



VOICE OF GRACE

Vol. 56 November 2025



Yes, these pastors have an awesome congregation!

Yes, we certainly do! - and how blessed I am to say "we!" But I am so much more blessed to say this about all of you!

You ARE an awesome congregation of people. I love each of you. And what an awesome God we serve. He continues to do His awe-inspiring works, building His eternal family upon this earth through each of us - His redeemed sons and daughters. We have accomplished much together in the last year. Our vision of being deeply rooted disciples in the grace of Jesus Christ and bearing fruits of His love among the people of the Chain of Lakes region continues to be accomplished. Being a church and school our community can count on long into the future continues to be a reality. We are proud of the improvements made to the facilities God has entrusted to us, and we continue to position them for many years of ministry. Make a joyful noise to the Lord for these great things!

As Christians, what is our main thing? Connecting People to Jesus! Your prayers with and for people, your invitations to baptisms, your welcoming souls to the Lord's house, your caring for your brothers and

sisters in the faith – all of these are awesome works with eternal rewards. **THANK YOU!** This year we added 56 new members to our congregation – all of this during a pastoral and vicarage vacancy. Our school also continues to flourish. Most classrooms have waiting lists, and we've been able to add to our wonderful and dedicated faculty some of the best local teachers from public schools who desire to share Jesus with their students.

What a truly awesome congregation you are! I'm reminded of a song Rich Mullins wrote when I was in high school about our "Awesome God," and Phil Wickham recently wrote new verses for it. Thank you for being an awesome congregation, and together we serve an awesome God! - Pastor Charles Reich

AWESOME GOD

And even when I ran He didn't run away
He came and put death back in its place
Friday on a cross, broken for my shame
Sunday morning rose up from that grave

Take a look at those scars on His hands and feet
He saved our souls for eternity
Worthy is the Lamb Glory to the King
Oh, let all the saints and the angels sing

**Our God is an awesome God,
He reigns From Heaven above
With wisdom, power and love
Our God is an awesome God**

Eyes on the sky There will be a day
He will come and wipe our tears away
No more fear, no more pain
No more sorrow, sin or shame
The King is coming back again
A reign of love that will never end
For everything You've done And everything You do
And everything You are I'll sing to You
My God, You're an awesome God
You're great in all You do I'm made to worship You
My God, You're an awesome God
What an awesome, awesome God You are
No one like You, none beside You, God we worship You.



Grace Lutheran Church *2025 Schedule of Holiday Services*

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

November 26, Wednesday

6:30 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Advent

December 3, Wednesday

12 PM Midweek Advent 1 Worship

6:30 PM Pre-School Christmas Program

December 10, Wednesday

12 PM Midweek Advent 2 Worship

6:30 PM K-2 Christmas Program

December 17, Wednesday

12 PM Midweek Advent 3 Worship

6:30 PM 3-5 Christmas Program

December 20

5:00 PM – Evening Worship*

December 21, 4th Sunday of Advent*

8:30 AM – Morning Worship*

10:45 AM – Morning Worship *

Christmas

December 24 - Christmas Eve

4 PM Family Worship

6:30 PM Pre-Worship Music

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship

10:30 PM Pre-Worship Music

11 PM Christmas Eve w/Communion*

December 25 – Christmas Day

10:00 AM Christmas Day Worship*

December 27 (Sat.)

5:00 PM – Evening Worship*

December 28 (Sun.)

8:30 AM – Morning Worship*

10:45 AM – Morning Worship *

New Years

December 31, Wednesday

6:30 PM New Year's Eve Worship

***Indicates Communion**

Coming this way! EVERY HEART PREPARE

Daily devotions for Advent for each family will be handed out at the end of the month. We will have special noon services on **Wednesdays (12 PM, Dec. 3, 10, 7)** and a special sermon series on Sundays to help prepare our hearts for the current and ultimate advent/arrival of our Lord. What an awesome sight that will be when the whole family of God is gathered not around a manger in a stable, but around a risen Lamb who was slain but reigns from the grand throne of the new heavens and the new earth! Topics for the week:

Week of Nov. 30 - Christmas Trees and Evergreens

Week of Dec. 7 - Christmas Lights

Week of Dec. 14 - Nativity Scenes and Creches

Week of Dec. 21 - Christmas Bells and Christmas music

Christmas Eve and Day - Wrapped Presents



Advent Brown Bag Lunch Gatherings

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 10 and 17

12:30 PM in Trinity Hall

Share in the Christmas spirit by joining us in Trinity Hall immediately following the mid-day noon advent service. Bring your brown bag lunch. Special desserts, coffee, and hot chocolate will be provided. Our time together makes for a lovely addition to the hearing of the Christmas gospel in worship. Hosted by the Sunshine Club.



Voice of Grace is published monthly by Grace Lutheran Church
327 Avenue C SE
Winter Haven, FL 33880

www.glwh.org

CHURCH PHONE:
863-293-8447

SENIOR PASTOR
Charles Reich

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Steven Braun

VICAR
Stephen Moore

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
Sharon Wilson

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Linda Aceto

FACILITIES MANAGER
Alan Baker

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
Carrie Beckwith

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
Casey Billman

MEDIA ADMINISTRATOR
Peggy Jo Griffin

MEMBERSHIP/ OUTREACH
Michelle Reddick

DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP ARTS
Thomas Schulteis

SCHOOL PHONE:
863-293-9744

PRE-SCHOOL PHONE:
863-299-9186

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL MINISTRY
Michael Rottmann

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
Jon Peterson

MIDDLE SCHOOL DEAN
Jacob McGee

PS-5 PRINCIPAL
Aleah Hearn

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Susie Woods

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
Gillian McIntee

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Christie Thompson



Thanksgiving Eve WORSHIP

Wednesday, November 26
6:30 PM

Christmas by Candlelight Dinner

Saturday, December 6

6:00 PM

Trinity Hall

We are serving a sumptuous dinner (from Longhorn Steakhouse) in an atmosphere of Christmas splendor. Come, join us.

Reservations only. Watch for details in the coming church bulletins.



VOTERS' ASSEMBLY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025
9:45 AM - TRINITY HALL

Officers to be voted on at this meeting are President, Vice President, and one at-large member for the Board of Directors. There will also be a slate of names for this year's Board of Elders. Section 6 of the constitution reads: "Candidates for office may be nominated by any qualified voter at the Voters' Assembly providing the nominee's permission has been obtained prior to the meeting. In the case of the Elders, prior consent of the Pastors and the candidate must be obtained."

Elder positions are being filled from a list of nominees presented to the Elders, Stewardship Committee, and Nominating Committee. These names will be presented at the assembly.



Grace Lutheran Church
Sunshine Club News



Thursday, November 6. We'll gather from 11-11:30 AM for fellowship, followed by devotions, announcements and lunch. It's a Thanksgiving lunch theme. We'll provide turkey, stuffing and gravy. Plan to bring a side dish or dessert to share. A special organ concert will be presented by our very own Thomas Schulteis from 12:50-1:20 PM in the church sanctuary. A thank offering will be taken to cover luncheon costs.



December 4, 2025 – It's a Holly Jolly Sunshine Club gathering! Grace School Music performance, Christmas Cookies and pot luck. Ham is provided so please bring a side dish to share. Arrival begins at 11:00 am in Trinity Hall. Bring a friend! A thank offering will be collected to cover luncheon costs.

One of the most active groups in our church community, Sunshine club focuses on individuals and couples, providing social interaction, support and spiritual growth. Join us the first Thursday of the month for food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

It's that time of year again!! Grace will be partnering with Heartland for Children this Christmas to collect toys for foster children in our community. Please take a tag off the Christmas tree in the narthex starting **Sunday, November 9**. All UNWRAPPED gifts should be returned by **Friday, December 12**. This is a great way to celebrate the birth of Jesus and show His love to children in need. Thank you for your generosity!



Collecting for The Mission **Socks & Shoe Drive**

OCT & NOV

Socks & Shoe Drive - During the months of October and November. We are asking for donations of gently-worn shoes, or new shoes and new socks for The Mission. Thank you so much for your generosity!

DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS AT:
Narthex, Trinity Hall & Church Office

Sponsored by Grace Women's Ministry



MUSIC NOTES

677 For All the Saints

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> <p>2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> <p>3 Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold!
Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> <p>4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> | <p>5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> <p>6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> <p>7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> <p>8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!</p> |
|--|---|

This hymn, a beloved hymn for All Saints' Day, was written by an Englishman, William Walsham How. The words that he had written a few years earlier came to comfort him upon the death of a family member. Within this text we see it begin by praising the Lord for those who have died confessing their faith in Jesus. The next stanza (#2) turns to praise the Lord for being a firm foundation for those saints. Going on to stanza 3, we see ourselves in the picture now, with the Lord guiding us, through our life on earth. That is where stanzas 4-6 provide the truth we need to hear: We struggle in this life; this side of heaven, things are not easy. Even though this is the case, we, with the saints in heaven, are one in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Stanzas 7 and 8 look toward the glory of heaven. "Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:20-22). This we take comfort in and rejoice! Shout and sing for joy! "He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces" (Isaiah 25:8a). Make a joyful noise, even in the hard circumstances of life, for we know that Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Thomas Schulteis
Dir. of Worship Arts (Organist)





There is still time to contribute to our collection of shoes and socks through the month of November to be given to The Mission here in Winter Haven. We are collecting shoes and socks of any size, whether new or in good condition, for male or female, and any age group. Please look for the green collection bins throughout the buildings. We pray you will participate in this much needed community cause.

We will again have our annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale in November. As usual, our ladies will be baking the pies here in the church kitchen. Please keep watching the "Blue Pages" for all the details and dates when we will begin taking orders. Also, remember all proceeds from the sale allow us to continue supporting our mission projects which also, as usual, include the support of a seminary student.

Martha Circle meets the second Thursday of each month at 1 PM with all ladies invited. Also, remember the quilting group meets every Thursday morning and welcomes all ladies to come and check it out and possibly join them.



Dear Grace Family,

Thank you for all your cards, gifts, and well wishes these past few weeks. Between personal comments, thank you cards, and sympathy cards, my family and I are blown away by your kindness and overwhelmed with gratitude! We are extremely grateful for your outpouring of love and support since my grandmother passed. We are brought to tears by your kindness and generosity. You are certainly an awesome congregation! May God richly bless you as you have so richly blessed us!

With love, Vicar Stephen
and the Moore Family

Treasurer's Report for the Three Months Ending September 30, 2025

	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance
<u>Church</u>				
Income	\$ 132,248.32	\$ 375,178.12	\$ 374,149.98	\$ 1,028.14
Expenses	\$ 100,146.26	\$ 329,847.22	\$ 351,712.51	\$ (21,865.29)
Total Church	\$ 32,102.06	\$ 45,330.90	\$ 22,437.47	\$ 22,893.43

<u>School</u>				
Income	\$ 328,079.78	\$ 1,127,123.33	\$ 1,107,921.01	\$ 19,202.32
Expenses	\$ 313,677.58	\$ 1,212,536.10	\$ 1,164,804.06	\$ 47,732.04
Net	\$ 14,402.20	\$ (85,412.77)	\$ (56,883.05)	\$ (28,529.72)
Designated (In/Out Accounts)	\$ (20,366.53)	\$ (26,609.82)		
Total School	\$ 34,768.73	\$ (58,802.95)		

Investment Assets

Church Endowment Fund	\$ 773,841.26
School Endowment Fund	\$ 529,975.65
Bernthal Endowment Scholarship Fund	\$ 149,719.16
All Other Scholarships/Investments	\$ 23,789.54

And whatever you do,
in word or deed,
do everything in the name
of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks
to God the Father
through him.

Colossians 3:17



Parish Statistics

Baptism

Ellie Ann Guedel - 10/19/2025

Deaths

Dale Brown - 9/27/2025

Jim Sanford - 10/04/2025

Judith Skouge - 10/17/2025



Preschool and Elementary

Our preschool students are so excited that they now have approval to visit our library. This past month many of the preschool classes have had the opportunity to go to the library and hear their favorite stories with their teacher. We look forward to continuing to do this throughout the year.

GLS Elementary had a wonderful September filled with new learning centers, guest speakers, and a visit from Officer Mosley.

Middle School

September was a wonderful month in Middle School as we celebrated Ms. Rusher as Teacher of the Month, Month, welcomed the FCA District Coordinator to inspire our athletes, and received praise for our volleyball team's kindness and sportsmanship while hosting Providence Academy. Our teachers also returned from the FL/GA District Conference encouraged and equipped with fresh ideas. Grace Lutheran Middle School is excited to partner with Southeastern University as we welcome Miss Godfrey, a secondary math education major. She will be on campus this semester observing classes and teaching a few lessons under the supervision of Miss Rusher.

We are excited to introduce our new Student Council officers: Raegan and Sydney (Co-Presidents), Irelyn (Vice President), Khloe (Reporter), Tifton (Treasurer), Aubrey (Chaplain), and Ellie (Secretary). We are grateful for your continued prayers and support as we shape the hearts and minds of our students.

Athletics

The fall sports season has been exciting and coming to an end.

The JV girls' volleyball team and JV boys' soccer team participated in the CFLAA tournament on Saturday, October 11, hosted by St. Paul Lutheran, Lakeland. The JV girls headed to the tournament as the 6th seed out of 10 teams with an end-of-season record of 7-5.

The JV boys headed to the CFLAA tournament as the 2nd seed out of 4 teams with an end-of-season record of 5-2. The varsity girls' volleyball team attended the annual Dig Out Cancer Invite at St. Luke's Lutheran, Oviedo, on October 4.

The varsity volleyball team had 8th grade parent night on October 9 and headed to the FLAA State tournament on October 17/18, hosted by St. Luke's Lutheran, Oviedo. They finished the regular season 6-10.

The varsity soccer team attended the FLAA State tournament on October 24/25 hosted by Trinity Lutheran, Delray Beach. They finished the regular season 9-0.

Basketball season begins in November. Go Lions!!

Music

Grace's Choristers (Grades 3-5) performed at the Fall Festival at 3:30pm in Trinity Hall. They will be performing on November 16, at the 10:45am Sunday Service.

Curriculum Corner

Our Fall Book Fair was a success! From **October 24-31**, students had the opportunity to shop for great books while supporting our school libraries. Every purchase helped us add new titles and keep our collections fresh and inspiring for our students. Thank you for helping us nurture a lifelong love of reading at Grace Lutheran!

Artists of the Month

Elijah - 4th Grade
Kinslee - 2nd Grade
Kinsley - 1st Grade

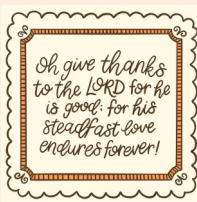


SCHOOL CALENDAR

November

3-8: Food Drive (Hosted by P.A.C.E.)
7: Fall Theatre Production 6:00PM
8: Fall Theatre Production 1:00PM
12: Midterm of 2nd Quarter
Uniform Sales 7:30AM - 4:00PM
Middle School Youth Group 6:30 - 8:00PM
13: \$2 N.U.T. Day (Grades K - 5)
16: Grace Choristers Sing at 10:45AM Service
19: P.A.C.E. Coffee Talk 8:15AM
21: Early Release
N.U.T. Day (Grades K - 5)
Cain's Snowballs Spirit Day
24 - 28: Thanksgiving Break - No School

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF GLS: The mission of Grace Lutheran School is to provide its students and their families with a strong spiritual and academic foundation so that they know and understand God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ and are also able to live lives appropriate to their positions in their families, churches, community, and country.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 NOVEMBER						1 5 PM Worship Svc
All Saints' Day 2 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 AM Confirmation 10:45 AM Worship	3 7:30 AM Staff Devos 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	4 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 12 PM God's Guys 5:30 PM Prayer Service of Healing 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	5 1 PM WM Bd. Mtg. 6:30 PM HS Youth 6:30 PM YA Bible Study	6 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 11 AM Sunshine Club 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6 PM AHG & TL 6:30 PM Grace Chorale	7 10 AM Bible Study - MM 5 PM Worship Svc	8
9 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 AM Confirmation 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM Families in the Park	10 7:30 AM Staff Devos 9 AM Circuit Pastors Meeting 6 PM School Board	11 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Grace Bytes 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	12 8:15 AM PACE Coffee Talk - Trinity Hall 6:30 PM MS Youth 6:30 PM MS Parent Bible Study	13 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 1 PM Martha Circle 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6:30 PM Grace Chorale	14 10 AM Bible Study - MM 5 PM Worship Svc	15
16 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Voters' Mtg 9:45 AM Confirmation 10:45 AM Worship	17 7:30 AM Staff Devos	18 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 12 PM God's Guys 5:30 PM Prayer Svc 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	19 6 PM Stephen Ministry 6:30 PM HS Youth 6:30 PM YA Bible Study	20 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 1 PM Adult Game Day 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6 PM AHG & TL 6:30 PM Grace Chorale	21 10 AM Bible Study - MM 5 PM Worship Svc	22
23 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 AM Confirmation 10:45 AM Worship	24	25 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Prayer Svc - Relationship Healing 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	26 6:30 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship	27 Thanksgiving Day 	28 Church Office Closed 10 AM Bible Study - MM	29 5 PM Worship Svc
1st Sunday 30 in Advent 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 AM Confirmation 10:45 AM Worship						



VOICE OF GRACE

Grace Lutheran Church
327 Avenue C, SE
Winter Haven, FL 33880

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CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS