



2919 Miccosukee Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308
850-877-5423 www.gracelutheran.faith

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

MINISTERS: All the people of God

PASTOR: The Rev. Jennifer M. Kopacz

pastorjenn@rocketmail.com

PASTOR'S CELL PHONE: 850-800-7197

CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: Lisa Rubin

graceluthch@earthlink.net

MUSIC PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Dr. Leslie Heffner

heffnerl@gmail.com

KEYBOARDIST: Dr. Cheryl Peiskee

paradisepiano@gmail.com

GUITARIST / SONG LEADER: J. Frank Pate

franksta70@comcast.net

ALTAR GUILD: Angie Booth & Rachelle Denmark

READERS: 9am – Lory Maddox; 11am – Jan Peterson (for Cantata)

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: 9am – Lory Maddox; 11am – Debra Nelsen, Sue Homant

GREETERS: Karen Bradley, Kassie, Leon & Selah Ernst, Nick Gandy, Mary Grant, Dean & Kathy Gatzlaff, Marilyn Harper, Maria & Priscilla Heidorn, Deborah Kojis, Pam Morris, Debra & Jim Nelsen, George Ohlin, Kelly Wenum

USHERS: Dean Gatzlaff, Sunshine Jacobs, Brent Kallestad, Kathy Van Loo, Debra & Jim Nelsen, George Ohlin

A/V TEAM: Sara Allen, Janet Blair, Elisa Casey, Dr. Leslie Heffner, Penny Rusinko

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE OFFER TWO WORSHIP SERVICES ON SUNDAY, a 9 a.m. Contemporary & an 11 a.m. Traditional Service.

WE WILL CELEBRATE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD this Wednesday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us for worship with Holy Communion and Candlelighting.

ON DECEMBER 28 WE WILL HAVE ONLY ONE SERVICE, at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for our annual Service of Lessons & Carols.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS FOR THIS WEEK are given by Tina Frese in memory of her parents. The second and third arrangements are given by Teresa Wooten in memory of Debbie Wooten and by Maria Eckard in memory of Eldon Eckard. **The 2026 FLOWER SIGN-UP CHART** is on the narthex bulletin board. Cost is \$45.

JOIN US IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL between services, for refreshments and fellowship from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. **Our hosts this week are Nick Gandy and Lori Ann Firehammer.** To choose a date to host refreshments, please sign up on the chart in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to participate in hosting. If questions, contact Mary Grant 609-602-0155 or grantmlcic@hotmail.com.

THE CHURCH BUSINESS OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED for Christmas beginning December 25, through the New Year's holidays. **We will re-open on Monday, January 5.** If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Jenn on her cell phone at 850-800-7197.

NEXT ANNOUNCEMENTS DEADLINE is Tuesday, January 6. Submissions must be received by 9:00 a.m. Please email announcements to Lisa at graceluthch@earthlink.net.

TEXTALK WILL NOT MEET ON DECEMBER 23 OR DECEMBER 30. Meetings will resume on Tuesday, January 6, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. We meet each week and discuss the lessons from the previous Sunday's worship service. Please join us in person or online. An email with the Zoom link is sent Tuesday a.m.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026 are in the lobby. Please take yours home. If you aren't assigned envelopes but would like to have a box, email Lisa in the church office to let her know, graceluthch@earthlink.net.

QUILTERS GATHER on the third Thursday of each month, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Our next gathering is this week on January 15. We'd love to welcome new members!

MUSIC FOR FOOD CONCERT will be held at Grace Lutheran Church on January 11 at 4:00 p.m. MFF is a musician-led initiative to fight hunger in our community. The concert is free but non-perishable food and monetary donations will be collected to benefit the FSU Food for Thought Pantry. The suggested donation amount is \$20 for adults/\$5 for students.

MANNA ON MERIDIAN'S NEXT DISTRIBUTION DAY is Saturday, January 17. Volunteers are welcome! If questions, contact Penny Rusinko, 507-213-7246 or gprusinko@gmail.com. Thank you for your generous donations of tuna. Manna also currently needs canned corn, green beans and black beans; 11oz – 15oz boxes of cereal; and new or used brown paper grocery bags. Place these in the bin next to the tuna bucket in the Fellowship Hall.

THE MEN'S GROUP MEETS every third Monday from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Next meeting is January 19.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT of Grace Lutheran Church and your giving of your time and talents. Donations can be made in person on Sunday mornings in the basket near the entrance to the sanctuary or online by going to our website at www.gracelutheran.fai.th. At this time, our receipts are not covering our expenditures. Further information can be found on the bulletin board in the lobby.

STEWARDSHIP NOTES. While we enjoy this holiday season, let us remember the many blessings that we have as we look to the new year. For those that are doing tax planning, please consider year-end giving. Some of us have RMD (Required Minimum Distributions) as required by tax law. If you work with your financial agent, you can send these funds tax free when sent directly to Grace Lutheran Church. As a reminder, this can be done at any time during the year.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer requests should be sent to Lisa in the church office for inclusion on this list. All requests run for four weeks at a time. If a name should continue to be on the list after that time, please contact Lisa again to continue the request for another four weeks. Thank you!

This week at Grace, please remember in prayer:

Donald Fitzsimmons, Lisa Rubin, Frank Heffner, Peggy Carroll, Joyce Hanson, Thelma Webster, Tom Hudson, Dorene Cash, Lory Maddox, Pat Yeager, Dennis Jackson, Dave Grant, Buddy Dewar, Jamie Lee McDavid, Bev Vertuno, Corey Warrington, Skip Frey, Jerry Taber, PJ May, Jim Banks, Nancy Banks, Reed Kallestad, Joe McRory, Annabelle Grace, Chris Szymanski, Virginia Dix, Amanda Littlefield, Scott Littlefield, Kyle Lewis; Scott's toddler son; Tom Hudson's great-nephew; Don and Judy Blancett; Jen and Gregg Taylor and family; Carol Buehner and her family; Donald Bufkin and wife; Lisa and Jackie James; Linda and Bill Sloan; Mark and Sarah Springer; Ron and Susan Crolla; the family of Ann Hingst.

Global Refuge, Lutheran Services in America, and other organizations that are working to help families who are here legally, and all those who receive support and services from them; the people of Cuba; the people of Haiti; the people of Ukraine; the people of Grace Lutheran Church and our Congregational Council and Pastor Jenn; St. Stephen Lutheran Church and Pastor Tom Holdcraft; the Florida-Bahamas Synod and our Bishop, Pedro Suarez; the ELCA; and our Presiding Bishop, Yehiel Curry.

Please also lift up:

All the people of the Middle East, in particular the people of Israel, Gaza and Iran, and our service women and service men in that region, that they would remain safe from harm. World leaders, that they may lead by example, and seek paths of peace, justice and mercy. Our own government, that they may be moved to stand up for the needy, the neglected and the oppressed. Give them courage to speak truth to power, and to be strong, compassionate leaders for all people. Victims of gun violence; victims of hate crimes. The sick, suffering and dying; the homeless and the hungry; military personnel and their families; first responders; those who are incarcerated; all those whose needs are known only to God.