

May 2026

# GraceNotes

## THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE



*"Gracious calling God, we trust your Spirit to guide us. As we work to call a pastor, may we count on your promise to shepherd us, knowing you are the One who called us first. Amen."*

A new pastor is not a replacement but a gift from Christ for a new season. This time before allows us to remember that our ministry continues even in the transition, as we are all called to serve. We prepare our hearts to welcome a new voice, trusting God to bring new life and energy to our ministry.

I pray we will all continue our devotion to our ministry and work inside Grace and in our community. While this season can be a scary time, it can also be a peaceful time of reflection. Time to reflect on all the good work, all the many ministries we support, and our love for each other. Reflection can be a very powerful tool and comfort. We often are so busy we fail to pause and reflect on all the good accomplished. Don't miss the opportunity to reflect. We are loved, we are blessed, and we will continue to be a blessing.

During this time of transition, we pray and reflect on who we are, who we represent and what Grace means to us and to the community at large. When we are blessed with our new pastor to lead us in the future, those reflections will help us to be strong and ready for what lies ahead. God will bless us with a new pastor to lead us in new ways we cannot yet see. Our new pastor will bring new energy and passion for what lies ahead. We must be ready and willing to see things in a new light. God is good! All the time!

***Continued***

*“Dear Lord, bless our pastoral search committee with wisdom, patience, and unity. We thank you for faithful pastors who preach Your Word. As we wait, strengthen us to be a joy to our future pastor, not a pain. We thank You for Your unwavering love. Amen.”*

## **Words of encouragement from our Supply Pastors:**

### From Pastor Wisco

*I'm glad I could be helpful. You are an open congregation and a thoughtful one too which is quite refreshing. God's blessings be upon you in your Call process. I forgot to say that I value how open the leadership team is too. I sense your focus on serving the community **in** and **beyond** the walls of Grace ELC.*

### From Pastor Bouzard

*For what it is worth—and I didn't get a chance to say this today—I don't think it will take a super long time for y'all to find a new pastor. Yes, there is a clergy shortage in the ELCA just now. But Grace has much to attract a pastor including a welcoming and well-functioning congregation. I'm sure there are bumps, but for y'all to meet and settle on the cost of a new roof with a unanimous vote is impressive. Congregational leadership is obviously strong, and the spirit of cooperation is palpable.*





## May 3rd, 2026 Congregational Meeting

**Congregational Meeting**—In accordance with our constitution, there will be a meeting of the congregation of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church **after worship (approximately 10:50 a.m.) on May 3rd, 2026** for the purpose of electing new members of the Congregation Council.

### 2026 Council Nominations

**Peggy Caister** (*two-year term expiring 2028*) works in a nonprofit philanthropy and has been a member of Grace for three (3) years. In this time, Peggy has worked with Grace's youth, Hiker Ministry, and CCE&J, along with participating in Synod events. Her #1 goal for Grace is to continue to share the good word and works of the congregation on behalf of our community.

**Gail Johnson** (*two-year term expiring 2028*) is a retired nurse and has been a member of Grace since birth. She has served on the WARM Ministry and Hiker Ministry, helped provide food for families, served with Disciples Kitchen and many other outreach programs. She has served Grace as an usher, Council President, an Assisting Minister, Communion Assistant, Director of Sunday School, Eucharistic Minister and led Christ Care Group. Her #1 priority for Grace is to increase assistance to those in need in our community and live out our mission to spread God's love and gospel through caring.

**Jerry Kite** (*two-year term expiring 2028*) is retired from a career in retailing and non-profit work. He has been a Grace member for 22 years having served on the Finance Committee, Mission Outreach Committee, Call Committee, Mission Investment Committee, Church Council and as an Usher. His #1 Goal for Grace is to see us active in our community and helping those in need.

**Continued**

**River Smith** (*two-year term expiring 2028*) is a Community Organizer. She has been a member of Grace for three (3) years and participates in the Choir. Her interests include Grace's commitment to social justice by encouraging the congregation to undergo the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation and engaging with WARM and CCE&J. Her #1 goal for Grace is creating a church culture that is built to last through the 21st century - connecting with young people and embodying their desires and concerns for the world. I believe this requires commitment to "being the church" outside church walls.

**Betty Karol Wilson** (*two-year term expiring 2028*) is a retired music teacher; and she and her husband, Charlie, have been members of Grace for four (4) years. She is a graduate of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University and has many years of experience as church choir director and organist. Since joining, she has been involved in music, worship and community building within the Grace membership. She appreciates the social gospel emphasis at Grace. Her #1 goal for Grace is to follow the gospel teachings in thought, word and deed.

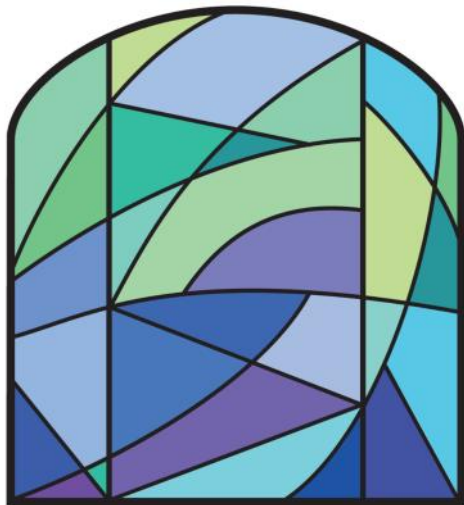


## **Annual Church**

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# **ELECTION**

## Supply Pastors



## Visiting Pastors

**May 3—Pastor Sandy Wisco** attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary followed by a first Call to Reading, PA in 2003. Sandy came to VA to serve as Pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Charlottesville August 2008 - December 2016. After retiring, she served as Interim Pastor at Grace and Glory in Palmyra for a couple of years. She also served as Dean for the Germanna Conference for a few years, and she recently concluded as Vice Pastor at Stony Man Lutheran Parish in Luray.

**May 10—Rev. Patricia Smith Nabers** graduated from Union College in NY and Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in SC. After 22 years in management working for several industries, she felt a call to church service and was enrolled in seminary. She was ordained here at Grace in 2003, and served for 15 years in a two-point parish that included Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, in Orange, and Mt. Nebo Lutheran Church in Rochelle. Since retiring, she has been a supply pastor in several churches in Virginia and in upstate New York, as well as working full time providing care and comfort for her dogs, cats, horses and two (2) extraordinary llamas. Pat considers Grace her home church (she is a daughter of Grace), and is grateful for the love and prayers from Grace throughout her seminary and ministry journey. She cherishes her butterfly stole, an ordination gift from the Grace congregation stitched by the Woman of Grace.

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## Supply Pastors Continued

- May 17**      **Rev. Joe Klotz, Jr.** (retired United Methodist Elder) Joe is married to Ann (Milk) Klotz and their 50th Anniversary is 6/26/26! Joe and Ann have three sons - Steven, Nathan, and Carl. Joe received an Electrical Engineering degree from Va. Tech - 1971-75, served in the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Riley, Ks - 1975-79, received a Masters of Divinity from Eastern Mennonite Seminary - 1979-81, and served the Virginia United Methodist Church - 1981-2017. Joe and Ann retired to Waynesboro in 2017 and attend Main Street UMC - participating in chancel choir & bell choir. He is treasurer and Board Member of Embrace Centers for Community, Inc. and has participated in the Kairos Prison Ministry. Joe enjoys needlepoint, piano, percussion, hiking, and Hallmark movies.
- May 24**      **Rev. Robin Ferree**
- May 31**      **Hymn Sing (tentative)**

## Grace News



**Called Congregation Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** There will be a called Congregation Meeting on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, after worship for the purpose of electing Grace Council members for term of service from June 2026 through May of 2028. Nomination for two-year term are: Peggy Caister, Gail Johnson, Jerry Kite, River Smith and Betty Karol Wilson. Biographies of those nominated will be sent out by email and U.S. Mail.



**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, April 26<sup>th</sup>**) 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 4:** Name, parents' names, grandparents' names, school, degree, graduation date and plans for the future.



Every year, ten educators are selected to receive a Dawbarn Education Award from our Community Foundation. The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge announced its 10 recipients of the 2026 **Dawbarn Education Awards** with special surprise visits this week. Now in its 32<sup>nd</sup> year, the Community Foundation honors community members for their significant impact on youth in the three local public school systems: Staunton, Augusta County and Waynesboro. The award comes with a \$10,000 prize and a special banquet to celebrate the recipients in the fall. This year, our very own **Sarah Kite**, special education aide at Stuarts Draft Elementary School, was a winner for her dedicated service.



**Rev. Tonya Eza** was ordained at Grace and has been serving churches in Wyoming and upstate New York. She has been called to serve as the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Fairbanks, Alaska and is looking forward to serving with the wonderful people there!

## Grace News Continued



**Help Celebrate Earth Day** by collecting plastic bottle caps and lids to be recycled as a bench for the River City Bread Basket Food Pantry. It takes 200 pounds of plastic lids to make a bench. Lids to collect are #2 HDPE caps such as water bottles, soda, tea and sports drinks #4 LDPE caps such as laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner and #5 PP lids such as cottage cheese, coffee, and butter. There is a poster next to the bin with a complete list of all lids being collected. Please place in the collection bin at the back of the nave. All items must be CLEAN of all food residue. This project is to collect only the LIDS, not the entire container. The collection will continue through the end of May. There are community collection buckets as well if you want to include your friends in this project. Community collection points are the Waynesboro Kroger, Waynesboro YMCA, Waynesboro Recycling Cener, Augusta County Library, Waynesboro Library, Staunton Recycling Center, and Refill Renew in Staunton. If you have questions, please contact Karen Walck at 765-480-9920.



**Rise Against Hunger Event Revised Date**—This year's Rise Against Hunger Food Packing Event will be **Saturday, September 19, from 10:30 to 12:30** at Kate Collins Middle School in Waynesboro. Last year, we had 21 churches participate and over 37,000 meals were packed. Save the date for this year's event. More information will be provided as we get closer to the September date.



**Food Pantry Collections:** A huge thanks to everyone as you continue to bring food for the food bank box near the office. Your donations are much appreciated. To date, we have collected over **5,636** pounds of food (we have made **fifty-eight deliveries**, twenty-eight 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. 38 pounds of diapers were delivered to them on April 14. In addition, 20 pounds of condiments have been delivered to the Bread Basket.

## Grace News Continued

Hello Grace Family!

As we enter our fourth season of Community Meals at Grace, I wanted to reflect a little on how the meals have developed and what is exciting about this new season. The idea for a community meal came out of a book group in 2023 where members of Grace read and discussed Christine Pohl's work, *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*.

We began hosting the meals with two primary functions in mind: providing a meal for folks in need on Wednesdays (when no other meals are offered in Waynesboro), and to welcome folks from the community into relationships of hospitality. Eating together is one of those practices with important potential for both strengthening our own community and welcoming those from outside, so rather than a soup kitchen model (where 'we' serve 'them'), we opted for a potluck model, where all are invited to join and eat together, whether one is able to bring a dish to share or not.

Eating together has produced remarkable effects. Many relationships have developed over three years. Grace members have gotten to know community members, forming relationships that extend beyond Wednesday evenings. Grace members have gotten to know each other better--eating together and working together in the kitchen to get food on the table and cleaned up afterwards.

And in the past year, Grace has gotten to know folks from St. John's who have become regulars at the meals as well. This has truly turned into a community meal, and to my mind, these relationships are the great success of the meals.

*Continued*

Last year brought an exciting expansion to the meals when we teamed up with WARM to start offering showers on Wednesday evenings before the meal. This was a real benefit to guests who had no other consistent place to bathe, and brought more guests to the meals, some of which would not otherwise have had transportation to/from the meal (which WARM provides). I have more than once extended my hand to a person experiencing homelessness who responded, "you don't want to touch me, I'm not clean." Offering guests an opportunity to get cleaned up is an important way of extending dignity to folks who often feel untouchable. This year we are extending this effort by offering a table with necessities for guests. Simple things like toothpaste, socks, t-shirts, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, and toilet paper can be a real blessing to folks on the streets. We welcome donations!

But even more so, we welcome your presence! One of the most important lessons we took from Pohl's **\*Making Room\*** was the centrality of hospitality to Jesus' ministry. First century Palestine was a deeply divided society: Jews separated from Samaritans and Romans; Jews divided into different sects; the wealthy who lived high in the city, those of middle wealth who lived near or in the walls, and those who lived in the trash dump (Gehenna) outside the walls. At every point, Jesus crossed those divides and asked his followers to cross them as well. He still asks that of us. And he still shows up at those meetings!



## Grace News Continued



**Quilting News**—It has been a productive quilting season. In November and December, we made 30 lap quilts for Riveredge Rehabilitation and Nursing Home. The quilts were given to residents at Christmas.

Lutheran World Relief has had some changes over the past year. In years past, we have been able to take our quilts in late May to the Church of the Brethren warehouse in Weyers Cave to be delivered to LWR in Maryland. LWR has changed their location and Weyers Cave no longer accepts Lutheran World Relief donations. The closest place at the moment is in Richmond and they needed to be there April 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. We received that information late and will not be able to display our quilts as in previous years. Twenty nine quilts have been delivered to Richmond where they will go to the LWR Warehouse in PA. We will continue quilting on Tuesday mornings thru the month of May.



**Love INC Dinner**—Tuesday evening, April 14, Grace members served dinner at Tinkling Springs Presbyterian Church for “neighbors” that attend classes offered by Love INC. We served approximately 90-95 meals with great gratitude

and thanks to all that helped in some way to serve with this outreach. Grace had a total of 16 volunteers that either provided food and/or helped serve. We had some food leftover and it was used for the Wednesday Community Meal.



## Grace News Continued

**Thank you to all for your support of Raising Resources for Readers (3Rs)!**

We are in the midst of our 12<sup>th</sup> annual round of field trips – taking students (grades 2 – 5) from Wenonah, William Perry and Berkeley Glenn elementary schools and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Kate Collins Middle School to Green Valley Book Fair! The students shop for books THEY WANT to read over summer break. This helps them retain



reading skills they've learned over the school year – and gives them a faster start next school year.

Thanks to all our Grace volunteers ... we're having FUN!

An update – we are working to add students from Westwood Hills Elementary School next school year!



## **Grace News Continued**

### **Hiker Ministry 2026: May 25 – June 20**

For the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 four (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 mid-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, ear plugs, Band-Aids, ibuprofen, etc. A bin will be available in the back of the church beginning May 3.

**Please help:** 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 (540-256-2277) or Jean (540-649-4422). 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.

## Grace News Continued



**The Family of Robert Shumate thanks you** for your kind expression of sympathy. Thank you for all you have done for Dad over the years. Karen Van Stee

### **Christian Nationalism – Some information**

On April 12, Rev. Sandy Wisco mentioned some issues about the Christian Nationalism movement in her sermon. This generated several questions about Christian Nationalism by members, and Pastor Wisco followed up by sending a copy of the statement by the ELCA on this issue, as follows:

*The ELCA firmly rejects Christian nationalism, teaching that it distorts the Christian faith by confusing God's kingdom with earthly governments and elevating national identity or power to a place that belongs only to God. Christian nationalism is considered idolatry and contradicts Jesus' message of love, justice, and inclusion for all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, or citizenship. Instead, the ELCA calls for healthy patriotism rooted in humility, service, and the well-being of all neighbors, affirming that God's grace and justice are for everyone. And Bishop Curry, along with the ELCA Conference of Bishops, has clearly stated that Christian nationalism is a distortion of the Christian faith and an unhealthy form of patriotism. The ELCA teaches that the kingdom of God is not a nation, culture, or political ideology, but God's reign of love, justice, and mercy for all people. Christians are called to resist systems and ideologies that oppress or dehumanize, and to proclaim the God-given dignity of every human being. The ELCA urges all members to insist on love, justice, and hope, trusting that God's kingdom will prevail.*

**Continued**

For those of you looking for more information about the Christian Nationalism movement, the All God's Children study group at Grace did some reading and study of it and below are some additional resources they found that may be helpful for your own study.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Blph\\_2RSBno&t=17s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Blph_2RSBno&t=17s) – this is a sermon on YouTube by James Talarico, a representative in The Texas House of Representatives who is also a seminary student. It's a very good overview of why Christian Nationalism is not the same as Christianity. A worthwhile listen.

Book: *The Flag and the Cross: White Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy* by Philip S. Gorski and Samuel L. Perry, Oxford University Press, 2022. An in-depth study.

<https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/learn-more> - organized by a multidenominational group of Christians to fight against Christian Nationalism <https://bjconline.org/> - An activist group with good resources.

If you'd like further information/discussion, please feel free to contact a member of the All God's Children study group – you can contact Rick Bump or Linda Meyer to start.



**All God's Children** will begin studying a new book on Monday, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. The book is entitled "What We remember will be saved: A Story of Refugees and the Things They Carry." Author Stephanie Soldana presents the narratives of six men and women escaping war-torn Syria and Iraq. A dress, a song, a dream to rebuild a pharmacy are among those items saved by the refugees. Each item represents the story of their home and family of origin. When buildings are destroyed and recognizable cities are gone, what is left?

A native of San Antonio, author Soldana has lived in the Middle East for more than 20 years. She has studied at Harvard Divinity School and has been published by the Washington Post and the New York Times.

This book is filled with hope, courage and a steadfast optimism. If you have not yet been a member of All God's Children, now is the time to join us in learning more about the Middle East. Zoom sessions available.

# Thanking Grace...



FROM OUR  
FAMILY TO  
YOURS



NEW  
DIRECTIONS  
CENTER



Thank you for helping make 2025 a year of hope and healing. Because of your generosity, hundreds of individuals and families across Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County found safety, support, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives. Your compassion made it possible to provide emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, and housing assistance to those who needed it most – services that change lives every single day.

As we move further into 2026, we remain inspired by your support and committed to reaching even more survivors, strengthening prevention efforts, and expanding access to critical resources throughout our community. Thank you for standing with us and for believing in a future where everyone can live free from violence. We are so grateful to have you as part of this work.



*We couldn't do this work without you. Thank you for standing with us, your kindness truly makes a difference.*

*Claudia*

*Nancy*

*Daniell*

*Steph*

*Shay*

*Jackson*

*Catheryn*

*Lania*

*Jim*

*Marilyn*

*Erica*

## News from the VA Synod



For more information on Virginia Synod events, please visit <https://vasynod.org/> for more information on any of the following events:

### The Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) Convention will be June 11 to 13, 2026.

- Convention Without Walls (fun and inspiring activities)
- Meeting with Conferences
- BBQ Picnic
- Ice Cream Social
- Abingdon Attractions
- Service Project – Mended Women
- Bishop Attending
- We hope you can attend (AND bring a friend!).



### Kairos is our annual week-long faith sharing



**event for youth who will be in 9th-12th grades in the fall! This year's event will take place June 21-26, 2026** (Sunday evening through Friday noon) **at Roanoke College** in Salem, VA. Kairos is

an event where youth and adults gather together for lots of singing and skits and fun and friend-making and prayers, then participants gather in small groups that meet throughout the week. There are so many beloved features of Kairos: event theme t-shirts, Open Talent Mic Show, faith Testimoni mes, comic relief, reflection time, prayer stations, speed friending,

t-shirt fashion show, and more! This event is a chance for youth who are already committed to a life of faith to be part of a unique Christian community for an entire week, to have a fresh experience of the grace and presence of God in that community, and to develop habits for discipleship that can be taken home as they live out their baptismal call to be followers of Jesus. Unlike our weekend events (Lost & Found, Winter Celebration), congregational adult advisors are not required to accompany youth to this event. The small group leader staff serves as adult leaders for the week.

## Community News

**Hidden Rivers at the Wayne Theatre May 1 at 7:00 p.m.** is a 1-hour film that explores the rivers and streams of the Southern Appalachian region, North America's most biologically rich waters. The film follows the work of conservation biologists and explorers throughout the region - revealing both the beauty and vulnerability of this aquatic life - and how many people are finding ways to protect these ecosystems. This is the Kick-off Event for Waynesboro's Riverfest 2026. **Free**

**Riverfest 2026 Saturday, May 2**— the Year of the Brook Trout! Programs and activities start at 10:00 a.m. and continue throughout the day. This **free** annual event takes place river-side at Constitution Park South in Waynesboro. Activities include Reptile World shows, presentations by the Wildlife Center of Virginia, Stream Safari exploration, Fish and Fun Rodeo, canoe rides, kids arts & crafts, interactive exhibits, and more. The day ends with the Great South River Duck Race! Rain or Shine – No Pets Allowed

**Singin' In The Rain at the Wayne Theatre** – is set to bring classic Hollywood sparkle right to our hometown stage. This musical is famous for its toe-tapping choreography, witty backstage romance, and that iconic rain-soaked spectacle that turns a simple song into pure theatre magic. Tickets \$36-\$48 **May 8 –10 and 15-17.** <https://www.waynetheatre.org>

**Virginia Street Arts Festival** is set to paint the town (literally) on May **16-17**. We're welcoming back festival favorites Humble, Jesse Jentzen, and Andrew Davis to create four brand-new murals in downtown Waynesboro. Plus, we're excited to welcome ROSHI K and Jon Murrill to the festival! <https://www.vastreetarts.com/>

**Rosenwald Open House Saturday, May 16, 2026** from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.! This year, Rosenwald is partnering with the Virginia Street Arts Festival for a day full of creativity and fun. Watch a mural come to life on the side of the Rosenwald building, enjoy live music, and take part in tons of free crafts and activities—including outdoor fun like a bounce house! **Free**

**Fifth Annual Tour the Town on Wednesday, May 27, 2026** from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.! Get your passport and eat, drink, and play your way through Downtown. Passports are \$45 and will get you access to exclusive deals in our boutiques, food and drink samples at local eateries, and other fun things! Bring the kids along for their own scavenger hunt to earn an ice cream cone token from Klins! Round out your day with the Wayne on Main concert under the Wayne Theatre's marquee and a Drawing for Waynesboro swag. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tour-the-town-2026-tickets-1986712370180>

## **Special Funds News**

This is the fifth 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 **Keefer VMA Scholarship Fund**. Grace accepts contributions designated for the Keefer VMA Scholarship Fund from members and/or visitors.

The Keefer VMA Scholarship Fund, which provides 50% tuition to two talented students who attend Waynesboro Public Schools, was established in 2017 to honor Brad Keefer as he stepped down from full-time responsibilities with the Property Committee. The fund is very active in assisting VMA students and the VMA has been very appreciative of the opportunities it provides for gifted students.

If you wish to make a contribution to the Keefer VMA Scholarship Fund, just designate “Keefer VMA Scholarship Fund” on your check’s memo line or write “Keefer VMA Scholarship Fund” on your offering envelope.

***Ron Almarode***

## Health and Wellness News-Protecting Seniors From Scams

Protect seniors from scams by fostering a "stop, look, and call" habit: never send money/gift cards, verify urgent requests by calling family directly, and shred sensitive documents. Key defenses include enabling multi-factor authentication, using call blockers, and setting up bank alerts. Be skeptical of unsolicited calls, emails, or tech-support pop-ups.

### Top Protective Measures

- **Hang Up & Verify:** If a caller claims to be a relative in trouble, a government agent, or bank employee, hang up immediately. Call the person or organization back using a trusted, verified number, not the one provided by the caller.
- **Secure Payment Methods:** Never pay for services, sweepstakes, or bail with gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.
- **Protect Personal Information:** Never give your Social Security number, bank account, or credit card numbers to someone who contacts you unexpectedly.
- **Check Technology:** Use reputable anti-virus software and pop-up blockers. If a computer screen locks with a warning message, shut it down rather than calling the number on the screen.

**Family/Trusted Contact:** Designate a trusted friend or family member to review financial decisions, especially if pressured by "time-sensitive" offers.

### Common Scams Targeting Seniors

- **Grandparent Scam:** A scammer calls pretending to be a grandchild in immediate legal or medical trouble, begging for money.
- **Tech Support Scam:** A pop-up or call claims your computer has a virus and demands payment for repairs.
- **Government Impersonation:** Fraudsters claim they are from the Social Security Administration (SSA) or IRS, threatening arrest or loss of benefits.
- **Romance Scams:** Scammers build a fake online relationship to gain trust and eventually ask for money.

### Proactive Security

- **Do Not Call Registry:** Register phone numbers at 1-888-382-1222 or [donotcall.gov](https://www.donotcall.gov).
- **Monitor Accounts:** Set up bank alerts for transactions over a certain amount.
- **Shred Documents:** Shred all bank statements, credit card offers, and personal papers before disposal.

### Reporting Scams

If a scam occurred, report it immediately:

- **Federal Trade Commission (FTC):** [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud)
- **FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3):** [ic3.gov](https://www.ic3.gov)
- **Social Security Administration:** [oig.ssa.gov/report](https://www.oig.ssa.gov/report)
- **AARP**



## Finance Committee Report

We finished March with a surplus of \$7,344.43. At the end of March 2025, the surplus was \$5,435.29.

There were no extraordinary expenses in March.

The Finance Committee and Council will continue to monitor the financial health throughout 2026.

### Financial Status

<b>2026</b>	<b>Difference</b>
January	<b>-\$1,514.65</b>
February	\$7,631.27
March	\$1,227.81
April	
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
<b>YTD</b>	<b>\$7,344.43</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>\$5,435.29</b>



**Red – Deficit**    **Black – Surplus**




### *The Finance Committee*

*Ron Almarode  
Jerry Kite*

*Allison Fink  
Susan Myers*





*Chuck Goodrich  
Vivian Proctor*

**MAY**  
2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Service of Holy Communion Rev. Bob Meckley</p> <p><b>11:00 a.m.</b> Children's Sunday School Confirmation Class</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p> <p><b>10:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.</b> VMA (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p> <p><b>9:30 a.m.</b> Quilting (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>29</b></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m.</b> Backpacks</p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Yoga</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Community Meal</p> <p><b>6:30 p.m.</b> Bell Choir</p> <p><b>7:15 p.m.</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p> <p><b>12:30 p.m.</b> Bridge (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Office Closed</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p> <p><b>11:00 a.m.</b> CCE&amp;J Prayer Vigil @ Christ Tabernacle</p> <p><b>11:00 a.m.</b> Yoga</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Service of Holy Communion Rev. Sandy Wisco</p> <p><b>Congregational Meeting</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> All God's Children (Conference Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m.</b> Backpacks</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m.</b> Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Yoga</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Community Meal</p> <p><b>6:30 p.m.</b> Bell Choir</p> <p><b>7:15 p.m.</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p> <p><b>12:30 p.m.</b> Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p><b>5:30 p.m.</b> CCE&amp;J @ Panera Bread</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Office Closed</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p> <p><b>11:00 a.m.</b> Yoga</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Service of Holy Communion Rev. Pat Nabers</p> <p><b>11:00 a.m.</b> Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HAPPY <i>Mother's Day</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p> <p><b>9:30 a.m.</b> Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m.</b> Backpacks</p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Yoga</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Community Meal</p> <p><b>6:30 p.m.</b> Bell Choir</p> <p><b>7:15 p.m.</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>14</b></p> <p><b>12:30 p.m.</b> Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> Council Meeting (Conference Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Office Closed</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p> <p><b>11:00 a.m.</b> Yoga</p> <p><b>2:00 p.m.</b> VMA Recitals (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Service of Holy Communion Rev. Joe Klotz</p> <p><b>11:00 a.m.</b> Children's Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation Class</p> <p><b>2:00—8:00 p.m.</b> VMA Recitals (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> All God's Children (Conference Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p> <p><b>9:30 a.m.</b> Quilting Group (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>20</b></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m.</b> Backpacks</p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Encircle (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p><b>11:30 a.m.</b> Grace Women's Book Group Stella, Bella &amp; Lucy's</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Yoga</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Community Meal</p> <p><b>6:30 p.m.</b> Bell Choir</p> <p><b>7:15 p.m.</b> Choir</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>21</b></p> <p><b>8:00 a.m.</b> Newcomers Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p><b>12:30 p.m.</b> Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p><b>5:30 p.m.</b> CCE&amp;J at Panera Bread</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Office Closed</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;"></div>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p> <p><b>11:00 a.m.</b> Yoga</p>

**MAY**  
2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Day of Pentecost</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Service of Holy Communion Rev. Robin Ferree</p> <p><b>11:00 a.m.</b> Confirmation Class</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p>  	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Yoga</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Community Meal</p> <p><b>6:30 p.m.</b> Handbells</p> <p><b>7:15 p.m.</b> Choir Practice</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p> <p><b>12:30 p.m.</b> Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Office Closed</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>30</b></p> <p><b>11:00 a.m.</b> Yoga</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>31</b></p> <p><b>The Holy Trinity</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship Service and Hymn Sing</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Hiker Ministry</b></p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> All God's Children (Conference Room)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Hiker Ministry</b></p> <p><b>7:00 p.m.</b> Round Tables</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Hiker Ministry</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m.</b> Prayer Group (Chapel)</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Yoga</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m.</b> Community Meal</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Hiker Ministry</b></p> <p><b>12:30 p.m.</b> Bridge Club (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p><b>5:30 p.m.</b> CCE&amp;J at Panera Bread</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Hiker Ministry</b></p> <p><b>Office Closed</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Hiker Ministry</b></p> <p><b>11:00 a.m.</b> Yoga</p>



## Birthdays

5/5 *Bethanie Glover*

5/7 *Allison Fink*

5/12 *Lisa Gray*

5/23 *Chris Carper*

5/24 *Carson Comer*

5/28 *Roger Bowers*

5/7 *Jim Nelson*

5/10 *Carolyn Barrette*

5/23 *Brodie Franklin*

5/24 *Ron Almarode*

5/28 *Jean Franklin*

5/28 *Rew Walck*



5/16 *Linda Meyer*

5/20 *Wyatt Carper*

5/23 *Marsha Howard*

5/30 *Rick Bump*

5/18 *Sydney Rankin*

5/22 *Deloris Wertman*

5/28 *Sarah Kite*



**May 3**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Preaching and  
Presiding**

Rev. Sandy Wisco

**Altar Flowers**

Allison Fink

**Altar Guild**

Gigi Werner Winslow

**Assisting  
Minister**

**Communion  
Assistant**

**Communion  
Assistant/Acolyte**

**Council Person  
of the Week**

Karen Walck

**Offering Stewards**

Pat Brady

David Proctor

**Ushers**

Fred Biggers

Andrew Sell

**May 10**

Sixth Sunday of Easter

**Preaching and  
Presiding**

Rev. Pat Nabers

**Altar Flowers**

Gail Johnson

**Altar Guild**

**Assisting  
Minister**

**Communion  
Assistant**

Carolyn Hite

**Communion  
Assistant/Acolyte**

**Council Person  
of the Week**

Donna Yobs

**Offering Stewards**

Pat Brady

Vivian Proctor

**Ushers**

Jack Eckstrom

Jim Nelson

**May 17**

Seventh Sunday of Easter

**Preaching and  
Presiding**

Rev. Joe Klotz

**Altar Flowers**

Chuck & Judi Goodrich

**Altar Guild**

**Assisting  
Minister**

Tripp Franklin

**Communion  
Assistant**

Andrew Sell

**Communion  
Assistant/Acolyte**

Karen Walck

**Council Person  
of the Week**

Peggy Caister

**Offering Stewards**

Pat Brady

Robin Crowder

**Ushers**

Gail Johnson

Jean Morgan



**May 24**

Day of Pentecost

**Preaching and  
Presiding**

Rev. Robin Ferree

**Altar Flowers**

Vernette Nichols

**Altar Guild**

**Assisting  
Minister**

Kathy Bump

**Communion  
Assistant**

**Communion  
Assistant/Acolyte**

**Council Person  
of the Week**

Jacob Dolan

**Offering Stewards**

Pat Brady

Jean Morgan

**Ushers**

Rick Bump

Linda Meyer

**May 31**

The Holy Trinity

**Preaching and  
Presiding**

**Hymn Sing**

**Altar Flowers**

Open

**Altar Guild**

**No Communion**

**Assisting  
Minister**

Donna Gum

**Communion  
Assistant**

**Communion  
Assistant/Acolyte**

**Council Person  
of the Week**

Jack Eckstrom

**Offering Stewards**

Pat Brady

David Proctor

**Ushers**

Pat Brady

Jerry Kite

# GraceNotes

STAMP

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

500 South Wayne Avenue  
Waynesboro, VA 22980



LABEL



## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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

[GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro](https://www.GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurchWaynesboro.org)

[www.gracelutheranwaynesboro.org](https://www.gracelutheranwaynesboro.org).

**Email:** [Grace.lc@comcast.net](mailto: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 – 12:30 p.m.)**

**Friday: Closed**

## Church Staff

*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)*