

Grace ABOUNDS April 2025

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



For those who love poetry, I will begin my article for April by asking -"How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways." This is the first line from what is also known as Sonnett 43 by the poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning. And in this month of April, these words are so appropriate as we remember Jesus' sacrifice and His glorious resurrection as we arrive at Holy Week and Easter.

Elizabeth authored the poem to celebrate her love for her husband Robert, the famous poet. But this question and answer could also come from our heavenly Father as we are reminded just how much God loves

you and me. Can we truly "count the ways" God loves creation and how He takes care of us His children? I dare say it is only possible for God to list the ways in which He gives us love and grace. On our side of the conversation, it is really too much to take in regarding how much God does for us. But let us try anyway.

We can say God loves us because of the "life" He gives us. And to sustain our life, how many things has God made that help us "live" in His creation? The earth, the sea, the sky, and the air that we breathe. Then there is the land that brings forth plants and gives a place for creatures to live on - including us. The animals (we have been given dominion over) that provide food and help keep the ecological system in order. There are the raw materials that we use to make the stuff we live with - cars - homes - smart phones - PC's - boats - medicine - and on an on and on!

These items alone do not make the tip of an iceberg. The ways in which God loves us are too many to count – at least in this writing. And of course, we cannot forget God sending Jesus to be the One who teaches us the Way – who the Truth is – and how we are gifted the Life given freely by the Creator. This month of April contains evidence of the nature of God, who is truly Holy and truly filled with Love. This makes this a perfect time in which we should connect with God.

"How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways."

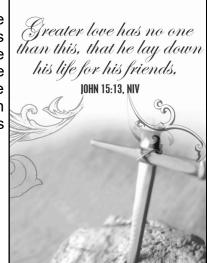
The gospel writer John (15:13) said it directly, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

All the ways in which God loves us will surely be known when we enter God's kingdom. Until then what we need to remember is because God loves you and me, He sent Jesus so that we can be free from sin and rejoice in God's amazing grace. Understand a love like this can only come from our eternal God and knowing that we should strive to make God a bigger part of our daily lives. We can start by entering His church and praising God for all that He provides for us His children.

Then, we should say to God, "How Do I Love Thee?" We should answer - "With all of my heart!"

Blessings always,

Pastor Dave



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



- 1— Bryan Hall
- 5— Edwina Wicker
- 7— Chad Frick
- 8— Sally Dominick
- 9— Cole Dawkins
- 12— Andy Hawkins
- 14— Walt Quattlebaum
- 17— Caroline Dominick
- 25— Nancy Derrick, Georgie Riley
- 28— Hayden Hall
- 29— Zach Frick
- 30— Susan Dawkins, Beverly Merck, Lillie Waters



- 12— Andy & Kim Metz 11th
- 16— Tim & Lagina Harmon 42nd
- 18— Mike & Kelly Whitlock 27th
- 21— Phil & Deborah Ruff 24th
- 24— Nathan & Sydney Shealy +
- + Memorial Anniversary



- 1— Beverly Hawkins
- 3— Emmett Wicker
- 12— Casey Dawkins
- 15— Thomas Mewbourn, Megan Nobles, Alex Whitlock
- 22— Cali Derrick



Christ in Our Home
Devotional Booklets for
April-June are ready for
you to pick up in the
narthex.



This year the Assembly will be held June 12-14, 2025 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Charleston Airport Hotel & Convention Center.

Registration is now open. If you would like to go this year please contact Pastor Dave or Robert Martin.

Attention 2025 Grace Graduates

Please let the church office know of any Grace member who will be graduating from high school, tech school, or university in May or June (or who has graduated since May 2024). We don't want to leave anyone out. A date has not yet been set for Grace's annual

Congratulations!

Graduate Recognition Sunday.

aloo

To all members and friends of Grace Lutheran Church:

We're currently working on setting up a "texting system" that will allow us to

send out important messages to all who are connected to this system. The texting program is called **gloo** and it is a free service to churches. We're allowed to send/receive up to10,000 texts each month so we can contact our members quickly and accurately with important messages.

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.

This system will also allow us to have our Grace Christian Preschool use this service so that when important messages need to be sent to parents of our preschoolers, this will allow our staff to send critical information in a timely manner.

We're still trying to learn all the benefits if this system that was shared with Pastor Dave at a seminar in early February. If you have any questions about how this **gloo** texting program works, please don't hesitate to ask Pastor Dave or Valerie Reed for more information.

God at Work page 3



Grace Family: Sally Dominick; Peggy Thomas; Beverly & Johnny Merck; Sheila Martin; Cissie & Bob Dibble; Marysue Rivers; Evelyn Harmon; Heather & Bob Harris.

Residential Care: Wendy and Michael Riley (*J.F. Hawkins, Rm. 221*).

College Students: Bryce Medlock (*Bluefield University*); Payton Metts (*Piedmont*); Taylor Metz (*MUSC*); Bailey Stewart (*USC-Union*).

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

Community: Steve Culbertson

Military:

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

God's World: Hurricane Victims & Recovery 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.

Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer

and or remove a name for st, please contact the office

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.



March Memorials and Honorariums

To the Current Fund

In memory of Everett Crafts by Sid & Chris Crumpton

In honor of Emmett Wicker on his 70th Birthday by Kevin & Diane Wicker

In honor of Emmett Wicker's birthday by Lee & Anna Sease

In honor of Beverly & Jonny Merck by Grace Members (*Pancake Supper \$*)

In memory of David Riley by Bart and Debbie Dominick



EASTER MEMORIALS HONORARIUMS

Easter memorial gifts and honorariums for loved ones are welcome and will be published in the Easter bulletin. Please submit your memorials or honorariums no later than **Sunday, April 13**, and mark your donation

"Easter Gift" if you would like it to be included in the special listing.



June 16-20 More information coming soon!

Watch your bulletins, bulletin boards for all the details.



Deadline for the May newsletter is April 22nd.

Serving in April

Assisting Ministers

- 6- Allie Waters
- 13 Deborah Ruff (Palm Sunday)
- 17 Johnny Merck (Maundy Thursday)
- 18 Melodie Waters (Good Friday)
- 20 Camdace Frick (Easter Sunday)
- 27 Judy Bedenbaugh

Altar Flowers

- 6 (Greenery) Lynn Wessinger
- 13 (Palms) Emmett Wicker
- 20 (Easter- White)
- 27 Phil & Deborah Ruff

Live Stream Operators

- 6 Johnny Merck
- 13 Brad Waters
- 20 Mike Whitlock
- 27 David Luther

Communion Assistant

Camryn Shealy

Communion Preparation

Emmett Wicker

Communion Clean Up

Deborah Ruff, Camryn Shealy

Acolyte

Thomas Mewbourn

Crucifer

13 Palm Sunday- Camryn Shealy 20 Easter Sunday- Zoe Frick

Torchbearers

13 Palm Sunday- Hannah Moates, Jaxon Wessinger 20 Easter Sunday- Helena Mewbourn.

20 Easter Sunday– Helena Mewbourn Mollie Waters

Ushers

Craig Farr, Wayde Dominick, David Luther, Craig Metz, Brad Waters

Greeters

Lisa Farr, Edna Riley

Offering Tabulators

Dale & Julie Shealy Emmett Wicker

Front Sign

Altar Guild

Emmett Wicker Emmett Wicker

Pew Rack Helper

Wayne & Sue Mitchell



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.



During the month of April the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edd and Jane Wicker by Edwina Wicker.

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.



	Sanctuary	* Online	Total
3/2	50	18	68
3/9	68	8	76
3/16	51	6	57
3/23	65	8	73

^{*} Total Online viewers = Peak views x 2 per SC Synod instructions.



28
27
31
29

2025 YEAR BOOKS

Don't forget to pick up a copy of our 2025 Yearbook. Copies are available in the narthex. The Yearbook serves as our annual report and contains 2025 ministry assignment information. There are also copies of our 2025 *People of Grace* directories available.



Our Offerings for March

Through March 23 (Does Not Include March EFTs)

MINISTRY BUDGET Our Month	nly Need: \$15,549.00
Given during month	10,643.08
Given year-to-date	
Goal through March 23	

MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP

Given during month	.1,001.49
Given year-to-date	

PARSONAGE

Given during month	0.00
Given year-to-date	
Fund Balance, Mar. 23	4,640.38

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Given during month	231.00
Given year-to-date	462.00

SCHOLARSHIP

Given during month	 0.00
Given year-to-date	 348.45

CAMPERSHIP

GAMINI EIGHIII	
Given during month	0.00
Given year-to-date	

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

0.00
.75.00
.25.69
205.69
0.00
0.00
280.69

SPECIAL 2025 OFFERINGS YTD

Scholarship Fund Match 2023	386.38
Souper Bowl of Caring Offering	300.00
Youth Ministry	
Lenten Offering	
Easter Lilies	



MINISTRY BUDGET

Needed Thru March 23: \$39,470.53

Given Thru March 23: \$41,532.81



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.





We are feeding 10 needy children at Prosperity Rikard school. We need your help! There are lists of needed items on the narthex bulletin board for your convenience. Please leave your food donations in the red wagon in the narthex. Thank you!!



April Manna House Item for the Month

Cans of Chicken Noodle Soup

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



Thank you for giving!



The vote on the Parsonage was postponed for 6 months. More details to come.





Monthly GYM TIME Sunday, April 27

Noon - 1:30 p.m. Faith, fellowship, fun, and food!!

We will need volunteers to help provide for our GYM Time Meal of Sausage and Waffles. There will be a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Thank you for supporting the Grace Youth!



Date: **Sunday, April 6**, after church Time: 12:00-1:30 p.m.

The Grace Youth Ministry will once again host our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Everyone is invited to join us for lunch and fun. Older youth are asked to help hide eggs. Please sign on the bulletin board in the narthex so we will have a head count for lunch.





Sunday, April 6 Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday Apr. 27 Monthly GYM Time
Sunday, May 18* Monthly GYM Time
All from noon until 1:30 p.m.

*scheduled 1 week early due to the 4th Sunday being Memorial Day weekend.

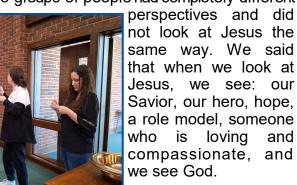


Thank you to Diane and Pastor Dave Adams and Donna Jacobs for providing the lasagnas; Melinda McCormick and Lynn Wessinger for providing the salad;

Melinda McCormick for providing the ranch dressing; Nancy Derrick for providing the shredded cheese; and Judy Bedenbaugh, Timothea Sharpe and Lynn Wessinger for providing the desserts for our delicious GYM Time meal in March!

At our March GYM Time, our youth enjoyed lunch, packed food for Grace's Backpack Ministry, shared our highs and lows from this past week (and weeks ahead), and had devotion time.

During devotion time, we continued exploring the question "Who is Jesus?" by discussing how we look at Jesus. We turned to John 19:13-15 and John 20:26-28 to see how two groups of people had completely different





The Grace Youth Ministry will once again host our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Everyone is invited to join us for lunch and fun. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex so we will have a head count for lunch. Desserts are welcome!

Date: Sunday, April 6, after church

Time: 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Ages: You're never too old to have fun!

Older youth are asked to help hide eggs. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Wessinger, Jessica Shealy, Mike Shealy, Kim and Andy Metz, or Melodie Waters.



Please remember to bring cut flowers from your yards and gardens on Easter Sunday for our special Easter Cross. Please leave the flowers in the narthex by 9:30 a.m. so that the cross can be assembled and placed in the Sanctuary before the service.



Don't Forget Your Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies can be picked up on Easter Sunday, after the 10:30 a.m. service. Thank you to all who donated lilies in

memory or in honor of loved ones to decorate the Sanctuary for Easter morning.





WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 13

Our Holy Week observance begins with Palm Sunday, when we gather at 10:30 a.m. on the front lawn of the church for the Procession with Palms. As we enter the Sanctuary, our focus shifts to the reading of our Lord's Passion as we consider Christ's great sacrifice of love for us.

Maundy Thursday, April 17

On the night when Jesus is betrayed yet commands us to love and shares His body and blood in the sacrament of Holy Eucharist, we will gather at 7 pm for our Upper Room Communion Service. While our congregation sings on this solemn night, ushers will escort groups of 12 into the Good Shepherd "Upper Room" for Holy Communion. This time of worship will guide us through the final hours of Jesus' live before he was crucified on the Cross.

Good Friday, April 18

On Good Friday, the Sanctuary opens for prayer and mediation at 9 am. Please bring your Bible and other favorite devotion material. We will also have several devotional resources in the Sanctuary for your prayer time with God. At 7 pm please join us for a solemn time of prayer, scripture, and hymns as we remember the sacrifice fulfilled by Jesus as He dies for our sins on the Cross.



Easter Sunday, April 20

There will be a Community Easter ER Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. on Easter SUNDAY Sunday morning at the walking track across from Wightman

Methodist Church. They will also provide breakfast for the community after the service.

Sunday School at Grace will meet at 9:30 a.m. as usual. At 10:30 a.m. we will worship and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord in the Sanctuary adorned with Easter lilies. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Grace Council Minutes for Tuesday, March 11, 2025

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

Deborah Ruff shared devotions for March based on a reading from Hebrews regarding spring and new life emerging from challenging circumstances.

Pastor's report: The Synod Assembly will be held in North Charleston from June 12-14. Registration is in early May for anyone who wants to attend. Pastor Dave will have a supply pastor to fill in for the service on April 27 due to visitation from family. Pastor David Caughman will conduct the service for Newberry College Sunday on June 1. A \$600 mini-grant has been obtained from Lutheran Carolinas for first aid/CPR training. Pastor Dave shared some reasons people may stop going to church and suggested placing banners on Grace Street in front of the church the week before Easter. Robert will research town ordinances to see if this is feasible. There is a need for a new microphone and three possible choices were presented. Linda Cromer made a motion to purchase a Shure microphone system, seconded by George Dawkins, and passed. After concerns were expressed a vote will be taken at the next council meeting to determine whether the Lutheran and United States flags should be present in the sanctuary.

Adoption of Reports: Chad Frick made a motion to accept the reports as presented, seconded by Sue Mitchell, and passed.

A meeting of the constitutional by-laws committee, chaired by Johnny Merck, has been delayed.

Software to copy Facebook streaming to YouTube will be installed on the laptop after Johnny confirms that it is compatible with our existing system.

Asphalt for the handicap parking area will be put down when the weather is warm enough for it to cure properly. Meter changes for the Ministry Center are fully installed.

The parsonage will not be taken down. A committee is being formed to analyze the issue and it will be addressed when appropriate.

Chop Cooper advised that the fan for the stove has been repaired. Brad Waters and volunteers will install 42 LED bulbs to change the bottom light bulbs in the sanctuary at a cost of approximately \$100 to be paid from the LED bulb fund. The church bus has been repaired at a cost of \$954 that was paid by the preschool.

Ministry Team Updates: The Stewardship Team has an outline of things to do prior to the Fall drive. The Lifelong Learning Team has a meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 13. Linda will get a new Capital One card for the church to replace the current card due to excessive fees.

The next council meeting will be on April 8 at 6:30 pm.

Shepherding concerns were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Pastor Dave.

Respectfully submitted,

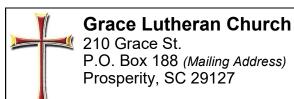
David Luther, Council Secretary



April 8 6:30 p.m.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April Manna House item: Cans of Chicken Noodle Soup		1	2	3 6:00 p.m. VBS Planning Meeting	4	Get your baskets ready! Caster Baskets
9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 12-1:30 Lunch & Easter Egg Hunt 6:00 Lenten Prayer Service	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 Lenten Prayer Service	Preschool on Spring Break this week.	6:30 p.m. Council Meeting Church Council	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Maundy Thursday service 7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary open 9:00 a.m. Service 7:00 p.m.	19
20 Easter Sunday 7:00 Sunrise Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Christ Is Risen! CHRIST IS RISEN IS RISEN LINDEED Alleluia	21	May Newsletter DEADLINE	6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	24	25	26
9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday Schl. 10:30 Worship 12-1:30 GYM Time	28	29	9:30 a.m. Newsletter Team 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal			



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.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming up at Grace



Sunday, April 6 12-1:30 p.m.



April 13 - Palm Sunday 10:30 a.m.

April 17 - Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.

April 18 - Good Friday

Sanctuary open for prayer at 9am Service of Remembrance 7:00 p.m.

April 20 - Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m.
Easter Service 10:30 a.m.



GYM Time April 27 12-1:30 p.m.



Preschool Year End Programs: May 12 and 13th

Last day of Preschool- 5/15



June 16 - 20, 2025