



grace

LUTHERAN CHURCH

belong · believe · become

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

Newsletter
MARCH 2024

Pastor
Doug Widger
Lead Shepherd

Pastor Steve Roth
Community Care

Dr. Serena Pace
DCE - Director of
Ministries

Mrs. Laura Scott
Director of
Early Education



Inside this issue:

Lent Services - The Book of Exodus	1
Family Ministry News	2
Grace Seniors	3
Book Club	3
Embrace Grace & Embrace Legacy	3
GLEE Spirit Night	3
Loving Liberia Update	4
Texas District Grant	4
Sanctuary Renovation Fund	4
Soup Report	4
Welcome New Members	5
Welcome New Members	6
Holy Smokers	7
Farwell From Jenna	7
PushPay Instructions	7
Contact the Church Office	8
Bdays/Anniversaries	8
Thank You Notes	8
Your Elders	8
Special Dates	8

Lent Services - The Book of Exodus

Lent began with Ash Wednesday on February 14th, and so did our emphasis on Moses' book called Exodus. In it, Moses asks Pharaoh to let God's people go seven times (Exodus 5:1; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3) and Pharaoh finally does it! When he does, God's salvation is so amazing that the event becomes the Gospel of the Old Testament. Israel's Scriptures mention the exodus 125 times!

Throughout the book of Exodus, God reveals who He is through His absence and His presence, through His silence and His speech, through His wrath and His mercy, and through His judgment and His amazing grace. In doing so, the book paints a beautiful portrait of Jesus.

The Sunday Morning Bible Class will look at the exciting history and theology connected with the book of Exodus. *It will all be very practical and useful!* There is also a Lenten devotional booklet based on Exodus. Be sure to get yours, they can be found at the donut table on Sundays.

Services will take place in the Fireside Room on Wednesdays, through 3/20, at 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. A meal will also be served each Wednesday in the Gym between the services, at 5:30 pm. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services will happen only at 6:30 pm, in the Gym.

The Sermon plans remaining are as follows:
Lent Three, 3/6 "Strike the Rock!" (Exodus 17:1-7)
Lent Four, 3/13 "Mine!" (Exodus 20:1-17)
Lent Five, 3/20 "Digging Ourselves into a Hole" (Exodus 32:1-14)
Palm Sunday, 3/24 "A New Beginning!" (Exodus 34:1-8)
Maundy Thursday, 3/28 "Access!" (Exodus 24:1-11)
Good Friday, 3/29 "Agnus Dei" (Exodus 12:1-13)

I Have Heard the
Cries of My People



The Exodus for Lent יחוד
Daily Devotions by Reed Lessing

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING Bible Studies

10:45-11:45 AM

Babies/Toddlers: Nursery
Preschool 3's/Kinder & Grades 1-5:
Preschool Wing Classrooms
Grades 6-8: MR4 (Top Left)
Grades 9-12: Youth Shed - **NO SS 3/31**
Biblical Parenting: Library

GROUP
WEEK OF HOPE
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Influencer

We're all influenced by the people around us through news, music, work, school, sports, and basically anywhere we direct our attention. This year's program is designed to help students navigate the many influences in their lives and encourage them to look toward Jesus, the greatest influencer of all time, so they use their influence to positively change their culture. Romans 12:2



MARCH 24, 3-5 PM

**CANDY, TRINKETS & EGGS NOW
BEING ACCEPTED!**

VOLUNTEERS WANTED for: Toddler Bounce House, Info. Table, Set Up/Tear Down, Easter Bunny Host, Interaction with Community, Food Prep/Hand Out, Crafts, Egg Patch Host, First Aid, Event Parking, Playground Monitor, Bathroom Monitor, Ninja Registration and Cool Cars!

grace *Youth*

MISSION TRIP

**JUNE 16-21, \$300, Grades 6-12
AUSTIN, TX**

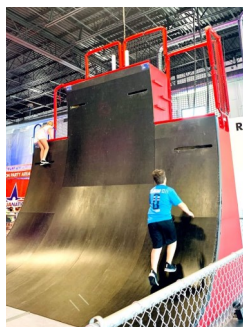
How You'll Serve:

Our goal is to meet the tangible needs in each community. Projects may include:

- Assisting in a local food kitchen
- Helping residents in assisted living
- General yard work and light home repairs
- Volunteering with local non-profits and community centers
- Tutoring children

Payment Schedule

March 15 - \$50 (\$200 NOW DUE TOTAL)
April 15 - \$50; May 15 - \$50



grace *kids*



SIGN YOUR WAIVER

**2024 GRACE LUTHERAN EASTER EVENT 03/24/2024
USE YOUR SMARTPHONE TO SCAN ABOVE OR GO TO:
[HTTPS://WWW.WAIVERFILE.COM/B/FRISCOMOBILE](https://www.waiverfile.com/B/FRISCOMOBILE)**

Ongoing Groups Updates

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

graceSeniors

March 7, 12 pm

Family Life Center • Fireside

**LUNCH 'N'
LEARN
GUEST:
Arlington Fire
Dept.**



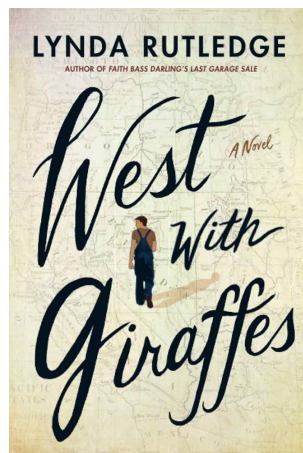
Lunch

includes: Ham, Baked Potato Casserole, Salad, Carrot Cake. Speak with Serena about serving as host or leading a devotion. Which friend will you bring?

**Serena: 817-274-1626, x1002;
space@grace.lc**

Book Club

This month, we are reading "West with Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge - An emotional, rousing novel inspired by the incredible true story of two giraffes who made headlines and won the hearts of Depression-era America. Come join us! We meet in the church library on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm.



BLOOMS' BABY SHOWER APRIL 13

Three little lives will soon be making their debut! A baby boy in early March, a baby girl and another, whose gender is not yet known, in July!

If you would like to shower our Blooms' and babies with blessings, please bring your gifts, wrapped or unwrapped to Serena's office by March 22.



SPIRIT NIGHT

**Tuesday, March 5th
6pm-8pm**

Great News! Grace Lutheran Early Education is having a Spirit Night at Rita's Italian Ice on Abrams. Meet our families and staff, and enjoy a sweet treat while helping to raise money for our preschool. **WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!**

Location:

**101 E Abram St #120,
Arlington, TX 76010**

Loving Liberia

Loving Liberia recently completed a new well on our campus in Gayes Zahn Town, River Cess County, Liberia. This is our first school and the home village of where Perry Geevon Smith was born. We want to thank God for His grace and for your support in helping with this milestone event of a new well for our children in Liberia.

We are in the process of shipping all the playground equipment donated from Grace, Arlington to Gayes Zahn Town for the children. Our shipment will also include 20 computers, two generators to provide electricity and seven shipping containers of other supplies. Once again, we thank God for His tender mercy and for the generous support of all. We covet your prayers and thank you for your generosity in helping children have a Christian education knowing Jesus as their savior.

Blessings,

Pastor Hildebrandt



Texas District Grant

Did you know our Church participated in the first ever Catalyst Innovation Lab, hosted by our Texas District LCMS? We were blessed to be one of the finalists called to present about our soccer ministry, and received a generous grant to help support it!

If you would like to learn more about what the Catalyst Innovation Lab was about please follow this link to find out <https://txlcms.org/innovationlab/>. If you would like for us to share in person our experience or if you have any questions about it, please contact Pastor Widger or Pastor Zamora, they would love to share all about it.




Telling the next
GENERATION

**Received and
committed to date:**

\$313,545.02

Goal:

\$368,000

 = \$1,000

Soup Report

Great generosity church! We did it! Thanks to Thrivent's help.

1,002.8 pounds of food was delivered to Arlington Charities in the 6 weeks of the Soup-er Bowl of Caring drive. Way to Live Generously and make a difference!



thrivent

Welcome Our New Members

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church—your new spiritual home, where every step is a step toward grace and every face is a reflection of God's love. May your time with us be enriching, uplifting, and transformative. Welcome to the family!



Cecilia Weisenfels

Cecilia was born in Electra, Texas, and moved to Dallas in the late 1960s after graduating from Electra High School. She received an AA degree in business administration from Tarrant County College. She was employed as an executive secretary at TXU for ten years. She and Gerald Weisenfels were married in 1974 and their son, Gerry, was born in 1977. After spending ten years as a stay-at-home mom, she began working part-time at UTA. She retired in 2003 after serving 17 years as an administrative assistant. Several other administrative assistants, including her good friend, Beverly Gilbert, retired at that time also. They formed a lunch group and meet at different restaurants once a month.

Working crossword puzzles, reading mystery books, cooking and baking for friends and relatives are her favorite pastimes. Her son, Gerry; and his wife, Shannon, and grandchildren, Madeline, Hayden and John's favorite dishes are her Texas pecan pie and chocolate brownie cake.

Mike & Ronda Campbell

Mike was born in Texas and raised in Texas & Los Angeles. After high school he joined the Marine Corp. When he was discharged he went to work at Vought Aircraft in Grand Prairie for 33.5 years. During that time he met Ronda, (born in Michigan, raised in San Jose—Bay area), who had just moved from Las Vegas to be with family here. Six months later they were married. That was 26 years ago. Ronda worked in an office for Farmers Insurance vehicle and home claims. They ride a Harley, garden, can their produce, Mike whittles, makes totem poles and works with wood. Between them, they have 3 grown girls, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. They feel very blessed in their lives, and thankful.



Welcome Our New Members

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church—your new spiritual home, where every step is a step toward grace and every face is a reflection of God's love. May your time with us be enriching, uplifting, and transformative. Welcome to the family!



Andy & Lynn Van Hecker

Andy and Lynn have been together for ten years and have been married for seven. They moved to Arlington three years ago to be closer to the kids. Andy is a truck driver and Lynn works with people that have intellectual disabilities. They enjoy live music and quiet vacations when they can get them.

Cassie Windland

Hello! My name is Cassandra Winland and I was born and raised in Zanesville, Ohio. I attended Texas Christian University and received a degree in Modern Languages Studies in French and Sociology. I then pursued my master's degree in Higher Education with an emphasis in Student Affairs. I graduated in 2015 from Florida State University. After a brief time in Atlanta and Metz, France, I returned to DFW and took a position at The University of Texas at Dallas. I recently began work at Dallas College, transitioning into the field of Learning & Development. Outside of work, I love photography, traveling, and spending time with my two young nieces. My most recent life highlight includes getting engaged in September to longtime Grace member, Brian Rukavina. We cannot wait to begin our next adventure in November!



EASTER Ham, Sausage, & Pork Loin

Place Orders By NOON on Sunday, March 24th.

The Holy Smokers are ready to take orders for Easter hams, sausage and pork loins.

The average weight of a whole loin is between 8-10 pounds uncooked. If a whole loin is too large for you, you can order a half loin for half price.

Signup sheet will be on the *DONUT TABLE* or call Ernie Owens (817-247-0747) or Brian Rukavina (817-229-9703).

Place checks in the envelope or cash can be given to Cynthia, Ernie or Brian. **Make checks out to Grace Lutheran Church, memo: Holy Smokers.**

Deadline to place your order is Sunday, March 24th, at NOON. Pick up will be Saturday afternoon, on March 30th. We will call with pick up times.

Orders need to be PRE-PAID.

Pushpay Instructions

1. Use your cell phone text messaging feature.
2. Type (833) 630-9900 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 recurring 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.



A Thankful Farewell

It has been an absolute pleasure and joy to work and worship here at Grace. I am so grateful to have had this season here... and will miss it terribly! A huge part of why is all of you. Being here and seeing your faith has been an inspiration to Richie and myself, and we have more hope in the future of the Church having known and done ministry with you. I want to thank each of you for all your love and support through my time here, and everything you do to make Grace Lutheran the beautiful church community that it is. The baby shower was *truly* a 'showering' of love and generosity beyond anything I could imagine... I am waiting to open all of the cards until I can do it with Richie!

God's blessings are abundant. I pray you are encouraged in the season ahead, as you all have encouraged us. I so look forward to heaven when we will all be reunited, worshipping in the glorious presence of God for eternity!

Jenna Del Cristo



Call 817.274.1626 or email
churchoffice@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 an updated address and/or contact information.
- ◊ Receive a current Church Directory as an active Grace member.
- ◊ Submit and/or update a prayer request.

Thank You Notes

Dear Grace family,

Thank you for the visits, cards and food you furnished during LaJuana's illness and passing. I appreciate your love and care.

Many Thanks,

Jim Kettler

Dear Grace family,

Thank you to all the wonderful members of Grace for furnishing meals to the Kettlers in the their time of need. May our Lord bless each and every one of you.

Love,

Jeanette Patterson

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: churchoffice@grace.lc.

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

Joseph C. Masterson



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3/4 Dean & Nancy Mickelson
 3/13 Kenneth & Janet Flagg
 3/16 Bob & Lou Anne Williams
 3/17 Mike & Dorothy Kennedy



3/2 Cecilia Weisenfels
 3/3 Greg Roe
 3/4 Hank Jacobs
 3/7 Karen Carter
 3/9 Cathy Taylor
 3/11 Christian Burgdorf
 3/11 Samantha Hosti
 3/12 Mike Livesay
 3/12 Susan Hoar
 3/13 Joe Elmers
 3/14 Ronald Hans
 3/15 Jade Sepulveda
 3/15 Linda Buck
 3/15 Olivia Mathews
 3/16 Jan Runzheimer
 3/19 Amanda Sessums
 3/19 Dr. Bob Geddati
 3/21 Ruth Brown
 3/22 Anthony M. Pace
 3/23 Na Schmidt
 3/24 Janet L. Brutlag
 3/26 Chelsie Schlesinger
 3/26 Jane Smith
 3/28 Jacob Braziel
 3/29 Brenda Capps
 3/30 Brian Rukavina
 3/30 Debbie Hall
 3/31 Barbara Ruthart

Save the Date

- ◊ Holy Week, March 24th-30th
- ◊ Palm Sunday, *March 24th*
- ◊ Maundy Thursday, *March 28th*
- ◊ Good Friday, *March 29th*
- ◊ Easter Sunday, *March 31st*

