

Grace Notes



November 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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Good People,

As I sit down to write these words the 2024 World Series has started, and the opening inning is playing on the TV. For those of us who don't watch much baseball or pay much attention to sports, this might seem like any other match up. And, indeed, even if one didn't know anything at all about the history of baseball, you could still enjoy and appreciate each game between the two best teams of the 2024 season on its own merits. But there is more to this story – much more.

Taking a step back, we see that this is the 12th time these two franchises have faced each other for the title. More than that, while it appears that this meeting reflects a classic East Coast/West Coast rivalry, this meeting has more of the flavor of a family feud. The LA Dodgers used to be the Brooklyn Dodgers. This isn't about East Coast vs. West Coast. This is an ancient cross-town rivalry – and much like the tension in Chicago between the Cubs and the White Sox, this animosity is rooted in location, identity, and economics. In either present-day Chicago or pre-1958 New York (the year the Dodgers moved), who one rooted for depended on where one lived and where one lived depended and depends on money. It's Blue Collar vs. White Collar. It's the ancient conflict between the haves and have-nots.

Baseball reflects our deepest national – even human – struggles in the mirror of athletic competition. Politics, on the other hand, drags those struggles kicking and screaming into the spotlight. So, to be clear, while the World Series seems to be a simple series of games between two teams to decide who's best, it is actually much more than that. In the same way, our Presidential election seems to be about a contest between two candidates to elect a winner; but again, it is really so much more, so much deeper than all that. As followers of Jesus we are called to look with the eyes of the soul and listen with the ears of the heart in order to discern the undercurrents at work in our present situation and to align ourselves with the wise purpose of God that runs invisibly through all things, in all places, at all times.

This is not about Kamala vs. Donald. This is not about Democrat vs. Republican. This is about recognizing that on the one hand there are those who take, whatever their party affiliation or position, and those who give. It really is that simple. Over the summer we spent weeks with King David, watching as he made bad decision after bad decision, always trying to control, always trying to get what he wanted, always trying to manipulate both family, friends, and enemies into supporting his needs and his desires. And what was the result? David dies alone with a family in tatters and a kingdom on the edge of ruin. Isn't it time, as John Lennon once asked, to give peace a chance? Peace in our hearts, peace in our families, peace in our churches, peace in our communities, peace in our nation, peace in our world? And the first step towards world peace is being peaceful right where we are – in the car, in the kitchen, in the grocery store, in the sanctuary, and in the poll both. Amen.

Peace and All Good,
- Pastor William

PS – In case you were wondering, my team is the Big Red Machine. Go, Cincinnati!

Disciples to Apostles

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Another Stewardship Appeal Campaign is upon us and I'm sure many of you are wondering what could be different about this year's campaign. Well for openers the focus is not so much on dollars but on Evangelism. This is a continuation from last year's Appeal when we set as one of our initiatives something called an 'intentional Evangelism program.' Evangelism is not about techniques or right practices but about understanding the needs of our community and then finding ways to meet those needs.

The greatest need for people in our community is to know and trust that they are beloved children of God. What is it that folks in our community are looking for, and how can we at Grace and Glory remove any barriers that would prevent them from coming? To do that we need Apostles, sent on a mission, commissioned by Jesus. We need to be true evangelicals, which means "those with good news." If we can do that the dollars will take care of themselves.

Another change this year is an equal focus on the need for your time and talents versus just your financial gifts. Your financial gifts are just one part of that proverbial three-legged stool. Grace and Glory can't survive on just your financial gifts. We need your time and talents, and we need them year-round. Where do we need them? Take a look:

Help Wanted:

Audio / Visual Team: For years now Grace & Glory has relied on just two people on Sundays for our PowerPoint presentations, Audio set up, and for streaming and recording our services. These folks get less time off than anyone including the Pastor. We have finally found some back-up for Mike Montgomery, but Beth Jenkins could use a break. If you have any interest please see Beth, Chris Sterner, or myself.

Fellowship and Hospitality: This is another critical ministry, and we could use some help. Please see Lynn Wirth, Chris Sterner, or myself.

Stewardship: Please see me.

Property: Please see Bob Candea or myself.

It goes without saying that all of our ministry teams could use some help, but I've picked out four of the most critical. So, as we focus on how we can move from being Disciples to Apostles I ask that you reflect on where you can best contribute towards that goal.

Finally thank you for all your gifts and for being part of this Congregation that we love. Pray for our common work, which is to be an Apostle, sent by Jesus to walk with others.

Peace and hope,

J. Patrick McCloud

Congregation President

The Path Ahead: Spirituality & Purpose in Later LifeSM

Grace & Glory is hosting a series on the spirituality of aging. The group will meet from 11:30 - 1:30 on Wednesdays, October 30th, and Nov. 6th. A light lunch will be served. **A sign-up sheet is posted on the kiosk in the Narthex, or you may RSVP to the church office at admin@graceandglory.org or 434-589-2217 to attend.**

Leadership Team Meeting Summary

The Leadership Team met on Oct. 16, 2024

Pastor's report: Pastor Strong is pleased with the success of our Blessing of the Animals in early October. Approximately 15 people (and many more animals) were present. Most of the attendees were people from the community (not Grace & Glory members) who had seen our banner along the church roadside. Blessings took place in our Peace Garden, which also provided visibility for passing cars. Suggestion was made to include area animal rescue groups in our planning for next year. Pastor would like to find more ways to utilize our Peace Garden for other events. Pastor's continuing 6-week program, The Path Ahead, has enjoyed steady attendance from both Grace & Glory members and the greater community.

President's report: Pat shared that a sister of one of our present members will be joining the church, which will then be the 3rd new member this year, a positive sign for Grace & Glory. Pointing out that the two other new members had earlier received our postcard inviting them to worship with us one Sunday, Pat encourages all of us to seek opportunities to share those invitations to friends, neighbors, or even post them on area bulletin boards.

Old Business:

Call Committee: Paul shared news that the Synod will be interviewing four potential call candidates this week and a fifth has received our Ministry Site Profile for study. Paul will request from the Synod a "scorecard" of candidate interviews/outcomes to help us better understand the progress of our call and identify any issues or concerns candidates may be raising that we could address going forward.

Marty Party: So far, only a small number of people have indicated their interest in a Marty Party this year. If interest is too small, we will forego the event this year.

Update: After receiving additional interest, the celebration is a go!

Evangelism: Our Facebook and website pages have been receiving regular updating of their content, keeping our online digital content fresh and attractive. We are encouraged to review those sites frequently and offer additional content suggestions.

Retired Pastor Tom Frost of Cunningham United Methodist is planning a presentation in January about his pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago. Date to be determined. For those interested, a 2010 film, *The Way*, provides viewers the opportunity to learn more about the Camino.

The outdoor worship service in our pavilion on October 13 went well. Weather was perfect, though a bit chilly early on, warming up throughout the service. Pictures were taken and will be posted. Planning for our four 2025 outdoor services is needed so those dates can be scheduled.

Pavilion walkway: Many thanks to Bob Candeia for his work in securing estimates and contractors for the extended walkway, which was finished in time for our October outdoor service. The continued generosity of our congregation helped make this improvement possible.

Stewardship Campaign: Our stewardship campaign begins Oct. 20 and the theme this year is "Disciples to Apostles." A Disciple is defined as a committed follower or student of a teacher or teachings. An Apostle is one who is sent out on a mission, commissioned. Jesus teaches us to be disciples and then sends us out to walk with others. The desire of our campaign is to help us move from being Disciples to Apostles. An appeal letter will go out in the week following this meeting and in the coming weeks we hope to have several people give temple talks describing how they imagine themselves moving from being a Disciple to becoming an Apostle. Commitment Sunday is Nov. 17th, with a celebration on Nov. 24th after we compile data from the campaign.

All Saints Day: On November 3rd, Grace & Glory will celebrate All Saints Day, a celebration of Christ's victory over death. The names of loved ones who have died in the last year will be shared during worship, with an opportunity for worshipers to say something about that person and their relationship to them. Grace & Glory invitation postcards with this information are available for distribution to a friend, a neighbor or even a total stranger.

Usher training: Pastor Strong will meet with the leaders of the ushers and assistant ministers to review worship service procedures so that there is consistency from Sunday to Sunday. The leaders can communicate the information to the rest of their group.

Paper recycling: With plans to change the Sunday bulletin format beginning with Advent, there has been concern about the amount of paper that will be generated and not reused from Sunday to Sunday. The cost is something we can justify, and paper recycling will continue to be utilized. Since our trash service also offers recycling, they will be contacted to add recycling to our monthly service. The cost is expected to be minimal, based on residential rates.

New Business:

Spending Plan: Chris will begin developing the 2025 spending plan, for review by the Finance Team, before sharing final recommendations with the LT. Our ministry groups will be asked for input about their anticipated spending needs.

Fellowship and Hospitality: It has been recognized that the person leading this ministry needs more help to continue our hospitality efforts for the congregation and visitors. With our smaller congregation, in which many people already have multiple volunteer tasks, we continue to emphasize the need to have people stepping up to continue this ministry and others.

Advent Planning: Advent begins on Sunday, Dec. 1st.

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, falls on a Tuesday, and will be celebrated with an evening service, time to be determined. A "Blue Christmas" service will be held on Saturday Dec. 21st, also time to be determined. This Advent schedule will be published in the Fluvanna Review.

Next Leadership Team meeting is November 20th.

Submitted by Paul Crowther, Secretary.

Women at Grace & Glory Bible Study

Our Bible Study group will be meeting at **11 am on November 18**, the third Monday of the month at the church. We shall be doing a one-session Devotional entitled "Compassionate companions" which focuses on how congregations can play a role in **mental health ministry**. This devotional was actually in the **May-June issue of the Gather magazine** since May is mental health awareness month (and the first week of October is Mental Health Awareness Week!) Mental health is an important issue in our world today. Hopefully, this devotional will add to our understanding and inspire us to reach out to the more than 20 percent of people who live with diagnosed mental illness. Jesus' earthly life of compassion, service and healing is our model. Please join us as we discuss Naomi and depression, Saul and bipolar disorder, Elijah and anxiety, and Jesus as he heals the Gerasene man. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

OWLS Out to Lunch Bunch

The OWLS (Older, Wiser, Lutheran Seniors) will gather for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, November 5th at noon at Villa Nova's across from Food Lion. Please RSVP to Linda Beaudoin by 11/1 at 434-589-2654 or email lmbeaudoin@aol.com.



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.

Women's Breakfast

Please join us on November 16th at 9 am at the Crescent Inn at Zion's Crossroads. Please contact Julie Dwyer at 434-981-5613 or julieannad07@gmail.com for additional information.

Men's Breakfast

The men will be meeting for breakfast at Moose's by the Creek in Charlottesville at 9 am on Saturday, November 9. Please contact Denny Avers at denny@avers.net or 434-989-9273

Special Requests

We were contacted by a Fluvanna County Social Services staff member who is seeking assistance for community members in need. The items needed are dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent & cleaning supplies. Also needed is a large space heater & gas cards. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to church & we will deliver them to Social Services. Thank you!

Prison Mission Christmas Gifts

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 by 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.

Happy Face Donations

We are collecting toys for the Happy Face program, which will be held at Central Elementary School on Dec. 14th. Gifts are needed by November 24th. Lists of suggested toys for children are available in the Narthex. Please email Lynn Wirth at lynnrirth@hotmail.com for additional information.

November Birthdays

Steve Jenkins	3
Janet Rockafellow	5
Alan Kretsos	14

GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2024

INCOME:

General	\$10,154
Building	\$1,230
Memorial	\$100
Designated	\$2,131
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$13,615
Other	\$122
<u>Total</u>	\$13,737

EXPENSES:

General	\$8,604
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$1,105
<u>Total</u>	\$12,368

GENERAL CHANGE	\$1,672
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$1,429

YTD SEPTEMBER 2024

INCOME:

General	\$117,220
Building	\$15,286
Memorial	\$170
Designated	\$7,386
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$140,062
Other	\$2,133
<u>Total</u>	\$142,195

EXPENSES:

General	\$88,232
Building	\$23,931
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$6,030
<u>Total</u>	\$118,193

GENERAL CHANGE	\$31,121
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$8,645

All Saints' Day

On November 3rd Grace & Glory Lutheran Church will celebrate All Saints Day, a celebration of Christ's victory over death. The names of those who have died in the last year will be shared during worship. You are invited to join in this time of remembrance at our 10 AM Worship Service.

Grace Notes

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

We Are Also Citizens

The airwaves are filled with contentious political discourse. And, as we get closer to the November election, it will undoubtedly get louder and coarser. Each side seeks to catch the other with questions that aren't designed for clarity and dialogue but to further its own agenda. Martin Luther's explanation of the Eighth Commandment in the Small Catechism— "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*"—is barely visible in the rearview mirror.

But the "gotcha" question isn't a modern invention. "Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ... Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar (the emperor) or not?" ([Matthew 22:15-17](#)). We know the answer. Jesus told them: "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" ([21](#)).

This passage has been used to inform the relationship between the institutions of the state and the community of faith. In this relationship the authority of the state is real and respected—but limited. God's authority is acknowledged as ultimate and deserving of ultimate devotion and obedience, yet it doesn't necessitate withdrawal from or opposition to participation in civic life and its responsibilities. We Lutherans call this the doctrine of two kingdoms, and we understand that the church and the state, the spiritual and the temporal, are *both* established by God and are *both* part of God's twofold rule. Both church and state are good gifts from God.

Lutherans have been accused of congenital quietism. Our understanding of God's twofold rule and even the story about paying taxes in Matthew have been used to discourage participation in civic life. However, active participation in public life has been part of the Lutheran movement from its beginning. Lutherans don't withdraw from public life. In fact, the [ELCA's constitution](#) pledges us to "work with civil authorities in areas of mutual endeavor, maintaining institutional separation of church and state in a relation of functional interaction."

I have been voting for 51 years. I can't think of an election cycle more fraught and divisive than this one. People all across the political spectrum claim that life as we know it is on the line. It's not possible to agree to disagree—one must decide and put a stake in the ground. There is the potential for violence.

But division and violence don't have to be our inevitable future. On Nov. 5, no matter the outcome, we will still be here together. Our church, our people, our congregations will still be here and will witness that unity doesn't mean uniformity; that what binds us together is new life in Christ; that the church—and our country—are bigger than our "tribe"; and that baptism proves that water is thicker than blood.

This is not "both side-ism." Based on Scripture and the [Confessions](#) and forged through prayer, there are principles that aren't debatable: love, community, sacrifice for the common good, to name a few. Instead, we are free and forgiven in Christ so that even when we disagree on deeply held convictions, we can still see the other as someone for whom Christ died.

Something that is missed when reading the story of Jesus and taxes is what he reveals about God and the world God so loves. We focus on Caesar. If Caesar's image and title are imprinted on a base metal coin, a humanly created, literal graven image, where is God's image to be found? Human creatures—the living beings whom God created in God's own image, into whom God breathed the breath of life—are bearers of God's image in the world.

Dear church, our citizenship is ultimately in heaven. But we are also citizens of this country—this flawed, fractious, unequal, imperfect union. In U.S. political history, people have yearned and given their lives for what they had hoped for—democratic life for the sake of the flourishing of all. One of the ways we serve our neighbor is to participate in civic life. Can we see Election Day as a unifying event when the whole country goes to the polls?

Vote.

Bishop Eaton

	November 3	November 11	November 17	November 24	December 1
Minister	William Strong	William Strong	Sandy Wisco	William Strong	William Strong
Assisting Minister	K. Davidson	P. Tomko	K. Weimer	R. Rognlie	C. Parsons
Usher	Carol Parsons	Louise Jargowsky	Paul Crowther	Jan Crowther	Carol Parsons
Greeters	Pat McCloud	Joel & Julie Dwier	Priscilla Fennell	Louise Jargowsky	Chris & Collen Sterner
Altar Guild	Julie Dwyer	Vikki McCloud	Carol Parsons	Terry Weese	Vikki McCloud
Tellers	K. Weimer P. McCloud	P. Tomko M. Rognlie	P. Crowther K. Weimer	T. Weese J. Crowther	K. Weimer M. Rognlie

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.

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	2 10am Spring Creek Craft Fair
3 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live Gifts for Prison Ministry due today 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	4 9am Cindy in Office	5 12pm OWLS Luncheon at Villa Nova 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	6 9am Cindy in Office 11:30am The Path Ahead: Spirituality & Purpose in Later Life	7	8 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	9 9am Men's monthly breakfast – Moose's by the Creek
10 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	11 Cindy & Pastor William out of office this week 11am LWR Quilters	12 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	13	14 Finance Team Meeting 4:00 PM	15 6:30pm AA Meeting	16 9am Women's Breakfast - Crescent Inn
17 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live Gifts for Happy Face due today 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 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 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	29 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	30

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



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