

Grace Monthly Newsletter

OCTOBER 2026



Reformation falls on October 31st, the day Martin Luther posted his Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg in 1517. Normally the Reformation is celebrated on the nearest Sunday, not on a weekday. Lutherans have been celebrating the Reformation since the 16th century, along with many of the Reformed, who of course also recall the work of Zwingli, Calvin, Knox, and Melancthon. Only in the last century, however, has the Reformation become a day the majority of American Protestants remember.

Briefly, the Reformation commemorates Luther's challenges of medieval aberrations in doctrine and practice. In the Ninety-Five Theses he especially attacked the system of indulgences and the plan of salvation they implied. In those days indulgence was a broadsheet, sold by itinerant monks at a considerable price, which assured the buyer that God had forgiven him his sins, future as well as past.

Unfortunately, the common people imagined they were buying forgiveness and, in some cases, considered the documents they bought a license to go out and sin. At first Luther intended no more than posting on the bulletin board a few pages of Latin theses that he wished to debate with his colleagues, but in effect he drove a wedge right through Christendom. Within the space of three or four years most of his fellow Augustinians, many parish priests, and the great majority of German Christians sided with Luther.

Although there were also other great events in the story of Luther—the burning of the bull, the speech at Worms, and the writing of the Augsburg Confession—the posting of the theses was the first significant act of the Reformation—an event which shook Germany, and in fact all Europe. Only Rome's massive Counter-Reformation in the second half of the 16th century managed to save half of Europe for Latin Christianity.

The Reformation accomplished almost as much good within the Roman Church as in the churches of the Reformation, because it evoked major reforms within that group. At the Council of Trent that church mapped out and authorized its own reformation. Furthermore, the age of discovery, the growth of nationalism, and the birth of the printing press brought fresh insight and thought to the whole medieval world, including also the church, which in many respects had grown insular and secular. A proper celebration of the Reformation, however, should not be a negative one, a mere matter of finding fault with the church as it existed in the 16th century, but a positive one, according to which we thank God for the many gifts He has restored to His people—the Scriptures, salvation by grace, preaching, hymns, the freedom of the individual conscience, the universal priesthood of all believers. These had been present in Christianity from the very beginning, but they had been partially buried under the dust of centuries until they were rediscovered by the Reformation.



In this newsletter you can expect:

Church
Calendar

LowCountry Walk
for Life

Rally Day

Oktoberfest

Youth

2026
Picnic

Yard Sale

Serving
Schedule



OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH	28 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in CR	29	30 Sr. Choir 7 PM Sanctuary	1 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in sanctuary	2	3 Bake Sale 8AM - 12:30PM
Yard Sale Set Up				Yard Sale		
4 LWML Sunday Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH	5 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	6 LifeLight Study 10:30 AM	7 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH Canasta 1:00 PM in GH PreConfirmation Class 5:30PM Sr. Choir 7 PM Sanctuary Elder's Mtg. 7:00 PM in CR	8 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	9 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	10 Oktoberfest 3-7pm
11 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH	12 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	13 LifeLight Study 10:30 AM	14 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH PreConfirmation Class 5:30 PM Sr. Choir 7 PM Sanctuary	15 Stephen Ministry 10:30 AM in CR Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	16 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	17
18 Worship 8, 9:30, 11 AM Sunday School 9:30AM GH	19 Al-Anon 7:00 PM in GH	20 LifeLight Study 10:30 AM Book Club 7:00 PM McAlisters	21 Craft Group 9:30 AM in GH Lunch & Learn 11:00 AM GH Canasta 1:00 PM in GH PreConfirmation Class 5:30PM Sr. Choir 7 PM Sanctuary	22 Men's AA Mtg. 7:00 PM in GH	23 Bible Study 11:00 AM in CR	24
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LOWCOUNTRY Walk for Life

Wannamaker County Park

Nov 7, 2026
10:00am



Mark your calendars for November 7! That's the date for this year's Lowcountry Pregnancy Center Walk for Life at Wannamaker County Park. The mission is simple: raise funds to save lives.

The Lowcountry Pregnancy Center (LPC) has been serving Charleston-area women and families dealing with unplanned pregnancies for over 30 years. The center provides services like pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, counseling, STI testing, parenting classes, fatherhood classes, baby items, and adoption referrals—all free of cost to their clients. They also engage in the important work of caring for women who suffer from the guilt of a previous abortion, offering Bible studies that emphasize the forgiveness found in Christ.

This non-profit pregnancy center relies on the generous donations of people like you and me to keep their life-changing services going in our community, and one of their biggest fundraising events is right around the corner. Mark your calendars for the 19th annual Lowcountry Walk for Life on November 7th at Wannamaker County Park. We invite you to get out your walking shoes and join our team for this fun and rewarding event. The schedule is below:

10:00 a.m. – CHECK-IN OPENS. Please be aware that there is a \$2 park fee per person. There will also be plenty of fun, activities, and live music to enjoy during this time before the walk begins.

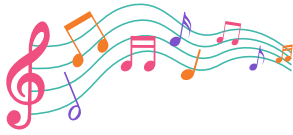
11:00 a.m. – THE WALK BEGINS! The pleasant 2-mile walk takes place on a scenic paved trail that is stroller, wheelchair, and pet-friendly.

11:45 a.m. – COOKOUT PARTY! Immediately following the Walk for Life, all walkers, sponsors, and volunteers are welcome to enjoy a free lunch in the park.

If you are interested in walking with us, please check out the informational bulletin board outside Pastor's office and go to lpcfriends.com/events to register and find more information. If you are unable to walk but would like to donate to the cause, you can place donations in the basket on the table by Pastor's office. Please make checks out to Lowcountry Pregnancy Center.

Thank you for your partnership in sharing life and hope with the clients of LPC!

Deaconess Karen Suter



Often children remind us of the calling and gifts we each possess. In their anthem sung in the 11:00 service on Oct 4, we are reminded of the gospel reading for that date. In Matthew 21: 33-46 we read about the parable of the tenants. After the master left his vineyard in charge of the tenants, they killed the servants whom he had sent and even killed the master's son. The big clincher comes when Jesus says, "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruit."

The Jr Choir will be singing "My Hands Are the Hands" on October 4. The words are powerful for all of us: "My hands are the hands that God will use to show the world His love," or "My feet are the feet that God will use to carry forth the light," or "My voice is the voice that God will use to tell the world He cares." But the song doesn't end there as these young voices pray that the Lord might fill their hearts that they might be a vessel fit for Him.

These young singers are bearing fruit for the master, serving their Lord in song and praise!

If your children would love to sing with us, we practice after Sunday School in the choir room and welcome new voices.

Merna Ahlemeyer
Mernaron10@gmail.com

The Senior Choir is still looking for new members to sing for the Advent and Christmas season. Rehearsals are each Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. in the church Sanctuary. All voices are needed. If you are interested, please text Patty Barnes, choir director at 843-371-1620 or email her at musicalpatty49@att.net."



Starting next month, on the first Sunday in November, rehearsal will begin for the Children's Christmas Program!!

These rehearsals will take place during the Sunday School hour (10:10-10:35am) with the addition of one dress rehearsal on a date TBD.

All children Sunday School age are invited to participate and will work together to learn and present a Christmas Jubilee to our congregation on Sunday December 20th at the 9:30am service hour.

If you have any questions please contact Lindsay Ott or Erika Gray.

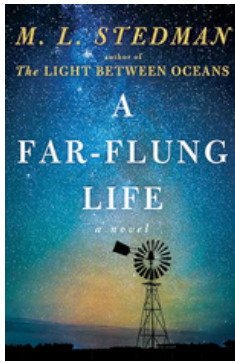
Education

NEWS

Each year, we look forward to our annual **Sunday School Rally Day** as a joyful way to celebrate the blessings of the past school year and look ahead with excitement for the new year. It is always a wonderful time of fellowship for our Sunday School children and families. A special thank-you to Kyle and Christina Sinisi for graciously hosting this year's celebration, and thank you to everyone who attended and contributed food to help make the day so enjoyable. We are grateful for everyone that helped make Rally Day a fun start to another year of Christian education at Grace!



Book Club



A Far-flung Life is a tale about family and belonging, fate and time. It is about people trying to do their best, and each, for private reasons, seeking shelter from the storm of life.

Can a fleeting moment unravel a whole life, mar it indelibly and irrevocably? Can compassion, resilience, and forgiveness allow us to come to terms with our human imperfections? These are the questions Stedman asks in A Far-flung Life, her profoundly moving, uplifting, and luminous new novel about what the heart can endure for the sake of love.

Discussion will be on October 20th
7:00 PM at McAlisters.


Lutheran Women
in Mission
Sunday
October 4th

This year's theme continues a four-year cycle focusing on the LWML Mission Statement — As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. For Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2026, we focus on Supporting Missions.

Christ Jesus our Lord asks us to be wise stewards of His good gifts. St. Paul, while proclaiming the Gospel, was also concerned for those who suffered. There were so many mission efforts taking place. As believers today, we also are eager to follow the example of Christ and aid those in need. The Spirit of God places that eagerness to serve upon our hearts. We can't be everywhere to aid the missions, firsthand, that are set before us. The Lord does allow us to support those efforts that go forth in His name. May the Lord grant to us supportive hearts. *Remember to wear PURPLE.*



Join us for Lunch and Learn on
Wednesday, October 21st at 11:00 AM
in Grace Hall. Watch the bulletin for
more information.

Social Ministry

Starting October 8th Social Ministry will start the fundraiser for Operation Christmas Child, we ask you to prayerfully consider donating. Your 10 dollars goes a long way towards providing translating the gospel in the children's native language, transportation, educational materials and so much more. We appreciate, and thank you for your support! October 15th we will be collecting items for the Veterans Victory House. A list of items will be available after the Yard Sale.
POC Susan Star



Hand and Foot Canasta

is played in Grace Hall every other Wednesday. Our next game is on Oct. 7th. If you would like to play, come join us. If you don't know how we will teach you. Come and join the fun.
POC: Shirley Marquardt



Food Menu

Brautwurst
 Saurkraut
 Chips
 German Potatoe Salad
 Apple Strudel/
 Apple Dessert
 German Chocolate Cake
 Pretzels & Dips

Drinks

Root Beer
 Apple Cider
 Water
 Beer

Mark your calendars!
Oktoberfest is Saturday,
October 10th from 3-7pm



Invite your friends and neighbors. This is a community event and free to the public. **A table is set up with sign-up sheets available for you. We need workers to help with various areas before, during and after.** Also need people to help make the brauts, german potatoe salad (recipe on the table), German Chocolate cake and apple strudel /apple desserts. *Take a poster.* POC: Lindsay Ott

2026 Congregational Picnic

Wow what a wonderful turnout! God Blessed with a Beautiful Day, HOT but beautiful. In attendance there were approximately 70 individuals. Gods' glorious beauty in this park was very evident. the lake was screaming to be fished or canoed upon, the playground was ful of young children. The teens were able to enjoy their skate boards on the concrete paths. We need to give a great big thank y ou to the staff at the park who provided golfcart rides to the picnic site. The food as usual was fabulous. Thanks to the grillers who cooked the dogs and burgers to order. We had 14 new members at this event as well.

I got the impression that this is where we will picnic next year. Maybe in January? Just kidding. We thought by having it late in September we would miss that heat.

God's Blessings,
Kathleen Dinges
Parish Fellowship Director







October 1, 2, 3

Volunteers Needed:

Thursday - Friday, Oct. 1 - 2

7:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Saturday, Oct. 3rd

7:30 AM - Clean Up

Help anytime during
the Yard Sale and
Saturday afternoon to
close down.

Yard Sale Profits will go to:

25% to LWML Mites, 25% to Women of Grace

10% to Grace Community Assistance

8% Altar Guild

6% Church Mortgage

6% Endowment Fund

5% Youth

5% Rev. Michael Paul

5% Rev. Timothy Sandino

5% Rev. Jonathon Anderson



WOMEN OF GRACE Bake Sale

Sat., Oct 3rd

8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Please sign up to bring baked items.
Put donations in the church narthex on
Friday or in the entry of Grace Hall early
Saturday morning.

Proceeds go to Altar Guild for a new pall
and altar clothes.

POC: Shirley Marquardt

YOUTH OF GRACE

UPCOMING EVENTS



OCTOBER

3

PIZZA & CHURCH YARD SALE PACK UP

12:30 PM GRACE HALL

NOVEMBER

1

CORN MAZE & HAY RIDE

1:30 - 4:30 PM WEST FARM CORN MAZE

NOVEMBER

8

PACK SHOEBOXES

NOON AFTER 11 AM SERVICE IN GRACE HALL

DECEMBER

5

YOG CHRISTMAS PARTY

TIME 5 PM THE BRINDIS HOUSE

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

Grace Stewardship Survey Results

GENEROSITY REPORTED BY GRACE MEMBERS AND BOARDS

Thank you to everyone who participated in Grace's anonymous stewardship survey. The results below show the ministries, charities, organizations, and causes that Grace members and boards reported supporting during the past 12 months, apart from regular offerings to Grace.

The purpose of the survey is to give us a picture of the many ways God's gifts are being used to support Christian ministry, serve our neighbors, and meet needs in our community and beyond.

Please keep this survey in mind next year as we look to grow the result counts and share more causes that are supported by members of our congregation!

\$76,934

56

CAUSES SUPPORTED

19

SURVEY RESPONSES

CAUSES SUPPORTED

- AARP Foundation
 - AbleLight
- Alzheimer's Association
 - Bikes for Angel Tree
 - Cancer Research
- Children International
- Children's Advocacy Center
- Christian Appalachian Project
- Community Assistance Program
 - Compassion International
- Concordia Historical Society
 - Concordia Seminaries
 - Concordia Universities
- Doctors Without Borders
- Dorchester County Child Advocacy Center
 - Dorchester Paws
 - Easterseals
 - Emaus House
 - Enrich Missions
- Federalist Real Journalism Fund
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - Heifer Project
 - Hope's House
 - LCMS - LOGIA
 - LCMS District
 - LCMS General
 - LCMS Seminary
- Lowcountry Food Bank
- Lowcountry Pregnancy Center
 - Lowcountry Walk for Life
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation
 - Lutheran Hour Ministries
 - Lutheran Indian Ministry
 - Lutheran Public Radio
 - Lutheran World Relief
 - LWML Mites
 - Make-A-Wish
- Meals on Wheels of Summerville
 - Military Families of Grace
- New Reformation Publications
- One80 Place Homeless Shelter
 - Operation Christmas Child
 - Orphan Grain Train
 - Parkinson's
- Ronald McDonald House
 - Salvation Army
 - Samaritan's Purse
- Shoebox Shipping Costs
 - South Carolina ETV
- Sowers of the Kingdom
- Sponsor Children College Education
 - St. Jude's
 - Stephen Ministry
- Various Homeless Shelters
 - Water Mission
 - World Relief

Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund

FOR THE GOSPEL. FOR GENERATIONS.

Christian stewardship begins not with what we give, but with what God has first given to us in Christ. As St. Paul writes, “Though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). Our giving does not earn God’s favor; it flows from faith and thanksgiving for the forgiveness, life, and salvation freely given to us through Jesus Christ.

Grace Lutheran Church established its Endowment Fund as one way members can support the proclamation of Christ and the work of His Church for generations to come. An endowment is a long-term fund in which gifts are invested, with a portion available for ministry while the fund continues to grow over time. It is intended to provide a steady, lasting source of support for ministry while complementing—not replacing—the regular offerings that support Grace’s ministry today. Grace’s endowment was established in 2025 and currently has a balance of \$32,577.

NEW ENDOWMENT PAMPHLETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

Look for them in the brochure displays. The pamphlet explains what the Endowment is, how it supports Christ’s work, and practical ways to give now or through future planning.

We encourage every member to prayerfully consider whether the Grace Lutheran Endowment Fund might be part of your Christian stewardship. That may mean making a one-time or recurring gift through your offering. It may also mean remembering Grace’s Endowment in your will or trust, or naming the Endowment through a payable-on-death or beneficiary designation. These decisions should never be made out of pressure or obligation, but prayerfully and faithfully as each Christian considers how the gifts God has entrusted to us may continue serving our neighbor and supporting the proclamation of the Gospel.

QUESTIONS OR WANT TO LEARN MORE? Speak with any member of the Board of Stewardship or email stewardship@gracesummerville.org. No commitment is expected; our goal is simply to help members understand the opportunity and prayerfully consider how God may lead them to use the gifts He has entrusted to them.

“One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.”

Psalm 145:4



A Place to Serve at Grace

Faithful stewardship of God's gifts for the work of Christ's Church at Grace

Your Next Faithful Step

- 1 PRAY**
Ask God for wisdom in how to serve.
- 2 ASK**
Speak with a board director or Stewardship
- 3 SERVE**
Use your gifts where they fit the need.

Opportunities to Serve at Grace

PRESENT - PROCLAIM - INVITE

Christian Education
Director: Lindsay Ott

Youth
Director: Cori Harding

Church Properties
Director: Grant Barsuhn

Evangelism
Director: Jodell Jenkins

Parish Fellowship
Director: Kathy Dinges

Public Relations
Director: Kevin Henry

Social Ministries
Director: Susan Starr

Stewardship
Director: Paul Ott

Columbarium Management
Director: Phillip Graham

Not sure where your gifts may fit?

Talk with Paul Ott, Director of Stewardship, about opportunities to serve.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's



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 one-time and recurring gifts through ACH bank transfer or Vanco. Email office@gracesummerville.org for more details!



Lutheran Witness Subscription Renewal is here. The 2027 subscription fee is \$26.00. Please put a check and note specifying if you are a first-time subscriber or if you would like to renew your current subscription. Deadline is October 22nd.

Volunteer(s) needed to collate, staple and fold bulletins on Thursdays. Please contact Shirley Marquardt or the church office if you are interested in helping.

Oct. 4

Tabulators Sherri Marquardt
Kyle & Christina Sinisi

Elders

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

Ushers

8:00: LWML
9:30: LWML
11:00: LWML

Altar Guild TBD

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: TBD

Readers: LWML

Oct. 11

Tabulators Sherri Marquardt
Bill & Kathy Dinges

Elders

8:00: Sammy P. (L), John K.
9:30: Aaron J. (L), Josh G.
11:00: George J. (L), Ben H.

Ushers

8:00: Ken Blekicki
9:30:
11:00: Claire Ott, Jodell Jenkins

Altar Guild TBD

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: TBD

Reader 11:00: George J.

Oct. 18

Tabulators Jen Miller
Jim & Nancy Clowney

Elders

8:00: Paul O. (L), Jon M.
9:30: Steve H. (L), John K.
11:00: Ben H. (L), Aaron J.

Ushers

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

Altar Guild TBD

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: TBD

Reader 11:00: Ben H.

Oct. 25

Tabulators Jen Miller
Tom & Louise Sage

Elders

8:00: John K. (L), George J.
9:30: Brian B. (L), Kyle S.
11:00: Josh G. (L), Brian B.

Ushers

8:00: Ken Blekicki
9:30:
11:00: Grant, Christine Barsuhn

Altar Guild NTBD

Acolyte 8:00 TBD

11:00: TBD

Reader 11:00: Josh G.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS2026-2027

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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)

TBD.....Administrator/

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Patricia BarnesOrganist/Choir Director

Merna AhlemeyerJunior Choir Director