



# Grace Notes

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

Rev. William Strong, Pastor: [rev.whs.@gmail.com](mailto:rev.whs.@gmail.com)

Phone: 804-517-2296

Good People,

Sunday, February 11th, marks the Feast of the Transfiguration, which commemorates Jesus ascending Mt. Tabor with Peter, John and James. On top of the mountain, Jesus is overshadowed by a cloud, just like at his baptism, and a voice once again speaks from the cloud, saying, “This is my beloved, in whom I am well pleased.” Jesus’ face and clothes are transformed, and his disciples get a momentary glimpse of Jesus in glory, and their world is rocked. Like Ricky Bobby in *Talladega Nights* who doesn’t know what to do with his hands after his first and unexpected victory, Peter and the others don’t know what to do or say in this astonishing scene. Indeed, it takes Peter, John and James the rest of Jesus’ earthly ministry, his death, and his resurrection, to figure it out.

Have we “figured out” the Transfiguration? Have we given it much thought? Some scholars think that the story of the Transfiguration is actually a resurrection story that somehow got dislodged from its original setting and floated around until it landed earlier in the gospels. I think that misses the point. The Transfiguration isn’t a foreshadowing of who Jesus will be after the resurrection. Rather, the Transfiguration provides us insight into who Jesus actually is, who he has been all along; and therefore, insight into who we actually and truly are. Like Jesus, our clothes are whiter than any earthly bleach could make them. Like Jesus, our faces burn like the sun, if only we would learn to see...if only we would learn to see.

Let’s be honest, we like to make Jesus do all the heavy lifting. We rejoice that Jesus’ death on the cross saves us from sin and sets us right with God, ourselves, and each other. On the other hand, we tend to ignore what Jesus has to say about taking up our own cross. In the same way, we like to make the Transfiguration all about Jesus and ignore its implications for our own faith journey. Transfiguration Sunday is the last Sunday before Lent. This Lent, Jesus invites us once more to take some time to intentionally dust off the windows of our souls – not to let the light shine in, because God’s transforming light is already within us, waiting for recognition. This Lent, Jesus invites us all to wash our spiritual windows, not to let the light shine in, but to let the light within pour out into this ever-darkening world. This is where evangelism begins. Amen.

Peace and All Good,

*Pastor William*

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank you all for the privilege, honor, and blessing to serve once again as Grace and Glory's Congregation President. It is a responsibility that cannot be taken lightly. It is also a shared responsibility, not just with my fellow Leadership Team members, but with the entire Congregation. I also want to take this opportunity to remind you what the agenda is for 2024. Hopefully it is still fresh in your mind since it was at the heart of our Fall Stewardship Appeal, **God's Work, Our Hands**. We have three key ministry initiatives:

1. Engage in Intentional Evangelism
2. Call our New Shepherd
3. Impact our Neighbors

The good news is that the work on these initiatives is underway. A small group has already met regarding 'best practices' when it comes to Evangelism. We want to identify what is that folks in our community are looking for, and how can Grace and Glory remove any barriers that would prevent them from coming. With these learnings in hand our Evangelism team can then start to make these best practices a reality. As for the Call Committee we have submitted our Ministry Site Plan, and we hope to accelerate the call process in 2024. We are also committed to keeping the Congregation informed as to our progress. Finally, we are looking to engage our community in new and more meaningful ways. We're planning to do this by leveraging our Evangelism initiative and by identifying a new pastor that shares our passion for doing God's work in Fluvanna. There are so many ways that this little church can continue to make a difference in this world.

Can we do all this? Yes, with your help we can. The poet Robert Frost said, "The only way out is through." And the only good way through is together. One of my favorite hymns is *Here I Am, Lord* which asks the question who should the Lord send to bear God's light to the world? I'm praying that all of you will answer "Here I am, Lord, I will go Lord if you lead me."

Peace, Hope and Health to you all.

J. Patrick McCloud  
Congregation President

## Joint Lenten Services

Following is the schedule of Lenten lunches shared between Grace and Glory Lutheran, along with Salem, Cunningham, and Palmyra United Methodist Churches.

Please note two things regarding the Wednesday gatherings:

1. It's lunch! Not supper! It's at noon!
2. The host church will provide the soup and bread (please, no dessert) for each gathering, except for the last session, when it's potluck.

### Lenten Lunch Schedule

- 2/21 Grace & Glory ELCA
- 2/28 Palmyra UMC
- 3/6 Cunningham UMC
- 3/13 Salem UMC
- 3/20 Palmyra UMC (Soup provided by all)

## Lenten Worship Services

- 2/14 - Ash Wednesday:
  - Drive-by Imposition of Ashes starting at 7AM at EW Thomas and Food Lion parking lots.
  - Worship services at Salem UMC at noon and again at 7 pm.
- 3/28 - Maundy Thursday: Cunningham UMC at 7 pm
- 3/29 - Good Friday: Grace & Glory ELCA at 7 pm
- 3/31 - Easter Sunrise Service: Fluvanna County Dog Park at 6:30 am

God's Peace,

*Pastor William*

## **Leadership Ministry Team Highlights**

The Leadership Ministry Team met via Zoom on January 17, 2024

Devotions were led by Pastor William.

Pastor's Report: Pastor would like to start a Bible Study after Lent.

Pastor will be meeting Monday January 22nd with the Pastors from Palmyra, Salem, and Cunningham Methodist churches to plan services for midweek during Lent, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.

Old Business: The Alarm system continues to be worked on.

New Business: The membership list needs to be updated.

The call committee has submitted the site plan to the Leadership Ministry Team. It was approved and will be sent to the Synod office.

Submitted by Lynn Wirth, Secretary

## **Annual Meeting Summary**

Meeting held after church on January 21, 2024

President Kevin Davidson opened the meeting at 11:40. Pastor William Strong led us in prayer

Tellers, Chris Sterner and Mary-Louise Rognlie were appointed. A Quorum was established - 27 members were present, 3 were on Facebook; 20 are required

The Annual Congregational Meeting minutes of 2023 were approved. LeRoy Moyer was thanked for his many years of putting together the monthly Grace Notes Newsletter.

Cindy Anderson was thanked for her work in putting together the 2024 Annual Report.

Kevin Davidson recognized and thanked the outgoing Leadership Team members, Lynn Wirth, Paula Tomko and Kevin Davidson. Pam Hokanson was also thanked for her service as President.

Nominations for the 2024 Leadership Ministry Team were announced. The new members are Linda Bolling, George Gaige, Pat McCloud, and Helen Ida Moyer. Those continuing are Paul Crowther, Mary Louise Rognlie and Chris Sterner. Louise Jargowsky will continue as Treasurer. With no additional nominations from the floor the slate was unanimously elected.

Ministry Team Reports - The Call committee has submitted the site plan to the VA Synod office for review and posting on their website. Other reports are included in the Annual Report packet.

The Financial Report was addressed by Chris Sterner and approved.

Old Business – None

New Business - None

A motion to adjourn was made at 12:00 and Pastor Strong said a closing prayer.

Submitted by Lynn Worth

### **Devotions for Lent 2024: Gathered into One**

Augsburg Fortress Press has published a special booklet of devotions for Lent, *Gathered into One*. It provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (traditionally known as Holy Saturday). Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from I Corinthians. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

The apostle Paul writes the letter to the church in Corinth after hearing of quarreling and divisions among the people there. He teaches the Corinthians that each person has a unique set of gifts from the Holy Spirit, given for the common good, and reminds them that the church is the body of Christ, joined together with one bread, one cup, one baptism, one God, and one Spirit. This theme of unity amid diversity is as timely now as it was when Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

During this journey through Lent to the Easter feast, may we celebrate the diversity among us as well our unity in Christ.

This booklet of devotions for Lent, *Gathered into One*, may be ordered directly from Augsburg for \$3.50 plus shipping.

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

### **You All Come**

Grace & Glory's 2024 Chili & Soup Cook-off will be held on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon.

Volunteers are needed for set-up and in the kitchen.

Special note to all cooks: We have a member with an allergy to black pepper. If your dish does not contain black pepper, please inform the kitchen volunteers.

The church will provide iced tea, lemonade, and soda. You may also bring a beverage of your choice - cider, soda, beer, or wine.

There will be a collection of free-will donations to benefit the Fluvanna Heating Assistance Program.

Please contact Bob Candea at [RALCandea@aol.com](mailto:RALCandea@aol.com) or 434-960-1130 to volunteer or for additional information.

### **Women at Grace and Glory (WAGG)**

The WAGG Bible Study group will be meeting again this month at 11:00 am on Monday February 19 at the church. We shall be continuing our study of Holy places, focusing in on the theme of Pilgrimage, which is not only about the destination, but also about the “holy place” of the journey itself. Through the risen Jesus, God meets us on the way. Please let me know if you would like a copy of the Bible study from the November-December issue of *Gather*, which can be downloaded from the [gathermagazine.org](http://gathermagazine.org) website.

New subscribers can get this beautiful Christian Women's Magazine published by the ELCA for just \$9.95, six issues a year. We hope that you will be able to join us for a special time of fellowship and Bible study together.

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

### 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](mailto:Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com). **The next newsletter deadline is February 24.**

### The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors)

Out to Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, February 6. At 12 noon at El Vaquero West, 102 Joshua Lane, Palmyra. (Next to CVS, and Cuppa Joe's). RSVP to Linda Beaudoin at (434) 589-2654, or [lmbeaudoin@aol.com](mailto:lmbeaudoin@aol.com).



### February Birthdays

Joyce Hanson	2
Denny Avers	3
Sabrina Ford	14

### GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

#### DECEMBER 2023

##### **INCOME:**

General	\$11,917
Building	\$2,065
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$424
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$14,406
Other	\$478
<u>Total</u>	\$14,884

##### **EXPENSES:**

General	\$8,774
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$144
<u>Total</u>	\$11,577

<b>GENERAL CHANGE</b>	\$3,621
<b>BUILDING CHANGE</b>	-\$594

#### YTD DECEMBER 2023

##### **INCOME:**

General	\$170,107
Building	\$32,082
Memorial	\$1,415
Designated	\$4,000
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$207,604
Other	\$2,795
<u>Total</u>	\$210,399

##### **EXPENSES:**

General	\$136,831
Building	\$31,908
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$1,036
<u>Total</u>	\$169,775

<b>GENERAL CHANGE*</b>	\$36,071
<b>BUILDING CHANGE*</b>	\$174

## Food Bank

The following items are needed at the Food Bank:

- Canned fruit (low sugar)
- Pancake syrup
- Spaghetti sauce
- Cereal
- Canned vegetables
- Cooking oil
- Canned ravioli

Donations can be brought to the church each week and will be delivered to the Food Bank. No need to wait until the 3rd Sunday of each month.

## Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

In past years members of Grace & Glory have gone to Richmond to lobby on behalf of the disadvantaged and disenfranchised with the VICPP, a faith based social justice group that is bi-partisan, multi-racial and interfaith.

Even though we are not going in person this year, we can still write letters to our state legislators the first part of February.

The following is a list of issues the VICPP is supporting:

### Health Equity

#### VICPP Leading

***Unconscious Bias Training for Healthcare Professionals (SB 35, HB 1130)***. VICPP seeks a requirement that healthcare professionals who deal with pregnant women be trained in unconscious bias. The PUSH Coalition that VICPP helped organize is continuing to work on this issue and has secured bipartisan support. Senate Co-Patrons: Senator Locke (D), Senator Head (R). House Co-Patrons: Delegate Hayes (D), Delegate Coyner (R).

***Community Health Workers (HB 594)***. A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of the community. Virginia is *not* among the 25 states that have created a sustainable pathway to fund CHWs. With the end of COVID-19 emergency funding, most CHWs connected to Local Health Districts will lose their funding in 2024. VICPP advocates money in the budget to support CHWs connected to local health districts. Budget amendment sponsors: Delegate Sickles (D) and Senator Aird (D). In addition, VICPP supports creating a process for Medicaid reimbursement for CHWs. Patrons: Senate Pillion (R) and Delegate Sickles (D).

#### VICPP Supporting

***Healthcare Coverage for Undocumented Children (SB 231, HB 970)***. VICPP advocates a bill to cover healthcare for the 13,000 children who would be eligible for Medicaid except for their documentation status. Work led by The Commonwealth Institute. Patrons: Delegate Tran (D) and Senator Hashmi (D).

### Criminal Justice Reform

#### VICPP Leading

***Limiting the use of attack dogs in prisons (HB 159)***. Most prison systems use dogs to locate contraband. Virginia uses attack dogs to “manage” people who are incarcerated. Between 2017 and 2022, people incarcerated were bitten by dogs 271 times. Some of these bites caused permanent damage. The next highest state had only 15 bites in the same period. Patron: Delegate Seibold (D) and Chief Co-Patron: Delegate Webert (R).

***No cost communication (SB 378, HB 801)***. VICPP supports bills to provide no-cost communication (phones, videocalls and emails) between families and their incarcerated loved ones.

VICPP is actively helping lead a coalition effort on this work with other key organizations like the Legal Aid Justice Center, the ACLU, Sistas for Justice Reform, SALT, and the Humanization Project. Patrons: Senator Boysko (D) and Delegate Rasoul (D).

### **VICPP Supporting**

***Oversight (SB 456, HB 555).*** There was money in the 2023 budget to set up an oversight office. Now the office needs to be codified. The ACLU is leading the work. Patrons: Senator Marsden (D) and Delegate Hope (D).

***Second Look (SB 427, HB 834).*** This bill provides people who are incarcerated with long prison sentences an opportunity to get a second look at their sentence if they've served at least ten years and been active in education and reform opportunities. The ACLU is leading the work. Patrons: Senator Deeds (D) and Delegate Cousins (D).

***Automatic restoration of voting rights (SJ 2, HJ 2).*** VICPP supports bills to automatically restore voting rights. Patrons: Senator Locke (D) and Delegate Bennett-Parker (D). The bills were held over till 2025.

## **Affordable Housing**

### **VICPP Leading**

***Housing and Faith in the Commonwealth (SB 233, HB 1124).*** VICPP is leading an effort to get Virginia to allow congregations to build affordable housing without special zoning changes. VICPP's bill is modeled after one that recently passed in California called "Yes, in God's Backyard." Patrons: Senator Hashmi (D) and Delegate Carr (D).

### **VICPP Supporting**

***Money.*** VICPP supports more money for building affordable housing, rental assistance, and eviction prevention. This work is led by the Virginia Housing Alliance and the Virginia Poverty Law Center.

***Tenant protections.*** VICPP supports the Virginia Poverty Law Center's and Housing Opportunity Made Equal's proposals for protecting tenants against evictions. There are many bills.

## **Working Family Support**

### **VICPP Leading**

***Paid Sick Days (SB 507, HB 348).*** VICPP is leading a coalition effort to create a Paid Sick Day standard for all workers. The House bill is stronger than the Senate bill because it covers all workers. The Senate bill covers grocery and healthcare workers. Patrons: Senator Surovell (D) and Delegate Ward (D).

***Child Labor Protections (HB 100).*** VICPP is seeking to increase the penalties for child labor violations. The penalties have not been updated in 30 years. Patron: Delegate Siebold (D).

### **VICPP Supporting**

***Minimum wage (SB 1, HB 1).*** The minimum wage bill passed in 2020 must be reenacted before July 2024 for the next two increases can go into effect and raise the minimum wage up to \$15 per hour. VICPP supports reenactment of the bill. This will likely be a high-profile issue. VICPP is part of a minimum wage coalition. Patrons: Senator Lucas (D) and Delegate Ward (D).

***Childcare subsidies.*** VICPP is part of a childcare coalition (Virginia Promise Partnership) advocating more subsidies for childcare. Much more is needed for working families. The Governor has proposed money in his budget. The Partnership believes more is needed.

***Wage Theft (HB 325).*** VICPP is part of a group of labor attorneys, labor groups and worker advocates that want to strengthen remedies on minimum wage and overtime laws to make the remedies the same as the wage payment law. Patron: Delegate Thomas (D).

***Remove farmworker exemption (HB 157).*** Currently farm workers are exempted from the state minimum wage, a clear legacy from slavery. The Legal Aid Justice Center is the lead on this work. Patron: Delegate McClure (D).

***Labor Trafficking (HB 633).*** Virginia's trafficking code covers sex trafficking. This bill adds labor trafficking to the code, so that the workers can be better protected against labor trafficking. Patron: Delegate Cherry (R) and Chief Co-Patron: Delegate Delaney (D).

## Other

**Assault weapon ban (SB 2, HB 2).** VICPP supports commonsense gun reform, including a ban on assault weapons. Patrons: Senator Deeds (D) and Delegate Helmer (D).

**Tax reform.** VICPP has been a part of tax coalition led by the Commonwealth Institute. The coalition supports making Virginia's taxes more progressive. VICPP will support efforts to decrease taxes for low-income families and increase taxes on those most able to pay.

For residents of Fluvanna County our delegate is Tom Garrett (District 56), and our state senator is John McGuire (District 10).

John McGuire's address is: General Assembly Building Room 620, PO Box 396, Richmond 23218.

Tom Garrett's address is General Assembly Building, Room 720, 201 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

Submitted by Jean DeMarco



	<b>February 4</b>	<b>February 11</b>	<b>February 18</b>	<b>February 25</b>	<b>March 3</b>
<b>Minister</b>	Tom Frost	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Carol Parsons	Keith Weimer	Paula Tomko	Kevin Davidson	TBD
<b>Usher</b>	Linda Bolling	Louise Jargowsky	Gabi Ford	Jan Crowther	Carol Parsons
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Vikki McCloud	Vikki McCloud	Carol Parsons	Terry Weese	Mary Louise Rognlie
<b>Tellers</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	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/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](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.

# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	3 12pm Chili & Soup Cook-off
4 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	5 9am Cindy in Office	6 12pm OWLS Luncheon – El Vaquero West 6:30pm AA Meeting	7 9am Cindy in Office	8	9 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	10 9am Men's monthly breakfast – Moose's By the Creek
11 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	12 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	13 6:30pm AA Meeting	14 Ash Wednesday – 7am Imposition of Ashes at EW Thomas & Food Lion parking lots 12pm & 7pm Lenten Worship Services at Salem UMC	15	16 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	17 9am Women's monthly breakfast – Maple Pine Kitchen & Thai Restaurant
18 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11am Coffee and Social Hour after service 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	19 9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study	20 6:30pm AA Meeting	21 9am Cindy in Office 12pm Lenten Lunch at Grace & Glory 7pm Leadership Team	22	23 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	24 Grace Notes Submissions Due Today
25 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	26 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	27 6:30pm AA Meeting	28 9am Cindy in Office 12pm Lenten Lunch at Palmyra UMC	29		

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



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