



# Grace **ABOUNDS**

March 2025

*A Center of Mission and Ministry - Celebrating and Sharing God's Grace!*

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As we move into the month of March, we are heading into what I believe is the busiest time of the church year. The period of Thanksgiving to Christmas and New Year's is surely a hectic six-plus weeks of unending activities. However, at least for pastors, Lent and Easter pack a wallop for our schedules. From March 5th (Ash Wednesday) through April 20th (Easter Sunday), the work of the Lord contains many worship opportunities that we pray you will be part of at this crucial time of the year.

An outline of Lent/Easter worship times was noted in my February Newsletter article, and you will find information on these activities throughout this Newsletter, and other places, as we travel the path of Lent with our Savior. I hope you will take some time to be part of these worship schedules.

So, as we enter the period leading us to Jesus' sacrifice and glorious resurrection, what does this part of the year mean to you? What it meant to Jesus was that the Father had commanded Him to be the sacrifice for our sins, and with all of Jesus' power He carried out God's promise of our redemption.

***"When the days drew near for him to leave this earth, Jesus "set his face" to Jerusalem to encounter the pain of the cross on our behalf." (Luke 9:51).***

In the same way we set our faces toward the cross of Christ that stands before us. As we face the cross during Lent, we see certain aspects of our lives which do not always fall in line with what the cross truly means for us. We come to terms with these "aspects" with Christ—who came to set us free from sin so that we can see him face-to-face in heaven. In the six-plus weeks called Lent, we should review where we stand with Jesus, and how we will live by following Jesus' path to redemption.

My wish is for you to take the season of Lent to become even more connected with God and join us in the various worship services we will have at Grace Lutheran. God is amazing in providing forgiveness and grace and love to all who accept what the Father freely provides.

Romans 5:8 ***"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."***

Hebrews 9:28 ***"So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."***

Because Jesus answered the Call of the Father to be the sacrifice for our sins, ***"It is Finished"*** (John 19:30), and we can expect to live forever in the house of the Lord. That is something to be very thankful for! And we show our thanks by loving God, and our neighbor! And a beautiful place to start is at church. See you soon.

Blessings always, *Pastor Dave*

Contact Pastor Dave by cell phone at 219-707-9823 or by email at [pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com](mailto:pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com).

# MARCH Birthdays

- 2 - Jerry Vaughn
- 6 - George Dawkins, Jr.  
Emmett Wicker
- 9 - Chop Cooper
- 11 - Laura Hardy
- 16 - Craig Nelson
- 19 - Sonny Scott
- 21 - Jim Luther
- 23 - Kelly Whitlock
- 27 - Bob Harris
- 28 - Andy Metz
- 29 - Bob Dibble
- 30 - Heather Harris  
Phil Ruff

# MARCH Anniversaries

3/15 Sharon & Collier Neel 55 yrs.

# MARCH Baptisms

- 7 - Allen Derrick  
Ronnie Derrick
- 10 - Sara Peters, Marie Peters
- 11 - Lois Amick
- 19 - Josh Riley
- 22 - Chop Cooper
- 25 - Craig Metz, Clay Boland,  
Allie Waters
- 27 - Luke Black, Lagina Harmon
- 28 - Hannah Derrick, Angela Clark,  
Savannah Harmon
- 29 - Meghan Bryant, Wayde Dominick,  
Helena Mewbourn
- 30 - Judy Bedenbaugh

## Grace People in the News

Don't forget to share your "good news" about members of Grace with the church office by email, by phone, or with a note in the office box.



### New address for Margaret Kluttz

Please update your People of Grace for 2025.

Margaret Kluttz  
The Blake at Hollingsworth Park, Room 123  
360 Woodruff Road  
Greenville, SC 29607

*Chapel time with Pastor Dave is always a blast!*



### Don't Forget ...

Daylight Savings Time begins **March 9th**. Set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.



**Deadline for the April newsletter is March 18th.**

IN OUR  
Thoughts and Prayers

**Grace Family:** Beverly & Johnny Merck; Margaret Kluttz; Glenda Crafts & family; Cissie & Bob Dibble; Marysue Rivers; Evelyn Hamon; Pastor Al Potter; Heather & Bob Harris.

**Residential Care:** Wendy and Michael Riley (*J.F. Hawkins, Rm. 221*).

**College Students:** Bryce Medlock (*Bluefield University*); Payton Metts (*Piedmont*); Taylor Metz (*MUSC*); Bailey Stewart (*USC-Union*).

**Extended Family:** Lacy Cannon Wessinger; Kathy Buchanan (*Beverly Hawkin's cousin*); Amanda Holt (*Andrea Lewis' daughter*); Heyward Adams (*Anna K. Singley's son*); Libby & Billy Bedenbaugh.

**Community:** Steve Culbertson

**Military:**

Lt. J.G. Alexandra Dibble (*Naval Destroyer- USS Stout*); Staff SGT. Anderson Dibble (*Marines/ Stone Bay, NC*) – *The Dibble's granddaughters*  
Everett Crafts, V (*Air Force-Glenda Craft's grandson*)  
Walker Eldridge (*USCG/Seattle, WA*).

**God's World:** Hurricane Victims & Recovery Efforts; Victims of gun violence; Haiti, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, and neighboring countries; those affected by wildfires, flooding, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters; military families; homeless; jobless/ underemployed; refugees; those suffering due to unrest and fighting throughout the world; our enemies.

To add or remove a name from the Prayer List, please contact the office at 803-364-3331 or [gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com) or leave a written note in the office box. We would like to keep this list up to date as much as possible.



**February Memorials and Honorariums**

**To the Current Fund**

In memory of Bill Ackerman  
By Ackerman's Used Parts

In memory of Everett Crafts  
By Bob & Cissie Dibble  
By Chop & Teresa Cooper  
By Kaye Jamison  
By Charlene & Rod Herlong  
By Ted & Sylvia David  
By Don & Susan Haile  
By Frances O'Mara  
By Charlie & Mildred Tyler  
By Wayne & Beth Wicker & Betty Layton  
By Mary Danahy  
By Gene & Jane Cason  
By Mike & Susan Cassels  
By Dr. & Mrs. Frank Axson  
By Kathryn & Bob McCartha  
By Elsie McGill

**To the Community Service Ministry**

In memory of Allene Dawkins  
By Nancy & Rick Richardson

In memory of John Sherer  
By Judy Bedenbaugh

**Looking Ahead:**

Easter memorial gifts and honorariums for loved ones are welcome and will be published in the Easter bulletin. Please submit your memorials or honorariums no later than Sunday, April 13, and mark your donation "Easter Gift" if you would like it to be included in the special listing.



**Serving in March**

**Assisting Ministers**

- 2- Jessica Shealy
- 9 - Teresa Cooper
- 16 - Melodie Waters
- 23 - Judy Bedenbaugh
- 30 - Ronnie Cromer

**Altar Flowers**

- 2 - —
- 9 - George Dawkins (Greenery)
- 16 - George Dawkins (Greenery)
- 23 - George Dawkins (Greenery)
- 30 - George Dawkins (Greenery)

**Live Stream Operators**

- 2 - Brad Waters
- 9 - Mike Whitlock
- 16 - Jessica Shealy
- 23 - Johnny Merck
- 30 - George Dawkins

**Communion Assistant**

Allie Waters

**Communion Preparation**

Andrea Lewis

**Communion Clean Up**

Brad & Melodie Waters

**Acolyte**

Hunter Hall

**Crucifer**

- 2 - Helena Mewbourn

**Torchbearers**

- 2 - Thomas Mewbourn,  
Raelyn Wessinger

**Ushers**

Chop Cooper, George Dawkins, Andy Metz,  
Robert Martin, Lynn Wessinger

**Greeters**

Deborah Ruff, Jonathan Shealy

**Offering Tabulators**

Chop & Teresa Cooper, George Dawkins

**Front Sign**

Edwina Wicker

**Altar Guild**

Judy Bedenbaugh, Nancy Derrick

**Pew Rack Helper**

Edwina Wicker



**Altar Flower, Lamp Sign Up**

The 2025 Altar Flower and Sanctuary Lamp Chart is posted on the narthex board. Sign up on the chart or contact the church office by phone or email to reserve your special dates. These dates will be published in the 2025 Yearbook.

**SANCTUARY  
LAMP  
SPONSORS**



During the month of March the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in loving memory on the anniversary month of our parents, Frances and Billy Dawkins by George W. Dawkins, Jr.

*For honorary or memorial information to be included in the newsletter and bulletin, information and a \$30 donation should be received in the office by the last Sunday of the month prior to the month you sponsor.*

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

	Sanctuary	* Online	Total
2/2	61	12	73
2/9	54	14	68
2/16	57	16	73
2/23	65	6	72

\* Total Online viewers = Peak views x 2 per SC Synod instructions.

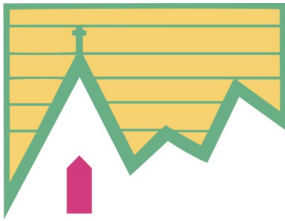


2/2	27
2/9	24
2/16	27
2/23	25

**2025 Annual Yearbook**

We hope to have the 2025 Yearbook available this month. It serves as our congregation's annual report for 2024 and contains year-end information from ministry teams, groups, and treasurers as well as information for 2025 about ministry assignments and tentative calendar dates.





**Our Offerings for February**

**Through February 23**  
(Does Not Include February EFTs)

**Church FINANCES**

**MINISTRY BUDGET** Our Monthly Need: \$15,549.00

Given during month.....	19,129.73
Given year-to-date.....	30,889.73
Goal through Feb. 23.....	31,098.00

**MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP**

Given during month .....	1,260.65
Given year-to-date.....	2,276.67

**PARSONAGE**

Given during month.....	0.00
Given year-to-date .....	0.00
Fund Balance, Feb. 23.....	4,640.38

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Given during month .....	111.00
Given year-to-date .....	231.00

**SCHOLARSHIP**

Given during month .....	348.45
Given year-to-date .....	348.45

**CAMPERSHIP**

Given during month .....	20.00
Given year-to-date .....	20.00

**COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND**

Community Assistance.....	50.00
Given year-to-date .....	75.00
Bookbag Food Ministry .....	150.00
Given year-to-date .....	180.00
Thanksgiving Meal .....	0.00
Given year-to-date .....	0.00
<b>Total year-to-date .....</b>	<b>255.00</b>

**SPECIAL 2025 OFFERINGS YTD**

Scholarship Fund Match 2023.....	386.38
Souper Bowl of Caring Offering.....	300.00
Youth Ministry .....	100.00



**Thank you for giving!**

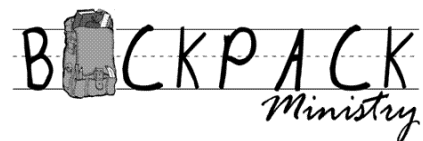


**MINISTRY BUDGET**

Needed Thru February 23:	\$31,098.00
Given Thru February 23:	\$30,889.73
<b>Amount Behind Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 208.27</b>

**Electronic Giving**

Electronic giving is an option at Grace through Vanco. Scan the QR Code at right or go to the Online Giving page via [graceluth.org](http://graceluth.org) to get started.



We are feeding **10** needy children at Prosperity Rikard school. We need your help! There are lists of needed items on the narthex bulletin board for your convenience. Please leave your food donations in the red wagon in the narthex. **Thank you!!**



**March Manna House**

**Item of the Month**

**4 lb. bags of Sugar**

Donations can be left in the Manna House box in the narthex. Thank you.



**Congregation Meeting**

**Sunday, March 9**

Following the morning worship service, we will hold a meeting to decide the best path forward for our church parsonage.

There will also be two open discussion gatherings in the sanctuary prior to March 9. We encourage all to attend.

- \* **March 2—after worship**
- \* **March 6—7 p.m.**



**Monthly GYM TIME  
Sunday, March 23**

**Noon - 1:30 p.m.**

**Faith, fellowship,  
fun, and food!!**

We will need volunteers to help provide for our GYM Time meal lasagna and salad. There will be a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Thank you for supporting the Grace Youth!



Thank you to Diane Adams, Beverly Hawkins, Melodie Waters, and Lynn Wessinger for providing the taco shells and tortillas; Julie Shealy and Lynn Wessinger for providing the taco meat; Andrea Lewis, Deborah Ruff, Mike Shealy, and Lynn Wessinger for providing the taco toppings; Judy Bedenbaugh and Katherine Bennett for providing chips, and Christopher and Sarah Shealy for providing the ice-cream for our delicious GYM Time meal in February!



Grace Youth collected \$300 in donations on Feb. 9 to support *Feeding the Carolinas'* Hurricane Helene Relief Fund. *Feeding the Carolinas* is a network that united the 10 *Feeding America Food Banks* serving North and South Carolina. Five of these member food banks serve areas that were hit by Hurricane Helene in late September 2024. One, *MANNA Food Bank*, was entirely lost. In the aftermath of the storm, *Feeding the Carolinas* launched a shared fund—the Hurricane Helene Relief Fund—dedicated to disaster relief efforts in 25 affected counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this cause, and thanks also to our youth! The Angels (last names A-L) won the competition between the Saints and the Angels, but everyone is a winner when we give to help others!

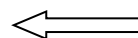
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday Mar. 23** Monthly GYM Time  
**Sunday, April 6** Easter Egg Hunt  
**Sunday Apr. 27** Monthly GYM Time  
**Sunday, May 18\*** Monthly GYM Time

**All from noon until 1:30 p.m.**

\*scheduled 1 week early due to the 4th Sunday being Memorial Day weekend.

At our February GYM Time, our Youth enjoyed lunch, packed food for Grace's Backpack Ministry, played a game, and had devotion time—we continued exploring the question "Who is Jesus?" by discussing how we picture Jesus and looking at John 14:8-10.





**Shrove Tuesday Fun,  
March 4 at 6:30 p.m.**

Join us for pancakes and all the trimmings!

**Please sign up so we can know how many we will be serving.**

*Donations accepted to cover expenses.*

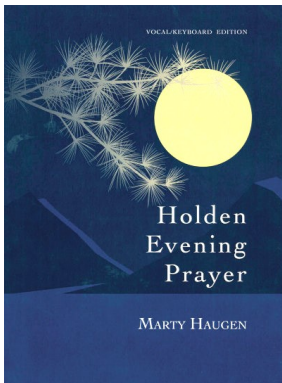


**March 5**

On Ash Wednesday this year we will have Drive-Thru Ashes from 12:15-1pm in the front parking lot for those who can not make the evening service. The service will be held at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Holy Communion will be celebrated along with the imposition of ashes.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the church season known as Lent when Christians focus on growing in their faith and connection to God.

**Holden Evening Prayer Services  
March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 & 13**



Be with us for an evening of beautiful song and scripture as we present Holden Evening Prayer beginning Sunday night, March 9th at 6PM.

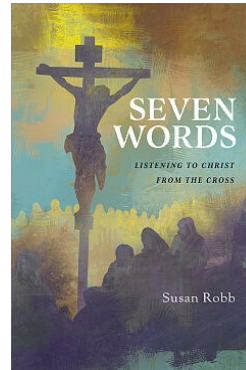
Holden Evening Prayer is a vesper service written during the winter of 1985-1986 at Holden Village in the North

Cascade Mountains of Washington State by Marty Haugen.

Holden Evening Prayer will provide for you during Lent, a time of spiritual renewal and bolster your Christian witness to the world. Please save Sunday evenings for this time in prayer and reflection.



This year's prayer service will be held at Mt. Pilgrim Lutheran Church on March 7th at 7:00 p.m.



**Seven Words  
Listening to Christ  
from the Cross**

Join us in Sunday School beginning March 9th at 9:30AM for Pastor Susan Robb's "Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the Cross." We will be invited to listen to the final words of Jesus's life in a

new way—a way that can be both challenging and empowering.

As her book title suggests, the Gospels record only seven utterances from Jesus during the six hours he spent on the cross. Pastor Robb shows us how each of these last words connects to themes established earlier in Jesus's ministry, and she provides the scriptural context that gives readers a much deeper appreciation of what Jesus was really saying. We hope you'll join us as we study Scripture before we head into worship at Grace.



The Grace Youth Ministry will once again host our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone is invited to join us for lunch and fun. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex so we will have a head count for lunch. Desserts are welcome!

Date: **Sunday, April 6**, after church  
Time: 12:00-1:30 p.m.  
Ages: You're never too old to have fun!



If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Wessinger, Jessica Shealy, Mike Shealy, Kim and Andy Metz, or Melodie Waters.

**Congregational Council Meeting - February 11, 2025**

Robert Martin called the meeting to order with a reading of the Mission Statement.

Deborah Ruff shared devotions for February from First Corinthians 13 titled "A Real Love Connection" centered around the Agape Love of God.

Pastor's Report: Meghan Bryant will lead Vacation Bible School with a tentative start date of June 22. A Sparkhouse Augsburg 60 week course over 2 years is recommended for Youth who will soon be ready for confirmation. Len Fulmer pledged to pay for the instruction material. Pastor Rich Johnson at Mt. Tabor has resigned to be Chaplain at Lowman Home. There is a free texting program with up to 10,000 texts a month that is available to Grace. After discussion, the council agreed that the Lutheran flag and United States flag should be present in the sanctuary to honor our faith and our military veterans.

Adoption of Reports: Robert made a motion to accept the reports as presented, seconded by Sue Mitchell, and passed.

Grace's constitution is under review by the Constitutional By-Laws Committee.

There is no update on *YouTube* streaming at this time.

The Ministry Center meter is installed, and backflow inspection has been completed by Fulmer Plumbing. The \$1251.00 cost to refit 2" copper pipes will be paid from the Property and Maintenance account.

Handicap parking pavement has been delayed due to rain and will be installed as soon as the weather breaks.

Chop Cooper received a best bid of \$1906.50 to replace the motor for the kitchen exhaust fan over the Ministry Center stove. Linda Cromer made a motion to accept this bid with second by Chad Frick and it passed. Discussions took place about replacing light bulbs to be addressed at the next meeting.

Council representatives were appointed to the Ministry Teams. Andy Metz and Sue Mitchell agreed to co-chair the Lifelong Education Team.

Ministry Team Updates: George Dawkins provided an update that the Stewardship Team is scheduled to meet next week with plans to make a presentation to the congregation in September.

A date was set for a congregational meeting and vote on March 9 to determine what to do with the parsonage.

Shepherding concerns were discussed.

The next council meeting will be on March 11 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Pastor Dave.

Respectfully submitted,

David Luther, Council Secretary



**March 11, 2025**  
**6:30 p.m.**





# MARCH 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March</b> <b>Manna House item:</b> 4 lb. bags of Sugar						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Parsonage Discussion	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>SHROVE TUESDAY</b> 6:30 Pancake Supper	<b>5 Ash Wednesday</b> 12:15-1pm Drive-thru Ashes 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	<b>6</b> 7:00 Parsonage Discussion	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  <i>Spring Forward</i>
<b>9 Daylight Savings Time</b> 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Congregational Meeting 6:00 Lenten Prayer Service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting 	<b>12</b> 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 Lenten Prayer Service	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> April <i>NewsLetter DEADLINE</i>	<b>19</b> 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday Schl. 10:30 Worship 12-1:30 GYM Time 6:00 Lenten Prayer Service <b>30</b> 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday Schl. 10:30 Worship 6:00 Lenten Prayer Service	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30 a.m. Newsletter Team 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 



## Grace Lutheran Church

210 Grace St.  
P.O. Box 188 (Mailing Address)  
Prosperity, SC 29127

www.graceluth.org  
803-364-3331

gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com

Ministers: The People of Grace

Pastor: Rev. Dave Adams

pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com

### Online Giving

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online giving page.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Coming up at Grace



**SHROVE  
TUESDAY**

**Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper**  
6:30 p.m.—March 4



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

**Ash Wednesday  
Services—March 5**  
12:15-1pm: Drive-thru Ashes  
7:00 pm: Evening Service



*Sunday Evening  
Lenten Services*

**Sunday Evenings @ 6pm**  
March, 9, 16, 23, 30,  
April 6 and 13.

*Holden Evening  
Prayer Services*



*Easter Egg Hunt*

**Sunday, April 6**  
12-1:30 p.m.

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**April 13—Palm Sunday 10:30 a.m.**

**April 17—Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.**

**April 18—Good Friday 7:00 p.m.**

**April 20—Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m.**