

### Ministry in Motion

The apostle Paul penned a powerful doxology in Romans 11:33-36 when he wrote:

*“Oh, the depth of the riches of wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable his judgments,  
and his paths beyond tracing out!  
“Who has known the mind of the Lord?  
Or has been his counselor?”  
“Who has ever given to God,  
that God should repay them?”  
“For from him and through him and for him are all things.  
To him be the glory forever! Amen.”*

#### Inside this issue:

From the Desk of Pastor Andrew, Principal's Corner, CDC Happenings, Youth Activities, Mission Grants	3-10
Grow Opportunities	11
Outreach Connections	12-13
Connection Groups	14-15
Saints Alive	16-17
Stephen Ministry	18
Announcements	19-23
Contact Info/Staff & Lay Leadership	24

This doxology is a powerful reminder that God is in control of all things, and when life, elections, careers, family struggles, homework, parental fears, and big projects pile up and become a source of alarm and anxiety, remember that “...from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.” With that doxological foundation, here are some important ministry updates.

#### Election Day 2024

Election Day is soon approaching. Next week on Tuesday, November 5th, people throughout our nation will go to the polls and cast their ballots in a presidential election and many other elections that are pivotal for the governing of our nation. In fact, many have already participated in early voting. Psalm 146:3 reminds us, “Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.” But Romans 13:1 tells us, “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” The governing authority that exists over the United States has been instituted by God, and that governing authority gives the people a say in determining their leaders. In this way, for Christians, voting is not merely a right, it is a holy vocation. With Election Day drawing near, I wanted to share the following short article written by Seminary Professor Dr. Joel Biermann on *Religion and Politics*. I believe it provides a helpful perspective as we go to the voting booth. [Beyond the Booth](#)

### **Principal Call Process**

We ask for your continued prayers for our Principal Call Process. As the Call Committee has been faithfully and prayerfully working to identify the next principal to lead Grace Lutheran School, we are thankful to have a candidate who will be visiting Grace for an on-site visit and interview. Grace Stearns will be with us November 15-17, including worshipping with us on November 17. On that Sunday, we will hold fellowship in the gym in between services to give you a chance to meet her. We give thanks to God for His Spirit's guidance over our Call Process, and pray that He continues to bless and direct our process.

### **Master Facility Plan**

Our Master Plan Committee is looking forward to another presentation meeting with Fuqua & Partners Architects on Monday, November 4th. At that meeting additional concepts will be shared with the committee, and we are hopeful that after reviewing these additional concepts the committee will be ready to host some town hall presentations where plans will be presented, questions answered, feedback received, and next steps determined. We continue to praise God for the opportunities to spread His Word in the Huntsville community, and pray for His blessing on the careful planning and strategizing for how to be good stewards with the opportunities that He is placing before us.

### **The Depth of the Riches**

Paul wrote, *"Oh the depth of the riches of wisdom and knowledge of God!"* Later this month, we will celebrate Thanksgiving. It is a time to reflect on the magnitude of God's blessings to us, and two of those great blessings Paul cites in his Romans 11 doxology – the wisdom of God and knowledge of God. These two blessings, wisdom of God and knowledge of God, are not blessings that we earned or discovered on our own. These two blessings are gifts given to us by a God who loves and provides for us. Sometimes we are tempted to think of riches in terms of material wealth or worldly possessions, but God has shown his generosity to us by making us rich in His wisdom and rich in knowledge of Him. Be grateful for the riches that are ours in Christ Jesus!

In Christ,

Pastor Russ



*Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him... When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.*

*-John 13:1-3, 12-15*

These last few weeks during Sunday School, I've had the opportunity to teach the confirmation class. We've been talking about discipleship, and a big focus of the class has been on being a balanced disciple of Jesus. In last month's Grace Notes, I touched on this idea and how we develop disciples of Jesus through the lenses of Worship, Grow, and Engage.

Throughout the gospels, each writer gives us an amazing picture of what a life of discipleship looks like. Being a disciple of Jesus is to imitate him and follow him. As people who have been baptized and redeemed by Jesus' death on the cross, we live this new resurrected life! What an amazing gift! Jesus shows us how to live by being a servant, using his hands to care for the Other. How better than to see how our Lord demonstrates discipleship than through the events of Maundy Thursday? *"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do just as I have done to you"* (John 13: 14-15). In being a disciple of Jesus, we walk in the places he is leading us in; we follow his example, and we use our hands to serve the Other.

So where is Jesus leading us to be his hands and feet to serve the Other? Recently, the events of hurricanes Helene and Milton left a trail of disaster throughout the southeast. I have been asked if Grace is sending a team to assist in relief efforts. I am currently talking with the Southern District about coordinating a LERT (Lutheran Emergency Response Team) training here at Grace in January. Following the training, we will then deploy a team to go and Engage where the Lord is leading us. For those of you ages 14 and up, I invite you to prayerfully consider if God is calling you to Engage in service in this way.

Where else is Jesus calling this congregation to serve? The Over the Mountain Guntersville community has partnered with First Stop here in Huntsville and recently served lunch to their clients. It was a wonderful opportunity to Engage with those in Huntsville in need of a hot meal. Our two large trays of pulled pork were enjoyed in less than an hour. Smiles were an easy sight to find and the conversation that was shared helped shine the light of Jesus.

How is Jesus calling you into a deeper life of balanced discipleship? Where is Jesus calling you to follow his example of washing feet, using your hands, and Engaging in Service?

-Pastor Andrew



# PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

## November 2024 Edition

Looking back at October - Wow! What a busy month it was!

**Field Trips Galore:** Almost all of our classes took advantage of the beautiful fall weather to take field trips. Classes visited farms, apple orchards, pumpkin patches, the art museum, and Huntsville Utilities.



**Fun Run:** The Fun Run wrapped up with a few final celebrations. After raising over **\$31,000.00**, the top students got to dunk Pastor Russ, Pastor Andrew, and Mrs. Schiestel in the dunk tank. Then everyone got to silly string the three of us. Thank you, Pastor Russ & Pastor Andrew, for your involvement and willingness to do goofy things for the kids in the school! Thank you also to everyone who helped meet this fundraising goal for the PTL, which will support the teachers, students, and school for this coming year!



**Mid-South/Southern District Teacher's Conference:** The K - 8th grade teachers attended the Mid-South Teachers' Conference in Memphis earlier this month. The theme was Rally Together – encouraging us as teachers to come together and support one another in our ministry to God. Breakout sessions covering healthy relationships, beneficial conversations, and use of technology, including AI, were attended by Grace's staff.



**Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Teachers met with parents during the Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences. These meetings give teachers the opportunity to partner with parents as they share each child's strengths and opportunities for growth. Partnering with parents is one way that Grace's staff helps to grow each child and support our families.

**Fall Celebrations:** The month wrapped up with two Fall Celebrations – the Fall Fun Day and PTL's Harvest Festival. For the Fall Fun Day, students and staff wore costumes to school for the morning's costume parade, then their fall class parties took place in the afternoon. On **Friday, October 25th**, the PTL hosted their Harvest Festival. Families from the church, school, CDC, and the community participated in fun games and activities, a costume contest, and the ever-popular Cake Walk. The 7th & 8th grade students hosted concessions as a fundraiser for their marine biology class trip to Dauphin Island in the spring. Everyone had a great time! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make this event a success.



### Looking ahead:

**Alabama Choose Act:** We are working on the paperwork to enroll Grace Lutheran as an approved educational service provider. This will allow for selected students to spend designated education dollars toward a private school education. Additional information can be found at the AL Department of Revenue [website](#).

**Preparing for Enrollment Season:** The enrollment season for the 2025-26 school year is just about to start. In November, families new to Grace start booking tours and appointments to learn about all we have to offer. Please spread the word about our amazing school to those you know in the Huntsville/ North Alabama community!

Also, please continue to pray for the school. Pray that God will bless the relationships and the education that continue this year. Pray that God will call and send new students and families to Grace so that we can share the Good News with them as well. May God bless our service to Him in this community!

Blessings,

Delaine Schiestel

# CDC HAPPENINGS

## November 2024 Edition

The CDC is still growing! In October, we welcomed 6 new families! We are so thankful to be adding to the Grace family and getting the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with them! *So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily. - Acts 16:5*

In October, Huntsville Fire and Rescue visited the CDC. They showed us the fire truck and all of their gear. They taught us that firemen are not scary in their fire gear! Spoiled Rotten Photography came and took the cutest pictures of our students. The parents were so pleased and we raised over **\$500** through our partnership. We collected donations for hurricane victims and were able to deliver **30 boxes and bags of food and clothing**, as well as **\$200** that went straight to Samaritan's Purse. We were proud to welcome back CJ Neidhamer, a CDC military dad from deployment. He and his wife have 3 little ones in our CDC. Our PS3 classes enjoyed an amazing Harvest Fest, and the entire CDC had so much fun on Costume Day. We have truly been enjoying all the fun of fall and the cooler weather!

**Looking ahead:** In November, we will be celebrating Veterans Day. We are blessed to be able to take a moment to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. Spoiled Rotten Photography will return to take Christmas pictures for those who sign up. We are excited to have them back! Finally, we will end the month with Thanksgiving. We are so excited to get to spend some much-needed time with our families. We have so much to be thankful for!

Thanks be to God!

Jessica McGuire





# Youth Activities



## Ladies of Grace Mission Grants

Ladies of Grace President, Lynn Harmon, presented \$300 checks to four of the 2024-25 Mission Grant recipients on October 27th. Those receiving Mission Grant checks are:

- **Nicholas Harbison**, attending Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne. His parents, Kirk and Amber James accepted his check.
- **Sara Broach**, enrolled online at Concordia Seward for her master’s degree. She is currently Grace Lutheran School’s 2nd Grade teacher.
- **Elizabeth Reeves**, enrolled online at Concordia St. Paul for her master’s degree. She is currently Grace Lutheran School’s Kindergarten teacher.
- **Suds-N-Buds Ministry**, a local ministry of The Episcopal Church of the Nativity’s Reverend Rose Veal-Eaby and Grace’s Deaconess Karen Davidson that provides laundry availability to Huntsville’s homeless. Deaconess Karen Davidson accepted the check.

Grace Lutheran is fortunate to have three members currently enrolled at LCMS Concordia institutions. To God be the Glory! Please remember these students and the local ministry in your prayers.



# GROW - BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

November 2024 Edition



## Bible Studies Topics – November 2024

### Sunday Morning Children and Youth

- Infant—Pre-K (Church Nursery) – Creation and Covenant
- K—4th (Genesis Room) – Creation and Covenant
- 5th and 6th Grade (School Library) – Bible Characters: Jesus
- Confirmation (Room 106) – Discipleship
- High School (Youth Room) – Book of Acts

### Sunday Morning Communities

- Quarter Life Questers (Room 202) - Culture Conversations
- Figuring It Out (Room 203) – Living in the Daze of Deception
- Balancing Act (School Band Room) – Mere Christianity
- Tug of War (Room 204) – Digitized: Spiritual Implications of Technology
- Discovering Together (Room 209) – Upper Room Discourse

### Sunday Morning Bible Studies

- From the Heart of Matthew (Cafeteria)
- Angels (Assembly Room)
- Bible for Non-Native English Speakers (Room 208) – Job

### Bible Studies During the Week

- Digging Deeper (Wednesday at 6:30 PM in the Assembly Room) – Revelation
- Women’s Bible Study (Monday at 1:00 PM in the Church Library) – Justification and Sanctification by Good News Magazine
- Women’s Bible Study (Tuesday at 9:30 AM in the Church Library) – Promised Rest by Michelle Diercks
- Men’s Bible Study (2nd Saturday at 7:30 AM in the School Cafeteria) – Facing Disaster Like a Man
- Ladies of Grace Circles (3rd Tuesday at 9:30 AM in the Church Library and Choir Room) - Topic Varies

# OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

November 2024 Edition



## LOCAL MISSION ENGAGE CONNECTIONS

Grace Lutheran has developed a relationship with **McDonnell Elementary School** (4010 Binderton Place, Huntsville, AL 35805). We have been advocates for the school and open to responding to needs as they are shared with us. We are still stocking their Little Library with children’s books. The library has been moved nearer to the school building as it was knocked down twice recently. **We have a need for children’s books, activity books, and basic school supplies.** You can support this project by contributing gently used children’s books or providing such items as commercially wrapped individual snacks (examples: Cheez-It crackers, Lance sandwich crackers, Rice Krispy or granola bars). Books and school supplies along with food supplies may be placed in the chest in the church narthex. Thanks for your generous support as you respond in the love of Jesus.



**First Stop** encounters the homeless where they are, connects them to critical services and support, and empowers them toward independent sustainable living. So far this year, the First Stop team has successfully assisted 53 individuals from homelessness to independent, sustainable living. These are 53 people who are no longer living on the street but are sleeping in the safety and comfort of their own homes.

**First Stop relies on volunteer support to provide hot meals twice a day at the temporary facility location – 2820 Governors Drive.**

### Volunteer Tips for providing meals:

- Meals should serve 80-100 people. Prepare food for 80 people! **3-4 servers** are needed to serve the meal.
- Provide food that is already prepared and only needs to be heated. No cooking, please.
- We serve Breakfast and Lunch, Monday through Friday. Breakfast meals are to delivered to **First Stop** by 7:45 AM and lunch meals by no later than 11:15 AM.
- Breakfast is served from 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM.
- Lunch is served from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.



For more information, **contact Karen Davidson!**

# OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

November 2024 Edition

## ACTS Ministry



**ACTS** (Actively Caring, Tenderly Serving) Ministry has been redefined. We have a new email address which is **ACTS@gracelutheran-hsv.org** that can be used to volunteer to support **ACTS** activities or to request specific help/support. Please respond to let us know how you desire to participate and help this ministry on an occasional basis.

We now have five coordinators in place to support the ACTS Ministry via Grace Lutheran:

- **Pam Lowe** (Hospitality - Meal trains, potlucks, etc.)
- **Mairlyn Johnson** (Cards - Those ill or recovering/birthdays, etc.)
- **Kathy Cook** (Visits/Calls - Friendly calls, friendly visits)
- **Bill Duncan** (Transportation - Pickups and appointments)
- **Rusty Graves** (House/Yard Work - Technology help, lawn, repairs)

If you know of someone who can benefit, or if you have a particular need for yourself, let us know the need by calling the church office. Call and ask for extension **347** to leave your message. If calling after hours, please select option 7 and you can leave a voicemail.

### Volunteer Support:

- Sending cards to homebound and those on our care list.
- Checking in by phone with individuals on our care list.
- Visiting those in need, primarily our homebound.
- Providing meals - Case by case, but normally for an illness or coping with a health condition.
- Errand/driving support - Pick up a prescription or groceries, take someone to a medical appointment.
- Helping someone with a technology equipment issue.
- Miscellaneous - Mowing a yard, shrubbery care, cleaning up a kitchen, or whatever a family member might need.

### Help Request:

- I would appreciate a friendly visit.
- I have a need for meals.
- I need help with someone to pick up items (i.e. groceries or prescription).
- I need help to get to a medical appointment.
- I need help with upkeep of my lawn/shrubbery.
- I need help with technology use and equipment.
- I need help with a repair in my home (list): \_\_\_\_\_

It is our intent to share needs as they arise with the ACTS Ministry volunteers. You choose which activity you want to respond to and help!

Please join us in prayer as together we seek to care to serve one another sharing the love of Jesus!

**CONNECT CARD** – You are encouraged to invite a friend, neighbor, or work colleague to visit our church’s website at [www.gracelutheran-hsv.org](http://www.gracelutheran-hsv.org) and complete a **CONNECT CARD**. The link is located on the lower part of the homepage. Persons completing the **CONNECT CARD** are added to our MailChimp list and receive the weekly e-mail from Pastor Russ with a link to our livestream worship service.

**Serving Persons Via Facebook:** Visit the **Grace Lutheran Ministries — Church & School** page on Facebook. Go to the page and “**LIKE**” the page (in the top section at the bottom left side of the cover page — not below the posted comment). Liking the Grace Lutheran page helps us to get information to your Facebook account!

# CONNECTION GROUPS

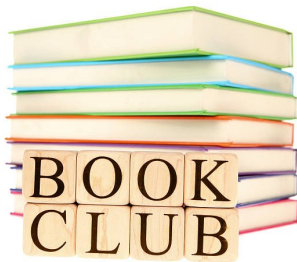
November 2024 Edition

## ARE YOU CONNECTED?

**Connection Groups (formerly called interest groups)** are a means of “building bridges” to connect with others (unchurched or dechurched) in your neighborhood or our community. It’s about building a group around a similar interest (hobby, craft, fun activity, sport, or just about anything else under the sun). The goal is to help connect persons to Christ, the church, and the community. Dream the possibilities and then explore the opportunity to set up a group that meets at least on a bi-weekly basis. Of course, you can choose to take breaks in the schedule as needed for holidays/summer vacation, etc. Grace Lutheran’s vision is to grow in being passionate servants. Organizing or leading a connection group is a means of being a passionate servant. Have you ever thought that you can be instrumental in connecting others around interests as a means of serving God?

Want to start your own group? Contact Kathryn Bradshaw or the church office. Not in a group? We encourage you to join one of our existing groups.

## Here is a listing of the current Connection Groups (Continued on next page)



**The Christian Book Club** meets in the church library at 10:00 AM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be **Wednesday, November 13th**, and we will be discussing *The Executioner’s Redemption* by Reverend Timothy Carter. Our next read is *Fascinating Stories of Forgotten Lives* by Charles Swindoll. If interested in attending, contact Karen Crout or the Church Office with any questions.

*Can't come to the Book Club? Books from our reading selections are also available in the church library. When you enter the library, go to the bookcase on the opposite wall (to the left of the window). You will find the books on the bottom two shelves. There is a sign indicating that these are Book Club books. **Feel free to take any of the books!***

**The Sew 'n Sews** meet on Mondays from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM in the Genesis Room.

We recently made a **HUGE** donation of quilts (all sizes), fleece lap quilts, pillowcases, and walker totes (37 items) to Diversecare, a nursing home between the main library and Huntsville Hospital. Lots of wonderful projects!

**No special skills needed! Come and join us!** Contact Harriett Kicklighter or the church office for more information.



# CONNECTION GROUPS (PAGE 2)

## November 2024 Edition



**A Bridge Group** meets once a month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday except in November and December (meeting instead on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday). This is party bridge – just for fun and friendship. If interested, contact Mary Jane Reumann or the church office for more information.

**Friday Afternoon Golf** is organized by Dennis Sierk and Phil Nelson. Time and place: The par 3 course at Hampton Cove every Friday afternoon. For more information, contact Dennis or Phil. Please note the following rules:

1. No score keeping.
2. If you don't like your shot, take another one.
3. If you don't like your lie, move it.
4. Refreshments in the clubhouse, afterward.



INTERESTED IN A LWML SMALL GROUP?

**Peace Circle**  
 3rd Tuesday | 9am | Genesis Room  
 Contact: [pamjons1@bellsouth.net](mailto:pamjons1@bellsouth.net)

**Hope Circle**  
 3rd Tuesday | 9am | Church Library  
 Contact: [crou@juno.com](mailto:crou@juno.com)

MITES COLLECTED ON 5TH SUNDAYS IN THE NARTHEX

# SAINTS ALIVE

## November 2024 Edition

**Saints Alive** is an adult organization within Grace Lutheran Ministries. The group is open to Grace Lutheran members and their friends. The organization hosts two activities each month on the first and third Wednesdays. September brings new activities for the group. Please consider joining us for one or both of the September outings. Always sign up on the sheets on the narthex easel. There is a little change for the sign-up sheets going forward. There will be two sheets, one will be for those riding the bus and the other for those who are planning to drive themselves. This just makes it easier for us to keep track of when the bus is full.

As we enter November, Saints Alive will continue to have activities twice during the month. We invite anyone to join us for the activities. We have a lot of fun, learn new things, and enjoy time in fellowship with other adults from our congregation and their guests.

**Please be aware that the sign-up easel has moved to the left side of the sanctuary doors in the narthex. It is easy to miss in its new location.** We need folks to sign up for each activity.

On **November 6th**, the Saints Alive will visit **Belle Mont Mansion** in Tuscumbia. Belle Mont is one of Alabama's crowning architectural achievements, one of a few Palladian-style houses in the Deep South. We'll see clues suggesting the influence of Thomas Jefferson. Admission is **\$6.00** for seniors & military. The bus will leave Grace at 8:45 AM. We will tour the mansion and grounds from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM. Lunch will follow at Claunch Café in Tuscumbia, and after lunch we will go to the **Key Underwood Coon Dog Memorial Graveyard**, the only such cemetery in the world. We will return to Grace by **4:00 PM**. Sabina Wank is the coordinator for this trip.





On **November 20th** we will have a presentation at the church. Our speaker will be **Dennis Madsen** who is **Huntsville's Manager of Urban & Long-Range Planning**. This city division is responsible for comprehensive plans that capture the vision of the community's future and outline the steps necessary for implementation. This is accomplished by observing trends in employment, population, and housing in order to determine the future growth and needs of the population. Mr. Madsen will give us an update on the growth of Huntsville and how it will impact housing, employment, transportation, and quality of life in the next decade. He will be happy to take questions after his presentation. The presentation begins at **10:00 AM** and will be held in the **Assembly Room** in the school building. You will need to enter through **Door B12** on the south side of the building. Park in the lot on the south side of the school building. Following the presentation we will go to lunch at the **Metro Diner** on Airport Road. David Schultz is the coordinator for this activity.



Finally, prepare to attend our December activity, which will be our annual **Christmas Luncheon** on **Thursday, December 5th** from **11:00 AM - 1:45 PM** at Valley Hill Country Club. The cost of the lunch will be **\$30.00** and payment will be due by **November 25th**. You can register and pay through the Church Center app or [here](#). We will meet on Thursday so that on Wednesday we are not too full after eating a big lunch to come to the Advent dinner before the first Advent service at church.

We look forward to having folks join us for the fun, information, and fellowship of these activities. For any questions, contact Donna Behnken.

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

November 2024 Edition



## Preparation

By Merle Trich

With the holidays fast approaching, it's full steam ahead with planning and preparation. Every year after the holidays, I find myself reflecting on why I didn't start preparing earlier. Some people begin planning in July for gifts to give at Christmas, and the stores order their merchandise in April or May to start displaying before Halloween! We begin to hear the question, "Are you ready for the holidays?"

We recently held an event, *Surviving the Holidays*, that presented ideas for those grieving the loss of someone close to them during the holidays. Grief encompasses death, but also so many other relationship losses in our lives. The primary focus was planning and preparing when you are grieving and may be feeling sad and lonely. We spoke about traditions, planning your response to questions about your loss, and responding to invitations.

We often have a checklist of all the events and things to do in preparation, but what about our spiritual checklist? The past few years at my house, holidays never seem to go as I planned. However, there is always the constant of Thanksgiving in November and celebrating Christmas, Christ's birth, in December. *We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.* - Proverbs 16:9

So, what does our spiritual preparation look like? Isn't it all, really, about God's plan? God planned and prepared His people for the miracle of Christ's birth. What would Jesus want for the celebration of His birthday? I think His gift list would include time with God in prayer, praise in song of his birth, worship and praise of the saving grace he gives to all who believe, giving our most valuable gifts to God, taking care of the poor and opening our hearts and homes to His people, and being the light to bring others to know Jesus.

*Therefore, preparing your minds for action and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* - 1 Peter 1:13

Are you prepared? He is preparing the perfect holidays for us, **if** we will slow down to give thanks, pray, and experience the miracle of Christ's birth.

### ***Are you ready for the holidays?***

If you are struggling during the holidays, Stephen Ministers are available to help. A Stephen Minister will reflect and listen as you seek God's grace and strength in your life. If you feel such a need, or you have any questions about Stephen Ministry at Grace, please contact Judy Zecher or Pastor Russ, to discuss your questions or desire to be assigned a Stephen Minister.

May God strengthen our Stephen Ministers as they serve and pray for members of our congregation and the community.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 2024 Edition



## Angels

Angels are all around us, even when we do not see them. They protect us and fight against the enemy. However, the image that our society portrays about angels is different from what the Bible teaches us. During the month of November, Craig Camealy will be leading a Bible study providing an in depth look into the reality of angels. Class starts on **November 3rd** in the Assembly Room at **9:30 AM**.



## Taco Mama Spirit Night

On **Thursday, November 7th**, you can support Grace Lutheran School by ordering dinner at **Taco Mama** in Jones Valley from **4:00 PM – 8:00 PM**. Just mention Grace Lutheran Spirit Night and a portion of the proceeds from the day will be donated to the PTL for the School.

## Upcoming Junior High Youth Activity

The junior high youth are invited for an evening of fun and fellowship at **Top Golf** on **Friday, November 8th** at **6:30 PM**. This event is open to students in 5th through 8th grade. Cost will be \$10 per person. Please sign up [here](#) by **Tuesday, November 5th**, so reservations can be made.

## Thanksgiving Baskets



We will be joining with several other Lutheran churches in Huntsville to put together Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need. This year we are collecting 100 boxes of stuffing, 100 jars of gravy, and 200 boxes of Mac and Cheese. We especially need more jars of gravy. Please bring all items to the treasure chest in the narthex by **Sunday, November 10th**.

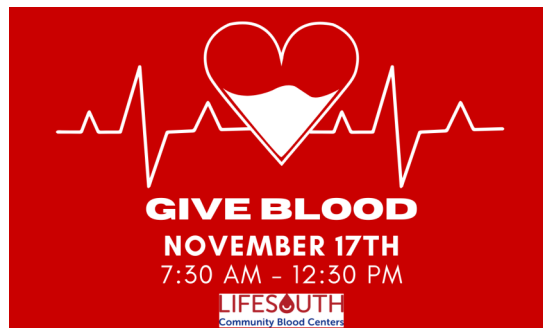
# ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 2024 Edition

## Cookies & Canvas Event



Looking for a meaningful way to connect and spend time with your kids? Consider a date night with your child. On **Friday, November 15th** from **6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**, we will host a Cookies & Canvas night. Spend the evening together as you each paint your own piece of winter inspired artwork. Patterns and supplies will be provided. And, of course, we will have milk and a variety of cookies to snack on. This event is open to children and their parents or significant adult. Please register [here](#) by **November 12th**.



## Upcoming Blood Drive

Grace Lutheran hosts the LifeSouth Bloodmobile several times a year, and often has a great turnout to support the hospitals in our local community. Our next blood drive will be **Sunday, November 17th** from **7:30 AM - 12:30 PM**. All donors will receive a \$20 E-Gift Card. Sign up [here](#) or on the Grace Lutheran website.

## Youth Fundraiser

Need a gift for Christmas? The Youth are selling jar mixes. Select from chocolate chip cookies, brownies, or a no-knead bread dough mix. Each jar costs \$10. All jars may be picked up on **Sunday, November 17th**. Funds will go towards the youth attending the National Youth Gathering in the summer of 2025 and other future trips. You can place your orders through the Church Center app or by clicking [here](#).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 2024 Edition



## Offering Envelope Opt-Out

As we have done in the past, we would like to give those of you who still receive quarterly offering envelopes the option to opt-out of receiving them in the future. We know that some people only give electronically, and some people like to use their banking online bill pay to send checks to the church. Others simply don't use the offering envelopes when they give. Therefore, if you find that you're your offering envelopes are sitting unused and you are no longer interested in receiving them each quarter, please click [here](#) to opt-out of receiving the quarterly offering envelopes, or contact Kristin Haycock in the church office.

## From the Business Office

### Nondeductible Giving

Our giving management system will now allow us to track nondeductible giving. Therefore, qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) and donor-advised fund (DAF) grants will now appear in your giving history and on year-end giving statements. These types of gifts will be separated out and clearly marked as nondeductible on your giving statement. We will continue to send a letter of acknowledgment for these gifts as well after year-end. A reminder regarding these types of gifts:

- **QCDs** - A QCD is not a tax-deductible charitable gift. However, a QCD can count towards the annual IRA required minimum distribution and may not be considered taxable income.
- **DAF Grants** - You should receive your official, tax-deductible receipt for these gifts through the donor-advised fund.

We recommend consulting your tax or legal advisor to properly report your charitable gifts.

### Joint Donors

Many donors prefer to have a single, combined statement with another donor in their household. If your giving history and year-end giving statement currently show your individual giving only and you would like to be joined with another member of your household, please notify the Business Office at so we can make that change. Once joined with another individual, you'll share a single donation history and receive a combined giving statement after year-end.

If you ever have any questions regarding giving, please contact the Business Office.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 2024 Edition

## Hurricane Helene Relief

Following the destruction of Hurricane Helene, our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the Southeast are in need of our help. Together with other congregations in the Southern District, we can uplift and support our sister congregations. The Southeastern District is in urgent need of **18,000 personal hygiene kits** and **15,000 flood clean-up kits**. The following links will direct you to items you can purchase for disaster relief. The address for the congregation gathering these items will be automatically applied when you order.

[Personal Hygiene Kits](#)

[Flood Clean-Up Kits](#)



## GraceLand Capital Campaign Update

Thank you to all who have been supporting the GraceLand Capital Campaign since it began in April. During October we collected about **\$7,000.00** which brings the total collected for the first six months of the campaign to almost **\$220,000.00!** The more of the principal of our loan that we pay down during this period puts us in a better position to begin executing the stages of the Master Plan, which the committee will be working on in the months ahead. You can give online or by check with GraceLand Capital Campaign or GCC in the memo line.



## Child Beyond International Newsletter

Grace Lutheran has supported Child Beyond International for the past few years through our Christmas Mission offering. We are looking to strengthen our connection to and support of this organization in the future. In the meantime, you can view Child Beyond International's most recent newsletter [here](#) to read about their Children's Home and work in the mission field.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 2024 Edition



## Thrivent Board Elections

Thrivent is a financial institution that originally served Lutherans. In recent years it has focused on serving all Christians with the stated goal of “inspiring generations to make financial choices guided by their Christian values.”

Because Thrivent has a history of focusing on serving Lutherans, some of you may be members/customers of Thrivent Financial. Thrivent’s election for its Board of Directors is currently taking place, and ballots must be postmarked by **November 26th**. Since Thrivent is a Christian financial company and many of our members are members/customers of Thrivent Financial we encourage members to participate in the election, and to support candidates who are members of the LCMS because of their strong commitment to the authority of God’s Word. Thrivent has considerable financial resources, and it is important that those financial resources be directed toward Biblical causes. Kenneth Carow and Michael Fiffik are members of LCMS congregations who are on the ballot for Board of Directors. N. Cornell Boggs, Matthew Davidson, and Jill Louis are not Lutherans, but are members of churches that hold to the authority of the scriptures.

More of the candidates’ biographical information can be found in the materials mailed to voting members, and through the Thrivent website.

## Grace Lutheran Church & School

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Fax: 256-881-0563  
E-mail: [secretary@gracelutheran-hsv.org](mailto:secretary@gracelutheran-hsv.org)

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

#### Sundays

**8:00 AM**

Blended Worship

1st & 2nd Sundays of the Month

Traditional Worship

3rd & 4th Sundays of the Month

**10:45 AM**

Contemporary Worship

Every Sunday

#### Communion

8:00 AM 1st & 3rd Sunday

10:45 AM 2nd & 4th Sunday

**Check Us Out Online!**  
**[www.gracelutheran-hsv.org](http://www.gracelutheran-hsv.org)**

## STAFF & LAY LEADERSHIP

### STAFF

Pastor.....Pastor Russ Gipson  
Associate Pastor.....Pastor Andrew Frerichs  
Principal ..... Delaine Schiestel  
CDC Director..... Jessica McGuire  
Director of Christian Education ..... Jen Roettjer  
Business Manager..... Laura Muelling  
Properties Manager..... Jack Hengel  
Event & Facility Coordinator..... Pam Lowe  
Office Manager ..... Kristin Haycock  
Receptionist.....Laura Ohme

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair .....Jim Kirsch  
Vice Chair .....Brian Steeve  
Financial/Secretary ..... Nancy Kiser  
Member at Large ..... Phil Hallenbeck  
Member at Large ..... June Kalange  
Member at Large .....Tony Luchner  
Member at Large ..... Jeff Rullman

### ELDERS MINISTRY TEAM

Michael Beutel	Ed Fulda
Mike Banzhoff	im Hartmann
Dick Bradshaw	Jordan Haycock
Kyle Britton	Scott Jagger
Craig Camealy	Kevin Pedersen
Jason Cuny	Dexter McClure
Mike Ellis	Tom Naatz

Grace   
LUTHERAN