



Grace Notes

March 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

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: 804-51-2296

Good People,

The word “Lent” comes from an old English word that means “lengthen” and refers to the lengthening days of Spring with their arrival of sunshine, warm weather, and the gradual greening of a brown winter world. From this point of view, we are all “keeping” Lent by the mere fact that we are living through this springtime season. Sitting with this understanding of Lent, the question becomes not one of whether to keep Lent – all of Creation keeps Lent – but how to keep it. What does Lent mean for each of us here and now, this spring, this March?

In the Early Church, Lent was the final culmination of a three year training and preparation program for baptism and entrance into the Christian life. By Late Antiquity and the Early Medieval period, Lent was less about new Christians entering the church and more about estranged Christians coming home. Post-Reformation, Lent now carries a more personal and interior meaning – a time of individual repentance and spiritual renewal...a sort of spring cleaning for the soul. Of course, for some of us, maybe many of us, Lent seems a mixture of all three. We encounter as if for the first time this astonishing God of Love and Mystery who continually invites us into greater and greater intimacy. We return to the God who sought us out before we even knew we were lost. And we prepare the Temple Within so that the Spirit of our Lord may enter with all grace and glory.

Rather than giving something up this Lent, I encourage us all to try something new, to develop a new habit. Perhaps it's some time in silent prayer at the beginning and/or ending of our day. Perhaps we might memorize each week the psalm from Sunday's worship. Perhaps we might spend time outside each day, moving our bodies and encountering the natural world, or at least the natural world in our neighborhood. Perhaps we might anonymously volunteer some time or money to a local arts or community organization. And most of all, we can be with each other more in church. We must all make this journey for ourselves, yet none of us can walk this way alone. I look forward to seeing you all at the Wednesday devotional lunches and the Lenten evening services. It's a privilege to be traveling with you all on this faith pilgrimage.

Peace and All Good,
Pastor William

PS – If your schedule doesn't permit participation in the Lenten devotional lunches yet you “hunger” for a small group or devotional experience during Lent, please see me with your constructive suggestions – with a small group of dedicated people, anything can be accomplished!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last month I wrote about our three key ministry initiative for 2024 and how we have already started working on our Intentional Evangelism initiative. Working with a consultant from the *Center for Generosity* we have identified the 5 steps to Evangelism & Outreach:

Identify who you want to target as potential members.

Inform your potential target members about Grace & Glory's story.

Inspire

Ask

Thank

The Evangelism Team has identified who we want to target. We think the best opportunity to grow our Congregation is to seek out people who are relocating to the greater Charlottesville area but are already churched. Specifically, we think we should zero in on the Lake Monticello area and its surrounding communities, as well as the Spring Creek area. There are literally hundreds of people relocating to these areas with a good percentage of these folks close to or have already retired, and this is the demographic where you will find people who already belong to a church. Many of them will be or already are looking for a new church. That church could be Grace and Glory.

We are also reaching out by phone and in writing to our inactive members. The goal is to invite 100 people to our Easter service. That's where you come in. Lutherans typically are very squeamish when it comes to Evangelism. Louise Jargowsky shared this joke with the Evangelism Team: "What do you get when you cross a Jehovah's Witness with a Lutheran? Someone who will knock on your door and not say anything." Well, it's time to say something and we'll help you with the script. At our most recent Leadership Team meeting Helen Ida commented that Sue Pickett would say that the easiest way to start the conversation is to ask, 'Do you have a home church?' If no, then there's your opening. All you would have to do is hand them a card.

We are hoping that we could get each active member to hand out a total of 3 cards to a neighbor, friend, co-worker, or God forbid, a stranger, inviting them to Easter service. The card will contain the invitation along with all the information they need to find us. You just need to give it to them. More to come.

Peace and hope,

J. Patrick McCloud
Congregation President

Pastoral Search Team

Our Pastor search team met with the Synod representative Thursday evening the 22nd of February. She has reviewed our site profile, and it was approved and posted for prospective potential candidates to see on Monday the 26th. The next step will be for the Synod to give us up to three names at a time, as available, to review. There will be a progress diagram posted in the Narthex for everyone to see. We are looking forward to the next steps in this process.

Yours in Christ,

Michael Montgomery

The Leadership Team (LT) met on February 21, 2024.

Welcome to new members: New members welcomed to the LT were Helen Ida Moyer, Linda Bolling, and George Gaige.

Leadership Team Roles and Responsibilities: Pat distributed Chapter 12 of our constitution which offers guidance to the LT in service to the church.

Vice-President: Chris Sterner was approved as LT vice-president.

Secretary to LT: Paul Crowther was approved as secretary.

Current Ministry Team leaders and vacancies were identified:

Administration: Vacant

Evangelism: Helen Ida Moyer

Fellowship & Hospitality: Lynn Wirth

Finance: Chris Sterner

Parish Life & Care: Vacant

Property & Grounds: Bob Candea

Social Justice & Outreach: Colleen Sterner

Stewardship: Pat McCloud

Worship & Music: Julie Dwyer

Congregation President Pat McCloud shared an Excel document to track LT task assignments. The Leadership Team Action Register allows the team to track progress of individual assignments. As secretary, Paul will handle updates to the Action Register and reporting to the LT.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Strong expressed his gratefulness for the opportunity to serve as our interim pastor. He did explain that he needs help planning pastoral visits with the congregation. He described past difficulties trying to contact members, and so encouraged everyone to spread the word that if anyone seeks a visit to call HIM instead of the other way around because that has proven to be much more efficient. Pastor William Strong can be reached at 804-517-2296 or by calling the church at 434-589-2217

President's Report: Pat shared his recently completed Congregation Report for 2023, to be sent to the Synod that offers an accurate picture of our present congregation numbers (including financial stewardship) and changes since the previous report.

An update to our Evangelism Initiative was given, including the date of the next group Zoom meeting (March 7 at 2PM at church via Zoom).

Finance Committee reports: The January Finance report to the congregation was approved.

A list of Designated Funds was reviewed for status updates with several recommendations made to merge monies into more appropriate funds in order to improve bookkeeping efforts.

Old Business:

Steeple cleaning: Waiting for better weather

Chili Cook-Off: was a big success and more events like this need to be planned

Church Register: Ongoing; more accurate member contact information is essential

Sanctuary Lighting: Congregation member Steve Jenkins will address some of the bulb replacements

New Business:

Bread for the World: LT will review the mission statement of Bread for the World so we can better understand how to proceed in its support.

Synod Assembly: will be held April 27th from 9AM-to Noon, via Zoom. More information to follow.

2023 Audit Committee: Chris will draft a list of candidates to conduct the 2023 audit.

Annual reviews of staff: Pat discussed the importance of annual reviews and feedback to our paid staff, including the pastor.

Chili Cook-off

On Saturday, February 3 a hungry group of Grace and Glory members gathered for a tradition of a chili cook-off. As you can see from the pictures there was a good turnout, and everyone probably ate more than they should of the various flavorful pots of food. If you look closely, you can even see some old members came back for this great event. The best chili and soup were awarded the annual awards. Many thanks go to Bob Candea for making this all possible and also to Linda Candea for the wonderful decorations.



Women at Grace and Glory (WAGG)

The WAGG Bible Study group will be meeting again this month at 11 am on Monday March 18 at the church. We shall be starting a new study on Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith which has four sessions over the next four months: the first one this month is on Weather, focusing on Biblical stories of extraordinary weather which convict and humble us, showing us how to live faithfully. The second session 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 the first session on Weather. 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 March 18 at 11 am at the church.

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

We Are Family

It's always fun to reconnect and share a meal with church family that you don't get to see often. And for a good cause!

Several members of Grace & Glory headed into Charlottesville Friday, February 2, for a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. The dinner was hosted by Our Lady of Peace. Their facility made all the food and welcomed a great crowd of hungry guests. Funds raised by this event were designated for All Blessings Flow, a great non-profit organization that makes medical equipment available through donations of money and donated pre-owned medical equipment such as wheelchairs, shower benches, transfer chairs, etc. They are extremely helpful in finding you whatever you need at little or no cost.

The best part of this dinner was meeting up with G&G members Ruth Haverstrom, Janice Brown, and Sue Pickett - all now residents of Our Lady of Peace, and Barbara Haas, now a resident of RoseWood Village, right down the street.

We all had plenty of laughs and good conversation and lots of spaghetti.



Pictured here are (clockwise from right) Barbara Haas, Louise Jargowsky, Priscilla Fennell, Ruth Haverstrom, Jan Crowther, Paul Crowther, and Janice Brown. Sue Pickett and her daughter, Abby, also joined us but called it an early night. A good time was had by all.

The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)



The OWLS Out to Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, March 5, at 12:00 at the Tavern on the Green in Spring Creek. The address is 109 Clubhouse Way, Zion Crossroads. Enter the Main Gate and tell the guard you are going to the restaurant. RSVP to Linda Beaudoin at 434-589-2654 or email at lbeaudoin@aol.com.

GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY 2024

INCOME:

General	\$16,049
Building	\$1,488
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$1,774
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$19,311
Other	\$217
<u>Total</u>	\$19,528

EXPENSES:

General	\$10,150
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$662
<u>Total</u>	\$13,471

GENERAL CHANGE	\$6,116
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$1,171

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March Birthdays

Gabriele Ford	1	Lee Ward	8	Melanie Brooks	26
Mike Montgomery	5	Rob Milstead	19	Pam Hokanson	29
Barbara Haas	7	Matthew Farist	25		

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 March 24.



Grace and Glory is accepting Easter Lily orders to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. The cost of each Easter Lily is \$15. Please make checks payable to “Grace and Glory” and note “Easter Lily” in the memo line. Please fill out the form below with an optional dedication, which will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Orders need to be in by Sunday, March 17th. You can turn in your order form with your Sunday offering or leave it in the church office’s mail cubby located in the alcove with the photocopier.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Candea at 434-960-7336.

Name: _____

Number of lilies ordered: _____

Total cost: \$ _____

Dedication (optional) for bulletin:
(example: given in memory of...or in honor of...)

*** Please take your Easter Lilies home following the service. If you will not be in attendance on Easter Sunday, please contact the church office at 434-589-2217 to make alternate arrangements.**

	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31	April 7
Minister	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong
Assisting Minister	Carol Parsons	Keith Weimer	Kevin Davidson	Paula Tomko	Keith Weimer	Richard Rognlie
Usher	Gaby Ford	Louise Jargowsky	Paul Crowther	Carol Parsons	Carol Parsons	Gaby Ford
Altar Guild	Carol Parsons	Vikki McCloud	Mary Louise Rognlie	Julie Dwyer	Terry Weese	Julie Dwyer
Tellers	Keith Weimer Paula Tomko	Keith Weimer Vikki McCloud	Paul Crowther Mary Louise Rognlie	Jan Crowther Terry Weese	Keith Weimer Paula Tomko	Vikki McCloud Paula 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/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.

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	2
3 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	4 9am Cindy in Office 11 am Finance Meeting	5 12pm OWLS Luncheon at Tavern on the Green 6:30pm AA Meeting	6 9am Cindy in Office 12 pm Lenten Lunch – Cunningham UMC	7	8 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	9 9:30 am Men's breakfast at Tavern on the Green in Spring Creek
10 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	11 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	12 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	13 9am Cindy in Office 12 pm Lenten Lunch – Salem UMC	14	15 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	16 9am Women's Breakfast at IHOP in Zion Crossroads
17 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11am Coffee and Social Hour after service 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	18 9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study	19 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	20 9am Cindy in Office 12 pm Lenten Lunch – Palmyra UMC (soup provided by all churches) 7pm Leadership Team Meeting	21	22 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	23
24 Grace Notes Submissions Due Today 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	25 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	26 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	27 9am Cindy in Office	28 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service – Cunningham UMC	29 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting 7 pm Good Friday Service at G&G	30
31 6:30 am Easter Sunrise Service at Fluvanna County Dog Park 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir 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 March **24, 2024**
to LeRoy Moyer at
Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com



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