GraceNo+es

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE From the Pastor



Pastor's Page

Beginning in August, and continuing through September, I have been taking a class called Redemptive

Compassion from Love INC, the classes held at Bridge Church in Fishersville. The writer of the book by the same name as the class makes a powerful argument that if anything is to change regarding poverty and need in the world, that all people need to be seen as made in the image of God, and that God has given all people worth, abilities and gifts of the Spirit.

The book also makes clear that unless there is love and the establishing of relationship with people – and this is true whether we're talking about a homeless person, a family member, a neighbor or even a fellow church member! – it is difficult if not impossible to expect there to be change in the way things are.

I'll give a more complete report about *Redemptive Compassion* next month. It has been a worthwhile and challenging class; I'm not sure I agree with everything the class is teaching! But it HAS given me an important aha! moment in my own faith journey. Actually the aha! occurred to me a few years ago; the recognition that "it's all about relationship:" life, faith, hope, love. It's about our relationship with God, and our relationship with one another, and with our neighbor.

Our relationship with God affects our relationship with our neighbor. We know what our Lutheran heritage says about God. Without any merit

Continued

or earning on our part, God has chosen to love this world, and us, and shows the extent of God's love for the world by sending his Son Jesus. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, Paul says in the letter to the Romans (chapter 5)!

A devotion Jill and I have been reading this week has focused on a "however" to this Good News. This world we live in teaches a different tale: retributive justice: that somebody's gotta pay. Think of Jason Bourne or other action movie where the bad guy goes down to defeat, in a satisfying way, in the end. Tit for tat. Eye for an eye. The good people going to great reward, the bad people going to the eternal fire. With a certain kind of reading of the Bible, we can even find God as a "divine lawgiver" and, as one writer says it, a sort of (angry) "head punisher," with a Jason Bourne-style end for "the bad guys."

If this sinks into our hearts and minds, then think of how this can affect our relationship with our neighbors. I hope this is something we can think about in heart and mind together: that how and what we believe about God will affect how we react and interact with our neighbor. If God's ultimate approach is "head punisher," then

when we encounter people who live differently from the way we have learned is "good" – and forgetting that the Bible tells us only God is good (Mt. 19:17, Mk, 10:18) - what will our attitude and reaction be?

In fact, both Old Testament and New Testament alike declare the great commandments thusly: You shall love the Lord your God with heart, soul and mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself. Because "God so loved the world!" Love is at the heart of relationship! And if God loved us so much to send his only Son, and has given worth to all because of God's undeserved love - Grace! – how does that change how we look at our neighbor – at "the least of these?" (Matthew 25)

The Gospel for August 27, 2023 (Matthew 16) has Jesus asking the disciples, "who do people say that the Son of Man is?" and then asks, but "who do *you* say that I am?" The answer of the gospels is that Jesus – who reveals God to us – is not the head punisher, but the one who gave his life in love on the cross, for our sake, and for the sake of all the sinners in this world, including us. It's out of this love that we live in relationship with our neighbors.

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights January 17, 2023

- Pastor Pingel reported:
 - * Good numerical news in terms of more members, financial news, etc.
 - * Grace is involved in so many good things where Grace is representing Christ and being a blessing.
 - * He will be going to Nicaragua along with five others from Grace on a mission trip to a children's school and home February 11-18.
- Ron Almarode, Treasurer, reported that Grace finished in terms of pledge giving of record income, \$14,000 above budget, which speaks greatly to the congregation's response and to our inability to guess what that might be. Spending was \$3,600 above budget due to property expenses being up. These were necessary maintenance items.
- The Strategic Planning committee is currently working on communications and the need to look at ways we communicate within the organization.

GELC Congregational Meeting Highlights February 19, 2023

- The minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting were approved.
- Ron Almarode, Treasurer, presented the 2022 GELC Annual Report. He reported that GELC had a very successful year with several need initiatives. He referred to page 58 of the Annual Report and the total of \$77,647 in benevolence giving, a great example of our ministry programs at work. It was unanimously approved.

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights February 21, 2023

- The Strategic Planning committee identified the key objectives to focus on, starting with the objective of full church engagement. The goal is to gather information and share it with the congregation to increase participation in the life of the church and the community.
- Grace is allowed three (3) representatives to the Virginia Synod Assembly this summer (June). Pastor Pingel, Donna Gum and Lily Pingel are currently planning to attend. A third representative is needed and will advertised in the bulletins.

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights February 21, 2023 Cont.

Grace will be sharing Lenten Worship with Bethlehem, St. James and Zion focusing on the Apocrypha, 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.

Owen Keefer requested \$3,200 for additional cameras to enhance the service recordings, which was approved by the Council.

Outreach Mission reported a very active congregation in the church as well as the community.

Grace has been notified that they may have an opportunity to be involved with the ordination of the new bishop. The date is Saturday, October 21, 2023.

The church secretary has agreed to do the Council minutes for an additional \$100/month, not as part of her salary but an honorarium.

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights March 21, 2023

- The Treasurer reported that this financial report is somewhat below budget at this time, although it is not alarming at all.
- The Coronavirus Committee is staying on top of the issue.
- The Strategic Planning Committee reported that the first part of the committee's plan was to compile of list of Grace's ministries. Thanks went out to Karen Walck and Pastor for making that happen. The second part is taking a look at the future with the development of a comprehensive communication review of how we operate at the church and how we can make it better.
- President Crowder reported that this past week, we received documents on how the money would be distributed from the Elliott estate and that the church is not responsible for taxes, etc. It was requested in the will that these monies be used for building maintenance.
- Pastor reported that five other congregations will be joining Grace on Palm Sunday outdoors for the Palm Sunday Reading. There will be two Maundy Thursday services, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. with stripping of the altar, foot washing and holy communion. Good Friday's and Easter Vigil services will both be at 7:00 p.m. Easter Sunday services will be at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. with an Easter Breakfast in between.
- Pastor reported that a prayer vigil had been held the previous Saturday with CCE&J. The group also went before the school board to support teachers and asked that Waynesboro not cave in to making history simpler rather than realistic, especially in terms of African American studies.
- The Hiker Hostel for this year is up in the air as we have received information from the City of Waynesboro's building inspector making lots of demands in order for us to host it.
- A request to repeat the mission trip to Nicaragua in 2024 has been received from the Radeckes. At this time, they are not asking for fiscal support, but asking Grace to support the trip and running funds through the Grace treasury, etc. as was done for the 2023 trip. Council approved this request.

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights April 25, 2023

- Council will present the Property Report from April 2023 to the congregation on May 21, 2023 for them to vote on approval of the requested expenditures utilizing the services of Austin and Sons, Baber Enterprises and Security Team LLC, for items 1-5 as listed in the report. Funding will come from Fo5 and F47 accounts in addition to borrowing funds from other accounts to be determined by the Finance Committee and further discussion will be held regarding repayment of those funds at a later date. Total expenditures recommended are \$75,250.
- Ron Almarode, Treasurer, addressed the payment plan for the Property Committee's recommendations. We do not budget for these types of projects; they are special funds expenditures. On page 3 of the Treasurer's Report, you will see two funds for this type of expenditure: Fo5 is the Building Fund and currently has \$2,000 in it and F47 which is the Capital Project fund and currently has \$17,000 in it. These two funds will not cover the projects but is the starting point for payment. In the past, the organ and parking lot projects, we lent ourselves the money by making a resolution and paid ourselves back as the money came in. In both of these cases, we held a Capital Project Campaign asking the congregation to contribute and they responded beyond expectations. As we may have a good amount of money coming in later this year, there may be no reason to look at conducting a Capital Project campaign for these projects. Perhaps we should go ahead with these projects, lend ourselves the money and trust that these funds come in. On page 4, you will see funds at DuPont Community Credit Union in the amount of \$81,000. These funds are there because they don't move very much and gain interest, this is the fund we borrow from. The treasurer has a degree of confidence in going forward with these projects trusting that the funds will come in. If Council feels we really need to talk with the congregation and do a Capital Campaign, that is okay as well. However, there is concern about "going to the well" too many times
- Ron Almarode recommended to Council that a Building Fund Committee needs to be created to develop guidelines for the use of the funds that Grace hopes to receive from the Elliott estate in the amount of \$250,000.

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Congregation Council Meeting Highlights April 25, 2023 Cont.

- Ron reported that we finished March with an \$8,500 deficit. Looking back to 2022, we finished March with a \$10,000 deficit and finished the year with a healthy surplus. So, he feels there is no reason for concern at this time.
- Linda Meyer contacted Irma Graf and received and posted the present status of the Hiker Ministry in Grace Notes. It is currently on hold due to the City's guidelines.
- Stephen Van Stee reported that this past Sunday we had our first Sunday School class for K-5 and had three (3) youth and two (2) adults attend.
- Karen Walck reported that next Sunday will be the "Blessing of the Quilts". Over 50 quilts will be blessed to be sent to Lutheran World Relief.
- Grace will be serving Disciples' Kitchen breakfast on Saturday, May 6.

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights May 16, 2023

- The Strategic Planning Committee continues working on improving communications, especially through the web-page. Their goal is to engage as many members as possible and to keep people updated with the latest information using any means we can.
- Grace's Refugee Family Resettlement celebrated their first anniversary with a nice gathering and taking the kids to park and for ice cream. This family continues to thrive.
- Hiker Ministry 2023 This has been resolved with a "R5 Temporary Residency Permit" and a stairway built to the window.
- Approval of Grace Mission Endowment Fund proposals and distribution this year is \$28,418.
 - Blue Ridge Area Food Bank recommendation is \$500 from the Alleviating Hunger Fund
 - Legal Aid Justice Center recommendation is \$500 from the Grace Fund
 - Medical Assistance to Haiti recommendation is \$2,500 from the Grace Fund
 - Project Esperanza recommendation is \$2,000 from the Grace Fund
 - * Augusta Health recommendation is \$1,500 from the Grace Fund
 - * Raising Resources for Readers recommendation is \$1,500 from the Grace Fund
 - Embrace recommendation is \$500 from the Grace Fund
 - Addressing Critical Needs recommendation is \$432 from the Social Ministry Fund and \$3,568 from the Grace Fund for a total of \$4,000
 - Rise Against Hunger recommendation is \$1,035 from the Alleviating Hunger Fund, \$1,040 from the Grace Fund, \$548 from the Disaster Fund for a total of \$2,623
 - Boys and Girls Club recommendation is \$500 from the Social Ministry Fund

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Congregation Council Meeting Highlights May 16, 2023 Continued

- Society of Saint Andrew recommendation is \$500 from the Grace Fund
- * LifeWorks recommendation is \$500 from the Grace Fund
- * Madee Project Renewable Grant for \$3,000 approved by Council three (3) years ago recommendation is \$3,000 from the Grace Fund
- * Hiker Hostel not funding because there are funds available through the Grace budget
- Grace will participate in the Waynesboro Ecumenical "Assistance Fund" for people in crisis. This program will address the increased needs in our area due to the Covid era supports for people in need ceasing. The result will be many people left in crisis. Grace will become a charter congregation of this 501c(3) that will be created to allow Waynesboro churches to donate to a single pot of funds where Waynesboro people can apply for assistance.

GELC Congregational Meeting Highlights May 21, 2023

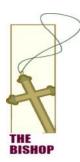
- Election of new Council members Allison Fink, Jerry Kite, Linda Meyers, Jean Morgan, Donna Yobs and Cabell Caister. All nominated Council members were approved by the congregation.
- Property Committee Projects \$75,250 Recommendation covers a new roof, contingency for gutters, exterior painting, securing the awnings over the walkways and the security system for the office area. Recommendation was approved by the congregation.

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights June 20, 2023

- Pastor Pingel reported that Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton was elected as the first African-American Female Bishop of the Virginia Synod with a three vote difference. She begins in September.
- Grace will be participating in the Rise Against Hunger Event on Saturday, September 9, 2023, at Kate Collins Middle School.
- 98 hikers that attended the Hiker Ministry this year.
- The Council elected Robin Crowder as President and Allison Fink as Vice-President for 2023-24.

Congregation Council Meeting Highlights July 18, 2023

- Grace has had two (2) baptisms in less than a month and a half.
- David Schwiesow has agreed to take on the task of updated Grace's Constitution.
- A Building Fund Committee has been established to create the Building and Maintenance Guidelines for usage of the Elliott Estate Funds.
- Stephen Van Stee will be conducting Acolyte and Crucifer training.
- At the recommendation of the Covid Committee, Council voted to remove the tape from the pews.
- An additional Mission Endowment Fund grant request that was left off from the May meeting from the Radeckes for \$1,500 for CICRIN school in Nicaragua for supplies was approved by the Council and the \$1,500 be taken out of the Grace Fund to fund this request.
- The Church Phone System has put replaced with analog phones. Using analog phones will greatly reduce the cost.
- Membership of Jackson Chaffin was approved by the Council.



Bishop's Installation in October! Bishop-Elect Phyllis Milton's Installation and Reception will be in Waynesboro, VA on Saturday, October 21st, at 1:00 pm; and Grace - as we did with Bishop Humphrey six years ago - will host the reception. We're just starting to plan and detail this out, but there may be an opportunity to help with the reception and transportation. Stay tuned in September for more detailed information!



Many thanks to all who participated in the Salvation Army's "Homework Toolboxes" campaign. In addition to the 41 boxes of pencils, crayons, markers, scissors, etc. that were packed and delivered to the Salvation Army, we also thank those who participated by donating directly to the Salvation Army. Many, many thanks! Amy Warren



God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 3rd! - We will celebrate the ELCA God's Work Our Hands Sunday one week early (instead of 9/10) in order to ask God's blessing on the work <u>Grace and 16 other congregations</u> will be doing on Saturday September 9th at the Rise Against Hunger event! Special hymns and liturgy will be a part of next Sunday's worship.



Rise Against Hunger Food Packing Event - Saturday, September 9, Grace and 16 area churches will participate in the Rise Against Hunger Food Packing Event at Kate Collins Middle School in Waynesboro from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We have approximately 200 people registered from the group of churches and we estimate that we will be pack between 28,000 to 30,000 meals.

If you are participating, please remember to bring a cap to wear for food packing. Rise Against Hunger will also provide hair nets if needed. Please arrive a little before 10:00 to get registered. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for this event.



The "First Sunday Fellowships" are in full swing! 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 in the Nave for 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:

- September 10* Hospitality and Grace
 October 1 Ouilters
- *Date change due to Labor Day



Ouilting—The Grace Quilters will be returning to the regular Tuesday quilting day on September 12. Last year, over 60 guilts were donated, with 54 sent to Lutheran World Relief. Quilting is a delightfully hands-on ministry and the more hands we have, the more quilts we can complete. We invite you to join us on Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. There are other ways to participate as well. If you are more comfortable working at home, that is fine. The quilts for LWR are typically easy squares and LWR requests the size to be approximately 60x80. They are hand tied so that could be either done at home, or we have tables and quilt racks that can be used at church. Sewing is not a required skill to help. Cutting fabric and designing the squares is an easy way to help and if you can tie a knot, you are set to help tie the quilts. Another way to participate is by providing cotton fabric. We also use full size or larger all cotton or 50/50 cotton/polyester sheets for the backs. A solid color works best and with no stains. Often they can be found at thrift stores. If you know a quilter that would like to participate, please let them know they are welcome to participate and we would welcome any fabric that they may not be using. If you have any questions, you may contact Gwen Kite at 540 910-0508 or email at gwenma2002@yahoo.com.



News for the young and young at heart - After a short break for the summer, Sunday School for our children, 2nd thru 6th grade, will resume on Sunday September 10, in the Sunday School classroom. We will meet each Sunday after worship from 11:15 a.m. until Noon. The class follows the lectionary so we will have an opportunity each week to expand on the gospel reading through study, games, and crafts.

Steve and Pastor Karen Van Stee will conduct Acolyte and Crucifer training in the near future. There is an interest/ sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for the next few Sundays. These important positions greatly enhance the worship experience and provide a relatively stress-free way to start getting involved with the worship service. This training will be held after Confirmation and Children's Sunday School Sunday, September 17. Lunch will be provided and is open to all who feel called to more involvement in the church. Call Steve at 540-325-0772 for questions or more information.



ELCA National Youth Gathering in 2024! For the first time in six years, the ELCA is having a National Youth gathering, this time in New Orleans. Three of our Youth are tentatively committed thus far, with a September registration deadline. Please pray for and support our Youth as they prepare and fundraise, and then join approximately 20-25K other Youth from around the nation for this unique and powerful event in July, 2024.



August 31 is the priority registration deadline for Grace members and friends interested in the February 2-10, 2024 MISSION TRIP mission trip to **CICRIN**, the Nicaraguan Christian Children's Center and School. Beginning on September 1, registration will also be opened to others outside the congregation. Those interested in learning more about the trip can speak with Grace members who were part of this year's team: Chuck and Judi Goodrich, Linda Meyer, Pastor Pingel, and trip leaders Mark and Tami Radecke. Want a FAO sheet and a link to the online registration form emailed to you? Contact Mark Radecke at radecke@susqu.edu.



We sent checks to Project Esperanza the first week in August from the summer campaign organized by All God's Children and the Christian Coalition for Equity and Justice. Contributions from group members as well as members of our broader congregations totaled \$7,475, enough to sponsor twelve students for the next year. The total donation represents \$2,000 from the Grace Mission Endowment Fund, \$2,575 from Christ Tabernacle members and \$2,900 from Grace members. Thanks to all for making this a highly successful campaign for a very worthy cause.

The mission of Project Esperanza is to form a global community focused on creating positive change and a sustainable future for Haitian refugee and immigrant youths in the Dominican Republic through education and empowerment. For the past 16 years, Project Esperanza has served the Haitian refugee and immigrant population of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic in the areas of education, social aid, and community development. The project runs two schools serving 275 Haitian immigrant children in the DR. More information is available at the project's web site: https://esperanzameanshope.org/



NEW FOOD PANTRY IN THE CITY—The River City Bread Basket is a new food pantry that is coming to Waynesboro, Virginia. The LIFEworks Project is preparing the space at 505 North Winchester Avenue to be a client-choice food pantry that will offer meats, fresh produce and other items to supplement the dinner tables of working families. It's one of the buildings on the former Basic United Methodist Church campus. The LIFEworks Project collaborates with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Walmart, Food Lion and Project GROWS to serve our neighbors. This outlet is made possible by generous grants from Ntelos/Lumos, the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge and the City of Waynesboro. More information will be forthcoming about donations, volunteer opportunities and grand opening date & time.



Refugee Family Update The whole family traveled to Northern Virginia last week for a biometric appointment for their green card applications. Pastor April drove them up beginning at5:00 a.m. for an 8:00 a.m. appointment. Fingerprints and other information was obtained and their applications are in process.

Jules and Phiston have been working with volunteer drivers To learn to drive and hoping to be ready to take their tests for permanent driver's licenses in the near future. They will be receiving driving lessons from a certified driving instructor as well.

Chukizo, Isaac, Fami, and Mapendo all attended back to school night at William Perry Elementary and Wayne Hills Head Start to meet their teachers for this year and are now in classes. Their teachers all speak very highly of their efforts and the progress they've made in the past year. Happy is on a waiting list (again) for inclusion in the daycare and nursery at Wayne Hills. Grace and Westminster churches collaborated to help the family provide school supplies and to help the parents purchase school outfitsand new shoes for these growing children.

Phiston is enrolled at BRCC and has arranged his work schedule with Virginia Panel so that he can attend classes and still work full time. He has received a Pell grant to cover costs of tuition, books, and supplies. Pastor Radecke has volunteered to mentor him and provide tutoring to help him succeed as a college student. Other volunteers are transporting him to and from classes until he is able to drive himself.

Masoka is doing an amazing job of keeping this family fed and dressed and nurtured. You should see her potato garden! She is anxious to find work that she can do to help support her family. The Welcome Team continues to work with her to help facilitate this.



ommunity Dinner Community Potluck at Grace starting September **13th at 6:00 p.m.** We are excited to begin weekly Community Potlucks at Grace this month. These meals are meant to be a time of fellowship for Grace members, and an opportunity to build relationships with other folks in our community. We will be inviting people in our community that would enjoy a time of fellowship as well as those who struggle to have enough food. Come and eat—bring a dish, bring a friend! Find out more details at the September First Sunday Fellowship (held 9/10) hosted by the Hospitality Book Group.



Confirmation starts September 10th! Grace Confirmation Class participants Libby Caister (3rd year), Esme Hilker (1st year), and Reva Sloane Franklin (1st year), will begin Confirmation Class with Pastor Paul in the next few weeks! They'll be studying the Old Testament - The story of God and this World, from Creation to the ways God blessed Noah, Abraham and Sarah, rescued Israel from slavery, blessed King David, and spoke through the prophets to promise God's steadfast love to God's people, and bless the world through them (and us!). Pray for our Confirmands and Pastor as they study and learn together this year! (And pray for Kiera Mahoney who will be confirmed on Reformation Sunday!)



Adult Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 17, at 8:30 a.m. We will be exploring the gospel according to Mark, looking ahead to the season of Advent, when we enter a new church year and hear from this gospel in worship. Call Pastor Karen Van Stee at 325-0736 for more information. All are welcome!



Grace ELC and WARM Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) -

We at Grace continue to be an important part of this community ministry headed by the Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry. Last winter, we provided for our homeless neighbors for TWO WEEKS during the season and engaged several other churches and organizations to join us in "being Christ" to our neighbors - we provide food and shelter. What a wonderful experience!

This year, the CWS will be a bit different - attempting to simplify and expand our reach. Beginning the week of Thanksgiving and going through Christmas, WARM's goal is to provide beds/meals for up to 40 guests each night. After Christmas through Easter, the goal is to provide for up to 70 guests each night.

This year, Grace has been asked to host up to 20 guests the week of **December 4 - 11, 2023**. Volunteer opportunities include helping guests check-in, letting guests know when it's their time for a shower, providing/preparing/serving meals (dinner, breakfast and sack lunches), overnight hosts, and clean-up crew. It's a busy week and we will need your help!

We will begin collecting supplies in November: bathroom supplies (small soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs) and food supplies (soft granola/snack bars, snacks, breakfast and lunch items).

We are also exploring if Grace is able to assist further - to provide/prepare/serve meals while the CWS is housed at EXPO - for up to 70 guests each night. Again, we will need your help.

Please pray for this important ministry as we move forward. And be on the lookout for more information - coming soon!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Susan Myers 434-760-1660 or sparkelmyers@gmail.com.

Peace - Susan Myers and Donna Yobs, CWS Co-Coordinators



Name Tag September! - Starting September 3rd, we'll have name tags out in the narthex, and encourage you to wear a nametag! It's a way to put a name to faces we see often, but do not know as well; and it is a way to make welcome those visiting with us. We'll see how it goes and either continue or enjoy the September emphasis!



Lutheran Disaster Response in Hawaii - Our Lutheran Disaster Response team responds for the long term, and all reports out of Hawaii expect a years-long response *need*. Your gifts will be 100% given to the need in Maui. Make checks to Grace with "Maui - U.S. Wildfires" in the memo line.



All God's Children will resume meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month at 7:00 pm on Monday,
September 11th and discuss Toni Morrison's only short story, *Recitatif* (including the 2022 Introduction by Zadie Smith). The story concerns two girls, Twyla and Roberta, one is Black and the other White. However, the author never reveals which one is Black and which one is White. The reader must decide, leading to the moral lesson that racial differences are arbitrary and may be constructed according to one's own personal prejudices and biases. We will discuss our assessments at the meeting.

Through the summer, members have previewed potential sources for future discussions and experiences. These include books, articles, events, movies, programs, web- or podcasts, field trips or anything that deepens our understanding of racial equity and justice in the world. We plan to map out an agenda for the next year at the September 11th meeting.

We are always delighted to welcome new members. If you want to be added to the mailing list, please let Rick Bump know (rcbumpo621@gmail.com).



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-six deliveries thus far, sixteen to Main Street United Methodist, and twenty to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. Overall, we have given well over 3,815 pounds of food! If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



The Church World Service 2023 CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, September 24 at 2:00 pm in Ridgeview Park. A fundraising page for Grace Lutheran Waynesboro has been set up at crophungerwalk.org. Our goal this year is \$1,000. We will also have packets available for those who will get support with cash/checks. CWS is encouraging online donations, as it is much easier for the local treasurers.

On line donations can be made at https://www.crophungerwalk.org/waynesborova.

One quarter of all monies raised locally stays in our area. This year the Waynesboro hunger walk supports the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Disciples Kitchen, and Valley Program for Aging Services (Meals on Wheels). A display will be set up in the back of the narthex with information on the walk. If you would like to get a collection envelope, please contact Karen Walck at 765-480-9920. She will be at the back of the nave on Sunday, August 27 and September 3 for donations and questions about the walk. Anyone can join our team. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us on September 24, or support you with a donation. CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith events that build community while making a difference both locally and globally. To sign up for our team online, go to crophungerwalk.org and search for Grace Lutheran Waynesboro. Click on our team and follow the step-by-step instructions. Start emailing friends and family and use social media to gather support for your personal goal. The Facebook page for the local walk is "waynesboroeastaugusta crop walk."

You may contact Karen Walck with any questions at 765-480-9920.













July 31, 2023

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

Dear Friends at Grace Lutheran.

Thank you for your generous support of Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry, Inc. (WARM)! WARM has continued to be one of Waynesboro's front-line responders to challenges created by the pandemic. All our programs continue to operate during the pandemic including the addition of a year-around Motel Emergency Shelter that has literally saved lives and kept vulnerable community members out of harm's way.

Your gift allows us to continue to provide life-changing programs including **Ruth's WARM House**, offering transitional housing, case management and more to homeless mothers with children; **Community Outreach**, working to support the stability of formerly homeless neighbors, prevent homelessness, and respond to homelessness outside of shelter settings; and the future return of our **Cold Weather Shelter** which typically utilizes church partnerships and facilities to provide shelter and support to our community's most vulnerable during the coldest months of the year.

To us, YOU are a hero contributing to tangible change. We could not do any of this without the support of people like you... people who care. If you would like additional information on our work during challenging times, then please do not hesitate to contact me at (540)324-8166 or admin@warmwaynesboro.org.

WARM Regards, Brian Edwards Brian Edwards Interim Executive Director

Donor Name(s): Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Gift Date: 07/28/2023 Amount: \$1,000.00 Type (Detail): Check (80648)

Fund (Detail): Bedroom Sponsorships (Warm_House)

Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry, Inc. (WARM), Tax ID- 47-1937790, is a tax-exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

As such, your donation/gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.

Society of St. Andrew

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

Chesley R. Vohden • Director of Church Relations • Church@endhunger.org

July 25, 2023

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



Dear Friends:

Your gift is already helping our hungry brothers and sisters! Thank you for your \$500.00 gift. Already, you gift provided health and hope while putting healthy, nourishing food on the tables of individuals and families who are struggling to get by.

Partnering with The Society of St. Andrew, you engage volunteer gleaners in hands-on mission and service; you help send truckloads of fruits and vegetables to areas where they are most needed; you support local feeding agencies in every area of the country; and you reduce food waste—all as you follow Jesus's command to feed the hungry.

Thank you for this gift and for joining with Society of St. Andrew in our mission of working toward feeding physical and spiritual hunger.

Included with this letter is a bulletin insert for your use, thanking your entire congregation for this gift to Society of St. Andrew. Thank you for your prayers for this ministry and for your financial support.

Your continued support is what makes this incredible hunger-relief network possible.

With you in Christ's service,

Chesley R. Vohden Director of Church Relations This than ingo ment oo realthy

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Food Waste Audit

Raise awareness and provide a unique firsthand experience for your congregation by holding a Food Waste Audit at your next group fellowship or meal. Get the free guide and more at EndHunger.org/fwa.

The fields are full and need for your help is high, Signup to volunteer in SoSA's Gleaning Network or check out the volunteer calendar for events near you. For more details, visit EndHunger.org/serve.

Hunger Action Month

There's still time to make a plan for September. Come together as a congregation through praying, fundraising, volunteering in the mission. Learn more and download free resources at EndHunger.org/ham.

3383 Sweet Hollow Road • Big Island, VA 24526 • 800-333-4597 • church@endhunger.org • ENDhunger.org

Society of St. Andrew

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS - FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY



Thank you, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, for making The Society of St. Andrew your partner in ending hunger, with your recent gift of \$500.00. Through this gift, you shared fresh, nutritious produce with people who simply don't have enough to eat.

Much of the food rescued and shared through The Society of St. Andrew would have been lost as waste or sent to landfills without your intervention. Instead of letting it go to waste, you made sure good food was used to feed hungry Americans.

Through The Society of St. Andrew's network, every \$1 you gave put 20 servings of healthy food on the tables of people in the greatest need.

The Summer Harvest is in full-swing. As summer heat increases, so does the need for many families. Your continued support will feed families through the remaining summer months!



Thank you for ALL the ways your congregation reaches out as the hands and feet of Christ, and thank you especially for your faithful concern for hungry brothers and sisters in your community.

3383 Sweet Hollow Rd • Big Island, Virginia 24526 1-800-333-4597 • www.EndHunger.org • church@endhunger.org

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■ LEGAL AID JUSTICE CENTER

July 21, 2023

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Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 500 S. Wayne Ave

Waynesboro, VA 22980

Dear Friends.

Thank you for your gift of \$500 to the Legal Aid Justice Center! Your gift will help us to fight alongside our clients and their neighbors as they assert their rights and push for a more just and equitable Virginia.

Together, we've accomplished a lot over the last year including successful advocacy that resulted in distribution of over a billion dollars of illegally withheld unemployment insurance payments. But we know that many families continue to struggle especially as rents and other costs continue to rise.

In fact, we recently represented a tenant whose landlord simply refused to renew her lease, saying they didn't think she could afford the rent. Normally, unfortunately, this is legal, but the landlord admitted that the basis for that belief was that our client had received rental assistance (with LAJC's help!).

Fortunately, thanks to a new law that passed last year, discrimination based on source of income is illegal in Virginia. We went to court with our client and the landlord settled, providing free rent to our client while she found a better place to live.

All of this is to say that your support matters, to us at LAJC and to the clients and communities we fight alongside.

With immense gratitude,

Angela A. Ciolfi Executive Director

Legal Aid Justice Center is a 501(3) organization. Federal Tax ID: 54-0884513 No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation of \$500.00 on 06/29/2023.

SEPTEMBER⁸

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 |
| Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel | | | 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel) 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room) | 8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) | CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED | 11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall) |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel ELCA God's Work Our Hands Sunday | LABOR Day Office Closed Today | 9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall) QUILTING GROUP | 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel) 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room) 7:00 p.m. Hand-bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice | 8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. CCE&J (Conference Room) | CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED | 10:00 a.m. Rise Against Hunger (Kate Collins Middle School) Rise Against Hunger (Kate Collins Middle School) Rise Figure 11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall) |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|------------------------------|--|
| Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel 11:00 a.m. First Sunday Fellowship— Hospitality and Grace Committee 11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class 11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School | 7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room) | 9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall) | 13 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel) 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. Community Potluck 7:00 p.m. Hand-bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice | 8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) 5:30 p.m. Virginia Organizing (Conference Room) 6:00 p.m. CCE&J | CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED | 11:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconcil. (North Park) 11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall) |
| Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pingel 11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class 11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School | 18 | 9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 p.m. Council (Conference Room and Zoom) Church COUNCIL | 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel) 9:00—3:00 Encircle Meeting (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room) 6:00 p.m. Community Potluck 7:00 p.m. Hand-bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice | 8:00 a.m. Newcomers Club (Fellowship Hall) 8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) 6:00 p.m. CCE&J | CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED | 11:00 a.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall) Ellen Moyer's Graveside Service and Reception |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School | On Vacation | On Vacation | On Vacation | On Vacation | CHUNCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED | 11:00 a.m. |
| 10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Pastor Pin- gel | Nancy Dowdy— Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office | Nancy Dowdy— Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office | Nancy Dowdy— Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office | Nancy Dowdy— Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office | | Yoga (Fellowship Hall) |
| 11:10 a.m. Confirma- tion Class | 7:00 p.m. All God's Children | 9:30 a.m . Quilting | 10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel) | 8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers | | |
| 11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School | (Conference Room) | (Fellowship Hall) | 6:00 p.m. Yoga (Fellowship Hall) | 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship | | |
| 2:00 p.m. Crop Walk | All God's Children | QUILTING GROUP | 6:00 p.m. Community Potluck | Hall) 6:00 p.m. CCE&J | | |
| Ridgeview Park | | | 7:00 p.m. Hand-bell Choir | TO LOCE ! | | |
| CROP HUNGER WALK ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME | | | 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice | CHRONIAL COLUMN IS SOUTH & ANTHON | | |

ÉSEPTEMBER

Birthdays

| 09/02 | Kiera Mahoney | 09/04 | Alex Skelton | 09/07 | Stephen Van Stee |
|-------|----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|
| 09/08 | Katie Morrison | 09/10 | Sydney Rankin | 09/10 | Antoinette Eckstrom |
| 09/11 | Karlton Stein | 09/12 | William Proctor | 09/14 | Brad Keefer |
| 09/14 | Anne Barnes | 09/16 | Jane Stein | 09/17 | Cathy Crowder |
| 09/18 | Gary Morrison | 09/20 | Tami Radecke | 09/21 | Fred Biggers |
| 09/21 | Emma Hilker | 09/22 | Tom Sheaffer | 09/24 | Linda Tomey |
| 09/26 | Lew Yobs | 09/29 | Imogene Hull | 09/30 | Zachary Rankin |



| 09/01 | Roxane Myers | 09/04 | Carol Wolf | 09/08 | Gail Johnson |
|-------|--------------|-------|-------------|-------|--------------|
| 09/14 | Mark Radecke | 09/21 | Ethan Lynch | 09/22 | Ginny Dolan |

09/30 Diane Lundstrom



Worship Assistants

| September 3 | September 10 | September 17 | September 24 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Fifth Sunday After Pentecost | Sixth Sunday After Pentecost | Seventh Sunday After Pentecost | Eighth Sunday After Pentecost |
| Preaching and Presiding | Preaching and Presiding | Preaching and Presiding | Preaching and Presiding |
| Pastor Paul Pingel | Pastor Paul Pingel | Pastor Mark Radecke | Pastor Paul Pingel |
| Altar Flowers | Altar Flowers | Altar Flowers | Altar Flowers |
| Bob & Carolyn Barrette | The Martin Family | The Martin Family | Jean Morgan |
| Altar Guild | Altar Guild | Altar Guild | Altar Guild |
| | | Kathy Meicke | |
| Assisting Minister | Assisting Minister | Assisting Minister | Assisting Minister |
| Donna Gum | Linda Meyer | Kathy Bump | Eric Hilker |
| Communion | Communion | Communion | Communion |
| Assistants | Assistants | Assistants | Assistants |
| Cathy Crowder | Allison Fink | Andrew Sell | Donna Gum |
| Robin Crowder | Tami Radecke | Karen Walck | Carolyn Hite |
| Council Person of the Week | Council Person of the Week | Council Person of the Week | Council Person of the Week |
| Jerry Kite | Linda Meyer | Jean Morgan | Susan Myers |
| Offering | Offering | Offering | Offering |
| Stewards | Stewards | Stewards | Stewards |
| Pat Brady | Pat Brady | Pat Brady | Jean Morgan |
| Jean Morgan | Vivian Proctor | Robin Crowder | David Proctor |
| Ushers | Ushers | Ushers | Ushers |
| Ron Almarode | Fred Biggers | Jack Eckstrom | Jerry Kite |
| Lee Lynch | David Proctor | Esme Hilker | Maella Hilker |
| | | Jim Nelson | Gail Johnson |



Budget Barometer-July 2023

For the year, actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are below budget, resulting in a deficit of \$6,887.

| Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer | Actual 2022 | Actual 2023 | Difference |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Total Budget Receipts YTD | \$184,236 | \$185,763 | \$1,527 |
| Total Budget Disbursed YTD | \$172,813 | \$192,650 | \$19,837 |
| | \$11,422 | (\$6,877) | (\$18,310) |



Nursing Home, Assisted Living and Homebound Members

| Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980 | LizAnn Binns The Legacy 1410a North Augusta Street Apartment 3027 Staunton, VA 24401 |
|--|--|
| Maribeth Faivre Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. 130 Waynesboro, VA 22980 | Sandra Hoy River Edge Rehabilitation and Nursing, Room 210 1221 Rosser Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980 |
| Imogene Hull Regency Senior Living 43 Pinnacle Drive, Room 101 Fishersville, VA 22939 | Phyllis Kite Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Room 9 Waynesboro, VA 22980 |
| Glenn Myers 144 Patton Farm Road, Apt. E107 Stuarts Draft, VA 24477 | Carolyn Shields Brightview 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 331 Staunton, VA 24401 |
| Tom and Carol Varner Birch Gardens 12 Royal Drive Staunton, VA 24401 | |

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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

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net Telephone: 540.949.6171

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

(Lunch 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.)

Church Staff

Rev. Paul Pingel Pastor

Email: pastorpingel@gmail.com

Míke Myers, Organist Dírector of Music

Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy Administrative Secretary

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net