

## News from the Chairman of Grace

Berkeley Simmons has been voted to be the new Chairman of the Board of Education, with Alissa Martin serving as the Vice Chairman.

The 2020 church budget was approved by the Voters assembly. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office.

Constitution and By Laws changes were approved by the Voters Assembly and have been sent off to The Southeastern District for approval. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office.

Grace now sponsors an LCMS missionary in the Dominican Republic, Jamielynn Tinkey. If you would like to support her directly, please contact Judy Haeske.

Our own Vicar Fabricio Velasquez is leading a short term mission trip to El Salvador in February. We are raising school supplies for this trip. Please contact Vicar Velasquez for more information on joining for the trip, or contributing to the school supply collection.

### Building Committee December 2019 Update

No obligation has been made to the Architecture and Engineering firm from Richmond and rates are still being explored.

Every effort is being made to meet the needs of the Staff, Leadership, Property Management Board, Technology Management Board, Board of Education, and Future Committee Feedback from the full congregation.

The Building Committee met recently to discuss possible solutions to send forward to the architect and design engineer. The highlights of these planning sessions are as follows:

- Converting the Sunday School wing into office space and a Chapel with classrooms and conference room capability.
- Moving the nursery closer to the sanctuary for easier access for parents and visitors
- The team also agreed on replacing the flat roof with a pitched roof, sealing the floor vents and using ceiling vents. This would fix the mold and air quality issues for the Sunday School wing.

The focus of the current planning is to keep the area modular and functional so classrooms will have updated partitioning walls and doors to be sectioned off to support multiple classrooms with soundproofing. These ideas will keep the facilities flexible to meet future needs.

In order to not impact the operations of the church, the concept of operations will ideally be constructed in two consecutive phases of one project proposal. Phase 1, will deal with the mold issues and air quality in the Sunday School wing. Phase 2 will deal with the office area.

More information to come. If you have any questions, please direct them to Dan Buer, Vanessa Wood, or Brandon Weiss of the Building Committee, or Brian Klein, Congregation Chairman.



### Wednesday Advent Services:

December 4, 11 and 18

11:15am and 7:15 pm

### Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 15 - 9:30am

During the Worship Service

### Lessons and Carols Service

Sunday, December 22 - 9:30am

### Christmas Eve Services:

Tuesday, Dec. 24 7:30pm and 10:00pm

### Christmas Day Service:

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - 11:00am

**GRACE LIFERS** also known as OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) will meet on **December 5th, 2019, at noon** at Church for a soup, sandwich and salad luncheon. Please let Shirley Brennan know at 703-680-3989 if you plan on attending and include whether or not you are bringing food.

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Calling all book lovers to **Grace Book Club** on the **first Saturday of the month at 3:00pm** in the multi-purpose room next to the kitchen. This is a fun group of people who enjoy reading and discussing characters, plots, and authors. Please come and join us on **Saturday, December 7th..** Light refreshments are provided. Questions, please contact Ferrin Simmons (simmons fj@gmail.com).

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The next **ROMEO** breakfast is **Wednesday, December 11th** at Bob Evans, Potomac Mills, at the usual time **(8:15AM)**. It's a good time to get together, to share stories, concerns, and other miscellaneous thoughts while having some of the Bob Evans Ground Hog Gravy! Come join us. Have a blessed week!


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	<p><b>MoG, YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THIS!</b> MoG is, the <u>Men of Grace</u>. MoG provides a Bible study every month. MoG is present on church committees, church council, at church activities and events, provides support to Sunday morning services. MoG sponsors several programs within the congregation. MoG is fellowship among the men of Grace. MoG is as dynamic part of Grace Lutheran Church! <b>Men of Grace meets the second Saturday of each month at 8 AM for breakfast and Bible study.</b> Enter through the kitchen door. We hope you will drop in this month. Contact Paul Willemann (willemannpaul@gmail.com) if you have a question.</p>
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**WOMEN OF GRACE** Our monthly Women's Bible Study will be on **Saturday, December 14th at 9:00** in the large Sunday School room. Please enter the church through the side door in the front of the church. Alissa Martin has graciously agreed to lead us again this year and has suggested "None Like Him" by Jen Wilkin. Please contact Ferrin Simmons simmons fj@gmail.com or (703)491-9085, if you are interested in joining this study. We hope that all the women of Grace will plan on participating in this wonderful opportunity to study God's Word and enjoy fellowship with other Christian women.

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	<p><b>DECEMBER ACTS HUNGER PREVENTION CENTER FOOD DRIVE:</b> Grace will be collecting <b>canned or dry beans</b> for the month of December. This includes <b>black beans, cannellini beans, chickpeas, black-eye peas, great northern beans, kidney beans, lima beans, navy beans, and pinto beans.</b> If you wish to contribute to the monthly drive, please bring in your items and place them in the blue bins just inside the main church doors. Remember to bring in plastic grocery bags and handle bags for the ACTS Food Pantry as these items are needed to carry food items home. Thank you for your donations.</p>
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**DO YOU HAVE MORE 2020 CALENDARS THAN YOU CAN USE?** Donate them to a good cause. Barbara Marr is collecting 2020 calendars to give to VA Hospitals, Wounded Warriors at Ft. Belvoir and Women's Prisons. There will be a basket in the hall for collection, through December. Any questions, contact Barbara Marr fbmarr38@gmail.com.

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**HILDA BARG HOMELESS SHELTER:** Grace provides meals for the Hilda Barg Homeless Shelter on specific days during the calendar year. The following are the dates that Grace has been assigned for 2020.

**January 12, 13, 14, & 15**

**May 19, 20 & 21**

**August 23 & 24**

Please watch for the sign-up posters in the lobby just prior to our assigned days to help provide food items for the meals we are responsible for and to help serve. Contact Darlene Roth, Shay Manuel or Ruth Killian if you have any questions.

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**FRED LYNN MIDDLE SCHOOL:** Non-perishable foods which included corn, beans, cranberry sauce, gravy, corn bread, and stuffing for 60 students was delivered to Fred Lynn Middle School on Friday, November 15th. The Social Ministry Board would like to thank the members of Grace who donated to this outreach.

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### **LAKERIDGE FELLOWSHIP HOUSE – YARN DONATIONS AND HATS:**

The residents of Lakeridge Fellowship House have been busy elves making hats for school children at Belmont Elementary and baby hats. To date, with Grace's donations of yarn, **75 hats were made for Belmont Elementary** and **32 baby hats** and **3 baby blankets** have been made and donated to Grace to be **given to Sentara Hospital**. We will continue to collect any leftover yarns our members would like to donate, even small amounts of yarn can be used for parts on the hats they are making. Please bring your donations in and place them by the ACTS donation boxes. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Willemann (willemann1@comcast.net).

**LAKERIDGE FELLOWSHIP HOUSE – DECORATING CHRISTMAS TREE:** Grace will be decorating the 4th floor Christmas tree at the Lakeridge Fellowship House on **Thursday, December 5th at 1:00 pm**. Grace members are welcome to come and bring Christmas cheer to the 4th floor residents. Please contact Debbie Willemann (willemann1@comcast.net) if you have any questions.



**LAKERIDGE FELLOWSHIP HOUSE:** Thank you Grace Members for the generous donations to Lakeridge Fellowship House so that Grace could provide poultry to many of the residents for their Thanksgiving meals. On November 21st, **65 chickens** were purchased and delivered to Fellowship House. Grace, thank you for the support you extend to so many in the community around us.

**OCTOBER RECAP FOR ACTS HUNGER PREVENTION CENTER:** On Monday, October 28th, **156 pounds** of food was delivered to the ACTS Hunger Prevention Center. All of the items donated went to fill Thanksgiving baskets for the community. Please remember that all donations are welcome. Thank you Grace Members for your generous support of ACTS.

**MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES RECAP FOR OCTOBER 2019:** In the month of October, **96 prescription pill bottles** and **57 over-the-counter bottles** were collected. We continue to collect pill bottles every month for clinics in Africa. Remember to remove all personal identifiable information on the prescription bottles. All other labels can be left on. Please ask family, friends and neighbors to contribute to this worthy outreach. Please deposit all pill bottles in the large blue container in the hallway. Thank you for continuing to drop off these bottles at Grace. If you have any questions, please contact Vicki Steinhilbel (vicki\_stein@hotmail.com) or Debbie Willemann (willemann1@comcast.net)

**THRIVENT FUNDS FOR QUILTING GROUP:** The Grace Social Ministry Board would like to thank Judy Haeske for applying and receiving Thrivent Funds in the amount of \$250 for the Grace Quilting Group. The funds go a long way to help the quilters purchase essential materials to complete quilts for Sentara Hospital nursery, Care Net, and Grace members who are hospitalized. Thank you Judy for your support.



**GRACE QUILTING GROUP:** Quilters are hard at work **every Monday from 9-12 pm** creating baby quilts that will be donated to the Sentara Hospital Neonatal Care Unit/Nursery and Care Net/First Care Women's Health Center. Quilts are also being made for members of Grace who may become hospitalized. If you would like to learn how to quilt or just would like to come for the fellowship, please join us every Monday at 9 am in the Multi-Purpose Room. Speak with Darlene Roth (darlenemroth9@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



**WINTER COAT DRIVE:** The winter coat drive is almost over. On November 20th an additional **20 men's coats, 11 women's coats, and 3 children's coats** were delivered to Concordia. To date Grace has collected **67 men's, women's and children's coats** that have already been delivered to Concordia. Please donate your gently used men's, ladies', and children's coats. **A final delivery will be made the second week in December for any additional coats.** Please look for the collection box in the church hallway. If you have any questions contact Debbie Willemann.



## **FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP:**

### **Overjoyed by the Star**

In Matthew 2, we read about the Visit of the Magi. Following the star, inquiring at the king's palace, informed by the priests where to find the Child, they trudged with determination to Bethlehem, bringing with them the gifts they planned to present as they worshiped Him. *"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh"* (Matthew 2:10-11).

What did the Wise Men from the East know about this Baby or His family? Not much. Yet they came in faith, bringing gifts with them to honor Him. How far did they travel? How long was their trip? We can surmise, but what's important to know is that, for them, the trip with all its drudgery was worth it. "They were overjoyed."

How long a trip are we prepared to make this Christmas to worship the Christ Child? Are we willing to put up with inconvenience and sacrifice in order that we might come before Him with our gifts, offering them in faith, as the Wise Men did?

What causes our joy this Christmas season? Is it seeing the eyes of little children light up when they open their presents? That's good. Is it finding exactly the right gift for someone special? That's good, too. But are we "overjoyed" when we see the star? Contrary to the messages we hear in the commercials and even the seasonal songs, the only thing Christmas is about is the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Along with doing all the wonderful things that are good to do at this time of the year, including the visiting of sick and the shut-in, the baking of goodies for food banks, the sharing of financial resources with those in need, and all the shopping and caroling and everything else, let's find our joy in seeing the star. That star points us to Jesus and leads us to the Cross. Let us "open our treasures" and worship Him with our best and most precious gifts as the Wise Men did.

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**NEXT SATURDAY!!!**  
**Christmas Market 2019**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
**9:00AM – 3:00PM**



**STARTING NOW - PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OUR AMAZING VENDORS AND MARKET.**

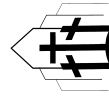
**STARTING NOV. 3<sup>RD</sup> - DONATE GENTLY USED CHRISTMAS ITEMS FOR THE GRACE TABLES. SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE DAY OF THE MARKET.**

**DAY OF – SUPPORT THE MARKET BY COMING AND BRINGING A FRIEND.**

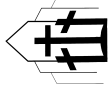
**QUESTIONS – SUE FURST ([sfurst14@aol.com](mailto:sfurst14@aol.com)), RUTH KILLIAN ([rgkillian@yahoo.com](mailto:rgkillian@yahoo.com))**

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# DECEMBER 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1 1st Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30am Worship Service 11:00pm Children's Christmas Program Practice 3:00pm Reserved 6:30pm Youth Confirmation	<b>2</b> 1:00pm Encouraging Words Card Ministry	<b>3</b> 1:00pm Encouraging Words Card Ministry	<b>4</b> 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am Oromo Lutheran Worship 11:15am Worship Service 7:15pm Worship Service	<b>5</b> 12:00pm Grace Lifers 1:00pm Decorating at Lake Ridge Fellowship House	<b>6</b> 7:30pm Vicar's Bible Study	<b>7 Christmas Market</b> 9:00am Christmas Market 3:00pm Book Club 5:00pm Suds and Psalms 7:00pm Reserved
<b>8 2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am Sunday School 12:00pm Children's Christmas Program Practice 3:00pm Reserved 6:30pm Youth Confirmation	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5:30pm Board of Evangelism	<b>11</b> 8:15am ROMEOS 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am Oromo Lutheran Worship 11:15am Worship Service 7:15pm Worship Service	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 7:30pm Vicar's Bible Study	<b>14</b> 8:00am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Women of Grace 10:00am LWML Meeting 7:00pm Reserved
<b>15 3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 8:00am Board of Finance Mtg. 9:30am Worship Service 11:00am Sunday School 12:00pm BOCE 3:00pm Reserved 6:30pm Youth Confirmation	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 1:00pm Encouraging Words Card Ministry	<b>18</b> 10:00am Bible Study 10:00am Oromo Lutheran Worship 11:15am Worship Service 7:15pm Worship Service	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Reserved
<b>22 4th Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30am Worship Service 3:00pm Reserved	<b>23</b>  <b>**Newsletter Articles Due</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 7:30pm Worship Service 10:00pm Worship Service	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 11:00am Worship Service  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00am Reserved 7:00pm Reserved
<b>29</b> 9:30am Worship Service 3:00pm Reserved	<b>30</b>	<b>31 New Years Eve</b>  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>				

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

1st Heather McDevitt  
2nd Amie Hodge  
3rd Loretta Coull  
Matthew Geyer  
5th Carol DeLong  
8th Shirley Blas  
10th Katherine Johnson  
12th Allison Marocco  
Martha Wilson  
13th Dave Potter  
14th JoDee Gierber  
18th Kathryn Voehl  
20th Fabricio Velasquez  
Jonathan Wood  
25th Sandra Marocco  
28th Pam Philips  
29th Patrick Young  
30th Rachel Burger



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

6th Stephen & Berkeley Simmons  
17th Joseph & Patsy Swiderski  
25th Bruce & Sharon Wasz  
31st Larry & Judy Haeske

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

### November 3rd Service

Worship Attendance:

146

Offerings Received: \$13,682.19

### November 10th Service

Worship Attendance:

154

Offerings Received: \$6,228.00

### November 17th Service

Worship Attendance:

151

Offerings Received: \$4,767.25

### November 24th Service

Worship Attendance:

158

Offerings Received: \$5,891.00



## Does it matter 'what' you invest in?

### **Feel Good about Saving Your Money for Ministry**

"It's not like we make a lot of money and can finance one ministry by ourselves," said Linda Donnay, whose husband, Bruce, and son, Tyler, also have LCEF investments.

"But we can feel good knowing that through LCEF, we're pooling our money with others and contributing to the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod."

You can feel good partnering with LCEF because we share your Lutheran beliefs. We also share your love of the Church. Yesterday. Today. Always.

**Consider giving the gift of an LCEF investment to your loved one this Christmas season. Investments start with as little as \$25 - 18 years and younger - or \$100 for adults.**

Learn more about investing with LCEF at [lcef.org](http://lcef.org) or by calling 800-843-5233.

## **PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS**

Send our prayer requests to [glcprayerchain@gmail.com](mailto:glcprayerchain@gmail.com) or the church office at [grace@glcvirginia.org](mailto:grace@glcvirginia.org). Listed below are those who need our continued prayers:

### **HEALING / COMFORT:**

Tadesse Alemayehu  
Sam Miller  
Norma Murray  
Cheryl Wilson  
Billy Blevins (Wanda)  
David Dyess (Simmons)  
Phil Neth (Owen)  
Joe Williams (Gierber)

### **SERVICE MEMBERS:**

Renée Anderson, USAF  
Jesse Bryant, USA  
Abby Chewning, ANG  
Derek Bright, USAF  
Dan Buer, ARNG  
James Rubocki, USMC  
Michael Rupp, USAF  
Stephen Simmons, USMC  
Tim Uecker, USAF  
Jonathan Buck, USMC  
Paul DeLong, USA  
Steven Fosheim, USA  
Randall Harvey, USAF  
Stephen Lord, USA  
Evan Marr, ARNG  
Leith Masri, ARNG  
Paul Steinhilbel, ANG  
Nathan Weiss, USAF

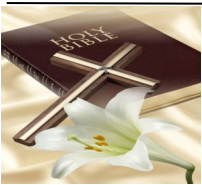
### **LONG TERM PRAYERS NEEDED:**

Louise Ensminger  
Bonnie Farrell  
Rosemarie Owen  
Don Van Campenhout  
Mary Zang  
Sarah (Anderson)  
Marcie Abel (Hedding)  
Joe Blevins (Wanda)  
Linda Bocsor (Potter)  
Rosemary Bregande (Marr)  
Bob Cox (Hobbs)  
Carolyn Johnson (Jean & Bruce)  
Donnie Love (Potter)  
Gil Martin (Willemann)  
Patti Sofranko (Potter)  
Sue Sotkovsky (Mortenson)  
Glenda Turlington (Hedding)  
Jon Van Gorder (Jan/Carol)  
Lori Weiss (Gordon)  
Cassie Zwierzynski (Owen)

### **SYMPATHY:**

Dan Frye (Koontz)  
Janice Robinson (Sarofim)  
Diane Valovich (Marr)  
Irene Furst (Herb & Sue)

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY:** Bible Study will continue weekly for our **Wednesdays at 10am!** Please plan to come and join as Pastor Martin gives us a more in depth understanding of books of the Bible. Coffee and tea will be provided and you are welcome to bring a snack for yourself or to share. If you **would like to attend and would need childcare**, please call the church office in advance at 703-494-4600.



### **WEDNESDAY MORNING 10:00AM BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE THIS MONTH:**

Dec. 4th: Pastor Martin — TBD  
Dec. 11th: Pastor Martin — TBD  
Dec. 18th: Pastor Martin — TBD  
Dec. 25th: CANCELLED

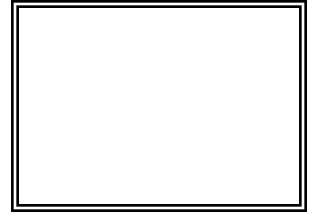
**"MULTI ETHNE" BIBLE STUDY!-** Vicar Fabricio Velasquez is leading a multicultural Bible Study **for all of Grace congregation and the Prince William County community**. It meets on **Friday evenings at 7:30pm**, here at Grace. So plan to come and bring a friend. If you have any questions, contact Vicar Fabricio at [fvelasquez@glcvirginia.org](mailto:fvelasquez@glcvirginia.org)

Dec. 6th: Vicar Velasquez — Acts 4  
Dec. 13th: Vicar Velasquez — Acts 5  
Dec. 20th: CANCELLED  
Dec. 27th: CANCELLED

## Grace Lutheran Church

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Website: [www.glcvirginia.org](http://www.glcvirginia.org)  
Return Service Requested



*"The members Grace Lutheran Church are followers of Jesus, equipped by the Holy Spirit, to share God's love with everyone."*

**"Look at the nations  
and watch— and be  
utterly amazed. For I  
am going to do  
something in your days  
that you would not  
believe, even if you  
were told.  
Habakkuk 1:5**



**FACEBOOK LIVE STREAMING:** Remember when out of town, our Sunday service and Wednesday Bible Class are now being streamed on Facebook! If you are not able to make it to Grace, you can now watch select services Live on Facebook. Video recordings are now also available after the services on [www.glcvirginia.org](http://www.glcvirginia.org), under Social Media - Video Recordings.