The Grace Vine

I am the vine, you are the branches. John 15:5

Published monthly for disciples and friends of Spirit of Grace

Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church

Volume 6 **December 2014 - January 15, 2015** **Issue 11**

Spirit Of Grace Christmas Schedule

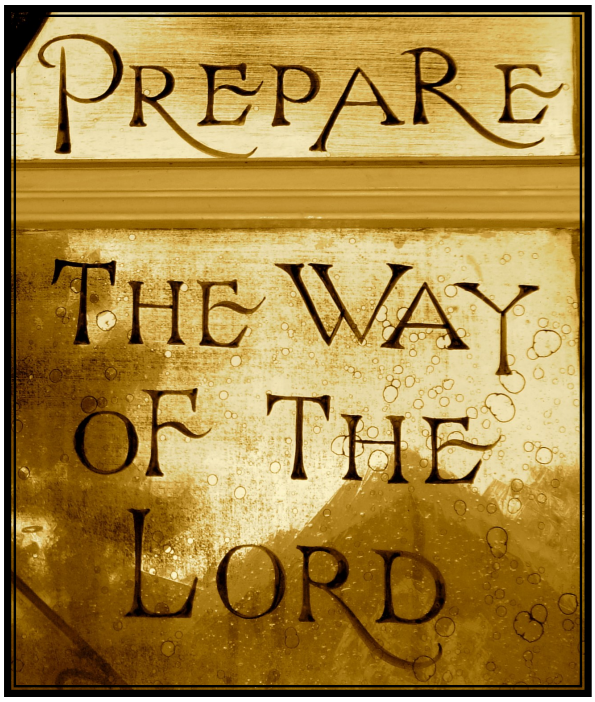
Potluck & Christmas Card Exchange
Sunday, December 7th
BOTH Campuses after 11:15 am services
Come and fellowship with your church family, exchange Christmas cards and save on postage!
Bring a dish to share.

New Port Richey Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 13th
SoG is entering a float in the parade! Come and participate in the parade or just come and watch!
NO Saturday Evening Service

SoG Christmas Program
Saturday, Dec 20, 5:00 pm SoG North
& Sunday, Dec 21, 4:00 pm SoG South
Come hear the Christmas story through song, dance & acting!

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule
Wednesday, December 24,
SoG North ~ 4:00, 7:00 pm.
SoG South ~ 4:00, 7:00 pm.
Celebrate with Carols,
Candlelight and Holy Communion.

Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 28
SoG South ~ 9:00 am
SoG North ~ 10:30 am
NO Saturday Evening Service
Come and enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas Hymn sing-a-long, and hear the Christmas story again. NO Sunday School



A Christmas Tale

Sat, Dec 20, 5:00 pm SoG North
& Sun, Dec 21, 4:00 pm SoG South

Come and enjoy an afternoon of singing, dancing & acting from our youngest disciples to those of us not so young!
This intergenerational program will start with "Dicken's" carolers, then be joined by the Sunday School children who will then act out the Christmas story. Followed by an short musical with disciples of all ages.
After the show there will be a fellowship time with refreshments! Hope to see you there!

About Spirit of Grace

We are a caring and welcoming congregation whose mission is: As Christ's people in motion we connect, grow, and serve.

We are ONE church
with TWO worshiping campuses

NORTH Campus & Office
9525 Hudson Ave
Hudson, FL 34667
Worship
Saturday 5:00 pm (Contemporary)
Sunday 8:45 am (Contemporary)
11:15 am (Traditional)
Sunday School Sunday 10:00 am

SOUTH Campus
8812 Old County Rd 54
New Port Richey, FL 34653
Worship
Sunday 8:45 am (Contemporary)
11:15 am (Traditional)
Sunday School Sunday 9:00 am
Adult Ed Sunday 10:00 am

Mailing Address 9525 Hudson Ave
Hudson, FL 34667

Telephone 727-376-0919
Fax: 877-647-1818
www.soglutheran.org

Pastoral Staff

The Rev. Dr. Rita Gardner Tweed,
Transition Lead Pastor
Ph: 813-230-4907
Email: tlprrita@soglutheran.org

The Rev. Dave Kruger,
Sr. Ministry & Spiritual Care
Ph: 727-247-2982
Email: pastordave@soglutheran.org
Pastor Dave works Tue, Thurs, & Sun Afternoon

transition@soglutheran.org
For transition emails ONLY

The deadline for the January 15th issue of *The GraceVine* is January 9th

Church Council

Members

Paul Boivin	*Vice President*	727-389-5724
Jim Clifford	*Treasurer*	727-863-0509
Linda Duff		727-505-1932
Beth Hollenberger	*Secretary*	727-484-2030
Ken Key		813-416-8208
Charlene Lee		727-844-0412
Josh Soto	*Youth Representative*	727-375-0329
Lou *Vuozzo*	*President*	727-389-2167

The next church council meeting will be on Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 pm at the NORTH Campus.

Who To Contact

Deb Boland, Parish Secretary, 727-376-0919
churchoffice@soglutheran.org

Lynn Blackwell, Financial Secretary, 727-376-0919
bookkeeper@soglutheran.org

Bob Sacco, North Musician 5:00 pm & 8:45 am services 727-815-5757 rmsaco55@aol.com

Karen Pudleski, North Musician 11:15 am service
(727) 944-5508 karen115@tampabay.rr.com

Christina Brennan, South Musician 8:45 am service
(727) 645-2571 christinab8766@yahoo.com

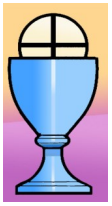
Debbie Bryant, South Musician 11:15 am service
727-967-5201 debenl@aim.com

Janet Boland, Volunteer Coordinator, 727-207-7835
janet@curlydog.com

Let Us Know

Please let the church office know if someone is ill, hospitalized or in need spiritual care. Hospitals do not call churches. At times we do not find out someone is hospitalized until they are home. Telephone 727-376-0919.

Home Communion



Spirit of Grace has a team of trained Home Communion Visitors. If you or a family member are not currently being visited and would like to receive a visit, please contact the church office at 376-0919.

Pastor's Note

Dear Spirit of Grace,

"Angels watching over me every move I make, Angels watching over me. Angels watching over me every step I take, Angels watching over me" This is the chorus from an old Amy Grant song called 'Angels' that came out in the mid-80's. I really enjoyed this song back in the day, and it comes to mind when I think about the scriptures that tell the story of the birth of Jesus. The lessons in Advent and Christmas have lots of activity from the angels – an Angel Zone. The angel comes to Mary. The angel comes to Joseph. The angel comes to the shepherds. From Luke 1 verse 26: "In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth." So many angels. The word angel means 'messenger from God' Do you know that you are a messenger from God each time you bring a word of kindness, a touch of compassion, a meal that feeds the heart and feeds the body, an act of helping, solving, providing, serving, or giving? Sometimes we are only focusing on the event or activity and not aware that God is using us as a messenger. There continues to be much angel activity at Spirit of Grace – just a few pictures tell the recent story of Thanksgiving Pies that were shared in the community to decorating each sanctuary that helps us worship God and prepare to receive the gift of Jesus again, to building the float for the first ever participation in the New Port Richey Christmas Parade on December 13. Plus, the Angel Giving Trees cards for gifts for children were quickly whisked away and the presents begin pouring back in. This is an Angel Zone – this Advent & Christmas Season, may God give us both the boldness to be God's messengers as well as the sensitivity to see when the Angels are sent our way.

See you in Worship,
Pastor Rita Gardner Tweed
Transition Lead Pastor

Christmas Parade Info

We are entering a float in the NPR Christmas Parade, Saturday, December 13th @ 6:00 pm, Grand Blvd to Main St. to US 19. The theme is "A Charles Dickens Ole' Fashioned Christmas". The praise band will be on the float with carolers singing and others walking the parade route, handing out candy canes. **We need help!** We'll be meeting on Sunday afternoons, 11/23, 11/30 & 12/7. Contact Kristie Beaudry 863-3453, Paul Boivin 389-5724 or Lorri Vuozzo 389-2363 for more info!

Potluck and Christmas Card Exchange

Sunday, December 7, following the 11:15 am service, BOTH Campuses

Bring a dish to share and celebrate the holidays with your church family! Bring your Christmas Cards to exchange and all the money you save on postage, you can donate to the church!

Angel Tree

You can put a smile on a child's face by providing a Christmas gift for a child in need. Spirit of Grace will be collecting gifts for distribution through the Pasco County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association.

Look for the Angel Tree in the fellowship hall beginning Sunday Nov 30. Each angel on the tree will have a child's name along with 3 wishes from that child. Choose an angel from the tree, purchase a gift, and put the gift (unwrapped) **by the tree by Dec 15**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, January 25
More details to come!

Thrivent Simply Giving

Simply giving®

Giving Simplified! Spirit of Grace disciples now have the option of automatic giving for their tithes and offerings. SOG is participating in Thrivent's "Simply Giving" program. This means that members may choose to have their offerings automatically deducted from a checking account, savings account, or a credit card. If you like to 'get points' on a particular credit card – Simply Giving is for you! Once you sign up, your giving happens automatically, when you choose, for as long as you choose. Authorization forms are available in the Narthex at BOTH Campuses. To turn in your forms, place in an envelope and place in the offering plate or drop off to the church office.

There will also be cards available in the pews to add to the offering plate if you feel uncomfortable not putting an envelope in each week.

Spirit of Grace
Christmas 2014 Poinsettias

You can help beautify our worship areas for the Christmas season with the purchase of Poinsettia(s). Order forms will be available in the Narthex at BOTH Campuses. Fill out the form and return it along with your payment ($10.00 per plant) and place in offering plates at any service. You may also drop them off at the church office during the week. Please make checks payable to *"Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church"* and write *"Poinsettia"* on the memo line. All orders must be received in the church office by **Tuesday, December 16.**

You've Got Mail!

Spirit of Grace has a mounted mail box or communication box at each campus. The communication box is for you to provide ministry input &/or feedback, share ministry ideas, provide a ministry compliment, ask questions, get information, generate a conversation on a ministry area/topic. Next to the communication box are note cards/pen-pencils to make sharing easier.

You can also use the email: transition@soglutheran.org. If you are providing feedback, also be sure to include your idea to make it better for next time. Look for responses in the monthly newsletter.

You've Got Mail Answers

Q. "Pastor Jon Culp is terrific! Please have him back more often."
A. As often as possible/as his scheduling allows. He is terrific!

Q. "Hi"
A. Hi back

Q. "Had to let you know that I thoroughly enjoy the power point sermon presentations. Wish more disciples would speak up. Believe it could take a serious bite out of the 'financial elephant.' As we move forward couldn't we give it a try? ? Instead of paying for a supply pastor, we would only need a pastor during communion. How much does that cost? How much could we save?"
A. Based on the entire question, sounds like you are describing the video sermons (that has some powerpoint in it) that when viewed in one location would only require a clergy for communion as Pastor Rita would be 'live' at the other location. First, thank you to our supply pastors who have agreed to supply for a rate that is lower than Synod Guidelines (some also receive no mileage reimbursement or receive only mileage reimbursement) – they are awesome ministry partners! Pastor Rita leads most of the Saturday worship services since early in September so that has also decreased some supply expense. To use a video sermon at the alternate site would decrease Sunday worship expenses from generally $125 plus mileage to $70 plus mileage as an honorarium for presiding at communion has been compensated at $35 per service plus mileage. Your question will be brought to the council for discussion.

Q. "I am so disappointed that Pastor Dave had to give up the Tuesday Night Bible Study. Who ever heard of a pastor getting his hours cut? Pastor Dave was the bond that kept the "core" group coming back. Sad. Very Sad. I want to learn from a pastor – not a lay person."

"You've Got Mail Cont on Pg 8

The Soggies

- ***SUNDAY SCHOOL ~*** *Sunday,* Sundays at 9:00 SoG South children come in to worship and leave with teachers after the Children's Message. They come into worship again for communion and then head back to their classrooms for closing. 10:00 am SoG North, Sunday School is held between Services.
- ***Saturday.5 ~*** *1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month, 5:00-7:30 pm SoG North Campus.* This is a new way for the youth to get together with worship, a meal, Confirmation & Youth activities!
- ***CONFIRMATION ~*** *1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month after the 5:00 Worship @ SoG North.* It will start with worship at 5:00, then a meal & small groups. Ending at 7:30 pm.
- ***VOLUNTEERING ~*** *Metropolitan Ministries the 4th & 5th Tuesdays of the month 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm.* Spirit of Grace will be helping serve meals at their location in New Port Richey. All ages from Spirit of Grace are welcome to come and help! Each person must bring $5 to help cover expenses.
- ***CRUISE RAFFLE ~*** Cruise raffle tickets are available for the youth to sell to raise money for the National Youth Gathering, Call the church office to get your tickets. Drawing will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2014.

For more information about these events, please call the Church Office @ 727-376-0919

Grandparents Weekend at Luther Springs

March 20-22, 2015

Pastor Dave & Debby Kruger
will help lead this weekend.
Cost: $95 per adult (13+) & $65 per child (2-12)
4th grandchild is free!
Each day includes worship, Bible study, exploring creativity, sharing stories, and growing together in Christ. Activities include campfires, cookie baking, crafts,. Hiking and plenty of family free time!

Thank you Boivin Family – On Thanksgiving Day the Boivin Family got up early and went to Metropolitan Ministry to cook and help serve Thanksgiving dinner to the folks struggling with poverty and on the fringes of making their lives function. See the great News Article on the website!
http://www.abcactionnews.com/news/region-pasco/metropolitan-ministries-pasco-gets-major-overhaul-in-time-for-thanksgiving

Last Chance to Purchase Tickets!

The youth are having a raffle to win a cruise for 2! Tickets are only $20 for a chance to win a cruise voucher worth $750 for any cruise! The drawing for the winner will take place on **Dec 14, 2014** and you don't have to be present to win. This is to help raise money for the National Youth Gathering mission trip to Detroit in 2015.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Thursday Dec 25 through Friday, Jan 2nd, for the Christmas holiday. Office will reopen on Monday, Jan 5th. In case of an emergency, please call
Pastor Rita at 813-230-4907
Pastor Dave 727-247-2982

Christmas Program Info

Looking for actors, singers and technical support for SoG's Christmas Musical. We will be performing an intergenerational program so all ages are welcome! If you cannot make the meeting and are interested in participating, please contact Darlene Daly at belladaly07@gmail.com or Christina Brennan at christinab8766@yahoo.com
Watch announcement sheet for more details as they become available.

Daily Advent Devotions
Check out the daily Advent Devotions on SoG facebook page; already over 50 hits! Make this part of your daily Advent spiritual journey. Special thanks to Deacon Darlene Daly for authoring/posting these devotions.

Grief Support Group

Sundays 2:00 pm, SoG North
Pastor Dave is leading a new grief support group. Please call the church office at 727-376-0919 or Pastor Dave 727-247-2982 for more info.

BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER

Tuesdays, 6 p.m. SoG NORTH
The Tuesday evening Bible Study will be using the book "Prayer, Does It Make a Difference?" by Phillip Yancey. This group will meet weekly until mid December. If you have any questions, please call Gene Kortier 727-819-2008 or Janet Boland 727-207-7835

FABRIC – Do you have fabric to donate? The quilters are looking for more fabric! Please drop it off at the North Campus Office

Adult Education Classes

The Wired Word

Sunday, 10:00 am SoG South, Sanctuary
The wired word takes news articles ripped from the headlines and allows us to take God's word and apply it to today's issues. If you are interested in joining in an open discussion and learning how to apply Biblical principles to current events happening in our lives today, this is the class for you! Please join us! All are welcome!

Sunday Adult Ed

10:00 am at the Center for Independence bldg. (across the parking lot) SoG South
The Jesus Quiz Come and learn what Jesus really did say in the bible. You may be surprised! For more information, please call Janet Boland (727) 207-7835

Women's Monthly Bible Study

Women of Grace Bible Studies theme is "Transforming Life and Faith"

December ~ Faith in the Family
January ~ Repent and Forgive
February ~ Making Conversion Last
March ~ Suffering and Endurance
April ~ Inspired by the Risen Lord
May ~ The Church Transforming and Reforming.

MORNING Women's Bible Study— Tuesday, December 2, 10:00 am, SoG South Campus (1st Tuesday of the month) Call Church office for info, 727-376-0919.

AFTERNOON Women's Bible Study—Tuesday, December 2, 1:00 pm at someone's home. (4th Tuesday of the month) Call Mae Haines at 727 863-4329 for location.

Graceful Seniors Planning Committee

Our next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, December 9, 1:30 pm, SoG North Campus**

Third Thursday

Thursday, December 11, 1:00 pm SoG North Campus
Come and join us for a Christmas potluck lunch, games and fellowship. Suggested donation for lunch is $4. Sign up sheets are located in the narthex.

Graceful Seniors Event

Holly Jolly Christmas with the 42nd Street Band
December 10 @ 2:00 pm, Richey Suncoast Theater
Tickets are $12 a person. Please contact Will & Homai Patel at 727-375-8611 for more details.

Quilting Ministries At Spirit of Grace

Prayers & Squares

Prayers and Squares will resume meeting at the **North Campus on Monday Dec 9 at 6:45 pm**. The purpose of Prayers and Squares is to promote prayer through the use of quilts. Our motto is: "It's not about the quilt: it's all about the prayers". We are in need of volunteers at both campus'. You need not be a seamstress to be part of our ministry basic sewing skills is all that is needed.

How to Give a Gift of Prayer in the Form of Quilt?
It is NOT appropriate to surprise someone with a prayer quilt. You must first ask the person you are considering giving this gift of prayer to if they would accept it. You then respect their answer. To request a quilt please fill out a form that is located in the Narthex of each Campus.

Sew And Sews

The Sew and Sews quilting ministry will resume on Thursdays at 9:30 am at the NORTH Campus. This ministry will start back up soon. This quilting group makes quilts that are distributed all over the world through Lutheran World Relief. For more information see www.lwr.org or call the church office.

Music & Worshiping Arts

REHEARSAL TIMES BY CAMPUS

SOUTH Campus	***NORTH Campus***
Praise Team - Thursdays, 8:00 pm	Praise Team - Wednesdays 6:30 pm
Chancel Choir - Thursdays 5:30 pm	Chancel Choir - Thursdays 6:30 pm

We offer Chancel Choirs that sing at the Traditional Services. We would like to invite anyone who loves to sing praises to God and singing in a choir to join! The South Choir is directed by Debbie Bryant 727-967-5201

The NORTH Campus Praise Team sing at both Saturday 5:00 pm and Sunday 8:45 am services and is directed by Bob Sacco (727) 815-5757. The Praise Team at the SOUTH Campus sings at the Sunday 8:45 am service and is directed by Christina Brennan. Both teams offer different musical styles, reaching out to multiple generations and are always looking for additional singers and instrumentalists.

Liturgical Dance

The Grace-Full Liturgical Dancers share their gifts of dance several times a year. All levels of experience are welcome. Please contact Deb Boland 727-376-0919 if you are interested.

Cleaning the church buildings

Thanks to Eric Reisner and Mark Abrahamson who have agreed to being Cleaning Coordinators having oversight of congregations cleaning of the facilities. Sign-ups continue and folks are being scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Saturday mornings of the month; different teams at each facility. Thanks to Deacon Janet Boland, VOLUNTEER Volunteer/Project Coordinator, for setting up the first schedule. (This cleaning service has been discontinued based on 3rd quarter financials showing $6400 monthly shortfall between income and expenses at SoG. Stacey Whittaker has been cleaning the facilities since Spirit of Grace began and Joyful Spirit since 2000. We thank her for her good work.

NEW OPPORTUNITY/Income Stream:

A staffed Goodwill Trailer will be placed on So South property in early December. (North Campus is still under consideration by Goodwill). For the location, SoG will receive a monthly rental of $300 (that may increase as usage increases) plus an amount per pound for all donations that come directly from SoG! So be sure to say you are from SoG when you bring your donations to the trailer.

Annual Report Announcement

SoG will produce the 2nd Annual Report - 2014. If you are a team leader, please submit your annual report to the church office on or before Dec. 15. Be sure to provide a few short paragraphs (w/pictures if possible) and briefly describe the top highlights from this ministry area in 2014 and also the vision for the ministry area in 2015. Also include all the individuals that have participated in this ministry area with you. Thank you for promptly submitting your ministry area's annual report to churchoffice@soglutheran.org.

"You've Got Mail Continued

A. First, I'm sorry for the disappointment and loss you are feeling about Pastor Dave not leading the Tuesday Night Bible Study. He's an amazing relational spiritual pastor who creates bonds that keep people together – this is one of his many gifts! Spirit of Grace is fortunate to have him as part of the pastoral team since its inception. Second, it's hard to say anything very satisfying to address the disappointment you are experiencing. With that in mind, ---the position Pastor Dave fills is a contract-for-service position. It was three days a week with occasional Sundays for worship leadership/preaching. The compensation he received was $230 per day his first year at SoG; and $231 his second year through the present. He also received mileage reimbursement, but the rate was only increased to IRS rates in Nov 2013. Pastor Dave is very generous with his time, (and actually long overdue for a daily rate increase). With the unfortunate reality of the 3rd quarter financial numbers showing a monthly $6400 gap between income and expenses, one less day per week for Sr. Ministry/Spiritual Care position that Pastor Dave fills was among the five 3rd quarter expense adjustments. Perhaps you may not have heard of pastors getting their hours cut because, all too often, the compensation decreases, but many pastors provide the same hours of service or more which, actually, is unjust: it takes advantage of the pastor and creates unrealistic expectations within the congregation for clergy who follow. The financial realities point again to the ongoing need for increased spiritual growth that leads to greater generosity. You are not alone in wanting to learn from a pastor and not a lay person; as pastors have had focused learning in bible and many areas. Please consider reading about Martin Luther's *Priesthood of All Believers* which may provide insight/background to the importance in the ELCA of everyone using their spiritual gifts, including those gifts for bible study. Lay led bible study can be a great relational and learning experience. Again, I'm sorry for your disappointment and hope it will serve to encourage you and others to continue the good strides that have already begun in stepping up in generosity so that the ministry experience can be all that the congregation wants it to be.

Q. "When are we going to only have one building and be a combined church?"

A. I don't know. Questions to ask: Where is God leading? What is the willingness of the people? Is there energy, vision, faith, finances, location, strong enough community for this option? Are there other options? Council will talk about this again.

Q. "Why are there two different versions of 'the Lord's Prayer' said at two different services on Sunday? When I grew up in the Lutheran Church, we were taught only one. What are the children learning now? Isn't it confusing for them?

A. The origins of the Lord's Prayer come from Luke 11:1-4; Matthew 6:9-15 – each one using similar but different language. Luke version is a response to the disciples asking to teach them to pray; the Matthew version is within the Sermon on the Mount as part of how the faithful are encouraged to pray. There are two versions of the Lord's Prayer used as one lends itself to be more contemporary for contemporary worship and one lends itself to be more traditional for traditional. Both versions are in the current ELW hymnal and both versions were in the previous LBW hymnal. It's common that our seniors grew up having only been taught the traditional version of the Lord's Prayer; and if you had Roman Catholic friends/family, they learned another version that did not have the 'doxology' added to the end. As far as I know, the children are learning the version of the Lord's Prayer that is used in the worship service they attend; in Sunday School they would learn the verses that goes with the bible text being taught. Isn't it confusing – I don't know. Even though the words change, the meaning the Lord's Prayer conveys acknowledging the greatness of God and seeking to be used for God's will to be brought about, plus depending on God for daily bread and forgiveness are echoed in every version.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS: Lets BUY a FARM!

SoG has a designated line item for ELCA GOOD GIFTS of approx $350. Council invites the congregation to match this amount and together we will 'buy' a farm in a 3rd world country that will be provided for a family. Just mark your check: FARM Let's make this happen and give the gift of sustaining life for a family as our congregational Christmas gift in the world.

FARM: $715.00

A cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, and farming tools, plus agricultural training and marketing support, for example, can help a family achieve a fresh start. With new tools and techniques, crops will grow bigger and stronger than ever before. Eggs, milk and meat from farm animals will provide enough food to eat and sell on the market, helping a family **escape the cycle of hunger and poverty — for good.**

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Calling all Thrivent Members: If you have not already done so, please go on line to thrivent.com or call 800-847-4836 or come into the office for assistance and allocate your Choice Dollars for 2014 to Spirit of Grace.

Thrivent Action Teams

Calling all Thrivent Members: Thrivent has a new program called **Action Teams** that we will be putting in motion asap! If you are a Thrivent Member at South Campus, please plan to attend an Adult Forum between worship services on **Sunday, Nov 9** to put several Action Teams in motion for a project at South Campus. Thanks to Pam Perry for helping to lead the way on this project. Projects for North Campus will be underway asap, too.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Musician, Bob Sacco has shared that on Sunday mornings he will begin working with another congregation as worship leader. Bob will continue as worship leader at the Saturday 5pm service with the praise team. This new Sunday morning position is 1/2 time with considerable opportunity for Bob. While we are saddened to see him make this shift, we are thankful for his musical gifts and leadership continuing for Saturday worship and glad that he has had such an awesome opportunity come to him. Spirit of Grace will celebrate his worship leadership with a special fellowship after 845 worship North Campus on Sunday, December 14.

Bob's announcement ushers in a time to look again at possible adaptations/creative solutions to cover all the worship services. Stay tuned.

RESOLUTION

Make a New Year's Resolution to volunteer at church! There are all kinds of jobs available for all levels of skills.

Help with Mass Mailings, be on a cleaning team, help with special projects like working our booth at the Taste of Trinity. You could help plan senior activities, assist at a bible study or learn to run the PowerPoint during worship. Learn to set up communion or to change Pariments. Be a greeter to welcome everyone to Worship Services, call on shut-ins and take them communion or help with the up-keep of the buildings.

The list is endless and all skill levels are needed! Call Janet Boland, Volunteer Project Coordinator, at the church office on Mondays & Wednesdays from 9:00 am –1:00 pm or at 727-207-7835

Year End Contributions: Just Around the Corner!

You can put more dollars into God's Kingdom work with your donations that are tax deductible. Your regular tithe offerings as well as any assets (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, property) that you may want to donate to your congregation b comes a charitable contribution (tax free) and goes on your 2014 giving statement.

2nd Chance Angel Tree

Tangible Gifts in Kind also make a big difference in your congregation's ministry – just turn in your receipts with the Gift in Kind to be added to your giving statement **OR** consider taking a tag off the ***SoG Angel Tree*** that include items that SoG needs to run daily.

USE OF BUILDINGS

If you need to use EITHER Campus for a meeting or event ***PLEASE*** call the church office for rooms that will be available. Please do NOT assume your "usual" space is available. We have many groups to accommodate so it is important that you call the church office to get your meeting / event on the calendar.

Many groups, those that are from Spirit of Grace and outside community groups, use our facilities, please be considerate of other groups meeting and the noise level of your group.

If a room is accidently "double booked" we ask for your understanding and graciousness in being flexible and going with the flow to find a space. We appreciate your willingness to be helpful in this matter.

Christmas Basket Items

The food pantry will be giving away Christmas baskets on December 22. Listed below are the items they need.

- Canned Veggies 15.25 oz (corn, peas, green beans)
- Turkey Stuffing Mix & Gravy Mix
- Canned Sweet Potatoes or Yams & Instant Potatoes
- Cranberry Sauce, Jello & Canned Fruit (Fruit cocktail, applesauce etc.)
- Cake Mix & Frosting

Thank you in advance and God bless.
Karen Rae: King of Kings 727-389-4321 Pat Mullins: Spirit of Grace 727-967-3872

Church Calendar is Online!

The Church calendar is online for *everyone* to see what building or room is available at what day and time! You still have to call the church office to reserve a time/place for your meetings, but are able to access it through our website to look at the calendar. Just go to our website, www.soglutheran.org and under the "Welcome to Spirit of Grace" tab at the top, you will find the calendar listing. Click on that and you will be able to view our calendar! Due to the many ministries and outside groups using Spirit of Grace, it is important that we coordinate activities and events carefully.

Upcoming Dates to put on your Calendar!

- ◊ Saturday, December 13 ~ Christmas Parade, SoG will have a float in the NPR Parade
- ◊ **Saturday, December 13 ~ NO SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE**
- ◊ Sunday, December 14 ~ Drawing for the Cruise Raffle
- ◊ Sunday, December 20 ~ Christmas Program 5:00 pm SoG North with a modified worship service
- ◊ Sunday, December 21 ~ Christmas Program 4:00 pm SoG South
- ◊ Wednesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve 4:00 & 7:00 pm BOTH Campuses
- ◊ Thursday, Dec 25-Friday through January 2nd Church office closed. Reopens on Monday, January 5th
- ◊ Thursday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day
- ◊ **Saturday, December 27 ~ NO SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE**
- ◊ Sunday, December 28 ~ One Service at BOTH Campuses: 9:00 am SoG South & 10:30 am SoG North
- ◊ Wednesday, December 31 ~ New Year's Eve
- ◊ Thursday, January 1st ~ New Years Day
- ◊ Saturday/Sunday, January 3 & 4 ~ Regular Scheduled Worship

In Memoriam

The sympathy and love of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of **Deacon Jim Burke & Ed Simonson** who passed to the Church Triumphant in November, and **Bonnie Lindberg,** who passed in December. As we celebrate resurrection may their families know the comforting presence of our Lord.

Notary Service Available

Kay Wright at 727-389-7929
A FREE service for
all disciples of Spirit of Grace.

December Anniversaries

David & Michelle Ackley
Angel & Larry Cook
Paul & Carolyn Dove
Ed & Jan Fink
Gary & Sharon Griffin
Bob & Barb Paju
Will & Homai Patel
John & Jeannette Stelter

Birthdays in December

12/1 Brennan Slone
Hildegard Stillman
12/2 Amber Elliot
Myles Wright
12/3 Rosemary Bove
12/4 Lorene Morel
12/5 Ron Pommering
12/6 Ronald Ackley
12/7 Joshua Soto
Dona Watson
12/8 Robin Soto
Mary Ann Weikel
12/9 Katie Beard
12/14 Howard Horst
Homai Patel
12/18 Christine Couture
Aiden Slone
12/19 Lucas Fidanza
Ashley Hardy
12/21 Jacky Roach
12/22 Linda Duff
12/24 Elsie Morris
Gene Kortier
12/25 Joan Nigro
12/26 Theresa Kennedy
John Ohlsson
Susan Straatmann
12/28 Mary Elm
12/29 Garland Key
Bob Sacco
12/31 David Ackley
Mark Sticklin

Handel's "Messiah"

The Pinellas Lutheran Choir, made up of members of ELCA and LCMS congregations and under the direction of Robert Drick, will perform the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah" on Sunday, December 7, at 3 pm. The performance will be at Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS), 4301 16th Street North, St. Petersburg,FL 33702. The solos will be divided up between members of the choir; Paul Gibson will sing one of them. Admission is free but a free-will offering will be received. For more information, call the church at (727) 527-1168 or check their website, www.grace-lutheran.com

On behalf of all the Burke family we want to send out very special thank you to Pastor Rita for the beautiful service she did for Jim and for all her love and support. You are the best!

Thank you to all the ladies who worked so hard to put out a luscious feast after the service and to all of you who donated food and your time. It is and was greatly appreciated.

And to all of Spirit of Grace---your love and support has been overwhelming.

Thank you family. Each and everyone of you are very special people. I am truly blessed.

In Christ love and gratitude,
Sharon Burke

Worship Attendance

(Average Weekly Attendance for the Month; for the Year)

October SoG NORTH Campus

	Sat 5:00	Sun 8:45	Sun 11:15	Total
Avg. Oct	36	57	35	128
Y-T-D Avg	32	72	41	144

October SoG SOUTH Campus

	Sun 8:45	Sun 11:15	Total
Avg. Oct	62	54	116
Y-T-D Avg	70	52	122

Financial Report October 2014

2014 Projected Offerings	$437,226
Needed Monthly	$36,435
Received in October	$31,892
Amount Under "Goal"	**$4,543**
YTD	
2014 Projected Offerings YTD	$364,353
Received YTD	$305,250
Amount Under "Goal"	**$59,103**

Keep in mind the total Spending Plan for 2014 is $509,328 which – even after rental income is included - presents a significant $73,400 "challenge gap" for Spirit of Grace.

Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church
9525 Hudson Ave
Hudson, FL 34667

Purpose Statement:

As Christ's people in motion we connect, grow, and serve.

Guiding Principles:

Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior
Be a Grace Place with open hearts.
Share the Good News in meaningful ways
Fully engaged ministry for all ages
Celebrate LIFE: Living In Faith Everyday