



Christ Is Risen! He Is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

Spirit of Grace celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord with festive worship services at Gulf Harbors Beach and all 3 of our worshipping campuses. Over 380 gathered for our "SonRise" worship and our total attendance for the day was 582. Special thanks to everyone who shared their gifts of time and talent to make our Easter celebration so meaningful for so many. Here are just a few pictures from the events Easter Morning.



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 worshiping 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: 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



The deadline for the June issue
of *The GracePlace* is May 19th.

Church Council Members

Welcome Kristie & our newly elected officer for '17

Kristie Beaudry	727-243-3243
Jim Clifford <i>Vice Pres</i>	813-528-1021
Sharon Griffin <i>Secretary</i>	727-808-6490
Ken Key	813-416-8208
Charlene Lee	727-844-0412
Erik Reisner, Treas	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,
May 9, 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

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

Jonathan Rine, Contemporary Worship Leader,
8:30 am & 10:10 am Services 727-457-9822,
jedarine@gmail.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 Congregation & Friends,
 As just about everyone connected with Spirit of Grace knows, this year's Lenten season theme and focus plus the capital appeal theme and focus was Leap of Faith. For our own growth in faith, I think it profound whenever we spend time becoming more aware of how God's grace impacts our lives and how we respond to God's grace with our whole lives. Our response is most evident when we live out the 6 Marks of Discipleship: (that was the Lenten Wednesday study through the book *Real Faith for Real Life* by Rev. Mike Foss) which are Daily Prayer, Weekly Worship, Regular Bible Study, Service both in & beyond the congregation, Caring Relationships, and Generosity.



Given the frame of reference described above as our Lenten journey together, when Palm Sunday came, which is the beginning of Holy Week and this year was also the Commitment Sunday for our Leap of Faith appeal, I hope you were as captivated by the palms and the purple at the altar as I was. This year our Palm Sunday was just that, Palm Sunday with its focus on the triumphant entry of Jesus into the city. Followers of Jesus have been doing the procession with palms as far back as the 4th century! This tradition connects us with generations of faithful followers – yet another living example of the 'great cloud of witnesses'. There was the procession with palms, then the procession with coins from the children, and then the procession with our commitment cards for the caretaking of God's houses of worship – so we lived out that century's long tradition quite well!

As so often is the case with God's ways, I received quite an unexpected surprise the first time I went behind the altar. Don't know how much you can tell from the picture, but the flowing purple chiffon material draped from the cross was all one fluid piece as it lay across the altar and swaged onto the small table with the basket to receive the commitment cards, and then spilled onto the floor. That combined with the grand palm branch behind the cross, created a different and unique feel behind the altar. The newly defined spatial reality had the feeling of a *holy embrace* behind the North altar that really stayed with me.

I perceived this holy embrace as spiritual encouragement for our Leap of Faith together as a congregation and for the Holy Week ahead. It remains my prayer for you that you have also received spiritual encouragement through the Lenten journey and study, through Holy Week, and the profound celebration of Easter in which 582 people worshipped at one of the four worship services/locations offered through Spirit of Grace.

Thanks be to God for God's deep wellspring of spiritual encouragement!
 Easter Joy be yours,

Pr. Rita Gardner Tweed, Lead Pastor, Spirit of Grace

SoG NORTH OFFICE HOURS June-August

The North Office will be open Monday-Wednesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
 (Closed Thursday & Friday) We will resume regular hours in September.

582

The number of people who worshipped on Easter Sunday @ 1 of the 4 Worship Services provided at 4 different locations: Sunrise Beach, North Campus, Trinity Sportsplex, and Dobies Chapel! Thanks to each and every person who was involved with set up, Worship, & clean-up for Easter!

Easter Brunch was enjoyed by many at North Campus! Thanks to the youth, youth families and leaders for providing the brunch and for the generosity of brunch attenders giving **\$148.00** toward the youth attending summer camp and the ELCA Gathering in Houston next summer.

The number of identified people who prayed during the **Leap of Faith Prayer Vigil** for Spirit of Grace and for our greatest possible response of generosity!

84



Dear Spirit of Grace Congregation,

Thanks be to God! And thanks to each faithful person and couple who has provided a Leap of Faith capital appeal commitment on Palm Sunday and the days to follow. **110 commitment cards have been received so far totaling \$372,000!** What a tremendous response & blessing. Getting bids for the North Campus roof are already underway.



If you have been out of town or are still considering making a Leap of Faith financial gift, please mail in your commitment card or place it in the offering plate as soon as possible to wrap up the appeal by the end of April.

Good News - new giving envelopes are in so you can write one check and easily mark the designation on the new set of giving envelopes that you can pick up at worship this weekend.

Here we go Spirit of Grace -- in this time of celebrating Easter, we will live out our collective Leap of Faith!

Karin Beeten & Paul Boivin, Appeal Co-Chairs

Spirit of Grace

Bring your Mom
to Church on
Mother's Day,
May 14!



Spirit of Grace Youth
Will have special roles
at the worship services

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

YOUTH GROUP & Confirmation

(will wrap up in May for the 2017-18 school year)

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

Pet Blessing at Trinity Dog Park



Many disciples came out for our Pet Blessing at Trinity Dog Park, hoping to meet new friends. Queen Chasco Angel Cook also was there for photos with pets. Many dogs & two goats were blessed. Thank you to all who helped in any way.



Thank You

Many thanks to the Leap of Faith Capital Appeal Leadership & Ambassadors.

Together you helped make our Appeal a success!

Leap of Faith Leadership Team: Karin Beeten, Paul Boivin, Ken Key, Sharon Griffin, Gene Kortier, June Malonik, Janet Boland, Deb Boland & Kristie Beaudry.

Leap of Faith Ambassadors:

Sat 5pm worship: Carol Koob, Sun 830 N worship: Ed Lohr, Sun 1010 S worship: Charlene Lee, Sun 11:00 N worship: Sharon McTeer, Sun 11:30 S worship: Will Patel, Food Pantry: Marcia Baker
Bible Study N: Helen Roark, Graceful Seniors & S Fellowship: Carol Coleman,
Youth Group: Darlene Weikel, Praise Team N: Lorrie Vuozzo, Choir N: Marie Ban,
Praise Team S: Sharon Bellack, Choir S: Hertta Hoefeld, Sew & Sews: Joan Duke,
Prayers & Squares & N Fellowship: Mae Haines, Stephen Ministers: Sharon Burke,
Property Team: Harold Amundson, Thrivent Action Team: Elaine Waldrup, Council: Jim Clifford

REHEARSAL TIMES

Praise Team

Combined—Sundays, 7:30 am 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 Praise Team sings at both Sunday 8:30 am North & 10:10 am service at the Sportsplex. It is led by **Jonathan Rine ph: 727-457-9822 email: jedarine@gmail.com**. We are always looking for additional singers and instrumentalists, so give either the church office 727-376-0919 or Jonathan a call.



Give a Chair

Give a Chair Fund Update as of Dec 2016:
Response to providing a chair for the new worship center at South Campus is fantastic! So far: **\$5036.00** has been given – this is outstanding! Contributions for chairs can be made in these next several months. SoG will be buying 250 new chairs, each one is \$40 which also includes shipping & handling fees. **Please remember to make contributions to the chairs in addition to your regular giving.**

Donations

Please remember that all donations of goods (other than food) 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.

**NO donations are being taken at the South Campus
All donations must be brought to the North Campus.**

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

We were able to do something new this year. Due to the generosity of our 2 churches King of Kings and Spirit of Grace we were able to give out 50 Easter Dinners to those in need. Thank you so much for your support. We need clothes for all age groups. We also need canned goods, cereal, peanut butter, rice, crackers, pasta, sauce, and soup. Once again we fed over 1000 people last month. God has blessed us at the food pantry with over a ton of meat. We have been able to share with Holy Ground (homeless shelter) Acts (they fed the homeless daily with hot meals) and Rope (a homeless shelter) Thank you for the help. Questions? Call Marcia Baker 727-267-1719



Keeping the House in Good Order

Do you have an appreciation for good order and organizational structure? Do you like to read through Roberts Rules of Order for kicks? Spirit of Grace is looking for a volunteer parliamentarian. If you have experience as a parliamentarian or would like to, please contact Deacon Janet at 727-207-7835 to find out more about this key role during congregational meetings.



How was the Leap of Faith Capital Appeal target amount determined?

On the weekend of January 14 & 15, 2017, during worship the congregation was asked to dream with God about what they would like to see in each of the campus churches to provide for God's houses for ministry in the chapters ahead. All worshippers were asked to write down these dreams and needs on post it notes and we posted them.

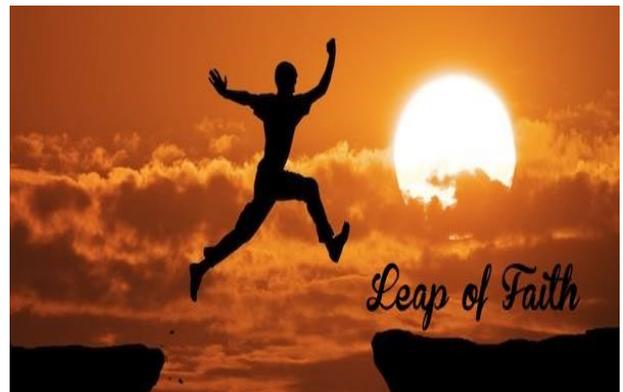
The council and capital appeal co-chairs, along with Pr. Rita, developed the dream/needs list for each location according to the post-it notes' contents. Estimated prices for Items were researched on line, totaled, reviewed, prayed over, reviewed again, totaled and then became the target financial goal amount for the Leap of Faith Capital Appeal.

The council, appeal co-chairs and pastor also took into account how Spirit of Grace still needs to resolve the financial gap between income and expenses. Given all the important strides that have been made in faithful generosity as well as decreased expenses over several years, still the ministry needs to address the 2017 gap between income & expenses of \$46,000. So the leadership determined that \$75,000 of the appeal amount over 3 years (\$25,000 a year) would go a long way to incredibly reduce the 2017 gap and positively impact the spending plan for the next immediate years.

The following is a generalized overview of *estimated dollar amounts* developed from the congregation's posted priorities:

North Campus:	
Exterior Improvements: (including & especially the ROOF!)	\$111,000
Interior improvements:	
(including new flooring, kitchen & bathroom updates, new technology & sound system,	<u>+\$136,500</u>
paint, repairs, update welcome area & nursery, security system	\$247,500
South Campus:	
(furnishings for worship, stained glass window repairs, A/V system; narthex, fellowship kitchen, nursery furnishings, signage, security system	\$175,000
Ongoing congregational ministry spending plan	+ <u>\$75,000</u>
Leap of Faith Capital Appeal target goal	\$497,500

The total of received commitments thus far (\$372,000!) has made it necessary for the council to strategize a spending order for these generous commitments. 1st & 2nd are the furnishings for the south new building & the new north roof (getting bids is already underway!) 3rd is the ministry spending plan as reaching a balanced spending plan is a must for the future of SoG. To follow will be the necessary items prioritized by the congregation for the North campus for as far as the dollars will provide. As more commitments come in, more updates can be made to the North Campus! Every generous commitment matters — get yours in today!





Do you shop Amazon? If so, this is for you!

Spirit of Grace has registered with AmazonSmile and YOU can help SoG earn money by simply shopping!

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, **at no cost to you**. When you shop at www.smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to www.smile.amazon.com on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same. Just log-in and make sure to go to www.smile.amazon.com and then shop!

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

How much of my purchase does Amazon donate?

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations. Special terms and restrictions may apply. Please see the relevant promotion for complete details.

Can I receive a tax deduction for amounts donated from my purchases on AmazonSmile?

Donations are made by the AmazonSmile Foundation and are not tax deductible by you.

AmazonSmile Donations to Charitable Organizations

100% of the donation amount generated from your eligible purchase on AmazonSmile will be donated. The donation amounts generated by your purchases are combined with the donation amounts from all other customers that selected the same organization, and each quarter the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations to registered charitable organizations by electronic funds transfer. Donations are generally transferred approximately 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter.

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 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!





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.

Quilting Ministries At Spirit of Grace

Prayers & Squares

Prayers and Squares meets 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**
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.

Graceful Seniors

Our next scheduled planning meeting is **Tuesday, May 9, 1:30 pm, at Carole Coleman's home.**

SATURDAY BRUNCH—Saturday, May 20, 11am @ SoG North

Program is being planed. A donation of \$4 is requested for the brunch.
Program begins after the meal.

GRACEFUL SENIORS

Cares Efers Senior Center Tour

4136 Barker Dr. off Madison/Grey St. NPR, Thursday, May 11, 11am in Cafeteria

Get to know the senior activities available (computers, bridge, dance, library, local history etc and Volunteer Positions. Lunch will be at 11:30am in the cafeteria, cost, \$6-\$10 (cash or check NO credit cards)
Contact Will & Homai Patel @ 727-375-8611 with any questions. Sign up sheets available at all locations.

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.

You've Got Mail Answers **No new mail!**



Anniversaries May

Christina & Mac Hill 5/5/1979
 Ilona & Peter O'Conner 5/12/1968
 Bob & Nancy Ruoff 5/15/1992
 Matthew & Denise Doerrfeld 5/31/2003

Birthdays in May

5/3 Bob Paju 5/20 Pat Mullins
 5/7 Destiny Calloway 5/22 Pam Perry
 5/10 Alexis Elliott 5/26 Meg Adair
 5/13 Christine Graziano Sharon Griffin
 5/14 Kathy Wright Donna Rinaldo
 5/15 Bill Boland 5/30 Karen Hamilton

March Income

Projected: \$33,103 Actual: \$28,632
Your generosity matters!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Eddie Beaudry who will be graduating from Fivay High School on May 27th. He plans to attend PHSC in the fall and will continue to work at Hobby Lobby.



*Do you have other graduates to be remembered this year?
 Please call the church office and let us know!*

HELP WANTED for FATHER'S DAY

At your Father's House—Saturday, June 17, 11 am-2 pm @ SoG North

This is a whole church project. A community gathering to honor Fathers and those that have past. We want to have a yard sale, bake sale & car show (any one in a car club we need you). We will have a couple Monster trucks there too. We will have to have someone grilling food and a bake sale. We want music and fun stuff for kids to do. If you would like to help out get with Kristie Beaudry 727-243-3243. This is fund-raising event and proceeds will go to the youth

Worship Attendance

*(Average Weekly Attendance for the Month)
 Does not include Easter Beach of 380*

March SoG NORTH Campus

	Sat 5:00	Sun 10:10	Sun 11:30	Total
Avg Mar 2017	49	66	23	138
Avg Mar 2016	37	94	31	161

March SoG SOUTH Campus

	Sun 8:30	Sun 11:30	Total
Avg Mar 2017	36	29	65
Avg Mar 2016	70	64	124

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 or
pastordave@sogluthern.org or
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



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



Check out our website
to stay informed! www.soglutheran.org
"Follow" us on Instagram
SoGLutheran