGNED MEMBERS

Ernie Owens	A-B
Hank Jacobs	C-E
David Swille	F-H
Mike Kennedy	I-L
Mike Curtis	M-O
Ernie Owens	P-R
Joe Masterson	S
Jim Schmidt	T-Z

Head Elder:
Joe Masterson



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

1/10 Lynn & Patty Smith
1/19 Richard & Jennifer Chavez
1/19 William & Jann Richmond
1/21 Gary & Susan White
1/22 Ray & Susan Hamann
1/23 Roland & Kay Savant
1/26 Joe & Phyllis Sparks

1/3 Colin Toth
1/3 Mary Gad
1/3 Erika Brown
1/5 Gary White
1/6 Huda Gad
1/8 Jimmy Hankins
1/8 Kecia Schmidt
1/12 Chloe Braziel
1/13 Debbie Burns
1/13 Ryan Hoar
1/15 Bill Cannon
1/15 Marilyn Jones



1/17 Alexandria Mireles Banda
1/17 Dick Malec
1/18 Shahid Ali
1/19 Diane Nelsen
1/20 Jennifer Rukavina
1/24 Melinda Taber
1/27 Christopher Estell
1/27 Gene Lowke
1/27 Ken Homeyer
1/28 Adam Crane
1/28 Kay Savant
1/28 Tiffany Seefeldt
1/29 Eric Roe
1/29 Kim Platt
1/30 Martha Malec
1/30 Mary Moretz
1/31 Jeanette Patterson

Puzzle!

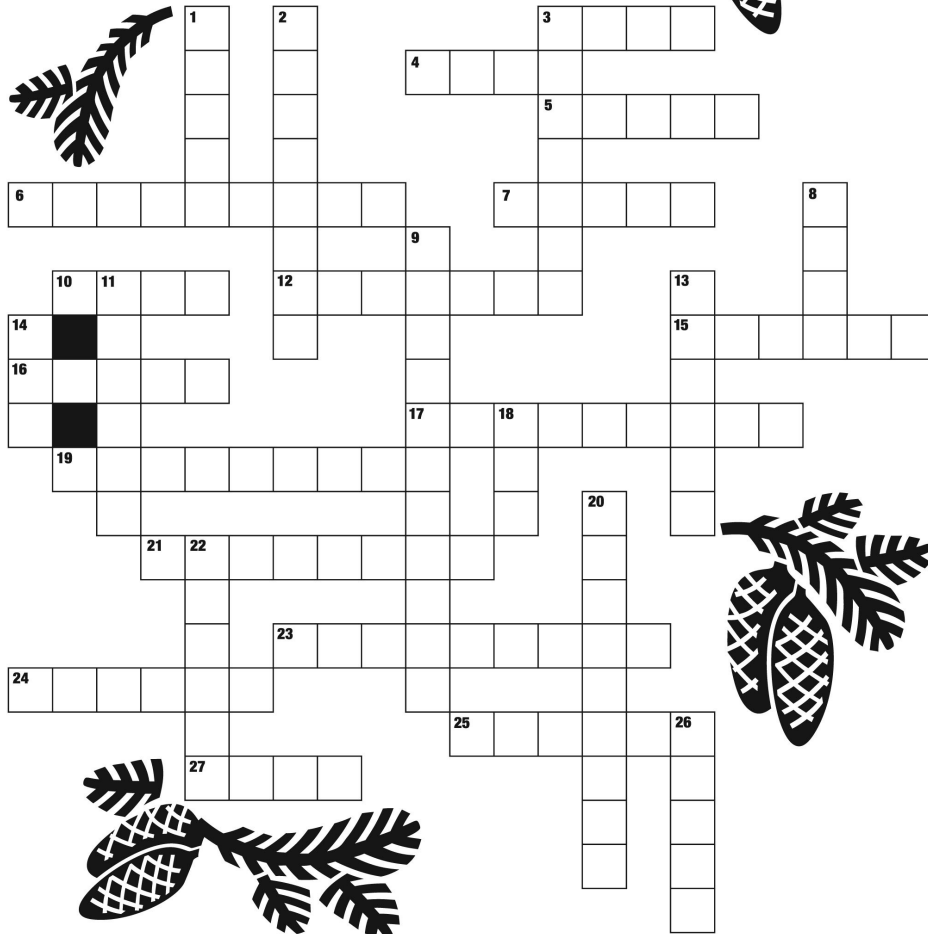
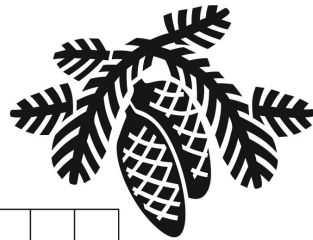
Take a break from Christmas preparations
to complete this seasonal crossword.

DOWN

1. song
2. keeper of sheep
3. Anointed One
8. a gift of the magi
9. red plants
11. coming
13. Jesus _____
14. 12th month (abbrev.)
18. B&B
20. a form of holly
22. heavenly messengers
26. he ordered the slaughter
of the innocents

ACROSS

3. wise men
4. author of the most famous
Christmas account
5. red-suited gift-giver
6. of Ephrathah
7. presents
10. Gabriel came to her
12. has a red nose
15. "Messiah" composer
16. northern little helpers
17. patron saint of children
19. made flesh
21. home for Mary
23. tree decorations
24. crib
25. he was a carpenter
27. a nova



Answer: DOWN 1. carol, 2. shepherd, 3. Messiah, 8. gold,
9. poinsettias, 11. Advent, 13. Christ, 14. dec, 18. inn,
20. mistletoe, 22. angels, 26. Herod, ACROSS 3. magi, 4. Luke,
5. Santa, 6. Bethlehem, 7. gifts, 10. Mary, 12. Rudolph,
15. Handel, 16. elves, 17. Saint Nick, 19. incarnate, 21. Nazareth,
23. ornaments, 24. manger, 25. Joseph, 27. star