

“Grace Greetings”

July 2024



During the month of July, the Semicontinuous Series of the Revised Common Lectionary will have consider some of the stories of David.

Image from https://ms.wearesparkhouse.org/downloads/SHC/BiblePuppets_Spark.pdf



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

July 2024 "Grace Greetings"

Mission Statement:

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

Should Worship Be Traditional, Contemporary, or Both?

Searching for a New Tone

Much changes. Much remains the same. Both of these statements describe Christian worship at any time in its two thousand year history. The worshippers change; this is obvious. Beyond this, musical expression, artwork, language, dress, and theology will change. On the other hand, much remains the same. Translations change, yet we still read from the Bible. Instrumentation may change, but we still sing together as God's people. Made in the image of God, we continue to create works of art that enrich worship. We are joined to Christ's body in the waters of Baptism; we receive his body and blood in Holy Communion. We pray. We are sent forth in mission. In worship at all times and in all places, the one unifying constant is the presence of Jesus Christ in word and sacrament.

Much debate and conflict has affected the church when it comes to what changes in worship and what stays the same. This has been true especially in the so-called "worship wars." The two camps have been given the unfortunate labels "traditional" and "contemporary." On the positive side, such "wars" have happened because the church, as a whole, genuinely cares about its worship. We often disagree most fiercely over things that matter the most to us.

Such labels, however, have also led Lutherans and other Christians to define worship in narrow categories, fostering an either/or approach to worship rather than realizing that worship is both traditional and contemporary. We miss the forest for looking at the trees. Let us consider the various dimensions of the traditional/contemporary divide in a new tone, noting where a both/and approach might replace or soften an either/or position.

Musical Style

More often than not, the single dimension of worship that designates one service as "traditional" and another as "contemporary" is its music. Again, it is good that we care about music, for it forms and expresses our faith in profound ways. Yet music – that art often credited as a "common language" – can needlessly segregate a worshipping community. Music is often used as a marketing tool (see below under Cultural influences). Congregations choose a kind of music in order to attract a certain group of people. Style, not the music's text or quality, often determines what is accepted at any one service. Since organs are often associated with the past, they are not allowed in "contemporary worship." Since drums are considered "contemporary," they are barred from traditional worship. Yet drums have been used in worship since ancient times and organs are built and installed yet today.

A word about the word "contemporary" as applied to music. This is an instance where language fails us. There are many hymns recently written or being composed that would not be considered "contemporary" because in worship, the word usually refers to musical style instead of its time of composition. Oftentimes an assembly will sing a song from the 1980s in worship (more than 30 years ago!) and call it "contemporary." Some assemblies will continue to worship with predominately one style at one service and another style at

another service. Sometimes the arrangement is very practical in nature; it might be easier to ask musical leaders to participate in one service on a weekend rather than two or more. Yet one must always consider how the entire assembly is exploring the richness of multiple musical expressions.

- Music from all styles can be welcome in worship. What is central is that the musical style serves the gospel. It is not the music, finally, that is central; the music points to the assembly gathered around Word, Bath and Table.
- The voice of the assembly is the primary instrument in worship. Both organs and praise bands can obscure this; both can support and uplift it.
- Encourage participation rather than performance. Musical Leadership serves the assembly when it strives for participation by the whole assembly.
- Involve all ages in all kinds of music. Refrain from making assumptions about musical preference based upon age.

Hospitality and Evangelism

One of the issues surrounding this debate is a genuine concern that all are welcomed to worship. Some congregations fear that if worship looks and sounds different from the surrounding culture, it will not be hospitable to “seekers,” another unfortunate label in this discussion as we are all, at one time or another, seekers of something.

The concerns, of course, are justified. Sometimes assemblies have “always done it that way” and haven’t given careful thought to how their worship appears to someone visiting for the first time. Congregations can be closed. Yet true hospitality goes beyond worship style. People – worship leaders and the gathered assembly – determine how welcoming an assembly is.

Something new can be inviting even in its strangeness. If a congregation enacts the “traditional” action of a gospel procession in a way that causes a visitor to pause and wonder, in ways that make the reading of the gospel come alive, something “traditional” can feel new. Likewise, if a congregation uses a trap set well to accompany a style of music that thrives on a rhythmic accompaniment, the congregation is being welcoming of diverse styles. Again, being welcoming needs a broader, more inclusive tone.

Related to the concern of hospitality is evangelism. We call ourselves the “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.” Worship relates to evangelism in that it has at its center the proclamation of Jesus Christ. Again, sharing the good news goes beyond style. As stated in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s set of priorities for the practices of word and sacrament, *The Use of the Means of Grace*:

The means of grace lead the church to mission. In every celebration of the means of grace, God acts to show forth both the need of the world and the truth of the gospel. In every gathering of Christians around the proclaimed Word and holy sacraments, God acts to empower the Church for mission (Principle 51).

Beyond musical style or other stylistic concerns is the concern that the church is “empowered for mission.” And this mission grows out of the celebration of word and sacrament.

Increasingly adults seeking a church home will be not be baptized or will be unfamiliar with the basics of the Christian faith, its worship and its mission. Here the church has the opportunity to focus not on attracting new members, but on making disciples. Like understanding worship style in a more nuanced way, the idea of making disciples rather than simply attracting members will mean change—a change to something both traditional (intentional instruction was essential for baptism in the early Church) and contemporary (congregations are rediscovering this practice).

Tradition and Traditional

It is helpful to make a distinction between the words “tradition” and “traditional.” All worship remains the same in some ways. In the ways that we value anything handed down to us (the Bible included), we value tradition. This is true outside of worship among our families and in civic life. There is a reason we keep Great Grandma’s recipe for pumpkin pie and honor veterans at Memorial Day observances. If we do not honor what has been passed down, we live without respect for what has come before us. We believe in the “communion of saints;” we believe that God’s people at all times and places have value.

This is not the same as liking the traditional because “that is the way it has always been done.” That is idolatry, making a God of our own customs or preferences. This often happens regarding music in worship. We are bound by human designed laws about what music is worthy or unworthy. Whether “traditional” or “contemporary,” we can become focused on the music alone and neglect the role of music in serving the gospel.

Worship honors what has been handed down, not for its own sake, but for the sake of the gospel. The received pattern of worship (see “What is the pattern of worship?”) a tradition, but it is not a museum piece to be preserved. It is a pattern that evolves and adapts to a host of situations, times and places. For the biblical roots to this pattern see “What are the biblical roots of worship?”. Both the pattern and its roots connect to mission. The *Use of the Means of Grace* is helpful here, noting that such a statement addresses the health of our worship as it relates to mission.

Yet even the Church itself is threatened should it fail to claim the great treasures of the Gospel. Either careless practice or rigid uniformity may distort the power of the gift. This statement is one way in which we, in the Church, can give counsel to one another, supporting and sustaining one another in our common mission (Principle 2, Background 2B).

As the Church seeks to be the body of Christ in the world, we best honor tradition and ask what needs changed for sake of the Gospel in our particular contexts here and now.

Worship and Culture

As Christians, we do not worship in a vacuum. We are shaped before birth and until death by forces and factors outside of ourselves and beyond our own families. The question about worship being traditional and contemporary depends closely upon this cultural reality. How much does worship resemble the surrounding culture? How much does it distinguish itself apart from that culture? (for more on this question, see *Flowing Water, Uncommon Birth and the Nairobi Statement in Resources*).

Consider the following issues related to culture’s impact on worship:

- Marketing. We are part of an economic system that depends upon buying and selling and using marketing to influence such decisions. Do we use marketing in our worship? To what degree and to what end?
- Instant Gratification. In our technological age, we can have many things at the click of a button. What does this mean for worship?
- Surround Sound. We live surrounded by sounds of all kinds and at all times. There is very little space for quiet unless we are intentional about setting such time apart. Is worship expected to be this “surround sound” as well? Can room be made for silence? (see also, “What is the Role of silence in worship?” and “How does worship involve all our senses?”)
- Performance Culture. In much of our lives, especially in the arts, we watch or listen to others perform rather than engage in the art-making itself. Related to marketing above, the arts become something we consume rather than create. How does this influence our worship, especially in its music and arts ministries?

Those who care for, plan and lead the church’s worship will continually ask how we

embrace, adapt or reject these and other aspects of our culture just as Jesus often questioned, challenged or embraced cultural practices in his lifetime.

Navigating a Both/And Approach

What a both/and approach will mean for one worshipping community will not be identical to another. Part of being “contemporary” in worship is knowing your context and honoring particular people and places. Diverse styles of music, for example, can draw us into God’s presence, proclaim the Word, surround the sacraments and equip us for mission. In all of our planning, it is essential to notice what choices have been made and for what reasons. Knowing the “whys” behind our decisions will ground worship leaders more intentionally in their role and help them empower the assembly.

This is a reprint of “How is worship traditional? How is worship contemporary?” from the ELCA Worship FAQs: [https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/How is worship traditional How contemporary.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/How%20is%20worship%20traditional%20How%20contemporary.pdf)

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July 1		Food Pantry CLOSED
July 2	10am	Threaders
July 3	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
July 4		Independence Day Office CLOSED
July 7	9am	Summer Worship
	10:30am	Fellowship Hour
July 8	9am	Food Pantry

July 9	10am	Threaders
	7pm	Council (Zoom)
July 10	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
July 13	8am	Men’s Group & Preschool workday
July 14	9am	Summer Worship
July 15	9am	Food Pantry
July 16	10am	Threaders
July 17	Noon	Ladies Lunch Out
	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
July 21	9am	Summer Worship
July 22	9am	Food Pantry
July 23	10am	Threaders
July 24	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)
July 26-27		VSWO Retreat
July 28	9am	Summer Worship
July 31	6:30pm	Potluck Dinner
	7pm	Bible Study (Hybrid)

Hybrid WORSHIP

Summer Worship Hours

Sundays at 9am

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

Semicontinuous Lectionary Series

Throughout the summer and fall, Pastor Leslie will be focusing her preaching on the semicontinuous first reading, which over three years tries to give a full overview of the Hebrew Scriptures (aka Old Testament). Here are the stories for July:

- 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10—The reign of David.
- 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19—David and the house of Israel dance before the Lord.
- 2 Samuel 7:1-14a—The promise of the Lord to David.
- 2 Samuel 11:1-15—Bathsheba and Uriah wronged by David.



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)

Wednesday Evenings

Potluck @ 6:30 & Study @ 7pm

- Join via your smartphone/tablet/ computer by clicking this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/621600567?pwd=OHhzWUFlc0FIQit0MjN5c0IEcIntQT09> (Passcode: Grace).
- Join via your regular phone, by calling 646-558-8656 and entering the Meeting ID: 621 600 567 and Passcode: 672531.



Fellowship Hour

Sunday, July 7 after worship (~10:30am)

We will gather each first Sunday of the month after worship for a fellowship hour in honor of the birthdays and anniversaries of that month. We need volunteers to help provide refreshments each month. Please contact Faith Longworth to get involved.

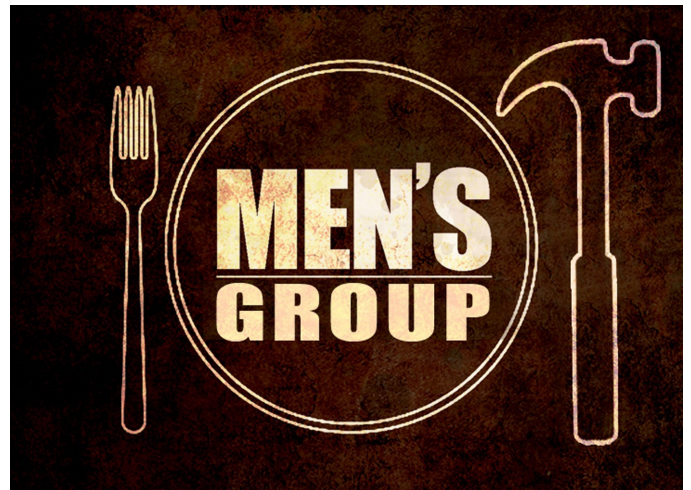


Council Meeting

Council Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, July 9 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.



Men's Group

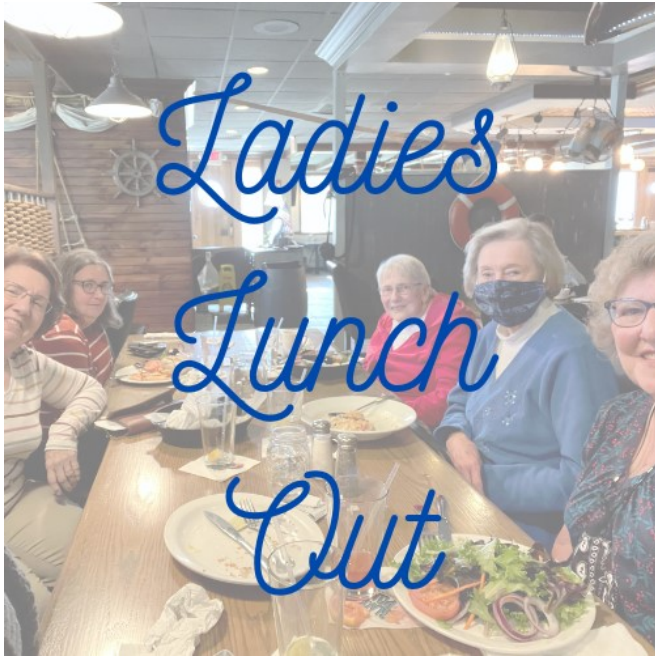
Saturday, July 13 at 8am

Join the men of GLC for potluck breakfast and work around the church.

Preschool Clean Up Day

Saturday, July 13 at 8am

We need your help organizing the remaining Preschool items. Many hands make light work!



Ladies Lunch Out

Wednesday, July 17 at Noon

at Outback (1255 Fordham Dr, VA Beach)

Join the ladies of GLC for fellowship & food. Please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, July 14th.

Upcoming Dates & Locations:

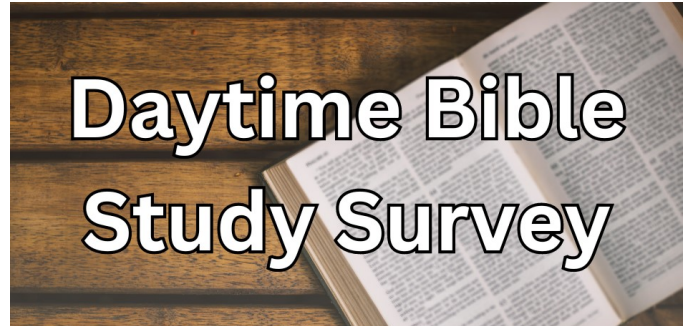
- August 21, 2024—Lucita's Pupuseria
- September 18, 2024—Freemason Abby
 - October 16, 2024—TBD
- November 20, 2024—Sunrise Pizzeria



Outreach Collection for enCircle

Throughout the month of July, we will be collecting items to support the foster care work of enCircle (formerly Lutheran Family Services of Virginia). Place donations in the box in the Narthex by Sunday, July 28th.

- Gift cards for fun activities (ex: museums, bowling, skating, movies, etc.)
 - Gift cards for clothes (ex: Target, Walmart, Amazon, Kohl's, etc.)
 - Board Games for teenagers
 - Craft Supplies for teenagers
- Hygiene Items (ex: soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, etc.)



Daytime Bible Study Survey

If you are interested in participating in a daytime Bible Study through Grace Lutheran Church in Chesapeake, VA, please fill out the linked survey to help us plan for the fall: <https://forms.gle/7tBZgYbGXb534Smf9>



Lawn Care Volunteers Needed

The mowing season is here and we need your help to care for the lawn at church! Please sign up to help with lawn care by clicking the link: <http://tinyurl.com/2024Lawn> Information about lawn care procedures can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/lawncareinstructions22>. If you have further questions, please contact Fred Schleede.



UPDATE: Special Giving Campaign for Growing in Grace Building Fund

During the first 3 weeks of June, 9 households contributed to the Growing in Grace Building Fund for a total of \$2,538.28. We are one quarter of the way to our goal! Help us replenish the Growing in Grace Building Fund after having to use funds to replace an HVAC unit in the Education Wing. You can give by cash or check (noting on the envelope and/or in the memo: "Growing in Grace Building Fund") or online (be sure to choose "Growing in Grace Building Fund") from the drop down menu. We will track all gifts giving to the fund on a thermometer in the Narthex. Help us reach our base goal of \$10,000 by the end of the summer!



Meet Our New Members

The Millers—Doug is originally from Ohio and was brought to Virginia by the Navy. Natalie

is originally from Virginia Beach and works in the legal field. They got married and moved to Chesapeake in 2018. Their daughter , Felicity, was born a couple of years later. Doug has since left the Navy and works for the Coast Guard as a civilian. They discovered Grace online and are excited to make it their new church home.

2024 Congregational Council



David Cooper
President



Brandon Breitsprecher
Vice President



Beth Woodard
Secretary



Walt Anderson



Tom Casey



Debbie Dougherty



Faith Longworth



Bob Masters



Fred Schleede

From the Council

Greetings from your Church Council! Summer has started and the heat is sure here. We should be having the new HVAC unit installed in the Education Wing soon.

The "Growing in Grace" Building Fund drive is doing well with \$2,238 dollars raised so far. This is a fantastic start and I hope to see it grow to replenish the fund for any other issues that may arise in the future for our aging building and appliances.

The Church Picnic was a great success and a great big thank you to all involved and who came.

I hope all the fathers had a wonderful fathers day, I know I did as my first.

If you have any concerns or looking for ways to volunteer your time and talents please contact any of the council members, we always are willing to listen.

God's Peace,
David Cooper
2024 Council President



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

In **May 2024**, Grace Lutheran received **\$11,857.54** in giving to the General Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to:

- Clean up and spread mulch around the church property
- Hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive
- Celebrate the Baptism of Aiden Yurkanin
- Support Pastor Leslie as she attended the Festival of Homiletics
- Welcome the Miller family as official members of Grace
- Have fellowship and fun playing "Wrap Your Crap" Bingo

(to name just a few) with **\$13,206.10** of expenses and generous gifts of time and talent.

Year to date (through May 31st), we have received \$77,130.20 for the General Fund and have had \$78,384.29 in expenses from the General Fund. The balance of the General Fund (as of May 31st) is \$45,718.09.

VSWO CONVENTION

Join your sisters in Christ and
Stir up the gift of God which is in you
through worship, celebration, fun, fellowship, and some business.
2 Timothy 1:6-7

July 26 - 27, 2024
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
7479 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Stay tuned for more details!

SAVE THE DATE

Virginia Synod Women's Organization Annual Convention
July 26-27, 2024
at Our Saviour's Lutheran in Norge
Bishop Milton will be present and will preach

during the opening worship service. For more information on the gathering visit <https://vsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Call-to-Convention-20240429.pdf>



- Volunteer Work Week: July 7-12
 - Family Camp: August 4-9
- Golf Tournament: September 6-7
- Fall Work Weekend: September 13-15
 - Seeds & Sprouts: October 18-20
 - Wild Women Retreat: January 10-12,
- Beer Reformation: January 31-February 2

There is still time to register for Summer Camp! The Webers will be attending Family Camp during Week 8 of camp (Aug 4-9). For more information about summer camp and these and other events, visit www.carolinefurnace.org



United Lutheran Seminary: Kindling Faith Event on ELCA Social Teachings

As our faith informs our day-to-day lives, Lutherans recognize that “faith is active in love [and] love calls for justice in relationships and structures of society” (ELCA, Social Statement on Church in Society, 1991). We also know the church is called to be a community that prays, deliberates, and acts together when it comes to complex social issues. In this election year, how might our Lutheran faith shape our thinking, acting, and voting on major issues? Join us to learn and ponder timely social teachings of the ELCA and to learn tips for leading discussions in your own community.

- **August 27:** Corporate Social Responsibility Rev. Kaari Reiersen, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility for the ELCA
- **September 10:** Abortion Dr. Caryn Riswold, Professor of Religion/McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College
- **September 24:** Faith, Sexism and Justice Dr. Mary Streufert, Director, Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment, and Heather Dean, Program Coordinator, Theological Discernment, ELCA
- **October 8:** Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide Dr. Ryan Cumming, Program Director, Theological Ethics, Education, and Community Engagement
- **October 22:** Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture Dr. Richard Perry, emeritus faculty, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

All sessions will be on Zoom (7-8:30pm). If you are interested, please let Pastor Leslie know. More information at www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar/kindling-faith-elca-social-statement-online-via-zoom.



All Lutheran Women's Retreat
“A Cup of Unconditional Love”
November 7-9, 2024
at the Hilton Garden Inn in Glen Allen, VA
 More information at <https://sites.google.com/view/alwretreat>

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

- July 2 Doreen Smith
- July 3 Autumn Kraft
- July 6 Emma McGrath
- July 7 Kyle Weed
- July 8 Leonora Jones
- July 10 Brandon Breitsprecher
- July 10 Robert Campbell
- July 11 Charlotte Maurer
- July 11 Courtney Weed
- July 13 Peggy Barry
- July 13 Marceline Bennett
- July 13 Bob Masters
- July 15 Juanita Urps
- July 20 Jan Howell
- July 30 Toni Cormack
- July 31 Scott Kayser



- July 20 Gwen Scherman
- July 26 Toni Cormack

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

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Walt Anderson | Charlotte Maurer |
| Elaine Babb | David Pritchard |
| Suzanne Bergsten | Monique Schroeder |
| Jan Howell | The Shalibo Family |
| Leonora Jones | Rose Mary Sidam |
| Jack Justice | Juanita Urps |
| Betty Keefer | Steve Urps |
| The Kilian Family | Annabelle Wolfe |
| Faith Longworth | The Van Horn Family |

We Pray for Our Friends

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Bill Babb | Bobby Masters |
| Richard Bowell | Faye Miles |
| Sarita Bowell | Katie Milliner |
| Laura Braugh | Patricia Petro |
| Lee Cartwright | Stephan Pleli |
| Madison Garriott | Tommy Reeck |
| Jenell Gordon | Lisa Sanders |
| Lettie Groshel | Kathy Sidam |
| Jax Hockenberry | Ron Simmons |
| Brian Hubert | Rosemary Skinner |
| Chris Jones | Larry Smith |
| Henry Kappes Jr | Kristen Spawn |
| Rachael Kramm | Karen Stratton |
| Murray Leffers Jr | Samantha Strother |
| Bill Manke | Tim Theis |

- 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 monthly regarding your friends/family on the list.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Food Pantry CLOSED	2 10am Threaders	3 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	4 Independence Day Office CLOSED 8pm AA	5	6
7 9am Worship (Hybrid) 10:30am Fellowship Hour	8 9am Food Pantry	9 10am Threaders 7pm Council (Zoom)	10 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	11 Office CLOSED 8pm AA	12 Office CLOSED	13 8am Men's Group 10am GS Troop 490
14 9am Worship (Hybrid)	15 9am Food Pantry	16 10am Threaders 7pm Good Mourning	17 Noon Ladies Lunch 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	18 Office CLOSED 8pm AA	19	20
21 9am Worship (Hybrid)	22 9am Food Pantry	23 10am Threaders 6:30pm American Sewing Guild	24 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	25 Office CLOSED 8pm AA	26	27
28 9am Worship (Hybrid)	29 9am Food Pantry	30 10am Threaders	31 6:30pm Potluck 7pm Bible Study (Hybrid)	July 2024		