GRACENOTES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor

By Paul H. Pingel



Pastor's Page

I have reflected on the life of my mother these past couple of weeks. She died on May 21st. I am fortunate that I have, as a friend of

mine reminded me, a heritage of faith. My mother took very seriously the promises she made as a parent when I was baptized, to put in my hands the Word of God, and to raise me up in the Christian Faith, with the Spirit of the risen Jesus Christ leading and guiding her.

The Bible for me as a child came alive through something called Arch Books. They were children's books with lots of drawings that accompanied the stories of the Bible. My mother gave me a dozen or two of those books, read them to me until I could, and those stories have continued to speak into my life to this day.

One of my favorites was the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Perhaps you

remember the story that Jesus tells of a man beaten up and left for dead by robbers on what was known as a difficult road. A priest passes by on the far side of the road without stopping. A Levite, an assistant to the priests, also passes by. And then a Samaritan comes, is moved with pity, and cares for the injured man, gets him to a place of recovery, and foots the bill for the man's care.

I still have that Arch Book. The parable Jesus tells is as current as ever. But it's the set-up of the story that is key: a righteous man comes to Jesus and asks him what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus, ever the good teacher, asks the man what the Word of God has taught him. And the man, an educated lawyer, responds correctly: "Love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind; And love your neighbor as yourself." It's the right answer. Jesus tells him it's the right answer.

But then the educated man wants to show he's a good man, to justify himself, prove that he's

right. And so he asks Jesus: "who is my neighbor?" And that's when Jesus tells the Good Samaritan story.

It's a great question for the Church of today and for all of us who are journeying through this life. Who is my neighbor? The word is a relational word. Sometimes it's easy to limit the definition of "neighbor." The people within walking distance in my neighborhood. People in my Church. People who look like me, or who think like me. And yet when Jesus responds to the question, he really gives us two examples of who the neighbor is. The first is the person hurting in the middle of the road. The second is the Samaritan.

So as a pastor, a priest if you will, walking along the Waynesboro road, who is my neighbor? The easier answers are: the family from the Church who is grieving because their loved one died from a difficult disease, who I want to reach out to in their pain. Or the friend who is really hurting because of a divorce, that has reached out for help; or the congregation or next-door neighbor in the midst of Covid-19, who wants to remain connected, who needs help with groceries, who made me my mask, who struggles with the fact that they haven't had the human contact they so want. I do not use these examples lightly. And yet I will also say, I will walk and kneel down and be the neighbor, show mercy as God gives me strength, without much effort.

But I have another neighbor who is hurting. He is hurting, he's angry, as is the congregation he serves. They have seen multiple people who share their skin color – one, named George Floyd, A Christian who shared the gospel in the toughest parts of Houston, and was just starting ministry in Minneapolis – killed, unarmed, under suspicion for allegedly spending a counterfeit \$20 bill. And another neighbor, who just two weeks ago, in the city of Waynesboro, shook and sweated in his car for an hour after going into a store, gently saying hello to a young girl, who ran over to her mother and said "that black man is trying to kidnap me." One of the kindest people I've ever met, afraid, uncertain about what would happen next.

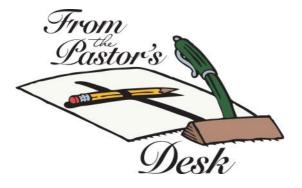
Who is my neighbor? Jesus responded with a simple story. The priest, the pastor, if you will, passed by on the other side. The unexpected Samaritan responded generously, on an uncertain road, and showed mercy.

Often, interpreters of this story point out the historical facts about Samaritans; they were of a different race, they worshiped God in ways the religious leaders of Israel didn't approve of, and they had cultural customs that Israel didn't understand. So shocked and biased was the lawyer that Jesus used the example of the Samaritan as neighbor that he couldn't even name him; he could only grudgingly say "the one who showed mercy."

But on this day, I think of myself, the pastor, and I think of the Church, including the mostly white congregation that I serve. You can listen to many stories and hear people far more eloquent than I speak to our national crisis. And yet that Arch Book which my mother gave me speaks of relationship, and neighbor. The people we live with in Waynesboro, Augusta County, Staunton, and surrounding counties. And in that Word from God is the question of the day: Who is my neighbor?

We, the Church are still one of the most segregated organizations in America. And yet we are gathered because we believe that "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so," a song learned from my heritage of faith. We are on this difficult road with our neighbors. And this Jesus tells us a story of someone gravely hurt, in the middle of this road. Who will we be? How will we answer the question? Not just one time until the next tragedy, but recognizing that until we all die, we remain on this same road – together.

(this was also submitted as a Newspaper Column for the June 6 edition of the News Virginian)





Highlights of Congregation Council Meeting May 19, 2020

The meeting began welcoming the newly elected members: Bob Barrette, Kathy Bump, Robin Crowder, Kim Hull and Ann Putnam; and continued with electing new officers for next year: President – Linda Meyer and Vice-President, Jerry Kite.

The site plan for the parking lot should be ready the first of June and presented to the city for approval. The paving should be scheduled in the near future.

The young people are sending cards and notes to members of the church. They are planning events (such as the ice cream social) for when we are permitted.

Respectively submitted, Deloris Wertman





- *Nicole Meicke*, daughter of Bill and Kathy Meicke, is graduating from VCU with a Masters Degree as a Family Practice Nurse Practitioner
- *Sydney Rankin*, daughter of Clay and Kelly Rankin (Wilson) will be attending Randolph-Macon College
- *David Ranzini,* son of Joe and Joan Ranzini, is graduating from UVA Law
- *Laura Shaw*, daughter of Robert and Marlene Shaw (Grace Christian) will be attending George Mason University
- *Paige Smith*, daughter of Aaron and Jessica Smith and granddaughter of Lee and Sharon Lynch (Waynesboro) will be attending Virginia Tech
- Tyler Wertman, son of Marc Wertman and Tammy Wertman, brother of Matthew Wertman, and grandson of Deloris Wertman, is graduating from Roanoke College with plans to attend Grad School at UVA in the Fall.

We send our prayers that God's gifts will bless them to be a blessing in their work, life and faith!





From Pastor Paul—I thank God for you as the people of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church! I am thankful for your abiding with me as I traveled to Arkansas and was able to see my mother to her earthly death, and experience God's promise of resurrection for her. Many of you have been so kind with expressions of sympathy, Christian love and comfort. I am grateful. Memorial Contributions may be made in Lillian Pingel's name to:

Bella Vista Lutheran Church, 1990 Forest Hills Boule-

vard, Bella Vista, AR 72715 or a charity of one's choice.



"Coffee Fellowship" after Worship on Sundays! In an effort to gather

us for fellowship and conversation as the Body of Christ here at Grace,

we invite you to bring your cup of coffee (or other beverage, or just

yourself!) and join a Zoom meeting after Sunday worship (approximately 10:45 - 10:50 a.m.) whose purpose is for us to see and check in with each other, to enjoy a smile and a laugh, to share what's on our hearts - what Martin Luther

called a sign of the church - "the mutual consolation of the brothers and sisters." Look for an email or U.S. Mail note this week with information on joining the Fellowship!



Being the Body of Christ in the Midst of Coronavirus - During these times, our communications have changed. If you have a prayer need, or are facing an important life event - surgery, radiation or chemotherapy, or other important event that would be important for Grace congregation to know or be in prayer about, please contact the Church Office, or call Pastor Paul at 540-216-4454. One of the "Marks (or signs) of the Church" is the "mutual consolation of the brothers and sisters," Luther wrote 500 years ago. While we are hoping that regular phone calls and other communications keep us connected, your communications are also most appreciated.



Blessed to be a Blessing: Abraham was told by
God that he and his ancestors would be "blessed to be a
blessing," (Genesis 12:1-3) and so are all of us, as those who live by Faith, ancestors of Abraham by faith (Romans 4). We offer thanks that God is working in and through us,

as the needs below continue. Let the Church Office or Pastor know if you'd like to help.

- Thanks to all our Mask Makers who have supplied over 200 adult and 35 children's masks to Augusta Health, Valley Program for Aging Services, Waynesboro Rescue Squad, the YMCA, and Disciples Kitchen (for servers and the homeless), and many others!
- Thanks to all who have provided meals and have volunteered to serve those in need at Second Pres. Disciples Kitchen, and WARM
- Thanks to all who have provided food for the Main Street United Methodist and Calvary United Methodist Food Pantries
- Thanks to all who have given of their resources for many organizations, and many in need
- Thanks to all who have given time and help to neighbors, to seniors, and



Food Pantries - There continues to be a regular demand for food in our community. We are continuing to assist two Pantries: Main Street UMC, and Calvary UMC in Stuarts Draft <u>They need donations, specifically</u> peanut butter, mac and cheese, personal hygiene items, dried rice and beans. If you would like to contribute, a box is set up

inside the office door for you to drop them off.



Water for WARM—During this coronavirus time, many homeless have found shelter and protection through a program of WARM at the Days Inn. There is a need for bottled water. If you can help, email

cws@warmwaynesboro.org or call the church office.



Sparkhouse, which is a publisher of Sunday School materials for the Lutheran Church, is offering a Family Sunday School link that lets you share a lesson with your children that is related to the scriptures we use in worship. The "lesson" also has music, crafts and other activities to engage your children in many different ways. This is not a "live"

presentation, meaning you do NOT have to access the Sunday School lesson at a specific time. You can share this at a time that is convenient to you . Here is the link:

<u>https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/promos/family-sunday-school/</u> We hope this is a blessing to your children, and a great way to help them continue to learn and grow in faith during this time when we are apart!





Children's Sermons-Thanks to the Jones, Bokelman and Franklin families for providing Children's Sermons for our YouTube worship. An invitation was sent to all families with children to take part. Call Pastor Paul or Carrie Jones to take part!



A note from Dr. Joe Ranzini: Social distancing recommended by the CDC. This continues to be a dangerous time even as we are tired of being isolated. While we wait for the development of an effective vaccine, which is the only way this virus is going to be

defeated, please wear a mask in public, wash your hands frequently and/or use hand sanitizer every time you touch a surface that someone else might have touched and stay at least 6 feet from others to avoid spreading droplets that contain the virus to others or have them spread the virus to you. If you need cloth masks, please contact the church office. Members in the congregation are making cloth masks for all who need them. Please stay healthy.

<u>A Devotion from the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response</u> <u>A Traditional View on Seasons of Hardship</u>

The following is an excerpt from the newsletter of Daudi Msseemmaa, the ELCA's regional representative in East Africa.

Rural people are accustomed to cycles of plenty and poverty. Livestock keepers, like the Maasai who live in my region, are even more so. During a severe drought in 2008-2009, I spent time in dusty villages where the carcasses of livestock littered the ground and hungry children fainted in class. There was a lot of suffering. But I did not encounter hopelessness, even among malnourished mothers whose couldn't provide enough breast milk for their infants. They had a saying – God is far, but he is very near. I recently recounted that memory with one of my elders – a theologian named Rev. Gabriel Kimirei. He said that in the Maasai traditional religion, there's a belief that in the good times God is near with all his communal blessings. In the times of drought and communal suffering, God is far. But even when God is far, it won't be long before he comes back.

This is not to minimize the suffering that our brothers and sisters go through in those seasons of hardship. There is no healthy outlook or ideology that will help you pass painlessly through losing loved ones or being unable to feed your children. It's a hopeful posture through pain – understanding that it is a season that will pass.

In times like these when the coronavirus has taken so many lives and battered so many economies, and when flooding and locusts plague parts of our region, it would be easy to say that God is far. But our Christian tradition tells us God is a very present help in times of trouble (Psalm 46). God never leaves us. Still, adopting the cyclical way of seeing life can help us avoid despair during seasons like this. It requires breaking free from a linear way of looking at life as a journey from Point A to Point B or looking at time as the steady march of progress. In this view, life is instead like a circle, moving us all through despair and hope.

Daudi Msseemmaa is the ELCA's regional representative for East Africa. He lives in Arusha, Tanzania, with his wife and children.

by Louisa Ishida on May 13, 2020

Your gift of mission support to the Virginia Synod makes a difference not only in Virginia, but around the country and around the world.

When the Virginia Synod receives Mission Support (also known in some congregations as benevolence), the Synod using 60% of your gift to support ministries here in Virginia. Your generous gifts allow the Synod to provide ministry through staff members like Rebecca Wall who is continuing to help congregations in the call process even in a time of physical distancing and Lenae Osmandson who has become an expert at answering your questions about Zoom and online ministry tools.

The remaining 40% of your mission support is shared with the ELCA Churchwide Organization which is providing COVID-19 resources and continuing to provide grants to support new ministries like the Micah Community of Hope in Fredericksburg, a new ministry we are helping to launch with those experiencing homelessness.

As we all grapple with the impact of COVID-19, we want you to know how much we appreciate your congregation's partnership in the Virginia Synod. Thank you for being church together even as we find ourselves physically separated.

Attached you will find a thank you to your congregation. We've attached a few different formats to make it easier for you to share.

If there are ways that the Virginia Synod can support you and your congregation, please reach out to me or to anyone on the Synod staff. You can find our contact information at: <u>www.vasynod.org/about/staff</u>

Pastor John Wertz, Jr. Assistant to the Bishop Director for Evangelical Mission Virginia Synod, ELCA

We Are Church Together - May Thank You (PDF)



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

Dear Friends at Grace Lutheran,

Your community investment, through Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry (WARM), has made a difference and is sincerely appreciated! Our work has grown over the recent years and, thanks to supporters like you, we are continuing to impact the lives of many homeless and formerly homeless neighbors. *Each donation is an investment into the future of our community and its most vulnerable members.* Your gift has been invested into life changing programs such as our:

- WARM Cold Weather Shelter- emergency winter shelter focused on public health intervention/reduction of cold weather related health and harm occurrences, and resources/referrals for 125-135 homeless adults each year. 100% of our guests are offered the opportunity to work towards stability and the guests served include many homeless older adults and seniors on fixed incomes, veterans, and adults with disabilities.
 - Outreach- partnerships with other service agencies that link homeless veterans and older adults to housing and/or support through our direct services and intakes. This year alone we've helped move 11 homeless veterans and family members off the streets and out of homelessness!
- Ruth's WARM House- 3-6 months transitional housing, case management, onsite groups/trainings, mentorship, mandatory employment and savings, and professional support for up to 7 homeless moms with children at one time. Last year, 18 families with 31 children were given hope for the future through the program and most transitioned into stable housing. Each year, our staff are able to help over 75% of the families served move into more stable and self-reliant chapters of their lives.
 - Aftercare & Outreach- Our intensive in-home case management and homeless prevention support services that are offered to all families transitioning from Ruth's WARM House. Former residents participate for up to one year with the goal of remaining stably housed long-term, increasing wages, reducing public assistance reliance and more. We also work with many nonresidential families and individuals to prevent homelessness and address additional risks.

On behalf of the homeless children and adults we serve, thank you for your gift of \$174.45. You are a hero to the most vulnerable members of our community! Please contact me by email to debra@warmwaynesboro.org or by phone at 540-324-8166 if you'd like to see your gift at work firsthand or to hear more about our efforts to eliminate homelessness.

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With WARMest Regards, Debo Tuman Belle Debra Freeman-Belle Executive Director

Donor Name	Gift Date	Gift Amount	Gift Type	Fund/Designation
	eran Church 05/02/2020	\$174.45	Check 80111	Unrestricted Gen. Donations Unrestricted
	Internal Revenue Code. As	such, your donatic		as described in Section 501(c)(3) of to the extent allowed by law. contribution.
			80 • Telephone: (540)32 Email: info@warmwayn	14-8166 • Fax: (540)683-8552 iesboro.org
*******	************** Please keep to	he below information	on for your tax record:	******
Donor Name	Gift Date	Gift Amount	Gift Type	Fund/Designation
Grace Evangelical Luth	eran Church 04/05/2020	\$464.20	Check 80100	Unrestricted Gen. Donations Unrestricted
Wavnesb	oro Area Refuge Ministry, L	nc. (WARM) is a ta	x-exempt organization	as described in Section 501(c)(3) of
	e Internal Revenue Code. A No goods or s 1035 Fairfax Avenue • Way	s such, your donatio ervices were provid nesboro, Virginia 229	on/gift is tax deductible ed in exchange for this	24-8166 • Fax: (540)683-8552
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the Donor Name Grace Evangelical Luthe Waynesbu	e Internal Reviewe Code. A No goods or s. 1035 Fairlax Avenue • Way Website: www.war <u>Gift Date</u> eran Church 04/01/2020 oro Area Refuge Ministry, In Internal Revenue Code. A	s such, your donatil ervices were provid mesboro, Virginia 229 mwaynesboro.org • the below informatile <u>Gift Amount</u> \$1,000.00 nc. (WARM) is a ta e such, your donatic	on/gift is tax deductible ed in exchange for this 800 • Telephone: (540)33 Email: Info@warmwayr on for your tax records <u>Gift Type</u> Check 80097 x-exempt organization	to the extent allowed by law. contribution. 24:8366 • Fax: (540)683-8552 eschor.org Fund/Designation Bedroom Sponsorships Unrestricted as desorbed in Section 501(c)(3) of to the extent allowed by law.



We just wanted to take a moment and Thank you for making Mask for us. What a Blessing this is for us and Our patients! Thank you So very much ! Valley Pediatric Group!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Day of Pentecost	1	2	3	4	5	6
10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via You Tube	BOOK					
10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship Via Zoom	6:30 p.m. Book Study Via Zoom					
7 The Holy Trinity	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via You Tube						
10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom						
14 Second Sunday after Pentecost	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via You Tube		Church				
10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom		7:00 p.m. Church Council Via Zoom				



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 Third Sunday after Pentecost	22	23	24	25	26	27
Fathers Day						
Father's						
10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via You Tube						
10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom						
28 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	29	30	1	2	3 Holiday	4
Worship					Office Will Be Closed	- HJOFA
10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via You Tube						
10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom						



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Sunday June 7	Sunday June 14	Sunday June 21	Sunday June 28
Preaching &	Preaching &	Preaching &	Preaching &
Presiding	Presiding	Presiding	Presiding
Pastor Paul Pingel	Pastor Paul Pingel	Pastor Paul Pingel	Pastor Paul Pingel
i astor i aur i inger	i astor i au i inger	i astor i au i inger	i astoi i aui i ingei
Assisting	Assisting	Assisting	Assisting
Minister	Minister	Minister	Minister
Robin Crowder	Cathy Crowder	Karla Rankin	Linda Meyer
	, i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i		-
Communion	Communion	Communion	Communion
Assistants	Assistants	Assistants	Assistants
Ushers	Ushers Marge Cloutier	Ushers Ron Knicely	Ushers Ron Almarode
	Linda Meyer	Gail Johnson	Hal Aaslestad
	Jean Morgan	Robert Shaw	Rick Bump
	Marlene Shaw	Robert Snaw	Lee Lynch
	Mariene Shaw		Lee Lynch
Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards
Pat Brady	Pat Brady	Pat Brady	Pat Brady
5	5	Tut Drudy	
Acolytes	Acolytes	Acolytes	Acolytes
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan
Nursery Assistants	Nursery Assistants Sarah Kite Deloris Wertman	Nursery Assistants Susie Driskill Jean Morgan	Nursery Assistants Lisa Gray Eleanor Sampson
Altar	Altar	Altar	Altar
Flowers	Flowers	Flowers	Flowers
Open	Open	Gail Johnson	Open
-	-	Gair Joinison	
Council Member	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member
of the Week	of the Week	of the Week	of the Week
Kim Hull	Jerry Kite	Holly Carper	Gail Johnson
		filling curper	



Birthdays

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

- 6/1 June Stiehl
- 6/5 E. G. Rankin
- 6/7 Brian Lundstrom
- 6/21 Gwen Kite
- 6/2 Susie Driskill6/5 Nancy Fitzgerald6/13 Sandy Knicely
- 6/21 Marie Brown
- 6/2 Kayla Spooner
- 6/6 Jan McCombs
- 6/20 Jessi Blosser
- 6/22 Kara Glover

Baptisms

- 6/6 Amelia Jones
- 6/16 Bethanie Glover
- 6/19 Ryan Blosser
- 6/21 Trotter Franklin
- 6/26 Easton Carper
- 6/30 Laura Shaw

- 6/6 Charlotte Jones
- 6/16 Sandra R. Hoy
- 6/19 Jessi Blosser
- 6/22 Sylvia Almarode
- 6/29 Karley Hull

- 6/9 Zoey Mahoney
- 6/18 Ron Knicely
- 6/20 Marge Cloutier
- 6/26 Robert Moyer
- 6/30 Raegen Van Bremen



Nursing Home, Assisted Living and Homebound Members

Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980	Mary Bertelson Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980	LizAnn Binns The Legacy 1410 A N. Augusta Street Apt. 2026 Staunton, VA 24401	
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	
Janet Lunger 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	



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For the year, actual receipts are above budget and actual disbursements are below budget resulting in a surplus of \$7,262

Yearly Budget Barometer	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$93,553	\$101,272	\$7,718
Total Budget Disbursements YTD	\$93,181	\$94,010	\$829
	\$372	\$7,262	\$6889



Member 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 Deloris Wertman, Secretary Ron Almarode, Treasurer Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary Carrie Jones, Sunday School Superintendent



Grace Church Sunday School Teachers

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 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



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

500 South Wayne Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980

LABEL



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twitter.com/gelc_elca

instagram.com/gelc.waynesboro

- •• flickr.com/gracewaynesboro
- byoutube.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