"Grace Greetings"
May 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 Lutheran Church

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

May 2025 "Grace Greetings"

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

Easter is a way of life

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Each year, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on a day—Easter Sunday.

But we also celebrate until Pentecost (the fiftieth day after Easter Sunday)—the Easter season.

But really each Sunday, even outside of the Easter season, we celebrate a little Easter during worship—hearing again the good news that Jesus died and was raised so that we too may have eternal life. That is why we call the Sundays during Lent Sunday IN Lent instead of Sunday OF Lent. It is also why Lent is actually longer than 40 days—it is 40 days plus Sundays.

But Easter is more than a day.
Easter is more than a season.
Easter is more than a weekly celebration.
Easter is a way of life!

As disciples of Christ, we are called to follow Jesus, to walk in his ways, to strive to live like him. We are called to live in light of the resurrection. We are invited to live in response to the grace of God.

If we hear the teachings of Jesus, the stories of his life, the resurrection news and our lives are not changed—we are not changed, then I wonder if we have really heard and understood. Thankfully, we don't have to fully understand in order to be loved by God or to do God's work (just look at the disciples), but engaging in faith formation—Bible Study, daily devotions, service learning, hard conversations, etc. can help us to grow as disciples. And as that happens, we are more able to experience and appreciate the eternal abundant life that Jesus won for us, and through us, others are able to as well.

So when I say "Alleluia! Christ is risen!," I am not just trying to get you to respond "**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**" right in the moment, but I am inviting you into Easter as a way of life.

God Bless You this Easter and always,
Pastor Leslie Weber
she/her/hers

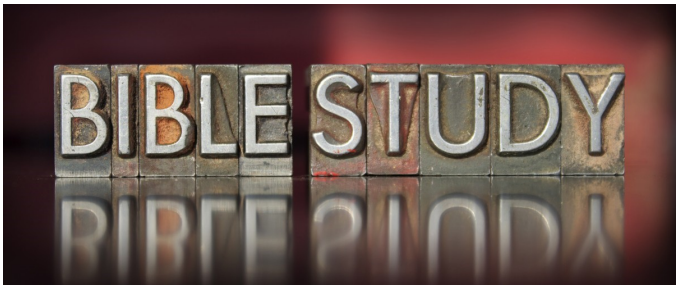
May 3	8am	Spring Flea Market
May 4	9am	Sunday School (Hybrid)
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
	11:30am	"Wrap Your Crap" Bingo
May 5	9am	Food Pantry
	1pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
	4pm	Preschool Board (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
May 6	7pm	Council (Zoom)
May 7	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
May 10	9am	Red Cross Blood Drive
May 11	9am	Sunday School (Hybrid)
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
May 12	9am	Food Pantry
	1pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
May 14	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
May 18	9am	Sunday School (Hybrid)
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
	11:30am	Craft Group
	4pm	Tidewater Youth Group
May 19	9am	Food Pantry
	1pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
May 21	Noon	Ladies Lunch Out
May 25	9am	Sunday School (Hybrid)
	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
May 26		**Memorial Day**
		Food Pantry CLOSED
		NO Bible Study
		NO Bell Choir Rehearsal
May 28	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
May 30	6pm	Youth Gaming Lock-in at First Lutheran (Norfolk)

Sunday School
Sundays at 9am

- The **Elementary School Class** will be led by Pastor Leslie Weber and 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

- Join via your computer/smartphone/

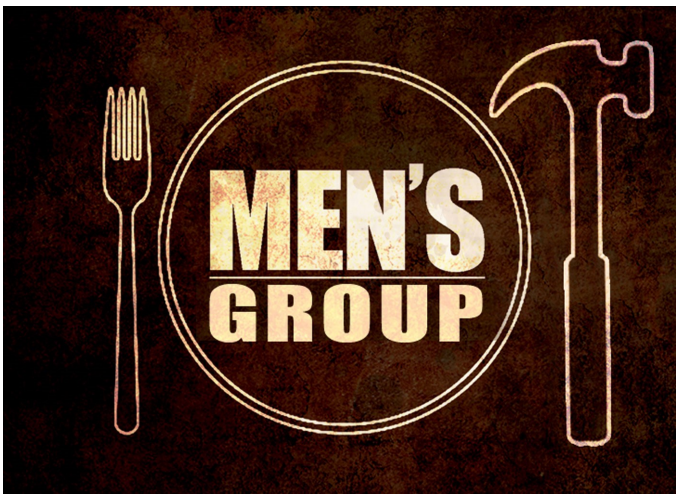
tablet by clicking this link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87081895614?pwd=KrF2VVmWJh96XPeInoL6XarMIkD9Zy.1 (Passcode: Grace).

- Join via phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 870 8189 5614 and Passcode: 940613.

Bell Choir Rehearsal
Mondays at 7pm
If you are interested in getting involved, please talk to 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=OHhzWUFlc0FlQit0MjN5c0lEclNtQT09 (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.



Men's Group
There will be no Men's Group in May, instead signup to volunteer for the Spring Flea Market on Saturday, May 3rd: https://tinyurl.com/yrfvyr7t

Spring Flea Market
Saturday, May 3, 8am-2pm
All proceeds will benefit Grace's Food Pantry. Below are all the ways to get involved:

- Sign up for a vendor space: https://tinyurl.com/25SpringFleaMarket
- Sign up to volunteer: https://tinyurl.com/yrfvyr7t
- Donate items for the White Elephant table. Items can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact Gretchen Stoll or Millie Burns for more information.

"Wrap Your Crap" Bingo
Sunday, May 4th 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.

Grace Preschool
"A Tradition in Creating Bright Futures"

Board Meeting

Preschool Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Monday, May 5th at 4pm

- Join via your computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89176555780?pwd=jxghr0xFoFe1dOsSnmHz1wX0BK97JE.1 (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 891 7655 5780 and Passcode: 148367.

Grace happens

Council Meeting

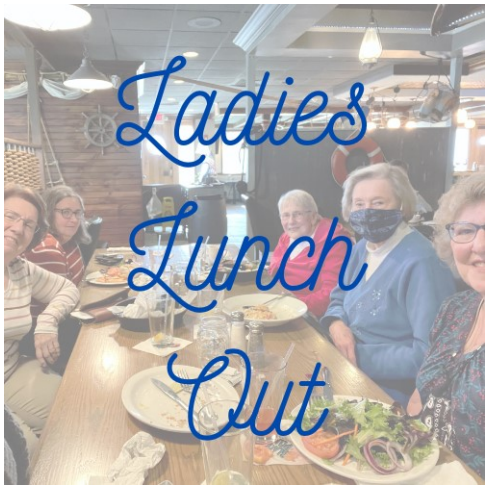
Council Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, May 6th at 7pm

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by following this link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87468766112?pwd=Z3VnL2RyVkRKdXhXRFFWT2E0ZIcrZz09 (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 874 6876 6112 and Passcode: 740742.

Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, May 10, 9am-1pm
Book your donation appointment online at https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Gracelutheran

Craft Group
Sunday, May 18th 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.

Tidewater Conference Youth Group
Sunday, May 18th, 4-6pm
at Grace Lutheran Church (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 sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, May 11th.
Since we are hosting this month, we will need to provide dinner for the group of hungry teenagers. If you are willing to help provide and/or serve dinner, please let Pastor Leslie know.



Ladies Lunch Out
Wednesday, May 21st at Noon
at Outback Steakhouse
(1255 Fordham Dr, Virginia Beach)
Join the ladies of GLC for fellowship & food. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, May 18th.

Youth Gaming Lock-in
Friday, May 30th at 6pm
First Lutheran Church (Norfolk)
First Lutheran (Norfolk) is inviting all middle school & high school youth in the Tidewater Conference to their annual gaming lock-in on Friday, May 30th. This is a just-for-fun event with computer games, board games, traditional lock-in games, tons of junk food, movies, etc. The lock-in will start at 6pm on Friday and will conclude at 9am on Saturday. If you're interested in attending, contact Pastor Leslie by May 28th.

Lawn Care Volunteers Needed

We need your help to care for the lawn at church! Our new tractor has a hydrostatic transmission and can be operated by anyone who can drive a car. Please sign up to help with lawn care by clicking the link: https://tinyurl.com/LawnCare2025. If you have further questions, please contact Fred Schleede.

Thank you Threaders!

The current form of the Threaders ministry is coming to an end. Peggy Barry & Jane Jennings are hanging up their needles and thread. We give thanks for their ministry and the threaders who came before them. In worship on Sunday, April 27th, we blessed the last few walkers bags they have made before distributing them out in the community. Thank you Peggy, Jane, Ruthie, and all who contributed to the ministries of the Threaders group!

We will continue to make and distribute prayer shawls as needed. If you are a knitter or crocheter and would like to get involved, please talk to Pastor Leslie.

2025 Congregational Council

David Cooper
President

Brandon Breitsprecher
Vice President

Beth Woodard
Secretary

Tom Casey

Toni Cormack

Rebecca Headings

Faith Longsworth

Fred Schleede

Updates from Council

Greetings from the church council! We are fully in spring, pollen and all. With that comes yard work and spring flea market. If you would like to help with mowing and general landscaping then please contact Fred and sign up online. The Spring Flea Market will be held on May 3rd and will be coordinated by Gretchen and Millie. If you would like to volunteer to help out please reach out to them or sign up in the Narthex or online. We had the Unconscious Bias training on April 13th after service where we discussed where our biases come from and how we can be aware of them and challenge them. If you haven't had a chance to look at the Facebook page or the new Instagram page please take a gander! Savanna has been doing a fantastic job with changing and updating our social presence online. The council still has a vacancy that should be filled. If you

feel so called to help lead the church please consider reaching out to myself or Pastor Leslie. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to myself or any other council member.

Peace,
David Cooper
2025 Council President

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

In **March 2025**, Grace Lutheran received $21,526.40 in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Gather for a Pancake Brunch ahead of Lent.
- Buy a new lawnmower.
- Gather for worship on Ash Wednesday.
- Gather for Soup Supper & Holden Evening Prayer on the Wednesdays of Lent.
- Support Pastor Leslie in attending the VA Synod's EPIC (Effective Practices for Innovative Congregations) Workshop.
- Gather for a Congregational Values Workshop.
- Gather with youth from around the Tidewater Conference for an evening of fun and fellowship.
- Decorate cards and put together care packages for local first responders.

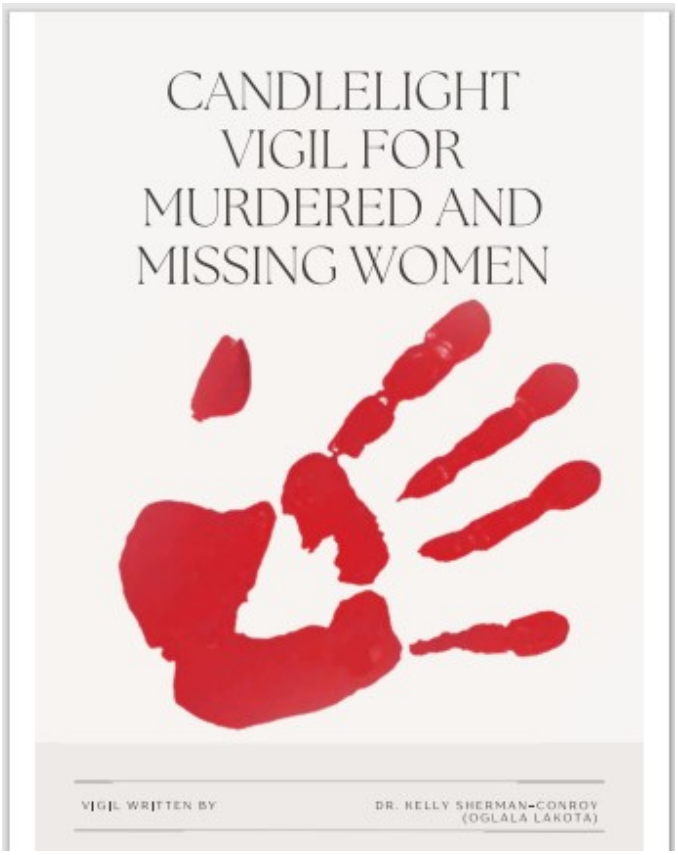
(to name just a few) with $25,045.67 of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

Year to date (through March 31st), we have received $67,183.91 for the General Fund and have had $63,007.25 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance of the General Fund (as of March 31st) is $69,394.57.

Views of Grace from March 2025

Advocacy Resources

The Virginia Synod Office of the Bishop is committed to sharing advocacy resources from ELCA Churchwide and our mission partners. To that end, the communications staff has developed an Advocacy Resource hub on the Virginia Synod website, which will be updated regularly: https://vasynod.org/advocacy-resources/



Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Day Vigil with Women of the ELCA

May 5 at 7pm

Online Zoom Webinar

In honor of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Day, Monday, May 5, join leaders, staff and more as we pray together, "Candlelight Vigil for Murdered and Missing Women," written by Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy. Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_t7yhXckDSeC2fUiynlKukQ

LGBT Q&A: Moderated Panel Event

Monday, May 5 & 12

The LGBTQIA+ Tapestry Thread has announced its 2025 event will be a special two-week question and answer panel. Each of the evenings will include prayer, moderated panel question and answer, and small group processing time.

Registration for the event will close on April 30. You do not need to submit a question in order to attend the event. For more information, to submit questions, and to register for the panel https://vasynod.org/event/tapestry-panel-lgbt-qa/

Kairos

June 22-27, 2025

at Roanoke College, Salem, VA

Kairos is an event where high school youth (rising 9-12 graders) gather together for lots of singing and skits and fun and friend-

making and prayers, then participants gather in small groups that meet throughout the week. Find more information at: https://vasynod.org/event/kairos/. If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor Leslie.

Draft social message on child protection
Public Comment Period closes June 30th
Jesus' call of welcome in Matthew 19:13-14 points to the church's responsibilities toward children. Yet too many children today experience not welcome and safety but traumatic abuse and neglect. The ELCA's draft social message on child protection addresses this crisis and outlines the church's sacred responsibility to protect and nurture children. To strengthen this draft, we need your feedback. Share your comments and suggestions during the public comment period, from March 21 through June 30. Read the draft and complete an online survey at https://give.elca.org/s/3416533/gWSDz22r.

VA Synod Power in the Spirit
July 17-19, 2025
at Roanoke College, Salem, VA
When we are tired or weary and feel like fainting, God promises to revise us and to raise us up – with strength like that of an eagle's wings. This hope in God is sure and true because "The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth – who doesn't grow tired or weary." (Isaiah 40.28) All of creation – the waters of the earth, the night sky filled with stars, the dust of the earth, the mountains and hills – all creation reflects God's glory (Isaiah 40.12, 26). In God's great love and compassion for humanity, God gathers us all in loving arms, lifting us up onto God's lap (Isaiah 40.11). Who can compare with God!?!
In Isaiah 40, the prophet Isaiah shares a word of hope and promise with God's people who are living in exile. They were strangers in a strange land, perhaps forgetting the steadfast promises of God to be their God – always! Like God's people of old, we too sometimes forget God's abiding promise to be with us in Christ Jesus – always! God is our hope – always!
https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/

Women of the ELCA

VA Synod Women's Convention
July 25-26, 2025
Christ Lutheran in Fredericksburg, VA
Save the date! More information and registration will be posted soon.

At The Water's Edge
July 27-August 1, 2025
hosted at First Lutheran Norfolk
The Junior High Servant Event is a week-long servant camp for Youth who have just completed the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, and their adult advisors. Hosted at First Lutheran Church, Norfolk, we experience the Christian life together through worship, fellowship, fun, and service. For more information contact Pastor Leslie.

May 1	Traycie West
May 4	Caleb Weber
May 8	Teagan Cormack
May 8	Hadley Solomon
May 9	Randy Scanlon
May 14	Joyce Angeli
May 14	Kamari Bennett
May 15	Vickie Graif
May 15	Grant Jackson
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 *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

Ann Anderson
Elaine Babb
Suzanne Bergsten
Brandon Breitsprecher
Tom Casey
Doc Dougherty
The Howell Family
Marlene Hubert
Grantley Jackson
Leonora Jones
Jack Justice
Betty Keefer
Lori Kilian
Charlotte Maurer
Ray Miles
Kim Moody
The Moody Family
Mike Olson
La Quita Opperman
David Pritchard
Monique Schroeder
Rose Mary Sidam
The Stillman Family
Steve Urps
Thomas Washington
Mark Woodard
The Van Horn Family

We Pray for Our Friends

Katie Benisek
Kim Bentley
Austin Boone
Richard Bowell
Sarita Bowell
Laura Braugh
Jennifer Courtois
Mark Dyer
Madison Garriott
Walt Garwood
Angela Gavalas
Jenell Gordon
Lettie Groshel
Bryan Harrover
Jax Hockenberry
Ruby Hockenberry
Brian Hubert
Henry Kappes Jr
Murray Leffers Jr
Bill Manke
Bobby Masters
Maya Masters
Nano Masters
Nick Masters
Faye Miles
Kandi Nash
Stephan Pleli
Glen Popard
Kenneth Price
Tommy Reeck
Elliott Reed
Lisa Sanders
Kathy Sidam
Ron Simmons
Larry Smith
Norma Smith
Joe Stratton
Karen Stratton
Samantha Strother
Tim Theis
Richard Van Pelt

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.

May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 *8pm AA*	**2**	**3** 8am Spring Flea Market
4 9am Sunday School (Hybrid) 10am Worship (Hybrid) 11:30am "Wrap Your Crap" Bingo	**5** 9am Food Pantry 1pm Bible Study (Hybrid) 4pm Preschool Board Meeting *6pm GS Troop 87* 7pm Bell Choir	**6** 7pm Council (Zoom)	**7** 6:30pm Potluck 7:15pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**8** *8pm AA*	**9**	**10** NO Men's Group 9am Red Cross Blood Drive
11 9am Sunday School (Hybrid) 10am Worship (Hybrid)	**12** 9am Food Pantry 1pm Bible Study (Hybrid) *6pm GS Troop 87* 7pm Bell Choir	**13**	**14**	**15** *8pm AA*	**16**	**17**
18 9am Sunday School (Hybrid) 10am Worship (Hybrid) 11:30am Craft Group 4pm Youth Group	**19** 9am Food Pantry 1pm Bible Study (Hybrid) *6pm GS Troop 87* 7pm Bell Choir	**20**	**21** Noon Ladies Lunch 6pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**22** *8pm AA*	**23**	**24**
25 9am Sunday School (Hybrid) 10am Worship (Hybrid)	**26** **Memorial Day** Food Pantry CLOSED NO Bible Study *6pm GS Troop 87* NO Bell Choir	**27** *6:30pm American Sewing Guild*	**28** 6pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**29** *8pm AA*	**30** 6pm Youth Lock-in (First Lutheran Norfolk)	**31**