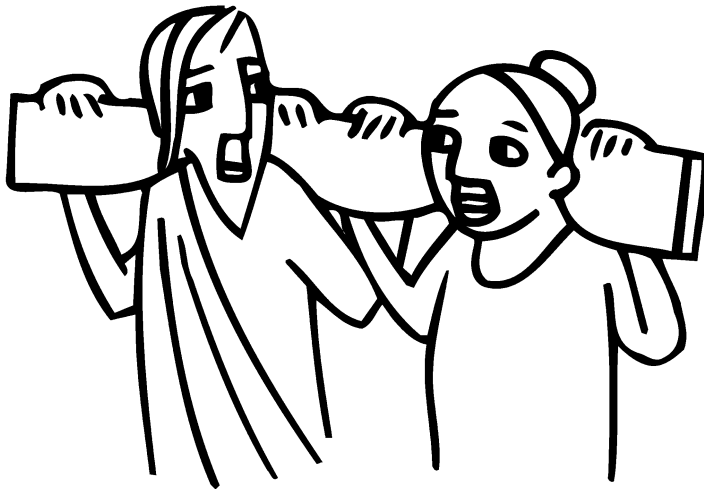


Grace Lutheran Church
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 05, 2026

“Come to me, all you who are
weary and are carrying heavy
burdens, and I will give you rest.”

~ Matthew 11:28



Service of Holy Communion – 6th Sunday after Pentecost
Semi-quincentennial

(the assembly may stand*

Congregation speaks responses in bold

PRESERVICE

WELCOME (*Presiding Minister*)

LITANY FOR THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** (*Presiding Minister*)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.
Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN** ELW 765 "Lord of All Hopefulness"

***GREETING** (*Presiding Minister*)

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.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** ELW 167

"Now the Feast and Celebration"

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** (*Presiding Minister*)

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, the people are designated as "prisoners of hope."

A reading from Zechariah.

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹² Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

The psalm is spoken responsively.

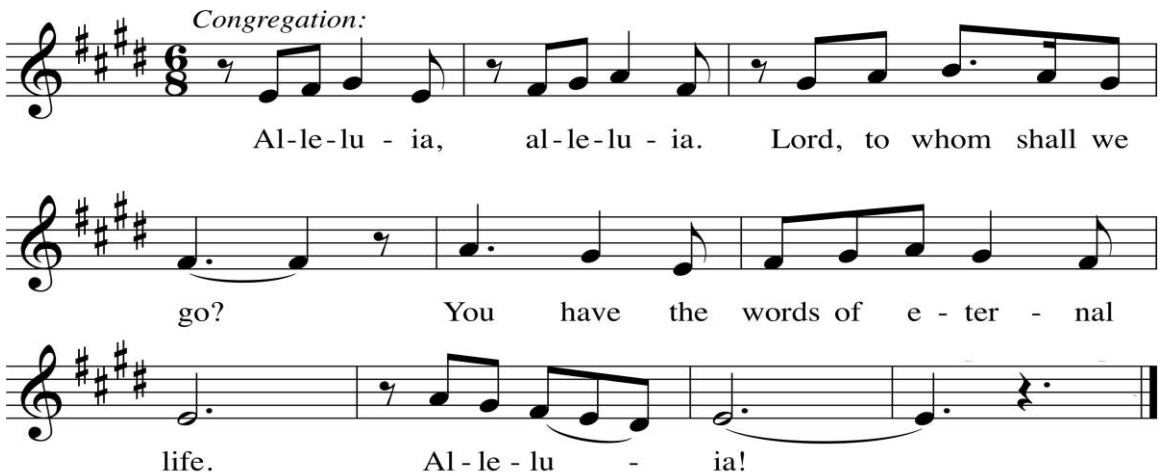
- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- ⁹ **LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**
- ¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.
- ¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**
- ¹² that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words,
and loving in all your works.**
- ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

FAMILY MESSAGE

Rev. Jennifer S. Michael

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *The assembly stands to welcome the gospel*

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!

***GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

SERMON

Rev. Jennifer S. Michael

***HYMN OF THE DAY LBW 567 “God of Our Fathers”**

- 1 God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies:
our grateful songs before your throne arise.**
- 2 Your love divine has led us in the past;
in this free land by you our lot is cast;
oh, be our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay;
your word our law, your paths our chosen way.**

- 3 From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
make your strong arm our ever sure defense.
Your true religion in our hearts increase;
your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.**
- 4 Refresh your people on their toilsome way;
lead us from night to never-ending day;
fill all our lives with heav'n-born love and grace
until at last we meet before your face.**

CREED (*Assisting Minister*)

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us confess our faith...

**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,
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.**

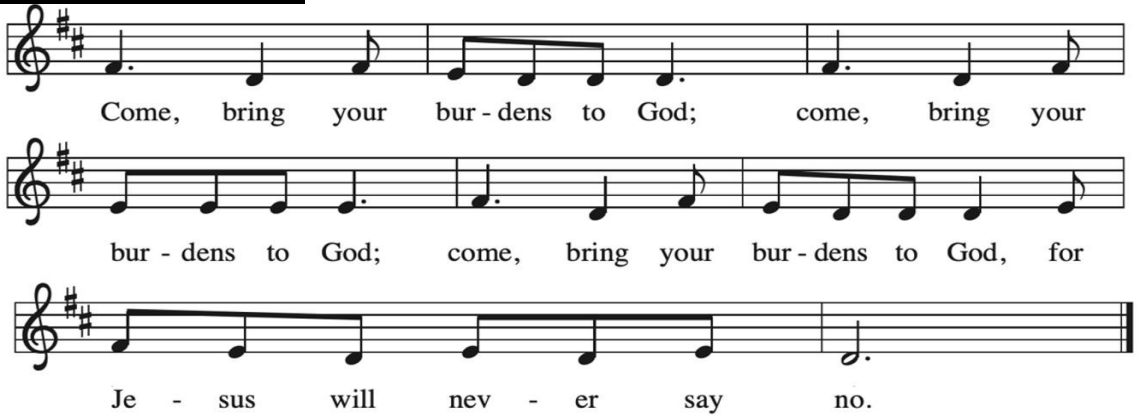
Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Assisting Minister*)

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for
the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

PRAYER REFRAIN



Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your
bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for
Je - sus will nev - er say no.

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel.

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations.

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As the United States of America marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish.

PRAYER REFRAIN

You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need,

especially...Bonnie. We also pray for those we name aloud now or those we name silently in our hearts.

A brief moment of private petitions is observed.

We remember before you those who have died in every generation: those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared.

PRAYER REFRAIN



Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your
bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for
Je - sus will nev - er say no.

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE (*Presiding Minister*)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING ANTHEM

“The Battle Hymn of the Republic”

by Julia Ward Howe

Bob Barry, soloist

***OFFERING PRAYER** (*Assisting Minister*)

Let us pray.

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all
creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

***DIALOGUE** (*Presiding Minister*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE** (*Presiding Minister*)

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ELW #191 "Holy, Holy, Holy"**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (*Presiding Minister-spoken*)

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,

in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals,
the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,

you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

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 acts of healing,
his body given up, and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER** (*Assisting Minister*)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

**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** (*Presiding Minister*)

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

Congregation may be seated.

At Grace Lutheran, believing in Jesus Christ, we invite ALL to the sacrament of Holy Communion. Receive the host and then take one of the small cups. Wine is the outer rings and grape juice is the inner ring. Gluten-free wafers are available. Once communion is received, follow direction of ushers to return to pew leaving cups in bowls provided.

LAMB OF GOD



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 608 "Softly and Tenderly"

POST COMMUNION BLESSING *(Presiding Minister)*

The assembly stands to receive the blessing.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *(Assisting Minister)*

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BENEDICTION** (*Presiding Minister*)

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, † one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN** **ELW 887 “This Is My Song”**

***DISMISSAL** (*Assisting Minister*)

Heaven has come near.

Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

HYMN STORIES

“*God of Our Fathers*” is an American civic hymn written in 1876 by Daniel Crane Roberts, an Episcopal priest, for a local celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It later became nationally known when George William Warren composed the tune, NATIONAL HYMN for the 1892 Episcopal hymnal. The hymn blends patriotic gratitude with theological humility, thanking God for past guidance and praying for continued divine rule, protection, and peace. Roberts wanted a patriotic text that did not glorify the nation, but instead expressed thanksgiving to God for guiding the country and called people to humility, responsibility, and moral dependence on God.

“*This Is My Song*” is a 1934 peace hymn whose first two stanzas were written by **Lloyd Stone**, later joined by a third stanza by **Georgia Harkness**. It is set to **FINLANDIA**, the hymn-like theme from Jean Sibelius’s 1899–1900 tone poem *Finlandia*. The hymn expresses love for one’s own homeland while affirming that people in every nation cherish their homes just as deeply. It became a widely loved Christian “song of peace” during the tense years between the world wars.

Flowers on the altar are in memory of David Frost



STAY AFTER CHURCH TODAY, JULY 5TH for a special fellowship hour where we will sing patriotic songs and enjoy an ice cream social. Happy 250th Birthday America!

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK UPDATE- NO BP check this Sunday, July 5th. The checks will resume next week on Sunday, July 12th.

LISTENING AND IDEAS SESSION- July 12th, after worship, we will be holding a *Listening & Ideas Session* on how we can continue to *enhance* our service and church for new and existing members alike! Anyone is welcome! (*If easier, please simply message the office with any ideas or suggestions you have and we will add to our list!*) Note: We do not plan to make any changes at this time, instead, *we hope to gather ideas and get a sense for which ideas have the most interest for all.*

SUMMER FAITH CONVERSATIONS – an adult Bible study led by Pastor Jennifer exploring a different topic each week, from scripture and theology to Lutheran faith and practice. Come for one session or all of them and discover something new each week. Every Wednesday, at 10AM in Hillmer Chapel.

GRACE LUTHERAN SPECIAL EVENT! Save the Date: Sunday August 2nd immediately following church service. Stay tuned for more information and ways for you to participate!

FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS are needed for everyone to continue to enjoy our Fellowship time after worship.
SUGGESTION:

Take advantage of Publix BOGO's, keep one, **SHARE ONE!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to all our members & friends celebrating birthdays in July!

Prayer List – Week of July 05, 2026

We pray for those in need of Christ's healing touch

NEW TO OUR PRAYER LIST

07/05 – Bonnie Krafft

6/28 - The family of Patricia Donegan, the family of Kristin Clouston, the family of Erin Greer, and Shannon McNair.

ONGOING MEMBER CONCERNS

Bert Crouthamel
Fred Ullrich
Carol Gutcher
Rose Kuhns
Betty Freshcorn
Kathy Jenkins
Brenda Gerding
Jerralynne Duncan
Joe Watson
The Katt/Watson Family
Christine Vickers
Mike Campbell
Troy Brueggemeier
Yvonne Daily
Thelma Rodriguez
Maggie Scott
Tim Smith
Richard Andree
Kathy Crouthamel
Sandra Taylor
Dora Hepner
Ralph Hepner
Lisa Hamilton
Dave Davies

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS

Anita Kennebeck (Erickson)
Irene Bidmead (Gould)
Eric Bidmead (Gould)
Ashley Wilson (Crosby)
Bob Pihl (Missbach)
Richard Taylor
Shane Rose (Armstrong)
Karen Brown & Family (Perrone)
Kim (Perrone)
Joseph Ciccarello (Colegrove)
Larry Krauss (Colegrove)
Leila Ritari
Ian (Hills)
Judy Zimmerman, (Milo)
Kathy Dowsett (Milo)
Pr. Wayne Gollenberg (Milo)
Pat Dooley (Milo)
Jim Laughner (Davies)
Denise Heppel (Davies)
Fred Bondzeit (Davies)
Brenda Giroux (Laettner)
Alexander Boltenko (Matheson)
Stephanie Williams (Hall)
David Griffin (Threm)
Jeanette Wolfe (Lindgren)
Miles Brown (Vickers)
Steve Mateus (Albisu)
Ed Hoornstra (Hoornstra)
Ann Maurer (Maurer)
Chris Adams (Castor)
Jahn Van de Putte (Cheek)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Preschool staff & Families
Scott Eidam

We welcome you to Grace Lutheran Church!



Grace is a place of faith, hope and healing for ALL.

*We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced,
LGBTQ+, rich, poor, black, brown or white.*

*We extend a special welcome to crying newborns, squirming children,
and frazzled moms and dads.*

*We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like some of us,
who can't carry a note in a bucket.*

You're welcome here if you're "just browsing", just woke up or just got out of jail.

*We don't care if you're more Lutheran than Martin Luther,
or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.*



*We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet,
and to teenagers who are growing up too fast.*

We welcome starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians and junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted.

*We welcome you if you're having problems, down in the dumps
or if you don't like "organized religion",
we've been there too.*



We offer a special welcome to those who are left-wing, right-wing, or middle of the road.

*If you are here only because you are visiting grandma
and she wanted you to go to church with her, we welcome you.*

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both.

We welcome those in flip flops or three-piece suits.



We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now.

We welcome vacationers, snow-birds, year-rounders, seekers, doubters....and you!

*We welcome you to Grace Lutheran Church,
because we are a "house for all sinners and saints",*

Gathered by the grace of God.

Grace is a place of faith, hope and healing for ALL.

WORSHIP LEADERS – July 05, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.

PRESIDING MINISTER	Rev. Jennifer S. Michael
ASSISTING MINISTER	Jeffrey Anderson
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Susan Andree, Liz Planz
READER	Debra Pedonti
HEAD USHER	Fred Borchers
USHERS	Kipp Van Pay, Karen Jankowski,
ALTAR GUILD	Carole Priede, Angel Tilo
REFRESHMENTS	Outreach-Ice Cream Social, Liz Planz
VIDEO/CAMERA	Rob Barry
SOUND	Steve Kohls
POWERPOINT	Lori Ludick

*Connecting People to People, People to Christ,
and People to their role in the world*

The People of Grace, Ministers

Rev. Pedro Suarez, Bishop of the Florida/Bahamas Synod

Rev. Jennifer S. Michael, Pastor	pastorj michael@gracelutherantampa.org
Lisa Katt, Director of Music	lisak@gracelutherantampa.org
Jim Sawyers, Organist	jims@gracelutherantampa.org
Anne Corti, Director of Youth & Family Ministry	annec@gracelutherantampa.org
Nadine Anderson, Synod Parish Deacon	nkatx@aol.com

OFFICE STAFF:

Maggie Gould, Office Manager	maggiiek@gracelutherantampa.org
Meagan Orbin, Administrative Assistant	Officeadmin@gracelutherantampa.org
Fred Borchers, Custodian	

NURSERY: Ruth Sawyers, Kahlie McCarty, Erin Dean

STEPHEN MINISTRY LEADERS: Mickey Castor, Ruth Anderson, Karen Jankowski,
Janet Wise

Stephen Ministry Congregation



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813-961-8747 – www.gracetampa.org / FB-Grace Lutheran Tampa
Church office hours 9 a.m.-noon, 1:00 p.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday