

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 28, 2024

HOLY COMMUNION
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Four)
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

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Father, the Son and the holy Spirit, ✝ one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of ✝ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.

Amen.



Let the Whole Creation Cry

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
 2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song,
 and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;

Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
 Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
 from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

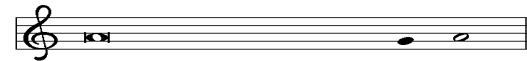
Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832–1916, alt.
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750, adapt.

Greeting

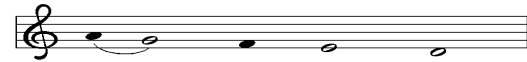
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie

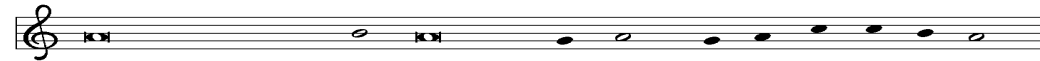
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



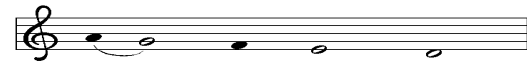
Lord, have mer - cy.



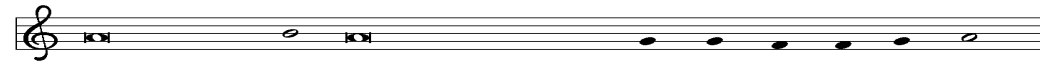
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



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



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

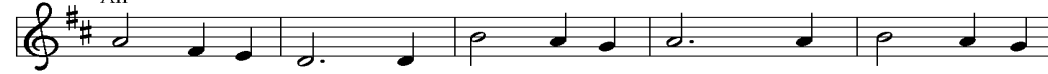
Canticle of Praise

Refrain



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

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



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



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Word

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy:

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 111

We read responsively.

¹Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**²Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.**

³Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

**⁴He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

⁵He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**⁶He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

**⁸They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is his name.

**¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

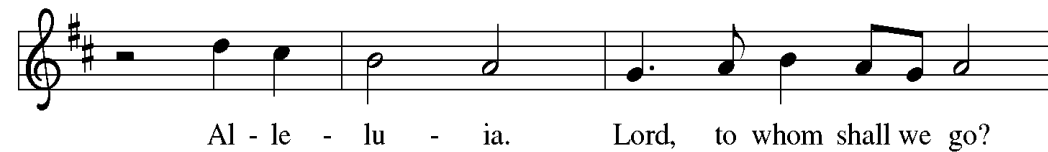
Continued

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as in fact there are many gods and many lords — ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸Food will not bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

The holy gospel according to St. Mark:



Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

The congregation is seated.

Children's Worship

Pastor Pingel

Sermon

Pastor Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The congregation stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Hymn of the Day: "There is a Balm in Gilead"

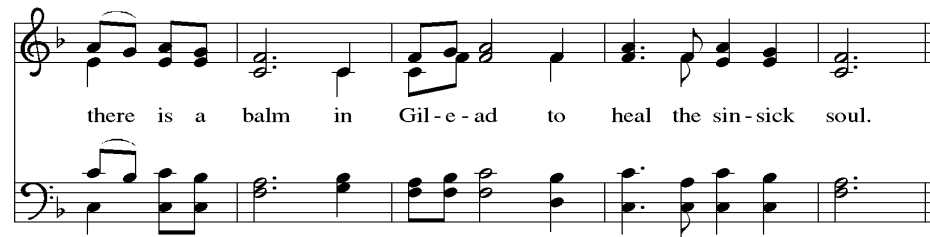
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There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;




there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.



1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain



but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of
the Father,
and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic
church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Ninamwamini Mungu, Baba Mwenyezi,
Muumba wa mbingu na dunia;**

**Na Yesu Kristo, Mwana wake wa pekee,
Bwana wetu, aliyetwaa mwili kwa tendo
la R`oho Mutakatifu, akazaliwa na Bikira
Maria. Akateswa zamani za Pontio
Pilato, akasulibiwa, akafa, akazikwa,
akashuka kuzimuni mwa wafu,
akafufuka katika wafu siku ya tatu,
akapanda mbinguni, anakaa kwa
mukono wa kuume wa Mungu,
Baba Mwenyezi, ndipo atakuja tena
kuhukumu wazima na wafu.**

**Ninamwamini Roho Mutakatifu, Kanisa
kikristo takatifu, ushirika wa watakatifu,
ondoleo la zambi, ufufuko wa mwili, na
uzima wa milele. Amina.**



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 or similar 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.

Meal

Peace

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

Offertory

The congregation stands.



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 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: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. 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.**

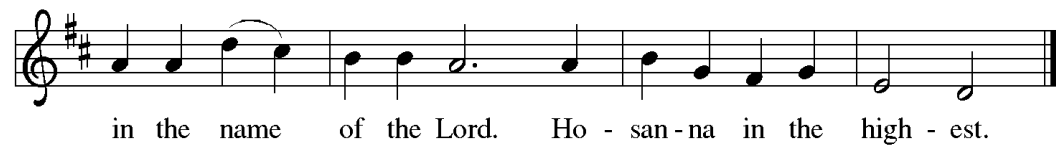
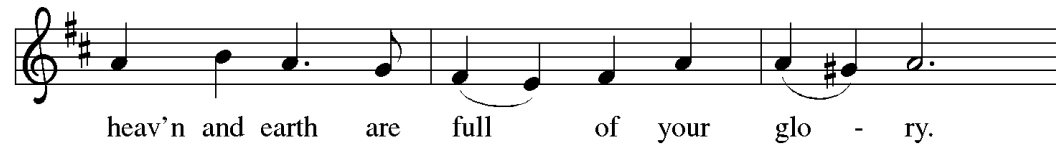
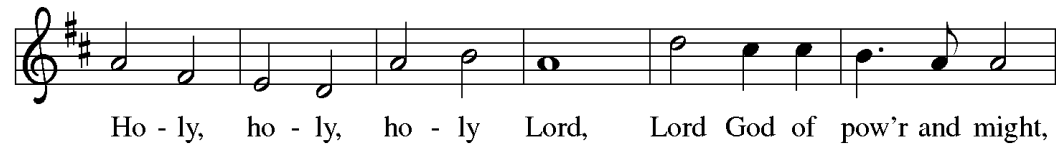
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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.

The congregation may be seated.

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, grant us peace.

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.

The Communion Blessing

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

Amen

After all have returned to their places, the congregation stands.

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

Blessing

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: *“Jesus Shall Reign”*

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Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Jesus Shall Reign

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron - g to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - or to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793



Worship Assistants

Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today

<i>Altar Flowers:</i>	<i>Linda Meyer</i>
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	<i>Jean Morgan</i>
<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	<i>Cathy Crowder</i>
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	<i>Carolyn Hite</i> <i>Gloria Nelson</i>
<i>Council Person of the Week:</i>	<i>Linda Meyer</i>
<i>Offering Stewards:</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i> <i>Jean Morgan</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>Ron Almarode</i> <i>Lee Lynch</i>



Chancel flowers are given this morning to the glory of God in gratitude for all God's blessings



Next Sunday's schedule and Lessons

Sunday, February 4, 2024
Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Service of Holy Communion
and via You Tube

Pastor Paul Pingel
Presiding and Preaching

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalms 147:1-11, 20C
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39



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)

Caroline Biggers

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

Claire Biggers, Daughter of Fred and Caroline Biggers

Rick Van Norton, Friend of Pat Giesen

Phoenix Oberg, Friend of Sarah Kite

Tiffany Tate, Friend of Pat Giesen

Hellen Vindas and Family, CICRIN

Children and Staff at CICRIN

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

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

Emily Almarode

Chuck Goodrich

Phyllis Kite

Sharon Vorel

Genevieve Arneson

Kathy Johnson

Glenn Myers

Marge Cloutier

Sandy Johnson

Tom and Carol Varner

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
Natalie Dodge, Friend of the Almarodes and Amy Warren
Joshua Horn, Friend of the Trauschts
Joe Keesee, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Melissa Oskrig, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson

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

Family of Emma Lou Artz, Relative of Gloria Nelson
Family of Katie Caraher, Friend of Amy Warren
Family of Lois Dettweiler, Mother of Donna Marshall
The Family of Janet Long, Mother of Cynthia Long
Family of Jan McCoy, Friend of the Dolans
Family of Liz Shumate, Wife of Pastor Joe Shumate

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Esme Hilker (1/31)

PRAYER
e list...

Prayers for the World

As Followers of Christ, we begin early this year to pray for our Nation in what has already shown itself to be a difficult Presidential campaign, and that God would guide US, as faithful people, not in our fears, but by our faith in the One who creates, the One who has saved us for life that really is life, and the One who guides each of us daily *in this United States of America.*

We bring before God areas of war and tension—The Red Sea and shipping lanes attacked by Houthi Rebels; border clashes in Pakistan vs. Iran; Chinese tensions with Taiwan; Ukraine/Russia's continuing war; Israeli war in Gaza and Middle East tensions.

Victims of earthquakes in Japan (over 200 dead)

The Church

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

For our downtown neighbors at St. John Episcopal, First Baptist, First Presbyterian, Main Street United Methodist and The Prayer Room, as well as the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



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.



Gas Line Work at Grace - Columbia Gas is updating their gas lines in and around Grace, including a new gas hook-up and pipe to Grace itself. As a result, **the 13th Street entrance will be blocked off Monday-Wednesday, January 29-31**. Please enter Grace through the Office Entrance off of Wayne Avenue, or the Valley Music Academy entrance (or Grace Church entrance) off of the circle driveway.



Dinners of Eight – 2024 - Members and friends of Grace are invited to join in the next round of Dinners of Eight – a monthly time of informal fellowship and getting to know each other better as a family of faith. Thirty-two members participated in the autumn gatherings. If you'd like to be part of the winter-spring gatherings, or for more information, contact the coordinator Mark Radecke at radecke@susqu.edu.



First Sunday Fellowships! These are wonderful opportunities for fellowship as well as a time to get a great “snapshot” of the ministries of Grace! **We need your ministry to sign up** to provide light refreshments, as well as make a brief presentation of your ministry. However familiar you think Grace is with what your ministry does, it's always important to share our ministries at Grace! See the **sign-up sheet** in the narthex and sign-up today!



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:

- Starting February 12th, we begin 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.



The **Virginia Synod** has two learning events that are great opportunities for participation and learning: **Midwinter Power in the Spirit, February 5-7**, from 5:45 p.m.-7:00 p.m., which will focus on a study of the stories and witness of three women from the New Testament, Dorcas, Lydia, and Phoebe; and include numerous workshops from Business and Ethics, to "Sacred Threads". Check out <https://vasynod.org/event/midwinter-power-in-the-spirit-2/> for more information and to register for this Zoom event. Or contact Donna Gum, 540-649-0260, fdgum@ntelos.net.



For several weeks, we have requested donations for the mission trip to Nicaragua. Mark and Tami Radecke were preparing to lead a group of 16, including seven members of Grace. Unfortunately, we received some sad and shocking news this week that the Children's Center, CICRIN, has been seized by the Nicaraguan government. Locks have been placed on the front gates and CICRIN is no longer in operation. Therefore, **the mission trip has been cancelled.** CICRIN is one of 3,500 non-governmental organizations closed and seized by the Nicaraguan government in the last several years.

The Director of the Children's Center, Hellen Vindas, and her daughter were asked to leave immediately, and they are living in a partially built home on the island with no electricity, toilets, drinking water or an exterior door. She is out of work after a 33-year career with CICRIN.

After learning the news of CICRIN's closure, several members of the team decided that our monies would be better spent helping Hellen to finish her home. This would also allow her to employ local people who have lost work due to the closing of CICRIN. Pastor Paul and Ron Almarode have graciously offered for Grace to be the conduit for these donations to support Hellen and her family.

People have asked what will happen to the children at CICRIN. The school will continue to be run by the Nicaraguan government. However, the public school system is not providing the necessary preparation for youth entering college or the workforce, which is why Hellen founded the CICRIN school. The children living in residence at CICRIN are those who were most at risk of abuse and neglect when living with their family of origin. They are staying with church families right now and their long-term housing situation is unknown.

Thank you for your prayers and financial contributions for the mission trip. If you donated items such as children's vitamins, cold medicine or underwear, please feel free to take those items. We will donate what is left to a local shelter such as WARM or Valley Mission.

We ask for your prayers for Hellen Vindas and her family, the workers at CICRIN who are now unemployed in an impoverished place with little opportunity to secure income, and for the children who lived and went to school at CICRIN. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Mark or Tami Radecke.



Special thanks to Maxine McKinney who is serving Grace as Organist during January and early February in Mike Myers' stead. Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents, Maxine!



Special thanks to Betty Karol Wilson who is leading Grace Choir during January and early February in Mike Myers' stead. Thank you for sharing your gifts and talents, Betty Karol Wilson!



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 Grace All God's Children and the Grace/Christ Tabernacle Christian Coalition for Equity and Justice groups will provide lunches for guests at the Expo Center WARM Shelter Tuesday, February 6th through Monday, February 12th. We will be packing up to 70 daily lunches at the Christ Tabernacle kitchen on Monday, February 5th, Wednesday, February 7th, and Saturday, February 10th. Other Grace members are welcome to participate in the packing. Donations to help defray the cost of the lunch provisions would also be greatly appreciated. They can be submitted to Grace with the notation they are for the "WARM Lunch Program". Contact Rick Bump, Donna Yobs or Nancy Schwiesow for further information or to volunteer.



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



Annual Congregational Meeting and Lunch - In keeping with the pre-COVID practice of enjoying a lunch fellowship in conjunction with the Annual Congregational meeting, we will be having a modified potluck lunch **after worship on February 25**. There will be main dishes of soups/stews/chilis, along with salads, bread, and desserts. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the church or you may call the church office to volunteer to bring something by February 18. Come on down to the Fellowship Hall for the Annual Meeting and stay for the lunch and time for fellowship on the 25th.

If you have any questions about the lunch, please contact Linda Meyer (540-256-2277) or Karen Walck (765-480-9920).



Tutoring Needs—We are working with Westminster Presbyterian to offer tutoring of the children of Jules Madawa and Masoka Mmeswa once a week on Thursdays, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. There are four (4) lively children in school right now – and the baby, Happy, also likes to join in the activities. If you have an interest in participating in the tutoring every week or just a time or two a month, please contact Linda Meyer (540-256-2277).



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



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!



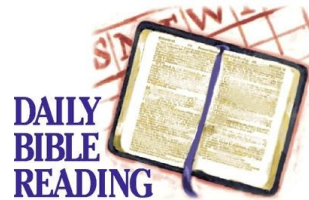
Columbarium—As you make your final plans, remember that Grace has a Columbarium on the North side of the building. Each niche will hold two (2) of our brass urns, which are included in the cost of \$2,250 per niche. There are also Memorial Bricks available for the patio, which can be engraved with the 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-nine*** deliveries thus far, sixteen to Main Street United Methodist, and twenty-three to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 4,125 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



<p>Monday Genesis 19:1-17 (18-23) 24-29 Hebrews 11:1-12 John 6:27-40 Morning Psalm 145, Evening 112</p>	<p>Thursday Genesis 23:1-20 Hebrews 11:32-12:2 John 6:60-71 Morning Psalm 147:13-21, Evening 27</p>
<p>Tuesday Genesis 21:1-21 Hebrews 11:13-22 John 6:41-51 Morning Psalm 146, Evening 86</p>	<p>Friday Genesis 24:1-27 Hebrews 12:3-11 John 7:1-13 Morning Psalm 148, Evening 139</p>
<p>Wednesday Genesis 22:1-18 Hebrews 11:23-31 John 6:52-59 Morning Psalm 147:1-12, Evening 4</p>	<p>Saturday Genesis 24:28-38, 49-51 Hebrews 12:12-29 John 7:14-36 Morning Psalm 149, Evening 111</p>

UPCOMING EVENTS



January 28—February 4, 2024

Day of Week	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	01/28	8:30 a.m.	 Adult Sunday School Fourth Sunday After Epiphany Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Confirmation Class K-5 Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom) VMA Recital
		10:00 a.m.	
		11:10 a.m.	
		11:15 a.m.	
		1:00-6:00 p.m.	
Monday	01/29	7:00 p.m.	Virginia Synod Tapestry Event, "Reflecting on Martin Luther King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail"
Tuesday	01/30	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
		7:00 p.m.	Worship & Music Meeting (Conference Room)
Wednesday	01/31	8:00 a.m.	School Backpacking (Fellowship Hall)
		10:00 a.m.	Prayer Group (Chapel)
		6:00 p.m.	Yoga (Seminar Room)
		7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	02/01	8:30 a.m.	Grace Walkers
		11:00 a.m.	Bible Study (Conference Room)
		12:30 p.m.	Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)
		6:00 p.m.	CCE&J (Conference Room)
		7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (Conference Room)
Saturday	02/03	11:00 a.m.	Yoga (Seminar Room)
Sunday	02/04	8:30 a.m.	 Adult Sunday School Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Pastor Karen Van Stee, Presiding and Preaching Confirmation Class K-5 Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom)
		10:00 a.m.	
		11:10 a.m.	



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

STAFF

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

Internet: www.gracewaynesboro.org

Telephone: 540.949.6171