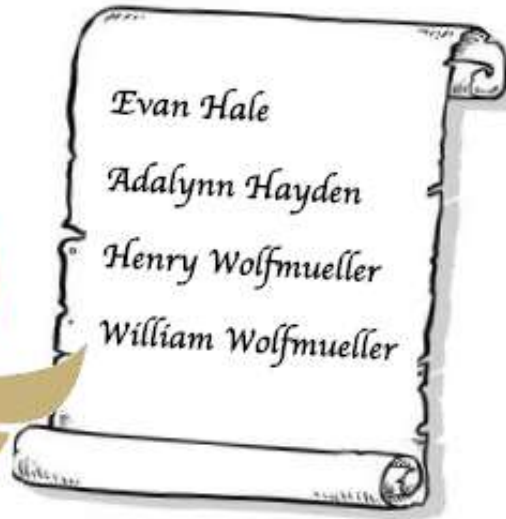
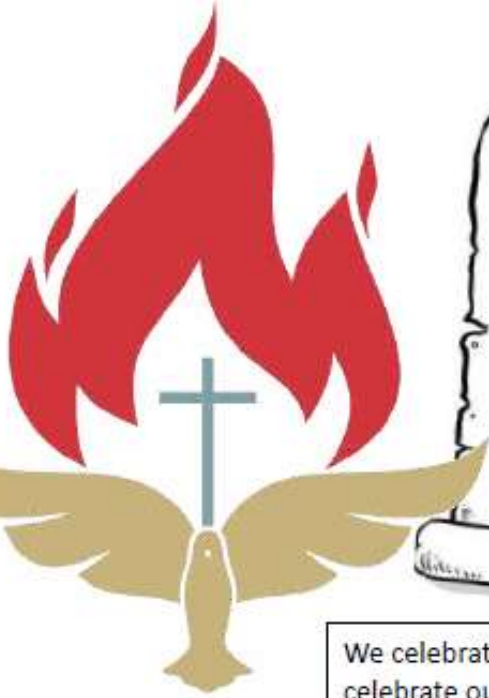


confirmation



We celebrate 2 MILESTONES IN MAY as we celebrate our Graduates on May 5th and our Confirmands on May 19th.

GRADUATION



Class
OF 2024

A Note from Pastor Pase

Dear Redeemed Saints of Grace,

We enter April basking in the glow of the resurrection of Jesus! Every day we bask in that glow, for every day, *Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!* We have baptized into the death **and** resurrection of Jesus. His victory is ours! Praise God!

We began this year with theme of *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*. The blessings flow from God through our Savior Jesus. They are the blessings of His perfect life, His death on the cross, and His glorious resurrection three days later. Remember this logo?



The blessings of God continue to flow from Him to us through the means of Word and Sacrament. The Lord may show up in different ways, but He has promised to be in the Word and the Sacraments. So, is there any reason to look anyplace else? NO! Is there any reason to stay away from where He has promised to meet us? NO!

Praising God = being where He is, where He has promised to be. Again, I write, with the shape of our society, with all that is happening in the world, the pews should be packed every Sunday (Monday)! And again, I write, what is keeping **you** from consistently and faithfully being where the Lord meets You with the resurrection power of His living Son, our Savior and Lord?

I am about to finish up another Confirmation class. This will be my 35th Confirmation class since my ordination. What do you remember about your Confirmation day? I pray you remember the promises you made to the Lord. Promises that can only be kept by the Holy Spirit. And where is the Holy Spirit promised to be? That's right, Word and Sacrament.

Here is the promise you made. You were asked, "Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death? You answered: *I do by the grace of God.*

Next question was: "Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it? Again, you answered: *I do by the grace of God.*

The grace of God – a blessing from God – is here for you through Word and Sacrament.

The times we live in are dark. And they are getting darker. Praise God that His blessings of His gracious light flow freely and regularly to you and for you in the divine service.

So yes, see **you** in church!

Pastor Pase
Ps 46:10

THOUGHTS FROM MS. CAROL



Dear Family of Grace,

We are only a few months away from the end of another school year. Do you have vacation plans yet? How does this sound: A place surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills?

It's a camper's paradise and it won't cost you a thing! Camp Firelight is this year's VBS venue. Campers will join Counselor Carol and Lumen (Lu) the lightning bug puppet and learn to face their fears while trusting God. We will explore Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears.

Through the story of Ruth choosing to go with Naomi and follow her back to Bethlehem, we will be invited to think of the ways we can trust and see God leading in our own lives and in the lives of others.

Through the story of Jesus calming the storm and bringing peace to the disciples, we will learn that, like Jesus, we all can ask God for peace during the storms that crash against our lives and know that God is in control.

We will consider how, like Philip, we can respond to God's love and grace ourselves, how we can share it with others, and how we can trust God to spark joy in our lives as we live out our own discipleship.

Mark your calendars NOW for a camping adventure you don't want to miss!

CAMP FIRELIGHT
July 1st, 2nd, 3rd
(Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday).
9:00 – 12:00

Watch GIA and PINK SHEET for more information and ways you can be a part of this awesome camping adventure!

Blessings,

Counselor Carol



Our Baptismal Journey

Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are *his*: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership *to you*? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since *you* belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

Marianne is asking for us to help celebrate Jerry's upcoming birthday. They are former members of Grace now living in North Carolina. See below for details. There is an April 30th deadline for photo or video messages to be sent. Deadline for cards is August 24th. Again, all information is below.

Surprise Celebration For Jerry Karth As He Turns 70 & Gets Ready* To Retire!

* by the end of the year



Send your congratulations & good wishes to Jerry

as he celebrates his birthday on Saturday, August 24, 2024.

Consider sending photos and/or video messages to Jerry. We'll compile these into a video to share with him. Please send them by April 30 to:

mariannekarth@gmail.com.

If you would like to send a card to Jerry, please send it to arrive by August 24:

Jerry Karth

1201 Penselwood Drive

Raleigh, NC 27604



Important Dates:

April 1
April 3 & 4

NO ECP – Bad Weather Day
Puppet Chapel

Bible Stories, Bible Words and SHINE Words for April

April 2 – 5	Easter John 20: Luke 24:1-12 Matthew 28:1-10	He is risen. He is risen indeed Alleluia. Mark 16:6 Shine in Celebration
April 8 – 12	Road to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35	Did not our hearts burn within us Luke 24:32 Shine in His presence
April 15 – 19	Doubting Thomas John 20:24-29	Jesus said, “Do not disbelieve but believe John 20:27 Shine Without Doubting
April 22 – 26	Ascension Matthew 28:16-20 Acts 1:1-11	Jesus said, “I am with you always Matthew 28:20 Shine as a Witness
April 29 – May 3	Conversion of Paul Acts 9:1-19	Create in me a clean heart, O God Psalm 51:10 Shine with a New Heart

STORIES

Bible
&

WORDS

Dr. Seuss Week was a blast at the ECP. Our kids celebrated by wearing red, blue, and green. Wacky Wednesday was a hit. And Hat day was full of surprises.



Midweek Ministry



There's a place for YOU at Grace!

6:15-7:15 pm: Bible Bunch, K-2nd

(Teachers: Jennifer Powell, Stacy Baker, Casey Gregory)

Pre-Confirmation, 3rd-4th

(Teachers: Jessica Diaz, Lauren Schwalbach, Stephanie Mitchell)

Pre-Confirmation, 5th-6th (Michelle Wolfmueller, Jennifer Powell)

High School (Ryan Hamilton)

Adult Study, (Rotate Leaders)

1st Year Confirmation (Carol Massie)

2nd Year Confirmation (Pastor Pase)

Dinner



Wednesday Meals for April

Join us for the Wednesday Meals. There's always great food and fellowship. Meals start at **5:00pm and end at 6:00pm**. Show your appreciation with a free-will offering to help cover the expenses. All meals include salad & desserts.

April 3

Sloppy Joe's

April 10

Pizza

April 17

Spaghetti

April 24

Hamburger Dip

Please make sure to sign up for dinner *each week* on the **PINK SHEET** so we can prepare enough food for everyone.



Thank you to everyone who donated to our latest blood drive on March 20th.

We collected 14 units, which will stay in Midland. Our total was a little lower because some power red donations were not able to be given and a couple of willing donors were turned away. Next drive should be late August.

What's Going On At Grace

Monday Evening Divine Service – 7:00 pm

If you are not able to be in the Lord's house on Sunday, our Monday divine service is for you. Also, remember CD and DVD copies of each divine service are available upon request to the church office. You may also listen to the previous Sunday's divine service via our website, www.gracelutheranmidland.org.



Remember we have *endowments* and *scholarship funds* that are doing great work. Your periodic or regular contribution keeps them going and ministry being done.

The funds that we really need to keep funded are the Youth Fund and the Jane Pase Kindergarten Scholarship Fund. You can use your Endowment envelope and earmark which fund it goes to. Thank you for your generosity.



Graceful Seniors

We meet on April 9th & April 23rd at 10:00am. We are studying Genesis. And *you* are invited to join us! We are meeting in the Parlor. Enter through the circle-drive doors.

2024 FLOWER CHART



The **2024 Flower Chart** is located on the Grace bulletin board in the south hallway, across from the Parlor. **The flowers are still \$50/vase.** There are several dates still open. Please fill out an envelope, place payment inside and turn it in either in the **offering plate** or on **Victoria's desk** no later than Monday preceding your flower date to get the dedication in the Worship Folder on the day your flowers are on the altar. **Make checks payable to Grace Altar Guild.**

Please note there is a new place to check on the envelope at the bottom if you would like to pick your flowers up by Tuesday morning.



Stephen Ministry is a valuable ministry, in place at Grace since 2005. Do you know of someone (look in the mirror first) who is hurting? Do you know it is not good for him or her to be walking this path alone? Pride says we can, but pride is wrong. We have trained Stephen Ministers ready to walk with those hurting. Talk to Pastor Pase or any

Stephen Minister you see wearing their blue nametag. And remember ... this isn't just for Grace members. Look around your sphere of influence.



Our **2024 Sunday School Offering** is going to Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry. LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs are working animals, trained to interact with people of all ages and circumstances who are suffering and in need. Some of the dogs and their handlers will be here soon to do a presentation for us during the Sunday School hour. Watch GIA for more details.



The Columbarium is fully functional and there are several niches available. Engravings are also available. Engravings have been done on the niches occupied. If you would like to purchase a niche in the Columbarium, please see Victoria in the Church office for the forms.



Prayer focus for April is our **Business Administration Board**

Chair: Matt Walsh

Sharon Burks, Aaron Hobratchk, Kyle Patterson, & Gina Zimmerman



**Sadly, no one signed up for April.
Please prayerfully consider the open months listed below.**

A teller assists Jim Raven (Grace's Financial Secretary), in counting the tithes collected after Sunday service. It normally takes about one hour.

No prior training is needed.

Jim will show you on the spot how to help, and your presence serves as an important "control" in ensuring more than one person is present while tithes are counted.

Tellers are needed for May, July - October, & December 2024!

Please sign up on the PINK SHEET

In your weekly worship bulletin.

Please check your calendars to see when you are able to serve.



Grace Quilters

Grace Quilters are really enjoying having a second quilting table. A big thank you to everyone who made it possible.

Below are some of our newest quilts.

Our Quilters do such a fantastic job! We are always looking for new faces to come in and work with us. The best part is that there is no experience needed. The ladies continue their "labor of love" on **Thursdays from 1:00 – 3:00pm** in the Community Room. Stop by to see what all the excitement is about. Contact Margaret Cloyd 432-638-3358 or Gina Zimmerman 432-553-2263 if you have any questions.

Due to increased material costs, quilts will now be \$65 for full size and \$45 for lap quilts.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to purchase quilts for the past several years.





G.R.A.C.E. Connections

Stay connected to the Word and your family at Grace!

We currently have 5 active Connection Groups at Grace.

Graceful Seniors Leader Pastor Pase. They meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 10:00am in the Parlor. This is a mixed group, studying books of the Bible. Though called “Seniors,” all ages are welcome. Current study is Genesis.

Growing in Grace Meets Wednesday during Midweek Ministry hour in the Library.

SOS (Surviving on Scripture). They meet the 1st & 3rd Thursday at 5:30pm in the Library. If you are interested in joining us, contact Cindy Hilton or Carol Massie for details.

The Sheep of Bibleville Leader Pastor Pase. Meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays from 11:30am – 12:30pm in the Parlor. (Please use doors by the Circle Drive.) This Connection Group began to give the Bibleville Team an opportunity to be fed during the week. Their current study is Romans.

Men’s Breakfast Connection Leader is Ryan Hamilton. Meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at Higher Grounds Coffee on Andrews Highway from 6:45am – 7:30am. Topics will vary.

G.R.A.C.E. Connections are the Grace congregation in mission. They are groups of 4 to 12 people who come together and are intentionally led in the mission statement of our congregation:

† **Sharing God’s Grace**

† **Living His Word**

† **Making Disciples**

The Core Values of G.R.A.C.E. Connections are:

- **Growing**...by reaching out, *witnessing*, and forming new groups
- **Relating**...and *connecting* with each other as the body of Christ
- **Acting**...in Christian *service* and mission
- **Caring**...and *praying* for each other and the world
- **Enriching**...personal growth and spiritual transformation through *Bible study*

Satan seeks to divide to destroy. Stay CONNECTED. Be CONNECTED. Be a part of a G.R.A.C.E. Connection!

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

Stefan Parsley	04/01
Gina Zimmerman	04/02
Lauren Schwalbach	04/03
Paul Hayden	04/04
Brooke Logan	04/11
Shana Price	04/13
Jodie Hawkins	04/16
Jenny Powell	04/16
Eli Hale	04/17
Reagan Smith	04/19
Tyler Powell	04/19
Jenn Zeyen	04/20
Corey Nicholas	04/21
Harper Diaz	04/21
Marion Hritz	04/22
Bernice Weinkauf	04/22
James Powell	04/24
Zachary Hayden	04/26



Baptismal Birthdays

Caren Stephens	04/03
Cheryl Werner	04/06
Londyn McWhorter	04/09
Claudia Chaney	04/10
Allison Gray	04/10
William Wolfmueller	04/11
Jonathan McCann	04/11
Mason Pokky	04/13
Marilyn Richmond	04/16
Jacob Gray	04/19



Anniversaries

PAUL & MICHELE HAYDEN 20 YRS.	04/10
DONNA & DOUG HARTMAN 59 YRS.	04/13
MATTHEW & RACHEL SCHIMANK 8 YRS.	04/16
TIM & NICOL BENTON 30 YRS.	04/23
BRENT & LEA KEESEE 31 YRS.	04/24



Status of the Budget

The following is a summary of Grace's actual revenue and actual expenses along with the amount budgeted for 2024:
Cumulative:

Actual Revenues	\$108,234.38 (includes interest)
Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 121,259.45</u>
Revenue less Expenses:	\$ (13,025.07)
 2023 Budget	 \$970,952.00

For questions, please contact Aaron Hobratschk at 806-790-6369.



VBS is Going Camping!

Mark your calendars for July 1, 2 and 3! This year's theme verse is Psalm 56:3.



Counselor Carol needs your help on this camping adventure. Please sign up on the PINK SHEET during April! Lots of different opportunities to serve!



APRIL YOUTH EVENTS



&



3 P's Event



Painting – Pizza – Pastor's Devotion

Sunday, April 14th

11:30 – 1:30

Jr. High Focal Point



Service Project

April 6th



More information to come!



High School Retreat

When: April 26th-27th

Where: Hamilton's Lake House

Theme: The Apostle's Creed

Transportation Provided



Let Ryan Hamilton or Natalie Keese know if you will be a part of this great weekend of Fun, Fellowship, Fishing and Faith!



On your mark . . . Get Set . . . Go!

A BIG group of our Jr. High Focal Point tried out the new go-karting track at Green Acres on Sunday, February 25th. Some were a little apprehensive at first, but the smiles won out as they sped around the track running into each other from time to time! (probably on purpose) A devotion with Pastor Pase and pizza completed the event. I think they're ready to go again!



We invited our parents and members to
“Come & See”
and they came!



We had a great time with our visitors! There were 9 parents/members in Bibleville and 5 in the Youth Room. We learned about God’s great mercy through the story of Ruth. The Bibleville Team and some of our 5th graders put on a drama for all and then we dove deeper into the story during our shepherd time. Later we tested our knowledge of the story with some big screen competition. It was a great day to be in God’s Word! We will definitely be doing this again, so if you missed this one, you can look forward to another opportunity in the fall. Thank you to all who **CAME & SAW!**



CHATTER

Texas District CEF Newsletter



It's Loan Rebate Time!

Congratulations to the following congregations on their 2023 loan rebate check!

Houston, San Pedro • Commerce, Trinity • Houston, Holy Cross • Vernon, Zion • Sweeny, St Luke • Houston, Living Water • Dallas, St. Paul • Kilgore, Pilgrim • McAllen, St. Paul • San Antonio, St. Paul • College Station, Holy Cross • Dallas, Zion • Humble, Lamb of God • Odessa, Redeemer • Plano, Faith • Houston, Beautiful Savior • Canton, Holy Cross • Taylor, Trinity • Arlington, Beautiful Savior • Newark, Victory in Christ • Orange, Grace • Fort Worth, Christ • Smithville, Grace • Austin, Mt. Olive • Borger, Good Shepherd • Dallas, Our Redeemer • San Antonio, Mt Olive • Tomball, Zion • Houston, St. Andrew • Beaumont, St. John • San Antonio, Mt. Calvary • The Woodlands, Living Word • Plainview, St. Paul • Katy, Crossroads • Haslet, Holy Shepherd • Stephenville, Faith • Azle, Good Shepherd • Midland, Holy Cross • Baytown, Redeemer • Cibolo, Word of Life • Granbury, Our Savior • Weatherford, Trinity • Austin, Redeeming Grace • Killeen, Grace • Marble Falls, Hope • Gun Barrel City, St. Peter • Thorndale, St. Paul • Houston, Gloria Dei • Houston, Family of Faith • Waco, Peace • Lake Jackson, St. Mark • Lubbock, Hope • San Antonio, Crown of Life • DeSoto, Cross of Christ • Kerrville, Hosanna • Amarillo, Trinity • Houston, Christ Memorial • Lakeway, ACTS • La Grange, LOMT • Cypress, Lifebridge • Pflugerville, Point of Grace • Frisco, Waters Edge • Gatesville, St. Paul • Rockwall, Our Savior • Flower Mound, Lamb of God • Hurst, Peace • Midland, Grace • Pasadena, Zion • Mansfield, St. John • Northlake, St Peter • Sugar Land, Faith • Huntsville, Faith • San Antonio, Shepherd of the Hills • Keller, Messiah • Spring, Trinity • Friendswood, Hope • Bryan, Bethel • Houston, St Mark • Georgetown, Faith • New Braunfels, Cross • Houston, Epiphany • Sugar Land, Fishers of Men • Boerne, Messiah • Georgetown, Zion • Katy, Memorial • Houston, Trinity • Cypress, St. John • Tomball, Salem • Austin, Redeemer • Plano, Messiah

90 Congregations ★ Over \$650,000 in Loan Rebates

MARCH 2024 RATES

FIXED RATE		FLOATING RATE		CONGREGATIONS	
One Year Note	3.500% (3.55% APY)	One Year Note	3.000% (3.03% APY)	Savings	1.250% (1.26% APY)
Three Year Note	3.650% (3.70% APY)	Three Year Note	3.250% (3.29% APY)	Building Fund	3.000% (3.04% APY)
Five Year Note	3.750% (3.80% APY)	Five Year Note	3.500% (3.55% APY)		
Jumbo Investment**	4.000% (4.06% APY)	Flex Savings	1.000% (1.00% APY)		
		Rainy Day Fund*	1.250% (1.26% APY)		

** \$100,000 minimum investment. 18-month term.

*Amounts over \$10,000 receive the Flex Savings rate

Grace Prays~~~~~2024

We continue to pray for the following:

- Protection for our armed forces and strength for their families and Lt. Aaron Bell and his family.
- Wisdom for our nation's leaders.
- Continued guidance and blessing for Pastor Pase.
- Continued guidance and blessing for Ms. Carol.
- Strength and commitment in tending our baptismal journey.
- Our Stephen Ministers
- Our ECP

*For updates to Grace Prays,
please email Victoria
at
office@gracelutheranmidlandtx.org
or call the Church Office,
432.697.3221*

OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

- ❖ Charles Colgan, Ashton Medical Lodge
- ❖ Eleanor Dillenburg
- ❖ Georgi Rushing

ONGOING HEALTH PROBLEMS

- ❖ Mike Barbian, Jim Hill, Melinda Richmond, & David Stock.

ILL OR RECOVERING

- ❖ Diane Richey (Carol Massie's sister) has been on a chemo pill for 4 weeks. CAT Scan is scheduled in mid-April to see if meds are working. She also fell and broke her left wrist. Surgery is on 3/25 or 3/26.
- ❖ Walther Marcis (Pastor's father-in-law) Tests scheduled to determine if he is a candidate for the TAVR procedure.
- ❖ Lana's father (friends of Virginia DeBerry) has Stage 3 or 4 lung cancer. PET scan shows it hasn't spread. He will have chemo and possibly radiation if not operable.
- ❖ Bryce (Khristi Moritz's nephew) was in a serious motorcycle accident. He is improving slowly. The vent was removed. Recovery will be a long one.
- ❖ Michele Hayden has abdominal pain. Ultrasound shows enlarged liver & kidney cysts. Following up with specialists.
- ❖ Mike Barbian is in Manor Park Rehab, Room #310.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

- ❖ Jana (friend of Sandra Parsley) the scan showed her lungs are clear and healthy.

PRAYERS OF MOURNING

- ❖ Kayla Rigney (friend of RJ & Kinsey Pase) died on 3/1.
- ❖ Doug Hooper, (Lea Keese's dad) died on 3/17.

Follow us on Facebook. Search Grace Lutheran
and you'll see our logo.
Our Website Address is:
www.gracelutheranmidland.org



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3000 W. Golf Course Rd.
Midland, Texas 79701-2998