



# The Grace Vine

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

Published monthly for disciples and friends of Spirit of Grace



Volume 8

January 15-February, 2016

Issue 1

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & POTLUCK

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 12:00 PM NORTH CAMPUS

**(No 11:30 am Service at SoG South)**

**Annual meeting:** Upcoming on Sunday, Jan 24, North Campus following an abbreviated 11:30 worship service. (There is no 11:30 South Campus worship service.) After the annual meeting, stay for a good ole' fashioned pot luck church family meal! Annual Meeting will approve the 2015 Annual Report, vote for council members: Jim Clifford, Ken Key and Lou Vuozzo & receive an update from Pr. Maryanne Kehlenbach about mission start Living Faith -- our Mission Partner in FBSynod.

## Christmas Celebration At Spirit of Grace

Spirit of Grace celebrated the birth of our Savior with four festive and inspiring Christmas Eve Candlelight services. Close to 400 worshippers shared in the singing of Christmas carols and the celebration of Holy Communion. Our choirs and praise teams provided wonderful music and dozens of volunteers made Christmas Eve a special and holy night.

The Christmas program was presented to BOTH Campuses with singing, dancing & acting all while sharing the Christmas message. The youth carried the Christmas message further by caroling to some of our seniors.

Hundreds of people in need of assistance received baskets from our Joint Food Pantries and many of you helped fill those baskets.

This was the second year SoG participated in the New Port Richey Christmas Parade with a float that included music & walkers who handed out our information.

A special thank you to EVERYONE who assisted in any way with our Advent and Christmas services and ministry events!

### **A New Spirit of Grace Picture Directory**

Spirit of Grace is having a new picture directory made. You can sign up to get your picture taken online through our website [www.soglutheran.org](http://www.soglutheran.org) or watch for a table set up in the narthex starting January 30th, with disciples to help you sign up. There will be dates at both Campuses starting March 3rd. With each photo session, you receive a FREE 8x10 & a FREE directory.

There is NO obligation to buy anything. So sign up TODAY!

## Welcome

Are you new to Spirit of Grace?  
Text "**Welcome**" to 727-317-6166. We would like to connect with you and hope to learn more about you while you can learn more about us!

## Connect

Are you a disciple of SoG?  
Text "**Connect**" to 727-317-6166. We would like to stay connected with you and keep you up-to-date on everything happening at SoG!

*Works ONLY with Smart Phones*

### **DATES FOR PHOTOS**

#### **SoG North:**

Thursday	March 3	1-8 pm
Friday	March 4	10am-4pm
Saturday	March 5	10am-4pm

#### **SoG South:**

Thursday	March 10	1-8 pm
Friday	March 11	10am-4pm
Saturday	March 12	10am-4pm

#### **SoG North:**

Thursday	March 31	1-8 pm
Friday	April 1	10am-4pm
Saturday	April 2	10am-4pm

# 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 10:10 am (Contemporary)

11:30 am (Traditional)

*Sunday School* Sunday 9:15 am

## **SOUTH Campus**

8812 Old County Rd 54  
New Port Richey, FL 34653

### *Worship*

Sunday 8:30 am (Contemporary)

11:30 am (Traditional)

*Sunday School* Sunday 8:45 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](http://www.soglutheran.org)

## *Pastoral Staff*

The Rev. Dr. Rita Gardner Tweed,  
*Transition Lead Pastor*

Ph: 813-230-4907

Email: [tlprita@soglutheran.org](mailto:tlprita@soglutheran.org)

The Rev. Dave Kruger,  
*Sr. Ministry & Spiritual Care*

Ph: 727-247-2982

Email: [pastordave@soglutheran.org](mailto:pastordave@soglutheran.org)

Pastor Dave works Tue, Thurs, & Sun Afternoon



The deadline for the March 2016  
issue of *The GraceVine* is February 20.

## *Church Council Members*

Paul Boivin *Vice President* 727-389-5724

Jim Clifford *Treasurer* 813-528-1021

Sharon Griffin *Secretary* 727-808-6490

Charlene Lee 727-844-0412

Erik Reisner 727-534-7825

Lou Vuozzo *President* 727-389-2167

Elaine Waldrup 727-815-1117

The next church council meeting will be on Tuesday,  
February 9, 6:30 pm at the North Campus.

## *Who To Contact*



Deb Boland, Parish Secretary, 727-376-0919  
[churchoffice@soglutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@soglutheran.org)

Lynn Blackwell, Financial Secretary, 727-376-0919  
[bookkeeper@soglutheran.org](mailto:bookkeeper@soglutheran.org)

Christina Brennan, Sun Musician 8:30 & 10:10 am  
services (727) 645-2571 [christinab8766@yahoo.com](mailto:christinab8766@yahoo.com)

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

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

Debbie Bryant, South Musician 11:30 am service  
727-967-5201 [debenl@aim.com](mailto:debenl@aim.com)

Deacon Janet Boland, Volunteer Project Coordinator,  
727-207-7835 [vpc@soglutheran.org](mailto:vpc@soglutheran.org)

## *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.





Greetings Spirit of Grace Congregation,  
 Last years' pastor's report recounted the adventures of the Disney character, Nemo -- especially when Nemo gets all the captured fish in the fishermen's net, including Dori, to join all their efforts together, to swim with all their ability in one direction until the net breaks from the boat and they are free. It' worked!



We have been doing just that together this year at Spirit of Grace! Swimming faithfully together; seeking to follow God together -- swimming together in ways that bring breakthroughs of collective solutions, more leaders, generosity, and results in folks growing spiritually and moving SoG toward becoming a thriving congregation. Read through the entire Annual Report to get a fuller sense of the many ways Spirit of Grace is living out being "Christ's people in motion as we connect, grow and serve."



As a general overview, SoG has 5 worship services every weekend, plus learning, spiritual care, service, support, witness, fellowship, communion classes, baptisms, weddings, receiving new disciples & all the necessary planning meetings. Additionally, here are major highlights from 2015:



Confirmation Camp in January & October, Lenten & Holy Week worship experiences, **400ish** attended Easter Sunrise Worship at the Beach (!), monthly serving at Metropolitan Ministry, plus VBS at both campuses.

The Floramar Property: considerable oversight and focus on the entire process by SoG leaders ultimately led to the sale of the Floramar property to the 5 year renters Eastlake Church of God. The target sale date was in January; but actually occurred at the end of June generating \$117K for SoG and a 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage of approx. \$300K. (Eastlake sends \$200 a month as a 'carrying fee' for the 2<sup>nd</sup>). Spirit of Grace has tithed on the \$117K to the Florida-Bahamas Synod: \$11,700. This sale was a huge breaking free of a netted ministry!

This was a privileged kingdom day for both Spirit of Grace & Eastlake. l to r: Mother Jean Matheney, Deacon Craig Reckley, Pr. Rita GT, SoG Pres. Lou Vuozzo, JoAnne Quarles of Title Treasure, Bishop WJ Matheney, Sec. Gwendolyn Taylor and Exec. Pr. Erik Matheney.



July brought the 2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Detroit: Rise Up Together; attended by 30,000 ELCA youth & adult leaders. SoG partnered with Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Palm Harbor for a great friend-making, spiritually-growing, faith-in-action mountain top experience. It was beyond words exciting to talk to SoG from the closing worship service at the event while you were watching the service via live-streaming! Attending from SoG: Ben Adair, Johnny Boivin, Molly Boland & Pr. Rita; rest of the group is from LCR.



Next  
 Gathering:  
 2018  
 Houston



August brought to fruition 9 months of planning with Esther's School, a school for special needs children. They began renting the North Campus for their 2015-16 school year! Thirty-one students, several teachers & aides, and Principal Chad Maesse now make their home at SoG. Our motto: "This is our school & we are their church!"

Of course in the heat of July/August two of the North Campus air conditioners died. They had served well, in fact one of them was original to the building. SoG provided awesome generosity from both campuses with many many extra financial contributions of all sizes that made it possible to replace both a/c units and pay for them with newly contributed/non-budgeted money of \$10,000! Way to Go SoG!

September brought the re-launching of SoG's Youth Group grades 6 through 12 -- 35 parents and youth came together making a commitment to re-launch this ministry and 10 to 16 youth have met every week since. For more info see the Youth Ministry Report.

In the fall was the Pet Blessing & Pet Vendor Event at South Campus. SoG gave a \$250 Servant Hearts Grant to the Pasco County Mounted Posse -- it was thrilling to bless their service horses!



In September, SoG did it's first ELCA "God's Work our Hands" serving in the community. We did lawn work at Connections Job Development Center in downtown

New Port Richey. Also in September was the launching of Stephen Ministry thanks to Leader-Trainers Karin Beeten & Deacon Janet Boland -- classes to begin in Jan 2016. This lay caring ministry connects with folks in need in all chapters of life and is certainly needed at SoG; SoG also joined in 3 community events with a table of info, friendly people to meet the community and popcorn at: The Taste of Trinity, Harvest Fest & the Winter Festival at Mitchell High. Also, an extremely fun group of women went to hear Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber live at the FBSynod Conference on Ministry: "and a good time was had by all!"

Amazing swimming together efforts, energies, commitment and results came from MANY all year long! The year ended strong with an outstanding Advent: The FIRST congregationally authored daily Advent Devotional,



The 2<sup>nd</sup> intergenerational Christmas Program: What does Christmas Mean, Charlie Brown; the 2<sup>nd</sup> float in the New Port Richey Christmas Night Parade also with the Peanuts theme; Esther's School Christmas Program that included SoG folks; SoG was featured on the front page of the Neighborhood News in December plus there was Youth Group Caroling to some of our seniors; and 400+ folks attended Christmas Eve Worship, too.

As you read through this and all the reports in this 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report for SoG, may we pause to give thanks to God for tremendous faithful swimming together as a congregation, fully engaged in God's abiding presence thru Jesus, calling us forward, onward and into becoming an exciting spiritual home that is thriving.

Folks, yes, there is still a considerable financial gap between income and expenses for 2016 -- approx. \$57,000 -- however, that amount seems solve-able in light of all the phenomenal faithful strides that have been made these past few years. God is faithful, you are faithful and together the 2016 year looks to be promising for Spirit of Grace. Keep being actively involved in ministries that fill your spirit, keep sharing your faith and God's love through Jesus, and let's keep our generous regular financial giving a top priority. Let's continue to be Christ's people in motion, to connect, grow and serve -- this is such a gateway to being a thriving congregation..

Easter 2014 was the debut of the song Thrive by Casting Crowns -- it was identified as a theme song for SoG -- pray through the words below; use the emphasis of the song as the lens through which we review 2015 AND commit ourselves together to 2016, being further shaped, developed & graced by God.

## "Thrive"

Here in this worn and weary land, Where many a dream has died  
Like a tree planted by the water, We never will run dry

So living water flowing through; God we thirst for more of You  
Fill our hearts and flood our souls with one desire  
Just to know You and To make You known; We lift Your name on High  
Shine like the sun make darkness run and hide

We know we were made for so much more than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just survive, We were made to thrive

Into Your word we're digging deep, to know our Father's heart  
Into the world we're reaching out, to show them who You are

So living water flowing through; God we thirst for more of You  
Fill our hearts and flood our souls with one desire

Just to know You and To make You known; We lift Your name on High  
Shine like the sun make darkness run and hide

We know we were made for so much more than ordinary lives  
It's time for us to more than just survive, We were made to thrive

Joy Unspeakable, Faith Unsinkable, Love Unstoppable, Anything is possible  
Joy Unspeakable, Faith Unsinkable, Love Unstoppable, Anything is possible  
Joy Unspeakable, Faith Unsinkable, Love Unstoppable, Anything is possible  
Joy Unspeakable, Faith Unsinkable, Love Unstoppable, Anything is possible

*We were made to thrive.*

Peace & Prayers,  
Pr. Rita Gardner Tweed, Transition Lead Pastor

## Annual Report Announcement

SoG produced the 3rd Annual Report - 2015. You should have received your Annual Report in your email or you may pick one up in the Narthex at either Campus. You may also find it on our website.

<http://www.soglutheran.org/announce&ww.htm>

## *Upcoming Lenten Schedule*

**Ash Wednesday** ~ Feb 10

**SoG South** 4:30 pm Service with Soup & Bread meal to follow  
**SoG North** 6:30 pm Soup & Bread meal With 7:30 pm Service to follow

### **NO Lenten Wednesday Services**

Use the Lenten Bible Study Booklet to study & pray on your own, or in small groups.

**Palm Sunday** ~ March 19 & 20

Regular Worship Services

**Maundy Thursday** ~ March 24

4:30 pm SoG South ~ 7:30 pm SoG North

**Good Friday** ~ March 25

4:30 pm SoG North ~ 7:30 pm SoG South

**Easter** ~ March 27

Beach Service 7:15 am

10:00 am Services at BOTH Campuses

**No Saturday Evening Service @ SoG North March 26**

## Lenten Bible Study Booklet

Instead of Lenten Wednesday Worship/Bible Studies, we are offering a Bible Study booklet that you can use to do your own bible study at home.

Each week the bible study will look at the upcoming Sunday's Gospel lesson.

You may choose to study on your own or get together with a group of friends to discuss & pray together. The booklet will be available before Ash Wednesday or you can download it online from our website.  
[www.soglutheran.org](http://www.soglutheran.org)

## Ten Questions to Ask at the Start of a New Year by Don Whitney

Once, when the people of God had become careless in their relationship with God, the Lord rebuked them through the prophet Haggai. "Consider your ways!" Haggai 1:5 He declared, urging them to reflect on some of the things happening to them, and to evaluate their slipshod spirituality in light of what God had told them. Even those most faithful to God occasionally need to pause and think about the direction of their lives. It's easy to bump along from one busy week to another without ever stopping to ponder where we're going and where we need to be going. The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

1. What is one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
3. What is the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?
4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year and what will you do about it?
5. List 3 people you know who currently do not attend worship that you will pray for and then invite them to come to worship with you.
6. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
7. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
8. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
10. What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter in 5 years? in eternity?



### Happy Birthday to ALL those Turning 80-102 This Year!

SoG South ~ Sun, Feb 7 @ 4-6 pm

and SoG North ~ Sunday March 6 @ 4-6 pm

We would like to celebrate all those who turn 80 or older this year with celebrations! Come and help celebrate with our octogenarians & nonagenarians. We will recognize them in worship also!

### *Guest Gatherings*

Are you new to Spirit of Grace? Have you visited and would like to have "church chat" or "God Talk" with the Pastor or a Council person? You are invited to our Guest Gathering in February.

SoG North: Sunday, February 7, 1:30 pm

SoG South: Sunday, February 28, 1:30 pm

Light refreshments served.

*Please RSVP to the church office 727-376-0919*



### **Calling all 2015 Joint Food Pantry Volunteers Pantry Appreciation Luncheon**

Friday, February 19

North Campus at Noon

Please contact Marcia Baker, 727-267-1719  
if you have questions.

Volunteers make it happen!

### **Donations**

Please remember that all donations of goods (*other than food & VBS items*) **MUST** be cleared through the office first before accepting. We just don't have the room to store items that are not for immediate church use. Please think about donating items to the Goodwill trailer located at the South Campus. SoG receives monthly rental from Goodwill.



# Quilting Ministries At Spirit of Grace

## Prayers & Squares

Prayers and Squares will meet **Monday January 25, 6:45 pm SoG NORTH** and will meet the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the Month. 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**. 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 BY CAMPUS

#### SOUTH Campus

Praise Team - Thursdays, 8:00 pm  
Chancel Choir - Thursdays 5:30 pm

#### NORTH Campus

Praise Team - Tuesdays 7:30 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 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.

**Clip this and post on your refrigerator as a reminder!**



### UPCOMING DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

- ◇ Sunday, January 24, 2016 ~ Annual Congregational Meeting
- ◇ Wednesday, February 10 ~ Ash Wednesday 4:30 pm SoG South followed by a soup & bread meal.
- ◇ Wednesday, February 10 ~ Ash Wednesday 6:30 pm SoG North Meal followed by Worship.
- ◇ Thursday-Saturday, March 3-5 ~ Photo Directory pictures @ SoG North
- ◇ Thursday-Saturday, March 10-12 ~ Photo Directory pictures @ SoG South
- ◇ Sunday, March 20 ~ Palm Sunday, Regular Worship Times
- ◇ Thursday, March 24 ~ Maunday Thursday Worship 4:30 SoG North, 7:30 SoG South
- ◇ Friday, March 25 ~ Good Friday Worship 4:30 SoG South, 7:30 SoG North
- ◇ Saturday, March 26 ~ **NO WORSHIP SERVICE**
- ◇ Sunday, March 27 ~ Easter; 7:15 am Beach Service, 10:00 am Worship at BOTH Campuses
- ◇ Thursday-Saturday, March 31-April 2 ~ Photo Directory pictures @ SoG North



## Adult Education Class

### **BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER**

This Bible study **Tuesdays, 6:00 pm @ SoG North**. We will be taking a small break and then start up again during Lent. If you have any questions, please call Gene Kortier 727-819-2008.

### **Nursery Update**

Are you cleaning out your children's rooms before or after Christmas? We are looking for gently used or new toys for the Nursery at either campus.



## Women's Monthly Bible Study

**MORNING Women's Bible Study— Tuesday, January 5, 9:30 am SoG South.** (1st Tuesday of the month) Call Church office for info, 727-376-0919.

**AFTERNOON Women's Bible Study— Wednesday, February 23, 1:00 pm NOTE Date Change** (4th Tuesday of the month) Call Mae Haines at 727 863-4329 for location.

### **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.

## Graceful Seniors Planning Committee

Our next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, February 9, 1:30 pm, SoG South Campus**

### *Trips*

#### **Trip ~ 109 Years of Broadway at Ruth Eckerd Hall**

**Monday, February 22, 2015 @ 9:45 am** We will carpool from the SOUTH Campus to the show. Cost of his trip is \$25 per person and includes lunch & a ticket to the show. Drivers will be needed and will be paid \$5 per passenger. Lunch will be included. Will & Homai Patel

### *Third Thursday*

#### **Third Thursday, February 19, 1:00 pm SoG NORTH NOTE THE CAMPUS CHANGE**

Chad Maesse from Esther's School will speak about the school that rents our North Campus. Lunch will be served and \$4 donation is asked to cover costs, before the presentation.

### *ALOA Fest At Sea*

Remember when we attended the Senior Fests sponsored by ALOA (Adult Lutherans Organized for Action) in past years. They have changed its name to ALOA Fest and have taken it to Sea. On Feb 21<sup>st</sup> they will leave Tampa to spend 8 days at sea stopping at many Ports in the Caribbean. The main speaker will be Dr Rick Bimler. If you are interested call Janet Boland for further information 727-207-7835



## Thrivent 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.

### YOUTH GROUP & Confirmation

Meetings are Sunday 5-7 pm @ North Campus; always beginning with a lite meal (parents have already signed up to provide the lite meal!)

**Carpool** available if you live closer to South Campus – Contact Christina Brennan, email below, if you want to be in the carpool leaving from South Campus.



**Schedule that begins after a lite meal will be:**

**1st Sunday of the Month: Serving** – we will go to the homes of our seniors or anyone in need to do lite fix up; yard work, etc. (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 or fieldtrip.

**Adult Youth Group Leaders:** Kevin Bixler will have the 6th Graders; Deacon Darlene & Pastor Rita will have the confirmation age and Christina Brennan will have the High School.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT CHURCH

Have you some time to donate at church. We have several opportunities available:

**North Campus** - Person to be in charge of cleaning crews for North Campus. This takes place every other Saturday morning for about 1 hour. **URGENT NEED**

**North Campus** - Person to schedule the cleaning crew. You will call from a list of volunteers to schedule the cleaning crews twice a month.

**South Campus** - Person to assist in changing the paraments with the church season. Irregular schedule determined by church year.

**South Campus** - Help is still needed for the cleaning crews, if you are able to volunteer, please sign up. The sign up sheets are located on the bulletin board in the hallway.

**Liturgical Arts Team** - Help with decorating the church for each season. Help needed at BOTH Campuses.

**Funeral Coordinators** - This job is an unscheduled position and only happens occasionally. The amount to be done depends on the size of the funeral and what the family would like to see done. We have a check list to follow which makes it easy to do. It would work best if we had two people from each campus . Funerals usually happen without much warning so with two people we would be sure to have someone available to cover.

**Stephen Minister** - Persons interested in becoming Stephen Ministers.

Please contact Deacon Janet Boland for details if you are willing to help. Call the church office on Mondays between 9 and 3 or contact at home at 727-207-7835.



### What's the 'X' in Xmas all about? Did you know. . .

Xmas is a common abbreviation of the word Christmas. It is sometimes pronounced /'ɛksməs/, but Xmas, and other variations originated as handwriting abbreviations for the typical pronunciation /'krɪsməs/. The "X" comes from the Greek letter Chi, which is the first letter of the Greek word Χριστός, which in English is "Christ".

[1] The "-mas" part is from the Latin-derived Old English word for Mass,[2]

Some ask whether the word Xmas stems from a secular attempt to remove the religious tradition from Christmas [3] by taking the "Christ" out of "Christmas", but that is unlikely as its use dates back to the 16th century.

### 2016 Giving Commitment Cards Update

The response this year from SoG's 215 households was:

113 households thankfully returned Commitment of Giving Cards sharing their giving intentions which total: \$278,152.

16 households choose not to communicate their giving intentions, but do make financial contributions.

86 households have not responded.

If you have not yet communicated your giving intention for 2016, please do so!

Join in making it possible to have the most reliable financial plan possible for your congregation of Spirit of Grace.

### Reminder Reminder Reminder



When you get a new email address please be sure to share it with the church office at [churchoffice@soqlutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@soqlutheran.org). Be sure you also include your name! Some email addresses are not obviously someone's name. The church office is unable to use it unless you also provide your name!

Request for Payment forms are in the church office for program leaders to fill out and submit when your program ministry group needs to access your spending line item to pay for ministry purchases.

Any light you turn on; Turn it out when you leave that room or hallway! Many times Pastors/staff who frequent the buildings come in to find fans on, lights on, air conditioning roaring and the buildings empty. Be the best stewards of resources both financial and environmental!

Reminder that both campuses still receive food donations for the joint **SoG/King of Kings Pantry**. However, if you have clothing to donate, please make arrangements to actually take it to King of Kings for drop off **OR** the Goodwill Trailer located at the South Campus. Thank you

### On the hallway bulletin boards at BOTH campuses are TWO forms of communication for the Congregation:

**Monday Messages** are designed for you to write your topics down and communicate with an office person or staff when you are at church or worship and they are engaged in worship or spiritual care with others; and your item can be addressed on Monday.

### 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.

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 Mail this month! :-)**



## Anniversaries January & February

Milt & Marilyn Moll	1/1/89
Lamar & Mary Ann Weikel	1/16/54
Ronald & Peg Beck	1/25/58
Les & Charlene Lee	1/27/94
Mike & Sally Ashley	2/4/62
Roger & JoAnne Grant	2/8/64
Bob & Betty Guidone	2/9/90
Bob & Ann Abbey	2/11/95
Pete & Theone Emslie	2/14/89
John & Barb Calnan	2/15/58
Everett & Lillian Nagelhout	2/16/45

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was celebrated in December for **Destiny, Desiree & Devin Calloway**. And for **Dylan Kiwala** in January. May God's blessings be with them all and their families.



### In Memoriam

The sympathy and love of the congregation are extended to the family and friends of **Helen Kaval, George Peterson & Joann Wobser**. As we celebrate resurrection may their families know the comforting presence of our Lord.

### Worship Attendance

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

#### November & December SoG NORTH Campus

	Sat 5:00	Sun 10:10	Sun 11:30	Total
Avg Nov 2015	29	72	25	127
Avg Nov 2014	34	72	33	138
Ave Dec 2015	31	67	18	116
Ave Dec 2014	35	74	35	144

Christmas Eve Total: 2015-168 2014-216

#### November & December SoG SOUTH Campus

	Sun 8:30	Sun 11:30	Total
Avg Nov 2015	61	36	100
Avg Nov 2014	79	47	127
Ave Dec 2015	64	30	94
Ave Dec 2014	66	35	101

Christmas Eve Total: 2015-237 2014-222

## Birthdays in January

1/1 Julie Trupiano	1/17 Marcia Bartel
1/2 Sherri Hubach	Darlene Daly
1/5 Andrew French	Rebecca Hill
Neil Koivu	1/20 Melissa Houzvicka
1/7 Bob Morrison	Karin Sheldon
1/8 Tommy Beaudry	1/21 Marie Ban
Carl Jacobson	Jeanne Yarnell
Lorri Vuozzo	1/22 Johnathon Boivin
1/11 Elaine Waldrup	Abbie Elliott
Judy Woolridge	1/23 Merrick Conaway
1/13 Edmond Nickel	1/25 Maggie Wells
1/15 Carol Brennan	1/30 Della Whitten
	1/31 Joanna Boivin
	Salvatore Salvato

## Birthdays in February

2/2 James Droege	2/13 Ralph Kuhnert
Audrey Moore	Robert Marz
Elsie Werdin	2/14 Jack Smith
2/4 Angel Cook	2/16 Allen Hunt
2/6 Lamar Weikel	2/20 Ernie Jordan
2/7 Rodney Carroll	2/21 Sonja Zapka
Carolyn Dove	2/22 Catherine Smith
2/9 Doris Wedegis	2/24 Gabe Soto
2/10 Barbara Brink	2/26 John Calnan
2/11 Peg Beck	2/28 John Perantie

***This space is reserved for the Monthly financial giving to return ASAP!***

### BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

SoG North on 2nd Sunday of the month  
SoG South on 3rd Sunday of the month  
*Thank you to our Parish Nurses for providing this service!*

### Notary Service Available

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



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



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