

Grace Notes



August 2023 Newsletter of Grace and Glory Lutheran Church



Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

Grace & Glory Sanctuary

Facebook Live

683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway

Palmyra, VA 22963

Vice Pastor Viktoria Parvin

Cell Phone: 1-540-840-5426

Email: viktoriaparvin@gmail.com

G&G Office Phone: (434) 589-2217

G&G E-mail: admin@graceandglory.org

Website: www.graceandglory.church

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. **Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.***
Romans 12: 9-13

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I was contemplating what to write to you this month my thoughts led me to the word hope. So, as I was looking through my Bible for passages on hope, I came across these verses in Romans. St. Paul was writing about how we are to live our daily lives as Christians. The words of verses 11 -13 (bold print) really spoke to me. At this time we all are feeling a little anxious with all of the changes that have been happening here at Grace and Glory, and we are experiencing feelings of loss and grief, and we are hurting. I was particularly grateful when a member of our congregation went to the Worship and Music Ministry and suggested that we pray corporately for our congregation and call committee each and every Sunday until we get a new pastor. I was once again reminded of the power of prayer and welcomed this suggestion, as did the LT. When we turn to God in prayer with trust and confidence in his faithfulness, we experience hope. This hope will give us patience and perseverance. As we continue to serve our Lord, we need to be zealous and ardent in the spirit. We need to rejoice in the hope God gives us and remain faithful to our calling, extending hospitality to others. We need to be patient and persevere in prayer. We need to worship together and continue our support of God's work here at Grace and Glory.

Once again, let me remind you of what I wrote last month: Our faithfulness is extremely important during this time of transition for our congregation. Our call committee will soon be turning in statistical data (average attendance and giving, as well as active ministry we are doing) to the synod that will go out to all prospective pastors. While we are smaller in size, we are still a vibrant and generous congregation engaging in ministry. Let us keep that going during our vacancy. Ministry is not about a pastor, but it is what God's faithful people are doing to help spread God's love. May we all go forward with glad hearts full of hope, persevering in prayer, and rejoicing in God's faithfulness to us.

In Christ,

Pam Hokanson

Congregation President

Leadership Team Meeting Summary

The Leadership Team met on July 19, 2023. After sharing, devotions and prayer the following items were discussed:

Pastor Viktoria's Report stated she has spoken to the Synod Office regarding an interim, but they have not found anyone at this time. However, she was notified that Pastor Liz Radtke is available for supply and will email the information to Pam. Talks between Pastor Viktoria and Paul Crowther continue in reference to home bound visitations. She suggested that in addition to a list of names on the prayer list, if the person is agreeable, there should be a reason i.e., illness, grief, job search, celebration of an event. Names should be on the prayer list for one month and the Office Manager (Cindy) will send an email to see if the person(s) would like to remain on.

President's Report was verbal: Pam Hokanson stated that she and Paul will be moving in November, but she is willing to remain the congregational president until that time. Pam stated a request has been made that there is a congregational prayer each week specific to our search for a new pastor. It was suggested that this prayer could be printed in the bulletin, read by the lay assistant, and come after the final hymn but before the blessing. Discussion followed this and it was agreed this is a good idea.

Old Business:

Reports from the Finance Committee, Treasure and Audit Committee were approved.

Home Communion- Paul Crowther reported he and four others are interested in visiting our homebound members. Paul is willing to meet and train others, check the kits and update as necessary. Pastor Viktoria is willing to meet with this new group.

Offering- A variety of suggestions have regarding the offering were discussed. Should we have a plate at the entrance (in front of the baptismal font), use symbolic coins as the plate is passed through the congregation, continue having the usher pass the plate. Bringing the elements to the altar was also discussed. These items will be presented to the Worship Music and Arts Ministry to discuss and bring back a recommendation.

Red Attendance Books- Following Pam's explanation she was thanked for the communication, and we will continue to have a book in each row.

New Business:

Rosann Hill announced she and Bob are leaving their positions. Therefore, there is a need for Office Administrative and Property and Grounds leaders.

Rosann outlined areas she believes to be high priorities, on-line banking, REALM administration, Portico management, and supervision of the Office Manager. Bob's priorities include monthly checks of the alarm system and lights, logs needed for insurance purposes, someone who can respond to alerts for the security system outside of office hours, new contact for the Allied Security contract.

The roles of the Office Manager VS the Bookkeeper need to be better understood by the congregation. Since our recent history is that the office manager held both roles, educating those involved with expenses would be beneficial.

Cindy, our Office Manager, should be formally introduced to the congregation. Pam will ask her what Sunday she would be available to attend service and meet more people.

Placing an ad in the Lake Monticello Directory was discussed. A motion was made and passed to place an ad in the upcoming directory.

Submitted by Lynn Wirth

Generosity Story

We are delighted to share that our Stewardship Team is working with a program hosted by our synod office called Stewardship for All Seasons. As a part of this program, our overall goal for our congregation is to build a culture of generosity. We have so many wonderful stories of generosity right here in our own community and we will be sharing those with you on a more consistent basis. If you would like to share your generosity story please contact Pat McCloud at jpmcloud1@gmail.com.

My Generosity Story

I grew up in Lutheran country – a small town in northern Minnesota. Church has always been a very important part of my life, beginning when I was a little girl. My mother taught me to share my time, talents, and treasures. She believed that God gave each one of us a gift and we were to use it to glorify His name. Every Saturday night my brother and I had to fill our church envelopes with part of our allowance. I remember loving to sing in Sunday School with Mrs. Lindroos and singing alto with my mother in church. The music spoke to me. When I was in seventh grade I started to play the organ for church services and continued throughout high school.

Mom's message has always stuck with me, and I've continued to share my gift of music throughout my life – as a volunteer and also as a paid staff member. The interesting thing is that I never actively looked for a music position, but the church and church school jobs found me, including here at Grace and Glory. I believe that it was God's calling for me.

When my husband retired, the criteria for a place to live was 1) A Lutheran church, 2) Good medical facilities, and 3) a good sushi restaurant! We visited St. Mark Lutheran Church in Charlottesville.

After that service we were surrounded with people from Lake Monticello who welcomed us and then informed us that they were going to grow a new church in Palmyra. We knew we had found a church family. They were truly "Caring Christians Sharing God's Message of Grace" (our original mission statement at Grace and Glory).

I've experienced two very serious illnesses and deaths in my immediate family – my daughter, Jenni and my first husband, Ed. Our church families supported me and my family throughout very difficult times. I wanted to give back what I received then.

After I retired, as the Director of Music at Grace and Glory, I decided that it was time to branch out and share my time in new ways. First, I joined the quilting group. I am not a quilter, but I can help by laying out, pinning, and tying. This group has been a gift to me as I have made new friendships with women who I only knew from a distance. I joined the Altar Guild and I learned that it is not at all the daunting job that I always thought it would be. I enjoy setting up for our services and baking communion bread. Last year Joel and I decided that we could contribute our time by helping the lawn crew at Grace and Glory who work so hard. We became the official trimmers. If you pass by the church you might see us outside with our weed whackers. Again, while we're giving of our time, we're given the gift of enjoying our beautiful property at Grace and Glory. It feels good to contribute our time and make a difference.

Our congregation is going through a challenging time right now – first with COVID and now during a time with no pastor. I hope and pray that we can be strong and spirited as the founders of Grace and Glory were and work together to make Grace and Glory the congregation that God wants us to be.

Julie Dwyer

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 August 24.**

GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

JUNE 2023

INCOME:

General	\$12,178
Building	\$3,905
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$295
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$16,378
Other	\$114
<u>Total</u>	\$16,492

EXPENSES:

General	\$9,539
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$52
<u>Total</u>	\$12,250

GENERAL CHANGE \$2,753

BUILDING CHANGE \$1,246

YTD JUNE 2023

INCOME:

General	\$89,798
Building	\$21,500
Memorial	\$1,000
Designated	\$2,135
<u>Total Donations*</u>	\$114,433
Other	\$1,714
<u>Total</u>	\$116,147

EXPENSES:

General	\$89,799
Building	\$15,954
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$497
<u>Total</u>	\$106,250

GENERAL CHANGE \$1,713

BUILDING CHANGE \$5,546

* \$17,500 of donations were received in 2022 for the 2023 year.

Without this 2023 annual donation being booked in January,

the General and Building Funds would have decreased.

New Offering Collection Method

Over the years, the ways that offerings are given in churches have changed. No longer does everyone put a weekly envelope in the offering plate. Some people give monthly or yearly while others send their offerings to the church electronically. Because of this, the Worship and Music Team has recommended to the Leadership Team that we change our method of collecting the offering.

Beginning on August 6th, an offering plate will be placed on a table at the entrance to the sanctuary, in front of the baptismal font. As you enter, you can place your offering in the plate. The ushers will continue to present the offering at the altar during the offertory hymn. At festival services (Christmas, Easter, etc.) or other services when we have many visitors, offerings will be collected by the ushers. At those services, the table and plate will be removed to avoid confusion.

Julie Dwyer
Music and Worship Team

August Birthdays

Jeff O'Dell	14	Stephanie Bossong	25
Janice Brown	19	Ellen Lindenmann	25
Patty Shaver	19	Ed Phillips	27
		Rosann Hill	29

What is new in the church garden this month? blooming from mid to late summer

Added to the garden this spring were two purple coneflowers (**echinacea purpurea**). This long-lasting lavender flower is native to eastern North America and is drought tolerant. Since it is so rich in nectar it is very popular with bees, butterflies and hummingbirds too. Birds, like finches, eat and spread its seeds. Another new plant this year is the butterfly bush (**buddleia**) which Helen Ida transplanted from her home garden to a spot in front of the office window. Needless to say, its fragrant blooms do indeed attract butterflies because of the copious nectar that they provide. It is delightful to see the butterflies come and enjoy its flowers! However, it is a native of China and because its seed production is so prolific, it can end up being invasive, replacing native shrubs outside the garden, in natural areas. Native shrubs are essential as food for caterpillars, which birds need to feed their young. Native shrubs, like Virginia sweetspire and button bush, or drifts of perennials, such as liatris, echinacea, agastache, or Joe Pye weed, could be planted instead of buddleias.



Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

God's Work, Our Hands

Celebrating 10 years on the 10th! This year marks the 10th anniversary of "God's work, Our hands" Sunday. September 10th, our annual day of service, is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. The ELCA's first dedicated day of service, in September 2013, was held to celebrate the church's 25th anniversary. Through the years we have embraced "God's work, Our hands" Sunday to be church together. On this day we bear witness to the love and concern God's people have for one another. Our congregations do this work every day — loving their neighbors and improving their communities. These acts of service allow us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Extending invitations to others is a way to widen the welcome and engage with people who may not be familiar with the ELCA but are committed to serving in their communities. Working side by side with our neighbors

connects with the ELCA's purpose to "activate each of us so that more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love," while directly affecting the ministry goal of "engaging with new people." This call for service unites all the ELCA expressions to focus on serving and accompanying our neighbors.

A message from the ELCA

What can Grace & Glory do to celebrate "God's work, Our hands" Sunday? Grace and Glory does some wonderful things to support our community – food bank and back to school supplies donations, blood drives, participation in the Happy Face program, to name a few. Please share your ideas of how we can expand our outreach and be love in action.

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27	September 3
Minister	Jim Wilkin	Pat Handlson	Pat Handlson	Tom Frost	Tom Frost
Assisting Minister	Kevin Davidson	Mary Louise Rognlie	Carol Parsons	Kevin Davidson	Paula Tomko
Usher	Carol Parsons	Louise Jargowsky	Paul Crowther	Linda Bolling	Jan Crowther
Altar Guild	M.L. Rognlie	Carol Parsons	Julie Dwyer	Terry Weese	M.L. Rognlie
Tellers	Paula Tomko Mary Louise Rognlie	Paula Tomko Pat McCloud	Paul Crowther Kevin Weimer	Jan Crowther Terry Weese	Paula Tomko Mary Louise Rognlie

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

TBD

Tellers

Paula Tomko – (434) 960-2983

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 Cindy Anderson in the church office at admin@graceandglory.org, or call her at (434) 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 Cindy Anderson 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.

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12 pm OWLS Out to Lunch Bunch – Wahoo BBQ 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal	2 9am Cindy in Office	3	4 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	5
6 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	7 9am Cindy in Office	8 6:30pm AA Meeting	9 Church Cleaning Today 9am Cindy in Office	10	11 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	12 9am Men's breakfast – Crescent Inn
13 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	14 9am Cindy in Office 11 am LWR Quilters 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	15 6:30pm AA Meeting	16 9am Cindy in Office 7pm Leadership Team	17	18 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	19 9am Women's Breakfast – Tip Top
20 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live Food Bank Collection 11am Coffee and Social Hour after service 11:15 am – Choir Rehearsal	21 9am Cindy in Office	22 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Ensemble Rehearsal	23 Church Cleaning Today 9am Cindy in Office	24 Grace Notes Submissions Due Today	25 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	26
27 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	28 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	29 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal	30 9am Cindy in Office	31		

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 the church office at admin@graceandglory.org, or call and leave a message at 434-589-2217.



Grace & Glory

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship at 10 AM
Grace & Glory Sanctuary
on Facebook Live

683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA 22963

Newsletter Deadline is **August 24, 2023**
to LeRoy Moyer at
Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com



683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA 22963