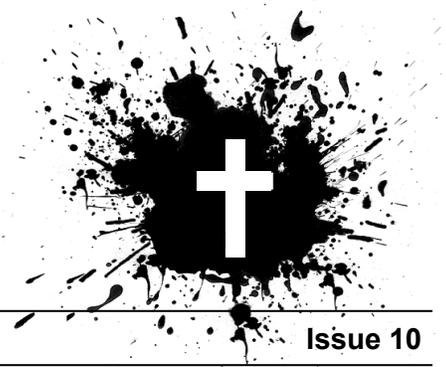


# the grace place



Newsletter for disciples and friends of Spirit of Grace

Volume 8

December—January 15, 2016

Issue 10



## Spirit Of Grace Christmas Schedule

***Dr. Unger's Winterfest for families***  
**Saturday, December 3rd, 10am-2pm**  
**Seven Springs Middle School**

Find our booth at the Winter Fest! There will be snow drifts to slide on, snowball throwing & Santa.

***Christmas Program ~ Angels of Christmas***  
***Carols, Bells & the Nativity***

SoG North ~ Saturday, December 3rd @ 5pm  
Sportsplex ~ Sunday, December 4th @ 10:10 am

***Graceful Senior Christmas Brunch***

Saturday, December 10th, 11am

Potluck lunch with the Senior Committee furnishing the ham & a free will offering to help our SoG youth attend 2017 Summer Camp and 2018 Houston ELCA Youth Gathering. There will be games, carols & fellowship!

***New Port Richey Christmas Parade***

Saturday, December 10th, Time TBA

SoG is entering a float in the parade! Come and participate in the parade or just come and watch!

**There WILL BE A SATURDAY 5pm SERVICE**

***Christmas Eve Worship Schedule***

Saturday, December 24,

SoG North: 4 pm Traditional &

7:45 pm Contemporary

Sportsplex: 5:45 pm Contemporary

Celebrate with Carols,

Candlelight and Holy Communion.

***Christmas Day Worship: Lessons & Carols***

Sunday, December 25,

SoG South ~ 10:10 am followed by a potluck  
brunch

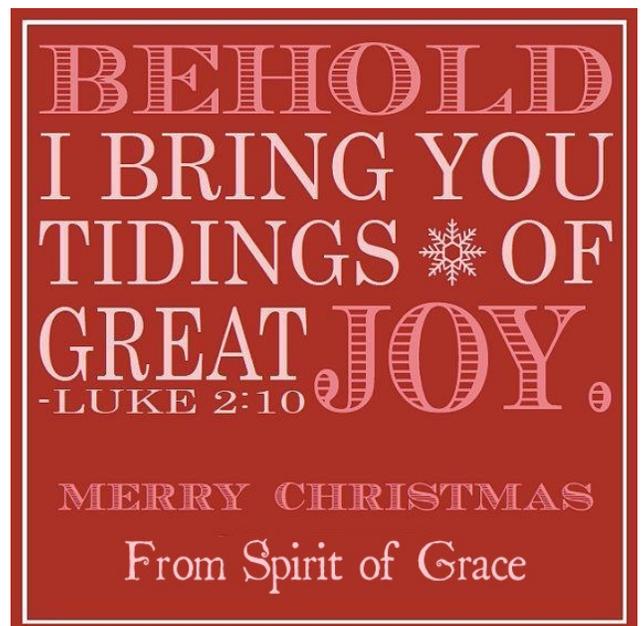
& SoG North ~ 11:00 am

Enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas Hymn sing-a-long,  
and the Christmas story again.

NO Sunday School

***New Year's Weekend Services***

Sat, Dec 31 & Sun, Jan 1st, Regular Schedule,  
NO Sunday School



# 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 congregation  
with TWO worshipping campuses**

## **NORTH Campus & Office**

9525 Hudson Ave  
Hudson, FL 34667

### *Worship*

Saturday 5:00 pm (Contemporary)  
Sunday 8:30 am (Contemporary)  
11:00 am (Traditional)  
*Sunday School* Sunday 9:40 am

## **SOUTH Campus:** Soon to be Under Construction

8812 Old County Rd 54  
New Port Richey, FL 34653

*Worship: 11:30am at Dobies Chapel directly  
across the street  
(Choir at 10am in classroom @ South building)*

## **Trinity New Start @ Trinity Sportsplex**

11514 Pyramid Dr., Odessa

### *Worship*

*1010 am Contemporary  
11:10am Learning Time*



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,  
*Lead Pastor*

Ph: 813-230-4907

Email: tlprita@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



The deadline for the January/February  
issue of *The GracePlace* is January 5th

## *Church Council Members*

Paul Boivin <i>Vice President</i>	727-389-5724
Jim Clifford <i>Treasurer</i>	813-528-1021
Sharon Griffin <i>Secretary</i>	727-808-6490
Ken Key	813-416-8208
Charlene Lee	727-844-0412
Erik Reisner	727-534-7825
Lou Vuozzo <i>President</i>	727-389-2167
Elaine Waldrup	727-815-1117

The next church council meeting will be on Tuesday,  
December 13 7:00 pm at the North Campus.

## *Who To Contact*



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

Linda Phipps, Bookkeeper, 727-376-0919  
bookkeeper@soglutheran.org

Christina Brennan, Sun Musician 8:30 & 10:10 am  
services (727) 645-2571 christib8766@yahoo.com

Bob Sacco, Sat North Musician 5:00 pm service  
727-815-5757 rmsaco55@aol.com

Karen Pudleski, North Musician 11:30 am service  
(727) 944-5508 karen115@tampabay.rr.com

Debbie Bryant, South Musician 11:30 am service  
727-967-5201 debenl@aim.com

Deacon Janet Boland, Volunteer Project Coordinator,  
727-207-7835 vpc@soglutheran.org

## *Let Us Know*

Please let the church office know if someone is ill,  
hospitalized or in need of 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.





Dear Spirit of Grace Church Family,  
Advent Blessings to You!

The picture is the cover of this year's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SoG Advent Daily Devotional – Special thanks to our authors: Karin Beeten, Deacon Janet Boland, Molly Boland, Suzanne Granger, Sharon Griffin, Deacon Jay Kane, Ken Key, Gene Kortier, Pr. George Metzenthin, Robin Soto, Elaine Waldrup, Pr. Joy Waters and Deacon Darlene Weikel.



The authors have been preparing this devotional for you! Deacon Darlene put out the word in October inviting folks to author a devotional; the authors had time to pray about it, think about it, read the scriptures, look at scripture study resources for their text, pray some more, think some more, then begin to write their devotional and especially make that all important connection between God's story and our life story. The scriptures in the devotional come from the Daily Lectionary for these appointed days of Advent for Year A – the gospel year of Matthew.

Thank you again, authors. As readers, I hope you get that special feeling of how important you are – that someone has prepared something special for you – a gift and all you have to do is open that gift and use it. Preparing has a special and significant role in Advent. It's not a new Advent season theme by any means, but preparing is a key ritual part of an active and growing spiritual life. It's easy to see how putting up the tree & trimming it, selecting special gifts to give to special people, prioritizing giving through the church Angel Tree & food pantry, singing carols, making special foods or baking, spending time with friends & family, and many more seasonal rituals contribute to our experience of preparing for Christmas. Like those rituals, the daily commitment to devotional reading is part of preparing your heart to receive, and more fully and more deeply celebrate the gift like no other gift at Christmastime – the gift of the birth of Jesus.

What does preparing look like for you? Are you incorporating daily devotional time into your preparing this Advent Season? In Worship, we will explore preparing further through the themes of Prepare: Awake; Prepare: Repent; Prepare: Longing; Prepare: Receive.

God has prepared this most amazing gift for our world and for each of us: the birth of Jesus. –this too is a gift that needs to be opened and be used. May our intentionality of preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth again contribute to deepening our joy of the Christmas experience.

See you in worship,

*Dr. Rita Gardner Tweed*  
Lead Pastor, Spirit of Grace

**ESTHER'S SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**  
**Wednesday, December 14th @ Noon**  
Come and enjoy Esther's School students as they present the Christmas Story. All are welcome!

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Sunday, January 29 @ 4pm**  
**SoG North**

**Annual meeting date:** January 29, 4:00pm, North Campus followed by a congregational meal. More information to follow. A freewill offering to be received toward summer Camp 2017 & ELCA Youth Gathering 2018

Congregational Meeting Agenda to include: electing new council members, approving the 2016 Annual Report, and voting on the new and updated constitution and congregational structure for SoG.



### Angel Tree

You can put a smile on a child's face by providing a Christmas gift for those in need. Spirit of Grace will be collecting gifts for Esther's School (SoG North) and ELCA Good Gifts (SoG South). Look for the Angel Tree in the fellowship hall/entrance.

**SoG North:** Choose an angel from the tree, purchase a gift, and put the **WRAPPED** gift(s) under the tree. Be sure to include the tag taken from the tree.

**SoG Trinity Sportsplex & Dobies:** Take a tag from the tree and write a check payable to Spirit of Grace and put in the memo **Good Gifts & the item** (i.e. pigs or chicks etc.)



### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed Dec 23-Jan 1 in honor of Christmas.

In case of an emergency, please call Pastor Rita at 813-230-4907.

## Ground Breaking Announcement

In conversation with Matt Gunderson, from Superior Schools, they are ready for a joint Groundbreaking Ceremony at the South Campus! Mark your calendars for Thursday, December 15 at 4:00pm (this day & time was selected to have the greatest amount of possible participation from the school students/parents, staff and teachers). Please do what you can to arrange your schedule to be present!!! Let's go this next step in celebrating this exciting year and our 99year relationship together as school & church on Old County Road 54.

Please RSVP for planning purposes to [churchoffice@soglutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@soglutheran.org) asap!  
See you there.



## God Inspiring Us to Greater Generosity

Special Thanks to Sharon Griffin for sharing her and her husband's, Gary, tithing story. It was inspiring to hear about God's ongoing nudging in their lives and about fully making their tithing has created great joy and made their tithing check their favorite one to write, knowing with confidence and spiritual joy that it speaks volumes about their connection to God in their daily life. Thank you Sharon & Gary for inspiring us! If you missed Sharon sharing their giving story, please contact her to tell her story at 727-808-6490. Pray about your own giving and God's call to step up 1 or 2% a year to become a tither:

*"<sup>10</sup>Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." Malachi 3:10*

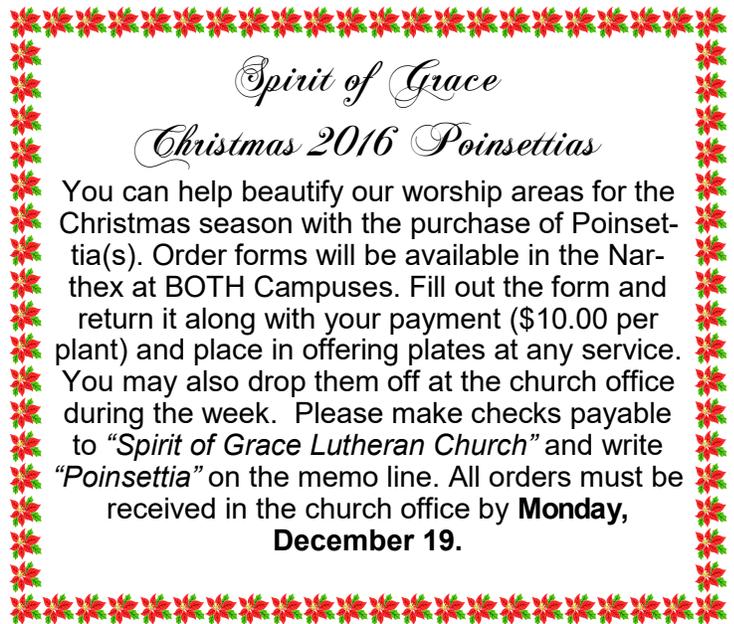


### Spirit of Grace Daily Advent Devotions

Check out the daily Advent Devotions on SoG facebook page, or pick up your own copy located in the Narthex at BOTH Campuses. SoG disciples have authored devotions for each day in Advent. Make this part of your daily Advent spiritual journey. Special thanks to all who helped with this project.

## Annual Report Announcement

SoG will produce the 4th Annual Report - 2016. 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 2016 and also the vision for the ministry area in 2017. 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](mailto:churchoffice@soglutheran.org).



### *Spirit of Grace*

### *Christmas 2016 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 **Monday, December 19.**

## 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 tithes and offerings as well as any assets (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, property) that you may want to donate to your congregation becomes a charitable contribution (tax free) and goes on your 2016 giving statement.

## Special December/January Youth Group Schedule

### December:

- **Dec 4:** 4pm Confirmation; 5pm meal. After meal, youth will carpool to Kristie Beaudry's home for the serving activity to work on the SoG **FLOAT!!!** *Parents and SoG Congregation: you are especially invited too – come & work on the float – it's lots of fun and great fellowship for all.* Please pick up your youth at Beaudry's: address is: 9542 Pat Street, Hudson. Youth wear clothes you can get dirty or get painted – Let's put the SoG float for the New Port Richey Christmas Nite Parade together. Special Thanks to Kristie Beaudry for leading the float effort again this year – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual!!!
- **Dec 11:** Caroling through Trinity neighborhoods. Meet @ South Campus at 3:45; carpool to Trinity neighborhood, with caroling from 4pm, to about 5:30ish when it gets dark. Then carpool back to South, head North for Youth Christmas Party & food!
- **Dec 18:** Discipleship night: regular schedule for 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month: 5pm meal; followed by Confirmation & learning time. Done by 7pm.
- **Dec 25:** No Youth Group

### January:

- **Jan 1** – no youth group
- **Jan 8** – 4pm confirmation/5pm meal/planning time
- **Jan 15** – no youth group – MLKing Holiday plus Confirmands will be at Camp Luther Springs
- **Jan 22** - 5pm meal followed by Discipleship time of learning in age groups & Confirmation
- **Jan 29** – 4:00pm: Youth provide/set up/serve/clean up meal after congregational meeting as fund raiser for camp/nat'l youth gathering.

## YOUTH GROUP & Confirmation

### Schedule Resuming February 2017



Meetings are Sunday 5-7 pm @ North Campus; always beginning with a lite meal — Thank you Fellowship Teams & Parents! Carpool available if you live closer to South Campus – Contact your youth leader for your group with the phone number below, if you want to be in the carpool leaving from South Campus.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL & MIDDLE SCHOOL Schedule that begins after a lite meal will be:**

- 1st Sunday of the Month: Serving** – we will do varieties of different types of serving projects. (confirmands will come at 4 pm for confirmation class before dinner/serving nite – this is the only variation on the schedule)
- 2nd Sunday: Beach Worship** – @ Hudson Beach (may need a few parents to help carpool over and back)
- 3rd Sunday: Discovery** – (learning in groups: 6th grade; Confirmation; High School )
- 4th Sunday: Recreation** – youth pick: movie, bowling, board games, field games, Wii, etc. . . . .
- 5th Sunday: A Combination** – of all of the above.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL/CONFIRMATION CLASSES 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month is confirmation class.**

**2nd & 4th Sundays will be youth group.**

- ◇ 1st Sunday of the month starts @ 4pm with a meal & service following class.
- ◇ 3rd Sunday of the month starts @ 5pm which starts with the meal then class.

#### **6TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP**

This group meets every Sunday **5pm @ SoG North**. They will have a meal with all, then meet as a separate group when necessary.

**NEW ELEMENTARY GROUP 1st & 3rd Sundays @ 5pm @ SoG North**. They will share a meal with all the other groups then split off to do their own session.

#### **Youth Group Leaders:**

- ◆ **Elementary Youth** (1st-5th grade) - **Elaine Waldrup** 727-457-3128 & **Sarah Conaway** 317-417-9529
- ◆ **6th Grade** - **Kevin Bixler** 727-657-8004 & **Lorri Vuozzo** 727-389-2363
- ◆ **Middle Schoolers** (7th & 8th Grades) - **Vicki Bixler** 727-657-8004
- ◆ **High Schoolers** (9th - 12th Grades) - **Kristie Beaudry** 727-868-3453
- ◆ **Confirmation Teachers** - **Deacon Darlene Weikel** 727-514-5164, **Ken Key** 813-416-8208 & **Pastor Rita** 813-230-4907

## Giving A Baker's Dozen

A *Baker's Dozen* is a group of 13; a dozen plus one: this term is thought to have originated from the former practice among bakers, and other tradespeople, of giving 13 items to the dozen (12) as a safeguard against penalties that may come from short weights and measures of their product; as a way to protect themselves from accusations of giving light weight to their products being purchased.



The Baker's Dozen was a way to overcome any perception from customers, or legal penalty if actually true, that they might be short-changing their customers in weighing bakery items for the agreed upon financial exchange or expense.

Looking at the financial giving this year at Spirit of Grace, 2016 needs to become a 'Baker's Dozen' year meaning: as givers to the work & ministry of Jesus through Spirit of Grace, please seriously and prayerfully consider adding another giving month, or 13<sup>th</sup> month, to your December giving.

Together, by adding a 13<sup>th</sup> giving month in 2016, we can make a dent in the \$55,000 gap between income and expenses. *Thanks be to God for your ongoing and faith-filled generosity.*

## Live Simply 2017 Commitment Card giving response so far:

It is moving and meaningful to see folks on their way to receiving communion, bring their annual giving commitment cards and place them in the offering plate as a response of thanksgiving to God's Grace in our lives and in our world. So far, 62 Giving Commitment Cards have been turned in that total \$164,820 for the 2017 SoG mission plan. That's about 50% of the households responding with their giving intention and about 1/3 of the financial support necessary to carry forward the financial commitments of Christ's mission through SoG.



Please be sure to bring in your Giving Commitment Card for 2017 and place it in the offering plate this coming weekend or mail it in today. A reminder that if you need to adjust your Giving Commitment at any time, it just takes a simple call to our SoG bookkeeper, Linda Phipps, to communicate your new giving intention. Sharing your giving intention is the best way for your congregation to plan and carry out our making-a-difference mission: As Christ's People in motion, we connect, grow and serve.

## GATHERING THE HARVEST

**Thank You & More wine, please. . .**

Thanks to each of you who brought in a harvest gift of wine for communion for the remainder of 2016 & 2017.

Each bottle of wine is a blessing for our worship together. It would seem as though the harvest was 'leaner' this year as less folks brought in wine – if you have been meaning to do, please do – bring in a bottle of wine for communion & place it in front of the altar.

You know, there is wine at every service!

## Receive New Disciples on New Year's Day!

What a great way to start off the New Year by officially making Spirit of Grace your new church home! If you sense this call from God that now is the time - please contact Pr. Rita asap at [tlprita@soglutheran.org](mailto:tlprita@soglutheran.org). There will be no Guest Gathering in December, so all those joining at New Year's will be expected to attend a future Guest Gathering.



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

## **Save the Date**

December 3rd, 10am-2pm — Dr. Unger's Winterfest @ Seven Springs Middle School, SoG will have a booth!  
December 3rd, 5pm @ SoG North — Cantata  
December 4th, 10:10am @ Trinity Sportsplex — Cantata  
December 10th 11am—@ SoG North Graceful Seniors Christmas Brunch  
December 10th — New Port Richey Christmas Parade, SoG will have a float entered!  
December 11th, 3:45pm — Youth Group Caroling & Christmas Party  
December 24th, 4pm @ SoG North — Traditional Christmas Eve Worship  
December 24th, 5:45pm @ Trinity Sportsplex — Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship  
December 24th, 7:45pm @ SoG North — Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship  
December 25th, 10:10am @ Trinity Sportsplex — Lesson & Carols Worship Service & Brunch after worship  
December 25th, 11am @ SoG North — Lessons & Carols Worship Service.  
December 23rd - January 1st — Office Closed, reopening on January 2nd  
December 31st/January 1st — Regular worship schedule

### **Joint Food Pantry: Spirit of Grace & King of Kings**

Thank you to each and every one whose donation or contribution helped to provide 100 Thanksgiving Baskets to families that use the pantry from the community as well as several families in need from each congregation. Thank you for giving part of a meal, a turkey, a gift card for groceries, a gift card for a turkey or two, for creating the table center-pieces (thank you SoG Youth!), and thanks to those who served in the pantry leading up to & preparing for the distribution as well as on the day when special guests and families came to pick up their Thanksgiving Meal. One woman Pr. Rita got to talk to had just lost her job and has 4 children – she was very grateful and expressed herself through tears more than through words.



The picture above shows the organized set up in the King of Kings fellowship hall and the picture left is the team who served that day. Special thanks to our co-chairs: Marcia Baker from SoG & Linda Tusso from KoK.



Back row l. to r: Bob Waller, Craig Brooks, Larry Skrine, Connie Brooks, Nanci Larson, Karen Rae, David Eichstadt. Front row l. to r: Sally Dagenais, Eileen Aguilar, Barbara Calnan, & Linda Tusso, Co-Chair from KoK.





# Quilting Ministries At Spirit of Grace

## Prayers & Squares

Prayers and Squares will meet the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the Month @ 6:45 pm. Please contact Mae Haines for more info 863-4329

**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 are 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 meets, **Thursdays 9:30-11:30 am SoG North Starting October 6th.**

This quilting group makes quilts that are distributed all over the world through Lutheran World Relief. For more information see [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) or call the church office.

## Music & Worshipping Arts

### REHEARSAL TIMES

#### Praise Team

South—Thursdays, 8pm @ Christina's Home  
North—Tuesdays 7:15 pm @ North

#### Chancel Choir

South—Sundays 10:00 am  
North—Thursdays 6:30 pm

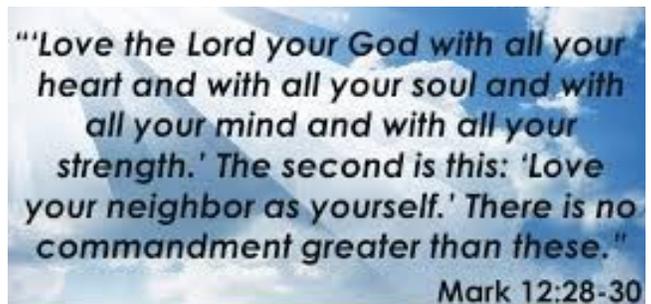


We offer Chancel Choirs that sing at the Traditional Services. We would like to invite anyone who loves to sing praises to God and singing in a choir to join! The South Choir is directed by **Debbie Bryant 727-967-5201**, the North Choir is directed by **Karen Pudlewski (727) 944-5508**

The NORTH Campus Praise Team sing at both Saturday 5:00 pm and Sunday 10:10 am services and is directed by **Bob Sacco (Saturday) (727) 815-5757** and **Christina Brennen (Sunday) (727) 645-2571**. The Praise Team at the SOUTH Campus sings at the Sunday 8:30 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.

## Spiritual Care Ministry

Thanks be to God for the care & compassion provided to those in need through the regular and ongoing Spiritual Care Ministry at Spirit of Grace. This ministry is available to all ages. Plus, there are 98 folks at SoG 80 to 100+ years of age and it's the church's privilege to serve all in times of need. In addition to Pr. Dave Kruger & Pr. Rita GT, the following folks are trained compassionate caregivers & make regular visits. Expect to see them! Welcome them! This is the church family caring for the church family or as Luther called it, "The Priesthood of All Believers" empowered to carry out the ministry of Christ our Lord.



**Communion Visitors:** Mae Haines, Deacon Janet Boland, Kathy Yovanovits, Karin Beeten, Marie Ban, Bob Abbey, Nanci Larson,

#### **Hospital & Rehab Center Calls:**

Bob Abbey, Suzanne Granger, Karin Beeten, Sharon Burke, Deacon Jay Kane, Ilona O'Connor, Mae Haines, Kathy Yovanovits, Carol Coleman, Deacon Janet Boland & Carol Koob

**Stephen Ministers:** Ilona O'Connor, Deacon Janet Boland, Deacon Jay Kane, Sharon Burke

Be sure to contact Deacon Janet Boland if you or your loved one is in need of home communion or a visit at 727-207-7835.



### **Home Communion Visitation**

If you would like to be a Home Communion Server, please contact Pastor Dave Kruger or Janet Boland **If you were a Home Communion Server and are no longer doing so, please return your communion kit.**

### *Adult Education Class*

#### **BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER**

This Bible study **Tuesdays, 6:00 pm @ SoG North**. We will be making our way through the bible. If you have any questions, please call Gene Kortier 727-819-2008.

### *Women's Monthly Bible Study*

#### **MORNING Women's Bible Study**

*ON HOLD FOR NOW* Call the church office if you would like to help with this bible study, 727-376-0919.

**AFTERNOON Women's Bible Study -Tuesday, 1:00 pm**  
(4th Tuesday of the month) Call Mae Haines at 727 863 4329 for location. This bible study will resume in October.

### **New Start Launch in Trinity at Trinity Sportsplex on November 6th**

About 125 folks from SoG & a few from the community came to launch this new start location and to enjoy the Fall Festival. Thanks to everyone's participation we can clearly say "That a Good Time Was Had By All!" All expenses associated with the launch effort (signs, advertising, etc) and the Fall Festival were covered through Thrivent Action Team Dollars --- many thanks to the 17 Thrivent folks who, with the assistance of Sev Galati our Thrivent Rep, Sharon Burke & Elaine Waldrup, submitted Action Team request that were all approved.

Thrivent provided a \$250 gift card for each action team, plus banners, t-shirts that had SoG added to them locally. Thrivent Action Teams can continue to be important financial partners with SoG.

Still needed are committed folks who can share in a rotation for weekly signage set up and take down; parking lot directors; air-dancer set up and take down, altar table & carpet area set up and take down. Please contact Deacon Janet Boland if you can be in the rotation! 727-207-7835 or [janetboland.usa@gmail.com](mailto:janetboland.usa@gmail.com)



### *Graceful Seniors*

Our next scheduled planning meeting is **Tuesday, December 13, 1:30 pm, at Carole Coleman's home.**

#### **CHRISTMAS PARTY POTLUCK BRUCH**

**Sat, December 10, 11:00 am, SoG North**

This annual Christmas party is always a hit, with gifts, games, food, song & fellowship! Bring a dish to share and the fellowship committee will furnish the ham. Lunch is free of charge.

#### **January Saturday Brunch**

**Saturday, January 21st, 11am**

The program will be an Old Fashion Hymn Sing Along with Ken Sawotka on the accordion. Sign up on the clip board in the Narthex @ North, with Homai Patel at Dobies or Janet Boland at the Sportsplex

#### **Heritage Village, Saturday, January 28, 2017**

Country Jubilee—Songs, Bands, Arts, Crafts & Exhibits are open. **Where:** 11909 125th St North, Largo, **Cost:** \$5 donation for admission, **Parking:** Off-Site, shuttle bus available, **Carpooling:** Pay your driver \$5, **Lunch:** Cheddar's (pay for your own) **RSVP:** To Will & Homai Patel for more details. 727-375-8611



## ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?



Please let the office know if you are a Thrivent Member and have not yet been contacted to submit to Thrivent for an Action Team. Action Teams from Thrivent began in 2013 and have been used periodically at SoG to help with the Food Pantry and Memorial Gardens. Thanks to Sev Galati, our SoG Thrivent agent for helping to launch us into submitting a bunch of Action Team applications in October. And to Sharon Burke & Elaine Waldrup for continuing to shepherd this program. Action Teams are ministry ideas that when accepted by Thrivent are supported with t-shirts, advertising materials for Thrivent and \$250.00 gift card as seed money for that action team ministry focus.

So far 17 Thrivent Action Team applications have been submitted and they have all been accepted. This has generated \$4250 new dollars to launch the Trinity New Start with signs and advertising, etc plus helping to furnish items for SoG Community Events. There are about 25+ Thrivent Members. The goal is to begin taking full advantage of the seed money throughout the year as Thrivent Members can submit two Action Teams per year!

Special Thanks to these Thrivent Members who submitted for Action Teams: **Sharon Burke, Barb & John Calnan, Don & Charlotte Christensen, Gerry Gentry, Ken Key, Gene & Judy Kortier, Sharon & Don McTeer, Milt & Marilyn Moll, Bob Morrison, Pam Perry, Dona & Stan Watson & MaryAnn Weikel**



### 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.

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.

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### You've Got Mail Answers

No new mail!



## Birthdays in December \* January

### Anniversaries December

Gary & Sharon Griffin	12/3/1977
John & Jeannette Stelter	12/5/1959
Angel & Larry Cook	12/10/2005
Will & Homai Patel	12/21/1959
Bob & Barb Paju	12/28/1963
Paul & Carolyn Dove	12/28/1984
Bill & Sarah Conaway	12/30/1988

### Anniversaries January

Milt & Marilyn Moll	1/1/1989
Lamar & Mary Ann Weikel	1/16/1954
Ron & Peg Beck	1/25/1954
Les & Charlene Lee	1/27/1994

12/2	William Conaway	1/1 Julie Trupiano
	Amber Elliot	1/2 Sherri Hubach
	Myles Wright	1/5 Andrew French
12/3	Rosemary Bove	Neil Koivu
12/4	Lorene Morel	1/7 Bob Morrison
12/7	Joshua Soto	1/8 Tommy Beaudry
	Dona Watson	Carl Jacobson
12/8	Robin Soto	Lorri Vuozzo
	Mary Ann Weikel	1/11 Elaine Waldrup
12/14	Howard Horst	Judy Woolridge
	Homai Patel	1/13 Edmond Nickel
12/18	Annette Crickenberger	1/15 Carol Brennan
	Don Granger	1/17 Marcia Bartel
12/21	Jacky Roach	Darlene Daly
12/23	Stephen Kmetz	1/20 Melissa Houzvicka
12/24	Elsie Morris	Karin Sheldon
	Gene Kortier	1/21 Marie Ban
12/25	Joan Nigro	Jeanne Yarnell
12/28	Mary Elm	1/22 Johnathon Boivin
12/29	Jon Jordan	Abbie Elliott
	Garland Key	1/23 Merrick Conaway
	Bob Sacco	Dylan Kiwala
		1/27 Sue Sawotka
		1/30 Della Whitten
		1/31 Joanna Boivin
		Salvatore Salvato

### DONATIONS

PLEASE call the church office before dropping off any items. Please consider donating to the Goodwill trailer at the South Campus. We do not have room for ANYTHING beyond Food Donations.

**NO donations will be taken at the South Campus for the time being.**

### Database Updates

Do you have a new email? Are you getting emails from Spirit of Grace? Do you have a new Cell Phone? Please be sure to send any new email update to [churchoffice@soglutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@soglutheran.org) ASAP! Sending as much communication out as possible by email keeps postage costs lower, and we want to stay in contact with you! Thank you!

### Worship Attendance

(Average Weekly Attendance for the Month; for the Year)  
Does not include Easter ~ 124 N ~125 S ~ 325 Beach

#### October SoG NORTH Campus

	Sat 5:00	Sun 10:10	Sun 11:30	Total
Avg Oct 2016	27	70	20	117
Avg Oct 2015	30	77	26	134

#### August SoG SOUTH Campus

	Sun 8:30	Sun 11:30	Total
Avg Oct 2016	52	32	84
Avg Oct 2015	53	43	96

### Sharing Reminder:

When you, a loved one, or friend at Spirit of Grace is in the hospital or in need of care and support, please remember to contact the church office directly by phone 727-376-0919 or email:

[churchoffice@soglutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@soglutheran.org) or  
[pastordave@sogluthern.org](mailto:pastordave@sogluthern.org) or  
[tlprita@soglutheran.org](mailto:tlprita@soglutheran.org)

Posting prayer & care needs on your personal facebook is just that -- a personal post to your family and friends. If you want to initiate a visit or prayers from your church family, the personal facebook post doesn't substitute for notifying the church office, which leads to pastoral/lay visitation follow up &/or prayer chain.



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



"Like" us on Facebook  
Spirit of Grace - ELCA - West Pasco  
"Follow" us on Twitter  
@SoGLutheran



Check out our website  
to stay informed! [www.soglutheran.org](http://www.soglutheran.org)  
"Follow" us on Instagram  
SoGLutheran