

## Grace Notes

## November 2022

## **Hospitality AND Invitation**

by Pastor Russ Gipson

One of our goals in this year's Ministry Action Plan is for the leadership of Grace (BoD, Elders, and Staff) to work together in creating a plan for addressing our worship capacity challenges that are on the horizon. Covid-19 has certainly caused our growth curve to look unique, but despite the strange lines on our worship attendance and new members charts, Grace Lutheran continues to be on a growth trajectory. A trajectory that if it continues at the current rate will overwhelm our current worship capacity. This is a significant blessing and one for which with thank our Heavenly Father.

While we celebrate this growth and plan for our future, I believe there is something very important for us to keep in mind. There are a couple different ways congregations tend to grow. Sometimes a congregation grows because people who are new in a community are looking for a congregation to join. They browse the internet, watch a few Live-Streams, and come for a visit on a Sunday morning. If they find Grace to be a place where they feel welcomed and encouraged, and they hear God's Word proclaimed, they might decide to make Grace their church home. For this type of growth to take place, hospitality is the key. It is very important for us to ensure that we have and maintain a welcoming environment that is focused on God and His good gifts, so that those who are looking for a congregation, have a healthy Christ-centered experience at Grace.

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#### Hospitality AND Invitation (Page 2)

Sometimes a congregation grows because it goes out looking for those who have either wandered away from or who do not yet know Jesus. This is an entirely different kind of growth. For this type of growth to take place, *invitation* is the key. Huntsville is a community with many new people moving to the area, and that means that some of them will be looking for a congregation. There are others in our community who may have lived here all of their lives or perhaps they are new to the community, but either way, they aren't looking for a congregation to join at all. As we, at Grace, are experiencing exciting and healthy growth right now, it is tempting to sit back and focus on creating a hospitable environment for those who are looking. But we must never lose sight of the Great Commission. As we let Jesus' light shine, we want to make sure to be a congregation who is looking for those who don't even know they need Jesus and invite them to come and see.

In Christ,

Pastor Russ



# THANK YOU AND GOD BE WITH YOU AS YOU GO

This month will see big changes taking place both the leadership of the Child Development Center and the Grace Lutheran Church Office. Allison Merrill (CDC Director) and Kelly Jenks (Church Office Manager) have both accepted new positions. Allison Merrill will be the Director of Education for Village of Promise (a local non-profit that serves children and families living in high poverty areas). Kelly Jenks has been offered an opportunity to work from home doing technical writing for Geeks and Nerds.

We give thanks to God for the great work that both of these women have done while serving at Grace and pray God's blessings on both of them as they embark on new endeavors. We also ask for your prayers and your help as we seek to fill these two critical positions with individuals who love Jesus, seek to serve Him, and have a heart for the ministry that Grace Lutheran carries out together.

## **GROW - BIBLE STUDY TOPICS**

#### **November 2022 Edition**



#### Bible Studies Topics - November 2022

#### Sunday Morning Children and Youth

- Infant—Pre-K (Church Nursery) OT Kings and Prophets
- K—4th (Church Choir Room) OT Kings and Prophets
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (School Library) Characters of the Bible: Gospels
- Confirmation (Room 106) Discipleship
- High School (Youth Room) Miracles of Jesus

#### **Sunday Morning Communities**

- Figuring It Out (Room 203) Romans
- Balancing Act (School Band Room) Being Lutheran
- Tug of War (Room 204) Holy Resolve: Terror and War Today
- Now What (Room 202) Help is Here

#### Sunday Morning Bible Studies

- Word of God (School Cafeteria)
- Our Life with the Holy Spirit (Room 209)
- Bible for Non-Native English Speaker (Room 113)

#### 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sat at 7:30 am in the School Cafeteria) Topic Varies
- Ladies of Grace Circles Topic Varies

## **OUTREACH CONNECTIONS**

#### **November 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.

The Lord continues to add people to our congregation! During September we added the following:

Bill & Susan Baldwin
Eric Bale
Kyle Britton
Doug & Sharon DeGroot
Ed & Nancy Fowler
John & Melanie Jackson
Norm & Teri Juron
Wesley Juron
Steve & Jess Lovette

Amy & Miles Mirandy
Robert & Michelle Mohrman + Kennedy
Ted & Susan Mueller
Ben Newell
Riley & Laura Parker
Jim & Judy Reed
Emilee Taritero + Jace & Zoie
Marsha Taritero

We give thanks to God for these members who have joined in the partnership to WORSHIP | GROW | ENGAGE. We seek to be intentional to grow disciples as we each follow Jesus. I invite each of you to think about the people in your circle of influence who may not know Jesus as Lord and Savior! Pray for them and be willing to share your story of what God has done in your life. We are called to be witnesses for Jesus and be fervent in our love for God and for each other. Also, be willing to invite them to worship or a church activity!

"If you're an average player, you want to be left alone because you want to be able to slide by. If you're a good player, you want to be coached. If you're a great player, you want the coach to tell you the truth every day," Coach Nick Saban said. While this is football, it speaks to us as a congregation about how many persons are focused on the congregation's discipleship process. "When people finally grasp who they are in Christ and what their participation means to their local church, everything changes. Life begins to make sense." – from the book, I Am a Christian.

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. 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!

To grow in health, take time to get know 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!

## **OUTREACH CONNECTIONS**

#### **November 2022 Edition**

Grace Lutheran can remain healthy and be a growing church as we 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!

This is a special month when we celebrate Thanksgiving! Think and then thank God for things are you thankful for that God shares with us by His grace!

#### 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.



**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 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 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**

#### **November 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 (<u>kefbradshaw@aol.com</u> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, and we will be discussing *As Bright As Heaven*, by Susan Meissner. The next reading selection is *Pig in a Taxi and Other African Adventures* by Suzanne Crocker. 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 meet every Monday from 1-3 pm in the church choir room. Donations of various items were given to the CDC at Grace (children's blankets), Fleming Farms (lap quilts and walker totes) McDonnell Elementary (fleece hats and scarves), a Grace Church member (prayer shawl), and Beyond Blessed in Athens (fleece hats, scarves and warm fleece blankets).

Come and join us! Contact: Harriett Kicklighter at 703-881-6244 or <a href="https://hkickl1@gmail.com">hkickl1@gmail.com</a>.



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

#### **November 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 reumannmi@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 (<u>dennis@velocio.net</u> or 256-653-2217) or Phil Nelson (<u>philandkleone@comcast.net</u> 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 (<u>dennis@velocio.net</u> or 256-653-2217) or Phil Nelson at (<u>philandkleone@comcast.net</u> 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**

#### **November 2022 Edition**

**Saints' Alive** is a senior adult ministry that chooses a variety of activities to visit! The activities are scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

#### **GunRunner Hotel - Florence, Alabama**

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

The Saints' Alive will tour a unique 10-suite luxury hotel that is on Southern Living Magazine's list of "Top 12 Boutique Hotels to Visit." Each suite has its own furnishing theme showcasing an important connection to the city and local area, such as Muscle Shoals Sound, Glencoe I, and Frank Lloyd Wright. We'll learn some new things about the area. The hotel retained the name on the building of the previous occupant, a pawn shop. The hotel is on the second floor and does not have an elevator - stairs only. The bus will depart Grace at 9 a.m. The bus will make a stop at the Madison Cracker Barrel. When signing up, note that you want to be picked up at Cracker Barrel. Lunch will follow at **Momma Jean's Restaurant**, that specializes in country food "meat & three." We expect to be back at Grace about 2:30 p.m.



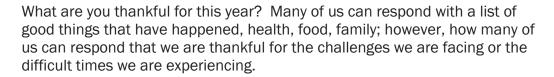
## STEPHEN MINISTRY

#### **November 2022 Edition**

#### Bountiful Mercy, Grace, and Gratitude

Thanksgiving is a time of reflection on the many bountiful blessings that God has provided to us.

"I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me." Psalm 13:6 (ESV)



HIS Grace is available to us for every challenge, trial, and temptation we face. HIS supply of Grace will not be exhausted. God will always be there to provide for us... we have overflowing abundant grace from God. We are reminded by Paul, in 2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

God provides bountiful mercy and grace to each of us. He provides for us physically, mentally and emotionally with kindness and compassion, even when we deserve his punishment. So, I will sing with gratitude and with hope in the Lord, for the work that God is doing every day in my life; both the good and the challenges.

Isaiah 40:31 "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."

Stephen Ministers are available for people facing a difficult life situation, to encourage, listen and reflect the mercy and grace that we have each been shown through Jesus Christ.

We have a new class of Stephen Ministers in training now until next April. Please keep Stephen Ministry at Grace in your prayers. May God strengthen our Stephen Ministers and trainees as they serve the Grace congregation.

Contact Judy Zecher (<u>imazecher@gmail.com</u>) if you have any questions about Stephen Ministry at Grace.



#### **November 2022 Edition**



#### THANKSGIVING BASKETS

In a joint effort with local churches, we will be putting together Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need. This year we are collecting 100 boxes of stuffing and 200 boxes of Mac and Cheese. Please bring all items to the treasure chest in the narthex by Tuesday, November 15th.

#### THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Join us on Wednesday, November 24th at 6:30 as we give thanks to God for His great mercy and blessings. We hope to see you there!

#### MANY THANKS!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, We thank you so much for the warm reception given us on the occasion of our move to Georgia (Atlanta area). We will certainly miss you, but our decision to relocate here was based solely on a desire to be closer to family. Our journey with you at Grace began over 45 years ago, and we have been abundantly blessed as we shared in the ministry of this great body of believers. We remain in God's care and in His plan. God bless you. We love you. In Christ,

Wes and Essie McElveen

Dear Grace Lutheran Family, Thank you for your being there to support Leann and I during the past 18 months. Thank you for your prayers, love and caring. We also greatly appreciated your visits, meals and cards. All of the above encouraged us in our walk with our heavenly Father. "Mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you." Jude 1:2 ESV

Yours in Christ Jesus, John Roth and Family

#### **November 2022 Edition**

#### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ARE ON THE WAY!

Wednesday Evening Advent Services will begin on November 30. Each Wednesday during Advent, we will have a service at 6:30 PM. We will also have dinners preceding each service, beginning at 5:30 in the FLC Cafeteria. The one scheduling exception will be on December 7, when the school will host the annual school Christmas program. Dinner on the 7th will begin at 5PM to accommodate the increased attendance. Watch for more details to come on this Advent and Christmas season!



#### 2022 CHRISTMAS PARADE

It's not even Halloween yet, but we are already making plans for the Huntsville Christmas Parade, to be held on **Thursday**, **December 8**th.



The theme for the Parade is "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." Grace's float will see what's rockin' UNDER the Christmas tree – with presents, toys, and a nativity scene under the "tree". We need assistance with constructing, painting, and decorating our float. We are also seeking church and school families of all ages to walk with or ride on the float. Parade float participants are expected to dress according to the theme.

To sign up to help make the float, please contact the school office at (256)881-0553. Float builders are welcome at any time!

#### **November 2022 Edition**

#### COOKIES AND CANVAS

Looking for a meaningful way to connect and spend time with your kids? Consider a date night with your child. On Friday, November 18th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, we will host a Canvas and Cookies 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 by November 14th.





The A.C.T.S. (Actively Caring, Tenderly Serving) ministry team is organized to serve those who are experiencing a challenge in their life and need just a little extra help with a task or two – a caretaker in need of respite care, a church member who needs transportation assistance, someone experiencing a health challenge who would benefit from a couple of home cooked meals – the

A.C.T.S. ministry team exists to meet these needs. If you know of someone who can benefit, e-mail gracelutheranacts@gmail.com. Let us know if you have a particular need for yourself by using the email or calling 256-881-0552 and let us know the need. Driving someone – YES – helping someone replace a light bulb – YES – picking up groceries – YES! We need to identify one or two leaders for this ministry. If you want to serve as a leader and participate in a quarterly meeting, please get in touch!

MEN'S MINISTRY GROUP meets on the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering is scheduled for Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. We meet in the Family Life Center Cafeteria at 7:30 AM. Our Bible study focuses on Nurturing Your Faith: God In Worship. In Nurturing Your Faith: God in Worship, we see how God's presence is integral to His relationship with believers. This presence came to us fully in Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and who, today, is present with us when we come together to worship. The invitation to participate 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

**CONNECT CARD** – You are encouraged to invite a friend, neighbor, or work colleague to visit our church's website at <u>www.gracelutheran-hsv.org</u> 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!

#### **November 2022 Edition**

#### COMING SOON---GRACE LUTHERAN APP

The new Grace app will include the following features: church calendar, church directory, online giving, personalized volunteer schedules, and easy online registrations for events. On November 20th, we will send out more information on how to download our new app and explain how to access its many features.

## Coming Soon...



#### GRACE LUTHERAN WILL HAVE A NEW ONLINE GIVING PAGE!

Beginning **November 20**, we are migrating to the e-giving platform included with Planning Center, our new church database. In addition to giving, this will be a place where you can log in to your donor account and manage your payment methods and recurring gifts and access your giving history. This new online giving page will be available both through our new Church Center mobile app (also coming November 20) and when you click the **GIVE ONLINE** button on our church website. Our current e-giving platform through Vanco will be discontinued as of **January 1**.

#### What does this mean for you?

- You will see a new online giving page when you give a one-time electronic gift online *beginning* November 20.
- If you make a recurring gift to Grace through our current e-giving platform, Vanco: You will need to log in to your Vanco account and cancel that recurring gift by December 31.
- If you would like to set up a recurring gift to Grace through our new e-giving platform in Planning Center: You can either go to Giving in our new Church Center mobile app or click the GIVE ONLINE link on our church website beginning November 20.

Questions? Contact the Business Office at (256) 881-0552 or businessoffice@gls-hsv.org.

#### We will send more detailed instructions in the coming weeks.

We appreciate your patience as we make this transition!

## NOVEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

ELDERS		Ushers	
8:00	Craig Camealy	8:00	Jon & Pam Stieglitz and Larry Woellhart
10:45	Mike Banzhoff	10:45	Salgados (6th & 13th) ; Fuldas (20th & 27th)

	November 6			November 1	3
	8:00	10:45		8:00	10:45
GREETERS	Mike & Sue Stubbs	Mike Banzhoff Jim Exkardt	GREETERS	Paul & Harriett Kicklighter	Rhonda & Daisy Childers
READERS			READERS	NONE	NONE
ACOLYTES	Dylan Lucas	Asher Hall	Acolytes	Elizabeth Evans	Gatlin Gilliam
STREAMING	Brian Steeve		STREAMING	Jim Kirsch	
Sound	Renee Bourdeaux	Jeff Hollings	Sound	Stephen Wank	Brian Steeve
SCREENS	Kelly Jenks	Jim Hartmann	SCREENS	Kreg Everleth	Bob Drensek
November 20				November 27	7
	8:00	10:45		8:00	10:45
GREETERS	8:00 Bill & Sandy Robinson	10:45  Rosanne Weston Debbie Doering	GREETERS	8:00 Steve & Nancy Rice	10:45 Michael & Callum Beutel
GREETERS	Bill & Sandy	Rosanne Weston	GREETERS	Steve & Nancy	Michael & Callum
	Bill & Sandy Robinson	Rosanne Weston Debbie Doering		Steve & Nancy Rice	Michael & Callum Beutel
READERS	Bill & Sandy Robinson NONE	Rosanne Weston Debbie Doering NONE	Readers	Steve & Nancy Rice NONE	Michael & Callum Beutel NONE
READERS	Bill & Sandy Robinson NONE Valerie Lucas	Rosanne Weston Debbie Doering NONE	READERS	Steve & Nancy Rice NONE	Michael & Callum Beutel NONE

#### **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
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	leff 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	

