



grace

LUTHERAN CHURCH

belong · believe · become

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

Newsletter
NOVEMBER 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



Sanctuary Update

The voters approved moving forward with our Sanctuary renovations at the Special Meeting held on October 15. The first step, because of the long lead time, was to order the pews. That occurred the week after the meeting as our team worked through a layout and submitted a deposit. Additional conversations are happening with vendors and contractors.

Telling the Next Generation –Psalm 78:3-4 declare the following:

“things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us;
⁴ We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will **tell the next generation**
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,”.

These words will guide our thoughts, prayers, and offerings as all members will be receiving a packet of materials in November which will contain more information about the Sanctuary renovations, and the Thank Offering, which all will be invited to participate in. Please continue to pray for God’s hand of blessing to be on our reaching out to the next generation.

Annual Voters' Meeting

Save the DATE for Sunday, November 12 @ 12:30 pm in the Gymnasium for our Annual Voters' Meeting. Lunch will be provided prior to the meeting. Our agenda will include the following: Election of Board of Directors, 2024 Budget, Update on Sanctuary renovations and more. Candidates for the Board of Directors are: James Gerhardt, Gail Roe, Donita Spawr, and Gary White. We look forward to seeing you then!

Pastor's Bible Class

1 John will be the focus of our time together. John, in this letter, emphasizes LOVE. Who couldn't use more understanding and application of love in their life? Come and join us on Sundays after service in MR2 as we explore the authoritative and life-changing Word of God!



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FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING Bible Studies

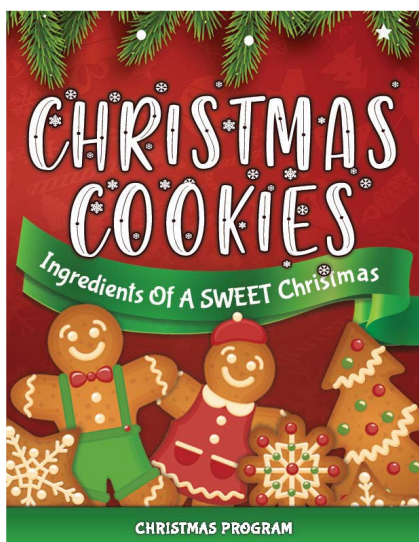
10:45-11:45 AM

Babies/Toddlers: Nursery
 Preschool 3's/Kinder & Grades 1-5:
 Preschool Wing Classrooms
 Grades 6-8: MR4 (Top Left)
 Grades 9-12: Youth Shed
 Biblical Parenting: Library

NO BIBLE STUDY NOV. 19 & 26

Spanish Corner

¿Qué...? (kay)	What?
¿Cómo...? (KOH-moh)	How?
¿Cuándo...? (KWAN-doh)	When?
¿Dónde...? (DON-day)	Where?
¿Quién...? (KEE-en)	Who?
¿Por qué...? (por KAY)	Why?
¿Cuál...? (kwal)	Which?
No sé (no say)	I don't know



DEC. 17, 2023
 9:30 AM

11/5, 12 PM Play
 Practice (older children)

11/26, 10:45 AM TBA
 Check with Serena.
 FULL Cast

12/3, 12 PM FULL Cast

12/10, 10:45 AM Dress
 Rehearsal FULL Cast

Be on the lookout for
 fun, fellowship, and
 service activities to
 be announced!

Hispanic Ministry

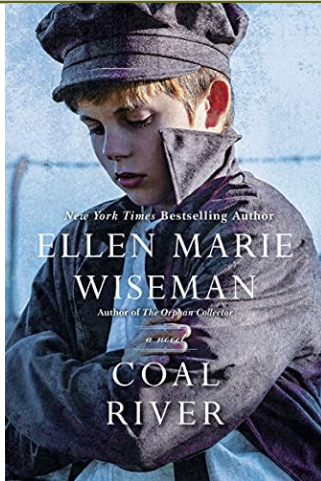
Beloved people of Grace, we are entering a season where many families like us take time to reflect on the things for which we are grateful. It has been a joy and a privilege to be a part of the ministry at Grace Lutheran Church, where the Lord has blessed us richly. With that being said, we would like to share a couple examples of this. The first is about the Spanish service. A year ago, we didn't know how the Lord was going to work things out, nor did we expect it to be so fast. But we walked with confidence that He was calling us to move in this direction, and today it is a reality: We are meeting every week to worship in Spanish together with a group of people from the community, who on Sunday mornings are ready to hear the Good News of the Gospel. At the same time, we also have people that step up to help by using their gifts with the Spanish outreach ministry like Roberto and Lucy, serving closely with Pastor Juan and Deaconess Alma. They are helping not only in outreach ministries, but Roberto is also helping with liturgy on Sundays. We are also thankful for having church members, staff and community helping with these various ministries that are making an impact with the Hispanic community.

In addition to all of this, our ESL outreach program team is planning a Thanksgiving Party for Wednesday, November 15th, at 6:30pm in the Gym, and **you're invited!** Stop by and say "Hi!", and stay to enjoy fun and fellowship time. We are getting ready for our ESL Christmas Party, as well. Just like last year, we are planning to give toys for kids under 12 years old. **Please look for our Angel Tree soon** and help us to get those toys ready by December 17th. We are praying that the Lord continues to guide us and give us wisdom in every step, as we continue serving His Church and His community. *Philippians 1:3-6, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

Book Club

In our next gathering, we will discuss the book "Coal River" by Ellen Marie Wiseman. In this vibrant historical novel, the acclaimed author explores one young woman's determination to put an end to child labor in a Pennsylvania mining town.

Come join us in the church library on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm!



graceSeniors

Can't wait to see you Nov. 9 at 12 PM!

Let's gather to eat, learn, and enjoy fellowship together! Bring dessert or salad items to share! Golden Chick will be provided!



SPECIAL GUEST: Patricia Bravo, Gulf War Veteran and Retired Air Force Master Sergeant, on Women in the Military and Their Changing Role Throughout Time

Sign up with Serena to host or lead a devotion.

SEE *You* THERE

Bring a Friend

Update from the Del Cristos

To our Family of Faith at Grace,

Many of you may know, but I (Jenna) want to give an update for everyone on what the future holds for Richie and me, and what it means for our roles in this community of faith.

Richie has been called to and pursuing a flying career for the past 4+ years. In March of this year, his dreams finally 'took off' and he was hired to become a C-5 Pilot with the Air Force Reserves! Lots of medical exams and paperwork later, he finally has received his orders to begin training, which means a timeline for us moving away has officially begun.

He will be leaving to start his first trainings November 20th. Following those, our current plan would be to move together around March 2024 for the next phase of training. Our final move to New England is projected for the second half of 2025.

Richie will fly part-time with this squadron for many years, and at some point plans to also pursue an airline job. We are both so incredibly excited for this opportunity, and look forward to a new start in an area we both love (we both partially grew up in the Northeast), where we hope to start a family.

We have been expecting this inevitable transition, and Richie has been phasing out of his roles and responsibilities here for some time. With my roles, the current plan is to cover the different areas I am responsible for with different part-time hires and volunteers, possibly with shortening our current office 'open' hours.

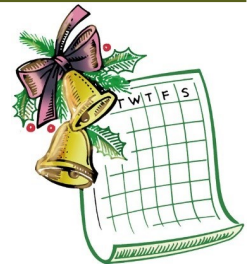
There will be a going-away sendoff reception for Richie on Sunday, November 5th after service. We have so appreciated your love and support over the years, and will miss our Grace family dearly!

Much love,

Jenna & Richie Del Cristo

Preparing Baskets for the Homebound

Look for sign up sheets in the Narthex/Lobby for the various items we are gathering to put together baskets for the homebound! Items will be due no later than Sunday, November 26th.



A note of thanks

The Elders would like to say thank you for all the time and effort the Sanctuary Renovation Committee put in during the past several months. There was obviously a great deal of hard work and effort spent on what was presented to our congregation. Our Sanctuary is extremely beautiful, and the updates at this time will continue to praise and glorify our Savior for the next 70 years.

Loving Liberia Update

This picture is a glimpse of what teaching children about Jesus and the basics of reading, math and language skills looks like. This would be primitive by our standards, but this is a picture of our new temporary school in Gayes Zahn Town, River Cess County, Liberia. We praise the Lord for faithful teachers, and we praise the Lord for students who are learning to have a better future with Christian education.



On January 9, 2023, four members of Grace Lutheran Church: Pastor Doug Widger, Pastor Russell Hildebrandt, Perry Geevon Smith, founder, Colin Toth and Pastor Ben Prohl from Trinity, Tyler will make a trip to Liberia. We look forward to meeting the teachers, children, parents, and others living around our two schools. Our mission trip will explore these three areas: (1) building relationships with staff, children, parents, and leaders in the community; (2) evaluating what assets the local community has; (3) and how do we develop better communication lines, enhance the assets of the community and what does long range development look like for our schools, children, staff, and communities we serve.

Sunday, November 5, 2023, we will share brunch in the gym thanks to Thrivent and have a presentation during Bible study time about the joy of serving children and families in Liberia. We thank you for your prayers and financial support for Loving Liberia as we live out the Great Commission.

Blessings,

Pastor Hildebrandt

Fellowship & Music

Hi friends! I wanted to invite you to a night of fellowship, dancing, and listening to my band Justus Cats on Friday November 3, 7 pm - 11 pm. We play a mix of classic Country, Rock, and Soul hits that you're sure to recognize.

Location: American Legion Post 379
1245 N Industrial Blvd
Bedford 76021
817-267-6047

There's no cover charge and you don't have to be a member to come in. This is a safe place to come to with friendly people who like to listen and dance to good music. We will also be playing at the Arlington Elks Lodge Friday November 17, 7:30 - 10:30 pm, as well as December 1st at the American Legion in Bedford. Please feel free to contact me with any question at all. Thank you!

Mike Kennedy, 817-675-9787



Thanksgiving Turkeys, Pork Loins, and Sausage

We are smoking whole turkeys (avg 10-12 lbs.), turkey breast (avg 6-8 lbs.), whole or half pork loins, and sausage (mild 14 ounce or spicy 12 ounce) on Wednesday, November 22.

Watch for the signup sheet in the Narthex or call Brian R 817-229-9703 or Ernie O at 817-247-0747.

Orders will need to be pre-paid at \$40.00 per whole turkey, \$35.00 for the turkey breast, \$40.00 for whole pork loin, \$20.00 for a half pork loin, and \$8.00 per ring of sausage or 2 for \$15.00. Checks can be placed in the envelope attached to the signup sheet or cash can be given to Cynthia or Jenna. Make checks out to Grace Lutheran Church. Mark check memo as Holy Smokers.

The deadline to sign up for turkeys, pork loins and sausage will be after church service on Sunday, November 19.

We are planning pickup time for Wednesday, November 22, around 2:00 pm. We will call with updated time.

Anyone interested in joining the Holy Smokers please join us Wednesday morning, November 22 around 7 am.





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

11/5 Alan & Moira Meyer
 11/6 Steven & Alison Roth
 11/14 Shannon Edgar & Anthony Vance
 11/15 Brent & Ann Reynolds
 11/17 Hosny & Huda Gad
 11/17 John & Donita Spawr
 11/19 Charles & Gerry Sparks
 11/27 Hugh & Joann Boyle

11/2 Melinda Schmidt
 11/3 Luis Gutierrez
 11/3 Nancy Masterson
 11/3 Sondra Schubert
 11/4 James Hankins
 11/5 Chris Owens
 11/6 Jessica Nieves
 11/6 JoAnn Jeske
 11/6 Luke Joeckel
 11/6 Matthew Joeckel
 11/7 Deborah Hildebrandt
 11/8 Daniel Helm
 11/8 Don Walker
 11/9 Charles Kunze
 11/9 Esther Smith
 11/9 Howard Stacy
 11/9 Jennifer Tatrow
 11/9 Rae Ann Wagoner
 11/11 Barb Pinnow

11/11 John Biel
 11/12 Jacob Hoar
 11/12 Troy Baumann
 11/14 Daryl Seefeldt
 11/15 Paul Burgdorf
 11/16 Alexandria Baumann
 11/16 Zachary Baumann
 11/17 Alex Stacy
 11/17 Mary Wolter
 11/17 Lynn Smith
 11/17 Roberto Gómez
 11/18 Noel Salazar Mireles
 11/18 Will Land
 11/19 Dave Voss
 11/19 Dawn Stacy
 11/19 Linda Rawe
 11/19 Ryan Baumann
 11/20 Darla Creel
 11/21 Nancy Mickelson
 11/22 Ashley Jacobs
 11/23 Charles Sparks
 11/24 Elizabeth Gutierrez
 11/25 Janet Middlebrooks
 11/25 Serena Pace
 11/26 Jimmy Braziel
 11/27 Christian Sessums
 11/28 Donita Spawr
 11/29 Carol Hall
 11/29 Judy Horton
 11/29 Laura Smith
 11/29 Paul Tatrow
 11/30 Leonardo Salazar

Advent/Christmas Services

Our theme for Advent/Christmas this year will be "Songs of Advent". Services will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm on December 6, 13, and 20. Our Christmas schedule will be as follows: Sunday, December 24 we will have our regular 9:30 am service, and a 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Service.



THANK YOU from the staff for your so kind and generous expressions of appreciation over the past month!!!

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 list below. If your last name begins with "D," for example, Hank Jacobs would be your assigned elder.

ELDERS & THEIR ASSIGNED MEMBERS

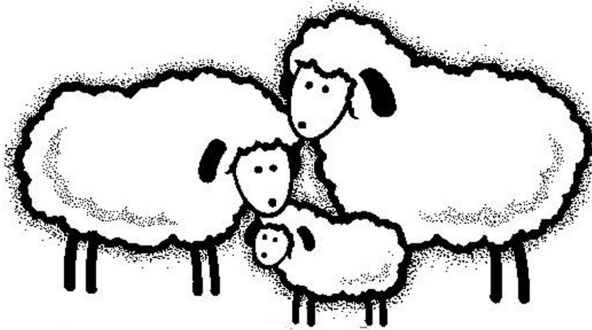
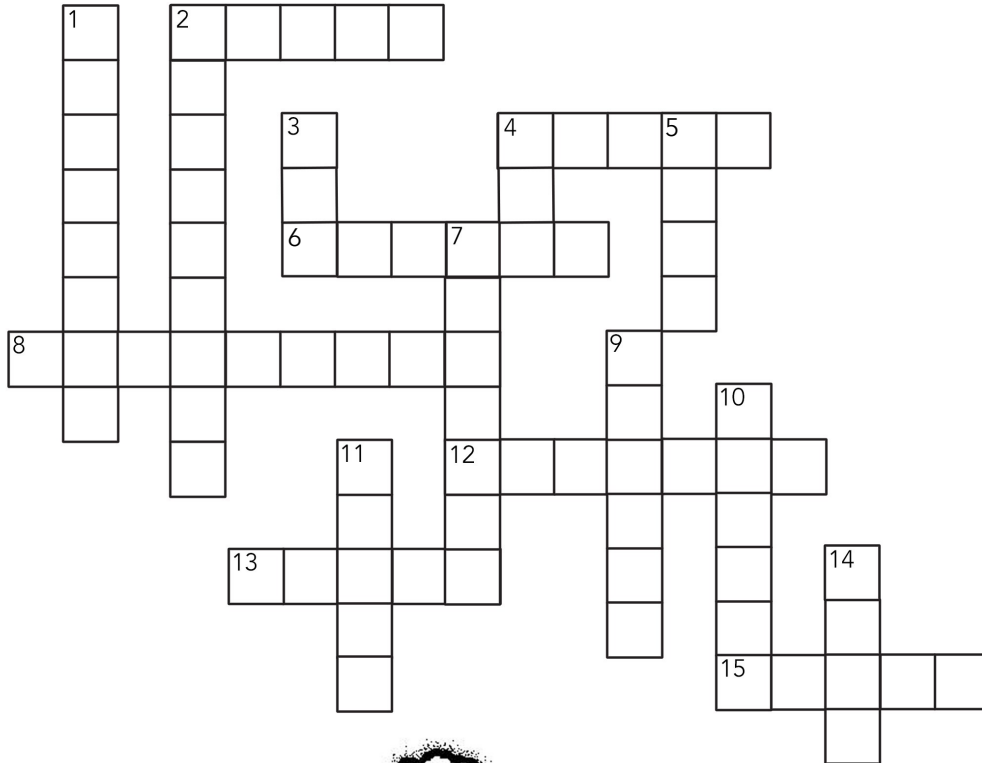
Ernie Owens	A-B
Hank Jacobs	C-E
David Swille	F-H
Mike Kennedy	I-L
Mike Curtis	M-O
Ernie Owens	P-R
Joe Masterson	S
Jim Schmidt	T-Z

Head Elder:
Joe Masterson

Call 817.274.1626 or email 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 an updated address and/or contact information.
- ◇ Receive a current Church Directory as an active Grace member.
- ◇ Submit and/or update a prayer request.

Puzzle!



ACROSS

- 2. cause of Job's trouble
- 4. twinkling, heavenly lights
- 6. the Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
- 8. creature of the deep (41:1)
- 12. the Temanite, a friend (2:11)
- 13. sores
- 15. Job had 7,000

DOWN

- 1. the One who ever lives (19:25)
- 2. affliction
- 3. had seven sons
- 4. ocean
- 5. precipitation
- 7. Job had 500
- 9. the Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
- 10. Job had 3,000
- 11. Job's fourth friend (32:2)
- 14. Job had 500 yoke