

The Herald of Grace

A Weekly Newsletter for Grace Lutheran Church

March 19, 2026

A Lenten Letter from Pastor

The final stage in the journey of Lent toward Easter is called Passiontide, which will begin this coming Sunday, the 5th Sunday in Lent. During Passiontide, every instance of the *Gloria Patri* disappears, any Trinitarian doxologies of any hymns are omitted, and the crosses in the sanctuary are veiled. We do this in part to remember that we don't deserve even to look upon the Holy Cross. We are not worthy of the Sacrifice. The crucifix has from the earliest days of Christendom been our greatest and most cherished symbol. So it is partially taken away from us for a short time, that we might learn to better appreciate it when it returns. The crosses are not taken away completely. They are not removed; they are covered. We can see outlines of the crosses, but their beauty and details are fuzzy. This reminds us that in a way our grief itself prevents us from seeing clearly, until Good Friday and, of course, Easter.

The idea of removing the *Gloria Patri* and any Trinitarian doxologies of hymns is much the same. Jesus revealed for us the Holy Triune Name on the day of His Ascension: this is the fullest and complete revelation of God's Name given to us. To take away the *Gloria Patri* for two weeks is a bit jarring. All of this is that we would learn to depend ever more upon the grace of God in Christ and who we are without him. For never, even in our most somber of ceremonies, is the Church in doubt about the end. Jesus died but is not dead. Jesus lives. Easter is coming. But now we wait. The Alleluias (which we have not sung at all throughout Lent), the *Gloria Patris*, the crosses: all these shall return, and because they were removed for a short time, their return becomes all the more worthy of celebration. But even better than that, we shall have them all forever when our own resurrections occur at the Last Day.

Passiontide extends through Holy Week and the *Triduum Sacrum* ("three holy days"—which includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday). At the close of the Maundy Thursday Divine Service with Holy Communion, the liturgy continues throughout the three days. For this reason, Maundy Thursday has no Benediction and the pastor and attendants remove their Eucharistic Vestments and the altar is stripped. The only remaining items in the Sanctuary (chancel) are the immovable pieces of bare furniture. The congregation departs in silence.

On Good Friday, all remains bare, although a minimal use of black vestments and linens are acceptable. The worshippers enter in silence this night and the pastor enters the chancel praying a psalm. The mood suggests a funeral. During the Service even the customary introductions and responses are removed from the readings. The hymns are solemn. The story of Jesus' humility and passion is read. Darkness covers us. The service ends with the strepitus (a loud noise) signifying the earthquake or the closure of the tomb. The congregation departs in silence. The prevailing mood is one of utterly humble gratitude for what Jesus has done for us.

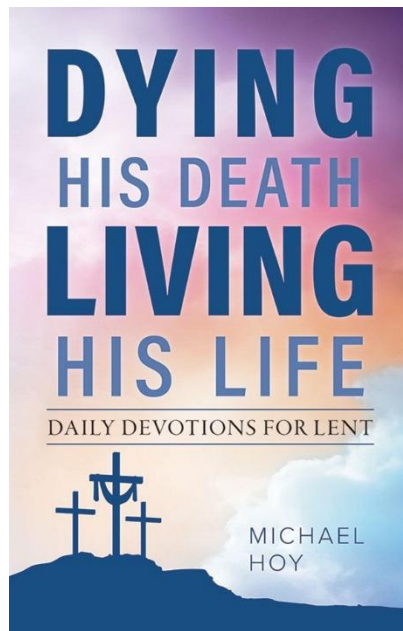
Since we confess that even in our darkest moments Christ is always with us, the light of Christ will return and remain eternal. May this Passiontide serve you to make this moment and all that follows more heartfelt and festive in proclaiming together as the family of God that we are saved by the blood of the Lamb. The Son of God rises on the third day and everything returns to the festive norm on Easter Sunday when the announcement breaks forth, "Christ is risen!" to which comes the hearty reply, "He is risen indeed. A*****!"

This is not only a liturgical season for the sake of tradition and historic practice but for Christ's sake, it is the story of truth for each of us who live in darkness and grief, in sorrow and waiting and yearn for the Day when everything will return to a festival of how it used to be, some of it while living life here on earth but a complete festive return of everything and everyone in heaven in which you will not be disappointed.

Keep the faith.

Peace in this Passiontide,

Pastor Miller



Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesdays
Theme: “40 for Life!”

Our Savior 11:00 am (Lunch afterwards)

Grace 7:00 pm (Supper served from 6:15 – 7:00)

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!*)

HOLY WEEK 2026

Palm Sunday, March 29 @ 10:30 am

(Weather Permitting, we will have a Government Street Palm Processional.)

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

Good Friday Tenebrae, April 3 @ 6:30 pm (*Our Savior @11:00 a.m.*)

Easter Sunday, April 5 @ 10:30 am

Easter Breakfast Served from 9:00-10:00 !!!



Easter Breakfast

Join us at Grace Lutheran Church
before Easter Sunday Worship
Served from 9:00-10:00

Biscuits and Gravy	Coffee
Cheese Grits	Juice
Egg Quiche	Sweet Tea
Pastries and Donuts	Fruit



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 22 <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	Children's Sunday School	9:15 am
	Worship- Divine Service	10:30 am
Monday, March 23	Facility Use Committee Meeting	6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 25	Bible Study @ Our Savior	10:00 am
	Wednesday Service (Our Savior)	11:00 am
	Handbell Choir	5:30 pm
	Adult Choir	6:00 pm
	Soup/Sandwich Supper	6:15 - 7:00 pm
	Wednesday Service (Grace)	7:00 pm
Thursday, March 26	Bible Study @ Grace	11:00 pm
Sunday, March 29 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	Children's Sunday School	9:15 am
	Worship- Divine Service	10:30 am



March 20 – Addi Erdman
March 21 – Joey Kringel



March 21 – Adam and Ashley Oswalt
March 22 – Michael and Melanie Tims
March 23 – Daniel and JoAnna Arnett



ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEET FOR 2026 IS NOW AVAILABLE!

2026 Price: \$100/set or \$50/each

Upcoming Dates available:
April 26



March 2026
We need your help with our Sunday School!
Teachers and helpers are still needed with our Sunday School for April and May.

Sign up board is in the back of the Church.
Sunday School meets from 9:15-10:15 each Sunday morning.

Classes include: Preschool (age 3-5)
Elementary (grades 1-4)
Tweens (grades 5-8)

Thank you to our teachers throughout January, February, and March: David and Haddon Lauber, Brian and Whitney Hankins, Lily Mcharo, Micah Battaglia, Sue Dominguez, Dylan LeGros, and Connie Rowe.



This is the preschool's display of shoebox churches. Pictures from left to right are Jake Hankins, Mia Hankins, Emmanuel Pollock, and Amelia Johnson.

Sunday School also had a great time with Camp Dixie director, Sam Schimdt. Lots of singing and fun.





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!

Handbells: 5:30 p.m.
Choir: 6:00 p.m.

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

BASKET OF BLESSINGS



Safety – Protection – Support



Penelope House provides safety, protection, and support to victims of domestic violence and their children through the provision of shelter, advocacy, and individual and community education.

We will be collecting supplies listed below to deliver the week of Easter. This list includes items for the mothers and children, ages infant to teenagers.

Let us respond to God's gift of Jesus by filling the Basket of Blessings for those who need to see and feel His Love!

Crafts	Bath Puffs*
Candy	Fuzzy Socks*
Puzzles	Personal Items**
Plastic Eggs	B&B Hand Soaps*
Fruit Snacks	Nail Polish/Files**
Chocolate Bunnies	Hair Accessories**
Activity/Puzzle Books	Hand Creams/Lotions*
Coloring Books/Crayons	Restaurant Gift Cards
Misc. Infant/Children/Teen Items	\$ Donations to complete needs
*No Play-dough or glitter please	*Moms **Moms & Teens

Thrivent Choice Grant Dollars

In 2025, Grace received \$1,252 from the Thrivent Choice Grant Program. Thank you to all who directed Thrivent's choice dollars to Grace in 2025. Also, this is a reminder that you have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2025 choice dollars that Thrivent allows. There are many different organizations that you could choose to support with these choice dollars. Thank you for choosing Grace. -Tom Hankins, Treasurer.

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

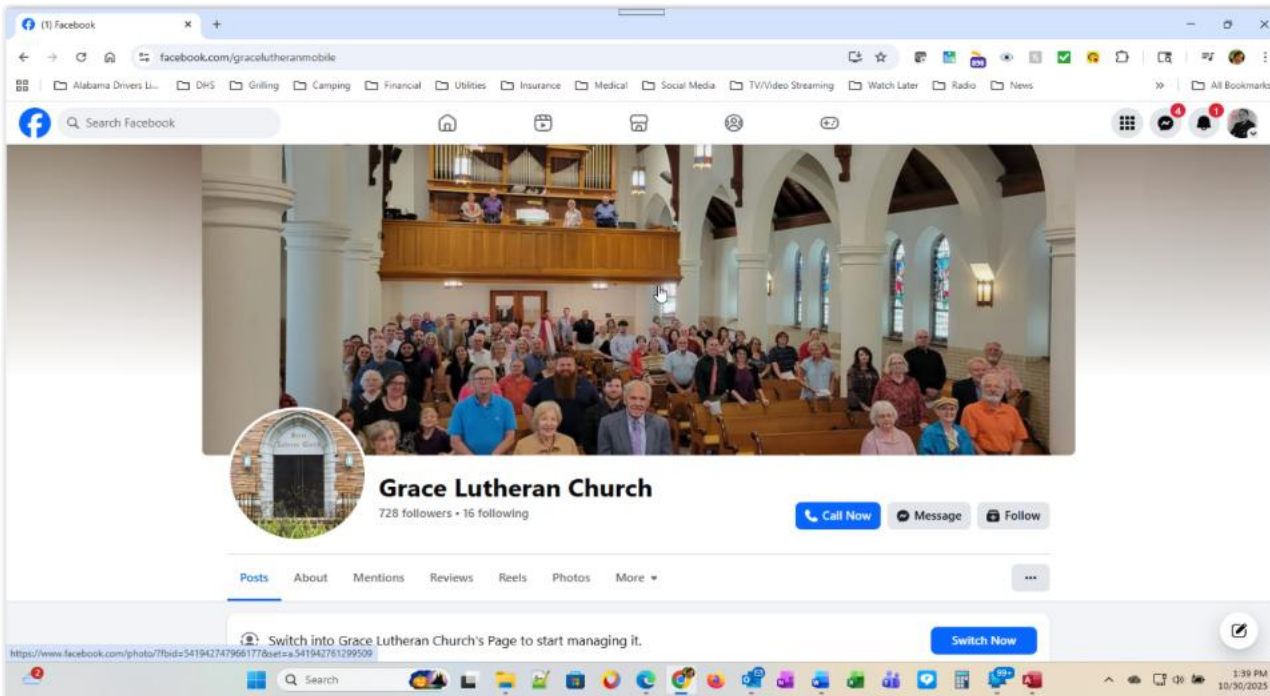
We stream simultaneously on Facebook and YouTube at present. The livestream generally begins 5 minutes prior to the 10:30 AM service. Please note that technology can have a mind of its own sometimes, and occasionally one of the platforms' streaming services may be down when we try to go live. If you 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.

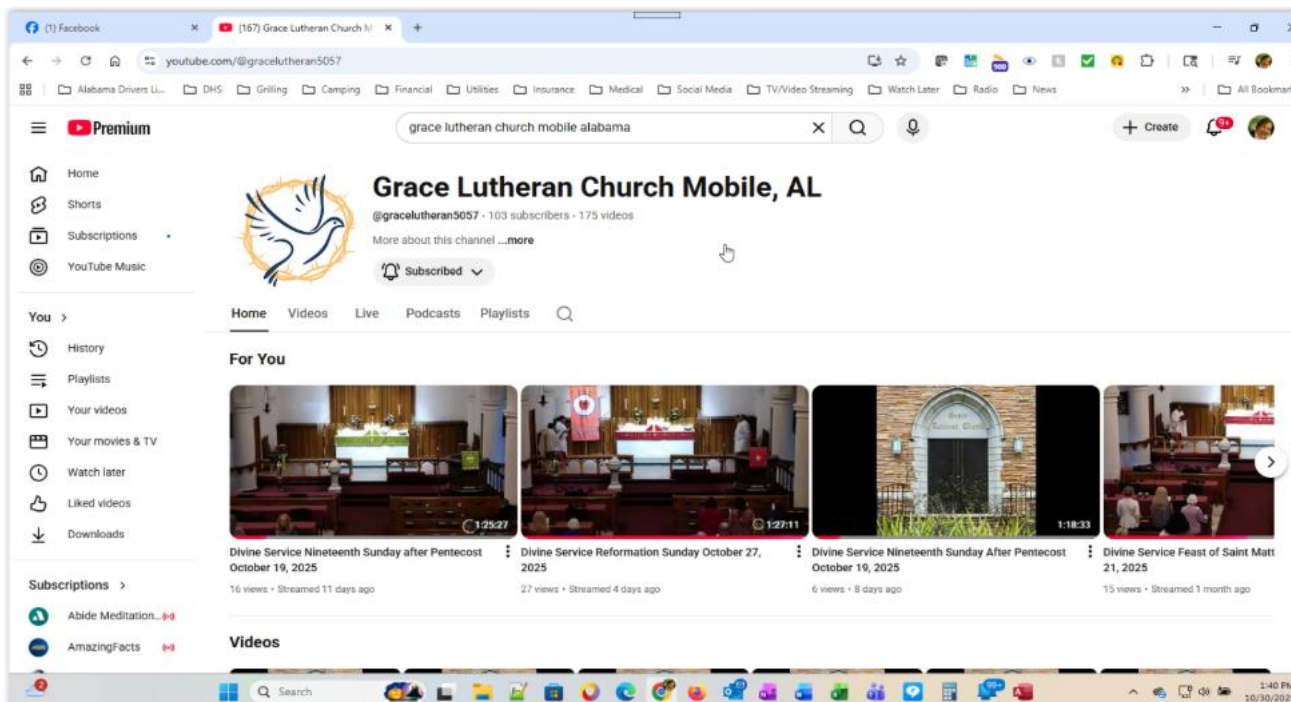
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheranmobile>

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

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



Facebook



YouTube

VIDEO ARCHIVES

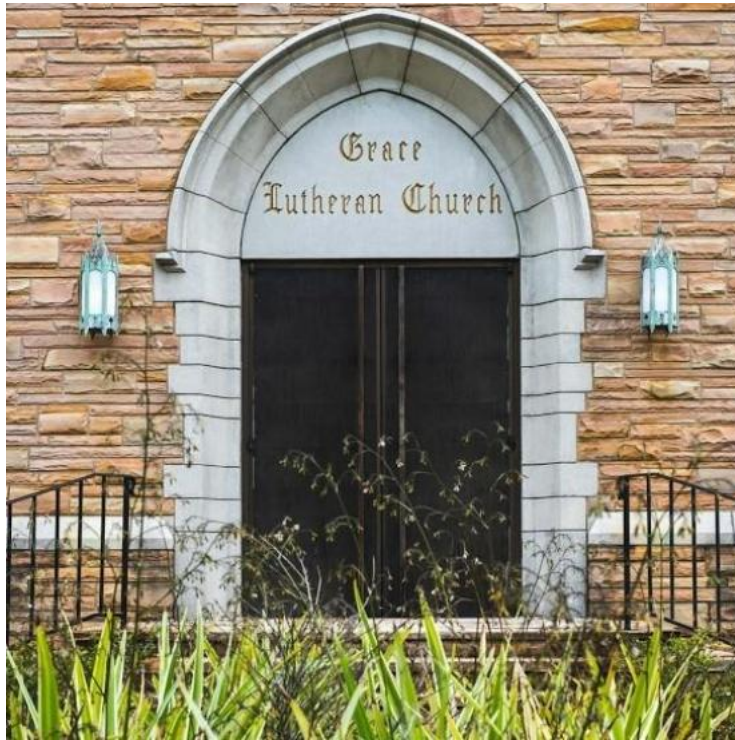
After the livestream ends, both Facebook and YouTube archive the video so you can view it later, should you miss the actual livestream. On Facebook, the video will be on the main Posts page. Please note that Facebook automatically deletes archives of live videos 30 days after they are posted.

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, 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

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

NOT INCLUDED:



*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@travellers.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

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)