



Grace ABOUNDS

June 2025

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



As we move through life, we have the amazing ability to read and study and learn so very much about the world we live in. The following is what the Internet provided when I asked, "How many books have been published in the world." – "It's estimated that approximately 158,464,880 unique books have been published since the invention of the printing press in 1440. However, this is a rough estimate, and the actual number could be higher, especially considering self-published works and books not tracked by ISBNs. UNESCO reports that around 2.2 million books are published globally each year." (UNESCO is the

United Nations agency that promotes education, science, culture, and communication to foster peace and equality worldwide.)

Whoa – that's a lot of reading material. Years ago, I dreamed about writing a book but thought there might be way too many others to compete with. So, what did God help me get to do, but write sermons almost every week for over 24 years! The Holy Spirit works in mysterious ways!

By now you're thinking, "what's the point to this article?" Obviously, no person could even think of beginning to read – digest – study – understand the incalculable number of resources available to us to learn about God's world. No human can hope to begin to understand the breadth and scope of knowledge that comes to us from One Source – God. So, maybe the thing to do is turn to the Source Himself – and His Holy Book – The Bible. Here's another fun fact that you most likely already guessed – "The Bible is the best-selling book of all time, with an estimated 5 to 7 billion copies sold."

The level of Bible Study and learning at Grace is not found in many other churches. You do a fantastic job reading – studying – God's Word, and I commend you on this. It's so important for us all to keep our hearts and minds open to God's Word so we can continue to better understand just how much God cares for us.

Over a recent 4-week period, our Sunday School utilized a great resource co-written by Pastor Bobby Morris and Pastor Josh Knutson: "A Brief Introduction to The Bible: What It Is and What It Isn't." There is one very poignant sentence that speaks to what the Bible does for us. "One of the amazing things about the Bible is that there is hardly anything in our human experience that Scripture is unable to speak to – not necessarily in the sense of giving "answers" – but in the sense of connection, that someone else has been there and can relate." In other words, someone, somewhere in the annals of time have "been there and done that" – whatever it is. And by God's inspiration we can learn from them – and our Maker. Keep your Bible handy after all it seems to have proven itself over time to be The Source of what God wants us to know about Him – that we are loved and will be by our Creator – forever. Oh, and you're always welcome to join us for Sunday School – 9:30AM – right before worship. Bring your books...er, Bibles.

Blessings always,

Pastor Dave

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



Birthdays

- 2 - David Luther
- 9 - Eddie Rivers, Bailey Stewart
- 12 - Ronda Mewbourn
- 15 - Donna Jacobs
- 16 - Lynn Wicker, Pastor Jane
- 18 - Paula Pridgen
- 19 - Hayden Hall, Melodie Waters
- 20 - Lewis Bedenbaugh
- 28 - Diane Adams
- 30 - Brianna Stewart



Anniversaries

- 1 - Bob & Heather Harris 34th
- 4 - Ronnie & Paula Pridgen 37th
- 5 - Ralph & Andrea Lewis ⁺
- 10 - Perry & Georgie Riley 69th
- 11 - Taylor & Alison Metz 3rd
- 12 - Craig & Susanne Nelson 27th
- 21 - David & Edna Riley ⁺
- 26 - Bryan & Jeanna Hall 26th
- 28 - Billy & Rhonda Ackerman 17th

⁺ Memorial Anniversary

Baptism Anniversaries

- 5 - Robert Neel
- 8 - Caroline Dominick
- 11 - Andy Metz
- 13 - Mike Whitlock
- 15 - Thomas Dawkins
- 17 - Cody Dominick
- 20 - Hayden Hall, Lillie Waters
- 23 - Pastor Dave Adams

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.



Recognizing our 2025 Graduates

Camryn Shealy *Mid Carolina High School*
Camryn plans to attend Newberry College in the fall.

Allie Waters *Newberry High School*
Allie plans to attend Newberry College in the fall.

Taylor Metz *Medical University of SC*
Taylor received his MD and will be at John Peters Smith Hospital in Ft. Worth TX for his residency in Family Medicine.

Bailey Stewart *University of SC—Union*
Bailey received an Associate of Science degree and plans to continue her degree at Newberry College in nursing.

Bryce Medlock *Bluefield University*
Bryce received his Masters Degree and he will be employed at Bluefield University as their Assistant Baseball Coach.

Kylar Mahoney *San Jacinto Comm. College*
Kylar is the son of Kelli and Len Fulmer. He received an Associate degree in Cybersecurity/IT and is pursuing his BA degree.



Congratulations to Kelli and Len Fulmer and to their daughter, Heather Fulmer, who was married in May to Josh Bagwell.

Congratulations to Pastor Al Potter. We celebrate his 55th Anniversary of Ordination to the Ministry on June 1st.



Deadline for the July newsletter is June 17.



IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Grace Family: Mike Shealy; Peggy Thomas; Beverly & Johnny Merck; Evelyn Harmon; Cissie & Bob Dibble; Marysue Rivers; Pastor Al Potter; Heather & Bob Harris. *(Bob's brother's passing)*

Residential Care: Wendy and Michael Riley

College Students: Payton Metts *(Piedmont)*

Extended Family: Kathy Buchanan *(Beverly Hawkin's cousin)*; Heyward Adams *(Anna K. Singley's son)*; Libby & Billy Bedenbaugh.

Community: Steve Culbertson; Debbie Wertz.

Military: Lt. J.G. Alexandra Dibble *(Naval Destroyer- USS Stout)*; Staff SGT. Anderson Dibble *(Marines/Stone Bay, NC) – The Dibble's grand-daughters*; Everett Crafts, V *(Air Force -Glenda Craft's grandson)*; Walker Eldridge *(USCG/Seattle, WA)*.

God's World: Hurricane Victims & Restoration Efforts; Victims of gun violence; Haiti, Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, and neighboring countries; those affected by wildfires, flooding, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters; military families; homeless; jobless/underemployed; refugees; those suffering due to unrest and fighting throughout the world; our enemies.



May Memorials and Honorariums

To the Current Fund:

In loving memory of Bissell & Bernese Ackerman by Ackerman's Used Parts.

In loving memory of Allan Harris by Bob Harris.



Register for VBS on our website:
<http://www.myvbs.org/graceprosperity>

FOOD DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VBS MEALS

During VBS week, we will be serving a meal at 6 p.m. on Monday-Thursday evenings as well as preparing the hot dog celebration meal on Friday night. We need your help to provide food items for our meals. You can choose to purchase items such as salad mix, potato chips, or cookies or provide homemade items like spaghetti sauce or mac and cheese. A sign-up sheet for donations is on the narthex bulletin board.

We have a good core group of kitchen volunteers but can still use help with food prep, serving meals, and cleaning up after meals—even if you can help only one or two nights. On WEDNESDAY, we will need several PANCAKE FLIPPERS to help with that evening's pancake supper. Please sign up to volunteer on the sheet on the narthex board. If you have any questions, contact Julie Shealy, VBS meal coordinator.

MONETARY DONATIONS TO VBS WELCOMED

Monetary donations are also appreciated to be used to help with the cost of food for meals, craft supplies, decorations, and other expenses that may be incurred. VBS envelopes are on the bulletin table or use any envelope and mark it "VBS."

LEAVE THE ICE, PLEASE

During VBS week, please don't take large quantities of ice from the kitchen icemaker as we will need it for the evening meals. At any time there are events on the church calendar that may require ice, please don't take ice from the kitchen icemaker for personal use. On at least two recent occasions, the icemaker was completely emptied prior to events, one a church group meal and one a family celebration for which the Ministry Center had been reserved in advance.

Serving in June

Assisting Ministers

- 1- Allie Waters
- 8- Sally Dominick (Pentecost Sunday)
- 15- Jessica Shealy (Holy Trinity Sunday)
- 22- Judy Bedenbaugh
- 29- Ronnie Cromer

Altar Flowers

- 1 -
- 8- Wayde & Sally Dominick (Red)
- 15 - Dave & Diane Adams
- 22 -
- 29 -

Live Stream Operators

- 1- Mike Whitlock
- 8- Jessica Shealy
- 15- Johnny Merck
- 22- George Dawkins
- 29- David Luther

Communion Assistant

Chop Cooper

Communion Preparation

Mike Whitlock

Communion Clean Up

Sally & Wayde Dominick

Acolyte

Lillie Waters

Crucifer

- 8- Allie Waters
- 15- Hunter Hall

Torch Bearers

- 8- Zoey Frick, Lillie Waters
- 15- Allie Waters, Raelynn Wessinger

Ushers

Ronnie & Linda Cromer,
Chad & Candace Frick, Andy Metz

Greeters

Cindy Amick, Nancy Derrick

Offering Tabulators

Ronnie & Linda Cromer,
Chad & Candace Frick

Front Sign

Waters Family

Altar Guild

Brad & Melodie Waters

Pew Rack Helper

Sharon Neel



Altar Flower, Lamp Sign Up

The 2025 Altar Flower and Sanctuary Lamp Chart is posted on the narthex board. Sign up on the chart or contact the church office by phone or email to reserve your special dates. These dates are published in the 2025 Yearbook. **We have several open dates!**

**SANCTUARY
LAMP
SPONSORS**



During the month of June the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in memory of her parents' anniversary and in honor of Brianna and Bailey Stewart for their birthdays.

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

	Sanctuary	* Online	Total
5/04	57	27	84
5/11	73	24	97
5/18	66	14	80
5/25	48	20	68

**Preschool Year-End Programs—283 in attendance
76 online viewers**

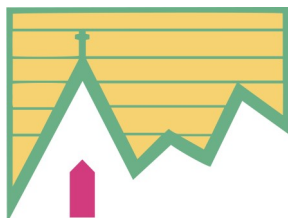
** Total Online viewers = Facebook and YouTube*

If you are out of town or can't make a service, please watch online. We are on Facebook and YouTube now!

Just scan the QR code for YouTube ➡



5/04	30
5/11	30
5/18	30
5/25	21



Church FINANCES

Our Offerings for May

Through May 25
(Does Not Include May EFTs)

MINISTRY BUDGET Our Monthly Need: \$15,549.00

Given during month11,000.23
Given year-to-date..... 54,759.81
Goal through May 2565,760.04

MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP

Given during month 820.65
Given year-to-date.....5,197.34

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Given during month103.90
Given year-to-date781.90

SCHOLARSHIP

Given during month0.00
Given year-to-date348.45

CAMPERSHIP

Given during month0.00
Given year-to-date20.00

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

Community Assistance.....00
Given year-to-date100.00
Bookbag Food Ministry.....30.00
Given year-to-date270.79
Thanksgiving Meal0.00
Given year-to-date0.00
Total year-to-date370.79

SPECIAL 2025 OFFERINGS YTD

Scholarship Fund Match 2023.....386.38
Souper Bowl of Caring Offering.....300.00
Youth Ministry125.00
Lenten Offering.....875.00
Easter Lilies268.86



Thank you for giving!



MINISTRY BUDGET

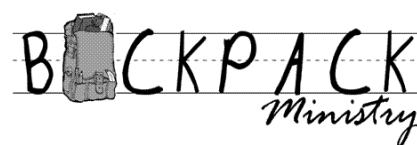
Needed Thru May 25: \$ 75,352.83

Given Thru May 25: \$ 65,760.04

Amount Behind Goal: \$ 9,592.79

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.



This important ministry will pick up again in late September. Please make sure when you purchase the items requested that you check the expiration dates. Anything that was not used this year will carry over for use in the fall. Thank you!

Manna House Item for June:



Quart Packs of Powdered Milk

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



NEWBERRY
COLLEGE

Newberry College Sunday June 1

On June 1st we are delighted to have Pastor David Coffman with us in worship.

In honor of Newberry College you will be invited to make a financial contribution to them. The Special Offering envelopes in the pews are for that purpose. Simply include your gift and mark it for Newberry College.



Monthly GYM TIME
Sunday, August 24

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

**We are taking a pause for
the summer (June & July.)**



While our monthly GYM Time will be on break for the summer, we encourage our Youth to participate in Grace's Vacation Bible School

June 16-20! Youth in seventh grade and up are needed to serve as group assistants and station helpers. Sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. Preschool-aged and K-6th grade Youth are invited to participate as students. Register on our website:

<http://www.myvbs.org/graceprosperity>



Monday-Friday, June 16-20
Vacation Bible School
6-8 p.m.

June-July
Summer Break for GYM Time

Sunday, August 24
Monthly GYM Time
Noon-1:30 p.m.



Thank you to Dale and Julie Shealy for preparing our delicious May GYM Time meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, and sides; to Christopher and Sarah Shealy for providing us with ice cream; and to Melinda McCormick and Lynn Wessinger for the cookies!



At Grace Youth Ministry's May GYM Time, we enjoyed a delicious hamburger and hotdog lunch, alongside ice cream, cookies, and fellowship. After the meal, the Youth played a game and had devotion time.

During devotion time, we concluded our series of exploring the question "Who is Jesus?" by discussing what 'receiving Jesus' means. We turned to Luke 15:11-32 to see how Jesus used the parable of the prodigal son to teach us about God's unconditional love and God's ready offer of forgiveness, which we can receive by asking God for it in prayer and having faith in Jesus.



Children's Church

For the summer months (June, July, and August), Children's Church will be held the second Sunday each month. Plans are being discussed and will be finalized for the rest of the year. Stay tuned! If you would like to help in any way, please see Melinda McCormick.

Watch us on YouTube

Grace now has a YouTube channel! If you are not able to be here on a Sunday please watch online. You can still watch on Facebook, and now you can watch us on our YouTube channel. Here's the QR code. Just scan it and watch!



The King James Boys - Blue Grass Gospel Group

This group will be providing praise music for our **June 29th 10:30** worship service at Grace. Following our service we'll also be sharing a luncheon with the group in our Ministry Center. **Please sign up on the narthex bulletin board so we'll know how many people will stay for lunch.** *The King James Boys* are a gospel bluegrass band based in the upstate of South Carolina. For thirty years they have been presenting the gospel in song. It is the mission of *The King James Boys* to preserve and promote bluegrass gospel music, while creating an exciting and uplifting performance for old and new listeners alike. In 1994, *The King James Boys* began singing and playing bluegrass gospel in their home church and soon started traveling outside their local area. Check them out on our YouTube channel.

We'll be taking a free will offering for the group and look forward to a wonderful way in which to praise God in worship. Tell your family and friends, we welcome our neighbors in our community.



We thank **Jessica Shealy** for her amazing creativity and ministry in guiding our youth with the GYM program. Over the past months, Jessica has developed excellent Bible studies, and created fellowship through both fun games and projects that our children have taken part in. We are blessed to have disciples of Jesus like Jessica share their gifts in nurturing our kids. THANK YOU Jessica for your work in the name of Christ.

Another BIG Thank you! Grace Lutheran has provided the children in our area with wonderful Christian education through our Christian Preschool. Thank you to **Mr. "Chop"** for his tireless work in the administration of our Preschool. We also thank **Ms. Robin** for her leadership of both our students and teachers. And, we are so grateful for the teachers who guide the young preschoolers in both their Christian education and our kids learning of many topics. We are blessed to have these disciples of Jesus help teach and nurture our young children at Grace.



Council Minutes for May 6, 2025

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

Sally Dominick shared devotions based on Psalm 147. Whether good days or hard days, we should trust in God's love.

Pastor's report: Pastor Dave enjoyed some vacation time with family last week although he has some clotting in one leg that renders him temporarily unable to fly. Angie Lewis called on behalf of the Mid-Carolina High School marching band to request a donation. Linda Cromer made a motion to make a \$75 contribution, seconded by Sally, and it passed. Grace can apply for a grant through the ELCA World Hunger Relief Fund to fight hunger in our community. There was discussion about having 3 or 4 people trained for security during church service. Robert will look into getting a written policy.

Adoption of reports: Linda moved to adopt the reports as presented, seconded by Sally, and passed.

Discussion: The first streaming on YouTube, in addition to the Facebook streaming, turned out good. Grace will be recording church services on both formats going forward.

Robert confirmed that church outreach banners can be put up on Wednesdays/Thursdays and taken down on Mondays to conform to town ordinances. Price of the banners is expected to be less than \$300.

Andy Metz reported that the damaged flat roof gutter will be repaired as soon as possible. Chop Cooper has had three companies look at the flat roof. The majority of the flat roof is in good shape although one company indicated that there may be hail damage. The best quote was to repair the bad spots and reflash for \$6,000. However, Chop will need more time to review and secure paperwork for the insurance company.

Sue Mitchell will get help from Sally and from Mike Whitlock to plan graduation lunch. Mike will not be responsible for food this year.

Robert announced that Lottie Martin will turn 100 on Tuesday, May 13. The Grace congregation will be invited to celebrate her 100th birthday.

The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10, at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Pastor Dave.

Respectfully submitted,
David Luther, Council Secretary



June 10
6:30 p.m.



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Newberry College Sunday 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	2 6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	3	4 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7
8 Pentecost 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Children's Church	9	10 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	11 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	SC Synod Assembly		
15 Fathers' Day 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	16 VBS 6-8pm Mon-Friday	17 July Newsletter DEADLINE 	18 	19 	20 VBS Finale Celebration	21 
22 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	23	24 Grace at Manna House	25 9:30 a.m. Newsletter Team 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	26 Grace at Manna House	27	28
29 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship "King James Boys" 	30				 Don't Take a Vacation from Church	



Grace Lutheran Church

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

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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

Newberry College Sunday

June 1st



Pentecost Sunday

June 8th



SC Synod June 12-24
in Charleston, SC



June 16 - 20, 2025
6-8 p.m. each evening
Register on our website.



Sunday, June 29

King James Boys
in Concert here at Grace.

Please sign up for lunch
following the service.