

Grace Lutheran Church - 1150 41st. Avenue

Vero Beach, Fl. 32960

Grace Messenger

Pastor Matthew Luttman **February 2026**

772-562-2904

From the Pastor



The Lenten Season is rapidly approaching. It begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. Lent is a penitential season. The focus is on repentance so we can prepare our hearts to rejoice at the celebration of Easter. Repentance includes acknowledging our sins, having a heartfelt sorrow for them, turning to Christ for forgiveness, and seeking the power of the Holy Spirit to help us overcome our sins. Repentance is not fun, because it recognizes sin, but it is a necessary component of the Christian faith. It is not possible to have faith without repentance. Repentance is never perfect in this life because we have a sinful nature, which clings to our sins. But God calls us, with His help, to engage in the fight against sin. Our only comfort and joy come from the Gospel, which assures us our sins are forgiven through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The purpose of Lenten services is to share God's word so the Holy Spirit can work in our hearts to guide us into repentance and faith. The Spirit works through Word and Sacrament to accomplish His goal. The theme for our Lenten Season this year is "The Seven Words from the Cross".

This year our Lenten schedule will be the same as the last couple of years. We will have two services on Ash Wednesday, one at 1:30 in the afternoon, the other at 6:30 in the evening. There will be a Lenten supper before the evening service. The following five Wednesdays there will be one service at 1:30 pm. The afternoon service will be live streamed each week. We will have two services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, also at 1:30 and 6:30. We will use recorded music for the Lenten services. On Easter Sunday the Sunrise Service will be at 7:30 am. The Festival Service will be at 9:30.

The schedule for the Lenten season with sermon themes and texts is as follows:

2/18- Ash Wednesday-He Spoke a Word of Forgiveness-Luke 23:34

2/25-Midweek 2-He Spoke a Word of Promise-Luke 23:43

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3/4-Midweek 3-He Spoke a Word of Tender Care-John 19:26,27

3/11-Midweek 4-He Spoke a Word of Absolute Anguish-Mark 15:34, Matthew 27:46

3/18-Midweek 5-He Spoke a Word of Need-John 19:28

3/25-Midweek 6-He Spoke a Word of Accomplishment-John 19:30

4/2-Maundy Thursday-He Spoke a Word of Invitation-Matthew 26:26-28, Luke 22:19-20

4/3-Good Friday-He Spoke a Word of Trust-Luke 23:46

4/5-Easter Sunday-Jesus' Empty Tomb Shouts, "It Is Finished"-John 19:30

We hope you will be able to join us, either in person or online, to reflect on our great need for the Savior and the blessed assurance we have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life through Him.

*Happy
Birthday*

February 2026

7th Dashed Weston

23rd Roylynn Scott

9th Sharen Madson

26th Judith Hill

12th Casey Futch

28th Abigail Kellor

Happy Anniversary

February 14, 2026

Duane & Linda Ball



Minutes of the Grace Women's Circle Meeting

January 11, 2025

President, Linda Ball, called the meeting to order with prayer. Twelve members were present and one guest, Leah Keller, who was encouraged to join our Circle. The Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$2,078.68 and was filed for audit.

Projects Report: Patty Prange has been posting upcoming events and information on our narthex Bulletin Board and sending cards and remembrances to our sick and shut-in members for quite some time. She would like to have someone take over these positions.

Preschool Report: The annual trike-a-thon for St. Jude's will take place on January 30th in the church parking lot. Student enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year will open February 1st for current and former Gracie's families and family members of Grace and March 2nd for the public. Plans are in progress for the 20 Years of Gracie's celebration to take place after Easter.

Old Business: Thank yous were given to all those who helped with the Christmas decorations, to Ann for the poinsettias that beautified our sanctuary, and to Reet for all her work with the food drive. Reet reported that 24 turkeys were purchased and delivered for Thanksgiving and 12 spiral cut hams for Christmas. There is still money on hand that was collected during the food drive, which she may use to purchase more hams and needed food products for Easter.

New Business: A congregational forum will take place on Sunday, January 18th, following the service. The sock drive will continue through February.

Ash Wednesday is February 18th, and a meal of chili, hot dogs, brownies and ice cream will be provided at 5:00 pm before the evening service. During Lent, there will be two services held on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm. All remaining Wednesday services during Lent will be at 1:30 pm only.

The annual **Church cleaning** date was set for Saturday, February 21st at 9:00 am. A light lunch will be served.

There will be a presentation by ELS Synod President, Rev. Glenn Obenberger, on Sunday, March 15th, after the service. A special coffee will be provided by the ladies of Grace Circle. The Pastors' Winkel will be held at Grace on March 16th and lunch will be served.

The time is approaching for nominations and election of officers for the coming year. All offices need to be filled and members were encouraged to consider them.

At the conclusion of our meeting, Leah Keller signed our Constitution and official tablecloth and became the youngest member ever to join our Circle. The meeting was closed with prayer for those who are ill and in need of God's grace and healing.

Respectfully submitted,
Dolly Thompson



“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.” 1 John 4:7

It's time to start our enrollment for next preschool year! Starting on February 1st, we will open our **early registration** for the 2026-2027 preschool year. Early registration is offered to all current and former Gracie's families. If you need registration paperwork, you can pick up a copy from Mrs. Ehlers, or print off the 3 pages on our website: gracevb.org. Students entering VPK will also need their VPK certificate from the website: familyservices.floridaearlylearning.com. Please have all your paperwork in by March 1st to secure your spot at Gracie's for next year!

The **Fire Truck** will be coming to Gracie's on Tuesday, February 3rd at 9:30AM! Parents and sibling are welcome to come and watch the presentation. If your child doesn't normally attend on Tuesday, you can also bring them at 9:30 to experience the fire truck and meet the firefighters. (Parents need to stay with their child so we remain in ratio.) This is a fun day every year!

On Friday, February 13th, we will start the day with **Donuts with Dad!** Dads are encouraged to drop their child off at preschool that morning and stay for a few minutes to enjoy a donut with their child and pick up a special gift from them. This event runs from 7:30 AM to 9 AM during your normal drop off time.

Also on February 13th, we will have our **Valentine's Day parties!** Each child is asked to bring in a valentine to pass out to each student in their class. Please have your child's name on the valentines, but leave the "To" section blank. Please contact your teachers or Room Moms for any other needed party supplies.

On Monday, February 16th, there will be **NO SCHOOL** for President's Day! However, we are going to offer morning camp that day. Camp will run from 8AM to 1PM for \$30 per child. Please let Mrs. Ehlers know if you'd like your child to attend!

Gracie's will have another **Chick-fil-A Spirit Night** on Thursday, February 26th from 5-7PM! This fundraiser is held at the Drive Thru Only location on U.S. 1. Here are the directions to order food and benefit Gracie's Preschool:

Guests **MUST** order from the **Chick-fil-A One MOBILE APP**
Location must be **East Vero DTO** on US Hwy 1
MUST select **NEW MOBILE THRU** for pick up option, and enjoy our "Lighting Lane" for the fastest service
Select **"Support Community Care Event"** before completing order

Our curriculum this month will be:
Little Monkeys (2's)—*Hearts and Love*
Tiny Owls (3's)—*Construction, Valentines, Zoo Animals & Dr. Seuss (1 theme per week)*
Busy Bees (VPK-A) & Bright Butterflies (VPK-B)—*On the Move*

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Our Word of God lessons this month include many of Jesus' miracles: Jesus brings a young girl back to life, Jesus feeds the 5,000, Jesus teaches Peter to trust, The Good Samaritan and Jesus heals 10 sick men.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Trike-a-thon to help raise money for the sick children at St. Jude's! It was a great, but chilly, day!

Dates to Remember:	February 1	-- Early Registration for 2026-2027
	February 3	-- Fire Truck @ 9:30AM
	February 13	-- Donuts with Dad & Valentine's Parties
	February 16	-- NO SCHOOL for President's Day (Morning Camp 8AM-1PM)
	February 26	-- Chick-fil-A Spirit Night 5-7PM

SCHEDULE CHANGE: Please mark your calendars! The preschoolers will NOT be singing in church on March 22 as originally planned. Instead, they will sing on Sunday, April 26th for a special service celebrating Gracie's 20th Anniversary! More information regarding this event will be coming soon!



Our teachers celebrating the 100th Day of Preschool on January 22nd !



Grace Voter's Assembly Meeting

January 11, 2026

The meeting was called to order by John Scott, acting president and Pastor Luttmann opened the meeting with prayer. Fourteen voters were in attendance.

Bill Bentlage motioned that this would be considered the corporate meeting, J.D. seconded, motion passed.

The slate of officers for 2026 was presented with the addition of Chris Hayden as Assistant Secretary. Bill Bentlage made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented for 2026. Walt Dixon 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Jim Davis. A motion was made by Walt Dixon to approve the minutes with one correction: in reference to the new columbarium discussed in the last paragraph, it would be replacing our existing Memorial Garden. Bob Yencho 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

Financial Report:

Pastor reviewed the December Profit and Loss and the January to December 2025 Profit and Loss. The endowment fund grew. We are \$26,281.47 in the black for 2025. The offering given by the congregation is greatly appreciated. We discussed moving the CD's to Marine Bank from Seacoast Bank due to poor service on CD renewal. It was brought to our attention that the donation given to Bethany College for \$10,000 in May did not show up in our financials, it was checked, and we did give it, but due to the nature of where the money was kept, it didn't show up in the records so that will need to be rectified.

Pastor reviewed the preschool budget and financial report for January 2026. This has been a good year for Gracie's and there is already good interest for August 2026 enrollment. The school is in the black already. Noelle and the teachers are pleased with the reduction in noise resulting from the remodel during the summer. Walt Dixon made a motion to approve the church budget for 2026. John Yencho 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

Elder's Report:

Phyllis Powell took new member instruction and the Elders recommend her for membership. John Yencho made a motion to accept Phyllis Powell as a member of Grace. Walt Dixon 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

Pastor presented information on having a Vicar for the coming year. The Vicar would serve our congregation from July 1 2026-May 31 2027. The application to request a Vicar is due February 28. We will discuss congregational interest for having a Vicar at the Congregational Forum next Sunday. Further discussion on the columbarium proposal will also occur at the meeting next Sunday. Synod President Obenberger will be at Grace on March 15. He will have a presentation during Bible Class hour. There will be a circuit meeting on March 16 here at Grace. It is a blessing to have the President come to Grace, it's a rare opportunity. Pastor told us Ruth Maerten's granddaughter is in need of financial help. Walt Dixon made a motion to financially help the granddaughter. Discussion followed concerning amount of donation. Bill Bentlage 2nd the motion with the amount of \$500 Motion approved. The Lenten schedule was discussed. Afternoon services will only be held, with the exception of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday which will also have evening services. There will be a supper before the Ash Wednesday service. There are four students in the confirmation class and they will start being Acolytes.

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Trustees:

Walt Dixon spoke about the camera situation and that he was looking into it, but it hasn't been completed yet.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Spring cleaning on Saturday, February 21 at 9 am.

Installation of officers will be done next Sunday.

Bill Bentlage brought up the flag pole in front of the church and the need to repair the connection at the top so we can fly the flag. Walt Dixon will contact someone to repair the pole.

Chris Hayden and Walt Dixon were presented as meeting the requirements to become voting members of Grace. Bill Bentlage made a motion to approve Chris and Walt as voting members of Grace. Bob Yenko 2nd the motion. Motion approved.

President John Scott adjourned the meeting and Pastor Luttmann closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectively submitted,
Jim Davis
Recording Secretary

**God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God,
and God abides in him.**

1 John 4:16

The Picture of Love

If we were to talk a long time about how love is a high, noble quality in the soul, the most precious and perfect virtue of all-as the philosophers and teachers of works do-that is all nothing compared to what he loudly pours forth, saying, "God Himself is love, and His essence is nothing but pure love. If someone wanted to paint God accurately, then he would have to find a picture that is nothing but love, since the divine nature is nothing other than the fiery furnace and ardor of love, which fills heaven and earth. In turn, if someone could paint and picture love, then he would have to make a picture which is not artistic or human, not angelic or heavenly, but God Himself. So the apostle can paint things here in such a way that he makes out of God and love just one thing. He does this to coax and draw us through this noble, precious, and delightful picture all the more to strive also to have love for one another and to be on our guard against envy, hatred, and dissension.

From Several Beautiful Sermons from 1 John (Luther's Works 78:371)

The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday kicks off the Season of Lent (February 18th). This is followed by five Wednesdays, and then we celebrate Palm Sunday (March 29th), Maunday Thursday (April 2nd) and then Good Friday (April 3rd). The Season of Lent is important because it provides us the opportunity to focus our attention on the redeeming work of Jesus Christ. Jesus saved us by being our perfect substitute in life (**Romans 5:19**) and our innocent substitute in death (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

The emphasis of Lent is not what we might give up for God. The emphasis is on what God gave up for us: His only begotten Son (**John 3:16**). We should use these days of Lent as a special time of repentance and a time to prepare our hearts to observe the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. For some people, Lent is a time for giving up some indulgence—like going out to eat, fast food, or alcohol. This habit is fine as long as we put our focus on Christ and his suffering and death.

On Ash Wednesday in some churches ashes are placed on foreheads as a sign of repentance. “God, have mercy on me, a sinner” (**Luke 18:13**). Our sins are responsible for bringing Christ to the cross.

But there is more to the Season of Lent. The Gospel shows us the cross where we see that Jesus has paid fully for our sins. Jesus said, “It is finished” (**John 19:30**). We now have the comfort that we are justified, loved and forgiven by God because of Jesus.

Lent helps us focus not on what we can do for God but on the gift of forgiveness, life, and salvation that God freely gives to all sinners.

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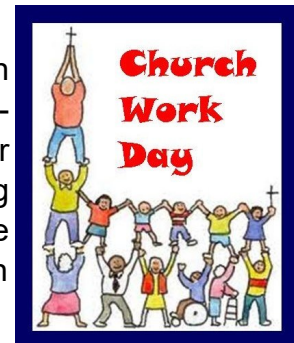
ASH WEDNESDAY
First Day of Lent



Please join us for an Ash Wednesday supper on February 18 at 5:00 p.m. The menu will be chili, hotdogs, cornbread and macaroni salad with brownies and ice cream for dessert. Food will be served until 6:15 with service beginning at 6:30 p.m. Would love to see you there!

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At 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 21, there will be a Church Work Day. Jobs will include spring cleaning the sanctuary, narthex and offices. There is also a list of maintenance and repair jobs indoors and out, for the men to do. With plenty of helping hands, hopefully the windows will all be cleaned as well. Please bring a 4' ladder & handheld vacuums if you have one. Lunch will be served to all!



February 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Worship 9:30am Communion SS, BC 10:30	2	3 Elders 5:30	4 Chapel 9:15 am	5 Confirmation 3:45pm	6	7
8 Worship 9:30am SS, BC 10:30	9	10	11 Chapel 9:15 am	12 Confirmation 3:45pm	13 Preschool Valen tine's Parties/ Donuts w/Dad	14
15 Worship 9:30 am Communion SS, BC 10:30	16 NO SCHOOL	17	18 Chapel 9:15 Supper 5:00 pm Lenten Services 1:30 6:30 pm	19 Confirmation 3:45pm	20	21 Workday 9:00 am
22 Worship 9:30 am Communion	23	24	25 Chapel 9:15 am Lenten Service 1:30 pm	26 Confirmation 3:45pm	27	28