



grace

LUTHERAN CHURCH

belong · believe · become

210 W. Park Row Dr.
Arlington, TX 76010
817.274.1626
online @ grace.lc

Newsletter
OCTOBER 2022

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

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Season of Coming Together

We are excited for the season of coming together ahead of us, which will be observed through the celebration of one worship service each Sunday at 9:30 AM, beginning October 16th. This will be a time when we pursue excellence in all things, uniting in humility before our Almighty Creator!

Life Groups - Sign up now!

Fall Life Groups start on October 16th, right after our 70th Anniversary Celebration on October 9th! All groups will receive a 6-week study on 'How to Neighbor,' meeting on Sundays at 10:45 am at tables in the Gym (after our new 9:30 am service). The first 3 weeks of this are available in the Narthex or online at go.grace.lc/HowToNeighbor1-3

The series will include a take-home personal study, reinforced by the messages on Sundays, as well as discussion time in your Life Groups. The first three weeks of the take-home study are already available in the Narthex, or electronically at go.grace.lc/HowToNeighbor. We hope all adults will join - sign-ups are open now until October 23rd! There is also opportunity to sign up for the many volunteer ministries we have here at Grace via pamphlets in the Narthex. Join us in connecting to live out the great commission!

Life
Groups

Staff Appreciation

October is a month of celebrations at Grace. We will be celebrating our staff this month. Our staff has been a blessing to our church and community. Please take a moment to express your appreciation and love for these people listed below. There will be gift bags in the Narthex to receive notes of appreciation or gifts. We will celebrate on the 5th Sunday on October.

Keith Margele



Rev. Doug Widger

Rev. Steve Roth

Dr. Serena Pace

Cynthia Jackson

Jennifer Chavez

Richie Del Cristo

Jenna Del Cristo

Will Land

Mark Oxner

Red Hoar

Maintenance Team:

John Rukavina

Alan Meyer

Joe Masterson

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

SUNDAY MORNINGS - Beginning Oct. 16, All classes meet from 10:45-11:45 AM
NO Bible Studies on October 9th for our 70th Anniversary Celebration Day!



(Preschool through Grade 6) - Preschool wing on Oct. 2nd at 9:45 AM; same location Oct. 16th at 10:45 AM



(Grades 7-12) - Meeting in the Youth Shed Oct 2nd at 9:45 AM, then in the Gym beginning Oct 16th for a six-week special study at 10:45 AM

Biblical Parenting Sunday School - For the parents, grandparents, & guardians of preschoolers through high school seniors; meeting in the Library attached to the Narthex on Oct. 2nd, then in the Gym beginning Oct 16th for a six-week special study at 10:45 AM.

TEEN GIRLS—FEBRUARY 24-25, 2023

Tickets go on sale Nov. 1

THERE{4} is a 2-day conference designed to inspire the next generation of high school girls to boldly live out their identity in Jesus Christ. Get ready for a weekend of incredible worship, amazing speakers and creative interactions designed just for you!



"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."
 —1 Peter 2:9

Cost is \$59, but we are offering a \$24 scholarship to each teen girl. **\$35 Per Person**

PLEASE LET SERENA KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED BY THE END OF OCTOBER!



\$50 (includes 2 meals, activities & T-shirt)

Grades 6-8

Meet at church at 8:30A and return at 9P.

Middle school is a time when students may begin attending a new school. their circle of friends from elementary school may no longer be around or friend groups may constantly be shifting because of "drama" and they are faced with making new ones. At such a pivotal time in their lives it is important for them to have a strong friend group.

At Recess this year, we'll talk about important questions such as: What is a friend? How do you find friends? Who cares about me? How can I be a good friend? Most importantly, we'll build upon the foundation that Jesus is our friend - the One who is constantly there for us in our lives.



ELEMENTARY RETREAT Grades 1-6

Ground Games and Team Building,
 Low Zip Line, Crafts, Archery,
 Capture the Flag, Bible Study,
 Snacks and More!

Nov. 12, 8:15 AM at Grace,
 Return 4:30 PM
 Cost: \$15 per person

Bring a Sack Lunch, Water Bottle, Closed Toe Shoes

6350 Newt Patterson Road Mansfield, Texas 76063 817.672.5285;
www.campanothen.org

Please turn your \$15 in to Serena and you will receive registration forms! Let her know which parents can help chaperone.



Bayou La Batre, AL YOUTH MISSION

July 8 through 16, 2023, \$500

\$50 Deposit DUE Oct. 25 to reserve your spot!
 For current Grades 6—12.

Encounter the resilient spirit of Bayou La Batre as we serve through home improvement projects, elder care and children's ministries. In the evenings, we'll experience Dauphin Island, a worship service, and a tour of Bayou La Batre. We'll also encounter many community friends who have shared their community with YouthWorks staff, students and adult leaders since 1998. Contact Serena with questions.



COME JOIN THE FUN!
OCTOBER 30, 3-5 PM RAIN OR SHINE
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

We are in need of the following: Candy, Decorated Trunks, Parking Lot Attendants, Food Prep and Food Table Volunteers, Inflatables Volunteers, Prayer Partners, People to pass out flyers and make Goody Bags on **Oct. 23 (following Life Groups - Lunch provided)**, Set Up and Clean Up Crews, Bathroom Monitors, Greeters, Runners, and Families who want to have fun together!

Contact Serena at space@grace.lc for details or to volunteer.

Be on the lookout for November/December Service Opportunities, Christmas Program and Fellowship Events!

You can be involved in EMBRACE GRACE!

We are throwing a Baby Shower for our FOUR lovely Blooms this month! Monetary donations are MOST helpful, but if there is something special you would like to gift to the shower, please do so through Serena P. or Nancy G. Shower preparation help is also appreciated.



Would you like to provide a light meal for leaders and participants as they meet on a Wednesday night this month or in the new year? Speak with Nancy G. or Serena P. for more details.

Ongoing Groups Updates

Book Club

Our book to be discussed this month is *"Tending Roses"* by Lisa Wingate. Mary Thiede will be our leader. Everyone is invited, if you enjoy reading novels please come and join us! Call Ruth Brown or the Church Office for more information.

Information on all of our groups can be found anytime at grace.lc/get-connected

Comunidad de Gracia—Community of Grace Hispanic Ministry



ESL CLASSES

Wednesdays, 6:30—8:00 PM

Volunteer to provide snacks/meals and conversation. Contact Serena.

graceSeniors

Save the date for an October 13th German Food POTLUCK at 12 pm. Gather as friends and eat great food!



SEE You THERE

ZUMBA!

This Monday—Thursday class meets at Grace West from 10:30–11:30 a.m. Suggested donation is \$3 per class & \$5 on Wednesday for special XCO class; 1st Class FREE! Pray God would grow this group into a Bible study, where leaders emerge to serve in the Hispanic ministry at Grace!

New Members

Debbie & Brent Burns are returning members to Grace Lutheran. They moved back to Arlington after being in Granbury the past 15 years. Debbie has been retired since 2018 to help assist with the moms. Brent recently retired the end of this last year. Why did they return back to Arlington and as well did Brent chose to retire? The BLESSING of grandkids! It's wonderful to be back closer to the family for sure!



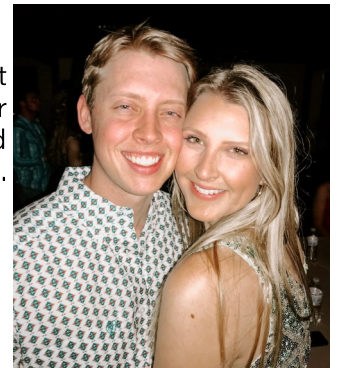
Olivia Mathews is the wife of David Robinson, Jr (below), and this is her first time being a member at a church! She completed her bachelor's degree in nursing at University of Phoenix, and has worked in healthcare for 10 years. She is currently staying home with their son Zion. Olivia has fun spending time with their family, hiking, DIY projects, painting, cooking/baking, and gardening.

David Robinson Jr (or DJ), Olivia's husband, grew up in Bedford and was previously a member at a Baptist church. He graduated from Oklahoma State University, and worked 6 years as a teacher. He is going on year 5 working as a special education teacher in Dallas. David enjoys hanging out with the family, hiking, sports, and video games.

Hayden Brown & Gracie Topel are getting married in October! Gracie just graduated from A&M and is a Financial Advisor. Hayden just graduated from Baylor and is an Insurance Account Executive. They love coffee, college football, and discipleship.



Naomi Seaver was born in Offerle, Kansas and moved to 5 different states when younger. She went to Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, and the last 44 years have lived in Bartlesville, Oklahoma where she was a member of Redeemer Lutheran. Naomi worked for the Post Office for 30 years, and then for the Bartlesville History Museum for 5 before moving to Arlington to be with her sister, Mary Thiede. Naomi has two children - her daughter Erica and son-in-law Jim in Pennsylvania and her son Nathan and granddaughter Abigail in Australia.



2022 Turkeys - Save the Date

The Holy Smokers will be smoking whole turkeys, turkey breast, as well as mild and spicy sausage for Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 23rd.

Watch for further details in the November Newsletter, and for further information please contact Ernie Owens at 817-247-0747.



Music Ministry Update



Music roles in our staff are changing somewhat with our upcoming transition to one service. William Land will be taking over as Director of Worship, and thus be in charge of planning and directing music.

Richard Del Cristo will still be involved as a worship leader/singer and conductor for the

Choir and Bells, and will also continue his work in Young Adult ministry. These transitions will allow growth in their passions and calling for both Will and Richie; we're looking forward to seeing what's to come for Grace through their service, and what God has in store for each of them!

Grace West Announcement

The voters approved the sale/lease of 308 W Park Row Dr at the meeting held on Sunday, September 18th, 2022. The Board has entered into an agreement with Zang Adams Real Estate to serve as our listing agent.

If you are NOT a Thrivent Member

DID YOU KNOW...

that for \$20 you can be a member and get two grants (\$500) from Thrivent to fund any number of projects at Grace!

It's so easy.

Chris Owens

thrivent

Save THE Date

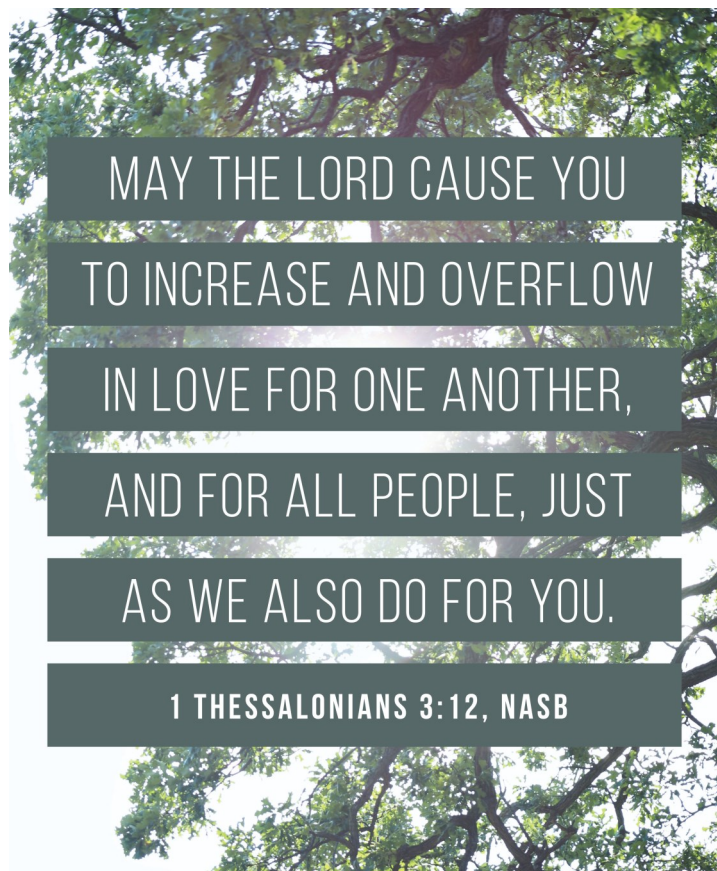
Work Day

We will have a church-wide work day on **Saturday, October 1st starting at 8:30 am!** Lunch will be provided, join us to help with outdoor gardening/cleanup, as well as projects in the Family Life Center, Meeting Rooms, Sanctuary, & Narthex. Contact Tracey Rukavina or Alan Meyer for more information.

Festival of Lights

Our 2nd Annual Festival of Lights will be held **Sunday, November 20th** in support of Loving Liberia.

Did you know that the church calendar is available ONLINE at grace.lc? [CLICK HERE](#) to access it. Any calendar changes and/or additions made in the church office are updated online in real time!



Loving Liberia Update



We have been busy at Loving Liberia inviting other churches to partner with us in bringing the hope of Jesus and education for a productive life for the children. Thank you to all who have partnered with us at Grace. Trinity Lutheran Church in Tyler, TX and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Weston, FL are now partnering with us to sponsor students and underwrite the ministry of bringing education to the poorest of the poor children.

A temporary school building is being built in River Cess, Perry's home village. We will also build bathrooms in a separate building. We are planning on taking our first trip to Liberia the third week in February which is the dry season. If you would like to accompany us, please contact Pastor Hildebrandt or Perry Smith.

[We are thrilled to share a new video of our ministry, Loving Liberia.](#) Just click the link and you will be taken to Facebook to view the video. Our picture is from our temporary school building with the roof being installed in the building. The next phase is to pour a concrete floor and then finish the walls.

Your Elders

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| 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 |
| Jim Schmidt | 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: jdelcristo@grace.lc.

New to Grace? Reference the adjacent list. If your last name begins with "S" for example, then Joe Masterson would be your assigned elder.

Joseph C. Masterson



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Steve Alloy
10/2 Vickie Rosentreter
10/3 Charles Davies
10/4 Ruth Currie
10/4 Easton Schlesinger
10/6 Moira Meyer
10/6 Justin Gerhardt
10/6 Young Son
10/7 Jann Richmond
10/8 Mike Pace
10/8 Patty Smith
10/9 Jack Crutchfield
10/12 Andrew Hall
10/13 Cheryl Westbrook
10/15 Barbara Koehn
10/15 Donald Alloy
10/16 Jeanne Crow
10/18 Zeke Ali
10/19 Austin Taylor
10/20 Karen Arrington
10/20 Nancy McCormick
10/20 Paula Crossman
10/21 Susan Jones
10/23 Judy Livesay
10/23 Van Alec Nieves
10/24 Michael Schmidt
10/25 Joshua Widger
10/26 John Peery
10/28 Khloe Gutierrez
10/29 David Joeckel
10/30 David Taylor
10/30 Jack Brown
10/31 Kathryn Petty



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/7 Russell & Deborah Hildebrandt
10/8 Hank & Maryann Jacobs
10/10 Martin & Lucille Schlotte
10/16 Samuel & Kathryn Petty
10/17 Wayne & Ginny Hankins
10/28 Miguel & Dawn Sepulveda

Call 817.274.1626 or email jdelcristo@grace.lc to:

- ◇ Receive a copy 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.



No lone-ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!