

January 2024

GraceNotes

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE From the Pastor



Pastor's Page

What will the Church look like in 2024? We could answer with some fear and trepidation based on what we have

heard *about* the Church around us. I can tell you as the new Dean of the Southern Valley Conference, that we begin the year with two vacancies in congregations around us; Christ, Staunton, and Bethlehem, Waynesboro. There is talk of a shortage of pastors. There are numerous articles about the future of the church, what it will look like.

I believe that you and I should begin with ourselves, because, *we* are the Church! In a very true way, you and I are what the Church looks like in 2024. Jay Beech's "The Church Song" is a great way for us to start the new year:

We are the Church,
the body of our Lord;
We are all God's children,
we have been restored.

The Church is not a building where people go to pray;
It's not made out of sticks and stones, it's not made out of clay.

You can go to worship but you cannot go to Church;
You can't find a building that's alive no matter how you search.

The Church is not a business, a committee, or a board;
It's not a corporation for the business of the Lord.

The Church, it is the people, living out their lives
Called, enlightened, sanctified for the work of Jesus Christ.

Continued

We are the Church, the body of our Lord;

We are all God's children, we have been restored.

(Text by Jay Beech, copyright 1988)

As we “live out our lives” in the New Year, God bless and guide us, and find our hearts and minds open to being the Church God intends us to be in Waynesboro and beyond.

- I am thankful for my call here to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, and more importantly, thankful to God’s Spirit who has gathered *YOU* to be God’s people sent out from this place!
- I am thankful for the expressions of the Church at Christ Tabernacle, Westminster, St. John Episcopal, St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic, First Baptist, and many other ecumenical partners in this area
- I am thankful our Lutheran sisters and brothers at Zion, St. James, and Bethlehem, as well as the congregations of the Southern Valley Conference and the Virginia Synod, as well as our Missouri Synod sisters and brothers in the area.

- I am thankful to Susan Myers, one of Grace’s Council members, who at the final Council meeting of 2023, shared a devotion full of *confidence* in our *Grace-filled* God, and encouraged our confident, *expectational* prayer that God will act in and through us!

We are the Church, the Body of our Lord! We are all God’s children, we have been restored! God guide each of you, the Body of our Lord, in this New Year!





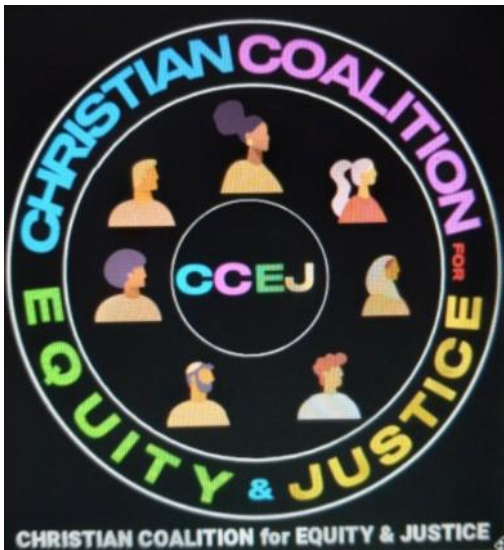
Our Advent Wreath

Thanks to Jack Eckstrom,
and his crew of Charlie, Fred,
Jerry, Lee, Mike, Rick and Ron
for putting up the Outdoor
Wreath as a witness to the
Community of the Advent of
our Lord Jesus!





CCE&J—We had 12 people attend the prayer vigil (Donna Yobs is behind the camera) and four more members joined us for lunch and fellowship afterwards on Saturday, December 16. It was a wonderful way to start the holiday season.







All God's Children meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Grace conference room. Our January agenda includes the following:

- January 8th – We will conclude our discussion of *US: The Resurrection of American Terror* by Kenneth W Wheeler, covering Chapters 9-10 and the Afterword . The author is a Black ELCA pastor who takes us through his seven-decade-long journey that lays bare the terror of being Black in America. The book offers a deeply vulnerable and piercing portrait of the human toll of white supremacy and points to the Cross as a place of hope and reconciliation.
- January 22nd – Start discussion of *A Fever in the Heartland – The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them* by Timothy Egan. The next book is a historical thriller by a Pulitzer and National Book Award-winning author that tells the riveting story of the Ku Klux Klan's rise to power in the 1920s, the cunning con-man who drove that rise, and the woman who stopped them. *A Fever in the Heartland* is compelling, powerful, and profoundly resonant today. The book marries a propulsive drama to a powerful reckoning with one of the darkest threads in American history.



Community Potluck at Grace—This meal is for community members to gather for fellowship and provide an opportunity for fellowship and building relationships on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.! These meals are meant to be a time of fellowship for Grace members and an opportunity to build relationships with other folks in our community. Come and eat—bring a dish, bring a friend!



Get Ready for Bible Study—In the New Year, you are invited to join Pastor Paul in looking at the readings for the following Sunday on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Come in person or by Zoom as we ask what God's Word has to say to us in our daily lives.



Altar Flowers—The 2024 Flower Chart has been put up in the Nave. Please consider signing up to provide Altar Flowers for Sunday services. You can either sign up on the flower chart in the Nave or call the church office.



Use of Grace Facilities—If you are planning a fellowship event, a meeting, a gathering, etc. at Grace for any time or purpose, please contact the church office to ensure that the space you would like to use is available and that it gets put on the Church calendar. As we again become social, the church facilities are being used much more frequently. All current and future Yoga Classes will be held in the Seminar Room as usage of the Fellowship Hall has increased tremendously. Thank you!



Be a "HERO" this Holiday season! HERO of Waynesboro is a coalition of churches, including Grace, who have formed a non-profit organization to pool our resources to help families facing eviction or cut-off utilities. Your donation at www.herowaynesboro.org can help a family keep a roof over their heads, or a warm place to stay as cold weather approaches.



Columbarium—As you make your final plans, remember that Grace has a Columbarium on the North side of the building. Each niche will hold two (2) of our brass urns, which are included in the cost of \$2,250 per niche. There are also Memorial Bricks available for the patio, which can be engraved with the name of a loved one who may be buried elsewhere. For more information, contact Bradley Keefer at 540-942-4290 or 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 ***thirty-eight deliveries*** thus far, sixteen to Main Street United Methodist, and twenty-two to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 4,005 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Words You Don't Want to Say, but We Must! Those words are **COVID, flu, RSV and Winter Viruses**. We've had a number of members who have been sick in recent days and weeks. We are coming into a time when Health experts tell us to expect more cases. With this in mind please note the following:

1. If you have any symptoms, or have tested positive, please stay at home. YouTube worship services are available Live every Sunday for those who are sick.
2. If you have COVID, flu, fever or aches, please wait until you test negative - usually 5-10 days or until symptoms end - until you return to worship.
3. Please note that FREE test kits are available from covid.gov. Or you can find test kits at local pharmacies or grocery stores for about \$8 - \$10.



Budget Barometer—November 2023

*For the year, actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are below budget, resulting in a deficit of **\$13,137**.*

Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$293,039	\$289,429	(\$3,610)
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$275,049	\$302,567	\$27,518
	\$17,990	(\$13,137)	(\$31,127)



FAITHFUL + BOLD + SERVING

Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

12.7.23

Pastor Paul,
My apologies for the lateness of this note.
Thank you and the congregation at Grace
for your participation in my installation.
Your hospitality was amazing.
I look forward to working with you as
the Dean of the Southern Valley Conference.



You and Grace have been and
continue to be a faithful supporter
of the VA Synod. Thank you.

Blessings,
Phyllis



November 17, 2023

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

Dear Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Thank you to your congregation for their generous gift of \$400.00 to Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta (RHGA) on November 17, 2023.

Our homeowners, staff, board of directors and volunteers appreciate your steadfast support both in financial gifts and the hours of volunteer talents given to home repair projects. As the Executive Director, let me personally thank each of you for making our work possible. Your kindness supports our work in service to low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners.

Our current and future success in Renewing Homes and Improving Lives depends on the continued generosity of our Donors and Volunteers. In the coming year, RHGA plans to serve at least 50 households and 100 individuals. We will keep you updated on the exciting progress!

With deepest gratitude,

Sharon Coplai
Executive Director, RHGA

Thanks Jerry!

FOR YOUR TAX PURPOSES

Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. We acknowledge no goods or services were provided to you in return for your contribution. Please save this letter for your tax records as confirmation of your donation. Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. RHGA has discretion as to the use of the funds and donor preferences will be honored when given.



September 7, 2023

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

Dear Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church,

As I begin my ministry as the Bishop, I want to thank you for increasing your mission support gift to the Virginia Synod in 2023.

Grace's increased mission support gift helps the Virginia Synod serve as a connecting point between congregations and as a resource to assist congregations as they seek to do God's work in their communities.

Thank you for helping the Synod walk together in ministry.

Blessings,

Bishop Phyllis Blair Milton
Virginia Synod, ELCA



Dear Grace Family

Thank you very much for the flower arrangement we received when mom passed away. They were greatly appreciated.

Also our heartfelt thanks to Pastor Paul for the beautiful service he provided and for his kind words and prayers.

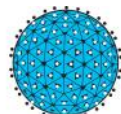













Mom would have been very happy with the service and music.










Thank you again for your prayers.





Debbie Farrar and Bruce Hull
and Families

january



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>First Sunday of Christmas</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School</p>  <p><i>New Year's Eve</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p>  <p><i>New Year's Day</i></p>  <p>Office Closed Today</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>QUILTING GROUP</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>  <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Potluck</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p>  <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>  <p>Office Will Be Closed</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Dave Delaney Fellowship Hall and Youth Room</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>Baptism of Our Lord</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult SS</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:00 a.m. First Sunday Fellowship—Youth Group</p> <p>11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>11:15 a.m. K-5 SS</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>QUILTING GROUP</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Round Tables</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>  <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Potluck</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p>  <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Virginia Organizing (Conference Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>  <p>Office Will Be Closed</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>Dave Delaney Fellowship Hall and Youth Room</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">1 4</p> <p>Second Sunday After Epiphany</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>  	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Southern Valley Conference (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council (Conference Room and Zoom)</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>9:00 a.m. School Backpacking</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>10:15 a.m. Encircle (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Women's Book Group Stella, Bella and Lucy</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Potluck</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Newcomers Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p>  <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p>  	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconcil. (North Park)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>Third Sunday After Epiphany</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>Quarterly Community Information Support Fellowship</p> <p>11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room)</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Potluck</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<p>Third Sunday After Epiphany</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School</p> <p>1:00 p.m. VMA Recital</p>		<p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>QUILTING GROUP</p>	<p>19:00 a.m. School Backpacking</p> <p>0:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p>  <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Potluck</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p>  <p>GRACE WALKERS</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p>		<p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>



January



JANUARY

Birthdays

01/01	Beth Ann Brady	01/01	Carol Wolf	01/01	Jules Madawa
01/01	Masoka Mmeswa	01/04	Easton Carper	01/04	Paul Pingel
01/05	Mike Myers	01/08	Linda Meyer	01/08	Vivian Proctor
01/09	Andrew Sell	01/10	Gene McCombs	01/12	Genevieve Arneson
01/13	Ron Knicely	01/14	Wendy Weller	01/16	Karla Rankin
01/16	Phyllis Kite	01/18	Donna Gum	01/22	Rudy Yobs
01/22	Emily Almarode	01/23	Susan Myers	01/24	Amaya Cooper
01/26	Joe Ranzini	01/26	Lily Pingel	01/26	Fami Denis
01/27	Dennis Barnes	01/31	Esme Hilker		



JANUARY



Baptisms

01/08	Becca Dolan	01/09	Lily Skelton	01/15	Kathy Meicke
01/19	Pat Brady	01/19	Amy Warren	01/20	David Glover
01/25	Karen Walck				



January 7

Baptism of
Our Lord

**Preaching and
Presiding**

Pastor Cynthia Long

Altar Flowers

Altar Guild

Assisting Minister

**Communion
Assistants**

**Council Person
of the Week**

Jack Eckstrom

Offering Stewards

Pat Brady

Ushers

Rick Bump

Linda Meyer

January 14

Second Sunday
After Epiphany

**Preaching and
Presiding**

Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers

Jean Morgan

Altar Guild

Assisting Minister

**Communion
Assistants**

**Council Person
of the Week**

Allison Fink

Offering Stewards

Pat Brady

Ushers

Pat Brady

Jean Morgan

January 21

Third Sunday
After Epiphany

**Preaching and
Presiding**

Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers

Altar Guild

Assisting Minister

**Communion
Assistants**

**Council Person
of the Week**

Jerry Kite

Offering Stewards

Pat Brady

Ushers

Karen Walck

Rew Walck

January 28

Fourth Sunday
After Epiphany

**Preaching and
Presiding**

Pastor Paul Pingel

Altar Flowers

Altar Guild

Assisting Minister

**Communion
Assistants**

**Council Person
of the Week**

Linda Meyer

Offering Stewards

Pat Brady

Ushers

Ron Almarode

Lee Lynch



Remember
Our Homebound Members

*Nursing Home,
Assisted Living and
Homebound Members*

<p>Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>LizAnn Binns The Legacy 1410a North Augusta Street Apartment 3027 Staunton, VA 24401</p>
<p>Maribeth Faivre Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. 130 Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>Sandra Hoy River Edge Rehabilitation and Nursing, Room 210 1221 Rosser Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>
<p>Phyllis Kite Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Room 9 Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>Glenn Myers 144 Patton Farm Road, Apt. E107 Stuarts Draft, VA 24477</p>
<p>Carolyn Shields Brightview 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 331 Staunton, VA 24401</p>	<p>Dr. & Mrs. Tom Varner Brightview 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 317 Staunton, VA 24401</p>

GraceNotes

STAMP

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LABEL



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

"A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus."

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youtube.com/

[GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro](https://www.GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro.org)

www.gracewaynesboro.org

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

Telephone: 540.949.6171

Church Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
(Lunch 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.)

Church Staff

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