

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022

THE GRACEVINE

Official Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church



Joy of Serving

BLESSINGS IN BOXES



Thank you for your generosity. During the Advent and Christmas season, we were able to share our blessings with many different people and organizations.

In October and November, KIDD's Club (our elementary aged members) came together on two nights to create Christmas ornaments and cards. Sixty ornaments were donated to the Storehouse for the December food

boxes they distribute to shut-ins. Twenty-five cards were sent to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to be distributed to children and families in foster care and detention centers.



Our Purpose:
*Transforming Lives
Through Christ*

Our 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*

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

- Our 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



Your generosity also was evident with the fulfillment of 37 tags from The Storehouse's Blessing in Boxes program. This program partners with the Henderson County Public School system to identify families in need. This year 1905 children, newborns to 17 years old, from 697 families were given gifts for Christmas. The WELCA Sarah circle purchased coats for all 37 children we sponsored.

Grace Youth Ministry

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

Grace Young Adults and Campus Ministry

The end of the fall semester offered opportunities to catch up with our busy young adults while serving at the La Abundancia food distribution that provided fresh produce and culturally appropriate food for 140 local families.



Jake (Freshman, UNC-Chapel Hill) shares this update: *My first semester at UNC-Chapel Hill went very well! I met some great people, made good grades, and enjoyed wonderful experiences! I've gotten really involved in the Lutheran Campus Ministry, and find a lot of peace and fulfillment through our weekly worship sessions, dinners, and activities.*



Mick (Freshman, UNC-Asheville) shares this update: "This first semester of freshman year went well, but it was definitely surprising. I wasn't in the community that I had grown used to and lived in over the last 12 years. I struggled at first to re-adjust to my new surroundings, but that's okay. After that initial struggle, I ended up growing on a spiritual and personal level, connecting with people I wouldn't have had the pleasure of meeting otherwise."



Youth Ministry leadership

Thank you to our youth and young adults for serving during our Advent and Christmas Eve services. We appreciate your leadership!



Message from Pastor Ken Langsdorf

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

CONTINUE TO LOVE AND PRAY



As I bring a close to my fifteen years of ministry with you at Grace, I have taken some time to reflect. I have been thinking about what makes Grace an exceptional congregation. There are many factors that make Grace the best ministry I have ever been a part of, but what is most significant is that you are a congregation who loves and prays.

In Mark 12: 29-31 A scribe asked Jesus, *'Which commandment is the first of all?'* Another way to say this is, *"What is the most important teaching for life?"* Or, *"How should we live the best life?"* Jesus answered, *'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength."* ³¹*The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."* *There is no other commandment greater than these.'*

The ministries of Grace, the people of Grace, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, live out this teaching. You love the Lord our God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. And you love your neighbor as yourself.

Think about it with me. Through our worship, through our Bible studies, in our fellowship, and in our ministries, we are loving the Lord our God with our best, with all we are; and we are caring for people in so many life giving ways.

And we pray. The ministries of Grace don't just happen out of the goodness of our hearts, they are Holy Spirit led. The ministries of Grace are the result of time spent in study and prayer.

In times of long range and strategic planning, and in times of change and transition, we have devoted ourselves to prayer; always seeking God's guidance and inspiration.

Many years ago our theme verse for our strategic planning was Jeremiah 29:11-14a. ¹¹*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.* ¹²*Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.* ¹³*When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart,* ¹⁴*I will let you find me, says the Lord.*

As you are now in a time of transition and discernment, be who you are and do what you do. Love and pray.

Thank you for including me in your ministry of love and prayer. I have been richly blessed by being with you in the ministry of Grace.

The Apostle Paul beautifully sums up the encouragement that I want to write to you. In Colossians 3: 12-17 he writes:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ* dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.* ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

In the love of Christ, Pastor Ken Langsdorf

Message from Council

Dear People of Grace:

Our Congregation Council will create a Senior Pastor Call Committee at its Jan. 15 meeting. Currently the Council continues to gather a list of nominees who are willing to serve in this capacity. The call process documents of the NC Synod ELCA provide the following guidance:

PURPOSE OF THE CALL COMMITTEE

This committee, seeking God's will for the congregation through prayer, interviews, consulting of references, and conversation with one another, recommends a candidate to the Congregation Council for their consideration.

MAKE-UP OF THE CALL COMMITTEE

- **NUMBER:** The number of persons on the call committee is usually defined by the congregation's constitution. If a number is not specified in the constitution, then the Congregation Council shall determine an appropriate number of persons for the committee. A workable number of persons is 5 to 7. In most congregations the council appoints the committee. In a few, the congregation elects the committee. Care should be taken to follow the congregation's constitution.

According to the Grace Constitution: Our call committee will consist of 6 to 8 persons, chosen by the Congregation Council.

- **CHARACTERISTICS:** Members of the call committee should be wise, prayerful, trusted, and able to make decisions as part of a group. They should reflect a cross-section of the congregation with regard to age, gender, length of membership, and participation in various ministries. All should be active, communing, contributing members who can find the necessary time to devote to the work of the call process. Each should have the ability to work as part of a team to discern God's will for the congregation.

Additional Council expectations for the Grace Call Committee:

- Full attendance at synodical training, committee meetings and candidate interviews
- Submission of monthly progress reports to Council
- Ability to make an indeterminate time commitment

TIME COMMITMENT

The call process varies in length of time from one congregation to another. It is difficult to complete the call process in less than six months and many congregations find it lasts a year or more. The length of the process depends on such things as the number of candidates interviewed; the time Call Committee and candidates have available for conversation, and the needs of the congregation for grieving and preparation for the next pastor.

Council will be receiving names of Call Committee nominees through January 5. Grace members may nominate themselves or others. To help the Council assemble the best team possible, nominees will be asked to answer a few biographical questions as a means of introduction and to provide additional background information for Council to use as they work to put together a diverse and representative Call Committee..

Please take the time to re-read the characteristics listed above. If these words bring to mind a fellow member, please submit their name. If these words describe a commitment which you can make, volunteer. **Email names of nominees to CallCommittee@gracehendersonville.com**

Finally, pray for our council as they undertake this important decision in the life of our congregation.

In Christ, Dan Wingard - Council President 2022 & Terrell West - Council President 2021

THE CALL PROCESS AT A GLANCE



"A GUIDE FOR CALLING A PASTOR"



- Installation arranged with conference dean
- Mutual Ministry Team is formed and approved

6 WELCOMING AND SUPPORTING THE NEW PASTOR

- Call committee recommends primary candidate
- Council meets the candidate and makes a recommendation to extend call
- Congregation votes to extend the call
- Pastor accepts the call
- Farewell to interim pastor

5 EXTENDING A CALL

- Call committee is trained using Ministry Site Profile
- Call committee begins interview process for pastor
- Call committee narrows selection to one candidate

4 Call Committee

"SELECTING A PASTOR"

- MSP Task Force chairperson and task force appointed (Complete)
- Ministry Site Profile completed and approved by Council (January)
- Ministry Site Profile shared with Congregation and posted online for potential candidates to review (February - March)

3 Ministry Site Profile (MSP)

- Plan and Meet for congregational study (Complete)
- Congregation survey completed and Congregation study compiled and shared with Council and Congregation (November - December)
- Call Committee is identified and appointed (December - January)

2 Study

- Resignation and goodbye of pastor

1 Transition

- "Call Process Booklets" for guidance in the process
- Establish an interim ministry

"PASTORAL TRANSITION AND CLOSURE" (All Complete)

Women of the ELCA

BITS AN24D PIECES BY JUDY STOLTENBERG

A Shared Devotion from the WELCA Christmas Tea

I don't know where the idea came from, to knit leftover pieces of my prayer shawl yarn into one. It hung around in the edges of my mind, that idea. So many different colors—what would that look like? I guessed a hodge-podge of life, just like the life we are living in these swirling days.

I put off the idea. "Anyway, who would want such a thing," I thought, "and I am not very skilled to begin with."

There was a nudge in my heart, though. I kept going to the closet and staring at the tangle of leftovers..." these colors might go together," I thought," but absolutely not those."

In the middle of dark February with a pandemic nearly a year old, with my fears about my own health and that of my beloved family muddling my mind, I dumped all the yarn into one box. "What now?" I thought. There were other projects, other distractions. And a voice, almost laughing at the foolishness of leftovers, of bits and pieces. But, somehow, I began to feel a sorrow over the strong strands of yarn.

One day I began to remember the purple. I knitted it for Bunny when her husband lay dying of COVID. That ocean color—one for Sara and a matching one for her friend undergoing chemo. The waterfall color—it went to a family from church whose house had burned. And here the green, from Ian's tonsillectomy. This violet was a piece Marie gave me so that she could be a part of the ministry. And heaven knows where the spread of comfort from all the holy softness of those other colors have gone.

The thing about the yarn: I always use the same type. There are a multitude of colors but they all have the same heft, a bumpy, warm feel to them. Like all of us, I thought, the same under our rough exteriors, our hopes our fears, our faults. Looking at the mix in the box, I saw a life, teaming with swirling colors, waiting to live out of the safety, the shelter of being just bits and pieces. And isn't the word yarn just one letter away from the word yearn?

I began to knit. I knew I could not make it perfect, so I chose a design different from my usual prayer shawls. This one would be a triangle, a symbol of relationships, not just of me and a recipient, but of a community of all those who had before felt warmth and strength from the tied together knots of my yarn and of all the yarns fashioned together by the hands of others who shared this ministry.

I thought I would blend the colors, make them beautiful in contrast and context. But I had no design. My selections were random—there is more purple, less pink. There are colors I loved and some I chose because others might love them. It wasn't about me anymore.

The shape grew and, of course, so did my doubts. This is not an even, precise knitting like some can do. Put it all back in the closet. They will laugh at your efforts. Rip out that row, you'll never get this right.

And tears...do my efforts matter at all? Is my calling really from God?

But a silent urging Presence hovered over the hours as all the bits and pieces came together. I bound the piece off with a small bit of dark blue. Who has that blue shawl? I don't know, I'll probably never know. Just like I don't know how my efforts will be received, or how they will be blessed—or even rejected.

Does it matter, Lord, that I tried? Does it change the pattern of life for me or anyone else? Are we still just your bumpy, knit-together people struggling to find your path of grace?



In the quiet sunshine of late February, I stare at my creation and I am awed by gratitude for it, for my life, for my yarn pieces, for my fumbling fingers. Of course it all matters. It matters to God who holds our tears in a bottle, who turns ashes to beauty, who sees through imperfection with the eyes of love and grace.

Thank You, for the lesson of bits and pieces.

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).

January Birthdays

Bonnie Wells	1/1	Banta		Peter Gollup	1/22
Ruth Derrick	1/2	Valerie Veitch	1/11	Mary Kneeland	1/22
Kathy Reinhard	1/2	Noah Zabel	1/11	Tamara Miller	1/23
Isai Angeles	1/3	Christopher Bufalino	1/12	Wendy Withrow	1/23
Laurie Elliott	1/3	Rheta Luy	1/12	Mary Eichorn	1/24
Said Solano-Jimenez	1/3	Reid Northrup	1/12	Marjorie Ann Loken	1/24
Terry Schaefer	1/4	Karen Beardsley	1/14	Charles Mummert	1/24
Josie Lanquist	1/6	Yvonne Forsythe	1/14	Charlotte Osterman	1/24
Ema Masha	1/6	Carol Ontko	1/14	Suzanne Celtrick	1/25
Katya Pigors	1/6	Benjamin Winkel	1/14	Rae Foster	1/25
Paige Willms	1/6	Donald Obertein	1/16	Myra Glowacki	1/25
Letha Abeln	1/7	Alli King	1/17	Nathaniel Clark	1/26
Norris Crigler	1/7	Laura Spencer	1/17	Barbara Fountain	1/26
Lynn Nichols	1/7	John Wells	1/18	Jennifer Moore	1/26
Patrick Patterson	1/7	Robert Engstrom	1/19	Lilly Bonetti	1/27
Susan Steiner	1/7	Janice Saville-		Richard Miley	1/28
Sharon Doty	1/9	Schwartz	1/20	Judith Lichtenhagen	1/30
Charles Jones	1/9	Joan Florine	1/21	Nancy Engstrom	1/31
Catharin McCarthy-	1/9	James Stoltenberg	1/21		

January Anniversaries

Hunter & Suzanne Hale	1/1/1971	Robert & Anna Moroni	1/16/1960
Roger & Judy Bohn	1/5/1962	Warren & Yong Weber	1/16/1964
Noe & Lorena Zepeda-Acosta	1/6/1992	Pamela & Lonnie Badin	1/23/2013
Duane & Caren Geiler	1/7/2007	Jimmie & Ellen Morrison	1/23/1965
Joshua & Kelly Friesen	1/8/2005	Mike & Lynn Nichols	1/26/1980
Alan & Patty Ann Dietrich	1/9/1982	Jim & Heather Wiggins	1/28/1995
Ken & Catherine Langsdorf	1/9/1988	Aaron & Shadai Pace	1/29/2021
Mark & Suzanne Gibbs	1/12/1960	Dick & Vivian Pemble	1/30/1961
Jim & Joan Florine	1/13/1968	Keith & Lori Johnson	1/31/1976
Don & Nancy Bell	1/16/1965		

Grace February Birthdays

Ashley Albers	2/2	Vincent Rees	2/8	Anthony Pezzimenti	2/20
David Bair	2/2	Jacob Solano	2/8	Mandy Gibson	2/22
James Florine	2/2	Jackson Bufalino	2/9	Elizabeth Girard	2/22
Cathy Jackman	2/2	James Cline	2/9	Patrick Rose	2/22
Brent Janowiak	2/2	Susanne Stockman	2/10	Nancy Edwards	2/23
George Spencer	2/2	Catherine Etterman	2/11	Dan Axtell	2/24
Carlene Belanger	2/3	Sandra Litogot	2/11	Anne Duffy	2/24
Jenny Solano	2/3	Susan Powell	2/11	Larry Schwake	2/24
Hunter Strong	2/3	Kevin Solano	2/11	Richard Honeycutt	2/25
Chris Graves	2/4	Muriel Lambert	2/12	Nadine Christensen	2/27
James Nelson	2/4	Marilyn Pigors	2/12	Marilyn Conrad	2/27
Matthew Samotis	2/4	Cynthia Simons	2/12	Kevin Duffy	2/27
Leah Scroggin	2/4	Jordan Councill	2/15	Kathleen Matthews	2/27
Vianey Solano	2/4	Sara Schmidt	2/15	Madeline Salgado	2/28
William Brust	2/6	Lara Wingard	2/15	Mary Sebby	2/28
Jonathan Lambert	2/6	Anthony Acosta-		Saul Solano	2/28
David De Graaf	2/7	Oviedo	2/16	Douglas Wilder	2/28
Joshua Friesen	2/7	Peggy Bumgarner	2/16	Karen Winch	2/28
Alejandrina Oviedo	2/7	Mark Marthaler	2/16	Mark Fitzsimmons	2/29
Marie Mortensen	2/8	Cora Taylor	2/17		

Grace February Anniversaries

Hershel & Barbara Parrish	2/2/2008	Patrick & Jane Rose	2/16/1963
Mark & Mary Ross	2/9/1969	Bruce & Rae Foster	2/20/1982
Sal & Nancy Chiarenza	2/14/1982	John & Dottie Mattern	2/23/2003
Bill & Linda Daleure	2/14/1975	Renne Barolet	2/28/2008

Thrivent Choice

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

Carol Miley
Richard Miley
Barbara Fountain

Thank you for designating Grace for your Thrivent Choice dollars!

Social Ministry

"BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS", AN ARTICLE FROM MAY 2002 ELCA PUBLICATION

Saint Francis of Assisi is reported to have said, "Preach the gospel at all times. When necessary, use words." Social ministry is one way the Church preaches the Gospel primarily without using words. Think of all the ways ELCA congregations have been part of the Church's long history of social ministry: They have established hospitals, AIDS clinics, and day care centers; operated food banks, clothes closets, and soup kitchens; resettled refugees; advocated for the rights of minorities, women, the elderly, and children; and, ministered both to crime victims and to those who commit crimes. All of these ministries are syllables in the church's bold proclamation of the Gospel and are a living, breathing foretaste of that grand day of Christ's return when there will be no more tears and when all will live together in plenty.

How we treat the one in rags, the one in prison, the one with an empty stomach, the one fleeing a war-torn country, the one who is sick, and the one who is a stranger in our midst is how we treat God! If we ever needed impetus for social ministry, that is it. We engage in social ministry in order to pull down the dividing wall between the privileged and the deprived and see the face of God in one another. You see? That is the irony of this thing we call social ministry. We go out to proclaim the Gospel to those in need, and those in need proclaim it to us in return.

Thank you, Grace family, for your generous financial support of social ministry in our local community and around the world.

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,^[a] you did it to me.' ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Matthew 25:31-46

Oasis Is Back!

WEDNESDAYS, JAN. 12-MAY 25



Oasis Meal – Wednesdays, 4:45-5:30 p.m. Eat and fellowship with your Grace family. Registration is required - sign up for dinner at the Sign-up Station. Cost: Adults \$5, Children \$3, Family \$16. All Grace in-person events within our facilities follow Covid-19 guidelines as approved by our congregation council.

Oasis Adult Faith Formation – Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. Follows the Oasis Dinner. Adult's Faith Formation continues in the Fellowship Hall and if necessary, will include remote participants via Zoom. Due to pastoral transitions at Grace, plans for the Spring 2022 Oasis Adult's Faith formation, from Jan. 12 to Feb. 23, theme(s) and facilitator(s) are being finalized. This information will be posted in our weekly e-news and Sunday announcements.

Oasis Adult Faith formation is open to everybody - no registration required. We are looking forward to continuing studying Faith and life relevant themes that create and nurture personal faith in the context of a learning community.

Grace Faith Formation ministry is recruiting facilitators for ongoing learning opportunities - training provided. Contact

Pastor Alfredo if interested, aoviedo@gracehendersonville.com, 828-290-4041.

Middle School Confirmation – Meets Wednesday evenings twice a month. See Anne for details.

Grace 101

SATURDAY, FEB. 5, 9 A.M.-NOON

Deepen your knowledge of who we are as a church family, how you can share your gifts and become a part of the ministries and community outreach programs of interest and how you can grow with Grace as we continue to fulfill our mission of 'Transforming lives through Christ!'

Sign up at the Sign-up Station or register at <https://bit.ly/Grace10122>



1245 6th Ave W
Hendersonville NC 28739
Return Service Requested

El Centro

BY PASTOR ALFREDO OVIEDO



Grace's commitment to assist our neighbors in need continues being modeled through the example of the members of the Social Ministry Committee. In partnership with 20+ community agencies, their leadership allows us to become the hands and feet of Christ for those in need in the world. El Centro is one of the many service organizations Grace Social Ministry partners with on fulfilling their God's given vocations.

"The Latino Advocacy Coalition was founded on June 1, 1998, shortly after the nickname was adopted, El Centro. El Centro has helped thousands of people since its foundation over 20 years ago, and today, they continue working with that same fire and passion that distinguished them in their beginnings, by creating new programs, caring for people, and diversifying efforts to accommodate the needs of our community."

"The Mission of El Centro is to create a more inclusive community for Latinos by providing unique services, developing grassroots leaders, and working together to access community resources. The Vision of El Centro is, creating a welcoming and just community where everyone is treated with dignity, valued and respected."

El Centro's current services focus in the areas of education, mental health, and advocacy. They provide tutors for students working on their GED, training for plumbers and electricians, and ESL classes. A mental health professional provides counseling. They provide civics education assisting on voter registration and healthy relations with law enforcement institutions. Most of El Centro services continue being delivered online.

Currently under restructuration, El Centro leadership is headed by the Assistant Executive Director Gabby Mendez. She is coming to share an update and needs of El Centro at the Jan. 13, Grace Social Ministry Committee monthly meeting at 10 a.m.

If you are considering becoming active in an area of service in our congregation, Grace Social Ministry Committee welcomes you to our meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m.

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<https://www.facebook.com/el.c.comunitario/>
508 N Grove St., Hendersonville, NC
(828) 290-7134