

May 2025

GraceNotes

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

From the Pastor



Pastor's Page

May 2025

The scripture readings for the Easter Season, which continues all through this month, contain readings from the book of Acts. This book is unique in that it tells the story of the early Church. In a very real way, it answers the question, "now what?" that comes from the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus (I wrote about this question last month in the Pastor's Page of April). We'll be looking at those stories during the month of May.

The more I look at the Word of God found in the Old and New Testaments, the more I believe in this collection of documents as God-given. It is as powerful a source of discovery about both God AND human nature as I've ever found. As Spring rolls into Summer, read this Word! Find the daily readings in your bulletin, OR simply look ahead each Sunday,

and look at the readings coming up. Both are found in your bulletin.

Sunday events and observances

End of Life Issues Class –

meeting on **May 4, 18 and 25** (not meeting on Mother's Day 5/11), this class will offer time for us to reflect on what the Word of God says about the Afterlife (as well as what we hear culturally), as well as some practical guidance for legal and healthcare issues at the End of Life. We meet in the Fellowship Hall, and if you can't come, an audio file is available for all who want to listen in.

Congregation Meeting to Elect Grace Council –

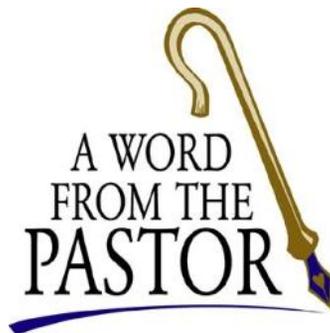
Sunday, May 18th, we will elect Council members for 2025-2027 terms! This happens immediately after worship. Plan on attending this important meeting.

Continued

Blessing of those who help with Worship and Music at Grace – **Sunday, May 18th**, we will offer thanks to God for ALL who assist with Worship and Music at Grace – altar guild, choir, worship assistants, ushers, acolytes...so many who give of their time and talent to help us all to give our God worship, and praise, as well as our being fed by God's Word and Sacrament. We'll continue to highlight other areas of ministry and offer blessing and thanks throughout the coming months.

Farewell and Godspeed to Pr. Karen and Stephen Van Stee – Pr. Van Stee has accepted a call to serve Bethlehem Lutheran, Waynesboro half-time, and she and Stephen will be moving their membership to Bethlehem. On **Sunday, May 25th**, we want to offer them thanksgiving for the many ways they offered their gifts and talents to serve God's Mission for us at Grace, knowing this farewell doesn't mean they are going far away! We'll look forward to seeing them on many occasions whenever we gather for Advent and Lenten services or other activities locally.

Graduation Celebration – Though this is a **June 1st** event, we want to be sure this event is on our calendars, as we honor those graduating from High School, College or Graduate School after worship, Sunday, June 1st! We'll have a full list of our graduates after May 5th (see announcement elsewhere in this Newsletter). Congratulations to all our Graduates! In our Lutheran Christian tradition, Martin Luther speaks eloquently of how each of us has a *calling* that God gives to us, whether that be to ministry, healthcare, teaching, a trade, art, food preparation, parenting, etc. Pray for our graduates as they seek to focus on their learning for the sake of their calling, or in seeking work in their area of calling.





Called Congregation Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, May 18th: There will be a called Congregation Meeting on Sunday, May 18th, after worship for the purpose of electing Grace Council members for terms of service from June 2025 through May of 2027. The following Grace members have been nominated by Church Council: Allison Fink, Linda Meyer, Jim Nelson, Kate Van Bremen and Donna Yobs. Biographies of those nominated will be sent out tomorrow by email and U.S. Mail, and be available on May 18th in the bulletin.



Nominations for Grace Church Council - Per Grace's Constitution - *"additional nominations may be made in writing to [Grace Administrative Secretary Nancy Dowdy] at least one week prior (Sunday, **May 11th**) to the Congregation Meeting ...All nominees must have consented to serve, in order for the name to be put on the ballot."*



If you have a **Graduate** in your family, please let the church office know the following by **Monday, May 5:** Name, parents' names, grandparents' names, school, degree, graduation date and plans for the future.



Graduation Reception follows Worship - We will give thanks to our graduates from high school, college, and graduate school with a reception following Worship on Sunday, June 1st. See note elsewhere which indicates a May 5 deadline to let us know about graduates in your family.



Virginia Synod Assembly in June (13-15) at Roanoke College! - The theme this year is "Intertwining Hope" - taken from the passage from John's gospel: *"I am the vine, you are the branches... We gather together to experience and express what it means to be Church."* We have two delegate positions available (Grace is allotted three delegates). Please contact Pastor Paul, Allison Fink (Council President), or the Church Office if you would like to represent Grace!



Wednesday Community Meals Resume following Easter - April 23rd at 6:00 p.m., we'll resume meals open to Grace members and those in our community. We also plan to invite other congregations to join us as well. Meals were an integral part of Jesus' ministry, welcoming friend and stranger alike to the table as a means of living out God's kingdom. Come and break bread together, regardless of whether you are a "regular," or are occasionally a part!



Conference Room Chairs Available - Grace's Property Committee purchased a new (to us) set of Conference Room Chairs to replace the current chairs, which have provided decades of service. The old chairs are available for a minimum donation of \$25 - though some no longer have functioning adjustments or maybe signs of "wear and tear," others still are fully functional. Consider a larger donation for a fully functional chair. If you are interested, please contact Fred Biggers or Rew Walck.



Great Response from Lenten Food and Hygiene Drive! - Grace, Christ Tabernacle, St. John's Episcopal, Bethlehem, & Zion collected easy to prepare foods and hygiene items that Middle School and High School students in need can take home for use. We had a great response: over 20 boxes were sent to Waynesboro School District! Thanks to all who helped with this important project. Please continue to pray for the approx. 100 Waynesboro school district students that do not have a home to regularly live in!



On Sunday, May 18th, we would like to **thank** all the people who contribute to the worship life of Grace Lutheran by asking them to come up front during the service to be recognized and blessed for the work they do, some in many capacities. Included will be Worship Assistants, Handbell and Adult Choirs, Worship & Music Committee, Ushers, Altar Guild and decorators for special occasions. This will be done for each of the big Committees of the church to include the sub committees.



Community Support Information Fellowship - Our Community Fellowship presentation will be happening on **June 8th** due to an overlap with Pastors End of Life Class and Graduating Fellowship on June We will hear from the Housing Emergency Resource Organization (HERO). Come learn more about resources for rent and utility help in our community. If you have a community organization you'd like to present, contact Donna Yobs 650-248-4882 or Karen Walck 765-480-9920.



Altar Flowers - Each week we have flowers to remind us of the Resurrection, that God has raised us up, that God has created a very good world for us to live in. Please consider signing up to provide Altar Flowers for Sunday services. You can either sign up on the flower chart in the Nave or call the church office.



The Flower Girl—The Flower Girl, 3278 Stuarts Draft Highway, Suite 6, Stuarts Draft, VA 24477, (540) 414-8221 will be providing Grace's altar flowers. If you would like to provide Altar Flowers, please sign up on the flower chart in the Nave. About a week before your Sunday, please call The Flower Girl and let them know your preferences and arrange payment directly with them. Also, please let the Church Office know how you would like to have them dedicated in that Sunday's bulletin by Wednesday morning.



Valley Music Academy has five (5) recitals planned: Saturday, May 17, at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and Sunday, May 18, at 2:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome!



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 **5,114** pounds of food (we have made **fifty-one deliveries**, twenty-two to Main Street United Methodist, and twenty-nine to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft).

Thank you all so much for
the care package. I greatly
appreciated all the snacks :
I shared them with my
friends on my floor, they loved
them as well.

Peace be with
everyone,

Kaitlyn Hull

Dear Members of Grace,

Thank you so much for
your support and help for
my mom's (Carol Varner)
memorial service. Our family
appreciates all the contributions
from food, flowers, providing
services, attending the service
and sending cards.

The service was lovely.
Pastor Pingel is a great leader
and our church family is
the best!

Sincerely,
Ed & Susie Oushell
and Varner Family

Your kindness and sympathy
are more deeply appreciated
than any words of thanks

can ever express

Power in the Spirit—Virginia Synod Event

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31 NRSVUE)



When we are tired or weary and feel like fainting, God promises to revive us and to raise us up – with strength like that of an eagle’s wings. This hope in God is sure and true because “The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth – who doesn’t grow tired or weary.” (Isaiah 40.28) All of creation – the waters of the earth, the night sky filled with stars, the dust of the earth, the mountains and hills – all creation reflects God’s glory (Isaiah 40.12, 26). In God’s great love and compassion for humanity, God gathers us all in loving arms, lifting us up onto God’s lap (Isaiah 40.11). Who can compare with God!?!

Join Maryn Olson, Director of Lutheran Disaster Response for the ELCA, as the keynote speaker, Rev. Bobby Morris, Pastor of St. Matthew’s in Pomaria, South Carolina, and Hebrew professor at LTSS at Lenoir Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina as our Bible study leader, and Michael Benschish, our music leader, for Power in the Spirit on July 17-19 at Roanoke College.

Grace Lutheran will help subsidize your registration amount contact Pastor Pingel. Early registration with a discount ends May 12th. All people who contribute to the worship life of Grace Lutheran will be asked to come up front during the service to be recognized and blessed for the work they do, some in many capacities. Included will be Worship Assistants, Handbell and Adult Choirs, Worship & Music Committee, Ushers, Altar Guild and decorators for special occasions. This will be done for each of the big Committees of the church to include the sub committees.

Hiker Ministry 2025: June 2 – June 28

For the 21st year, the Grace Hiker Ministry will again welcome Appalachian Trail thru-hikers stopping in Waynesboro for respite and refueling. We offer a place to sleep and clean up overnight, snacks and breakfast foods, information, and ways to stay in contact with families.

Overall planning and coordination continue to be provided by long-time members/associate members of Grace – Irma and Woody Graf. During the 4-weeks the ministry will be open we also have coordinators from the community. Liaison with the ministry will be provided by Jean Morgan and Linda Meyer.

What we need:

People – a calendar for sign-ups will be in the back of the nave every week during mid-May through late-June and will include the duties of each type of volunteer.

- Overnight volunteers
- Check-in and check-out volunteers
- Small groups of members to coordinate with our community dinner team to provide dinner on Wednesday evenings during the time we are open

Donations:

cereal, juices, bread, jam, peanut butter, and snacks
milk, fresh fruit, ice cream and home-baked goods once we open,
self-care items – shampoo, body wash, skin moisturizer, razors,
Band-Aids, etc.

Grace Church has a reputation up and down the AT for being a welcoming and safe space, and that depends on Grace members and friends coming down to help out and getting to know the hikers who are attempting to hike the 2,000+ miles from Georgia to Maine each year.

Questions or concerns? Contact Linda or Jean. We're happy to help you decide where your participation would help the most. You don't have to be a hiker or even like being outside – just be a welcoming face to people on a life-changing journey. An orientation to the ministry will be provided this year – time to be arranged.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Report

We finished March with a surplus of \$5,435 for the month, compared to a deficit of \$3,799 at the end of March in 2024.

The Finance Committee completed their review of the financial practices of Grace and presented their thoughts and recommendations to Council for Council’s review.

Financial Status

2024	Difference
January	<i>(\$4,447.58)</i>
February	\$954.27
March	\$8,928.60
April	\$0.00
May	\$0.00
June	\$0.00
July	\$0.00
August	\$0.00
September	\$0.00
October	\$0.00
November	\$0.00
January	\$0.00
YTD	\$5,435.29
2024	<i>(\$3,799.08)</i>



Red () – Deficit Black – Surplus

The Finance Committee

*Ron Almarode
Jerry Kite
Vivian Proctor*

*Allison Fink
Susan Myers*

*Chuck Goodrich
Pastor Pingel*



MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27</p> <p>Second Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>End of Life Class</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Round Tables (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Meal</p> <p>Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. CCE&J Christ Tabernacle</p>	<p>2</p> <p></p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil Christ Tabernacle</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Third Sunday of Easter</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p>End of Life Class</p>	<p>5</p> <p></p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Pastor—Vacation</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Meal</p> <p>Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Pastor—Vacation</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>9</p> <p></p> <p>Pastor—Vacation</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Pastor—Vacation</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>



MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>Pastor— Vacation</p> <p><i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Rev. Cynthia Long</p> <p>11:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p>  <p>Happy Mother's Day</p>	<p>Pastor— Vacation</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Finance Committee (Conference Room)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Worship & Music (Conference Room)</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Meal</p> <p>Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</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>6:00 p.m. CCE&J Christ Tabernacle</p>	 <p>VA Synod Lay Ministry (Conference, Fellowship Hall & Seminar Rooms)</p>	<p>VMA— Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>



MAY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</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. Called Congregational Meeting</p> <p>End of Life Class</p> <p>1:00 p.m. VMA—Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Office Closed Today</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Memorial Day ★ Day ★</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Church Council (Conference Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>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. Community Meal</p> <p>Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Office Closed Today</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Community Meal</p> <p>Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Grace Walkers</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> Office Closed Today</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>



5/1	<i>Ryan Blosser</i>	5/1	<i>Cori Blosser</i>
5/4	<i>Nathan Skelton</i>	5/5	<i>Bethanie Glover</i>
5/6	<i>Kathy Johnson</i>	5/7	<i>Jim Nelson</i>
5/7	<i>Allison Fink</i>	5/10	<i>Carolyn Barrette</i>
5/12	<i>Lisa Gray</i>	5/19	<i>Karley Hull</i>
5/23	<i>Brodie Franklin</i>	5/23	<i>Chris Carper</i>
5/24	<i>Ron Almarode</i>	5/28	<i>Jean Franklin</i>
5/28	<i>Roger Bowers</i>	5/28	<i>Rew Walck</i>



5/12	<i>Lindsey Skelton</i>	5/16	<i>Linda Meyer</i>
5/18	<i>Sydney Rankin</i>	5/20	<i>Wyatt Carper</i>
5/22	<i>Deloris Wertman</i>	5/23	<i>Marsha Howard</i>
5/26	<i>Isabelle Bokelman</i>	5/28	<i>Sarah Kite</i>
5/29	<i>Karen Van Stee</i>	5/30	<i>Rick Bump</i>
5/31	<i>Bob Shumate</i>		



<i>May 4</i>	<i>May 11</i>	<i>May 18</i>	<i>May 25</i>
<i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>
<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Reverend Cynthia Long</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>	<i>Pastor Paul Pingel</i>
<i>Altar Flowers</i>	<i>Altar Flowers</i>	<i>Altar Flowers</i>	<i>Altar Flowers</i>
<i>Allison Fink</i>	<i>Gail Johnson</i>	<i>Jim & Gloria Nelson</i>	
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>
<i>Jean Morgan</i>	<i>Gigi Werner Winslow</i>		
<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>	<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>	<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>	<i>Acolyte/Crucifer</i>
<i>Assisting Minister</i>	<i>Assisting Minister</i>	<i>Assisting Minister</i>	<i>Assisting Minister</i>
<i>Kathy Bump</i>	<i>Jake Dolan</i>	<i>Donna Gum</i>	<i>Ron Almarode</i>
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Communion Assistant</i>	<i>Communion Assistant</i>
<i>Tami Radecke</i>	<i>Kathy Bump</i>	<i>Robin Crowder</i>	<i>Carolyn Hite</i>
<i>Council Person of Week</i>	<i>Council Person of Week</i>	<i>Council Person of Week</i>	<i>Council Person of Week</i>
<i>Susan Myers</i>	<i>Karen Walck</i>	<i>Allison Fink</i>	<i>Jerry Kite</i>
<i>Offering Stewards</i>	<i>Offering Stewards</i>	<i>Offering Stewards</i>	<i>Offering Stewards</i>
<i>Pat Brady</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i>	<i>Pat Brady</i>
<i>David Proctor</i>	<i>Jean Morgan</i>	<i>Robin Crowder</i>	<i>Vivian Proctor</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Ushers</i>
<i>Karen Walck</i>	<i>Ron Almarode</i>	<i>Fred Biggers</i>	<i>Jack Eckstrom</i>
<i>Rew Walck</i>	<i>Lee Lynch</i>	<i>Andrew Sell</i>	<i>Jim Nelson</i>

GraceNotes

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LABEL



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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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

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Pastor

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