

### Waiting for Too Long

by Pastor Russ Gipson

I knew that it was going to happen, I worried about the damage it would certainly cause, but I waited too long to take the right action. About two years ago when a spring storm blew, when the trees were newly heavy with leaves, one of the large limbs on our neighbor's tree splintered and slowly leaned over and rested on the roof of their home. It was loud, it was scary, it was a large limb that fell; but the remaining limbs cushioned its fall, preventing any significant damage to the home. No one was injured, the limb just had to be removed.

It is my suspicion, that in that event, another large limb sustained a life ending injury. It essentially died that day, but it did not fall. Ever since that time, that particular limb has not budded out in the spring, there's been no new growth, and then it started rot. You could see it. The woodpeckers were having a hay day. Boring insects ate away at its structural integrity. It was obvious that it would come down.

The doomed limb angled precariously over our driveway. It was clear which way gravity would take it when the inevitable happened. I took note and quit parking the camper underneath it. I warned guests not to park their cars underneath it. I told the kids not to play underneath it. I tried on a couple of occasions to get the home owner's phone number from the renters, but my attempts to get the phone number were not persistent enough. I could tell what was going to happen for probably a year and a half before it took place. But decay is slow, it happens little by little, and you always think, "If it has hung on for this long...it will hang on a little longer."



**Inside this issue:**

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Principal's Corner   | 3   |
| Outreach Connections | 4-5 |
| Discovering Grace    | 6   |
| Connection Groups    | 7-8 |
| Saints Alive         | 9   |
| Stephen Ministry     | 10  |
| Announcements        | 11  |
| Worship Volunteers   | 12  |



**Waiting for Too Long (Page 2)**

On my birthday, I had a very good birthday present. I went out early in the morning to run with our dog, and there was the limb. Sprawled out across our driveway and shattered into pieces. My heart leapt for joy at my good fortune. The only damage it did was to pull the power line from my neighbor's home. It could have sparked a fire, but it didn't. It could have fallen on a vehicle, but it didn't. It could have fallen on a person, but it didn't. How fortunate I was that it did not cause any more problems than what it did, because if something worse would have happened, the guilt truly would have been heavy to carry—knowing that it could have been prevented with a little proactivity.



God often provides us with spiritual lessons in the regular occurrences of day-to-day life. Just standing by and procrastinating until the limb fell, is a healthy reminder not to do that in spiritual matters. Sometimes we live our lives of faith thinking, “Well if that limb has not fallen yet...I still have a little longer, it can wait.” And when we do, we avoid sharing the Gospel with someone. We avoid confessing a sin that we've committed against someone. We avoid confronting someone over a sin they've committed against us. We avoid pursuing a good work that God has placed on our hearts because we always think there will be a little more time. We avoid taking the next step in our discipleship of Jesus, because with think there will be more time.

God has prepared good works in advance for us to walk in them...not delay them. The prophet Hosea spoke, “*Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unending love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.*” (Hosea 10:12) It is always the right time to seek the Lord and pursue the plans that He has for your life.

In Christ,  
Pastor Russ



# PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

## August 2022 Edition

It's Back to School time!

Grace hosted a very productive Properties Day, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-five church and school volunteers of all ages showed up to move and clean classroom furniture, spread mulch on the playgrounds, clean up the grounds, and straighten up around the facility. All required tasks were completed with an hour to go. Thank you to all who helped get us ready for the teachers and students.



Teachers in both the school and CDC attended training, planned for the year, and worked on getting their rooms ready for the first day of school. Open houses were held for all ages on Sunday afternoon and Monday evening. Everyone was excited for the new school year – to be able to meet their teachers and see their new classrooms.



Finally, the big day arrived. Students and families coming to the school were greeted with balloons, pom-poms, and cowbells. There were a few tears shed, by children and parents alike, as they started a new school year. We welcome 31 new PK – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to Grace Lutheran this year!

Our theme verse for this year Making Disciples for Life based on the Great Commission. This is also the national theme. Our teachers and staff are excited to be able to work alongside our God as we share the Good News with our families through what we teach and how we love.

Thank you for your contributions to the Rocket City Scholarship Fund and Alabama Opportunities Scholarships. We have received scholarships from both organizations totaling over \$91,000 for 15 students!

I ask that you please continue to pray for our families and their students – both new and returning; for our teachers and staff; and that we can be effective witnesses to our school and community.

God's Blessings,

Delaine Schiestel, Principal



# OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

## August 2022 Edition

**WORSHIP | GROW | ENGAGE** is our discipleship focus. Disciple-making is a process that needs ongoing attention. Jesus commands us to make disciples. We are EACH to be disciple-makers. What priority are you giving to being a disciple? Do not leave it to the church/school staff to do the discipling! Are you keeping your eyes and ears open to opportunities to build connections with someone and be ready to share your faith story? I find joy when I hear or see how persons become involved in sharing Jesus with others.



Through a friend, Greg Finke, I share with you reasons why so many congregations make a good start with missional living, only to see it soon fizzle. How are you doing with developing a missional plan for yourself or for your family? Do you invite others to join in the missional plan?

**1) We think studying what Jesus says is the same as doing what Jesus says.**

**2) We never seem to get around to building an actual friendship with someone who is living without Jesus' grace and truth.**

**3) People are often recruited away from the mission of God by their own congregational programming as we can be so busy taking care of ourselves.**

**4) We think discipleship is rooted in scholarship. It is not. It is rooted in relationship and lifestyle.**

*When discipleship is rooted in scholarship, we often reproduce nothing but scholars and do it very slowly. Likewise, the unintentional but clear message to the congregation is that discipleship is really just for the smart kids. Unfortunately, when discipleship is simply scholarship, we end up with people who know the right answers, but don't know what to do. They remain untrained and inexperienced in practicing the ways of Jesus for the good of others.*

*However, discipleship is not just learning the facts and figures of the faith. It is having a relationship with someone who can show us how to live out the facts and figures of the faith for the good of others. When discipleship is rooted in relationship and lifestyle, we see the rapid multiplication of discipleship among people (John 13:35, Philippians 3:17, Hebrews 13:7, Matthew 28:19).*

*Because preachers and program leaders think discipleship is scholarship, they over-value teaching new content and under-value facilitating discipling relationships and lifestyles.*

**Remedy: Re-prioritize discipling relationships.**



# OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

## August 2022 Edition

*At home: the parent/child relationship is the strongest discipling relationship there is. Children are designed to imitate their parents and, for better or worse, are already being deeply disciplined by them. Therefore, the most effective family ministry begins by helping parents understand the deep influence their lifestyle is already having on their children and give them tools to become more intentional about how they live.*

**In neighborhoods, workplaces and schools:** implement the Connect Strategy in order to foster and multiply discipling relationships and unhurried conversations throughout the congregation and out into the community.



**ACTS Ministry** is a group of people willing to provide active support to those in need. It is a ministry of Grace Lutheran Church and School. Originally focused on homebound church members, we support anyone who has a specific need of something like companionship or transportation. If you know of someone who can benefit, e-mail [gracelutheranacts@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranacts@gmail.com). Let us know if you have a particular need so that we can respond.

### LOCAL MISSION ENGAGE CONNECTION

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 Lending Library located on campus **but we have a need for children's books, activity books**, basic school supplies and food items. 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.





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# DISCOVERING GRACE

August 2022 Edition

## NEXT DISCOVERING GRACE CLASS

God's grace makes a difference for persons in their daily life! Are you seeking to grow in God's grace or desiring to make a fresh start in your spiritual journey?

Grace Lutheran offers a **Discovering Grace** class that is designed for those wanting to learn more about our church/school discipleship process – WORSHIP | GROW | ENGAGE. The class meets for three hours on **Saturday, August 27 (9 AM – 12 Noon)**, light breakfast items served at 8:45 AM. We ask participants to attend a Bible Class session on **August 28** where you will learn more from staff members and lay leaders. Completion of this class is designed especially for those seeking a fresh start and desire membership in Grace Lutheran. Child care is available for those families needing care for their child/ren.

Grace Lutheran desires for persons to grow in their personal discipleship. As disciples grow in worship, connections – growing in Christ and with others, and become engaged in a service ministry, this leads to new discoveries of God's grace.

For more information or to register for this class, please send an email to [info@gracelutheran-hsv.org](mailto:info@gracelutheran-hsv.org)! We ask that participants register no later than Tuesday, August 23.



# CONNECTION GROUPS

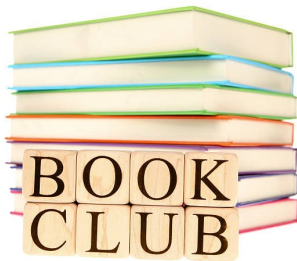
August 2022 Edition

## 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 ([kefbradshaw@aol.com](mailto:kefbradshaw@aol.com) or 256-603-3331). Not in a group? We encourage you to join one of our existing groups.

### Here is a listing of the current Connection Groups (Cont. on next pg)



**The Christian Book Club** meets in the church library at 10 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 14th, and we will be discussing *Pontius Pilate* by Paul L. Maier. The next reading selection is *They Were Christians: The Inspiring Faith of Men and Women Who Changed the World* by Cristobal Krusen. Contact: Karen Crout at 256-652-1482 or [crout@juno.com](mailto:crout@juno.com).

*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** have resumed their weekly meetings every Monday from 1-3 pm in the church choir room. We’ve been making quilts, fleece blankets and hats for the homeless and for the children at McDonnell Elementary School. A big “thank you” to all who have donated material, yarn, and other things. Come and join us! Contact: Harriett Kicklighter at 703-881-6244 or [hkick1@gmail.com](mailto:hkick1@gmail.com).





# CONNECTION GROUPS (PAGE 2)

## August 2022 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 at 256-509-4146 or [reumannmj@aol.com](mailto:reumannmj@aol.com).

**Friday Afternoon Golf** was organized by Dennis Sierk and Phil Nelson. Time and place: The par 3 course at Hampton Cove every Friday at 3 pm. We will play 18 holes. For more information, contact Dennis Sierk ([dennis@velocio.net](mailto:dennis@velocio.net) or 256-653-2217) or Phil Nelson ([philandkleone@comcast.net](mailto:philandkleone@comcast.net) or 256-534-2483). 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 club house, afterward.

For more information, contact Dennis Sierk at ([dennis@velocio.net](mailto:dennis@velocio.net) or 256-653-2217) or Phil Nelson at ([philandkleone@comcast.net](mailto:philandkleone@comcast.net) or 256-534-2483).



### LADIES OF GRACE CIRCLES (LOG)

Meet monthly for Fellowship & Bible Study,  
For more information:

CHARITY - Pam Lowe 256-348-2329

FAITH - Betsy Scott 256-880-2865

HOPE - Karen Crout 256-652-1482

PEACE - Pam Stieglitz 256-533-3444





# SAINTS ALIVE

August 2022 Edition

## UPCOMING SAINTS' ALIVE ACTIVITY

**August 17 - SAINTS' ALIVE** will travel to Fort Payne, AL to visit the **ALABAMA Fan Club Museum**. We will have opportunity to visit newly remodeled, state of the art museum, featuring over 50 years of music memorabilia. From the early days in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to the Country Music Hall of Fame, people of all ages enjoy this experience the story of ALABAMA's history. The museum includes many personal items, videos, pictures, awards and gifts from other artists, never before seen in public until now.





# STEPHEN MINISTRY

August 2022 Edition

## Hands to Serve

What do you think of when you think of hands?

Is it the hand of a newborn as you count each finger. Or maybe your mothers' or grandmothers' hands, as they wrinkle, and the knuckles become swollen with arthritis. Or maybe your fathers' or grandfathers' hands, that are rough and calloused from years of work. Or maybe the salute of a soldier in honor of his country. Hands reflect many aspects of our lives.

God must think hands are pretty important...the word 'hand' is found 1466 times in the Bible, and the word 'hands' is found another 462 times. The hands of Jesus reflect the love and sacrifice for all people. Jesus performed miracles and healed with his hands, folded his hands in prayer, calmed the waters, extended his hand to the weary and broken hearted, and finally his hands were pierced in the sacrifice for our sins. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

As a Stephen Minister, we are His hands to serve people going through a difficult time; to walk alongside a person, to listen, to encourage, pray, support and to care.

Throughout history, when God has called people to special ministry, members of their community have commissioned them for the important new work they are taking on. Now we invite you to carry on that biblical tradition by joining us in commissioning those who have answered God's call to our congregation's Stephen Ministry on **Sunday, August 28, 2022.**

Our Stephen Ministers have already completed the training to equip them for their task. We now celebrate them, pray for them, and send them out to minister, asking for God's blessing and the Spirit's wisdom and power.

Our Stephen Ministers will be depending on our support in the time ahead as they assume the duties of their ministry. So, how can we help?

We can pray for our Stephen Leaders, our Stephen Ministers, and their care receivers. The assurance of our prayers and appreciation will help them in this life-transforming ministry.

Each of us can become involved in this ministry in many ways. Some of us may recognize a call to use our ministry gifts and attend the Stephen Ministry Training. Others may accept the care of a Stephen Minister. And any of us can be ministers of referral, watching for people in need and suggesting a Stephen Minister's care.

As we commission our newly trained Stephen Ministers, and re-commission current Stephen Ministers, let us thank God for all they will bring to our congregation and community in providing care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.

An introduction to Stephen Ministry is being planned for **Thursday, September 15, 2022.** Watch for more details on registering for the Introduction to Stephen Ministry in the near future. If you have questions about the training or becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact any of the leaders listed below.

Judy Zecher, Dexter McClure, Joyce McClure, Pat Carlson, Merle Trich, or Pastor Russ Gipson.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## August 2022 Edition

**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** – located in the left margin on 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 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!

**MEN’S MINISTRY GROUP** meets on the second Saturday of each month. Our next gathering on Saturday, August The next gathering is scheduled for **Saturday, August 13th**. We meet in the Family Life Center Cafeteria at **7:30 AM**. This invitation is open to all men as we gather for a light meal, prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. Questions, contact Gene Menzel at [gene.menzel@gls-hsv.org](mailto:gene.menzel@gls-hsv.org)

**NEW COMMUNITY STARTING** - We are starting a new community on Sunday mornings for those who are "in the middle." You know who you are. The ones who still want to think they are young, but bodies are beginning to tell them otherwise. Classes will begin meeting on September 11th in Room 204 (Middle School Science Room), and will be led by Marty Ohme and Wade and Jan Foster. So far we have had a good response from those who are interested in joining. We would love to see you there!

**DIGGING DEEPER BIBLE STUDY** - This Fall we will take another look at the Flood. We will investigate new scientific research on interpreting the geological record from a Flood perspective. Then we will look at secular research to determine what fits with the Biblical story. All the while, we stand in awe at the beauty of God's world created by the flood and recognize God's judgment on the world and his gift of grace. Jen Roettjer leads this Bible study on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 in the Assembly Room. Class begins on August 24th.

# AUGUST WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

| ELDERS       |                | USHERS       |  |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|--|
| <b>8:00</b>  | Kevin Pedersen | <b>8:00</b>  | Ron Olsen, Manny Walker & Jeff Sanders |
| <b>10:45</b> | Scott Jagger   | <b>10:45</b> | Matt & Andrea Beasinger                |

| AUGUST 7         |                             |                                 | AUGUST 14        |                                |                                  |
|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                  | 8:00                        | 10:45                           |                  | 8:00                           | 10:45                            |
| <b>GREETERS</b>  | Bill & Sandy Robinson       | Diane Anderson<br>Barb Knighton | <b>GREETERS</b>  | Paul & Harriett<br>Kicklighter | Roseann Weston<br>Debbie Doering |
| <b>READERS</b>   | -----                       | -----                           | <b>READERS</b>   | NONE                           | NONE                             |
| <b>ACOLYTES</b>  | Ayden Foster                | Ryder Hall                      | <b>ACOLYTES</b>  | Elizabeth Evans                | Asher Hall                       |
| <b>STREAMING</b> | Jim Kirsch                  | -----                           | <b>STREAMING</b> | Scott Zimmerman                | -----                            |
| <b>SOUND</b>     | Karsten Lowe                | Jeff Hollings                   | <b>SOUND</b>     | Stephen Wank                   | Brian Steeve                     |
| <b>SCREENS</b>   | Cameron Muelling            | Jim Hartmann                    | <b>SCREENS</b>   | Kreg Everleth                  | Bob Drensek                      |
| AUGUST 21        |                             |                                 | AUGUST 28        |                                |                                  |
|                  | 8:00                        | 10:45                           |                  | 8:00                           | 10:45                            |
| <b>GREETERS</b>  | Jordan & Kristin<br>Haycock | Nancy Steeve<br>Rosemary Sweet  | <b>GREETERS</b>  | Steve & Nancy<br>Rice          | Rhonda & Daisy<br>Childers       |
| <b>READERS</b>   | NONE                        | NONE                            | <b>READERS</b>   | NONE                           | NONE                             |
| <b>ACOLYTES</b>  | Dylan Lucas                 | Gatlin Gilliam                  | <b>ACOLYTES</b>  | Valerie Lucas                  | Kayden Peeden                    |
| <b>STREAMING</b> | Brian Steeve                | -----                           | <b>STREAMING</b> | Michael Krause                 | -----                            |
| <b>SOUND</b>     | Renee Bourdeaux             | Kenny Ols                       | <b>SOUND</b>     | David Zecher                   | Andy King                        |
| <b>SCREENS</b>   | Manny Walker                | Mike Banzhoff                   | <b>SCREENS</b>   | Elizabeth Reeves               | Bob Drensek                      |

## 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](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  
Principal ..... Delaine Schiestel  
CDC Director.....Allison Merrill  
Director of Christian Education ..... Jen Roettjer  
Director of Outreach ..... Gene Menzel  
Business Manager..... Laura Muelling  
Properties Manager..... Jack Hengel  
Events Coordinator..... Tom Naatz  
Office Manager .....Kelly Jenks  
Receptionist.....Laura Ohme

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair .....Jim Kirsch  
Vice Chair ..... Phil Nelson  
Financial/Secretary ..... Nancy Kiser  
Member at Large ..... June Kalange  
Member at Large ..... Steve Rice  
Member at Large ..... Jeff Rullman  
Member at Large ..... Jeff Sanders

### ELDERS MINISTRY TEAM

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Michael Beutel | Jim Hartmann     |
| Mike Banzhoff  | Jordan Haycock   |
| Dick Bradshaw  | Scott Jagger     |
| Craig Camealy  | Kevin Pedersen   |
| Jason Cuny     | Dexter McClure   |
| Mike Ellis     | Gene Satterfield |
| Ed Fulda       |                  |

**Grace**   
LUTHERAN