

Grace Notes



May 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: 804-51-2296

Good People,

On Sunday, May 19th, the Church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit, the Advocate and Comforter promised by Jesus, descended on his followers. Crowns of fire adorned every head and all the languages of the world rolled off the disciples' tongues. Intoxicated by God, Jesus' friends and family proclaimed the Good News to an astonished Jerusalem, and thousands were converted. What an amazing day! What a great beginning! Many Christians look on Pentecost as the birthday of the Church, and, along with wearing red, will serve up birthday cake after worship that Sunday.

We will do much the same. The Spirit is alive and kicking at Grace & Glory and we have much to be thankful for, much to celebrate, and celebrate we will. We will wear red on the 19th. We will hear the Word proclaimed in different voices. And we will gather together for a potluck meal following worship (invite a friend!). What we will not be doing is singing "Happy Birthday!" to the Church. And let me tell you all why.

I love Luke's account of Pentecost with its depictions of out-of-control behavior, accusations of day drinking, and echoes of ancient prophecy. I'm sure that first Pentecost was a lot of fun. Everybody and their uncle seemed to have a good time and get along. And the conversion of thousands certainly makes for good advertising, right? But, to be honest, all that sounds a bit triumphalist to me. And even more to the point, this version of the Pentecost story just doesn't jibe with modern church realities.

No. At this point in my life and ministry I much prefer John's version of the Pentecost story, the one in John, chapter 20, where the shell-shocked disciples have retreated in defeat and despair to the upper room and locked the door behind them out of fear. It is into this locked room that Jesus appears, bringing peace, the Holy Spirit, and the power of forgiveness.

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.’”

Now that's the kind of Pentecost I need. That's the kind of Pentecost the whole wide world needs. That's an honest Pentecost. That's a Pentecost for today's church. We need a Jesus who can break down all our defenses and break through all our fears, bringing us peace and the power to forgive – to forgive ourselves and to forgive each other. That's a Pentecost we can all get behind. That's a feast day worth celebrating. That's a red-letter day indeed! See you all there! And bring a friend! Amen.

Peace and All Good,
- Pastor William

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Even the Church calendar flies as you get older. It seems like just last week we were celebrating Easter. And now we are just a couple of weeks away from Pentecost. And you know what Pentecost is; it's the Church's birthday. And what do you do on your birthday? You have a party. And what do you do when you have a party? You invite your friends. And like Easter we are reaching out to inactive members, our friends at AA, and recent guests to join us on this important day. And that's where you come in. We're hoping that Easter was your 'dry run' and that now you're ready to invite someone to church. We're also lowering the bar in that we're asking each active member to hand out just one invitation card to a neighbor, friend, co-worker, or even a stranger, inviting them to Pentecost Sunday.

You may ask why Pentecost when we just did this at Easter. It's because Pentecost is a really an important day in church history. It's a day when we wear red to remind us of the fire of the Holy Spirit as well as God's powerful presence, Red reminds us of that first Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came upon those first followers and there appeared to the disciples something like flames of fire. It was when the disciples received the Holy Spirit in such a manner that they now fully understood what the work of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins really meant. That's a big deal, something we should want to share with everyone.

Let me close with something from 2nd Timothy. In chapter 4 he urges us "to proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; . . . For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths."

Peace and hope,

J. Patrick McCloud
Congregation President

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 May 20 at the church. We are doing a special study on Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith which has four sessions: the first one we did in March was on Weather, focusing on Biblical stories of extraordinary weather which convict and humble us, showing us how to live faithfully. The second session which we looked at in April focused on Creatures, noting that human and animal interactions in Scripture can reorient our relationships with the non-human creatures and deepen our trust in God. The third session in May will be focusing on Rivers since it is through stories of biblical rivers, that we receive a vision of flourishing creation. The last session in June will be focusing on Food, since our faithful stewardship of the earth includes paying attention to the ways we eat.

Please let me know if you need a copy of the Bible study from the March-April issue of *Gather* for this third session on Rivers. New subscriptions to the magazine will start with the May-June issue which will not be mailed until later this month. We hope that you will be able to join us for a special time of fellowship and Bible study together on Monday May 20 at 11 am at the church.

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. The next newsletter deadline is May 24.

The Leadership Team (LT) met on April 19, 2024.

Pastor's Report: Pastor William Strong was very pleased with the turnout for our Easter service and continues to be happy with the opportunity to serve as our interim pastor.

President's Report: Pat summarized the Evangelism Team's debriefing on our Intentional Evangelism Initiative for Easter Sunday. The return of greeters on Sunday morning has been successful and offers both a welcome and guidance to first-time visitors.

Finance Team Report: The March Finance Report was approved as presented. It was noted that for first quarter 2024, we are currently ahead on pledged giving.

Old Business:

- Action Register updates
 - Only three congregation members have mentioned their desire to continue using offering envelopes. Since 2024 envelopes are already in use there is time to make a final decision on envelope purchasing for 2025.
- LT installation: Installation of the 2024 Leadership Team will take place at the April 21 worship service.
- Digital Virginia Synod Assembly: Sadly, due to scheduling conflicts, no members were available to participate in the Assembly taking place on April 27.
- Bread for the World appeal: A special offering will take place at the April 21 worship service. Following the service there will be a letter writing effort to encourage our legislators to support the new Farm Bill that will be voted on this Summer. The bill consists of several pieces of legislation to benefit people suffering from food insecurity.
- Inactive member status: Pastor Strong suggested to the Evangelism Team that we repeat the Easter initiative (invitations to our inactive members and recent visitors) for upcoming Pentecost Sunday.
- Stewardship for All Seasons: Grace & Glory will not participate in the program this year, but will reconsider our participation in the future.
- Record of Memorial gifts: To date the search for a formal record of past memorial gifts to G&G has been unsuccessful.

New Business:

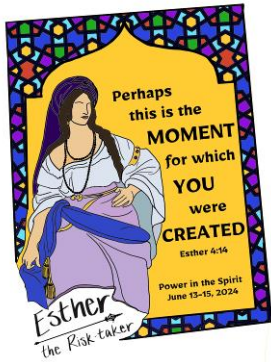
- Property insurance: Renewal of our annual comprehensive church policy showed a 38% premium increase. Comparisons will be made to other company rates, but it's expected they will be similar.
- The Call Committee reports that after interviewing our first pastoral candidate we are expecting the Synod to forward the next candidate that matches our needs.
- Advertising: Pat McCloud will discuss Fluvanna Review advertising strategy with Edee Povol, who has agreed to cover the cost.
- Worship and Music: Any suggestions on how to decrease the amount of paper worshipers need to handle during the service should be shared with Julie Dwyer.
- Intentional Evangelism: We will continue efforts to inform members and visitors of upcoming worship services and events.
- Property:
 - For child safety and grounds maintenance efficiency the timbers surrounding the play area will be removed.
 - Kevin Davidson suggested a tune-up for our alarm system is needed to correct unintended arming of the system while people are present in the building. Cost is estimated to be \$350. Paul made a motion to proceed; Chris seconded; approved by unanimous vote.

Summer Power in the Spirit at Roanoke College

Thursday, June 13, 2024 to Saturday, June 15, 2024.

<https://vasynod.org/event/summer-power-in-the-spirit/>

Esther the Risk-Taker



“For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” (Esther 4.14 NRSV)

The story of Esther is one of God’s faithful presence, deliverance from oppression, and bold service to the neighbor. God calls Esther – a Jewish queen in a foreign land

– to join in God’s plan to save God’s people. God gifts Esther with leadership, strengthens her in those gifts, and calls her to take risks – all for the sake of her own safety and that of her people. Like Esther, we can be assured of God’s holy presence and deliverance. Like Esther, we can choose to act for the deliverance of others.

Come join **Pastor CeCee Mills**, the keynote speaker, as she highlights the risk demanded by discipleship – bidding us to consider how God might also be calling us “for such a time as this.”

Come join **Pastor Heidi Neumark**, our Bible study leader, as she celebrates Esther’s leadership growth, inviting us also to recognize the gifts which God has given us.

Come join **Michael Benschish**, our music leader, as he invites us to live into the theme musically as we sing together: “Perhaps you have been chosen for such a time as this!” He will lead us once again in a Jazz Mass for Friday evening worship. If you are interested in singing in a choir, please indicate on the registration form.

Come and learn! Come for fellowship! Come to serve your neighbor!

Come to Power in the Spirit 2024!

GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

MARCH 2024

INCOME:

General	\$11,444
Building	\$943
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$656
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$13,043
Other	\$192
<u>Total</u>	\$13,235

EXPENSES:

General	\$9,586
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$435
<u>Total</u>	\$12,680

GENERAL CHANGE	\$2,050
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$1,716

YTD MARCH 2024

INCOME:

General	\$41,821
Building	\$4,931
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$2,718
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$49,470
Other	\$1,022
<u>Total</u>	\$50,492

EXPENSES:

General	\$30,335
Building	\$7,977
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$1,556
<u>Total</u>	\$39,868

GENERAL CHANGE	\$12,508
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$3,046

Bread for the World Success

Bread for the World is a Christian faith-based bi-partisan advocacy organization that urges U. S. decision makers to support policies that will help to end domestic and world hunger. It works hand in hand with the ELCA. By changing policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities in which we live. Grace and Glory has supported Bread for the World since 2002, both financially and by letter writing campaigns. We are a Bread for the World covenant church. On Sunday, April 21, the church had an event to support the Bread for the World effort. It was a huge success.



40 letters were written to our Representatives

The special offering and bread sale netted \$387

Thanks go out the Jean Demarco and all the people who participated to make this a great event.

May Birthdays

Ed Erickson	4	Donald Bossong	9	Nathan Smith	27
Justin Wade	5	Elizabeth Smith	14	Deena Cuda	28
Priscilla Fennell	6	Jean DeMarco	17	Ruth Campopiano	30
Ruth Haverstrom	8	Levi Smith	27		

Men's Breakfast

Please join us at Tavern on the Green in Spring Creek on Saturday, May 11th at 9 AM.

Please RSVP to Denny Avers at 434-9273 or denny@avers.net.

Women's Breakfast

We will meet on Saturday, May 25th (please note date change) at Maple Pine Breakfast & Thai Restaurant at 9AM. The restaurant is located at 630 Riverside Shops Way in Charlottesville.

Please RSVP to Julie Dwyer at 434-981-5613 or ejmartell1968@yahoo.com.

Volunteer Opportunity

We're putting together a work party to remove the ties from around the playground on Saturday, May 18th at 10 AM. We're seeking volunteers (strong backs, weak minds) to help with this project for approximately 2 hours. Please contact Robert (Bob) Candea at 434-960-1130 or email RALCandea@aol.com.



Report from the Virginia Synod Assembly April 27, 2024

Over 300 Lutherans around the Virginia Synod gathered online via Zoom for the 2024 Virginia Synod Assembly. The Synod welcomed **The Rev. Tim Brown**, Director of Congregational Stewardship of the ELCA, as our Churchwide Representative. The Assembly theme was Strong Connections, We, too -the many – are different parts that form one body in the Anointed One [Christ]. Each one of us is joined with one another, and we become together what we could not be alone. – The Voice Translation (Romans 12:5).

Elections

The Assembly elected the following leaders to serve on the Synod Council: **Ali Armentrout** (St. Mark's, Roanoke); **Pat Carriker** (Good Shepherd, Galax); **Cam Haggett** (College, Salem); and **Rev. Kayla Keilholtz** (Ebenezer, Marion). The following lay leaders were elected to serve on the Consultation Committee: **Richard Fraenkel** (Grace, Chesapeake) and **Kristee Trumbo** (Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg). The following leaders were elected to serve as voting members at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly: **Rev. Luke Swanson** (Trinity, Roanoke); **Deacon Emily Edmonds** (Grace, Rural Retreat Parish); **Rev. Viktoria Parvin** (St. Mark, Charlottesville); **Tom Bartkiewicz** (Our Saviour, Warrenton); **Judy Castele** (Good Shepherd, Lexington); **Sylvia Miles** (Good Shepherd, Galax); **Cam Haggett** (College, Salem); **Dr. Yolanda Shea** (First, Norfolk). The lay leader elected to serve on ELCA Church Council is **Jillian Stierwalt** (St.

Andrew, Portsmouth). The final election for the ELCA Church Council position will take place during the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

Worship

The Assembly opened with a Land Acknowledgement and worship service. **Pastor Dave Fox**, Gloria Dei, Hampton, served as the preacher for worship and focused on the Assembly theme, 'Strong Connections.'

Assembly Business

The Assembly approved the 2025 Investment in Ministry Plan and the Compensation Guidelines for 2025. Bishop Milton and the Synod Officers shared their reports. The Assembly approved a resolution submitted to encourage care for creation. The resolution submitted on privileged associate membership was withdrawn by the author of the resolution.

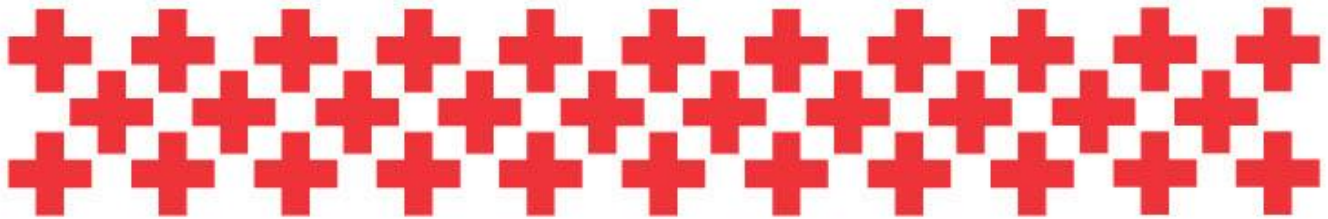
Suzanna Carr (First English, Richmond) presented a report from **Asher Porter** (Our Savior, Christiansburg), president of the Lutheran Youth Organization. The report shared the impact of the youth ministry of the Virginia Synod providing updates on Synod events. The Youth Assembly will be held on May 25 at four different locations: Christ the King, Richmond, College, Salem, Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg, and Trinity, Newport News.

The Virginia Synod Office of the Bishop gives thanks for those who shared their time and gifts to lead and to participate in the 2024 Virginia Synod Assembly.



American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive **Grace and Glory Lutheran Church**

Education Room
683 Thomas Jefferson Pkwy
Palmyra, VA 22963

Monday, May 13, 2024
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: graceandglory to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26	June 2
Minister	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong	Pat Handlson	William Strong
Assisting Minister	Richard Rognlie	Keith Weimer	Carol Parsons	Paula Tomko	Kevin Davidson
Usher	Gaby Ford	Carol Parsons	Jan Crowther	Linda Boling	Gaby Ford
Greeters	Lynn Wirth	Pat McCloud	Robert Candea	Joel Dwyer	Louise Jargowsky
Altar Guild	Carol Parsons	Vikki McCloud	Mary Louise Rognlie	Terry Weese	Julie Dwyer
Tellers	Pat McCloud Keith Weimer	Vikki McCloud Keith Weimer	Paul Crowther Pat McCloud	Jan Crowther Terry Weese	Paula Tomko Keith Weimer

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.

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am Cindy in Office	2	3 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	4
5 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	6 9am Cindy in Office 11am Finance Meeting	7 12pm OWLS Luncheon Made in Asia 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	8 9am Cindy in Office	9 Evangelism Team Meeting 2:00 PM	10 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	11 9am Men's Breakfast Tavern on the Green, Spring Creek
12 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	13 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters 2 pm – 6 pm Red Cross Blood Drive	14 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	15 9am Cindy in Office 7pm Leadership Team	16	17 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	18 10am Building & Grounds Project – removal of ties at playground
19 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11am Potluck after service 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	20 9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study	21 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	22 9am Cindy in Office	23	24 Grace Notes Submissions Due Today 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	25 9am Women's Breakfast Maple Pine Breakfast & Thai Restaurant, Charlottesville
26 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	27 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	28 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	29 9am Cindy in Office	30	31 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	

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



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Palmyra, VA 22963