GraceNo+es

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE From the Pastor



Pastor's Page

The New Church Year – December brings us to the Season of Advent and a new Church year. The Season of Advent is filled with

the prophecies of Isaiah -

- Who reminds us we are clay, the God as our potter. God, shaping our lives
- Who offers comfort to God's people, and declares that God's Word lasts forever.
- Who reminds us that the Lord loves justice, hates wrongdoing, yet chooses to cloth us in "garments of salvation."

These passages of Isaiah will be the focus of our Wednesday Advent services at 7:00 p.m. the first three Wednesdays of December. Join in Advent Worship services at Zion, Grace and St. James on December 6, Grace 13 and 20, as a means of making time to listen for a different voice during the "Holidays" (Holy Days!); the voice of God which offers a different way of looking at the days leading to Christmas. See the Advent schedule elsewhere in this newsletter.

Christmas Eve – Every few years, the Season of Advent is a bit more compressed, and December 24th falls on a Sunday as the Fourth Sunday in Advent. We will have worship Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. and celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent, and then at 5:00 p.m. in the afternoon, we will share in our traditional Christmas Eve worship with the building of the crèche, family readings of the Christmas Story in Luke's gospel, and many opportunities to sing and give thanks to God for sending Jesus, the Son into the world to save us from sin and death!

"A Season of Giving" – This time of year is often called just that, "A Season of Giving."

- Grace once again has its Giving Tree to offer families and children in this area gifts during the Christmas Season.
- Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry (WARM) Cold Weather Shelter will be serving the Homeless in December as we host the Cold Weather Shelter at Grace. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter how you can help.

Continued

HERO of Waynesboro, a new • organization designed to help keep families and individuals from becoming homeless by keeping people facing eviction or losing their utilities safely in their homes, had a great informational meeting on Tuesday, November 14th at First Baptist. The group is working to become a 501c3, and is being helped by the Community Foundation to get on its feet, and to begin its mission more quickly by serving as a sponsor, and offering a \$15,000 matching grant to get up and running! You can make a contribution by going to www.herowaynesboro.org

"A Season of Receiving" - At the *same time*, in a Season where we are encouraged to exhaust ourselves with the expectations of all we are encouraged to "do," STOP. Put the Cell Phone, the Tablet, the Laptop down, the car keys in their resting place. Pick up a Bible. Read it aloud, find someone else to read it with. Read Isaiah 64:1-9 the first week of December, Isaiah 40:1-11 the second week of December. Isaiah 61:1-4, and 8-11 the third week of December. Read Mark 1:1-8. Read Luke chapters 1 and 2, Read Matthew chapter 1. Then John 1. All told it will take MAYBE 30 minutes of your time. Don't do it all at once. Again, read it aloud, let those words roll over you. Read them with your spouse, or a good friend. Read them with your children, or grandchildren, or favorite nieces, nephews or beloved neighborhood kids, whether they are 3 or 13 or 23 or 43. Let the intentions and actions of our Gracious God echo in your ears, in your hearts. Receive the Good News! Receive the truth that God loves you and this world so much. We need that simple

truth during "the Holiday Season." We need it far beyond these next few weeks, in the world we live in!

Grace Lutheran and Christ Tabernacle Church of God in

Christ – Sunday, November 19th, the two congregations worshiped together at Grace and enjoyed a wonderful meal fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. We hope in 2024 you will join in various activities we hope to have planned: to Worship together, To Serve together, to Advocate together in our community, to Fellowship together and grow in relationship with one another as members of Christ's body in this community and world! We thank God for helpings us to live as if God's kingdom of heaven has drawn near and is at hand...to be a Gospel light in our world (see Grace's You Tube channel and check out the November 19th worship service if you were not able to attend or watch it "live.").

"Dean of the Southern Valley Conference" – Bishop Phyllis Milton asked me to serve as Dean of the Southern Valley Conference, which is one of 11 Conferences that make up the Virginia Synod of the ELCA. Among my duties will be to preside at Installations of new pastors in the Conference, inform the Southern Valley Conferences and pastors about Synodical events and information, and generally to serve as a conduit between the Synod and local congregations. I have accepted the position, and will begin serving January 1, 2024.

A blessed Advent of our Lord to each of you; a blessed Christmas; the hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, *uith us*, *Immanuel*, give you peace each day.



Advent/Christmas at

The Season of Advent - Yes, soon, a New Church Year, and the Season of Advent will be upon us! We celebrate the Season once again with a series of Wednesday Advent Services with a focus on the prophecies of Isaiah as they point us toward our salvation through the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Plan to join in worship with our Lutheran sisters and brothers in Christ this Advent!

Outdoor Christmas Wreath Assembly - *We will assemble the Advent Wreath that gives witness to our community that we are looking for Jesus the Messiah in the days leading to Christmas on Wednesday, November 29.*

Wednesdays in Advent - *Evening Prayer and reflection on the theme: Our Salvation Through the Messiah, Jesus Christ. We share these worship services with our Lutheran brothers and sisters in the Waynesboro area:*

- Wednesday, December 6th at Zion Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 13th at Grace Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 20th at St. James Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, December 21 a**t Bethlehem Lutheran Church with Blue Christmas emphasis at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Decorating! - This annual Sunday activity transforms our worship space in preparation for Christmas Eve and will take place Sunday, **December 17th**; we'll finalize time and details.

Christmas Eve - December 24th, 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve - December 24th, **5:00 p.m**. - Our children and adult choir will present a wonderful program of music and assist in the telling of the Good News of Jesus' birth, as families "build" the manger scene. We will celebrate Holy Communion and sing Silent Night by candlelight.



December 4 - 11 WARM-Grace Cold Weather Shelter (CWS)

On Monday - December 4, we begin hosting the CWS here at Grace -**Please** keep our guests, this ministry and our volunteers in your prayers throughout the week! We are looking forward to a week of hard work and many blessings as we welcome our homeless neighbors into our church home for warmth, fellowship, food and shelter - we want to offer safety and stability for the week.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please call/text Susan Myers at 434-760-1660 as soon as possible! We always have room for more volunteers.

Interacting with guests is an important part of our hospitality - common sense, consistency, trust, patience and understanding are all important. **Most important** - please bring your ears - being a good listener is often the most important thing we can do to help our guests!

Some general tips:

- Be polite and respectful to everyone, demonstrate polite behavior
- Do not touch a guest unless you ask permission first (May I hug you?)
- Wear a nametag, call guests by name as you learn
- Do not give out personal information (phone #, address)
- Listen, listen, listen and ask questions; or silently be present with a guest.
- **Do not** allow guests into the church outside CWS hours (6:00 p.m. 7:00 a.m.).
- No photos, no use of guests' names on social media or outside conversations.
- All volunteers must sign the Confidentiality Agreement

Continued

Remember: CALMS

- **Connect** wear a name tag, ask the guests for their name and try using their name when conversing.
- **Assess** how is our guest? Empathize with their situation ask how are you? how was your day? were you able to stay warm today? would you like some water ... or a snack? We will have Drink/Snack Tables set up.
- **Listen** listen and repeat information back to the guest to let them know you hear them; engage in "active listening" it's okay to ask questions, if they're upset is there an underlying issue?
- **Maintain Safety** at all times! If a guest is venting stay leg-length away; set boundaries physically and emotionally (put your hands up, back away, explain "you are making me uncomfortable"). *** If you do not feel safe for any reason, notify our Evening Coordinator Donna Yobs and get assistance. ***
- **Support** Listen, allow the guest to vent. Demonstrate empathy - try to understand their frustration, anger and/or sadness. Their situation/issue is not "mine." Seek to understand; remember that it is not our job to fix their situation.

We had two wonderful weeks last season - guests commented "You **want** us here," and "I felt so welcome." We are looking forward to opening our doors and anticipating blessing both FOR our guests and FROM our guests! **Thanks be to God!**





The **Giving Tree** has been put up in the Nave. If you would like to participate, please come by the church to pick up one or more tags, sign your name and the gift tag(s) taken in the book, purchase appropriate gift(s), and bring **unurapped** gift(s) with the original tag attached back to the Nave by Sunday, **December 3.** If you have questions, please contact Jane Stein, 540-649-0979.



Be a "HERO" this Holiday season! HERO of Waynesboro is a coalition of churches, including Grace, who have formed a non-profit organization to pool our resources to help families facing eviction or cut-off utilities. Your donation at www.herowaynesboro.org can help a family keep a roof over their heads, or a warm place to say as cold weather approaches.



Altar Flowers—Please consider signing up to provide Altar Flowers for December Sunday services. You can either sign *Howers* up on flower chart in the Nave or call the church office.



Youth Host First Sunday Fellowship is December 3. Our youth will be sharing a short presentation on their faith journey to New Orleans, what they hope to get out the experience, and how Grace Congregants can contribute to their efforts by investing in "shares" of their trip. If you can't make the Sunday presentation, it still possible to contribute by visiting the Grace website, www.gracewaynesboro.org,, click on "MORE..." at the top of the page, then click on "Tithely Donation," making sure to credit your donation (Give To:) to "2024 National Youth Gathering"



It's A Wrap! In December, our Youth will be wrapping Christmas Presents for you! Please bring your presents to the youth room at Grace and youth will wrap them in exchange for a donation to the mission trip. Presents can be dropped off December 17th after worship. You can wait for your freshly wrapped package, or drop it off and pick it up December 22nd.



COMMUNITY Community Potluck at Grace—This meal is for community members to gather for fellowship and provide an opportunity for fellowship and building relationships on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.! These meals are meant to be a time of fellowship for Grace members and an opportunity to build relationships with other folks in our community. Come and eat-bring a dish, bring a friend!



Columbarium—As you make your final plans, remember that Grace has a Columbarium on the North side of the building. Each niche will hold two (2) of our brass urns, which are included in the cost of \$2,250 per niche. There are also Memorial Bricks available for the patio, which can be engraved with the name of a loved one who may be buried elsewhere. For more information, contact Bradley Keefer at 540-942-4290 or the Church Office.



Sanitary Kits for Africa - We continue to make these kits from 9x9 flannel square at Grace! Please continue donating 9x9 Prewashed Flannel (no fleece, felt or plush) squares at the back of the Nave. Contact Gloria Nelson if you have questions.



Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need-Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food pantries. We have made *thirty-eight* deliveries thus far, sixteen to Main Street United Methodist, and twenty-two to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. Overall, we have given well over 4,005 pounds of food! If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Thank You for your Partnership in the Shared Ministry of the Virginia Synod!

May God's Strength and Presence be with You!

The Virginia Synod Office of the Bishop





INANCES

Budget Barometer–October 2023

For the year, actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are below budget, resulting in a deficit of **\$5,523**.

Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$268,538	\$266,392	(\$2,145)
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$249,681	\$271,915	\$22,234
	\$18,857	(\$5,523)	(\$24,379)

DECEMBER N

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Christ the King Commitment Sunday 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School	27 7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room)	28 9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall) QUILTING GROUP 7:00 p.m. Council (Conference Room and Zoom) Church COUNCIL	29 9:00 a.m. School Backpacking 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group Setting Up Advent Wreath 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room) 6:00 p.m. Community Potluck 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	30 Nancy Dowdy– Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office 8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)	1 Office WiBe Closed	2 11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)
3 First Sunday of Advent Celebration Sunday 8:30 a.m. Adult SS 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion 11:00 a.m. First Sunday Fellowship— Youth Group 11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class 11:15 a.m. K-5 SS	4 EXAMPLE AND INCOMPANY 1:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Conference Room) EXECUTE	5 9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall) QUILTING GROUP 7:00 p.m. Called Council (Conference Room and Zoom) Church COUNCIL	6 WERK 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room) 6:00 p.m. Community Potluck 7:00 p.m. Advent Worship Zion Lutheran 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	7 S:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. CCE&J Meeting (Grace Conference Room)	8 VICERCOLO ALLA REFLICE MALETY VIERCOLO ALLA REFLICE MALETY	9 WERECON AREA REFLICE AVECUATIV 11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Second Sunday of Advent 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy	7:00 p.m.	9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)	9:00 a.m. School Backpacking 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)	8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers GRACE WALKERS	Office WilBe Closed	11:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconcil. (Constitution Park)
Communion 11:10 a.m. Confirmation	All God's Children (Conference Room)	7 :00 p.m. Worship & Music (Conference	6:00 p.m. Community Potluck 7:00 p.m.	12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)		
Class 11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School	All God's Children No One Loss These	Room)	Advent Worship Grace 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	6:00 p.m. Virginia Organizing (Conference Room)		11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Third Sunday of Advent	9:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m . Quilting (Fellowship	10:00 a.m. Prayer Group 10:00 a.m. Encircle	8:00 a.m. Newcomers Club (Fellowship	Office Will Be Closed (*	11:00 a.m. Yoga
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School	Encircle Meeting (Fellowship	Hall)	Regional Managers' Meeting (Fellowship)	Hall) 8:30 a.m. Grace	Closed	(Seminar Room)
10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Congregational	Hall)	QUILTING GROUP	11:30 a.m. Women's Book Club	Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship		
Meeting— Budget			6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)	Hall) 6:00 p.m. CCE&J		
11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class		7:00 p.m . Council (Conference	6:00 p.m. Community Potluck	Meeting (Grace Conference Room)		
11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School		Room and Zoom) Church COUNCIL	7:00 p.m. Advent Worship St. James Lutheran 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	7:00 p.m . Blue Christmas Service Bethlehem Lutheran		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Christmas Eve 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion 5:00 p.m. Service of Holy Communion	CHRISTMAS DAY	Office WiBe Closed	 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel) 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. Community Potluck 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers GRACE WALKERS 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)	Closed T	11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion 11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School	Office Wille Closed New Year's Day	9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)	 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel) 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. Community Potluck 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice 	Pastor Pingel's Birthday Sigo a.m. Grace Walkers Crace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)	Office WillBe Closed	11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)



12/02	Charlie Wilson	12/05	Jane Blosser	12/06	Holly Carper
12/08	Sandy Johnson	12/08	Gloria Nelson	12/09	Pat Giesen
12/09 Al	exandra Spellman	12/12	Judi Goodrich	12/13	Deloris Wertman
12/16	Donna Dodge	12/17	Richard Quickel	12/17	Kathy Meicke
12/17	LizAnn Binns	12/20	Dwight Moomaw	12/21	Chuck Goodrich
12/23	Pat Brady	12/31	Jenna Smith	12/31	Charles Smith



- 12/06 Kara Beth Glover 12/10
- Reva Franklin 12/11
- 12/26 Sam Moyer

Zachary Rankin Margaret Quickel

12/20

12/1012/20 Jessica Smith Ron Almarode



December 10

Second Sunday

Of Advent

Preaching and

Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers

Altar Guild

December 3

First Sunday of Advent

Preaching and Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers

Altar Guild

Assisting Minister

Donna Gum

Tami Radecke

Assisting Minister

Communion Assistants

Kathy Bump Carolyn Hite Council Person of the Week

Robin Crowder

Offering Stewards

Pat Brady Jean Morgan **Ushers** Karen Walck Rew Walck **Communion Assistants**

Allison Fink Andrew Sell

Council Person of the Week

Stephen Van Stee

Offering Stewards Pat Brady Robin Crowder Ushers Ron Almarode Lee Lynch December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

Preaching and Presiding *Pastor Paul Pingel*

Altar Flowers

Altar Guild Kathy Meicke

Assisting Minister

Kathy Bump

Communion Assistants

Linda Meyer

Council Person of the Week

Karen Walck

Offering Stewards

Pat Brady Robin Crowder

Ushers Fred Biggers David Proctor



December 24 Christmas Eve

Preaching and Presiding

10:00 a.m.

Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers Gail Johnson Altar Guild

Assisting Minister Ron Almarode

Communion Assistants

Donna Gum

Carolyn Hite

Council Person of the Week

Donna Yobs

Offering Stewards

Pat Brady David Proctor Ushers Jack Eckstrom Esme Hilker Jim Nelson

December 24 Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m.

Preaching and Presiding

Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers Gail Johnson

Altar Guild Susan Myers

Assisting Minister Tripp Franklin

Council Person of the Week

Donna Yobs

Offering Stewards

Pat Brady Vivian Proctor

Ushers

December 31

First Sunday of Christmas

Preaching and Presiding

Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers

Altar Guild

Assisting Minister

Communion Assistants Communion Assistants

Karen Walck

Council Person of the Week

Robin Crowder

Offering Stewards

Pat Brady David Proctor Ushers Maella Hilker Gail Johnson Jerry Kite



Nursing Home, Assisted Living and Homebound Members

Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980

Maribeth Faivre Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. 130 Waynesboro, VA 22980

Phyllis Kite Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Room 9 Waynesboro, VA 22980

Carolyn Shields Brightview 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 331 Staunton, VA 24401 LizAnn Binns The Legacy 1410a North Augusta Street Apartment 3027 Staunton, VA 24401

Sandra Hoy River Edge Rehabilitation and Nursing, Room 210 1221 Rosser Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980

Glenn Myers 144 Patton Farm Road, Apt. E107 Stuarts Draft, VA 24477

Dr. & Mrs. Tom Varner Brightview 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 317 Staunton, VA 24401

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 500 South Wayne Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980

LABEL

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church "A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus."

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youtube.com/ GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro

www.gracewaynesboro.org

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net Telephone: 540.949.6171

Church Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (Lunch 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.)

Church Staff

Rev. Paul Pingel Pastor Email: pastorpingel@gmail.com

Mike Myers, Organist Director of Music Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy Administrative Secretary Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net