



Grace Notes

January 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

Good People,

Sunday, January 7th, marks the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, when many Christians participate in a remembrance of their own baptism. Now, if like me, you were baptized as an infant, there may not be much to remember! Yet, even if there is not much to remember about our baptisms, there is certainly much for which to be grateful. Our baptisms hold the secret to who we are and how we are to live, questions central to the gospel readings on the Sundays between now and the beginning of Lent.

Ironically, it was a Roman Catholic theologian and retreat leader, quoting Luther, who first made the connection for me between our baptismal vows and our sense of vocation – our sense of being “called” to a particular way of life, to a particular career or job, to a particular person, to a particular church. All of these very personal, very individual, and very compelling questions get played out, for us Christians, within the larger arena of our faith.

That means, according to Luther, that all our questions about where to live, where to go to school, where to shop, where to go to church, what job to take, which person to marry, and how to vote, find their answers within the promises made on our behalf when we were baptized and that we claimed for our own at our confirmation. We have promised to renounce the evil one and all his petty pomps and circumstances. And we have promised to cling to Jesus, to go where he goes and to do what he does.

We have promised to turn our backs on the Prince of Lies and to kneel down before the Prince of Peace, the Lord of Love, the Once and Future King. We are citizens of the Kingdom Within. Everything comes down to that. We are citizens of the Kingdom Within, and our Lord waits there to greet us with open arms! So this season, let us not just remember our baptisms and be grateful, let us remember our baptisms and joyfully act them out each and every day. Amen.

Peace and All Good,
- Pastor William

The Grace and Glory annual meeting will be held on January 21 following Worship.
January 28 is the "snow day" in case of bad weather.

We Are the Church

It was 5 ½ years ago that I moved to Virginia, and one of the first things I did to find a Lutheran church was a web search that led me to the Grace and Glory website where I opened a recent newsletter to read an article by the Leadership Team president. It dealt with multiple staff resignations, and wondered what God was doing. I came anyway. I tell that story as a way of expressing how important the outward-facing aspects of the church are in reaching others. Right now, we're in the process of refurbishing the steeple and getting the lights back on for the roadside sign, we're advertising, and our Leadership Team is brainstorming ideas for evangelism. Check out the rest of this newsletter for coming events.

In contrast to that old newsletter article, today I am reminded of what St. Paul wrote to the church at Phillipi, "Every time I think of you, I thank God for you." I thank God for Pastor William who I believe was called to our congregation to be the right person at the right time, and I thank God for the rest of our excellent staff and volunteers.

Please respond prayerfully if you are contacted by our Nominating Committee (George Gaige, Vicky McCloud, Lynn Wirth, Paul Crowther, Keith Weimer and Paula Tomko), or even (gasp!) contact them to volunteer. Together, with God's help in 2024, let us work to bring forth the Kingdom of God.

**I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!**

Kevin Davidson,
President

Leadership Ministry Team Highlights

The Leadership Team (LT) met on December 20, 2023 via Zoom. Pastor William reported he is happy to be at Grace and Glory and is feeling welcomed by the congregation.

A nominating committee to search for new members of the 2024 Leadership Ministry Team was elected. They are Paul Crowther, Paula Tomko, Lynn Wirth, Geogre Gagie, Vikki McCloud and Keith Weimer. The Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate Sale was a success.

Reports for the Annual Meeting are due to the office manager by January 12th.

Pastor William's contract has been extended for a six month period.

Volunteers are needed to change the message on our street sign.

Pastor William is willing to assist with the wording.

Call Process - The next step is for the Representative of the Bishop to meet with the Leadership Ministry Team in January.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Wirth

Undecorating the Church

Help is needed on Tuesday, January 2nd at 10 AM to take down the Christmas greens and decorations to prepare for the next liturgical season.

Day for All People: Legislative Advocacy

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy is hosting its Day for All People on January 17, 2024. This is a great opportunity to learn about justice and make a difference in our laws! Join us in Richmond to meet with legislators about paid sick days, no cost communication in prisons, increasing affordable housing, and other important issues. Day for All People will start at 8:30 a.m. and go until 3 p.m. Early bird registration (before January 1) is \$30, and then the price goes up to \$40. Find out more information and register at tinyurl.com/2024DfAP. We will also have Spanish language interpretation. For registration in Spanish, check out tinyurl.com/enero17

Sign up for Advocacy Alerts!

Our faith calls us to build a more just society, so we partner with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. They are involved in the work of advocacy throughout Virginia's legislative session from January to March. To make your voice heard and support justice, sign up for email action alerts at tinyurl.com/vicppsignup.

GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

| <u>NOVEMBER 2023</u> | | <u>YTD NOVEMBER 2023</u> | |
|------------------------|----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| INCOME: | | INCOME: | |
| General | \$11,645 | General | \$158,190 |
| Building | \$1,610 | Building | \$30,017 |
| Memorial | \$0 | Memorial | \$1,415 |
| Designated | \$260 | Designated | \$3,576 |
| <u>Total Donations</u> | \$13,515 | <u>Total Donations*</u> | \$193,198 |
| Other | \$119 | Other | \$2,316 |
| <u>Total</u> | \$13,634 | <u>Total</u> | \$195,514 |
| EXPENSES: | | EXPENSES: | |
| General | \$7,396 | General | \$128,055 |
| Building | \$2,659 | Building | \$29,249 |
| Memorial | \$0 | Memorial | \$0 |
| Designated | \$0 | Designated | \$893 |
| <u>Total</u> | \$10,055 | <u>Total</u> | \$158,197 |
| GENERAL CHANGE | \$4,368 | GENERAL CHANGE | \$32,451 |
| BUILDING CHANGE | -\$1,049 | BUILDING CHANGE | \$768 |

* \$17,500 of donations were received in 2022 for the 2023 year. Without this 2023 annual donation being booked in January, the General and Building Funds would be less.

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 January 24.**

Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS)

The OWLS Out to Lunch Bunch will gather for lunch fellowship on Wednesday, January 3rd, at 12:00 at GIA'S Italian Restaurant (formerly Sal's) at Turkey Sag. RSVP to Linda Beaudoin by 12/27 at 343-589-2659 or lbeaudoin@aol.com.



Santa helped with the gifts at the Christmas Lunch at the Pub on Decembr 5th.



Women at Grace and Glory (WAGG)

The Women at Grace and Glory's Bible Study group met on Monday December 18th in the lovely home of Jean DeMarco. In Jesus, God makes His **Home** with us on earth. We particularly focused in on the place that Jesus called home, the Holy Land, and which is the homeland of our church. We discussed some of the vital ministries that the Palestinian Christians have been doing there in their environmental education center, in their centers for seniors, and in their four K-12 schools where Muslim and Christian students learn side by side as they prepare to be leaders in their communities. Our WAGG Bible Study group will be meeting again next month on **Monday January 15th** at the church: We shall be continuing our study of Holy places, noting that as Jesus dwells in us, we become a living **Sanctuary**, where God's presence is revealed. We hope that you will be able to join us. Please do let me know if you need a copy of the Bible Study, which can be downloaded from the *Gather* magazine for September/October 2023.



Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer



**Grace and Glory's Annual
Chili & Soup Cook-off
Saturday, February 3rd, 12:00 PM**

The Chili & Soup Cook-off is an opportunity to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to see our church, meet our church family, and join in on all the fun.

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

Separate sign-up lists will be posted in the future for both cooks and those who love to eat and socialize.

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

Please contact Bob Candea at RALCandea@aol.com or 434-960-1130 with any questions.

Lutheran Men Breakfast Group

Grace & Glory Lutheran men's breakfast at Moose's by the Creek restaurant on December 9, where we enjoyed good food and great fellowship.

Our next gathering will again be at Moore's on Saturday January 13. We would love to have you join us.



January Birthdays

| | | | |
|----------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Betty Berry | 1 | Linda Myers | 24 |
| Lynn Wirth | 6 | Brayden McCormick | 31 |
| Mallory Wills | 12 | Helen Ida Moyer | 31 |
| Monica Daniels | 16 | | |

| | January 7 | January 14 | January 21 | January 28 | February 4 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Minister | William Strong | William Strong | William Strong | Pat Handison | |
| Assisting Minister | Keith Weimer | Paula Tomko | Kevin Davidson | Richard Rognlie | Carol Parsons |
| Usher | Louise Jargowsky | Paul and Jan Crowther | Gabi Ford | Carol Parsons | Linda Bowling |
| Altar Guild | Carol Parsons | Julie Dwyer | Mary Louise Rognlie | Terry Weese | Vikki McCloud |
| Tellers | Keith Weimer Vikki McCloud | Paula Tomko Pat McCloud | Paul Crowther Mary Louise Rognlie | Jan Crowther Terry Weese | |

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.

January 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|----------|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal | 3 9am Cindy in Office 12pm OWLS Out to Lunch Bunch – Gia’s | 4 | 5 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting | 6 |
| 7 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal | 8 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters | 9 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal | 10 Church Cleaning Today 9am Cindy in Office | 11 | 12 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting | 13 9am Men's monthly breakfast – Moore’s by the Creek |
| 14 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal | 15 9am Cindy in Office WAGG | 16 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal | 17 9am Cindy in Office 7pm Leadership Team | 18 | 19 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting | 20 9am Women's Breakfast – Crosby’s |
| 21 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live Annual Meeting after Worship 11:30am Coffee and Social Hour 11:30am Choir Rehearsal | 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 11:30am Choir Rehearsal | 29 9am Cindy in Office | 30 6:30pm AA Meeting | 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 . 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 **January 24, 2024**
to LeRoy Moyer at
Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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