



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

March 2021

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 The Free Clinics

Since December 2001, The Free Clinics (TFC) has provided free care to low-income, uninsured residents of our community. The mission of TFC is to ensure quality healthcare is available to all our neighbors by bridging the gaps in our present healthcare system.

The scope of our problem:

- 10% of the population in Henderson and Polk counties lived in poverty in 2019 according to the US Census, before the current pandemic-driven economic crisis
- 30% of the adults in our two counties live in households with less than \$2,700 in monthly income according to the census, and thus meet TFC's income guidelines of 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- 15% of adults ages 18-64 had no health insurance in 2019; this is prior to the persons newly uninsured due to COVID19
- 1 in 6 Henderson and Polk residents - prior to COVID19 - qualified for TFC care because they were both uninsured and earned less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

What began just over 19 years ago as a single weekly acute care medical clinic has today evolved into a multi-faceted and integrated care-giving system. This was driven by the recognition that to truly impact the health needs of our community required a holistic approach. Not just acute care, but chronic medical, psychiatric, behavioral/substance abuse, cultural and socioeconomic factors must also be addressed. Services today include:

Acute Care: Medical Clinic

Behavioral Health: Counseling, Detention Center Clinician, Naloxone provision Post Overdose Response Team (PORT), Psychiatric Care Navigation, Psychiatric Clinic

Chronic and Specialty Care: Endocrinology and Eye Clinics as well as Bridges to Health, Community Case Management, Diabetes, and Phoenix (domestic abuse) Programs

Community Health: Bikes 4 Life, Community Garden, Diabetes Education, Flu Shot Clinics, Patient Health Advocacy (Community, Detention Center), Wellness Screening

Pharmaceutical Support: Community Pharmacy, Medi-Find Prescription Assistance Program, and Medical Therapy Management

TFC volunteers and staff provided 48,611 encounters to 2,207 unduplicated patients last year (July 2019 – June 2020), 85% of whom survive on less than \$1000 a month. In addition, they made 192 referrals to specialists who generously provided free services, and arranged 37

surgical procedures and 514 diagnostic tests. In addition 15,723 prescriptions were filled through the Community Pharmacy, including 2,103 through the Medi-Find Prescription Assistance Program.

The Free Clinics is the most economical healthcare available in Henderson and Polk counties. The value of the professional services given through TFC in 2019-2020 was over \$10.2 million. With an annual budget of \$1.73 million, TFC was able to multiply the value of each dollar received more than seven and a half times in the value of care provided.

To learn more about the vital programs that are helping to bring quality medical care and health to those most in need in our community please visit their website at www.thefreeclinics.org

Message from Pastor Ken

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

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

There is a jazz version of the hymn, “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”, that I really enjoy listening to. This hymn expresses the longing of my heart; maybe yours too. Sing it with me...



Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea; daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burdens shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more; guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea; daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

We are now well into the season of Lent. This Lenten season addresses the longing of our heart to have a closer walk with Jesus. At our Ash Wednesday service we heard this invitation to Lent that welcomes us to embark on this closer walk with Jesus.

Listen again to the Invitation to Lent.

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the disciplines of Lent – self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

The disciplines of Lent guide us in this closer walk with Jesus. Through them we are drawn to the heart of Jesus. I am enjoying time each morning to sit with God, to share my concerns, to read devotions and prayers, and to hear the assurance that I am loved by God and called by God

to be a part of the kingdom of Jesus in the world. This is one of the daily practices/disciplines that bring me to a closer walk with Jesus.

I recently read the book, *Letters by a Modern Mystic* by Frank C. Laubach. In this book Laubach writes about his journey of walking closer to God. He strives to have each moment be in communion with God. He describes in this book his development of this communion with God. He finds great comfort in sharing each moment of life with God.

This season of Lent invites us to practice daily and even moment by moment communion with God. It is a great blessing to us to address our longing for this closer walk with Jesus. So keep on practicing. Keep on with the disciplines of Lent. Keep on walking closer to Jesus, satisfying the longing of your heart.

In the joy and peace of the Lord, Pastor Ken Langsdorf

Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Psalm 143:8 (My favorite verse for the start of the day.)

Music Ministry

Dir. of Music Ministry: Burton Bumgarner – bbumgarner@gracehendersonville.com / 828-693-4890 x307



Prayers for the Healing of the Nations

Thursday, March 25, 6-7 p.m.

During the season of Lent we will be offering one of our very meaningful and most popular services of worship: Prayers for the Healing of the Nations. This service comes from the Holden Village Community, a Lutheran retreat center in the isolated North Cascade mountains of Washington State. One of the hallmarks of Holden Village is worship which is centered on prayer and often reflects the "Taizé-like" worship in France and the Iona Community in Scotland. The most well-known, popular and beautiful services to come from the Holden Community is the Holden Evening Prayer service which we have offered at Grace during the seasons of Lent and Advent for over 20 years, and will offer again during the upcoming season of Lent.

Many of the prayer services at Holden Village involve the singing of simple musical refrains and chants, and focal points, such as art work, maps and crosses. Scripture and other texts are read and prayers are prayed. A large (16' by 16') map of the world, itself a beautiful work of art, will be the focal point of our worship service, along with our processional cross and torches at the "4 corners of the earth". Toward the end of the service a song naming many of the nations of the world will be sung, and votive candles will be placed on map as we pray for the nations of the earth. At the end the room will be lit only by candle light.

The map was created by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Global Mission Unity and is on loan to us for this service. This will be the third time we have offered this service, and the fifth time we have used maps for services of contemplative worship at Grace.

Join us March 25 on Facebook and YouTube for this meaningful service.



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By directing designated Choice Dollars (\$M) through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars. **Thank you for designating Grace for your Thrivent Choice dollars!**

Grace Lutheran Church - Els Wolter, Barbara Fountain

Grace Youth Ministry

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

Grace Youth Ministry participates in Lutheran tradition in a new way



Students were mailed Shrove Tuesday care packages with pancake mix, 40-day family Lenten devotion, masks and decorations to participate in a Zoom party together. Youth made pancakes, hung out over Zoom and had a candle time devotion on baptismal identity reminded of this promise: *"I am God's Beloved child and with me God is well pleased."*



Senior Noah Trexler shared: *"It was fun to hop on Zoom and have a virtual Mardi Gras party with the youth! It's a great change of pace from what I've been doing lately."* Sophomore Lauren said: *"It was really good to connect with people who I normally don't see on a day-to-day basis and I haven't been able to join most calls because of practice, but because we are in between sports I was able to join. It was so much fun!"* and Carter said: *"It was really fun to join the meet and see the other youth, especially*

with pancakes and masks." Freshman Dante shared: *"I like the masks"* and Elizabeth said: *"The Shrove Tuesday zoom was a great way for all of GYM to come together. I really enjoyed celebrating with everyone and hope to do it again next year."* 7th grader Kenzie added: *"This was really fun, and it was great to have something to do."*



New High School Worship Assistants trained

Confirmed 9th and 10th grade youth participated in a training session with Pastor Greg to serve as worship assistants in services and assist with Drive Up Communion. Thank you for your willingness to serve as leaders at Grace and congratulations for completing this faith milestone!

**A Message from Vicki Marthaler,
Serving as President of the WELCA at Grace Lutheran**

Dear People of God,

This March message comes to you as we are deep in the season of Lent. Lent – a time of renewed discipline to be in the Word and a time to reflect on the God Moments in your life. God Moments are those times that God in His grace reveals Himself to us in amazingly nourishing ways...a moment of crystal clear clarity, an overwhelming sense of complete and total peace, a frozen moment in time that jump starts faith, an awakening of being made new with Jesus by your side. God Moments are unexplainable, yet real. God Moments are gifts from our Heavenly Father. And, it is my firm belief that God Moments are meant to be shared that others may be encouraged and strengthened in their faith journey. Sharing a God Moment is one way to evangelize, to tell of Jesus and His love.

Evangelism. Hmmm. Being a strong Norwegian Lutheran, I have personally kept evangelizing at arm's length. It seems a rather risky business. I have basic Biblical knowledge with the emphasis on "basic." I don't want to embarrass God (or myself, probably more emphasis on myself) if someone stumps me with a Biblical question. And there are those questions like: Why does God let babies die? Why do bad things happen to good people? Then there's the authority of the Bible and science v. religion and hypocrites going to church and all the church ever asks for is money. Yeah, evangelism can open up a whole can of worms!

Yet, aren't we called to be "fishers of people?" Worms are a part of the fishing experience, but worms aren't the goal. The worms are used to make the "catch." And what is the "catch?" I propose to you the catch is "souls for Jesus." So with that in mind, I would like to share with you one of the many God Moments in my life.



It's December, 1982. I am in the Israel with others from my church. We have just held a service where we read the end of Matthew when our Risen Lord and Savior, while ascending into heaven, commanded the disciples and those in attendance to *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And, surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* I was very moved and

quite overwhelmed and returned early to our bus to reflect. The view from the bus was Jerusalem. The Eastern Wall with its blocked-up gate was in view with the expanse of the city sprawling beyond. I started to think about all who have not heard of God's love demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. I thought about all who have heard and didn't believe. I then thought of Jesus seeing Jerusalem and saying *"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings and you were not willing..."* (Luke 13:34) What broke over me can only be described as a cascade of tears. I began to cry... no, sob. From deep inside, those who were lost, living in darkness, defeated, fooled, empty or seeking to fill themselves with whatever the world could give them, bombarded my soul and I sobbed for them. I cried and cried feeling the deception of Satan who longs to dissuade a believer, distract a seeker, confuse a mind and use apathy and/or arrogance in strong measure to deflect any call of the Spirit. I remember crying to God *"Why can't they see? Why won't they believe?"* I don't remember an answer but I do remember the bus driver watching me in his mirror. I tried to calm myself. I wanted to "buck up," but the tears just wouldn't stop. The

heaviness on my heart was so real. One of the pastors traveling with us came up the bus steps and saw my melt down. He looked at the bus driver with that “what happened?” look. I heard the bus driver say “She’s OK. She is just having a God Moment.”

And as I began to sniff and snuff myself quiet. As I blew my nose and wiped my eyes... as the sobs subsided to whimpers.... as I felt like I had aged another thirty years, I also felt that nudge of the Spirit on my heart bringing the kind of peace that can't be described and in my mind I heard “I need you. I need your tears. I need your heart. I love you and I am always with you.” A God Moment.



I would like to say that I became an effective, bon-a-fide, first-rate evangelist following that experience. But, as I stated before, I am Norwegian Lutheran – full blooded. It will take a little more than one God Moment to move me along. Yet, I am moving. I am sharing. I am a work in progress. And Jesus is with me and for me as He is with you and for you.

Evangelism. Go to everywhere. Tell the Good News. Share your God Moments that the Lord Jesus may be made known and glorified, especially during this unsettled time of the pandemic and the general world/nation unrest. It is important to hear that Jesus is with us. Jesus is an abiding Savior and Lord. Jesus keeps His promises. Jesus is real and present, now and forever.



The Women of Grace invite you to hear God Moments as shared by 18 women of Grace, so far, on our YouTube playlist, **Gathering Grace**. The purpose of each episode is to share God Moments as a way of refreshing the hearts of believers and inviting all to grow in faith and give thanks to God for the God Moments in their lives. Every person has their own story and tells of their God Moment in their own way. Following is a list of the episodes through the month of February.

Currently we are seeking other women of Grace who will be willing to share a God Moment for an episode on Gathering Grace. Please feel free to contact Vicki Marthaler (vicki.marthaler@gmail.com) or Judy Stoltenberg (jstoltenberg@hotmail.com) or Shelley Clay (charleshenryclay@gmail.com) if you have a God Moment to share. We would love to hear from you! We need to hear from you!

Lent. A time of discipline to be in the Word and a time of reflection of the God Moments in your life.

May the Lord bless and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. And, may the Lord look upon you with His favor and give you His peace.

“Gathering Grace” from Grace Lutheran Church in Hendersonville, NC
WELCA’s Online Program of Faith Stories
(Updated 2-10-2021) All on www.youtube.com/c/GraceLutheranCh

Shelley Clay (June 23, 2020)
Diane Sellers (July 7, 2020)
Marie Mortensen (July 21, 2020)
Judy Stoltenberg (August 4, 2020)
Joy Kiefer (August 18, 2020)
Helen Just (September 1, 2020)
Susan Fitzgerald (September 15, 2020)
Phyllis Seibert (September 29, 2020)
Barbara Fountain (October 13, 2020)

Kelly Spangler (October 27, 2020)
Vicki Marthaler (November 10, 2020)
Jan Hoffmann (November 24, 2020)
Sallie Weber (December 8, 2020)
Gathering Grace 2020 (December 22, 2020)
Irene Syvertson (January 5, 2021)
Rosaleen Dawes (January 19, 2021)
Leah Scroggin (February 2, 2021)

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).

Birthdays



Richard Belanger	3/1	Allison Pfozter	3/13	Amy Knight	3/23
Gerald Liedl	3/2	Ilse Antonelli	3/15	Howard Clinton	3/24
Judy Smith	3/2	Charles Fangmann	3/16	Octavia Celtrick	3/25
Jason Blackwell	3/4	Joseph Prasil	3/16	Alfredo Oviedo-	
Mike Jenson	3/4	Dennis Royal	3/16	Medina	3/25
Karen Myers	3/4	Kassie Bledsoe	3/17	Susan Fitzgerald	3/26
Nery Acosta	3/5	Jeanella Celtrick	3/17	Diane Hansen	3/26
Steve Trumann	3/5	Kevin Filson	3/17	Aidan Simons	3/26
Harry Steiner	3/7	Ivy Walker	3/17	Deborah Moore	3/28
Sue Buman	3/8	Tony Cruz	3/18	Irene Robertson	3/29
Ellen Jefsen	3/8	David Litogot	3/18	Alan Dietrich	3/30
Nicole Vargas	3/8	Alfredo Oviedo	3/18	Dante Acosta-	
Peggy Midstokke	3/9	Dotty Uhle	3/19	Oviedo	3/31
Vivian Pemble	3/9	Bobby Slagle	3/22	Jeffrey Lilly	3/31
Rochelle Simons	3/9	Mike Williamson	3/22	Rebecca Schmidt	3/31
Dorothy Staffieri	3/11	Johanna Dokter	3/23		
Lilly Cruz	3/12	Emily Inman	3/23		

Anniversaries

George & Joy Kiefer	3/4/1967	Bob & Joan Frederiksen	3/25/1961
Mark & Vicki Marthaler	3/8/1974	Don & Ruth Klug	3/25/1978
Chuck & Susan Albers	3/12/1977	Nick & Denise Pryor	3/25/1978
Jim & Jane Nelson	3/15/1997	Jon & Faith Witzel	3/26/1983
Jeff & Anne Lilly	3/17/1984	Richard & Vera Wynne	3/27/1992
Chris & Megan Pigors	3/19/2011	Bill & Donna Hamilton	3/31/1979

Sanctuary Prayer Time

Reservation ONLY: March 22-26

The sanctuary of Grace will be available for members to schedule a 20-minute period to come and pray in the sanctuary the week of March 22-26. You can phone the church office on March 4, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. to schedule one period for yourself or your household quarantine group to come for prayer. All appointments are on a first-come basis. Guides for reflection, meditation, or prayer will be available. Requirements to come are: reservations must be made, masks must be properly worn, no symptoms, temperature check & sanitizing hands upon entering the building, contact information (phone/email) must be provided, respect the 20-minute limit, and only individuals OR those who are quarantined together for any single prayer period. Enter by the front, main entrance.

Prayer schedule (slots available on the hour & half hour):

- March 22: 2-5 p.m. (7 slots)
- March 23: 9 a.m.-Noon (7) & 5-7 p.m. (5)
- March 24: 9 a.m.-Noon (7)
- March 25: 9 a.m.-Noon (7) & 5-7 p.m. (5)
- March 26: 9 a.m.-Noon (7)



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Return Service Requested

Lent 2021 A Season of Hope

We continue our online/live stream worship gatherings on Facebook throughout Lent. Each Wednesday evening will offer a brief Bible study followed by Holden Evening Prayer.

- March 3 - "Hearing Hope: Spreading Hope after the Beirut Explosion"
- March 10 - "Seeing Hope: Loving communities after back-to-back hurricanes in Honduras"
- March 17 - "Smelling Hope: Overcoming generational poverty in Zambia"
- March 24 - "Tasting Hope: Caring for refugees in Syria"
- March 28 - Palm/Passion Sunday: Live stream worship at 9 a.m.
- **April 1 - Maundy Thursday:** Live Stream worship with Drive-Up Communion, Noon & 6 p.m.
- **April 2 - Good Friday:** Live stream worship featuring the Passion of our Lord and music, Noon & 6 p.m.
- **April 4 - Easter:** Live stream worship at 9 a.m. concluding with Drive-Up Communion.
- March 25 - Healing of the Nations Prayer Service: Live stream worship, 6-7 p.m.

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

As a corporate act of fasting (personal sacrifice) and almsgiving, we encourage members to gather materials and assemble Personal Care Kits which will be shipped to LWR later this year. (You may also donate money to purchase the materials and the kits will be assembled at Grace.)

Help us reach our Grace goal of 800 kits. Contents of each Personal Care Kit: light-weight bath towel, 2-3 bath-size bars of soap, 1 adult toothbrush, 1 sturdy comb, 1 metal nail clippers. **All items except towel can be purchased at the dollar store.** The Personal Care Kit instructions are included in our weekly emails. Contact the church office with any questions.

We will be assembling these kits at home during the 5 weeks of Lent. Here's what you will need:



2 BARS OF SOAP*
(4 to 5 oz., any brand, in original wrapping)



1 BATH TOWEL*
(light-weight, maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)



1 TOOTHBRUSH*
(adult size, in original packaging)



1 COMB*



1 NAIL CLIPPER*
(metal, attached file optional)

Complete assembly instructions are available at lwr.org/lent.