

FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

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

December 20, 2020

**“ A Community of Servants Sharing in the
Word and Work of Jesus”**

Service of the Word via YouTube

(Based on Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

Congregational responses are in bold print

*In this time of Coronavirus, the "Order of Worship" that we use has changed. From the earliest years of the Church the order of Worship was to **GATHER**, bringing ourselves and all that we are before God; then to hear the **WORD** of God, letting it enter our lives with the expectation, as the prophet Isaiah tells us, that it will not come away empty, but accomplish succeed in that which God purposes for it. (Isaiah 55:10-11). We are hearing that word from (usually) two readings during this time of Coronavirus; the gospel, and one additional reading, either from the Old Testament, the Psalms, or an epistle reading. Then we hear the Word proclaimed through the Sermon. We confess our faith, we share in Prayers to God for the world we live in and in thanksgiving to God for the promises that we will not be alone in whatever we are going through. And we are thankful for God's Living Word, Jesus, the embodied Word of God, and the ways Jesus is revealed through the Old and New Testament. Then we are **SENT** into this world - perhaps the most important part of worship, even if the shortest - because it is then that we live out our faith proclaimed in Word and Worship.*

*MISSING from these weeks of physically distant worship is the **MEAL** and times to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. As mentioned during our Maundy Thursday worship, we are in a wilderness time, where the promises of God we desire so greatly, to taste and drink and see God's forgiveness of sins and new life in bread and wine, in water, are still ahead of us. And as the apostle Paul wrote so powerfully in I Corinthians 11, we wait to receive the Sacrament together until ALL can receive it, not restricted by distance, and/or accessibility to technology that might allow some in the Body to receive it, and not others. So we pray for that time when we are re-united and able to receive the Meal together, and place our hope in the God who has called us through Water and the Word to bring us together again.*

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and of the Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ.
Amen

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ✝ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Musical Presentation

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Let us pray.

Father God,
There is no miracle as grand as birth. As we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus, create in us new life. Transform us so that we may reflect the light of your son, and become beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, generosity, honesty, patience, and peace, for the sake of the one whose name brings deliverance and life to all the world, Jesus Christ, infant king.
Amen

Hymn: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

Page 4

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen

Word

Psalm 113

¹Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

²Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

³From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised.

⁴The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

⁵Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high,

⁶who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

⁷He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

⁸to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

⁹He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

Praise the LORD!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-45

The holy gospel according to Luke:

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Van Bremen Family

Sermon

Pastor Paul Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Musical Offering

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,

**God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long expected Savior fill you will love,
and unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✝ now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song: *"Joy to the World"*

Page 9

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today



- Assisting Minister:** Linda Meyer
Acolytes: Charlotte and Amelia Jones
Offering Steward: Pat Brady
Altar Flowers: Gail Johnson
Council Person of the Week: Kathryn Johnson
Children's Sermon: The Van Bremen Family



The Chancel Flowers today are given to the glory of our Lord and Savior and in memory of Jack E. Johnson by his children.



Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons

December 27, 2020
1st Sunday of Christmas
Service of the Word via YouTube
10:00 a.m.

Pastor Paul Pingel, Preaching & Presiding

Simeon and Anna
Luke 12:21-38
Psalm 131



Please call the Church Office if you need to add someone to the Prayer List. In an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us, **names on the Prayer List will remain for four weeks.** If the need is longer term, please notify the church office, and the person in need will be transferred to the "Ongoing Need for Prayer" list.

Prayer Request for Members (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

**Caroline Biggers
Anne Putnam
Eleanor Sampson**

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

**Sally Massey, Friend of Kathy Johnson
Jeff Morgan, Friend of Amber Bokelman**

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Please advise of status changes)

Liz Ann Binns	Fred Brower	Marie Brown
Nancy Fitzgerald	Pete Giesen	Sandra R. Hoy
Bob and Carol Knemoller	Glenn and Flossie Myers	Janet Parmer

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Please advise of status changes)

Janice Collins, Friend of Grace	Nancy Delaney, Dave Delaney's Wife
Lisa Dofflemeyer, Daughter of Linda Tomey	Kyle Getler, Member Relative
Larry Hinebaugh, Friend of Donna Gum	Maxine Pierce, Mother of Cindy Trauscht
Barbara Shifflett and Family	George Toop, Friend of the Schwiesows

Members/Friends Grieving

**The Family of Ginger Hood, Sister-in-law of Kathy Johnson
The Family of Billy Limbert, Ex-brother-in-law of Linda Tomey**

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Throughout the Year

Dwight Moomaw	Chuck Goodrich	Zachary Bandy
Patrick Brady	Jenna Smith	Beth Ann Brady

The Needs of the World

Our Nation, President-Elect Biden and Vice-President Elect Harris, Senator Warner and Representative Cline

Veterans, and their service to our nation

The beginning of Covid-19 vaccine deliveries

Families affected by Covid-19 - death, health, employment

The Flu Season of this year

Those affected by Wildfires and Hurricane damage in the American West and Southeast

The Church

The Student Care Center at Grace

Our sisters and brothers at St. John Episcopal, First Baptist, First Presbyterian and St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Churches

Our Neighbors

Our neighbors on Arch and Market Streets, and the Tree Streets



Cold Weather Shelter—The past few years Grace has hosted the WARM Cold Weather Shelter in the fellowship hall for a week. Due to COVID, the shelter has been housed at the Day's Inn and will continue there for the foreseeable future. The guests are provided a hot meal each evening, but we have been ask to provide breakfast and lunch each day beginning January 25 thru 31st. There are funds from the Virginia Synod grant to help with the cost of the meals, however Grace needs volunteers to prepare breakfast and lunch and to deliver them to the Day's Inn. If you would be willing to take a day or partner with someone to help, please let Jerry or Gwen Kite know (540-910-0508). Both meals can be delivered in the morning. Breakfast can consist of frozen breakfast biscuits or individual boxes of cereal and milk and fruit. Each guest has access to a microwave to heat their meal. Lunch could be sandwiches or a bowl of chili, mac and cheese, or anything that can be reheated in the microwave. At this time there are 40 guests.



New Trees Need Water - We need three or four volunteers to water our new trees once per week. You could take the first week, for example, and water if there's no rain or snow scheduled (no need to water if it rains or snows, like this past week!). Let the Church Office or Pastor Paul know if you are interested.



Christmas Eve at Grace: We will offer three worship services for Christmas Eve at Grace Thursday, December 24th:

NOTE: We will re-locate our Parking Lot Worship to the main parking lot for Christmas Eve. All cars will be parked on the newly re-paved asphalt on level ground.

1. **4:00 p.m. in the Parking Lot - Family Reading of the Christmas Story around the Star with Holy Communion** - In the tradition of many years at Grace, families of our congregation will read the Christmas Story, focused, on this outside service, on the Star that guided the shepherds and Magi to the place where Jesus lay. *There will be space for 22 cars to take part in the Worship Service outdoors. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (540-949-6171) to sign up* for one of the spots.
2. So far, all our Parking Lot sign-ups are for 4:00 p.m. We will add the 5:30 service of Holy Communion if we fill all 4:00 p.m. spots.
3. **7:00 p.m. You Tube and Zoom Worship Service - Family Reading of the Christmas Story and "building the crèche," with Holy Communion** - *At this service we welcome our friends in Christ at St. James, who will join us via You Tube and Zoom, and be present through the Rev. Gordon Putnam, St. James' interim pastor, and an assisting minister who will help lead worship.* - We continue the tradition of families reading the Christmas Story while building the crèche scene that has been a central part of Grace's Christmas Eve worship for many years. Families will pre-record their readings, which will become a part of the worship service. Poinsettias and other greenery remind us of God's great love for the world in Jesus Christ! No sign-up necessary! Tune in via You Tube or Zoom.

Holy Communion will be offered as a part of all worship services. For any of the services, sign up via the email or letter to the Church Office letting Nancy know which service you plan to attend, virtual or car worship (# of parking spaces), and how many and type of chalices you need. Also, let her know if you need your chalices delivered.



Advent Worship this December - Watch, Wait and Wonder - We join with Bethlehem, St. James and Zion to worship on Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. via YouTube or Zoom beginning December 2nd. Pastor Paul (12/23) will bring a message of watching, waiting and being open to the wonder of God's love in Jesus Christ, and we will sing the richness of the treasury of Advent hymns as a part of worship. Go to www.gracewaynesboro.org to find the link to our YouTube channel, and join us Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.



Budget Meeting

Grace Called Congregation Meeting today via Zoom, for the purpose of voting on the recommended **2021 Budget** by Grace Council.



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers for 2021—The flower chart is up for 2021. If you would like to sign up for a Sunday next year, please give Nancy at the Church Office a call and she will be glad to sign you up.



The Church Office will be closed from noon on December 24 through 28 for the Christmas holiday.

We hope everyone has a joyous time with family and friends.

May God truly bless each and everyone of you with health and happiness.



Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday, December 27th - We worship

via You Tube and Zoom on December 27th with a unique Lessons and

Carols service that remembers the four women ancestors in Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1; and Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, Mary, the Mother of our Lord, the mothers of the Holy Innocents, and Anna, the prophetess who

gave praise to God for the "redemption of Israel" through Jesus, the Son of God. St. James, Fishersville also shares in joint worship with us, providing readers of the lessons in concert with Grace readers.

Pastor Gordon Putnam also joins Pastor Paul in helping to lead worship, with a reflection on the texts.



Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) to Wildfires and Hurricanes - Fires out West are newly threatened by high winds; Hurricanes Laura, Sally, Delta and Eta arriving through the Gulf of Mexico in a six week period, rocked the Gulf coast of Texas, Louisiana and

DISASTER RELIEF Alabama, wreaking devastation across these states. You can help through LDR. Donate through elca.org, or through Grace, with "LDR Wildfire and Hurricane" in the memo line.



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 **eleven deliveries** thus far, six

to Main Street United Methodist, and five to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft,

with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. If you can help,

please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.





Disciples' KITCHEN

Disciples Kitchen Collection Update—Thank you for the generous response of socks, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Enough socks were donated that each gift bag for Disciples Kitchen could receive 2 pairs of socks, plus we gave some to the WARM House to be given to the ladies. There were enough toothbrushes to be given to Disciples Kitchen and to the Cold Weather Shelter. There were a number of hats and gloves to be shared with Disciples Kitchen and the WARM House.



**Life of Grace Church
December 20-27, 2020**

Day	Date	Time	Meeting
TODAY—SUNDAY	12/20	10:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday in Advent Service of the Word via YouTube Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding and Preaching Congregational Meeting—Budget
		10:50 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship via Zoom
Wednesday	12/23	7:00 p.m.	Advent Worship Service via YouTube Pastor Paul Pingel
		7:30 p.m.	White Fragility Book Study via Zoom
Thursday	12/24	4:00 p.m.	Car Worship—Communion
		7:00 p.m.	 Service of the Word and Communion Via YouTube
Friday	12/25		
Sunday	12/27	10:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday in Advent Service of the Word via YouTube Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding and Preaching
		10:50 a.m.	Coffee Fellowship via Zoom

Monday

Isaiah 11:10-16
Revelation 20:1-10
John 5:30:47

Tuesday

Isaiah 28:9-22
Revelation 20:11—21:8
Luke 1:5-25

Wednesday

Isaiah 29:9-24
Revelation 21:9-21
Luke 1:26-38



Thursday

Isaiah 31:1-9
Revelation 21:22—22:5
Luke 1:39-48a

Friday

Isaiah 33:17-22
Revelation 22:6-11, 18-20
Luke 1:57-66

Saturday

Isaiah 35:1-10
Revelation 22:12-17, 21
Luke 1:67-80



**Members of Grace
Congregational Council**

Linda Meyer, President
Jerry Kite, Vice-President
Bob Barrette, Kathy Bump, Holly Carper
Robin Crowder, Kim Hull, Gail Johnson,
Kathryn Johnson, Anne Putnam
Hannah Pingel, Youth Representative
David Proctor, Secretary
Ron Almarode, Treasurer
Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer
Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary



Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor

Mike Myers, Organist,
Director of Music

Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Lunch 12:00-12:30) - Monday - Thursday; 8:30 a.m.—Noon - Friday

facebook.com/gelc.elca

twitter.com/gelc_elca

youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro

Internet: www.gracewaynesboro.org

Email: gracelc@lumos.net

facebook.com/gelc.elca

twitter.com/gelc_elca

youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro Internet: www.gracewaynesboro.org

Email: gracelc@lumos.net Telephone: 540.949.6171