

# Grace Notes

## August 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

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Website: [www.graceandglory.church](http://www.graceandglory.church)

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Phone: 804-517-2296

### Good People,

My mother does her best to keep family conversations away from politics and religion and yet here I am, talking about both. And that's not a pleasant or easy thing to do in this country at this time – a time when pastors are quitting in record numbers, a time when church memberships are dwindling down to almost nothing. Some Christians think that political engagement and social activism – of whatever stripe – will save the church, while other Christians seem equally convinced that politics and the pursuit of social justice are what's killing the church. What, then, are we to think? Does politics belong in church?

To begin to answer that very tense question, I think we need to first understand what we mean by “politics.” According to the Online Etymological Dictionary, the word “politics” ultimately comes from the Greek *politikos*, “pertaining to public life,” which comes from *polites*, “citizen,” which in turn comes from *polis*, “city.” At its most basic, “politics” refers to the ways we practice being with each other when we are together, it's about working together for the common good. And Christianity has plenty to say about how and why we work together for the common good. To say that in another way, not only do Christianity and politics belong together, but there is a distinctly Christian form of politics – a way of publicly being together based on the life and example of Christ, a life and example of love, faith, self-sacrifice, and non-violence.

The real argument among Christians doesn't seem to be so much in what Jesus did or said. We all know what Jesus means when he tells us to turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, pray for our enemies, and do good for those who hate us. We know what Jesus wants us to do, we simply don't want to do it. And so we push politics out of the pulpit, dividing our lives into a “religious” part that happens on Sunday mornings and a “real” part that happens everywhere else. We listen to sermons about peace, love, and understanding at church but then once we leave the church parking lot, we speak, act and vote out of anger, hate, and misunderstanding. All in the name of “being realistic.” All in the name of “getting things done.”

I remember an exchange between an audience member and a famous theologian lecturing on Christian non-violence and social justice. During the Q&A someone criticized the speaker for being “unrealistic.” Speaking about Jesus' example and expectations, the person complained “It's not possible to live a life like his in real life.” “It is possible,” the theologian replied. “It is possible to live a life like his if you are willing to die a death like his.” And that's what it comes down to, doesn't it? Are we willing to take up our cross, die to self, and follow Christ into the kingdom of God, into eternal life – a life that begins here and now and never, ever ends?

Martin Luther talked compellingly about the differences between a “theology of glory” and a “theology of the cross.” While notoriously difficult to directly express, I believe the essence of Luther's thinking about the

centrality of suffering and the cross can be summed up with Paul's words from I Corinthians 13 (from the *First Nations Version*):

"Love is patient and kind. Love is never jealous. It does not brag or boast. It is not puffed up or big-headed. Love does not act in shameful ways, nor does it care only about itself. It is not hot-headed, nor does it keep track of wrongs done to it. Love is not happy with lies and injustice, but truth makes its heart glad. Love keeps walking even when carrying a heavy load. Love keeps trusting, never loses hope, and stands firm in hard times. The road of love has no end."

"The road of love has no end." That means we never need give in to fear or bitterness or doubt. That means we cleave to love, with all its sacrifice and delight. That means we turn aside from power politics, cynicism, and the temptations of anger and outrage. Think of it like this: during the last week of his life, Jesus rode into town on the back of a donkey. That same day, the new imperial governor, Pilate, entered Jerusalem at the head of a military parade. One political movement worked by love. The other political movement worked by force. The politics of love has outlasted the empire of force by several centuries. Right now, there are two parades passing through our lives. One parade is led by Jesus, the other by Caesar. It's time to decide which parade we're going to join. It's time to decide whose politics we serve. We can't sit on the sidelines much longer. The world is waiting. And so is God. Amen.

Peace and All Good,  
- Pastor William

### **Save the Date**

Our second Pie Auction to support the Food Bank will be on September 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping to plan this event, please contact Stephanie Wirth at [wirthstephanie@hotmail.com](mailto:wirthstephanie@hotmail.com). There is also a sign-up sheet posted on the kiosk in the Narthex.

### **Men's Breakfast**

The men's group will meet for breakfast on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at Boyd Tavern Market (Moose's), 4842 Richmond Rd (On US-250, just east of intersection with Union Mills Rd.) in Keswick. If the weather is unsuitable for outdoor seating, we'll go to Zion Crossroads IHOP. Please RSVP to Denny Avers at [denny@avers.net](mailto:denny@avers.net) or 434-989-9273.

### **Women's Breakfast**

The women's group will meet for breakfast at IHOP in Zion Crossroads on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Please RSVP to Julie Dwyer at [ejmartell1968@yahoo.com](mailto:ejmartell1968@yahoo.com) or 434-981-5613.

### **OWLS August Luncheon**

The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) Out to Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, at noon at Wahoo BBQ, 10 Centre Court, across from the Fire & Rescue. Please let Linda Beaudoin know if you plan to attend. 434-589-2654, or [lmbeaudoin@aol.com](mailto:lmbeaudoin@aol.com).



### **Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

For those of you who did not see Bishop Eaton's response to the recent filing concerning the Johnson Amendment I have included a summary of the ELCA's response below. I have also included links to ELCA

resources regarding civic engagement. I don't have to tell you that these are indeed turbulent times but it's important that we remember that while we can engage in robust advocacy work, that work is rooted in priorities framed by ELCA social teaching and our Lutheran vocation to love and serve our neighbors.

Peace and hope,

*J. Patrick McCloud*

Congregation President

### **ELCA Response to the IRS Ruling on Political Activity**

On July 17, 2025, The ELCA responded to a recent filing in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas that could signal a shift in the IRS's interpretation of the Johnson Amendment, potentially allowing increased political activity by churches and religious nonprofits.

The Johnson Amendment, enacted in 1954, restricts 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations, including churches, from endorsing or opposing political candidates. While this provision limits partisan campaign activity, it does not prohibit issue advocacy, nonpartisan voter education, or robust civic engagement.

The ELCA has consistently supported the Johnson Amendment and has guided its congregations in honoring its intent. The ELCA's proposed social statement *Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All* states that "it is not the church's role to endorse candidates or parties." Individual members may of course advocate based on their conscience, but not as representatives of the Church.

Relaxing the Johnson Amendment would open the door to political pressure within congregations and risk politicizing the proclamation of the gospel. The ELCA joins other religious and nonprofit organizations in urging that the Johnson Amendment be upheld. Maintaining its protections allows churches to speak boldly on social and political issues while preserving the clarity of our gospel witness and the separation of church and state.

ELCA congregations are encouraged to remain civically active in faithful, nonpartisan ways: hosting voter forums, engaging in advocacy, encouraging voting, and forming citizens grounded in gospel values. This is not a retreat from public life-it is our faithful participation in it.

#### **ELCA resources for civic engagement**

- [Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective](#) (1991), ELCA social statement
- [ELCA Civic Engagement Guide](#)
- ["Being a Public Church: Guidance for Churches and Clergy Participating in the Electoral Process"](#)
- *Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All*, proposed social statement for action at the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly action.

### **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](mailto: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 September issue of Grace Note by Sunday, August 24th to LeRoy Moyer at [DuckyOaks@gmail.com](mailto:DuckyOaks@gmail.com).

### **All Blessings Flow Funding**

All Blessings Flow is a local faith-based nonprofit that provides medical equipment and supplies to adults and children throughout Central Virginia. Over the past few weeks, All Blessings Flow (ABF) received some disappointing news from two of its major funders. ABF received major funding from Sentara Cares for several years, and they budgeted for \$40,000 this year. Sentara recently called and said their funding was down a bit this year, and they are refocusing some of their grant funding priorities. As a result, they are only giving ABF \$8,000 this year.

ABF heard similar news from the Anne and Gene Worrell Foundation shortly thereafter. ABF received a significant grant from them last year. Unfortunately, due to changes in public funding for some of Worrell Foundation grantees, they told ABF they have decided to go back to serving only a few healthcare nonprofits that they have funded the longest relationships with. As a result, they said they would give ABF \$10,000 this year (instead of the \$50,000 that had been budgeted for) and that they would no longer support ABF after this year.

So, in just two weeks, All Blessings Flow lost \$72,000 of funding from this year's budget. ABF has several other grants that they have not yet heard from that may also be reevaluating their funding priorities. Of course, this hits when ABF is looking at an increase of another \$150,000+ in their budget for leasing their current space (or for a new space). And all this is happening when ABF is experiencing unprecedented demand for its services. In May 2025, ABF set an all-time monthly record by serving nearly 1100 clients.

God has been working through All Blessings Flow from day one. He took an Occupational Therapist and a Science teacher (Annie and Douglas Dodd) and told them to start a medical equipment mission. Annie and Doug had no business expertise and did not know what they were doing, but they followed His call. They began serving 198 people in the first year from under their carport of their house to serving 9,500 people last year from a 10,000 sq ft warehouse. According to Annie, "That had nothing to do with us but everything to do with God! We were blessed with a landlord who discounted our rent dramatically over the years, which allowed us to expand from one warehouse unit eventually to four."

All Blessings Flow has a thousand little stories of how someone needed a specific piece of equipment, and they didn't have it, but then days later, they received a donation of the exact item that was needed = only God! ABF never dreamt when they first started this mission how huge it would become. And they believe God has so much more in store! Please keep praying for God's miracles to provide the funding and space All Blessings Flow needs to keep this amazing mission going and growing!

*Submitted by Beth Jenkins*

**Counting Our Blessings**  
(since 2015)

**39K+**  
Families Served

**160K+**  
Items Given Out

**\$10.8 M+**  
Total Dollars ABF Has Saved  
Our Clients

**1.3 M+**  
Pounds of Material Reused  
and Repurposed

**17 M+**  
Pounds of Greenhouse Gas  
Emissions Prevented

### August Birthdays

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

### Women at Grace & Glory Bible Study

The next gathering of the Women at Grace & Glory for a Bible Study will take place at **11 am on August 18**, the third Monday of the month, **at the home of Helen Ida Moyer** (located 17 minutes west of the church at

1863 Thomas Jefferson Parkway). We shall be starting a new Bible Study on what the families of Scripture can teach us about healthy, **flourishing relationships**. Our first session will focus on relationships that form us. We shall be looking at how Jacob and Esau and Mary and Martha's relationships can help us put our own family relationships into perspective. This Bible study is in the June, July, August issue of the Gather magazine published by the ELCA. At 12:30 pm after the Bible study we shall have lunch together, a nice refreshing taco salad for a warm summer day. We hope that you will be able to join us for a special time of fellowship together. **Please RSVP** to let Helen Ida know whether you will be able to come. Thanks, and looking forward to seeing you that third Monday in August. The summer sure is flying by!

*Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer*

### **Thank You Note & Volunteer Opportunities from Fluvanna Christian Service Society**

The Fluvanna Christian Service Society would like to thank you for your past generous donations to our Happy Face Christmas Party.

We are already starting to plan for the 2025 Happy Face Party and hope we can continue to count on your support.

To have the party this year, we need to find more volunteers to help us. Our Toy Coordinator, who has been with us for the past 9 years, is stepping down, and we need to find some people to replace her. We have divided the position into several volunteer opportunities and hope members of your church might be willing to join us in this wonderful endeavor. The positions we need filled are:

Toy Coordinator who will sort the collected toys and shops for new ones.

Raffle Coordinator who will take the larger toys designated for the Raffle and set them up the evening before the party and oversee the raffle the day of the party. Some bikes may need to be assembled.

Volunteer Coordinator who will contact prior volunteers and recruit new ones to help the Toy Coordinator sort the toys, set up the Toy Room the night before the party, and help on the day of the Party.

If you can help in any of these areas, please email [gladysalbright@comcast.net](mailto:gladysalbright@comcast.net).

The Food Pantry continues to need volunteers. Help is needed Monday through Friday between 9 am and 2 pm. If you can help, please contact the Food Pantry Director, Sazette Miller, at (434) 987-9887.

Help is also needed between 9 am and 2 pm for the MACAA Thrift Store, located in the same building as the Food Pantry. If you can help, please contact Bertha Armstrong at [barmstrong@MACAA.org](mailto:barmstrong@MACAA.org).

Sincerely,  
Gladys Albright  
FCSS

### **Back-to-School Supply Drive**

School supply donations are due on Sunday, August 3rd. What is needed:

- 1" or 1.5" 3 ring binders
- College ruled loose leaf notebook paper
- Subject dividers



- 3 Subject notebooks
- Composition notebooks
- 2 pocket plastic folders
- Plastic pocket folders with prongs
- Post-it Notes
- Pencil pouches
- Pencils
- Pens (blue or black ink)
- Highlighters
- Pencil sharpeners (handheld)
- Ear buds or headphones
- Scientific Calculators
- Sturdy backpacks for older students

Please contact Lynn Wirth at 908-672-3288 or [lynnrwirth@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnrwirth@hotmail.com) with any questions.

### **GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT**

#### **JUNE 2025**

##### **INCOME:**

General	\$13,804
Building	\$550
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$305
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$14,659
Other	\$323
<u>Total</u>	\$14,982

##### **EXPENSES:**

General	\$12,445
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$325
<u>Total</u>	\$15,429

**GENERAL CHANGE**    \$1,682

**BUILDING CHANGE**    -\$2,109

#### **YTD JUNE 2025**

##### **INCOME:**

General	\$85,102
Building	\$6,055
Memorial	\$3,490
Designated	\$3,730
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$98,377
Other	\$2,488
<u>Total</u>	\$100,865

##### **EXPENSES:**

General	\$69,178
Building	\$15,954
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$6,992
<u>Total</u>	\$92,124

**GENERAL CHANGE**    \$18,412

**BUILDING CHANGE**    -\$9,899

### **Bishop's Statement on Immigration**

*“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God” (Leviticus 19:33-34).*

I write to you today with grave concern. Over the past few days, ELCA leaders and ministry partners have shared with me the immediate impacts of recent executive orders focused on immigration. Many of us in the ELCA come from immigrant peoples. As Lutherans, we have a long tradition of hospitality, dating back to the end of World War II, of helping displaced Lutheran refugees, assisting subsequent refugee groups and welcoming new immigrants. Our church has long called for compassionate, just and wise immigration reform.

Today, recent immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced people are members of our congregations, communities and leadership. The presence of newcomers heightens our awareness of issues of relevance to the church so we can take part in faithful deliberation on public policies, like the ones that have come out in recent days. Our church's grave concerns grow out of these experiences with the people being affected.

Keeping communities safe and supporting the well-being of all people is a goal shared by the ELCA. Yet it's worth naming that these executive actions are increasing fear and division within our society. Some people, including U.S. citizens, are alarmed about immigration enforcement at churches, schools and playgrounds. Some are afraid to seek care at hospitals or to access essential services.

The Scriptures are clear. We are called to see anew the image of God in our immigrant neighbors. Following God's call in Leviticus 19 that is echoed throughout Scripture, the time is now.

The ELCA supports the view that nations have the responsibility to protect their borders and safeguard their communities. However, these policies must cause "neither undue repercussions within immigrant communities nor bias against them" ("Immigration" social message, page 7). Just policies include recognition of the humanity of immigrants without status, respect for the dignity of those at the border and refuge for displaced people.

It is my sincere hope as bishop that various harmful actions will be reconsidered. It is my fervent prayer that we, as church together, will be bold in our witness and actions. ELCA church wide ministries will continue to provide resources to protect the most vulnerable among us.

As a sanctuary denomination, the ELCA proclaims walking with immigrants as a matter of faithfulness. The ELCA does not call for activity contrary to the law but for congregations, leaders and individuals to explore resources addressing how to interpret this memorial to their own contexts. Most of all, I encourage all to discern together how to live our faith, excluding none from God's overflowing love.

God calls us to welcome the stranger and love the sojourner as we love ourselves. I pray for God's grace to increase understanding of and mercy toward immigrants in these days.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

	<b>August 3</b>	<b>August 10</b>	<b>August 17</b>	<b>August 24</b>	<b>August 31</b>	<b>September 7</b>
<b>Minister</b>	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Kevin Davidson	Paula Tomko	Keith Weimer	Richard Rognlie	Keith Weimer	TBD
<b>Usher</b>	Carol Parsons	Louise Jargowsky	Jan Crowther	Paul Crowther	Linda Bolling	Carol Parsons
<b>Greeters</b>	Lynn Wirth	Robert Candea	Julie & Joel Dwyer	Pat McCloud	Priscilla Fennell	Chris & Colleen Sterner
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Carol Parsons	Vikki McCloud	Mary Louise Rognlie	Terry Weese	Carol Parsons	Julie Dwyer
<b>Tellers</b>	Paul Crowther Mary Louise Rognlie	Paula Tomko Mary Louise Rognlie	Paul Crowther Keith Weimer	Jan Crowther Terry Weese	Keith Weimer 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 – (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](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.



# August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	2
3 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	4 9am Cindy in Office	5 12pm OWLS Luncheon – Wahoo BBQ 6:30pm AA Meeting	6 9am Cindy in Office	7	8 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	9 9am Men's breakfast – Boyd Tavern Market
10 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	11 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	12 6:30pm AA Meeting	13 9am Cindy in Office	14 Evangelism Meeting 2:00 PM	15 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	16 9am Women's Breakfast - IHOP, Zion Crossroads
17 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11am Coffee and Social Hour after service	18 9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study	19 6:30pm AA Meeting	20 9am Cindy in Office 7pm Leadership Team	21	22 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	23
24 Grace Notes Submissions Due Today 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live	25 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	26 6:30pm AA Meeting	27 9am Cindy in Office	28	29 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	30
31 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live						

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 **August 24, 2024**  
to LeRoy Moyer at  
DuckyOaks@gmail.com



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