"Grace Greetings"
October 2025

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 happens

Grace Lutheran Church

A worshipping community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org

October 2025 "Grace Greetings"

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

Did Martin Luther really use tavern tunes in church?

It has been claimed by many people over the years that Martin Luther boldly seized songs commonly sung in taverns, changed the lyrics and then made them the basis of congregational song. In the interest of historical accuracy, in fairness to the reformer, and for the purpose of conversation about worship music today, this claim must be challenged, or at least be carefully qualified. At its worst this claim is a misrepresentation of fact. At its best, it is a misleading oversimplification of Luther's intention and his practice of liturgical music.

Comparing the music situation of Luther's time with our own is like comparing apples with oranges. At the time of Luther, there were not sharp distinctions between secular and sacred musical styles. When we speak today of "popular music," we mean it in a way not familiar to sixteenth-century Germany. (For more on German hymnody, see Hymnal Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship in Resources)

Did Luther borrow melodies not normally used in worship for congregational song? Yes, definitely. There were, in fact, four sources of melodies used for congregational hymnody in the churches that followed Luther's reforms early in the sixteenth century.

- Many popular hymn tunes were already in existence. Prior to Luther's reforms, these tunes were not sung at Mass but during religious pilgrimages and other devotions outside the liturgy. They were taken over by the reformers for use in the liturgy with little or no change. "O Lord, We Praise You" (ELW 499) is an example of this kind of hymn.
- The reformers made use of the chant melodies that were sung by choirs in worship. Originally sung in Latin, the texts sung with these tunes were translated into German and modified to make them easier for a congregation of untrained singers. "Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire" (chant version at ELW 577; chorale version at 588) is an example of this.
- The art of creating simple melodies that could be used for congregational song was widely encouraged. Luther's own "A Mighty Fortress" (ELW 503-505) is a fine example.
- There were indeed instances in which Luther and his colleagues used melodies (and sometimes part of the poetry) from non-liturgical songs. The first stanza of "From Heav'n Above" (ELW 268) was based upon a light-hearted love song, "From Distant Land I Come To You." Originally the hymn text was sung to the love song tune. Since this tune was still being sung in taverns and other places for entertainment, it was not long before the reformers substituted a newly composed melody for the original. It is this new melody that survives as the standard tune to this day.

This is a partial reprint of the ELCA Worship FAQ. The full answer can be found here: https://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/Did_Martin_Luther_really_use-tavern_tunes_in_church.pdf

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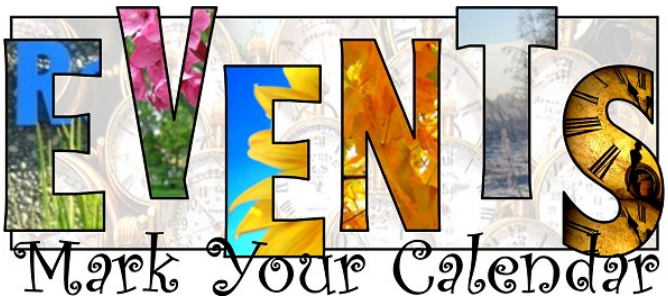


Oct 4	3pm	Installation of ELCA Presiding Bishop Watch Party @ HCLC
Oct 5	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
	4-6pm	Messy Church @ HCLC
Oct 6	9am	Food Pantry
	1pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Oct 8	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Oct 11	8am	Men's Group
Oct 12	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
	11:30am	Craft Group
	Noon	Council Meeting (Hybrid)
Oct 13		Food Pantry CLOSED
		NO Bible Study
		NO Bell Choir Rehearsal
Oct 15	Noon	Ladies Lunch Out
	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Oct 18	8am-2pm	Flea Market
Oct 19	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
	11:30am	Wrap Your Crap Bingo
	4-6pm	Tidewater Youth Group
Oct 20	9am	Food Pantry
	1pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Oct 22	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Oct 26		Reformation Sunday
	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
	1-5pm	Trunk or Treat @ HCLC
Oct 27	9am	Food Pantry
	1pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Oct 29	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)

Sunday School

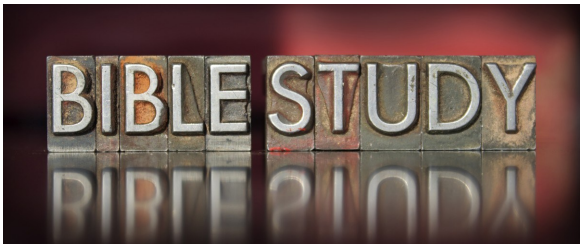
Resumes Sunday, September 14th at 9am

- The **Elementary School Class** will be led by Toni Cormack and will meet in **Classroom #1.**
- The **Middle & High School Class** will be led by Rebecca Headings and will meet in the **Youth Room**.
- The **Adult Sunday School Class** will be led by Rich Fraenkel and will meet in the **Fellowship Hall and on Zoom**.

Hybrid Worship

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 (Hybrid)

Mondays at 1pm (except Oct 13th)

- Join via your computer/smartphone/ tablet by clicking this link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87081895614?pwd=KrF2VVmWJh96XPeInoL6XarMIkD9Zy.1 (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 870 8189 5614 and Passcode: 940613.

Bell Choir is starting back up in September!
Mondays at 7pm (except Oct 13th)
Let's make a joyful noise! For more information and to get involved, contact our Minister of Music, Morgan.

Potluck & Bible Study (Hybrid)
Wednesdays 6:30pm (Potluck) & 7pm (Study)

- Join via your computer/smartphone/ tablet by clicking this link https://us.02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?pwd=OHhzWUFIc0FlQit0MjN5c0lEclNtQT09 (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Installation
Saturday, October 4th at 3pm EDT
Stay tuned for details about a livestream watch party!

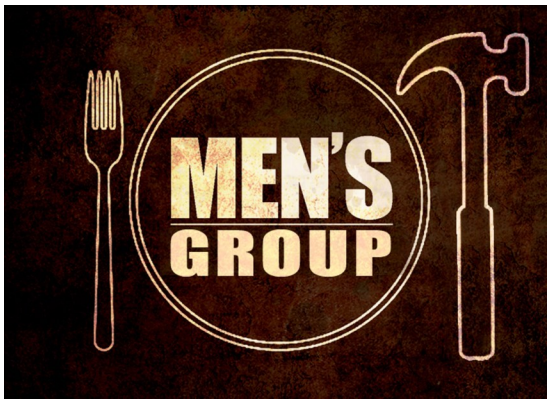
Messy Church
Sunday, October 5th, 4-6pm
At Holy Communion Lutheran Church
(6220 Portsmouth Blvd, Portsmouth, 23701)
Messy Church is a way of being church for all-ages to join in experiencing fun and faith formative activities. Based on the values of all-ages together, celebration, creativity, hospitality, and centering ourselves in Christ Dinner will be served. Please register at www.hcport.com/messychurch.

"For the Love of Creation" Discussions (Zoom)
Tuesday October 7th and 14th at 7pm
Join with the Virginia Synod Tapestry Team as we celebrate the Season of Creation with Zooms exploring the theme: For the Love of Creation. On Tuesdays, October 7 and 14, Co-Thread Leaders Dr. Bill Franz and Sister Phyllis Cox will lead two discussions. The first on how self-care is creation care. The second on creation, climate, and us.

Materials for each session will be sent with the confirmation email you receive when you register. Sessions will be recorded and shared.

Register online: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfG5DAhu_SCeFLMoKbPpAR9cX1P5WS-0PVf0Xx-X57QtVXYDw/viewform

Registration will close on October 1.



Men's Group

There will be no Men's Group gathering in October. Please sign up to help out at the Flea Market!

Oaklette United Methodist Church

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 11, 2 p.m.
[Rain date Oct. 25, 2 p.m.]
In the Pavilion behind Oaklette UMC

Bring your pets with the appropriate leashes or in carriers.

520 Oaklette Dr., Chesapeake, VA 23325
(757) 545-7434 * oaklette@oakletteumc.org * oakletteumc.org
Like us on our facebook page at:
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064643383561

Craft Group

Sunday, October 12th after worship

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 service. Any questions, contact Sandra Fraenkel.

Grace happens **Council Meeting**

Council Meeting (Hybrid)

Sunday, October 12th after worship

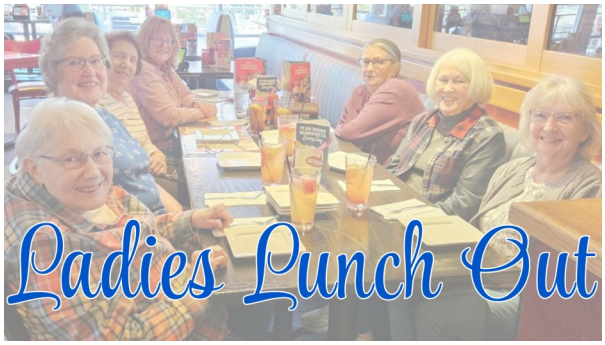
- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by following this link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87468766112?pwd=Z3VnL2RyVkRKdXhXRFFWT2E0ZlcrZz09 (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 874 6876 6112 and Passcode: 740742.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day

Monday, October 13th

- Food Pantry CLOSED
- Office CLOSED
- NO Bible Study
- NO Bell Choir Rehearsal



Ladies Lunch Out
Wednesday, October 15th at Noon
at Smokey Bones (1405 Greenbrier Pkwy)
Join the ladies of GLC for fellowship & food. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, October 12th.

Fall Flea Market
Saturday, October 18th, 8am-2pm
Gretchen Stoll & Millie Burns will be coordinating.

- Please sign up to bake and volunteer as you are able: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1267aB0hhdLPso_hdr4zQKVKVN7kvGJ2loiTcQZ2BE_8/edit?usp=sharing
- Registration for spaces is open online: https://forms.gle/5sk4S1WSTuBZTNqx6
- We will start collecting donations for the Church's table at the beginning of October.
- 100% of the proceeds we raise from the Flea Market will be donated to Grace's Food Pantry.

"Wrap Your Crap" Bingo
Sunday, October 19th after worship
Come play Bingo with a twist. Bring a snack or dessert to share, your own lunch, and a wrapped "prize" (preferably something from around your house you are ready to get rid of). Bingo will continue until all the "gifts" are gone. If you have any questions, please see Gretchen Stoll.

Tidewater Youth Group
Sunday, October 19th, 4-6pm
Location: St. Michael Lutheran (VA Beach)
Middle & High School (grades 6-12) are invited to gather with other Lutheran youth from around Tidewater for a time of fellowship, fun, faith, and food. Please talk to Pastor Leslie for more information.

Reformation Sunday
Sunday, October 26th
In honor of the ongoing reforming work of the Holy Spirit: WEAR RED TO WORSHIP!

Winter Coat Drive
through Sunday, October 26
Throughout the month of October, we will be collecting coats for local schools. Coats can be gently used, freshly laundered coats OR newly purchased coats. Please call Gretchen Stoll to answer any questions you may have.

Trunk or Treat @ HCLC (Portsmouth)
Sunday, October 26th, 1-5pm
HCLC (Portsmouth) will be hosting a Trunk-or-Treat event for the community in conjunction with their Small Business Vendor Fair. They are seeking volunteers to decorate their trunks and pass out candy. They also need donations of wrapped candy; donations can be dropped off in Pastor's office by Sunday, October 19th. Contact Pastor Leslie for more information.

Small Business Vendor Market @ HCLC
Sunday, October 26th, 1-5pm
Find more information and register as a vendor here: www.hcport.com/sbvm

Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, November 1st, 9am-1pm
Book your donation appointment online at https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Gracelutheran

All Saints Sunday
Sunday, November 2nd
On All Saints Sunday, we will name those loved ones who have died in the last year during the prayers of intercession. To have a name included, please let Pastor Leslie know by Wednesday, Oct 29th. You are also encouraged to bring in a photo or memento for the Cloud of Witnesses table on that day.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, November 16th after worship

All voting members are encouraged to attend. The official meeting notice will be coming out soon and will have more information.

Seeking Nominees

The Nominating Committee is currently seeking people interested in running for various leadership positions. If you are interested in possibly serving in any of the following ways, please contact Pastor Leslie, Kurt Longsworth, Debbie Dougherty, Marlene Hubert, or Sandra Fraenkel.

* Nominating Committee (1 year term)
* Congregational Council (2 year term)
* Congregational Council (3 year term)
* Preschool Board (3 year term)

Meet Seminarian Kate

Kate Hoffstaetter is thrilled to be part of the Grace/Holy Communion family this year. She is a first-year seminarian at United Lutheran Seminary. As she begins her seminary studies, she continues to teach elementary school, which she has done for 28 years.

She lives in Smithfield and has been a member of Faith Lutheran (Suffolk), for more than 15 years. She and her husband, Gary, are about to celebrate their 27th anniversary; they have two grown-ish children: Tim is 23 and Sarah is 20. They have two cats, Toothless and VanGogh, and two dogs, Sadie and Milo.

She is to get to know you all as she learns from you and Pastor Leslie about this unique and exciting faith community.

Some ideas of how to welcome her:

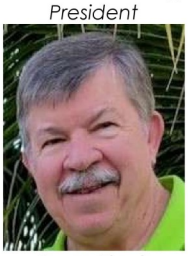
- Introduce yourself
- Wear your nametags
- Invite her to sit with you
- Invite her out to lunch
- Tell her about how you use your God given gifts to be servants to all people!

2025 Congregational Council

Rebecca Headings
President

Brandon Breitsprecher
Vice President

Beth Woodard
Secretary

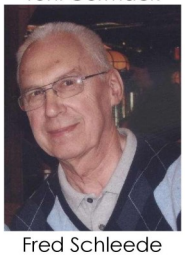

Bryan Black

Tom Casey

Toni Cormack

David Cooper

Faith Longsworth


Fred Schleede

From the Council

At this month's council meeting, our team reflected on the role of parishioners as lay leaders in the life of our congregation. We asked a bold question: What would it look like for the pastor to step into a supporting role while members of our church family take the lead?

One idea we explored was inviting lay members to share sermons, weaving scripture together with their own life experiences. Hearing how God is at work in the lives of our neighbors could bring fresh perspective, deepen our connections, and encourage us to live out our faith in new ways. We believe this kind of shared leadership could nurture both personal growth and the growth of our church community.

We also want to hear from you! What does fellowship look like for you? Would you enjoy gathering for a weeknight dinner, or would a Sunday brunch after church better fit your schedule? Do you have a passion you'd like to share—maybe a ropes course, a cooking class, or another activity you'd love to invite others into?

And even more deeply: What do you feel called to do as a baptized person in Christ? Each of us has gifts to share, and when we bring those gifts together, we strengthen the body of Christ among us.

This is our congregation, and everyone is encouraged to bring forward ideas that will help us build up the community of faith we share.

Rebecca Headings
Council President

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

In **August 2025**, Grace Lutheran received $11,709.83 in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Gather for Fellowship Dinners at various local restaurants while Wednesday Bible Study was on hiatus
- Host a Red Cross Blood Drive
- Support Pastor Leslie in taking vacation
- Host a Ice Cream Sundae Fellowship Event
- Collect school supplies for some of our local schools
- Serve as a venue for Dacey Campbell's wedding

(to name just a few) with $18,079.50 of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

Year to date (through August 31st), we have received $181,123.44 for the General Fund and have had $136 $154,940.34 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance of the General Fund (as of August 31st) is $87,384.35.

2025-26 Virginia Synod Youth Events

Lost and Found

Nov. 21-23, 2025

For **7th and 8th graders** and their adult advisors at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg, VA. Early Registration discount ends Oct. 20, 2025.

Winter Celebration

Jan. 23-25, 2026

For **9th through 12th** graders and their adult advisors at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg, VA. Early Registration discount ends Dec. 15, 2025.

Seventh Day

March 7-8, 2026

For **5th and 6th graders** and their adult advisors at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg, VA. Early Registration discount ends Feb. 2, 2026.

Synod Youth Ministry Summit

April 24-25, 2026

Sponsored by the Virginia Synod Lutheran Youth Organization, this is an overnight gathering of congregational youth representatives to review the previous year's events and provide input on the Synod's Youth Ministry program.

Kairos

June 21-26, 2026

For rising 9th through 12th graders at Roanoke College. Application forms will be available starting Feb. 2026 and are due back to the Synod office by May 1, 2026.

Socials

Viginia Synod-ELCA @virginiasynod @virginiasynod

Register

Scan this code to access the VA Synod Youth Ministry webpage.

For more info, contact Dave Delaney, Synod Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, email: delaney@vasynod.org

Camps

Year-round meeting & retreat opportunities!

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center

carolinefurnace.org

Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center

hungrymother.org

Oct 2	Raegan Lizan
Oct 3	Sharon Chamberlin
Oct 8	Millie Burns
Oct 20	Hunter Headings
Oct 26	Ander Solomon
Oct 26	Ethan Weber
Oct 29	Kris Peterson

To add/correct any birthdays or anniversaries. Please email Communications@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

Elaine Babb
Suzanne Bergsten
Brandon Breitsprecher
Doc Dougherty
Annette Fillmore
Marlene Hubert
Grantley Jackson
Patricia Jackson
Jane Jennings
Leonora Jones
Jack Justice
Cathy Kayser
Betty Keefer
Dawn Kilian
Lori Kilian
Faith Longsworth
Ray Miles
Collin Moody
Kim Moody
Mike Olson
The Pritchard Family
Kathie Rokitski
Monique Schroeder
Rose Mary Sidam
Don Stillman
Thomas Washington

We Pray for Our Friends

Katie Benisek
Austin Boone
Richard Bowell
Sarita Bowell
Laura Braugh
Shirley Bright
Wyville Bryant
Darlene Carter
Preston Carter
Joe Dewar
Mark Dyer
David Firth
Madison Garriott
Jenell Gordon
Bryan Harrover
Jax Hockenberry
Ruby Hockenberry
Brian Hubert
Henry Kappes Jr
Sue LaGrange
Murray Leffers Jr
Maya Masters
Nick Masters
Faye Miles
Rita Molengraft
Kandi Nash
Earl Patterson
Stephan Pleli
Kenneth Price
Tommy Reeck
Lisa Sanders
Bob Sidam
Ron Simmons
Shane Slebrich
Larry Smith
Samantha Strother
Cindy Van Pelt
Shannon Zmuda

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.

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**2** *8pm AA*	**3**	**4** 3pm ELCA Bishop Watch Party @ HCLC
5 10am Worship (Hybrid) 4-6pm Messy Church @ HCLC	**6** 9am Food Pantry 1pm Bible Study (Hybrid) *5:30pm GS Troop 87* 7pm Bell Choir	**7**	**8** 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**9** *8pm AA*	**10**	**11**
12 10am Worship (Hybrid) 11:30am Craft Group Noon Council (Hybrid)	**13 Indigenous Peoples' Day** Food Pantry CLOSED Office CLOSED NO Bible Study *5:30pm GS Troop 87* NO Bell Choir	**14**	**15** Noon Ladies Lunch 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**16** *8pm AA*	**17**	**18** 8am Fall Flea Market
19 10am Worship (Hybrid) 11:30am "Wrap Your Crap" Bingo 4-6pm Tidewater Youth Group	**20** 9am Food Pantry 1pm Bible Study (Hybrid) *5:30pm GS Troop 87* 7pm Bell Choir	**21**	**22** 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**23** *8pm AA*	**24**	**25**
26 **Reformation Sunday** **WEAR RED!** 10am Worship (Hybrid) 1-5pm Trunk or Treat @ HCLC	**27** 9am Food Pantry NO Bible Study (Hybrid) *5:30pm GS Troop 87* 7pm Bell Choir	**28** *6:30pm American Sewing Guild*	**29**	***30*** *8pm AA*	**31** **REFORMATION DAY**	