



Pastor Doug Widger (Lead Shepherd) | Pastor Steve Roth (Community Care)
Dr. Serena Pace (DCE - Director of Ministries) | Mrs. Laura Scott (Director of Early Education)

Special Services

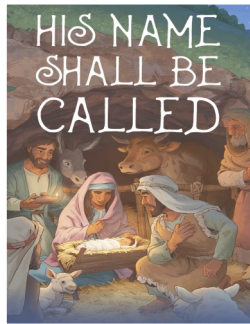
Our theme for Advent this year will be *"His Name Shall Be Called."* Advent Services will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm on December 4, 11 and 18. Our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will be held on December 24 at 6:30pm. Our **Christmas Day Service** will be held on December 25, at 10am for *"Lessons and Carols."*



Inside this issue:

Special Services	1
Advent Meanings	1
Advent Devotional Books	1
Family Ministry News	2
Grace Seniors	3
Sisters In Christ	3
Embrace Legacy	3
GLEE News	4
Hispanic Ministry News	5
Christmas Baskets	6
Book Club	6
Loving Liberia	6
Chrismons & Chrismons Patterns	7
Chrismons & Chrismons Patterns (continued)	8
Chrismons & Chrismons Patterns (continued)	9
Chrismons & Chrismons Patterns (continued)	10
PushPay Instructions	10
Interested In Group Ministry?	10
Birthdays & Anniversaries	11
Your Elders	11
Thank You Note	11
SOUPER Bowl	11
Thrivent Member Meeting	11
Christmas Activity Page	12

Advent Devotion Books



"His Name Shall Be Called" is a daily devotion book from Concordia Publishing House will help you gain a deeper understanding of Advent and Christmas. Copies are available in the Narthex/Lobby area.

New Year—New Message Series And Study

The TEN(DER) Commandments! In this series God will make our hearts tender towards the things which he built into the design of creation. The following quote explains it well: **"The commandments are the most complete summary of creational design for human life."** Professor Charles Arand, pg. 72. Luther's Large Catechism, CPH 2022. Come and rediscover joyful living as we come to understand anew how life was designed to work. We will center our worship around these themes and then move to the gym for "Table Talk" discussions. Please plan to be a part of this exciting journey.



January 5 – 1st Commandment – *Tender to Obedience*

January 12 – 2nd Commandment – *Tender to His Name*

January 19 – 3rd Commandment – *Tender Rest*

January 26 – 4th Commandment – *Tender to Authority*

February 2 – 5th Commandment – *Tender to Life*

February 9 – 6th Commandment – *Tender to Purity*

February 16– 7th Commandment- *Tender Simplicity*

February 23 – 8th Commandment – *Tender to Truth*

March 2 – 9th and 10th Commandments – *Tender Contentment*

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES

10:45—11:45 a.m.

(Babies/Toddlers) Nursery

(Preschool 4's—Kinder & Grades 1-5)

Preschool Wing

(Grades 6-8)

Meeting Room 4 (Top Left)

(Grades 9-12) Youth Shed

(Biblical Parenting) Gym



FAMILY MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DECEMBER 22

AT 9:30AM

Practice Dates:

Dec. 1, 8, 15

11:45—1:30pm

During SS



NOVEMBER 9

Let's move the bus towards New Orleans! **ROUND-TUIT FUNDRAISER** for those chores you haven't gotten around to!

\$1,000



FEBRUARY 9

Super Bowl Sunday is here! The **YOUTH BAKE SALE** is perfect for finding sweet treats!

\$2,000

MARCH 5

Ash Wednesday **LENTEN MEAL FUNDRAISER**

\$3,000

APRIL 20

Easter is here! Join us for an **EGG-CELENT BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT!** Free-Will Donations

\$4,000

MAY 4 & 8

It's the **YOUTH CAR WASH!** on May 4

\$5,000

JUNE 1

Form a team and test your skills at the **BIBLE BOWL** fundraiser and potluck, including dessert auction!

\$6,000

JULY 18-24, 2025



January 17-19, 2025

BY FAITH | Hebrews 11

RESET RETREAT 2025

Grades 9-12, \$130

REGISTER BY 12/1

Mt. Lebanon Cedar Hill

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Heb 11:1

Life getting crazy and feeling out of control? It's time for a RESET. Developed some habits that need to be kicked to the curb? It's time for a RESET. Want to build a closer relationship with God? It's time for a RESET. Step away for a weekend and RESET for the new year.

This weekend will consist of worship, large group speaker sessions, breakout sessions on a variety of topics, small group time with your church, games, camp activities such as Gaga ball, campfires, and more!

glee



BREAKFAST IN BETHLEHEM

DECEMBER 7TH 10AM-12PM

Enjoy a family breakfast with all of your favorite nativity characters, usher in the Christmas season AND make precious Christmas memories!

RSVP AT GO.GRACE.LC/BETHLEHEM

Nativity
Petting Zoo

Christmas
Carols

Christmas
Photos

Family
Memories



210 W PARK ROW DR.
ARLINGTON, TX 76010

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS



Sisters In Christ

SPONSORED BY BIBLE JOURNALING

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
9:30AM TO 12:00PM
FIRESIDE ROOM**

LADIES, COME SIT BY THE FIRE WITH YOUR SISTERS IN CHRIST, AND ENJOY A MORNING OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP, INCLUDING CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND A DEVOTION!

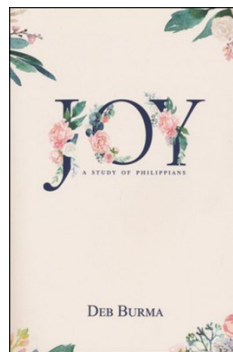
CONTACT SERENA (SPACE@GRACE.LC) AND ALISON FOR MORE INFORMATION.

★FREE-WILL DONATION★

Grab a flyer from the Narthex/Lobby and invite an unchurched friend!

Volunteers are needed for various teams in Women's Ministry. Please sign up in the Narthex.

Together, we can do and reach more!



BOOK STUDY ON JOY BY DEB BURMA

COMING IN JANUARY 2025!

SIGN UP IN NARTHEX/ LOBBY TO PARTICIPATE IN A SMALL GROUP IN PERSON OR IN A SMALL ONLINE GROUP. LET SERENA KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEADING A GROUP.



EMBRACE GRACE

Is this a ministry you feel called to help with? Contact Serena Pace, Barb Spivy or Barb Koehn for information. Training is available. EG meets on Wednesdays from 6-8 pm. Please keep this ministry in prayer.

The new launch is Feb. 5.

This is love.



Contact: Serena Pace
space@grace.lc or 817-274-1626, x 1002



**YOU'RE INVITED TO
JOIN US FOR**

**BREAKFAST IN
BETHLEHEM
DECEMBER 7
10AM-12PM**

**CHRISTMAS
COOKIE
DECORATING
DECEMBER 6**

**LAS POSADAS
CELEBRATION
DECEMBER 12**

**CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM
DECEMBER 19
6:00PM**

**CHRISTMAS
PARTY & BOOK
EXCHANGE
DECEMBER 18**

**CHRISTMAS
SNUGGLES &
MOVIE
DECEMBER 20**



CHRISTMAS AT **glee**

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

ESL Thanksgiving Party

We had a wonderful time sharing a Thanksgiving meal with our ESL students and their families on November 20th. We are so thankful for them and for our amazing volunteer staff who serve this ministry every week. Their dedication is truly a blessing to the students and their families.



CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR ESL STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES DECEMBER 18 | 6:30-8:00PM

ESL Christmas Stockings

This year, the Grace ESL Ministry is excited to provide Christmas stockings for the children of our ESL students. Each stocking will include apples, oranges, candy, and a Nativity ornament. A **\$5.00 donation** will cover the cost of one stocking and its contents, and we need to fill 42 stockings this year. Donations will be accepted on Sundays through December 15th and can also be dropped off at the church office, clearly marked for "ESL Christmas Stockings."

Our ESL Christmas Party will be on December 18th, and everyone is invited to join us in celebrating the season. Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support of this ministry at Grace. **Merry Christmas from the ESL Ministry!**

Las Posadas

We hope you can join us for *Las Posada* on Saturday, December 14th, at 6:00 PM.

Las Posada commemorates Mary and Joseph's search for shelter. The evening will include a walking service around our church, ending in the sanctuary. Afterward, we'll enjoy a traditional Mexican meal, desserts, and piñatas for the children.

The entire event will be held bilingually. We look forward to celebrating with you!

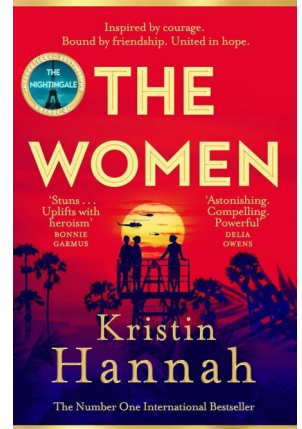


GENERAL GRACE NEWS



Book Club

The next meeting for our monthly book club will be **December 18, at 4:00pm**, in the church library. We will be reading the book "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. The Women is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era. We changed the time so that we can discuss the book, eat a bite and then attend Advent Service. All are welcome to join us!



Christmas Baskets

Christmas Baskets will be put together Tuesday, December 3, at 9:30am and volunteers are welcome.

If you have any questions you can contact Alison Roth (718-885-5980); Nancy Helm (817-307-1961); Ellen Pelzer (516-408-0726) or Lisa Woolston (817-371-2901).

Loving Liberia Update

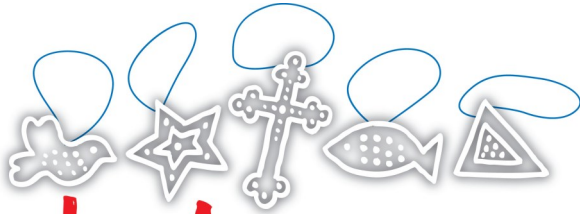


Loving Liberia has purchased property in the capital city of Monrovia for our new school. We are very excited in what God is doing and will do when we have 420 students K-12 on property sharing the love of Jesus and bringing Christian education to the children. Education is key in helping Liberia out of poverty. The man in the picture is digging to install our property line stake. The land is currently being brushed (clearing all the brush

and small trees by hand) and getting ready to set forms for the foundation. You can watch videos of our land on Facebook by looking for Loving Liberia. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Pastor Hildebrandt

CHRISMONS & CHRISMON PATTERNS



chrismons

Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birthday. They are often used on [Christmas Trees](#) in Churches and Christians' homes.





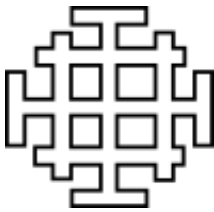

They were first made by Frances Kipps Spencer at the [Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia](#) (USA). She also thought of the word, Chrismon, which is a combination of Christ and monogram (meaning symbol). The idea quickly spread to other churches. It is traditional that Christian groups can make their own Chrismons with their favorite symbols on.

Each year a 20ft (6 meter) Christmas Tree is decorated in the Ascension Lutheran Church, as Mrs. Spencer intended, and visitors come and hear the story of Jesus explained through her original Chrismons and a few gifts from around the world.


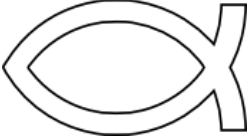

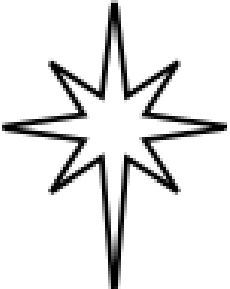
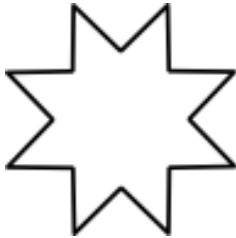
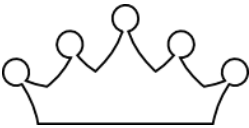

Chrismons are traditionally colored white and gold. White is the liturgical (or Church) color for Christmas and symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold symbolizes His Majesty and Glory. Chrismons can be made from nearly anything, but paper and embroidered ones are the most widely used.

Common Chrismons







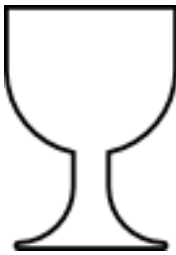



Below are some symbols that are common Chrismons and what they represent to Christians.

	<p>The Cross symbolizes that Christians believe Jesus Christ died for everyone on a Cross.</p>		<p>The Irish or Celtic Cross is a normal cross with a circle in the middle to symbolize eternity.</p>
	<p>The Latin Cross, also sometimes called the Roman Cross. The base of the Cross has three steps that symbolize faith, hope, and love.</p>		<p>The Triumphant Cross represents the earth with the cross on top. It symbolizes Jesus is triumphant over anything we can face in the world.</p>
	<p>The Jerusalem Cross was worn by the crusaders going to Jerusalem, in the middle ages. It can symbolize the Four Gospels in the Bible, the spread of the Gospel to the four corners of the earth or the five wounds of Jesus when he died on the cross.</p>		<p>The Eastern Cross is used by many Eastern or Orthodox Churches.</p>





CHRISMONS & CHRISMON PATTERNS

	<p>The Furca or Upsilon Cross comes from the Greek letter Y. It is also called The Thieves' Cross from the two robbers who were crucified on each side of Jesus. It also symbolizes the choice between good and evil.</p>		<p>IHS are the first three letters of 'Jesus' in Greek, this has been used to represent Jesus from the third century. From the middle ages, they also were used in the Latin phrase "Jesus Hominum Salvator" which means "Jesus, Saviour of men". And in English they can mean "In His [Jesus's] Service".</p>
	<p>The Anchor Cross reminds Christians that Jesus is the anchor of their faith.</p>		<p>The Fish is one of the oldest Christian symbols. The letters, from the Greek word for fish (ichthus), stand for Jesus (I), Christ (X), God (Q), Son (Y), Savior (S). Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen.</p>
	<p>Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Used together, they symbolize that Christians believe Jesus is the beginning and end of all things.</p>		<p>The Chi-Rho looks like a 'P' with an 'X' on top of it. These two letters are the first two letters of the Greek word 'Christos' which means Christ.</p>
	<p>The Star of David, sometimes called the Star of Creation, is a symbol that Jesus was a Jew and a descendant of King David.</p>		<p>A Five Pointed Star represents the five wounds of Jesus on the cross.</p>
	<p>The Nativity Star is the symbol of the Star of Bethlehem or Epiphany, when the Wisemen visited Jesus.</p>		<p>An Eight Pointed Star represents baptism and regeneration.</p>
	<p>The Crown is the symbol that Jesus is King. It shows that Christians believe Jesus is ruler over heaven and the earth.</p>		<p>The Shepherd's Crook or Staff reminds that Jesus sometimes called himself a shepherd. It can also represent the shepherds who were the first people told about the birth of Jesus.</p>

CHRISMONS & CHRISMON PATTERNS

	<p>Both of these symbols represent the Christian 'Trinity' of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The Triquetra is made of three loops making a triangle representing the three parts of the trinity. The Trefoil (at the bottom) is three equal circles intertwined to form a whole.</p>		<p>Hands in Prayer help Christians remember that they should pray to God.</p>
	<p>The Scroll represents the Bible.</p>		<p>The Dove is the symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit. It is shown pointing down to represent the Holy Spirit that appeared as a Dove when Jesus was baptized.</p>
	<p>The Lamp and The Candle both represent that Christians believe Jesus is the Light of the World.</p>		<p>The Shell is a symbol for baptism. It reminds Christians of the water that they are baptized in. It is also a sign of Pilgrimage, as Pilgrims to the Holy Land (Israel) would use a shell as a drinking vessel.</p>
	<p>The Keys are a symbol for the Church in all the world. Jesus told his friend Peter that "I will give you keys to heaven", so this means that Christians have to tell other people about Jesus.</p>		<p>The Ship is also a symbol of the Church, sailing towards heaven.</p>
	<p>The Cup or Chalice is a symbol of the Mass, Eucharist or Communion. It also represents God's forgiveness.</p>		<p>The Angel reminds Christians of the angels who told the shepherds about the birth of Jesus. It can also represent the second coming of Jesus, which the Bible says will start with an Angel blowing a trumpet.</p>
	<p>The Babe/Manger represents Jesus as a baby at Christmas.</p>		<p>The Lamb is a symbol for Jesus who is sometimes called 'The Lamb of God'.</p>

CHRISMONS & CHRISMON PATTERNS

	<p>The Butterfly is a symbol for transformation and the immortal soul.</p>		<p>The Heart is a symbol of love and reminds Christians that God is love.</p>
	<p>The Lion is a symbol for Jesus who is sometimes called 'The Lion of Judah'. Jesus is also represented as Aslan the Lion in the Chronicle of Narnia books by C.S. Lewis.</p>		<p>The White Rose is a symbol for purity and can represent Mary.</p>

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.
14. Press GIVE, and you are done.



Interested in Groups Ministry?

Do you have interest in joining a team to help coordinate Small Group Ministry? We are beginning to pray, form, and assemble a group who can help propel this ministry forward in the seasons ahead.

Responsibilities include meeting throughout the year to pray, plan, and seek God's will for small groups here at Grace. You may also be asked to help in propelling that plan forward by reaching out to group facilitators, assisting in communications with groups, and providing input on study materials and timeline. Please prayerfully consider if this is a ministry where God is calling you to serve, and reach out to [Serena Pace](#) or [Pastor Widger](#) if you are interested or have any questions.



- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 12/2 Wayne Howle | 12/15 Lou Anne Williams |
| 12/2 Wayne Hankins | 12/22 Melanie Schlesinger |
| 12/5 Delane Peery | 12/23 Jordan Hart |
| 12/5 Martin Bode | 12/24 Lyn Mangels |
| 12/8 Sonya Sorensen | 12/24 Roland Savant |
| 12/9 Audrey Moore | 12/25 Marilyn Roberts |
| 12/9 Sharon Alloy | 12/25 Michael Johnson |
| 12/11 Betty Auth | 12/28 John Rukavina |
| 12/11 Cathy Alberts | 12/28 Kevin Schlotte |
| 12/14 Brian Bassett | 12/30 Mary Jo Cook |
| 12/14 Sid Cook | 12/31 Perry Smith |

DECEMBER



- 12/1 Daryl & Susan Seefeldt
- 12/12 Nathaniel & Doris Davies
- 12/13 Jim & Uvonne Dupstadt
- 12/20 Mike & Serena Pace
- 12/24 Stan & Melinda Taber
- 12/28 Paul & Sherry Burgdorf

Christmas Greetings

Christmas blessings to all of my Grace Family! My prayer is for each of you to enjoy a happy, healthy 2025, knowing that our loving God is with us always!

With Love,

Cyndy Otto



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.

Thrivent Upcoming Events

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

Soup collection for Arlington Charities will happen again. Bring your canned soup any Sunday in January and up to the SOUPER BOWL on February 9, 2025.



Last year GRACE turned in OVER 1,000 pounds of soup and related foods to Arlington Charities. Take advantage of soups on sale and let's do over 1,000 pounds again!

thrivent

Grace's ANNUAL THRIVENT MEETING and lunch is

scheduled for January 12. Watch for more details to come.

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: churchoffice@grace.lc.

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

ELDERS & THEIR ASSIGNED MEMBERS

Joe Masterson	A-B
Hank Jacobs	C-E
David Swille	F-H
Mike Kennedy	I-L
Mike Curtis	M-O
Ernie Owens	P-R
Brian Bassett	S
Jim Schmidt	T-Z

Head Elder:
Joe Masterson

Joseph C. Masterson

CHRISTMAS FUN

Directions: Find the words that are in the wordsearch below, then circle the fourteen remaining letters and complete the message on the tag.

COLOR CODE

- 1 - red
- 2 - yellow
- 3 - yellow green
- 4 - green
- 5 - skyblue

c	a	n	d	l	e	s
s	n	o	w	m	e	a
t	o	y	s	r	r	n
a	t	y	g	i	f	t
r	r	c	r	h	i	a
b	e	l	l	s	t	c
m	e	a	n	g	e	l
s	l	e	i	g	h	a
h	o	l	i	y	a	u
s	l	i	g	h	t	s

WORD LIST

Angel
Snow
Tree
Star
Santa Claus
Sleigh

Christmas QUIZ

(shade the correct answer)

- Christmas carols are: songs vegetables
- Santa's sleigh is pulled by: bears reindeer
- Helps Santa to make toys: elves squirrels
- Santa gives to children: apples presents