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**Newsletter**  
**NOVEMBER 2021**



## Hello HOLYdays Celebration

CHURCH-WIDE celebration of the HOLYdays!  
Saturday, November 27, 2021  
3:30 - 6:15 PM

3:30 - 5 pm

**Kids Gingerbread Bash:** In the FLC - Make Gingerbread Nativities with fun Advent programming for kids and preschool/elementary families. All are welcome to make a nativity!

**Decorate:** Hanging of the Greens - decorate the church with garlands and lights.

5 - 5:45 pm

**Food:** Sausage, potato and salad dinner with Christmas cookies, cupcakes, cider, cocoa and other beverages.

5:45 - 6:15 pm

**Finale:** Tree lighting, live music with guest singers and Grace Kids/GLEE children, including a Christmas carol sing-along in the Sanctuary.

**There will also be a Christmas backdrop for pictures, harp playing, cheese ball sale, and more!**

## Listen and Experience the Bible Set to Music

Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) is an independent Lutheran organization dedicated to making God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in their native language. The organization knows that many language communities around the world put scripture to song to appreciate it more fully. LBT, through its Living Water project, is offering the same experience to us as part of the 500th anniversary celebration of Luther's publication of the New Testament.

Beginning January 3, 2022, LBT will be releasing Monday through Friday, the entire New Testament in English (ESV), book by book, chapter by chapter in a musical film score style. LBT says: "Everyone who listens will be exposed to the beauty of God's Word with all its depth and emotion."

For more information:

1. Go to [www.LBT.org/livingwater](http://www.LBT.org/livingwater) to hear a sample of John 19 and to sign up to subscribe to the daily recordings.
2. Go to [www.LBT.org/ep40-experience-scripture](http://www.LBT.org/ep40-experience-scripture) to hear the back story behind the project via podcast.



**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

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# FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

## SUNDAY MORNINGS at 9:45 am (between early and late services)

**Grace Kids (Grades 1-3 and Preteens Grades 4-6)** Meet in classrooms in the preschool hall.

**JR. High Youth** (Grades 7-8) meet in Meeting Room 4 for Deep End Confirmation.

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

**Biblical Parenting Sunday School** (For parents, grandparents, & guardians of preschoolers through high school seniors) meets in the Library.

Merry Market is coming on Dec. 5, during the Bible Study hour. All youth are asked to attend as helpers. Each child will move through 4 craft activity stations to make special gifts for their loved ones that tell the Gospel message. They will hear the story of Jesus at each station. We will begin promptly at 9:45!!!



Christmas Program

We are presenting *Brand New Star*, a Christmas program happening on December 12 at the 11 AM worship service. Children's and Youth roles are now being recruited for actors, singers, musicians and ushers. Please speak with Serena ASAP about joining the cast - [space@grace.lc](mailto:space@grace.lc) or 817-274-1626 x1002



Hey Ya'll!

These past couple of months have been very transformative for me. As I continue to walk and grow in my faith, I have felt that I should be pursuing other callings in my life. Many of you already know of my different goals with aviation and music. To allow myself more time to pursue those outlets, I have decided to step down from my role as a youth worker at Grace Lutheran. This decision has been very hard for me to come to due to my different passions and love for seeing God growing in the lives of others. I will be resigning to a more "part-time" role at Grace with continued leadership in our Music Ministries and Young Adults outreach.

Jenna here - I don't have the capacity to take on Youth myself along with my other responsibilities at Grace, however I will continue serving in a support role, especially in continuing in Sunday School and helping organize some events. Serena, Doug, and myself will be moving forward in supporting Youth ministry together while we continue praying for guidance in next steps. Check out pg #4 to see what we've got planned for November!

*Jenna and Richard Del Cristo, Jr.*

## Life Groups

Our current Life Groups will be ending throughout November and breaking over the holidays. Sign ups will open up again in mid-December, and Spring Groups will start mid-January!

*Jenna Del Cristo*



## Choir and Joybells

I know there are many who have wanted to join choir or bells, but haven't been able to due to challenges going up and down the stairs to the balcony. **We have decided to move them down to the main floor of the sanctuary to avoid that issue and keep all of our players safe!**

If you'd like to join in light of these changes, you can show up to our rehearsals or contact me at [rdelcristo@grace.lc](mailto:rdelcristo@grace.lc) for more information.

*Richard Del Cristo, Jr.*

## Book Club

We meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm in the church library. This month we will be discussing historical fiction book *Cilka's Journey* by Heather Morris.

Cilka was taken from her home in Slovakia to spend several years in the Auschwitz-Birkenaw death camp, and after the war was sent to the Soviet Gulag camp for 15 years. Quite a story! Come join us.

*Ruth Brown*



## Embrace Grace - Thank you!

We want to express our thanks to all the support from the church for the Embrace Grace baby shower. The love that was poured out on the girls left a big impact.

Praising God for Colin Toth for taking pictures and for Jessica Nieves and her team, Joanne Elmers, Vickie Rosentreter and Patty Smith, for providing the food and decorations.

God has big plans for these girls and it was a privilege and honor to be a part of it.

*Grace's Embrace Grace Team*



## Mission of the Month



*Learning Today  
to Build a Better Tomorrow*

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

I cannot express enough to myself and share with you that grace is a free gift from God our Father through Jesus Christ who died and rose again. Jesus kept the law on our behalf and now that we are followers of Jesus we live in his kingdom of



loving God and loving our neighbor. Kingdom followers are on mission and Perry Geevon Smith has been on mission for Jesus and his country of Liberia since 2010 with his first Lutheran school and building in River Cess (central part of the country) where Perry was born. Perry has a second school in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia.

Perry's first school building of mud and sticks lasted 10 years and was in such disrepair that his school in River Cess moved into the old church building that has been around since Perry was a small child (Perry was born in 1961). These are picture of the church in River Cess.

As you can see, we are in need of a new school building, and the proposal is to put up a temporary building until we can build a school of block and bricks. A temporary building will cost \$7,500 to build that will have metal walls and a roof of zinc. We appreciate any kind of support that the Lord lays on your heart. You can also sponsor a student for \$30 a month for the entire



year if that is how the Lord moves you. Almost all private schools in Liberia charge between 300 to 500 dollars per semester. Perry does not charge tuition because his schools cater to the poorest of the poor in his country. Please consider helping us during the month of November as Grace's designated mission of the month. Please see this link for a video of our ministry at:

<https://lovingliberia.com/loving-liberia-in-the-news/>

In Christ,

*Pastor Hildebrandt*

## The Holy Smokers are at it Again!

### THANKSGIVING TURKEYS and SAUSAGE

We are smoking whole turkeys, turkey breast and sausage (mild 14 ounce or spicy 12 ounce) on Wednesday, November 24.

Watch for the signup sheet in the Narthex. The turkey and sausage will need to be pre-paid at \$35.00 per whole turkey, \$30.00 for the turkey breast and \$7.00 per ring of sausage or 2 for \$12.00.

Checks can be placed in the envelope attached to the signup sheet or cash can be given to Cynthia Jackson or Jenna Del Cristo. Make checks out to Grace Lutheran Church, **mark check memo as Holy Smokers.**

Deadline to sign up for turkeys and sausage will be after the second service on Sunday, November 21.

Turkeys and sausage will be ready for pickup Wednesday, November 24, at 2:00 pm.



**"The Most Reluctant Convert"**  
The life story of C.S. Lewis  
Showing for **ONE NIGHT ONLY**  
AMC Parks 11/3/21 @ 7 pm

### Special Dates

All Saints' Day  
November 1, 2021

Daylight-Saving Time ends  
November 7, 2021

Veterans Day  
November 11, 2021

Thanksgiving Day  
November 25, 2021

First Sunday of Advent  
November 28, 2021



## Holiday Cheese Balls for Sale!



Registration for National Youth Gathering is underway, and we will be selling holiday cheese balls this month to help fundraise for the big trip next summer!

There will be a signup sheet to order in the Narthex. The cheese balls will need to be pre-paid at \$10 each.

Checks can be placed in the envelope attached to the signup sheet or cash can be given to Cynthia Jackson or Jenna Del Cristo. You can also make checks out to Grace Lutheran Church, and **mark check memo as NYG.**

Deadline to sign up for cheese balls will be after the second service on Sunday, November 21. They will be ready for pickup at the Saturday Hello HOLYdays Event November 27th (see page #1).



## The Subversive Table

"The Lord's Supper [is] a profoundly subversive political event in the lives of the participants," writes Richard Beck in *Unclean*. "The sacrament brings real people — divided in the larger world — into a sweaty, intimate, flesh-and-blood embrace where 'there shall be no difference between them and the rest.'" Beck is quoting Walt Whitman, for whom "them" refers to "the wicked and the righteous."

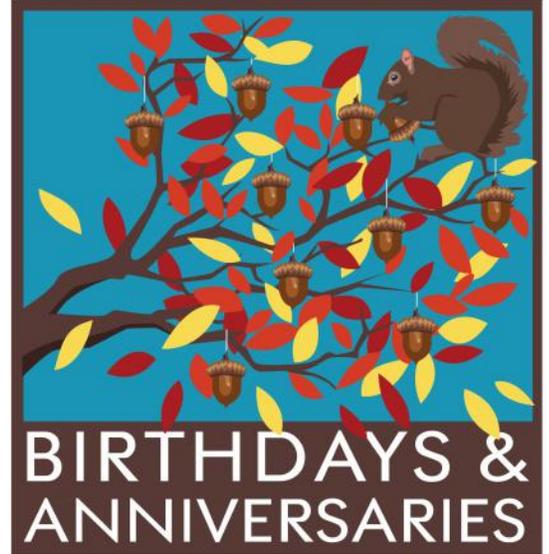
In our day, I think of political conservatives and liberals who receive equally the grace of God through Christ's body and blood. I think of the man in a church I pastored, who took pride in stirring up controversy. I didn't like him. But at the Lord's table, though "divided in the larger world," we shared a sacrament with no difference between us.

I think of my former parish near an Air Force base. Many members were military personnel and surely knew one another's rank. But in church — at the conference table, the dinner table and especially the communion table — no difference existed between a colonel and a captain, a commissioned officer and an NCO. It was a beautiful example of God's kingdom subverting the world's tendency to divide.

*Heidi Hyland Marx*

# BIRTHDAYS

# NOVEMBER



11/2 Melinda Schmidt	11/17 Alex Stacy
11/3 Sondra Schubert	11/17 Grace Massie
11/3 Anthony Westbrook	11/17 Mary Wolter
11/3 Nancy Masterson	11/17 Lynn Smith
11/3 Luis Gutierrez	11/18 Ellen Nielsen
11/4 James Hankins	11/19 Dave Voss
11/5 Chris Owens	11/19 Dawn Stacy
11/6 Jessica Nieves	11/19 Erica Farley
11/6 JoAnn Jeske	11/19 Linda Rawe
11/6 Luke Joeckel	11/19 Ryan Baumann
11/6 Matthew Joeckel	11/19 Cameron Bodenstab
11/7 Deborah Hildebrandt	11/20 Darla Creel
11/7 Norris Pratt	11/21 Nancy Mickelson
11/8 Kaegen Barrett	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	11/23 Charles Sparks
11/9 Jennifer Tatrow	11/24 Elizabeth Gutierrez
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 Donita Spawr
11/12 Troy Baumann	11/29 Carol Hall
11/14 Daryl Seefeldt	11/29 Judy Horton
11/15 Paul Burgdorf	11/29 Laura Smith
11/16 Alexandria Baumann	11/29 Paul Tatrow
11/16 Zachary Baumann	11/30 Chuck Dratwick

## ANNIVERSARIES

11/4 A.J. & Susan Jones
11/5 Alan & Moira Meyer
11/6 Steven & Alison Roth
11/10 Francis & Heather Oshinowo
11/11 Dick & Martha Malec
11/15 Brent & Aundrea Reynolds
11/17 Hosny & Huda Gad
11/17 John & Donita Spawr
11/19 Charles & Gerry Sparks
11/23 Deryl & Nichole Surratt
11/27 Hugh & Joann Boyle

**Call the church office or E-mail requests to [idelcristo@grace.lc](mailto:idelcristo@grace.lc) if you want to:**

- ◇ Receive the 3rd quarter of *Portals of Prayer* mailed to your home.
- ◇ Be added to the group email list that receives prayer requests.
- ◇ Submit updated address and contact information.
- ◇ Receive a current Church Directory as an active Grace member.
- ◇ Submit and/or update a prayer request.

## Your Elders Are Here for You

### 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
Keith Mangels	T-Z

**Head Elder:**  
Joe Masterson

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: [idelcristo@grace.lc](mailto:idelcristo@grace.lc).

**New to Grace?**  
Reference the adjacent list. If your last name begins with "L" for example, Mike Kennedy would be your assigned elder.

*Joe Masterson*



# GOD'S WILL

God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

*Directions: Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the lines provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.*

e  
 7 2 4 1 6 3 5  
 e o r c j i  
 w y l a s a  
 3 5 2 4 6 1  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 continually,  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 in all circumstances; for this  
 is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
 h n t a s k  
 2 4 1 3 6 5

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV

Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks