



Grace Notes

May 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 Dear Family in Faith,

I have just returned from vacation and find everything suddenly greener than it was when I left. Maybe that is just the difference between Texas and Virginia, but I don't think so. I think that new life is happening and growing all around us at an amazing rate. God is reminding me, and us, that in Jesus' resurrection new life and growth are changing things. God is doing new things! The old things have passed away, behold all things are being made new!

Easter, the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, is not just one day. It is a season, sometimes we call it The Great 50 Days. Sometimes we even talk about, every Sunday being a little Easter. The point is that God does new things all the time, not just on Easter day, not just in Spring, not just on Sunday. God is constantly creating new life, growing new relationships, changing the hearts and minds of God's people, redeeming sinners, and raising the dead parts of our souls.

We, as God's people, washed clean in the waters of Baptism are already experiencing this constant action from God. We are privileged to be the recipients of God's grace and creating love. God does not leave us at the cross, in the tomb, preparing the spices, searching in the garden, or hiding in the upper room. God creates new life in the face of death and fear and grief and suffering. Like those disciples who found the tomb empty, the stone rolled away, the risen Jesus in the room with them, and sharing a meal with them, we too find Jesus in places where death and fear exist in our lives.

Christ is Risen, in the hospital, He is Risen indeed! Christ is risen, in the skilled care unit, He is Risen Indeed! Christ is Risen, in the funeral home, He is Risen Indeed! Christ is Risen, in my home, in me, Everyday He is Risen Indeed!

Christ is Risen,

Pastor Meredith

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of my favorite passages is Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Everything has its time. Please take time to reread it. In these verses we see all of life summarized by phrases grouped in what appear to be sets of opposites. Life certainly has its ups and downs, but I find hope in these verses.

I think a lot of us feel the strain from the pandemic. Yes, this has definitely been a “down” time, but “down” times are part of the cycle of life. The LT shares your concerns as to what the pandemic has done to our congregation and ministry. We see it in the downturn of attendance and finances and activities. But at long last I think we are beginning to see signs of hope. Some of our groups have begun to gather in person again. And Easter Sunday worship - What a JOY! We celebrated the Resurrection and new life in our congregation. The music, the handbells, the choir anthem, along with a significant increase in attendance contributed to the joy we all felt. Yes, it was Easter Sunday but also some signs that new life in our congregation is beginning to return. This month we look forward to welcoming 4 new members, the Rognlies and the Baughs.

I believe that we all want to keep this going and regain vitality in the congregation and our ministry. The LT will be planning some events and activities to help us “reconnect” with each other and share fellowship and good times with one another. Pastor John Wertz, the bishop’s assistant, will be working with the LT in identifying core values of the congregation and more clearly defining and focusing on our mission as a congregation in this community. Yes, it will take time and effort on our parts. We are counting on each of you to participate in any way that you can. The pandemic has brought about change and there is probably more change in our future. But now is the time...

I firmly believe that God is with us all the time and is again calling each of us to become part of our mission and ministry in this community. We need to look at the changes and discern the best way we can minister to each other and our community. Yes, it can be a bit intimidating, but God is calling. I am confident that we as a congregation can rise to that call.

In Christ,

Pam Hokanson
Congregation President

Finance Team Report

In March, we received total donations of \$16,694 and other income of \$111. The donations were \$12,388 General Fund, \$3,790 Building Fund, and \$516 Designated funds. Since our general expenses and mortgage expenses were \$15,334 and \$2,659, respectively, the General Fund decreased \$2,835 and the Building Fund increased \$1,131. Since January 1, 2022, the General Fund and Building Fund increased \$2,835 and \$9,946, respectively. However, \$21,100 of the January 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.

Submitted by Chris Sterner

Altar Guild Help Wanted!

Now that we will soon be returning to Communion, with wine in individual cups and not prepackaged grape juice, I would like to organize an Altar Guild again. Altar Guild membership is open to anyone willing to spend a few minutes before and after services to prepare the altar area for worship and to set up the communion vessels. You will be trained in procedures and certainly will not have to serve every Sunday. A schedule is made up a month in advance and you can choose when you wish to serve. It is not difficult but a privilege to serve the church in this manner. If you wish to help, please contact Janet Rockafellow (drockafellow@comcast.net or 589-9608).

Submitted by Janet Rockafellow

Leadership Team Meeting Summary

The Leadership Team (LT) met on April 20, 2022. After devotions and prayer, the following items were discussed:

In Pastor's absence, Pam Hokanson reviewed key points in her submitted report. In it, Pastor mentioned wanting to begin planning summer fellowship and educational opportunities for the congregation and welcomed any thoughts. The LT was advised of Synod needs (youth leaders and adult volunteers) as well as upcoming events and assemblies. Pastor had also expressed some concern of the future of our Fluvanna Christian Service Society, which works with MACAA (Monticello Area Community Action Agency) to provide for those in need. They are the group which manages the area food pantry, sponsors Happy Face and coordinates with social services to provide help to individuals. It was mentioned they are in need of a director. Lastly, Pastor announced that 4 new members would be received on May 1st.

Covid 19 Update: After some discussion, those present agreed that it was time to relax the Covid restrictions and make wearing masks optional. Those present also agreed to the worship and music team's request that communion be dispensed using bread and individual disposable cups.

Entry Floor Mats: Pam reported that Bob Hill has received and installed the new mats.

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 in the process of working with people to choose a month when our church can best assist their efforts.

Stewardship for all Seasons: The members who will serve as the team will include Pastor, Pam Hokanson, Paula Tomko and Pat McCloud.

HVAC Issue: Heat Pump #4 was repaired.

NEW BUSINESS:

April 3rd Meeting with John Wertz: After discussing relationship building, it was agreed to plan a "Birthday Dinner" event for September to coincide with the 10th anniversary of worshipping in our present building. Lynn agreed to head the planning.

Coffee Hours: It was suggested that we reinstate coffee hours on a monthly basis, starting on the 3rd Sunday in May to coincide with our monthly food drives. Volunteers are needed.

Zoom May 4th Core Values Discussion with John Wertz: Pam directed the LT members to review the materials prior to their attendance at the upcoming meeting.

Submitted by Colleen Sterner

May OWLS Meeting

The OWLS are changing it up a bit for May. The OWLS will gather at church at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 3rd, for a wine tasting. Bring a bottle (maximum value of \$20.00) and a snack/appetizer. Cheers to fellowship.

Linda Beaudoin



May Birthdays

Priscilla Fennell05/06	Flo Walsh.....05/14	Deena Cuda 05/28
Ruth Haverstrom.....05/08	Jean DeMarco..... 05/17	Chris Sterner..... 05/30
Donald Bossong.....05/09	Levi Smith 05/27	Ruth Campopiano..... 05/30
Elizabeth Smith.....05/14	Nathan Smith.....05/27	Darlene Weimer 05/31

Save the Date

Power in the Spirit is an inspirational conference for people of all ages who wish to explore God’s call to service through joyous worship, Bible studies, keynote addresses, workshops, games, and fellowship. In addition, congregational leaders—teachers, music directors, choir members, council and committee members, family life consultants, deacons, pastors, and others—will find Power in the spirit nurturing and challenging as they consider their mission and ministry. Power in the Spirit is scheduled to be held at Roanoke College on July 14-16, 2022. Registration is available on their WEB site (<https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/>) In addition to the usual wonderful program, a Synodical Gathering will take place at the same time. The Gathering will celebrate ministries of service from around the Virginia Synod, to gather together for worship, and to learn from one another.

Caring for Creation Today

Caring for God’s creation is an ever-evolving topic in this world, especially with each new natural or human made disaster. As stewards of this world, we are called to care for the earth and examine our behaviors toward creation. While we need to take from the land for food and sustainability, we also need to be careful that we maintain good stewardship and do not exploit the wonderful things the earth provides.

We are proud to share a pastoral statement on creation care and climate solutions to ensure a viable, livable world from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton.

The present moment is a critical and urgent one, filled with both challenge and opportunity to act as individuals, citizens, leaders and communities of faith in solidarity with God’s good creation and in hope for our shared future.

2018 Earth Day statement

The ELCA has collaborated with ecoAmerica’s Blessed Tomorrow program, a faith community initiative that empowers climate action and advocacy. This is a program by people of faith, for people of faith, offering ideas, tools, and language that are familiar, compelling and effective in addressing climate change. It provides resources that put us on a path to a positive future while maintaining the distinct voice of the ELCA.

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 May 24.

Sanctuary

Christians have offered sanctuary for two thousand years, continuing an ancient biblical practice in which cities and houses of worship provided refuge and asylum for people fleeing injustice. Started in the 1980s, the Sanctuary Movement was a faith-based initiative to protect Central American refugees fleeing civil war and seeking safety in the U.S. Today, the New Sanctuary Movement is a revived effort for communities of faith to walk alongside immigrants in the U.S.

While there is no uniform definition of sanctuary, its overall purpose is to faithfully and openly act to ensure that all feel safe and welcomed. The ways in which sanctuary is provided varies by congregation, but it can include providing physical shelter to a community member at risk of deportation, inviting and welcoming all to worship regardless of immigration status, providing services to migrants, responding to raids or other emergencies, aiding all regardless of immigration status and actively advocating for migrants. These activities are completely legal and are born of our faith traditions.

One controversial activity that some sanctuary congregations engage in is physically hosting a community member at risk of deportation. While there are varied views as to the interpretation of the law, knowingly concealing, harboring, or shielding (or attempting to conceal, harbor, or shield) an undocumented immigrant from detection by the authorities is illegal. Similarly, knowingly transporting or moving (or attempting to transport or move) an undocumented immigrant from one place to another, where the transportation helps the immigrant remain in the U.S. unlawfully, violates the law. Congregations or individuals that engage in legally controversial practices often view their actions as civil disobedience — knowingly violating a law to shine a light on its injustice. Civil disobedience also has an important and rich history in faith traditions all over the world, but civil disobedience includes accepting the consequences that naturally flow from breaking the law.

ELCA sanctuary

Lutherans have a long history of standing alongside immigrants and refugees through church ministries or by connecting with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). Congregations in predecessor bodies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) were essential in the sanctuary movement during the 1980s. Today, ELCA congregations, including Angelica Lutheran Church in Los Angeles and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Brooklyn, N.Y., have independently joined the New Sanctuary Movement through their local networks. Notably, Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland, Ore., gave sanctuary in 2014 to Francisco Aguirre, a migrant from El Salvador facing deportation. Currently at least two ELCA congregations, and probably more, are providing sanctuary. Recently, Gethsemane Lutheran, Seattle, saw Jose Robles, who has been in sanctuary in its church for almost a year, taken into custody following an U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement check-in appointment.

In response to the increasing numbers of unaccompanied children arriving to this country starting in 2011, the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) strategy. AMMPARO recommitments the church to accompanying migrant children and families in the U.S., in the countries of origin and in transit. Through AMMPARO, ELCA churches can become Welcoming Congregations by committing to accompanying migrants in their community through service and advocacy.

The ELCA, in all its expressions, has a long-documented history of standing alongside migrants and refugees. Recognizing that our confidence in God's grace leads us to engage immigration issues differently, and that in a political climate where migrants and refugees are aggressively targeted for deportation and depicted often as security threats, it is imperative for all faith communities to be vocal about our belief that people are created in God's image, worthy of dignity and safety. Sanctuary has been an interfaith expression of the commitment of faith communities to welcome the stranger.

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29	June 5
Minister	Meredith Williams	Meredith Williams	Meredith Williams	Meredith Williams	Meredith Williams	Meredith Williams
Assisting Minister	Rosann Hill	Kevin Davidson	Keith Weimer	Richard Rognlie	Paula Tomko	Keith Weimer
Usher	Carol Parsons					
Altar Guild	Janet Rockafellow	Janet Rockafellow	Janet Rockafellow	Janet Rockafellow	Janet Rockafellow	
Teller	Rosann Hill Terry Weese	Vikki McCloud Paula Tomko	Paula Tomko Paul Crowther	Terry Weese Jan Crowther	Paula Tomko Pat McCloud	Keith Weimer Paula Tomko

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.

May 2022

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

Indoor services: Masks 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 **May 24, 2022**
to LeRoy Moyer at
Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com



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