

Good News From Grace



God's work. Our hands.



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Celebrating Our 63rd Year

DECEMBER 2025

A MESSAGE
FROM THE
PASTOR

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As a child, I LOVED waiting for Christmas Eve – because we would have a Christmas Eve dinner at a nice restaurant, followed by Christmas Eve worship, and finishing the night opening Christmas gifts (and to this day, I don't know how the gifts under the tree miraculously showed up while we were at dinner and worship). Christmas Day was much more relaxed as we entered into the festiveness of the Holy Day – with having had the gift of being able to sleep later in the morning. (Okay – my parents were married on Christmas Day -after all the Christmas worship services at my Mom's Church.)

And so, Christmas Eve is the Night of the Coming of Jesus and we celebrate the gift in the darker times of this Holy Day – and celebrate the dawn coming in the morning. The mystery of the birth of Jesus, born as both fully human and fully God. There is something holy in the coming of the Baby Jesus in chilly Bethlehem. The Mystery of God Made Flesh.

There is a powerful humility, love, and promise in the coming of the Christ Child. God incarnate in this little one, Mary who was pregnant prior to her marriage to Joseph – a family trusting God. This new family had no idea what the future would be, yet they trusted God.

And, perhaps in this time of Christmas, may we pause in the Busy-ness of Christmas time, let us open our hearts, minds, spirits, and souls to the gift of our Lord's birth. And, let us allow the Holy Family with the gift of Jesus in the manger surround each of us with their holy love, faith, and trust in God. Let us attend to the Mystery and Love of Jesus and the promise he brings to all of us.

Peace Be With You,

Pastor Johanna Kiefner



Church Contacts

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CHURCH STAFF

<p>Interim Pastor</p> <p>Organist</p> <p>Office Manager</p> <p>Bookkeeper</p>	<p>Rev. Johanna Kiefner</p> <p>Corine Keefer</p> <p>Ellie Faust</p> <p>Gail Atkinson</p>
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COUNCIL MEMBERS

<p>President</p> <p>Vice President</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Council Members</p>	<p>Thomas Starling</p> <p>Richard Brown</p> <p>Richard Jeans</p> <p>Barbra Sparber Barnes</p> <p>Dave Bemdorf</p> <p>Pete Koehneke</p> <p>Ted MacLeod</p> <p>Janet Renick</p>
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October 2025			
INCOME	MONTH-Actual	MONTH-Budget	YEAR to Date-Actual
Regular Giving	\$ 13,691.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 104,184.00
Loose Offering	\$ 434.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,398.71
Other Income	\$ 14,243.40	\$ 4,020.00	\$ 83,349.12
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 28,368.40	\$ 14,520.00	\$ 193,931.83
EXPENSES	\$ 13,767,30	\$ 17,256.00	\$ 146,319.60
NET INCOME / LOSS	\$ 14,601.10	\$ (2,736.00)	\$ 47,612.23

	<p>Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA)</p> <p>“Like” us on Facebook!</p> <p>Share us on YouTube!</p>		<p>WWW.GRACELCOB.ORG</p> <p><i>Share and tell!</i></p>
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A NOTE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As we approach the end of 2025 and look forward to a new year, it creates both a time of reflection as well as a time of anticipation. Serving as your Council President has been a great honor. Your Council has been required to deal with some difficult decisions and has stepped up to the challenges. I could not be prouder of any team of committed folks who took on every one of those challenges head on.

While we didn't have to deal with any hurricanes this year, we still had many issues with our facility. Being directly opposite the ocean, while providing a beautiful vista, it also offers many issues with corrosion caused by the salty environment.

In searching for ways to fund not only hiring a new fulltime Pastor, but also funding the many structural repairs necessary to maintain the facility, we made the difficult decision to sell off the excess adjacent property. With the Congregational approval, we are moving forward to list and sell that property which will provide the much-needed funds.

The operation of a church really requires commitment from all of its members. Without that commitment there can be no Grace Lutheran Church. We are very fortunate to have dedicated individuals who volunteer to do the work necessary to make sure Grace Lutheran Church continues to thrive.

I encourage all members of the congregation to volunteer for those positions within the Church body that makes us a healthy continuing organization.

Thomas Starling, Council President



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Join us on Christmas Eve, December 24th, either at 4pm or 7pm for a candlelight Christmas Eve Service. As in past years, we will have a special musical performance at the 7pm service.

There will not be any service on Christmas Day.

Have a Blessed Christmas!!



2026 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2026 Church Envelopes will be ready to be picked up shortly. Be on the look-out for them. They will be on the table in the lobby in alphabetical order. If you do not have envelopes, please see Ellie.

Thank you.

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday December 25th and Thursday, January 1st 2025! Happy Holidays!



Grace Gift Shop

Need a birthday gift, anniversary gift, or Christmas present? Make sure to check out the Grace Gift Shop, located in the fellowship hall. The gift shop is full of wonderful items! Proceeds from the gift shop go towards Grace's mission and ministry! Stop by before or after worship.

Quilters Are Working

Everyone is welcome.

No experience necessary.

Quilters meet Tuesdays at 9:30am

to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They will not be meeting December 24th or January 31st. Join us for this worthwhile project and good fellowship.



Christmas Church Decorating

On Friday, December 5th and Saturday, December 6th, many members of the Congregation will be decorating the Church for Christmas. Trees and wreaths will be fluffed and ornaments will be re-glued. As always, the hardest part of the task will be finding the numerous electrical outlets to plug in trees, wreaths and various other lights. As always, when everything is finally finished, our Church will look beautiful. Many, many thanks to all of the volunteers who will give their time during this hectic time of the year to help.



“LUNCH BUNCH CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON”

Friday, December 19th, 2025

12 noon

Halifax Plantation

Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Sign-up in the Lobby!

Join in the Fun! Everyone is Welcome!!!`



Birthdays



Anniver-

December Birthdays

- 10 Pete Koehneke
- 16 Gail Atkinson
- 23 Carole Hedges

January Birthdays

- 01 Carol Macleod
- 02 Deb Kearns
- 08 Scott Burdick
- 11 Ted Macleod
- 12 Jessy Crabb
- 20 Cathy Quel
- 23 Joyce Jeanes
- 27 Lionel Marcoux



December Anniversaries

- 17 Eric & Lexi Morgan
- 20 Tom & Gail Starling
- 29 Scott & Hope Nattinger
- 31 Greg & Liz Stevens

January Anniversaries

- 07 Paul & Elizabeth Graeler
- 28 Cliff & Lu Gaw

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 5 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!



Altar Flowers and Communion Elements



- WHO:** You!
- WHAT:** Altar Flowers \$30 and/or Communion Elements \$30
- WHERE:** Dated sign up book in Lobby
- WHY:** To commemorate a loved one or an important event
- HOW:** Use pew envelope or drop off a check in the church office

Thank You very much



GRACE HAPPENS HERE

Activity Schedule

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICE 10am on Sundays!

Coffee Fellowship	As Announced
Gift Shop	15 minutes before & after Sunday worship
Game Night	December 12th-Bunco (details to follow)
Quilters	Tuesdays at 9:30am
Church Council	Third Thursday at 4:00pm
Bible Study	Wednesdays at 10:30 am
Lunch Bunch Luncheon	Friday, December 19th—12 noon
	Halifax Plantation



Merry
Christmas

