



# TIDINGS

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Vol. 64 No. 8

August 1 -31, 2021

## DEAR PARTNERS,

A major goal in the long-range plan adopted in November 2019, *Forward Together by Grace*, was to “Maintain, renovate, or expand our facilities to provide a safe, pleasant, and productive setting to meet the needs of faith, community, and service.”

On Sunday, July 11, 2021, we took a major step toward that goal when we approved engaging and funding ESa Architects of Nashville, Tennessee to help develop a Master Plan for the renovation of facilities, primarily the Administration and Education building and the sanctuary. The Master Plan Task Group will work closely with the architects on the scope of work and to review the fee schedule.

Church buildings are not necessarily important in and of themselves; they aren’t the church. The church is the people of God gathered around Word and Sacrament, called to love each other, our neighbors, and to continue Christ’s mission to make God’s love and saving grace known in the world.

The buildings, “the facilities,” provide space to be about mission in the specific place God has called us, downtown Winchester, Virginia, the Northern Shenandoah Valley.

The buildings offer a place:

- to worship that reflects the glory of God, and teaches through liturgy, Scripture, symbol, stained glass windows, and paraments, the story of God’s love for all.
- sufficient space for ministry; a place to grow in faith and in relationship with God and each other, in classrooms, rehearsal space, and gathering spaces for all ages.
- to which we can welcome others who are searching for a church home, or searching for a loving and welcoming God.
- to provide for the needs of the community, and for non-profit service groups to meet.
- to be equipped and sent out in mission in the world.
- that is safe and accessible for all, maintained so that it lasts for generations.

In the coming months, in partnership with the Facilities Master Plan Task Group and Congregation Council, the architects will be engaging the whole congregation: members, leaders and staff in a process of a needs assessment of the facilities. All will be encouraged to participate when called upon. As we prepare for an expected building project, plans will also begin taking shape for a capital campaign to help fund this exciting endeavor.

Going forward there will be updates in *TIDINGS*, Constant Contact, and special mailings.

Your partner in ministry,

**Martha Miller Sims, Pastor**

## ***OUR WORSHIP THIS MONTH***

At this time, we offer digital and in-person worship. Two in-person worship services are now offered each Sunday:

- ◆ Outdoor at Mount Hebron Cemetery at 8:00 AM (weather permitting) (masks not required for those who are vaccinated)
- ◆ Indoor in our sanctuary at 10:00 AM (masks required for all)

The 10:00 AM worship service is live-streamed from the website, [www.gracewin.org](http://www.gracewin.org) and later posted to YouTube.

Please watch for Constant Contact emails and the website for the most up-to-date information or call the church office 540-662-6678.

**Sunday, August 1, 2021 – The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost** – In the Gospel reading, John 6:24-35, many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest. The other readings are: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15, Psalm 78:23-29, and Ephesians 4:1-16.

**Sunday, August 8, 2021 – The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost** – Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other. The readings are: 1Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2 and John 6:35,41-51.

**Sunday, August 15, 2021 – The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost** – In John 6:51-58, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true “bread of life.” Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church’s celebration of holy communion. The other readings are: Proverbs 9:1-6, Psalm 34:9-14, and Ephesians 5:15-20.

**Sunday, August 22, 2021 – The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost** – In John 6:56-69, the “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?” The other readings are: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18, Psalm 34:15-22, and Ephesians 6:10-20.

**Sunday, August 29, 2021 – The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**—Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God’s law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. The readings are: Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27 and Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

### **Chancel Flowers**

Opportunities for donating Chancel Flowers are available again! Call Joan in the church office (662-6678) to reserve your Sunday!

#### **Ordering Flowers for Worship**

Flowers are signs of life, growth and beauty of creation. If you would like to donate the flowers for worship in memory or honor of someone in your life, please contact the church office to sign up for a given Sunday. You will deal directly with the church. The cost is \$45; make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church and have flowers noted on the memo line. We are using Winchester Floral to provide floral arrangements. Unless requested otherwise, flowers are delivered to members in the hospital, skilled nursing, in special care at home, or re-purposed for church events.

## Stewardship Thoughts

*Reflections on the generous giving of  
time, talents, and treasure*

*“For it is in Giving that we Receive.”  
St. Francis of Assisi*

**Giving From  
The Heart**

Where your heart is,  
there your treasure will be also.

*Making a Difference Together*

Worship Attendance (ELCA standard = unique visit x2, in 7 days)				
Date	Type	Online	In Person	Facebook
6/13/2021	Sunday	292	61	148
6/20/2021	Sunday	200	113	112
6/27/2021	Sunday	194	98	114
7/4/2021	Sunday	212	76	110
7/11/2021	Sunday	218	112	128

FOR THE RECORD “*Growing in the Grace of Giving*”  
**Report of Offerings for 2021**

	Anticipated Each Month	Given in June			Given Year-to-Date
		June Offering	June Vanco	Anticipated Year-to-Date	
<b>Promised Offerings</b> Pledged Envelope Giving \$446,041 budgeted for 2021.	<b>\$37,170</b>	\$17,549	\$7,129.53	\$223,020	\$217,423.92
<b>Grace Offerings</b> Non-pledged Envelope Giving \$94,389 budgeted for 2021.	<b>\$7,866</b>	\$5,492	\$1,426.48	\$47,196	\$57,074.24
<b>Faith Offerings</b> Loose Cash/Check Giving \$25,000 budgeted for 2021.	<b>\$2,083</b>	\$562.52	\$0	\$12,498	\$2,432.52
<b>Covenant Income</b> Income from fees, interest, grants, \$7,800 budgeted for 2021.	<b>\$650</b>	\$0	\$0	\$3,900	\$100
<b>Revell Trust Income</b> \$290,502 budgeted for 2021.	<b>\$24,208</b>	\$24,208	---	\$145,248	\$145,248
<b>Bartko Fund</b> \$25,900 budgeted for 2021.	<b>\$2,158</b>	\$2,158	---	\$12,948	\$12,948

## In Our Prayers

### Prayers for Healing

Members who have been in the hospital or are in need of our prayers of healing: **Lisa Blankenship** and **John Matticks**.

### Prayers of Comfort

Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **Darwin “Skip” Braden**, wife **Audrey Braden**; to the family and friends of **Karen Norman**, husband **Marshall Norman**, daughter, **Leesa Mayfield**, son-in-law, **Tim Mayfield**, grandchildren **William** and **Revalee**, son, Matthew Norman and daughter-in-law, Sylvia.

## New Website! [www.gracewin.org](http://www.gracewin.org)

Our new website is live! It is a work in progress, as we continue to update and populate all the pages. The new format is visitor friendly and interactive, including the ability to participate in digital worship directly from the website. We invite you to explore and watch it grow. We hope it enables us to connect with each other in new ways and to welcome newcomers. Check it out! The address is the same as the old site. ([www.gracewin.org](http://www.gracewin.org))



Photo by Danielle MacInnes on Unsplash.

## Special Called Congregation Meeting Highlights

A Special Called Meeting of the Congregation was held on Sunday, July 11, 2021, at 9:00 AM, outdoor in the parking lot behind the church. The following are highlights of the meeting:

- Approved funding for necessary exterior woodwork repairs to Godfrey Miller Home not to exceed \$120,000.
- Approved engaging and funding the services of an architectural firm, ESa Architects of Nashville, to lead the congregation in the development of a Master plan for the renovation of facilities, not to exceed \$129,000.
- Elected Congregation Council class of 2023 who were appointed in 2020 (when we could not meet in-person): **Darin Ashwood, Peter Baier, Elizabeth Dame, Kay Hallett, Jeff Keller, Christie McKee**. Elected the Youth Representative for 2021: **Matthew Marsden**
- The Property Committee and members of the Facilities Master Plan Task Group were thanked for their work.

## FAITH FORMATION AND YOUTH NEWS

### **FAITH FORMATION VIRTUAL Opportunities:**

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** - YOU CAN PARTICIPATE through ZOOM! Email [jboynton@gracewin.org](mailto:jboynton@gracewin.org) for more information. Dwelling In The Word - 7:30 am Come together and prepare for worship on the coming Sunday by studying the Scripture readings ahead of time. Studying together helps Scripture come alive – Leaders: **Pastor Jonathan Boynton, Pastor Martha Sims** and lay leaders from the group.

**Wednesday Evening Digital Book Study on zoom** - 7:00 - 8:00 pm

All are welcome to join this book study **The Great Spiritual Migration - How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking A Better Way To Be Christian by Brian D. McLaren**. The study shares the Christian story, from Genesis until now, how God's people are on the move—outgrowing old, broken religious systems and embracing new, more redemptive ways of life.

Brian McLaren, a leading voice in contemporary religion, argues that— notwithstanding the dire headlines about the demise of faith and drop in church attendance—Christian faith is not dying. Rather, it is embarking on a once-in-an-era spiritual shift. For millions, the journey has already begun.

Drawing from his work as global activist, pastor, and public theologian, McLaren challenges readers to stop worrying, waiting, and indulging in nostalgia, and instead, to embrace the powerful new understandings that are reshaping the church.

To join this group please contact **Pastor Martha Sims** at [msims@gracewin.org](mailto:msims@gracewin.org).



**W.I.L.D. Women Meeting In Person - Virtual & Retreat Info.** - You can join us again virtually on Wednesday, July 28th at 7:00 pm. Zoom links to follow. **End of Summer Retreat In Person on Friday, August 20th beginning at 6:00 pm and Saturday, August 21st from 9:00 am till Noon.** Masks Required (You get to sleep in your own bed for this one ladies) If you are interested in joining WILD Woman please send an email to [tshafferman@gracewin.org](mailto:tshafferman@gracewin.org) or call me at 540-327-5190.

**Women of Grace Zoom Meeting** - The third Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am. We will meet again on **Tuesday, August 17th.** We are currently using the resource *Walking Home* by: Margaret Guenther. Please let us know if you would like to join this group.

**G.L.O.W. Kids Event** — If you have a child in K-5th grade please join us for GLOW Kids (God Lights Our Way). Watch your email for event info. **In Person Masks Requested** Sunday, August 1st 2:00 pm Painting Event in Church Alley. Parents are asked to attend. Please RSVP to [tshafferman@gracewin.org](mailto:tshafferman@gracewin.org) Thanks!

**Bible & Brew** - Meets on the first Monday of the month. Come bring your favorite beverage and enjoy a program and fellowship. We will gather virtually on Monday, **August 2nd at 6:00 pm.** If you are interested in great conversation and fellowship from the comfort of your own home, contact one of the Pastors or T. Shafferman to get signed up. Look forward to seeing you there.

**20/30's Adult Group** - **Sunday, August 1st at 6:00 pm** please meet at the home of Anna Lehman 1314 Vancerright Circle for some corn hole and fun. **Sunday, October 3rd for fellowship & book study.** You can join for just the fellowship portion or stay (location to be announced) for **The Ragamuffin Gospel** by: Brennan Manning. *Most of us believe in God's grace in theory. But somehow we can't seem to apply it in our daily lives. We continue to see Him as a small-minded bookkeeper, tallying our failures and successes on a score sheet. Yet God gives us His grace, willingly, no matter what we've done.* Join Pastor Jonathan Boynton through zoom for this study. Please contact him for more information or to signup at [jboynton@gracewin.org](mailto:jboynton@gracewin.org). Thanks!



**Grace Walks - Tuesdays**  
**August 10th - 10:00 am**  
**August 24th - 6:30 pm**



**Join us at the MSV Trails by James Wood Middle School Parking Lot.**

[www.gracewin.org](http://www.gracewin.org)

## **FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS FOR SUMMER 2021**

We will offer our Faith Formation Totes this summer monthly. If you are not able to pick up your tote, please contact T. Shafferman at 540-327-5190 thank you. They will be available for pick-up on:

**Saturday, August 7th 10:00 am - Noon. Please come to church alley for pick-up.**

**GLOW Kids** event for **Sunday, August 1st 2:00 pm** Painting Day in church alley.

**Blessing of the Backpacks** a virtual event at 1:00 pm Saturday, August 7th

### **Youth Group In-Person Events**

**Sunday, August 8th 12:00 - 2:00 pm** Painting Day and Catered Lunch

You must RSVP to [tshafferman@gracewin.org](mailto:tshafferman@gracewin.org) to participant. Thank you

**Sunday, August 22nd 3:00 - 5:00 pm** Pool Party at Abby, Thomas & Olivia Mauck's Grandparents Home  
 100 Racey Ridge Drive - Winchester Please RSVP to T. Shafferman

For now we plan to kick-off Fall Sunday School Programs on  
**Sunday, August 15th 9:00 - 9:30 am**

## **New Pictorial Directory!**

As we begin to welcome each other back in safe ways, why not have some safe fun and have your picture taken for the church directory?

It's our WELCOME BACK Directory!

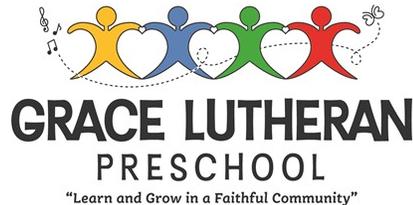
And we need YOU!. All photographers are vaccinated and will wear masks.

For participating you will receive your free 8x10 and the NEW process takes only about 30-45 minutes.

Get ready to sign up soon. Call **T. Shafferman** at 540-327-5190 or **Linda Milburn** at 540-336-0701 for more info. or to sign up to help with the directory.



Photography Dates are: August 4th, 5th, 13th & 14th at Grace



We are welcoming back our preschoolers on August 25<sup>th</sup> and are excited to open all 7 classrooms again with an excellent staff in place. Our PreK teachers are Berni Sisler, Phelicia Beachley, and we welcome Becky Barker. Also joining our staff this year are Margo Johnson and Elizabeth Singhaus in the 3 year old classroom, and we welcome back Kathy Reed to our 2 & 3 year old classroom where she will be assisted by Aimee Gangai and Krista Kling.

If you are interested in how you can support the preschool (donations of supplies or funds), please contact Jennifer Strickler at [preschool@gracewin.org](mailto:preschool@gracewin.org). Below is a list of school supplies we are always looking for, especially now that each child has their own set of supplies:

- Crayons
- Disinfectant wipes
- Child size masks
- Glue bottles
- Tissues
- Band-aids
- Glue sticks
- Paper towels
- Forks & Spoons
- Ziplock baggies (all sizes)
- Dry erase markers
- Plastic cups

Continued blessings of staying safe and healthy for all!

**Jennifer Strickler**, Preschool Director



**Grace  
Serves**

Your Service and Outreach Ministry Council gives thanks for your continued support of our local agencies and organizations that we support each year in our Christmas and Easter Outreach Offering. This year we will spotlight many of the organizations that you have helped in *TIDINGS*. In a future edition of *TIDINGS* you will see what was distributed in 2021.



The Laurel Center provides a critical service by providing emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault that is unduplicated in the Northern Shenandoah Valley. In addition to emergency housing services, The Laurel Center offers a comprehensive program of crisis intervention and support services, examples of which include companionship and support at the hospital, advocacy and support through the legal process, a 24-hour hotline, individual counseling, support groups, educational programming, and community outreach and prevention programs. The Center provides services 24-hours a day, 365 days a year at no cost to victims of violence.

In July of this year, The Laurel Center received a \$610,000 reduction in state grant funding from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice. This state funding cut will affect The Laurel Center's ability to respond to victims of domestic and sexual violence, further endangering this vulnerable population and placing additional strain on an already overcapacity emergency facility.

- *Facilities Renovation Update*
- *Worship Schedule*
- *Minutes from the Special Called Meeting of Congregation*
- *W.I.L.D. Women Retreat*
- *New Pictorial Directory*
- *Preschool New Year Update and Supplies Needed*
- *Grace Serves*

**Telephone: 540.662.6678**

**FAX: 540.662.6682**

**E-mail: [grace@gracewin.org](mailto:grace@gracewin.org)**

**Web Site: [www.gracewin.org](http://www.gracewin.org)**

**Preschool: 540.678.0635**

**Godfrey Miller Center:**

**540.667.5869**



**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

26 W. Boscawen Street  
Winchester, VA 22601  
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**THE PEOPLE OF GRACE - THE MINISTERS**

- Martha Miller Sims - Pastor ([msims@gracewin.org](mailto:msims@gracewin.org))  
Jonathan M. Boynton—Pastor ([jboynton@gracewin.org](mailto:jboynton@gracewin.org))  
Joan R. Carroll - Parish Secretary ([jcarroll@gracewin.org](mailto:jcarroll@gracewin.org))  
T. Shafferman- Director of Faith Formation & Youth Ministry  
([tshafferman@gracewin.org](mailto:tshafferman@gracewin.org))  
Beverly Dennis - Parish Administrative Assistant  
([bdennis@gracewin.org](mailto:bdennis@gracewin.org))  
Peter Stevens - Facilities Manager ([pstevens@gracewin.org](mailto:pstevens@gracewin.org))  
Brenda Miles - Sexton  
Jason Gottschalk—Director of Music and Organist  
([jgottschalk@gracewin.org](mailto:jgottschalk@gracewin.org))  
Elizabeth Holmes - Children's Music Program Coordinator  
([eholmes@gracewin.org](mailto:eholmes@gracewin.org))  
Suzanne Reid - Assistant Treasurer ([treasurer@gracewin.org](mailto:treasurer@gracewin.org))  
Jeanette Kline - ESL Nursery  
Lisa Zerull - Faith Community Nurse ([nurse@gracewin.org](mailto:nurse@gracewin.org))  
Jennifer Strickler - Director of Preschool ([preschool@gracewin.org](mailto:preschool@gracewin.org))  
- Director of Godfrey Miller Fellowship Center  
James H. Utt - Retired, Pastor Emeritus

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**Worship Service:** In person Worship at Mount Hebron Cemetery at 8:00 a.m. (weather permitting) and in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. and Live- Streamed at 10:00 a.m. on the website ([www.gracewin.org](http://www.gracewin.org))

**OFFICE HOURS**  
Please call the church for hours

**Prayer Team**  
*We invite all who are interested in caring for others through prayer to join the prayer team.*  
Contact **Becky Swanson Stern**,  
**[at prayerchain@gracewin.org](mailto:prayerchain@gracewin.org)**

**Prayers for those in our Military Services** should include:  
**Seth Anton, Ben Bailey, Brian Baker, Chip Bierman, Brett Bozeman, Stuart Carper, Andrew Flanigan, Elizabeth Grove, Ben Grove, Ellen Haines, Mitra Haines, Pastor Nate Huffman, Tyler Manuel, Kristjan Rauhala, Brandon Reeve, Christine Sears, Alex Simpson, Danny Smith, Ronald Snyder, Cassie Trulock, and Scott Zerull.**

**The deadline for input to the next issue of *TIDINGS* (covering September 1–30, 2021) is 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 18, 2021**

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.  
  
[stephenministry@gracewin.org](mailto:stephenministry@gracewin.org)