

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Vol. 57 November 2026

VOICE OF GRACE

Delight of the Sabbath; Joy in the Lord

How would you describe Sabbath rest to someone?

This is a difficult question. Why? Because our Sabbath rest encompasses so much. Sundays is a day to sit back, enjoy life, and take things easy. It is a time intentionally spent with our family: pizza night, board games, and maybe a movie to close things out.

And then there is, of course, that most important aspect of Sabbath rest: gathering in the Lord's house. But even here there is so much to talk about and discuss! Our worship life and gathering as God's people encompasses a wide array of moments and movements: hymns and confession, prayer and proclamation, celebration and reception.

How would you describe Sabbath rest to someone? Well… there are all sorts of ways to do it.

"If you call the Sabbath a delight… then you will find your joy in the Lord." Isaiah 58:13-14

Isaiah calls us to delight in the Sabbath. The word here in Hebrew is) עֹנֶג oneg). Oneg gives this sense of pleasantness, even luxuriousness, in how we understand and embrace Sabbath rest. Isaiah will go even further: calling us to honor and take pleasure in this holy day. And in doing these things, we are promised joy in the Lord.

Our Sabbatical season will soon be ending. Pastor Charles is returning Sunday, November 15. We are very excited to welcome him back and to hear what God has been doing in His life and walk of faith.

Before he left, Pastor Charles set us a very important congregational goal: to advocate for the Sabbath. The word Sabbatical and Sabbath are directly related. Sabbath means 'ceasing', and comes to us as holy day set apart by God for our benefit and rest (see Genesis 2:3 and Mark 2:27). Both Sabbatical and Sabbath are offered as opportunities to rest in the holiness of God.

Even as this season of Sabbatical comes to a close, it is vital that we advocate for the Sabbath. Each and every one of us (whether we work 9 to 5, study, are retired, or wherever we might be in life) are called to honor the Sabbath day. This is a command from God, and it is not a burden. The Sabbath is a delight. And as we delight in the Sabbath, we will also find joy in the Lord.

So how do we advocate for the Sabbath? Well, firstly, by honoring and delighting in the Sabbath ourselves. We are to seek the presence of the Lord and to rejoice in His grace and holiness. Secondly, by encouraging one another to take that Sabbath rest. Reach out to your friends, family, and neighbors: invite them to join you in that Sabbath rest and holy day.

Then, finally: we can advocate the Sabbath by making room for the Sabbath in the life of our congregation. We can resist the temptation to fill every evening, every calendar, and every ministry opportunity simply because we can. We can be a congregation that recognizes that faithful ministry does not mean constant activity. It means trusting that God continues His work even when we stop. In doing so, we can learn together what it means to call the Sabbath a delight, and discover anew that our joy is in the Lord.



Voice of Grace is published monthly by Grace Lutheran Church
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Grace Lutheran Church
Sunshine Club News

NOVEMBER 5 - LUNCH AND THEATER

Thursday, Nov. 5 - A special day has been planned for you! Enjoy a Thanksgiving style meal and then walk across the street for our school's fall theater production of ***Not Your Average Joe***. Begin to gather at 11; with devotions and announcements at 11:30, lunch at noon and then across the street for our wonderful theater experience! We'll have front row, reserved seating too! Turkey and gravy will be provided. Please plan to bring sides and desserts.

December 3, 2026– 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.





VOTERS' ASSEMBLY
SUNDAY, NOVMEBER 15, 2026
9:45 AM - TRINITY HALL

Officers to be voted on for this meeting are Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary and two at-large members for the Board of Directors. There will also be a slate of names for next 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 Board of Directors, Elders, Stewardship Committee, and Nominating Committee. These names will be presented at the assembly.

Women's MINISTRY

We will be taking orders for Thanksgiving pies beginning November 7 and 8, and November 14 and 15, before and after each service. Please either use the order form in the blue pages or see one of our ladies who will be taking orders on those dates. **We ask for payment at the time of the order so we can have an accurate count and purchase the correct number of supplies needed**. The pies can be picked up November 21 and 22, after services. These pies freeze well in case you plan to use them at a later time.



We appreciate all the ladies who served as participants in all our services on our LWML weekend, October 3 and 4.

As always, we encourage all Grace ladies to attend our Circle Meeting the second Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM for Bible study and fellowship, and perhaps making new friends.

Ladies quilting group meets every Thursday making all those beautiful quilts we look forward to seeing on “Quilt Sunday.”

GENERATIONS OF GRACE
GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

BREAKFAST BURRITO
FUNDRAISER

Sunday, November 15, 2026

Trinity Hall • Grace Lutheran Church



TICKETS ON SALE!

Starting November 1 at the GLC Office

Also available between services on Nov 1st & 8th

Your Support Helps Provide

- **Building Materials**
- **Ministry Supplies**
- **Hope for San Raymundo Families**

Helping build homes and share Christ's love in San Raymundo, Guatemala.

MUSIC NOTES

LSB 671 Sing with All the Saints in Glory

1 Sing with all the saints in glory,
Sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,
To the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking;
Soon the storms of time shall cease;
In God's likeness we awaken,
Knowing everlasting peace.

2 Oh, what glory, far exceeding
All that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading
Never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it;
There on high our welcome waits.
Ev'ry humble spirit shares it,
Christ has passed the eternal gates.

3 Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices:
Jesus lives who once was dead.
Shout with joy, O deathless voices!
Child of God, lift up your head!
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders
Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
When, amid earth's closing thunders,
Saints shall stand before the throne!

Text: William J. Irons (1812–1883)

This hymn gives a great picture of the eternal joy we await. It encourages us in our daily walk with Christ on this side of heaven to continue to be built up in Him until the day He returns in glory. The author of this text, William J. Irons, wrote that Christians in the past wrote great hymns in varying circumstances. "It often is hard to 'sing the Lord's song' [in hard times]…; but we must join with our voices also" (William J. Irons, *Hymns for the Church*, 1873). Even amidst trying times and tough situations, we can sing of the eternal life that Christ gives through His death and resurrection.

Thomas Schulteis
Dir. of Worship Arts (Organist)

LifeWise Academy – Reaching Students with the Gospel

From the beginning, **Grace Lutheran Church has been a faithful partner in LifeWise Academy**, providing classroom space, supporting us, praying with us, and helping make this ministry possible. We are deeply grateful for your continued support.

One of our biggest opportunities right now is **Denison Middle School**. With **Principal Washington** now leading the school, we are working to build a strong relationship and praying for open doors to serve students and families there. Please continue to pray for the Lord's favor as we work to serve the Denison community.

We are also seeing potential opportunities to expand toward **Winter Haven High School**. One of our greatest practical needs for future growth is **transportation**. A dedicated bus would help us safely serve more students and make expansion to additional schools a reality.

We ask for your continued prayers as we endeavor to reach as many students as possible. Below is a link you can share with anyone who may be interested in **enrolling a student in LifeWise Academy**. You can also reach out to the Director, **Drean Cespedes**, if you have encouraging words, questions, or ideas that may help grow the ministry here in Winter Haven.

Thank you, Grace Lutheran, for being part of this ministry from the very beginning. Please continue to pray for LifeWise, **Denison Middle School, Principal Washington, new school partnerships, and the provision of transportation**.

Enroll a Student:
LifeWise Polk-Winter Haven - Enroll

Contact: Drean "Roberto" Cespedes
dreancespedes@lifewise.org | (508) 847-8846

The August and Mildred Bernthal Scholarship Fund

Pastor August and Mildred Bernthal left a legacy to our church by first starting Grace Lutheran School and then establishing a scholarship fund for it. They wanted to be sure that members of Grace who wished to enroll their children in the school could do so even if they faced financial barriers. Many people have benefited from this fund over the years - until recently. Now, because of the State of Florida's Step-Up program, any child can attend Grace! But with a greater and more varied population at our school, new problems have emerged. There are students who are struggling in school and need some extra help. To address this problem, the school started an after-school tutoring program. High-quality tutors are available to address the skills the students need help with. However, this comes at a cost that many of our families cannot afford. The school board has decided to add another purpose to the scholarship fund – to supplement the cost of tutoring. Also, if a child needs academic testing for a learning disability, this fund can help parents pay for the cost of that testing. **We are about to start our fifth year in operation!! This is a sustainable and much-needed program!**

So, if you have ever given to this fund, know that it will continue to enrich the students of our school. If you have never given before, consider a donation to help us in its expanded purpose. If you have any questions about the fund, you can address them to Krista Bernthal, August and Mildred's daughter-in-law, who is heading up the tutoring program. bernthalk@gmail.com, 803-269-9919.

Sip with Grace

Hey Grace Family!

We're having another evening Sip with Grace at Grove Roots in November. Come out and spend some time with us in a low-key, conversation-friendly environment. This is a great opportunity to get to know more about others in the Grace family! What a perfect way to kick off the upcoming holiday season!

Who: Members, non-members, neighbors, friends, guests, anyone, **YOU**!
When: Thursday, November 19, at 5:30 PM (don't worry if you are a little late)
Where: Grove Roots Brewing Co. at 302 3rd St SW, Winter Haven
What to expect: Great conversation, zero pressure, and friendly faces eager to see you!

If you would like more information, contact Michelle Reddick at 863.293.8447 or mreddick@glwh.org.



Service of
Nine Lessons and Carols
Saturday, December 12, 4 PM

What is the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols?

It began at Truro Cathedral, Cornwall, England, around 1880 and became famous after the dean of King's College Cambridge brought it to his choir in 1918. This is a worship service that tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of a Savior, and the birth of Jesus through a sequence of Bible readings (lessons) and Christmas carols. The original intent of the service was to draw visitors to the church during the Christmas season.

Christmas by Candlelight Dinner

Saturday, December 12

5:30 PM - Trinity Hall

Following the Service of Lessons and Carols

Come, join us for a festive evening and delicious dinner catered by our neighborhood Longhorn restaurant.

Menu (choice of)

Filet or Parmesan Chicken
Served with salad, seasoned rice, and green beans.
Chocolate Stampede® Cake for dessert!

$30.00 per person

Order forms in the blue pages and at the front desk and in the narthex.
Deadline for signing up is December 2.



Treasurer's Report for the Three Months Ending September 30, 2026

	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance
Church				
Income	$ 106,956	$ 404,548	$ 360,667	$ 43,881
Expenses	$ 107,460	$ 342,406	$ 344,264	$ (1,858)
Total Net Income (Loss) Church	**$ (504)**	**$ 62,142**	**$ 16,403**	**$ 45,739**
School				
Income	$ 389,189	$ 1,263,440	$ 1,705,336	$ (441,896)
Expenses	$ 321,101	$ 1,080,767	$ 1,163,091	$ (82,324)
Designated (In/Out Accounts)	$ (4,227)	$ (16,428)		
Total Net Income (Loss) School	**$ 72,314**	**$ 199,101**	**$ 542,245**	**$ (359,572)**
Investment Assets				
School Endowment Fund	$ 508,270			
Bernthal Endowment Scholarship Fund	$ 148,404			
All Other Scholarships/Investments	$ 30,073			



Parish Statistics

Baptisms

William Raylan Gatlin - 9/23/26
Rylee Seth Gatlin - 9/23/26
Carter Dean Henrikon - 10/18/26
Samuel Wayne Henrikson - 10/18/26

Deaths

Evelyn "Evie" Lois James - 9/29/26
Helen Myers - 10/14/26
Milton "Tex" Miles - 10/14/26
Tim Weis - 10/14/26

Grace Lutheran School Pre-School 2's-8th Grade News

Phone: 863-293-9744
SCHOOL WEBSITE: school.glwh.org



Preschool and Elementary

Fall Fun at Grace Lutheran School!

Fall has officially arrived at Grace Lutheran School, and our Preschool and Elementary students are ready for all the fun and learning that comes with the season! Our classrooms are filled with exciting activities, hands-on learning, and plenty of opportunities for our students to grow.



Apple Adventures!

Our kindergarten classes recently learned all about Johnny Appleseed and enjoyed exploring the story and traditions surrounding this fun fall figure. Our 2nd grade students also celebrated with a special Apple Day, making learning interactive, engaging, and delicious!

Super Readers Are Growing!

We are also excited to celebrate our students who are beginning to meet their Accelerated Reader (AR) goals! Our students have been working hard to read, grow, and challenge themselves.



We are so proud of our Super Readers! Each book they read helps them build their vocabulary, strengthen their comprehension, and discover new worlds through reading.

We look forward to celebrating even more reading accomplishments throughout the school year!

Middle School

It has been a busy and exciting month in middle school. Students successfully completed MAP testing, providing valuable data to guide instruction and growth. A special shout-out to Mrs. Gatlin and Miss Rusher for leading FCA this year and providing another opportunity for our students to grow in faith, fellowship, and leadership. Our middle school athletic teams have also been busy competing and representing Grace well. As we closed out the first quarter, we had student-led conferences, giving students an opportunity to reflect on their progress, take ownership of their learning, and set goals for the next quarter.



Artists of the Month

Gianna - 1st grade
Stella - 3rd grade
Meliah– 4th grade

SCHOOL CALENDAR

November

3: K - 5 N.U.T. Day
4: Uniform Sales 7:30AM - 3:30PM
6: P.A.C.E. Board Meeting 1:00 - 3:00PM
Fall Theatre Production Performance 6:00PM
7: Fall Theatre Production Performance 1:00PM & 4:00PM
11: No School - Veteran's Day
12: Midterm of 2nd Quarter
18:P.A..C.E.CoffeeTalk 8:15AM
20: Early Release
K - 5 N.U.T. Day
23 - 27: No School - Thanksgiving Break
30: School Resumes

December

1: K - 5 $2 N.U.T. Day
2: Uniform Sales 7:30AM - 3:30PM
Preschool Christmas Program 6:30PM
9: K - 2 Christmas Program 6:30PM
11: Middle School Sneaker Ball 6:00 - 8:30PM
16: Uniform Sales 7:30AM - 3:30PM
Grades 3 - 5 Christmas Program 6:30PM
18: End of 2nd Quarter
Early Release
Candy Cane Cinema 4:00 - 6:00PM
21 - 31: No School - Christmas Break



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.*



NOVEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Daylight Saving Time Ends 1 ***8:30 AM Worship*** 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 AM Confirmation ***10:45 AM Worship***	2 7:30 AM Staff Devos 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	3 10:30 AM Church Staff 12 PM God's Guys 6:30 PM Praise Rehearsal	4 1:30 PM WM Board Mtg. 3:30 PM SM Training **6 PM Grace Nights**	5 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 11 AM Sunshine Club 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6 PM Trail Life 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:30 PM Grace Chorale	6 10 AM Bible Study - MM 1 PM PACE Bd. Mtg.	7 ***5:00 PM Worship Svc***
8 ***8:30 AM Worship*** 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 AM Confirmation ***10:45 AM Worship***	9 7:30 AM Staff Devos 9 AM Circuit Pastors 6 PM School Board	10 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Small Group 6:30 PM Praise Rehearsal	**Veterans Day** 11 **No School** **Church Office Closed**	12 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 1 PM Martha Circle 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:30 PM Grace Chorale	13 10 AM Bible Study - MM	14 ***5 PM Worship Svc***
15 ***8:30 AM Worship*** 9:45 AM Voters' Mtg. 9:45 AM Confirmation ***10:45 AM Worship***	16 7:30 AM Staff Devos 5:30 PM Generations of Grace Meeting	17 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 12 PM God's Guys 1:30 PM Alzheimer's Association Meeting 6:30 PM Praise Rehearsal	18 8:15 AM PACE Coffee Talk 3:30 PM SM Training 6 PM Stephen Ministry	19 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 1 PM Adult Game Day 5:30 PM Sip with Grace 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6 PM Trail Life 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:30 PM Grace Chorale	20 10 AM Bible Study - MM	21 ***5 PM Worship Svc***
22 ***8:30 AM Worship*** 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 AM Confirmation ***10:45 AM Worship***	23	24 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 6:30 PM Praise Rehearsal	25 **6:30PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship**	**Happy Thanksgiving** 26 	27 10 AM Bible Study - MM	28 ***5 PM Worship Svc***
1st Sunday in Advent 29 ***8:30 AM Worship*** 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 AM Confirmation ***10:45 AM Worship***	30 7:30 AM Staff Devos					

GRACE LUTHERAN

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