

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) | MRS. EMILY MASSEY (COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR)



BAPTISM OF EVELYN DESROCHES | PAGE 8



BAPTISM OF GAEL GARCÍA | PAGE 6

Welcome to the Family of Faith

On Sunday, April 19th, we welcomed Evelyn Desroches into our faith family by God's gift of baptism. Please continue to pray for her and her parents Evan and Ali Desroches who themselves are fairly recent in their affiliation with Grace. We praise God for each of them.

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Living Grace Series

We continue to work through together in our Sunday messages, what it means to be transformed by the Gospel and not simply "try hard," to "do good," and "be virtuous." The Gospel changes us at a heart level, and we become people who extend to others the same grace we experience. Our message themes for May are as follows:
 May 3 | Colossians 3:1-15 | Resting Grace
 May 10 | 1 Corinthians 8:4-11 | Receptive Grace
 May 17 | 1 Corinthians 3:21-4:7 | Self Forgetfulness
 May 24 | Ephesians 4:15-26 - Pentecost | Passionate Grace
 May 31 | 1 Corinthians 9:23-27; 10:11-13 | Enduring Grace

Financial Literacy Event

Join us on Saturday, April 25 from 10:00AM to 1:00PM for a special neighborhood get-together focused on building financial confidence for families. Enjoy free resources, money learning made fun, friendly faces, lunch, and childcare provided! Spanish will also be spoken. We hope you'll come connect, learn, and be encouraged as we empower families and build brighter futures together.

Neighborhood
GET TOGETHER
SABADO
APRIL 25
10AM - 1PM



Money Learning Made Fun! Free Resources Map!
Friendly Faces!
Lunch and Child care provided!
(se habla español también)



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 March 24 through April 21, 2026, the following gifts were gratefully received in loving memory of dear ones who have been called to their Eternal Home in Heaven.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

- In memory of Cyndy Otto: Roland & Kay Savant, Pamela Mueller, Jon & Monica Gunderson

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

- In memory of Cyndy Otto: Tom & Doris Howard, The Hankins family, Sandra Fultz, Mary Zimmerman Peterson, Marilyn Roberts

UPCOMING EVENTS & UPDATES



Holy Smokers Celebrating Father's Day

The Holy Smokers were able to give \$600 towards the Accessibility Project due to your generous orders at Easter and are going to designate 50% of our Father's Day profits to the project. We are smoking St. Louis style ribs, briskets, and sausage (mild 14 ounce or spicy 12 ounce) on Saturday, June 20. The brisket will average 10-12 pounds pre-cooked. And if you can't use a whole brisket, find someone to share the brisket.

Signup sheet will be in the Narthex Sunday, May 24. You can also contact Brian Rukavina 817-229-9703 or Ernie Owens 817-247-0747. Orders need to be pre-paid; briskets are \$100.00, ribs are \$35.00 per slab, and mild sausage is \$8.00 per ring, and spicy sausage is \$10 per ring. Make checks out to Grace Lutheran Church – memo to Holy Smokers. Deadline for placing your order will be NOON, Sunday, June 14.

Ribs and sausage will be ready for pickup around 2:00 pm Saturday, June 20. The briskets will be ready for pickup around 7:00pm. We will call Saturday with updated pick-up time.

Interested in joining the Holy Smokers? You're welcome to come out Saturday morning at 7:00AM—we'd love to have you!



GriefShare Update

Over the course of 13 weeks 20+ participants explored many relevant topics that assisted them to move forward after a significant loss in their lives.

If you know someone who might benefit from such an opportunity, please let them know we will offer this course again in the Fall.



Explore Grace

The next opportunity for people to learn more about affiliation with our family of faith will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 9:00AM. If you're interested, please contact the church office or Pastor Widger for additional information.

graceSeniors

**Thursday, May 14 | 12 PM
Crafting & Community**

Craft: Mosaic Crosses
Guest Speakers: Pastor Steve
and Alison Roth
Meal: Tex-Mex

**Call or email Serena to RSVP
by May 11 or to help host.**

Invite a friend!

UPCOMING EVENTS & UPDATES



Welcome to the Table

WOMEN'S RETREAT
RESCHEDULED FOR
SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!
Registration Now Open

Mt Lebanon Conference Center
1701 Texas Plume Rd, Cedar Hill

For details, contact:
Laura Brammer (469-434-0078) or
Paula Ferguson (214-543-2741)

Women's Retreat

Grace Women

are invited to attend an overnight retreat with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Irving. You may also attend for the day. We hope this opportunity may be a blessing to you to connect with other area women. Please note the retreat date has been changed to September 25. For more information or to register, please call the church office.

COST
Bunk-style: \$75
Motel-style: \$125
Sat only: \$25

NEW VINE MUSIC FREE MUSIC CLASSES

ALL AGES | NO INSTRUMENT REQUIRED



210 W PARK ROW DR.,
ARLINGTON, TX 76010
CHURCHOFFICE@GRACE.LC
(817) 274-1626
@NEWVINEMUSIC.GLC

HOSTED BY
GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Free Music Classes & Growing Instrument Library

We're excited to offer free drum and guitar classes throughout the week on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at various times! These classes are a great opportunity to learn a new skill, grow your confidence, and connect with others through music.

We are also accepting instrument donations of all kinds to help grow our instrument library and expand our class offerings for the community. If you'd like more information about class times or would like to donate an instrument, please contact the church office.

THANK YOU NOTES

From Grace Kids & Grace Youth

Grace Kids and Grace Youth thank the congregation for participating in the Easter breakfast and egg hunt through your presence and time, donated candy and plastic eggs, monetary donations and Thrivent Action Team cards. What a blessing you are to our children and youth!



From Chris Owens

To the Prepare the Way Volunteers:

A big thank you to Pastor Doug and all the volunteers that made the meeting and lunch such a huge success. Thanks to Pastor, David Swille, and Nat Davies for the presentation. Thanks to all the Holy Smokers for those amazing ribs and to the volunteer team that handled the beverages, meal, cakes, and kitchen. All of you are amazing in serving the Lord and Grace family.

Thank you to all involved in surprising me with the recognition at the Prepare the Way meeting. It is a beautiful recognition that will have a place of honor in our home.

The only thing better would have been many small parts that could have been passed out to the multitudes of you that Live Generously and bless so many with your time and talents on such a regular basis. With love as we work together to further His kingdom, Chris Owens.



Souper Bowl Final

The final count for 2026 soup donations to Arlington Charities is 676 pounds!
What a great way to Live Generously to those in need of food. Thank you Grace family!

GRACE LUTHERAN EARLY EDUCATION NEWS



We're excited to share that our preschool is now enrolling for the fall! We offer a nurturing, Christ-centered environment for children ages 6 weeks through 5 years, where little ones can learn, grow, and thrive.

If you or someone you know is looking for a caring and engaging place for their child, we'd love to connect. To learn more or to reserve a spot, please contact us—we're happy to answer any questions and help you get started!



Summer Camp registration is now open! Our Summer Camp will run from June 1-July 23, for campers 6 weeks to 5 years old! Registration is available by scanning the QR code. Contact GLEE at (817) 554-4123 for more information!



Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up the first week of May, and we would love your help in making our incredible teachers feel truly valued! They pour so much love, time, and energy into our students each day, and this is a special opportunity for us to give back and say "thank you." If you'd like to help, whether with donations of needed items, or time serving our teachers, we would be so grateful. To signup to serve anytime from May 4-8, please contact Serena.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Church Office

churchoffice@grace.lc
(817) 274-1626
Monday-Friday | 9AM-5PM

Director of Operations

Cynthia Jackson

cjackson@grace.lc
(817) 274-1626

Director of Ministries

Serena Pace

space@grace.lc
(817) 274-1626

Director of Communications

Emily Massey

emassey@grace.lc
(817) 274-1626

Grace Lutheran Early Education (GLEE)

Laura Scott - Director

lscott@grace.lc

(817) 275-5135

Monday-Friday | 7AM-5:30PM

Please keep these contacts handy for RSVPs, questions, and events highlighted in this newsletter. If there's anything else you need, don't hesitate to contact the Church Office—we're happy to help!

GRACE KIDS & YOUTH 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 1-5 in GLEE wing
- Grades 6-8 (Confirmation) in Meeting Room 4 (Top Left)
- Grades 9-12 in Youth Shed
- Biblical Parenting Group in GLEE wing



Wednesdays, May 6 & 13; 6:30—8PM
Food, Games, Devotion & Prayer
Youth Shed, Grades 6-12
Speak with Serena with questions.



May 3, 2026
God Bless out Confirmands!
Zeke, Emma & Thomas

Spring Early Communion Class

THE LORD'S SLIPPER



Khloe
Emma
Fletcher
Lillikoi



GRACE FAMILY NIGHTS
JUNE 22-24 | 5:30-8:30PM
210 W PARK ROW DR., ARLINGTON, TX 76010

SAVE THE DATE! Grace Family Nights—ALL AGES!
Join us for an immersive, Bible-time, family experience, including dinner, praise time, marketplace shops, family groups, games, dramas, visits with Paul in Rome and MORE!) Travel through Rome with other families and watch God's Word come to life as you experience each day's Bible theme together.

REGISTER NOW at go.grace.lc/vbs

NOW RECRUITING: Actors, Marketplace Interactive Leaders, Family Guides and Other Roles!
Please speak to Serena if interested!

To volunteer, register at vbs.grace.lc

SAVE THE DATE!
YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT | TBD
MORE DETAILS TO COME!



CONGRATULATIONS,
GRADUATES!
ALEXIS,
FLETCHER
& MIRANDA

Congratulations Graduates!



Upcoming
Graduates
LUNCHEON

SUNDAY MAY 17	Fireside Room	12PM
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For all youth and family members!
Contact Serena with any questions

BLAZE WEEK
JULY 6 - 9 • 8AM - 4PM • FOR GRADES 6-12
A week of local service, Bible Study and fun!
Students will spend their days making a difference in our community through service projects, sharing lunch together, diving into God's Word during Bible study, and ending the day with a fun activity to celebrate what God is doing!
churchoffice@grace.lc | (817) 274-1626

GRACE YOUNG ADULTS NEWS

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY
10:45am in the Conference Room

APRIL 26 PLANNING LUNCH IS CANCELLED
New date will be communicated when we know

HISPANIC MINISTRY NEWS



Monthly Women's Breakfast

On Saturday, April 18, the Mujeres en Gracia ministry gathered for a time of fellowship and edification centered on the love described in 1 Corinthians 13. In light of this passage, we were reminded with clarity of all that Christ has done for us—from His incarnation to His redemptive work on the cross—understanding that every step of His life was moved by a perfect and sacrificial love. More than forty women participated in this event, and as part of the gathering, a meaningful activity was held in which each woman created a bracelet representing the story of Jesus on earth, serving as a tangible reminder of His grace. It was a joy to see the participation of so many women who, even with inclement weather, came with willing hearts. We give thanks to God for this time and pray that His Word may continue to bear fruit in every life.



Baptism of Gael García

On Sunday, April 19, during the Divine Service, we witnessed the Holy Baptism of Gael García; we give thanks to God for this new member in the family of Christ, and for his parents and his godmother, who have undertaken the responsibility of raising him in the faith, and as a congregation we pray that the Holy Spirit would keep him steadfast in Christ unto life everlasting.



Welcoming a New Member!

On April 19, during the Divine Service, we gave thanks to God for the official reception of our sister Norma Luevano as a new member of our congregation, Grace Lutheran Church; we rejoice in welcoming her into this family of faith and pray that the Lord would strengthen her in her walk in Christ and sustain her always in His grace.

ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT RECAP

PREPARE THE WAY

ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT 2026



"Build up, build up, prepare the way,
remove every obstruction
 from my people's way."
 Isaiah 57:14

**Grace Lutheran Church
 Annual Voters Meeting
 November 9, 2025**

Meeting called to order:
 12:10 by David Swille, President.

Prayer:
 Led by Pastor Widger

Approval of Meeting Minutes:
 Special Voters meeting dated September 21, 2025 Hank Jacobs made a motion to approve, Joe Masterson seconded the motion, Motion carried.

Facilities Team Report:
 Gary White presented this report to the congregation. In his report, he listed several projects that are being considered. These are accessibility in to and around the main building, a pavilion, campus security, parking lot improvement, and the drainage ditch between the playground and ball field. The highest priority presented was accessibility. This would include modifying the narthex with a ramp at an estimated cost of \$97,000.00. Also, a covered drop off area at the south GLEE door at an estimated cost of \$38,000.00.

Motion:
 Alan Meyer made a motion to approve an accessibility project that will include the narthex ramp and covered drop off area. Nat Davies seconded the motion.

Hank Jacobs called the question. A vote by show of hands was taken, 79 votes for the Accessibility Project and 1 against, motion approved.

In 2023, one of our members, Jon Pelzer, conducted a thorough study of our congregation. One of the most important slices of data he looked at was our congregation's age. At that time, he discovered the average age of our people was 68.94 years of age. Fast forward three years to 2026 and that number would be 71.44. By God's grace our family of faith is seeing an increase in younger people, however this trend will need to continue and grow to make a substantive difference. The chart below reveals what we can expect if the status quo continues.

Avg 2025	Avg 2026	Avg 2027	Avg 2028	Avg 2029	Avg 2030	Avg 2031	Avg 2032
70.44	71.44	72.44	73.44	74.44	75.44	76.44	77.44

As we age, mobility becomes more of a challenge. Walkers, wheelchairs and canes assist many in continuing to participate in our faith community. On November 9, 2025, our Voter's Assembly approved an "Accessibility Project" nearly unanimously. The two main prongs of this work will be a renovation of the Narthex/Lobby area to include a ramp and covered drop-off to help people gain way access to the building.

A few years ago, God blessed us with a beautiful and highly functional Sanctuary renovation. We widened aisles, installed hand railing, improved sound, removed asbestos, cominisions new sacred flooring, updated seating and flooring, etc. Now it's time to take the next step towards welcoming in family and friends. I hope you will participate with me in making this need a reality.

Nat Davies

Nat Davies



Revised Cost of This Project:
 \$222,000 - Narthex Renovations/Ramp
 \$38,000 - Covered Drop-Off (GLEE Entrance)

 \$260,000
 - \$20,000 (already given)

\$240,000 needed to raise

The pyramid demonstrates how 82 giving units might generate all the funds needed to "Prepare the Way." The number in each level of the pyramid reflects the number of giving units. Remember: These gifts are to be above all other current giving. They are given over a period of twelve months. And... we can do this!



- Asset-Based Gift Ideas:**
- Stock, bonds, annuities
 - Land, homes, or empty lots
 - Cabins, timeshares, 2nd homes
 - Vehicles, RV's, cycles, snowmobiles
 - Farm equipment, sports equipment
 - Insurance equity loan or gift
 - Collections (art, coins, stamps, cards)
 - Retirement fund/contributions
 - Bonus, tax refunds, commissions
 - Inheritance/gifts by family members
 - Savings from eating out, cable, cell

ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT RECAP



We're excited to begin our Prepare The Way accessibility project this summer as we take important steps to make our campus more welcoming and accessible for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Pastor Doug, Nat Davies, or the church office.

We are also working on creating a dedicated webpage for easy access to project information, updates, and progress along the way.

If you would like to support this project financially, you can give online at go.grace.lc/give and select "Prepare The Way," or simply write "Prepare The Way" on your offering envelope or in the memo line of your check.

And it shall be said,
"Build up, build up, prepare the way,
remove every obstruction from my people's way."
Isaiah 57:14

MOMENTS FROM THIS MONTH

BAPTISM OF EVELYN DESROCHES



PREPARE THE WAY PRESENTATION

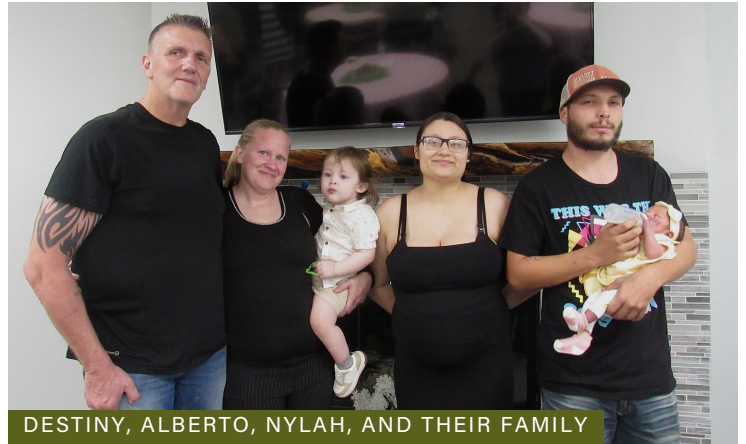


MOMENTS FROM THIS MONTH

EMBRACE GRACE BABY SHOWER



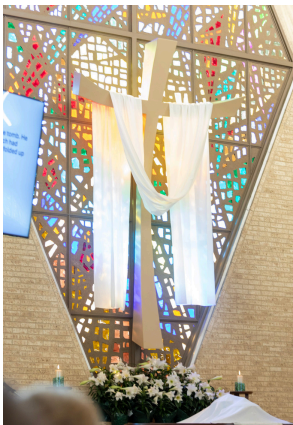
ALEXYS AND HER FAMILY



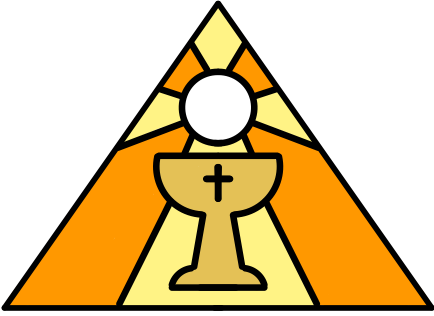
DESTINY, ALBERTO, NYLAH, AND THEIR FAMILY

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THIS MINISTRY, THE LEADERS, THESE LADIES, THEIR BABIES, AND A GREAT SEMESTER OF EMBRACE LIFE IN THE FALL!

EASTER AT GRACE



KEEP UP WITH THESE MOMENTS AND MANY MORE ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA
INSTAGRAM: @grace.lutheran
FACEBOOK: Grace Lutheran Church Arlington, TX | @gracelutheranarlington
TIKTOK: @grace.lutheran
YOUTUBE: Grace Lutheran Church | @grace.lutheran



Special Dates

- National Day of Prayer, May 1, 2026
- National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2026
- National Teacher Appreciation Day, May 5, 2026
- Cinco de Mayo, May 5, 2026
- Mother's Day, May 10, 2026
- The Ascension of Our Lord, May 14, 2026
- The Day of Pentecost, May 24, 2026
- The Holy Trinity, May 31, 2026
- Memorial Day, May 25, 2026

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- Reecanne Joeckel — May 1
- Max Blaine Nieves — May 1
- Jordan A. Scoggins — May 1
- Andy C. Van Hecker — May 1
- Susan Hamann — May 2
- Miranda Wagoner — May 3
- Hayden Brown — May 4
- Dorene P. Goodson — May 4
- Tom Jones — May 8
- Josh G. Hall — May 9
- Jaydyn L. Lang — May 9
- Cyndi Stricklin — May 10
- Ryan S. Dailey — May 11
- Karen Bornsen — May 13
- Scott Cunningham — May 14
- Eric Rathjen — May 15
- Cynthia Walker — May 16
- Dawn Sepulveda — May 17
- Diane Itgen — May 18
- Tony L. Stricklin — May 19
- Brendan A. Terry — May 22
- Uvonne Duppstadt — May 23
- Ann Reynolds — May 24
- Sherry Burgdorf — May 26
- Desiree Minor — May 27
- Ellen Pelzer — May 27
- Kristin Braziel — May 28
- Joe C. Masterson — May 28
- Mackenzie Hall — May 29
- Red Hoar — May 30
- Casie Rukavina — May 30
- Robert S. Smith — May 30
- Makena Reynolds — May 31



Bible Trivia Corner

- Who was the first person to see Jesus after His resurrection?
 - Mary Magdalene
 - Peter
 - John
 - Martha
- How many days did Jesus remain on earth after His resurrection before ascending into heaven?
 - 7 days
 - 12 days
 - 40 days
 - 50 days
- Who preached the powerful sermon on Pentecost when about 3,000 people were baptized?
 - Paul
 - John
 - Peter
 - James

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- Steven & Lisa Woolston — May 4
- Danny & Nancy Helm — May 11
- Greg & Gail Roe — May 11
- Ken & Amy Homeyer — May 16
- Tom & Rae Ann Wagoner — May 21
- Antonio & Teresa Saldana — May 22
- Michael & Na Schmidt — May 22
- Douglas & Karen Widger — May 26
- Scott & Cynthia Cunningham — May 29
- Richard & Paula Crossman — May 30



ANSWER KEY
 1. A — Mary Magdalene
 2. C — 40 days
 3. C — Peter

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