GraceNo+es

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

From the Pastor



Pastor's Page

This is the fourth and final reflection on Pastor's sabbatical.

At the beginning of this month, I will be offering a class as a part of Virginia

Synod's Winter Power in the Spirit on the Role of Relationship in Racial Equity and Justice.

I will be sharing about the importance of Memory and Identity in similar ways to what you have read in my Pastor's pages in October and November of last year.

There is also the importance of Love in Relationships. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians has an amazing chapter (I Corinthians 13) about love; we hear it almost every time there is a wedding. And in this month of February. Valentine's Day dominates our view of love, filled as it is with hearts, roses, chocolate, romance. The chapter Paul wrote was written to a congregation of very different people; "Jew, Greek, slave, free, male, female, rich, poor, educated, and not so much," echoing the make-up of many of the first churches (see Gal. 3:28-29) that were formed through the work of Paul. They lived in a city (Corinth) where "anything goes;" a city which had a pecking order, where worldly wisdom reigned supreme, which meant there were winners and losers, and a system of belief to back up why the winners were best, and the losers were just that.

The close of the chapter is SO important to recognize not as a symbol of romance, or even of individual relationships, but of *agape love*, the love that defines God's attitude toward us, especially through Jesus Christ. "So, faith, hope, love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love." (I Cor. 13:13)

Love allows a change in direction, because it is a sacrificial love. It recognizes what Jesus has made us – the Church, God's children, God's people, followers of Christ, Christians, use the term that helps you best to understand – to be light for this world; salt, to season a world that can be stale and unchanging.

John Lewis, the recently deceased Civil Rights leader and former congressman, speaks of the Beloved Community of God's people – formed around love, but hear Lewis' powerful definition of love: -

Continued

"We are talking about *love* here (his emphasis). Not romantic love, not one love of one individual for another. Not loving something that is lovely to you. This is broader, deeper, more all-encompassing love. It is a love that encompasses the hateful and the hurtful. It is a love that recognizes the spark of the divine in each of us, even in those who would raise their hand against us, those we might call our enemy."

At a very young age — early twenties! — John Lewis led the March to Montgomery, was active in the Freedom Riders, was present in Birmingham, and witnessed the best and the worst of humanity. He was told, "This country don't run on love." And yet throughout his life, even in his last months, he wrote, "We need a leadership of love now...to transport us, to remind us that God's truth is marching on. I believe we can do it... It's all going to work out."

Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent once again near the end of this month. We will once again follow Jesus to the cross, where Jesus willingly "so loved the world" (John 3:16-17), to give his life, die, and rise again, to model our daily baptismal lives: to daily die to sin and rise to new life. I would dare to add to John Lewis' words above, that love requires our dying, to those things that we hold onto that prevent relationship with our neighbors; especially our neighbors of color, and this is a daily task.

You know that a couple of weeks ago, someone decided to deface the mural at the YMCA with swastikas, and on January 21st, 125 or more people came

out for prayer. Many were from Grace and Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ; most were from the community. There was love there; not romantic, but First Corinthians love; Beloved Community love. Of course, the continuing call we have is to maintain love in daily life. And one can only do that in relationship; in the expending of the energy that relationship requires. As the Season of Lent approaches, we once again come to recognize that it is the work of God in Jesus Christ and his Spirit in us that makes this possible.

I will close and repeat what I wrote in December from Christian writer and theologian Richard Rohr: the pattern of Christ has died, Christ is Risen, and Christ will come again – what we often declare as we prepare to receive Holy Communion – is the pattern of love for our lives. Jesus is calling for you and for me, to die, to rise, to anticipate Christ coming again and again, to help us to love as God loves: The whole world, all people, a central part of God's Mission in this world.





New Adult Bible Weekday Class! A four week class on I Corinthians, which we'll be reading during the Season of Epiphany! Pastor Paul leads the class. We began on January 19. You are invited to join the class at 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays. The class is held in the Conference Room and is available via Zoom. Call the Church Office for the link.



The "First Sunday Fellowships" have begun! Each "first Sunday" of the month, one of our volunteer groups at Grace will hold a gathering in the Fellowship Hall after worship. There will be the opportunity for the groups to explain what their group does, who is involved, answer questions, and have fellowship and a few light refreshments. Please sign up your group so the congregation can learn more about what goes on in the life of our church! A sign- up sheet has been placed in the back of the church with enough dates for at least 19 counted groups, which are listed! Please see Sylvia Almarode if you have any questions.



Covid Policy at Grace

- Masking is optional during worship.
- We will continue to post the CDC "risk" color (green [low], yellow [medium] or orange [high risk] in the narthex
- There is a "social distance" section available in the front right of the worship space
- Holy Communion will continue to be offered by coming up front and receiving bread and individual cups of wine; pastor and assistants will mask when the CDC "risk" color is orange (high)
- Masks and hand sanitizer continue to be available in the narthex.

We continue to encourage:

- Vaccination and keeping up-to-date with current shots
- Staying home when not feeling well, especially with flu and other infections on the rise this time of year
- Masking if you have not been vaccinated for Covid or Flu
- Masking for Covid, flu or other infections



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



Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need—Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food pantries. We have made <u>thirty-one</u> <u>deliveries</u> thus far, fifteen to Main Street United Methodist, and sixteen to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 3,248 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Grace Photo Directory—Jack Eckstrom will be our photographer for the Grace Pictorial Directory. The initial kickoff for this will be **Sunday February 5**, in conjunction with the First Sunday Fellowship. Pictures should take approximately 10 minutes per family, if that, giving everyone time to enjoy the fellowship and refreshments from the Grace group that is hosting this event for February. Our schedule for the photos is the following Sundays after the service: February 5th, February 12th, February 19th and February 26th. Pictures will be taken immediately after each service. In addition, Wednesday, February 8th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Thursday, February 16th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Sign up sheets for each date will be located in the back of the church. For those unable to take part, you can provide a photo of yourself and/or family. Cell phones are great for taking pictures. If you have questions, please contact Carolyn Hite, 540-292-0977, or the church office.



A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who so generously donated all of the cold weather clothing items; which we distributed at the Disciple's Kitchen breakfast in January. We had two tables full of items for the guests to choose from; and they were extremely pleased and appreciative.

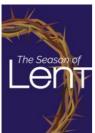
We're also extremely grateful for the generous donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste. We had 45 of those items; and they were included in gift bags that were given to Disciple's Kitchen lunch guests the week before Christmas.

Again, thank you so much for your wonderful support of this important mission!

Disciple's Kitchen Team



Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent on February 22nd - We begin a time of baptismal renewal and a reminder of God's great love for the world in giving his Son, Jesus Christ, in order to destroy death and bring us all to life, even life eternal. We will worship at 10:00 a.m in the Chapel, and also offer worship at 7:00 p.m. - both with Holy Communion - and at 7:00 p.m. be joined by our friends in Christ from St. John Episcopal and First Baptist. Come and worship, and enter the journey that leads from death to life!



Morning Pre-Lenten Retreat Available - Pastor Karen Taylor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is offering a Retreat in preparation for the Season of Lent from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, February 25th. It is a mostly silent retreat and involves a meal, along with activities that will engage all the senses. There is no cost for the event. Let Grace Church Office know if you are interested by February 23rd so Bethlehem can plan accordingly.

GELC NICARAGUA MISSION TEAM

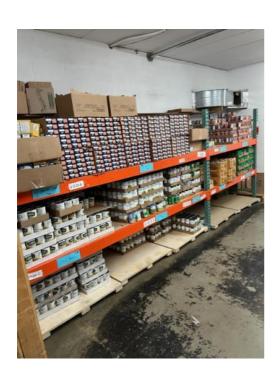
Twelve people will spend February 10-18 on Nicaragua's Ometepe Island as members of a mission team sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church. Six Grace members (Pr. Paul Pingel, Chuck and Judi Goodrich, Linda Meyer, and group leaders Tami and Mark Radecke) will be joined by two Roanoke Lutherans and four central Pennsylvanians as they partner with the staff and students of CICRIN, a Christian school and refuge for children and youth on the island.

A dentist, dental hygienist and retired hygienist will provide dental care and education for the 111 students at the CICRIN School while the rest of the team works with local staff to renovate a decrepit bath house, installing new sinks, toilets, showers and lighting; covering floors and walls with ceramic tile; and painting. The group will also take kids to the beach, engage in worship and reflection, learn about Nicaraguan history, and do some sightseeing.

Money for the projects has been provided by fees paid by the participants along with generous contributions from Grace members. Please pray for the team members and those alongside whom they serve in Jesus' name!







Calvary Methodist Church Food Pantry





Example of what they give out to a family of two







PO Box 3152 · Staunton, VA 24402-3152 · 540-885-7894 renewinghomes.org · renewinghomesga@gmail.com

Serving Staunton, Augusta County and Waynesboro, Virginia Renewing homes and lives for people in need

January 5, 2023

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 500 S. Wayne Avenue Waynesboro, Va. 22980

Dear Grace Lutheran Members,

We are so grateful for your generous year- end donation of \$729.67, through a Christmas Eve offering, in support of Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta's mission to assist our communities most vulnerable with critical home repairs. Your support strengthens our organization and helped us towards our year- end campaign goal of \$20,000.

More importantly, your donation could not have come at a more critical time. These past two years have been incredibly challenging for so many in our community. Because of your support and others we were once again able to meet our goal of assisting 45 community home owners with their repair requests and help them to remain safely in their own homes.

This community service work (delivered in some of the most challenging circumstances) would not be possible without generous sponsors. Thank you for being a most loyal supporter.

With gratitude,

Carolyn Ford Sec. for RHGA Sharon Coplai: Executive Director



Sin Barreras Without Barriers, Inc. P.O. Box 6433 Charlottesville, VA 22906

12/22/22

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

Dear friends at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church,

We deeply grateful for you selecting Sin Barreras Without Barriers for a grant of \$1,500 this year. Your donation is very important to us as it sustains the great work performed during our 10 years of service.

Thanks to you, Sin Barreras provides a range of activities organized into five key program areas which include Welcoming & Navigation, Legal & Immigration, Educational Programs, Health-Wellness & Culture, and Food & Financial Security.

Your grant will be used to run Conecta2: Technology and Leadership class. We expect to have two cohorts (spring and fall) participate in a 12 to 14 week program where we cover the basics of the technology, get them comfortable working with computers and cover multiple leadership and civic engagement topics. The classes will primarily be virtual so they gain comfort with that format.

To receive regular updates and learn about events or volunteer opportunities, please subscribe to our newsletter at www.sinbarrerascville.org.

Sin Barreras/Without Barriers is a registered 501(C)3 non-profit organization EIN# 46-1040727. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution

We wish you all safe, healthy and happy holidays.

Sincerely.

Edgar Lara **Executive Director**

Sin Barreras Without Barriers, Inc.

edgar@sinbarrerascville.org

P.O. Box 6493, Charlottesville, VA info@sinbarrerascville.org

www.facebook.com/sinbarrerasoville

R. Gene McCombs

Dear Brothers and Sisters in charst,

Thank you so much for the

lovely flowers that were

sent to me in recognition of

my Brithday. They bring joy

to all of us as we think of

your love and generousity.

Peace

Gend

Jan. 16, 2023

Thork

I wanted you to know Just how grateful I am for everything you have done. I am truly blessed and appreciate all that you do!

Jimy Over





Thonks you so much for everything you do for the thruhiking community. I was there on a night that voluntures made spagnetti and it was so good! The space provided was so safe, clean, and comforting. I truly apprecial everything that was offered to me and other thru hilers.

Your Truly Shutterfly



Dear Paster Paul -

I wanted to reach out to
you and everyone at brace
church that he losed with
my Pad's Fundal and
subsequent reception. Phil
and I THANK YOU from
the bottom of ar hearts.

Grace courch is wonderful
and it was so nice that
we could have his service
there. wownest reached,
and 2 phil Rufe



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class	5:30— 7:00 p.m. Midwinter Power in the Spirit	9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall) 5:30— 7:00 p.m. Midwinter Power in the Spirit	10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel) 5:30—7:00 p.m. Midwinter Power in the Spirit 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)	8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Conf. Room) 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group Zoom 7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Conf. Room)	3	4 11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel First Sunday Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class	6	9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)	6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)	9 8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Conf. Room) 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group Zoom 7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Conf. Room)	Pastor— Nicaraguan Mission Trip February 10-18	Pastor— Nicaraguan Mission Trip February 10-18 11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor— Nicaraguan Mission Trip February 10-18 Sixth Sunday After Epiphany 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Karen Van Stee 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class	13	9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)	15:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel) 10:00 a.m. Encircle Regional Managers' Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 11:30 a.m. Grace Women's Book Group 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)	8:00 a.m. Newcomers (Fellowship Hall) 8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group Zoom	17	11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 11:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconcil. (North Park)
Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel Congregational Meeting 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom 11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class	PRESIDENTS All God's Children Book Study (Conference Room)	9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall) Church COUNCIL 7:00 p.m. Council (Conference Room and Zoom)	WEDNESDAY 10:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday Worship (Chapel) 11:30 a.m. Grace Women's Book Group 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship	8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Conf. Room) 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group Zoom 7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Conf. Room)	24	9:00 a.m.— Noon Pre-Lenten Retreat (Bethlehem Lutheran) 11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
First Sunday of Lent 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion		9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)	10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)	8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)	OFFICE	11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)
Pastor Pingel 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom 11:00 a.m. Confirmation			6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)	6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group		



Budget Barometer December 2022

For the year, actual receipts are above budget and actual disbursements are above budget, resulting in a surplus of \$9,788.

Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$291,397	\$317,834	\$26,437
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$297,748	\$308,045	\$10,297
	(\$6,351)	\$9,788	\$16,140



Worship Assistants

February 5

Preaching and Presiding

Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers

Karl and Jane Stein

Altar Guild

Assisting Minister

Gloria Nelson

Communion Assistants

Andrew Sell Karen Walck

Council Person of the Week

Jean Morgan

Offering Stewards

Pat Brady Vivian Proctor

Ushers
Pat Bradu

Pat Brady Jean Morgan February 12

Preaching and Presiding

Pastor Karen Van Stee

Altar Flowers

Open

Altar Guild

Assisting Minister

Robin Crowder

Communion Assistants

Cathy Crowder Mike Trauscht

Council Person of the Week

Susan Myers

Offering Stewards

Robin Crowder Jean Morgan

Ushers

Karen Walck Rew Walck February 19

Preaching and Presiding

Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers

Jim and Gloria Nelson

Altar Guild

Kathy Meicke

Assisting Minister

Donna Gum

Communion Assistants

Gloria Nelson Jim Nelson

Council Person of the Week

Nancy Schwiesow

Offering Stewards

Pat Brady
David Proctor
Ushers

Ron Almarode
Lee Lynch

Ash Wednesday— February 22

February 26

Preaching and Presiding Preaching and Presiding

Pastor Paul Pingel

Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers

Open

Open

Altar Guild

Altar Guild

Jean Morgan

Assisting Minister

Assisting Minister

Ron Almarode

Communion Assistants **Communion Assistants**

Donna Gum Karen Walck

Council Person of the Week

Council Person of the Week

Nancy Schwiesow

Andrew Sell

Offering Stewards Offering Stewards

Pat Brady

Pat Brady Robin Crowder

Ushers

Ushers

Fred Biggers
David Proctor



2/4 Bekky Jones

2/10 Irma Graf

2/17 Peggy Caister

2/28 Ed Driskill

2/6 Kenneth Weller

2/13 Helen Moyer

2/18 Mike Trauscht

2/28 Carol Varner

2/7 Jennifer Fetterman

2/17 Carolyn Hite

2/26 Carol Bowers

2/28 Kim Hull



2/19 Zaden Bandy

2/20 Andrew Sell



Nursing Home, Assisted Living and Homebound Members

Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980	LizAnn Binns The Legacy 1410a North Augusta Street Apartment 3027 Staunton, VA 24401
Maribeth Faivre Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. 130 Waynesboro, VA 22980	Sandra Hoy Choice Healthcare, Room 210 1221 Rosser Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980
Imogene Hull Regency Senior Living 43 Pinnacle Drive, Room 101 Fishersville, VA 22939	Phyllis Kite Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Room 9 Waynesboro, VA 22980
Bob Knemoller Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. AL-13 Waynesboro, VA 22980	Glenn Myers 144 Patton Farm Road, Apt. E107 Stuarts Draft, VA 24477
Ingrid Sevigny 713 Governor's Way Waynesboro, VA 22980	Carolyn Shields Brightview 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 331 Staunton, VA 24401
Tom and Carol Varner Birch Gardens 12 Royal Drive Staunton, VA 24401	

Members of Grace Congregational Council

Robin Crowder, President (540-476-0180)

Nancy Schwiesow, Vice-President (301-943-0888)

Bob Barrette (434-760-4419)

Fred Biggers (434-981-1954)

Jack Eckstrom (240-344-3176)

Jean Morgan (540-649-4422)

Susan Myers (434-760-1660)

Andrew Sell (612-695-8361)

Stephen Van Stee (540-325-0772)

Karen Walck (765-480-9920)

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—11:30 a.m. and 12:30—2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday Closed Friday

www.gracewaynesboro.org facebook.com/gelc.elca youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro **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.-2:30 p.m. (Lunch 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.)

Friday: CLOSED