

Grace Vine

Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA
1245 6th Ave. W., Hendersonville NC 28739
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May 2019

THE JOY OF SERVING

Serving in Small Ways

Six years ago, I retired from my job in Kernersville, NC. My wife, Connie, shared with me on several occasions that when I retired, she would love to move to the mountains of Western North Carolina. Being a dutiful husband, we did move to western North Carolina.

Once we got settled into our new house and found a church we loved, I found myself with the challenge of, what now? I started exploring volunteer opportunities. I quickly discovered there were numerous volunteer opportunities, within our church and within our community. Once I narrowed the volunteer opportunities down to a reasonable amount, my serving began.

As well as volunteering at Grace, I volunteer at Pardee Hospital and with the Fish organization. I have found it most gratifying to help people in need. It gives me great pleasure to have people tell me thank you after I transport them and/or escort them to their destinations. They make it known they could not have made their appointment in a timely manner without my help. I am also a volunteer chaplain for the hospital. In July, I will take over as chairman of the hospital volunteer services.

My church ministries also give me great joy. I delight in singing with the Praise Band, along with my involvement with Stephen Ministry. I also schedule the monthly calendar for Grace hospital volunteers to visit Grace patients at Pardee. I served a term on the church council.

I hope sharing my faith journey through my testimony with you will inspire you to offer your talents by volunteering in Grace ministries and/or our community.

Dave Weber



Reflections from Pastor Alfredo Oviedo

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

Books: The Collective Memory of God's People and Civilization

Go now, write it before them on a tablet, and inscribe it in a book, so that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever. (Isaiah 30:8 NRSV)



Thanks to God, to my father's commitment to education, a loving elementary teacher, and my mother's desire to get some respite at home, I entered first grade at age four and since then, books have been my faithful companions. The concept of *a book as a witness forever* in Isaiah 30:8 is interesting; its immediate context is the pre-Babylonian exile (VI Century BCE) in reference to Israel's rebellion. An aspect of God's prophet's calling has been, in Luther's words, "to call things as they are:" a relentless commitment to the truth. To God's people's rebellion, God's answer has always been Grace; a passage from repentance to faith, that transforms and liberates people to choose God and God's ways right here now and for eternity. Then, it seems both writing and reading books play an important role in God's people's faith formation, for books may reflect our most inner thoughts and feelings, inspire deepest faith, connect us to people, times, and places far beyond our imagination, but mainly, connect us to people of faith and people of no faith...and through their stories connect us to God and to eternity.

Members of Grace who know a lot more about books than most of us do are Sandi and David Litogot, they are in charge of our Library Ministry. I have asked them for help to complete this article and I have copied verbatim what they would like to share with all of us...Thanks Sandi and David.

"One of the many wonderful ministries at Grace is the loving care and maintenance of the library. During the last couple of years there has been a lot of cleaning, sorting and updating of the books. There are new categories such as: Bible study, inspiration, prayer, Luther the man, Christian fiction, grief, current interest, other faiths, just to name a few. We also have Bibles, DVDs, and a wonderful collection of children/young adults and parenting books.

We have a card catalog filed by author, as well as a subject section, DVD and children/young adult/parenting. If you do not want to use the card catalog, just browse the shelves. The categories are labeled and books arranged in ABC order. We encourage book reviews. There is a binder with some reviews but plenty of room for more. Here are a few thoughts and recommendations.

No doubt many of you have read David Baldacci books. He is a writer of mysteries, espionage and intrigue. However, he wrote "One Summer" which is nothing like the others. There is a review in the binder and it is highly recommended.

Of course we have many books by Max Lucado, an incomparable wordsmith with a very special gift of packing a great deal of wisdom and also touching the heart.

Many people are not familiar with Andy Stanley who is Charles Stanley's son. He wrote a wonderful book called "Am I Good Enough?" He asks the question "How good do I have to be to get into heaven? Can my good outweigh the bad?" We all know that sin has consequences but how do we "pay" for those sins"? To put it bluntly... we can't. You can actually read this little book in a couple hours to find out the answer.

Have you heard of a young boy called Mattie Stepanek? He is a poet and peacemaker who began writing at age three. A rare form of muscular dystrophy took him home to Jesus at a young age. He was wise beyond his years. We have three of his wonderful poetry books and you will love them. Get a Kleenex for smiles and tears!

One book you may really wish to read is by John Ortberg. "If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get Out of the Boat! He will take you on a challenging ride and help you to be a "Water Walker." Just think, "God can take what you have to offer and make a difference that matters for eternity! (Ortberg)

Ever heard of David Gregory? He wrote a marvelous book about having dinner with a stranger which turned out to be a very thought-provoking, life-changing experience. A bit humorous too! There is a review in the binder. Read it and then read the book. You will love it.

There are books to satisfy every personality and intellect. If you read a book that inspires you, reaches into your heart and triggers your emotions, please write a review. Maybe it will do the same for someone else.

Come into the Grace library, browse, and become familiar with what is offered. Select a book, sign it out (there is no time limit and no fines!), take it home and in the quiet of your recliner expand your knowledge and soak in God's wisdom and message."

In the love of God,
Rev. Alfredo M. Oviedo.

Music Ministry

Director of Music: Burton Bumgarner – bbumgarner@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 x306

The Requiem by Gabriel Faure

Featured Faure's original chamber instrumentation from 1880 – violin, viola, cello, bass, harp and organ.



Grace Youth Ministry

Director of Youth Ministry: Anne Monroe – amonroe@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 x309

There's grace for that/Hay gracia para todo.

Thank you Grace Family for all who joined us and supported our Youth for the annual Youth Sunday on March 31. Thank you also to the KiDD's Club for the beautiful offertory anthem and council for providing the congregational lunch afterwards. If you missed our Mission Trip team and senior sermonettes, these are printed in the lobby area for you to read.

Youth Director, Anne Marie Monroe
with Grace Youth



Sabbatical time for Anne Marie Monroe



I have been generously offered sabbatical leave by the church council, and I am extremely grateful for this opportunity. I have committed to use my sabbatical grant in two ways: 1. rest and renewal time spent with my family and friends, and 2. Reflection, spiritual pilgrimage, cultural, and historical hiking experience on the El Camino de Santiago in Spain. I have enjoyed speaking with several of you in person about the sabbatical plans. One of our high school youth said it best: "We will miss you, but are so excited for you!"

Over Easter weekend I will be joining my family at Sunset Beach, NC, a joyful and relaxing place for our family. On May 1, I am excited to take my niece to Paw Patrol Live in Asheville to experience her favorite cartoon characters in action on stage. The first weekend in May, I will be enjoying a music camping festival with friends in Hot Springs. On May 11, I begin my journey to Spain for my Camino Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela which begins in Bilbao, Spain on May 14.

What is the El Camino de Santiago?

In the short film: "A Camino de Santiago Story: To the End of the World" by Hank Leukart, he encounters a nun in Santiago that shares, "The Camino is God's dream for how people should be when they are with each other."

The El Camino de Santiago is a historic pilgrimage across northern Spain, and is an inward faith-seeking journey as well as physical. Known in English as the Way of Saint James, this is a network of pilgrimages leading to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain. Many follow its routes as a form of spiritual path or retreat for their spiritual growth. Today, hundreds of thousands (over 300,000 in 2017) of Christian pilgrims and many others set out each year from their homes or popular starting points across Europe, to make their way to Santiago de Compostela. A large mass is celebrated in the cathedral at the end of the pilgrimage.

Why?

Walking the Camino as a pilgrim has been a goal of mine for several years. Typically walking the most popular Camino route takes over 40 days without rest days. I have found a tour with a shorter pilgrim path of 15 days that will allow me to experience the Camino in the sabbatical time frame allotted. The northern route, the Camino Primitivo, which is the path I desire to take, is one of the routes listed in the World Heritage List by UNESCO. Many pilgrims on "The Way" have a reason they are walking the Camino. While encountering these historical, spiritual, and cultural experiences, Pastor Greg has challenged me to use the time walking the Camino in reflection with daily journaling. I feel very passionate that participating in this spiritual growth challenge that will shape my future, faith, and be an experience of a lifetime.

Taking Grace along 'The Way'

The scallop shell is the most iconic symbol associated with the El Camino de Santiago. It's seen everywhere, from churches and distance markers to pavements and backpacks. The modern pilgrim embarking on The Way can see the scallop shell at every turn, guiding them on milestone markers and providing a reassuring point in the right direction. Traditionally, many pilgrims wear the shell, either around their neck or attached to their backpack. Grace member and volunteer receptionist, Kathy Morgan Reinhard, who has walked the entire Camino Frances route, surprised me with the gift of my own pilgrim shell to attach to my backpack. With this meaningful gift, I can carry a symbol of Grace Lutheran with me along The Way.



Thank you

Thank you Grace Council and Grace Members for your support and this generous opportunity! Thank you also to the Grace Staff and adult guide volunteers who will be leading our youth ministry activities while I am away. I return to the office June 3. Grace Lutheran is a wonderful place to serve, and I am grateful for my time on staff, looking forward to the future. I pray this sabbatical time will be filled with learning, spiritual reflection and renewal: "There but for the grace of God, go I."

Helpful resources: if you would like to know more about the El Camino de Santiago

- 2010 movie "The Way": drama film directed, produced and written by Emilio Estevez, starring his father Martin Sheen - available for rental download through iTunes or YouTube
- "A Camino de Santiago Story: To the End of the World", a short film by Hank Leukart - free on YouTube
- "To the Field of Stars" a pilgrim's journey book by Kevin A. Codd

Anne Monroe

Gifts Ministry

Director of Gifts Ministry: Delia Jovel – djovel@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 x316



Connecting volunteers to meaningful ministries.

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

Thank you for your Service ...

Wellness Ministry

In 2011, the Wellness Committee was added under Congregational Care. As a medical professional working at Pardee, I felt this might be a good fit for me. We held CPR classes for the staff along with AED training. Seven first aid boxes were placed throughout the church building, and these are kept updated as needed. A larger medical box in the usher's closet was updated.

We held some seminars with speakers from Pardee and an exercise group concentrating on cardio and strength training was started. This class is a video-led cardio and strengthening workout, the equivalent of a 4-mile walk. The class is held in Stull Hall, 9-10 a.m., on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from January thru November.

We have a unique group of women, ages mid 50's to early 80's, both Grace members and non-members. We devote together, share our joys and concerns, and usually join together for a lunch or two during the year. Our group numbers vary depending on people's schedules. The class can range from 5 to 14. Either way, we enjoy our time together as we aim to stay fit. We have had good successes with weight loss and especially balance improvement. If you are looking for an interesting group of women and working on fitness at the same time, come and join us in Stull Hall.

Carlene Belanger

Stewardship: Planned Giving

Our congregation council is excited to announce that we will be working with our Regional Gift Planner from the ELCA Foundation, Deacon Mitzie Schafer, to help us prepare and update important documents that will allow for appropriate and faithful acceptance of special gifts from members of Grace and the community. These are gifts that go above and beyond our regular tithes and offerings. There is no charge to Grace or to members for the work that she provides. She does not work on commission and has nothing to sell us. Mitzie's work is completely funded by the ELCA Foundation and our regional ELCA partners. Our NC Synod pays in on behalf of all congregations in the synod, so they can benefit from this service. She will be assisting us through the Legacy Funding Plan process which includes drafting a Gift Policy and reviewing Endowment By-laws. Mitzie will also present two Planned Giving Workshops at Grace. Sadly, 70% of estate plans fail to pay out the way the donor intended. A Will is not enough. This workshop is for those interested in learning more about a faithful and comprehensive estate plan resource. Additional information and dates for the workshops will follow.

Spotlight on Social Ministry

Living Waters Lutheran Church



As time progresses, our getting to know the folks at Living Waters Lutheran Church has increased and now we have another opportunity to collect non-perishables for distribution at their food pantry. We have learned that some months they have served 442 families that represent 1,646 individuals. One client of theirs named Jack said that it's crucial to realize the inspirations of the items he receives for his family of five. He affirms that the Living Waters pantry is a life saver because even though he works two jobs and his wife part-time (she cares for her ailing mother), each month is hard and

their family survives with the pantry's help.

We are privileged to play a part in helping families with their needs and revealing our love of Christ as we serve. Being partners with Living Waters is an exciting adventure. Thank you for caring and sharing.

Spotlight on Social Ministry

Children and Family Resource Center

The Children and Family Resource Center is a multifaceted agency that supports children and their families from prenatal to adult. It is one of the agencies that our Social Ministry Committee helps. I was privileged to meet with Renee, one of the staff who shared her work with the Crisis Response Program with me.

During the interview I learned that the main focus of Renee's job is to plug clients into the appropriate resources especially during times of crisis. She shared the story of Sheila who unexpectedly became a mother at the age of forty-three. She lived in a rent-to-own mobile home, and her hopes were to eventually own the trailer. The trailer was in terrible condition. The landlord put a price of \$127,000 on this tenement home valued at only \$30,000. Then he soon evicted Sheila when she could not meet her payments.

Through efforts of the Children and Family Resource Center, Sheila has a happy ending to her story. The board president happened to be an attorney who represented Sheila as a pro bono client. He exposed the landlord for his shady dealings. The landlord backed down from going to court and even returned some money. In addition with their emergency funds, the Center was able to give Sheila \$500, cell phone service for a month, and baby supplies. Now in a better place, this single mother has a good job and affordable child care.

At the end of the interview I learned that Sheila was representative of people who seek help from the Children and Family Resource Center's Community Response Program. She emphasized that the big needs for her clients are affordable child care, housing, and transportation. The biggest stumbling blocks are rent-to-own substandard housing and dishonest financing at used car lots. Because of dedicated staff like Renee, many families have a place to turn to for better living conditions.

Diane Sellers
Social Ministry Committee Member

“Jesus said, I am the Light of the World.”

Easter has arrived! The tomb is empty! Jesus has risen! The darkness of death gives way to the Light of Life! And, as we all know, Light makes a profound difference.



“The story is told of a traveler who recently visited a small village in the France. The village had been preserved since the sixteenth century and when the traveler arrived in the city one evening he heard the bell of the church sounding. The church was dark and the people were hastening through the narrow streets, each one carrying something in his hand. Going closer the traveler saw that they were carrying bronze lamps of a very old pattern, oil lamps with a wick.

Joining the company, our traveler asked why each one had a lamp. A villager replied, ‘We have no other way of lighting our church. In 1550, when it was built, the lord of the village decided that each one should bring his lamp. The lamps belong to the church, which lends one to each member. We light them at a torch as we go in.’

The traveler asked ‘Does that not keep people away from the evening services?’ The villager replied, ‘On the contrary, our church is called the Church of the Lighted Lamps. Everyone goes there to make it brighter. If a person stays at home, the church will be darker. The pastor must have all the lighted lamps before him and every dark place means someone is away from the village or has an illness or is bereaved.’”

The traveler went into the old church and saw a stand in front of each seat on which to place the lighted lamp. Under each stand there was a card with the name of the present holder of the lamp. Thus for many centuries the lamps have passed from hand to hand and their innumerable soft little lights have symbolized the union of the whole village in the presence of God. “

As Women of the ELCA, “we are called out of the darkness and into His marvelous Light! “ (1 Peter 2:9b) We are called to be a Light in dark places and to brighten the way for others that they, too, may walk in the Light as we are in the Light. As the villagers in the story, we are keepers of the Light of Christ. **Together, as the Light Bearers we are created and called to be,** we make a profound difference.

During this month of May take special note of when the various circles are meeting and write down the dates and times on your calendar. Join your Light with the Light of others! Your Light is needed! Also, reserve **Saturday, May 18**, to attend The Women of Grace’s general meeting to be held in Stull Hall beginning at 10 a.m. The program speaker will be Beth Ann Lehr who will discuss her mission trip to Peru. **Every woman of Grace is invited to attend!** So gather! Let your Light shine!

Blessings, Vicki Marthaler, President of Grace WELCA

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.

<p>Grace Lutheran Church Nancy Bellick Barbara J. Fountain Shirley M. Gray Marjorie A. Jones George E. Kiefer Joy A. Kiefer Matthew R Kiefer Edward W. Lichtenhagen Judith E. Lichtenhagen Timothy J. Snyder Einar O Syvertson Barbara S. Treptow</p>	<p>Grace Lutheran Preschool Nancy Bellick Robert Frederiksen Dennis J. Gough Rheta Luy Richard C. Luy Billie S. Slear Susan G. Snyder</p>
<p align="center">Thank you for designating Grace for your Thrivent Choice dollars!</p>	

Gift of Giving Party for The Boys and Girls Club is Expanding



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

First United Methodist Church launched this event in 2009 to give the Club children an opportunity to select a few gifts for their caregivers and to experience – often for the first time – the joy of giving.

Last year, Club membership exceeded FUMC's capacity, so they needed to scale back to serve just 150 middle and high school members. Grace Lutheran partnered with FUMC, at this time, with volunteers and donations.

The Club continues to grow with membership now expected to exceed 400 children. This challenge called for a creative solution, and we found one: First United Methodist Church will host the Party on 2 evenings!

FUMC will open their doors twice to accommodate every Club member with the help of many volunteers from FUMC and Grace Lutheran. This plan has been approved by the leadership of both churches, and is heartily applauded by the Club.

SAVE THE DATES:

FUMC will welcome 6th -12th grade Club members on Monday, Dec. 9, and

Kindergarten - 5th grade Club members on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Within the next few months, you'll hear more about the party and how you can support this festive event. The Gift of Giving Party team is confident that this double-header event will be as successful and meaningful for the children as always.

Sandi & Bill Brust

Disciple Bible Study

Have you ever wondered what it's like to really know your Bible? Have you many more questions about the Bible than answers? Have you ever wondered how some people can be so enthusiastic about the Bible, and find it so interesting?

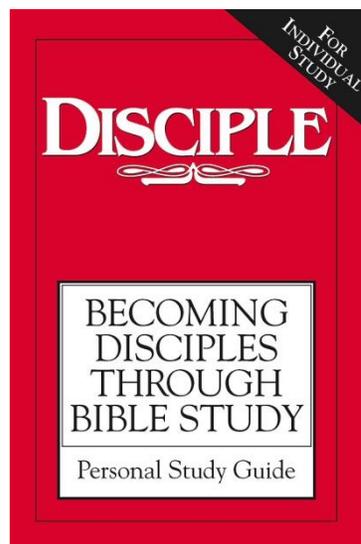
Then, the inevitable questions come up as to how could I find out about that? Doesn't that require an awful lot of study, lectures, and meetings? NO!

There is a way – the Disciple Bible study program that Grace offers to all, both members and non-members. This series can deepen your faith in, knowledge of, and understanding of God's Word. Most importantly:

- There are no requirements or prerequisites to take these courses, except that your first Disciple Study must be Disciple 1 – Overview of the Bible.
- The meetings are geared towards those who just want to get a better understanding of the Bible, life, and all the difficulties that we might face.
- There are no professors or instructors, but facilitators who encourage us to read and discuss certain key parts of the Bible, and help us to keep on track.
- There's a wonderful manual associated with each part of the series, which provides a guide to reading, and thought-provoking questions to stimulate.
- The atmosphere of each meeting soon becomes very friendly and open, where even total strangers become close friends as they share opinions and insights.
- And the best part is the amazement and satisfaction you get by the conclusion of each segment of the Disciple series – not to mention the intimate knowledge you acquire of God's Word.

Disciple Bible Study is open to members and community. Ask a friend to join you in this unique and transforming study. To get more information, contact Greg Dodd at Grace, 828-693-4890, or Irene Syvertson, 828-329-6902. Sign up for classes will run from Sunday, June 30 through Sunday, July 21. The only cost for the program is the purchase of your study manual.

Registration can still be made after those dates either through Grace's online website <https://gracehendersonville.com/> or through Greg Dodd, 828-693-4890 ext. 303, but student manual prices will be slightly higher.



Birthdays



Heather Brown	5/1	Evelia Solano-Jimenez	5/11	Ellen Morrison	5/20
Denise Pryor	5/1	Elise Trexler	5/11	Horst Wenz	5/23
Donald Bell	5/2	Claire Darrah	5/12	Shelley Clay	5/24
Margie Capell	5/2	Ada Gough	5/12	Eric Hagstrom	5/24
Douglas Fennell	5/2	William Killian	5/12	Jason Heilemann	5/24
Miranda Freeman	5/2	John Simons	5/12	Michael Hoffmann	5/24
David Carver	5/3	Megan Pigors	5/13	Katherine Van Horne	5/24
Kevin Milford	5/5	Vanessa Wingard	5/14	Otto Hoegger	5/26
Ada Morava	5/5	Karla Edwards	5/15	Mary Tody	5/26
Jovanna Porter	5/5	Donna Southard	5/15	Cindy Bonincontri	5/27
Carol Honeycutt	5/6	Douglass Decker	5/16	Wesley Curry	5/27
Helen Dunn	5/7	Patricia Malinak	5/16	Penny Lord	5/28
Paulette Zachman	5/7	Irene Syvertson	5/16	Judy Waldrop	5/28
Delores Braun	5/8	Debbie Freeman	5/17	Robert Andersen	5/29
Martha Keiser	5/9	Christine Ring	5/17	JoAnne Mummert	5/29
Shelley Bickner	5/10	Steven Buman	5/18	Beverly Cannady	5/30
Madeline Havener	5/10	Billie Slear	5/18	Patricia Fisher	5/30
Jennifer Parson	5/10	Noe Acosta	5/19	Rita Purdy	5/30
Virginia Rehn	5/10	Susan Carlson	5/20	Anthony Rees	5/30
		Caroline Chavez	5/20	Charles Waldrop	5/30

Anniversaries



Danile & Auroa Solano-Delgado	5/1/1982	John & Annah Lord	5/24/2008
Henry & Barb Koch	5/3/1969	Andy & Barbara Pytel	5/24/1985
Shay & Cornelia Nelson Hane	5/5/1968	John & Cindy Simons	5/24/1998
Gary & Lynn Kester	5/8/2010	Fred & D'Anne Martin	5/25/1985
Wade & Caroline Patterson	5/11/1996	Kemper & Mandy Gibson	5/28/2016
Bill & Becky Schmidt	5/13/1978	Jerry & Emilee Liedel Cantieri	5/28/2016
Tani & Misty Masha	5/17/2003	Charlie & Katie Bolick	5/30/1993
Jon & Muriel Lambert	5/18/1977	Joe & Carol Gillett	5/30/1969
David & Barbara Bair	5/19/1973	John & Bonnie Wells	5/30/1960
Jim & Jane Hunt	5/19/1973	Nick & Rachel Cummings	5/31/2014
Bill & Sharon Wohlt	5/19/1972		
Jeff & Simons Michels	5/20/1989		
Wayne & Yvonne Forsythe	5/21/1977		



Grace Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

1245 6th Ave W
Hendersonville NC 28739
*****Return Service Requested*****

Celebrate the Ministries of Lutheran Services Carolinas in May
"Everybody Get Together"



"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25

Each year, congregations in North Carolina set aside a special Sunday in May to celebrate their partnership with Lutheran Services Carolinas and to learn more about the mission and vision of LSC. Thank you for joining with us, thank you for your support, and thank you for honoring the work of LSC this month and throughout the year. In 2018, LSC served nearly 8,000 individuals and families including seniors and caregivers, children in foster care, those affected by natural disasters, refugees, unaccompanied children, and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

This month, consider ways in which you can show compassion to the vulnerable populations within your own community. You could volunteer your time at a local LSC program or make a tax-deductible contribution. Checks can be made payable to Lutheran Services Carolinas and mailed to P.O. Box 947, Salisbury, NC 28145. Gifts also can be made securely online at LSCarolinas.net.

Please come together with Lutheran Services Carolinas as we serve as the "hands of the church" to provide healing and hope for those in need. For more information, visit LSCarolinas.net or call 1-800-HELPING.