

*January 4, 2026*

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

*A community of servants sharing in the  
word and work of Jesus.*

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
(*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Three*)  
*Congregational responses are in bold print.*

*We welcome all our visitors, members, friends and family to this morning's celebration of the Word and Sacrament. We gather each week to worship, study and share fellowship so we can joyfully serve others. We especially welcome those new to our worship. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to tell you more about Grace! Please fill in a visitor card and place it in the offering plate.*

**We ask that all who commune fill in a communion card.**  
**We have Gluten Free Communion Wafers available.**  
**Please inform Communion Assistant 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**



**Gloria Patri**

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 and Announcements**

**Temple Talk**

**Allison Fink**

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

**Amen.**

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 participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.**  
**Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.**  
**Amen.**

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 Hymn: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

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### Greeting

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

**And also with you.**

# Kyrie

### Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Let us pray.

O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Word**

### First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from Jeremiah:

<sup>7</sup> For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

*Continued*



<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.  
<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**



**Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20**

<sup>2</sup> Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!  
<sup>13</sup> **For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.**  
<sup>14</sup> He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.  
<sup>15</sup> **He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.**  
<sup>16</sup> He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.  
<sup>17</sup> **He hurls down hail like crumbs—who can stand before his cold?**  
<sup>18</sup> He sends out his word and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.  
<sup>19</sup> **He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**  
<sup>20</sup> He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances.

**Praise the LORD!**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

A reading from Ephesians:

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

....LIVE FOR THE  
**PRAISE OF HIS GLORY.**



EPHESIANS 1:12

### Gospel Acclamation

*We stand.*

Alleluia. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John 6:68, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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**Gospel: John 1:1-18**

The holy gospel according to John:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

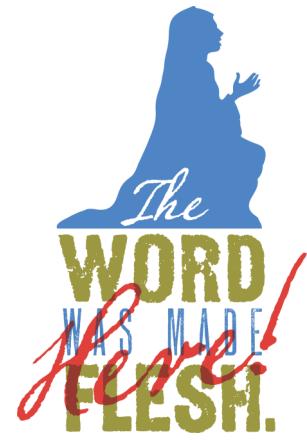
<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was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

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**We sit.**



Children's Message

Pastor Pingel

Sermon

Pastor Pingel

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

Hymn of the Day: "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

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### Affirmation of Baptism

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Kirk and River, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

*Those making affirmation are presented by a sponsor or another representative of the congregation:*

I present Kirk Hyden and River Smith, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

Let us pray.

Merciful God,  
**we thank you for Kirk and River: whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all who you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.**  
**Amen.**

### Profession of Faith

*Water is sprinkled on the gathering during the Profession in remembrance of our Baptism into Christ's death and resurrection.*

I ask you to profess the faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?  
**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?  
**I renounce them.**

*Continued*

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.**

#### Affirmation by the Assembly

You have made public profession of your faith.

Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

**Continued**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask god to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,  
that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth,  
cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.  
Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit;  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,  
the spirit of joy in your presence,  
both now and forever,

**Amen.**

**Introduction of New Member by their Grace Sponsors**



### 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.

*A brief silence.*

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

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

*We sit.*

**Meal**

### Offering

*We offer our thanks to God for "ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love" by our offerings. The offering plates will be passed by the ushers from the center aisle. If you give electronically, you can use the QR Code below to make your gift on your cell phone through Tithely. (Please place visitor cards and communion cards in the offering plate.)*



### Offertory

*We stand.*

Offertory Response:



**Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful  
Offering Song**

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

Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress.

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### Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

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.



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

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

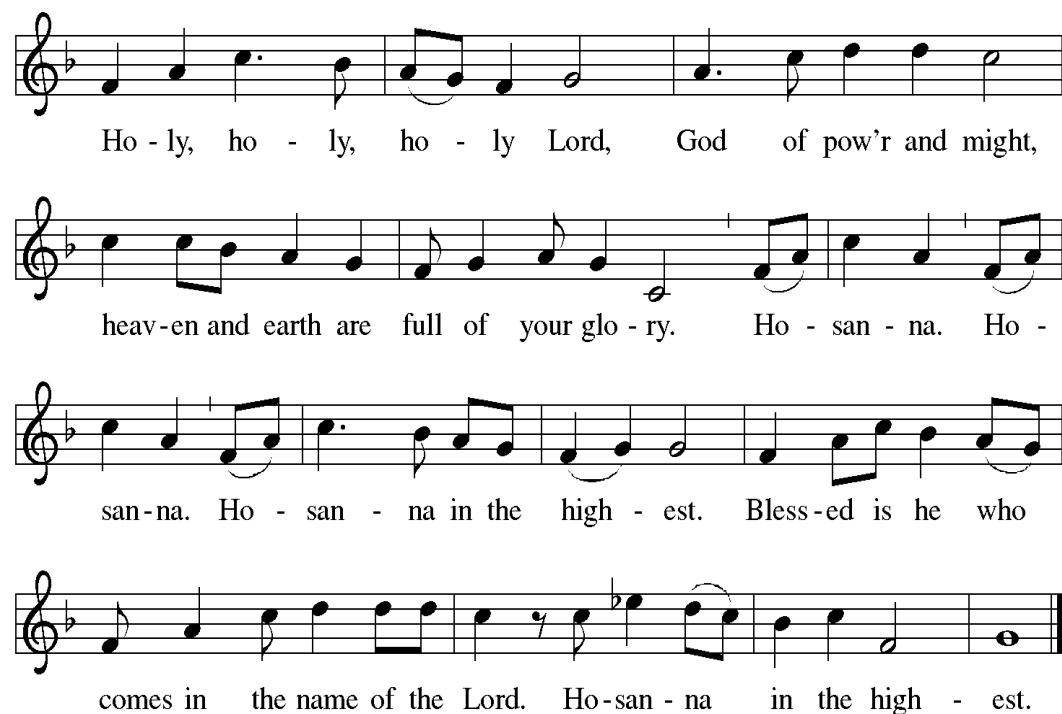
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And, so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### Holy, Holy, Holy



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

### Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the  
forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

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

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

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**



### Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
    hallowed be thy name,  
    thy kingdom come,  
    thy will be done,  
        on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
    as we forgive those  
        who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
    but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
    and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.



### Invitation to Communion

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

*We sit.*

**Our Father in heaven,**  
    hallowed be your name,  
    your kingdom come,  
    your will be done,  
        on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins  
    as we forgive those  
        who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial  
    and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
    and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

### Baba Yetu

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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

### 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.

The Communion Blessing

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

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



Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

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.



## Sending

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament from this gathering to those who are absent.*

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and Sacrament to our sisters and brothers. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The triune God,  
glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter,  
☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**Amen.**

Sending Song: “He Came Down”

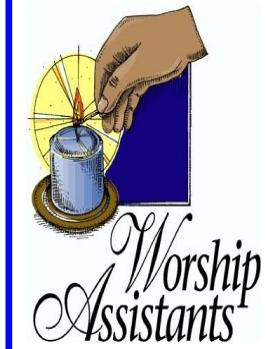
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## Dismissal

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.**

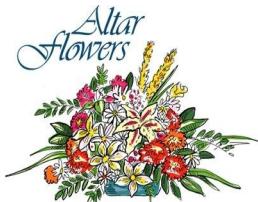


## Postlude



*Thanks to Our Worship Assistants Today*

*Altar Flowers:* Mark & Tami Radecke  
*Altar Guild:* Jean Morgan  
*Acolyte/Crucifer:*  
*Assisting Minister:* Linda Meyer  
*Communion Assistant:* Carolyn Hite  
*Council Person of Week:* Jacob Dolan  
*Offering Stewards:* Pat Brady  
*Ushers:* Jean Morgan  
Pat Brady  
Jerry Kite



*The Chancel flowers are  
given to the Glory of God  
in celebration and gratitude for  
Pastor Paul's 65th birthday  
by Mark and Tami Radecke*



*Next Sunday's Schedule and Lessons  
Sunday, January 11, 2026*

*Service of Holy Communion  
and via You Tube*

*Pastor Paul Pingel  
Presiding and Preaching*

*Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17*



*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. In an effort to make the prayer list current to the life of the Grace congregation, the community and the world around us, names on the prayer list will remain for four (4) weeks and names on the on-going prayer list will remain for three (3) months. If the need is longer term, please notify the church office.*

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

**Prayer Request for Relatives/Friends** (Remain on List for four (4) weeks)  
Roger Clark, Employee of Grace  
Rob Cooley, Friend of Gail Johnson  
Nicole Dodge and Family, Friends of Many  
Barbara Eagle, Sister of Nancy Schwiesow  
Reagan Gordon, Friend of Donna Gum  
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

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 Denny Snyder, Son-in-Law of Glen & Flo Myers  
Family of Pete Warren, Husband of Amy Warren  
Family of Mark Wolf, Son of Carol Wolf

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Congregation Members Celebrating Birthdays

Easton Carper (1/4)  
Mike Myers (1/5)  
Linda Meyer (1/8)  
Andrew Sell (1/9)

Paul Pingel (1/4)  
Jim Huerth (1/6)  
Vivian Proctor (1/8)  
Gene McCombs (1/10)



### 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 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 today and join the family of faith at Grace! Please pray for these new members, and give them welcome in our life together.



**The Funeral for Mark Wolf** will be this coming Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. with reception to follow. Please keep Carol Wolf, Mark's mother, as well the whole family (children Marilyn, Janet, Sharon and families) in your prayers, even as we give thanks for God's promises of resurrection life for us all!



**Mark your calendars** for a Grace Lunch following the January 11, 2026 service. January 11<sup>th</sup> 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!



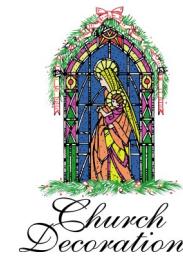
**Confirmation in January!** - Reva Sloane Franklin will Affirm her Baptism and be Confirmed as a part of worship on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Her reception will be a part of Pastor Paul's after worship! We give thanks to God's Spirit moving in the lives of all our Confirmation-aged participants - Esme 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!



**Donna Gum begins Lay Ministry Academy** - In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a shortage of Pastors has led to a new expression of Lay Ministry - people within the church who discern a call to preach, teach, and in specific congregations, offer Word and Sacrament through a specific "Synod Authorized Minister" calling. Donna Gum begins this process in 2026 by attending a Lay Ministry Academy throughout the year, and we will Offer Grace's prayers and blessings as a part of worship today.



For 2026, Grace **Congregational Council meetings** will be held the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, except January's will be the 15<sup>th</sup>. Round Tables will be held at 7:00 p.m. the first Tuesday every other month in the Fellowship Hall, with the next meeting being February 3<sup>rd</sup>.



**Many thanks** for all who blessed Grace this Advent and Christmas Season! For all who helped with decorating – Advent and Christmas Wreaths indoors and out; swags, Christmas tree, narthex decorations, Christmas candles and candelabras; creche and altar decorations - special thanks to Ron Almarode, Holly Carper, Robin Crowder, Jean Morgan, and Jane Stein for providing time, resources, and oversight.

**Many thanks for Special Music** by our Choir and musicians; and our Family Readers on Christmas Eve.

If you can help finish taking down Christmas decorations after Worship, we'd appreciate your help! Thanks to Ron Almarode, and Gigi and Scott Werner Winslow for the head start, and to Jack Eckstrom and crew for taking down the Advent Wreath outside! Many hands make light work!



Dear Friends in Christ: Thank you for your most generous Christmas gift, given to me prior to the Christmas Eve service Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. I am grateful to God for each of you! As my time as Pastor of Grace, Waynesboro draws to a close, I give thanks for our ministry together as we have sought God's Mission for us in this community and beyond. You have been a blessing to Jill, Lily, Hannah, and me. God has richly blessed Grace, and God's Spirit will continue to guide Grace, and the whole Church in this New Year 2026!

In Christ,  
Pr. Paul



**Record of Holy Communion**—In order to update our 2025 membership record for Holy Communion, please complete a communion card if you have not done so for 2025. If you have already completed a card, you will not need to complete another card until 2026 as the church's records will show that you have communed for 2025.



**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. The **2026 Flower Chart** has been put up in the Nave. 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.



**Foundations of Faith—Midwinter Power in the Spirit**—This online learning opportunity for all congregations of the Virginia Synod begins evenings, Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup>. The words of II Timothy - *"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline"* form the basis of the event. Study leaders Dr. Bill Franz, Pr. Jessica Darty, Pr. Wanda Childs and Marty Holliday lead us to learn more about how power, love and self-discipline are Foundations of Faith at work in our lives. Other workshops: *Using the Enneagram, Spiritual Friendship, Youth in the Church*, and others are also a part of the event. Register at [www.vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit](http://www.vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit), and click on the Brochure and/or Registration buttons. The event is Free! Register by January 30th.



**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.

**Monday**

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

**Tuesday**

1 Kings 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**

Isaiah 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

# January

*Life of Grace Church*  
*January 4-11, 2026*

Day	Date	Time	Event
	01/04	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	<b>Second Sunday of Christmas</b> Service of Holy Communion Pastor Paul Pingel, Preaching and Presiding <b>Children's Sunday School</b> <b>Confirmation Class</b>
Monday	01/05		
Tuesday	01/06	8:30 a.m.	<b>Backpacks</b> <b>Quilters</b>
Wednesday	01/07	10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	Prayer Group <b>Yoga</b> Hand Bell Practice Choir Practice
Thursday	01/08	12:00 p.m.	<b>Bridge Club</b>
Friday	01/09		<b>Church Office Closed</b>
Saturday	01/10	11:00 a.m.	<b>Yoga</b> (Seminar Room)
	01/11	10:00 a.m.	Service of Holy Communion Pastor Paul Pingel, Preaching and Presiding <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b> <b>Confirmation Sunday</b> <b>Congregational Luncheon</b>



## *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)*

*Susan Myers (434-760-1660)*

*Jim Nelson (434-826-8923)*

*Kate Van Bremen (614-746-4792)*

*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](mailto:pastorpingel@gmail.com)*

*Mike Myers, Organist, Director of Music*

*Email: [mickhdking@aol.com](mailto:mickhdking@aol.com)*

*Nancy Dowdy, Administrative Secretary*

*Email: [Grace.lc@comcast.net](mailto:Grace.lc@comcast.net)*

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

*[facebook.com/gelc.elca](http://facebook.com/gelc.elca)*

*[youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro](http://youtube.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro)*  
*Internet: [www.gracelutheranwaynesboro.org](http://www.gracelutheranwaynesboro.org)*

*Telephone: 540.949.6171*