

Grace Notes

September 2022

“Hey WORSHIP...meet ENGAGE”

by Pastor Russ Gipson



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

Like all congregations, we seek to be faithful in answering Jesus' call to make disciples of all nations. Here at Grace we often speak about discipleship in terms of the activities that mature disciples of Jesus participate in. Disciples WORSHIP God, they GROW in their faith, and they ENGAGE in service. If you analyzed the life of a mature disciple, you will see those three elements present.

As a congregation we know when WORSHIP takes place, we also highlight the many opportunities that members have to GROW in their faith, but the ways that our members ENGAGE in service can sometimes fly under the radar. We are hoping to change that anomaly by occasionally adding a component to our WORSHIP service titled, “Spotlight ENGAGE.” **Spotlight ENGAGE** will be a special moment in our worship service where we celebrate a way that our congregation is in engaging in service, highlight the way one of our members is engaging in service in our community and/or how you can help, or lift up an opportunity for you to ENGAGE in service in a meaningful way.



WORSHIP



GROW



ENGAGE

Title (Page 2)

We will enjoy our first Spotlight ENGAGE on September 11, as Karen Davidson shares with us the ministry that she is currently carrying out at First Stop Huntsville. We hope that this is just the first of many Spotlight ENGAGE moments in our worship service together. If you are engaging in service in our community and are willing to share about the way you ENGAGE in our community, please reach out and let me know! Hearing the way others ENGAGE is a blessing and can serve as an inspiration to others to continue to deepen their discipleship of Jesus by serving in meaningful ways.

In Christ,

Pastor Russ





PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

September 2022 Edition

It is hard to believe - we have been in school for a month now! The excitement of the first days of school has shifted into daily routines. Teachers and students are once again getting into the swing of learning.

We have so many things to be excited about this year. 166 students are enrolled in PK – 8th. 31 new students and 5 new staff have joined Grace Lutheran School. We have a new math series and a new social studies series. Fall sports have started with soccer for PK – 2nd grade and 5th/6th grade volleyball. Student council elections have taken place and the student board is excited about organizing different activities for the student body.

We are blessed with an active PTL group that is busy planning events for the school and CDC, plus some joint school/church events. They have already hosted a parent social and later this month, their biggest fundraiser, the Fun Run, will take place. If you would like to help sponsor a child's run, either by lap or flat donation, please contact the school office.

We are still collecting plastic bottle caps in the school lobby. The middle school students are spearheading this recycling activity, with any grants received to benefit their class trip next year. Last year, we received a \$1000 grant. Please help us by collecting and turning in clean, plastic, screw-on bottle caps for this year's collection.

We are still looking for after care staff. Please help spread the word so that we can provide this vital service that so many of our families depend upon! Hours are 3:00 – 5:30 Monday through Friday, although we would be willing to be flexible if someone could not come every day. Please keep praying that God will provide.

Thank you for all your prayers and support for the school.

God's Blessings,

Delaine Schiestel

GROW - BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

September 2022 Edition



Sunday Morning Children and Youth

- Infant—Pre-K (Church Nursery) – OT Kings and Prophets
- K—4th (Church Choir Room) – OT Kings and Prophets
- 5th and 6th Grade (School Library) – Characters of the Bible: Gospels
- Confirmation (Room 106) – God the Father
- High School (Youth Room) – Esther

Sunday Morning Communities

- Figuring It Out (Church Library) – Romans
- Balancing Act (School Band Room) – Being Lutheran
- New Community (Room 204) – Jesus Over Everything
- Now What (Room 202) – Mormonism

Sunday Morning Bible Studies

- Reformation and Christianity (School Cafeteria)
- Our Life with the Holy Spirit (Room 209)
- Bible for Non-Native English Speaker (Room 203)

Bible Studies During the Week

- Digging Deeper (Wed at 6:30 in the Assembly Room) – Another Look at the Flood
- Women's Bible Study (Mon at 1:00 in the Church Library) – Creation: The Lutheran Difference
- Women's Bible Study (Tues at 9:30 in the Church Library) – God is Enough
- Men's Bible Study (2nd Sat at 7:30 am in the School Cafeteria) – Topic Varies
- Ladies of Grace Circles – Topic Varies



OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

September 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.



With the new school year and Sunday School year now started, what are we (you) look forward to in the days and years ahead? To be a healthy church, we need to keep our eyes focused forward and follow what God has for each of us to accomplish in helping to build the Kingdom! Pray earnestly about what God has in place for you and our congregation! God continues to bless us as will have more than 25 participants in this weekend's Discovering Grace class.

We need to keep focus on those gathering together along with how we make use of digital connections. We offer our worship service online to any and all throughout the week. We have a new website (www.gracelutheran-hsv.org) that seeks to help build connections. Our new church sign has a digital box to help us connect with people driving along the Parkway!

We need to think of ministries in our neighborhood and community! Keep your eyes and ears open to the people who live near you. You will discover needs that you can respond to and ask the help of fellow members to serve and to care. What ministry is there available in our community? Participate in a community need and be ready to share the hope you have in Jesus. We gladly pass out the love of Jesus to others!

It is important that we gather with each other for worship, Bible study, and small group ministries. However, it is vital that we seek to ENGAGE in building connections. Each of us can participate in this activity as we pray and as we respond to a variety of needs.

To grow in health, take time to get others who you do not know when we gather for worship and Bible study. Take time to build connections and relationships! We will be healthier as persons grow in connections! We desire to be a welcoming community!

Grace Lutheran can remain healthy and be a growing church as keep our mission focus! I thank you for your presence and your engagement in activities that help to strengthen the overall ministry. Thank you God for each person served or connected through Grace Lutheran! We have many connection opportunities – Grace Lutheran School and Grace Lutheran CDC as well as in our community!

OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

September 2022 Edition

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. The Lending Library was knocked down and was repaired by us to continue to serving through this place. 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. **First Stop** is located at 2820 Governors Drive. (35805).



First Stop relies on volunteer support to provide hot meals twice a day at our Stokes Street facility.

Volunteer Tips for providing meals:

- Meals should serve 50-80 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 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
- Lunch is served from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, **contact Karen Davidson or Gene Menzel!**

CONNECTION GROUPS

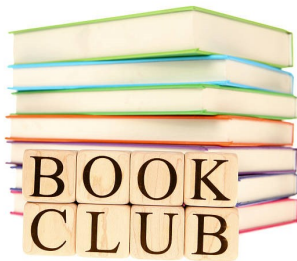
September 2022 Edition

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 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.

*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 hkick11@gmail.com.



CONNECTION GROUPS (PAGE 2)

September 2022 Edition



A Bridge Group meets once a month on the 4th Thursday except in November and December (meeting instead on the 3rd Thursday). This is party bridge – just for fun and friendship. If interested, contact Mary Jane Reumann at 256-509-4146 or 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 or 256-653-2217) or Phil Nelson (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 or 256-653-2217) or Phil Nelson at (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

September 2022 Edition

UPCOMING SAINTS' ALIVE ACTIVITY

AVE MARIA GROTTO

SAINTS' ALIVE will travel to Cullman, AL on **Wednesday, September 21** for a **9:30 AM** guided tour. We will leave Grace Lutheran at 8:30 AM. There is a \$7/person charge for each participant. We will have lunch at **Carlson's Italian Restaurant** at 11 AM. At 1 PM, we will have a guided tour of the **Colonel John Cullman Museum**. The admission at the Museum is \$3/person. It is anticipated that the group will return to Grace soon after 3 PM. **Shirley Vigil** is the coordinator for this activity. This activity is open to members and guests!





STEPHEN MINISTRY

September 2022 Edition

“Here Am I; Send me!”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” Isaiah 6:8

Can you remember a time you have enthusiastically volunteered for a task only to have second thoughts and doubts?

Many of the prophets of the bible have expressed their human frailties and doubts, but God uses them still in powerful ways. I immediately think of Abraham and Sarah doubting God’s promise. And Isaiah, who saw all his inadequacies, unworthiness and sinfulness as he acknowledged the holiness of God Almighty.

However, God takes us, broken people, who are not worthy of his presence and says he wants to use us!!! Trust God’s promise and surrender your doubts and fears of being worthy.

Grace Lutheran recently commissioned new Stephen Ministers and recommissioned the current Stephen Ministry team. We have all said “Yes” to God’s calling in our lives to provide one on one Christian care. What a privilege it is to know God can use us to reach hurting people through Stephen Ministry!

The hymn “Here I Am Lord”, speaks to our role as Stephen Ministers to be care givers and let God be the cure giver. Can you “bear the light” for those who are hurting? Can you answer the call with God to lead you?

If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry and the training provided to become a Stephen Minister, join us on September 15th at 6:30 pm in the Assembly room for an Introduction to Stephen Ministry. You can register in the narthex signup sheet, online with the QRC code or contact Judy Zecher at 256-714-0547 with additional questions



ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 2022 Edition

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. Let us know if you have a particular need for yourself or a neighbor/friend so that we can respond.

MEN'S MINISTRY GROUP meets on the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering is scheduled for **Saturday, September 10th**. We meet in the Family Life Center Cafeteria at **7:30 AM**. Our Bible study focuses on **Regrets, Reality, and Restoration**. Our study this month focuses on "You Are Forgiven." 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@qls-hsv.org

CONNECT CARD – You are encouraged to invite a friend, neighbor, or work colleague to visit our church's website at 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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 2022 Edition



FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Grace Lutheran will host a fellowship night at the **Thursday, September 15 Rocket City Trash Pandas game**. Game time is 6:35 PM and the Trash Pandas will be playing the Birmingham Barons. The game will be a Huntsville Stars Throwback Night. The cost of each ticket is \$17.50 and each ticket will come with a \$2 voucher on its barcode that can be used on concessions or on merchandise in the team store. We plan to use the Grace Lutheran bus and we can also provide a link to discounted parking for anyone driving to the park. We have reserved a block of seats for 20 but can expand that number if we exceed this number of seats. Please let Gene Menzel know no later than **Sunday, September 11** if you desire to participate in this activity. You may sign up online at the Grace website, or a sign up sheet is located in the church Narthex.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 2022 Edition



BOOK FAIR!
Coming Soon!

Save the date
Sept. 25-30

USBORNE
BOOKS & MORE
Educational Services Representative

GRACE LUTHERAN HANDBELLS COME JOIN THE BELL CHOIR

If you can count to four, and can walk and chew gum at the same time, you can play bells. We can teach you the music stuff.

- We will make music that will add to the worship experience.
- We will have fun along the way.

We need 12 or more players to ring our full 4 octave bell set.

- High school and older are welcome.
- We rehearse weekly.
- We hope to play for service once a month
- First rehearsal will be October 13, at 7:00 PM in the Choir Loft

We will discuss rehearsal day and time at the first rehearsal. If you wish to join us, please sign up on the church website or the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, call Dick Azzam at 256-508-3290.



SEPTEMBER

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

ELDERS		USHERS	
8:00	Jordan Haycock	8:00	Marty Ohme, Shane Jenks & Leonard Crain
10:45	Mike Beutel	10:45	Karen Kennedy & Kris Wyszynski

SEPTEMBER 4			SEPTEMBER 11		
	8:00	10:45		8:00	10:45
GREETERS	Bill & Sandy Robinson	Diane Anderson Barb Knighton	GREETERS	Paul & Harriett Kicklighter	Roseann Weston Debbie Doering
READERS	-----	-----	READERS	NONE	NONE
ACOLYTES	Ayden Foster	Ryder Hall	ACOLYTES	Elizabeth Evans	Asher Hall
STREAMING	Jim Kirsch	-----	STREAMING	Scott Zimmerman	-----
SOUND	Karsten Lowe	Jeff Hollings	SOUND	Stephen Wank	Brian Steeve
SCREENS	Cameron Muelling	Jim Hartmann	SCREENS	Kreg Everleth	Bob Drensek
SEPTEMBER 18			SEPTEMBER 25		
	8:00	10:45		8:00	10:45
GREETERS	Jordan & Kristin Haycock	Nancy Steeve Rosemary Sweet	GREETERS	Steve & Nancy Rice	Rhonda & Daisy Childers
READERS	NONE	NONE	READERS	NONE	NONE
ACOLYTES	Dylan Lucas	Gatlin Gilliam	ACOLYTES	Valerie Lucas	Kayden Peeden
STREAMING	Brian Steeve	-----	STREAMING	Michael Krause	-----
SOUND	Renee Bourdeaux	Kenny Ols	SOUND	David Zecher	Andy King
SCREENS	Manny Walker	Mike Banzhoff	SCREENS	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

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

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