

Grace Monthly Newsletter

JUNE 2026



From the Pastor's Desk

Let's talk about how we support each other through prayer here at grace. We do believe that lifting each other up is incredibly powerful, and it's so important to remember that **every single prayer** offered by any one of us is heard and valued equally. Whether you're new to faith or have been walking with us for years, your words and intentions are just as significant. There are no secret "cheat codes" or special privileges for anyone; God hears all our hearts and responds to our collective faith!

To help us all stay connected and make sure everyone's needs are covered, we've set up a few different ways to share prayer requests:

First up, we have our **quick-response email prayer chain**. This is perfect for those immediate, urgent situations or sudden praises that pop up. Deaconess Suter does an amazing job managing this, sending out timely emails so we can all rally together in prayer right when it's needed most.

Then, for requests that might need ongoing prayer support over a longer period, we include them in our **weekly bulletin**. The idea here is simple: you can grab a copy, take it home with you, and keep those specific needs in your daily thoughts and prayers throughout the week. It's a beautiful way to ensure our community members are continually uplifted, even when we're not together.

And finally, we completely understand that some concerns are deeply personal and might require a bit more privacy. If you have something sensitive on your heart that you'd prefer to share discreetly, please don't hesitate to reach out directly to the pastor, or frankly, any one of our trusted leaders or even a close friend within our community. We are absolutely here to listen, offer support, and pray with you confidentially.

Prayer is such a central part of who we are, and we're so grateful for each of you who commit to carrying one another in prayer. Let's keep those prayers flowing!

Pastor Willsea

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Church
Calendar

Book
Club

Education
News

News from
Grace Youth

All About
Psalms

Serving
Schedules

Treasurer's
Report

June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>31</p> <p>Worship Services 8, 9:30, 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR</p> <p>Elder's Mtg. 7:00 PM 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>7</p> <p>Worship Services 8, 9:30, 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:30AM</p> <p>*Installation of New Officers</p> <p>Congregational PotLuck 12:15 GH</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Worship Service 8, 9:30, 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & & Adult Bible Class in GH 9:30 AM</p> <p>Pool Party at Pastor Willsea's</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>16</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 Newks</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH</p> <p>Lunch & Learn 11:00 AM in GH</p> <p>Canasta 1:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Stephen Ministry 10:30 AM in CR</p> <p>Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Worship Service 8, 9:30, 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM in GH</p> <p>Pre-Confirmation Class @ 12:30 CR</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR</p>	<p>27</p> <p>LWML Southern Zone Rally 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at Grace</p>
<p>28</p> <p>Worship Service 8, 9:30, 11 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:30 AM in GH</p> <p>Pre-Confirmation Class @ 12:30 CR</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Lifelight Study 10:30 AM in CR</p> <p>All Boards Mtg. 7:00 PM</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH</p> <p>Canasta 1:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR</p>	<p>3</p>



Grace Lutheran Church

**It's potluck
time!**

Share a dish and savor it all.
Celebrate with good food and
great company!

**June
7th**

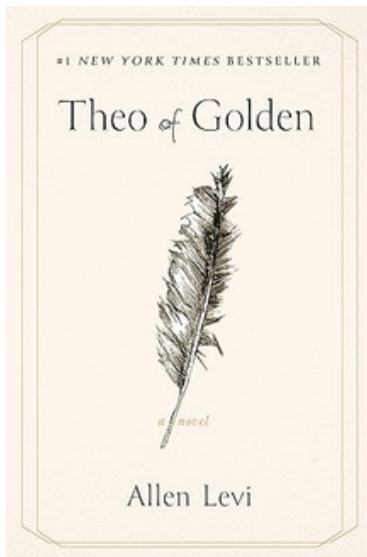
**Starts at
12:15PM**

**Grace
Hall**

Please sign up in the narthex.



Book Club



One spring morning, a stranger named Theo arrives in the small Southern city of Golden. He doesn't explain much about where he came from or why he's there—but when he visits the local coffeehouse, where pencil portraits of the people of Golden hang on the walls, he begins purchasing them, one at a time, and giving each portrait to the person depicted. In exchange, he asks only for the person's story. And so portrait by portrait, person by person, secrets are revealed, regrets are shared, and ordinary lives are profoundly altered.

A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder.

Meeting on Tuesday, June 16th
@ 7:00 PM at Newks

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

With vacation season right around the corner, this is a reminder that hunger doesn't take vacations. Food insecurities are, unfortunately, a reality for many. The third Sunday of every month Social Ministries has a free will offering collection for Summerville Meals on Wheels. \$20.00 can provide one person a meal a day for a week. We also accept donations for our Blessing Box.

During the next few months we will be collecting back packs for the Children's Advocacy Center and school supplies for Operation Christmas Child. Check the announcements for details throughout the summer.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!

Barbara Bruner recently moved to Georgia to be closer to family. She will be missed by all!



Barbara Bruner's New Address:

100 Lake Crossing Dr.
Apt. 111
Warner Robins, GA 31088

LWML Southern Zone Rally

Saturday, June 27, 2026

10:00 AM - 2:00PM

Grace Lutheran Church
1600 Old Trolley Rd
Summerville, SC 29485



Registration begins at 9:30AM. Join us for coffee, juice and snacks. A lunch will be served. Jamee Thieme from Visual Faith Ministry will be our guest speaker. Deaconess Karen Suter will be our Bible Study Leader.

RSVP to Shirley Marquardt
shirleymarquardt@gmail.com

\$5.00 Registration fee at the door.
Offering will go to Visual Faith Ministry.

Education

NEWS

This month the Christian Education focus is on men's Bible study. The men's Bible study continues to be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, learning, and encouragement in God's Word. Led by Pastor Willsea, this group meets once a month and begins the evening with a shared dinner together before the study. The time spent around the table allows for meaningful conversation and Christian fellowship, while the study itself provides faithful teaching and discussion rooted in Scripture. We give thanks for the men who gather each month to grow in faith and support one another in Christ. This opportunity is open to men of all ages. If you have any questions, please reach out.



Grace Youth
Pool Party!
June 14th at Pastor
Willsea's house
Save the Date!
More details to come!

Jr. Choir

Singing once every month has been a joy and challenge as we worked hard to add bell parts, memorize words, blend voices, and practice rhythms. God has indeed blessed us each Sunday as we sang to give Him the glory. Our children need a well-deserved break this summer to be fresh and ready to resume this fall.

If you see any of our Jr Choir members, remember to give them a special thank you. Our members include Ezekiel, Caleb, and Eden Brindis, Claire and Lucy Ott, Jordan and Michael Gray, Lukas Barsuhn, Eve and Ila Quaintance, Peter and Philip Heckethorn, Dominic DeMercurio, and Makayla Peters. Special thanks also to our parent helpers, Shannon Peters and Sarah Heckethorn. Thank you also to Patty Barnes, our invaluable accompanist. If your children are in first grade and up, they are always welcome to join us each Sunday at 10:35 in the music room starting this fall. Keep looking in the newsletter for our start-up date.

Merna Ahlemeyer

All About the Psalms

The psalms are often called the song book or the prayer book of the Old Testament. Even so, some are not printed in our hymnal. *Ps. 108 and 109* for example. Why? Well, a full psalter is not needed in a modern hymnal. Using a worship bulletin allows us to choose any psalms we wish. The harder answer is that some psalms are (or ought to be) hard to pray. They are called imprecations. Yes, I had to look that up too. It is a formal, liturgical term for a curse, an angry offensive word called down upon someone.

CF Psalm 109.8-11

8 May his days be few;

May another take his office!

9 May his children be fatherless
and his wife a widow!

10 May his children wander about and beg,
seeking food far from the ruins they inhabit!

11 May the creditor seize all that he has;
May strangers plunder the fruits of his toil!

I have few real enemies, but I have felt this way before. I have thought such thoughts and prayed prayers of hope and peace that, in the moment, were less than genuine.

I read an article by Rev. Dr. Adam Hensley, a Professor at Concordia Seminary in which he addresses these psalms. All I can do is attempt to surmise. I have a few copies that I can share if you wish to go deeper.

It is important to realize that these psalms function differently on the lips of our sinless Lord. He is the judge of all the earth. Luther taught "Every prophecy and every prophet (Luther is applying this to the psalms and to David here) must be understood as referring to Christ the Lord, except where it is clear from plain words that someone else is spoken of."

If we were to pray (or sing) *Ps. 109*, we would sing an anxious, desperate and angry cry for God to act against the evil ones and that has a valuable lesson for us. *Ps. 109* could be the prayer of people who yearn for divine justice, who want God to deal with evil and evildoers; and do it quickly. I think of war-torn Ukraine or African martyrs. Most churches simply ignore *Psalm 109*. But that does not make it go away from God's word. Nor should we wish it too. This "complaining prayer" has room in the Christian life.

When we pray Maranatha, "O Lord Come!" as Paul does in *1 Cor. 16.22*, we are certainly invoking God's divine wrath upon the evil doer. But with this prayer for justice, we also have the Holy Spirit, "(who) intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." *Romans 8:26*.

Even amid great hurt and anger, an imprecation psalm is always tempered with the Holy Spirit who joins us to pray for our enemies, knowing that all people should come to faith and repent of their evil. As much as we may hate those who sin against us, we also realize that we sin against others. So, as we plead for justice, we also plead for mercy.

By praying these uncomfortable prayers I find a hard edge and sickening offense of injuries expressed in my own anger and desperation is soon joined by the limitations of my soul. Repentance is the best medicine for one so lost, deceived and God forsaken that they would do such things.

Overall, such psalms belong to the eschatological judgment of God. Such psalms do, however, reveal things about the office of Christ, who speaks prophetically through these words. *Psalm 109* on the lips of Christ claims the divine judgment against the persecutors of the weak and the vulnerable, of which God has already promised. *CF Exodus 22*, where God announces judgments on those who mistreat widows and orphans. By God's word, the Lord protects and vindicates people who take refuge in him.

We also see that the sending of judgment is serious business. So, there is nothing surprising by these imprecatory psalms. *Psalm 2* notes that the righteous are blessed, those who take refuge in the son, who stand with the Lord, while the wicked are blown away like the chaff. *Psalm 22*, those who hate God's word, are also enemies of his people who belong to him by faith. Jesus warns us of this, *John 15:18-19* "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

This goes also for the recalcitrant kings and nation that furiously rage against the way and His anointed. Contrast this with *Psalm 2:10*, "now therefore, wise Kings be wise, be warned the rulers of the Earth, serve the Lord with fear and rejoice and trembling, kiss the sunless to be angry, and you, perish in the way for his wrath is quickly kindled."

Finally, we remember that we do not pray these or any prayers alone, apart from our great intercessor, who brings every prayer and commandment to the Father. We are not left alone as if the injustices and afflictions we suffer are ours alone. Rather, we are joined with him who has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, to redeem the fallen. We remember that a prayer like *Psalm 109* does not start with us, even if the crisis is ours. *Psalm 109* existed long before we did. We take them upon our lips in great need or use them as intercessions for those who suffer for righteousness' sake. *Psalm 109* (and others) exist not simply on ink and paper, but they are the mouth of our Lord, our head who leads his body in prayer.

When we are complaining bitterly about the ungodly, we do paradoxically reign with Christ. Even from the pit of our sorrow. But that will not be forever. What is more, praying these imprecatory psalms, we are raised to a higher plane as we join Him, who acts in justice against our enemy Satan, who is destined for the burning of the lake of fire. Because these psalms belong first to the mouth of Christ, it is an extension of His cosmic battle of victory over evil.

In my praying, it teaches me to see that I have no real human enemies. Not really. We wrestle not with flesh and blood, but against rulers against authorities against cosmic powers over the darkness against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. *Ephesians 6: 10-11*. In the psalm we are called to take our stand with the real warrior and his host who does the fighting when evil and danger advances. We are armored only with God-given provisions of truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, and salvation.

Through the psalms, we turn the fight over to Him where it properly belongs. He alone has conquered the enemy. We hand over all our infirmities of body, and soul, all the messy business of justice. To him who will consummate his victory when he comes to judge the living in the dead. And swallow up death forever.

Pastor Willsea

Carolinas LWML District Retreat

Theme:

Ephesians 6

The Full Armor of God

Metrolina Zone invites you to the 2026 LWML Retreat. The Dean will be Pastor Jeffery Ware of All Saints Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC.

August 14-16, 2026

Camp Linn Haven, Linville, NC 28646

Come to Retreat to relax, renew and rejoice.
Come to sing, to give thanks, to listen, to learn and to worship our Mighty God.

- *Camp Fire*
- *Free Time*
- *LWML Store*
- *Wonderful Meals*

*Information and Registration in the
May 2026 CCC Newsletter.*

Grace Lutheran Church
 Treasurer Report
 4/30/26

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

RECEIPTS for	APRIL		
General Operating		\$40,109.99	
Designated Funds		\$17,473.08	
Endowment Fund		\$0.00	
			\$57,583.07

RECEIPTS for	JANUARY- MARCH		
General Operating		\$127,176.56	
Designated Funds		\$8,545.20	
Endowment Fund		\$0.00	
			\$135,721.76

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$193,304.83

EXPENSES for	APRIL		
General Operating		\$34,846.72	
Designated Funds		\$8,586.53	
EndowmentFund		\$0.00	
			\$43,433.25

EXPENSES for	JANUARY - MARCH		
General Operating		\$111,397.07	
Designated Funds		\$15,500.37	
Endowment Fund		\$978.45	
			\$127,875.89

TOTAL EXPENSES \$171,309.14

CHECKBOOK Balance April30, 2026 \$86,864.06

Estimated \$9,495.15 needed per week. Estimated needs for April \$37,980.60. We received \$40,109.99

Sammy Peek, Treasurer

June 7

Tabulators Jen Miller
Ed & Shirley Marquardt

Elders

8:00:

9:30:

11:00:

Ushers

8:00:

9:30:

11:00:

Altar Guild Nancy C.

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Caleb Brindis

Reader 11:00: Sherri Marquardt

June 14

Tabulators Sherri Marquardt
Bill & Kathy Dinges

Elders

8:00:

9:30:

11:00: .

Ushers

8:00:

9:30:

11:00:

Altar Guild Carol Skinner

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Claire Ott

Reader 11:00: Ben Harding

June 21

Tabulators Sherri Marquardt
Kyle & Christina Sinisi

Elders

8:00:

9:30:

11:00:

Ushers

8:00:

9:30:

11:00:

Altar Guild Susan S.

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Lucy Ott

Reader 11:00: Jane Mary Gay

June 28

Tabulators Jen Miller
Jim & Nancy Clowney

Elders

8:00:

9:30:

11:00:

Ushers

8:00:

9:30:

11:00:

Altar Guild Nancy Blekicki

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: Claire Limehouse

Reader 11:00: Sherri Marquardt

*A revised copy of the serving schedule will be sent out at a later date

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS2026-2027

Rev. W. Richard WillseaPastor

Karen SuterDeaconess

John KinneyExecutive Director

Kyle SinisiAsst. Executive Director

Sammy PeekTreasurer

Lindsay OttDirector, Board of Christian Education

Grant BarsuhnDirector, Board of Church Properties

Steve Hoffman Director, Board of Elders

Jodell JenkinsDirector, Board of Evangelism

Kathy DingesDirector, Board of Parish Fellowship

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

Susan StarDirector, Board of Social Ministry

Paul OttDirector, Board of Stewardship

Cori HardingDirector, Board of Youth

Phillip GrahamDirector, 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