



# grace

LUTHERAN CHURCH

belong · believe · become

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Arlington, TX 76010  
817.274.1626  
online @ grace.lc

Newsletter  
JUNE 2023

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

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Inside this issue:

Sanctuary Reno. Conversation	1
Ezra/Nehemiah Bible Class	1
The Chosen & Chat	1
Family Ministry News	2
Ongoing Groups Updates	3
Save The Date	3
Church Calendar	3
Spanish Corner	3
ESL Classes Ministry	3
Loving Liberia Update	4
Holy Smokers - Father's Day	4
Thrivent Thank You	4
Pickleball Open House	4
Special Dates	5
Contact the Church Office	5
New Members	5
Your Elders	5
Bdays/Anniversaries	5
Puzzle	6

## Sanctuary Renovation Conversation

On Sunday, June 11, immediately following our worship service (10:45), all are invited to the Gymnasium to discuss the proposed Sanctuary renovations. This meeting will be for the purpose of listening to Jesus, who speaks through his body the church. Please come and be an active part of our shared decision-making process. There will not be a vote during this meeting. A Voter's meeting will be held at a yet to be determined date and time.



## Pastor Widger Bible Class - Ezra/Nehemiah

When Israel returned to Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile, they found the holy city laid to waste, the temple demolished, and their way of life devastated. From the rubble and ashes, God raises up two leaders to restore the foundations of worship and the city itself. Ezra, the first back from exile, sets out to restore the worship life. Nehemiah, the next leader God sends, is transformed from a royal cup-bearer into a man in coveralls rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem. Come and learn from God's word what this might mean for us today as we study the twin books of Ezra and Nehemiah in MR2. This study will resume Sunday, June 18th.

## The Chosen & Chat - Invite a neighbor!



We are again gathering to fellowship and watch through some of this wonderful series together! Starting in June, we will meet weekly on Wednesdays at 7 pm, starting in Meeting Room 2. We will watch through all of Season 2 through June and July. You can always watch from home to catch up at [The Chosen website](#), or by using their app. There will be water and fresh popcorn provided. Feel free to bring your own snacks and drinks, as well, and invite a friend or family member! [Contact Jenna](#) for more information, and [visit their website \(thechosen.tv\)](#).

learn more about the series by reading below or [visiting their website \(thechosen.tv\)](#). *The Chosen* is a television drama series based on the life of Jesus of Nazareth. It is the first-ever multi-season series based on the true stories of the gospels of Jesus Christ, and has become the #1 most crowdfunded media project of all time. [Watch the official trailer here.](#)

# FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING Bible Studies -  
10:45-11:45 AM

Babies/Toddlers: Nursery  
Preschool 3's/Kinder & Grades 1-6:  
Preschool wing classrooms  
Grades 7-12: Youth Shed  
Biblical Parenting: Library



June 26-29

Registration is NOW OPEN to join us on mission as an Out-of-This-World Volunteer or as an All-Star Participant!!!  
3 y/o (potty-trained) through Incoming Grade 6

Training: Saturday, June 24

9 AM Donuts & General Overview  
10 AM Safety Training for All  
11 AM Set up & Supplies  
12 Home

Set Up: Sunday, June 25

12 PM Lunch Provided  
12:30 Finish Set Up

REGISTER HERE: [vbs.grace.lc](https://vbs.grace.lc) by June 20! Watch for other opportunities to help out!

SUPPLIES WANTED—Find the Needs List on Sundays in the Narthex/Lobby or [speak with Serena](#).

## Who is My Neighbor?

Heath Lewis | May 29, 2013 LCMS Youth eSOURCE

### The world is shrinking. Have you noticed?

I'm not saying the world is getting physically smaller, but think about it: in an instant, thanks to technological advances, you can Skype (or use other forms of social media) with a friend on the other side of the planet. We carry phones that allow people to reach us virtually anytime, anywhere. With a few clicks on a keyboard, we have immediate access to all sorts of information. With email, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram, Tumblr, Blogger, and...well...any number of other social media platforms, we are able to keep up-to-date with all the latest happenings in the lives of our family and friends.

### Here's why it matters...

With all of these connections, you have more potential to share Jesus with the world than any generation in history. But in order to share Jesus, we must be willing to be present in the lives of people who aren't like us.

It's easy to spend time with people who are like you—people who have the same interests, backgrounds, beliefs, etc. But if we are going to take the love of Christ to people who don't know Him, we will have to invest in people who don't share our beliefs about God. It will require loving someone who is not like you.

After all, Jesus tells us in Matthew 22:37-39 (NLT), "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Notice: there is no qualification to only love people who believe like you, live like you, attend the same school as you, work in the same field as you, etc. Jesus simply tells us to 'love God, and love our neighbors.'

Maybe the best way to love God is to simply love who God loves... And who does God love? "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16, NLT).

## So, how will you love your neighbors this week? This month?

### Put it into Practice:

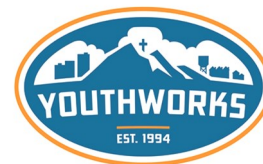
1. Pick one person—a family member, person your age, workmate or someone else in your life. Pray for that person each day for the next week. Write their name on a notecard or post-it note, and put it where you will see it each day. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal ways you can share Christ's love with that person.

2. Consider how you can share Christ's love in each of these ways: spiritually, relationally, physically, intellectually or financially. This month, make it a practice to go out of your way every day to share Christ's love with someone.

Adapted in places by SP.

Grace Kids are attending summer camp June 11-16. ALL \$ NOW DUE. Please keep our campers in prayer!

YOUTH MISSION CAMP  
Bayou La Batre, Alabama  
July 8-16, 2023  
For current Grades 6—12.



Teens will serve through home improvement projects, elder care, and kids camp. In the evenings, youth will experience Dauphin Island, camp/praise time, and a tour of Bayou La Batre. [Contact Serena](#) if you would like to be a prayer warrior for a teen! All money is NOW DUE.



# Ongoing Groups Updates

Information on all of our groups can be found anytime at [grace.lc/get-connected](https://grace.lc/get-connected)

## Braille

We are looking for volunteers! We need assistance to help with admin and organization, and are also asking for more general volunteers to fill our teams. If you are interested in working with our mission to bring the Word of God to the 253 million people throughout the world who are Blind or Visually Impaired, please contact Uvonne D. [or the church office.](#)



## Piecemakers

Please mark your calendars to join us for our next work session on August 5th, at 9am! This is the first Saturday of August, and we will not be meeting in June or July. If you have any questions, call or text Donita at 817-243-5716.



## Book Club

We are not meeting for the summer. Instead, we invite everyone to read on their own over the next few months, then share a book report with the group when we meet again in September! This first meeting back will take place at Mary T's house. Please call Ruth B or [the Church Office](#) for more information.



## Save the Date

- ◇ Soccer Camp, July 10-14, 6 - 7:30 pm  
Elementary - 8th Grade
- ◇ Back to School Blessing, August 6  
Preschool - 12th Grade & Teachers  
Register by July 17

Did you know that the church calendar is available ONLINE? [CLICK HERE](https://grace.lc/calendar) [go.grace.lc/calendar](https://grace.lc/calendar) to access it. Any calendar changes made in the church office are updated in real time!

## ESL Classes Ministry

Our first English as a Second Language Classes semester has ended just last week - it was a great year! God showed his love and care for each one of the students during the year through each of our weekly volunteers. We served and reached out to around 80 people from our community in our first year. Yay God! God did marvelous things through this ministry, and we are excited to see what God also has in store for us in our next semester.

Classes will resume Wednesday September 6, 2023, and go on until the middle of May 2024. We follow the Arlington ISD Calendar for our Holidays during the year. People meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm. Childcare is also provided.

The ESL program has created the opportunity to do mission outreach. A Spanish Bible study has started including some of our ESL students, and an early communion class also started with some of their kids.

We appreciate all the teachers' support, volunteers, and of course the support and prayers of all of you. As we get ready for a new ESL year next fall, we would like to request your prayers and to look into the opportunity of serving our community. It doesn't have to be a weekly commitment; there are plenty of options to serve. Knowing the Spanish language is also not necessary to help with this ministry. Some examples of how you could serve are listed below:

- Volunteers to serve or just provide snacks Wednesdays 7:15 - 7:45 pm
- Teachers' Aides for our three class levels (beginner class, intermediate class and advanced class)
- Substitute teachers (for beginner class, intermediate class and advanced class)
- Greeters
- Childcare substitute

Material and guidance will be provided. Please let us know if you feel the call to help and serve in our effort to reach our Hispanic Community and beyond. You can send an e-mail to Pastor Juan at [jzamora@grace.lc](mailto:jzamora@grace.lc) or deaconess Alma at [azamora@grace.lc](mailto:azamora@grace.lc)

## Spanish Corner

Hola	Hello
Adiós	Goodbye
Hasta Luego	See you later
Hasta Mañana	See you tomorrow
Gracias	Thank you
Por favor	Please
Sí	Yes
No	No





## Loving Liberia Update

Pictured is Diane Keeley with two backpacks made for Loving Liberia children in Liberia. We want to thank the Lord Jesus and for the women of Trinity, Tyler, TX. The ladies have completed 50 of the 150 backpacks and are continuing to work on this project. The ladies who blessed our children are Judy Weis, Pat Temple, Sue Schultz, Pam Howard, Susan Veerkant, Donna Mendez, June Krueger, Lucia Zwieb, Dorothy Hicks and Diane Keeley. The Lord has blessed Loving Liberia with the resources to purchase over 40 computers for our two schools that will be sent in shipping containers in June or July, along with four air conditioners and power surge protectors.



These are the kind of barrels that will be sent with the computers, T-shirts, and other supplies for our children. A huge and grateful thank you for your prayers and support. For those who are sponsoring a student, you may write back to your student using the email of the school. The school will make sure your student receives your response. If you wish to send the student a gift, please let Perry Smith, founder, know by sending him an email to [gartoe32@yahoo.com](mailto:gartoe32@yahoo.com).

*Pastor Hildebrandt*

## Thrivent Thank You

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

A big thank you to the many Thrivent members that claimed their gift of free money from Thrivent that is going toward Vacation Bible Camp..... \$1750 will be a great help toward VBC fun success this year.

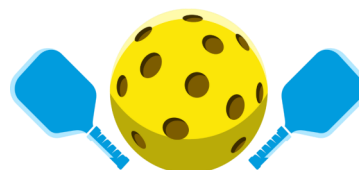
Also a big thanks to the 26 Thrivent members already claiming \$6500 of free money from Thrivent to further other ministries of Grace. Way to go to being faithful stewards of that Thrivent gift you received.

**thrivent**

## Pickleball Open House

Ever wanted to get more active and fit? Ever heard of pickleball and wanted to give it a try? Come on Saturday, June 17th between 9:30 am and 12 pm to explore pickleball. It's a great game for all ages and the fastest growing sport in America. With our recent gym renovation, we added two pickleball courts and would love to

have you join in on the fun. If you have questions please feel free to [contact Pastor Widger](#).



## CELEBRATING FATHER'S DAY The Holy Smokers are Smoking Again

The Holy Smokers are taking orders for Father's Day ribs, pork loins, and sausage.

The Holy Smokers are smoking St. Louis Style Spareribs, pork loins, and sausage (mild 14 ounce or spicy 12 ounce) on Saturday, June 17.

Signup sheet is in the Narthex/Lobby or call Brian R 817-229-9703 or Ernie O 817-247-0747.

Orders need to be pre-paid; ribs are \$35.00 per slab, whole pork loin is \$40 (half loin is \$20), and sausage (mild or spicy) is \$8.00 per ring or 2 for \$15.00. Make checks out to Grace Lutheran Church – memo to Holy Smokers.

The deadline to place your order will be NOON, Sunday, June 11.

Pickup time is around 2:00 pm on Saturday, June 17. We will call when ready.



## Special Dates

- ◇ Trinity Sunday, June 4, 2023
- ◇ Flag Day, June 14, 2023
- ◇ Father's Day, June 18, 2023
- ◇ Juneteenth, June 19, 2023
- ◇ First Day of Summer, June 21, 2023

Call 817.274.1626 or email [churchoffice@grace.lc](mailto:churchoffice@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/or contact information.
- ◇ Receive a current Church Directory as an active Grace member.
- ◇ Submit and/or update a prayer request.



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 6/2 Shahid & Lindsay Ali
- 6/6 Joe & Nancy Masterson
- 6/13 Howard & Dawn Stacy
- 6/15 Brian & Ann Bassett
- 6/20 David & Cathy Taylor
- 6/20 Eric & Bette Rathjen
- 6/22 Arnold & Santa George
- 6/22 Scott & Chelsie Schlesinger
- 6/24 Glenn & Mary Moretz
- 6/25 David & Reecanne Joeckel
- 6/25 James & Jan Runzheimer
- 6/27 Red & Susan Hoar
- 6/29 Miguel & Jessica Nieves

## New Members

**Shannon Edgar** lives here in Arlington and is new to the Lutheran church. She is married to Anthony Vance and mother of two girls, Brigid and Clair. She is a stay-at-home homeschooling mom that enjoys raising animals, gardening, and reading.

**Laura Hart** is the wife of Jordan Hart. Their 3 year anniversary will be in August. Laura is the 4th of 5 kids and was raised in Lake Dallas, TX. She was homeschooled for the majority of her schooling years and has enjoyed reading, writing, and crocheting ever since middle school. She is currently working at Home Depot.



**Jordan Hart** is the husband of Laura Hart. He was born in North Richland Hills, TX and graduated from the University of North Texas in 2019 and currently works in Data Analytics. He also enjoys reading and writing.

## 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](mailto:jdelcristo@grace.lc).

New to Grace? Reference the adjacent list. If your last name begins with "D," for example, Hank Jacobs 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

- 6/1 Michael Chavez
- 6/3 Katy Schmidt
- 6/3 Nancy Helm
- 6/3 Shelley Savant
- 6/4 Devon Scoggins
- 6/4 Maryann Jacobs
- 6/4 Rachel Harlass
- 6/6 Santa George
- 6/7 Brent Reynolds
- 6/7 Mark Joeckel
- 6/8 Michael Smith
- 6/10 Brent Burns
- 6/10 Karen Widger
- 6/10 Naomi Seaver
- 6/10 Zachary Rubel
- 6/11 Glenn Moretz
- 6/12 Stephanie Schmidt

- 6/13 Allie Bahe
- 6/13 James Schmidt Jr.
- 6/14 Alison Roth
- 6/14 Sasha Green
- 6/15 Robert Matthys
- 6/16 Max Widner
- 6/18 Gene Rosentreter
- 6/20 Richard Crossman
- 6/21 Andrew Swille
- 6/21 David Joeckel
- 6/21 Jim Schmidt
- 6/27 Eileen Watkins
- 6/27 Patrick Curtis
- 6/28 Michael Baumann
- 6/29 Linda Johnson

# Puzzle!

Complete this crossword with names of biblical fathers.  
Use the references for help, if needed.

1. King Solomon's father, who ruled over Israel for 40 years (*2 Samuel 5:4*)

4. He was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (*Genesis 22:1-2*)

6. He had 12 sons (*Genesis 35:22b*)

7. Samuel's father (*1 Samuel 1:19-20*)

9. His son was Obed (*Ruth 4:21*)

10. David was the youngest of his 8 sons (*Ruth 4:17*)

2. His 3 sons helped him build an ark (*Genesis 6:10*)
3. His youngest son, Jacob, tricked him into giving away a birthright (*Genesis 27:30*)
5. The Father of our Lord (*Ephesians 1:3*)
7. His sons were not like Samuel; they were wicked (*1 Samuel 2:12*)
8. David's best friend and the father of Mephibosheth (*2 Samuel 9:6*)
11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (*Genesis 4:25*)
12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus (*Matthew 1:20-21*)
13. Father of Jonathan; Israel chose him as their first king (*2 Samuel 9:6*)

Answer: DOWN 1. David, 4. Abraham, 6. Jacob, 7. Elkanah, 8. Jonathan, 11. Adam, 12. Joseph, 13. Saul, 9. Boaz, 10. Jesse; ACROSS 2. Noah, 3. Isaac, 5. God, 7. Eli,