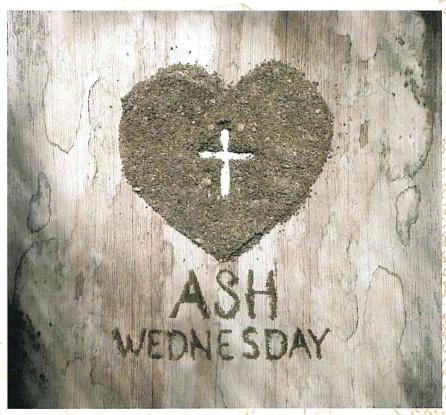
HERALD OF GRACE



Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Special Ash Wednesday Services with Communion and Imposition of Ashes 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM

No Midweek Services this year except Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Complete Holy Week Schedule INSIDE

Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Wayne J. Miller, Pastor

1356 Government St., Mobile, AL 36604

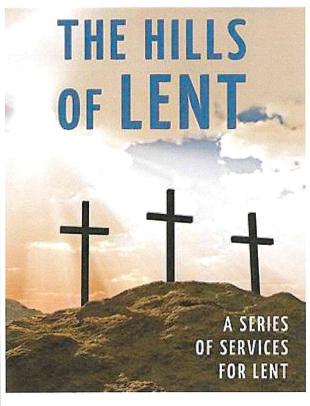
grace@gracelutheranmobile.com

Connie Rowe, Organist

(251) 433-2749

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

LENT 2021



By means of hymns and dramatic homilies, you will be led on a biblically chronological journey to "mountaintop experiences" that all focus on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the planning for our Holy Land Trip in 2022, for the next year, we will move around the Church Year themes and biblical messages from a geographical standpoint. While we won't be visiting all of these places, some of them we will be more familiar with and have a better experience with next year. If you are not planning on attending or not able, you will still benefit from these messages. Geography has an important position in biblical theology and knowledge. On Sundays during Lent, we will specifically be meditating on various mountains.

At Mount Moriah, Abraham's faith is tested and strengthened. At Mount Sinai, Moses and the Israelites receive the word of God. At Mount Carmel, Elijah calls for faith and faithfulness. Jesus joins the faithful in worship at Mount Zion. On Mount Olive, Jesus assures us that we too are the children of God. Finally, at Mount Calvary, we view "God's own sacrifice complete."

These services will be conducted at both the 8:00 and 10:00 services on Sunday morning. This year we will not be holding midweek Lenten services, except for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week.

As always, if you prefer to worship from home or simply aren't feeling well, you're invited to join us on our <u>Facebook page</u>, <u>website</u>, or <u>YouTube channel</u>. We look forward to worshiping together!

May God bless your Lenten Season,

Pastor Wayne J. Miller

Lent and Holy Week Schedule for 2021

(Lenten Theme: The Hills of Lent)

- Sunday, February 14: Transfiguration Sunday 8:00 and 10:00
- Ash Wednesday Services with Communion and Imposition of Ashes, February 17, 10:00 am & 7:00 pm Lenten Theme: Mount Moriah
- No Midweek Lenten Services
- 1st Sunday in Lent, February 21, 8:00 & 10:00 w/ Communion

 Lenten Theme: Mount Sinai
- 2nd Sunday in Lent, February 28, 8:00 & 10:00 *Lenten Theme: Mount Carmel*
- 3rd Sunday in Lent, March 7, 8:00 & 10:00 w/ Communion *Lenten Theme: Mount Zion*
- 4th Sunday in Lent, March 14, 8:00 & 10:00

Lenten Theme: Mount Olive

- 5th Sunday in Lent, March 21, 8:00 & 10:00 w/ Communion *Lenten Theme: Mount Calvary*
- Palm Sunday, March 28, 8:00 & 10:00 Government Street Palm Processional
- Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm Service w/ Communion
- Good Friday, April 2, 2:00 pm Chief Good Friday Service 7:00 pm Tenebrae "Service of Darkness"
- Easter Sunday, April 4, 6:30 Sunrise, 8:00 and 10:00 w/Communion (Sign up for reservations soon) *Schedule is subject to change due to constant changes in pandemic.

Pastor's Thoughts on Social Media

The term "Fake News" has been tossed around for the past few years. Fake news can sometimes be really difficult to discern from actual news. Also, in any story, real or fake, what one chooses to emphasize in a story often shapes the narrative too. I believe Christians ought to discern between good and evil, right and wrong, and use their God-given ability to critically think and apply God's Word to everyday life. Now more than ever, all of the above seems to be lost.

We had once been taught to not believe everything we read on the internet, but now it seems that many of us today are believing EVERYTHING that we read on the internet.

From catchy headlines to articles shared on Facebook, it seems that we have no proper discretion when it comes to receiving information. Part of the reason might be a lack of trust in authority or such disdain for a subject matter or political party that we would believe anything that makes the "other side" look bad. But that might be too complicated. I share my sincere thought that the real problems are social media, boredom and laziness (lack of critical thinking). It's much easier to sit on a couch, scroll through Facebook and hit a like button without doing research and engaging in the actual story.

In the past, we had the TV and newspapers. But now social media and the like are the prime deliverers of the news for most of our country. In the past we've trusted the likes of Walter Cronkite (CBS), David Brinkley (NBC), and Edward R. Murrow (CBS) to deliver the news. They actually gave us news, not opinion. As a country we listened to them and took their word for what was occurring. We trusted that they would remain unbiased. Today that trust has been broken and we see very biased reporting.

Now we have news programs 24 hours a day. News used to be just 30 minutes a day and I believe that they had the right amount of time. Now we are flooded with constant information. Since there is not enough news to be reported in a 24-hour period, those hours are filled with opinionated commentary. All of the above are the reasons we have the term, "Fake News," and not from our last President.

I believe that "Fake News" is a misleading term. I prefer "Tilted News."

Often, I don't see things that are titled as "Fake News" to be completely fake. I think that they are angled in such a way that may not be completely honest and accurate or perhaps exaggerate or emphasize a small part of a bigger story.

So, I wouldn't call everything "Fake News," but rather "Tilted News," or "Bias News." Instead of splitting hairs, the question I want to grapple with today is "How do we discern Fake (biased) News from (unbiased) News" as a Christian?

First, what sort of news is it? If the news is political, especially during an election year, we have to understand that they are saying whatever they can to be elected. They're relying upon your vote for their next paycheck (or kickback if I dare say that it ever happens). They want to tell you what you want to hear. Both sides do this to their respective bases often trying to motivate through fear. For example, "If X gets elected then we're all going to die."

If the news is scientific, such as a new study being done, there are things to assume. When any study is performed, they form groups that conduct the study, and we have to look for WHO they studied. For example, if you read something like "80% of Millennials are back living with their parents," this tells us that 80% of WHO THEY STUDIED are living with their parents. This could be 4 out of 5 Millennials, it could be 400 out of 500. Did they interview Millennials on a college campus or places of work? But often times we see headlines like this, and we just start to believe that 80% of millennials are living with mom and dad, because it gets repeated on our news sites and social media circles. That is why election polls are so inaccurate.

Secondly, who is sharing the information? In the past, America has trusted its news anchors, but today there is not one news anchor that America, as a whole, trusts. In the past, we had one or two local papers who did their work. Now we have 1,000s of websites trying to get us to click on their site. (Websites make money from advertisements on their web pages. When you click that outrageous link, they get a few cents. So, it is in their best interest to create outrage and

"clicks".) We don't always know who is behind these websites and it's incredibly difficult to discern what is slightly biased from totally biased.

Are we getting our information from people just like us (non-reporter types)? This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but are they under the belief that what they are sharing is "unbiased"? Your parents, grandparents, kids, siblings, friends, they ALL can fall prey to biased news that seems to be truthful.

Lastly, what is being shared and who is the resource. During this time of Covid there has been a lot of "Tilted News." During an election cycle there has been a lot of "Tilted News" being shared. And with Covid and the election in the same year, it unfortunately got all connected to each other.

Fake News can be fun. It can make things a little more black and white and fills our days of boredom. We can share it and feel good about ourselves or a movement. It can be work to discern what is real and what is not, so laziness plays a role. This calls us to pay attention. Check the resources double or triple. When putting the best construction on any story, there is no shame in changing your mind/opinion on any topic. If you've fallen into "Fake News" you can repent and turn away from it.

I've seen Christians sharing literal Fake News articles on Facebook, believing what you're sharing to be true. Some is political or religious propaganda and some is pure satire; meaning,

what they share is literally not real. The Onion or Babylon Bee are joke websites meant to give you a laugh, but if you take them seriously, you will probably get angry. Here are 3 Babylon Bee headlines that could easily be mistaken:

- 1) ELCA Dropping All Problematic Words from Name: "Evangelical", "Lutheran", "Church" and "America".
- 2) Biden Suggests Stopping Criminals by Making Them Slip on Banana Peels.
- 3) "I'm IMMORTAL", cries Trump After surviving Covid-19.

This is why it is important to know: 1) what sort of news it is, 2) who is sharing the information, and 3) what exactly is being shared and its original resource. It's easy to read a headline and say, "I am outraged by this headline, I must share it without reading it!" Even Christians are doing this today and rightfully it makes us look really bad.

So much of our Social Media (a main source of news today) has promoted lies, gossip, deceit, or something worse. We're warned against spreading misinformation by the 8th commandment sinning in thought, word or deed. When we share false information, information that may slander our neighbor (literally anyone), or information that may hurt his or her reputation, or when we are being nasty in commenting on someone we don't even know, then we are breaking the 8th commandment.

As Luther's explanation of the 8th commandment says,

"We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way." Social Media has great power to deliver wrong information, arrogance and produce fake human interaction triggering jealousy, anxiety, anger, confusion, with both personal and professional challenges.

Here is my advice. Take 2 weeks without reading, engaging, or sharing any news. Biased or unbiased. Take a fast from the news this Lent. Take Facebook off of your phone as a start. You might be surprised how most news, biased or unbiased, has not impacted you directly. If able, go and find an old newspaper from the 1970s and read through it. You'll find that the news back then has very little impact on your life today but perhaps it's the same exact story with different characters!

Now I am not recommending disengaging from politics or community interests or digital media. I too follow things and engage with neighbors, friends, family and the church on various issues. We, as Christians, should be involved and invest in digital media. But today's social media and "The Media" in general has created an unhealthy environment that will only get worse.

I fear that too many Christians wake up and get their morning devotional from Facebook instead of from the Holy Scripture. Take a break from the craziness of this world. Social media can perpetuate the crazy. And if we set it aside and respect its power to corrupt, we can be better stewards with our time and build better relationships with each other.

Some may think that the Church, backing away from a platform like Facebook might look like a retreat or we are missing out on the benefits of social media which allegedly "connects people". But as a Millennial myself, I will admit that Social Media actually creates a social environment of NO human connection whatsoever because in it you have no emotion, little context, no facial expression (emojis tried to fix that), no sincereness or personality, etc. And when Facebook has the ability to present ourselves as someone we are not, it is very much inhumane.

It might be convenient in sharing some information, and digital media has a place within the modern-day church, but social media has proven for too many years to promote gossip, personal animosity, jealousy, and unhealthy junk that doesn't need to be in our lives and we don't have to support the greed of these wealthy companies targeting us daily with ads. Did I leave anything out? There are some benefits to social media, but not many.

Therefore, I see it in the best interest to slowly and responsibly to back Grace away from Facebook, including myself, and to encourage better means of communication and engaging with one another. We should still embrace means of digital media. We have a website. We have a YouTube Channel. But most of all, we have each other. As soon as this virus lets up, we will be together not only in worship but also in fellowship; better and stronger than before. And hopefully we can be better witnesses in our community and contribute to the well-being of society.

Christ is the solid rock upon which we stand. Let us not gossip, slander, hurt other reputations, by what we are sharing, reading, and digesting.

You are what you eat. You are what you view. If you take in junk, you're going to spew out junk. If you take in the Holy Word of God, that is what will come out of your mouths. May the Lord bless you this Lent. He is our one and true and certain hope. Let nothing of this earth tempt us otherwise. It is in Christ alone that we are to live and have our being.

Let us discern all local, national and worldly affairs by looking at the information through the lens of Law and Gospel. Let us repent of our sins of the past. Let us embrace real human connection. And when we choose to use social media, may we be Christ-like in all our interactions.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Wayne J. Miller

Partor Wayne J. Miller



Music Collections

On the church's website, under the Worship tab and then Music, are collections from choirs, handbells, and instrumentals presented at Grace. So far there are 4 collections for your listening enjoyment.

- 1. Christmas Selections 2005-2007 by the Choirs of Grace
- 2. Christmas Brass- brass choir and solo trombone
- 3. Christmas Choirs and Handbells (more recent selections)
- 4. Piano Meditations on Hymns of the Church Year

Additional collections will be added as each new season of the church year approaches. You are encouraged to check out this feature in Grace's online ministry.

Current phone number for us is 251 270-9000.

Chris and Connie Rowe





Do you know that every week we have a Sunday School lesson available for kids? Since we have not been able to gather for children's Sunday School, the Sunday School lessons are being put together by Debbie Milling and Pastor Miller on a weekly basis. Every Sunday morning, a new lesson will be posted on our website and shared on our Facebook page. The lesson includes that Sunday's Gospel lesson, Pastor Miller's children's message, song and craft.

See below a note written to Grace by a member regarding this ministry:

Our granddaughters are enjoying the online Sunday School program by Debbie Milling and Pastor. The program is very well done with scripture, story video, message from Pastor, music, and crafts. This has really been a wonderful blessing for us. The girls and I learn about our Savior through the lessons and we have fun with all the activities. Many thanks to Debbie and Pastor for their great efforts to benefit the Christian growth of our children.

-Connie Rowe



The members of the LWML assembled gift bags that were presented to our home bound members for Christmas. The bags contained lots of goodies, as well as devotional literature and handy items like planners, puzzles, Kleenex, hand sanitizers and the like.

Unfortunately we have not been able to meet for almost one year, but we are looking forward to a better year in 2021.

As a reminder, we are still collecting mites. For more information on our organization, please visit lwml.org





Camp Dixie 2021

Chicken Dinner Schedule

All Camp Dixie Chicken Dinners are served from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm



Dates for 2021!

January 10, 2021
February 07, 2021
March 14, 2021
April 11, 2021
June 13, 2021
September 12, 2021
October 10, 2021
November 14, 2021

Bring Your Family And Friends And Enjoy Fellowship, And Fun, While Having Some <u>FANTASTIC</u> Fried Chicken!

Dine-In & Take Out Orders
For More Information, Please
Call (251) 987-1201 Or Visit Our Website
www.campdixieministries.org
Located At: 29711 Josephine Dr. Elberta, AL 36530

All Proceeds Benefit Camp Dixie Lutheran Outdoor Ministry.

Camp Dixie is Supported By: Grace Lutheran, Mobile, AL St. Mark's Lutheran, Elberta, AL St. Paul's Lutheran, Foley, AL Immanuel Lutheran, and Redeemer, Lutheran, Pensacola, FL

Camp Dixie Spring Quilting Retreat April 12-16 2021

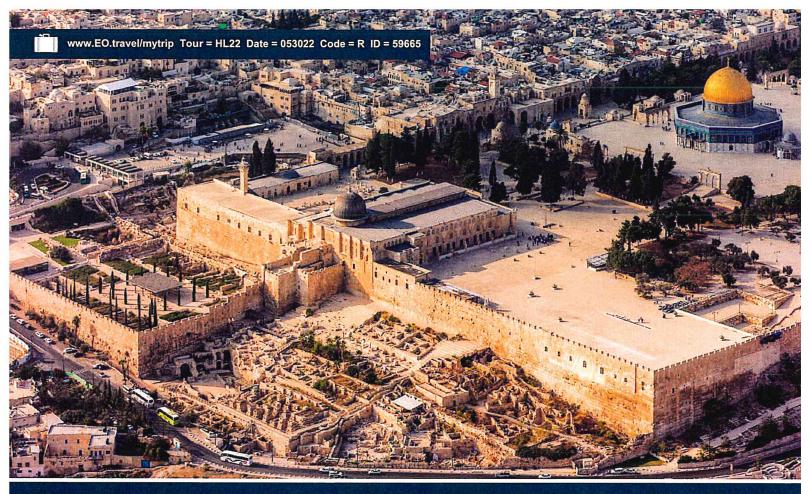


Cost For The Week Retreat \$200

Week Retreat Includes

- + Four Nights stay at Camp Dixie.
- + The retreat officially begins with Lunch on Monday April 12th & ends Friday April 16th after Breakfast.
- + Areas for working and laying out quilts.

For Registration Forms Contact us at 251-987-1201 Camp Dixie Outdoor Ministries 29711 Josephine Dr. Elberta, AL 36530 or email to director@campdixieministries.org



Join Pastor Wayne Miller with Pastor Keith & Diana Ringers

Holy Land Tour

May 30 - June 8, 2022

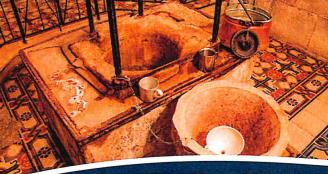


Hosts
Pastor
Wayne & Ashley
Miller











MESSAGE FROM YOUR HOST

Pastor Wayne Miller



God's plan for our salvation and the history of His people are closely tied to the land of Israel. So, consider for a moment how walking in the footsteps of Jesus would bring the Biblical accounts to life. Imagine kneeling where the shepherds stood at Bethlehem's manger, seeing the places where Jesus grew up and worked, standing in the Jordan River where He was baptized, sailing across the Sea of Galilee where Jesus did most of his ministry, praying in Gethsemane, following along the Way-of-

he-Cross, weeping at Golgotha, or singing hymns of praise at he empty tomb. Walking in the footsteps of Jesus and seeing he land where He lived will change your life forever, and reading he Scriptures will never be the same again.

Ve are inviting you to take this pilgrimage with us, to experience or yourself the sights, the sounds, and the smells of this historic and beautiful living land. Your understanding of the Bible will be hallenged, inspired, and strengthened as the Biblical places we only imagined suddenly come to life. A trip to the Holy Land is ruly a journey of epic proportions. There is no other place like it in the whole world. Please consider joining us.

- Rev. Wayne Miller & Rev. Keith & Diana Ringers





ITINERARY

May 30 - Depart USA

Your spiritual pilgrimage begins as you depart the USA on an overnight flight.

May 31 - Arrive in the Holy Land

You will be welcomed to the Holy Land by our airport representative and transferred to your hotel on the coast.

June 1 - Caesarea Maritima, Megiddo, Sepphoris, Mount Arbel

Begin the day at Caesarea Maritima, the Roman capital of Judea with its theater and Roman Aqueduct, where Cornelius became the first Gentile convert to the new covenant (Acts 10) and Paul was imprisoned before taken to Rome for trial. Travel the ancient caravan route to Tel Megiddo where over 20 cities lie superimposed upon each other and the site of many ancient battles. Visit Sepphoris, the capital of Galilee in Jesus' youth, where Jesus and Joseph probably earned their living as construction workers. End the day's travels on Mount Arbel with its stunning panoramic view of the Plain of Gennesaret and the Sea of Galilee where most of Jesus' ministry took place, before going to our lodging in a kibbutz on the Sea of Galilee.

June 2 - Hazor, Tel Dan, Caesarea Philippi, Golan Heights

Explore Hazor, one of the oldest archaeological sites in Israel. The 3000 year old city was the inspiration for The Source, James Michener's epic historical novel about Israel. Here Joshua fought against Jabin (Joshua 11:1-11). At Tel Dan, see the mud brick arch constructed in Canaanite times and where the "House of David" inscription from the First Temple Period was found. Visit Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus traveled with his disciples and where nearby Peter made his great confession: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" (Matthew 16:16) After lunch in the vicinity of Mount Hermon, return through the strategic tableland known as the Golan Heights.

June 3 – Valley of the Wind and Doves, Magdala, Mount of Beatitudes, Eremos Topos, Capernaum, Tabgha, Chorazim, the Ancient Boat, Sea of Galilee Boat Ride

Begin your day walking a portion of the Valley of the Wind and Doves. Continue with a visit to the excavations of Magdala, home of a first century synagogue and Mary Magdalene. Visit the Mount of Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount. Walk down the hill to Eremos Topos, identified by a 3rd Century pilgrim as "the lonely place" where Jesus retired to pray. Explore Capernaum, Jesus' headquarters in Galilee; Tabgha, site of the feeding of the 5000; and Chorazim, the city Jesus cursed because they had seen his mighty acts, yet remained unrepentant. At Nof Ginosar, see the 1st century fishing boat found in the Sea of Galilee's mud, a rare example of the kind of boat in which Jesus would have sailed those waters. End the day with a sunset boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and a worship service on board.

June 4 - Nazareth, Jacob's Well, Baptismal Site, Mount Scopus

You'll visit Nazareth, the boyhood home of Jesus (Matthew 2:23) and the Mount of Precipice where Luke describes how Jesus was rejected by those in his hometown synagogue. Filled with anger they "led him to the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong." (Luke 4:29) See Sychar, home of Jacob's Well, where Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman (John 4). Remember your baptism as you worship at the Baptismal Site on the River Jordan and contemplate the Baptism of Jesus. You'll approach Jerusalem from Mount Scopus with its panoramic view of the Holy City as you make your way to your hotel.

June 5 – Sunday Worship in Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity, Shepherds' Field

Today we cross the border into Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. Worship in the Christmas Lutheran Church to get a sense of the Christian community of the Holy Land. In the afternoon, visit the Church of the Nativity, the oldest continuously functioning church in the world. See the cave where tradition holds Jesus was born. Look out on the Shepherds' Field, where angels announced his birth, as we close our day with worship.

June 6 – Mount of Olives, Palm Sunday Walk, Garden of Gethsemane, Temple Mount, Southern Wall Excavations, Teaching Steps, Western Wall, Upper Room, Caiaphas' Palace Stand atop the Mount of Olives as Jesus did and enjoy a remarkable view of the "Golden City" of Jerusalem. Walk the route of Jesus' Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday. Pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. Visit the Temple Mount, site of Solomon's Temple, and the Southern Wall Excavations, with its Teaching Steps. Visit the traditional site of the Last Supper on Mount Zion, and the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, the site of the High Priest's Palace, where Jesus stood before the Sanhedrin and was imprisoned overnight before the crucifixion, and where Peter denied that he knew Jesus.

June 7 – Pool of Bethesda, Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Garden Tomb, Depart for Home

Begin the day at the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus performed a Sabbath miracle of healing. Walk the Via Dolorosa, the "Way of the Cross," and stand in reverence at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, site of the crucifixion and tomb of Jesus. Our tour ends with a service of Holy Communion at the Garden Tomb. This evening, you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight to the USA.

June 8 - Return Home

Register Early & Save

\$150 Register by June 30, 2021	\$125 Register by July 30, 2021	\$100 Register by August 30, 2021
\$75	\$50	\$25
Register by September 30, 2021	Register by October 30, 2021	Register by November 30, 202

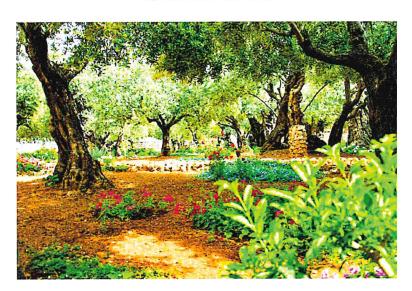
\$3,748* from New York

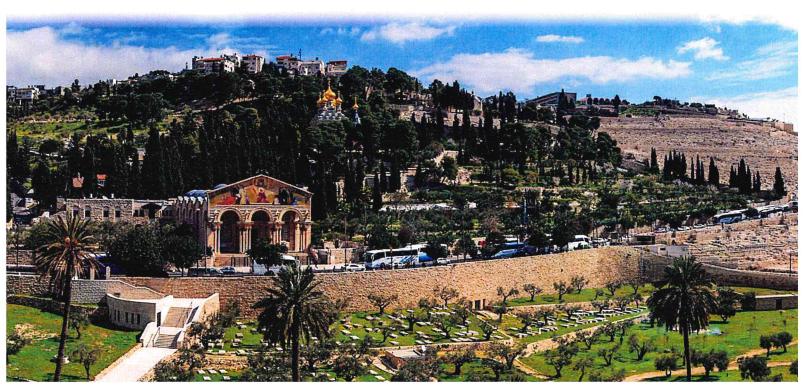
\$348 additional from Pensacola

YOUR ALL INCLUSIVE PRICE INCLUDES:

Basic Tour & Guided Sightseeing,
Round-trip International Airfare
Additional baggage & optional fees may apply; see fine print for details
Fuel Surcharges and Government Taxes
Subject to change
Admin. Fees, Entrance Fees, Hotel Gratuities & Program Fees
Daily Breakfast & Dinner, Deluxe Motorcoaches

First Class Hotels & much more!
*All prices reflect a 4% cash discount







We welcome our new members to Grace:

- -Melissa Hadley, Daphne, AL
- -Dennis and Sharon Jacobson, Fairhope, AL
- -Dr. Luke Mueller and his fiance', Lauren, Mobile, AL

We welcome you in the Name of the Lord!

Marriages:

Elexis Mueller and Travis Middleton, September 12, 2020

Called to Glory:

- + John Kramer + August 30, 2020
- + Paul Crane + October 31, 2020



February Birthdays

- 1- Linda Schnaser
- 3- Laura Adlington
- 4- Bunny Kringel Janis Watkins
- 5- Lisa Burnette
- 8- Steve Johnson Rev. Marvin Mueller Sherea Weiss
- 9- Ashley Oswalt Rachel Dean
- 10- Nell Toenes

- 10- Dan Unger
- 12- Martha Keezel
- 13- Damean Hosey
- 14- Benjamin Walker
- 16- Lacey Sovik Martha Webb
- 17- Chris Mangino
- 20- Kyla Hosey
- 24- Gabriella Raynor
- 25- Hugh Sovik
- 28- Carolyn Ellingburg

February Wedding Anniversaries

6- Ronald and Sherea Weiss



March Birthdays

- 3- Joe Ellingburg
- Kevin Erdman
- Kimberly Kringel
- 5- Adelaide Woodruff
- 7- Drew Gray
- -Tom Hankins
- 8- Nicole Hosey
- 10- Kathy Brokaw
 - -Yeabsira Mendedo
- 15- Andie Unger
- 18- Deborah Griffin
- 21- Joey Kringel
- 24- Andrew Gehlken
- 25- Kevin Hanson
- 30- Karen Mitternight
 - -Kyle Mitternight

March Wedding Anniversaries

- 2- Hugh and Lacey Sovik
- 8- Steve and Jan Watkins
- 12- Darrell and Heidi Butler
- 21- Adam and Ashley Oswalt
- 22- Michael and Melanie Tims
- 23- Daniel and Joanna Arnett
 - 28- Rick and Julie Harvey
- 28- Buddy and Karen Strickland