



Grace ABOUNDS

February 2025

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



This year, the Season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday – March 5th. With Lent beginning later, and Easter Sunday falling on April 20th, we should be past the cold months of winter as we gather to remember the path to the Cross our Lord took to make us free.

So that we share how we will be gathering and worshipping during this special time of the church calendar, I thought it prudent to present some of the beautiful ways in which we will be worshipping God in our February newsletter.

On the six Sundays leading up to Holy Week (March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6, and April 13), our Grace Sunday School lessons will be on “the seven utterances from Jesus during the six hours he spent on the cross.” Pastor Susan Robb has prepared an amazing look at what Jesus spoke in her “Seven Words – Listening to Christ from the Cross” study. Each of the six sessions will begin at 9:30AM and include Scripture and video presentations by Pastor Robb. This series takes an in-depth look at Jesus in His most vulnerable time as He faces fulfilling the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. In order that we may order study guides for those who will attend, please let Valerie or me know ASAP if you will join our Sunday School for this special learning opportunity.

In addition to holy, reverent, and enlightening worship services during Holy Week, our Worship Team is working on preparing Holden Evening Prayer services at 6PM on Sunday evenings in Lent (same dates as listed above). Each Sunday evening will include beautiful singing and Scripture readings to evoke our feelings of gratitude and love for Jesus the Christ who came to redeem God's world from sin and death. We will also be asking for your help in providing a hot and delicious soup supper for these Sunday evening services. We hope you will set aside this time in Lent to be part of these spiritual worship services.

In addition to traditional ways in which we remember Jesus' sacrifice and glorious resurrection, we will be providing additional ways to be involved in Lent. On Ash Wednesday, during the lunch hour, I will administer ashes in a drive-thru manner in our church parking lot. Please get the word out for those who typically cannot make our Ash Wednesday service at 7PM that evening.

And your Worship Team is helping us celebrate the Eucharist in a way we have in the past. We will be sharing the Upper Room Holy Communion in the Good Shepherd Room on Maundy Thursday evening to commemorate the Last Supper. The Maundy Thursday service will bring us together as we remember Jesus' last night before His arrest and crucifixion on Good Friday. Stay tuned for more information about this special service!

Grace Lutheran continues to worship God and celebrate His amazing love for all His children in numerous ways. We are grateful for your service and are amazed at the ministry you conduct for our Lord.

Blessings always,
Pastor Dave

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

FEBRUARY Birthdays

- 1 - Jayden Mitchell
- 8 - Camryn Shealy
- 10 - Donna Hall
- 11 - Josh Riley
- 14 - Ashley Ackerman
Wanda Hartman
- 15 - Alison Bowers
- 19 - Tommy Dawkins
Susanne Nelson
- 20 - Holmes Epting
- 23 - Cali Derrick
- 26 - Lois Amick
- 28 - Margaret Kluttz

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

- 3 - Lynn and Larry Wessinger (58th)
- 14 - Rick and Carol Mercer +
- 25 - Kim and Craig Metz (41st)
- 27 - Margaret and Glenn Kluttz +

FEBRUARY Baptisms

- 1 - Billy Ackerman
Steve Bedenbaugh
Jenny Braswell
- 2 - Edna Riley
- 3 - Sandy Lemay
- 8 - Robert Peters
Marysue Rivers
- 11 - Lisa Farr
- 20 - Linda Cromer
Taylor Metz
Jay Vaughn
- 21 - Lee Wessinger
- 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.



Notes to the Church Family. . .

Grace Church,

The family of Allene Dawkins would like to express our appreciation for all of the love, support, and many acts of kindness extended to us during our mother's sickness and following her passing.

Love,

Renae and Wade, and families

To our members and Council at Grace,

Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness in providing a bonus at Christmas for me. I truly appreciate your care and thoughtfulness and am blessed to be part of our church as your pastor. May God always bless you with His love and grace.

Pastor Dave

LET
gratitude
FOR THE PAST
INSPIRE US
WITH trust
FOR THE FUTURE.

—Françoise Fénelon

January Memorials and Honorariums

Gifts to the Current Fund

In memory of Allene Dawkins by:

Paul and Lynn Shealy
McSwain-Evans Funeral Home
Brad & Melodie Waters & Family

In memory of Susie Barnett by:

Brad & Melodie Waters & Family

In memory of Everett Crafts by:

Brad & Melodie Waters & Family
Wayde & Sally Dominick
Edwina Wicker
Ronnie & Linda Cromer
Edna Riley
Lynn & Larry Wessinger
Dale & Julie Shealy & Family
Phil & Deborah Ruff
John & Trina Jones
John & Nancy Baarcke
Steve & Dorothy Taylor
William Galloway
Kevin & Pamela Stanley
Chuck & Ann Foster
Shelley & Becky Blount
Mary Ann Wilkins
Patsy Hammett
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Mack
Beverly Hawkins
Emmett Wicker
Judy Bedenbaugh
Faye Hartman
James & Nancy Derrick
William T. Moore
Edwin Riley
Martha Lindner
Mina Brooks
Janice Holbrook
Amy Parker Meyer
Linda Kirby

Gifts to Community Service Ministry

In memory of Allene Dawkins by Beverly Hawkins

Gifts to the Maintenance Budget

In memory of Everett Crafts by:

Bob & Heather Harris

In memory of Allene Dawkins by:

Brian & Amy Rossett

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Grace Family: Johnny Merck; Margaret Kluttz; Glenda Crafts & family; Cissie & Bob Dibble; Marysue Rivers; Evelyn Harmon; Pastor Al Potter; 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: Amanda Holt (*Andrea Lewis' daughter*); Heyward Adams (*Anna K. Singley's son*); Stephanie Martin (*Robert's daughter-in-law*); Jim Sealey (*Lori Derrick's father*); Michael Torrence (*Jeanna Hall's brother*); Libby & Billy Bedenbaugh

Community: Steve Culbertson

Military: Staff SGT. Anderson Dibble (*Marines/ Stone Bay, NC- The Dibble's granddaughter*); Everett Crafts, V (*Air Force - Glenda/Everett Craft's grandson*); Walker Eldridge (*USCG/Seattle, WA*).

God's World: Hurricane Victims & Recovery; 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.

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.



Don't forget to sign our congregational care cards found on the white podium in the narthex. Cards are sent each week on a rotating basis to those in our church family who may need to know we are thinking of them.

Serving in January

Assisting Ministers

- 2- Allie Waters
- 9 - Sally Dominick
- 16 - Andy Hawkins
- 23 - Deborah Ruff

Altar Flowers

- 2 -
- 9 - Nathan Shealy, Deborah Ruff
- 16 -
- 23 -

Live Stream Operators

- 2 - Jessica Shealy
- 9 - Johnny Merck
- 16 - George Dawkins
- 23 - David Luther

Communion Assistant

Edwina Wicker

Communion Preparation

Wayne & Sue Mitchell

Communion Clean Up

Teresa Cooper, Sharon Neel

Acolyte

Camryn Shealy

Ushers

Walt Quattlebaum, Bryan Hall, Hayden Hall, Hunter Hall, Mike Hall, Mike Shealy

Greeters

Dale & Julie Shealy

Offering Tabulators

Johnny & Beverly Merck,
Brad & Melodie Waters

Front Sign

Mike Shealy

Altar Guild

Beverly Hawkins

Pew Rack Helper

Beverly Hawkins



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 will be published in the 2025 Yearbook. **Many dates are still open!**

SANCTUARY LAMP SPONSORS



During the month of February, the Sanctuary Lamp burns to the glory of God and in love and appreciation of our Grace family by Donna and Eugene Jacobs.

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
1/5	59	8	67
1/12	64	12	76
1/19	57	14	71
1/26	55	14	69

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



1/5	24
1/12	18
1/19	29
1/26	23



February 18
For our March
Newsletter



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will resume on February 5th.

Our Offerings for January

Through January 26
(Does Not Include January EFTs)

<u>MINISTRY BUDGET</u>	Our Monthly Need: \$15,549.00
Given during month.....	11,760.00
Given year-to-date.....	11,760.00
Goal through Jan. 26	15,549.00

MAINTENANCE/UPKEEP

Given during month	976.00
Given year-to-date.....	976.00

PARSONAGE

Given during month.....	0.00
Given year-to-date	0.00
Fund Balance, Jan. 26.....	4,640.38

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Given during month	120.00
Given year-to-date	120.00

SCHOLARSHIP

Given during month	0.00
Given year-to-date	0.00

CAMPERSHIP

Given during month	0.00
Given year-to-date	0.00

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND

Community Assistance.....	25.00
Given year-to-date	25.00
Bookbag Food Ministry	30.00
Given year-to-date	30.00
Thanksgiving Meal	0.00
Given year-to-date	0.00
Total year-to-date	55.00

SPECIAL 2024 OFFERINGS YTD

Scholarship Fund Match 2023.....	386.38
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MINISTRY BUDGET

Needed Thru January 26: \$15,549.00
Given Thru January 26: \$11,760.00
Amount Behind Goal: \$ 3,789.00

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.



SOUPER BOWL of CARING

On Sunday, **February 9**, after worship, our youth will collect donations to support the Feeding the Carolinas' Hurricane Helene Relief Fund. Feeding the Carolinas is a network that unites the ten Feeding America Food Banks serving North and South Carolina. Five of these member Food Banks serve areas that were hit by Hurricane Helene in late September 2024.

One, MANNA Food Bank, was entirely lost. In the aftermath of the storm, Feeding the Carolinas launched a shared fund — the Hurricane Helene Relief Fund — dedicated to disaster relief efforts in 25 affected counties and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

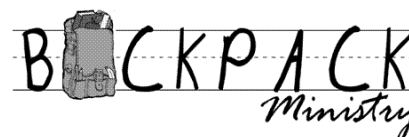
You are invited to make a \$1 donation (or more) to help this cause and tackle hunger. For a fun twist, we will have year three of the "friendly competition" between the Angels (last names A-L) and the Saints (last names M-Z)! The record stands at 1-1; who will break the tie this year?



February Manna House Item of the Month

**1# bags of dried
black-eyes peas**

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



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!!**



Monthly GYM TIME Sunday, February 23

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

**Faith, fellowship,
fun, and food!!**

We will need volunteers to help provide for our GYM Time meal of tacos.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Thank you for supporting the Grace Youth!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Feb. 9 Souper Bowl Sunday
Sunday Feb. 23 Monthly GYM Time
Sunday Mar. 23 Monthly GYM Time
Sunday Apr. 27 Monthly GYM Time

Grace Youth are sponsoring our annual Souper Bowl of Caring collection on Sunday, February 9. The Youth have chosen to support the Feeding the Carolinas' Hurricane Helene Relief Fund. Youth 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 the congregation the following Sunday, February 16.



Thank you to Deborah Ruff, Mike Shealy, and Peggy Thomas for providing the soups; Donna Jacobs, Meggie Kendrick and Nathan Shealy for providing the sandwiches; Pastor Dave and Diane Adams for providing donuts and cupcakes; and Clyna Quattlebaum for providing chocolate candy for our delicious GYM Time meal in January.



At Grace Youth Ministry's January GYM Time, Youth enjoyed lunch, packed food for Grace's Backpack Ministry, played a game, and had devotion time. During devotion time, we began exploring the question "Who is Jesus?" by discussing what words we would use to describe Jesus and looking at Philippians 2:5-8. We also made the plans for our annual Souper Bowl of Caring collection.

**DON'T
FORGET**

Don't forget to check the bulletin board in the narthex for 2025 ministry assignments, including acolyte, torchbearer, and crucifer schedules!



preschool registration



Early Preschool Registration

Grace Christian Preschool will open early registration for the 2025-2026 year on February 3rd for current students and all Grace families. When this registration opens, registration packets will be sent home with current students in their folders. Applications will also be available outside the church office window. Registration opens to the public on February 24th.



SC LMM Convention February 22

The SC Lutheran Men in Mission Annual Convention is set for Saturday, Feb. 22 at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Lexington. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with the convention starting at 10 a.m. Register in advance online with Eventbrite.



**SHROVE
TUESDAY**

Shrove Tuesday Fun, March 4

Grace will hold our traditional Shrove Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 4, in the Ministry Center starting at 6:30 p.m. Of course pancakes and sausage will be served with all the yummy trimmings.

Donations accepted to cover expenses.



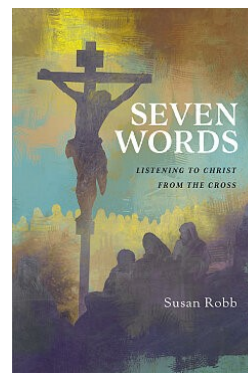
March 5

On Ash Wednesday this year we will have Drive-Thru Ashes from 12:15-1pm in the front parking lot for those who can not make the evening service. The service will be held at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Holy Communion will be celebrated along with the imposition of ashes.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the church season known as Lent when Christians focus on growing in their faith and connection to God. Don't miss these meaningful services, as we begin our annual Lenten time of faith renewal!



Seven Words – Listening to Christ from the Cross



On the six Sundays leading up to Holy Week (March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30, April 6, and April 13), Grace Sunday School lessons will be based on the seven utterances from Jesus during the six hours he spent on the cross.

You won't want to miss this wonderful study. For more information, please read Pastor Dave's article on the front page. If you would like a study guide please contact the office asap so we will know how many to order.

Congregational Council Retreat/Meeting - January 18, 2025

The Congregational Council rescheduled its annual retreat meeting for January 18, 2025 at the Ministry Center due to inclement weather on the original January 11 date.

Congregational VP Johnny Merck informed the Council that he has been diagnosed with early stage 1 pancreatic cancer. Treatment will require surgery and chemotherapy. Chemo is to start the week of January 20. Cancer was discovered very early. Prognosis for full recovery is excellent. All present offered prayers for Johnny.

Members present: George Dawkins, Sue Mitchell, Deborah Ruff, Mike Whitlock, David Luther, Robert Martin, Johnny Merck, Len Fulmer, Andy Metz, and Pastor Dave.

Members excused: Zoe Frick, Linda Cromer, Chad Frick, Chop Cooper, and Congregational Secretary Sally Dominick.

Robert Martin made a motion to declare a quorum, seconded by Mike Whitlock, and passed.

Robert called the meeting to order, the Mission Statement was read, and Deborah Ruff shared devotions for the New Year.

Pastor's report: Pastor Dave prepared a slide show to accompany his report referencing how Grace can continue to be a focal point in our region to be presented after the formal meeting.

Adoption of Reports: Debra Ruff made a motion to accept the reports as presented, seconded by David Luther, and passed.

Johnny Merck made copies of the Grace constitution for members of the Congregational By-Laws Committee to review prior to the next Council meeting.

Johnny indicated that You-Tube streaming is moving forward with new cable and he is hoping to have both Facebook and You-Tube streaming available next month. Mike Whitlock will continue to sing Psalms at the podium with an updated microphone.

Robert will meet with Chop Cooper to discuss meter changes for the Ministry Center.

Johnny updated the Council that the handicap parking will get asphalt paving as soon as the weather breaks. Three parking spaces are available now with eight handicap spaces and 4 regular spaces to be available after paving. Two handicap spaces will remain near the main entrance and a sign will be posted directing handicapped individuals who cannot climb stairs to the new spaces.

Debra made a motion, seconded by David, to approve Julie Shealy's request to use the Ministry Center on Saturday, February 1 for her grandson's birthday celebration and it passed.

Debra indicated that the Worship Team Lenten Services dates and times have been set with Valerie Reed to publish. Next month the Council members will be appointed to facilitate Ministry Visioning Teams. Johnny will ask Brad Waters to relieve Walt Quattlebaum as chair of the Facilities Team.

There has been no change as the Current Fund Treasurer. Robert secured an estimate of \$26,000 - \$28,000 to remove the parsonage to potentially provide more parking. Some of the cost of removing or changing water, power, and sewer lines that are shared with the preschool center may be covered by the town. Removal of the Parsonage will require a vote from the congregation. Robert and Andy Metz will present to the congregation prior to voting.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the Ministry Center. The formal meeting was adjourned.

Pastor Dave discussed meeting with other pastors where discussions took place about the importance of communication to heal broken/fractured relationships. A presentation with a slide show provided opportunity for meaningful discussions about bringing back a Men's Bible Study group, monthly dinner meetings, and bus trips. Discussions centered on how the effects of Covid and technology have created an epidemic of loneliness and how the Church can reconnect with the younger generation. Pastor Dave's presentation was backed by scripture and statistics concerning 'The Great De-churching'. Nationally, attendance is up in the Millennial generation more than Gen X and Boomers. The top priority in regaining the religiously unaffiliated is social relationships. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer and blessing by Pastor Dave.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Luther, Council Secretary



February 11, 2025
6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February Manna House item: Dried Black Eyed Peas please 					Stay Warm 	1 Ministry Center Reserved
2 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	3 Preschool Registration begins for current students & Grace members	4 	5 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8
9 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship <i>Souper Bowl Sunday</i> 	10	11 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	12 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14 	15
16 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	17	18 March Newsletter DEADLINE Grace volunteers at Manna House	19 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	20 Grace volunteers at Manna House	21	22 SCLMM Convention St. Stephens in Lexington
23 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Monthly GYM Time Noon-1:30 p.m. 	24 Preschool Registration opens to the public.	25	26 9:30am Newsletter Team 6:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	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.



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ORGANIZATION
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Coming up at Grace

preschool registration



**Preschool
Registration**
Begins for Grace
Members and Current
Students Feb. 3.



Youth Souper Bowl
Collection Feb. 9



**Lutheran Men
State
Convention**
Feb. 22



Youth GYM Time
Sunday, February 23
Noon - 1:30 p.m.



**SHROVE
TUESDAY**

Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
6:30 p.m.—March 4



Ash Wednesday
Services—March 5
12:15-1pm: Drive-thru Ashes
7:00pm Evening Service