

Grace ABOUNDS January 2025

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



Happy New Year! Of course, the new "church year" began in December when we launched the waiting for Christ's birthday in the Season of Advent. As we move into 2025, my prayers are for this New Year to be filled with good health and joy for you and your loved ones.

So, what should we expect as we begin this year of our Lord? Well, one can never really predict what may occur in life, but with faith in the Christ child, we can be assured of our redemption and salvation through Jesus. As we wake each day, and take every breath, we should keep the knowledge of how much God loves us close in our heart.

Every day I learn more about the ministry we are part of at Grace. In this New Year, my focus and hopes are to help continue to provide even more activities that will nurture our relationship with our Triune God. I have been reviewing and identifying programs that we may utilize for the Confirmation of our Youth at Grace. The two-year lesson plan titled "collaborate" will be the curriculum we use in firming up the knowledge for our Youth. This curriculum will take our youngsters through lessons on the Bible – Old Testament, Lutheran History and Catechism, the Bible – New Testament, and Lutheran Living. If you have someone in your family who is ready to begin their Confirmation studies, please let me know so we can schedule the course work.

I look forward to providing additional teaching through 6–7 week Bible studies. There may be one or two sessions in 2025 during weekdays, and/or, in the evenings, to suit schedules for all. In the past I have utilized studies by various theologians incorporating Bible and devotional reading, along with videos that supplement the teaching. Look for announcements that will provide additional information on these studies and schedules.

Also, look for news about offering an opportunity to learn more about Grace Lutheran and join as member(s) in this community of devoted believers of God. The "new member classes" will be open to all who wish to learn more about Grace and Lutheranism. And it will be my opportunity to learn more about our church history too.

Over the Christmas season, you may have received my "introductory" letter announcing my arrival at Grace. Even though this correspondence comes months after my ministry began, it was important for me to reach out and connect with our members and friends. As we move forward in the new year, I will be making phone calls to further introduce myself so that together we can nurture our relationship with one another. I trust we will make strong connections so I can better serve you as your pastor.

There are scores of Bible passages about "planning ahead," and although we do not always have "our plans" come to fruition, God's plan for our lives is certain. God's plan is filled with goodness for us. The prophet Jeremiah wrote what can be considered one of the many important promises we hear from our Creator. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) Through Jesus, we have hope and a glorious future living in God's heavenly home.

In the meantime, let us plan to work for Christ by loving the Father, and our neighbor, and let us plan to take time to learn more about the love that God freely showers on us because of God's eternal love.

Blessings always, Pastor Dave

Pastor Dave and Diane at the Prosperity Christmas Parade

Contact Pastor Dave by cell phone at 219-707-9823 or by email at pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com.



- 1 Thomas Mewbourn Marysue Rivers
- 7 Raelynn Wessinger
- 9 Kris Lindler
- 14 Jessica Culbreth Donna Hawkins
- 17 Robert Neel, Lee Wessinger
- 18 Nikki Dominick, Wayne Mitchell
- 21 Luke Black, Beverly Hawkins, Craig Metz
- 23 Robert Martin
- 26 Kay Chandler



14 - Walt and Clyna Quattlebaum (58th)



- 1 Tommy Neel
- 2 Suzanne Medlock
- 5 Tim Harmon
- 8 Jonathan Shealy
- 13 Riley Eldridge, Anna Kay Singley
- 15 Ronnie Cromer
- 19 Joshua Nelson, Jacob Nelson, Charlie Nelson
- 21 Nick Long
- 28 Richard Mercer, Parker Metts, Elizabeth Warner
- 31 Mollie Waters

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.





IN THE MAIL . . .



12/1/24

Thank you so much for the sweet Thanksgiving meal bags for our seniors at the Waldrop Senior Center! What a great gift! Love, NCCOA Friends

12/4/24

Dear members of Grace Lutheran.

My name is Brad Bedenbaugh and I am a client of Newberry Cty. Council on Aging. I just wanted to thank all involved with the Thanksgiving meal bags. It was so thoughtful of ya'll to remember us during the holiday season. May God bless each of you this Christmas season. Thanks again, Brad Bedenbaugh

12/24/24

Dear Grace Family,

I can hardly believe it's been a year since I started working with Grace. It's been a pleasure! Thank you for the year-end bonus. That was very nice.

Happy New Year! Love, Valerie

January Manna House Item of the Month

Canned Fruit

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



January 21st for our February Newsletter

God at Work page 3



Heartland Conference Lay School of Religion January 7, 14, 21, and 28 7 - 9 p.m. at Grace

Our three classes this year are as follows:

THE PSALMS

Taught by the Rev. Bobby Morris.

Pastor Bobby is a life-long native of Prosperity and is currently serving St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Pomaria. He teaches Hebrew and Old Testament at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and regularly teaches study-tour groups in the Middle East as a faculty member with the Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies. He recently established the Fifth Gospel Foundation to provide financial assistance to Lutheran seminary students and clergy to visit the Holy Land.

POETRY

Taught by The Rev. Melissa Chapell

Melissa Chappell is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and author who enjoys writing poetry about nature, spirituality and romance. She has been published in literary journals such as BlazeVox, Adelaide Literary Review, Panglolin Review, and Amethyst Literary Review, among others. She has published five books, among them <u>Light</u>, <u>Refracted</u> (Finishing Line Press) and <u>For the Next Earth</u> (Wipf and Stock, 2021). Rev. Chappell currently serves as music director at Colony.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN THE CHURCH

Taught by Rev. Ruth Ann and Rev. Ray Sipe

Join us for conversations about the work of LDR Carolinas, where we see God at work in times of disaster, how you and your congregation can be prepared before the next disaster, and what to expect when a disaster happens. Pastors Ray and Ruth Ann Sipe spent their internship year on the Gulf Coast working with Lutheran Disaster Response after Hurricane Katrina. They have served congregations in Cabarrus, Davidson, Rowan, and Stanly Counties in North Carolina. They currently serve as the coordinators of Lutheran Disaster Response of the Carolinas.



Registration Information

Registration is \$20 per participant, which covers the cost of refreshments and offers a small stipend to our speakers for their time. Please RSVP to Brenda Fulmer at brendafulmer47@gmail.com. Pick up a registration for in the narthex.



Christ in Our Home Devotionals

Christ in Our Home devotional books for January - March 2025 are available on the narthex table. Pick up a copy for yourself and one to share with a friend.



Women's Bible Study will not meet in January 2025.

God at Work page 4

December Memorials and Honorariums Gifts to the Current Fund

In honor of Emmett and Edwina Wicker by Kevin & Diane Wicker by Arden Curry to the Campership Ministry

In honor of Emmet Wicker by Anna Sease

In honor of Emmet Wicker by Deborah & Phil Ruff

In honor of Judy Bedenbaugh and in memory of John Bedenbaugh and James Rossett by Brian & Amy Rossett

In memory of Beverly and Robert Meyers by Roberta Capó

In memory of Bobby Byers by Dale & Julie Shealy and family

In memory of Otis K. and Rhoda V. Shealy by Kelly Shealy

In memory of Allene Dawkins

by George Dawkins

by Sharon Neel

by Joseph & Carla Traina

by Chop & Teresa Cooper

by Bob & Heather Harris

by Dale & Julie Shealy & family

In memory of his parents, Helen and Harry, and his brother, Randy, by Robert & Shelia Martin

Gifts to Bereavement Meal Ministry

In memory of Allene Dawkins by Edna Riley

Gifts to Community Service Ministry

In memory of Allene Dawkins

by James & Nancy Derrick

by Edwina Wicker

by Emmett Wicker

by Judy Bedenbaugh

by Johnsie Long & family

by Oscar Lovelace Jr.

by The Lovelace Medical Center

by Lynn & Larry Wessinger

by Deborah & Phil Ruff

by Wade & Sally Dominick

by Michael, Holly & Sara Elizabeth Wessinger

by Helen Morris

by Debbie Long & Family

by Ladison & Paula Hamm

by Charlotte Berry

Gifts to the Maintenance Budget

In memory of Bobby Byers by Bob & Heather Harris

Gifts to the Preschool

In honor of the Grace Church Preschool by John and Becky Pugh

Gifts to Disaster Relief

In memory of David Riley, Billy George, Sadie Epting, Allene Dawkins, and Bobby Byers by Jenny & Jimmy Braswell.

Gifts to ELCA Good Gifts

In honor of Pastor Dave & Diane Adams and the Grace family by Edna Riley



Grace Family: Margaret Kluttz; Cissie & Bob Dibble; Marysue Rivers; Evelyn Harmon; Pastor Al Potter; Glenda & Everett Crafts (*Lowman Home Rehab*); Heather & Bob Harris.

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

College Students: Bryce Medlock (Bluefield Univ.); Lexi Medlock (SE Esthetics Institute); Payton Metts (Piedmont); Taylor Metz (MUSC); Bailey Stewart (USC-Union).

Extended Family: Michael Torrence (Jeanna Hall's brother). Heyward Adams (Anna K. Singley's son); Amanda Holt (Andrea Lewis' daughter); Stephanie Martin (Robert's daughter-in-law); Jim Sealey (Lori Derrick's father); Libby & Billy Bedenbaugh.

Community: Steve Culbertson

Military: Staff SGT. Anderson Dibble (*Marines/Stone Bay, NC– The Dibble's granddaughter*); Everett Crafts, V (*Air Force - Glenda/Everett 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 or leave a written note in the office box. We would like to keep this list up to date as much as possible.

Serving in January

Assisting Ministers

- 5 Allie Waters
- 12 Ronnie Cromer
- 19 Jessica Shealy
- 26 Johnny Merck



Altar Flowers

- 5 Poinsettias and Trees
- 12 Epiphany Trees
- 19 Epiphany Trees
- 26 Epiphany Trees

Live Stream Operators

- 5 George Dawkins, Jr.
- 12 Brad Waters
- 19 David Luther
- 26 Mike Whitlock

Communion Assistant

1/5 and 1/26- Sally Dominick 1/12 and 1/19- Lynn Wessinger

Communion Preparation

Deborah Ruff

Communion Clean Up

Judy Bedenbaugh Andrea Lewis

Acolyte

Thomas Mewbourn

Crucifer - Jan. 12

Helena Mewbourn

Torchbearers - Jan. 12

Helena Mewbourn Jaxon Wessinger

Ushers

Nathan Shealy, Deborah Ruff, Phil Ruff, Camryn Shealy, Jonathan Shealy

Greeters

Cindy Amick, Edwina Wicker

Offering Tabulators

Deborah Ruff, Phil Ruff, Nathan Shealy, Camryn Shealy

Front Sign

Deborah & Phil Ruff

Altar Guild

Deborah Ruff

Pew Rack Helper

Nancy Derrick

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 January, the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in memory of John Bedenbaugh and Alice Shaver in remembrance of their January birthdays by Judy Bedenbaugh.

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.

WORSH P

	Sanctuary	* Online	Total	
12/1	52	8	60	
12/8	54	4	58	
12/15	83	73	10	
12/22	116	14	130	
12/24 (4:00)	54	-	54	
12/24(10:30)	54	-	54	
12/29	No service	due to bad w	eather.	

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



12/1	25
12/8	22
12/15	28
12/22	28
12/29	1

Youth Ministry Christmas Program: 40 attending Preschool Christmas Program: 302 attending



Monthly GYM TIME Sunday, January 26

Noon - 1:30 p.m. Faith, fellowship, fun, and food!!

We will need volunteers to help provide for our GYM Time meal of soup and sandwiches. There will be a sign up sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Thank you for supporting our Youth.



Sunday Jan. 26 Monthly GYM Time

Sunday Feb. 9 Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday Feb. 23 Monthly GYM Time

Sunday Mar. 23 Monthly GYM Time

Sunday Apr. 27 Monthly GYM Time



Grace Youth Ministry Team spread Christmas cheer on Friday, 12/20, caroling to several members of our Grace family. It was a joy-filled evening that concluded at the church for finger-foods and fun!



Grace Youth Ministry sponsored a float for the 2024 Prosperity Christmas Parade. Thanks to the youth and Grace youth supporters who met to do the float prep and decorating!



What a magical, musical Christmas Parade on Sunday Dec. 8th. Thanks to those who provided our pre-parade lunch, all who rode Grace's float, and those who walked along with us handing out flyers promoting Grace.



Our youth presented a beautiful Christmas program on Sunday evening, December 15th. Thank you to all who helped make this possible!



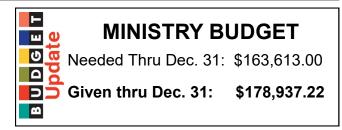


Our Offerings for December

Through December 31

(Does Not Include December EFTs)

(Does Not Include December	LI 13)
MINISTRY BUDGET Our Monthly Ne	eed: \$13,634
Given during month	56.394.18
Given year-to-date	
Goal through Dec. 31	163,613.00
MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP FUND	,
Given during month	2 677 09
Given year-to-date	24.996.07
PARSONAGE FUND	,000.0.
Given during month	0.00
Given year-to-date	0.00
Fund Balance, Dec.31	4 640 38
SUNDAY SCHOOL	4,040.30
	400.00
Given during month	168.00
Given year-to-date	1,325.15
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	
Given during month	0.00
Given year-to-date	345.00
CAMPERSHIP FUND	
Given during month	
Given year-to-date	225.69
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND	
Community Assistance	1,430.00
Given year-to-date	1.610.00
Bookbag Food Ministry	50.00
Given year-to-date	966.94
Thanksgiving Meal	
Given year-to-date	
Total year-to-date	2,986.94
SPECIAL 2024 OFFERINGS YTD	
Scholarship Fund Match 2023	386.38
Lenten Offering	698.12
Youth	290.79
Disaster Response	1,986.00
Souper Bowl (Feed Thy Neighbor)	326.51
Easter Lilies	231.00
Bereavement Meal Fund	1,118.62
Christian Schools	0.00
Love Offering (Henricks Family)	960.00
Love Offering (Torrence Family)	1,817.00
Love Offering (Newberry College- Pantry)	167.00
MCH Football Meal	285.55
VBS Love Offering	20.00
VBS	464.00
POINSETTIAS	374.00
Advent/Christmas Offering	480.00
-	





2025 Offering Envelopes

2025 offering envelopes are available on the table outside the office window. If you don't see a box with your name, please contact the office and we will be happy to get one for you.

Alternative Designation

Alternative Designation Forms are included in the envelope boxes and on the envelope table for those who would prefer a portion of their offering not be forwarded to the ELCA. A new form must be completed every year. Turn in completed forms with your first gift of 2025.

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 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!!

Congregation Council Meeting - December 09, 2024

Nathan Shealy called the meeting to order with reading of mission statement.

Deborah Ruff presented devotions from Isaiah.

Tree removed from Highway 76 side to make way for new handicap parking. Robert Martin made a motion to accept parking lot estimate from Willingham's in Jenkinsville with a second by Mike Whitlock.

Ed West with the town updated us on what has to be done with ministry center meter. Will have to get estimates from commercial plumber and talk to fire security to find out how much it will cost when system is turned off temporarily for new meter to be hooked up.

Motion to adopt reports as presented made by Robert and seconded by Sue Mitchell.

New Council Officers elected for 2025: Robert Martin, Chair; Mike Whitlock, Vice-Chair; and David Luther Secretary. Sally Dominick made a motion to approve with second by Linda Cromer. The Council Retreat date will be Saturday, January 11th from 9-12.

Food Lion will allow us to have an account for Sunday School Breakfast. Linda will coordinate with Peggy Thomas.

Linda made a motion with second by Deborah Ruf to approve same bonuses as last year.

Visioning Team Updates:

Birthday Party for Jesus will be held December 22nd during Sunday School.

Worship Team updated communion procedures.

Youth Team participated with Grace float in Prosperity Christmas Parade. And Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 15th at 6pm called the Symbols of Christmas.

Shepherding concerns discussed.

Next meeting will be council retreat Jan. 11th from 9-12.

Meeting adjourned with prayer by Pastor Dave.

Respectfully submitted, Candace Frick, Council Secretary



November Financial Reports

Current Fund Balance does not include designated monies for the LED Bulb Fund (\$534.37); Bereavement Meal Fund (\$1,575.61); Choir Fund (\$325) or Sydney Shealy Memorial Gift (\$307.74) contained within the Current Fund Checking Account.

	Balance 11/1	Received	Disbursed Balance 11/31	Additional Information
Current/Budget Fund	\$ 57,878.36	\$ 17,481.0	3 \$ 11,616.15 \$ 63,743.24	\$ 11,304.13 CD
Maintenance Fund	\$ 27,754.64	\$ 1,232.9	8 \$ 9.10 \$ 28,978.52	n/a
Sunday School Account	\$ 2,718.71	\$ 100.2	0 \$ 26.92 \$ 2,791.99	n/a
Christian Schools Acct.	\$ 17,651.15	\$ 6,167.3	3 \$ 7,497.15 \$ 16,381.33	n/a
CS Educational Fund	\$ 9,715.23	\$ 0.0	0 \$ 447.89 \$ 9,267.34	n/a



2024 Council Year-End Summary

Greetings Grace Lutheran Church family,

As 2024 draws to a close, I'd like to take a few moments **BUDGET** and reflect on this past year's accomplishments of the Council and Congregation.

The first of the year we completed the Vitality Survey, met with Bishop Jenny and Pastor Rick, and formed a Call Committee consisting individuals representing all age groups of the congregation. We were able to celebrate the completion and dedicate the Live Streaming System for worship service. We continue to engage with Wightman in Easter Services and other worship opportunities. In May we celebrated the hard work and dedication of the members in paying off the Worship Center loan. Council decided to start a Stewardship Program (Building a Culture of Generosity) with members of the congregation participating in on-line courses to learn new methods of stewardship. In June we had great participation for VBS, which is an important ministry for our congregation. In anticipation of new pastoral leadership, all staff job descriptions were updated to reflect current needs. In the fall, we enjoyed Homecoming and Golden Age Sunday. We also welcomed Pastor Dave and Diane into our congregation as our new worship leader. A Constitutional Bylaws committee was formed to review and up-date the Constitution, which is ongoing and will continue into 2025. Council addressed handicap parking concerns by voting to expand parking next to highway 76, so that additional handicap parking spaces will be made available with easier access to the church building. This should be concluded early in 2025. The Finance Committee completed and presented the new ministry-driven budget to council, which was approved. This was later presented to the congregation and adopted at the annual Congregational Meeting in December. As always, December brings a busy time for the church. We enjoyed the Cantata presented by Grace and Wightman members under the direction of Mr. Eddie. There are many ways that Grace members spread the Light of Christ by making both time and monetary contributions to ministries such as disaster relief, SC Lutheran Retreat Center, Lutheran Services of Carolinas, Newberry College Ministry night, Mana House, Backpack ministry, and the Thanksgiving meal – just to list a few.

As brothers and sisters in Christ I want to thank everyone for their support and dedication to spreading God's Love through their commitment to this congregation and its programs and missions.

Nathan Shealy, 2024 Council Chair



2025 Budget Adopted

At the annual congregation meeting on Dec. 8, the congregation adopted a 2025 ministry budget of \$186,588.

At the Dec. 9 Council meeting, the following were elected as

Council officers: Robert Martin, chair; Mike Whitlock, vice chair; and David Luther, secretary.

We give thanks for their willingness to serve in these leadership positions and to all who serve on Council.

Update Your Info for New PoG

Very soon we will be printing a new *People of Grace* directory. If your contact information or a information member's changed in 2024, please call or email the office or drop off a note Update your by Jan. 15. We need our directory contact info! to be as accurate as possible.



If you have not been receiving emails from Grace, we likely don't have an accurate email address for you. Please share your email address with us as we often send last minute details about events and reminders by email.

Also, let us know if you no longer have a home telephone number so we can delete it from your listing. If you would like your cell phone number included in the directory and it isn't already listed, please let us know that, too. Thank you!

Annual Reports Due Jan. 15



Year-end annual reports from all church groups, teams, and treasurers are due in the church office by Jan. 15. Each team chair is responsible for

seeing that their team reports are submitted.

Reports are published in the annual Grace Yearbook and serve as a record of the ministries at Grace during the year. Your help is appreciated (and needed) in compiling this important information.



Prosperity Christmas Parade—December 8



Advent and Christmas Worship Services in our beautifully decorated sanctuary.



Grace Christian Preschool's Christmas Program

Sharing the Good News!

Grace shared the good news of Christ's birth in various ways throughout the month of December. Find these photos and more on Grace's Facebook page.





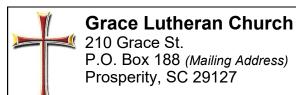
Grace Youth at the Youth Christmas Program on December 15.



Our beautiful Chrismon Tree



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January Manna House item: Canned Fruit		·	1 Happy New year!	9:30 a.m. Newsletter Team	3	4
9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	Preschool starts back We're back!	Heartland Conference School of Religion 7-9 p.m.	7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	13	Heartland Conference School of Religion 7-9 p.m.	Due: Year-end Reports and Updated Contact Info >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	16	17	18
9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	20	February Newsletter Deadline Heartland Conference School of Religion 7-9 p.m.	7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25
9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Monthly GYM Time Noon-1:30 p.m.	27	Heartland Conference School of Religion 7-9 p.m.	9:30am Newsletter Team 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	Preschool Book Fair and Art Show	31	



www.graceluth.org 803-364-3331

gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com Ministers: The People of Grace Pastor: Rev. Dave Adams pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com

Online Giving

Scan this symbol with your smartphone to be connected to our online giving page.



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION US POSTAGE PAID PROSPERITY SC PERMIT NO. 7

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

January Highlights



Due Jan. 15

Year-End Reports From Ministry Team Chairs, Fund Treasurers and Other Leaders

&

Updates for People of Grace Telephone, Email, and Mailing address for your family



Jan. 7, 14, 21, & 28 School of Religion 7 - 9p.m.



Youth GYM Time Sunday, Jan. 26

Noon - 1:30 p.m. Faith, fellowship, fun, and food!