"Grace Greetings"
August 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

August 2025 "Grace Greetings"

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

The Johnson Amendment

On Monday, July 7th, the IRS filed a court document stating that it will allow houses of worship to endorse candidates for political office without losing their tax-exempt status. This is a departure from a provision in the tax code (known as the Johnson Amendment) which was first introduced in 1954.

However, as your Pastor, I do not intend to change my practice of being non-partisan in my preaching, teaching, and pastoring. I will continue to connect our faith to social and political issues that affect our lives as context warrants, and therefore be as political as Jesus was, but I will not tell you who (or even what party) to vote for or against. The major reason for this is because no political party is perfect in aligning their platforms and policies with Jesus's teachings. Like the rest of us, all candidate and elected officials are simultaneously saint and sinner. All we can do and all they can do is make their best reverent guess when it comes to God's will for our lives, communities, and country. Below are some resources from the ELCA that you might find helpful in doing just that. I invite your questions and further conversation on the Johnson Amendment in particular and the intersection of our faith and politics more broadly.

God Bless,
Pastor Leslie Weber

ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton's Response
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsF9YdotQSY

www.elca.org/faith/faith-and-society

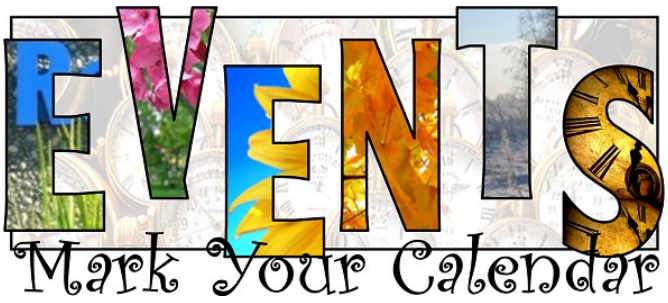
www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church

www.elca.org/civic-engagement

Policies and Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns
elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/Policies_and_Procedures.pdf]

Social Statement on Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective
www.elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-statements/church-in-society

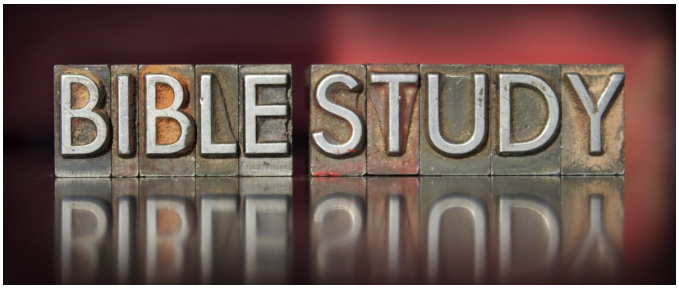
DRAFT Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith
to be considered at the 2025 Churchwide Assembly
www.elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/current-social-writing-projects/civic-life-and-faith



Aug 3	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
Aug 4	9am	Food Pantry
		Bible Study (Hybrid)
Aug 6	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Aug 9	8am	Men's Group
Aug 10	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
	4-6pm	Welcome to the Font @ HCLC
Aug 11	9am	Food Pantry
	1pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
	7pm	Finance Committee (Zoom)
Aug 12	7pm	Council Meeting (Zoom)
Aug 13	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Aug 16	9am	Red Cross Blood Drive
Aug 17	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
	11:30am	Ice Cream Social
Aug 18	9am	Food Pantry
		NO Bible Study
Aug 20	Noon	Ladies Lunch Out
	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Aug 24	10am	Worship (Hybrid)
Aug 25	9am	Food Pantry
	1pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Aug 27	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Aug 31	10am	Worship (Hybrid)

Sunday School is on hiatus for the summer

Hybrid Worship
Sundays at 10am
Join us on site or online. Zoom log-in information is available at www.gracelutheranchesapeake.org/news--upcoming-events.



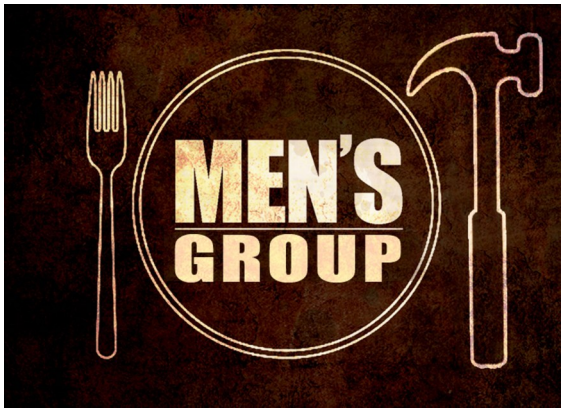
Monday Bible Study (Hybrid)
Mondays at 1pm (except Aug 18th)

- 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 is starting back up in September!
If you're interested in ringing, 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=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
Saturday, August 9th at 8am
Join the men of GLC for potluck breakfast and work around the church.

"God's Work. Our Hands." T-shirts
Orders due Sunday, August 10th
Sign up in the Narthex or contact Pastor Leslie by Sunday, August 10th. T-shirts are $15 each, and money will be collected upon delivery. "Grace Lutheran Church Chesapeake, VA" will be printed on the back (if we order at least 12 shirts). Sizes available: Youth S-L, and Adult S-5XL.

Welcome to the Font
Sunday, August 10th, 4-6pm
at Holy Communion Lutheran (Portsmouth)
Whether you are just curious about Baptism, preparing for Baptism, or have been baptized for decades...join us for this all-age learning experience about Baptism! Please sign up in the Narthex so that we can prepare supplies. Dinner will be served.

Grace
Finance Committee

Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Monday, Aug 11th at 7pm

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by following this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88324852262?

pwd=zfIWKuX0EkFIT518cRgaoXHz65bd7s.1 (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 883 2485 2262 and Passcode: 011991

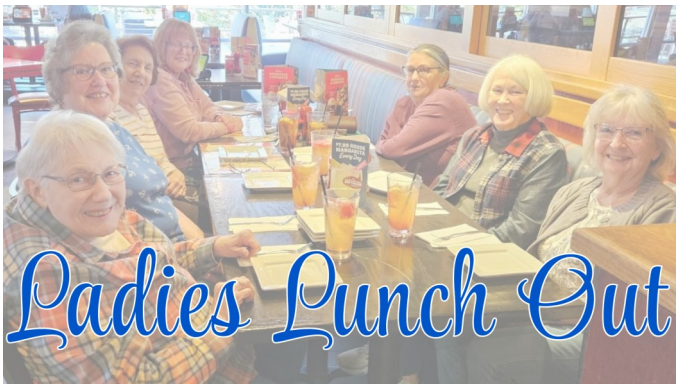
Grace happens **Council Meeting**

Council Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, August 12th at 7pm
- 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.

Craft Group is on hiatus for the summer.

Red Cross Blood Drive
Saturday, August 16th, 9am-1pm
Book your donation appointment online at https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Gracelutheran

Ice Cream Sundae Sunday
Sunday, August 17th, after worship
Everyone is invited to join us after worship for ice cream, a toppings bar, and fellowship!



Ladies Lunch Out
Wednesday, August 20th at Noon
at Rancho Grande Mexican Restaurant
(1320 S Military Hwy, Chesapeake)
Join the ladies of GLC for fellowship & food. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, August 17th.

School Supply Collection
through Sunday, August 24th
Throughout August, we will be collecting the following supplies for local schools:

- Backpack
- Pencil Box/Bag
- Hand-held Pencil Sharpener
- Crayons (at least 24 pack)
- Glue Stick
- Erasers (large/cap)
- Highlighters
- Scissors (rounded)
- # 2 Pencils (package)
- Dry Erase Marker
- 3-Prong Folders (with pockets)
- Composition Notebook
- Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Ruler (inches & centimeters)
- Red pens
- Index Cards with lines
- Loose Leaf Paper
- 2-in binder
- Dividers with tabs
- Sheet protectors
- Protractor

Please place all donations in the box in the Narthex by Sunday, August 24th. Thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity! If you have any questions, please contact Gretchen Stoll.

Grace Endowment Fund

2025 Endowment Fund Grant Applications
Due September 28, 2025

Members are encouraged to pass along the application to any organizations/ ministries whose work is in line with the purpose of Grace Lutheran's Endowment Fund. Applications and more information can be found at https://www.gracelutheranchesapeake.org/endowment-fund.html.

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.

Growing in Grace
Building Fund

Special Giving Campaign for Growing in Grace

By the end of the summer, there should be solar panels on the roof of the church! A Power Purchase Agreement will keep our upfront costs to a minimum, but we need to have some line work done in order to connect to the solar system to the grid (totaling about $3,000). If you would like to support the solar project with a financial gift, please designate your gift to the Growing in Grace Building Fund. *Any gifts over and above the initial costs of the solar project will stay in the Growing in Grace Building Fund for future projects.*

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

Dear Grace Family,

Hello from your new Church Council President! I'm truly honored and excited to begin this new journey in my faith and in service to our community.

As we look ahead, I'm eager to listen, learn, and grow alongside each of you. I welcome your thoughts, prayers, and ideas on how we can continue to strengthen Grace—both as a church and as a place where all can feel the love of Christ.

The Council continues to work on many projects to enhance our property. One major initiative is the installation of solar panels to help us "go green." While progress has been slow and steady, we are still awaiting a firm installation date.

You may have also heard Pastor Leslie's announcement last week about our media technology upgrades. With our growing media presence—reaching both remote members and our broader community—we've begun replacing and upgrading equipment to improve picture quality and address ongoing sound issues. These improvements will help us worship and connect more effectively, wherever we are.

We also continue to celebrate our outreach efforts:

- The food pantry served **908 individuals**.
- **Sentara** donated books to the book ministry.
- We collected essential items for the women at **Latisha's House**.

And as we prepare for the new school year, please keep an eye out for those great back-to-school sales! We're collecting supplies for students attending our neighboring **Chesapeake Public Primary & Intermediate Schools**, and your generosity makes a real difference.

Let's walk this path together with faith, openness, and joy.

In Christ,
Rebecca Headings
Council President

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

In **June 2025**, Grace Lutheran received $14,461.36 in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Gather for a quarterly Fellowship Hour
- Celebrate the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost
- Enjoy fellowship and food at the church picnic
- Support Pastor Leslie, Rich Fraenkel, and Bob Masters in attending the Virginia Synod Assembly as Grace's voting members
- Enjoy good food and fellowship during Ladies Lunch at Black Pelican Seafood Co.

(to name just a few) with $24,159.16 of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

Year to date (through June 30th), we have received $148,453.00 for the General Fund and have had $118,396.52 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance of the General Fund (as of June 30th) is $91,257.73.

Caroline Furnace
Camp & Retreat

https://www.carolinefurnace.org/

Summer 2025

"The word of God is near to you - on your lips and in your heart"
- Romans 10:8

GOD'S WORD COMES NEAR	Explorers Entering Grades 1-3	Voyagers Entering Grades 4-6	Pathfinders Entering Grades 7-9	Mountaineers Entering Grades 9-12	Leaders in Training Entering Grades 11-12	Other
June 15-20	Confirmation Camp					
Week One July 6 - 11	Explorers*	Voyagers Hydro Voyagers (+)	Pathfinders Hydro Pathfinders (+)	Mountaineers Hydro Mountaineers (+)	Part 1 (+)	Family Camp*
Week Two July 13-18	Explorers*	Culinary (+) Horse (+)	Pathfinders Elevation (+)	Mountaineers Elevation (+)	Part 1 (+)	Volunteer Work Week
Week Three July 20-25	Explorers*	Voyagers	Night Hammock	Night Hammock	Part 2 (+)	
Week Four July 27-Aug 1		Voyagers Hammock	Horse (+)	Horse (+)	Part 2 (+)	
2 Week Camp July 20 - Aug 1			High Adventure (+)	High Adventure (+)		
Week Five Aug 3 - 8	Explorers*	Horse (+) Acoustic	Pathfinders Acoustic	Mountaineers Acoustic	Part 2 (+)	Family Camp*

*Half week options available
(+) Extra fees apply

https://www.carolinefurnace.org/summer-camp-details

Fall Work Weekend

Join us in giving back to Caroline Furnace this fall! No cost to register and attend - but there is an option to Fund a Project during registration and we will request free will donations for meals throughout the weekend. Fall Work Weekend is hosted in the Cabin Village.

September 26-28, 2025 | No cost

https://www.carolinefurnace.org/retreats-and-events

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units.
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
- Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws.
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy.
- Worship together.
- Adopt a budget.
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

The first Council of Nicaea was convened 1,700 years ago, beginning the process of setting forth Christian convictions in what we know today as the Nicene Creed. The creed proclaims the life-giving truth of the triune God and our steadfast faith in Jesus Christ "for … the life of the world to come." These convictions continue to live and breathe among us in word and sacrament.

Early in her tenure, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton set forth her own convictions to guide the members of the ELCA in understanding our unique identity, and these convictions have become a recognized way of articulating who we are:

- We are church.
- We are Lutheran.
- We are church together.
- We are church for the sake of the world.

We are church for the sake of the world— for the abundant *life* promised by God and fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all creation.

We recognize the wisdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who said, "The church is the church only when it exists for others." Our constitution's "Statement of Purpose" boldly proclaims this commitment to be a people "called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world."

Rooted in the ancient creeds, we are called to live boldly in service to a world longing for healing, justice and hope. We will continue to faithfully pursue God's mission of reconciliation for the life of the world.

Learn more and check out the pre-events online:
www.elca.org/about/leadership/churchwide-assembly/2025-cwa-pre-events

2025-26 Virginia Synod Youth Events

LAUNCH

July 20-24, 2025

For **just graduated high school seniors,** held at Roanoke College.

Roanoke College Lutheran Visit Day

Sept. 27, 2025

For high school youth and parents to learn about our church's college and about discerning the Christian calling to higher education.

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!

carolinefurnace.org

hungrymother.org

Aug 15	Janice Black
Aug 15	Nancy Springsteen
Aug 17	Mark Woodard
Aug 21	DJ Solomon
Aug 21	Jennifer Cooper
Aug 23	Mo Moeller
Aug 30	Ann Anderson
Aug 31	Annette Fillmore

Aug 17	Mike & Tracy Ownby
Aug 23	Tara Moeller
Aug 24	Rich & Sandra Fraenkel

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
Faith Longsworth
Marlene Hubert
Grantley Jackson
Jane Jennings
Leonora Jones
Cathy Kayser
Betty Keefer
Dawn Kilian
Lori Kilian
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
Wyville Bryant
Darlene Carter
Preston Carter
Mark Dyer
Madison Garriott
Jenell Gordon
Bryan Harrover
Jax Hockenberry
Ruby Hockenberry
Brian Hubert
Henry Kappes Jr
Sue LaGrange
Murray Leffers Jr
Bill Manke
Maya Masters
Nick Masters
Faye Miles
Rita Molengraft
Kandi Nash
Earl Patterson
Stephan Pleli
Kenneth Price
Tommy Reeck
Lisa Sanders
Kathy Sidam
Ron Simmons
Larry Smith
Samantha Strother
Tim Theis
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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	**2**
3 10am Worship (Hybrid)	**4** 9am Food Pantry 1pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**5**	**6** 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**7** *8pm AA*	**8**	**9** 8am Men's Group
10 10am Worship (Hybrid) 4-6pm Welcome to the Font @ HCLC	**11** 9am Food Pantry 1pm Bible Study (Hybrid) 7pm Finance Committee (Zoom)	**12** 7pm Council (Zoom)	**13** 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**14** *8pm AA*	**15**	**16** 9am-1pm Blood Drive
17 10am Worship (Hybrid) After worship Ice Cream Social	**18** 9am Food Pantry NO Bible Study	**19**	**20** Noon Ladies Lunch 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	***21*** *8pm AA*	**22**	**23**
24 10am Worship (Hybrid)	**25** 9am Food Pantry 1pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**26** *6:30pm American Sewing Guild*	**27** 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	**28** *8pm AA*	**29**	**30**
31 10am Worship (Hybrid)						

August 2025