



Grace Notes

May 2021 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

Pastor Meredith Williams

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My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are now generally able to worship together under the Pavilion at 10:30 am. I cannot even begin to tell you how much joy I have at seeing your faces in worship, even though you wear a mask. I had not realized how much I missed just seeing and being in the presence of my family of faith. Knowing that We all have been in God's presence as we have worshipped remotely this past year has gotten us through the wilderness, so to speak. However, there is something about seeing you and seeing your reactions in your eyes as we sing out in the pavilion, as we repeat the Lord's Prayer, as we confess our faith the brings joy to my soul. God's Spirit seems more present to me when I am in the company of God's people.

This month we continue our journey through the Easter season, and we celebrate Pentecost. This is the time when the church remembers and celebrates the sending of the Holy Spirit to the newly formed apostles. It is a time of Spiritual awakening, of understanding God in our own words and ways, and of the birth of the Church. Yes, the birthday of the Church catholic (universal) is at Pentecost. The sending of the Holy Spirit changed the disciples, who are students of a teacher, into apostles, those who are sent.

We too are changed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. When we received the Holy Spirit in our baptism, we received the ability to be both disciples and apostles. We received a call to both learn from Jesus through the scriptures, and take that knowledge and wisdom out to others. As Christians, we are both called and sent. We cannot remain behind our screens forever, or in the pavilion forever, or even in our sanctuary whenever we are able to worship in it again safely forever. We are called and sent and even pushed by God's Holy Spirit to go out, to bring a message, to share the good news.

I know this is scary to Lutherans. It means that we have to participate in Evangelism. We all conjure up images of knocking on stranger's doors. We break out in a cold sweat. But it's not that way. Evangelism can be talking to another congregation member about where you see God in your life. Frankly, right now we need to go to members of our congregation and encourage them in faith, invite them to come to worship at the pavilion or online or in the sanctuary, when the time comes. We need to start at the beginning, talking to and sharing with the people who are in our family of faith.

I pray that you are hanging on as we worship and walk in the wilderness, a little longer. I pray that you continue to see God's presence in your lives. I pray that you, like me, find joy in seeing faces and the raised cheekbones as people smile behind masks, and in seeing our congregation start to gather again at the pavilion. Happy Birthday Church! Come Holy Spirit, set our hearts on fire, call us and send us that we may serve God.

In Christ,

Pastor Meredith Williams

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope you have had a chance to review the results of our *Gathering in Person Survey*. The Leadership Team (LT) was very encouraged by the results. Sixty-five percent of respondents said that were fully vaccinated. Nearly 75% of respondents live in households that are fully vaccinated. Over 80% of those responding to the survey said that they were conditionally willing to attend an indoor service. It's clear that there is an overwhelming desire to worship again in the Sanctuary. But is it safe? That's the question that the LT is wrestling with. What is the metric that would allow us to gather together safely and what will that worship service look and sound like?

Over 60% of those surveyed would be comfortable with the Choir and /or the Congregation singing as long as everyone is masked. While the LT understands the desire to sing (Lutherans love to sing) we feel that this is an unacceptable risk based on the science to date. Nearly 75% thought it would be okay with indoor singing limited to a masked Song leader/Cantor. Again, the science would suggest that any level of aerosols indoors is a concern. However, we also understand that from day one the science surrounding Covid-19 has been rather fluid. There is still a lot we don't know which is why we will err on the side of caution. Are the vaccines effective against the Covid variants? Is the J&J vaccine safe? Will enough people get vaccinated? How long will the vaccines be effective? Do children need to be vaccinated? The easy consensus of the LT is that we are not there yet and that we should re-evaluate the situation at our monthly meetings.

We all want to gather again indoors and we want as many people as possible to be able to attend. Looking at the trends we think we are getting close. We're working to prepare our church building for the day we return to the Sanctuary. In the interim we are blessed to have the Pavilion which gives us the opportunity to worship as the Congregation gathered. We also have the Parking lot option as well as Facebook streaming. We're close but we don't want to have come this far and then have an outbreak among a vulnerable population. Keep the faith and hang in there.

Peace, hope, and health.

J. Patrick McCloud
Congregation President

Other News:

The Monday night Bible Study will continue meeting on Zoom at 7pm. We will begin studying Revelation beginning on May 10th. Feel free to join us anytime.

Finance Team Report to LT

In March, we received total donations of \$26,074 and other income of \$392. The donations were \$20,174 General Fund, \$4,335 Building Fund, and \$1,565 Designated funds. Since our general expenses and mortgage expenses were \$19,381 and \$4,314, respectively, the General Fund increased \$1,185 and the Building Fund increased \$21. Since January 1, 2021, the General Fund and Building Fund decreased by \$7,273 and \$3,310, respectively. General Fund balances include other income.

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 May 24.

April 2021 Leadership Team Meeting

The Leadership Team (LT) met remotely via Zoom on April 21, 2021. The finance team reported that in March, the General Fund increased \$1,185 and the Building Fund increased \$21. Since January 1, 2021, the General Fund and Building Fund decreased by \$7,273 and \$3,310, respectively.

Pastor Meredith and President McCloud continue to work towards the goal of the congregation returning to in-person worship, as soon it is safe to do so. After reviewing the congregational survey, the LT team decided we are close to worshipping inside the building but are not there yet. Meanwhile, it is great to worship under the pavilion or from your car. Come try it out!

Other news and/or discussed items:

- VA Synod and Youth Assemblies are planned for June 12th via Zoom.
- Monday Bible Study is considering a BYO under the pavilion to celebrate the end of the Genesis Bible study, all fifty chapters!
- Nielsen Construction is completing erosion work in and around the retention pond.
- The LT Retreat is being planned for September 11th.
- Pam Hokanson and Julie Dwyer will be leading a team to plan the Grace and Glory Twentieth Anniversary celebration.
- President McCloud is working with Keith Cuda and the State Environmental Agency to clear up a permit that was initiated in 2015 regarding the parking lot. After being initiated the then LT Team decided not to pursue the permit.
- A Capital Drive Task Force is being formed to anticipate the needs of our church building/property. Currently we do not have a reserve for major building repairs.
- A Property Use Request by AA was approved while a request from Fluvanna Free Swap was denied due to Covid-19 concerns.
- The ELCA is inviting congregations to apply for an Open Doors Grant to support ministries to meet new people when in-person worship begins.
- Tech support is needed on Sunday mornings. Contact Carl Williams or Mike Montgomery if you would like to offer help.

In His service,

Beth Jenkins, LT Secretary

May Birthdays

Justin Wade.....05/05	Elizabeth Smith 05/14	Deena Cuda 05/28
Helen Post.....05/06	Flo Walsh..... 05/14	Chris Sterner..... 05/30
Priscilla Fennell05/06	Jean DeMarco 05/17	Ruth Campopiano..... 05/30
Ruth Haverstrom.....05/08	Levi Smith 05/27	Darlene Weimer 05/31
Donald Bossong.....05/09	Nathan Smith 05/27	



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

Two important save-the-dates:

May 19 – 10 a.m. Bible Study under the pavilion

June 16 – 12 noon Lunch and Fellowship under the pavilion

May 19 – Bible Study “UNDER THE PAVILION”

We will meet under the church pavilion weather permitting on Wednesday, May 19 at 10 a.m. using the May issue of the Gather magazine. Please join us. Covid practices will be in place by each of us wearing masks and social distancing as we do on Sunday mornings. If you would feel more comfortable bringing your own seating, please do so.

Spring BYOL “UNDER THE PAVILION”

On June 16 at 12 noon the Women at Grace and Glory (WAGG) will lunch under the church pavilion. All women of the church are invited to attend. Due to covid and being mindful of safety precautions, this year's spring luncheon is BYOL, bring your own lunch. Come and enjoy being in fellowship with your sisters-in-Christ. We will be spaced out in safe distances to enjoy our lunch under the pavilion. Feel free to bring your lawn chair or blanket and sit on the grass out in the sunshine. Rain date to be announced by email, if a cancellation is necessary due to weather.

Ministry and Action

If you worship at Grace and Glory, you are automatically part of the Women of Grace and Glory (aka lovingly referred to as WAGG). Although our bible study does not meet during the summer months of July and August, our service to God does not go on vacation. We continue to serve through the ministries at Grace and Glory. WAGG allows us to come together to grow in our faith, and to support each other in our callings. Sometimes we are called individually and sometimes we are called as a collective group, but we help and support one another together.

May 2021

Because of the Coronavirus 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
25 10:30am – Pavilion*, FB Live and Drive-in Service	26 Liz Layne on vacation 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	27 Liz Layne on vacation 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	28 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	29 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	30 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	1
2 10:30am – Pavilion*, FB Live and Drive-in Service	3 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	4 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	5 Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	6 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	7 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	8
9 10:30am – Pavilion*, FB Live and Drive-in Service	10 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	11 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	12 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	13 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	14 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	15
16 10:30am – Pavilion*, FB Live and Drive-in Service	17 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	18 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	19 Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am- Women’s Bible Study – G&G Pavilion* 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 7pm – Leadership Team Meeting on Zoom	20 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	21 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	22
23 10:30am – Pavilion*, FB Live and Drive-in Service	24 Grace Notes Newsletter due 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	25 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	26 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	27 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	28 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	29
30 10:30am – Pavilion*, FB Live and Drive-in Service	31 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	1 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	2 Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	3 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	4 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	5

*** Outdoor Service: Masks and social distancing are required. These services are plague and weather permitting. Times may change, please watch emails for updates.**

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 10:30 AM
on Facebook Live and Drive-In Service**

683 Thomas Jefferson Parkway
Palmyra, VA 22963



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



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