



Grace Notes

July 2020 Newsletter of Grace and Glory Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM
on Facebook Live & Drive-In Service

683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA

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My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been a long few months, and it feels like it might be a long few months more that we are living and worshiping in the different way. I, myself, feel out of sorts. Something is just not right, other than the obvious, and I think I have begun to put my finger on it. We have not had communion together in months, and I have not seen you in person in months. Things just don't feel right, it is like I keep assuming there is one more step on the stairs and my foot is ready to step on it and it is not there. Maybe you feel this way too. Maybe you are chomping at the bit to get back to normal, or maybe you are still very fearful of being around people. We are all experiencing this Covidtide in different ways.

As I write this to you, the governor's office has announced that we will begin Phase 3 on July 1. What is this going to mean for us? It means we are going to be hopeful and cautious. We are going to watch and wait for a little while longer. It means that we are starting to think about when and where we might get back together, and how do we keep the vulnerable among us safe. I want to make sure that the virus doesn't begin to be more present in our community as people become more active before we dip our toes back into the baptismal waters of worshiping face to face, or mask to mask. You should have received, or will receive very soon, a survey about your comfort level with worship, and I hope you all will participate.

With all of this to be considered, I believe it will be safer to worship outside in the pavilion, rather than inside the sanctuary, as we begin our next steps. Our first trial worship together will be Sunday, July 26, at 9am in the pavilion. Hopefully 9am will be cool enough to enjoy worship outside in the summer. We will sit in household groups either on the benches, physically distant from one another, or in lawn chairs placed distant from one another. We will wear our masks and have hand sanitizer. This does not mean that we will stop streaming the service on Facebook or broadcasting on the radio. I am well aware that some people are not ready to be around others yet. This will be our test run, let's see how it goes.

Once again I'll say this is a test for us, are we ready to go to worship this way? I don't know, maybe we will do this once a month, maybe we will celebrate the Eucharist at an outdoor worship eventually. I also realize that this July 26 outdoor worship could be put off if we experience a surge in Covid 19 cases or for bad weather. I encourage all of us to prayerfully think about our comfort level with being around others, talk to the LT or to me, and with your prayers and if possible, support us as we try to navigate our way forward in safe and faithful worship. And remember God is with us no matter where or how we gather to worship.

In Christ

Pastor Meredith Williams

June Leadership Team Meeting

The Leadership Team (LT) monthly meeting was held remotely via Zoom on June 22, 2020.

There was extensive discussion about returning to the sanctuary and communion. It will be joyous when that happens, but will also carry some sadness because, with all the COVID-19 restrictions, it will not be the same experience as in the past. Based on State guidelines, limited gatherings may be permissible now, but the Synod advises waiting until Phase 3. In addition to considering that advice, the LT is absolutely committed to ensuring the utmost safety and addressing concerns of the flock, and there was consensus that we are not ready to return yet.

Because an informal poll revealed much divergence in peoples' comfort level with conditions for returning, the LT will send out a survey to the entire congregation to get a better picture of their perspectives. It is anticipated that, even if/when sanctuary use returns in whatever form, worship via Facebook Live and FM parking-lot broadcasts will continue for the foreseeable future. Worship & Music Ministry Team will secure proper music licensing needed to continue the broadcasts (the time period for COVID-19 waivers of licensing fees expires soon).

Unless the COVID situation changes, a trial-basis outdoor worship service will be held in the pavilion in late July. Many thanks to the group of volunteers who constructed benches and arranged them to accommodate current social distancing guidelines.

The Finance Team reported that in May both the General and Building Fund donations exceeded expenses by \$6,290 and \$1,696 respectively. Overall giving is significantly higher than last year, but a shortfall is still anticipated in terms of what is needed to meet the annual spending plan. The team's short-term recommendations include discontinuing interest-only mortgage payments and pursuing Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness.

There was further discussion about exceptions to last month's decision to raise the two-signature/approval threshold for all financial transactions (paper checks and/or electronic) to \$1,000. It was decided that, for routine monthly payments exceeding \$1,000 (for example, Portico contributions and the mortgage), auto-draft payments will be set up to avoid the need for individual approvals each month.

It was decided to allow Alcoholics Anonymous, and other groups such as Bible study and ministry team meetings, to return to using church facilities as long as they comply with requirements of the current COVID-19 phase. Access will initially be limited to the pavilion and restrooms. Signage will be posted with instructions for facility use.

In hopeful anticipation of possible future events such as Feeding Fluvanna, approval was granted to use up to \$1,500 of undesignated memorial funds to build a culvert that enables safe access to outlying areas of church property.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosann Hill, Secretary

New Bible Study:

While we already have a Thursday Morning Bible Study, I want to begin a Monday evening Bible Study. Maybe this is a more convenient time for you to engage in discussion and learning. We will be starting from the beginning, as in, "In the Beginning..." Genesis. Let's look at this book of the bible in a back to basics adult learning style. We will begin on Monday July 27 at 7pm, for about an hour. I look forward to seeing you there.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Like the first followers of Jesus and Christians in general throughout history, we have a tendency to look at the dark side of things. We often miss God's many blessings because of our pessimistic nature. Certainly, a majority of folks would agree that we are in dark times today. We are in the midst of a Pandemic, our Country has arguably not been this divided since the Civil War as we continue to wrestle with the ramifications of that war, and for the first time in our Country's history the future for our children and for our grandchildren is less optimistic, not more than what we experienced. What are we to do? What are we to think? How will we survive? Where is God?

God is here. We see God everyday but like the post-Resurrection disciples we don't always recognize Jesus. I see the hand of God in the passion and dedication of our Pastor, as well as in the belief and support of her husband Carl and their children Matthew and Bekah. I see and experience God in our Worship and Music Ministry. Rebecca, Theresa, Ned, Mike and Carl celebrate and facilitate bringing the word of God to a fearful community, a community not unlike the early Christian communities. They are in a sense a lifeline to our Community. God is present within our Leadership Team as it wrestles with issues no one could have imagined six months ago. I see God in the work of our Office Manger Liz who has been the invisible hand behind our new virtual reality. God is there with Dennis and our Administration team. God is with Lee Moyer as he assembles and edits the monthly Grace Notes.

I see the hand of God in the outpouring of Stewardship gifts from our Congregation. There is God in the Time and Talents that have gone into building the benches for the Pavilion. God is seen in the efforts of our Property Team (Bob Hill, Bob Candea, Beth Jenkins) who continue to maintain our facility and grounds as if we were still there on a daily basis. God is present in your financial gifts to the Food Bank and to Pastor's Emergency Fund. Gifts that allow us to make a difference during this time of crisis in our Community. God is present with our Tellers who faithfully gather every Tuesday to tally your gifts. God is guiding us and the hand of Dave Wirth as we plan on another Feeding Fluvanna Day. God is watching over Wayne Carney as he hauls your food donations to the Food Bank. God is helping us manage our resources thanks to the Finance and Audit Teams.

God is all around us. We are truly blessed not cursed. It is a time to give thanks. Perhaps we just need to look at the sign in front of the church: 'God is with us.'

And if God is with us, we do not need to be afraid. A message that is repeated 365 times throughout Scripture!

The Peace of God be with you all

J. Patrick McCloud
Congregation President

Grace Notes Newsletter Input

If you have any information that should be placed in the newsletter, please submit the material to LeRoy Moyer this month at Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com. The next newsletter deadline is July 24.

Women at Grace and Glory (WAGG)/A Women of the ELCA unit

Our Purpose

As a community of women
created in the image of God,
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and
empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we commit ourselves to
grow in faith,
affirm our gifts,
support one another in our callings,
engage in ministry and action, and
promote healing and wholeness
in the church,
the society, and
the world.

Join in Tuesday Prayer at Noon

Linda Post Bushkofsky, who is the executive director of Women of the ELCA says that, “We (Women of the ELCA) have revitalized a discipline carried out in our organization in the past: gathering in prayer, wherever we are, Tuesdays at noon, in your time zone”. Women are encouraged to meditate on God’s word, offer prayers, and reflect on their self-care and the care of others during this time of Covid-19. It is comforting to know that women of faith are joining in prayer at the same time together. Mark your calendar or set a reminder on your phone for every Tuesday at noon to stop and pray.

Zoom Summer Women’s Bible Study

Please join the women’s bible study via Zoom every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Our next two summer meetings will be **July 15 and August 19**. All will receive an email with a Zoom invitation to join the bible study. The study is entitled “*Just Love*” by the Rev. Gladys Moore and Rev. Dr. Christa Compton. The study invites readers to consider how justice and love intersect. In July, we will discuss “Just Love” In the community, and in August, we will discuss “Just Love” In the Nation.

July Birthdays

Bob Hill07/01	Jan Crowther..... 07/04	Debra Kretsos 07/18
Doug Rockafellow07/01	LeRoy Moyer..... 07/07	Joe Shaver 07/19
Michael Adams07/02	Georgia Smith..... 07/13	Jack Pittman 07/21
Donald Hanson07/02	Louise Jargowsky 07/14	Sue Pickett.....07/21
Katie Shifflette.....07/02	Meredith Williams..... 07/16	Ann Holeywell 07/21

Our Daily Bread Online

Our Daily Bread is available online. Daily written devotions, short video devotions, reading plans and longer articles are all available to you at www.oddb.org. Sign up for daily emails or browse and explore the resources.

July 2020

Because of the Corona Virus the Church is closed so please call and leave a message if you need to see the Pastor or Liz who are working from home.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 10:30am – FB Live and Drive-in Service	29 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	30 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	1 Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	2 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	3 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	4
5 10:30am – FB Live and Drive-in Service	6 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	7 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA in Pavilion	8 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	9 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	10 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	11
12 10:30am – FB Live and Drive-in Service	13 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	14 11am – 2pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA in Pavilion	15 Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am- Women’s Bible Study Zoom 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	16 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	17 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	18
19 10:30am – FB Live and Drive-in Service	20 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Leadership Team Meeting on Zoom	21 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA in Pavilion	22 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	23 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	24 Grace Notes Submissions Due 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	25
26 9:00am – Outdoor Service in Pavilion and broadcast on FB Live and Drive-in Service	27 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	28 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA in Pavilion	29 Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	30 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	31 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	1

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 Liz Layne at admin@graceandglory.org, or call her at 434-589-2217.



Grace & Glory

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM on Facebook Live and Drive-In Service

683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA 22963



Newsletter Deadline is **July 24, 2020**
to LeRoy Moyer at
Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com



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