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Lead Shepherd

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Community Care

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Inside this issue:

A Note from Pastor Widger	1
Thrivent Nov Highlights	1
Trunk or Treat	2
Senior Support Network	2
Book Club	2
Thanksgiving Turkeys	3
Pushpay Instructions	3
So Grateful...	3
Thank You!	3
Email cjackson@grace.lc	3
Your Elders...	3
Family Ministry News	4
Get Connected	5
Advent Plans	5
Food Drive	5
Young Adults Lunch	5
B'days & Anniver.	6

A Note from Pastor Widger

I Miss You

In a Grace Ministry Team meeting recently, we were reading a document about how to lead in uncertain times. One sentence grabbed my attention. The author stated, "When under pressure leaders engage purposefully with those around them..." This might not seem like a profound statement to many, but it hit me like a ton of bricks. I became aware that I was very sad when I thought about his proclamation. Why? I realized that one of the primary tools for my "engaging purposefully" – has been missing for the past 8 months or so. "Narthex time" – I miss it. Well, more precisely I miss YOU.

Our best opportunity to interact on a regular basis has been on Sunday AM's before and after services. This is where I learn about the lives of God's precious people. Those 15-20 minutes on either side of the worship experience are some of the most treasured times of my week. During the pandemic I have intentionally pulled back as a way of honoring God's people (I don't want to be the one who unknowingly passed along the COVID-19 virus) and our governing authorities (who have asked us to protect the public health by social distancing). I have felt it was important to honor our Elder-created policies of exiting from the back of the Sanctuary to the front after services, meaning that I am the last one to empty the pews. The conversations I have been able to engage in are covered up by masks making it harder than ever to really "know" people, as most communications experts tell us 85% of communication is non-verbal.

With all this being said, I believe we need to stay the course and continue to keep safe space, wear our masks, and look forward to the day when it "seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:28) to return to our former ways of connecting. Until then let's be creative about how we might interact. Got any ideas? I would be glad to hear them. I really do miss you - dear people of God! Know this - you are precious to God and to me!

Most sincerely,

Pastor Doug Widger



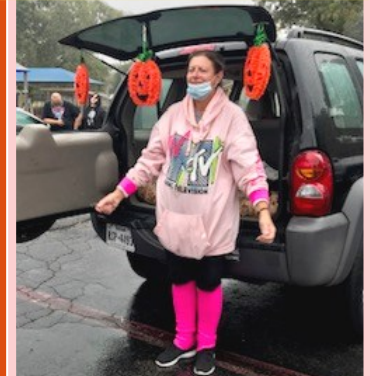
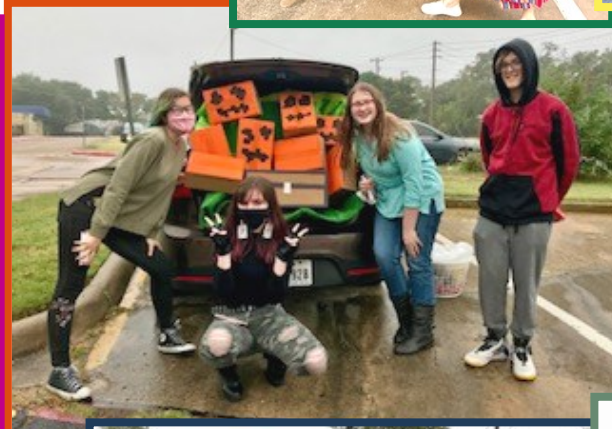
Thrivent November Highlights

thrivent®

1. Please order your Thrivent calendar. Log into your account and order or call Chris for assistance. If you don't want it, order anyway and give it to Chris Owens. We have opportunities to use about 50!
2. Please vote for Thrivent officers. It came in your mail or you can do it on line. Call Chris if you need help. Thrivent does a lot for us. We need to support Thrivent in their officer election.
3. If you have Action Team money available, let's put it to good use so we don't lose your 2020 money. We still need 6 - 8 or more this year. Remember they will renew January 1. If you will, please call Chris so we can put your Action Team money to work.

Text or call Chris Owens at 817-247-7122.

Thank you to everyone who came out to help with Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 25th. We were overwhelmed by the number of visitors, and we couldn't have done it without your efforts and candy donations. Thank you!



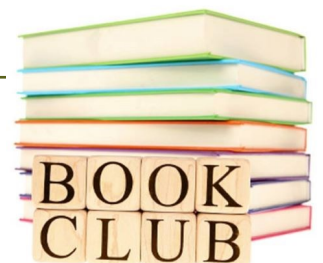
Senior Support Network

We are not able to meet right now due to virus-related restrictions. So—all of you are urged to participate in the **Book Club** that meets the third Wednesday of each month from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. See the "Get Connected" page in this newsletter to see details.

Ruth Brown

Zoom Book Club

The Book Club is off to a good start. If you are interested in reading and discussing fiction and non-fiction books, please join us. We meet the third Wednesday of the month from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. We read one book per month. November's meeting is Wednesday, the 18th, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., and we'll be discussing **The Other Einstein** by Marie Benedict. For Zoom details or other questions, please contact Ruth Brown (817-274-8600).





Thanksgiving Turkeys

The Holy Smokers will smoke turkeys, turkey breast, and sausage (mild and spicy) on Wednesday, November 25.

To place your order, call or text Ernie Owens 817-247-0747. The deadline to place your order will be Sunday, November 22.



Turkeys are \$30 each, turkey breast is \$25, and sausage is \$7 per ring or 2 for \$12. Payment is due at time of pickup. Make check payable to "Grace Lutheran Church"; mark check memo as "Holy Smokers". Pickup will be Wednesday between 1:30 - 2:00 p.m. We will call you around noon with any updates on pickup time.

Pushpay Instructions

1. Use your cell phone text messaging feature.
 2. Type **77977** 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 reoccurring 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.



So Grateful...

- ...To the entire church body for your displays of gratitude through cards, notes, emails, texts and gifts during Ministry Appreciation Month. It is a privilege to serve you.
- ...To the Board of Directors and the Board of Elders who honored the Ministry Team on Thursday, October 29th with an Appreciation Lunch.

We are humbled and grateful,
*The Ministry Team & Staff
of Grace Lutheran Church*

Thank You!

We wish to express our thanks to our pastors, our elder and all our friends at Grace for their prayers, visits, concern, calls and cards during Charles' illness. His wound doctor declared his leg wound healed this month. His doctor is pleased with his dialysis three times a week. Home Health has been here for his therapy. He is slowly getting his strength back. We give our God all the praise.

Thank You!

Charles & Gerry 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: cjackson@grace.lc.

New to Grace? Reference the adjacent list. If your last name begins with "Y" for example, Keith Mangels would be your assigned elder.

- *Joe Masterson*

ELDERS & THEIR ASSIGNED MEMBERS

Ernie Owens	A-B
Hank Jacobs	C-E
Mike Kennedy	F-H
Mike Curtis	M-O
Ernie Owens	P-R
Joe Masterson	S
Keith Mangels	T-Z

Head Elder:
Joe Masterson

Call the church office or E-mail requests to cjackson@grace.lc if you want to:

- ◇ "Receive the 4th quarter edition of *Portals of Prayer*. Let Cynthia know what size(s) you would like to have mailed to your home.
- ◇ Be added to the group email list that receives prayer requests.
- ◇ Submit updated address and contact information.
- ◇ Receive by email a current Church Directory (*or have one mailed to your home*) as an active Grace member.
- ◇ Submit a prayer request and/or update.
- ◇ Obtain your elder's contact information.
- ◇ Submit stories: good memories, testimonies, happy news (*noting exactly whom we can share it with, for example, the Prayer Team, Ministry Team Newsletter Recipients*).



FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

We ask that children and youth wear their masks to Sunday School/Bible classes. We will observe social distancing and will disinfect each area. Hand sanitizer will be used as students arrive. If a child or youth is sick, running a fever, coughing, sneezing, please keep them at home.

SUNDAY MORNING at 9:45 a.m.

Grace Kids (Kindergarten-6th Grade) meet in GLEE.

JR. High Youth (Grades 7-8) DEEP END Confirmation meets in Meeting Room 4.

High School Bible Study (Grades 9-12) meets in the Youth Shed.

Breakfast Club Bible Study (For parents, grandparents, & guardians of preschoolers through high school seniors) meets in Pastor Doug's office.

Parents can stay in touch through the **GroupMe App**.



THANK YOU for the amazing amount of candy you supplied and to all those who could participate! Even Alley Cats joined in on the fun!!!



Nov. 13
Dec. 11 (Polar Express Day)
January 22
Feb. 19
Mar. 26
Apr. 23
May 21



Soon it will be time to celebrate Christmas!!! Be sure to let Serena know if you are interested in being in the Christmas program!!! We will need singers, actors, readers, musicians and a few behind-the-scenes people!

Couples Life Group: Wednesdays, 8 PM, 6 Weeks (began Oct. 7)

Sacred Marriage doesn't just offer techniques to make a marriage happier. It does contain practical tools. What married Christians most need is help in becoming holier husbands and wives. *Sacred Marriage* offers that help with insights from Scripture, church history, time tested wisdom from Christian classics, and examples from today's marriages.



THANK YOU for taking the time to fill out the poll on whether or not we should meet. Because we value our Senior Saints and our guest speakers, we are going to take a break from Sr. Saints until such a time when we can gather safely in person.

Contact Serena with questions at space@grace.lc or if you would like to serve. We would be blessed by a few more Mentors/Substitutes.



Sundays in November, Impact Youth will be selling **Thankful-grams** for \$2 each. Tell a friend or family member why you are thankful for them with cake balls and a heartfelt note delivered by Grace's Youth on November 22. Thankful-grams will be available for sale November 1, 8, and 15 in the back of the Narthex. Thank YOU in advance for this generous contribution to the Impact Youth Summer 2021 Mission Trip!

Impact Youth will be holding a **Jr./Sr. High Friendsgiving and cake ball decorating party** on Saturday, November 21 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Bring your favorite thanksgiving dish to share!

Contact Abbey @ ajarrett@grace.lc for info.

Get Connected in Social Groups

Connect with friends old and new online by signing up any time for Grace's ongoing **Social Groups!**

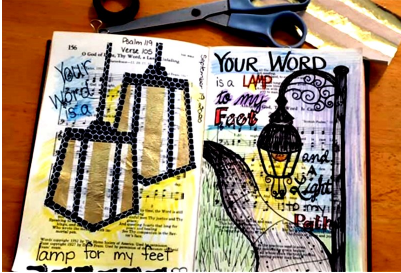
For those viewing the newsletter online, click on the links below to sign up.

For those reading the newsletter in print form, please call the church office at 817-274-1626

or sign up at <https://grace.lc/get-connected>, where you can also sign up for **Life Groups**.

All groups will be held online via Zoom (click [here](#) to learn how to use it).

Social groups are open to everyone and offer opportunity to connect and socialize with the body.



Bible Journaling – Exercise your crafting skills by making a creative response to God's Word using a variety of techniques. We connect with the Lord and apply His Word in our lives using the gifts of

time, talent, and treasure. Through drawing, journaling, and art you can document your walk with God leaving a legacy of faith.

- Hosted by Alison Roth
- 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10 am
- [Click here](#) for a supply list
- Sign up [here](#)



Virtual Happy Hour – Bring your own cocktail (or mocktail) and shoot the breeze. Don't do life alone!

- Hosted by the Rukavinas and Mangels
- 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 6 pm
- [Zoom link](#)



Movie Night – Family friendly movie night via Netflix Watch Party (Google Chrome extension, download [here](#))

- Hosted by Barbara Koehn

- 3rd Thursdays at 7 pm

Book Club – Like to read? November's meeting is the 18th, 4:00 – 5:00 pm, and we'll be discussing **The Other Einstein** by Marie Benedict.

- Hosted by Ruth Brown.
- Wednesdays at 4 pm
- Sign up [here](#)
- [Zoom link](#)



Email jdelcristo@grace.lc if you have any questions about these groups before signing up or attending!

Plans for a Unique Advent Worship Season:

Join us for Advent services this year exclusively through Zoom.

- ♦ Wednesdays, December 2, 9 & 16
- ♦ 7:00 - 7:30 pm
- ♦ Conducted casually, from home
- ♦ Traditional Advent Hymns
- ♦ Classic Christmas songs
- ♦ A brief devotion
- ♦ Advent candle lighting each week (We encourage you to have an Advent wreath or candles.)
- ♦ More details coming soon!

Arlington Charities Food Drive:

If possible, pick up something for Arlington Charities. Any shelf stable item is a good one and will be greatly appreciated. We were so pleased at the amount of food our folks brought so far and wanted to thank and acknowledge you for your generosity. **706 lbs. last month!**

The first Sunday of the month will be the official day to bring your food, but if that does not work for you, please feel free to drop it off at your convenience. Danny and I will pick it up on Sunday. Thank you for your support. — **Nancy Helm**

LET'S EAT!

Young Adults College and Career Luncheon

Come One, Come All!!!

Once a month, Richie and Jenna Del Cristo host a luncheon for all the college students and career-age young people at Grace. This Sunday, November 1st it will take place immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service in the Fireside Room. Food will be provided. Fellowship will be had. Hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY



NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/2	Melinda Schmidt	11/17	Mary Wolter	11/4	A.J. & Susan Jones
11/3	Sondra Schubert	11/17	Lynn Smith	11/5	Alan & Moira Meyer
11/3	Anthony Westbrook	11/18	Ellen Nielsen	11/6	Steven & Alison Roth
11/3	Nancy Masterson	11/19	Dave Voss	11/10	Francis & Heather Oshinowo
11/4	James Hankins	11/19	Dawn Stacy	11/11	Dick & Martha Malec
11/5	Chris Owens	11/19	Erica Farley	11/15	Brent & Aundrea Reynolds
11/6	Jessica Nieves	11/19	Linda Rawe	11/17	Hosny & Huda Gad
11/6	JoAnn Jeske	11/19	Ryan Baumann	11/17	John & Donita Spawr
11/6	Luke Joeckel	11/19	Cameron Bodenstab	11/19	Charles & Gerry Sparks
11/6	Matthew Joeckel	11/20	Darla Creel	11/23	Deryl & Nichole Surratt
11/7	Deborah Hildebrandt	11/21	Nancy Mickelson	11/27	Hugh & Joann Boyle
11/7	Norris Pratt	11/21	Peggy Alloy		
11/8	Daniel Helm	11/21	Kara Alloy		
11/8	Don Walker	11/21	Sheri Sterling		
11/9	Charles Kunze	11/22	Ashley Jacobs		
11/9	Esther Smith	11/22	Cecilia Chavez		
11/9	Howard Stacy	11/22	Kristin Runzheimer		
11/9	Jennifer Tatrow	11/23	Charles Sparks		
11/9	Rae Ann Wagoner	11/25	Serena Pace		
11/11	Barb Pinnow	11/26	Kim Bell		
11/11	John Biel	11/26	Jimmy Braziel		
11/11	Tanner Harty	11/27	Christian Sessums		
11/12	Jacob Hoar	11/28	Duane Satre		
11/12	Troy Baumann	11/28	Donita Spawr		
11/14	Daryl Seefeldt	11/29	Carol Hall		
11/15	Paul Burgdorf	11/29	Judy Horton		
11/16	Alexandria Baumann	11/29	Laura Smith		
11/16	Zachary Baumann	11/29	Paul Tatrow		
11/17	Alex Stacy	11/30	Chuck Dratwick		
11/17	Grace Massie				