



# Worship and Parish Notes

Week of December 20, 2020

With Mary we sing: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46-47, NIV). Welcome to worship!

## ✠ ALTAR FLOWERS ✠

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by the **Pat and Carol Sheil**.

## HOLY COMMUNION

### Our procedures specific for this time.

Rather than coming up the altar steps and kneeling at the rail, we have prepared tables up front on either side for a "continuous flow" of participants without contact. Communion elements have been prepared with absolute sanitation and care by two people wearing gloves and masks.

1. Beginning from front to back, participants come forward in the center aisle maintaining six foot spacing between families.
2. Pick up your own wafer (and cup) without touching others.
3. Step to the side and with faith in Christ's words partake of His body and blood.
4. Drop used cups in baskets and exit the open side doors.

### 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.*

**NURSERY...**We love children at Grace Lutheran! Even during COVID-19, we continue to 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. **BE SURE TO TUNE IN AT 10:40 AM FOR SOME PRE-WORSHIP INFORMATION.** 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. You are requested to take precautionary measures by wearing masks and using hand sanitizer upon entering the Narthex.

**THE LUTHERAN HOUR** broadcast next Sunday, December 27, on WONN Radio, Lakeland, 1230 AM at 9:30 AM, will feature Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook on the topic "**Welcome to the Family!**" 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](http://WWW.LHM.ORG) and under MEDIA PROGRAMS click on DEVOTIONS. To sign-up to receive the devotions every day go to CONNECT and SUBSCRIBE.

## **SUNDAY MORNING STUDIES FOR ADULTS FOLLOWING FELLOWSHIP**

**An Advent Study on the Jesse Tree Theme** - Led by Pastor Charles in Trinity Hall.

**Revelation, Worthy Is the Lamb** - A Bible Study by Dale E. Griffin, Julene Dumit, and Rodney L. Rathmann. This study is amplified by additional content from the Concordia Popular Commentary on Revelation by Louis Brighton. Led by **Dr. Threlkeld - Luther Room**

## Children's Ministry

Children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join us every Sunday at 9:45AM (meet in the youth room) for Sunday School!

During the season of Advent we will be focusing on the theme from the Jingle Jam event: **Simply Christmas**. Each week we will use the Advent wreath candles to take a look at the amazing gifts we are given through Jesus!

November 29: Hope

December 6: Joy

December 13: Love

**December 20: Peace**



## YOUTH GROUP

We will continue to meet in person (in the youth room) the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 6:00-8:00PM. A "lite" meal will be available at the beginning of youth group. (Think of it more as a heavy snack.) The girl's small group will continue to study Leah and Rachel and how comparison impacts our lives today. The boy's small group continues to dig into God's word with Vicar Duffy!

- Youth group will **NOT** meet December 23.

## Ongoing Group Bible Studies at Church Please join us in studying God's Word!

### The Lutheran Difference Bible Study - The Lord's Supper

Every Tuesday

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

MM

Contact: Martha Walker

### Friday Morning Bible Study - Video Series: The Promised Land

Every Friday

10:00 AM

MM

Contact: Pastor Meyer



## 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 20. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church.

The cost is \$11.00. 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 \_\_\_\_\_



## Celebrating Stories of 2020

Send your stories into the church office by mail or email  
[frontdesk@gwlh.org](mailto:frontdesk@gwlh.org)

We want to hear your stories and share them at the end of the year in a Member's Stories Newsletter. Take a moment and write a response to the following questions and then send it to us.

1. What has been your greatest challenge during the pandemic?
2. What passage of Scripture, encouragement from a friend, or sermon or Bible Study was helpful to you during this time?
3. What has the Lord taught you during this time?



# Small Groups This Winter

This winter, Grace’s small groups will take a look at the gifts Christ gives us at the cross. Groups are encouraged to begin meeting the second week of January. Register using the form below or the link on our webpage for the winter

session if you would like to join a small group this session. In *He Chose the Nails*, a five-session video Bible study, Max Lucado examines the gifts that Christ gave at His crucifixion. These include not only the gift of the cross, but also the gift of the nails, and the empty tomb. The cross is rich with God’s gifts of grace, and as we unwrap them, we will hear Him whisper, “I did it just for you.” Go to [www.glwh.org/smallgroups](http://www.glwh.org/smallgroups) and fill out the registration page, or fill out the form below and drop it off at the church office front desk. Feel free to order your own copy or email us at [frontdesk@glwh.org](mailto:frontdesk@glwh.org) and we’ll order one for you. We will soon have copies available for \$12 each in the church office.

\*\*\*\*\* tear here \*\*\*\*\*

## Small Group Registration

“He Chose the Nails” (Winter 2021)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional names of family members who would like to be in the same group as you:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle your available days/times (select at least three):

Days	Times (Group facilitators will share specific times and locations.)				
	Sunday	NA	Afternoon	Evening	Digital - Zoom
Monday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Digital - Zoom	In Person
Tuesday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Digital - Zoom	In Person
Wednesday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Digital - Zoom	In Person
Thursday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Digital - Zoom	In Person
Friday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Digital - Zoom	In Person
Saturday	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Digital - Zoom	In Person

Circle your preferred group type (if any):

Parents      Couples      Singles      Young Adults      Seniors      Men      Women

\_\_\_\_\_ I will need childcare (please list ages \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to help! (circle one or all!)

Facilitate group discussions      Host a group in my home      Organize a service event

Provide childcare      Assist with various tasks





## FEBRUARY 6

Please volunteer anywhere!  
If you are flexible and  
have no preference,  
we will assign you to a site.

**Saturday  
February 6**

**8:30 - 12:00**

**Something for  
everyone and  
every age.**

**Please sign up!**

- 1. Meals on Wheels** Site Leader: Linda Long  
Job: Kitchen Prep and Staging area cleaning, yard work  
Info: [mealsonwheelspolk.com](http://mealsonwheelspolk.com)
- 2. Our Career Centered Academy** Site Leader: Laura Griffith  
Job: Outside raking/playground cleanup  
Info: [www.ourcareer.org](http://www.ourcareer.org)
- 3. The Mission** Site Leader: Dan Trinklein  
Job: Prepare & Serve breakfast  
Info: [themissionwh.org](http://themissionwh.org)
- 4. Top Buttons** Site Leader: Peggy Griffin  
Job: Sorting Clothes  
Info: [topbuttons.org](http://topbuttons.org)
- 5. Anchor House** Site Leader: Vicar Michael Duffy  
Job: Cleaning and hauling things to the dump  
Info: [anchor-house.org](http://anchor-house.org)
- 6. Life Choice Pregnancy Center** Site Leader: Dy Krueger  
Job: Pressure washing & cleaning  
Info: [lifechoicepregnancycenter.com](http://lifechoicepregnancycenter.com)
- 7. Public Education Partnership** Site Leader: Linda Aceto  
Job: Cleaning & Book Organization  
Info: [whpep.org](http://whpep.org)
- 8. Haley Center** Site Leader: Rhonda Wise  
Job: Organizing and Unpacking in their new location  
Info: [thehaleycenter.com](http://thehaleycenter.com)
- 9. Hearts for Winter Haven** Site Leader: Lou Marinelli  
Job: TBD  
Info: [heart4wh.org](http://heart4wh.org)

## BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Dec 20 Ray Rogers  
Dec 21 Donna Enzor, Erin Miller, Roger Duffield, Van Walters, Christy Walters  
Dec 24 Sharon Ross  
Dec 25 Kathy Cruit, Noah Zerby  
Dec 26 Charles Smith

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## GIFTS TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

**Jim and Tim Beasley** by Beth Beasley, designated to Tim Beasley Memorial Fund

In honor of **Pastor Charles Reich** for his leadership in having safe worship by Linda Davy

## SPONSORING STUDENTS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In memory of **Arlene Voll** by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Pergande

## AUGUST & MILDRED BERNTHAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Mildred Bernthal by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kohs

## Collection for Senior Orphans TODAY!

Colorful bags will be given out to collect items for Senior Orphans. A list of items needed is placed in each bag and is also in the December Voice of Grace. Return the bag with your donations. Donations may be dropped off through **December 27**. 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. **Thank you for your continued support!**

## A CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND FAITH

A Celebration of Bea Salow's (beloved former member) life will be held at Woodlands Lutheran Church, 15333 County Road 455, Montverde, FL 34756, on Sunday, December 20 at 2:00 PM.

	<b>CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK</b>	
Sunday December 20	<b>Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary</b> Fellowship, Bible Study & Sunday School <b>Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b> 9:30AM <b>10:45 AM</b>
Monday December 21	School Board Meeting - Mary-Martha Room Organ & Strings Rehearsal - Sanctuary Balcony	6:30 PM 7:00 PM
Tuesday December 22	Bible Study - Mary-Martha Room Church Staff Meeting - Luther Room <b>Prayer Service - Sanctuary</b> Praise Band Rehearsal - Chapel Organ & Brass Rehearsal - Sanctuary Balcony	10:00 AM 10:30 AM <b>5:30 PM</b> 6:15 PM 8:00 PM
Wednesday December 23	Trinity Bells Rehearsal - Chapel Grace Chorale Rehearsal - Music Room	6:00 PM 7:15 PM
Thursday December 24	Quilters - Women's Center <b>Family Christmas Eve Worship Service - Sanctuary</b> <b>Family Christmas Eve Worship Service - Sanctuary</b> <b>Music for the Holy Night - Sanctuary</b> <b>Festive Christmas Eve Worship Service - Sanctuary</b> <b>Music for the Holy Night - Sanctuary</b> <b>Communion Christmas Eve Worship Service - Sanctuary</b>	9:00 AM <b>4:00 PM</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> <b>10:30 PM</b> <b>11:00 PM</b>
Friday December 25	<b>Communion Christmas Day Worship Service - Sanctuary</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
Saturday December 26	<b>Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
Sunday December 27	<b>Contemporary Worship Service - Sanctuary</b> Fellowship, Bible Study & Sunday School <b>Traditional Worship Service - Sanctuary</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b> 9:30AM <b>10:45 AM</b>

The Rev. Charles T. Reich, Senior Pastor  
Michael Duffy, Vicar  
Jeff Wittcop, Director of Outreach & Assimilation  
Leah Welter, Director of Youth and Family Life Ministry  
Wynn Bonner, Director of Worship Arts  
Mike Rottmann, School Principal

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