

# Grace Vine

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

December 2016-  
January 2017

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## Congregational Care

Grace Lutheran Church has a very active, but often "behind the scenes," Congregational Care Ministry. Here is a list of ministries we offer to our congregation. Contacts for each ministry are listed in parentheses following each listing.

- **Stephen Ministers** – one-to-one, confidential, ministry of listening and providing Christian care (Don Klug)
- **Banquet Bearers** – bring Holy Communion to homebound members (Bill Seibert)
- **Prayer Shawl Ministers** – provide Prayer Shawls to members and non-members (Lori Schaefer and Skip Andersen)
- **Prayer Ministers** – pray with people during Communion distribution on the 3rd Sunday of each month; lead Soaking Prayer the 2nd Friday of each month (Deanna Plowman)
- **Prayer Chain Ministers** – pray for people as concerns are sent by email or phone call (Pat Bentz and John Korner)
- **Hospital Visitors** – visit Grace members at Pardee Hospital (Dave Weber)
- **Home Visitors** – visit homebound members (Jim Stoltenberg)
- **Sallie Staton-Knott, volunteer Chaplain** – visits Grace members; leads devotion/Holy Communion services at Carolina Village and Lake Pointe Landing; serves as advocate; manages prayer requests put in the Prayer Chest
- **Grief Visitors** – visit people after the death of a loved one and deliver grief booklets (Ruth Klug)
- **Hospice Visitors** – visit at Elizabeth House (Karen Wolfrom)
- **Meals** – food is prepared and delivered to people following a hospital stay or other crisis (Pastor Ken)
- **Encouragement Card Ministry** – send cards to Grace members (Mary Jones)
- **Lutheran Men in Mission Handy Hands** – do minor home repairs (Dick Pemble)
- **Wellness Ministry** – provide exercise classes and informational programs (Karen Wolfrom)

If you would like to know more about these ministries or volunteer to serve, please contact Pastor Ken 828-693-4890, ext. 305.

## Attention Grace College Students

End of Semester Lunch: Welcome home for Winter Break! If you are back in Hendersonville after exams and a long semester, join us for a Grace college student lunch. Lunch is on us at **12:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 19**. Location TBD. Please check with Anne for details.

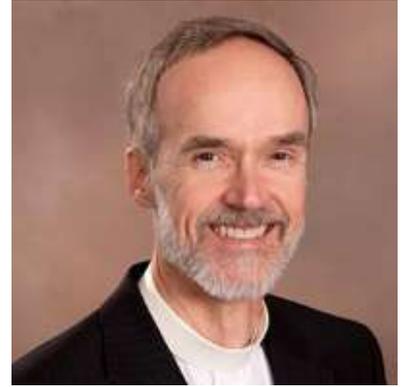
**FREE  
LUNCH!**

## Message from Senior Pastor Greg Williams

Pastor Greg Williams – [gwilliams@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:gwilliams@gracehendersonville.com) / 828-693-4890 x307

### Greatest Sign of Hope and Love

In books and movies, a fairly common and powerful image of hope for the future is the birth of a child. I've viewed numerous movies where the devastation caused by a catastrophic disaster or an alien invasion threatens earth's existence ended with the birth of a baby. Yes, it is Hollywood's stereotypical happy ending. It also touches our human longing at one of the deepest levels to give hope in a hopeless situation.



God has also given us a sign of love and hope – the greatest sign of love and hope in the history of humanity. In the incarnation of Jesus, God's divine, holy and eternal presence willingly limiting God's self to human form. Flesh and bone is a form ... a language ... that we can understand and relate to. It is communication from the God of all creation that goes the extra mile to tell and to show us how much God loves all of creation – especially humans.

We hear the story of Jesus' birth every year. We read it and understand it from our American, Euro-centric perspective. We do this naturally. As Grace becomes more multicultural, I am learning how much other cultures can enrich and deepen my understanding of every Bible story – not to mention perspectives on life in general. So, I am excited about our Wednesday evening Advent services. Each Wednesday night, we will hear a different culture's perspective on the story of the birth of Jesus. I believe the perspectives of Christians in Africa, Asia and Latin America will broaden our perspective and deepen our faith in Christ.

With a broadened understanding of God's love revealed in Christ and our hope for the future, in January we will intentionally launch into discerning God's future for Grace. We call this "Long Range Planning." Because of God's love for us, we can wrestle together with important and perhaps difficult topics as we discern God's plan for Grace. We will begin with prayer in January. Watch for more information in the bulletin and emails, plus posts on the website and Facebook. It will be an exciting year of living into the great hope given to the world in Christ.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Greg". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

### Advent Worship

Advent begins Sunday, Nov. 27. Wednesday evening Advent worship begins Nov. 30. A meal will be served each week, 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. No charge but free will offering requested. Worship begins at 6 p.m. We will use Holden Evening Prayer. Themes are:

Nov. 30 – **An African Perspective on the Christmas Story**

Dec. 7 – **Posada, a Mexican Advent tradition**

Dec. 14 – **An Asian Perspective on the Christmas Story**

Dec. 21 – **A Latin American and Female Perspective on the Christmas Story**

## Jesus Birth: A Story Full of “Word Moist with Mystery”

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

<sup>8</sup>Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The Lord has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God. (Isaiah 52:7–10)



Elsa Támez, a Puerto Rican theologian, has written an essay on Christmas night. She makes the point that our Christian Western tradition, influenced by the Enlightenment, has forgotten how to read biblical texts and stories with passion and compassion. She argues we have reduced biblical narratives to objects of scientific and historical inquiry that fit our desire of knowledge to make sense of the world, God and ourselves.

Emotions, as means of seeking truths and meaning are distrusted and discouraged. In the context of the narrative of the birth of Jesus, Elsa Támez invites us to look up to the sky and contemplate the stars. We may be able to identify and even count several stars in vain efforts to “know” how many stars are in the sky. Knowing we won’t be able to count the number of stars, we come up with words that include: “immeasurable,” “abundance” - too large, extensive or extreme to measure. These words, like many others we use in our vocabularies, Elsa Támez argues, are “moist with mystery” and evoke awesome breathtaking feelings like bringing to memory the story of the night when Jesus was born. The reading of messianic texts like Isaiah 52, and respecting their literary genres, helps us to realize that the writers had no trouble expressing their faith, hopes and good news by means of thoughts and feelings, with passion and compassion. Reading devotions and studying biblical stories by means of our intellect is good; It would be great if we could recover their emotive nature. Examples of words moist with mystery in our text today are: beautiful, peace, good news, salvation, sing, joy, comforted, redeemed and holy. All these words are associated with the story of God becoming flesh in Jesus birth – a story full of passion and compassion we are called and sent to share with those around us and beyond.

Have a blessed Christmas. In the Love of Christ,

Pastor Alfredo

## Children & Family Ministry

Dir. of Children & Family Ministry: Jill Wingard – [jwingard@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:jwingard@gracehendersonville.com) / 828-693-4890x344

I am writing this the morning after election day. Come January, President Donald Trump will be in the White House. Grace is a diverse community, so it is easy to say that some were happy with the election outcome, while others were not. One of the most wonderful things about Grace is the mixture of people who walk through our doors. Over the last few months the kids and I have often talked about the candidates and the election and I plan to continue that conversation. I hope that as adults we can teach our Grace kids that even though we don't agree on all subjects we can be respectful and attempt to listen and learn from one another.



On Wednesday nights we have been focusing on major stories in the Old Testament. We have talked about Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, Joseph and Moses. We talk about God's relationship with each of these people and then we talk about what we can learn from these stories. My hope is that the kids see that God uses diverse people in a variety of ways for his purpose and we are all part of that purpose. I want all our Grace kids to know they are valued, they are heard, they are loved and they can have power and purpose in their lives.

We will continue our Old Testament journey into the New Year. We will continue to find ways to serve our church, community and the world. To that end, the KiDD's club will put together kits to send to flood victims in Haiti; create cards to send to Grace's college kids and the homebound; and help box up supplies for Eastern NC flood relief. We will continue to teach that God is the one to turn to in times of trouble. We will take time to pray, learn and laugh.

### Mark your Calendars:

**Wednesdays in December:** Advent coloring project (creating a wall mural for Fellowship Hall)  
Every Wednesday night, we will work on coloring in a beautiful retelling of the story of Jesus' birth.

**Sunday, Dec. 4:** Cross + Generational Caroling: Join us in Stall Hall after the 11:15 a.m. service for a light lunch and then break into groups to deliver gifts to Grace members who are homebound.

**Wednesday, Dec. 7,** 6 p.m.: Posada (Advent worship service)

**Saturday, Dec. 10 and Sunday, Dec. 11:** A Christmas Carol performance in Stull Hall

**Wednesday, Dec. 14:** Study Buddy Christmas Party

**Saturday, Dec. 24:** Family Christmas Eve service 5 p.m. Come dressed as a shepherd, wise man, angel, animal or star. If your child does not have a costume, arrive at 4:30 p.m. and go to Stull Hall, where we will put them in one. If your child wears a costume from home, arrive by 4:45 p.m., go to the sanctuary and sit as a family. Follow along in the bulletin to see when your child should walk forward to be a part of this Living Christmas Story.

# Grace Youth Ministry

Director of Youth Ministry: Anne Monroe – [amonroe@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:amonroe@gracehendersonville.com) / 704-604-3772

## High School Overnight Retreat

Saturday, Jan. 28-Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017 at GLC

- We will begin at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28 (eat dinner before you come) and be finished at 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 29
- This is for all high school youth and is required for Mission Trip participants (8th grade Mission Trip participants, too) and Mission Trip Adult Guides.



**High school youth care packages November service project.**

### Retreat Outline

- Saturday evening: fun group building activities, Bible Study, 8:15 a.m. worship planning, 'Soup Sales' prep and cooking for 2nd Sunday, sleep.
- Sunday Morning: Warm home cooked breakfast provided by Grace Members, Youth assisting with 8:15 a.m. worship leadership, Soup Sales for 2nd Sunday from 9:20-10 a.m. to support our GYM programs.

### Middle School December Calendar

Wednesdays	Sundays & Christmas Eve
Nov. 30: Small groups and Advent service 5:30-7 p.m. *No Final 15	Dec. 4: Lunch and Christmas caroling after 11:15 a.m. service
Dec.7: Small groups and Advent service 5:30-7 p.m. *No Final 15	Dec. 11: SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH. ALL YOUTH assist! No Sunday School this morning, so arrive by 10:45 a.m. to set up! Focus: A Christmas Carol play
Dec.14: Small groups and Advent service 5:30-7 p.m. *No Final 15	Dec. 18: Middle School Christmas party 4-5:30 p.m.

**\* Saturday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve worship assistants. All Youth, various times.**

### High School December Calendar

Date	Activity
Sunday, Dec.4, 12:30 p.m.	Lunch and Christmas caroling after 11:15 a.m. service.
Sunday, Dec. 11 Setup: 10:45 a.m. After 11:15 a.m. worship	SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH. ALL YOUTH assist! No Sunday School this morning, so arrive by 10:45 a.m. to set up! Focus: A Christmas Carol play
Saturday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve worship assistants. ALL YOUTH, various times
Sunday, Dec. 25	No Youth, Christmas Holiday

### Special Notes:

1. No Youth activities Sunday, Dec. 25, Wednesday, Dec. 28 or Sunday, Jan. 1. Enjoy time with your families!
2. Middle and High Sunday School resume Sunday, Jan. 8

## Middle School January Calendar

Wednesdays	Sundays
Jan. 4: MS Youth. Topic: "The Feeding of the Five Thousand, Epiphany"	Jan. 8: MS Sunday School, 9:45-10:45 a.m.
Jan. 11: MS Youth. Topic: "The Transfiguration Reform: Simon Peter"	Jan. 15: MS Sunday School, 9:45-10:45 a.m.
Jan. 18: MS Youth. Topic: "Zacchaeus, Parable of the Vineyard"	Jan. 22: MS Sunday School, 9:45-10:45 a.m.
Jan. 25: MS Youth. Topic: "Parable of the Good Samaritan"	Jan. 28-29: Mission Trip Overnight Retreat—required for 8th grade Mission Trip participants

### \*MS=Middle School; Typical Wednesday Evening Schedule:

5:30-7:15 p.m.-Middle School Youth; 7:15-7:30 p.m.-Final 15 w/ parents and youth

## High School January Calendar

Date	Activity
Sat.-Sun. Jan. 8	9:45-10:45 a.m.: Sunday School; Evening TBD
Sunday, Jan. 15	9:45-10:45 a.m.: Sunday School; 6-8 p.m. HS Youth Dinner & "Grace Space"
Sunday, Jan. 22	9:45-10:45 a.m.: Sunday School
Sunday, Jan. 28-29	High School Overnight Retreat, Soup Sales

## Looking Ahead!

Please put the following dates on your calendar for February ...

- **Souper Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5.** This is our annual collection for Souper Bowl. We will need youth to help collect canned goods and money donations this morning.
- **Feb. 12:** Our first Youth Sunday practice (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades). All youth meet 6-7:30 p.m. to plan our youth-led worship service. Youth Sunday this year will be on April 2.
- **Feb. 24-26:** NC Lutheran Youth Organization Retreat in Greensboro, NC. Our youth groups will attend this fun weekend of fellowship with other Lutheran teens in our state and will stay in the Embassy Suite Hotel. Please see Anne to register.

## Middle School Confirmation Retreat



Middle School Retreat Fall 2016

In November, 21 youth and seven adults participated in the annual Middle School Fall Confirmation Retreat at Lutheridge. The topic was "Called, Gathered, Sent!"

We are called and claimed as beloved children of God. What does it mean to be church together? Transformation, what does it mean to be sent? Retreat activities included camp fellowship, games and a service project at Safelight. We thank Rachel Cummings, Mike Ericksen, Ayman Kaddouri and Heather

Wiggins for their service as small group guides.

## Adult Ministry

Director of Adult Ministry: Sue Filson – [sfilson@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:sfilson@gracehendersonville.com) / 828-693-4890 x304

A big thank you to Thrivent and all the folks involved in making the Homes for Youth Fundraiser in November a big success! So many put time and energy into selling tickets, serving a good meal and providing an evening of dance music by the GraceTones. The stirring testimony from the young woman who has benefited from this organization is one that will leave an imprint on the hearts of many for years to come. I am humbled to be a part of a community that actively cares for our neighbors.



Our Adopt-A-Family program has taken a different shape over the past couple of years as The Storehouse has undertaken the task of assisting the local schools provide Christmas gifts for children. At one point in our long history of providing gifts, coats and food baskets during the holiday season, we helped nearly 50 families at Christmas time, and I would like to thank this church family for being an important part of that ministry for so many years. Currently, The Storehouse goes into the schools and meets with families, accepting applications through their program, which aids the school counselors. I would like to encourage anyone who would like to continue supporting local children with Christmas gifts to stop by The Storehouse at 1049 Spartanburg Hwy. in Hendersonville and adopt a child.

**Blessed to be a blessing!** This holiday season, we are helping in several ways:

- † Christmas Boxes for Homebound Members;
- † Hurricane Matthew Relief in NC; and
- † Relief Kits for Haiti.

Information on all these projects can be found on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Don't forget to join us in **Christmas Caroling on Dec. 4**. We will gather in Stull Hall at 12:30 p.m. for a sandwich lunch then head out to spread the warmth of the season. We don't need your voice; we need your smile! May the gift of faith and peace of Christ's love be yours this season.

## GYP — Grace Young Professionals

Grace Young Professionals, 20s to 40s. Anne Monroe – [amonroe@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:amonroe@gracehendersonville.com) / 704-604-3772

GYP Christmas Party! Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at the Lantern.

We will enjoy good food, brews and fellowship. Meet at the Lantern after 6 p.m. Advent services at Grace. Bring a silly wrapped gift for a 'White Elephant' game.

\*Contact Anne for information concerning future GYP events.



GYP November fellowship dinner and bonfire.

## Gifts Ministry

Director of Gifts Ministry: Karen-Eve Pfozter – [kepfozter@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:kepfozter@gracehendersonville.com) / 828-693-4890 x316



*Connecting volunteers to meaningful ministries.*

Want to volunteer or have a need to advertise? Sign up in lobby to volunteer or see Karen-Eve Pfozter to help you make meaningful connections. Submit volunteer needs by email before noon on Monday for the next Sunday bulletin.

**With super appreciation for NEW acts of service in our shared ministry ...**

- HFY Fundraiser- **Layne Kasischke, Barbara Fountain, Stella Varnell, Jill Wingard, Jolie Herman, Linda Pezzimenti and The GraceTones: Kevin Filson, Christine Smith, Jeff Michels, Tom Matthews, Tyler Matthews**
- Library Reorg- **Linda Bowman, Linda Rymer, Bill Battermann, Sandi Litogot, Sue Filson**
- ESL Tutors- **Linda Rymer, Kelly Beaty**
- Youth Quake Volunteer- **Grace Welch**
- Stage Managers- **Alan Harms, Mary Jones**
- GYM meals- **Sallie Staton-Knott, Dave & Lois Roach, Joan Frederiksen, Paul Sellers LYFE Group, Quilters, Linda Pezzimenti, Nadine & Roger Christensen, Janet & Al Harms, Barb & Henry Koch, Tim & Susan Snyder, Marilyn Conrad**
- GYP Meal- **Peter Gollup & Karen-Eve**
- Pictures and move furniture- **Peter Gollup**
- Couch for Library- **Bill Battermann**
- IAM volunteer- **Carlene Belanger**
- 11:15 Hosts- **Beth Spencer, Judy Bevan, Darla Krause, Stella Varnell, Joyce Hallberg, Karen Wolfrom**
- Christmas Play Costumes- **Margie Brune**
- Blessing of Animals- **HS Youth, Sallie Staton-Knott, Caren Geiler, Jane & Don Henderson**
- Islam Class Facilitator- **Tim Snyder**
- Workroom floor- **Building & Grounds**
- THRIVE dinner- **Janice Mickle, Brenda Sigmon, Joan Frederiksen, Joan Florine, Tom Morgan, Linda Pezzimenti, Joyce Eddy**
- Ushers- **Jon & Muriel Lambert, Nancy & Don Bell, Carrie Everhart, Janice Mickle, Judith Goldman, Bill Schmidt, Carrie Everhart,**

## Save the Date ...



**YOUUnique Workshop, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday, March 18, 2017.** Discover more about **you** and your personality, passions

and gifts.

- Ushers, continued- **Ted & Sandy Lawshe, Emily Trexler, Bob Sebby**
- Building & Grounds- **Branden & Steve Buman**
- Garden plot- **Shelley & Chuck Clay**
- Typewriters- **Barbara Bristol, Roger & Nadine Christensen**
- Sound Techs- **Steve & Branden Buman, Brent Owen**
- Contemporary Band- **Branden Buman**
- Joseph Center- **Ray Erlandson**
- Fair Trade Gift Market- **Lynne & Steve Presley (coordinators); Harry Steiner; Skip Andersen, Ruth Birge, Joyce Eddy, Susan & Jack Fitzgerald, Rev. Mike Hoffman, Jim & Darla Krause, Sandi Litogot, Kath Williams, Kelly Spangler, Sandra Lawshe, Catharin McCarthy, Jim Nelson, Ken Ring, Becky Schmidt**
- Pre School Gardening- **Judith Goldman**
- Hospitality & Fellowship Baking- **Claudia Wolff, Brenda Sigmon, Pat Berry**
- Greeters- **Bob Dahm**
- Social Ministry Committee- **Ann Janes, Linda Pezzimenti**
- Wellness Ministry- **Karen Wolfrom**
- Dia de los Muertos- **Lorena Zapeda-Acosta, Maria Circle, GYM and all the families**
- Shopping middle school retreat & College Care packages- **Heather Wiggins, Catherine Langsdorf**
- PreSchool Reader- **Pat Berry**
- Staff Appreciation Luncheon- **Hospitality & Fellowship**
- Service for Healing- **Brenda Williams, Jill Wingard, Margie Capell, Joy & George Kiefer, The Choir**
- Counter- **Alan Harms**
- Personnel Committee- **Myrnelle Wulff, Paul Parker**

# Grace Preschool

Director: Beth Ann Lehr – [balehr@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:balehr@gracehendersonville.com) / 828-693-4890 x318



**Preschool Annual Yard Sale:** Thank you so much for all of the donations and the caring people who helped with the Preschool Yard Sale this year. It was a real success! Please consider renting a table at the Preschool Flea Market in April. This is a wonderful social way to make money for you and your family and to support the Preschool.

**Link your Ingles Advantage Card to our Tools for Schools and Harris**

**Teeter:** Re-link your Ingles Advantage card to our Tools for Schools #11013 and Harris Teeter card to #5517. The easiest way to enroll or re-link is on the

stores' websites or at checkout. Last year, we were able to purchase many educational items for our school. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.



**Openings in all age classes:** We have openings in all of our classes. If you or someone you know needs a preschool anytime throughout the school year, please send them our way. We enroll children throughout the year, and I would love to give them a tour.

**Preschool Registration for Fall 2017-2018 begins Monday, Jan. 23:** If you are interested in your child or grandchild attending Grace Preschool in the Fall, please register promptly since class openings fill up quickly. Additional programs include Earlybirds, Aftercare and Summer Camp for registered children. Grace Lutheran Preschool was rated the prestigious award of "Best Preschool," "Best Childcare" and "Best Parent/Child Program" in Western North Carolina by WNC Parent magazine as well as "Best Preschool" in Hendersonville by *The Times News*.

**Financial Donations:** We have many families who have financial difficulty sending their children to our Preschool but would like the educational opportunities and Christian environment of our Lutheran school. Please contact me if you are interested in donating any amount of money to this worthy cause.

**Little Free Library:** Did you know that Grace Lutheran Church/Preschool is home to Henderson County's first and only Little Free Library? Our Little Free Library is part of a national and international organization that promotes a love of reading for children, literacy for adults and a sense of community around the world. Little Free Libraries are hand-crafted structures that contain constantly changing collections of books donated and shared by people in the community. Our LFL is located at the Dismissal entrance and Preschool banner adjacent by Rt. 64. You may stop anytime to get a free book for you, your child, or grandchild. We always take donations of adult, high school, and middle school books. Please place your donations in the Little Free Library box, drop them off at the church receptionist desk, or contact Beth Ann Lehr at 693-4972. Thank you.

**Please Follow the Preschool on Facebook:** [facebook.com/gracepreschoolhendersonville](https://facebook.com/gracepreschoolhendersonville)

Thanks again for all of your support of our Preschool!

## Music Ministry

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



**6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10 &  
1:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11**

### Charles Dickens' **A Christmas Carol**

Adapted for the stage by Burton Bumgarner

A traditional adaptation of Charles Dickens' great Christmas story featuring a Cross+Generational cast from Grace Lutheran Church, traditional carols and lots of old tidings of comfort and joy.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lunch preceding the play on Sunday, Dec. 11. Menu: Chili, Salad, Cornbread, and dessert. **GOOD NEWS!** The cost of the lunch is covered by our youth parents. All donations will go directly the Grace Youth Ministry (GYM) Investment Fund.

## GYM Soup Sales

You'll want to participate in this delicious event for Grace!

**In place of January 2nd Sunday Lunch, the youth will package and sell homemade soup by the quart.**

Pre-sale orders will be collected at the Sign-Up station. Put your check in the accompanying envelope for **soup to be picked up on Sunday, Jan. 29**. Order enough for your family and consider extra quarts to take to neighbors, friends, homebound members or to freeze for Super Bowl Sunday!

You can feed your family, support our youth and spread a little warmth and the love of Christ all at once!



## Mark your calendars: Smart Money Smart Kids Offered in January!



Grace will host a six-week Smart Money Smart Kids course for parents **beginning Wednesday January 25**. This course is for parents who are eager for practical ways to help their kids develop a healthy and responsible understanding of how money works. Financial experts and father-daughter duo Dave Ramsey

and Rachel Cruze have developed these six, weekly one-hour practical, video-based lessons to give parents a step-by-step approach to teaching their kids about working, spending, saving, giving, debt, and contentment.

Parents who wish to take the course must **register and pay online at <http://bit.ly/gracesmartmoney> no later than Wed., Jan 18**, after which they will receive books and class materials through the mail. The classes will take place at Grace Lutheran church with facilitators Bernie and Kristie Socia.

## NC Synod LYO Registration

Are you a youth or adult guide interested in attending the annual NC Synod Lutheran Youth conference in Greensboro this February? Registration and \$40 deposit intake will be at the information center, 10-11 a.m. and after 11:15 a.m. worship on Sunday, Dec. 4. The dates for LYO are Feb. 24-26. Total cost for the weekend conference is \$80, which includes hotel, meals, transportation and an \$80 stipend from Grace per participant.



Grace Youth at LYO 2016 Conference

**Meetings of Circles and Groups**

**Naomi Circle** – Tues., Dec. 6, Jan. 3, 9:30 a.m., F. Hall, Rm. 221  
**Leah Circle** – Weds., Dec. 14, 1 p.m. lunch at Carolina Village;  
 Jan. 11, 2 p.m., Luther Lounge  
**Rachel Circle** – Thurs., Dec. 15, 5:30 p.m. dinner at Carolina  
 Village; Jan. 12, 7 p.m., Library  
**Dorcas Circle** – Thurs., Dec. 15, Jan. 19, 2 p.m., Off campus  
**Sarah Circle** – No December meeting; Thurs., Jan. 19, F. Hall,  
 Rm. 221, 227, 228, 229  
**Maria Circle** – Wednesdays after Oasis  
**Quilting Group** – No large group in December; Tues., Jan. 17,  
 9:30 a.m., F. Hall  
**Mission Action** – Tues., Dec. 13, Jan. 10, 9:30 a.m., F. Hall  
**Prayer Shawl Group** – No December meeting

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**Women of the ELCA Annual Christmas Tea**

**When:** 2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10  
**Where:** Grace Fellowship Hall  
**What:** Installation of president and treasurer for  
 2017-18 and recognition of new members.  
**Program:** Presented by Vicki Marthaler, titled  
 "Get that Baby out of the Barn." Music by the  
 Grace Tones.

Our tables will be decorated and set by members of our circles using their cherished tea sets, dinnerware and centerpieces. Circles will also provide a variety of tea sandwiches and finger desserts. Child care will be provided if needed.

NO COOKIE EXCHANGE this year.

The sign-up sheet is posted at the Sign-Up Station in the lobby. Please sign up by Dec. 4, 2016.

**Save The Date – Annual Women of the ELCA One-Day Retreat**

**When:** Feb. 11, 2017- Place to be announced  
 Snow date – Feb. 25, 2017.  
**Program:** "enCourage"  
**Program Presenter:** To be announced.  
**Lunch Cost:** To be announced.

This retreat is written for the NC Women of the ELCA by Karen Birkedal and Donna Prunkl.

Sometimes encouragement looks like a casserole. Or it may be a caring comment on Facebook, a hand securely held or a heartfelt prayer. How do we find the courage to be Christ to our neighbor, to shine God's light of hope into the shadow times? During this retreat, we will discover our individual SUPER POWERS and learn to count on our personal power source, the always constant Holy Spirit. As we "encourage," we empower others with the grace-filled love of Jesus Christ.

Meanwhile – here is a **word puzzle** to do to "encourage" your brain to keep working. See how many words you can make out of the letters in the word "enCourage". I have come up with 18, but there may be more. I will list the ones I came up with in the February/March issue of the Gracevine.

Watch the Sunday bulletins and the monthly newsletters of Women of the ELCA-Grace Unit for further announcements of the place and program leader for this retreat and watch for the sign-up list at the Sign-up window for this retreat.

**GIVING HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2016**

	<b>General Fund</b>		<b>Capital Fund</b>	
	<b>Pledge Budget</b>	<b>Pledges</b>	<b>Pledge Budget</b>	<b>Pledges</b>
Total Pledge	\$ 930,000	\$ 812,748	\$ 220,000	\$ 168,409
Received on Pledge		\$ 652,480		\$ 122,148
Pledge to date (Historical basis)		646,498		134,092
Over (Under) Pledge at October 31, 2016		\$ 5,982		\$ (11,944)

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2016**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>General Fund</b>		
Revenues	\$ 1,155,760	\$ 826,053
Expenditures	\$ 1,155,760	893,509
Net Revenues Over (Under)		
Expenditures		\$ (67,456)
<b>Capital Fund</b>		
Revenues	\$ 244,200	\$ 150,254
Expenditures	\$ 244,200	249,462
Net Revenues Over (Under)		
Expenditures		\$ (99,208)

**Note -** Capital Fund expenditures include loan principal payments of \$171,880 in 2016. The loan balance at October 31, 2016 is \$664,096.



## Spotlight on Social Ministry

### Boys & Girls Club of Henderson County

A Story about a Member of the Club

Lucia, a third-grade girl, was often seen in the office over a year ago. She had defiant behavior, would sometimes use inappropriate language towards others and was known to be a bit clingy. She would get in trouble for stealing things from other members and staff. It seemed as if she had no control over taking things that weren't hers even though she did not need the items. Little did we know that it was her way of calling out for help. After being referred to a counselor, it was determined that she just needed medication and some extra interaction with staff. She had a great summer here at the Club. She became more independent and less clingy. She learned that using inappropriate language was not positive behavior. She made several friends so she always had someone to tag along with on our many field trips. After a year full of great progress, we now have an amazing student. Lucia is seldom seen at the front desk for disciplinary reasons. To top it all off, she was recently nominated for our Youth of the Month – a great recognition that demonstrates she is a great citizen and a positive role model for other members.



### The Free Clinics (TFC)

The Free Clinics (TFC) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to ensure that quality healthcare is available to all residents in our community. Their goal is to fill the gap in healthcare for low-income residents who do not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid but who cannot afford medical insurance. In Henderson and Polk counties one in every five residents fits this category and are eligible for services.



One such resident is Esther. She presented to TFC very ill with uncontrolled and previously undiagnosed diabetes. Under the guidance of the clinic's Patient Health Advocate and the Certified Diabetes Educator she was able to take control of her situation and stabilize her diabetes. So inspired by her care and return to health she later signed up to be a patient volunteer.

In the 12 months through June 2016 professional services valued at \$9,0780,000 was provided thru 19,500 encounters to 1,687 unduplicated patients. With an annual budget of approximately \$1 million, TFC multiplied every dollar received more than nine times, the most cost effective healthcare in our community.

This can only be accomplished through an amazing pool of volunteers who want to give back to our community. There are over 280 doctors, dentists, nurses, interpreters, and everyday volunteers who work together to provide this care; more help is always needed and appreciated.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, making a donation, or simply helping to spread the word about their mission, you may contact them at 697-8422, or visit their website at [www.thefreeclinics.org](http://www.thefreeclinics.org) for more information.

## Thank you!

A grateful "Thank You!" to all who helped make our 2016 Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade Gift Market a great success – volunteers and those who purchased items. The \$1,700 in sales will help the many artisans lift themselves out of poverty and bring them hope for the future, while at the same time supporting the ministries of Lutheran World Relief.



A big "Thank You!" also to all who made donations through the Gift Tribute Card project, that helps support so many of our local nonprofits and the ministries they provide to our neighbors.

God's blessings in Christ to all this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

~ the Social Ministry Committee

## Announcements & Events

### Help with the Thrive Clubhouse Christmas Dinner, Dec. 2

It's not too late to volunteer for the Thrive Clubhouse Christmas Dinner on Dec. 2. The sign-up sheet is at the Sign-Up station. Thank you to all who have already planned to decorate, provide food, serve and clean up. Your help will make it a special night for the Clubhouse members.

### Dec. 8 Holiday Blood Drive Held 7 a.m.-7 p.m., in Stull Hall

All blood collected will be used in area hospitals, including Pardee, Park Ridge, Mission and the Asheville VA Hospital. Your donation could be the best gift a community member and their family receives this Christmas! To donate, sign up at the Sign-up Station or call 828-233-5302.



If Dec. 8 is inconvenient for you, you can donate on Dec. 7, 9 and 10 at the Blood Connection's donation center on Spartanburg Highway in the Fire House Sub's Plaza. Let them know when you register that you are donating for the Grace Lutheran drive and your donation will be reflected in our totals.

Please eat and drink well before donating and bring your TBC donor card or driver's license as required identification. This blood drive is an approved Thrivent event and is supported by Thrivent Action Team Dollars.

### Common Prayer Service Held Jan. 22

An ecumenical gathering of Lutherans and Catholics will be held at 3 p.m., Jan. 22, at Grace. Grace and Immaculate Conception churches will share in a prayer service that celebrates the common faith we share.



### Winter Weather Policy

During the week, if Henderson County Schools close, then Preschool and any scheduled church meetings will be canceled. On Sundays, the 11:15 a.m. service is usually not canceled. If 8:15 and 9:45 a.m. services are canceled, it will be announced on WHKP radio, WTZQ radio and WLOS TV.

## Who's Doing What?

To help you know who to contact for what ... please review this list.

**Jolie Herman, Ext. 315.** [jherman@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:jherman@gracehendersonville.com). Hours: Mon 11-5, Tues/Wed 1-5, Thurs 10-5.  
Hours (2017): Mon/Tues 9-5, Wed/Thur 10-5

- Maintain guest communications.
- Manage calendar reservations.
- Manage Sign-up Station, bulletin boards and lobby displays (rolling boards & tables).
- Maintain prayer and military lists, serving lists, name tags and Sunday attendance.
- Produce weekly bulletins (traditional and celebration).
- Post weekly announcements to website.
- Coordinate usher coverage.
- Support Grace members and ministry staff.
- Cross train with Julia to provide coverage as needed.

**Front Desk Volunteer** – answers phones and welcomes visitors. Hours: Mon-Thurs 10-2

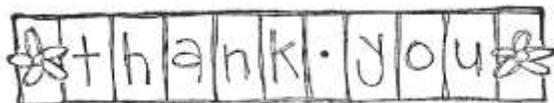
**Julia Dearing, Ext. 302.** [jdearing@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:jdearing@gracehendersonville.com). Hours: Mon – Fri 9-2 with some extended hours, will not change in 2017

- Provide support for pastors, finance and council.
- Manage ACS database and ACSAccess.
- Coordinate outside rentals and front desk volunteer support.
- Supervise facility use, custodial work and administration tasks.
- Manage contracts; orders supplies.
- Maintain membership records and online/ bank draft giving.
- Manage keys and coordinate with building and grounds key fob assignments.
- Assist with inventory and Columbarium.
- Cross train with Jolie to provide coverage as needed.

Starting 2017: Assist with digital bulletin board, weekly email and online communications. Gather information for the annual report and semi-monthly (6x/year) Grace Vine.

**Donna Hamilton.** [dhamilton@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:dhamilton@gracehendersonville.com). Hours are primarily remote.

- Manage website.
- Post events to Facebook.
- Create content for digital sign at Welcome Center.
- Produce bimonthly Grace Vine.
- Produce Annual Report.
- Create advertising and serve as liaison for PR (Greg Munson).
- Produce externally-focused publications.
- Oversee Communication Policy, branding, signage, Google business applications.



### From Sharon Doty

Dear church family, I send my heartfelt thanks for the love, support and prayers you offered during and after my surgery. I am especially grateful to you who brought me food and drove me when it was needed. All of you have been and remain so very dear to me.

### From Nancy Hinshaw

Thank you to my Grace family for their prayers and for the great meals sent to my home while I was nursing a broken ankle. Your thoughtfulness means a lot to me.



## December & January Birthdays



Bob Frederiksen	12/1	Emily Roseler	12/25	Hannah Lilly	1/13
Barb Kamin	12/1	Nick Pryor	12/25	Carol Ontko	1/14
Gary Kester	12/1	Tom Schober	12/26	Karen Beardsley	1/14
Jamie Freeman	12/1	Marjana Morava	12/26	Yvonne Forsythe	1/14
Brandon Buman	12/1	Ella Sochia	12/26	Sharon Zaragoza	1/15
Javier Zaragoza	12/2	Lauren Sochia	12/26	Riley Parson	1/15
Dorothy Schuette	12/3	Ann Harrison	12/27	Beth Spencer	1/17
Barry Pierce	12/3	Ed D'Avanzo	12/27	John Wells	1/18
Paul Kamin	12/3	Jane Nelson	12/27	Bob Engstrom	1/19
Simons Michels	12/4	Bette Morgan	12/29	Lisa Floess	1/20
Kaddouri Gunner	12/4	Tim Meadows	12/29	Brenda Sigmon	1/20
Judy Prasil	12/5	Friedel Sharadin	12/30	Joan Florine	1/21
Sue Janowiak	12/5	Ellie Kloiber	12/30	Matthew Rholl	1/21
Howard Brayden	12/6	Susan Albers	12/30	Peter Gollup	1/22
Marie Scarlett	12/8	Ken Ring	12/31	Wendy Withrow	1/23
Greg Williams	12/8	Bonnie Wells	1/1	Tamara Miller	1/23
Lesley Darrah	12/8	David Pigors	1/2	Kay Kiehl	1/24
Noel Braun	12/9	Ruthie Derrick	1/2	Marj Loken	1/24
D'Anne Martin	12/9	Shirley Drake	1/3	Charlotte Osterman	1/24
Linda Bowman	12/9	Laurie Elliott	1/3	Mary Eichorn	1/24
Philip Klein	12/9	Isai Solano	1/3	Richard Mummert	1/24
Isbella Christensen	12/9	Said Solano-Jimenez	1/3	Little Mary Rappley	1/24
Mary Pankopf	12/10	Terry Schaefer	1/4	Joe Jardot	1/25
George Butler Jr	12/11	Marshall Beaty	1/4	Myra Glowacki	1/25
Els Wolters	12/14	Jack Eleopoulos	1/5	David Beaty	1/25
Jim Rasco	12/14	Josie Lanquist	1/6	Abbagail Welch	1/25
Lot Acosta	12/14	Paige Willms	1/6	Bob Guengerich	1/26
Barbara Lang	12/15	Ema Masha	1/6	Barbara Fountain	1/26
Ken Loken	12/15	Katya Pigors	1/6	Nate Clark	1/26
Karen-Eve Pfozter	12/15	Susan Steiner	1/7	Peter Knight	1/27
Alexis Rubianes Jr	12/15	Norris Crigler	1/7	Lilly Bonetti	1/27
Layne Kasischke	12/16	Lynn Nichols	1/7	Dick Miley	1/28
Joyce Hallberg	12/17	Wade Patterson	1/7	Norma Shuford	1/29
Tom Matthews	12/17	Tavia Davis	1/7	Ethan Renken	1/29
Caren Geiler	12/17	Lillie Keener	1/8	Lee Knight	1/30
Bernie Sochia	12/18	Chuck Jones	1/9	Judy Lichtenhagen	1/30
Shara Flax	12/18	Sharon Doty	1/9	Nancy Engstrom	1/31
Grace Welch	12/18	Catharin McCarthy	1/9	Kevin Parkhill	1/31
Cheryl Redenbacher	12/19	Anne Lilly	1/10		
Emma Boedeker	12/20	Judy Goldman	1/11		
Kameron Kaddouri	12/20	Val Veitch	1/11		
Jaiden Davis	12/20	Alfredo Oviedo	1/11		
Samuel Elliott	12/20	Susan Snyder	1/11		
Warren Weber	12/22	Rheta Luy	1/12		
Sue Filson	12/22	Reid Northrup	1/12		
Erin Rholl	12/22	Ana Vogel	1/12		
Brayden Tody	12/22	Chris Bufalino	1/12		
Joyce Eddy	12/23	Betty Horvath	1/13		
Ione Engstrom	12/25	Lorna Bashore	1/13		



12/2	Norris & Cricket Crigler	1/2	Jon & Linda Stocker
12/6	Tom & Karen Bowman	1/6	Noe Acosta & Lorena Zepeda-Acosta
12/7	Paul & Dorothy Schuette	1/7	Duane & Caren Geiler
12/9	Bill & Marisol Gollnick	1/9	Rev. Ken & Catherine Langsdorf
12/9	Dick & Mary Warwick	1/9	Ann & Alan Dietrich
12/10	Aaron Solano-Miraflores & Evelia Solano-Jimenez Solano-Miraflores	1/10	Phil & Amy Kispert
12/10	Henry & Pat Schwenk	1/13	James & Joan Florine
12/12	Alfredo & Alesandra Oviedo	1/16	Don & Nancy Bell
12/13	Scott & Aey Frederiksen	1/16	Warren & Yong Ok Weber
12/15	Ed & Judy Lichtenhagen	1/16	Robert & Ann Moroni
12/16	Kevin & Rebecca Havener	1/20	Rev. David & Kim Hinkelman
12/19	Jim & Darla Krause	1/21	Noel & Delores Braun
12/22	John & Myra Glowacki	1/22	Larry & Carol Sewall
12/22	Ken & Kitty Etterman	1/23	Pam Badin & Lonnie Darr
12/23	Phil & Linda Smith Rymer	1/23	Jim & Ellen Morrison
12/26	Terry & Jane Andersen	1/26	Bob & Karen Frederick
12/26	Jim & Mary Tatham	1/26	Mike & Lynn Nichols
12/28	Dick & Carol Miley	1/28	James & Heather Wiggins
12/28	Larry & Ethel VanDerVliet	1/30	Dick & Vivian Pemble
12/29	Carl & Chris Taddei		

 <p><b>THRIVENT FINANCIAL®</b> <i>Connecting faith &amp; finances for good.™</i></p> <p>By directing designated Choice Dollars (\$M) through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars.</p>	<p><b>Grace Lutheran Church</b> <b>Amount of Deposit: \$307</b> Barbara Fountain Robert Dahm Evelyn Skinner ELS Wolters</p>
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<p><b>Memorials – August</b></p> <p><b>Don Dawes</b> Joseph &amp; Carol Gillett James &amp; Nancy Thorndike Lynn Kester Eleanor Weigel J.H &amp; M.L. Langsdorf Robert Farrell &amp; Lorna Bashore R.W. &amp; Joyce Brandon Elizabeth Smith &amp; Deborah Adams Rev. Dr. Carl &amp; Barbara McKenzie Robert &amp; Mary Jones Judith Lewandowski</p>	<p><b>Bob Ogden</b> Helen Carlson Lester Christensen David Gerbereux David &amp; Susan Amsler Valerie Veitch Rev. Edgar &amp; Emily Trexler Norman &amp; Rosemary McCann Robert &amp; Carol Demartini Mary Brydon Barbara Rusch Dina Larsen Melinda McCormick Daniel Mannix Russell &amp; Myrna Gibbs Guy &amp; Vicki Leary</p>	 <p><b>Della May Taylor</b> on Oct. 23</p> <p><b>Parents:</b> Butler &amp; Kindra Taylor <b>Grandparents:</b> Kevin &amp; Sue Filson; Isabel Taylor</p>
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## Purchase a Poinsettia in Honor, Memory or Celebration

If you would like to help beautify our sanctuary this Christmas season, in celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, place an order for poinsettias now. Order forms are in the Sunday bulletins or mail to/drop off your order at church. Price for each plant is \$9 (one poinsettia per memoriam, please). Order deadline is Dec. 13. Your poinsettia(s) may be taken home following the 11:15 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 27. All poinsettias left on Dec. 28 may be taken by anyone to share with neighbors and friends.



## Please Notify the Church When Hospitalized

Pardee Hospital no longer notifies us when a Grace member is hospitalized. If you would like a visit while in the hospital, please call the church and leave a message for Pastor Ken or Pastor Greg.

## Stephen Ministry Minute

*We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. ~2 Corinthians 4:8-9 NLT*

Now that's normal. If you want to grow as a Christian, expect this kind of treatment. And the reason for this is two-fold. First, life by nature is difficult and hardship produces character in us as we meet life's challenges with the Holy Spirit; and second, when we go through ordinary hardship and difficulty, the reality of the presence of God in our lives can be more easily seen, because the hope and confidence of Christ in our lives is in direct contrast to our situation, making God easier to spot. Or as Paul goes on to say: "Our lives are at constant risk for Jesus' sake, which makes Jesus' life all the more evident in us." ~ 2 Corinthians 4:11 MSG



If normal for you means everything is fine and dandy, then brace yourself, because it's definitely going to get worse. Count on it. God loves you too much to allow you to get away with anything less. And if life is difficult for you right now, rejoice in your opportunity to grow. We need to all start expecting another kind of **normal**.

— John Fischer

Stephen Ministers are here to help during these **normal** times.



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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
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## **Christmas Eve Services**

The **5 p.m. bilingual** (Spanish & English) service is oriented to children and families. The service beautifully blends the nativity story from the books of Matthew and Luke with numerous familiar Christmas carols led by organ and praise instruments as children bring the story to life.

The **7 and 9 p.m. traditional candlelight worship services** celebrate the birth of Christ in word, music and sacrament of Holy Communion.

Nursery care will be offered during the 7 and 9 p.m. services.

## **Christmas Day Service**

**10 a.m. Carolfest** service with communion.



**Save the church postage** ... read your Grace Vine online. To stop receiving the printed publication by mail, send a request to [pr@gracehendersonville.com](mailto:pr@gracehendersonville.com). Thank you!