

Grace Notes

January 2012 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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Palmyra, VA 22963

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Dear Grace and Glory Congregation:

Have you ever been somewhere you felt you didn't belong? For some reason or another, you felt out of place, like you were a fish out of water?

We all have those times in our lives when things don't click, and we feel like a fifth wheel, an appendage that is never quite integrated into the system in place. But for some reason, you stuck at Grace and Glory. For those who are actively a part of the congregation, it is a place where you feel you belong. A place where you can be who you are, and know that it is appreciated. Where your perspective is respected, and where your gifts can help further the forward movement of the congregation.

As you begin this new year, think about those people who made you feel like you belonged at Grace and Glory. Who was it that first welcomed you, or first invited you to participate in something outside of Sunday morning worship? This year, we will have many opportunities to help others who walk in the doors of our worship facility feel like they belong—like they have found that place where they can be comfortable investing themselves, sharing their burdens, and praising God with sincere hearts.

I believe Jesus wants everyone find a sense of belonging in Christian community. In baptism, God says "You belong to me." And in God's family, the church, that belonging is cultivated as the bedrock of our relationships. May we continue to strive in our walk as followers of Jesus to assure that Grace and Glory is a place... "Where you feel you belong."

With deep regard,

Pastor Albright

Epiphany Celebration To Bring together Lutherans and Episcopalians from 3 Churches

Join us for a special celebration of Epiphany at 7:00 PM on Friday, January 6 at Grace Episcopal Church in Bremono Bluff. We'll be joined by our full-communion ecumenical partners at Grace and St. John's Episcopal in Columbia. The worship will include holy communion and selections from our Bell Choir in the beautiful, historic church. Bring a dessert to share for the fellowship time after worship if you wish.

Directions are simple: Take Route 15 South through Fork Union. Go 3-4 miles south of Fork Union and turn left onto Bremono Road. Go about ½ mile and Grace Episcopal will be on your right.

Submitted by Pastor Albright

Service of Healing February 12

There will be opportunity for persons to present themselves for healing prayer and anointing on Sunday, February 12th in worship. If someone you know is in need of healing of body, mind, or spirit, please invite them to attend this special service.

Submitted by Pastor Albright

December Leadership Team Meeting Summary

The Leadership Team met on December 12 and conducted the following business:

Treasurer Parsons reported that all of the bills for December have already been paid except for payroll and we are in good financial shape.

Helen Post finished her manual reconciliation of the books and determined that there was a \$523.92 difference in our favor in the General Fund and a \$210 difference in our favor in the Building Fund. She was thanked for her hard work in this regard.

The Interior Design Committee has finished the Building Wish List and will present it the Leadership Team at the January meeting, after which it will be presented to the congregation.

Any undesignated contributions made in memory of Dick Graves will be dispersed with fifty percent (50%) going towards the Building Wish List and the other fifty percent (50%) going towards the Youth National Gathering fund.

The Leadership Team will be considering names for the Nominating Committee. Six positions (including the youth representative) will need to be filled. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact Frits Geurtsen.

Submitted by Monica Daniels, Secretary

President's Message

It's fairly safe to say that the Roman god Janus is no longer worshiped anywhere in the world, but his name lives on in the word 'January'. Images of Janus depict him with two faces, one looking forward, the other backward. Certainly a very appropriate symbol for the first month of the year.

As we straddle the end of 2011 and the beginning of 2012, it's good to look back to see what we've accomplished, or more accurately what God has accomplished through us, over these past twelve months and indeed over the past ten years. We certainly have much to be thankful for:

- A growing membership, very involved in all aspects of our church life.
- A wonderful pastor, faithful to the Word.
- A terrific music program, involving members of all ages.
- A dynamic group of youth, showing the rest of us how to be better evangelists.
- A solid financial situation.
- New programs, initiated by individuals within the congregation.

And the list goes on and on.

It's also exciting to look ahead to the coming year (and the next ten years for that matter) to try to imagine what the Good Lord has in store for us. Some of it we already have a good sense of (for instance, we will finally be opening the doors of our new building), but much of it will be a surprise to us.

God consistently shows us that He has grander plans for us than anything we can dream up for ourselves. I am anxious to see what those plans are and I ask myself:

- How will having our own facility change the nature of our various ministries?
- Who will join our congregation and how will we use the gifts that they bring?
- What new ways will we find to be Caring Christians Sharing God's Message of Grace?
- What will it mean to be a Lutheran church in Fluvanna County?
- Where do we go from here?

As you each, like Janus, look back to see where we've been and look ahead to discern where we are going, I welcome you to share your thoughts with Pastor, with me, or with other members of the Leadership Team.

Together and with God's guidance we will be able to answer those questions.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and blessing-filled new year.

With you in His service,

Frits Geurtsen, Congregation President

Being Part of a Small Group Ministry

While most of us are willing to join a small group; such as book club, golf group, history group, why not a small group ministry gathering?

A Small Group provides a place where people of the church gather to feel connected to each other and to your church. Through conversation and sharing your life's journey, you find a safe haven where friendships develop.

As you continue to meet and share not only scripture but also what that looks like in your daily life/walk, you become a community.

Through the history of the church, small groups have played a vital role. From the time of Christ to today, these values have changed countless lives and helped the church to grow and reach thousands while at the same time give the closeness of a well knitted community. Giving the church the ability to grow larger and smaller at the same time!

This is an invitation! Are you willing to participate in a small group and enjoy the benefits a small group offers? If your answer is yes, please contact Pastor Ken or Gabi at the office at 589-2217.

Submitted by Darlene Weimer

Generous Giving

Though Christmas Eve came right on the heels of our regular Third Sunday Food Bank offering, an additional 10 bags of food were received to help care for the hungry.

Also, we received a total of 23 flashlights that night for Kayla's homeless initiative. Thanks for your continually generous response to those in need.

Submitted by Pastor Albright

Prayer Shawl Knitters

The Prayer Shawl Knitters will meet at the church office on Wednesday, January 4th at 1:00 PM. We look forward to starting the New Year gathered in conversation and knitting. Please mark your calendar; we hope you will be able to be there.

Submitted by Darlene Weimer

New Small Groups forming to Study John's Gospel

Start of the year with a bang!! Come and join in this study of the Gospel of John beginning the first week in January. This study was developed as part of the Book of Faith initiative to encourage us to open our bibles to the Word of God. We will undertake this effort in two new small groups open to everyone who wishes to participate: both the younger adults, parents and seniors.

Open Scripture and join the conversation around the book of John. Each session opens with a gathering prayer and focus activity. From there, participants open Scripture and explore a key passage from the book of John. Using the text, participants then join the conversation around that passage, focusing on literary, historical, Lutheran-theological, and devotional readings. Each session ends with prayer and opportunities for extending the conversation, which include optional "homework" assignments and enrichment activities that allow participants to continue their study and conversation between sessions.

This study is 8 sessions in length and explore the gospel around these questions.

- 1 What Is Jesus' Relationship with God?
John 1:1-18
- 2 How Is It Possible for Us to Be in Relationship with God? *John 3:1-21*
- 3 What Does It Mean that Jesus Is the "of Life"?
John 6:25-59
- 4 Who Can See Jesus? *John 9:1-41*
- 5 What Does It Mean that Jesus Is the "and the Life"? *John 11:1-44*
- 6 What Does It Mean to Be a Disciple of Jesus?
John 13:1-35
- 7 How Does Jesus Want His Disciples to Relate to the World? *John 17:1-26*
- 8 How Does Jesus' Relationship with His Disciples Continue? *John 20:11-31*

Call Gabi at the church office (589-2217) if you wish to join with your fellow members and you can invite a friend.

Submitted by Wayne Carney

Women at Grace and Glory (WAGG)

WAGG will meet Tuesday January 10th at 10:00 AM at the church office. We will study Session 4 of the study of Mark entitled "*Beyond the Boundaries.*" If anyone needs a copy of this lesson please see me. Read Mark 6:30-7:37 to prepare for this session. An offering will be taken as in December. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Janice Brown (589-6358)

Sunday	Attendance	Offerings
December 4	91	\$6,154.93
December 11	91	\$3,875.85
December 18	90	\$2,885.00
December 24	180	\$2,536.00
Total Contributions to Date		\$15,531.78
Monthly Needed Funds		\$14,295.00

January Birthdays



<i>NAME</i>	<i>BIRTH DATE</i>
Laura Shields	1/01
Jo Martin	1/03
Dick Graves	1/08
Monica Daniels	1/16
Graysynn J.	1/12
Rich Benske	1/18
Frits Geurtsen	1/21
Jonathan Gibson	1/23
Katey Sanders	1/24
Helen Ida Moyer	1/31

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. The next newsletter deadline is January 24.

Lutheran-Anglican-Episcopal meeting a sign of hope for the church

Lutheran, Anglican and Episcopal leaders from the United States and Canada met in December to explore new possibilities for working together and to deepen their sense of unity for doing God's work in the world. In a report issued from their meeting, the leaders stated that their conversation and work together "are hopeful signs for the church."

"There was truly a spirit of Advent expectant hope as we met to pray and plan for greater cooperation in ministry and mission," said ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson of the meeting.

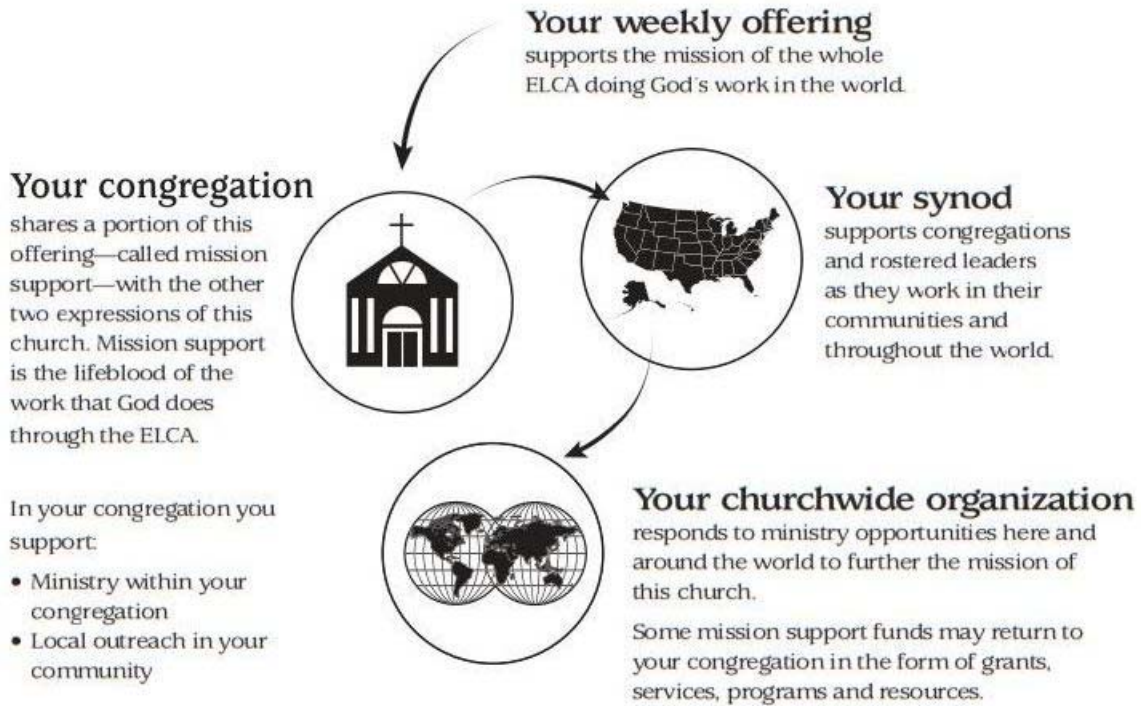
"There is so much more we can do when working together, whether that is in military chaplaincy, global mission, campus ministry, planting new congregations or advocacy. I look forward to our continued shared leadership and to new possibilities that exist to proclaim the good news of Jesus, engaging in God's work for the life of the world because of our full-communion relationship," he said.

Gathered together for their second annual meeting was Hanson; the Rev. Susan Johnson, national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; the Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church U.S.A.; and the Rev. Fred Hiltz, archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Topics representing their mutual areas of interest and concern ranged from ecumenical and interfaith issues to immigration reform and poverty, from relief and development work to Middle East policies. They reviewed the possibility of producing materials, study guides and resources that congregations and parishes in all four churches could use in various seasons of the liturgical year, and they also addressed the challenges of "church planting" and the need for strategy to do this work with full-communion partners.

The national leaders formed a subcommittee to further consider how to make the bilateral full-communion relationships effective among the four churches.

Where Your Offering Goes




Together we fund the following ministries:

- **61 new congregations** approved in 2010
- **195 existing congregations** intentionally focused on renewal
- **250 mission personnel** in 50 countries, including 49 young adult volunteers
- **Ministry projects in over 90 countries**
- **8 seminaries**
- **26 colleges and universities**
- **Over 180 campus ministries**, with cooperating congregations in campus ministries at an additional 400 campuses nationwide
- **1,530 Lutheran early childhood education centers**, from birth through age five
- **257 Lutheran elementary schools**, K-8, and 14 high schools
- **145 outdoor ministries**
- **Health and pension benefits** for retired clergy, mission personnel and lay church workers
- **Long-term community development**
- **Advocacy** with the United Nations, federal and state governments and corporate development
- **Partnerships** with The Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches and National Council of Churches in Christ

Thank you!

Together we do God's work in ways that no individual, congregation or synod can do alone.

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  9:15 AM Education Hour 10:15 AM WORSHIP	2 9:00 AM Ken Albright in Office	3 7:00 PM Handbell Choir/Grace 7:30 PM Small Group: John Study/Location TBD	4 9:00 AM Gabi Dech in office 12:00 PM Ken Albright in Office 1:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry/Glory	5 1:30 PM Small group/John Study/location TBD 3:00 PM Office Cleaning/Marj 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Grace	6 9:00 AM Gabi Dech in office 9:00 AM Ken Albright in Office 10:30 AM Construction Meeting/On-Site Project Trailer 7:00 PM Epiphany Service at St. John's Columbia	7
8 Youth Skating Trip/Details TBD 9:15 AM Education Hour 10:15 AM WORSHIP	9 9:00 AM Gabi Dech in office 9:00 AM Ken Albright in Office 7:00 PM Leadership Team/Glory	10 9:00 AM Gabi Dech in office 10:00 AM WAGG Bible Study/Glory 7:30 PM Handbell Choir/Grace 7:30 PM Small Group: John Study/Location TBD	11 9:00 AM Gabi Dech in office 12:00 PM Ken Albright in Office 2:00 PM Worship and Music Committee/Glory 7:00 PM Evangelism Meeting/Glory	12 1:30 PM Small group/John Study/location TBD 3:00 PM Office Cleaning/Grace 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Grace	13 9:00 AM Gabi Dech in office 9:00 AM Ken Albright in Office	14 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast at the Eagle's Nest
15 FOOD BANK SUNDAY 9:15 AM Education Hour 10:15 AM WORSHIP 5:00 PM Youth Gathering Preparation Meeting/Church Office 6:30 PM Senior High Youth Group Meeting/Church Office	16 9:00 AM Gabi Dech in office 9:00 AM Ken Albright in Office	17 9:00 AM Day for All Peoples of Faith/Richmond 7:30 PM Handbell Choir/Grace 7:30 PM Small Group: John Study/Location TBD	18 9:00 AM Gabi Dech in office 12:00 PM Ken Albright in Office 4:00 PM Administration Meeting/Glory 7:00 PM Worship Exploration Team/Glory	19 1:30 PM Small group/John Study/location TBD 3:00 PM Office Cleaning/Jan 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Grace	20 9:00 AM Gabi Dech in office 9:00 AM Ken Albright in Office	21
22 Movie Night for Youth at Zion UMC/Time TBD 9:15 AM Education Hour 10:15 AM WORSHIP	23 9:00 AM Gabi Dech in office 9:00 AM Ken Albright in Office	24 Grace Notes Submission due today/click here for more details 7:30 PM Handbell Choir/Grace 7:30 PM Small Group: John Study/Location TBD	25 9:00 AM Gabi Dech in office 12:00 PM Ken Albright in Office	26 1:30 PM Small group/John Study/location TBD 3:00 PM Office Cleaning/Marilyn 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Grace	27 Winter Celebration (9th - 12th Grades) 9:00 AM Gabi Dech in office 9:00 AM Ken Albright in Office 10:30 AM Construction Meeting/On-Site Project Trailer	28 Winter Celebration (9th - 12th Grades)
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Remember: The most up-to-date information and details about events listed is available on our website calendar at 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, or call her at 589-2217.

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29	February 5
Minister	Kenneth Albright	Kenneth Albright	Kenneth Albright	Kenneth Albright	Kenneth Albright	Kenneth Albright
Lay Assistant	Justin Wade	Joe Shaver	Helen Ida Moyer	LaVerne Chandler	Carol Parsons	Justin Wade
Reader	Helen Ida Moyer	Monica Daniels	Sarah Duffau	Stephanie Bossong	Janice Brown	Helen Ida Moyer
Ushers/Greeters	Marge & Al Mieseemer	Jane & Frits Geurtsen	Beth & Steve Jenkins	Clara & Lou Cooper	Ruth Haverstrom Jan Crowther	Flow Walsh Mary Stowe
Acolyte	Meredith	Stephanie, Bridget, Katie	Katey	Katie	Meredith	Tamara
Sound System	Steve Jenkins	Larry Teal	Don Hanson	Paul Crowther	Ken Duffau	Ken Duffau
Altar Care	Joyce Hanson Carol Parsons	Marilyn Carney Helen Post	Clara Cooper Ruth Campopiano	Janet Rockafellow Janice Brown	Barbara Smith Flo Walsh	Carol Wade Ellen Lindenmann
Refreshments	No Refreshments					
Tellers	Barbara Smith Justin Wade	Paul Crowther Jeff Chervenak	Jan Crowther Ray Weimer	Irma Forger Roy Schurmann	Alice Shiflett Barbara Haas	Barbara Smith Justin Wade
Visitor Contactor	Jeff Chervenak	Marge Mieseemer	Ester Teal	Sue Pickett	Linda Candea	Jeff Chervenak

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, provide our sound system and count our offerings and to those who organize and secure our readers and worship assistants, greeters and ushers, hospitality providers, sound system providers and tellers.

Greeters/Ushers

Patty Shaver – 589-6050

Readers and Assisting Ministers

Sue Pickett – 293-3838

Sunday School

Pam Hokanson – 814-873-4795

Hospitality

Diane Wolf – 589-8904

Jean DeMarco – 589-5165

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 Requests

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

Website Updates

E-mail Marilyn Crowther at minkisi@comcast.net or call her at 589-9002 to post any events directly onto Grace and Glory's website's homepage's "Upcoming Events" section.

Bulletin, Office and Calendar Requests

E-mail Gabi Dech at gglcelca@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).