

## Discipleship is a Path, Not a Destination

by Pastor Russ Gipson

Nearly one year ago we began a journey as a congregation that was meant to aid us in answering Jesus call to make disciples of all nations (including ourselves). WORSHIP | GROW | ENGAGE, was introduced as a vision and process for discipleship at Grace. It is a vision and process that is built on the way that Jesus taught and demonstrated what the life of a disciple looks like to His original 12 disciples. A disciple of Jesus WORSHIPS God in Spirit and Truth, this is a natural outflow of knowing God. If you know God you desire to WORSHIP Him. A disciple is also intentional about GROWING in their faith and in the practice of their faith. And lastly, a disciple ENGAGES in serving Jesus by serving those that Jesus has placed in and around his/her life. One year later, it is a good time to reflect and consider whether we arrived at our target destination.

Martin Luther wrote in his *Defense and Explanation of All the Articles*, “*This life, therefore, is not godliness but the process of becoming godly, not health but getting well, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way. The process is not yet finished, but it is actively going on. This is not the goal but it is the right road. At present, everything does not gleam and sparkle, but everything is being cleansed.*” We have not arrived at our destination. We do not as a congregation or individually perfectly display the life of discipleship into which God has called us. We have missed opportunities to encourage and facilitate growth in discipleship for those God has place in our lives. But, the good news is, “*This life, therefore is not godliness but the process of becoming godly,*” and we are on “*the right road.*” The better news is that Jesus is with us

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## Discipleship is a Path... (Continued)

as we travel, and He has already overcome our weaknesses, our faults, our failures, and our sins when He was nailed to a tree and conquered death itself when He rose victorious from the tomb.

His victory assures us of our eternal future AND gives us strength for today to keep “*becoming godly...getting well...(and) exercising.*” We still have much work to do in becoming the disciples that Jesus calls us to be and in nurturing those around us to do the same. This Fall, look for ways to express your discipleship in meaningful ways...to WORSHIP | GROW | and ENGAGE, in His name, and to help others do the same.

In Christ,

Pastor Russ

<sup>1</sup>Luther's Works. American Edition, Volume 32, (Philadelphia, Muhlenberg Press), 24.

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

August 2019 Edition



# OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

## August 2019 Edition

**WORSHIP | GROW | ENGAGE** is the focus of Grace Lutheran's discipleship process. God has a love for all persons and we by virtue of our Baptism are part of His kingdom. We are to be ready to bear witness to Him in all aspects of our life. Acts 1:8 notes for us: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." God's Spirit joined with us in our Baptism to give testimony to those in our sphere of influence – family, neighborhood, work – wherever we are!

### **SALVATION OUTLINE** (taken from p.362 of Explanation of Small Catechism)

The following seven points summarize basic information about the human condition and God's saving grace. You may want to memorize these points so that you can share them with someone who does not yet believe in Jesus as his or her savior.

1. **God loves you!** "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)
2. **You are a sinner.** "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23)
3. **God punishes sin.** "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)
4. **Jesus took our punishment.** "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
5. **Jesus rose from the dead.** "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
6. **Jesus offers forgiveness of sins and eternal life to those who believe in Him.** "Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." (Acts 16:30-31)
7. **Salvation is free** – a gift from God. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9)

**Discovering Grace Class** – We offer a three-hour introduction to the **WORSHIP | GROW | ENGAGE** discipleship process at Grace Lutheran along with exploring the distinctives of the Lutheran faith on a quarterly basis. Our next **Discovering Grace** class is scheduled for **Saturday, August 17**. We will gather for coffee/juice and bagels at **8:30 AM** and begin the session at 9:00 AM and finish by noon time. Child care services will be available for those needing help with a young child. On August 18<sup>th</sup>, we ask all class participants to join during the Bible class hour as we tour our various Bible class offerings for the Fall. **Discovering Grace** class participants are invited to stay for a light lunch meal on **Sunday, August 18** and to hear presentations by various staff and board members. We will finish the Sunday session by 1:30 p.m. The **Discovering Grace** sessions are planned for those new to Grace Lutheran. We desire for persons to participate in ongoing Bible study that will support your spiritual growth. For those new to Lutheranism, we encourage participation in a basic Bible class with a Lutheran perspective of the Christian faith. A new basic class will be offered starting August 25. We are here to support you in your spiritual walk and journey! Please let me know if you desire to participate in the August **Discovering Grace** class. New members will be received in worship services on September 8.

We thank God for His blessings as we seek to be faithful in having a heart to see how God bring persons to us and we have even greater opportunity as we seek to be faithful in the harvest. You are encouraged to pray for persons in your neighborhood and in your circle of friends. Remember the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few! (Matthew 9:37-38).

Gene Menzel  
Director of Missions & Outreach

# CONNECTIONS GROUPS

## August 2019 Edition

### ARE YOU CONNECTED?

**Connection Groups (formerly called interest groups)** are a means of “building bridges” to connect with others (unchurched or dechurched) in your neighborhood or our community. It’s about building a group around a similar interest (hobby, craft, fun activity, sport, or just about anything else under the sun). The goal is to help connect persons to Christ, the church, and the community. Dream the possibilities and then explore the opportunity to set up a group that meets at least on a bi-weekly basis. Of course, you can choose to take breaks in the schedule as needed for holidays/summer vacation, etc. Grace Lutheran’s vision is to grow in being passionate servants. Organizing or leading a connection group is a means of being a passionate servant. Have you ever thought that you can be instrumental in connecting others around interests as a means of serving God?

Want to start your own group? Contact Kathryn Bradshaw (If not, you are encouraged to consider joining an existing group.

Here is a listing of the current Connection Groups:

**Friday Afternoon Golf** has been organized by Dennis Sierk and Phil Nelson. Time and place: The par 3 course at Hampton Cove every Friday at 3 pm. We will play 18 holes. For more information, contact Dennis Sierk or Phil Nelson.

**The Christian Book Club** meets in the church library at 10 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on August 14<sup>th</sup>, and we will be discussing *Isaiah’s Daughter* by Mesu Andrews. The next reading selection is *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp. Contact: Millie Sallo.

*Can’t come to the Book Club? Books from our reading selections are also available in the church library. When you enter the library, go to the bookcase on the opposite wall (to the left of the window). You will find the books on the bottom two shelves There is a sign indicating that these are Book Club books. Feel free to borrow them! (Return to the shelf when you are finished.)*

**The Grace Scrapbookers and Crafters** is for anyone interested in scrapbooking or crafting. For more information, please contact Karen Tomkovich.

**The Sew 'n Sews** normally meets every Monday in the church choir room from 1 – 3 pm. However, during the summer months we are not meeting as often. In August, we will meet on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Regular weekly meetings will resume on September 9<sup>th</sup>. We are currently working on numerous lap quilts for the homeless. Please feel free to join us as we serve the Lord here at Grace and areas of need in Huntsville or around the world! Contact: Harriett Kicklighter.

**Want to start  
your own  
group? Contact  
the church  
office at 256-  
881-0552**

# ADULT CHOIR NEWS!

August 2019 Edition

*'My heart exults, and with my  
song I give thanks to Him.'* Psalm 28:7

Hi, my name is Sabine Spencer. My husband Mike and I have just recently joined Grace Lutheran Church and I have the great pleasure to be your new choir director starting in August.

I am a music teacher and vocalist. I led choirs and taught general music in public schools in Virginia and California. We are very happy to have found such a lively church and I cannot wait to begin working on some beautiful music with you.

Anyone can join, there will be no auditions. Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 5:30pm to 6:45pm in the church's choir room. For now we will sing once a month at the first service. Our first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, August 14th. If you would like to participate, please email me.

We will perform to our best ability, from our heart and most of all to the glory of God, who, I believe, gave us music and singing as a preview to heaven.

***"...If you  
would like to  
participate,  
please email  
me ...."***



# SAINTS ALIVE

## August 2019 Edition

### Upcoming Saints' Alive Activities

**Saints' Alive** is a fellowship group of senior adults who generally make twice a month tour of various places in the North Alabama area. We schedule activities for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of most months. You are invited to participate in any of these activities.

**SAINTS' ALIVE: Cook Museum of Natural Science - On Wednesday, August 7, Saints' Alive** will travel to Decatur, AL to visit the newly opened Cook Museum. Plans call to leave Grace Lutheran at **9:15 AM** for a 10 AM visit. The Museum includes insects but so much more: caves, oceans, rivers & streams, forests, birds and much more. A brochure is posted on the bulletin board. The admittance cost is **\$17/person** paid in advance. Discover something amazing and explore [www.cookmuseum.org](http://www.cookmuseum.org) Lunch will be **Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q** which offers barbecue, salads, stuffed potatoes, and pies. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the church office. We anticipate being back at Grace by 2 PM. **Gene Menzel** is the event coordinator.

**What does it mean to pay in advance?** Persons signing up are asked to pay for their ticket cost by no later than Sunday, August 4. I have to make payment for the tickets in advance of our arrival at the Cook Museum. You can pay by cash or check, with checks made payable to **Eugene Menzel**.

The activity for **Wednesday, August 21** is a trip to the **Alabama Space & Rocket Center - Apollo 11 and Space & Rocket Planetarium**. Here are the plans:

- \* 9:00 AM - Leave parking lot with bus or car
- \* 9:30 AM - Check in at Space and Rocket Center
- \* 9:30 to 11:00 AM - Tour and docent led tour of "Apollo: When We Went to the Moon"
- \* 11:00 to 11:30 AM - Lunch in Mars Grill
- \* 12:00 Noon - Intuitive Planetarium for "Our Place in Space"
- \* 2:00 PM - Arrive back at Grace Lutheran

Cost will be **\$13.00/person** for Apollo and **\$9.00/person** for the Planetarium. We must collect early to get group discounts so payment is needed **no later than August 18**. Please make checks payable to either **Shirley Vigil** or **Robert Vigil**. Payments may be provided to the Vigils or Gene Menzel. Arrangements have been made for the best docent at the Space and Rocket Center! Wear comfortable shoes!

# **BUSINESS OFFICE NEWS**

**August 2019 Edition**

## **News from the Business Office**

During the June 2019 Congregational Voters meeting the question was asked, could a charitable contribution be made by a church member to Grace and passed through to an organization as a donation from Grace Lutheran Church and the answer is yes, it can!

The Business Office has a Special Pass Thru account that can facilitate such a distribution to any national or international organization set up to receive funds.

If you would like to send a donation to an organization under the name of Grace Lutheran Church, then simply make your check payable to Grace Lutheran Church and tell us which organization to send to and we will take care of the rest.

May God's grace and peace be unto you.

*~ Karen Davidson and Mary Link*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## August 2019 Edition

**MEN'S MINISTRY GROUP** meets on the second Saturday of each month. The next gathering is scheduled for **Saturday, August 10**. We meet from **7:30 – 9:00 AM** in the **Family Life Center Cafeteria**. We have a light breakfast meal, share news and prayer notes, along with doing a Bible study. This fellowship is open to all men and you are encouraged to attend and invite a friend!

Visit the **Grace Lutheran Ministries – Church & School** page on Facebook. Go to the page and “LIKE” the page (in top section at the bottom of the cover page – not below the posted comment). Liking the Grace Lutheran page helps us to get information to your Facebook account!

**NOTE:** Grace Lutheran is losing a couple of parking spaces during the construction. Let's remember to offer best parking spaces for our guests and those senior adults who struggle with mobility issues. There are parking spaces behind the old gym and on the south side of the Annex building (between the Annex and Ben Porter building). Thanks for your consideration!

# THOSE WHO SERVE

## August 2019 Edition

|   | 8:00 AM                                  | 10:45 AM                   |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| <b><u>ELDERS FOR MONTH</u></b>            | GENE SATTERFIELD                         | DICK BRADSHAW              |
| <b><u>USHERS FOR MONTH</u></b>            | PAM & JON STIEGLITZ<br>& LARRY WOELLHART | ROD & KAROL WILLIAMS       |
| <b><u>GREETERS</u></b>                    |  |                            |
| AUGUST 4                                  | HARVEY & RITA LANGE                      | JOHN & DEBBIE DERUMS       |
| AUGUST 11                                 | JOE & ELLINOR WHITE                      | MAIRLYN & ANDREA JOHNSON   |
| AUGUST 18                                 | KAY DAVIS & MARLEI SCHILLOFF             | ANN SIEGEL & LISA KELLY    |
| AUGUST 25                                 | CAROLYN RICE & JOANN BRUMBELOW           | DAVID COSBY & TABBY JAGGER |
| <b><u>WELCOME CENTER HOSTS</u></b>        |  |                            |
| AUGUST 4                                  | DAN & KAREN DAVIDSON                     | MIKE BEUTEL                |
| AUGUST 11                                 | BOB & SABINA WANK                        | MIKE BEUTEL                |
| AUGUST 18                                 | ROBERT & SHIRLEY VIGIL                   | SYLVIA MILLER              |
| AUGUST 25                                 | WES & ESSIE McELVEEN                     | MIKE BEUTEL                |
| <b><u>SOUND &amp; VIDEO OPERATORS</u></b> |  |                            |
| AUGUST 4                                  | KARSTEN LOWE/PAM LOWE                    | JEFF HOLLINGS/JIM HARTMANN |
| AUGUST 11                                 | STEPHEN WANK/DANIELLE WANK               | BRIAN STEEVE/BOB DRENSEK   |
| AUGUST 18                                 | SCOTT JAGGER/MANNY WALKER                | KEN OLS/MIKE BANZHOFF      |
| AUGUST 25                                 | DAVID ZECHER/ELIZABETH LANGE             | ANDY KING/MIKE HUHLEIN     |
| <b><u>ACOLYTES</u></b>                    |  |                            |
| AUGUST 4                                  | ALLISON VILLAMIL<br>KYLE EVERLETH        | ARDEN BARNETT              |
| AUGUST 11                                 | BROOKS SANDERS<br>ISABELLA SANDERS       | HANNAH JENKS               |
| AUGUST 18                                 | CHRISTOPHER SUMMERS<br>MARY SCOTT CLARK  | ISABELLA SANDERS           |
| AUGUST 25                                 | KIMBERLY MENDOZA<br>HANNAH JENKS         | JULIANA WILLIAMS           |

## Grace Lutheran Church & School

3321 South Memorial Parkway  
Huntsville, AL 35801

Phone: 256-881-0552  
Fax: 256-881-0563  
E-mail: [secretary@gracelutheran-hsv.org](mailto:secretary@gracelutheran-hsv.org)

### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

#### Sundays

#### 8:00 AM

Blended Worship - 1st & 2nd Sundays of the Month  
Traditional Worship - 3rd & 4th Sundays of the Month

#### 10:45 AM

Contemporary Worship

#### Communion

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| 1st & 3rd Sundays | 8:00 AM  |
| 2nd & 4th Sundays | 10:45 AM |

**Check Us Out Online!**  
[www.gracelutheran-hsv.org](http://www.gracelutheran-hsv.org)

## STAFF & LAY LEADERSHIP

### STAFF

Pastor.....Pastor Russ Gipson  
Principal (*Interim*) ..... Michael Ellis  
CDC Director.....Allison Merrill  
Business Manager.....Karen Davidson  
Properties Manager..... Jack Hengel  
Events Coordinator..... Tom Naatz  
Assistant Spiritual Formation/Youth ..... Pam Lowe  
Office Manager .....Kelly Jenks  
Director of Outreach ..... Gene Menzel  
Receptionist.....Laura Ohme

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair ..... Ken Royston  
Vice Chair ..... David Zecher  
Financial/Secretary .....Nate Edwards  
Member at Large .....Lynn Harmon  
Member at Large ..... Ken Ols  
Member at Large ..... Kyle Schikore  
Member at Large ..... Dennis Sierk

### ELDERS MINISTRY TEAM

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Michael Beutel | Mike Huhlein     |
| Mike Banzhoff  | Scott Jagger     |
| Dick Bradshaw  | Kevin Pedersen   |
| Craig Camealy  | Dexter McClure   |
| Jason Cury     | Gene Satterfield |
| Jim Hartmann   | Bob Wank         |

