

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP
ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

We have seen many changes throughout the years and throughout the world. Sometimes we've been left yearning for the days when things didn't feel so complicated. Other times, we have seen something new happen and have asked, "Why did this take so long?" The church has been through its own changes as well. Some of these have left us wishing for simpler times while others have us waiting for even more to come about.

But, dear church, God still is unchanging. God's love is still the foundation on which the church was built. While we have seen many changes, both in the world and at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the eternal love of God and the good news that dwells with Christ's death and resurrection continue to provide hope for everyone. This is why our mission remains steadfast, whether that is through our traditional mission work in places near and far or from new ventures and visions that encourage us to think of different ways to reach even more people.

The writer of Hebrews reminds us: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (13:16). That could not be truer in the work we have been doing in each expression of the church. Your gifts continue to benefit the good work of spreading the good news throughout your communities, your synods and the whole church. We are all answering the call to continue to do good work with the help of your support, whether that is through your resources, your time or your talents.

I am grateful for your generous support of each expression of the church. God calls all of us to continue to do the good work, and you continue to answer that call. We also continue to join you in that call and will remain true to looking toward God's unchanging promise. There is still much change and learning that will come before us, but God's steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God”

(Hebrews 13:16).

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Annual Report

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**Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

"A community of servants sharing
in the word and work of Jesus."

Agenda

128th Annual Congregational Meeting

February 19, 2023

- | | | |
|-------|---|-------------------------|
| I. | Call to Order | President Robin Crowder |
| II. | Prayer | Pastor Pingel |
| III. | Declaration of a Quorum | |
| IV. | Approval of minutes of congregational meetings: | |
| | • February 13, 2022 | |
| | • May 15, 2022 | |
| | • December 11, 2022 | |
| V. | Presentation of Annual Report | |
| VI. | Questions and Discussion | |
| VII. | Old Business | |
| VIII. | New Business | |
| IX. | Announcements | |
| X. | Prayer and Adjournment | |



Minutes of Congregational Meetings

February 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. Pastor Pingel began the meeting with a prayer.

Tripp Franklin made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous Congregational Meeting minutes from 2021. The motion was seconded by Jerry Kite. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Next, Council President Robin Crowder presented the GELC Annual Report. He extended thanks to the entire church membership for all of their many, and varied contributions. He stated that “the Church is you, it’s members.” He urged all to go through and read the annual report and see for yourself how many different ways you can help Grace with your time and your talents. He thanked the GELC membership for all that is done and accomplished.

Pastor Pingel then stated that “You are (GELC) the body of Christ, and individually part of it.” “Everyone has gifts and talents which makes everything whole.”

Next, Treasurer Ron Almarode reported that GELC finished the 2021 year in good condition, and things were on an even keel moving forward financially.

Trip Franklin made a motion to approve the Annual Report, Brad Keefer seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and approved unanimously. Pastor Pingel closed the Congregational Meeting with a prayer.

May 15, 2022

Jerry Kite, Vice-President, called the meeting to order.

There were five (5) nominees for Church Council:

- Robin Crowder
- Jack Eckstrom
- Susan Myers
- Stephen Van Stee
- Karen Walck

Each has a term from June 2022 to May 2024.

Each nominee was asked to stand. There was a motion to accept these folks made by Bob Barrette and seconded by Chuck Goodrich. The motion was unanimously carried.

These members are retiring:

- Kathy Bump
- Amy Warren
- Jerry Kite
- Kim Hull-resigned

There was a motion to adjourn made by Linda Meyer and seconded by Chuck Goodrich.

December 11, 2022

11:05 a.m.: President Robin Crowder called the meeting to order to vote on the proposed 2023 budget. His opening statement included thanks to Pastor Paul, and the Stewardship Committee, especially Mike Trauscht and Fred Biggers, on the success of the Stewardship Campaign.

Ushers distributed paper copies of the budget and voting ballots to those interested.

Treasurer Ron Almarode spoke about the Stewardship Campaign and Grace's mission. He stated that pledges increased by approximately \$32,000 from last year and the spending plan increased by approximately \$29,000. There was no decrease in benevolence or ministry programs. Church staff compensation will be increased by 8.7%. He then asked if anyone in the Congregation had any questions, there were none.

President Crowder asked for a motion to approve the budget. The motion was so moved by multiple members and seconded by multiple members of the congregation. Members were then allowed to vote. President Crowder informed those watching via YouTube that votes could be cast via email by emailing grace.lc@comcast.net.

Meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Shortly after the meeting was adjourned, President Crowder received the in-person vote tally and announced the results: 59 approved, 0 disapproved. The 2023 budget proposal was approved by the Congregation.



GELC Staff 2022-2023

Pastor

Paul Pingel, Pastor 1224 Hollins Road 540-216-4454
Waynesboro, VA 22980 pastorpingel@gmail.com

Administrative Secretary

Nancy Dowdy 22 Ashleigh Drive 540-256-1975
Waynesboro, VA 22980 Grace.lc@comcast.net

Director of Music

Mike Myers 8368 Brooksville Road 540-456-4505
Greenwood, VA 22943 mickhdking@aol.com



GELC Congregation Council Members 2021-2023 Term

Fred Biggers 1192 Tinkling Spring Road 434-981-1954
Staunton, VA 24401 fred.s.biggers@gmail.com

Jean Morgan 321 Maple Avenue 540-649-4422
Waynesboro, VA 22980 jc321morgan@ntelos.net

Nancy Schwiesow Route 1, Box 596 301-943-0888
Vice-President 178 Fortune's Point Lane fortunatenancy@gmail.com
Roseland, VA 22967

Andrew Sell 7416 Greenwood Station Road 612-695-8361
Greenwood, VA 22943 asell84@gmail.com

2022-2024 Term

Bob Barrette 946 Stoney Creek East 434-760-4419
Nellysford, VA 22958 rbarrette8@gmail.com

Robin Crowder 3009 Quenton Place 540-476-0180
President Waynesboro, VA 22980 rcrowder1954@gmail.com

Jack Eckstrom 121 Tomasville Drive 240-344-3176
Waynesboro, VA 22980 jackeck47@gmail.com

Susan Myers 8368 Brooksville Road 434-760-1660
Greenwood, VA 22943 sparkelmyers@gmail.com

Stephen Van Stee 400 Cattle Scales Road 540-325-0772
Waynesboro, VA 22980 stephenvanstee@gmail.com

Karen Walck 426 Zion Church Road 765-480-9920
Waynesboro, VA 22980 kdwalck@gmail.com

Council Appointees

<p>Ron Almarode, Treasurer</p>	<p>417 Pelham Drive Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>540-649-4099 AlmarodeRG@ntelos.net</p>
<p>Charles Goodrich Financial Secretary</p>	<p>201 Brandon Circle Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>540-949-6739 goodrich@lumos.net</p>
<p>Donna Marshall, Assistant Treasurer</p>	<p>919 Eastside Highway Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>540-942-2884 DonnaMarshall60@gmail.com</p>



GELC Ministry Team Leaders 2022-2023

Congregation Engagement Round Table

Christian Education/Youth

<p>Peggy Caister</p>	<p>611 Northgate Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>434-964-7461 caisterpeggy@gmail.com</p>
<p>Kate Van Bremen</p>	<p>100 Tomasville Drive Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>614-746-4792 kvbremen@coconstruct.com</p>
<p>Stephen Van Stee</p>	<p>400 Cattle Scales Road Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>540-325-0772 stephenvanstee@gmail.com</p>

Communication

<p>Jennifer Fetterman</p>	<p>206 Windermere Drive Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>540-451-1075 jenfetto5@gmail.com</p>
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Support Fellowship (Care Coordination)

<p>Sylvia Almarode</p>	<p>417 Pelham Drive Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>540-943-1753 almarod@ntelos.net</p>
<p>Caroline Biggers</p>	<p>1192 Tinkling Spring Road Staunton, VA 24401</p>	<p>540-337-1951 caroline.r.biggers@gmail.com</p>
<p>Kathy Bump</p>	<p>131 Club Highland Nellysford, VA 22958</p>	<p>317-440-8900 kcbump0621@gmail.com</p>
<p>Dot Sheaffer</p>	<p>1110 St. David's Lane Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>540-949-8479</p>

GELC Ministry Team Leaders 2022-2023

Worship and Music

Donna Gum 16 Toman Lane 540-649-0260
Waynesboro, VA 22980 fdgum@ntelos.net

Jean Morgan 321 Maple Avenue 540-649-4422
Waynesboro, VA 22980 jc321morgan@ntelos.net

Mike Myers 8368 Brooksville Road 540-456-4505
Greenwood, VA 22943 mickhdking@aol.com

Coronavirus Subcommittee

Ron Almarode, 417 Pelham Drive 540-649-4099
Waynesboro, VA 22980 AlmarodeRG@ntelos.net

Community Engagement Round Table

Evangelism

Nancy Schwiesow Route 1, Box 596 301-943-0888
178 Fortune's Point Lane fortunatenancy@gmail.com
Roseland, VA 22967

Antiracism Group

Faith in Action/Stewardship

Fred Biggers 1192 Tinkling Spring Road 434-981-1954
Staunton, VA 24401 fred.s.biggers@gmail.com

Robin Crowder 3009 Quenton Place 540-476-0180
Waynesboro, VA 22980 rcrowder1954@gmail.com

Outreach Mission

Jerry Kite 141 Brook Court 540-943-1920
Waynesboro, VA 22980 jerrykite@ntelos.net

Gwen Kite 141 Brook Court 540-943-1920
Waynesboro, VA 22980 gwenma2002@yahoo.com

Mission Endowment

Bob Barrette 946 Stoney Creek East 434-760-4419
Nellysford, VA 22958 rbarrette8@gmail.com

David Schwiesow Route 1, Box 596 434-325-7001
178 Fortune's Point Lane schwiesow1950@gmail.com
Roseland, VA 22967

Support Round Table

Church Property

Fred Biggers 1192 Tinkling Spring Road 434-981-1954
Staunton, VA 24401 fred.s.biggers@gmail.com

Ron Myers 228 Claybrook Drive 757-870-4041
Waynesboro, VA 22980 augusta254@comcast.net

Rew Walck 426 Zion Church Road 765-480-9916
Waynesboro, VA 22980 rewalck@gmail.com

Finance

Robin Crowder 3009 Quenton Place 540-476-0180
Waynesboro, VA 22980 rcrowder1954@gmail.com

Ron Almarode 417 Pelham Drive 540-943-1753
Waynesboro, VA 22980 almaroderg@ntelos.net

Mutual Ministry

Personnel

Andrew Sell 7416 Greenwood Station Road 612-695-8361
Greenwood, VA 22943 asell84@gmail.com

Antoinette Eckstrom 121 Thomasville Drive 301-788-1994
Waynesboro, VA 22980 andieck@me.com

Strategic Planning

Bob Barrette 946 Stoney Creek East 434-760-4419
Nellysford, VA 22958 rbarrette8@gmail.com

Thanksgiving and Memorial

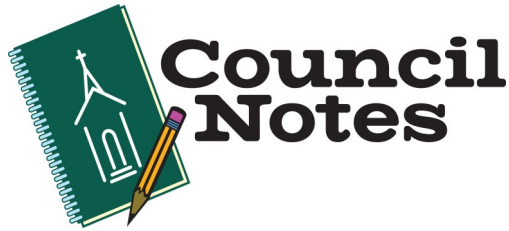
Karla Rankin 120 DuPont Circle 540-949-5936
Waynesboro, VA 22980 Karankin@gmail.com

Technology

Owen Keefer 2000 Cherokee Road 540-942-4290
Waynesboro, VA 22980 deltanode@comcast.net

Altar Flowers

Waynesboro Florist 540-949-8125



Congregation Council Meetings

January 19, 2022

The Grace ELC Council met on January 19, 2021. The minutes of the December 8th Congregational meeting and the minutes of the December 15th monthly meeting were accepted.

Ron Almarode attended the meeting as a special guest of the Church Council to give an overall 2020 fiscal year-ending budget presentation.

The Grace Race and Reconciliation Study Group presented a viewing of a video titled Race in America, produced by the creator of Veggie Tails, a Christian animated show for children, Paul Vischer. He is an evangelical. Following the video presentation, the Study Group proposed that our congregation's attitude towards race relations be surveyed in the same manner as the survey conducted on LGBTQiA by Reconciled in Christ, a Lutheran Group whose resources the Council used early last year. The Study Group also proposed a special meeting of the Church Council to discuss their study of race relations and initiatives moving forward.

Pastor Pingel commented on the success of the special Ecumenical Worship Service of Prayer, Repentance and Christian Unity that was Held virtually on January 18th.

Due to increases in coronavirus cases and deaths in the SAW district, live, in-person services at Grace ELC will not be held at any time in the near future. Lent, Holy Week and Easter services at Grace ELC will be held, but whether live or virtually, will depend on the state of coronavirus at those times.

Confirmation classes are continuing at this time. Three confirmands from last year's class, Kimberly Hull, Quinn Franklin and Zachary Rankin will be confirmed on Transfiguration Sunday, February 14th. The Confirmands and their families will be recorded separately, and integrated into the Live service broadcast on the 14th.

All three elevators in our church passed their annual and their five year inspections by Shenandoah Elevator Company.

February 16, 2022

The GELC Church Council met on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. The topics of discussion centered around three main areas of concern:

1. The results of a survey solicited by the Grace Race and Reconciliation Study Group concerning where Grace stands on race relations and what the survey results mean to the Church Council.
2. Concerns of our aging church building and what needs to be done to upgrade and remain in compliance with local building codes and laws.
3. A shortage of volunteers to staff key areas of concern:
 - A back-up for Brad Keefer in property and maintenance
 - Someone to continually update our church's website and Facebook. The question of hiring for 5-10 hours/month was proposed.
 - The final area of concern is the replacement of 5-10 members and 1 youth representative on the Church Council who will be leaving the Council at the end of their terms in June 2021. A slate of candidates must be presented ten (10) days before the May Congregational Meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 16. Do you have the time and talent to fill these needs?

March 12, 2022

- Financial Report review- Ron Almarode reported that GELC is \$1,947 behind so far this year. Expenses are \$4,180 under so far, but receipts are also under.
- Coronavirus report- The GELC Coronavirus committee met and have recommended that we follow CDC guidelines regarding masking policy. Our area is now in “yellow” meaning that new positive cases are at a moderate level, and have been steadily dropping over the past few weeks. The council voted to go to a “mask optional” status going forward.
- The Council voted to not hold the Easter Breakfast this year between the two Easter services.
- Council will be kicking off a Columbarium Debt Campaign in April working towards paying off building loan expenses related to the Columbarium. Selling 10 family niches will pay off the loan balance.
- Afghan Family Resettlement project-we are working with Westminster Presbyterian Church and St John’s Catholic Church on providing housing and support for an Afghan Refuge family. Presently 22 people have signed up for GELC. Committees will be forming up in the next few weeks to cover housing, transportation, food, etc.. to support a refuge family.
- Hiker Hostel- Irma and Woody Graf have volunteered to assist with running the Hiker Hostel again this year. The Council voted to hold the HH this year, with the dates being tentative from sometime in May into June. GELC will be requiring proof of vaccination, with unvaccinated hikers being required to wearing a mask.
- The Property Committee reported that the Entrance structure on the Wayne Avenue side of the church entrance has been stabilized with cables for the short term. Braces will be added to strengthen the entrance structure and stabilize it for the future. A Grounds workday has been scheduled for Saturday, March 26th at 9:00 a.m. to get the church grounds ready for the coming growing season.

Specially Called for Refugee Resettlement April 13, 2022

Refugee Resettlement Update:

Pastor Paul shared information on the change to the refugee resettlement plans. Refugee family will not be from Afghanistan. Church World Service (CWS) decided the risk of an Afghan family breaking a lease in Waynesboro was too great given their recent experiences with Afghan families relocating back to Harrisonburg after residing in other areas (e.g., Staunton). CWS was reluctant to assign an Afghan family because of this, then when seeing the house on 233 King Ave. in Waynesboro, CWS was excited about it being a good fit for Congolese family of eight that was in the pipeline. Members of this Congolese family have been in a Tanzanian refugee settlement since 1998. All six children of the family have been born and raised in this refugee settlement. This family is listed as 'refugees', which is an official term. Refugees are specifically identified by U.S. law as being in danger for their lives if they were to return to their country, which is true of this family. CWS would like us to take on this Congolese refugee family. The mother is a hairdresser. The father is a farmer. Some family members speak French, some speak Kibembe, and all speak Swahili. Some of the children have attended school, but others have not.

The unanimous decision was to help out in any way possible. From his personal experience, doing this type of support in 1975 and 1980 with Vietnamese refugees, he believes this will be an exciting time period for the Congregation when it gets involved. Our Congregation would be helping out very resilient people who are flying across the world; it will be a monumental change in their lives, but also for the Congregation. They will be learning a lot about our world, but we'll also be learning a lot from them. He then shared a personal story about helping a refugee family. It's an exciting opportunity. He wholeheartedly endorses this, a great opportunity for us to learn, it's the right thing to do at this point in time, and he's excited to learn more about Swahili.

House rental is \$1,250 [per month]. The family is given \$1,050 per person from the government. So they start with an initial amount. This is supposed to cover food, transportation, etc. But the encouragement to the family to use as much of that money as possible to pay the rent, and to be somewhat on a fast track to find a job. The federal government (and its guidelines) want the family to be self-sufficient in 90 days. There is certain amount of time pressure for them to find work, learn the area, and one of the things we are encouraged to do as a refugee resettlement committee (both churches) is help with this self-sufficiency. Pastor gave example of not driving them around for transportation purposes after the first week, but teaching them how to use Bright Bus. We are being permitted to donate a vehicle – a Westminster family has donated a Toyota Highlander which seats eight to this family. There will be a priority for English learning, and how to drive if they did not learn that in the refugee camp.

Support for going from the Afghan family to the Congolese family was approved.

April 27, 2022

The focus of discussions at the April 27 meeting was centered on racial reconciliation, the retention and disposition of vital church records, the resumption of church activities and the use of church facilities by outside groups, nominees to the church council for the term June 2021–May 2023 and Pastor Pingel’s request for a sabbatical leave.

The Racial Reconciliation Group of Grace Lutheran and Christ Tabernacle Churches has moved forward from discussion to a plan of action with plans for outdoor worship gatherings, food events and combined service projects. The churches have formalized a Christian Coalition for Equality and Justice (CCE&J) with a statement of purpose and goals to be distributed among Waynesboro churches, civic organizations and local government. Council endorsed the statement of purpose (see article elsewhere in this newsletter)

The Council reviewed a copy of “Records Retention Schedule for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America” distributed by the National Office of the ELCA, and approved the methods recommended for keeping and cleaning out records no longer needed.

Because the coronavirus cases and percentages are well within our guidelines for public meetings and declining in numbers, the Council is now considering the resumption of in-person Sunday School, Bible Study Classes, and allowing the use of our facilities by outside social and civic groups beginning this Summer and Fall.

The Mission Endowment Committee is looking for recommendation for distributing this year’s fund of \$27,570. Grant request forms are available in the narthex, church office, and on the church’s website. Requests must be submitted by May 9 for committee and council consideration.

After 28 years in the ministry, Pastor Pingel has requested a sabbatical leave to begin in late 2021 or in 2022, and will supply a proposal to Council at its May meeting.

May 17, 2022

- Pastor's Report – Pastor is especially grateful for the sabbatical support and financial help from Grace. He plans on visiting Germany and Czechia. Also plans a visit to Montgomery AL. to meet with the pastor of the Lutheran Church there. In August, Pastor will travel to a spiritual retreat.
- Our financial deficit is improving with the prepaid amount of \$49,500. Ron will divide this equally until end of the year.
- The council voted to remove the pew tape, begin passing offering plates & returning visitor & communion cards and pencils. However, with the Augusta Health announcement that we are once again in “code orange” the Executive Committee has decided to temporarily retain the tape on the pews.
- Our refugee family is moved in. It took them 48 hours and 12,000 miles to get here from the camp in Tanzania. They were in the camp since 1998. All speak Swahili.
- Roundtable meetings in April addressed Strategic Planning, Sabbatical update, Congregational Engagement, and Community Engagement.
- Grace will be providing a bagged breakfast for Disciples Kitchen on Saturday, May 28th.
- Flowers – we need a person to take over responsibility for our flowers, as Carol Varner is retiring after many years of service.
- We need 1050 meals for the week of June 5-11
- On May 29th we will install our council members for 2022-2023. We will also welcome 4 new members to our church family. Also that day, we will bid a prayerful sending of Pastor Pingel until August 14
- There were 10 requests for grants. All but one were approved.

June 21, 2022

- Ron Almarode reports that the \$5,800 monthly disbursement from advanced pledges will help the May actual -\$1,927 deficit.
- Pastor Mark Radecke spoke of how he was impressed with the funeral of Barb Susen. He was honored to be the officiant.
- The pew tapes have been removed and will stay this way unless the district goes back to “orange” or “red”.
- There will be a celebration for Carol Varner but details have not been finalized yet.
- The Altar Guild will help with flowers for now. Anyone ordering flowers for the altar are welcome to take their flowers home after Sunday morning service. Any flowers not taken after the Sunday service will be donated to Summit Square for their Sunday evening vespers.
- We are invited to join St. James Lutheran and Bethlehem Lutheran for worship outdoors at Barren Ridge winery on Sunday, July 10th and Sunday, August 14th at 11:00 a.m. Grace will have our regular services at 10:00 a.m. on both dates.
- Food donations for Food Pantries still needed, especially with students not getting lunches at school during the summer. Please bring to food box inside office door.

July 19, 2022

- Correspondence – Augusta Health is looking for hospice volunteers.
- Financial Report is looking better. Ron reports only (\$736) deficit for June. This is the last month for parking lot donations. Balance will go to “Capital Improvement” fund. The T & M fund has a balance of \$22,063.52.
- Covid has risen again. Back to mask wearing for the congregation.
- Marge Cloutier reports that Summit Square is so happy for the flowers donated.
- Bob Barrette reports that the Strategic Plan Team is meeting during the summer. There will be five (5) strategic priority planning teams activated this fall with the goal to plan for the future and to include new ideas.
- August 21st will be the first Sunday Pastor Pingel is back!
- Our refugee family is getting Covid tests and vaccines.
- Committee assignments for new council members will be as follows:
 - ◊ Jack Eckstrom – Communication
 - ◊ Bob Barrette – Mission Endowment
 - ◊ Karen Walck – Mission Outreach
 - ◊ Stephen Van Stee – Technology
 - ◊ Susan Myers – Worship & Music

August 16, 2022

- Ron Almarode discussed insurance quote comparison findings. The current Church Mutual contract was renewed.
- Ron Almarode reported a surplus of \$11,423 YTD.
- In December, there should be Christian Education for adults.
- Bob Barrette provided an update on the Strategic Plan.
- An update on the refugee resettlement family reported that all school-aged children are in school and two family members now work at Virginia Panel Corporation. They continue to learn English.
- Fred Biggers will work on this year’s stewardship program with Robin Crowder and the Pastor.

September 20,2022

- Pastor asking Grace members to attend CCE&J meeting on Saturday, October 15th @ 11 am at First Baptist Church. It will be about a 90 minute meeting. Discussion will review the history of the group and the importance of the group.
- Ron Almarode reports that our finances are in better order than previously this year. We are almost \$8,000 over budget.
- The Covid Committee is to meet soon to review and consider current policy and procedure using the CDC's color coding as a guide. Council Members were asked to share their input about our current policy and provided a wide variety of input.
- November 5th is Pete Rufe's funeral. If Covid code is orange or red, only family will be invited to the reception.
- Our refugee family is doing well at work and school. We are grateful for Swahili speakers like Pastor Clair Good of Waynesboro Mennonite Church who have been very helpful in communicating clearly with the family.
- Grace will be joining WARM cold weather shelter this Jan-Feb 2023.
- The back pack group will be filling bags on the stage (fellowship hall). Valley Music Academy has been cooperative and helpful to remove instruments for storage to other areas.

October 18, 2022

- Ron Almarode reported a good surplus in the budget. Donations have been better September and October. The finance committee will be meeting in November to formulate the budget for 2023.
- Covid committee passed 7-0 the new guidelines for in-person worship, which allows communion assistants not to mask except if the CDC risk is “orange” or “high”.
- Strategic Planning Committee met on the 25th after church. Teams are meeting and will present ideas in the near future.
- Our refugee family is thriving in school. The father is taking the drivers written test in Swahili. Pastor is one of his driving instructors.
- WARM – Susan Myers reported there are 7 team leaders for providing meals during Grace’s sponsorship week. There is a NEED for additional volunteers.
- VMA Holiday Concert – December concert date and place forthcoming.
- New Photo Church Directory – Carolyn Hite is taking the lead on this project and needs a photographer. Please let her know or call Grace if you know one.
- Fred Biggers reported on the church property issues: (a) panel at side of church which was run into by car and (b) roof repairs to the concrete decorative shingles. On Saturday, October, 29th, come and help with outdoor cleanup and planting. Need “all hands on deck!”
- A portable sound system will be purchased which will make for easy set up for future sound needs at meeting, outdoors, etc.
- Pastor Mark Radecke asks for Grace's sponsorship for the mission trip to Nicaragua. Look for more information; the congregation is invited to take part. Pastor Radecke also asks for your prayers.

November 15, 2022

- Ron Almarode reported a \$19,000 surplus in the budget. He also reported that Grace received \$32,000 in increased pledges for 2023.
- Congregational Meeting is scheduled for December 11th to approve the budget.
- WARM Cold Weather Shelter is scheduled for December 5-11 and for January 23-30. Volunteers are needed on all days but especially Friday, December 9th, Saturday, December 10th and Sunday, December 11th. Grace will be collecting toiletries and breakfast and snack food items.
- Our refugee family has received their vehicle. The family is now waiting to take the written test which has been delayed twice by the DMV.
- Reminder that the Council person of the week is responsible for the phone messages on Friday and Saturday.
- There will be a new pictorial directory coming in 2023. Carolyn Hite will oversee this project with Jack Eckstrom taking the photos.
- Embrace needs winter clothes for youth such as coats, scarves, hats and gloves as well as sweaters and pants.
- The Christmas Eve services will be held at 5 pm and 8 pm. The Christmas Day service will be at 10 am. December 18th has been scheduled to decorate the church after the service.
- The Christmas Giving Tree is in the nave. Unwrapped gifts are to be brought back by December 4th.
- College care packages will be assembled on November 27th. Those wishing to donate are asked to bring snacks, microwavable popcorn, hot chocolate, etc. to the church.
- Advent begins on November 27th. Wednesday Advent services will be shared by the four Lutheran congregations – St. James Lutheran Church, Zion Lutheran Church, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

December 20, 2022

- The treasurer states that as of November, Grace has \$17,000 surplus. He has received 3 prepayments for 2023 which will be prorated over the year.
- Prayers for the Pingel family as they travel to Jill's mother's memorial service in January.
- If you are NOT vaccinated, please wear a mask in church.
- The refugee children performed in the Westminster Christmas program. A few minor repairs were done to their home.
- WARM cold weather shelter was a huge success due to Susan Myers. She had 75 volunteers from Grace and 5 other churches. VMA also was involved.
- In January, Jack Eckstrom will begin taking pictures. You can bring in your own if you prefer. This is for the new pictorial directory.
- David Schwiesow was voted in for a 3rd term on the Mission Endowment Fund.
- Fred Biggers with help from Ron Myers and Rew Walck, sanded, primed and painted the conference room. It looks spectacular!!
- The Christmas Eve loose offerings will go to Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta.
- Grace is dropping our Twitter account.



Pastor's Report

Pastor's Annual Report

January – We talked about Time. The year 2022 allowed us to think about Time in a way more attuned to the way we have thought about Time in the past, to use it and fill it up with many activities. In a way this brought joy. It brought about the ability to take part in many things without the specter of Covid, or at least without an idea of dealing with Covid. At the same *time*, God calls us to remember, to consider, to stop...which is an invitation to look around, walk around in our daily lives, making space – making time – for God to show us things that our busyness does not allow. This remains an important part of our life together.

February – We talked about Zeal. About Jesus' zeal – what made him motivated, excited, energized – as he walked around (Matthew 9:9), as he encountered the world around him. Zeal is also an important part of our life together at Grace, and we spent a fair amount of 2022 – both the congregation, council and Strategic Planning Team – asking about Grace's Zeal, what energizes us, and therefore what direction God has for us as we continue to be *A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus*. We began to find out a zeal for many members about joining Westminster to sponsor a Refugee family.

March – We talked about God's love in sending the only Son, Jesus to be raised up on the cross for our sake. Jesus' love for the world becomes an example of our love for the world. It is our Lenten journey every year, and it becomes the lens for us to see each other at Grace, to see our neighbors in the world around us, to see what God has in mind as we think about refugees, people of color, people we disagree with, as well as people we are familiar with, people who are easy to be with.

April – We talked about Fear and Love; first, *“Look beneath your fear and you will discover what it is you really care about. What you wish to protect: people, places, things, hopes, dreams.”* (Gareth Higgins) On the cross – especially in John's Gospel, which was our Holy Week gospel this year – Jesus exhibits no fear, only love, and confidence in God's love. We saw how this is happening through Christian Coalition for Equity and Justice (CCE&J), in our new Refugee ministry with Westminster, preparations for Hiker Hostel, and many other acts of service in and around Grace.

Continued

Pastor's Annual Report Continued

May – I talked about Gratitude; to Grace for having (and helping to fund) a sabbatical for your pastor. And gratitude for rest, a time to study the role of Relationship in Racial Equity and Justice, and for the many ways the Holy Spirit makes us the Body of Jesus Christ! We are gifted at Grace with so many people who give of their talent and time in so many ways.

June – August – Grace's ministry continued! And I had many wonderful experiences. A trip to Germany and Czechia; to Montgomery and Selma Alabama, Atlanta, Georgia and Greensboro, NC; numerous local visits with black clergy and laypeople; time to work on projects around the house, garden and orchard. You were blessed with the proclaiming and care of Prs. Van Stee and Radecke; and the work of Council and many lay leaders who continued to serve the Mission God has for us at Grace

September – I reported on my experiences on Sabbatical, how important Relationship is, for Racial Equity and Justice, and for all things, including our relationship together as Grace Evangelical Lutheran church.

October – We talked about who we are – our central Identity, and that is in Jesus Christ. In our world and even in the Church we can start with any of a number of identities that are also a part of our lives; but my sabbatical experiences helped to point to just how centrally important our identity as a brother and sister in Christ is, with all who call on the name of Jesus. To move forward as Grace congregation, as THE Church, as salt and light in this world, Who we Are is centrally important

November – We talked about remembering, about Memory, how whenever we come to the Table of forgiveness we do so with Jesus' words in our ears: *Do this in remembrance of me*. Part of our life of faith is remembering Who we Are, and what God has done for us. We are also called to remember for the sake of one another. I spoke of my travels in Montgomery, Alabama, and how differently the Civil Rights Memorial remembers history, as compared to the Confederate White House museum, two blocks away. Our memory must be tuned to how God wants us to remember, which God reminds us all through The Word.

Continued

December – We talked about the Future. Grace’s Strategic Planning Team is continuing to work diligently on its plan for Grace ahead, and our life together, as well as the future of the “big C” Church in a time of uncertainty. However Advent reminds us of a pattern the Church has followed for two millennia as it has followed the future. We move from birth to death to life again: Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will Come Again. We have faith in the One who offered himself on the cross, so that we might live.

Regardless of what 2023 brings, this is our starting point, this is our reason for Being: it is on our worship walls – how wise were those who put the Word of God on the walls of Grace to surround us and remind us! God so loved the World, and by the stripes of our Lord Jesus, we are healed, and freed to love and serve. So whether we talk about Time, Zeal, Fear, Love, Gratitude, Sabbatical, Identity, Memory, or our Future: we are a people Gathered by God’s Spirit to love, to serve, to be about God’s Mission in our community and world. For this reason we cry out together: Thanks be to God!

**In Christ,
Pastor Paul H. Pingel**

Members Received by Adult Baptism	0
Members Received by Child or Infant Baptism	0
Members Received by Affirmation of Faith	0
Associate Member	0
Members Received by Transfer	4
Members Who Transferred to Other Congregations	2
Members Released to Other Congregations or at Their Request or Removed Through Inactivity	0
Members Who Died in 2022	7
Confirmations	3
Marriages	1
Average Attendance:	
• Worship	69
• Worship Virtual	12
• Sunday Church School (No Sunday School due to Covid)	0

(Those who are confirmed and have communed and contributed of record in this or the presiding calendar year)



Music Director's Report

Good news in the Fall of 2022! We saw a return to a near-normal pace to our music ministry as our worship choir began rehearsing on a regular basis in October! We are blessed to have a number of new members join us this fall in addition to our faithful longer-term members. After a 2 ½ -year absence, I wasn't sure what to expect when we began rehearsing regularly again. We were blessed to have 20 voices for Christmas Eve! The music ministry supported special worship plans for Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, All Saints Sunday, Christ the King Sunday, Advent and Christmas.

Our Handbell Choir continued their regular rehearsals throughout the year - and provided music for us during the Easter and Christmas seasons. Thanks to Sam Moyer and all the Handbell Choir members for your commitment of time and talent. I continue to give thanks for Amber Bokelman, Caroline Biggers, Mike Trauscht, Hannah Pingel, Susan Myers, Jered Stratton and Marit Stratton for their gifts of special music.

We were also blessed by the presence of guest musician Andrew Fauber at both Easter services.

The Worship Choir graciously "adopted" Wenonah Elementary School families this fall by providing non-perishable Thanksgiving meal items for 20 families in the school. Subsequently, choir members purchased toys and clothing for Christmas for three children. The choir donated in excess of \$850 for these initiatives. Additionally, the worship choir continues to support Raising Resources for Readers (3Rs), making donations for several years as a Christmas gift to me.

I am blessed to serve the Grace congregation; I pray we may continue to sing together safely while gathered as a congregation in the coming year!

Mike Myers
Music Director



Council President's Report

Dear Friends and Members of Grace,

This Annual Report will allow you an opportunity to look back at the many ways Christ has served this community through you and Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. We have reached inside our walls and outside of our walls to share in God's grace. We are slowly emerging from a third year of Pandemic, discovering who we are, and rejoicing in the Holy Spirit, our congregation that has proven to be generous, loving, and caring.

In spite of the Pandemic, new respiratory ailments, and an increase in flu, this year seems better. Pastor Paul and Mike Myers have provided leadership to our worship service and continued to bring a rich and joyful message Sunday after Sunday. The choir is beginning to bloom again and some new members have joined. Our hope and blessings seem to be enhanced by our mission and love for one another, while our ability to be agile and receptive has proven to open our doors to new and exciting opportunities.

We continue to appreciate the importance of technology and Owen Keefer's weekly talents of sharing our Sunday worship with those who are homebound or not comfortable in returning to church. He also shares his gifts with the congregation for Annual Meetings, funerals, and other celebrations. Owens dedication and unassuming nature should not be underestimated. His expertise has allowed us to continue our ministry with so many through ZOOM and YouTube. We have learned we can participate in the life of Grace from home, the beach, or during illness, through the commitment and gifts of Owen Keefer.

Nancy Dowdy and her fleet of volunteers have ensured the important administrative work of the church is done with little fanfare. Her bookkeeping expertise, office organization, and creative insights continue to provide our members with the weekly organization needed. Nancy, along with the expertise of Carolyn Hite, have ensured the office is open and ready for business to share in the word and work of Jesus Christ.

While Brad Keefer continues to serve as our in house maintenance consultant, we have benefited from the expertise of Fred Biggers, Rew Walck, and Ron Myers. They have stepped up and provide great leadership to the unending needs of an aging building.

Gwen and Jerry Kite continue to lead our Outreach Mission work. Their ability to provide leadership to multiple projects makes a difference for our community and members of our church. Whether building a ramp, packing meals for children at William Perry and Wenonah Elementary, working with our local homeless populations, serving breakfast and lunch in our community, Gwen and Jerry, along with the grace of God, identify opportunities for our church members to share God's love throughout the community.

Continued

After ten years, Pastor Pingel took advantage of a summer Sabbatical. Grace was blessed to have Rev. Karen Van Stee and Rev. Mark Radecke share their rich, weekly ministry with Grace during Pastor Pingel's absence. We are fortunate they are members of Grace and continue to share their gifts with the congregation.

This year's Stewardship Campaign was a success because of your love for Grace, the whole church, our community, and your commitment to sharing the Good News. This year's theme "Embracing Grace - Generous, Loving, and Caring" certainly represented the members and friends of Grace. While meeting our budget projections, supporting our staff, caring for our building, and supporting our outreach, we were able to have a single campaign and provide benevolence to the larger church. Special thanks to Fred Biggers, Mike Trauscht, and the invaluable counsel of Pastor Paul for their leadership in this year's campaign.

Our Mission Endowment Fund Committee, under the leadership of David Schwiesow, has provided funding to multiple groups throughout our community.

Bob Barrette, along with several members of Grace, have been working on developing a new and dynamic Strategic Plan for our church. "What has God called Grace to do?" Bob and his team have worked to engage our members, ask difficult questions, and pray about our mission and direction for the future. We look forward to the results of this hard work.

We continue to work with our partners at Christ Tabernacle Church of God to create conversation and understanding with diverse groups. The Christian Coalition for Equity and Justice continues to meet on a regular basis for book study, prayer vigils, and pulpit sharing.

This year's engagement with the Congolese family has been an exciting and rich opportunity to share God's love. Many of our members share their gifts of time, resources, transportation, tutoring and so much more with our refugee family's transition into a new and different world. Grace, along with Westminster Presbyterian Church, have embraced this family as they adjust to a new and exciting life.

Our church continues as a hub for our community by providing space for the Valley Music Academy, the Newcomers Club of Waynesboro, a local Bridge Club, Saturday morning and Wednesday Yoga classes, the Grace Quilters, and many others.

The Pastor continues to offer "New Member" classes to those interested in joining Grace, providing several Bible Study groups throughout the year, and Catechism to our teens.

Continued

You, along with so many, certainly represent the Body of Christ at Grace. There are way too many unsung heroes that show up day in and day out to do the work of the church. A few that come to mind are Donna Gum who works tirelessly to ensure Assisting Ministers are in place each week and serves as the Chairman of Music and Worship. Carolyn Hite, who willingly shares her gifts in the office when Nancy is on vacation or just needs another hand. Pat Brady provides leadership in organizing individuals to count the weekly offering and get it to the bank. We are fortunate to have Susan Myers take on the organization of this year's WARM Cold Weather Shelter at Grace. Sylvia Almarode and Caroline Biggers organize, cook, decorate, and provide leadership to receptions, special events, and funerals. Their hard work reaches so many and provides wonderful fellowship to so many. Bob Barrette's work with the Back Pack program ensures reliable delivery and pickup of food to so many families in our community. Jean Morgan who silently steps up to any task needing support. Special thanks to Vivian Proctor for serving the Congregation Council as its secretary this past year. And we cannot forget those that deliver communion to those confined to their homes, in rehabilitation services, or hospitalized. We have so many individuals that work with Christian Education, the Back Pack Program, Disciples Kitchen, WARM, Music and Worship, pick up cardboard, decorating the church when needed, provide inside and outside maintenance, individuals sharing their talent of instrumental music and incredible solos, ushers, Catechism instructors and mentors, along with members that call individuals and reach out to those in need. We must lift up Linda Tomey and her outreach each week to visitors coming to Grace. And this year, we were able to thank Carol Varner for her decades of service to ensuring flowers were decorating the church each week. I know there are many others, but these are a great representation of our congregation, knowing there are so many others. Yes, Grace represents the Body of Christ and each of you makes a difference. Thank you.

I would also like to lift up those individuals currently on your Church Council: Fred Biggers, Bob Barrette, Jack Eckstrom, Jean Morgan, Susan Myers, Nancy Schwiesow (Vice President), Andrew Sell, and Stephen Van Stee. These individuals work hard for you! They are reflective, thoughtful, and prayerful in their decision making. Their leadership and commitment to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and its mission are always at the forefront of every decision they make. Please take time out of your busy schedules and thank these individuals.

Your continued support of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is so important as we move into 2023. Each of you brings new life to this congregation and allows our reach to be great and meaningful. It is through God's gentle touch and embrace, that you make a difference for each other inside and outside of the church. Our church family and God's good news is stronger because of you.

Please take the time to read and review this Annual Report and make plans to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 19th.

**In Christ,
Robin Crowder, President
Congregation Council**

Congregation Engagement Round Table Reports

Christian Education and Youth



In 2022, Pastor Paul - in the late Summer and Fall - began to visit families with children. The conclusion of those visits indicated that there was not an interest in Sunday School, but instead an interest in events that encouraged Fellowship and Stewardship.

A trio of interested adults: Peggy Caister, Kate Van Bremen and Stephen Van Stee, have met to bring new energy and perspective to our Christian Education and Youth efforts. We had an Ice Cream Social in October, which was lightly but enthusiastically attended.

Through the Winter, Spring – and also starting anew in November, Grace Youth have participated with four other congregations - First Baptist, St. John Episcopal, St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic, and Westminster Presbyterian - in an *Ecumenical Service Youth Group*, bi-monthly (every two month) events, serving in the community. Service projects have been:

- Helping at the WARM House
- Working on a YMCA playground project
- Helping at Embrace Community Center, specifically with the Green Hanger project, which offers clothing to children and youth in our area.

We continue to offer attendance at the nationally recognized Virginia Synod Youth Events that are held at Eagle Eyrie. Thus far we have had no takers, but hope to encourage children and youth to try them out in 2023.

Adult Christian Education – We have continued to offer weekday Bible studies on Thursday mornings and evenings. In the Fall, Pastor Karen Van Stee has offered Sunday School classes in-person using the Book of Faith series offered by the ELCA. She has offered a study of the gospel of Matthew.

(Early 2023) – in response to renewed interest in Sunday School for Children, there is an attempt to revive a multi-generational class for children on Sunday mornings.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Paul Pingel**



Confirmation Class



Confirmation

In 2022 and 2023, two Confirmands – Kiera Mahoney and Libby Caister – have been taught by Pastor Paul and Fred Biggers. In Winter and Spring, the Confirmands have been studying the New Testament – gospels, the book of Acts, the letters, and Revelation.

This Fall, Kiera and Libby have begun to study the Small Catechism and the “basics of faith” contained therein: The Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, the Lord’s Prayer and the Sacraments. Kiera is in her third year, and is scheduled to be confirmed in 2023. Libby is in her second year.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Paul Pingel**



Communications

Our Communications at Grace continue to be a “work in transition.” We are grateful to Jennifer Fetterman for being our Communications chairperson for a majority of 2022. Near the end of the year, Jennifer stepped down because of new employment that keeps her out of town (Richmond) for extended periods, which has limited her time to devote to Grace’s communications. Nonetheless, she continues to post on Facebook for Grace. We’re grateful for her work and energy.

Pr. Gordon Putnam, in addition to serving St. James Lutheran Church part-time, continues to revise the website whenever requested. We’re thankful for his time and energy.

Owen Keefer continues to offer consistent, excellent coverage of our worship services, and other special events through Grace’s YouTube channel. He has begun to have our Confirmation students help him with controlling the audio and cameras for our worship services.

An emphasis of our Strategic Planning Committee in 2023 is going to be our Communications at Grace. Rather than being reactive (oh, yeah we need to put this and such event on the website), we hope to have a more pro-active program that anticipates our calendar, educates our congregation better about what is going on at Grace, and to improve our graphics and accessibility, especially on electronic forms of communication.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Paul Pingel**



Support and Fellowship

Dinners and Receptions

Although the Covid Pandemic has continued to affect the work of the Support and Fellowship Committee, members and families have found creative ways to honor the loss of a loved one and have a few small celebratory receptions.

The use of the CDC's weekly "color thermometer" served as a guide for families when deciding whether to be able to have private receptions or receptions for the entire congregation in our Fellowship Hall. Some families opted to have receptions off grounds.

Our group was able to have a few small receptions in the back of the church with optional masking, as well as the larger "welcome back" and "thank you" reception for Pastor Pingel, Pastor Van Stee, and Pastor Radecke after Pastor Pingel returned from his Sabbatical Leave.

The Support and Fellowship Committee has continued to take food to families in need and help those who need care in other ways.

We are looking forward to the "First Sunday Fellowships," which will be held after worship in the Fellowship Hall on the first Sunday of each month. This will be a time for the various groups/committees to host brief snacks and the opportunity to educate the congregation on their group's various missions/jobs.

Dottie Sheaffer
Sylvia Almarode
Caroline Biggers
Karen Walck

(our newest member, who has helped tremendously!!)



Worship and Music

Grace's worship returned to some normalcy in 2022 with COVID guidelines set forth by the COVID Committee. The Worship and Music Committee is part of the Round Table meetings under Community Engagement but meets separately as well to work out worship details.

Grace began Lent with Ash Wednesday Services in the morning at Grace and then a joint service with First Baptist Church. The Waynesboro Lutheran Churches combined to have weekly Lenten Services on Wednesday nights.

Palm Sunday Service began on the front lawn of Grace with an Ecumenical Procession of the Palms with these churches: Basic United Methodist Church, Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, Main Street United Methodist Church, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, Pleasant View United Methodist Church, St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, Steadfast Church of God in Christ, Waynesboro Mennonite Church, Waynesboro Seventh Day Adventist Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. After the service concluded, the assembled began singing "All Glory Laud and Honor" before retuning to their respective churches.

Holy Week began with Maundy Thursday Services held in the morning and at night which concluded with the Stripping of the Altar. The Good Friday Service included Tenebrae highlighting the Seven Last Words of Jesus while on the cross and concluded with the Bidding Prayer and Adoration of the Cross. Holy Week ended with the Easter Vigil Service including Procession of Light, reading of the Old Testament Lessons, and Holy Communion.

Easter Sunday Services were held at 8:30 and 11:00 featuring festival music provided by the Adult Choir, vocal solos and a Brass Ensemble.

Carol Varner was recognized for her many years of overseeing altar flowers each Sunday. Members are now encouraged to sign up to give flowers each Sunday and let the church Administrative Secretary know. You may take them after the service or allow the flowers to be taken to Summit Square for their Sunday afternoon chapel service. Thanks to Marge Cloutier for taking on this task.

Grace welcomed Pastors Karen Van Stee and Mark Radecke who supplied the pulpit and performed other pastoral duties as needed while Pastor Pingel was on sabbatical leave this summer.

Continued

As Grace wound down the Narrative Lectionary this Fall, Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, and Christ the King Sunday were emphasized in the hymns and anthems.

Beginning with Advent I, Grace returned to the 3 Year Lectionary. In addition to Sunday services in Advent, midweek services were held at one of the Waynesboro area Lutheran Churches.

Many thanks to all who cut greenery at the Binns property and set up the outdoor Advent Wreath. The News-Virginian newspaper had a picture of it with other area holiday décor. Thanks to Jean Morgan and Fred Biggers for putting up the Advent wreath and the Bethlehem Star in the sanctuary. A special thank you to Brad and Wilda Keefer for putting up the Advent Wreath and maintaining the greenery for many years!

Thanks to all who helped in any way to decorate for Christmas and then to decorate the church after Epiphany.

Thanks to the Adult Handbell and Choirs for providing glorious music for the Christmas Eve Services. This was the 1st Christmas Eve since the beginning of the Pandemic in 2020 that the Choirs were able to rehearse and provide music for services.

Thanks to the Ushers and / or the Assisting Ministers for serving as Crucifers and Acolytes.

Many thanks to these Worship & Music people who help to enhance our worship experience for services. Their reports follow this report.

Adult Choir—Mike Myers
Altar Guild—Jean Morgan
Assisting Ministers—Donna Gum
Bell Choir—Sam Moyer
Flowers—Nancy Dowdy
Easter Lilies and Christmas Poinsettias--Jane Stein
Eucharistic Ministers—Pastor Pingel
Sound /Video System—Owen Keefer
Ushers—Jack Eckstrom

Soli Deo Gloria!

Donna Gum
Worship and Music Chair



Coronavirus Committee

Grace's Coronavirus Team has continued to meet in 2022, revising our policies and procedures to reflect the trends of Covid and other Viruses that continue to impact our lives and community.

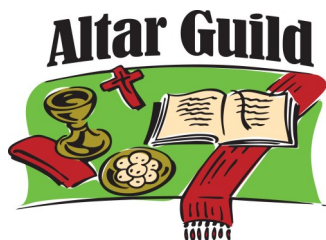
We're grateful to Ron Almarode, Robin Crowder, Jack Eckstrom, Gail Johnson, Owen Keefer, Jerry Kite, Linda Meyer, and Mike Myers for their service through the Coronavirus Committee.

This committee revised our Coronavirus protocols to reflect the "color" risk schedule provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The color Orange indicates a high risk of Covid in our area; Yellow indicates a medium risk and Green a low risk.

While we began 2022 continuing to mask, requiring masking if we were in an Orange (high risk) situation in Waynesboro and Augusta County, by the Fall of the year, the Committee, after much discussion, decided to let the consciences of our membership determine whether a mask should be worn at Church activities. If we are in an Orange risk level, the Committee nonetheless agreed that Communion assistants remain required to mask in such a circumstance. A notice continuing to recommend masking in high risk situations and if a person has not been vaccinated continues to be posted in our bulletins.

Ron Almarode has graciously agreed to serve as the Covid Committee chairperson in 2023. Ron will convene the committee regularly to review our continuing policy

**Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Paul Pingel**



Altar Guild

Altar Guild would like to thank Pastor Pingel, our church secretary, Nancy Dowdy, and many of our church members for their help and guidance throughout the year. Many thanks to the dedicated group of volunteers who prepare the altar for all communion services: Cathy Firkin and Jane Stein, Lisa and Glen Gray, Kathy Meicke setup and cleanup by Gail Johnson and Holly Carper, Susan Myers and Gloria Nelson. Thank you also to Antoinette Eckstrom and Cathy Firkin for keeping the altar linens clean and fresh, to Marge Cloutier for filling the individual Communion Boxes each month, to Dave Proctor for helping with filling the altar candles and candle lighters with oil and to those who helped fill and refill the small candles for Christmas Eve and Holy Week.

During this year, Carol Varner decided to retire from the preparation of altar flowers for services. We miss her beautiful flower work very much. We have been able to make an agreement with Waynesboro Florist, Inc. for weekly altar flowers to be available. Summit Square has agreed to give these flowers a home for their vespers services with Marge Cloutier and friends doing the transport to Summit.

If you would like to consider joining the altar guild please contact Jean Morgan at home, 540-943-1929, or through email, jc321morgan@ntelos.net, or call the church office and leave a message with Nancy that you would like to be contacted.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Jean Morgan
Altar Guild Coordinator**



2022 Assisting Ministers/Communion Assistants



The liturgy of the Church is the vehicle through which the tone of worship is established and the practice of worship is implemented. The assisting ministers are one of the integral leaders in the service as they give of their time and talent to read the lessons, prepare and pray the prayers of the church, and assist with the Holy Communion distribution, by giving the bread. Members also read the lessons for the Maundy Thursday, Easter Vigil, and Christmas Eve Family Service. They are also requested to read and or serve as Communion Assistants upon the family's request at Funerals / Memorial Services. Many thanks to all of you for a job well done in 2022.

Assisting Ministers and Readers: Ron Almarode, Fred Biggers, Kathy Bump, Cathy and Robin Crowder, Tripp Franklin, Donna Gum, Marsha Howard, Gail Johnson, Wilda Keefer, Brian Lundstrom, Linda Meyer, Susan Myers, Gloria Nelson, Andrew Sell, Ashley Stollings, Mike Trauscht, Stephen Van Stee, and Lew Yobs.

Communion Assistants in Addition to Assisting Ministers: Thea Franklin, Quinn Franklin, Carrie Jones, Jerry Kite, Jim Nelson, and Karen Walck.

Readers in the Easter Vigil Readings: Ron Almarode, Libby and Cabell Caister; Kiera Mahoney, Susan Myers, and Gloria Nelson.

During 2022, families read lessons and placed the Holy Family in the Creche for the Christmas Eve Services. They were: Jessi Blosser, Kiera and Zoey Mahoney; Amber and Isabelle Bokelman; Kris, Peggy, Cabell and Libby Caister; Tripp, Jean, Quinn, Brodie, Thea, Sloane, and Trotter Franklin; and Eric, Rachel, Emma, Esme, and Maella Hilker.

Adults and children are invited to assist in the worship life of Grace Church.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Donna Gum.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Gum**



Worship and Sunday School Attendance

In 2022, Worship Attendance In-Person became more routine with the passing months. What was also discovered is an interesting by-product of Covid: We are consistently experiencing solid in-person attendance, while our “live” YouTube streaming also remains consistent week-to-week in Grace members and friends attending worship via YouTube. The interesting result is that average worship attendance has reached pre-Covid levels, if we count those who attend Live via YouTube, and use the ELCA-recommended multiplier of 1.5 on our YouTube views (example: 10 live users on YouTube = 15 viewers; if we have 80 in attendance and 10 watching Live via YouTube, we figure on 95 in attendance on that Sunday).

The key, of course is not numbers, but our gathering to Hear the Word, Share in the Sacrament, and be Sent into the World as Ambassadors for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20), God making his appeal through us!

**Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Paul Pingel**

Worship & SCS Attendance (Average per Month) 2022														
2022	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Christmas Eve	185
10:00 Service	43	57	62	74	75	66	68	79	67	75	64	72	Christmas Eve Virtual	17
Virtual	23	18	8	10	14	9	12	10	8	10	11	11	Easter	86
SCS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Easter Virtual	6



Community Engagement Round Table Reports

Evangelism

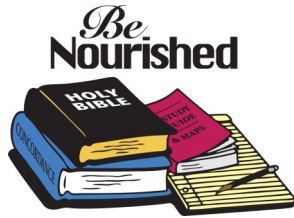
Over many years, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church was blessed with the many gifts of Dick and Linda Tomey who worked tirelessly on Evangelism. Their weekly greetings, warm invitation to new members, and weekly phone calls to so many have been a model to all of us. Linda Tomey has continued to share her many gifts with visitors and friends. Our congregation is blessed by her ongoing engagement.

Evangelism means “bringer of good news”. The truth is, all of us are responsible for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Our mission statement says “we are servants sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus”.

Evangelism may seem a little more difficult during a Pandemic or post Pandemic, but we have learned our reach and mission involves all of us. We continually share our reach inside and outside of Grace sharing in the good news.

As you ask “What am I called to do?”, please consider adding your leadership to Evangelism. Do not hesitate to contact Nancy Schwiesow or the Pastor, if you would be interested in becoming more involved with Evangelism at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**Respectfully submitted,
Robin Crowder**



All God's Children **(formerly the Grace Anti-Racist Book Group)**

In early 2022, the Grace book study group adopted the name **All God's Children** to reflect the fact that all are equal in God's eye. We have met twice monthly via Zoom and in person to discuss racial equity, justice, truth telling and transformation through books, videos and current events.

During the year we read and discussed three books: *A Knock at Midnight* by Brittany Barnett (the story of her struggle to help young Black women and men who are casualties of the war on drugs); *His Truth is Marching On* (John Meecham's intimate and revealing portrait of civil rights icon John Lewis) and *The Flag and the Cross* by Samuel Perry and Phillip Gorski (an analysis and discussion of White Christian Nationalism and its threat to American democracy).

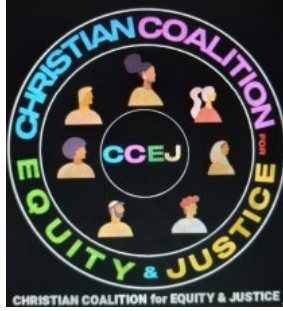
We also watched and discussed a web-cast from the organization Christians Against Christian Nationalism entitled *Democracy and Faith Under Siege: Responding to Christian Nationalism*. This discussion is available on line and includes extended contributions from the Most Rev. Michael Curry, presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church and Rev. Elisabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. The book and the webcast were the subject of a Grace Notes article.

Our group's major outreach initiative to the wider congregation was the gift of an extensive lending library of books for all ages regarding racism and racial justice. This was introduced with a Temple Talk by Linda Meyer and a reception in early May. The books were well used during the month the library resided in the narthex and remain available permanently in the Church Library.

We are always ready to welcome new members (as Linda said in her Temple Talk, we are not a secret society) to join us on the first and third Mondays of every month at 7:00 pm in the Church Conference Room. We will be starting 2023 focusing on steps communities have taken toward truth telling and healing.

In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. Galatians 3:28 (The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language)

Bob and Carolyn Barrette
Rick and Kathy Bump
Lisa Gray
Linda Meyer
Pastor Paul Pingel
Pastor Gordon Putnam
Donna Yobs



Christian Coalition for Equity & Justice 2022

Grace-Christ Tabernacle Discussion and Fellowship Group

Members of Grace and Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ continued meeting by Zoom throughout 2022, led by Bishop C.D. Brown and Pastor Pingel and sharing leadership with group members. CCE&J continued the work of “falling in love” with each other and building on the goal of becoming a resource for this community. New members were recruited this year and goals for involving the two congregations more fully and including members of other congregations were established for 2023.

Progress/Activities for 2022 included:

Spiritual Engagement/Devotional

- The monthly Prayer Vigil to pray for racial reconciliation in our community was held outside at Waynesboro parks, North Park and Constitution Park on alternate months
- Prayer and consideration of each other’s beliefs – much conversation in the weekly meetings involved understanding each church’s faith practices and beliefs, gaining understanding where we diverge or disagree, and agreeing to work together beyond our differences. We watched and discussed *Rick Steves; Luther and the Reformation (2017)* and *The Story of C.H. Mason and the Development of the Church of God in Christ (1993)*.
- Pastor Pingel shared some of his findings from his summer 2022 sabbatical to study the role of relationship in fighting racism and inequity in the church and in our world.
- Each meeting includes prayer for each other, the churches, the community, and petitions for racial unity and justice.

Community Service

- February 2022 – Members from both congregations volunteered to help the Boys and Girls Club move back into their renovated facility, helping to clean, put up shelves and paper towel dispensers, putting computer desks together, stocking the children’s library, etc.
- December 2022 - Members from both congregations volunteered to help with the WARM shelter at Grace, fixing a meal, cleaning up and doing the laundry from the showers, etc.
- Spring 2022 – the two congregations raised funds to send to Project Esperanza, a school for immigrant and refugee Haitian children that is in the Dominican Republic. Over \$5000 was sent to the school.

Fellowship

- October 2022 – CCE&J sponsored a Forum for both congregations to update members of Grace and Christ Tabernacle about how CCE&J has evolved as an active group and to begin to open membership in the group to a wider representation from both congregations.
- Fall 2022 – in addition to regular weekly meetings, the group began meeting in person one time a month on the first Thursday of the month as Covid restrictions relaxed.
- While Covid has limited the opportunities for both congregations to meet in person, the group still intends to increase the activities in the new year with a goal of having the two congregations share in worship and fellowship.

Community Engagement

- A goal of CCE&J is: To become a resource in the community in the areas of equity and justice. We recognize that racism is a sin, and like sin it will always be with us in some form. It is our job as members of the Church to stand against it every time we witness evidence of it.
- The group discussed local and national issues affecting people of African descent, and planned to begin sending representatives to both the Waynesboro School Board and City Council meetings to help keep the group informed and to be a presence in the community. Members began attending School Board meetings in the Fall. Follow-up meetings with the Waynesboro Police Department are also planned for 2023.
- The group encouraged new member Kenny Lee in his successful run to serve on the Waynesboro City Council representing Ward C.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Meyer**

Stewardship Report



Faith in Action/Stewardship

This year we were fortunate to participate in the Synod's Stewardship training. The program titled "Stewardship for all Seasons" is a two year commitment providing training, a website resources, proofreaders, and a creative design team to work with each church. The training, done through Zoom, allowed churches in Virginia and North Carolina to participate jointly and share their successes and recommendations to the larger group. The materials, training, and staff were excellent.

As we completed the Stewardship Ministry campaign, "Embracing Grace - Generous, Loving, and Caring" for this year, your many gifts and contributions has allowed Grace to continue our mission work, support our staff, increase our maintenance budget, and provide benevolence to the greater church. Our campaign was successful because of YOU and God's grace. Thank you!

Clearly our congregation is "Generous, Loving, and Caring", and a second appeal was not necessary. Our 2023 Budget has increased approximately 9.5% and will help in combating inflation, provide a Cost of Living increase for our employees, and provide additional support to the maintenance budget. The average pledge increased \$1,200 and several new pledges were received. Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is truly a light in our community and touches the lives of many as we continue to reach beyond our walls to share in the Word and Work of Jesus Christ.

Our second year in this consortium on Stewardship will provide ongoing training in areas of Leadership, Communication, Stewardship, and Volunteer development.

Special thanks to Fred Biggers, Mike Trauscht, and counsel from Pastor Pingel for working on this committee. Of course, it cannot be said enough that Nancy Dowdy's skills, data entry, and insights in our annual budget were important throughout our Stewardship Campaign. And at the end of the day, Ron Almarode and the Finance Committee worked hard to balance our budget, ensure growth for 2023, and keep our mission at the forefront of all we do in the sharing of the word and work of Jesus Christ.

Embracing Grace - Generous, Loving, and Caring! Amen!

Robin Crowder
Stewardship Chairman



Mission Outreach Team

Mission Programs

Grace Mission Outreach programs continue to support a variety of programs with emphasis on supporting needs in our community. We are thankful for the dedication of our members who have helped this year. Grace volunteers helped with a wide range of projects from home repairs, preparing meals and feeding the hungry in a variety of programs in Waynesboro and Augusta County. We prepared food backpacks for weekend needs for both William Perry Elementary School and Wenonah Elementary school children during the school year. We continued to provide Christmas presents for needy families with the annual Christmas Giving Tree program. We continued to adopt a room at the Ruth WARM home for women and children and provided breakfast and lunches for the WARM Homeless Shelter at local motels. Grace hosted the WARM cold weather shelter December 5 to 12. Grace also participated in the area's annual CROP Walk with members walking in this year's event. This year the designated funds from the Christmas Eve service went to support Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta. Thanks to all our members who help to support Grace's Outreach Mission.

Supported programs and projects included:

- Back Packs for William Perry and Wenonah Elementary Schools
- Christmas Giving Tree
- Disciples Kitchen breakfasts at Second Presbyterian Church
- Disciples Kitchen lunches at Second Presbyterian Church
- Kiva
- WARM Homeless Shelter support with meals
- WARM Homeless Shelter Cold Weather shelter
- WARM room sponsorship at the WARM Ruth House
- Waynesboro and Augusta County CROP Walk
- Collected food for Main Street UMC and Calvary UMC food pantries
- Grace Walkers
- Renewing Homes work projects
- Grace and Westminster support and sponsorship area refugee family
- Annual Hiker Hostel
- World Hunger and Disaster Relief

Area Food Pantry



Thanks to those who have donated peanut butter, mac 'n cheese, personal hygiene items , dried rice, beans and other items at Grace which we have delivered to Main Street UMC and Calvary UMC food pantries during 2022. We will continue to have our donation box inside the office door for food collection in 2023.

Backpacks



Grace members have developed two packing teams this year and we have partnered with St. John's Catholic Church with each church packing every other week to support Waynesboro School's program to provide food over the weekend for children in need. This year we are packing for both William Perry Elementary School and Wenonah Elementary School children. We started packing again in September for the new school year with 126 bags being packed each week for the two schools.

Crop Walk



The Grace Lutheran Church 2022 CROP Walk Team raised \$946.00. The Waynesboro August County Walk raised a total of \$20,512. A portion of this total will stay here to assist The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Disciples Kitchen, Meals on Wheels and The Salvation Army. Thank you to everyone who walked or donated to the team in 2022.

Karen Walck

Disciples Kitchen



We continue to support the Disciples Kitchen program by providing carry out meals for Saturday breakfast and Thursday lunches at Second Presbyterian Church. We served both meal programs once every other month for those in need during 2022. Grace also collected personal care items for Second Presbyterian Church Disciples Kitchen Christmas gift bags.

Hiker Hostel



We were blessed to be able to open the Grace Hiker Hostel again in 2022, after a two-year Covid-induced hiatus. Our plan to have it open on May 23 was routed by the color of the infection status in the area, but we were able to open for three weeks starting May 30 until June 19, the height of the northbound thru-hiker season. Many thanks to all who helped by setting up, donating snacks, cooking meals, volunteering for check-in or overnight shifts, and closing down and cleaning up! We hosted a total of 107 hiker nights (some stayed for one night, others two) for people who genuinely appreciated Grace Lutheran Church's hospitality and the comfort, peace, quiet, and safety of our facility. Thank you, people of Grace!

Woody and I hope to return again in the spring of 2023, opening the Hiker Hostel from Monday, May 22 until Saturday, June 17 - excluding Saturday and Sunday nights.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Irma and Woody Graf**

Grace Walkers



A walking group meets on Thursday morning at 8:30 in Grace's parking lot to walk the green way.

Local Ministry and Giving Tree



Local Ministry members Sarah Kite, Sharon Lynch, Susie Driskill and Jane Stein.

This year for the Giving Tree, the Salvation Army gave us sixteen (16) children. We provided at least five (5) gifts per child for Christmas.

We also have received several requests from the Salvation Army to help pay bills for clients.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Stein**

Quilts Lutheran World Relief



The Grace quilting team started again this fall making quilts for Lutheran World Relief.



***Report of the Joint
Grace-Westminster Presbyterian
Refugee Resettlement Program***

“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:1-2)

In January 2022, we began discussing sponsorship of a refugee family in response to the overwhelming need for sponsors in our area for refugees from Afghanistan and around the world. Following is a timeline and brief description of our work to date.

January – We agreed and Congregation Council endorsed our request to partner with Westminster Presbyterian Church in sponsoring an Afghan family in our area. Over 20 members from Grace volunteered to help in some capacity. Pastor Pingel and Linda Meyer coordinated Grace Church’s participation.

February – We began preparing to welcome an Afghan family in partnership with Westminster Presbyterian Church, studying the culture of the potential family and their needs. They are strangers, “aliens in this land,” to use a biblical phrase, and showing hospitality and love to them, helping them to make their way is a powerful way that we can show God’s love where we live.

March – We searched for a rental property that would allow us to start hosting and helping a refugee family begin their new life in Waynesboro, with the aim to help them settle into a place to live, find a job, learn about life in this area, and enable their children to go to school. We received offers of help from St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church and other groups in the city.

April – OOPS, reality check! For many months, we anticipated hosting a refugee family, and often spoke about Afghan Refugees. As we readied for sponsorship of a refugee family, we were informed that the family is from the Democratic Republic of Congo. When we first began working with Church World Service of Harrisonburg, they had just accepted over 70 Afghan immigrants who were staying at Massanetta Springs, but these asked to stay in the Harrisonburg area. Church World Service also told us at the beginning that the group of refugees they worked with most often were from the Democratic Republic of Congo. With joy and a little trepidation because of the short time for getting ready, we shifted our preparations and learning to welcome a family from the Congo.

Continued

Because of the ongoing terrible civil war in Rwanda and the Congo, the father and mother of our family of eight moved to Nyaerugusu Refugee Camp from the Congo in 1998. Located in Tanzania, it is the largest United Nations Refugee Camp in the world; though designed for 50,000 people, over 137,000 people now live there. Jules and Masoka were both teenagers when they escaped the Congo and they met in the refugee camp. Their children have lived there their entire lives!. The 21, 10, 7, 5, 3 and 9 month old children had known nothing but the camp. All speak Swahili; the father also spoke some French, and 21 year old son spoke English as well. The family are classified as refugees. The official definition of a refugee means that they are unsafe to return to their own country; they risk death or violence if they try to go back. This qualifies them in the U.S. for refugee status.

The teams scrambled to equip a house in Waynesboro for a family of eight – supplying everything from toilet paper and cleaning supplies to furniture, linens, rugs, cooking utensils and food, basic medicines and hygiene supplies, etc.

They arrived in the U.S. in Harrisonburg on Wednesday, April 27th, after 48 hours of travel. They were greeted by a brother and family of the wife's, with shouts of joy and hugs. Phiston, the 21 year old, entered the house where they stayed for the next four days, bounded up the steps, and exclaimed with absolute excitement: “We are in America!”

May – Our refugee family moved into their new home on May 2nd, and they and we began the enormous work of learning about each other and helping them get settled. This included getting medical care set up, seeking jobs for the adults, enrolling the adults in English classes, and beginning to make contact with the schools for the children. Pastor Pingel began teaching Jules to drive.

June/July – During the summer both pastors were on sabbatical, but the welcome teams stayed busy with the family. Jules and Phiston went to work at Virginia Panel. Bikes were donated to the family to help them get out and about (since none of them had driver's licenses). The family was introduced to shopping in and around Waynesboro, visited the parks, completed health check-ups and vaccinations. The adults obtained DMV identification cards and they learned a little about taking the Brite bus to get around town. Financial education is ongoing and has included setting up bank accounts, learning how to use their accounts and debit cards, and budgeting and keeping track of their finances. The children played and learned almost daily with our volunteers and their children, as we worked to prepare them for starting school.

Continued

August/September - So much excitement! School began on the 9th and Masoka had all four of the school-aged children dressed and ready to go when our Welcome Team arrived at 6:45 a.m. to help them learn the way to the bus. Three of them are now in school at William Perry and Mapendo is in Headstart at Wayne Hills. Everyone continues to do well! Their bus drivers brag on how good they are on the bus. The littlest member of the family, Happy, started to walk and turned 1 year old. Phiston and Chukizo (the 10 year old) were able to join soccer leagues and they both had successful seasons. The family has opened their home to us and have graciously accepted us being constantly in and out of their home and involved in the most personal aspects of their lives. We rejoiced that God has allowed us to be a part of their lives.

October - The children continued thrive in school, and Masoka is doing well in her Zoom English class. Jules prepared to take the drivers written test in Swahili to obtain a learner's permit.

November/December - The Madawa/Mmeswa family continues to be busy learning to create a life in America. Learning about bill paying and comparison shopping and American traditions and practices keep them (and the Welcome Team) on their toes! They learned about Thanksgiving and about our various Christmas traditions. While they come from a Christian background they have not had the experiences of Christmas trees and lots of lights and all that goes with our particular ways to celebrate the birth of Jesus – as well as all the secular ways that Christmas is celebrated in America. The children participated in the children's Christmas pageant at our partner church, Westminster Presbyterian.

2023 – We look forward to helping this family become independent and integrated into the community, backing off of our constant support as they grow in their ability to live on their own. We anticipate Jules becoming a driver and we are planning for them to have a donated vehicle when the time comes. Masoka hopes to be able to work to help support the family as her English proficiency improves, and Phiston is looking at the possibility of continuing his education at community college.

Many, many thanks to each of you who have kept the family and the Welcome Team in prayer, for your generous donations of gift cards, school snacks, clothing, and your time and welcome with this wonderful family as they attend our worship services and negotiate life in Waynesboro. We are also grateful for Swahili speakers like Pastor Clair Good of Waynesboro Mennonite Church and Chris Sati of Waynesboro High School who have been very helpful in communicating clearly with the family. We are blessed to be a blessing – and blessed by their presence among us!

Renewing Home Augusta Projects



Grace worked on eight projects this year for home repair projects for families of home owners in need. Our projects this year included building or repairing wheelchair ramps, building a deck and roof repairs to a home plus other repairs.

WARM Ministry



Grace continues to support the Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry or WARM which provides shelter for the area's homeless adults through their Cold Weather Shelter and their Ruth WARM House for women and children. We continue to sponsor a room at the WARM Ruth House. We hosted the cold weather homeless shelter December 5 to 12 at Grace and averaged 25 guests eating each evening during our week. We also provided both breakfast and lunches several weeks plus snacks and additional supplies while WARM was holding their motel shelter during the first half of 2022.

Due to COVID-19, these programs were cancelled:

- Meals to Homebound
- Rise Against Hunger

World Hunger and Disaster Relief

KIVA



Kiva is a 501c non-profit organization headquartered in San Francisco, California, that allow people to lend money via the Internet to low-income entrepreneurs and students in 78 countries. Kiva's mission is "to expand financial access to help underserved communities thrive."

**Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Lucas**



Support Round Table Reports

Church Property

In March 2022, Fred Biggers, Ron Myers and Rew Walck took over Property Maintenance duties from Bradley Keefer, who has been maintaining the church property since 1966! For the first few months, the three (3) Property Team Members worked with Brad to learn the locations and inner workings of the church's property infrastructure.

With Brad's continued input, we are presently chasing a persistent leak in the front roof facing Wayne Avenue. We are exploring our different options for repairs or replacement. We are also looking into smaller persistent leaks on both the 13th Street entrance in the gutter system/flat roof system and also leaks above the VMA side entrance.

We would like to thank Ron Almarode and Donna Marshall for their help with accounts payable and property invoice check writing. Many thanks to Eddie Etter for his continued electrical repair assistance.

Thanks go out to many individuals who have helped ou with the Spring and Fall Property Work Days: Glen Grey, Lee Lynch, Fred and Caroline Biggers, Ron and Roxanne Myers, Charlie and Betty Wilson and Paul Pingel.

Thanks go out to Jack Eckstrom for monthly card board and recycle collection. To Brad Keefer for obtaining supplies such as paper towels, garbage bags, and other Maintenance supplies. And, to Owen Keefer for setting timers and thermostats and checking for doors being locked and closed.

Lastly, special thanks go to Roger and Willie Clark who work hard to clean all church areas, hallways, offices, sanctuary and fellowship hall spaces.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Fred Biggers**

2022 Property Maintenance Timeline

January

- Ronnie Ritchie Service Company—Replaced HVAC in office area
- Doug Cash/Gary Whitesell—Removed snow (5 times)
- Ronnie Ritchie—Surveyed Columbarium drain

February

- Doug Cash/Gary Whitesell—Removed snow (3 times)

March

- Spring Work Day— church grounds—mulched and cleaned-up beds

April

- Ronnie Ritchie Service Company—Repaired sink, serviced air conditioner filters

May

- Security Team Inc.—Inspected alarm system

June

- Ronnie Ritchie Service Company—Roto-rooted drain lines from Columbarium to 13th Street
- Quality Lawn Care, Inc.—Mowed/trimmed bi-weekly March through November

July

- Shenandoah Elevator Company—Performed bi-annual service
- Ronnie Ritchie Service Company—Serviced air conditioning

September

- Ronnie Ritchie Service Company—Repaired sink

October

- Ronnie Ritchie Service Company—Performed yearly boiler service
- Fall Work Day—Trimmed shrubs, weeded beds and cleaned mulch

November

- Titan Cleaning Services—Serviced kitchen hood
- Extinguisher Sales and Service—Inspected fire extinguishers
- Lynchburg Fire Equipment—Inspected fire suppression system
- Jenkins Security Service—Repaired Fellowship Hall door latch
- Gutter Cleaning—Ron Myers and Rew Walck cleaned Wayne Avenue side
- Security Team, Inc.—Added fire alarm to Fellowship Hall/Conference Room areas

December

- Fred Biggers, Ron Myers and Rew Walck painted/updated the Conference Room
- Ronnie Ritchie Service Company—Repaired Conference Room hot water pipe
- Ronnie Ritchie Service Company—Roto-rooted front drain line from gutters to 13th Street
- Jenkins Security Service—Replaced lock in Conference Room
- Shenandoah Elevator Company—Performed bi-annual elevator service
- Central Elevator Company—Performed annual elevator inspection/certification



Columbarium and Memorial Garden Report

A Columbarium is a way to bring Christian Burial back to the Church!

The completed east wall of the Columbarium contains space for 144 niches with stone facings. The uncompleted west wall has space for 164 niches, the niches will be added in the future. Each niche has space for two brass urns, which the church stocks and furnishes without cost to you. The price for a niche is \$2,250 including two (2) brass urns, no charge for opening and closing the niche, and for engraving of the face stone with names and dates. There are 40 niches sold. There are a total of 24 sets of ashes entered into the Columbarium.

The memorial brick patio area has 43 bricks with names, most of these are for members and family members, who are buried elsewhere. An engraved brick has space for two names and cost \$300.

The Columbarium committee consist of three members. Ron Almarode's term ends 12/31/22, Bradley Keefer's term ends 12/31/24, and Jerry Kite's term ends 12/31/26. The Pastor is a permanent member of the committee.

If you have any questions concerning the Columbarium and brick patio area, contact any of the above members. Bradley Keefer has been doing the record keeping , the opening and closing of the niches, getting the stone faces engraved with names and dates, plus having the brick engraved. King Customs of Stuart Draft is engraving the face stones and bricks.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Bradley Keefer**



Finance

Finance Committee

GELC is in sound financial health entering 2023. Receipts were above budget and expenses were controlled resulting in a surplus of \$9,788 in 2022.

The Finance Committee works closely with the Stewardship Committee and Church Council to develop a spending plan for the congregation's approval.

Members of the Finance Committee are:

- Chuck Goodrich
- Pastor Pingel
- Jerry Kite
- Ron Almarode
- Robin Crowder
- Vivian Proctor

Many thanks to all who volunteer to monitor the financial affairs of Grace.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Ron Almarode**

Financial Secretary

During this third year of Covid restrictions the congregation has continued to give their financial support to Grace.

We have been able to meet our monthly bills in a timely manner.

We had a total of 107 giving units:

- * 44 units were giving of record
- * 63 units pledged (a recent record)

The 3 year Capital Fund Project was finished at the middle of the year.

Year End Statements were sent out in early January.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Chuck Goodrich**

GELC Annual Treasurer's Report 2022

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Summary of Activities Suntrust Bank

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	+ or - Diff	2023 Budget
Bal. Beginning Suntrust Balance	\$37,667.13			
A. Receipts Deposited				
R100 Pledge + Giving of Record	\$307,190.34	\$293,000	\$14,190	\$325,275
R400 Other Offering	\$243.50	\$2,000	-\$1,757	\$500
R600 Facilities Usage	\$5,400.00	\$4,800	\$600	\$4,800
R1000 Niche Sales	\$5,000.04	\$5,000	\$0	\$2,500
R1200 Additional Revenue	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$600
Faith	\$0.00	-\$370	\$370	\$102
R998 Total Budget Receipts Deposit	\$317,833.88	\$304,430	\$13,404	\$333,777
S998 Total Special Receipts Deposit	\$219,447.38			
T998 Total Receipts Deposit	\$537,281.26			
B. Disbursed				
D100 Budgeted Benevolence	\$23,359.05	\$23,500	-\$141	\$27,143
D200 Ministry Programs	\$6,797.34	\$8,660	-\$1,863	\$13,610
D300 Property	\$47,509.98	\$41,320	\$6,190	\$45,553
D400 Administration	\$17,268.80	\$16,475	\$794	\$17,290
D500 Staff	\$69,914.40	\$70,714	-\$800	\$76,567
D600 Pastor	\$142,195.68	\$142,761	-\$565	\$152,614
D650 Special Pastoral Accounts	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
D700 Payroll Tax Liability Adjustment	\$0.24	\$0	\$0	
D999 Total Budget Disbursed	\$308,045.49	\$304,430	\$3,615	\$333,777
S999 Total Special Disbursed	\$200,659.93			
T999 Total Disbursed	\$508,705.42			
<i>Voided checks</i>	<i>\$576.54</i>			
B2 Ending Suntrust Balance	\$66,819.51		Surplus/Deficit	\$9,788

<u>Summary Of Benevolence Giving 2022</u>			
Total Budgeted Benevolence	\$23,359.05	Forwarding Faith	\$60.00
World Hunger	\$7,125.00	Youth Projects	\$5,000.00
ELCA Disaster Response	\$2,641.49	3 R's	\$75.00
Souper Bowl	\$586.60	Giving Tree	\$30.00
Friends Fund	\$30.00	Renewing Homes	\$729.67
CROP Walk	\$25.00	Project Esperanza	\$2,520.00
Hiker Hoster	\$527.00	MEF Bequests	\$23,698.59
Thrivent Projects	\$101.00	Salvation Army School Kits	\$200.00
Afghan Refugee Resettlement	\$10,975.00	Total Benevolence Giving	\$77,683.40

GELC Annual Treasurer's Report 2022

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Budget Disbursements		2022 Actual	2022 Budget	Diff YTD	2023 Budget
101	Mission Support (ELCA & Synod)	\$19,500.00	\$19,500	\$0	\$21,143
105	Outreach Missions Committee	\$3,859.05	\$4,000	-\$141	\$6,000
100	Total Budget Benevolence	\$23,359.05	\$23,500	-\$141	\$27,143
201	Worship & Music	\$3,584.27	\$4,610	-\$1,026	\$6,310
202	Christian Education	\$514.41	\$1,000	-\$486	\$1,000
203	Evangelism	\$342.13	\$500	-\$158	\$2,000
204	Faith in Action/Stewardship	\$1,512.96	\$800	\$713	\$800
206	Youth Ministry	\$112.25	\$1,000	-\$888	\$2,000
207	Support Fellowship	\$731.32	\$750	-\$19	\$1,500
200	Total Ministry Programs	\$6,797.34	\$8,660	-\$1,863	\$13,610
301	Church Property	\$10,124.95	\$7,000	\$3,125	\$10,000
302	Natural Gas	\$5,636.00	\$5,000	\$636	\$5,300
303	Electricity	\$5,610.96	\$5,400	\$211	\$5,475
304	Water/Sewer/Garbage	\$3,470.21	\$3,120	\$350	\$2,750
305	All Insurance	\$9,470.36	\$8,100	\$1,370	\$8,578
308	Lawn Care/Snow Removal	\$2,997.50	\$2,500	\$498	\$3,250
309	Mortgage Payments	\$10,200.00	\$10,200	\$0	\$10,200
300	Total Property	\$47,509.98	\$41,320	\$6,190	\$45,553
401	Church Office	\$8,557.64	\$7,360	\$1,198	\$8,000
402	Telephone/Communications	\$3,397.37	\$3,000	\$397	\$3,400
403	Postage	\$1,054.10	\$1,250	-\$196	\$1,000
406	Delegates Expense	\$105.00	\$750	-\$645	\$750
407	Council Discretion Gift Fund	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
412	Technology	\$2,000.00	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,140
413	Communications	\$1,154.69	\$1,115	\$40	\$1,000
400	Total Administration	\$17,268.80	\$16,475	\$794	\$17,290
501	Adm. Secretary's Salary	\$19,869.96	\$19,870	\$0	\$21,599
503	Custodian's Salary	\$8,133.12	\$8,133	\$0	\$8,841
504	Nursery Caretaker/Protection Policy	\$0.00	\$500	-\$500	\$1,000
505	Audio/Visual Support	\$5,200.00	\$5,200	\$0	\$5,200
507	Organist/Choir Dir. Salary	\$29,139.96	\$29,140	\$0	\$31,676
509	Organist & Pulpit Supply	\$2,200.00	\$2,500	-\$300	\$2,500
510	Staff Continuing Ed. & Travel	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
520	Employer Tax Liability All Staff	\$4,371.36	\$4,371	\$0	\$4,752
500	Total Staff	\$69,914.40	\$70,714	-\$800	\$76,567
601	Pastor Base Salary	\$49,871.04	\$49,871	\$0	\$54,515
602	Pastor Housing Allowance	\$21,900.00	\$21,900	\$0	\$23,500
603	Pastor FICA Allowance	\$12,965.04	\$12,965	\$0	\$14,093
604	ELCA Health Plan+Disability+Pension	\$53,924.50	\$53,925	-\$1	\$56,407
607	Continuing Education	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
608	Travel Expense	\$1,541.91	\$2,000	-\$458	\$2,000
609	Book Allowance	\$310.45	\$300	\$10	\$300
610	Professional Expense	\$382.74	\$500	-\$117	\$500
613	Pastor Cell Phone Usage	\$300.00	\$300	\$0	\$300
600	Total Pastor	\$142,195.68	\$142,761	-\$565	\$152,614
620	Sabbatical Reserve	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
	Total Reserve	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
700	Payroll Tax Liability Adjustment	\$0.24	\$0	\$0	\$0
999	Total Budget Disbursed	\$308,045.49	\$304,430	\$3,615	\$333,777

GELC Annual Treasurer's Report 2022

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Detail of Special Funds	Balance	In	Out	Balance	
	12/31/2021	YTD	YTD	12/31/22	
A01	World Hunger	\$0.00	\$7,125.00	\$7,125.00	\$0.00
A05	ELCA Disaster Response	\$0.00	\$2,641.49	\$2,641.49	\$0.00
A06	Special Appeals	\$13,100.00	\$105,141.95	\$93,948.30	\$24,293.65
A10	Hiker's Hostel Donations	\$272.90	\$527.00	\$108.60	\$691.30
A11	Sunday School	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
A14	Blue Ridge Area Food Bank	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
A19	WARM Shelter Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
A20	MEF Accrual	-\$319.00	\$24,028.00	\$23,698.59	\$10.41
A22	Synod Covid-19 Grant	\$1.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.24
A23	MEF - Lending Library	\$500.00	\$94.81	\$594.81	\$0.00
A24	Afghan Refugee Resettlement Project	\$0.00	\$10,975.00	\$10,975.00	\$0.00
A25	Nicaragua Mission Trip	\$0.00	\$21,470.00	\$9,841.43	\$11,628.57
F01	Gifts to Regular T&M *	\$1,190.00	\$4,908.60	\$824.99	\$5,273.61
F03	Friends Fund	\$2,519.64	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$2,549.64
F04	Endowment Fund	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
F05	Current Building Fund	\$2,608.92	\$10,234.80	\$10,581.88	\$2,261.84
F16	Master Reserve *	\$3,571.28	\$3,422.83	\$7,003.57	-\$9.46
F30	Columbarium Fund	\$4,992.85	\$0.00	\$5,000.04	-\$7.19
F32	KIVA Project	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
F36	Youth Projects	\$387.82	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,387.82
F37	Thrivent Project	\$360.61	\$101.00	\$0.00	\$461.61
F41	Quilting Group Reserve	\$237.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$237.31
F42	Keefer_VMA Scholarship Fund	\$8,373.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,373.00
F44	Parish Nursing Program	\$14.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14.00
F45	Rise Against Hunger	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
F47	Capital Project Fund	\$8,220.26	\$7,447.09	\$0.00	\$15,667.35
F48	Forwarding Faith	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$0.00
F50	Pastor's Spiritual Retreat Fund	\$2,105.00	\$70.00	\$2,175.00	\$0.00
F51	Pastor's Continuing Education *	\$2,914.99	\$0.00	\$2,914.99	\$0.00
H01	Holding Account	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
H02	Budget Surplus/Deficit	-\$6,351.47	\$6,351.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
H04	Sabbatical Reserve *	\$6,000.00	\$6,825.09	\$12,825.09	\$0.00
M01	Flowers	\$1,007.77	\$1,993.25	\$1,821.99	\$1,179.03
T01	Pending Transfers *	-\$30,014.99	\$1,000.00	\$4,835.16	-\$33,850.15
Y01	YNBP Church Challenge Special Fund	\$15,850.00	\$0.00	\$3,684.00	\$12,166.00
Total Special Funds		\$37,667.13	\$219,447.38	\$200,659.93	\$56,454.58

* Corresponding account in Credit Union

GELC Annual Treasurer's Report 2022

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Detail of Dupont Community Credit Union Accounts						
		Balance	In	YTD Interest	Out	Balance
		12/31/2019	YTD	Distribution	YTD	12/31/22
CU01	Thanksgiving & Memorial *	\$22,063.52				\$22,063.52
CU02	Building Fund *	\$1,567.80			(\$1,413.86)	\$153.94
CU08	Master Reserve *	\$19,751.75	\$179.91		(\$3,421.30)	\$16,510.36
CU18	Organist/Choir Dir. Continuing Ed. Fund	\$7,321.33	\$1,000.00			\$8,321.33
CU19	Pastor Continuing Education Fund	\$0.00				\$0.00
CU20	Sabbatical Reserve Fund *	\$0.00				\$0.00
TR01	Pending Transfer	\$30,014.99	\$4,835.16		(\$1,000.00)	\$33,850.15
	Total Credit Union Funds	\$80,719.39	\$6,015.07	\$0.00	(\$5,835.16)	\$80,899.30

Summary of Capital Funds Available					
		Balance	In	Out	Balance
		12/31/2019	YTD	YTD	12/31/22
Acct.					
F05	Current Building Fund	\$2,608.92	\$10,234.80	\$10,581.88	\$2,261.84
F47	Capital Project Fund	\$8,220.26	\$7,447.09	\$0.00	\$15,667.35
CU02	Building Fund	\$1,567.80	\$0.00	(\$1,413.86)	\$153.94
	Union Checking Account	\$403.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$403.22
	Total Funds Available	\$12,800.20	\$17,681.89	\$9,168.02	\$18,486.35

Summary of Union's Checking Account				
Date			Amount	Balance
12/31/2019	Union's Bank Balance			\$403.22
	Interest Earned		\$0.00	
12/31/2022	Union's Bank Balance			\$403.22

Columbarium Mortgage Loan	
11/16/2009	Original Principal Balance \$102,993.95
12/31/2022	Current Principal Balance \$15,152.11

* Corresponding account in SunTrust

Combined Account Balances			
Account	SunTrust	Credit Union	Total
Building Fund	\$2,261.84	\$153.94	\$2,415.78
Master Reserve	-\$9.46	\$16,510.36	\$16,500.90
Sabbatical Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Thanksgiving & Memorial	\$5,273.61	\$22,063.52	\$27,337.13
Pending Transfers	-\$33,850.15	\$33,850.15	\$0.00

GELC Annual Treasurer's Report 2022

Balance Sheet As Of 12/31/2022

A. Assets

1 Cash & Bank Accounts

DuPont Cr. Union	\$80,899.30
Union Bank & Trust	\$403.22
Sun Trust Bank	\$66,819.51
Edward Jones	\$100.00

Total Cash & Bank Accounts **\$148,222.03**

2 Other Assets

Cemetery lots	\$1,500.00
Building & Contents	\$5,586,000.00 Insurance value

Total Other Assets **\$5,587,500.00**

3 Investment Accounts

ELCA Mission Certificates	\$10,000.00
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Total Investment Accounts **\$10,000.00 ***

Total Assets **\$5,745,722.03**

B. Liabilities And Equity

Columbarium loan - Union	\$15,152.11
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Total Liability Accounts **\$15,152.11**

Equity **\$5,730,569.92**

Total Liabilities & Equity **\$5,745,722.03**

** See Mission Endowment Fund Report For Endowment Assets*

Mutual Ministry

The Mutual Ministry Committee was greatly affected by Covid, and in 2022, the Committee did not regroup after more than a year of not meeting. It is hoped to revive this committee in 2023.



2022 Mission Endowment Fund

Committee Membership

The members of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee are David Schwiesow, Chair; Jerry Kite, Recording Secretary; and Bob Barrette and Glen Gray. Pastor Pingel and the President of Congregation Council also are ex officio members of the Committee. The Committee wishes to acknowledge, with its thanks, the service of Rudy Yobs and Gene McCombs, each of whom served on the Committee for a number of years during and prior to 2022. Any member of the Congregation who would like to volunteer to join the Committee is encouraged to speak to David or any other member of the Committee.

Investment Performance

The assets in the Mission Endowment Fund are invested (i) in Certificates of Deposit (CDs) through the Mission Investment Fund of ELCA and (ii), with respect to all other funds, in equities and interest-bearing instruments selected by Alpha Omega Investment Advisors (“Alpha Omega”). Alpha Omega are professional investment advisors that were selected by the Committee and approved by Congregation Council in 2018. The specifics of the investments and the market values of these investments as of December 31, 2022 are:

- Through the Mission Investment Fund of ELCA, one CD is held, having a value of \$140,839. The maturity date is May 7, 2025. The interest rate is adjustable, and currently is 3.835%.
- The Alpha Omega investments had a year-end value of \$484,815. The investments consisted of equities (\$347,323), fixed income and bonds (\$89,905) and cash and cash equivalents (\$47,587). At YE 2021, the total value of the Mission Endowment Fund that was managed by Alpha Omega was \$545,753. The market value decrease during 2022 was \$43,446. In addition, there were \$30,705 in actual and accrued grant distributions. Interest and dividend income was \$13,254.
- Total value of all Fund investments at December 31, 2022 was \$625,654, as compared to a total value as of January 1, 2022 of \$683,518.
- Total grants that were distributed from the Fund or committed for distribution in 2022 were \$30,705.
- All above numbers are adjusted to reflect \$6,505 that is committed for a 2022 grant.

Continued

With respect to the performance of investments that were managed by Alpha Omega, these investments showed a negative return for 2022 (interest, dividends and market performance) of \$30,193, or 5.44%. The Committee continues to have confidence in Alpha Omega and its investment approach.

Available Funds for Grants in 2023

Each year, the Committee recommends, for Congregation Council's approval, that the funds available for distribution in the current year (i.e., 2023) will be a percentage of the fair market value of the Fund (including realized and unrealized income and gains) as of the prior year end (i.e., December 31, 2022). In the past, the percentage available for distribution generally has been in the 4-5% range. The Committee will provide its recommendation to Congregation Council in February.

In recent years, the Committee has developed a more robust process to obtain recommendations from members and active participants in the Congregation as to desirable grants. The Committee is pleased that this has resulted in greater participation in the process by members and active participants in the Congregation. This process will be followed again in 2023. The Committee will solicit recommendations from the Congregation, and Congregation Council will then review and approve specific grants.

How You Can Make a Difference

The Mission Endowment Fund was established in 1998 “for the receipt of special gifts and bequests.” In establishing the Fund, it was stated that “for many people stewardship means only the giving of money to the church in the Sunday morning offering. Others understand stewardship more broadly. Stewardship also includes our accumulated, inherited, and appreciated resources. Planning for the distribution of all lifetime accumulations is a vital step in completing our stewardship plan.” Further, “the name Mission Endowment Fund emphasizes the Fund’s purpose: To fund mission work and projects at home and around the world that are above and beyond those programs supported through our regular offerings.”

Over the years, many Grace members have made contributions to the Mission Endowment Fund to further its purpose. Both large and small contributions have caused the Fund to grow to \$625,654 this year, and to provide the resources for \$30,705 in grants last year. The Committee encourages you to consider making a contribution to the Fund, regardless of size. Contributions may be made currently or through a bequest in your will. If you would like to get more information about how you can make a difference, please speak to David or any other member of the Committee.

**Respectively submitted,
David Schwiesow**



Personnel

The Personnel Committee is tasked with proposing policies about Personnel Management, overseeing the implementation of the Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Policies and working with the Pastor and volunteers who supervise staff functions. It is most active in the hiring process of staff (not the Pastor).

The last few years have presented challenges due to Covid.

The raises for staff in 2022 were not possible but raises for 2023 will include an 8.7% increase.

The committee is on hold having those volunteers due to have their background check redone. We are waiting for Sunday School to resume. Those volunteers bringing communion to the homebound will be having their background checks done in the near future.

Committee members include Andrew Sell and Antoinette Eckstrom

Respectively Submitted, Antoinette Eckstrom

POWER I N T H E SPIRIT

I attended Power in the Spirit as a representative of Grace and a member of the Power in the Spirit Committee in July. This two- and half-day event at Roanoke College was filled with worship, Bible Study, workshops, and most importantly fellowship with Virginia Synod members who gathered for spiritual renewal and rest. This was the first in-person event since 2019 due to the pandemic.

The Rev. David Drebes, pastor of College Lutheran in Salem, was stepping down as chair of the committee at the conclusion of the event. Edith Blake from St. Andrews in Portsmouth felt called to be a chair but did not want to take total responsibility. I was feeling the call to chair with her also and offered myself to Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop, to help chair. The Rev. Wes Smith, pastor of Zion Lutheran, Waynesboro, was appointed as well with Edith and I to be the "Triumvirate Chairs."

The committee planned the Winter on-line event, "Blessed R" based on the Beatitudes during the Fall securing workshop leaders, planning worship, daily emails, during the three-day event, held January 30-February 1.

The Summer event, set for July 13-15, 2023, at Roanoke College, Salem, is in the planning stages now. The Rev. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore, retired dean of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary will be the keynote speaker, Rev. Stephen Tuell, James A. Kelso Professor emeritus of Hebrew and Old Testament, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will be the Bible Study leader and musician will be Michael Benschish from Chicago but comes to the Virginia Beach area in the summer.

Come and join us this summer. Registration will go out in early Spring.

**Donna Gum
Power in the Spirit Chair**



Strategic Planning

“We are a “Community” of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus”

The Strategic Planning Committee recommends the following Priority Objectives for 2023:

Full Church Engagement

Develop a campaign to inform, involve, and engage current members, visitors and prospective members in the life of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Good News Sharing

Revitalize the Evangelism program to promote and increase discipleship at Grace and within the community.

Seniors Services

Promote expansion of our senior ministry to include assessing needs, improving communications with and providing essential services to seniors.

Growth in Outreach

Grow our outreach to people in our community and wider world and increased support for equity and justice in our community.

Worship Opportunities

Expand worship and music opportunities that attract and involve guests and congregational members to a greater degree.



Technology

It has been a good year on the Technology front.

- If you would like an “ad” for a project put on the Nave TV, let me know. Pictures of activities are good as well.
- If you ever need a DVD of a service, let me know.
- I am also looking for an adult backup person to run a simplified version of the sound system just in case I am not available.
- I want to thank my students Zachary, Libby, and Kiera for their help this year.

Christmas

If you have not seen one of the Christmas Eve services, I recommend watching one. The services are on our YouTube Live site at:

5:00 p.m.: www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1Zc7PvBUic&t=2378s

8:00 p.m.: www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4MFtiUlBCI&t=670s

December 25th: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aa9B7gAysEE&t=1645s Jan 1:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKIYiD24iIY

Folding at Home

On the Folding At Home front, 3 of our computers continue looking for cures to various diseases. We are ranked 1,331 out of hundreds of thousands of teams.

Our current computers running are G_102, G_117, and G_118.

Our FaH homepage is: stats.foldingathome.org/team/266700

**Respectfully submitted,
Owen Keefer**



**Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund
(As of November 2022)**

Given in Memory of:

Ty Elliott
Richard "Rick" Glidden
Geraldine and Gary Mitchell
Fielder Pitzer
David Shields
Richard Tomey

Nancy Fitzgerald
Bobby Hull
Joe Moyer
Pete Rufe
Barb Susen

Given in Honor of:

Jean & Tripp Franklin
Yochanan (John) S. Proctor

Jerry & Gwen Kite

The Memorial Gifts Were Given by:

Anonymous, Berenice Archambeault, Augusta Fire and Rescue, Jeff and Deborah Avery, Dennis and Anne Barnes, Price and Emily Boxley, Brandon Circle Homeowners Association, Jean Brydge, Marg Cloutier, Ed and Judy Croft, Leslie and Robert DeFord III, Nancy Dowdy, Bradley S. Elliott, Chuck and Judi Goodrich, Donna Gum, Hand Bell Choir, Douglas and Jeanne Hawpe, Carolyn and Bobby Hite, Joseph Julian, Wilda and Brad and Owen Keefer, Jerry and Gwen Kite, Ron and Sandra Knicely, Arthur "Art" Lively, Bill Lucas, Sharon Machen (Thomas Cousins), Donna and Richard Marshall, Gene and Jan McCombs, Dawn McCray, Linda Meyer, Jean Morgan, Robert Moyer, Newcomers Club, Steve Painter, Doris Pitman (J.R. and D.D.), Betty Jane Pitzer, Lewis and Dottie Price, David and Vivian Proctor, Robert and Deborah Russell, James and Dorothy Sayre, Everett Stratton, Deloris Wertman and Wertman Family, Carol Wolf.

Memorial Gifts Given for the Following:

Grace Building Fund, Grace Choir Fund, Grace Property, Grace Thanksgiving & Memorial Fund.

**Respectfully submitted,
Wilda Keefer**



Valley Music Academy continues to offer high quality, low-cost music education to students of the arts in the Waynesboro, Staunton & Augusta County. I am very happy to note that our enrollment is once again on the incline and we are able to provide music education for a higher number of students than we have seen in years - maybe ever!

In 2022 we made community engagement a priority and participated in Augusta County's Draft Days and had several student performances at the Waynesboro Farmer's Market. We hope to continue to bring music to the Farmer's Market this spring and summer as well. Valley Music Academy is also planning to re-instate the Spring Recitals so please Save-the-Date of Sunday, May 21, 2023 to come out and see what great strides have been made by our students.

The VMA Board of Directors continues to seek volunteers to serve on our board of directors. The committee meets every other month for a total of six times per year. If you are interested in the arts and would like to see VMA reach even more students in the coming year, please consider serving on our board of directors. We are currently seeking a board member who would be interested in serving as Treasurer.

Many thanks to the Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church's leadership, staff, and congregation who continue to support us through tax-deductible donations, volunteer work, vocal support, and most importantly, with your prayers. VMA, without a doubt, is one of the best and most affordable music programs in the region. We fully realize that without the support of this church, VMA would not exist to do what we do. Grace Lutheran is an integral part of Valley Music Academy, and we are truly grateful for your ongoing support.

**Best,
Laura Lake
Executive Director
Valley Music Academy**

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - ning skies;
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling;
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860
 Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897
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Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America