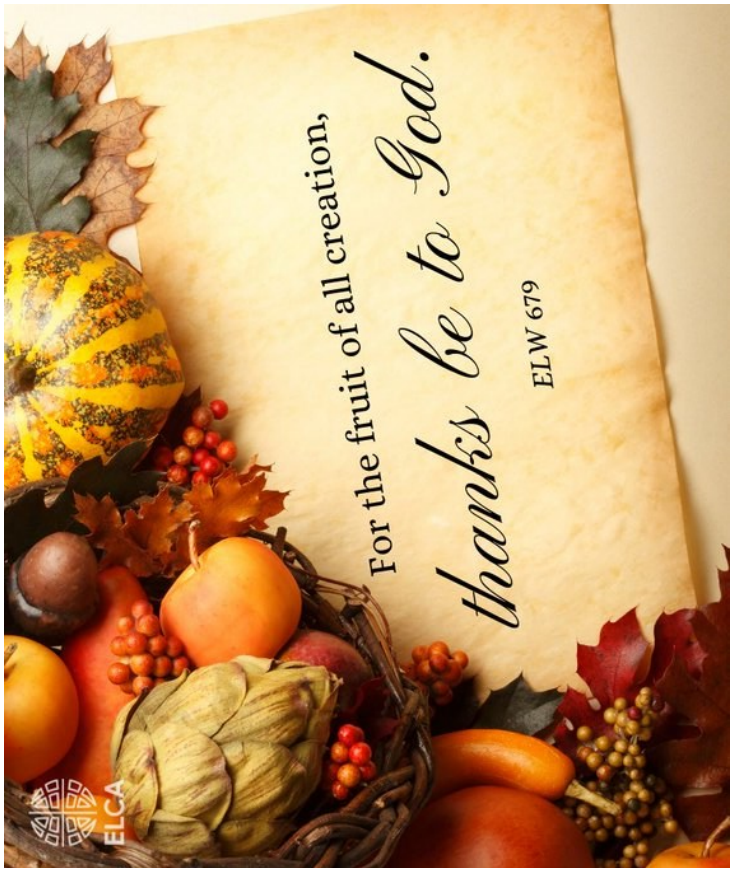
"Grace Greetings"
November 2025



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.

November 2025 "Grace Greetings"

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

Resources for Veterans Day

Military service is marked by self-denial, sacrifice, and service, each of which are attributes of a Christian vocation in the world. Without needing to address the wisdom of any particular military engagement or to mimic civic ceremonies, congregations can speak words of blessing to those who relinquished personal freedom, made countless sacrifices, and willingly put themselves in service to neighbor and nation in the armed forces. Honoring these vocational attributes allows veterans who may question the value of their service, or the wars in which they fought, to reframe their service as a vocation in which Christian faith was active.

A Veteran's Prayer
Sovereign God, by your Holy Spirit you call people to many and diverse walks of life. I/we give you thanks for my/our time of service in the Armed Forces (or name the branch of service), for the good I was/we were able to do, for the friendships I/we formed, and for the lessons I/we learned. Heal the wounds of my/our service, and strengthen me/us to serve you, until that day when your trumpet sounds calling me/us to our heavenly home. Through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord I/we pray. Amen.

A Blessing for Veterans
For everything there is a season.
A time for war and a time for peace.
A time for every activity under heaven.
For a season of life you gave up freedom to become a servant.
For a season of life you put the lives of others before your own.
For a season of life you sacrificed for the sake of others.
Your season of military service is complete, yet your life in Christ knows no end.
In baptism Christ claimed you as his own and grafted you into his servant body.
The burdens you carried in military service, and those you carry now,
are not far from Christ but are taken by our Savior to the cross.
They are swallowed up in his death, and you are raised with Christ to resurrection life.

We give thanks to God for your season of service and for your life in Christ among us today.

May the One who gave you the will to deny yourself, sacrifice, and serve,
bless you with faith, hope, and love all your days,
in the name of the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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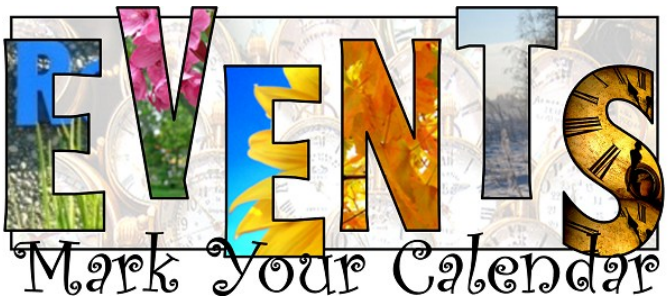


Nov 1	9am	Red Cross Blood Drive
Nov 2		**All Saints Sunday**
	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
	4-6pm	Messy Church @ HCLC
Nov 3	9am	Food Pantry
	1pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Nov 5	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Nov 8	8am	Men's Group
Nov 9	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
	11:30am	Craft Group
	Noon	Council Meeting (Hybrid)
Nov 10	9am	Food Pantry
	1pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Nov 11		**Veterans Day**
		Office CLOSED
Nov 12	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	CPR Training
Nov 16	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
	11:30am	Annual Meeting (Hybrid)
	4-6pm	Tidewater Youth Group
Nov 17	9am	Food Pantry
	1pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Nov 19	Noon	Ladies Lunch Out
	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Nov 21-23		VA Synod's Lost & Found
Nov 23	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
	11:30am	Hanging of the Greens
Nov 24	9am	Food Pantry
		NO Bible Study (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Nov 26		NO Potluck & Bible Study
Nov 27		**Thanksgiving**
Nov 29	3-8pm	Community Thanksgiving Feast @ HCLC
Nov 30	9am	Sunday School
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)

Sunday School

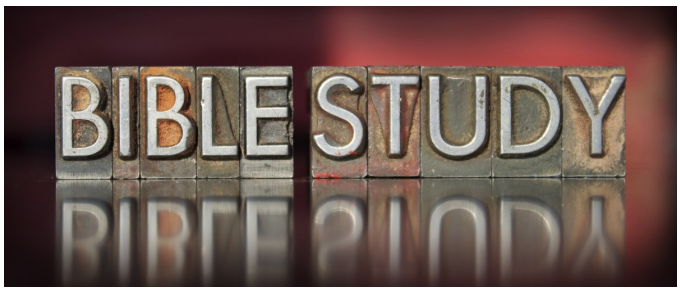
Resumes Sunday, September 14th at 9am

- 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 Nov 24)

- Join via your computer/smartphone/ tablet by clicking this link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87081895614?pwd=KrF2VVmWJh96XPelnoL6XarMIkD9Zy.1 (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 870 8189 5614 and Passcode: 940613.

Bell Choir Rehearsal
Mondays at 7pm
Let's worship, serve, and make a joyful noise together! For more information and to get involved, contact our Minister of Music, Morgan.

Potluck & Bible Study (Hybrid)
Wednesdays 6:30pm (Potluck) & 7pm (Study) (except Nov 26)

- Join via your computer/smartphone/ tablet by clicking this link https://us.02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?pwd=OHhzWUFlc0FlQit0MjN5c0lEclNtQT09 (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.

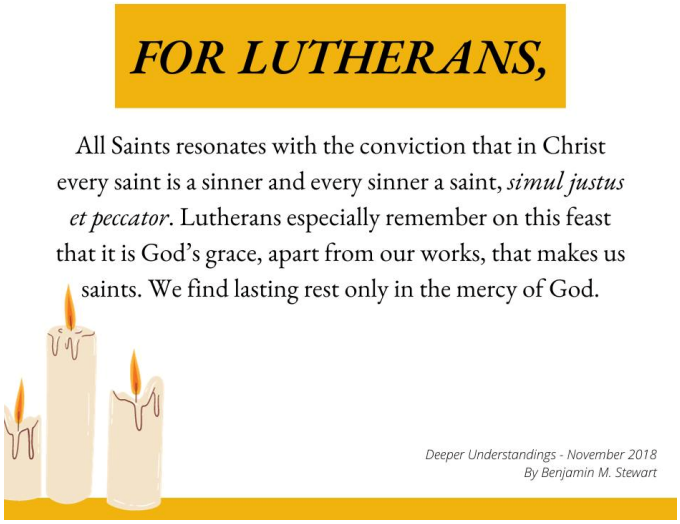
NOTE: On November 12, in place of Bible Study, we will host CPR Training led by the Chesapeake Fire Department.

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
Be sure to confirm the location before reserving your spot!

Daylight Savings Time Ends
Sunday, November 2nd at 2am
Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

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.



Messy Church
Sunday, November 2nd, 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.

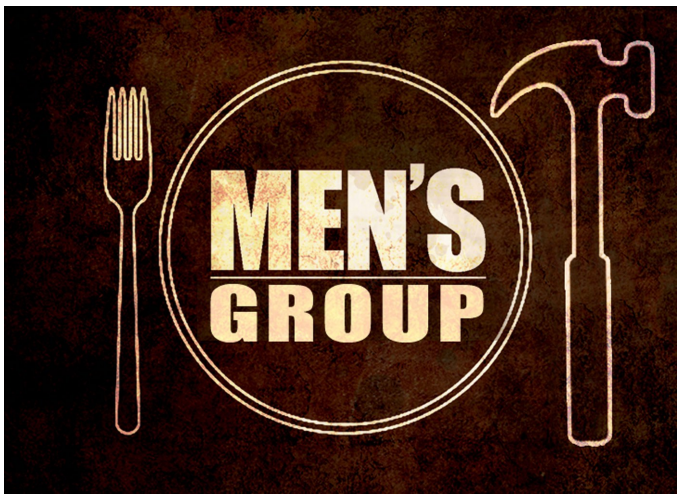
ELCAvotes

We are called to conversation and prayer around our role as U.S. residents and as people of faith in ensuring our election systems promote dignity and respect for all. We are called to act by speaking out as advocates and engaging in local efforts to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens.

ELCAvotes is an initiative:

- expanding the role of the church in encouraging faithful and nonpartisan voter participation by providing faith-based resources around voting
- providing a framework for all Lutherans to understand and speak out about the intersection of voting and elections and racial, gender and economic justice
- amplifying the voices of young-adult leaders in the church and providing a platform for young adults to explore what it means to be a civically engaged person of faith
- engaging with and equipping ethnic communities to talk about voting rights and race and their connection with elections today

Learn more at www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/elcavotes.



Men's Group
Saturday, November 8th at 8am
Join the men of GLC for potluck breakfast and work around the church.

Craft Group
Sunday, November 9th 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**

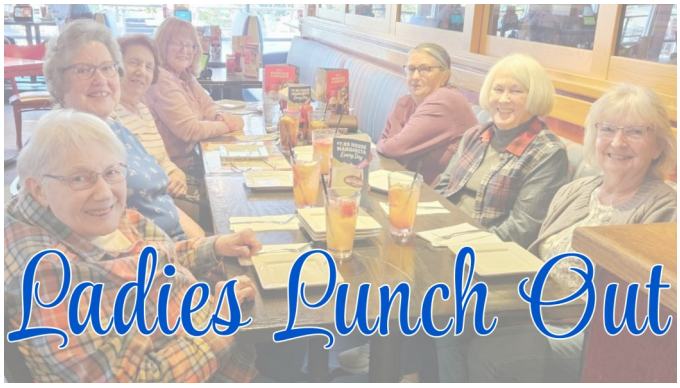
Council Meeting (Hybrid)
Sunday, November 9th after worship

- 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.

The Church Office will be CLOSED on Veterans' Day as we honor those who served.

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 16th after worship
All voting members are encouraged to attend. During this meeting, we will vote to accept the newly combined and updated Constitution and Bylaws, vote on awarding grants from the Endowment Fund, elect leaders for 2026, and vote on the 2026 Investment in Ministry Plan.
More information is available online at: www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org/CongmMtng.html

Tidewater Youth Group
Sunday, November 16th, 4-6pm
Location: Grace Lutheran (Chesapeake)
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.
Since we are hosting this month, we will need to provide dinner. Please let Pastor Leslie know if you are able to help prepare, set up, serve, and/or clean up.



Ladies Lunch Out
Wednesday, November 19th at Noon
at Wickers *(4201 Indian River Rd, 23325)*
Join the ladies of GLC for fellowship & food. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, November 16th.

Lost & Found
November 21-23, 2025
at Eagle Eyrie (Lynchburg)
Lost and Found is the VA Synod's annual faith-sharing retreat for 7th and 8th graders and their adult advisors. The early registration discount ends October 27, 2025. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Leslie ASAP.

Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, November 23rd after worship
Join us as prepare the sanctuary for Advent waiting and in anticipation of Christmas joy! Many hands make light work, and we can find a job for just about any ability and mobility level.
YES, we are doing things a little different this year. We are going to hang the greens with blue accents for the season of Advent, keeping the lights off until Christmas.

Thanksgiving CLOSURES

- Nov 24—NO Monday Bible Study
- Nov 26—NO Wednesday Bible Study
- Nov 27—Office CLOSED

Community Thanksgiving Feast
Saturday, November 29th, 3-8pm
At Holy Communion Lutheran (Portsmouth)
We are using a $1000 grant that we got from the Stewardship for Life Institute and partnering with Cruisin' to Help the Homeless to host a Community Thanksgiving Feast. If you are able to cook, set up, help serve, and/or clean up, please contact Natalie Rowland.

Toys for Tots Collection
through Sunday, November 30th
New, unwrapped toys may be placed in the collection box in the Narthex. Please include batteries if needed.

Holiday Food Baskets
Grace's Food Pantry will be distributing Holiday Food Baskets at Thanksgiving and the first part of December. We will provide a turkey, several other food items for the meal and for future meals.
If you would like to contribute to the Holiday Food Baskets below are a list of suggested items:

- Stuffing
- Can of corn
- Can of green beans
- Brownie mix
- Bisquick
- Gravy
- Breakfast cereal
- Can of Yams
- Cans of soup
- Mac-n-Cheese
- Instant potatoes

Any food items are appreciated.
Please NO Glass jars.
We will be collecting these items during November and first part of December. Please place items in the grocery cart in the Narthex. Any questions, contact Rodney Haberkorn.

Winter Celebration
January 23-25, 2026
at Eagle Eyrie (Lynchburg)
Winter Celebration is our annual weekend faith sharing retreat for youth in 9th through 12th grade and their adult advisors. The early registration discount ends December 15. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Leslie ASAP.

Grace Lutheran Day School
"A Tradition in Creating Bright Futures"

From the Grace Lutheran Day School Board
The Grace Lutheran Day School Board has begun the official process of closing the preschool corporation. The Board has met with an attorney and filed Articles of Dissolution with the State Corporation Commission. There are many additional steps necessary to finalize the details, but we are on our way. We appreciate your continued prayers as we navigate this unfamiliar territory.

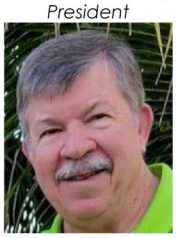
Sandra Fraenkel
GLDS Board President

2025 Congregational Council

Rebecca Headings
President

Brandon Breitsprecher
Vice President

Beth Woodard
Secretary

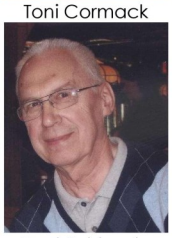

Bryan Black

Tom Casey

Toni Cormack

David Cooper

Faith Longsworth


Fred Schleede

From the Council
The fall season is upon us, and just as the seasons change, so do things here at Grace. The Council has continued to stay in communication with Tiger Solar and Dominion Power regarding the installation of solar panels. The process has been slow and sometimes challenging, but we are confident that the rewards will be well worth the wait. We hope to be able to announce an installation date soon!
I also want to encourage everyone to attend our **Annual Congregation Meeting on November 16th after worship (~11:30am)**, either on site or on Zoom. During this meeting, we will vote to accept the newly combined and updated Constitution and Bylaws, vote on awarding grants from the Endowment Fund, elect leaders for 2026, and vote on the 2026 Investment in Ministry Plan.
If current trends continue, our Financial Secretary, Rich Fraenkel, says we can expect $182,000 in regular General Fund giving in 2026. The current draft 2026 Investment in Ministry Plan shows General Fund expenses totaling just over $221,000.

This represents a 2% increase over last year as the costs of continuing our ministry in its current form continue to rise. If you take into consideration the partnership contributions from Holy Communion (Portsmouth), we are anticipating a remaining shortfall of approximately $15,000. Therefore, I ask that you prayerfully consider increasing your financial giving to Grace Lutheran. If each household increases their donation by just **$6 per week**, we will be well on our way to fully funding our proposed ministry for 2026.
Please take the time to review the meeting documents and feel free to reach out to any member of the Council with questions beforehand.
All documents are available online at www.gracelutheranchesapeake.org/congmtng.html; if you prefer paper copies of anything, please let Pastor Leslie know. Your engagement and support make a real difference in the life and ministry of our church.

Rebecca Headings
Council President

School Kit Packing (September 7th)

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

In **September 2025**, Grace Lutheran received $19,063.64 in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Support Pastor Leslie in traveling to Arlington, VA for Walt Anderson's interment at Arlington National Cemetery
- Pack school kits for Lutheran World Relief on "God's work. Our hands." Sunday
- Host the clergy of the Tidewater Conference for their monthly meeting
- Kick off a new year of Sunday School
- Welcome Seminarian Kate as she begins her ministerial fieldwork at Grace
- Gather for a Fellowship Hour in honor of 3rd Quarter birthdays and anniversaries
- Support Pastor Leslie in attended the annual VA Synod's Gathering of the Ministerium

(to name just a few) with $14,740.89 of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

Year to date (through September 30th), we have received $200,187.08 for the General Fund and have had $169.681.23 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance of the General Fund (as of September 30th) is $91,714.42.

Fellowship Hour (September 21st)

Nov 1	Rachel Lizan
Nov 5	Lydia Bennett
Nov 5	Felicity Miller
Nov 7	Gwen Scherman
Nov 10	Jack Justice
Nov 14	Mia Cormack
Nov 16	Kevin Latham
Nov 18	Cathy Kayser
Nov 20	Sandra Fraenkel
Nov 22	Scott Curles
Nov 23	Kathie Rokitski
Nov 26	Molly Joy Miller
Nov 28	Betty Keefer

Nov 10	Doug & Natalie Miller
Nov 13	Mark & Beth Woodard
Nov 17	Mike & Kim Moody
Nov 30	Ed & La Quita Opperman

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

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
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
Madison Garriott
Cindy Garwood
Walt Garwood
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
Mary Peterson
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.

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9am Blood Drive
2 **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** 9am Sunday School 10am Worship (Hybrid) 4-6pm Messy Church @ HCLC	**3** 9am Food Pantry 1pm Bible Study (Hybrid) *5:30pm GS Troop 87* 7pm Bell Choir	**4**	**5** 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**6** *8pm AA*	**7**	**8** 8am Men's Group
9 9am Sunday School 10am Worship (Hybrid) 11:30am Craft Group Noon Council (Hybrid)	**10** 9am Food Pantry 1pm Bible Study (Hybrid) *5:30pm GS Troop 87* 7pm Bell Choir	**11** **VETERANS DAY** **Office CLOSED**	**12** 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**13** *8pm AA*	**14**	**15**
16 9am Sunday School 10am Worship (Hybrid) 11:30am Annual Meeting (Hybrid) 4-6pm Tidewater Youth Group	**17** 9am Food Pantry 1pm Bible Study (Hybrid) *5:30pm GS Troop 87* 7pm Bell Choir	**18**	**19** Noon Ladies Lunch 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**20** *8pm AA*	**21** **Lost & Found** →	**22**
23 9am Sunday School 10am Worship (Hybrid) 11:30am Hanging of the Greens	**24** 9am Food Pantry NO Bible Study *5:30pm GS Troop 87* 7pm Bell Choir	**25** *6:30pm American Sewing Guild*	**26** NO Potluck/Bible Study	**27** **THANKSGIVING** **Office CLOSED** *8pm AA*	**28**	**29** **3-8pm Community Thanksgiving Feast @ HCLC**
30 9am Sunday School 10am Worship (Hybrid)						