



# Grace ABOUNDS

September 2025

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

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**From our  
Pastor's Desk**



Grace Abounds is back...after a quick summer break. It is amazing how quickly time flies as we manage our day-to-day routines and responsibilities. For our friends who cannot always be at Grace in Prosperity, I pray your summer has been one filled with the warmth of God's love, and you have beautiful memories of this season that is quickly fading in our rear-view mirrors. I certainly extend my appreciation to everyone attending worship and note we have successfully navigated what some have described as unusually warm summer temperatures. (For us northerners, so far so good in our new climate!)

September 22<sup>nd</sup> marks exactly one year since I began serving Grace Lutheran. It is one year since Diane, and I have become part of a church that is filled with God's Grace. (I love our church's name!) It is my hope that what you have experienced in the past twelve months of ministry, is evidence of my love for God and for His children, and Diane and I thank you for this opportunity to be part of Grace Lutheran Church.

As your pastor, my main duty is to seek guidance in carrying out this ministry. My principal objective remains sharing the message of the Gospel in an effective and meaningful manner, with a secondary aim of serving the congregation in Christ's church to the best of my ability. When these priorities are maintained, positive outcomes typically result from our collective worship and fellowship.

September usually brings a new focus to our lives after enjoying the warmth of summer, and the church is no different in experiencing some new "things" yet to come. In recent weeks, members of our teams responsible for planning worship services and other events have been actively engaged in coordinating activities that we anticipate will receive strong participation. You will find these activities in our newsletter, our Sunday bulletin, *G/oo* texts, social media posts, and the ever favorite "word-of-mouth" communications.

We anticipate the G.Y.M. program will continue throughout the autumn, winter, and spring seasons. We appreciate Jessica Shealy for her thoughtful planning and dedicated ministry. The next session of Confirmation is scheduled to commence on September 8th. If you are aware of any youth prepared to participate in this stage of Christian Education, please contact me directly. Further details regarding this course will be provided soon. Additionally, our Homecoming event and the Blessing of the Animals ceremony are both planned for October.

We will be reaching out to other local churches to discuss collaboration for a Thanksgiving worship service. Additionally, initial plans are underway for special Advent events as the season approaches. Children's church will resume on Sundays during worship, thanks to the efforts of Ms. Melinda McCormick.

I acknowledge and thank all members of Grace for your dedication and support toward our congregation and its ongoing initiatives. Let us continue to share God's love so that more people will know of our Creator's Amazing Grace.

Blessings always,

Pastor Dave

Contact Pastor Dave by cell phone at 219-707-9823 or by email at [pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com](mailto:pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com).



## Birthdays

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



## Anniversaries

- 9/12 Wayne & Sue Mitchell 10<sup>th</sup>
- 9/21 Johnny & Beverly Merck 56<sup>th</sup>

## 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



Grace's new praise band will practice on Thursdays at 6 p.m. All singers and instrumentalists are invited to participate. The group is being led by Ronda Mewbourn and plans to sing on the fourth or fifth Sunday of each month. *Joyful Noise* debuted on August 24<sup>th</sup> with an arrangement of *Amazing Grace* to the tune of *Peaceful, Easy Feeling* by the Eagles. In September, the group will be preparing *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)* by Matt Redman.



## Thank you Notes

To our church family,  
We have had an amazing summer and want to say thank you to our church family and the Wicker Campership Fund that made it possible for us to attend camp this year. We had a very HOT week at Lutheridge, but still managed to have fun and make new friends. We, along with Lyric, were also able to go to day camp at St. Phillips Lutheran this year. At day camp we saw friends we go to school with, but also made new friends. We learned new songs, heard stories of Jesus, and made some interesting crafts. Thank you again for supporting us and making these opportunities possible.  
With our love, Raelynn and Jaxon Wessinger  
Lyric McCormick

## Scholarship Thank You's

Thank you all for this opportunity to further my education. Not only that, but the support from my Grace family. I am grateful to have an amazing support team! *Camryn Shealy*

Thank you for this opportunity, *Bailey Stewart*

Thank you to the Grace Bedenbaugh-Chariker Scholarship Foundation for supporting my education. *Payton Metts*

I want to thank my church family for contributing to the scholarship fund. Everyone's support means so much to me. I love each one of you.  
*Allie Waters*



## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

**Grace Family:** Cissie & Bob Dibble; Evelyn Harmon; Heather & Bob Harris; Faye Hartman; Beverly & Johnny Merck; Pastor Al Potter; Marysue Rivers; Peggy Thomas.

**Residential Care:** Wendy and Michael Riley

**College Students:** Payton Metts (*Piedmont*); Camryn Shealy; Bailey Stewart; & Allie Waters (*Newberry College*)

**Extended Family:** Kay S. Hager  
(*Kelly Shealy's sister*)

**Community:** Mike Epps; Steve Culbertson; Marshall Croxton (*Wendy & Michael Riley's friend*)

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

**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](mailto:gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com) or leave a written note in the office box.

**REJOICE**  
ALWAYS,  
**PRAY**  
CONTINUALLY,  
**GIVE THANKS**  
**IN ALL**  
**CIRCUMSTANCES.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV



## Memorials and Honorariums



**July/August 2025**

### To the General Budget:

In memory of Vicki Warren by Lynn & Larry Wessinger

In memory of Kenneth Wright (Heather Harris' brother) by Dale & Julie Shealy

In memory of Allan Harris (Bob Harris' brother) by Dale & Julie Shealy

### To the Wicker Campership Fund

by Raelyn & Jaxon Wessinger

### Disaster Relief Fund

In honor of Emmett Wicker by Deborah & Phil Ruff

### To the Preschool:

In memory of Betty Cummings  
by Pat Kelly

by the Volunteer Services at Newberry Health

by Edwina Wicker

by Emmett Wicker

by Judy Bedenbaugh

### To the Mid-Carolina Football Meal

In memory of David Riley by Edna Riley



**September 14**

Sally Dominick will be teaching a CPR class from 2-4pm on Sunday, Sept. 14, in the Ministry Center. This class is for our preschool teachers and is open to you too! Please sign up on the narthex bulletin board if you'd like to attend. You will need to let Sally know, when signing up, if you have ever had training or not.



## Serving in September

### **Assisting Ministers**

7 Melodie Waters  
14 Judy Bedenbaugh  
21 Teresa Cooper  
28 Deborah Ruff

### **Altar Flowers**

7 Roberta Capó  
14 Edwina Wicker  
21 Al Potter/Timothea Sharpe  
28 Andrea Lewis

### **Live Stream Operators**

7 George Dawkins, Jr.  
14 George Dawkins, Jr.  
21 David Luther  
28 Brad Waters

### **Communion Assistant**

Lynn Wessinger

### **Communion Preparation**

Wayne & Sue Mitchell

### **Communion Clean Up**

Dale & Julie Shealy

### **Acolyte**

Hunter Hall

### **Ushers**

Walt Quattlebaum, George Dawkins Jr.,  
Bryan, Hayden, Hunter, & Mike Hall

### **Greeters**

Deborah Ruff, Jonathan Shealy

### **Offering Tabulators**

Teresa & Chop Cooper,  
George Dawkins, Jr.

### **Front Sign**

Edwina Wicker

### **Altar Guild**

Judy Bedenbaugh, Nancy Derrick

### **Pew Rack Helper**

Wayne & Sue Mitchell



### **SANCTUARY LAMP SPONSORS**



During the month of September the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in loving memory of her Granddaddy, H. L. Fellers, by Katherine Bennett.

*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.*

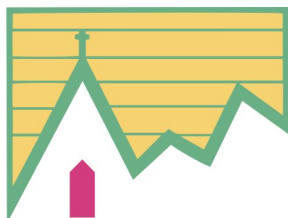
## **WORSHIP** ATTENDANCE

Sunday	Sanctuary	* Online	Total
6/29	63	17	80
7/06	56	17	73
7/13	52	12	64
7/20	61	16	77
7/27	58	23	81
8/03	79	19	98
8/10	61	22	83
8/17	65	22	87
8/24	66	25	91

\* Total Online viewers = Facebook and YouTube



6/29	28
7/06	31
7/13	19
7/20	27
7/27	28
8/03	32
8/10	25
8/17	27
8/24	30



# Church FINANCES

## Our Offerings for July & August

**Through August 24**  
(Does Not Include May EFTs)

### MINISTRY BUDGET Our Monthly Need: \$15,549.00

Given during July & August..... \$24,475.09  
Given year-to-date.....\$109,630.43  
Goal through August 24.....\$121,999.82

### MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP

Given during July & August .....\$2,421.48  
Given year-to-date.....\$8,407.00

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Given during July & August.....\$213.99  
Given year-to-date .....\$879.89

### SCHOLARSHIP

Given during July & August.....\$ 0.00  
Given year-to-date .....\$618.65

### CAMPERSHIP

Given during July & August.....\$20.00  
Given year-to-date .....\$40.00

### COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

Community Assistance.....0.00  
Given year-to-date.....\$100.00  
Bookbag Food Ministry..... \$1,200.00  
Given year-to-date .....\$1,470.79  
Thanksgiving Meal .....\$20.00  
Given year-to-date .....\$20.00  
**Total year-to-date** .....\$1,590.79

### SPECIAL 2025 OFFERINGS YTD

Souper Bowl of Caring Offering.....300.00  
Youth Ministry .....245.00  
Lenten Offering.....875.00  
Easter Lilies .....268.86  
Mid-Carolina Football Meal.....830.00  
VBS Love Offering .....250.06  
Disaster Response .....495.00  
Bereavement Meal Fund.....15.15



**Deadline for the October  
newsletter is Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.**



## MINISTRY BUDGET

Needed Thru Aug. 24: \$ 121,999.82

Given Thru Aug. 24: \$ 109,630.43

Amount Behind Goal: \$ 12,369.39

## 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](http://graceluth.org) to get started.



This ministry will start back later this month. Grace will pack weekly *weekend food bags* for needy children who attend Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School. Please pick up a list of needed items on the narthex board. Items include non-perishable, nutritional food items. Place your donations in the red wagon in the narthex.

Thank you!

## Manna House Item for September:

**CANNED TUNA**



Donations can be left in the Manna House box in the narthex. Thank you.

## Women's Bible Study

Our Women's Bible study will begin a new study on Wednesday evening, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:00 in the ministry center.

The title of the study is *What Happens When Women Say Yes to God* by Lysa Terkeurst. We welcome and encourage all women to join us for this time of learning and fellowship!





## Monthly GYM TIME Sunday, Sept. 28 Noon - 1:30 p.m.

We may need volunteers to help provide food for our GYM Time meal.

Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board.

THANK YOU for supporting our youth.



At our August GYM Time, the Youth shared a delicious hot dog meal and fellowship, had devotion time, and played a “Who’s the most likely to?” game together!

During devotion time, we began exploring the question “What was Jesus like?” by turning to the stories in Luke 13:10-17 and John 1:47-49 to discuss how Jesus sees us—he hears us, he know us, and what a friend we have in Jesus!



### *Flashback to Summer:*

A couple of our Youth helped volunteer at Manna House in June. Thank you to these two and the adults who made sure they could be there!



### **Sunday, September 7**

Sunday School Kickoff, 9-10:30 a.m.

### **Sunday, September 28**

Monthly GYM Time, 12-1:30 p.m.

Youth Ministries Team Meeting, 1:30 p.m.

### **Saturday, October 25**

**Youth Carowinds Trip**

leave the church by 8am  
and return by 9pm.

### **Sunday, October 26**

Monthly GYM Time, 12-1:30 p.m.

Youth Ministries Team Meeting, 1:30 p.m.

### **All Sundays in November**

Youth Christmas Program Practice  
9:30 a.m. (during Sunday School)

### **Sunday, November 23**

Monthly GYM Time 12-1:30 p.m.

Youth Ministries Team Meeting, 1:30 p.m.

### **Saturday, December 6**

Parade Float Decorating, time TBA

### **Sunday, December 7**

Youth Christmas Program, 10:30 a.m.  
Congregational meal and the Prosperity  
Christmas Parade, after church

### **Friday, December 19**

Christmas Caroling & Party  
Time TBA



### **Middle School Youth, High School Youth, and Young Adults**

— join us for Sunday School in the Youth Room on Sunday mornings at 9:30. The kickoff celebration for the new

Sunday School year is Sunday, Sept. 7 with the new year of classes starting the following week. Information about our new material will be revealed at the kickoff!

### **Preschool & Elementary School Youth**

— Join us for Sunday School in the room next to the Youth Room! You’ve got some great returning teachers and some new ones to be excited about too!



**Grace Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 8, 2025**

Robert Martin called the meeting to order with a reading of the Mission Statement.

Deborah Ruff shared timely devotions titled "The Storm" with a reading from Mark. Jesus cares and provides hope and comfort, healing and relief in times of distress.

Pastor's report: Grace has applied for a \$6 500 grant to support our local food insecurity ministries as the first step in the process. We will be contacted in October if we are selected to move forward. Pastor Dave also requested that Grace be chosen as one of twenty churches in the Carolinas to participate in a six week Zoom course to improve our website and search engine optimization. Kelly Klapcuniak, owner of a new youth enrichment program in our area called Kurious Kids, met with Pastor Dave to discuss using our facility while she works to obtain her own facility. Grace has been contacted by Lifebridge Pregnancy Center regarding their Baby Bottle Campaign Fundraiser to raise funds for maternal health in our region. Bible Study materials from Augsburg Fortress have been ordered for Sunday School. Pastor Dave has scheduled a session on July 26 for two individuals who have expressed interest in joining Grace. This session is open to anyone who wants to attend and will cover the history of Grace, Lutheran doctrine, and our faith.

There was discussion about the recent Heartland Conference and the need for unity in our church after Macedonia Lutheran Church voted to disassociate from the ELCA.

Deborah moved to accept the reports as written, seconded by Linda Cromer, and passed.

Discussion: A membership status letter to be sent to those who have not attended or contributed to Grace since Jan. 2024 was read to the council. David Luther made a motion to send the letter, seconded by Sally Dominick, and it passed.

There was a request to use the parsonage for Lutheran Disaster Relief in the SC region. More information about the condition of the parsonage is needed prior to addressing the request. The committee formed to inspect, review, and assess parsonage repairs has completed most of their work and will report to Council as part of next month's agenda.

Chop Cooper has gotten another estimate to replace the flat roof that was similar to the previous estimate of more than \$120,000. Chop made a motion to repair the existing roof as needed instead of a full replacement, seconded by Chad Frick, and passed.

There was discussion about separating the Care Committee that provides visitation and communion to shut-ins from the Fellowship Committee at the end of 2025. Sue Mitchell informed the council that the Lifelong Education Committee plans to meet next Monday.

Robert mentioned Rick Caston, who had open heart surgery last week, as a new shepherding concern.

Pastor Dave closed the meeting with a prayer.

**Grace Council Meeting Minutes  
August 11, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Robert Martin with a reading of the Mission Statement.

Deborah Ruff shared devotions about navigating change with a reading from Ecclesiastes. God helps us to navigate life's changing seasons. Change is always happening, but difficulties don't last forever and God is always with us.

Pastor's Report: We will be adding six new members this weekend including four new voting members and 2 new associate members. Grace is one of 20 churches chosen to improve our website and social media presence with Pastor Dave and Jessica Shealy participating in Zoom meetings this fall. Pastor Dave will be conducting funeral services in Seneca this week for Betty Kincaid Cummings who generously donated to Grace Christian School.

Adoption of Reports: Johnny Merck moved to accept the reports as written, seconded by George Dawkins, and passed.

The membership status letter to be sent to those who have not attended or contributed to Grace since January 2024 has not gone out yet. George advised the council that the Stewardship Committee plans to send anonymous intent cards in September. It was noted that the letter needs to be sent prior to September's stewardship program. Robert will make sure this is done.

Craig Metz presented a detailed summary of work needed to restore the parsonage for the council to review. Craig has agreed to head the Parsonage Committee. Robert advised that the Parsonage Committee should schedule a meeting as soon as feasible.

Grace has contracted with Jordan Roofing to repair the flat roof area that needs attention. A \$3,000 deposit, approximately half of the total repair cost, has been made to Jordan Roofing.

Discussion: Len Fulmer suggested that Grace could provide breakfast or lunch for Rikard Elementary School teachers as a means of community involvement. George informed the council that the church's fire alarm batteries have been replaced. The fire alarm company noted that we are past due for inspection. It was also noted that Grace's administrative secretary, Valerie Reed, checks the Post Office box on Tuesdays through Thursdays but we may need another key to check the box on days when she is not working. Johnny made a motion to have an extra key made, seconded by Linda Cromer, and it passed.

Ministry Team Updates: Deborah advised that the Worship Committee plans to meet on Monday, Aug. 18. The 2025-2026 Sunday School kickoff will be on Sunday, Sept. 7.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center.

Shepherding Concerns: Bob Dibble and Pastor Al are in rehab/recovering. Johnny has major surgery scheduled for August 27. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Pastor Dave.

Respectfully submitted, David Luther,  
Council Secretary

## Welcome New Grace Members



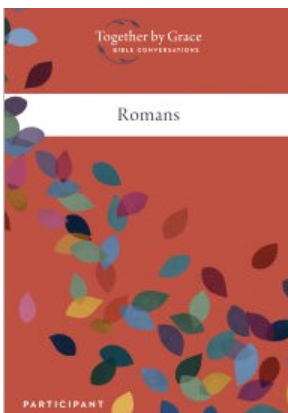
Front row: Ron Calsing, Ann Calsing, Diane Gonzales, Jimmy C. Caughman, Meggie Kendrick, Kim Metz.  
Back row: Michael Moates, Pastor Dave Adams, Hannah Moates, Cayce Moates, Phil Ruff.



Grace's annual Sunday School Kickoff will begin with a congregational breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 9 a.m. Everyone is invited to come enjoy fellowship as well as breakfast casseroles, coffeecake, doughnuts, and fruit.

Kickoff activities start at 9:30 with teachers being introduced and new material for the adult and youth classes presented. Pastor Dave will lead a brief Bible trivia session. Teachers and officers will be installed during the 10:30 a.m. service.

This is a great time to reconnect with Sunday School. We may sometimes "drop out" of Sunday School but we never "graduate" from learning more about God and growing in our faith! Come to our kickoff and learn what Sunday School has to offer for your journey of faith!



### Adult Sunday School Classes will be studying the book of Romans.

The course is an 8-session course produced by Augsburg Fortress. Each participant book costs \$12.99, and we would like to get a solid number of people who want to purchase the book so we can get them on order. You will find a sign-up sheet for this on the narthex board. **Please sign up today!**

"The apostle Paul is the author of Romans, a letter to believers in Christ living in the capital city of the Roman Empire. Paul writes this letter to present his understanding of the gospel with the hope that it will be meaningful in their present context [in the 1st century CE.] The message of Romans would become significant for Martin Luther and his work as a teacher, writer, reformer, and preacher."





# SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Manna House</b> <b>Item Needed:</b> <b>Canned Tuna</b>	<b>1 Labor Day</b> 	<b>2 Grace</b> <b>Preschool</b> 	<b>3</b> 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 6:00 p.m. Joyful Noise	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 Sunday School Kickoff</b> 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 SS Kickoff 10:30 Worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	<b>10</b> 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 6:00 p.m. Joyful Noise	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Children's Church 2-4:00 CPR Class	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> October Newsletter <b>DEADLINE</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 6:00 p.m. Joyful Noise	<b>19</b> <b>20</b> 	
<b>21</b> 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	<b>22 Autumn Begins</b> Pastor Dave's 1 year anniversary 	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:30 a.m. Newsletter Team 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Choir	<b>25</b> 6:00 p.m. Joyful Noise	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12-1:30 GYM Time 1:30 Youth Team Meeting	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>				



## Grace Lutheran Church

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

[www.graceluth.org](http://www.graceluth.org)

803-364-3331

[gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com)

Ministers: The People of Grace

Pastor: Rev. Dave Adams

[pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com](mailto:pastordaveadamsgrace@gmail.com)

### Online Giving

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with your smartphone  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Coming up at Grace



### First day of Preschool September 2

Welcome to all of our teachers  
and students! We're glad your  
back!



### Sunday School Kickoff September 7

(See page 8 for all the details)



### September 22 Pastor Dave's 1 yr. anniversary at Grace!



### September 28 12-1:30 p.m.

### Make plans to be at Grace for Homecoming on October 19<sup>th</sup>

We look forward to  
celebrating together  
and honoring our  
Golden Age members  
(70+ yrs). We will have a covered dish lunch  
following the service. Please bring covered  
dishes to share. Drinks and paper products  
will be provided. More details coming soon.