

# Grace Notes

January 2025

#### Time to Soar

"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

#### Isaiah 40:30-31

Have you spotted it yet? I've seen it two times now. The first time I saw it, I was by myself, so when I mentioned it to the rest of my family, they looked at me with a healthy dose of suspicion in their eyes, wondering if I was seeing things or if my species identification skills were not up to par. It was flying due north, high in the air above Whitesburg Road. The second time I saw it was on Christmas Day. We were driving to Mobile to visit my parents for Christmas, and there it was again. This time, I was not alone. We were traveling North on Memorial Parkway, and it was riding the winds above Parkway Place Mall, triumphantly soaring on a beautiful clear day, and the entire family got a very good look. It was a Bald Eagle. At first it was flying parallel to our path, but when it turned, we had a perfect view. Its big, majestic white head perfectly balancing its white tail was unmistakable. The aspiring adults in the back seat could no longer tell me I was seeing things, because now, they had seen it too!

It's a new year, and it is a great year to soar. In Isaiah 40, the prophet contrasts the inevitable physical exhaustion that even the strongest and youngest eventually experience to the spiritual endurance and fortitude enjoyed by those who hope in the LORD. The idea of soaring like an eagle, running and not getting weary, and walking and not growing faint is not just a welcome thought, it is a tremendous relief. Many congregations in this new year find themselves in a position where they must be strategic, work hard, and be good stewards of their resources just to survive as a congregation. We are blessed as a congregation to be in a situation where we have to be strategic, work hard, and be good stewards of our resources just to keep up with many Kingdom growth opportunities that God is continually placing before us. But all of that talk about strategy, hard work, and good stewardship can make a congregation feel overwhelmed and exhausted. Thankfully, God has provided what we need to soar. Let's keep our hope in the Lord.

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January is sure to be an exciting month at Grace. We pray and anticipate hearing a response from Grace Stearns to serve as our principal. We gear up for another LERT training to be better prepared to serve those who have been impacted by natural disasters. Our students will go back to school and resume the Christian education we provide. Our Stephen's Ministry will host GriefShare to support those experiencing loss. Our Master Plan Committee will present the concepts for a Master Facility Plan for the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and School. All of these things (and more) have the potential to generate exhaustion, but when we keep our hope in the LORD, all of these things (and more) generate excitement, because in His hope we enjoy God's promise of soaring without the fears of weariness.

In Christ,

**Pastor Russ** 

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

#### **January 2025 Edition**

#### Choose Act Alabama

Grace Lutheran School has been approved as an Educational Service Provider for The CHOOSE Act. The CHOOSE Act allows up to \$7,000 of educational expenses per student who qualifies to be covered by an educational savings account funded through tax credits. Families can start applying **January 2nd**. Since this is a new program, information is still forthcoming, but details can be found at the <a href="CHOOSE Act website">CHOOSE Act</a> website.

#### **December Events**

<u>GLS Advent Service</u> – On December 11th all the classes at Grace Lutheran School participated in the Advent worship service with their program, "Gloria." Middle school students shared the Christmas story and pointed out that the word Gloria can tell the Christmas story. (<u>God</u> who loves the <u>Lost</u>, came up with an <u>Outrageous</u> plan and sent a <u>Redeeme</u>r. <u>Immanuel</u>, God with us, is who we <u>Adore</u>.) Each class performed a song either with their voices, band instruments, or handbells. The fourth grade class impressed us all with their stick drama to the song "*Noel*." We thank God for their willingness to share their gifts and talents with everyone.



<u>Christmas Events</u> – December is a time for Christmas spirit! Each Friday throughout the month, students and staff enjoyed Christmas themed dress-out days. Elementary Spanish classes reenacted the travels of Mary and Joseph as they participated in a Posada. Kindergarten studied Holidays around the World. The second quarter wrapped up with final exams in middle school. All the classes enjoyed a Christmas celebration before starting Christmas break.







#### **Upcoming Events**

<u>2025-2026 Registration Opens</u> – Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will open on **January 10th** for the school and the CDC for returning families. New families can begin the application process on **January 17th**. New student enrollment begins **February 3rd**. Word-of-mouth is the best form of advertising! If you know someone who is interested in a quality Christian education, please connect them with Jessica Chartier, Grace's Admissions Director. She can be reached by contacting the school office.

<u>NLSW</u> – National Lutheran Schools Week will be celebrated at the end of January. We are planning to host a food drive again as a part of our celebration. Look for more information to come later in the month!

God's Blessings,

Delaine Schiestel

## **CDC HAPPENINGS**

#### **January 2025 Edition**

It's a brand new year! The CDC will begin this year fully focused on the Lord and all the goodness that comes from HIM! Philippians 4:8 says, "From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise."

In December, the CDC had an Usborne Book Fair with \$1,573.96 in sales. Many books were bought for Christmas gifting and many books were bought for our CDC. We earned \$799.99 worth of rewards for new books, and we can't wait to read them all with the kids! The CDC staff got to have a night of fellowship and relaxing with painting, a meal, and an ornament exchange. The staff also participated in a "Secret Santa" gifting game. December 20th was a big day for the CDC as our PS3 classes got to sing in a Christmas program for their families. They worked so hard and practiced multiple times a week and their program was amazing! Santa also stopped by the CDC lobby for pictures with the kids and he got to hear what they wanted for Christmas. I'm sure he delivered! We closed early at 4:30 PM that day so that our staff could get ready for the staff Christmas party. We had the BEST time with the church and school staff! Most importantly, all month long, the CDC got to celebrate the most important birthday in history! Happy Birthday to Jesus!

<u>Looking ahead:</u> In January, the CDC will be praying for snow! Everyone loves a good snow day at home with their family! On January 20th we will close the CDC in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will return on the 21st for National Lutheran Schools Week. The CDC loves to celebrate each NLSW day with the school students! We love to dress up and have fun! In all of it, we will be learning more about Jesus and how much he loves us!

Thanks be to God!

Jessica McGuire







# **Youth Christmas Party**



## **GROW - BIBLE STUDY TOPICS**

#### **January 2025 Edition**



### Bible Studies Topics - January 2025

#### Sunday Morning Children and Youth

- Infant—Pre-K (Church Nursery) Exodus: Law and Life
- K—4th (Genesis Room) Exodus: Law and Life
- 5th and 6th Grade (School Library) Bible Characters: Jesus
- Confirmation (Room 106) God the Father
- High School (Youth Room) Paul's Missionary Journeys

#### Sunday Morning Communities

- Quarter Life Questers (Room 202) Christian Perspective on Enneagram
- Figuring It Out (Room 203) Christian Perspective on Enneagram
- Balancing Act (School Band Room) Mere Christianity
- Tug of War (Room 204) The End of Me
- Discovering Together (Room 209) Upper Room Discourse

#### Sunday Morning Bible Studies

- From the Heart of Matthew/Cost of Discipleship (Cafeteria)
- Hebrews (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

## **GROW - NEW STUDY OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Hebrews**

Jesus is the Superior to... angels, Moses, and more. Jesus gives us a better... covenant, redemption and more. The author of Hebrews tells his Hebrew Christian audience that Jesus is supreme, a fact that they had forgotten, and a fact that sometimes we forget. Come and discover what the author has to say to his audience and us. Dick Azzam will lead the study, starting on **January 5th** during the Sunday school hour in the **Assembly Room**.

#### **Christian Faith - Lutheran Perspective**

Led by Pastor Russ & Pastor Andrew

In Acts Chapter 11, Luke tells how the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread to Antioch. On hearing the news of the spread of the Gospel to Antioch and the way the Gospel was warmly received there, Saul and Barnabas went to Antioch (and spent a whole year there) to teach them the truth about Jesus. Luke then records that the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch. In our world today, there seems to be a link between the word "disciple" and doing certain things (action) and a link between the word "Christian" and believing certain things (understanding/thinking). In the early Christian Church, this distinction was not there. The Christian Faith is something we do, and it is something we believe. In this class we will explore the teachings of the Christian faith from a Lutheran perspective. It is designed for those who are new to Lutheranism. Therefore, in order to enroll either you or your spouse must not have grown up in a Lutheran setting. The class will be limited in number of participants, but we intend to repeat this class soon. The class begins January 5th. If interested, please register to attend the class here.

#### The Cost of Discipleship

From January 19th to February 23rd, Bill Baldwin will lead a study in the school cafeteria on Sunday mornings from 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM to discuss several chapters from "The Cost of Discipleship," written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In this work, he wrote, "Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate. Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has." Dietrich was writing in Germany in 1937, when the church was facing a time of great trial. In this context, following Jesus could mean the loss of everything. What are the trials that we, as followers of Jesus, face today? What does "The Cost of Discipleship" have to say to guide us? Come join in the study and see!

#### **Digging Deeper - Revelation**

We will continue our study in Revelation, learning about the awe-inspiring person of Jesus, God's sovereignty in the world, and the glory that will await us in the future. We will look at how various people since the time of Jesus have interpreted and tried to make sense of the book, all the while keeping our focus on what Jesus has done. Join Jen Roettjer on Wednesday evenings, beginning on **January 29th**, from **6:30 PM - 7:30 PM** in the Assembly Room.

## **OUTREACH CONNECTIONS**

#### **January 2025 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**

#### **January 2025 Edition**



#### **ACTS Ministry**

**ACTS** (<u>A</u>ctively <u>C</u>aring, <u>T</u>enderly <u>S</u>erving) Ministry has been redefined. We have a new email address which is <u>ACTS@gracelutheran-hsv.org</u> that can be used to volunteer to support <u>ACTS</u> 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 <a href="www.gracelutheran-hsv.org">www.gracelutheran-hsv.org</a> 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**

#### January 2025 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**, **January 8th**, and we will be discussing *Mrs. Budge Goes to Fountain City* (A Mildred Budge Christmas Story) by Daphne Simkins. Our next read will be *Becoming Mrs. Lewis* by Patti Callahan. 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.

A number of items were made and donated to various groups: small fleece hats to Huntsville main library's Christmas tree for the kids; angel gowns, fetal wraps, and bead bags to Huntsville Hospital's NICU; blankets, knitted and fleece hats to First Stop and Suds and Buds; lap quilts to Whitesburg Gardens nursing home; and more baby blankets to the Huntsville Pregnancy Resource Center. See our totals of items created and donated on the next page!



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

## **CONNECTION GROUPS**

#### **January 2025 Edition**

#### Sew 'n Sews 2024 Projects

#### Total Donated and/or Made in 2024

- 43 Adult Lap Quilts
- · 29 Children's Tummy Time Quilts
- 71 Blankets
- 15 Rag Quilts or Small Quilts (CDC)
- 1 Shawl
- 15 Knitted Scarves
- 68 Knitted Hats (First Stop)
- 144 Fleece Hats
- 3 Fleece Scarves
- 133 Knitted Hats (Cancer Center)
- · 36 Children's Knitted Hats
- 7 Preemie-Size Crochet Hats
- 106 Pillow Ports
- 11 Crocheted Baby Hats
- 37 Baby Blankets
- 6 Crocheted Baby Blankets
- 86 Inspirational Hearts
- 11 Walker Totes
- 4 Kids Pillowcases
- 50 Beads of Courage Bead Bag
- 5 Baptismal Banners
- 86 Eyeglass cases
- 27 Burp Cloths
- 13 Baby Bibs
- 40 Angel Gowns
- 10 Fetal Wraps
- 17 Personal Care Kits
- 13 Pillowcases

#### **Donation Recipients**

- The Southern Cancer Center
- Grace Lutheran CDC
- First Stop/Suds & Buds
- National Children's Advocacy Center
- Huntsville Pregnancy Center
- · Senior Center Meals on Wheels
- NICU Huntsville Hospital
- · Grace Lutheran Church Members
  - MOST Ministries
- · St Josephs Hospital in Tampa, FL
- Diversicare Nursing Home
- Marshall County Sheriffs County
- Whitesburg Gardens Nursing Home
- Huntsville Library

## **CONNECTION GROUPS (PAGE 2)**

#### **January 2025 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

Hope Circle
3rd Tuesday | 9am | Church Library
Contact: crout@juno.com

MITES COLLECTED ON 5TH SUNDAYS IN THE NARTHEX

## **SAINTS ALIVE**

#### **January 2025 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. 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.

#### **Happy New Year from the Saints Alive leadership!**

May you enjoy the many blessings that God has in store for you in the coming year and beyond!



It is time to plan the activities for Saints Alive for the first half of the year. We will be having a planning meeting on **January 8th** at **10:00 AM** in the **Genesis Room** (former choir room). We will go to lunch together after the meeting, probably at Logan's Roadhouse.

To make the meeting more productive, please come to the meeting with ideas for places to visit or subjects to cover during January through June. We try to have activities planned both at Grace and on trips in north Alabama and southern Tennessee. We are always looking for new ideas and need your input. Come for the meeting even if you don't have specific ideas because we want everyone's input on what people are interested in doing. If you cannot attend the meeting but have ideas you would like to submit, please send them to Donna Behnken.

See you at the meeting! Looking forward to another year filled with both learning and fellowship!

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

#### **January 2025 Edition**



## **Entering a New Year Burdened with Grief?**

By Merle Trich

We often hear that grieving is a process. That may be true. However, it often can feel like *The Never Ending Story*; a very painful journey. If you are carrying the burden of grief, you do not need to carry it alone. I would like to encourage you to come to a special seminar and support group offered here at Grace Lutheran Church called **GriefShare**. The materials specifically address topics and issues for those who are grieving the death of a loved one, such as a parent, child, grandparent, relative, or friend.

GriefShare meets weekly for 13 weeks, and the content is Christ-centered and biblical. Each weekly video session features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories, followed by small group discussion about the topics presented. Each person receives a participant guide with valuable exercises, journaling, tools, and articles for dealing with the daily challenges of grief. You will find this to be a place where you can be around people who understand the pain of your loss. You will be prayed for and learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult season of your life.

These sessions are open to any adult regardless of whether your experience is recent or in the past. The group is led by individuals who have personally experienced grief due to a loved one's death. Each leader is trained in facilitating a GriefShare support group. The \$20 registration fee includes materials. (Please don't allow this fee to keep you from attending; we do have scholarships available). Information about the weekly topics can be found on the GriefShare website at **griefshare.org**. While you are on the website, we also encourage you to sign up for the free daily email encouragements. You will find them informative and comforting.

Our GriefShare group will begin meeting on **January 12th** from **2:00 PM - 4:00 PM** at Grace Lutheran Church in the Genesis Room. We hope you will consider joining us.

Please remember your loss is shared by others in this church and what you are experiencing is sometimes easier to bear knowing others are listening and do care. May God's love continue to comfort and strengthen you. Please feel free to contact or speak to Pastor Russ, Pastor Andrew, Judy Zecher, David Groggel, or Dexter or Joyce McClure with any additional questions.

Registration forms are available at the Welcome Desk in the narthex and can be turned in to the church office, or you can register online at the GriefShare website <a href="here">here</a>.

If you are struggling as we enter the new year, Stephen Ministers are available to help. A Stephen Minister will reflect and listen as you seek God's grace and strength in your life. Or, if you are in search of ways to serve through Grief Share or Stephen Ministry and have any questions about either of these ministries 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.

### **January 2025 Edition**



#### Poinsettia Pick-Up

If you ordered a poinsettia and have not already done so, please pick it up from the narthex at your earliest convenience.

We have some extra poinsettias that are not spoken for, so even if you did not purchase one but would like to take one home, please feel free to do so.



#### Altar Flowers

Our altar flowers are generously provided each week by Cookie Halbritter. To sponsor the flowers for a specific Sunday, please sign up on the Flower Chart on the bulletin board across from the church office, and indicate who or what event the flowers commemorate. A donation of \$25.00 (cash or check made out to Grace Lutheran Church) is appreciated. After the service, the person who sponsored the flowers for that week can take them and use them as desired, though you are asked to please return the vase to the church office at a later date.

**January 2025 Edition** 







#### **January 2025 Edition**



What's 4 Dinner is Back!

Over the next several months, we would like to give you the opportunity to have dinner with other members of Grace. How does this work? We will put together groups of 4 households. These 4 households will then take turns having dinner at each other's house over the course of 4 months (February through May). The house that is hosting the dinner will provide all of the food and drink for that evening.

What makes a household? That's up to you, whether it's your immediate family or two friends who would like to host together.

How are the groups made? Groups will be assigned by the Grace staff with the intent of meeting new people. We will appoint one household to be the main contact to coordinate dates and times for each of the dinners.

What about kids? The groups will be intergenerational. While some houses may be able to include kids, not all will be able to accommodate them. You can decide as a group what will work best for your situation and individual houses.

Sign up here by January 19th. Groups will be announced the week of January 26th.



#### **January 2025 Edition**

#### **Upcoming Discovering Grace Class**



Are you thinking about membership at Grace Lutheran or seeking to grow in your discipleship of Jesus? Discovering Grace is a class that is designed for those wanting to learn more about our Church, School, and CDC, and learn more about our discipleship process – WORSHIP | GROW | ENGAGE. The next class will meet Saturday, January 25th from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM and on Sunday, January 26th during the Sunday School/Bible Class hour from 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM. Register <a href="here">here</a> or on the Grace Lutheran website.



#### GraceLand Capital Campaign Update

Thank you to all who have been supporting the GraceLand Capital Campaign since it began in April. During December we collected about \$25,000.00 which brings the total collected for the first six months of the campaign to over \$250,000.00! 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 <a href="here">here</a> to read about their Children's Home and work in the mission field.

#### **Grace Lutheran Church & School**

3321 South Memorial Parkway Huntsville, AL 35801

Phone: 256-881-0552 Fax: 256-881-0563

E-mail: 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

Check Us Out Online! 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

