



# The Call of *Grace*

Grace Lutheran Church

6601 North 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Pensacola, FL 32504

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**April 2021**

## **From the Pastor's Desk...**

### **“Catch-22”**

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED! ALLELUIA!

That right there, family and friends of Grace, is the **best news ever!**

Now why on earth would I title an Easter newsletter article “Catch-22?” What is a “Catch-22” anyway? It is likely that many of us have used the phrase. It comes from a novel, written by Joseph Heller that was published in 1961. Without going into all the detail, a situation is called a “Catch-22” when the only solution for a problem is denied because of a circumstance inherent to the problem, or by a rule.

The show-business catch-22 is: no work unless you have an agent, no agent unless you've worked. Another one might be: you can't get a job unless you have experience; but you can't get any experience without a job. Catch-22.

At Grace we have been experiencing “Catch-22.”

Did you know that we have a whole group of folks who – because of COVID-19 – will **not** come to worship here on Sundays because they feel unsafe? I get that. These are real feelings they have. They are valid feelings. Those in this group are quick to point out that – (*despite the fact that the City of Pensacola, as well as Grace Lutheran Church require masks to be worn over both the mouth and nose at all times while in the building*) – there are still some people at church on Sundays who are not doing this.

So they stay home. Some watch the service online. Some do not. We have no way of knowing.

Then... we have a whole **other** group of people who will **not** come to worship here on Sundays because they are mad as all get-out that we would have the audacity to ask them to wear a mask while they are here. They feel put upon, and usually folks in this group feel that the whole mask-thing is some sort of governmental plot to take away our freedoms.

(continued...)

So they stay home. Some watch the service online. Some do not. We have no way of knowing.

**It's a "Catch-22."** Bottom line for Grace? We lose people no matter what policy we choose to abide by.

Again, some stay home. Some watch the service online. Others do not. We have no way of knowing.

What we do know is that too many in the Grace family have not been physically present in the Lord's House for worship in a very long time.

As your pastor, I am more than just a little concerned about this.

If you are in the first group, please know this: while there have been members of Grace who have contracted Covid-19, (including myself,) – and all survived! (Thanks be to God!) – **not one case** could be traced back to going to church here! Grace is a safe place! We are doing all we can – from social distancing, to masks, to hand sanitizer, to extra cleanings – to ensure that we are as clean as possible.

The vaccines are now widely available. Get yours, trust God, and let your mind be at ease. Then come back to church!

Many in our church family are out and about in the community, but have not returned to worship. In that case, it would seem that for some there is a disconnect between being fearful of coming to worship and yet going to other places. I am pastorally very fearful that the easy slide away from God and worship in His house has taken hold in some families.

Catch-22

Those in the group that has stopped coming because we are requiring masks need to realize that they are fighting the wrong battle. The enemy has set a trap, and they have fallen right into it. The issue is not masks. The issue is not freedom. Nor oppressive government. Nor conspiracies of any kind.

The issue is humility, and putting others before yourselves.

I personally hate wearing masks and I'm getting beyond tired of doing so. But I do it. For the sake of those in the first group who are afraid. I also do it because currently in the City of Pensacola, it is also the law. As a Christ-follower, I give honor to God by obeying the law as long as it does not violate God's Law – which masks certainly do not.

If you are mad about wearing a mask in church, could I respectfully ask that you would put your anger and frustration away for an hour while you are here for the sake of others and in obedience and submission to God and the civil laws that are in place? Don't stop attending because of a silly mask. My guess is that you wear it in other places, as many businesses and restaurants are requiring they be worn.

To both groups – and everyone in the middle: God has such good news for you here in this place!

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN, INDEED! ALLELUIA!

(continued...)

As I already said above, that is the **best news ever!**

The Enemy would just love for you to stay away from the services and fellowship of God's house. **Do not let him win!**

I want to encourage you to come together with your brothers and sisters and hear and study the life-giving Word of God! Come, gather together and partake of the holy Supper of our Lord! In these crazy, difficult, frustrating days we are living in you and I NEED to receive this heavenly food from God. His intention is not just that we *survive* these days, but that we **thrive** in them.

But you can't do that if you cut yourself off from these Gifts of God's grace.

It's time to return. There's good news and strength for you here!

And lastly, to those of you who have been here faithfully, week after week, **Thank you!** You are an inspiration. What more can be said? You are joyfully present to participate in worship together.

Thanks for reading through this long letter. I look forward to seeing you soon, and to joining my praises with yours to the risen Savior Jesus!

Joining Jesus on His Mission,

*Pastor Huesmann*



## Flowers & Candles for April



April 11 – Alan Benson  
Altar Flowers are given and Eternal Candle is lit in Memory of  
Emey Benson for Anniversary date of March 8<sup>th</sup>



April 18 – Chris Fisher  
Altar Flowers are given in Honor of  
Sydney Fisher's Birthday on April 16<sup>th</sup>



## Prayer Shawl Ministry Grace Lutheran Church

Your GLC Prayer Shawl Ministry is still going strong. Have you seen some of our lovely creations lately? Usually there are several to be seen on our table, especially on the 1st Sunday of each month. Our table is under the TV monitor in the Welcome Center across from the Nursery. On the shelving above the table is an aqua crocheted 3-hole container that houses shawl request forms and pens. Perhaps there's someone special you know or love that is in need of a shawl. Simply fill out one of our forms, and we'll make sure you get one. This year, we've chosen the Gulf Coast Kid's House as the recipient for our outreach project. We'll be making scarves and blankets for them. This year we have instituted a better way to inform people of a shawl waiting for them to pick up via email and/or text. Hopefully that will help us get the shawls to the recipients quicker. We've been using the Church Directory to do this, so please check your information and if needed, have any changes made.

*Jeanie Taylor*



"The Weekend Backpack Food Ministry continues to deliver bags of food to Holm Elementary. With a few more children in need of the program we are now delivering 50 bags each week to Holm. We are in the home stretch with only 8 more weeks of school and feel very blessed to be able to help these

students. Please continue to pray for the students and their families during these challenging times. Thanks to the Grace ladies that faithfully help with this program to make sure that the kids have something to eat each weekend. When I was called away on a family emergency in February these women kept up the food delivery without missing a beat, you are all very much appreciated."

*Sharon D'Ambra*

Senior Adult  
**BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesday Morning  
Bible Study begins April 7<sup>th</sup>  
the time is 10:00 – 12:00  
Come join us in studying God's Word

# Facilities Report:

It is Easter, already. Can you believe it has been 54 weeks since we all worshipped together in the Lord's House? Hopefully, with the vaccines now available, it won't be too much longer until we can all worship together again.

On the facility side, the new roof has been installed on the Sanctuary building and the metal work associated with that should be complete by the time you read this. It has been a long road, but with material shortages and work back-ups, I feel blessed that we are this far along. We will be requesting bids to have the Fellowship Hall roof re-shingled and the damaged guttering repaired/replaced shortly. Once that is finished, we will begin to have the interior damage to the Sanctuary area repaired and painted. It is going to take a while, but all will be finished in God's time.

We have also contracted to have the fencing installed around the yard building and the dumpster and the A/C units on the north driveway. There is no set timeline for this due to shortages of material and job back-ups from Hurricane Sally. Prayerfully this will be completed during the summer.

We are also addressing the poor lighting situation in our parking lots. Ten of the twelve parking lot lights were not functioning and all six of the floodlamps on the north driveway are malfunctioning. We have replaced the current lights with LED lights. They will be brighter and more economical to operate.

Prayerfully, all this work can be completed without interfering with our day-to-day operations and our weekly worship services. If you see anything around our campus that needs to be addressed for either repair or safety issues, please notify the church office.

Wishing everyone a Blessed and Joy-filled Easter,

***Bruce Dietly***

Facility Manager



🏈 Mighty score ☆ 775☆ POUNDS for Manna Food Pantries and the February Souper Bowl. Grace's team serves our community by practicing prayerful outpouring.

Get ready for our 2nd of 3 drives for the month of AUGUST.

Chris Fisher, Care Ministry <><

# April Calendar

## Calendar Key:

S=Sanctuary N=Narthex FH=Fellowship Hall  
 WC=Welcome Center CB=Community Building Y=Youth  
 K=Kitchen OC=Office Conference LS=Lord's Supper  
 SC= Sanctuary Conference PK= PreK Room

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 10:00am Backpack CB 6:30PM Worship	<b>2 GOOD FRIDAY</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 6:30PM Worship 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	<b>3 Moore GLC</b>
<b>4 EASTER</b> 8:00 am Traditional Service 10:30 am Contemporary Service 5:30 AA Mtg. CB	<b>5</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 5:30pm Yoga FH 7:00pm AA Mtg CB	<b>6</b> 1:15pm Pre-K Board Mtg OC	<b>7</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 10:00am Senior Adult BS CB	<b>8</b> 10:00am Backpack CB	<b>9</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	<b>10</b> 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast FH
<b>11</b> 8:00 am Traditional Service 9:15am Bible Class/Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Service 5:30 AA Mtg. CB	<b>12</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 5:30pm Yoga FH 6:30pm Elders Meeting OC 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 10:00am Senior Adult BS CB 4:30pm Confirmation OC 6:30pm Worship	<b>15</b> 10:00am Backpack CB	<b>16</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	<b>17</b> 8:00am Work Day
<b>18</b> 8:00 am Traditional Service 9:15am Bible Class/Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Service 5:30 AA Mtg. CB	<b>19</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 5:30pm Yoga FH 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	<b>20</b> 6:30 BLL Mtg OC	<b>21</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 10:00am Senior Adult BS CB 4:30pm Confirmation OC	<b>22</b> 10:00am Backpack CB	<b>23</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	<b>24</b> 10:00am Prayer Shawl CB
<b>25</b> 8:00 am Traditional Service 9:15am Bible Class/Sunday School 10:30 am Contemporary Service 5:30 AA Mtg. CB	<b>26</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 5:30pm Yoga FH 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 10:00am Senior Adult BS CB 4:30pm Confirmation OC	<b>29</b> 10:00am Backpack CB	<b>30</b> 7:00am AA Mtg CB 7:00pm AA Meeting CB	

**CONSIDERATE**  
 putting others' needs  
 before my own



Let's Practice Sunday Morning Hospitality --- The Front (closest) parking places near the canopy in the church parking lot are **reserved** for Sunday Morning **Visitors**, or for those with a valid **Handicapped** tag or hanger. Please consider where you park for the benefit of others. Thank you!

# AMAZING GRACE

Christian Preschool

We continue to accept enrollment for the fall of 2021. We are proud to have the opportunity to serve the Pensacola community for over 20 years. Amazing Grace serves children that are 2,3, or 4 years old. We offer a faith based half day program. We are a state licensed program through the Department of Children and Families and also a provider for the Voluntary Preschool Program. The 2- and 3-year-old children can attend 2,3 or 4 days a week and the 4-year-old children can attend our FREE Voluntary Preschool Program (VPK) 4 days a week. Early and late care are available from 8-9 a.m. and 1-2 p.m. for a fee. Information about Amazing Grace can be picked up in the preschool office, between 8 a.m-2 p.m. Monday-Thursday, the church office or go to our website at [gracepensacola.org](http://gracepensacola.org) and click on the preschool tab.

We plan on hosting our Art Gallery night on Friday, April 16, with a different twist due to Covid. Other events in the works include Muffins for Moms, Surprise Day, and 4-year-old graduation.

We are thankful to God for a healthy year and for providing us with the children we had this year. May these children continue to grow in their faith walk with Jesus as the center of their lives.

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*  
*Phil.4:13*

Until the Whole World Hears,  
Amy Onkka  
Director, Amazing Grace <><



## April Birthdays

Hayden Pitts 4/7  
Ed Bohlman 4/8  
Gretchen Huesmann 4/8  
Ben Daseler 4/11  
Ava Chapman 4/13  
Linda Ratliff 4/15  
Sydney Fisher 4/16  
Robin Bjorklund-O'Connell 4/18  
Joan Batzloff 4/21  
John Steiger 4/24  
Marlys McCowen 4/24  
Lee Weiland 4/26  
Christine Bevans 4/29

## April Anniversaries

Tal & Betty Alford 4/11  
Forest & Gwen Myers 4/16  
Gary & Virginia Bunde 4/22  
Richard & Susan Beverly 4/23

To celebrate the sanctity of life and in honor of Mother's and Father's Days in May and June we will collect change \$ for Alpha Center of Pensacola. Alpha Center has been serving our community for over 40 years with pregnancy counseling services and offering alternatives to abortion. Their secondary mission is to help with the needs during pregnancy and prenatal care until mom is secure in caring for her baby. Grace has had a long history of being involved in this wonderful community center off of Creighton Road.

♡ Take a baby bottle and fill with change to return to the bassinet OR include in your offering earmarked Alpha Center.

More ♡ in Action