



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

May 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 Children and Family Resource Center

If you talk with Shelbie English, a staff member at the Children and Family Resource Center, she will tell you that she works in a “culture of caring”. She will explain that together the staff works hard to help families become healthy, productive, and successful in learning. These goals are accomplished through a network of special programs administered at the center.

In order to best serve their clients, Shelbie asserts the staff tries to meet individual families where their needs are at the present time. After developing an individual plan for a family, the center connects them to the appropriate services. All of this planning and assessing is done in an atmosphere of respect, hospitality, and affirmation.

During the pandemic services did not stop, but this agency addressed them via telephone and Zoom. At this time seventy-five computers were given to families in need of technology. New needs appeared as a result of the Covid-19 virus. Due to financial losses families often lacked resources to get baby supplies. Three employees shepherded the Full Tum/Dry Bum program. Once a month the center offers a drive-thru free of charge for two packages of diapers, one can of formula, one container of wipes, and other donated products.

Shelbie remembered a grandma with a walker who came to the drive-thru. She was taking care of three grandchildren, and she was in need of these necessary items. To show her gratitude she painted rocks for the center. When someone walks into the agency, the beautifully designed rocks can be spotted near the entrance. According to Shelbie this drive-thru is one of many building blocks the center provides to serve the community.

How can we as a church help the Children and Family Resource Center? We can donate diapers, formula, and wipes to the Full Tum/ Dry Bum program (Grace collected these in April). Also, we can give Ingles and Walmart gift cards. These cards can help with food, gas, clothing, cleaning supplies, and other necessities. Our generosity will give a helping hand to the center so they can continue to establish building blocks to future families.

Diane Sellers

Message from Senior Pastor Greg Williams

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

Regathering for In-Person Worship: May 2 and Beyond



Christ is risen! ... Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" - Psalm 122:1

From ancient times, the Psalms have served as a hymnal and worship book for God's people gathered in community. Within those 150 psalms, almost every human emotion finds expression. The emotions range from the pit of despair due to death, tragedy, or national defeat to the glorious words of enthronement Psalms celebrating a king.

Throughout the past 14 months, Psalms of lament have resonated with many of us. Indeed, individually and communally, we have had much to lament: unresolved grief following a death due to gathering limitations ... loneliness of friends in care facilities unable to have visitors ... disconnectedness from family because of travel restrictions ... heartache of not being able to visit in the hospital ... and the struggle to maintain the caring community of Grace that is rooted in weekly worship together.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" - Psalm 122:1

The first verse of Psalm 122 has been resounding in my head and heart as I have watched the local vaccination rate rise and the infection rate drop. The Council, Ministry Team, Tech Team, and Reopening Task Force have met, planned safety protocols for your return to the sanctuary, and adapted technical plans to incorporate people sitting the pews. It is a joy to be at the point of implementing protocols that the Reopening Task Force has had ready to go since May 2020.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" - Psalm 122:1

I can think of no better way to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus than to resurrect in-person worship during this week of Sundays that comprise the season of Easter. "Christ is risen!" is the Easter greeting that lifts our spirits, announces that we have a hope beyond this fragile life, and anchors our faith.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" - Psalm 122:1

I am deeply appreciative of your patience and understanding for online worship only. With a possible end in sight, let us not grow weary in loving our neighbors by keeping a caring distance, wearing masks in large inside gatherings, and encouraging others to get vaccinated.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" - Psalm 122:1

Grace is scheduled to resume limited, in-person worship on May 2 with a maximum capacity of 100 people. The in-person worship experience will be different from pre-pandemic worship - at least for a time (No, I don't know how long.). Here are some key differences implemented as we remain mindful to love our neighbors.

1. Reservations to attend each week. With only 100 allowed, I trust you will "share" those reservations by sometimes choosing to worship online thus allowing others to come.

2. Check-in protocols are in place: temperature check, "Are you feeling well today?", sanitizing hands, properly wearing a mask throughout worship, and being seated in specific places so worshipers remain at a caring distance. When worship concludes, all will be asked to exit directly into the handicapped parking lot. We are not able to provide coffee and fellowship time.

3. Initially, all the music will be recorded and shown on large video screens as it is streamed. You will be able to see all the elements needed for worship on those screens. Because singing has the potential to project aerosol mist farther, we will not be singing. Spoken responses, with a mask in place, are allowed.

4. Holy Communion will be celebrated on 1st and 3rd Sundays. It will be served to those present and also through drive-up distribution (10:30-11:15).

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" - Psalm 122:1

It is my sincere hope that you will continue to show patience as we safely regather for worship and that communal spread of CoVid does not increase to the point where we need to return to only online worship again. Following protocols is essential for us to continue forward progress in regathering for worship and additional ministry events.

I am weary of laments. I am as eager as anyone to have you in the pews on Sundays for the visible and spiritual community that we all treasure at Grace. Rather than a Psalm of lament, I am eager for one like Psalm 66:1-2 - *'Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; 'sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.*

See you soon for some "joyous noise" together!

Pastor Greg

Pastor Greg



Grace Youth Ministry

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

Grace Youth Ministry attends Hybrid NC Lutheran Youth Assembly

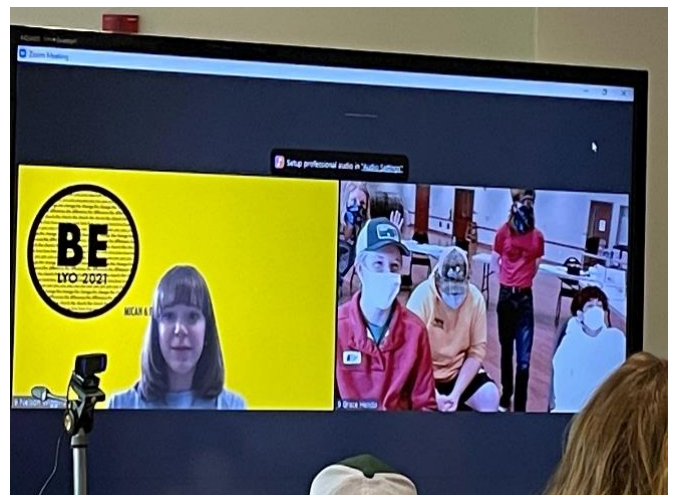


The annual LYO retreat for Grace Youth had to be celebrated differently this year due to Covid-19 and was not held in Greensboro as in years past. The LYO Board arranged for students across the state to attend the conference virtually and as hybrid sites allowed at local congregations. The theme for the 2021 retreat was: "BE... the change, the difference, the church, love, you" with scripture text focus from Micah 6:8: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to

walk humbly with your God?" Thank you to LYO adult guide Heather Wiggins for assisting with the hybrid retreat.

Our very own Hendersonville senior, Nelson, was chosen through an application process to serve as an LYO Board representative from Grace for 2020-2021 school year. Here is the board reflection she wrote and shared while leading the online conference in Salisbury:

You often hear the phrase "make a difference" but what does that really mean? What is making a difference? What is the difference? It's not really something that you can define in a short sentence. But maybe this can help you understand it.



What is the difference between a church and the church? In my experience, a church is a building where people come together to worship. But the church reaches far beyond the walls of the building. In the church, the people come together as a community to serve others and share God's love. I've been on a few service-learning trips with my church where we will travel to another part of the country to serve the people there, and when we are serving, we're not necessarily in a church building. We might be at someone's house helping with the yard work. We might be at an elementary school helping move the boxes and desks. We might be at a community center helping them repaint the walls. But just because we aren't in the confines of a church building, doesn't mean that we aren't the church. The church is any place where

God's work is being carried out. So anywhere that we are helping others and being kind, is where the church reaches.



What is the difference between a congregation and a church family? A congregation is the people who are members of a specific church. But with a church family, your connection with them goes further than just attending the same church. A church family actually cares how you're doing. They want to know what's going on in your life. I remember a picture of my cheer team that had made the front page of the paper that week, and I had dozens of people in my church family letting me know that they had seen me in it. Them taking the time out of their day just to let me know that they remembered me outside of church was just one example of how they have become my church family. I remember when I got into the college that I really wanted to, they actually took the time out of their days to congratulate me and wish me luck through the rest of my senior year. Those

small moments of them taking the time to actually know what is going on in my life are what makes them my church family. They're there for me when times are hard and they're there for me when times are great. That's what makes the difference between a congregation and a church family.

These are just a few ways that I'm able to understand the differences between a church and the church and a congregation and a church family. These small differences mean the world to me. And knowing this, I want to be able to be that small difference for someone else. So, what can I do to be the difference? There are lots of things I can do. I can send a text to someone in my youth group and see how they're doing and what's going on with their lives. When I see something that reminds me of them, I can send them a quick picture just to let them know that I care about them and want them to know that I'm still there for them. When I see someone from church at the grocery store, I can smile and wave. Being the difference doesn't take a lot of effort. It's those little actions that truly make the difference.



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
Charles Spangler

Grace Lutheran Preschool

Tom Kasischke

Memorials

Hannelore Gruss
Mary Jimenez, Linda Lopez-George,
Joseph Moffitt, Brigitta Glick

Judy Prasil
Barbara Bristol

Thank you for designating Grace for your Thrivent Choice dollars!

A Message from Our President: Vicki Marthaler

The other day I was sitting in front of my computer screen "zooming" with several others from our congregation as we were participating in a Bible Study. The topic was prayer, specifically The Lord's Prayer. The Lord's Prayer begins "Our Father." It is a prayer to be prayed by the community. A prayer made to pray together with another. A prayer that unites us to each other as well as to those who have gone before us.

As that thought was lifted up, I was immediately taken back many years to a time when The Lord's Prayer was "Fader Var." My Norwegian Grandfather, Clarence, was a kind man. Hard working. Thoughtful. Even when life wasn't so easy, his soft spoken voice had a way of making the best of things. He had a Norwegian brogue and often slipped into Norwegian when talking with family... or when praying.

I remember a time in Grandpa's life that was heartbreaking. Grandpa was a widower and had sold his farm and moved to town. He was active in the Senior Citizen Center in the rural community of Pelican Rapids, Minnesota and one of his volunteering activities was delivering Meals on Wheels. It was during this time that Grandpa met Minnie who also was widowed and active in the Senior Citizen Center. Together they delivered Meals on Wheels and together they became quite a twosome. Grandpa and Minnie (also a Norwegian Lutheran) had so many things in common that it was only natural for them to see each other often and keep each other company. One day Grandpa drove Minnie to her hair appointment in a nearby town. He had brought the paper to read in the car while he waited for Minnie. The time ticked on and soon Grandpa began to wonder about Minnie. Had she run another errand? He looked at his watch. It was getting late. Then a police officer came to Grandpa's car and asked him if he was waiting for a lady named Minnie. Minnie had been hit by a car crossing a street and she had been taken to the hospital.

Minnie was hospitalized for a short time before she was moved to a nursing home in a vegetative state. Minnie had received a blow to her head and when the doctor operated on her, he removed a blood clot the size of an orange from her brain. The pressure had been too much and the damage to the brain was great. Minnie never really "woke up." She remained in the nursing home receiving total care for over a year. And several times a week, Grandpa would make the trip to sit by her bedside.

One time I went with Grandpa to see Minnie. I sat in a corner of the room and Grandpa went right to Minnie's side. He pulled up a chair and took her hand in his and talked to her like she was listening to every word. He caught her up on all the happenings at the Senior Citizen Center. He talked about the weather and what the pastor talked about in church. And then he just sat. Looking at his Minnie. Holding her hand. At last he bowed his head and in his soft-spoken voice he began to pray "*Fader var, du som er I himmelen, helliget vorde ditt navn. Komme ditt rike, skje din vilje, som I himmelen, sa og pa jorden.....*"

I had heard my Grandpa pray The Lord's Prayer in Norwegian many times. His lilting speech, the way the words rolled off his tongue made the prayer so comforting, so encompassing, so precious. I was held by the beauty of this prayer and somehow I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that Minnie was receiving it as a balm to her Spirit as it was a balm to mine. Grandpa later told me that it was their routine to share a supper at Minnie's home, do the dishes and then before Grandpa left for his place, they would sit on the couch holding hands to pray the Lord's Prayer together.

In a time of great distress, Grandpa prayed the Lord's Prayer just like he prayed the Lord's Prayer when life was fair and fine. "Thy kingdom come. Thy Will be done. Give us...forgive us...lead us...deliver us..." We can pray this prayer today, too. In English. In Norwegian. In Spanish. This Covid time is a time of great distress for all of us. So let us pray together now as we have prayed when things were fair and fine. "Thy kingdom come. Thy Will be done. Give us...forgive us...lead us...deliver us." It is the prayer Jesus gave us to be prayed by the community for the community.



"For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen."

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

Denise Pryor	5/1	Claire Darrah	5/12	Caroline Chavez	5/20
Donald Bell	5/2	Ada Gough	5/12	Ellen Morrison	5/20
Douglas Fennell	5/2	John Simons	5/12	Horst Wenz	5/23
Miranda Freeman	5/2	Kelly Friesen	5/13	Shelley Clay	5/24
David Carver	5/3	Megan Pigors	5/13	Eric Hagstrom	5/24
Kevin Milford	5/5	Vanessa Wingard	5/14	Jason Heilemann	5/24
Ada Morava	5/5	Donna Southard	5/15	Mike Hoffmann	5/24
Jovanna Porter	5/5	Douglass Decker	5/16	Katherine Van Horne	5/24
Carol Honeycutt	5/6	Patricia Malinak	5/16	Buzzy Hoegger	5/26
Delores Braun	5/8	Irene Syvertson	5/16	Cindy Bonincontri	5/27
Martha Keiser	5/9	Debbie Freeman	5/17	Penny Lord	5/28
Shelley Bickner	5/10	Christine Ring	5/17	Judy Waldrop	5/28
Virginia Rehn	5/10	Steven Buman	5/18	JoAnne Mummert	5/29
Judy Oneacre	5/11	Billie Slear	5/18	Patricia Axtell	5/30
Evelia Solano-Jimenez	5/11	Noe Acosta	5/19	Beverly Cannady	5/30
Elise Trexler	5/11	Judith Longtemps	5/19	Rita Purdy	5/30
		Susan Carlson	5/20	Charles Waldrop	5/30

Anniversaries

Daniel & Aurora Solano	5/1/1982	Wayne & Yvonne Forsythe	5/21/1977
Henry & Barb Koch	5/3/1969	John & Annah Lord	5/24/2008
Gary & Lynn Kester	5/8/2010	Andy & Barbara Pytel	5/24/1985
Wade & Caroline Patterson	5/11/1996	John & Cindy Simons	5/24/1998
John & Maria Almert	5/13/2017	Fred & D'Anne Martin	5/25/1985
Bill & Becky Schmidt	5/13/1978	Kemper & Mandy Gibson	5/28/2016
Misty & Tani Masha	5/17/2003	Jerry & Emilee Liedl	5/28/2016
Jon & Muriel Lambert	5/18/1977	Charlie & Katie Bolick	5/30/1993
David & Barbara Bair	5/19/1973	Jack & Sandy Dublynn	5/30/1992
Jim & Jane Hunt	5/19/1973	Joe & Carol Gillett	5/30/1969
Bill & Sharon Wohlt	5/19/1972	John & Bonnie Wells	5/30/1960
Jeff & Simons Michels	5/20/1989	Nick & Rachel Cummings	5/31/2014



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

Living Waters Food Drive
May 16-23, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Rejoicing in our Lord's resurrection and looking forward to helping our neighbors in Cherokee, I am excited for our upcoming food drive. The food drive will take place by the portico and also on Communion Sunday.

To update Living Waters activities, Lisa has indicated how very busy the pantry distribution has been with additional families coming including a part of the reservation named Snowbird that comprises Elders and older folks. The food pantry is helping two other communities with small pantries plus walkers. Additionally this month, the TEFAP did not give any help to pantries so a definite strain has occurred.

Currently the items needed include canned meats (no chicken or tuna), self-rising flour, sugar, cooking oil, ketchup, mustard, dish soap or laundry detergent, plus personnel hygiene items. The annual report from 2020 indicated 8,235 households were served and encompassed 27,055 individuals. As you realize, our help to folks in Cherokee is monumental and we are privileged to assist with food drives to help. Monetary gifts are always appreciated as are Thrivent choice dollars.

Thank you always for your help!
Rosaleen Dawes

Pentecost Jubilee
Sunday, May 23, 3-4 p.m.

Join us for a celebration of faith, family, friends and fellowship. On Pentecost Sunday, we will have an outdoor fellowship event in the parking lot of Grace. The Band will play. The Hospitality & Fellowship Ministry will serve refreshments. There will be activities for children. Bring a chair and join the fun and fellowship. We can't wait to see you!

If you would like to bake cookies for this event please contact Tracy Pace at (828) 691-1420 or tracybpace@gmail.com.

To keep us all safe, we will wear masks and keep a physical distance. And wear red to celebrate!