

February 2026

GraceNotes

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE

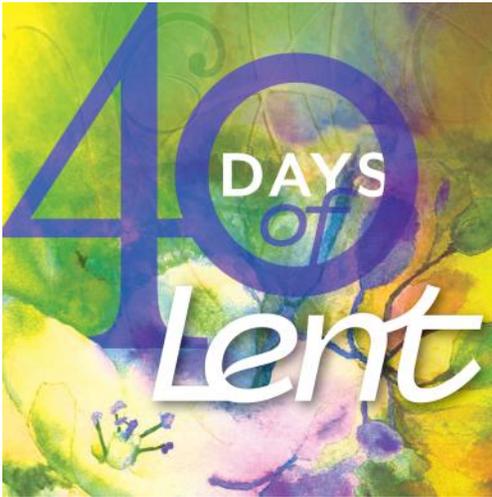
Thank you all for your participation in the retirement celebration for Pastor Paul. It was absolutely wonderful! Gigi Werner-Winslow and team did an excellent job coordinating the event! And thank you to the clean-up crew as well! Pastor Paul and his family were so pleased with the lunch and everything we did to recognize his service.

Church Council has begun the first steps in our pastor search journey. Linda Meyer has organized supply pastors through the end of February. We will plan further out after our next call with Becky Walls from VA Synod. Becky will be updating us soon on next steps and potential interest in our Interim Pastor position. The Interim Pastor will cover worship and pastoral duties until we find a full-time pastor candidate to offer a full-time call. One of our first steps is to complete our church profile. We will likely be reaching out for your input soon. Thank you for your patience as we navigate each step of this process.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Linda or I with your questions. Our numbers are in the church directory and on the back of the weekly bulletin.

Allison Fink
Congregational Council President





Return to the Lord Your God

Our Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday, February 18th as we hear the words as the sign of the cross is made on our foreheads, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” The season is a time of penitence, fasting, almsgiving and for some preparation time for Baptism at the Easter Vigil on Saturday before Easter. Lent serves as a 40 day reminder that it is God who saves as evidenced in the Sunday’s scriptures: stories of Nicodemus,

woman at the well, healing of the blind man, and the raising of Lazarus.

Grace members are invited to join with our ecumenical brothers and sisters from 1st Baptist, 1st Presbyterian, Main Street United Methodist Church, Union Baptist for an Ash Wednesday Service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion on February 18th at 1st Presbyterian Church, 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Morris Fleischer, Main Street United Methodist Church, will preach the sermon., Jesus Sang the Blues based on Luke 13;31-35. Choir members from the respective churches are invited to sing as a choir.

Walking Wet is the Mid-Week Lenten worship theme based on the Baptismal promises for this year. The schedule is as follows:

- ◆ **February 25, 7:00 p.m.**—Zion Lutheran Church, **No Supper**, The Rev. Dr. Wes Smith, Promises Made
- ◆ **March 4, 6:00 p.m.**—Zion Lutheran Church with Soup Supper, **7:00 p.m.**—The Rev. Dr. Wes Smith, Live Among God’s Faithful People
- ◆ **March 11, 6:00 p.m.**—Grace Lutheran Church, with Soup Supper, **7:00 p.m.**—Donna Gum, Hear the Word of God and Share in the Lord’s Supper

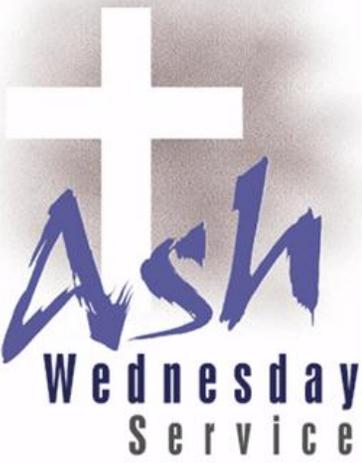
Continued

- ♦ **March 18, 6:00 p.m.**—St. James Lutheran Church, with Soup Supper, **7:00 p.m.**—The Rev. Gordon Putnam, Proclaim the Good News of God in Christ Through Word and Deed
- ♦ **March 25, 6:00 p.m.**—Bethlehem Lutheran Church, with Soup Supper, **7:00 p.m.**—The Rev. Karen VanStee, Serve All People, Following the Example of Jesus

***Grace Lutheran at this time does not have the capacity to offer a daytime Ash Wednesday Service. If you would like to attend the night service at 1st Presbyterian and need transportation, please contact Vice President of Council, Linda Meyer, 540-256-2277. Thank you!**

May each of you have a blessed and meaningful Lenten Season!

Donna Gum
Worship & Music Chair



February 18, 2026
7:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
249 South Wayne Avenue

Jesus Sang the Blues
Luke 13:31-35
Pastor Morris V. Fleischer, MSUMC

Union Baptist Church
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
First Baptist Church
Main Street United Methodist Church
St. John's Episcopal Church



Called Congregation Meeting on February 22nd - The purpose of the meeting is *"for review of Grace's written Annual Report and other pertinent business,"* according to Grace's Constitution. Please plan on attending this meeting after worship and a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share.



Raising Resources for Readers (3Rs) will hold our annual celebration/fundraiser on Sunday, February 22, from 4 - 7 p.m. at Basic City Beer in Waynesboro. We invite all Grace members to come out and support 3Rs and our friends at Basic City (who continue to give us the space free) by enjoying a beverage and/or a snack. This year we are pleased to have live music during the event featuring the duo Crystal and Kevin, who are well-known to central Virginia audiences. Please share this invitation with friends as we continue to expand our reach to more Waynesboro students - our annual fundraising needs now exceed \$37,000!



Altar Flowers Needed for Worship - A great opportunity meets an urgent need! It's a great way to remember loved ones, and give Glory to God.



The cold weather affects the closing of just about all the **exterior doors** in the church. As you come and go from Grace, please ensure that the door closes and locks behind you.



The **Grace Quilters** would like to open our Tuesday morning quilting sessions to any needle crafters who would like to join us to work on their projects and enjoy fellowship. Bring your knitting or crocheting projects Tuesdays from 9:30 – 11:30 am. We have lots of donated yarn if you need supplies. Going out to lunch together usually follows our work sessions. If you have any questions, you may contact Gwen Kite.



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.



WAYNESBORO AREA REFUGE MINISTRY

WARM Fundraiser - "The Return of Men Who Cook" on March 21, 2026

Waynesboro Area Refuge Ministry (WARM) is bringing back Men Who Cook! A fun-filled evening where local men volunteer to cook and serve in a friendly competition plus a silent auction.

Please come support us - How? Short version:

- **#1 Cooks** (No professional chefs, please.) Men, please volunteer to cook small bites for up to 250 people - 2 oz portion cups are provided for serving; 4 categories: appetizers, side dishes, entrees and desserts. We're seeking 20 cooks. You may bring a friend (men only, please) to help serve; and please decorate your table - have fun!
- **#2 Silent Auction Items**—Volunteer to prepare/provide items -- themed baskets, handmade items, services, vacation getaway, providing dinner for 8...be creative! Items/contracts will be displayed at the event and taken home that evening.
- **#3 Sponsorships**—Seeking sponsors from \$500 - \$5,000, promotion of business and some tickets included, depending on level. Also accepting donations, as always!
- **#4 Buy Tickets and Join Us!** \$60/person. Great fellowship! Let your voice be heard - you get to vote for best in each category and best overall! Find a great treasure at the Silent Auction! WARM will provide water/tea, Hazy Mountain will provide local wine/beer for purchase.

WARM is a local 501(c)(3) serving our homeless neighbors through three ministries:

1. Cold Weather Shelter (Grace hosted December 8-15) housing/feeding/clothing provided from November -March/April;
2. Ruth's WARM House (Grace sponsors a room each year) providing year-round housing/support for mothers and children to transition to stable housing;
3. Outreach to the unhoused April - November providing tents, sleeping bags, clothing, food, water and assistance to gain services available.

For more info/details, registration/sponsorship forms, and/or tickets, please contact Jane Stein 540-649-0979 or Susan Myers 434-760-1660.



For more information on Virginia Synod events, please visit <https://vasynod.org/>

Virginia Lutherans

Virginia Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January 23-25, 2026—Winter Celebration is our annual weekend faith sharing retreat for youth in 9th through 12th grade and their adult at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg.

**POWER
I N T H E
SPIRIT**

Foundations of Faith-Midwinter Power in the Spirit

Monday February 2 - Wednesday February 4, 2026

During our online gathering on February 2-4, 2026, we will learn how the words of 2 Timothy 1:7, “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”, relate to Foundations of Faith in the Lutheran Church, particularly in the Virginia Synod. As each night progresses, development of our faith begins with Who am I? and Why Am I Here?; 2nd night Is How We Got Here?; and ending on the last night with Where Are We Going? Our Bible study leaders will be The Rev. Jessica Darty (Trinity, Pulaski) on Monday night, Dr. Bill Franz (Christ, Richmond) on Tuesday night, and The Revs. Wanda Childs (Floyd-Willis Parish) and Marty Wagner (Chaplain for the Lay Ministry Academy), on Wednesday night. They will lead us to learn more about how power, love, and self-discipline work in our lives. You will also have the opportunity to participate in your choice of a workshop each night. To Register go to:<https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/> <<https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/>> for registration information.



March 7—8 — 7th Day is our annual overnight faith sharing event for youth in 5th and 6th grades and their adult advisors at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg. During the, each youth participant is part of a “Shepherd Group” with 5-6 other youth and adult leaders. Participants will explore a

story of the Bible through drama, games, crafts, and music. Everyone is together in a large group setting for singing, worship. In the evening, youth and adults will relax in their Cottages with their congregation and other congregations from Virginia to talk about their 7th Day experience! Cost is \$125 per youth or adult participant. Early Registration discount – \$115 – ends February 9th, 2026.

Health and Wellness News

Flu cases are on the rise in our region. Use this guide to determine if you should seek Urgent Care or Emergency Care for your symptoms



Urgent Care

- Your symptoms are new and not severe
- You need a flu test or antiviral medication
- You experience mild dehydration (dry mouth, dizziness, lightheadedness)
- You are looking for advice on managing your flu at home



Emergency Care

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain or pressure
- Confusion or difficulty staying awake
- Severe dehydration (no urination for more than 8 hours, dizziness)
- Sudden, severe, worsening of symptoms

Call 9-1-1 with any signs or symptoms of stroke or heart attack.



As the flu continues to affect our community, hospitals and urgent care centers are experiencing a rise in patients. Knowing where to seek care can help alleviate the pressure on emergency departments. By doing so, we can ensure that those with the most critical needs receive the attention they deserve. Your well-being matters, and seeking the right care can make a difference for everyone in our community.

Visit <https://www.augustahealth.com/service/urgentcare/urgent-care-check-in/> to see urgent care locations.



Special Funds News

This is the second in a series of articles that are intended to “shine a light” on the many Special Funds that exist at Grace.

This month the spotlight is on the Lutheran Disaster Response fund. Grace accepts contributions designated for Lutheran Disaster Response from members and/or visitors. The money is then sent to the Synod office monthly for distribution through the ELCA’s Lutheran Disaster Response.

The following is from the ELCA website explaining how Lutheran Disaster Response works.

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

We are a church that is a catalyst, convener and bridge builder. Lutheran Disaster Response collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. We are a welcome partner because we respect the perspectives and strengths of others.

We recognize that every disaster is local. Because of this, we believe every response needs to be rooted in the community; we work to accompany that community from immediate relief through long-term recovery. In our international work we partner closely with companion churches and other Lutheran and ecumenical relief agencies to make sure local needs are being addressed and met. In the United States, we work through our extensive affiliate network and other partners to address these same concerns.

Continued

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster.
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates.
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community.
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes.

Ron Almarode



Finance Committee Report



We finished December with a year-to-date deficit of \$145.59. At the end of December 2024, the surplus was \$3,496.62.

In a perfect world, receipts would equal expenses. That is very nearly the way that 2025 ended. We finished with a deficit of .05% Not bad for a budget of almost \$322,000. The congregation of Grace continues to support the ministry of the church.

Financial Status

2025	Difference
January	-\$4,447.58
February	\$954.27
March	\$8,928.60
April	\$651.67
May	-\$2,714.07
June	\$5,203.29
July	-\$4,507.99
August	-\$984.35
September	-\$2,975.05
October	\$4,040.56
November	\$1,594.94
December	-\$5,689.88
YTD	-\$145.59
2024	\$3,496.62



Red – Deficit Black – Surplus

The Finance Committee

*Ron Almarode
Jerry Kite
Vivian Proctor*

*Allison Fink
Susan Myers*

*Chuck Goodrich
Pastor Pingel*

FEBRUARY

2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Fourth Sunday After Epiphany</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Rev. Sandy Wisco</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School Confirmation Class</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room)</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Backpacks</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Round Tables (Conference Room)</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Hand Bells</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>12:00 p.m. Bridge (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. CCE&J at Grace</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>11:00 a.m. CCE&J Prayer Vigil @ Grace</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>Fifth Sunday After Epiphany</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Rev. Sandy Wisco</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School Confirmation Class</p>		<p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. Backpacks</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Hand Bells</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Choir Practice</p>	<p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Council Meeting (Conference Room)</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> 

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>Transfiguration of Our Lord</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Rev. Pat Nabers</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>PRESIDENTS DAY</p> </div> <p>7:00 p.m. All God's Children (Conference Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Backpacks</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Encircle (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Grace Women's Book Group Stella, Bella & Lucy's</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service First Presbyterian Church</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Newcomers Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>First Sunday in Lent</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion Rev. Walter Bouzard</p> <p>Annual Congregational Meeting & Luncheon</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Raising Resources for Readers Annual Celebration/ Fundraiser at Basic City Beer</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Backpacks</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Hand Bells</p> <p>7:15 p.m. Choir Practice</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship at Zion Lutheran Church</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. CCE&J at Grace</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Council Work Session (Conference Room)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Yoga (Seminar Room)</p>

A red horizontal banner featuring a white outline of a heart on the left, followed by a larger, semi-transparent red heart. To the right of the hearts, the word "FEBRUARY" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

02/10 *Irma Graf*

02/13 *Helen Moyer*

02/17 *Carolyn Hite*

02/24 *Dawn Reid*

02/28 *Ed Driskill*

02/11 *Chukizo Denis*

02/13 *Jackson Chaffin*

02/18 *Mike Trauscht*

02/26 *Carol Bowers*

02/28 *Kim Hull*

A red horizontal banner featuring a white outline of a heart on the left, followed by a larger, semi-transparent red heart. Below the hearts are three wavy lines in shades of red. To the right of the hearts and wavy lines, the word "FEBRUARY" is written in large, red, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below "FEBRUARY", the word "Baptisms" is written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

FEBRUARY

Baptisms

02/20 *Andrew Sell*

FEBRUARY

February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany	Fifth Sunday After Epiphany	Transfiguration of Our Lord	First Sunday in Lent
Preaching and Presiding	Preaching and Presiding	Preaching and Presiding	Preaching and Presiding
Reverend Sandy Wisco	Reverend Sandy Wisco	Reverend Pat Nabers	Rev. Walter "Chip" Bouzard
Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers	Altar Flowers
Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
Cathy Firkin/ Jane Stein		Jean Morgan	Cathy Firkin/ Jane Stein
Acolyte/Crucifer	Acolyte/Crucifer	Acolyte/Crucifer	Acolyte/Crucifer
Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister	Assisting Minister
Peggy Caister	Mike Trauscht	Cathy Crowder	Gloria Nelson
Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant
Carolyn Hite	Andrew Sell	Robin Crowder	Linda Meyer
Council Person of the Week			
Susan Myers	Jim Nelson	Kate Van Bremen	Karen Walck
Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards	Offering Stewards
Pat Brady	Robin Crowder	Robin Crowder	Pat Brady
Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Jean Morgan	Robin Crowder
Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Jack Eckstrom	Gail Johnson	Rick Bump	Pat Brady
Jim Nelson	Jean Morgan	Linda Meyer	Jerry Kite

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://www.GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro.org)

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.

(Closed for Lunch 11:30 a.m.

– 12:30 p.m.)

Friday: Closed

Church Staff

Mike Myers

Organist

Director of Music

Email: mickhdking@aol.com

Nancy Dowdy

Administrative Secretary

Email: Grace.lc@comcast.net