



May 2020 Grace Notes



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Tallahassee, Florida

[Grace Website](#)

[Article
Submissions](#)

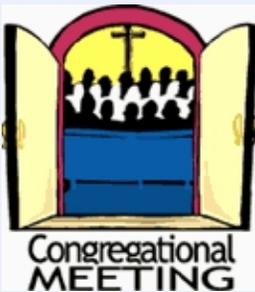
[Prayer Requests](#)

[Thrivent Financial](#)

There will be no on-site worship, Bible classes, social or fellowship activities, etc., at Grace through the month of May.

Sunday Worship services are posted on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Go to <https://www.gracelutheran.faith/> and click on a link in the green box on the home page. This link will take you to a recorded worship service, at Grace, led by Pastor Jenn. It includes the weekly texts, as well as a homily.

While Pastor Jenn and Lisa Rubin will be in the office during the week, members are still being asked not to visit the church office but to continue to call or email instead during this time.



Letter from The President

Changes to Town Hall and Annual Congregational Meeting

We were originally scheduled to have a Town Hall Meeting on May 3 but the current reality of Corona Virus means we will be unable to meet in person.

However, because our fiscal year begins June 1, we do need to have our Annual Congregational Meeting, so that we can conduct several important

pieces of business.

Our current plan is to email our Congregational Council report to our members by May 3 so that you have an opportunity to look it over. If you have any questions, please forward them to me (Joy Becker) by May 7.

The Council and/or Committee Chairs will review the questions and respond by email to everyone – so that you know what questions were asked, and what answers were given. You will get the answers to all questions by May 10.

We will have our **Annual Spring Congregational Meeting**, Sunday, May 24 at 11:30 a.m., on Zoom.

If you aren't sure how to use Zoom, please let us know and we'll work with you to insure you can participate. Instructions concerning how to access Zoom were recently sent to all members.

This meeting is important for several reasons:

- We will be approving our 2020-2021 Budget
- We will be approving the nomination of Elisa Casey as chair of the Property Committee.
- We will be seeking nominations for chair of the Stewardship Committee.

We ask that all of you prayerfully consider whether this might be a way in which God is calling you to serve, and please let me know if you would like to submit your name for nomination.

Again, watch for the Council Report with the Proposed Budget to be emailed soon.

May 24 Zoom Meeting Information:

Joy Becker is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Joy Becker's Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7865058105>

Meeting ID: 786 505 8105

Thanks.

Joy Becker, Council President

(850) 509-4002

joykirkbecker@gmail.com

A Big Thanks for Faithful Giving

Each week in our online services, we pause for a moment to remind those assembled that Grace still needs your financial support, your benevolence. We understand that this is a difficult

time for some in our community, and we know that regular giving may be a challenge.

Imagine our joy and delight when our counters reported this week that we have maintained our regular monthly giving for the month of April.



Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity. It is no surprise - the people of Grace have always been so giving - but it is a blessing. If you are continuing to offer your regular benevolence, thank you for staying faithful to that. If you are giving more, thank you for sharing from your abundance. And if you are having to cut back, or have to cease giving all together for a time, please know that we are okay at this time - and if you need anything from us, we encourage you to reach out to us and let us know.

Again, thank you. We are so blessed by your faithful giving.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Jenn and the Congregational Council of Grace



Fresh New Looks Await Members of Grace

Rest assured, Grace members, when we return to our building, it will look very nice!

These are the improvements that have happened while you have been away:

- A new roof, trim and gutters installed
- Outside of building soft washed and all sidewalks and retaining walls pressure washed
- Entry signs repaired, repainted and new logo added
- Railings and side door painted
- New benches added to outside cross area
- All carpets, upstairs and main floor, cleaned and sanitized
- All tile floors stripped and waxed
- Kitchen and bathrooms cleaned and sanitized

Thanks to all who helped with these projects!

A big “shout out” go to Pastor Jenn and Denise Wetzel who have orchestrated our weekly on-line worship. They have spent many, many hours working together to accomplish this task. Denise has put in many

hours updating the website almost daily, to keep up with this.

Also, a very big thank you to Anthony Warrington and Leslie Heffner for continuing to bless us with the gift of music. We appreciate both their talent and their willingness to find ways to work with Pastor and Denise to make sure it continues to be a part of our worship services.

While we are thanking people, I want to personally thank all of our members. You have been so gracious sending in your tithes and offerings so we can keep the building and our employees afloat during this time. We are a team, and we could not do any of this without all of your support.

Thank you SO much. Your Council made the decision to continue to pay our employees during this time. They count on their salaries and we did not want them or their families to be hindered. If you have not done so yet, you may mail in your offerings to Grace.



Zoom Allows Membership to continue with activities

In what's becoming a "new normal," for the time being, several church activities have gone online.

The monthly Men's Ministry Meeting was held via Zoom on Monday, April 20.

Pastor Jenn has brought her weekly TexTalks to the Zoom Online Platform. She is hosting a session on Saturday, May 2 from 10 - 11:30 am.

Those wishing to join these Zoom meetings will need to RSVP to the church office so the login information can be sent for the meeting.

The TexTalk for Saturday, May 2 will be discussing the lessons from the Sunday, April 26 service.

Look for more opportunities and make sure to join the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 24, on Zoom.



CONTINUE WITH LITTLE THINGS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

Grace Lutheran Church collects Boxtops for Education. Those little coupons on cereal boxes and soup cans are collected for Aucilla Christian Academy. We ask that you keep your collection going at home until such time as we are able to worship together again in person. If you have any questions contact Abi Hudson.

Since the program started in 1996, over \$900 million have been collected for school supplies in classrooms around the country

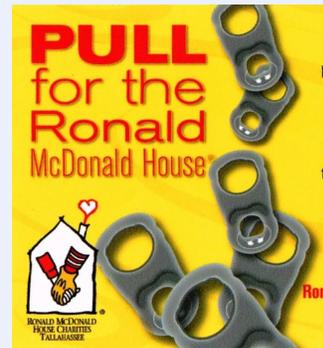


Grace Lutheran Church is known as the "Tuna Church" for Manna on Meridian.

Even during the "Stay at Home," time, Grace Lutheran continues to support this effort as over 200 cans of tuna were collected for the April distribution. Members have been diligent to bring cans of tuna to the church to leave them outside of the office. Monetary donations should be made out to Grace Lutheran Church with Manna on Meridian written on the memo line and mailed to the church. Clothing donations are no longer being accepted until further notice.

To volunteer for the third Saturday of the month distribution date at Faith Presbyterian Church, please contact Kris-Tena Albers (850) 566-3635 or kris.albers@yahoo.com or Burt Von Hoff (850) 508-7793 or bkvonhoff@comcast.net

Grace Lutheran Church collects Pull Tabs from Cans. Pry those pull tabs from your beverage cans and other canned goods, like vegetables and pet food and bring them to church. We ask that you keep your collection going at home until such time as we are able to worship together again in person. They will then be delivered to the Ronald McDonald House.



Grace Birthdays

May 3

Andre Davignon

May 6

Cheryl Szygula

May 7

Dolores Lynch, Caden Wessner

May 8

Brenden Monda

May 11

Floyd Self

May 12

Gerald Kurtz

May 14

John Forster, Johanna (Tina)

May 20

Oliver Allen, Olivia Allen, Oscar Winston

May 23

Don Blancett

May 25

Elisa Casey, Allison Wharton

May 26

Bill Pomidor

May 28

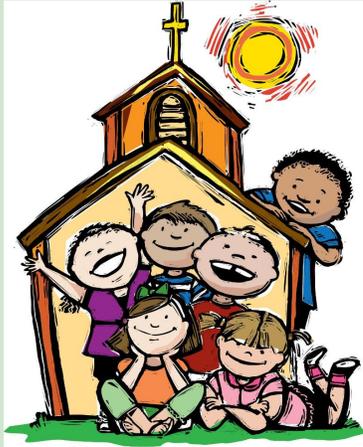
Kristopher Swartzman

May 30

Joy Becker, Pastor Jennifer Kopacz

May 19

Lindsey Szypula



A Prayer for the Times

O holy and mighty One, on this day we pause to remember and celebrate the gift of creation, the blessings of all that you have made. In this pandemic, when we have entered into a time of separation and isolation, help us to truly examine the splendor of the world around us. Help us to see ourselves as fearfully and wonderfully made. Help us to recognize all the ways we take the beauty of your creation - including our own lives - for granted.

Be with those who are suffering in any way. Be with those who are confused about what to do in the midst of this pandemic. Be with those who are sick or dying because of this virus - and with all those who love them.

Be with those who are risking their own health and safety, who are isolating from their families, who are working long, draining hours, all to heal and protect patients, to research and develop cures, and to provide caregivers with the things they need to do their jobs.

Be with those who are out of work, who are afraid of what the future holds, who do not know how they will support themselves or their families. Be with those we need you in any way.

We pray for a cure, we pray for healing, we pray for peace and hope and patience while we wait. And we give thanks, that we know and experience your presence in all of this.

Amen.



Since we didn't have the opportunity to see the sanctuary filled with Easter Lilies this year, here's a shot of one I brought home a few years ago.

It bloomed just last week in my yard. Each year it rises again into this beautiful flower, just like our risen Lord. He is Risen!



Have a topic to share for June, 2020 Grace Notes? Feel free to send Nick Gandy an email at ngandyman@yahoo.com. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.
