

Grace Vine

Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA

1245 6th Ave. W., Hendersonville NC 28739

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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.

Purpose: Transforming Lives Through Christ.

April 2019

The Joy of Serving: Serving in Small Ways

Many serving opportunities – Try something new



We read in the bulletin and GraceVine the many opportunities to serve God's church. Many volunteers are needed each week in the many ministries here at Grace. People have a tendency to consider only those areas that pertain to their present job or former careers. Their 'comfort zone' so to speak. You have more skills than you give yourself credit. God has blessed us with many gifts

I remember an article I read that gave tips on evaluating your skills in seeking new opportunities. Stay at home mom or dads were used as an example of the many skills it takes to run a household. Think about organizing family schedules, planning and shopping for meals, budgeting household expenses, caring for family members in sickness and health, saving for college, just to name a few. Many different gifts are needed to accomplish these duties.

In my case I reared two wonderful children. I stayed home for their younger years and went back to nursing when they were older. I am now retired. I attend worship regularly and lead worship as a lesson reader and as a member of the choir. I participate in Bible studies, play in the bell choir, and serve as an officer on council. I am involved in ministries in the community such as Servant Saturday, Hot Dogs and Hugs, Thrive Christmas dinner, served meals at the Joseph center, and now serve as Finance Secretary. WAIT a minute!! Financial Secretary. I attended business courses in school but then switched my major to medicine. My main career has been in nursing. I became involved in finance, helping my husband who was serving as financial secretary at the time six years ago. I learned this ministry and was able to help out when my husband needed surgery. I enjoyed serving in finance and accepted the position to serve. I am now in my third year as Finance Secretary. I thank God for the opportunity to serve.

I stepped out of my comfort zone and started a new challenge. I encourage you to do the same. Pray about how you can serve. Try a new ministry here at Grace. We have many gifted wonderful caring people in our church family and staff that are supportive. I receive far more blessings in return than I can ever give while serving our awesome congregation. I am truly blessed to be a part of the ministries here at Grace.

God's Grace and Peace,

Chris Ring

Message from Pastor Ken

Pastor Ken Langsdorf – klangsdorf@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 x305

An Ancient Voice proclaims the Good News of Easter

There is an ancient writing that I like to contemplate each Easter. I share it with you here for your reflection as well. It is from St. John Chrysostom ("The Golden Tongue") Archbishop of Constantinople, who lived 344-407. This reading is a portion of his *Catechetical Address*.

His message that is from long ago yet fresh and meaningful for us today.

A section of this address says:

Let no one weep for his iniquities, for forgiveness shines forth from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the savior's death has set us free.

He who was held prisoner by death has annihilated it.

By descending into death, he made death captive.

He angered it when it tasted of his flesh.

Isaiah saw this, and he cried: Death was angered when it encountered you in the lower regions.

It was angered, for it was defeated.

It was angered, for it was mocked.

It was angered, for it was abolished.

It was angered, for it was overthrown.

It was angered, for it was bound in chains.

It received a body and it met God face to face.

It took earth and encountered heaven.

It took that which is seen and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting?

O Grave, where is your victory?

Christ is risen and you are overthrown.

Christ is risen and the devils have fallen.

Christ is risen and the angels rejoice.

Christ is risen and life reigns.

Christ is risen and not one dead remains in the grave.

For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep, and to him be glory and honor, even to eternity. Amen.

And Amen.

May the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection fill and bless you today and for eternity as you live in the victory of Jesus.

Pastor Ken Langsdorf



Grace Youth Ministry

Director of Youth 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, Youth Sunday, and Holy Week as worship assistants. Sixth grader Jeremy Klingensmith shares: "I like reading as a lector in the worship service because the text helps me understand what God means." We appreciate all you do!



THIS IS ME!



Sophomore 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 and shared with over 300 youth at this year's LYO Assembly Retreat in Greensboro, NC:

"Have you ever been asked who you were? Like in the simplest of ways - what you were involved in and where you were from? I don't know about you, but when I'm asked questions like this, I usually respond with things like... I'm a sophomore and I attend Grace Lutheran in Hendersonville. I'm a cheerleader, an honor student, an active youth group member, a member of the Kiwanis, and a math tutor. I'm also a child of God. But why wasn't this the first thing I thought of? Isn't that the one thing that will never change?"

Even though that's how I feel I should usually answer the question of "who am I?," I find myself often relying on my own abilities and accomplishments more than God. Last year was really rough for me. I was a freshman. I was already taking a few sophomore classes and all of my main subject classes were honors. I had an insanely crazy schedule and tons of school work. Free time was not in my vocabulary. At the beginning of the year, I had everything under control and I was doing great. I kept my grades up, I was active in all my clubs and activities and my teachers were awesome. As the year progressed, I was struggling: a few hours' worth of homework, late nights from games and trying to stay active in church and other clubs. There weren't enough hours in the day for me. Trying to keep up with all my school work and my schedule, I let church fall by the wayside. For a while, I stopped going. I kept telling myself, "I can use that time to work on that project or I can use that time to work on my paper." I was breaking down. I was putting all the pressure on myself and wasn't asking for help. I wasn't

asking God for help. I felt like my relationship with God was broken and I felt like I was broken. I thought I had to fix my own problems before I could go to God about it.

It was during the advent season and the Wednesday night services had begun, but I still needed that valuable time to finish all my school work. I kept insisting that I just stay home while everyone else went. My mom did not find this acceptable and forced me to go. I was really frustrated because I felt like she didn't understand the amount of pressure I was under. I just kept thinking about all the assignments I had to complete when I got back and all the work I could be getting done at that moment. Now looking back on it, I'm thankful that my mom made me go because it was that night at service when I remembered that God was there for you even when you are broken. Even though you are broken, you are still loved. God's love is unconditional. After that night, the rest of my school year was better. Not because I had less work or I miraculously had more hours in the day, but because I remembered that I could always take my problems and anxiety to God and that even though I was broken, I was still loved. To answer that question again, "Who am I?" I am Nelson Wiggins. I am broken and loved. I am a child of God."

GYM Generosity



May this story of our student's generosity brighten your day with hope, light, and love.

From 11th grader Elise Trexler: "Nelson Wiggins (10th grade) and I were at goodwill shopping for LYO banquet outfits. I saw these pants, they were awesome! We picked them up and started trying stuff on, and I felt something in the pants pocket. I pulled it out and we saw it was \$270 and we were both super shocked. We didn't know what to do with it, so we asked our moms. They told us to do whatever you want with it because there was no ID in the pants. Together we decided to put \$170 of it in other pants around the store so other people could find it, and donated \$100 of it to youth group scholarships." Thank you Elise and Nelson for your generosity and giving spirits!

Gifts Ministry

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

Connecting volunteers to meaningful ministries. Want to volunteer? Sign up in lobby or see Delia to help make meaningful connections. Submit volunteer needs by email before noon on Monday.

Volunteering at Grace

Why I Volunteer with the Choir: "I have been a member of the Grace choir since I joined the church in 1987. I grew up in a Lutheran Church in Vermont where my parents sang in the choir and where I started in the youth choir at age 6. We were taught that the purpose of the choir was to help lead the congregation in the singing of the hymns and meaningful participation in the liturgy. As a bonus we got to sing an anthem!

I was very happy to find a new church home here that had a choir and welcomed me into their group. Over these past years many changes have taken place at Grace; the one constant has been the singers that have given their time and talent to serve the Grace congregation.

Having Burton as our Director of Music has enriched our lives in so many ways. As a group we are friends supporting each other and enjoy singing all the wonderful hymns and anthems in praise to God and our Grace family. In addition we attend memorial services as a group to participate in the service to support the deceased's family.

If you have sung in a choir in the past or if you never have but wanted to, please join us. We happily welcome new members joining us in song." ~Carlene Belanger

Why I Volunteer With the Quilting Group: "As a 3rd or 4th grader, my mother taught me to sew. As a newlywed, Tim's grandmother taught me to quilt (while she spoke Pennsylvania Dutch—interesting one-sided conversation). Now that Tim and I are retired, I have time to do the things I enjoy like sewing, but who needs more stuff—quilts, wall hangings, wraps, etc.? With the help of many others, I have the skill, so I make quilts that are useful for many in need. I feel good that my time is being used for someone both locally and globally to have something to wrap up in, something to remind them that someone somewhere was thinking of them in their need. They receive good things, I feel good, plus I get the added pleasure of being with other women who enjoy a similar hobby. I know I'm not making a huge impact in the big world, but I can think of one refugee family, one abused woman, one homeless veteran that is wrapping up in a quilt. It makes me smile!" ~Susan Snyder

Why I Volunteer as Co-Chair on Social Ministry: "I began serving on Social Ministry in January 2015 just before Bill and I became members of Grace. Chris Ring encouraged me to attend the meeting and I was immediately welcomed by the committee. At that time, Vicki Stanfield-Switzer was stepping down as Grace's liaison to the Rescue Mission. I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding me to follow in Vicki's footsteps and I began serving as Grace's liaison and front desk volunteer at the Rescue Mission. In January 2016, I was asked to serve as Co-Chair of Social Ministry, along with Jim Krause. Again, the Holy Spirit guided me in accepting this call. Over the past three years I have become very familiar with the various agencies and ministries that Grace supports. We have invited many representatives of these agencies to attend our meetings and in turn, we have toured facilities such as IAM, Children and Family Resources, Blue Ridge Community Health Services and Rescue Mission. Through the combined efforts of our Social Ministry volunteers and members of Grace, we make a significant impact in our community. Please consider joining this great group of people who share their gifts with a collective servant's heart." ~Becky Schmidt

Grace Preschool

Director: Beth Ann Lehr – balehr@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 x318

Please Follow the Preschool on Facebook: facebook.com/gracepreschoolhendersonville



Thanks to a very generous donation from a Grace Lutheran family, our Preschool children have benefited from our new dramatic play stage mirror. Lowe's Home Improvement Center took this donation one step further and donated all of the material for Mark Ross, Faye Ross's (3's Teacher) husband, to create a vibrant red frame around the mirror. As the photo shows, our children are really enjoying dramatic play. I see future Flat Rock Theatre thespians in the making!

Our annual Blue Ridge Humane Society donation drive was a huge success. Five large boxes of cat and dog food, toys and bedding were delivered to help our furry friends at the shelter. The 3's created yummy dog bones and cat treats to brighten the animals' days.

Preschool Registration for Fall 2019-2020: If you are interested in your child or grandchild attending Grace Preschool in the Fall, please register promptly since class openings fill up quickly. Additional programs include Earlybirds, Aftercare, and Summer Camp for registered children. Grace Lutheran Preschool was rated the prestigious award of "Best Preschool" "Best Childcare" and "Best Aftercare Program" and "Best Parent/Child Program" in Western North Carolina by WNC Parent magazine and "Best Preschool" in Hendersonville "by the Times News.

Want to know more about our Preschool on a weekly basis?

The Preschool **Facebook** page is updated daily and weekly with curriculum and various happenings at the Preschool. To learn more, please look at our Facebook site: www.facebook.com/gracepreschoolhendersonville



Spotlight on Social Ministry

Servant Saturday

This year marks the 25th year Grace Members will show their "generosity" by giving of their time and talent to support many nonprofit agencies in Henderson County. Among these agency partners are Hendersonville Rescue Mission, IAM, Four Seasons Compassion for Life, Boys and Girls Club, and Safelight to name a few. The activities range from spring plantings, mulching, spring clean up to painting. No special tools or skills are needed, only the desire to give "generously" of your time and talent.

Sign up begins Sunday, March 31 and runs through Friday, April 26. All projects will be available in the church lobby for you to review and select the project which you and your family would like to complete.

On Saturday, April 27, we will meet in Stull Hall at 8 a.m. for a hearty breakfast prepared by the Men in Mission prior to heading out with your team to complete the selected project.

**God's work.
Our hands.**



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

**Thank you for designating Grace for your
Thrivent Choice dollars!**

Grace Lutheran Church

Barbara Fountain
Gary Gardner
Thomas Kasischke
Christine Ring
Dorothy Schuette
Paul Schuette
Charles Spangler
Joseph Stancar

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday services, Sunday, April 14, 8:15 & 9:45 a.m.,

Traditional; 11:15 a.m., Contemporary

Maundy Thursday services, Thursday, April 18, 12:15 & 7 p.m.

Good Friday services, Friday, April 19, 12:15 & 7 p.m.

Easter Services:

Easter Sunday services: Sunday, April 21, 8:15 a.m. "Sunrise" service;

9:45 a.m., Traditional; 11:15 a.m., Contemporary



Holy Week & Easter Highlights

During Holy Week worship services, we make a virtual pilgrimage with Jesus from Palm Sunday to the cross and to resurrection. The liturgy and music of each service is dramatic, enveloping the worshiper to create a deeper appreciation for the salvation Jesus brings as he remains faithful to God's love for all people.

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14: All Sunday services will focus on the triumphant arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem, remembering how that joyous atmosphere quickly changed to one filled with animosity resulting in Jesus' death.

Maundy Thursday, April 18: Grace will remember the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples prior to his arrest and crucifixion in two services, 12:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. Holy Communion will be around tables in groups. This has been a meaningful tradition at Grace for many years.

Good Friday, April 19: Two service times are offered - 12:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. This service follows the format of the ancient "Tenebrae" service. It is a "Service of Shadows" as Bible passages prophesying the Messiah and ones about the crucifixion of Jesus are read. After each passage, candles and lights are sequentially extinguished leaving worshipers in darkness - reminiscent of Jesus' body being laid in the tomb. A hymn or vocal offering by the choir will accompany each reading. The featured choir piece will be "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" by Timothy Shaw. This piece won the 2019 Raabe Prize for Excellence in Sacred Composition given by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.

Easter, April 21: Three morning services celebrating our Savior's resurrection will be offered: 8:15, 9:45 and 11:15 a.m., all will include Holy Communion. The first two are traditional; the third more contemporary. We will also hold our Spanish service at 11:15 a.m. We look forward to having the Premier Brass Quintet and the Cafe String Quartet accompanying the liturgy and anthems at the traditional services. The choirs will sing music by Bach ("Alleluia! for Christ the Lord Is Risen" from Cantata 207a), Handel ("Hallelujah" from Messiah) "Exultate Justi", by John Williams.

A Message from Our President: Vicki Marthaler

“This is Not What I Expected.”

For twenty years I served the residents of a nursing home that was known for its resident-centered care and its innovative approach to creating “home” for each of its 100 residents. No easy task. There was no “one size fits all” when it came to making life the best that it could be for every Anna and Alfred, Margaret, Tillie and Joe.

I was involved often in giving tours of the nursing home and meeting with families at this very anxious and stressful time. And, for many families, the idea of life at a nursing home was dismal at best. With that in mind, when the initial visit and the first tour were completed, my heart would soar when I would hear “This is not what I expected.” Over and over again, family after family would enter the doors of the nursing home and be pleasantly surprised. There were no sterile, hospital looking hallways, rather carpeted floors and bright, colorful pictures on the walls. “This is not what I expected.” The employees did not emit institutional vibes; rather the vibes emitting were those of colorful apparel, extended hands of welcome and sincere requests of “How can I help you today?” “This is not what I expected.”

I have learned that “This is not what I expected” can spill over into all facets of life.

Misconceptions, dated information, suspicions and pre-conceived ideas can rob a person of a rich life experience. Take the women of Grace, for example. Taking to heart the charge to grow in faith and serve our Lord Jesus Christ, Grace’s WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) offers a wide range of gathering opportunities. There are Women’s Circles that meet at various times throughout the month; quarterly meetings open to all the women of Grace; conference gatherings where the women of Grace are invited to meet with other Lutheran women in our conference as well as North Carolina state meetings. There are various retreats and workshops hosted throughout the year, some with tantalizing names like “Wild Women Retreat!”

All of the offerings are open to every woman of Grace. There may be some erroneous, preconceived notions like: “If I attend, I will have to take my turn at holding an office.” “I won’t know anyone at the meetings and no one will talk to me.” “I don’t know enough about the church to carry on an intelligent conversation.” “They will expect me to pray out loud.” Whatever the expectations are, I pray that they will not keep one single woman from joining with her sisters in Christ to grow in faith and to serve our living Lord.

My prayer is that every woman of Grace **WILL** participate in a Circle, or attend a gathering or retreat with other Wild Lutheran Women! My gut feeling is that when all is said and done, I will hear “This is not what I expected!” I look forward to hearing stories from women who can testify: “I met someone who is now my very good friend” or “The speaker really inspired me. I’m so glad I went!” or “The Bible study spoke to my heart” or “I had no idea there was such a need and I know I can help!” Yup, this is what I am waiting to hear from the women of Grace.

May The Spirit lead and may I hear with exuberant joy “This is not what I expected!” 😊

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 (315-657-6099).

Birthdays



Kay Brems	4/1	Fran Shaw	4/14	Linda Pankhurst	4/22
Jake Patterson	4/1	Lois Roach	4/15	Daniel Solano	4/22
Catherine Samulski	4/1	Phil Seidel	4/15	Pam Badin	4/24
Diane Sellers	4/1	Sarah Freeman	4/16	Nancy Christy	4/24
Fred Martin	4/3	Carol Gillett	4/16	Lynne Presley	4/25
Adelaide Haack	4/5	Jeff Michels	4/16	Jean Vierra	4/25
Annah Lord	4/5	Rosaleen Dawes	4/17	Brenda Fisher	4/26
Jenny Bufalino	4/6	Dale Beardsley	4/18	Rod Hansen	4/26
James Wiggins	4/6	Maria Resendiz	4/18	Anne Monroe	4/26
Ted Lawshe	4/8	Bob Sebby	4/18	Gabrielle Renken	4/26
Steve Walker	4/8	Sophia Brown	4/19	Aram Davis	4/27
Dorwin Larsen	4/9	Tom Morgan	4/19	Rev. Ken Langsdorf	4/27
Ed McIntosh	4/9	Monica Stallings	4/19	Renne Barolet	4/28
Emily Trexler	4/9	Karen Bowman	4/20	Dave Slagle	4/28
Jan Hoffmann	4/10	Rev. Thom Tews	4/20	Donna Hamilton	4/29
Dorothy Hall	4/11	Marcie Sims	4/21	Melissa Walden	4/29
Ann Janes	4/11	Kristy Sochia	4/21	Ann Yannuzzi	4/29
Delia Jovel Dubon	4/12	Yong Weber	4/21		
Janice Mickle	4/12	Mark Berger	4/22		
Nancy Bellick	4/13	Chandler Bolick	4/22		
Vicki Marthaler	4/14				
Lynda Martinez	4/14				

Anniversaries



Chris & Gaillee Davis	4/4/2016	Steve & Ivy Walker	4/16/2013
David & Myrnelle Wulff	4/6/2002	Bruce & Lesley Darrah	4/18/2009
John & Ann Janes	4/7/2006	Doug & Charlynn Fennell	4/18/2015
Val & Pat Murtha	4/7/1991	Leah & Wayne Scroggin	4/19/1975
Joe & Kathy Stancar	4/8/1972	Chris & Chris Smith	4/19/1983
Bob & Lorna Farrell/Bashore	4/9/2013	Rick & Virginia Rehn	4/20/1985
Gary & Pat Gardner	4/9/1988	Jim & Jan Hendley	4/21/1979
Ronald & Bridget Monroe	4/11/1998	Way & Deanna Plowman	4/28/2001
Bob & Diane Hatfield	4/14/1961	Saul & Vianey Solano	4/29/1995
Marc & Carolina Shockley/Sancho	4/16/2016		

Love is patient

Love is kind



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

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

Faithful Stewardship: Automatic Giving

Many people have memories of seeing the offering envelope on the kitchen table every Sunday morning before coming to church. That envelope contained a check that was handwritten and sealed up to be handed in when the offering plate passed through the pew.

Today, most Americans pay at least some of their bills automatically. This happens in a variety of ways. Some payments automatically get charged to a credit card. Others are debited against a bank account. And, there are plenty of other ways to do this.

The advantages to the person making payments this way are normally:

- Reduced worry of missing a payment
- Help in managing cash flow
- Less bookkeeping work
- Time savings of not having to write a check

The church is able to help you with setting up automatic payments as well. This is how you go about doing it.

1. You can simply tell your bank to send the church a check either weekly or monthly (or whatever timing you desire). This normally comes at no fee to you. No need to write the check or put a stamp on it if you are not here.
2. We have a payment system here. You simply fill out a Simply Giving form, attach a voided check and we set it up for you. Contact Chris Ring at finance@gracehendersonville.com to get the form.
3. On the website, you can set up an automatic credit card payment.

In all of these methods, you can change the terms at any time.