



Grace Notes

April 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,

This month we begin our journey from Hosanna to Crucify Him to Alleluia. We finish out March with palms and Hosanna, welcoming the King into Jerusalem. But by the end of the week this triumphal parade will become a Funeral procession. Just a few days later, hearts that were glad will be angry. Expectations of freedom from Rome not freedom from sin and death will change the crowd into a mob. The religious leaders will stir up the people and all will shout out, Crucify Him! And then they will crucify him, and the king who was praised with Hosanna will die on the cross. Then all will be silent.

When that time of silence is at its deepest, when things seem darkest, when hope is lost and predictions of death and rising again are not remembered much less believed; the dawn will come. Early, when the women come to perform the rites which are done for the dead, new life has already sprung forth from the grave. The heavy stone is rolled away. The bright angel speaks driving away fear and leaving in its place awe. Jesus is not here, he has gone back to Galilee, like he told you. The women return to their fear after this message. They leave and do not speak, or so we are told.

But we say Alleluia! We know the story has been told. We know that Jesus is risen. The Alleluia's cannot be contained by fear and death and tomb. The joy of Easter pushes out fear and cannot help but to be shared. The women who left in fear, obviously could not stay silent. The new season begins with Alleluia! The old journey is behind us and a new journey and new life lie ahead. This joyful Easter, allow yourself to get pulled into the newness and gladness. Allow yourself to shout your own Alleluia! Banish the darkness in your life with the proclamation, Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ

Pastor Meredith Williams

Alleluia

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Harold "Hal" Glen Borland, American author, journalist and naturalist said that "no winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." O how we look to the coming of Spring and the end of Winter. Winter is dark and cold, and sometimes it does feel like it will last forever. It can be a time of depression, isolation, and even despair. This winter, the world's winter, has lasted over a year. We have suffered much as a Country and a Community. Few of us have been spared by the events of the last twelve months. We emerge from this winter of disease, division and death markedly changed from how we went in. Our lives will never be the same. Not all of these changes however were bad. This winter was a brutal reminder of how fragile life is, and how dependent we all are on each other. This winter was about cherishing each day and each other. This winter brought many of us back to what it means to be a follower of Christ.

So officially Spring has arrived. Spring, that season of light and warmth, a time of hope, healing, and renewal. And indeed, there is hope and healing going on. Covid infections, hospitalizations and deaths are on the decline. Vaccines are becoming more readily available and vaccinations are on the rise. In the not-too-distant future schools will open fully and hopefully most businesses will return to some kind of normalcy.

Though we are by no means 'out of the woods' there is reason for optimism. And that optimism for us Christians is what Easter is all about. We are healed and made hopeful by our Baptism in Christ. We are renewed. We come out of our baptism a changed person. And as we head down the road to our own personal Emmaus, we are often like those two disciples who do not recognize Jesus. This Spring we are to be reminded of what it means to be journeying with the risen Christ as the mysterious stranger in our midst.

Peace, Hope, and Health to you all,

J. Patrick McCloud

President, Grace & Glory

Congregation Survey

Last Summer we surveyed the Congregation in an effort to find out whether members would be willing to worship outside under the Pavilion and under what conditions they would feel safe to once again worship indoors. This does not mean that we are discontinuing the Facebook live services or the parking lot gatherings. We simply want to 'take the temperature' of the Congregation regarding these issues. To do so we are asking that you complete the short survey that was sent to you. We look forward to hearing from you. Stay safe and be physically distancing not socially. Please keep in touch with one another.

Yours in Christ,
G&G Leadership Team

Finance Team

The finance team reported in February that we received total donations of \$11,963 and other income of \$281. The donations were \$8,673 General Fund, \$2,715 Building Fund, \$50 Memorial Fund and \$525 Designated funds. Since our general expenses and mortgage expenses were \$13,693 and \$4,314, respectively, the General Fund decreased \$4,739 and the Building Fund decreased \$1,598. **Since January 1, 2021, the General Fund and Building Fund decreased by \$8,465 and \$3,331, respectively.** General Fund balances include other income.

March 2021 Leadership Team Meeting

The Leadership Team (LT) met remotely via Zoom on March 15, 2021. The finance team reported that in February the General Fund decreased \$4,739 and the Building Fund decreased \$1,598. Since January 1, 2021, the General Fund and Building Fund decreased by \$8,465 and \$3,331, respectively.

Pastor and President McCloud shared that their primary goal is to have us back worshipping together safely as soon as possible. Many churches in the community are working towards this goal. Both Pastor and Pat felt it was time to survey the congregation again in order to “check the temperature” to see how everyone feels about returning to in person worship services. Watch your email for this survey!

Other news and/or discussed items:

- The ELCA youth are still planning events and meeting online with good turnout.
- The LT is working on the reorganization of our church ministry teams with the hope that more people will get involved. Details will be shared at a later time.
- Our trustees Robert Candea, Michael Montgomery and Patti Shifflette, have agreed to serve as our initial Board of Directors once the Church is incorporated. It was agreed that the ongoing Board of Directors will be the officers of the congregation including Pastor. The Constitution and Bylaws will need to be revised to reflect these changes and approved by the Congregation at a Special Meeting.
- Looking to put together a team of volunteers to help plan our Twentieth Anniversary celebration.
- Beginning to plan for the 2021 LT Retreat in late summer or fall.
- Review of wedding and funeral policies in regards to use of church building.
- Accepted two property use requests from outside organizations.
- Pastor Williams would like to have all worship services in the pavilion starting with Palm Sunday on March 28th, weather permitting.
- Watch church calendar for more detail about Holy Week services:
 - Palm Sunday 10:30 am service
 - Good Friday (evening service)
 - Easter Sunday 6:30 Sunrise service and 10:30 am Traditional service

In His service

Beth Jenkins, Secretary

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 April 24.

April Birthdays

Wyatt Wills..... 04/02	Linda Beaudoin 04/11
Mason Brennan..... 04/05	Linda Candea..... 04/11
Rowen Wills 04/09	Robert Wilson Jr. 04/13
Annemarie Maki 04/10	Paul Hokanson..... 04/27



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

April 21 – Women’s Zoom Bible Study

Zoom Meeting I.D. is 883 1759 7997 and the Passcode is 015753

Wednesday, April 21 at 10 a.m. is our next Zoom bible study. We will continue our winter study “Journeys with Angels” using the Gather magazine. Please join us.

Gather Magazine

Subscribing to the Gather magazine is another way of supporting Women of the ELCA. Our Grace and Glory Women of the ELCA Unit using a Thrivent grant purchase a yearly bulk subscription. These copies are available on a first come first serve basis and can be found in the church lobby. We receive 11 copies each month and usually 2 copies are leftover. Please take one.

If you would like your own personal subscription, the magazine contains the monthly women’s Bible study used here at Grace and Glory. Also there are wonderful inspirational articles written by women of faith. Gather is published 10 times a year with combined issues in January/February and July/August. Your print subscription comes with free access to the digital edition as well. The magazine is a wonderful way to stay connected with our sisters-in-Christ.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER - Women of the ELCA is offering to first time subscribers a yearly subscription to the Gather magazine for just \$9.95. This is their guaranteed lowest rate. You save 50%. If you already subscribe, thank you. Please consider giving a gift subscription.

TRY FOR FREE - You can also try the magazine for free or introduce a friend for free to Gather using the link below. They will receive 2 free copies of the Gather magazine.

<https://www.cambeywest.com/GAT/?f=friend&sI1907NWLTR>

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Mail your check payable to Gather to:

Gather
P.O. Box 336
Congers, NY 10920-9902

Submitted by *JoAnn Fowley*

April 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
28 10:30am – Worship FB Live and Drive-in Service	29 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	30 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	31 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 7pm – Lenten Bible Study Zoom	1 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	2 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7:00pm – Good Friday FB Live and Drive-in Service	3
4 Easter Sunday 6:30am – Easter Sunrise Service- Pavilion*, FB Live and Drive-in Service 10:30am – Worship - Pavilion*, FB Live and Drive-in Service	5 <i>Pastor Meredith on vacation this week</i> 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	6 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	7 Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	8 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online	9 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	10
11 Pastor Sandy Wisco Preaching 10:30am – Worship FB Live and Drive-in Service	12 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	13 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	14 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	15 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	16 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	17
18 10:30am – Worship FB Live and Drive-in Service	19 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Leadership Team Meeting on Zoom	20 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	21 Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am- Women’s Bible Study Zoom 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	22 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	23 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	24 Grace Notes Newsletter due
25 10:30am – Worship FB Live and Drive-in Service	26 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	27 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 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

*** 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 **April 24, 2021**
to LeRoy Moyer at
Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com



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