

Grace Monthly Newsletter

MAY 2026



Save the date- July 25

Several months ago we participated in a Simple Assessment survey organized by the district. We had 92 members respond to the survey. On July 25 we will have a team from the District here to present the results of the survey and we can add these results to our long term planning. We anticipate the meeting will go from around 9:00 to 3:00 with a lunch included. More information will be provided as we get closer. Any questions, please contact John Kinney

What is the SIMPLE Assessment?

The SIMPLE Assessment is a tool designed to measure congregational well-being across six key dimensions:

- **Spiritual Vitality**
- **Impact**
- **Managing Emotions**
- **Purpose**
- **Life-Giving Relationships**
- **Engagement**



Acts 2:42-47 serves as the scriptural foundation for this assessment, reflecting the early Christian communities' devotion to teaching, fellowship, worship, sharing, and unity. The assessment helps congregations embody these principles as they work toward greater well-being and spiritual flourishing, while connecting people to Jesus to transform lives and grow God's Kingdom.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Mission Trip

Church
Calendar

Columbarium

News from
Grace Youth

Upcoming
Events

Serving
Schedules

Mission Trip Update

In March we supported the Sowers of the Kingdom mission trip to the Dominican Republic. This trip provided a medical team, including an optometrist, that treated 500 patients at 5 different churches during the week. We also had a dental team with dentists from North Carolina, New York and the Dominican Republic. They treated 128 people in Palmarito (on the mountain). With all the candy we have passed out in that community there were several teeth that needed a little special attention. We continued our construction project and did 15 home visits with food bags, fellowship and prayer.

On Friday we had special visitors join us. Rev. Jonathan Anderson, the missionary who visited Grace last year, is in the DR for language training and he came to spend the day with us. Pastor Ted Krey, the Sr. Pastor at the Lutheran Seminary in Santiago, joined us as well as Dana Stigdon, the Director of volunteer coordination from the Seminary. They had the opportunity to tour our school as well as to visit each mission site to see medical, dental and construction projects. Pastor Ted has a long history of planting churches in the Caribbean.

Our next mission trip will be August 8 to 15. This will combine the Charleston Southern University PA program medical clinics with our VBS program with home visits and baseball thrown in. Erika Grey will be leading the VBS team with a program prepared by Concordia. She could use help as we are expecting well over 100 kids. If you are interested in helping please contact her or John Kinney.





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>26</p> <p>Worship Service 8, 9:30, 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM</p>	<p>27</p> <p>AI-Anon 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR</p> <p>PPC Mtg. 7:00 PM</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Altar Guild Mtg. 9:00 AM</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Worship Service 8, 9:30, 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM</p> <p>Paint 'N Sip 3:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>AI-Anon 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR</p> <p>Elder's Mtg. 7:00 PM in CR</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH</p> <p>Canasta 1:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Worship Service 8, 9:30, 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM</p>	<p>11</p> <p>AI-Anon 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Stephen Ministry 10:30 AM in CR</p> <p>Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Worship Service 8, 9:30, 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM</p>	<p>18</p> <p>AI-Anon 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR</p> <p>Men's Group 6:00 PM in GH</p> <p>Book Club 7:00 PM Auth. NY Pizza</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH</p> <p>Lunch & Learn 11:00 in GH</p> <p>Canasta 1:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Worship Service 8, 9:30, 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM</p> <p>Voter's Mtg. 12 PM Sanc.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>AI-Anon 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Service of Holy Communion 8, 9:30, 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM</p>	<p>1</p> <p>AI-Anon 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH</p> <p>Canasta 1:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Altar Guild Mtg. 9:00 AM</p>

Save the Date
Congregational Potluck
Sunday, June 7th
12:00 PM in Grace Hall
Watch for more information
POC: Sherri Marquardt



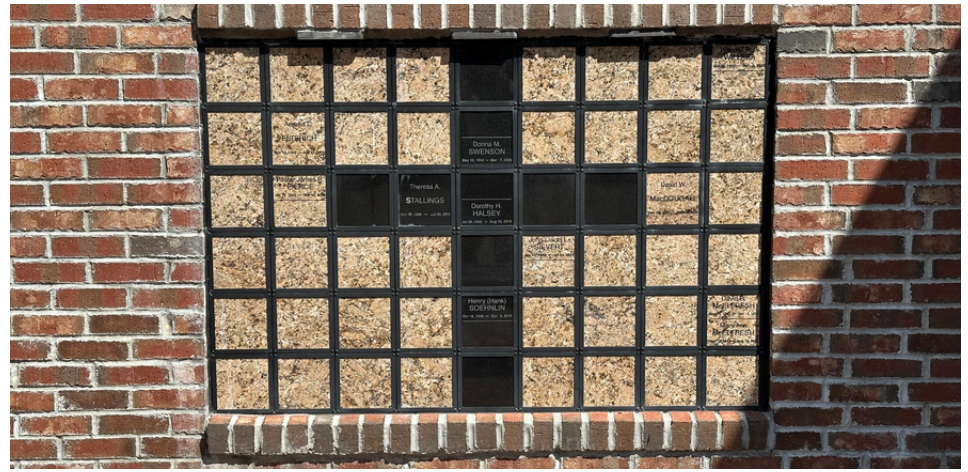
Hand and Foot Canasta

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!
May dates: May 6th and 20th
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





Grace Lutheran Church Columbarium



Niches are still available in the Columbarium.
\$2250 for outside the cross.

**CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE
COLUMBARIUM BOARD FOR
INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE A
NICHE**

YOUTH OF GRACE

UPCOMING EVENTS



MARCH
1-29

**BABY ITEMS COLLECTION/DRIVE
FOR LOWCOUNTRY
PPREGNANCY 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

Education NEWS

Each month, Christian Education is going start highlighting some of the other classes that our church offers outside of Sunday School. First, we would like to focus on a program that we offer once a month called Lunch and Learn. Lunch and Learn is on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11am in Grace Hall. This program provides an opportunity to connect with one another over a shared meal while also being enriched through meaningful teaching and discussion.

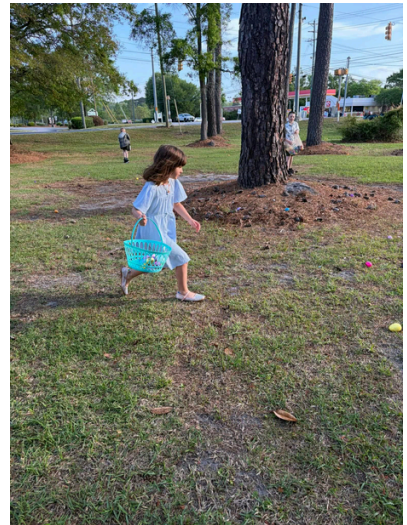
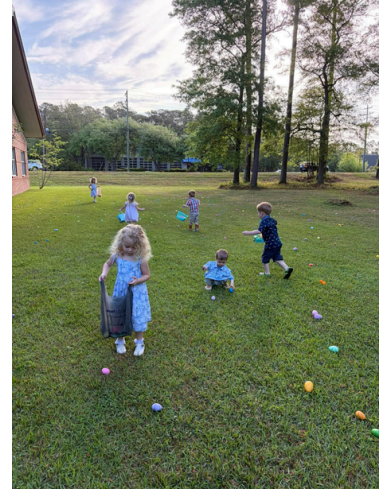
The program begins with a simple lunch followed by an educational presentation on a variety of topics, including both religious and non-religious topics. Some months Deaconess Suter gives a presentation on a topic, while other months might feature a guest speaker who brings insight and experience to the topic at hand. Other times the program may include a field trip that allows hands-on learning and exploration.

There is no cost to attend, though a free will offering is accepted through the offering basket or via a QR code to help cover the cost of the program. Each gathering is thoughtfully planned to be both welcoming and fun for all ages and anyone who is available to attend.

If you have any questions, please see Lindsay Ott.



Easter at Grace



New Quilts/ Blankets needed!

A year and a half ago, Hurricane Helene devastated Western North Carolina. Although the region has now transitioned to the long-term recovery phase, many of the same human needs that went neglected in the early months following Helene remain unmet. On May 30, Lutheran Servants for Christ and Lutheran Church Charities will be partnering with a Free Marketplace to bring much needed family resources to more than 200 families in Spartanburg NC.

We will be working with the Resurrection Lutheran in Spartanburg. One of the things needed are quilts/blankets. We anticipate working with 200 families on Saturday, May 30.

Quilts may be sent or delivered to : Spartanburg Emergency Operations Center, 175 Community college DR, Spartanburg SC 29303. Our point of contact there is Lilia Millner. lmillner@spartanburgcounty.org
312-561-0558

Thank you for considering this request.
Deaconess Sally J Hiller
1536 Meyers Station RD
Odenton MD 21113
sjhiller@aol.com



Junior Choir

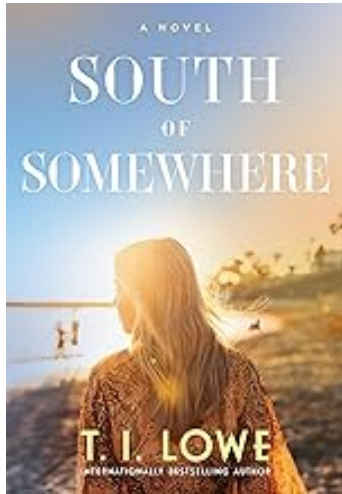
On Trinity Sunday, May 31, the Jr Choir will sing their last anthem for the season in the 11:00 service. The Gospel reading for that Sunday is from Matthew 28:16-30 where Christ commands His disciples to "Go make Disciples" and "I am with you always." The Jr Choir will continue with that theme as they sing "Go Ye, Go Ye into the World" and "As You Go on Your Way."

They have worked hard all year, praising God and singing with hearts full of love for their Savior.

We thank our children for adding to our worship!

Merna Ahlemeyer

Book Club



A young mother filled with regret returns to Sullivan's Island to rebuild her life and finds compassion in the most unexpected places in this heartfelt women's fiction story of self-discovery and second chances from bestselling author T. I. Lowe, whose novels have been described as "soul-stirring, unforgettable romance" (BookPage).

Meeting on Tuesday, 7:00 PM, May 19th
at Authentic New York Pizza,
Dorchester Rd.



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.



May 3

Tabulators Sherri Marquardt
Jim & Nancy Clowney

Elders

8:00: Jon M. (L), John K.
9:30: Steve H. (L), Kyle S.
11:00: Brian B.(L), Josh G.

Ushers

8:00: Greg Sheldon
9:30: TBD
11:00: Cori Harding, Leon Mills

Altar Guild Nancy C.

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Claire >

Reader 11:00: Ben Harding

May 10

Tabulators Sherri Marquardt
Tom & Louise Sage

Elders

8:00: Sam P. (L), John M.
9:30: Kyle S. (L), Brian B.
11:00: Ben H. (L), Paul O.

Ushers

8:00: Rich Wilson
9:30: TBD
11:00: Ed & Shirley Marquardt

Altar Guild Kathy D.

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Ezekiel Brindis

Reader 11:00: Sherri M.

May 17

Tabulators Jen Miller
Martha H. Diane M.

Elders

8:00: Jon M. (L), Sammy P.
9:30: Steve H. (L), John K.
11:00: Paul O. (L), Kyle S.

Ushers

8:00: Ken Blekicki
9:30: TBD
11:00: Grant & Christine B.

Altar Guild Susan S.

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Jordan Gray

Reader 11:00: Jane Mary

May 24

Tabulators Jen Miller
Ed & Kathy Peters

Elders

8:00: John K. (L), Jon M.
9:30: Kyle S. (L), Josh G.
11:00: Josh G. (L), Ben H.

Ushers

8:00: Greg Sheldon
9:30: TBD
11:00: Shirley & Marta

Altar Guild Nancy B.

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: TBD

Reader 11:00: Ben H.

May 31

Tabulators Sherri M.
John K., Marta S.

Elders

8:00: Sam P.(L), Steve H.
9:30: Brian B. (L), Ben H.
11:00: Ben H. (L), Paul O.

Ushers

8:00: Rich Wilson
9:30: TBD
11:00: Aaron & Jodell

Altar Guild Carol S.

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: TBD

Reader 11:00: Sherri M.

Grace Lutheran Church

Treasurer Report

3/31/26

Balance Brought Forward January 1, 2026 \$79,533.55

RECEIPTS for MARCH

General Operating \$53,055.41

Designated Funds \$2,448.36

Endowment Fund \$0.00

\$55,503.77

RECEIPTS for JANUARY - FEBRUARY

General Operating \$34,235.82

Designated Funds \$2,954.44

Endowment Fund \$0.00

\$37,190.26

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$92,694.03

EXPENSES for MARCH

General Operating \$38,503.80

Designated Funds \$1,523.02

Endowment Fund \$400.00

\$40,426.82

EXPENSES for JANUARY - FEBRUARY

General Operating \$34,912.09

Designated Funds \$3,676.52

Endowment Fund \$0.00

\$38,588.61

TOTAL EXPENSES \$79,015.43

CHECKBOOK Balance March 31, 2026 \$63,013.81

Estimated \$9,495.15 needed per week. Estimated needs for MARCH \$47,475.75. We received \$53,055.41

Respectfully Submitted

Sammy Peek, Treasurer

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

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Laura CourtneyDirector, Board of Columbarium

Sherri MarquardtFinancial Secretary

Carol SkinnerChair, Altar Guild

Shirley MarquardtWomen of Grace (LWML)

Ellen PearsonAdministrator/

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TBDWebmaster, Grace Website

Patricia BarnesOrganist/Choir Director

Merna AhlemeyerJunior Choir Director