



Grace Notes

April 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,

Easter Sunday was a happy day at Grace & Glory Lutheran Church! As one person shared with me later that evening, “a full church and a children’s sermon was a vision of resurrection. It was a beautiful thing.” Indeed, it was, and thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to make this season such a meaningful one for me and for so many others. Thanks to you all for all that y’all do.

Even though I jokingly shushed the choir as they laughed and giggled during practice before the Good Friday service, it made my heart sing to see such humor in play. And again, Easter morning, as the ushers joked around and teased me before church started, I felt that warmth again. Not that teasing can’t be hurtful. Not that humor can’t be cruel. But laughter is fundamental to who we are as human beings and teasing each other frequently shows how close we feel to someone. I tease my sister because I love her and because that’s what older brothers are supposed to do. When we tease and joke with each other, it’s one way of saying that we love each other and that we all belong to the same family.

It’s appropriate that this newsletter comes to you on or around April Fool’s Day. It is a centuries old tradition for the preacher to start the Easter service with the funniest joke they think they can get away with telling in church. Then, once folks are laughing, to announce “Alleluia! Christ is risen!” Maybe we’ve lost something in abandoning that practice. Maybe in taking church so seriously (which is good) we have begun to take ourselves too seriously (which is maybe not so good). After all, St. Teresa of Avila once famously prayed, “deliver me, O Lord, from sour-faced saints.” One sympathizes. This April – this year – let us remember that Easter is the ultimate reminder that the joke’s not on us. The joke’s on the devil. So, let’s not be afraid to laugh a little, even (maybe most especially) at ourselves. It’s all in the family. Amen.

Peace and All Good,

- Pastor William

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's Holy Week as I write this. For many of us the upcoming Easter season, as well as the coming of Spring, is a time of hope and renewal. As a Congregation we have spent the past few weeks focusing on what we call 'Intentional Evangelism'. We are reaching out to our inactive members as well as inviting unchurched friends, neighbors, co-workers, and strangers to worship with us on Easter Sunday. In that spirit I want to share with you some thoughts from a Devotion I led with the Leadership Team this month. The prayer concern for this devotion was 'rural churches striving to grow'. Does this sound familiar?

The devotion was entitled "**A promise to count on**". It featured an excerpt from the book of Haggai. After returning from exile in Babylon the prophet Haggai foresaw a new community identical to the old with a restored temple, prosperity in the land, and a ruler from the line of David. But scholars tell us that different systems and new forms of worship had already taken hold. The old would never be fully restored.

Fast forward to today. Since returning from the wilderness of the pandemic with its on-line and parking lot worship services, congregations across the Country have noticed a steep decline in attendance. Typically, attendance has fallen by 50%. But God made a promise we can count on. Haggai spoke it to Judah's rule and people: "**I am with you, . . . according to the promise that I made you . . . My Spirit abides among you; do not fear**"(Haggai 2: vv. 4-5). No matter how full or empty our pews, the Holy Spirit will never leave us. That promise stands firmer than the church itself!

Peace and hope,

J. Patrick McCloud

Congregation President

Offering Envelopes

Grace and Glory has budgeted \$220 for Offering Envelopes in 2024. That doesn't sound like a lot of money in a spending plan that is approaching a quarter of a million dollars, but it is when you realize that very few of us still use offering envelopes on a regular basis. The majority of our members don't offer their financial gifts on a weekly basis. Some give monthly, others quarterly, and sometimes even annually. And many of them don't place that offering in the offering plate. Their gifts are generated from on-line banking or through Tithely, or just come as a personal check in the mail. The result is many of us are throwing away a lot of envelopes. We would like to put that money to better use (Food Bank, ELCA World Hunger, etc.). Please contact the church office if you want to keep getting envelopes in the future. If we don't hear from you, we'll assume you don't want them.

Grace & Glory Stewardship Team

Dining Together Groups

We are now setting up new Dining Together Groups for this spring and early summer, from **April to mid-July**. Hope that you enjoyed getting together last year two or three times with your group, whether for lunch or for supper. Host prepares the main dish and guests bring appetizer, salad and dessert. The **relaxed, unhurried** setting of being at home or at a restaurant is ideal for getting to know each other better so that, as Bob Candea put it, "we are more like a family." Please do not miss out on this opportunity to **get to know your church family better**. Let Helen Ida know if you would like to join in the fun and be newly added into one of the groups that dine together! She can be reached by phone at 293-5543 or by e-mail at ducky5oaks@gmail.com

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

Leadership Team Meeting Summary

The Leadership Team (LT) met on March 20, 2024.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Strong acknowledged the kindness and support he has received since becoming interim pastor and that it has been an exciting time for him serving at Grace & Glory.
- We have been informed that Shar Moje is moving to Texas to be closer to her daughter. Her new address will be shared with the congregation.
- Pastor has extended an Easter services invitation to the AA group that meets weekly at G&G.

President's Report:

- Pat McCloud shared news that former congregation member Ned Long passed away after a long battle with cancer.
- A color ad in the Fluvanna Review will announce the schedule for our Easter services.
- Pat will reach out to Pastor Chris Wulff of Peace Lutheran in Charlottesville for what actions she felt led to the recent growth of their congregation.
- After Easter, a draft of our new member directory will be sent out to the congregation for review and corrections.
- Next Evangelism team meeting is April 11 at 2PM at Grace & Glory.

Finance Committee Report:

- February Finance Report was approved as presented.
- A draft of the Pastor's Discretionary (Emergency) Fund was approved by Leadership Team.

Old Business:

- Bread for the World was discussed, focusing on Grace & Glory's covenant agreement with them to provide financial support of their advocacy efforts for stronger public policies addressing hunger in America. Our April 21st worship service will include a special Bread for the World appeal. A letter writing effort is also planned for that day.
- Kevin Davidson has agreed to assume our Church Administrator position.
- Candidates selected to perform our 2023 audit are Keith Weimer (lead), Paula Tomko and Beth Jenkins. The audit is already underway.

New Business:

- A formal induction of the 2024 Leadership Team will take place during the April 21 worship service.
- A team of greeters for our worship services has been formed and a schedule is already in place from 3/24 through 5/5.
- It was suggested that for ease of cleaning, a smaller water vessel will be placed inside the baptismal font for our worship services. During Covid, water was not placed in the font for health reasons.
- Donations to the worship service flower fund will be accepted for situations where a person wants to provide flowers but may need someone else to arrange for them to be obtained and placed in the sanctuary.

Women at Grace and Glory (WAGG)

The WAGG Bible Study group will be meeting again the third Monday of the month, at 11 am on April 15 at the church. We are doing a special study on Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith which has four sessions: the first one last month was on Weather, focusing on Biblical stories of extraordinary weather which convict and humble us, showing us how to live faithfully. The second session which we shall be doing in April focuses on Creatures, noting that human and animal interactions in Scripture can reorient our relationships with the non-human creatures and deepen our trust in God. The third session in May focuses on Rivers since it is through stories of biblical rivers, we receive a vision of flourishing creation. The last session in June will be focusing on Food, since our faithful stewardship of the earth includes paying attention to the ways we eat.

Please let me know if you need a copy of the Bible study from the January-February issue of *Gather* for this second session on Creatures. New subscribers can get this beautiful Christian Women’s Magazine published by the ELCA for just \$9.95, six issues a year. You can check it out at the gathermagazine.org website. We hope that you will be able to join us for a special time of fellowship and Bible study together on Monday April 15 at 11 am at the church.

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

April Birthdays

Mary Louise Rognlie	2	Robert Wilson, Jr.	13
Linda Beaudoin	11	Dennis Baugh	24
Linda Candea	11	Paul Hokanson	27
Richard Rognlie	11		

GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024

INCOME:

General	\$14,327
Building	\$2,500
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$288
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$17,115
Other	\$612
<u>Total</u>	\$17,727

EXPENSES:

General	\$10,522
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$458
<u>Total</u>	\$13,639

GENERAL CHANGE	\$4,417
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$159

YTD FEBRUARY 2024

INCOME:

General	\$30,377
Building	\$3,988
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$2,062
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$36,427
Other	\$830
<u>Total</u>	\$37,257

EXPENSES:

General	\$20,749
Building	\$5,318
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$1,120
<u>Total</u>	\$27,187

GENERAL CHANGE	\$10,458
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$1,330

BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING - APRIL 21ST

On Sunday, April 21st we will have two special offerings for Bread for the World -

- 1.) A letter writing offering
- 2.) A special monetary offering

1. What is Bread for the World?

Bread for the World is a Christian faith- based bi-partisan advocacy organization that urges U. S. decision makers to support policies that will help to end domestic and world hunger. It works hand in hand with the ELCA. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which we live.

2. What is Grace and Glory's relationship to Bread for the World?

Grace and Glory has supported Bread for the World since 2002, both financially and by letter writing campaigns. We are a Bread for the World covenant church.

3. Who does Bread for the World advocate for?

Bread for the World advocates for the poor, hungry, underprivileged, underserved - for those who have no voice. Currently food insecurity affects 4.4 million people in the U.S., and 2.4 billion people globally.

4. What is Bread for the World asking us to write for this year?

The FARM BILL - which is renewed every 5 years, and sets national policies for nutrition, agriculture, conservation, and forestry. SNAP benefits (formerly food stamps) are funded under the farm bill. No legislation has more impact on the US food system and the nation's ability to provide healthy food at affordable prices to everyone. It is expected to be voted on sometime in early May.

5. What are the 3 bills under the Farm Bill we will be writing about?

1. Extending SNAP benefits to Puerto Rico - Currently SNAP does not apply to Puerto Rico where there is widespread hunger, and the annual threat of hurricanes which increase poverty.

2. Provide SNAP recipients with additional resources to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables at farmers markets, farm stands, as well as grocery stores. Besides helping the hungry, this helps local farmers.

3. Cutting food waste - Nearly 40% of food produced in the U.S. is wasted - either by spoiling in the fields, or most ending up in landfills, where it emits methane, a greenhouse gas, that is up to 28 times as potent as CO 2.

In Va alone 1.78 million tons of surplus food went to waste instead of reaching those who needed it.

Please participate in our letter writing campaign April 21st. Writing these letters for those who have no voice is an important way of living out our faith.

If Christians won't advocate for those who have no voice no one else will. It's as simple as that.

Newest Member of the AV Team

Josh Weimer is learning to help with the AV team. Josh is pictured here operating the system during a recent service.



Wonderful Easter Service

The service this Easter is a reminder of what our church can be. It started with a wonderful breakfast. Lots of delicious food, and good company. This was followed by an Easter service with beautiful music, including both the choir and bell ringers, an inspiring sermon, as well as a delightful children's sermon.



You All Come

Men's Breakfast – 9 am Saturday April 13 at Moose's by the Creek Restaurant

Women's Breakfast – 9 am Saturday April 20 at Doodles Dinner

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 April 24.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's Easter Message

“So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone for they were afraid.” That's where the Gospel of Mark originally ended. And it just seems so odd to me. It's so abrupt. I mean, the women had seen the angel. He'd announced that Jesus was raised from the dead, and then he tells them all this good news and wants them to go on their way. And they just are not going to say a single word.

There are three words in that passage that really stand out for me, especially in the Greek. One is fear — phobos. We get phobia from that. The other one is amazement — ekstasis. We get ecstasy from that. And the other one has to do with being seized. It actually means “being possessed.” So we take a look at these women, and they've had this miraculous appearance by an angel. They've heard the good news that Jesus has raised from the dead, and they're too afraid to do anything about it, and they just are going to be silent. It seems that nothing changed. They came to take care of Jesus' dead body because on the Sabbath they could not work. But on the first day of the week, they were there. They have this announcement, and then it's all the same.

Sometimes I think we feel like nothing's changed. Sometimes I think that the events in our country, in our church, around the world are just so terrifying and so overwhelming that it seems like the resurrection really didn't make a difference. But these three words really say something about the women, and I think about us and, most especially, about Easter. When they said that they were filled with amazement — this is this ecstasy, ekstasis — they were really standing. It means literally standing in a different place. So though they were still in the tomb and they hadn't reacted yet, nevertheless, everything had changed. And because of the resurrection, we, all of us, are standing in a different place. The whole of creation is standing in a different place. And the word for fear, phobos, phobia we get from that. But it's really a sense of trembling in the presence of God, of awe that they were actually filled with awe — not paralyzed by fear but filled with awe. And I hope this Eastertide and all year round, we have a sense of the presence of God that fills us with awe.

And it also says that they were seized with fear. Well, the word means “possessed.” And yes, we believe that in baptism because of the resurrection, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and we now are all Spirit-possessed.

When things seem to be staying the same, when things seem to be happening and coming at us so quickly, I think it's very important to take time to be a little amazed, to be standing in a different place, to have a sense of this awe and trembling before the Lord, and to allow ourselves to be possessed by the Spirit, who will give us power and courage in these times.

My favorite hymn is “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song.” It's ELW 808. And the last verse goes like this: “I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey; but courage will come with the sound of his steps by my side. And with all of the family Jesus saved by his love, we'll sing to his dawn at the end of our journey.”

Be well, dear church. Happy Easter.

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28	May 5
Minister	William Strong	Pat Handlson	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong
Assisting Minister	Richard Rognlie	Paula Tomko	Carol Parsons	Keith Weimer	TBD
Usher	Gaby Ford	Carol Parsons	Jan Crowther	Linda Boling	Gaby Ford
Greeters	Robert Candea	Colleen and Chris Sterner	Pat McCloud	Priscilla Fennell	Lynn Worth
Altar Guild	Julie Dwyer	Mary Louise Rognlie	Vikki McCloud	Terry Weese	Carol Parsons
Tellers	Vikki McCloud Paula Tomko	Paula Tomko Keith Weimer	Paul Crowther Mary Louise Rognlie	Jan Crowther Terry Weese	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

Carol Parsons – (434) 589-6068

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.

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9am Cindy in Office 11am Finance Meeting	2 9am Cindy in Office 12pm OWLS Luncheon – Bunker Bistro 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	3 9am Cindy in Office	4	5 6:30pm AA Meeting	6
7 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	8 11am LWR Quilters	9 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	10 9am Cindy in Office	11	12 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	13 9am Men's monthly breakfast – Moose's by the Creek
14 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	15 9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study	16 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	17 9am Cindy in Office 7pm Leadership Team	18	19 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	20 9am Women's Breakfast – Doodles Dinner
21 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11am Coffee and Social Hour after service 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	22 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	23 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	24 9am Cindy in Office Grace Notes Submissions Due Today	25	26 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	27
28 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	29 9am Cindy in Office	30 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal				

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 **April 24, 2024**
to LeRoy Moyer at
Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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