

Grace Notes



August 2024 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

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Good People,

When I was growing up I felt that the leaders of my country all wanted the same thing, they just differed on how to achieve that end. Democrats, in general, were a little more comfortable spending money on social programs while Republicans, again, in general, were more inclined to channel funds towards military priorities and the support of business interests. Which is not to say that Democrats didn't care about the economy or national defense or that Republicans didn't care about the poor or minorities. Again, I'm talking about differences in emphasis, not a total divergence in point of view. While all this is way oversimplified, as a kid most folks did seem to want most other folks to thrive and flourish – we just disagreed about the best way to make that happen.

Today, I'm not so sure about that. I'm especially concerned that self-identified Democrats and Republicans no longer have the same goals in mind nor share the same values. Well over 50% of registered Republicans believe the last election was "stolen," while approximately 1 in 3 Democrats believe that Donald Trump staged his own assassination attempt. What are we as Christians supposed to do with that? How can we go on from here – as a nation, as a church, as individuals? As I see it, we are being faced with a choice. In these confusing times, I am personally guided by advice from renowned Old Testament scholar, Walter Bruggemann, who recommends going neither to the right nor to the left. Rather, Prof. Bruggemann advises that, as the people of God, we go deep. And then deeper still.

I spent my days last week at an icon workshop in Richmond, working on an image of Christ. It was a deeply prayerful time for me and as I tried to proclaim the gospel in line and color I thought about a few things. First, this image of Christ mocked, beaten, and humiliated by Roman soldiers acts as a constant corrective against human notions of what power, authority, glory, and might look like. And second, I reflected on the "two sins" frequently committed by iconographers, the sin of perfectionism, where we pretend to be better than we are, striving for a perfection and control not humanly possible; and the sin of chaos, where we pay no attention to duties, guidelines or responsibilities, but proceed as our emotions and personal desires and interests dictate. We either pay too much attention to enforcing the rules (Republicans), or not enough (Democrats).



As disciples of Jesus, we are called to walk a middle way between these two extremes, a way that invites us to do our best to do our best in taking up our cross and following Christ – and then to leave the results and the consequences in God's hands. Jesus Christ is the Lord of history and the head of the church, and our Judge is no other than our Redeemer, the one who gave his life for us. When the Romans crowned Jesus with thorns, they called him "King," but that's not what they really meant. When we look on the Man of Sorrows, who do we see? Our Lord and Savior? Please remember, we aren't being asked to be effective or successful. Instead, God calls us over and over again to be faithful, faithful in love. Can we answer that call in these uncertain times? Are we even listening for it anymore?

I think so. I hope so. I pray so. Let it be so. Amen.

Peace and All Good,

- Pastor William

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month I'd like to update you on the status of our *Call Process*. As most of you know we extended our letter of Agreement with Pastor Strong to December 31, 2024. This mutual agreement is beneficial to both parties. Both Pastor Strong and the Congregation are assured a sense of stability and normality, albeit short term. Why is this important? At last count there are 27 Congregations that are at various stages of the *Call Process* in the Virginia Synod, **18 of which do not have an Interim Pastor**. Two of these 18 are in our own Conference, Good Shepherd in Orange and St. Luke in Culpepper. It should be noted that Pastor Strong as Interim Pastor cannot be considered for a call to Grace and Glory, and he is also not allowed to be involved in the congregation's call process except upon request by the Bishop.

These are extraordinary times regarding a pastoral vocation. Demographics are playing a significant role in all of this. The pastors of the 'Baby Boomer generation' have for the most part retired. Many of these retired pastors are now serving as "Supply Pastors" or in some cases, Interim Pastors. Compounding this is the significant decline in Seminary graduates. In a good year, the seven ELCA seminaries would generate 300+ graduates. This year there are 155. And of these 155 there are a number of 'second career' seminarians, such as Pastor Strong. These second career folks typically do not relocate far from their Seminary surroundings. A 50% reduction in Seminary graduates may now be the 'new normal'. So, the equation is far from balanced; an ever-growing number of pastoral vacancies chasing far fewer potential candidates.

What about the candidates that are currently out there? What Synod is reporting to us is that the pastoral candidates that are in the pipeline today have seniority commanding compensation in the range of \$140,000 (Salary, health benefits, and housing). Such a level of compensation is beyond the reach of virtually every call process congregation in the Synod, including Grace & Glory. What are we to do then? One option would be to consider a 'half-time' pastor. As of this writing neither the Call Committee nor the Leadership Team would consider anything other than a full-time pastor. We have also made it clear to Synod that we will decide as to what we can afford regarding a pastoral candidate.

So that's where we are today. The Call Committee and the Leadership Team remain hopeful and prayerful, but there is no denying a level of frustration. We are all anxious to extend a call to our next Pastor, but we are also blessed to have Pastor Strong as our Interim Pastor. This is a time that could test our faith, but I am confident that we will remain firm in our resolve. Please continue to pray for and support our Call Team.

For more information on the Call Process please reference the Virginia Synod's Call Process Handbook at: <https://www.vasynod.org/resources/call-process/>

Peace and hope,

J. Patrick McCloud
Congregation President

August Birthdays

Jeff O'Dell	14	Stephanie Bosong	25
Patty Shaver	19	Ellen Lindenmann	25
Janice Brown	19		

Upcoming Feeding Fluvanna Event

Grace & Glory is happy to once again be hosting a fun family event to raise money for Feeding Fluvanna. On Saturday, September 14th at 3 PM, we will be having a pie auction in the pavilion. A pie auction you ask? Yes, it's just what you are picturing. We will be auctioning slices of pie to the highest bidder! Of course you are now thinking about how you can be involved. We need an auctioneer, or two, to drive the sales of the pie. Someone to cut the slices of the pie, and let our auctioneer know what deliciousness they are about to sell. We need people to deliver the slices to the winner and collect the money to a responsible person. Opportunities to set up and clean up are also available.

But the pies, where do we get the pies? From you! The baker who doesn't bake much because who is going to eat all of this, the recipe that you've been just waiting to try out, or the family favorite. We would prefer homemade pies, but please feel free to purchase the crust.

What's an event for the food bank without a food drive? We will have a contest for the family that brings in the most canned goods. Would you like to be the judge and get to present the prize?

We will have flyers so you can invite your friends, family, and neighbors. Pastor Strong is reaching out to the other churches to invite them as well. Make our Pie Auction a success and enjoy a day of fellowship, community service and PIE! The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex or contact Stephanie Wirth at accounts@graceandglory.org.

Women at Grace and Glory Bible Study

The WAGG Bible Study group will be meeting again the third Monday of the month, **at 11 am on August 19** at the church. We shall be starting a new three-part Bible study focusing on what it means to live in faith "After certainty" i.e. in times of uncertainty, as we are these days after a worldwide pandemic, escalating climate change, political turmoil and a changing religious landscape. Drawing from biblical texts and Lutheran tradition, we'll ponder what it means to live faithfully in these times of uncertainty. As we discuss how our ancestors in faith also lived in deep uncertainty, we will see how God leads us beyond certainty to **curiosity** in this first session, then to **community** in our second session in September, and to **compassion** in our third session in October.



Last month we met at Helen Ida's home, pictured here, and had lunch together afterward.

Please let me know if you need a copy of the Bible study from the May-June issue of *Gather* for this first session on "After certainty." New subscriptions to the magazine coming to your home may not have started until the July-August issue of the magazine, which has the second and third sessions of this Bible study. We hope that you will be able to join us for a special time of fellowship and Bible study together on Monday, August 19 at 11 am at the church.

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

Grace Notes

Please remember to submit your information for the August issue of Grace Notes **by Monday, August 24th** to LeRoy Moyer at lee_helen@embarqmail.com.

Another Successful Blood Drive!

On Tuesday, July 16, Grace & Glory hosted a community blood drive. We had 27 of our 29 appointments report for their appointments and were able to collect 19 of our 21-pint goal. The Red Cross appreciates our commitment and ability to have these well attended community blood drives. We always hear from the donors how much they appreciate having a way to give locally rather than having to drive into Charlottesville. A big thank you to everyone who helped prepare the sanctuary after the service on Sunday and to Paul Crowther who came back on Wednesday morning and helped reassemble the sanctuary. It isn't too early to sign up for the next blood drive - plan now to join us on Saturday, December 14th from 10 am to 2 pm. What better gift to give during the holiday season than the gift of life! You can sign-up now at: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=graceandglory>.



Paula Tomko

It's Time for School Supplies

It is hard to believe the school summer break is more than halfway over, but the 2024-25 school year begins August 13th! As you are shopping, please consider adding some school supplies to your cart. This year we will be focusing on supplies for grades 5-12. Supply lists are available in the Narthex & posted on the kiosk. A collection box will be in the Narthex until August 4th.

For more information contact Lynn Wirth at 908-672-3288 or lynnrwith@hotmail.com.

Older, Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS)

The OWLS will gather for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, August 6th, at noon at Il Castello Italian Restaurant at Zion Crossroads. It is located next to VABC and Made in Asia. RSVP to Linda Beaudoin at lmbeaudoin@aol.com or (434)-589-2654.



GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

JUNE 2024

INCOME:

General	\$10,672
Building	\$830
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$465
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$11,967
Other	\$121
<u>Total</u>	\$12,088

EXPENSES:

General	\$12,185
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$1,184
<u>Total</u>	\$16,028

GENERAL CHANGE	-\$1,392
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$1,829

YTD JUNE 2024

INCOME:

General	\$79,109
Building	\$10,561
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$4,340
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$94,010
Other	\$1,675
<u>Total</u>	\$95,685

EXPENSES:

General	\$61,081
Building	\$15,954
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$3,820
<u>Total</u>	\$80,855

GENERAL CHANGE	\$19,703
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$5,393

Bishop Eaton Addresses Political Violence

7/16/2024 5:30:00 PM

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us (Ephesians 2:14).

Just a few weeks ago in my June column for *Living Lutheran* I wrote, "I can't think of an election cycle more fraught and divisive than this one. People all across the political spectrum claim that life as we know it is on the line. It's not possible to agree to disagree—one must decide and put a stake in the ground. There is the potential for violence." That potential is now a reality after last weekend's shooting at a Trump campaign rally that killed Corey D. Comperatore and injured other attendees. I am thankful that former President Trump's injury was minor and pray for his recovery alongside those affected.

I also wrote, "But division and violence don't have to be our inevitable future." I believe this and that God calls this church to say a definitive "no" to political violence now and in the future. Political violence has a long history but no place in democracy. This church belongs to God, and our unity in Christ is a grace-filled and healing gift in a fractured society. As the ELCA we have theological and community resources to meet this moment through worship, discipleship and civic engagement.

In the face of violence, God's resolve for peace in human communities is unshakable. In proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ's forgiveness, healing and new life, the church addresses the ultimate root of violence. God calls us as church together in this moment to hear and embody this good news by embracing our identity as peacemakers through active civic engagement grounded in our baptismal identity and our institutional witness to foster justice, racial and social equity, reconciliation, and healing with compassion and imagination.

Our inevitable future belongs to God. In this certainty and bound together in Christian hope, consider how you can join me in ongoing prayer and actions for our nation, a peaceful election season, the safety of candidates for office, and a bold and life-giving witness of our church in the time ahead.

In Christ,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25	September 1
Minister	William Strong	William Strong	TBD	William Strong	William Strong
Assisting Minister	Paula Tomko	Carol Parsons	Richard Rognlie	Keith Weimer	Kevin Davidson
Usher	Carol Parsons	Louise Jargowsky	Paul Crowther	Jan Crowther	Carol Parsons
Greeters	Robert Candea	Chris & Colleen Sterner	Priscilla Fennell	Louise Jargowsky	Joel & Julie Dwyer
Altar Guild	Julie Dwyer	Mary Louise Rognlie	Vikki McCloud	Terry Weese	Carol Parsons
Tellers	Paula Tomko Paul Crowther	Mary Louise Rognlie Pat McCloud	Paul Crowther Vikki McCloud	Terry Weese Jan Crowther	TBD

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

Julie Dwyer – (434) 981-5613

Lectors and Assisting Ministers

Paula Tomko – (434) 326-5533

Altar Guild

Julie Dwyer – (434) 981-5613

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

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	9am Cindy in Office	12pm OWLS Luncheon - Il Castello's 6:30pm AA Meeting	9am Cindy in Office	11 am Finance Team mtg.	9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	9am Men's monthly breakfast – Maple Pine Breakfast & Thai Restaurant
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	9am Cindy in Office		9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	9am Women's Breakfast - Tangerines Kitchen
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11am Coffee and Social Hour after service	9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study	6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	9am Cindy in Office 7pm Leadership Team		9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	Grace Notes Submissions Due Today
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	9am Cindy in Office		9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	

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, 2024**
to LeRoy Moyer at
Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com



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