



grace

LUTHERAN CHURCH
belong · believe · become

210 W. Park Row Dr.
Arlington, TX 76010
817.274.1626
online @ grace.lc

Newsletter
MARCH 2023



New Things

**"See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland." Is 43:19 (NIV)**

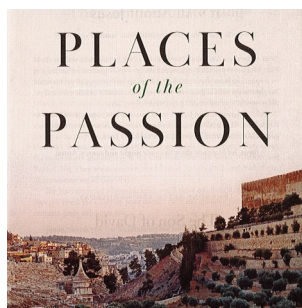
We are seeing many "new things" appear in the Grace family of faith. Some of them are physical, like the gym renovations which are just beginning. These will include a new scoreboard, backboards, floor, curtains, projector and screen... paid for from a generous legacy gift (more on this in a future installment). Our BOD has also authorized a Sanctuary Renovation team who will be reporting soon about potential "new things" to make our worship space more accessible, flexible, welcoming and demonstrate good stewardship of God's resources.

Other "new things" are people. Thanks to a grant from the Texas District of the LC-MS, we can aggressively pursue Hispanic outreach over the next two years. The demographics of the zip code in which Grace Lutheran resides (76010) is 62.4% Hispanic, 15.8% Black and 15.5% White. After only one semester of offering ESL classes and a few community events, we have a group of God's people asking to start worship services in Spanish. Praise God. Pastor Juan and Deaconess Alma Zamora, who have been anchoring this effort, will officially be "commissioned" on Sunday, March 5. The organization which they lead, [T2C2 \(Together Transforming Communities and Churches\)](#), will be moving its home base to Grace around that same time. God is doing a "new thing" with people in our midst...

As we continue to gather around the Word and Sacraments, God is doing a "new thing" in each of our lives. When we encounter His presence and His people, we are built up and encouraged, changed, metamorphosized from hungry caterpillars into beautiful new creations. Some might look like butterflies and others (like me), more moth-like. Yet we are all still changed in substance because Christ dwells richly in us!

Stay hungry for God my friends, His Word, the sacraments, fellowship with His people, and you too will be a "new thing"!

Pastor Doug Widger



Lent Services

We continue through our Lenten Series "Places of the Passion" this month.

Wednesday Services 3/1 - 3/29 at 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm
Meals served between services at 5:30 pm
Maundy Thursday 4/6 and Good Friday 4/7 at 6:30 pm
Easter Sunday at 9:30 am (open for seating at 9:00 am)

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



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FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

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

Babies/Toddlers: Nursery

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

Grades 7-12 Bible Study: Youth Shed

Biblical Parenting Sunday School: Library



Vacation Bible School
June 26 - 29

APRIL 2, 2:30-4:30 PM EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Easter Bunny, Egg Hunt, Country Critters Petting Zoo, Bubble Show at 3:15, Prizes, Car Show, Face Painting, Inflatables & More Family Fun!

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

Candy and Plastic Eggs, COOL CARS for the Car Show, Parking Lot Attendants, Food Prep and Food Table Volunteers, Inflatables Volunteers, Prayer Partners, People to Flyer Neighborhood, Set Up and Clean Up Crews, Egg Hunt Field Hosts, Bathroom Monitors, Greeters and Runners.

Help set up by stuffing eggs and goody bags on Sunday, Mar. 26, 11 AM & 12PM!
Back-up date Wednesday, Mar. 29, time TBD.

Youth will set up for their Easter Breakfast fundraiser and dye eggs on Saturday, April 8 from 9 am - 11 am.

Contact Serena for details at space@grace.lc. SIGN UP to volunteer through our website!



FAMILY MINISTRY will be in charge of the Lenten Meal on Wednesday, March 22nd!

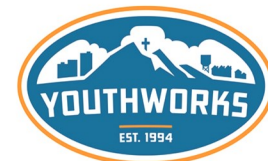
We will be preparing Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwiches with sides to be served at 5:30 pm. Let Serena know if you're able to help!



★ CAMP ★
LONE STAR

Grace Kids are attending summer camp June 11-16.
Cost is \$400. Next payment is due March 5.

YOUTH MISSION
Bayou La Batre, Alabama
July 8-16, 2023, **\$450 total**
\$250 currently due
For current Grades 6—12.



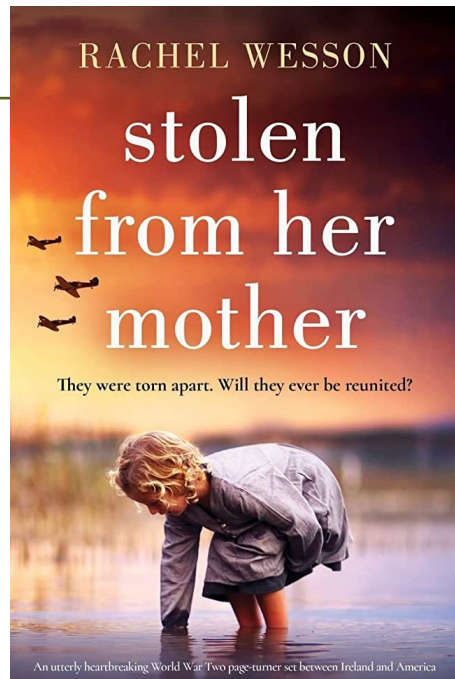
Teens will serve through home improvement projects, elder care, and kids camp. In the evenings, youth will experience Dauphin Island, camp time, praise time, and a tour of Bayou La Batre. [Contact Serena](#) with questions.

Ongoing Groups Updates

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

Book Club

Come discuss the book *Stolen From Her Mother* by Rachel Wesson this month! Our discussion through this book will be led by Vickie. We meet each 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2 pm in the Church Library. You can call Ruth B or [the Church Office](#) for more information.



graceSeniors

March 9th, we will meet at church at 9 AM. We will return before 2 PM.

INSTITUTE FOR CREATION,
DALLAS FIELD TRIP, \$15

[Contact Serena](#) if you missed the deadline.

1830 Royal Ln.
Dallas, TX, 75229

800.743.6374
discover@icr.org



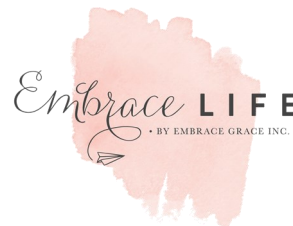
IF:Gathering 2023

Join us as we host a stream of this Women's Conference here at Grace! Our purpose is to draw women together, seeking God in community. Join us Friday, April 21st from 6:30 pm - 9 pm, and Saturday, April 22nd from 9 am - 4 pm, and pray that God would draw the women in our community to come and experience what He has for them.

Visit go.grace.lc/if2023 to learn more and register. Registration is \$19 per person (or free if you're a college student!) but need-based scholarships are available. Contact [Serena P](#) or [Jenna DC](#) for more information or to get involved!



You can be involved in EMBRACE GRACE!



Please keep this ministry to single moms in prayer and speak with Nancy G or [Serena](#) if you would like to be involved!

Have you directed your Choice Dollars yet?

Need help? Call Chris or call Thrivent.

If you do not tell Thrivent to send your choice dollars to Grace or a charity of your choice, Thrivent will send them to another and you will never know where.

This must be done in the next few weeks or it's too late. Go [online](#) to your account or call Chris O. at 817-247-7122.

thrivent

Loving Liberia Update

Loving Liberia was blessed on raising up 63 computers between Grace, Arlington and St. Paul, Weston, FL. We are planning on sending 50 laptop computers to Monrovia in March as well as purchasing USB Flash Drives and External Hard Drives for each computer. Additionally, we will purchase power surge protectors and extension cords for the computer room. We were also blessed with the donation of four floor air conditioners for the computer rooms. Our Monrovia school will be using two floor AC units and the remainder AC units will be used at our River Cess campus.



Another additional item we are finishing up with is the fence around the Monrovia campus for the safety of the children. Thank you for your generous support and prayers and it is great to see what God is doing among the children in Liberia. Just think, the children who don't have internet or computers at home will learn this valuable skill to be competent in being productive members in their society.

One last item is we also received 70 Martin Luther Small Catechisms to begin teaching our older students more in-depth theology about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Disciples of Jesus are being made at Perry Geevon Smith schools in Liberia. We are blessed to share what God is doing among us.

Pastor Hildebrandt

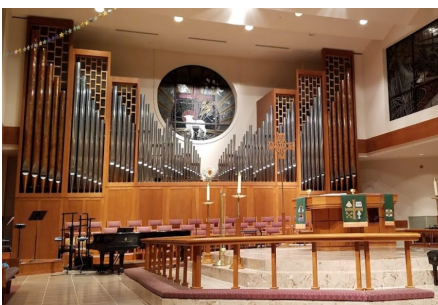
Lenten Hymn Festival

You are invited to attend on Sunday, March 19th at 3 pm, at Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Flower Mound (address below).

The Lenten Hymn Festival is led by The Rev. Dr. James Marriott, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Concordia University Texas. The festival features the Allen Sype Organ at Lamb of God Lutheran Church along with the LOG Chancel Choir and the LOG Children's Choir.

Sponsored by Church Organ Associates - Dale Johnson, President and Tom Branch, Service Director.

Lamb of God Lutheran Church
1401 Cross Timbers Road
Flower Mound, TX 75028



EASTER Hams, Sausage, Pork Loin

The Holy Smokers are ready to take orders for Easter hams, sausage and pork loins.

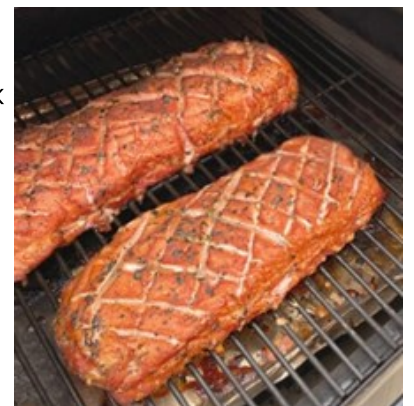
The pork loin is a new addition this year. The average weight of a whole loin is between 8-10 pounds uncooked. If a whole loin is too large for you, you can order a half loin for half price.

Signup sheet will be in the Narthex or call Ernie Owens 817-247-0747 or Brian Rukavina 817-229-9703. Orders need to be pre-paid. Hams and pork loins are \$40. Sausage (mild or spicy) is \$8 per ring or 2 for \$15.

Place checks in the envelope or cash can be given to Cynthia or Jenna. Make checks out to Grace Lutheran Church, memo as Holy Smokers.

The deadline to place your order is NOON, Sunday, April 2. Pickup will be Saturday afternoon, April 8. We will call with pickup time.

Anyone interested in joining the Holy Smokers please join us Saturday morning, April 8 around 7:00AM.





Congrats go out to Christopher Estell for achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout!

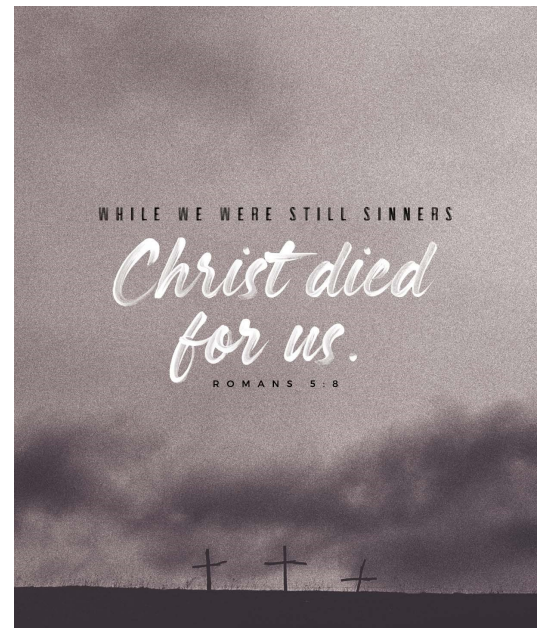


- 3/3 Greg Roe
- 3/4 Hank Jacobs
- 3/7 Karen Carter
- 3/9 Cathy Taylor
- 3/11 Christian Burgdorf
- 3/11 Samantha Hosti
- 3/12 Mike Livesay
- 3/12 Susan Hoar
- 3/13 Joe Elmers
- 3/15 Jade Sepulveda
- 3/15 Linda Buck
- 3/15 Olivia Mathews
- 3/16 Jan Runzheimer
- 3/19 Amanda Sessums
- 3/21 Ruth Brown
- 3/22 Anthony M. Pace
- 3/23 Na Schmidt
- 3/24 Janet L. Brutlag
- 3/26 Chelsie Schlesinger
- 3/26 Jane Smith
- 3/28 Jacob Braziel
- 3/29 Brenda Capps
- 3/30 Brian Rukavina
- 3/30 Debbie Hall
- 3/31 Barbara Ruthart



MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/4 Dean & Nancy Mickelson
- 3/13 Kenneth & Janet Flagg
- 3/16 Bob & Lou Anne Williams
- 3/17 Mike & Dorothy Kennedy



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? [CLICK HERE](http://go.grace.lc/calendar) (go.grace.lc/calendar) to access it. Any calendar changes and/or additions made in the church office are updated 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 "J," for example, Mike Kennedy 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

Puzzle!

Slow down and uncover this message and Bible verse, using the code below.

A	1	B	F	2	G	K	3	L	O	4	R	U	5	V
D		E	H		I	M		N	S		T	W		Y

W
 5 1 3 5 4 4
 4 1 3 3 4 4 2 4 1
 1 3 1 3 2 4 4 1 3
 2 4 4 2 4 1
 “ 1 1 4 4 2 3 3 1 3 1
 3 3 4 5 4 2 1 4
 2 1 3 2 4 1 ”

Answer: We must talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)