






Grace Lutheran Church—Nominees for 2021 Leadership Positions

**Nominating Committee—1 Year Term (elect 4)**

<p>Hugh “Doc” Dougherty</p> 	<p>“My name is Hugh Dougherty and I go by Doc. I am 69 years old and I reside in Chesapeake, VA. I was born in McKeesport, PA and I am married to Debbie Dougherty, and we have two sons and 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. I am a retired firefighter and a U.S. Navy Veteran. I have been a member of Grace for 16 years and have served for several years on the nominating committee. When we were searching for a new church we both felt something special when we first walked into Grace and joined shortly after. I enjoy U.S. Navy history and civil war history and spending time with family and our grandchildren.”</p>
<p>Beverly Galles</p> 	<p>Beverly is very active at Grace. She usually attends the early service with her husband, Gary. She currently serves as Vice President on the Preschool Board. She believes she would be an excellent candidate for the Nominating committee because she is “well rounded in the church and has gotten to know a lot of people from both services.”</p>
<p>Kurt Longsworth</p> 	<p>“I have been a member for over 40 years, and currently volunteer with the Food Pantry. I retired after 30 years as a warehouse operations manager.”</p>
<p>Kathie Rokitski</p> 	<p>“I live in Virginia Beach and teach at both TCC and ODU. I was raised a Lutheran and I've been a member of Grace since 1985. I have been on the Council before, as well as choir member, VBS volunteer, on several committees, and Day School Director.”</p>

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**Council—3 Year Term (elect 3)**

<p>Fred Schleede</p> 	<p>“I am a lifelong Lutheran. A native of upstate New York, I have served on various committees and Church councils as we moved around upstate New York and New England. Most recently we were members of a Lutheran church in Austin Texas where I was a part time staff member keeping the physical plant running. This year we moved to Virginia to be near our daughter in Chesapeake and Lil's brother and sister and their spouses in North Carolina. We are pleased to be welcomed into the fold at Grace and are anxious to meet more members in person as restrictions are lifted.”</p>
<p>Mike Olson</p> 	<p>“I was a Navy junior who grew up mostly in Virginia Beach. I attended Grace Lutheran from 1963 to 1970, including its very first service in the cafeteria of the (then) Indian River Elementary School and the first service in its initial building (which has since been expanded). I was confirmed in Grace's first Catechism class. After attending college in Maryland I served twenty years in the U. S. Navy, worshiping in various military chapels where my two daughters were baptized. After Navy retirement my family and I returned to Chesapeake. After briefly attending Apostles Lutheran Church in Chesapeake we settled in at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Great Bridge for eighteen years, where I was elected to Vestry (the Episcopalian version of Council) and served at various times as Vestry liaison for the outreach, building and grounds, stewardship, music, and youth programs. A job change resulted in an eight-year residence in Fairfax. Returning to Chesapeake in 2017, I returned to Grace, usually attending the early service. I now work remotely from home, teach occasionally at Christopher Newport University and regularly visit my daughters and grandsons in South Carolina and New York.</p>
<p><b>NOMINEE NEEDED</b></p>	

**Council—2 Year Term (elect 1)**

Faith Longsworth



"I have worshipped at Grace Lutheran Church for 40 years. While dating Kurt, he invited me to attend a Sunday worship service. I remember how the congregation met me with open arms and I could feel the love of God present. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kurt and I attended the early morning worship service. At the beginning of 2018, I retired from the Federal government as a Computer Specialist. As a Computer Specialist, I supported various computer systems and applications promoting the mission of the Navy. I worked on numerous teams and projects, communicating with customers, co-workers and management on a regular basis. I believe that my work experience has given me the tools and knowledge to be a member of the Grace Lutheran Church Council, supporting the mission of Grace Lutheran Church. It would be an honor to serve our Lord and the congregation at Grace. I believe the Lord will always guide me, leading me on the right path, making positive decisions. At Grace I have served as the Assisting Minister to Pastor Leslie during the early morning worship service and the Virtual Zoom Worship Services. I also volunteer as a member of the Grace Lutheran Food Pantry. In addition, was a member of the Minister of Music search committee when Morgan Hatfield was hired as Minister of Music. I currently work part-time as a cat pet sitter in the Great Bridge area of Chesapeake. I enjoy spending time with my husband, Kurt and our 3 cats: Kahlua, Lambeau and Tundra. I also enjoy listening to Christian contemporary music and traveling to the Caribbean to scuba dive."

**Endowment Committee—4 Year Term (elect 1)**



Edward Opperman




"I have been attending Grace Lutheran Church since about 1990. I am married to LaQuita Opperman and have two sons, Adam and Jeremy. Adam and Jeremy both attended Grace Lutheran Preschool and Daycare. I have been an avid supporter of Graces' ministries and I consider Grace as my second home. I am speaking of the people not the building."

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**Preschool Board—3 Year Term (elect 2)**

<p>Ruthie Miles</p> 	<p>Ruthie was born in Pennsylvania and is married to Ray Miles. Ruthie has five children, ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She is an accomplished woodworker and cabinetmaker. She has served on the Preschool Board previously and served as President.</p>
<p>John Hawk</p> 	<p>"I've been a member of Grace Lutheran Church for around 14 years, when Pastor Rick was Pastor. He was the first to ask me to sit on the Pre-School Board and I believe I sat the position for approximately 5 years, finishing out a previous member's position and then sitting my own position for 2 terms. I have extensive experience and knowledge of military/Navy information that could assist with our fellow member's or Pre-School attendees that are active duty with understanding military finances and entitlements, I'm also a voice that will not hesitate to say NO if I feel the situation warrants it, or YES, of course."</p>

**2021 VA Synod Assembly Voting Members (elect 2 people)**

<p>Casey &amp; Kyleen Calkins</p> 	<p>Casey and Kyleen have been married since December 30, 2011. They met in 2008 in Norfolk Virginia while active duty in the US Navy. Casey retired from the Navy as a Chief Petty Officer in November of 2011 after 22 years of service, and Kyleen retired as a Chief Petty Officer in March of 2018 with 19 years of service. Casey is currently working as an information systems network engineer for a small company in Virginia Beach.</p> <p>Casey is originally from Jackson Michigan and Kyleen is from Phoenix Arizona. They have 2 Children—a daughter, Andromeda "Andie", age 20 years old and a Junior at VCU, and a son, Gareth, age 17 and a Senior at Ocean Lakes High School.</p> <p>In their off time they enjoy family time, attending church, music, meeting new people, and fishing. Casey enjoys riding his motorcycle and Kyleen loves riding with Casey, the outdoors and attempting artwork.</p> <p>They thoroughly enjoy attending church at Grace Lutheran since becoming members in September of 2017. Joining the Grace family has had a significant positive impact on their lives. Casey is on Council, and Kyleen is currently overcoming health issues but is looking forward to being more active in the church. Both Casey and Kyleen would be grateful to represent Grace Lutheran Church at the Virginia Synod Assembly.</p>
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