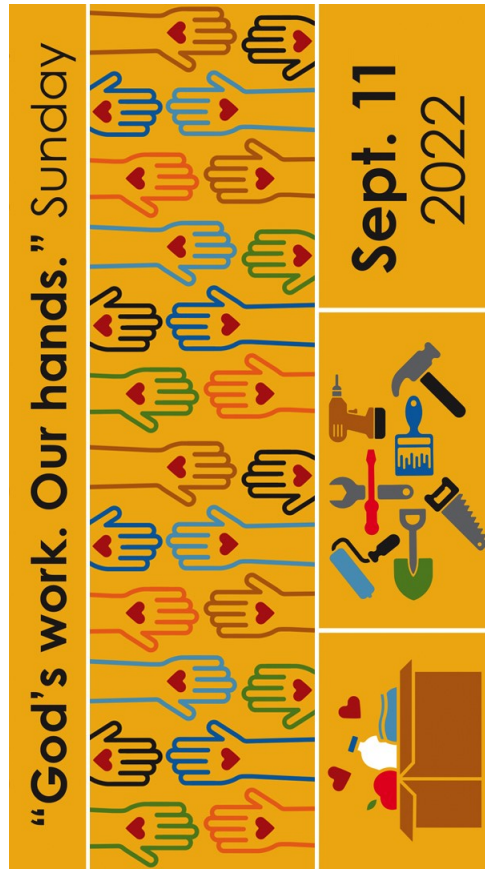


“Grace Greetings” September 2022



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.

September 2022 “Grace Greetings”

Mission Statement:

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

2022 Churchwide Assembly Highlights

The sixteenth Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA met August 8-12, 2022, worshipping together in services of Eucharist and lament, experiencing a liturgy rooted in Indigenous traditions, and hearing a public apology in a non-legislative session to Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina for harm experienced from actions taken by the Sierra Pacific Synod and this church. The following key actions were taken by the assembly:

- Elected Mr. Imran Siddiqui of the Southeastern Synod as vice president of the ELCA.
- Directed the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the statements of purpose for each expression of this church, the principles of organizational structure, and our shared commitment to dismantle racism, with findings to be reported to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention; and directed an external audit of the governing documents of this church to consider diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, with findings resulting in recommended changes to the governing documents.
- Authorized revisions to the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, and approved exploration of reconsideration of the four stated positions of “bound conscience.”
- Encouraged members, congregations, and synods of this church to educate themselves about Indigenous peoples, calling on the churchwide organization to work with synods and Indigenous partners to identify sources of funding for ministries for Indigenous peoples, and encouraging restorative justice that could include return of land to the appropriate Native nations.
- Referred a proposed study of pay gaps for rostered ministers to the Church Council.
- Mandated a review process of the roster manual and policies related to specialized ministries, On Leave from Call status, and protocols for removal from the rosters, and encouraged bishops and synod councils to use sparingly the process of removal from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons.
- Approved the budget proposal for the triennium, including a spending authorization of \$68,814,000 for 2023 for the current fund, along with a spending authorization of \$22,930,000 for ELCA World Hunger.
- Affirmed limits on the use of non-disclosure agreements by the churchwide organization and urged synods, congregations, and other ministries to apply the same limits.
- Reaffirmed the commitment of this church to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, directing the churchwide organization to set a goal of reducing net greenhouse gas pollution 50% by 2030, with a long-range goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Called for a review of the nomination and elections processes used by synods and the churchwide organization.
- Responded to memorials, including among others those on diversity; nuclear weapons; voting rights and Washington, D.C., statehood; strategies for fortifying urban ministries; a Black migrant strategy; the right to boycott; gun violence; LGBTQIA+ welcome; substance abuse; Roe v. Wade; remembrance of Armenian, Assyrian and Greek genocide; parental and medical family leave; a process for pre-identification of nominees for the office of presiding bishop; revisions to the mission development process; consideration of communion practices related to remote worship; affirmation of the task force created by the Church Council to review the discipline process; and a social message on child abuse and protection.
- Approved or ratified amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*, most of which were related to general clarifications and updates; inclusive language; synod-authorized ministry; designation of advisory members by the Church Council; boards of the separately incorporated ministries; and election procedures for officers and the Churchwide Assembly.
- Elected members of the Church Council, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee, and boards of the Separately Incorporated Ministries [see “*First Common Ballot Results*”].

EVENTS

Mark your Calendar

Sep 4	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	10am	Traditional Worship
Sep 5		Labor Day
		Food Pantry CLOSED
		Office CLOSED
		NO Bible Study
Sep 6	10am	Threaders
Sep 7	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Sep 10	8am	Men's Group
	Noon	"Pumpkin" Weber Shower
Sep 11		"God's work. Our hands." Sunday
	9:45am	Combined Worship
		followed by service projects, lunch, and mortgage payoff celebration
Sep 12	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	5:30pm	Preschool Board (Hybrid)
	7pm	Bell Choir
Sep 13	10am	Threaders
	7pm	Council Meeting (Hybrid)
Sep 14	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Sep 18	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
Sep 19	9am	Food Pantry
		NO Bible Study
		NO Bell Choir
Sep 20	10am	Threaders
Sep 21	Noon	Ladies Lunch Out
	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
Sep 23-24		Tidewater Youth Lock-in
Sep 25	8:30am	Contemporary Worship
	9:45am	Sunday School
	11am	Traditional Worship
Sep 26	9am	Food Pantry
	1:30pm	Bible Study (Zoom)
	7pm	Bell Choir

Sep 27	10am	Threaders
Sep 28	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)

Hybrid WORSHIP

**NOTE: WORSHIP TIMES VARY
THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER**

September 4th

- * 8:30am—Contemporary Worship
- * 10am—Traditional Worship

September 11th

- * 9:45am—Combined Worship

September 18th & 25th

- * 8:30am—Contemporary Worship
- * 9:45am—Sunday School
- * 11am—Traditional Worship

Onsite

- Information about what to expect and risk-mitigation measures at www.gracelutheranchesaapeake.org/hybrid-worship.html.

On Zoom

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

- **Sign up to serve in worship:** <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MYFXiYDQXvVEsP8-K8yRgcsBbr9rAMrplIX9yiXSxR4/edit?usp=sharing>

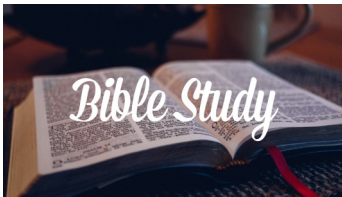
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School

Sunday School classes for all ages will begin on **Sunday, September 18th at 9:45am.**

- Birth-age 5 in the Nursery
- Elementary School in Classroom #1
- Middle & High School in the Youth Room
- Adults in the Fellowship Hall

Unfortunately, we will only be able to offer the Adult Class as a hybrid class (onsite and on Zoom). All other classes will be onsite only. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Leslie.



Monday Bible Study (on Zoom)

September 12 & 26 at 1:30pm

There will not be Bible Study on Sep 5 & 19.

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87547409467?pwd=MzI5TFdseFpYU1lpTS95czN4VWI4QT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via phone by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 875 4740 9467 and Passcode: 478408.



Bell Choir Rehearsal

Mondays at 7pm

There will not be Bell Choir on Sep 5 or 19.

If you have any questions, please email Morgan at Music@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org.



Threaders

Tuesdays at 10am

The Threaders meet on Tuesdays at 10am to make walker bags for people throughout our community. There are jobs for various skill levels: sewing machine operator, button sewer, iron operator, etc. Questions? Contact Jane Jennings or Peggy Barry.



Potluck & Bible Study (Hybrid)

Wednesdays

Potluck @ 6:30 & Study @ 7pm

- Join via your smartphone/tablet/ computer by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?pwd=OHhzWUFlc0FIQit0MjN5c0IEcInQtQ09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via your regular phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.

Outreach Planning Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, September 6th at 7pm

Join us to plan out monthly outreach projects for 2023.

- Join via your smartphone/tablet/ computer by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87250141633?pwd=ZUwwZndXVy85a255bWZKZ0dLMVBkUT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via your regular phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 872 5014 1633 and Passcode: 783264.

Council Meeting (Hybrid)

Tuesday, September 13th at 7pm

- Join via computer/smartphone/tablet by clicking 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.

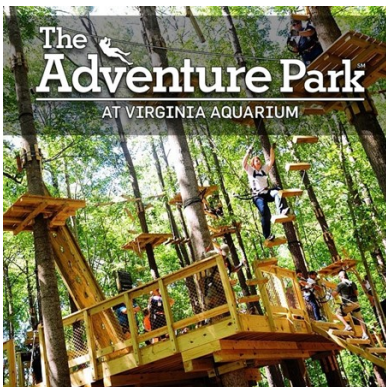


Ladies Lunch Out

**Wednesday, September 21st at Noon
at YNot Italian**

(1036 Volvo Parkway, Suite 7, 23320)

Join the ladies of GLC for fellowship & food. Please sign up in the Narthex by Noon on Monday, September 19th.



Tidewater Conference Youth Lock-in September 23-24

at St. Michael Lutheran Church (VB)
All 7-12th Graders are invited for a lock-in Friday night and then spend Saturday morning at the Adventure Park at Virginia Aquarium doing the high ropes course. Sign-up in the Narthex by Sunday, September 18th.



Seeds & Spiritual Sprouts Retreat

September 23-25

at Caroline Furnace or Online

How are we related to each other and the land itself?

Join us for a summer book study offering and a Hybrid Weekend Retreat (in person or virtually). This summer book study and fall retreat invites reflection and participation on the relationship between humans, other animals, trees, plants, and all earth elements through the indigenous principle "we are all related." We are excited to have in-person facilitator Nellie Adkins, a local friend, and educator who will share the history of our Virginia relatives, seeds, and our land.

This will be a weekend of spiritual reflection time, a Seder service, sharing of food made with ingredients from ancient seeds, and some local wine/cider tasting. On a national level, we will also connect virtually with Diane Wilson, award-winning author of the 2021 novel, *The Seed Keeper*.

Visit www.carolinefurnace.org/seeds-spiritual-sprouts-retreat for more information and to register.



Flea Market

Saturday, October 8th, 8am-2pm

- **Rent a space** for \$10. You will be assigned a 10'x10' space, which will be marked off on the ground. Register online <https://forms.gle/n11yLbtEFU5YffH38> or by calling the church office.
- There will be a **White Elephant table** for those who have items to get rid of but don't want to rent a spot. PLEASE NO CLOTHES. You can drop donations off at church starting Sunday, September 25th.
- We hope to also have our very successful **Hot Dog Stand**.
- **We need volunteers** to make this happen so please plan to give of your time the day of or before to have another successful Flea Market. Contact Marlene Hubert [757-547-8261 or mhubert541@verizon.net] for more information. Sign up online <https://tinyurl.com/FleaMarketVolunteers822>



Volunteers Needed

- **Lawn Care Volunteers Needed**
Please sign up to help with lawn care by clicking the link: <https://tinyurl.com/2022lawncare>.
Information about lawn care procedures can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/lawncareinstructions22>.

If you have further questions, please contact Fred Schleede at 512-944-3082.

- **Audit Committee**

We need 1-2 volunteers to help audit the past few years' financial records. If you are able to help, please contact Mike Olson or Pastor Leslie.

- **Sanctuary HVAC Taskforce**

We are forming a taskforce to address the needed HVAC overhaul and subsequent esthetic updates (paint, flooring, etc.) in the Sanctuary. If you are interested in helping, please contact Fred Schleede or Pastor Leslie.

- **Tech Host Hiring Taskforce**

We are forming a taskforce to work on hiring a paid Tech Host for Hybrid Worship. If you are interested in helping, please contact La Quita Opperman or Pastor Leslie.

Ways to Support Grace

There are many ways to support the ministries and mission of Grace with your time, talents, and treasures!

Check out this 3 part video series to learn about many of those ways:

- ◆ Part 1: Out of your pocket (<https://youtu.be/mLAoaHu0Uba>)
- ◆ Part 2: NOT out of your pocket (<https://youtu.be/9DQ8TGk7BIE>)
- ◆ Part 3: In-kind gifts & volunteer opportunities (<https://youtu.be/Wj2qpH-ggaA>)

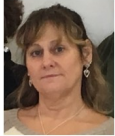


KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Prayer Shawls

If you or a loved one is going through a rough time—illness, injury, surgery, grief, etc.—and would benefit from a prayer shawl, please let Pastor Leslie know. We always have prayer shawls available for distribution.

2022 Congregational Council



La Quita Opperman
President



Bob Masters
Vice President



Mike Olson
Secretary



Walt Anderson



David Cooper



Faith Longworth



Jen Scherman



Fred Schleede

From the Council

The children are back in school and on September 18th we will go back to our regular Sunday schedule (Contemporary Worship at 8:30am, Sunday School at 9:45am, and Traditional Worship at 11am.) On Sunday, September 11, 2022, we will have a combined worship service at 9:45am followed by service projects and a potluck lunch. Don't forget to wear your yellow "God's work. Our hands." T-shirts. There is sign up for the potluck lunch in the Narthex. We will also celebrate paying off our mortgage! Thank you for supporting this endeavor.

Marlene Hubert is looking for 4 key people to help with the Fall Flea Market, scheduled for October 8, 2022. She would like a coordinator for 1) the vendors, 2) food, 3) advertising, and 4) the white elephant/church table. Many hands make light work. The next project that Council suggests completing is to replace the existing HVAC and ventilation system in the Sanctuary. We have found repairing our existing outdated units are costly. For 1 pound of refrigerant the cost is over \$800 and is becoming scarce. We have known for a while that the ducts in the floor of the Sanctuary need replacing. To change to an overhead ventilation system, we will need to purchase new HVAC units. If you are interested in serving on the task force for this project, please contact Fred Schleede.

We are also in search of 2 or 3 people to perform an audit of the church finances. We do have step by step guidelines set by

the VA Synod of how to do an audit. The only restriction is that you cannot be a signer for the checking account. Council asks that you prayerfully consider to be a part of this one-time audit. If you are interested, please contact me, Mike Olson, or Pastor Leslie.

We are currently working on hiring a Nursery Attendant and Tech Host. The Tech Host position will be included in the 2023 Mission Investment Plan. If you are interested in serving on the Tech Host Hiring Task Force, please contact Pastor Leslie or me.

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Congregational Meeting on November 6, 2022. We will have a combined worship service followed by the meeting.

The Volunteer Appreciation Lunch was a fun and fantastic time of fellowship. Thank you to Gretchen Stoll, Millie Burns, Faith Longworth, and Debbie Daugherty for the wonderful luncheon and gathering. You ladies helped to make it a very special day. Can't wait for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday to be in fellowship with everyone again.

God peace to all, stay safe and healthy.
La Quita Opperman
2022 Council President.

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch (Aug 14)





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

In **July 2022**, Grace Lutheran received **\$19,495.09** in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Continue to share our favorite hymns with the Sending Hymn Lotto
- Support Grace Preschool's Summer Camp program
- Send Pastor to Power in the Spirit and the VA Synod Celebration of Service
- Allow Jody (our office secretary) to take some vacation time
- Replace the office computer that died
- Work on hiring a new Nursery Attendant
- Start revamping the church website (to name just a few) with **\$19,621.19** of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

Year to date (through July 31st), we have received \$117,481.07 for the General Fund and have had \$138,871.14 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance (as of July 31st) is \$54,377.46.

Pathway to Payoff THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous response! At To date, we had received financial gifts totaling over \$7,000. A final check has been sent to Thrivent and we will celebrate paying off the mortgage on Sunday, September 11th.



From the Preschool

- Summer Camp is now complete.
- Teachers will report the last week of August to prep for the new school year.
- The new School Year starts September 6th.
- Regular hours are now 9am-2:30pm.
- Before and after school care will be offered if there is enough enrollment.
- Enrollment is open for all classes (2 year-olds, 3 year-olds, and 4 year-olds). For more information check out our new website [<https://graceps.org/>] or contact the office [757-420-4720 or Preschool@GraceLutheranChesapeake.org]



CREATION

The Grace Endowment Fund was created in 2004 with an initial \$60,000 principal which came from the sale of the parsonage in 2000.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the fund is "to strengthen and extend God's mission through the Lutheran church, reaching out in response to human need, by making grants and/or allocations of funds for promotion of Christian religion, Christian charity, and support of education for Christian life and service." Distributions cannot be used to cover normal operating expenses of the congregation, but can be used for special projects and capital improvements within the congregation.

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Annually, the Endowment Fund Committee receives applications for special projects within the congregation or from organizations outside of the congregation that align with the stated purpose of the fund. The Committee's award recommendations must be approved by the Congregational Council and the congregation at a properly convened meeting. The Endowment Fund Committee shall consist of five voting members (Pastor, Treasurer, Council VP, and two members elected from the congregation at the Annual Meeting to serve on a staggered basis for four-year terms). Currently Pastor Leslie Weber, Mo Morven, Bob Masters, Hugh (Doc) Dougherty, and Ed Opperman are serving as the Endowment Committee.

ANNUAL DISTRIBUTIONS

Annual distributions will not exceed 5% of the balance of the fund at the end of the previous year and should not exceed the total accrued interest at anytime. Annually, 10% of the total amount awarded should go to a ministry outside of the congregation.

Exceptions to the 5% limit can be made to meet an unforeseen emergency that is potentially devastating economically to the congregation. This requires an approval by the Congregational Council and two-thirds of the voting members at a properly convened meeting of the congregation.

GIFTS

Additional contributions to the fund principal can be made at any time. Contact the Council President or Pastor for more information on how to make such a gift.

2022 APPLICATION PROCESS

If you would like to nominate a local project/organization, please complete the application and turn it in by **Sunday, September 25th**. Applications are available at <http://www.gracelutheranchesapeake.org/endowment-fund.html>. The Committee will meet in early October to make a recommendation to Council, and the final vote will take place at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 6th.

PRAYER LIST

We Pray for Our Members

Walt Anderson	Sharon Justice
Elaine Babb	Barbara Kilian
Joe Babb	Lori Kilian
Suzanne Bergsten	Charlotte Maurer
Jan Howell	Monique Schroeder
Patricia Jackson	Rose Mary Sidam
Leonora Jones	Ted Van Horn
Jack Justice	

We Pray for Our Friends

Bill Babb	Jennifer Horton
Randy Bosecker	Brian Hubert
Richard Howell	Brandon Jones
Sarita Howell	Chris Jones
Laura Braugh	Rege Kuzel
Doris Carr	Murray Leffers Jr
Karen Carter	Andrew Lowe
Nathan Darulla	Katie Milliner
Randy Davis	Eugene Opperman
Sharon Dozier	Karen Opperman
Mark Dyer	Dasia Parham
Madison Garriott	Samantha Page
Cindy Garwood	Joshua Patton
Terry Gillette	Stephan Pleli
Jenell Gordon	Tommy Reeck
Lettie Groshel	Lisa Sanders
Rachel Hobson	Nick Sims
Donna Hockenberry	Pastor Deb Thompson
Kendra Hockenberry	Dianne Van Pelt
Ruby Hockenberry	Tyler

The Military & their Families
 Our Food Pantry Clients
 ELCA Missionaries
 All who mourn



Sept 1	Mike Moody
Sept 1	Pam Twiddy
Sept 2	Rebecca Headings
Sept 4	Pastor Leslie Weber
Sept 7	Debbie Jennings
Sept 7	Danica Pinkoski
Sept 7	Elaine Russell
Sept 7	Yvonne Shepherd
Sept 9	Annabelle Wolfe
Sept 11	Pat Jackson
Sept 17	Barbara Moran
Sept 17	Margaret Van Dyke
Sept 19	Shelley Simpkins
Sept 20	Pam Kohan
Sept 24	Ed Opperman
Sept 27	Roy Russell



Sept 13	Kris & Amy Peterson
Sept 20	Hugh & Debbie Dougherty
Sept 24	Steve & Nancy Springsteen
Sept 26	Terry & Yvonne Shepherd

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

In a effort to keep the prayer list up to date, please update Pastor Leslie monthly regarding your friends/family on the list.

PASTORAL CARE

Please contact Pastor Leslie if you are in need of a pastoral care, hospital, or Communion visit.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September 2022						
4 8:30am Worship 10am Worship	5 Labor Day NO Food Pantry Office CLOSED NO Bible Study NO Bell Choir	6 10am Threaders 7pm Outreach Planning Meeting (Zoom)	7 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	8 8pm AA	9	10 8am Men's Group Noon "Pumpkin" Weber Baby Shower
11 "GWOH" Sunday 9:45am Combined Worship Service followed by service projects, lunch, and mortgage payoff celebration!	12 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 5:30pm Preschool Board (Hybrid) 7pm Bell Choir	13 10am Threaders 7pm Council (Hybrid)	14 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	15 8pm AA	16	17 10am Girl Scouts
18 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	19 9am Food Pantry NO Bible Study NO Bell Choir	20 10am Threaders 7pm Good Mourning	21 Noon Ladies Lunch Out 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	22 8pm AA	23	24 Lock-in Tidewater Youth
25 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship	26 9am Food Pantry 1:30pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7pm Bell Choir	27 10am Threaders 6:30pm American Sewing Guild	28 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	29 8pm AA	30	