



The Call of *Grace*

Grace Lutheran Church

6601 North 9th Avenue – Pensacola, FL 32504
(850) 476-5667 – www.GracePensacola.org

November 2026

From the Elders...

To the Saints of Grace Lutheran Church:

I pray that Grace, Mercy, and Peace flows down upon you from our beloved Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

My fellow servants in Christ Jesus, if you are anything like me, this past month has been a fiasco. We all left worship October 4th under rain clouds and a weather forecaster's prediction that it would be a wet week! Several days later, rain and wind lashed down upon us from Hurricane Isaias - power lines down, flash flood warnings, massive and ancient oaks torn from their earthly moorings all greeted us as the raging winds and waters were calmed.

In the aftermath of the storm, we all asked ourselves how we can be better prepared for the next storm or disaster. Earthly preparedness enables us to be able to come to the aid of both our flock and our neighbor. We all send prayers of thanksgiving for all the volunteers from both our Pensacola brethren and our brothers and sisters in Christ who came to our aid from outside the local area!

Another essential part of the Christian life is to practice spiritual preparedness. In the Gospel of Saint Matthew, Chapter 25, Jesus tells the parable of ten virgins waiting at night for their bridegroom. All ten brought their lamps, but only five brought extra oil. When the bridegroom's arrival was announced at midnight, the five wise virgins were ready to meet him, while the five foolish virgins had to leave to seek more oil. The wise virgins entered the wedding banquet with the bridegroom, while the foolish virgins returned to find the door shut.

Throughout the New Testament, the day of the Lord is frequently compared to coming like "a thief in the night". (1st Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10, Matthew 24:43, Luke 12:39, Revelation 3:3). We do not know the day or the hour when our Lord will return, so we must remain watchful and prepared.

Then so how do we prepare?

First, routine participation in the divine service – where Christ pours out his grace and mercy through his Holy Word and Sacraments, and Confession and Absolution.

Secondly, Christ calls us to pray! In the Epistle of Saint James 4:2-3, James warns us that

“You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not

receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

Prayer is not simply about asking God for what we want; it is also an opportunity to bring our needs before our gracious Father, trusting in His wisdom and care. Along with prayer, reading and meditating upon God's Holy Word keeps us grounded in His promises and nourishes our faith.

My friends, our spiritual preparedness does not rest upon our own strength or good works, but upon the grace of God in Jesus Christ. Through His Word and Sacraments, He forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, and sustains us as we await our Lord's return.

Please reach out if you are in need, whether spiritually or physically. Remember, we don't just go to church - we are the Church!

See you all in worship!

In Christ's Service,

The Elders

November Birthdays

Brent Wipf 11/1; Sonia Payne 11/2; Robert Lindblom 11/4; Frank Saunders 11/4; Joann Grepke 11/7;
Deb Keane 11/11; Evan Whitney 11/11; Gunter Judson 11/12; Aya Nieberelein 11/15



November 1- Kathleen Seader
Altar Flowers & Eternal Candle are in
Memory of Lamarr Seader

November 8- Karin Moore
Altar Flowers are in Memory of her
husband James Moore
Eternal Candle is in Honor of Rachel &
David Taylor's Wedding Anniversary

November 15- Kay & Ed Nieberelein
Altar Flowers are in Honor of Aya's
Birthday

November 22- Chris Fisher
Altar Flowers are in Honor of her son
Scott Fisher's Birthday

November Calendar

Calendar Key:	
S=Sanctuary	N=Narthex FH=Fellowship Hall
WC=Welcome Center	CB=Community Building Y=Youth K=Kitchen OC=Office
Conference LS=Lord's Supper	
SC= Sanctuary Conference	PK= PreK Room

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 am Traditional Service 9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Class 9:15 am New Members Class 10:30 am Contemporary Service	2	3	4 9:30 Senior Adult Prayers FH 11:00am Senior Adult Bible Study FH 12:00pm Backpack Ministry 5:15 Confirmation 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:00 pm Youth Night	5	6	7
8 8:00 am Traditional Service 9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Class 9:15 am New Members Class 10:30 am Contemporary Service	9 5:30pm Yoga FH	10	11 9:30 Senior Adult Prayers FH 11:00am Senior Adult Bible Study FH 12:00pm Backpack Ministry 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 5:30pm Family Faith Night 6:00 pm Youth Night	12	13	14 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
15 9:00 am Blended Service 10:15 am Voter's Meeting	16 5:30pm Yoga FH	17 10:00am Book Club	18 9:30 Senior Adult Prayers FH 11:00am Senior Adult Bible Study FH 12:00pm Backpack Ministry 5:30 pm Family Faith Night 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:00 pm Youth Night	19	20	21 10:00am Prayer Shawl Meeting CB
22 8:00 am Traditional Service 9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Class 9:15 am New Members Class 10:30 am Contemporary Service	23 5:30pm Yoga FH 6:00 pm Thyme for fun	24	25 9:30 Senior Adult Prayers FH 11:00am Senior Adult Bible Study FH 12:00pm Backpack Ministry 5:15 Confirmation 5:30pm Praise Team Practice 6:00 pm Youth Night	26	27	28
29 8:00 am Traditional Service 9:15 am Sunday School & Bible Class 9:15 am New Members Class 10:30 am Contemporary Service	30 5:30pm Yoga FH					

Calendars are changing constantly. Please check weekly emails for most current event listings.

Thank
You

- Thanks to all who have helped clean up other congregation members' yards!
- Thanks to all who came out and helped serve food with Forged by Fire Food Ministries to our neighbors.
- Thanks to all who have helped make dinners for the LCMS Disaster Relief Team that we are housing.
- Thanks to the LCMS Disaster Relief Team who are coming out and cutting down trees and limbs in our yards.
- Thanks to all of you who are doing things behind the scenes both big and small. You may not be fully seen, but you are SO appreciated! Without you, this couldn't work.

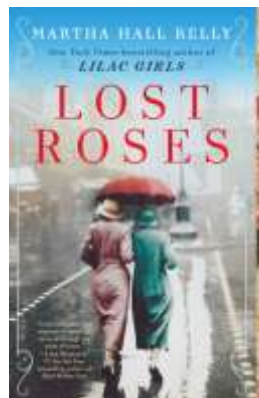
O.W.L.S.

Wednesday Bible Class is meeting in the Fellowship Hall until the ramp can be built for the Community Building.

All adults are welcome to come and join the group. You only need to bring yourself and your bible. We begin with

Come check out the fun at Book Club!

Each month we will read a different story and then come together to discuss and share. All are welcome. Here's what we are planning on reading:



GLC Book Club:

- **3rd Tuesday November 19th at 10 am**

Lost Roses

by Martha Hall Kelly

Come join us and invite your neighbor!

Operation Christmas Child

Dear Grace Family,

Just a reminder of the Operation Christmas Child boxes that are available for you in the narthex. Also, amazing stories were told to us how God works in such a great way having each box so special that whatever you put in your box turns out to be just what that child needs or has such a special meaning to them. Praise God for Who He is and all He does! **All boxes must be returned by November 15th!** Any questions contact Sandy Hartranft or Susan McFarland.



Voter's Meeting November 15th!

There will be 1 service at 9am followed by our Congregational Voter's Meeting. We hope to see you there.



Women's Advent Brunch

Save the date! This year's Women's Advent Brunch is on **Saturday, December 5!** Invite your female friends, family, and neighbors for a morning of fellowship, music, and food to kick off the Advent season.

Our special guest will be our own Kathy Pape. She will address our theme, *The Thrill of Hope, based on Psalm 130:5*.

NOTE: Registration is required. Sign up sheets are in the hallway outside of the church. If possible, please use this [link](#) or scan the QR code and sign up online for us. It's quicker! You can also copy and paste or type this link into your browser:

<https://forms.gle/eafwKeSGvzvEFMrA6>

Please include your guests' names, if you will host a table (you will be contacted with instructions), and/or bring food. Also, please indicate if you will need childcare. We need to know how many children may be there so we have proper supervision.

For help signing up, see Linda Brown.

For questions regarding table hosting, see Donna Dull.

For any other questions, see Allison Daseler or Nicole Weber.

We can't wait to share this special morning with you!



Update from the Youth Leaders

Hello Grace families! Sunday school classes will continue in the youth room weekly from 9:15 until 10:15. We will be studying the book of Genesis chapters 1-11. On Wednesday evenings starting, youth group meets from 6 to 7:30p.m. Please send any middle and high school students, and a friend! Dinner will be provided and will vary from week to week. Marcie will be teaching a study from the book *The Peacemaker*, written by Ken Sande. This study will focus on how to deal with conflict the way the Bible teaches. We look forward to a great year ahead with this wonderful group of young adults. Sadly, due to the hurricane, we haven't had much time to do all of our usual stuff. But that didn't stop us from helping! The kids helped serve food with Forged by Fire food ministries, they helped clean up at the church by raking a ton of leaves and getting them to the street for pick up and one Sunday morning we put together 27 OCC boxes filled with wonderful donations made by all of you. We are thankful for these kids and their caring hearts. As always, thank you for your continued support of our youth.

Serving with you,
Amy and Marcie



Children's Sunday School

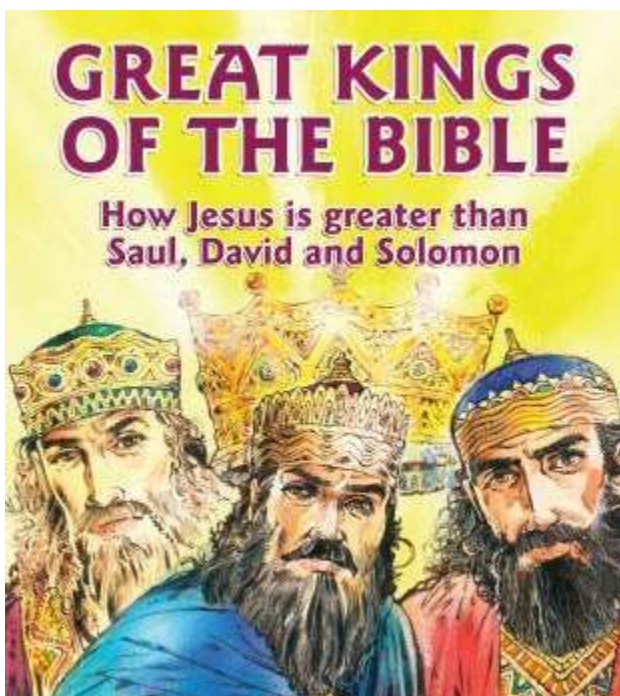
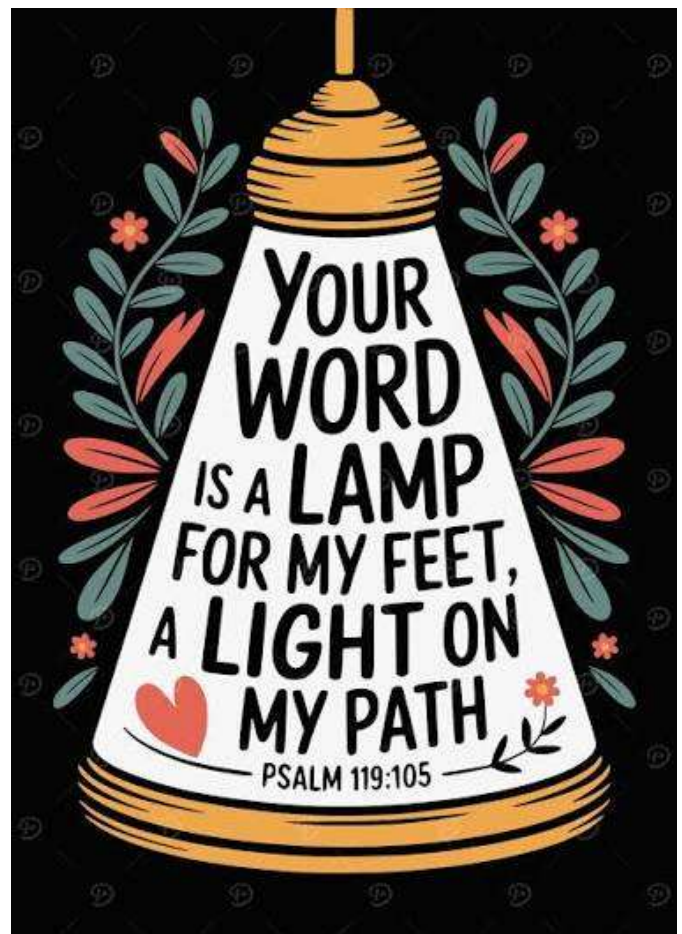
Sunday School has been studying Israelite history, especially the lives of the first three kings of Israel: Saul, David and Solomon.

As we get closer to the Thanksgiving season, we will focus on what it means to live with grateful hearts. We receive so many blessings and often fall short of thanks and praise.

Through every Bible story we study, there is one focus. God has always had a plan to rescue his people from their sins. His name is Jesus.

Please invite other children to join us in Sunday School. Talk with your children about Bible stories we have shared with them. Together, we all grow closer to our Lord and Savior.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105



Grace Leadership Update

We Praise God that Grace made it through Hurricane Isaias with no roof damage and only minor property damage. John Rosenthal and Dan Dull worked tirelessly to cleanup the property after the storm and a team of dedicated Grace Volunteers came through on Saturday a week after the storm to assist: wonderful job Team Grace!!

We were pleased to host the LCMS Southern District Disaster Response Team for two weeks after the storm. A team of wonderful volunteers lived at Grace and worked to clear trees from Grace and other LCMS local church members' properties. Many members contributed to their care and feeding showing our wonderful hospitality. Additionally, we were blessed to be able to host for two days the week after the storm "Forged by Fire" ministries which served hundreds of meals to our local community which was in great need. Many were blessed by this wonderful community outreach.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of Grace Leadership and the many volunteers that support our ministry!

Update from the Call Committee

We have received a list of potential candidates from the District and are reviewing it prayerfully as a committee. We know the wait has felt long, and we are working through the process diligently. To protect candidates' current ministries, we are not discussing names, particulars, or timelines outside the committee. But please know that the process is ongoing and we have moved forward a step. Thank you for your patience and prayers.

Finance Update

Please be reminded, if you need the church credit card to purchase items for an organization or major expense for the church, you MUST fill out the half sheet form located right outside of the office doors. Major expenses require a secondary form and PRIOR approval. Please remember this when making your plans so it doesn't hold your event up. ALL expenses MUST be accounted for.



A Heartfelt Thank You to Grace Lutheran Church

Dear Staff and wonderful members of Grace Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Gulf Coast Chorale, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your gracious hospitality and generosity in welcoming us into your church for rehearsals after our own practice venue was so badly damaged by Hurricane Paddles.

During a time when we were facing uncertainty and trying to find a place to continue our musical preparations, you opened your doors to us and provided a welcoming space where our singers could come together and continue doing what we love. Your kindness meant more to us than words can adequately express.

A community choir is about more than music. It is about fellowship, connection, and the joy of sharing something meaningful with others. By making room for the Gulf Coast Chorale, you helped preserve that sense of community and allowed us to continue preparing to share music with our own community.

Your generosity is a beautiful example of what it means to be a caring and compassionate neighbor. We are deeply grateful for the warmth with which you received us and for your willingness to help when we needed it most.

Please know that your kindness will not be forgotten. We hope that the music we make will, in some small way, reflect the gratitude we feel for all you have done for us.

With sincere appreciation and warmest regards,
Douglas Koontz
Artistic Director
Gulf Coast Chorale



The background of the entire image is a vibrant tropical pattern featuring various types of leaves in shades of green, yellow, and blue. A large, solid yellow circle is centered on the page, serving as a backdrop for the main text.

SUNLIGHT OF THE SPIRIT Family Celebration

November 14, 2026

4:30 – 7:30

Come join us for food
fun and fellowship.

50/50 raffle

This is sponsored by one of our AA groups, and
you are welcome to join them and celebrate
their successes at the Community Building!

WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM



The Backpack Ministry continues to hum along with the packing of 24 food bags each Wednesday despite, any interruptions “blown” our way! (We met a family that came through the food truck line on Friday who receive this blessing. Mom said these bags are life savers for her 4 boys over weekends.) Thank you to all the hands that help each Wednesday.

We are looking ahead to December when Grace will provide 15 Christmas Baskets to food insecure families. These families are identified by the school who need assistance during holidays when students are not receiving breakfast and lunch at school. If you feel led to help, we will be asking for hams (watch for the sign-up sheet) and any monetary donation to help with purchase of canned foods, fruits and candy.

Miss Josie, the guidance counselor, has told us that Grace has become known for its generosity and families talk about Christmas Baskets as early as September!

Thank you for ALL of your help!

Cheryl Blessing

Hurricane Help & Clean Up

On October 9th, 2026, the panhandle of Florida was hit by Hurricane Isaias. A storm none of us could pronounce, one we weren't worried about at the start, but quickly became a storm we were very worried about. In some ways it was no major storm to many of us, in others it was one of the worst we have seen. The fact that we hadn't had a hurricane hit in almost 6 years threw a lot of us and we just weren't as ready for the aftermath as we maybe should have been. All things considered, we were very blessed. I personally haven't heard of any of our members losing their roofs or having major structural damage. Two people had some minor standalone garage issues and only one person that I am aware of had a small hole in their roof. Praise be for some protective hands! Now power and internet were another story. Praise that it wasn't another Hurricane Ivan story where many were without power for 3 to 4 weeks, but a week is still a long time with no a/c!

In come the troops though! I give credit to FPL for having power restored to almost everyone so quickly. Within the first 24 hours, lights were starting to come back on for the first wave. Considering the number of trees that were down, this is amazing. Linemen from all over the south flooded in to help restore power. The church even housed about 15 trucks for close to a week with men from Georgia, Texas and Oklahoma that came out to help. And then LCMS sent out teams. There is a team over in Shalimar that is helping and we have 5 gentlemen using the old preschool rooms to stay in so they can visit members of our

congregation and surrounding churches to cut down trees and major limbs, helping clear our yards. All of this costing us nothing except some meals. Then we heard from Forged by Fire Food Ministries who came out and cooked shrimp pasta and jambalaya to feed and pray over our neighbors. To me, this shows the power of God's love. Spreading kindness and offering support and what we have to give, not expecting anything in return. This is God's love in action. I'm honored to be a part of that and pray that this continues to live in my heart as strongly as it is right now as things start to go back to normal.

But let's not forget about Grace. Our church thankfully suffered no damage. Like everyone else, trees and branches went down, and small portions of fence will need to be fixed and we were without power for 5 days. But there was no damage to the building, no damage to the windows and no damage to the roof! Praise be! And when all the calls went out for help, you answered! You came out and served food, you brought in meals for the teams and you helped clean the property. Major credit goes out to Dan Dull, Jon Rosenthal and Bruce Dietly for all that work. The first week after the storm, these men were constantly up here helping clean and getting things set back up. They have put in long hours. Please make sure to thank them when you see them. But when they needed help, the call went out! The youth and many of our members showed up on Saturday, October 17th and had a clean up party. They raked all the leaves up that Dan and Jon had blown to the side, loaded them on tarps and then Jon drove those tarps to the street for the debris pick up piles. Looking around now you can hardly tell anything happened.

The LCMS Disaster Relief Team has come with chainsaws and have bounced all around the area. We had approximately 30 requests for help with trees. They have already gotten to so many of you! Sadly, they could not help a couple with some large trees and of course need to be careful with trees in power lines but those families have been made aware and are contacting other resources. But the amount of work they have done in just under a week is fantastic. They helped here at the church too getting rid of some problem trees and are helping out Resurrection Lutheran Church who got hit harder. Make sure to check out their carving in the back of the property.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in some way. You are amazing. If you feel led to help these different organizations, please follow one of the attached links. This is not required but helps these ministries continue to do for others what they have done for us.





Yard Clean Up



Shrimp Pasta



We as Christians are here to serve others as best we can. In times of disasters, we sometimes need to lean on others.

As Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) bring people together after Hurricane Isaias to clean things up, we offer our services for **FREE!** We understand that some people may want to make donations to help these ministries available. Here are the non-profits who helped with the Shalimar/Pensacola tree clean-up and provided meals to the community of Hurricane Isaias:

General Disaster Relief in the Southern District:

[LCMS Southern District](https://www.southernlcms.org)
<https://www.southernlcms.org>

Feeding Ministry

Forged By Fire
[weservehope.org](https://www.weservehope.org)
<https://www.weservehope.org>

Chainsaw Ministry:

Florida-Georgia Lutheran Early Response
<https://www.FGLER.org>

Thank you in advance for remembering us in your prayers and considering us with your blessings!

In Christ,

Rev Eric Johnson, LCMS So District President

Rev Paul Ernewein, Disaster coordinator and Forged By Fire President

Joel and Kathy Mathews, Mercy In Action Disaster Resources & FGLR board member