

The Herald of Grace

A Weekly Newsletter for Grace Lutheran Church

October 3, 2025

A Note from Pastor

Thank you to all who volunteered for the 4th Annual Oktoberfest. 387 people attended this year, which was about the same as last year. Preliminary estimates tell us that Grace Lutheran Church made around \$4500! The event involves a lot of hard work and is not a cheap party to throw! But it gives us better exposure to the community, it increases our fellowship as a congregation and raises some funds for our ministry. I appreciate everyone who attended, supported, and gave their precious time and energy in making this event a success. I love Grace Lutheran Church and this annual tradition. Mark your calendars for our 5th Annual Oktoberfest on September 26, 2026!

But now our focus turns to the autumn months! What a wonderful time of the year to be a part of Grace and to be Lutheran for that matter. This month we recognize the impacts that the German reformation had on our faith, our families and our education. Martin Luther believed in Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone) as our only source of God. He also believed strongly in education by placing the bible in the hands of the common folk where we can all study the bible ourselves. He also provided for our children the Small Catechism which teaches children about Jesus starting from the home first.

Through the last century, congregations have provided Sunday School programs for our children as an extension of biblical knowledge. Grace is providing Sunday School materials, teachers and helpers because we care about your children and grandchildren knowing about Jesus. Please consider attending Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 9:15. Once we are moved into the Espejo House, hopefully by the end of the year, we will also have a dedicated space for parents and adults. In the meantime, let's build our Sunday School with children so that they better know their Creator and Redeemer in a weary world that is unfortunately again losing knowledge and relationship with God.

Happy Reformation Month!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Miller



October 2025: Sunday School meets from 9:15-10:15 each Sunday morning. Classes include Preschool (Ages 3-5), Elementary (Grades 1-4), and Tweens (Grades 5-8).

Many thanks to our dedicated teachers and staff throughout the month of September

Darrell and Heidi Butler, Kathy O'Daniel - Preschoolers

Shari Jacobson, Sue Dominquez - Elementary

Micah Battaglia, Lily Machero - Tweens

Dylan LeGros and Connie Rowe - Music

Our students for September included: Amelia, Olivia, Eli Johnson; Emmanuel and Naomi Pollock; Halston Butler; Addie Erdman; Kevin Erdman; Confirmands Charlotte Erdman and King Williams

For the month of October 2025, the Elementary and Tween classes will continue the New Testament study of the Holy Spirit leading 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 fill the hour.

Our teachers and helpers for October are:

Preschool: Brittany Pollock and Kathy O'Daniel

Elementary: Shari Jacobson and Sue Dominguez (October 5, 12)

Julie Harvey and Sue Dominquez (October 19, 26)

Tweens: Lily Machero

Music: Dylan LeGros and Connie Rowe

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

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, October 5 <i>17th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Sunday School Worship- Divine Service	9:15 am 10:30 am
Monday	Bible Study @ Our Savior - None Monday Night Small Group - None	
Tuesday	Boundaries Book Study – Jan’s house Finance Committee Meeting	10:00 am 6:00 pm
Wednesday	Pastor’s Bible Study - None Handbell Choir- NONE Adult Choir- NONE	
Sunday, October 12 <i>18th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	Children’s Sunday School Worship- Divine Service	9:15 am 10:30 am



- Oct. 2 – Jennifer Salley
- Oct.. 3 – Amelia Johnson
- Oct. 3 – Connor O’Connor
- Oct. 4 – Caleb Butler
- Oct. 6 – Lyn Gordon
- Oct. 6 – Benjamin Grigsby
- Oct. 6 – Daphne Marcum
- Oct. 7 – Hawii MeKonnen
- Oct. 7 – Karen Neiden
- Oct. 9 – William Shreve, Jr.

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

- **Espejo House Update:** progress is being made with repairs, restorations and improvements. Our contractor is working swiftly to make the house the best it can be to serve the needs of Grace Lutheran Church.
 - Electrical has been updated/repaired.
 - The floor is being leveled.
 - The exterior ground and underneath the home have been given attention for better drainage and moisture.
 - The roof will be replaced this weekend.
 - Lots of changes in the next month to make the home ADA.
 - Design and Décor Team is working with Pastor and Debbie to compliment Grace well.
 - No major surprises yet and we are within budget so far, so we are grateful.

Thank you for your support and patience. Please keep the project in your prayers. Like with all aspects of the church, assumptions or sharing misinformation without a direct resource only hurts Grace. So please always bring your questions or insight to Jan Tanner, Debbie Milling, Tom Hankins or Pastor Miller.

- **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:

- **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!!



ISLAND IMPACT FUNDRAISER



One of our GLC youths is working to make a difference at a remote island elementary school and library in the Bahamas with simple but urgent needs for their students. Can you help too?

Black Point is a school in the Bahama's with 50 children trying to learn in run-down condition. A monetary donation of any amount, no matter how small can contribute toward a huge and immediate blessing of books, supplies, printer, sun shade for their playground and so much more. Opportunity for giving will be made available throughout the month of October at Grace Lutheran Church and at

<https://gofund.me/6a7bca643>

For more information or questions about this worthy project contact Libby March at (251) 786-1692

Thank you and God bless!

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?

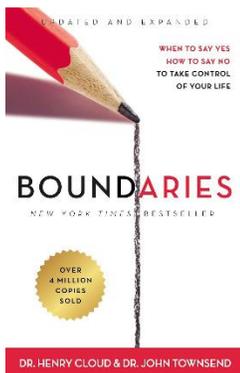
November 17 and 19: The End of the World!!! When?

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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!



Lutheran Bible
Translators

Formella 411

Sierra Leone West Africa - Mende & Themne

September
2025

In my last newsletter, I promised to introduce you to an incredible person, the retired General Secretary of the Bible Society of Sierra Leone, **Mrs. Christiana Jones**. Below you can find a link and QR code for the full interview. In missions and Bible translation, we work with a lot of people from all over world, everyone with their own story, path to Bible Translation, and impact on the work.



Mrs. Christiana Jones, of the Krio tribe, was born in the village of Hastings in Sierra Leone. She was the oldest child, grandchild, and great-grandchild of her generation in her family. As the eldest in her family, there was a lot of pressure on her to do well in school and succeed. And while school did not come easy for her, she worked very hard and became a very good student. Even though there was a lot of pressure on her as the eldest, she loved to run around, play soccer, and climb trees, while also loving to cook. She was very passionate about the things of God and even began reading the King James Version by the age of seven. While she was still a university student she began her teaching career locally and earned her diploma (similar to an associates degree), bachelors, and a Masters degree. She studied hospitality, education, and educational administration. Early in her tertiary schooling, she married an Anglican priest. While she wanted to focus on school and wait to marry, he promised he would support her education goals, and he kept that promise. Together they had two sons, Bernard and Leslie (Noel), who have both completed their bachelors degrees as well.

As the General Secretary of the Bible Society of Sierra Leone, Mrs. Jones helped facilitate making sure all translation teams had a designated office for the work, acquired training for translators, and made sure translators had the equipment to do their work well. Additionally, she ushered in the Sierra Leone Sign Language translation project with support from Seed Company, which will allow the deaf community of Sierra Leone to access Bible stories in their language. And with the support of the local membership of the Bible Society, 90 % of the third floor of the head office was remodeled to accommodate 300 people with an additional resource center.

She has been a great leader and mentor for many of us and a wonderful example of a woman in leadership who has great strength, humility, desire to always be learning, and concern for those around her. For me personally, she has been an inspiration and has always been protective of me like a daughter, while encouraging me in my education and finding my voice. We are all grateful to Mrs. Jones for her sacrificial work at Bible Society; her efforts have made a big impact on the organization and the work.



Now that she is retired, she will continue and increase her involvement in church activities and a community organization she has established. Her organization will help teach young girls practical skills they can use to support themselves in addition to whatever career or family life they aspire to. While she may be retired, but she is not done working for her community or the kingdom of God.

Mende Bible Translation Project (with Deuterocanonical Books) Progress

Portion	Drafting	Team Checking	External Review	Consultant Checked
Old Testament	39/39	39/39	39/39	24/39
Deuterocanonical Books	12/12	12/12	12/12	0/12
New Testament	27/27	6/27	5/27	1/27

Themne Bible Translation Project Progress

Portion	Drafting	Team Checking	External Review	Consultant Checked
Old Testament	39/39	39/39	39/39	4/39
New Testament	20/27	1/27	1/27	0/27

Note: The Deuterocanon (which means 'second canon') includes the books accepted into the Roman Catholic Church inspired canon. While Lutherans and other protestants do not hold them as inspired, they are considered beneficial like reading other theological or religious publications, and they give us a view into the context between the Old and New Testament. The wisdom books are quite beautiful, and the stories are very interesting. Have you read any? What is your favorite?

Prayer Requests

- Praise God that the Mende and Themne translations are moving forward.
- Pray that I can use all that I'm learning as a translation advisor.
- Praise God that I was able to connect with other missionaries and hear inspirational presentations at the Concordia Mission Institute in Missouri this past July.
- Praise God for your continued faithful prayers and support!

Zoom Presentation Form:

forms.gle/sSPhvC2ahCsW6ugk6

Video Interview with Mrs. Jones:

amyformella.wixsite.com/amyonthefield/videos



As you listen to her interview, what did you learn, what questions do you have, and how did her story inspire you?



CONTACT

Amy.Formella@lbt.org

Facebook: Formella 411

Phone: (920)288-2289 (texts only)

To give online, go to LBT.org/formella or call 660- 225-0810 to use a credit card or set up monthly payments.

Checks can be mailed to:
Lutheran Bible Translators
PO Box 789
Concordia, MO 64020

Please make your check payable to Lutheran Bible Translators, and write Formella on the memo. Remember to sign and date your check.



**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

INCLUSIONS:

- ◆ 6-day cruise aboard *Carnival Spirit*
- ◆ Meals and entertainment on board the ship
- ◆ Port charges, government taxes, and fees
- ◆ Gratuities to shipboard staff
- ◆ Optional shore excursions
- ◆ Travel Protection

NOT INCLUDED:

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



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@travelleaders.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)