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Lead Shepherd

Pastor Steve Roth
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Pastor Emeritus

**Rev. Dr. David
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Pastor Emeritus



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A Note from Pastor Widger

I clearly remember December of 1982. Home for Christmas Break from college – the Denver area experienced 24" of snow in 24 hours on Christmas Eve. In the next couple of days - more snow. Drifts were as tall as our house. It was very unusual and that is what made it memorable. December **usually** brings family and friends together in special ways. But as we all know 2020 has been very **unusual**. Our unusual year continues this December and hopefully it can also be memorable.

One of the best memories from the unusual Christmas of 1982 was the home worship which our family experienced. Services had to be cancelled and over the "phone tree" (remember those) we were encouraged by our pastor to circle around our Christmas tree, read from Luke 2 and sing our favorite Christmas carols and offer prayers of thanks for God's sending his one and only son.



Perhaps this Advent season can be **unusually memorable** for you as well. Our Grace family of faith will be coming together on Zoom three Wednesday evenings (December 2nd, 9th, 16th) to worship in our homes. If you have an Advent wreath (simple candles can suffice as well) I would invite you to have it present. We will be lighting these in our homes as a part of our weekly worship. Each Wednesday you will receive a Zoom invite to participate. The room will open at 6:50 p.m. and we will launch at 7:00 p.m.

Advent Worship

[Click here to join our Advent Home Worship](#)

Meeting ID: **843 1816 5685**

One additional **unusual** request is this... Please let us know about your intentions for worshipping with us on **Christmas Eve**. We will be offering three services 4:30, 6:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Click here to sign up for you service of choice:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45A9AA2AA3F9C07-christmas>

We will be limiting each service to 75 people.

Sincerely,

Pastor Doug Widger



Arlington Charities Food Drive

Thank you, Grace, for all of your food donations to Arlington Charities. On October 5th we collected **706** pounds and November 1st, **592** pounds. What a great response to the needs of our community. **Thank you** all so very much.

December 6th is our next 1st Sunday collection day, and with Christmas upon us, I am praying that you are able to pick up a few items (maybe something that you enjoy during the holidays) for our neighbors in need. Remember whatever you choose to buy (shelf stable) will be a great choice. Happy shopping and a big **Thank You** from Arlington Charities!

Nancy Helm

**Loving Liberia
(Perry Smith Schools)**
will be hosting an Informational Meeting
December 8th ~ 2:00 PM
in Meeting Room 2
about the expansion of
Perry's Schools in Liberia.
*(We will also Zoom the meeting
if you cannot be in attendance.)*

Pushpay Instructions



Pushpay

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.

Suggested Needs from Arlington Charities

- ❖ Ramen Noodles
- ❖ Canned Peas
- ❖ Canned Carrots
- ❖ Store Brand Boxed Mac & Cheese
- ❖ Crackers (Saltines or Ritz type)
- ❖ White Pasta
- ❖ All Types of Canned Beans
- ❖ White Rice
- ❖ Any Type of Cereal
- ❖ Jelly

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO SERVE?

We would welcome you as an Altar Guild volunteer. We are behind the scenes workers. We work at glorifying God by keeping the sanctuary and narthex clean, organized and decorated for any given season. Please contact Susan White if you are interested: 972-979-2188.



Social Groups Meeting in December & Virtual Christmas Party Invitation

For those viewing the newsletter online, click on the links below to sign up. Reading the newsletter in print form? Please call the church office at 817-274-1626 or sign up at <https://grace.lc/get-connected>. All groups will be held online via Zoom (click here to learn how to use it).

Book Club

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

Join us for a
Grace Virtual
Christmas
Party on
Thursday,
December 10th
at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom. Everyone is welcome!



Grace Lutheran Church of Arlington, Texas is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Virtual Christmas Party**

Time: **Dec 10, 2020 06:00 PM**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94360215795>

Meeting ID: **943 6021 5795**



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Christmas baskets being distributed to the homebound. We could not do it without your kind generosity. God bless you!

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



Grace Family,

Thank you to each and every member of my Grace Family. Your support during this difficult time is well felt. I look forward to the day we can fully express our love for one another. Until then wear your mask, wash your hands and stay safe.

Joyce Pinnow

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

- ◇ "Receive the 1st 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.

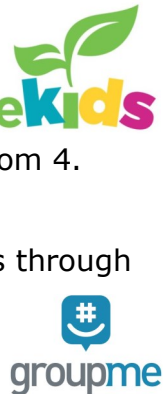
Grace Kids (Kindergarten-6th Grade) meet in GLEE.

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**.*



Dec. 11 (Polar Express Day)

January 22

February 19

March 26

April 23

May 21

Contact Rachel Flores with questions at:
rachel.flores@academy4.org

**We would be blessed by a few more
Mentors/Substitutes.**

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING Devotion & Contest



Kits available Dec. 6! Simply enjoy this activity as a family or enter the contest for extra fun.

Sign up for a kit at:

<https://grace.lc/gingerbread>

Enter your name and contact information.

One FREE kit per family. You provide the candy and extra frosting you would like. **Included in this kit:** two packages of graham crackers, one board, one container of icing, one piping bag and a **children's devotion.**

Please email Serena a picture with your family in it when you are done to be used on social media and for judging for those entering the contest! Judges TBA!

Awards will be given to local eating establishments for 1st – 3rd places. Store-bought kits are not allowed and **all ingredients should be 100% edible** (no lollipop sticks, etc.). You may add as many graham crackers as you have. Ask Serena for extra before you buy more.

All photos in by December 20!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 11 AM

Soon it will be time to celebrate Christmas!!! Be sure to send in your videos to Serena for the Christmas program!!!



GRACE KIDS CHRISTMAS EVENT

For Pre-K through Grade 6

December 6, 9:45 – 10:45 AM in the GLEE Wing

**'Happy Birthday, Jesus!' Party
& Disciple Dollar Store**



COMING IN JANUARY!

**MITTEN, HAT &
SCARF DRIVE
benefitting
Arlington Charities**

Share the warmth with
our community!
Collection box in Narthex.

DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/1	Christian Joeckel	12/14	Sid Cook
12/1	Jackson Long	12/15	Lou Anne Williams
12/1	Mark Topel	12/16	Liam White
12/1	Sydnee Homeyer	12/17	Jennifer White
12/2	Anna Burgdorf	12/18	Sam Giesselmann
12/2	Shelby Howle	12/19	Hannah Joeckel
12/2	Wayne Hankins	12/20	Mark Oxner
12/3	Emma Colburn	12/20	Nichole Surratt
12/4	Karissa Pratt	12/22	Jake Gaskie
12/5	Delane Peery	12/22	Sharon Folks
12/5	Marshall Moran	12/23	Gladys Golden
12/5	Martin Bode	12/24	Lyn Mangels
12/5	Ryan Jacobs	12/24	Roland Savant
12/7	Joshua Reed	12/25	Marilyn Roberts
12/8	Sonya Sorensen	12/25	Michael Johnson
12/9	Emily Meyer	12/25	Reid Braziel
12/9	Juliet Woodley	12/26	Laas Chavez
12/9	Lydia Massie	12/28	John Rukavina
12/9	Sharon Alloy	12/28	Kevin Schlotte
12/10	Diane Baumann	12/29	Frank Topping
12/10	Keith Massie	12/29	Heather Long
12/10	Leah Alloy	12/30	Mary Jo Cook
12/11	Betty Auth	12/31	Carlie Ford
12/11	Cathy Alberts	12/31	Julie Leppert
12/14	Brian Bassett	12/31	Perry Smith
12/14	Richard Chavez		

12/1	Daryl & Susan Seefeldt
12/10	Jim & LaJuana Kettler
12/12	Nathaniel & Doris Davies
12/13	Jim & Uvonne Dupstadt
12/18	Keith & Lydia Massie
12/20	Mike & Serena Pace
12/24	Bill & Judith (Judy) Murrell
12/28	Paul & Sherry Burgdorf
12/30	Griffin & Molly Giles
12/31	Virgil & Jeanette Patterson

anniversary



blessings



*"The LORD bless you
 and keep you; the LORD make
 his face shine upon you
 and be gracious to you;
 the LORD turn his face toward
 you and give you peace."
 - Numbers 6:24-26*