



# Grace Notes

## April 2011 Newsletter of Grace and Glory Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship at 10:15 A.M.

Fluvanna County Middle School

on Route 15 by Carysbrook

Pastor Kenneth Albright

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### Dear Grace and Glory congregation:

I often wrestle with what to do about the mixing of holidays and holy days. In the church we follow a liturgical calendar, from Advent to Christmas, through Epiphany and Lent, to Holy week and Easter, through Pentecost, all culminating in Christ the King Sunday. We have our unique way of marking time and celebrating holy days in the course of a year.

National and cultural holidays have their place in the pattern of our lives too. From Valentine's Day to Veterans Day, we mark time and build in special traditions to recognize their value and promote their agenda. But then there are times when the two collide. This year, the day Earth Day, April 22, the day on which we mark our commitment to a more sustainable relationship with our planet, falls on "Good Friday", the day Christians mark in remembrance of Christ's death on the cross. Is there a connection to be made? Let's think about that.

While I do not wish to debate the political nature of the environmental movement in the United States, I do believe that we have a responsibility to care for earth and sea and sky, and, as it says in the creation story, "all the creeping things that creep upon the earth."

We as human beings are the chief stewards of all that God has created, and we bear responsibility to harness the earth's power to meet our needs in ways that honor

and sustain it in perpetuity. Certainly the earth groans under the effects of our disdain, negligence, and wasteful use of the earth's bounty. In Romans 8:22-23 Paul writes: "*We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.*"

Jesus' death and resurrection was not simply meant to reconcile people to God, but to reconcile all of God's creation. Our stressed and strained planet is part and parcel of our broken relationship with God and the people of the earth. Christ's death on the cross was God's gift in reconciling and restoring the earth and all who dwell upon it.

We see the grander scope of Christ's reconciling work in the whole cosmos in Colossians 1: 15-20: "*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself*

*all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.”*

Jesus Christ has reconciled all things in his death on the cross. In the blood of his cross, all things have come to peaceful harmony. Our task is to go forth and live out that reality, that vision, so that the kingdom of God may indeed be evident in our care and stewardship of the earth, and all its inhabitants. So, I think it is entirely appropriate as Christians that we celebrate Earth Day on “Good Friday” April 22....and every other day of the year.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Ken Albright*

### **Holy Week Schedule**

Palm/Passion Sunday April 17 10:15 AM  
Fluvanna Middle School

Maundy Thursday April 21 7:00 PM  
Cunningham Methodist

Good Friday April 22 7:00 PM  
Salem Methodist

Easter Day April 24 10:15 AM  
Fluvanna Middle School

### **Special Service of Healing April 3**

There will be opportunity at the worship service at 10:15 AM on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> for any who would like prayer for healing and/or anointing with oil to come forward. In addition, there will be opportunity for persons to pray a blessing over the prayer shawls made lovingly by members of Grace and Glory for persons going through difficult times in their lives. There will also be a poster where anyone can write a prayer concern so that others may join in prayer on that topic. We will hang this poster in our church office, so that in the coming weeks, as folks gather they can stop and pray over the concerns written on it.

*Submitted by Pastor Albright*

### **Leadership Team Meeting Summary**

The Leadership Team met March 14 and discussed the following:

Treasurer Carol Parsons reported that recent weeks have brought an unexpected bounty to Grace and Glory. We have received \$867 from Thrivent Choice and \$721 from the IRS instead of the \$600+ that we anticipated. Some of the cash in the Capital Campaign checking account will be moved into the Capital Campaign savings account where it will earn more interest. There was a shortfall in giving during February, which could present problems with certain payments that will be due soon; i.e., our synod contribution of at least \$2800 plus 10% of March contributions, and taxes due to the IRS.

The furnishings from Messiah Lutheran Church were moved from Virginia Beach by several men of our congregation and are now stored in Dick Graves' warehouse. The Interior Design Team will be going to the warehouse to view the items and make a decision about possible refinishing.

As a follow-up to the Small Group Training that the Leadership Team attended on March 12, the Team discussed how to implement a small group ministry. The feasibility of incorporating small group principles into every gathering was discussed at length, as well as the “home-based model” of creating new small groups. Some of our existing committees (e.g., Stewardship) already function as a small group. The issue of covenants for small groups was not addressed at the training, but is important for each small group.

President Frits Geurtsen will be contacting three congregational members to serve on the annual Audit Committee, as well as three members to serve on the Nominating Committee. He also presented a proposal to change Leadership Team terms. Terms would become two years instead of three, with this change being handled on a trial basis before a full-scale change of the Constitution. Under this proposal, there will be 11 positions, eliminating the vice president position and adding a youth member, and 5 positions would expire each year. The youth member would serve only a one-year term. The Nominating Committee will be instructed to use this format in searching for five candidates (Secretary, Administration, Evangelism, Parish Life and Care, and a youth representative) for this year's elections.

Soup ‘n’ Study chair Carol Parsons reported that once again three congregations will be participating during Lent (Salem Methodist, Cunningham Methodist, and us). Grace and Glory will be responsible for the meal on Wednesday March 16 and again on the third week. The meal consists of soup, bread, and water, coffee or tea, and the study will be of the Lord’s Prayer. Pastor Albright will lead the study on the weeks corresponding with our providing the meal.

A new sign will be placed on the church property, to replace the small sign that is there currently. The county will allow a sign that measures 12 square feet, and it will not have to be removed in 30 days. The Evangelism Committee will take care of obtaining any necessary permit and ordering the sign.

Diane Wolf has agreed to replace Carol Wade as chair of the hospitality committee, but no one has yet taken over the prayer shawl ministry. Some prayer shawls will be present at the healing service on April 3.

The rental truck for moving the furnishings from Virginia Beach cost \$460, of which \$318 has been received so far in donations to offset that cost.

The money raised by our youth who attended the 30-Hour Famine now totals \$2350 and will be matched 6 times by event sponsors!

*Submitted by Janet Rockafellow*

## **CHRISMON WORKSHOP**

There will be a Chrismon Workshop on Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at the Church office. Anyone is welcome, even beginners. If you have them, please bring a wire cutter and needle-nosed pliers. There will be a charge to repay Helen Post for ordering supplies. These Chrismons will decorate Christmas tree(s) in our Church building. Questions? Contact Janice Brown at 589-6358.

*Submitted by Janice Brown*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Offerings</b>
March 6	77	\$6,140
March 9, Ash Wednesday	46	\$269
March 13	75	\$2,557
March 20	89	\$2,400
March 27	78	\$2,548
Total Contributions to Date		\$13,914
<b>Monthly Needed Funds</b>		<b>\$14,295</b>

## **Great News from the VA Synod Council**

I am delighted to share with you that on March 26, 2011, the Virginia Synod Council voted unanimously to grant Grace and Glory Lutheran Church our request for a gift of \$175,000 to enable us to build a building which will equip us to fulfill our mission and serve faithfully in our community. In our grant request, we indicated that it will be our privilege to establish a mission fund at Grace and Glory, so that we might one day enable other congregations the same opportunity so generously afforded to us.

So, to ask a good Lutheran question, “What does this mean?” This means that we will be able to move ahead swiftly and with confidence in presenting a loan application and accompanying documents to the Mission Investment fund to secure a loan with an affordable mortgage. At some point in the near future, our Building Task Force Steering Committee will be calling for a “guaranteed not to exceed” price from our contractor based upon our 95% drawings. I will also re-assemble a groundbreaking Planning Team to begin developing plans for that important day.

I look forward to working alongside of you in what God is doing to make the vision of a worship center become a reality on our church property this year! Thanks be to God for the partnership of our synod, which has wholeheartedly affirmed the great work you all are doing to share the message of God’s grace.

In Christ the cornerstone,

*Pastor Albright*

## **Lenten Soup ‘N’ Study Continues in April**

Even if you’ve missed the others, join us for the last 2 sessions of the Lenten Soup ‘N’ Study along with the good people of Salem and Cunningham United Methodist Churches. The meal begins at 6:00 PM at Salem. A brief worship, presentation, and small group discussion on the meaning of the Lord’s Prayer and its impact on our life follow. Each session concludes by 7:30 PM, so you’ll be back home in time for American Idol! There is no charge for the meal, but we are receiving cash donations which go directly to FCSS and in-kind offerings for Hurley.

Dates/Topics:

Session Four: April 6

*“And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us”*

Session Five: April 13

*“Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil”*

*Submitted by Pastor Albright*

## President's Message

The Lord has blessed us in many unexpected ways in our efforts to build a church home here in Fluvanna County. Most often it has been in the form of monetary gifts that have come from surprising and unplanned sources.

Most recently we learned of a sister congregation, Messiah Lutheran in Virginia Beach, that was closing its doors after 30 years of faithful worship and service. Knowing of our situation, Jean Bozeman, one of the Assistants to our Bishop, alerted us to the fact that the furnishings of that church would be available. Members of our Interior Design Team traveled down to Virginia Beach to examine those furnishings and found numerous things that will of great use to us in our new facility. Things that we will not have to spend money on as we finally open the doors to our new home. Like a beautiful wood altar and lectern, a baptismal font, many chairs, bookcases and a desk, choir robes (which you have already seen our choir wearing), communion trays and cups, a Lutheran flag, etc., etc. Several men of the church then drove down to pick everything up and Dick Graves graciously made his warehouse available to store everything until our building is ready for them.



As we were loading up the truck, I couldn't help but think about the congregation that had used everything we were now inheriting. Of all the times communion was served from that altar, of all the sermons preached and lessons read at that lectern, of all the young

children baptized at that font, and of the multiple generations who had occupied those seats.

Although the furnishings are a wonderful and welcome gift for us, leaving them behind must have been heart-wrenching for that congregation, especially on their final Sunday of worshiping together.



*Part of the crew with Jean Bozeman*

The image that came to my mind that day was one of organ donation. I pictured a family making the tearful decision to allow a loved one's organs to be donated to some younger, healthier person in need of those organs. The sadness of their loss at least in part offset by the joy of knowing that the organs would live on to ensure vitality elsewhere.

That's very much a resurrection image and we are certainly a resurrection people.

As we celebrate this wonderfully unexpected gift, let us hold in prayer the various members of that congregation, that they each find a new church home, that this experience not adversely affect their faith.

I sent a letter of thanks to Jean Bozeman, asking her to forward it to the former members of Messiah Lutheran. In it I invited them to join us in worship any time they may be in this area, but especially if they are here when we first worship in our new building, using the furnishings that they provided. A part of them will always live on with us.

With you in His service,

*Frits Geurtsen, Congregation President*

## Celebration of Life for Richard “Dick” Haas

When I think of Dick Haas, I think of a man who was obedient to the Word of God. The writer of 1 Peter encourages people to long for the Word of God like a baby longs for its mother’s milk. To so swallow down the God’s Word that we grow into the wholeness, the well-being that God longs to produce in each of us. And what this Word produces in us, as we lap it up, is obedience. To trust, that even when death comes at an unexpected hour, it is not to be feared, because God’s word tells us what Jesus has done to the power of death.

I marvel at Dick’s work history. What an eclectic mix of vocations! From milk-truck driver to school custodian to AAA representative to research and development at a blasting company to army sergeant to... You name it... Dick had probably done it, or if by chance he hadn’t...he was ready to give it a try!

Dick’s obedience, his willingness to do anything that needed to be done, to be re-fashioned and re-formed into whatever was needed to get the job done well, again came into play as he helped lay a firm and faithful foundation for Grace and Glory church.

From making the first cross out of scrap flooring boards; to recording weekly attendance; to serving as a trustee; to using his booming voice to read God’s word in Sunday worship; to producing PowerPoint and running it for services.

It did not matter to Dick if he had expertise--he was willing to do it. He knew the expertise could be developed, begged, or borrowed. But it was his willingness to make himself available for whatever was needed that built such a firm foundation for us to continue being built into God’s house.

We remember Dick in many different ways. As the Dad who instilled in you a love of nature, of rocks and birds and trees. As a friend who could always put you at ease, and enjoyed sharing a chuckle. As a husband who could sometimes be bull-headed, but could also be tender and



speaking in terms of endearment, and who recognized your sacrifices ... even making Barbara her very own nursing certificate after round-the-clock care for him following his illness last fall.

Some of us knew Dick as the post chaplain who kept his prayers brief. As a man who savored the tastes of life.

One of our church members recalled seeing him at a physical rehabilitation center recently when he approached and said: *“Welcome to the torture chamber.”*

That was Dick. He could always find some humor in challenging circumstances.

Dick Haas shared with us all quite openly about his conviction, his firm faith that God had allowed him to continue on so that he could walk through the doors of the new church building of Grace and Glory. And at first I found myself upset that he would not be there as he had so hoped. Dick will be there among us as we walk into that building and praise the Lord of light, the cornerstone of our faith. You see, when we are in Christ, we are not dead, but alive. Normally we think of stones as non-living things. We even have a phrase: “stone-dead.” But we are hewn from the God who is known as a Rock. We are hewn from Jesus Christ, who is called the “Living Stone.” Maybe because that stone was rolled away from his tomb. Death could not snuff out Jesus’ obedience to God. So God took Jesus and made him a living stone.

May we continue on, strengthened by Dick’s witness among us, encouraged first to say “yes” when God says “I have something for you to do.” And then to look for the marvelous resources that God puts at our fingertips to bring it all together for God’s glory.

So, to quote Dick in his answering machine message, we say: “Ciao!” For we know, that Good-bye in Italian, also means hello.

*[This was the sermon preached by Pastor Albright at the funeral service for Dick Haas on March 26.]*

## Bread for The World- 2011 Offering of Letters



“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

-Isaiah 43:19

A wave of excitement came over me when I read this verse. Constantly being bombarded with scary news updates and bad reports from friends and neighbors, we can easily feel down and discouraged, so sad that the bad news spreads so fast. But when we tune in we can see evidence of our God’s hand shaping our world and surprising us in the midst of our uncertainty. God is up to something and is calling us to share in this new creation.

In May, we will again be writing letters for our Bread for the World Offering of Letters. For those of you who are not familiar with this small, but very important, exercise in penmanship, we will be writing short, handwritten letters to our members of Congress urging reforms to make U.S. foreign assistance more effective in reducing hunger and poverty. For experienced letter writers, we need you not only to write letters again this year, but to encourage others to write letters too!! Sample letters and help will be provided, and it will only take 15 minutes out of your day.

All this letter writing is not for naught, real progress has been made. Since 1990 the rate of chronically hungry people in developing countries fell from 20% to 16% and the number of people living on \$1.25/day fell by 400 million. But the world suffered a setback in 2007 with the global recession and food price crisis. And recent war and natural disasters will add to these issues.

This year’s letter writing offering has four objectives:

- A stronger U.S. government focus on reducing poverty
- Clearer accountability for how aid dollars are spent and their results
- A transformed U.S. development agency
- U.S. aid that meets the needs and wants of local people.

In addition to letter writing, a special monetary offering will be taken on May 1 and 8 for Bread for the World. Grace and Glory has been a Bread for the World Covenant church now for many years. Being a covenant church means two things- Bread for the World agrees to advocate for long term solutions to end poverty and hunger, and we agree to support Bread for the World as a congregation by letter writing and by financial support. Grace and Glory is relying on your donations to provide this support. Please make your checks out to Grace and Glory with Bread For The World in the memo section, and place in the offering plate or in the Bread for the World basket in the hallway. Thank you!!

Reforming U.S. foreign aid policies and programs is our opportunity to join God in creating something new. Making these changes can touch millions of lives and transform poverty and despair into life and dignity. We are moved by God’s grace in Jesus Christ to help our neighbors- whether next door or the other side of the world, by pushing for changes in laws and systems that enable hunger and poverty to persist. Please join us.

*Jan Crowther and Jean DeMarco  
- Social Justice Action Small Group*

### Women at Grace and Glory (WAGG)

The WAGG study of Space for God will continue Tuesdays in April at 10:00 AM beginning April 12<sup>th</sup>, then April 19<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup>. Any questions, see Janice Brown, or call 589-6358.

### April Birthdays



<i>NAME</i>	<i>BIRTH DATE</i>
Linda Candea	4/11
Mary Stowe	4/15
Bob Pickett	4/23
Brayson B.	4/23
Gretchen Feury	4/25
John B.	4/26
Stacy Williams	4/28

## Earth Day

In observation of Earth Day, which is this month, the Social Justice Small Group is offering the following suggestions from Green America to help us all be better stewards of God's earth and its resources.

### I. Fair Trade Products – Among the 5 Most Important to Buy are:

1. Coffee
2. Chocolate
3. Sugar
4. Tea
5. Handicrafts

### II. 5 Things You Should Always Buy Green:

1. Paint – Low or, ideally, no VOC paint.
2. Paper – Look for a high post-consumer recycled content.
3. Light bulbs – Compact fluorescents.
4. Appliances – With the Energy Star label.
5. Fruits and Vegetables – Organic, local, in-season produce.

### III. 8 Things You Should Never Buy Again:

1. Styrofoam cups
2. Plastic forks and spoons
3. Bottled water
4. Chemical pesticides and herbicides
5. Conventional household cleaners
6. Toys made with PVC plastic
7. Farm raised salmon
8. Teak and mahogany

### IV. 10 Things You Can Recycle:

1. Appliances – Many stores will recycle your old appliance when you purchase a new one. Goodwill accepts working appliances ([www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org), or [www.recycle-steel.org](http://www.recycle-steel.org).)
2. Athletic shoes: One World Running will send still wearable shoes to athletes in need in Africa, Latin America, and Haiti: [www.oneworldrunning.com](http://www.oneworldrunning.com). Nike's Reuse-a-shoe program turns old shoes into playground and athletic flooring: [www.nikereuseashoe.com](http://www.nikereuseashoe.com).
3. Batteries: Contact [www.batteryrecycling.com](http://www.batteryrecycling.com).
4. Clothes: Donate to Goodwill or shelter; wearable women's business clothing to Dress for Success, which gives them to low-income women as they search for jobs: [www.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.dressforsuccess.org). Offer unwearable

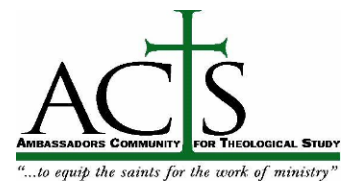
clothes to local animal facilities, which use them as pet bedding.

5. Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL): Take them to your local IKEA store for recycling: [www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com); or order a Sylvania Recycle Pak: [www.sylvania.com/recycle/recyclepak](http://www.sylvania.com/recycle/recyclepak).
6. Computers and electronics: [www.ban.org/pledge/Locations.html](http://www.ban.org/pledge/Locations.html).
7. Foam packing peanuts: Give to your local pack and ship store or call 800-828-2214 for a drop off site. For places to drop off foam blocks for recycling call 410-451-8340.
8. Ink/toner cartridges: [www.recycleplace.com](http://www.recycleplace.com).
9. Oil: Find used motor oil hotlines for each state: [www.recycleoil.org](http://www.recycleoil.org).
10. Phones: Collective Good will refurbish your phone and sell it to someone in a developing country: [www.collectivegood.com](http://www.collectivegood.com). Call to Protect reprograms cell phones to dial 911 and gives them to domestic violence victims: [www.donateaphone.com](http://www.donateaphone.com).

*Submitted by the Social Justice Small Group*

## Get Caught In The ACTS

Registration is underway for the VA Synod's ACTS (Ambassadors Community for Theological Study) Spring 2011 course "The Christian's Call Today".



ACTS courses are designed to equip lay people with tools for discipleship, leadership, and service in their congregations and communities. The course consists of two Saturday lecture sessions, April 16 and May 21, at Grace Lutheran Church in Waynesboro and five small-group discussion sessions held at St. Mark, led by Pastor Sandy Wisco. Every session includes laughter, discussion, prayer and thoughtful ponderings. That's what you can expect from your investment of time as you enrich your faith. The Saturday lectures will be presented by Rev. Ruben Duran (Director, New Congregational Development in Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, ELCA) and Professor Mary Sue Dreier (Associate Professor of Congregational Mission and Leadership, Luther Seminary). Text for the course is *The Evangelizing Church* by Bliese and Gelder. If interested, please contact Helen Ida Moyer as soon as possible by phone (293-5543) or email [DuckyOaks@embarqmail.com](mailto:DuckyOaks@embarqmail.com).

## **Lutheran World Relief – Fair Trade and Handcraft Sales**

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup> after worship, we will be selling Fair Trade coffee and other items, as well as taking orders for items from the LWR Handcraft catalog.

LWR strongly encourages us to support Fair Trade for two very important reasons:

1. to protect the environment, and
2. to help the poor.

Fair Trade coffee, chocolate and sugar grown by the small family farmer are usually grown under the canopy of the rainforest so that this critical habitat is not destroyed. This is in contrast to the large plantations which clear-cut the rainforest, and do not pay their workers a living wage.

When we purchase Fair Trade coffee and other items we are both protecting the earth by protecting the rainforest, and protecting people from poverty by paying them a living wage for their labor. LWR makes sure the price we pay for Fair Trade coffee is high enough so that the farmer selling it can stay on his land and provide his family with food, clothing, health care and education. If Fair Trade coffee is a little higher than what we pay in the grocery store or a coffee shop that is why.

Every time we purchase Fair Trade coffee we are being good stewards of the earth, and we are helping the poor. The converse is also true – every time we purchase a cup of non-Fair Trade coffee we are supporting the companies that are contributing to the destruction of the earth and are hurting the poor.

People like the founders of Ben and Jerry's ice cream have made the choice to use only Fair Trade ingredients in their ice cream. We are all free to make our own choices, but we have a responsibility to make informed choices based on knowledge and education; and to realize that we do make moral choices with our purchasing power. Will those choices, as Pastor Albright stated in a recent sermon, reflect our belief that Jesus wants our priorities, our focus to be on the planet and its people?

*Submitted by the Social Justice Small Group*

## **Grace Notes Newsletter**

If you have any information that should be placed in the newsletter, please submit the material to LeRoy Moyer at [Lee\\_Helen@embarqmail.com](mailto:Lee_Helen@embarqmail.com). The next newsletter deadline is April 24, 2011.

## **Explore [www.Graceandglory.org](http://www.Graceandglory.org)!**

Members of the congregation are encouraged to visit the Grace and Glory website on a regular basis. It is a great resource when it comes to staying connected with the church, both locally and globally. When you visit the home page ([www.graceandglory.org](http://www.graceandglory.org)), you will find up to date information on what is going on in our congregation and links to click on for further details. The church's calendar is also accessible via this page if you are thinking of holding a meeting and want to check for space availability. Or if you've forgotten when a certain meeting is taking place, simply click on the calendar to access this information.

Another underutilized resource is the members section. This is a password-protected area for Grace and Glory members only. It contains information such as policies and procedures, our Constitution and By-Laws. Did you misplace your copy of the Church Directory? You can find an up-to-date version of it in the members section and print it out for your convenience.

If you haven't already registered your password into the members section, you can do so in a few easy steps. Click on the **Member** button on the Home page. You will be directed to a registration area, where you will be asked for your email address (as shown in the church directory). Then use your first name (as it appears in the directory) and add "99" to the end of your name as the initial password (i.e. John99). On your first registration you will be directed to a page where you must change your password in order to continue. Now you are registered, with your own password, and you are free to explore the members section and can select to view any of its contents.

If you are having trouble navigating this site, don't hesitate to call the church office or Wayne Carney or Marilyn Crowther, our website maintenance team.

## **5 G's Save the Date**

On Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 AM, the 5G's (Golden Gals and Guys at Grace and Glory) will take an excursion to Culpeper to meet with Pastor Brad Hales at Reformation Lutheran Church before an early lunch at Luigi's followed by a tour of the site of the Battle of Cedar Mountain which took place on August 9, 1862. (Pastor Hale is a guide there) Before heading home, there will be a stop for those interested in a tour of the Stillhouse Distillery at Belmont Farm. Stay tuned for details of this adventure!

*Submitted by Helen Post and Sue Pickett*

## Synod Assembly Coming Soon

Planning is underway for the annual Virginia Synod Assembly to be held at Roanoke College on June 3-5 with the theme, "Ambassadors for Christ: Sharing the Story, Living the Faith."

Members of the Virginia Synod are gathered at this Assembly to experience and express what it means to be called to be church together as the Body of Christ – as we care for necessary items of business, participate in and experience corporate worship, be inspired by the theme program and speakers, and engage in fellowship.

A highlight of the Assembly will be the election by ecclesiastical ballot (no nominations) for bishop. Bishop Jim Mauney is completing his second six-year term as bishop. He was elected to succeed Bishop Richard Bansemmer in 1999. Mauney had served as assistant to the bishop for 11 years.

The Rev. Dr. Jessica Krey Duckworth, Professor at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. (Christian Formation and Teaching), will serve as our Assembly Keynote Presenter; and Mr. David Swartling, Secretary of the ELCA, will serve as ELCA Churchwide Representative.

Rev. Duckworth, an ELCA pastor, will present the theme, which will continue our discernment of and response to God's call to us, as baptized Ambassadors for Christ, to be about the call to reach out in faith to our neighbor (at home, school, workplace, local and global) and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with family, friend, and stranger.

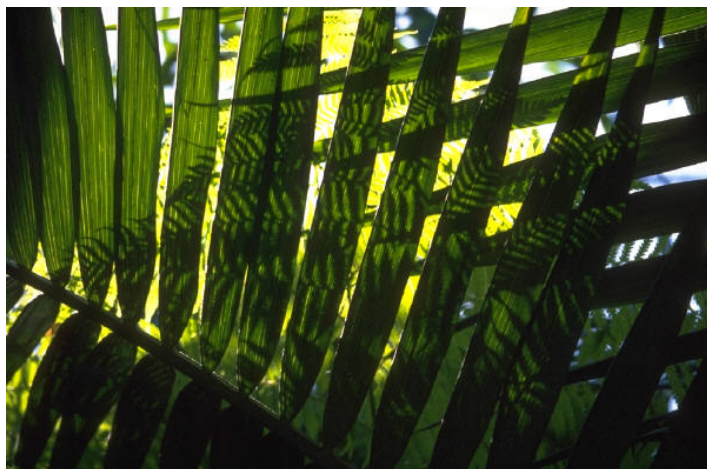
A variety of worship experiences are built into the Assembly weekend. The Service of Holy Communion with Ordinations (if applicable) will be held on Saturday evening at St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church in downtown Roanoke. Buses will be available to transport folks to and from St. Andrew's.

If you have not attended a synod assembly, you might consider going to this highly informative event.

## Eco Palms

Do you ever wonder where the palms we wave on Palm Sunday come from? At Grace and Glory, we use environmentally friendly palms from Lutheran World Relief called Eco Palms. Eco Palms are harvested in a sustainable manner. The harvesters are trained to gather only quality palm fronds in a way that allows the palm to keep growing. The palms are brought to a community processing building, where the palms are processed and packaged for export. Besides being environmentally sustainable, processing the palms themselves allows the harvesters to maintain more of the profits for their community. These profits are used to improve the community.

*Submitted by the Social Justice Small Group*



## Thanks

My recent hospitalization and brief illness has brought to mind what a wonderful blessing it is to be a part of the faith community that is Grace and Glory Lutheran Church. Thank you all so much for your thoughts, prayers and well-wishes during that time. I am certainly thankful for this blessing that God provides.

*Peace, Patty Shaver*

# APRIL 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Education Hour <b>10:15 AM</b> WORSHIP	<b>28</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office <b>9:00 AM</b> Ken Albright in Office	<b>29</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> WAGG/Glory <b>7:30 PM</b> Chime Choir/Grace	<b>30</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office <b>10:00 AM</b> Travelin' Singers/Meet at Office to Carpool <b>12:00 PM</b> Ken Albright in Office <b>6:00 PM</b> Soup 'n' Study Session/Salem UMC	<b>31</b> <b>11:30 AM</b> 5G's Lunch and Gaming Event/Church Office <b>3:00 PM</b> Office Cleaning/Marj <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal/Marj	<b>1</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office <b>9:00 AM</b> Ken Albright in Office	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Education Hour <b>10:15 AM</b> WORSHIP/Service of Healing	<b>4</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Ken Albright in Office	<b>5</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Pastor Off-Site at Leadership Seminar <b>7:30 PM</b> Chime Choir/Grace	<b>6</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office <b>12:00 PM</b> Ken Albright in Office <b>6:00 PM</b> Soup 'n' Study Session/Salem UMC	<b>7</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Office Cleaning/Grace <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal/Grace	<b>8</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>9:15 AM</b> Education Hour <b>10:15 AM</b> WORSHIP <b>1:00 PM</b> National Youth Gathering Fundraising Meeting/Glory	<b>11</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office <b>9:00 AM</b> Ken Albright in Office <b>7:00 PM</b> Leadership Team/Glory	<b>12</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> WAGG/Glory <b>1:30 PM</b> Adult Education Meeting/Glory <b>7:30 PM</b> Chime Choir/Grace	<b>13</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office <b>12:00 PM</b> Ken Albright in Office <b>3:30 PM</b> Evangelism/Glory <b>6:00 PM</b> Soup 'n' Study Session/Salem UMC	<b>14</b> <b>3:00 PM</b> Office Cleaning/Marj <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal/Grace	<b>15</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office <b>9:00 AM</b> Ken Albright in Office	<b>16</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Chrismon Workshop/Church Office
<b>17</b> FOOD BANK SUNDAY <b>9:15 AM</b> Education Hour <b>10:15 AM</b> WORSHIP	<b>18</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office <b>9:00 AM</b> Ken Albright in Office	<b>19</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> WAGG/Glory <b>7:30 PM</b> Chime Choir/Grace	<b>20</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office <b>12:00 PM</b> Ken Albright in Office <b>12:30 PM</b> Staff Meeting/Glory <b>4:00 PM</b> Administration Meeting/Glory	<b>21</b> MAUNDY THURSDAY <b>3:00 PM</b> Office Cleaning/Jan <b>7:00 PM</b> Maundy Thursday Service at Cunningham UMC	<b>22</b> GOOD FRIDAY <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office <b>9:00 AM</b> Ken Albright in Office <b>7:00 PM</b> Good Friday Service at Salem UMC	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> EASTER Grace Notes Submission due today <b>9:15 AM</b> Education Hour <b>10:15 AM</b> WORSHIP <b>11:30 AM</b> Easter Egg Hunt following Worship	<b>25</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office <b>9:00 AM</b> Ken Albright in Office	<b>26</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> WAGG/Glory <b>7:30 PM</b> Chime Choir/Grace	<b>27</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office	<b>28</b> 5G's Trip to Culpeper <b>3:00 PM</b> Office Cleaning/Marilyn <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal/Grace	<b>29</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Gabi Dech in office <b>9:00 AM</b> Ken Albright in Office	<b>30</b>

Remember: The most up-to-date information and details about events listed is available on our website calendar at [www.GraceandGlory.org](http://www.GraceandGlory.org).

If you have a need for the office or additional information that should be included on the calendar, please send the information to Gabi Dech at [gglcelca@embarqmail.com](mailto:gglcelca@embarqmail.com), or call her at 589-2217.

	<b>April 3</b>	<b>April 10</b>	<b>April 17</b>	<b>April 24</b>	<b>May 1</b>
<b>Minister</b>	Kenneth Albright	Paul St Clair	Kenneth Albright	Kenneth Albright	Kenneth Albright
<b>Lay Assistant</b>	Justin Wade	Ray Weimer	Helen Ida Moyer	Joe Shaver	Ray Weimer
<b>Reader</b>	Helen Ida Moyer	LaVerne Chandler	Walter Lindenmann	Carol Sanders	Helen Ida Moyer
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	Sonja & Ed Erickson	Joyce & Don Hanson	Clara & Lou Cooper	Alice Shifflett Jan Crowther	Diane & Dennis Wolf
<b>Acolyte</b>	Julia	Katey	Kyle, Bridget, Stephanie	Amanda, Sarah, Marian	Meredith
<b>Sound System</b>	Dennis Wolf	Roy Schurmann	Kayla Ferguson	Ken Duffau	Steve Jenkins
<b>Altar Care</b>	Janet Rockafellow Marilyn Carney	Doris Meyer Clara Cooper	Jan Crowther Joyce Hansen	Helen Post Charlotte Albright	Helen Post Ruth Campopiano
<b>Refreshments</b>	Doris Meyer Jane Geurtsen	Gertrud Barton	Ruth Haverstrom Sonja Erickson	Patti Shifflette Mary Bennett	Carol Sanders Patty Shaver
<b>Tellers</b>	Barbara Smith Justin Wade	Irma Forger Kingsley Brown	Terry Shifflett Ellen Lindenmann	Alice Shifflett Roy Schurmann	Barbara Smith Justin Wade
<b>Visitor Contactor</b>	Marj Schurmann	Grace Bomberger	Ester Teal	Sue Pickett	Marj Schurmann

### Sunday Helpers

We all give thanks to our faithful Sunday helpers who provide our music, set up and take down the equipment, chairs, altar and other worship aids, and to those who organize and secure our readers and worship assistants, greeters and ushers, and hospitality providers.

Greeters/Ushers

Patty Shaver – 589-6050

Readers and Assisting Ministers

Sue Pickett – 293-3838

Sunday School

Terry Shifflett – 589-8270

Hospitality

Diane Wolf – 589-8904

Altar Care

Mary Stowe – 589-8621

Helen Post – 589-6937

Altar Flowers

Joyce Hanson – 465-8222

Music

Julie Martell – 591-0503

Acolytes

Lynette Kacmarcik – 996-5238

Tellers

Marj Schurmann – 589-1206

Sound System

Marj Schurmann – 589-1206

If you have signed up for a duty and find that you cannot make it for some reason, please arrange to find a replacement.

### Prayer List Request

E-mail Carol Parsons at carolarson1@hotmail.com or call her at 589-6068 to add or delete a Prayer List concern.

### Bulletin, Office and Calendar Requests

E-mail Gabi Dech at ggclcelca@embarqmail.com or call her at 589-2217 to:

1. Have an announcement included in the Sunday bulletin
2. Schedule the office meeting spaces
3. Have an activity or meeting included on the church calendar. The calendar is posted on our Website ([www.graceandglory.org](http://www.graceandglory.org)).