GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

338 OCEAN SHORE BLVD.
ORMOND BEACH, FL 32176
GLC50@cfl.rr.com
Tel. (386) 677-9141

CELEBRATING OUR 65TH YEAR

GOOD NEWS FROM GRACE

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

In this newsletter we will continue to travel back to 1961 and learn a bit more about the thought and symbolism that went into the construction of the Church:

MOSAIC – HIS MINISTRY – GALILEE

After entering the nave, immediately upon the south wall, is the great mosaic picturing a portion of the area on the west side of the Sea of Galilee. The mosaic was done from a photograph of that area taken by Pastor Martin. This area of Galilee was selected to represent this part of our Lord's life as here His Ministry began and here so many great teachings were given and so many miracles wrought. From the little town of Capernaum, pictured near the center of the mosaic, came some of Jesus' greatest and most faithful disciples.

Also to be noticed in our mosaic is the little hill, which rises just above the flowered plain of the feeding of the five thousand. It was to this hill that Jesus retired to escape the multitudes, which pressed upon Him. It was here that Matthew records the event known as the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:1 ff.). On this hilltop, His immortal words were spoken, including those opening statements we call the Beatitudes. In the upper left, as you face the mosaic, is a circle of symbols, one for each of the Beatitudes. 1. The Crown – "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven" vs. 3 – The symbol of the crown, from early days, was the mark of victory or distinction. 2. Censer – "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." (Vs. 4) The symbol of the smoking censer represents the prayers of the faithful in their need, ascending to heaven as Psalm 141:2 records it: "Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense." 3. Wheat – "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." (Vs. 5) – In Christian symbolism wheat suggests the bounty of the earth and the fullness thereof. 4. Scales – "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." (vs.6) *(continued on the next page)*

The mosaic is of Italian marble and was fabricated by Rudolph Nobis. On Dedication Sunday, the mosaic was blessed and consecrated by Rev. Delmar Clock, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) of Holly Hill, Florida.

CHANCEL

On the east side of the church is the area known as the chancel from the Latin word "cancelli" which means lattice-screens. The "cancellus" or screen was originally used to divide the nave and the chancel areas. Behind this lattice-like screen was conducted the mysteries of the faith by those serving in a ministerial or liturgical capacity.

To a certain extent the height of the chancel of any church is governed by the length of the nave. Where there are three steps into the chancel they are said to symbolize the need for faith, hope and love in the partaking of the Holy Communion. They also represent the Blessed Holy Trinity. The Sanctuary is always raised one step above the chancel level. This step, called the predulla, surrounds the altar or is that platform upon which the altar sits. The oneness of the predulla represents that oneness which is God in the unity and indivisibility of the Godhead.

So the great cruciform of our church stands in the traditional location. The cruciform is but a more contemporary version of the more traditional crucifix. The cross, fabricated just to the west of us here in Florida, is approximately 15 feet in height. Tradition tells us the crosses upon which the "average" criminal was crucified were 10 feet to 12 feet in height. However, of special note or importance this was increased to 15 ft. It is believed that such was the situation in regard to the Savior's Cross.

The corpus of our cruciform was carved in Italy. It was designed in graceful lines to represent the Christ in blessing as He presides over the worship of His Church. The figure has no carved face for each follower must find the face of Jesus for himself or herself as the Holy Spirit reveals Himself to each believer, and there each must put the face of the Christ that person has come to know carved upon his or her own heart.

THE ALTAR

The next item to catch our attention is the altar and surrounding communion rail. A five-ton boulder of Florida keystone forms the base of our altar. This boulder is set in the earth underneath the church and by virtue of this our altar is "in touch" or "in communion with" the entire world. The altar top (called mensa) is raised above this boulder to give a table effect reminiscent of the Messianic banquet. The Mensa is of Italian marble (8 ft. x 3 ft., 6 in. x I in.) weighing 3 tons. Incised into the top surface of the Mensa are five crosses, one for each corner, and a slightly larger one in the center, representing the five wounds of Christ. The large center cross has incised over its cross arm "IC" on one side and "XC" on the other: the "IC" being the abbreviation for Jesus (I=J, C=S). Underneath the cross arm is the Greek word "NIKA" which means victory. The altar has been defined as "The place where God and people meet in exchange of gifts." The altar is always adorned with paraments and linens which also have symbolic meaning. These linens individually, and as a group, by their color and quality mark the altar as a Table of the Lord. The mingling of the always-white altar linens with the changing altar hangings is an everyday witness to the unchangeless Christ in a changing world covered with a linen cloth?" Its name is indicative of its character. Fair refers in Scripture to the best quality, as well as to cleanliness. When Holy Communion is celebrated, a small square of linen called a corporal, is placed in the center of the altar Mensa for the communion vessels to rest upon. The cloth was used by the Jews to cover the face of the one being buried.

Church Contacts:

Office Telephone	(386) 677-9141
Mailing Address	338 Ocean Shore Blvd. Ormond Beach, FL 32176
Office Email	GLC50@cfl.rr.com

Church Staff:

Interim Pastor	Johanna Kiefner
Organist	Corine Keefer
Office Administrator	Ellie Faust
Bookkeeper	Patricia Brown

Church Council Members:

President	Barbra Sparber Barnes
Vice President	Richard Brown
Secretary	Janet Renick
Treasurer	Peter Koehneke
Council Members	David Bendorf
	Theodore MacLeod
	Scott Nattinger
	Carl Wince

CHURCH FINANCIALS – August 2026

INCOME:	MONTH-ACTUAL	MONTH-BUDGET	YEAR to Date-Actual
Regular Giving	$ 10,561.12	$ 10,000.00	$ 74,881.94
Loose Offering	295.00	500.00	4,941.25
Other Income	3,379.35	3,986.00	61,569.37
TOTAL INCOME	$ 14,235.47	$ 14,486.00	$ 141,392.56
EXPENSES	$ 12,880.46	$ 16,104.00	$ 134,341.07
NET INCOME/LOSS	$ 1,355.01	$ (1,618.00)	$ 7,051.49

FROM OUR
Council
President

In this issue and in the September issue of the Newsletter, we shared information about the time and considerable thought that went into constructing our Church. While it was informative to hear about the Church building, it is also important to note that it wasn't just about a building, but it was also about the people who worked tirelessly to make the dream of Grace Lutheran Church come true. Today, we still have that beautiful building to worship in, but perhaps sometimes we forget that it's the people who really make a church. People, who like our forefathers continue to work hard, to not just have a place of worship, but to be a worshipping community. People who step up to help others in need and to be there when called upon to help. Thank you all that are the backbone of Grace Lutheran Church.....***Barbra Sparber Barnes***

BIBLE STUDIES

Bible Studies will be held every Wednesday at 10:30 am, in the Church Conference Room. Everyone is welcome.

God Bless Elizabeth Ann Donbrosky

On Saturday aftermoon, September 5th, 2026 we had the honor of baptizing Elizabeth Ann Donbrosky. Elizabeth is the daughter of Alicia Lax and Eric Donbrosky, who will be welcomed as new members of our Church later this month. Pastor Johanna baptized our newest church member with many family members in attendance. We are very happy to have Elizabeth and her family as a part of our Church family.

"God's Work our Hands" Sunday, September 13th , 2026

"God's Work our Hands" Sunday was a fantastic day! Huge thanks to the congregation for your many donations on behalf of the veterans at Barracks of Hope. They were blown away by your generosity! We created 40 clothes baskets full of household items that will be given to veterans when they are ready to move into their own homes.

In addition, 15 water filters, courtesy of Thrivent, were assembled and will be sent to various parts of the world, providing clean water for those who need it.

Also on that day, we had fun with a baked potato bar fundraiser, raising $629 to be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response, providing help to victims of the Venezuelan earthquakes in June.

Special thanks to Thrivent for supplying shirts and for underwriting each of these events. Thank you also to the Hospitality Team for taking the lead on this big project. .....***Janet Renick***

Thank you Hospitality Committtee for this contribution!

OCTOBER
10/05 Barbra Sparber Barnes
10/11 Patti Asmus
10/13 David Walsh
10/14 Lea Rockholz
10/14 Levi Morgan
10/20 Ruth Haeseker
10/21 Rom Nykyri
10/23 Sarah Covitt
10/23 Katie Lang
10/29 Sandra Hostettler
10/29 Hope Nattinger
10/31 Frank Quell

NOVEMBER
11/02 Richard Jeanes
11/08 Ken Pitt
11/09 Riley Crabb
11/09 Jackie Vores
11/10 June Popelar
11/11 Tom Starling
11/20 Ann Jacoby
11/23 Alton Lyga

OCTOBER
10/6 Frank & Scott Burdick
10/13 Rich & Joyce Jeanes

NOVEMBER
11/01 Frank & Cathy Quel
11/18 Dane & Stefanie Thompson
11/28 Howard & Barbra Barnes

OCTOBER

NEED OF THE MONTH

PUMPKIN PATCH

We need the following items:

- **Halloween Candy any kind except chocolate**
- **Kids Game Prizes Under $5.oo**
- **Gift Cards – Publix, Walmart or Dollar Tree ($10 or less)**

The Harvest Festival is October 24th. Our visitors will enjoy:

- **A Bounce House**
- **Face Painting**
- **Traditional Halloween Games**
- **Trick or Treat Stations Throughout the Patch**