

Grace Vine

Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA
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September 2020

Strategic Vision: Grace is a diverse community of faith serving Christ and sharing the love of God.

Mission Statement: We believe that God in Christ is central to all life and we WORSHIP him through TELLING his story, GROWING in faith, SUPPORTING each other, and CARING for his world.

Purpose:
Transforming Lives Through Christ.

Core Values:

- Being a nurturing family of faith
- Growing faith in God the Father, Son & Holy Spirit
- Serving others with the heart of Jesus
- Seeking unity in Christ
- Embracing people seeking Christ
- Welcoming cross-cultural, Cross+Generational

The Joy of Serving: A WELCA Servant Highlight

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all people." (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)



A while back, I put out a call for help to create a banner for the Women of Grace. My inspired thought was that a WELCA banner would be one visible way for the women of the church to proclaim our partnership in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God, Barb Koch answered the call!

Barb Koch will tell you that God blessed her with a love of sewing as a youngster. She began by sewing a wardrobe for her Barbie doll. After mastering basting and seams, collars and sleeves, gathers and pleats, Barb eventually graduated to sewing her own clothes – including her bridal gown!

Pictured: Vicki Marthaler, Janet Harms, Barb & Henry Koch

As one thing generally leads to another, Barb began to learn about quilting. She discovered she had a great love for the quilting process – measuring, exacting stitches, placement, color combinations, fabric textures – it proved to be rewarding work! Christ the King Lutheran Church in Cary, NC, benefited greatly from her call to make quilted banners for the church. Then, with the move to Hendersonville and the transfer to Grace, Barb continues to be “on call” for the banner needs here. There is a quilted banner in one of the Sunday school rooms created by Barb that was for the Centennial celebration of Grace.

In the March WELCA newsletter, before anyone knew there would be a total church shutdown due to Covid-19, I proposed the project of creating a banner for the Women of Grace. Barb contacted me almost immediately and was willing to take the lead. Barb researched the WELCA logo, fabric ideas, looked online for other WELCA banners from other churches, compared lettering options and prayed for clarity! Soon, she envisioned a banner that would honor the Women of Grace.

In my mind, the banner would be a group project with many hands taking part. Who knew the pandemic would shut everything down and put a screeching halt to gatherings! Fortunately, God provided. As Barb shared: “Henry, my husband, and I researched fonts to put together the

lettering on the quilt. He printed out the lettering and I used them in the quilt. With the help of Janet Harms and friends, we decided on a stitch for securing the lettering. Once the banner was finished, it looked too plain so I decided to add butterflies which are symbols of resurrection!" The banner is beautiful - a result of expert hands reflecting a servant's heart.

When the idea came to me for the Women of Grace to sponsor an online offering of sharing faith stories, I knew this banner would be the perfect backdrop for the video. I called Barb and asked if the banner could be ready for the first faith story of "Gathering Grace." She worked feverishly to have it completed, and this banner makes the perfect backdrop for the videos!

In the future, a dedication of this WELCA banner will be scheduled. For now, let us extend our thanks to Barb Koch and her entourage for gifting us with such a beautiful banner.

Vicki Marthaler

Reflections from Pastor Alfredo Oviedo

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

Grace in Times of COVID-19 and Social Polarization

I would like to share verbatim email messages from both Grace and community members who resist and debunk the idea that God's Church might be "closed." Instead, in difficult times like the ones we are encountering, "church," faith, creativity, and ministry are possible and flourish! I do pray and hope that those who think otherwise may join us in our efforts to be faithful to our baptismal promises and calling, for the sake of the world.

June 17, 2020 - Pastor and the rest, due to setbacks and complications in my treatment I will be taking some time off. I will provide you the Working Preacher and the Daily Discipleship sites. If you find another Bible study great. Hopefully I will have my wits about me by Aug. I do miss the class, just because I'm not talking don't pass up the opportunity to study and learn, peace and God's blessings.

June 18, 2020 - You did a marvelous job of taping. Thank you so much! Having the Bible verse and the words to the song on the screen are very helpful. The last song for does have one typo. "Spirit" is "sprit." I don't know if that can be easily changed. If not, no matter. We would like to have a video go up every other week. So if you begin with, that would be great. Has been lining up others for July 8. She is getting a good response. I do believe this will indeed be a refreshment for many. Thank you, again, Blessings.

June 20, 2020 - Subject: Re: Council Nominating Committee question Thank you, my dear Grace Shepherds for answering the inquiry from ... and me so promptly. We are so blessed at Grace for all you do. I wish you a Happy Father's Day tomorrow. BTW, ... and I are doing well. Shalom.

June 24, 2020 - WOW!!! You guys were totally awesome today. Perfect weather for a day of service together in a playground! Much of the tree trimming was long overdue! I enjoyed seeing and being with all of you after a too long Covid shut down. I have applied for a Thrivent Action Team grant to help pay for new playground wood chips which I hope will be blown in during the week of July 19. I am hoping that we can pressure wash the playground equipment during the July work day - assuming that the chips are in by then. Again many thanks!!!

June 29, 2020 - Subject: FYI: ICU visits at Pardee I received this from Chaplain ... last Thursday or Friday. Good for us all to know. I wanted to let you know that beginning this week, one family member per day is allowed to visit patients in ICU. This is only for ICU. If the family wants you to come, you can be that one person that day, but you can't come in addition to the family member. Check with the family if you need to coordinate.

July 15, 2020 - I just wanted to let each of you know that I filled 8 gift bags with prayer shawls today and put them in the closet. The red bags are for men and the lavender or white bags are for women. Blessings to you,

July 21, 2020 - Just a quick note to save the date and time for our next Zoom check-in meeting. We will gather at 10:30 am this coming Friday, July 24th for about an hour or so. I will send the actual link on Thursday evening so you will have it near the top of your emails Friday morning. I hope to talk with you then!

July 24, 2020 - Subject: quote "The more I think about the human suffering in our world and my desire to offer a healing response, the more I realize how crucial it is not to allow myself to become paralyzed by feelings of helplessness and guilt. More important than ever is to be very faithful to my vocation to do well the few things I am called to do and hold on to the joy and peace they bring me. I must resist the temptation to let the forces of darkness pull me into despair and make me one more of their many victims." - Henri Nouwen Peace,

August 2, 2020 - ... and I were thinking of you this morning as we watched the service at Grace. These past 4 months have been hard on everyone. It is lonely watching the service at home but also lonely for you to speak to a camera. We miss the hugs and smiles, group gatherings at church, hospitality and choir, dinners at our home, and of course worship. We believe it is right not to open Grace too soon with Covid cases skyrocketing across the country though. I want you to know that we are with you every Sunday in spirit and appreciate all the effort you have made to keep us all connected and inspired. We see you but you don't see us so I am sending you a photo of our small worship space at home so you can see we are with you each Sunday. ... and I are doing ok, one day at a time, and we try to remain grateful for what we have, and helpful to others in any way possible. I hope you, ... and all the family are healthy and managing well. Thank you, Pastor We will keep in touch. Blessings and love to you and your family. Hope to see you on Wednesday.

August 3, 2020 - We were talking in the car yesterday about this and that and began talking about our faith journey we tried to describe the impact of Disciple 1 on our journey. We decided that early on it was like we had a small dimly lit flashlight, in the dark, and were told to find something, but were not told what it was we were looking for. As we went through Disciple 1 it was like a very bright flashlight and knew what we were looking for: It was Jesus!!! our growth has become amazing since that time, so thank you again for leading us through our journey!!

Blessings, Pastor Alfredo M. Oviedo

Grace Youth Ministry

Dir. of Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Anne Monroe – amonroe@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 x309



Since the pandemic began, our Grace students have faced the loss of many teenager milestones, activities, and seemingly endless transitions which continue into the new school year. Nelson, a GYM senior describes it this way: *"There's the freedom of not having anything, but there's also the heartbreak of not having anything."*



March 18 was our first GYM Zoom meeting. Youth Ministry hit the ground running with online ministry and has not stopped, continuing to meet each week digitally. During our Zoom meetings we check-in, share highs/lows, pray, have an ELCA candle time devotion, and hangout virtually. Last month we added some in-person physical distance gatherings thanks to Historic Johnson Farm for providing a safe outdoor space to meet. Our students have also volunteered for leadership opportunities at the Drive-Up Communion services.



Whether we are meeting online or modified in-person, the goal is to provide a constant safe place where students connect, share, with spiritual pause and care in the midst of uncertainty and loss. Noah, a GYM senior, shares: *"What Zoom meetings don't have is consistency in attendance. Some days there could be the entire high school youth attending or some days just a handful of people. Physical distancing at least gives us all the chance to see each other in person again, yet we do have to follow CDC guidelines."* Jenna, a GYM sophomore says: *"I enjoy meeting through Zoom and outside with physical distancing because it makes me feel connected during this odd time."*

Grace Campus Ministry	Grace Young Professionals
 <p>Grace Campus Ministry students at a recent in-person picnic lunch before returning to fall semester classes at Historic Johnson Farm. Syedi Acosta-Oviedo shares: <i>"I enjoyed being able to talk with Anne and Elise about going back to school, and how my college was handling things different from to where Elise was going. We got to catch up on what we were doing and talked about how COVID-19 had changed our lives. I really enjoyed my time with them. The lunch is something I look forward to every semester!"</i></p>	 <p>Grace Young Professionals at a recent in-person physical distance hang out at Bold Rock. Mandy Gibson says: <i>"It was nice to see church friends for the first time in person in months!"</i></p>

Invite a new member to your circle!

A Message from Our President: Vicki Marthaler

Greetings, dear Grace Friends!

During this Covid time we are discovering new ways to worship, attend Bible study, participate in meetings and communicate as we continue to grow in faith and practice our faith in serving others.

The women of Grace are not sitting around with their feet up! The women of Grace are active and creating intentional ways to meet needs in our church and in our community and even in the world!

The Quilters are still sewing squares at homes and gathering in small groups to piece quilts together. We will still plan for and celebrate these quilts at our October Thankoffering Service.

The Prayer Shawl/Square ministry is active and crocheting and knitting so that comfort can go forth from this place. It was such a gift to have them handing out shawls at the last Drive-Up Communion.

Circles are "Zooming," socially distancing together, calling one another and sending letters/emails.

Women of Grace are stepping forward to share faith stories in our online program "Gathering Grace." Look for it on YouTube. It is an outreach to offer encouragement during these stress-filled days.

AND, if you haven't already, please check out our fundraiser of selling WELCA patches and tote bags! An order blank can be found on the Grace Lutheran website. Click on Ministries, then picking Women of the ELCA (WELCA.) All proceeds will go toward supporting our local charities with a tithe to our National WELCA office.

And this is only a portion of what the Women of Grace are about!

So you see, Covid cannot shut down ministry. It cannot stunt faith. It fails to dilute the heart.

May the Spirit of our Risen Christ be even more present in your life. May life-giving thoughts and actions continue to fill your days as you walk with Jesus. Feet up only for worship! Then, get going! There is much yet to do!



For additional information about this and other ministries of the Women of the ELCA, see the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or contact our president, Vicki Marthaler (218-849-5683).

Stewardship

God's Abundance

The routine of our daily lives and future plans have been disrupted this year by the coronavirus pandemic. The necessity of not gathering for worship, classes, or fellowship activities for the sake of safety may have disrupted our physical gatherings, but it has not stopped the ministry of Grace. Although this pandemic may create the illusion of scarcity - time, energy, resources, skills - the reality is God's abundance remains constant.

The witness of Scripture is of God's abundant provision for the needs of people. Under the leadership of Joseph, Egypt had abundance enough to provide for Joseph's family during the widespread famine (Genesis 45:4-20). God's abundance kept the flour and oil from running out for Elijah and the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8-16). Jesus assures us that God's abundance provides for the necessities of life - food, drink, clothing (Matthew 7:25-33). God's abundance supplied the needs of all in the early church (Acts 2:43-47). Through Jesus, God's abundance fed over 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish (Matthew 13:17-21).

Our fall stewardship response ministry will remind us of various aspects of God's abundance toward us and invite us to share our time, talent, and financial resources out of that abundance. This year's theme is ***Sharing from God's Abundance***.

Our theme passage is Matthew 13:17-21, the miracle of Jesus multiplying the 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed the multitude. The eyes of the disciples were clouded by their perspective of scarcity: *'Lord, 5 loaves and 2 fish is not enough to feed these thousands of people - it is scarcely enough for us to have a bite.'* Jesus taught them about trusting God's abundance as he took, blessed, broke, and gave the bread and fish to be distributed among the massive crowd. In the end, God's abundance provided more than enough - 12 baskets of leftovers!

So it is in our lives. God provides an abundance in numerous ways so that our needs may be met AND so that out of that abundance, we may care for our neighbors. Beginning Aug. 30, the pastors will offer a sermon series based on the five commitments we made during our "Affirmation of Baptism" to help us explore God's abundance. Our examination of God's abundance will culminate on Commitment Sunday, Oct. 4, as we respond by sharing from God's abundance our financial intent cards for the ministry of Grace in 2021.

Sermon Series: Generosity - Sharing from God's Abundance

Aug. 30: Being Generous - "Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper"

Sept. 6: Connecting Generations - "Live among God's faithful people"

Sept. 13: Equipping Households - "Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed"

Sept. 20: Creating Centers of Generosity - "Serve all people following the example of Jesus"

Sept. 27: Living God's Story - "Strive for justice and peace in all the earth"

Oct. 4: Commitment Sunday

Birthdays



Cricket Crigler	9/2	Ladson Hart	9/7	Beck Miller	9/19
Miriam Oviedo-Clark	9/2	Rebecca Janowiak	9/8	Brian Davis	9/20
Kathleen Purdy	9/2	Anna Moroni	9/8	Sandy Jardot	9/20
Marjorie Jones	9/3	Richard Robinson	9/8	Osias Salgado	9/20
Bill Battermann	9/4	Joy Kiefer	9/9	Sharon Wohlt	9/20
Linda Finster	9/4	Carol Miley	9/9	Barbara Pytel	9/21
Jimmie Morrison	9/4	Anita Slagle	9/10	Henry Schwenk	9/23
William Schmidt	9/4	Karen Kniffen	9/11	John Simons	9/23
Christine Smith	9/4	John Korner	9/11	Linda Smith Rymer	9/23
Shirley Bell	9/5	Patricia Murtha	9/11	Amparo Acosta	9/24
Nancy Chiarenza	9/5	Heather Wiggins	9/11	Shirley Gray	9/24
Kyndall Danner	9/5	Gerald Davis	9/12	Richard Jackson	9/24
Patrick McCarthy	9/5	Avery Simons	9/12	James Reinhard	9/24
Jeffery Miller	9/5	Norma Wegman	9/13	Vicky Rholl	9/24
Deanna Plowman	9/5	Syedi Acosta-Oviedo	9/14	Jan Dokter	9/25
Rick Rehn	9/5	Nyles Clark	9/14	Kyle Kaddouri	9/25
Wayne Forsythe	9/6	Jane Henderson	9/14	Patricia Robinson	9/25
Richard Pemble	9/6	Duane Geiler	9/16	Madden Stallings	9/26
George Banta	9/7	Jill Ann Kaddouri	9/16	Robert Dahm	9/27
David Blatecky	9/7	Christine Samotis	9/16	Bruce Foster	9/27
Aileen Flax	9/7	Edgar Trexler	9/17	Marc Shockley	9/28
Beatriz Funk	9/7	Cathy Bumgarner	9/18	Linda Daleure	9/30
Robert Funk	9/7	Carl McKenzie	9/19		

Anniversaries

Rick & Charlotte Nelson	9/1/1967	Dick & Rheta Luy	9/17/1955
Larry & Gerri Schwake	9/2/1962	Richard & JoAnne Mummert	9/17/1972
Jim & Shirley Jo Howard	9/3/1955	George & Suzanne Celtrick	9/18/2004
Brian & Thelma Williams	9/3/1994	Richard & Donna Christensen	9/18/1976
Philip & Vicki Safriet	9/4/1987	Horst & Lynne Wenz	9/19/1970
Dick & Carlene Belanger	9/9/1967	Dan & Jill Wingard	9/19/1998
Tim & Pat Chambers	9/9/1972	Ladson & Jeanny Hart	9/20/1969
Martin & Janet Geyer	9/9/1958	Bob & Mary Sebyy	9/20/2008
George & Catharin McCarthy-Banta	9/10/2016	Andrew & Sara Schmidt	9/22/2018
Matt & Donna Samotis	9/10/1994	Peter & Karen-Eve Gollup-Pfotzer	9/24/2017
Doug & Cathy Wilder	9/11/2010	Jim & Kathy Reinhard	9/24/2011
Peter & Amy Knight	9/12/2003	Glen & Lilly Bonetti	9/25/1982
Donald & Elisabeth Obertein	9/12/2010	Bill & Marie Mortensen	9/27/1986
Tony & Linda Pezzimenti	9/16/2000	Wade & Debi Sanders	9/27/1975
		Darrell & Marcia Kruse	9/29/1984



1245 6th Ave W
Hendersonville NC 28739
Return Service Requested

Social Ministry Spotlight Homes For Youth

Homes For Youth continues to pursue its mission **to provide homes, help, and hope for Henderson County youth who have lost their homes**. We currently have four girls at our foster home, Vanessa (17), Mary (15), Ursala (14), and Ursala's sister, Alice (3). [In respect for their privacy, these are not their real names.] Mary and Ursala are busy during the week with activities at the YMCA day camp at Kellogg Center, Vanessa interacts with her peers at the Boys and Girls Club, and Alice attends a local day care facility. These facilities are a blessing for our foster parents, who both have full-time, 'essential' employment positions. In addition, two girls who recently left our foster home after more than two years in residence have been doing very well since aging out of foster care. One went on an Outward Bound adventure that included hiking part of the Appalachian Trail and several mountainous trails in Argentina. She is now living with a mentor in Asheville while attending AB Tech, where she was named to the Dean's List for the spring semester. A second girl recently completed her CNA training and has found full-time employment at a local nursing home.

For more information about Homes For Youth and how you can help, please visit www.homesforyouth.org, or contact Grace Lutheran's liaison on the Homes For Youth Board of Directors, Jim Nelson, at colg868@gmail.com.

School Supplies

The Women of Grace are collecting school supplies for children in our local area. The traditional Lutheran World Relief school supply drive is cancelled this year due to a myriad of Covid reasons. HOWEVER, children in our immediate area are still in need so school supplies – items donated will be distributed through IAM, Safelight, and other local nonprofits that assist children. Please place any donations of school supplies on the church portico. Notebooks, backpacks, pencils, pens, scissors, rulers, crayons - all accepted and appreciated.