



Lessons and Carols

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

HOLY COMMUNION

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.



Gathering

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

Pastor Pingel

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,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Continued

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.
We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.
We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our reluctance to embody your good news.
Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.
Amen.**

The *Grace*
of *God* is
with *you!*

God's grace upon grace flows over you.
✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
Amen.

Gathering Song: *"Angels From the Realms of Glory"*

#275



Greeting and Prayer

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.

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: Luke 2:1-16

A reading from Luke:

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the inn.

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol: *"The Bells of Christmas"*

#298, Verses 1-4

Second Reading: John 1:1-14

A reading from John:

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him.

¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Carol: *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

#295

Third Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

A reading from Isaiah:

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,"
and he became their savior

⁹ in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol: *"Good Christian Friends Rejoice"*

#288



Fourth Reading: Hebrews 2:10-18

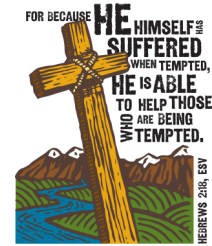
A reading from Hebrews:

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.”

And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”



¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Carol: “What Child Is This”

#296

Fifth Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

A reading from Matthew:

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

Continued

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

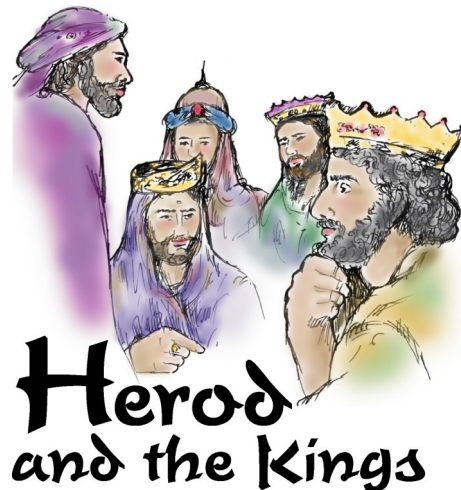
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Pastor Pingel

Carol: *“Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning”*

ASC #1060
Page 10



Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning



1 Gen - tle Jo - seph heard a warn - ing from an an - gel in the night;
 2 Tar - gets of a ty - rant's ar - my, seek - ing safe - ty, flee - ing strife,
 3 Give us, God, such faith and cour - age when we move from place to place,



val - iant Mar - y, maid - en moth - er, roused from sleep, pre - pared for flight:
 leav - ing house and land and kin - dred, spurred by dreams of peace - ful life;
 and to those who come a - mong us, make us chan - nels of your grace.



thus the Christ - child's fam - 'ly lived out what the proph - et had fore - told,
 through the des - ert of un - know - ing and the night of doubt they went,
 Let us see in ev - 'ry strang - er ref - u - gees from Beth - le - hem,



that he might be called from E - gypt as God's peo - ple were of old.
 guid - ed by God's prom - ised pres - ence, by that trust made con - fi - dent.
 help us of - fer each one wel - come and re - ceive the Christ in them.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: PLEADING SAVIOR, J. Leavitt's *Christian Lyre*, 1830

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Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



Prayers of Intercession

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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 below to make your gift on your cell phone through Tithely. (Please place visitor cards and communion cards in the offering plate.)

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



Offertory Hymn: "O Come All Ye Faithful"

#283, Verses 1, 4

Offertory Prayer

God of glory,
great are your wonders among us
and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior.
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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Carol: *"Joy to the World"*

#267, Verses 1, 4

Thanksgiving At the Table

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.

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.

Invitation to Communion

God is now in flesh appearing.
Come to the feast of joy!
Thanks be to God.

We sit.

The Holy Communion

We sit.

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

Ushers will invite you to come down the center aisle. We commune at the railing, filling up the rail from the center out. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available on the center table as you come forward, or you may receive the bread and wine from the Pastor and/or Communion Assistants. You may kneel or stand at the railing. The Pastor or assisting minister will announce "the body of Christ" as you receive/eat the bread/wafer, then the Communion Assistant will announce "the blood of Christ" as you receive/drink 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.

And each person may respond.

Amen.



"Love Has Come"

#292

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, we stand.

Sending

Prayer After Communion

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.
Move us to discover the wonders of your love
in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.
Amen.

Blessing

Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
✝ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.
Amen.



Sending Song: *"Cold December Flies Away"*

#299

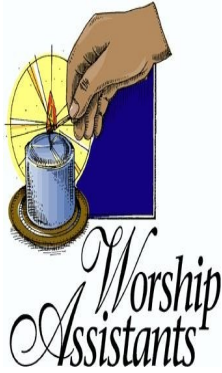
Dismissal

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today



Altar Flowers:

Gail Johnson

Altar Guild:

Jane Stein

Assisting Minister:

Andrew Sell

Communion Assistants:

Donna Gum

Council Person of the Week:

Peggy Caister

Offering Stewards:

Pat Brady

Ushers:

Vivian Proctor

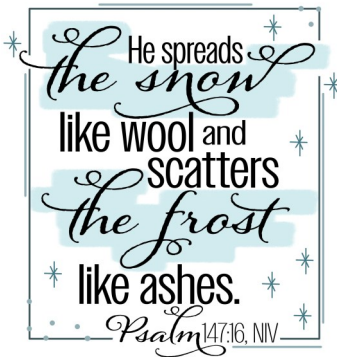
Rick Bump

Linda Meyer



*The Chancel Flowers today are given
to the glory of God.*

Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons



January 4, 2026

Second Sunday of Christmas

Service of Holy Communion

And via You Tube

Pastor Paul Pingel, Presiding and Preaching

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalms 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:10-18



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

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

Donna Dodge

Karlton Stein

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

Linda Davis, Friend of Gail and Sandy Johnson

Nicole Dodge and Family, Friends of Many

Barbara Eagle, Sister of Nancy Schwiesow

Jayne Freed, Sister of Marsha Howard

Jed Maddox, Nephew of Linda Tomey

Shirley Moran, Friend of Linda Tomey

Melissa Oskvig, Friend of BK Wilson

Evelyn Wilson, Mother of Charlie Wilson

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

The marriage on November 22 of Jennifer "Gray" Gray and Trey Hall,
Daughter of Lisa and Glen Gray

Continued



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

Berenice Archambeault
Beth Brady
Ron Knicely
Vivian Proctor
Pete Warren

Liz Ann Binns
Phyllis Kite
Lee Lynch
Bob Shumate

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

Bishop C. D. Brown, Friend of Grace David & Judy Drayer, Parents of Peggy Caister
Michaela Spellman, Daughter of Alexandra Spellman Judy Timm, Friend of Donna Gum

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

Family of Dottie Sheaffer, Member of Grace
Family of Janice Smith, Mother in Law of Jessi Smith
Family of Denny Snyder, Son-in-Law of Glen & Flo Myers
Family of Mark Wolf, Son of Carol Wolf

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Jenna Smith (12/31)
Carol Wolf (1/1)
Masoka Mmeswa (1/1)

Beth Ann Brady (1/1)
Jules Madawa (1/1)



Prayers for the World

For the families and Jewish communities around the world shaken by the mass shooting tragedy in Australia resulting in the murder of 15; for yet another University mass shooting at Brown University in Rhode Island; these prayers offered at the time of year when we hear the story of the sky filled with angels crying out: "Peace on Earth!" Christ, be our Light!

For the Civil War in Sudan, for the end of wickedness and evil deeds, especially against children and women, and for peace in the midst of famine and death.

For the unhoused, those who travel or drive for a living, senior adults and others who are weathering severe winter weather across our nation.

For the nations of Ukraine, Russia, and European and U.S. officials, as they seek an equitable peace after years of war.

For Christians in this world who suffer for their faith: in Nigeria and Somalia, threatened by El-Shabab; in the Sudan, Libya, Yemen and North Korea.

The Church

For the Church throughout the World, to be faithful to Jesus and his Gospel in uncertain times.

For the Christian Coalition of Equity and Justice (CCE&J), as it seeks a new path to continue the work of Racial Justice in our community.

For the 17 congregations that make up the Southern Valley Conference of the Virginia Synod (Lutheran congregations from Lexington to Harrisonburg, Churchville to Waynesboro).

For Bishop Phyllis Milton and staff, as they seek new Assistants to succeed Rev. Dr. Dave Delaney and Rev. Liz Radtke; as he retires in 2026 from his leadership position in Youth Ministry and as she begins a new call to Christ, Richmond.

For Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in the New Year as we discern God's mission for us and enter into the process of seeking a new pastor.





New Members at Grace! Kirk Hyden and River Smith will Affirm their Baptism, and join the family of faith at Grace on Sunday, January 4th! Please pray for these new members, and give them welcome in our life together.



Mark your calendars for a Grace Lunch following the January 11, 2026 service. January 11th is Pastor Paul's last Sunday and we plan to have a nice lunch to celebrate his service and retirement. Sign-ups for food, etc. are located in the narthex. We hope you can join us and bring something to share!



Confirmation in January! - Reva Sloane Franklin will Affirm her Baptism and be Confirmed as a part of worship on January 11th. Her reception will be a part of Pastor Paul's after worship! We give thanks to God's Spirit moving in the lives of all our Confirmation-aged participants - Esme and Maella Hilker, Zoey Mahoney, and Raegan Van Bremen - as with Reva, They continue their studies with Jake Dolan through the remaining Sunday School year!



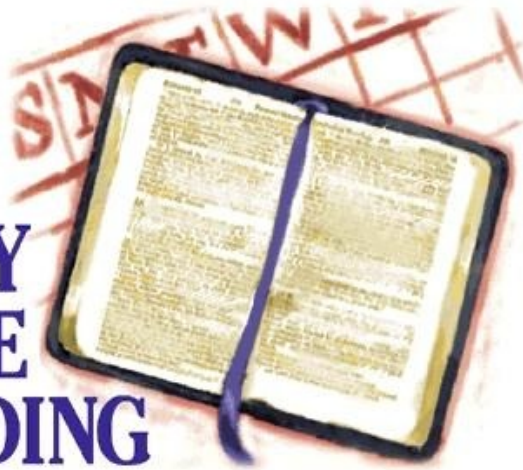
For 2026, Grace **Congregational Council meetings** will be the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, except January's will be the 15th.





Food Pantry Collections: A huge thanks to everyone as you continue to bring food for the food bank box near the office. Your donation is much appreciated. To date, we have collected over **5,496** pounds of food (we have made **fifty-six** deliveries, twenty-six to Main Street United Methodist, and thirty to Calvary United Methodist, Stuarts Draft). **New Notice!!!** There is a need for diapers, especially sizes 3-6. All diapers will be, and have been, delivered to Calvary United Methodist. In addition, 20 pounds of condiments have been delivered to the Bread Basket.

DAILY BIBLE READING



Monday

2 Samuel 23:13-17b
2 John 1-13
John 72:1-11
Morning Psalm 96, Evening 132

Tuesday

1 King 17:17-24
3 John 1-15
John 4:46-54
Morning Psalm 93, Evening 89

Wednesday

1 Kings 3:5-14
James 4:13-17; 5:7-11
John 5:1-15
Morning Psalm 98, Evening 45

Thursday

Isai 62:1-5, 10-12
Revelation 19:11-16
Matthew 1:18-25
Morning Psalm 98, Evening 99

Friday





1 Kings 19:1-8
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:1-14
Morning Psalm 48, Evening 9

Saturday

1 Kings 19:9-18
Ephesians 4:17-32
John 6:15-27
Morning Psalm 111, Evening 107



**December 28, 2024-
January 5, 2025**

Day	Date	Time	Event
 Lessons and Carols	12/28	10:00 a.m.	Lessons and Carols Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube
Monday	12/29		Grace Holiday—Church Office Closed
Tuesday	12/30		
 New Year's Eve	012/31		New Years Eve
 New Year's Day	01/01		New Years Day Grace Holiday—Church Office Closed
Friday	01/02		Church Office Closed
Saturday	01/03	11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	CCE&J Prayer Vigil @ Christ Tabernacle Yoga (Seminar Room)
 OUR PASTOR'S BIRTHDAY	01/04	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Second Sunday o f Christmas Service of Holy Communion In Person and via You Tube Confirmation Class Children's Sunday School (Sunday School Classroom)



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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Internet: www.gracelutheranwaynesboro.org

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