

Grace Notes



July 2025 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

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

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

Website: www.graceandglory.church

Rev. William Strong, Pastor: rev.whs@gmail.com

Phone: 804-517-2296

Good People,

Prophets are never popular. King Herod famously wanted to execute John the Baptist, and at the same time couldn't stop listening to what the Baptizer had to say. One sympathizes. What is it about prophets that we can't stand to be around them yet ponder and puzzle over their words? What does it mean to be a prophet, anyway? When I asked folks to define the word for me, everyone told me that a "prophet" was someone who could predict the future, but I'm not so sure that's correct.

Looking up the word "prophet" in Merriam-Webster's, I found that "one who foretells future events" was definition #3. The primary meaning of "prophet," according to Messrs. Merriam and Webster, is "one who utters divinely inspired revelations." Nothing about time. Nothing about predictions. Nothing about telling the future. In fact, I don't think prophets care much about the future or the past. I think prophets, those who "utter divinely inspired revelations," are actually focused on the present – on the here and now – with laser like intensity. That's why we don't want to listen to them. And that's why we can't tune them out, even – especially – when they frighten, challenge and disturb us.

On the evening of the solstice, several of us gathered at the church to watch *The Letter*, a documentary about Pope Francis and the individuals from around the world who came to meet with him regarding the climate crisis. After the film, when asked to describe the Pope and the others who gathered with him at the Vatican, many of us used the word "prophetic." For me, the word "prophetic" sums up what one person in the documentary meant when she talked about the pain and suffering she perceived in the world today. "Once you see it," she said, "you can't not see it." That's what makes someone a prophet: once we see the earth, and everything and everyone in it, the way that God does, we can't not

see it. Once we see creation from God's point of view, we can never close our eyes again. That's what makes someone a prophet: they have seen something they cannot ignore, cannot forget, cannot deny.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, the Jewish scholar and seminary professor who marched with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., described the effect of exposure to the prophets like this: "The situation of one immersed in the prophets' words is one of being exposed to a ceaseless shattering of indifference, and one needs a skull of stone to remain callous to such blows." Tragically, we seem to be living in an age of hard-headed and hard-hearted people. No wonder the shattering keeps getting more and more intense. How much longer can we afford to ignore the knocking at our hearts? How much longer can we ignore love and hold our fellow creatures at more than arm's length? How much longer will we refuse to let "our heartbreak be our guide?"

Prophets seem fearless in the face of opposition, outrage, and rejection, but Rabbi Heschel speculates that something might, indeed, frighten the prophets. Heschel writes: “A people may be dying without being aware of it; a people may be able to survive, yet refuse to make use of their ability.” That’s what potentially frightens the prophets. That’s what truly frightens me. Now, more than ever, is the time to speak truth to power. Now, more than ever, is the time to stand up to hate. Now, more than ever, is the time to let our prayers be heard and felt. Now, more than ever, is a time for prophets. Now, more than ever, is a time for God’s Grace & Glory.

Amen.

Peace and All Good,
- Pastor William
Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Virginia Synod Assembly Highlights

From June 13th to the 15th, Lutherans from all around the Virginia Synod gathered at Roanoke College for its annual Assembly. Darlene Baugh and I represented Grace and Glory at the Assembly. The theme for this year’s Assembly was Intertwining Hope, which is taken from John 15:5:

“I am the vine and you are the branches. If you abide in Me you will bear great fruit. Without Me, you will accomplish nothing.”

The Virginia Synod Youth Assembly also met at Roanoke College, and their theme was "Shapes of Hope" based on Romans 5:1-5. The images of hope that present themselves to us in our daily lives. Each of the speakers at the Youth Assembly echoed that theme in the work they do in their various callings, including campus and outdoor ministries, social services, and ministries of inclusion.

Here are some highlights from the Assembly:

- A total of 108 Rostered Ministers and 180 Lay leaders were in attendance.
- This year's youth assembly had 23 youth and 6 adult participants from 14 congregations.
- The Assembly opened with a service of Holy Communion with Bishop Dee Pederson of Southwestern Minnesota Synod serving as the preacher for worship. Her sermon focused on the Assembly theme.
- Elections were held to serve on Synod Council as well as the Committee on Discipline.
- The Assembly celebrated rostered minister ordination anniversaries, congregation anniversaries, and gave thanks to lay leaders. The Assembly celebrated and honored Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop, as she concludes her call.
- The Assembly approved the 2026 and 2027 Investment in Ministry Plans, the 2023 and 2024 Synod Audits, and the Compensation Guidelines for 2026. Bishop Milton and the Officers of the Synod shared their reports.
- The 2026 and 2027 Investment in Ministry Plans include a deficit of just over \$90,000 for each year. Mission Support from Congregations has stabilized over the past two years after a number of years where giving was dropping \$70,000 to \$80,000 per year. Mission Support is projected at \$1.5 million per year. The percentage of Mission Support given to ELCA Churchwide has been reduced from 40% to 36%.

- Synod Council recommended new compensation guidelines for rostered ministers, replacing the grid with suggested raises based on years of experience with a guideline suggesting appropriate ranges based on years of experience. This proposal was amended to return to the grid format with suggestions of a 3%, 5% and 7% cost of living increases for 2026. I spoke out against this amendment saying that it would be beyond the means of small congregations. The amended proposal was approved by a vote of 105 to 96.
- The Virginia Synod has approximately 31 commissioned lay ministers, including those serving as Synod authorized ministers (SAM's), or lay preachers. The Virginia Synod received a grant of \$50,000 from the CaSTLE project at Wartburg Seminary to assist in the development of support systems for SAM's and lay ministry leadership across the Synod. 6% of ELCA Congregations are now served by SAM's.
- Pastor Meredith Williams reported to the Assembly on the status of Virginia Lutheran Homes.
- Three congregations in the Synod either held its final service, were closed, or dissolved in 2024. Bethel Evangelical became a Reconciling in Christ Congregation.
- While at the Assembly I met with Rebecca Walls, Assistant to the Bishop for the Call Process.
- There will be no Assembly in 2026 due to financial concerns.

It was a long weekend for Darlene and I but it was also a spiritual and an inspiring one.

Peace and hope,

J. Patrick McCloud
Congregation President

Women at Grace and Glory Bible Study

The WAGG Bible Study group will be meeting the third Monday of the month, at 11 am on July 21st at the church. We shall be continuing a four-part Bible study about "Faithfulness."

Where is God in hard times, and what does it mean to be faithful?

In our first session we focused on "Faith where you are" as seen in the story of Ruth and Naomi. Like Ruth and Naomi, we respond to God's faithfulness by connecting to our faith, serving, and leaning on each other. In Session Two we saw how as we try to hold on to faith in difficult times, the words of Psalm 22 model a way to confess both pain and praise. It begins with a stark back-and-forth of despair, but ends with songs of praise and thankfulness for the psalmist's deliverance, for the assembly, and even for future generations. Last month in June we focused on Acts 10 to see how the Holy Spirit teaches Peter, the church and us to see others as God sees them. Finally, in July for our fourth session, we shall look at how Jairus and the Faithful Woman rely on God's faithfulness in times of difficulty. The Bible study we are doing in July is actually in the March/April/May 2025 issue of the Gather magazine published by the ELCA. We hope that you will be able to join us for a special time of fellowship and Bible study together on Monday July 21st at 11 am at the church. Right now, when many folks are caught up in quite unforeseen hard times, taking a good look at what it means to be faithful will serve us well.

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

Leadership Team meeting minutes

June 18, 2025

Members present: President Pat McCloud, Vice-President Chris Sterner, Darlene Baugh, Pastor William Strong, Lynn Wirth, Linda Bolling, Helen Ida Moyer
Guest: Mike Montgomery, Call Committee
Absent: Secretary George Gaige

Devotions – Pat McCloud read a devotion Inspired by Psalm 100 to remind us to serve the Lord with joy and gladness, be present and committed. One role of the leadership team is inspiring all the church members to serve the church with joy and gladness.

Time for Sharing -joys, concerns, hopes, etc. - Darlene and Pat reported that they enjoyed attending the Synod Assembly meeting earlier this month.

Approval of May 21, 2025, Minutes - A motion was made by Chris Sterner to approve the May minutes which was seconded by Darlene Baugh. All in attendance voted in favor of approval of the minutes.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastoral Care Update - Pastor Strong reported that he will not be leading Sunday service on June 22 and June 29 but will be on call for pastoral duties through the end of June. Supply pastors will be available for these dates. Pastor Strong advised that he had been able to visit with the Hansons and with Rachel Huddle, as well as spending considerable time with the Veters who are going through an extraordinarily difficult time now. A funeral service for their daughter has been scheduled to take place on June 28th in the Pavilion.

President's Report:

- Synod Assembly Report - Pat reported that the Synod Assembly last weekend in Salem was attended by over 300 people and he has submitted a Synod Assembly summary to Cindy for publication in the bulletin this week. The theme of the assembly was "Intertwining Hope" based on John 15:5. There were services, celebrations, and discussions about compensation for pastors. Pat spoke to a contested discussion at Synod regarding compensation for Pastors. Darlene described a possible member counseling/coaching program being formulated, possibly similar to the Stevens ministries that Mike Montgomery trained for. There will be no Synod Assembly next year due to financial constraints.

Call Process Update – Mike Montgomery

Mike reported that the Call Committee had a very positive video conference with a prospective Pastoral candidate. The Call Committee is planning to move forward with an in-person interview next week. Financial compensation discussions are still in process. Next steps in the process would be for a recommendation from the Call Committee to the Leadership Team. If approved after meeting with the LT, the candidate would be invited to lead a service at Grace and Glory followed by a vote by the Congregation.

Finance Team Reports / Recommendations:

- Chris Sterner reported that May was a pretty good month. We are about \$9,000 ahead for the year, primarily because we are not paying for a full-time Pastor. We are also running slightly ahead compared to last year in terms of contributions. Recent expenses included replacing computers for our Office Manager and Bookkeeper, and a 5% increase in our property insurance.

Approval of Treasurer's May Reports - A motion was made by Lynn Wirth to approve the Treasurer's reports. It was seconded by Linda Bolling and all members voted to approve the reports.

Old Business:

- Parking lot gravel update - Pat reported that both parking lots have had their gravel deliveries and are looking much better as a result. He asked for a motion to approve the expenditure of \$2,100 for the gravel. The motion to approve was made by Chris Sterner and seconded by Darlene Baugh. All members present voted to pass the motion and approve the expenditure.
- D-Day Update - Pat expressed appreciation for the Evangelism team members who conducted the decluttering of the church. All of the excess material was removed or is in the process of removal.
- Grace and Glory 25th Anniversary celebration – Lynn Wirth reported that the anniversary committee has met and narrowed the date down to two possible dates: March 21 or April 18. Possible catering companies are being contacted, and the Committee has decided that the event will be a luncheon and not a dinner. The Committee will meet next on July 7.
- 2024 Audit update - The audit is complete, and the auditing team's report is expected to be available for the next LT meeting
- Shepherding Program Meeting – Pat reported that an invitation will be sent out regarding a meeting to be held after the July 6th service to explain the Shepherding program to any interested members.

New Business

- Pastor's Contract renewal - Pastor Strong advised that his situation is changing and he may not be able to commit to another six months term as interim Pastor. He requested that his contract be drawn up for no more than three months. Pat agreed to revise his proposed contract for the requested three-month term. Helen Ida expressed the congregation's appreciation for Pastor Strong's loving service.
- Proposed New Ministry - Compensation Team - Pat proposed that we form a compensation team to set guidelines not only for a pastor's compensation, but for all paid employees of the church. A motion was made by Lynn Wirth to establish this team. The motion was seconded by Darlene and the motion was passed by all members present.
- Movie Night June 21st - Pat reminded the team that we will have a movie night on Saturday, June 21 where we will present the film "The Letter, a Message for Our Earth" in honor of Pope Francis.
- Outdoor Service June 22nd- A discussion was held about canceling the outdoor service on June 22 based on predicted high temperatures. It was decided to wait until Saturday, June 21 for a decision on whether or not to hold Sunday's service outdoors.
- Update on the Holy Land - Pastor Yates, who will be officiating at next Sunday's service will be available to provide an update on her recent travels to the Holy Land after Sunday's service.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment - President Pat McCloud read a brief closing prayer asking for God's guidance in our work on the Leadership Team

NEXT MEETING: August 20th @ 7:00 PM

Devotions: Darlene Baugh

Men's Breakfast

The men's group will meet for breakfast at Tangerines Kitchen, 32 Mill Creek Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22902, on Saturday, July 12th at 9:00 am. Please RSVP to Denny Avers at denny@avers.net or 434-989-9273.

Women's Breakfast

The women's group will meet for breakfast at Brazos Taco Bar, Barracks Road, 1133 Emmet St. N, Charlottesville, VA 22903 on Saturday, July 19th at 9:00 am. Please RSVP to Julie Dwyer at ejmartell1968@yahoo.com or 434-589-3836

OWLS July Luncheon

The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) Out to Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, July 1st, at 12:00 at the Asian Cafe. The restaurant is located on Turkeysag Trail, next to Mailbox Express. Let Linda Beaudoin know if you plan to attend - 434-589-2654 or email lmbeaudoin@aol.com.



Grace Note Submission

Because the email service from embarqmail has gotten poor, I am changing the email that I use for the newsletter to DuckyOaks@gmail.com. The old email will continue to work for several months but would appreciate a shift to the new one when possible. Please remember to submit your information for the August issue of Grace Note by Thursday, July 24th to LeRoy Moyer at DuckyOaks@gmail.com.

July Birthdays

Doug Rockafellow	1	LeRoy Moyer	7	Sandy Wisco	15
Michael Adams	2	Georgia Smith	13	Meredith Williams	16
Donald Hanson	2	Louise Jargowsky	14	Degra Kretsos	18
Jan Crowther	4				

GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

MAY 2025

INCOME:

General	\$14,475
Building	\$700
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$325
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$15,500
Other	\$333
<u>Total</u>	\$15,833

EXPENSES:

General	\$10,020
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$687
<u>Total</u>	\$13,366

GENERAL CHANGE	\$4,788
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$1,959

YTD MAY 2025

INCOME:

General	\$71,297
Building	\$5,505
Memorial	\$3,490
Designated	\$3,425
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$83,717
Other	\$2,164
<u>Total</u>	\$85,881

EXPENSES:

General	\$56,733
Building	\$13,295
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$6,667
<u>Total</u>	\$76,695

GENERAL CHANGE	\$16,728
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$7,790

Thank You

Grace and Glory has always been a generous congregation, and the following are a couple of the thank you notes that have recently been received. Thank you for being so generous.

Lynn Wirth



Date: 5-13-25

**The Fluvanna Christian Service Society
gratefully acknowledges your contribution.**

Donor: Grace + Glory Lutheran Church

Amount (\$): 687.00

A card has been sent in honor of: Thank you for
being one of our most loyal
supporters.

Treas., **Fluvanna Christian Service**

Your donation will help in continuing the Society's programs of Food Pantry, Emer. Fund, Ecumenical Worship, and the Annual Christmas "Happy Face" Party.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

February 12, 2024

Thank You

Grace And Glory Lutheran Church
683 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy
Palmyra, VA 22963-4834

Dear Grace And Glory Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,200.00 to ELCA World Hunger.

"[Jesus said,] 'Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' [The lawyer] said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'"
(Luke 10:36-37)

As a church, we are freed by the transformative life of Christ, and this freedom emboldens us to love and serve our neighbors just as Christ has shown us. Your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA help people around the world feel the power of God's love.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock and education, and it advances peace and justice. Through your gifts you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

Amanda White

Amanda White
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27	August 3
Minister	William Strong	Tom Frost	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong
Assisting Minister	Keith Weimer	Kevin Davidson	Paula Tomko	Richard Rognlie	Paula Tomko
Usher	Paul Crowther	Louise Jargowsky	Carol Parsons	Jan Crowther	TBD
Greeters	Julie & Joel Dwyer	Priscilla Fennell	Colleen & Chris Sterner	Louise Jargowsky	Lynn Wirth
Altar Guild	Mary Louise Rognlie	Julie Dwyer	Vikki McCloud	Terry Weese	Carol Parsons
Tellers	Vikki McCloud Mary Louise Rognlie	Paula Tomko Keith Weimer	Paul Crowther Pat McCloud	Jan Crowther Terry Weese	P. 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

Carol Parsons – (540) 748 0062

Lectors and Assisting Ministers

Paula Tomko – (434) 326-5533

Altar Guild/Greeters

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.

July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12pm OWLS -Asian Cafe	2 9am Cindy in Office	3 9am Cindy in Office	4 Holiday	5
6 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	7 9am Cindy in Office	8	9 9am Cindy in Office	10 11am 25 th Anniversary Committee Mtg. 4 pm Finance Mtg. (Zoom)	11 9am Cindy in Office	12 9am Men's breakfast – Tangerines Kitchen
13 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	14 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	15 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	16 9am Cindy in Office 7pm Leadership Team	17	18 9am Cindy in Office	19 9am Women's Breakfast - Brazos
20 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11am Coffee & Social Hour	21 9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study	22 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	23 9am Cindy in Office	24 Grace Notes Submissions Due Today	25 9am Cindy in Office	26
27 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	28 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters 2-6 Blood Drive	29 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	30 9am Cindy in Office	31		

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.



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

683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA 22963



Newsletter Deadline is **July 24, 2024**
to LeRoy Moyer at
DuckyOaks@gmail.com



683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA 22963