

# Grace Vine

Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA  
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November 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

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## The Joy of Serving: Serving in Small Ways The Storehouse

Since May of 2000, the Storehouse ministry has responded to the food needs of many people throughout Henderson County.

The Storehouse is open Wednesday – Friday, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Food donations come from many persons. They also receive food from Manna, Fresh Market and Sam's Club.

The Storehouse also coordinates the "Blessings in Boxes" for Christmas gifts to needy families. For the past several years, they have helped close to 900 families and 2000 children. This year, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, only about one half of those numbers will be served. This cut back is similar to cut backs for other agencies, like IAM and Rescue Mission.

In the past few years, the Super Bowl Sunday food collection was set on a definite date. This year the date is not set because the Covid - 19 pandemic forced NFL teams to close. No definite date has been set for Super Bowl .

The Storehouse is most appreciative of our generosity in financial help.

### Message from Pastor Ken

Pastor Ken Langsdorf – [klangsdorf@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:klangsdorf@gracehendersonville.com) / 828-693-4890 x305

#### Jesus is King in all seasons of life.

*I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. Psalm 34:1-3*

Oh how we long to exalt his name together. It is so difficult for us to be apart from one another during this pandemic time. We desperately want to be together to join our voices in praise of God. One of the great expressions of our faith is to sing together. But during this pandemic it is necessary to love our neighbor by not singing together. So we sing at home, and God is glorified. It may not be great singing, but God hears our hearts as we make a joyful noise to the Lord. Even at home we bless the LORD at all times. Even at home his praise shall continually be in our mouths.



On Sunday, Nov. 22, our theme for worship will be to celebrate Christ the King Sunday. This will be an important reminder to us that we have Jesus as our King through all times and seasons and days of our lives, as well as for eternity.

In our lives we face all kinds of experiences: good, bad, thrilling, tragic, challenging, refreshing, heartbreaking, inspiring, upsetting, uplifting, and just plain, ordinary days. All of these experiences influence who we are. But in all of these experiences who we are is grounded in who Jesus is. He is King in all seasons of life. Jesus is our hope, our joy, our peace in all of our life experiences. How we face each day, each experience, each season of life is shaped by our faith and hope in Jesus.

In Jesus we have a King, a Lord of our lives. But this King is no tyrant. This is the King of love who laid down his life and then took it up again to show God's ultimate power of love that defeats all that troubles us. In the resurrection power we are eternally immersed in the love of God. Nothing will separate us from the love of God as we know it in Christ Jesus. This King's reign is eternal.

Our lives and our life situations constantly change. This pandemic time brings new challenges each day. We often grow weary. But in all of the changes and challenges, Jesus is still King. Jesus is still Lord. Jesus is still Savior.

Not only on Christ the King Sunday but every day we celebrate Jesus as King of our lives, and of all seasons of our lives. We will rejoice and find our hope in his reign of love, grace, freedom, and new life.

*I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him. Psalm 34:4-8*

**To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.** 1 Timothy 1:17

Pastor Ken Langsdorf

## Grace Youth Ministry

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

### Grace Youth Ministry: The Church ever reforming



Rituals and traditions are part of the four key faith practices we use for Grace Youth Ministry. One of our many youth traditions at Grace is to assist with worship leadership for Reformation so the students can support their fellow 9<sup>th</sup> grade youth making their Affirmation of Baptism Milestone. We knew this tradition would not be the same for 2020. Our youth were excited and willing to adapt this leadership while learning about the 'tech' side of livestream worship. Youth volunteered to read scripture, participate in the processional, serve as worship assistants, and assist with Drive-Up

Communion. Thank you to those youth who participated in reforming this milestone to adapt the tradition in a new way.



Congratulations to our 4 youth who celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism Milestone and were confirmed during the 503<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation! I asked these youth to share the memory verse they chose for this milestone and why. Here are their responses:



Confirmand Dante shares: *"My faith verse is Luke 1:37, 'Faith, it does not make things easy, it makes them possible'. I chose this one because it makes me never give up on something I say I can't do."*

Confirmand Ella shares: *"My faith verse is Deuteronomy 31:8, 'It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.' I chose this one because when I read it, I realized that it was something that I needed to hear. I always felt like for some reason I was the only person that God didn't love. I recently came to my senses and know now that I was very wrong. So when I read that verse I know that I don't have to worry."*

Confirmand Madeline shares: *"My faith verse is Isaiah 46:4, 'I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.' I chose this because I felt like I'm kind of important, like the King of Heaven wants me. He's going to take care of me. He's there for me when I need Him."*



Confirmand Elizabeth shares: *"My faith verse is Philippians 4:13, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' (NKJV). I chose this because whenever I feel like I can't do something I always remember God is watching and can give me the strength to do anything."*



## A Message from Our President: Vicki Marthaler

November, the month of Thanksgiving. Paul writes to the Thessalonians in his first letter: "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thess 5:18) God's will for you is to live with a thankful heart. Not as easy as it sounds, though, is it. This year has been a trial all by itself. It becomes a challenge to "give thanks in all circumstances," yet we as children of God are called to dig deeper, look higher and be open to hear God's Words for us this day. And God's Word is always, always about life.

With this in mind, God's Word is always about life, I would ask you to look at your hand. I would like to give you five good reasons to give thanks no matter your situation, no matter the circumstances.

**The Thumb.** Thumbs set us apart from all of creation. We were designed with an "opposable thumb" which means we can take our thumb and touch our other fingers. We can hold on to things. We can grasp things. Our thumb sets us apart. Our thumbs can remind us that we are made in the image of God. We are created for relationships – with God and with others. We can cling to what is good. We can hold on to what is right. Tucking our other fingers into our palm, we can hold up the thumb to acknowledge the goodness of God and encourage our neighbor. Let us give thanks for being made in the image of God.



**The Pointer Finger.** Ever had someone point at you? Being pointed at is not a comfortable situation. Fortunately, that is not God's way. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." (John 3:17) The Way of Christ is to invite. Now imagine the pointer finger beckoning someone to come closer. Think of Jesus saying "Come, follow Me (Matt 4:19)" or "Come and see (John 1:39)" or "Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. (Matt 11:28)" Jesus is always about invitation. He welcomes you always. Let us give thanks for His welcome and His continual invitations to draw near.

**The Middle Finger.** Displaying the middle finger all by itself has become an international sign of disdain which is not helpful for building up the Body of Christ. So, let's take another look at the middle finger. It is the longest, the biggest of all the fingers. "...faith, hope and love remain. And the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor 13:13) " I propose we call the middle finger the Love finger! Let us give thanks for God's love that is redeeming and everlasting. God's love is available for all. Alleluia!

**The Ring Finger.** In a marriage ceremony a ring is received as a sign of faithfulness. God is faithful. "Morning by morning new mercies we see. Great is His faithfulness." (Lam 3:22-23) We may wander, but God is constant. He is the same today as He was yesterday and as He will be tomorrow. He keeps His Word. He is solid ground. Let us give thanks for God being our Refuge and Strength, a very Present Help in times of Trouble.

**The Pinky Finger.** The smallest and weakest finger on our hand reminds us that size doesn't matter. Faith the size of a mustard seed is enough. A cup of water offered to one in need is great. Five loaves and two fish can feed thousands. An invitation to another to "Come and see" can change a life. A Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger can change the world. Let us give thanks for the good measure God uses, "pressed down and shaken together and running over. (Luke 6:38)"

Yes, the world may seem a little wonky, a little fearful, a little bit unreliable this Thanksgiving season. But fear not! We have a hand full of thanks that we can pray.



We have a hand full of thanks that can offer encouragement. We have a hand full of thanks that can bless not only our lives but the lives of our neighbors. 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).**

## Gift Tribute Card Ministry for 2020

Unfortunately Covid-19 restrictions will not permit our annual Fair Trade Gift Market to be held this year. Let's pray that next year will be different.

However, the Gift Tribute Card ministry will be taking place! We have put together a program to do this completely online. You will be able to access short descriptions of each of the featured nonprofits, and as before, an order sheet to list your donations and the number of cards desired. You will also be able to view photos of each agency's card.

What is the Gift Tribute Card Ministry? You make a donation to the agencies you choose and receive in exchange Tribute Cards, which can then be personalized and given as gifts in honor or memory of someone.

One of the most joyous traditions of Christmas is gift giving. Much better than buying something that will end up sitting in a drawer or on a closet shelf, alternative gifting is a great way to honor family, co-workers, friends, & loved ones while supporting our nonprofits and celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

Our present situation has put great stress on many lives in our community, our nation, and around the world. While the needs are greater, the resources to meet them have decreased. Although the nonprofits we support are striving to meet increased demands for their services, many find they have less funds available at this time.

Let each of us prayerfully consider how the bounty we have been blessed with can best be used in "transforming lives through Christ" during these difficult times.

To take part, please see the upcoming Grace weekly e-mails which will contain directions to access the online Gift Tribute Card ministry.

For those who do not have internet access, please contact Harry Steiner at 828-692-8049.



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

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
Barbara Fountain  
Carol Miley  
Dick Miley

**Thank you for designating Grace for your Thrivent Choice dollars!**

## Thank You Pardee Hospital!



Grace's Tuesday evening prayer group sent a thank you to Pardee's ICU unit.

## Birthdays



Christopher Smith	11/1	Bill O'Neil	11/12	Nicholas Hinshaw	11/20
Aaron Solano-		Penny Bailey	11/13	Lynn Huffman	11/20
Miraflores	11/2	Ruth Birge	11/13	Ayman Kaddouri	11/20
Janice Butz	11/4	Bricia Miraflores-		Chira Kirkland	11/20
Arleen Slagle	11/4	Vargas	11/13	Jennifer Zaragoza	11/20
Claudia Wolff	11/4	Kaylee Solano	11/13	Caroline Lord	11/22
Charles Bolick	11/5	Roger Barolet	11/14	Barbara Bristol	11/23
Katie Bolick	11/5	Burton Bumgarner	11/14	Alice Parshall	11/23
Joann Milliken	11/5	Ruth Klug	11/14	Kelly Spangler	11/23
Charlotte Nelson	11/5	Cornelia Nelson		Renee Staffieri	11/23
Charles Carlson	11/6	Hane	11/14	Nelson Wiggins	11/23
Leah Cosoi	11/7	Lorena Zepeda-		Joel Wolfrom	11/23
Thomas Derrick	11/7	Acosta	11/14	Nancy Bell	11/24
Karen Frederick	11/7	Irv Lanquist	11/15	Ida Brady	11/24
James Doten	11/8	Carolina Sancho	11/15	Marty Berger	11/26
James Stockman	11/8	Alice Copeland	11/16	Irma Pierce	11/26
Richard Conrad	11/9	Janie Berks	11/18	Cathy Choisser	11/27
Amy Solano	11/9	Savannah Gleason	11/18	Salatiel Solano	11/27
Sandy Butler	11/10	William Rees	11/18	Michelle Angeles-	
Maribel Colin	11/10	Paul Schuette	11/18	Solano	11/29
Lori Schaefer	11/10	Garett Sochia	11/18	Madelyn MacAllister	11/29
Sandy Dublynn	11/11	Faith Witzel	11/18	Leslie Owens	11/29
Jim Hunt	11/11	Charles Clay	11/19	Tyler Matthews	11/30
Richard Nelson	11/11	Jeremy Lytle	11/19	Jocelyn Solano	11/30
Donald Klug	11/12	Joan Frederiksen	11/20		
		Abigail Freeman	11/20		

## Anniversaries

Mike & Norma Jenson	11/2/1968	Bob & Susan Greco	11/19/1977
Bill & Linda Pankhurst	11/2/1974	Freddy & Nery Oviedo-	
Terrell & Bobi West	11/4/2000	Medina	11/20/2005
Curt & Carla Cline	11/6/2004	Dick & Mimi Laux	11/21/2013
Chris & Jenny Bufalino	11/7/2009	David & Sallie Shapiro	
Ron & Marge Korner	11/8/1958	Free	11/26/2005
Dick & Pat Robinson	11/11/1967	Larry & Nancy Hinshaw	11/26/1980
David & Cathy Choisser	11/12/1977	Jeff & Tamara Miller	11/26/1988
Gil & Patti Romstadt	11/14/1981	Dirk & Paige Willms	11/28/1964
Flaughn & Debbie Lamb	11/16/1989	Brian & Suzanne Davis	11/30/1996
Bob & Nancy Engstrom	11/19/1966	Mike & Carolyn Ericksen	11/30/2019

## Virtual Hunger Walk – Walk Your Own Walk

Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Virtual Hunger Walk. It was a challenging year, and your generosity will help provide food for those in need across Henderson County. We will gladly continue to accept donations either through Grace or directly through the HCHC (Henderson County Hunger Coalition) website.

We still have a limited supply of 2020 Hunger Walk T-shirts. Email me (Bill Hamilton - [hhikers@gmail.com](mailto:hhikers@gmail.com)) with the number and size - M, L and XL only.

Thanks again for your support of HCHC. ~Bill Hamilton



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### Grace Annual Meeting: Nov. 15

Meeting on Oct. 11, the Congregational Council decided that during this CoVid pandemic year, a packet containing all the printed materials normally distributed at the Annual Meeting and printed reports would be mailed to all the eligible households of Grace. Each packet will also contain a ballot for each active, confirmed member of that household. Members are encouraged to attend the Zoom meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 15 by phone or Internet (computer). The Council further decided that members returning a signed ballot will be counted as attending the Annual Meeting.

Packets will be mailed by Nov. 2. They will contain all Annual Meeting information including instructions to participate in the virtual meeting on Zoom via computer or phone. Ballots must be received in the Church Office no later than 5 p.m. on Nov. 23 to be counted.



**1245 6<sup>th</sup> Ave W**  
**Hendersonville, NC 28739**  
**\*\*\*Return Service Requested\*\*\***

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## **Welcome Grace's Newest Ministry Team Member**

The newest member of the Ministry Team at Grace is a very familiar person. Effective September 1, Dave Carver has been hired as the "Producer/Director for Video & Streaming Ministry".

Dave and his wife, Beth, have been active members of Grace for a number of years. Dave has long shared his expertise and experience in video as a volunteer by providing CD's of worship for homebound members, recording & uploading sermons to YouTube, and producing videos for Preschool and other ministry events. Since the arrival of CoVid19 and the necessity of "stay safe, stay home", Dave, together with Pastor Oviedo, has been instrumental in getting our Sunday worship online and, especially, for the quality visuals.

Here's a bit of Dave's experience from his resume:

"I have been managing, producing, and directing live talk/variety, magazine, news, and instructional television programs and documentaries for 50 years - 5 of those in secular television, 31 years in Christian Television and 14 years in digital media."

Dave's professional accomplishments include:

- 1214 weekly 30-minute programs which aired nationally every week for over 23 years
- 217 globally-aired magazine-style programs with segments from every inhabited continent
- Trained 150 people from 60 countries to produce indigenous TV programs
- Launched one of the first satellite networks while VP of Television for the PTL Television Network
- Created the first live daily Christian TV program in the San Francisco Bay area
- Innovator in digital TV production
- Website developer

We rejoice to have a person with Dave's expertise and faith leading the video and streaming ministry of Grace. He is part-time, at an average of 10 hours per week over the course of a year. His responsibilities include scheduling & producing videos to support the ministry of Grace, directing the live streaming worship services, and training others to serve in the various support roles essential for this ministry to flourish and continue. (Yes, even when we are able to gather in-person with few limitations, Grace will continue to provide online, video ministry.)