

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 Updates



Over the past six months or so we have been blessed with amazingly generous gifts which have allowed Grace to beautify and make more accessible our property, especially the Narthex area. Phase one of the project is nearly complete. New furniture and artwork are still in the works. Construction on Phase Two will begin soon, as we create a new covered drop off zone at the GLEE entrance. Once all the work is completed we will celebrate with a "Grand Reopening". Pledges, seed money and matching gifts have totaled \$318,928.71. This exceeds the contracted amount and allows us to finish the work which God has called us to complete. Thanks to all who have completed their pledges and thanks to those whose pledges are yet to be received. I am proud of all who were able to sacrifice for the greater good of God's house!

Rev. Doug Widger

Celebrating Our Church Staff

This October, we're taking time to celebrate and give thanks for our wonderful staff, who faithfully serve and have been such a blessing to our church and community. We invite you to take a moment to share your appreciation and encouragement with them. Gift bags will be available in the Narthex throughout the month for notes of appreciation, cards, and gifts. The list of our staff members is listed on page 2.

We'll celebrate our staff together on Sunday, October 25. Thank you for helping us show our staff how much they are loved and appreciated!

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Office Staff: Rev. Doug Widger, Rev. Steve Roth, Dr. Serena Pace, Cynthia Jackson, Will Land, Mark Oxner, Lisbeth Ruiz, Emily Massey
Hispanic Ministry Staff: Roberto Espitia, Lucy Espitia
GLEE Staff: Laura Scott, Jacque Mikhailian
Worship Tech Team: Red Hoar, Kim Lopez, Danny Helm, Kelvin John Martin
Worship Music Team: Ellen Pelzer, Hannah Reeve
Maintenance Team: John Rukavina, Joe Masterson, Alan Meyer

UPCOMING EVENTS & UPDATES



Welcoming New Members & Adult Confirmands

On Sunday, October 11, we'll celebrate our newest members and adult confirmands during worship! We'll welcome and introduce our new members during the service, and celebrate our adult confirmands, Josh & Mackenzie Hall and Santiago & Emily Massey, as they affirm their faith. A brief reception will follow the service as we continue the celebration together. We hope you'll join us in welcoming and encouraging these members of our Grace family!



Help Needed: 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.

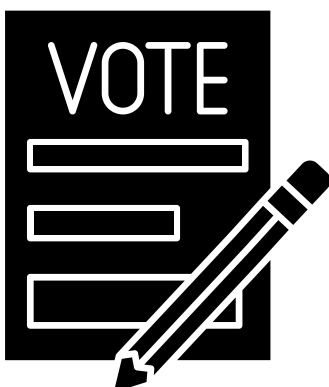
We're so excited to celebrate together—and we could use a few extra hands (and lots of candy)! We're looking for candy and trinket donations, as well as volunteers to help with trunk decorating, the information and prayer tables, safety and security, and more. Interested in helping? Sign up on the sheet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



Save the Date: Holy Smokers are back!

Mark your calendars! It's that time of year again, when the Holy Smokers will be smoking Thanksgiving turkeys, pork loins and sausage!

The sign-up sheet will be available the first Sunday in November. Details will be in the November Newsletter.



Annual Voters Meeting

Save the date for our Annual Voters Meeting on Sunday, November 8 after the worship service. We ask that all members please plan to attend. We will have three main agenda items:

1. Election of Officers
2. Approval of Recommended Budget for 2027
3. Recommendation of Parking Lot Proposal from BOD

Your participation matters! God speaks through the voice of his people.

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 August 28, 2026 through September 20, 2026, the following gifts were gratefully received.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

- In memory of Jim Kettler – Lou Ann Kersten

LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

- In memory of Sharon Alloy – Virginia Hankins & family
- In memory of Jim Kettler – Virginia Hankins & family
- In memory of Diane Nelsen – Marilyn Jones, Mary Thiede

MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS

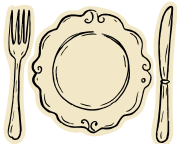
- In memory of Sharon Alloy – Ruth Brown, Brent & Debbie Burns, Marilyn Grant, William Land, Eric & Bette Rathjen, David Swille, Pamela Tackett, Mary Thiede, Steve & Lisa Woolston
- In memory of Diane Nelsen – Virginia Hankins & family

NARTHEX RENOVATION – PREPARE THE WAY (ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT)

- In memory of Diane Nelsen: Gerald & Janice Bright

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Sisters in Christ Gatherings



Meet & Eat — Thursday, October 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Join the Sisters in Christ for a fun evening of food, fellowship, and connection! The location is TBD and will be announced as we get closer. To RSVP or stay updated, contact Serena.



Ornament Exchange — Saturday, November 14 | 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Join us in MR2 for a festive morning of fellowship, food, a devotion, and an Ornament Exchange! Invite a friend and let Serena know you're coming.

BIBLE JOURNALING



EVERY THIRD SATURDAY | 10AM | ZOOM
NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, OCT 17 AT 10AM
CONTACT KAREN, JESSICA, ALISON, OR
CHURCH OFFICE FOR DETAILS AND LINK



Sisters In Christ WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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



Grace Seniors: Oktoberfest

Grace Seniors meets every second Thursday of the month at 12:00 p.m. for lunch, fellowship, and an interesting program.

Join us in October for Oktoberfest! We'll enjoy lunch together and celebrate Arlington's 150th anniversary with a special presentation on the History of Arlington.

Come enjoy good food, fellowship, and a little local history! We'd love to see you there.

YOUNG ADULTS NEWS

Young Adults Gatherings

We're excited for several opportunities to connect this month with our Young Adults (ages 18–35)!



[Apologetics in an Apathetic Age Young Adults Conference](#)

October 2–4 | St. Paul Lutheran Church, Austin, TX

Join us for a weekend of worship, learning, and fellowship at the Young Adults Conference in Austin! We'll travel together from Grace and stay together as a group. Contact Emily Massey for details and registration information by Friday, September 25th.



[Just Show Up](#)

Friday, October 16

Come hang out for a casual evening of food, conversation, and community and continue our "Misquoted" study series. We've got it all covered—just show up!

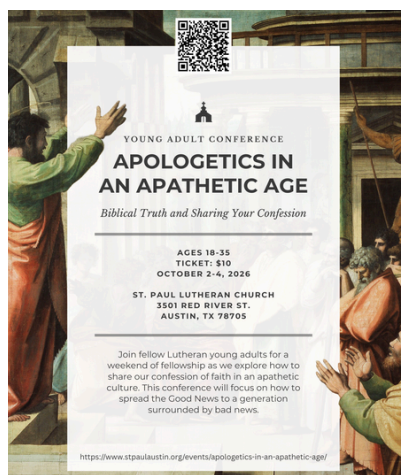


A small icon representing a movie clapperboard.

Friday, October 30

Celebrate Reformation Day with a movie night at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fort Worth!

We'll watch the Luther movie, have popcorn, snacks, and a great night of celebration!



Whether you're looking for fellowship, fun, or a chance to grow in faith, we'd love to have you join us. To RSVP, sign up for updates, or ask questions, contact Emily Massey.

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!

FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDIES

10:45—11:45 a.m.

- Nursery for Children 3 and under meets in the Mesquite Room 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. A Nursing Room is also available for mothers and their babies in the Seedlings Room. Changing tables are located in the main Narthex/Lobby bathrooms and in the FLC (Women's Bathroom)
- Preschool 4's-K in the Cedar Room & Grades 1-5 in Pecan Room in the GLEE Wing
- Grades 6-8 "Deep End" in Meeting Room 4
- High School in Youth Shed
- Biblical Parenting Group in GLEE wing

WED
NES
DAY

grace  Youth

YOUTH NIGHTS (Grades 6-12)

1st & 3rd WEDNESDAY NIGHTS | 6:30 – 8PM

This month: October 7 and 21 | Youth Shed
Snacks, Games, Devotion & Prayer! Bring a friend!

grace  kids

GRACE KIDS (Grades 1 – 5)

EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT | 6:30 – 8PM

This month: October 7, 14, 21 and 28 | MR4
Snacks, Games, Devotion & Prayer! Bring a friend!



Recess Middle School Retreat

NOVEMBER 6-7, 7PM – 7PM

Lake Lavon Camp & Conference Center,
Princeton, TX, \$125

For questions about the retreat, please contact
Serena.

John 14:6 says "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" Is it possible to know truth? This will challenge your students to recognize truth from deception, even though our culture makes it difficult. Despite what the voices around us say, there is such a thing as absolute truth, and we can completely trust it. The Bible teaches us that the words and ways of Jesus are not only true, but He is the truth (John 14:6). When everything around us can feel a bit fraudulent or misleading, Jesus is the only truth we need.



MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS



Men of Grace (Men's Ministry)

Thank you to all who attended the men's gathering last month. It was a valuable time of connection and sharing, and a team has been reviewing the survey responses. Please keep an eye out for a few fall events and activities soon to be announced, including a men's Bible study (it will be a short one!), a guest speaker, and a community service event. Continue to pray for God's direction as he leads the Men of Grace into our next season.

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

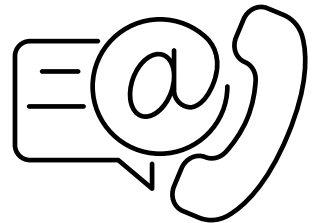
Director of Communications, Emily Massey

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!



UPDATING OUR CHURCH DATABASE

Keep Us Updated!

Help us keep our church records up to date! Please let us know when you have a life change, such as a new phone number, email address, or mailing address. We'd also love to celebrate important milestones with you, including birthdays, wedding anniversaries, baptisms, confirmations, and other significant dates.

If you have an update to share, please contact the church office, or write it down on a pew card during the worship service. We're grateful for the opportunity to stay connected and celebrate life's special moments with you!



HISPANIC MINISTRY NEWS

ESL Ministry Continues to Grow!



Our ESL Ministry is off to a wonderful start this fall! Each Wednesday evening, we are welcoming around 50 students, with new students continuing to join us each week.

We are especially grateful for the dedicated volunteers who faithfully give their time and energy to teach, encourage, and welcome our students. Their hard work each week is making a meaningful difference and helping make this fall semester a great success.

Through ESL, we have the opportunity not only to help members of our community strengthen their English skills, but also to build relationships and create a welcoming place where people from different backgrounds can connect with our church community.

Thank you to all of our ESL volunteers for serving so faithfully and for helping this ministry continue to grow!

Mujeres en Gracia Women's Ministry Gathering

On Saturday, September 12, the women of Grace gathered for a morning of reflection, prayer, and fellowship under the theme, "Release What God Never Asked You to Carry."

Through devotion, conversation, and prayer, we reflected on the burdens we often carry that are beyond our control. We were reminded that responsibility is not the same as control. We can love, pray, and care for others, while trusting God with what only He can do. It was a beautiful reminder of Jesus' invitation: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." — Matthew 11:28.

We thank God for everyone who attended and for the Mujeres en Gracia team who made this gathering possible.



MOMENTS FROM THIS MONTH

FUNDRAISERS FOR GLEE THIS MONTH



YOUNG ADULTS GATHERINGS THIS MONTH



MOMENTS FROM THIS MONTH

HISPANIC MINISTRY THIS MONTH





View our church calendar at grace.lc/calendar or upcoming events, activities, and volunteer opportunities at grace.lc/events-activities

Special Dates

- Young Adults Conference Offsite – October 2-4
- Family Mess Fest – October 4
- Grace Seniors Oktoberfest – October 8
- New Members & Adult Confirmands Service – October 11
- Sisters in Christ Dinner – October 15
- Young Adults Just Show Up – October 16
- Bible Journaling – October 17
- Feast of St. Luke – October 18
- Feast of St. James of Jerusalem – October 23
- Fall Festival – October 25
- Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude – October 28
- Young Adults Reformation Day Gathering Offsite – October 30
- Reformation Day – October 31

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Vickie Rosentreter – October 2 | • Joel Lynch – October 11 | • Josie Lehan – October 20 |
| • Jerahmey L. Krueger – October 3 | • Donald J. Alloy – October 14 | • Judy Livesay – October 23 |
| • Charles Davies – October 3 | • Barbara Koehn – October 15 | • Van Alec Nieves – October 23 |
| • Easton J. Schlesinger – October 4 | • Reyna C. Andrade – October 15 | • Michael Schmidt – October 24 |
| • Moira Meyer – October 6 | • Jeanne Crow – October 16 | • Monte Filler – October 24 |
| • Young Son – October 6 | • Zeke S. Ali – October 18 | • Lynn Van Hecker – October 25 |
| • Jann Richmond – October 7 | • Austin Taylor – October 19 | • Joshua Widger – October 25 |
| • Patty Smith – October 8 | • Paula Crossman – October 20 | • John Peery – October 26 |
| • Mike Pace – October 8 | • Karen Arrington – October 20 | • Khloe V. Gutierrez – October 28 |
| • Elizabeth Ott – October 10 | • Nancy McCormick – October 20 | • Jack W. Brown – October 30 |
| | | • David Taylor – October 30 |

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Russell & Deborah Hildebrandt – October 7
- Hank & Maryann Jacobs – October 8
- Martin & Lucy Schlotte – October 10
- Hayden Brown & Gracie Topel-Brown – October 15
- Monte Filler & Joyce Pinnow – October 28
- David Robinson & Olivia Mathews – October 30



Grace Lutheran Church
(817) 274-1626 | churchoffice@grace.lc
Online at: grace.lc
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