

“Grace Greetings” February 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

February 2024 "Grace Greetings"

Mission Statement:

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

Why do we use ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium (see "What are columbaria and memorial gardens?" [https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What are columbaria and memorial gardens.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/What%20are%20columbaria%20and%20memorial%20gardens.pdf)). "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 284).
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

The liturgy for Ash Wednesday can be found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (p. 251). In the liturgy, the confession and imposition of ashes follow the sermon and hymn of the day. Following an Invitation to Lent, confession marks the beginning of a season of penitence. The Maundy Thursday absolution is the structural response to the Ash Wednesday confession, marking off Lent as a penitential time. At the conclusion of the Ash Wednesday confession and imposition of ashes, a declaration of grace is used, coupled with a plea for mercy.

Ashes are made from the palms used to observe the Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday. You may encourage the congregation to save their palms on each Sunday of the Passion so they may bring them back the following Lent for making ashes.

From the ELCA Worship FAQ:

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Why and how do we use ashes on Ash Wednesday.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Why%20and%20how%20do%20we%20use%20ashes%20on%20Ash%20Wednesday.pdf)

EVENTS

Mark your Calendar



Sunday School

Sundays at 9am

- 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.

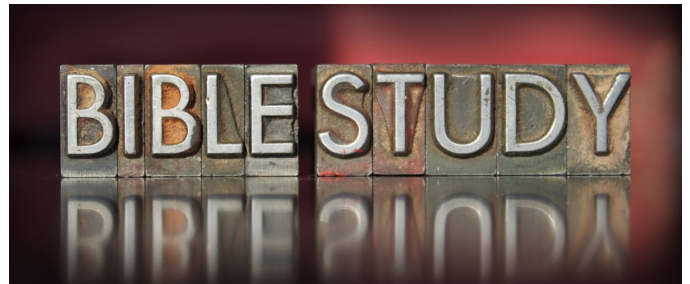
Hybrid WORSHIP

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.



Monday Bible Study (Zoom)

Mondays at 1:30pm

Bible Study will not meet on Feb 19th.

- 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

Feb 4	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Combined Worship
	11:30am	Fellowship Hour
Feb 5	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Feb 6	10am	Threaders
Feb 7	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Feb 10	9am	Blood Drive
Feb 11	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Combined Worship
	11:30am	Pancake Brunch
Feb 12	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Feb 13	10am	Threaders
	7pm	Council (Zoom)
Feb 14	7pm	Ash Wednesday Worship (Hybrid)
Feb 17	8am	Men's Group
Feb 18	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Combined Worship
	11:30am	Craft Group
Feb 19		Food Pantry CLOSED Office CLOSED NO Bible Study (Zoom) NO Bell Choir Rehearsal
Feb 20		NO Threaders
Feb 21	6:30pm	Lenten Soup Supper
	7:15pm	Lenten Worship (Hybrid)
Feb 25	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Combined Worship
Feb 26	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Feb 27	10am	Threaders
Feb 28	6:30pm	Lenten Soup Supper
	7:15pm	Lenten Worship (Hybrid)



Bell Choir Rehearsal

Mondays at 7pm

Bell Choir will not meet on February 19th.

If you have any questions, please contact Morgan.



Threaders

Tuesdays at 10am

Threaders will not meet on February 20th.

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.



Monthly Fellowship Hour

First Sunday of the month after worship (~11:30am)

We will gather each first Sunday of the month after worship for a fellowship hour in honor of the birthdays and anniversaries of that month. **On February 4th, we will celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries of**

January and February! If you would like to volunteer to bring refreshments one month, please contact Faith Longworth.



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/>.

NOTE: Pastor Leslie is one of the workshop leaders on Monday!



Potluck & Bible Study (Hybrid)

Wednesday, Feb 7

Bible Study will be on hiatus during Lent.

Potluck @ 6:30 & Study @ 7pm

- Join via your smartphone/tablet/computer by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?pwd=OHzWUFlcOFIqit0MjN5c0IEcintQT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via your regular phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.



American Red Cross

Blood Drive

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

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



**Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive
through 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



"Fat Tuesday" Pancake Brunch

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

Please join us after worship for fellowship and a Pancake Brunch in honor of Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday. A free-will offering will be collected to support the GLC Food Pantry. Sign up in the Narthex so we can get an approximate head count. There is also a volunteer sign up sheet in the Narthex. Contact Faith Longworth to get involved!



Council Meeting

Council Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, February 13th 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.

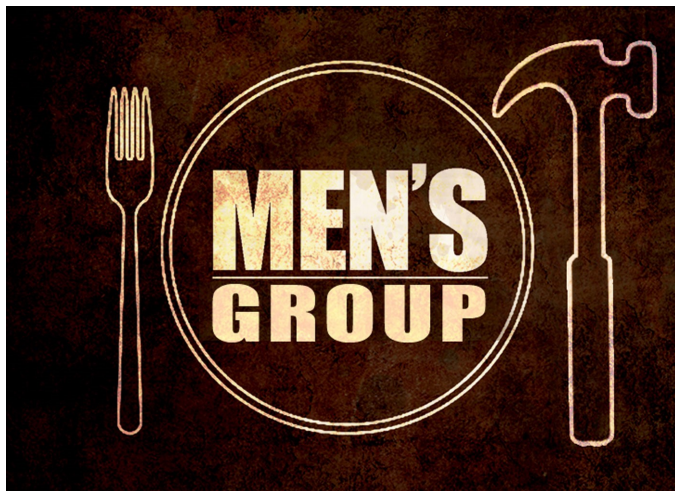


Ash Wednesday Worship (Hybrid)

Wednesday, February 14th at 7pm

Join us onsite OR on Zoom at 7pm for Ash Wednesday Worship, which will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

- 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.



Men's Group *NOTE DATE CHANGE*

Saturday, Feb 17th at 8am

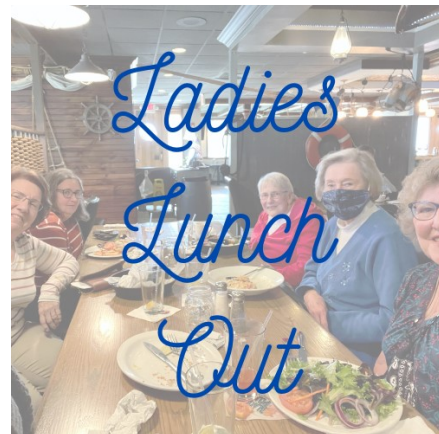
Join the men of GLC for potluck breakfast and work around the church.



Craft Group *NOTE DATE CHANGE*

Sunday, Feb 18th 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

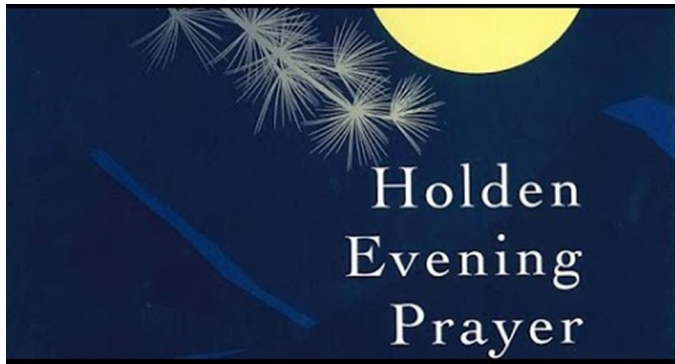
**Wednesday, February 21st at Noon
at Chix on the Beach**

(701 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach 23451)

Join the ladies of GLC for fellowship & food. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, February 18th.

Upcoming Dates & Locations:

- 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—TBA
- September 18, 2024—Freemason Abby
- October 16, 2024—Lucita's Pupuseria
- November 20, 2024—Sunrise Pizzeria



**Lenten Soup Supper & Worship (Hybrid)
Wednesdays in Lent (Feb 21, 28, Mar 6, 13, & 20)**

Join us for a **simple Soup Supper** at 6:30pm followed by **Holden Evening Prayer** (on site and on Zoom) at 7:15pm.

- Join via your smartphone/tablet/ computer by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?pwd=OHhzWUFlc0FIQit0MjN5c0lEcjNtQT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via your regular phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.

 A hiring poster with a blue background and white text. It features the "Grace happens" logo in the top right, a megaphone icon, and the following text:

WE ARE HIRING

NURSERY ATTENDANT

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

TO APPLY, EMAIL RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO [PASTORLESIE@GRACELUTHERANCHESAPEAKE.ORG](mailto:pastorleslie@gracelutheranchesaapeake.org)

2024 Congregational Council



David Cooper
President



Brandon Breitsprecher
Vice President



Beth Woodard
Secretary



Walt Anderson



Tom Casey



Debbie Dougherty



Faith Longworth



Bob Masters



Fred Schleede

From the Council

Happy New Year to all Grace family members! Hoping you all had a wonderful Christmas season and that 2024 is starting off in a most positive and spirit filled way. Here are highlights from our most recent Council meeting:

Election of new Council officers and selection of Council Liaison committee heads:

- * President—David Cooper
- * Vice President—Brandon Breitsprecher (new to Council also!)
- * Secretary—Beth Woodard
- * Christian Education/Worship and Music—Pastor Leslie
- * Care Team—Debbie Dougherty
- * Fellowship—Faith Longworth
- * Outreach—Bob Masters
- * Preschool—Walt Anderson
- * Property—Fred Schleede,
- * Stewardship—Beth Woodard
- * Youth—Tom Casey

Special thanks to Dr Mike Olson for his past years on Council and serving as Secretary. Approval was made to proceed with the ongoing process of transitioning Grace from a "Trustee" status to that of an incorporation facility and bring us in compliance with the City of Chesapeake requirements.

Upcoming events include our tri-annual American Red Cross blood drive on Feb 9 from 9AM-1PM and the season of Lent starting off with our annual Fat Tuesday Pancake meal after church Feb 11.

Please pray for the faithful workings of all members of Grace Lutheran and for an end to all of the worldwide violence and hate and know that all is possible through God's hands.

Peace to all,
Bob Masters
2023 Council President

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

In **December 2023**, Grace Lutheran received **\$18,680.99** in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Gather for midweek Advent soup suppers & worship
- Enjoy fellowship at the Annual Ladies Christmas Lunch
- Work together to hang the Greens
- Celebrate the birth of Jesus with two Christmas Eve worship services
- Distribute holiday food baskets
- Distribute children's Christmas books
- Learn about the many names of Jesus from our Children's Christmas Program
- Work together to un-hang the Greens (to name just a few) with **\$18,393.89** of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

In 2023, we received \$194,935.47 for the General Fund and had \$207,439.42 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance (as of Dec 31, 2023) is \$46,912.18.



Suggest a Sign Saying

If you have seen a clever or uplifting church sign saying that you think we should put on our marquee sign, please let Pastor Leslie know. It could even be a favorite Bible verse or line from a hymn or song. *Disclaimer: Not all suggestions will necessarily be used. Some may need to be edited for length, etc.* Thanks in advance for your help!

New name.

Same mission.

LIRS is now Global Refuge.



Global Refuge

Announcement from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

"We are thrilled to announce that Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) will now be known to the world and the people we exist to help as "Global Refuge."

The decision to rebrand as Global Refuge is rooted in the growing worldwide need for compassion and support. With millions of people displaced by war, famine, climate change, persecution, and more, our mission of providing the "long welcome" has become more crucial than ever. The accompanying growth in the demand for our essential, expanded suite of services has sparked the need to identify ourselves ever more clearly and create a bigger table of supporters."

www.globalrefuge.org/who-we-are/identity



www.CarolineFurnace.org

Ski/Tube Winter Retreat

Escape with us for a weekend of fun in the snow! On Friday evening, come together for some fellowship and devotion time. On Saturday, it's time to hit the slopes at Bryce Resort for skiing, snowboarding, or tubing – transportation provided by the camp. Return to camp to enjoy more fellowship and worship. On Sunday, we will hold a special church-like service for everyone. Come join us for a wonderful time at camp and on the slopes of Bryce Resort.

February 9-11th, 2024

Summer 2024: Theme to be announced!

	Entering Grades 1-3	Entering Grades 4-6	Entering Grades 7-9 and 9-12	16 & 17 Years Old	Other
Week One June 16-21	Explorer	Classic	Classic		Confirmation Camp
Week Two June 23-28	Explorer + (2nd - 3rd Grade)	H2O Adventure Classic	Shenandoah River Classic	LIT! Phase 1	
Week Three June 30-July 5	Off-Site Programming			LIT! Phase 1	
Week Four July 7 - 12		Enviromental Acoustic	H2O Adventure Acoustic	LIT! Phase 2	Volunteer Work Week
2 Week Camp July 7 - 19		Elementary Adventure	High Adventure		
Week Five July 14 - 19	Explorer	Air Adventure	Classic	LIT! Phase 2	Youth Group Service & Fun
Week Six July 21 - 26	Explorer	Culinary Horse	Air Adventure	LIT! Phase 2	
Week Seven July 28 - Aug 2		Hammock Classic	Horse Camp	LIT! Phase 2	
Week Eight Aug 4 - 9	Explorer	Outdoor Living	Night Hammock	LIT! Phase 2	Family Camp Adult Camp

Confirmation Camp and Youth Group Service and Fun: Contact your pastor or youth leader.

Half Week Options available for: Work Week, Family Camp, Adult Camp and Explorer Camp Weeks

Questions? Contact Monica Springman: Monica@carolinefurnace.org



“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

Registration brochures will be available in April 2024.

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

- Feb 9 Jack Cloud
- Feb 11 Thomas Washington
- Feb 14 Dani Ownby
- Feb 14 Brittany Ownby
- Feb 15 Mary Washington
- Feb 17 Hunter Simpkins
- Feb 19 Casey Calkins
- Feb 19 David Cooper
- Feb 20 Don Stillman
- Feb 24 Sharon Justice



- Feb 3 Bob & Mana Masters
- Feb 10 Fred & Lil Schleede
- Feb 29 Ron & Traycie Pinkoski

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.

PRAYER LIST

We Pray for Our Members

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Walt Anderson | Charlotte Maurer |
| Elaine Babb | David Pritchard |
| Peggy Barry | 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 | Nano Masters |
| Richard Bowell | Katie Milliner |
| Sarita Bowell | Patricia Petro |
| Laura Braugh | Gerri Pitts |
| Jody Bryant | Stephan Pleli |
| Sandy Crutchley | Tommy Reeck |
| Madison Garriott | Lisa Sanders |
| Jenell Gordon | Nick Sims |
| Lettie Groshel | Larry Smith |
| Rose Headings | Jo Sommerfeld |
| Brian Hubert | Samantha Strother |
| Chris Jones | Carolyn Swank |
| Henry Kappes Jr | Tim Theis |
| Murray Leffers Jr | Deb Thompson |
| Bill Manke | |

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
February 2024						
4 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:30am Fellowship Hour	5 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	6 10am Threaders	7 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	8 Office CLOSED 8pm AA	9 Office CLOSED	10 9am-1pm Blood Drive
11 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:30am "Fat Tuesday" Pancake Brunch	12 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	13 10am Threaders 7pm Council (Zoom)	14 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship (Hybrid)	15 Office CLOSED 8pm AA	16	17 8am Men's Group 10am GS Troop 490
18 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:30am Craft Group	19 NO Food Pantry Office CLOSED NO Bible Study NO Bell Choir	20 NO Threaders 7pm Good Mourning	21 Noon Ladies Lunch 6:30pm Soup Supper 7:15pm Midweek Worship (Hybrid)	22 Office CLOSED 8pm AA	23	24
25 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	26 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	27 10am Threaders 6:30pm American Sewing Guild	28 6:30pm Soup Supper 7:15pm Midweek Worship (Hybrid)	29 Office CLOSED 8pm AA		