

“Grace Greetings”

May 2023



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.

May 2023 "Grace Greetings"

Mission Statement:

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

Affirmation of Baptism—Past & Present

Affirmation of Baptism is a rite that "may be used at many times in the life of a baptized Christian. It is especially appropriate as part of a process of formation in faith in your and adulthood (confirmation)" (*ELW Hymnal p.234*).

Youth have been affirming their faith throughout the 60 years that Grace has been a congregation. You can see a list and pictures of all the Confirmation Classes over the years in the hallway by the water fountains and women's bathrooms. However, I just realized that the first class has been inadvertently skipped in that display. From what I can tell, the first youth confirmed at Grace were Phillip Moore and Charles Carpenter (June 6, 1965). I am still trying to locate a picture of that special event. However, the first class that is pictured there (and here) is the 1966 Confirmation Class. One member of that class was Mike Olson, our current Council Secretary.



On Pentecost Sunday (May 28th), five more of Grace's youth will affirm their faith and become official voting members of the congregation. During the rite, they will "profess their faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church" (*ELW Hymnal p.235*). They will also declare their intention "to continue in the covenant God made with [them] in Holy Baptism" (*ELW Hymnal p.236*). There are five parts to that covenant:

1. To live among God's faithful people
2. To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper
3. To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
4. To serve all people, following the example of Jesus
5. To strive for justice and peace in all the earth

We will then, as the people of God, promise to support these youth and pray for them in their life in Christ.

So I encourage you to plan to join us for the combined worship service at 9:45am on Sunday, May 28th. Gather around these kids as they confess their faith, as we together as the church confess our faith, and as we promise to support and pray for one another. Following worship, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck lunch and reception.

God Bless,
Pastor Leslie Weber

EVENTS

Mark your Calendar

May 1	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir
May 2	10am	Threaders
May 3	6:30pm	Potluck
	7:15pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
May 6	8am	Flea Market
May 7	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
	12:30pm	Craft Group
	1pm	Confirmation @ Emmanuel VB
May 8	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	5:30pm	Preschool Board (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir
May 9	10am	Threaders
	7pm	Council Meeting (Zoom)
May 10	6:30pm	Potluck
	7:15pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
May 14	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
	12:30pm	Baptism Reception
May 15	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir
May 16	10am	Threaders
May 17	Noon	Ladies Lunch Out
	6:30pm	Potluck
	7:15pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
May 20	9am	Blood Drive
May 21	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
May 22	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir
May 23	10am	Threaders

May 24	6:30pm	Potluck
	7:15pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
May 28		PENTECOST
	9:45am	Combined Worship with Affirmation of Baptism
	11:15pm	Pentecost Potluck
May 29		Food Pantry CLOSED Office CLOSED NO Bible Study NO Bell Choir
May 30	10am	Threaders
May 31	6:30pm	Potluck
	7:15pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)

Hybrid WORSHIP

Regular Worship Hours

May 7, 14, & 21

- 8:30am Contemporary Worship
- 11am Traditional Worship

Summer Worship Hours

Begin Sunday, May 28th

- 9:45am Combined Worship

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

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



Sunday School

Sundays through May 21st at 9:45am

- Elementary School—in Classroom #3
- Middle & High School—in Youth Room
- Adults—in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom

Monday Bible Study (Zoom)

Mondays at 1:30pm

- 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.



Bell Choir Rehearsal

Mondays at 7pm

Starting May 29th, the Bell Choir will be on hiatus for the summer. If you have any questions, please email Morgan at Music@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org.



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 of Galatians @ 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.



Looking to Love: LGBTQIA+ Conversations with Our Church

May 1, 15, & Jun 4, 2023, 7-8:30pm on Zoom

The LGBTQIA+ Inclusions Tapestry Thread is hosting a three part discussion series in May and June. Participants will collectively watch a YouTube TED Talk and join Pastor Alex Sheppard-Witt (Our Savior, Norge, VA) and Pastor Joel Neubauer (St Mark, Yorktown, VA) in an exploration of the weekly topic, and its application in daily life.

- * May 1: Civility: Faithful Civil Engagement.
- * May 15: Acceptance: Faith and Family.
- * June 5: Love: Extending Love to All.

The sessions will not be recorded. You do not have to attend all three sessions.



Flea Market

Saturday, May 6th, 8am-2pm

- All proceeds will benefit Grace Preschool's Lisa Marie Justice Scholarship Fund.
- Sign up to help out: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YCrXGwevGSA8v-9a_JbeivWPkt6NBafRiM_9JQ3sTs/edit?usp=sharing
- Donate items for the White Elephant table. Drop off in the Fellowship Hall.
- Donate individually wrapped baked goods. Please deliver to the church kitchen on Friday.
- Contact Gretchen Stoll for more information.



Craft Group

**Sunday, May 7th
after the late worship service (~12:30pm)**

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 the late worship service. Any questions, contact Sandra Fraenkel.



Board Meeting

Preschool Board Meeting (Hybrid)

Monday, May 8th at 5:30pm

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85964430976?pwd=cEVXNkkva2tLb2NWRUkvalRjQnJlU1O9> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 859 6443 0976 and Passcode: 040561.



Council Meeting

Council Meeting (Zoom)

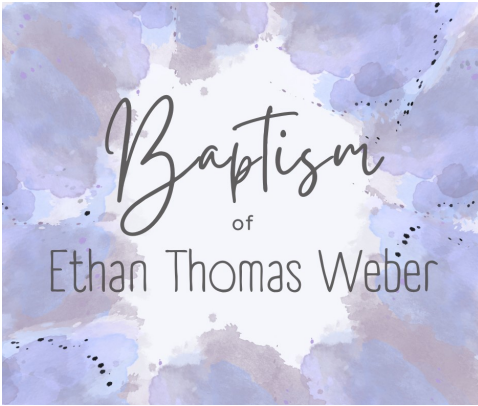
Tuesday, May 9th at 7pm

- 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

There will not be the regularly scheduled meeting on the 2nd Saturday of the month in May.



Baptism Reception for Ethan Weber
Sunday, May 14th at 12:30pm

The Webers would like to invite you to a reception in honor of Ethan's Baptism on Sunday, May 14th. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the late worship service.



Ladies Lunch Out
Wednesday, May 17th at Noon
at Forbidden Palace Chinese Bar & Bistro
(3333 Virginia Beach Blvd #34, 23452)

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



American Red Cross

Blood Drive
Saturday, May 20th, 9am-1pm
in the Grace Lutheran Fellowship Hall

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

Pentecost Sunday
May 28, 2023

- * 9:45am—Combined Worship Service with Affirmation of Baptism of 5 youth
- * 11:15am—Pentecost Potluck (sign up in the Narthex to help set up/clean up and bring a dish to share)

Save the Date: Vacation Bible School
July 5-7 in the evenings

More details will be coming soon, but mark your calendars. We will need lots of volunteers for VBS and host families for staff from Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp, who will be leading the fun!

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: <https://tinyurl.com/2022lawncare>
- Information about lawn care procedures can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/lawncareinstructions22>
- If you have further questions, please contact Fred Schleede.

A note from Betty Keefer

Dear Friends at Grace,
Kathie and I are so appreciative of all the cards, calls, visits, and prayers after Bill's death.

Thank you for coming to his service. I know you were coming to comfort us, but somehow, I feel he was also thankful you were there.

As we walked down the aisle I was overwhelmed by the simplicity and beauty of the sanctuary. A heartfelt thank you to

the Altar Guild.

We do not know the names of all who managed the reception, but it went so well and looked so nice. Thank you for all your hard work.

Betty Keefer

A note from the Financial Secretary

We've wrapped up the first quarter of 2023, and gifts to our on-going ministry efforts have been below last year's levels. As of the end of March, total giving was \$44,500, which was \$8,300 below 2022's level. At our Congregational Meeting, we approved a Ministry Spending Plan that counted on roughly \$55,000 per quarter, so we're just over \$10,000 short of our goal to fully support our ministries.

You may be interested to know that our giving is split exactly in half between electronic gifts (via tithe.ly) and "physical" gifts (in the offering plate or via the mail). If you're interested in learning how to give via tithe.ly, please contact me. I'll be happy to help you set it up! You can reach me at finsec@gracelutheranchesapeake.org or call me.

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

Spring greeting's to all Grace Lutheran members and friends. With the warmer weather and longer sunny days we are

starting to witness the annual regrowth of the outstanding awe-inspiring nature that our Lord has given to us. Take some time if able to immerse yourself in our beautiful community and state.

Since my last article, we have hired Bella Bejarano upon the recommendation of the Nursery Attendant search committee. Bella is a Senior at Tallwood HS and her first Sunday of taking care of the little ones was April 23, please say hi to her and give her a warm Grace greeting.



Our Spring Flea Market is quickly approaching on Saturday May 6. Contact Gretchen Stoll to donate items for our table or to reserve you own.

Our next American Red Cross Blood drive is May 20. Please go to redcrossblood.org and put in key word [gracelutheran](https://redcrossblood.org) to sign up, your donation can save multiple lives.

The Sanctuary HVAC rehab team has 2 commercial companies that have expressed interest in our issues and hopefully bids will be coming shortly.

On a very serious and delicate subject to discuss, as you have read in "A note from the Financial Secretary" (see page 7), our average quarterly giving is about \$10,000 below what we need based on the Investment in Ministry plan passed at the Annual Meeting in November 2022. Because our expenses (like our giving) are not steady throughout the year, our actual income vs. expenses for the first quarter is even worse; we spent over \$16,000 more from the General Fund than we received.

Thinking back on Kris Peterson's Temple talks from last year, money can have a cumulative effect when working with a large group such as a congregation. If say for instance, if each adult member were able to contribute \$10 more per week (maybe eliminating a visit or two to

Starbucks or Wawa) that would equate to over \$500 annually. Multiple this by 100 church members and the total increased giving would be over \$50,000 more than eliminating our deficit. With rising inflation and the increased cost of almost everything, money is tight for us all, but if you're like me, there is regular spending on perhaps not so essential items that maybe we don't really need to have. Please prayerfully consider increasing your financial gift the General Fund as able to help ensure that Grace Lutheran is able to continue with all of the vital ministry that God has called us to do.

Peace and God's blessings to all.

Bob Masters

2023 Council President

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

In **March 2023**, Grace Lutheran received **\$13,879.91** in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Gather for Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays in Lent
- Sent one middle schooler to the Tidewater Conference Youth Lock-in
- Held a Communion Class for four children
- Supported Pastor Leslie in her ministry on the VA Synod Council and Bishop Election Committee.

(to name just a few) with **\$16,576.14** of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

Year to date (through March 31st), we have received \$42,573.89 for the General Fund and have had \$59,358.17 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance (as of March 31st) is \$46,887.98.



www.GracePS.org

From the Preschool

April showers bring May flowers!

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths;
And 'tis my faith that every flower
Enjoys the air it breathes.

The birds around me hopped and played,
Their thoughts I cannot measure: —
But the least motion which they made
It seemed a thrill of pleasure...

Author: William Wordsworth

Our spring festival was awesome. Students welcome spring with games, food, and crafts. I would like to thank our parents, the preschool board, Grace Lutheran Church members, and teachers for a wonderful day and your contributions to help our students.

Teacher's Appreciation Week is May 8th-12th. Don't forget to give a kind word to our educators. We appreciate their hard work and dedication in teaching our children.

We are celebrating mothers with a Mother's Tea on May 12 at 1:45pm. Our students enjoy spending time with family and friends. We provide them with the opportunity to fellowship during school hours.

We are celebrating dads on June 2nd with Dad and Donuts! Dads, granddads, family friends can come to enjoy a few donuts with our students. For more information contact the Preschool Director at


preschool@gracelutheranchesapeake.org.
 Grace Preschool is now approved by the state of Virginia to be a subsidy vendor. This means if you know of a family who wants to attend but cannot afford it, the state of Virginia will pay a portion or all the tuition fees. Please contact the director for more information.

Please support our ongoing fundraisers:

- * Harris Teeter's Together in Education program (<https://tie.harristeeter.com/together-in-education>) Grace Preschool's Code is 7040. Even if you think you are already signed up, please go online to double check and re-link if necessary.
- * Papa John's Dollars for Dough program. Any time you order from a Hampton Road's Papa John's online, use the promo code: GracePizza.


Sincerely
 Kristie Fields
 Preschool Director

Virginia Handbell Consort
 presents
Reflection
 Alan Reese, Director



St. Michael
 Lutheran Church
 2208 Princess Anne Rd.
 Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Saturday, May 20th
 4:00 pm





DOLLARS FOR DOUGH FUNDRAISER

When purchasing your pizza order
ONLINE at www.papajohns.com

Apply Promo Code:
GRACEPIZZA

10% of every order will benefit GRACE PRESCHOOL

Available for Delivery or Carryout
 Code must be applied **ONLINE ONLY** or via MOBILE APP
 Valid with 27 Hampton Roads Papa Johns locations!

SEEKING AND FINDING

POWER IN THE SPIRIT



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
The Rev. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore



BIBLE STUDY LEADER
The Rev. Dr. Steven S. Tuell



MUSICIAN
Michael Bensch

Power in the Spirit is an inspirational conference for people of all ages who wish to explore God's call to service through joyous worship, Bible studies, keynote addresses, workshops, games, and fellowship. In addition, congregational leaders—teachers, organists and choir directors, choir members, committee or council members, family life consultants, deacons, pastors, and others—will find Power in the Spirit nurturing and challenging as they consider their mission and ministry.

In the gospels, Jesus draws crowds wherever he goes. People who would otherwise have nothing to do with each other are drawn together in the practice of seeking him. We will look at a vision of the church that has this kind of seeking at its center. Come and explore the theme of Seeking and Finding as it appears in Scripture and in our own journeys of faith. Together we will see how our seeking Jesus (and his seeking us) is the common ground we need to love one another across all the issues and life experiences that threaten to divide us.



For More Information
www.vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/

July 13-15, 2023
 Roanoke College Campus



CAROLINE FURNACE

Camp & Retreat

	Entering Grades 1-3	Entering Grades 4-6	Entering Grades 7-9	Entering Grades 9-12	16 & 17 Years Old	Adults & Families
WEEK ONE June 18-23	Explorer	Classic	Classic	Classic	LIT! Phase 1	
WEEK TWO June 25-30		Environmental	Horse	Horse		
		H2O Adventure	Shenandoah River	Shenandoah River		
WEEK THREE July 2-7	<i>Off Site Programming</i>				LIT! Phase 1	
WEEK FOUR July 9-14	Explorer+ 2nd-3rd grade	Culinary	Night Hammock	Night Hammock	LIT! Phase 2	Volunteer Work Week
			2 Week Adventure	2 Week Adventure		
WEEK FIVE July 16-21		Air Adventure	2 Week Adventure	2 Week Adventure	LIT! Phase 2	
		Acoustic	H2O Adventure Acoustic	H2O Adventure		
WEEK SIX July 23-28	Explorer	Land Adventure	Land Adventure	Land Adventure	LIT! Phase 2	
		Classic				
WEEK SEVEN July 30-Aug. 1	Explorer	Horse	Air Adventure	Air Adventure	LIT! Phase 2	
		Outdoor Living				
WEEK EIGHT August 6-11	Explorer	Hammock	Night Hammock	Night Hammock	LIT! Phase 2	Family Camp
						Adult Camp



Visit CarolineFurnace.org for registration and more information

Our Two Week camp is happening again! July 9-21
VBS Options available during weeks 2 & 3!

*Half week option available for Work Week, Family, and Explorer Camps

NOTE: Pastor Leslie will be serving as Chaplain during Week 8 (Aug 6-11)



We are now hiring for Summer 2023! The Season is 10 weeks long, from June to August. Positions for Adventure Team, Cabin Leaders, Support Staff, and more are available. We are looking for young adults (18 or older) full of energy, love, enthusiasm, patience, and kindness. You must be able to share your faith, encourage others, and work well in a team. You can expect a new adventure each week, will gain new skills and experiences, and get to make friendships that will last a lifetime. Pay based on experience and certifications. Internships in specialized areas also available - ask us for more information! Apply by clicking emailing your resume to monica@carolinefurnace.org.

PRAYER LIST

We Pray for Our Members

Ann Anderson	Lori Kilian
Elaine Babb	Charlotte Maurer
Joe Babb	Kim Moody
Suzanne Bergsten	David Pritchard
Jan Howell	Kathie Rokitski
Patricia Jackson	Roy Russell
Leonora Jones	Monique Schroeder
Jack Justice	Rose Mary Sidam
Sharon Justice	Ted Van Horn
Betty Keefer	Thomas Washington
Barbara Kilian	

We Pray for Our Friends

Bill Babb	Kathy Jo Matticks
Richard Bowell	Robert Miller
Sarita Bowell	Sue Miller
Laura Braugh	Katie Milliner
Trevor Crawford	Judi Moser
Mark Dyer	Ellen Pabst
Joshua Falkner	Joshua Patton
Wesley Fillah	Patricia Petro
Madison Garriott	Stephan Pleli
Jenell Gordon	Tommy Reeck
Lettie Groshel	Leah Rosario
Claude Hamilton	Lisa Sanders
Ruby Hockenberry	Sheila Silvey
Brian Hubert	Nick Sims
Chris Jones	Larry Smith
Dirl Kinnard	Samantha Strother
Murray Leffers Jr	Deb Thompson
The McGinnis family	Dianne Van Pelt
Nano Masters	Richard Van Pelt

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



May 1	Traycie West-Pinkoski
May 4	Caleb Weber
May 8	Hadley Solomon
May 9	Randy Scanlon
May 11	Walt Anderson
May 14	Joyce Angeli Kamari Bennett
May 15	Vickie Graif
May 16	Steve Springsteen
May 21	Rhealeigh Lizan
May 30	Rey Lizan



May 5	Sharon Chamberlin
May 8	Kurt & Faith Longsworth
May 21	Chuck & Susan Graham
May 31	Alex & Beth Cloud

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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	2 10am Threaders	3 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	4 8pm AA	5	6 8am Flea Market
7 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 12:30pm Craft Group 1pm Confirmation @ Emmanuel	8 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 5:30pm Preschool Board (Hybrid) 7pm Bell Choir	9 10am Threaders 7pm Council (Zoom)	10 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	11 8pm AA	12	13 10am Girl Scouts
14 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 12:30pm Baptism Reception	15 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	16 10am Threaders 7pm Good Mourning	17 Noon Ladies Lunch 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	18 8pm AA	19	20 9am Blood Drive
21 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	22 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	23 10am Threaders 6:30pm American Sewing Guild	24 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	25 8pm AA	26	27 10am Girl Scouts
28 PENTECOST 9:45am Worship 11:15am Potluck Lunch	29 MEMORIAL DAY NO Food Pantry Office CLOSED NO Bible Study NO Bell Choir	30 10am Threaders	31 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	May 2023		