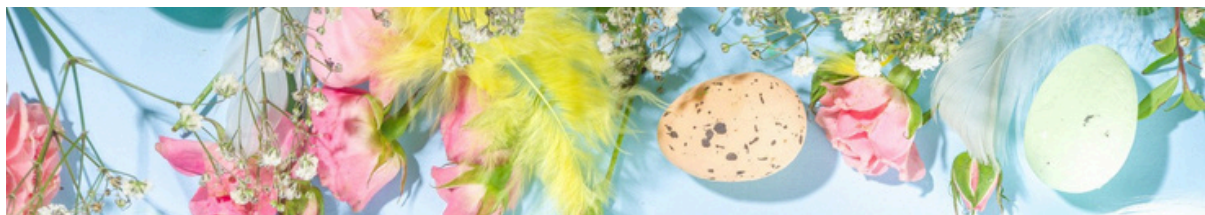

Grace Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2026



In First Corinthians 3:9 we read, “For we are God’s fellow workers...” By God’s grace through the working of the Holy Spirit, we become fellow workers with Him. Rather than working through legions of angels, God blesses us with the privilege and the responsibility to be His people through whom He works. Working with Him, we are guided and directed by God’s will that comes to us through His Word. Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, we are willing to submit our will to God’s will, and we become people through whom He accomplishes His purposes. We do not work for Him but with Him. We become His hands, feet, and mouth to the world. In our role as God’s fellow workers, we are free to choose how best to serve Him, but our service is to be from willing hearts. Through faith, we know that our gifts are from God and are to be used to serve Him by serving others. We trust that God will show us His will and give us the strength to do it.

As God’s fellow workers, we are not alone because He is always with us. Working with the Lord, our lives have new value, meaning, and purpose. We become less self-centered and more God-centered as we become His conduits through whom He works to help others know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. In the words of Apostle Paul, “[God] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). When we understand how profound and amazing it is that God wants to include us as His fellow workers to rescue people from sin and damnation, we will be filled with deep humility and joy.

Pastor Willsea

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Pastor’s
Message

Church
Calendar

Easter Events

News from
Grace Youth

Farm Festival

Grace Spring
Yard Sale

April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 PALM SUNDAY Service of Holy Communion 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM in GH	30 AI-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	31	1 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH Sr. Choir 7:00 PM	2 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	3 Good Friday Services 12:00 & 7:00 PM	4 Altar Guild Mtg. 9:00 AM
5 EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Service 7:00 AM Easter Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt 8:00 - 9:00 AM GH Easter Service of Holy Communion 9:30 & 11:00 AM	6 AI-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	7 Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR Elder's Mtg. 7:00 PM in CR	8 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH Canasta 1:00 PM in GH	9 Sort Clothes for Yard Sale 9:00AM - 1:00PM in GH Men's AA Mtg. 7:00PM in GH	10 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	11
12 Service of Holy Communion 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM in GH	13 Sort Clothes for Yard Sale 9:00AM - 1:00PM in GH AI-Anon 7:00PM in GH	14 Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR	15 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH Lunch & Learn 11:00AM in GH	16 Stephen Ministry 10:30AM in CR Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	17 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	18 Sowers of the Kingdom Farm Festival 12 - 3 PM
19 Service of Holy Communion 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM in GH	20 AI-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	21 Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR Men's Group 6:00 PM in CR Book Club at Meh Tai, Trolley Rd. 7:00 PM	22 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH	23 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	24 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	25
Set Up for Yard Sale				Yard Sale		
26 Service of Holy Communion 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM in GH	27 AI-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	28 Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR Oakbrook HOA Mtg 6:00PM in GH PPC Meeting 7:00 PM in CR	29 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH	30 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	1 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	2 Altar Guild Mtg. 9:00 AM

EASTER CALENDAR

Holy Week Services: April 2nd through April 5th

Maundy Thursday Service	April 2 @ 7:00 PM
Good Friday Service	April 3 @ 12:00 & 7:00 PM
Easter Sunday Services	April 5th
Sonrise Service	April 5th @ 7:00 AM
Easter Breakfast	April 5th @ 8:00 AM
Easter Egg Hunt	April 5th @ 8:30 AM
Easter Services	April 5th @ 9:30 & 11:00 AM
No Sunday School	April 5th



Easter Breakfast

Please join us Easter Morning for breakfast prepared by the Elders and served by Grace Youth. The free will offering will go to the Youth Group. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord together. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 am, following the Sonrise Service.

Palm Crosses

A tradition at Grace Lutheran Church is making Palm Crosses. If you would like to have fun and learn how to make Palm Crosses, join us on Saturday, March 28th in the Narthex around 10:00 AM. The crosses will be used and distributed at our Palm Sunday Service on March 28th.
POC: Altar Guild Members

The Living Cross

Another Easter Tradition at Grace is the Living Cross. Please remember to bring fresh cut flowers on Easter Sunday and place them on the wire cross in the portico.
POC: Carol Skinner

Easter Egg Hunt

Following the Easter Breakfast, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt for all Grace and Guest children. *If you are able, please drop off small wrapped candy donations in the basket in the Narthex. Chocolate candy will be accepted.*
Thanks for your support!
POC: Cori Harding

Easter Lilies

The cost is \$10.00 per plant and can be purchased by cash or check made payable to Grace Lutheran Church. Please fill out a flower envelope and place in the offering plate. The sign-up sheet and envelopes are located in the Narthex. Flowers may be picked up or donated after the Easter Services.
POC: Susan Star

Give it Up for Lent

Social Ministry is collecting item for our Yard Sale, (April 23-25). Please return filled bags to the Narthex after Holy Week.
Thank you!
POC: Susan Star

* FARM *

Festival



Join us for a fun-filled day at the farm!
Support the ministries of Sowers of the Kingdom!

Saturday, April 18th

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

All Aboard Boarding

123 Twig Lane, Summerville

- BBQ: Pulled Pork, Burgers, Hot Dogs, Sides
- Oysters by the Bucket (\$10/first bucket, \$5 refill)
- Line Dancing
- Games & Crafts
- Jump Castle
- Camp Fire/S'mores

For Pre Event Ticket Sales
and More Information:
Scan the QR Code or go to
sowersofthekingdom.org

TICKETS:
Adults \$25
(12 & under) Children \$10

Hey All! We are really excited about our upcoming event! It will be a fun time for Grace families. You can scan the above code to purchase tickets on line or see John Kinney for a hard copy. We will be asking for volunteers to make cornbread, baked beans and cole slaw. Sign up sheets will be up soon in the Narthex. If you are able to help out the day of the event, please see Erika Gray. Thank You!



April 23rd, 24th and 25th

Hours: 8am-3pm Thursday and Friday.

Saturday hours are 8am-1pm.

You may begin bringing yard sale items to church on April 16th.

Set up will begin in Grace Hall at 10:30am on Sunday, April 19th.

Help will be needed to move items

from the sheds to Grace Hall after third service.

We will be working Monday-Wednesday, April 20-22nd from 9am-7pm

If you have some time, please drop by and help or sign up on the sheet in the narthex listing the days you can help.

Volunteers are needed to work the Yard Sale Thursday, Friday and Saturday and clean up on Saturday after 1 PM.

POC: Shirley Marquardt

712-204-7522.



Hand and Foot Canasta

We Play every other Wednesday

1:00 PM in Grace Hall

ALL ARE WELCOME!

If you don't know how to play,

We will teach you!

POC: Shirley Marquardt

There are several ways to give to Grace Lutheran Church. Offering plates are passed during all three Sunday services. Regular contributors may request numbered envelopes to receive periodic giving reports. You can also give online, including recurring gifts through ACH bank transfer or Vanco. Email office@gracesummerville.org for more details!

Stewardship Board

Jodell Jenkins, Director



Huge Indoor Yard Sale

April 23, 24, 25, 2026

Thur. & Fri. 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Saturday 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Cash Only

Youth Bake Sale

Saturday, Apr. 25th

8:00 am - 12:30 pm



Grace Lutheran Church

1600 Old Trolley Rd

Summerville, SC

www.gracesummerville.org

Education NEWS

The Education Board is thankful for the opportunity to once again support several mission causes through the generous donations of you all. The Sunday school students recently voted on Samaritan's Purse options. The winning causes are "Water for a Community" and "Hot Meals for a Child." In addition to these causes, we have also decided to donate to the Lowcountry Foodbank, Meals on Wheels and Sower's of the Kingdom. The specific donation amounts are:

Lowcountry Food Bank: \$500
(providing 1500 meals for local kids, seniors and families)

Meals on Wheels: \$180
(providing 60 meals)

Water for a Community: \$150
(Samaritan's Purse)

Hot Meals: \$70
(Samaritan's Purse- provides a week of food for 10 kids)

Sower's of the Kingdom: \$200

Thanks for your generosity and support of these causes. If you have any questions, please see Lindsay.

Lindsay Ott



**YOUTH OF GRACE
UPCOMING EVENTS**

MARCH 1-29 BABY ITEMS COLLECTION/DRIVE FOR LOWCOUNTRY PREGNANCY CENTER
BOX IN CHURCH NARTHEX NEAR PASTOR'S OFFICE

APRIL 5 EASTER BREAKFAST AND EASTER EGG HUNT
8 AM GRACE HALL

APRIL 25 YOUTH BAKE SALE & YARD SALE CLEAN UP
8 AM - 3 PM GRACE HALL

MAY 3 PLANT A FLOWER FOR MOM
AFTER ALL CHURCH SERVICES OUTSIDE GRACE HALL

JUNE 14 POOL PARTY WITH PASTOR
TIME: TBD THE WILSEA'S HOUSE

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT CORI HARDING : (630) 336-9911 OR CORIHARDING77@GMAIL.COM

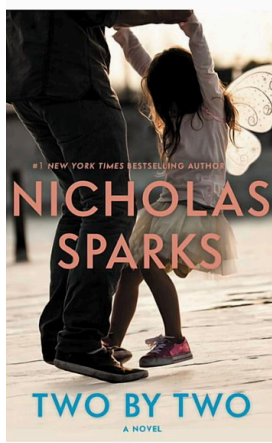
Sweet Treats for a Great Cause – Support Our Youth!

Our Youth Group will be holding a Bake Sale on Saturday, April 25th, and we invite the congregation to help make it a success! We are gratefully accepting donations of baked goods to sell. Packaging will be available if you would like to take home (in Narthex) and prepare them yourself, or we are happy to package your baked goods for you—please have them to the church by Friday afternoon if you would like us to do the packaging.

All proceeds from the bake sale will go toward supporting our youth and helping fund future trips and faith-building opportunities, including the 2028 National Youth Gathering. Thank you for encouraging our youth and helping them grow in faith through these meaningful experiences!

POC: Cori Harding

Book Club



At 32, Russell Green has it all: a stunning wife, a lovable six year-old daughter, a successful career as an advertising executive and an expansive home in Charlotte. He is living the dream, and his marriage to the bewitching Vivian is the center of that. But underneath the shiny surface of this perfect existence, fault lines are beginning to appear...and no one is more surprised than Russ when he finds every aspect of the life he took for granted turned upside down. In a matter of months, Russ finds himself without a job or wife, caring for his young daughter while struggling to adapt to a new and baffling reality. Throwing himself into the wilderness of single parenting, Russ embarks on a journey at once terrifying and rewarding—one that will test his abilities and his emotional resources beyond anything he ever imagined.

Discussion at Meh Tai, Trolley Rd.
April 21, 7:00 PM
POC: Nancy Clowney

WOMEN'S PAINT & SIP

Grace Lutheran is hosting a paint and sip event for the women of our congregation with our talented resident artist Monique Moore in Grace Hall on the afternoon of **Sunday, May 3**. Bring a friend and a snack or beverage to share! More details will follow in the weekly announcements as the date approaches.



2025 Choice Dollars® Thrivent Choice® program

Congratulations! In 2025, Grace Lutheran Church received \$1225 through the Thrivent Choice® program — and that's worth celebrating!

Your work strengthens communities, and we're grateful for the impact you make every day. With the March 31, 2026 deadline approaching, now is a great time to direct any remaining 2025 Choice Dollars® before they expire. Talk with your Thrivent Rep. if you have questions.

A Time to Serve: Grace Lutheran Nominating Season

As Grace Lutheran enters our annual nominating season, we look ahead to the coming year and the many ways our congregation continues to grow and serve together. Our boards and committees play an important role in supporting the ministry and mission of Grace, and each year, members step forward to share their time, talents, and leadership in these roles.

We encourage you to review the board and committee descriptions on the information sheet posted in the narthex and prayerfully consider where your gifts may be used. You may even be asked to consider serving—please take time to pray about that opportunity. If you are interested in serving or would like more information, please connect with a member of the nominating committee: Christine Barsuhn, Ben Harding, Lindsay Ott, Kyle Sinisi, Sherri Marquardt, or Jodell Jenkins. *Watch for stewardship cards that will be distributed in church at the beginning of April as another way to share how you may feel called to serve.*

VOLUNTEER



Junior Choir

You would be amazed if you were a bug on the wall listening to one of our practices on Sunday morning. The progress and rate of learning not only new musical lyrics and melodies, but also ringing new bell arrangements is unbelievable! The kids are anxious to learn new things each week, and even they are amazed at their accomplishments in just 20 minutes each Sunday!

On Easter Sunday during the 9:30 service, we are challenging ourselves to play 2 handbells each as we sing "The Lord is Risen. Yes, Indeed," a festive anthem proclaiming the Easter message. As an added treat Jada Jenkins will be playing her tenor saxophone to accompany our choir. We all will be praising our Lord and Savior through music!

Our next performance will be on April 26 as we sing, "Gentle Shepherd" in the 11:00 service.

May God always be praised through music.

Merna Ahlemeyer

April Senior Choir Anthem Schedule

April 2 (Holy Thursday)

"Into the Garden" arr. D. Nolan,
composer, P. Lutkin
(7:00 PM service)

April 5 (Easter Sunday)

"Resurrection Alleluias" T. Fettke
(7:00, 9:30, and 11:00 AM services)

Patty Barnes

70th Biennial LWML Carolinas District Convention

May 1-2, 2026

St. Peter's Lutheran Church,
6175 St. Peter's Church Road,
Conover, NC 28613



*I will lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence comes my help?
help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.*

Psalm 121:1-2

Gifts from the Heart will be:
Camp Linn Haven (monetary)

or

Supplies for Bookbags (monetary)

**Write checks to LWML Carolinas District
and earmark for Camp or Supplies.**

Hotel Information

Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 104 10th ST NW,
Conover, NC 28613 Phone (828)-465-7070
Cost 139.00 plus tax for (2) queen bedroom
You can book your room by calling the hotel
directly at (828) 465-7070. Stay on the line or
press 0. It will send you to the front desk. Ask for
LWML Carolinas District Group block.
Reservations must be made no later than
April 16, 2026.

Guest Speaker: Teirsa Lane, Manager Camp Linn Haven

Teirsa has been the Manager at Camp Linn Haven for over 20 years. She will speak about the Camp restoration after the hurricane. Camp Linn Haven is a Christian summer camp owned by Camp Linn Haven, Inc., and affiliated with the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Established in 1940, Camp Linn Haven is a non-profit organization situated on 52 acres of the Blue Ridge mountains.



You are invited to attend the convention on May 1-2 in Conover. The convention information and the registration form can be found in the LWML Carolinas newsletter on the table in the narthex. POC: Shirley Marquardt

April 5

Tabulators Sherri Marquardt
John Kinney & Marta Simpson

Elders

8:00: Jon M. (L), Sammy P.

9:30: Steve H. (L), John K.

11:00: Kyle S.(L), Ben H.

Ushers

8:00: Ken Blekicki

9:30: TBD

11:00: Cori Harding, Leon Mills

Altar Guild All Members

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: TBD

Reader 11:00: Sherri Marquardt

April 12

Tabulators Jen Miller
Ed & Shirley Marquardt

Elders

8:00: Paul O. (L), John K.

9:30: Josh G. (L), Sammy P.

11:00: Ben H. (L), Josh G.

Ushers

8:00: Rich Wilson

9:30: TBD

11:00: Ed & Shirley Marquardt

Altar Guild Susan Star

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Caleb Brindis

Reader 11:00: Ben Harding

April 19

Tabulators Jen Miller
Bill & Kathleen Dinges

Elders

8:00: Jon M. (L), Sammy P.

9:30: Kyle S. (L), Brian B.

11:00: Brian B. (L), Ben H.

Ushers

8:00: Greg Sheldon

9:30: TBD

11:00: Aaron & Jodell Jenkins

Altar Guild Carol Skinner

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Claire Ott

Reader 11:00: Sherri Marquardt

April 26

Tabulators Sherri Marquardt
Kyle & Christina Sinisi

Elders

8:00: John K. (L), Jon M.

9:30: Steve H. (L), Kyle S.

11:00: Josh G. (L), Paul O.

Ushers

8:00: Ken Blekicki

9:30: TBD

11:00: Grant & Christine B.

Altar Guild Nancy Blekicki

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Lucy Ott

Reader 11:00: Jane Mary Gay

Maundy Thursday Elders

7:00 PM: Kyle S. (L), Sammy P.

Good Friday Elders

12:00PM: Steve H. (L), John K.

7:00 PM: Brian B. (L), Paul O.

Grace Lutheran Church

Treasurer Report

Feb-26

Balance Brought Forward January 1, 2026 79533.55

RECEIPTS for FEBRUARY

General Operating	39885.33	
Designated Funds	3142.4	
Endowment Fund	0	
		43027.73

RECEIPTS for JANUARY

General Operating	34235.82	
Designated Funds	2954.44	
Endowment Fund	0	
		37190.26

TOTAL RECEIPTS 80217.99

EXPENSES for FEBRUARY

General Operating	37981.18	
Designated Funds	10300.83	
Endowment Fund	578.45	
		48860.46

EXPENSES for JANUARY

General Operating	34912.09	
Designated Funds	3676.52	
Endowment Fund	0	
		38588.61

TOTAL EXPENSES 87449.07

CHECKBOOK Balance February 28, 2025 50957.28

Estimated \$9,495.15 needed per week. Estimated needs for January \$37,980.60. We received \$39,885.33

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS2025-2026

Rev. W. Richard WillseaPastor

Karen SuterDeaconess

John KinneyExecutive Director

Kyle SinisiAsst. Executive Director

Sammy PeekTreasurer

Lindsay OttDirector, Board of Christian Education

Aaron JenkinsDirector, Board of Church Properties

Kyle Sinisi Director, Board of Elders

Nicole WillseaDirector, Board of Evangelism

Sherri MarquardtDirector, Board of Parish Fellowship

Kevin Henry.....Director, Board of Public Relations

Susan StarDirector, Board of Social Ministry

Jodell JenkinsDirector, Board of Stewardship

Cori HardingDirector, Board of Youth

Laura CourtneyDirector, Board of Columbarium

Sherri MarquardtFinancial Secretary

Carol SkinnerChair, Altar Guild

Shirley MarquardtWomen of Grace (LWML)

Ellen PearsonAdministrator/

Editor, Grace Newsletter

TBDWebmaster, Grace Website

Patricia BarnesOrganist/Choir Director

Merna AhlemeyerJunior Choir Director