

Sunday Service

February 4, 2024 - 8:30 AM & 10:15 AM
Livestream at 10:15 AM



Grace Lutheran Church

555 SW Cashmere Blvd.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986-2034

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www.GraceLutheranPSL.com

Pastor Cris Escher

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Phone: (770) 328-5078

Welcome...

We are so happy that you are here with us today. Our desire is to be like another home for you. If you are new to Grace or to the area and are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider joining our family here at Grace. A Fellowship Time is held after each Worship Service, and we invite you to stay for a few minutes so we can get acquainted.

To our many members and friends worshiping at home, whether near or far, we are so happy that you are sharing this worship with us from your homes. www.GraceLutheranPSL.com

Kids at Grace

By the entrance into the sanctuary, busy bags are available for children to use. During the 10:15 service, before the sermon, Ms. Coli will take children (3 and older) to the other building for an engaging lesson about our hope in Jesus. Children are returned to their families right after the prayers. There is also a quiet room outside the sanctuary with toys and the live stream, if families need a place for younger children throughout the service.

Holy Communion

This meal is weird and wonderful: weird because we actually believe that the bread and wine are the Body and Blood of Jesus the Christ; wonderful because Jesus is with us. We take this meal very seriously here at Grace. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out and allow us to answer your questions. **Children** who have not been instructed in the meaning of the Sacrament may come to the Lord's Table with their parents for a blessing but are asked to fold their arms across their chests to indicate they are to receive a blessing.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNION: After the closing hymn, Pastor Cris will pronounce the sending and then for those who wish to share in the celebration of communion shall remain. ***For those who have an intolerance to wine, grape juice is lighter colored on the tray, center.*** Those who find it difficult to walk to the altar can be communed at your seat. Please inform the usher of your need. After Pastor Cris has given your group the blessing at the altar, you may place your cup in the basket and depart from the Sanctuary down the center aisle, and enjoy fellowship in the hall.

Called: The Book of Ephesians

God has called his people together in unity, Both Gentiles and Jews to those far off and close, to bring the Hope of Christ to all. This call is not new but has extended back to the beginning as God had them look up to see His hope for the future.

Paul

Paul, after seeing his own life change from putting people in prison to now sitting in prison for the gospel. He looks at us and says live a life worthy of the calling.

---- THE OPENING HYMN

"By Grace I'm Saved" (LSB 566 Vs. 1-4)

- 1. *By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain;
By grace you too will life obtain.***
- 2. *By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.***
- 3. *By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.***
- 4. *By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
So long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done
Depends on grace--grace through His Son.***

--- Opening

Let us live a life worthy of the calling we have received. Ephesians 4:1

--- THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(Take a moment of silent reflection upon our need for God's forgiveness)

Pastor: *O Almighty God,*

PEOPLE: GOD, OUR LOVING FATHER,

WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE OFTEN IMPATIENT AND RUSH TO CRITICIZE.

WE TAKE OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR GRANTED.

WE ARE OFTEN UNGRATEFUL AND NOT GRACIOUS.

**WE OFTEN EXPECT CHURCH TO MIRROR OUR OWN BIASES.
WE FORGET TO ASK FOR OUR CHURCH TO MIRROR YOU.
WE OFTEN USE YOUR SCRIPTURES TO SUPPORT OUR OPINIONS.
WE FORGET THAT THEY ARE A LAMP TO OUR FEET AND A LIGHT TO OUR PATH.
OUR HOPE IS CENTERED ON OURSELVES AND NOT ON YOU.
RENEW US, LORD, THAT WE MAY DELIGHT IN YOUR WILL
AND WALK IN YOUR WAYS, TO THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLY NAME. AMEN.**

Pastor: The story of Jesus is about life and forgiveness... You are God's beloved; you are a child of the resurrection. Live in the hope of new life. God loves you, and God is the restorer of hope. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN

--THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you sent your only Son as the word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

--THE HYMN OF PRAISE

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" (LSB 803 Vs. 1-3)

- 1. Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love.
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!**
- 2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee!**

THE FIRST LESSON Acts 9:1-9

Saul's/Paul's encounter on the road to damascus left him blind, a reflection of his spiritual blindness.

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues

in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he

could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 4:1-16

Now that Paul has described the new world as God would have it, he urges believers to live out their callings with humility, patience, and love: to walk as Jesus walked.

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

"When he ascended on high,
he took many captives
and gave gifts to his people."

(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: THANKS BE TO GOD

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 3:13-19

Jesus chooses 12 of His disciples for two reasons: to “be with Him” and to be sent out to Israel and eventually the nations

Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons.

These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means “sons of thunder”), Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

--- PROFESSION

THE NICENE CREED

--THE OFFERTORY

“Let the vineyards be fruitful” (LW page 168/69)

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.

Grace our table with Your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

--- THE SERMON

Called: The Book of Ephesians - Paul

--- HYMN OF DAY

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” (LSB 702 Vs. 1-4)

- 1. My faith looks up to Thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!**
- 2. May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee,
Pure, warm and changeless be, a living fire!**

3. **While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.**
4. **When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

--- PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(after each petition)

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

PEOPLE: HEAR OUR PRAYER.

--- THE LORD'S PRAYER

----- THE BLESSING

Pastor: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord look upon you with grace and redemption.

May the Lord always walk before you and give you peace

PEOPLE: AMEN

-----THE CLOSING HYMN

"His Mercy Is More" (Matt Boswell & Matt Papa, CCLI Song # 7065053)

1. **What love could remember, no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all-knowing, He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more**

Chorus

Praise the Lord ▼

His mercy is more ▼▼

Stronger than darkness

New every morn'

Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

2. **What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more (Chorus)**

3. **What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more (Chorus x2)**

----- SENDING

Pastor: Have peace knowing we are all with you.

Serve others knowing God walks before you.

Those who wish to share in the celebration of Holy Communion may be seated.

--- THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: May the Lord be with you!

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.



Pastor: The tree of life in the midst of the garden was the tree of our defeat. Christ was lifted up on the tree of victory; and where life was lost, there life has been restored. And so we praise you ..

PEOPLE: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT, HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY. HOSANNA, HOSANNA, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE THAT COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST

---- THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

After the pastor has consecrated the elements you are invited to come to the altar and receive communion. Please use the right or left aisle as you come forward to the altar. After the pastor has pronounced the blessing for your side, you may place your cup in the basket and depart the sanctuary down the center aisle. Go in peace, Serve the Lord.

(Please remember that as you are leaving the sanctuary, others are still communing, please refrain from talking to others until you are in the Fellowship Hall, Thank You.)

--- ADDITIONAL HYMNS (On Projection Screens)

“Christ, Whose Glory Fills The Sky”

Copyright: Commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

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“You Are The Way, Through You Alone”

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---- THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today

February 4, 2024

Services

8:30 & 10:15 AM

Live-streamed on www.gracelutheranpsl.com

10:15 AM

Korean Church Worship

1:00 PM

Rest of the Week

February 5 - 10, 2024

LWML

Monday, 1:00 PM

12 Step AA Meeting

Monday, 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Olivet School

Tuesday, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Brother's Keeper

Thursday, 9:30 AM

Korean Bible Study

Thursday, 10:30 AM

Grace Bible Study

Thursday, 11:00 AM

AA Meeting

Thursday, 7:15 PM - 9:30 PM

Senior Walther League

Friday, 1:00 PM

Family Meals Blue Jeans/Black Tie

Friday, 6:00 PM

Korean Church Prayer Gathering

Saturday, 6:00 AM

For complete calendar information, go to www.gracelutheranpsl.com/calendar

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK: Phil Fredrich - 2/4, Chuck Harstad - 2/7, Betsy Wisehart, Atlas Larose & Joyce Strickler - 2/8, Jenny Brendlinger - 2/10

THE FLOWERS ADORNING THE ALTAR are given to the glory of God by Vance & Betsy Ablott in memory of Betsy's mom.



LADIES: LWML will have their meeting Monday, **TOMORROW**, February 5, at 1:00 PM. All ladies are invited to attend for fellowship, fun, snacks and some Bible Study.

OFFICE HOURS: The “Church Office” is open in the ACC Complex from 9:00 AM through 12:00 (Noon) daily, Monday - Friday. The office is overseen on Monday by Diane Heinz, Tuesday - Thursday by Kevin Garbers, and Vance Ablott on Friday. Please feel free to stop by or call anytime during those hours. Office phone is 772 - 871 - 6599 After hours you can contact Kevin at 772-971-9200 or Pastor Cris at 770 - 328 - 5078.

FAMILY MEALS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER: “BLACK TIE, BLUE JEANS” Bingo Event. Will be held this Friday, February 9th, starting at 6PM. If you would be interested in attending this event contact Pam Torell at 772-708-8129.

MARDI GRAS: TONS OF FUN EVENT - Grace will be hosting a free will donation pancake supper on Tuesday, February 13th at 5:30 PM to mark the beginning of Lent. This is the day before Ash Wednesday, commonly referred to as Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras, or "Fat Tuesday". This symbolizes the tradition of indulging in rich, fatty foods on the final night before the start of Lent, a period of sacrifice and fasting. If you are interested in attending, please add your name to the sign-up list in the Narthex.

GIVING: We are here to provide “Grace and Peace in a Confusing and Trying Time” to those in our church and community. Thank you for your past and continual prayers and financial support to Grace and your community.



THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBER? During 2023 Grace Lutheran received \$2,631 from Thrivent Choice! Thank You! All “Choice Dollars” that are received go to paying down our mortgage on the new building. Thank you! In January Grace received \$228 from Thrivent Choice, what a great way to start off 2024. Thank you Carol, Cheryl, Pete & Ed for directing your dollars to Grace.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: THIS Thursday at 11:00 AM. Come here to the church or watch the Live Streamed for those at home as we study the book of Matthew.

COMMUNION: If you, or someone you know, would like to celebrate Holy Communion but prefer a small group or are unable to attend Sunday service, Pastor Cris is happy to celebrate the meal in a small group with you. **Please call the church at (772) 871-6599,** and Pastor Cris would be happy to set aside a time for you to come in and receive communion and partake of this wonderful meal.

FROM THE ALZHEIMER’S COMMUNITY CARE CENTER! There is a wish list of needs to assist in the operation of this center to help provide care for our clients. If you could help, it would be greatly appreciated. **Wish list:** Frozen Yogurt - 02/06, Mardi Gras Decorations - 2/13, Banana Bread - 2/23, Potato Chips - 03/14 (Dates listed indicate a special celebration on that day)

These items are needed regularly: Seasonal Crafts/Decorations, Balloons, Wild Bird Feed, Gift cards to Walmart for crafts, Assorted Bingo Prizes, Assorted Sugar Free Chocolate and Decaf Coffee. Thank you for your support!

QUESTIONS FOR THE WEEK: *Called: The Book of Ephesians - Paul*

1. Where are places in your life that expect so much of you and that standard of perfection drains you?
 2. Read Ephesians 4. Paul speaks of our unity and oneness. Where does our unity come from?
 3. In the middle of a world that demands perfection, who can you speak words of grace and forgiveness to this week?
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2/4 *Worship assistants: 8:30 - Bob F. & 10:15 - Dave V*

Scripture Readers: 8:30 -Hans V. & 10:15 - Jan L.

2/11 *Worship assistants: 8:30 - Phil F. & 10:15 Ed B.*

Scripture Readers: 8:30 - Betsy A. & 10:15 - Pamula H.

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-13, Ephesians 6:10-20, Mark 6:6b-13 (NIV)

Family Meals Inc.

*Black Tie
Blue Jeans*

BINGO EVENT

Friday, February 9
6:00 pm ~ 10:00 pm **The Barn**
6851 Oleander Ave, Port St. Lucie, FL at Oleander

4x Bingo Games
2x \$500 cash prizes
+ up to \$500 in prizes

APPETIZERS - COCKTAILS - SILENT AUCTION - FUN
Come, have lots of fun and help us help other families.
TICKETS AT \$100

If you are interested in attending this event, contact Pam Torell at 772-708-8129.

PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF..

Susan Becker (Port St. Lucie Rehabilitation and Healthcare)
Gerald (Jerry) Davis (Harbor Place, Senior Living Community)
Diane Fox (Port St. Lucie Rehabilitation and Healthcare)
Debra Lemke
Norm Neuberger (Palms of St. Lucie West)

Al & Doris Vollmann
Richard & Marie Harms
Joe Gannon
Phil Fredrich
Thomas & Marilyn Piotrowicz

Claren Kerstner
Jenny Brendlinger
Ron Phelps
Karen Albano
Marita Albano

Friends and Family

Marty Lauth (Father-in-law to Mark Adrian (Cris' Pastor Friend))
Carolyn Howe (friend of Jim & Piper Neagles and Bob & Vivian Barto)
Steve Potashnik (Brother of Jan Lendak)
Don Medlin (Hospital, cousin in-law of Cheryl Nolte)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The lost and lonely people in the world that the message of Christ's love and forgiveness will be shared with them and they are able to find peace and joy in the knowledge of His resurrection

Meschac and the Habitat For Children's Ministries. May those who work with Habitat Ministries in Haiti remain safe and healthy while assisting those in need on this island nation.

REMEMBER THOSE ON THE PRAYER LIST In an effort to keep our prayer list up to date and be sure everyone is listed, please make your requests in writing or email.



- **place the** pink completed prayer form into the offering plate or on the office desk.

- **or by email** to: www.GraceLutheranPSL.com/pray

Your loved one/ones will remain on the list for three weeks. If you wish someone to remain longer, you will need to make another request. By doing this, we will also ensure that Pastor Cris is aware of updates to the status of everyone's needs.

***PINK PRAYER REQUEST FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE COUNTER IN THE NARTHEX.**