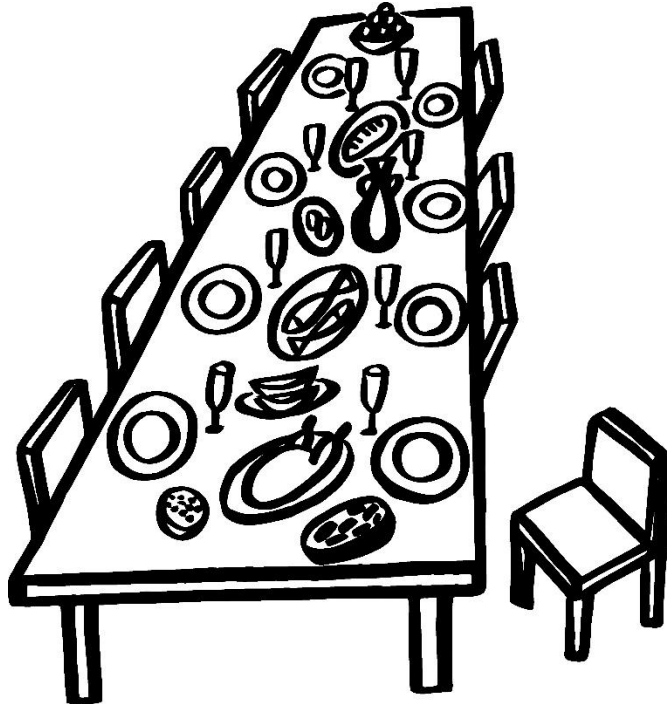


**Order of Worship**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 31, 2025**



**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**745 S. Ingraham Avenue**  
**Lakeland, FL 33801**  
**863-686-5585**

The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz, Pastor  
Email: [pastor@gracelakeland.com](mailto:pastor@gracelakeland.com)  
[www.gracelakeland.com](http://www.gracelakeland.com)

**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost.** Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

**\*=ALL STAND for this part of worship**

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**                      *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*                      arr. Robert J. Powell

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*✠All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit,  
**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Merciful God, you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,  
but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
You call us to practice justice and mercy,  
but we remain entangled in systems of oppression  
that we do not always see.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Heal us, free us from sin, and show us the path of life.  
Amen.**

You belong to Christ, and through faith, you are united in God’s mercy.  
In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed in Christ, renewed by grace, you are made whole  
for the life of the world.    **Amen.**

\*GATHERING HYMN

Gather Us In

ELW 532



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ers,  
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

**\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE** (Continued on next page)

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

Cong. \_\_\_\_\_

Lord, have mer - cy,

3rd time to Coda

For the Reign of God, and for  
For your peo - ple here, who have

Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. \_\_\_\_\_

peace through-out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray\_ to the  
come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray\_ to the

◆ CODA

Help, save, and de - fend us, \_\_\_\_\_ O God.

cy. \_\_\_\_\_

Optional segue to "Now the Feast"

A - men.

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** *(Continued on next pages)*

**Refrain**

*Congregation:*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,  
 all of cre - a - tion sings for joy  
 to the God of life and love and  
 free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -  
 er - more!

### Verse 1

*Congregation or Congregation 1:*

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once  
slain, whose blood has freed and u -  
nit-ed us to be one great peo - ple of  
God. *to Refrain*

### Verse 2

*Congregation or Congregation 2:*

2. Pow - er and rich-es, wis - dom and  
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ  
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

**Verse 3**  
*Congregation:*

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to  
 make us peo - ple of God; to make  
 all things new. *to Refrain*

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

**O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a**

<sup>6</sup> Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
 or stand in the place of the great,

<sup>7a</sup> for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
 than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 112 (Read Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord  
 and have great delight in God's commandments!

<sup>2</sup> Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
 the generation of the upright will be blessed.

<sup>3</sup> Wealth and riches will be in their house,  
and their righteousness will last forever.

<sup>4</sup> Light shines in the darkness for the upright;  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

<sup>5</sup> It is good for them to be generous in lending  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

<sup>6</sup> For they will never be shaken;  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

<sup>7</sup> They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;  
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

<sup>8</sup> Their heart is established and will not shrink,  
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

<sup>9</sup> They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;  
they will hold up their head with honor.

<sup>10</sup> The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth  
and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual affection continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Congregation:*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we  
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal  
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Optional Repeat*

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup>“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, <sup>9</sup>and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup>For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



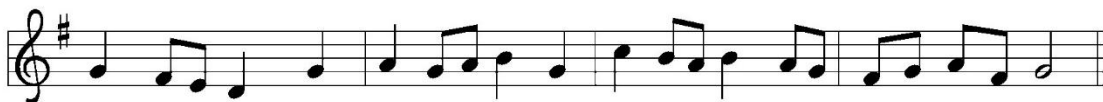
1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phantly Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

We now profess the faith we share using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

*A brief silence.*

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Guide Pedro, our Bishop, Carlos, our assistant to the Bishop, and their staff. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

For the leaders of our towns, cities, counties, states, and nations, we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. We pray for an end to gun violence in our country and the safety of our children. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence—especially *Mary, Mabel, Doris, June, Barbara, Ann, Julie, Carol, Anne, Judy, Tom, Lydia, Brian, James & Grace, Wil, Amy, Bob & Jane, Barbara, Scott, Ron & Flo, Mac, Monica, Tom & Leona, Avery, Doris, John, Abby, Tim, Arleen, Betty, Linda, Jeff, Henry, Gary, Greg, Helen & Ron, and Max & Michelle*. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered, whether silently or aloud.*

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers, greeters, and doorkeepers a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Bless the students, faculty, and staff at Florida Southern, and help us be welcoming neighbors to them throughout the year. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

**Amen.**

### **\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

*Be Thou My Vision*

arr. Tom Fettke

### \*OFFERING SONG

*As the Grains of Wheat*

#### Refrain

*Congregation:*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;  
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be  
gath-ered in - to one in you.

#### Verses

1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst  
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when  
*to Refrain*  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,  
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good, and the harvest is plentiful.  
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,  
that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**







## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was handed over,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

The kingdom of God is set before you.

Eat and rejoice.

**Thanks be to God.**

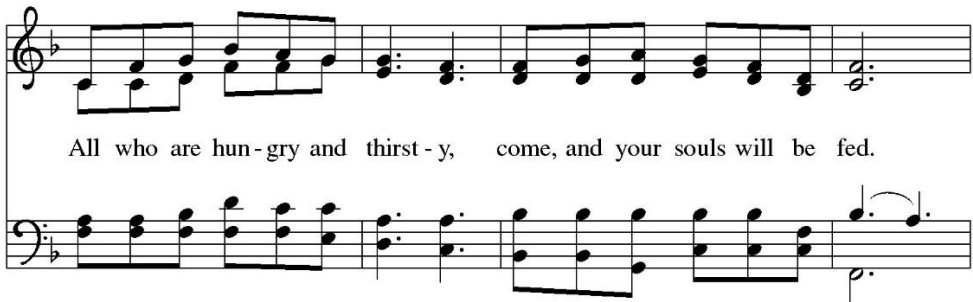
## **COMMUNION**

The baptized children of God are invited by the Lord to the Lord's Table where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We commune at the communion rail where we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Gluten free bread and grape juice are available. If you wish to commune, but cannot come forward, let an usher know and Pastor will come to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. You may wish to remain at the rail for a time of personal prayer following which you may return to your pew down the side aisle.





Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still  
 2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;  
 3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath

to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.  
 your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.  
 we will be true and nev - er— in joy, in grief, in death—

You say to us so lov - ing - ly, "Take, eat! This is my  
 It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your  
 de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple

bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!"  
 bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.  
 dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

**\*POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

ELW 551



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
joy like seed and, all our days, to  
to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
share a dream and help the blind to see.  
cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

## \*BENEDICTION

The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit  
✠ bless you and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit of Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

arr. Paul Fey

## PERMISSIONS

*Liturgical Text and Music from Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, © 2006, 2020, 2022 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SAS016761. All rights reserved.

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*, Tune: Ghanian Folk Song, Adapt: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, Setting Robert J. Powell, 1932-2025 in 3 *New Hymn Settings for Organ*. Tune © 1969 and Setting © 1997 Hope Publishing Co. Streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

*Gather Us In*, Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Text and music © 1972 GIA Publications, Inc, Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

*Now the Feast and Celebration*, Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

*As We Gather at Your Table*, Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944. Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Text reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved. Music: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932. Public domain.

*Be Thou My Vision*, Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931. Tune: Irish traditional. Arr. Tom Fettke, b. 1941. Text and tune: Public domain. Arr. © 1993 Pilot Point Music, admin The Copyright Company. Streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

*Come to the Table*, Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942. Music: Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956. Text and Music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music | Curb Word Music, Text and music reprinted and/or streamed with permission under CCLI License # 2241477. All rights reserved.

*Around You, O Lord Jesus*, Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847, tr. composite. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Text reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved. Music: H. Thomassön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569. Public domain.

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*, Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939. Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, Text reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved. Music: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820. Public domain.

*Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten* (*If You But Trust in God to Guide You*), Tune: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681. Public domain. Arr. Paul Fey, b. 1995. Arr. © 2022 Paul Fey. All rights reserved.

Grace Lutheran livestreams our worship services over Facebook, YouTube, or other platforms and has them available for later viewing through our website. We may also use still photography of church activities for church communications, websites, and other uses. By your presence with us, you acknowledge that you may be photographed and you consent to our use of it for these purposes. The video capture of congregants is minimal and will usually be from the back. If you want to be sure that you will not be shown on any video, we recommend sitting near the back on the left side of the sanctuary.

Scan this Tithe.ly QR code with your phone camera to send an offering to Grace.



Council Representatives		Ministries	
Rusty Washburn	President	The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz	<i>Pastor</i>
Terry Neal	Vice President		(863) 529-1229
Barbara Carpanini	Corp. Secretary		<a href="mailto:pastor@gracelakeland.com">pastor@gracelakeland.com</a>
Marty Lewis	Treasurer	Kandyn Mathes	<i>Admin. Assistant</i>
James Irish	Recording Secretary		(863) 686-5585
Mary Flekke	Financial Secretary		<a href="mailto:church@gracelakeland.com">church@gracelakeland.com</a>
Kristen Storms	Christian Ed.	Lynda Mack	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
Naomi Thomsen	Finance		<a href="mailto:bookkeepergracelakeland@gmail.com">bookkeepergracelakeland@gmail.com</a>
Naomi Thomsen	Memorial		(863) 660-5859
Laura Blanchette	Congregation Care	Mary Flekke	<i>Bell Choir Director</i>
Rusty Washburn	Property		<a href="mailto:mflekke@tampabay.rr.com">mflekke@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Dan Stoller	Social Ministry		(863) 660-1156
Terry Neal	Stewardship	Art Pranno	<i>Choir Director</i>
Marty Lewis	Worship/Music	Gene Hodges	<i>Organist</i>
Jon Thiele		Rita Fandrich	<i>Pianist</i>
		Marty Lewis	<i>Worship Band Director</i>
			<a href="mailto:graceworshiptech@gmail.com">graceworshiptech@gmail.com</a>
			(863) 648-4770
		Church Website	<a href="http://www.gracelakeland.com">www.gracelakeland.com</a>