Worship and Parish Notes

Week of December 11, 2022

"Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear" ("Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"). Your coming gives hope to this troubled world, and to my heart, O Lord. The Third Sunday of Advent focuses on joy. "Rejoice in the Lord always," says the apostle Paul (Philippians 4:4). With gladness, we welcome you to worship!

✠ ALTAR FLOWERS ✠

*The flowers on the altar are given by **Sharon Ross** in memory of her parents' anniversary, December 12.*

✠ PRAISE AND INTERCESSION ✠

The Church waits for the Second Coming in repentance, hope and faith. For the following, we pray "Lord, have mercy", that all people would fear God and find hope in His gracious forgiveness through Christ.

NURSERY... We love children at Grace Lutheran! We have a **STAFFED NURSERY** for children, infants thru Pre-School, **next to Trinity Hall**. Your children are always welcome to remain with you for worship or with the attendant in the nursery, which is available during worship, fellowship and Bible class times. Please know that the nursery and all toys are thoroughly cleaned before and after being used.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS... Handicapped parking is available for those who need easy access to the church building due to physical limitations. The handicapped parking spaces are located on 4th Street, Avenue C, and in the parking lot across from the sanctuary. Ramp entrances to our sanctuary are located on 4th Street, on Avenue C, and off the patio.

LIVE STREAMING OF OUR WORSHIP SERVICE... The 10:45 AM worship service of Grace Lutheran Church is available to be viewed LIVE from our website (or anytime after the service); go to **https://www.glwh.org**, and click on the "Live Streaming" button. If you want to print out the worship service, worship & parish notes, and/or prayer list, go to https://www.glwh.org, and click on the worship tab on the top of the page and then click on live streaming. You can also watch our live streaming from Facebook; search for **Grace Lutheran Winter Haven Florida Media Now**, or watch from **YouTube**, and search for **Grace Lutheran Winter Haven Florida.**

TUESDAY 5:30 PM EVENING PRAYER SERVICE...in the Sanctuary each week offers a quiet time of prayer for body, mind, and spirit. All are invited. Holy Communion is served.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR broadcast next Sunday, December 18, on WONN Radio, Lakeland, 1230 AM at 9:30 AM, will feature Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler on the topic **"Gestures of Hope".** The Lutheran Hour is also available on Sunday mornings on WFLF Radio, Maitland, 540 on the AM dial at 7:30 AM. **You can also listen to The Lutheran Hour on Sirius-XM Family Talk 131 Sundays at 10:00 AM.** To read, listen, or to print the four-minute daily devotions by Lutheran Hour Ministries go to www.lhm.org and under MEDIA PROGRAMS click on DEVOTIONS. To sign-up to receive the devotions every day go to CONNECT and SUBSCRIBE.

HOLY COMMUNION

Our procedures specific for this time

Participants may kneel at the altar rail, self-dismiss after personal prayer and then carefully come down the chancel steps, ***or*** *remain standing and participate in a socially-distanced line of "continuous flow" in front of the chancel steps. Communion may also be brought to those who need to remain in the pew. Communion elements have been prepared with absolute sanitation and care by persons wearing gloves and masks.*

1. *Beginning with the front pews on either side, participants form two lines* ***in the center aisle****, seeking to maintain respectful social distancing.*
2. *Choose either A) STEPS: go up the steps and kneel at the altar rail or B) NO STEPS: go across to the table beside the pulpit.*
3. *At communion deacon's invitation and words, pick up your own wafer (and cup) without touching others. Partake of Christ's body and blood with faith in His promise.*
4. *Come to the side aisle, drop used cup in basket and* ***proceed down the side aisle*** *and* ***back to your seats.***

Our beliefs and practice

We believe the sacrament of Holy Communion is a gift of Christ to His Church and that all who receive this gift must first examine themselves concerning matters of Biblical faith and Godly living. *"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." 1 Corinthians 11:28 (NIV).*
We ask that you examine yourself according to these questions:

1. Do I believe that I am a sinner without hope of eternal life apart from God's mercy offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
2. Do I repent of my sins in thought, speech, and behavior as well as my failure to do the good things God wants me to do?
3. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that Jesus Christ is personally and physically present in the sacrament of Holy Communion with His body and His blood?
5. Do I desire, by the power of the Holy Spirit and the instruction of God's Word, to live a life pleasing to Him?

We believe your "yes" to these questions affirms a common faith with confirmed Lutheran Christians and is your invitation to our Lord's Table of Holy Communion. Baptized Christians who have been instructed in communion are welcome to participate. Children and those not communing may come forward and fold their arms (over their chest) to receive a blessing or simply exit. *Gluten free wafers are available upon request. White grape juice is also available.*

SUNDAY MORNING STUDIES FOR ADULTS
FOLLOWING FELLOWSHIP - 9:45 AM

Romans - Part 2 - a LifeLight Series. Led by **Dr. Threlkeld - Luther Room**

Bible Study During Advent – Sundays in Trinity Hall at 9:45
Who is Jesus? A study of Matthew 1:1-17

Dec. 4 Jesus is the Son of Abraham (Matthew 1:1)
Dec. 11 Jesus is the Son of Solomon (Matthew 1:6)
Dec. 18 Jesus is the Son of Mary (Matthew 1:18-25)

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Grace is a place for kids! **Join Miss Casey for Children's Church on Sunday mornings for fun crafts, songs, games, and Jesus!** Children's Church is a short time packed with exciting child-focused activities during the sermon at both 8:30 AM and 10:45 AM services on Sundays. Come explore what God's love is all about with a special time that's just for kids!

A Series of Special Services for Advent

December 14
12:00 PM

Advent Devotions 2023

Each year our Florida- Georgia District invites pastors serving as Circuit Visitors and Vice Presidents, along with District Staff and members of the District Board of Directors to write devotions during the Advent season. These devotions are sent out each day by email to all of our District members and others across the country who have chosen to receive them. We invite you to also receive these brief devotional thoughts on a daily basis.

Go to https://flgadistrict.org/connect to get signed up and receive the first devotion this Sunday or anytime after signing up.

This year, various Scripture passages utilizing the words “so that” have been selected. These devotions will be sent to your email each day until Epiphany, January 6, 2023.

ONGOING GROUP BIBLE STUDIES AT CHURCH

Please join us in studying God’s Word!

Monday Morning Women’s Bible Study - A Study on Prayer
Every Monday 10:30 AM MM Contact: Janet Hostler

Tuesday Morning Bible Study - 1, 2 & 3 John
Every Tuesday 10:00 AM MM Contact: Martha Walker

God’s Guys - Bible Study & Lunch
1st & 3rd Tuesday 12:00 PM MM Contact: Pastor Reich

Friday Morning Bible Study
Every Friday 10:00 AM MM Contact: Pastor David Meyer

Advent/ Christmas 2022
Worship Schedule

Advent

November 30, Wednesday	**12 PM Midweek Advent 1 Worship** 6:30 PM Pre-School Christmas Program
December 7, Wednesday	**12 PM Midweek Advent 2 Worship** 6:30 PM K-2 Christmas Program
December 14, Wednesday	**12 PM Midweek Advent 3 Worship** 6:30 PM 3-5 Christmas Program

Christmas

December 24, Saturday - Christmas Eve	**4 PM Family Worship** 7 PM Pre-Worship Music **7:30 PM Christmas Eve Worship** 10:30 PM Pre-Worship Music **11 PM Christmas Eve w/Communion***
December 25, Sunday - Christmas Day	**10:00 AM One Service***

New Years

December 31, Saturday	**5:00 PM New Year's Eve Service***
January 1, Sunday	**10:00 AM One Service***

Indicates Communion

Town Hall Meeting

December 11, 2022, 9:45-10:30 AM in Trinity Hall.

Open forum to discuss updates on parking lot improvements, new building project and especially the plan required to conduct due diligence on the status and opportunity of the 330 Ave C property (old ECE bldg.) across the street.

Voter's Assembly

December 18, 2022, 9:45-10:30 AM in Trinity Hall.

Congregational Meeting to take action on matters of due diligence and plan required to thoroughly examine the status and opportunity of the 330 Ave C property across the street.

Grace Lutheran Church

Sunshine Club News

January 5, 2023-Kick off the New Year with a little relaxation and gentle chair stretches. Activities are appropriate for all. Bring your favorite pot luck dish to share and we'll provide a very special surprise dessert to celebrate the New Year, Epiphany and YOU! We look forward to seeing you in the new year! Join us in Trinity Hall. Arrival begins at 11am...11:30 Devotions and Announcements, Noon –Lunch, Program 12:30pm

One of the most active groups (1961-present) in our church community, Sunshine club focuses on individuals and couples, providing social interaction, support and spiritual growth. Join us the first Thursday of the month for food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY 12/11, 3:00-5:00PM

All Amazing Grace Youth are invited to our Christmas Party!
Join us for an evening of delicious snacks, Christmas-themed games and activities, reflective prayer stations, a gift exchange, and more!

Wear an ugly Christmas sweater, your wrapped gift (no more than $5), and your Christmas cheer as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior!

THE GATHERING TEAM PRESENTS:

Candy Cane Cinema

TRINITY HALL
DEC 16TH, 2022
6:00-8:00PM

December 11, 2022
8:30 AM-12:30 PM

Be sure to eat a good meal and drink plenty of water before giving blood.

Make a Difference: HELP SAVE A LIFE!

GIFTS TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We thank the following who have given special gifts to Grace Lutheran Church in memory of

Ron Kirin by Paulette Bernthal

SPONSORING STUDENTS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Carla Stark-Davis
Jackie Stine
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Walker

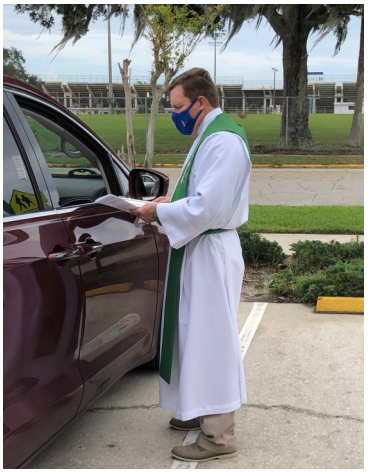
BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

December 11	Ella Maldonado, Pat Wittcop
December 12	Chloe Andrews, Cathy Bowen, Kyle Cobia, Laura Goff, Caroline Pratt, Julie Snyder
December 13	Gary Allen, Nicole Irby, Janet Splinter, Mark Spurgeon, Jenni Wycoff
December 14	John Lewis, Barbara Staschke, Kathy Stevens, Zach Zinsmeister
December 15	Christian Johnston, Noah Livesay, Roy Mize, Christine Scheu, Dennis Struck
December 16	Larry Akeson, Paul Nordby, Carol Sheil, Jack Smith, Sylvia Ullrich, Alesia Walker
December 17	Maxine Beck, Myra Brendemuhl, Carson Garbrecht, Marilyn Krombach, Barry Walker

Altar Flowers

Do you have a special occasion coming up? Placing flowers on the altar is a beautiful way to thank God for the special blessings of birthdays, anniversaries, and personal remembrances. If you would like to grace our sanctuary in this manner, please look for the flower chart just inside the church entrance and sign up for the Sunday nearest your special date.

Drive Up Communion Available



We know there are many who simply cannot meet publicly and we are offering opportunities for personal communion while one comes to the church and remains in their car in the church's office parking lot (Pastor's Parking off of Bates Ave). A robed pastor or elder will bring communion to each vehicle from the sanctuary altar with Christ's Words and a brief devotion. Please call the church office (T-Th) to schedule a time. (Tues, Wed. Thurs. afternoons and Wed. mornings are especially good.) We are happy to do this. 😊

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Each December, in preparation of our Savior's birth, we fill our Sanctuary with the beauty of 100 vibrant red poinsettias. Poinsettias may be presented in memory of or honor of a loved one. Please fill out the form below to reserve your plant. You may hand your form to an usher or bring it to the church office no later than Sunday, December 18. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

The cost is $15.00. You may take your plant with you after the service on Christmas Day.

POINSETTIA RESERVATION FORM

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Given by _____

Your name _____

Phone _____

Collection for Senior Orphans BEGINS!

Senior Orphans is a 501C3 Non-Profit Charity serving Polk County Seniors with monthly incomes of less than $600.00. There are no administrative or overhead costs. Seniors are screened only through qualified agencies such as Dept. of Families & Children, Polk Elderly Services, Polk County Opportunity Council, or Peace River Assoc. Senior Orphans and Case Managers are careful to ensure only the neediest of the needy receive assistance and to avoid duplication of services.

Bright Yellow Senior Orphan Bags will be distributed on the weekend of Dec. 10-11, and 17-18. Lists of items needed are in each bag. **Thank you for your support!!**

Fitness Challenge Opportunity

Lakeland Regional Health is challenging local faith communities to get involved in a healthy competition – the **2023 FitChurch Challenge**. Each team will assemble a group of people to compete with other local faith communities. Over the past 5 years this Challenge has been an amazing way to fellowship, have fun, and reach health goals – we have seen over 850 community members lose 2,000+ pounds! **Registration is now open – the Challenge is FREE to all participants .** The Challenge is coordinated by LRH and the YMCA .

We encourage you to invite family, friends, and coworkers from your community to join in the fun and become more active. Enjoy the free fitness classes, opportunities to learn more about your health and the very popular team field day!

The link below will take you to our website for more information and to the registration form. The Challenge will kick off at the South Lakeland YMCA on **Saturday, January 7 at 9 AM**.

HTTPS://WWW.MYLRH.ORG/FITCHURCHCHALLENGE/

Lastly, this February we will launch our first **Wear Red Sunday** initiative. *Why?* Because losing even one more person to cardiovascular disease is too many. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Polk County. Together, we can continue to wear red, to raise awareness about the signs and symptoms of heart disease.

Sign up to take the pledge to have a Wear Red Sunday at your church. We'll provide you with digital and print assets to help make your faith community aware of the importance of recognizing the signs and symptoms of heart disease.

Go to: https://www.mylrh.org/wear-red-sunday/

You will also have the opportunity to sign up for a free blood pressure screening and/or CPR class hosted at your church for your members.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Lauren Springfield, Lauren.Springfield@myLRH.org.

Lauren Springfield, MA, MBA (she/her)
Director, Community Health
Phone: 863.687.1100 ext. 2298

2022 FALL SMALL GROUPS

November - December

RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR
REGISTER ONLINE AT **GLWH.ORG/SMALLGROUPS**

NAME(S): _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CIRCLE YOUR AVAILABLE TIMES:

SUN	NA	AFTERNOON	EVENING
MON	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
TUES	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
WED	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
THURS	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
FRI	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
SAT	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING

YOUR PREFERRED GROUP TYPES:

SENIORS MEN WOMEN SINGLES

COUPLES YOUNG ADULTS PARENTS YOUTH VIRTUAL

_____ I WANT TO BE IN A GROUP THAT OFFERS CHILDCARE!
(PLEASE LIST AGES OF YOUR KIDS: _____)

_____ I WANT TO BE IN MY "REGULAR" GROUP
MY GROUP LEADER IS: _____ WE MEET ON: _____

I WANT TO HELP WITH THIS MINISTRY:

FACILITATE GROUP DISCUSSIONS PROVIDE CHILDCARE

HOST A GROUP IN MY HOME ORGANIZE A SERVANT EVENT

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Grace Lutheran Church Office: (863)293-8447
Pastor Moore: bmoore@glwh.org

	CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK	
Sunday December 11	***THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT*** **BLOOD MOBILE** ***Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary*** **TOWN HALL MEETING - Trinity Hall** Children's Sunday School - Youth Room ***Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary*** Families in the Park - Grace Playground Area **Youth Christmas Party**	 **8:30 - 12:30** ***8:30 AM*** **9:45 AM** 9:45 AM ***10:45 AM*** 12:00 PM **3 - 5 PM**
Monday December 12	Staff Devotions - Trinity Hall Circuit Pastors @ Christ, Lakeland Women's Bible Study - Mary-Martha Room	7:30 AM 8:30 AM 10:30 AM
Tuesday December 13	Bible Study - Mary-Martha Room Church Staff Meeting - Luther Room ***Tuesday Evening Prayer Service - Sanctuary*** Handbell Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary Balcony Praise Band Rehearsal - Chapel	10:00 AM 10:30 AM ***5:30 PM*** 6:00 PM 7:00 PM
Wednesday December 14	***Grades 3-5 Christmas Program - Sanctuary*** ***Mid-Week Advent Worship - Sanctuary*** ***Grades 3-5 Christmas Program - Sanctuary***	***8:30 AM*** ***12:00 PM*** ***6:30 PM***
Thursday December 15	LWR Quilters - Women's Center Grace Choristers - Music Room	9:00 AM 3:15 AM
Friday December 16	Bible Study - Meyer's home Early Release **Candy Cane Cinema - Trinity Hall**	10:00 AM 12:00 PM **6 - 8 PM**
Saturday December 17	***Worship Service - Sanctuary***	***5:00 PM***
Sunday December 18	***FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT*** ***Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary*** **Voters' Meeting - Trinity Hall** Children's Sunday School - Youth Room ***Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary***	 ***8:30 AM*** **9:45 AM** 9:45 AM ***10:45 AM***

The Rev. Charles T. Reich, Senior Pastor	(863) 604-5632
The Rev. Brendon T. Moore, Associate Pastor	(316) 708-0688
Samuel Hoag, Vicar	(253) 275-8146
Rachel Hoag, Director of Christian Education	(253) 579-7326
Jeff Wittcop, Director of Outreach & Assimilation	(863) 325-6460
Mike Rottmann, School Principal	(815) 519-7873

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