

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Apríl 7, 2024

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

Service of the Word and HOLY COMMUNION

(Based on Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting One) Congregational responses are in bold print

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

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

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

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



Gathering

Gloria Patri

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

Welcome and Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

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

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! Here is our water of life! Alleluia!



Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

And also with you.

<u>Kyrie</u>



Hymn of Praise



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

Word

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

A reading from Acts:

³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Psalm: Psalm 133

We read responsively.

¹How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!
²It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.
³It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Second Reading: 1 John 1:1--2:2

A reading from 1 John:

¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

We stand.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to St. John:

Glory to you O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Continued

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

Children's Message	Pastor Pingel
<u>Sermon</u>	Pastor Pingel
Silence for reflection follows the sermon.	

Hymn of the Day: "That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright"

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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

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

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words

God of Grace, **Hear our prayer.**

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



Peace

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

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

We stand.

Offertory



We stand.

Offertory Response



Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Offering Song

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress. Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

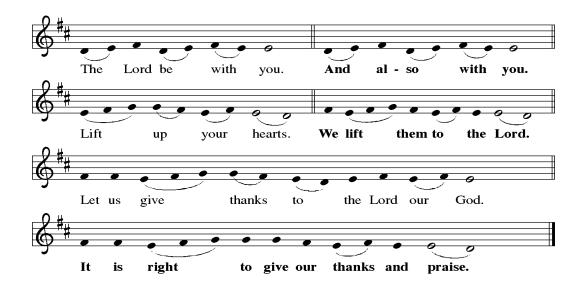
Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

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

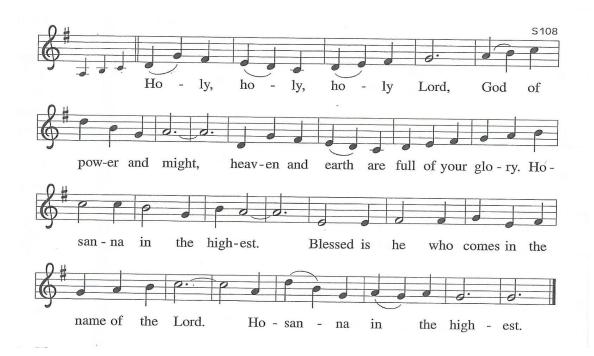


Great Thanksgiving



Preface

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



Thanksgiving at the Table

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

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

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

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

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

Do this is remembrance of me.

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

Do this in remembrance of me.

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

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

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

To you, O God, Father, Son, and H 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.

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.



Invitation to Communion

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

Thanks be to God!

"Lamb of God" may be sung.



The Holy Communion

We sit.

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

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

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

Amen.

Communion Hymn: "O Bread of Life from Heaven"

#480

We stand.

The Communion Blessing

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

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

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



Sending

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

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

Blessing

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always. Amen.



Sending Hymn: "Thine Is the Glory"

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<u>Dismissal</u>

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

Postlude

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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today!

Altar Flowers: Altar Guild: Assisting Minister: Communion Assistant:

Council Person of the Week: Offering Stewards

Ushers:

Gail Johnson Jim & Gloria Nelson Kathy Bump Carolyn Hite Lew Yobs Linda Meyer Pat Brady Robin Crowder Maella Hilker Gail Johnson Jerry Kite



The Chancel Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Tyrese H. Reid by her grandchildren.



Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons Sunday, Apríl 14, 2024 Second Sunday of Easter

Service of Holy Communion and via You Tube

Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48



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

Prayer Request for Members (Remain on List for four (4) weeks) Beth Ann Doerring Sandy Johnson Gloria Nelson Janet Parmer

Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends (Remain on List for four (4) weeks) Katie Arnold, Daughter of the Nelsons Frank Avila, Cousin of Bill Meicke Pam Clem, Friend of Gloria Nelson Stanley Faustin, Brother of Fedlie Carrington, Friend of Grace Pat Nabers, Retired Pastor and Friend of Grace Joyce Thomas, Cousin of Linda Tomey

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

Ongoing Need for Prayer for Members (Remain on List for three (3) months) Kathy Johnson Sharon Vorel



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

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

Members/Friends Grieving (Remain on List for four (4) weeks*) Family of Jack Crenshaw, Friends of Betty Karol Wilson Family of Calium Nichols Family of William "Mickey" Drummond, Friend of Myers Family of Mitch Peeling, Friend of the Almarodes Family of Jolene Riddle, Friend of Donna Gum Family of Sam Robb, Friend of the Almarodes

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Peggy Caister (4/8) Laura Shaw (4/13) Isaac Denis (4/12) Amy Warren (4/13)

PRAY MORE worry less

Prayers for the World

Taiwan earthquake victims

Aid workers of World Central Kitchen killed in Israeli airstrike in Gaza; Palestinian families in famine; for God's spirit of peace in this conflict

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

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

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

Victims of the Francis Scott Key Bridge accident in Baltimore, MD

The Church

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.

- For: New Pastors/new assignments in our VA Synod:
 - Pastor Kristen Van Stee called to Zion, New Market (Daughter of Steve and Karen Van Stee)
 - Pastor Elise Anderson, called to St. John, Abingdon
 - Pastor Robin Feree, Vice-Pastor of Christ, Staunton
 - Pastor Karen Van Stee, Vice-Pastor of Bethlehem, Waynesboro
 - Pastor Rob McCarty, former Dean of the Southern Valley Conference, newly called to St. Luke, Mount Ulla, NC





New Tree at Grace Dedicated Today - Deaconness Phyllis Cox, Chairperson of the Virginia Synod's Tapestry Committee (dedicated to Justice issues), is offering Grace a tree to replace one of our trees which died since their planting when our parking lot was re-paved. This Dedication will follow worship today, and we invite you to be a part! *First Sunday Fellowship will follow in the Fellowship Hall.*



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.



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



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

COMMUNITY



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



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



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



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



Monday

Exodus 14:21-31 1 Peter 1:1-12 John 14:(1-7) 8-17 Morning Psalm 145, Evening 115

Tuesday

Exodus 15:1-21 1 Peter 1:13-25 John 14:18-31 Morning Psalm 146, Evening 116

Wednesday

Exodus 15:22—16:10 1 Peter 2:1-10 John 15:1-11 Morning Psalm 147:1-12, Evening 118

Thursday

Exodus 16:10-22 1 Peter 2:11---3:12 John 15:12-27 Morning Psalm 147:13-21, Evening 113

Friday

Exodus 16:23-36 1 Peter 3:13—4:6 John 16:1-15 Morning Psalm 148, Evening 138

Saturday

Exodus 17:1-16 1 Peter 4:7-19 John 16:16-33 Morning Psalm 149, Evening 114



Life of Grace Church April 7-14, 2024

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DAY OF WEEK	DATE	TIME	MEETING
Sunday		8:30a.m.	Adult Sunday School (Seminar Room)
Receive the Holy Spirit. "	04/07	10:00 a.m.	Second Sunday of Easter Service of Holy Communion
		11:00 a.m.	First Sunday Fellowship
		11:10 a.m.	Confirmation Class
		11:15 a.m.	Sunday School
Monday	04/08	7:00 p.m.	All God's Children (Conference Room)
Tuesday	04/09	9:30 a.m.	Quilting (Fellowship Hall)
		4:30 p.m.	Finance Committee (Conference Room)
Wednesday	04/10	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Group (Chapel)
		6:00 p.m.	Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)
		6:00 p.m.	Yoga (Seminar Room)
		7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	04/11	8:30 a.m.	Grace Walkers
		12:30 p.m.	GRACE Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)
		5:30 p.m.	Virginia Organizing (Fellowship Hall)
		7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (Conference Room)
Saturday	04/13	11:00 a.m.	Yoga (Seminar Room)
Sunday		8:30a.m.	Adult Sunday School (Seminar Room)
With Easter Cornes	04/14	10:00 a.m.	Third Sunday of Easter Service of Holy Communion
		11:10 a.m.	Confirmation Class
		11:15 a.m.	Sunday School



Grace Church Council 2023-24

Robin Crowder, President (540-476-0180) Allison Fink, Vice-President (540-448-0985) Jack Eckstrom (240-344-3176) Jerry Kite (540-910-3372) Linda Meyer (540-256-2277) Jean Morgan (540-649-4422) Susan Myers (434-760-1660) Stephen Van Stee (540-325-0772) Karen Walck (765-480-9920) Donna Yobs (650-248-4882) Cabell Caister, Youth Member Ron Almarode, Treasurer Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary



Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor Email: pastorpingel@gmail.com

Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

Office Hours: 8:00—11:30 a.m. and 12:30—2:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday **Closed Friday**

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