

February 2024 Newsletter



Grace, and peace to you in Jesus!

Dear Family of God at Grace,

In the January newsletter, I offered options that we may consider as we move forward with the future of staffing at Grace Lutheran Church. I suggested student support as a

viable option, in the form of a vicar (future pastor) or an intern (DCE, DCO, DCM, DFM and Deaconess). In this newsletter, I'd like to talk about the structure and leadership of our congregation and also cover the process for Calling a Pastor, DCE, DCO and the like.

The Constitution and By-Laws of Grace are in accord with the Constitution and By-Laws of the FL/GA District of the LCMS and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at large.

In our Constitution, Article 6.0, *Authority of the Congregation*, explains clearly who has authority at Grace.

According to Article 6.2, "The Voter Assembly (all Voting Members who are present at the Assembly) shall be the governing body of this Congregation." The Church Council makes recommendations to the Voter Assembly. The Voter Assembly makes decisions by voting. The Voters, *which is you*, make decisions about what happens here at Grace.

How do we Call a pastor or Called staff? Here are the procedures to Call a Pastor or other Called worker. You can find this in the By-Laws, Article 4.0.

Who makes up the committees to consider candidates?

- For a Pastor, the committee will consist of the President of the Congregation, the Directors of the Elders and Evangelism, and at least five other Voters selected by the Church Council.
- For a Director of Christian Education, the committee will consist of the Board of Christian Education.

- For the Director of the Preschool or a teacher the committee will consist of the School Board.
- For all other Called Staff, it will be the responsibility of the Church Council to form a Call Committee.

Where do the Candidates come from:

- Recommendations for Candidates of a Called Staff position will be requested from the Florida/Georgia District.
- Every Voting Member has the privilege of nominating at least one Candidate for the position.

What happens then?

- During the screening process the Call Committee will submit the names of all potential Nominees to the District President for review and request additional information, evaluation, and recommendations.
- The Call Committee will select at least three preferred Candidates and submit these names, along with a biographical sketch of each Candidate to the Congregation.
- A Special Voters' Assembly shall be called for the purpose of selecting a new Called Staff Member.
- Balloting shall proceed by means of secret ballot vote until a single Candidate receives a majority of votes cast. If no Candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, the Candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated from further ballots.
- The Congregational Secretary or designee shall count the ballots.

What I have laid out is the process and procedures we will follow if it is determined that we are going to Call a new Staff Member.

Where do we go from here?

- The Prayer Vigil that we held was the first step in this process. Now, we will survey the congregation to determine what your desires are.
- Once we have heard from you, we will begin to put a strategic plan in place and move forward with that plan.

Please continue to pray for Grace, our Staff and for the selection of future Staff.

February has a ton of activities for you:

- On Saturday, the 3rd, we have the evening service at 4:00PM, followed by a BBQ Dinner Fundraiser at 5:30PM. Come have a wonderful meal and some fellowship with other members. Your donations will be used to support the Seminaries. If you would like, you can bring a dessert to share.
- Tuesday the 13th, we have a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner in the Fellowship Hall, sponsored by the Women of Grace from 5:00-6:00PM. See more about this later in the newsletter!

Wednesday, the 14th, is Valentines Day, but it is also Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be available all day at Grace and at the Divine Service at 6:30PM. There is also a soup supper at 5:15PM.

It seems appropriate that Ash Wednesday falls on Valentines Day. We begin the 40-day journey with our Beloved, as He heads to cross where He will suffer in our stead. What shows the love of God more than Lent, Good Friday and the blessed Resurrection! Now *that* is a real Valentine's event!

On the 24th, we have the annual Rummage Sale held by the Women of Grace. Start collecting your things now so you will be ready to drop them off on the 18th. The Sale will be Saturday the 24th, 9:00AM-1:00PM. See below for more information and then plan to come find those items you can't live without. All the proceeds will go to the mission projects of Women of Grace.

May God bless your journey with Jesus this Lententide!

In His Service,
Pastor Lingsch

EVERYONE HIS WITNESS Classes will continue the first Saturday of every month at 9:00AM. Join in when you are able. Learn tools for sharing the good news of Jesus with your neighbors! These classes are for everyone at Grace, so all ages are welcome! We pray that we will see you on Saturday, February 3rd.



Thank you for your 2023 contribution. Because of you, we had a total of 167 saved babies, and we served 1,293 women who were facing unplanned pregnancies. All our services are provided at no cost, and we rely on donations from generous supporters like you and church partners.

It's Girl!

Join us to shower Kim LaFemina

Saturday, February 3, 2024 11:00AM-1:00PM, Grace Fellowship Hall

She is registered at Amazon. If you would like to use that registry, just copy the link below or click on it to participate.

Registry: <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/kimberly-lafemina-february-2024-naples/>





**Shrove Tuesday (AKA
Mardi Gras) Dinner
Presented with a Smile by
the Women of Grace
Tuesday, February 13, 5:00 -
6:00 PM, in Fellowship Hall**



Before Lent begins, we can indulge ourselves with Fellowship and Fun, Family and Friends as we feast on traditional Shrove Tuesday Fare. We will indulge a bit before our chosen Lenten Journey with Pastor Lingsch's famous German Pancakes, Nancy's not as famous American Pancakes (made with Italian flour in case you are gluten-sensitive), and sausage. These are "stick to your bones" - style delicacies. We will also have Valentine treats.

Advance signup is encouraged, but not essential.
There will be a free will offering, with all proceeds going to Missions.

In case you didn't know: The word *shrove* is a form of the English word *shrive*, which means to give absolution for someone's sins by way of Confession and doing penance. Thus, Shrove Tuesday was named after the custom of Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent. The tradition of marking the start of Lent has been documented for centuries. Aelfric of Eynsham's "Ecclesiastical Institutes" from around 1000 AD states: "In the week immediately before Lent everyone shall go to his confessor and confess his deeds and the confessor shall so shrive him as he then may hear by his deeds what he is to do [in the way of penance]". By the time of the late Middle Ages, the celebration of Shrovetide lasted until the start of Lent. It was traditional in many societies to eat pancakes or other foods made with the butter, eggs and fat or lard that would need to be used up before the beginning of Lent. Similar foods are *fasnachts* and *paczki*. The specific custom of British Christians eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday dates to the 16th century. Along with its emphasis on feasting, another theme of Shrove Tuesday involves Christians repenting of their sins in preparation to begin the season of Lent in the Christian liturgical calendar. In many Christian parish churches, both Protestant and Roman Catholic, a popular Shrove Tuesday tradition is the ringing of the church bells (on this day, the toll is known as the Shriving Bell) "to call the faithful to confession before the solemn season of Lent" and for people to "begin frying their pancakes".

Quoted from Wikipedia

**YOUTH
EVENTS**

- February 10**
Outdoor Movie Night on the Parsonage Lawn
- February 11**
Youth Hosted Valentine Bake Sale
- February 18**
Youth Night @ Paradise Sports Complex
- February 18**
Families Receive Lenten Devotions

Women of Grace!
Calendar dates for 2024

Feb 24 - Rummage sale
March - Spring Rally
March 10 - LWML Sunday

March 31 - Easter Sunday
April 20 - Membership Meeting 10:00AM
May 7 or 11 - Spring Luncheon



**Come join the
Knit / Crochet and/or Quilting groups.
10:00AM in Fellowship Hall**



Women of Grace Quilters are requesting material to be donated for making Quilts! (But not heavy upholstery material).

We also need sheets in any size, color, or design, new or gently used. You can drop off your donations in the Fellowship Hall. For answers to your questions, call Carol Borchelt 239-529-3172. Thank you.



**Mark your calendars for February 24
and take part in our annual rummage sale.**

**DROP OFF BEGINS FEBRUARY 18
after the second service
Contact Chairperson Bonnie Heidel with your questions
(239) 580-9689**

**There are some items we will *NOT* take this year:
Absolutely **no** big furniture**

- No computers**
- No monitors**
- No printers**
- No lamps.**
- No bathing suits,**
- No underwear, bras, or single socks**
- No clothes with stains or holes.**
- No CD's, Cassette tapes**
- No encyclopedias**



Grace Lutheran Preschool

Wish List 2023-2024

FEBRUARY

Jiggle (Googly) Eyes

MARCH Pompoms of all sizes

APRIL Sidewalk Chalk

MAY Buttons



Altar Flower Donations

Would you like to remember your birthday or anniversary with a special offering to God?

Would you like to remember someone special in your life who is with the Lord?

Would you like to beautify the Sanctuary with a special offering of flowers?



There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex for you to claim the date for your special occasion. The cost of the arrangements is \$45.00.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL WORSHIP SERVICES!



There are multiple opportunities for you to volunteer for weekend services at Grace. We need Ushers, Lectors, Altar Guild Members, Greeters, Crucifers and Acolytes, Sound Board Operators, and people to prepare for Coffee Hour.



Take a picture of the QR Code to go to the website where you can volunteer online. It is extremely helpful if you fill in the volunteer slots before the 25th of each month. If you cannot go online, please call the church office before the 25th so that volunteers can be included in the schedule that is published in the final bulletin for the preceding month.



Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

We are always looking for people to set up or clean up Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you want more information, please email

Lori at lorilingsch@yahoo.com



Mark These Dates on Your Calendar!

Feb 6 Men of Grace 6:30PM

Feb 10 Outdoor Movie Night, Parsonage 6:00PM

Feb 11 Youth Valentine Bake Sale between services

Feb 13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner 5:00-6:00PM

Feb 14 Ash Wednesday soup supper and worship

Feb 18 Drop off Begins for Rummage sale.

Feb 18 Youth Night @ Paradise Sports complex

Feb 21 No Wednesday night dinner

Feb 24 Rummage Sale 9:00-1:00PM



**Saturday Evening services with Communion
are held at 4:00PM
and will continue thru March 23, 2024**

WEEKLY EVENTS



Cool Moms Bible Study--Tuesdays
9:00AM Contact Kami Jo

Adult Bible Study-- Wednesdays
10:30AM Fellowship Hall

Monthly Book Club—1st Wednesday
4:00PM Discussion of *“Lies about Human Nature & the Truth That Sets Us Free,”* by Pastor Christopher S. Esget
Contact DCS Linda Nobili

Women's Bible Study--Thursdays
10:00AM Contact Kami Jo

Wednesday Dinner
5:15PM in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday Prayer Service
6:30PM

Men of Grace--Tuesdays
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
6:30PM

Grief Share
Thursdays, 1:00PM

Quilters--Tuesdays, 10:00AM
Fellowship Hall

Knit / Crochet Group --Tuesdays,
10:00AM Fellowship Hall



Choristers
Wednesday,
4:15PM

Grace Chorale
Wednesday,
7:00PM



Grace AMR Ringers
Thursday, 6:00PM



- 1 Greg Davenport
- 2 Jeanne Allen
- 2 Nancy Beights
- 2 Ruth Dishop
- 2 Stana Tahirovic
- 3 Isaac Garner

- 3 Peter Koehneke
- 4 Larry Franzen
- 4 Dean Paskey
- 4 Mark Ziemer
- 8 Lynn Swanson
- 9 Nicole Lehninger
- 9 Kristen Zeedyk
- 11 Tara Davenport
- 12 Harry Laskey
- 12 Liz Sanchez

- 14 Avi Mattingly
- 14 Judy Wehmeyer
- 15 Karen Eastman
- 15 Niles Jehn
- 15 Luther Mogelvang
- 15 Carol Tamulis
- 18 Jerry Burnett-Baker
- 18 Frank Lowery
- 19 Gary Drake
- 21 Bill Allen

- 21 Katelyn Mirly
- 22 David Wolff
- 24 Mallory Heidel
- 24 Sue Leboza
- 24 Leigh Tahirovic
- 24 Don Thomas
- 26 Andrew Sanchez
- 27 Mike Bonnough
- 27 Carol Jehn

- 2 Donald & Sue Hecht
- 3 Gary & Rene Hazelett
- 14 Walt & Carol Tamulis
- 16 Don & Bette Olson



Missionary of the Month



In late 2007, Rev. Dennis and Deaconess Lorna Meeker began working with orphans and widows in the Kibera slum of Nairobi while serving under the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. During late 2008, Jacob Fraher also began volunteering with community schools and orphanages in the Kibera slum. When Jacob discovered two desperate children in need of care, the Meekers offered to provide both a loving home. Six months later, in July 2009, Jacob partnered with Dennis and Lorna to form CSCM as a

U.S. based 501(c)(3) organization. In 2011, Redeemer Lutheran Church in Seymour, IN began managing the U.S. side of operations and rebranded CSCM as 4KenyasKids. By the Grace of God, 4KenyasKids now supports the education of over seven hundred orphans through a child sponsorship program, strengthens widows and extended families to care for vulnerable children, and operates a Family Based Care Rescue Center for children in desperate need.



Use this link to sign up for their newsletter:

<https://4kenyaskids.org/pages/newsletter-sign-up-form>

Tune in for good Lutheran music and Bible teaching.



KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at **kfu.org** and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: **@KFUOradio** on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Now available! Download the KFUO Radio iOS or Android app for your mobile device! In either the Apple app store or Google Play store, search for "KFUO Radio" and look for our green circle logo.

Or use one of these links:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/kfu-radio/id388924799>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.jacapps.kfu>

You can listen to our livestream 24/7, find all our podcasts, our program schedule, record a comment to send to us, and more. We are very thankful to the LWML for a generous Mission Grant from the LWML that made this project possible. Read more about the grant at lwml.org/2019-2021-mission-grant-17.

A good gift plan within one's estate plan can help manage taxation.

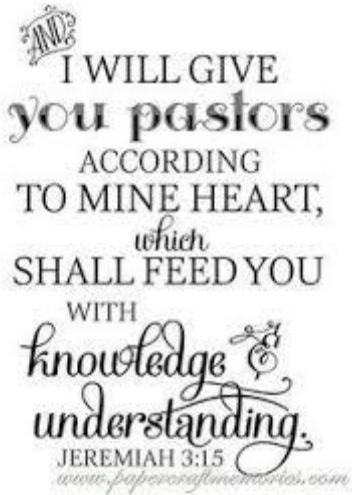


Kelly and Lisa were having lunch. Both of their husbands have passed in the last couple of years, and they are learning to take over the responsibility for finances. This has been a big transition for both. Kelly said to Lisa, "I have adapted well. I have come to appreciate all that Howard did all those years.

The one thing that still intimidates me is the taxes. I am thankful I have a good tax preparer that makes this less stressful." Lisa responded, "For the first time in my life I am paying more attention to taxes as well. In my mind, I never really made the connection between my contributions to Church and other ministries and the amount of tax we pay. This year my Church is in a campaign to enable a building expansion for more ministry. Joe and I had already settled on a certain portion of our estate that we would give to our Church. My tax lady told me that if I give some of that now in the campaign, I can reduce my income taxes this year by 60%. I think that will make a difference in paying for the higher-than-expected pharmacy bills I have been having. It is amazing how the Lord provides His gifts at just the right time, in the right way."

Is the Lord leading you to use His gifts for ministry purposes? Would you like to discuss whether gifts now or in the future make more sense, especially considering taxes? Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help.

Contact Tony Hunt 260-222-1291 or tony.hunt@lfn.org



According to recent studies... 4,000-5,000 pastors quit each year. They don't quit because they have a lack of faith in God. They don't quit because they don't believe in the calling God has placed on their life. Most don't even quit because of financial reasons. Pastors quit because they are overwhelmed with mental exhaustion. Until you're a Pastor you'll never fully understand what it's like to carry spiritual burdens for people. Getting up in the middle of night, praying for your family of faith. Awakened in the middle of night with someone on their heart. Overwhelmed with concern by a person's absence or distance. Your mind continually occupied with the presentation of the upcoming Sunday message - how to preach it, what to teach on, how do we apply it? Getting critiqued on a continual basis. Being told you need to do better or that some areas of the church simply need to be better. Pastors invest their whole life into people and yet people will turn their backs on their Pastor at the first sign of a

storm, usually without a conversation. Pastors stand in the middle of disputes. Pastors stand in the middle of gossip. Pastors council broken marriages. Pastors comfort those who have suffered loss. Pastors navigate the waters of imperfect people with a desire to see each one thrive in their own faith. They long for spiritual breakthroughs. Your Pastor craves the very best for you. All of this, while trying to battle their own flesh and grow in their own relationship with God. Pastors see the posts. Pastors hear the whispers. Pastors endure the negativity. Pastors are continually caring for the sheep while fending off the wolves. Pastors pour out and pour out - rarely are they being poured into. What keeps a Pastor going? **YOU!** You - the person who is genuinely hungry. You - the person who worships with passion and freedom. You - the teenager who is striving to be a follower of Jesus. You - the single mom who understands the beauty of the hope found in Christ. You - the one who walks through the door for the first time because you're in search of peace, hope, and community. Pray for your Pastor. Serve with your Pastor. Talk with your Pastor. Encourage your Pastor. They are human. They need You more than you think.

L. Ronald Durham