

May 2024

GraceNotes

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

From the Pastor



Pastor's Page

April 18-20th, I went to Richmond, Virginia for a Pro-Reconciliation training with approximately 15

other pastors and denominational representatives from five denominations.

There was a lot to take in, with powerful stories, great information, and getting to know a lot of people. There were Lutherans, Episcopalians, Disciples of Christ, Baptist and United Church of Christ pastors.

What I'd like to share this month are the words of a song we sang a number of times at the training. In one sense it is very simple, but it declares some important and basic truths about US as the Church. This is the "big C" Church, as well as Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. The song is called *I Need You to Survive*:

I need you
You need me
We're all a part of God's body
Stand with me
Agree with me
We're all a part of God's body
It is his will that every need be
supplied
You are important to me
I need you to survive
You pray for me
I pray for you
I love you
I need you to survive
It is his will that every need be
supplied
You are important to me
I need you to survive
(Hezekiah Walker)

Whether you think about followers of Christ living in the world as the Church – all of us, regardless of denomination, regardless of skin color, ethnicity, sexuality, ability or disability – I need you to survive.

Continued

Or think about Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church: I need you, you need me, we're all a part of God's body.

It has been a part of the "aha!" of my own faith journey, that "it's all about relationship." God's relationship with us, and our relationship with each other. Jesus - in the Gospel readings we have recently shared, as well as the Sundays leading up to Pentecost - time and time again invite us, instruct us, urge us, command us to love one another, as God loves us, *and* as the Father and the Son love one another. This is true of US at Grace. This is true of US in relationship with Christ Tabernacle. This is true of US as Lutheran congregations all birthed from the same single congregation (Grace, Zion, Bethlehem, St. James *and* Bethany Lutheran [Missouri Synod]) were all birthed from Trinity, Crimora), or of all of us in the Southern Valley Conference.

In addition, Jesus calls us all to be ONE: one flock, one shepherd; "let them be One as the Father and I are one". These callings are as important as they've ever been in our belief AND practice. And yet there's another very important

component: we are called to be ONE not as if we're all the same, but in the diversity of the Body God has created us to be in Jesus Christ: Jew, Greek, Slave, Free, Male, Female (Galatians 3:28-29), and in our nation, white and people of color (black, Hispanic, middle eastern, native American), the diversity of human sexuality as well as human ability.

It is God's will that every need be supplied in the abundance of this Creation God has made. The song we learned at the conference speaks a powerful truth: that when we share the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we learn:

You are important to me, I need you to survive. It is our daily call and gift to *live* this as well, in this community and nation.





Important Called Congregation Meeting, Sunday, May 19th - Grace Council has called a special Congregation Meeting after worship Sunday, May 19th, for the following reasons:

Church
Constitution
& Bylaws



Church
Council

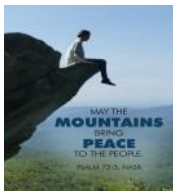


1. To vote on a new revised Grace Constitution, which takes into account the changes approved by the Virginia Synod and the ELCA over the last ten + years, as well as revisions specific to Grace that reflect our practices and meetings within the congregation.
2. To elect Council Members for the 2024-2026 terms.

Please plan on attending this very important meeting in the life of Grace congregation!



Nominations for Grace Council - Per our Constitution, "nominations for Council shall be made by Grace Council..." with their biographical information supplied to the Congregation ten days prior to the May 19th Congregation meeting. *Please note* "additional nominations may be made in writing to [Nancy Dowdy] at least one week prior to the Congregation Meeting (May 12th)...*All nominees must have consented to serve, in order for the name to be put on the ballot*".



Hiker Ministry 2024: May 27-June 22—For its 20th year, our Hiker Ministry will again welcome Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers Stopping in Waynesboro for respite and refueling! Hostel Overseers this year will be Woody and Irma from New Hampshire (yes, Woody promises to be with me this year!) for Weeks 1 and 2, Jill Byrd of Crimora for Week 3 and Marit Anderson and Mark Perschel of Crozet for Week 4. Dave Hennel of Waynesboro will be doing some overnights for us as well. Linda Meyer and Jean Morgan have again agreed to be Church liaison people.

How can you help? Linda Meyer will have a sign-up calendar in church on Sundays in May, so bring your personal calendar and find a check-in, an overnight, or a hiker meal you can provide. This ministry depends on participation from our always-faithful Grace Lutheran members

Continued

In addition to “people help” we, as always, can use donations of the following supplies: cereal, juices, bread, jam, peanut butter, and snacks. Once up and running: milk, fruit, ice cream and home-baked goods. Our hikers are always so very grateful and we provide them with a wholesome, friendly, home-town experience which they don’t forget.

Can’t wait to see you all again!
Irma and Woody Graf



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



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



Renewing Homes Project—Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches teamed together to work with Renewing Homes for two wheel chair ramp projects on Saturday April 13. We removed a ramp from a home in Waynesboro that was no longer needed and used the parts to redo a wheel chair ramp at another location in Waynesboro. If you would like to join in our work projects or want more information please contact Jerry Kite at jerrykite@ntelos.net.



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



Spring Spruce-Up at Grace and we need your help!

Saturday, May 4th, starting at 9:00 a.m., we'll be having a workday at Grace to trim, clean, weed, rake and otherwise! Please bring your work gloves, rakes, shovels and other equipment, as well as your joy for work and fellowship and time outdoors in God's good creation!



Power in the Spirit—“For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” Esther 4: 14

The story of Esther, one of God’s faithful presence, deliverance from oppression, and bold service to the neighbor will be the event’s highlight. God calls Esther—a Jewish queen in a foreign land—to join in God’s plan to save God’s people. God gifts her with leadership, strengthens her in those gifts, and calls her to take risks, all for the sake of her own people. Like her, we can be assured of God’s holy presence and deliverance, We can choose to act for the deliverance of others.

The Rev. CeCee Mills, former pastor in the VA Synod, now Assistant to the Bishop in North Carolina, will be the Keynote Speaker, highlighting the risk of discipleship. The Rev. Heidi Neumark will be the Bible Study leader, celebrating Esther’s leadership growth, and inviting us to recognize the gifts which God has given us.

This event is June 13-15, 2024, at Roanoke College. All people are invited to attend this inspirational conference to explore God’s call to service through joyous worship, Bible studies, keynote addresses, workshops, and fellowship. Children accompanied by their parents are invited to attend and be a part of children’s activities and study. Scholarship money is available from Grace Lutheran for our members. Please contact Donna Gum for more details: fdgum@ntelos.net & 540-649-0260.



Columbarium Niches Available! - thanks to Brad Keefer and Ron Almarode's presentation at First Sunday Fellowship, we learned the cost of burial and expenses of our final resting place in this area. Grace's Columbarium offers a beautiful space as well as a greatly reduced cost compared to other options. Prices will go up this Summer compared to current pricing (\$2,250). Consider your final plans now, and the Grace Columbarium.



Altar Flowers

Flowers—Each week we have flowers to remind us of the Resurrection, that God has raised us up, that God has created a very good world for us to live in. We need your help, sign up today on the Flower Chart in the Nave!



Food Pantry Collections—A huge thank to everyone as you continue to bring food for the food bank box near the office. As noted in the Grace Notes, to date we have collected over 4,125 pounds of food. At a First Sunday Fellowship in February, we heard a presentation from Adrienne and A. J. Young on the River City Bread Basket/ Lifeworks Project. This is a place for people who may not meet the qualifications for services to receive free food. Their goal is to serve everyone who enters the doors and those in Waynesboro's East End who are in walking distance to the pantry.

On Saturday, March 2, several Grace members served Disciples Kitchen breakfast at Christ Tabernacle which is located across the street from the Bread Basket. We had the opportunity to visit and tour the Bread Basket. It is much like a small grocery store with canned goods, fresh vegetables, meat, salad greens and other items you would find at a grocery store. All food is free. Small grocery carts are available for shopping. There is a limit on each item but they can get as many items as needed. The shelves are color coded with suggestions for healthy eating. Several things that they don't receive often from donations or the food bank include condiments, such **mayonnaise, mustard, catsup and salad dressings. Small sizes** of these items are requested. We would like to add these to our food collection. There will be a box near the existing food box in the church office hallway for these items. We have one delivery of food condiments to the Bread Basket.



Save the Date for this year’s Rise Against Hunger Food Packing Event: We will be hosting our annual Rise Against hunger food packing event on Saturday, September 14 at Kate Collins Middle School in Waynesboro. Area Churches have been invited and we hope to collect enough funds to pack over 30,000 meals this year. Event setups will be from 8:30 am to 10:30 am and food packing will be from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. More information will be coming as we get closer to the event date, so save the date.

Sister Phyllis Cox, a Deaconess in the ELCA (see <https://deaconesscommunity.org/>), as well as Co-Chair of the Virginia Synod's Tapestry Committee (see <https://vasynod.org/ministries/tapestry/>), donated a Serviceberry tree for Grace's Property as a part of her own Creation ministry. The tree replaces one of the trees surrounding the parking lot that died a couple of years ago. We thank Phyllis for her gift to Grace, and pray for her continuing ministry!











Budget Barometer— March 2024

*For the year, actual receipts are below budget and actual disbursements are below budget, resulting in a **deficit of \$3,799.14***















Comparison to Prior Year: Financial Barometer	Actual 2023	Actual 2024	Difference
Total Budget Receipts YTD	\$71,468	\$74,860	\$3,393
Total Budget Disbursed YTD	\$80,007	\$78,659	(\$1,347)
	(\$8,539)	(\$3,799)	












Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
<p>Fifth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion at Christ Tabernacle</p>		<p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>QUILTING GROUP</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Worship & Music (Conference Room)</p>  <p>Worship & Music Committee</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Backpacks</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>  <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>COMMUNITY DINNERS</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>  <p>Choir Practice</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p>  <p>GRACE WALKERS</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Conference Room)</p>  <p>Spring Bible Study</p>	 <p>Office Will Be Closed</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. <i>Spring Spruce Up Day</i></p>  <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>










Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Sixth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>First Sunday Fellowship</p> <p>11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School</p> 		<p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>QUILTING GROUP</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>  <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>COMMUNITY DINNERS</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> 	<p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p>  <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Virginia Organizing (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Conference Room)</p> 		<p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>12:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. VMA Recitals (Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall)</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>Seventh Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School</p>  <p>Happy Mother's Day</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room)</p> 	<p>Pastor—Vacation</p>  <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>QUILTING GROUP</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Conference Room)</p> 	<p>Pastor—Vacation</p>  <p>9:00 a.m. School Backpacks</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>  <p>10:15 a.m. Encircle (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Women's Book Group Stella, Bella and Lucy</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Dinner (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>Pastor—Vacation</p>  <p>8:00 a.m. Newcomers Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p>  <p>9:00 a.m. Encircle (Conference Room)</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Conference Room)</p> 	<p>The Pastor Will Be Away...</p>  <p>Office Will Be Closed</p> 	<p>11:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil for Racial Reconcil. (North Park)</p>  <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>12:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. VMA Recitals (Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall)</p>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p>Day of Pentecost</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>Congregational Meeting</p>  <p>11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class</p> <p>11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School</p>		<p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>  <p>QUILTING GROUP</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Executive Committee</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council (Conference Room and Zoom)</p> <p><i>Church Council</i></p> 	<p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p>  <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Dinner (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>COMMUNITY DINNERS</p>  <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p> 	<p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p>  <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Bible Study (Conference Room)</p> 		<p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	30	1
The Holy Trinity	<i>Hiker Hostel</i>	<i>Hiker Hostel</i>	<i>Hiker Hostel</i>	<i>Hiker Hostel</i>	<i>Hiker Hostel</i>	<i>Hiker Hostel</i>
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School	 <i>Memorial DAY</i>	9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)	10:00 a.m. Prayer Group	8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers		11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)
10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion		 QUILTING GROUP		 GRACE WALKERS		
11:10 a.m. Confirmation Class			6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)	12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)		
11:15 a.m. K-5 Sunday School		7:00 p.m. Round Tables (Seminar Room)	6:00 p.m. Community Dinner (Fellowship Hall)			
			 COMMUNITY DINNERS			



MAY

Birthdays

5/4	<i>Alvin Jackson</i>	5/4	<i>Nathan Skelton</i>
5/6	<i>Kathy Johnson</i>	5/7	<i>Jim Nelson</i>
5/7	<i>Allison Fink</i>	5/10	<i>Sharon Vorel</i>
5/10	<i>Carolyn Barrette</i>	5/12	<i>Lisa Gray</i>
5/19	<i>Karley Hull</i>	5/23	<i>Brodie Franklin</i>
5/23	<i>Chris Carper</i>	5/24	<i>Ron Almarode</i>
5/28	<i>Jean Franklin</i>	5/28	<i>Lisa Jackson</i>
5/28	<i>Roger Bowers</i>	5/28	<i>Rew Walck</i>



MAY

Baptisms

5/10	<i>Amaya Cooper</i>	5/12	<i>Lindsey Skelton</i>
5/16	<i>Linda Meyer</i>	5/18	<i>Sydney Rankin</i>
5/20	<i>Wyatt Carper</i>	5/22	<i>Deloris Wertman</i>
5/23	<i>Marsha Howard</i>	5/26	<i>Isabelle Bokelman</i>
5/28	<i>Sarah Kite</i>	5/29	<i>Karen Van Stee</i>
5/30	<i>Rick Bump</i>	5/32	<i>Bob Shumate</i>



<i>May 5</i>	<i>May 12</i>		<i>May 19</i>	<i>May 26</i>
<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>		<i>Day of Pentecost</i>	<i>The Holy Trinity</i>
<i>Preaching and Presiding</i>				
<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>		<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>
<i>Altar Flowers</i>				
<i>Barrettes</i>	<i>Gail Johnson</i>		<i>Schwiesows</i>	
<i>Altar Guild</i>				
<i>Nelsons</i>	<i>Susan Myers</i>			
<i>Assisting Ministers</i>				
<i>Andrew Sell</i>			<i>Cathy Crowder</i>	<i>Donna Gum</i>
<i>Communion Assistants</i>				
<i>Tami Radecke</i>			<i>Robin Crowder</i>	
			<i>Karen Walck</i>	
<i>Council Person of the Week</i>				
<i>Karen Walck</i>	<i>Donna Yobs</i>		<i>Robin Crowder</i>	<i>Jack Eckstrom</i>
<i>Offering Stewards</i>				
<i>Pat Brady</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i>		<i>Pat Brady</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i>
<i>Ushers</i>				
<i>Ron Almarode</i>	<i>Fred Biggers</i>		<i>Jack Eckstrom</i>	<i>Maella Hilker</i>
<i>Lee Lynch</i>	<i>Andrew Sell</i>		<i>Esme Hilker</i>	<i>Gail Johnson</i>
			<i>Jim Nelson</i>	<i>Jerry Kite</i>



*Nursing Home,
Assisted Living and
Homebound Members*

<p>Genevieve Arneson 220 Adventure Trail Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>LizAnn Binns The Legacy 1410a North Augusta Street Apartment 3027 Staunton, VA 24401</p>
<p>Maribeth Faivre Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Apt. 130 Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>Sandra Hoy River Edge Rehabilitation and Nursing, Room 210 1221 Rosser Avenue Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>
<p>Phyllis Kite Summit Square 501 Oak Avenue, Room 9 Waynesboro, VA 22980</p>	<p>Glenn Myers 144 Patton Farm Road, Apt. E107 Stuarts Draft, VA 24477</p>
<p>Carolyn Shields Brightview 21 Woodlee Road, Apt. 331 Staunton, VA 24401</p>	<p>Dr. & Mrs. Tom Varner Aviva (Brightview) 31 Woodlee Rd, Apt. 210 Staunton, VA 24401</p>

GraceNotes

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
500 South Wayne Avenue
Waynesboro, VA 22980

LABEL



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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gelcwaynesboro.org

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Church Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
(Lunch 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.)

Church Staff

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