

GraceNotes

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

From the Pastor

By Paul H. Pingel



Pastor's Page

Sometimes when we talk about Prayer, we see it as a “spiritual” thing to do, or more cynically, to refer to it as some sort of last resort (“I guess all there’s left to do is pray”), or an excuse to do

nothing (Like the epistle of James which takes to task those who can help someone with their physical needs offering to only pray for them instead).

What we also know from God’s Word, however, is that Prayer is never merely spiritual! It gives us the ability to pray to the Creator of all as the starting point of what happens next in this world, in our lives. We pray when we recognize we are not in control. We pray when we our faith makes clear that God IS the Creator of all things, and the one in and through all things will come to pass. We pray when we realize that our own infighting because of disagreements, or politics, or struggles for power will not bring solutions to our problems. We pray because people are hurting, or because we want to stop to acknowledge how much we are blessed by God’s abundant grace. We pray because God lifts our heads and hearts to realize that there is so much more going on in this world, and so many people in need, that we NEED our God, our Savior Jesus, and his life-giving Spirit to show us the way.

So on this day, and over the next days and weeks,

I am asking you to pray. Pray for our schools: for all students and their learning and education. For teachers, instructors, professors, administrators, maintenance and kitchen staff, for bus drivers and student teachers. Think of what lies ahead for them this year! They must tend to the subjects they need to learn or teach, and the tasks that support that learning. They find themselves in the uncertainties and tensions of Covid. They find themselves in the midst of heated disagreement over what is being taught, and how to safely handle the everyday tasks of education.

I am asking you to pray for health care workers; for doctors, surgeons, nurses, nursing assistants, social workers and all other support positions at the hospital. Pray for those serving at doctor’s offices, other health care centers and senior care facilities in our area. And pray for mental health professionals and facilities. They have experienced a lot this past year. And in the past couple of months, their load has often reached crisis proportions, even in our area.

I am asking you to pray for the Creation we live in. As of the day I write this, there are 104 large fires burning in 12 states in the Western United States. 2,557,537 acres have burned this summer so far, as if all of the Shenandoah valley from Luray to Lexington, and from Highland County to Charlottesville, were burned to the ground. Whole cities have been completely destroyed. Hurricane Ida has devastated Louisiana and parts of Mississippi, and travels up toward and beyond

us. And elsewhere on the East Coast, whole towns are recovering from floods in North Carolina and Tennessee over the last couple of weeks.

I am asking you to pray for the people of Afghanistan, whose government and military collapsed as the Taliban overran province after province in rapid succession after American forces were withdrawn. Pray for the women of Afghanistan, whose future under the Taliban is an unknown. Pray for thousands who are seeking to escape the new regime, and for the American forces deployed to help them. Pray for our President and leaders, regardless of your party. As one father wrote, whose son is serving in the group of American soldiers whose task intensifies in these final days of getting Americans out of Kabul, “why are we tearing each other apart in “the blame game,” when we should be coming together to rally around those giving their lives to rescue and keep people safe?”

I am asking you to pray for the people of Haiti, whose country is in upheaval after the murder of their President, and an earthquake, which has left over 2000 dead, and according to World Vision, over 1.5 million people homeless. It is a nation whose history has been one of unthinkable hardship. We forget them so easily. Their desperate need is great.

I am asking you to pray, not as an excuse to do nothing else, not to be on the right side, but as a starting place from which to move forward; as the place from which to think and act. It can be as simple as making a donation to help folks in Haiti,

refugees from Afghanistan, domestic relief for victims of Hurricane Ida, or to give time to help someone else locally. To get the Covid vaccine, as a way to care for those around you, as Jesus offered himself up for those around him. I am asking you to pray to remind ourselves where to put our concerns and worries in order to love as we are called to do – with the God who created us, who redeemed our lives through Jesus Christ, and who remains in control of this world, and all of us.

I am concerned about our nation and world. We are weary, tired, our patience with one another grows thin. Our compassion for one another disappears under sheer statistics, or because we have been surprised or shocked by what we hear, and it scares us; or out of a desire to be right, or to be in control, or to exercise my liberty, or to just do what I want to do, or to make this world small enough so I don't have to care.

One last thing: Turn off your TV or other news source, put down the I-pad, put the phone on silent. Go outside into this incredible part of Creation God has given us to live in. Even if it's hot and humid (it is summertime...), listen to the sounds God has given for us to hear, to remind us we are a part of what God has made. And then pray. Pray for those you love. And pray for those you don't; the ones you think are “part of the problem.” Pray for God to change your heart, not just someone else's. In doing so we'll be doing what Jesus asks us to do. And we may very well find our eyes open to a way forward in a world that would otherwise have us wondering what's next.





Highlights of Congregation Council

August 17, 2021

- Masks are required for church and any meetings at the church.
- Pastor mentioned that August 14th service for our 9 saints was a blessed and moving event.
- Our joint worship service with St. James Lutheran will be August 29th @ Barren Ridge Vineyards in Fishersville. Time of service is 11:00 a.m.
- Ice Cream Social will be September 12th at Grace – time 3:00 p.m
- The Back Pack program will begin soon. We will need volunteers . This year, 200+ meals will be needed for the children of our community. This is a joint venture with St. John's Catholic. Meals will be delivered to Kate Collins Middle School
- Since Brad Keefer is retiring from his position on Property, we will need a replacement to oversee the property, up to three people, if necessary.
- Juneteenth was made a Grace holiday

Respectfully submitted,

**Vivian Proctor
Council Secretary**

Church News



Dear Grace Lutheran Families: The Christian Education Committee is pleased to invite you to an **Ice Cream Social** for the congregation on Sunday, September 12th. We will meet on the grass between the church and the playground at 3:00 p.m. The playground will be open for the children to play and we will supply the ice cream, bowls, spoons, and waters. Please bring your own chair and an ice cream topping to share!

Please RSVP either by the sign-up list at the back of the sanctuary, or through the link that was emailed out. We appreciate your response by Thursday, September 9th. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Jones at: carrie.t.jones@gmail.com.



As we move back to In-Person worship, please consider assisting with worship. Altar Guild volunteers are needed. If you are interested in serving the church in this capacity, please contact Jean Morgan, 540-943-1929, or the Church Office, 540-949-6171.

Also, Offering Stewards are needed. If you are interested in serving the church in this capacity, please contact Pat Brady, 540-932-3677, or the Church Office, 540-949-6171.



Thank you to everyone who helped make the "**Homework Toolboxes**" such a success. Through your monetary and supply donations, we were able to furnish 41+ boxes to the Salvation Army. Thank you, one and all!
Amy Warren



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 ***eighteen*** 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 1,300 pounds!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



I am SO very grateful for the many cards and prayers that I am receiving during my illness. My church family means so much to me, and I feel your support and love. Thank you so very much! **Sylvia Almarode**



School Food Backpacks

Plans are in the works for the food backpack program to begin soon after a break last year due to COVID. There are some changes this year. We will be packing for both Wenonah and William Perry at Grace. They estimate 200 plus bags to be packed. We are still working out the details of days that we will pack which will be either Tuesday or Wednesday. Again we will be alternating weeks with St John's Catholic Church. We need two teams of about 4 or 5 to pack. We will start packing at 9 and it will take approximately an hour, depending on the number of bags to be packed. We do ask that for the time being that we stay masked and preferably have had a vaccination due to the close quarters of the packing process. We could also use a couple people who would be willing to alternate weeks setting up the delivered food which involves equally dividing the stacks of food sent from the Blue Ridge Food Bank. If you can help with this outreach, please contact Gwen Kite at gwenma2002@yahoo.com or 910-0508.



Children's Church starts in September! -

Starting September 19th, we will have Children's Church during worship. Pre-K through 5th graders will have the opportunity to have a 15-20 minute time to learn more about the Bible readings we're using in worship, as well as opportunities for singing, playing bells and other activities to help our young people grow in Faith! Invite families, children, grandchildren and neighbors to be a part!



In-Person Worship at Grace - A notice was sent out to all members and regular visitors this past week sharing the worship guidelines:

- Masking is required in worship for all in attendance
- Distancing continues, with every other pew blocked off
- We also ask you to share the peace safely distanced
- Holy Communion continues to be shared in the pews
- Please greet guests and friends outdoors before and after worship
- You Tube and Zoom continue to be available



New Member Class for this Fall! We are blessed by God's Spirit to be able to offer *another* New Member Class beginning in September by request of many who have been worshipping with us at Grace. If you would like to take part in the New Member Class, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex (on the Round Table).



Narrative Lectionary begins again on September 12th - After a Summer that allowed us to focus on specific books of the Bible - the Psalms, Ephesians, and Revelation - we return to the Narrative Lectionary in September. From September to November, we focus on Old Testament passages that tell us about God's faithfulness to us and activity to restore Creation to God's self. During Advent we hear from the prophets who point us to Jesus, and then begin our focus on John, the gospel focus of this year's Narrative Lectionary.



Property Meeting at Grace—Thursday, August 5th, sixteen Grace members gathered for a Property Committee meeting. Brad Keefer, after 55 years of devoted and unparalleled service to Grace as Property chairperson, is scaling back his activity, and handing the reins over to others. We had a good response from many people, but still have many opportunities to coordinate, as well as a Chairperson to oversee Outdoor, Indoor and Administrative work here at Grace. If you are able to help, please take a look at the Chart in the narthex and mark down areas where you can help maintain this beautiful building and grounds that God has blessed us with!
this year with my new church family.



CROP HUNGER WALK September 26!

Walk in-person or participate virtually! This Decades-long tradition sponsored by Church World Service helps Blue Ridge Food Bank, Disciples Kitchen, Valley Program for Aging Services and the Salvation Army in our community.

Want to walk? Sign up in the Narthex or online at crophungerwalk.org (look for Grace Lutheran Waynesboro, and follow the instructions), and sign up friends and family to help contribute to this great way to help our community!

Want to donate toward our team? See Karen Walck in the Narthex or online at crophungerwalk.org (and look for Grace Lutheran Waynesboro to donate). Call Karen Walck with any questions 765-480-9920 and come walk for a great cause!



You Can Help In This World of Need!

Hurricane Ida Relief: To help those whose lives were devastated by the force and fury of Hurricane Ida, make checks payable to Grace, with “Hurricane Ida” in the memo line. Or go to [.elca.org](http://elca.org)

Haiti Crisis: To help this nation in whom more than 1 million are homeless because of the recent earthquake, make checks payable to Grace, with “Haiti Crisis” in the memo line. Or go to elca.org

Afghan Allies: To help those refugees coming from Afghanistan to our shores (VA is a primary area of refugee settlement), make checks payable to Grace, with “Afghan Allies” in the memo line. Or go to lirs.org

VIRGINIA SYNOD, ELCA

We Are Church Together



Your Mission Support Helps Impacts Synod, National, and International Ministry

Across the ELCA, when individuals give through their local congregations, an average of about 5.5% of that financial gift is shared with the local synod, which in turn shares a portion with the national churchwide organization.

In the Virginia Synod, the 2021 Synod Assembly approved sharing 40% of mission support with the wider church. In 2020, the Virginia Synod shared \$657,556 directly in Mission Support for ELCA churchwide ministries. This continued commitment to loving and serving our neighbors, both locally and through the wider church, makes an impact around the Synod, around the country, and around the world. It is through your faith-filled and financial support that the countless ministries are possible. We ARE church together - Thanks be to God!



**Evangelical
Lutheran**
Church in America

If you are interested in seeing a breakdown of how mission support from the Virginia Synod makes an impact through the churchwide organization, download the 2020 Virginia Synod Mission Deep Dive using the button below. For more stories about our shared ministry, go to: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/sofia/>.

2020 Virginia Synod Mission Support Deep Dive

Thank You!



WARM

Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry

July 26, 2021

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 debra@warmwaynesboro.org.

WARM Regards,
Debra Freeman-Belle
Debra Freeman-Belle
Executive Director

*Every gift to WARM makes a difference. Thank you for your support & heart for others!
-Debra*

*****CONTRIBUTION RECEIPT*****

Donor Name(s): Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Gift Date: 07/23/2021
Amount: \$500.00
Type (Detail): Check (80277)
Fund (Detail): Unrestricted Gen. Donations (None)

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.





Augusta Health Foundation
P.O. Box 1000
Fishersville, VA 22939

Phone (540) 332-5174 Staunton
Phone (540) 932-5174 Waynesboro
www.augustahealth.com/foundation

August 11, 2021

Dr. Robin Crowder
C/O Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
500 S Wayne Avenue
Waynesboro, VA 22980

Dear Dr. Crowder,

Our heartfelt appreciation to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church for your gift of \$5,500.00 to the Augusta Health Foundation. As requested, this gift will be restricted for COVID-19 response with the parameters outlined in your letter. We are grateful for your support and the ways in which it will ensure continued excellent patient care in the on-going pandemic.

Augusta Health opened its doors to the community in 1994 to continue a tradition of personalized care and to provide for the health and well-being of our community through access to excellent care. Through the years, this community has come to rely on Augusta Health when faced with medical emergencies, for chronic health conditions and diagnostic testing, as well as during a global pandemic. We are proud to be this community's hospital of choice and thank you for your support of Augusta Health's patient services and programs.

Thank you again for this gift to the Augusta Health Foundation. I look forward to updating you and Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church on the impact this generous gift has made.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Todd D. Lilley'.

Todd D. Lilley
Interim Executive Director
Augusta Health Foundation

A handwritten note in blue ink that reads 'Thank you for the blessing of your support'.

Augusta Health is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Please consider this letter a receipt for your contribution of \$5,500.00 received 8/11/2021. For purposes of reporting to the Internal Revenue Service, we confirm that no goods or services were received in consideration of this donation.



Main Street United Methodist Church

601 West Main Street
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980
Church Telephone:
(540) 942-1179



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
500 South Wayne Avenue
Waynesboro, VA 22980
August 13, 2021

Dear Mr. Crowder:

On behalf of the Main Street UMC Food Pantry I want to thank you for the churches generous donation of \$500. We will use this money for the continued purchase of food and personal care items for our clients.

Thank you for your support as the needs in the community continue to grow.

Christ's Blessings to you,

Doug Edwards

Doug Edwards

Manager of Main Street Food Pantry



Pastor Paul,

Thank you for opening up
Your space at the last minute
for our Virginia Organizing
Chapter Meeting! It was such a
nice space! We appreciate your
support & generosity.

In solidarity,

Amanda Dameron & the Waynesboro
Chapter of Virginia Organizing



September

BIRTHDAYS

9/2 Kiera Mahoney

9/8 Kristen Spooner

9/10 Antoinette Eckstrom

9/14 Anne Barnes

9/18 Gary Morrison

9/22 Tom Sheaffer

9/30 Zachary Rankin

9/4 Alex Skelton

9/8 Katie Morrison

9/11 Karl Stein

9/16 Jane Stein

9/21 Emma Hilker

9/24 Linda Tomey

9/6 Hal Aaslestad

9/10 Sydney Rankin

9/14 Brad Keefer

9/17 Cathy Crowder

9/21 Fred Biggers

9/29 Imogene Hull

Baptisms

9/4 Carol Wolf

9/30 Diane Lundstrom


9/6 Tyler Wertman



9/8 Gail Johnson




september



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri- day	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<p>14th Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Shared Worship with St. James Lutheran at Barren Ridge Vineyards</p> <p>Service of Holy Communion</p>			<p>7:00 p.m. Mutual Ministry (Conference Room)</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle (Seminar Room)</p>		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>15th Sunday After Pentecost</p> <p>10:00 a.m. <i>Service of the Word In-Person and via YouTube</i> Holy Communion</p> <p>10:50 a.m. <i>Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</i></p>	 <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>No School</p>			<p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p>		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>16th Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 a.m. <i>Service of the Word</i> <i>In-Person and via YouTube</i> Holy Communion</p> <p>10:50 a.m. <i>Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</i></p> <p>3:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social</p> 	<p>7:00 p.m. Grace Anti-Racism Book Study <i>(Fellowship Hall)</i></p>			<p>8:00 a.m. Newcomers Club <i>(Fellowship Hall)</i></p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. Bridge Club <i>(Fellowship Hall)</i></p> <p>6:00 p.m. Discussion with Christ Tabernacle <i>(Seminar Room)</i></p> <p>6:00 p.m. Virginia Organizing <i>(Conference Room)</i></p>		 <p>3:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconcil. <i>(North Park)</i></p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
17th Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 a.m. <i>Service of the Word In-Person and via YouTube</i> Holy Communion Children's Church 10:50 a.m. <i>Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</i>	<i>Nancy Dowdy Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office</i>	<i>Nancy Dowdy Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office</i>  7:00 p.m. Council In-Person and Zoom	<i>Nancy Dowdy Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office</i>	<i>Nancy Dowdy Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office</i> 8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 1:00–3:00 p.m. Bridge Club <i>(Fellowship Hall)</i>	<i>Nancy Dowdy Vacation Carolyn Hite in Church Office</i>	Pete Giesen Memorial Service 2:00 p.m. At Grace
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
18th Sunday After Pentecost 10:00 a.m. <i>Service of the Word In-Person and via YouTube</i> Holy Communion 10:50 a.m. <i>Coffee Fellowship via Zoom</i>				8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers 1:00–3:00 p.m. Bridge Club		



Sunday September 5	Sunday September 12	Sunday September 19	Sunday September 26
Preaching & Presiding	Preaching & Presiding	Preaching & Presiding	Preaching & Presiding
Pastor Paul Pingel	Pastor Paul Pingel	Pastor Paul Pingel	Pastor Paul Pingel
Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers
Barb Susen	Martin Family	Martin Family	Jean Morgan
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan
Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister
Susan Myers	Linda Meyer	Fred Biggers	Cathy Crowder
Council Person of the Week	Council Person of the Week	Council Person of the Week	Council Person of the Week
Robin Crowder	Kim Hull	Jerry Kite	Jean Morgan
Offering Steward	Offering Steward	Offering Steward	Offering Steward
Pat Brady	Pat Brady	Pat Brady	Pat Brady
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Pat Brady Jean Morgan	Lee Lynch Bill Meicke	Fred Biggers David Proctor	Ron Almarode Jack Eckstrom



**Budget Barometer
July 2021**

For the year, actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are below budget resulting in a surplus of \$7,257. MEF Grant checks were distributed 8/5/202

Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$173,165	\$174,201	\$1,035
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$165,529	\$166,944	\$1,415
	\$7,637	\$7,257	(\$380)



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 Accordius Room 111 1221 Rosser Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>
<p>Phyllis Kite Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. 217 Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>Bob Knemoller Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. AL-13 Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>
<p>Glen & Flossie Myers The Legacy 1410a North Augusta Street Staunton, VA 24401</p>	<p>Pete Rufe Summit Square Healthcare 501 Oak Avenue, Room 7 Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>






THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

500 South Wayne Avenue
Waynesboro, VA 22980

LABEL



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-  instagram.com/gelc.waynesboro
-  flickr.com/gracewaynesboro
-  [youtube.com/
GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro](https://youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro)

www.gracewaynesboro.org

E: gracelc@lumos.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