

Grace Notes



October 2025 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,

Since the shocking news of Charlie Kirk's murder, I've heard many people toss around words like "saint" and "martyr" to describe him. As for Charlie Kirk being a Christian saint, who am I to say? The New Testament talks of all Christian believers – including you and me – as "saints," and I absolutely agree with that. As for Charlie Kirk being a more particular kind of Christian saint, well, again, who am I to say? As scripture reminds us, we look on the outward face only, God alone sees the inward heart.

As for martyrdom, that's a slightly different story. We tend to think of, and modern dictionaries tend to define, "martyrdom" as giving up one's life in service to a religious or political belief – especially a belief held in the face of intense and dangerous pressure. Church history contains thousands and thousands of stories of Christian believers accepting death – sometimes in unspeakably cruel ways – rather than deny that Jesus is Lord. Christ means so much to some Christians that life literally makes no sense without him. So people "witnessed" to Jesus with their deaths. That's the root meaning of the Greek word "martyr": "witness." That's why so many older churches paint their front doors red – the color of life, the color of the Spirit, the color of blood. We enter into our faith through the "witness – the "martyrdom" – of the "saints."

But here's a hard truth about all that – in some ways, it is far easier to die for our values than to live them. Death gets attention, but in the long run, what keeps attention, what actually makes a difference to thinking, believing, and living, is the nature and quality of the life that preceded and led up to the death. Rather than deny that Charlie Kirk is a martyr, or argue with those Christians who claim him as such for themselves, I think we would all be better served by examining more closely the "witness" of Charlie Kirk's public words and deeds. To whom or what did Charlie Kirk martyr himself?

In his public ministry Charlie Kirk comforted the comfortable and afflicted the afflicted. Charlie Kirk preached a gospel that was good news for some – but not for all. Charlie Kirk routinely and unapologetically used inflammatory, racially charged language. Charlie Kirk consistently called for judgment and condemnation of others, seldom for self-confession or repentance. It's Charlie Kirk who famously decried "empathy." Charlie Kirk dedicated his public life to the powerful and privileged. And it is to the gods of power and privilege that Charlie Kirk "witnessed" with his death. I believe Christian witness is otherwise. I believe Jesus calls us to something different – something deeper, truer, and simpler, something both more demanding and more rewarding.

I think Christian martyrdom looks like that scene in *The Magnificent Seven*, where Charles Bronson's character explains bravery to the young boys who idolize him – to the detriment of their fathers. Bronson says: “You think I am brave because I carry a gun; well, your fathers are much braver because they carry responsibility, for you, your brothers, your sisters, and your mothers....And there's nobody says they have to do this. They do it because they love you, and because they want to. I have never had this kind of courage. Running a farm, working like a mule every day with no guarantee anything will ever come of it. This is bravery.” And, may I add, this is not only great bravery, this is also real martyrdom. This is also true witness. This is what God asks of all us martyrs and of all us saints – to act responsibly and with love. Let's remember this in the days and nights to come. Amen.

Peace and All Good,
- Pastor William

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

October marks the beginning of our annual Stewardship Campaign. But in truth the campaign is supposed to be a year-round initiative rather than five or six weeks in the Fall. And it's not just about the money. In fact, at Grace and Glory it's rarely about the money. We are a very generous Congregation when it comes to sharing our financial abundance. And while we the Stewardship Team are counting on you to continue in that tradition this year, we are once again focusing our efforts on the need for your time and talents, especially regarding Evangelism. Grace and Glory is in a deficit position when it comes to time and talents. We need folks to get involved in a number of ministries. Specifically, we need help with Fellowship & Hospitality, Property & Grounds, the Leadership Team, and the afore-mentioned Evangelism. That's not to mention Parish Life and Care, which currently is not staffed at all.

Stewardship is a time to reflect on God's gracious abundance in our lives and how we might share this abundance with our community. As such we center this year's Stewardship campaign around the theme **God's Abundance, Our Response**. The Bible verse we've selected is from 2nd Corinthians 9:6-8:

“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

As 2025 comes to a close and we begin to looking toward 2026, we need to look on the new year with a sense of innovation and creativity. We will be experiencing new leadership, new ministries, and hopefully new ways to respond to God's abundance. This year our pledge cards will take on a new look. In addition to your financial gift, we will be encouraging you to discern your God-given talents and time available and wonder how these gifts might intersect with the needs of the Grace and Glory community.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and generosity. Together, let us respond to God's abundance with hearts full of gratitude and hands ready to serve.

Peace and hope,

J. Patrick McCloud
Congregation President and Stewardship Team Leader

Leadership Team Meeting Minutes September 17, 2025

Meeting started at 7:09 PM - Members present: President Pat McCloud, Vice-President Chris Sterner, Secretary George Gaige, Helen Ida Moyer, Darlene Baugh, Lynn Wirth. Members absent: Pastor Williams Strong, Linda Bolling

Devotions – Chris Sterner read a devotion from Matthew about the need for nurturing relationships in our church with God and the rest of our community.

Time for Sharing - Lynn shared the joy of her trip to Alaska with her family. Darlene shared her joy about her grandson getting married soon.

Agenda – additions, edits - Pat announced that he had two additions to the agenda. The first concerned the Shepherding program while the second addition was related to some property updates regarding floor drains and fire extinguishers.

Approval of August 20, 2025 Minutes - On a motion by Chris, which was seconded by Darlene, the minutes of the August 20th meeting were approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Pat reported that Pastor Strong was unable to attend tonight's meeting and there would be no Pastor's report.

Finance Team Reports / Recommendations: Approval of Treasurer's August Reports – Chris reported that August was a good month with donations ahead of this period last year, but reminded that our financial position would be worse if we were paying a full-time Pastor. Pat noted that our positive financial trend has continued over the past few months. On a motion by George, seconded by Lynn, the Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Evangelism Team Update - A discussion was held about paying for a harpist for the church's Blue Christmas service. It was decided that a Thrivent grant would be pursued to cover the cost, but the church would pay the fee if this grant was not received. Donations from the congregation would also be sought to help cover the cost if the grant was not received.

Marty Party – G&G's annual party to celebrate the Reformation is scheduled for October 25th in the church Pavilion weather permitting.

Grace and Glory 25th Anniversary Celebration – Lynn Wirth reported that there was no new information available about the celebration. The committee will meet again on October 2.

Hospitality Workshop - The workshop has been scheduled for Sunday, November 9.

Church Banners – All of the recently purchased banners have been received and the banner for the *Blessing of the Animals* event will be displayed shortly for that event which will take place on October 4th.

Movie Night - The movie night event featuring a film about the struggles faced by immigrants trying to enter the United States will be held on Sunday, October 19 from 3:00 - 4:30 PM.

Pie Auction Update - Lynn reported the pie auction plans are progressing nicely. Lots of members have signed up to donate pies and volunteer for the event which will be held on September 27. It was decided that the Posters that were created to advertise the event will be printed out for members to distribute in the community.

The pavilion will be cleaned this week in preparation for Sunday's outdoor service and should be in good shape for the auction the following weekend.

Shepherding Program: Pat reported that we now have four people signed up to be Shepherds and we are searching for two more volunteers.

Stewardship Campaign Theme Recommendations: Pat reported that three themes are being considered for this year's Stewardship campaign.

LT Nominating Team Recommendations: Pat requested that Chris and George join him as representatives from the LT on the Nominating Team for the 2026 Leadership Team.

New Business:

Bookkeeper Status - Chris advised that five people have expressed interest in the job as bookkeeper and their resumes are being reviewed. He and Pat are also trying to schedule a meeting with our retiring bookkeeper Regina to better understand the job and the software used.

Maurice and Regina Lange's departure. Maurice and Regina Lang have announced that they are leaving the congregation. No explanation was provided.

Security Team revival - Pat has suggested that we convene a meeting of greeters, ushers, and LT members to assess security at our services.

Property Update: The Church Garden has not had proper attention for some time. It is currently overgrown with weeds. Pat instructed Robert Candea to take the fence down surrounding the garden but to save the fence for future use. Robert will mow the weeds once the fence has been removed. It was discovered that the church's fire extinguishers have not been inspected for several years and a cost of \$257 has been approved to have them serviced. It has also been discovered that the floor drains in the restrooms and kitchen need to be rinsed periodically with hot water to prevent odor.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment: The closing prayer was led by President Pat McCloud. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. NEXT MEETING: October 15th @7:00 PM October

Devotions: Pastor Strong

Pastor's Emergency Fund

Good People, through your generous support of the Pastor's Emergency Fund, Grace & Glory has helped many of our Fluvanna County brothers and sisters get through some tough times. We have assisted with heating and cooling bills, with rent and mortgage payments, with medical expenses, and with food, gas, and supplies. We have been Jesus' helping hands and open hearts and we have made a difference. I'm asking you all now to help replenish this Fund so I can continue to act in your name on behalf of those who need our help the most. If you can help, please do so by indicating "Pastor's Emergency Fund" on your check or donation. With thanks and gratitude, Pastor William.

Grace Note Submission

Because the email service from embarqmail has gotten poor, I am changing the email that I use for the newsletter to DuckyOaks@gmail.com. The old email will continue to work for several months but would appreciate a shift to the new one when possible. Please remember to submit your information for the November issue of Grace Note by Friday, October 24th to LeRoy Moyer at DuckyOaks@gmail.com.

Thank you: Pie Auction - A sweet success!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who made our pie auction a resounding success this year. Your incredible support helped us raise **\$1,185**, and we collected several boxes of food for the food bank, exceeding all expectations. Thank you for baking, bidding, and contributing to this wonderful community event.

A special round of applause for our stars:

- **George, our exceptional auctioneer:** We are deeply grateful for George's excellent work once again this year. His energy and skill made the event so much fun.
- **Paula, our organizational wizard:** Thank you to Paula, whose hard work behind the scenes ensured all the bids and payments were flawlessly managed.
- **The dedicated setup crew:** Your flexibility and quick action to move our event indoors on Saturday were truly appreciated. Thank you for ensuring everything came together seamlessly.
- **Our talented bakers:** A special thanks to the generous bakers who provided 15 delicious pies. Your creativity and generosity made this a sellout event!

Record-breaking moments:

- **Highest bid:** A whopping \$25 was paid for a single slice of Pastor's Lemon Chess Pie!
- **Pie showcase:** Vikki's Apple Cranberry pie was a huge hit, earning an impressive \$121 in total from sold slices.

From the team behind the scenes to every single person who showed up, bid, and cleaned up, your efforts made a significant and positive impact. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Submitted by Stephanie Wirth



Blessing of the Animals

Grace and Glory will host a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 4th at 3:00 pm. Please invite your friends and family to bring their furry friends to this special outdoor event.

Churchwide Hospitality Workshop - November 9th

Hospitality is central to the good news of Jesus Christ. Rooted in the necessary habits of a desert culture, the Bible over and over again shows us the importance of practicing hospitality to one and all. In the New Testament we are told to welcome strangers in the chance that we could be "entertaining angels" without realizing it. On Sunday, November 9th, please stay after service for an all-church, 90-minute workshop on congregational hospitality. We all have a part to play in welcoming both newcomers and old friends to Grace & Glory. A fried chicken lunch from E.W. Thomas will be provided. Please plan to attend.

Shepherding Program

Interested in being a Shepherd? If so, please contact Pastor William or Pat McCloud. Another Sunday session on what shepherding is all about is coming soon.

Women at Grace & Glory Bible Study

The next gathering of the Women at Grace & Glory for a Bible Study will take place at the church at **11 am on October 20**, the third Monday of the month. We shall be starting a new Bible Study focusing on “**Money, stewardship and generosity**” in the September/October/November 2025 issue of magazine *Gather*, published by the ELCA. In the first session we look at money and what it is that we treasure. I was amazed to learn that there are more than 2,000 Bible passages that refer to money, possessions, and tithing! Plus 16 of Jesus’ parables deal explicitly with money and the use of material wealth. Please join us as we read some of these passages together and explore what attitudes folks may have learned about money and treasure as we grew up, from society at large or from our own family circumstances.

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

OWLS Luncheon

The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) Out to Lunch Bunch will gather on Tuesday, October 7th at noon at Bunker Bistro at the Lake Monticello Golf Course. If you live outside the gate, tell the guard you are going to the restaurant. It is located at 51 Bunker Blvd. RSVP to Linda Beaudoin at 434-589-2654, 434-808-3800, or lmbeaudoin@aol.com.



Marty Party

Come one, come all to Grace and Glory's Annual 'Marty Party' on Saturday, October 25th, at 4 PM.

We're celebrating the Reformation, Fall, Oktoberfest, and anything else you can think of. If you're coming, please sign up on the posted sheet in the Narthex. We're asking that participants bring a dish to share. Coffee and tea will be provided. You are welcome to bring an adult beverage should you so desire.

Men's Breakfast

The men's group will meet for breakfast at Boyd Tavern Market on Saturday, October 11 at 9:00 am. Please RSVP to Denny Avers at denny@avers.net or 434-989-9273.

Women's Breakfast

The women's group will meet for breakfast at IHOP at Zions Crossroads on Saturday, October 18th at 9:00 am. Please RSVP to Vikki McCloud at vkmccloud3@gmail.com or 609-560-5135.

Dear Friends,

Fluvanna Christian Service Society (FCSS) is once again sponsoring its annual Happy Face Party. Since 1974, the Fluvanna Christian Service Society has sponsored the annual Happy Face Party to help Fluvanna County families celebrate Jesus' birth. Qualifying families are identified and invited to participate by the Fluvanna Social Services, Health Dept. & Region Ten.

For those of you not familiar with Happy Face let me explain a little more. On Saturday, December 6 those qualifying families who wish to attend and have responded as such, will come to Central Elementary School where they will participate in a program to celebrate Jesus' birth. Each child will pick out a toy, books, and stuffed animal and receive a winter coat and a pair of pajamas. Each family will also receive a food voucher.

Can you help us help our Fluvanna County neighbors and make this party a huge success? We need new toys valued at \$20 or more. However, we do have a policy of no toy guns or weapons. If you do not know what to get, here are some suggestions: LEGOS: Minecraft, Technic, Superman; Art Kits; Science Kits; Mini Karaoke Machines; Remote control cars, trucks, helicopters; Polaroid cameras; Fitness Watches; Stanley or Owala Water Bottles; Books for all ages, especially 0 – 4 years; Stuffed animals.

Or you could make a monetary donation. No amount is too small. **Checks may be made payable to Fluvanna Christian Service Society (FCSS) and in the memo write Happy Face.** This is very important because the bank will not cash checks made out to Happy Face. Mail checks to P.O Box 411, Palmyra, VA 22963.

We are also looking for volunteers to help us shop and sort the toys, jackets, pajamas, and books. If you can help us, please call Martha Landauer at 703-505-3351 or email: Mlandauer4@gmail.com.

A toy collection box will be located in all churches who have requested them.

If you have any questions, please call Gladys Albright at 434-589-2463 or send an email to gladysalbright@comcast.net.

Many thanks for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Happy Face Committee

A Request from the Building & Grounds Team

We need 4 medium-sized plastic totes, or sturdy boxes with lids to store extra landscaping stones. Please contact Robert Candea at ralcandea@aol.com if you can donate.

FCCW Gift Ministry

We will be collecting donations for the Grace Inside Ministry at the Fluvanna Correctional Facility for Women through Oct. 5th. Lists of needed items, as well as a sample, are in the Narthex.

October Birthdays

Diane Wolf	2	Rebecca Bullis	15
Margaret Scudamore	7	Edee Povol	15
George Gaige	8	Megan O'Dell	16
Darlene Baugh	12	Bill Milstead	18

GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

AUGUST 2025

INCOME:

General	\$14,868
Building	\$760
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$275
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$15,903
Other	\$399
<u>Total</u>	\$16,302

EXPENSES:

General	\$9,546
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$160
<u>Total</u>	\$12,365

GENERAL CHANGE \$5,721

BUILDING CHANGE -\$1,899

YTD AUGUST 2025

INCOME:

General	\$114,793
Building	\$10,545
Memorial	\$3,490
Designated	\$4,165
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$132,993
Other	\$3,223
<u>Total</u>	\$136,216

EXPENSES:

General	\$91,254
Building	\$21,272
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$7,659
<u>Total</u>	\$120,185

GENERAL CHANGE \$26,762

BUILDING CHANGE -\$10,727

Excerpt from Bishop's Statement on Racial Profiling.

I am deeply troubled by incidents of racial profiling* that are happening across this country in the name of law enforcement and national security. Such inhumane treatment is being employed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in wanton immigration stops, targeting individuals based on race, ethnicity, language, occupation or location. In particular, I and many in this church lament the Supreme Court action of Sept. 8 in which the court granted a stay of a lower court's restraining order that had limited such enforcement practices in Los Angeles while judicial action is pending.

My concern is grounded in Scripture, ELCA social teaching and care for our neighbors. Scripture is clear: every human being is created in the image of God. Racial profiling denies that image and violates the dignity it confers. It is not only unjust — it is inhumane. This church's teaching is also clear, having expressed grave objections to patterns of racial, ethnic, and religious profiling because it "stigmatizes those who are innocent of any offense" (ELCA social statement *The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries*, p. 40). Every neighbor, regardless of immigration status, deserves safety, dignity, and equal protection under the law. Racial profiling, a legacy of white supremacy, is rooted in the sin of racism (ELCA social statement *Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture*, p. 5).

I want to be clear that, though this ruling effectively singles out the Latiné community, it also sets a precedent that will erode constitutional safeguards for all of us. I am reminded of the poem "First They Came," derived from a speech by German Pastor Martin Niemöller: "First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me." This famous quotation illustrates how the systematic targeting of marginalized groups can escalate when people fail to defend others' rights, as happened when most people remained silent during the rise of Nazi persecution in Germany. It serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of quietism and inaction in the face of injustice.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton - Presiding Bishop - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26	November 2
Minister	Elizabeth Yates	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong
Assisting Minister	Keith Weimer	Paula Tomko	Richard Rognlie	Kevin Davidson	TBD
Usher	Gaby Ford	Louise Jargowsky	Jan Crowther	Paul Crowther	Linda Bolling
Greeters	Lynn Wirth	Robert Candea	Pricilla Fennell	Louise Jargowsky	Joel & Julie Dwyer
Altar Guild	Vikki McCloud	Julie Dwyer	Mary Louise Rognlie	Terry Weese	Carol Parsons
Tellers	Keith Weimer Pat McCloud	Paula Tomko Vikki McCloud	Paul Crowther Mary Louise Rognlie	Jan Crowther Terry Weese	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

Carol Parsons – (540) 748 0062

Lectors and Assisting Ministers

Paula Tomko – (434) 326-5533

Altar Guild/Greeters

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 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am Cindy in Office	2	3 9am Cindy in Office	4 3pm Blessing of the Animals
5 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:15am Choir Rehearsal	6 9am Cindy in Office	7 12pm OWLS Luncheon 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	8 9am Cindy in Office	9 2pm Evangelism Mtg.	10 9am Cindy in Office	11 9am Men's monthly breakfast – Boyd Tavern Market
12 10am Outdoor Worship Service – Pavilion 11:15am Choir Rehearsal	13 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	14 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	15 9am Cindy in Office 7pm Leadership Team Mtg.	16	17 9am Cindy in Office	18 9am Women's Breakfast - IHOP
19 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:15am Coffee and Social Hour 11:15am Choir Rehearsal	20 9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study	21	22 9am Cindy in Office	23 9am Cindy in Office	24 Grace Notes Submissions Due Today	25 4pm Marty Party
26 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:15am Choir Rehearsal	27 11am LWR Quilters	28 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	29	30 9am Cindy in Office	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.



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Newsletter Deadline is **October 24, 2024**
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DuckyOaks@gmail.com



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