

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)



NARTHEX SOFT OPENING - SUNDAY, AUGUST 9



Prepare the Way Campaign Updates



What a joy it was to worship together in our sanctuary again! After several weeks of worshipping in the Gym, we were excited to celebrate our soft opening on Sunday, August 9. We're so thankful for your patience, prayers, and support throughout this project.

While a few finishing touches remain, we're excited to see everything come together—and to soon begin Phase 2 of our accessibility project: the covered drop-off area!

Thank you for helping us Prepare the Way as we work to create a more accessible and welcoming entrance for our Grace family and guests. We can't wait to see what's next!

The Finger of God: His Living Presence

Martin Luther interpreted the biblical phrase "finger of God," primarily as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit. He argued that only the divine power of the Spirit—not human free will—could defeat Satan, overcome sin, and bring God's kingdom into the human heart. The Holy Spirit still does these things in our lives today, and more. Get ready for this new, dynamic series as we explore the "finger of God" in our lives today.



September 13 | The Way He Works
September 20 | The Spirit Breaks Through
September 27 | Called to Brokenness, Lifted By Grace
October 4 | Strength in the Storm
October 11 | The New Self a Gift from the Spirit
October 18 | United in the Spirit
October 25 | The Spirit's Spotlight

In this newsletter:

Prepare the Way	1
The Finger of God	1
Upcoming Events & Updates	2-3
Women's Ministry	3-4
Grace Seniors	4
Young Adults News	4
Family Ministry News	5-6
GLEE News	5
Church Office Contacts	6
Memorials & Honorariums	6
Hispanic Ministry & ESL	7-8
Moments of the Month	7-11
Special Dates, Birthdays & Anniversaries	12

UPCOMING EVENTS & UPDATES

Griefshare Starting This Fall

If you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one, we invite you to join our GriefShare group this semester. This 13-week support group provides a caring, Christ-centered environment where participants can find encouragement, gain practical tools for navigating grief, and connect with others who understand the journey.



GriefShare will meet Tuesdays from 1:00–2:30PM in Meeting Room 2. All study materials and light snacks are provided. To learn more or register, contact the church office or sign up online at: <https://find.griefshare.org/groups/298206>



Save the Date: Fall Festival!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 25, from 3:00–5:00PM and join us for Grace's Annual Fall Festival! Bring your family, invite your friends, and enjoy an afternoon of games, treats, activities, and fun for all ages.

We're so excited to celebrate together—and we could use a few extra hands (and lots of candy)! We're looking for candy and trinket donations, as well as volunteers to help with trunk decorating, the information and prayer tables, safety and security, and more. Interested in helping? Sign up on the sheet available in the Narthex, or contact Serena for more information. Every donation and helping hand makes this celebration possible!

Praise & Worship Night with Grace Kids and Youth

Praise & Worship Night is coming back to the Levitt Pavilion on Saturday, September 12, 2026, featuring Christian singer-songwriter, Matthew West!

📍 Levitt Pavilion
100 W Abram St, Arlington, TX 76010

We'll all meet at the Levitt Pavilion! It will be a great night of FREE live music, praise and worship, and community. Bring your friends and family, lawn chairs, and your singing voices for an evening of uplifting music, fellowship, and worship under the stars. Everyone is welcome to this fun night of faith and community. We hope you'll join us!



ALTAR GUILD NEEDS YOU!

Our purpose is to glorify God in this church he has blessed us with.

We are a **behind-the-scenes ministry** that works as a team of 2 and meet every Saturday, and we are looking to grow our team.

If you are interested in joining our team please see one of its members: Janet Brutlag, Bette Rathjen, Tracey Rukavina, or Susan White

Blessings, Altar Guild



Explore Grace Seminar

The next opportunity for people to learn more about affiliation with our family of faith will be held on Saturday, September 12 at 9:00AM in Meeting Room 2. If you or someone you know would like more information, please contact the church office or Pastor Widger.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS



New Shirts!

Show your Sisters in Christ spirit with the new Sisters in Christ shirts!

Shirts are \$25 each and are available in sizes Small-3XL. To order, fill out an order form in the narthex, or contact Serena for more information. Grab yours and wear it proudly as we celebrate fellowship, faith, and friendship together!

Women's Retreat

Join with our sisters from Our Redeemer in Irving and other area LCMS churches, for the upcoming Women's Retreat at Mt. Lebanon in Cedar Hill. Whether you stay overnight or join us for the day, this is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith, enjoy meaningful fellowship, and connect with women from across our district.

All-inclusive registration is available at several price points: \$75 for bunk-style lodging, \$125 for motel-style lodging, or \$25 for the Saturday-only option.

The deadline to sign up with our Grace group is September 1st. Contact Serena to reserve your spot—we'd love to have you join us!



Sisters in Christ Fellowship Dinner

This month, our ladies gathered together at La Madeleine for a wonderful evening of fellowship, food, and meaningful conversation. It was a joy to spend time together, strengthen friendships, and simply enjoy one another's company around the table. We're grateful for opportunities like these to grow closer as sisters in Christ!



Embrace **LIFE**
BEGINS THIS FALL!

If you know a mom with a young baby who could benefit from support, friendship, & community, help us spread the word!



We would love to have more ladies interested in volunteering with this ministry join us, too!

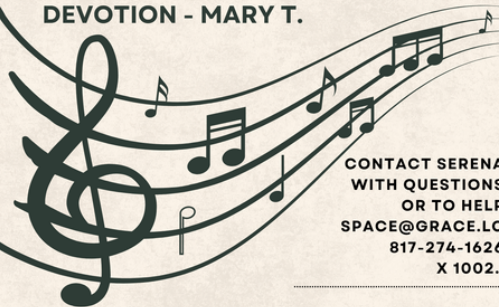
Contact Serena for more information
CHURCHOFFICE@GRACE.LC
(817) 274-1626

GRACE SENIORS NEWS

RSVP BY 9.11.26

graceSeniors

SYMPHONY ARLINGTON AT GRACE
SEPT 10 @ 12 PM
FIRESIDE
BURGERS & FIXIN'S
DEVOTION - MARY T.



CONTACT SERENA
WITH QUESTIONS
OR TO HELP
SPACE@GRACE.LC
817-274-1626
X 1002.

210 W. Park Row Dr., Arlington 76010

Grace Seniors is back! Join us on Thursday, September 10, at 12:00PM as we kick off a new season of fellowship with lunch and a special presentation by Symphony Arlington.

Come enjoy a delicious meal, connect with friends, and learn more about the wonderful music and programs Symphony Arlington brings to our community. We look forward to seeing you there!

YOUNG ADULTS NEWS

YOUNG ADULTS

SAVE THE DATE TO OUR UPCOMING

LASER TAG NIGHT

FRIDAY, SEPT 18 | **MORE INFO TO COME!**

CONTACT EMILY FOR UPDATES!
EMASSEY@GRACE.LC | (817) 274-1626

Young Adults Gatherings

We're excited to host two Young Adult gatherings this month! One will be a fun night out for Laser Tag, and the other will be a casual Just-Show-Up gathering here at Grace.

🎯 Laser Tag

Friday, September 18

Save the date! More details are coming soon.

👋 Just-Show-Up at Grace

Date & time TBD

We'll share more information as soon as details are available.

Whether you're up for some friendly competition or just want to hang out and connect, we'd love to have you join us!

To RSVP, sign up for updates, or ask any questions, contact Emily Massey. We hope to see you there!

Young Adults Sunday Bible Class

Join our Young Adults every Sunday at 10:45AM following the worship service for Bible study and discussion. We're currently working through Jesus Said What? by Chris Kennedy, exploring some of Jesus' most challenging teachings and what they mean for our lives today. The study is led by Martin Bode, and new faces are always welcome!

Young Adults Planning Meeting

This month, we'd love to gather with leaders of our Young Adults community to pray, plan, and discuss the future of our ministry! If you'd like to be part of the conversation and help shape what's next, we'd love to hear from you. Contact Emily Massey for more information!

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES

10:45—11:45 a.m.

- NURSERY for Children under 3 meets in the GLEE Wing during worship and the Bible Study hour with Ms. Angela. A Comfort Room is provided at the back of the Sanctuary for small children with their parents. Changing tables are located in the main Narthex/Lobby bathrooms and in the FLC (Women's Bathroom)
- Preschool 4's-K in GLEE wing
- Grace Kids in Meeting Room 4 (Top Left)
- Grace Youth in Youth Shed
- Biblical Parenting Group in GLEE wing
- Parents interested in Confirmation for youth should speak with Serena; begins September 13.



Save the date!
November 6-7

RECESS
Middle School Retreat 2026

Early Bird
Registration
Opens Sept 1 at
only **\$100** before
it increases!

Questions? Contact Serena
space@grace.lc | (817) 274-1626

Grace Biblical Parenting
Bible Study Group Presents

Sacred Parenting
How Raising Children Shapes Our Souls
By Gary Thomas

Grace Lutheran Church | GLEE Wing
Begins July 26
Sunday Mornings; 10:45-11:45 AM

FAMILY
Neon NIGHT
WEAR YOUR NEON!

BRING A
SWEET OR
SALTY SNACK
TO SHARE!

PIZZA,
POPCORN &
DRINKS
PROVIDED

**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 30
6-8PM**

NEON 9 SQUARE IN THE AIR, NEON
PILLOWCASE PAINTING, GAMES &
A FAMILY-FRIENDLY MOVIE

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO:

**FAMILY MESS FEST
& LUNCH**

- Color Paint Fest for Bigs
- Crafts for Littles
- Wear closed-toe shoes & clothing you don't mind getting messy

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
12:15-2:15PM**

RSVP WITH SERENA
SPACE@GRACE.LC
(817) 274-1626

gracekids graceYouth

GRACE LUTHERAN EARLY EDUCATION NEWS



Scholastic Book Fair

Mark your calendars for the GLEE Scholastic Book Fair, happening September 14-18 here at Grace! Stop by to browse a great selection of books for readers of all ages while supporting our GLEE Preschool. Whether you're shopping for your child, grandchild, or yourself, every purchase helps encourage a love of reading. More details and shopping hours will be announced soon!

Lunch After Church with GLEE

Join us for lunch after church on Sunday, September 20, and support GLEE at our upcoming fundraiser at Jason's Deli! Stop by Jason's Deli at 951 W Interstate 20, Arlington, TX 76017 anytime from 11AM-9PM, and enjoy a meal while helping support our GLEE preschool.

Bring your family and friends, grab some lunch, and make a difference for our GLEE students!

LUNCH AFTER CHURCH?

to support our
glee
fundraiser

**Jason's
DELI**

SUNDAY, SEPT 20 AFTER BIBLE CLASS

Midweek Family Ministry

We're beginning to look into a midweek ministry for our families with children and are looking for volunteers to join this new initiative.

Contact Serena for more info!



CHURCH OFFICE CONTACTS

Church Office

churchoffice@grace.lc | (817) 274-1626

Monday-Friday | 9AM-5PM

Director of Operations, Cynthia Jackson

cjackson@grace.lc | (817) 274-1626 ext. 1004

Director of Ministries, Serena Pace

space@grace.lc | (817) 274-1626 ext. 1002

Grace Lutheran Early Education (GLEE)

Director, Laura Scott | lscott@grace.lc | (817) 275-5135

Monday-Friday | 7AM-5:30PM

Director of Communications, Emily Massey

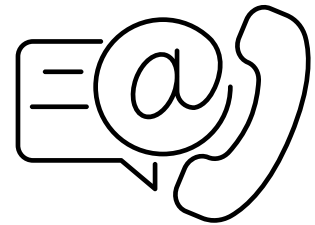
emassey@grace.lc | (817) 274-1626 ext. 1008

Administrative Assistant, Lisbeth Ruiz

lruiz@grace.lc | (817) 274-1626 ext. 1005

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!



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.

An Honorarium is a monetary gift designated to a Grace Ministry as a living tribute honoring a loved one or a friend.

From July 21, 2026, through August 27, 2026, the following gifts were gratefully received.

NARTHEX RENOVATION – PREPARE THE WAY (ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT)

- In memory of Diane Nelsen: Eric & Bette Rathjen
- In memory of Cyndy Otto: Mike & Sandy Zimmermann
- In honor of Keith & Lyn Mangel's 50th Wedding Anniversary – Tommy & Delores Smith

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

- In memory of Diane Nelsen – Sandra Fultz

HISPANIC MINISTRY NEWS

Back-to-School Blessing Service

As a congregation, we had the joy of supporting our children and youth during a special back-to-school blessing. During the service, we prayed for them, asking the Lord to protect them, strengthen their faith, and walk with them each day at school.

We also had the opportunity to distribute school supplies, lovingly prepared to support our students as they begin a new school year. We thank God for the opportunity to serve our families and remind our children that wherever they go, Christ goes with them, and His grace sustains them.



Soccer Camp

For one week, our Soccer Camp brought children and youth together to enjoy soccer, build friendships, and, above all, share the love of Christ. We thank God for every participant, family, coach, and volunteer who made this wonderful week possible.

We are especially grateful to the Victory Beyond the Cup Foundation for their generous donation of evangelism kits, which helped us share the message of the Gospel. We pray that each child and young person will continue to grow in faith, remembering that our true victory is in Christ.

Mujeres en Gracia

Our recent Mujeres en Gracia Breakfast was a beautiful time of fellowship and reflection on Psalm 1:1-3. Through the image of a tree planted by streams of water, we were reminded that our strength comes from Christ. Through Him and His Word, we find forgiveness, hope, life, and strength in faith.

We were especially grateful to welcome many women visiting for the first time, enjoy breakfast together, and build new relationships.

Continued on the next page...

HISPANIC MINISTRY NEWS



Mujeres en Gracia Continued

A special thank-you to our sister and psychologist, Betania, for joining us and sharing her knowledge and experience.

We are thankful to everyone who helped make this gathering possible and, above all, to God for each woman who joined us. Our prayer is that Women in Grace continues to be a place where women are welcomed, supported, and encouraged to grow in Christ and remain in His Word.

"He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season..." — Psalm 1:3

ESL Ministry

We are very excited and grateful that our ESL Potluck was such a wonderful blessing. It was a joy to see our community come together in unity, sharing fellowship, enjoying delicious food from different parts of the world, and celebrating the graduation ceremony of our final ESL class this summer.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers who dedicated their time, effort, and love to serving this wonderful ministry. Your support continues to make a meaningful impact on the lives of our students and strengthen our community.



ENGLISH CLASSES
We need you

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Contact Dawn or Lisbeth
(817) 274-1626

Our ESL ministry is looking for a volunteer to help lead and support our Wednesday evening classes. This is a great opportunity to welcome and encourage those in our community while helping them grow in their English skills. Interested in volunteering? Contact Lisbeth or Dawn to learn more!

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.
Psalm 138:8

MOMENTS FROM THIS MONTH

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ESL SUMMER GRADUATES!



THANK YOU TO OUR PREPARE THE WAY COMMITTEE FOR ALL YOU DO!



RAN STARTED AS A MUSIC STUDENT, AND NOW WORSHIPS WITH US ON SUNDAYS!





Special Dates

- Labor Day (Church Office Closed) – September 7, 2026
- Grace Seniors Gathering – September 10, 2026
- Explore Grace – September 12, 2026
- Holy Cross Day – September 14, 2026
- Newsletter Submission Deadline – September 17, 2026
- Young Adults Laser Tag – September 18, 2026
- Bible Journaling – September 19, 2026
- Feast of St. Matthew – September 21, 2026
- Women's Retreat – September 25-26, 2026
- Feast of St. Michael and All Angels – September 29, 2026
- Embrace Life Starts – September 30, 2026

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Kenneth Flagg – September 1
- John Schlesinger – September 5
- True Y. Olson – September 6
- Wayne Rhone – September 8
- Stan S. Taber – September 10
- Lynzie Chavez – September 10
- Barbara Spivy – September 11
- Jerry V. Pollard – September 11
- David Robinson Jr – September 12
- Scott Schlesinger – September 13
- Keith Mangels – September 13
- Jim Kettler – September 16
- Tyler Walker – September 16
- Rebekah Livesay – September 18
- Seth B. Sessums – September 20
- Delores Smith – September 21
- Janice Dehoney – September 22
- Douglas D. Widger – September 22
- Sidney Sorensen – September 24
- Ginny V. Hankins – September 25
- Susan Seefeldt – September 28
- Betty A. McRitchie – September 29
- Graeme J. Robertson – September 29
- Gracie G. Topel-Brown – September 29



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Paul & Mary Wolter – September 4
- Mike & Shawn Curtis – September 5
- Paul & True Olson – September 9
- Donald & Jeanne Crow – September 13
- Joel Lynch & Stacey Hakomaki – September 21
- Doug & Janet Brutlag – September 25
- Monte Filler & Joyce Pinnow – September 25
- Paul & Jennifer Tatrow – September 26



Grace Lutheran Church
(817) 274-1626 | churchoffice@grace.lc
Online at: grace.lc
210 W Park Row Dr., Arlington, TX 76010

