

Grace Notes

May 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

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: 804-517-2296



Good People,

As Mother's Day fast approaches, I've been thinking a lot about moms and especially about Jesus and his mom. We never hear Jesus tell Mary he loves her. Jesus never even calls Mary "mom." It's always "woman," as in, "woman, what has that to do with me?" If I called my mama "woman" she'd whup me upside the back of my head so hard my eyes would pop out and roll across the kitchen floor – just sayin'! Yet, for all that, I think there is a great deal of love between Mary and Jesus.

Mary follows her son throughout his ministry – wherever he goes, she goes, including all the way to the cross. And it is at the cross that Jesus makes provision for Mary, entrusting her to the Beloved Disciple, calling her "mother" for the first and last time: "Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother." I think the relationship between Jesus and Mary contained much love and great faithfulness, just not a lot of sentimentality.

Now, we might find the way Jesus treats his mother odd or puzzling or even disrespectful, but we must hold in mind that Jesus is the man his mother raised him to be. Have we ever really thought about that? Religious education in the home almost always falls to women – to the mothers and the grandmothers. Jesus never went to seminary – Mary was his seminary, Mary, and the scriptures.

Go read Mary's words to Elizabeth, the Magnificat, where Mary talks about the poor being filled and the rich being sent away empty. Then go read Luke's account of the Beatitudes where the hungry are blessed because they will be fed but woe to the rich who have their good things now – they will go hungry later. Hear the connection? Jesus is the preacher and prophet his mother taught him to be. Jesus is not only his Father's Son, he is also Mary's first-born child. And that is no accident!

Now, my point here is not to blame or shame moms or put something extra on the plates of those who already do so much for so many. Rather, I want to remind us all that, like Mary, we each have a role to play in discipling each other and the world around us. We Christians aren't born, we're baptized into our faith. Each of us is Mary to the Jesus in those around us – forming, teaching, and loving others into their full potential as fellow children of God. Each of us is a spiritual mom, a new Mary.

We act as the Mother of God, nurturing Christ wherever we may find him, giving him of our time, our treasure, and our selves. All the more reason then to devote ourselves to scripture, to devote ourselves to prayer, to devote ourselves to worship and to devote ourselves to joy. If you don't know how to recognize God at work in the world and in life, if you don't know how to teach others to pray, if you don't know how to touch that joy that the world doesn't give and the world can't take away, then now is the time to learn, now is the time to start. Reach out to me. And Happy Mother's Day to us all!

Peace and All Good,
- Pastor William

Believing

Grace & Glory's Evangelism Ministry was revived on January 18, 2024. We called it 'intentional Evangelism' and the goal is to better understand the needs of our community, and then finding new ways to meet those needs. It looks as if the timing of this initiative couldn't be better. Almost all Americans, 92% of adults, say that they have a spiritual belief, in a God, human souls or spirits, an afterlife or something "beyond the natural world". Furthermore, the Country seems to be acknowledging this widespread spiritual hunger. America's secularization is on pause. People have stopped leaving churches, and religion is taking a more prominent role in public life from the White House to Silicon Valley to Hollywood.

Lauren Jackson from the New York Times has spent the last year reporting on this shift in American life. Researchers say the pandemic and the Country's limited social safety nets have inclined people to stick with, or even turn to religion for support. But she says there is another reason too: many Americans are dissatisfied with the alternatives to religion. "They feel an existential malaise, and they're looking for help. People want stronger communities, more meaningful rituals, and spaces to express their spirituality. They are also longing to have richer, more nuanced conversations about belief." Religion fills a psychological need by giving them the 'three B's.' That is belief in something, belonging in a community and behaviors to guide them.

Something seems to be shifting in American society. Most Americans (70%) identify as religious and are very committed to their faith (44% say they pray at least once a day). For the first time in decades, America's religiosity is remaining stable. Many of the "nones," people who say they have no religious affiliation, seem to have realized that in leaving faith they threw "the baby out with the baptismal water."

This is an extraordinary opportunity for our Congregation. There are people in our community who are looking for a place just like Grace and Glory. But we Lutherans have to stop being so squeamish about 'Evangelism.' It's about taking the opportunity to talk about church. There are more opportunities than you think. Have a scheduling conflict due to a church commitment? Let someone know you can't make it because of church. Do you enjoy quilting? How about listening to a bell choir? Let people know about the pie auction, the blessing of the animals, etc. It's up to us to spread the "good news."

Peace and hope,

J. Patrick McCloud
Congregation President

Cosmic Walk

Each Sunday we at Grace & Glory pray for Creation: for people and other creatures, for safe habitat and clean water and air. This Spring, let's come together as a faith community to celebrate God's Creation and its story - that each of us is part of. You are encouraged to come to the church on **Thursday, May 22 at 7:00 pm** for a ritual known as "**The Cosmic Walk**" (or "The Story of the Universe").

Scientists tell us that Creation is 13.7 billion years old. That number is beyond us - but through this ritual we will creatively interact with the Universe Story: from the Flaring Forth ("Big Bang") until this very day.

I've offered this deeply meaningful ritual literally to hundreds of groups over the years, and I'm touched to be able to share it with my faith community: Grace & Glory. This celebration will be solely for Grace & Glory members. Looking forward to gathering with you as a community.

We'll be done by 8:00 that evening, and the sun will still be up!

-Maurice Lange

Leadership Team Committee Minutes **April 16, 2025**

Meeting began at 7:04 PM

Members present: Pastor Strong, Darlene Baugh, Pat McCloud (President), Chris Sterner (Vice-President), Lynn Wirth, George Gaige (Secretary), Linda Bolling
Absent: Helen Ida Moyer

Note: Pastor Strong had to leave the meeting to take a pastoral care phone call.

DEVOTIONS – Lynn Wirth read a devotion which explained that following Jesus means noticing and seeing things that need change and taking action to affect the changes.

Time for Sharing - Darlene shared the joy of celebrating her husband's 75th birthday with a trip to Massachusetts. Lynn Wirth shared a request for prayers for her brother-in-law's sister who passed away.

Approval of March 20, 2025 Minutes- Three corrections were made to the March minutes and all members approved the minutes after a motion by Chris Sterner, seconded by Lynn Wirth.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Strong requested prayers for Walter and Audrey Vetter who are experiencing medical and other family issues at this time. Prayers were also requested for Beverly's mother who passed away. Pastor Strong was thanked by Linda Bolling for his comfort to church members during these trying times.
- Pastor Strong reported that the Lenten Soup Suppers were a great success with many members in attendance at Grace & Glory and the other churches where the suppers were held.
- Pastor Strong suggested that there be some discussions about standardizing the flow of the Sunday services because some inconsistencies have occurred which were especially apparent with the Palm Sunday service.

President's Report

- Pat reported that as we have done for a number of years, an ad was placed in the Fluvanna Review inviting community members to attend Easter worship at Grace and Glory. He said that copies of the ad were placed on the Website and G&G's Facebook page. Chris Sterner added that 49 postcards had been sent out to new property owners in Lake Monticello inviting them to visit Grace and Glory.
- Pat also reported that there are sufficient materials available to hold a 'new members' class which would be led by Pastor William. This led to a discussion as to when and how often a new members class should be offered and who could attend.
- Regarding the request for help in preparing the PowerPoint presentations for Sunday services, Pat reported that no one had stepped forward to act as Beth Jenkins' back-up.' Pat said that he was willing to learn how Beth puts the presentations together.

Finance Team Reports / Recommendations:

- Chris Sterner reported that receipts (income) for March were very good and that we are over \$6,000 ahead of last year after the first three months of 2025. Chris also reminded the LT that if we had a full-time Pastor, we would have been over \$5,000 in the red. The finance committee report was approved by all members after an approval motion by George, seconded by Lynn.

Old Business:

- Parking lot sealing and gravel update - Pat reported that the parking lot was sealed earlier in the week and that the restriping was to be done on Thursday evening. The parking lot should be ready for Easter Service.
- Alarm System Update- Pat reported that Bob Candea is waiting for additional information before he can make a recommendation to the LT.
- Call Committee Update - Pat reported that there have been no new applicants referred from the Synod to the Call Committee.
- Shepherding Program Update – Pat and Pastor Strong reported that they had recruited a few members to be shepherds for the upcoming shepherding program, but a few more shepherds are still needed.

- Evangelism team update

- Possible shredding event at Grace and Glory - After discussion, it was determined that conducting a shredding program for community members at the church might not be viable due to the cost of bringing a commercial shredding service into the church. This idea will be revisited in the future. Chris Sterner will be gathering more information for future discussions.

- Maurice Lange was invited to the Evangelism meeting this month and suggested holding an event at the church focusing on the importance of the environment and our obligation to be good stewards. He calls it a 'Cosmic Walk' and it is tentatively set for May 22nd at 7 PM. A movie presentation at the church, again focusing on the environment, is tentatively scheduled for June 21st at 7 PM.

- A "declutter day" for excess/unneeded equipment/books/material at the church has been scheduled for June 7th, from 10 AM to 12 PM. There is no charge, but members can make a free will offering to the Food Bank should they choose to do so.

- The purchase of colorful banners as being preferable to our church sign with regard to attracting attention to church events was discussed. No decision was made to purchase.

- Grace and Glory 25th Anniversary celebration - Lynn reported that for the 25th anniversary celebration next year the event would be catered and that an alternative date should be considered due to the possibility of inclement weather in February. Lynn will be reaching out to members to serve on the Celebration Committee.

8:15 New Business

- First Quarter Pledge Update – Pat reported that pledges received for the first quarter in 2025 were almost identical to last year which is slightly ahead of where we should be.

- 2024 Audit Report - Chris and Pat reported that the 2024 Audit team needs to be confirmed and that the audit itself could be delayed due to some reconciliation issues.

- Capital spending plan - Chris Sterner went over the revised Capital Spending Plan to remind members that the finance committee is tracking the age and condition of significant equipment at the church such as appliances and air conditioning, etc., with a view to knowing when we might have to expect to replace these items and what the possible costs would be.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment - Pat lead the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM

Women at Grace and Glory Bible Study

The WAGG Bible Study group will be meeting the third Monday of the month, **at 11 am on May 19th** at the church. We shall be continuing a four-part Bible study about "**Faithfulness.**" \

Where is God in hard times, and what does it mean to be faithful?

In our first session we focused on "Faith where you are" as seen in the story of Ruth and Naomi. Like Ruth and Naomi, we respond to God's faithfulness by connecting to our faith, serving and leaning on each other. This month in Session Two we see **how** as **we** try to **hold on to faith in difficult times**, the words of **Psalm 22** model a way to confess both pain and praise. This psalm is included in the church lectionary every Good Friday. It begins with a stark back-and-forth of despair but ends with songs of praise and thankfulness for the psalmist's deliverance, for the assembly, and even for future generations. Next month in June we shall look at how the Holy Spirit teaches Peter, the church and us to see others as God sees them. Finally, in July for our fourth session, we shall see how Jairus and the Faithful Woman rely on God's faithfulness in times of difficulty. These Bible studies are in **the January-February 2025** and the March/April/May 2025 **issues of the Gather magazine** published by the ELCA. We hope that you will be able to join us for a special time of fellowship and Bible study together on Monday May 19th at 11 am at the church. Right now, when many folks are caught up in quite unforeseen hard times, taking a good look at what it means to be faithful will serve us well.

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

Save the Date: June 7th is D-day

Most everyone knows that June 6th is D-day. Well June 7th is D-day for G&G. The 'D' standing for 'declutter.' On Saturday June 7th, from 10 to noon, G&G will make available all of our stuff that we no longer need. You, the Congregation are welcome to come and take home some of our stuff or all of our stuff. We have books, chairs, tables, cabinets, arts and crafts, wheelchairs, you name it. Whatever stuff you don't take we're hauling to Goodwill and/or the dump. So, save the date and take home some stuff.

Join the Women of the ELCA – Germanna Conference

Date: Saturday, May 17, 2025

Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Theme: "Gather Us In"

Hosted by: Resurrection Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg

This is a potluck picnic to be held at Loriella Park, Shelter A, near the pool.

Location: 10910 Leavells Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22407

We will gather with hopefulness for food, fellowship, and fun!

Everyone should bring a lawn chair and a dish to share.

Christ Lutheran Church - dessert

Resurrection Lutheran Church - main dish

All others - side dish

Paper products and drinks will be provided by RLC hosts.

Please bring underwear in all sizes for men and women, to be donated to Micah Ministries. There will also be a free will offering to benefit VSWO.

RSVP:

Resurrection Lutheran Church

Carol Bailey (540-972-0371, cobailey42@gmail.com)

Adult Sunday School

Sunday School will resume on May 4th. Classes will be held after worship services.

OWLS Luncheon

The OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) will gather for May lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, May 6th at noon at El Mariachi Mexican Restaurant. It is located at the north end of Zions Crossroads, in front of Lowe's. The address is 65 Freedom Drive, Gordonsville. Contact Linda Beaudoin at 434-589-2654 or lmbeaudoin@aol.com.



Red Cross Blood Drive

Grace & Glory is hosting a blood drive on Monday, May 12th from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Please go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time?zipSponsor=22963> to register.

Grace Note Submission

Because the email service from Embarq 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 May issue of Grace Note by Monday, April 24th to LeRoy Moyer at DuckyOaks@gmail.com.

Dining Together Groups Forming This Month

After all the snow we had in January and February, it will be good to get out and Celebrate Spring by having a meal together with other folks from Grace & Glory, whether at **lunch or at supper time**. The host provides the main dish, and the **guests bring salad and dessert**, so the preparation of the meal is shared. It is nice to meet in a **home** which reflects so much of what people value and love, but folks can also choose to meet at a **restaurant**. The important point is for the group to get together two or three **times** over a meal, during **May, June, and July**. Then the groups can be rearranged for August, September and October. Thereafter, the holidays keep everyone rather busy, so none will take place in November, December and January. Groups will consist of five or six people. Please say "yes" that you would like to participate and either e-mail me at ducky5oaks@gmail.com or call me at 434-293-5543 to let me know that I should include you in one of the groups. Thanks! It is a wonderful way to get to know folks better that we sometimes see for just a few minutes in the narthex before or after church on Sundays.

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

Men's Breakfast

The men's group will meet for breakfast at Tangerines Kitchen on Saturday, May 10th at 9:00 am. The restaurant is located at 32 Mill Creek Drive #102 in Charlottesville. 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 the Bunker Bistro at Lake Monticello on Saturday, May 17th at 9:00 am. Please RSVP to Julie Dwyer at ejmartell1968@yahoo.com or 434-981-5613

GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

MARCH 2025

INCOME:

General	\$17,714
Building	\$850
Memorial	\$25
Designated	\$1,667
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$20,256
Other	\$379
<u>Total</u>	\$20,635

EXPENSES:

General	\$10,707
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$1,059
<u>Total</u>	\$14,425

GENERAL CHANGE	\$7,386
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$1,809

YTD MARCH 2025

INCOME:

General	\$45,496
Building	\$4,205
Memorial	\$3,165
Designated	\$2,283
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$55,149
Other	\$1,487
<u>Total</u>	\$56,636

EXPENSES:

General	\$30,788
Building	\$7,977
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$5,444
<u>Total</u>	\$44,209

GENERAL CHANGE	\$16,195
BUILDING CHANGE	-\$3,772

May Birthdays

Justin Wade	5	Jean DeMarco	17
Priscilla Fennell	6	Levi Smith	27
Ruth Haverstrom	8	Nathan Smith	27
Elizabeth Smith	14		

Pastoral Message on the Death of Pope Francis

Dear church,

On this Easter Monday, we of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America join with people around the world in heartfelt grief at the death of Pope Francis, and we celebrate his life eternal in Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis served Christ's church with wisdom, courage, and humility. Throughout his pastoral ministry, he served as an instrument of God's justice and peace for all people and the whole of creation. His commitment to the poorest people, in his native Buenos Aires and around the world, was ever present, even in his simple living.

Pope Francis will go down in history as the first Jesuit bishop of Rome and the first from the Americas. His papacy will be remembered for his clarion call to action for climate justice, his bold engagement in ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, his compassionate approach to several complex social issues, and his clear concern about the rise of right-wing populism worldwide and its impact on the most vulnerable.

In particular, we will remember Pope Francis for his significant contributions to the dialogue of life between Lutherans and Catholics, advancing the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. We will recall with amazement his participation alongside the Lutheran World Federation in a joint ecumenical commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on Oct. 31, 2016. I will never forget witnessing the procession of the pope and the general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation down the aisle in red stoles during the prayer service that day. We give thanks to God for this witness to our visible unity in Christ.

We pray that God will strengthen the people of the Roman Catholic Church with the promise of Christ's resurrection. We extend our condolences to all our Catholic siblings, including the bishops, priests, deacons, scholars, and laypeople with whom we are in dialogue and partnership. We also pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the deliberations of the College of Cardinals as they begin the process of selecting a new pope.

O God, we remember with thanksgiving
those who have loved and served you on earth
and now rest from their labors, especially our brother, Pope Francis.
Keep us in union with all your saints,
and bring us with them to the joyous feast of heaven;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

In Christ,

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

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25	June 1
Minister	William Strong	TBD	William Strong	William Strong	William Strong
Assisting Minister	Kevin Davidson	Keith Weimer	Richard Rognlie	Paula Tomko	TBD
Usher	Carol Parsons	Louise Jargowsky	Paul Crowther	Jan Crowther	Carol Parsons
Greeters	Colleen & Chris Sterner	Julie & Joel Dwyer	Priscilla Fennell	Louise Jargowky	Lynn Wirth
Altar Guild	Carol Parsons	Mary Louise Rognlie	Julie Dwyer	Terry Weese	Vikki McCloud
Tellers	V. McCloud ML Rognlie	P. Tomko K. Weimer	P. Crowther P. McCloud	J. Crowther T. Shiflett	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.

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Sunday School	9am Cindy in Office	12pm OWLS Luncheon El Mariachi 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	9am Cindy in Office		9am Cindy in Office 4 pm Finance Team Mtg. 6:30pm AA Meeting	9am Men's monthly breakfast Tangerines Kitchen
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Sunday School	9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters 2 – 6 pm Blood Drive	6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	9am Cindy in Office		9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	9am Women's Breakfast Bunker Bistro
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11am Coffee and Social Hour after service 11:30am Sunday School	9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study	6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	9am Cindy in Office 7pm Leadership Team	7pm “The Cosmic Walk” w/Maurice Lange	9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	Grace Notes Submissions Due Today
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Sunday School	9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	9am Cindy in Office		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
DuckyOaks@gmail.com



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