



# Grace Notes

## September 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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G&G E-mail: [admin@graceandglory.org](mailto:admin@graceandglory.org)

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Rev. William Strong, Pastor: [rev.whs@gmail.com](mailto:rev.whs@gmail.com)

Phone: 804-517-2296

Good People,

We are all getting older. It seems such an obvious thing to say, yet this basic human reality doesn't get a lot of attention or respect in our culture. Despite the fact that aging Baby Boomers are swelling our support systems and institutions to the breaking point as they retire and require assistance, we don't like talking about getting older. And younger folks don't like hearing about or seeing the reality of aging put before them. That's why we warehouse our aged in buildings on the edge of town or out in the middle of nowhere. Even though David is the only Biblical character we watch mature from youth to adulthood to old age and then death, I couldn't help but notice that our lectionary readings this summer skipped over the old age part. Did you all notice that? We went from an adult David weeping at the death of his son, Absalom, to hearing that David slept with his ancestors.

Similarly, I was watching a movie the other night about four women over 80 who became huge Tom Brady fans and attended Superbowl LI. It's called 80 for Brady and is based on a true story. During the credits we get to see a picture of the real 80 for Brady women, who look like regular folks over the age of 80 – meaning they look like people we know, including some of us, and perhaps even including ourselves. Maybe I shouldn't be so surprised when Hollywood doesn't look like real life, but the actors in the movie didn't look anything like the real people they portrayed – the actors in the movie looked like themselves, famous actors in a movie. Let's face it, Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno, and Sally Field don't have wrinkles like we do. So even when we make movies about older people, we don't really show aging as it is, but as we want it to be – meaning we stay rich and beautiful until we die (even if we were never rich and beautiful to begin with!?).

What if we stop thinking about aging as the punishment for living longer and begin thinking about getting older as the next and natural stage in our God-given lives, with its own purpose, meaning, and spirituality? And that's exactly what I'm inviting you all – and especially your unchurched friends – to do over the month of October and the first week in November. The program is called “The Path Ahead: Spirituality and Purpose in Later Life©.” Over the course of six lunchtime gatherings we will explore together the stereotypes and realities of aging, how purpose and meaning change for us over time, and we will learn some simple prayer practices that help foster faith, peace of mind, and resilience as we move into the second half of life. A light lunch will be served. Please join me. And bring a friend! Amen.

Peace and All Good,  
- Pastor William

## Survey Says:

You'll recall that back in June we conducted a Worship and Music Survey. The Survey was part of our intentional Evangelism initiative. The objective of the Survey was to examine what we do, how we do it, and how a visitor would see us. The response was truly exceptional with approximately 85% of our active members participating. Hopefully by now you have had a chance to review the results of the Survey. Your feedback, including your commentary, was reviewed by the Worship and Music Ministry Team (W&M), who then made a recommendation to the Leadership Team (LT) regarding actionable items. Actionable items were considered those responses that reflected a significant majority of the Congregation and were deemed practical to implement.

Two-thirds of the Congregation feel that our current Service is confusing with all the paper and inserts and that it is not visitor friendly. The recommendation is to have one complete weekly worship folder using the ELW for hymns only. The folder would include the liturgy, readings, servers, and announcements. The Celebrate insert would be eliminated. It was also suggested that the entire service could also be displayed on the screens. The LT asked that a prototype folder be created for their review.

Outdoor services were clearly favored by the Congregation and the recommendation is that three to four services should be scheduled as early as possible and that they be held in mid to late Spring and early to mid-Fall. The LT concurred.

Nearly three-quarters of the Congregation felt that we should keep the same worship time year-round. That was also the recommendation to the LT, and they concurred as well.

Though three-quarters of the Congregation would be interested in an occasional ecumenical service outside of the Lenten season, the recommendation was not to add more services. The LT concurred but did not rule out the possibility in the future.

The Congregation is very happy with our Music Ministry but there is a desire for some variety. The W&M team pointed out that we are currently limited to hymns that are included in the ELW but if we went to a printed weekly worship folder we could include additional hymns on occasion. The W&M Team agreed with the Congregation that Guest musicians are always enjoyable but that they can be costly and difficult to find in the immediate area. They also noted that we have a lot of musical talent in our Congregation that we utilize, especially in the summer months, but throughout the year as well. The LT concurred with their recommendation.

The W&M team had no recommendation regarding the attendance books but did point out that they are not accurate as they are often not passed from person to person. Nearly 60% of the Congregation felt the attendance books are important for church records. The LT recommended that we try designating a Sunday once a quarter for people to sign the books in order to have a record of attendance and communion.

The Congregation was somewhat ambivalent regarding passing the offering plate. W&M recommended that with our current attendance, and the fact that a majority of members do not make their offering on a weekly basis, that we not pass the offering plate except on large attendance days such as Christmas and Easter. The LT concurred.

The Congregation and the W&M team feel that Communion at Grace and Glory can be confusing with inconsistent direction from the ushers. They recommended additional usher training as well as having Pastor explain the process weekly. The LT concurred.

Again, the LT wants to thank the Congregation and the W&M Team for their input. We take your feedback seriously and while we feel that we 'do worship well' as Pastor William put it, we can always do better.

Peace and hope,

*J. Patrick McCloud*  
Congregation President

## **The Leadership Team met on August 21, 2024**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Strong shared examples of Behavioral Covenants used by churches and other groups who understand that conflict, disagreements, and misunderstandings occasionally take place while conducting business or conversation. Covenants developed and utilized by churches are typically guided by scripture and practiced on a daily basis as a spiritual discipline. The leadership team agreed to examine how such a covenant might serve Grace & Glory. A motion was made by Pastor Strong to work with two other people to consider adopting such a covenant and what that document might look like. Motion seconded by George Gaige. Unanimous approval.

**President's Report:** Pat McCloud shared his favorable impression with Grace & Glory's present situation. While we are still in the call process for a new pastor, we are fortunate to have Pastor Strong as interim pastor. Our financial position is stable, and worship attendance has enjoyed modest growth. Following the Apostle Paul's example, "we must remain true to the faith."

### **New Business:**

**Worship & Music Survey/recommendations:** Julie Dwyer, representing the Worship and Music Ministry, presented that Team's recommendations regarding the recent Worship and Music Survey. Key recommendations from the team suggest one complete weekly worship folder using the ELW for hymns only. The entire service can also be on the screen for those who find that more helpful. The folder would include the liturgy, readings, servers, and announcements. The Celebrate pamphlet would be eliminated and the Intercessory prayers would not be printed but include just the response. It was recommended not to post prayers on the overhead screens. The LT suggested including the hymns in the worship folder with ELW hymnals available for personal preference.

Regarding service time, keeping the 10 AM worship time is preferable. The offering plate will remain at the entry to the Sanctuary and the reminder regarding the presence of the offering plate will continue to run in the worship folder / bulletin, along with an announcement from Pastor. We will determine at the beginning of year the dates for worship in the Pavilion and let weather decide for us to proceed or move inside to sanctuary. It was agreed that Julie and Pastor Strong will meet first with the Ushers to assure uniformity of procedures. Overall, a clear majority of the Congregation is pleased with our worship and music.

Pastor Strong discussed "The Path Ahead," a six week train the trainer program from the Seabury Institute that is designed to help people understand the challenges posed by the transition of aging and how it affects their spirituality and purpose in later life. The program would be offered by Pastor Strong at Grace & Glory and be open to the community. Pastor suggests a Wednesday lunch hour meeting time to begin in October. LT is in support of this program, which fits right into our evangelism efforts.

**Pavilion pathway:** After considering the two estimates given for completing a concrete walkway to the pavilion, LT agreed that a special appeal should be offered to the congregation asking for a commitment of support to raise 50% of the cost with balance to be covered by Grace & Glory before deciding to proceed.

**Evangelism:** An effort to update our website and Facebook page is underway. The Synod is providing technical and digital assistance.

A pie auction and food drive in our pavilion is scheduled for September 14. An ad will be placed in the Fluvanna Review and flyers will be distributed.

2nd quarter pledge update: A software issue contributed to a misleading report on the status of our Pledge Campaign for the first half of the year. A note was published in the bulletin explaining the problem. The Stewardship Team is working with Stephanie Wirth to address the issue.

Congregation Archivist: Helen Ida Moyer volunteered as our archivist and will be collecting and organizing items and information that will contribute to the history of Grace & Glory Lutheran Church.

**Old Business:**

**Parish Register update:** The inactive member list was reviewed, and motion was made by Chris Sterner for those so named to be removed from the church roster and directory. Seconded by Paul Crowther. Unanimous approval.

**Call Committee update:** Paul Crowther reported that one of the two candidates that had been notified of our open call later decided that he was not interested. Paul will inquire if the Synod is aware of any specific reason for that decision by the candidate. The second candidate has not yet responded. A third candidate has been identified and the Synod has presented our information to them. We are pleased that we are seeing some action in the call process.

**Staff background checks:** Required background checks have been completed and all staff passed.

**Policies and Procedures review:** Records Retention: Chris Sterner did a thorough review of our filing system and will review his findings with relevant staff to discuss suggested changes and the disposition of said records.

Next Leadership Team meeting September 18.

Submitted by Paul Crowther, Secretary

**Special Appeal: Pavilion Sidewalk**

For years Leadership has been exploring ways to better utilize the Pavilion. It's why the Leadership Team elected to have the Pavilion, and the combination bench / tables power washed. It's why we held an Outdoor service there this summer. It's why we're having the Pie Auction there on September 14th. And the just completed Worship and Music Survey revealed a strong desire on the part of the Congregation to have more outdoor services in the Pavilion. But the recent outdoor service revealed an issue that is a problem for many of us and that is access. For folks using a cane or a wheelchair, or just unsteady on their feet, getting to the Pavilion over grass and gravel can be problematic.

The solution is to extend the paved sidewalk all the way to the Pavilion. We have received 2 quotes to do this work. The LT discussed the issue and there was a reluctance to put more money into the Pavilion unless the Congregation is behind it. So, we are asking if the Congregation would support a special appeal to extend the sidewalk. The lower of the two quotes is for \$3,500. The LT is asking if members are willing to commit to 50% of that cost or \$1,750. That's approximately \$50 per person based on our average weekly attendance. If you are willing to pledge towards this initiative we are asking that you complete a pledge card available in the Narthex, or contact Pat McCloud, Chris Sterner or the church office.

We have set a deadline of September 8th. We are not asking for your actual offering by that date but your commitment to an offering. The reason for this timing is that if we are to proceed with this opportunity at the quoted cost, we would need to do so ASAP. The week following September 8th the LT will assess the pledge commitment and make a decision as to going forward or not.

Thank you for considering this appeal.

Peace, Hope and Blessings.

The Leadership Team

## **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 September 16 at the church. We are continuing with a three-part Bible study focusing on what it means to live in faith “After certainty,” i.e., in times of uncertainty, as we are these days after a worldwide pandemic, escalating climate change, political turmoil, and a changing religious landscape. Drawing from biblical texts and Lutheran tradition, we’ll ponder what it means to live faithfully in these times of uncertainty. Last month we saw how holy curiosity can lead us, like our Biblical ancestors, to where God’s love in Jesus transforms “what is” to “what could be.” This month we focus on salvation not as a reward for our certainty, but as a gift granted in and through community.

This month’s Bible study is from the July-August issue of Gather, which hopefully everyone should have since most of the new subscriptions to the magazine coming to your home did start by this issue of the magazine. It has both the second and third sessions of the “After certainty” Bible study. It also has a delightful article with the title “Out of the box” on pages 12-15. Check it out to see what is “out of the box” and why it delighted me so much!! We look forward to seeing you for a special time of fellowship and Bible study together on Monday September 16 at 11 am at the church.

Submitted by Helen Ida Moyer

### **Pie Auction**

We will be hosting a Pie Auction on Saturday, September 14th at 3 PM to raise money for the food bank. We need your help to make this event a success! Please sign up in the Narthex to bake a pie or help in other ways. Bring your friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy delicious pie. There will also be a canned goods collection, with something special for the family that brings the most canned goods. For additional information, contact Stephanie Wirth at [accounts@graceandglory.org](mailto:accounts@graceandglory.org).

### **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 between September 29th and 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.

## Older, Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) Luncheon

The OWLS will gather for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, September 3rd, at 12:00 pm, at Wahoo BBQ, 10 Centre Court, Palmyra. It is across from Lake Monticello Fire & Rescue, just outside Slice Gate. Please let Linda Beaudoin know if you are attending. Call (434) 589-2654, or email at [lmbeaudoin@aol.com](mailto:lmbeaudoin@aol.com).



### The Path Ahead: Spirituality & Purpose in Later Life<sup>SM</sup>

Grace & Glory is hosting a six-part series on the spirituality of aging. Through video presentations, discussions, and contemplative practices, you can expect to learn, share, question, reflect – and be surprised! All materials will be provided.

The group will meet from 11:30 - 1:30 on Wednesdays, Oct. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and Nov. 6th. A light lunch will be served. Please contact Pastor William with questions, or for additional information.

### September Birthdays

Rachael Huddle	1	Tamara Brown	8
Carol Sanders	3	Sammy Brown	14

### GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

#### JULY 2024

##### **INCOME:**

General	\$16,101
Building	\$2,625
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$560
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$19,286
Other	\$126
<u>Total</u>	\$19,412

##### **EXPENSES:**

General	\$8,705
Building	\$2,659
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$440
<u>Total</u>	\$11,804

<b>GENERAL CHANGE</b>	\$7,522
<b>BUILDING CHANGE</b>	-\$34

#### YTD JULY 2024

##### **INCOME:**

General	\$95,221
Building	\$13,186
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$4,900
<u>Total Donations</u>	\$113,307
Other	\$1,801
<u>Total</u>	\$115,108

##### **EXPENSES:**

General	\$69,786
Building	\$18,613
Memorial	\$0
Designated	\$4,260
<u>Total</u>	\$92,659

<b>GENERAL CHANGE</b>	\$27,236
<b>BUILDING CHANGE</b>	-\$5,427

### Grace Notes

Please remember to submit your information for the August issue of Grace Note by Tuesday, September 24th to LeRoy Moyer at [lee\\_helen@embarqmail.com](mailto:lee_helen@embarqmail.com).

## We Are All 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."

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.**

Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

	<b>September 1</b>	<b>September 8</b>	<b>September 15</b>	<b>September 22</b>	<b>September 29</b>	<b>October 6</b>
<b>Minister</b>	William Strong	TBD	William Strong	TBD	William Strong	William Strong
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	K. Weimer	P. Tomko	C. Parsons	K. Davidson	R. Rognlie	K. Weimer
<b>Usher</b>	Carol Parsons	Louise Jargowsky	Paul Crowther	Jan Crowther	Gabi Ford	Carol Parsons
<b>Greeters</b>	Joel & Julie Dwyer	Lynn Wirth	Chris & Colleen Sterner	Louise Jargowsky	Pat McCloud	Priscilla Fennell
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Julie Dwyer	Carol Parsons	Vikki McCloud	Terry Weese	Mary Louise Rognlie	Julie Dwyer
<b>Tellers</b>	P. Tomko K. Weimer	K. Weimer V. McCloud	P. Crowther P. McCloud	T. Weese J. Crowther	ML Rognlie P. Tomko	K. 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

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](mailto: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](http://www.graceandglory.church)).

### Prayer List Requests

You may submit prayer requests to Cindy Anderson at [admin@graceandglory.org](mailto: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](http://www.graceandglory.church), includes a great deal of information that is updated regularly.



# September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	2 9am Cindy in Office	3 12pm OWLS Monthly meeting – Wahoo BBQ 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	4 9am Cindy in Office	5	6 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	7
8 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	9 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	10 10am Finance Meeting (Zoom) 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	11 9am Cindy in Office	12	13 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	14 9am Men's monthly breakfast – Tangerines Kitchen 3pm Pie Auction
15 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11am Coffee and Social Hour after service 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	16 9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study	17 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	18 9am Cindy in Office 7pm Leadership Team	19	20 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	21 9am Women's Breakfast Moose's by the Creek
22 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	23 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters	24 Grace Notes Submissions Due Today 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal	25 9am Cindy in Office	26	27 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting	28
29 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal	30 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](http://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](mailto: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 **September 24, 2024**  
to LeRoy Moyer at  
[Lee\\_Helen@embarqmail.com](mailto:Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com)



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