



Grace Notes

September 2021 Newsletter of Grace and Glory Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM
on Facebook Live & Sanctuary Service
683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA

Pastor Meredith Williams

Home Phone: 1-434-510-7435

Cell Phone: 1-434-334-8536

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Website: www.graceandglory.church

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In an unusual (for this Covid-tide) turn of events I get to remind you and ask you to participate in a semi-normal ministry of the congregation. Next summer is the National Youth Gathering (NYG) in Minneapolis and it is time to start planning. Yes, youth from across the nation will gather to spend time in service work, in learning about the ministry and mission of the ELCA, and for fun! If you, or you child will be in grades 9-12 by next year this is an event for you. There will be a meeting of youth and parents on September 21st at 7pm in the church library to discuss the possibilities. PLEASE plan to be at that meeting or talk to me ahead of time. If you are a senior this year you are eligible to go to the NYG.

Additionally, I know there are some of our high school students who have started confirmation but have not been confirmed. If you or your child fall into that group let's talk about finishing your confirmation education. Confirmation is an important time in the life of a young person, and I hope you all will choose to complete what you have started.

More youth news: The Synod's youth events have been moved to the winter and spring. As of right now, Winter Celebration is still on for youth in High School. I realize this can change, but I am hopeful that we can gather and talk about faith and Jesus. The event for 7th-8th graders, Lost and Found, will take place in March with a time and date to be announced later.

So remember, **NYG planning September 21 at 7pm in the church library.** See you there!

In Christ,

Pastor Meredith

Finance Team Report August 9, 2021

In July, we received total donations of \$19,522 and other income of \$79. The donations were \$11,531 General Fund, \$7,691 Building Fund and \$300 Designated funds. Since our general expenses and mortgage expenses were \$15,077 and \$4,314, respectively, the General Fund decreased \$3,466 and the Building Fund increased \$3,377. Since January 1, 2021, the General Fund and Building Fund decreased by \$9,378 and \$4,107, respectively. General Fund balances include other income.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's hard to believe but Labor Day is almost upon us. The year is flying by. Speaking of time, I would be remiss if I didn't call out Pastor Meredith's 2nd anniversary at Grace and Glory. She recently commented that it feels like she has been here for a lifetime, and at the same time no time at all. I so know what she means. It's not been an easy road for Pastor or her family. On her first anniversary I quoted the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche who famously said "that which does not kill me makes me stronger" and if that's true then Pastor must be one strong individual, which she is. The Williams family has had more than their share of trials and tribulations both personally and professionally, but they have emerged stronger for it which I have to believe is a testament to their faith.

They have also been faithful stewards towards Grace and Glory. Our worship experience has been greatly enhanced by way of their many gifts of time, talent, and financial offerings. Thanks to the Williams family our bell choir has been augmented by a bell tree and another set (octave) of handbells. We are also anxiously awaiting the arrival of an audio/visual cart which will make our outdoor service set-up and take-down much simpler, courtesy of the Williams. We are so blessed to have Pastor and her family as part of our Congregation. I remember during the call process hearing the comment that in Pastor Meredith we are getting a 'twofer', two for the price of one. By that people were referring to her husband Carl who does so much for this Congregation. He is literally the man behind the scenes when it comes to our worship services. He truly directs and produces (along with Mike Montgomery) our worship service. It takes a lot of time and special skills to do what he does. And Carl is never satisfied with the status quo. He is constantly looking for ways to improve the entire process. And I can't forget Bekah and Matthew. From musical offerings to passing the plate they have been there for Grace and Glory.

Thank you and bless you Williams Family.

Peace, Hope and Health,

J. Patrick McCloud
Congregation President

Handbell Rehearsals Return on September 7th

It's been eighteen months since we have been able to ring as a full handbell choir. I'm looking forward to begin ringing again on Tuesday evenings, beginning on September 7th at 7:30 pm.

During the pandemic five of us were able to ring together, using only 12 bells, socially distant and with masks, but it will be glorious to once again hear the sounds of all the bells. To add to the sounds, we have been given a fourth octave of handbells (twelve additional bells) as a memorial to Carl Williams' mother. We are really excited to begin using them.

Several of our ringers are no longer available to play bells so we are in need of new ringers. If you can read music (nothing complicated) and would enjoy ringing, please contact me. Also, if you know of anyone who might enjoy ringing, please let me know. New ringers do not have to be members of Grace and Glory. New faces are always welcome.

Julie Dwyer
434-981-5613
ejmartell1968@yahoo.com

Leadership Team Summary

The Leadership Team (LT) met on August 18, 2021, via Zoom. Pastor expressed the loss Grace & Glory will feel with the death of recent members of our church. She reported Carl has purchased equipment to help limit the delay on Facebook and help with the hybrid Bible Study. Grace & Glory will have a booth at the Fluvanna County Fair. Thanks to Lynn Wirth and Pam Hokanson for their leadership of this event. Feeding Fluvanna will be in September and planning is starting now. If you would like to be involved, please talk with Pastor or Keith Weimer.

Registration opens for the National Youth Gathering in October. Currently, it is planned to take place in Minneapolis, MN, but with the continued unrest of their Police Department concerns are being expressed.

Pastor Meredith shared that local churches continue to struggle with how to continue with in-person worship given the uptick in Covid cases being reported. The assistant to the Bishop, Pastor John Wertz, shared with Pastor Meredith and President McCloud that if a congregation has 50% of its pre-Pandemic members participant in worship services (in person and on-line) that congregation is doing well. It was noted that Grace and Glory was closer to 70%.

President McCloud shared a letter that was mailed to members who we continue to miss in the life of Grace & Glory. He also shared a comparison of Covid trends, both nationally and locally. All are reporting an uptick in positive Covid cases.

Other news and/or discussed items:

- Many have been assisting with wrapping up loose ends of the Incorporation process. Grace & Glory is now a corporation.
- Nielsen Construction will be paid for the erosion work on the retention pond once a bill is submitted to Grace & Glory. A maintenance agreement for the retention was approved by the County.
- The Capital Drive Task Force is meeting monthly to comprise a list of property needs of the major assets of the church (e.g., HVAC, roof, etc.), an approximate timeline of when these needs need to be addressed, and an estimated cost of each.
- **Beginning September 19th, we will move to a 10:00 am start time for Worship and begin using our new Hymnals** and try to reduce our paper usage.
- Outdoor services are being planned for September and October. We hope to see members who are not yet comfortable attending an indoor service at the outdoor services.
- The LT continues to discuss whether it is safe to bring back the Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir. It was decided that the Handbell Choir can resume but that we should hold off on the Chancel Choir returning due to concerns regarding the Delta Variant.
- The Mask Policy was also revisited as promised. The LT was unanimous in deciding to continue to require masks for indoor services as well as all visits inside the church.
- Due to privacy concerns it is not feasible to offer more filming of the congregation during worship on Sundays. It will be posted on the front doors that filming is occurring each Sunday. If a member or a visitor is not comfortable with being filmed, they can sit in the back of the Sanctuary or in the Narthex.
- The LT Retreat is planned for September 11th at the home of Pam and Paul Hokanson. It will be facilitated by Pastor Wertz who will preach the following Sunday. We ask for prayers from the congregation on that day as we meet to discuss how to strengthen our congregation after a Pandemic.

In His service, *Beth Jenkins*, LT Secretary

Fluvanna County Fair

Grace and Glory was represented at the Fluvanna County Fair on August 20th and 21st, helping make our presence known in the community. We were the only church with a booth at the Fair and we hope that our presence there will boost our profile in the Community. There were prizes for children and tote bags for parents. A big thanks to all who were able to help with set up, take down and especially those who sat at the booth on some very hot days, Beth Jenkins, Pam and Paul Hokanson, Pat and Vikki McCloud, George Gaige, Mike Montgomery, Carol Parsons, Paul Crowther, JoAnn Fawley, Keith Weimer, Rob Milstead, Jen Starkey, Stephanie and Lynn Wirth, Pastor Meredith and Bekah Williams. We also took the opportunity to promote this year's Feeding Fluvanna campaign which kicks off in October.



WOMEN AT GRACE AND GLORY (WAGG)/A Women of the ELCA Unit

LWR Quilters – Quilters meet every 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 1 pm. You do not have to know how to sew to participate. Please just show up or contact Lynn Wirth.

Fall Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, September 15th at 10 am to 11:30 a.m., we will meet at the church. The Gather magazine contains the study called: The Gift of the Spirit. Please plan to join us. Contact persons: Colleen Sterner or JoAnn Fawley.

Virginia Synodical Women's Convention

The 33rd annual convention of the Virginia Synod Women's Organization (VSWO) will be held virtually on Saturday, September 25, 2021. Colleen Sterner will be our voting delegate from Grace and Glory.

All women at Grace and Glory are invited to attend the virtual convention. We will gather together in the classroom at Grace and Glory. Please arrive by 9:45 to be ready for the 10 am Zoom start time. There will be a break for lunch (12-1), so please bring your lunch and a drink. There are two sessions. The morning session is 10am – 12pm and will include worship, keynote speaker and the Churchwide representative's presentation. The business session is from 1pm -3pm. If you only have a few hours, we suggest you attend the 10 am – 12pm session, but you are welcome to come and go as your schedule allows.

Social Justice Project

The Women at Grace and Glory (WAGG) are organizing the September congregational social justice project. We will be collecting personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits will be delivered with the quilts this fall. Please see the Social Justice article for all the details.

Submitted by JoAnn Fawley

September Social Justice Project

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations and are often the first thing received after disaster has struck.

Beginning September 5 and continuing the month of September, Grace and Glory will collect personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWF). A container will be located in the church lobby for you to drop off your completed kits.

The items included in each personal care kit are listed below. To assemble your kit: Fold the towel in half placing the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll so nothing falls out, and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.

- 1 – light-weight bath-size towel (between 20” x 40” and 52” x 27”), dark colors please
- 2 or 3 bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- 1 – adult-size toothbrush in original wrapping
- 1 – sturdy comb, remove packaging
- 1 – metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging
- *Toothbrush multi-packs may be purchased and used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

Lutheran World Relief Shipping Costs

There is another way to give to our September social justice project. Monetary contributions are needed toward the shipping costs of the quilts and personal care kits. It costs \$2.25 to ship one quilt and \$2.65 to ship each personal care kit (which includes cost of toothpaste) from the warehouse and deliver these items where needed most in the world. You can include your monetary donations in your weekly offering by writing in LWR Shipping on your offering envelope.

Submitted by JoAnn Fawley

Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors (OWLS)

The OWLS will gather on Tuesday, September 7, at 11:00 in the church classroom. We will be helping to assemble school supplies packs. We will also be making plans for our Christmas Luncheon, based on the venues we have researched. Bring your sandwich and beverage. Dessert will be provided. No RSVP needed.

Linda Beaudoin



September Birthdays

Rachael Huddle 09/01	Ned Long 09/14
Carol Sanders 09/03	JoAnn Fawley 09/23
Tamara Brown..... 09/08	Emma Pittman..... 09/26
Sammy Brown..... 09/14	

Grace Notes Newsletter Input

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



*Members of Grace & Glory Lutheran
Church*

*Thank you for your generous donations of
school supplies to Fluvanna County
Schools!*

*We truly appreciate your kindness and
commitment to serving our community!*

FCPS

FLUVANNA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Thank you, thank you! Once again, the members of Grace and Glory have supplied a plethora of school supplies. This year in addition to helping Fluvanna students we are sending 16 school kits to Lutheran World Relief.

Refugee Resettlement

“And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me’” (Matthew 25:40).

The global need for refugee resettlement has never been greater, and the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is that lifeline — for children forcibly conscripted into armies, for LGBTQ+ people attacked for who they are, for religious minorities persecuted for their worship. In response to deepening crises around the world, the United States must reclaim its humanitarian and moral responsibility and reassume global leadership in refugee resettlement.

With so many lives in danger, we will continue to honor the Lutheran legacy of generous and compassionate welcome for those who seek refuge in our communities. How would we respond if the refugee on our doorstep were Jesus himself? As Jesus taught, “Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40).

For more than 80 years, Lutherans in the United States have joined together to respond to God’s call to love the neighbor who comes to us as a stranger. Since 1939, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) has led the Lutheran movement to welcome vulnerable migrants and refugees in America. LIRS is the largest faith-based nonprofit in the United States dedicated to serving vulnerable immigrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees. Together with Lutherans across the country, we have equipped and supported over half a million newcomers as they settled into cities across the country, and we have advocated boldly for policies that protect those we serve. We work rigorously to ensure that our policies reflect the best of our nation, and when a child of God has no safe home to return to, we open ours.

This legacy of welcome is woven into our tradition and history as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Many of our Lutheran ancestors faced the pain of having to flee their homes and knew the joy of being welcomed into new communities across the United States. Because this church believes in sustaining a faithful presence in the world, it “holds power accountable, advocates justice, stands with those who are poor and vulnerable, provides sanctuary, and meets human need” (ELCA social statement, For Peace in God’s World, 1995). Offering refuge to displaced people and people fleeing persecution is a natural extension of that biblical witness. The ELCA’s AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) — a holistic churchwide commitment to accompanying vulnerable migrant children and families, now and into the future — reflects this calling. Around 199 welcoming and sanctuary congregations, as well as 36 synod AMMPARO or immigration task forces with connections in 53 ELCA synods, have committed to offering accompaniment to migrants in their communities.

This year, World Refugee Day will include a social media campaign, prayer services, and opportunities for advocacy and education. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America invite you to learn, pray, and act on behalf of those seeking refuge on our shores. We encourage you to explore the ELCA’s social message “Immigration,” its AMMPARO strategy, and these LIRS resources to determine how LIRS and the ELCA can best support your congregation as it responds to God’s call to serve the most vulnerable. With such pressing need, we urge our leaders and elected officials to push for quick resettlement of as many refugees as the United States admits this year, to strengthen and streamline the process so fewer families experience prolonged separation, and to help our nation forge a system of even warmer welcome, as resettlement partners work to rebuild.

This World Refugee Day let us recommit ourselves to empowering those driven from their homes by conflict, persecution, poverty, and climate change. We pray that all will experience grace in welcoming the stranger.

Together in hope,

Krish O’Mara Vignarajah Bishop,
President and Chief Executive Officer
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

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

	September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26	October 3
Minister	Meredith Williams	John Wertz	Meredith Williams	Meredith Williams	Meredith Williams
Assisting Minister	Paula Tomko	Keith Weimer	JoAnn Fawley	Rosann Hill	Paula Tomko
Usher	Carol Parsons	Carol Parsons	Louise Jargowsky	Carol Parsons	Carol Parsons
Teller	Paula Tomko Rosann Hill	Barbara Haas Rosann Hill	Paul Crowther Paula Tomko	Jan Crowther Terry Weese	Paula Tomko Pat McCloud

Sunday Helpers

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

Ushers/Greeters

Carol Parsons – (434) 589-6068

Lectors and Assisting Ministers

Paula Tomko – (434) 326-5533

Altar Guild

Janet Rockafellow – (434) 589-9608

Tellers

Paula Tomko – (434) 326-5533

Audio Visual System

Dennis Wolf – (434) 249-6510 (Administrator)

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 Liz Layne at admin@graceandglory.org, or call her at 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

E-mail Carol Parsons at carolarson1@hotmail.com or call her at 434-589-6068 to add or delete a Prayer List concern.

Grace and Glory Website

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

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:30am –Sanctuary, FB Live and Drive-in Service	30 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	31 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	1 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	2 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office	3 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	4 6:30pm – AA
5 9:30am –Sanctuary, FB Live and Drive-in Service	6 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	7 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 11am – OWLS Monthly Meeting 6:30pm – AA 7:30pm–Handbell Rehearsal	8 Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	9 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office 10am – In-person/Virtual Bible Study	10 8:30am – Men’s Breakfast at Crescent Inn 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	11 LT Retreat 8am – Fluvanna SPCA Event - Pavilion 6:30pm – AA
12 Pastor John Wertz Preaching 9:30am –Sanctuary, FB Live and Drive-in Service	13 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10:30am – Finance Team Zoom 1pm – LWR Quilters - Classrooms 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	14 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA 7pm – Feeding Fluvanna meeting (location TBD) 7:30pm–Handbell Rehearsal	15 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Women’s Bible Study – In-person - Classrooms	16 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office	17 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	18 11am – Funeral for Wayne Carney 6:30pm – AA
19 New Service Time: 10am –Sanctuary, FB Live and Drive-in Service	20 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	21 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA 7pm – Youth & Parents’ meeting in G&G Library 7:30pm–Handbell Rehearsal	22 Church Cleaning 11:30am – 2:30pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Leadership Team Meeting	23 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office 10am – In-person/Virtual Bible Study	24 Grace Notes Newsletter due 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	25 10am – 3pm – WAGG VA Synodical Women’s Organization Annual Convention 6:30pm – AA
26 10am –Sanctuary, FB Live and Drive-in Service	27 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – LWR Quilters - Classrooms 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	28 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA 7:30pm–Handbell Rehearsal	29 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	30 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne in office 10am – In-person/Virtual Bible Study	1 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	2 6:30pm – AA

Indoor Service: Masks and social distancing are required. 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 Liz Layne at admin@graceandglory.org, or call her at 434-589-2217.



Grace & Glory

LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM
on Facebook Live and Sanctuary Service**

683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA 22963



Newsletter Deadline is **September 24, 2021**
to LeRoy Moyer at
Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com



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Palmyra, VA 22963