GraceNo+es

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

From the Pastor

Pastor's Page



In-Person — We have become used to this term in the past couple of years. It is something that we perhaps took for granted before the Coronavirus. However,

I mention being in-person not for the reasons you may think.

You can read about our Christmas Eve schedule, and In-Person worship elsewhere in this newsletter. I'm speaking here of God-In-Person, which is at the heart of what we celebrate this Advent and Christmas. I have said it a number of times, and will repeat it once again here:

Hopefully the last 20 months has taught us about the wisdom and Grace of God. We have come to see in our everyday lives how important being "in-person" with one another is. One of the saddest parts of the last 20 months is the amount of men and women in assisted living or healthcare facilities whose deaths were recorded as "failure to thrive." They were isolated from family, from others in their facility. Workers in those facilities were so overtaxed in their work that they did not have the time to spend in-person with those they cared for. There was a reason for this isolation; many facilities who did not pay attention to the Covid-19 virus were stunned by dozens of deaths. It remains, however, a sobering example of how important being in-person is.

Our 21st century environment has taught us new skills: Zoom allows us to see one another and stay connected. YouTube allows us to attend virtually and be a part of worship, even when we are not able to be together. At the same time there is article after article that give witness to the fact that these technological methods cannot replicate being in-person. A major study gave

Our 21st century environment has taught us new skills: Zoom allows us to see one another and stay connected. YouTube allows us to attend virtually and be a part of worship, even when we are not able to be together. At the same time there is article after article that give witness to the fact that these technological methods cannot replicate being in-person. A major study gave K-12 education an "F" during last year's school year: not because teachers and administrators weren't giving their best, far from it! It was because the study discovered how important being in-person – *Incarnate, in the flesh* – is, to help learning and understanding, and to grow healthy children. A business person told me the other day that Zoom is great for the stuff of business that keeps people on the same page with deadlines, calendars, etc. But for serious planning, getting the project right, figuring things out, growing the relationship of the team; this person won't do deeper, relational things except in-person.

This is what God has done through Jesus Christ. His birth in a manger, into poverty; his teaching to the disciples, to the crowds, to the religious leaders (whether they appreciated it or not!); his personal contacts with people in need, people in trouble, people who were rejected by others, people in need of healing; his declaring the disciples as friends, as sisters and brothers. He *became* in human form what the prophets spoke about; he fulfilled in his living what the law taught about daily living. He is God-With-Us, Emmanuel, God-inperson.

We should not be surprised how important being in-person is, to each other, to a world in need, since God needed to come in-person for us to best understand God! Come and be a part of our Advent and Christmas life together, in-person as you are able.

Sabbatical Update – I received news the week before Thanksgiving that I was not among the 25 grants given from almost 100 applications received by the Louisville Institute. Though this is not what I had hoped for, as I mentioned in last month's Pastor's Page, I will still be taking a Sabbatical in 2022, one of a shorter duration, 7 or 8 weeks. I'll be working with Grace Council over the next couple of months to finalize the details of the Sabbatical, and continue to be grateful that Grace has such a policy for its pastors. Speaking with Bishop Humphrey the other day, he mentioned how important taking a sabbatical has been to his call to ministry, and I look forward to this, my first sabbatical in 28 years of pastoral ministry.



Highlights of Congregation Council November 16, 2021

The following are highlights from the Grace Church Council:

- Mission Grants were added to meeting and are as follows:
- Social Ministry \$452.00 to Elk Hill School
- Social Ministry \$452.00 to Valley Program of Aging Services
- Disaster relief \$532.00 to Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service
- Ron Almarode, Treasurer, reported that we have a surplus of \$1873 for 2021 budget. However, the pledges have not been enough so far to meet our 2022 obligations. We are running about \$42,000 short. A second appeal letter was sent. Ron and Pastor are hoping more pledges will come in the remaining weeks of 2021. Insurance is up and heating will also go up.
- Youth from Grace and other churches are preparing a meal for Afghan Refugees Sunday November 21st.
- The coronavirus numbers at Augusta Health are down to 11%
- Our communion cups are "out at sea" so we will use an alternative program to provide communion to all. Starting December 5th, we will resume going to the altar for communion. Pastor will be masked and will hand out the host. We will use prefilled glass cups. After communion is completed, worshippers will leave the empty cups via the side aisle. Ushers will assist people to the communion line.
- Strategic Plan Bob Barrette and Robin Crowder led the discussion about where do we want our church to be in the future. We have an aging population and we are trying to encourage families to join us Grace community.'
- The Time and Talent sheets are not coming in. Pastor would encourage all to bring in or mail to the Church by November 30th

- Fred Biggers will present a Temple Talk this Sunday. There will be more Temple Talks in the future.
- The fire alarm contract has been signed.
- We will be having a Yoga studio starting soon. The owner had Blue Moon Yoga here in town. His classes will be on Saturday from 10:00-11:15 a.m. The fee for his classes is a free will offering. Pastor is doing a background check and asking for a copy of his insurance. More on when classes will begin.
- Advent Vesper services will begin December 1
- Christmas Eve services will be @ 3:00 p.m.; 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. There is a limit of 80 persons at each service. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. The loose offerings we get at each service plus any envelope marked as such will be given to Sherando United Methodist Church to help in their recovery from fire.
- There will be a congregational meeting on December, 19th.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving to all!!

Respectfully submitted, Vivian Proctor Council Secretary



Congregational Meeting—There will be a called meeting **Sunday, December 19th**, following worship for the purpose of voting on the 2021 Budget. Please plan to attend.



Weekday Bible Class on hiatus through Advent, Christmas - We will resume in January, and as we determine our next area of study, look for an email during December asking *you* to help shape the class for the sake of more Grace people attending both morning and evening class.



Request from Disciples' Kitchen—The past several years, we have helped with gift bags that are given to those attending the lunch meals at Second Presbyterian Church. This year, we would like to collect 35 men's regular size body wash/shampoo and 35 men's deodorants. There will be a tote in the hallway for your donations. We do need to have them by **December 5th**. Any questions, please contact Gwen Kite.



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 banks. We have made twenty-one deliveries thus far, ten to Main Street United Methodist, and eleven to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. Last week, 126 pounds of food went to Calvary United Methodist.

Overall, we have given well over a TON of food! If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Worship! We gather in praise, we hear a living Word from our God, and God nourishes us at the Table so we can go forth as Ambassadors, as Salt and Light, wherever we are! Please remember the following as we continue to worship together in a transitional time with concerns from Covid, and *bearing with one another* with care and Christian friendship:

- We continue to mask during worship
- Fellowship is a blessing of our time together! Since
 the narthex area is tight because of additional tables
 and equipment necessary during this pandemic time,
 remember social distancing, and take good
 conversations outside.
- Smart phones are a marvel of our time! As is the
 Word and Grace of God as we worship
 together! Please check your phone before worship
 and mute, silence or turn your phone off before the
 service begins.



Holy Communion at Grace—Beginning Sunday, December 5th, the Second Sunday of Advent, we will be returning to a more "active" form of Holy Communion approved by our Worship Resumption (Covid) sub-committee and endorsed by Grace Council: We will receive Holy Communion at the altar in the following way:

- Ushers will invite communicants by row to come down the center aisle, safely distanced.
- The Communicant will receive the bread (the body of Christ) from the Pastor, who will be masked.
- The Communicant will then go down the communion railing and pick up a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice from the trays, and hear the pronouncement of "the blood of Christ" from the (masked) worship assistant located on the other side of the communion rail.
- The Communicant will then put their glass in another tray located further down the aisle, and return to their seat via the side aisle.
- Those unable to come forward will have Communion brought to them by the Pastor and communion assistant.

In addition to participating more fully in Holy Communion, this will reduce the plastic waste from the use of chalices—or more recently, the bags and containers—used in Holy Communion.



Advent Vespers In Person on Wednesday Evenings — We join with our sister congregations in the area under the theme: <u>Holy Darkness</u>. While *darkness* can often have a negative connotation, as the absence of light, or as an opposition to goodness, God's Word often points to the Glory of God being found in the darkness. Think of Nicodemus visiting with Jesus and hearing Jesus tell how God so loved the World...or of Christmas <u>Eve</u> and the shepherds discovering in the night sky the Good News of Jesus' birth. We ponder the presence of God in the darkness of our worship at our area Lutheran Churches Wednesdays in Lent at 7:00 p.m.:

December 1st at Zion, Waynesboro – *Darkness is Holy* – Masking is strongly encouraged. There will be no virtual option of attendance.

<u>December 8th</u> Bethlehem's Advent Service will be held at Grace– *Darkness is Beautiful* – Masking is required. Grace offers this worship service live via Grace's YouTube channel, or by telephone via Zoom (no audio).

<u>December 15th</u> at St. James, Fishersville – *Darkness Holds Promise* – Masking is optional at St. James if you are vaccinated. There is no virtual option of attendance.

<u>December 22nd</u> at Grace – *Darkness Holds God* – Masking is required. via Zoom (no audio).

Come into the *darkness* of early night Wednesdays to make time for the Glory of God this Advent season!



Christmas Eve In-Person at Grace! – Grace will offer *three services* on Christmas Eve, December 24th. Because of lingering concerns of the Coronavirus we are *limiting attendance* at each service to 80 persons sitting in the congregation (not including soloists, musicians, etc.). We ask that you **SIGN-UP** for one of the following services, all held in the main worship space at Grace:

- * 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve We will "create the manger scene," with lessons read by families, carols sung joyfully, special music, Holy Communion, and Silent Night sung by Candlelight.
- * <u>5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve</u> We will "create the manger scene," with lessons read by families, carols sung joyfully, special music, Holy Communion, and Silent Night sung by Candlelight.
- * <u>9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve</u> A traditional Christmas Eve liturgy of Holy Communion, filled with carols, special music, Holy Communion and Silent Night sung by Candlelight.

Find the Sign-Up Sheet in the Narthex at Grace or call Nancy at the Church Office.



Waynesboro Youth Mission

First Baptist Church
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
St. John's Episcopal Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Waynesboro Youth prepared a dinner meal for over 40 Afghan refugees who are staying at Massanetta Springs conference just outside of Harrisonburg. These refugees helped the American mission in Afghanistan, and could not stay in their own country because of fears for the safety and/or life.

A group of 32 from Grace (six from Grace) Westminster Pres, First Baptist, St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic, and St. John Episcopal churches assembled a meal of chicken, flavored rice, fruits, vegetables and dessert. The group also prepared cards and made a video of greeting and well wishes for the refugees.

The Refugees are staying at Massanetta into the New Year; Church World Service is working to establish the refugees in the area in the New Year, and will be working with churches to provide housing, supplies, and perhaps most importantly, friendship to these families.







Prestige Red and Whitestar (White) poinsettias covered with pot covers for Christmas Eve can be purchased for \$9.00 each. You may choose one or the other or both. Please complete this form and place in offering plate or return it to the church office along with payment by December 12, 2021. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church and designate them for poinsettias.

Number of poinsettias Prestige Red:	
Number of poinsettias Whitestar:	
Purchased by:	
In memory of:	
In honor of:	
Amount Paid: \$	

Please feel free to take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve service.



Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta

Renewing Homes and Lives for People in Need

16 November 2021

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

Dear Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church members,

On behalf of RHGA and our clients, I want to thank the members of Grace Evangelical for your generous donation on 6 November 2021 of \$500.00 supporting our mission in the Greater Augusta region. Several of your members have participated on critical home repair projects this year providing much-needed and appreciated volunteer efforts.

We realize that many church members would like to, but are not physically able to, assist in performing these home repairs. So special collections and cash gifts to offset materials used in these projects contribute to our efforts throughout the year and are a significant way that ALL can take part.

Thank you!

Sharon Coplai

Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta

Executive Director

Shown Coslai

P. O. Box 3152 Staunton, VA 24402







November 10, 2021

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

Dear Friends at Grace Lutheran.

Thank you for your generous support of Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry, Inc. (WARM)! WARM has continued to be one of Waynesboro's front-line responders to challenges created by the pandemic. All our programs continue to operate during the pandemic including the addition of a year-around Motel Emergency Shelter that has literally saved lives and kept vulnerable community members out of harm's way.



Your gift allows us to continue to provide life-changing programs including Ruth's WARM House, offering transitional housing, case management and more to homeless mothers with children; Community Outreach, working to support the stability of formerly homeless neighbors, prevent homelessness, and respond to homelessness outside of shelter settings; and the future return of our Cold Weather Shelter which typically utilizes church partnerships and facilities to provide shelter and support to our community's most vulnerable during the coldest months of the year.



To us, YOU are a hero contributing to tangible change. We could not do any of this without the support of people like you... people who care. If you would like additional information on our work during challenging times, then please do not hesitate to contact me at (540)324-8166 or debra@warmwaynesboro.org.

WARM Regards,

Mrs Junan Pelle Debra Freeman-Belle **Executive Director**

Donor Name(s): Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 11/09/2021

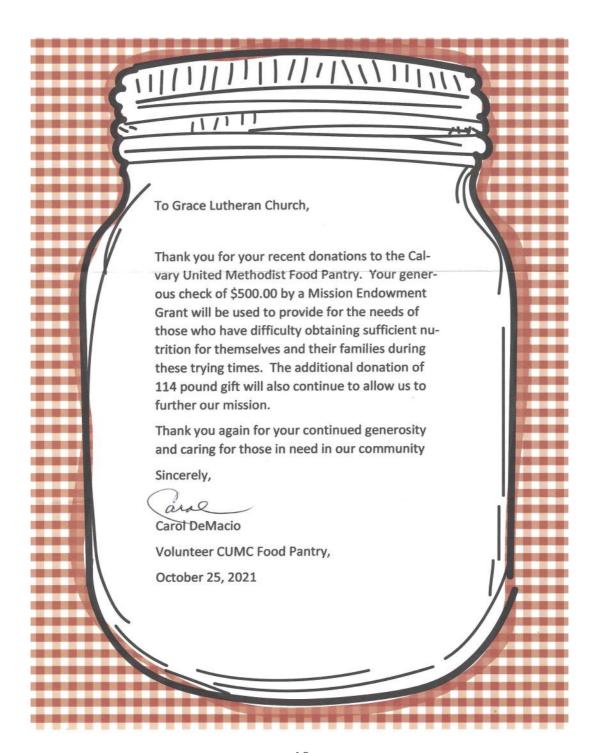
Gift Date:

Amount: \$500.00 Type (Detail): Check (80322)

Fund (Detail): Bedroom Sponsorships (Warm House)

Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry, Inc. (WARM), Tax ID- 47-1937790, is a tax-exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, your donation/gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
1st Sunday of Advent			9:00 a.m. Backpacks (Fellowship Hall)	8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers		
Advent 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word In			Vespers	12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)		
Person and via YouTube 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom		7:00 p.m. Round Tables (Fellowship Hall and Zoom)	7:00 p.m. Advent Service Zion Lutheran	6:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle via Zoom		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word In Person and			9:00 a.m. Backpacks (Fellowship Hall)	8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)		
via YouTube 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom			7:00 p.m. Advent Service Bethlehem Lutheran	6:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle via Zoom		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word In Person and via YouTube 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom	6:30 p.m.	10:00—3:00 Lutheran Family Services (Conference Room)	9:00 a.m. Backpacks (Fellowship Hall)	8:00 a.m. Newcomers (Fellowship Hall) 8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)		3:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconciliation (Constitution Park)
	Grace Anti-Racism Book Study Via Zoom		7:00 p.m. Advent Service St. James Lutheran	6:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle via Zoom		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
4th Sunday of Advent			No School	8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers	CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS
Advent 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Congregational Budget Meeting				12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)	No School 3:00 p.m. Worship Service	
10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom		7:00 p.m. Council (Conference Room and via Zoom)	7:00 p.m. Advent Service Grace Lutheran	6:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle via Zoom	5:00 p.m. Worship Service 9:00 p.m. Worship Service	



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
First Sunday of Christmas	No School	No School	No School	No School	No School	
*				8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day
10:00 a.m. Holy Communion		H OFFICE CLOSED		12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)	6H	ppy 2
10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom				6:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle via Zoom	No Ye	ar Sign
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Second Sunday of Christmas 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom	No School CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED	No School		8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle via Zoom		

Worship Assistants

December 5	December 12	December 19
Preaching & Presiding	Preaching & Presiding	Preaching & Presiding
Pastor Paul Pingel	Pastor Paul Pingel	Pastor Paul Pingel
Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers
Ingrid Sevigny	Gloria Nelson	Linda Meyer
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan
Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister
Kathy Bump	Marsha Howard	Donna Gum
Communion	Communion	Communion
Assistant	Assistant	Assistant
Council Person	Council Person	Council Person
of the Week	of the Week	of the Week
Jean Morgan	Nancy Schwiesow	Andrew Sell
Covid Monitor	Covid Monitor	Covid Monitor
Carolyn Hite	Holly Carper	Karen Walck
Offering	Offering	Offering
Steward	Steward	Steward
Pat Brady	Pat Brady	Pat Brady
David Proctor	David Proctor	David Proctor
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Ron Almarode	Fred Biggers	Jack Eckstrom
Lee Lynch	David Proctor	Jim Nelson

Worship Assistants

December 24—	December 24—	December 24—	December 26
3:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	
Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel
Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers
Gail Johnson	Gail Johnson	Gail Johnson	Gail Johnson
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan
Assisting Minister Tripp Franklin	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister Ron Almarode
Communion Assistant Quinn Franklin	Communion	Communion	Communion
	Assistant	Assistant	Assistant
Council Person	Council Person	Council Person	Council Person
of the Week	of the Week	of the Week	of the Week
Andrew Sell	Andrew Sell	Andrew Sell	Amy Warren
Covid Monitor	Covid Monitor	Covid Monitor	Covid Monitor Gail Johnson
Offering Steward Pat Brady David Proctor	Offering Steward Pat Brady David Proctor	Offering Steward Pat Brady David Proctor	Offering Steward Pat Brady David Proctor
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers Gail Johnson Jerry Kite



December Birthdays

12/5	Jane Blosser	12/6	Holly Carper	12/8	Sandy Johnson
12/8	Gloria Nelson	12/9	Pat Giesen	12/9	Alexandra Spellman
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	Pat Brady
12/31	Charles Smith	12/31	Jenna Smith		

December Baptisms

12/6	Kara Beth Glover	12/10	Zachary Rankin	12/10	Jessica Smith
12/11	Sloane Franklin	12/20	Margaret Quickel	12/20	Ron Almarode
		12/26	Sam Moyer		



Nursing Home, Assisted Living and Homebound Members

Remember our Shut-ins

Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980	LizAnn Binns The Legacy 1410a North Augusta Street Apartment 3027 Staunton, VA 24401
Maribeth Faivre	Sandra Hoy
Summit Square	Accordius, Room 111
501 Oak Avenue, Apt. 130	1221 Rosser Avenue
Waynesboro, VA 22980	Waynesboro, VA 22980
Phyllis Kite	Bob Knemoller
Summit Square	Summit Square
501 Oak Avenue, Apt. 217	501 Oak Avenue, Apt. AL-13
Waynesboro, VA 22980	Waynesboro, VA 22980
Glen & Flossie Myers	Pete Rufe
The Legacy	Summit Square Healthcare
1410a North Augusta Street	501 Oak Avenue, Room 7
Staunton, VA 24401	Waynesboro, VA 22980
David and Carolyn Shields Brightview 21 Woodlee Road Staunton, VA 24401	



Budget Barometer

October 2021

For the year, actual receipts are below budget and resulting in a surplus of \$1,873

Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$235,150	\$242,378	\$7,228
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$241,680	\$240,505	(\$1,175)
	(\$6,530)	\$1,873	\$8,403



Members of Grace Congregational Council

Robin Crowder, President
Jerry Kite, Vice-President
Bob Barrette, Fred Biggers,
Kathy Bump, Kim Hull,
Jean Morgan, Nancy Schwiesow,
Andrew Sell, Amy Warren
Ron Almarode, Treasurer
Vivian Proctor, Secretary
Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer
Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary



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
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (Lunch 11:30—12:30) Monday-Thursday;
8:00 a.m.—Noon - Friday

facebook.com/gelc.elca

twitter.com/gelc elca

youtube.com/Grace Evangelical Luther an Church Waynes boro

Internet: www.gracewaynesboro.org

Telephone: 540.949.6171



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

LABEL



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- byoutube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro

www.gracewaynesboro.org

E: Grace.lc@comcast.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: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Lunch 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.) Friday: 8:30 a.m.—Noon