



Grace Abounds

June 2024

Grace Lutheran Church
A Center of Mission and Ministry—Celebrating and Sharing God's Grace!



What the Preschoolers Taught Me

For more than two years now I have had the privilege of leading our preschoolers in chapel on Tuesday mornings. The normal pattern is for the “twos” to come together at one time and the “threes and fours” to come at a different time. At first, it was all a struggle for me. All my school teaching experience had been at the middle and high school levels. Communicating with and connecting to younger ones had not been something I was accustomed to; but over the months and years, I grew to cherish this time with them. Admittedly, the best I ever learned to do with the “twos” was sing *Jesus Loves Me* and have a little prayer, but even that became holy ground time. With the closing program and graduation nights of last week (May 13 and 14), my chapel time with them has ended. A newly called pastor will lead them in chapel next year and my prayer is that she or he will grow as much as I have.

My growth has come in various ways, but recently three little theologians have spoken powerful words of wisdom. You have heard all three of their “sermons” in my sermons, but I want to list them out for you again because I think they are guiding words of wisdom for life.

First sermon: I called him Oscar, after our puppet that also attends chapel. It was St. Jude Trike Day and I didn't think they would want to go back inside the sanctuary for chapel so we just sat down outside for a song and a prayer. But little two-year old Oscar looked at me with sad eyes and said, “But I want to go in the church with you for chapel.” Sermon One: Going in the church for chapel where God invites us to be – every Sunday.

Second sermon: In chapel one day I asked them, “What makes you strong?” “Vegetables... fruit...sleep...play” came the answers. “What makes us strong in the Lord?” “Chapel... prayers...songs...offerings” came the answers. All correct. But as they lined up to go back to their classrooms, a four-year-old pulled on my arm and pointing at the cross hanging in our chancel he said, “I know what makes us strong in the Lord. Just keep your eyes on the cross.” What better words to guide us in living as Jesus calls us to live than these? Sermon two: Just keep your eyes on the cross.

Third sermon: “What's that?” “Our baptismal font.” How do you get in there? What a challenge this little one offered up. How do we get into our baptismal clothes and live out our baptismal vows? It's simple! Just remember that it is through baptism that we are named and claimed as a child of God and equipped by the gift of the Holy Spirit to be God's faithful people. Sermon three: Jump into your baptismal clothes head first!

Worship regularly...Keep your eyes on the cross always....and wear your baptismal clothes daily. I can't think of anything else that would make us more Christ-like. And that, after all, is what we're called to be – “little Christs” for the sake of the world.

Thank you, my preschoolers, for teaching me well.

I love you, *Pastor Jane*





JUNE Birthdays

- 2 - David Luther, Angela Mercer
- 4 - Everett Crafts, Sadie Epting
- 7 - Wendy Long
- 8 - Hanna Renwick
- 9 - Eddie Rivers, Bailey Stewart
- 12 - Ben Long, Ronda Mewbourn
- 13 - Grace Eldridge
- 15 - Donna Jacobs
- 16 - Easton Griffin, Lynn Wicker
Pastor Jane
- 18 - Paula Pridgen
- 19 - Hunter Hall, Melodie Waters
- 20 - Lewis Bedenbaugh
- 22 - McKenna Shealy
- 27 - Corey Fowler
- 30 - Billy George, Brianna Stewart



JUNE Baptisms

- 2 - Megan Templeton
- 5 - Robert Neel
- 7 - Jimmy Braswell
- 8 - Caroline Dominick
- 9 - Georgie Riley
- 11 - Andy Metz
- 13 - Kris Lindler,
Mike Whitlock
- 15 - Thomas Dawkins
- 17 - Cody Dominick
- 18 - Camryn Long
- 20 - Michael Derrick,
Hayden Hall,
Lillie Waters
- 24 - Ally Nelson
- 30 - James Derrick

Recognizing Our Grace Graduates

Congratulations to each of our graduates. May God bless each of you in all of your future endeavors.

Zach Frick graduated from USC Saturday May 4 with a degree in chemical engineering and a minor in business.

Jayden Mitchell is graduating from Mid-Carolina High School. He will be going to Piedmont Tech to become a radiology technician.

Daniel Moore is graduating from Mid-Carolina High School. He will be going to welding school.




JUNE Anniversaries

- 1 - Bob and Heather Harris (33rd)
- 4 - Ronnie and Paula Pridgen (36th)
- 5 - *Ralph and Andrea Lewis +*
- 10 - Perry and Georgie Riley (68th)
- 11 - *Jerry and Lisa Vaughn +*
- 11 - Steve and Edith Bedenbaugh (36th)
- 11 - Taylor and Alison Metz (2nd)
- 19 - Craig and Susanne Nelson (26th)
- 21 - *David and Edna Riley +*
- 25 - Maria and Jonathan Morgan (8th)
- 26 - Bryan and Jeanna Hall (25th)
- 28 - Billy and Rhonda Ackerman (16th)
- + *Memorial Anniversary*

Grace People in the News

Bailey Stewart has been honored as a NFCA All-American Student Athlete for the 2023-24 academic year. To receive this honor, a student athlete must maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher for the year. USC Union, SC proudly announced that 11 members of the Lady Bantam Softball Team earned this honor. Congratulations Bailey!

Jaxon Wessinger received an award in Math and earned Honor Roll.

Raelynn Wessinger received awards in Math and Reading, earned Principal's Honor Roll, and was a Library helper. She was also selected to participate in GT music and PE this year.

Congratulations to the Shealy Family!

AnnaGrace Emryn Shealy arrived May 10 at 1:45 p.m. weighing 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20" long. We are so happy for parents Christopher and Sarah; her big brother Myer; and Grandparents Dale and Julie Shealy. We pray God's blessings on this little one and her family!



May Honorariums & Memorials

Gifts to the Current Budget Fund

- In loving memory of Valerie Reed's father by Edwina Wicker
- In loving memory of Valerie Reed's father by Emmett Wicker
- In loving memory of Bill Ackerman by Ackerman's Used Parts, Inc.
- In honor of Judy Bedenbaugh by her neighbor, George Hipp
- In loving memory of David Riley by
 - Kathy Boland
 - Kim and Susan Boland
 - Andy Boland
 - Phil & Deborah Ruff
 - Georgie Riley
 - Michael, Holly & Sara Elizabeth Wessinger
 - Kelly & Kathy Cooper
 - The Kevin Wicker Family
 - Edwina Wicker
 - Emmett Wicker
 - Judy Bedenbaugh
 - Steven Jackson- CR Jackson, Inc.
 - Kim & John Uhas
 - Buck Black
 - Mike Shealy
 - Beverly Hawkins
 - Faye Hartman
 - Wade & Sally Dominick
 - Dale, Julie, Jessica & Matthew Shealy
 - Brad & Melodie Waters
 - James Ramsey
 - Andrea Lewis
 - SC D.O.T

Gifts to the Maintenance Fund

- In honor of Judy Bedenbaugh on Mother's Day by Brian & Amy Rossett
- In loving memory of Raymond Paul Wright by Bob & Heather Harris
- In celebration of paying off the Building Loan by Bob & Heather Harris
- In loving memory of David Riley by
 - George Dawkins, Jr.
 - Bob & Heather Harris
 - James & Nancy Derrick
 - Larry & Lynn Wessinger
 - The Adult Sunday School Class at Grace
 - Brian & Amy Rossett
 - Eugene & Donna Jacobs

Gifts to the Community Service Fund

In loving memory of David Riley by Henry Black

Gifts to the Wicker Campership Fund

In loving memory of Valerie Reed's father by Judy Bedenbaugh



Grace Prayer List

Grace Family: Chop Cooper, Marysue Rivers; David Eldridge; Evelyn Harmon; Pastor Al Potter; Cissie & Bob Dibble; Glenda & Everett Crafts; Heather & Bob Harris; Faye Hartman; Lois Amick.

Residential Care: Sadie Epting (*Springfield Place, Rm.11*); Allene Dawkins (*Springfield Place, Unit 4 Rm.207*); Wendy and Michael Riley (*J.F. Hawkins, Rm. 221*).

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

Extended Family: Chase Wessinger; James Michael Torrence (*Jeanna Hall's brother*); Libby & Billy Bedenbaugh; Grey Westbury (*Sue Mitchell's great-niece*); Broko Boland (*Melodie Waters' cousin*).

Military: Staff SGT. Anderson Dibble (*Marines/ Stone Bay, NC- The Dibble's granddaughter*); Everett Crafts V (*Air Force/Guam - Glenda/Everett Craft's grandson*); Walker Eldridge (*USCG/ Seattle, WA*).

Community: Landon Soper; Amy Frick Wicker; Davida Monsanto; Violet Wilmot; Mary Lawson; Pastor William & Karen Hightower; Brian Cassady.

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



To add or remove a name from the Prayer List, please contact the office at 803-364-3331, leave us a note, or email us at: gracelutherenproperty@gmail.com.

Serving in June

Assisting Ministers

- 2 Sally Dominick
- 9 Allie Waters
- 16 Teresa Cooper
- 23 Johnny Merck
- 30 Ronnie Cromer

Altar Greenery/Flowers

- 2 —
- 9 —
- 16 Melodie Waters
- 23 —
- 30 —

Livestream Operators

- 2 George Dawkins
- 9 Brad Waters
- 16 David Luther
- 23 Mike Whitlock
- 30 Jessica Shealy

Acolyte

Lillie Waters

Communion Assistant

Jessica Shealy

Communion Preparation

Deborah Ruff

Communion Clean up

Judy Bedenbaugh & Andrea Lewis

Ushers

David Luther, Linda & Ronnie Cromer,
Robert Martin, Mike Shealy

Greeters

Beverly Merck, Lynn Wessinger

Offering Tabulators

Dale & Julie Shealy,
Judy Bedenbaugh, Emmett Wicker

Altar Guild Deborah Ruff

Pew Helper Beverly Hawkins

Front Sign Edwina Wicker

Sanctuary Lamp Sponsor

During the month of June the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in loving honor of her siblings Anna Sease, Emmett Wicker, and Kevin Wicker by Edwina Wicker.



Altar Flowers

A number of Sundays are still available. Please sign up on the chart on the narthex bulletin board or contact the church office to reserve a date.

Stewardship Program

This Fall we will be participating in a stewardship program, *Building a Culture of Generosity*, led by Michael Ward, in partnership with the SC Synod. If you have knowledge or desire to participate in a virtual training session this August, please contact George Dawkins or any council member as soon as possible. We hope to have five members from the congregation to participate in the training. Each will receive adaptable materials, guidance, and clear tactics for sharing information about Grace's ministry. We need you!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

| | Sanctuary | * Online | Total |
|------|-----------|----------|-------|
| 5/05 | 60 | 18 | 78 |
| 5/12 | 50 | 16 | 66 |
| 5/19 | 66 | 14 | 80 |
| 5/26 | 54 | 16 | 70 |



| | |
|------|----|
| 5/05 | 22 |
| 5/12 | 27 |
| 5/19 | 31 |
| 5/26 | 22 |

Our Offerings for May

Through May 26

(Does not include May EFTs)

MINISTRY BUDGET Our Monthly Need: \$13,634

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Given during month..... | 7,522.00 |
| Given year-to-date..... | 44,151.55 |
| Goal through May 26..... | 68,170.00 |

MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP FUND

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Given during month | 1,754.00 |
| Given year-to-date..... | 13,667.94 |

PARSONAGE FUND

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Given during month..... | 0.00 |
| Given year-to-date | 0.00 |
| Fund Balance, May 26 | 4,640.38 |

SUNDAY SCHOOL

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Given during month | 145.00 |
| Given year-to-date | 579.00 |

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Given during month | 0.00 |
| Given year-to-date | 0.00 |

CAMPERSHIP FUND

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Given during month | 25.00 |
| Given year-to-date | 50.69 |

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Community Assistance..... | 25.00 |
| Given year-to-date | 125.00 |
| Bookbag Food Ministry | 0.00 |
| Given year-to-date | 210.10 |
| Thanksgiving Meal | 0.00 |
| Given year-to-date | 0.00 |
| Total year-to-date | 335.10 |

SPECIAL 2024 OFFERINGS YTD

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Scholarship Fund Match 2023 | 386.38 |
| Lenten Offering | 698.12 |
| Youth | 25.69 |
| Disaster Response | 0.00 |
| Souper Bowl (Feed Thy Neighbor) | 326.51 |
| Easter Lilies | 231.00 |
| Love Offering (Henricks Family) | 960.00 |
| Bereavement Meal Fund | 0.00 |
| Christian Schools | 0.00 |
| Love Offering (Torrence Family) | 1,772.00 |

BUDGET Update

MINISTRY BUDGET

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Needed Thru May 26: | \$ 68,170.00 |
| Given thru May 26: | \$ 44,151.55 |
| Amount Behind Goal: | \$ 24,018.45 |

Love Offering Bucket

Our April/May love offering collection was for Michael Torrence and his family. As you know, Michael has endured two major brain surgeries along with some negative side effects arising from both the surgeries and the brain tumor itself. The financial expenses are unimaginable. As of May 26th we have received a total of \$1,772.00!

Thank you to all of our Preschool parents, family, and friends who donated \$600 in offering for the Torrence family at the Preschool closing programs in May. This is included in our gift to the family. Please continue to pray for Michael and his family.



Summer Stewardship Reminder

Please don't forget your offerings if you are on vacation this summer. You can donate online at graceluth.org; mail in your offerings; or use the drop box by the front entrance.

Manna House Item Needed for June: Canned Tuna



June 18th is the deadline for the July 2024 Newsletter.

Council Meeting Minutes–Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Mrs. Deborah Ruff presented devotions.

All reports were adopted.

Call Committee asked that we continue to pray for them in the upcoming search for a new Pastor.

Begin finding members for Building a Culture of Generosity Campaign.

Brotherhood Mutual Representative will be at the June meeting to update us on our insurance policy.

Motion approved for Kids Unlimited to use Ministry Center on May 30th from 5-8.

Discussed updating job descriptions for all staff and contracted employees.

Mrs. Lynn Wessinger gave a Youth Team update. There will be a swimming party at Mrs. Deborah’s on Youth Sunday, June 2nd. A service project for June is Manna House and July service project is Feed Thy Neighbor. Fun Day scheduled at Crooked Creek or Splash Pad.

Successful burning of the Mortgage on May 5th!

VBS Team still meeting. Adult VBS Class will learn about the Gospel according to Simon Burch.

Current Fund Treasurer, roof, and parsonage discussed.

Mike Whitlock to clean up Pastor’s office for new Pastor.

Voted to keep Women of the Church/ELCA Fund separate.

Shepherding concerns mentioned.

Next meeting will be June 11th at 6:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Candace Frick

Council Secretary



April Financial Reports

| | <u>Balance, 4/1</u> | <u>Received</u> | <u>Disbursed</u> | <u>Balance, 4/30</u> | <u>Additional Information</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Current/Budget Fund | \$ 54,318.15 | \$ 11,290.78 | \$ 14,017.45 | \$ 51,591.48 | \$ 11,218.68 CD |
| Maintenance Fund | \$ 49,412.09 | \$ 1,819.21 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 51,231.30 | n/a |
| Sunday School Account | \$ 3,229.64 | \$ 157.00 | \$ 71.05 | \$ 3,315.59 | n/a |
| Christian Schools Acct. | \$ 20,042.90 | \$ 6,989.17 | \$ 6,100.66 | \$ 20,031.41 | n/a |
| CS Educational Fund | \$ 5,809.43 | \$ 657.00 | \$ 824.37 | \$ 5,642.06 | n/a |

Current Fund Balance does not include designated monies for the LED Bulb Fund (\$534.37); Bereavement Meal Fund (\$1,470.55); Choir Fund (\$325) or Sydney Shealy Memorial Gift (\$307.74) contained within the Current Fund Checking Account. **Maintenance Fund balance does not include Parsonage Fund (\$4,640.38) contained within the Maintenance Fund Checking Account. It does include \$31,582.64 given for Roof Repair only.

june 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------|
| | |  | | | | 1 |
| 2 Youth Sunday Breakfast- 9:15 am Sunday School- 9:30 am Worship - 10:30 am  | 3 | 4 | 5 6pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 6 | 7 | 8 SC Synod Assembly On-line |
| 9 Breakfast- 9:15 am Sunday School- 9:30 am Worship - 10:30 am | 10 | 11 6:30 pm Council Meeting | 12 6pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 13 | 14 FLAG DAY  | 15 |
| 16 Fathers Day Breakfast- 9:15 am Sunday School- 9:30 am Worship - 10:30 am | 17 Newsletter Articles Due VBS all week 6/17-21 6-8pm | 18 | 19 6pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 20 1st Day of Summer  | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Breakfast- 9:15 am Sunday School- 9:30 am Worship - 10:30 am ===== 30 ↓ | 24 | 25 | 26 Newsletter Team 9:30am 6pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir | 27 | 28  | 29 |

YOUTH GROUP News

Thanks for supporting our youth!

Thank you to Dale and Julie Shealy for preparing our delicious May GYM Time meal of hamburgers and hotdogs and to Mike Shealy and Lynn Wessinger for helping make sure we had plenty of drinks, chips, and cookies to go with the meal!

Youth Sunday

Grace Youth will lead the June 2 worship service as we observe Youth Sunday for the first time in seven years. Youth will read the lessons, lead our music, and serve in other leadership roles as ushers, greeters, and communion assistants. We will have a run-through of the Youth Sunday worship service during Sunday School that morning. Please plan to be a part of this special Sunday.

Youth Pool Party

Youth Sunday worship will be followed by a swim party at the home of Deborah and Phil Ruff. We will have pizza for lunch. Everyone is asked to bring a dessert or side dish to share. If you have a favorite drink, bring that too and bring a friend! We look forward to seeing everyone for a fun time after church. Thank you to Deborah and Phil for hosting! If you have any questions, you can contact Lynn Wessinger, Mike Shealy, Jessica Shealy, or Andy and Kim Metz.

Youth at VBS

While our monthly GYM Time will be on a break for the summer, we encourage our Youth to participate in Grace's Vacation Bible School June 17-21. Those ages 12 and up are needed to serve a group assistants and station helpers. Those under 12 are invited to participate as students.

Youth to volunteer at Manna House

We will be volunteering on Tuesday, June 18! Be on the lookout for more information!



Sunday, June 2 Youth Sunday

9:30 a.m.—Youth Sunday Practice
10:30 a.m.—Youth Sunday Worship
After Worship—Youth Pool Party

Monday, 6/17—Friday, 6/21

6-8 p.m.—Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, June 18

Youth volunteer at Manna House

June & July

Summer break for GYM Time



At Grace Youth Ministry's GYM Time in May the Youth enjoyed lunch, played a game, talked about the Holy Spirit during our devotion time, and looked ahead at our upcoming youth events in June.



Youth, your input is wanted!

Do you have something you would like us to do as part of our monthly GYM Time? Maybe a game you'd like us to play or something to talk or learn about? There is now a suggestion box in the Youth Room! It will be there through the summer so we can try to implement some of your ideas in the fall. All suggestions are welcome!



VBS June 17-21 6-8pm

Are you ready? It's almost that time and we are looking forward to a great week. Children ages through 5th grade. And 6th grade and up will be helpers. An Adult Class is also planned. The movie, "The Gospel According to Simon Birch" will be shown in the adult class. Johnny Merck will lead the discussion of the themes of the story, faith, and destiny. Discussion will also tie the movie into seasons of the church year. Remember to register! Please sign up on the board across from

the office if you can help that week. Registration is open online at myvbs.org/graceprosperity. Printed registration forms are available on the board across from the office.

Food Donations Needed for VBS Meals

Can you help with our VBS meals by donating food items? There are opportunities to provide purchased items like chips and cookies or prepared food like spaghetti sauce or mac 'n' cheese. A sign up sheet is on the board across from the office window. If you have questions contact Mike Shealy or Julie Shealy, VBS meal coordinators.

Monetary donations to VBS are also welcome and will be used to help with the cost of food for meals, craft supplies, decorations, and other expenses that may be incurred. VBS envelopes are on the bulletin table or use any envelope and mark it "VBS."

ON-LINE BULLETINS

IN THE MAIL . . .

Dear Church Family,

We can't express our gratitude enough for the many acts of kindness shown to us during the life and passing of our loved one. Prayers answered, memories shared, kind words spoken or a hug and smile along the way will always be remembered. We are thankful God blessed us with the gift of sharing life with our beloved, David Riley. He brought many hours of laughter and joy to all of us!

We are blessed to be part of God's Family here at Grace Lutheran Church.

Edna Riley and Family

Dear Grace Church,

Thank you for your prayers, kind words, cards, and the beautiful plant you sent for my father's funeral. I deeply appreciate it all. Grace is such a loving church!

Sincerely, Valerie Reed

Did you know that a copy of the Sunday bulletin is posted each week on Grace's Facebook page? If bulletins are running short, you can use your phone to access the online bulletin and follow along with the service. So if you see a person staring at their phone during worship, they might be looking at the online bulletin.



Grace Christian Preschool celebrated the end of its 24th year with closing programs on May 13th and 14th. A total of 258 family members attended these special occasions. The programs were also livestreamed on Grace's Facebook page. And they collected \$600 in offering to go to the Michael Torrence love offering!

We give thanks for the leadership and love provided by our Preschool staff this year: Director and teacher Robin Romano, and all of the other amazing teachers and of course, our dedicated Administrator, Chop Cooper.



Grace Lutheran Church
 210 Grace St.
 P.O. Box 188 (Mailing Address)
 Prosperity, SC 29127
 Graceluth.org
 803-364-3331

Gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com

Ministers: The People of Grace

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jane P. Mitcham

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

Coming Up at Grace



June 2

SC Synod Assembly June 8

Voting members from Grace will meet together to participate online this year.



South
 Carolina
 Synod
 Assembly
 2024

Like Good Stewards

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10



"Camp Firelight" VBS

June 17-21

6-8pm Monday-Friday

Registration is open online at:

myvbs.org/graceprosperity

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



**DON'T TAKE A
 VACATION
 FROM CHURCH**