

The Herald of Grace

A Weekly Newsletter for Grace Lutheran Church

September 18, 2025

GRACE LUTHERAN'S
4TH ANNUAL

\$5
ENTRY
FEE

10 AND
UNDER
FREE
ENTRY

OKTOBERFEST

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
11-4

FOOD - PRETZELS - BEER - WINE
MUSIC - RAFFLE - PHOTO BOOTH
KINDER KRAFTS - LAWN GAMES

1356 GOVERNMENT STREET, MOBILE, AL
251-433-2749

Grace is pleased once again to host our 4th Annual Oktoberfest here at Grace!

This Saturday, September 27, 2025!

NEW THIS YEAR:

Additions to our food menu! More Bier from Munich!

Kinder Kraft Tent!

Veterans receive free entry in memory of 1st Sgt. Steven Middleton

The celebration will be from **11:00 AM - 4:00 PM** and will feature traditional German food, such as bratwurst, sauerkraut, German potato salad, pretzels, and black forest cake! In addition to the delicious food, there will be beer and wine, soft drinks, a raffle, and an accordionist who will play some favorite German songs. Wear your lederhosen or your dirndl. There will be a photo booth with props where you can smile, laugh and have fun.

In Prov. 17:22, we read, "A merry heart doeth good like medicine."

Being with Christian friends and having a merry time is indeed wonderful therapy for each of us, and God encourages us to do just that.

OKTOBERFEST MISSION

The Annual Grace Lutheran Church Oktoberfest has had a 3-fold purpose since its inaugural in 2022.

1. For the building up of fellowship amongst our church family, friends, and community through an annual celebration of our heritage, church history and the enjoyment of life together through food, drink, song, and dance.
2. To increase community exposure and presence.
3. To raise funds for a specific ministry aspect of Grace.

None of the above are to be placed above or below the other so as not to neglect the mission. They are to be balanced for the future success of this event and to benefit the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church.

All proceeds this year will support our ministry expansion in the purchase of 120 Espejo and the new building fund. Thank you all for your attendance and contributions! Invite your family and friends!

Have a joyful Oktoberfest with us - and praise the Lord with a merry heart!

Prost! - Pastor Miller

Things to Know:

- All Attendees (Volunteers Included) over 10 years of age must pay the \$5 entry fee. All will be given a bracelet (over/under 21) for entry and re-entry.
- **All Veterans** will receive free entry in memory of 1st Sgt. Steven Middleton, former Oktoberfest chair and committee member, who passed away this year from ALS.
- ALL Attendees will be carded for safety and liability purposes.
- We do not sell food or drink, but we sell “tickets.” All Food and Beverages can only be obtained with tickets which will be purchased at the entrance. Please see the menu to get a good grasp on the ticket amounts for food and beverages. \$1 = 1 ticket.
- Cash or Credit/Debit only. *Credit/Debit will be charged a 3% convenience fee for tickets, souvenirs, raffle, etc.
- Families can enjoy the Kinder Kraft Tent for all children with fun German crafts and water-based tattoos and yard games.
- Wear your Lederhosen or Dirndl!

***ALL VOLUNTEERS WHO SIGN UP:**

VOLUNTEER MEETING IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE.

Danke! Lass die guten Zeiten rollen!

**Prost from your 2025 Oktoberfest
Committee!**



Darrell Butler Steve Johnson David Lauber Grady Luttmann

Rev. Wayne Miller Debbie Milling

OKTOBERFEST MENU

ADMISSION: \$5

10 AND UNDER AND ALL VETERANS - FREE ENTRY
CASH AND CARD ONLY (*3% FEE FOR CARD PURCHASES)
TICKETS ARE REQUIRED FOR FOOD AND DRINK
NO OUTSIDE FOOD AND DRINK - NO SMOKING

FOOD

BRATWURST PLATTER.....12 TICKETS
INCLUDES GERMAN POTATO SALAD, SAUERKRAUT,
& BLACK FOREST CAKE

“GERMAN HAMBURGER” PLATTER.....12 TICKETS
INCLUDES GERMAN POTATO SALAD, & BLACK FOREST CAKE

KID’S PLATTER.....6 TICKETS
KID’S HAMBURGER OR HOT DOG, CHIPS, & COOKIE

BRAT AND BUN.....5 TICKETS
GERMAN HAMBURGER.....6 TICKETS
HOT DOG AND BUN.....4 TICKETS
KID’S HAMBURGER.....4 TICKETS
POTATO SALAD.....4 TICKETS
SAUERKRAUT.....2 TICKETS
BLACK FOREST CAKE.....2 TICKETS
POTATO CHIPS.....1 TICKET
SOFT PRETZEL.....5 TICKETS

BEVERAGES

BEER (16 OZ)
 DOMESTIC.....5 TICKETS
 IMPORT.....6 TICKETS
WINE (REISLING OR RED).....4 TICKETS
SODA2 TICKETS
WATER.....1 TICKET

1 TICKET = \$1.00



Oktoberfest is once again
featuring...

Christopher Conger

Our local accordionist will be
playing from 11-3.

*Other music will play during his breaks.

Ein Prosit song lyrics (German)

Ein Prosit, ein Prosit
Der Gemütlichkeit
Ein Prosit, ein Prosit
Der Gemütlichkeit

How to pronounce Ein Prosit

Ayn Prawseet, Ayn Prawseet
Dare Gae-meet-lich-kite
Ayn Prawseet, Ayn Prawseet
Dare Gae-meet-lich-kite

Ein Prosit song lyrics (English Meaning)

A toast, a toast
To cheer and good times!
A toast, a toast
To cheer



The Expanded Sunday School Program at Grace has completed a good first month with our theme of “God Keeps His Promises”. Old Testament lessons on the Creation, Noah, Abraham, and the Prophets emphasized God’s promises to save us from our sins. Many thanks to our dedicated teachers and staff throughout the month of August 2025:

David and Haddon Lauber – Preschoolers,

Julie Harvey – Elementary

Kelly Johnson and Connie Rowe – Tweens.

Dylan LeGros – Music and Activities

Sue Dominguez and Heika Crane – Elementary helpers

Micah Battaglia, Dylan LeGros, Lily Machero – Tween helpers

Great Job by all staff and students this past month!

Our students for August included: Amelia, Olivia, Eli Johnson; Emmanuel and Naomi Pollack; Claire, Hadley, Amelia Salley; Halston Butler

Our teachers for September are:

Preschool: Darryl and Heidi Butler (September 7, 21, 28) and Connie Rowe (Sept 14)

Elementary: Shari Jacobson (September 7, 14) (September 21, 28)

Tweens: Micah Battaglia (September 7, 14, 21, 28)

Elementary and Tween groups begin Cross Explorations New Testament 5 – The Holy Spirit Leads the Apostles. Each student receives a lesson to take home which includes a memory verse.

Preschool emphasis is on God’s love and promises. Music, story time, and interactive activities will fill the hour.

Sunday School meets from 9:15-10:15 each Sunday morning. Classes include Preschool (Age 3-5), Elementary (Grades 1-4), and Tween (Grade 5-8).

PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS: WE NEED YOUR CHILDREN TO CONTINUE TO GROW OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 21	Sunday School	9:15 am
<i>Feast of St. Matthew</i>	Worship- Divine Service	10:30 am
	Oktoberfest Volunteer Meeting	<i>after service</i>
Monday	Bible Study @ Our Savior	11:00 am
	Monday Night Small Group	6:00 pm
Tuesday	Boundaries Book Study – Jan’s house	10:00 am
Wednesday	Pastor’s Bible Study	11:00 am
	Handbell Choir	5:30 pm
	Adult Choir	6:15 pm
Friday	Oktoberfest Set-Up	9:00 am-?
Saturday	OKTOBERFEST!	11 am–4 pm
Sunday, September 28	Children’s Sunday School	9:15 am
<i>16th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Worship- Divine Service	10:30 am



Sept. 18 – Darrell Butler
 Sept. 21 – Christopher Griffin, Sr.
 Sept. 22 – James Oswalt
 Sept. 26 – James E. Andreasen

Altar Flowers are still available for the following Sundays:
 October 19, 26, November 2, December 14, 28

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Volunteer Meeting for Oktoberfest 2025!** A Volunteer Meeting will be held immediately after church this Sunday, September 21. Our 4th Annual Oktoberfest will be Saturday, September 27. Volunteers still needed! Prost!

- **HELP NEEDED! From our Head Trustee:** Our handrails and rod iron inside and outside of the church are in desperate need of a good paint job. Need volunteers for this short-term project. If you have not volunteered for a project before, or if it has been a while since you have been on a project, come join as this is a great way to meet and get to know other members.

Workdays would be:

- **Sept. 13th 8:00 to 12:00**
- Oct. 11th 8:00 to 12:00
- Oct. 25th 8:00 to 12:00
- Nov. 8th 8:00 to 12:00

If you can assist in this project, contact Bob West @ rsw1959@yahoo.com with subject line “Grace Lutheran” or just show up on the dates listed.

- Stewardship letters and pledge cards have been sent for planning our 2026 ministry budget. If you have not received one, they are available in the back of the church. If you can, please respond by October 26. Thank you!

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NOVEMBER IS FOR GIVING THANKS..It is also Veterans Month!

We would like to express our thanks to the military veterans of Grace Lutheran and acknowledge their service in a *special* way this November!

If you or your child is an active, retired or reserved military Veteran please submit a photo with their name and service connection. You may also add the years they served and if he or she is a combat veteran and if they received any medals. or special commendations. Send to Marilyn Griffin at mmgriffin2025@icloud.com no later than October 25 to be included in our Veteran’s Day salute!!

Newsletter “From the Bookkeeping Dungeon”:

A few people have asked about the finances for purchasing the Espejo House and below is a review of the financials presented at the special meeting on August 6, 2025.

In developing the financial documents to evaluate the purchase of the house, a collection of the expenses of the current owners for utilities and insurance were used and some operational expense proposals were obtained, and it was estimated that the increase to the current operational expenses for Grace would increase budget expenses \$958.83 monthly or \$11,506 annually.

Then the net gain/loss of the congregation was examined for the first 7 months of the year and was determined to be a gain of \$8,693.70 for the first 7 months. With this information, funds were looked at to see how much would need to be financed to purchase the house.

Some of the money in the general fund would be used and money would need to be “borrowed” from the New Building Construction Fund (NBC). Two “source of funds” plans were developed, a Plan A and Plan B. The main difference was the use of the McGowin funds for the purchase of the house which meant that less money had to be borrowed from the NBC Funds. Plan A was what was included in the motion to purchase the property.

The funds that would be borrowed from the NBC funds would be paid back to the NBC fund with an interest rate of 4.2%. The percentage was pulled from the interest rate that the money had been earning and the pay back would be over 20 years. At the time of the special meeting the information presented indicted that there would be a need for approximately 1% to 3% increase in giving to cover operating expenses and to reimburse the NBC Fund.

from NBC Funds

LCEF Loan Rate~6.23%

CD Rates	4.20% Approx	<i>Change these values to see the impact to the payments</i>
.	\$ 119,185.68	
10 YR	\$1,218.06	Monthly NBC Fund Reimbursement
15 YR	\$893.60	Monthly NBC Fund Reimbursement
20 YR	\$734.86	Monthly NBC Fund Reimbursement
30 YR	\$582.84	Monthly NBC Fund Reimbursement

Plan A

	Monthly	Annual	
Increase in Budget Expenses	\$ 958.83	\$ 11,506.00	
Based on 20 yr reimbursement period	\$734.86	\$ 8,818.37	NBC Fund reimbursement
Total	\$ 1,693.70	\$ 20,324.37	Op Costs and Fund reimbursement
Annual Net Gain or Loss (8/4/25)	\$ 8,679.43		7 months
Property increase to budget	\$ 11,855.88		7 months
Net Loss	\$ (3,176.45)		7 months
Percent increase in giving needed		2%	
% increase in giving needed	Approx 1% - 3%		

However, because of a couple of generous donations for the purchase of the house, the amount of funds borrowed from the NBC Fund was \$109,651. The current monthly payment to the NBC Fund will be \$676.08 which includes principal and interest.

Three new designated funds have been established for the Espejo House, to address member giving intentions, that need to be clarified so that everyone understands their purpose and that their contributions go for their intended purpose. They are:

- Espejo House – Principal
- Espejo House – Other
- Espejo House – Remodel

The “Espejo House - Principal” is used to pay on the principal on the loan of money that came from the New Building Fund.

The “Espejo house – Other” is used for all property improvements, remodeling, repairs needed for the house to correct items identified by inspections, and needed to use the building as an office. It is like a capital fund for the building startup to do the items necessary for building maintenance, required modifications, repair, remodel, and improvements for using the building as an office.

The “Espejo House – Remodel” is used strictly for remodeling (i.e. interior painting, build a new back deck, interior renovations, enhanced backyard lighting, etc.) and to purchase new furniture for the house.

If you have any questions, please ask myself, Tom Hankins, or any council member.

ADULT and TEEN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

“What in the World?” Bible Study Series by Pastor Miller

A series on the most inquired and interesting (sometimes weird) theological topics.

Each week the same class is offered on Monday and Wednesday, so you have two opportunities to attend. Each topic stands on its own!

Monday Night Small Group starting September 8 @ 6:00 p.m.

OR

Wednesday Morning Bible Study starting September 10th @ 11:00 a.m.

September 8 and 10: Are there really Ghosts? Angels and Demons

September 15 and 17: Tell me about Heaven! (And is there a hell?)

September 22 and 24: What did Jesus look like?

September 29 and October 1: *None.*

October 6 and 8: *None. Pastor at Church Worker Conference.*

October 13 and 15: What about the Dinosaurs? A study on Animal Theology.

October 20 and 22: Witches, Aliens and UFOs

October 27 and 29: Can I celebrate Halloween? (And Other Holiday Observances)

November 3 and 5: *None. Pastor on Vacation.*

November 10 and 12: Is the United States a “Christian” Nation?

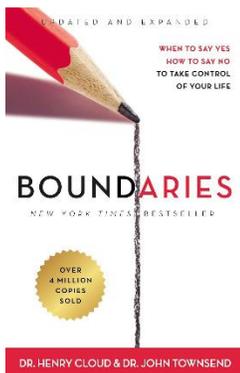
November 17 and 19: The End of the World!!! When?

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Bible Study Book Club Group!

Tuesdays, at 10:00 a.m.

We began a new book called “Boundaries” by Dr. Henry Cloud and De. John Townsend. In this *New York Times* bestseller, *Boundaries*, Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend help you learn when to say yes and know how to say no in order to take control of your life and set healthy, biblical boundaries with your spouse, children, friends, parents, co-workers, and even yourself. This book is available on Amazon.



We meet at Jan Tanner’s house, 265 Park Ave, Mobile, AL 36607
Call Jan @ 251-232-9011 for more information!

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

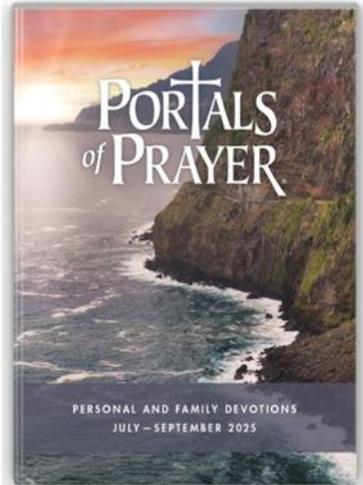
This week's memory verse: Isaiah 64:8

But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

This Month's Prayer: Common Table Prayer for Lutheran Households in German:

**"Komm, Herr Jesu; sei unser Gast;
und segne, was du uns bescheret hast".**

*Translation: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
And let these gifts to us be blest. Amen.*



Did you know that the Portals of Prayer published by our own LCMS publishing house is one of the longest running daily devotionals in the United States? Since 1937!

These are available for you and your family from Grace Lutheran Church! They are published quarterly and provide a short means for learning and applying God's Word daily in our lives. It's a small but beneficial way to be in the Word together. Don't forget your Portals of Prayer!

Grief Touches Us All, Find Your Path To Healing

Join us for a **complimentary** seminar **open to all** who are grieving or have been touched by loss.

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025
7PM - 9PM



Tending to Your Broken Heart When Someone Dies:
Hope for Your Healing

Please call early or scan the QR code
to reserve your place.
Complimentary refreshments provided.

251-661-7700



MOBILE MEMORIAL GARDENS
FUNERAL HOME

6040 Three Notch Rd.
Mobile, AL 36619

Presented by Dr. Alan Wolfelt
Renowned Grief Counselor,
Educator, and Author.



Dr. Alan Wolfelt has been recognized as one of North America's leading death educators and grief counselors. His books have sold more than a million copies worldwide and have been translated into many languages.

He serves as Director of the Center for Loss & Life Transition and is on the faculty of the University of Colorado Medical School's Department of Family Medicine.

He is known around the world for his compassionate messages of hope and healing as well as his companioning philosophy of grief care. Dr. Wolfelt speaks on grief-related topics, offers trainings for caregivers, and has written many bestselling books and other resources on grief for both caregivers and grieving people.



**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

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

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

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 3rd and 4th 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@travelladers.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
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

Debbie Milling, Volunteer Office Manager
251-433-2749
debbie.milling@gracelutheranmobile.com

Connie Rowe, Organist
251-270-9000
connierowe90@gmail.com

Chris Rowe, Choir Director
251-278-8596
cmrbobcat@gmail.com

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



**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)