

February 2021

GraceNotes

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

From the Pastor

By Paul H. Pingel



Pastor's Page

On February 14th, three of our Confirmands will be Affirming their Baptism, and making promises

before God about their lives. These were promises that are similar to those made by parents when their child was baptized. Now, in using their own voice, speaking their own words, Kaitlyn Hull, Quinn Franklin and Zachary Rankin are making these promises.

When you last Affirmed Your Baptism, *you*, who are reading this also made these promises. We Affirm our Baptism during the Easter Vigil. At times in our past, the Affirmation was done during Easter services.

Here are the promises that are made, both in Holy Baptism by parents, and by all of us, whenever we Affirm our Baptism:

Do you intend to continue in the covenant (promise) God made with you in Holy Baptism:

- To live among God's faithful people
- To hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper
- To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- To serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- And to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Please re-read these five promises that our confirmands will make on Transfiguration Sunday, February 14th. And then think of your intentions that you promised before God.

This time of Covid actually allows us to hear these intentions differently. I say this because the temptation is to hear the answers to these questions as "get your butt in church." And

obviously we can't do that at this time, yet these baptismal promises hold true regardless. So what are these promises about?

The Season of Lent is upon us, Ash Wednesday is February 17th. A part of our liturgy changes: rather than shouting Alleluia's to God before hearing the Gospel, we sing a different tune: "Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." Return is a word of repentance, and repentance is a change in direction.

The promises you and I – an Kaitlyn and Quinn and Zach – make to Affirm our Baptism into Christ's death and resurrection is a promise – and intention - *to follow a different path*. It's the way we live in the world, and yet as we live in this world we seek to live as God intends us to. In our Baptisms, we recognize that we need each other – the Body of Christ – to support each other. In our Body of Christ/I Corinthians class the other night someone made the incredible observation that we give away some of our autonomy for the sake of gaining something far more important – to be a part of a Body that is joyful in our joys, hurts in our hurts, and flourishes together to be something much more than we can be

independently. We become a part of God's work here on earth that continues through the Body of Christ.

We gather in worship, not to have our butt in the pews, but to receive a word of good news that informs what we do in daily life. A word so much more life giving than what we hear on the news or from all the other voices that suggest we are the center of life. We are washed and fed to receive forgiveness and new life every Sunday, as well as every day. Every day is a new start in our life together!

We serve, we give, and are given opportunities again and again to see how much great blessing there is in serving others beyond ourselves (and the small circle of people we call our own) rather than in holding back, or keeping things for ourselves.

And we realize that standing up for what is right, to stand with those for whom there is no justice, to risk following where Jesus goes may mean the cross, but always something new and life-giving that follows, where we are a blessing, and richly blessed ourselves by following Jesus.

Two other observations:

1. During the Affirmation of Baptism this coming February 14th, *you* will also be asked to make an additional promise: *People of God, do you promise to support Kaitlyn, Quinn and Zachary and pray for them in their life in Christ?* The world's commentary on this might be "Don't get involved, I don't really know them, I don't want to get in their family business, they've already got Confirmation mentors..." And yet if we truly are the Body of Christ, we share in joys, share in pains and flourish together as we support one another. How can we support Kaitlyn, Quinn and Zachary as they enter that stage in life when they are growing to adulthood and the choices of what they will do in life? And pray for them. Keep them in your prayers. We say rather blithely that we don't know what kind of world our kids will inherit, with a headshake of uncertainty. *Does this not need our regular and fervent prayer for them?!* As well as our own seeking of justice and peace where you and I live! This is living our Baptism!
2. For Kaitlyn, for Quinn, for Zachary, remember that at the very beginning *before* we state our own intentions we are reminded: **GOD made a covenant,**

a promise with us! A promise that is not dependent on how well we keep our promises. *To say this is not to give us a pass in our own daily walk of faith, but it is a word of GRACE.* The covenant God has made with us cannot be broken by us. Because God says so, in the way God describes himself (ask our current Confirmands Karley, Kiera, and Thea, they will tell you!): God is gracious, merciful, slow to anger and abounding in Steadfast Love. The Hebrew word we translate as steadfast love actually means – a loyal love that will never be broken.

For our Confirmands, for you and me, this God so loyally and completely desires our relationship with him and with one another, that he sent his Son to reconcile the world to him, while showing us *life that really is life.*

That's the journey we are on with Kaitlyn, Quinn, Zachary, all of us at Grace, and the whole Church of Jesus Christ. Let's live it, together.



Highlights of Congregation Council Meetings January 19, 2021

The Grace ELC Council met on January 19, 2021. The minutes of the December 8th Congregational meeting and the minutes of the December 15th monthly meeting were accepted.

Ron Almarode attended the meeting as a special guest of the Church Council to give an overall 2020 fiscal year-ending budget presentation.

The Grace Race and Reconciliation Study Group presented a viewing of a video titled Race in America, produced by the creator of Veggie Tails, a Christian animated show for children, Paul Vischer. He is an evangelical. Following the video presentation, the Study Group proposed that our congregation's attitude towards race relations be surveyed in the same manner as the survey conducted on LGBTQIA by Reconciled in Christ, a Lutheran Group whose resources the Council used early last year. The Study Group also proposed a special meeting of the Church Council to discuss their study of race relations and initiatives moving forward.

Pastor Pingel commented on the success of the special Ecumenical Worship Service of Prayer, Repentance and Christian Unity that was Held virtually on January 18th.

Due to increases in coronavirus cases and deaths in the SAW district, live, in-person services at Grace ELC will not be held at any time in the near future. Lent, Holy Week and Easter services at Grace ELC will be held, but whether live or virtually, will depend on the state of coronavirus at those times.

Confirmation classes are continuing at this time. Three confirmands from last year's class, Kimberly Hull, Quinn Franklin and Zachary Rankin will be confirmed on Transfiguration Sunday, February 14th. The Confirmands and their families will be recorded separately, and integrated into the Live service broadcast on the 14th.

All three elevators in our church passed their annual and their five year inspections by Shenandoah Elevator Company.



Budget Barometer December 2020

For the year (2020), actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are below budget resulting in a deficit of \$2,288.

For December, spending exceeded receipts resulting in a deficit for the month of \$8,196.

R100 - Pledge + Giving of Record is \$8,839 below budget.

Total Budgeted Disbursements are \$8,845 below budget

Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$299,659	\$292,513	-\$7,146
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$298,935	\$294,801	-\$4,134
	-\$724	-\$2,288	-\$3,012



Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up in the Church Office Monday—Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Friday 8:30 to noon. If you would like to have them mailed to you, please contact the church office.



Breaking News



Confirmation Sunday on February 14th!

- Because of our extended time of Coronavirus, three Confirmands - Kaitlyn Hull, Quinn Franklin, and Zachary Rankin - have not yet Affirmed their Baptism, to be Confirmed. We will be doing this on Transfiguration Sunday, the Sunday before the beginning of Lent, on Sunday February 14th. Please pray for Kaitlyn, Quinn and Zach as they prepare for this important day in their lives, and in OUR lives as the Church!



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 **thirteen** deliveries thus far, six to Main Street United Methodist, and seven to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



WARM and Disciples Kitchen Meals—

Grace served breakfast and lunch for WARM from January 25 to 31, lunch at Disciples Kitchen on January 21 and breakfast on January 23. We provided over 600 meals during those two weeks. Thanks to all Grace members who helped with these meals and to Zion Lutheran, Waynesboro Kiwanis Club and Christ Tabernacle Church for their support in feeding people in need.



The Season of Lent: Ash Wednesday is February 17th

of this year. We will be finalizing plans for our Ash Wednesday observance this coming week, with details forthcoming both for Ash Wednesday and our Wednesday Lenten observance. Jesus journey to the Cross is our journey as well. What does "taking up your cross" mean? Lent is also a time for Baptismal preparation, a time for you to consider your baptism into Christ's death and resurrection as well. Martin Luther in his Small Catechism says in our Baptismal life we "daily die and rise to new life." What does that mean for each day that you live? What needs to die? What needs God's hope for new life?



325 Pine Avenue • PO Box 817, Waynesboro, VA 22980 • 540.949-7141 • www.vpas.info

January 20, 2021

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

To Our Friends at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church,

VPAS thanks you for the contribution made from your Endowment Grants in 2020. In early 2020, we submitted a grant request to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for a new minivan for our Senior Transportation program. The pandemic caused delays in the grant decision process. But in September we learned that we were approved. The grant that pays 80% of the cost, leaving a 20% match from VPAS. We are using your contribution towards this 20%.

In late December, we got to pick out the floor plan and options for the new vehicle to be built. It's at this point that we start feeling excited and we wanted to share the news with you. This minivan will replace our oldest minivan that is having increased maintenance issues. We hope the new vehicle will arrive in 2-3 months.

Once again, thank you and the church members for this contribution. It will help VPAS continue serving seniors in the Staunton, Augusta County and Waynesboro area in the future.

Sincerely,

Janice Gentry
Director of Senior Services
Staunton, Augusta, Waynesboro

Valley Program for Aging Services

Serving older adults and their families in the counties of Augusta, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge, and Rockingham, and the cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, and Waynesboro

Supported by federal, state, and local governments, United Ways, and the generosity of our neighbors
FEIN 54-0958526





WARM

Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry

January 5, 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,
Debra Freeman-Belle
Debra Freeman-Belle
Executive Director

*Every gift to WARM makes a difference. Thank you for your support of heart for others!
-Debra*

*****CONTRIBUTION RECEIPT*****

Donor Name(s): Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Gift Date: 12/31/2020
Amount: \$450.00
Type (Detail): Check (80218)
Fund (Detail): Unrestricted Gen. Donations (None)



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.



WARM

Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry

January 5, 2021

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

Dear Friends at Grace Lutheran,

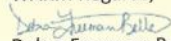
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Debra Freeman-Belle
Executive Director

*Every gift to WARM makes a difference. Thank you for your support of heart for others!
-Debra*

*****CONTRIBUTION RECEIPT*****

Donor Name(s): Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Gift Date: 12/26/2020
Amount: \$1,500.00
Type (Detail): Check (80214)
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.



Nursing Home, Assisted Living and Homebound Members

<p>Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>LizAnn Binns c/o Steve Binns 8921 Sturgeon Point Road Charles City, VA 23030</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 Knemoller 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>	



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

02/04 Becky Jones

02/10 Irma Graf

02/13 Dick Tomey

02/13 Helen Moyer

02/17 Carolyn Hite

02/17 Peggy Caister

02/18 Mike Trauscht

02/26 Carol Bowers

02/28 Ed Driskill

02/28 Carol Varner

02/28 Kim Hull

02/29 Pete Rufe



FEBRUARY

Baptisms

02/19 Zaden Bandy

02/20 Andrew Sell

02/23 Dick Tomey

02/29 Kevin Knicely



FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Epiphany</p> <p>10:00 a.m. <i>Service of the Word via YouTube</i></p> <p>10:50 a.m. <i>Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</i></p> <p>On Line Power in the Spirit</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p> <p>On Line Power in the Spirit</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p> <p>On Line Power in the Spirit</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p> <p>On Line Power in the Spirit</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p> <p>On Line Power in the Spirit</p> <p>11:00 a.m. <i>Bible Study via Zoom</i></p> <p>5:00 p.m. <i>Discussion with Christ Tabernacle Via Zoom</i></p> <p>7:00 p.m. <i>Bible Study via Zoom</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>Fifth Sunday of Epiphany</p> <p>10:00 a.m. <i>Service of the Word via YouTube</i></p> <p>10:50 a.m. <i>Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p> <p>11:00 a.m. <i>Bible Study via Zoom</i></p> <p>5:00 p.m. <i>Discussion with Christ Tabernacle Via Zoom</i></p> <p>7:00 p.m. <i>Bible Study via Zoom</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>



FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>Transfiguration Of Our Lord</p>  <p>Confirmation Sunday</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>10:00 a.m. <i>Service of the Word via YouTube</i></p> <p>10:50 a.m. <i>Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</i></p> <p><i>Valentine's Day</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>  <p>Presidents' Day</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>  <p>Church Council</p> <p>7:00 p.m. <i>Council Meeting via Zoom</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>  <p>Ash Wednesday</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p> <p>11:00 a.m. <i>Bible Study via Zoom</i></p> <p>5:00 p.m. <i>Discussion with Christ Tabernacle Via Zoom</i></p> <p>7:00 p.m. <i>Bible Study via Zoom</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>First Sunday in Lent</p> <p>Annual Meeting</p> <p>10:00 a.m. <i>Service of the Word via YouTube</i></p> <p>10:50 a.m. <i>Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p> <p>11:00 a.m. <i>Bible Study via Zoom</i></p> <p>5:00 p.m. <i>Discussion with Christ Tabernacle Via Zoom</i></p> <p>7:00 p.m. <i>Bible Study via Zoom</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. <i>Student Care</i></p>



FEBRUARY

Sunday February 7	Sunday February 14	Ash Wednesday February 17	Sunday February 21	Sunday February 28
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 Brian Lundstrom	Assisting Minister Joe Ranzini	Assisting Minister TBD	Assisting Minister Susan Myers	Assisting Minister Cathy Crowder
Children's Sermon Jones Family	Children's Sermon Van Bremen Family	Children's Sermon	Children's Sermon Stollings/Cooper Family	Children's Sermon Bokelman Family
Offering Stewards Pat Brady	Offering Stewards Pat Brady	Offering Stewards Pat Brady	Offering Stewards Pat Brady	Offering Stewards Pat Brady
Altar Flowers OPEN	Altar Flowers OPEN	Altar Flowers OPEN	Altar Flowers OPEN	Altar Flowers OPEN
Council Member of the Week Robin Crowder	Council Member of the Week Kim Hull	Council Member of the Week Kim Hull	Council Member of the Week Gail Johnson	Council Member of the Week Kathryn Johnson



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, Amy Warren

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
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






THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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](https://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