



Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA
 1245 6th Ave. W., Hendersonville NC 28739
 gracehendersonville.com / pr@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890

April 2020

<p>Mission Statement: We believe that God in Christ is central to all life and we WORSHIP him through TELLING his story, GROWING in faith, SUPPORTING each other, and CARING for his world.</p>	<p>Purpose: <i>Transforming Lives Through Christ.</i></p>	<p>Strategic Vision: <i>Grace is a diverse community of faith serving Christ and sharing the love of God.</i></p>	<p>Core Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being a nurturing family of faith • Growing faith in God the Father, Son & Holy Spirit • Serving others with the heart of Jesus • Seeking unity in Christ • Embracing people seeking Christ • Welcoming cross-cultural, Cross+Generational
--	---	---	--

March 23, 2020 Grace Update

Community in the Time of Covid19 Pastor Greg Williams

1. CANCELLATIONS CONTINUE: During a Zoom gathering on March 22, the Congregation Council agreed to follow guidance from our NC Synod Council and government leaders and cancel all in-person gatherings at Grace through May 12. (Today, schools announced closure through May 15.) Cancellation includes worship, classes, small groups, and outside groups.
2. WORSHIP: Thanks to Pastor Oviedo and Dave Carver, we continue to learn and improve our live streaming of worship. We regret the buffering issues that interrupted the worship experience of some. Trying to avoid perhaps the busiest live streaming times for churches (10 & 11am), beginning 3/29 - this Sunday - our live stream will begin at 9am, still on Facebook. It is also recorded and available on our Facebook page after the service concludes. Staff is also planning for creative Holy Week and Easter worship experiences. We are in conversation and discernment about if and how to celebrate Holy Communion since we are currently unable to physically gather as the body of Christ. Wednesday evening Lenten worship will also be live streamed at 6pm, Wednesdays.
3. COUNCIL UPDATE: Congregation Council gathered via Zoom on 3/22. They agreed to continue this weekly gathering for community, support, and leadership as we care for each other and follow best practices. Council decided to continue to pay all employees through May 15. Ministry staff is faithfully at work to support community and care for Grace members. Members are welcome to contact any Council member or President Terrell West with questions or concerns.
4. VIRTUAL GATHERINGS: As we try to stay safe and keep in touch, small groups, classes, and Circles may choose to try Zoom to meet, interact, and learn through the Internet. Some are already giving it a test. If your group is interested, please contact Greg Dodd, Pastor Oviedo, or Pastor Greg for details. Greg Dodd is managing the schedule for our Grace Zoom account.
5. PASTORAL CARE: Your pastors remain readily available by phone, email, or text. While face-to-face visiting and hospital visits are curtailed except for emergencies, know that you are in our prayers daily. We are trying to keep up with needs we know about. We encourage you to continue your ministries of compassionate care and support (prayer, email, texts, phone calls). Please inform us of any need for pastoral care.

6. REFLECTION: With our new Sunday morning schedule, I heard "On Being" Sunday morning. The guest referred to Walter Bruggemann's thought that hope is rooted in memory. Think about that: hope is rooted in memory. The Israelites found hope when they remembered how God brought them out of enslavement in Egypt. Peter, James, and John found hope when they remembered Jesus with Moses & Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration. I find hope when I remember that in Baptism, God has marked me with the cross and promised to always love and provide for me. I find hope when I remember the myriad of ways that you have shown 2 tremendous compassion to people in the past. I find hope when I remember that God is present and working through those skilled in healthcare. FOR YOU TO PONDER & DISCUSS IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD: What memories give you hope today? How are you sharing that hope with others? May you remember and find hope in Paul's words to the Romans: "I am convinced that ... (nothing) in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 8"38f)

Pastor Greg Williams

The Joy of Serving: Serving in Small Ways



Grace Campus Ministry Leadership

Two of our Grace college students served as NC Synod leaders for the 2020 Lutheran Youth Organization retreat in Greensboro. Shadai Acosta-Oviedo, Academy of Art Freshman, was the Synod photographer and videographer for the event. Grace Welch, Blue Ridge Community College Sophomore, helped out as a 'Young Adult Resource Person' or 'YARP'. Here are their reflections of the weekend service and leadership:

"Hi, my name is Shadai Acosta-Oviedo, and this year I went to LYO as Synod Photographer as well as a guide. I loved it! I had already experienced LYO being a youth in past years so I think that helped me relate to the youngins I had in my group. Besides bonding with our Grace church youth, I also

bonded with the rest of the youth at the event because I had to communicate with them to get good pictures, and with me being close to their age range, some of them felt more comfortable with me taking goofy team pictures. I enjoyed being a helper while doing something I love. I will definitely be back next year! Also, big thanks to Anne for giving me this chance and for my church family believing in me."



Grace Welch: "As a YARP (Young Adult Resource Person) for the North Carolina Synod, I do a lot of the behind the scenes work for the LYO weekend to run as smoothly and safely as possible for the 450+ youth and adults that attended this past February. We, the nine YARPs that attended LYO this past February, helped make sure that all youth were asleep in their beds by midnight, helped with security during the dance Saturday night, and helped count the number of pizzas each congregation needed (over 120 pizza boxes), just to name a few.

Not only do YARPs help with the safety of others, but they meet for five different sections through the weekend to talk about faith, school, relationships, and even politics and how to become open minded to all ideas no matter where

we go to school or what we are studying. We also had the honor to talk with NC Bishop Tim Smith about our questions we have about faith and about how to stay active in the ministry while in school.

I am very grateful to have a church like ours that allows me the opportunity to serve, participate and ask questions. Thank you to all three pastors, Anne, and all others that help contribute to making our church intergenerational for us now and in the future."

How does God work through you? Share your story!

Email jherman@gracehendersonville.com

Message from Senior Pastor Greg Williams

Pastor Greg Williams – gwilliams@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 x307

Christ is Risen and the Coronavirus is Here

As I write this, Grace, like many other congregations, has closed and hit "PAUSE" on all in-person ministry activities. We are in the midst of a multi-week cancellation of worship, classes, meetings, and outside groups. We have done this in accordance with the best wisdom of health authorities and in compliance with the governor's executive order. We have done this because we care about people and their health.



As Bishop Tim Smith said in his letter to the Synod, "[I]f one person lives because [we] take these measures, wasn't it worth it? Blessings to all who navigate these uncertain and frightening times, especially those with the virus, anxious about it, caring for someone with it, or grieving someone lost to this illness. We trust always that God, in Christ, holds these times and holds each of us."

I can't see the future, so I have no idea how this global pandemic will unfold. I am confident about two essential things for us.

First, God's people - the Church, including Grace - will respond with compassion and generosity to the needs of our neighbors during and after this outbreak. Yes, we must exercise caution and employ the proper precautions. There are opportunities for us to care for the most vulnerable in our community: We pray without ceasing. We phone, text, or email family, friends, and neighbors to comfort them and assist them as we are able. We can learn about the value of and utilize virtual communities to stay connected. Virtual communities may include streaming worship services, "FaceTime" with friends, and Zoom meetings as we continue planning for ministry throughout this anxious time. We can share an extra measure of support with IAM, the Rescue Mission, and Storehouse (among other ministry partners) as their resources are stretched caring for our vulnerable neighbors. We continue faithful giving to Grace.

Second, Easter is coming. I am certain that there is resurrection life after Covid19 as surely as there is resurrection to new life after death. Today, I do not know how Grace will celebrate Easter on April 12, but we will celebrate - if not in-person, then virtually. Christ rose from the dead not only as a sign of the sure and certain hope of life eternal but also as a sign of the abundant life offered to people now.

Amid the devastating destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 BCE, the people found hope and encouragement in their faith. Lamentations 3:22-24 assures and encourages us today:

²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ 'The Lord is my portion,'
says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'

May you find peace, encouragement, and strength in the presence of Christ who is with us always, to the end of the age.

Pastor Greg

Reflections from Pastor Alfredo Oviedo

Pastor Alfredo Oviedo – goviedo@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 x331

WWJD living in a world with COVID-19 outbreak?

Several years ago, I was given the book What Would Jesus Do? as a birthday present.

According to BBC online news magazine, "In 1896 the Kansas Congregational minister Charles Sheldon published a novel called In His Steps: What would Jesus do? in which a town is revolutionized when Christians "pledge themselves, earnestly and honestly for an entire year, not to do anything without first asking the question, 'What would Jesus do?'" (<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-16068178>). The slogan WWJD resurged in the 1990's as a youth Christian movement. The

question WWJD is a great question that sadly, out of its theological context, has been given many answers as if there were many Jesuses. What would Jesus do in times of COVID-19 worldwide pandemic outbreak? Honestly, I don't have a clue and I don't really think this is the primary question Christians should be asking... whatever Jesus would do, it would be the right moral choice. Then, the real question is, What Does Jesus Teach? In the context of moral choices for Christians? To this question, Scriptures' witness to Jesus is clear:

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. Matthew 7:12

However, what does this mean? The best answer to this question was given by the XVIII Century German Lutheran Philosopher Immanuel Kant. He proposed a categorical imperative to test the morality of human actions. Kant said that if an action was moral, the rational principle behind such an action should be considered as universal law. For instance, if I ask: Because of COVID-19, should I buy all the toilet paper I can afford and store? The rational principle will be that most people are doing so, and everybody needs it; then sooner or later I will run out of toilet paper. If this rational principle becomes universal law, then all humans in society should be buying all toilet paper they can afford and store too. Then, for there are people who can afford to buy and store more toilet paper than most of us, and for the supply and demand chain will be disrupted, I will run out of toilet paper sooner than if I just continue buying toilet paper as usual. The point is that the more my actions are driven by self-interest, they become non-moral choices than if they are driven by altruist motives.

I know I am not saying anything new that you already know and practice. I just wanted to remind you that Christians are people called and empowered to make right moral choices at all times... and the right moral choice in light of the COVID-19 outbreak, is to follow through our Health Care experts' recommendations and adjust our daily lives accordingly.

Pastor Alfredo Oviedo



Grace Youth Ministry

Dir. of Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Anne Monroe – amonroe@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 x309

Thank you Grace Youth Ministry worship assistants!

Thank you for your leadership and service during the Lenten season. Sixth grader Kullen Garrett said: *"I like serving as a worship assistant by reading out loud for the congregation. I think the new Lenten worship service is fun because it is interactive, educational, and you get to share highs and lows in a small group."*



Together we are One!

Junior Nelson Wiggins was chosen to serve as a Lutheran Youth Organization board member for the NC Synod this year. Here is the board talk she wrote called "Body of Christ through Community". Nelson shared this with over 500 youth and adults at this year's LYO Assembly Retreat in Greensboro, NC:





“Being a part of the body of Christ is an awesome thing. In the body of Christ, you always serve a purpose. You are always needed. You are always wanted. The community that the body of Christ gives you is what makes you feel like people believe in you. Being in a community that supports me is what gives me the confidence to be who I am. Belonging to a community makes me feel like I'm an important part of the body of Christ, but last year, I didn't feel that way. I felt like I was unwanted.

Last year I was joining a new lunch group. The group that I sat with the year before had a different lunch than me, so I joined an old friend and her other friends. When I first started sitting with them, it was pretty awkward. It didn't feel like I was a part of the group. It felt like they were the main characters of a movie and I was watching them through a screen. I didn't take offense to this at first because I thought it was just because I was new. As the year went on, I still didn't feel included. I wasn't invited to anything they did on the weekends or after school. They would sit in front of me and make their plans without bothering to ask if I wanted to come. They wouldn't even include me in their everyday conversations. I felt like I wasn't important to them. I thought that meant I wasn't important to anyone. If I wasn't important to anyone around me, how could I be an important part of the body of Christ? I started to doubt my worth.

It wasn't until a friend at another school invited me to go get coffee with her - when we were sitting at the coffee shop together, it hit me. Even if others didn't always see my value, God did. I was always going to serve an important purpose in the body of Christ. This realization inspired me to start reaching out to friends that I hadn't seen in a while. I wanted to reassure them that they were also important parts of the body of Christ. I didn't want them to feel the same way I did. And I don't want y'all to either. I want y'all to remember that in the body of Christ, you serve a purpose, you are needed and you are always wanted.

Children & Family Ministry

Dir. of Children & Family Ministry: Jill Wingard – jwingard@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890x344

As I write this we are on day four of quarantine. This will be the most time we have spent together as an entire family in over a year. My oldest is home from NC State and we heard today that she will need to go and clean out her dorm in the next few days - the remainder of the semester will be taught online. There have already been many times that I have needed a mommy time out and I am sure that there will be several more in the coming weeks. I pray daily for peace and calm during this time of stress and fear.



Here are a few ideas for you and your family for the coming weeks.

Do Something for Others: Call, send a note, give blood

Do Something for Yourself: Breathe deep, stretch, sleep

Get outside: Hike, pull weeds, throw a ball around

Organize: This is the perfect time to clean out areas big and small throughout your house;

try something new: baking, painting, sewing, photography

I look forward to seeing all of you in person, until then, take a deep breath and wash your hands.

Connecting volunteers to meaningful ministries.

Want to volunteer or have a need? See Delia to help make meaningful connections. Submit volunteer opportunities by email before noon on Monday for the next Sunday bulletin.

Serving others during this particular Lent Period

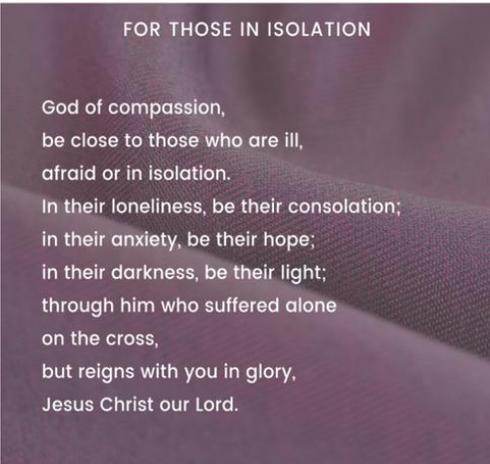
PRAYER FOR CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy,
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from
your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYER FOR CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

FOR THOSE IN ISOLATION



God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill,
afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone
on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lent is a significant season when we consciously decide to make time for reflection on Jesus Christ's passion, his suffering and sacrifice for all of us. During this time we are invited to observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline that make us live our Christianity and faith in a very meaningful way.

I was thinking if during this Lent season where we are all particularly scared by the Coronavirus emergency that is affecting many countries worldwide, and where one of the prevention rules is to maintain social distance, we have to consider serving others in a different way. Indeed, it is possible and necessary.

One of the first ways to serve differently is offering intentional prayer for people who in the midst of this pandemic situation are taking care of everyone's needs, life and health. Pray for all those who are not able to stay at home because they have to provide food and other resources to their families. Pray for all those in vulnerable situations here in our community, in this country and also around the world. Prayer is in this moment one of the most important sources to find peace and strength where we can receive and offer to others God's love and grace. We have to remember that God doesn't care if we have the perfect or a deeper prayer. He simply asks us to be faithful and express our emotions, feelings and needs.

Serving our brothers and sisters during this special Lent period offers a call and a listening ear. This could be a wonderful way to express our solidarity and love.

Now more than ever it is time to reconnect with our loved ones using the diversity of media that exists today to communicate and be sure that our family, congregation and friends have well-being, tranquility and support in case of need.

Frequently, we pass by Jesus in the face of others every day without even noticing because we're absorbed by our own lives, looking down or distracted with a constant list of things to do. But in this time of confinement, it is not possible to say that we do not have enough time.

I pray that this Lent season - quite particular - would be a time for all of us to change our conscience about what has happened in our world and a way to strengthen our faith, love and dedication to protect ourselves and others.

Spotlight on Social Ministry

Safelight



Safelight, a non-profit organization, is Henderson County's comprehensive program for victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault. Its services include a 24-hour crisis line, shelter, forensic interviews and medical exams for children who have been sexually assaulted, counseling, advocacy, support groups, community educational programs, case management, job training and more.

Over time, the organization has evolved from a strictly crisis-driven agency to one that develops and delivers longer-term services addressing community needs such as low-income housing, the unavailability of medical, mental health and substance abuse resources and the need for job training opportunities for some victims of abuse.

Safelight now includes the Believe Child Advocacy Center, Henderson County Family Justice Center, Dandelion café, Safelight Resale Store, as well as the 40-bed shelter.

"My heart was pounding and my mouth was dry. I looked around, praying we wouldn't be spotted by the neighbors. Making the choice to leave wasn't easy. I had loved and trusted this man and he was the father of my children. After months of planning and hoping for an opportunity, our time to escape was now, while I knew he was away for a few hours at an appointment. I honestly had no idea where we should go or who we could turn to for help. As I quickly packed a few bags in the waiting taxi, I told my two children we were going on an adventure. We came to Safelight where we found caring people who welcomed us and made it possible for us to start a new life together. We stayed in the shelter while the kids were able to make new friends and get used to new schools. After a few months, we were very excited to move into a transitional housing apartment. The children quickly adjusted to a new life with the help of Safelight's child therapist. I entered the job training program at the Safelight Resale Store, while continuing counseling, case management and balancing doctor appointments and time with my children. I am so thankful for Safelight and for the free and confidential help they have given my family. I am very passionate about their cause and hope I can be an example to help others in similar situations. ~Tammy

In 2016, **Safelight** became the new name for two very important and well-known agencies in the Henderson County community which merged to better provide essential services to all victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. **The Healing Place**, which has provided services for sexual assault and rape victims since 1986, expanding services to include children in the years following, and **Mainstay**, which has provided services for battered women since 1984, and shelter accommodations since 1986.

Safelight is always looking for volunteers! We have many different opportunities for those looking to give back. Please contact our new Volunteer Coordinator, Kira Isaksen, at 828-693-3840 ext. 127. We appreciate the continued support from our community!

A Message from Vicki Marthaler, The President of the Women of Grace

This month of April we will be journeying the last dark, anxious days of Jesus' life. We enter into the Passion Week with fear and trembling. Hesitant. Confused. Overwhelmed. Cautious. Alert to what is going on but unable to make sense of it all. Feebly trusting, reluctantly following.....

And then there is death. A horribly agonizing, humiliating death. And darkness. And the earth itself shakes. And Jesus is gone. Limp. Used up. Unresponsive to the wailing cries of His mother. Dead weight to those who remove Him from the cross. Hurriedly wrapped and laid in a borrowed tomb, Jesus' earthly life has been completed. In its wake are fears, grief and questions of "Now what?" "Where do we go from here?"

The Good Friday leads into the Black Saturday which finally gives way to Resurrection Sunday! The tomb is empty! Empty? The stone has been rolled away! The stone has been rolled away? The linen cloths are on the floor! The wrappings are on the floor?

And with the glorious resurrection there remains: Questions, confusion, feeble trusting and reluctant following.

Yes, being Easter people doesn't mean we have all the answers. Being Easter people doesn't automatically instill perfect faith and total trust. Being Easter people means we can begin our journey anew... Every day...with maybe one more piece of the faith puzzle in place so that we can have a smidge more confidence, one more promise to encourage us, one more song to sing on the journey and one more day to experience the love of Jesus in real time!

This picture of my youngest granddaughter, Lily, reminds me to stop, look around and take a minute to get my bearings and remember what I am about. Her umbrella protects her from the elements. Her hands hold tightly and securely to the staff that is available to her. Her sweater warms her. Her little flip-flopped feet (like Dwama Wicki ☺) are firmly planted on the solid ground. She appears to be taking in her surroundings and deciding on which way to go. And aren't we all.....



The Coronavirus Pandemic adds an extra layer of concern and confusion. We do wonder how to live well and safely. We do stand much like Lily taking stock of what's about us. Like Lily hold on! Be alert. Continue on.

May April be a glorious month of resurrection for you! May you live more confidently with your questions, be less confused, trust a little more and seek to follow closer to the One Who loves you totally and completely.

Join in the journey of Easter life with your fellow brothers and sisters of Grace. Participate in the many opportunities offered here to provide service, grow in faith and fellowship one with another. Together is better and as the April "Gather" Magazine shares an incredible article "Be Together, Not the Same," I personally invite the Women of Grace to attend the Smoky Mountain Conference Gathering (of which Grace is a part) which we are hosting at Grace on **Saturday, April 18** and also our May General Meeting – open to all women – on **Saturday, May 9**. Also, please color one of the Rachel Day posters so that we can display them throughout the month of April to lift awareness of the violence against children. Posters are available at the reception desk in the lobby. What now? Where to? Forward! Together! In Jesus' Name! Amen.

For additional information about this and other ministries of the Women of the ELCA, see the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or contact our president, Vicki Marthaler (218-849-5683).

By directing designated Choice Dollars (\$M) through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.™

Grace Lutheran Church

Barbara Fountain
Paul & Dorothy Schuette
Gregory Bruce Williams

Grace Lutheran Preschool

Robert W. Frederiksen
Billie Sue Slear

Thank you for designating Grace for your Thrivent Choice dollars!

Birthdays



Kathlene Brems	4/1	Francia Shaw	4/14	Gregory Berger	4/22
Jake Patterson	4/1	Lois Roach	4/15	Chandler Bolick	4/22
Catherine Samulski	4/1	Philip Seidel	4/15	Linda Pankhurst	4/22
Diane Sellers	4/1	Sarah Beth Freeman	4/16	Daniel Solano	4/22
Fred Martin	4/3	Carol Gillett	4/16	Pamela Badin	4/24
Adelaide Haack	4/5	Jeffrey Michels	4/16	Nancy Christy	4/24
Annah Lord	4/5	Jackson Temple	4/16	Max King	4/24
Jennifer Bufalino	4/6	Rosaleen Dawes	4/17	Lynne Presley	4/25
James Wiggins	4/6	Dale Beardsley	4/18	Jean Vierra	4/25
Ted Lawshe	4/8	Maria Resendiz	4/18	Brenda Fisher	4/26
James Oneacre	4/8	David Sebyy	4/18	Roderick Hansen	4/26
Steve Walker	4/8	Sophia Brown	4/19	Anne Monroe	4/26
Edward McIntosh	4/9	Monica Gillett	4/19	Katherine White Sill	4/26
Emily Trexler	4/9	Sheila Hartzell	4/19	Aram Davis	4/27
Jan Hoffmann	4/10	Tom Morgan	4/19	Kenneth Langsdorf	4/27
Ann Janes	4/11	Karen Bowman	4/20	Renne Barolet	4/28
Delia Jovel Dubon	4/12	Thomas Tews	4/20	Dave Slagle	4/28
Janice Mickle	4/12	Suzanne Hale	4/21	Donna Hamilton	4/29
Nancy Bellick	4/13	Marcella Sims	4/21	Melissa Walden	4/29
Vicki Marthaler	4/14	Kristine Sochia	4/21	Angelika Yannuzzi	4/29
Lynda Martinez	4/14	Yong Weber	4/21		

Anniversaries



Chris & Gaillee Davis	4/4/2016	Doug & Charn Fennell	4/18/2015
David & Myrnelle Wulff	4/6/2002	Leah & Wayne Scroggin	4/19/1975
John & Ann Janes	4/7/2006	Chris & Christine Smith	4/19/1983
Joe & Kathy Stancar	4/8/1972	Rick & Virginia Rehn	4/20/1985
Bob & Lorna Farrell	4/9/2013	Jim & Jan Hendley	4/21/1979
Gary & Pat Gardner	4/9/1988	Max & Alli King	4/26/2014
Bridget & Ronald Monroe	4/11/1998	Way & Deanna Plowman	4/28/2001
Steve & Ivy Walker	4/16/2013	Vianey & Saul Solano	4/29/1995
Bruce & Lesley Darrah	4/18/2009		

You can't blame
gravity for *falling*
in love.

ALBERT EINSTEIN



Grace Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

1245 6th Ave W
Hendersonville NC 28739
Return Service Requested

AND THE PEOPLE STAYED HOME

"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows.

And the people began to think differently.
And the people healed.

And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."

Kitty O'Meara