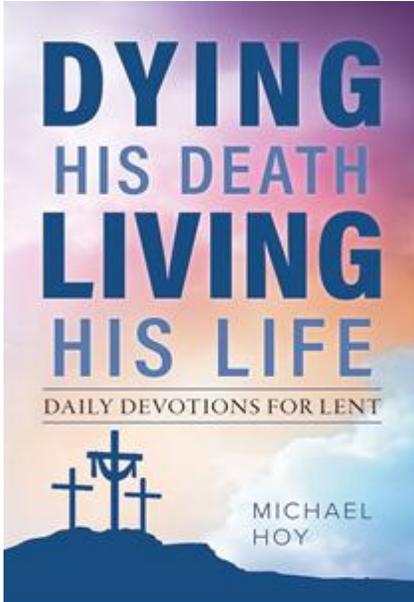


# The Herald of Grace

A Weekly Newsletter for Grace Lutheran Church

February 13, 2026

## LENT 2026



**Ash Wednesday Services on February 18**  
with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

**Grace Lutheran- 7:00 pm**  
**Our Savior Lutheran- 11:00 am**

**All will be receiving Daily Devotions for  
the Lenten season as a gift from Grace.**

### **Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesdays**

Our Savior 11:00 am service *with lunch afterwards*

Grace 7:00 pm service *with a light supper served from 6:15 – 7:00 pm*

*No Soup Supper Ash Wednesday*

### **Lenten Soup and Sandwich Suppers at Grace**

**February 25** Chicken Noodle Soup and BLTs by The Church Council

**March 4** Potato Soup and Tomato Soup and Grilled Cheese by The Elders

**March 11** Chicken Tortilla Soup and Cheese Quesadillas by Miller & Co.

**March 18** Vegetable Beef and Chicken Salad Sandwiches by the LWML

**March 25** Potluck (*Bring your favorite Soup or Sandwiches to share!*)

**Palm Sunday, March 29 @ 10:30 am**

**Maundy Thursday, April 2 @ 6:30 pm** (*Our Savior @ 11:00 am*)

**Good Friday Tenebrae, April 3 @ 6:30 pm** (*Our Savior @ 2:00 pm*)

**Easter Sunday, April 5 @ 10:30 am**

Easter Breakfast Served from 9:30-10:15 am

## Pastor's Letter

Dear Grace,

We at Grace Lutheran Church are members of a church body that follows a church calendar and so this coming week one liturgical season ends, and another begins. Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the first day of the season we call Lent.

Lent is not about giving up things like chocolate, caffeine, alcohol, or social media. During Lent, we take an honest, insightful look at who we really are. We reflect on what we hold onto that holds us back from becoming our truest selves. We look at ourselves in the mirror and recognize what we do not truly need. Lent is a season of preparation and anticipation of the new life of Easter; your truest self: a child of God.

Lent is a season for remembering and saying goodbye to the old self and letting go of the things that don't matter so much.

I don't need to tell you that before Ash Wednesday is Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday which is the threshold of the new season. Because Lent is so significant, and can be challenging, people may need to let off steam before it begins (one last hurrah) or "throwing" away the things that only make us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die. "Hey, Mister, throw me something!" Mardi Gras is an opportunity to rid ourselves of what we will not need during Lent.

It's fun to be in Mobile this week. Where I come from on the Southside of Chicago, Fat Tuesday is known by many as "Paczki Day." The idea is that people in preparation for Lent empty their homes of fattening ingredients like sugar, cream, milk and eggs in making these delicious Polish donuts filled with every kind of delicious filling imaginable.

In preparing for Lent, we take stock of ourselves and recognize what we do not need, what slows us down or perhaps killing us. Mardi Gras is the day we open our tightly gripping fingers and let go. We assert our freedom from these habits and things. We lift what we do not need and toss it overboard sometimes to others or sometimes to ourselves one last day to end the Advent, Christmas, Epiphany cycle.

Tuesday is the first step. On Mardi Gras, we begin to say goodbye. Ash Wednesday, we begin a new season. On the first day of Lent, we remember whatever holds us back from the one and only God is dust and ash.

On Wednesday we bow down and close our eyes to what separates us from His divine loving presence. We put our reflections into practice and set aside the vanity.

To make sure we remember who we are today, we remind ourselves with ashes on our foreheads. Lent is a season of repentance and reflection of who we are without God.

But we also reflect on who we are becoming. The stories of Jesus Christ this Lent during our worship services, our daily devotions, our bible studies and Sunday School lessons show us that by grace through faith we are indeed saved; that dust and ashes are not the end of us but we will rise in God's mercy, forgiveness, goodness, love, and promise of everlasting life and then living a life worth living.

For now, we say goodbye to everything weighing us down or holding us back. Setting aside habits and relationships, possessions and expectations, even forgoing the Alleluia from the Lenten season for just a little while as we move forward which Easter people always do!

May our Lord Jesus Christ be with you this Mardi Gras and I hope and pray that all of you will get your ashes in church. Jesus loves you that much.

In His Service,  
Pastor Miller

## Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 15	Children's Sunday School	9:15 am
<i>Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	Worship- Divine Service	10:30 am
Tuesday, Feb. 17	Fat Tuesday	<i>(Office Closed)</i>
Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18	Bible Study @ Our Savior ( <i>Galatians</i> )	10:00 am
	Ash Wednesday Service (Our Savior)	11:00 am
	Handbell Choir	5:30 pm
	Adult Choir	6:00 pm
	Ash Wednesday Service (Grace)	7:00 pm
Thursday, Feb. 19	Bible Study @ Grace ( <i>Galatians</i> )	11:00 pm
Sunday, February 22	Children's Sunday School	9:15 am
<i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	Worship- Divine Service	10:30 am

**Congratulations to the new 2026 Church Council!**

The 2026-2028 Church Council will be installed on  
Sunday, February 15, 2026 during the service.

Congregational President: Julie Harvey (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Vice-President: David Lauber (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Treasurer: Tom Hankins (Interim)  
Financial Secretary: Sue Dominguez (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Secretary: Martha Webb (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Head Elder: David Griffin (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Education: Kelly Johnson (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Fellowship: Jan Tanner (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Youth: Micah Battaglia (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Missions: Kelly Beck (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Stewardship: Marilyn Griffin (1<sup>st</sup> term)  
Communications: David LeGros (2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Trustee: Guy Marcum (1<sup>st</sup> term)

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*Feb. 12 – Martha Keezel*  
*Feb. 13 – Damean Hosey*  
*Feb. 16 – Lacey Sovik*  
*Feb. 16 – Martha Webb*  
*Feb. 19 – Harold Fischer*  
*Feb. 20 – Kyla Hosey*

**“I Am the Church, You Are the Church, We Are the Church Together”**

Next Sunday, February 22, the Preschool Sunday School class will display their churches crafted from shoeboxes. Lessons for the month have focused on the boy, Jesus, in church and what we do in church.

Preschool students are Amelia Johnson, Emmanuel Pollock, Jake Hankins, and Mia Hankins.

**Please help grow our Sunday School by signing up to teach or assist. Sign up sheets and churches will be in back of the church on Sunday, February 22.**

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**February 2026**  
**We need your help with our Sunday School!**



The Sunday School teaching schedule for **February-May 2026 is in urgent need of teachers. No additional teachers have volunteered! Most weeks are still unfilled on the schedule. Please consider volunteering to teach.** We provide structured teaching material that is easy to follow for each class. The classes are:  
Preschool - ages 3-5 years  
Elementary - Grades 1-4  
Tweens - Grades 5-8

Contact Connie Rowe 251 270-9000 if you are willing to help with this ministry.

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**Urgent need for Handbell and Choir members!!**



If you have any interest in learning to play handbells or sing in the choir, now is the perfect time to get started.  
The need is great!

**Choir and Handbells:**  
**Change choir to begin at 6:00 beginning Ash Wednesday.**

Also: We welcome Kelly Johnson, Shirley Brown, and Lily Mcharo to choir and handbells.

*Take Note!* 🎵



**CARILLON FROM CANDY AND COINS!!**

Please take an M&M tube of Mini's so you can return it in February full of quarters, folding money or a check into the steeple of the little "Sounding Joy Church"

Collection Drop Box.

Proceeds go toward funding a new Carrillon musical system for Grace Lutheran Church.

Thank you



*Altar  
Flowers*

**ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEET FOR  
2026 IS NOW AVAILABLE!  
2026 Price: \$100/set or \$50/each**

**Upcoming Dates available:  
April 12 and April 26**

*Pastor Miller's work phone is no longer in order.*

*Please call or text his personal number @ 251-230-1886  
or the Church Office @ 251-433-2749 to contact him for any  
pastoral needs/emergencies.*

## **FINDING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH'S WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE**

Beginning in April of this year, we began live streaming our church services on our Facebook and YouTube pages. We also have discontinued our service with PodPoint for hosting audio podcasts of our services.

Here is a quick guide on where you can find all our videos and podcasts.

### **LIVE STREAMS**

We stream simultaneously on Facebook and YouTube at present. The livestream generally begins 5 minutes prior to the 10:30 AM service. Please note that technology can have a mind of its own sometimes, and occasionally one of the platforms' streaming services may be down when we try to go live. If you don't see the livestream on one of these platforms, please check the other one.

If you use the Facebook or YouTube phone apps, just search for "grace lutheran church mobile alabama." If you use an internet browser, here are the direct URL links.

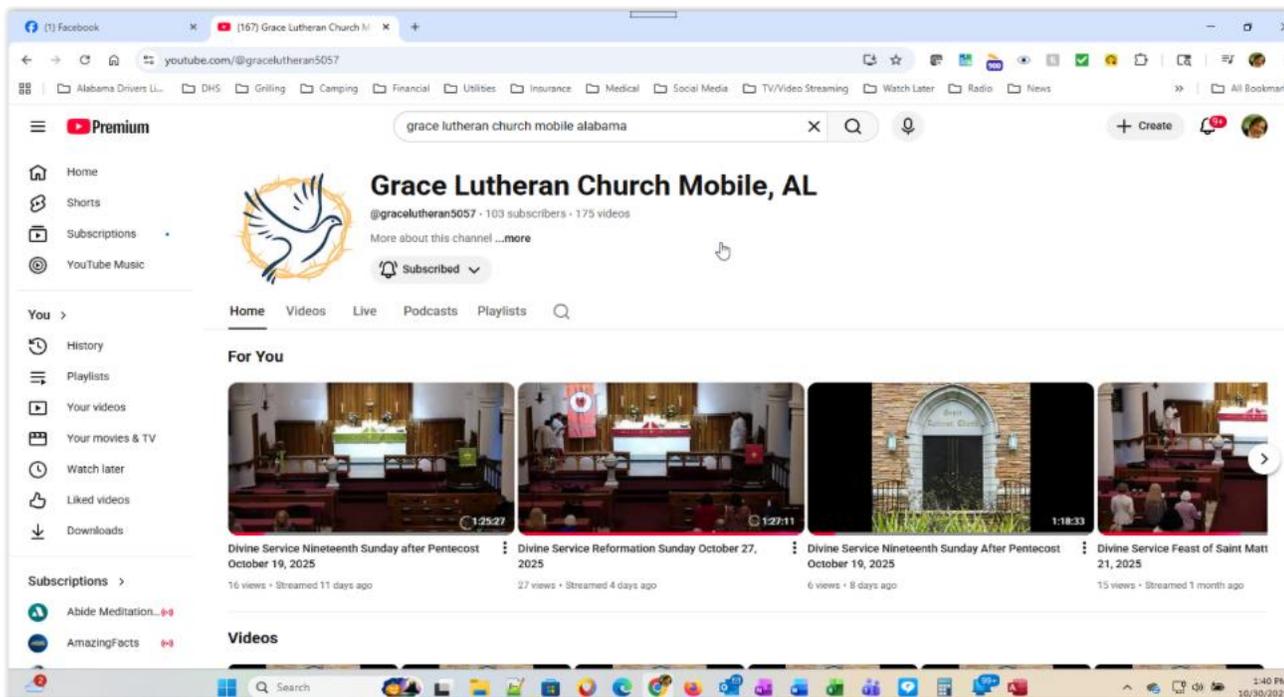
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheranmobile>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@gracelutheran5057>

Whatever method you use, here are the pages you want to wind up on:



Facebook



## YouTube

### **VIDEO ARCHIVES**

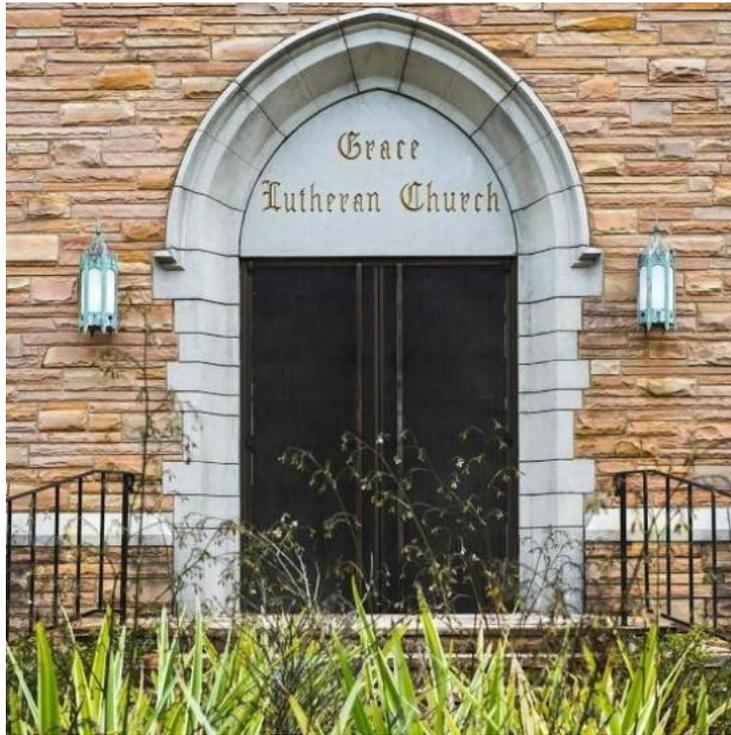
After the livestream ends, both Facebook and YouTube archive the video so you can view it later, should you miss the actual livestream. On Facebook, the video will be on the main Posts page. Please note that Facebook automatically deletes archives of live videos 30 days after they are posted.

On YouTube, the video archive is currently maintained indefinitely, so all videos are kept until the channel owner manually deletes them (which we do not do). To find the archived video, just click on the Live tab on our YouTube channel page.

### **PODCASTS**

The archived video from YouTube is downloaded, and through a free service available through Spotify, a podcast version of the service is created which is automatically pushed out to all the major podcast platforms (Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music, and YouTube Music). The podcast on Spotify is a video podcast; all the other platforms are audio only.

The name of the podcast on all platforms is Herald of Grace. If you use a phone app for any of the platforms, just search for Herald of Grace. The page logo on all the platforms is a picture of the front of the church.



If you are using an internet browser, here are the URL links for the podcasts:

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/6cvTcKLeN9B5R6c17NsC7>

Apple Podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/herald-of-grace/id1840014717>

Amazon Music: <https://music.amazon.com/podcasts/fc17026d-2a14-4db9-bb5c-bd75795d9aca/herald-of-grace>

YouTube Music: <https://music.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8ZokvQV6mUGikk48-oHQjessIfU5syr>

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Email me at [communications\\_it@gracelutheranmobile.com](mailto:communications_it@gracelutheranmobile.com), call or text me at 251-422-0993, or catch me in the narthex after service on Sunday.

Dave LeGros  
Communications Chairman



**STILL AVAILABLE AT ONLY ONE YEAR AWAY! BOOK NOW!**  
**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@travelladers.com](mailto:gghenry@travelladers.com)

# CAMP DIXIE 2026

## Chicken Dinners

Join us at Camp Dixie for our Chicken Dinner fundraiser events! 11am-2pm on the listed dates. \$15 for a good meal of fried chicken, green beans, mashed potatoes, and more! Stop by our Camp Store while you're with us and grab some Camp Dixie swag like a new t-shirt or water bottle!

## 2026 Dates

January 11  
February 8  
March 8  
April 12  
June 7  
September 13  
October 11  
November 8



## A Light Before Others

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” Matt. 5:16

What is Camp Dixie’s aim? Ultimately, to glorify God! Let us reflect His light, teach of His sacrifice, and encourage other believers to do the same. Shine on!

In Christ,  
Sam “Uno” Schmidt  
Camp Dixie Director



## Support Camp Dixie

Please keep Camp Dixie in your prayers and consider supporting this ministry further. Options include:

- Monetary Donations (head to website for digital donations)
- Gifts from our Wishlist
- Thrivent Action Team Grants
- Volunteer Service

See our website for more information



**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  
251-230-1886  
[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  
Worship Services, you can find them here:**

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

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