

May 2022

GraceNotes

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

From the Pastor

Pastor's Page



This is my final Pastor's Page prior to my sabbatical. First, I would like to thank you, at Grace, for having the foresight many years ago to put a sabbatical policy in place for your pastors. It is a blessing for those who have

served at Grace; Bishop Humphrey was fortunate to enjoy two sabbaticals, and this will be my first sabbatical in almost 29 years of ministry.

I will look forward to simple rest, but will also look forward to bringing back information about my sabbatical study. I have been involved with some sort of racial reconciliation/justice/equity, formally or informally, for almost my entire ministry. In Floyd, we reached across racial lines and sponsored a Gospel Celebration at Zion's Picnic Pavilion, the first of its type in the County. In Columbia SC, I was part of a Racial Reconciliation group of seven white Lutheran pastors and seven black pastors in the city. And now here in Waynesboro, Grace has exchanged pastors and congregations

and worshipped together with Christ Tabernacle at both church buildings. During Covid, we have joined in a discussion group of 24 people who have learned much about one another, and grown in relationship. We hope the waning of the pandemic will allow Grace and Christ Tabernacle to soon enjoy other activities in-person.

It may sound like a simple, "no-brainer" thing, but I hope to delve more deeply into the importance of *relationship* in fostering racial justice and equity. Whenever anybody *knows* somebody, most of the time that relationship, that friendship, allows a deeper conversation, a more honest conversation. I am hoping to hear from my sisters and brothers of color their perspective on the importance of relationship. I have learned and grown a lot in my journey of faith and in the relationships I have with my sisters and brothers of color over the years. At the same time, I know those relationships are often still *different* than the relationships I have with people like myself. I hope to learn more about why that is, and how to change.

I will also be grateful for a period of rest, and time for spiritual retreat. Our family will also enjoy some travel – Lily is doing study overseas in Germany through Roanoke College, and we will meet her over there to enjoy seeing where she studied, as well as other activities such as visiting Luther's birthplace and the area where he was active in the beginnings of the Reformation.

I am grateful to Pastor's Karen Van Stee and Pastor Mark Radecke for their help during my sabbatical. They will be providing pastoral care, preaching, and attending Council meetings during my time away. A bio of each of them is found elsewhere in this newsletter.

I am also grateful to Robin Crowder, who is heading up the Sabbatical Committee and being a point person of contact for Grace while I am away. Grace Council will also be stepping up, and the Council Person of the Week will become an important contact for you to know in case of any issues or needs. You will likely be hearing from Robin over the next few weeks.

Grace Congregation is blessed with a great many lay-people who contribute greatly to Grace's ministry. St. Paul uses the example in I Corinthians 12 that we are like a body, each of us with gifts and talents for the good of the whole body and the Mission God has for us: *Now you are the Body of Christ and individually members of it (I Cor. 12:27)*. God has given us one another so we can be Christ's Church, his Body in the world! This time of sabbatical will show us how true that is.

I also want to thank Nancy Dowdy and Mike Myers for their partnership while I am away. I am blessed with great partners in ministry. Their talents are great, and I am thankful, that, along with our lay leadership and sabbatical pastors, Grace is in good hands. St. Paul says in Philippians 1: *I thank my God every time I remember you*. And then: *The God of peace will be with you (4:9b)*. Soon again, we will continue in ministry together! See you soon.

A note about our Refugee

Ministry: For many months, we have spoken about hosting a Refugee family, and often spoke about Afghan Refugees. Now, as we begin our actual sponsorship of a Refugee family, it may be a surprise that the family is from...the Democratic Republic of Congo.

When we first began working with Church World Service of Harrisonburg, they had just accepted over 70 Afghan immigrants who were staying at Massanetta Springs. Over a span of about six months, these seventy immigrants came to know and be familiar with Harrisonburg, and so asked to stay in that area. What Church World Service also told us at the time is that the group of refugees they worked with most often were from the Democratic Republic of Congo. (We also learned in the last day or two that there is another Congolese in the area being sponsored by the Mormon church in the area)

You may not know much about the D.R. of Congo. It is a large country in the middle of Africa – formerly known as the Belgian Congo. It is also a country that since 1993 has either been in open Civil War or experiencing regional conflicts primarily between ethnic groups. You may remember in Rwanda, there was a terrible Civil War between Hutu's and Tutsi's. That conflict spilled over into the Eastern border of the D.R. Congo, and in varying degrees continues to wage onward, though many other groups are involved today.

In 1998, the father and mother of our family of eight moved to Nyaerugusu Refugee Camp. Located in Tanzania, it is the largest United Nations Refugee Camp in the world; though designed for 50,000 people, over 137,000 people now live there. Our family HAVE LIVED THERE FOR THEIR ENTIRE LIVES. The 21, 10, 7, 5, 3 and 9 month old children have known nothing but the Camp. The parents themselves were children when they moved there. The father is a farmer, the mother a hairdresser. All speak Swahili; the father and 21 year old son speak and write French.

The family are Refugees. The official definition of a refugee means that they are unsafe to return to their own country; they risk death or violence if they try to go back. This qualifies them in the U.S. for refugee status. They have arrived in the U.S. in Harrisonburg on Wednesday, April 27th. They will be moving into their house in Waynesboro May 1st.

An additional note about their arrival: after 48 straight hours of travel, they arrived in Harrisonburg. They were greeted by a brother and family of the wife's, and shouts of joy punctuated the hugs of grateful arrival. The 21 year old entered the dwelling they are staying at for the next four days, bounded up the steps, and exclaimed with absolute excitement: "We are in America!"

An important greeting in Swahili is *Habari*, which is our equivalent of "how are you," more accurately translated "news." Here are some common uses of the greeting:

Habari zako (how are you?)

Habari za asubuhi (how is the morning?) mchana (afternoon) jioni (evening?)

Habari za familia yako? (How is your family?)

Thanks to all who have donated to help the family. Please see announcements elsewhere of how you can help!



Highlights of Congregation Council

April 19, 2022

- Financial Report from Ron Almarode states that Grace is \$10,000. behind in pledges as of March. However, several large yearly donations will be spread over the entire year at about \$4100. a month.
- Pastor reports that the sabbatical is on track and he is thankful. There will be a museum visit in August.
- Linda Tomey is getting greeters together for weekly services. Soon the offering plates will be passed again and the tape will be taken down. Giving this another month to evaluate.
- Insurance for the church is being checked by Robin Crowder to find a more reasonable company.
- Our refugee family is coming from the Congo. They cannot return home and have been in a refugee camp since 1992. We have a home on King Avenue for them. They will need many items. There will be an inventory list available on Tuesday, April 26. They are due to arrive week of May 1st.
- Kim Hull has resigned from Council. Her resignation was accepted by Council. Her second term, ending in May will not be filled, since elections are in a few short weeks.
- Grace Nominating Committee has selected five candidates for election to Council positions beginning 6/1/22 and ending 5/31/2024: Robin Crowder, Jack Eckstrom, Susan Myers, Steven Van Stee, and Karen Walck.
- May 15th will be a called congregational meeting and election of new council members.
- The youth room will be used for the Hiker Hostel.
- Waynesboro Garden Club, Office of Human Rights and St. John's have asked for space for several events. Council voted to allow.

Respectively submitted,
Vivian Proctor



Summary of the March 29th Meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee has completed our Step Two review of our existing Congregational Mission, Guiding Principles and Strategic Priorities. We believe they are essential and should be maintained as an inspirational guide in our strategic planning for the future at Grace. To help in the development of a strategic plan, the Committee has added the following Vision Statement.

“Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are a vibrant congregation that shares the love of Christ with each other, the community, and the world.”

We will be sharing this Vision Statement at Church Council and Round Table meetings, with the Congregation in Grace Notes, Sunday Bulletins and on the Church Website.

The final part of Step Two is to gather ideas in response to the following questions:

- What could we be doing to create and maintain the vibrant congregation described in the Vision Statement?
- What does your picture of Grace in 2025 look like?

Please take sometime to think about your answers to the questions! We encourage your responses. Please respond by emailing Bob Barrette at rbarrette8@gmail.com.

There are no wrong answers; just valuable ideas!

Bob Barrette
Strategic Planning Committee Member



All God's Children: No One Less Than

This is the first in a series of reviews on some of the books available for loan in the All God's Children Library collection at Grace. For the next few Sundays, members of AGC will be in the narthex after worship to answer questions and loan out books. Stop by and check us out!
<https://gracewaynesboro.weebly.com/antiracism.html>

[How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America](#) by Clint Smith. Copyright 2021. Little, Brown and Company, New York.

If someone were to ask me, “What would be a good book to read to begin learning about the history and experiences of Black people in this country?”, I would immediately and wholeheartedly urge everyone to read this book. It simply blew me away. It is beautifully written, gentle yet honest, easy to read, yet challenging to consider, hard to put down and impossible to forget.

Clint Smith reaches out to his readers, drawing them into his own experiences as he travels to various locations in the United States and in Africa: from Monticello to New York City; from Galveston Texas to Goree Island in Senegal. Smith learns the stories of these places and shares them with us. He talks with Black tour guides and white Civil War reenactors. He listens to the stories of life in slavery and under Jim Crow that were passed down the generations. And, he generously shares with us own thoughts and feelings as he enters Whitney Plantation's Field of Angels, built to honor the lives of 2,200 enslaved children who died there; as he stood in a tiny cell in the old Red Hat section of Angola Prison in Louisiana, where prisoners were beaten daily and some were simply disappeared forever; as he watched the pageantry of a Memorial Day celebration in a Confederate cemetery while across the street the cemetery of enslaved and free Blacks was ignored.

Continued

This book is a treasure trove of information that was new to me. I did not know that the Statue of Liberty was originally conceived as an honoring of the end of slavery in the United States, and that the lady stands on a broken shackle and chain. I did not know that the first Memorial Day ceremony was held in 1865 in Charleston, South Carolina by freed slaves, Black workmen, woman and children, to rebury and honor the Union soldiers who died in the horrible Confederate POW camp there. Nor did I know that part of Central Park in New York used to a thriving Black and interracial community, a community destroyed when the land was claimed for a new park in the city.

But Smith's words do more than inform. He reaches into the hearts and minds of his readers, and in clear, gentle, yet firm prose, confronts us with our misinformation, fears, and prejudices. He puts human faces, including his own, on the events of the past and present, so that we feel, in small part, what he and others feel. I can honestly say I was changed after reading this book. It is said that the Gospel of Christ exists to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. The same could be said about How the Word Is Passed.

Clint Smith is an award-winning poet and author, a former teacher, who holds a PhD in Education from Harvard University and is currently a staff writer at The Atlantic.

Review by Karen Van Stee, ELCA pastor, retired, member of Grace and member of AGC.

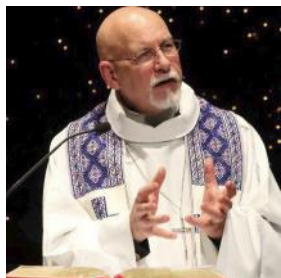
Our Sabbatical Pastors



The Rev. Karen Shumate Van Stee received her M.Div. from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 1999, seventy years after her grandfather and great-uncle graduated from the same seminary. She was called to serve at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Portsmouth. In 2006 she accepted a call to St. Mary's Pine Lutheran Church in Mount Jackson, and has retired after fourteen years there.

Karen, the daughter of Robert and Mildred Shumate, was confirmed in 1974, married in 1982, and ordained in 2000, all here at Grace. She graduated from Wilson Memorial High School in 1978 and received a B.S. in biology from St. Andrews Presbyterian College in 1982. Karen and her husband Steve Van Stee met in college. He retired after twenty-two years in the United States Air Force and now operates a solar energy business. They have two daughters. Kristen graduated from Roanoke College and LTSS, was ordained in 2012, and is now serving in the Nebraska Synod. Erica is the Children's Services Coordinator for the Shenandoah County Public Library, and she and her husband Bryan Hepner have three children: James, Lincoln, and Caroline. Bryan is the Maintenance Director for Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp.

Steve and Karen have relocated to Waynesboro and became members of Grace last year. They now live with Robert, also a member of Grace.



Mark Wm. Radecke is Emeritus Chaplain and Professor of Religion at Susquehanna University, a college of the ELCA. A native of Baltimore, he holds degrees from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (B.A. in Theatre), Gettysburg Seminary (M.Div.), Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, (STM), and Princeton Theological Seminary (D.Min.). Author of four published volumes of sermons, he served as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Roanoke, for 18 years. His hobbies include travel, scuba diving, and home beer brewing. He and his wife, Tami, live in Waynesboro with two very spoiled cats. They have five children, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Mark and Tami are avid and long-suffering fans of the Baltimore Orioles.



Welcome to Worship!

- We will follow CDC "color" guidelines to determine masking at worship. If our area is in an Orange (high risk) condition, we will mask for worship.
- If we are in a Yellow (medium risk) or Green (low risk) condition: those who are not vaccinated or are immune-compromised are encouraged to mask, while those who are vaccinated and boosted are "mask optional, but welcome."
- This applies to Worship, Meetings, Classes, VMA, other users of the facility, etc.



May 1 Reception—The All God's Children Group is excited to be hosting the opening of our lending library with our first coffee and cookies reception in the narthex after the church service on the first of May!

Come join us to talk about the many readings and discoveries we have made as we have opened our hearts and minds to becoming antiracist disciples of Jesus. Please share your thoughts with us and take a book home to read. Books for all ages are available.

Bob & Carolyn Barrette
Kathy & Rick Bump
Lisa Gray
Linda Meyer
Gordon Putnam
Nancy & David Schwiesow
Karen Van Stee



All God's Children will begin discussing **His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope** by Jon Meacham on Monday, May 2, in the Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. Zoom is also available. New members always welcome.



The Waynesboro Generals Valley League Baseball team is in need of host families. These players come in from all over the United States focused on playing summer ball. They only need a bed and access to a shower, washer/dryer, and kitchen. They are self-sufficient, basically sleeping and playing baseball each day. Please let me know if you would be interested in supporting your community in this way. We have been hosting multiple players for 20 years and have had 20 great summers. Great memories and lifelong friends! Email me directly with any questions you might have. We would love for you to be part of our Waynesboro Generals summer family! Thank you for considering this great opportunity! (And please share with anyone you think might be interested!) Diane Lundstrom / [540-256-1308](tel:540-256-1308) / dlundstrom@waynesboro.k12.vt.us



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Grace Congregation Meeting on May 15th - Sunday, May 15th after worship, we will elect new Council members who will begin their term June of 2022. A slate of five Grace members has been selected by Grace's Nominating Committee - Robin Crowder, Jack Eckstrom, Susan Myers, Steven Van Stee, and Karen Walck. By our Church Constitution, any other nominations must be presented in writing to Vivian Proctor, Grace Secretary, by Sunday, May 8th (with the nominated member's permission and bio).



New Member Class in May: We will schedule a New Member class for four weeks in May, choosing day and time that works best for those who are taking part. The Season of Easter is a wonderful time to celebrate our unity in Christ, and the purpose we have as Christ's Body in the world, working together on God's Mission for us in this world! Call the Church Office, or sign up on the sheet in the narthex.



Mission Endowment Fund Grants Available - Find information in the Narthex about Grace's Mission Endowment Fund, and a Grant application to make use of almost \$30,000 in funds for community, regional or national needs. As we heard from the March 27 Temple Talk, this your Fund to be a blessing at Grace! **Grant applications are due by May 8.**



ELCA Disaster Response—Ukraine—if you would like to help refugees in Eastern Europe, make a check out to Grace with “Eastern Europe Crisis” in the memo line. 100% of your donation goes to relief.



Strategic Planning Committee Update - Proposed Vision Statement for Grace:

“Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are a vibrant congregation that shares the love of Christ with each other, the community, and the world.”

Think about this and how you would answer the following Questions:

- What could we be doing to create and maintain the vibrant congregation described in the Vision Statement?
- What would your picture of Grace congregation look like in 2025?

Stay tuned – more to come!



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 twenty-six deliveries thus far, twelve to Main Street United Methodist, and fourteen to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 2610 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Ingrid Sevigny would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. She is currently rehabilitating at the Legacy in Fishersville.

LivingLutheran

Receive an ELCA magazine - to keep up to date with Lutheran news throughout the nation and world. The ELCA’s magazine, Living Lutheran, is free online. Google livinglutheran.org to subscribe for the weekly, biweekly, or monthly e-digest which will email you articles and allow you to access past articles of interest to you.



Refugee Resettlement News. Things are moving quickly on the refugee resettlement front – we have been notified that a family has been assigned to our Westminster/ Grace Resettlement Team! They are a family of six who are originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo. We know we originally announced we would be resettling an Afghan family, but the need was greater for helping this new family and the Spirit has led them to us. They are currently in the largest refugee camp in the world – one based in Tanzania. There are two parents and six children ranging in age from 9 months to 21 years. They will be flew to the U.S. on April 27, and we still plan to move them into the house on May 1 They will be staying for a few days in Harrisonburg reconnecting with a relative's family living in the area until May 1. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Linda Meyer at lameyer@cfw.com or phone 540-256-2277.

Another opportunity to help Refugee children - Close to home, there remains a refugee crisis not often remembered; those of thousands of refugees from the nation of Haiti. A combination of multiple natural disasters and political instability, much of Haiti remains in crisis. Project Esperanza, a Winchester organization committed to teaching Haitian children in the midst of crisis, has for a number of years hosted a school for Haitian children in a refugee area in the Dominican Republic (<https://projectesperanza.giv.sh/>). Our CCE&J (Christian Coalition for Justice and Equity), in partnership with Christ Tabernacle, has pledged \$2695, enough to sponsor 4-1/2 students for the year (\$600/student; this compares to Virginia's \$5488/student/year number). Grace and Christ Tabernacle congregations are invited to contribute \$305 to allow us to sponsor 5 students fully (or more to sponsor a sixth)! Please make a check to Grace, memo line "Project Esperanza," and please give by Sunday, May 15th

HIKER HOSTEL 2022: May 23 – June 19

Yes, it looks like we will be able to open up again this year!

New protocols (vaccine verification, masking, reduced numbers) but welcoming hikers again after a two-year hiatus.

Hostel overseers will be Marit Anderson and Mark Trail of Crozet for the first week, Jill Byrd of Crimora for the second week, and Woody and Irma Graf from New Hampshire for the third and final weeks. The Honeymoon Hikers, currently on their fifth thru-hike, will be stopping in at some point to help out, too. And Dave Hennel of Waynesboro will be doing some overnights for us as well. Linda Meyer and Jean Morgan have agreed to be Church liaison people.

How will you help? Linda Meyer will have the sign-up calendar in church on Sundays in May, so bring your personal calendar and find a check-in, an overnight, or a Hiker meal you can provide. This outreach is fortunate to have returning hiker alumnae interested in helping, but the Hostel depends on major participation from Grace Lutheran members!

In addition to “people help” we, as always, can use donations of the following supplies: cereal, juices, bread, jam, peanut butter, and snacks. Once we open up: milk, fruit, ice cream, and home-baked goodies are always popular.

Here’s something else to think about: Woody and Irma are getting somewhat “long in the tooth.” In coming years, if this outreach is to continue, we will need local supervision and spearheading from an interested member or members of Grace. So, if this is something you might want to take on, come around and help us out this year to see what the buzz is all about.

Thanks!

Irma and Woody Graf

HIKING



2022 Grant Process for Mission Endowment Fund

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church has a Mission Endowment Fund whose purpose is “to fund mission work and projects at home and around the world that are above and beyond those programs supported through our regular offerings.” Each year, the Mission Endowment Fund Committee and Congregation Council obtain recommendations from members of the Congregation as to desirable grants. It is time to start that process. Most important, the Fund is your Fund, and your participation in identifying desirable uses for the Fund’s assets is essential. You are encouraged to complete a Grant Request form for consideration by Congregation Council.

The Grant Request form is an insert in the bulletin. Requests need to be submitted by Sunday, May 8. Congregation Council will review proposals at its meeting on Tuesday, May 17, to select the grants. In the past, this form, and the other documents referred to below, were available in the back of the church, so you could pick them up when you came for worship or stopped by during the week. We will continue to put the documents in the back of the church. But many of you are not coming to Grace for worship. So there are other ways to access the document. First, you can call or email the Church Office and they will mail or email the documents to you. The phone number is 540-949-6171 and email is Grace.lc@comcast.net. Second, you can stop by the Church Office and pick up the documents. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:00 – 11:30 and 12:30 – 2:00. Third, you can go to the Church’s website. A link to this document will be on the website. The address for the website is <http://gracewaynesboro.weebly.com/>. Hopefully, everyone can access the documents through one of these avenues.

Grants may be requested in any of seven (7) categories. Six (6) of the ministry categories are designated categories, which means that the funds for distribution in those categories must be used for the designated purpose. The seventh category – *The Grace Fund* - has its own Purpose, (see below), and it can also be used to supplement funding for a proposal relating to any other designated category. It is important to understand that over half of the available funds are from The Grace Fund.

Example: A Grace member proposes \$2,000 to be used for Disaster Relief because a volcano eruption in Papua, New Guinea has threatened our Companion Synod there. \$594 of the \$2,000 would come from the Disaster Relief category. The remainder would come from The Grace Fund category in support of the proposal.

Continued

Here are the seven funds and the amounts that are available for grant from each fund:

Christian Education (*designated category*) - Purpose: “To provide education and training for lay and professional leaders in the congregation (seminar’s workshop, etc.)” At least \$902 is available for distribution.

Seminary/Missionary Education (*designated category*) - Purpose: “Primarily intended to help with the tuition and expenses of seminary students from our congregation but may be applied to individuals in sister congregations in our area or the Virginia Synod or may also be used to help train missionaries for national or international mission.” At least \$1,572 is available for distribution.

Social Ministry (*designated category*) - Purpose: “To provide support for those outside the congregation in need.” At least \$1,008 is available for distribution.

Disaster Relief (*designated category*) - Purpose: “To provide support for mission trips and disaster relief efforts.” At least \$594 is available for distribution.

Alleviating Hunger (*designated category*) - Purpose: “To be applied to local, national or international mission needs, including but not limited to: helping local indigent families, local Food Banks or the ELCA World Hunger programs.” At least \$1,661 is available for distribution.

Special Music (*designated category*) - Purpose: “To provide support to the Music programs of the Church.” At least \$6,505 is available for distribution.

The Grace Fund (*undesignated category*) - Purpose: “To support mission-oriented projects with grants from Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church to our local area, United States or World. Grants may be used to support local, national or global missions through existing organizations [(examples: WARM (local), the ELCA (national) or Global Mission (international)]. The Fund also may be used for startup mission programs within Grace. Grants may be given to support needs or programs for a one-year period or multi-year periods that can be extended up to three years to help support special projects or mission organizations that have been approved by Congregation Council. The Grace Fund may be used to support any designated category under the Mission Endowment Fund, whether currently existing or established in the future.” \$18,516 is available for distribution.

What’s most important is that the Fund is your Fund, and your participation In the grant request process is critical.

Continued

Grace Mission Endowment Fund Grant Request Form - 2022

Ministry Category:

Grant Proposal Amount

\$ _____

Purpose of proposed grant (include organization or other recipient):

How the grant is consistent with the Ministry Category and would assist the organization or other recipient:

Name of submitter and contact information:

Please submit by May 8.



**Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service**

March 21, 2022

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

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give
thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Dear Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church,

On behalf of all the people we serve, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) would like to thank you for your generosity throughout the year of 2021. Your financial gifts are so important and are truly making a difference in the lives of immigrants and refugees each and every day.

For over 80 years, LIRS has offered welcome and hope to more than half a million refugees. Since 1939, LIRS has transformed lives, with the support of people like you, to welcome the most vulnerable to the United States – from sea to shining sea. Together we have supported, equipped, and empowered these new Americans, while advocating for policy that protects all of God’s children.

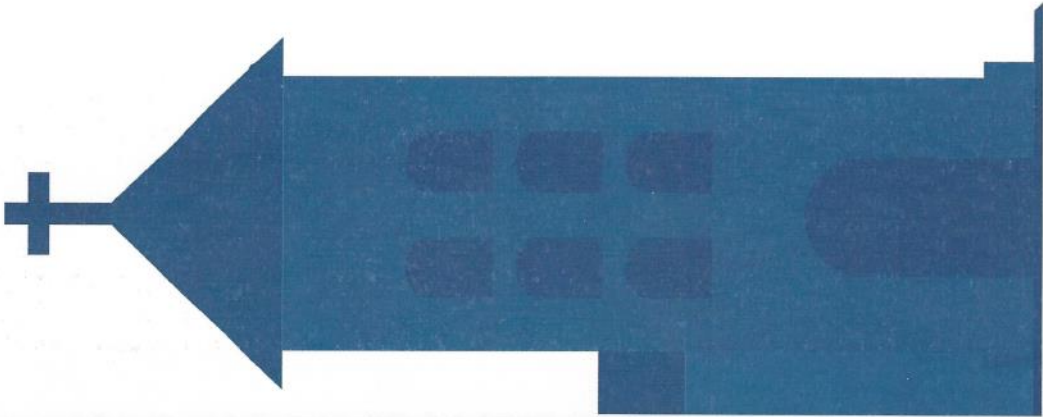
So today, we want to personally thank you for welcoming refugees and immigrants with open arms by financially supporting this ministry of welcome in 2021. Your ongoing support assists us in the mission to care for and welcome the stranger. Thank you for all the ways you continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus at home and around the world.

In God’s peace,

Andrew G. Steele
Vice President for Development and Outreach

Dr. Kristin Witte
Director for Outreach

National Headquarters: 700 Light Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230 | Phone: 877-291-7061 | Fax: 410-230-2890 | www.LIRS.org
Mail gifts to: P.O. Box 17467, Baltimore, Maryland 21297-1467 | Email: giving@lirs.org



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service recognizes

**GRACE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
WAYNESBORO, VA**

as a

TOP GENEROUS CONGREGATION



*On behalf of LIRS and those we serve,
we thank you for your generosity in 2021!*



ANDREW G. STEELE

Vice President for Development and Outreach





MAY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>Third Sunday of Easter</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (Seminar Room)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of the Word and Holy Communion</p> <p>10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children Book Study (Conference Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Garden Club (Seminar Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Backpacks (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</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 Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Easter</p>  <p>9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (Seminar Room)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of the Word and Holy Communion</p> <p>10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Backpacks (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</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>6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group Zoom Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (Seminar Room)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of the Word and Holy Communion</p> <p>Called Congregational Meeting</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Book Group for Women via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children Book Study (Conference Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>Church Council</i></p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council (Conference Room and Zoom)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Backpacks (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</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 Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. Catholic Church (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconcil. Constitution Park</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (Seminar Room)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of the Word and Holy Communion</p> <p>10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hiker Hostel</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hiker Hostel</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hiker Hostel</i></p> <p>9:00 a.m. Backpacks (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hiker Hostel</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hiker Hostel</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hiker Hostel</i></p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)</p>



MAY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>	Pastor— Sabbatical	Pastor— Sabbatical	Pastor— Sabbatical	Pastor— Sabbatical	Pastor— Sabbatical	Pastor— Sabbatical
9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (Seminar Room)	<i>Hiker Hostel</i>	<i>Hiker Hostel</i>	<i>Hiker Hostel</i>	<i>Hiker Hostel</i>	<i>Hiker Hostel</i>	
10:00 a.m. Service of the Word and Holy Communion	 Memorial Day ★ ★			8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers		11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall)
10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom	 Will Be Closed:			12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)		
<i>Hiker</i>				6:00 p.m. CCE&J Group Zoom Meeting		



Worship Assistants

<i>May 1</i>	<i>May 8</i>	<i>May 15</i>	<i>May 22</i>	<i>May 29</i>
Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel	Preaching & Presiding Pastor Paul Pingel
Altar Flowers Jim & Gloria Nelson	Altar Flowers Gail Johnson	Altar Flowers Open	Altar Flowers Jim & Gloria Nelson	Altar Flowers Open
Altar Guild Glen & Lisa Gray	Altar Guild Kathy Meicke	Altar Guild Jane Stein	Altar Guild Jean Morgan	Altar Guild Kathy Meicke
Assisting Minister Robin Crowder	Assisting Minister Mike Trauscht	Assisting Minister Kathy Bump	Assisting Minister Andrew Sell	Assisting Minister Marsha Howard
Communion Assistants Cathy Crowder Linda Meyer	Communion Assistants Ron Almarode Fred Biggers	Communion Assistants Susan Myers Karen Walck	Communion Assistants Carrie Jones Gloria Nelson	Communion Assistants Donna Gum Gloria Nelson
Council Person of the Week Andrew Sell	Council Person of the Week Bob Barrette	Council Person of the Week Fred Biggers	Council Person of the Week Kathy Bump	Council Person of the Week Robin Crowder
Covid Monitor Bill Lucas	Covid Monitor Gail Johnson	Covid Monitor Gail Johnson	Covid Monitor Karen Walck	Covid Monitor Gail Johnson
Offering Stewards Pat Brady Robin Crowder	Offering Stewards Pat Brady David Proctor	Offering Stewards Pat Brady Robin Crowder	Offering Stewards Pat Brady David Proctor	Offering Stewards Robin Crowder Jean Morgan
Ushers Ron Almarode Lee Lynch	Ushers Fred Biggers David Proctor	Ushers Jack Eckstrom Jim Nelson	Ushers Gail Johnson Jerry Kite	Ushers Rick Bump Linda Meyer



MAY

Birthdays

05/01	Ryan Blosser	05/04	Alvin Jackson	05/04	Nathan Skelton
04/05	Amelia Jones	05/06	Kathy Johnson	05/07	Jim Nelson
05/10	Sharon Vorel	05/10	Carolyn Barrette	05/12	Jim Kite
05/12	Lisa Gray	05/13	Richard Marshall	05/19	Eleanor Sampson
05/19	Karley Hull	05/23	Brodie Franklin	05/23	Chris Carper
05/24	Ron Almarode	05/28	Jean Franklin	05/28	Lisa Jackson
05/28	Roger Bowers	05/28	Rew Walck		



MAY

Baptisms

05/10	Amaya Cooper	05/12	Lindsey Skelton	05/14	Carrie Jones
05/16	Linda Meyer	05/18	Sydney Rankin	05/20	Wyatt Carper
05/23	Marsha Howard	05/25	Jimmy Ownes	05/26	Isabelle Bokelman
05/28	Sarah Kite	05/29	Karen Van Stee	05/30	Richard Bump
05/31	Bob Shumate				



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>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>Glen & Flossie Myers Stuarts Draft Retirement</p>	<p>Pete Rufe Summit Square Healthcare 501 Oak Avenue, Room 7 Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>
<p>Carolyn Shields Brightview 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 331 Staunton, VA 24401</p>	



Budget Barometer

March 2022

For the year, actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are

Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$69,596	\$63,609	(\$5,987)
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$72,245	\$73,597	\$1,351
	(\$2,650)	(\$9,988)	(\$7,338)



Members of Grace
Congregational Council



Robin Crowder, President
Jerry Kite, Vice-President
Bob Barrette, Fred Biggers,
Kathy Bump, Jean Morgan,
Nancy Schwiesow,
Andrew Sell, Amy Warren
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 a.m.—11:30 p.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday;

Friday—Closed

[facebook.com/gelc.elca](https://www.facebook.com/gelc.elca)

twitter.com/gelc_elca

[youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro](https://www.youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro)

Internet: www.gracewaynesboro.org

Telephone: 540.949.6171

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Waynesboro, VA 22980

LABEL



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 youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro

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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