

LENT 2022

# THE GRACEVINE

Official Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church

## Lent 2022

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

### WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES

*"A Time of Prayer"*

Lent is a time of learning. Lent is a time of prayer.

In the Ash Wednesday Gospel lesson, Jesus invites us into a deeper practice of prayer. Throughout the forty days of Lent, many resolve to expand their prayer life, but lose focus over time. Lent may be a time of prayer, but is also a time for learning. Thus, our commitment to prayer can be stronger, if we first take the time to learn a few spiritual practices.

This year our midweek Lenten journey will celebrate and experience five types of prayer, which can be practiced individually and communally:

- Walking Prayer (March 9)
- Morning & Evening Prayer (March 16)
- Prayers around the Cross (March 23)
- Healing Prayer (March 30)
- Centering Prayer (April 6)

Our classroom will rotate between Stull Hall and the Sanctuary. Our three pastors will be our teachers. Each week will provide a time of learning and a time of practice. The evening begins with a simple supper in Stull Hall, 4:45-5:30 p.m. Worship and teaching follow, 5:45-6:45 p.m.

### 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

## Lent 2022 Schedule

### Ash Wednesday

March 2

Worship with Imposition of Ashes

12:15 & 7 p.m.

### Sundays in Lent

March 6, 13, 20 & 27

April 3 - Bach Sunday

Holy Communion

9 & 11:15 a.m.

### Wednesdays in Lent

March 9, 16, 23, 30 & April 6

4:45-5:30 p.m. - Oasis Meal

5:45-6:45 p.m. - Teaching & Worship

### Holy Week

April 10 - Palm Sunday

9 & 11:15 a.m.

April 14 - Maundy Thursday

12:15 & 7 p.m.

April 15 - Good Friday

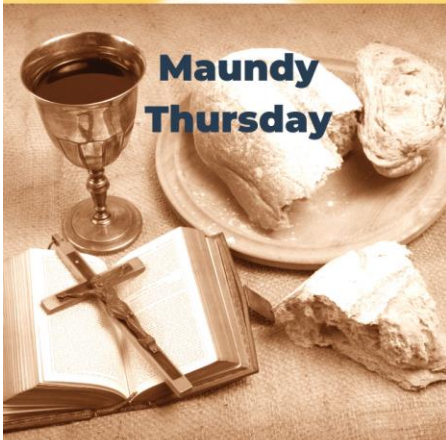
12:15 & 7 p.m.

April 17 - Easter

9 & 11:15 a.m.

## HOLY WEEK at GRACE

JOIN US IN-PERSON & LIVE ON FACEBOOK!



**Maundy  
Thursday**

APRIL 14  
12:15 & 7 P.M.



**Good  
Friday**

APRIL 15  
12:15 & 7 P.M.



**Easter  
Sunday**

APRIL 17  
9 & 11:15 A.M.

## Message from Pastor Christina Auch

Pastor Christina Auch: [cauch@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:cauch@gracehendersonville.com) / 828-693-4890 x305

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*Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. – Joel 2:13*

I was once asked to describe God in one word and the word I chose is "steadfast." Knowing that nothing I can do will change God's love and grace for me or send God screaming for the hills and forsaking me steadies me in a world that can be fickle and unpredictable. Trusting that God is ever-present and desires to be a relationship with me and for me to find belonging and make my home with God invites me into deeper life with God.

I did not grow up in church. I was christened as an infant in the Episcopal Church and attended when my father, a career Navy officer, was home from deployments. A Navy family, we moved often between the two coasts, settling in northern Virginia eventually. I returned to the Church as a college student, and when our daughters were small, we began worshiping at our neighborhood church, an ELCA Lutheran congregation several blocks away. I experienced pastors who were loving human beings with their own gifts and challenges and found community in the relationships with others in the congregation. A few years later I was invited into ministry by my pastor and began learning more about congregation leadership and what ministry outside the church walls looks like. It was during this time that I was called into full-time ministry and began candidacy with the NC Synod and seminary.

Since 2007 my family has been in Arden where my husband Jamie teaches and coaches at Christ School, an all-boys Episcopal boarding school. When I received my first call to Shelby in 2014, we figured out how to live in different zip codes much of the time and became empty nesters as our daughters left for college and boarding school. Jamie remained at Christ School and I lived in Shelby where I led a small congregation as a full-time solo pastor for seven and a half years and also worked part-time as a hospital chaplain for the last two years.

We delight in our daughters and watching their adventures out in the world. Casey is now 26 and living in Boston where she is a graduate student studying transportation planning at Tufts and an intern for Massachusetts DOT. Emma is 22 this month and a senior at Western Carolina where she studies forensic chemistry and criminal justice and serves on her sorority executive council.

We also find great joy in our four-legged companions. We have three dogs and two cats which, frankly, can be a lot sometimes! But they're sweet and we love to head into the woods on Christ School's campus with them for walks.

Throughout the years of school and ministry and personal ups and downs, that include breast cancer in 2018 and the deaths of my father and Jamie's mother in 2019 and 2021, God has remained steadfast and loving, gracious and merciful, and always present for us.

I am so grateful for God's leading me into this new season of ministry with you all here at Grace and hopeful for what will unfold during our time together.

+In Christ,  
Pastor Christina Auch



## Grace Youth Ministry

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

### Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service



Grace Youth Ministry participated in the annual Cross+Generational service project with the community of Henderson County. Even with our snow reschedule, about 65 people convened at St. James and bagged 2400 pounds of food for the Storehouse. They made beans and rice meals to feed 4,708 people. Along with the GLC volunteers, a huge thanks to the planning committee, St. James for continuing to allow us to use the facilities, St. Paul's AME Zion and the Rev. Mildred Twitty, and to people from La Capilla de Santa Maria, First Congregational, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, the Hendersonville chapter of the NAACP, Holy Family Episcopal, and the Doctor of Pharmacy Students from Wingate University School of Health Sciences for making this Day of Service possible.

### Annual Souper Bowl of Caring



Thank you to all our Souper Bowl volunteers and donors this past Sunday who helped tackle hunger with the annual Souper Bowl of Caring! Results: Bengals \$483, cans 213, Rams total \$136, cans 97. Grand total \$619, cans 310. Real winner is the Storehouse of Henderson County, thank you!

### ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza

In February Jill and Anne Marie attended a weekend of continuing education at the annual ELCA Youth Ministry Network Conference. Thank you Grace family for making experiences like this possible: for staff to connect with colleagues and learn! Jill's conference track was "Reimagining Children's Ministry" and Anne Marie's track focus was "Mental Health in Ministry." We both found this time of listening and learning to be a meaningful experience and even though our tracks were different we found some similarities for renewed hope where is God calling us.

## Boundless Lament



This winter our Grace students have experienced the cancellation, loss, and grief of two important faith formation focused experiences: the annual Lutheran Youth Organization conference by the NC Synod and the 2022 Minneapolis Youth Gathering by the ELCA. While it is difficult to convey the sense of frustration and all that is lost by the cancelation of these irreplaceable faith journey pieces, without an alternative plan provided from the NC Synod or ELCA, our students have communicated that they still would like to have something for them. Instead of the February LYO, Grace Youth Ministry will participate in a

fun fellowship weekend together with Boundless bible study material and service project at a cabin in the Smoky Mountains. Our students have worked hard all year to prepare for the ELCA Youth Gathering, and currently we are starting back at square one researching options to fill this week in July for those participants. Thank you, Grace family, for your continued support as we pivot to provide what is possible for youth faith formation experiences. During a recent grieving processing meeting called "Boundless Lament" students/guides picked a prayer while sharing their feelings about the cancellations.

Prayer: "May I have the vision to see this day and the work that comes with it as a gift."

12 grader reflection: *"Although the news of the gathering canceling has come as a disappointment, I feel lucky knowing I will be continually supported by this church. I feel lucky knowing that although we won't be able to go to Minneapolis this summer, we will be able to serve somewhere else in some other capacity. Out of this disappointment has come many possibilities, which wouldn't be without it, so I see it as an unusual and somewhat confusing gift."*

Prayer: "May I have the courage to expect good for my life and world, and resilience if and when those expectations are disappointed. "

12<sup>th</sup> grader reflection: *"While yes, it is disappointing that, yet another thing is canceled, it is important to stay strong and not let it throw you off track. You can't let one bump in the road throw you out of the car. Right now, it feels a little like rolling with the punches, but that is the new normal. Things can only go up when you're at the bottom. Therefore, you must be resilient and to just keep living."*

Prayer: May I believe that newness is possible.

11<sup>th</sup> grader reflection: *"I am feeling bummed out that the Gathering got canceled. But I think we can find a trip that can be just as fun or maybe even more fun. This prayer speaks to me by giving me hope that we can move on to better trips and help more people in need."*

Prayer: May I learn to make good out of what I'm given. Rather than only make sense of it.

8<sup>th</sup> grader reflection: *"I honestly feel I've been let down. I have never been anywhere further from the south, and I feel stuck. So going to the Gathering in the north and meeting other people who could be like me would have been an escape."*

Prayer: May I never grow tired of starting over or helping others do the same. My hope is always in renewal and resurrection. May love be stronger in me than the fear of the pain that comes with caring.

Adult Guide reflection: *"The level of emotional exhaustion is staggering. I definitely have to rely on God and close relationships right now, so I don't just throw my hands up and quit being hopeful. Trying to feel encouraged by resilience shown by the youth but so tired of having to be disappointed over and over and over again. But I'm not ready to give up trying, caring, or being hopeful."*



## Children & Family Ministry

Dir. of Children & Family Ministry: Jill Wingard: [jwingard@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:jwingard@gracehendersonville.com) | 828-693-4890 344

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Who would choose to go to Minneapolis Minnesota in February? Anne and I! We packed up our Cuddle Duds and headed north for the ELCA Youth Ministry Network "Extravaganza", a four day youth ministry conference that was attended by about 700 in-person and 300 online participants. Extravaganza is an annual event which gives youth ministers a place to "experience spiritual renewal, continuing education and opportunities to network and connect."

I decided to participate in the "Reimagining Children's Ministry" led by Dr. Dave Csinos. Dr. Csinos has published several books on children's ministry, but his latest "Little Theologians: Children, Culture and the Making of Theological Meaning" was the focus of the workshop I attended. One of the first things Dr. Csinos had us do was to fill in the following blank, "The purpose of Children's Ministry is \_\_\_\_\_" I am still working on a full answer, but here are some thoughts.

1. To show children that they are an integral part of the body of Christ.
2. To equip families with the tools they need to create a church in miniature in their daily lives.
3. To create a church culture that encourages space for all ages to share their theological ideas.

The world is constantly changing and how we as a church view faith formation for children needs to change as well. It has only been 24 hours since I returned from the conference, so I plan to give myself a little time to think about how I want to implement a "reimagining" of Grace's ministry to children and families. Thank you for your prayers and support.



## Grace Music Ministry

Music Director: Burton Bumgarner: [bbumgarner@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:bbumgarner@gracehendersonville.com) | 828-693-4890 x306

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### Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

Bach has done much to enrich the worship life of the church. He drew on the Lutheran tradition of chorale (hymn) singing and wrote around 200 cantatas (multi movement for choirs, soloists and orchestras), including at least two for each Sunday and festival day in the Lutheran calendar of his day. He has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the ways he proclaimed the gospel through his music. He was born into a musical family on March 31, 1685 in Eisenach, Germany. After serving as composer and director in several German churches in towns, he became the Cantor of St. Thomas Church in Leipzig. From 1723 until just before his death, he composed, rehearsed and

presented his massive number of cantatas, as well as such large scale works as the St. Matthew Passion and the Christmas Oratorio. He also wrote numerous works for organ, solo instruments and for orchestras. Bach's grave is by the altar of St. Thomas Church.



**On Sunday, April 3 we will use Bach's music in our 9 a.m. Tradition worship service.** We will be joined by the Café String Quartet who will accompany the choir and will play several instrumental works from Bach's cantatas. This will be a festive Sunday in which we honor the greatest composer in our Lutheran heritage, and one of the greatest composers in all of western music.

## Adult Faith Formation Ministry

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PASTOR ALFREDO OVIEDO

Called to lead Faith Formation Ministry at Grace? Faith Formation Ministry for adults includes:

- Disciple Classes
- Sunday School Classes
- Weekdays Bible Classes
- Home Study Small Groups
- Support Groups
- Christian Education Series
- Churchwide Book Study
- Webinar, Lectures & Conferences
- WELCA Circles Bible Study
- Lutheran Men in Mission Bible Study

Grace is inviting and recruiting volunteers to serve as:

- Members for the Adults' Faith Formation Ministry Committee
- Facilitators and Teachers for Faith Formation Classes and Small Groups
- Community Outreach Liaison for Faith Formation

Contact Pastor Alfredo M. Oviedo, [aoviedo@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:aoviedo@gracehendersonville.com), 828-290-4041.

## Women of the ELCA

### LENTEN THOUGHTS BY PRESIDENT OF THE GRACE WELCA UNIT, VICKI MARTHALER

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How has your new year, 2022, been so far? I have to confess that this new year has already been challenging for me!

On Jan. 1, I tested positive for Covid. So there's that. I spent my quarantine week taking two naps a day and feeling like I had a bad head cold. I recovered and am ready again to take on the new year.

On Feb. 2 I was walking my 9-month-old exuberant, strong half German Shepherd/half Husky grandpuppy, Hank. Hank caught me off guard which resulted in me taking a tumble onto the pavement where I bumped my head (ouch!), banged my shoulder (uffda!), twisted my wrist (owie!) and scraped both knees (yikes!) The doctor checked me over and thankfully there were no fractures, just bruising that would take some time to heal. I am in the green/yellow stage of healing and ready again to take on the new year.

On March 3, I am to report to the Henderson County Courthouse for Jury Duty. Mark and I were planning to be in Vermont March 4 for our granddaughter's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday! Is there a pattern here? Am I ready to take on this new year?

On Wednesday, March 2, we will all have an opportunity to gather as God's people and be reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten journey to the cross. It is a time of reflection. It is a time of soaking up the Living Word. It is a time of listening to the Spirit and asking Jesus to come deeper into our lives.

When I think of illness (especially Covid) and accidents (resulting in bumps and bruises) and responsibilities (for we do live in community and need to be there for one another), I become a little overwhelmed. I remember that I am but dust. And what can dust do?

And then I remember....

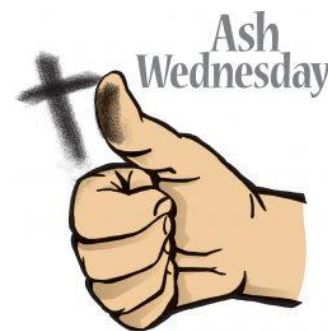
Jesus became dust like us. He became dust like us so we could take Him at His Word when He says "Lo, I am with you always." (Matt 28:20) and "the Kingdom of God is in you.." (Luke 17:21) and "I have told you these things that My Joy may be in you and your joy may be complete (John 15:11) and ...one of my very favorites "My sheep hear My Voice and they know Me and they follow Me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish. No one will snatch them out of My Hand." (John 10:27-28)

Jesus came with transformative power. He wants us to know that He is in the business of making all things new, and different, and wonderful, and hopeful, and good. And, it's all for you. Every bit of it.

Jesus put on the dust and then He left it behind in order that you and I might also have that same hope of a glorious new life without illness, without bumps and bruises, without the weight of responsibilities.

Lent. New life is coming.

The Women of Grace invite you to join us as we grow in faith, pray for one another and serve our Living Jesus. 2022....Dusty as I am, I am ready to take on this new year. I am ready because Jesus is with me. And He is with you...and for you. May that encourage you and give you great hope.

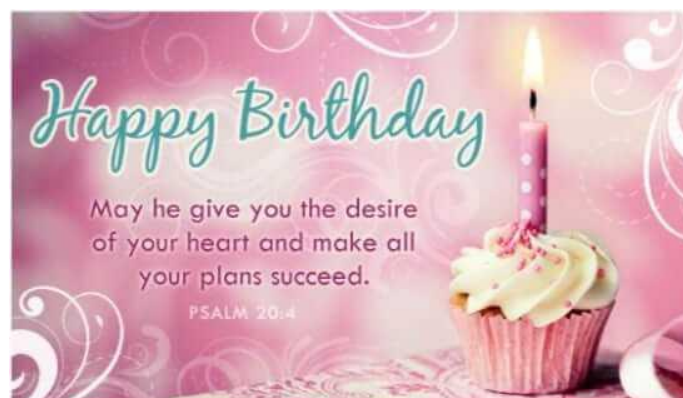


***For additional information about this and other ministries of the Women of the ELCA, see the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or contact our president, Vicki Marthaler (218-849-5683).***



## Grace Birthdays

Richard Belanger	3/1	Emily Inman	3/23	Lynda Martinez	4/14
Gerald Liedl	3/2	Howard Clinton	3/24	Francia Shaw	4/14
Judy Smith	3/2	Octavia Celtrick	3/25	Lois Roach	4/15
Kenneth Jenson	3/4	Alfredo Oviedo-		Philip Seidel	4/15
Karen Myers	3/4	Medina	3/25	Carol Gillett	4/16
Nery Acosta	3/5	Susan Fitzgerald	3/26	Jeffrey Michels	4/16
Steve Trumann	3/5	Diane Hansen	3/26	Rosaleen Dawes	4/17
Knowles Parker	3/6	Deborah Moore	3/28	Dale Beardsley	4/18
Harry Steiner	3/7	Lorena Jeanvette		Maria Resendiz	4/18
Sue Buman	3/8	Zabel	3/28	David Sebby	4/18
Ellen Jefsen	3/8	Irene Robertson	3/29	Monica Gillett	4/19
Nicole Vargas	3/8	Dante Acosta-		Tom Morgan	4/19
Peggy Midstokke	3/9	Oviedo	3/31	Karen Bowman	4/20
Vivian Pemble	3/9	Rebecca Schmidt	3/31	Susan Hunnicutt	4/20
Rochelle Simons	3/9	Kathlene Brems	4/1	Thomas Tews	4/20
Dorothy Staffieri	3/11	Jake Patterson	4/1	Suzanne Hale	4/21
Lilly Cruz	3/12	Catherine Samulski	4/1	Kristine Sochia	4/21
Allison Pfozter	3/13	Diane Sellers	4/1	Yong Weber	4/21
Ilse Antonelli	3/15	Mark Ross	4/2	Gregory Berger	4/22
Charles Fangmann	3/16	Fred Martin	4/3	Chandler Bolick	4/22
Joseph Prasil	3/16	Adelaide Haack	4/5	Daniel Solano	4/22
Dennis Royal	3/16	Annah Lord	4/5	Pamela Badin	4/24
Kassandra Bledsoe	3/17	Jennifer Bufalino	4/6	Nancy Christy	4/24
Jeanella Celtrick	3/17	James Wiggins	4/6	Max King	4/24
Kevin Filson	3/17	Blake Council	4/8	Jean Vierra	4/25
Ivy Walker	3/17	James Oneacre	4/8	Brenda Fisher	4/26
Tony Cruz	3/18	Steve Walker	4/8	Roderick Hansen	4/26
Catherine Keller	3/18	Edward McIntosh	4/9	Anne Monroe	4/26
David Litogot	3/18	Emily Trexler	4/9	Aram Davis	4/27
Alfredo Oviedo	3/18	Jan Hoffmann	4/10	Kenneth Langsdorf	4/27
Dotty Uhle	3/19	Ann Janes	4/11	Renne Barolet	4/28
Luna Romero	3/20	Dianne Bruce	4/12	Dave Slagle	4/28
William Slagle	3/22	Delia Jovel Dubon	4/12	Donna Hamilton	4/29
Mike Williamson	3/22	Janice Mickle	4/12	Melissa Walden	4/29
Johanna Dokter	3/23	Sally Cheney	4/14		
		Vicki Marthaler	4/14		



## Grace Anniversaries

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George & Joy Kiefer	3/4/1967	John & Ann Janes	4/7/2006
Mark & Vicki Marthaler	3/8/1974	Joe & Kathy Stancar	4/8/1972
Gerhardt & Stephanie Winkel	3/8/2003	Gary & Pat Gardner	4/9/1988
Chuck & Susan Albers	3/12/1977	Ronald & Bridget Monroe	4/11/1998
Jim & Jane Nelson	3/15/1997	Steve & Ivy Walker	4/16/2013
Chris & Megan Pigors	3/19/2011	Bruce & Lesley Darrah	4/18/2009
Bob & Joan Frederiksen	3/25/1961	Doug & Charlynn Fennell	4/18/2015
Don & Ruth Klug	3/25/1978	Wayne & Leah Scroggin	4/19/1975
Nick & Denise Pryor	3/25/1978	Chris & Chris Smith	4/19/1983
Jon & Faith Witzel	3/26/1983	Rick & Virginia Rehn	4/20/1985
Richard & Vera Wynne	3/27/1992	Jim & Janice Hendley	4/21/1979
Bill & Donna Hamilton	3/31/1979	Max & Alli King	4/26/2014
Karla & Hunter Strong Pan	3/31/2006	Way & Deanna Plowman	4/28/2001
Chris & Gaillee Davis	4/4/2016	Saul & Vianey Solano	4/29/1995
David & Myrnelle Wulff	4/6/2002		

## Thrivent Choice

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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.

### **Grace Lutheran Church**

Barbara Fountain  
Edward Lichtenhagen  
Judith Lichtenhagen  
Carol Miley

Richard Miley  
Mary Sebbby  
Els Wolters

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

## Thank You

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PASTOR KEN LANGSDORF

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ at Grace,

My last Sunday with you was above and beyond my expectations. The worship, the reception, the gifts and cards; all of it was filled with the love of Christ! I am humbled by your generosity in the gifts and sincere messages. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I continue to hold you in my love and prayers.

God bless you.

Pastor Ken Langsdorf

## “Pack the Bus” Annual Food Drive

INTERFAITH ASSISTANCE MINISTRY

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IAM “Pack the Bus” Annual Food Drive

FEB. 20 THROUGH MARCH 6

It's hard to believe that it is already the middle of February and time to begin planning to pack the Grace Lutheran activity bus with nonperishable food items to benefit Interfaith Assistance Ministry and residents of Henderson County. Too many individuals and families need assistance just to meet their basic needs!

The food collection will begin on Sunday, Feb. 20 and continue through Sunday, March 6. As in previous years, paper sacks with the needs list will be available at the main entrance of the church... donations can

be left near the reception desk and will be transported to I AM in our activity bus!

Another way to support Interfaith Assistance Ministry will be through additional donations to the new 5,000 square foot resale store which is set to open March 1. After April 1, gently used smaller furniture pieces, household items, decorations, books and pet items, clothing of all sizes, jewelry and shoes will be gladly accepted on site at their newly constructed drive-through. They are in need of volunteers!

IAM Resale Store

119 Jack Street ( turn off of Four Seasons Blvd onto Orr's Camp Rd... between Starbucks and Exxon gas...continue straight onto Jack St. ... Shuler Funeral Home will be on your left...I AM Resale ahead on the right, a blue and white building

Hours are Tuesday- Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thank you Grace Lutheran for your loving and generous support of Interfaith and our neighbors in need!

~Claudia Northrup

## Servant Saturday

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

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Join Us For...  
**God's work.**  
Our hands.

If you have not participated in a Servant Saturday, this is an opportunity to show your appreciation and support for the work our partner non-profits do here in Henderson County. We will have a variety of projects ranging from cleaning up landscaping to indoor painting and much more. There are no special talents needed or required.

Our first day of sign up will be on Sunday, April 3. We will have a table set up in the church lobby displaying the many projects. The sign up table will be in the lobby until Friday prior to Servant

Saturday, April 23.

This is a very fun and rewarding day! You can put a group together to take on a project or you can sign the complete family up for a project.

So mark your calendar and set the day aside!

~Jim Krause





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

## Boys and Girls Club of Henderson County

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### OUR MISSION

The mission of the Boys and Girls Club of Hendersonville:

"To inspire and enable young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, caring citizens."

Julia Hockenberry talks of a young teen from the club who she called Tasha, and who she had asked to volunteer with her in her office doing some cleaning and window washing. As Tasha worked, Julia talked to her and saw how excited she was to have been chosen to do these projects. She beamed as Julia complimented her on the job well done. But Julia also knew the story of very difficult years in her home life prior to joining the club. In the club Tasha was seen as just another teen and she could fit in and be comfortable, supported and accepted. This is a small example of how the club can affect one child.

But this year the club had 847 members. The children enjoy their time at the club, and how many of them have similar needs to Tasha. The club is there to help.

As a wonderful added club impact, 97% of the parent's report that the club services help them to keep their jobs supporting their families. It is a wonderful place for children to learn and grow.

~Nancy Engstrom

