



Grace ABOUNDS

September 2026

A Center of Mission and Ministry - Celebrating and Sharing God's Grace!



**From
Pastor Dave**

What comes to mind when you think about prayer? Is it a quiet conversation with God, a plea for help, a word of thanks, or something you sometimes forget to do? However we answer that prayer is one of the most important parts of our walk with the Lord.

God welcomes many kinds of prayer because prayer is simply communication with Him. We may pray The Lord's Prayer, offer thanks, ask for help, or simply reach out to our Creator in the ordinary moments of the day. That raises an interesting question: how often do people in our country pray? Surveys have tried to answer that question.

Recent studies indicate that 51–55% of Americans pray daily, down from 58% in 2007. That decline suggests a long-term downward trend in daily prayer across many Christian groups. Information based on research by Gitnux.org.

The percentages can be broken down in many ways: Protestants, Catholics, racial and ethnic groups, age groups, and more. However the data is sorted, the larger point remains striking: only a little more than half of Americans report praying daily. Prayer does not cost us anything, and we can approach God at almost any time — while driving, eating, brushing our teeth, changing the TV channel, or moving through the ordinary routines of life. So, what keeps us from praying more often?

I cannot provide a definitive answer to that question. We all have an extraordinary number of things to get done each day: working, caring for our children, washing clothes, shopping for food, keeping the house clean, going to doctor's appointments, driving through Dunkin' for coffee and donuts, and walking the dog.

That list does not even come close to covering everything that fills a day. Still, the question remains: how do we make room for prayer when life already feels full? Maybe the answer is not to add another burden, but to notice the many moments when we can turn our hearts toward God. So how does God expect us to take time to pray? We've got some work to do!

Estimates of how many times prayer is referenced in the Bible range from 300 to 500. Since we know the Bible to be God's inspired Holy Word, those repeated references remind us that God keeps inviting us into connection with Him. Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 come to mind: "Pray without ceasing."

That is a lot of praying! Yet Scripture reminds us that God never stops being present with His creation. God's Spirit breathes life into us with every breath we take. The Father holds the seas, the sun, and the stars in their places. Our Lord is always with us and never leaves us. It is hard to imagine what it must be like for God to remain in constant care and communication with His people.

In His busy care for creation across the millennia, I wonder how God receives a simple prayer from one of His children: hello, how are You, thank You for all You do.

I believe God's heart is filled with joy when we reach out to Him. Say hello and thank You to God today. It will bless your day, and I believe it will delight His heart too.

Blessings always,
Pastor Dave

Contact Pastor Dave by cell phone at 219-707-9823 or by email at pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com.



Birthdays

- 9/05 Cindy Amick, Anna Kay Singley
 9/06 Jonathan Shealy, Marc Stanley
 9/19 Andrea Lewis
 9/20 Samantha Yarborough
 9/21 Terrell Alewine, Hannah Moates
 9/22 Tim Harmon, Sheila Martin,
 Mike Shealy
 9/25 Glenda Crafts, Kay George,
 Barry Hartman
 9/27 Zoe Frick, Julie Shealy
 9/30 Roger Everett, Meggie Kendrick

Anniversaries

- 9/12 Wayne & Sue Mitchell 11th
 9/21 Johnny & Beverly Merck 57th
 9/30 Michael & Cayce Moates 14th

Baptism Anniversaries

- 9/06 Dale Shealy
 9/20 Mary Wicker
 9/21 Lynn Wicker
 9/23 Bryce Medlock, Ashley Metts
 9/26 Robert Martin, Deborah Ruff
 9/28 Candace Frick
 9/? Rev. Timothea Sharpe

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Grace Family: Diane Adams; J.C. Caughman; Cissie & Bob Dibble; Becky Everett; Evelyn Harmon; Bob Harris; Faye Hartman; Wayne Mitchell; Pastor Al Potter; Eddie Rivers; Marysue Rivers.

Residential Care: Heather Harris;
 Wendy and Michael Riley

College Students: Hunter Neel (*Midlands Tech.*); Camryn Shealy; Bailey Stewart; and Allie Waters (*Newberry College*); Hunter Hall, Lyla Kendrick (*Piedmont Tech*); Zoe Frick (*Univ. of SC*).

Extended Family: Harold Adams (*Anna K Singley's son*); Nancye Bailey (*the Dibbles' daughter*); Kathy Brown's brother, Kenneth; Kathy Buchanan (*Beverly Hawkins' cousin*); David Caldwell (*former member*); Lill Hamman (*Diane Adams' friend*); Pat Penland (*Johnny Merck's sister*); Kay Richardson (*Lynn Wessinger's Aunt, Beverly Merck's cousin*); Bert Sharpe (*Pastor Timothea's brother*); Wendell & Linda Shealy (*Andrea Lewis' brother and sister in law*); Randy Turner (*Cayce Moates' father*); Rev. James Swanson and Rev. Dale Zylstra (*Pastor Dave's colleagues*).

Community: Ember Corley; Marilyn Seymour;
 Young Ran; Michael Scott;
 Terry Wheeler, Linda Wolfe.

Military: Everett Crafts, V (*Air Force -Glenda Craft's grandson*); Walker Eldridge (*USCG/Seattle*)

God's World: Global Concerns: Individuals affected by conflict, such as those in Israel, throughout the Middle East, Ukraine, and various African nations; Military families both domestically and internationally; People impacted by natural disasters including hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, floods, and earthquakes; victims of gun violence; Those experiencing homelessness; Individuals who are unemployed or underemployed; Refugees worldwide; Those facing hardships due to unfavorable economic conditions; and our adversaries.

To add or remove a name from the Prayer List, please contact the office at 803-364-3331 or gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com or you can leave a written note in the office box.



Have you signed up for GLOO, our "texting system" that allows us to send out important messages quickly to all who are connected?

The phone number we have been assigned is (833) 477-3614. If you have not connected with gloo yet, please send a text to this number. You'll receive a reply asking for your name. When you complete that request, you'll be in our system to receive future text messages.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

**Deadline for the October
 Newsletter is September 22nd.**



OUR
AMAZING
 Volunteers
 for September

Assisting Ministers

- 6** Teresa Cooper
- 13** Jessica Shealy
- 20** Ronnie Cromer
- 27** Candace Frick

Altar Flowers

- 6** Shealy Family
- 13** Roberta Capó
- 20** Edwina Wicker
- 27** The Frick Family

Live Stream Operators

- 6** Brad Waters
- 13** Brad Waters
- 20** Jessica Shealy
- 27** George Dawkins

Acolytes

- 6** Allie Waters
- 13** Hannah Moates
- 20** Helena Mewbourn
- 27** Raelynn Wessinger

Communion Assistant Judy Bedenbaugh

Communion Preparation Emmett Wicker

Communion Clean up Judy Bedenbaugh,
Lynn Wessinger

Ushers Walt Quattlebaum, Bryan Hall,
Hayden Hall, Hunter Hall, Mike Hall, Craig Farr

Greeters Deborah & Phil Ruff, Camryn Shealy

Tabulators Teresa & Chop Cooper,
George Dawkins, Jr.

Front Sign Edwina Wicker

Altar Guild Dale & Julie Shealy

Pew Rack Helper Nancy Derrick

Thank you!

**SANCTUARY
LAMP
SPONSORS**



During the month of September the Sanctuary Lamp is sponsored by Craig and Lisa Farr in memory of their grandparents on Grandparents' Day 9/13 and in honor of their granddaughter, Lyla Rose on her second birthday, 9/12.

For honorary or memorial information to be included in the newsletter and bulletin, information and a \$30 donation should be received in the office by the last Sunday of the month prior to the month you sponsor.



Thank You Note

I want to take the opportunity to say how grateful I am for the support you have given me during my last 3 years of college. I am starting my 4th year, and it will be my first year in the Nursing Program at Newberry College. I have been working at the hospital all summer and am excited to begin this next step in my journey. I truly appreciate being awarded scholarships from the Bedenbaugh—Carriker Scholarship Fund that you support. This money has been a tremendous help to me. I ask that you continue to pray for me as I work toward what I have always wanted to do.

Thank you so much, *Bailey Stewart*



Birth Announcements

Congratulations

Charlotte Drews Heinz was born on August 12th to Caroline and Matt Heinz. Proud grandparents are Wayde and Sally Dominick. Charlotte was 6'4 oz. and is doing well!



September Manna House Need:

2# bags of Cornmeal or Jiffy Mix

Donations can be left in the Manna House box in the narthex. The need for food is great. If you can donate any items or gift cards to Food Lion or Walmart it will be much appreciated!



Our monthly financial report is now available the second Sunday of each month as an insert included in the bulletin.

You may also request one at any time by contacting the church office if you are not present to pick one up.

Electronic Giving



Electronic giving is an option at Grace through Vanco. Scan the QR Code at right or go to the Online Giving page via graceluth.org to get started.



August Memorials and Honorariums

*Memorials &
Honorariums*

Scholarship Fund

Deborah & Phil Ruff in honor of our college students.

Community Service Fund

Wayde & Sally Dominick in honor of their granddaughter, Charlotte Drews Heinz

Maintenance Fund

Judy Bedenbaugh in memory of Brenda Amick, Donna Hall's sister.



Celebrate Homecoming October 18th

Our annual Homecoming Sunday at Grace will be October 18th. Please invite your family and former members to join us for this celebration.

The Rev. Jane P. Mitcham will be our guest at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Pastor Jane served as interim pastor at Grace from March 2022 to July 2024. We will also recognize our Golden Age members (those aged 70 and up) for their lives of faith and service to God.

Worship will be followed by a covered dish meal in the Ministry Center where we will share food and fellowship. Please bring a covered dish (or several) to share. Beverages, paper products, and utensils will be provided.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Sanctuary	Online	Total
8/2	55	16	71
8/9	67	10	77
8/16	57	10	67
8/23	66	54	12



8/2	21
8/9	30
8/16	27
8/23	26



Our New Sunday School year begins September 13th.

Celebrate the Savior was a great theme for this year's VBS so we've decided to adopt it for the new Sunday School year. Come and celebrate the Savior at Sunday School!

Our celebration begins September 13 at 9:15 a.m. with a congregation breakfast. Everyone is invited to enjoy fellowship, breakfast casseroles, coffee cake, fruit, and a variety of pastries. At 9:30 a.m. kick off activities will begin with teachers being introduced and brief remarks about what each class will study. After that, Pastor Dave will lead us in some fun Bible Bingo.

Teachers and officers will be installed at the 10:30 a.m. service.

What a great time to reconnect with Sunday School! Come to our kickoff and learn what Sunday School has to offer for your journey of faith!



Our Preschool starts back September 8th. We pray for the students and teachers as they begin a new year!



YOUTH MINISTRY

Attention: It's Cool to be in Sunday School!

The new Sunday School year begins with our Sunday School Kickoff on Sept. 13. Then, on Sept. 20, classes start anew — and, Youth, don't forget that there are classes here for all of you!

Children—Middle School Youth: Surprise! You're getting promoted to a new Sunday School classroom! In this room (located at the end of the hall), you'll still be enjoying fun activities paired with Gospel-based lessons each week!

High School Youth—Young Adults: Guess what? There's something new for you too! We will begin an exciting new study called **13 Very Cool Stories and Why Jesus Told Them!** These weekly lessons should lead us to have some great discussions about the parables Jesus used in his teachings and how they relate to our lives!

It's cool to be in Sunday School — and the more people who come, the more fun our activities and conversations can be! So don't miss out on this weekly chance to grow in faith together! Come when you can! Even if you're away at college right now, the Youth & Young Adults class will always be thrilled to see you whenever you're home!



This month's **GYM Time**
Sunday, September 20
Noon -1:30pm

GYM TIME = Now on 3rd Sundays!!!

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

Sunday, 9/20 Noon—1:30 **GYM TIME**

Saturday, 9/26 8am **Apple Picking Trip**
Tentative

Saturday, 10/7 **Carowinds Trip** **Tentative**

Sunday, 11/15 Noon—1:30 **GYM TIME**

Saturday, 12/5 **Parade Float Decorating**

Sunday, 12/6 **Prosperity Christmas Parade**

Friday, 12/18 **Christmas Caroling**

September GYM Time Meal

We will need volunteers to help provide for our September GYM Time meal of sub sandwiches. There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Thanks for supporting our youth!!



Fall Contemplative Prayer Classes

Have you felt a hunger for a deeper prayer life with God? Are you interested in learning an ancient prayer practice that is spreading faster today than ever before? Have you realized that you don't yearn for more head knowledge about God but rather a deeper heart relationship with God at the center of one's life? If so, then you are invited to participate in a six-week course taught during Sunday School at

Grace Lutheran Church starting September 20 and concluding October 25th. We will meet in the Good Shepherd room starting at 9:30 each Sunday morning. These classes will be taught by retired Bishop Herman Yoos who is a certified Spiritual Director and Dr. Andres Leone a Lexington Hospital Medical Doctor who recently published his first book on Contemplative Prayer entitled, *Enter the Temple of Silence*.

As part of these classes there will be assigned readings from the book, *Open Mind, Open Heart*, by Thomas Keating (20th anniversary edition) available at most bookstores, and weekly readings in class of original material from Pastor Yoos and Dr. Leone. In addition to exploring how and why this method of silent meditative prayer is so helpful amid our noisy 24 hour a day world, we will also practice what we are learning. To be sure we have enough material for each person, please let the church office know if you plan to attend. Hope to see you there.



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will resume meeting on
Wednesday, September 9, at 6 p.m.



Council Minutes for August 11, 2026

Len Fulmer called the meeting to order with a reading of the Mission Statement. Devotions were shared instructing us to accept God's grace and mercy that are beyond our understanding.

Pastor's report: August 23 will be Newberry College Sunday at Grace with Rev. David Coffman providing the sermon, updates, and ways Grace can strengthen its connection with the college. Grace Pre-school is in need of readers for two-year old students and Pastor Dave will mention this during announcements. Violinist Vira Adams will play and support congregational singing during the September 13 worship service at Grace. Pastor Ron Brown will lead worship on September 20 with a folk music themed service featuring guitar and piano. From September 20 through October 25 former SC Synod Bishop Rev. Herman Yoos and Dr. Andres Leone will lead Fall Contemplative Prayer classes at Grace during the 9:30 am Sunday School hour. An attendance estimate for these classes is needed prior to ordering study materials.

Adoption of Reports: Robert Martin moved to accept the reports as presented, seconded by David Luther, and passed.

Discussion: Johnny Merck received a quote of \$20,294.73 from Gattis Pro Audio to replace the church's spotlights with LED lights. The quote includes LED light fixtures, bulbs, and installation with a lift and pew jumpers. Outlets need to be changed to 120v to accommodate the new fixtures, and Johnny is waiting for a quote from an electrician. Len contacted Serv Pro to inspect Grace's ducts. Duct cleaning is not needed but dehumidifiers are needed for three offices. The council chose to table votes on LED lighting and dehumidifiers until all quotes are in.

A smaller electronic church sign that is available in the \$12,000 - \$13,000 range is being explored, which is much less expensive than \$25,000 plus for a large sign.

Christian singing group, *Sacred Harmony*, will perform at Grace's sanctuary on Saturday, August 15 at 6 pm. All Grace members and neighbors are welcome. Johnny and several council members will provide a meal for the group after their performance.

Len and Johnny will attend the Heartland Conference 3rd quarterly meeting at Mt. Horeb.

Diana Gonzales requested use of the Ministry Center from 2 - 4 pm on August 19 and Lynn Wessinger requested use of the facility on Saturday, September 19. Johnny moved to accept both requests, seconded by Len, and passed.

Two topics, racism and human sexuality, were brought to Pastor Dave from the SC Synod and the ELCA. Pastor Dave shared that Jesus taught us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our mind and to love our neighbor as ourselves. After thoughtful discussion and a vote, the council decided that Grace will continue to follow these commandments and will not participate in the ELCA Human Sexuality survey and the SC Synod Racial Justice pilot program.

Microsoft Publisher is being discontinued in October but software with full access to Publisher is available for \$99/year. Robert moved to purchase the software, seconded by Len, and passed.

Ministry Teams: Len shared that 7 people attended the Men's Group in July. The Care and Fellowship Team had a very successful ice cream social event in July. Julie Shealy shared that 31 children attended Bible School this year. There will be a Fifth Sunday Fellowship Meal on August 20 in the Ministry Center.

Shepherding Concerns: Several shepherding concerns were shared, especially for Eddie Rivers who is having issues with his eyesight.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center.

Pastor Dave closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, *David Luther*, Council Secretary



September 8
6:30 p.m.



SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Manna House Item: 2# bags of Cornmeal or Jiffy Mix 		1	2	3	4	5 
6 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	7 	8 Preschool starts back  6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	9 6pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10  5:00 pm Team Mtg.	11	12
13 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School KickOff 10:30 Worship	14	15  6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	16 6pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18 	19 Ministry Center Reserved 11:30-6:00
20 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12-1:30 GYM TIME	21	22 September Newsletter Deadline 6-7pm Men's Group meets at Roma's	23 6pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	24 	25	26
27 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	28	29	30 9:30 a.m. Newsletter Team 6pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal			



Grace Lutheran Church

210 Grace St.
P.O. Box 188 (*Mailing Address*)
Prosperity, SC 29127

www.graceluth.org
803-364-3331

gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com

Ministers: The People of Grace

Pastor: Rev. Dave Adams

pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com

Online Giving

Scan this symbol
with your smartphone
to be connected to our
online giving page.



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PROSPERITY SC
PERMIT NO. 7

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming up at Grace



Grace Christian Preschool
begins September 8th



Sunday School Kick Off



September 13th



**Fall Contemplative
Prayer Classes**
Begin September 20



Mark Your Calendars!
October 18