

# The Light

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OAK RIDGE, TN

October 2025



Our Mission Statement:





## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ROSY

October arrives with a rustle of leaves and a whisper of wind—nature’s gentle reminder that change is not only inevitable but sacred. The trees shed their summer glory, not in despair, but in preparation. They trust that what is lost will be restored. As Lutherans, we too are called to live in that rhythm of trust and transformation.

Change is often uncomfortable. It disrupts routines, unsettles expectations, and invites uncertainty. Yet scripture reminds us that change is also the soil in which resurrection takes root. In Isaiah 43:19, God declares, “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” This is not a threat—it is a promise.

In our congregation, October brings shifts in programming, a stewardship campaign and leadership transitions. In our personal lives, it may bring grief, growth, or new beginnings. Whatever the change, we are not alone. The God who led the Israelites through the wilderness, who raised Jesus from the tomb, who breathed life into the Church at Pentecost—that same God walks with us now.

Martin Luther himself was no stranger to change. The Reformation was not a moment—it was a movement, born of conviction and courage. Luther’s trust in God’s Word empowered him to challenge the status quo, not for the sake of rebellion, but for the sake of renewal. We inherit that legacy—not to preserve it in amber, but to live it boldly.

So as the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp, let us not fear change. Let us welcome it as a holy invitation. Let us ask: What is God renewing in me? In our community? In the Church?

May this October be a season of faithful transformation. May we shed what no longer serves, and make space for what God is growing. And may we remember that in Christ, change is never the end—it is the beginning of something beautiful.

Peace and courage to you all.

Always a servant of Christ,

Pastor Rosy <><



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Council meeting highlights include:

- Approval of proposal to fix organ. An anonymous donor has donated the funds for this repair.
- Annual selection of health benefits for eligible staff. Portico Benefit Services completely revamped their offerings this year. Council selected to offer the Value Copay 4000 plan. This allows the eligible staff to select from any of the 4 plans offered, with possible buy-up costs.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, September 28 and included:

- Presentation of proposed 2026 budget.
- Donna Hoglund and Mike Lorenz talked about the Stewardship drive - "Stewards of God's Love." Please pick up your Stewarding envelope over one of the next couple of Sundays, so they don't have to be mailed. Then, please drop your Estimate of Giving cards in the God's Gifts Box by November 9. They will be blessed that Sunday.
- Election of Council Members
  - A heartfelt thank you to Ron Goans who has completed his Council terms and for serving as President for a couple of years! We appreciate your willingness to serve in this way!
  - Welcome to new Council member – Donna Gurecki! We look forward to spending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month with you!
  - Continuing on Council are Mike Lorenz, Ruth Smiley, Nick Martin, Valerie Hansen. Lisa Sipes, Pamela Asher, John Caton, and Tim Lorenz!
  - Council Alternates will be Stacey Garrett and *insert your name here!*

I heard this song on the way to church on Sunday – "Come to the Table" by Sidewalk Prophets. You should check it out.

Many blessings,

Valerie

## MUSICAL NOTES



The month of October brings in many worshipful moments through music. In particular, we look forward to Reformation Sunday, October 26, in which New Creation will celebrate this important day with praise songs at the 9 am service, and Chancel Choir will lead the congregation in hymns at the 11:15 service. Also, at the 11:15 service, there will be a prelude by Ringspiration featuring Grace's own Matthew Gurecki, trumpeter extraordinaire. Please join us!



## Worshipping News

By now, you have probably noticed our new Family Worship Area, an area in the alcove with opportunities for children. This is an initiative of the Nurturing Commission and the Worshipping Commission to provide activities that will allow children to participate in the worship service while also recognizing the reality of short attention spans. The use of this area is optional. Families are welcome to sit elsewhere if they prefer, to use the nursery, or to split their time among different areas – whatever works at the time.

Our goal is to be intentional in incorporating children in worship. The Family Worship area will provide age-appropriate worship activities to enable children to be present in the worship service. The space is furnished with child-sized tables and chairs and with drawing and coloring materials and with fidget materials. In upcoming weeks, we hope to add activity sheets that reflect the theme of the day's worship.

Other news:

- Our pipe organ will be refurbished. This will take about two months. However, we will have access to a high-quality electronic organ during that time.
- Our Christmas cantata will be held on December 21 during the traditional service.

Judy Goans

# SYNOD NEWS



Presiding Bishop-Elect Yehiel Curry will be installed on October 4, 2025, at 2:00 pm CDT. The installation will be held at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN. A live stream of the installation will be available on the Synod website.

The All TN Youth Gathering will be held November 1-2, 2025, at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Hendersonville, NC. This event is for youth in grades 6-12; the cost for attending is \$40. The deadline for registering for this event is October 17, 2025. More information can be found at the following link: <https://se-reg.brtapp.com/AllTN2025>.

Elias Tours is offering a “Best of Egypt with Southeastern Synod – ELCA” tour January 11-21, 2027. If you are interested in this trip, more information can be found at [https://www.eliastours.com/tours/best-of-egypt-with-southeastern-synod?fbclid=IwY2xjawM4Y-tleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHn3cp4Qj3EyMagEeY9cDnj0PQwZyaVhQ6QEFyFMqrlJygHPxq4p-qRGRjS37\\_aem\\_gAIZI5TYszLFpAHkqf6swg](https://www.eliastours.com/tours/best-of-egypt-with-southeastern-synod?fbclid=IwY2xjawM4Y-tleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHn3cp4Qj3EyMagEeY9cDnj0PQwZyaVhQ6QEFyFMqrlJygHPxq4p-qRGRjS37_aem_gAIZI5TYszLFpAHkqf6swg).



## STEWARDSHIP



*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Luke 12:34 NIV*

God cares about how we use all of our money, not just the portion that we give away. All that we have comes from God and he has entrusted us to be good stewards of all he has given us. In Luke 12:34, Jesus says that what we do with our money has the ability to take our heart with it. The Message translates this, “*Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities.*”

When I started thinking about the upcoming stewardship drive, a song from my Sunday School days came into my mind. That song is:

*Hear the pennies dropping, Listen while they fall, Everyone for Jesus, He will get them all.  
Refrain: Dropping, dropping, dropping, Hear the pennies fall; Ev’ry one for Jesus – He will get them all.*

*Dropping, dropping ever, From each little hand; ‘Tis our gift to Jesus, From His little band.  
Refrain*

*Now, while we are little, Pennies are our store; But when we are older, Lord, we’ll give Thee more. Refrain*

*Tho’ we have not money, We can give Him love; He will own our off’ring, Smiling from above.  
Refrain*

I can still remember taking my little coin tied up in a handkerchief to Sunday School. I’m blessed that I am now able to give more than that little coin as my offering to God.

How are we using our money to love God and our neighbor? How can our money assist with the growth of God’s kingdom? God works through our humble offerings to bring the message God’s love in our congregation, in our community, & all around the globe.

The annual Stewardship Drive will begin in October. You will be receiving a packet with information to help you discern how you can share the treasures of time, talent, & money with which God has abundantly blessed you.

Please prayerfully consider how you can share God’s abundant blessings.

Grace & Peace,

Donna Hoglund for the Stewarding Commission.

# October EVENTS



Grace's Family Movie Night will be Saturday, October 4, 2025, at 6:00 pm. This month's movie will be *The Little Mermaid*. All movies are free and open to the public.



Adult Sunday School: Sunday, October 26 we will begin a 3-week study on stewardship. We will be using the theme Stewards of God's Love. We will be exploring how God reaches out (or down) to us, how we respond to his loving actions, and then how we put this love to work in our lives. This will be a participatory class, so feel free to bring your own bibles, or we have a good number available at Grace. We will be meeting in room 101, so please join us. I guarantee we will all learn something new! These sessions will be led by Mike Lorenz, but please come anyway. All are welcome!

Children's Sunday School meets at 10:00 am on Sundays. Children meet in Jacob's Ladder for music and then go to their classes. The youth meet upstairs. If you have any questions, please contact Candy Yugo.



Have you ever had a burning theological question you didn't feel comfortable asking in church? Do you wrestle with basic theology? Then we've got a ministry for you!

We will soon be gathering at a local brewery to wrestle with deep theological questions. Pastor Rosy will be leading the discussion. More information coming soon!

## Grace Hikers

The next Grace Hike will be October 4, 2025, at the UT Arboretum. Those interested in doing this hike should meet in the arboretum parking lot at 10:00 am. We will be hiking to the Program shelter. Please bring water with you.

## PET BLESSING

Grace Lutheran will have a pet blessing on October 26<sup>th</sup> after the late service. All pets welcome. We will also be taking up pet supply donations for local shelters.



**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Coffee House**  
 Est. 2025

Bring the kids!  
 We offer free childcare  
 and fun activities for all  
 ages.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**Saturday, October 11, 2025**  
 6:00pm - 8:00pm at 131 W. Gettysburg Ave.

Come join us for music, coffee, snacks  
 and fun! Open to all. Join us for a fun night  
 of music and fellowship!  
 Invite a friend or two!!

## Trunk or Treat

Grace Lutheran's annual Trunk or Treat will be held October 25, 2025, beginning at 6:00 pm. Decorate your trunk and come out for a fun time. Candy donations are needed and can be made by placing candy on the kitchen island and marking them for Trunk or Treat. **INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US!**



**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT** Free Movie Night

**Movie Line Up**

- August 2- Moana 2
- September 6- Toy Story
- October 4- Little Mermaid- 2023 live action
- November 1- Alladin 2019 live action
- December- NO Movie Night
- January 3, 2026- Monsters Inc.

First Saturday of the Month From 6-8pm

131 W. Gettysburg Ave. Oak Ridge, TN 37830

## Thanksgiving Dinner

Grace's annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at 4:30. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex. Nurturing will provide the turkey and mashed potatoes. Come enjoy an afternoon of great food and fellowship.

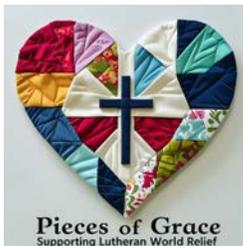


## PUZZLES, PUZZLES, PUZZLES WITH JUDY JOY

Join Judy Joy at her home to work on jigsaw puzzles on the second Thursday of each month from 10:00-2:00. Bring your lunch.



# MINISTRIES OF GRACE



Those who attend Pieces of Grace (Blanket Workshop) make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The group meets on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of the month from 10 am to 2 pm. Everyone is welcome to join in, or just stop by to see what is happening. Sewing skills are not required. Bring your lunch.



## FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry served 113 families in September. Twenty-two of these were new families.

Don't forget to link your Kroger card to Grace Lutheran Food Pantry. Between June 1 and August 30, 2025, 23 households donated \$63.96 to the Food Pantry when they shopped at Kroger.



Grace ESOL classes are blessed to have volunteer teachers, some of whom are Grace members, some are Altrusa members, and some are both. We offer daytime classes for beginner level, early intermediate, higher intermediate, and advanced levels. We currently have only one beginner class, on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30. We'd like to reinstate Wednesday and Thursday classes when there's sufficient demand and teachers for those mornings. We're also looking for volunteers to be conversation partners or even just observers for the beginners, early intermediate, and higher intermediate levels. We have 3 teachers for the Friday advanced class and that's working extremely well. Please contact Nancy Munro if you're interested in volunteering or would just like to know more about these opportunities to enjoy interacting with our wonderful ESOL students.

## FOOD ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

Second Harvest Food Bank had rice and pinto beans available for purchase this week, so we do not need any special items at this time. However, donations of shelf-staple food, diapers, wipes, & adult diapers are always welcome. Thank you to all of you who have donated egg cartons, bags, and food.





Calling all knitters and crocheters!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry resumed in-person sessions on September 6<sup>th</sup> and meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. We meet in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. We will be working on prayer shawls, hats and various other projects. All are welcome, so invite friends to join us!

## OCTOBER LOVE OFFERING CHRISTMAS IN OCTOBER

The October Love Offering will go to Christmas Food Baskets. Baskets will be distributed to families in need in mid-December along with Angel Tree gifts for kids. The date will be announced later. Volunteers are needed as well as donations to purchase the food for the baskets to make this happen.



## LIFE EVENTS

Our condolences to Donna Hoglund's son, Robert, and his family on the loss of his wife, Suzanne. Please keep them in your prayers. Condolences can be sent to Robert at 151 Central Park West, Apt. 2W, New York, NY 10023.



Brener Moua	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Mack Bailey	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Brittany Moua	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Chuck Frew	7 <sup>th</sup>
Harry Meyer	7 <sup>th</sup>
Gloria Caton	8 <sup>th</sup>
Gabriella Bauman	13 <sup>th</sup>
Candy Yugo	17 <sup>th</sup>
Lana Haese	21 <sup>st</sup>
Pastor Rosalina Rivera	22 <sup>nd</sup>
John Caton	26 <sup>th</sup>
Matthew Jallouk	26 <sup>th</sup>
Vicki Quraishi	29 <sup>th</sup>

## RECENT EVENTS

On September 7, 2025, Grace Lutheran Church participated in “God’s Work, Our Hands,” a day of service. Members packed bags with school supplies to be sent to Lutheran World Relief and distributed to school children around the world. They also made dog toys out of old t-shirts to be delivered to a local shelter.



Also on September 7<sup>th</sup>, Grace held its annual Fall Picnic at the Grace Pavilion. About 50 people attended the picnic, including some of our ESOL students and their families.



On September 9, 2025, Grace members participated in the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce Expo.



Pastor Rosy attended the Women of the ELCA Synodical Convention the weekend of September 19-20, 2025. The convention was held in Nashville at the Scarritt Bennett Conference Center.



Grace Lutheran Church  
131 W. Gettysburg Ave.  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Phone: 865-483-3787

Email: [office@graceor.org](mailto:office@graceor.org)

Website: [www.graceoakridge.org](http://www.graceoakridge.org)



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