

Grace Vine

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

February/March 2017

Lenten Worship Focus: Luther's Small Catechism – “With Awe and Love”

Continuing our observation of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, our Wednesday evening services will examine Martin Luther's "Small Catechism." This teaching tool was written for parents to use for teaching the basics of the Christian faith to their children. Luther intended for the home to be the first place the faith was shared and taught. Lutheran churches continue to use the Small Catechism as a core resource in confirmation ministry.

Here is the weekday Lenten worship schedule for Grace. Unless otherwise noted, the Wednesday services all begin at 6 p.m. following a light supper served from 4:45 to 5:30 p.m.

March 1 - Ash Wednesday: Worship with Communion and imposition of ashes. Services begin at 12:15 p.m. & 7 p.m. (No meal.)

March 8 - Ten Commandments: In Exodus, God gives Moses the Law so the people of Israel would know how to fulfill their part of God's covenant as God's people.

March 15 - Creed: How do we express belief? How do we share our faith? The Creed, crafted in the early days of the church, gives us a simple but firm foundation for sharing and professing.

March 22 - Lord's Prayer: Lent and Lenten worship call us to repent, to make a new beginning. One of the best ways to begin again with God is through conversation, also known as prayer. And what better prayer than the one that Jesus taught us?

March 29 - Baptism: Dying to our old, sinful selves in baptism, we rise from the waters as beloved children of God. We are walking wet throughout the 40 days of Lent, reminded daily that we are dead to sin.

April 5 - Holy Communion: As we approach Holy Week, we remember Jesus' sacrifice for us. We gather around the table to remind ourselves and one another of that sacrifice and how it shapes our lives.

April 13 - Maundy Thursday: Our traditional table Communion at both services - 12:15 p.m. & 7 p.m. The evening service will include Communion Milestone celebration and "Stripping of the Altar." (No meal.)

April 14 - Good Friday: The Tenebrae Service is a dramatic service of reading the story of Christ's suffering and death as lights are extinguished. Service times are 12:15 p.m. & 7 p.m. (No meal.)



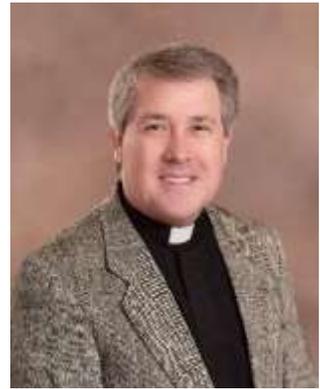
Message from Pastor Ken Langsdorf

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

Reflections from a Time of Grief

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
~John 1:5*

I want to share with you some reflections on grief and what has been a great comfort to me in this time of mourning the death of my brother, Brian. First of all, I can't thank you enough for your care for me and my family at the time of my brother's death. Being a part of a caring community of faith made all the difference for us.



I have heard people say, "I could feel your prayers." Yes, in powerful ways I could feel your prayers holding us up. God's comfort and care came to life through you, the Church, in so many meaningful and helpful ways. While away **I felt overwhelmed with love and care** as I received your cards, text messages, email messages and phone calls. And then when we returned home, your hugs and expressions of sympathy assured us that we are not alone, but have a church family that truly cares. Your expressions of love are appreciated beyond what words can express.

It helped me to have time away to be with family and people who knew Brian; to laugh and cry together; and to share in a moving memorial service as we commended Brian to God's eternal care by the grace of Jesus.

Throughout this time, it helped me to have people listen to me as I shared honest feelings – feelings of being grateful for having a great relationship with my brother; feelings of disappointment at the way he lived his life and life decisions he made that brought about his early death; feelings of sadness for the difficult life he lived.

It helped me to have people who were patient with me as I worked through a variety of emotions and worked toward forgiveness and focus on being grateful. It helped me to have people listen to me as I told the story of what happened at the time of my brother's death; as well as my concern for my parents and niece and nephew.

It helped me to have people who would just listen and let me pour out all my feelings.

Lessons from our Grief Rite Bible Study class became very real for me, including the experience that at a time of grief, relationships are magnified. If a relationship is good, grief can make for an even stronger bond. If there is strain in a relationship, grief can heighten the strain. If there is conflict in a relationship, grief can bring about some lasting damage. I have also seen great reconciliation in the time of grief as less significant things fade at the magnitude of the loss. Grief brings a different perspective to life and relationships.

I want to share with you a powerful image that has sustained me in this time of grief. As I have mentioned many times in sermons and other conversations, a meaningful image from me is found in our Good Shepherd stained glass window, where **Jesus is holding a lamb and is surrounded by a flock of sheep**. I often pray at that window, putting people in my prayer

concerns in the place of the lamb; in the arms of Jesus, held close to his chest, in his strong yet comforting hands. In this time of grief, I have felt like the lamb as I rested in the arms of Jesus.

This image was taken to greater depth while I was flying to Wisconsin. I was reading the last chapter of Fr. Ronald Rolheiser's book, *Prayer - Our Deepest Longing*. This is what I read: "The Last Supper account in John's Gospel gives us a wonderful mystical image. The evangelist describes the Beloved Disciple as reclining on the breast of Jesus. ... This is John's ultimate image for discipleship: **The ideal disciple is the one who is attuned to Christ's heartbeat and sees the world with that sound in his or her ear.**"

Isn't that beautiful and powerful; to be so close to Jesus that you can hear his heartbeat and can see the world from the perspective of lying on his chest?!

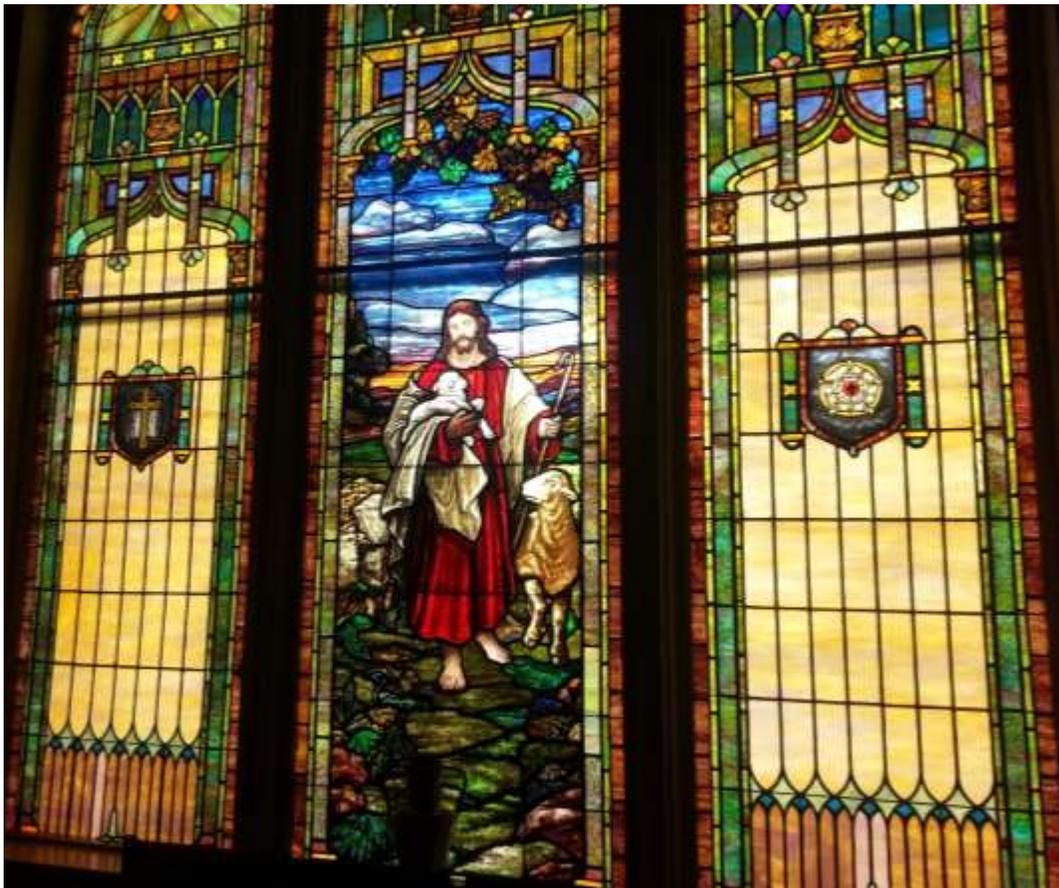
As I was flying to be with family, I felt held up in prayer and I felt great comfort as I rested in the arms of Jesus, being held so close that I could hear his heartbeat. This sustained me and continues to be a great comfort to me in this time of grief.

As we tune into Jesus' heartbeat we find great comfort and a perspective to live our life as "Beloved Disciples." It makes a difference in life to see the world from the chest of Jesus.

The good news is that there is room for all of us – each and every one of us on the chest of Jesus.

Thank you for being the Church for me and my family!

From the chest of the Lord, Pastor Ken



Worship Shaping Gracious, Merciful and Righteous Kingdom Citizens

¹ Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments.

² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

⁴ They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

⁵ It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.

⁶ For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

⁷ They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

⁸ Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

⁹ They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

¹⁰ The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

Craig L. Nesson in his book, *Beyond Maintenance to Mission: A Theology of the Congregation*, makes an interesting case of worship as a rehearsal of life in the Kingdom of God. In chapter four, Nesson highlights the importance of human imagination in creating new realities; he quotes Einstein who said: "Imagination is more important than knowledge." Nesson suggests that worship is not only "our work," something we do, but what God does to us; transforming our lives and the world around us according to God's kingdom model.

The structure of our liturgy calls us to worship God when we gather in the name of the holy trinity, invited into the sacred life -space time- of God, to listen and proclaim Jesus Christ as the word, partake in Jesus' life, death and resurrection at the meal, and are sent to serve the world.

Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God being a radically different realm compared to the harsh realities of poverty, oppression and cruelty of the first century C.E. Greek Roman world. Jesus' kingdom wasn't for disembodied souls in heaven, as it has been conveniently interpreted by our Western tradition; it is here right now – rehearsed at worship every Sunday and enacted daily both individually and corporately by congregations like Grace and Christians like you and me.

Jesus and Hebrew thought focus on concrete stuff rather than speculating like the Greeks do. Psalm 112 is an example of what it means to be happy, blessed, the natural condition of God's people and kingdom citizens. We are (supposed to be anyway), gracious, merciful and righteous. I wonder how many times we Lutherans have consciously tilted our lives and actions on the side of sinners, forgetting we are saints too. At worship every Sunday, we have a new opportunity to remember our identity as God's children called into a mission: transforming lives through Christ. Nesson puts it in this way:

"It is at worship that we discover the true nature of human community. Humanity is created by God to live together as a family. All are brothers and sisters with God as nurturing, mentoring parent. In imagining God's kingdom through the liturgy, we relate to God and one another honestly, freely and in mutual acceptance. We experience the truth that all are welcome. We find our own gifts affirmed as necessary for the well-being of the of the body of Christ. These discoveries about ourselves, God and the nature of community transform our lives. By our participation in the alternative world of worship, our values and priorities change." (pgs.49-50). Amen.



Children & Family Ministry

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

In daily life, I am reminded that I can plan, but unforeseen circumstances often come up and change those plans and I just have to be flexible. In the church, this happens often too. Christmas Eve, for example, we couldn't find the manger. It had been in the preschool for the 3-year-old class to use as the backdrop for their Christmas pictures. It then was moved upstairs by the elevator and was there for a day or two, and then I made an assumption that it was moved to the sacristy for Christmas Eve.



At 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve, I realized the manger wasn't in the altar area. It did not turn up after a frantic search of the many nooks and crannies at Grace. Ten minutes before the 5 p.m. service was to begin, I went to the nursery and found a baby doll and a small blanket. This year, instead of baby Jesus being laid in a manger, he laid in Mary's arms.

I have to wonder how many people at the 5 p.m. service would have noticed if baby Jesus was absent. He is the star of the show, so to speak, but the 5 p.m. service is about including the children in the service in a meaningful way. The best parts of the service are the planned and unplanned things that our younger members do. The lesson I learned from this, first and foremost, was to not assume – a lesson I should have learned long ago. Secondly, I learned, or maybe I was reminded, that although the details are important, once an event or a class or a worship service starts, we all have to be flexible and let the Holy Spirit do His work.

Looking ahead to February and March, we will continue to meet Wednesday nights, 6-7 p.m. I am focusing on Old Testament Heroes of the Bible. On Sunday mornings, we will continue the Whirl Lectionary study for Pre-K to 2nd-grade students, and 3rd-5th graders will meet with Mr Richard and study the Old Testament with the Connect curriculum.



First Communion instruction will take place on two Sundays, March 26 and April 2. First Communion training is open to all children. First Communion will be taken on Thursday, April 13, at the 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service. Please see Ms. Jill, Pastor Greg, Pastor Ken or Pastor Alfredo if you have any questions about the training.

Families, please **plan to attend Youth Sunday, April 2, at the 9:45 and 11:15 a.m. services;** the elementary youth will have a part in the service.

And finally, we did find the manger, the first week of January, when a side comment was overheard, and the mystery was solved. As with most things that don't go according to plan, it makes for a pretty good story.



Grace Youth Ministry

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

Middle School February Calendar

Wednesdays	Sundays	
Feb. 1: MS Youth Small Group Outing Night	Feb. 5: Souper Bowl morning MS Sunday School 9:45-10:45 a.m.	
Feb. 8: MS Youth Topic: "Parables of Lost and Found, Reform: Sheep"	Feb. 12: MS Sunday School, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Evening: Youth Sunday practice #1, 6-7:30 p.m. —ALL YOUTH	
Feb. 17: MS Youth Topic: "The Last Supper, Reform: Judas Iscariot"	Feb. 19: MS Sunday School, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Evening: Youth Sunday practice #2, 6-7:30 p.m. —ALL YOUTH	
Feb. 22: MS Youth Topic: "The Crucifixion, Reform: Pontius Pilate"	Feb. 24-26 -- LYO Retreat Leaving at 3:45 p.m.	

High School February Calendar

Date	Activity
Sunday, Feb. 5	9:45-10:45 a.m. HS Sunday School. Souper Bowl service. All youth assist.
Sunday, Feb. 12	9:45-10:45 a.m. HS Sunday School. 6-7:30 p.m. Youth Sunday practice #1, ALL YOUTH
Sunday, Feb. 19	9:45-10:45 a.m. HS Sunday School. 6-7:30 p.m.: Youth Sunday practice #2. ALL YOUTH
Friday, Feb. 24-Sunday, Feb. 26	LYO Synod Retreat. Leaving Grace at 3:45 p.m.

Middle School March Calendar

Wednesdays	Sundays
March 1: NO Small groups or lesson—Ash Wednesday	March 5: MS Sunday School, 9:45-10:45 a.m. 6-7:30 p.m.: Youth Sunday practice #3
March 8: Small Groups 5:30-6 p.m. 6 p.m. Assist with Lenten worship	March 12: MS Sunday School, 9:45-10:45 a.m. After 11:15 a.m. service, 2 nd Sunday Lunch. ALL YOUTH assist.
March 15: Small Groups 5:30-6 p.m. 6 p.m. Assist with Lenten worship	March 19: MS Sunday School, 9:45-10:45 a.m. 6-7:30 p.m.: Youth Sunday practice #4. ALL YOUTH!
March 22: Small Groups 5:30-6 p.m. 6 p.m. Assist with Lenten worship	March 26: MS Sunday School, 9:45-10:45 a.m. 6-7:30 p.m.: FINAL Youth Sunday practice. ALL YOUTH!
March 29: Small Groups 5:30-6 p.m. 6 p.m. Assist with Lenten worship	

High School March Calendar

Date	Activity
Sunday, March 5	9:45-10:45 a.m. HS Sunday School. Youth Sunday practice #3. 5 p.m.: musicians; 6 p.m.: ALL YOUTH
Sunday, March 12	9:45-10:45 a.m. HS Coffee Shop. After 11:15 a.m. service, 2 nd Sunday Lunch. ALL YOUTH assist!
Sunday, March 19	9:45-10:45 a.m. HS Sunday School. Youth Sunday practice #4. 5 p.m.: musicians; 6 p.m.: ALL YOUTH
Sunday, March 26	9:45-10:45 a.m. HS Sunday School. 6-8 p.m. FINAL Youth Sunday practice. ALL YOUTH



Middle and high school youth Christmas parties.

Grace Youth Head to LYO Assembly

Feb. 24-26: NC Lutheran Youth Organization Retreat in Greensboro, NC. Please pray for our 39 Youth and Adult Guides attending this fun weekend of fellowship with other N. Carolina Lutheran teens. The theme for this year's event is: "What does this mean?" from 2 Corinthians 5:7

Participants—we will leave Grace PROMPTLY at 3:45 p.m., Friday and return early Sunday afternoon.



In the Library ...

We have a newly organized library with new books for parents, youth, kids and many more inspiring books ... come check out a book. Here are a few to whet your appetite for reading.

- **10 Best Parenting Ways to Ruin Your Teenager** by Galindo
- **3 Minute Devotions for Guys**
- **3 Minute Devotions for Teen Girls**
- **Athletes of Faith** by Newcombe
- **Barebones Bible Handbook for Teens** by George
- **Becoming the Parent God Wants You to Be** (making kids mind without losing yours) By Leman
- **Bienvenido, Nino Jesus** by Sarah Reinhard "Welcome, Baby Jesus"
- **Boundaries in Marriage** by Townsend
- **Boundaries with Teens** by Townsend
- **iMas Cosas Que Dice Mi Abulal: Dichos y refranes sobre animales** by Galan "Things my grandmother says"
- **Lee y aprende La Biblia** "Read and Learn the Bible"
- **Mujer Segura de Si Misma** by Joyce Meyer "Self-assured Woman"
- **No es el Fin: Como seguir adelante aun cuando sientes que estas perdiendo la batalla** by Ricardo Sanchez "It is not the End"
- **Parenting with Love & Logic** (on CD) by Cline & Fay
- **Se un inmigrante feliz** by Hector Teme

Adult Ministry

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

It's hard to believe the Christmas season is behind us, the season of preparation for the exceptional event of the birth of Our Savior. We are once again in the season of preparation, preparing for the season of Lent, a time when God graciously gives us an opportunity to reflect on our lives and examine those things that shift our focus away from God, a time to be reminded of the great sacrifice Jesus paid for us. It's also a chance to do something meaningful and positive that will draw us closer to God.



One such activity beginning Feb. 22 is "**A Lenten Journey Using Music and Imagery for Spiritual Renewal**," under the direction of Brenda Williams, Fellow of the Association for Music and Imagery. The six-week free group sessions will provide new ways to delve into scripture during the season of Lent using the Bonny Method of Guided Imagery and Music (BMGIM.)

"Combining music, imagery and scripture is a wonderful way to help people develop a deeper awareness of God's Word. The focus each week will be on the Lectionary lessons for the following Sunday," says Brenda. Brenda is also a board-certified music therapist with Four Seasons Compassion for Life.

What is faith formation? "In a single line we could say faith formation is: equipping people to live as disciples of Jesus."* Are you interested in being part of a team that would meet three or four times a year to explore classes and activities for adults with the purpose of creating a faith formation ministry? **Please contact me if this would be of interest to you.**

Check the Sign-up Station for dates, times and more information concerning classes and activities Grace is offering. This helps us limit lengthy information and the amount of pages we use for our Sunday bulletins. OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans) is a fellowship group open to all members of Grace, regardless of age. Information and sign ups on that group can be found on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall under Adult Ministry.

Oasis in February

All adults are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings in Fellowship Hall from 5:45-7p.m.

Feb. 1 – **God With Us** – A Theology of the Cross

Feb. 8 – **Death and Life** – A Theology of Law and Gospel

Feb. 15 – **Saved by Grace** – A Theology of Justification by Grace through Faith

Feb. 22 – **Simul Justus et Peccator** – A Theology of Saints and Sinners

I end with a **thank you to the many people who made Christmas brighter** for those in need this year – those in need of physical supplies (Hurricane Matthew and warm coats); those in need of a shoebox filled with simple items that said "we care"; and those in need of a Christmas carol who knew all the words to the songs. You shine the light of Christ.

* Leif Kehrwald, *Vibrant Faith*



GYP — Grace Young Professionals

Grace Young Professionals, 20s to 40s. Anne Monroe – amonroe@gracehendersonville.com / 704-604-3772

GYP Christmas Party at Mezzaluna in December >>>

Grace Young Professionals typically meet twice a month. Meetings vary between a service project, fellowship outing, dinner, and bible study. Please check the Bulletin Notes and weekly emails for upcoming dates and activities.

Service Project: 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18, Hotdogs and Hugs Prison Ministry



Music Ministry

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

Many thanks to all of the singers, ringers, actors, technical support, parents, costume designers and sewers, the hospitality committee, the parents, and anyone else I may have left out, for all of the hard work during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

I know the congregation and community enjoyed our production of "A Christmas Carol." It was a wonderful experience for me personally. It's always been one of my favorite novels and one of my family's favorite Christmas memories. Its message of kindness and charity surpasses the ages. The dedicated actors came to rehearsals week after week, worked very hard and took ownership and pride in our production. It was truly a multi-generational cast: I'm not sure about the ages of the oldest actors, but the youngest actress was 3 and a half years old. I wrote the script for our stage and our actors while snowed in for five days last winter. I had a copy of Charles Dickens' novel and no Internet. The goal was a shortened version of the story, which could be performed on a stage without a set change and would be accessible to young actors. I also wanted to keep a lot of Dickens' beautiful Victorian language. The play will be published this spring by Heuer Publications of Cedar Rapids, IA, and should be available for productions by next fall.



Thank you again to all of the great people who helped make our holiday season so meaningful. It is truly a blessing for me to be a Grace.

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 lobby or see me to help you make meaningful connections. Submit volunteer needs by email before noon on Monday for the next

Sunday bulletin.

Save these Dates ...



• **YOUnique Workshop, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday, March 18.** Discover more about **you** and your personality, passions and gifts.

- **Middle School Parent/Student Supper, 5 p.m., Feb. 12.** Tell us what you want at GLC for faith activities.
- **Do Tell Storyfest, 3-6 p.m., April 30** in Stull Hall.
- **Leadership Forum, 6:30 p.m., May 11.**

With super appreciation for NEW acts of service in our shared ministry ...

- Property Manager- **Joe Prasil**
- Attic Coordinator- **Emily Roseler**
- Offering counter- **Alan Harms**
- Friday set-up- **Dick Miley, Harry Steiner, Barry Pierce**
- Red Cross Shelter hosts- **Sandi Litogot, Carlene & Dick Belanger, Judy Bevan, Steve & Brandon Buman, Bob Dahm, Jim Florine, Jim & Jane Hunt, Dick Miley, Tom Morgan, Joan Nyitrai, Barry Pierce, Harry Steiner**
- Christmas play support- **Parents and kids, Lorna Bashore, David Carver, Burton Bumgarner, Lorna Bashore Linda Pankhurst, Christine Smith, Billie Slear, Jessie White, Pat Chambers, Judy Bevan**
- Beer & Carols- **Vickie Safriet, Helen Just, Brenda Williams**
- Caroling to homes- **Lynn Pressley & Brenda Sigmon**
- Seniors' Home Christmas party music- **Christine Smith, Kevin Filson**
- Staff background checks- **Paul Parker**
- Library painting- **Dave Litogot**
- Library Team- **Sandi & Dave Litogot, Linda Bowman, Linda Rymer, Bill Battermann, Heather Wiggins**
- Children's Coat shopping - **Jessie White and Barbara Fountain for Sarah Circle**
- Collecting items for Eastern NC- **The Lutheran Men in Mission and deliverers Hal Derrick, Roger Christensen, Ken Ring**
- HS Christmas Party- **Welch Family**
- THRIVE Christmas Dinner -**Mary Seby, Judy Bevan, Brenda Sigmon, Joan Frederiksen, Linda Pezzimenti, Lynn Nichols, Bob Dahm, Sybil / Jack Parsons, Sandi / David Litogot**

Extra Special Thanks to ...

Posada singers who took Christmas to our seniors and into our Advent service.

To all who made Christmas better for others: *those who donated the many items to the Hurricane Matthew Relief both in North Carolina and Haiti; those who lovingly packed shoebox gifts for our Homebound Members; and those who took time out of the busy season to Christmas carol, bringing the warmth of the season to many people.* ~Sue Filson

Grace Preschool

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



It's still not too late to link your **Ingles Advantage card** to our Tools for Schools #11013 and **Harris Teeter card** to #5517. We can still reap the benefits of this win-win relationship with Ingles and Harris Teeter until May.

Little Free Libraries (LFL) are all around the world! Did you know that the Preschool LFL box has more than Preschool-age books in it? Adult, high school and middle school books are also housed and borrowed each week.



Please place your donations in the box located by the Preschool sign adjacent to Rt. 64. Also, **Google "the Little Free Library website" and see a photo of our box listed on the world map.**

Preschool registration for fall 2016-2017 has begun. 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 Parent/Child Program**" in Western North Carolina by WNC Parent magazine and "**Best Preschool in Hendersonville**" by the Times News.

We currently have **openings in all of our 2s and 3s classes** for this school year. If you or someone you know needs a preschool anytime throughout the school year, please send them our way. We enroll children throughout the year, and I would love to give them a tour. My contact information is noted above. Registration papers are available at the church Welcome Desk and online on the Grace Lutheran Church website, gracehendersonville.com. Click on the Preschool link at the top of the page.



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

The Preschool Facebook page is frequently updated with curriculum and various activities. To learn more, check us out at: facebook.com/gracepreschoolhendersonville

Preschool Scholarships: We have many families who have financial difficulty sending their child to our Preschool but would like the educational opportunities and Christian environment of our school. Please contact me if you are interested in donating to our scholarship fund.

Many blessings from the Preschool, Beth Ann

Meetings of Circles and Groups

Naomi Circle – Tues., Feb. 7; March 7; 9:30 a.m., F. Hall, Rm. 221

Leah Circle – Weds., Feb. 8; March 8; 2 p.m., Luther Lounge

Rachel Circle – Thurs., Feb. 9; March 16; 7 p.m., Library

Dorcas Circle – Thurs., Feb. 16; March 16; 2 p.m., Off campus

Sarah Circle – Feb. 16; March 16; 9:30 a.m. F. Hall, Rm. 221, 227, 228, 229

Maria Circle – Wednesdays after Oasis

Quilting Group – Feb. 21; March 21; 9:30 a.m., F. Hall

Mission Action – Tues., Feb. 14; March 14; 9:30 a.m., F. Hall

Prayer Shawl Group – Thurs., Feb. 23; March 23; 10 a.m.

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Resources to Improve Your Spiritual Life

Lutheran Women have a long history of Bible study, discipleship, and desire to deepen their spiritual life and learn about issues.

If you are looking for a one-time-use program, something to do over several sessions, or a retreat resource, you've come to the right place at womenoftheelca.org.

Women of the ELCA offers free, downloadable program resources—in English and Spanish—to help you grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. And searching for our resources is a breeze.

We give you several ways to find the perfect resource for individual or group study, single session or retreat. We also let you search the old-fashioned way: alphabetically or the church geek way: by liturgical year.

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ELCA Smoky Mountain Conference Retreat, Feb. 11

SIGN up at the Sign-up Station to come to the one-day retreat, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be served.

Choose one or several resources as you plan your programming for the coming year. Read about all of the program resources that we offer with this program resource list. Start searching now. And if you like our resources, give us a shout out on our Facebook page. Here are a few to consider:

Historical Timeline of Race Relations

This historical timeline begins with the Doctrine of Discovery and focuses on the immigration and naturalization trends that created and preserved a mostly White nation. It culminates in the criminalization of people of color after the emancipation of the African slave.

How to Have a Helpful Conversation About Race in the Church

In 2015, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton encouraged all ELCA Lutherans and congregations to start having conversations about race. Women of the ELCA has been having helpful conversations about racial justice since 1997. Far too many conversations about race fail to be helpful. This resource offers congregations a way to begin talking about race. The cornerstone of a conversation about race is who we are and whose we are.

Listening to the Third Slave

This Bible study takes a fresh look at the parable of the talents in Matthew and Luke. What if the slave who tucked away the master's money wasn't lazy after all? What if he wanted to make a point?

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"Encourage" ... Did anyone accept the challenge to see how many words you can make out of "encourage"? Here is what I came up with: courage, rage, age, core, cage, our, gore, rouge, gone, gear, ere, era, ore, enrage, corn, near, ear, encore. Any more? Let Rhoda know... 828-808-4334.

Spotlight on Social Ministry

Safelight of Henderson County – a shelter for women and children creating hope, healing lives, changing community

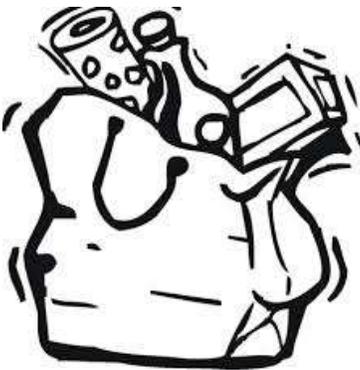
From Tammy: My heart was pounding, and my mouth was dry. I looked around, praying we wouldn't be spotted by the neighbors. Making the choice to leave wasn't easy. I had loved and trusted this man and he was the father of my children. After months of planning and hoping for an opportunity, our time to escape was now, while I knew he was away for a few hours at an appointment. I honestly had no idea where we should go or who we could turn to for help. As I quickly packed a few bags into the waiting taxi, I told my two children we were going on an adventure. We came to Safelight where we found caring people who welcomed us and made it possible for us to start a new life together.



We stayed in the shelter while the kids were able to make new friends and get used to new schools. After a few months, we were very excited to move into a transitional housing apartment. The children quickly adjusted to a new life with the help of Safelight's child therapist. I entered the job training program at the Safelight Resale Store, while continuing counseling, case management and balancing doctor appointments and time with my children.

I am so thankful for Safelight and for the free and confidential help they have given my family. I am very passionate about their cause and hope I can be an example to help others in similar situations.

Annual Interfaith Assistance Ministries Drive Begins Feb. 19



IAM to the rescue: Recently a desperate 75-year old gentleman came to IAM for help with an incredibly high water bill. He rents an apartment, and there had been a water leak which his landlord had "fixed," but the landlord hadn't – water was continuing to leak underneath the gentleman's apartment! The water company wanted over \$500, an amount the elderly gentleman simply could not pay! His Social Security check just was not enough. An IAM Intake Manager spent three hours on the phone with the landlord, the water company and Salvation Army to create a solution. So the landlord fixed the leak; the water company reduced the overdue bill by 20 percent;

and IAM and Salvation Army split the remainder of the bill. In addition to water relief, the elderly gentleman received a generous amount of food and clothing.

As he left IAM, he was smiling and said "Someone really cares!" Literally thousand of local residents come to IAM every year for help in times of distress. While IAM helps also with clothing needs, rent and food assistance are huge parts of IAM's helping the poor and needy with a "hand up." **Grace's annual IAM food drive will begin Feb.19.**

Thank you to everyone for their contributions to the long-needed new IAM building, which will open later this year on Freeman Street near the Blue Ridge Mall.

Visit the IAM website at iam-hc.org.

Announcements & Events

Continuing our Cross Wall

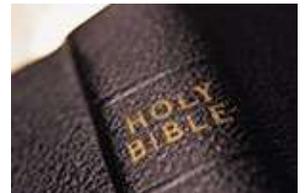


As part of our Centennial Celebration, Grace began a "Cross Wall" to the left of the main entrance. This permanent display of donated crosses from Grace's members includes a book with pictures of each donated cross. Along with the picture is a statement by the donor explaining the "specialness" of that cross. **We will accept additional donations Feb. 1-April 2.** We are accepting permanent donations of any style medium and varying sizes that hang on the wall. This is an excellent way to share with others your faith journey, a special moment in your life or simply a unique cross style.

If you are interested in donating to this project, place your cross and contact information with a paragraph telling about your cross in the basket marked "CROSS WALL" in the office hallway beneath the mail boxes. Questions? Contact Susan Snyder at 828-393-7995 or Susan Albers at 828-697-7584.

Bible Collection and other Activities for Blue Ridge Prison Ministry

During the month of February, Grace will host the "Bible Tool-box" to gather gently used or new Bibles to be distributed to inmates and others who will cherish them. Please place your donations in the collection box in Fellowship Hall.



Grace also continuously collects (in a separate box in Fellowship Hall) used or new paperback books of all kinds to distribute to inmates. Reading is the only activity the inmates can have. We distribute books and provide spiritual comfort and encouragement when we meet.

Our "Hot Dog and Hugs" prison ministry provides a snack, conversation and encouragement for families of inmates once each month during visitation.

For more information or to participate in any of these activities, contact Tim Snyder at SandTSnyder@gmail.com.



Tackle Hunger – Annual "Souper Bowl" Collection is Feb. 5

On Sunday, Feb. 5, our Grace Youth will collect canned goods and money donations after our worship services for our annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" project. Youth will hold "Super Bowl Team" soup pots at the end of each worship service for money donations. You may place your donation in the soup pot of the team you want to win the Super Bowl. We will compare the results with the game results the following Sunday. Canned good donations will be collected in boxes in the lobby area. All donations will be kept local and given to the Hendersonville Rescue Mission and Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM).

Uncover & Discover. Collaborate & Celebrate. Feb. 18 at Grace

How we are church together! Join us **uncover** how God is working in your congregation; **discover** God's work with others; **collaborate** with old and new friends; **celebrate** God's work with your brothers and sisters across the Synod! Share ideas with friends, and find out about resources available to you and your congregation through the Synod! This gathering is for lay leaders and pastors. **Synod Partners: Feb. 18 - Grace, Hendersonville, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

1. Celebrate at WORSHIP together – offering to benefit a local ministry. Bishop Smith preaches.
2. Celebrate together with a MEAL – (free will offering for the meal)
3. Discover how God is working in the lives of others – personal conversation
4. Discover Synod resources at the MISSION FAIR – different ways to share your faith

Go to nclutheran.org "Events," "Important Events," "Synod Partners" then register or contact Pastor John Mocko at jmocko@nclutheran.org or 704-680-9568

This gathering is brought to you by the Partners Program of Synod Council. North Carolina Lutheran Synod ELCA

Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) Assembly Presentation, March 12

We invite the congregation to a special LYO presentation by our youth at the **2nd Sunday Lunch on March 12**. The menu will be spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert. Lunch will directly follow the 11:15 a.m. worship service. The food is provided by our parents and served by our youth; therefore, the cost of the lunch is free! All donations received go directly to the Grace Youth Ministry Investment Fund. Please see the Sign-up Station to attend. Thank you Grace family for your continued support in making experiences like this happen for our youth!

 <p>THRIVENT FINANCIAL <i>Connecting faith & finances for good.™</i></p> <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 Amount of Deposit: \$1,368 Barbara Fountain Edith Kaiser Tom Kasischke Ginny Kuglin Paul & Dorothy Schuette</p>	<p>Memorials – December/January</p> <p>Rev. Paul Sellers Carolyn & Ron Myers Bruce & Janet Chandler</p> <p>Bob Ogdon Lawrence & Mary Jane Price</p> <p>Brian Langsdorf Ron & Joyce Brandon</p>
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Winter Weather Policy

During the week, if Henderson County Schools close, then Preschool and any scheduled church meetings will be canceled. On Sundays, the 11:15 a.m. service is usually not canceled. If 8:15 and 9:45 a.m. services are canceled, it will be announced on WHKP radio, WTZQ radio and WLOS TV.



February & March Birthdays



Dave Shaffer	2/1	Ginny Meyer	2/17	Ilona Smith	3/9
Cameron Simons	2/1	Carol Sewall	2/19	Russ Stivers	3/9
Ashley Albers	2/2	Tony Pezzimenti	2/20	Bob Keener	3/10
Barbara Arndt	2/2	Jessie White	2/20	Bill Pankhurst	3/10
Dave Bair	2/2	Estelle Boyle	2/22	Lois Baumann	3/11
Jim Florine	2/2	Jan Caldemeyer	2/22	Kelly Beaty	3/11
Brent Janowiak	2/2	Betty Girard	2/22	Tyler Mujica	3/11
Steve Spencer	2/2	Pat Rose	2/22	Fran Pedersen	3/11
Carlene Belanger	2/3	Larry Schwake	2/24	Stella Varnell	3/11
Jenny Solano	2/3	Helen King	2/26	Lilly Cruz	3/12
Marilyn Davidson	2/4	Nadine Christensen	2/27	Ally Pfozter	3/13
Chris Graves	2/4	Marilyn Conrad	2/27	Ilse Antonelli	3/15
Jim Nelson	2/4	Emily Freeman	2/27	Phil Kispert	3/15
Leah Scroggins	2/4	John Huffman	2/27	Chuck Fangmann	3/16
Vianey Solano	2/4	Kath Matthews	2/27	Joe Prasil	3/16
Gail Brown	2/5	Madeline Salgado	2/28	Kevin Filson	3/17
John Caldemeyer	2/6	Mary Sebby	2/28	Kassie Kaddouri	3/17
Pat Chambers	2/6	Dustin Solano	2/28	Ivy Walker	3/17
Jon Lambert	2/6	Doug Wilder	2/28	Jeremy Burris	3/18
Ruth Neumann	2/6	Dick Belanger	3/1	Tony Cruz	3/18
Ron Ontko	2/6	Javier Mujica	3/1	David Litogot	3/18
David De Graaf	2/7	Cavan Stanaway	3/1	Carol Haag	3/19
Alesandra Oviedo	2/7	Lou Bauer	3/2	Dotty Uhle	3/19
Victor Kretzer	2/8	Jerry Liedl	3/2	Brian Hahn	3/21
Marie Mortensen	2/8	Cecilia Rasco	3/2	Glen Haag	3/22
Vince Rees	2/8	Judy Smith	3/2	Jeremy Klingensmith	3/22
Patti Romstadt	2/8	Ron Brandon	3/3	Bobby Slagle	3/22
Jacob Solano	2/8	Jason Blackwell	3/4	Amy Knight	3/23
Jackson Bufalino	2/9	Mike Jenson	3/4	Les Clinton	3/24
Suzie Stockman	2/10	Karen Myers	3/4	Freddy Oviedo-Medina	3/25
Kitty Etterman	2/11	Nery Acosta	3/5	Bob Farrell	3/26
Sandi Litogot	2/11	Virginia Green	3/6	Susan Fitzgerald	3/26
Sue Powell	2/11	Bob Horvath	3/6	Diane Hansen	3/26
Muriel Lambert	2/12	Sarah Romine	3/7	Sammy Resendiz	3/26
Marilyn Pigors	2/12	Harry Steiner	3/7	Aidan Simons	3/26
Cindy Simons	2/12	Margie Brune	3/8	Pat Zachman	3/26
Casey Brown	2/13	Sue Buman	3/8	Damian Tody	3/27
Grant Hahn	2/13	Bill Charlesworth	3/8	Deborah Moore	3/28
Milo Mujica	2/15	Gayle Etherton	3/8	Chris Taddei	3/28
Reed Neal	2/15	Ellen Jefsen	3/8	John Huffman	3/29
Lara Wingard	2/15	Peggy Midstokke	3/9	Irene Robertson	3/29
Anthony Acosta-Oviedo	2/16	Vivian Pemble	3/9	Alan Dietrich	3/30
Jim Howard	2/16	Millie Poppendick	3/9	Dante Acosta-Oviedo	3/31
Mark Marthaler	2/16	Rochelle Simons	3/9	Jeff Lilly	3/31
				Becky Schmidt	3/31

Hershel & Barbara	2/2	Dave & Connie	3/4
Greg & Ilona	2/2	Mark & Vicki	3/8
Steve & Norma	2/4	Chuck & Susan	3/12
Mark & Faye	2/9	Russ & Patsy	3/13
Jack & Joyce	2/12	Keith & Mary	3/15
Sal & Nancy	2/14	Jim & Jane	3/15
Bill & Linda	2/14	Jeff & Anne	3/17
Glen & Carol	2/14	David & Megan	3/19
Doug & Brenda	2/14	Bob & Skip	3/20
Dennis & Judy	2/14	Bob & Joan	3/25
Pat & Jane	2/16	Don & Ruth	3/25
Greg & Marilyn	2/20	Nick & Denise	3/25
Roger & Renne	2/28	Jon & Faith	3/26
Victor & Jean	2/28	Bill & Terri	3/27
Brian & Gretchen	3/2	Richard & Vera	3/27
George & Joy	3/4	Nathan & Monica	3/28
		Bill & Donna	3/31



Are you 50 or Older?

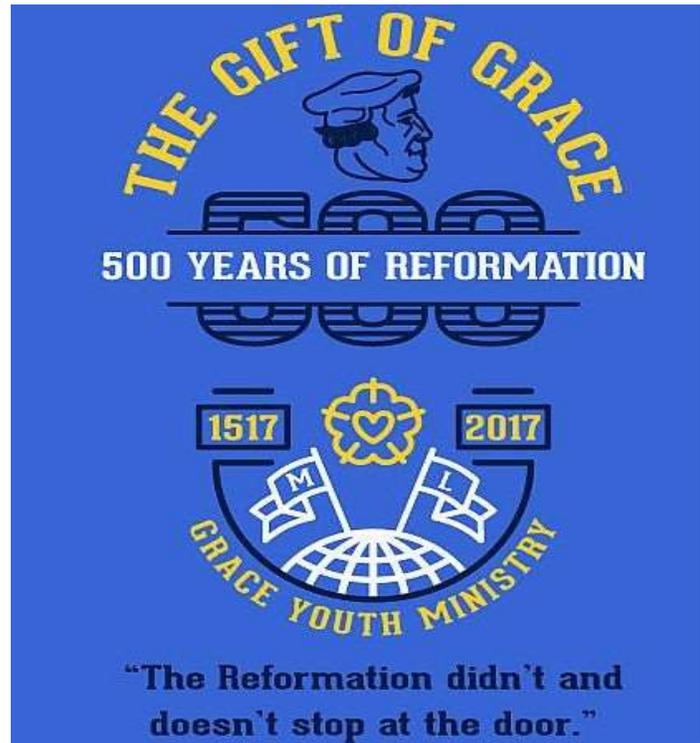
Congratulations! You are invited to a “**50Forward**” **Living Well retreat Oct. 6-8, 2017, at Lutheridge** Camp and Conference Center. The theme for the weekend is “Laughing Matters.” The retreat includes

- Entertaining and enlightening keynote **speakers Dr. Jessica Floyd** (neurology specialist who will speak about the brain benefits of humor and laughter) and **Scott Stantis** (editorial cartoonist for The Chicago Tribune and USA TODAY and the creator of the comic strip “Prickly City”);
- Saturday workshop options to help you live well, happily and faithfully;
- Optional Saturday afternoon activities, including a craft brewery tour, massage and a walk in Dupont State Forest;
- Delicious Saturday dinner with “foods to improve your mood”; and
- Comedic entertainment Saturday evening.

If you're interested in registering, see Donna Hamilton or Sue Filson as soon as possible. We'll register as a group for the low group discount rate of \$200/person. More info:

50forwardlife.com.

The Gift of Grace Youth Sunday



Please join us Sunday, April 2!

Our Grace Youth will lead worship services at the 9:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. Our middle and high school youth will lead all aspects of worship: the sermon meditation, special musical selections and a few surprises. The children's choir will sing. Don't miss this unique worship experience in the life of our congregation! A congregational fellowship luncheon will follow the service at 12:30 p.m. Good news! The cost of the lunch is free, but all donations received go to support the Grace Youth Ministry Investment Fund.

Grace Vine Delivery

The 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 the April/May issue, a print copy of the **Grace Vine will be mailed only to those who request it** and to those who are homebound. **Print copies will also be available at the Welcome Desk.**

Note your preference at the Sign-up Station or by sending email to pr@gracehendersonville.com. Please check ONE option for Grace Vine delivery, so we know your preference and can plan accordingly.

GIVING HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016

	General Fund		Capital Fund	
	Pledge Budget	Pledges	Pledge Budget	Pledges
Total Pledge	\$ 930,000	\$ 830,828	\$ 220,000	\$ 171,769
Received on Pledge		\$ 829,966		\$ 173,656
Pledge to date (Historical basis)		830,828		171,769
Over (Under) Pledge at December 31, 2016		\$ (862)		\$ 1,887

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2016

	Budget	Actual
General Fund		
Revenues	\$ 1,155,760	\$ 1,087,570
Expenditures	\$ 1,155,760	1,086,850
Net Revenues Over (Under)		
Expenditures		\$ 720
Capital Fund		
Revenues	\$ 244,200	\$ 207,798
Expenditures	\$ 244,200	268,045
Net Revenues Over (Under)		
Expenditures		\$ (60,247)

Note - Capital Fund expenditures include loan principal payments of \$182,654 in 2016. The loan balance at December 31, 2016 is \$653,322.

Long Range Planning: Survey

An important step in planning is evaluating our current ministry. **All members are encouraged to complete the Congregational Vitality Survey on either Feb. 19 or 26.** It is a 14-question written survey and takes about 10 minutes. The more people who complete it, the more helpful the data. Your responses will provide important information. The next steps in our planning process include gatherings to listen and share about current and future ministry. They will be scheduled for March.



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

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Grace 101 – Learn about the Lutheran Faith and Grace Church



Community members of any faith who are interested in learning about Lutheran beliefs and Grace Lutheran Church are invited to attend **Grace 101, from 9 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, March 4**. This class is a great refresher course for Lutherans as well as a wonderful introduction to Lutheran beliefs, ministries and outreach opportunities for anyone who is interested. A complimentary light lunch will follow the class.

To register for this free class please go to bit.ly/spring-grace101 or call the church at 828-693-890.

Questions? 828-693-4890 | Gracehendersonville.com | facebook.com/gracehendersonville