



August 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 until further notice.

Sunday Worship services are posted on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Go to <https://www.gracelutheran.faith/> and click on the link in the green box on the home page. This link will take you to the pre-recorded worship service, at Grace, led by Pastor Jenn. It includes the weekly texts, as well as a homily. We have also begun offering Spiritual Communion, an opportunity to see the Bread and the Cup, hear the Words of Institution and the Great Thanksgiving, and pray together for God's presence, without actually consuming the elements.

We are also creating an expanded community of faith through live-streamed worship with St. Stephen Lutheran Church. Our first foray into this was on July 26th, and we plan to join them again on August 9th. Their service is different than ours, but still offers the lessons, a homily, and once a month they celebrate communion together. When we resume in-person worship here at Grace, Pastor Tom and the people of St. Stephen will be invited to join us for worship, as well.

Finally, a reminder that while Pastor Jenn and Lisa Rubin are in the office during the week, members are still being asked not to visit the church office. However, we welcome your calls or emails instead during this time, and – as always – if you need immediate pastoral care, please contact Pastor Jenn on her cell.

Letter from The President

Hello Grace Members and Friends!

Your Council has been busy during this COVID crazy time and I would like to share with you what we have been doing.

First, our Worship and Music Committee has been vigilantly working on our reopening plans and strategies. Our re-open date is still planned for September 6. The service times will be slightly different. The first service will be at 9:00 AM and the second service will be at 11:00 AM. We will allow 50 people to come to each service.

We are working on a "Reservation Link" to be placed on our website. You would need to go to the site to make your reservations. All people who will be in your party need to be listed in your reservation. That way, we can keep an accurate count. If you are not able to make an on-line reservation, you can of course call Lisa using the Grace phone number: (850) 877-5423. She will gladly add you and your family members or guests to the list.

Chairs will be set up for each person and each group, so the number in each party is important information. Of course, everyone will be spread out as far as possible.

We are also working on a video that will be sent to you. This video will show our re-opening procedures. That way, you will feel comfortable with the new protocols that everyone will be expected to follow.

Our primary goal is for everyone to feel and BE safe. Masks are of course going to be required, from the time you exit your vehicle to the time you re-enter your vehicle. Please, even though it will be hard, do not shake hands, do fist bumps, and please, no hugs. Please stay 6 feet away from everyone. Again, a video will be made to explain all the procedures. This will hopefully help you feel comfortable with the necessary changes.

Another committee has also been very busy. Our "New Worship" Committee has been looking at two main goals: 1) changes that are necessary in our services due to COVID-19, and 2) making plans to accomplish the last item on our Strategic Plan-developing a Contemporary Service for Grace. This is something that many people have been looking forward to.

This Committee has done a lot of brainstorming, including: 1) analysis of other church services many of us visited prior to the pandemic; 2) looking at staff reorganization or additions needed to be able to produce this service; 3) technology needs; and 4) cost analysis and budgeting for the undertaking.



Many items the Contemporary Service needs will also be details that will now be necessary in providing a safe Traditional Service. The fact that we cannot sing in the sanctuary for a while causes some technical issues that we are trying to solve. We know our Grace members love music. Believe me, we are doing everything we can to provide this to you.

Lastly, we know many of you will not feel comfortable coming back to church September 6th. We will continue to have our services on-line for you to view. We will be livestreaming them (hopefully!!), so you would be watching the service as it happens.

Thank-You to:

-Bob Becker and Frank Piepmeier: As you drive on Miccosukee Road, please look up at Grace. You can now see through the wooded area and see that there is a church building behind the trees! They have met 2-3 times per week from 8am-11am, cutting, clearing and hauling limbs and debris. If you want to assist, please give either one of them a call. The more the merrier!

-Thanks to the Executive Committee. They have been very busy reviewing documents and making decisions about church business during this time.

-Thanks to the Council. We have been meeting on Zoom during this pandemic. They have continued to contact their committee members and prepare their monthly reports, so we have been able to continue the business of the church.

-Thanks to the Worship and Music Committee. They have been meeting at least twice per month since March. They have developed a lot of the plans and protocols for our church re-opening.

-Thanks to the New Worship Committee, and Anthony and Leslie for helping us through this process of beginning a new worship experience at Grace.

-Thanks to Pastor and Denise Wetzel and to our volunteer readers who have donated a lot of time to produce the on-line services.

-Thanks to Nick Gandy for continuing GraceNotes during this time and helping us all feel connected. He is a very busy guy, but always makes time for Grace!

-Special, special thanks to Floyd Self. Floyd has prepared the Prayers of Intercession for our Sunday worship services-FOR YEARS! Floyd, you are a special man to have taken on this task for so long. I personally do not know how you have fit it into your very busy schedule. Thanks to Eileen, also, because this was time he took away from you! You both are very special people and we really appreciate all you do for Grace.

-Thanks to all of you who have been so very thoughtful in remembering Grace with your tithes and offerings. We have not been sitting idly, I assure you! If you have any special needs, please give Pastor, the Church, or any Council member a call. Any of us would be more than happy to help you.

Grace, Peace and good health to you all!

Follow Up to 2020 Grace Graduates

Congratulations to **Namour McGovern de Freitas** who graduated as an A/B honor roll student from Montford Middle School. He enjoyed participating in both band (where he played the clarinet) and chorus this year, and also took a guitar class during his time at Montford! He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 44 and is currently a First Class Scout working towards his Star Rank. He is also a proud member of the Order of the Arrow (OA) Boy Scout Honor Society, and an active member of the Native American drum team in the OA. He will attend Lincoln High School and hopes to join the ROTC.



What We've Been Doing While in Quarantine

The Shelter at Home orders during the Covid-19 Global Pandemic has led us to all find things to do to keep us busy. There have been a home improvement projects, some serious cleaning and reorganizing of our homes and a variety of other things.

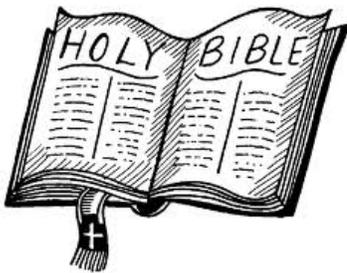
Here's a sample of what some of your fellow Grace Lutheran Church members have accomplished in the last four months.

From Mark Heidorn: Just as we locked down, my brother from Chicago was here so we could build a coffee table (*pictured above*) for his home, in my workshop. We built the table from a slab of Sycamore, which has a wild grain. It's solid. It is now residing comfortably in Chicago.

From Burt Von Hoff: Our one road trip was to go to Camp Lutherock, July 2-5 for a retreat. It was the first time Lutherock was open to the public. Kathy and I stayed in the Crow's Nest. It was a wonderful experience, with about 20 folks in the camp, including Tom and Sara Allen and family. Lutherock is looking to host another retreat during the month of October.

The Jennings Family adopted two puppies, a pair of Jack Russell Terrier and Beagle Mix. Pictured below in the chair, are Jellybean in the background and Marshmallow in the foreground.

From Nick Gandy: During March and April, before it got too hot, I spent the weekends painting the exterior of my house . Since May, I have returned to my early morning power walking and have walked 46 Miles on routes of various lengths through Indianhead Acres.



A Creative Way to Connect over Bible Study

Our TexTalk Bible Study Group has been meeting on Zoom and we have enjoyed both the conversation and the insight shared among our group.

For the month of August, we will take a hiatus. However, TexTalk will resume in September - and we will determine at that time whether it will be in person or continue via Zoom.

Submit Video of Your Music at Home

During our current hiatus from performing at the church, we are looking for Musical Offerings. We have seen many faces already and are looking for more!

We want to include you in worship. This is a great opportunity to be present in the service, whether it be voice, piano, flute, violin, guitar, cello, drums, you name it! You are important and we want to include you.



Simply record yourself or a family member from your cell phone and email it to Anthony at windkeys@gmail.com. Include a little information about the piece so we can tell everyone about it.

Shop with Shutterfly and Raise Funds for Grace Lutheran Church

The Shutterfly collection, is a partnership created between Shutterfly and Lifetouch, that includes photo books, gifts, premium stationery, keepsakes, home décor and so much more. For every purchase made, Shutterfly donates 8% of the proceeds to Grace. Shutterfly offers new specials beginning each Thursday, including up to 50% off on projects.

Visit our Shutterfly Storefront

at: <http://gracelutheran32308.shutterflystorefront.com/> and browse the creative projects. If you have any questions, contact Mary Grant, (609) 602-0155 or grantmlcic@hotmail.com.



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



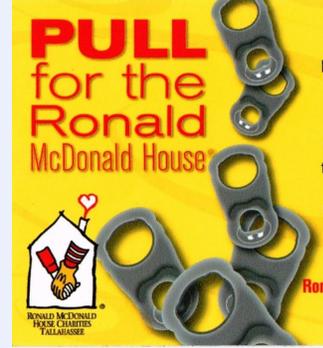
Grace Lutheran Church is known as the "Tuna Church" for Manna on Meridian.

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 LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2

David Heller, Lori Kietzer

August 3

Ryan Rodenberg

August 4

Henry Gauding

August 7

Becky Ortel

August 8

Dave Grant

August 11

Lorene Maddox

August 12

Janet Scharlau

August 13

Alice Pomidor, Lynne Winston

August 14

Charles Schilling, Sr.

August 16

Karen Bradley, Justin Oeltjen

August 17

Florence Brown, Wendy Pomidor

August 19

Keith Hughes

August 20

George Sweat

August 23

Mary Eichin

August 25

Levi Ewald, Mark Haverlah

August 31

Pam Johnson



Upcoming Fellowship Events

The Corona Virus has certainly put the kibosh on any Fellowship activities for a while.

Following a Fellowship Committee meeting, Sunday, July, 26, plenty of discussion surfaced about Fellowship activities for the rest of 2020. It was decided to cancel Oktoberfest, the 737 party and Thanksgiving Feast.

The following dates/activities are listed on the upcoming Church event calendar.

October 11: Oktoberfest - CANCELLED

October 24: Trunk or Treat

November 7: 737 Party - CANCELLED

November 26: Thanksgiving Feast - CANCELLED

February 7: Chili Cook-off or Super Bowl Party

February 14: Valentine's day - Spaghetti Supper

Mardi Gras Party: (Ash Wednesday is February 17)

Share any other ideas with the Fellowship Committee Chair, Mary Grant,
at grantmlcic@hotmail.com.



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