



grace

LUTHERAN CHURCH

belong · believe · become

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Arlington, TX 76010
817.274.1626
online @ grace.lc

Newsletter
APRIL 2021

Pastor
Doug Widger
Lead Shepherd

Pastor Steve Roth
Community Care

Dr. Serena Pace
DCE - Director of
Ministries

Jennifer Chavez
Director of
Early Education

**Rev. Dr. Russell
Hildebrandt**
Pastor Emeritus

**Rev. Dr. David
Joeckel**
Pastor Emeritus

Easter Sunday

There are still some seats available for the April 4th Easter services, which are all identical. **Click here** to sign up at <https://go.grace.lc/signup>. Have a blessed Easter weekend.

Sunday Services, April 4:

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am



**Arlington
Life Shelter**

On the fourth Saturday of month the Arlington Life Shelter ministry serves approximately 90 residents who reside there. Last month the following items were needed. Please be watching for an email from Grace for an update if the menu changes:

- 90 sandwiches (one loaf of bread makes approximately 10 sandwiches. Meat sandwiches are preferred)
- 90 pieces of fruit
- 90 individual bags of chips
- 90 individual bags of cookies
- 4 cakes (chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, etc.)
- 1 large lemonade mix
- 3 large bags of salad (2 lb. bags)
- 2 or 3 large bottles of salad dressing
- 55 gallon trash bags
- Any type of cleanser like Lysol, Clorox, etc.
- Styrofoam Plates, cups, and bowls

If you are able to make any type of donation of food or supplies, please contact Susan Hoar at 817-312-5730. Any and all donations are appreciated. Thank you!

Susan Hoar

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**ALTAR
FLOWERS**
HONOR SOMEONE
SPECIAL.
SIGN-UPS NOW
AVAILABLE IN THE
NARTHEX OR CALL
THE CHURCH OFFICE.



IRA Fun Fact that could benefit Grace Lutheran Church

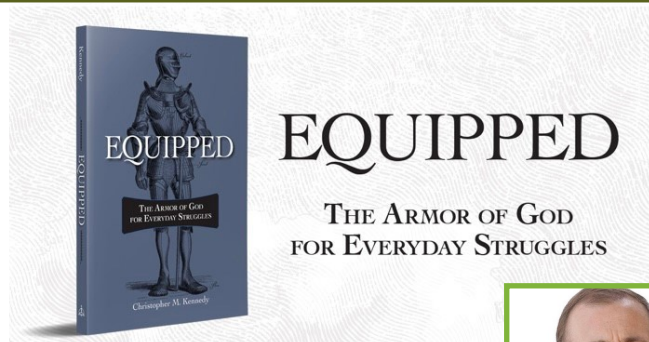
Did you know that Texas District Church Extension Fund (Texas CEF) began offering IRAs themselves back in 2016? At that time, all IRA owners who lived in Texas, but had an IRA with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) in St. Louis were able to designate a congregation here in Texas to receive supporting funds credit for this investment. As you may know, these supporting funds are used to help calculate the annual loan rebate for borrowing congregations like Grace. **Grace Lutheran Church has benefited from this investment in the past.**

However, this arrangement changed starting June 1, 2020, as a result of software updates which implemented significant enhancements for their customers. All investors who reside in Texas, but have an IRA in St. Louis, are no longer able to automatically support their Texas congregation.

We are inviting each of you who have an IRA at LCEF, upon the maturing of your IRA, or even before then, to move your investment to Texas CEF, where your dollars will continue to help Grace receive a loan rebate and help continue to build churches here in Texas!

If you have any questions, or if you are wondering if your IRA is benefiting your Texas congregation, please call Texas CEF at 888-951-1233 or email invest@texascef.org.

Equipped Available on April 11!



Hello Grace Family,

Pastor Christopher Kennedy's book *Equipped* will be available for pick up after each service on Sunday, April 11. If you haven't paid, you can pay cash or by check payable to Christopher Kennedy. If you need to have it delivered, please contact Mike Kennedy at 817.675.9787.

Thank you, for your support!

Mike & Dorothy Kennedy

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.

Eyeglasses for Missions



Many thanks to those who donated their used eyeglasses recently. We shipped off 75+ pairs to MOST Ministries in February. The glasses will be sorted and cleaned for distribution at eyeglass clinics internationally. Unless conditions change due to COVID-19, MOST Ministries plans on resuming their mission trips in July this year.



Senior Support Network

Senior Support Network & Zoom Book Club

All are welcome to participate in the **Book Club** that meets the third Wednesday of each month from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

- Sign up [here](#)
- [Zoom link](#)

Fiction and non-fiction books are discussed.

We read one book per month. At our next meeting on Wednesday, April 21st we'll be discussing ***The Executioner's Redemption: My Story of Violence, Death, and Saving Grace*** by Rev. Timothy R. Carter who shares his story of working on Death Row and his inspiring journey to becoming a Lutheran minister.

The wrenching account of one man's journey from executioner to pastor.

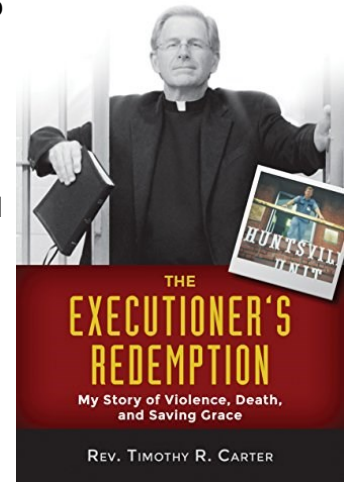
When young Tim Carter started working at a prison to make money for college, he didn't realize that he was signing away his life, his heart, and his very self to a career of brutal violence and routine executions. In the midst of the darkness of prison life, the light of God's Word shone in front of him. Condemned inmates were brought to faith and given eternal life. Families of inmates and victims took immense comfort in God's justice and redemption. But inside Carter's heart, a fierce battle raged. Was he carrying out God's will by wielding the sword of the state? Or was he actually doing more harm than good?

In these pages, you'll walk with Tim into the violence and through death row. You'll stumble with him through God's crushing judgment and into His tender love. And you'll learn that even in the darkest places, God is still there.

We would love to have more people in our book club!

Questions? please contact Ruth Brown (817-274-8600).

Ruth Brown



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

- ◇ The 2nd quarter edition of *Portals of Prayer* is in. Let Cynthia know what size(s) you would like to have mailed to your home (*not mailed automatically, but when requested*).
- ◇ 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*).



Blessings

BLESSED BE THE LORD WHO DAILY LOADS US WITH BENEFITS, EVEN THE GOD OF OUR SALVATION.
PSALM 68:19

It's About Us

Matuor Dot Alier is a social worker in North Dakota. A long, difficult journey — and the memory of his grandfather's words — brought him from a childhood in Africa to his life today.

Alier fled with his brother and thousands of other youths when Sudanese soldiers attacked South Sudan. The children walked hundreds of miles with little food or water to a refugee camp in Ethiopia. In 2006, Alier and his brother arrived in Philadelphia, where they were sponsored and supported by a Lutheran church. Upon moving to Fargo some years later, Alier helped start a church where people who had survived war, displacement and other traumas could find healing, joy and love.

"My grandfather used to say, 'I cannot be whole unless everyone is whole,'" Alier shares. "I use this saying a lot to help me stay in a close relationship with others. It means that we need each other's support to survive and thrive. I don't want to be the only one doing well if others aren't doing well. It's not just about me — it's about us."

—adapted from ***Living Lutheran***

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

PRESCHOOL/PRE-K SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are searching for servant-hearted people to teach our young children during the Sunday School Hour (9:45 - 10:45 a.m.) All volunteers will complete a background check, safety training and will join an AWESOME team of people who are passing on the faith to the next generation. Are you interested in joining the Grace Kids Ministry Team? Please contact Serena at space@grace.lc or 817-274-1626, x102.



FAMILY MINISTRY

SUNDAY MORNING

Grace Kids (Kindergarten—6th Grade) Meet in a classroom in the preschool hallway from 9:45-10:45 A.M.

JR. High Youth (Grades 7-8) DEEP END Confirmation meets at 9:45 a.m. in Meeting Room 4.

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

Breakfast Club Bible Study (For parents, grandparents, and guardians of preschoolers through high school seniors) meets at 10 a.m. in the Library.

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



Mark your calendars now
for VBS! **JULY 26-30, 2021**



Check out
pictures of
the event on
[page 6](#) that
Colin Toth
took!

THANK YOU, GRACE FAMILY!

Your prayers, donations and hours donated preparing and serving at the Grace Kids Event blessed this ministry and all who visited our campus. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus in a BIG way!!!



NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED

Grace Kids Ministry is looking for caring people with childcare experience to work with our youngest age group, 0 to 3 years old, on Sunday mornings from 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. This is a paid position. Grace provides Safety Training, and CPR certification. Our workers are background checked through Praesidium, a leader in child safety! Our goal is to hire three

workers. The importance of staffing a church nursery may mean the difference between a young family attending church or not. Who do you know who might be interested?

Please contact Serena at space@grace.lc or 817-274-1626, x102.

