

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

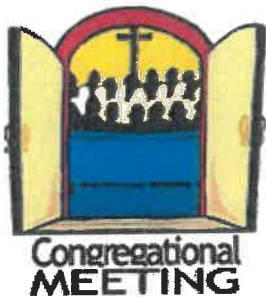


Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

2025 ANNUAL REPORTS

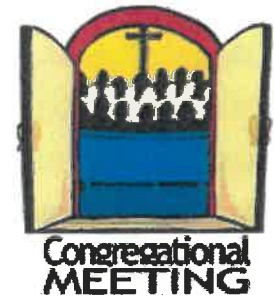
GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

338 Ocean Shore Boulevard
Ormond Beach, Florida 32176
Phone: (386) 677-9141
GLC50@cfl.rr.com



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, February 8, 2026



- **Call to order**—, President of the Congregational Council *(C10.04. Fifteen (15) percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum)
- **Opening Prayer**-Interim Pastor Johanna Kiefner
- **Approval of Congregational Meeting Agenda**
- **Old Business**
 - Approval of the Congregational Meeting Minutes of December 14, 2025
 - Approval of the End of Year Reports
 - Review and Approve Financial Reports for 2025
- **New Business**
 - a) Constitution & Bylaws Updates
 - b) Change Grape Juice from purple to white for Communion
 - c) Wednesday Evening Lenten Services
 - d) Congregational Open Forum
- **Meeting is Adjourned**
- **Closing Prayer**—Interim Pastor Johanna Kiefner,

CHURCH LEADERS 2025

INTERIM PASTOR

Pr. Johanna Kiefner 386-448-3039

FINANCIAL SECRETARY Sandra Hostettler 386-679-8645

2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Thomas Starling	President	386-263-7058
Richard Brown	Vice President	386-479-2360
Richard Jeanes	Secretary	352-232-8795
Barbra Sparber Barnes	Treasurer	845-598-4604
David Bendorf		218-513-0701
Peter Koehneke		716-479-0259
Theodore MacLeod		386-299-0486
Janet Renick		650-465-4101

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Christian Education	Pr. Johanna Kiefner	617-448-3039
Finance	Sandy Hostettler	386-679-8645
Garden of Resurrection	Sandy Hostettler	386-679-8645
House & Fellowship	Ellie Faust	386-871-6187
Memorial	Sandy Hostettler	386-679-8645
Liturgical Lay Ministry	Joyce Northridge	386-986-8530
Quilters	Ann Jacoby	386-212-9476
Lunch Bunch	Janet Renick	650-465-4101
Personnel	Joyce Northridge	386-872-5344
Stewardship	Thomas Starling	386-864-5437
Hospitality Committee	Janet Renick	650-465-4101

ORGANIZATIONS

Gift Shop	John & Trish Stratton	386-334-1872
Quilters	Ann Jacoby	386-212-9476
Lunch Bunch	Janet Renick	650-465-4101
Technology	Tom Starling	386-864-5437

Grace Lutheran Church 2025—Pastor's Report

This has been a fun and interesting year. Never having served as a Interim Pastor in a Traditional Church, it has been a true learning experience. I have been blessed to have a wonderful helpful congregation to get me through.

In 2025 I met with four couples who wanted to become members of our Congregation. They were Scott and Hope Nattinger; Greg and Elizabeth Stevens; Dane and Stefanie Thompson; and Pamela and William Wendel. The Council approved all for membership. The Nattingers and Stevens were welcomed in our Church community on January 19th, 2025. The Thompson's and Wendels were welcomed on December 7th, 2025.

We also had two baptisms in 2025. A visiting family in the area, Susan and Charles Lynch, wished to have their infant son, Benjamin Ray Lynch, baptized. While they were not members of the Church, the Church Council approved baptizing Benjamin. He was baptized on July 6th 2025. On November 2nd, 2025 I also baptized the infant son of Dane and Stefanie Thompson, Maverick Scott Thompson.

Susan Lang, a long time congregation member, was laid to rest in the Garden for Resurrection on February 22, 2025. A beautiful and memorable "Celebration of Life" was held in her honor followed by a large reception.

We also held a Military Funeral Service for Raymond Ulmer on June 16th. Ray was laid to rest at the Veteran's National Cemetery.

I provided First Communion instruction classes to Daniel Eckert and Caleb Thomas in 2025. Daniel received his First Holy Communion on March 9th 2025.. Caleb Thomas followed with his First Holy Communion on July 16th, 2025.

Throughout the month of October, I had an enjoyable time helping to sell pumpkins at the Pumpkin Patch! I met and greeted a lot of people from the community. Our Pumpkin Patch had a very successful year. They sold over \$11,000 worth of pumpkins and I was happy to have given help and support.

Along with presiding at the regular 10 am Sunday services, I also conducted Bible Study classes in the Spring of 2025 and the Fall of 2025. They were held once a week and 10-15 people attended.

As you can see, I had a very productive year. Most importantly, I have met and some wonderful people and made some great friends. It has been a rewarding experience being the Interim Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. I thank everyone for their continued help and support.

Pastor Johanna Kiefner



GARDEN OF THE RESURRECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Garden continues to offer visitors a place of peace and tranquility in Ormond Beach. People who come to visit the resting place of their loved ones comment on what a beautiful place it is to sit and meditate.

It was another busy and active year in the Garden. There were eight internments, Susan E. Lang, Dorothy Griffin, Mary Kernekin, Raymond Griffin, John A. Adams, Michael Koch, Rev. James Queen and Theresa DeLucci. There were four new niche reservations. Currently, the only niches available are reserved for Church members only.

I personally want to thank Richard Brown, Dave Bendorf and Ken Pitt. for their assistance with each of the internments this year and for making sure the internments ran smoothly. They also spruce up the Garden when an internment is scheduled. Special thanks to Frank Quel who comes every weekend to clean up and take care of the shrubs, plants, etc. in and around the Garden. I also want to thank our engraver, Ray Brust, for his continued excellent service.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Hostettler, Garden Administrator

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Memorial funds are those gifts given in memory of loved ones. The donations, with the exception of those designated for a special project, are used for something the committee deems useful for worship, repair of worn out items, formerly donated, and/or special requests for the benefit of all members.

Donations this year have been given in memory of:

Susan Lang

Donations were numerous and included family members, various community members and congregation members

We are currently reviewing the many Church projects that need to be done where these funds could be used. We will keep you posted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Hostettler and Joyce Northridge



Christian Education Classes Annual Report 2025

Adult Bible Study

Classes were held beginning January 2025. They were suspended for June, July and August. They resumed again in September 2025. The classes focused on studying the Parables

Baptism Classes

Baptism classes and preparations were held for the parents of Benjamin Ray Lynch and Maverick Scott Thompson. Benjamin was baptized July 6, 2025 and Maverick was baptized November 2, 2025

First Communion Classes—Daniel Eckert and Caleb Thomas

If you have children or youth who are interested in any Christian education opportunities (baptismal training, First Communion training, Confirmation classes) please contact the Grace Lutheran Church office.



Grace Quilters Annual Report 2025

Lutheran World Relief sent 315,818 quilts to many countries including the United States. Quilts from Grace could have gone to Angola, Georgia, Jordan, Mali, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, and the United States. 114,038 quilts were distributed in the United States to victims of hurricane Helene and Milton, wildfires in California, flooding in central Texas, and severe weather across the South and Midwest.

Grace quilters have made over 100 quilts to be driven to the collection site in Jacksonville, FL by Dave and Jackie Bendorf. Thank you! We would also like to thank everyone who donated fabric and sheets. A special thanks to the members of our quilt group who come every Tuesday to put the quilts together, take quilts home to finish sewing the binding, make tops, cut squares, and shop the thrift stores for sheets. Alison MacLeod, Fran Burdick, Norma Austin, Barbara Bragers, Jackie Vores, Hisako Wilsey, Corine Keefer, Carol Schlevensky, Anna Korhonen, Carol MacLeod, Lucy Charleston, and Ann Jacoby.

New members are always welcome. You do not have to be a great sewer to join. If you can tie a knot or cut with scissors, we can use your help. We receive joy and fellowship as we work to make a special quilt for someone in need. Tuesday mornings at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted by **Ann Jacoby**



House and Fellowship Annual Report 2025

We were happy to once again be able to hold our Coffee/Fellowship Hour after many Sunday Services throughout 2025. We provided a sign-up book for people to sign-up to host the coffee hours. The hosts for the week, would set-up, clean-up and provide a variety of baked goods, coffee and juice for everyone to enjoy. The number of people attending range from 10 to 20 each week. Unfortunately, we were not able to offer Coffee/Fellowship hour for many services due to the lack of hosts. We are hoping to have more people to help in 2026.

In March we said goodbye to a long-term member of the Church, Susan Lang. She was laid to rest in the Garden of the Resurrection. In May, we held a Celebration of Life for Sue and held a large reception in the Social Hall immediately following the service. Congregation members donated salads and desserts. The House and Fellowship Committee provided sandwich platters and beverages. There were many members of the Church that attended, along with various community members, which totaled over 100 people

On September 7, 2025, congregational members, once again, gathered in the Social Hall after services to prepare care packages for those in need in the area. This year they prepared bags of much needed items for the Barracks of Hope occupants. Barracks of Hope provides transitional housing for homeless veterans. Refreshments were available to everyone both prior to and after the event. It was a very well attended event.

Daytona State College held their Fall, Spring and Summer Nurse’s Pinning Ceremony in the Church. We provided tables, chairs and provided sound. In addition, we offered water and various rooms for the graduates to prepare for the ceremony.

The House and Fellowship Committee provided water, soft drinks and pastries to the Property Committee workers on several occasions. We also provided sandwiches, fruit, dessert and beverages for the volunteers helping to unload the pumpkins, for the annual Pumpkin Patch. In addition, we also provided sandwiches and beverages to those participants at the 4 & 7pm Christmas Eve Services.

Various AA groups continued to hold Meetings at our Church.. With the closing of the preschool we were able to offer the groups specified meeting rooms with tables and chairs and areas to store their materials.

Many thanks to those who have helped the House and Fellowship Committee set up and clean up after the various events.

Respectfully Submitted, **Bill Lort & Ellie Faust , Co-Chairs**



PROPERTY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025

As always, the Property Committee had a very busy year in 2025. As in the past, there are still several on-going tasks that we continue to evaluate and determine the best course of action to take on these tasks for the future of the Church.

One of the main areas of concern was condition of the roofs of the both the Church and the Social Hall. Both roofs were leaking in numerous areas. After Hurricane Milton in 2024, we had thought the necessary repairs were done. However, with some of the heavy rains during the Spring, areas previously repaired leaked again. Several different roofing contractors were contacted to look at the areas and provide solutions and estimates. While contractors in the past had informed us that the roofs were beyond repairs and needed replacement, costs for replacement costs were extremely high. The new contractors that reassessed the situation, did not agree, and submitted reasonably priced repairs that they felt would resolve the problem. We went ahead and hired the contractor with the best bid. Since those repairs were done, there have not been any additional leaks.

Many of the ceiling tiles in the Church Office and the sacristy were severely damaged and stained as a result of the leaks. Thanks to a Thrivent Action Grant and the manpower of Ken Pitt and Mike Smith. These have all been replaced.

One of the other major issues was problems with the sprinkler heads throughout the grounds. We had an evaluation performed and the problems were identified. Some sprinkler heads were repaired and others were replaced. The Sprinkler heads are now operating on a timed schedule with no problems.

The Church Council were looking for ways to add much needed funds for repairs as well as for the possible Call for a full time Pastor. It was brought to our attention that there was an area of property that was just south of the kitchen, that was vacant and could possibly be sold to raise revenue. It amounted to approximately 0.875 acres. We had a survey done and after receiving approval from the Congregation to sell this property, meetings were set-up with Ormond Beach and several others regarding the steps to take to do this. We will continue to proceed with the process in the new year.

In 2025 we had the commercial stove in the kitchen repaired. Funds for the repair was graciously donated by some congregation members.

We continued to experience issues with the various AC units throughout the Church. In the Fall of 2025 contracted with a new HVAC contractor, DG Meyers. We hope will help us to ascertain reasonable solutions to some of these issues.

In November we had issues with the rest rooms near the Church entrance. Both the ladies' and the men's room were backing up. We called an emergency plumbing service to help us. They found major clogs in the main plumbing line for the bathrooms. After a few hours of snaking and cleaning they were repaired. We were advised to post signs indicating that nothing be thrown in the toilets, except toilet paper. That has been done.

As you can see, we had a very productive year in 2025. We are looking forward to continue to work on the repairs still needing to be done and hopefully find other ways to restore our Church to its former beauty and in good working order.... **Richard Brown, Property Chair**



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving" (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yehiel Curry".

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7