

# Grace Notes



Grace Lutheran Church  
745 S. Ingraham Avenue  
Lakeland, Florida 33801

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to  
Share God's Love  
With each other, our community, and the world.

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- Tuesday, Jan. 1 - New Year's Day
  - Church office closed
- Tuesday, Jan. 8
  - Morning Circle
  - Out to Lunch Bunch meal
  - Worship & Music Meeting
- Wednesday, Jan. 9
  - Afternoon Circle
  - Special Bible Study
- Saturday, Jan. 12
  - Book Study
- Sunday, Jan. 13
  - Annual Congregational Meeting
- Monday, Jan. 14
  - Saints Alive Luncheon
- Tuesday, Jan. 15
  - Quilting
  - Council Meeting
- Wed., Jan. 16
  - Special Bible Study
- Sunday, Jan. 20
  - Grace Notes info. due
- Monday, Jan. 21
  - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
  - Church office closed

*Living Lutheran*

This is the monthly magazine of the ELCA. If you don't get a copy, you can check out articles at <https://www.livinglutheran.org>. If you want to keep up with the church, its faith in action, this is a good resource.

The usual topic for these types of articles is looking to the future. And, that is a good idea. It is also a time to look back. And that is good as well.

When we do these mental exercises we can apply it to our lives, our church and our world. We can examine our lives in a wholistic manner. When we do this we often find that we really have a lot of influence in a lot of aspects of our world. We can affect our families, our world, our church, and our work places.

One way to do this is to begin with questions that are wide sweeping such as: How do you think you are doing? How did you do last year? What are you looking forward to this year?

It is also a good thing to remember to listen. Asking and filling our minds with so much, then not sorting it out makes for a noisy field. Sorting into how we want to do better, how we want our lives to reflect the Glory of the Lord in our lives and in our world.

Here are some faith guidance from the Bible that might help as you do this personal and global inventory.

**HOPE**

- **Psalm 46:1-3** - God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble ...
- **Proverbs 18:10** - The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.
- **Nehemiah 8:10** - Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

**STRENGTH**

- **Isaiah 41:10** - So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- **I Corinthians 10:13** - No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.
- **Nehemiah 8:10** - Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

**LOVE**

- **Ephesians 4:2** - "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

(continued on page 4)

(continuation from page 3)

- **1 Peter 4:8:** - "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."
- **John 15:12:** - "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

Keep reading your Bible. Come to the Sunday 9 a.m. Bible study in the fellowship hall, come to the Circle Bible studies for women that are offered, spend time in meditation.

Heading in the right direction for the New Year by looking at the past and basing our lives on the Word of God will help us with the path ahead.

As we come to worship we can confess each week and start a new path. This is so important and meaningful for living a good and faithful life.

From our home to yours, Blessed New Year!

- Pastor Jeannine

**Women of the ELCA**  
***Morning Circle Meeting***

January 8  
9:30 a.m.

Bible Study - All members  
Hostess - Immie Beck

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***Afternoon Circle***

January 9  
2:00 p.m.

Bible Study - All members  
Hostess - Mabel Carreira

*The Bible Studies for the Morning and Afternoon Circles are held in the fellowship hall. All ladies are invited.*

**Saints Alive Luncheon**

Monday, January 14 - Noon

Bring a dish of food to share and enjoy a time of food and fellowship. Our speaker will be Brian West, Media and Community Relations, Publix. He will give us a history of our local grocery chain. Publix began with one store in Lakeland and is now serving customers in several states.

**Prayer Corner**

Check out our new Prayer Corner on our website: [Gracelakeland.com](http://Gracelakeland.com). It has a different prayer for each day of the month.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- 7- Barbara Carpanini  
Dot Schroeder  
Earl Teskey
- 8- Lyndi Elms  
Sharon Lewis
- 10- Desiree Evered
- 12- Robert Lemley  
Jim Sawyers  
Colline Simpson
- 22- Henry Egelkraut
- 25- George Althouse
- 28- Anna Mae Chinault
- 30- Barbara McPeak

**Happy Anniversary**

- 11- Steve & Betsy McLaughlin
- 17- Pearl & Gerry Dong
- 23- Robert & Jane Lemley  
Chuck & Janie Lineberger

**Contribute to Grace**



Another way you can contribute to Grace is to notify your bank and they can mail a donation directly to the church.

**Serving in the Church**

**Assisting Ministers:**

- 1/6 Naomi Thomsen
- 1/13 Elaine Gallenbeck
- 1/20 Carol Grzegorzcyk
- 1/27 Brenda Hornickle

**Greeters:**

Shirley Mattson & Angela Moran

**Ushers:**

Cliff & Janet Olsson

**Altar Guild:**

- 1/6 Angela Moran & Phyllis Whidden
- 1/13 Brenda H. & Larry Lawrence
- 1/20 Sue Stark & Barbara White
- 1/27 Carla McGee & Susan Weller

**Sound Technicians:**

Ben Evans & Dan Stoller

The *Out to Lunch Bunch* will meet at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8 at the Red Lobster restaurant. All are invited to come for a time of good food and fellowship.



**The annual congregational meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 13 after worship in the fellowship hall. We will be electing some new council members and approving the financial budget for 2019. All confirmed members are asked to attend. Be sure to pick up your copy of the annual reports from the narthex, read it, and bring your copy to the meeting.



Many thanks for your donations of toys and gifts for the “Cops for Kids” program of the Lakeland Police Department. Grace donated 152 toys that will be a blessing and put a smile on many children in the Lakeland area.

### Council Elections 2019

Three council positions are up for election in 2019. The election will take place at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 13, 2019. All of the positions are for a three-year term. The following individuals seek election: Tim Dukes, Colline Simpson, & Kristen Storms. You will find short bios posted in the fellowship hall.

### The Church Past and Present

This is a small group Bible study and discussion about the history of the church and what we are facing in the future. *This is designed for those who have joined our church recently and by invitation.* If you are considering joining Grace, please contact the church office for an invitation to this class. The classes are on Wednesday, January 9 & 16 in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m.

### New Year Thoughts

Never think an unkind thought of others.

Endeavor to work harder for the Lord.

Weed out your bad habits with God’s help.

Yearn and pray for peace.

Earnestly desire a stronger relationship with Christ.

Attend church regularly

Resolve to give your all for Christ, and his church.

- author unknown  
Church Bulletin Bits #4  
George W. Knight, Compiler

**December Attendance**

Date	Total
12/2	94
12/9	76
12/16	101
12/23	88
12/24	132
12/30	68

**December Contributions**

12/2	7,414.00
12/9	4,675.10
12/16	5,398.00
12/23	2,944.52
12/24	2,167.50
12/30	3,302.00



Counting the days & hours  
till your Grace Notes  
information is due on  
**January 20**

The church office will be closed  
on Monday, January 21 for  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

*The church office will be  
closed on Tuesday, January 1.*



**GRACE NOTES**

A monthly publication of  
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**Church Staff**

**The Council Representatives**

President	Carla McGee
Vice President	Phyllis Whidden
Corp. Secretary	Sue Stark
Treasurer	Mary Flekke
Financial Secretary	Ruth Neidinger
Recording Secretary	Kristen Storms
Christian Education	Tim Dukes
Finance	Phyllis Whidden
Long Range Planning	Carla McGee
Memorials	Wally Oestreich
Outreach	Sue Stark
Property	Robert Mattson
Social Ministry	Janet Morris
Staff Support	Carla McGee
Stewardship	Carla McGee
Worship & Music	Marty Lewis
Youth	

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Church web site: [www.gracelakeland.com](http://www.gracelakeland.com)