

January 2025

GraceNotes

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

From the Pastor



Pastor's Page

*Jesus Christ is the
Light of the World,
we proclaimed on
Christmas Eve!
Arise shine, your
light has come!
we will hear on*

Epiphany, which we will celebrate on January 5th. In the Epistle reading for that day, the apostle Paul writes to the church in Ephesus: *Of this gospel, I have become a servant according to the gift of God's Grace that was given me by the working of his power...so that through the Church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known...*

The Church, from its very earliest days asked itself: *if Jesus is the light of the world, and it calls forth activity from us (Arise! Shine!) as the Church; and if we ARE a community of servants sharing in the gift of God's Grace – the word and work of Jesus – what does that look like?*

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church has answered that question in many different ways over its 131 year history. It has answered that question as a people gathered by God's Spirit to be about the Mission that God has for us. Answers in the past have included inviting the community to Grace through ministries like the United Church Nursery, the Hiker Ministry, and the WARM Cold Weather shelter, to name only a sampling. We have used the space God has provided for us to be about the Mission God has set before us. This was true at our location on 11th Street, and has been true at our present 13th Street location even to today!

As 2025 begins, we have another opportunity to exercise the gift of God's Grace...so that the wisdom of God might continue to be known through us. We have been approached about the use of our land, land that to this point has been used for a playground, for a community garden, and as a green space in the community.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We finished November with a deficit of \$2,243 for the month, which puts the year-to-date deficit at \$1,958 compared to a deficit of \$13,137 at the end of November in 2023. Expenses and receipts are below budget, resulting in a deficit for the year to date. The Finance Committee and Council continue to monitor the financial status.

There are always some year-end expenses and accruals that make November and December a little heavier on the expense side. The days of November and December being the heaviest income months are long gone, so careful planning for the year-end has become more important. We are still cautiously optimistic that we will finish the year with a surplus, but it will be very close. The congregation has been very supportive of Grace’s financial situation and the Finance Committee and Council have done an excellent job of searching for creative ways to keep the end result “in the black”.

Financial Status

2024	Difference
January	-\$2,699.72
February	-\$3,630.70
March	\$2,531.28
April	\$1,387.76
May	-\$4,838.63
June	\$8,929.18
July	-\$4,895.46
August	\$318.49
September	\$2,095.08
October	\$637.52
November	-\$2,242.72
December	\$0.00
YTD	-\$1,957.92
2023 (thru June)	-\$12,137.38

Red – Deficit Black – Surplus

The Finance Committee
 Chuck Goodrich
 Pastor Pingel

Ron Almarode
 Jerry Kite
 Vivian Proctor

Allison Fink
 Susan Myers

Mark Your Calendars

- **by BK Wilson, Grace Notes News Wrangler**

January is the month when we look forward to new adventures and new directions. We search for new activities to enrich our lives while simultaneously retracing and reviewing the old paths we chose.

A new year is a time of resolutions proclaimed and promises vowed. A new year is a reckoning within ourselves: a challenge to reform, repent, hope and dream.

It is also a time when paper calendars receive handwritten messages of things to come and digital reminders on watches and computers are set. So, in this year of our Lord 2025, here are dates you can record and some ideas to contemplate for your resolutions.

From the Liturgical Calendar

- ◆ Ash Wednesday- March 5
- ◆ Holy Week April 13-19
 - ⇒ Maundy Thursday—April 17
 - ⇒ Good Friday—April 18
 - ⇒ Easter Vigil—April 19
- ◆ Easter -April 20

From the VA Synod Calendar

- **January 24-26**—*Winter Celebration*—Youth Conference for grades 9-12 at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg
- **March 1-2**—*Seventh Day*—Youth Conference for grades 5-8 at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center, Lynchburg
- **June 13-15**—*Virginia Synod General Assembly* at Roanoke College

From the Grace calendar

- ***God in Odd Places***—a multi-media study led by Pastor Mark Radeke, beginning **January 16, Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.** for six weeks. Open to youth and adults.
- ***All God's Children***—Since 2019, Grace members have been reading books promoting equity and social justice. New material begins **January 13**, and continues every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month **at 7:00 p.m.**
- ***Women's' Book Club***—meets once a month, on the third Wednesday of the month **beginning January 15 at 11:30 a.m.** at Stella's, Bella and Lucy's on Main Street in Waynesboro. The club is currently reading ***The Personal Librarian*** by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Contact Kathy Bump (kcbumpo621@gmail.com) for reservations. New readers are welcomed.

For your 2025 resolutions, try something new with your hands from Grace's Ministries

- * Pack Backpacks with “take home” food for students.
- * Assist with church dinners.
- * Use your “cutting hands” making felt squares and tying knots as the quilters as they make quilts for Lutheran World Relief.
- * Use your fingers to open the Bible to explore the weekly scriptures.
- * Use your “hammer and saw” hands to assist *Renewing Homes*.
- * Learn how to play hand bells.
- * Let your fingers address cards to Church members.
- * Let your hands pack at the **Rise Against Hunger Food Packing Event** planned for September 13.
- * Fold your hands and pray for those on our weekly prayer list.



Thank you from Quinn Franklin for the **college care package** to Pastor Paul: “Hey! I don’t know if you had anything to do with it but I just received the biggest care package I have ever seen and it is exactly what I needed right now. Please thank anyone who was involved for me!”



Grace - WARM Cold Weather Shelter

December 9 - 16, 2024

Again, my thanks to everyone for helping make this season's Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) a success! We had a good week; generally, things ran very smoothly. My sincere thanks to all the volunteers and most specifically Donna Yobs for being our Evening Coordinator for 6 of the 7 nights, for Jerry Kite's invaluable assistance with all Set-up and Break-down/Re-set of the Fellowship Hall, and to Jacob Dolan for leading the clothing drive efforts!

I wanted to give you an idea of the scope of this incredible ministry in which Grace participates - fully and whole-heartedly! And these figures do NOT include everything - a few folks didn't sign-in/out, laundry was completed every day with no hours counted, time/people purchasing food or supplies is not counted, food prep is not counted unless it was completed at the church; this does not include the Dolan clothing drive. Nor the time spent obtaining Thrivent grants. **This is feet on the ground at the church ...**

Over the course of our week, we had **50 different volunteers who are Grace members or regular attendees ... FIFTY!**

We brought in a few others:

14 ADDITIONAL volunteers from Kiwanis (not counting Grace members)

1 nephew

3 friends (1 was a Quiter)

9 neighbors from Zion Lutheran Church

6 neighbors from St John's Episcopal Church

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS = 83 volunteers

These 83 volunteers put in about **360 man-hours** - again, not including laundry, food purchasing/prep away from church ... this is feet in our church, during the week, to get everything done!

Set-up and Breakdown -- ADD about 41 man-hours and 3 additional, different volunteers = 86 volunteers total!

23 volunteers assisted (all are included in the counts above) if you count Sunday, 12/8, Monday, 12/9 morning and Monday, 12/16.

We provided breakfast, lunch and dinner to about 160 guests (we averaged 23 guests/night ... for 7 nights). And provided for 62 showers during the week.

Could we do it in less time with fewer volunteers? Yes, but it wouldn't be nearly as fun! Some things we do are very efficient, others are designed specifically to include more people. THANK YOU, GRACE for answering the call and joining us to provide for our homeless neighbors.

PEACE - Susan

A few words from Council President

Dear Friends,

During this Advent season, as I reflect on 2024, I am very thankful for the support of all of you at Grace. I am amazed by your love for each other, Grace, and service to community. I have been blessed to have the wisdom and support of Pastor Paul and fellow Church Council leaders as I have navigated serving Grace as Council president. It has been a busy year, and I've learned it takes a village to successfully administrate a church and gracefully serve our community. Our village is made of up of each of you! Our Members, Pastor, Council, Office Administrator, Music Director, Technology Support, committee members, committee leaders, fellow churches, and community partners. And I'm sure that's not everyone! I am thankful for each one of you doing your part and sharing in the awesome work of Grace. We are blessed to be a blessing. Early next year we will receive the 2024 Annual Report of Grace and have yet another opportunity to reflect on the many ways we work to be "servants in the Word and Work of Jesus."

As I look forward to 2025, I try to picture the areas of Grace that we need to continue to support, those well-oiled machines, as well as areas that might need a little extra attention. I rely on the wisdom of others, all of you and our Council leaders, to uncover those needs. Church Council plans to hold our strategic planning early in 2025 to prioritize goals for the coming year. A few of the areas that have been on my mind are our youth, communications at Grace, and the missions of Grace and how we best serve our community. Sometimes our "work" here feels daunting, however we know it is what we are called to do. And working alongside all of you and experiencing the blessings of service make it all worthwhile.

In Peace and love,

Allison Fink
Council President





Forums in January about proposed use of Grace Property - *Temple Talks* are being held about upcoming Forums scheduled:

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

The Forums will 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.



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.



Altar Flowers—The 2025 Flower Chart has been put up in the Nave. Giving the altar flowers on Sunday is a way to honor or remember someone. Please consider signing up to provide Altar Flowers for Sunday services. Waynesboro Florist is no longer providing our flowers as Webber Payne has retired and closed the store. If you would like to order flowers for the altar, C & C Sensations will be providing our flowers, 540-949-5598. Our process has been set up with C & C as it was with the Waynesboro Florist. They are located at 141 East Broad Street, #C. You may also order from someone else as you could in the past. The Manager, Jessica Hall, has met with Altar Guild Chair, Jean Morgan as to the specifics they needed to know.



Reminders from the Church Office for the New Year:

- Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Grace's Administrative Secretary takes lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- If you have an article, notice, etc. for Grace's weekly bulletin, please have it to the Church Office by **Wednesday** morning.
- If you have an article, notice, etc. for Grace's monthly newsletter, Grace Notes, please have it to the Church office by the **20th of the month before**.
- The Administrative Secretary's contact information is:
 - * Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net
 - * Phone: 540-949-6171
 - * Mailing Address: 500 South Wayne Avenue, Waynesboro



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.gelcwayneboro.org, you will be directed to our new site, now at www.gracelutheranwayneboro.org. We do anticipate smoother going in the coming weeks, and look forward to updating our content in early 2025. Also, check out our Facebook page: facebook.com/gelc.elca



Food Pantry Collections: A huge thanks to everyone as you continue to bring food for the food bank box near the office. **New Notice!!!** There is a need for diapers, especially sizes 3-6. Your donation is much appreciated. To date, we have collected over **5,000** pounds of food (we have made **forty-eight deliveries**, twenty-one to Main Street United Methodist, and twenty-seven to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft).



New way 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 Tithely, a secure giving method that's been used by many at Grace for years.

MID-WINTER POWER IN THE SPIRIT: FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

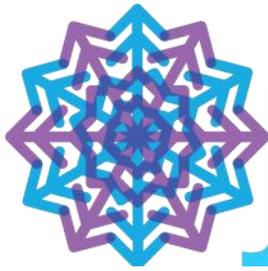
Mark your calendars **now** for the Mid-Winter Power in the Spirit event, "Faith, Hope and Love". This event is on February 3rd, 4th, and 5th online by Zoom beginning at 5:45pm.

The theme lifts up 1 Corinthians 13:13 in the New Testament. "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." As faith relates to Mary Mother of Jesus, hope relates to Abraham, and love relates to Mary of Bethany. These three major people in our Bible show how we can apply faith, hope, and love in our lives today. You will have the opportunity to participate in one of two workshops each evening relating to the theme of the evening. Dr. Eric Hilker, a Grace member and Advising Fellow at UVA will offer a workshop on *Making Room for Neighbors: A Workshop on Loving Folks on the Margins* on Wednesday, February 5th. Each night will close with Evening Prayer. Offering will be for the Micah Street Project in Fredericksburg, VA.

Our Bible Study leaders will be Rev. Jessica Darty on Monday night, Rev. Wes Smith, on Tuesday night, and Edith Blake on Wednesday night, a Power in the Spirit Team Leader. They will lead us in learning more about Mary Mother of Jesus, Abraham, and Mary of Bethany by looking at their lives and how faith, hope, and love appear in their lives.

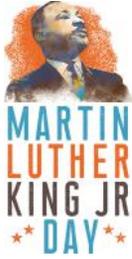
To participate in the event, you will need to register at vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit. There is no cost to participate.

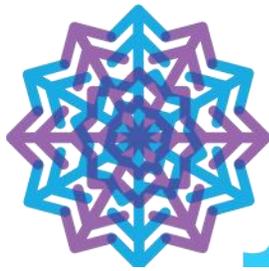




JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>First Sunday of Christmas</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>New Year's Day</p> <p>Grace Holiday</p>  	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> 
<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>Second Sunday of Christmas</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Grace Member Property Forum (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Practice</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</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</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p><i>Baptism of Our Lord</i></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>Grace Member Property Forum (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room)</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>Noon Grace Member Property Forum (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Conference Room)</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Encircle Managers' Meeting (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Women's Book Group (Stella, Bella & Lucy's)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. Newcomers (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. God in Odd Places (Conference Room)</p>		<p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<p><i>Second Sunday After Epiphany</i></p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p>	<p>Grace Holiday</p>  	<p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council (Conference Room)</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. God in Odd Places (Conference Room)</p>		<p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>



JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<p><i>Third Sunday After Epiphany</i></p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room)</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Round Tables (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Bell Choir</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. God in Odd Places (Conference Room)</p>	 <p>Office Closed Today</p>	<p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>



JANUARY

Birthdays

<i>Beth Ann Brady</i>	01/01	<i>Carol Wolf</i>	01/01
<i>Jules Madawa</i>	01/01	<i>Masoka Mmeswa</i>	01/01
<i>Easton Carper</i>	01/04	<i>Paul Pingel</i>	01/04
<i>Mike Myers</i>	01/05	<i>Jim Huerth</i>	01/06
<i>Linda Meyer</i>	01/08	<i>Vivian Proctor</i>	01/08
<i>Andrew Sell</i>	01/09	<i>Gene McCombs</i>	01/10
<i>Genevieve Arneson</i>	01/12	<i>Ron Knicefy</i>	01/13
<i>Karla Rankin</i>	01/16	<i>Phyllis Kite</i>	01/16
<i>Donna Gum</i>	01/18	<i>Rudy Yobs</i>	01/22
<i>Emily Almarode</i>	01/22	<i>Susan Myers</i>	01/23
<i>Trey Copenhaver</i>	01/23	<i>Joe Ranzini</i>	01/26
<i>Lily Pingel</i>	01/26	<i>Fami Denis</i>	01/26
<i>Dennis Barnes</i>	01/27	<i>Esme Hilker</i>	01/31



JANUARY



Baptisms

<i>Becca Dolan</i>	01/08	<i>Lily Skelton</i>	01/09
<i>Kathy Meicke</i>	01/15	<i>Pat Brady</i>	01/19
<i>Amy Warren</i>	01/19	<i>David Glover</i>	01/20
<i>Karen Walck</i>	01/25		



JANUARY

January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>
Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers
	<i>Jean Morgan</i>		
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Acolyte/Crucifer	Acolyte/Crucifer	Acolyte/Crucifer	Acolyte/Crucifer
<i>Reva Franklin</i>	<i>Isabelle Bokelman</i>		<i>Isabelle Bokelman</i>
Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister
<i>Kathy Bump</i>	<i>Gloria Nelson</i>	<i>Tami Radecke</i>	<i>Cathy Crowder</i>
Communion Assistants	Communion Assistants	Communion Assistants	Communion Assistants
<i>Karen Walck</i>	<i>Carolyn Hite</i>	<i>Linda Meyer</i>	
Council Person of Week			
<i>Jerry Kite</i>	<i>Linda Meyer</i>	<i>Jean Morgan</i>	<i>Donna Yobs</i>
Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards
<i>Pat Brady</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i>
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
<i>Pat Brady</i>	<i>Karen Walck</i>	<i>Maella Hilker</i>	<i>Ron Almarode</i>
<i>Jerry Kite</i>	<i>Rew Walck</i>	<i>Jean Morgan</i>	<i>Lee Lynch</i>

GraceNotes

STAMP

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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instagram.com/gelc.waynesboro

flickr.com/gracewaynesboro

[youtube.com/
GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro](https://youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro)

www.gracelutheranwaynesboro.org

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net

Telephone: 540.949.6171

Church Office Hours

Monday–Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

(Lunch 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.)

Friday: CLOSED

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