



The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

November 12, 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.”*

Service of Holy Communion

(All Creation Sings—Setting 12)

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

Temple Talk

Jerry Kite

We stand.

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 looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God,
all hearts are open,
to you all desires known.
We come to you,
confessing our sins.
Forgive us in your mercy,
and remember us in your love.
Show us your ways;
teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness
in Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Have mercy
on me, *O* God,
according to your
steadfast *love.*

Psalm 51:1, NRSV

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ✙ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Come, We That Love the Lord
We're Marching to Zion

1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou - sand sa - cred sweets
4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;

join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -

sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.
heav'n - ly King may tell their joys a - broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
heav'n - ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
man - uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain

We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:

we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

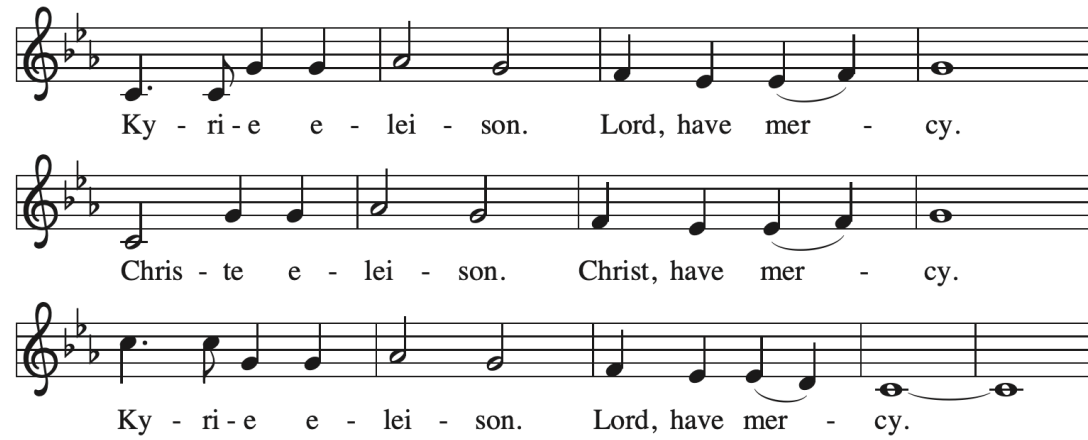
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain
Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

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



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Kyrie

Hymn of Praise



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

We sit.

Word



First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

A reading from Amos:

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light;
¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion,
and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.
²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.

Continued

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 70

We read responsively.

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O LORD, make haste to help me!

**²Let those be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life.**

**Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire to hurt me.**

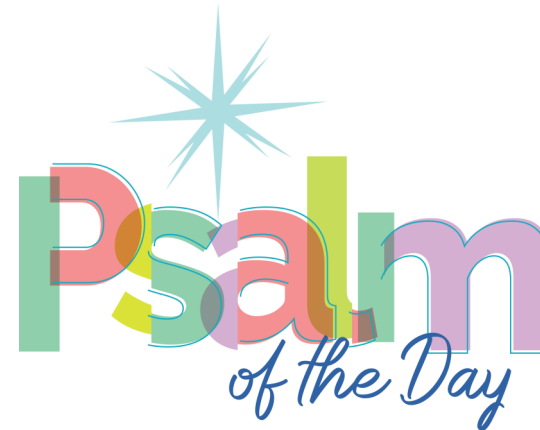
³Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"
turn back because of their shame.

**⁴Let all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you.**

**Let those who love your salvation
say evermore, "God is great!"**

⁵But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!

**You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay!**



Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from 1 Thessalonians:

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

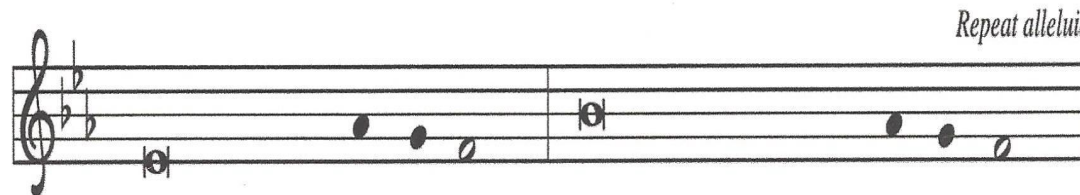
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



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

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew:
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

We sit.

Children's Message

Pastor Van Stee

Sermon

Pastor Van Stee

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

We stand.

Hymn of the Day: "Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness"

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Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

1 Soul, a - dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad - ness,
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and glad - ly greet him.
 3 Now in faith I hum-bly pon - der o - ver this sur - pass - ing won - der
 4 Je - sus, source of last - ing plea - sure, tru - est friend, and dear - est trea - sure,

come in - to the day-light's splen - dor, there with joy your prais - es ren - der.
 There he stands al-read - y knock - ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un - lock - ing,
 that the bread of life is bound - less though the souls it feeds are count - less;
 peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in - to all life ex - pand - ing:

Bless the one whose grace un - bound - ed this a - maz - ing ban - quet found - ed;
 o - pen wide the fast - closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im - mor - tal:
 with the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en.
 hum - bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;

Christ, though heav'n - ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 "Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with - in my heart for - ev - er."
 Oh, most glo - rious con - so - la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
 wor - thi - ly let me re - ceive you, and, so fa - vored, nev - er leave you.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
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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.**

Apostle's Creed in Swahili

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

**Na Yesu Kristo, Mwana wake wa pekee,
Bwana wetu, aliyetwaa mwili kwa tendo
la Roho 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.**

The
Apostles'
+ Creed +

Prayers of Intercession

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers end with these or similar words.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Peace

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

We sit.

Meal

Offertory

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 all goodness,
generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.**



Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

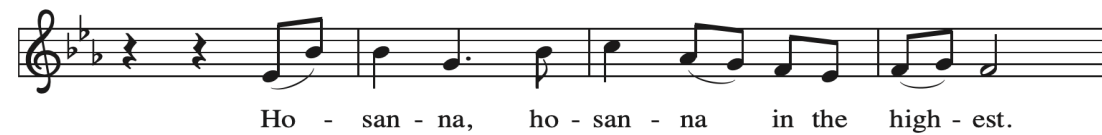
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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



Sanctus



Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,
you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars;
beneath the sea;
within each cell;
with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water;
by night and day;
across the wilderness;
out of exile;
into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner;
among the poor;
with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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 his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray
as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.
Thanks be to God.

We sit.

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.

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.

**Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.
Amen.**

Sending

Blessing

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

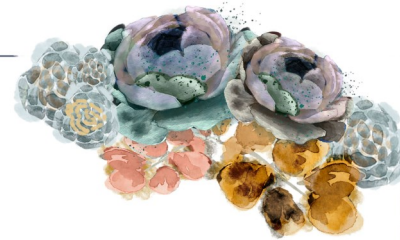
Sending Song: *“When Peace, Like a River”*

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Dismissal

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Blessed
shall you be when
you come in,
and Blessed
shall you be when
you go out.

Deuteronomy 28:6

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When Peace, like a River *It Is Well with My Soul*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



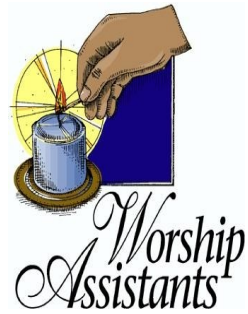
taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul,

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888
 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876



Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today

Altar Flowers:	Peggy Marks
Altar Guild:	Jim and Gloria Nelson
Assisting Minister:	Andrew Sell
Communion Assistant:	Carolyn Hite Linda Meyer
Council Person of the Week:	Jerry Kite
Offering Steward:	Pat Brady Robin Crowder
Ushers:	Maella Hilker Gail Johnson Linda Meyer David Proctor



November 19 Schedule and Lessons
Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ

Christ the King
Holy Communion
10:30 a.m.

Pastor Paul Pingel
Presiding and Preaching

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalms 90:1-8 (9-11) 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30



Chancel flowers are given this morning to the glory of God and in memory of Charles Marks, III



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.

✠✠✠✠ Please be Praying for... ✠✠✠✠
✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠✠

Prayer Request for Members (Remain on List for four (4) weeks)

Grace Members with Covid

Chuck Goodrich

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

- Sherry Aldinger, Friend of Radeckes
- Lisa Harrison, Friend of Donna Gum
- Lou Lanier, Friend of the Nelsons
- Pat Nabors, Friend of Many Grace Members
- Carrie Peters, Niece of the Schwiesows
- Michael Sathe, Friend of Donna Gum
- Judy Simpson, Sister of Sharon Lynch
- Judy Timm, Friend of Donna Gum
- Tammy Whitworth, Friend of Gail and Sandy Johnson

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

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

Emily Almarode
Sandy Johnson

Genevieve Arneson
Phyllis Kite
Tom and Carol Varner

Marge Cloutier
Glenn Myers

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

Rebekah Bircher, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Caitlin Binda Bomar, Friend of Many in Our Community
Stephen Cohen, Friend of the Schwiesows
Sandie Hammel, Friend of Gail Johnson
Neil Harris, Friend of the Trauschts
Marcy Haywood, Friend of the Trauschts
Joshua Horn, Friend of the Trauschts
Carrie Humphreys, Former Grace Member
Jennifer McDonald, Friend of the Radeckes
Phoenix Oberg, Friend of Sarah Kite
Melissa Oskrig, Friend of Betty Karol Wilson
Ruth Phelke, Mother of Lisa Edens and Friend of Gail and Sandy Johnson
Charles and Ruth Ann Williams, Friends of Gail and Sandy Johnson

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

Family of Pastor Lane Doerring, Father of Beth Ann Doerring
Family of Ann Hyden, Grandmother of Kirk Hyden

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Hannah Pingel (11/13)

Ashley Stollings (11/15)

Lily Skelton (11/15)



Peace in the World

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

Those in peril from severe weather, hurricanes, earthquake and floods

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

The prayer of Jesus—That we may find unity in Jesus, and in our nation's laws and living, that all people—regardless of color, ethnicity, and gender—may find a way forward together in the love of God, and beyond the fears and anxieties of our time.

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

The Church

Indigenous Peoples and the ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement

Our Neighbors

Our neighbors in Augusta County



The Season of Advent - Yes, soon, a New Church Year, and the Season of Advent will be upon us! We celebrate the Season once again with a series of Wednesday Advent Services: 12/6 at Zion, Waynesboro, 12/13 at Grace, and 12/20 at St. James at 7:00 p.m., with a focus on the prophecies of Isaiah as they point us toward our salvation through the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Plan to join in worship with our Lutheran sisters and brothers in Christ this Advent!



November 19th Worship with our Friends at Christ Tabernacle - We give thanks to God and in Thanksgiving for our many blessings in worship Sunday, November 19th, at Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ! Sunday morning at **10:30 a.m.**, we will share in worship with Christ Tabernacle at their new location in the former Basic United Methodist Church building. A lunch reception and fellowship will follow worship. We have had a many-year relationship with our sisters and brothers and have learned much about faith and life together! We look forward to our worship together with Christ Tabernacle!



The youth (Cabell, Kiera, and Libby) worked together to collect donations and host a yard-sale of donated items last Saturday in the Grace Fellowship Hall. Thank you to all who donated and came out to support them on Saturday. It takes a village to help plan, coordinate, and do heavy lifting to make this event happen. Therefore a special THANK YOU to all who offered assistance by lifting, arranging, finding keys, and selling items this Saturday. The youth could not have done it without you. The yard sale generated roughly \$1100! This sale puts the youth on a trajectory to raise the \$6,000 needed for their trip this summer. If you missed this one (or even if you made it), don't worry- there will be more chances to get involved!

Their next event will be the December first Sunday Fellowship where they will gladly accept donations and pledges of support for their faith journey.



St. James Lutheran Church Oyster Dinner and Cake Auction—Friday November 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. *Menu includes: fried oysters, ham, green beans, macaroni and cheese, baked apples, assorted desserts and drinks.* Cost is \$15 per person and take out is available. RSVP by November 6 to Anne Putnam at 434-465-0206 or anneputnam55@gmail.com.



The **Giving Tree** has been put up in the Nave. If you would like to participate, please come by the church to pick up one or more tags, sign your name and the gift tag(s) taken in the book, purchase appropriate gift(s), and bring unwrapped gift(s) with the original tag attached back to the Nave by Sunday, **December 3.**



Grace - Cold Weather Shelter (CWS): there will be a short information session regarding the Cold Weather Shelter immediately following our service on November 12. Please bring your questions and join Susan Myers and Donna Yobs.

Grace ELC - WARM Cold Weather Shelter - A slight update, from November 20 - December 31st, up to 35 guests will be sheltered each evening; 20 at the primary host church and up to 15 in overflow at Sherlyn Baptist Church. All guests will be fed at the primary host church. December 4 - 10, Grace will feed up to 35 guests + volunteers each evening.

The next volunteer training session is **11/7/2023 at 5:00 p.m.** at the WARM Administrative Offices, 1025 Fairfax Ave - Larry Friedman will discuss the basics of Crisis Intervention and how it relates to the CWS. Please join us!

We are now collecting toiletries and shelf-stable foods for the CWS. Toiletries: travel/hotel size shampoo/conditioner, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, combs/brushes, disposable razors. Breakfast/lunch/snack foods: cereal, fruit cups, SOFT breakfast or nutri-grain bars, fruit juice boxes, nabs, individual-portion bags of chips/cookies. Please place items in the box in the Nave or label bags and place them on the kitchen counter downstairs.

Volunteers for the CWS: Please see Sign-Up sheets on the table in the nave or contact Susan Myers 434-760-1660 or sparkelmyers@gmail.com



2024 Offering Envelopes are in the Nave—please pick yours up. If you give electronically, etc., there may not be any for you. However, if you did not get envelopes and would like to have them, please let the Church Office know. Also, please let the Church Office know if there are envelopes for you and you do not need them so we can better plan for how many to order next year. Thank you!



COMMUNITY **Community Potluck at Grace**—This meal is for community members and Grace members to gather for fellowship and build relationships on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.! Come and eat—sign-up is in the Narthex, bring a dish and a friend!



POTLUCK

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Grace members cut 630 9” x 9” flannel squares! They will be distributed to countries throughout Africa including: Ghana, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Uganda, Namibia and Rwanda. Samples of the Sanitary Kits are assembled and taken to the schools. Young women are taught to assemble their own kits. I would like to continue to cut and collect squares. Please be encouraged to contribute and support this worthwhile outreach project!

Square requirements: **Prewashed, flannel** (no fleece, felt or plush). Cut into 9” x 9” squares. Place in plastic container at the back of the Nave. If you have questions, etc., please contact Gloria Nelson.



All God's Children has resumed meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month at 7:00 p.m. We are always delighted to welcome new members. If you want to be added to the mailing list, please let Rick Bump know (rcbump0621@gmail.com). In November, we will be reading *US: The Resurrection of American Terror* by ELCA Pastor Kenneth Wheeler, who is black. Though challenging, it will help us see an important perspective of the ELCA.



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-seven*** deliveries thus far, sixteen to Main Street United Methodist, and twenty-one to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft, with the donations gratefully received in the midst of great need. **Overall, we have given well over 3,920 pounds of food!** If you can help, please donate to our box set inside the office door for you to drop off.



A Word You Don't Want to Say, but We Must! That word is **COVID**. 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, please wait until you test negative - usually 5-10 days - until you return to worship.
3. Please note that FREE tests kits are available from **covid.gov**. Or you can find test kits at local pharmacies or grocery stores for about \$8 - \$10.



Monday

Jeremiah 44:1-14
1 Corinthians 15:30-41
Matthew 11:16-24
Morning Psalm 145, Evening 29

Tuesday

Lamentations 1:1-5(6-9) 10-12
1 Corinthians 15:41-50
Matthew 11:25-30
Morning Psalm 146, Evening 133

Wednesday

Lamentations 2:8-15
1 Corinthians 15:51-58
Matthew 12:1-14
Morning Psalm 147:1-12, Evening 33

Thursday

Ezra 1:1-11
1 Corinthians 16:1-9
Matthew 12:15-21
Morning 147:13-21, Evening 62

Friday

Ezra 3:1-13
1 Corinthians 16:10-24
Matthew 12:22-32
Morning Psalm 148, Evening 65


Saturday

Ezra 4:7, 11-24
Philemon 1-25
Matthew 12:33-42
Morning Psalm 149, Evening 98



November 12-19

Day of the Week	Date	Time	Event
Sunday	11/12	8:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
		10:00 a.m.	Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Pastor Karen Van Stee Preaching and Presiding
		11:10 a.m.	Confirmation Class (Seminar Room)
		11:15 a.m.	K-5 Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom)
Monday	11/13	7:00 p.m.	All God's Children Book Study (Conference Room)
Tuesday	11/14	9:30 a.m.	Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)
		7:00 p.m.	Round Tables Discussion (Conference Room)
		7:00 p.m.	Ecumenical Good Neighbors (First Baptist Church)
Wednesday	11/15	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Group (Chapel)
		10:15 a.m.	Encircle Regional Managers Mtg. (Fellowship Hall)
		11:30 a.m.	Grace Women's Book Group (Stella Bella & Lucy's)
		6:00 p.m.	Community Potluck (Fellowship Hall)
		6:00 p.m.	Yoga (Seminar Room)
		7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	11/16	8:00 a.m.	Newcomers Club (Fellowship Hall)
		8:30 a.m.	 Grace Walkers
		9:00 a.m.	Encircle Meeting (Conference Room)
		12:30 p.m.	Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)
			CCE&J Group Meeting (Christ Tabernacle & Zoom)
Saturday	11/18	11:00 a.m.	Prayer Vigil —North Park
		11:00 a.m.	Yoga (Seminar Room)
Sunday	11/19	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service at Christ Tabernacle Church of God in Christ

CHURCH  COUNCIL

Grace Church Council 2023-24

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

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

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

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

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

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