

GROWING

*Transforming Lives
Through Christ*

**Adult Educational
Opportunities at
Grace Lutheran Church**

Fall 2017

Booklet

Use this booklet as a general guide for fall educational ministries at Grace Lutheran Church.

Variety

Spiritual edification can come from a variety of media to grow in mind, body and spirit, to be a living temple as a disciple of Jesus. Varied programs and activities enable us to encourage one another to develop a Christlike character.

Updates

Further opportunities to nurture your faith throughout the year in a vibrant relationship with God will appear in the worship bulletins, Grace Vine, Grace website and other media, including email and bulletin boards. Information changes rapidly and the best way to be up to date is check the website.

Do not hesitate to contact Sue Filson, Director of Adult Ministry, to find out more about how you can become an active, engaged, informed disciple at Grace Lutheran Church.

Registrations

Some classes require pre-registration. Register online or at the Sign-up Station in the church lobby where more information can be found. Refer to the bulletin, Grace Vine and/or the website (gracehendersonville.com) for registration instructions on individual classes. The OWLs (Older Wiser Lutherans) group information and sign-up sheets are located in Fellowship Hall under "Adult Ministry," "OWLs."

Grace 101

Grace 101 is designed to 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 that interest you; and how you can grow with Grace as we continue to fulfill our mission of "Transforming Lives through Christ!" Those interested in learning more about Grace and the Lutheran faith are welcome, as well as those who would simply like a refresher course. Next class - Sept. 30.

Sunday School

Join us each Sunday morning 9:45-10:45 a.m. Summer schedule varies for preschool/elementary school children.

- Preschool through 5th grade: Three-year-olds through 2nd-graders meet in the lower level Preschool room 136. Curriculum is the lectionary-based program "Whirl."
- Third through 5th-graders meet in lower level Preschool room 132 for "Connect" curriculum.
- Middle school students meet in room 207
- High school students meet in room 204

Middle School and High School classes rotate teachers and curricula.

- Adult classes (drop-ins welcome)
 - Lectionary Bible Study led by David Pigors, room 226, studies the Lectionary Scripture lessons.
 - Spanish Bible Study in room 229, led by Pastor Oviedo.
 - The Wired Word, room 221, a discussion group based on weekly news topics. Participants receive the weekly lesson via email. For those without access to the Internet, lessons are available the day of class. Sessions include a biblical commentary and questions related to the topic that week.

Other adult Sunday School classes may be offered throughout the year. Again, check the worship bulletin, Grace Vine, website and other media for dates.

Oasis on Wednesdays

Come for mid-week "spiritual refreshment." Dinner is 4:45-5:30 p.m. (cost is \$5 per adult, \$3 children or \$16 maximum per family) Study Buddies, adult classes, Confirmation and the 8:15 a.m. traditional adult choir meet weekly on Wednesdays.

Supervised children's activities for ages 5 years through 5th-grade, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Adult group Bible studies are pastor-led discussions open to all adults. Adult classes take place 5:45-7 p.m., in Fellowship Hall following the meal. No materials or homework required. We will begin the adult fall programming with the following six-week DVD study:

Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture

Walter Brueggemann, considered as one of America's leading Old Testament scholars and theologians, takes us on a wild ride through the poetic prophecy of the Hebrew Scripture, identifying cultural contexts, putting a framework to Israel's history and, most significantly, — and at times challengingly — drawing connections between Israel's sociological, economic and spiritual status and that of America today. DVD sessions include:

1. Moses, Pharaoh, the Prophets and Us
2. The Prophets as Uncredentialed Purveyors of Covenant
3. Moral Coherence in a World of Power, Money and Violence
4. The Shrill Rhetoric that Breaks Denial
5. The Grief of Loss as Divine Judgment
6. The Promissory Language that Breaks Despair

Sept. 13, 20 and 27 "Embracing the Prophets" (1-3)

Oct. 4 "Cultural Awareness Month"

Oct. 11, 18 and 25 "Embracing the Prophets" (4-6)

Nov. 1 We will celebrate Día de los Muertos, "Day of the Dead" with our Hispanic church family hosting this day of remembrance. All ages are encouraged to participate.

Other Wednesday evening programs will follow and run through November. Watch the worship bulletin and other media sources for the complete schedule.

Disciple Bible Study

The DISCIPLE Bible Study is an energizing, in-depth study of God's Word that has produced transformational results in its participants. In small groups, we are strengthened in our faith and encouraged to serve as Christ served. Classes offered: Disciple I, II, III, IV and Jesus in the Gospels. (Disciple 1 is a prerequisite for the other classes.) All classes are 24 weeks in length. Registration begins in July each year.

Small Group Biblical Book Studies

Throughout the year Grace will be offering biblical-based book studies. Some of our fall classes are listed below. Watch your worship bulletin and other media sources for additional fall, winter and spring classes. For a complete description of the study, see the poster at the Sign-up Station prior to class.

How to be a Christian Without Being Religious (author Fritz Ridenour). This is a study of Romans with an emphasis on seeing Christianity not as a religion, but rather a relationship with Christ; not about our reaching out to Christ but Christ reaching out to us.

1-3 p.m., Mondays, beginning Sept. 11.

Purchase your own book or order through George Kiefer, facilitator, for \$12. 828-692-3840.

Sign up by Sept. 3

When God's Spirit Moves - Six Sessions on the Life-Changing Power of the Holy Spirit. Pastor and bestselling author Jim Cymbala explores the person and work of the Holy Spirit in this six-session DVD discussion-based Bible study that will bring a fresh sense of God's power to our church and your life.

6-7:45 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 12, 19, 26, Oct. 10, 17 and 24

Cost of workbook is \$8

Facilitators: Ruth Klug and Helen Just

Finding God in My Loneliness (author Lydia Brownback)

Facilitator: Pastor Carl McKenzie

Watch for dates and details.

Other fall studies include:

ELCA Social Statements Forums

“ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, discernment and thoughtful engagement with current social issues as we participate in God’s work in the world. Social statements also set policy for the ELCA and guide its advocacy and work as a publicly engaged church. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA churchwide assembly.” (ELCA website)

A pastor-led forum will be held monthly September through March to discuss several of these statements on Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Please sign up each month you plan to attend. Statements may be read at www.elca.org/socialstatements.

Sept. 5 “Church in Society”

Oct. 3 “Health and Health Care”

Nov. 7 “Education”

Jan. 9 “Economic Life”

Feb. 6 “Race, Ethnicity and Culture”

Mar. 6 “Criminal Justice”

Lunch and Learn Workshops

Throughout the year a lunch and learn opportunity will be presented for all interested to gather for a meal followed by a program of interest. Watch Grace’s media for the topics this coming year.

Hymns Ancient and Modern

In this three-part class facilitated by Burton Bumgarner, we will look at some of the great variety of hymns in our “Evangelical Lutheran Worship” hymnal. In 1861 the Church of England published a hymnal called “Hymns Ancient and Modern.” This publication was an outgrowth of the Oxford Movement, a movement for the reinstatement of older Christian traditions of

faith and their inclusion into Anglican liturgy and theology. Until this time hymn singing in the Church of England was not part of the liturgical structure of Sunday worship. As the title "Hymns Ancient and Modern" suggests, the hymnal included hymns that dated back to Roman breviaries and the different branches of the Reformation. It also included "new" hymns such as "The Church's One Foundation" and "Holy, Holy, Holy." "Hymns Ancient and Modern" is still in publication and is still expanding with both old and new hymns.

With this idea as a starting point, we will look at some of our hymns alternating between old and new. We will also look at some of the work of the Hymn Society of American and Canada, which preserves our old hymns and encourages the creation of new hymns.

10-11:30 a.m. Oct. 19, 26, and Nov. 1, Choir Room, #231

YOUUnique Workshops

YOUUnique is a part of the Gifts Ministry curriculum at Grace. Participants are connected with enriching ministries that are closely suited to their personality. The workshop explores how God has uniquely created and gifted you.

The daylong workshops are a FUN exploration of WHO you are, supporting your personal and spiritual development through DVDs, assessment, sharing and reflection. YOUUnique is for anyone 14 and older who wants to be happier in themselves, their work and their relationships. All Grace members are encouraged to attend this workshop. It is especially suited for those new to Grace and in transition.

One-day workshop, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017, and Mar. 10, 2018. Teen YOUUnique workshops will take place Wednesday nights 6-7:15 p.m. Jan. 3-Feb. 7, 2018, for high school students. Please register at least one week prior to the workshop.

Leadership Forums

Leadership Forums for Leaders, Council, Organizers and Coordinators are held two to three times a year to engage,

equip and support our lay members who lead in a variety of ways. A variety of topics are covered, including; policy, process and procedure; motivation and leading; what is expected of leadership and available resources for helping us lead effectively.

The next Leadership Forum will be in October and the topic will be "A Way Forward to Implement the Long Range Plan." The presentation and discussion will center on developing, documenting and tracking actions and activities by the various ministries and teams formed therefrom to implement over time the "Thrusts" from each of the Strategies to LOOK UP to God to KNOW his will, LOOK IN to GROW our people in the Way of Jesus, and to LOOK OUT to GO forth to spread the Gospel through Prayer, Word and Deed.

Contact Karen-Eve Pftotzer for more information on **YOUnique** and the **Leadership Forums** and to confirm dates and times.

Leadership School Mission & Renewal

NC Synod's Leadership School for Mission and Renewal is a new ministry of the synod. This school offers one course (8-12 sessions) in the spring and fall. Courses are offered on a two-year cycle. Students may take all of the courses or select among offerings. Students who complete all four courses will receive a certificate of completion from the synod designating them as a graduate and particularly equipped for ministry within a congregation. Classes are live-streamed to multiple sites throughout the synod. Grace Lutheran is one site and will have its own facilitator/s.

Fall 2017: Understanding and Using our Leadership Gifts

How do we lead effectively in a church? What is your particular leadership style? What can we learn from biblical examples of leadership? This course can be a game-changer for students as they focus on leading communities through change, building teams that work, managing conflict and moving ideas from whiteboard into action.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 2-Nov. 16, 2017 (at Grace).
Cost is \$75 per student. Partial scholarships available.
Register at www.nclutheran.org/events and Sign-Up Station.

Grief Ministry

Hope and Healing Support Group

Group participants explore their own grief journey through understanding how to manage symptoms of grief by sharing memories of their loved one and in finding hope and strength for their faith journey. Mike Hoffmann is a retired Lutheran pastor and has also worked as the Bereavement Coordinator for Hospice of Wake County in Raleigh, and as associate chaplain for Thomasville Medical Center. Jan Hoffmann has spent her career in Mental Health in the Raleigh area and as the Bereavement Coordinator for Hospice of the Piedmont in High Point. Together, they are pleased to help individuals find balance and meaning in life again at Grace Lutheran Church.

3:30-5 p.m., Tuesdays, Oct. 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14 and 21. No cost.

Sign up by Oct. 8.

Grief Rite Bible Study

Grief Rite is a Bible Study for people who are grieving or for those who minister to the grieving. The Grief Rite class seeks to provide: a time of mourning and reflection, where God helps you understand the significance of a person's life; a time to seek refuge in God's comfort and hope; a time of introspection where we understand the things we are to learn/take away from our loved one's life and the death experience to move closer to God; a time of surrender to the reality of death in our lives and our unresolved issues to God so that we can move from sorrow to gladness, mourning to dancing (Psalm 30:10); and a time when we become wounded healers—using the loss of a loved one and our life experience to move forward in ministry to others. Dates and times for this course will be available as class approaches.

Cost: \$8 for the workbook.

The community is invited to attend all Grief Ministry programs.

Wellness

Walking

A walking exercise class is offered at 9 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday mornings in Stull Hall. After devotions, a walking DVD gives participants the option to walk between one and four miles. Weights and stretch bands are available. Easy walking to a vigorous workout — you choose. Drop-ins welcome.

Seeds of Hope - Chronic Condition Support Group

This group will meet the second Thursday of the month to inform, share, and encourage those age 60+ who have a chronic condition. Our purpose is to help with self-management using creative, practical strategies to nurture mind, body, and spirit. We will provide a safe place for listening to concerns and for expressing needs.

1-3 p.m. Thursdays, beginning Oct. 12.

Co-facilitators: Karen Wolfrom and Vicki Marthaler

Spiritual Retreats

Lutheridge/Lutherock Ministries has several retreats available: novusway.com/our-programs/adult/

Wild Women's Weekend (Lutheridge)

Adult women of all ages will gain fresh vision and strength in the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Bring a group to deepen fellowship with women you know or come alone to find kindred spirits with women from across the southeast. The 2018 theme is "SuperWoman" - Expectations & Image (others & our own), guilt and the call/power of God to find/be ourselves. Scripture: Proverbs 31; Mary, Jesus' mother. Become a Wild Woman at Lutheridge!

2018 dates: Feb. 2-4; Feb. 9-11; March 2-4; March 9-11; March 16-18 (Fri.-Sun.) Sign up today for early discounts or watch for Grace group information to attend a week together.

50 Forward Living Well Oct. 6-8, 2017 (Lutheridge)

For people 50+, this year's LIVING WELL retreat focuses on HUMOR. Research shows that laughter really IS the best medicine! It reduces stress, prevents heart disease, relieves pain, boosts immunity, eases conflict, creates community ...and more! Workshops will include Editorial Cartoons, Tapping into the Healing of Humor, Laughter Yoga, Improv & Alzheimer's...and others. Gather a group of your 50Forward friends and come to explore the **POWER** and **PROMISE** of this amazing gift of God. Contact Donna Hamilton or Sue Filson for discount group rates. Event Highlights include:

- Informative Presenters & Workshops
- Inviting Community
- Engaging Christian Worship
- Delightful Entertainment by an Asheville Improv Troupe
- Foods to improve your mood
- Outdoor Activities in Autumn Mountain Beauty
- Lots of Laughter!

Via de Cristo

Via de Cristo means "the Way of Christ." A Via de Cristo Retreat is an encounter with Christ, in which the participant becomes a part of a community, abounding in God's grace. The Via de Cristo goals: to change the world, to remake the world in Christ, and to restore all things to Christ. Retreats are held at Camp Dogwood, Sherrills Ford, NC. Contact Sue Janowiak, Barbara Fountain or Pastor Greg Williams for more information.

Prayer Ministry

Prayer allows us to have intimate communion with God and enables us to show compassion towards others and the world around us. Prayer is vital to the community of Grace.

Those serving on healing prayer teams complete a basic training course and minister within a Biblical framework. All prayer ministers are in covenant with God and each other to provide strict confidentiality as well as a sensitive, safe and

loving environment for prayer. It is our joy to come before the Lord through His Holy Spirit as we minister to God's people through prayer. Contact: Deanna Plowman, 828-890-0919.

Intercessory Prayer

The scope of this ministry provides for intercessory prayer in several ways. A Prayer Chest is located in the foyer where prayer requests are deposited and regularly prayed for by pastors and prayer intercessors. Grace's Prayer Chain has an active group of members who pray daily for you and your loved ones as requested. For prayer requests, contact the church office or Sallie Staton-Knott, 828-808-8765.

Healing Prayer Ministry

Healing prayer ministers are available to pray with you on the third Sunday of each month in all three worship services during communion. Individual prayers are offered for needs and concerns as well as celebrations and thanksgivings.

On the second Friday of each month, we offer the ministry of Soaking Prayer for healing in body, mind, soul and spirit. The deeper the need is for healing, the more a longer time of prayer is beneficial, involving sitting in relaxed stillness and inwardly turning toward Jesus. Soaking Prayer provides a beautiful opportunity to wait restfully in the Lord's Presence while prayer ministers move quietly in the pew behind you and individually offer silent prayers on your behalf.

Recharge Your Prayer Life

Each January we begin our year with an afternoon of prayer activity and teaching. On Jan. 7, 2018, it is our pleasure to host Rev. John Rice, who left parish ministry in response to God's call to focus more of his time and energy on restoring and growing Jesus' healing ministry in the church at large.

Open Prayer

Each Tues. night, 6-7 p.m., a group gathers in Fellowship Hall for Open Prayer, using a variety of prayer methods, beginning with prayerful singing. All are welcome to attend any gathering.

Carolina Village "Grace"-ious Group

Grace Lutheran members and friends gather each month at Carolina Village for fellowship, scripture, reflections, prayer and communion. You do not have to be a resident of Carolina Village to participate. All are welcome! Contact: Sallie Staton-Knott, 828-808-8765.

1:30-2:45 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month, Carolina Village Chapel.

OWLs (Older, Wiser, Lutherans)

The OWLs group is open to anyone of any age who enjoys day trips, meals together and fellowship. Information and sign-ups for the monthly outings can be found in Fellowship Hall under Adult Ministry, "OWLs."

Supper Club

Supper Club is an opportunity to develop closer relationships with your Grace family through sharing a meal together. Three couples meet once a month over a period of three months. Having only six people to a group makes conversation inclusive and easier for people to host. Many options are available to be a host. Couples and singles are welcome. Substitutes are available if you cannot make a particular month.

Getting to know the folks in your group enables you to discover more about Grace and the many opportunities to join a small group, Bible study, Sunday School class or fellowship gathering. For questions and more information about Supper Club, contact Carol Gillett at 828-696-8056 or 828-243-7692 or cgillett@aol.com. All adults welcome!

Women's Bible Study Summer 2018

Grace Lutheran has hosted a women's Bible Study for congregational and community members the past several summers. This ecumenical group of women of all ages has enjoyed praying, studying God's Word and fellowship together. We look forward to welcoming new participants in the summer of 2018.

LYFE Groups (Living Your Faith Everyday)

LYFE groups offer people an opportunity to explore who God is calling them to be, and what God is calling them to do in everyday life. They usually meet once or twice a month in small groups for prayer, faith conversations, outreach and service. LYFE groups are already established at Grace with the possibility of more being added. If you are interested in joining or hosting a group, contact Pastor Greg Williams or Sue Filson.

Other Educational/Fellowship Opportunities

Grace is host to many other Bible studies, small groups and educational opportunities in the church throughout the year. Please consult your worship bulletin, website, Grace Vine and other media for descriptions of classes, workshops and one-time events. Some of these include:

- Koininia Bible studies
- Men's weekly Bible study (off campus)
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Stephen Ministry
- Women of the ELCA (WELCA)
 - Women's circles
 - Quilting
 - Mission Action
- Lutheran Men in Mission
- A variety of opportunities to serve as mentors to Grace's youth, elementary and preschool children

Worship Services are held at Grace each Sunday: 8:15 & 9:45 a.m. Traditional; 11:15 a.m. Celebration & Spanish

Refreshments & Fellowship are offered 9:15-9:45 a.m. every Sunday in Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

Child Care is available during all worship services for children ages birth to 5 years. The nursery is the first door on the right at the beginning of the Education Wing hallway.

Grace Staff

Greg Williams, Senior Pastor, gwilliams@gracehendersonville.com

Ken Langsdorf, Pastor, klangsdorf@gracehendersonville.com

Alfredo Oviedo, Pastor, aoviedo@gracehendersonville.com

Burton Bumgarner, Dir. of Music Ministry,
bbumgarner@gracehendersonville.com

Sue Filson, Dir. of Adult Ministry, sfilson@gracehendersonville.com

Anne Monroe, Dir of Youth & GYP Ministries,
amonroe@gracehendersonville.com

Jill Wingard, Dir. of Children & Family Ministries,
jwingard@gracehendersonville.com

Karen-Eve Pfozter, Dir. of Gifts Ministry,
kepfotzer@gracehendersonville.com

Jolie Herman, Administrative Assistant,
jherman@gracehendersonville.com

Donna Hamilton, Communications Manager,
dhamilton@gracehendersonville.com

Anthony Somers, Custodian,
asomers@gracehendersonville.com

George Nicholas, Food Services Manager,
gnicholas@gracehendersonville.com

Ruthie Derrick, Assistant Treasurer, rderrick@gracehendersonville.com

Beth Ann Lehr, Dir. of Grace Preschool,
balehr@gracehendersonville.com

Grace Lutheran 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.



Grace Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

1245 6th Ave W, Hendersonville, NC 28739

Office: 828-693-4890

gracehendersonville.com

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