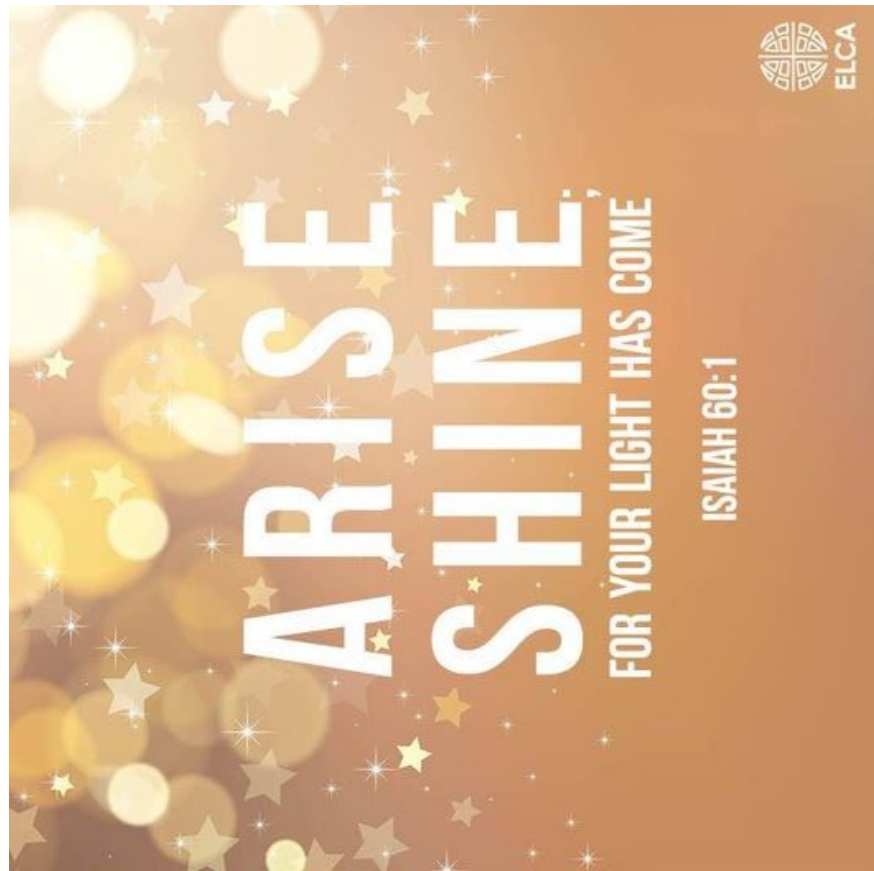


“Grace Greetings”

January 2023



Grace Lutheran Church
521 Providence Road
Chesapeake, VA 23325



<https://linktr.ee/gracelutheran>

Grace Lutheran—a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.

January 2023 "Grace Greetings"

Mission Statement:

We are a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.

Epiphany ~ January 6

"The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people."

(SundaysandSeasons.com)

Some people make New Year's Resolutions to start a healthy habit or stop an unhealthy one. What if this year, we made Epiphany "Resolutions"—what if we took some time to intentionally and prayerfully make plans about how we were going to be "beacons of the light of Christ" and "share the good news of God's love to all people" or to use the words from our (Grace Lutheran's) mission statement: how you were going to be a servant to all people in 2023.

God has given us so many great gifts—breath, food, community, safety, security, etc. How might we use our time, talents, and treasures to make a positive impact in the world in a new way this year?

Are you being called to:

- Increase your financial gift that support the ministries here at Grace?
 - Plan a legacy gift to the church?
- Increase your financial gift to other organizations doing good work?
- Volunteer at the food pantry, a local homeless shelter, or a school?
- Serve in a leadership position at church (Council, Preschool Board, etc.)?
- Work as an election official or for a political campaign that aligns with your understanding of God's will?
 - Decorate and distribute kindness rocks wherever you go?
- Take gloves and trash bag with you on walks in order to pick up any trash you see?

Those are just a few ideas. The possibilities are endless! God has called and equipped you! Go be a beacon of light and herald of God's good news!

Blessed Epiphany!

God Bless,
Pastor Leslie Weber

EVENTS

Mark your Calendar

Jan 1	New Year's Day	
	9:45am	Service of Lessons & Carols
	11am	Un-hanging of the Greens
Jan 2	Food Pantry CLOSED Office CLOSED NO Bible Study NO Bell Choir	
Jan 3	10am	Threaders
Jan 4	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Jan 8	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
	1pm	Confirmation @ Grace
Jan 9	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	5:30pm	Preschool Board (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir
Jan 10	10am	Threaders
	7pm	Council Meeting (Hybrid)
Jan 11	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Jan 14	8am	Men's Group
Jan 15	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
Jan 16	Food Pantry CLOSED Office CLOSED NO Bible Study	
	7pm	Bell Choir
Jan 17	10am	Threaders
Jan 18	Noon	Ladies Lunch
	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Jan 22	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
Jan 23	9am	Food Pantry

	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir
Jan 24	10am	Threaders
Jan 25	6:30pm	Potluck
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Jan 27-29	Winter Celebration	
Jan 29	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
Jan 30	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir
Jan 31	10am	Threaders

Hybrid WORSHIP

Regular Hybrid Worship Schedule

- 8:30am Contemporary Worship
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11am Traditional Worship



Sunday School

Most Sundays at 9:45am

- Elementary School—in Classroom #3
- Middle & High School—in Youth Room
- Adults—in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

- ◇ Monday, Jan 2
 - ◇ Office CLOSED
 - ◇ Food Pantry CLOSED
 - ◇ NO Bell Choir

Monday Bible Study (Zoom)

Mondays at 1:30pm

Bible Study will NOT meet on January 2nd.

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87547409467?pwd=Mzl5TFdseFpYU1lpTS95czN4VWI4QT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 875 4740 9467 and Passcode: 478408.



Bell Choir Rehearsal

Mondays at 7pm

Bell Choir will NOT meet on January 2nd.

If you have any questions, please email Morgan at Music@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org.



Threaders

Tuesdays at 10am

The Threaders meet on Tuesdays at 10am to make walker bags for people throughout our community. There are jobs for various skill levels: sewing machine operator, button sewer, iron operator, etc. Questions? Contact Jane Jennings or Peggy Barry.



Potluck & Bible Study (Hybrid)

Wednesdays

Potluck @ 6:30 & Study of Galatians @ 7pm

- Join via your smartphone/tablet/computer by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?pwd=OHhzWUFlc0FIQit0MjN5c0IEcINtQT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via your regular phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.

Jan 1st at 9:45am—Service of Lessons & Carols

We will use the same Zoom information as Sunday Morning Worship for all of these worship services.



Un-hanging of the Greens

Sunday, January 1st after 9:45am worship

Please stay to help un-decorate the church!

Preschool Board Meeting (Hybrid)

Monday, January 9th at 5:30pm

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85964430976?pwd=cEVXNkkva2tLb2NWRUkvalRjQnJlU1O9> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 859 6443 0976 and Passcode: 040561.

Council Meeting (Hybrid)

Tuesday, January 10th at 7pm

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87468766112?pwd=Z3VnL2RyVkRKdXhXRFFWT2E0ZlcrZz09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 874 6876 6112 and Passcode: 740742.



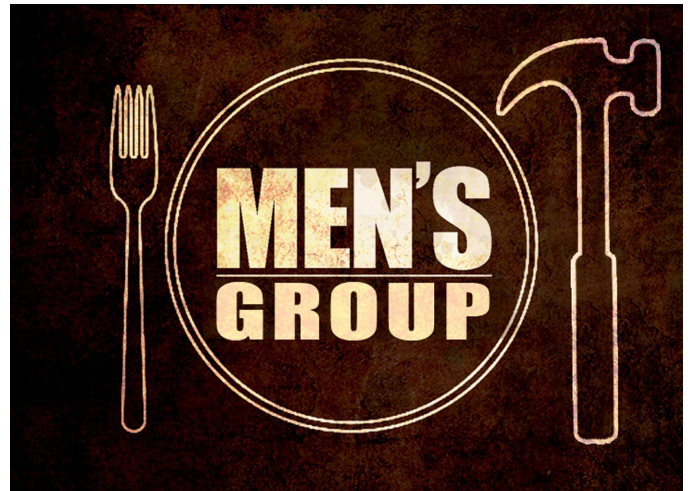
Wild Women Retreat at Caroline Furnace **January 13-15, 2023**

We hope that you will join us for a weekend of fellowship, rest, and fun! Feel free to bring a book, your latest crafting project, and your favorite snacks/drinks to share. This year, our spiritual focus will be in the Psalms as we fellowship, renew, and learn together.

Weekend Rate \$140 | Day Rate \$50

Retreat cost includes modern-rustic lodging, scratch-made meals, programming, and Saturday transportation.

Register at www.carolinefurnace.org/wild-women-series



Men's Group

Saturday, January 14 at 8am

Join the men of GLC for potluck breakfast and work around the church.



Ladies Lunch Out

Wednesday, January 18th at Noon
at Olive Garden

(1631 Mall Ring Rd, Chesapeake, 23320)

Join the ladies of GLC for fellowship & food. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, January 15th.



BeerReformation Retreat at Caroline Furnace

January 27-29, 2023

Join us for a weekend of fellowship and renewal, paired with the art of beer brewing. We'll follow our "Earn your Beer" hike with a visit to a local brewery, then bottle a special Caroline Furnace recipe to take home.

Weekend Rate \$140 | Day Rate \$50

Retreat cost includes modern-rustic lodging, scratch-made meals, programming, and Saturday transportation.



Winter Celebration

January 27-29, 2023

Calling All Virginia Synod High Schoolers! Winter Celebration will take place Friday, January 27th, through Sunday, January 29th. It is our annual weekend retreat for

youth in 9th through 12th grade, as well as their adult advisors.

If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor Leslie or Rich Fraenkel ASAP.



Digital Midwinter Power in the Spirit

Save **January 30-February 1, 2023**, on your calendar, for the annual Midwinter Power in the Spirit. Our keynote speaker this year will be Brenda Smith who led the ELCA Book of Faith Initiative. Registration and more information will be coming soon!



"Drop Your Drawers" Collection through January 29th

In support of the Urban Renewal Center, we are collecting:

- Men's & Women's underwear (any size, any style, new in original packaging)
- Women's Sports Bras (size 32 and larger, new with tags)
- Adult screen-printed t-shirts (adult sizes, clean, no tears or holes)

Drop your drawers, bras, and t-shirts in the collection box in the Narthex. Contact Gretchen Stoll with questions.



American Red Cross

Blood Drive

**Saturday, February 11th, 9am-1pm
in the Grace Lutheran Fellowship Hall**

To make an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: GraceLutheran.



Begin or Update Electronic Giving for 2023

You can sign up to give to the ministries of Grace electronically (once or recurring) via Tithe.ly (https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/475611). Use the same link and sign into your account to update the amount and/or frequency of your contributions for 2023.



2023 Offering Envelopes

If you haven't already received your 2023 Offering Envelopes and would like a set, please contact our Financial Secretary, Rich Fraenkel.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Directory Update

Contact Jody in the office [757-420-4704 or secretary@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org] with any changes to your information.



ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission

Young Adults in Global Mission Applications Are Open

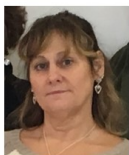
[www.elca.org/our-work/global-mission/
young-adults-in-global-mission](http://www.elca.org/our-work/global-mission/young-adults-in-global-mission)

After a two-year pause, the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program is sending volunteers out into the world again. The program invites young adults aged 21-29 into a transformative, yearlong journey in international service.

Watch an update about some of the ways the YAGM team is bringing the program up to date and making it more welcoming for everyone [www.youtube.com/watch?v=571y0bm-WWw]. YAGM is ready for you!

Submit your application before February 1, 2023, with priority given to those who apply before Jan. 15, 2023.

2022 Congregational Council



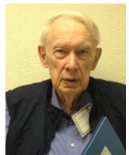
La Quita Opperman
President



Bob Masters
Vice President



Mike Olson
Secretary



Walt Anderson



David Cooper



Faith Longworth



Jen Scherman



Fred Schleede

From the Council

Wishing everyone a blessed and healthy New Year. We welcome Pastor Leslie back from maternity leave and the rest of the family. With the New Year we have new council members. We welcome Tom Casey and Beth Woodard. Faith Longworth will remain on council. Thank you for volunteering and wishing you a wonderful year.

Council will say goodbye to Walt Anderson, Jennifer Cooper, Bob Masters and myself. Thank you for your dedication as council members. We still have one seat open on Council, please reconsider being a part of Council for next year.

This past year, we have had a couple of fund raiser. One was for the renovation of the Youth Room into the Handicapped/Family/Gender Neutral bathroom. The Conference Room is now the Youth Room. We held a fund raiser to pay off the remainder of the church's mortgage early. Kris Peterson led "Six weeks on Money". This course was very revealing on our relationship with money. I highly recommend this course. We have begun to take step to repair the vents in the back of the church. The good news is that it is only the vents in the rear of the church. We have had many potlucks and gatherings thanks to the Fellowship Committee. It feels so good to gather again together as it truly has been missed by all.

We are currently looking for a Tech Host to hire. The resumes have been sent to the

hiring team for review. Hopefully we will have someone this month. Nursery Attendant is another position we are looking to fill.

At our Annual Congregational Meeting it was voiced that we go to one service. This is on the agenda for the new council to discuss. We deferred this topic until Pastor Leslie returned.

As always stay safe, healthy and God's Peace to you all.

La Quita Opperman
2022 Council President

THANK YOU for your generous financial support of God's mission!

In **November 2022**, Grace Lutheran received **\$14,183.01** in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Remember all the Saints
- Hold our Annual Meeting
- Collect toys for Toys for Tots
- Provide turkeys for Indian River Middle School's Thanksgiving Baskets
- Support Pastor Leslie in taking parental leave

(to name just a few) with **\$16,300.69** of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

Year to date (through November 30th), we have received \$186,558 for the General Fund and have had \$199,812 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance (as of November 30th) is \$60,871.27.



www.GracePS.org

From the Preschool

HAPPY NEW YEAR from Grace Preschool!!!!

We are blessed to have made it to 2023!!!!

As we enter the new year, we here at Grace thank God for many mercies and blessings throughout 2022. We have had some awesome times with our students as well as lifetime learning experiences.

I want to thank the Grace Preschool parents, staff, and Grace Lutheran Church for all their hard work and dedication. We were able to double our food donation to the food pantry this year. Our parents and staff donate over 1000 food items to help feed our community.

Our students and teachers enjoyed a thanksgiving lunch donated by the preschool board of directors.

Our Christmas celebration was awesome as we told the story of Jesus Christ's birth. Students and parents took home a few Christmas goodies after the presentation.

Did you know you can help our preschool by linking your Harris Teeter VIC card to our account? It's extremely easy to do just tell the cashier you want to link your card to Grace Preschool, account number: TIE7040.

You can also go to <https://www.harristeeter.com/>, scroll down to click on Together in Education, and Link Your School Today. When you shop at Harris Teeter brands, a percentage of your purchase is donated to the school that your VIC card is linked to. You can also help our

preschool by ordering Papa John's pizza using promo code GracePizza with each order.

Sincerely
Kristie Fields
Preschool Director

2023 AT-A-GLANCE

FAITH

Worship

Ash Wednesday (Feb 22) begins Lent
Palm Sunday (Apr 2)
Maundy Thursday (Apr 6)
Good Friday (Apr 7)
Easter (Apr 9)
Pentecost (May 28)
Reformation Sunday (Oct 29)
All Saints Sunday (Nov 5)
Advent begins (Dec 3)

Education

Monday Afternoon Bible Study
Wednesday Evening Bible Study
Sunday School
Confirmation Classes & Camp
Vacation Bible School

COMMUNITY

Men's Group (2nd Sat of month)

Ladies Lunch (3rd Wed of month)

Monthly Fellowship Events

VA Synod Youth Events

Winter Celebration for 9-12th gr (Jan 27-29)

7th Day for 5-6th gr (Mar 4-5)

Kairos for rising 7-9th gr (Jun 25-30)

Lost & Found for 7-8th gr (Nov 17-19)

VA Synod Assembly (Jun 9-11)

SERVICE

Ongoing Ministries—Book Ministry, Threaders, Food Pantry

Monthly Projects

“Drop Your Drawers” Collection (Jan)
“Souper of Bowl of Caring” Food Drive (Feb)
Blood Drives (Feb 11, May 20, Oct 28)
Homelessness Project (Mar)
Flea Markets (Spring & Fall)
Nursing Home Project (June)
Foster Care Project (July)
School Supply Collection (Aug)
“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday (Sep)
Coat Drive (Oct)
Toys for Tots Collection (Nov)
Christmas Food Baskets (Dec)

Annual Endowment Disbursements

PRAYER LIST

We Pray for Our Members

Ann Anderson	Patricia Jackson
Elaine Babb	Leonora Jones
Joe Babb	Jack Justice
Peggy Barry	Sharon Justice
Jovie Bennett	Barbara Kilian
Suzanne Bergsten	Lori Kilian
The Breitsprecher	Charlotte Maurer
family	The Moody family
The Fraenkel family	Roy Russell
Annette Fillmore	Monique Schroeder
The Headings family	Rose Mary Sidam
Jan Howell	Ted Van Horn

We Pray for Our Friends

Bill Babb	Murray Leffers Jr
Randy Bosecker	Andrew Lowe
Richard Howell	The McGinnis family
Sarita Howell	Nano Masters
Laura Braugh	Kathy Jo Matticks
Doris Carr	Katie Milliner
Nathan Darulla	Cindy Nethery
Randy Davis	Eugene Opperman
Sharon Dozier	Karen Opperman
Mark Dyer	Ellen Pabst
Makenzie Fuller	Samantha Page
Madison Garriott	Joshua Patton
Terry Gillette	Allen Peterson
Jenell Gordon	Stephan Pleli
Lettie Groshel	Tommy Reeck
Claude Hamilton	Lisa Sanders
Rachel Hobson	Nick Sims
Ruby Hockenberry	Sheila Silvey
Jaylin Horton	Larry Smith
Brian Hubert	Joseph Stratton
Chris Jones	Deb Thompson
Rege Kuzel	Dianne Van Pelt

The Military & their Families
 Our Food Pantry Clients
 ELCA Missionaries
 All who mourn



Jan 6	Faith Longworth
Jan 6	Jacob Weber
Jan 17	Kim Moody
Jan 19	Joy Baltero
Jan 19	Collin Moody
Jan 24	Alex Cloud
Jan 24	Kristopher McClellan
Jan 27	Tom Casey
Jan 28	Nox Bennett
Jan 28	La Quita Opperman
Jan 29	Quina Pritchard



Jan 12	Leslie & Jacob Weber
Jan 20	Elaine & Roy Russell

To add/correct any birthdays or anniversaries. Please email Secretary@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org

PASTORAL CARE

Please contact Pastor Leslie if you are in need of a pastoral care, hospital, or Communion visit.

In a effort to keep the prayer list up to date, please update Pastor Leslie monthly regarding your friends/family on the list.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 9:45am Service of Lessons and Carols followed by Unhanging of the Greens	2 NO Food Pantry Office CLOSED NO Bible Study NO Bell Choir	3 10am Threaders	4 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	5 8pm AA	6	7 10am Girl Scouts
8 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 1pm Confirmation @ Grace	9 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 5:30pm Preschool Board (Hybrid) 7pm Bell Choir	10 10am Threaders 7pm Council (Hybrid)	11 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	12 8pm AA	13	14 8am Men's Group
15 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	16 NO Food Pantry Office CLOSED NO Bible Study 7pm Bell Choir	17 10am Threaders 7pm Good Mourning	18 Noon Ladies Lunch 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	19 8pm AA	20	21 10am Girl Scouts
22 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	23 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	24 10am Threaders 6:30pm American Sewing Guild	25 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	26 8pm AA	27 Winter Celebration	28
29 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	30 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	31 10am Threaders				

January 2023