



Pastor  
**Doug Widger**  
Lead Shepherd

Pastor Steve Roth  
Community Care

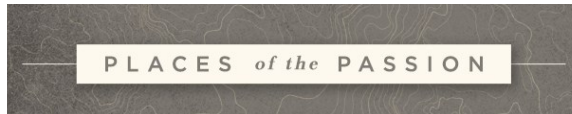
**Dr. Serena Pace**  
DCE - Director of  
Ministries

**Jennifer Chavez**  
Director of  
Early Education

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

## Lent Series - Places of the Passion

Our Lenten services this year will be held at 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm, with a meal in between at 5:30 pm in the Gym. We will be going through a series on the "Places of the Passion."



In this worship series for Lent, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, contemplating what happened at each place our Savior stood along the path of his Passion for our sake. Written by theology professor Reed Lessing, each service explores the meaning, history and spiritual inspiration associated with the location highlighted. Parishioners will learn things they may not have known before as they grow to understand more deeply the hard road our Lord took that the way to heaven might be open to us.

## IF:Gathering 2023

Join us as we host a stream of this Women's Conference here at Grace! Our purpose is to draw women together, seeking God in community. Join us Friday, April 21st from 6:30 pm - 9 pm, and Saturday, April 22nd from 9 am - 4 pm, and pray that God would draw the women in our community to come and experience what He has for them.



Visit [go.grace.lc/if2023](http://go.grace.lc/if2023) to learn more and register. Registration is \$19 per person (or free if you're a college student!) but need-based scholarships are available. Contact [Serena P](#) or [Jenna DC](#) for more information or to get involved!

## Get Involved in Embrace Grace!



The second phase of EG, Embrace Life, begins this month! Please keep this ministry in prayer and [speak with Serena](#) or Nancy G if you would like to be involved!

## Church Office Closed - Staff Development

The Church Office will be CLOSED from the afternoon of Wednesday, February 15th through Friday, February 17th. Our staff will be traveling to Phoenix and attending the Best Practices Ministry Conference there! If there is an emergency, we can be reached over the church phone or [email](#), and Pastor Steve will be staying behind if there are any in-person needs.



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# FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

**SUNDAY MORNINGS - All**  
Bible classes meet from  
10:45-11:45 AM

Babies/Toddlers: Nursery  
Preschool/Kinder &  
Grades 1-6 Bible Studies:  
Preschool wing/GLEE  
hallway

Grades 7-12 Bible Study: Youth Shed

Biblical Parenting Sunday School:  
Library



June 26th - 29th

Vacation Bible Camp

## EASTER EGG HUNT

**APRIL 2, 2023, 2:30-4:30 PM**

Grace Lutheran Church  
210 W. Park Row, Arlington, 76010  
Rain or Shine! Free!

Easter Bunny, Egg Hunt, Country Critters Petting Zoo, Bubble Show at 3:15, Prizes, Car Show, Face Painting, Inflatables & More Family Fun!

817-274-1626, [www.grace.lc](http://www.grace.lc)  
Easter Worship April 9, 9:30 AM - Breakfast at 8!



### TEEN GUYS' EVENT

Weekend of February 24

Details TBA, \$10,

**RSVP by February 12,**  
Okay to bring friends!



**THANK YOU** for supporting the **YOUTH CHEESE BALL FUNDRAISER!**

Don't forget to pick up your cheese ball! Forget to order one? We have a few extra!

Speak with [Serena](#) with questions.

### TEEN GIRLS—FEBRUARY 24-25, \$35

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."*

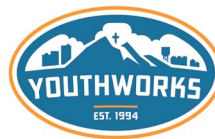
—1 Peter 2:9

### YOUTH MISSION Bayou La Batre, Alabama

July 8-16, 2023, **\$450**

***\$100 due 2/5 for \$250 current total***

For current Grades 6—12.



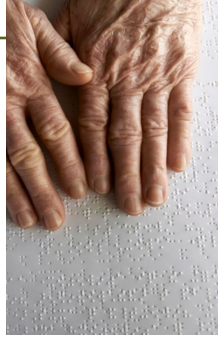
Teens will serve through home improvement projects, elder care and kids camp. In the evenings, we'll experience Dauphin Island, camp time, praise time, and a tour of Bayou La Batre. [Contact Serena](#) if you'd like to help provide scholarships.

# Ongoing Groups Updates

Information on all of our groups can be found anytime at [grace.lc/get-connected](http://grace.lc/get-connected)

## Braille

Braille teams are continuing to meet, and will be officially re-located to the newly-renovated MR1 (Meeting Room 1) this month! For more information on getting involved in making Braille Bibles, [contact the Church Office](#) or Uvonne D.



## Bible Journaling

Exercise your crafting skills by making a creative response to God's Word using a variety of techniques. Through drawing, journaling, and art you can document your walk with God leaving a legacy of faith. We welcome any children 10+ accompanied by an adult to attend!



We meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month on Zoom at 10 am. Coordinated by Alison R, Karen W, and Jessica N. [Click here](#) or [contact the church office](#) to get involved or find out about supplies.

## Book Club

This month, we are reading "Educated" by Tara Westover, and our conversation will be led by Sandra. We meet together to discuss books every 3rd Wednesday at 2 pm in the Church Library. Come join us! You can call Ruth B or [the Church Office](#) for more information.

# graceSeniors

SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH 9th, 9 AM - 1 PM

INSTITUTE FOR CREATION, DALLAS  
FIELD TRIP, \$15

RSVP to Serena by February 26.

1830 Royal Ln.  
Dallas, TX, 75229

800.743.6374  
[discover@icr.org](mailto:discover@icr.org)



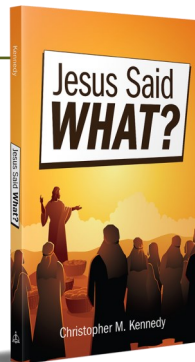
You're invited to hear Mayor Jim Ross at Grace Seniors'

**POTLUCK PARTY**  
02.09.2023  
12:00 PM  
at Grace Lutheran Church

BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH OR DESSERT TO THE PARTY!  
CONTACT: SERENA 817-274-1626

## Book Announcement

Pastor Christopher Kennedy has a new book, *Jesus Said What?*, to be released February 14. The book explores some of Jesus' most difficult statements. [Click here](#) for a sample. Books are \$15. If you have any questions or would like to order a book, please contact Dorothy at 817-805-1697. Thanks as always for your support,



*Mike and Dorothy Kennedy*

## Thrivent

CHOICE DOLLARS are Thrivent's money that you get to tell them to which non-profit you want the Thrivent money sent. (hint: Grace)

Choice dollars are not your money. Every dollar makes a big difference. February is the best time to direct 2022 choice dollars.

Go [online](#) to your account or call Chris O. at 817-247-7122



## Loving Liberia Update

Loving Liberia hosted a brunch for Grace members on January 8, 2023 during Sunday school. We were very blessed to share Liberian food and the story of Perry Smith's two schools in Liberia. From the beginning of Perry's first school in 2010 in his home village of Gayes Zahn Town, River Cess County, Liberia, to the opening of his second school in 2016 in Monrovia, Liberia. The blessings of the Lord continue to rain down with 257 students in both schools. Each school has Sunday school twice a month and we share the gospel of Jesus Christ each day.

We had a goal of purchasing 20 computers for our Monrovia school to begin teaching computers to our children. God has showed us that number was too small. Grace Lutheran raised \$1,411.00 towards computer which will buy 11 computers. We had two computers in stock from previous donations which makes a total of 13 computers from Grace.

I, Pastor Hildebrandt and Deborah, traveled to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Weston, FL to preach January 15 & 22 for my pastor friend and his wife who are on vacation. St. Paul donated \$1,673 in two Sundays which means another 13 computers. The preschool at St. Paul will match the first 10 computers donated by St. Paul Lutheran Church. This makes a total of 36 computers which is a praise God moment!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support building Christ's kingdom in Liberia.



## Thank You Notes

Dear Friends at Grace,

I received such lovely gifts at holiday time, including Portals of Prayer, "Come" - an Advent devotion by Steve Roth, Vaseline Lotion, red socks, milk chocolate, raspberry sweets - so much!

May our friends at Grace be blessed this coming year and always! Love and thanks!

*Cyndy Otto*

Thank you very much for remembering me with a Christmas gift package. It was very much appreciated.

*Narcy Pederson*

Thank you so much for the lovely Christmas Basket that was delivered to us by David Swille - we pray that God continues to bless Grace in all its outreach endeavors. Also, thank you for the timely encouraging notes that Santa receives - they always seem to be timed perfectly. Thanks again.

*Arnold & Santa George*



To the wonderful ladies at Grace Lutheran Church and to the Elders who delivered the "love boxes" to the senior members at Grace, a huge "Thank You"!

You're the best and it was a loving and caring act. May God continue to bless you in all that you do.

*Jeanette Naumann-Patterson*

## New Member

Charlotte Walker was born and raised in the Dallas area, and has been a member of 3 Lutheran, Missouri Synod congregations in Dallas County and Ascension in Cleburne. She has been doing Braille at Grace for the past 15, or so, years. When the need to change membership arose, she chose Grace. Charlotte is widowed, living in an active senior center in Duncanville. She is a mother of 3, grandmother of 6, and great-grand mother of 4. Her life is her church and family.



## Going Out of Our Way

In mid-2022, Mediterranean Shipping Company, a world leader in container transport, voluntarily changed its routes, on the advice of scientists, to protect large populations of blue whales off the Sri Lankan coast. Going out of its way 15 nautical miles has led to a whopping 95% drop in whale strikes.

Jesus counseled people to go out of their way for one another, especially for the vulnerable: "If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles." Further, "whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ... will by no means lose his reward" (Matthew 5:40-41; 10:42, ESV).

Paul likewise urged his listeners to voluntarily give up eating meat, even if they didn't believe in and weren't challenged by the idols to which it had been sacrificed, for the sake of new believers with weaker faith (Romans 14).

Faith calls us to go out of our way for the sake of others; sometimes a wealthy corporation opts to do the same. God's hand is at work in both, protecting vulnerable humans and nonhumans alike.

Call 817.274.1626 or email

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

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



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

2/2 Hosny Gad	2/13 Thomas Wagoner
2/2 Rylan Morris	2/14 Elise Morris
2/3 Mary Schlotte	2/16 Libby Burgdorf
2/5 Bill Murrell	2/16 Joan Brooke
2/5 Russell Hildebrandt	2/16 Lou Ann Kersten
2/7 Janet Baetz	2/16 Steve Roth
2/8 Ann Bassett	2/16 Zoey Sessums
2/8 Miguel Nieves	2/18 Ashley Hall
2/8 Pat Coomes	2/21 Nancy Grieser
2/8 Rachel Schmidt	2/22 Dean Mickelson
2/8 Walter Baumann	2/24 Jenna Del Cristo
2/10 Phyllis Slotter	2/24 Susan White
2/10 William Richmond	2/25 Beverly Gilbert
2/10 Zoey Barrett	2/25 Dara Cunningham
2/11 Joann Boyle	2/25 Erik Rubel
2/12 Jim Dupstadt	2/26 Lisa Woolston

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

New to Grace? Reference the adjacent list. If your last name begins with "H" for example, David Swille would be your assigned elder.

*Joseph C. Masterson*

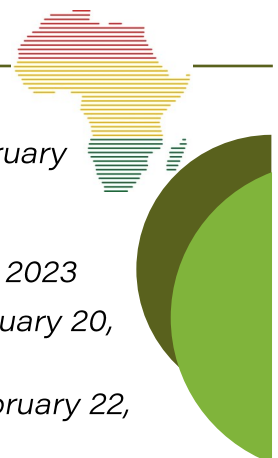
## ELDERS & THEIR ASSIGNED MEMBERS

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
Jim Schmidt	T-Z

Head Elder:  
Joe Masterson

## Special Dates

- ◇ Black History Month
- ◇ Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2023*
- ◇ Transfiguration Sunday, *February 19, 2023*
- ◇ Presidents Day, *February 20, 2023*
- ◇ Ash Wednesday, *February 22, 2023*



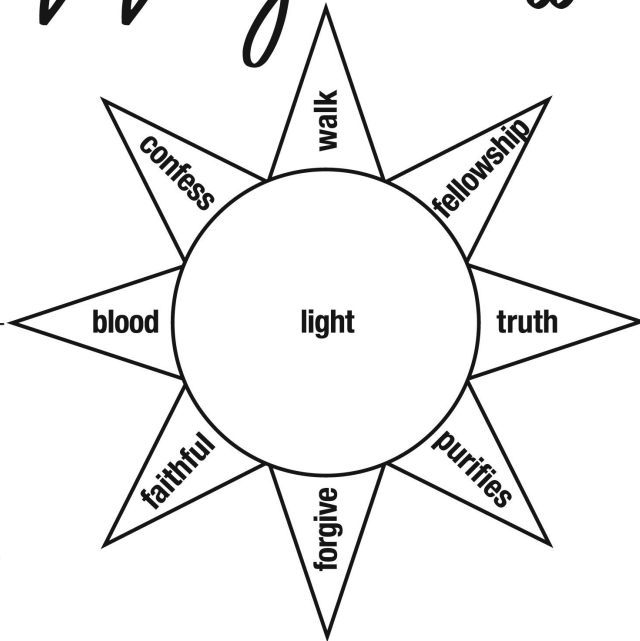


# The light of forgiveness

The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?

**Directions:**

Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.



But if we \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, as he is in the \_\_\_\_\_,  
 we have \_\_\_\_\_ with one another, and the \_\_\_\_\_  
 of Jesus, his Son, \_\_\_\_\_ us from all sin. If we claim to be  
 without sin, we deceive ourselves and the \_\_\_\_\_ is not in us.  
 If we \_\_\_\_\_ our sins, he is \_\_\_\_\_ and just and will  
 \_\_\_\_\_ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV**