

Good News From Grace



God's work. Our hands.



M

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Celebrating Our 63rd Year

a

y

2

0

2

4



Prayer, Do You Think About It?

Prayer is something that we do when we typically are asking for something from God. We pray for our family members, our friends, ourselves, and for causes, such as fundraisers that they will go well and bring in much needed revenue. However, we rarely pray to God and give thanks to Him for answering our prayer and the blessings that we have received from Him.

I think that the reason we don't think about prayer too much is because we don't quite understand it. Jesus, especially during His ministry, would often go off by Himself to pray to His father, "*In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.*" Mark 1:35. In the gospel of John, chapter 17, Jesus prays for His glorification, His disciples, and for all believers. When we pray, we talk to God. It is a dialogue between you and God. It is how you communicate to God and how God communicates to you. There isn't anything magical about it. It is a conversation with God similar to a conversation that you would have with your spouse or a friend.

When we pray for others, we are interceding for them with God. We are telling God that we are with whomever we are praying for, supporting them in whatever situation that they find themselves in. We are also telling the person that we are praying for that they are not alone. To pray on behalf of others is to do a good thing that pleases God, impacting both the one praying and the one being prayed for. Paul urged Timothy to pray for others, "*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior,⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*" 1 Timothy 2:1-4. (Cont'd on Page 3)

Church Contacts

Office Telephone	386-677-9141
Mailing Address	338 Ocean Shore Blvd.
	Ormond Beach, FL 32176
Office Fax Number	386-677-9186
Office Email	GLC50@cfl.rr.com
Noah's Ark Preschool	386-677-0336

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor	Rev. Thomas McGawley
Organist	Corine Keefer
Office Administrator	Ellie Faust
Noah's Ark Preschool Director	Patti Heaney
Bookkeeper	Gail Atkinson

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President	Joyce Northridge
Vice President	Tom Starling
Secretary	Beth Graeler
Treasurer	Sandy Hostettler
Council Members	Jack Atkinson
	Peter Koehneke
	Robert Russell
	Cathy Quel

CHURCH FINANCIALS-April 2024

INCOME	MONTH-Actual	MONTH-Budget	YEAR to Date-Actual
Regular Giving	\$ 13,448	\$ 13,500	\$ 51,090
Loose Offering	\$ 1,085	\$ 900	\$ 2,387
Other Income	\$ 6,257	\$ 5,910	\$ 33,698
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 20,790	\$ 20,310	\$ 87,175
EXPENSES	\$ 14,642	\$ 23,386	\$ 108,470
NET INCOME / LOSS	\$ 6,148	\$ (3,076)	\$ (21,295)



Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA)
 "Like" us on Facebook!
 Share us on YouTube!

WWW.GRACELCOB.ORG
 Share and tell!

(Cont'd from Page 1)

When we pray for something, we are petitioning God to act on our behalf to grant a certain result for a certain situation. Typically, this is the type of prayer we pray the most. It is the prayer that I prayed last year during the hurricane season. I asked God daily that any storm coming off of the coast of Africa would make a right hand turn and go up the middle of the ocean and not strike any land. Jesus prayed a prayer of petition to His father in the Garden of Gethsemane just before Judas handed Him over to the Roman authorities, *“Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated.³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.”³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want.”* Matt 6:36-39.

Prayer is not hard, but it takes a commitment to do it daily. If you find yourself having difficulty praying daily, find a time during the day when you can set aside five or ten minutes to be by yourself and talk to God. Make it a habit! God isn't going anywhere and He wants to hear from you. He already knows what is on your heart and mind, but He wants you to express those thoughts and feeling to Him.

Our Heavenly Father loves each and every one of us beyond measure. Let's show Him that we love Him too by talking to Him through our prayers.

In Christ+

Pr. Tom



Worship with Grace from anywhere!

All of our worship services are recorded and put online on our Website, Facebook page and YouTube channel. Whether you are traveling, a snowbird, or unable to make it to Grace on a Sunday morning, you can always worship with us virtually each week!

Share our Website with family and friends, like our Facebook page, and subscribe to the YouTube channel to stay connected!

Grace's website <http://gracelcob.org/>

Grace's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/graceormondbeach/>

Welcome Holy Land Christians

On May 26, 2024, during the service, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land. After the service, in the Narthex, they will have a display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem. These articles will be available for purchase. The carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make beautiful gifts. The carvings are handmade by the Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on these sales for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income. For decades, those Christians have been enduring many hardships, since tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted. Access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem, the COVID Pandemic, and the catastrophic ongoing war. Due to this, tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land. This has made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and have forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland, since they have lost their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century. Today it is less than 1%. If this continues, we will find no Christians in the land of Christ over the next few years. This could cause tragic consequences for our faith and holy sites.

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings. A Christian family from Bethlehem will be telling us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land. It is never too late to help. *All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem.*



The Quilters will be meeting thru the end of May. Throughout the Summer, they will be meeting the first Tuesday of the month for June, July and August.

Ann Jacoby will notify quilters of the dates.

Relax and enjoy the break.



May Need of the Month



The **Pregnancy Crisis Center** is a nonprofit, nonsectarian, non-political community service. We offer free confidential services to help prospective mothers and their babies, regardless of marital status, religion, race, or sexual orientation.

Our mission is simple. We help pregnant women have the opportunity to choose life for their babies. With a "Love First" approach, we strive to show mothers their own intrinsic worth and value so they are able to see the worth and value in the life they are carrying. We encourage them to finish their education and acquire job skills so they will ultimately achieve self-sufficiency.

All of our services are provided at no cost. We are not supported by any local, state, or federal funding. We are 100% funded by individuals, churches, organizations and businesses.

Material Donations Needed:

We accept gently used baby supplies: cribs, crib bedding, car seats*, strollers, high chairs, pack-n-play, clothing, blankets, bottles, maternity clothing, etc. *Car seats must be 5 years old or newer.

Additionally, we are always in need of

- diapers,
- wipes,
- bath items, and
- diaper cream.



Join us for the "Lunch Bunch"

May Luncheon

Friday, May 17, 2024

12 noon

Alfie's Restaurant

1666 Ocean Shore Blvd, Ormond

Sign-up Sheets in the Lobby



Let's Celebrate..Cinco DeMayo

Join the "Lunch Bunch"

for a Special Dinner

Sunday, May 5th, 2024

5pm

Frida's Mexican Restaurant

195 W Granada Blvd.

Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Sign-up in the Lobby



We are trying to update the Church Directory. If you haven't had your picture taken or have not submitted a picture, please call the Church Office. Also, it is very important that we have updated address, phone number(s) and email addresses. **PLEASE DO THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!!**



Noah's Ark and the Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.



CO-CHAIR NEEDED FOR PUMPKIN PATCH

It won't be long before we need to start planning for the Pumpkin Patch. In order to do that, we need someone to agree to be the Co-Chair. It doesn't involve a lot of work and the Pumpkin Patch is only operational for a few weeks in October. Please, please someone step-up and help. Ellie will do all of the paper work, reports, money matters, etc. All the co-chair has to do is help organize schedules and helpers for pumpkin unloading. Please call Ellie in the Church Office or stop by. Thank you!!!



Safe Travels to our snowbirds and vacation friends!!



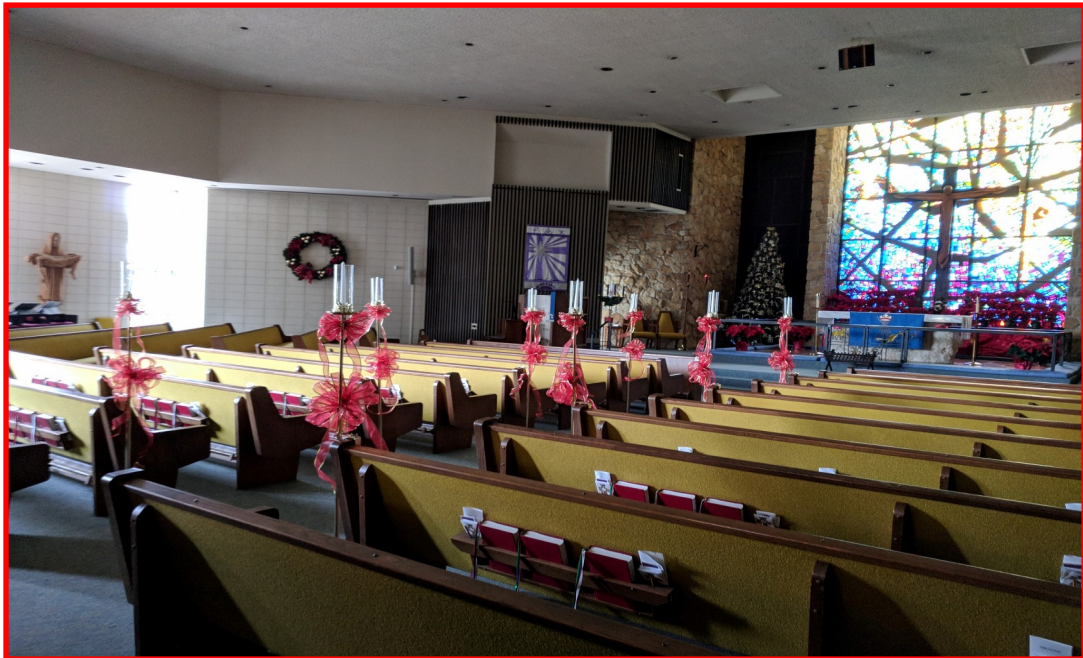


*Grace Lutheran Church
338 Ocean Shore Blvd.
Ormond Beach, FL 32176
(386) 677-9141*

All Are Welcome!

Whether you are a visitor, vacationer, or new community member, we invite you to celebrate with us. Come make new friends, join us in worship and learn about all of the programs we engage in to service our local community. There is a special children's sermon each Sunday! A Social/Fellowship hour follows services.

Regular Weekly Service is Sunday at 10 am.



(The letter below was distributed to all teachers and parents of students in Noah's Ark)

April 29, 2024

Dear Noah's Ark School Administrator, Teachers, Parents and Students,

In many ways, it doesn't seem that long ago that Noah's Ark Preschool became a part of Grace Lutheran Church. Students and parents alike spent a lot of time at the school. The administration and teachers poured their hearts and souls into teaching the children, and they learned the material well.

It is never easy to say goodbye to something that has been so worthwhile to Grace Lutheran Church, the Ormond Beach community, and the families who sent their children to this school and those who toiled countless hours preparing lessons and teaching the children.

As the Book of Ecclesiastes states:

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

² *a time to be born and a time to die;*

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ *a time to kill and a time to heal;*

a time to break down and a time to build up;

⁴ *a time to weep and a time to laugh;*

a time to mourn and a time to dance;

⁵ *a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;*

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ *a time to seek and a time to lose;*

a time to keep and a time to throw away;

⁷ *a time to tear and a time to sew;*

a time to keep silent and a time to speak;

⁸ *a time to love and a time to hate;*

a time for war and a time for peace.

Due to the church being in a financial position that will not allow any subsidies to help Noah's Ark remain open, it is necessary for us to close the doors at the end of the current school year. I know that this news comes as a shock to everyone and that includes the Church Council and the Congregation.

The present time may seem bleak to all of us, but God tells us that He is with us as we deal with the shock and loss of closing Noah's Ark Preschool. Jeremiah 29:11-13 states, "¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart." God has a plan for each and every one of us. We may not know exactly what His plan is, but it will be revealed in due time.

Please accept our sincere thank you to everyone who has ever had a part at Noah's Ark Preschool. To the administration and teachers, your dedication, caring and commitment to the church, the school and the children showed the love of Christ in all you did. To the parents of the students, your willingness to bring your child to Noah's Ark Preschool showed the love that you have for your child and/or children and your willingness to give them the best education possible. To all of the children who passed through the doors of Noah's Ark Preschool, your commitment to learning is a gift from God. As you move on, remember that Jesus is always with you no matter where you may be.

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;

The Lord look upon you with grace and give you His peace. Amen

— In Christ+

Rev. Thomas McGawley

Interim Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church &

Joyce B. Northridge

Church Council President

Learning Today



Leading Tomorrow

Noah's Ark Preschool May 2024 - Newsletter

Visit our webpage
at:
www.gracelcob.org

When I grow up...

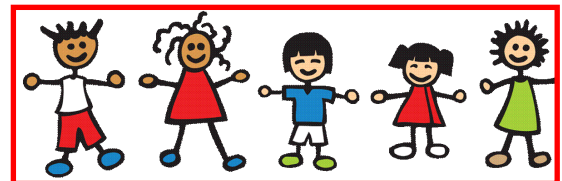
The Noah's Ark VPK class of 2024 will be graduating on Tuesday, May 28th at 6 pm. Many of these children have been at Noah's Ark, since they were babies. It has been exciting watching them grow and learn.

Many started while they were still in diapers. They hadn't really mastered holding a pencil or crayon. Making friends was a brand new experience. We had the privilege of guiding these children and watching progress from babies to school-aged children, ready to embark on the whole new adventure of elementary school.

Over the years, we have been told by many of the elementary schools, that the children that graduate from Noah's Ark Preschool, are well prepared and excel. We have provided them with a good educational foundation that will help them succeed.

As we are getting ready for graduation, we are interviewing the children for their yearbook. The children are being asked to share with us what they want to be when they grow up. Many want to join the police force or the fire department. Some think being a teacher would be fun. In every case, the children are aspiring to do great things in the future. May God be with them as they grow and may they never forget their days at Noah's Ark Preschool. **Congratulations to the VPK Class of 2024!**

Please feel free to join us for the VPK Graduation Ceremony. Everyone is welcome!



The Property Committee—And the Work Continues

The Property Team is continuing to show progress due to the diligent efforts of our team. Our Church grounds are continuing to show a pleasing improvement. We have received a donation of various gardening tools which we greatly appreciate. The efforts in our "Church Beautification" is an on-going project. Therefore, we urge anyone who is moved to help-out, please let someone know. We want to spruce up our entrance with foliage that is pleasing to the eye. Feel free to donate welcoming landscape plants, shrubs etc... that you would like to see when you walk up to the entrance for a service.

Thank You all for your support & involvement with the Property Team.
Jack Atkinson, Property Committee Chair

(Caleb Thomas helping with Clean-up)



God Bless Connor Daniel Woeste

Connor Daniel was baptized on Sunday, April 28th during the Church service. Following the service, there was a cake during the Fellowship Hour to honor Connor. We are pleased to welcome Connor into our Christian Community.





May Birthdays

- 08 Gail Starling
- 09 Richard Brunelle
- 09 Kenneth Berglund
- 12 Bill Lort
- 13 Trevor Lort
- 13 Doris Earnhardt
- 17 Jacob Lort
- 18 Diane Miller
- 18 Gina Abate
- 19 Judy Dammes
- 19 Patricia Brown
- 21 Catherine Larkin
- 21 Sandy Lort
- 25 Patricia Hubert
- 26 Pr. Tom Sublett
- 27 Paul Kinzer
- 27 Kelley Eckert
- 28 Lynette Good
- 31 Lexi Thomas

June Birthdays

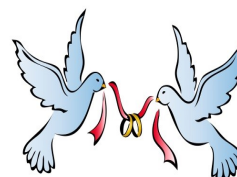
- 01 Nancy Spero
- 02 Jessy Hazelip
- 03 Julie Wanhala
- 03 Eric Weingartner
- 06 Susan Lang
- 08 Mare Koehneke
- 13 Jonathan Eckert
- 14 Ivey Benson
- 16 Dave Bendorf
- 18 Justin Hyatt
- 22 Arnie Porsch
- 24 Jordan Crabb

May Anniversaries

- 08 Jack & Gail Atkinson
- 12 Mark & Jessy Crab
- 14 Bob and Ann Russell
- 19 Michael & Sarah Covitt
- 28 Kelly & Jonathan Eckert

June Anniversaries

- 01 Paul & Becky Kinzer
- 08 Dave & Stephanie Walsh
- 17 Bud & Carolyn Gerard
- 18 Art & Deb Olson
- 22 Randy & Cathy Miller



The Power of a Quarter



GLC has really been successful with the “clink” of our **quarters**. We have paid for so many things that upgrade the church over the past years we have been collecting **quarters**. Please put a couple of quarters in your purse or pocket and place in the offering plates—many quarters make a difference! **Grace Quarterstone Project**



Altar Flowers and Communion Elements



WHO: You!
WHAT: Altar Flowers and/or Communion Elements
COST: \$40.00 Flowers and \$30.00 Elements - weekly
WHERE: Dated sign up book in Lobby
WHY: To commemorate a loved one or an important event
HOW: See Ellie in the Church Office
Thank You very much



Activity Schedule



WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICE 10am on Sundays!

Choir	On-Hold UFN
Bell Choir	On-Hold UFN
Coffee Fellowship	Immediately following Sunday Service
Gift Shop	15 minutes before & after Sunday worship
Quilters	Tuesdays at 9:30am
Church Council	Third Thursday at 1:00pm
Bible Study	On-Hold UFN
Social Club Luncheon	May 17th-Alfie's Restaurant

