

# GraceFull Visions

JANUARY 2020

## From the Deacons' Desk

"I do not at all understand the mystery of grace - only that it meets us where we are, but does not leave us where it found us." (Anne Lamott)

The word "grace" has many different meanings. Grace means the simple elegance of movement. It means courtesy and goodwill. It is the condition or fact of being favored by someone. It is time allowed for payment of money owed or compliance with a law or condition, usually given as a favor. Grace is a short prayer of thanks usually said before a meal, maybe even after. It is honoring someone with your presence and extending kindness to the less fortunate. Grace is a gift from God, given through his Son, Jesus Christ. It is an enabling power and spiritual healing offered through the mer-

cy and love of Jesus. It is God blessing us despite the fact that we do not deserve it.

"Grace" is someone's name, and also our church's name since 1960. Duke Tieman and Lorraine Reinhard remember worshipping at Kings Highway Elementary school and walking to the new building site for special prayers. The church was started to reach the people of Northern Pinellas County, to make disciples who would carry the message of God's grace to others. And it worked! Grace Lutheran Church changed the lives of many, many people.

Today, in 2020, "Grace" continues to examine itself, to try new things, to reach the people, young, old and new. We continue, through thick and thin, to be changed, shaped, strengthened,

softened, emboldened, shaken up by God's grace.

Just a few weeks ago, we heard an angel of the Lord, "...I am bringing YOU good news of great joy, FOR ALL THE PEOPLE: to YOU is born .... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord....." (Luke 2: 10,11). The gift of Jesus and his Grace, God's non-returnable gift for US.

A grace that gives us, first, the power to receive love and then the power to give it!

Whoever picked the name of Grace for our church 60 years ago knew what they were doing.

Pastor Solberg, Grace's first Pastor? No, wait, hold on, God picked it!

Grace Lutheran Church and its congregation have been

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around for a relatively short time, and no matter how long both will be here, it's still brief. So, let's try to get the most out of our remaining time. Let's use God's grace to live our lives as better Christians, to share and be a part of the good news to our neighbors. We are his disciples filled with Grace.

And Grace changes us forever!!

- Deacons Susi and Frank

## Community Arts Festival

The Grace Fellowship of the Arts of Grace Lutheran Church will be hosting a Commu-

nity Arts Festival on Saturday, January 25th from 9am to 5 pm. The deadline to

apply to be a participant in the Festival has been extended to Monday, January

13th. Many different expressions of the arts will be included in the Festival.

# Mission and Ministry

## The “Finish Strong” Appeal Update

WOW!! As of the writing of this article (after Christmas Eve but before the last Sunday in December), our “Finish Strong” Appeal has raised **\$16,547!!** That’s NOT including the original \$11,000 initial matching pledge. Not counting what will be given towards this appeal by the end of this month, that still means that the appeal has raised *at*

*least* **\$27,547** towards the mission and ministry of our congregation!!! Thank you so much to everyone who has participated in the appeal by giving of your financial resources, your time, and/or your prayers!

- Pastor Jeff and The Stewardship Team

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless people now.”

- St. Teresa of Avila

(In other words - “God’s Work. Our Hands.”)

## New Confirmation Class

On Sunday, January 19th at 3:00 pm, the new year of Confirmation Class begins. Any student currently in the

6th grade or later is eligible to participate. This year the focus will be on Luther’s Small Catechism. The classes will

usually meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 3pm in the Highlander Classroom.



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## Adaptive Service Steering Team Dinner and Meeting

On, Monday, January 6th, at 5:30 pm, the Steering Team of the Adaptive Worship Service will meet for dinner to celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the start of the Adaptive Service. After dinner, at

6:30 pm, the Team will hold a meeting to chart out the shape of the Adaptive Service ministry for 2020. These topics will include the flow of the service itself, how people participate in it, what other as-

pects to include in the morning (such as the possibility of including a light lunch after each service), transportation opportunities, publicity opportunities, and grant requests.

## Faith Community Nursing

Please contact Ellen C. Duncan at any time at 727-940-3024 or Karen Crabbe at 727-

647-6271 for information or concerns.

## Altar Guild Volunteers Still Needed

The Altar Guild still needs a few more volunteers. We meet most Saturdays at 9:30 am to prepare for Sunday worship. After services on Sunday we take turns cleaning up the Sanctuary. If you are interested or have questions please call Anne Bittner 727-771-0684

## Adult Sunday School

A reminder of our Adult Class each Sunday morning on the Old Testament books I

Samuel and II Samuel. We start at 8:45 a.m. each Sunday

in the Highlander Room. Come join us!

## Sunday Falco's Recent Activities

- Grace Lutheran Church is now listed on The Joy FM website in the selection of churches available for those looking for a Lutheran church in this area. The listing shows information for both of our services along with a picture of our beautiful sanctuary.
  - Working with our various monthly renters through a good system each week helping with tables and chairs as we have events and church service.
  - Hospitality and set-up is being provided on Sunday morning for the second service, as well as providing cookies for both services and organizing volunteers.
  - Making appointments with people outside our congregation, walking them through the property, discussing prices, rules and times available.
  - Managing cleaning people
  - Setting up for congregation events when needed.
  - Working with Mike Smutko with property issues
  - Help in office as needed.
- Tasks specific to the Adaptive Service:
- ◊ Talking with multiple assistant living facilities to set up regular outings to the Adaptive Service.
  - Talking with local newspapers. The Adaptive Service was recently featured in the Tampa Bay Times!
  - Talking with other venues for wedding receptions, etc. (When Grace Lutheran needs to refer to another venue for any reason.).
  - Sunday Falco has a list of musicians, DJs, videographer, photographers and caterers if you need a reference.
  - Updating the Church Website Calendar Daily. Stay Connected!

# Regular Event Updates

## Elizabeth Circle

Our Circle will meet on **January 30th** this month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the Garden Room. All women are invited to join in and enjoy some coffee and dessert. - Deacon Connie

## Movie Time

Like to go to the movies? Come join us on Thursday, **January 2nd** at 3:00 p.m. in the Highlander Room. Refreshments will be served. - Gary Neal

## Men of Grace

This month's meeting will be at 9am at the Sunset Grille in Clearwater on **January 9th**, the second Thursday of January.

## Council Meeting

The next Congregation Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9th at 6:30 pm in the Garden Room.

## January Book Club

We did not have a Book Club meeting in December, but have been reading Magic Hour by Kristen Hannah. Discussion will be Wednesday January 8, 2020 at 10:00 am. We also will be reading Chapter 3 of Inspired by Rachel Held Evans.

Make a New Year's resolution to join Grace Book Club and read more in the new year! Discussions are lively and we discuss the books totally. This is not a social club like some book clubs, thought we do have coffee and treats! Hope to see you in January. veis49@yahoo.com

## 12 Steps Tranquil Mind

... is a Women's Closed Step and Big Book study of Alcoholics Anonymous. This means that any woman who is having a problem with alcohol and desires to stop is welcome. We meet on Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:00 pm in the Highlander Room.

## Community Breakfast & Lydia's Closet

Saturday, **January 11th** at 9 am.

A big "Thank You!" for all who have contributed to Lydia's Closet. As you know, it wouldn't be the success that it is without your help in all the ways you do.

Many had their money gift in memory of Pastor Lou designated to the "Closet" fund. We received a \$100 donation from the Retired Ministers, who meet here 3 times a year for lunch. Sandy Hunter and Ellen Duncan received Thrivent seed money to aid the "Closet."

Thanks for all the socks!! We have enough for all year! Now we would appreciate men's and women's underwear and tee shirts.

Even the toiletries which many of you have given are used in making health kits which we distribute to those in need each month.

God's work. Our hands. We thank you!  
- The Closet Crew

## Young at Heart

There is not a Young at Heart meeting on the 2nd Thursday of January. The Festival of Lights trip takes the place of the Young at Heart lunch.

- Florence B. (773-2766)

## January Birthdays

1/01	Shelley Urban	1/26	Adrienne Cox
1/13	David Opheim	1/27	Bob Graves
1/15	Linda Sladek	1/30	Candy McDaniel
	Gail Elder		Suzanne Norman
1/23	Steve Davis	12/30	Valerie Smutko
1/24	Isaias Martinez		
	Tom Norman		

## Jan. Anniversaries

1/03	Ralph & Anne Burson
1/14	David & Christina McClenning

# Prayer Corner

## Tuesday Prayer Chapel

The Prayer Group meets at 11am on Tuesdays in the Prayer Chapel. Submit prayer requests through the Communion Record Sheets.

## Prayer List

**Prayers** are requested for: Marc Calhoun, Linda Almond, Barbara Haseley, Duke Tieman, Betty Biddle, Cathi Adams, Michael Morales, Wade Buehler, Gloria Holtzclaw, Betty Daege, Dianne William, Rosemarie & George Smith, Gary Neal, Kathleen Wacker, Karen Bates, Rev. Lydia Villanueva and family, Don Eunis, Lorraine Reinhard, Bonnie Redler, Kathy Leotta, Brytt Mathis, Joseph Valentin, Rita Burneik, Bobby Schlegel, Hilda Taylor, George & Phyllis Clark, Jill Grote, Pastor Bruce Edwards, Tom Stanziano, Larry Timmons, Carl Stone, Neftali Garcia and family, Kelly Sullivan, Susan Gunn, Roy Pruitt, Marc DuPaul, Brad Snyder, Iris Valentin, Eliezar Granados, Deacon Connie Puls, Matthew Brumback, Joan Keeton, the family and friends of Benedicto Granados and John Roach, and those suffering from natural disasters, violence, and terror (including those unjustly or unnecessarily separated from their parents or children).

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

-Marine Lance Corporal Heather Burson, granddaughter of Anne and Ralph Burson, is stationed in San Diego. She is a mechanic in charge of maintaining aircraft.

-Marc Calhoun, nephew of Wayne and Yvonne Hauschild is in the Air Force. And has been deployed to one of the difficult locations. He is married with four children, and would appreciate your prayer.

-Aldo Granados, son of Pastor Lydia and member of Grace, is in the US Army Reserves locally. He works at Bayfront Health Hospital and attending college. No longer living at home.

-Maj. Christopher Conklin, a chaplain with the USAF, is Lorraine Rheinhart's grandson. He had been redeployed to the Middle East.

-Gabrielle Falco, Pat and Tony's granddaughter, was com-

missioned as a lieutenant. in the U.S. Army and accepted at the exceptional Walter Reed Hospital as a medical student.

-USCG Seaman Brennan Wells, Houston TX, nephew of Sunday Falco.

-USCG Seaman Samuel Steward, Grand Isle, LA, nephew of Sunday Falco

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Rev. Jefferson Cox, Pastor

## *Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting*

Sunday, January 19th

Topics of consideration for votes  
include:

Annual Reports

2020 Budget

Voting Members to Synod Assembly  
Long-Term Lease Opportunities