



Pastor Doug Widger (Lead Shepherd) | Pastor Steve Roth (Community Care)
Dr. Serena Pace (DCE - Director of Ministries) | Mr. Will Land (Music Director)
Mrs. Laura Scott (Director of Early Education) | Rev. Russell Hildebrant (Pastor Emeritus)

Happy Thanksgiving!

As we enter this season of gratitude, we thank God for His many blessings and for each of you who make our church family so special. May your Thanksgiving be filled with an abundance of joy and reminders of God's goodness. Wishing you and your loved ones a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Advent Sermon Series



Beginning Sunday, November 30 we will begin a new series of messages entitled *"Even If..."*. On that Sunday, the author of the series, Pastor Harry Smith from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Irving and I will be doing a pulpit swap. He will deliver the first message in this series from Matthew 21:1-11. "In the Parable of soil described, each which represent a different type of heart upon hearing the Gospel. Among the soils are the rocky and thorny soils—the plants don't last because they lack roots

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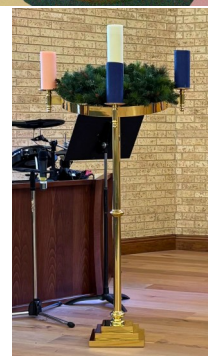
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or are choked to death by temptation, doubt, and fear. Every one of us has a spiritual weak point; something in this life will shake us, scare us, and cause us to question what God is doing; or worse, to question His lordship over our life. In the Advent series, we are going to bring up some of those "what ifs" that we all have, and prayerfully replace it with "even if". A deep faith is an "even if" faith. This Advent and Christmas, we invite Jesus, our incarnate God, to be Lord "even if." For He entered this world to be our peace in what scares us the most. The messages in this series will include:

- November 30 – "Even If... Life Disappoints"
- December 7– "Even If... Life Makes No Sense"
- December 14 – "Even If... Life Overwhelms"
- December 21 – "Even If... Life Distracts"
- December 24 – "Even If... I Feel Forgotten"
- December 28 – Living the "Even If" Life

New Advent Stand

This December, we will dedicate a beautiful new Advent stand. This piece of sacred furniture has been given in honor of Sid Cook a long time servant leader in our congregation. May God use this tool to remind us that Jesus was prophesied to come, He has come, and He will come again! Glory to God in the highest!



GENERAL GRACE NEWS

Thank you!

Embrace Life

Thank you to everyone who donated diapers to the Metroplex Women's Clinic! Together, you brought in a total of **2,837 diapers**, and these will be matched by Grace. Your generosity will directly bless mothers and babies in need—thank you for making a difference! We wrapped up an amazing

semester of Embrace Life and loved celebrating all the new babies! To mark the end of the season, we enjoyed a special dinner together followed by a fun cake-decorating class. We're so grateful for the relationships God is building through this ministry, and we look forward to welcoming a new group of expecting mothers in January.



Loving Liberia Update

We are glad to report that we have **begun building our new school in Monrovia, Liberia** after some mishaps with the original survey of the land. When the survey was completed to purchase two acres of land we only received one and half acres of land. Our point person in Liberia was not yet in the country when the survey was done and when he arrived in Liberia, he noticed the shortage of land. It has taken nine months to complete the process of going through all the government regulations to have the property resurveyed and restart the building of the new school and restart the building of the new school.

The picture shows six classrooms that are being built. Our school will have 12 classrooms, cafeteria, science lab, computer lab, and a library which can house up to 420 children from prekindergarten to 12th grade. *We wish to thank all of you for your prayers, continued support and how this new school will make a difference in the lives of God's children in Liberia.*

Our school will have a **soft opening in January 2026** with the help of Change Agent Network who will operate the school on our behalf. God has provided another Christian organization to step in run the school.

We have raised **\$105,396 towards our goal of \$115,667**. **Would you consider a gift in December to help us raise the remaining funds to finish our school?** You can go to our website www.lovingliberia.com or make a gift through Grace Lutheran designating funds to Loving Liberia. Once again, thank you for your love and support.



Blessings, Pastor Hildebrandt

A Message from Vickie Rosentreter

I want to express my deep appreciation to my church family for your expressions of sympathy upon the recent death of my husband, Gene. I miss all of you, and with the approaching holiday season I also want to wish you God richest blessings for a happy and blessed time with your family and friends.

With love, Vickie Rosentreter



GENERAL GRACE NEWS

Soup-er Bowl

January will be the time again to bring canned soup for Arlington Charities! Soup-er Bowl is a nation-wide collection to supply food pantries with soup during winter, commencing in January and ending on Super Bowl Sunday.

In 2024, we turned in 1000lbs of soup, and in 2025 it was 1200lbs! That is over a ton of soup that was SO appreciated. Take advantage of the sales and be ready to turn in soup in January. Let's top the 1200lbs collected last year!



Events & Activities

Events & Activities on Grace Webpage

We've revamped our Events & Activities page! You can now easily browse all upcoming events, serving opportunities, and ministry-specific activities in one place. Visit grace.lc/events-activities to see what's coming up and get connected.

New Grief Share Ministry

We're looking forward to launching a new **GriefShare** ministry at Grace—a supportive group designed to help provide hope and healing after the loss of a loved one. Each session includes a helpful video seminar, meaningful group discussion, and personal workbook reflections that walk participants through topics such as sadness, anxiety, regrets, questions for God, hope, and more. We're seeking both volunteers and those who may benefit from this ministry. If you're interested in serving or participating, please *contact the church office at churchoffice@grace.lc* for more information.



GRACE SENIORS NEWS

Our Grace Seniors enjoyed a wonderful Hawaiian Feast filled with great food, fellowship, and fun! Together, they also created Christmas ornaments to bless our homebound members through this year's Christmas baskets. It was a joyful time of community and care!



DECEMBER EVENT

Thursday, December 11 at
Noon

Ugly Christmas Sweaters, White
Elephant gift exchange, and
lunch!

Bring a \$5-10 gift
Meal & Location TBD
Contact Lisa Woolsten

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES 10:45—11:45 a.m.

- Babies-3 y/o in Nursery
- Preschool 4's-K in GLEE wing
- Grades 1-4 in GLEE wing
- Grades 5-8 (Confirmation) in Meeting Room 4 (Top Left)
- Grades 9-12 in Youth Shed
- Biblical Parenting Group in GLEE wing



Wednesday, Dec 3rd & 10th
6:30—8PM

Snack, Games, Devotion & Prayer in
Gym, Grades 1-6
Preschool and Down in the GLEE wing

Sunday Bible Study Schedule for December

- 12/7 — Dress Rehearsal at 10:45, lunch, and more rehearsal afterwards until 1:30 for Grace Kids/Grace Youth
- 12/14 — Children's Christmas Program and Party for Grace Kids
- 12/21 — Bible Study & Deep End Confirmation
- 12/28 — **OFF** for Break – No Bible Classes



Wednesday, Dec 3rd & 10th
6:30—8PM

Food, Games, Devotion & Prayer
Youth Shed, Grades 7-12



Grace Kids and GLEE have made an **Advent Adventure Jar** to help families usher in the Christmas season and use as a keepsake every year! Perfect for Kids, Grandkids, Nieces and Nephews. *Make-Your-Own-Jar* in the Narthex between service and Bible class on **Sunday, November 30.**



YOUNG ADULTS NEWS



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY — 10:45am
Mere Christianity, in the Conference Room



DECEMBER 21 | 12PM

BRING WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT; \$10-15 BUDGET
CANE ROSSO
200 N EAST ST, ARLINGTON, TX 76011
RSVP TO EMILY AT CHURCHOFFICE@GRACE.LC

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Falling into Christmas

Our Women's Falling Into Christmas event was a wonderful morning of fellowship and fun, bringing together all of our women's ministries for a joyful start to the season. We shared a delicious breakfast, enjoyed a heartfelt devotion from *Holly Tate with Metroplex Women's Clinic*, created beautiful Christmas keepsake journals, and generously collected **2,837** diapers to donate. It was a truly uplifting way to celebrate together as we head into Christmas!



LIVING A CHOCOLATE LIFE BIBLE STUDY

By Deb Burma

8 WEEKS | ONLINE | 7PM

JANUARY 11—BIBLE STUDY KICK OFF

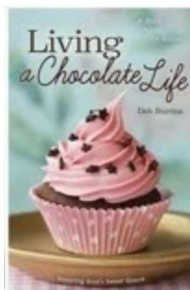
SOUP & SALAD LUNCH AT GRACE

JANUARY 12— BEGIN

END OF BOOK GATHERING—TBA

For all women of Grace, ages 18 & older | Sign up in the Narthex

Contact **Lisa Woolston** for more information



Bible Journaling will meet via Zoom on **Saturday, December 13th at 10am**. Karen Widger will lead a Bible Study on Hannah. For additional information, contact

Karen Widger, Jessica Nieves or Allison Roth.

HERMANAS EN CRISTO MINISTRY INVITES YOU TO

Christmas BY CANDLELIGHT

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
210 W PARK ROW DR,
ARLINGTON, TX 76010**

**DECEMBER 6
6:00 PM**

\$10 DONATION

CONTACT LIZBETH
LRUIZ@GRACE.LC | (817)274-1626

There are still tables available to host, or you can simply RSVP to attend and be seated with others. Each table seats up to 8 ladies, making it a wonderful opportunity to gather friends or meet new ones. Contact Lisbeth for more info.

Sisters In Christ

SAVE THE DATE!

Friendship TO A TEA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 | 2-4PM

Volunteers needed for:
Food prep
Decoration
Setup/Clean up
*More details to come

**SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX
CONTACT LYN MANGELS**

HISPANIC MINISTRY NEWS



ESL Thanksgiving Party! We're grateful for this community and the skills we're building each week.



Such a lovely time together at our Women's Breakfast—great food, warm fellowship, and a beautiful devotion from Lucy.

*Porque un niño nos ha nacido, un hijo nos ha sido
concedido! Sobre sus hombros llevará el
principado, y su nombre será Consejero admirable,
Dios fuerte, Padre Eterno y Príncipe de paz
Isaías 9:6*



Posada Navideña

Christmas carols | Procession | Piñatas | Special dinner

An evening for the whole family, filled with faith, hope, and Christmas spirit.

December 13, 2025
Starting at 6:00 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

210 W. Park Row Dr.
Arlington, TX 76010



Preparing our *life-size Nativity scene* with love! Our Hispanic Ministry is getting everything ready for a beautiful Posada Navideña on December 13.

Memorials & Honorariums

A **Memorial** is a monetary gift designated to a Grace Ministry as a living memorial in memory of a loved one or a friend.

From October 29, 2025 through November 23, 2025, the following gifts have been gratefully received in loving memory of those who are now in the presence of our Lord.

MAINTENANCE FUND

- In memory of Gene Rosentreter: Doug & Karen Widger, Ruth Brown, Karen Bornsen, and Tommy & Delores Smith

ADVENT CANDELABRA

- The new Advent candelabra is a gift from the Cook Family in remembrance of Sid, our beloved husband, father, & G'Dad.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries



12/2 Wayne Howle
 12/2 Anna Burgdorf
 12/5 Delane Peery
 12/5 Martin Bode
 12/8 Sonya Sorensen
 12/9 Sharon K. Alloy
 12/9 Lydia Massie
 12/10 Keith Massie
 12/24 Lyn Mangels
 12/25 Marilyn Roberts
 12/25 Michael Johnson
 12/25 Ronda Campbell
 12/28 John Rukavina
 12/28 Kevin D. Schlotte
 12/30 Mary Jo Cook
 12/30 Emily Massey
 12/31 Perry Smith

12/11 Cathy Alberts
 12/14 Brian Bassett
 12/15 Lou Ann Williams
 12/19 Hilda L. Gaytan
 12/20 Veronica Garcia Cordova
 12/22 Melanie C. Schlesinger
 12/23 Jordan Hart
 12/24 Roland Savant
 12/01 Daryl & Susan Seefeldt
 12/12 Nat & Doris Davies
 12/13 Jim & Uvonne Dupstadt
 12/20 Mike & Serena Pace
 12/22 Richard & Jenna Del Cristo
 12/24 Stan & Melinda Taber
 12/28 Paul & Sherry Burgdorf
 12/29 Santiago & Emily Massey

Special Dates

- ◇ First Sunday in Advent, *November 30th*
- ◇ Cyber Monday, *December 1st*
- ◇ Giving Tuesday, *December 2nd*
- ◇ Christmas Eve, *December 24th*
- ◇ Christmas Day, *December 25th*
- ◇ New Year's Eve, *December 31st*



Did you know that the church calendar is available ONLINE?

[CLICK HERE go.grace.lc/calendar](http://go.grace.lc/calendar)

to access it. Any calendar changes made in the church office are updated



