

# Grace Notes



Reformation Sunday  
October 28, 2018

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.

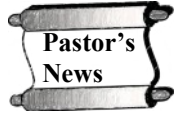
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- Tuesday, Oct. 2 - Morning Circle
  - Out to Lunch Bunch
- Friday, Oct. 5 - Diane Downey Memorial Service
- Sunday, Oct. 7 - Vitality Survey results
- Monday, Oct. 8 - Saints Alive
- Tuesday, Oct. 9 - Worship/Music
- Wednesday, Oct. 10 - Afternoon Circle
- Saturday, Oct. 13 - Book Study
- Tuesday, Oct. 16 - Quilting
  - Council Meeting
- Sunday, Oct. 21 - Receive new members
  - Grace Notes info. Due
- Sunday, Oct. 28 - Reformation Sunday



## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



**"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"** (German: "**Ein fester Burg Kist un ser Got**") is one of the best known [hymns](#) by the [reformer Martin Luther](#), a prolific [hymnodies](#). Luther wrote the words and composed the [melody](#) sometime between 1527 and 1529.<sup>[1]</sup> It has been translated into English at least seventy times and also into many other languages.<sup>[1][2]</sup> The words are a paraphrase of [Psalm 46](#).<sup>[3]</sup> From Wikipedia

A fortress can keep things in and things out. The things we want to keep in are all the life-time of knowledge we have about how to live, and what works best for us in this life. We learn to center our lives on God. In that center we learn to not be afraid to reach out and help others, to give of ourselves. In the center protected by the fortress of our God we have joy in knowing that life is gift. Each morning as we wake to this miracle called life we can see, hear, touch, and feel. We can relate to others and create families and relationships. In this life our brains can grow and learn. We have gifts such as dealing with numbers or making music or the millions of other things human beings can do. Our fortress is a baptized safety fence for our lives. We add to our fortress when we pray and honor God with our lives and being.

Also, we have a fortress to keep bad things out. This is really what Luther wrote about in his hymn. Luther is concerned about the first "Lutherans" and how to hold the church together. This new denomination was under assault from political entities as well as the established church of the time. It is really a wonder, a miracle, that the fortress held and we have a Lutheran Church today.

The fortress we need is one that will protect, not divide.

The fortress we need is one that will not so protect us that we lose our sense of adventure.

The fortress we need is one that will quiet the outside storm so our spirit can thrive and grow. The fortress we need is one we cultivate as part of God's gift to us.

A Mighty Fortress is our God is such a gift. It creates a circle in the midst of chaos where we can flourish. It is such a joy when our faith grows in us. We have such a wonderful life because our God protects us and helps us in this life.

- Pastor Jeannine

*O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

### **In God's Hands: Ecumenical Prayer Cycle from the World Council of Churches**

We will be receiving new members on Sunday, October 21. If you would like to become a member of Grace Lutheran, please contact the church office at 863-686-5585 or see Pastor Sweet.



The office area and fellowship hall received new air conditioning units on Monday, September 24, 2018. The office area has been without air conditioning for over two weeks. A special thanks to Terry & Carla McGee for the use of a portable unit for a few days in the administrative assistant's office. It brought the temperature down to 80.

This crane had to be used for the office air conditioner as well as the fellowship hall.

**REFORMATION SUNDAY - October 28.** For Lutherans and many other Protestants in America, the last Sunday in October is celebrated as Reformation Sunday. Reformation Sunday honors Martin Luther's bold action on October 31st, 1517. On that date Luther posted his statement of faith, known as the 95 Theses, on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, thus beginning the Protestant Reformation. In some parts of Europe, Reformation Day is a civil holiday celebrated on October 31st, a day to commemorate the vast social and political change that resulted from Luther's actions.

**Wear red on this day of celebration!**

**Women of the ELCA  
Morning Circle Meeting**

October 2

9:30 a.m.

Bible Study - All Members

Hostess - Jean Egelkraut

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**Afternoon Circle**

October 10

2:00 p.m.

Bible Study - All Members

Hostess - Mary Flekke

*There will be a General Meeting this month to elect officers.*

**VITALITY SURVEY IS BACK**

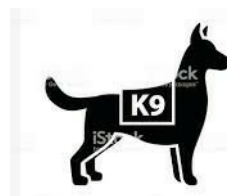
Sister Michelle Collins will be with us to go over the survey we took.

This will help us understand our congregation in a very meaningful way as we move towards our new future that God has planned for us.

The **date is Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>** immediately following worship. We will meet in the fellowship hall.

**Saints Alive Luncheon  
Monday, October 8 at Noon**

Our speaker for October will be K-9 Sergeant Aaron Peterman of the



Lakeland Police Department, Special Operations Section. He will tell us about the K-9 program as well

as give us a demonstration.

You are invited to join us and bring a dish of food to share. We meet at noon in the fellowship hall.

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During the month of October we are asking for donations for Talbot House Ministries. A couple of items they are always in need of are men's socks and underwear. Please leave your donations in the fellowship hall.

*O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**In God's Hands: Ecumenical Prayer Cycle from the World council of Churches**



- 1- Dan Carreira  
Gary Lankford
- 3- Michael McCargo
- 6- George Braatz
- 7- Rusty Bowles  
Dick Venable
- 10- Bill Sawyers
- 14- Les Rietze
- 15- Elaine Gallenbeck  
Michael Ittleman
- 17- Pat Blanchette  
JoAnn Herrick
- 19- Larry Becker
- 20- Emily King  
Riley King
- 21- Mary Flekke
- 22- Jack Mattson
- 23- Nate Bowles
- 25- Vera Hall
- 26- Chuck Lineberger  
Kevin Zarnstorff
- 28- Dennis Flynn
- 31- Ann Joyce Wennig

## Serving in the Church

### Assisting Ministers:

- 10/7 Cleve & Sue Hillman
- 10/14 Barbara McPeak
- 10/21 Naomi Thomsen
- 10/28 Carla McGee

### Greeters:

Henry & Jean Egelkraut

### Ushers:

- Larry Becker
- Barbara McPeak (Oct. 7, 21, 28)
- Colline Simpson (Oct. 14)

### Altar Guild:

- 10/7 Sue Stark & Barbara White
- 10/14 Carla McGee & Susan Weller
- 10/21 Stephanie Iverson & Janet Morris
- 10/28 Kevin & Cheri Zarnstorff

### Sound Technicians:

Paul Tart & Ben Evans



- 1- Pat & Laura Blanchette  
Scott & Anne Calhoun
- 11- Jim & Carol Sawyers

The *Out to Lunch Bunch* will meet at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2 at Red Lobster Restaurant in Lakeland. Everyone is invited to join for a time of food and fellowship.



**The Social Ministry Committee** would like to extend thanks to the congregation for your contributions to the SPCA. Following are some of the many donations received:

- 5 bags of towels and blankets to clean cages/kennels and keep the animals comfortable,
- 4 different varieties of food, especially helpful for those with special dietary needs,
- Toys that will keep boredom at bay and minds sharp,
- 8 boxes/bags of treats,
- 2 boxes of wee wee pads - very helpful in the clinic,
- A Pet Supermarket gift card for special needs, and
- Cash donations totaling \$350.00.

Many thanks for your continued generosity and dedication to serving the needs of the community.

- Sue Stark



## Seeds of Change Dinner - October 25, 2018

It's that time of year when Talbot House has their annual dinner. Jesus commanded us to take care of the poor. Talbot House does that and more. They feed, clothe, provide medicine, mental health services, dental services, provide job training, and help them get jobs. This is just part of what they do. The banquet is a part of raising money. Grace is one of the churches that is involved with Talbot House. Please consider going this year. Talbot House needs our help. It's a fun evening and we will be doing our part in helping those less fortunate. See or call Carol Grzegorzcyk to reserve places, 863-682-7813 or email [cgfl33803@aol.com](mailto:cgfl33803@aol.com). Please give RSVP's as soon as possible.

*"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."* Hebrews 13:16.

- Carol Grzegorzcyk

## Stewardship Month

October is our annual stewardship month. We will be having speakers each Sunday and bulletin inserts. There will be a general mailing, as well with a Commitment Card. We hope you will take time to thank God for all the gifts we receive as a church and to commit to continuing to support the church financially as you are able.

Remember: God's Work, Our Hands.

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## Sebring Thrivent Build Help Rebuild Sebring

Help Rebuild Sebring and Change Some Lives.

Have a passion for making a difference in peoples' lives? Join us on a Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity mission trip to Sebring, Florida, and help change some lives – including your own! Experience the joy of serving while creating lifelong friendships. No skills required – only the desire to serve and make a difference!

We will be working with Highlands County Habitat for Humanity (HCHF) to build new homes for people who lost their homes in the 2017 hurricanes. You can choose from one of four trips:

- September 9-16, 2018
- October 21-28, 2018
- October 7-14, 2018
- November 4-11, 2018.

More information about the Sebring trips can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/sebringtb> including a “Habitat Hammers Back” Impact Report that gives some background on what has been done thus far to help recover and rebuild after the 2017 hurricanes and the strategic plan for long-term recovery in Florida, Texas, and Puerto Rico. General information about the Thrivent Builds program can be found at [www.thriventbuilds.com](http://www.thriventbuilds.com).

The trip cost is \$350 for Thrivent benefit members\* (\$650 for non-members) which includes meals, accommodations, and transportation while in Sebring; accident and emergency evacuation insurance; and team coordination from HF-HI and the host program. The trip cost does not include airfare. Registration and payment deadline is 45 days before the trip.

For further information please contact John Schultz (407-862-8218, [johnschultz2000@hotmail.com](mailto:johnschultz2000@hotmail.com)).

### ITINERARY:

Sunday: Travel day; transportation will be provided from the Orlando International Airport (MCO) if you arrive at MCO by 2 p.m.; Team dinner in Sebring.

Monday: Breakfast at hotel; orientation with HCHF staff at office at 8 a.m.; Work 9 am - 3 pm with lunch on work site; partner family dinner.

(continued on page 9)



(continuation from page 8)

Tuesday - Thursday: Breakfast at hotel; work 8 am - 3 pm with lunch on work site; team dinner and reflection time in evening.

Friday: Breakfast at hotel; work 8 am - 12 pm with lunch on work site; local R & R in afternoon; team dinner and reflection time in evening.

Saturday: Breakfast at hotel; cultural activities; farewell team dinner.

Sunday: Depart for home or personal travel.

\*Thrivent Financial ([www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com)) is in the business of financial guidance but with a greater purpose to help its members be wise with money, live generously and ultimately strengthen communities. Thrivent is a faith-based, not-for-profit Fortune 350 financial services organization. Thrivent is the largest fraternal benefit society in the world and has been in existence for over 115 years. When someone purchases a qualifying product (e. . . , a life insurance policy, an annuity, etc.), they become a benefit member. It is not necessary to be a member to go on this trip, but if anyone is interested in becoming a Thrivent member, we would be glad to put you in touch with a local Thrivent representative. In addition to subsidizing each team member's trip cost, Thrivent will also be donating \$8,000 to Highlands County HFH on behalf of the team.

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## Columbus Day in the United States

The first Columbus Day celebration took place in 1792, when New York's Columbian Order—better known as Tammany Hall—held an event to commemorate the historic landing's 300th anniversary. Taking pride in Columbus' birthplace and faith, Italian and Catholic communities in various parts of the country began organizing annual religious ceremonies and parades in his honor.

In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation encouraging Americans to mark the 400th anniversary of Columbus' voyage with patriotic festivities, writing, "On that day let the people, so far as possible, cease from toil and devote themselves to such exercises as may best express honor to the discoverer and their appreciation of the great achievements of the four completed centuries of American life."

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed Columbus Day a national holiday, largely as a result of intense lobbying by the Knights of Columbus, an influential Catholic fraternal organization.

This is the plan site for Grace Lutheran Church and Florida Southern College. The congregation voted on September 30, 2018, to sell 2.1 acres of property which consists of the north side field and the portion of the property which encompasses the northern most classrooms (building D) up to the first breezeway. This will give us monies to eliminate the debt, decrease our operating expenses, and do some needed improvements and repairs on our property. Florida Southern College will be building dormitory buildings. We will be able to utilize the driveway and some parking spaces that Florida Southern will be installing.

Closing on the sale of the vacant lot and lower classroom is estimated to be within two weeks. Be on the lookout for the beginning of construction of new buildings and the demolition of the old classroom building.



**September Attendance**

Date	Total
9/2	75
9/9	60
9/16	79
9/23	61
9/30	93

**September Contributions**

9/2	\$7,061.00
9/9	3,179.00
9/16	5,798.00
9/23	2,810.00
9/30	6,546.67



Counting the days & hours  
till your Grace Notes  
information is due on  
**October 21**



Wi-Fi is now available in the fellowship hall and also in the sanctuary. We thank anonymous donors for the gift.

The Memorial Garden has been weeded and bushes trimmed.

A special thanks to Robert Mattson for trimming the palm trees.



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**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
745 S. Ingraham Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33801-5601

Church office (863)686-5585  
E-mail: [pastorgracelut@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgracelut@gmail.com)  
Sara's e-mail: [saraandersonglc@gmail.com](mailto:saraandersonglc@gmail.com)  
Editor & Design/Layout Sara Anderson

The staff reserves the right to edit all material submitted.

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**745 South Ingraham Avenue**  
**Lakeland, Florida 33801**  
**863-686-5585**  
**www.gracelakeland.com**

**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	

The Rev. Dr. Jeannine Sweet	<i>Interim Pastor</i>
	Home phone 863-816-3555
	Cell 813-406-2622
	pastorgracelut@gmail.com
Sara Anderson	<i>Admin. Assistant</i>
	863-858-1841
	saraandersonglc@gmail.com
Lynda Mack	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
	863-660-5859
	lynda.mackcpa@yahoo.com
Mary Flekke	<i>Bell Choir Director</i>
	648-5189
	mflekke@tampabay.rr.com
Harold Wright	<i>Choir Director</i>
	330-845-0011
	<a href="mailto:Harold.clayton.wright@gmail.com">Harold.clayton.wright@gmail.com</a>
David Cannistraci	<i>Organist</i>
	917-292-4024
	cddaviddc@gmail.com
Marty Lewis	<i>Worship Band Director</i>
	648-4770
	mslewis@tampabay.rr.com

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