

Grace Notes

June 2022 Newsletter of Grace and Glory Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM
Grace & Glory Sanctuary,
on Facebook Live & Drive-In Service
683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA 22963

Pastor Meredith Williams

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My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am writing to you on the day after yet another mass shooting, after yet another school shooting, after yet another senseless tragedy. I am writing to you wishing I had some answer, something to say that would soothe the souls of the grieving. But I don't. The truth is that if I had an answer, or something to say that would soothe or fix things, well, I would have said it long before now.

All of this is on top of the many mundane problems that take up space on my worry list, the church's finances being one of those things.

We knew this was going to be a hard year coming back from Covid into the new world of post Covid life and worship. We knew we were going to be in for a struggle when we approved the budget. Here we are, with about 40% of our pre-Covid worship numbers not returning for many reasons and having to go to savings too many times to make ends meet in the congregation. We are now getting into a crisis because of it. We are not alone in this, this is what most congregations are dealing with now. Again, I want to have something to say to comfort or fix the problem. But the truth is, if I had the answer, I would have given it long before now. So instead, I worry and weep for our congregation's situation and for the violence in our country.

But we are called to do more than worry and weep. We are called to action. We are called to act in our congregation, to examine our giving and make sure we are doing everything we can. We as Christians are called to act like we are God's hands in this place, God's heart for his people, and God's presence in our community. We are called to turn our worry and weeping into doing something, even if it is not a permanent solution.

Crisis should pull us together like communities do after hurricanes and tornados. When people put aside politics and rhetoric and get to the business of life and healing, love and mercy, forgiveness and love. God's call is to deny ourselves and take up the cross that the gospel may be proclaimed. What are we willing to sacrifice in order for God to continue to have a presence and hands and a heart in this place? Are we willing to act like we are in a crisis, to be more generous? Are we willing to give in a more sacrificial way to God's ministry here? Are we willing to pull together, in light of this post Covid crisis, and work like a tornado came through the congregation to get the church back up and running and stable financially?

I pray that we are. I pray that we will be moved to a greater understanding of the gift we have in Grace and Glory. I pray that we will get excited about our congregation. I pray that we will all buy into the Stewardship for All Seasons program that began in May. I pray that we all will realize that the joy of being Christians in this place.

In Christ, *Pastor Meredith Williams*

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers. Acts 2:42

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month we celebrate Pentecost – the birthday of the church. I am always amazed by the power of the Holy Spirit and how it works among us. As we attempt to get back to some normalcy in our lives, I know that many of us are wondering what the new normal will be. In the book of Acts we read the story of Pentecost and I am reminded of the early Christians and their struggles. We also know that many of them were persecuted for their new-found faith. Yet they persevered by studying the teachings of the apostles, sharing fellowship, receiving communion and praying. I think their example is a model for us to follow. We too, need to be diligent in our study of God's Word, receiving Holy Communion, praying, and sharing fellowship together. Our worship services are returning to a more familiar format especially with the music – the choir and bells add so much, and now receiving the bread and wine. We have started to resume some fellowship activities: Men's and Women's Breakfasts, OWLS, Quilters, Coffee after worship, and I encourage you to participate as you are able.

I also know that many of you are concerned about the future of Grace and Glory as we come out of this pandemic. It definitely has taken its toll on our congregation and our ministry together. Yet God has been faithful to us through this pandemic and is with us now as we look to the future. While things are not back to normal, we are moving in the right direction. We need your support as we come back together. As we head into the summer months, we may be looking at travel plans and vacations that we have had to postpone and getting back together with family and friends. I hope we all can enjoy the summer. In the months ahead I encourage the congregation to worship together when you are in town, to keep our congregation in your prayers, and to remain vigilant in our support of Grace and Glory. The LT has been carefully watching our finances and not spending any more than what is necessary to keep our building open (mortgage, insurance, utilities, and necessary repairs) and pay our staff and at this point we are projecting a shortfall. Our Stewardship team will be reporting to you later this month. We are a faithful and generous congregation and I believe we can rise to the challenge.

In Christ,

Pam Hokanson

Congregation President

Grace & Glory Financial Report

April 2022

Income:

General	\$16,553.83
Building	\$3,591.10
Memorial	\$250.00
Designated	\$728.00
Total Donations.....	\$21,122.93
Other	\$47.94
Total.....	\$21,170.87

Expenses:

General	\$15,915.14
Building	\$2,659.00
Memorial	\$0.00
Designated	\$495.26
Total.....	\$19,069.40

General Change

Building Change.....

* \$21,100 of donations were received in 2021 for the 2022 year. Without this 2022 annual donation being booked in January, the General and Building Funds would have decreased.

YTD April 2022

Income:

General.....	\$65,486.98
Building	\$21,514.24
Memorial.....	\$660.00
Designated	\$2,092.00
Total Donations*	\$89,753.22
Other	\$543.96
Total	\$90,297.18

Expenses:

General.....	\$62,508.41
Building	\$10,636.00
Memorial.....	\$0.00
Designated	\$1,839.29
Total	\$74,983.70

General Change

Building Change

Summary of Leadership Team Meeting in May

The Leadership Team (LT) met on May 18, 2022. After devotions and prayer, the following items were discussed:

PASTOR'S REPORT/ PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: Pastor and Pam used this time to mention how hopeful they are as we approach the summer months. The full music program is returning and adding so much more to our liturgy. The congregation is planning more fellowship opportunities in the hopes of bringing us all closer and especially to welcome our 4 newest members. Committees are meeting to build on our strengths and improve upon our stewardship. Pastor is working on building bonds with area pastors and their congregations and contemplating a restart of the community youth group. Pastor also mentioned her desire to reinvigorate the Bible study groups. In response to a question, Pastor and Pam mentioned that the two bushes (which had been originally donated to the church by Sue Pickett and planted by Jeff O Dell) were recently removed by him when they could no longer thrive there. Also, Helen Ida was mentioned as the person who recently planted flowers to beautify the church's entryway. The LT is grateful when members reach out to help with an area that needs addressing. Similarly, Joel and Julie Dwyer stepped up to help Beth Jenkins and Bob Candea (who volunteer to mow the acreage surrounding the church) with trimming and Mike Montgomery offered to assist them with the mowing. The LT wants to continue recognizing those members who take such good care of our facilities often without us ever knowing who they are. Pastor requested some days when a supply pastor will be needed to fill in. They included a Synod wide youth event, continuing education and vacation days. The LT approved the dates given.

After reviewing the Finance Team's reports and recommendations, the LT then began the discussions on developing a contingency plan to deal with the church's income deficit. Pam will ask Pat McCloud to assist us in communicating our church's financial status to the congregation sometime in early June. Other than continuing to expend funds for essential items only, no other decisions were made.

OLD BUSINESS:

Covid 19 Update: Pastor asked about using the communion rail again to dispense the sacrament. It was agreed to leave things the same for now. Communion is being dispensed in the little cups. Masks are still optional.

2021 Annual Staff Reviews Update: Pam reported that she is still working with Pat McCloud to complete the process of reviewing the church staff.

Blood Drive: Paula is trying to arrange a date in the fall to host a blood drive. The Red Cross is asking that she provide them with a minimum of 40 names of willing participants before scheduling a date. Paula will be asking for individuals to sign up in an upcoming newsletter. Pastor will try and see if area churches might provide us with additional names to call. It was suggested that the times might coincide with our Feeding Fluvanna campaign and that our church could be another collection point for both events.

Stewardship for all Seasons: Pastor, Pam Hokanson, Paula Tomko and Pat McCloud will be attending their first meeting on May 26, 2022 at 11:30am. The meeting will be recorded for those who can't attend for later viewing.

NEW BUSINESS:

May 4th Meeting with John Wertz: A "Birthday Dinner" event for September 24th, 2022, is set to coincide with the 10th anniversary of worshipping in our present building. Lynn agreed to head the planning. Pam mentioned that we now need volunteers to assist with the planning.

The Core Values discussion narrowed us down to the following 5 strengths we view in our congregation: Grace, Faith, Generosity, (Spiritual) Maturity, Welcoming. Our next meeting will develop these ideas further.

Zoom June 8th 7pm Meeting: Core Values Continuing Discussion with John Wertz: Pam directed the LT members to review the materials prior to their attendance at the upcoming meeting. She will be sending us the link.

Insurance Matter: Pam reported that in a recent conversation with Dennis, she was informed that the insurance agent advised him that we might not have sufficient coverage for our signage. Presently we have \$5,000.00 with a \$1,000.00 deductible for both signs. In order to up the coverage to the recommended \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 range they would require \$100.00 in additional premium and our deductible would increase to \$2,500.00. It was also noted that our mowing machines were not listed as part of our coverage. According to Dennis, they have now been added to the policy. After some discussion, the LT agreed to have Pam tell Dennis to leave the insurance policy amounts for the signs as is, with the additional listing of our two mowers, which was done at no additional cost to the church.

Summer Worship Hours: The LT agreed to leave the hours unchanged. Service will remain at 10am Sundays.

Misc. Questions: Lynn asked if she should send her check to register for a booth at the fair, given our financial concerns. She was encouraged to do so with the understanding that no new giveaways be purchased at this time. Ideas were mentioned to use items already on hand or to come up with a no cost plan to present ourselves.

Christian Service Society: Lynn reported that since no new director has come forward to replace retiring Director Bertha, The Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA) will absorb the group to manage the area food pantry as well as continue to provide services to those in need. It is the hope that churches as well as individuals will continue to provide support to keep their local programs alive. Lynn will be attending another meeting soon to find out more.

Submitted by Colleen Sterner

Donations for Ukrainian Refugees

We are collecting for the Ukrainian refugees. Many of you have been asking: what can we do to help the people of Ukraine? One of our VA Synod congregations, Our Savior in VA Beach, has a way to ship items to Ukrainian refugees in Europe, and we are invited to participate. We are collecting diapers. Any size (Adult or child), any brand, any amount, bring them to the church. If you are unable to shop, donations may be made to Grace and Glory marked for Ukrainian refugees, to help with the cost of shipping. The diapers will be taken to VA Beach for shipping in July.

A Gift of Life

Grace and Glory is looking to be a local blood donation station in Fluvanna and are looking for people who would be interested in giving blood through us on a regular basis. Unfortunately, before the Red Cross will give us an official date, we need to have approximately 40 names of people willing to give. We recognize that if you agree you may not be available on the actual date, but we hope we will be able to fill those who aren't able to come with community members. If you would be willing to be on our list, please contact Paula Tomko or the church office. Paula can be called or texted at 434-960-2983. We would welcome community members names at this time too if you know of friends or family members who would also be interested in donating locally.

Older Wiser Lutherans Seniors (OWLS)

The OWLS invite members of the Congregation to join them for their OWLS fellowship gathering on Tuesday, June 7th at 12:00 noon at church for a picnic lunch. This will be a potluck. Bring a dish to share (plate of little sandwiches, salad, side, or dessert), and BYO beverage. Plates, napkins, and silverware will be provided. No grilling will be available. Weather will determine whether outside in Pavilion or inside. No RSVP necessary. Contact Linda Beaudoin if any questions. [\(434\)589-2654](tel:4345892654), or lmbeaudoin@aol.com.



Submitted by *Linda Beaudoin*

Coffee Time is Back!!

Join us on the 3rd Sunday of each month for coffee/tea and fellowship immediately following the service. In order to enjoy this time together we need volunteers to bring simple goodies, i.e. cookies OR coffee cake (store bought is fine) OR a quick bread OR crackers and cheese. Coffee and hot water will be ready thanks to the coffee elf. You will need to set up and clean up. Mugs can go in the dishwasher.

Contact Lynn Wirth at lynnwirth@hotmail.com or [540-832-6942](tel:5408326942)

June Birthdays

Patti Shifflette06/06	Carol O'Dell06/22	Mackenzie Brennan..... 06/26
Paul Wills.....06/07	Grace Farist06/23	Becky Bossong..... 06/26
Beth Jenkins.....06/14	Megan Farist.....06/23	Kylie Phillips..... 06/28
Douglas Daniels.....06/19	Audrey Vetter06/25	Alice Shifflett 06/30

ELCA Ukrainian Support

On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks. Russia has launched air strikes across the country, including on the capital of Kyiv and other major cities. Millions of people fleeing the violence of Russia's war against Ukraine and are moving toward Ukraine's western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter and such basic necessities as food, water and toiletries. Care for people also includes pastoral and psychological support to address the trauma they've endured.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as this Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis created by Russia's war against Ukraine. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an interfaith call for peace in the region. 100% of all donations go to support the refugees.

Grace Notes Newsletter Input

If you have any information that should be placed in the newsletter, please submit the material to LeRoy Moyer at Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com. The next newsletter deadline is June 24.

	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26	July 3
Minister	Meredith Williams	Meredith Williams	Meredith Williams	Meredith Williams	Meredith Williams
Assisting Minister	Keith Weimer	Rosann Hill	Paula Tomko	Kevin Davidson	Paula Tomko
Usher	Linda Bolling	Louise Jargowsky	Paul Crowther	Jan Crowther	Carol Parsons
Altar Guild	Janet Rockafellow	Janet Rockafellow	Janet Rockafellow	Terry Weese	Janet Rockafellow
Tellers	Keith Weimer & Paula Tomko	Rosann Hill & Vikki McCloud	Paula Tomko & Paul Crowther	Terry Weese & Jan Crowther	Paula Tomko & Pat McCloud

Sunday Helpers

We all give thanks to our faithful Sunday helpers who provide our music, set up the altar and other worship aids, provide our sound system and count our offerings and to those who organize and secure our readers and worship assistants, greeters and ushers, hospitality providers, sound system providers and tellers. Please volunteer to help with the service.

Ushers/Greeters

Carol Parsons – (434) 589-6068

Lectors and Assisting Ministers

Paula Tomko – (434) 326-5533

Altar Guild

Janet Rockafellow – (434) 589-9608

Tellers

Paula Tomko – (434) 960-2983

Audio Visual System

Dennis Wolf – (434) 249-6510 (Administrator)

If you have signed up for a duty and find that you cannot make it for some reason, please arrange to find a replacement.

Bulletin, Office and Calendar Requests

E-mail Liz Layne at admin@graceandglory.org, or call her at 589-2217 to:

1. Have an announcement included in the Sunday bulletin
2. Schedule the office meeting spaces
3. Have an activity or meeting included on the church calendar. The calendar is posted on our Website (www.graceandglory.church).

Prayer List Requests

You may submit prayer requests to Liz Layne at admin@graceandglory.org. They will be included on the list for 4 weeks. You may resubmit a request to keep them on for an additional 4 weeks.

Grace and Glory Website

The present website www.graceandglory.church includes a great deal of information that is updated regularly.

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 10am –Sanctuary, FB Live and Drive-in Service 11:15am – Choir Practice	30 9 – 12pm –Liz Layne online	31 9 – 12pm –Liz Layne - office 6:30pm – AA 7:30pm – Handbell Rehearsals	1 Church Cleaning 10am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	2 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office 10am – Hybrid Bible Study	3 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	4 9am – Women’s Breakfast – Moose by the Creek 6:30pm – AA
5 10am –Sanctuary, FB Live and Drive-in Service	6 9 – 12pm –Liz Layne online 11am – Finance Team Meeting 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	7 9 – 12pm –Liz Layne - office 12pm – OWLS Picnic 6:30pm – AA	8 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	9 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office 10am – Hybrid Bible Study	10 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	11 9am – Men’s Breakfast – Moose by the Creek 6:30pm – AA
12 10am –Sanctuary, FB Live and Drive-in Service	13 Liz Layne OFF 10am-12pm – LWR Quilters 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	14 9 – 12pm –Liz Layne - office 6:30pm – AA	15 Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – LT Meeting	16 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office 10am – Hybrid Bible Study	17 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	18 6:30pm – AA
19 10am –Sanctuary, FB Live and Drive-in Service 11:00am – Coffee and Fellowship following service	20 9 – 12pm –Liz Layne online	21 9 – 12pm –Liz Layne - office 6:30pm – AA	22 9 – 12pm –Liz Layne online	23 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office 10am – Hybrid Bible Study	24 Grace Notes Newsletter due 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	25 6:30pm – AA
26 10am –Sanctuary, FB Live and Drive-in Service Pastor to Kairos	27 Pastor to Kairos 9 – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am-12pm – LWR Quilters	28 Pastor to Kairos 9 – 12pm –Liz Layne - office 6:30pm – AA	29 Pastor to Kairos Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office	30 Pastor to Kairos Liz Layne OFF	1 Pastor to Kairos Liz Layne OFF 6:30pm – AA	2 9am – Women’s Breakfast 6:30pm – AA

Indoor services: Masks and social distancing are optional. Remember: The most up-to-date information and details about events listed is available on our website calendar at www.graceandglory.church. If you have a need for the office or additional information that should be included on the calendar, please send the information to Liz Layne at admin@graceandglory.org, or call her at 434-589-2217.



Grace & Glory

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship at 10 AM
Grace & Glory Sanctuary
on Facebook Live and Drive-In Service

683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA 22963



Newsletter Deadline is **June 24, 2022**
to LeRoy Moyer at
Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com



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