

Grace Notes



October 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: 804-517-2296

Good People,

Many Christians around the world remember and honor St. Francis of Assisi by celebrating his feast day in early October, and we here at Grace & Glory will join in that celebration with a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, the 5th at 3:00 p.m. Animals need to be pet and people friendly and contained with leash or carrier. Animals who cannot be present due to disposition or other reasons can be blessed in absentia or using a photo. Small children are welcome to bring stuffed animals!!

Now, some of us might not know a whole lot about St. Francis other than that he preached to the birds (and that a lot of our neighbors like to put his statue in their gardens). Some of us may be familiar with Francis' "Canticle of the Sun" where he praises God for Brother Sun and Sister Moon, Brother Wind and Sister Water, Mother Earth, and Sister Death. Others of us may have heard the quote often ascribed to St. Francis which advises us to "preach the gospel at all times and, if necessary, use words." But there is much more to this medieval Italian mystic than his image in popular culture would suggest.

In 1219, when Francis would have been in his late 30's, he traveled to the Egyptian city of Damietta, a port on the eastern side of the Nile delta about 120 miles north of Cairo. There, Christian soldiers of the Fifth Crusade had been attacking the city for over a year. After a particularly vicious and bloody battle on August 29th, a four-week cease fire was declared. At some point during this month of exhausted peace, Francis entered the war weary city and managed to spend four days meeting with the Sultan of Egypt and preaching to the Muslim population. We don't know what Francis and the Sultan said to each other, but we do know that Francis left the city alive, and that to this day Franciscans remain welcome in places other Christians are not.

I share this story with you all because I think it has something to say to us here and now, living in times when many of us feel besieged – surrounded and attacked – by forces that confuse and frighten us. On the one hand, it has never seemed so important to do something. On the other hand, it has never seemed so difficult to discern what to do. The temptation to retreat inside our fortress walls and pull up the drawbridge can be overwhelming. We're all beginning to shut down. We're all beginning to harden our hearts. We've all stopped listening.

In these last, difficult weeks before the election, let's declare our own cease fire, let's stop fighting with and among ourselves, let's stop taking prisoners. Instead, let's pay a little more attention to the stranger in our midst – whether that's a newcomer to our church, our neighborhood, our nation, or even a new and unexpected pull to the inner life. Let's open the doors and let down the drawbridge, trusting that it's Jesus waiting to enter. We don't need to fear the future – only ourselves, only ourselves. Amen.

Peace and All Good,

- Pastor William

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

On November 3rd we will celebrate **All Saints Day**. This festival is an occasion to remember those who have died in the Christian faith. In some Lutheran churches, the names of those within the congregation who have died in the last year are read during worship and each name is marked with the tolling of a bell or the lighting of a candle. While the dead are solemnly remembered during worship on All Saints' Sunday, the festival is, ultimately, a celebration of Christ's victory over death.

In some faiths it is also a day to give thanks to those who have guided others to Christ, like a friend or relative. Around the world, there are many traditions woven into All Saints' Day, from the laying of flowers on graves on November 1 to the Mexican Day of the Dead — which honors children who have passed on, on the holiday's first day — not to mention Halloween in the U.S. and Canada, a celebration that originally was in large part linked to All Saints' Day.

It is also an opportunity for Evangelism. You'll recall last Easter that we made a real effort to invite a neighbor, a friend, a co-worker, or even a stranger to our Easter Service. I'd like to see us try that again for All Saints Day. Please consider taking one invitation card from the table in the Narthex and giving it to someone who would like to remember a loved one on this special festival day. The card will contain the invitation along with all the information they need to find us. You just need to give it to them.

Peace and hope,

J. Patrick McCloud

Congregation President

Flu and Covid Season

Covid has been making the rounds of Central Virginia. A number of our members have already contracted the latest variant. The CDC has said that Covid will behave similar to flu strains in that it will appear periodically but will be particularly worrisome in the Fall as we begin to spend more time indoors. They are recommending that you should get both a Covid shot, and a Flu shot. The new Covid vaccine is now available. The CDC also says that you can get both inoculations at the same time and that you should get your flu shot before the end of October.

We are not asking people to wear masks at this time, but you are certainly welcome to do so. We want to make sure that we can continue to worship in person but that we do it in a safe and healthy manner. Shaking hands during the 'Peace' is not a good idea right now. We do clean the baptismal font but be aware that this is also a potential source of infection. We are not recommending any changes to our communion practices at this time, but the Leadership Team will continue to monitor the situation and react accordingly.

Peace, Hope, and good Health to you all,

The Leadership Team of Grace and Glory

Blessing of the Animals

Grace & Glory will host a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 5th at 3:00 pm. Please invite your friends & family to bring their furry friends to the Pavilion.

Leadership Team Meeting Summary

The Leadership Team met on Sept. 18, 2024.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Strong has been busy calling and visiting ill members of the congregation. He remains pleased with how smoothly things function in his occasional absences and with the continuing warm reception received from the congregation.

President's Report: Positive things observed this past month were the congregation's generous response to the special appeal to assist with the pavilion sidewalk expense and also the success of the pie auction. Both of these accomplishments demonstrated the fellowship, togetherness, and community present in Grace and Glory's congregation and gave reassurance about who we are, where we are going, and what we can do.

Old Business:

- Worship & Music bulletin: During Advent we will start a trial of printing the full bulletin with hymns. The entire service will also be presented on the screens, but with hymn numbers only. Julie Dwyer, Beth Jenkins, and Cindy Anderson will coordinate all the necessary changes to assure a smooth transition.
- Evangelism Team:
 - Building cleanup and organization is ongoing.
 - Digital media: Kevin Davidson and Pat McCloud met with Pastor Colleen Montgomery of Synod to discuss a checklist for our website and Facebook page; Stephanie Wirth has a friend who could possibly offer technical website help.
 - Posting previous sermons on our website is under consideration.
 - A weekly addition to website or Facebook page of a noteworthy activity or event was suggested to be beneficial.
 - Calendar planning includes a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday Oct. 5 at 3PM; an outdoor service in pavilion on Sunday Oct. 13; and a Marty Party/Octoberfest on Saturday Oct. 26 at 4 PM. With the exception of the Marty Party, which is just for the Grace & Glory congregation, these will be advertised in the Fluvanna Review in a monthly event calendar, open to the Fluvanna community.
- 2023 Audit Response: LT responses to the 2023 Audit Report findings and recommendations were reviewed in anticipation of their being referred back to the audit team.
- Pie auction: The pie auction collected \$920 and 184 lbs. of food for the Fluvanna Food Pantry. LT is in favor of making this an annual event, possibly including a pie contest.
- Pavilion Sidewalk extension: The special appeal to the congregation to assist in the sidewalk expense had a goal to collect \$ 1,750 in matching funds and \$ 2,526 was raised. With the balance covered by Grace & Glory, the contractor that successfully bid on the work has been notified with a construction date still to be determined.
- Parish Register: Inactive members have been removed from the church roster and a new print and digital member directory have been created for distribution.
- Call Committee: Paul Crowther updated the LT on current status of our call process. So far, six candidates have received our Ministry Site Profile. One is in conversation with another congregation before reaching out to us. Two decided that our compensation package was insufficient and/or they preferred to be in a city setting. Three have not responded positively or negatively yet.
- Policies and Procedures; Records retention: Chris Sterner reports that a thorough review of the church files has been completed and changes are underway to better organize the filing system and eliminate retaining unnecessary documents.

- The Path Ahead: Pastor Strong confirmed the dates for his 6-session program on Spirituality and Purpose in Later Life, hosted at Grace and Glory. Through video presentations, discussions, and contemplative practices, you can expect to learn, share, question, reflect – and be surprised! All materials will be provided. The group will meet from 11:30 - 1:30 on Wednesdays, Oct. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and Nov. 6th. A light lunch will be served.

New Business:

- Stewardship: In anticipation of our Stewardship program this Fall, the Stewardship Team has asked for input on a possible theme and Bible quote.
- Following up on a request from a Congregation member, Pat McCloud reached out to Pastor Tom Frost with regard to a presentation in January 2025 at Grace & Glory on his recent pilgrimage to the Camino de Santiago.

Next Leadership Team meeting is October 16.

Submitted by Paul Secretary, Secretary.

Special Appeal Update: Pavilion Sidewalk

As you know we set a deadline of September 8th regarding pledges towards extending the sidewalk to the Pavilion. Our goal was to raise \$1,750 or half the Project cost. We are pleased but not surprised to report that we have pledges totaling \$2,526, or 72% of the total cost. Thank you, thank you, thank you for your generosity!

We have reached out to the Contractor, and we are waiting for a date as to when they can commence work. Some of you have already fulfilled your pledge and you are welcome to do so at any time but the due date for your pledges will be the date the contractor begins work on the sidewalk, which is still to be determined.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Peace, Hope and Blessings.

The Leadership Team

The Path Ahead: Spirituality & Purpose in Later LifeSM

Grace & Glory is hosting a six-part series on the spirituality of aging. Through video presentations, discussions, and contemplative practices, you can expect to learn, share, question, reflect – and be surprised! All materials will be provided.

The group will meet from 11:30 - 1:30 on Wednesdays, Oct. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and Nov. 6th. A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to the church office at admin@graceandglory.org or 434-589-2217 to attend.

Older, Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS)

The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) will gather for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, October 1st at 12 noon at Eastwood Winery. It is located at 2531 Scottsville Rd. (HWY 20), just south of Charlottesville. The farm fresh lunch menu is highly rated. Kindly RSVP to Linda Beaudoin if you plan to attend. (434)589-2654 or email at lmbeaudoin@aol.com.



Also, SAVE THE DATE: Mark your calendars for the annual OWLS Christmas party/lunch on Tuesday, December 3rd, at Rhett's Bar and Grill, Zion Crossroads. More information to follow.

Linda Beaudoin

Women at Grace and Glory Bible Study

The WAGG Bible Study group will be meeting again the third Monday of the month, **at 11 am on October 21** at the church. We are continuing with a three-part Bible study focusing on what it means to live in faith “after certainty,” i.e., in times of uncertainty, as we are these days after a worldwide pandemic, escalating climate change, political turmoil and a changing religious landscape. Drawing from biblical texts and Lutheran tradition, we ponder what it means to live faithfully in these times of uncertainty. In August we saw how holy **curiosity** can lead us, like our Biblical ancestors, to where God’s love in Jesus transforms “what is” to “what could be.” In September we focused on salvation not as a reward for our certainty, but as a gift granted in and through **community**.

The Bible study we shall be doing this month focuses on “politics,” keeping in mind that politics is a word that comes from the Greek word for “city” and is essentially about how people live together in community. For Jesus, love for God and neighbor is the center of faith. More about action than emotion, this love is a commitment to seek others’ well-being as fully as our own. We often call this attitude and behavior **compassion**. Christians can think of politics as the way we love our neighbors as a community, letting compassion shape our life together. Jesus’ teachings and the apostle Paul’s writings urge us to choose compassion over correctness -- offering us guidance in a polarized time. Please join us for a very thought-provoking study in this U.S. presidential election year!

Please note that the Bible study is from the **July-August issue** of *Gather*, which hopefully everyone should have since most of the new subscriptions to the magazine coming to your home did start by this issue of the magazine. It has both the second and third sessions of the “**After certainty**” Bible study. By the way, did you notice the delightful article with the title “**Out of the box**” on pages 12-15. If you checked it out, you saw what is “out of the box” and why it delighted me so much!! We look forward to seeing you for a special time of fellowship and Bible study together on Monday October 21 at 11 am at the church.

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

Pie Auction Great Success

Thank you to all who participated in the Pie Auction on September 14th. We had almost 30 donated pies, that’s a lot of slices to auction! That allowed us to raise over \$920 and 184 pounds of food. Our gregarious Auctioneer George kept up with the flurry of bids; Kevin, our own Vanna White, did a wonderful job introducing the pies. Special thanks to everyone that baked, set up, cleaned up, and otherwise pitched in; Lakerise Bakery for their donation of pies; EW Thomas for the whipped cream & ice cream toppings; Laura Garber for creating our flyer; and Thrivent for the action grant. What a fun way to bring back a Feeding Fluvanna Event and inviting the community to see Grace and Glory. It was wonderful to have the congregation support this event. If you weren’t able to join us this year, we hope to do this again next year with even greater success.

Stephanie Wirth



Support Prison Chaplin Service

The GraceInside, Virginia's Prison Chaplin Service is beginning its Christmas Gift Ministry collection. Our congregation has generously participated in the past and will be collecting again this year. Please bring your donations to church between September 29th and November 3rd. Please note that all 6 hygiene items should be placed in a gallon zip lock bag for donation. Also, if you prefer to make a financial contribution, please make your check payable to “GraceInside,” write “FCCW Resource Fund” in the Memo section and put it with the other donations.

Here’s a complete list of the approved donations. **Please note that the correctional center does not permit ANY substitute or additional items.**

Hygiene Items (place in a gallon zip lock bag)

1. One individually wrapped toothbrush (must be in the original container). **No battery-operated toothbrushes.**
2. One tube of toothpaste, 6oz (must be in the original container).
3. One deodorant stick, 2.6 oz. – (as close to 2.6 oz. as possible but no larger). **No spray or roll-on.**
4. One bottle of shampoo, 8oz-15 oz. (as close as possible to 15 oz.)
5. One bottle of lotion, 8oz-15 oz. (as close as possible to 15 oz.)

Greeting Cards and Stationery Items

1. Christmas cards and greeting cards for all occasions. All cards are sorted by a local team of volunteers after they’re received. Please try to avoid purchasing cards that contain aluminum foil on the card or envelope flap.
2. Stationery items – writing paper (tablets 3 1/2 x 9 preferred)
3. Forever postage stamps (used to send donation acknowledgment letters). Place them in a separate zip lock bag.

GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

AUGUST 2024

INCOME:

General	\$11,843
Building	\$870
Memorial	\$70
Designated	\$355
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$13,138
Other	\$209
<u>Total</u>	\$13,347

EXPENSES:

General	\$9,841
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$664
<u>Total</u>	\$13,164

GENERAL CHANGE \$2,211

BUILDING CHANGE -\$1,789

YTD AUGUST 2024

INCOME:

General	\$107,065
Building	\$14,056
Memorial	\$70
Designated	\$5,255
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$126,446
Other	\$2,010
<u>Total</u>	\$128,456

EXPENSES:

General	\$79,628
Building	\$21,272
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$4,924
<u>Total</u>	\$105,824

GENERAL CHANGE \$29,447

BUILDING CHANGE -\$7,216

October Birthdays

Margaret Scudamore	7	Edythe Povol	15
George Gaige	8	Paul Crowther	17
Darlene Baugh	12	Bill Milstead	18
Rebecca Bullis	15		

Grace Notes

Please remember to submit your information for the November issue of Grace Note by Tuesday, October 24th to LeRoy Moyer at lee_helen@embarqmail.com.

Bishop Eaton statement on Haitian community in Ohio

You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt
(Deuteronomy 10:19).

Dear church,

The recent national spotlight on Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, clearly has fanned flames of hate and stoked threats of violence. The rhetoric has created discord and mistrust of people who have already suffered civil unrest in their nation and been granted legal protection in the United States. History shows us that this kind of hatred often carries negative national and global consequences. Our church teaches that immigrants are children of God, made in God's image and worthy of respect and lives of dignity. God calls us to witness boldly to this truth when people tell dehumanizing lies that perpetuate racist tropes and support white supremacist narratives.

As people of faith, we and others look to God's command to "not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16). Martin Luther explains: "We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead, we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light" (Martin Luther, Small Catechism, Eighth Commandment; *Book of Concord*, page 353).

Recognizing historic discriminatory policies and treatment of African descent immigrants, the ELCA has specific commitments to strengthen advocacy, protection, and accompaniment of Black migrants. The ELCA participates in and promotes the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent. We stand in solidarity with the Haitian community in the United States. We pray alongside Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunt and the Southern Ohio Synod, Wittenberg University and Springfield area congregations responding to hateful speech and threats of violence in their communities.

Please pray and take action to stop the spread of hate. As followers of Christ, we are called to love neighbors. Below are resources to support this call.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop, ELCA

	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27	November 3
Minister	William Strong	TBD	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong
Assisting Minister	K. Weimer	P. Tomko	C. Parsons	R. Rognlie	K. Davidson
Usher	Carol Parsons	Louise Jargowsky	Paul Crowther	Jan Crowther	Carol Parsons
Greeters	Priscilla Fennell	Chris & Colleen Sterner	Bob Candea	Joel Dwyer	Pat McCloud
Altar Guild	Julie Dwyer	Carol Parsons	Vikki McCloud	Terry Weese	Julie Dwyer
Tellers	K. Weimer TBD	P. Tomko V. McCloud	P. Crowther ML Rognlie	T. Weese J. Crowther	P. McCloud 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/Greeters

Julie Dwyer – (434) 981-5613

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.

October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12pm OWLS Gathering - Eastwood Farm & Winery 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	2 9am Cindy in Office 11:30am The Path Ahead: Spirituality & Purpose in Later Life	3	4 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	5 3pm Blessing of the Animals
6 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	7 9am Cindy in Office	8 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	9 9am Cindy in Office 11:30am The Path Ahead: Spirituality & Purpose in Later Life	10 9am Cindy in Office 4pm Finance Meeting (Zoom)	11 6:30pm AA Meeting	12 9am Men's monthly breakfast – Tavern on the Green, Spring Creek
13 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	14 11am LWR Quilters	15 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	16 9am Cindy in Office 11:30am The Path Ahead: Spirituality & Purpose in Later Life 7pm Leadership Team	17	18 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	19 10am Memorial Service for Sue Pickett
20 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11am Coffee and Social Hour after service 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	21 9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study	22 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	23 9am Cindy in Office 11:30am The Path Ahead: Spirituality & Purpose in Later Life	24 Grace Notes Submissions Due Today 1:30pm Happy Face Meeting	25 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	26 9am Women's Breakfast – Maple Pine & Thai Restaurant, Charlottesville 4 pm – “Marty Party”
27 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	28 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	29 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	30 9am Cindy in Office 11:30am The Path Ahead: Spirituality & Purpose in Later Life	31		

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



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