

March 2023

GraceNotes

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

From the Pastor



Pastor's Page

Near the end of February, I was invited to be part of an informational Zoom about some big changes that are now taking place in

our community.

You may recall during the first two years of Covid, numerous government-sponsored efforts took place to make sure that no-one in our nation would go hungry, and that those who earned among the least in our nation would not go homeless by receiving a number of tax incentives that would reduce their tax burden, and allow them to afford their housing during a very uncertain time in our nation's history.

Among the presenters at this Zoom were many representatives of local organizations like Social Services (Grace member Amber Bokelman is Assistant Director in

Benefit Programs and was a primary presenter), United Way, Community Action, and other groups, who reported that as of February, benefits like SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) were being cut to pre-Covid levels, meaning a loss of almost \$900/year/family in food benefits. Various tax incentive programs, designed to help families earning less than \$25,000/year, are also concluding in 2023, meaning a loss of approximately \$2,000 - \$6,000 per family in incentives.

What this means for Churches is we are expecting a great increase in the need for food, and also requests for housing assistance, utilities, etc. I also learned the complexities of finding out who offers what assistance in our area. Though there are some genuine efforts to try to "row in the same direction" to help those in need in our area, often someone who is in need of assistance has to work with two, three, or more organizations to find the help they need. There IS a

Continued

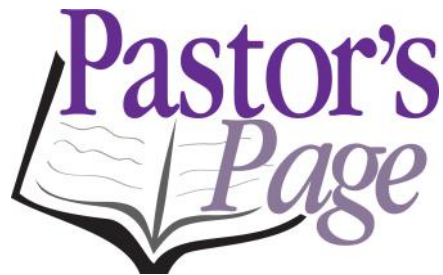
homelessness response program in our area that puts people in need in touch with a case worker who will respond in a day or two. At the same time, it can take weeks to receive the assistance a person or family needs.

Why mention this during the Season of Lent here at Grace? First, to remind us that for many people, the Church remains one of the first places people look for assistance. Second, to remind us that ongoing efforts at Grace, like our support of two food banks - Main Street United Methodist, Waynesboro, and Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft - will continue to be critical in the weeks and months ahead. "You are salt and light for the world," Jesus tells us, and as we will here later on this year, Jesus also reminds us, "whenever you do this to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you do it unto me." (Matthew 25) Our call is to offer hope in hopeless times.

The third reason is to let you know that many local congregations – including Grace – are looking more deeply into housing and homelessness in our area. I will be working with other local pastors and congregations, as well as being in contact with local organizations, to see what ways we in the local

Church can help with resources, but also in some way help to create a more transparent, accountable, and efficient way to help those who find themselves in difficult places this year because of loss of income. (I know if I suddenly lost \$2000 - \$3000 in income, it would certainly affect my own finances and stability! Imagine if you suddenly lost 5-10% of your yearly income.)

Please pray for those affected by these changes that are upon them (and us) here and now. Pray for people like Amber Bokelman and many others in Social Services, United Way, Community Action, Augusta Health, and many other organizations on the front lines of meeting the challenges of those in need in our community. And pray for Christ's Church, as we seek to "do to others" as we would do to Jesus, in this time we follow Jesus to the cross, and new life.





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.

Schedule for 2023 First Sunday Fellowships Hosts:

January 1	Support/Fellowship
February 5	Wednesday Morning Prayer Group
March 5	Ushers
April 2	None—Palm Sunday
May 7	All God’s Children Book Group
June 4	Worship and Music
July 2	Open
August 6	Altar Guild
September 3	Open
October 1	Quilters
November 5	Open
December 3	Open



Jack Eckstrom plans to be available Sunday, March 5, to take final photos for the Grace Pictorial Directory.



Let mutual love continue.
Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:1-2

HOSPITALITY AND GRACE: Are you interested in learning more about Christianity and hospitality? Join us for a book/study group! We will read *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition* by *Christine D. Pohl* (9 chapters, 187 pages). Grace member *Eric Hilker, PhD in Religion and Ethics*, will lead our group as we learn the history of hospitality, how it has evolved, what it means today, and talk about our own experiences. What does "hospitality" mean to us, to Grace church? How do we continue to evolve our "hospitality-ministry"? **If interested**, contact *Eric Hilker* 978-793-9845, *Pastor Paul Pingel*, 540-216-4454, or *Susan Myers*, 434-760-1660.



Synod Assembly 2023 - 3rd Delegate Needed! -
 Based on our membership at Grace, we are eligible for three delegates to Synod Assembly. 2023's assembly is an important one because we will be electing a new bishop, given Bishop Bob Humphrey's retirement. If you are interested in serving (a three day event June 9-11), please contact Grace President Robin Crowder, or Pastor Paul.



Wednesday Morning Prayer Group—The group meets every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. They pray for the people on the Grace prayer list and for the concerns of both members and our community, nation and world. There is no need to lead or pray out loud, you can join in the group prayers or sit quietly. The session lasts 20-30 minutes and is not a commitment for every week. We invite you to join us whenever you can.



Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) - Turkey and Syria Devastation - two earthquakes have left a significant area of both countries in utter disaster. THOUSANDS of buildings collapsed, and relief/recovery efforts are still gearing up. Tens of thousands have already been discovered dead. Cold weather, shelter and basic needs are critical at this time. Your donation goes 100% toward relief efforts (LDR and partner groups are very active in the relief effort). Make checks payable to Grace with "Middle East Earthquakes" in the line item.



What is happening at Grace?—If you would like to know when/if there is a meeting, if a room is available, who is preaching, when a service is being held, when yoga is taking place, etc., all you need to do is go to our website (gracewaynesboro.org) and click on the “Calendar” at the top of the page. The calendar for the current month will come up. You can scroll through the months on the top left of the calendar. We make every effort to keep this calendar up to date. If you would like to add an event, etc., please call the Church Office.



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 ***thirty-two*** deliveries thus far, fifteen to Main Street United Methodist, and seventeen to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 3,398 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



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

Sin Barreras/Without Barriers
P.O. Box 6433
Charlottesville, Virginia 22906



Sin Barreras

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

Hi Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church,

We wanted to thank you for your donations that you made in 2022. Every act of your generosity helps us further our mission. In fact, your gift has helped us help more families in Central Virginia than ever before. We were able to directly help 100's of immigrant families with rent and food support through out the Covid crisis.

Date	Amount	Type	Appeal
11/2/2022	\$1,500.00	Donation	

Your total deductible amount for 2022 is \$1,500.00.

Because we are a registered 501(c)3 organization, your donation is completely tax deductible. This letter list your tax-deductible transactions for 2022. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution. Our tax ID is 46-1040727

Again, we thank you for your support in helping to make the world a better place.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay Wilcher".

Clay Wilcher
Director of Finance
Sin Barreras/Without Barriers

Thank You for Your Partnership with the Virginia Synod!

Thanks to the generosity of partners like you,
the Virginia Synod makes a difference in the
lives of youth and adults with the good news
of God's love. Thank You!

Virginia Synod, ELCA | vasynod.org

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The Virginia Synod, ELCA | P.O. Box 70, Salem, VA 24153



The Season of Lent

The ancient practice of Lent was preparing candidates for Holy Baptism, by walking them through the life of Jesus, from Ash Wednesday through Easter. This preparation reviewed Jesus' life, his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, followed by his death on the cross, and his rising to new life. It anticipates our life in Christ, where each day we die to sin, and rise to the new life the Risen Christ has for us.

Come and take part in this ancient practice, and find your journey of faith renewed during the Season of Lent!

Sundays during the Season of Lent - *February 26th, March 5th, March 12th, March 19th, March 26th*
10:00 a.m. - Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesdays in Lent - "The Apocrypha - The Story of You"

Apocrypha is considered a part of Holy Scripture in the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, but we know little of it in the Lutheran and other Protestant Churches. During this Lenten Season, we'll take a look at our Faith Story - "The Story of You"- through the lens of the Apocrypha. The books of the Apocrypha were written in the period of history between the Old and New Testament. They contain Prayers, Wisdom Literature, Short (and sometimes wild!) Stories, as well as "straight up" History. We'll discover that this collection of sacred documents "off the beaten path" can be a strong aid to our own baptismal journeys of faith; "the story of you" on the way to the cross, the tomb, and the resurrection of our Lord.

6:00 p.m. - Soup Suppers

7:00 p.m. – The Apocrypha

- **March 1 - Zion Lutheran Church** - An Overview of the Apocrypha and finding God's Grace there.
- **March 8 - Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church** - The Wisdom of the Apocrypha - God in all things.
- **March 15 - St. James Lutheran Church** - The short and surprising stories of the Apocrypha - Finding God - and the very human - in this world.
- **March 22 - Bethlehem Lutheran Church** - The history of the Apocrypha - revealing the origins of a familiar holiday and the expectations of a Messiah.
- **March 29 - Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church** - The Story of You - and finding God in your prayer, wisdom, stories, and history.



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, April 2

10:00 a.m. Procession with Palms, Joined by Other Congregations

Maundy Thursday, April 6

10:00 a.m. Chapel

7:00 p.m. Confession and Forgiveness/Foot Washing/Holy Communion/Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 7

7:00 p.m. The Passion of Our Jesus Christ from St John and the adoration of the cross

Easter Vigil, April 8

7:00 p.m. Service of Light/Old Testament Salvation Readings/Affirmation of Baptism



Easter Sunday/Resurrection of Our Lord Worship, April 9






8:30 a.m. Holy Communion


9:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>First Sunday in Lent</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel</p> <p>10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship Via Zoom</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Confirmation</p> <p>Directory Photos</p> <p>Hospitality and Grace Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Round Tables (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Soup Supper</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Zion Lutheran</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Handbells</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>Second Sunday In Lent</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel</p> <p>First Sunday Fellowship</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Garden Club Meeting (Seminar)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Soup Supper</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Grace Lutheran</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Handbells</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Unconscious Bias Workshop (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>5:30 p.m. VA Organizing (Conference Room)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>  <p>Third Sunday In Lent</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Paul Pingel</p> <p>10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>10:15 a.m. Encircle Regional Meeting (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Encircle (Conf. Room)</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Grace Women's Book Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship St. James Lutheran</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Newcomers (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p>   <p style="text-align: center;">ST. PATRICK'S DAY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconcil. (North Park)</p> <p>1:30 p.m. Bishop's Day Event (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>Fourth Sunday In Lent</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel</p> <p>10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Confirmation Class</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children Book Study (Conf. Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council (Conference Room and Zoom)</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Grace Women's Book Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Bethlehem Lutheran</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Conf. Room)</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Fifth Sunday In Lent 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	No School— Spring Break	No School— Spring Break 9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)	No School— Spring Break 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel) 6:00 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship Grace Lutheran 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room) 7:00 p.m. Handbells 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	No School— Spring Break 8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group	No School — Spring Break 	11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)



Budget Barometer

January 2023

For the year, actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are below budget, resulting in a surplus of \$363.

Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$27,586	\$28,942	\$1,355
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$27,656	\$28,579	\$922
	(\$70)	\$363	\$433



Worship Assistants

March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Second Sunday In Lent	Third Sunday In Lent	Fourth Sunday In Lent	Fifth Sunday In Lent
Preaching and Presiding	Preaching and Presiding	Preaching and Presiding	Preaching and Presiding
<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>
Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers
<i>Open</i>	<i>Nelsons</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>Open</i>
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
<i>Lisa & Glen Gray</i>		<i>Kathy Meicke</i>	
Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister
<i>Linda Meyer</i>	<i>Ron Almarode</i>	<i>Cathy Crowder</i>	<i>Lew Yobs</i>
Communion Assistants	Communion Assistants	Communion Assistants	Communion Assistants
<i>Ron Almarode Gloria Nelson</i>	<i>Tami Radecke Andrew Sell</i>	<i>Robin Crowder Lew Yobs</i>	<i>Kathy Bump Marsha Howard</i>
Council Person of the Week	Council Person of the Week	Council Person of the Week	Council Person of the Week
<i>Stephen Van Stee</i>	<i>Karen Walck</i>	<i>Bob Barrette</i>	<i>Fred Biggers</i>
Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards
<i>Pat Brady Vivian Proctor</i>	<i>Pat Brady David Proctor</i>	<i>Robin Crowder Vivian Proctor</i>	<i>Jean Morgan David Proctor</i>
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
<i>Jack Eckstrom Jim Nelson</i>	<i>Gail Johnson Jerry Kite</i>	<i>Rick Bump Linda Meyer</i>	<i>Pat Brady Jean Morgan</i>



MARCH

Birthdays

3/1	Isabelle Bokelman	3/2	Ernestine Moomaw	3/3	Cynthia Long
3/3	Richard Bump	3/4	Sylvia Almarode	3/5	Berenice Archambeault
3/10	Thea Franklin	3/11	Nancy Schwiesow	3/11	Kaitlyn Hull
3/12	Sarah Kite	3/12	Kate Lynch	3/12	Marsha Howard
3/16	Owen Keefer	3/18	Amber Bokelman	3/19	Raegen Van Bremen
3/21	Caroline Biggers	3/22	Minnie Moyer	3/24	Frannie Knicely
3/25	Vernette Nichols	3/25	Nancy Dowdy	3/26	Sharon Lynch
3/26	Jessica Smith	3/30	Peggy Marks		



MARCH

Baptisms

3/1	Bekky Jones	3/1	Chuck Goodrich	3/2	Hannah Pingel
3/4	Tom Sheaffer	3/5	Susan Morrison	3/10	Everett Stratton
3/10	Marlene Shaw	3/12	Donna Dodge	3/15	Dennis Barnes
3/17	Karla Rankin	3/18	Jennifer Fetterman	3/22	Landon Lynch
3/25	Susie Driskill	3/25	Lily Pingel	3/26	Nathan Skelton
3/28	Sandy Johnson				



**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 Choice Healthcare, Room 210 1221 Rosser Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>
<p>Imogene Hull Regency Senior Living 43 Pinnacle Drive, Room 101 Fishersville, VA 22939</p>	<p>Phyllis Kite Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Room 9 Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>
<p>Bob Knemoller Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. AL-13 Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>Glenn Myers 144 Patton Farm Road, Apt. E107 Stuarts Draft, VA 24477</p>
<p>Ingrid Sevigny 713 Governor's Way Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>Carolyn Shields Brightview 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 331 Staunton, VA 24401</p>
<p>Tom and Carol Varner Birch Gardens 12 Royal Drive Staunton, VA 24401</p>	

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

LABEL



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 youtube.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