

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church April 14, 2024

"A Community of Servants Sharing in the Word and Work of Jesus"

Service of the Word and HOLY COMMUNION

(Based on Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting One)

Congregational responses are in bold print

We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this morning's celebration of the Word and Sacrament. We gather each week to worship, study and share fellowship so we can joyfully serve others. We especially welcome those new to our worship. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to tell you more about Grace! Please fill in a visitor card and place it in the offering plate.

We ask that all who commune fill in a communion card.

We have Gluten Free Communion Wafers available.

Please inform Communion Assistant of your need.

Restrooms: Located to your left as you face the rear of the church.

During worship, you'll notice parts of the service in regular type, which are spoken/prayed by various worship leaders. Then there are the parts you and the rest of the congregation respond and/or pray in bold type. All of us are participants as we worship God! When asked to stand, please do so as you are able.

As Jesus welcomed all in the crowds who gathered around him, so he welcomes us.



Gathering

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, + one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection

you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!



Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

And also with you.

Kyrie



Hymn of Praise



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

Word

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

A reading from Acts:

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 4

We read responsively.

¹Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

You gave me room when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

²How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

³But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;

the LORD hears when I call to him.

⁴When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

⁵Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

⁷You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

81 will both lie down and sleep in peace;

for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

A reading from 1 John:

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

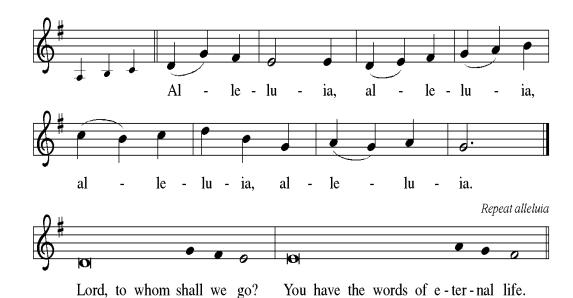
²¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

We stand.



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke:

Glory to you O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

Continued

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Pastor Pingel

<u>Sermon</u>

Pastor Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: "Around You,O Lord Jesus"

#468

Nicene Creed

Amen.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

God of Grace,

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

Amen.

Meal

Peace

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

Please greet those around you, remaining distanced, and offering a sign of peace to one another.

We sit.

Offertory



We stand.

Offertory Response



Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

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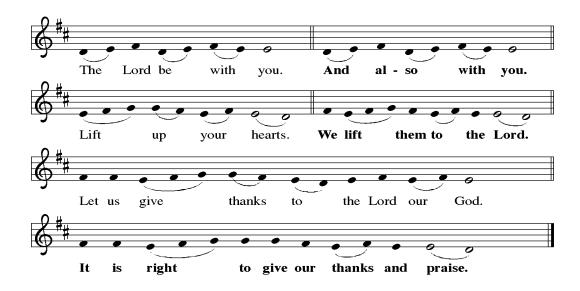
Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.
Amen.

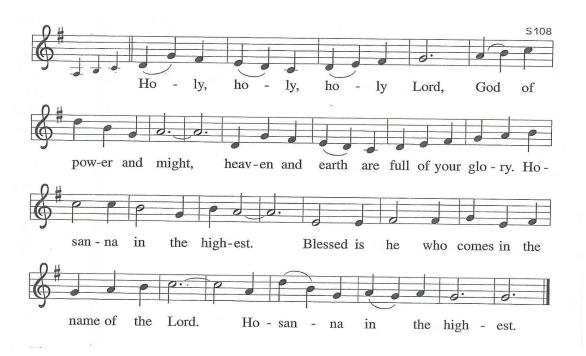


Great Thanksgiving



Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this is remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this in remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and + Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

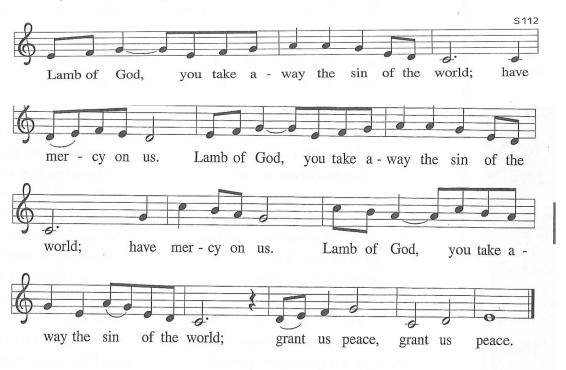
Thanks be to God!

Baba Yetu

Baba Yetu uliye mbinguni, jina lako litukuzwe; ufalme wako ufike, utakalo lifanyike duniani kama mbinguni. Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku, utusamehe makosa yetu, kama nasi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea. Usitutie katika kishawishi, lakini utuopoe maovuni. Amina.



"Lamb of God" may be sung.



The Holy Communion

We sit.

OUR LORD BIDS YOU WELCOME TO THIS HOLY MEAL! At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. Here we receive Christ's body and blood and God's gifts of forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation to be received by faith for the strengthening of faith. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord — regardless of Church denomination — to those who are baptized. (Taken from the ELCA statement on worship. The Use and Means of Grace ©1997)

Ushers will invite you to come down the center aisle. Receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister, then turn to the side you have sat on, and receive the wine/grape juice from the communion assistant at the altar rail. Place your empty cup in the trays at the end of the railing, and return to your pew via the side aisle.

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

Communion Hymn: "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

#470

We stand.

The Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**



Sending

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope

+- bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: "The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done"

#366

Dismissal

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude



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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today!

Altar Flowers: Pat Giesen
Altar Guild: Susan Myers
Assisting Minister: Tami Radecke
Communion Assistant: Kathy Bump
Andrew Sell

Council Person of the Week: Jean Morgan
Offering Stewards Pat Brady

Ushers:

David Proctor
Rick Bump
Linda Meyer



The Chancel Flowers today are given to the glory of God



Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons Sunday, Apríl 21, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Service of Holy Communion and via You Tube

Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18



Please print your new prayer concerns before worship on the sheet in the white notebook located in the back of our Worship area. Please ask ushers if you need assistance. Names on the prayer list will remain on for four weeks, in an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of Grace congregation and the community and world around us. If the need is longer term, please notify the church office, and the person in need will be transferred to the "Ongoing Need for Prayer" list.

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

Beth Ann Doerring Gloria Nelson Sandy Johnson Janet Parmer

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

Joe Archambeault, Son of Berenice Archambeault
Katie Arnold, Daughter of the Nelsons
Frank Avila, Cousin of Bill Meicke
Pam Clem, Friend of Gloria Nelson
Leigh Crane, Friend of the Wilsons
Stanley Faustin, Brother of Fedlie Carrington, Friend of Grace
Drew Matherly, Friend of Many at Grace
Pat Nabers, Retired Pastor and Friend of Grace
Joyce Thomas, Cousin of Linda Tomey
Kathy Woods, Friend of Sandy Johnson

<u>Joys and Celebrations (Remain on List for four (4) weeks)</u>
Pat and Sandy Brady's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Remain on List for three (3) months)

Kathy Johnson Sharon Vorel



Ongoing Need for Prayer for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for three (3) months)

Sherry Aldinger, Friend of the Radeckes
Natalie Dodge, Friend of the Almarodes and Amy Warren
Barbara Eagle, Sister of Nancy Schwiesow
Roy and Flora Henderson, Parents of Allison Fink
Joe Keesee, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Heidi Messick, Friend of the Trauschts
Phoenix Oberg, Friend of Sarah Beth Kite
Carrie Peters, Niece of Schwiesows
Mary Etta Randolph, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Laura Siwik, Niece of Linda Meyer

Members/Friends Grieving (Remain on List for four (4) weeks*)

Family of Calium Nichols

Family of William "Mickey" Drummond, Friend of Myers Family of Mitch Peeling, Friend of the Almarodes Family of Jolene Riddle, Friend of Donna Gum Family of Sam Robb, Friend of the Almarodes

<u>Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays</u>

Brad Hull (4/15)

Jerry Kite (4/18)

Farrah Smith (4/18)

Glenn Myers (4/19)

Sandra Hoy (4/18)

Maella Hilker (4/18)

Jake Dolan (4/18)

Trotter Franklin (4/20)



Prayers for the World

Threats to Peace in the Middle East—the Palestine/Israel conflict, dangers of a wider conflict involving Iran

To cure "our warring madness...lest we miss God's Kingdom's goal" (see ELW 705) in Ukraine, the Sudan, Myanmar, Yemen, Congo

For our continued awareness and learning of being <u>part</u> of God's Creation, not merely users of it

For the homeless in our community, those in danger of losing housing, and the crisis of affordable housing both locally and nationwide

The Church

Congregations a part of supporting HERO (Housing Emergency Relief Outreach), which includes Grace

For: New Pastors/new assignments in our VA Synod:

- Pastor Kristen Van Stee called to Zion, New Market (Daughter of Steve and Karen Van Stee) and installed April 21st
- Pastor Karen Van Stee, Vice-Pastor of Bethlehem, Waynesboro
- Pastor Rob McCarty, former Dean of the Southern Valley Conference, newly called to St. Luke, Mount Ulla, NC





Grace Tower Cross Update - Engineers hired by our Insurance company have met with Grace's Property Committee, took pictures by drone of the top of the tower, inspected the Columbarium, and reviewed the architectural blueprints dating to the Tower's construction. The conversations were preliminary; however "the ball is rolling" in beginning to replace the cross and fix the damage done on March 20th.



Adult Bible Class resumed Thursday, April 11th, studying the texts for the coming Sunday. Join us!



Joint Worship Service with Christ Tabernacle on April 28th! - We continue our celebration of Easter with the joy of worship at Christ Tabernacle on Sunday, April 28th. As we enjoyed a wonderful worship service and lunch in November with Christ Tabernacle as our guests, we will give glory to God and United in Christ enjoy our time together on the 28th, at 10:00 a.m.!



Community Meal—All Are Invited—Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. at Grace Fellowship Hall. Bring something to share if you are able or just bring yourself.



If you have a graduate in your family, please let the church office know the following by Monday, May 6: student's name, parents' names, school, degree, graduation date and plans for the future. Thank you!



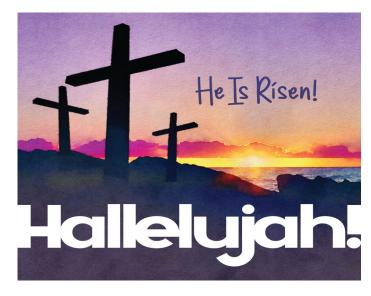
Prayer Vigil at Constitution Park—Every third Saturday at 11am. The CCE&J (Christian Coalition for Equity and Justice) group—comprised of Grace and Christ Tabernacle members—gathers for Prayer at either Constitution or Basic Park; for our community and world, and for racial justice and equity. You are invited!



Pastor Invited to Attend Virginia Council of Churches Event - Pastor Paul was invited by Assistant to the Bishop Kelly Bayer Derrick and Bishop Milton to attend a Pro-Racial Reconciliation Training event held by the Virginia Council of Churches April 18 - 20 in Richmond. Part of the training is investigating the message of Scripture in regards to Racism as well as honest discussion between a wide variety of denominations concerning racism and reconciliation. Please pray for Pastor Paul and this event!



Flowers- Each week we have flowers to remind us of the Resurrection, that God has raised us up, that God has created a very good world for us to live in. We need your help, sign up today on the Flower Chart in the Nave! If you have any questions, please call the Church Office.





Monday

Exodus 18:13-27 1 Peter 5:1-14 Matthew (1:1-17) 3:1-6 Morning Psalm 97, Evening 124

Tuesday

Exodus 19:1-16 Colossians 1:1-14 Matthew 3:7-12 Morning Psalm 98, Evening 66

Wednesday

Exodus 19:16-25 Colossians 1:15-23 Matthew 3:13-17 Morning Psalm 99, Evening 9 **Thursday**

Exodus 20:1-21 Colossians 1:24—2:7 Matthew 4:1-11 Morning Psalm 47, Evening 68

Friday

Exodus 24:1-18 Colossians 2:8-23 Matthew 4:2-17 Morning Psalm 96, Evening 49

Saturday

Exodus 25:1-22 Colossians 3:1-17 Matthew 4:18-24 Morning Psalm 92, Evening 23



Life of Grace Church April 14-21, 2024

Day of the Week	Date	Time	Meeting, etc.
Sunday	04/14	8:30a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:10 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School (Seminar Room) Third Sunday of Easter Service of Holy Communion Confirmation Class Sunday School
Monday	04/15	TAXDAY	
Tuesday	04/16	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Quilting (Fellowship Hall) Church Council Meeting (Conference Room)
Wednesday	04/17	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Backpacks Prayer Group (Chapel) Encircle (Fellowship Hall) Grace Women's Book Group—Stella, Bella & Lucy Community Meal (Fellowship Hall) Yoga (Seminar Room) Choir Practice
Thursday	04/18	8:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Newcomers Club (Fellowship Hall) Grace Walkers Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall) Virginia Organizing (Fellowship Hall) Bible Study (Conference Room)
Saturday	04/20	11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconciliation— Constitution Park Yoga (Seminar Room)
Sunday	04/21	8:30a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:10 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School (Seminar Room) Fourth Sunday of Easter Service of Holy Communion Confirmation Class Quarterly Community Information Support Fellowship Sunday School



Grace Church Council 2023-24

Robin Crowder, President (540-476-0180) Allison Fink, Vice-President (540-448-0985)

Jack Eckstrom (240-344-3176)

Jerry Kite (540-910-3372)

Linda Meyer (540-256-2277)

Jean Morgan (540-649-4422)

Susan Myers (434-760-1660)

Stephen Van Stee (540-325-0772)

Karen Walck (765-480-9920)

Donna Yobs (650-248-4882)

Cabell Caister, Youth Member

Ron Almarode, Treasurer

Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary



Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor

Email: pastorpingel@gmail.com

Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music

Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

Office Hours: 8:00—11:30 a.m. and 12:30—2:30 p.m.,

Monday-Thursday Closed Friday

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