

# GraceFull Visions

JANUARY 2017

## NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR A NEW YEAR!

New Year's Greetings, members and friends of Grace Lutheran Church!

The new year begins with a significant anniversary in our life together as pastor and congregation. January 1st marks the one year anniversary of my work among you as your pastor. After being amongst you for an entire year, I am more excited than ever for the opportunities that the future holds for us. I look

forward for the opportunity to share some thoughts about our future together at our congregational meeting on January 29th.

One change that affects Grace in an significant way is that on January 1st, the three separate lay leader rosters in the ELCA, Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses, and Diaconal Ministers, are consolidated into one roster, now simply called Deacons. In

our Synod we also have a Synodical Deacon roster. Starting January first their official designation becomes Synod Parish Deacons. Within the work of the congregation, they will simply be addressed as "Deacon" as they are now. Some additional details about both types of deacons will be shared at the congregational meeting.

Peace,  
Pastor Jeff

### Lutheran-Catholic Prayer Service

There will be a joint service of prayer between parishes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg and the Suncoast and Tampa Conferences of our Synod at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Largo at 7pm on January 20th, in observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

### Community Demographics Presentations

On Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00pm and Wednesday, January 18th at 11:00am, Pastor Jeff will be giving a presentation on the demographics of the communities around Grace and insights on how to connect with them, especially populations with whom the congregation has historically struggled to connect.

### Discipleship Team Meeting

The Discipleship Team will meet on Sunday, January 22nd at 11:30 am to finalize recommendations for goals for the congregation to consider adopting at the next Congregational Meeting.

Discipleship  
Worship  
Give Serve Pray  
Witness  
Study

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### Cong. Renewal - SAWC Information Meeting

On Tuesday, January 10th at 6:30 pm the Congregation Council will be meeting with Pastor Jaime Dubon, one of the Assistants to the Bishop of our Synod to give us information regarding two programs—the Congregational Renewal Program we have already discussed and another program, the Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community Program. Each program offers support from the wider Church, including financial, but congregations have to choose one or the other. This is an informal, open meeting—anyone may attend,

## High School Youth Meeting

In February, there will be a meeting for high school youth and their parents/guardians at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Dunedin to discuss joint

youth activities and to begin planning for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering . Date and time of the meeting will be determined soon. Other coop-

erative youth activities, such as middle school, could be open for discussion as well.

## Men of Grace

The Men of Grace will resume meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This means that in December the Men of Grace will meet at **9am at Sunset Grille on January 17th.**

## Young @ Heart

The next Young at Heart gathering will be on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at Queens Pizza, 1834 N. Belcher Rd...FREE PIZZA

## Work Day

Our next Work Day is Sat. January 21st. We start at 8am and end at noon followed by lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

## “Bake and Share” Thrivent Action Team Service Project

We will have a “Bake and Share” event on Sunday, January 29, 2017 following the worship service in order to raise money to buy shoes & socks for several children at

Sandy Lane Elementary School who need our help. Anyone who would like to donate baked goods, please bring them by 9am on Sunday 1/29. Small packages if possi-

ble. Everyone who donates money or socks & shoes will be able to choose baked goods. Please help!  
- Pam & Dick Landeen

## Pray for Military Personnel with Grace connections...

Since we are an older congregation, our service members are usually grandkids, nieces and nephews. Would you include in your thoughts and prayers these young people.

-Heather Burson, granddaughter of Anne and Ralph Burson. Heather is 18 years

old and recently graduated Marine boot camp at Parris Island.

-Kyle Wassen, grandson of Connie Puls. Kyle, age 22 years **is healed from an injury and will be stationed on a destroyer based in San Diego, California.**

-Marc Calhoun, nephew of Wayne and Yvonne Hauschild in the Air Force in Albuquerque, NM.

-Aldo Granados, 19 year old son of Pastor Lydia and member of Grace, is training in the US Army Reserve.

## Prayer List

Linda Almond, Eloisa Villanueva, Marion Voltz, Stephanie Adamitis, Barbara Haseley, Kyle Metzger, Robert Durhan, Pr. Lou Haseley, Taryn Zimmerman, Duke Tieman, Galen Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Patricia Falco, Jim Bjorgo, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Hilda Taylor, Betty Biddle, Karen Bacher, Betsy Kitzman, and the family and friends of Vera Kraemer and Else Appelt..

## January Birthdays

1/1	Shelly Urban	1/24	Isaias Martinez
1/10	Yvonne Replinger		Tom Norman
1/13	David Opheim	1/26	Adrian Cox
1/15	Linda Slakek	1/30	Candy McDaniel
1/21	Larry Wilbur		Suzanne Norman

## Anniversaries

1/3	Ralph & Anne Burson
1/14	David & Christina McClenning
1/19	Galen & Betty Biddle

## Worship Leaders

	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Acolyte(s)</b>	<b>Lector</b>
1/01	Florence Bencivenga, Rich Severn, Tollie Hotlzclaw & volunteer	Volunteer(s)	Volunteer
1/08	Pat Ahrens, Frank Bencivenga, Tollie Hotlzclaw, & Karen Kelly	Eliezer Granados Lluvia Martinez	Bob Wheeler
1/15	Wayne & Yvonne Hauschild, Tollie Hotlzclaw, & volunteer	Caleb Johnson Syrena Barriera-Valentin	Iris Saxby
1/22	Greg & Michele Nichols, Karen Kelly, & volunteer	Joseph Collazo-Valentin Christopher Granados	Vicky Eis
1/29	Wayne & Yvonne Hauschild, Tollie Hotlzclaw & volunteer	Geneva Johnson Sienna Smith	Jenny Cox
	<b>Communion Ministers</b>	<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Nursery Attendants</b>
1/01	volunteers	Deacon Nova Bickell	Open
1/08	Rosemarie Smith Pam Landeen	Rev. Lydia Villanueva	Kathleen Johnson
1/15	Lorraine Bickell Deacon Nova Bickell	Susi Roessler	Greg & Michele Nichols
1/22	Iris Saxby Susi Roessler	Deacon Nova Bickell	Open
1/29	Rosemarie Smith Susi Roessler	Susi Roessler	Open

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*God's Work. Our  
Hands.*

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**Rev. Jefferson Cox, Pastor**

*Mark Your Calendars!*

**Semi-Annual Congregational  
Meeting  
January 29, 2017 11:30am  
Fellowship Hall**