



# grace

LUTHERAN CHURCH  
belong · believe · become

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

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Newsletter  
JANUARY 2024

Pastor  
Doug Widger  
Lead Shepherd

Pastor Steve Roth  
Community Care

Dr. Serena Pace  
DCE - Director of  
Ministries

Mrs. Laura Scott  
Director of  
Early Education



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## Worship Updates

Just like the ancient Jewish people, we will be somewhat nomadic in our worship for the coming months. While we may not experience a pillar of fire leading us from one place to the next, we will experience the power of His Spirit leading us. Since the Sanctuary will not be available for some length of time, please plan to migrate to the gym beginning Sunday, January 7th. Our worship time will stay at 9:30 am followed by Bible Classes and Sunday School at 10:45 am. Our last service in the Sanctuary will occur on Sunday, December 31st. Please pray that God will use this season of disruption to make our times together even more filled with His Holy Spirit!

## Streaming to Continue

Our streaming of worship services will continue both on Facebook Live and YouTube as we transition to the Gym. Please report any problems you experience worshipping online to the [churchoffice@grace.lc](mailto:churchoffice@grace.lc) email.

## A Note from Jennifer

Grace family,

Words cannot express how much I have loved my time here serving as the Director of GLEE. Grace was the first place I ever called home when I was just 4 years old and attended Mother's Day Out here. My five children attended preschool at GLEE and my oldest daughter works here now as an infant classroom teacher. It is with mixed emotions that I announce that it is time for me to move on, as I will be leaving to pursue my career of teaching children in an elementary setting. Thank you all for your prayers and support during my time as director. I pray that GLEE will continue to be a place where children in our community are able to grow to know the love that Jesus has for them. I will always love the GLEE program and can't wait to see what God has in store for it in the future!

With lots of love,

*Jennifer Chavez*

## GLEE Director

Laura Scott began as our new Director of Early Childhood Education on December 27th. She comes to us with a rich history of serving children in Arlington. She graduated from Arlington High School and has been caring for children ever since. For nearly 30 years she has been creating fun, interactive and hands-on learning experiences. She has focused on laying the foundation of faith and building Biblical literacy for preschoolers and their families. Recognized for maintaining a safe, loving environment, she encourages children to learn and explore, Laura has worked for large corporate pre-schools, run a registered "in home" childcare center, and served in several church related pre-schools. Please stop by the GLEE office and welcome Laura when you get a chance.



# 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



## Youth/Young Adult Fellowship Event!

College/High School, Jan 6  
4 pm - 5:15 pm; \$15 per person

Dallas Star Center  
1715 E. Broad St.  
Mansfield, TX 76063

Join Youth from St. John for this fun event! More information coming soon! Let [Serena](#) know if you can attend. Shahid will take the lead!



## FAMILY SERVE DAY

JAN. 21, 12PM, NO COST

SANDWICH LUNCH AT CHURCH FIRST & GAMES, CRAFTS, READING WITH RESIDENTS AT TOWN VILLAGE CROSSING ON PIONEER

Let [Serena](#), Gracie or Hayden know if you can attend!

GROUP WEEK OF HOPE COMMUNITY SERVICE

# Influencer

We're all influenced by the people around us through news, music, work, school, sports, and basically anywhere we direct our attention. This year's program is designed to help students navigate the many influences in their lives and encourage them to look toward Jesus, the greatest influencer of all time, so they use their influence to positively change their culture. Romans 12:2



JUNE 16-21, \$300, Grades 6-12  
AUSTIN, TX

How You'll Serve:

Our goal is to meet the tangible needs in each community. Projects may include:

- Assisting in a local food kitchen
- Helping residents in assisted living
- General yard work and light home repairs
- Volunteering with local non-profits and community centers
- Tutoring children in after-school programs

Speak with [Serena](#) regarding scholarships.

## Payment Schedule

January 15 - \$100  
 February 15 - \$50  
 March 15 - \$50  
 April 15 - \$50  
 May 15 - \$50

**REQUIRED**  
PARENT/YOUTH  
MEETING: JAN 14,  
8:45 AM, FIRESIDE

# Ongoing Groups Updates

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

## graceSeniors

Can't wait to see you Jan. 11 at 12 PM!



**LUNCH N LEARN GUEST:**  
**Gail Snider,**  
Executive Director for  
Dementia Friendly Fort Worth

Through her advocacy for changing the perception and stigma of dementia, Gail has become a valued educator

who helps audiences from all sectors of the community understand what dementia is and how care partners, families, and businesses can respond with empathy and compassion to those who are facing the crisis of dementia. Gail strives to help the community understand that people with dementia are honored, valued, supported, and included.

Bring appetizers! Olive Garden soup, bread sticks and salad provided! Cobbler for dessert!

RSVP with [Serena](#) by Jan 8 for soup order.

[Hosts & Devotion Leaders Needed](#)



We are planning a trip to the Planetarium to see 'Season of Lights' on January 17th, 11:30 am, 1-hour show, \$6 (plus parking).

Meet at church at 9:15 AM to carpool. RSVP with [Serena](#) by Jan. 11th and let her know if you will meet us there, want to drive in a carpool, or want to ride in a carpool.

## Book Club

This month, we are reading "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. We meet in the church library on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. Come join us!

## Book Club Special Project

After a recent book club meeting, the members assembled 300 eyedropper kits to be dispensed along with glasses at eyeglass clinics in Spanish-speaking countries. The simple kits consisted of a refillable eyedropper and instructions in Spanish for making a simple saline solution. The eyedropper kits help many who come to the eyeglass clinics complaining of dry eye symptoms. MOST Ministries, a recognized LCMS organization, will use the kits in upcoming mission trip efforts.



Mission Opportunities Short Term  
**MINISTRIES**

## Thrivent Meeting/Lunch

All Thrivent members are invited to Grace's annual Thrivent meeting on Sunday, January 28th. Join us for information from representative David Mead, a brief recap of 2023, sign up for 2024 action teams, and lunch!

If you are not a Thrivent member yet and would like membership information, contact Chris Owens.

Everyone attending - please RSVP with Chris Owens (817-247-7122) to order a lunch for you. Thank you.

**thrivent**

## ESL Ministry

The Las Posadas service and meal on December 10th was attended by many Hispanic families and church members. We served approximately 120 adults and children. It was a very special Christmas event with traditional cuisine.

The ESL ministry would like to send out a big thank you to all that adopted an angel from the ESL Angel Tree. You provided gifts for 42 children, and it was a blessing to them and their families. We had a Christmas party on December 20th with food and fellowship, and a lot of fun was had by all. The angel gifts were given out at this party. Thank you very much for your support of this growing ministry.

ESL classes resume on January 10th at 6:30.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with ESL in various ways. Please do not hesitate to contact Dawn Stacy or the [church office](#) for more information

*Dawn Stacy*



## SOUP-ER BOWL!

Hunger is Thrivent's generosity theme this quarter.

Again this year we will help to meet some of the needs of those in hunger by collecting canned soup.

Last time we had nearly 1,000 pounds of canned soup for Arlington Charities.

Let's do it again.

Please bring canned soup to the stage in January through Super Bowl Sunday.

Thrivent will also supplement this drive.

Live Generously!



## SANCTUARY RENOVATION FUND

RECEIVED AND COMMITTED TO DATE: **\$245,771.40**

GOAL: **\$368,000**

Please designate your gifts as:  
**THANK OFFERING**



## Embrace Grace & Embrace Legacy

Embrace Grace and Embrace Legacy are places of support and encouragement for single young women and men with an unplanned pregnancy.

Is God calling you to lead or serve in this 12-week small group? If your heart is moved to be involved, speak with Serena about training and requirements.

Join a team of women and men who are passionate about mentoring moms and dads-to-be to bless the next generation.

**What you can pray for this month:** Pray for women and men to rise up to lead and serve in this ministry.

**What you can do this month:** If you know a person who finds themselves in an unplanned pregnancy, please invite them to find out more information about participating in a small group.



## Spanish Corner

<b>Abrir</b> (ah-breer)	<b>To open</b>	<b>Llamar</b> (yah-mahr)	<b>To call</b>
<b>Ayudar</b> (ah-yoo-dahr)	<b>To help</b>	<b>Querer</b> (keh-rehr)	<b>To want</b>
<b>Estar</b> (ehs-tahr)	<b>To be</b>	<b>Tener</b> (the-nehr)	<b>To have</b>
<b>Gustar</b> (goos-tahr)	<b>To like</b>	<b>Ser</b> (sehr)	<b>To be</b>
<b>Jugar</b> (hoo-gahr)	<b>To play</b>	<b>Saber</b> (sah-behr)	<b>To know</b>

- 1/3 Colin Toth
- 1/3 Mary Gad
- 1/5 Gary White
- 1/6 Huda Gad
- 1/8 Jimmy Hankins
- 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

## Church Office Closures

The Church Office will be closed for the New Year's Holiday on Monday and Tuesday, January 1st and 2nd of 2024. We will also be closed Monday, January 15th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



## Special Dates

- ◇ New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2024
- ◇ Epiphany, Jan. 6, 2024
- ◇ Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 7, 2024
- ◇ Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 15 2024
- ◇ Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25, 2024

- 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 Mary Moretz
- 1/31 Jeanette Naumann-Patterson

## Thank You Notes

Many thanks for the Christmas bucket gift given to me. I really appreciate the kind thoughts put into it. Wishing a Blessed Christmas to all the Church Family at Grace Lutheran.

*Barbara Pinnow*

To my Grace Family - I would like to thank you for the many visits made during this past year and also for the lovely cards and notes I received. Each one was very much appreciated. Prayers for a happy, healthy 2024! Christmas blessings to each of you as we celebrate His birth! With love,

*Cyndy Otto*



- 1/10 Lynn & Patty Smith
- 1/19 William & Jann Richmond (50th)
- 1/21 Gary & Susan White
- 1/23 Roland & Kay Savant
- 1/26 Joe & Phyllis Sparks

## 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 list to the right. If your last name begins with "L," for example, Mike Kennedy 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
<b>Head Elder:</b>	
Joe Masterson	

## 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 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!

Use the grid to discover what James 5:13-18 advises when challenges loom.

	A	F	L	P	T
	C	H	N	R	W
	E	I	O	S	Y
					

P

