

# The Herald of Grace

A Weekly Newsletter for Grace Lutheran Church

July 3, 2025

## *A Prayer for Independence Day*

OUR CREATOR AND LORD,  
FROM YOU ALL THINGS COME AND TO YOU  
ARE ALL THINGS DIRECTED.  
PROVIDE FOR OUR NATION FAITHFUL LEADERS  
WHO WILL HEAR AND HEED YOUR LAW,  
PROTECT AND DEFEND THE CITIZENS,  
PRESERVE THE PRECIOUS GIFT OF LIBERTY,  
AND INSPIRE US TO USE OUR FREEDOM  
HONORABLY.

YOU SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT YOU SENT  
YOUR SON AS THE SACRIFICE FOR SINS, THAT  
IN HIM ALL WHO BELIEVE ARE TRULY FREE.  
LEAD ALL TO TRUST IN HIM AND TO LOVE ONE  
ANOTHER AS YOU LOVE US.

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYER.



**If you would like to watch our  
Worship Services, you can find them here:**

**Grace Lutheran's Facebook page  
or  
youtube.com**

**(Search and subscribe to Grace Lutheran Church, Mobile, AL)**

## **An Anniversary Reflection from Pastor Miller (*Read on Sunday, June 29, 2025*)**

Thank you for your generosity as a church to Ashley, Addison and myself. I am very grateful for these 10 years at Grace, and I hope the same for you. I have a lot of memories of these last 10 years. I began my ministry 10 years ago very young and inexperienced being called to the oldest Lutheran Church in the state of Alabama and I began with these words: Forgive me. And 10 years later, I ask the same because I am not perfect; forgive me for my failures the last 10 years. I have confessed *with* you for the last 10 years.... "I a poor, miserable sinner." And yet you have shown me grace.

Another way that a pastor knows that he is loved is not just how they treat me but how they treat my family. You treated my family back home and my wife and her family and our daughter so very well.

The divine call to Grace Lutheran Church gave me a challenge and a people to love; this church gave me a wife who I married here, a daughter who I baptized here, the best in-laws one could ask for including my father-in-law who I buried only two months ago from here. Grace has been good to me and good for me. You have been a pleasant people to serve, and you are forever part of my life.

I was baptized at Peace Lutheran Church in Chicago, Illinois as my Mom and Dad who are with me today carried me to the font. Thank you, Ma and Dad. They sent me and my brother to Lutheran school. I was raised in the faith in a very Lutheran family. All 4 of my grandparents were Lutheran; my last surviving grandparent, with me today. Thank you, Gram. I went to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Great years. Ask Pastor Schlund. We had a lot of fun. (Tom doesn't need to tell too many stories.) And then in 2015 I was called here to you.

I love living and serving in Mobile. There are things I'm not good at. There are things I complain that we are not good at. But I can assure you, I have never complained about stepping into this pulpit to preach a sermon. It is my favorite part of the call.

Our callings in life are never about ownership; they are about stewardship in what God has entrusted to us to take care of. And in the Office of Holy Ministry, I try my best to take care of you in Word and Sacrament.

Thank you for all the support from our leadership through the years. They lead our ministries. They ought to be celebrated too.

I love working with Chris and Connie Rowe. They have both brought music to Grace for almost 30 years. Indeed, they ought to be celebrated too.

Thank you to the pastors who have served this congregation and all those who are here today. They are all my friends. And I will say that Pastor Sturtz has been one of the best predecessors a pastor can ask for. He has always supported me. Pastor Sturtz has over 50 years in ministry. Pastor Marvin Mueller has 65 years. They ought to be celebrated too.

Pastors always have an underappreciated helper and confidant on the administrative side of things. Every week, Debbie Milling dedicates her life to this church, and I could not do my job without her. She ought to be celebrated too.

The biggest thank you goes to a person in my life who has been asked in several call interviews: "Describe your role as a pastor's wife." And she has answered every time: "To support my husband." Ashley hasn't been your conventional pastor's wife and that's fine with me. She sits in the pew (without me) raising our daughter in the faith. I never asked her to be less or more than who she is. She is perfect for me and loves and supports me so I can be YOUR pastor. Thank you, Ashley.

Those on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee, Grady, Darrell, Debbie, Martha, Lacey, Sherea and Dennis, y'all surpassed expectations and I so appreciate the hard work and thought that went into it. The event was very meaningful.

This Anniversary gives us an opportunity to celebrate our life with God. Jesus prays a prayer in John 17, we call it his high priestly prayer. It was a prayer he prays on the night before he was betrayed. Jesus prays: I glorify you on earth by having accomplished the work that you have given me to do. In whatever I do, in whatever I say, in whatever I preach, in whatever we do as a church family, I pray that much is made of JESUS.

This congregation is 158 years old. 158 years from now, I'll be long gone. I'll be in the middle of that wall of pastors downstairs. It doesn't matter if anyone remembers the name Wayne J. Miller, but if they remember the name of Jesus that will make this celebration worthy of praise.

Jesus fulfilled his ministry perfectly. Grace has grown the last 10 years. We have expanded our mission, established new fellowship events, added more character to Grace through Oktoberfest, Lenten Dramas, Chili Cookoffs, Trivia Nights, and Renewed his House. We are a healthy congregation. But I haven't done ministry perfectly. You can probably fill a book with more things that didn't work out than with things that did. There is a lot more work that needs to be done. Our city is a city filled with churches, but a city filled with lostness. Our community and even family and friends need the real Jesus with the real Gospel and the real sacraments. We are called to lead them to know the joy of Jesus in his cross and empty tomb. Our mission to this community is alive.

There is still work to be done within our own walls. I regret not yet having built a new multi-purpose building. I regret not having a larger youth group or Sunday school, but our youth and volunteers and teachers are great. Let's keep moving forward. We MUST grow in this ministry.

I believe God not only called me to this ministry but called US. Thank you, Grace, as we celebrate the pastor/parishioner bond TODAY, but there is work to be done tomorrow. The work of the Lord continues and only if God allows, I would love another 10 years together to make a kingdom impact that the Gospel will be proclaimed above all else and that the name of Jesus be exalted. Thank you, Grace Lutheran Church and thank you, Lord, for these 10 blessed years.



## WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

This week's memory verse: John 15:5

***I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.***

This Month's Prayer: A Prayer for Our Nation in Lutheran Book of Prayer  
***Eternal Father, Ruler of all nations, I thank You for all spiritual and temporal blessings enjoyed in our land. In Your mercy, You have sustained this nation in times of trouble and preserved its liberties. Let me not forget that true freedom is freedom to serve. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Strengthen all those who strive to do Your will... Above all, dear God, speed the course of Your Gospel among us through Jesus Christ. Amen.***



**July 7 – Tom and Susan Hankins**

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Altar Flowers are still available for the following Sundays:  
August 17, 24, 31 and September 7, 28

\*\*\*\* Please return any green sleeve vases that you might have taken home with your altar flowers! Thank you! \*\*\*\*

# Weekly Calendar

Sunday, July 6	Children's Sunday School	9:15 am
<i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Worship- Divine Service	10:30 am
	Bible Study	<i>After Service</i>
Monday	Bible Study Group @ Grace <i>The Chosen</i>	4:30 pm
Tuesday	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
Wednesday	Lunch Book Club @ Jan's Home	10:00 am
	No Choir or Handbells until August	
	Youth Confirmation Class	6:00 pm
	Oktoberfest Committee Meeting	7:00 pm
Thursday	New Member Class	6:00 pm
Friday	Trivia Night	7:00 pm
Sunday, July 13	Children's Sunday School	9:15 am
<i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Worship- Divine Service	10:30 am
	Bible Study	<i>After Service</i>

## Monday Night Bible Study Group!

Join us this Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. here at Grace as we begin an introduction to Season 5 of The Chosen. Bring refreshments if you'd like. Popcorn will be provided! All age's invited- bring a guest too.



Join us for a TRIVIA NIGHT fundraiser on Friday, July 11 @ 7:00 pm!

\$50.00 per table, up to 6 players per table/team. Get your family and friends together to enjoy a fun night of general knowledge trivia.

Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase. BYOB/BYOW with required koozie purchase.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners! Proceeds will go to the Capital Fund. Sign up your team on the sign-in sheet in the back of the Church.



"Blair's Bear's" is a project, inspired by one year old Blair Mueller, the daughter of Lauren and Luke Mueller who are members here at Grace Lutheran.

Blair was diagnosed with leukemia in January. The purpose of Blairs Bears is to bring comfort and hugs to many hospitalized children through the gift of a small to medium size stuffed animal. Each animal comes with a handwritten message and colorful tag made by another school-aged child.

Donations of a new, small to medium size stuffed animal are being collected all through June here at Grace and can be placed in the narthex.

For more information please see Marilyn Griffin, Missions Coordinator

Thank you BEARY much!!

Now we must tag all the bears!

For anyone who can stay after church to help tag the bears, please do so on July 6 and/or July 13 if needed. Instructions will be given in person.



**Try to book by February 24 for best location and guaranteed prices!  
Call Galyna Henry. Deposits could be as low as \$50 pp.  
More info on next page.**



# 6-DAY BAHAMAS CRUISE

## Carnival Spirit

Monday, January 11 – Sunday, January 17, 2027

Starting at **\$734.00** per person

### ITINERARY:

- Monday, January 11: Depart Mobile, AL 3:30 PM
- Tuesday, January 12: Fun Day at Sea
- Wednesday, January 13: Celebration Key, The Bahama
- Thursday, January 14: Nassau, The Bahamas
- Friday, January 15: Fun Day at Sea
- Saturday, January 16: Fun Day at Sea
- Sunday, January 17: Arrive Mobile, AL 8:00 AM

**STATEROOMS:**  
*Prices are per person based on double occupancy.*

Cat. 4D - Interior  
**\$734.00**

Cat. 4E - Interior  
**\$744.00**

Cat. 8D - Balcony  
**\$944.00**

Cat. 8E - Balcony  
**\$954.00**

Cat. 8K -  
Extended Balcony  
**\$974.00**

### INCLUSIONS:

- ◆ 6-day cruise aboard **Carnival Spirit**
- ◆ Meals and entertainment on board the ship
- ◆ Port charges, government taxes, and fees

### NOT INCLUDED:

- ◆ Gratuities to shipboard staff
- ◆ Optional shore excursions
- ◆ Travel Protection



Prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Stateroom categories and prices are subject to availability and are on a first come, first serve basis. Other categories may be available by request. Pricing and stateroom availability for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> guests are available upon request. Prices are subject to change due to fuel charges and other vendor charges. **A valid passport is required with at least 6 months validity beyond return date.** **Deposit of \$250.00 per person is due with the completed registration form by February 24, 2025. Final payment is due September 29, 2026.**



Galyna Henry  
 (251) 414-4634 • [gghenry@travellers.com](mailto:gghenry@travellers.com)

# Camp Dixie 2025

## Chicken Dinner Schedule

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



### Dates for 2025!

January 12, 2025  
February 9, 2025  
March 9, 2025  
April 27, 2025  
June 8, 2025  
September 14, 2025  
October 12, 2025  
November 9, 2025

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

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

**All Proceeds Benefit Camp Dixie Lutheran Outdoor Ministry.**

*Mission Statement: Camp Dixie is a place where campers, counselors, and staff members are able to grow spiritually, physically, emotionally and intellectually, in a positive way by experiencing, reflecting and evaluating in an outdoor-based Christ-centered program.*

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 am**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 am**  
**ADULT BIBLE STUDY *After Service***

Rev. Wayne J. Miller, Pastor  
251-622-7445  
[pastor@gracelutheranmobile.com](mailto:pastor@gracelutheranmobile.com)

Debbie Milling, Volunteer Office Manager  
251-433-2749  
[debbie.milling@gracelutheranmobile.com](mailto:debbie.milling@gracelutheranmobile.com)

Connie Rowe, Organist  
251-270-9000  
[connierowe90@gmail.com](mailto:connierowe90@gmail.com)

Chris Rowe, Choir Director  
251-278-8596  
[cmrbobcat@gmail.com](mailto:cmrbobcat@gmail.com)

Weekly newsletter items must be submitted by Wednesday of each week.



**If you would like to watch our  
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