

Grace Vine

Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA
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August / September 2017

Synod Assembly Notes

The NC Synod gathered for our annual assembly June 2-3 in Greensboro. This year's theme, the third in a series, was "We are Lutheran." (The first two were "We are Church" and "We Church together.") The only resolutions brought to the assembly were those recognizing and thanking three retiring members of the Bishop's staff: Pastor Beth Kearney, Pastor John Mocko and Melanie Bookout. In addition to our three pastors participants from Grace were Ashley Albers, Anthony Acosta-Oviedo, Richard and Donna Christensen. Several shared a highlight or inspiring ministry story they heard during the Assembly.



North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Pastor Alfredo, who served as Assembly Chaplain and is a member of the Synod Council, shared: *"Synod Council ministry stood out for me because it provides an opportunity to shape, lead and partner with congregations, boards and synod-affiliated organizations. This is important for our mission together, for there is not a single congregation that could have the resources to do all we do together."*

Pastor Ken shared: *"I was encouraged by how our "Pocket Change Offering" to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal is helping in South Sudan. It is good to know we are making a difference in this part of the world that is in crisis."* (Lutheran World Relief has constructed a community center that houses a church, medical clinic, food pantry and classrooms.)

Ashley Albers shared: *"I was struck by the growth experienced in some of the churches and the ways in which God is acting when His people are listening."*

Pastor Greg shared: *"Two things struck me. First were the incredible, transforming ministries that we do as the ELCA. Pastor Heidi Torgerson's "Top 10 Reasons to Be an ELCA Lutheran" were inspiring. Second was the affirmation that Grace is one of the Synod's leading congregations - we provide generous financial support; we are multicultural while others like the idea; colleagues and assembly participants commented on or inquired about "best practices" ministries at Grace they had heard about."*

Sr. Pastor's Message

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

Turning the World Upside Down

Our granddaughter Piper recently began crawling. Brenda and I chuckled at her new mobility. We chuckled because we knew that the worlds of Elliott, Kristen, and Susie (their dog) were about to change. No longer could they put Piper down and then go about other tasks and relax. No longer is Piper dependent on someone to bring something to her. When she spots anything of interest, she's off and the race is on!

For grandparents, this is great entertainment! For first-time parents, their world has been turned upside down.

Luke recounts the growth of the early church in Acts. In chapter 17, Paul and Silas arrive in Thessalonica. A number of Jews, Greeks and leading women believed their witness to Jesus as Messiah. Others, gripping their traditions and power, were extremely unhappy. Luke's words:

"... the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. 6When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, 7and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus." - Acts 17:5-7

The message of the gospel that Paul and Silas shared was the catalyst that the leaders rightly recognized was "turning the world upside down." Consider some teachings of Jesus and characteristics of life in the early church that were and remain so counter to the usual ways of the world that they 'turn the world upside down':

The meek, not the powerful, will inherit the world. (Mt. 5:5). Top priorities in life are loving God and loving our neighbor as ourself not accumulating possessions or power. (Mk. 12:29ff; Mt.6:19ff) Love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us, not striking back in anger. (Mt. 5:43ff) Do not repay evil with evil but forgive without limit. (Mt. 18:21f) Reconciliation is not optional. (Mt. 5:22ff) Like Jesus, no task in service to another person is beneath us. (Jn. 13:12ff) Possessions were shared and everyone's needs were met. (Acts 2:44ff)

We resist conforming our lives to Jesus' teachings or rationalize why we need not do them ourselves or we think donating money is adequate. Following Jesus faithfully has never been easy. The gospel still reminds us that Jesus is to have our first and greatest loyalty - not money, not power, not even our nation or anything else pressed upon us by the world.

It is always an exciting time to be the Church. With culture turning aside from faith in Jesus, there has never been a more important time for Grace to be the Church. In conversations during our long range planning process, there were comfortable, familiar, traditional ideas shared and there were innovative, challenging and risky ideas shared.

If we are faithful enough to discern God's calling and bold enough to embrace that to which we believe God is calling us, Grace will be turning the world upside down.



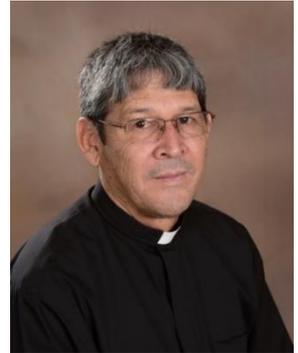
Reflections from Pastor Alfredo Oviedo

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

The Blessedness of Unity: A Song of Ascents.

*How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore. ~Psalm 133 NRSV*

Some concepts associated to this psalm are friendship, brotherhood and concordance. Jewish, Muslim and Christian traditions, to whom historically the Hebrew Tanak – Christian Old Testament – has been sacred literature, agree the main theme of this psalm is unity.



For Jews, it is unity in the context of civil government and religious leaders (priests), unity of God and People of God, unity of God's whole Creation. Zion -Jerusalem -, may hint to some nostalgic Jewish patriotism to be fulfilled in a Messianic age. The fifth pillar of Islam, (Hajj) pilgrimage to Mecca emphasizes brotherhood and equality. Christians, who have a tendency to "spiritualize" Scriptures, appeal to a Christ-centered approach as hermeneutic key. Why to sing a song of brotherhood and unity? Music and poetry allow us to express our deepest longings.

Palestine, the land claimed by Jewish people as their own, happens to unite three continents; Africa, Europe and Asia. Ancient empires coveted control of Palestine for both military and trade purposes. Palestine has been a devastated battlefield for most of Jewish history, no wonder songs longing for friendship, brotherhood and unity are sung by pilgrims "ascending" to worship in Jerusalem.

However, land displacement and natural resources control are not the main sources of conflict, wars and enmity among people. The worst enemies are within us; they exist in many forms and kinds, such as irrational fears, distorted systems of beliefs, phony patriotism and false claims of race superiority. There hadn't and will never be lasting friendship, brotherhood and unity in a hierarchical structured society with very few at the top standing over a massive pile of oppressed, destitute and dehumanized [people].

Still, we are summoned to sing, hope and work for unity, for "it is very good and pleasant" for "there the Lord ordained his blessing." The two metaphors used in this psalm to describe unity are the anointing of Aaron into priesthood and the dew of mount Hermon falling on the mountains of Jerusalem and the Jordan river; both are references to sacredness of a place of worship and creation.

The emerging social disease most common in industrialized societies like ours, is loneliness. Social isolation by choice or by default is all around us, impacting individuals, families, congregations, nations and the world. However, loneliness is not new. Jewish people experienced it. Even at the highest experience of national unity under King David (X century B.C.E), he misses and longs for unity within his own family ... yes King David had a very dysfunctional family ... though still a family. Unity is possible, it begins with unity with God in worship and then moves forward to unity with those around us and beyond to God's creatures and creation.
Amen.

Grace Youth Ministry

Director of Youth Ministry: Anne Monroe – amonroe@gracehendersonville.com / 704-604-3772

Youth Ministry August Calendar

Sunday, Aug. 6: Mission Trip Reunion and breakfast at 10 a.m. in Stull Hall. All Mission Trip participants (youth and guides) join us for this breakfast, so we can finalize our presentation for the congregation.

Tuesday, Aug. 15: GYM Service Project with the Grace Quilters 10 a.m.-Noon. We have been invited to hang out with the Grace Quilters and be a part of this loving ministry. We will spend time with the quilters, assist with making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and have a sandwich lunch afterwards. The quilts go to refugee families around the world who are displaced. Be part of this global ministry! No sewing experience is required; we need cutters and sorters also. ***New this year—Grace 2018 Seniors join us so you can share with the quilters your interests for your graduation quilt.**



Wednesday, Aug. 16: Cross+Generational Potluck and Worship. We will enjoy a meal together and then gather for an informal and interactive worship across generations. Meet in Fellowship Hall. 5:30 p.m. dinner; 6-7 p.m. worship. Bring a dish to share.

Sunday, Aug. 20: Mission Trip presentation and Ice Cream Social, 3 p.m., Stull Hall 3. All participants and guides meet at 2 p.m. to prepare and set up for the presentation.

Sunday, Aug.27: High School Kickoff after worship, TBD—see Anne for details.

Wednesday, Aug. 30: Middle School Kickoff Cookout for youth AND parents at Grace, 5:30 pm. Special fellowship and hamburger/hotdog dinner for our Middle School families. Our pastors and small group leaders will be in attendance for 'meet and greet' with a special time for families to join in small groups. Don't miss this important fellowship event to kick off the new school year!

Sunday, Sept. 10: Our first 2nd Sunday Lunch of the year, which also happens to be the Family Faith Festival day. All youth need to arrive at 9:15 a.m. for set up in Stull Hall; we will attend the 9:45 a.m. combined worship service and will serve lunch afterwards around 11:15 a.m. Remember the funds from our service at this lunch will go toward our youth fund to make retreats and the ELCA Youth Gathering possible. ***Don't forget ELCA Registration packets and \$125 deposits are due today.**

Middle School September Calendar

Wednesdays	Sundays
Sept. 13: MS Youth begins. Topic: Apostles Creed INTRO 6th grade receives Bibles	Sept. 17: MS Sunday School, 9:45-10:45 a.m.
Sept. 20: MS Youth Topic: Apostles Creed—Article 1: GOD	Sept. 24: MS Sunday School, 9:45-10:45 a.m.
Sept. 27: MS Youth Topic: Apostles Creed—Article 2: JESUS	

High School September Calendar

Date	Activity
Sunday, Sept. 10	9:15 a.m. 2 nd Sunday Lunch. All youth assist!
Sunday, Sept. 17	5:30-7:30 p.m. HS Youth Dinner and "Grace Space"; Gathering Meeting #1
Sunday, Sept. 24	HS outing – TBD

Children & Family Ministry

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

We have just finished up another successful Vacation Bible School (VBS). Passport to Peru was a new venture in VBS for our Henderson County Churches United (HCCU) community. Not only did we switch things up by mixing age groups (instead of keeping the kids in a group with kids in their grade), but this VBS through videos and experiential activities exposed the kids to actual children in Peru and their specific circumstances. I want to thank all the adults and teens who volunteered their time to make Passport to Peru successful.



Activities for the new school year begin in September. Our **Sunday School kick off** will take place **Sunday, Sept. 10**. We are currently planning the activities for the day, which will have a multicultural theme. Two services are planned as well as the first 2nd Sunday Lunch of the new school year.

Wednesday night activities begin Sept. 13. Study Buddies, our elementary mentoring program, will meet at 4:15 or 5:15 p.m. each Wednesday night from September through May. **If your child would like to be a buddy, please let me know by Sunday, Aug. 27. If you are interested in being a buddy to one of our elementary students, please also let me know by Aug. 27.** Study Buddies is a great way to get to know one of our Grace kids one-on-one. I will also need substitute buddies, which is a great way to experience Study Buddies without committing to the entire school year. Please talk to me directly if you have any interest in this great program.

I am excited to offer a **free Wednesday night class for parents of upper elementary children** titled "The Talk." This class is offered through the Children and Family Resource Center and will be open to the public. Grace parents will get priority as the class size is limited. The class will take place 5:30-7 p.m. on Wednesday nights from Sept. 27 through Nov. 15 (the class will not meet Nov. 1; we are celebrating Dia de los Muertos that night). Grace parents who are interested need to sign up by Sept. 13. For more information, contact me or check out the [Children and Family website](http://childrenandfamily.org/programs/parents-matter/) at childrenandfamily.org/programs/parents-matter/.



Vacation Bible School – Passport to Peru – held at Trinity Presbyterian Church. In picture, Grace member Grace Welch is leading the children in singing songs they learned through the week.

Adult Ministry

Director of Adult Ministry: Sue Filson – sfilson@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 x304

I would like to highlight one of our health related ministries here at Grace, the **Tuesday/Thursday DVD walking exercise class**. One of the newer participants, Marjorie Jones, joined the class in January. Marjorie had knee replacement surgery the year before and described herself as “out of shape and lacking balance.” After seeing the class advertised, she came and was warmly welcomed by the other regular attendees. In the beginning, Marjorie had to hold on to a chair for balance with the leg movements and could only get through about half of the session. After only two months, she was able to rid herself of the chair and now proudly stays to complete the 4-mile session with the others. She says “I am 78 and living proof that exercise works! My balance has improved and I am physically, socially and emotionally more healthy! It’s also lots of fun and I have made many new friends.”



Walking exercise meets 9-10 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday in Stull Hall. Each person exercises at their own speed and ability. Warning: new friendships likely to occur!

I hope you had a chance to attend one of the **Wednesday evening Cross+Generational potluck and summer worship services** this summer. They have been great opportunities for experiencing interactive activities, music and Holy Communion together as a church family. **Our last one for the summer will be Aug. 16 at 5:30 p.m.** in Stull Hall. Bring a dish to share.

Disciple Bible study begins the week of August 27. This will be our 14th year of this transformational Bible study. Through daily reading of the Bible, weekly small group discussions and DVD presentations, this study is designed to deepen faith, increase understanding of the scriptures and guide participants into service as disciples. *Disciple* studies both the old and new testaments, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as the revelation of God. Registration and information are located in Fellowship Hall. Times and cost vary and **registration ends Aug. 13.**

The Fall Faith Festival will kick off our fall classes and activities on Sunday, Sept. 10. The following week, we will begin our Wednesday evening adult Oasis Bible study/classes. These discussion-based classes are pastor-led with no preparation required from the participant. All adults are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall 5:45-7 p.m. each Wednesday until Advent begins. Check the bulletin for weekly program topics.

ELCA social statements are “teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, discernment and thoughtful engagement with current social issues as we participate in God’s work in the world.” (ELCA.org) A social statements forum will be offered monthly by our pastors for those interested in discussing the policies. **The first session, Church in Society, will take place 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 5.** If you would like to attend, 1) register at the Sign-Up Station and 2) prepare by reading the statement on the ELCA.org website (search social statements) as well as the “Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns.” The statement is also available in Spanish.

Gifts Ministry

Director of Gifts Ministry: Karen-Eve Pfozter – kepfozter@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 x316



Connecting volunteers to meaningful ministries.

Want to volunteer or have a need to advertise? Sign up in the church lobby or see Karen-Eve to make meaningful connections.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Bible story time leader** each Sunday in August
- **Mentors** - for our youth (13-18) for confirmation and growing faith on occasion.
- **Feed The Kids Servers and Cooks** - July–December at the Boys & Girls Club
- **Joseph House Annual Garage Sale fundraiser** needs volunteers and goods, Aug. 10-11. Deliver items to First United Methodist Church, Buncombe Street entrance, Aug. 6-9. List of items at Sign-up Station. Volunteers price and set up goods in shifts, Aug. 10-11. Sign up and Dave Roach will contact you.
- **Ushers & Hosts** 8:15, 9:45 & 11:15 a.m.
- **Preschool - Little Free Library books needed** (adult, elementary, middle school, high school). Drop books in LFL outside & FH box in or church office.

Sign up in the church lobby!

Thank You to our Newest Volunteers

- Spirit of Grace Picnic- **The terrific Hospitality Fellowship Team!**
- Long Range Planning Team- **Rod Hansen, Roger Christensen, Bill Daleure, Ruth Birge**
- Music at Service- **Ding-a-Lings & Vicki Mathaler**
- Flowers in Front- **Rod Hansen**
- High school End of Year Party- **Freddy & Nery Oviedo**
- Mission Trip help- **Maranda Huard, Jill Wingard, Mike Ericksen, Sue Janowaik & Caren Geiler**
- Mission Trip Adult Guides- **Ayman Kaddouri, Mike Ericksen, Christina Welch**
- Usher training- **Brenda Williams, Sallie Staton-Knott, Sue Filson, Joy & George Kiefer, Myra Glowacki**
- New Church Lights- **B&G Team**
- Assembly Lay Voting members- **Richard & Donna Christensen, Ashley Albers, Anthony Oviedo-Acosta**
- Lawn Edger donation- **Jim Nelson**
- Kids Club- **Brenda Sigmund**
- Baptismal Quilt- **Leah Cosoi**
- Attic Helper & FTK- **Jan Dokter**
- Think & Drink facilitator- **Jen Heileman**

It's School Time – Can You Help?

Please provide a set of clothes for a student in need. IAM lost their funding for children's new clothes for school. Give children who rarely get anything one new outfit to start the school year (ideally, two that they can mix and match). Make your check to IAM for \$20+ (memo 'School Clothes') and drop in the offering plate or in the box at the Sign-up Station. If you are in a group that needs a project, new school clothing for children ages 5 to 15 would be a great help. IAM is one of the groups supported by our Social Ministry Committee. Carol Miley will deliver the checks to IAM.

Meetings of Circles and Groups

- Naomi Circle** – Tues, Aug 1; Sept 12, 9:30 a.m., F.Hall, Rm. 221
- Leah Circle** – Weds, Aug 9; Sept. 13, 2 p.m., Luther Lounge
- Rachel Circle** – Thurs, Aug 10; Sept. 14, 7 p.m., Library
- Dorcas Circle** – Thurs, Aug 17; Sept. 21, 2 p.m., Off campus
- Sarah Circle** – Thurs, Aug 17; Sept. 21, 9:30 a.m., F. Hall, Rms. 221, 227, 228, 229
- Maria Circle** – Wednesdays after Oasis
- Quilting Group** – Tues, Aug 15; Sept. 19, 9:30 a.m., F. Hall
- Mission Action** – Tues, Aug 8; Sept. 12, 9:30 a.m., F. Hall
- Prayer Shawl Group** – Thurs, Aug. 24; Sept 28, 10 a.m.

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Project Linus

You can support Project Linus in other ways besides making blankets. (By the way, Rhoda Hargrave would love some help making quilts for Project Linus; call her at 828-808-4334 to help). **Amazon Smile** is a simple and automatic way, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, but with an added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from many organizations to support, but hopefully Project Linus will be at the top of your list.

Solar Power Project

For women giving birth at the Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing near Monrovia, Liberia, the worry that the electricity may shut down just as the baby's head is crowning has long been a reality.

Thanks to the Northeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) that worry will soon be a thing of the past.

An initiative of the Northeastern Minnesota SWO called "PV for Phebe" (PV stands for "photovoltaic," the process by which light is turned into electricity) has raised nearly 65 percent of its \$624,000 goal to provide solar energy to the hospital. And in March 2017, the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL), a Minnesota-based not-for-profit that helps

provide solar energy to people of all income levels, began installing solar panels at Phebe Hospital.

The project has been a "faith walk from the very beginning; indeed, an army of believers brought it here to this point," said BJ Allen, RREAL's project manager for Phebe. "Over \$400,000 from more than 600 individuals came in so far."

More than 400 ELCA congregations, conferences and synods, ELCA Global Mission, Global Health Ministries, Wheat Ridge Ministries and the National Geographic Society have donated to the cause. Allen wrote in a recent report.

"Countless additional supporters helped bring about the dream" of providing power to Phebe Allen said. "This project is a living manifestation of the unstoppable, caring, powerful, bold women of the ELCA."

Founded in 1921 by the Lutheran church, in partnership with Methodist and Episcopalian churches, Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing sits 112 miles from Monrovia and serves approximately 450,000 patients/year.

People living near the hospital recently stood in line to earn \$5 a day to help install the system. Monrovia has no concrete trucks, so laborers mixed the concrete by hand, said former Northeastern Minnesota SWO board member Mary Jo Mettler.

Mettler came up with the idea for PV for Phebe after she took part in a Women of the ELCA-sponsored "Women Building Global Community" trip to Liberia in 2012.



Read more at welca.org

Spotlight on Social Ministry

Thrive Clubhouse

Approximately one in five families in our country is affected by a serious mental illness. **The Thrive Clubhouse** is a psychosocial rehabilitation day program for adults with mental illness. The members strive to become more productive and self-sufficient citizens of the community. The Clubhouse helps members get back on their feet and learn coping, social, independent living and vocational skills.



Grace is a caring Christian community that reaches out to the mentally ill and their families in several ways. The Social Ministry Committee hosts the **annual picnic** and Christmas dinner. Through these events, we give them a chance to enjoy each other and mingle with Grace members. Most people with a mental illness have a sense of "not fitting in," of isolation and rejection. This is why these events are so important and meaningful.

The picnic is Sept. 14 at Jackson Park. Mark your calendars and plan to come. We have been sponsoring this event for more than 25 years. Share God's love. More details will be shared in the bulletin and emails. A sheet will be at the Sign-up station in mid-August.

Thrivent Builds Habitat Interfaith Home - 2017

Grace has again made a commitment to support and be a part of the "2017 Thrivent Builds Habitat Interfaith Home." The build will take place at the Dodd Meadows Habitat Subdivision located in East Flat Rock. The **Grace Blitz Build will take place Sept. 30.**



This year's Thrivent Home **will be owned by Yolada Strong** who goes by Missy. Missy is a 33-year-old single mother who goes to school full time and works full time at Gaia Herbs in the QA department. When her mother passed away about three years ago, she knew Wisconsin was no longer "home." Missy moved back to North Carolina about a year ago to start over and make a better life for her six-year-old daughter Jada and herself. She lived in Hendersonville previously in 2005 after her three-month-old son passed away from Tracheobronchitis. After losing her son and mother, Missy is ready to settle down in Hendersonville, build a future and focus on Jada and herself. She is ecstatic and thankful she was approved for her Habitat home. "I pay a lot of rent now and struggle every month to make it. Getting the Habitat home will drastically change our lives."

Successful Blood Drive Collected 150 Units of Blood!

This maintains our position as The Blood Connection's largest blood drive in Henderson County! Sixty-eight of our donors were first-time donors with The Blood Connection, which helps greatly to build their donor base!



Many of the evaluations emphasized the friendly, welcoming and caring staff and volunteers. The success of our blood drives would not be possible without the help of our wonderful volunteers and faithful blood donors. Thank and patronize these businesses and restaurants that supported our drive: Thrivent, Fireside Restaurant and Pancake House, Walmart, Harris Teeter, Joey's Bagels, Krispy Kreme, Bojangles, Burger King, Subway, Chick-Fil-A, Hot Dog World, Applebee's, Sonic Drive In, Papa Johns, Fresh Market, Bay Breeze and Sam's Club.

Get Some Extra School Supplies for Lutheran World Relief

The following are needed: **70**-sheet notebooks (wide or college ruled); rulers with centimeters on one side and inches on the other side; pencil sharpeners; **blunt** scissors; #2 pencils; ballpoint pens (no gel ink); erasers approximately 2 ½ inches long; 24-count crayons. Place supplies in the school kit box in Fellowship Hall. Or you can write a check, designate it for LWR school kits and place it in the offering plate. Questions? Call Carol Ontko at 828-891-9452. Thank you for your support!



Special thank you from Anne

Thank you to all Grace members, friends and family who took the time to write a personal letter to one of our Mission Trip participants. Each night of the trip, our teens received this special "mail." In this digital age where our young people receive most of their information through a screen, think how wonderful this ministry is for each participant to get a loving, handwritten note of support and encouragement from a 'Triple A' adult—authentic, available and affirming.

Youth Mission Trip

We thank our team for their ministry with the Washington, DC, community and our Grace family for the support and prayers! During the TeamEffort week, our team served through a variety of hands-on projects with homeless ministries, children programs and working with elderly and disabled individuals. Several of these outreach programs allowed us to experience inner city ministry. We will share our experiences at the Cross+Generational Ice Cream Social at 3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 20, in Stull Hall. Don't miss this fabulous presentation!



Our team of 18 youth and adult guides who attended the Summer Mission Trip in July.

Announcements & Events

Grace Young Professionals (GYP) Launch Think & Drink Aug. 1

Think & Drink is a group of 21- to 40-year-olds who began meeting monthly in April to socialize while discussing current issues of interest. On Aug. 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. at The Poe House in downtown Hendersonville (under West First Pizza), the group will look at *Implicit Bias* with **Danae Aicher**.

Recently, race has been placed front and center in the minds of many Americans. Whether or not people agree that race or racism is at the heart of many of the front-page news events, there is little denying that the issue keeps bubbling up to the surface. What's behind it? How did we get here? Is there a way forward? That's the focus of the discussion at Think & Drink on Aug. 1. RSVP at <https://www.meetup.com/Hendersonville-Openminded-Discussions-Meetup/events/240276080/>.



Mission Trip Presentation
Cross+Generational Event
Ice Cream Sundaes,
Brownies, Lemonade
Hosted by Grace Youth Ministry

Join the Men's Lunch Group

All men are invited to the **Lutheran Men's Lunch Group** at **11:15 a.m., Friday, Aug. 18**, at Bay Breeze for a good time of fellowship and discussion on a Bible story. Participants each pay for their own meal.

Attention Grace College Students – Free Lunch!

Before you head off to school for the fall semester, **join us for lunch Monday, Aug. 7 – it's on us!** Meet at 12:30 p.m. at Tupelo Honey, 1829 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC 28803

FREE LUNCH!

35th Annual Hendersonville County Hunger Walk, Saturday, Sept. 16

Proceeds from the annual hunger walk are distributed to 11 local agencies. **These agencies help meet the needs of many less fortunate families living right here in Henderson County.**

You can participate in this worthy cause in two ways:



1. Sign up to be a walker (1, 5 or 10 miles), gathering pledges from the congregation, your neighbors, family and friends. **Sign up anytime online or on Aug. 27, Sept. 3 or 10 at the Hunger Walk sign-up table.** If you sign up online, pick up your envelope at the sign-up table on Aug. 27, Sept. 3 or 10.
2. Be a Sponsor for one of our church walkers. Contact a walker directly; signing up at the sign-up table or contact Bill Hamilton, hhikers@gmail.com.

Make this a social ministry a social event by creating your own team to walk together – family, friends or Grace disciples. Don't turn in your envelope at the Saturday walk. Instead, bring it to the Hunger Walk table at Grace one of the following two Sundays (Sept. 17 or Sept. 24). This makes it easier to account for all of Grace's walkers, sponsors and funds raised.

Learn More about Grace Lutheran Church, Sept. 30

Grace 101 is a fast-paced class for those of any faith who are interested in learning about Grace Lutheran and the Lutheran faith.

The 9 a.m.-Noon session is designed to deepen each attendee's knowledge of who Grace is as a church-family, what Lutherans believe, how to become a part of the ministries and community

outreach programs that are of interest and how those who decide to become members can grow with Grace as the church continues to fulfill its mission of 'Transforming lives through Christ!'

Class will be followed by lunch. Childcare is available by request. Sign up online or at the Sign-up Station in August.



It's Nearly Oktoberfest Time!

Join us for Oktoberfest at Grace, **6 p.m., Friday, Oct. 13.** A traditional German meal will be served along with beer, wine and cider. A fun time of dancing and entertainment is a must!

Music and entertainment will be provided by [The OomPahsters](#). Tickets are \$20 and go on sale Sept. 24. Tickets will be sold between services on Sundays and online.



Campfirmation 2017

Our five confirmation campers this year: Rylan Huard, Jake Patterson, Avery Simons, Noah Trexler and Nelson Wiggins. We had an amazing week with the Yahweh's Phive cluster – joining together students and pastors from around North and South Carolina at Lutheridge.



Grace Lutheran Lutheridge Counselors

This summer we were proud to have two Grace college students serving as Lutheridge Camp counselors: Evan Langsdorf from Western Carolina and Olivia Slagle from UNC-Chapel Hill. Thank you for the continued ways you support our outdoor ministry programs so our young adults may serve as leaders for the church in the world.

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Registration Begins Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering packets and \$125 deposits due: see Anne for a registration packet.

What is a Gathering? Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

Where? When? The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering will be held June 26-July 2, 2018, in Houston, TX.

Who? The Gathering welcomes youth entering the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades in Fall 2017. Adult guides over the age of 21 at the time of the Gathering are also welcomed.



Reformation Sunday Is Oct. 29 – Think Fall & Autumn Splendor!

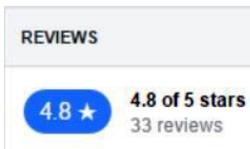
Grace's hospitality team reminds our faith family of disciples that Reformation Sunday is in extensive planning stages. As we roast and toast in near 90s heat, the cooler, breezy post-thunderstorm evenings remind us that cooler days lie ahead. Although Oct. 29 is three months away, watch the bulletin boards and weekly Grace notices for postings and sign-up sheets.

Join the Hospitality Team – this exciting ministry needs more “worker bees” to continue to spread the joy on Sunday mornings, for Memorial services and especially for these large celebrations.

Sign up for: 1) planning, 2) set-up, 3) baking and 4) clean-up or general use of your strengths and talents. We will have a full house with one glorious service, followed by a potluck lunch and celebrations of our confirmands and the Reformation and our **full faith family of disciples**.

Support our Digital Presence

- **Join the Grace Facebook page**, so our posts appear in your news feed. “**Check-in**” whenever you come to Grace for an event. “**Like**” or “**React**” to posts on the Grace page. “**Share**” posts from our page to your page. “**Rate**” Grace on our Facebook page (we like 5's!). Doing these things publicizes Grace to your Facebook friends and beyond ... (the “church” word for this is “**evangelism**”)
- **Subscribe to our Youtube channel**. Share sermons you find especially meaningful on your Facebook page. “Like” or comment on a sermon after you watch it.
- **Visit the Grace website** and refer guests to it. If you're not on Facebook, you can still see the Facebook posts on the website.
- Use **AccessGrace** and **Church Life** as your church directory, to donate online, to schedule space at Grace for an activity you are planning and more.



#WheresMartin – Show Us on Your Next Trip!



Martin and the Reformation are alive and well at the WELCA Triennial in Minneapolis!

St. Stephen Martyr Lutheran Church in Canton, OH, invites you to stay safe, enjoy your travels and take Martin Luther with you! [Download the picture of Martin](#) and print it. Then while you are taking in all that summer and fall have to offer, snap a photo of Martin and share it on social media with the hashtag #wheresMartin.

Let's see where Martin shows up as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation!



GIVING HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH MAY 31, 2017

	General Fund		Capital Fund	
	Pledge Budget	Pledges	Pledge Budget	Pledges
Total Pledge	\$ 904,200	\$ 776,005	\$ 194,200	\$ 162,845
Received on Pledge		\$ 278,403		\$ 56,437
Pledge to date (Historical basis)		309,899		67,142
Over (Under) Pledge at December 31, 2016		\$ (31,496)		\$ (10,705)

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH MAY 31, 2017

	Budget	Actual
General Fund		
Revenues	\$ 1,118,600	\$ 309,686
Expenditures	\$ 1,118,600	442,656
Net Revenues Over (Under)		
Expenditures		\$ (51,970)
Capital Fund		
Revenues	\$ 226,300	\$ 74,894
Expenditures	\$ 226,300	67,599
Net Revenues Over (Under)		
Expenditures		\$ 7,295

Note: Capital Fund expenditures include loan principal payments of \$35,126 in 2017. Loan balance at May 31, 2017, is \$618,196.

 <p>By directing designated Choice Dollars (\$M) through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars.</p> <p>Grace Lutheran Church Barbara Fountain; Evelyn Skinner; ELS Wolters</p>	<p>Memorials – February/March</p> <p>Orville “Dick” Warwick, Jr. Harry & Susan Steiner</p>
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Grace Vine Delivery

Grace Vine is available on the Grace website (gracehendersonville.com) and notification is made by email each time a new version is published. Beginning with this issue, a print copy of **Grace Vine will only be mailed to those who requested it** and to those who are homebound. **Print copies are available at the Welcome Desk. Please do not take a print copy if you have requested that Grace Vine be mailed.** Send email to pr@gracehendersonville.com to change your preference.



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Join Us for Fall Faith Day on Sunday, Sept. 10

Be part of a unique launch of Grace's fall ministry schedule. It's also the beginning of the ELCA's Multicultural Ministry Month. Celebrate our unity in Christ and our **diverse cultural heritages**. Grace continues embracing people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Our membership reflects a wide variety of heritages from Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and North America. **Culture has a profound impact in our identities, faith and ways we interpret God and the world around us. It goes beyond language to include food, art, music, dance, clothing, stories and games.** Our celebration includes:

- Worship at 8:15 and 10 a.m. (bilingual);
- 2nd Sunday lunch featuring multicultural desserts following second service;
- Art and pottery exhibits;
- Karaoke; and
- Children's story time, dancing and games



Donations will be accepted for Grace's youth ministry investment fund. **Bring family, friends and neighbors!**