



# Grace Notes

## July 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,

What does it mean to be “free”? Back in 1980, the punk group Devo sang about “Freedom of Choice,” and most folks I talk with these days would agree. Freedom equals freedom of choice, freedom to choose, freedom to decide. And the more choices we have available to us, the more freedom we have. Right?

There’s a lot to be said for this understanding of freedom, especially when applied to public institutions like government, healthcare, education, the internet, and – above all else – a free market. (Sadly, at least to me, freedom **of** religion doesn’t figure very high on anybody’s list of important freedoms these days; except, perhaps, freedom **from** religion.)

I’ve lived in countries where educational, vocational, and economic opportunity were unevenly distributed – where the few made decisions for the many that, in turn, turned out to benefit the few. And it wasn’t very pleasant. Everyone wants to be heard. Everyone wants a fair shot at being able to try their best. One of the worst things we can do to another human being is deprive them of choice. We value autonomy, and rightly so.

Yet, I wonder. I wonder if in equating freedom with freedom of choice, we aren’t setting the bar too low; if we aren’t, in fact, settling for less than the real thing. Given what we know about heredity, about childhood experience and trauma, about social conditioning, about advertising, and especially given the rising prevalence of misinformation, just how pure, how autonomous, how rational, are our choices? How independent are our decisions about what to buy, who to believe, and how to vote?

Maybe the most essential freedom is not the freedom to choose, but the freedom to be – to be who and what we are created to be. Maybe that’s the real and only freedom – to be one with and in Christ. Maybe this is the real revolution. Luther called us to be always reforming, to always be starting again, to always be turning back to God, to always be choosing Jesus.

I’d say it’s time to choose, but I’m not so sure we’ve got any real choice in the matter.

Peace and All Good,  
- Pastor William

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What do visitors think when they come to Grace and Glory? Even before they physically set foot on the property what is their impression of us from our website, or our Facebook page? Are we welcoming? Is it easy for them to follow the Service? Can they navigate communion, and do they know what to do with their offering if they have one? Even basic things like do they know where the restrooms are? And finally, do they come back for a second visit?

The Evangelism Team has been focusing on seeing Grace and Glory through the eyes of a visitor. Most visitors begin their journey with our website. We have placed an emphasis on making sure the information on the website is current and accessible. We are also in the process of benchmarking with other churches to discover best practices when it comes to websites and Facebook pages. But we are not just focusing on digital marketing. We have created invitation cards for members to hand out to friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc. And we are publishing a monthly calendar of events in the *Fluvanna Review* thanks to the generosity of Edee Povol.

As for our property we have been busy sprucing things up. Thanks to the generosity of Carol Parsons, the tree stumps East of the parking lot have been removed. The Steeple, Shed, Pavilion, and combination bench /tables have been power washed. The rotting timbers by the playground have been removed. The weeds blocking our sign have been cut down. As they say in Real Estate, curb appeal is important. It says a lot about the people who dwell there.

But it's not just the outside property that needs attention. Issues with the building alarm system have been temporarily addressed, but a long-term fix is in order. And, just like our own homes, clutter is always an issue with church buildings. We have not had a real push to declutter the building since Pastor Meredith's arrival. Colleen Sterner, Lynn Wirth and others have been hard at work cleaning out closets, the kitchen, and eventually the library. A team is also meeting in July to work on the Nursery and hopefully the Sunday School closet.

So, what is a visitor's experience beyond the property and building? Now upon arrival visitors come face to face with a greeter. This dormant program has been brought back to life with an emphasis on making people feel welcome. We are also asking visitors for their contact information so we can follow up with them as well as keep them informed on what is happening at Grace and Glory. Information on Communion and the Offering Collection have been reintroduced to the Sunday bulletin. And finally first-time visitors receive a gift bag including a Grace and Glory mug, the current Newsletter, and a Devotions book.

A lot has been accomplished in the past few months but there is much more to do. That's where you come in. We need all hands-on deck. In the next few months we will be reaching out to you for your time, your talents, and perhaps a financial gift. Please give careful thought and prayer to our request.

Peace and hope,

*J. Patrick McCloud*

Congregation President

## Grace Notes

Please remember to submit your information for the August issue of Grace Notes by Monday, July 24th to LeRoy Moyer at [lee\\_helen@embarqmail.com](mailto:lee_helen@embarqmail.com).

## **The Leadership Team met on June 19, 2024**

*President's Report:* The Evangelism team agreed that the Pentecost worship service came up too quickly to expect positive results from invitations distributed in weeks leading up to that celebration. A contributing factor was the feeling that many people don't place Pentecost among other church celebrations such as Christmas and Easter, holidays that typically see people return to church on those occasions. The team also agreed on the importance of maintaining our Facebook page and website so that accurate, up-to-date information is there for visitors to those sites.

*Finance Committee Report:* George and Paul discussed the June Finance Report, pointing out that while contributions for this past January were much lower than in 2023 (due to contributions made in 2022 for church year 2023), contributions February through May were on par with last year. Although our month-to-month finances remain stable while we have our interim pastor, we would be falling behind if Pastor Meredith had not left, so we must carefully watch our expenditures.

*Old Business:* The LT Action Register was updated to reflect completion of the changeover in church insurer from Church Mutual to Brotherhood Mutual, effective June 2024. Also completed was renewal of the interim pastor contract with Pastor William Strong through end of 2024. His signed contract was forwarded to the Virginia Synod for their approval and signature.

All agreed that the approximate \$900 expense to have professionally power washed the pavilion, storage shed, playground equipment, exterior back wall of church AND the steeple was money well spent. To be considered is appropriate regular maintenance, possibly by the property team, to keep up with those cleanings so that we can avoid paying a professional unless absolutely necessary.

### *New Business:*

LT discussed a proposed schedule for the review of Grace & Glory's Policies and Procedures. Church officers, ministry team leaders and office staff that are familiar with and whose responsibilities are guided by various policies or procedures will be asked to participate in reviewing and updating the various documents that have been identified as most in need of review.

Under review is our congregation member roster, which still includes people who have not attended services for many years. Accuracy of our roster is important to Grace & Glory as well as the Virginia Synod, and a small group from the congregation is working to identify names that can be removed from that roster. LT will make final approval of those to be removed, and notification will be sent to those former members to confirm that they no longer wish to be considered as members of the congregation.

The Grace & Glory Audit Report for 2023 was presented and reviewed. The audit concluded that there were no areas of critical concern. Suggestions by the audit team focused on updates to several Policies and Procedures, which will be addressed in our upcoming review.

There will be no meeting of the LT in July.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Submitted by Paul Crowther, Secretary

## **Older, Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS)**

The OWLS will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, July 2nd at 12:00 pm at Asian Cafe, 265 Turkeysag Trail. Please let Linda Beaudoin know if you will attend. Linda can be reached at (434) 589-2654, or email at [lmbeaudoin@aol.com](mailto:lmbeaudoin@aol.com).



## Women at Grace and Glory Bible Study

The WAGG Bible Study group did not meet in June, but **we shall be meeting the third Monday in July!** We are meeting on **July 15th** at the home of Helen Ida at **11 am** to be followed by a light lunch at 12:30 pm. We continue with a special study from the Gather magazine on **Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith** which has four sessions: the first one, which we did in March, was on **Weather**, the second session in April focused on **Creatures**, and the third session in May focused on **Rivers**. For the fourth session, which we shall be doing in July, we shall be focusing on Food, since our faithful stewardship of the earth includes paying attention to the ways we eat! For **lunch** that day we shall be having a taco salad, made with black beans, cheese, lettuce and tomato. Hope that you will be able to join us on July 15th for a special time of fellowship, Bible study, and lunch together at **Helen Ida's home**, located on Route 53, just 17 minutes west of the church (at 1863 Thomas Jefferson Parkway). We should have some pretty good conversation since talking about food is always a good topic for discussion!

## Pride Bracelets for ELCA Youth Gathering

Jan Crowther of Grace & Glory Lutheran Church - Palmyra, VA and JoAnn Fawley of All Places Together (APT) gathered to make 208 bracelets.

Monday, July 8 - Bracelet Blessing at APT Zoom Communion. Join APT and everyone across the VA Synod who has made bracelets for worship and to bless the bracelets and pray for the youth and adults who will be attending the youth gathering in New Orleans. Sign up for communion zoom can be found at <https://www.allplacetogether.org/events>.

Submitted by JoAnn Fawley



## July Birthdays

Doug Rockafellow	1	LeRoy Moyer	7	Debra Kretsos	18
Michael Adams	2	Georgia Smith	13	Ann Holeywell	21
Katie Shifflette	2	Louise Jargowsky	14	Sue Pickett	21
Donald Hanson	2	Sandy Wisco	15	Jack Pitman	21
Jan Crowther	4	Meredith Williams	16		

## Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will meet on Saturday, July 13th at 9:00 a.m. at IHOP at Zion Crossroads. Please RSVP to Denny Avers at 434-989-9273 or [denny@avers.net](mailto:denny@avers.net).

## Women's Breakfast

The Women's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, July 20th at 9:00 at First Watch, Barracks Road, Charlottesville. Please RSVP to Julie Dwyer at 434-981-5613 or [ejmartell1968@yahoo.com](mailto:ejmartell1968@yahoo.com).

## Student Support

We have been asked to assist two recent Fluvanna County High School graduates as they start their freshman year at college. Their parent is out of work due to health issues & is unable to purchase the needed items for these teens. Lists with their requested items are posted in the Narthex. If you can purchase an item(s) on the list, please sign up and return the item(s) by Sunday, July 7th. Thank you!

### GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>MAY 2024</u>		<u>YTD MAY 2024</u>	
<b>INCOME:</b>		<b>INCOME:</b>	
General	\$10,989	General	\$68,436
Building	\$3,630	Building	\$9,731
Memorial	\$0	Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$335	Designated	\$3,875
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$14,954	<u>Total Donations</u>	\$82,042
Other	\$125	Other	\$1,553
<u>Total</u>	\$15,079	<u>Total</u>	\$83,595
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
General	\$8,539	General	\$48,896
Building	\$2,659	Building	\$13,295
Memorial	\$0	Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$200	Designated	\$2,636
<u>Total</u>	\$11,398	<u>Total</u>	\$64,827
<b>GENERAL CHANGE</b>	\$2,575	<b>GENERAL CHANGE</b>	\$21,093
<b>BUILDING CHANGE</b>	\$971	<b>BUILDING CHANGE</b>	-\$3,564

	<b>July 7</b>	<b>July 14</b>	<b>July 21</b>	<b>July 28</b>	<b>August 4</b>
<b>Minister</b>	William Strong	TBD	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Keith Weimer	Paula Tomko	Richard Rognlie	Kevin Davidson	Paula Tomko
<b>Usher</b>	Carol Parsons	Louise Jargowsky	Jan Crowther	Linda Boling	Carol Parsons
<b>Greeters</b>	Pat McCloud	Priscilla Fennell	Louise Jargowsky	Lynn Wirth	Robert Candea
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Vikki McCloud	Mary Louise Rognlie	Carol Parsons	Terry Weese	Julie Dwyer
<b>Tellers</b>	Keith Weimer & Paula Tomko	Mary Louise Rognlie & Keith Weimer	Paul Crowther & Paula Tomko	Jan Crowther & Terry Weese	Paula Tomko & 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

Carol Parsons – (434) 589-6068

#### 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](mailto: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](http://www.graceandglory.church)).

### **Prayer List Requests**

You may submit prayer requests to Cindy Anderson at [admin@graceandglory.org](mailto: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](http://www.graceandglory.church), includes a great deal of information that is updated regularly.

# July 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9am Cindy in Office	2 12pm OWLS Luncheon – Asian Café 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	3 9am Cindy in Office	4	5 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	6
7 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	8 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	9 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 – IHOP at Zion Crossroads
14 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	15 9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study @ Helen Ida's Home	16 2pm Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	17 9am Cindy in Office	18	19 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	20 9am Women's Breakfast - First Watch, Barracks Rd., Charlottesville
21 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11am Coffee and Social Hour after service	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	29 9am Cindy in Office	30 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	31 9am Cindy in Office			

**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](http://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](mailto: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 **July 24, 2024**  
to LeRoy Moyer at  
[Lee\\_Helen@embarqmail.com](mailto:Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com)



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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