



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
March 19, 2023

“Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we are a vibrant congregation that shares the love of Christ with each other, the community, and the world.”

HOLY COMMUNION

*Based on Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting One
(Available via You Tube and Zoom Remotely)
Congregational responses are in bold print*

We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this wonderful morning of light, music, the Holy Word and fellowship. 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.

We have 4 assisted listening units that are simple to operate. They consist of a small unit with an earpiece and volume control, each unit is replaced after each use. See the ushers to use one today.

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 parts the 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

Congregation and Choir sing.

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

Welcome and Announcements

The congregation stands.



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,
who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.



Holy God,
**we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✚ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "God, Whose Almighty Word"

#673, Page 4

God, Whose Almighty Word

1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.
 Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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

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, a - men.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

Word

Psalm: Psalm 23

We read responsively.

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²**He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

³he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

⁴**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from Ephesians:

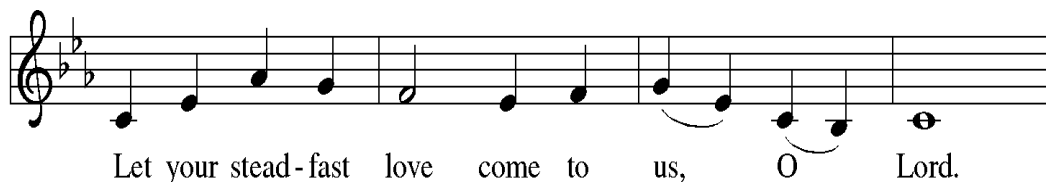
⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to St. John:

Glory to you O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

Continued

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Pastor Pingel

Sermon

Pastor Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day: "Amazing Grace"

#779, Page 11, Verses 1-4

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

Nicene Creed

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.**

Amen.



Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

Hear us O God,
Your mercy is great.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Meal

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please greet those around you, offer a sign of peace to one another.

We sit.



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 Song

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

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
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, 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:



S108

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 in 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

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.
Thanks be to God!



"Lamb of God" may be sung.

S 112

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 musical score consists of four staves of music in treble clef. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The Holy Communion

The congregation may be seated.

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.

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

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.

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Je-
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.
Amen.



Sending

Blessing

God, the giver of love,
✙ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

Benediction ✙

Sending Song: “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death”

#452, Page 22

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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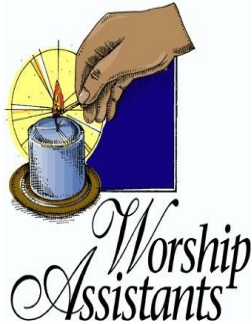
Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
 to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
 one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
 with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
 A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

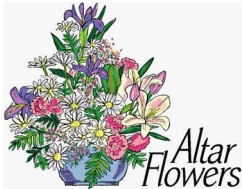
Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today

Altar Flowers:	Dwight & Ernestine Moomaw
Altar Guild:	
Assisting Minister:	Cathy Crowder
Communion Assistants:	Robin Crowder Lew Yobs
Council Person of the Week:	Bob Barrette
Offering Steward:	Robin Crowder Vivian Proctor
Ushers:	Rick Bump Linda Meyer



The Chancel Flowers today are given to the Glory of our God and in appreciation of our family.

Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons

*March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion
10:00 a.m.*

*Pastor Paul Pingel
Presiding and Preaching*

*Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45*



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 4 weeks*)

Marge Cloutier
Nancy Schwiesow

Jimmy Owens
Linda Tomey

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

Jim Brown, Friend of the Meickes
Sydney H., Friend of Caisters
David Jones, Friend of Sandy & Gail Johnson and many others
Kevin and Sarah Knicely, Son and Daughter-in-Law of Ron and Sandy Knicely
Phoenix Oberg, Friend of Sarah Kite
Payton Potter, Friend of the Meickes

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

Reverend Tonya Eza's acceptance of a CALL to pastor at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clay, NY
Douglas Williams, Friend of Sylvia Almarode, has returned from Kuwait

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

Emily Almarode
Sandra Hoy
Bill Lucas

Liz Ann Binns
Kathryn Johnson

Fred Brower
Phyllis Kite
Glenn Myers

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

Timothy Bradford, Friend from Christ Tabernacle
Janice Collins, Friend of Grace

Continued

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

Beth Hausrath Crickenberger, Friend to Many at Grace
Nina Crowe, Mother of Cathy Crowder
Natalie and Nicole Dodge, Friends of Ron and Sylvia Almarode
Steven Eckstrom, Son of Jack and Antoinette Eckstrom
Kyle Getler, Relative of Bill Meicke
Darren Graf, Son of Woody and Irma Graf
Regan Grant, Friend of Richard and Kathy Bump
Kathy Hale, Friend of Charlie and Betty Karol Wilson
Sandy Higgs, Friend of David and Nancy Schwiesow
Rosalind Holt, Friend of Gail Johnson
Joshua Horn, Friend of Mike and Cindy Trauscht
Bruce Joleaud, Brother-in-Law of Mike Trauscht
David Jones, Friend of Gail and Sandy Johnson
Jen Kearney, Friend to Many at Grace
Billy Mason, Family of the Carpers
Dot Metz, Sister of Marge Cloutier
Barbie Ostrander, Friend to Many at Grace
Steve Rolland, Father of Kathy Meicke
Ken & Letty Rosen, Friends of David and Nancy Schwiesow
Judy Simpson, Sister of Sharon Lynch
Arta Smith, Friend of the Bumps
Sue Smoot, Friend of the Radeckes
Larry Spoon, Husband of Bonnie Spoon, Friend of Many
Kay Truslow, Friend of Mike and Cindy Trauscht
Toretta Wyatt, Friend from Christ Tabernacle

Members/Friends Grieving *(Remain on List for 4 weeks*)*
Family of Deacon Linus Ellis

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Caroline Biggers (3/21)	Minnie Moyer (3/22)
Frannie Knicely (3/24)	Vernette Nichols (3/25)
Nancy Dowdy (3/25)	Sharon Lynch (3/26)
Jessica Smith (3/26)	



IN OUR



Thoughts and Prayers

The Needs of the World

Our nation, and its future for our children

The Earthquake Devastation in Turkey
and Syria

The War in Ukraine and heightened tensions between Russia and the U.S.

The Rail Derailment and
Environmental Concerns in
East Palestine, Ohio and our
railway system

Winter Storms in the U.S.

President Jimmy Carter in Hospice
Care, and his legacy of service
and concern for the World

The Church

Grace's Strategic Planning

Our friends in Christ at St. John Episcopal,
as they offer Godspeed to their rector,
Benjamin Badgett at the end of
February

Our Neighbors

Our neighbors in the Wenonah area



Easter Breakfast—Grace will be hosting an Easter Breakfast April 9th, after the 8:30 service! We will have such a joyous and exciting time of congregational fellowship celebrating the promises of our Lord. Please sign up on the sheet in the Nave to join us for this wonderful celebration of fellowship and celebration!



Nicaragua Mission Team Report – Today—Members of the team that visited and worked at CICRIN, the Nicaraguan Christian Children’s Center and School on Ometepe Island, last month will share a report about their work at a fellowship gathering after worship on Sunday, March 19, (rumor has it that Nicaraguan coffee and light refreshments will be served!)



Easter Flowers—White Easter Lilies and White Regal Geraniums with green foil will be used for Easter Sunday at the altar and may be purchased in memory or honor of a loved one(s). Flowers are \$12 each. Please complete the inserted form and return it to the church office, along with payment, **by Sunday, March 26**. Please make checks payable to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and designate them for Lilies and/or Geraniums.



The “First Sunday Fellowships” have begun! Each “first Sunday” of the month, one of our volunteer groups at Grace will hold a gathering in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Please sign up your group in the Narthex so the congregation can learn more about what goes on in the life of our church! See Sylvia Almarode if you have any questions



Hospitality and Grace—Are you interested in learning more about Christianity and hospitality? Join us for a book/study group! We will read *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition* by Christine D. Pohl (9 chapters, 187 pages). *If interested, please contact Eric Hilker 978-793-9845, Pastor Paul Pingel, 540-216-4454, or Susan Myers, 434-760-1660.*



Today at 3:00 p.m., **Schola Cantorum** of Waynesboro will be performing **The Cry of Jeremiah**. This powerful and moving music will be performed at First Baptist Church, 301 South Wayne, in Waynesboro. There will be other selections as well. All the compositions are by women. Tickets are not required – there is no admission charge – your contributions are appreciated!



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-two** deliveries thus far, fifteen to Main Street United Methodist, and seventeen to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 3,398 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



Covid Policy at Grace

- Masking is optional during worship.
- We will continue to post the CDC "risk" color (green [low], yellow [medium] or orange [high risk] in the narthex
- There is a "social distance" section available in the front of the worship space
- Holy Communion will continue to be offered by coming up front and
- Masks and hand sanitizer continue to be available in the narthex.

We continue to encourage:

- Vaccination and keeping up-to-date with current shots
- Staying home when not feeling well, especially with flu and other infections on the rise this time of year
- Masking if you have not been vaccinated for Covid or Flu



ASSISTANTS

We Need Your Help at Grace! One of the blessings that God's Spirit gives us as a congregation is that we ALL have gifts, talent and time TO SHARE, which allows the ministry of Grace, and God's Mission for us, to continue. If you are not already actively assisting, please consider helping with the Altar Guild (contact Jean Morgan), Assisting Ministers (contact Donna Gum), Communion Assistants (contact Donna Gum), Offering Stewards (contact Pat Brady) and/or Ushers (contact Jack Eckstrom). You may also contact the church office.



Mission Giving

Mission Endowment Fund Temple Talk next Sunday - on Sunday, March 26th, David Schwiesow will be inviting the congregation to make proposals to use the Grace Mission Endowment Fund (MEF) in our community and beyond. Approximately \$28,000 will be available from the seven sub-funds of the MEF, and we are looking for your proposals for its use!! Listen for David's talk next Sunday, and help Grace to be God's blessing through our Mission Endowment Fund.



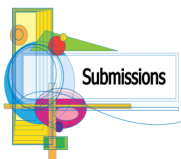
Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) - Turkey and Syria Devastation -

Two earthquakes have left a significant area of both countries in utter disaster. Cold weather, shelter and basic needs are critical at this time. Your donation goes 100% toward relief efforts (LDR and partner groups are very active in the relief effort). Make checks payable to Grace with "Middle East Earthquakes" in the line item.



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers—Please consider signing up to provide Altar Flowers for Sunday services. You can either sign up on flower chart in the Nave or call the church office.



Reminder—Please have articles, etc. for **GraceNotes** to the Church Office by the 20th of the month for next month's publication. If you need more time, please send Nancy a note and let her know when she will receive it. In addition, please have announcements, etc. for **Sunday bulletins** to the Church Office by Wednesday morning. Nancy's email is: Grace.lc@comcast.net



Caring for our Neighbors - This year, many Covid-era supports for the working poor are going away: SNAP (supplemental nutrition assistance program) benefits, as well as tax breaks for families with children, that will result in \$thousands less money in families' pockets. This great need will likely be reflected in our community in the weeks and months ahead. Grace is working with other congregations in Waynesboro to determine whether we can work TOGETHER to help address the needs of our community. Please support our contributions to local Food Banks (see the announcement), and if you are interested, let Pastor know if you would like to attend future meetings with other congregations asking "how do we move forward?"

Monday

Jeremiah 1:11-19
Romans 1:1-15
John 4:27-42
Morning Psalm 119:73-80, Evening 121

Tuesday

Jeremiah 2:1-13, 29-32
Romans 1:16-25
John 4:43-54
Morning Psalm 34, Evening 25

Wednesday

Jeremiah 3:6-18
Romans 1:(26-27) 28—2:11
John 5:1-18
Morning Psalm 5, Evening 27



Thursday

Jeremiah 4:9-10, 19-28
Romans 2:12-24
John 5:19-29
Morning Psalm 27, Evening 126

Friday

Jeremiah 5:1-9
Romans 2:25—3:18
John 5:30-47
Morning Psalm 22, Evening 105

Saturday

Jeremiah 5:20-31
Romans 3:19-31
John 7:1-13
Morning Psalm 43, Evening 31



The Season of Lent

The ancient practice of Lent was preparing candidates for Holy Baptism, by walking them through the life of Jesus, from Ash Wednesday through Easter. This preparation reviewed Jesus' life, his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, followed by his death on the cross, and his rising to new life. It anticipates our life in Christ, where each day we die to sin, and rise to the new life the Risen Christ has for us.

Come and take part in this ancient practice, and find your journey of faith renewed during the Season of Lent!

Sundays during the Season of Lent - March 26th

10:00 a.m. - Worship with Holy Communion

Wednesdays in Lent - "The Apocrypha - The Story of You"

Apocrypha is considered a part of Holy Scripture in the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, but we know little of it in the Lutheran and other Protestant Churches. During this Lenten Season, we'll take a look at our Faith Story - "The Story of You"- through the lens of the Apocrypha. The books of the Apocrypha were written in the period of history between the Old and New Testament. They contain Prayers, Wisdom Literature, Short (and sometimes wild!) Stories, as well as "straight up" History. We'll discover that this collection of sacred documents "off the beaten path" can be a strong aid to our own baptismal journeys of faith; "the story of you" on the way to the cross, the tomb, and the resurrection of our Lord.

6:00 p.m. - Soup Suppers

7:00 p.m. – The Apocrypha

- **March 22** - *Bethlehem Lutheran Church* - The history of the Apocrypha - revealing the origins of a familiar holiday and the expectations of a Messiah.
- **March 29** - *Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church* - The Story of You - and finding God in your prayer, wisdom, stories, and history.



Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, April 2

10:00 a.m. Procession with Palms, Joined by Other Congregations

Maundy Thursday, April 6

10:00 a.m. Chapel

7:00 p.m. Confession and Forgiveness/Foot Washing/Holy Communion/Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 7

7:00 p.m. The Passion of Our Jesus Christ-Tenebrae

Easter Vigil, April 8

7:00 p.m. Service of Light/Old Testament Salvation Readings/
Affirmation of Baptism/Holy Communion

Easter Sunday/Resurrection of Our Lord Worship, April 9

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion

9:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion



Life of Grace Church
March 19-26, 2023

DAY	DATE	TIME	MEETING
TODAY— SUNDAY	03/19	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<p>Adult Bible Class—Matthew</p> <p>Fourth Sunday in Lent <i>Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube</i></p> <p>Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding and Preaching</p> <p>Nicaragua Mission Team Report</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p>
Monday	03/20	7:00 p.m.	All God's Children Book Study (Conference Room)
Tuesday	03/21	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	<p>Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>Church Council (Conference Room)</p>
Wednesday	03/22	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	<p>Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>Lenten Soup Supper—Bethlehem</p> <p>Lenten Worship—The Apocrypha—Bethlehem</p> <p>Hand Bell Choir Practice</p> <p>Choir Practice</p>
Thursday	03/23	8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<p>Grace Walkers (Meet in Parking Lot)</p> <p>Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>CCEJ Group Zoom Meeting</p>
Saturday	03/25	11:00 a.m.	Yoga (Seminar Room)
Sunday	03/26	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:50 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<p>Adult Bible Class—Matthew</p> <p>Fifth Sunday in Lent <i>Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube</i></p> <p>Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding and Preaching</p> <p>Coffee Fellowship</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p>

Members of Grace Congregational Council

Robin Crowder, President (540-476-0180)
Nancy Schwiesow, Vice-President (301-943-0888)
Bob Barrette (434-760-4419)
Fred Biggers (434-981-1954)
Jack Eckstrom (240-344-3176)
Jean Morgan (540-649-4422)
Susan Myers (434-760-1660)
Andrew Sell (612-695-8361)
Stephen Van Stee (540-325-0772)
Karen Walck (765-480-9920)
Ron Almarode, Treasurer
Vivian Proctor, Secretary
Donna Marshall, Assistant 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
facebook.com/gelc.elca
youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro
Internet: www.gracewaynesboro.org
Telephone: 540.949.6171*