



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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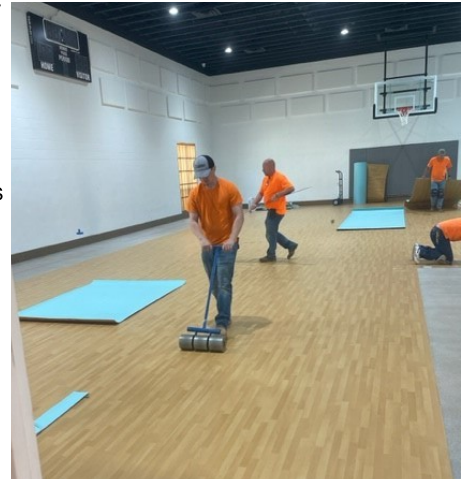
## All Things New

*Revelation 21:5 "Behold, I am making all things new."*

When Jesus shows up, he brings a sense of new creation to everything. We, at Grace, are experiencing this as we speak. Jesus is showing up in powerful ways. He is definitely making people new by the power of the Word and Sacraments. He is also making our properties new. The most recent example is the gymnasium.

We were recently able to install new flooring, new glass backboards, a new scoreboard, resurface the stage, new curtains, a new projection screen and projector, new doors, and new cabinet faces for the under-stage storage. The project is almost completed. Praise God for making all things new. The gym was dedicated in the early 1980's and was showing 40 plus years of hard use.

There will be a special "rededication event" on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. Please plan to attend as we thank God for his amazing gifts to the family of faith at Grace.



### Property Update

Ever since the 1990's the property which became known as "Grace West", "Grace Lutheran School", and most recently "Newman Academy" has been an asset to our family of faith. Beginning in 2020, when COVID-19 shut down "normal" operations, our BOD asked the Lord for wisdom regarding what is next for the 2 acres and 20,000 square feet of building. It was costing us over \$3,000 per month to upkeep and insure the vacant building. In October of 2022 the congregation voted to empower the BOD to sell or lease the property.

Praise God for the successful sale of the 308 West Park Row property. We closed the sale on Friday, April 18, 2023, and were funded that same day. After closing costs, commissions, surveys, and repairs we were able to clear approximately \$1.5 million. Praise God for this legacy gift!

Our BOD has established a Finance Team that is implementing a short-term plan. They will also be developing a long-term philosophy, which may include an endowment fund. More on this later.

Many thanks to those who worked towards the sale of the property including Alan Meyer, Keith Mangels (President), and the entire Board of Directors, who had many special meetings to accomplish the sale of this property!

P.S. - Our new neighbor is Mission Metroplex (connected with Mission Arlington). We look forward to partnering with them on mission and ministry to the people of Arlington.

Read more on the back cover of this newsletter (page 6) to learn about one more new thing - plans for a Sanctuary Renovation.



# 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/GLEE hallway

Grades 7-12 Bible Study: Youth Shed

Biblical Parenting Sunday School: Library



Vacation Bible School  
June 26 - 29  
Registration is OPEN to Volunteer & Participate at [vbs.grace.lc](http://vbs.grace.lc)

## THANK YOU, GRACE!

The way you supported the Easter Eggstravaganza and Easter Breakfast with your prep work, prayers, donations and presence blessed so many! You are appreciated!!!



GRADUATION SUNDAY

Save the Date


MAY 7, 12:00 PM  
Graduates & Youth Families Lunch



EST. 1941  
+ CAMP +  
**LONE STAR**

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

**YOUTH MISSION CAMP**  
Bayou La Batre, Alabama  
July 8-16, 2023; **\$450 total**  
**\$450 due 6/11/23**  
For current Grades 6—12.



EST. 1994

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](#) if you would like to be a prayer warrior for a teen!



## Spanish Corner

Bueno	Well; Good
Buenos días	Good day; Good morning
Buenas tardes	Good afternoon
Buenas noches	Good evening; Good night
Señor (Sr.)	Mr., Sir
Señora (Sra.)	Mrs., Ma'am
Señorita (Srta.)	Miss



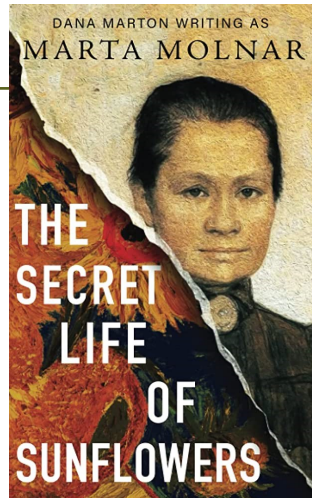


# Ongoing Groups Updates

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

## Book Club

This month, read with us *The Secret Life of Sunflowers* by Marta Molnar, a novel based on the true story of Johanna Bonger, Vincent van Gogh's sister-in-law. We meet to discuss books on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2 pm in the Church Library. You can call Ruth B or [the Church Office](http://thechurchoffice) for more information.



## graceSeniors

MAY 11, 12:00 PM

Hosts: Alloy's  
Devotion: Pastor  
Steve Roth  
Topic: Health



## Music Ministry

Our last party was so fun, we're going to have another! We will meet again at Mary T's house on May 24th at 6:30 pm. Look out for an email with more info.

We are now officially on break with rehearsals for the summer, but we will continue to meet occasionally to prepare for special services or practice quartets. Contact Will Land at [wland@grace.lc](mailto:wland@grace.lc) to get involved in our music ministry!



## The Chosen & Chat

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, this time in the Gym! 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](http://TheChosenwebsite), or by using their app. There's 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 at [jdelcristo@grace.lc](mailto:jdelcristo@grace.lc), and learn more about the series we're watching by reading below or [visiting The Chosen website](http://visitingTheChosenwebsite).

*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](http://Watchtheofficialtrailerhere).



## Job Posting

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for a full-time resource room teacher position at Prince of Peace Christian School in Carrollton, TX. Applicants must hold a current teaching license and have a special education certification/endorsement. Interested applicants looking for more information or wishing to submit a resume are asked to contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at [rschumacher@luthsped.org](mailto:rschumacher@luthsped.org).



## Thank You Note

Grace,

Thank you for your continued support of Tyler's recovery.

Over the past 2 years Medicare has just stopped covering some of Tyler's necessary meds. Your generous donations sure help to offset the additional cost. Blessings to all!!!!

*Don, Cindi, and Tyler Walker*

## Loving Liberia Update

This is a picture of a coconut tree on our property in River Cess in the middle of Liberia. We have planted 180 coconut trees around our property line to have an easy way to identify our property.

As coconut trees grow, so do children in the love and nurturing of the Lord from loving teachers in our two schools. With your support in prayer and finances we are reaching children and families with the gospel of Jesus Christ and seeing the lives of families being changed.

One student shared this with her sponsor this past month: "I appreciate you for seeing myself in school which happened to be one thing that have ever brought gladness to my life and my family. Nevertheless, I praise God that I see myself in school when some of my friends in the village are going on their farms with their parents." We are seeing growth in coconut trees and children. Thank you for your support.



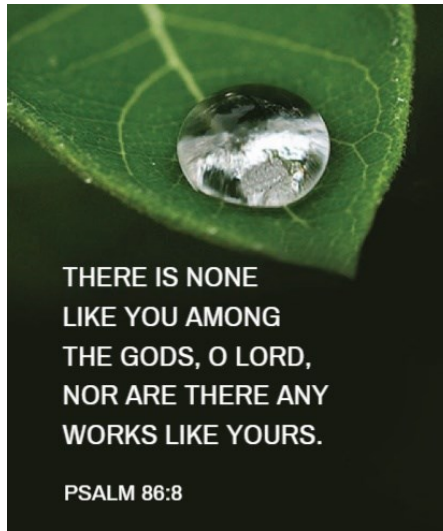
*Pastor Hildebrandt*

## Pushpay Instructions

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.



**Pushpay**



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



## Holy Smokers Thank You

The Holy Smokers want to thank everyone that placed an order with us for Easter hams, pork loins, sausage. The Holy Smokers started at 6:00am and smoked 17 hams, 9 whole pork loins and 55 rings of sausage. This past Sunday, one of our members that ordered a ham said, "The Holy Smokers did an awesome job. That was the best ham I ever had." That really puts a big smile on our faces. We hope that everyone that ordered from us enjoyed your order.

Easter team: Brian Rukavina, Walt Baumann, Wayne Hankins, Jimmy Hankins, William Richmond, Keith Mangels, James Gerhardt, Brian Bassett, Chris Christopher, and Ernie Owens.

Save the Date – June 17th

Father's Day ribs, pork loins and sausage.





## Special Dates

- ◇ National Day of Prayer,  
May 4, 2023
- ◇ Mother's Day, May 14, 2023
- ◇ Ascension Day, May 18, 2023
- ◇ Armed Forces Day, May 20,  
2023
- ◇ Pentecost, May 28, 2023
- ◇ Memorial Day,  
May 29,  
2023



- 5/1 Max Blaine Nieves
- 5/1 Jordan Mangrum Scoggins
- 5/1 Reecanne Joeckel
- 5/2 Rose Widner
- 5/2 Susan Hamann
- 5/3 Miranda Wagoner
- 5/4 Dorene Goodson
- 5/4 Hayden Brown
- 5/6 John Schmidt
- 5/8 Thomas Jones
- 5/9 Jaydyn Lang
- 5/12 Olena Gerhardt
- 5/13 Karen Bornsen
- 5/14 Sandra Pecard
- 5/14 Scott Cunningham
- 5/15 Eric Rathjen
- 5/15 John Muelschen
- 5/16 Cynthia Walker
- 5/17 Dawn Sepulveda
- 5/18 Diane Itgen
- 5/20 Katie Lee
- 5/23 Uvonne Duppstadt
- 5/24 Ann Reynolds
- 5/26 Sherry Burgdorf
- 5/26 James Gerhardt
- 5/27 Desiree Minor
- 5/27 Ellen Pelzer
- 5/28 Joe Masterson
- 5/28 Kristin Braziel
- 5/30 Red Hoar
- 5/30 Melonnie Pollard
- 5/30 Robert Smith

## Life Immortal

At the end of May, Americans honor those who've died for our country — and remember all deceased loved ones. These times of reflection, often in cemeteries, can make us ponder our own mortality. Even some Christians may fear the unknown of death.

Yet because of our faith, followers of Jesus can aim to make productive use of whatever earthly time we have left. We know the grave isn't the end. Consider this poetic description of life everlasting from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: "Dust thou art, to dust returnest / was not spoken of the soul."

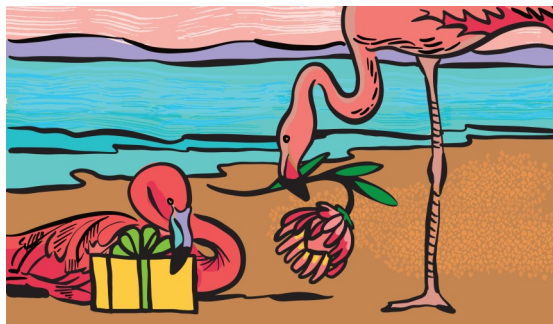
To our death-defying, death-defeating God we pray: Eternal God, empower us to take hold of the eternal life to which Christ calls us, and to boldly testify of it to anyone who asks the reason for our hope. To the immortal King of the ages, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to him be honor, glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## 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: [idelcristo@grace.lc](mailto:idelcristo@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*



## MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/4 Steven & Lisa Woolston
- 5/11 Daniel & Nancy Helm
- 5/11 Greg & Gail Roe
- 5/16 Ken & Amy Homeyer
- 5/21 Tom & Rae Ann Wagoner
- 5/22 Michael & Na Schmidt
- 5/26 Doug & Karen Widger
- 5/29 Scott & Cynthia Cunningham
- 5/30 Richard & Paula Crossman

## 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

Call 817.274.1626

or email

[idelcristo@grace.lc](mailto:idelcristo@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.

## All Things New, Continued: The Next 60 Years

In 1962 Grace Lutheran Church dedicated the Sanctuary to the glory of God. The Sanctuary design was very unconventional for a church of that era with swooping roof lines, the unique cross and the beautiful stained glass that has helped thousands and thousands of people experience the one unique thing about the Christian faith - GRACE! Grace comes to us as a gift. Grace changes us and calls us to purposeful living.

As Grace enters its second 60 years, it's time to refresh and enhance the Sanctuary's functionality and appearance while highlighting the key features of the Sanctuary. This will include replacing elements like the sacred furniture, pews and carpet that look faded or stained, and make improvements to the lighting and sound. It's time to make the Sanctuary feel new.



The updated Sanctuary will be a more comfortable, inviting, accessible and a flexible space, but the original Sanctuary will be evident in the basic architecture and general layout of the space and the wonderful memories that are still there. The Sanctuary will have an uplifting atmosphere, helping create a sense of community, encouraging worship, and making a positive impression with guests.

Let us not forget the most important goal of updating the sanctuary; it is to provide an accessible and flexible space to glorify God and point all to know Him, so that He may be pleased with it and be honored.

A presentation was made to the Voters' assembly on Sunday, April 30. Samples of the recommended improvements and architect's renderings will be on display in the Lobby/Narthex for the next several weeks. The following pictures are examples of the architect's rendering to provide you a sense of the updates.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about The Next 60 Years project, speak to one of the committee members;

Sanctuary – Alan Meyer, Bette Rathjen, Michael Curtis, Tracey Rukavina.

Sound – Will Land, Jon Pelzer, Red Hoar, Jenna Del Cristo

