

GraceFull Visions

JULY 2018

NEW WORSHIP SERVICE

At the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on June 24th, the congregation committed to starting an additional worship service beginning the first weekend of October. The concept of the new service is that it would be a profoundly

welcoming worshiping community focused on the arts, service to the community, and the work of the Gospel globally. It would be a service that would be intentionally accommodating to those with special factors that keeps

them from attending a "typical" worship service. There will be Steering Committee formed to work out details such as which exact time and day would work best for the service. For more information, contact Pastor Jeff.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

It is a hard sell to separate the true concept of Stewardship from the notion of opening the wallet. It is unfortunate that fundraising and stewardship are so closely identified as to exclude the choices we can make to further God's kingdom. A quotation from Lutheran pastor Clarence Stauton says, "Stewardship is everything we do after we say we believe".

Often, when members are approached about involvement in the life

of the church, the responses vary from, "send me", to "I don't have the time", "been there, done that", "not my skill set", etc. (By the way, these negatives don't apply to the congregation at Grace!) There is, regardless of our limitations, a thing we all can do; we who attend worship services.

There is an essential springboard for all ministry and mission in the church, and that IS the worship service. It is the primary gathering time where

we can equip ourselves to make a difference in the world. Many congregations and visitors grew up in a culture that portrays them as an "audience" with the pastor and a handful of others as the performers. We know that this is contrary to Scripture, where passages such as St. Peter's first letter tell us that we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, (ch.2, vs9).

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New Office Manager

We welcome **Dianna Frasier** to our staff at Grace Lutheran Church as our new office manager! Dianna brings many years of experience working in various offices around the Pinellas County Public Schools, including as the Secretary to the School Board. She begins work on July 2nd. **A big thanks as well to Yvonne Hauschild** for filling in so well the last year!

RCS Food Pantry

To help eliminate hunger in our community we continue to support RCS but our donations have been declining. Just a few items weekly or monthly will make a big difference in this just cause.

From the Stewardship Team *continued...*

...A simple and immediate stewardship effort can turn the old audience concept around. Picture God as the audience and we, (all) as the performers putting on a grand display intended to honor Him. Joyful voices in the hymns, an earnest response to

the liturgy, sympathetic attention to the message and prayers and sincere focus at the Lord's Table are all well received by our listening Father. Here, in simple steps we begin a transformation in our lives which makes involvement in the missions and min-

istries of our congregation a joy and not a burden.

Heavenly Father, inspire us to worship in a way that brings glory to you, in our Savior's name, Amen.

Council Meeting

The next Congregation Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10th at 6:30 pm in the Garden Room.. The Council now meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Men of Grace

The Men of Grace now meets on the 1st Thursday of the month, still at Sunset Grill in Clearwater. This month's meeting will be at 9am at the Sunset Grille in Clearwater on Thursday, July 5th.

Adult Study Group

Adult Study – Meets at 9:00 am to 9:45 am on Sunday mornings in the Highlander Room. From June through August the Adult Study will look at the lessons appointed for that particular Sunday.

Community Breakfast and Lydia's Closet

The Community Breakfast and Lydia's Closet will be held on Saturday, June 23rd at 9 am. A meeting was held on Sunday, June 10th at 11:30 am to re-organize the coordination of the breakfast in light of changes in key volunteers' availability. New volunteers

and some changes in the roles of other volunteers were identified, and the breakfast will continue. The date of the breakfast will be changing to the 2nd Saturday for each month starting on October 13th. We are also pleased to announce that the Clearwater

Family Restaurant will be donating the eggs for the breakfast! Lydia's Closet will also be trying a few changes to find ways of better serving those who benefit from the ministry.

July Book Club

In July we will not meet July 4th, but a week later on July 11th. We will be discussing *Bliss Remembered* by Frank Deford. This is a wonderful life story of a female Olympic swimmer that goes to the Berlin Olympics and meets a

German man that will alter her life as she knows it. Very captivating book that generates many topics to discuss.

Start that summer reading **now**. We hope to see you in June and July. Thanks be to

God our group has been growing and we want no summer break. Come, study/discuss/share with other faithful people of God. Contact person: Vicki Eis veis49@yahoo.com.

July Birthdays

07/02 Karen Gray
 07/04 Lluvia Martinez
 07/10 George Clark
 07/13 Jill Grote
 07/14 Joseph Valentin
 Torre Murray

07/19 Paul Taylor
 07/22 Maureen Bjorgo
 07/28 Greg Nichols

July Anniversaries

07/02 Charles & Shirley Saitta
 07/03 Anne & Jay Cousins
 07/12 Greg & Michele Nichols
 07/14 Frank & Florence
 Bencivenga

Prayer Corner

Tuesday Prayer Chapel

The Prayer Group meets at
 11am on Tuesdays in the

Prayer Chapel. Requests for
 prayer can be made using the

Communion Records in the
 bulletin.

Prayer List

Prayers are requested for: Linda Almond, Stephanie Adamitis, Pastor Lou and Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Galen & Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria & Tollie Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Betsy Kitzman, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Kathleen Wacker, Bill Cutts, Karen Bates, Trudy Mohrmann, Pam Long, Rev. Lydia Villanueva, Dick Lotz, Don Eunis, Glen Dumdie, Gladys Calhoun, Loraine Reinhard, Steve Davis, Kathy Falco, Jill Grote, Pat Hudson, all those still suffering from the impact of natural disasters (especially the people of Puerto Rico and Hawaii), those suffering from violence and terror (especially those unjustly or unnecessarily separated from their parents or children), and those attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX..

Please Pray for Military Personnel w/Grace connections...

-Marine Lance Corporal
 Heather Burson, granddaugh-
 ter of Anne and Ralph Burson

-Seaman Third Class Kyle
 Wassen, grandson of Connie
 Puls,

-Marc Calhoun, nephew of

Wayne and Yvonne
 Hauschild is in the Air Force

-Aldo Granados, son of Pastor
 Lydia and member of Grace,
 is in the US Army Reserves
 locally.

-Maj. Christopher Conklin, a

chaplain with the USAF, is
 Lorraine Rheinhart's grand-
 son.

-Gabrielle Falco, Pat and To-
 ny's granddaughter, is train-
 ing with the 101st Army Air-
 borne Division.

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God's Work. Our Hands.



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Rev. Jefferson Cox, Pastor

The 15th Annual Thrivent Day with the Rays!

It's time to start group orders for the 15th Annual Thrivent Day with the Rays! This year's game will have the Tampa Bay Rays taking on the Chicago White Sox on **Saturday, August 4th at 6:10pm.** We've got excellent seats re-

served in the Baseline Box section again this year. Group tickets cost \$26 (up to a \$60 value!). A portion of the proceeds will benefit Eckerd Connects. For more information contact the church office.