

Let's Build Something

by Pastor Russ Gipson

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It won't be long now and I'll be able to hear it. Saws buzzing, hammers pounding, supervisors calling out orders, and those unidentifiable thuds that leave you wondering if everything is still okay—these are the sounds of construction. Even better, they are the sounds of progress, and I cannot wait to hear them. At our April 7th Voters' Assembly Meeting we voted to move forward in starting construction on the 2nd floor of the FLC. That meeting has set a ball in motion that is rapidly picking up momentum. The contracts have been signed, the collected "junk upstairs" is being discarded, and we are looking at an official start date on or around June 1 with the project to be completed (if all goes well) by the end of the calendar year. When the sounds show up, we will all know what is taking place.

That's the way it is with construction. There is something gratifying about participating in it. There is something satisfying about being able to watch and see the progress day by day. First, you have the guts (the plumbing, the wiring, and the ductwork), then the glory (the walls, the doors, and the floors), and then the glamour (the fresh paint, the furnishings, and the new technology). If only spiritual progress was as easy as signing contracts and waiting for the accompanying sights and sounds to show up. The signs of construction progress are easy to



Let's Build Something (Continued)

identify; the signs of spiritual progress are more clandestine in nature. Because the signs of construction are so obvious, they attract our eye. If we are not careful, they will attract and consume our focus as well.

In 2 Peter 5:1-8 the apostle Peter encourages us to add certain qualities to our faith. The way that he describes adding these qualities to faith is comparable to the various steps and phases of construction. He speaks of adding one spiritual quality on top of the other, on top of the other; he writes, *"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."* As we watch the construction progress taking shape upstairs—the plumbing, wiring, ductwork, walls, doors, floors, paint, furnishings and smart boards—let's keep our focus on the spiritual progress that Christ is working inside us—the faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love. Pray that our building construction runs smoothly and that our spiritual progress in Christ outshines our, soon to be, shiny new space.

In Christ,
Pastor Russ

OUTREACH CONNECTIONS

May 2019 Edition

WORSHIP | GROW | ENGAGE is the focus of Grace Lutheran's discipleship process. We need to be intentional to take an assessment of how we are doing individually and corporately in supporting this process. We are in the Easter season and this is a time of victory and celebration. Think about your willingness to be involved in sharing a message of hope. The Gospel message makes a difference in daily life. Jesus lived to save each of us through His death and resurrection. Are you ready to share the Easter hope with your family, friends, and neighbors?

Michael Kelley reports on research done by LifeWay that identified eight domains of the Christian life that lead to spiritual health in a believer. These attributes of discipleship serve as signposts on the pathway of discipleship. In other words, these are the characteristics that ought to be present, in increasing measure, in the life of someone who is growing toward Christlikeness.

8 CRITICAL SIGNPOSTS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH

1. Bible engagement: Transformation can be recognized when our mind is sharpened by the Bible, our perspective is shaped by the Bible, and our actions are directed by the Bible.
2. Obeying God and denying self: Discipleship is the process of obedience to one who is in authority over you. Transformation can be seen when we progressively set aside earthly delights for kingdom priorities.
3. Serving God and others: Transformation is evident when personal needs and even dreams are set aside for the needs we see in others.
4. Sharing Christ: Even with the need to live out the effects of the gospel, maturing believers know speaking about the message is a necessity. Transformation is evident when we talk about the source of it.
5. Exercising faith: Transformation is seen in believers when risk aversion is set aside and our lives are characterized by faithful obedience to God's will.
6. Seeking God: Transformation is seen when our desire is to know God more deeply and experience His work more fully.
7. Building relationships: Our faith is personal but it is not intended to be private. Our horizontal relationships should develop just as our vertical relationship with God does. Transformation occurs when relational maturity is evident in our lives.
8. Unashamed: Transformation is evident when a believer is unashamed to present their own life as being aligned with Christ.

As the signposts of the discipleship pathway, these are the statistically validated marks of transformation that show people are on the right track. They are growing disciples of Jesus, and that growth is displayed through attributes like those mentioned.

New Format for Discovering Grace – We will offer a three-hour introduction to the WORSHIP | GROW | ENGAGE discipleship process at Grace along with exploring the distinctives of the Lutheran faith on Saturday, May 18. 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. We ask all participants to join in a light lunch meal on Sunday, May 19 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. We are here to support you in your spiritual walk and journey!

Gene Menzel
Director of Missions & Outreach

***“...Think
about your
willingness
to be
involved in
sharing a
message of
hope. “***

CONNECTIONS GROUPS

May 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?

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 the church office.

The Christian Book Club meets in the church library at 10 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on May 8th, and we will be discussing *The Insanity of God* by Nik Ripken with Gregg Lewis. The next reading selection is *Gladys Aylward* by Sam Wellman. Contact: Church office

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 the church office

The Sew 'n Sews meet every Monday in the church choir room from 1 – 3 pm. We have completed making drink coasters for LWML delegates at the National LWML convention in Mobile this summer. Our current project is making another quilt for Lutheran World Relief. An upcoming project will be to assemble more Baptismal banners. We'd love to have new women join us as we serve the Lord here at Grace and areas of need in Huntsville or around the world! Contact: Church Office.

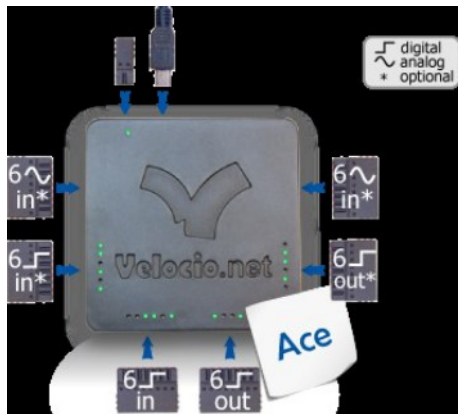
***Want to start
your own
group? Contact
the church
office at 256-
881-0552***

SAINTS ALIVE

May 2019 Edition

Plans are in process for an overnight trip to Atlanta to see a Braves game vs. Pittsburgh Pirates. The dates are June 12 & 13. Hotel accommodations will be reserved in close proximity to the ballpark. Tentative plans are to leave on Wednesday, June 12 at about 9:00 AM, with a lunch meal in Marietta, GA and tour a museum or the Atlanta History Center that afternoon before checking into the hotel. After a light dinner, we will head to the game. On Thursday after breakfast, we can take in a larger tourist attraction: Georgia Aquarium, Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, High Museum of Art, Fernbank Museum of Natural History, Atlanta Zoo, or CNN Behind-the-Scenes Tour. We will head back to Huntsville to arrive back early evening. Are you interested? Contact the church office at 256-881-0552

On May 15th, at 10:00, Saints' Alive will visit Velocio Networks (located on Johnson Rd), a company formed in 2007 by our own Dennis Sierk and his son, Dustin. Velocio designs and manufacturers programmable logic controllers (PLCs), which are industrial digital computers that have been ruggedized and adapted for the control of manufacturing processes, such as assembly lines, robotic devices, or any activity that requires high reliability control and ease of programming. Dennis will discuss his PLC products, types of customers, and his new automated manufacturing capability. We will leave Grace at 9:50 AM and return about 1:00 pm. We will have lunch at Baumhower's Victory Grille 2309 Memorial Pkwy SW at 11:05 AM.



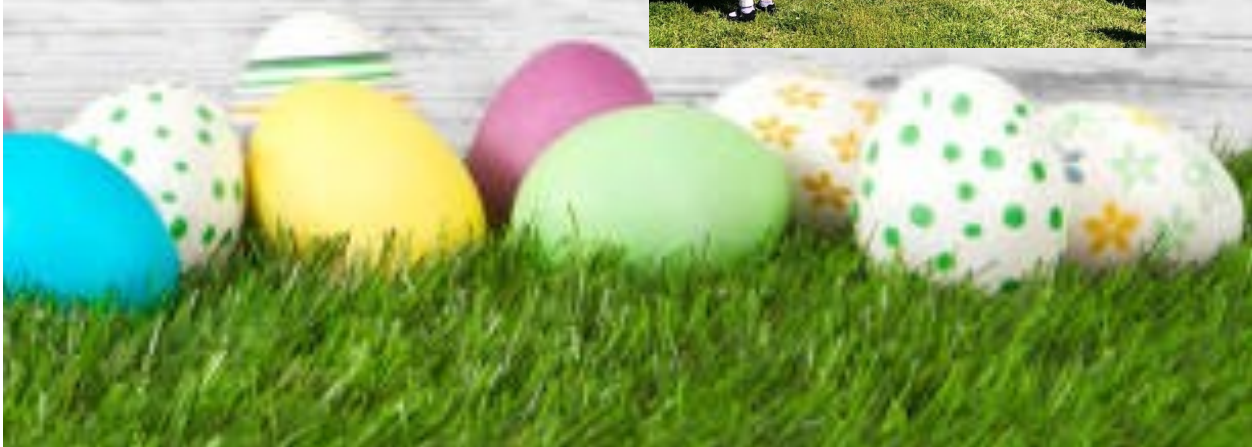
Saints' Alive will meet in the church library on Wednesday, June 5 at 10:00 AM to meet and schedule Age 55+ activities for the second half of 2019. Saints' Alive hosts two activities per month; generally on the first and third Wednesday of the month. We desire to identify a variety of activities/outings that may be held on campus, in our community, or North Alabama/Southern Tennessee area. After establishing the preferred activities/outings for the balance of 2019, we will meet at a local restaurant for a lunch meal and fellowship. Gather ideas on possible venues to visit and speakers to host at Grace!

EASTER CELEBRATION

May 2019 Edition

He Has Risen!

2019 Grace Lutheran Easter Celebrations



EASTER CELEBRATION

May 2019 Edition

He Has Risen!

2019 Grace Lutheran Youth Easter Breakfast



Thank you to everyone who donated to the
Easter Breakfast.

With your donations we were able to raise \$1700 for our
National Youth Gathering trip to Minneapolis

July 11-15.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 2019 Edition



Ladies of Grace
Grace Lutheran Church
Mountain Lakes Zone
Gulf States District

Plan to attend—The Mountain Lakes Zone Christian Growth Workshop will be Sat, May 4th from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran on Oakwood Avenue in Huntsville. District Christian Life Chairman Judy Lessmann will lead a study on *“My Portion and My Cup”* from Psalm 16:5. It is based on a portion of Deb Burma’s Bible study for women *“Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply – Receive God’s Overflowing Gifts.”* We will also be cutting fleece blankets to be tied at the Mobile Convention. Bring sharp scissors and strong hands to do the Lord’s work! Cost is \$7 per person with breakfast snacks and lunch provided.

For questions, please email the church office.

MEN’S MINISTRY GROUP meets on the second Saturday of each month. Our next gathering is scheduled for **Saturday, May 11**. We will begin a new study at this session. 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!

Do you like to bake or make snacks? Joyce McClure, who makes calls to get volunteers to bring 4 dozen servings of either a sweet or a non-sweet snack for our fellowship time after early service, is looking for people who would like to help out more than a couple times a year to bring these snacks. We were trying to have each person volunteer only once a year. Seems we now need some people to volunteer more than once a year (at the most 4) So, if you would be willing to help out in that way, please contact the church. The Grace Family really enjoys those snacks!! Please remember that there is a donation box for coffee and such. And remember to thank the ladies in the kitchen who help every week to set up, replenish, take down, and bake many extra items every week. These ladies are Shiela Sierk, Barbara King, Becky Heffelfinger, and Carol Childs. Thanks so very much everyone!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 2019 Edition

Save the Date

Hand Print Party

May 17 | 5:30pm

Youth Room

Join the Seniors as they make their mark on the youth room wall.

This is a Senior High Family Event.

Cookout | Senior Hand Prints | Games

More info to come

Graduation 2019

If you or a family member
is graduating from
High school or College,
please let

know so we can the
graduate can be
Recognize

Deadline: May 5th

**Graduation
Sunday
May 19**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 2019 Edition

Grace Lutheran Church Presents

2019 Vacation Bible School



June 2-6, 2019

5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

2 1/2 (potty trained) - 5th grade

Grace Lutheran Church

Family Life Center

**3321 S. Memorial Parkway
Huntsville, AL 35801**

Register at

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/gracehsv2019>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 2019 Edition



ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 2019 Edition



JOIN US FOR A

Baby Shower

HONORING

Pamela Lowe

SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST AT 10:00 AM
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNEX

3321 MEMORIAL PKWY SW, HUNTSVILLE, AL

RSVP TO SABINA

Registered at babylist.com, Amazon, and Target



THOSE WHO SERVE

May 2019 Edition

	8:00 AM	10:45 AM
<u>ELDERS FOR MONTH</u>	BOB WANK	KEVIN PEDERSEN
<u>USHERS FOR MONTH</u>	RON OLSEN, MANNY WALKER & JEFF SANDERS	LAURA & ELIZABETH TOWNSEND
<u>GREETERS</u>		
MAY 5	JEFF & ALLYSON SANDERS	ED HOOVER & NANCY STEEVE
MAY 12	SHANE & KELLY JENKS	MIKE BANZHOFF & DAVID COSBY
MAY 19	JACK & WANDA HENGEL	SCOTT & MAUREEN MILLER
MAY 26	JOANN BRUMBELOW & CAROLYN RICE	COOKIE HALBRITTER & JUNE KALANGE
<u>WELCOME CENTER HOSTS</u>		
MAY 5	DAN & KAREN DAVIDSON	MIKE BEUTEL
MAY 12	BOB & SABINA WANK	MIKE BEUTEL
MAY 19	ROBERT & SHIRLEY VIGIL	SYLVIE MILLER
MAY 26	WES & ESSIE McELVEEN	MIKE BEUTEL
<u>SOUND & VIDEO OPERATORS</u>		
MAY 5	KARSTEN LOWE/PAM LOWE	JEFF HOLLINGS/JIM HARTMANN
MAY 12	STEPHEN WANK/DANIELLE WANK	BRIAN STEEVE/BOB DRENSEK
MAY 19	SCOTT JAGGER/MANNY WALKER	KEN OLS/MIKE BANZHOFF
MAY 26	DAVID ZECHER/ELIZABETH LANGE	ANDY KING/MIKE HUHLEIN
<u>ACOLYTES</u>		
MAY 5	HANNAH JENKS KIMBERLY MENDOZA	JACE TOMLIN
MAY 12	MARY SCOTT CLARK ALLISON VILLAMIL	NORAH WILLIAMS
MAY 19	ISABELLA SANDERS BROOKS SANDERS	ARDEN BARNETT
MAY 26	DREW ARREOLA KYLE EVERLETH	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

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

STAFF & LAY LEADERSHIP

STAFF

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Scott Miller
Vice Chair Ken Royston
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

Mike Banzhoff	Kevin Pedersen
Dick Bradshaw	Dexter McClure
Craig Camealy	Gene Satterfield
Jason Cuny	Dick Stewart
Mike Huhlein	Bob Wank
Scott Jagger	

