December 2020

# GraceNo+es

## THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

### **From the Pastor**

By Paul H. Pingel



#### **Pastor's Page**

Advent is upon us! As is December! It is hard to believe that 2020 is almost done. For many, the end of the year cannot come

soon enough. The New Year has much promise; with new vaccines – plural – that show great promise, and are being fast-tracked for release, there is much hope that the New Year will restore some sense of normalcy to our daily lives. But what does "normalcy" mean for us? There may be a desire for things to return to "the way they used to be." However, in this Advent Season, as we "Watch, Wait and Wonder" about many things, the idea of what is "normal" for followers of Christ is worth our time, and our practice.

What is "normal" for God's people is prayer and devotion, or meditation – time given regularly to listen for God-With-Us in our daily lives. *WHY IS THAT? Because it lines us up,*  TOGETHER, to remember who God is, who we are, and what God wants so deeply for this world! <u>Peace on Earth,</u> <u>Goodwill toward all people!</u> was the angels' song to the shepherds!

In my 27 years as a pastor, I have often heard congregation members say that God's Word can be an intimidating, even strange book. However, if we believe, as our Lutheran heritage teaches us, that God's Word is a living word that doesn't come away empty, that it is only through the Word of God that we find the "source an norm" (there's that word "normal!") of our lives, then regular time with God's Word is "normal" for us! Not just on Sundays, but as often as we can, even daily. Here's what the great theologian and Lutheran martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer has to say: It is not necessary that we should get through the entire passage in one meditation. Often we shall have to stop with one sentence or even one word. because we have been gripped and arrested and cannot evade it any

longer. Is not the word "Father," or "love," "mercy," "cross," "sanctification," "resurrection," enough to fill far more than the brief period we have at our disposal?

It is not necessary that we should be concerned in our meditation to express our thought and prayer in words...it is not necessary that we should discover new ideas in our meditation...It is sufficient if the Word, as we read and understand it, penetrates and dwells within us. As Mary "pondered in her heart" the things that were told her by the shepherds - as what we have casually overheard follows us for a long time, sticks in our minds, occupies, disturbs or delights us, without our ability to do anything about it - so in meditation God's Word seeks to enter and remain with us...stir us, work and operate in us...Then it will do its work in us, often without our being conscious of it.

This is our "new normal," the normal of Mary, as she pondered in her heart what the angel told her that she was to bear God's Son; as she pondered in her heart the news the excited shepherds told her and Joseph about an army of angels singing "Peace on Earth…" As she pondered in her heart the words Simeon sing in the Temple, "Lord, now you let your servant go in peace...my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared...a light to reveal you to *the nations*..." And also that a sword would pierce her heart in the midst of this Good News.

We know this Advent and Christmas Season will be a different celebration in a very different and challenging year. And yet isn't it telling that someone like Dietrich Bonhoeffer – standing outnumbered against a hostile Church and a hostile German nation before and during World War II until six days before its end, when he was killed for challenging the Third Reich – writes a book called <u>Life Together</u> in which the reading of God's Word is considered "normal," in the most extreme, trying times?

At the beginning of this new Church Year, make this resolution to keep, give yourself a gift before Christmas: enter into the discipline of regular reading and meditation on God's Word. Use the reading schedule in the bulletin, remember the example I have given before of taking two minutes with a Bible on your bathroom counter while you brush your teeth! - as a way of beginning to establish that routine. It is the arrival of Jesus Christ in our lives – not a vaccine, not a return to some other "normal" - that is the Good News we hear at the end of a year many would like to put in their rear view mirror. That's what God's Word points us toward. Jesus, the Lord of our "new normal."



#### Highlights of Congregation Council Meeting November 17, 2020

A recent report from the SAW area showed the number of Covid cases has tripled since October. Grace will rely on what we feel is a more reliable indicator and will continue on hold for in-person worship.

The YMCA Childcare program is being delayed after a staff member tested positive for Covid; but hopefully will open Monday, November 30.

The Grace Outreach Committee will be delivering bagged lunches to Disciples Kitchen. They have also assisted 37 people in finding suitable housing.

Respectfully submitted, David Proctor



**Check out our Parking Lot and Yard!** The newly paved Parking Lot has received most of its final touches: protective wood "curbing" around the new traffic islands; fourteen new trees four for the traffic islands, and eleven surrounding parking lot on the street sides lines and arrow

painting are also complete. We will dedicate the parking lot to bless God's mission in and through Grace at our December 20th worship service.



Advent Worship this December - *Watch, Wait* and *Wonder* - We join with Bethlehem, St. James and Zion to worship on <u>Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. via</u> <u>YouTube or Zoom beginning December 2nd</u>. Pastors Gordon Putnam (12/9), Wes Smith (12/16) and Pastor Paul (12/23) will bring a message of watching, waiting and being open to the wonder of God's love in Jesus Christ, and we will sing the richness of the

treasury of Advent hymns as a part of worship. Go to www.gracewaynesboro.org to find the link to our YouTube channel, and join us Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve at Grace:** We will offer up to three worship services for Thursday, December 24th:

NOTE: We will re-locate our Parking Lot Worship to the main parking lot for Christmas Eve. All cars will be parked on the newly re-paved asphalt on level ground.

- 1. **4:00 p.m. in the Parking Lot Family Reading of the Christmas Story around the Star with Holy Communion -** In the tradition of many years at Grace, families of our congregation will read the Christmas Story, focused, on this outside service, on the Star that guided the shepherds and Magi to the place where Jesus lay. *There will be space for 22 cars to take part in the Worship Service outdoors. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (540-949-6171) to sign up* for one of the spots.
- 2. So far, all our Parking Lot sign-ups are for 4:00 p.m. We will add the 5:30 service of Holy Communion if we fill all 4:00 p.m. spots.
- 3. **7:00 p.m.** You Tube and Zoom Worship Service Family Reading of the Christmas Story and "building the crèche, "with Holy Communion - We continue the tradition of families reading the Christmas Story while building the crèche scene that has been a central part of Grace's Christmas Eve worship for many years. Families will pre-record their readings, which will become a part of the worship service. Poinsettias and other greenery remind us of God's great love for the world in Jesus Christ! No sign-up necessary! Tune in via You Tube or Zoom.

Holy Communion will be offered as a part of all tworship services. For any of the services, sign up via the email or letter to the Church Office letting Nancy know which service you plan to attend, virtual or car worship (# of parking spaces), and how many and type of chalices you need. Also, let her know if you need your chalices delivered.



#### 2020-What a Year! Reflections from Bishop Bob Humphrey

Greetings dear Synod! Our Mission Statement is based, in part on this key passage: Since, then, we have such a hope [through Christ Jesus] we act with great boldness (2 Corinthians 2:13). Because we are saved, called and empowered by God who is FAITHFUL + BOLD + SERVING, we are free to be and do likewise!

The part of the statement that caught my attention now is, we are free to be and do likewise. No other time has left me feeling more generally constrained than I have since March 2020. It leaves me feeling NOT very free to be and do. But, then I recall all the ways our Synod has responded to the pandemic, racial injustice, ecological disasters, political and economic challenges facing us. What a year!

- YOU have led in many respects, adopting new and innovative ways to worship, pray, study, work and even play together while caring for each other!
- The Virginia Synod has done the same. From small meetings to major events our staff and ministry team leaders have adapted many new ways to do ministry.
- The ELCA is reshaping the Churchwide offices in order "to activate each of us so that more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love."
- I have been amazed how faithful so many have remained in support of our Rostered and Lay leaders. You have often gone the extra mile to provide the necessary resources to preserve or even expand ministry in every expression of our church. Thanks be to God! And... Thank you!

Where are we headed? There have been significant and deeply troubling restrictions and losses we will continue to grieve. But, with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and a lot of hard work, we have also found exciting ways to reinvent or reform our ministry and mission and to meet the challenges of these remarkable times. I am confident this will continue because "God is with us!"

No doubt we have much left to do to be a more FAITHFUL + BOLD + SERVING church, but I'm proud of our accomplishments and commitment to faithfully follow Jesus and lead the way in the Virginia Synod. In Christ, though restricted in many ways, we are free indeed! Blessings to you all in this holiday season.

Peace! Bishop Bob Humphrey



Mission Endowment Fund Grants



Near the end of this year we found that some of the money in the Mission Endowment Fund earmarked for outreach grants this year was not going to be spent in the category of "Christian Education". Council explored potential needs in the community for some additional support, and in October approved directing the funds to two programs: the chaplain program at Western State Hospital, in Staunton, and the chaplain program at the Augusta Correctional Center, in Craigsville. Since both agencies are state agencies, they could not accept direct funds, so materials that the chaplains identified as helpful for their clients were purchased by Grace and donated to the chaplain programs.

Gifts of the pocket-sized Luther's Small Catechisms and Beginner's Bibles were purchased for use by clients at Western State Hospital (WSH). The Catechisms were purchased to be used as a simple teaching tool for Christian clients who want a refresher on some of the basics of Christianity. Dr. Cynthia Long, Grace member and Hospital Chaplain, will distribute the Catechisms to clients who attend Chapel services at Western State or upon request. The Beginner Bibles are intended for use by children but will be distributed to WSH clients who are "Intellectually Disabled". Cynthia has informed us that most of the state "Training Centers" which formerly housed many of the state's ID clients with behavioral challenges have been closed. Because of that move, state hospitals are admitting a fair number of ID clients on a short-term basis. Cynthia has expressed her gratitude for these gifts which will be greatly appreciated by hospital clients."

Chaplain Robby Burke is the chaplain at the Augusta Correctional Center, a program that is sponsored through the Grace Inside program serving the prisons in Virginia. You can find out more info about this ministry on the Grace Inside website, <u>www.graceinside.org</u>. He is the only minister serving almost 1400 men in a maximum security state prison. He stated that he is directly responsible for the Christian ministry, and also responsible for coordinating and supervising all religious programs. Grace provided Study Bibles for him to give to prisoners who request them. Chaplain Burke stated, "It is tremendously important for us chaplains to have the support of churches and volunteers to make this ministry work.

I have numerous volunteers from all over the Valley who work with me here. We also need donations of materials, as the state provides zero funds for materials. Each Bible which you have donated will go directly into the hands of a man who has asked for it. Your efforts will help bring men into the family of Jesus Christ. Men will leave here better than when they arrived because of you. I HAVE SEEN THIS HAPPEN. Please read Matthew 25 and you will see that Jesus thanks you for this."



#### Assistant to the Bishop Kelly Bayer

**Derrick -** Making up for a postponed Sunday earlier this year, Pastor Bayer Derrick is preaching today. In addition, we will mark this year 2020 as the 50/40/10 Celebration Year of Ordination for women, women of color, and

LGBTQ clergy able to serve Churchwide in the ELCA, with a Litany as a part of the service.



Advent Devotion Booklet available - The Virginia Synod has compiled a devotional for Advent written by pastors, candidates for ministry, deacons, and other leaders of ministries within our Synod. Contact the Church Office (949-6171) if you would like either a hard copy, or an electronic file of the Booklet for your own personal devotions.



**Grace Called Congregation Meeting on December 20th -** there will be a called Congregation on Sunday December 20th after Worship via Zoom, for the purpose of voting on the recommended **2021 Budget** by Grace Council. Council will be finalizing their recommendation this coming Tuesday at a specially called Council meeting at 7pm. The Budget recommendation will

then be sent to all Grace members on December 9th (those receiving by U.S. Mail will receive the budget later in the week).



**Student Care Center at Grace** - Our staff has recovered from Covid, and we have opened. It will be located in the Fellowship Hall, with use of kitchen and downstairs\bathrooms, and will be from 7:00

a.m. - 5:30 p.m. There is a need for transportation

providers to bring younger children from local elementary schools to the Grace between 2:30 - 3:30 in the afternoon. If you can help, please contact the Church Office, or Pastor Paul.



# Nursing Home, Assisted Living and Homebound Members

Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980	LizAnn Binns c/o Steve Binns 8921 Sturgeon Point Road Charles City, VA 23030
Maribeth Faivre Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980	Phyllis Kite 57 Skyline Avenue Stuarts Draft, VA 24477
Bob and Carol Knemoller Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980	Glen & Flossie Myers 104 Patton Farm Road Apartment 361 Stuarts Draft, VA 24477
Pete Rufe Summit Square Healthcare 501 Oak Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980	

# NELSON KID CARE

3679 Pharsalia Road Tyro, VA 22976 (Help feed the body & mind to lift the spirit of children in need)

September 16, 2020

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church c/o Linda Meyer Congregation Council 500 S. Wayne Ave. Waynesboro, VA 22980

Dear Mrs. Meyer:

Thank you so much for the grant from your Congregational Council to Nelson Kid Care on May 26, 2020 in the total amount of \$500.00.Your support is greatly appreciated in so many ways.

The 2020-21 school year marks our ninth year of providing weekend food to county public school students in need. We serve all four public schools in Nelson County.

Presently, the food is being stored at Rockfish Presbyterian Church in Nellysford and Blue Dog Associates in Lovingston, VA.

Last year, we served 230 students. Currently, we are not distributing food because of the COVID 19. Presently, all our schools are virtual. We will start packing again when they open up. **Our goal is to make this a program that is sustained by the community** and your generous contribution helps make this possible.

We are entirely volunteer run and 98% of our funding goes toward food.

Again, thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Frosty Flippin<sup>7</sup> Volunteer and Treasu

Volunteer and Treasurer www.nelsonkidcare.org amherstnelsoncaresltd@gmail.com

All donations are tax deductible under 501(c)(3) of the IRS tax code. No goods or services of material value were given in return for your contribution.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.

November 11, 2020

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

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift(s) given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in October 2020.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

In Christ,

Pobin KBrown

The Rev. Robin Brown Mission Funding Director, Congregations

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.

8765 West Higgins Road · Chicago, Illinois 60631 · 773-380-2700 · ELCA.org · LivingLutheran.com

JNH121019



# Budget Barometer October 2020

For the year, actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are below budget resulting in a deficit of \$6,529

Pledge + Giving of Record is \$14,404 below budget

Total Budgeted Disbursements are \$10,775 below budget

Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$245,895	\$235,150	-\$10,744.96
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$243,381	\$241,680	-\$1,701.41
	\$2,514	-\$6,529	-\$9,044



# **Birthdays**

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

12/5	Jane Blosser	12/6	Holly Carper	12/8	Sandy Johnson
12/9	Pete Giesen	12/12	Judi Goodrich	12/12	Larry Meeks
12/13	Deloris Wertman	12/15	Beth Ann Doerring	12/16	Donna Dodge
12/17	Richard Quickel	12/17	Kathy Meicke	12/17	Liz Ann Binns
12/20	Dwight Moomaw	12/21	Chuck Goodrich	12/21	Zachary Bandy
12/23	Patrick Brady	12/31	Jenna Smith		

# **Baptisms**

12/6	Kara Glover	12/10	Zachary Rankin	12/10	Jessica Smith
12/11	Sloane Franklin	12/11	Jackie Walter	12/20	Margaret Quickel
12/20	Ron Almarode	12/23	Hunter Walck	12/26	Sam Moyer



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
29 First Sunday Of Advent 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via YouTube	<b>30</b> <b>7:00 a.m.—</b> <b>5:00 p.m.</b> Student Care	1 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	2 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care 7:00 p.m. Advent Worship via Zoom	3 7:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. Student Care	4 <b>7:00 a.m.</b> — <b>5:00 p.m.</b> Student Care	5
<b>10:50 a.m.</b> Coffee Fellowship via Zoom			7 <b>:30 p.m.</b> Book Study Via Zoom	<b>5:30 p.m.</b> Discussion with Christ Tabernacle Via Zoom		
6 Second Sunday Of Advent 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via YouTube 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom	7 <b>7:00 a.m.—</b> <b>5:00 p.m.</b> Student Care	8 7:00 a.m 5:00 p.m. Student Care Church Council Sudget Meeting via Zoom	9 7:00 a.m 5:00 p.m.   5:00 p.m. Student Care   7:00 p.m. Advent   Worship via Zoom   7:30 p.m. Book Study   Via Zoom Study	10 7:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. Student Care 5:30 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle Via Zoom	11 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	12
13 Third Sunday Of Advent 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via YouTube 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship	14 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	15 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care Church Council 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting via	16 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care 7:00 p.m. Advent Worship via Zoom 7:30 p.m. Book Study Via Zoom	17 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care 5:30 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle Via Zoom	18 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	19



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
20 Fourth Sunday Of Advent	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via YouTube Called Congreation Meeting to Approve Budget 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom			<b>7:00 p.m.</b> Advent Worship via Zoom <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Book Study Via Zoom	Services With Communion 4:00 p.m. Car Worship 5:30 p.m. Car Worship 7:00 p.m. Virtual Worship	Church Office Closed	01/1 ===================================
27 First Sunday Of Christmas 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via YouTube 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom	28 Church Office Closed	29	30	31 Nancy Dowdy Off—Carolyn Hite in Church Office	1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2



Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Thursday	Sunday
December 6	December 13	December 20	December 24	December 27
<b>Preaching</b> Pastor Kelly Beyer Derrick	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	<b>Preaching &amp;</b> <b>Presiding</b> Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel
Assisting Minister Robin Crowder	Assisting Minister Cathy Crowder	Assisting Minister Linda Meyer	Assisting Minister 4:00 Susan Myers 5:30 Lily Pingel 7:00 Linda Meyer	Assisting Minister Ashely Stollings
<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	Acolytes
Kaitlyn Hull	Charlotte Jones	Charlotte Jones	Kaitlyn Hull	
Karley Hull	Amelia Jones	Amelia Jones	Karley Hull	
<b>Children's</b> <b>Sermon</b> Bokelman Family	<b>Children's</b> <b>Sermon</b> Jones Family	<b>Children's</b> <b>Sermon</b> Van Bremen Family	Children's Sermon	Children's Sermon
<b>Offering</b>	<b>Offering</b>	<b>Offering</b>	<b>Offering</b>	<b>Offering</b>
<b>Stewards</b>	<b>Stewards</b>	<b>Stewards</b>	<b>Stewards</b>	<b>Stewards</b>
Pat Brady	Pat Brady	Pat Brady	Pat Brady	Pat Brady
<b>Altar</b>	<b>Altar</b>	<b>Altar</b>	Altar	<b>Altar</b>
<b>Flowers</b>	Flowers	Flowers	Flowers	Flowers
Ingrid Sevigny	OPEN	Gail Johnson	OPEN	OPEN
Council	Council	Council	Council	Council
Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
of the Week	of the Week	of the Week	of the Week	of the Week



## Members of Grace Congregational Council

Linda Meyer, President Jerry Kite, Vice-President Bob Barrette, Kathy Bump, Holly Carper, Robin Crowder, Kim Hull, Gail Johnson, Kathryn Johnson, Anne Putnam



Hannah Pingel, Youth Representative David Proctor, Secretary Ron Almarode, Treasurer Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary

### **Carrie Jones, Sunday School Superintendent**

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



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LABEL



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voutube.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