



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

October 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 Serving in Small Ways Phone Call Ministry

Shortly after the beginning of self-quarantine, the Banquet Bearers at Grace were asked to call those persons they served, checking in with them weekly. A Banquet Bearer is a lay person who serves communion to folks who are not physically able to attend church. It seemed only natural to ask those who were in relationship with these people to make contact and check on their needs. Every Banquet Bearer was willing and eager to do this, but as pandemic time wore on, it became obvious that many more people were in need of interaction through phone calls and the pastors simply could not call them all. The Phone Call Ministry began, in partnership with the pastors, sharing with them any pertinent information so they could follow up. In addition to the Banquet Bearers, several others offered to call our church family members.

A couple of months into the quarantine, special consideration was given at a local care facility to visit one of our members on her birthday. As she was wheeled to the door leading to the patio, five of us gathered outside (social distancing) to sing her several songs including "Happy Birthday." It not only meant so much to her, it meant the world to us! To see her happy tears was touching. Soon after that, this particular care facility would not allow this kind of gathering because an employee had tested positive for covid.

This makes Grace's Phone Call Ministry all the more important. I know that there are more phone callers at Grace who are not on our PCM "list," checking on neighbors and small group members and we are grateful for their faithful efforts. Many thanks go to our pastors, staff, lay leaders and church community for reaching out to our Grace family. Thank you, Grace Church, for supporting the Phone Call Ministry through your continued prayers.

~Sue Filson

Message from Senior Pastor Greg Williams

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

Reformation and RE-Formation



In October my thoughts turn toward Oktoberfest, Reformation Sunday, Affirmation of Baptism, and birthdays (Brenda's & Rachel's) - although NOT in this order. :-)

Thanks to the continuing affliction and dangers of CoVid19, this October I'm wrestling with RE-formation. Yes, RE-forming how we envision, enact, and extend the ministry and mission of Grace as a community of faith when we are unable to safely gather in large groups. (Yes. I am well aware that we have the "right" as a religious organization to gather. HOWEVER, I believe the commandment of Jesus to love God and our neighbor is more important and best lived out at this time by continuing the majority of our gatherings online only.)

We are RE-forming how we provide meaningful, faith-building experiences through KIDDS Club, Study Buddies, Confirmation Ministry, and adult classes. It IS different, but the Spirit IS at work.

We are RE-forming how we hold meetings, including, probably, our Annual Meeting on Nov. 15.

We are RE-forming how we provide pastoral care, Stephen Ministry, prayer ministry, and Communion celebrations.

We are RE-forming how we will celebrate Affirmation of Baptism for four young disciples on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25 ... and possibly Christmas Eve also.

When Luther's 95 Theses initiated the Reformation, he set off a tremendous cascade of events that RE-formed the Church. The Church has continued to grow and flourish in myriad ways that never would have happened without RE-forming the Church.

As I reflect on the RE-forming that the Holy Spirit wrought through Luther and other reformers, I am confident and at peace with the RE-forming work of the Spirit now. I believe the Church will be different and the Church will flourish (as it did in Luther's day) because - ultimately - the Holy Spirit is the power at work now as in every RE-forming of the Church.

May the Spirit give us faith to recognize this RE-forming and the courage to share in this ongoing transformation for the future.

Grace Youth Ministry

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

Grace Youth Ministry: Confirmation in a Pandemic



Even though I graduated from Luther Seminary 11 years ago, I do remember there were absolutely NO classes offered on how to adapt youth ministry in a pandemic. Faced with this challenge and throughout the past several months, the pastors and I began to seek out resources and ideas from colleagues at a synod and national level. We participated in numerous zooms, webinars, held planning meetings, and sought directional input from parents.

During my ten years of being on staff at Grace, the pastors and I have always strived to provide a confirmation program that is interactive, helping teenagers learn about their faith and how to apply it to their daily lives. As Tammy Jones West challenged us in a recent NC Synod zoom about confirmation: "Know your why", I believe our approach at Grace lives this out. When I was a teenager, my confirmation classes were for three hours on Sunday afternoons, sitting and listening to the pastor talk. We had to then memorize Luther's Small Catechism and were graded on saying it out loud in front of the class. This way might have taught us what the pastor thought about faith, but it did not help us as students learn how to claim our faith as our own and live it daily. This is my 'why': to help our students know they are beloved children of God, discover their gifts to help and serve their neighbor, and how to navigate challenges that inevitably come their way.





When our recent Grace Youth Ministry graduate, Kevin brought his sister Emily to her first confirmation class this week, he said: *"I can't believe it is already time for Emily to start confirmation."* Kevin began his confirmation journey at Grace in the fall 2013 and is now passing on the faith bringing his sister to her confirmation classes. This year has been confirmation that the church is ready, willing, and able to adapt creatively, boldly, and quickly to meet new challenges. We decided to hold our first middle school ministry outside under the portico so the students could have the opportunity for in-person interaction. Pastor Ken shares: *"Everything is different and challenging these days. But I see God at work helping us find our way. There was great excitement at our first session with Middle School Ministry! We were all so happy to see each other. In our session we*

talked about anchors in life; things that help stabilize us, especially in stormy times in life. We talked about how our faith in God helps calm us in this unsettling time."



An annual GYM tradition we have at the beginning of each school year is for 7th and 8th grade leadership to present the incoming 6th graders with their new Lutheran Study Bibles. 6th grader Katya received her new bible this week and expressed how the friendships she had at Grace made a difference for her in her new middle school. Katya said coming to youth group: *"is nice because at least I know Emily in my grade. With starting a new school and it being online I don't know anyone else in my class. It is good to have a friend from church that I do know."*

I have learned that with ministry, there is no one size fits all approach or answer. The needs of ministry are fluid and change day by day, even minute by minute. Confirmation Ministry needs will continue to be adapted this fall. It is not going to be the same, so let's do something different. This a new normal we are creating, and we must pivot every day. Thankfully, our students, families, and staff are willing to try ministry in a new way and go where the Holy Spirit calls us along this journey.

Family Ministry Update



We will be attempting in-person, outside Sunday school in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please check out the Grace Lutheran YouTube channel for new lessons and stories for children from birth through 5th grade. Content will be added weekly.

There are days when I am overwhelmed with how to proceed with ministry let alone in the life of my family, so I thought I would share a list of "Family Rules and Agreements" from BigLifeJournal.com, which I have found helpful in my life.

BE RESPECTFUL

We will use active listening and take turns talking.

We will respect each other's personal space.

We will give each other time and space needed to relax, work and play.

BE A SUPPORTIVE FAMILY MEMBER

We will do our best to follow our family rules.

We will be kind and understanding with each other.

We will contribute to keeping our home clean and safe

We will spend time as a family doing fun, screen-free activities as often as possible.

CARE OF OURSELVES AND OTHERS

We will do our best to stay healthy and safe.

We will follow safety guidelines when outside.

We will let each other know when we feel lonely or sad.

We will ask for help when needed.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR DAY

We will plan our days and do our best to follow through.

We will look on the bright side and be grateful for what we have and can do

We will limit our screen time to engage in creative, fun and educational activities.

We will be realistic with expectations for ourselves and others.

A Message from Our President: Vicki Marthaler

On Oct. 18, the Women of Grace will celebrate Thankoffering Sunday. Thankoffering Sunday, or “Quilt Sunday” as it is fondly referred to, is a tradition of the Women of the ELCA. The tradition of Thankoffering Sunday is that this is the Sunday that is led by the women of the church. In a “normal year,” women are the ushers, cantors, communion servers, special music and readers. This year we are pleased to have Judy Stoltenberg and



Chira Kirkland read the lessons and lead us in the responsive reading of the Psalm. Our guest pastor is Pastor CeCee Mills who serves as Associate to the Director of Evangelical Mission at our North Carolina Synod office. We welcome her and give thanks for her message (and what a wonderful way to celebrate 50 years of the ordination of women in the church as well as 40 years of celebrating the ordination of women of color!)

The command of Christ is to love your neighbor as you love yourself. The quilts on display were made for the neighbor. In our community, quilts are gifted to local families in need. Quilts are also gifted to the graduating seniors of Grace. But the majority of the quilts will be boxed up and delivered to Lutheran World Relief where a quilt’s super power is to become a shelter, a suitcase, a gathering spot, a comforting wrap – whatever is needed for one living in marginalized, often chaotic conditions.

The Women of Grace take this Sunday to reflect on their many ministries in addition to quilting. The Prayer Shawl Ministry provides prayer shawls for hospitalized members of our congregation as well as for others in the community. Other continuing ministries of the women include backpacks with school supplies, the collecting of soap, sewing pillow dresses and making butterfly pillows, to name a few!

We have six circles that meet monthly and they vary on times and days. It is a great way to grow in faith and be engaged in ministry. And for any woman of Grace who is not connected with a circle, please know that you are still a member of WELCA. All WELCA sponsored activities and offerings are open to you.

Three times in a normal year – in May, September and in December – the Women of Grace hold a general meeting. At the general meetings we do the business of the women as well as enjoy a program and, of course, share a meal. This year has been far from normal and getting together hasn’t been an option. Yet we are experimenting with technology and trying to remain connected and offer meaningful avenues to grow in faith and be of service to growing the kingdom. A few of the circles have learned how to “Zoom.” We have created a YouTube series called “Gathering Grace” which highlights a woman from Grace who shares a bit of her faith journey as a way of encouraging others in their faith. Some women have established card/letter programs while others are handy with their telephones and keeping in touch. Our Grace WELCA is also fundraising by selling WELCA tote bags and WELCA patches in an effort to

replace the usual offerings taken at general and circle meetings in order to continue support for local charities.

Hopefully, Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. here at Grace we can host onsite our last general meeting of this year. We call it our **Christmas Tea**. This year the women are hosting a Readers' Theater of Christmas Stories.

Pandemics aside, WELCA – Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America – is alive and well here at Grace. We are not standing idle, we are here right now...for you...and giving thanks to our Heavenly Father for the abiding love of His Son and the gift of His Spirit. Thanks be to God.

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).

Thank You!

I would like to thank my Grace family for their many prayers during my recent illness. I also thank you for the cards that I received. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Nancy Hinshaw

Masks Needed for Henderson County School District

As our social workers have been visiting students and families in the community to assist with attendance checks, technology support, food/clothing deliveries, wellness checks, and so on, they have noted that there is still a need for additional PPE.

We are blessed to have the support of the school board, the governor, the health department, and many local partners to provide facial coverings and guidance for students, staff and guardians while they are in the schools. However, some of the younger children or older relatives and other adults in the home still do not have sufficient access to masks. This is particularly true for the preschool sizes (2-5 years old).

As we partner with our school nurses to teach best practices for the [3 W's](#), we would love to be able to offer some masks that these other children and adults could utilize as they are in the community going to the grocery store, doctor appointments, or even interacting with our social workers during home visits. Kids seem to be particularly excited by masks with colorful motifs, cartoon characters, sports themes, etc. We think that these "special" masks help to normalize the wearing of face coverings and help the children to incorporate the masks into more of their daily activities. It reminds me of the hats and scarves projects from Grace Lutheran in the past. How our kids loved those!

We so appreciate your collaboration and support for our shared community. Many thanks in advance for any assistance that your church and its parishioners can provide! Please drop off at Grace and label "Henderson County School District."

Notification of Recommended Amendment to Grace Constitution

Meeting on Sept. 13, 2020, the Congregation Council unanimously approved recommending the congregation adopt the following amendment to the Constitution of Grace Lutheran Church. The amendment will become effective upon the ratification by two-thirds of voting members present at the annual meeting of 2021.

Notice is hereby given to the congregation that this amendment will be on the agenda of the Annual Congregational Meeting of Grace on Nov. 15, 2020. It will need a majority vote of voting members present to pass.

The Council's decision and this notice meet the requirements specified in sections 16.01. And 16.02 of the Grace constitution.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

In Chapter 11 the highlighted sections concerning the assistant treasurer and financial secretary will be removed as officers and moved to Chapter 12. The underscored words will be added for clarity. These positions are included in Chapter 12 as continuing resolutions assigned to the Council's responsibility. Council may either appoint or hire persons for each of these positions.

Chapter 11. OFFICERS

C11.01. The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, **assistant treasurer and financial secretary**.

- a. Duties of the officers shall be specified in the bylaws.
- b. The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
- c. Officers of this congregation shall serve similar offices of the Congregation Council and shall be voting members of the Congregation Council.
- d. The Congregation Council elects its officers. The president, vice president, and secretary shall be selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council. If the treasurer and financial secretary are not selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council, they shall have voice but not vote at the meetings of the Congregation Council.

C11.01.01. The officers of this congregation are specified in **C11.01** of this Constitution.

- a. The **President** shall preside at all meetings of the congregation and the Congregation Council; perform other duties as are normally inherent in the Presidency.
- b. The **Vice President** shall act in the absence of the President to perform the duties of that office. This officer shall appoint a Chairperson of the Nominating Committee by February 15 from among the six members elected at the Annual Meeting of this congregation. The Vice President shall see that the Nominating Committee fulfills its duties as outlined in Continuing Resolution

C13.02A18.

- c. The **Secretary** shall see that accurate minutes of all meetings of this congregation and of the Congregation Council are recorded and that these minutes are stored and preserved in a volume in the archives of this congregation. The Secretary shall publish a request for nominees of voting members for Congregation Council to obtain names for the Nominating Committee on two consecutive Sundays in the month of May.
- d. The **Treasurer** shall maintain and/or oversee the maintenance of the financial accounts of this congregation. The Treasurer shall receive reports on all gifts given to the congregation and shall

disburse funds in accordance with procedures established to safeguard the financial resources of this congregation. A monthly financial summary report of all accounts shall be provided to the Congregational Council. The Treasurer shall train and oversee those approved by the Congregation Council to sign checks. The Treasurer shall serve in the same office for the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation.

e. The **Assistant Treasurer** shall be appointed or hired by the Congregation Council to work with and under the direction of the Treasurer to maintain a record of receipts and disbursements from all funds of this congregation.

f. The **Financial Secretary** shall be appointed or hired by the Congregation Council to oversee the receipt and maintenance of records for all income of this congregation. Regular statements of giving shall be provided to contributing members and other donors. The Financial Secretary shall see to the training and overseeing of all persons approved by the Congregation Council involved in recording receipts and providing statements to donors.

Chapter 12.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

C12.05. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.

a. The Congregation Council shall be the board of directors of this congregation and, as such, shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and managing its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of North Carolina, except as otherwise provided herein.

b. The Congregation Council shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of the congregation.

c. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation, shall supervise the receipt and expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption. The Congregation Council may incur obligations in aggregate up to 10% over the approved budget within each Fund. Any additional expenditure above the approved budget can only be made after approval at a properly called Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full intention of support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the synod and church-wide organization.

d. The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of benevolence monies to the synodical treasurer.

e. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.

C12.05A20. The Congregation Council shall appoint or hire an (the) **Assistant Treasurer** to work with and under the direction of the Treasurer to maintain a record of receipts and disbursements from all funds of this congregation.

C12.05B20. The Congregation Council shall appoint or hire a (the) **Financial Secretary** to oversee the receipt and maintenance of records for all income of this congregation. Regular statements of giving shall be provided to contributing members and other donors. The Financial Secretary shall see to the training and overseeing of all persons approved by the Congregation Council involved in recording receipts and providing statements to donors.

VOTE!! IT'S YOUR RIGHT

Voting is more than just electing a candidate, it is choosing the right policies and people who have your best interests in mind when making decisions that will affect our community, state and nation. When you vote, you are taking an active role in deciding issues regarding healthcare, immigration, equal opportunity, voting rights, infrastructure, jobs, education, social security, neighborhood safety, taxes, etc.

BE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED

If you are unsure, go online to the North Carolina State Board of Election Voter Search.

Website: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/>

The registration deadline is:

On line 10/9

By mail – postmarked by 10/9

In person at Board of Elections by 10/9

When registering you will need identification and proof of your residence. You will receive a voter ID card listing your precinct and polling place

After Oct. 9, you can do a Same Day Registration and vote at One Stop voting sites during early voting Oct. 15, thru Oct. 31, 2020.

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS in HENDERSON COUNTY

Board of Elections Office: 75 E. Central St., Hendersonville

Flat Rock Village Hall: 110 Village Center. Dr., Flat Rock

Etowah Library: 101 Brickyard Rd., Etowah

Fletcher Town Hall: 300 Old Cane Creek Rd., Fletcher

IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED for requesting an absentee/mail in ballot

1. Date of Birth
2. North Carolina Driver's License OR last four numbers of your Social Security Number

VOTE BY MAIL

In North Carolina you do not need an excuse to vote absentee (mail in ballot)

Deadline to request a ballot by mail must be received by Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020.

Absentee ballots may be returned by mail, in person at the Board of Elections or in person at an early voting site. Ballots must be returned no later than 5 PM on Election Day. Ballots received after that time will be counted only if they are postmarked on or before Election Day and received by mail no later than 5 p.m., Nov. 6. Ballots without a postmark MUST be received by Election Day.

If you have requested an absentee ballot, you may still vote in person as long as you DID NOT return your absentee ballot. Once you return your ballot, you may not change or cancel your ballot.

FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU CAN CONTACT:

Henderson County Board of Elections, 75 E. Central St., Hendersonville, 828-697-4970

Birthdays



Jett Danner	10/1	William Daleure	10/12	John Glowacki	10/20
Melissa Evans	10/1	John Koch	10/12	Kimberly Juarez	10/20
Harriet Sterling	10/1	Kiersten Sue Buman	10/13	Elizabeth King	10/20
Riley Burris	10/2	Ross Porter	10/13	Tracy Pace	10/20
Emily Solano	10/2	James Rholl	10/13	Philip Wingard	10/20
Daniel Fredrick	10/4	Vicki Safriet	10/13	Brenda Decker	10/21
Kim Hansen	10/4	Walter Bashore	10/15	Jack Fitzgerald	10/21
David Wulff	10/4	Mandi Keener	10/15	Hajjar Kassem	10/22
Tricia Haack	10/5	Claudia Northrup	10/15	Dirk Willms	10/22
Susan Sims	10/6	Don Schwartz	10/15	Savannah Geiler	10/23
Dale Scott	10/7	Patricia Schwenk	10/15	Ashur Davis	10/24
Butler Taylor	10/7	Katherine Solano-		Ellie Bufalino	10/25
Avery Tody	10/7	Angeles	10/15	Martin Geyer	10/25
Mary Warwick	10/7	Bonnie Pierce	10/16	Bruce Darrah	10/26
Michael Ericksen	10/8	Judith Bohn	10/17	Alan Harms	10/26
Susan Greco	10/8	Timothy Chambers	10/17	Brenda Williams	10/28
Caroline Patterson	10/8	Jane Hunt	10/18	Patricia Berry	10/29
Terry Blackwell	10/9	William Mortensen	10/18	Rachel Cummings	10/29
James Wiggins	10/9	Kathleen Stancar	10/18	Dottie Mattern	10/30
Gary Gardner	10/11	Robert Frederiksen	10/19	Brian Williams	10/30
Bradley Hagstrom	10/11	Artemas Hane	10/19	Nancy Hinshaw	10/31
Rhoda Hargrave	10/11	Hershel Parrish	10/19	Esau Solano-	
Norma Jenson	10/11	Joyce Dixon	10/20	Jimenez	10/31
Mary Tatham	10/11				

Anniversaries

Zach & Kyndall Danner	10/1	Javier & Jenny Zaragoza Solano	10/15
Don & Janice Saville-Schwartz	10/1	Kevin & Anne Duffy	10/22
Brad & Allie Hagstrom	10/6	Jack & Susan Fitzgerald	10/22
Rick & Marilyn Conrad	10/7	Tom & Kath Matthews	10/22
Rod & Diane Hansen	10/7	Les & Deborah Clinton Moore	10/23
Irv & Josie Lanquist	10/10	Ayman & Jill Ann Kaddouri	10/26
David & Sandi Litogot	10/10	Dave & Anita Slagle	10/26
Mark & Susan Powell	10/10	Dan & Judy Fredrick	10/27
Eric & Kathy Hagstrom Purdy	10/11	Dave & Beth Carver	10/30



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

October Food Drive at Living Waters Church

Oct. 19-22, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Since our patterns of having former events are still unavailable, the food drive will have a different procedure. We will collect food products daily between 11 a.m.-1 p.m. under the portico. As products are brought, they will be loaded into our bus and on Friday and delivered to Cherokee. The items needed will be posted in the weekly email. Also, monetary donations and Thrivent Choice dollars are appreciated. The food pantry has been busy being open to help folks weekly on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and God has provided for their needs.

Henderson County Hunger Walk

Walk Your Own Walk



Henderson County Hunger Coalition's in-person Hunger Walk has been canceled this year. Hunger, however, has become an even **bigger concern** since the onset of the pandemic.

We are inviting people to "walk your own walk" in support of hunger anytime during the month of September. Then, send a picture to jherman@gracehendersonville.com that we hope to place on Grace's media pages. Sign up and give at the Henderson County Hunger Coalition website, <https://www.hendersoncountyhungercoalition.org/>

A limited number of t-shirts are available for anyone participating in the Walk Your Own Walk - Virtual Hunger Walk. Please also show your financial support by sending a contribution to Grace at 1245 6th Avenue W., Hendersonville, NC 28739, and designate "Hunger Walk" in the memo line. Or, you may make your check payable directly to "HCHC" and mail to Hunger Coalition board member Bill Hamilton, 245 Waterford Dr., Mills River 28759, who will ensure its timely delivery to HCHC. We look forward to your pictures, and we look forward to your support that will help feed the hungry.