GraceNo+es

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

From the Pastor

By Paul H. Pingel



Pastor's Page

I signed my name to a letter to the editor in the newspaper that was published the first weekend of this month. The content of the letter

is below. Nine other pastors in our area signed the letter as well.

Maybe you remember the Bible story of David and Goliath. The one about a shepherd boy's victorious encounter with an 8-foot foe. It's a story that holds lessons of faith, trust, bravery, and resilience. It tells of a 40-day standoff between David's Israelites and Goliath's Philistines. It was a battle of two enemy armies frozen in place and at volatile levels of hostility.

For more than a year and a half, we've been facing down an invisible giant in COVID-19. The virus has broken down the bodies, lungs, and lives of over 860,000 people in our Commonwealth. A recent letter from Augusta Health shared that COVID cases in our area are as high as

they've been since January of this year. Nurses, doctors, and other hospital workers—our neighbors—are exhausted from this constant struggle. The virus itself does its work to break down our bodies, lungs, and lives. Our response to the virus has led to broken relationships, irreconcilable differences of opinion, unprincipled fear, and a crippling, toxic spirit within and between us.

Some of the unvaccinated and unmasked among us have asserted that their faith in God protects them from this virus. Some claim religious exemptions to the vaccine and mask-wearing, asserting that their faith in God protects them from COVID-19, making God into some sort of divine force field, some shield of defense, some seal against germs.

David was a faithful Israelite. He knew his God would be with him as he stepped into the giant's shadow, but David never imagined his faith in God meant being able to face Goliath without his sling and river stones. Doing such a thing isn't faith, it's unpreparedness. Never is faith a

blind and unequipped trust. Trusting in God, David equipped himself for this fight, yet David engaged the enemy not for himself but for the sake of his fellow Israelites and the God in whom he placed his trust.

Getting a vaccine is not a lack of trust in God, it's like David looking at the exhausted soldiers on the front lines and recognizing that "scooping up the stones" gives them hope, too. In our case, these exhausted soldiers are on the front lines at Augusta Health.

So, get a vaccine. Wear a mask in public places. And trust that God will see us through to face down this invisible giant.

Pray for our community! And for a reduction in the numbers of infections of our area, in order to return to worship in-person and all the other ways we are present with one another, in worship, fellowship and service!

Speaking of service, God has blessed us to be a blessing, Grace filled in order to be agents of Grace in our community:



In addition to what is noted in this Newsletter: Grace Donations of Food, and Activity in the Community – through WARM, CROP Walk, Main Street and Calvary UMC Food Banks, and Disciples Kitchen (see pp. 5-6 of this newsletter), take a look:

Grace Relationship Building with Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ – while Covid has affected many plans for all of us to enjoy In-Person events of fellowship and relationship building with Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, we continue to be thankful for the continuing conversation we have with Christ Tabernacle. And come to the Prayer Vigil every third Saturday, at 3pm, either at North Park or Constitution Park. It's usually a 30 minute time of fellowship and prayer. The Waynesboro police have joined us, as have other community members. It's an important part of our being agents of Grace.

And there's still an opportunity to offer up over \$7500 in grants to our community (see page 6 of this newsletter) through our Mission Endowment Fund.



Highlights of Congregation Council September 21, 2021

- In person service and meetings have been suspended due to the notice from Augusta Health. Hospital in panic mode as Delta variant spreads rapidly. 11 have died in one week. Get vaccinated!!!
- Pete Gleason's memorial service was Saturday, September 25th
- Pastor has submitted his sabbatical on September 1. Will know if accepted by December 1.
- October 17th is Newcomers Sunday (may be altered)
- October 24th is Commitment Sunday
- Grace members donated food to WARM for the week Sept 13 to Sept 19. 410 meals were provided.
- Back packs are suspended for two weeks, but our teams are ready.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Proctor Council Secretary



Worship at Grace - A recent, highly urgent notice from Augusta Health announced the crisis situation we find ourselves in our area. We have Covid rates higher than at any point since March 2020 in Staunton/Augusta/Waynesboro! Eleven deaths last week, two deaths alone last Tuesday, and expectations that this current wave of infection will spike in mid-October. Because of this information and after much discussion by Council:

- Beginning October 3rd, we will return to YouTube and Zoom worship until levels of infection in our area are reduced.
- All meetings and classes will be held via Zoom during the same time period.
- All outside groups using our Fellowship Hall or Conference Room areas will not meet.
- A letter from Grace Council was sent to all members and friends of Grace.
- Contact any Council member or Pastor if you have questions.
- Pray for those suffering from Covid,
- And if you have not been vaccinated, please do so.
 We averted influenza, smallpox, polio, rubella,
 measles, whooping cough and many other diseases
 through vaccination. The same possibility is true of
 Covid-19. God has blessed us with the creativity of
 modern medicine to alleviate suffering and death.



Holy Communion Chalices available from the Church Office - Call the Church Office in order to pick up Communion Chalices for each Sunday's worship over these next few weeks as we meet virtually!



"Coffee Fellowship After Worship via Zoom" is still available!! - Ron Almarode hosts a fellowship time via Zoom immediately following worship. It's a great opportunity to engage in casual fellowship, as well as being kept up to date about the concerns and needs for prayer by Grace members and friends. We will be sending this link weekly with the other links to Worship and other activities available via Zoom.



Children's Message - Beginning today, for the next few Sundays, we will return to a Children's Message, most offered by children and families! Once we are past this time of "Covid peak" and can return to in-person worship, we will continue Children's Church.



WARM Update—Thank you to so many who donated breakfast, lunch and snack items for the WARM Shelter this week. It was an amazing response. They received enough for each day's breakfast, lunch and snacks plus we sent additional items for breakfast and lunch that can be used when they need extra. It was a wonderful way for Grace to serve the week celebrating God's Work/Our hands.



The total raised for the 2021 **CROP Walk** from Grace was \$835. Four Grace members and Pastor Pingel went on the walk on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. If you would still like to donate to this project, you may do so at <u>crophungerwalk.org</u>. Thank you to everyone who donated or walked. Karen Walck



More Blessing Through Grace's Mission Endowment Fund! After distributing \$19,995 to the community around us thanks to your grant requests submitted earlier this year, \$7,575 remains to be distributed through our Christian Education, Social Ministry, Disaster Relief and Special Music Funds. If you would like to make a grant request for a local, national, or international need from these funds, call the church office for an information and grant request form in the and return the request form by Wednesday, October 13th. Grace Council will review the requests and select the grants at its October meeting.



God Work's, Our Hands! Every September, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America encourages all ELCA congregations to have a "God's Work, Our Hands" effort of service in the community.

Renewing Homes Deck Project "All Hands on Deck!"—There's an opportunity to help a family in Staunton to repair a deck on Saturday, October 23. Call Jerry Kite for more details and to sign up. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Grace.



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 <u>eighteen</u> deliveries thus far, nine to Main Street United Methodist, and nine to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. Last week, **90** pounds of food went to Main Street United Methodist. Overall, we have given well over 1,600 pounds! If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Email Address Changes - Due to consistent sending and receiving problems with our current "gracewaynesboro" and "lumos"-based email addresses, we ask that you change your address book to include the following addresses:

For Nancy Dowdy and the Church Office: Grace.lc@comcast.net

For Pastor Pingel: pastorpingel@gmail.com

Please discontinue the use of gracelc@lumos.net, secretary@gracewaynesboro.org, and pastor@gracewaynesboro.org.

Sear Grace Family,
I reserved a very
fretty vase of flowers
from the Church on
my 95th birthday, lug.
20, 2021 - and they were
much appreciated.
My family helped me
lelebrate at a Mexican
restaurant - all my grandlids, and great - grandlids, and great - grandlids, were present. Helen
and dam treated all fad
and much fun was had

in Addition to good food.

These were 20 of us present. What a nice susprise!!

Lod is good - and so are you! Much thanks to you.

In Christ you majer

Just Turned 75!

PRAISE GOO!

NANLY, Thanks for Rumambarino my 950 binthday



8/24/2021

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 500 S Wayne Ave Waynesboro, VA 22980-4897

Amount received: \$1,500.00 (Check #80294) Gift purpose: United Lutheran Seminary Fund

We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

A single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love. – Rusty Edwards, "We All Are One in Mission" ELW #576

Dear Friends:

As this familiar hymn reminds us, We All are One in Mission, truly united in our commitment to the Gospel and the Great Commission. Today at United Lutheran Seminary our students, faculty, staff and the entire community have crossed into the New Year with a sense of hope and prayers for the future. We look forward to the continued distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine and the opportunity to meet once again in person.

Concurrently, we are cognizant there is much work to be done in reconcilation, and ending racial and social injustices. United Lutheran Seminary provides the opportunity for students and faculty to engage in meaningful study, prayer and dialogue on the Philadelphia, Gettysburg and online campuses around these issues. Your generosity to the seminary, in part, allows our students to focus and place their energies into these conversations and study, as their tuition is being paid in full thanks to the generosity and prayers of our donors, like you.

As a donor, we are deeply grateful to you for your partnership and faith in United Lutheran Seminary. Your ability to support seminary education is a ministry in its own right, and your ministry in this vein is a blessing to the students, faculty and staff at ULS.

We are looking forward to an occasion when you will be able to meet our new president, Dr. Guy Erwin. As God's people, we are seeking vision and fulfilling our mission together, whether through rostered service in the church like our seminary students, or most importantly through loving our neighbor through the sharing of time, talent and resouces. Thank you for sharing your compassion and for continuing to support United Lutheran Seminary.

May God's peace and God's message of hope be with you,

Mr. Conor Brooks, CFRE Interim Vice President for Institutional

Advancement cbrooks@uls.edu 717-338-3012

In Bruse

Rev. Dr. Martin Otto Zimmann

Director of Church Relations and Major Gift Officer mzimmann@uls.edu

717-338-3011

August 24, 2021

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

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift(s) given to your synod, received by ELCA World Hunger in June 2021.

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries including the United States. It is providing access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education, and peace and justice. Through your gifts, you are joining with the whole church as we work toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God is shining through you.

In Christ.

The Rev. Robin Brown

RobinK Brown

Director, Congregational Mission Funding

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.



August 23, 2021

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

Dear Pastor,

Thank you for your donation to our organization. Our goal is to provide simple, decent, affordable houses for low income families in our community; with this gift we can continue our mission. We sincerely thank you for investing in our community. Please contact us if you believe any of the information in this letter is inaccurate.

This letter serves as your receipt. Please retain for your records.

Date of Gift: August 5, 2021 Gift Amount: \$5,000

Sincerely,

Lance Barton

Executive Director

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Habitat for Humanity

PO Box 3188 Staunton, VA 24402-3188

Office (540) 886-1944 Mobile (540) 280-5240

No goods or services were provided by the charity for this donation. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. We are a public charity and registered as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, EIN 54-1648901 HFHI Partner ID: 1458-7066.



8/13/2021

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 500 S. Wavne Avenue Wavnesboro, VA 22980

Dear Friends of the Valley Mission,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Valley Mission, I extend our warmest thanks for your support of our agency. Your recent financial gift of \$1,000.00 to go towards winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots, leggings and rain gear on 8/13/2021 is greatly appreciated! According to IRS regulations, we must state that no goods or services were received in exchange for your donation. Please keep this letter for your tax records.

The Valley Mission not only provides shelter, clothing, and meals to the homeless in our community, but our staff also offers spiritual and emotional support to our residents, helping them face issues surrounding homelessness. Generous gifts like yours allow us to fulfill our mission to serve those in need, twenty-four hours a day seven days a week. Each year Valley Mission serves between 650 and 700 local homeless-at no cost to them. In addition, free meals, as many as 58,000 per year, are provided to those who reside in our shelter and in our local community who cannot afford to properly nourish themselves or their families. Most often, those in need of help face difficulties that they simply do not have the tools to repair. Their circumstances cause them to feel hopeless that tomorrow could ever bring about the possibility of a positive change in their lives. Because of donors such as yourself, the residents of the Valley Mission are fed, clothed, encouraged, and provided the tools that allow them to hope for a better life. In many cases, our clients are making this dream a reality. For so many, your caring support is life transforming.

Valley Mission's sole purpose is to serve the needs of others in our community, and we are incredibly grateful for your partnership in helping us provide a place of hope for those who are experiencing challenges. If you have not recently taken a tour of our facility, I encourage you to contact us about visiting Valley Mission to witness our work, and your financial contributions, in action! May God continue 1513 W. Beverley Street Staunton, VA 24401
Phone: (540) 886-4673 Fax: (540) 885-7228

www.valleymission.net to bless you in all that you do. Thank you for investing in our local community through supporting the Valley Mission.

With warmest regards and most sincere gratitude.

Susan Richardson, M.Ed.

Executive Director

susanrichardson@vallevmission.net



10/1	Marlene Shaw	10/1	Tom Blosser	10/2	Dottie Sheaffer
10/2	Bob Barrette	10/4	Marge Cloutier	10/7	Lindsey Skelton
10/11	Glen Gray	10/14	Bill Meicke	10/15	Aaron Lynch
10/19	Mary Huerth	10/19	Susan Morrison	10/19	Ron Myers
10/20	Cabell Caister	10/23	Margaret Quickel	10/23	Lee Lynch
10/24	Amanda Moyer	10/27	Bob Shumate	10/28	Bill Crowder
10/31	Bob Knemoller	10/31	Adrienne Carper		



10/4	Brian Lundstrom	10/4	Minnie Moyer	10/9	Tanner Walter
10/12	Clay Rankin	10/12	Sam Biggers	10/13	Joe Moyer
10/15	Joan Ranzini	10/28	Sue Kelly	10/28	Glenn Myers
10/28	Thomas Blosser	10/31	Lee Lunch		



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19th Sunday After Pentecost				8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers		
10:00 a.m. Service of the Word				11:00 a.m. Bible Study Via Zoom		
via YouTube				6:00 p.m. Discussion		
10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship				with Christ Tabernacle via Zoom		
via Zoom 11:00 a.m. Confirmation		7:00 p.m. Round Tables via Zoom	7:00 p.m. New Member Class via Zoom	7:00 p.m. Bible Study Via Zoom		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20th Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via YouTube 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom 11:00 a.m. Confirmation	No School 7:00 p.m. Grace Anti-Racism Book Study Via Zoom	12	13	8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 11:00 a.m. Bible Study Via Zoom 6:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Bible Study Via Zoom	15	3:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconcil. (Const. Park)
21st Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via YouTube 10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom 11:00 a.m. Confirmation	18	7:00 p.m. Council via Zoom	9:00 a.m. Backpacks (Fellowship Hall)	8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 11:00 a.m. Bible Study Via Zoom 6:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle via Zoom 7:00 p.m. Bible Study Via Zoom	22	8:30 a.m. Renewing Homes Project

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
22nd Sunday After Pentecost			9:00 a.m. Backpacks (Fellowship Hall)	8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers		2:00 p.m. Glidden
10:00 a.m. Service of the Word via YouTube			·	6:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle		Graveside Service (Family Only)
10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom				via Zoom		
11:00 a.m. Confirmation						
Reformation Sunday	1	2	3 9:00 a.m. Backpacks	4 8:30 a.m. Grace	5	6
10:00 a.m. Service of the Word			(Fellowship Hall)	Walkers		
via YouTube				6:00 p.m. Discussion		
10:50 a.m. Coffee Fellowship via Zoom				with Christ Tabernacle via Zoom		
11:00 a.m. Confirmation						





Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday
October 3	October 10	October 17	October 24	October 31
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 Berenice Archambeault	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers
	Gail Johnson	Rudy Yobs	Open	Gloria Nelson
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Jane Stein	Jane Stein	Jean Morgan
Assisting Minister Robin Crowder	Assisting Minister Kathy Bump	Assisting Minister Andrew Sell	Assisting Minister Ron Almarode	Assisting Minister Tripp Franklin
Children's Worship Sarah Beth Kite Deloris Wertman	Children's Worship Jane Blosser Amber Bokelman	Children's Worship Jane Blosser Amy Warren	Children's Worship Amber Bokelman Deloris Wertman	Children's Worship Sarah Beth Kite Deloris Wertman
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
Nancy Schwiesow	Andrew Sell	Amy Warren	Bob Barrette	Fred Biggers
Covid Monitor Jean Morgan	Covid Monitor Bill Lucas	Covid Monitor	Covid Monitor Carolyn Hite	Covid Monitor
Offering	Offering	Offering	Offering Steward Pat Brady	Offering
Steward	Steward	Steward		Steward
Pat Brady	Pat Brady	Pat Brady		Pat Brady
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Gail Johnson	Ron Almarode	Pat Brady	Lee Lynch	Fred Biggers



Budget Barometer August 2021

For the year, actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are below budget resulting in a surplus of \$3,513.

Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$193,963	\$196,127	\$2,163
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$189,138	\$192,614	\$3,475
	\$4,825	\$3,513	(\$1,312)



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
Ty Elliott Accordius Room 108 1221 Rosser Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980	Maribeth Faivre Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. 130 Waynesboro, VA 22980
Sandra Hoy Accordius Room 111 1221 Rosser Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980	Phyllis Kite Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. 217 Waynesboro, VA 22980
Bob Knemoller Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. AL-13 Waynesboro, VA 22980	Glen & Flossie Myers The Legacy 1410a North Augusta Street Staunton, VA 24401
Pete Rufe Summit Square Healthcare 501 Oak Avenue, Room 7 Waynesboro, VA 22980	David and Carolyn Shields Brightview 21 Woodlee Road 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



- facebook.com/gelc.elca
- witter.com/gelc_elca
- instagram.com/gelc.waynesboro
- flickr.com/gracewaynesboro
- youtube.com/
- GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro

www.gracewaynesboro.org E: Grace.lc@comcast.net

T: 540.949.6171

Church Staff

The Rev. Paul Pingel

Pastor

Nancy Dowdy

Administrative Secretary

Mike Myers

Director of Music & Organist

Church Office Hours

Mon-Thu: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Lunch 11:30-12:30 p.m.) Friday: 8:00 a.m.-Noon