

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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Sunday, Nov. 4 - All Saints Sunday
- Daylight Saving Time ends

Tuesday, Nov. 6 - Morning Circle
- Out to Lunch Bunch meal at Fish City Grill
- Property Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 8 - Finance Meeting

Saturday, Nov. 10 - Book Study

Monday, Nov. 12 - Saints Alive

Wednesday, Nov. 14 - Afternoon Circle

Sunday, Nov. 18 - Grace Notes info. due
- Altar Guild Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 20 - Quilting

Thursday, Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving
- Church office closed

Friday, Nov. 23 - Church office closed

Tuesday, Nov. 27 - Council Meeting



Thanksgiving is a time of celebration. It is a national holiday. It is a celebration of the harvest. It is a celebration of those who came to America for a better life and almost died, but were supported and befriended by the people who were already inhabiting this land. Thanksgiving is a celebration of abundance and survival.

Thanksgiving loses some of its impact because most of who will read this have never been really desperate for food. Most who read this article will never have experienced deprivation. We, who mostly read this, have been the receivers of the abundance of America. But, it behooves us to remember, that while we have plenty, there are those who don't. Polk Country is notorious because of our hungry kids.

It is a great truth for us that Jesus accepts the poor and loves the outcasts.

- During this Thanksgiving we need to remember that we belong to Jesus.
- During this Thanksgiving we need to remember who Jesus loves; the poor and outcasts.
- During this Thanksgiving we are blessed to have abundance to share with those who have less than us.

We are thankful that we have the resources to share, that we have the mental capacity to know how to make systems work for the benefit of all people. We are thoughtful people, kind people, and generous people. These are things to celebrate.

I am sure it makes Jesus cry when he sees a world where children are hungry when there is food for them. I am sure that Jesus is depressed when folks refuse to help the less fortunate. I am sure that Jesus wants us to love our neighbors and to try and right the wrongs of the world.

Let's not be taken in by the world who says we have ours and those who don't are lazy, or bums, or playing the system. Let's look beyond this rhetoric of the world and use our abundant resources of stuff we have, mental capacity we have, networks of good and kind people to spread God's abundance to all in the best possible way.

This Thanksgiving is a celebration of our national abundance. It is also a chance for us to serve God.

I wish you all a very blessed Thanksgiving with your friends and family.

- Pastor Jeannine

**Women of the ELCA
Morning Circle Meeting**

November 6
9:30 a.m.

Bible Study - All Members
Hostess - Barbara McPeak

Afternoon Circle

November 14
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, November 12

We will meet at noon in the fellowship hall for a thanksgiving meal.



The turkey and dressing/stuffing will be provided. Please bring a dish of food to share. Guest speaker will be Mary Jane Seymour, RN, MS, BC, Alzheimer's Community Educator, Alzheimer's Association, Florida Gulf Coast Chapter.

All adults are invited.

Long-Term Prayer

Our Lord has instructed that we "should pray always". There are many who could use that prayer. In the Grace Notes we will start a corner entitled "Long Term Prayer" for those folks who face a long challenge. It is not uncommon for people to face months and years of health and other struggles. As a Community of Prayer we want to lift up those we carry in our hearts. Please take time during the month to prayer for these precious folks. In the silence of our hearts, where God dwells, we bring to mind all who are in need of God's healing grace. Let us make a commitment to prayer for the long-term for those whose journey does not end in a few days or weeks.

Luke 4:40

At sunset, all who were ill with various diseases were brought to Jesus, and laying His hands on each one, He healed them.

- Pastor Jeannine

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1- Jacqueline Connor
Grayson Ross
- 3- Bob Hagen
- 6- Carol Gilds
Alice Schmidt
- 7- Sara Jo Fulmer
- 9- Mac McPeak
Paul Tart
- 10- Marty Lewis
- 13- Gary Deierlein
- 14- Steve Griggs
Dean Powers
- 15- Carol Grzegorzcyk
Tom Mack
- 28- Kathryn Campbell
Dylan Diaz
- 29- June Clark

Happy Anniversary

26 - Angela & Byron Moran



“Deck the Halls” – Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 1 at 8:30 a.m. to join us in decorating the church for the Christmas season.

Serving in the Church

Assisting Ministers:

- 11/4 Mary Flekke
- 11/11 Carol Grzegorzcyk
- 11/18 Tim Dukes
- 11/25 Brenda Hornickle

Greeters:

- Eleanor Patterson
- Rita Buckley

Ushers:

- Cleve & Sue Hillman

Altar Guild:

- 11/4 Angela Moran & Phyllis Whidden
- 11/11 Brenda H. & Larry Lawrence
- 11/18 Sue Stark & Barbara White
- 11/25 Carla McGee & Susan Weller

Sound Technicians:

- Ben Evans & Dan Stoller

The *Out to Lunch Bunch* will meet at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6 at Fish City Grill. Everyone is invited. Contact Mary Flekke if you have any questions at 863-648-5189 or email at mflekke@tampabay.rr.com.



SIGN UP FOR E SPIRIT

Want to know what your Synod is up to? You can receive the newsletter. Go to

1. <http://fbsynod.com>

2. At the bottom of the page click Newsletter Sign up button
3. Fill out the form/ Check the box Church Members and Friends



Sign up to stay in touch!

Sign up to get interesting news and updates delivered to your inbox.

* Email Address

* First Name

* Last Name

* Congregation City

* Name of Church or Ministry

Quilting

We received word that our quilts left the Lutheran World Relief warehouse on July 9, 2018, for Zambia. The LWR has partnered with Zambia World Help since 1992. This organization has served nearly 75 million people in over 70 countries with aid and relief, education and sustainability and community and spiritual development programming to communities struggling with chronic poverty.

In this shipment mission quilts, school kits, personal care kits, and baby care kits will serve an estimated 4,000 children along with women and men caught in the vicious cycle of poverty.

Thank you to everyone who has supplied our group with fabric, batting, thread, etc. to keep our project going.

We meet the third Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. to assemble the quilts. We would love to have you join us. If that is not possible and you would like to sew at home, that would be appreciated.

The Afternoon Circle makes personal care kits. If you would like to help with this project, please check with Joan Rietze, Mabel Carreira, Phyllis Gabriel, or Mary Flekke.



- Barbara McPeak



The Social Ministry will be collecting unwrapped toys and gifts for the Lakeland Police Department's "Cops for Kids" Christmas Project. There are many children in the Lakeland area who benefit from this project. Leave your gifts in the fellowship hall during November.



Who We are — EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



Florida-Bahamas Synod / Who We are

**Boldly sharing Christ, passionately making disciples,
and faithfully doing justice.**

We are Centered in Our Faith in Christ



As Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Christians, we have a radical focus on God's unconditional love. We believe that the word of the God is Jesus Christ himself, with a second understanding that the message of Jesus Christ is also the word of God.

The ELCA looks to the Bible for authority in its preaching and teaching, yet does not take a literalist approach to scripture. We celebrate the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's supper—external signs instituted by Christ that convey God's grace and mercy. The ELCA is an inclusive and ecumenical church and seeks relationships with other religious traditions. We are part of the ELCA, a church body that consists of 4 million baptized members, worshiping in nearly 10,000 congregations within 65 synods in 9 geographic regions.

We are Connected in Partnership



- One of 65 Synods
- One of six synods in Region 9 (Southeast U.S.)
- One of 28 Reconciling in Christ synods
- Divided into 15 Conferences
- Baptized Members (2016): 52,295
- Total Congregations
 - 171 organized
 - 1 under development
 - 7 synodically authorized worshipping communities
- Partnership Synod:
 - Metropolitan Chicago Synod
- Companion Churches:
 - Lutheran Church in Guyana

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(Continuation from page 8)

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Suriname
 - Lutheran Church in Haiti
 - United Lutheran College of the West Indies-Jamaica
 - Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Cuba
 - Pastors (Word & Sacrament):
 - Active: 189
 - Retired: 227
 - Deacons (Word & Service):
 - Active: 19
 - Retired: 10
 - Candidates for Rostered Ministry: 29
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-



Our thoughts are with the victims affected by Hurricanes Florence and Michael.

When disaster strikes, Christians look for ways to help those who are in need, whether it means lending a helping hand or making a monetary donation. Thrivent members and others can help hurricane victims in the following ways:

- **Donate.** Thrivent will match up to \$1 million in personal donations made through Thrivent.com to specific disaster relief organizations helping with the recovery efforts. Thrivent will pay the processing fees for these donations, so 100 percent goes to help. Eligible members can also direct Thrivent Choice Dollars.
- **Volunteer.** Thrivent members can share their time and talent to help with recovery efforts by leading a Thrivent Action Team.

Visit the [Disaster Response page on Thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com/disaster-response) for details and to see the list of organizations included in the match.

Thrivent members pray for those who have been affected by Hurricanes Florence and Michael. Thrivent – a membership organization of Christians – is mobilizing its financial resources and members to help those in need. Thrivent members and others who want to help with recovery efforts are encouraged to visit [Thrivent.com](https://www.thrivent.com) to learn more.

Saints Alive had special guests Sergeant Aaron Peterman and his partner Blizzard at their meeting in October. Blizzard won the hearts of many of us that attended the luncheon. They work together in Lakeland on the police force protecting us on a daily basis. The Lakeland Police Department K-9 unit has nine dogs working around the clock. Below are some pictures of Sergeant Aaron and Blizzard.



Beginning on Sunday, November 4th there will be an insert for Christmas Poinsettias in the bulletins. The plants can be *in memory of*, **or to honor** someone and will also provide seasonal beauty to our worship space. The cost for each plant is \$12.00. Please include your check (made payable to Grace Lutheran Church) with the order form. Deadline for orders will be Sunday, December 9, 2018.



On October 15, 2018, closing for the sale of 2.1 acres of property of Grace Lutheran Church to Florida Southern College was completed. The land is at the north of the property; encompassing the area from Palmetto Street south to the breezeway between the two classroom structures. Building D, which is the classroom structure adjacent to our current driveway, will be demolished. Demolition will probably not occur for about 90 days; as FSC seeks permitting and finalization of building plans. FSC has identified a liaison for communication with Grace as we move forward with this process of demolition and construction.

I and the entire Council appreciate the support and high level engagement of the congregation in all of the processes of exploration and information gathering which preceded the decision to sell a portion of our property. We look forward to the development of the property and a good relationship with our new neighbors!

In Christ,
Carla McGee, President

<u>October Attendance</u>		<u>October Contributions</u>	
Date	Total		
10/7	65	10/7	\$7,695.00
10/14	60	10/14	4,384.00
10/21	78	10/21	3,629.00
10/28	101	10/28	4,104.00

Counting the days & hours
till your Grace Notes
information is due on
November 18

GRACE NOTES
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The staff reserves the right to edit all material submitted.

Happy Thanksgiving

The church office will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 22 & 23.



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Recording Secretary	Kristen Storms
Christian Education	Tim Dukes
Finance	Phyllis Whidden
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Memorials	Wally Oestreich
Outreach	Sue Stark
Property	Robert Mattson
Social Ministry	Janet Morris
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