GraceNo+es

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

From the Pastor

By Paul H. Pingel



Pastor's Page

Pentecost is May 23rd. It's the festival of the Church when we celebrate the promised coming of the Holy Spirit,

and the Spirit's work to gather, enlighten, and make holy the Christian Church. The Book of Acts is the place where we hear the story of Pentecost, and all the follows from the Holy Spirit becoming the Advocate for God's people that Jesus promised.

We've been reading from the book of Acts during the Easter Season, and we've heard about a table server, Philip, being sent to share Jesus with an Ethiopian eunuch, we've heard about a big Church meeting where the Church realized the Holy Spirit was causing the Gentiles – people outside of those

who were called God's people – into the Church. And it was all because the Risen Jesus Christ was considered "Lord" of the Church. Jesus was the "decisive authority in all areas of life," and his Spirit, therefore, was the guide for the direction of the Church, as well as for all of daily life.

This has been true for the Church ever since. Martin Niemoller, who was a Lutheran pastor in Germany in the early to mid 20th Century, was a founder of the Confessing Church, who protested against the Nazi's and their regime. He eventually was sent to a concentration camp, and survived it to become one of the founders of the World Council of Churches. He was also a co-writer of the Barmen Declaration, the founding document of the Confessing Church, from which the above quote about Jesus

as the "decisive authority" comes from.

When Niemoller wrote about Jesus as the decisive authority in all areas of life, he meant ALL areas of life. He reflects on the what this meant for the Church in his time:

"Christ had not just the authority of a teacher to whom we had to turn for advice, and then make our own decisions; but he had become the Lord of the whole of our life which is Christian life only in so far as we follow him. To follow him, that means to believe in him. We are Christians only in that we live in his presence and act with his approval, asking "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" Many things which seem to be self-evident and uncontested according to custom and longstanding tradition suddenly become more doubtful when we try to find out whether the Lord would act with us and support us, he himself, in our work, to lead our hands and feed our minds. (quoted in For God's Sake, ed. H. Montefiore, Fortress Press, 1969)

Of course this is not just a quote for the Church during the darkest years of World War II and the horrors of that time. It is the call, the challenge, the blessing! of our time as well. Pray that Grace—that you and I—continue to follow the decisive authority of Jesus in all the areas of our lives!

Confirmation, Part II!

Earlier this year, because of the pandemic, we confirmed Quinn Franklin, Kaitlyn Hull, and Zachary Rankin on Transfiguration Sunday of 2021, February 14th. As we hopefully return to a more open In Person schedule at Grace, we will look to Affirm the Baptism of Thea Franklin and Karley Hull, on Reformation Sunday, October 31st. Pray for our Confirmands as they continue to learn about Jesus, the decisive authority of their lives!

Highlights of Congregation Council Meetings April 27, 2021

The focus of discussions at the April 27 meeting was centered on racial reconciliation, the retention and disposition of vital church records, the resumption of church activities and the use of church facilities by outside groups, nominees to the church council for the tern June 2021—May 2023 and Pastor Pingel's request for a sabbatical leave.

The Racial Reconciliation Group of Grace Lutheran and Christ Tabernacle Churches has moved forward from discussion to a plan of action with plans for outdoor worship gatherings, food events and combined service projects. The churches have formalized a Christian Coalition for Equality and Justice (CCE&J) with a statement of purpose and goals to be distributed among Waynesboro churches, civic organizations and local government. Council endorsed the statement of purpose (see article elsewhere in this newsletter)

The Council reviewed a copy of "Records Retention Schedule for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America" distributed by the National Office of the ELCA, and approved the methods recommended for keeping and cleaning out records no longer needed.

Because the coronavirus cases and percentages are well within our guidelines for public meetings and declining in numbers, the Council is now considering the resumption of in-person Sunday School, Bible Study Classes, and allowing the use of our facilities by outside social and civic groups beginning this Summer and Fall.

The Mission Endowment Committee is looking for recommendation for distributing this year's fund of \$27,570. Grant request forms are available in the narthex, church office, and on the church's website. Requests must be submitted by May 9 for committee and council consideration.

After 28 years in the ministry, Pastor Pingel has requested a sabbatical leave to begin in late 2021 or in 2022, and will supply a proposal to Council at its May meeting.

Respectively submitted, David Proctor

Church

Council

Grace and Christ Tabernacle Discussion Group Come Up with Name, Identify Focus Areas

Since June of 2020, members of Grace and Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ have been meeting together, getting to know one another, hearing each other's stories, and praying for God's guidance to move forward in the direction God is leading.

There have been four areas of emphasis chosen for moving forward together:

- 1. <u>Fellowship</u> A committee of two Grace members and two Christ Tabernacle members are beginning to make plans for fellowship and worship together as we move closer to returning to full In-Person activities.
- 2. <u>Service</u> a similar group of four are making plans for service events where we can show the community our unity in Christ in service to others; for example, building a handicap ramp, doing house repairs, sharing in serving WARM, hosting a table at a local festival or market, etc.
- 3. Advocacy in the Community Another group of four has written a letter of introduction as the group makes plans to visit school board, law enforcement and city officials to let them know a group such as ours exists, and to advocate for positive change in the community. Take a look at the letter below from CCE&J, the name chosen to represent the discussion group as we reach out in the community. Grace Council approved the statement at its April meeting.
- 4. <u>Prayer Vigil</u> Every third Saturday of the month at 3pm, the community at large is welcomed to join Grace and Christ Tabernacle in a Prayer for Unity and Racial Reconciliation, either at North Park (odd months) or Constitution Park (even months).

We hope, as we continue to "open up" as more people are vaccinated and we return to a "new normal," that you will be a part of expressing our unity in Christ through various events and activities this summer and fall!

CCE&J

Christian Coalition for Equity and Justice

We are contacting you to introduce our organization, CCE&J, Christian Coalition for Equity and Justice. Some members of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, which are both located in the City of Waynesboro, have been meeting together since June of 2020. We are united by faith and under God to create a positive voice in the community. Our faith encourages us to stand for the sake of equity, justice and to speak truthfully in all facets involving our community; and to do so in love, for the benefit of all.

With the challenges that are wreaking havoc on our nation today, we believe unity and communication are essential in maintaining a safe, secure, and healthy environment for Waynesboro and the valley. Our faith guides our way and allows us to stand for what is right. One of our goals is to remove societal lines that have long conspired to keep us separate. We are motivated by our beliefs to offer an unrelenting commitment to strengthen our community and promote effective lines of communication that will benefit the citizens and the vital agencies of the city of Waynesboro.

We understand the importance of the services you provide and want to support your commitment to ensure an emotionally, physically, and socially safe atmosphere for all of the members of our community



4/6/21

Commemoration of Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Lucas Cranach

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.

- Martin Luther

Dear People of God at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

At United Lutheran Seminary, we challenge our students to think critically and comprehend what an awesome *privilege* it is to serve as a rostered leader of the church. We emphasize the importance of right relationships between a Pastor/Deacon and they people whom they are called to serve.

We are so grateful that you have chosen this year to support our student, Rosetta Boyd, through your scholarship gift. She shares with us that the funds have enabled her to keep up with living expenses during her studies.

Thank you for your support of the people who seek to serve the risen Lord. Your gifts benefit every student, every day.

Blessings on your Eastertide,

Rev. Dr. Martin Otto Zimmann Director of Church Relations mzimmann@uls.edu

717-338-3011

Thank you all for helping the saints for you all for helping the saints for I saints for the work of nowisting!

61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg PA 17325 + 7301 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia PA 19119





Through April and May, with limits on worship attendance, we will ask you to sign-up for each Sunday you wish to attend. AND, we will add an additional service on any Sunday where the sign-up exceeds 30 worshipers/service. The cut-off each week for signing up will be the Thursday morning (11:00 a.m.) prior to Sunday.

For those who wish to continue to worship together virtually, You Tube and Zoom (by phone) worship connections Live will continue at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday. (other service times will not be offered Live).



I really appreciate all of the support and gifts I have received on behalf of my confirmation. All of your support means much to me and my family as this was a colossal land mark in the journey of my lifetime. Thank you to everyone who supported me throughout this event and into a new chapter of my journey in life. God Bless You All!

Sincerely; Zach Rankin



Bible Class began April 29th - Galatians - Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit - for the Church AND the World We Live In - The first of a what we hope will be a number of different Bible Classes offered in 2021, we remain in Zoom format for this five week class. Still time to join—CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO SIGN UP for either 11:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.!



Prayer Vigil—A prayer vigil will be held every 3rd Saturday at 3:00 p.m. alternating between Constitution Park and North Park, this month's will be held on May 15 at North Park at 3:00 p.m.. We will meet with our friends in Christ from Christ Tabernacle for prayer for racial reconciliation for the community in which we are all a part. Prayer is critical to our Christian life! Come and be a part!



Recently, Grace received a \$100 contribution for the Friends Fund through the Tithe.ly online giving application from Ellen Biegert. Ellen was an AT hiker who spent time at Grace's Hiker Hostel. Here is the message Ellen left with the contribution: "Hi, I stayed with you in the AT Hiker Hostel in 2018 and appreciate all you do. Thank you"

It is always nice to hear from hikers who stayed at the hostel, but especially uplifting to know that the hospitality and spirit of the Hiker Hostel has left a positive impression on someone three years later. Thanks to all who contribute to this outreach mission!



Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need—Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food banks. We have made **fifteen** deliveries thus far, even to Main Street United Methodist, and eight to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. Last week, 93 pounds of food went to Calvary United Methodist breaking our previous records! If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



"Coffee Fellowship" Still Available After Worship! - In this "in-between" time upcoming where many of us are still worshiping via You Tube while we also have In-Person worship, our Zoom coffee Fellowship continues after worship at approximately 10:50 a.m. It continues to be a great time to catch up, see each other's faces, and celebrate joys and concerns! Each week via email or U.S. Mail, you receive the Zoom link. Let the Church Office know if you are not receiving that invitation!



Grace is planning to partner with Stone Soup Books to sponsor a book event on Monday, May 17 at 10:00 a.m. (tentatively) to introduce the book <u>Psalms in My Backpack</u>, by Linda Jane Niedfeldt. She is an author from Wisconsin who writes about the Psalms and stories of her family's hike on the AT in 1990 (with her, her husband, and 4 kids). More information to come.

www.lindajaneniedfeldt.com/the-psalms-in-my-backpack

Note: This year, under the advise of the local Appalachian Trail Club, as well as the National Park Service, Grace will NOT be hosting its Hiker Hostel in 2021. We are planning for a joyful return of this long standing ministry in 2022.



Altar Flowers—Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers, especially now that we are having in-person worship. Please call the church office if you would like to sign up for Altar Flowers. May 2, May 16, and May 30 are all currently open.



I have a congregation member, Sam Burns (DOB 10/15/54), who needs a **kidney transplant**. The doctor's have suggested to his wife, Donna, that we spread the word of this need far and wide in hopes of finding a living donor match. Inquiries as to the process and decisions about whether to proceed are anonymous. The family won't hear about anyone who inquires. The best way to begin is to call UVA transplant center at 1-434-924-0000. Reference Sam Burns and his birthdate. Basic information can be found at

https://unos.org/transplant/living-donation. Of course you can call me if I can be helpful. I also hold information confidential regarding any discussions I have about this topic.

Shalom, Karen Taylor



COVID-19

Vaccination Clinic

Serving residents of the Central Shenandoah Health District: Bath, Highland, Augusta, Rockbridge, and Rockingham, as well as Staunton, Waynesboro, Lexington, Buena Vista, and Harrisonburg.





Making an Appointment is Simple & Easy

- 1. Visit our website at vaccinate.augustahealth.com
- 2. Look for upcoming clinics on the Vaccine Appointment page 3. Click to begin registration

GENERAL VACCINE INFORMATION

There is no charge to receive your COVID-19 Vaccine. Augusta Health may administer the Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Please take note of the vaccination that is being administered when making your appointment.

THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE AGE 16 & OVER

Pfizer is authorized for those 16 and over, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are authorized for those 18 and over. Anyone under age 18, must have a parent or guardian present for their appointment. Eligibility will be verified, please bring your Photo ID with you.

NO COMPUTER? NO PROBLEM. CALL US TO SCHEDULE

Call us at 540-332-5122. We're here Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to help answer your questions and get you scheduled for an upcoming clinic.

SCAN THE CODE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT OR LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VACCINE





Call 540-332-5122



vaccinate augustahealth.com

Birthdays

5/1 Ryan Blosser

5/5 Bethanie Glover

5/10 Carolyn Barrette

5/12 Lisa Gray

5/19 Karley Hull

5/24 Ron Almarode

5/28 Jean Franklin

5/4 Alvin Jackson

5/5 Amelia Jones

5/10 John McGehee

5/13 Richard Marshall

5/23 Brodie Franklin

5/28 Lesa Cusa-Jackson

5/4 Nathan Skelton

5/6 Kathryn Johnson

5/12 Jim Kite

5/19 Eleanor Sampson

5/23 Chris Carper

5/28 Roger Bowers



5/10 Amaya Cooper

5/16 Linda Meyer

5/25 Jimmy Owens

5/30 Richard Bump

5/12 Lindsey Skelton

5/18 Sydney Rankin

5/26 Isabelle Bokelman

5/31 Bob Shumate

5/14 Carrie Jones

5/20 Wyatt Carper

5/28 Sarah Kite

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5th Sunday of Easter 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word In-Person and via YouTube Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom	3 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care Nancy Dowdy on Vacation— Carolyn Hite in Church Office	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care 11:00 a.m. Galatians Bible Class via Zoom 1:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting in Conference Room 5:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle Via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Galatians Bible Class	7 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	8
6th Sunday of Easter MEF Grant Requests Due 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word In-Person and via YouTube Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care accept Others 6:30 p.m. Grace Anti-Racism Group meeting via Zoom	11 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	Bible Class via Zoom 13 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care Pastor Vacation 11:00 a.m. Galatians Bible Class via Zoom 5:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle Via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Galatians Bible Class via Zoom	14 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	TRIENDS CHRIST 3:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconciliation North Park

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7th Sunday of Easter 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word In-Person and via YouTube Holy Communion Congregational Meeting 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care Pastor Vacation	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care Pastor Vacation	19 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care 11:00 a.m. Galatians Bible Class via Zoom 5:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle Via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Galatians Bible Class via Zoom	21 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care
Day of Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word In-Person and via YouTube Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom	24 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	7:00 p.m. Church Council T:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting via Zoom	26 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care 11:00 a.m. Galatians Bible Class via Zoom 5:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle Via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Galatians Bible Class via Zoom	28 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care
The Holy Trinity 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word In-Person and via YouTube Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care Memorial ★ Day ★ Church Office Closed	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care 7:00 p.m. Round Table Meeting via Zoom	2 7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care 11:00 a.m. Galatians Bible Class via Zoom 5:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle Via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Galatians Bible Class via Zoom	7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m. Student Care



Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday
May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
Preaching &	Preaching &	Preaching &	Preaching &	Preaching &
Presiding	Presiding	Presiding	Presiding	Presiding
Pastor Paul Pingel	Pastor Paul Pingel	Pastor Paul Pingel	Pastor Paul Pingel	Pastor Paul Pingel
Altar Flowers Open	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers
	Gail Johnson	Open	Linda Meyer	Open
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan
Assisting Minister Tripp Franklin	Assisting Minister Ron Almarode	Assisting Minister Donna Gum	Assisting Minister Cathy Crowder	Assisting Minister Mike Trauscht
Children's Service Jones Family	Children's Service Van Bremen Family	Children's Service Stollings/Cooper Family	Children's Service Bokelman Family	Children's Service Jones Family
Council Person	Council Person	Council Person	Council Person	Council Person
of the Week	of the Week	of the Week	of the Week	of the Week
Gail Johnson	Kathryn Johnson	Jerry Kite	Linda Meyer	Amy Warren
Offering Steward	Offering Steward	Offering Steward	Offering Steward Pat Brady	Offering Steward
Pat Brady	Pat Brady	Pat Brady		Pat Brady
Temperature Takers Jean Morgan Karen Walck	Temperature Takers Holly Carper Barb Susen	Temperature Takers Jill Pingel Jane Stein	Temperature Takers Jane Stein	Temperature Takers Gail Johnson
Ushers Gail Johnson Carrie Jones	Ushers Lee Lynch Linda Meyer	Ushers Fred Biggers Jean Morgan	Ushers Ron Almarode Jack Eckstrom	Ushers Gail Johnson Carrie Jones

Budget Barometer March 2021

Finance Update For the year, actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are below budget resulting in a deficit of \$2,650.

Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$78,558	\$69,596	(\$8,962)
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$71,513	\$72,245	\$732
	\$7,045	(\$2,649)	(\$9,695)



Nursing Home, Assisted Living and Homebound Members

Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980	LizAnn Binns c/o Steve Binns 8921 Sturgeon Point Road Charles City, VA 23030
Maribeth Faivre Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980	Phyllis Kite 57 Skyline Avenue Stuarts Draft, VA 24477
Bob Knemoller Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980	Glen & Flossie Myers The Legacy 1410a North Augusta Street Staunton, VA 24401
Pete Rufe Summit Square Healthcare 501 Oak Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980	

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LABEL



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- GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro

www.gracewaynesboro.org E: gracelc@lumos.net T: 540.949.6171

Church Staff

The Rev. Paul Pingel
Pastor

Nancy Dowdy Administrative Secretary

Mike MyersDirector 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