

Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA 1245 6th Ave. W., Hendersonville NC 28739 Gracehendersonville.com / pr@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 April / May 2016

Stewardship Corner

Over the next several Grace Vine issues, we'll have an opportunity to



spotlight ministries where Grace is a significant supporter, financially and with countless volunteer hours. This month we take a look at Interfaith Assistance Ministry, (IAM). **Grace Lutheran Church and Grace Foundation have contributed more than \$50,000 in cash, food and clothing in just the past two years.** We have again committed significant dollars this year as IAM prepares to build new facilities to better serve the underserved in Henderson County.

IAM is a faith-based nonprofit organization committed to meeting the basic needs of Henderson County families in financial crisis. Founded in 1984, IAM is funded by congregations, businesses, civic groups and individuals and is powered by nearly 300 volunteers who contribute more than 36,000 hours of service every year. Our mission is to provide emergency relief to Henderson County residents who are in financial crisis by offering food, clothing, funds, guidance and referrals in an atmosphere of compassion and respect. For more information, visit iamhendersoncounty.org/.

Congregational Meeting to be held Sunday, April 17

As required by our church's bylaws, we are announcing a congregational meeting to be held April 17. Two items of business are on the agenda:

- 1. Approve council recommendation for delegates to represent Grace Lutheran at the Synod Convention to be held in June.
- 2. Approval of a nominating committee for 2017 council election.

The meeting will occur at the beginning of all three services just before worship. No other business will be addressed at this time.

Sr. Pastor's Message

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

A Favorite Part of Worship

Christ is risen! (He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!)

Thanks to baptism, we are joined to Christ's death and resurrection (Romans 6:5). This means that we are freed from the power of death and sin, gifted by the grace of God with the power to live by the values of God's kingdom even now. (Read the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, for a summary of Jesus' teaching on the kingdom of God.) Yes, I know life now is not perfect. Yet, by the power of the Spirit – also given to us in baptism – we faithfully persist in conforming our lives to Christ rather than the world.



Easter turns my thoughts to the fullness of resurrection life with Christ – heaven. Scripture provides images of heaven that include abundant water, feasts of fine foods, and continual worship of Christ in all of his glory. A favorite part of the liturgy is, for me, almost a mystical experience of our future with Christ. In addition to Holy Communion, which is a mystical foretaste of that heavenly banquet with Christ and believers of every time and place, "Lamb of God" is often a mystical experience for me.

As I stand at the altar with the consecrated bread and wine, the choir encircles the altar to receive the sacrament. As they gather, they are singing "Lamb of God": "Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the word; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace."

Their voices in harmony, encircle me and lift my spirit to a different place as I receive the bread and wine – the body and blood of Christ – given and shed for me ... for my forgiveness and resurrection life. In that moment, no matter what else may have been in my mind, on my heart, or is happening in life, near or far, I can literally feel the resurrected presence and power of Christ with me ... with us ... for the sake of the world.

Worship: don't begin a week without it.

Christ is risen! Thanks be to God!

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Reflections from Pastor Alfredo Oviedo

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

The Song of the Sword: Beginnings of Civilization

¹⁹ Lamech took two wives; the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. ²⁰ Adah bore Jabal; he was the ancestor of those who live in tents and have livestock. ²¹ His brother's name was Jubal; he was the ancestor of all those who play the lyre and pipe. ²² Zillah bore Tubalcain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools. The sister of Tubalcain was Naamah. ²³ Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. ²⁴ If Cain is avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold." Genesis 4:19–24 (NRSV)

Genesis is the book of beginnings from the Jewish perspective – the of two billion people over a period of two thousand years. Among both Jewish and Christian traditions, the book of Genesis has become the inspired word of God. The narrative above in chapter four, continues speaking about the Jewish belief of common descent of all human beings from Adam and Eve and their child Cain. Genealogies are important to trace ancestry. This text has been considered a short narrative for the beginnings of civilization, as it refers to nomadic lifestyle and domestication of animals, birth of musicians and bronze/iron tools (and maybe weapons). And then, suddenly without a warning, The Song of the Sword is inserted. This short poem attributed to Lamech, introduces strife, violence, killing and vengeance among people of common ancestry. Whether or not this narrative can be taken literally and is of universal value, it unfortunately describes a sad reality those ancient near-Eastern cultures observed and experienced.

The Song of the Sword, though it may convey self-defense, may well be just the boasting of a bully. Lamech's ancestor Cain had already been described a fratricide. Though the reason he killed his brother Abel is unclear. Men, God and natural resources (fruits of the earth and animals) are the main focus in Cain's story. In Lamech's story, strife and violence are present in the context of inventions and practices associated with civilization; which includes, centralization of population in geographical areas, inventions and the creation of art. The writer of this narrative seems to suggest that forgetting or ignoring common ancestry, population growth and competition for natural resources, new technologies and arts, all combined increase the potential for strife and violence: an incubator for bullies.

In contemporary society, bullies are not restricted to our schools; plenty are in workplaces, public spaces, on the highways, and of course, in politics. Looking at the potential root causes of strife and violence, it seems that we humans need to be constantly reminded of our common ancestry, as God's stewards, to advocate for equitable distribution of natural resources, to respect and support all people's decent occupations and to protect defenseless people from bullies. Dr. J. Jayakiran Sebastian, who teaches at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, speaks about multiculturalism as a way to bridge both cultures and individuals within cultures as a way to defuse strife and violence: "The issue of how the term 'multiculturalism' can be used to acknowledge the fact of cultural, racial or ethnic diversity in our society, and to recognize that cultural diversity is a valued gift that enriches community life and relationships, should be addressed. In a broad sense, multiculturalism is about the place of diverse cultures within the framework of our community and, in a narrower sense, a search for the realization of the meaning of 'catholicity' in the church as an institution." Amen

Children & Family Ministry

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



Spring Break is over, and as we head into the last weeks of school (where did the school year go?) it's time to start making plans for the coming summer.

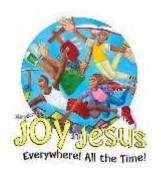
Thinking about sending your child to camp? Thanks to the generosity of our Grace congregation and the February focus on raising money for camp scholarships to Lutheridge and Lutherock, we are able to offer \$275 for first-time camp goers for a week of overnight camp. Camp returnees can request \$225 for a week of camp. Grace also gives a \$110 scholarship for a half-week of overnight camp and \$50 for a week of Kindercamp. Contact Jill



Wingard with questions on how to apply for a scholarship.

Save the date! June 27-30 we will be at Trinity Presbyterian

Save the date! June 27-30 we will be at Trinity Presbyterian participating in "Joy in Jesus, Everywhere! All the Time!" This VBS will help all of God's children – girls, boys, young and old – understand that healing and happiness go hand in hand and that whether on a roof, under a roof, in an upper room or a room without a roof, joy is found in the mighty works of God through Jesus Christ. They will better



understand God's promise in the overall scripture, "The joy from the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). Children

ages 4 - 5th grade can participate in the program. Kids and "kids at heart" who have finished 6th grade and up are encouraged to volunteer. **Online registration** will be available May 1.

Mark your calendars! **Wednesday, May 25, the church will host a family night** – a night for families to share a meal together. After dinner, activities will be provided for all kids, birth through middle school. Parents will have fellowship time, and Pastor Greg will lead a discussion about what Grace can do to help parents through the first third of life faith formation. Dinner and childcare will be paid for through a Thrivent Action Team Grant. Pre-registration will take place May 1.

I just want to take a moment to look back at Lent and **thank Thrivent** for the Action Team Grant that allowed our elementary youth to have four nights of service. As a group, the kids were able to create eight no-sew blankets for Project Linus, 60 cards to hand out to residents of Cardinal Care and 28 placemats for Meals on Wheels. The kids also helped make "chicks" that will help us track how much money is raised during the month of April for ELCA Good Gifts.



Grace Youth Ministry

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

Middle School April Calendar

Wednesdays	Sundays
	April 3: Morning-MS Sunday
	School 9:45-10:45 a.m.
	Evening: Youth Sunday practice
	#4 6 p.m. —ALL YOUTH
April 6: MS Youth	April 10: Morning-MS Sunday
Topic: Elijah	School 9:45-10:45 a.m.
	Evening: Youth Sunday FINAL
	practice 6 p.m.—ALL YOUTH
April 13: MS Youth	Apr. 17: YOUTH SUNDAY
Topic: Esther	Youth to arrive at 8:45 a.m.
	(Lunch afterwards)
April 20: MS Youth	April 24: Morning-MS Sunday
Topic: Job	School 9:45-10:45 a.m.
April 27: MS Youth	Feb. 26-28 *LYO Retreat
Topic: Daniel	



Middle School May Calendar

Wednesdays	Sundays
May 4: MS Youth	
Topic: Jonah	
May 11: MS Youth	May 15: 8th Grade-Mission Trip Meet for participants, 6-8 p.m.
Topic: End of Year review	
May 18: End of Year Party!	

Important Summer Dates

~~June 12-18: 8th Grade Campfirmation

~~July 16-23: Summer Mission Trip

High School April Calendar

Date	Activity
Sunday, April 3	9:45-10:45 a.m. HS Sunday School.
, .	Youth Sunday practice #4: 5 p.mmusicians/singers; 6 p.m. —ALL YOUTH
Sunday, April 10	9:45-10:45 a.m. HS Sunday School.
, .	Youth Sunday FINAL Practice, 6-8 p.m. – ALL YOUTH
Sunday, April 17	9:45-10:45 a.m. HS Sunday School.
	6 p.m.: Youth Sunday practice #2. ALL YOUTH!
Sunday, April 24	9:45-10:45 a.m. HS Sunday School. After 11:15 a.m. worship: High School Youth
, , ,	Outing

High School May Calendar

Date	Activity
Sunday, MAY 1	6-7:30 p.m. High School Youth
Sunday, MAY 8	11:15 a.m. Service: Graduation Milestone
Sunday, MAY 15	6-8 p.m. HS Youth Dinner and "Grace Space"
Sunday, MAY 22	High School End of Year Party!

Our Youth



Grace Youth Ministry at the NC Lutheran Youth Organization Synod Assembly in February



Adult Ministry

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

Prayer Shawl Workshop

Thank you to the Prayer Shawl Ministry team for a successful workshop that drew 28 people on a Saturday in March! Thank you, also, to Thrivent who provided 54 new skeins of yarn through the Action Team grant. Only half of those who attended were part of the ministry team, so we gained many new people who want to knit or crochet prayer shawls. It was a great day of fellowship as well. One new knitter remarked, "This is giving me an outlet to make me feel like I am truly contributing to something meaningful."



Oasis Adult Study on April 6

Conclusion of Ray VanderLaan's "The Path to the Cross." On April 13, Pastor Ken will lead a new six-week DVD discussion-based series by Adam Hamilton, "John, the Gospel of Light and Life." Hamilton says about the Gospel of John, "It is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels, filled with rich images and profound truths. You'll follow the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John and understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament." All adults welcome on Wednesdays in Fellowship Hall, 5:45-7 p.m.

Grief Rite Bible Study

Do you know someone who is grieving or supporting a person who is grieving? This study is designed to help use the Bible through this difficult time. Working through a personal notebook, participants will seek a time of introspection where we understand the things we are to learn/take away from our loved one's life and the death experience to move closer to God. The six-week class runs 10 a.m.-Noon, Wednesdays, April 13 through May 18, and is led by Pastor

Ken and Sue Cobb. Cost is \$8 for the workbook. Register at the Sign-up Station or on Grace's website by April 6. The community is invited to participate in this class.

Summer Women's Bible Study begins June 6

Look for details in May for the 11- week study with Beth Moore, "A Woman's Heart." All women invited to attend. Childcare provided.

OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans)

Our bulletin board is located in Fellowship Hall under "Adult Ministry." Events and sign-up sheets will be located there. The OWLs is a fellowship group open to adults of all ages. This is a great place to meet members of Grace!



Learning to knit at the Prayer Shawl Workshop

Grace Preschool

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



Thank you from the Preschool: Since this is our last Preschool Grace Vine article for the year, I want to say thank you for all the people who supported us in so many ways, including those who linked their grocery cards, donated through Thrivent Choice dollars, donated to the Little Free Library, helped make our gardens and playgrounds so welcoming, supported our Yard Sale and Flea Market, said kind and positive words of support and the many other ways you may have volunteered or donated to our Preschool Scholarship fund. Our staff and Preschool families are grateful for your kindness.

Preschool registration for 2016-2017 has begun. Grace Preschool offers a half-day, educational preschool program for Walkers through Pre-K. The

child-centered, Christian-based curriculum fosters early learning and is supplemented with a variety of special classes. Highlights for all ages include Spanish and American Sign Language and Music & Movement-Yoga. Bible Storytime is led by the pastors and church staff. Phonics is integrated into the daily curriculum for three's and Pre-K students. These innovative additions make learning fun and create a strong academic foundation.

Additional programs include Earlybirds and Summer Camp for registered children. Grace Lutheran Preschool is a unique preschool opportunity in Henderson County and was rated the prestigious award of "Best Preschool" in Western North Carolina by WNC Parent magazine.

Ways to support our Preschool:

Preschool Spring Flea Market 7:30-11 a.m., Saturday April 30:

Please register by April 24. Space rental is open to Preschool families and church members. This outside sale will be located in the Grace parking spaces along Rt. 64. Bake goods are needed. If you would like to donate baked goods, please contact Beth Ann.



This is how it works. You "rent" a personal retail parking space for \$15. If you need a table, the cost is \$20. Bring your own items Saturday and set them up from 7 to 7:30 a.m. You stay with your space, oversee it and collect the money at your table. You keep the proceeds! We do all the advertising, and you receive the benefits! No rain date is available. All fees are nonrefundable, because this is a Preschool fundraiser.

Little Free Library: We are currently in need of adult, high school and middle school books. Please place your donations in the Little Free Library box or drop them in the Preschool tote under the Grace staff mailboxes.

Preschool Scholarships: Many families have financial difficulty sending their child to our Preschool but would like the educational opportunities and Christian environment of our Lutheran school. Your donations are most welcome.

Preschool Facebook site: Learn more about Grace Lutheran Preschool at <u>facebook.com/gracepreschoolhendersonville</u>.

Questions? Please contact Beth Ann Lehr, Preschool Director, at 828-693-4972, email: <u>balehr@gracehendersonville.com</u>. Printable registration forms are available on the church website at gracehendersonville.com. Click on the Preschool link on the top menu bar.

Gifts Ministry

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



Connecting volunteers to meaningful ministries.

Want to volunteer or have a need to advertise? Sign up in lobby to volunteer or see Karen-Eve Pfotzer to help you make meaningful connections. Submit

volunteer needs by email before noon on Monday for the next Sunday bulletin.

With appreciation from the bottom of our hearts for new acts of service...

- Study Buddies- Judy & Jim Stoltenberg
- Reception- Mimi Locks
- Social Ministry Secretary Kitty Etterman
- Computer Tutor- Nancy Hinshaw
- Hospice Volunteer/Counsellor- Judy Stoltenberg
- Fleece Friday- Susan Snyder, Mary Jones, Leah
 Scroggins & Valerie Lehr
- Sweet Heart Dinner- Lutheran Men in Mission
- Burris baptism quilt- Evelia Solano-Jimenez, Irene Carlson
- Homebound Coordinator- Jim Stotlenberg
- IAM box- Linda Pezzimenti
- Music Assistants- Laura Wingard, Syedi Acosta
- Hospital Visitors-Tom Morgan, Irene & Einar Syvertson, Rosaleen Dawes, Jean Lightner, Carol & Ron Ontko, Rheta Luy, Vicki Safriet, Shirley Drake, Page Willms, Ruth Klug, Beth Spencer, Dave Weber, Maria Hetzel, Karen Wolfrom
- Preschool maintenance- Dick Miley
- Homebound Visitors- Maria Hetzel, Mary Tatham, Donna Christensen, Lynn & Steve Pressley
- Evangelism Chair-Sallie Staton-Knott
- LYO Chaperones- Bridget Monroe, Heather Wiggins, Nery Acosta-Oviedo, Mike Ericson

- Luther Bear Committee- Catherine Langsdorf,
 Pat Chambers, Phil Kispert, Gerri Schwake
- Processional cross- Alan Dietrich
- First Communion Assistance- Leslie Owen,
 Brenda Williams
- Labyrinth Project- Ruth Klug
- Prayer Shawl Ministry Team

NEW DATE: YOUnique Workshop, April 9

9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Looking for ways to volunteer that are suited just for you? Want to spend your time feeling JOY and SERVING? Want to identify your passion and gifts? Learn about your personality, spiritual gifts, passions and how your unique life experiences have prepared you for fulfilling roles in ministry and volunteering. Sign up in lobby by April 7.



Leadership Forum, 6:30-8 p.m., May 5

Inviting all church ministry chairs, coordinators, facilitators, and leaders to learn more about:

- Setting mission & goals
- Using our ASC electronic directory for information and management
- Overview on booking & using facilities
- More tips on leading & facilitating



Music Ministry

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

The Power of God's Music

From "The Bible in One Year" by David McCasland:

"The Sound of Music," one of the most successful musical films ever produced, was released in 1965. It won many accolades, including five Academy Awards, as it captured the hearts and voices of people around the world. More than half a century later, people still attend special showings of the film where viewers come dressed as their favorite character and sing along during the performance."

Music is deeply rooted in our souls. And for followers of Jesus, it is a powerful means of encouraging each other along the journey of faith. Paul urged the believers in Colosse, "Let Christ's teaching live in your hearts, making you rich in the true wisdom. Teach and help one another along the right road with your psalms and hymns and Christian songs, singing God's praises with joyful hearts."

Singing together to the Lord embeds the message of His love in our minds and souls. It is a powerful ministry of teaching and encouragement that we share together. Whether our hearts cry out, "Create in me a pure heart, O God" or joyfully shout "And he will reign forever and ever," the power of music that exalts God lifts our spirits and grants us peace.





Let us sing to the Lord today.

Upcoming musical events at Grace:

Mini performance by the Blue Ridge Ringers, 7 p.m., May 24, in Stull Hall as part of the American Guild of Organists May meeting. Community is invited to attend.

Patriotic Concert, saluting our veterans, presented by the Choirs of Grace will be at 4 p.m., May 22. Community is invited to attend.



GYP — Grace Young Professionals

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



(Picture—GYP celebrating the Holy Baptism Milestone with Riley and the Burris family)

Grace Young Professionals typically meet twice a month. Meetings vary among a service project, fellowship outing, dinner and Bible study. Please check the Sunday bulletin announcements and weekly emails for upcoming dates and activities.

GYP Service Project! Saturday April 23

Assist with Servant Saturday ministry. Please sign up for your desired project when project lists become available.

Lutheran Men in Mission

MEN'MISSION

Dick Pemble - rapemble@gmail.com

Men's Lectionary Breakfast Group meets each Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at Dixie Diner—across from the Laurel Park Ingles. We read and discuss the scripture lessons for the upcoming Sunday worship. Questions? Contact Bob Andersen 828-697-0464. Please join us!

Men's Lunch Group. All Men are invited to the Men's Lunch Group at 11:15 a.m., April 15 and May 20. This group meets with Pastor Ken at Bay Breeze for fun, fellowship, a Bible story discussion, and to hear about Lutheran Men in Mission opportunities. We will save a seat for you!



submitted by Rhoda Hargrave, President of the Grace Unit

Meetings of Circles and Groups

Naomi Circle – Tues., April 5, 9:30 a.m., F. Hall, Rm. 221 Tues., May 3, 9:30 a.m., F.Hall, Rm. 221

Leah Circle – Wed., April 13, 2 p.m., Luther Lounge Wed., May 11, 2 p.m., Luther Lounge

Rachel Circle – Thurs., April 14, 7 p.m., Library Thurs., May 12, 7 p.m., Library

Dorcas Circle – Thurs., April 21, 2 p.m. Off campus Thurs., May 19, 2 p.m. Off campus

Sarah Circle – Thurs., April 21, F. Hall, Rms. 221, 227-229 Thurs., May 19, 9:30 a.m., F. Hall., Rms. 221, 227-229.

Maria Circle - Wed. evenings after Oasis

Quilting Group – Tuesday, April 19, 9:30 a.m., F. Hall May 17, 9:30 a.m. F. Hall

Mission Action – Tuesday, April 5, 9:30 a.m., F. Hall Tuesday, May 3, 9:30 a.m. F. Hall

Prayer Shawl Group – Thur. April 28, 10 a.m.

Thurs., May 26, 10 a.m.

Smoky Mountain Conference Spring Gathering

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016

Place: Church of the Good Shepherd, 22 Fisher Road, Brevard, NC 28712

Corner of N. Broad Street and Fisher Road.

Time: 10 a.m.- Registration & Refreshments 10:30 a.m. – Opening Devotions

Business Meeting

Election of Director of Communication

and Treasurer's Assistant 12:30 p.m. – Lunch

2015-2016 Theme: "I am Created, Called, Empowered!"

Program – Justice for Women. "Our Voices, Our Stories"

Cost: \$7 for Registration/Lunch. Make out Unit or individual checks to Women of the ELCA-Good Shepherd Unit and mail to:

Elaine Raynolds P. O. Box 334 Lake Toxaway, NC 28747

Reservation Deadline: Monday, April 11

Sign-up: On the Women of the ELCA bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

North Carolina Women of the ELCA 29th Annual Gathering

When: Friday, June 24-Sunday, June 26

Where: Lenoir-Rhyne University

Hickory, NC

Registration: You may pick up a participant registration form on the Women of the ELCA bulletin board located in Fellowship Hall. Early bird registration, which costs \$160 for the weekend and provides registration, meals and lodging, is a discounted price and **must be postmarked by April 15, 2016.** After that date, the price will be \$175 for the weekend and must be postmarked by May 22, 2016.

This year registration forms are available for middle school and high school young women, post high school (18-22 yrs.) and "young women guests" (23-35 yrs.). All these forms will be on the bulletin board. Early bird prices are the same for these age groups if postmarked by the early registration date and the same (\$175) if postmarked by the May 22 date.

The Gathering Planning Committee is very happy to announce that the Rev. Tim Smith, newly-elected NC Synod bishop, will bring the message to us in Grace Chapel for Sunday Morning Worship, June 26. This will be Bishop Smith's first NC Women of the ELCA event. We look forward to sharing part of the weekend with him.

This year the **Gathering Planning Report** will be available online. During the gathering, you may access it on your laptop, iPad or smartphone. If you prefer a hard copy, you may print it out on your home printer from the website, or you may order a hard copy on your Registration Form for an extra cost of \$10 for the paper copy in a binder. (We would ask that you return the binders when you turn in keys, evaluations nametags, etc., before you head home.) Rhoda will make copies for you if you let her know before the weekend date.

Announcements & Events

Beyond the Doubt Workshop, 10 a.m.-Noon, Monday, April 11

Thriving while being unsure or anxious can be hard. We all face uncertainty - it's part of life. But far too often, uncertainty can breed doubt, anxiety, and paralysis. When it does, what we need most is unwavering belief—in ourselves, in others and in life. Join motivational speakers Jeff Bell and Shala Nicely for a powerful two-hour interactive workshop offering step-by-step directions for:



- Recognizing fear and doubt-based decisions
- The Uncertainty Paradox

Free to Grace Members, \$10 to community.

- Identifying trapdoors
- Creating belief

'Celebrate Grace' Youth Sunday



Please Join us Sunday, April 17!

Our Grace youth will lead our 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 also be singing. **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!

Servant Saturday is April 23

For the past 22 years, members of Grace have dedicated a spring Saturday morning to provide hands-on assistance for many nonprofit agencies in our Hendersonville community. These agencies include: Hendersonville Rescue Mission, Interfaith Assistance Ministry, Four Seasons Compassion for Life, Boys and Girls Club, The Storehouse, Children and Family Resource Center and Thrive. Our activities range from spring plantings, mulching, raking and cleanup, painting to making sandwiches and quilting. No special tools or special talents are required, only the desire to make positive change by giving of your time and talent. Bring the whole family and your friends, as we have many projects, and we encourage our youth to participate.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the church lobby every day from Sunday, April 3, through April 22. On Sundays between services, a committee member will be at the sign-up table to answer any questions. Please stop by, select your agency, pick your project and sign up!

This is an **opportunity for all of us to say "Thank You" to many of our nonprofit agencies** whose primary focus is to serve those in our community who are in need of our help and support.

New Home-bound Member Visitation Ministry, April 28

At 1 p.m., Thursday, April 28, Pastor Ken and Pastor Jim Stoltenberg will prepare new visitors to minister to our homebound members and match them up with someone to visit. If you would like to be part of this ministry please talk with Pastor Ken.

Do Tell Storyfest Benefit May 1

This 3 p.m. event benefits Homes for Youth. Enjoy an afternoon of engaging stories and entertainment to raise money and awareness for homeless youth. Suitable for adults and children 10 years and older.



Senior Graduation Milestone Celebrated on May 8

Blessing of the Senior High School Graduates Milestone! At the 11:15 a.m., Sunday, May 8, bilingual worship service, we will bless our High School seniors and their families at their milestone service. Congratulations to our 2016 Grace graduates: Kiersten Buman, Amy Colin-Solano, Taylor Crabtree, Jacob Freeman, John Huffman, Evan Langsdorf, Nadine Langsdorf, River McAbbe-Phillips, Ronnie Monroe and Sharon Zaragoza.



Our 2016 Graduates as Lutheridge Confirmation Campers the summer before high school

Attention Grace College Students—End of Semester Lunch on May 9

Welcome home for Summer! If you are back in Hendersonville after exams and a long semester, join us for a Grace college student lunch on us! We'll meet at 12:30 p.m., Monday, May 9. Lunch location TBD; please check with Anne for details.

A Night of Asheville Tourists Baseball with a Taste of Luxury on May 9

Join Grace Lutheran Men in Mission for an Asheville Tourists baseball game Monday evening, May 9. This will not be your regular baseball outing. LMM has reserved the **Tourists Clubhouse Suite** prior to and for the entire game. Up to 50 Grace members will enjoy the game in a first-class environment. The Clubhouse Suite combines a climate-controlled inside area with outdoor balcony seating for our entire party. Suite features



include private bathrooms (no standing in line at the restrooms), private waitstaff, plasma TVs and cash bar.

The \$24/person cost includes food: grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, baked BBQ chicken; baked beans and potato salad; chocolate chip cookies and oatmeal raisin cookies; Coca-Cola products, ice water. Peanuts, popcorn and chips & salsa provided prior to the meal. No standing in lines at the concession stands. This is an excellent arrangement for fellowship given the ability to move easily in a private area. Baseball isn't just for guys, so invite your wife, girlfriend, etc., to attend. Remember, participation is limited to 50 people. Look for the signup sheets starting April 10.

Stephen Ministry Presentation on Memory Loss & Alzheimer's on May 26

Everyone is invited to attend a basic discussion on memory loss and Alzheimer's disease sponsored by our Stephen Ministry. The speaker will be Michelle Goyeau. It will be held at 6 p.m., May 26, in Fellowship Hall.

Centennial Sacred Art Project Due May 31

"Values for the Next Century" is the theme of our juried art project. We invite members to submit art work with an artist's statement to be considered for display throughout our church beginning this summer. Forward thinking themes (i.e., diversity, inclusion, grace, etc.) may be



created in any media such as wood, paint, fiber, photographs, glass, Ideally, pieces will be displayed on walls and will weigh no more than 35 lbs. with a combined length and width of no more than 144 inches. To participate, sign up by Room 222 or see Karen-Eve Pfotzer. Put on your creative thinking hats to honor our Creator!

BBQ and Bluegrass, June 18. Mark Your Calendars!

The Grace Lutheran Men in Mission will celebrate family life in Western North Carolina with a BBQ and Bluegrass event. Watch the Sunday bulletin, website and emails for details.



Grace Foundation Scholarship Information

Scholarship applications will be available no later than April 15. Detailed instructions will be available with the scholarship application form. Questions? Ask Ron Brandon.

New Deadlines for Sunday Bulletins & Grace Vines

Please note these new deadlines: Monday Noon for bulletins; 10th of month for Grace Vine (next deadline is May 10 for the June/July issue). These earlier deadlines give us time to better prepare publications for you.

News and Opportunities from Buildings & Grounds

Youth to "Wood Chuck" in the Playgrounds on April 23

All youth are invited to take part in Grace's **Woodchuck Wood Chip Party**. Grace youth will spread play-safe wood chips in the playground behind the building as part of Servant Saturday. Come see how much wood a woodchuck can chip! Watch the weekly bulletin for details.



Grace Gardens and Lawn Care - Helpers Needed

Consider adopting one of Grace's planting beds and make it your own! Caring for a Grace planting bed will take an hour or so once or twice a month during the growing season. More grounds-care and lawn mowers are needed to help on a mowing team -- just once every third week for about two or three hours.

Wanted "Alive & Kickin'" - New Committee Members

The Building & Grounds Committee needs just a few more committee members. We're looking for Grace men and women who enjoy getting to know others and keeping the Grace buildings and grounds in good shape. Needed qualifications - none really - just a desire to help keep Grace beautiful and functional.

Monthly Work Days – 8:30 a.m., April 19 and May 17

Many projects around the Grace building and grounds have been accomplished on the B&G monthly "work days" the third Tuesday each month. Come help with tasks/projects – no special skills needed - just be willing to help and develop closer relationships with other members. B&G will provide all needed materials and tools except gloves.

Thanks - Spring Clean-Up

Many thanks to all who helped with Grace's annual spring clean-up. Without your help, Grace would not have been ready for Palm Sunday and Easter!

Call or email Dick Miley (remiley45@gmail.com or 828-692-7496) for more information on any of these service opportunities.

Luther and Grace



In celebration of our Centennial, Grace Lutheran is sponsoring a sculpture for the annual Bearfootin' on Main auction. We selected the parent and cub form and have named them Luther and Grace. The monies raised at the auction are split with 50% going to The Historic Downtown Hendersonville Organization, 25% to Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM) and 25% to Homes for Youth.

Luther and Grace arrived at church on Friday, March 4, thanks to Dick Miley and his quick response to the last-minute notification. They have a great mobile platform to move around church thanks to Barry Pierce. While at church, they have been getting plenty of attention by Pat Chambers, the artist of our design Windows of Worship. Many volunteers are involved in the painting. We have a tight deadline of April 21 to have them completed and delivered to the topcoat shop.

If you are interested in participating, please act quickly and contact Catherine Langsdorf, 828-697-3336. Also, watch for painting times via Grace emails, Facebook and the receptionist counter. Due to the nature of this project, it's hard to plan ahead for painting sessions. The design has many elements that are paint-by-number and will need a number of layers. We hope members will feel welcome to paint a small section. This should take only 20 minutes.

The big reveal will be in downtown Hendersonville at 4:30 p.m., May 13. We hope to have a great turn out from our membership to announce our participation in this favorite annual Hendersonville event. The bears will be downtown throughout the summer and then will be auctioned off on Oct. 22. We hope to have raised enough funds to purchase Luther and Grace and bring them back to our church grounds again.

Martin Luther Descendent Christian Priesmeier to Speak at Grace



As Grace celebrates its Centennial anniversary this year, Lutherans around the world prepare to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation in 2017. These two memorable events have set the stage for Grace to host Christian Priesmeier, a 14th-generation direct descendent of Doctor Martin Luther (reformer and founder of the Lutheran Church), who will speak at Grace Lutheran at 3 p.m., Saturday, April 23. Mr. Priesmeier is a layman, however, he is an authorized pastor in the German Lutheran Church. He will be making a short visit to North Carolina from Germany in April to speak about Dr. Martin Luther, his life, his descendants and his impact on the Christian world.

When asked why his last name is not Luther, Priesmeier explains, "Martin Luther's last descendant in the male line was Johann Martin Luther, who died November 9, 1756. He had a daughter but no further descendents. Therefore, there is no longer a direct descendant bearing the name Luther." Priesmeier received his primary, secondary and technical school training in Hamelin, Germany. He has degrees in Technology and Engineering and a B.A. in Intercultural Theology, Migration and Congregational Leadership from the University of Applied Sciences for Intercultural Theology (FIT) Hermannsburg, Germany. Priesmeier has had extensive training and work experience in the fields of construction and technology, has volunteered for many years with the Red Cross, and as a church youth director and volunteer lector and preacher in Lutheran churches in Germany. He will be traveling with his wife, Claudia. Together they have three children and four grandchildren.

Besides his parttime job as head of quality assurance in a Software Development company, Priesmeier continues his theological studies, is a voluntary preacher in the Lutheran Church and a member and secretary of the Board of Lutheriden Association in Zeitz. "Lutheriden" is an association that brings together the descendants of the reformer Martin Luther and his wife, Katharina von Bora, or one of his collateral relatives. The focus is to preserve and maintain the spirit and intention of Dr. Martin Luther in the general public and especially among his descendants.

Spotlight on Social Ministry

Feed the Kids

Feed the Kids Coalition comprises teams from many faith-based and civic groups in Henderson County who provide hot, nutritious meals to children at the Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County every Friday throughout the year. Started in 2009, the Coalition is a 501(c)3 organization. As of the beginning of 2015, approximately 64,000 meals had been served to local children at the Club.



Grace Lutheran has worked with the Feed the Kids Coalition for several years. In coordination with First United Methodist, up to seven Grace members prepare a meal and serve up to 300 children at the Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County approximately every six weeks. Those willing to join the Grace team should contact Rhoda Hargrave at 828-891-4380.

Feed the Kids is in need of people willing to serve on the board, become involved and help ensure Feed the Kids continues its mission.

Additional information is available from Susan O'Brien at 828-693-5553 or email susieobrien@gmail.com. Donations may be made to The Feed the Kids Coalition at PO Box 1572, Hendersonville, NC 28793.

June 23 Blood Drive to be with The Blood Connection

For many years, Grace has hosted blood drives for the Red Cross, who, until the past few years, supplied all the blood for the hospitals in our area. Five years ago, Polk County's St. Lukes Hospital invited The Blood Connection to bid on their blood supply, and subsequently contracted with them



for all their blood products. The Blood Connection has since become the sole blood supplier to 11 hospitals in Western North Carolina including Pardee, Park Ridge, Mission and the Asheville Veterans Administration Hospital. As a result, all blood collected by the Red Cross is now sent out of our area to wherever the Red Cross deems necessary.

Before deciding on changing from the Red Cross to The Blood Connection, Bonnie Pierce did a survey of the four local hospitals mentioned above. Each of these hospitals was in agreement that The Blood Connection completely met their needs, was easy to work with, provided excellent service and supplied the blood and other related services at a substantial cost savings. All of them indicated they had no intention of returning to the Red Cross.

Because of the above considerations, and most especially concern that the needs of our community be given first priority in Grace Lutheran blood drives, blood drive Coordinator Bonnie Pierce and Assistant Coordinator Joe Prasil recommended the Social Ministry Committee consider making the change from the Red Cross to The Blood Connection for our June drive. This change was approved by the Social Ministry Committee. We will continue to be a Red Cross Disaster Relief Center and to support their Disaster Relief Program.

The June drive will continue in our usual format, and as a Blood Connection blood drive, we will continue to be recognized by WLOS as a donation center for their June 23, WLOS annual Blood Drive. We will require the services of our many willing Grace volunteers. If you have questions, contact Bonnie Pierce (bnpierce16@hotmail.com, 315-657-6099). To volunteer, contact Joe Prasil (jiPrasil@hotmail.com, 828-435-1055.)

Children & Family Resource Center

The Children & Family Resource Center is one of the important agencies the Grace Social Ministry Committee supports. This agency helps children at every stage of their development by sponsoring parenting classes to ensure school success, by referring kids with



behavioral challenges to special help and by providing resources to preschools throughout the county. To further their outreach, the Center reaches out to the entire community with special events and programs. On March 21, they will host a "Mix and Mingle" afternoon and evening event with government officials to learn about childcare licensing. On April 5, they will host a program on kindergarten readiness. One of their largest educational opportunities occurs on April 16, the Week of the Young Child Conference, which draws more than 300 educators, parents and college students. Members from our congregation will volunteer at this conference. To more fully understand the full scope of Children and Family Resource Center, go to their website at childrenandfamily.org.

REMINDER: Remaining Summer Mission Team Commitments

The Mission Trip not just a one week experience. It is a yearlong journey we have embarked upon. Below are the remaining Mission Trip-related commitments for registered youth and adult guides as a reminder for your spring/summer calendars.

- Sunday, May 15—6-8 p.m.: Grace Space—Participants and Guides
- Sunday, June 5—10 a.m.: FINAL trip meeting—Participants, Guides, Parents
- Sunday, June 12—11:15am: Camp and Mission Trip Blessing at worship service
- Saturday, July 16-23—Summer Mission Trip in Bayou La Batre, Alabama
- **Sunday, Aug. 21—3 p.m.:** Mission Trip Presentation to Congregation, *Participants meet at 2 p.m. to set up and prepare for presentation.

April & May Birthdays				??? ???????????	
Kay Brems	4/1	Linda Pankhurst	4/22	John Simons	5/12
Diane Sellers	4/1	Daniel Solano	4/22	Claire Darrah	5/12
Jake Patterson	4/1	Julie Goins	4/22	Pat Stivers	5/13
Mark Ross	4/2	Mark Berger	4/22	Megan Pigors	5/13
Patty Bowker	4/2	Chandler Bolick	4/22	Bev Johnson	5/14
Jud Etherton	4/2	Pam Badin	4/24	Vanessa Wingard	5/14
Fred Martin	4/3	Jean Vierra	4/25	Karla Edwards	5/15
Adelaide Haack	4/5	Lynne Presley	4/25	Leeann Burris	5/15
James Wiggins	4/6	Rod Hansen	4/26	Doug Decker	5/16
Ted Lawshe	4/8	Brenda Fisher	4/26	Irene Syvertson	5/16
Steve Walker	4/8	Katherine White	4/26	Patricia Malinak	5/16
Larry VanDerVliet	4/9	Anne Monroe	4/26	Debbie Freeman	5/17
Dorwin Larsen	4/9	Gabrielle Renken	4/26	Sigrid Ross	5/17
Emily Trexler	4/9	Ken Langsdorf	4/27	Chris Ring	5/17
Ed McIntosh	4/9	Renne Barolet	4/28	Jen Johnson	5/17
Jan Hoffmann	4/10	Dave Slagle	4/28	Audrey Tews	5/18
Dorothy Hall	4/11	Josh Wentzel	4/28	Billie Slear	5/18
Janice Mickle	4/12	Ann Yannuzzi	4/29	Steve Buman	5/18
Amy Kispert	4/12	Donna Hamilton	4/29	Noe Acosta	5/19
Nancy Bellick	4/13	Melissa Walden	4/29	Nolan Davis	5/19
Marilyn Speed	4/14	Steve Shuford	4/30	Susie Carlson	5/20
Fran Shaw	4/14	Denise Pryor	5/1	Elisabeth Camerra	5/21
Lynda Martinez	4/14	Heather Brown	5/1	Horst Wenz	5/23
Phil Seidel	4/15	Don Bell	5/2	David Hinkelman	5/23
Helen Holditch	4/16	Doug Fennell	5/2	John Bentz	5/23
Carol Gillett	4/16	Miranda Freeman	5/2	Mike Hoffmann	5/24
Jeff Michels	4/16	Sam Boland	5/3	Eric Hagstrom	5/24
Sarah Beth		Dave Carver	5/3	Katherine Van Horne	5/24
Freeman	4/16	Ada Morava	5/5	Buzzy Hoegger	5/26
Jackson Temple	4/16	Helen Dunn	5/7	Mary Tody	5/26
Rosaleen Dawes	4/17	Allen Pankopf	5/7	Cindy Bonincontri	5/27
Colin Michels	4/17	Pam Zachman	5/7	Jack Bice	5/27
Dale Beardsley	4/18	Delores Braun	5/8	Wes Curry	5/27
Maria Resendiz	4/18	Rena Bice	5/9	Mary-Lou Leidheiser	5/28
Gretchen Hahn	4/19	Ann Keiser	5/9	Judy Waldrop	5/28
Tom Morgan	4/19	Virginia Rehn	5/10	Tom Bleick	5/28
Sheila Hartzell	4/19	Maddi Havener	5/10	Bob Andersen	5/29
Monica Stallings	4/19	Julia Michels	5/10	JoAnne Mummert	5/29
Sophia Brown	4/19	Evelia Solano-	F /1.1	Ginny Kuglin	5/30
Thom Tews	4/20	Jimenez	5/11	Dennis Waldrop	5/30
Karen Bowman	4/20	Elise Trexler	5/11	Beverly Cannady	5/30
Marcie Sims	4/21	Bill Killian	5/12	Kyle Rees	5/30
Yong Weber	4/21	Ada Gough	5/12		
Kristy Socia	4/21				



Bob & Betty Horvath	4/4	Saul & Vianey Solano	4/29
Harold & Shirley Bell	4/5	Brad & Jennifer Parson	4/30
Allen & Mary Pankopf	4/6	Daniel & Aurora Solano-Delgado	5/1
David & Myrnelle Wulff	4/6	Henry & Barb Koch	5/3
Pat & Val Murtha	4/7	Shay Hane & Cornelia Nelson Hane	5/5
Bob Farrell & Lorna Bashore	4/9	Gary & Lynn Kester	5/8
Ronald & Bridget Monroe	4/11	Wade & Caroline Patterson	5/11
Bob & Diane Hatfield	4/14	Bill & Becky Schmidt	5/13
Steve & Ivy Walker	4/16	Nolan & Tani Davis	5/15
Bruce & Lesley Darrah	4/18	Tani & Misty Masha	5/17
Doug & Charn Fennell	4/18	Bill & Sharon Wohlt	5/19
Christopher & Christine Smith	4/19	Dave & Barbara Bair	5/19
Wayne & Leah Scroggins	4/19	Jim & Jane Hunt	5/19
Jack & Barbara Nemec	4/20	Jeff & Simons Michels	5/20
Rick & Virginia Rehn	4/20	Andy & Barbara Pytel	5/24
Jim & Jan Hendley	4/21	John & Cindy Simons	5/24
John & Jan Caldemeyer	4/22	Fred & D'Anne Martin	5/25
Jamie & Laura Freeman	4/26	Charlie & Katie Bolick	5/30
Bill & Billie Slear	4/27	Joe & Carol Gillett	5/30
Joe & Blanche Dejmal	4/28	John & Bonnie Wells	5/30
Way & Deanna Plowman	4/28	Nick & Rachel Cummings	5/31
Bill & Barbara Lang	4/29		



To my Dear Grace Family:

I wish to thank you for the many prayers and cards that you sent to me during my recent recovery from a rather serious operation. I was surprised to find that so many people at Grace knew about it, and of course, the operation was quite a surprise to me.

God is very gracious, and I thank Him for His many mercies, and especially for you all. You gave me constant reminders of His great love for us all during my long recovery period, as well as much encouragement to recover. All is going well now, and I look forward to seeing everyone again. Thank you too for holding up Irene in your prayers and phones calls. Thank you all again.

~Einar Syvertson

On behalf of Henderson County Department of Social Services and Homes for Youth, we would like to thank Grace Lutheran and any members who assisted with helping us provide a top notch training program to potential foster and adoptive parents. We appreciate everyone from who opened the doors, reserved the space, prepared the meals, assisted with childcare and helped us recruit. What an awesome job! In the end Henderson County walked away with the potential of 14 trained foster/adoptive families who plan to complete the licensing process. We truly could not of done it without you. So thank you!

Our next set of Foster Parent Training classes begin 6-8 p.m., April 6, at Mud Creek Baptist. Childcare will be available. To register, contact Darlene Stone at 828-694-6252 or email at

families4kids@hendersoncountydss.org.

GIVING HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, 2016

	General Fund			Capital Fund	d	
	Pledge Budget		Pledges		Pledge Budget	Pledges
Total Pledge	\$ 930,000	\$	824,383	\$	220,000	\$ 178,629 \$
Received on Pledge		\$	126,339			24,871
Pledge to date (Historica	l basis)		128,575	_		<u>31,973</u>
Over (Under) Pledge at F	February 29, 2016	\$	(2,236)	_		(7,102)

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, 2016

	Budget	Actual
General Fund		
Revenues	\$ 1,155,760	\$ 158,572
Expenditures	\$ 1,155,760	175,873
Net Revenues Over (Under)		
Expenditures		\$ (17,301)
Capital Fund		
Revenues	\$ 244,200	\$ 29,873
Expenditures Net Revenues Over (Under)	\$ 244,200	138,736
Expenditures		\$ (108,863)

Note - Capital Fund expenditures include loan principal payments of \$128,083 in 2016. The loan balance at February 29, 2016 is \$705,852.

Save the church postage ... read your Grace Vine online. To stop receiving the printed publication by mail, send a request to <u>pr@gracehendersonville.com</u>. Thank you!

Memorials – April / May

Edward Klein

Howard & Lorraine Martinie Richard & Carlene Belanger P.G. Britt Donald & Leah Ryel Helen Neumann Lenore Picard Sally Helppie

Frank Kranetz

Gerald & Margaret Mader Paul & Linda Gajda

Ruth Doten

Paul and Marion Rickert Richard and Carlene Belanger Joyce and Ron Brandon

Ed Klein

John and Cathey Bell Johnson



Connecting faith & finances for good."

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

Preschool

Amount of Deposit: \$331

Richard & Carlene Belanger Robert & Joan Frederiksen Billie Slear Warren & Yong Weber Richard & Rheta Luy

Grace Lutheran Church Amount of Deposit: \$1,694

Barbara Fountain
Martin Geyer
Edward & Judith Lichtenhagen
Kenneth & Marjorie Loken
Carol Miley
Greg & Marilyn Munson
Christine Ring
Judy Smith
Emily Trexler
ELS Wolters
Harold & Shirley Bell
George & Joy Kiefer
Dorothy Schuette
Stephen Shuford
Evelyn Skinner

Rev. Greg & Brenda Williams

Vera Wynne

Thursdersary Celebration 3

1916-2016



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

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Return Service Requested

Journey Together - Grace Ministry Offers Opportunities for all Ages

Do you know someone who's looking for a caring community who shares a similar faith in God? Or, do you have a friend or neighbor who doesn't currently attend a church? It's scary to go to a new church by yourself – especially if you haven't been in a long time ... or at all. We welcome all at Grace. If someone has been on your heart, invite them to join you at one of our services.

8:15 & 9:45 a.m. Traditional

11:15 a.m. Contemporary & Spanish

On the second Sunday of each month, we hold a bilingual service at 11:15 a.m.

