



December 22, 2024

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

HOLY COMMUNION
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Three)
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 Assisting Minister or Pastor 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.



Welcome to
Our Church

Gathering

Prelude: "Ar Hyd Y Nos"

Hand Bells

Kinyon/Welsh Traditional

Welcome and Announcements

Temple Talk

Allison Fink

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Father, and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit, one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through ✝ Christ Jesus,
Whose day draws near.
Amen.



Gathering Hymn: "All Earth Is Hopeful"

#266

Greeting

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

Kyrie

Kyrie

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

For the peace from 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.**

Prayer of the Day

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Four candles are lit as we sing:

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#257, Verse 5



Word

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah:

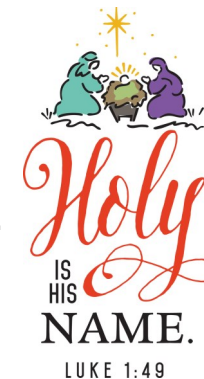
- ² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.
- ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.
- ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of
the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;
- ^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

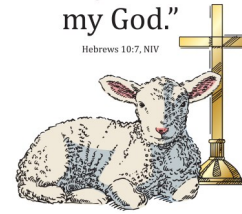
Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

- ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ **for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.**
⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
⁵¹ **He has shown strength with his arm;**
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ **he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.**
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ **according to the promise he made to our ancestors,**
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."



"I have come
to do your will,
my God."

Hebrews 10:7, NIV



Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from Hebrews:

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.
⁷ Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand.



Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?



Text: John 6:68, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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Gospel: Luke 1:39-45, 46-55

The holy gospel according to St. Luke:

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

Children's Message

Pastor Pingel

Sermon

Pastor Pingel

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

We stand.

Hymn of the Day: *"Fling Wide the Door"*

#259

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.**

Imani ya Mitume

**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.**



Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

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

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Peace

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

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

We sit.



Meal

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. If you give electronically, you can use the QR code on page 22 to make your gift on your cell phone through Tithely.

(Please place visitor cards and communion cards in the offering plate.)

Offertory: "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

Hand Bells

Arr. Klein

We stand.



Offertory Response:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and 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.

Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

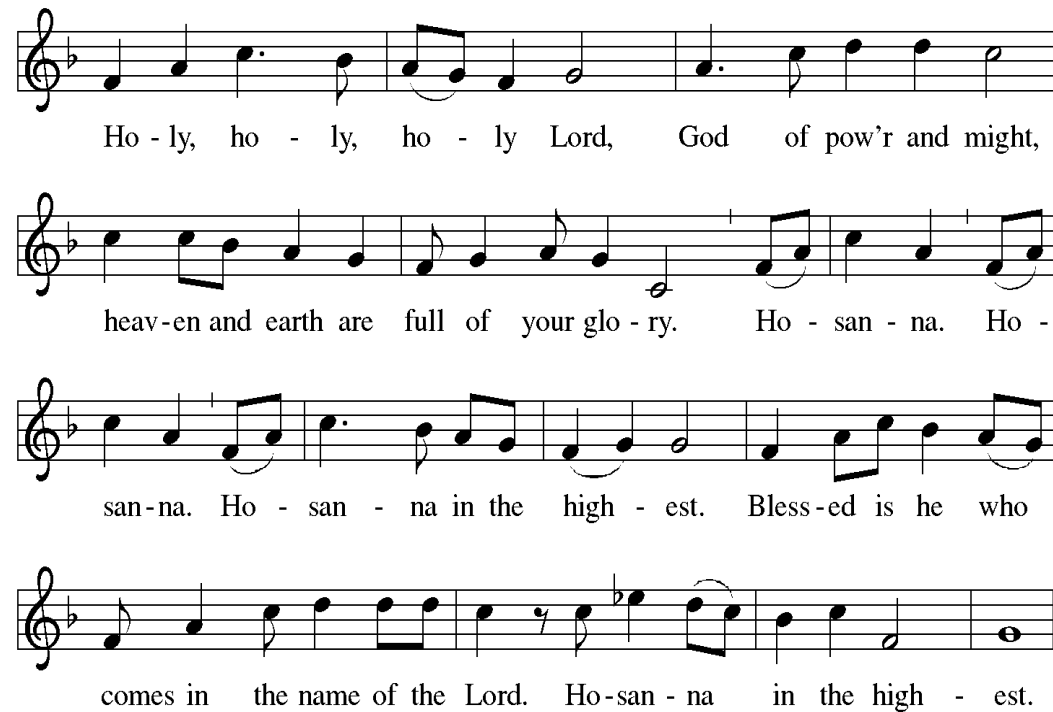
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One,
The beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.



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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God,
we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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

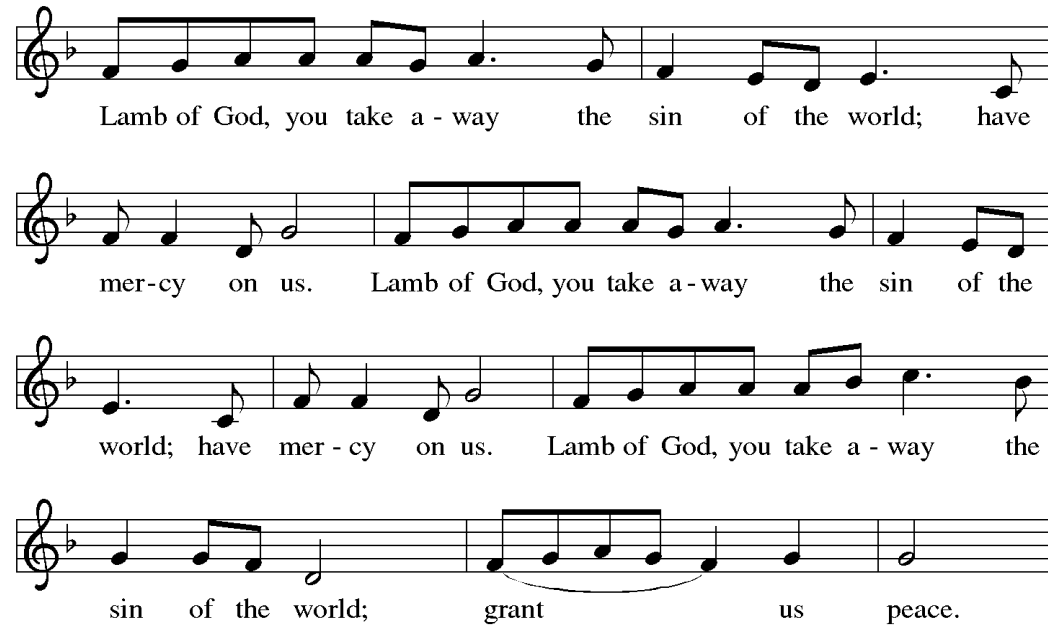
Baba Yetu uliye mbinguni, jina lako
litukuzwe;
ufalme wako ufike,
utakalo lifanyike
duniani kama mbinguni.
Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku,
utusamehe makosa yetu,
kama nasi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea.
Usitutie katika kishawishi,
lakini utuopoe maovuni.
Amina.

Invitation to Communion

God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.
Thanks be to God.

We sit.





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. We commune at the railing, filling up the rail from the center out. Grape juice is available on the center table as you come forward, or you will receive the wine from the Communion Assistant. You may kneel or stand at the railing. Receive the bread from the pastor or assisting minister at the railing, then the Communion Assistant will announce "the blood of Christ" as you receive the wine/grape juice. Place your empty cup in the trays at the end of the railing, and return to your seat via the side aisle.

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

Communion Hymn: “*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*”

#265

The Communion Blessing

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

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

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Generous God,
**we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.**



Sending

Blessing

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✝ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song: *“Joy to the World”*

#267

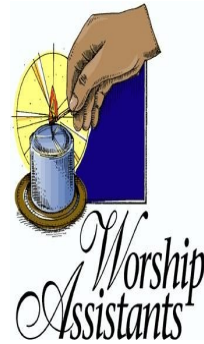
Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today

<i>Acolyte:</i>	<i>Reva Franklin</i>
<i>Altar Flowers:</i>	<i>Gail Johnson</i>
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	
<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	<i>Donna Gum</i>
<i>Communion Assistants:</i>	<i>Andrew Sell</i>
<i>Council Person of the Week:</i>	<i>Karen Walck</i>
<i>Offering Stewards:</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>Esme Hilker</i> <i>Gail Johnson</i>



*Chancel flowers are given
this morning
to the glory of God*



*Praise him,
all his angels;
praise him,
all his
heavenly hosts.*
PSALM 148:2, NIV

*Next Sunday's Schedule
Sunday, December 29, 2024
First Sunday of Christmas*

*Service of Holy Communion
and via You Tube*

*Pastor Paul Pingel
Presiding and Preaching*

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalms 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52



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,

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

Glen Gray

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

Elaine Bradley, Neighbor of the Proctors

Erin Keltner, Friend of the Schwiesows

Scott McCombs, Son of Gene and Jan McCombs

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

Genevieve Arneson

Bill Kelley

Dwight Moomaw

Marge Cloutier

Phyllis Kite

Carol Varner

Carol Wolf

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

Bishop C. D. Brown, Friend of Grace

Natalie Dodge, Friend of the Almarodes

Bev Gerard, Friend of the Myers

Michael Kavaris, Friend of the Almarodes

Gary Murray, Friend of Gail Johnson

Pastor Gordon Putnam, St. James Lutheran Church

Roy Reid, Father of Mary Huerth

The Sipe Family, Friends of Many at Grace

Laura Siwik, Niece of Linda Meyer

Pastor Jim Youngblood, Bethany Lutheran Church

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

Family of Caitlin Bomar, Friend of Many at Grace

Family of Janice Collins, Friend of Many at Grace

Family of Barb Ostrander, Friend of Many at Grace

Family of Nelson Smith, Cousin of Linda Tomey

Family of Robert Smith, Cousin of Linda Tomey

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Pat Brady (12/23)

Prayers for the World

Victims of the school shooting at Abundant Life Christian School, Madison, Wisconsin, Baltimore area shooting.

For justice and peace in our Nation and World, among the nations, among peoples.

For those continuing to recover from Natural Disasters: Hurricanes Francine, Helene and Milton; Flooding and storms in Spain; Drought in Africa; Volcano eruption in Indonesia.

For the people of Haiti, enduring daily hardship and chaos, and for the peace-keeping UN force seeking to maintain peace.

Continuing war in Ukraine; for the people of Syria in a time of transition.

The Church

For WARM (Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry) now in operation.

The ELC-PNG (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea) - our Companion Church of the Virginia Synod.

St. James Lutheran Church, Fishersville, VA



Christmas Eve - Tuesday, **December 24th, 5:00 p.m.** - Our children and adult choir will present a wonderful program of music and assist in the telling of the Good News of Jesus' birth, as families "build" the crèche scene. We will celebrate Holy Communion and sing Silent Night by candlelight.



Thank You Grace Church - for a terrific week hosting the WARM Cold Weather Shelter. We had a total of 83 different volunteers participate during the week - 50 different people from GRACE! We put in about 360 man-hours ... if you include set-up and break-down, we put in over 400 man-hours. We averaged about 23 guests/night - we offered over 160 breakfasts, lunches and dinners. The guests were appreciative. Thank you so much for your support - through your time and energy, your prayers and support, and/or your donations of clothing, food/supplies and money. WARM and Grace could not do this without **you!** **Thank you!** Peace - Susan Myers



Many thanks to all who helped decorate the church so beautifully for our worship. The Christmas tree, the greens, candles and the decor in the Narthex add to the meaning, splendor and majesty of the Christmas Eve Service. Many thanks to the choir, soloists, and bell ringers who gave meaning to the worship service. Many thanks to the families who gave meaning to the Birth of Jesus Christ our Savior, who is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Donna Gum, Worship and Music Chair



God in Odd Places—In this six-session class, participants will examine and discuss religious, spiritual, and theological issues suggested by movies, Short stories, contemporary music, poems, cartoons and comic strips, and other expressions of popular culture. Led by Pastor Mark Radecke and open to adults and high school youth, the class will meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning on January 16. A sign-up sheet for those interested is available in the narthex. Unfortunately, the previous sign-up sheet has been misplaced. **If you previously signed up, please sign up again.**



Forums in January about proposed use of Grace Property - There will be a *Temple Talk* this morning about Forums scheduled:

- Tuesday, January 7th, 7:00pm
- Sunday, January 12th, after worship
- Tuesday, January 14th, at Noon.

The purpose of the Forums will be to share information and provide an opportunity to discuss the possible use of Grace Property for needs related to Childcare and/or Housing. Your participation in these Forums is important! Please look at your calendars and plan on coming to one of the three sessions.



Grace Website is Once Again Up and Running! Many thanks to Randy Fink, who has spent numerous hours getting our website going again. If you go to www.gelcwaynesboro.org, you will be directed to our new site, now at www.gracelutheranwaynesboro.org. We do anticipate smoother going in the coming weeks, and look forward to updating our content in early 2025. Check out our Facebook page too!








Opportunity to respond to God's Grace with our Offerings! Many people are turning to technology to offer their offerings to God in thanksgiving for all that God has done! You can use the QR code in this announcement to make your gift through your cell phone, through Tithe.ly, a secure giving method that's been used by many at Grace for years.



Life of Grace Church

December 22-29

Day	Date	Time	Event
 Sunday	12/22	10:00 a.m.	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> Service of Holy Communion Pastor Paul Pingel, Preaching and Presiding <i>Christmas Decorating</i> Children's Sunday School Confirmation Class
		11:15 a.m.	
		11:15 a.m.	
Monday	12/23		
Tuesday	12/24	5:00 p.m.	 <i>Christmas Eve Service</i>
Wednesday	12/25		 Christmas Day Church Office Closed
Thursday	12/26		 Church Office Closed
Friday	12/27		 Church Office Closed
Saturday	12/28		Yoga (Seminar Room)
Sunday	12/29	10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	<i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> Service of Holy Communion Pastor Paul Pingel, Preaching and Presiding Children's Sunday School Confirmation Class

Monday Isaiah 11:10-16 Revelation 20:1-10 John 5:30-47 Morning Psalm 145, Evening 67	Thursday Isaiah 31:1-9 Revelation 21:22—22:5 Luke 1:39-48a Morning Psalm 147:13-21, Evening 62
Tuesday Isaiah 28:9-22 Revelation 20:11—21-8 Luke 1:5-25 Morning Psalm 146, Evening 94	Friday Isaiah 133:17-22 Revelation 22:6-11, 18-20 Luke 1:57-66 Morning Psalm 148, Evening 16
Wednesday Isaiah 29:9-24 Revelation 21:9-21 Luke 1:26-38 Morning Psalm 147:1-12, Evening 17	Saturday Isaiah 35:1-10 Revelation 12:12-17,21 Luke 1:67-80 Morning Psalm 149, Evening 72

Grace Church Council

Allison Fink, President (540-448-0985)
Linda Meyer, Vice President (540-256-2277)
Peggy Caister (434-964-7461), Jacob Dolan (720-883-1636),
Jack Eckstrom (240-344-3176), Jerry Kite (540-910-3372),
Jean Morgan (540-649-4422), Susan Myers (434-760-1660),
Karen Walck (765-480-9920), Donna Yobs (650-248-4882)
Ron Almarode, Treasurer
Charles Goodrich, Financial Secretary

Grace Church Staff

Rev. Paul Pingel, Pastor
Email: pastorpingel@gmail.com
Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music
Email: mickhdking@aol.com
Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary
Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net



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

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youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro
Internet: www.gracelutheranwaynesboro.org

***Telephone:** 540.949.6171*