



Grace Notes

December 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

Pastor Meredith Williams

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My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy! We all could use some glad tidings about now, I know I could. This month we look forward to Christ. We look forward to Christ coming again and we look forward to celebrating Jesus' incarnation at Christmas. We look forward to this year, 2020 ending, thank God. We look forward to a new year beginning. We look forward to seeing people and sharing joy, and letting go of the baggage we have accumulated throughout 2020. Definitely glad tidings indeed!

I just wish things were as easy as making a proclamation, or flipping a calendar page, or lighting candles and singing. Then poof, everything would be all better. That would be great, wouldn't it? But this is not the way things work. We all know that glad tidings are just the beginning, the start of something new, the start of something great. We know that after the glad tidings come the hard work, and the bumps in the road, maybe a few setbacks too.

Glad tidings do not proclaim the end of our problems, the end of COVID 19, the end of dividedness in our country or our families. No, glad tidings tell us to get ready, God is going to do a new thing. As we hear these words about God doing a new thing so many centuries ago, in sending Jesus to us as a babe in the manger, we know that God is still doing new things now. Even now, in 2020, rotten year that it has been for most of us, God is doing new things. God is bringing new life. God is shining new light in our world, so that people who have walked in the darkness of 2020 can see a bright new day.

Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy! God is already at work bringing about new life in our world, in us, and in our congregation and church!

In Christ,

Pastor Meredith Williams

Holy Communion: We will be adding Holy Communion back to every worship service starting in Advent. If we cannot use the pavilion due to weather, the Sacrament will be set up under the roof covering the front door and offered to those who are comfortable receiving it from the parking lot. We will continue to use the pre-filled cups with the wafer. If you are unable to attend worship, please let pastor know, and she will find a way to bring Holy Communion to you in a safe way.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

Nine months. We've been living with this devastating Pandemic for nine months. And some of us have had it. Some of our fellow citizens are ready to throw in the towel. They are tired of the mask wearing, social distancing and gathering restrictions. And it is all understandable. However, as Bishop Humphrey recently said 'this moment in our history is filled with both peril and promise. Our emotions are running high. Our energy low.' He likened where we are in this crisis to a football team at halftime. We have many months to go before an effective vaccine and treatment are widely available and more importantly accepted by the general population. He urges us to remain vigilant, to put on the protective equipment of our faith as well as our masks, physical distancing, digital worship, careful cleaning and other ways of loving our neighbor.

I can only echo our Bishop. With the arrival of Advent and Christmas in the not-too-distant future, it is so tempting to return to in-person worship, with singing and communion. And as you know we have tried to do just that with our outdoor Pavilion services. But with colder weather coming and the virus surging, we will more than likely have to curtail these services at some point. Rest assured that the Leadership Team at Grace & Glory will act with an abundance of caution when it comes to the church gathered, as each of you should do as well. We have many challenges ahead of us but we have to believe that we can continue to make a difference in our church and in the communities in which we live, work and serve.

One such challenge is our first remote Congregation meeting. On December 13th we will gather remotely to address the business of the Congregation in a Special meeting. At this meeting the Leadership Team is proposing to make some much-needed changes to our Constitution and By-laws, as well as nominate two new Trustees. Finally, the Leadership Team is recommending that Grace & Glory begin the process of incorporation which has many advantages over our current trustee arrangement.

Again, thank you for believing that even if our building is closed, we are the Church and we are open for the business of love, compassion and hope. And thank you for doing God's work with a faithful, generous heart. Peace, Hope and Health to you all

J. Patrick McCloud
President, Grace & Glory

December Birthdays

David Fawley 12/01	Joyce Long 12/09	Kyle Jenkins..... 12/19
Cameron O'Dell 12/02	Shar Lee Moje` 12/09	Carol Parsons 12/25
Clara Cooper 12/05	Terry Weese 12/11	Carol Wade 12/25
Linda Bolling 12/05	Rick Beaudoin..... 12/12	Robert Candea..... 12/28
Emily Farist 12/07	Sarah Phillips 12/12	Walt Vetter Jr. 12/31
Julie Dwyer 12/07	Pat McCloud 12/14	

November Leadership Team Meeting

The Leadership Team (LT) met remotely via Zoom on November 16, 2020.

The Finance Team/Treasurer reported another good month in October. Giving is still ahead of last year, but so are expenses, and without September's large, one-time donations, General and Building Fund accounts would be running behind. The application for forgiveness of the Payroll Protection loan is in process.

In light of recent COVID-19 developments and unless things change drastically, Pastor Williams and the LT agreed to continue our present approach to worship--Facebook Live, parking lot worship, and outdoor services when possible--until the upcoming Ash Wednesday (February 17, 2021). Pastor Williams is set to return to offering communion weekly using prepackaged elements, where those in attendance (in the parking lot or pavilion) are ushered one-at-a-time to either the front vestibule or under the portico to receive the sacrament.

Other topics that were discussed or decided include:

- A special virtual congregation meeting will be held after worship on December 13th for members to approve proposed amendments to the church constitution/bylaws. The amendments will be subsequently ratified at this coming January's annual meeting.
- Keith Weimer reported on resounding success of this year's Feeding Fluvanna campaign: over \$10,000 and 3,000 pounds of food were donated. Thanks go out to all who donated and helped with planning and collections.
- The LT approved nominations of the following candidates for January's Leadership Team election: George Gaige, Pam Hokanson, Beth Jenkins, Louise Jargowsky (will also continue serving as Treasurer), and Pat McCloud. In addition, Bob Candea and Mike Montgomery agreed to be named as trustees until such time as the church becomes incorporated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosann Hill, Secretary

Announcements

Advent Calendars and Advent Devotionals from LWR are available at the church. You can pick them up on Sundays before and after worship. We will take time to talk about them during fellowship Zooms in Advent.

Don't forget the Congregational Meeting December 13th after the 10:30 a.m. service.

As many of you know Ned Long, who recently moved to Maine, has been serving as assistant minister for the past few months. We need help finding other people to serve in this role. If you are comfortable being in the sanctuary/pavilion and serving as both Lector and Assisting Minister, please talk to Pastor Meredith.

Christmas Eve worship: At 2pm we will gather outdoors under the pavilion to have a Christmas Carol sing and Holy Communion. If the weather is bad the 2pm service will be cancelled. Then at 7pm we will hold a traditional worship service with music, candles, preaching, and Holy Communion. If the weather is mild and cooperates, everything will be outside. If not, then we will be broadcasting on Facebook Live and on the radio in the parking lot.

If you wish to participate in a congregational gift to Pastor and/or the Church Staff, our Treasurer, Louise Jargowsky, will be collecting funds until December 20th. Please make any checks payable to Louise with your gift designation on the memo line. **Please do not include your gift as part of your weekly offerings.** Thank you for your consideration. Louise Jargowsky, 382 Jefferson Drive, Palmyra, VA 22963; 434-589-3836; loujsky@gmail.com



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

A One-Time Special Advent Women's Devotional Bible Study

The next bible study using the December Gather magazine will be on Wednesday, December 16th at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. This month's study is entitled "Singing, writing, moving, connecting: Advent rituals for uncertain times."

Offerings to Women of the ELCA

This is an important notice concerning our women's unit offerings to the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization. Since our unit is unable to meet in person, we are not collecting monthly offerings to send into the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization in support of those ministries funded by Women of the ELCA. These offerings are very small and can be only \$1 or \$5 once a month added to your offering envelope marked WAGG/Women of the ELCA. All of our 1 dollars together will add up and make a difference. Please prayerfully consider giving 1 or 2 dollars a month to WAGG.

Thank you!

Winter 2021 Women's Bible Study

In January, continuing to use the Gather magazine, we will begin a new four (4) part bible study entitled "Journey with Angels" via Zoom.

The Bible features numerous encounters with angels who show up on an array of missions, from wielding a sword (Genesis 3:24), to rescuing a child (Genesis 22:11-12), to a mass choir singing, "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14).

Angels are not a major focus of holy Scripture, nor are they ever mentioned in our Christian creeds. Yet they show up frequently and at pivotal moments in both Old and New Testaments. Church Reformer Martin Luther is quoted as saying, "If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant."

As the study is presented by the Rev. Christa von Zychlin, we will shake those biblical branches, watch for angels and listen for God's call to action together. Please join us.

Session topics:

January: Looking up—New beginnings, awe-full, awesome angels

February: Repentance and route-changing angels

March: Loneliness, abandonment and holy comfort

April: Feasting angels

The Rev. Christa von Zychlin has served Lutheran churches around the world through ELCA Global partnerships. She co-pastors St. Luke Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she also loves exploring the spirituality of mountains and deserts.

(The above information was taken from the Gather magazine website.)

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 December 24.

December 2020

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
29 10:30am – Worship in-person in Pavilion* and FB Live and Drive-in Service	30 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
6 10:30am – Worship in-person in Pavilion* and FB Live and Drive-in Service	7 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	8 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	9 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	10 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	11 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	12
13 10:30am – Worship in-person in Pavilion* and FB Live and Drive-in Service 11:30am – Special Congregation Meeting (virtual)	14 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – 11am – Finance Team Zoom Meeting 7pm – Leadership Team Meeting on Zoom	15 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	16 Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am- Women’s Bible Study Zoom 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	17 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	18 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 6:30pm – AA	19
20 10:30am – Worship in-person in Pavilion* and FB Live and Drive-in Service	21 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	22 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	23 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	24 Grace Notes Newsletter due Church Office Closed 2pm – Christmas Eve Service in Pavilion * 7pm – Christmas Eve Service in Pavilion*, on FB Live and Drive-in Service	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26
27 10:30am – Worship in-person in Pavilion* and FB Live and Drive-in Service	28 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 7pm – Evening Bible Study Zoom	29 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom 6:30pm – AA	30 Church Cleaning 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 1pm – Virtual Fellowship on Zoom	31 9am – 12pm –Liz Layne online 10am – Virtual Bible Study on Zoom	1 New Year’s Day Church Office Closed 6:30pm – AA	2

*** 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 **December 24, 2020**
to LeRoy Moyer at
Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com



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