

“Grace Greetings”

July 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.

July 2023 “Grace Greetings”

Mission Statement:

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

Report from the Virginia Synod Assembly—June 9-11, 2023

Lutherans from all around the Virginia Synod gathered at Roanoke College for the 2023 Virginia Synod Assembly. The Synod welcomed **Deacon Sue Rothmeyer**, Secretary of the ELCA as our Churchwide Representative. The Assembly theme was The Way in the Wilderness. Hear the voice of the prophet Isaiah call out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord” (Isaiah 40:3a).



The **WAY** *in the*
WILDERNESS

Elections

With the pending retirement of Bishop Bob Humphrey, the Assembly undertook the process of electing the next Bishop of the Virginia Synod. On the sixth ballot, the **Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton**, Pastor at Holy Communion, Portsmouth, was elected with 175 votes to 172 votes for the Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod. Bishop-elect Milton will take office September 1. She will be installed as Bishop on Saturday, October 21 at First Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro.

The Assembly elected **Blythe Scott** (First, Norfolk) to serve as the new Vice-President of the Virginia Synod and elected **Judy Castele** (Good Shepherd, Lexington) to serve as the Secretary of the Virginia Synod.

Elected to serve on Synod Council are **Jillian Stierwalt** (St. Andrew, Portsmouth), **Christie McKee** (Grace, Winchester), **Christine Weller** (Our Saviour, Williamsburg), **Lily Harmison** (Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg), and **The Rev. James Armentrout** (St. Mark's, Roanoke). Re-elected to serve a second four year term are **Carlton Hardy** (St. Mark, Yorktown), **The Rev. Phillip Martin** (Epiphany, Richmond), **The Rev. Monica Weber** (Luther Memorial, Blacksburg), and the **Rev. Harry Griffith** (St. John, Norfolk).

Elected to serve on the Consultation Committee was **Debbie Mintiens** (Emanuel, Woodstock), **Glen Kirk** (Grace, Rural Retreat Parish), **The Rev. Scott Mims** (First, Norfolk), **The Rev. Matthew Diehl** (Mount Calvary, Mt. Jackson), **The Rev. JoAnn Bunn** (Gladesboro, Gladesboro), **The Rev. Sarah Hess** (Trinity, Moneta).

Elected to serve on the Committee on Discipline are **Dr. William Franz** (Christ, Richmond), **The Rev. Sherrie Hofmann** (Prince of Peace, Orkney-Basye), **The Rev. Karen Van Stee** (Grace, Waynesboro), **The Rev. Daniel Hess** (Trinity, Moneta).

Worship

The Assembly opened with a service of Holy Communion. **Pastor Liz Radtke**, Virginia Synod

Truth and Love Coordinator, served as the preacher for worship and focused on the Assembly theme, 'The Way in the Wilderness.' On Saturday morning, **Bishop Humphrey** presided at a service of remembrance for rostered ministers and former Synod leaders who had died in the last two years and also remembered congregations that had closed. Saturday's Assembly concluded with a Festival Service of Holy Communion that included commissioning eleven lay preachers **George Donovan, Laura Doughty, Janet Gomez, James Ingraham, Erich Lantz, David Mayersky, Sylvia Miles, Ray Riggan, Kristee Trumbo, Judith Wilfong, Leon Zimmermann.** The final day of the Assembly began with morning prayer and ended with a closing worship service featuring a sermon by **Deacon Emily Edmunds** (Chaplain, Virginia Baptist Hospital, Lynchburg) and the installation of those serving in leadership roles within the life of the Virginia Synod. This year the offering was designated to support the Lutheran Disaster Response and Virginia Synod Disaster Response.

Celebrations

We celebrated rostered minister ordination anniversaries, congregation anniversaries, lay leadership and five volunteers were recognized for the **2023 Serving Boldly Awards.** The award recipients were **Kisha Johnson** (Good Shepherd, Galax), **Carol Jones** (Christ, Richmond), **Robert Perry** (Zion, Edinburg Parish), **Diana Tiller-Dichtel** (St. Stephen, Williamsburg), and **Connie Watkins** (St. Mark's, Roanoke). We celebrated and honored Bishop Humphrey as he is concluding his term as bishop.

Assembly Business

The Assembly approved the 2023 and 2024 Investment in Ministry Plans, the 2021 and 2022 Synod Audits, and the Compensation Guidelines for 2024. Bishop Humphrey and the Officers of the Synod shared their reports and the Assembly heard from a variety of mission partners through ministry moment videos.

Nathan Rummel (Trinity, Newport News), president of the Lutheran Youth Organization, presented the Youth Assembly report, centered on the Youth Assembly theme of "Followers of the Way and the Truth and the Life." He spoke to the immeasurable value of youth events, and also expressed the gathered youths' vision for the new bishop of the Virginia Synod. The next LYO Board president will be **Asher Porter** (Our Savior, Christiansburg).



Thank you to Rich & Sandra Fraenkel for serving as Grace's voting members at the 2023 Virginia Synod Assembly! The Rev. Beth Woodard (member of Grace) and Pastor Leslie were also in attendance.

Pastor Leslie didn't get to sit with the other three very much as she stayed very busy serving as the chair of the Bishop Election Committee.

EVENTS

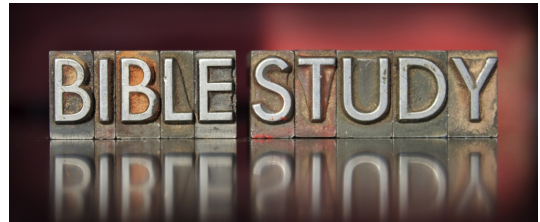
Mark your Calendar

July 2	9:45am	Combined Worship
July 3	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
July 4		Independence Day
		Office CLOSED
		NO Threaders
July 5		NO Potluck & Bible Study
July 8	8am	Men's Group
July 9	9:45am	Combined Worship
	~11am	Congregational Meeting
July 10	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	5:30pm	Preschool Board (Hybrid)
July 11	10am	Threaders
	7pm	Council (Zoom)
July 12	6:30pm	Potluck
	7:15pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
July 14		Office CLOSED
July 16	9:45am	Combined Worship
	11:15am	Fellowship Picnic
July 17	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
July 18	10am	Threaders
July 19	Noon	Ladies Lunch Out
	6:30pm	Potluck
	7:15pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
July 23	9:45am	Combined Worship
July 24	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
July 25	10am	Threaders
July 26	6:30pm	Potluck
	7:15pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
July 30	9:45am	Combined Worship

Hybrid WORSHIP

Combined Worship will be at 9:45 throughout the Summer

Join us on site or online. Zoom log-in information is available at www.gracelutheranchesapeake.org/news--upcoming-events.



Monday Bible Study (Zoom) **Mondays at 1:30pm**

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87557721128?pwd=b2J4ektpdGtwWk9NQkJudzllcHBBQT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 875 5772 1128 and Passcode: 152551.



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 @ 7pm

NOTE: We will NOT meet on July 5th.

- Join via your smartphone/tablet/ computer by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?pwd=OHhzWUFic0FIQit0MjN5c0lEcjNtQT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via your regular phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.



Men's Group

Saturday, July 8th at 8am

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



Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, July 9th after worship (~11am)

There will be a special Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, July 9, 2023 at approximately 11am, following our regularly scheduled worship service at 9:45am. We

will gather both in person and on Zoom (same Zoom meeting as worship). The sole purpose of the meeting is to consider a motion to gift funds from two special funding sources of the church (totaling just under \$16,000) to Grace Preschool so that they can pay the former Director's back pay. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor or a member of Council.



Board Meeting

Preschool Board Meeting (Hybrid)

Monday, July 10th at 5:30pm

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85964430976?pwd=cEVXNkkva2tLb2NWRUkvalRjQnJlU109> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 859 6443 0976 and Passcode: 040561.



Council Meeting

Council Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, July 11th 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.



Church Picnic

Fellowship Picnic

Sunday, July 16 after worship (about 11am)

Join us, as we gather for fellowship, food and fun.

- * Hot dogs and drinks will be provided.
- * Bring your favorite Picnic dish or dessert to share.
- * Bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets to spread out on the lawn.
- * Bring some Family Games.
- * Music provided by our own Shelley Simpkins.

Contact Faith Longworth or Sandra Fraenkel for more information or to volunteer.



Ladies Lunch Out

**Wednesday, July 19th at Noon
at Smokey Bones**

(1405 Greenbrier Parkway, 23320)

Join the ladies of GLC for fellowship & food. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, July 16th.



Connect WITH A Wish

July Outreach Collection

In July, we will be collecting items for the Connect With a Wish's Supporting Success program. The Supporting Success program provides for the needs of those in independent living situations or aging out of the foster care system. This is done with case management while working along with programs already in place to support the transition of these children to successful, productive young adults in our community. CWW assists in furnishing their apartments as they move out on their own for the first time. Over many years of working with this age group, CWW has assisted homeless youths by providing temporary housing until more permanent options become available.

List of Items needed:

- * Pot & Pan sets
- * Measuring Cups
- * Knife Sets
- * Baking Sheets
- * Cleaning Starter Kits(buckets, Swiffer mops, dusters, cloths, cleaning sprays)
- * Laundry Kits (laundry soap, dryer sheets or softener, stain remover)

Please place all donations in the box in the Narthex by Sunday, July 30th. If you have any questions, contact Rebecca Headings.



Vacation Bible School

With regret, we have decided to cancel VBS for this summer. An unfortunate combination of circumstances has necessitated this. We will be looking for ways to share God's good news in our community in other ways this summer and

fall. If you have ideas, please contact Pastor Leslie.



Virginia Synodical Women's Organization
Annual Convention
July 21-22, 2023
at Roanoke College

For more information and to register, visit <http://vswowebly.com/convention-information.html>



"God's Work. Our Hands." T-shirts
Orders due Sunday, August 13th

Sign up in the Narthex or contact Pastor Leslie by Sunday, August 13th. T-shirts are \$12 each, and money will be collected upon delivery. "Grace Lutheran Church Chesapeake, VA" will be printed on the back (if we order at least 10 shirts). Sizes available: Youth S-L, and Adult S-5XL.

Lawn Care Volunteers Needed

The mowing season is here and we need your help to care for the lawn at church!

- Please sign up to help with lawn care by clicking the link: <https://tinyurl.com/2022lawncare>
- Information about lawn care procedures can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/lawncareinstructions22>
- If you have further questions, please contact Fred Schleede.

2023 Congregational Council



From the Council

I don't know if it is just me, but June has flown by. Even though school is out and summer has officially begun, there is still a ton going on at Grace.

Throughout the summer, we will be holding a combined worship service at 9:45am each Sunday. Please join us in person or on Zoom!

Sunday School is on hiatus, but Monday Bible Study (1:30pm on Zoom) and Wednesday Potluck (6:30pm) and Bible Study (7pm onsite and on Zoom) continue throughout the summer (with just a few exceptions).

There are also many opportunities coming up for fellowship and fun!

We continue our year-round outreach ministries (Food Pantry, Book Ministry, Threaders, etc.) and our monthly emphases. Also, many community partners continue to utilize the building throughout the week for various programs and gatherings.

To continue all this good work in God's name, we need our shared resources—time, talents, and treasures. At the end of May, we had spent over \$19,000 more than we had brought in. This is an average shortfall of about \$4,000 per month. We are also feeling some strain when it comes to volunteers as well; whether it is one-time worship server roles or ongoing positions on committees and boards, we are having

more and more trouble getting people to volunteer.

So I want to ask you to consider giving more of your time, talents, and treasures. At Grace, we try to ensure that all the gifts that are entrusted to us by God are used to do God's work in the world—to be servants to all people, but no one of us can accomplish that in the same way as we all can together!

The Council is looking for ways to cut expenses, but there is not much to be cut without drastically changing our ministry, so we are hoping you are each able to step up in some way. Please consider volunteering for a new role or increasing your financial gifts in frequency or amount. You can find more information about the many ways to add your resources to the ministry of Grace here: www.gracelutheranchesapeake.org/support.html

Because of these realities, we had some heavy discussion topics at our June meeting.

We heard from the Sanctuary HVAC rehab team that there is no easy/cheap way forward, so for now we are simply giving thanks that for right now the repair that was made last summer seems to be holding. We will continue to work to plan for what the right next step is for when the two units do die.

We continue to work to bring all of our official documents (constitution, bylaws, deed, etc.) in line with the fact that we incorporated a couple of years ago. Bureaucracy is always fun!

We are looking into applying for the Employee Retention Credit.

We also discussed beginning a hiring process for a new nursery attendant, since Bella will be heading to college in August.

We decided to cancel VBS for this summer as time is tight, coordination was a little lacking, and we were short on volunteers.

As you might imagine, the hardest topic we discussed was the suspension of operation

of the Preschool for the summer and the 2023-24 school year, especially the \$16,000 that is owed to the Director.

Please plan to attend the Special Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, July 9th, where we will vote on a resolution to this problem.

As the official letter states (see *next page*), we hope that after some clean up work, we “will then as a congregation have the opportunity to dream about what additional ministry we might do with the resources that remain.”

Despite all of these issues that can feel like a wilderness at times, we continue forward knowing that God is journeying faithfully with us through it all.

Thank you for all the ways that you continue to be faithful stewards and sharers of the gospel!

God Bless,
Pastor Leslie Weber

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

In **May 2023**, Grace Lutheran received **\$13,610.21** in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Hosted a Flea Market and raised money for Grace Preschool
- Welcomed Ethan into the church through Baptism
- Hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive
- Witnessed five youth affirm their faith and become adult members of the church

(to name just a few) with **\$21,252.37** of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

Year to date (through May 31st), we have received \$73,595.47 for the General Fund and have had \$94,870.34 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance (as of May 31st) is \$42,232.90



Letter from the Preschool Board (June 14, 2023)

With deep regret, we write to inform you that the board of Grace Preschool has voted to not enroll students for Summer 2023 or the 2023-24 School Year. Due to low enrollment and financial strains, the preschool program is no longer viable in its current configuration.

The Preschool Board and the Congregational Council will work over the coming months to properly handle all legal and financial matters. We will then as a congregation have the opportunity to dream about what additional ministry we might

do with the resources that remain.

This is not something we expected to happen nor is it something we wanted. However, in order for us to be good stewards of the resources we have and to be faithful in caring for the staff, the children, and their families, it was ultimately necessary. We know that you may have a lot of questions and concerns. You are welcome to reach out to Pastor Leslie.

For 50 years, Grace Preschool has been a beacon of light in our Chesapeake community, and we are thankful for the countless students, staff, and volunteers that have been part of this ministry.

Sincerely,
Grace Preschool Board



MINISTRY WITH
YOUTH AND
YOUNG ADULTS

Summer 2023 youth ministry opportunities

For information and registration instructions on all of these events,
go to www.vasynod.org/ministries/youth-ministry or click on the QR Code for each event.



At the Water's Edge is a week-long servant event for Youth who have just completed the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, and their adult advisors. We spend the week together experiencing



the Christian life through worship, fellowship, fun and service in the Tidewater area. And of course, being near the beach, we also spend some time at the water's edge.

SEEKING AND FINDING

POWER I N T H E SPIRIT

Power in the Spirit is an inspirational conference for people of all ages who wish to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible studies, keynote addresses, workshops, games, and fellowship. In addition, congregational leaders—teachers, organists and choir directors, choir members, committee or council members, family life consultants, deacons, pastors, and others—will find Power in the Spirit nurturing and challenging as they consider their mission and ministry.

In the gospels, Jesus draws crowds wherever he goes. People who would otherwise have nothing to do with each other are drawn together in the practice of seeking him. We will look at a vision of the church that has this kind of seeking at its center. Come and explore the theme of Seeking and Finding as it appears in Scripture and in our own journeys of faith. Together we will see how our seeking Jesus (and his seeking us) is the common ground we need to love one another across all the issues and life experiences that threaten to divide us.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**The Rev. Dr. Mary
Hinkle Shore**



BIBLE STUDY LEADER

**The Rev. Dr.
Steven S. Tuell**



MUSICIAN

**Michael
Benschish**



 July 13-15, 2023

 Roanoke College Campus

For More Information

www.vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/

PRAYER LIST

We Pray for Our Members

Ann Anderson	Kim Moody
Elaine Babb	La Quita Opperman
Joe Babb	David Pritchard
Suzanne Bergsten	Kathie Rokitski
Jan Howell	Roy Russell
Patricia Jackson	The Shalibo Family
Leonora Jones	Gwen Scherman
Jack Justice	Monique Schroeder
Sharon Justice	Rose Mary Sidam
Betty Keefer	Nancy Springsteen
Barbara Kilian	Ted Van Horn
Lori Kilian	Thomas Washington
Charlotte Maurer	

We Pray for Our Friends

Joyce Adkins	Kathy Jo Matticks
Bill Babb	Robert Miller
Richard Bowell	Sue Miller
Sarita Bowell	Katie Milliner
Laura Braugh	Judi Moser
Trevor Crawford	Ellen Pabst
Mark Dyer	Joshua Patton
Joshua Falkner	Patricia Petro
Wesley Fillah	Stephan Pleli
Madison Garriott	Tommy Reeck
Jenell Gordon	Leah Rosario
Lettie Groshel	Lisa Sanders
Claude Hamilton	Sheila Silvey
Ruby Hockenberry	Nick Sims
Brian Hubert	Larry Smith
Chris Jones	Samantha Strother
Dirl Kinnard	Deb Thompson
Murray Leffers Jr	Dianne Van Pelt
The McGinnis family	Richard Van Pelt
Nano Masters	

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

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



July 2	Doreen Smith
July 3	Autumn Kraft
July 6	Emma McGrath
July 7	Kyle Weed
July 8	Leonora Jones
July 10	Brandon Breitsprecher
July 10	Robert Campbell
July 11	Charlotte Maurer
July 11	Courtney Weed
July 13	Peggy Barry
July 13	Marceline Bennett
July 13	Bob Masters
July 15	Juanita Urps
July 20	Jan Howell
July 23	Barbara Kilian
July 31	Scott Kayser



July 11	Ted & Daryl Van Horn
July 20	Ernie & Gwen Scherman

To add/correct any birthdays or anniversaries. Please email

Secretary@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:45am Worship	3 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	4 Office CLOSED NO Threaders	5 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	6 8pm AA	7	1
9 9:45am Worship 11am Congregational Meeting	10 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 5:30pm Preschool Board (Hybrid)	11 10am Threaders 7pm Council (Zoom)	12 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	13 8pm AA	14 Office Closed	15
16 9:45am Worship 11:15am Picnic	17 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	18 10am Threaders 7pm Good Mourning	19 Noon Ladies Lunch 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	20 8pm AA	21	22
23 9:45am Worship	24 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	25 10am Threaders 6:30pm American Sewing Guild	26 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	27 8pm AA	28	29
30 9:45am Worship	31 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)					

July 2023