

Platinum Jubilee Celebration



October 9, 2022
10:00 AM

70th Anniversary Worship Service

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 9, 2022 ~ 10:00 AM

“Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, today, and forever.”
~ *Hebrews 13:8* ~



Pre-Service Hymn Sing

“Joy In the Journey”

Songwriters: John W Thompson / Michael J. Card
Joy in the Journey lyrics © Capitol Christian Music Group

Soloist: Rev. Rudy Herbrich

JoyBells

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Pastoral Greeting

Rev. Doug Widger

Entrance Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

vs. 1-4

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen? all that is needful hath been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, oh, let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him;
Let the Amen sound from His people again,
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Text & Music: Public domain

Invocation

Rev. Steve Roth

Confession of Sins and Absolution

Rev. Steve Roth

Pastor: This morning, even as we celebrate the past, let us confess our sin and find the faith to embrace the future with enthusiastic joy and love.

Congregation: Heavenly Father, we thank You for seventy years of grace within this ministry. You have been good to us. But help us not to see yesterday's blessings merely as golden memories that rob us of present opportunities.

Pastor: We take this moment to repent of our sinfulness and humbly ask for Your forgiveness.

Congregation: Lord, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have failed in loving You and others with our whole heart. Lord, have mercy on us.

Pastor: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins.

Congregation: Glory be to Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday and today and forever. May the ministry You have entrusted to us continue to prosper in the years to come.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Congregation: AMEN.

Sharing of the Peace

Infant Baptism: Jackson William Baldwin, son of Brad & Natalie Baldwin
Sponsors: Nancy Eaton, Vicki Baldwin



Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: Jesus Shall Reign

LSB #832 (1, 3-5)

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns:
The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again,
And earth repeat the loud amen.

First Reading: Psalm 150

Rev. Dr. Russell C. Hildebrandt

- 1 Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.
- 2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,
- 4 praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute,
- 5 praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:7-9

Rev. Dr. Russell C. Hildebrandt

- 7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
- 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
- 9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by ceremonial foods, which are of no value to those who eat them.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

"Hallelujah"

(Congregation is invited to sing the Chorus)

Richard, Jr. & Jenna Del Cristo

Verses composed by Rev. Doug Widger

Music: Leonard Cohen

Three score years and then 10 more
You've served my city long before
It was a place that even knew ya.
My Gospel message rang out loud
My rising and dying – you've been so proud
A broken people singing, Halleluiah.

***CHORUS: Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah***

We're sitting on the jagged ledge
Where churches flee out to the edge
- But you didn't go there now, did ya?
When others seek to leave the core
You see it as an open door
You hear my voice and seek to stay and serve here.

***CHORUS: Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah***

Now in the future I've called Grace to
Many nations I'll bring to you
People of all tribes and tongues will know me.
For I am King above all kings
The maker of everything
The world will sing with you a Halleluiah.

***CHORUS: Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah***

Keep serving me where you are
In neighborhood, work, home and bar
- For I promise I will always work through ya.
Serve the broken, and the least
And you shall have my precious peace
For I'm the one who truly can save you.

**CHORUS: Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah**

Gospel Reading: John 14:5-7

Rev. Dr. Russell C. Hildebrandt

- 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"
6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

LSB #809, vs. 1-2

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **Refrain**

Message

Rev. Dr. Michael W. Newman

Message Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

LSB #809, vs. 3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**

Refrain: Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

The Lord's Supper

† Words of Institution †

*Please place Offerings, Attendance & Prayer Cards
in the offering basket as you come forward for communion.*

Communion Hymns:

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

LSB #633, vs. 1, 3, 4, 8

At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

† Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

Text & Music: Public domain

Special Music: "Surrender"

Soloist: Jenna Del Cristo

Music & Lyrics: Jenna Del Cristo

I've found a new song
One that is true
Want to tell the whole world
How I got it from You

Chorus: I don't wanna waste any more time holding doubt
Rushing around, no escape from uncertainty
The only way to freedom is surrendering to love
So... Surrender

Spent all my time chasing a world that was
Never, meant to be
But You knew all along
Who I could be, if I believed

Chorus

There's nothing to fear now
No more worries, left for me
You brought my very soul to life
You've set me free

Chorus

The Lamb

LSB #547, vs. 1-5

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

Refrain: Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will on our behalf the Law to fill. *Refrain*

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. *Refrain*

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong till ev'ry heart to Him belong. *Refrain*

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Prayers

Rev. Steve Roth

Lord's Prayer

Rev. Steve Roth

Benediction / Closing Announcements

Closing Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns

LSB #525, vs. 1-5

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n the wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns as thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

Text & Music: Public domain

Postlude - Brass Ensemble

"Jupiter Hymn"

*by Gustav Holst
arr. Diego Marani*

Rev. Dr. Michael W. Newman

Michael Newman has been a pastor since 1987 and currently serves as the President of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

He served local congregations for over 20 years before spending 10 years helping to start new churches in the Texas District as a Mission Strategist.

Pastor Newman is an author of many books, journal articles and Bible studies. His latest books are: "Getting Through Grief: Eight Biblical Gifts for Living with Loss," "Hope When Your Heart Breaks: Navigating Grief and Loss" and "Gospel DNA: Five Markers of a Flourishing Church."

In 1983 Pastor Newman received his B.A. degree from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Michigan, majoring in Philosophy and Biblical Languages. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri in 1987.

He has been married to Cindy since 1983. They have been blessed with two wonderful daughters and their families.

In his spare time you might catch him hanging out with his family, running a few miles on the Texas roads, or enjoying a good book.

CHARTER MEMBERS of GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Charter Members at Grace

Rilla Terry
Gladys Moran

Charter Members at Sister Congregations

Diane Brown
Patricia Casey
Joan Dieterich
Sandra Fultz
Charles Jahns
Margaret Priddy Kohler
Irene Zaruba

Charter Members Triumphant

Mr. & Mrs. Henry W. Albrecht
Raymond & Mildred Anderson
James Fuqua
William & Velma Fuqua
Fred & Emma Jahns
Leo Jahns
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jahns
Wilfred Jahns
Mr. & Mrs. Martin A. Kruse
Mr. & Mrs. Albert J. Kunkel
Mr. & Mrs. Emil O. Lucas
Leo Lucas
Calvin Lucas
E. O. & Maxine Voge
Henry & Lilly Wendland
Judy Wendland

Church History for Grace Lutheran Church

210 W. Park Row Dr., Arlington, Texas 76010

Grace Lutheran Church began in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Jahns in January 1952. The Rev. Domfeld of Faith Lutheran Church chaired this meeting with nine other people to lay out the foundation for this church and its future. The first official worship service took place later that same month on January 20, 1952, with 24 additional people in the old city hall auditorium in Arlington, Texas. In April, the church was named "St. John Lutheran Mission" then later renamed "Grace Lutheran Church." In June 1952, the first officers, elders, board members, and trustees for the Grace Lutheran congregation were installed. The charter membership listed forty-two baptized members, with twenty-nine communicants. On August 3, 1952, the Rev. Arthur Senn was installed as the first pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. The first church was located at 406 Summit Street, and was dedicated on October 14, 1953. That building still stands and is currently owned by the University of Texas at Arlington. In 1956, Pastor Senn accepted a call to Ohio and the congregation then called its second Pastor, the Rev. Melvin Cordes, who was installed on October 7, 1956. By its fifth anniversary in 1957, the congregation numbered 276 baptized members, of which 159 were communicants. Having outgrown the Summit Street location, Grace Lutheran Church purchased 13.5 acres of land at 210 West Park Row for \$25,000. A newly constructed sanctuary was dedicated on January 6, 1963, with a communicant membership of 240. The 1960's led to new growth; many new ministries grew from this new location including, a new kindergarten and education ministry in 1967 led by Mrs. Ruth Brown, a campus ministry at The University of Texas at Arlington in 1969 led by Rev. James Luecke, and a midweek school began in 1970.

During the 1970's Grace Lutheran experienced new changes and growth, and after fifteen years of faithful service, Pastor Cordes accepted a call in Houston, Texas, and on August 29, 1971, the Rev. David B. Joeckel was installed as the third pastor of Grace Lutheran. The congregation then numbered 500 communicant members. In March 1974, construction began on an Education Building and was dedicated on November 3, 1974. In 1975, the Mother's Day Out program with an enrollment of 40 preschoolers, with Mrs. Marge Wilhelm serving as Director. Also in 1975, the Grace Lutheran congregation assisted in the founding of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in southwest Arlington. Since that time, Grace has also provided assistance in the founding of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Southeast Arlington and St. John Lutheran Church in Mansfield. In 1977, while celebrating the 25th anniversary of Grace Lutheran Church, Ms. Mary Irrer was called to be the first Director of Christian Education and Ms. Gwen Hinrichs was called to be the first Parish worker, and in 1979, the Rev. Timothy Steenbock was installed as the Associate Pastor.

Moving into the 1980's, the Family Life Center, which included meeting rooms, classrooms, a gymnasium, offices, and a kitchen, was dedicated in 1981. By August 1982, the kindergarten ministry extended to become a Lutheran Day School and the school began with 25 students led by Ms. Ruby St. Martin, and Ms. Grace Bohling. On August 10, 1986, Mr. William Johnson was installed as the Minister of Youth. At this time, the Mother's Day Out program had grown to 120 children. On May 30, 1987, the Grace congregation celebrated its 35th anniversary. Baptized members numbered 1,876 including 1,369 communicant members. Ms. Ruby St. Martin, one of the school's first teachers was serving

as Principal of the day school as well as teaching. On August 7, 1987, Mr. Michael Fuchs accepted our call to serve as Principal of Grace Lutheran School. There were 92 students enrolled at this time. In 1988, to accommodate growth in the day school, the congregation agreed to construct a two-story classroom building now known as the Meeting Rooms, remodel the youth shed and construct a storage building. These projects were completed largely with congregational labor including installation of the "Hot Tar" buildup roof during that 100° F July summer. In that same year, Grace agreed to share their facilities with the Zion Korean Church as a mission until Zion could afford to construct a facility of its own. In 1989, Pastor Steenbock accepted a call in Oklahoma and after a yearlong vacancy, the Rev. Rudy Herbrich accepted the call as Associate Pastor in January 1990.

Later that year and ushering in the 1990's, a "Vision 2000" Committee was established and began working to develop a master plan for Grace Lutheran. In May 1991, this committee recommended the creation of a Structure Committee, relating to the improvement of church governance, and a Building Committee, with the assignment to develop a Master Plan for the church property. The Structure Committee accepted new by-laws and the election of a Board of Directors featuring 10 members and a president as elected by the voting members of the congregation. Throughout the 1990s, Grace Lutheran experienced unprecedented growth, and on September 16, 1990, Grace began holding three worship services each Sunday featuring traditional and contemporary worship styles. As Grace Lutheran continued to grow, so did the staff and ministry team in order to help those enrolled in Grace Lutheran Early Education, formerly known as Mother's Day Out, the day school, and the many parishioners and visitors that attend our campus. A Director of Business, Mr. Ed Bohm, was hired to manage the maintenance of campus and finances. In 1992, the congregation purchased 5.5 acres of land adjacent to the church property, along with a 19,000 square foot medical building which would be remodeled for the day school. The church narthex was also enlarged during this expansion. In 1998, Senior Pastor Dr. David Joeckel, having served the congregation for 28 years, retired in December. At this time, the Grace congregation numbered 1,485 baptized members. In 1999, Grace participated with other area churches to form the Lutheran Intercity Network Coalition (LINC).

As we entered a new millennium, the congregation placed a call to the Rev. Brad Beckman of St. Louis, Missouri to serve Grace Lutheran Church as Senior Pastor. He was installed in August of 2000. In January of 2002 Grace celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a special worship service at Johnny High Music Review Auditorium in Arlington with Pastors David Joeckel, Rudy Herbrich and Brad Beckman officiating. In 2004, Pastor Herbrich received a peaceful release with plans to move to Wisconsin. The position of associate pastor remained open until 2009 with a call to Pastor Kevin Hintze. In 2005, Pastor David Joeckel rejoined the staff as a Visitation Pastor. By 2006, Grace Lutheran had a strong and active campus with multiple ministries, activities for all ages, many active members. In 2006, the LINC offices were moved off campus, and VBS that year ministered to 220 children. In 2007, Pastor Beckman accepted a call to Lincoln, Nebraska; the Women's Ministry was greatly expanded under the leadership of Mrs. Lou Anne Hoffman to include the Spring

Tea, Festival of Tables, Girl's Get Away, and Summer Bible Study. Looking to the future, Grace Lutheran also began the "That Grace May Abound" capital campaign for the purpose of expanding and improving various campus facilities. In 2008, the Rev. Dr. Russell Hildebrandt accepted a call to serve as Senior Pastor at Grace. Also, this year the congregation recognized Pastor David Joeckel's 50th Anniversary of ordination. The church renovation at that time included a renovation of the altar, the communion rail and a nursery remodel. Grace also established the God's Grip on Grace Golf Tournament in 2008 as a fundraiser for the Day School. In 2009, Grace held the first Daddy-Daughter Dance at Grace and introduced a new Greeter System. The Rev. Kevin Hinze accepted a call to serve as Associate Pastor with primary responsibility for Grace's youth program. Beginning in 2009, as the country suffered from the effects of an economic downturn, Grace Lutheran was not exempt from the struggles suffered by many. Several areas of Ministry had to be downsized, reduced, and adjusted in order to accommodate these difficulties.

In 2011, as a result of our successful "That Grace May Abound" Capital Campaign, we were able to construct handicapped accessible restrooms in an extension to the Narthex, add a new nursery that is closer to the sanctuary, and add a new sidewalk from the Sanctuary to the Family Life Center. The church office was relocated and remodeled, and the entire campus received new roofing. Additionally, with Pastor Hildebrandt's leadership, several new outreach ministries were started such as SERVE AHS, Kid's Hope and the Career Connection as well as several short-term Bible studies for the whole congregation as well as smaller groups. Grace Lutheran Ministries began to rebound and grow after the earlier economic struggles to include a vibrant Sunday school program, LifeLight Bible Study Groups, Tender Loving Care Small Groups, a Stephen Ministry prayer program, individual women's, men's, and children's programs, and a Men's Community Basketball program. Grace Lutheran also sponsored a variety of musical programs for people of all ages, a Braille Center, a 55+ Group, and "The Piecemakers Group" (a quilting and sewing group for Lutheran World Relief). Off the main campus, Grace Lutheran also supported a U.T.A. Lutheran Center Bible Study and meal program, Arlington Charities, the Arlington Life Shelter, and the Arlington Ministerial Association.

As Grace Lutheran moved forward, more staff members and ministries were added to Grace's current programs both locally and globally. In February of 2013, Dr. Serena Pace was called to join the Ministry Team as the Director of Ministry and has served in many roles within the body of Grace Lutheran. That same year, Grace Lutheran began sending a team for Mission Honduras to help rehabilitate an orphanage in Honduras. This mission continued for 6 years. Also in 2013, Grace Lutheran started supporting Perry Smith's School, Loving Liberia, in Liberia, which still continues to this day. In the summer of 2014, Pastor Kevin Hintze was called to serve in Austin, Texas. In 2015, Jennifer Chavez was installed and took leadership as the Director of Grace Lutheran Early Education (GLEE) and continues to serve in that position today. Grace Lutheran also dedicated the baseball field located on the campus as Joeckel Athletic Field. Between 2015 and 2018, Grace Lutheran held another Capital Campaign called "Living for Him in His House" which included the restoration of the original Glory Window that was installed in 1963; replaced

the heating and air conditioning units throughout the main campus and Grace West; upgrades to the security of the campus; repairs to the sidewalks, parking lots, and other exterior areas; a full kitchen remodel; a new LED entrance marquee; and remodeling of the restrooms in the church. In 2015, Kristen Stock became the Principal of Grace Lutheran School, prior to the school being closed in 2016 and before the Grace West building was remodeled. Following the renovation of the Grace West campus, in 2016, Newman International Academy leased the building and served in partnership with Grace Lutheran until the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Also, in 2016, Pastor Hildebrandt retired and was celebrated for his years of service.

In 2018, Pastor Doug Widger was called to serve as Lead Shepherd of the congregation and began his tenancy with the heating system in the church undergoing repairs and replacement in February that year. Church services were moved to the gym. As Grace Lutheran members have been doing for many decades, the congregation embraced adjustments and change as we worshiped together through the "Holy Disruptions". Later than same year, the Rev. Steven Roth joined Grace as Community Care Pastor and the "Living for Him in His House" Capital Campaign celebrated its accomplishments with a new logo and theme of "Believe – Belong – Become" as Grace Lutheran continued to move forward. In 2019, Grace continued its international outreach, this time hosting three PAIS interns from Germany. The church pipe organ was also rehabilitated and upgraded in 2019.

In March of 2020, as a global pandemic struck, and changed the way everyone did everything moving forward, including a temporary nationwide shutdown of all church services, Grace moved to a more prevalent online presence. Utilizing social media, Grace bolstered their online presence and reached people nationwide with their Facebook streams of the church services and continued this method after church services were opened back up that summer with new "Social Distancing" guidelines.

Today, Grace Lutheran is back with unrestricted church services, a full staff, and a motto of "Broken People Helping Heal What Is Broken." Our current Ministry team includes Pastor Doug Widger as Lead Shepherd, the Rev. Steven Roth as Community Care Pastor, Dr. Serena Pace as Director of Ministry, Cynthia Jackson as Director of Operations, Jenna Del Cristo as Director of Communications, William Land as Director of Worship, and Richard Del Cristo, Jr. as Director of Music. Grace Lutheran's current and active ministries include Loving Liberia, Embrace Grace, ESL Language Classes, Braille, Piecemakers, the Holy Smokers, GLEE, Small Groups, Tuesday Night Men's Basketball, and other various children, youth, and family ministries.

God has been faithful for 70 years to his people gathered at Grace. Today the Lord is still faithful, bringing new life to people through his gifts delivered to us through His Word and the Sacraments. He will be forever faithful because "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). May even more people come to know and worship King Jesus through the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, Arlington Texas over the coming decades!

THE PARTICIPANTS

THE OFFICIANTS: Rev. Douglas Widger, Lead Shepherd
Rev. Steve Roth, Community Care
Rev. Dr. Russell C. Hildebrandt, Pastor Emeritus

THE PROCLAIMER: Rev. Dr. Michael W. Newman

THE DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP & ORGANIST: William Land

THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: Richard Del Cristo, Jr.

GUEST SOLOIST: Rev. Rudy Herbrich

SANCTUARY CHOIR

BRASS ENSEMBLE

PRAISE TEAM

JOYBELLS

**Thank you to those who have helped make our
70th Anniversary Celebration possible:**

Rev. Doug Widger

Ruth Brown

Jeanette Patterson

Lyn Mangels

Bette Rathjen

Tracey Rukavina

Scott Cunningham

Stephanie Schmidt

Joanne Elmers

Colin Toth

Jen Rukavina

Joyce Pinnow

Chris Owens

The Fellowship Team

The Maintenance Team

Everyone who participated in the Clean Up Day

The Holy Smokers

The Elders, Ushers, Greeters, and Altar Guild Members

The Parking Committee

Photography Team

Worship Service Tech Team

Barbara Berthold and the German Language Society of UTA

Katie Kennedy and Marcona Kitchen

The Set Up / Tear Down Crew

An extra special thanks to the staff for going above and beyond in helping plan this special celebration: Cynthia Jackson, Jenna Del Cristo, Serena Pace, William Land, Richard Del Cristo, Jr., Jennifer Chavez, Mark Oxner, Red Hoar

Altar Flowers Given by:

Eric & Bette Rathjen and John & Tracey Rukavina

**Glory, Praise, and Honor to the Lord
for 70 years of blessings at Grace Lutheran Church.**



Photo Credit: Colin Toth

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." ~ Hebrews 13:8

Yesterday – for the past 70 years God has been reaching the community of Arlington and beyond with the Gospel message! In 1952 when Grace was established there were 8,000 residents in Arlington. In 1990 there were more than 250,000 residents in the city. During these years Grace grew with the community in an exponential way. Young families flocked to Grace in what seemed a season of endless expansion.

Today – In 2022 the city of Arlington topped 400,000 residents. The landscape has changed and today not many young "Lutheran" families are migrating from the northern U.S. Instead, the current immigrants are coming from around the globe. Currently 34% of Arlington residents are white, 31% are Hispanic, 22% are black. Grace is dynamically positioned to connect with all Arlington residents because of sacrificial investments of those who have gone before. We have excellent facilities, a strong sense of missional calling, vibrant worship, and creative and capable leadership. God is stirring - and Arlington is being blessed.

Forever – God as always is working and leading His Bride, the Church. As we look towards the future it is easy to imagine eternal kingdom fruit being born. Some of the wineskins from the past and present will be replaced with new wineskins. Programs and methods may change, but one thing will remain constant forever...Jesus Christ.

Lord, may we always be pointing towards your work on the cross as the source of all that matters eternally. May you continue to gain praise, honor and glory through the family of faith called Grace Lutheran Church, Arlington Texas! AMEN.