



Grace ABOUNDS

February 2026

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



The month of February brings hope—especially to the people living in the North that winter is almost over and the warmer months of Spring are just around the corner. And of course, February is the time when many plan for Valentines Day—the holiday set aside for Love!



February is also the month when the church begins the journey of Lent that leads to the beautiful celebration of Easter. But, before we get to Easter Sunday when we are basking in the rays of warm sunshine, spring flowers, new attire, and chocolate(!), there is another sign of love we cannot pass by. The sign is marked on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday (February 18) and for 40 days we remember the walk Jesus made all the way to the Cross to take our place as God's eternal sacrifice.

*"Then Jesus said to them all , "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."
(Luke 9:23)*

What are your plans for Lent and how will you remember the sacrifice Jesus made in giving up His life – so that we can live? We will have special services during the season which we will be announcing very soon. Look for the days/times when we gather to reverently and thankfully recall the journey to the Cross Jesus made in our place. So, Happy...Blessed...Joyous...Peaceful...and...Fulfilling Lent...God so loves us He sent Jesus to give us the gift that can only come from the Father.



"...it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)

Our language allows us to express one idea in several ways. Some people may say to you have a "Graceful Lenten Season," or have a "Blessed Lent," or even may you be on a "Peaceful Lenten Journey." We might even hear "Happy Lent" which will sound contradictory to the somber 40 days we will be walking with the Lord. However, as God has proven repeatedly, are we not filled with His unlimited grace and love that are all on display through God's only Son Jesus Christ!? We are and we can say because of Jesus we can and should be happy.

So, Happy...Blessed...Joyous...Peaceful...and...Fulfilling Lent...God so loves us He sent Jesus to give us the gift that can only come from the Father.

Blessings always,
Pastor Dave



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



February Birthdays

February 1	Jayden Mitchell
February 8	Camryn Shealy
February 10	Donna Hall
February 11	Joshua Riley
February 14	Ashley Ackerman Wanda Hartman
February 23	Cali Derrick
February 26	Lois Amick
February 28	Margaret Kluttz

Anniversaries

February 3	Lynn & Larry Wessinger 59 th
February 14	Carol & Rick Mercer +
February 25	Kim and Craig Metz 42 nd
February 27	Margaret & Glenn Kluttz +

+ - memorial

Baptism Anniversaries

February 1	Billy Ackerman Jenny Braswell
February 2	Edna Riley
February 8	MarySue Rivers
February 11	Lisa Farr
February 20	Linda Cromer Taylor Metz
February 21	Larry Wessinger
February 23	Chad Frick

Grace People in the News

Don't forget to share your "good news" about members of Grace with the church office by email, by phone, or with a note in the office box.



Congratulations go out to:

Ronda Mewbourn was recently recognized by the Newberry Reading Council as one of the Distinguished Teachers of Reading! She teaches at Pomaria-Garmany Elementary School.

Raelynn Wessinger earned Honor Roll, Art & Music awards, I-Ready growth in Math and Reading, Student Leadership Roll, and Student of the Month for December at Pomaria-Garmany Elementary.

Jaxon Wessinger earned awards for I-Ready growth in Math and Reading, Student of the Month for December, and Perfect Attendance for the second 9 weeks at Pomaria Garmany Elementary.

Lyric McCormick received awards at College Park Elementary for Art, I-Ready Math, and I-Ready Reading.

preschool registration



Preschool Registration

opens for Grace Members & Current Students on February 2 and then to the public the end of the month.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

**Deadline for the March
newsletter is Feb. 17th.**

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Grace Family: Rhonda & Billy Ackerman (*her mother's passing*); Cissie & Bob Dibble; Evelyn Harmon; Heather & Bob Harris; Barry Hartman; Faye Hartman; Pastor Al Potter; Marysue Rivers.

Residential Care: Michael & Wendy Riley

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

Extended Family: Bishop Ginny Aebischer; Nancye Bailey (*the Dibble's daughter*); Kathy Buchanan (*Beverly Hawkins' cousin*); Jimmy Capo (*Sharon Neel's brother-in-law*); Terry Dickert (*Sheila Martin's brother*); Don Denton & Jeff Gonzales (*Diane Gonzales' brother-in-laws*).

Community: Sue Moore; Mike Epps; Steve Culbertson

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 or leave a written note in the office box.



Memorials & Gifts for January 2026

Gifts to the General Fund

In memory of Diane Adams' siblings
by Chop & Teresa Cooper
by Ronnie & Linda Cromer

Gifts to the Scholarship Fund

In memory of Diane Adams' siblings, Thomas and Patty, by Judy Bedenbaugh



SC LMM Convention February 21st

The SC Lutheran Men in Mission Annual Convention is set for Saturday, Feb. 21st at Living Springs Lutheran Church in Columbia.

Registration and Fellowship begins at 9 and Convention begins at 10 am.

We also invite you as a past President to the Past President's dinner on the 20th of February 2026 at 6:00pm with dinner starting at 6:30pm. Cost for each is \$20 each paid at the door.

To register call:

Marshall Hurlbert at (803)960 – 8405
marshallhurlbert@gmail.com or
Tom Ramsey at (864) 304 – 5107
tdrams@charter.net.

John 1:5 is the theme for 2026 "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We need to be the light is someone else's darkness. We are focusing on our mental health in 2026.

Serving in February

Assisting Ministers

- 1 Sally Dominick
- 8 Julie Shealy
- 15 Johnny Merck
- 18 Melodie Waters (Ash Wednesday)
- 22 Allie Waters

Altar Flowers

- 1 -
- 8 -
- 15 -
- 22 George Dawkins, Jr.

Live Stream Operators

- 1 David Luther
- 8 Brad Waters
- 15 Mike Whitlock
- 18 Johnny Merck (Ash Wednesday)
- 22 George Dawkins

Acolytes

- 1 Zoe Frick
- 8 Allie Waters
- 15 Jonathan Shealy
- 22 Lillie Waters

Crucifer 2/15 Allie Waters

Torchbearers 2/15 Hannah Moates,
Raelynn Wessinger

Communion Assistant

Edwina Wicker

Communion Preparation

Diane Gonzales, Andrea Lewis

Communion Clean Up

Diane Adams, Sharon Neel

Ushers Walt Quattlebaum,
Bryan Hall, Hayden Hall, Hunter Hall,
Mike Hall, David Luther

Greeters Wayne & Sue Mitchell

Offering Tabulators Johnny Merck,
Beverly Merck, Melodie & Brad Waters

Front Sign J.C. Caughman

Altar Guild Beverly Hawkins

Pew Rack Helper Beverly Hawkins

SANCTUARY LAMP SPONSORS



During the month of February the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in honor of their 59th wedding anniversary by Lynn and Larry Wessinger.

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.

Altar Flower SIGN-UP



The 2026 Altar Flower and Sanctuary Lamp Chart is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Sign up on the chart or contact the church office to reserve your special dates. **Many dates are open.**

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday	Sanctuary	* Online	Total
1/04	64	14	78
1/11	72	16	88
1/18	57	20	77
1/25	—	42	42

* Total Online viewers = Facebook and YouTube

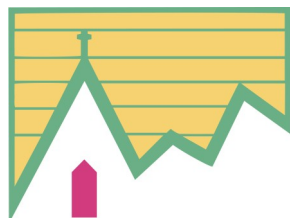
✓ Sunday School ATTENDANCE

1/04	24
1/11	28
1/18	24
1/25	—

Ministry Assignments for 2026

Ministry assignments for the new year are now posted on the bulletin board in front of the church office. Please check the lists to see where and when you are scheduled to serve. Thank you!





Church FINANCES

Our Offerings for January

Through January 25
(Does Not Include January EFTs)

MINISTRY BUDGET Our Monthly Need:

	\$15,784.33
Given during January	\$ 8,309.10
Given year-to-date	\$ 8,309.10
Goal through Jan. 25	\$15,784.33

MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP

Given during January	\$ 367.00
Given year-to-date	\$ 367.00

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Given during January	\$ 85.00
Given year-to-date	\$ 85.00

SCHOLARSHIP

Given during January	\$ 450.00
Given year-to-date	\$ 450.00

CAMPERSHIP

Given during January	\$ 0.00
Given year-to-date	\$ 0.00

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

Manna House	0.00
Community Assistance	0.00
Bookbag Food Ministry	0.00
Thanksgiving Meal	0.00

Total year-to-date\$ 0.00



Thank you for giving!



MINISTRY BUDGET

Needed Thru Jan.25 : \$ 15,784.33

Given Thru Jan. 25 : \$ 8,309.10

Amount Behind Goal: \$ 7,475.23

Electronic Giving

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



Manna House

In February we are collecting 2 lb. bags of flour. Donations can be left in the Manna House box in the narthex. We are deeply grateful for your generosity — whether it be through food donations or gift cards to Food Lion or Walmart.

Backpack Ministry

We are now feeding 12 needy children at Prosperity-Rikard Elementary School. There are lists of needed items on the narthex bulletin board for your convenience. Please leave your food donations in the red wagon. Thank you!



On Sunday, February 8th, after worship our Youth will be holding soup pots after the service and inviting the congregation to donate \$1 or more to help tackle hunger. This year we chose *God's Abundance for All People* (GAAP Food Pantry) at O'Neal Street UMC in Newberry.

For a fun twist, we will have year 4 of the "friendly competition" between the Angels (last names A-L) and the Saints (last names M-Z)! The record stands at 2-1, with the Angels in the lead after last year's win. Who will win this year?



Grace Youth are sponsoring our annual Souper Bowl of Caring collection on Sunday, February 8. The Youth have chosen to support *God's Abundance for All People* (the GAAP Food Pantry) at O'Neal Street UMC in Newberry. They will be holding soup pots after the service and asking the congregation to donate \$1 or more to this cause. (Youth, don't forget to bring your \$1!) We will count the collection afterward so we can report it to the National Tackle Hunger Campaign and to our congregation the following Sunday, 2/15.

**DON'T
FORGET**

Don't forget to check the bulletin board across from the office for 2026 ministry assignments, including acolyte, torchbearer, and crucifer schedules!

Upcoming Events

Next GYM Time

Sunday, February 22
Noon-1:30 p.m.

Faith, Fellowship, Fun, and Food!

We will need volunteers to help provide food for our February meal. We'll have a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board.

Thanks for Supporting our Youth!

Sunday, February 8

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 22

Monthly GYM Time

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 22

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 26

Monthly GYM Time

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Shout for joy,
all you upright in heart!
PSALM 32:11



January 10, 2026

Grace Congregational Council held its annual retreat in the Ministry Center on January 10, 2026 at 10:00 am. Len Fulmer called the meeting to order with a reading of the Mission Statement.

Pastor Dave shared a reading from Romans 5:8 in devotions: "*While we were yet sinners Christ died for us.*" We should strive to reform our life and compare our current image to that of Jesus.

Pastor's Report: Grace's live stream will have a new bulletin slide ahead of the stream with information about current happenings at the church. A new Communications Team is being formed for 2026 to focus on branding, messaging, a new logo, and social media content. Linda Cromer moved to form the new team, Len seconded, and it passed. We hope at least 30 people will participate in the blood drive at Grace on Sunday, January 18. *The Heartland Lay School of Religion* will be held on January 20, 27, and February 3. Len moved to have Grace provide sandwiches for attendees, Andy Metz seconded the motion, and it passed.

Adoption of Reports: Andy made a motion to adopt the reports as written, seconded by Robert Martin, and approved as presented.

Discussion: The church voice mail system with Carolina Connect will be upgraded with new programming that will enable it to handle high call volumes.

Linda Cromer moved to purchase two new 9' Christmas trees to replace the worn-out existing trees, seconded by Len, and passed.

Len made a motion to explore less expensive options for new electronic church signage, Andy seconded the motion, and it passed.

Chop Cooper reported that signs indicating that the church grounds are under surveillance have been installed. The three new security cameras approved at the last meeting are on back order.

Andy will look into renting a lift to replace the Sanctuary flood lights.

The Newberry College Food Pantry was chosen as this year's recipient of the Lenten Offering.

As a time saving and lower cost option, Grace's newsletter may be sent via email. Printed copies will be sent via the US post office to those who do not have email. A computer security software program is needed for the church. Robert moved to research a solution, seconded by Chad Frick, and passed. Len and Kelli Fulmer's son is an IT major and will take a look at this issue. Linda has been Grace's Current Fund Treasurer for over 12 years and is looking for a replacement with an accounting background and experience with on-line cloud based reports.

Craig Metz presented the scope of work to repair the parsonage to the council. It is believed that funds from an earmarked donation will be enough to complete the downstairs and maybe the bathrooms. Johnny Merck moved to start electrical repairs and ground floor refurbishment once the pending earmarked donation is received and to start on the second floor if funds remain. Edwina Wicker seconded the motion and it passed. Craig will take on repairs.

There is \$1700 earmarked to clean the carpet in the Sanctuary and the Ministry Center. Chop will get estimates.

Julie Shealy requested use of the Ministry Center on Saturday, February 7 for a family gathering. Andy moved to accept the request, seconded by Linda, and passed.

Ministry Team updates: The Worship Team is working to better enhance music during worship.

Shepherding Concerns: Discussions took place and Johnny indicated that his port has been taken out and he got a great report.

The next regular council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the Ministry Center. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Pastor Dave.

Respectfully submitted, David Luther
Council Secretary

Collector and Hobby Fair

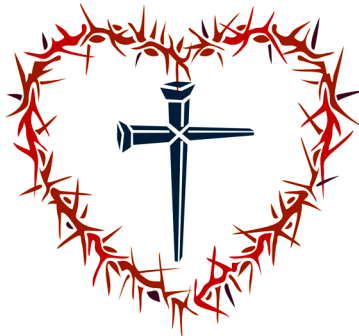
The Collector and Hobby Fair returns Sunday, Feb. 1, from 3-5 p.m. in the Ministry Center.

Come see what hobbies and collections fellow members of Grace enjoy - and have conversations with people you might not normally interact with. We are excited to have some new folks sharing their hobbies and collections this year. Light refreshments will be provided, but if cooking or baking is your hobby, feel free to bring something to share.

If you'd like to display your collection or hobby and haven't already signed up, contact Dale Shealy (803-271-3998) so we'll have a table set up for you. This event is sponsored by the Care and Fellowship Team.

Big Yard Sale

Plans are being made for a yard sale and tabling event on Saturday, May 2, in conjunction with the annual Prosperity Hoppin'. Please start looking around your house for items to donate. If you plan to donate clothing, it should be clean and folded neatly with minimal wrinkles. Because we do not have room to store donations, please hold on to them for now. We will be able to accept donations beginning Sunday, April 26, after worship. Deadline to bring items for the sale will be Friday, May 1, at noon. Proceeds from this yard sale will go to the *American Cancer Society*. More information will be coming in the weeks ahead on the yard sale and tabling event. There will be ways that everyone can participate in this event!



Looking towards Lent

Shrove Pancake Supper — February 17 @ 6:30 p.m.

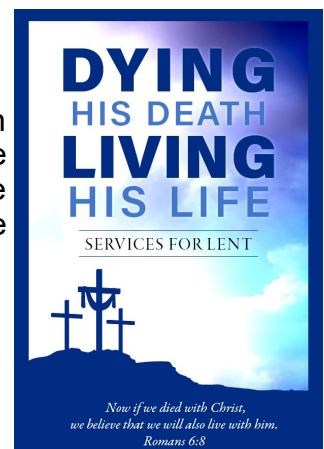
Join us for pancakes with all the trimmings! Please sign up in the narthex so we know how many pancakes we need to flip! Donations are accepted to cover expenses.

Ash Wednesday — February 18






On Ash Wednesday this year we will have Drive-Thru Ashes from 12-1pm in the front parking lot for those who can not make the evening service at 7:00 p.m. At this service we will celebrate Holy Communion along with the imposition of ashes.

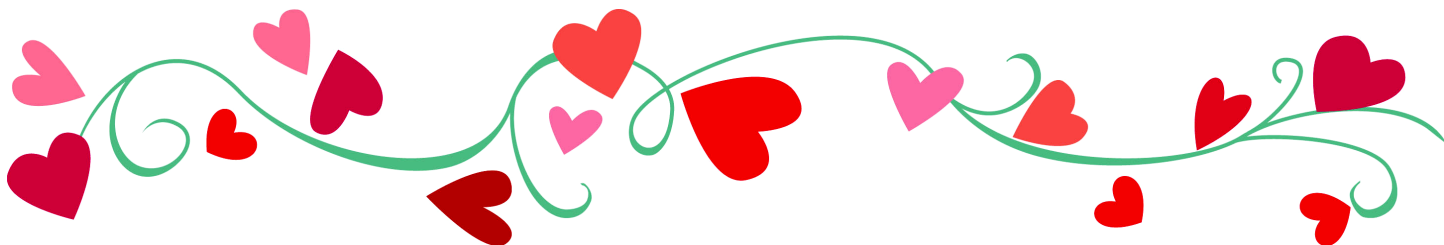
Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers & Lenten Services

Our midweek Lenten Services will begin with a soup supper at 6:15PM with the prayer service starting at 7PM. The dates for the midweek services are 2/25; 3/4; 3/11; 3/18; and, 3/25. Each service is based on the series by The Rev. Fred Niedner - Dying His Death - Living His Life and will include scripture and messages on our journey through Lent with Jesus.



FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 3-5:00 Hobby Fair	2	3 <i>Heartland School of Religion</i>	4	5 	6	7 <i>Ministry Center Reserved</i>
8 Souper Bowl Sunday 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	9	10 6:30pm Council Meeting	11 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	12 5-6:30pm Preschool Book Fair 6:00 p.m. * Confirmation Class * Joyful Noise	13	14 
15 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	16 Presidents Day	17  6:30 pm Shrove Pancake Supper	18  12-1pm Drive Thru Ashes 7:00 p.m. Ash Wed. Service	19 6:00 p.m. * Confirmation Class * Joyful Noise	20	21 <i>Ministry Center Reserved</i> LMM Conference at Living Springs Lutheran Church
22 1st Sunday of Lent 9:00 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12:00 GYM Time	23 	24	25 9:30 a.m. Newsletter Team 6:15 Soup Supper 7:00 Lenten Prayer Service	26 6:00 p.m. * Confirmation Class * Joyful Noise LMM Heartland Conference at Bethel Lutheran	27	28





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
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming Up at Grace

February 1 3-5pm

Collector & Hobby Fair



February 2

**Preschool Registration Opens for
Grace Members & Current Students**

February 8



February 17 6:30 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 18 Ash Wednesday



12-1pm Drive-thru Ashes

7pm Ash Wednesday

Service

February 22 12-1:30 p.m.

Youth GYM Time



February 25

**Mid-week Lenten Suppers & Prayer
Services begin**