

“Grace Greetings”

January 2021



Pittman, Lauren Wright. Shining Hope, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imageLink.pl?RC=57077> [retrieved December 22, 2020]. Original source: <http://www.lewpstudio.com> - copyright by Lauren Wright Pittman.

Grace Lutheran Church
521 Providence Road
Chesapeake, Virginia 23325

The Rev. Leslie D. Weber, Pastor
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Cell (757) 598-3522
PastorLeslie@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org

Sunday Worship (on Zoom) at 9:45am
Log-in information at
www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org/News--Upcoming-Events

Grace Preschool
Offers Christian Preschool programs for 2, 3, & 4 year-olds
Office (757) 420-4720
www.GracePreschoolChesapeake.weebly.com



January 2021 “Grace Greetings”

Mission Statement:

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

The Mothers of Jesus

There are five women named in the Genealogy of Jesus that is found in the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew—Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. It is interesting to note that the women that get named are all either outsiders or surrounded by some sort of scandalous story.

Tamar is Judah's daughter-in-law. She is widowed by Judah's first son, so is married to the second through Levirate marriage, but he ends up dying as well. When Judah doesn't let Tamar marry his third son, Tamar tricks him into giving her children himself. That is of course the short and sweet version...the actual scriptural story includes much more scandal.

Rahab is a resident of Jericho before the Israelites enter the promised land, but she helps the two Israelites who come to spy on the city, so she is rewarded and “adopted” into the people of God. But in no uncertain terms, she is a foreigner.

Ruth is a Moabite. She marries one of Naomi's sons while his family is living in Moab, and upon the death of Naomi's husband and sons, travels back to the promised land with Naomi and eventually ends up marrying Boaz, another of Naomi's relatives. Another foreigner, with some scandal around her supposed profession.

Bathsheba's name is not actually even used in the genealogy, she is simply called “the wife of Uriah.” That right there points out the scandal of her story.

And then there is Mary—the young woman, who becomes pregnant before being married.

With the strangeness and scandal of these women's stories, it makes sense why they are mentioned in the genealogy. However, I also think their inclusion is representative of the inclusion that Jesus would model throughout his ministry. Sometimes, we humans can get caught up in worrying about people's purity, but God is much less so. God loves us all, even though we are sinful and broken, lacking purity or surrounded by scandal. Isn't that great news!?!?

Join us on Sunday, January 3rd at 9:45am for a service of Lessons and Carols that includes the stories of these mothers of Jesus to hear more about their stories and the good news that Jesus embodies!

God Bless,
The Rev. Leslie D. Weber
Pastor

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO DEVELOPMENTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. PLEASE MONITOR THE WEEKLY "SCOOP" EMAILS AND OUR WEBSITE (www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org) FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION!



Jan 1		Office CLOSED
Jan 3	8:30am	Adult Sunday School (Zoom)
	9:45am	Lessons & Carols (Zoom)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (Zoom)
Jan 4	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
Jan 6	7pm	VA Synod Epiphany Worship Service (Zoom)
Jan 7	7pm	Chat & Pray (Zoom)
Jan 9	8am	Men's Group & Unhanging of the Greens
Jan 10	8:30am	Adult Sunday School (Zoom)
	9:45am	Worship (Zoom)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (Zoom)
Jan 11	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	5:30pm	Preschool Board (Zoom)
Jan 12	7pm	Council Meeting (Zoom)
Jan 13	7pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
Jan 17	8:30am	Adult Sunday School (Zoom)
	9:45am	Worship with Communion (Zoom)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (Zoom)
Jan 18	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
Jan 20	7pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
Jan 21	7pm	Chat & Pray (Zoom)
Jan 22-24		Winter Celebration (Zoom)
Jan 24	8:30am	Adult Sunday School (Zoom)

	9:45am	Worship with Communion (Zoom)
	11am	Children's Sunday School (Zoom)
Jan 25	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
Jan 27	7pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
Jan 31	8:30am	Adult Sunday School (Zoom)
	9:45am	Worship with Communion (Zoom)
	11am	Youth Sunday School (Zoom)

Worship with Communion (via Zoom)

Sundays at 9:45am

To join via the Zoom app on your smartphone/tablet/computer click the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/984794689?pwd=dEx0N3FDa055WFNQQTV5UFFyOUc5QT09> (Passcode: Grace).

To join via a regular phone, call 646-558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID: 984 794 689 and Passcode: 546963.

Sunday School (via Zoom)

• **January 3rd**

- ⇒ 8:30am—Adult Sunday School
- ⇒ 11am—Youth Class (Grades 9-12)

• **January 10**

- ⇒ 8:30am—Adult Sunday School
- ⇒ 11am—Children's Class (K-Grade 8)

• **January 17**

- ⇒ 8:30am—Adult Sunday School
- ⇒ 11am—Youth Class (Grades 9-12)

• **January 24**

- ⇒ 8:30am—Adult Sunday School
- ⇒ 11am—Children's Class (K-Grade 8)

• **January 31**

- ⇒ 8:30am—Adult Sunday School
- ⇒ 11am—Youth Class (Grades 9-12)

To join via the Zoom app on your smartphone/tablet/computer click the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/984794689?pwd=dEx0N3FDa055WFNQQTV5UFFyOUc5QT09> (Passcode: Grace).

To join via a regular phone, call 646-558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID: 984 794 689 and Passcode: 546963.

Monday Bible Study (via Zoom)

Mondays at 1:30pm

We are currently reading through the book of Psalms.

To join via the Zoom app on your smartphone/tablet/computer click the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87547409467?pwd=MzI5TFdseFpYU1lpTS95czN4VWl4QT09> (Passcode: Grace).

To join via a regular phone, call 646-558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID: 875 4740 9467 and Passcode: 478408.



VA Synod Epiphany Evening Prayer (Zoom)

Wednesday, January 6th at 7pm

The Virginia Synod is hosting an Epiphany Evening Prayer service on Zoom. Plan to join us on January 6, 2021, at 7:00 PM LIVE on Zoom.

To join via the Zoom app on your smartphone/tablet/computer click the link <https://vasynod-org.zoom.us/j/83504081651?pwd=ckZNYzNBRnZqQnlOUTJMWXI4L2hwdz09>

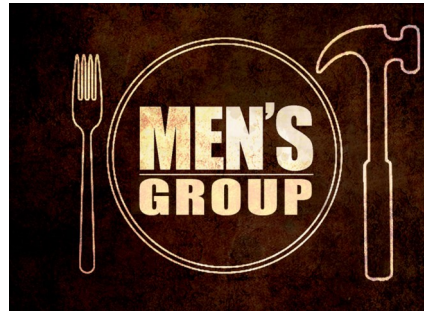
To join via a regular phone, call 646-558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID: 835 0408 1651 and Passcode: 02695477.

Chat & Pray (via Zoom)

1st & 3rd Thursdays (Jan 7th & 21st) at 7pm

To join via the Zoom app on your smartphone/tablet/computer click the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/585328182?pwd=Y0FmRWRxN0NoSVFZU0REYlJxMG1UQT09> (Passcode: Grace).

To join via a regular phone, call 646-558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID: 585 328 182 and Password: 476483.



Men's Group/Unhanging of the Greens

Saturday, January 9th at 8am

Join the men of GLC for potluck breakfast and work around the church, including taking down Christmas decorations. Please plan to wear a mask, follow "distant socializing" guidelines, and practice good hand hygiene.

Preschool Board Meeting (via Zoom)

Monday, January 11th at 5:30pm

To join via the Zoom app on your smartphone/tablet/computer click the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85964430976?pwd=cEVXNkkva2tLb2NWRUKvairJQnJIUT09> (Passcode: Grace).

To join via a regular phone, call 646-558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID: 859 6443 0976 and Passcode: 040561.

Council Meeting (via Zoom)

Tuesday, January 12th at 7pm

To join via the Zoom app on your smartphone/tablet/computer click the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87468766112?pwd=Z3VnL2RyVkkRkXhXRFFWT2E0ZlcrZz09> (Passcode: Grace).

To join via a regular phone, call 646-558-8656 and enter the Meeting ID: 874 6876 6112 and Passcode: 740742.

Wednesday Bible Study (via Zoom)

Wednesdays at 7pm

Starting January 13th, the group will resume a study about Luther's Small Catechism.

To join via the Zoom app on your smartphone/tablet/computer click the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?pwd=OHhzWUFic0FIQit0MjN5c0lEcInTQT09> (Passcode: Grace).

To join via a regular phone, call 646-558-

8656 and enter the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.

VIRGINIA SYNOD ELCA - YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

ONLINE Winter Celebration

OUR WEEKEND EVENT FOR 9TH - 12TH GRADERS

Winter Celebration (Zoom)

January 22-24, 2021

Winter Celebration is the annual weekend faith-formation retreat for high school youth (grades 9-12) and adult leaders. This year we will gather ONLINE for Large Group experiences with lots of singing and skits and fun and Small Group experiences with lots of new friends, games, conversation, more games, and faith sharing! If you are interested in participating, talk to Rich Fraenkel by Sunday, January 3rd. For more information, visit www.vasynod.org/event/winter-celebration

Sister-Sisters: Leader Needed!

We are looking for the next leader for the Sister-Sisters (GLC's quarterly women's Bible Study group). If you are interested in leading, please talk to Pastor Leslie.

Midwinter Power in the Spirit Online Event

Sunday, Jan 31—Thursday, Feb 4

This winter's theme will center on the illuminating festival of Candlemas and our keynote presenter will be The Rev. Dr. Dave Delaney, Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Virginia Synod!

If you sign up to attend Midwinter Power in the Spirit Online, you can expect:

- A daily devotional to arrive in your email each morning, Sunday through Thursday. Here you'll receive readings, brief videos, and guides for at-home arts and crafts.
- An invitation to daily Zoom workshops,

from 5:45 PM to 6:55 PM, Sunday through Thursday. Listen to presenters from across our Virginia Synod share from their areas of expertise. Sign up for the sessions that interest you most!

- A closing vespers service at 7:00 PM, live and online, led by worship leaders from across the synod. Each weeknight you'll participate in different ways of worship, even while physically apart.

There is no fee to attend, but we do suggest a donation of \$25 to the Virginia Synod. All donations will be used to support neighbors in need around the world through the ELCA Good Gifts Program. Registration will open on January 4, 2021. For more information, visit www.vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/

From the Council

I claim executive privilege and will take this opportunity, on my last note to the congregation as your Council President, to make this a more personal note than usual. 2020 has been a challenge for all of us. The pandemic has taken its toll on each of us. We're all tired of being physically separated, we don't want to wear a mask anymore, we don't want to be afraid every time someone coughs or sneezes next to us, and we want everything to go back to "normal."

But I challenge us, as a loving, welcoming, community of faith, to not go back to "normal" when the pandemic is over and the restrictions are lifted. Let's never again take an unmasked face for granted. Let's sing loudly, even if we can't carry a tune in a bucket. Let's sit close together, in the front pews (OK, that might be asking too much). Let's share a good hug when we pass the peace, while respecting proper boundaries. Let's gather at our Lord's table and break bread together, as a family in Christ. And speaking of breaking bread, let's have regular pot luck dinners for no reason at all, but just to get to know one another again. Let's continue to exercise the digital skills we've learned (because we had to) to stay

connected with one another, particularly for those of us who physically can't get to worship. Let's forgive one another for the things we've said or done when we were cranky, scared, or frustrated.

So. When the pandemic is over (and it will end), let's not settle for "normal." We've been changed by the last nine months. Let's live more fully, love more deeply, worship more joyfully, and share the gospel more urgently.

I give thanks for having had the opportunity to serve as the Council President, and I look forward to continuing to serve in new ways. The Holy Spirit is clearly working in Grace Lutheran Church of Chesapeake! Give thanks and praise to the Lord!

May the peace of Christ be with you always!

Rich Fraenkel

2020 Council President

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

In November 2020, Grace Lutheran received \$19,794.33 in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Remember loved ones during worship on All Saint's Sunday
- Hold our Annual Meeting via Zoom
- Paint the big cross out front and all the exterior doors
- Collect over 100 toys for Toys for Tots (to name just a few) with \$19,353.53 of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

If you have any questions, please contact Council President, Rich Fraenkel.

Basket Raffle Winners

Thank you to all who supported the Preschool Board Fundraiser to benefit the Lisa Marie Justice Scholarship Fund by participating in the Basket Raffle. The

Drawing was held today at 10 am. Mr. and Mrs. Longworth won the "Transportation Toys" Basket, and Ms. Burns won the 18" Doll Basket. Congratulations!



www.GracePreschoolChesapeake.weebly.com

From the Preschool

Happy New Year! The teachers and children are excited to come together this January in warm and welcoming classrooms which are full of exciting educational materials and fresh new art supplies. Teachers have many "Winter Wonder" activities lined up to inspire our creativity and learning! All classrooms eagerly look forward to weekly chapel lessons. We pray together, sing about God's great love for all, and this year's Bible stories are from the New Testament.

This January we are especially excited about the opening of our "new" classroom for Two Year Olds (to include Young Threes). Ms. Terri Barden is our dedicated and fun-loving Toddler teacher. She has been working alongside her coach from the Virginia Infant and Toddler Specialist Network to enhance the space with fabulous new equipment and toys. The Network has also supported us with top notch teacher training, further ensuring we provide the very best in early education. Currently Grace Preschool has just two spots available in our program this winter.

Roberta Roth

PRAYER LIST

We Pray for Our Members

Elaine Babb	Lori Killian
Joe Babb	Pam Kohan
Suzanne Bergsten	Charlotte Maurer
Chuck Graham	Ray Miles
Jan Howell	Mike Moody
Leonora Jones	Barbara Moran
Jack Justice	Rose Mary Sidam
Barbara Kilian	Gretchen Stoll
Dawn Kilian	Margaret Van Dyke

We Pray for Our Friends

Bill Babb	Andrew Lowe
Michael Bates	Darrell Lowe
Randy Bosecker	Katie Milliner
Richard Bowell	Nancy Norvell
Sarita Bowell	Karen Opperman
Laura Braugh	Kevin Overwise
Vanessa Brower	Samantha Page
Belinda Bryant	Stephan Pleli
Jon Cooper	Karen Polanco
Zachary Cox	Tommy Reeck
Cleo Dickerson	Amy Shriner
Mary Beth Dodd	Rick Sidam
Karen Flaherty	Nick Sims
Mary Froehlich	Vicky Sisson
Annellise Garriott	Karla Smith
Madison Garriott	Larry Sommerfeld
Meredith Garriott	Stephanie Royal
Jenell Gordon	Stanfield
Patty Graham	Sandy Strawder
Steve Graham	Ben Swank
Lettie Groshel	Cindy Van Pelt
Eddie Haga	Dianne Van Pelt
Brian Hubert	Dylan Via
John Johnson	Craig Werner
Michael Keaton	Adam
Alma Lacey	Tyler
Murray Leffers Jr	

Medical Staff & other essential personnel
 The Military & their Families
 Our Food Pantry Clients
 ELCA Missionaries
 All who mourn



Jan 6	Faith Longsworth
Jan 6	Jacob Weber
Jan 17	Kim Moody
Jan 19	Joy Baltero
Jan 19	Collin Moody
Jan 23	Noah Lancaster
Jan 23	Samantha Pinkoski
Jan 24	Alex Cloud
Jan 24	Kristopher McClellan
Jan 27	Emery Braa
Jan 27	Tom Casey
Jan 28	La Quita Opperman
Jan 29	Quina Pritchard



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

If you or loved ones are celebrating significant events, let us rejoice with you & announce to all in the Grace Greetings. Please drop a note on the secretary's desk in the office to add any birthdays or anniversaries.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 8:30am Adult Class (Zoom) 9:45am Worship (Zoom) 11am Youth Class (Zoom)	4 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	5 8:30pm Tidewater Alliance of Composers	6 7pm VA Synod Epiphany Evening Prayer (Zoom)	7 7pm Chat & Pray (Zoom) 8pm AA	1 Office CLOSED	2
10 8:30am Adult Class (Zoom) 9:45am Worship (Zoom) 11am Children's Class (Zoom)	11 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 5:30pm Preschool Board (Zoom)	12 7pm Council (Zoom)	13 7pm Bible Study (Zoom)	14 8pm AA	15	16
17 8:30am Adult Class (Zoom) 9:45am Worship (Zoom) 11am Youth Class (Zoom)	18 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	19 7pm Good Mourning	20 7pm Bible Study (Zoom)	21 7pm Chat & Pray (Zoom) 8pm AA	22	23
24 8:30am Adult Class (Zoom) 9:45am Worship (Zoom) 11am Children's Class (Zoom)	25 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom)	26	27 7pm Bible Study (Zoom)	28 8pm AA	29	30
31 8:30am Adult Class (Zoom) 9:45am Worship (Zoom) 11am Youth Class (Zoom)						9 8am Men's Group/ Unhanging of the Greens

January 2020