



Grace Abounds October 2026

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



*From our
Pastor's Desk*

Have you ever settled into your favorite room and simply looked around? When we slow down and pay attention, even familiar things—perhaps hidden in plain sight—can speak to us in fresh and meaningful ways.

Perhaps this happens while you are waiting at a familiar traffic light in Columbia—on Bull Street, for example. As you wait for your turn to go, do you notice the trees, the clouds overhead, the buildings and lawns, or the people in nearby cars, each making their way somewhere? Even an ordinary pause can become an invitation to see what is around us.

The same invitation meets us when we gather at church. Do we notice the light filtering through our stained-glass windows, the paraments and banners that grace the sanctuary, or even the pew beneath us as we worship together? Above all, do we lift our eyes to the Cross and remember that there Jesus gave himself for us, completing the work of redemption and freeing us from sin?

This invitation to notice does not end when worship is over. Every moment of our lives is filled with people, places, and things. Some may seem ordinary or unimportant, while others call us to pause, give thanks, and recognize what truly matters.

At home, we may share our days with a spouse, family member, or friend who means the world to us. Do we cherish the ordinary moments of love we are given together? And if a beloved person is no longer with us, may we make room to remember with gratitude the love they shared and the difference they made in our lives. Whether we are enjoying companionship or carrying grief, God remains near, holding us and our treasured memories with tender care.

That same attentiveness can accompany us beyond our homes. As we travel through God's creation, do we rush past life's wonders because we are focused only on reaching our destination? Or do we pause to delight in the goodness around us—the trees that offer shade, the blue sky that lifts our spirits, and the handiwork of God's people, whose gifts of creativity bring beauty, art, and joyful messages into our days? These simple gifts can remind us that God's grace is often nearer than we realize.

If God's grace can meet us in the ordinary, how much more clearly do we see it when we gaze upon the Cross? Do we see only the instrument of death on which our Lord was crucified? Or has it become so familiar that we no longer pause to remember what God's Son endured to save us? The Cross is more than a symbol before us; it is the enduring sign of God's sacrificial love and the promise that no suffering is beyond God's redeeming care.

I am as guilty as anyone of rushing through life without truly noticing what surrounds me. In the twenty-first century, we are so inundated with things that we can easily miss what matters most. Yet grace often meets us in simple moments: a family photograph that warms the heart and carries us back to a cherished time, the open sky during the day, or the stars at night. When we pause to receive these gifts, we begin again to marvel at all God has made and at the beauty woven into this life. Even when life feels hurried, lonely, or heavy, such moments can gently assure us that God sees us, loves us, and walks beside us.

Most of all, let us receive what the Cross has done for us. Through Jesus Christ, the Son of God lifted up for the world, the way of salvation has been opened, revealing how deeply God loves each of us. So let us slow down, look around and notice the signs of grace that surround us. May the love we discover there deepen our love for God and assure us that, whatever this season holds, God walks with us—offering mercy for today and hope for the days ahead.

Blessings always, Pastor Dave



Birthdays

- 2- Kathy Brown, Faye Hartman
- 10- Hunter Neel
- 11- Cayce Moates
- 12- Cissie Dibble, Deron Shealy
- 15- Wendy Riley
- 16- Parker Metts
- 17- Lisa Farr
- 21- James Derrick
- 23- Ann Calsing
- 24- Jaxon Yarborough
- 26- Nathan Shealy
- 27- Craig Farr, Kelly Shealy
- 30- Lisa Riley

Anniversaries

- 5- Kathy & Ron Brown 52nd
- 14- Kimberly & Austin Lane 3rd
- 15- Kelly & Len Fulmer 15th
- 23- Suzanne & Jeremy Medlock 27th
- 26- Jenny & Jimmy Braswell 41st
- 30- Julie & Dale Shealy 33rd

Baptism Anniversaries

- Ron Brown
- 3- Payton Metts
- 7- Wanda Hartman
- 9- Diane Gonzales, Bailey Stewart
- 12- Kimberly Lane
- 13- Eddie Rivers
- 22- Jessica Shealy, Matthew Shealy
- 24- Kay George
- 25- Mike Shealy
- 27- Lyric McCormick, Brianna Stewart



Serving in October

Assisting Ministers

- 4 Sally Dominick
- 11 Melodie Waters
- 18 Ronnie Cromer
- 25 Allie Waters

Altar Flowers

- 4 Judy Bedenbaugh
- 11 Sharon Neel
- 18 Emmett Wicker (Homecoming Sunday)
- 25 Wayde & Sally Dominick (Red, Reformation Sunday)

Live Stream Operators

- 4 George Dawkins
- 11 Brad Waters
- 18 Brad Waters
- 25 George Dawkins

Acolytes

- 4 Jonathan Shealy
- 11 Allie Waters
- 18 Lillie Waters
- 25 Ronda Mewbourn

Crucifer: 25 Helena Mewbourn

Torchbearers: 25 Thomas Mewbourn

Communion Assistant Deborah Ruff

Communion Preparation Sue & Wayne Mitchell

Communion Clean Up Cayce & Michael Moates

Ushers Brad Waters, Kelli & Len Fulmer,
Craig Metz, Lynn Wessinger

Greeters Cindy Amick, Diane Gonzales

Offering Tabulators Dale Shealy, Jessica Shealy,
Julie Shealy, Emmett Wicker

Front Sign Emmett Wicker

Altar Guild Deborah Ruff

Pew Rack Helper Sharon Neel



During the month of October, the Sanctuary Lamp is sponsored by Beverly Hawkins to the glory of God and in loving memory of her parents, Bidie and Lewis Hawkins.



In this newsletter you will find the 2027 **Time and Talent Commitment Form**. We need everyone's help carrying out the ministries of the Lord here at Grace. Please prayerfully consider how you can use your time and talents and complete this form and return it to the church office no later than November 3, 2026.



Grace will host a Blessing of the Animals Service on Sunday, October 4, at 1:30 p.m. on the front lawn. You may bring your pet or pets with you or, if you have concerns about their behavior, you may bring a picture to be blessed. Invite your friends and neighbors to bring their pets and be a part of this special service.

Manna House Item for October:

2 lb. bags of Grits

Donations can be left in the Manna House box in the narthex. You can also help by donating gift cards to Food Lion or Walmart. Thank you.



Grace will join the town of Prosperity for **Trunk or Treat** on Friday, October 31 from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Grace parking lot. We invite all children in the community for a safe night of trunk or treat. Invite your family and friends. We need individuals and families to help with this event by coming and decorating your car or truck and handing out treats. If you can't be here to participate, we would appreciate (and need) donations of candy. Hundreds of children come through the lot for Trunk or Treat each year. Please place your candy donations in the **Trunk or Treat** donation box in the narthex.



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

Residential Care: Heather Harris;
Wendy & 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*); 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 leave a written note in the office box. We would like to keep this list up to date as much as possible.



Deadline for our November Newsletter is October 20th.

WORSHIP

ATTENDANCE

Sunday	Sanctuary	* Online	Total
8/30	60	16	76
9/06	51	10	61
9/13	64	12	76
9/20	54	12	66
9/27	57	12	69

✓ Sunday School ATTENDANCE

8/30- 32 9/20 - 26
 9/06 - 26 9/27 - 33
 9/13 - 32

We're now on Instagram! Follow us @gracelutheranprosperity!

We have branched out and expanded our social media presence! Have Instagram? Please give us a follow! Been thinking about getting on Instagram but haven't yet? Use this as your reason to join now!

If you only use Facebook, don't worry! All of the content you are used to seeing will continue being posted there. (Have Facebook and aren't sure if you follow the Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA page? Now's a good time to take a moment and check!)

← [gracelutheranprosperity](#) 🔔 ⋮



Grace Lutheran Church

9 posts 26 followers 26 following

Lutheran Church

We are an ELCA congregation in Prosperity, SC.

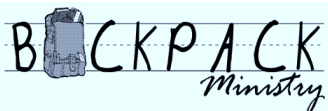
Join us for worship on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

There is a place for you at Grace! All are welcome!

graceluth.org

210 Grace St., Prosperity, South Carolina 29127

📍 Grace Lutheran Church-ELCA



Our Backpack Ministry has started back at Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School.

Currently we have 12 children that we are helping with food for the weekends. That number may be increasing. If you would like to help, please check the list of needed items on the narthex bulletin board. Thank You!



Preschool Fundraiser

Our Preschool is having a Nothing Bundt Cakes Fundraiser. An order sheet is on the narthex board if you would like to place an order. Checks should be made payable to Grace Preschool and be given to Chop Cooper by Thursday, October 8th. Pick up day will be October 15th. Thank you for your support!!



Grace Youth Ministry would like to thank the congregation for supporting our Preschool Supply Drive. Many needed supplies were collected for our preschool teachers to use in their classrooms to better serve their students. We sincerely appreciate your response, and your support!

Thank you so very much!

Grace Youth

Thanksgiving Meal Bags

Once again, Grace will distribute Thanksgiving Meal bags of non-perishable food items to members of the community on Sunday, Nov. 22. We ask for the congregation's help in providing the following list of items for our meal bags. Please bring your donations to the church no later than Monday, Nov. 16, to allow time to supplement donations as needed.

Thanksgiving Bag Shopping List

Stuffing mix (boxes/bags)
 Chicken Broth (boxes/cans)
 Canned Sweet Potatoes
 Mac and Cheese Boxes
 Canned Corn
 Canned Green Beans
 Cornbread Mix
 Canned Pie Filling
 1 lb. bags of Sugar
 Gravy Mix Packets



Meeting – September 8, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Len Fulmer with a reading of the Mission Statement. Edwina Wicker shared devotions based on Revelations 3:20. Jesus came to serve, not to be served. We should see Jesus in kind acts by everyday people.

Pastor's report: Shepherding concerns were shared for several church members including J.C. Caughman (Parkridge), Diane Adams (respiratory virus), and Bob Dibble (fluid on lungs). Grace has signed an agreement for the Live Nativity starting on December 13 from 6 - 8. Jackie Utley will perform a one-woman narrative. Arrangements are being made for an all-ages Bible study starting November 1 based on the book of James. Pastor Dave found a music service provider who can provide an organ music service, when necessary, such as for Christmas when Eddie Rivers is performing at Wightman.

Adoption of Reports: Linda Cromer moved to accept the reports as presented, seconded by Chad Frick and passed. Discussion: Gattis Pro Audio recommended Diamond Electric Service to change Grace's outlets to 120v to accommodate new LED light fixtures. Johnny Merck is scheduled to meet with Diamond Electric to get a quote. Dehumidifiers have been installed in church offices as needed.

Council discussed replacing the old church sign with a new electronic sign. There is a wide range of sizes, performance capabilities, and prices associated with a new sign. Council decided to table this discussion until the Annual Meeting.

Johnny requested use of the Ministry Center on October 10 for the Bedenbaugh Family Reunion and Edwina requested use of the Ministry Center on November 27. Both requests were voted on and passed.

Ministry Teams: Julie Shealy shared that Pastor Jane Mitchum will be our guest pastor for Homecoming Sunday on October 18. The Lifelong Education Team has scheduled the Sunday School Kickoff for September 13. Grace Youth will have GYM Time on Sunday, September 20 from noon until 12:30. The youth apple picking trip is scheduled for Saturday, September 26 and the youth Carowinds trip is scheduled for Saturday, October 17. Grace is now on Instagram, and the church youth are working on logo designs.

Shepherding Concerns: Shepherding concerns were shared for members who are having health issues and for those who have recently lost loved ones. Grace Christian School student Ember Corley is cancer free and back in school. Len Fulmer is scheduled for foot surgery.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 in the Ministry Center. Pastor Dave closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, David Luther, Council Secretary

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Annual Congregation Council Nominations and Election

Annual Congregation Council nominations will be held on **Sunday, November 1**. Each voting member can nominate four individuals who meet the qualifications for voting members. (*Voting members are those who have communed and contributed on record in 2025 and/or 2026*). Council election is set for **Sunday, November 15**. We will be electing four people to three-year terms on Council in addition to a youth council member. We will also be electing our church officers of Vice-President and Secretary.



HOMECOMING 2026

Come join our church family reunion as we celebrate our annual Homecoming Sunday on **October 18**. We encourage you to invite your family and former members to join us for this special day.

The Rev. Dr. Jane P. Mitcham will be our guest pastor at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Pastor Jane served as interim pastor at Grace from March 2022 to July 2024.

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.

We will also recognize our Golden Age members (those age 70 and up) for their lives of faith and service to God. A list of our Golden Age members based on our parish records is below. If you do NOT want to be recognized or have accidentally been omitted and want to be recognized, please let the church office know as soon as possible.

David Adams
Diane Adams
Terrell Alewine
Lois Amick
Judy Bedenbaugh
Lewis Bedenbaugh
Buck Black
Luke Black
Kathy Brown
Rev. Ron Brown
Ann Calsing
Ronald Calsing
J.C. Caughman
Chop Cooper
Teresa Cooper
Glenda Crafts
Linda Cromer
Ronnie Cromer
George Dawkins, Jr.
James Derrick
Nancy Derrick
Cissie Dibble
Becky Everett
Roger Everett

Kay George
Diane Gonzales
Donna Hall
Mike Hall
Evelyn Harmon
Bob Harris
Heather Harris
Faye Hartman
Andy Hawkins
Beverly Hawkins
Donna Hawkins
Mike Hawkins
Donna Jacobs
Margaret Kluttz
Andrea Lewis
Robert Martin
Sheila Martin
Beverly Merck
Johnny Merck
Sue Mitchell
Wayne Mitchell
Sharon Neel
Rev. Al Potter
Clyna Quattlebaum

Walt Quattlebaum
Edna Riley
Eddie Rivers
Marysue Rivers
Deborah Ruff
Phil Ruff
Rev. Timothea Sharpe
Dale Shealy
Mike Shealy
Anna Kay Singley
Marc Stanley
Peggy Thomas
Margie Welch
Lynn Wessinger
Emmett Wicker





Thank you to Lynn Wessinger, Deborah Ruff, Andrea Lewis Beverly Hawkins, and Judy Bedenbaugh for providing all The components we needed to have sub sandwiches for our September GYM Time meal!

There will be no GYM Time this month because the 3rd Sunday is Homecoming Sunday.



Grace Youth Ministry will be traveling to Carowinds for a day of fun on Saturday, October 17, 2026. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

With a group of 15 or more, we can get discounted tickets. We realize that our Homecoming/Golden Age Sunday is the next day; however, we should not be late getting back to the church. Please remember to sign up so we know for sure how many to expect.



Our Youth had a great afternoon full of faith, friends, food, and fun at GYM Time on Sunday, September 20! After enjoying a sub sandwich lunch provided by several members of our congregation, we had devotion time and played a couple of games: "What's in the Box?" and "Avoid the Camera!"

During devotion time, we began exploring the question "How does Jesus help us?" by turning to Mark 4:35-41 to discuss how Jesus helps us overcome fear — and how Jesus is with us in the boat when we are facing the storms of life!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, October 17

Carowinds Trip

Sunday, November 15

GYM Time 12-1:30pm

Saturday, December 5

Parade Float Decorating

Sunday, December 6

Prosperity Christmas Parade

Friday, December 18

Christmas Caroling



Good Times with Some Good Apples!

Grace Youth and family spent the morning on Saturday, September 26, making some sweet core memories at Justus Orchard in Hendersonville!



September Memorials & Gifts

Community Service Fund

Edna Riley in memory of Lottie Martin, Robert Martin's aunt (101)

Bookbag Ministry Fund

Edna Riley in memory of Kathy Buchanan, Beverly Hawkins' Cousin

Current Budget Fund

Judy Bedenbaugh in memory of Kathy Buchanan

Judy Bedenbaugh in memory of Lottie Martin, Robert Martin's aunt

Edwina Wicker in memory of Lottie Martin

Emmett Wicker in memory of Bob Dibble

Emmett Wicker in memory of Lottie Martin

Edwina Wicker in memory of Bob Dibble

Edna Riley in memory of Bob Dibble

Dale & Julie Shealy in memory of Bob Dibble

Chop & Teresa Cooper in memory of Bob Dibble

Ronnie & Linda Cromer in memory of Bob Dibble

Maintenance Fund

Judy Bedenbaugh in memory of Bob Dibble

Pamela Stanley in memory of Bob Dibble

Sally Rogers in memory of Bob Dibble

Bob & Barbara Little in memory of Bob Dibble

Shelley & Becky Blount in memory of Bob Dibble

Sally & Bob McKenzie in memory of Bob Dibble

Linda Kirby in memory of Bob Dibble

Craig Garner in memory of Bob Dibble

Arnold Schraibman in memory of Bob Dibble

The world
and its desires
pass away,
but whoever
does the
will of God
lives forever.

1 John 2:17 (NIV)

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Manna House Item this Month: 2 lb. bags of Grits				1	2	3
4 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 1:30 Blessing of the Animals	5 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	6 7pm LMM Meeting	7 <u>Each Wednesday:</u> 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:30 Choir Rehearsal ↓	8	9 	10
11 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	12	13 6:30pm Council Meeting	14	15	16 <u>Ministry Center Reserved</u> ↔	17 Carowinds Trip  Youth Trip!
18 Homecoming Sunday 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 Homecoming Lunch	19 	20 <i>November Newsletter Deadline</i>	21	22	23 	24 10:30 a.m. Installation Service for New Bishop Rev. Roof @ St. Stephen's Lutheran
25 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	26	27	28 <i>Newsletter Team 9:30</i>	29	30	31  Trunk or Treat



CLERGY
APPRECIATION
 MONTH



Grace Lutheran Church

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gracelutheranprosperity@gmail.com

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Blessing of the Animals
October 4 1:30 p.m.



Homecoming
October 18



Youth Carowinds Trip
October 17



Trunk or Treat at Grace
October 31 5-6:30 p.m.