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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

April 2024 "Grace Greetings"

Mission Statement:

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

How do we use a Paschal Candle?

Fire has long been a sign of God's presence. The Old Testament is full of examples: the burning bush on Mount Sinai, the pillar of fire in the desert, the tabernacle lamps, and the sacrificial fires on the altar of the temple in Jerusalem. Early Christians rather naturally viewed the kindling of new fire as a symbol of the presence of their resurrected Lord, the new pillar of fire.

In Jerusalem, the earliest Christians blessed and lighted candles every Saturday night. By at least the fifth or sixth century, the custom had become associated with celebrations of the Resurrection, and paschal candles had found their way into the liturgy of the Western church.

In the medieval church, allegorical meaning was ascribed to every aspect of the paschal candle. Unlighted, it represented Christ's death and burial; lighted, it represented the splendor and glory of Christ's resurrection. The wick represented Christ's humanity, and the halo of flame represented his divinity. Other candles lighted from the paschal candle symbolized Christ giving the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

For us, the symbolism of Christ's triumph over the darkness of sin and death is preeminent. This symbolism is most apparent when the paschal candle is introduced each year to the congregation in the Easter Vigil on Easter Eve. When the Vigil begins, the church is dark, symbolic of the darkness of the sepulcher that held the crucified Christ. A new fire is kindled, and the paschal candle is lighted, representing the Risen Christ, the Light of the world. Symbolically, this is the fire from which all light is ignited. Traditionally, before lighting the candle from the new fire, the candle is inscribed with a cross, an alpha and omega, and the current year. This reinforces the point that Christ is present among us now and throughout eternity. The following words traditionally accompany the inscribing: "Christ Worship Formation & Liturgical Resources: Frequently Asked Questions yesterday and today [cross], the beginning and the end [Alpha and Omega]. His are all times [2] and ages [0]; to Christ be glory and dominion [year], through endless ages [year]. Amen." Five grains of incense may be inserted into the cross with wax nails (usually provided with a purchased paschal candle), representing the five wounds of Christ, as indicated during the Easter proclamation. If the candle already has the symbols affixed to it, the minister may trace the symbols as the words are spoken.

As the candle is carried in procession into the dark nave, so Christ lights our way out of darkness. During this procession, the bearer of the candle lifts it high and sings, "The light of Christ," to which all respond, "Thanks be to God!" Its meaning is even clearer in the Roman rite, which says, "Christ our Light!" There is no missing the point! Christ is present in the midst of the assembly. We are not pretending to reenact Christ's physical resurrection. We are not simply recalling an ancient event when Christ was present. The reality in the message of the resurrection is that the Risen Christ is present here today, with and for us. There is no one particular moment within the procession of light or in the vigil liturgy that we believe to be the exact moment of Christ's resurrection. The ancient Easter proclamation, sung by the

light of the paschal candle, says it clearly: "O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and the hour wherein Christ arose again from hell!" We are gathered in darkness to wait and look for the resurrection. Gradually we enter into the reality that Christ is risen and is present among us. (For musical settings of the Easter proclamation, see Music Sourcebook for Lent and the Three Days in Resources).

Throughout the fifty days of Easter, the paschal candle traditionally stands near the altar as a symbol of the resurrection. It is lighted for each liturgy during the great fifty days of Easter. (Easter is not over until Pentecost, the fiftieth day!) Ideally, the candle burns continuously from the Vigil of Easter through Pentecost. Since this is usually not practical, the paschal candle should be lighted well before the arrival of worshipers and remain lit until after all have departed. To heighten the symbolism, it could be lighted any time groups of people assemble in or near the nave (meetings, rehearsals, and so forth). If evening prayer is celebrated during the season of Easter, the assembly gathers for prayer around the burning paschal candle. A separate vesper candle is not used.

In some traditions, the paschal candle is extinguished at the reading of the gospel on the Ascension of our Lord. This practice emphasizes the historical presence of Jesus following the resurrection, rather than focusing on the presence of the Risen Christ in our time. The fuller symbolism of the paschal candle calls for letting it remain lighted and central through the entire Easter season.

After the Day of Pentecost, the paschal candle is placed on its stand near the baptismal font as a visual reminder that in our baptism, we are crucified and resurrected with Christ. The candle is lighted at each celebration of Baptism, at which time small baptismal candles are lighted from it for presentation to the baptized or sponsor (see also, "How can the centrality of baptism be renewed?"). This act is a visual reminder of the integral connection between Baptism and Easter. For funerals (see also, "What are the marks of a Christian funeral?"), the paschal candle is lighted and placed in its stand at the head of the casket during the funeral rite. In a visual way, the paschal candle visually proclaims the message of Romans 6:3-5 (used at the beginning of the burial liturgy): "In our Baptism we have already died and been raised with Christ."

The paschal candle, sometimes called the Easter candle, should not be confused with the so-called Christ candle, which has no roots in liturgical history but is often seen at the center of Advent wreaths. The paschal candle should be of substantial size, even huge, if its important symbolism is to speak clearly. Even the stand in which it rests should be of great size. It is inappropriate to use an aluminum tube with a candle on a spring or burning oil inside. The Easter proclamation sings the glories of the candle, for it is "fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants, have made for the substance of this candle." Therefore, to speak authentically, the candle should made be of wax, and the height of the candle should visibly diminish throughout the season and year. Ideally, a new paschal candle is inscribed and lit each year at the Vigil of Easter. This practice can be costly, so you will want to find creative ways to use the remaining wax from the previous year's candle. It is possible to save a great deal of money and involve more members in preparations for the Vigil of Easter by making your own paschal candle.

From the ELCA Worship FAQ: <u>https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/</u> <u>How do we use a Paschal Candle.pdf</u> Revised January 2013

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<u>Sunday School</u>

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.



<u>Combined Worship (Hybrid)</u> Sundays at 10am

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

www.gracelutheranchesapeake.org/news-upcoming-events.



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. If you would like to volunteer to bring refreshments one month, please contact Faith Longsworth.



Monday Bible Study ON HIATUS

After 8 years, we have finally finished a complete read through of the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament. So we will be taking a break to reevaluate what we will study and when and how we will meet. If you are interested in a daytime Bible Study, please talk to Pastor Leslie and stay tuned for more information.



<u>Bell Choir Rehearsal</u> Mondays at 7pm

New ringers welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Morgan.



<u>Threaders</u> 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.



<u>Potluck & Bible Study (Hybrid)</u> Wednesday Evenings Potluck @ 6:30 & Study @ 7pm

- Join via your smartphone/tablet/ computer by clicking this link <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?</u> pwd=OHhzWUFIc0FIQit0MjN5c0IEcINtQT0 <u>9</u> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via your regular phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.



<u>Council Meeting (Zoom)</u> Tuesday, April 9 at 7pm

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87468766112?</u> pwd=Z3VnL2RyVkRKdXhXRFFWT2E0ZlcrZz0 <u>9</u> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 874 6876 6112 and Passcode: 740742.



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:<u>http://tinyurl.com/2024Lawn</u> Information about lawn care procedures can be found here: <u>https://tinyurl.com/</u> <u>lawncareinstructions22</u>. If you have further questions, please contact Fred Schleede.



Spring Flea Market

Saturday, April 13th, 8am-2pm

Proceeds will be split between the Growing in Grace Building Fund (to help pay for a new HVAC unit for the Education Wing) and the HER Shelter.

Ways to get involved:

- Reserve a spot online: <u>http://tinyurl.com/</u>
 <u>Spring24FleaMarket</u>
- Sign up to volunteer: <u>http://tinyurl.com/</u>
 <u>S24FMVolunteer</u>
- Donate items for the White Elephant Table or individually wrapped baked goods

Questions? Contact Brandon Breitsprecher



Craft Group

Sunday, April 14 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, April 17 at Noon at Wickers Crab Pot

(4201 Indian River Rd, Chesapeake, 23325)

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

Upcoming Dates & Locations:

- 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



<u>Outreach Activity</u>

Sunday, April 21st after worship

Join us in honoring First Responders by making cards to show our appreciation. We will also be collecting store-bought bakery items. A basket of baked goods and our cards will be delivered to stations to thank our local fire and police personnel. Please join us for this fun activity. All art supplies will be provided. Come one and all and join us after worship on April 21st. See you there! Any questions contact Gretchen Stoll.

<u>Earth Day</u>

April 22nd

Learn more about what our denomination (the ELCA) says about the environment: www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy/Environment

<u>Rose Mary Sidam's 94th Birthday Party</u> Saturday, April 27th at 1pm at Thalia Gardens

(4142 Bonney Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452) Rose Mary's family is hosting this party and wanted to share the info you. If you would like to attend, please talk to Pastor Leslie.



American Red Cross

<u>Blood Drive</u> Saturday, May 11th, 9am-1pm in the Grace Lutheran Fellowship Hall

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

2024 Congregational Council



President





Secretary

Brandon Breitsprecher Vice President







Walt Anderson

Faith Longsworth



Tom Cases

Fred Schleede

gsworth

From the Council

Greetings from your Church Council. I hope everyone has started to enjoy the nicer weather we have been having and spending time outdoors, just like the Spring Flea Market is going to be! On April 13th we will be having the Spring Flea Market coordinated by Brandon Breitsprecher. If you would like a spot or volunteer please reach out to him. The proceeds will be split between Growing in Grace (Building) Fund and the HER Shelter (www.hershelter.com).

We have received multiple quotes for replacing the HVAC unit for classrooms 1 and 2 and will be having a special congregational meeting on March 24th after worship to vote on authorizing Council to spend up to \$15,000 on the new unit.

If you would like to talk about anything or becoming more involved in any aspect of the church, please reach out to any Council member; we are always available to talk.

God's Peace, David Cooper 2024 Council President

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

In **February 2024**, Grace Lutheran received **\$16,554.09** in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Support Pastor Leslie in leading a workshop for VA Synod's Midwinter Power in the Spirit event on Zoom
- Host a Red Cross Blood Drive
- Gather for fellowship and raise money for the Food Pantry at the "Fat Tuesday" Pancake Brunch
- Remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return during Ash Wednesday worship
- Have a supply preacher/presider when Pastor Leslie is off since she is now only three-quarter time
- Host the Tidewater Conference's monthly Rostered Ministers meeting

(to name just a few) with **\$16,265.56** of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

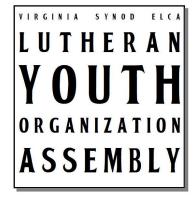
Year to date (through February 29th), we have received \$33,055.47 for the General Fund and have had \$33,794.21 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance of the General Fund (as of February 29th) is \$46,151.44.





Saturday, April 27, 9am-1pm

Ed & La Quita Opperman will be attending as Grace's Voting Members this year. Others are invited to watch live on YouTube. More information can be found at: <u>https://vasynod.org/2024-virginia-synodassembly/</u>



VA Synod Youth Assembly Saturday, May 25, 2024 from 9:30am-3:30pm

The Virginia Synod and the Synod's Lutheran Youth Organization Board will be offering our Youth Assembly **for 7-12 graders** and adults who come with them on Saturday, May 25, 2024, **from 9:30 am-3:30 pm!** The event will allow youth to gather at one of four places around the synod and be linked via Zoom for our workshop, singing, and discussions! Our four locations are:

- Christ the King, Richmond
- College, Salem
- Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg
- Trinity, Newport News

More information will be coming soon. Let Pastor Leslie know if you would like to attend.



<u>Kairos</u> June 23-28 (Sunday evening to Friday noon)

Kairos is our summertime, week-long faithsharing event for youth who will be in 9th-12th arades in the fall. It is held at Roanoke College in Salem, VA and is especially for young people who are already committed to a life of faith to be part of a unique Christian community for an entire week, to have a fresh experience of the grace and presence of God in that community, and to develop habits for discipleship that can be taken home as they live out their baptismal call to be followers of Jesus. Kairos is different from our weekend events in that congregations do not send advisors with youth; the event staff serves as small aroup leaders and dorm advisors for the week. We enjoy lots of singing and skits and fun and friend-making, prayers, and worship, plus participants gather in small groups that meet throughout the week. There are so many beloved features of Kairos: event theme t-shirts, Open Talent Mic Show, faith testimonies, comic relief, reflection time, praver stations, speed friending, t-shirt fashion show, and more!

("Kairos" is the New Testament Greek word for "special time." It is used whenever God's people want to talk about a time of change, of renewal, of God's special work in the believer and the community.)

More information is available at <u>https://vasynod.org/event/kairos/</u>. Let Pastor Leslie know if you would like to attend.



Lutheran Summer Music June 30-July 28

Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM) is a residential academy for high school musicians. Students study with nationally recognized faculty, and are immersed in musical experiences through larae ensembles (Choir, Band and Symphony Orchestra), chamber music, private lessons, elective classes, ongoing recitals and concerts. Students also experience welcomina a and iovful community that worships together daily, offering musical gifts through Lutheran lituray and hymnody. LSM 2024 takes place at Valparaiso University in Indiana from June 30-July 28 and is open to students who have completed grades 8-12. Spots for LSM 2024 are filling fast! Nominate a student today at LSMacademy.org/nominate.

CAROLINE FURNACE

Summer 2024: Created to Be! Entering Entering Entering 16 & 17 Other Grades 1-3 Grades 4-6 Grades 7-9 and 9-12 Years Old Week One Confirmation Explorer Classic Classic June 16-21 Camp Shenandoah River H2O Adventure Week Two Explorer + LIT! Phase 1 (2nd - 3rd Grade) June 23-28 Horse Classic Week Three **Off-Site Programming** LIT! Phase 1 June 30-July 5 Week Four Enviromental H₂O Adventure Volunteer LIT! Phase 2 July 7 - 12 Work Week Acoustic Acoustic 2 Week Camp Elementary Adventure **High Adventure** July 7 - 19 Week Five Youth Group Explorer Air Adventure Classic LIT! Phase 2 Service & Fun July 14 - 19 Week Six Culinary Explorer Air Adventure LIT! Phase 2 July 21 - 26 Horse Hammock Week Seven LIT! Phase 2 Horse Camp July 28 - Aug 2 Classic Family Camp Week Eight Explorer Outdoor Living Night Hammock LIT! Phase 2 Aug 4 -9 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? summercamp@carolinefurnace.org

Spring Work Weekend

Experience summer camp while giving back! This is a great opportunity to share your gifts, skills, and time with Caroline Furnace. Projects will be led by our Director of Facilities and Maintenance each morning and afternoon. Volunteer lodging spaces may include the Farmhouse or tent camping options.

April 19th-21st 2024

Volunteer Work Week

Join us for the whole week, a few days or just a day! All that choose to spare there time will be compensated with free lodging, and meals! Help us prepare for the upcoming summer camp season.

July 7th-12th, 2024



- Apr 3 John Hawk
- Apr 6 Elaine Babb
- Apr 9 Beth Woodard
- Apr 20 Cory Morton
- Apr 24 Helen Sprague
- Apr 25 Raynor Lizan
- Apr 26 Rose Mary Sidam
- Apr 28 Debbie Dougherty



Apr 12 DJ & Bethany Solomon Apr 16 Kyle & Courtney Weed

To add/correct any birthdays or anniversaries. Please email <u>Secretary@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org</u>



PRAYER LIST

We Pray for Our Members

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

We Pray for Our Friends

Bill Babb Richard Bowell Sarita Bowell Laura Braugh Jody Bryant Madison Garriott Jenell Gordon Lettie Groshel Rose Headings Jax Hockenberry Brian Hubert Chris Jones Henry Kappes Jr Murray Leffers Jr

Bill Manke Nano Masters Katie Milliner Patricia Petro Stephan Pleli Tommy Reeck Lisa Sanders Nick Sims Larry Smith Jo Sommerfeld Samantha Strother Carolyn Swank Tim Theis Deb Thompson

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 <u>monthly</u> regarding your friends/family on the list.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9am Food Pantry	2 10am Threaders	e	4 Office CLOSED	5	6 10am GS Troop 490
	7pm Bell Choir		6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	8pm AA		
7 8 9am Sunday School 9am Food Pantry 10am Worship	8 9am Food Pantry	9 10am Threaders	10	11 Office CLOSED	12	13 8am-2pm Flea Market
Hour	7pm Bell Choir	7pm Council (Zoom)	il 6:30pm Potluck (Zoom) 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	8pm AA		
14 9am Sunday School	15 9am Food Pantry	16	17	18 Office CLOSED	19	20 10am GS Troop 490
10am Worship		10am Threaders	Noon Ladies Lunch			-
Group	Group 7pm Bell Choir	7pm Good Mourning	6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	8pm AA		
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7arri suriaay scrioor 10am Worship 11:30am Outreach	aun rood ranny	10am Threaders				Assembly (Online)
Event	7pm Bell Choir	6:30pm American Sewing Guild	6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	8pm AA		
28	29	30				
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	7pm Bell Choir				_	