



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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October 11, 2023

Members of Grace,

We are writing to inform you that our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 12th, 2023 at approximately 11:30am (after the combined worship service at 10am). Like for worship, we will gather in a hybrid manner—both onsite and on Zoom.

- To join Zoom via computer/tablet/smartphone by clicking this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/984794689?pwd=dEx0N3FDa055WFNQQTU5UFFyOUc5QT09> (Passcode: Grace)
- To join Zoom via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 984 794 689 and Passcode: 546963

Our agenda will be as follows:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Elections
 - a. Nominating Committee
 - b. Congregational Council
 - c. Preschool Board
 - d. VA Synod Assembly Voting Members
3. 2024 Investment in Ministry Plan—see *attached proposal*
4. Constitutional Updates (*to bring Grace's Constitution in line with the fact that we are incorporated and no longer need Trustees*)—see *attached summary of changes*
5. Closing Prayer

The Nominating Committee is still completing their work, so biographical information about nominees will be sent out in the coming weeks.

If you look at the Proposed 2024 Investment in Ministry Plan, you will notice some significant changes which the Council is proposing to align the plan with projected giving. After discussion with Pastor Leslie, we all agreed that Pastor Leslie will shift from full-time to three-quarters time and the secretary will move from 15 hours per week to 12 hours per week. These were faithful conversations and difficult decisions, but, as leaders of Grace, we thought that this was the best decision to be good stewards of our resources and our ministry. We are working with Pastor John Wertz, Director for Evangelical Mission of the Virginia Synod, to help us discern how our congregation's ministry priorities can adapt to reflect the

move to three-quarters time. We will communicate details as they are solidified. We are also working together with Pastor John to explore a partnership with a local ELCA congregation who is potentially interested in a one-quarter time call which would allow Pastor Leslie to serve in full-time ministry across the two congregations.

What we are proposing is a big change, but the Council believes it is a necessary change to strengthen the long-term ministry of Grace. We are a vital congregation doing God's work in the world as we strive to live out our faith in Jesus Christ by being servants to all people. We look forward to hearing from you if you have any questions and to seeing you at the Congregational Meeting on November 12.

Peace and God's blessings to all,

2023 Congregational Council of Grace Lutheran

Bob Masters (*President*)
Beth Woodard (*Vice President*)
Mike Olson (*Secretary*)
Walt Anderson
Tom Casey
David Cooper
Debbie Dougherty
Faith Longworth
Fred Schleede