

GRACENOTES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor

By Paul H. Pingel



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends in Christ:

For thousands of years, patterns of faith and life have been an integral

part of the life of the Church, including worship, and serving and witnessing to the Gospel in our community. The basic form of our worship is to Gather, to Hear God's Word, to Share in the Sacraments, and to be Sent out as ambassadors of Jesus Christ into the world.

The history of the Church has recorded many times when this has been disrupted, often when disease or crisis prevented the faithful from gathering. I've written a few times about the Plague, and Martin Luther's response to the situation which emphasized physical distancing, medical care and good

hygiene, while encouraging people not to forget about their neighbors. A Grace member shared with me her childhood when Polio was a yearly scare after World War II, and people tried to escape to the countryside their relatives for safety. Others mentioned the influenza outbreak after World War I in which tens of thousands died.

Governor Ralph Northam announced to Virginia early this week (3/30) his Executive Order #55, which orders all Virginians to "remain at their place of residence", with exceptions to buy food, see the doctor, travel to work, etc. Included is a specific order that religious events of more than ten people are prohibited.

Bishop Bob Humphrey, in a pastoral video that was sent out yesterday, March 31st, echoed these instructions, and recommended that at this time, we follow Governor Northam's

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worship until Sunday, June 14th. Grace Council, at a special called meeting last night and after much discussion, agreed that Grace should adhere to these guidelines. You can find Bishop Humphrey's video here: <https://vimeo.com/402605556>

This is an unprecedented amount of time for the Church to not gather in person. As Bishop Humphrey notes, a great deal of our Festival Days that are so important to recalling the Good News we have as the Church will not be in-person: Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, Holy Trinity Sunday. This also affects important Life events such as Confirmation - three of our youth will have their Affirmation of Baptism delayed.

I take very seriously the fact that God sent Jesus "IN PERSON" - incarnationally - in order for the world to understand most completely God's love for the world and its people. We are challenged in this time of Coronavirus to be creative in the ways we can keep our connection to one another and our neighbor. And yet it must be said that there have been too many Church congregations who have acted rashly, have conducted worship services and other in-person activities heedless of common sense health warnings, and the plain truth is that they have spread the Coronavirus and jeopardized the

health and wellness of many, including those in the over-65 and under-18 categories of risk.

The Coronavirus is no longer an "it's in New York, not here" disease. Every place where our members live, there are now Coronavirus cases. As national and local health experts tell us, the models and patterns of the coronavirus are the same everywhere, including here.

However, this is the EXACT time for us to be Church as creatively as possible. We will continue worship via YouTube and Zoom. We will celebrate our festivals of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter with as much intentionality, thoughtfulness, and then joy as we can, even if we are present with each other via computer screen or telephone. Take part in these opportunities, which we'll communicate to you shortly.

I'm also so thankful for the examples of care and love for neighbor and one another that can be told in and through Grace! Look for additional opportunities for you to care for our neighbors, and respond as God's Spirit moves you.

We will communicate regularly via email, U.S. Mail (for those without computers), Facebook and telephone. As your pastor, I will

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continue to offer care by telephone or whatever order, and postpone communication works best for you, and at critical times of death and emergency, will minister in person, honoring the Orders in place in our Commonwealth. We will creatively offer Zoom classes, and are working to provide a Zoom Prayer Group and opportunities for online fellowship. Look for additional communications in the next week or two.

In particular, I'd like to thank Nancy Dowdy for her work in the Church Office keeping us connected to one another in many ways, and Mike Myers, for his work in continuing to offer "a sweet sacrifice of praise" to God in worship through music and song. A special thanks also to Owen Keefer for his gifts of technology that have been so important to our continuing worship, and Gordon Putnam for updating website and Facebook. AND there are so many others who have quietly helped in ways too many to mention that have continued to make us *A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus*.

You ARE the Body of Christ! You ARE blessed to be a blessing! We WILL meet again soon, and in the meantime, pray this prayer daily from scripture, shared with me by another Grace member who has

found great comfort in it: "Cast your anxieties upon Jesus, for he cares for you." (I Peter 5:7) Jesus cares so completely that though equal with God, he emptied himself, and in his humanity gave his life up for us all, for the sake of our new life in him. (cf. Philippians 2:5-11). This new life continues in and through each of us, even, and especially in these times we live in. God's peace be with you all!

In Christ,
Pr. Paul





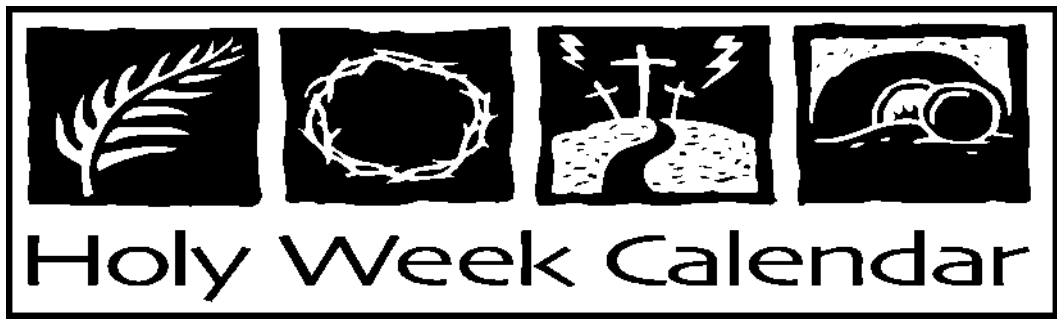
Highlights of Congregation Council Meeting

March 17, 2020

In the past month several items came up that needed Council's approval and these were settled by E-Votes, and Tuesday became the first Zoom Council Meeting.

Pastor told of his time of Spiritual Retreat of prayer, worship, and time to listen for the voice of God. Lent has begun but the Coronavirus has altered our means of gathering together as opposed to keeping us apart. We remember our neighbor, being careful as well as caring will be an important part of our next few weeks. Keep in touch with friends, neighbors, and family. Remember those of Grace who are single or isolated and contact someone you haven't talked to in awhile. This is what God calls us to, even in the midst of careful times.

**Respectively submitted,
Deloris Wertman**



Dear Friends in Christ:

Holy Week takes on a very different dimension for God's people this year. We find ourselves physically distant from one another. This gives us an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' growing distance from others in the Holy Week story – separate from the Pharisees and religious leaders by their hard-heartedness, separate from disciples by their fear that changed their allegiance even to death to abandonment; separate from the world itself on the cross. Yet in all this, Jesus remained Jesus – his name meaning “he will save/rescue/deliver” – and he did not separate from us, but gave himself freely for us, so that we might live. This is something to consider deeply and with grateful hearts as we continue to meet electronically, and as we continue to live as God's people in this “coronavirus world.”

Palm Sunday - Sunday, April 5th – **10:00 a.m. via Grace YouTube channel** – accessible via our website, www.gracewaynesboro.org (as is the bulletin). Our non-computer members may access the worship service via Zoom on their telephones, using the instructions sent via U.S. Mail. *We celebrate with a Palm-strewn worship space, and begin Holy Week remembering Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and the fact that God the Son “emptied himself, even to death on a cross,” for the sake of God's love for the whole world.*

Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 9th – **7:00 p.m. via Grace YouTube channel** - accessible via our website, www.gracewaynesboro.org (as is the bulletin). Our non-computer members may access the worship service via Zoom on their telephones, using the instructions that will be sent via U.S. Mail. *We remember Jesus in the upper room with his disciples, and his command to love one another, and worship with special music and the stripping of the altar.*

Good Friday – *Friday, April 10th - 7:00 p.m. via Grace YouTube channel* - accessible via our website, www.gracewaynesboro.org (as is the bulletin). Our non-computer members may access the worship service via Zoom on their telephones, using the instructions that will be sent via U.S. Mail. *We wait at the foot of the cross, knowing this is the place where Jesus gave his life for the sake of our lives, and declared that it is from the cross that we follow him.*

Easter Vigil – *Saturday, April 11th – 7:00 p.m. via ZOOM Conference* – Our Confirmands will help lead this ancient worship service that recalls God’s great and mighty stories of Grace and salvation in this world, as we anticipate Easter Sunday. We’ll be able to see each other as we worship, and participate together in a more immediate way. *You will be sent an email with instructions for getting online via Zoom early in Holy Week, either by video (computer, pad or cell phone), or by audio (telephone).* Our non-computer members may access the worship service via Zoom on their telephones, using the instructions that will be sent via U.S. Mail.

Easter – The Resurrection of our Lord – *Sunday, April 12th - 10:00 a.m. via Grace YouTube channel* – We celebrate Easter with decorated worship space, trumpets, choir solo, and all the joy we have, that our life is new in the Resurrection of our Lord! Worship is accessible via our website, www.gracewaynesboro.org (as is the bulletin). Our non-computer members may access the worship service via Zoom on their telephones, using the instructions that will be sent via U.S. Mail. AND...

“Easter Breakfast” at 9:00 a.m.! – **via ZOOM conference** – Here’s an opportunity to enjoy fellowship with your sisters and brothers at Grace prior to Easter Worship! Grab a cup of coffee and join in the conversation! We’ll send instructions to enter the Zoom meeting *either by video (computer, pad or cell phone), or by audio (telephone).* Our non-computer members may access the worship service via Zoom on their telephones, using the instructions that will be sent via U.S. Mail.

Note about ZOOM – If you’ve never tried Zoom before, we want to give an opportunity to try Zoom out before the Easter Vigil and “Easter Breakfast.” We’ll have a **Wednesday of Holy Week, 7:00 p.m.** trial Zoom meeting and Holy Week devotion for you to try it out. Look for instructions via email and U.S. Mail early this Holy Week.

HELPING



HANDS

GRACE-FILLED WAYS YOU CAN HELP DURING THIS CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Martin Luther - in 1527! - published a pamphlet that was distributed during an outbreak of the Plague. Luther wrote quite modernly about measures to protect one's self by physical distancing, seeking medical help when necessary, practicing good hygiene techniques, etc.

*What he also included in the pamphlet was that as followers of Christ we remain responsive to “**..wherever your neighbor...need[s] your presence.**”*

Part of our challenge AND opportunity as faithful people is to remain creative in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic of how we can continue to care for our neighbor, even as we stay in place, and do our part to help control the pandemic.

1. At Grace, we give thanks to God for our sisters and brothers who are regularly in the midst of the coronavirus, AND the continued care of many others who are sick and in need –
 - a. doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers at hospitals and other medical facilities;
 - b. assisted living and nursing facility nurses and administrative personnel,
 - c. social workers working in a variety of facilities and with a variety of clients
 - d. grocery, pharmacy, and other essential business workers going to work each day.

Pray for these members of Grace (and many others!) who are daily caring and at risk in our community. LOOK FOR NEWS ABOUT A PRAYER GROUP GATHERING BY PHONE AND ZOOM IN A LATER EMAIL.

Continued

2. **Making Health care masks** for Augusta Health and our local Emergency Medical Service (EMS) workers –
 - a. Many Grace members are sewing masks after a call has gone out from both Augusta Health and our local EMS services for much needed masks. If you'd like to help, call Gwen Kite (540-910-0508) , or the Church Office (540-949-6171) to get a pattern.

3. ***Helping to make and serve meals to the homeless through Disciples Kitchen – The need remains to help the homeless and those in poverty in our area to be fed. Governor Northam's "stay at home" order provides an exception for those who are providing services to the homeless and those in poverty.***
 - a. Help is needed for those age 19-69 to serve lunch at the 2nd Presbyterian Parking lot from 11:15am to 12:15pm Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays (Pastor Paul is serving each Monday, if you'd like to join him!). Masks and gloves will be provided.
 - b. Lunch for 45 people. Lunches need to be bagged and ready to serve, with sandwich or entrée (could be a McDonald's hamburger or other pre-made item), a snack (chips, pudding) and/or a piece of fruit, and drink (can of soda, bottled water).
 - c. There may be some people who cannot or should not go out to bring their lunch to 2nd Presbyterian. So drivers are also needed to take lunches to the site.

If you can help with this ministry, call Gwen Kite or the Church Office (numbers above).

Continued

4. **Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry (WARM)** – WARM is continuing their 24/7 care for the homeless through Cold Weather Shelters at local churches BEYOND their normal closure date AND for families at the Ruth Anderson WARM House. Their resources are stretched and they have a need for an extra \$5000/month to continue this care!
- A. Give a “WARM Easter Lily” in memory or honor or a loved one! Contact the Church Office to give one or two, or go to www.gracewaynesboro.org and click on the [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) link. Please let the Church Office know by Monday, April 6th
- B. Make an offering at <https://warmwaynesboro.org/ways-to-give/>
5. **Check in with your Neighbors!** – There are so many wonderful stories of Grace members checking in on neighbors, getting groceries and dropping them on the doorstep, helping in many other ways, and Grace members calling Grace members. These are important signs of us being Christ’s Body, the Church, and as Luther writes, being a blessing “... ***wherever your neighbor...need[s] your presence.***”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY, THROUGH OUR FAITH ACTIVE IN LIFE!

Odds and Ends



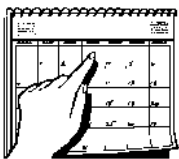
Main Street United Methodist Church is providing a **Curb-Side Food Pantry** Monday through Thursday from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. They need donations, specifically peanut butter, mac and cheese, personal hygiene items, dried rice and beans . If you would like to contribute, a box is set up outside the office door (to the right) for you to drop them off.



Unfortunately, due to current circumstances, we have to **cancel** the informational presentation by Thrivent Action Team presenters on Thursday, **April 30, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.** We will reschedule for the future.



Parking Lot Update - We anticipate beginning the paving of the Parking Lot in the Spring of this year. In planning for the updates of the parking lot (more handicapped spaces, islands in the main lot), we discovered an interim step of a site plan is required by the city. We have selected the firm of Lotts & Associates, P.C. to complete the site plan which is required by the city, and anticipate the drawings to be complete for Spring paving. We'll keep the congregation informed about the progress of drawings and paving.



Did you know...we have the church calendar on our website? You can visit there www.gracewaynesboro.org to check events, times, locations, meeting room availability, cancellations, birthdays, etc. If you click on the event, it will give you more detail. Nancy makes every effort to keep it up to date. If you would like an item added, changed, etc., please contact the Church Office.

Thank You



March 12, 2020

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
500 S Wayne Avenue
Waynesboro, VA 22980-4836

Dear Friends at Grace Lutheran,

You made a difference!

Thank you for your recent donation to Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry, Inc. (WARM). Non-monetary gifts like yours are critical to our mission of *showing Christ's love through shelter and support for the homeless*. I can't tell you how much we appreciate your support of our life changing work with our community's most vulnerable members.

Please accept this letter as acknowledgement of your donation of **chips, fruit, salsa, cheese, and milk** for our **Ruth's WARM House**. Your donation directly benefits our services and work with our homeless neighbors. Thank you on behalf of those who will benefit from your generosity!

We work hard to increase our impact on local homelessness and appreciate your continued support. Please feel free to contact me directly at debra@warmwaynesboro.org or 540-324-8166 if you'd like more information on the use of your donation or to hear about WARM's recent successes. Thanks again for believing in a better tomorrow for homeless children and adults in our community.

With WARMest Regards,

Debra Freeman-Belle
Executive Director

*****Please keep the below information for your tax records*****

Donor Name	Gift Date	Gift Type
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church	02/10/2020	In Kind

Per IRS Guidelines, the donor is responsible for valuing non-monetary donations to the organization. Please consult your tax or financial advisor for applicable laws and valuation to determine the specific tax benefit of your donation to WARM.

Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry, Inc. (WARM) is a tax-exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.

1035 Fairfax Avenue • Waynesboro, Virginia 22980 • Telephone: (540)324-8166 • Fax: (540)683-8552
Website: www.warmwaynesboro.org • Email: info@warmwaynesboro.org

April Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00 p.m. Season of Lent Worship LIVE on YouTube—Access the Service through our www.gracewaynesboro.org website, and click on the link in the Lenten Schedule box.	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 10:00 a.m. <i>Service of the Word via YouTube</i>	6 6:30—8:00 p.m. Book Study via Zoom	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. <i>Service of the Word via YouTube</i>	10 Good Friday 7:00 p.m. <i>Service of the Word via YouTube</i>	11 Easter Vigil 7:00 p.m. <i>Service of the Word via Zoom</i>
12 Easter Sunday 9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast via Zoom 10:00 a.m. <i>Service of the Word via YouTube</i>	13 Easter Monday Office Closed No Book Study	14 7:00 p.m. Round Tables Via Zoom	15 10:45 a.m. Bible Study via Zoom	16 7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom	17	18
19 2nd Sunday Of Easter 10:00 a.m. <i>Service of the Word via YouTube</i>	20 6:30—8:00 p.m. Book Study via Zoom	21 7:00 p.m. Via Zoom  Church Council	22 10:45 a.m. Bible Study via Zoom	23 7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom	24	25
26 3rd Sunday Of Easter 10:00 a.m. <i>Service of the Word via YouTube</i>	27 6:30—8:00 p.m. Book Study via Zoom	28	29 10:45 a.m. Bible Study via Zoom	30 7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom		

Worship Assistants

Sunday April 5	April 9 Maundy Thursday	April 10 Good Friday	April 11 Easter Vigil	Sunday April 12	Sunday April 19	Sunday April 26
Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel
Assisting Minister Tripp Franklin	Assisting Minister Wilda Keefer Karla Rankin	Assisting Minister Brian Lundstrom	Assisting Minister Donna Gum	Assisting Minister Tripp Franklin	Assisting Minister Ron Almarode	Assisting Minister Mike Trauscht
Offering Steward Pat Brady	Offering Steward Pat Brady	Offering Steward Pat Brady	Offering Steward Pat Brady	Offering Steward Pat Brady	Offering Steward Pat Brady	Offering Steward Pat Brady
Altar Flowers Gail Johnson				Altar Flowers Pat & Pete Giesen	Altar Flowers Open	Altar Flowers Open
Council Member of the Week/ Sunday School Support Gordon Putnam	Council Member of the Week/ Sunday School Support Gordon Putnam	Council Member of the Week/ Sunday School Support Gordon Putnam	Council Member of the Week/ Sunday School Support Gordon Putnam	Council Member of the Week/ Sunday School Support Kim Hull	Council Member of the Week/ Sunday School Support Jerry Kite	Council Member of the Week/ Sunday School Support Carrie Jones



Birthdays

We give thanks for you at Grace and wish you a Happy Birthday!

4/1	Jayme Morris	4/2	Ty Elliott	4/6	Hal Walck
4/7	Quinn Franklin	4/9	Gordon Putnam	4/13	Laura Shaw
4/13	Amy Warren	4/13	Sam Biggers	4/15	Brad Hull
4/18	Sandra R. Hoy	4/18	Jerry Kite	4/19	Glenn Myers
4/20	Trotter Franklin	4/20	Barb Susen	4/24	Kai Blosser
4/26	Will Walter	4/28	Flo Walck		

Baptisms

4/2	Flo Walck	4/3	Brad Keefer	4/4	Aaron Lynch
4/6	Bobby Hite	4/6	Larry Meeks	4/7	Alex Skelton
4/7	Paige Smith	4/7	Jenna Smith	4/9	Frannie Knicely
4/10	Janet Lunger	4/11	E. G. Rankin	4/11	Owen Keefer
4/11	Sharon Lynch	4/11	Kiera Mahoney	4/12	Jim Kite
4/12	Carol Varner	4/14	Tom Carper	4/14	Katie Morrison
4/14	Donna Gum	4/15	Kaitlyn Hull	4/19	Kristen Myers
4/19	Kaitlyn Myers	4/19	Kate Van Bremen	4/20	Ashley Stollings
4/23	Zoe Stein	4/25	Gregory Ranzini	4/26	Carolyn Shields
4/28	Kim Hull	4/29	Anne Barnes		

Nursing Home, Assisted Living and Homebound Members

<p>Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>Mary Bertelson Summit Square, 501 Oak Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>LizAnn Binns The Legacy 1410 A N. Augusta St. Apt. 2026</p>
<p>Maribeth Faivre Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>Phyllis Kite 57 Skyline Avenue Stuarts Draft, VA 24477</p>	<p>Bob and Carol Knemoller Summit Square 501 Oak Ave.</p>
<p>Janet Lunger Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>Glen & Flossie Myers 104 Patton Farm Road Apartment 361 Stuarts Draft, VA 24477</p>	<p>Pete Rufe Summit Square Healthcare 501 Oak Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>

Budget Barometer—February 2020

Yearly Budget Barometer	Budget 2020	Actual 2020	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$46,876	\$50,449	\$3,572
Total Budget Disbursements YTD	\$50,191	\$48,000	(\$2,191)
	(\$3,315)	\$2,449	\$5,763



Members of Grace Ministers



Linda Meyer, President

Gordon Putnam, Vice President

Deloris Wertman, Secretary

Ron Almarode, Treasurer

Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary

Council Members

Holly Carper, Pete Giesen, Kim Hull,
Gail Johnson, Kathryn Johnson, Carrie Jones,
Jerry Kite, Karla Rankin, Rudolph Yobs

Grace Church Sunday School Teachers

CLASS	LOCATION	TEACHERS
Pre-K-K	Lower Level	Sarah Beth Kite, Deloris Wertman
Grades 1-3	Lower Level	Amy Warren, Jane Blosser
Grades 4-5	Lower Level	Jill Pingel, Jane Stein
Grades 6-8 <i>Catechism</i>	Lower Level	Pastor Pingel, Fred Biggers, Marlene Shaw, Robin Crowder (SUB)
Senior High	Lower Level	Linda Meyer, Antoinette Eckstrom
Adult	Upper Level	Gordon Putnam

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

LABEL



 facebook.com/gelc.elca

 twitter.com/gelc_elca

 instagram.com/gelc.waynesboro

 flickr.com/gracewaynesboro

 youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro

www.gracewaynesboro.org

E: gracelc@lumos.net

T: 540.949.6171

Church Staff

The Rev. Paul Pingel
Pastor

Nancy Dowdy
Administrative Secretary

Mike Myers
Director of Music & Organist

Church Office Hours

Mon–Thu: 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
(Lunch 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.)
Friday: 8:30 a.m.—Noon