

# “Grace Greetings”

## January 2024



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.*



# Grace Lutheran Church

A worshipping community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

[www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org](http://www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org)

## January 2024 “Grace Greetings”

### **Mission Statement:**

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

### **A Shared Vision for Ministry with Pastor at 3/4 Time**

In an effort to faithfully and effectively balance the ministry needs of the congregation and the available financial resources, the Council has developed the following covenant to guide our shared ministry when Pastor Leslie drops to three-quarter time starting January 1, 2024.

#### • **The congregation**

##### \* **Will continue to:**

1. Participate in the life of the congregation, in worship, ministry, and stewardship (time, talents, & treasures).
2. Look for the gifts of this season, and be patient when things aren't the way they used to be.
3. Take seriously their role in welcome of visitors and guests, and mutual care for one another. Notify Pastor of any special needs or changes, in your own household or that of another member/friend of Grace, that may require special care from the congregation.
4. As always, look for ways that the things they are good at and the things they love to do might enrich the common life or ministries of Grace; and affirm other members when they offer their gifts to the church.

##### \* **Will also need to:**

1. Respect Pastor Leslie's part time job description by not expecting her to do everything she used to do in the way she used to do it when she was full time.
2. Open and close the building on Sundays.
3. Take the lead on Worship Server recruitment.
4. Fill gaps in all ministry areas, including but not limited to: Outreach, Fellowship, Visitation, Christian Education, Worship, Stewardship, Youth, Property, Communication, and Community Engagement.

#### • **Pastor Leslie**

##### \* **Will continue to:**

1. Be the Pastor of Grace Lutheran, Chesapeake
2. Preach and preside, or attend worship at Grace 75% of the time (minus vacation Sundays), striving to be present for all major holidays/occasions.
3. Work with the Minister of Music to plan worship, including lining up leadership (supply or lay) for Sundays away, and work with the secretary to produce bulletins.
4. Keep set Office Hours two days per week. (change from 4)
5. Attend Council and Preschool Board meetings.
6. Supervise staff and oversee communications with the congregation.
7. Receive prayer and pastoral care requests and either attend to them herself or coordinate response with the help of lay leadership.
8. Lead Monday Bible Study and resource leaders for Wednesday Night Bible Study.

9. Support and resource lay leaders for monthly and ongoing Outreach projects, including organizing Thrivent Action Team applications and reports.
10. Support and resource lay leaders, but not take any direct leadership role in Fellowship, Stewardship, Youth, Property, and other Projects/Events.

\* **will no longer:**

1. Preach and lead, or even attend worship at Grace 25% of the time (plus vacation Sundays).
2. Keep set Office Hours four days per week. (change to 2)
3. Take responsibility for opening and closing the building on Sundays.
4. Have any direct leadership roles in Sunday School, but will continue to support and resource lay leaders as needed.
5. Directly organize any monthly Outreach projects.



Dec 31		<b>1st Sunday of Christmas</b>
		NO Sunday School
	10am	Lessons & Carols
	11:30am	Unhanging of the Greens
Jan 1		Food Pantry CLOSED
		Office CLOSED
		NO Bible Study
		NO Bell Choir Rehearsal
Jan 2	10am	Threaders
Jan 3	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Jan 7	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Combined Worship
Jan 8	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Jan 9	10am	Threaders
	7pm	Council (Zoom)
Jan 10	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Jan 13	8am	Men's Group
Jan 14	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Combined Worship
	11:30am	Craft Group
Jan 15		Food Pantry CLOSED
		Office CLOSED
		NO Bible Study

		NO Bell Choir Rehearsal
Jan 16	10am	Threaders
Jan 17	Noon	Ladies Lunch
	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Jan 21	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Combined Worship
Jan 22	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Jan 23	10am	Threaders
Jan 24	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Jan 28	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Combined Worship
Jan 29	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Jan 30	10am	Threaders
Jan 31	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)

**Updated Office Hours**

Starting January 1st, our Church Secretary, Jody, will be reduced from 5 days (15 hours) per week to 4 days (12 hours) per week. Therefore, the Office will be CLOSED on Thursdays.

Also, Pastor will be reduced to 3/4 time. Pastor will plan to be in the office on Mondays & Wednesday from 9:15am-12:15pm. There may be occasional exceptions. If you would like to meet with her, the best option is to contact her directly to set up a meeting.



### Sunday School

Sundays at 9am

*Sunday School will not meet on Dec 31st.*

- The **Elementary School Class** meets in Classroom #1.
- The **Middle & High School Class** meets in the Youth Room.
- The **Adult Sunday School Class** meets in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom.

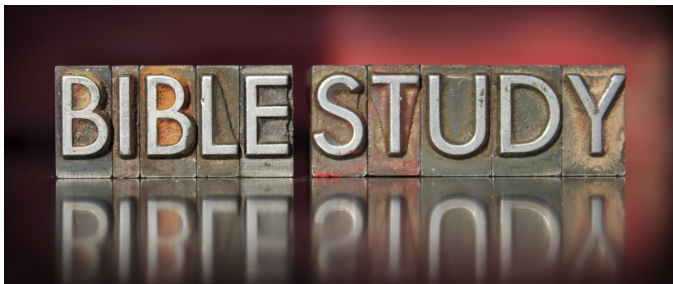
# Hybrid WORSHIP

### Combined Worship (Hybrid)

Sundays at 10am

Join us on site or online. Zoom log-in information is available at

[www.gracelutheranchesapeake.org/news--upcoming-events](http://www.gracelutheranchesapeake.org/news--upcoming-events).



### Monday Bible Study (Zoom)

Mondays at 1:30pm

*Bible Study will not meet on Jan 1st & 15th.*

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87557721128?pwd=b2J4ektpdGtwWk9NQkJudzI1cHBBQT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 875 5772 1128 and Passcode: 152551



### Bell Choir Rehearsal

Mondays at 7pm

*Bell Choir will not meet on Jan 1st & 15th.*

If you have any questions, please contact Morgan.



### 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

- 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.



**Un-hanging of the Greens**

**Sunday, December 31st after worship**

Please stay to help us transition from the Season of Christmas to the Season after Epiphany!



**Council Meeting (Zoom)**

**Tuesday, January 9th 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.



**Men's Group**

**Saturday, January 13th at 8am**

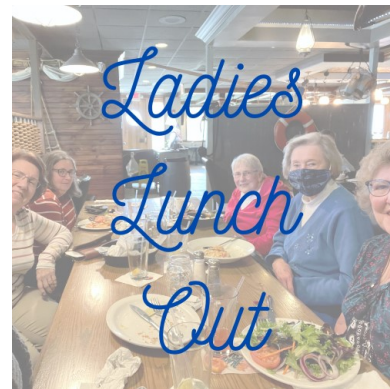
Join the men of GLC for potluck breakfast and work around the church.



**Craft Group**

**Sunday, January 14th after worship (~11:30am)**

Calling all knitters, stitchers, scrapbookers, etc.—let's get together and work on our projects. Bring a bag lunch and meet in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Any questions, contact Sandra Fraenkel.



**Ladies Lunch Out**

**Wednesday, January 17th at Noon at Red Robin**

**(1024 Eden Way N, Chesapeake, VA 23320)**

Join the ladies of GLC for fellowship & food. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, January 14th.

Upcoming Dates & Locations:

- Feb 21, 2024—Chix
- March 20, 2024—Smokey Bones
- April 17, 2024—Wickers
- May 15, 2024—Olive Garden
- June 19, 2024—Black Pelican
- July 17, 202—Outback
- August 21, 2024—Joe's Crab Shack
- September 18, 2024—Freemason Abby
- October 16, 2024—Lucita's Pupuseria
- November 20, 2024—Sunrise Pizzeria



### **Quilt Raffle Fundraiser**

**Drawing is Sunday, January 28th**

As a fund raiser for Grace's Book Ministry, we will be selling chances to win a quilt! Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Tickets can be bought before and after church services in January, with the drawing on Sunday, January 28, 2024. All proceeds will be used to purchase books that will be distributed to children in our community. The quilt is a lovely, soft spring piece measuring about 64" square. Embellished with embroidery and a little wool bunny. If you have any questions, please contact Sandra Fraenkel.



### **Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive**

**Sunday, Jan 28-Sunday, Feb 11**

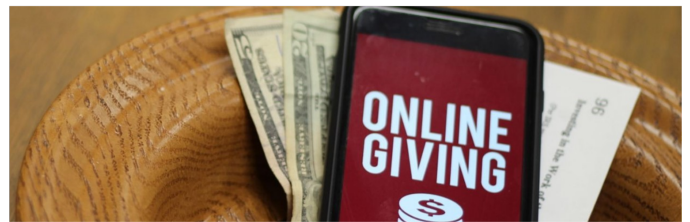
We will be collecting non-perishable food from Sunday, January 28th through Sunday February 11th. On January 28th, there will be five boxes in the Narthex, one for each team playing in the NFL Division Championship Games and one for "I don't

care." The first two Sundays in February, we'll be down to three boxes, one for each team playing in the NFL Super Bowl, and one for "I don't care." Show your support for your team and our Food Pantry by placing non-perishable food donations in the box of your choice!

#### **Most Needed Items:**

*(NO glass containers)*

- \* Peanut Butter
- \* Jelly
- \* Canned chicken
- \* Mac-N-Cheese
- \* Soup
- \* Jiffy cornbread mix
- \* Breakfast cereal



### **Begin or Update Electronic Giving for 2024**

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](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 2024.



### **2024 Offering Envelopes**

If you haven't already received your 2024 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](mailto:secretary@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org)] with any changes to your information.

## Fellowship in 2024

If anyone would like to volunteer to help plan and execute any Fellowship events in 2024. Please talk to Faith Longworth.



## American Red Cross

### Blood Drive

**Saturday, February 10th, 9am-1pm  
in the Grace Lutheran Fellowship Hall**

To make an appointment, visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code: GraceLutheran.

*Grace*  
happens

# WE ARE HIRING

**NURSERY ATTENDANT**

- SUNDAY MORNINGS
- AVERAGE 3 HOURS/WEEK
- \$15/HOUR

TO APPLY,  
EMAIL RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO  
[PASTORLESLIE@GRACELUTHERANCHESAPEAKE.ORG](mailto:PASTORLESLIE@GRACELUTHERANCHESAPEAKE.ORG)

## 2023 Congregational Council



Bob Masters  
President



Beth Woodard  
Vice President



Mike Olson  
Secretary



Walt Anderson



Tom Casey



David Cooper



Debbie Dougherty



Faith Longworth



Fred Schleede

## From the Council

Happy Advent to all Grace members as we prepare in our hearts, minds and souls for the coming of the birth of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

Updates from our most recent Council meeting are as follows:

- The search for legal assistance to finalize the transition from Trustees to Incorporation status continues.
- Starting in January, as voted upon at our last Congregational meeting, Pastor Leslie will begin her reduced status to that of three-quarter time. What does this mean to each of us? Most importantly we need to know that Pastor Leslie is still our Pastor but there will be duties she will no longer be responsible for and that we as members might and will need to step up in various functions of our church to continue its growth and community outreach. Opening and closing the church on Sundays, recruiting worship servers and filling in gaps in all ministry areas are just a few of the upcoming areas in flux. Supply Pastors also will be utilized on off Sundays. A “¾ Time Covenant” outlining what Pastor Leslie will and will not be responsible for and what the congregation will be asked to do is on page 2 of this

newsletter and there are copies available in the Narthex.

As we reflect on the past year and all the changes upcoming for 2024 know always that each and every member of Grace Lutheran are an integral and vital component of the body of Christ striving to daily live out our Mission Statement of being a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.

This concludes my agreed upon year as President of the Council and I wanted to thank everyone for their support during this past year and pray that it is extended to your next President who will be elected during the next council meeting in January.

Peace and God's Blessings to All.

Bob Masters

2023 Council President

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

In **November 2023**, Grace Lutheran received **\$17,281.39** in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Commemorate loved ones on All Saints Sunday.
- Meet for our Annual Meeting.
- Celebrate Grace's 60th Anniversary.
- Support Pastor Leslie in attending some continuing education webinars.
- Collect toys for Toys for Tots,
- Donate turkeys for Indian River Middle School's Thanksgiving Baskets.
- Support Pastor Leslie in taking some vacation time.

(to name just a few) with **\$15,534.24** of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

**Year to date (through Nov 30th), we have received \$177,241.82 for the General Fund and have had \$189,045.53 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance (as of Nov 30th) is \$47,338.91**



**Progress? Reflecting on MLK's "Letter from Birmingham Jail"**

**January 22 & 29 at 7pm (Zoom)**

The VA Synod Tapestry Team's Racial Justice Thread invites you to reflect on the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" by Martin Luther King, Jr. The study will begin with a video on MLK Day (January 15) of the letter being read by voices from around the synod share on social media and via email. The next two weeks, participants will gather for an honest, open discussion of our collective progress toward racial justice at 7 PM on January 22 and 29 via Zoom led by Tapestry leaders. Registration closes on January 18 at noon. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfVeozc22w4J6UZiZ09wc1JgBINT0XLvHLLxoEi2ptAqiXA/viewform>

**Pre-Synod Assembly Meeting: Writing an Effective Resolution or Memorial**

**January 23, 2024 at 7pm (Zoom)**

Memorials and resolutions are one way that this church addresses broad policy issues or important issues for God's mission in the world. Memorials address broad policy issues; resolutions have a narrower focus, requesting consideration or action by specific offices, committees, or groups within the Synod.

Thinking about submitting a resolution or



memorial to the 2024 Virginia Synod Assembly? You are invited to learn more about how to write an effective memorial or resolution and what specific format to use for those. This meeting will be recorded and shared. Any Virginia Lutheran, rostered or lay, voting member or not, is welcome to attend this meeting. Registration will close on January 17, 2024. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXo7gMzymPiAqiRYyEiB2F-pT4pkFBBz5CodcBmQBosCS8Kg/viewform>



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

### **Draft social message on gun violence**

You are invited to review and share feedback on the draft of an ELCA social message on gun-related violence and trauma. The draft focuses on trauma, public health and an ethic of shared responsibility for peacemaking, seeking to move beyond the strict polarization of gun rights versus gun control. To participate in the public feedback period, read the draft and use the response form (<https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects>). Responses are due by Jan. 31, 2024.



### **2024 Mid-Winter Power in the Spirit**

**February 5-7, 2023, 5:45-7:15pm (Zoom)**

Commemorating Lydia (Acts 16:11-15), Dorcas (Acts 9:36-43), and Phoebe (Romans 16:1-16). Celebrating ministries of Business/Philanthropy, Compassion for Others, and Servant Leadership.

### **Schedule:**

- 5:45-6:20pm—Welcome and Bible Study
- 6:25-7:05pm—Workshops
- 7:05-7:15pm—Evening Prayer

As more information on this digital learning opportunity becomes available it will be posted at: <https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/>.



**60th Anniversary Cake**



**Toys for Tots Collection**



## ***“A Cup of Unconditional Love”***

Save These Dates!

Thursday - Saturday November 7 - 9, 2024

*To be held at the Hilton Garden Inn*

*4050 Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA*

ALWR welcomes as our 2024 retreat leader:



**Jacqueline Bussie**

author of

*“Love Without Limits: Jesus’ Radical  
Vision of Love With No Exceptions”*



Facebook: All Lutheran Women’s Retreat

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/alwretreat>

Email address: [carol.troxell@gmail.com](mailto:carol.troxell@gmail.com)

*Registration brochures will be available in April 2024.*

# ★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

Jan 6 Faith Longsworth  
 Jan 6 Jacob Weber  
 Jan 17 Kim Moody  
 Jan 19 Joy Baltero  
 Jan 19 Collin Moody  
 Jan 24 Alex Cloud  
 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](mailto:Secretary@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org)

**PASTORAL CARE**

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

# PRAYER LIST

## We Pray for Our Members

Walt Anderson	Charlotte Maurer
Elaine Babb	David Pritchard
Joe Babb	Kathie Rokitski
Suzanne Bergsten	Monique Schroeder
Jan Howell	The Shalibo Family
Leonora Jones	Rose Mary Sidam
Jack Justice	Steve Urps
Sharon Justice	Ted Van Horn
Betty Keefer	Annabelle Wolfe
The Kilian Family	

## We Pray for Our Friends

Bill Babb	Katie Milliner
Richard Howell	Danny Owsley
Sarita Howell	Patricia Petro
Scott Bowler	Gerri Pitts
Laura Braugh	Stephan Pleli
Jody Bryant	Tommy Reeck
Sandy Crutchley	Lisa Sanders
Madison Garriott	Sheila Silvey
Jenell Gordon	Nick Sims
Lettie Groshel	Larry Smith
Claude Hamilton	Jo Sommerfeld
Brian Hubert	Samantha Strother
Chris Jones	Carolyn Swank
Henry Kappes Jr	Tim Theis
Murray Leffers Jr	Deb Thompson
Bill Manke	Tina Wilson
Nano Masters	

The Military & their Families  
 Our Food Pantry Clients  
 ELCA Missionaries & YAGM students  
 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.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Dec 31</b> NO Sunday School 10am Worship 11:30am Un-hanging of the Greens	<b>1</b> NO Food Pantry Office CLOSED NO Bible Study NO Bell Choir	<b>2</b> 10am Threaders	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	<b>4</b> Office CLOSED 8pm AA	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10am GS Troop 490
<b>7</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	<b>8</b> 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	<b>9</b> 10am Threaders 7pm Council (Zoom)	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	<b>11</b> Office CLOSED 8pm AA	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8am Men's Group
<b>14</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:30am Craft Group	<b>15</b> NO Food Pantry Office CLOSED NO Bible Study NO Bell Choir	<b>16</b> 10am Threaders 7pm Good Mourning	<b>17</b> Noon Ladies Lunch 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	<b>18</b> Office CLOSED 8pm AA	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10am GS Troop 490
<b>21</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	<b>22</b> 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	<b>23</b> 10am Threaders 6:30pm American Sewing Guild	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	<b>25</b> Office CLOSED 8pm AA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	<b>29</b> 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	<b>30</b> 10am Threaders	<b>31</b> 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	<b>January 2024</b>		