



The
Baptism
of our
Lord

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 7, 2024

HOLY COMMUNION
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Three)
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

Confession and Forgiveness

We stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✝, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father,

and of the ✝ Son

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



As with Gladness Men of Old

1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;

as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;

so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

Apostolic Greeting

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

And also with you.

Kyrie

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Hymn of Praise

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2 Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3 Sing with all the peo-ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or,
glo-ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after 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: Genesis 1:1-5

A reading from Genesis:

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.



Genesis 1:1

Psalm: Psalm 29

We read responsively

¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶**He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!

May the LORD bless his people with peace!



Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

A reading from Acts:

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism."

⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, then eighth notes B4, A4, G4, F#4, and a quarter note E4. The second staff continues with quarter notes D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, and D3. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: John 6:68, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark:

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

Children's Message

Reverend Cynthia Long

Sermon

Reverend Cynthia Long

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: "When Jesus Came to Jordan"

#305

When Jesus Came to Jordan



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond-age break.



He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune
Text © 1980 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

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Nicene Creed

**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. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these words

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Peace

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

We sit.

Meal

Offering

We offer our thanks to God for "ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love" by our offerings. The offering plates will be passed by the ushers from the center aisle.

(Please place visitor cards and communion cards in the offering plate)

We stand.



Offertory Response

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

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.

Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.



Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

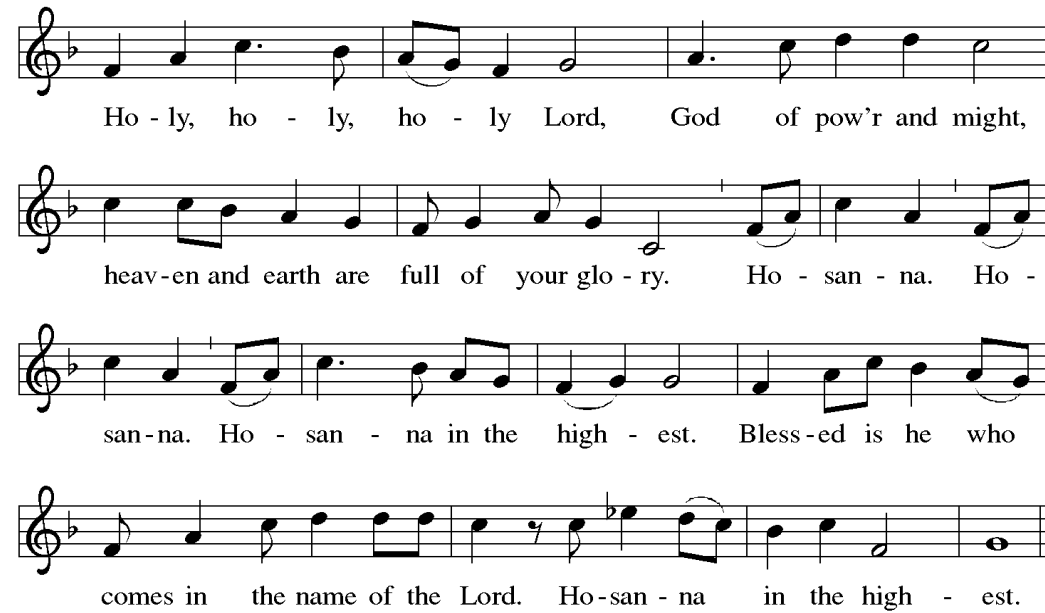
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Sosanna
IN THE
Highest

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
in great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his death, resurrection and ascension,
we wait his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory,
now and forever.

Amen.



**Come to the
Table**

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

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.
Come and see.
Thanks be to God.

We sit.

The Holy Communion

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.

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, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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.

Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.
Amen.



Sending

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament from this gathering to those who are absent.

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and Sacrament to our sisters and brothers. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Benediction

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

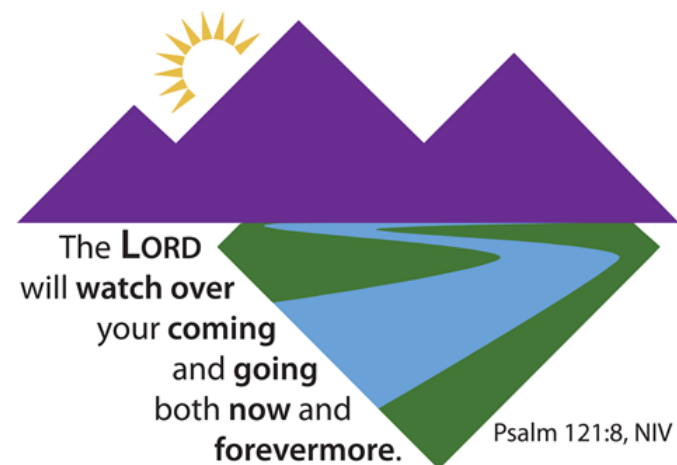
Sending Song: “Wade in the Water”

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The Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Wade in the Water

Refrain
All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,
wade in the wa - ter, God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the wa - ter.

Leader All

1 See that host all dressed in white,
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader

wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All *Refrain*

God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: WADE IN THE WATER, African American spiritual



Worship Assistants

Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today

- Altar Flowers:* Jean Morgan
- Altar Guild:* Kathy Meicke
- Assisting Minister:* Ron Almarode
- Communion Assistants:* Donna Gum
Carolyn Hite
- Council Person of the Week:* Jack Eckstrom
- Offering Stewards:* Pat Brady
Vivian Proctor
- Ushers:* Rick Bump
Jean Morgan



Altar Flowers

Chancel flowers are given this morning to the glory of our Lord



Next Sunday's schedule and Lessons

Sunday, January 14, 2024
Second Sunday After Epiphany

Service of Holy Communion and via You Tube

Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding and Preaching

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10
- Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
- John 1:43-51



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)

Berenice Archambeault

Gloria Nelson

Ron Knicely

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

Lanny Ballard, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson

Manny Cabasal, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson

Sharon Call, Friend of the Almarodes

Nick Gardner, Nephew of Lisa Gray

Joe Keesee, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson

Philip and Charlotte Lucas, Brother and Sister-In-Law of Bill Lucas

Jill Toop, Friend of the Schwiesows

Kate White, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson

Joys and Celebrations (Remain on List for 4 weeks*)

Libby Caister—Beginning Virginia General Assembly Internship

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

Emily Almarode

Genevieve Arneson

Marge Cloutier

Chuck Goodrich

Sandy Johnson

Phyllis Kite

Glenn Myers

Tom and Carol Varner

Sharon Vorel

Continued

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

Sherry Aldinger, Friend of Tami Radecke
Nina Crow, Mother of Cathy Crowder
Neil Harris, Friend of the Trauschts
Marcy Haywood, Friend of the Trauschts
Joshua Horn, Friend of the Trauschts
Joe Keesee, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Melissa Oskrig, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Ruth Phelke, Mother of Lisa Edens and Friend of Gail and Sandy Johnson

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

Family of Artie Campbell, Friend of the Almarodes
Family of Lois Dettweiler, Mother of Donna Marshall
Family of Ruth Dickie, Friend of the Schwiesows
Family of Betty Jo East, Former Member of Grace
Family of Dorothy Getler, Mother of Bill Meicke
The Family of Janet Long, Mother of Cynthia Long
Family of Jan McCoy, Friend of the Dolans
Family of Ethan Peltola, Friend of Tom and Holly Carper

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Linda Meyer (1/8)

Andrew Sell (1/9)

Genevieve Arneson (1/12)

Vivian Proctor (1/8)

Gene McCombs (1/10)

Ron Knicely (1/13)

PRAYER
list...

Prayers for the World

The Israeli and Palestine conflict - that ancient hatreds might be overcome by God's Grace, even and especially among those who invoke God's name in the conflict.

Safety in travel over the holidays for many:
for transportation workers, postal
and delivery company workers,
those who work for airlines, airports

Peace in the World—Those whose lives are shattered by war; those victimized by human trafficking

For those with mental health problems,
especially during the holiday season

Our elected officials, we pray for leadership to serve the common good

The Church

For the Southern Valley Conference of the Virginia Synod, ELCAA (of which, Grace is a part)

For all our neighbors at Westminster Presbyterian in partnership with Refugees Ecumenical Youth Group





"First Sunday Fellowship is NEXT Sunday!!" Our time of Fellowship after worship to enjoy time together, and hear about the Ministries of Grace will be **next** Sunday, January 14th, after worship. We'll give thanks for 12 years of service of Sylvia Almarode on the Fellowship Committee, and share more information about our Fellowship Team and ways you can help!



We will be starting our **Quarterly Community Support Info Ministry Fellowships** this month. Each quarter, two (2) to three (3) community volunteer groups will present their mission and work in Waynesboro. Grace members can introduce their volunteer organizations to our congregation, helping those interested in contributing to the community. Each group will provide a five (5) minute overview of their work, target audience, and volunteer tasks, followed by fellowship and light refreshments. To participate, sign up your organization on the sheet at the back of the church.

The first fellowship will be on January 21st after the service. Come learn about the LIFEworks Project Pantry & Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta. For questions, contact Donna Yobs or Karen Walck



Special Thanks! To **Pastor Cynthia Long**, who is preaching and presiding this Sunday while Pastor Paul and family are traveling to NYC. Pastor Long is now chaplain at Sunnyside Communities in Harrisonburg after serving many years as Chaplain of Western State Hospital.



Thank you!! To all who were able to help take down Christmas decorations this past Wednesday!



Get Ready for Bible Study—In the New Year, you are invited to join Pastor Paul in looking at the readings for the following Sunday on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Come in person or by Zoom as we ask what God’s Word has to say to us in our daily lives.



Grace Lutheran and others, I wanted to thank you for the time and effort put into making a rescue box for myself and others during exam season. Knowing that I had an endless supply of snacks just an arms’ width away if I was hungry helped to relieve some of my stress and saved me a trip to the dining hall. The Reese’s and cookies were among my favorites. I hope everyone had a fantastic New Year’s Eve and wish you the best into the New Year! Thank you again, Lily Skelton



POTLUCK DINNER FOR SENIORS

Grace’s Community Potluck Dinners have ended for the season. A big thank you to those who contributed to making them successful.



Altar Flowers—The 2024 Flower Chart has been put up in the Nave. Please consider signing up to provide Altar Flowers for Sunday services. You can either sign up on the flower chart in the Nave or call the church office.



Valley Music Academy is offering a **special guitar class for adult beginners** on Thursdays, beginning January 11 at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$170 for six weeks. Guitars are available to rent for the class. If you've always wanted to give the guitar a try, this is your chance! Sign up at valleymusicacademy.org.

Valley Music Academy will present its **Winter Student Recitals** on Sunday, January 28, at 1:30 and 3:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy the music.



All God's Children meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Grace conference room. Our January agenda includes the following:

- January 8th – We will conclude our discussion of *US: The Resurrection of American Terror* by Kenneth W. Wheeler, covering Chapters 9-10 and the Afterword. The author is a Black ELCA pastor who takes us through his seven-decade-long journey that lays bare the terror of being Black in America. The book offers a deeply vulnerable and piercing portrait of the human toll of white supremacy and points to the Cross as a place of hope and reconciliation.
- January 22nd – Start discussion of *A Fever in the Heartland – The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them* by Timothy Egan. The next book is a historical thriller by a Pulitzer and National Book Award-winning author that tells the riveting story of the Ku Klux Klan's rise to power in the 1920s, the cunning con man who drove that rise, and the woman who stopped them. *A Fever in the Heartland* is compelling, powerful, and profoundly resonant today. The book marries a propulsive drama to a powerful reckoning with one of the darkest threads in American history.



Words You Don't Want to Say, but We Must! Those words are **COVID**, *flu*, *RSV* and *Winter Viruses*. We've had a number of members who have been sick in recent days and weeks. We are coming into a time when Health experts tell us to expect more cases. With this in mind please note the following:

1. If you have any symptoms, or have tested positive, please stay at home. YouTube worship services are available Live every Sunday for those who are sick.
2. If you have COVID, flu, fever or aches, please wait until you test negative - usually 5-10 days or until symptoms end - until you return to worship.
3. Please note that FREE test kits are available from **covid.gov**. Or you can find test kits at local pharmacies or grocery stores for about \$8 - \$10.



WARM Cold Weather Shelter and Grace - Thank you so much to everyone for your support of another successful CWS week at Grace (December 4 - 11)! We provided warm, safe shelter and food to 17 - 20 guests each night. And, received so many blessings --

"This dinner is **so** good, thanks!"

"Thank you so much for wanting us."

"Your church has so many people who help us."

"I like coming here."

There's not enough room for me to thank everyone personally - we had about 57 Grace members/friends that volunteered in-person, many more who were behind the scenes! **Thank you** for your time/talents; **Thank you** for your financial support; but most of all, thank you for your prayers and for being such gracious hosts. "I like coming here." - that one makes my heart burst wide open. **Thank you Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church!**

If you're interested in assisting the CWS further, there are numerous opportunities. In particular, WARM is in need of assistance the week of February 5 - 12. If you are interested, please call Paula Johnson 304-963-1540 - she's with WARM.



Donations for Nicaragua Mission Trip—Our friends and partners at CICRIN, the Nicaraguan Christian Children's Center and School (www.cicrinus.org), have invited our mission team to bring certain items they need. Our airline baggage allowance this year enables us to respond positively to their request.

Here's what we are collecting in the box in the narthex.

- Children's and adult cough, cold, and flu medications (no liquids, please; tablets, pills and powders only)
- Children's and adult vitamins
- Pens, acrylic and permanent markers, colored paper, glue, color pencils, (things for office and school)
- New underwear for boys (8-15 years old) and girls (8-13 years old)
- Used but working laptop computers and portable tablets are useful for kids learning computation skills and/or headed off to university

Donations of money are highly portable and are used to buy items in country, benefiting the local merchants as well as CICRIN.



Use of Grace Facilities—If you are planning a fellowship event, a meeting, a gathering, etc. at Grace for any time or purpose, please contact the church office to ensure that the space you would like to use is available and that it gets put on the Church calendar. As we again become social, the church facilities are being used much more frequently. All current and future Yoga Classes will be held in the Seminar Room as usage of the Fellowship Hall has increased tremendously. Thank you!



Columbarium—As you make your final plans, remember that Grace has a Columbarium on the North side of the building. Each niche will hold two (2) of our brass urns, which are included in the cost of \$2,250 per niche. There are also Memorial Bricks available for the patio, which can be engraved with the name of a loved one who may be buried elsewhere. For more information, contact Bradley Keefer at 540-942-4290 or the Church Office.



Food Pantries - Thanks, and Continuing Need—Many thanks to those who have donated Peanut Butter, Mac 'n Cheese, Personal Hygiene items, and Dried Rice and Beans to our local food pantries. We have made ***thirty-eight*** deliveries thus far, sixteen to Main Street United Methodist, and twenty-two to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 4,005 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Sanitary Kits for Africa - We continue to make these kits from 9x9 flannel squares at Grace! Please continue donating 9x9 Prewashed Flannel (no fleece, felt or plush) squares at the back of the Nave. Contact Gloria Nelson if you have questions.

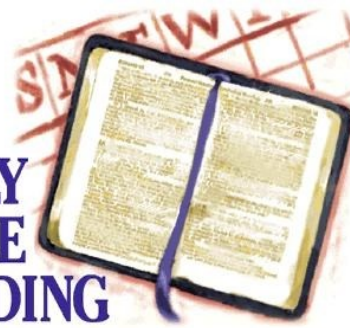


January

January
7—14, 2024

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	01/07	8:30 a.m.	 Adult Sunday School Baptism of Our Lord Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Reverend Cynthia Long, Preaching and Presiding 
		10:00 a.m.	
		11:10 a.m.	
Tuesday	01/09	9:30 a.m.	Quilting (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday	01/10	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Group (Chapel)
		6:00 p.m.	Yoga (Seminar Room)
Thursday	01/11	8:30 a.m.	 Grace Walkers Bible Study (Conference Room) Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)  Virginia Organizing (Conference Room) Bible Study (Conference Room)
		11:00 a.m.	
		12:30 p.m.	
		5:30 p.m.	
		7:00 p.m.	
Saturday	01/13		VA Synod—Dave Delaney (Fellowship Hall)
		11:00 a.m.	Yoga (Seminar Room)
Sunday	01/14	8:30 a.m.	 Adult Sunday School Second Sunday After Epiphany Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube First Sunday Fellowship Confirmation Class K-5 Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom)
		10:00 a.m.	
		11:10 a.m.	
		11:15 a.m.	

**DAILY
BIBLE
READING**



Monday

Genesis 2:4-9 (10-15) 16-25
Hebrews 1:1-14
John 1:1-18
Morning Psalm 145, Evening 29

Tuesday

Genesis 3:1-24
Hebrews 2:1-10
John 1:19-28
Morning Psalm 146, Evening 133

Wednesday

Genesis 4:1-16
Hebrews 2:11-18
John 1:(29-34) 35-42
Morning Psalm 147:1-12, Evening 33

Thursday

Genesis 4:17-26
Hebrews 3:1-11
John 1:43-51
Morning Psalm 147:13-21,
Evening 62

Friday

Genesis 6:1-8
Hebrews 3:12-19
John 2:1-12
Morning Psalm 148, Evening 65

Saturday

Genesis 6:9-22
Hebrews 4:1-13
John 2:13-22
Morning Psalm 149, Evening 98



CHURCH  COUNCIL

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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youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro
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