

Grace Notes



April 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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G&G E-mail: admin@graceandglory.org

Website: www.graceandglory.church

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Phone: 804-517-2296

Good People,

I recently read this question: “How can God look on so much cruelty, injustice and malice, so much oppression of the innocent?” The author seems to think that understanding God’s response to evil and suffering provides some kind of important evidence about the existence and nature of God. How can a good and all-powerful God look on evil and suffering – especially that of innocent people – and do nothing about it? Is God not good? Is God not all powerful? Does God not exist? These are the questions that keep a lot of folks up a lot of nights.

These are good questions, great questions, important questions; but they are also questions a bit beyond my ability to answer in a one-page newsletter article. Besides, as momentous as these concerns may be, they are not the ones that occupy my mind most in these strange and crazy-making days. It’s not God’s ability to look upon a broken and hurting world with apparent indifference that troubles me. It’s our own. I believe what goes on these days in our world, in our nation, and in our churches breaks God’s heart – breaks it wide open. So why haven’t current events broken our hearts? Why aren’t we moved to act? Why do we keep looking to God to fix things for us? How much worse do things have to get before we realize that now is the time and this is the place for our witness, for our worship, for our prayer, and for our love? Why are we waiting?

Christ abides in every place, in every situation, in every human heart. That doesn’t necessarily mean that Christ always approves of what we do or causes everything that happens to us. But it does mean that the God who was born in a stable and died on a cross doesn’t hold himself above us or look down on us. Jesus faced hunger. Jesus experienced loneliness and despair. Jesus lost his temper, busted up some furniture, was mean to his mom, and said hurtful things. Jesus knows what it is to fail. Jesus knows what it means to feel abandoned by God. And Jesus knows what it is to die. Jesus has been everywhere we are ever likely to go. Whatever road we are walking, Jesus has walked that road before us and waits for us just around the next bend. That’s the power and the promise of the Resurrection.

We don’t have to wait until we have more members or more families with kids or more money or more influence or more anything to be the body of Christ. We have all that we need to meet the world’s needs; we just fail to recognize it. Soon after Jesus’ Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, Peter went up to the Temple in Jerusalem to pray. As he entered, a lame man asked Peter for money. Peter replied, “I have no silver or gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk.” The same author I quoted above, speaking of this passage from Acts 3, remarked how fortunate this lame man was, “that Peter possessed nothing.”

What do we possess – or think we possess? I heard a new definition of the church the other day that has stayed with me. “The church,” the saying goes, “is like one hobo telling another hobo where to find bread.” I think that’s pretty perfect. I think that pretty much sums it all up. It’s not about us giving away whatever paltry trinkets and toys we use to distract ourselves; it’s about sharing what we’ve found – what we’ve been given – in Christ. And the less of ourselves we hold onto, the more of Christ we have to give away. Again, that’s the message of the Cross and the promise of the Resurrection – a message and a promise that this desperate world so desperately needs to hear here and now. So, turn back. Turn back and trust God. Easter is coming! Easter is coming, amen!

Peace and All Good,
- Pastor William

Grace and Glory’s Silver Anniversary

Robert Candea recently reminded me that next February 11th will mark the 25th anniversary of Grace and Glory’s first service. We both agreed that this is a big deal and that we should celebrate this important milestone. We are in the process of putting together a Celebration Committee to work out the details. By the way, if you are interested in helping, please contact Lynn Wirth.

So, what was Grace and Glory like in 2001? There were 53 individuals at that first service which was held in the aerobics room of the Armstrong Fitness Center. A keyboard was on loan from Peace Lutheran and start-up funds were used to purchase a computer and an overhead projector and screen to display the order of Service. Reverend Bill Stewart was serving as part-time pastor for this newly developing congregation. The following Easter service saw 45 individuals accepted as members of Grace and Glory.

So, in April of 2001 Grace and Glory had 45 members and a part-time pastor. Does that sound familiar? Apparently we have come full circle. I look back at that time and I see something else very familiar. I see a Congregation very much like that of 2025.

That Congregation, like ours, was about ‘outreach and benevolence.’ They declared themselves to be about sharing their faith with others in word and service. They saw themselves as a welcoming community of faith. It was the Grace and Glory of 2001 that designated the 3rd Sunday of each month as a day to collect items for the Food Bank. They provided assistance to the Chaplain of the women’s prison and participated in the Bread for the World initiative.

Clearly there is a strong sense of continuity between that Congregation and ours. There is one characteristic however that we need to embrace more than ever. That is their faith and belief that Grace and Glory could be a force in Fluvanna County and beyond. At their third anniversary in 2004 Pastor Stewart said “Today we’re building a church. We’ll be putting up a building later.” Eight years later the Congregation had grown by 30%. The only thing that’s changed since then is that we now have a building. We’re still building a church.

Peace and hope,

J. Patrick McCloud
Congregation President

Grace Notes Submissions

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 Notes by Monday, April 24th to LeRoy Moyer at DuckyOaks@gmail.com.

Leadership Team Meeting Minutes - March 20, 2025

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

– **DEVOTIONS** – Pat McCloud read a devotion from Luke:13 about what it means as Christians to repent.

- **Time for Sharing - joys, concerns, hopes, etc.** Linda shared her joy at recovering after side effects from vaccines received. Helen Ida shared her joy after her improved vision post cataract surgery, Pat shared concern and asked for prayers for his mother-in-law who is in hospice care, George shared Joy about an upcoming visit from four of his grandchildren and Darlene shared experiences of being able to stay connected with her mother's love 10 years after her passing.

- **Approval of February 19, 2025 meeting minutes**

There was a motion to approve from Darlene. It was seconded by Linda; all were in favor.

Pastor's Report:

-Sunday Adult Education is continuing with steady attendance.

-We are seeing fairly regular attendance from up to eight new potential members. There was a discussion about offering a class to potential new members as well as existing members about what it means to be a Lutheran at Grace and Glory.

-The weekly Lenten Soup Suppers have been well attended with good turnout at Grace and Glory and Palmyra Methodist Church. Next suppers will be at Palmyra and Cunningham Methodist Churches and then again at Grace and Glory. The last event will be a potluck at Salem again for Maundy Thursday.

President's Report - Pat reported that the church is doing well, and attendance seems to be going in the right direction with noticeable vitality and energy among our members!

Finance Team Reports / Recommendations:

Chris Sterner reported that February was a good month financially, and the church's finances are in good shape. However, our financial position is being held stable because of the lack of a full-time pastor. Expenses for our part-time pastor (for whom we are very grateful!) our much lower than they would be if we had a full-time pastor.

A motion was made by Lynn to accept the treasurers report. It was seconded by Darlene and approved by all in attendance.

Old Business:

Bookkeeper Status - our transition to a new bookkeeper is complete, and Regina Lang has been able to provide all the needed reports.

Call Committee Update - Pat reported that the call committee had met with a potential candidate, but that the candidate was not deemed to be a good fit for our needs. The committee has asked the Synod to keep providing referrals.

Shepherding Program Update – Pat and Pastor reported that we are at the point of recruiting shepherds. We would like to have 7 to 8 shepherds. These people would have a small “flock” of members to stay in touch with.

Evangelism Team Update -

- There will be a targeted mass mailing to 50 or 60 families to invite them to join our church. Postcards will be filled out after service on March 30.

- There are plans to present a relevant movie in the Sanctuary in May to be facilitated by Maurice Lange.

- Grace and Glory will hold a "Garage/ Yard" sale on June 7. It's really a Spring-Cleaning event as we dispose of unneeded items. Church members can make a free will offering if they choose to do so.

- There is also a plan to hold a community shredding event in July as a service to our community.

Capital Spending Plan Update / Alarm System Update

There is a meeting planned for March 24 which will involve planning for capital spending which is needed. Particular problems are:

- Need for a new alarm system
- Reseal and re-stripe the parking lot.

New Business:

Grace and Glory's 25th Anniversary is next year: Our church will celebrate 25 years of existence in February 2026. (Our first service was February 11, 2001.) Lynn Wirth agreed to take charge of planning for events to celebrate this milestone and will reach out to members regarding their participation on the Celebration Committee

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The closing prayer was read by Linda Bolling

NEXT MEETING: April 16th @ 7:00 PM

Devotions: Lynn Wirth

Submitted by George Gaige, Secretary

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, 4/2 6:30 PM - Lenten Soup Supper (Cunningham United Methodist Church)

Wednesday, 4/9 6:30 PM - Lenten Soup Supper (Grace and Glory Lutheran Church)

Thursday, 4/17 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service (Salem United Methodists Church)

Friday, 4/18 7:00 PM - Friday Service (Palmyra United Methodist Church)

Sunday, 4/20 6:30 AM - Easter Sunrise Service (Pleasant Grove Dog Park)

Sunday, 4/20 10:00 AM - Easter Service (Grace and Glory Lutheran Church)

What makes our Sunday Services Special?

Not soon after Pastor William became our interim Pastor he made a comment that has stuck with me. He said that Grace and Glory is particularly good at doing something that is critical to any congregation. He said that the worship service experience at Grace and Glory is done really well. And what makes a good worship experience? Well of course it starts with our Pastor, but he wasn't patting himself on the back. He was referring to our wonderful Music Ministry, our beautiful Sanctuary, our welcoming atmosphere, and our talented Audio - Visual Team.

Mike and Beth are critical to the success of our Sunday service. Streaming our services became critical during the Covid epidemic but perhaps just as important afterwards. We've been able to find folks who can relieve Mike but not Beth. A big part of our service is the beautiful PowerPoint presentations put together by Beth. There is a lot of thought, and a good amount of time put in on her part to make our service special. Think about how much less impactful our service would be without her efforts.

That leads me to my request. Beth gets no Sundays off. Pastor does. Rebecca and Julie do. The Choir and Bell Choir do. Ushers, Tellers, Altar Guilds, and Greeters do. Why not Beth? Even if Beth is not here, she still has to prepare the presentation for someone else to present. But it's not just about giving Beth a break, which is really important, but it's also about giving someone else a chance to be a part of what we really do well. Please prayerfully consider about learning how to do this very important part of our worship experience. If you are interested, please contact Beth or me.

Peace and Hope,

Pat McCloud

Lilies for Easter



Grace and Glory is accepting Easter Lily orders to help decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday (April 20th). The cost of each Easter Lily is \$10.00. Please make checks payable to "Grace and Glory" and note "Easter Lily" in the memo line. Please fill out the form below with an optional dedication, which will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Please collect your plant(s) immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Easter Service.

Orders need to be in by **Sunday, April 13th**. You can turn in your order form with your Sunday offering.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Candea at (434) 960-7336.

Name: _____

Number of lilies ordered: _____

Total cost: \$ _____

Dedication (optional) for bulletin:

(example: given in memory of...or in honor of...)

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 April 21st** at the church. We shall be starting a new 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 focus 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. 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. 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 April 21 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

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Lutheran Seniors)

The OWLS gather for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 12:00 pm at El Vaquero Mexican Restaurant, next to CVS. Let Linda Beaudoin know if you plan to attend. RSVP - 434-589-2654 or lmbeaudoin@aol.com.



Blood Drive

A big thank you to everyone who helped us prepare the sanctuary for our Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, March 10th. It was another successful drive for the community. We collected 29 whole blood products which included 3 Power Red donations. We even had 1 first time donor at our drive. Of our 26 presenting donors, 6 were associated with our congregation and the other 20 were from the community. A big thank you to Colleen Sterner who helped me with resetting the sanctuary after the great turnout! We hope you will consider donating at one of our next two drives - both are on Mondays from 2 pm - 6 pm. The dates are May 12th and July 28th. You can sign up for those drives [here](#) or by going to redcrossblood.org.

Paula Tomko

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

Women’s Breakfast

Please join us on Saturday, April 12th at 9 AM at IHOP at Zion Crossroads. Please RSVP to Julie Dwyer at ejmartell1968@yahoo.com or 434-981-5613.

Men’s Breakfast

The men will be meeting for breakfast at IHOP at Zion Crossroads at 9 am on Saturday, April 12th. Please RSVP to Denny Avers at denny@avers.net or 434-989-9273.

Adult Spiritual Formation

Please join us for Adult Sunday School, Sundays from 9 to 9:45 am. Please bring your study Bibles and a journal. The Sunday morning classes will help us examine together the historical, spiritual, and theological layers of the Bible and help us listen more fully to God’s Word and to each other.

April Birthdays

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Mary Louise Rognlie | 2 | Robert Wilson, Jr. | 13 |
| Linda Beaudoin | 11 | Dennis Baugh | 24 |
| Linda Candea | 11 | Paul Hokanson | 27 |
| Richard Rognlie | 11 | | |

GRACE & GLORY FINANCIAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2025

INCOME:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| General | \$16,622 |
| Building | \$2,550 |
| Memorial | \$2,520 |
| Designated | \$405 |
| <u>Total Donations</u> | \$22,097 |
| Other | \$698 |
| <u>Total</u> | \$22,795 |

EXPENSES:

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| General | \$10,105 |
| Building | \$2,659 |
| Memorial | \$0 |
| Designated | \$285 |
| <u>Total</u> | \$13,049 |

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| GENERAL CHANGE | \$7,215 |
| BUILDING CHANGE | -\$109 |

YTD FEBRUARY 2025

INCOME:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| General | \$27,781 |
| Building | \$3,355 |
| Memorial | \$3,140 |
| Designated | \$614 |
| <u>Total Donations</u> | \$34,890 |
| Other | \$1,108 |
| <u>Total</u> | \$35,998 |

EXPENSES:

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| General | \$19,330 |
| Building | \$5,318 |
| Memorial | \$0 |
| Designated | \$4,385 |
| <u>Total</u> | \$29,033 |

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| GENERAL CHANGE | \$9,559 |
| BUILDING CHANGE | -\$1,963 |

The Church Came to Me

A man stood in line on a cold, rainy Wednesday evening in Union Square, waiting to receive ashes and prayer. When he got to the front of the line, he told the pastor that two years prior, both his wife and son had been killed. Imagine the grief and pain. For two years, he was not able to set foot in church because he was too angry. He was angry at God. The pastor there listened. Then he shared with him just a few of the stories in scripture of others who were angry with God. He assured the man that God could take his anger and pain, and that God loved him through all of it. They prayed and cried together. Then the man said, "I have not been able to go to church for two years, but today the church came to me.

Be an Apostle

Jesus began with listeners, those intrigued, inspired, and convicted by his teachings. Then, Jesus invited them to follow him, learning more each day. This was part of a greater plan to send his followers on a mission.

The mission began with the twelve disciples. They were sent in teams of two to heal and to preach about the Good News of God's love. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, these twelve were commissioned for a greater mission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20) That commission extends to disciples of Jesus in every time and place.

Jesus teaches us to be disciples and then sends us to walk with others. We are given the privilege to share with others about the love of God made known through Jesus Christ. We bear witness to the Good News of Christ, walking with others as we experience God's love and reconciliation together.

| | April 6 | April 13 | April 20 | April 27 | May 4 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Minister | William Strong | William Strong | William Strong | William Strong | William Strong |
| Assisting Minister | K. Weimer | K. Davidson | R. Rognlie | P. Tomko | K. Davidson |
| Usher | Carol Parsons | Louise Jargowsky | Paul Crowther | Jan Crowther | Carol Parsons |
| Greeters | Pat McCloud | Joel Dwyer | Lynn Wirth | Priscilla Fennell | Colleen & Chris Sterner |
| Altar Guild | Julie Dwyer | Terry Weese | Terry Weese | Vikki McCloud | Carol Parsons |
| Tellers | P. Tomko K. Weiner | P. Crowther V. McCloud | P. Tomko P. McCloud | T. Weese J. Crowther | K. Weimer ML Rognlie |

Sunday Helpers

We all give thanks to our faithful Sunday helpers who provide our music, set up the altar and other worship aids, provide our sound system and count our offerings and to those who organize and secure our readers and worship assistants, greeters and ushers, hospitality providers, sound system providers and tellers. Please volunteer to help with the service.

Ushers/Greeters

Julie Dwyer – (434) 981-5613

Lectors and Assisting Ministers

Paula Tomko – (434) 326-5533

Altar Guild

Julie Dwyer – (434) 981-5613

Tellers

Paula Tomko – (434) 960-2983

If you have signed up for a duty and find that you cannot make it for some reason, please arrange to find a replacement.

Bulletin, Office, and Calendar Requests

E-mail Cindy Anderson in the church office at admin@graceandglory.org, or call her at (434) 589-2217 to:

1. Have an announcement included in the Sunday bulletin
2. Schedule the office meeting spaces
3. Have an activity or meeting included on the church calendar. The calendar is posted on our website (www.graceandglory.church).

Prayer List Requests

You may submit prayer requests to Cindy Anderson at admin@graceandglory.org. They will be included on the list for 4 weeks. You may resubmit a request to keep them on for an additional 4 weeks.

Grace and Glory Website

The website, www.graceandglory.church, includes a great deal of information that is updated regularly.

April 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | 1 12pm OWLS Lunch - El Vaquero 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal | 2 9am Cindy in Office 6:30 pm Lenten Soup Supper@ Cunningham UMC | 3 | 4 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting | 5 |
| 6 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal | 7 9am Cindy in Office | 8 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal | 9 9am Cindy in Office 6:30 pm – Lenten Soup Supper @ Grace & Glory | 10 | 11 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting | 12 9am Men's monthly breakfast – IHOP 9am Women's Breakfast – IHOP |
| 13 Palm Sunday 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal | 14 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters | 15 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal | 16 9am Cindy in Office 7pm Leadership Team | 17 6:30 pm – Agape Meal @ Salem UMC | 18 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:00 pm Good Friday Service – Palmyra UMC | 19 |
| 20 6:30 am Sunrise Service – Fluvanna Dog Park 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live | 21 9am Cindy in Office 11am WAGG Bible Study | 22 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell Rehearsal | 23 9am Cindy in Office | 24 Grace Notes Submissions Due Today | 25 9am Cindy in Office 6:30pm AA Meeting | 26 |
| 27 10am WORSHIP - Sanctuary, FB Live 11:30am Choir Rehearsal | 28 9am Cindy in Office 11am LWR Quilters | 29 6:30pm AA Meeting 7:30pm Handbell 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 . 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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LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship at 10 AM
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on Facebook Live

683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
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