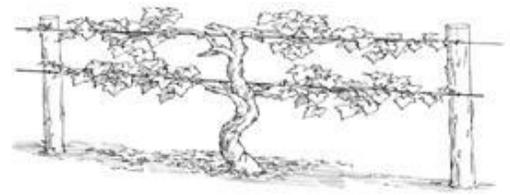


# **THE GRACE VINE**

## **GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**



*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit" John 15:5*

***JULY & AUGUST 2018***

***Rev. Timothy Spence, Pastor***

***Home Telephone: 304-905-6188 - [gracelutheranwheeling@comcast.net](mailto:gracelutheranwheeling@comcast.net)***

*Called by God's grace, we commit to a life of worship, service, and discipleship in the name of Jesus Christ*

### ***FROM THE PASTOR***

#### ***WELCOME!***

Summer traditionally brings a lull to the activities at church. With Sunday School shut down and other activities cut back due to reduced attendance, some weeks are very quiet in the parish.

One thing that doesn't stop is our worship life. We continue to gather each week to bring our offering of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving to God and hear from God's Word his plan for the world and for our lives, and be strengthened for service and evangelism in the world.

This is our high and holy calling: to serve as priests on behalf of the world. Peter writes, "You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people that you should show forth the praises of God who has brought you out of darkness and into his marvelous light," (1 Peter 2:9).

As Lutherans, part of how we understand our role in the life of the world is to be God's holy and priestly people, interceding with our prayers and presence on behalf of the world. We model our lives after our servant Lord, gathering to determine the needs of others, and then going out to respond to those needs in the name of Christ.

As God's redeemed people, we are in part defined by our worship life, and when we are absent from worship we are failing in our priestly responsibilities. Also, when we are absent from the gathering of God's people with our particular gifts and talents for the building up of the body of Christ, which is the church, the whole church is weaker because we are not there for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

As you make your summer plans, remember your priestly responsibility. Make attendance at worship – either at home or on vacation – a part of your planning. Pray for the world and for the needs of those that you know, continuing your priestly roll of intercession. Instead of taking time off, double your efforts to get to church while the weather is good and be present with your brothers and sisters in Christ to build them up. And let them build you up with their wisdom and support in whatever joy and challenge life is bringing you.

Our lives are defined in part by our worship. Don't let parts of who you are be missing this summer!

## *SUMMER MUSIC*

During July and August, while our choirs are on a well-earned summer vacation, we hope to enrich our Sunday service with other volunteer musicians. Please see Laurie or the church office to sign up for a Sunday to offer YOUR gifts of music to God and our church. Whether you want to sing (alone or with a group), play an instrument, or both, we want you! You can choose from prelude, offering, or communion times to sing or play.

## *ASK THE PASTOR - JULY*

Question: On Trinity Sunday we used that weird creed again. Where did that come from, and who decides what creed we use each Sunday?

Great question! When the Lutherans presented their confession of faith at Augsburg, Germany (The "Augsburg Confession"), they said that they subscribed to the three creeds, now known as the three ecumenical creeds since they are adopted and used by most main-line churches in this country and all major denominations around the world.

One of the three is the Apostles' Creed. While thought to be the oldest of the three, the oldest manuscript we have of this dates to the 700's and is from Ireland. Not actually written by the Apostles, it is the creed of the faith as taught by the Apostles.

The second of the three is the Nicene Creed, which was written at the Council of Nicaea in 325. The Creed attempted to unify the Church by saying what the official position of the Catholic Church was on such matters as Jesus' pre-existence and the relationship of the Spirit to the Father and the Son. Ironically it would be the sentence relating to the relationship between the three persons of the Trinity that would result in the split between the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches by 1100.

The third creed (the "weird" one) is the Athanasian Creed, which is the only one of the three written (supposedly) entirely by one person. Bishop Athanasius wrote the creed shortly after the Council of Nicaea to root out heretics in his own parish, especially in the fight against Modalism (see the August "Heresy of the Month" article elsewhere in this newsletter). Over time the creed gained wider acceptance until it was officially adopted as a true statement of faith.

Much more "bulky" and awkward than the other two creeds, the Athanasian Creed makes a strong attempt to clarify doctrinal issues that the scriptures are vague about, especially as it relates to the definition of the Trinity and how the three persons of the Trinity relate to each other. Because of its strong Trinitarian language, this creed tends to get dusted off and used on Trinity Sunday just to keep it in our minds. Its length and lack of "flow" keeps us from using it at other times except as a theological study document.

The Worship and Music Committee at each church determines the use of the creed according to flexible guidelines laid down in the [Manual on the Liturgy](#). Generally the Athanasian Creed is only used on Trinity Sunday. The Apostle's Creed is always used for baptisms and usually during Pentecost, Advent, Lent, and Epiphany. The Nicene Creed is thought to be more "festive", which means it is a fuller description of the faith, and therefore gets used for festivals days and seasons like Christmas and Easter.

## ***ASK THE PASTOR – AUGUST***

Question: In the new liturgy it says that we should be encouraged to address God as our "Abba". What is an "Abba" and why should we call God that?

Answer: A great question! Good to know you're paying attention to the language of worship.

"Abba" is a Hebrew word that means "father". But it actually translates as something more intimate than that, more like "daddy". It's the name a small child who is dependent on a parent would use and not simply a designation. So when we call God "Abba" or "daddy" we are showing that we trust God and rely on him for our needs and safety.

It's probably the actual word that Jesus used when teaching the Lord's Prayer to his disciples, but since we only have a Greek version of that conversation it's hard to say for sure. Using "Abba" puts it back into the original language and probably comes closest to Jesus' actual words.

The language of the liturgy suggests that we need help to address God as "Abba" - in effect it is acknowledging that we have trouble totally trusting God and being totally dependent on God for everything, and we need to work towards that relationship. So pray to your heavenly "Abba" and draw close to the God who protects, provides, and sustains!

And as always, thanks for asking!

## ***CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC***

The Annual Congregational Picnic will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2018 at Bethlehem Park. Worship will begin at 10:30. This year, instead of the Bluegrass Mass, we will be using a Celtic liturgy. Lunch and games will follow.

Meat, table service, and beverages will be provided. You can help by bringing a side dish, salad, or dessert. Further details will be available in the bulletin and the September issue of the Vine.

Volunteers are needed to help with set up for the meal and clean-up. If you are willing to help with set-up, the meals, or clean-up, please speak to Elisha Carl.

Volunteers are also needed to help with games. If you can help with games, please speak to Shari Sedilko.

## ***STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL***

This year's Strawberry Festival was another great success with over \$3300 raised in support of local charities. Thanks to the hard work of the Missions Committee and the many hands that made the event such a success, including community volunteers from the Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department and Ohio County 4-H Leaders who jumped in to help when we were short-handed due to many scheduling conflicts with weddings, graduations, and vacations!

Together with the proceeds from the April Rummage Sale we will be giving over \$1550 to each of the four organizations: Community Lutheran Partners, Helping Heroes, Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department, and Health Right. This represents about a 4% increase over what we were able to give to each organization last year.

## ***SUNDAY SCHOOL***

Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 16. Classes will again be offered for all ages beginning for age 3 and up.

A special class is being planned for adults. This class will focus on the recipients of our Strawberry Festival and Rummage Sale money along with some other charities that we support. If you always wanted to know who these people are and what they do, this will be a chance to learn more about them.

Further details will be available in the September *Vine*, but mark your calendar now and plan to be present to fulfill your commitment to "grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God"

## ***VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL***

The annual Hilltop Community Vacation Bible School will be held this year from July 15 to 19. Grace will again partner with Bethlehem Presbyterian and Our Lady of Peace churches to provide this Biblical learning opportunity for the children of our community.

VBS will be held at Grace again this year. Each evening session will begin at 6:15 and will end at 8:00 PM.

This year's classes will visit Daniel in Babylon. The theme will be how God's people can continue to be faithful in a culture that does not support them. Students will hear about Daniel's three friends who are thrown into a fiery furnace as well as find out what happens when Daniel is thrown into the Lion's Den!

For the second year, the program will center around the "Marketplace" idea which worked so well last year. Classes are open to all children who have had their third birthday (they MUST be potty trained) and older up to those who have completed the sixth grade. There is no charge, but donations are welcome to help with the costs of the program.

In addition to teachers and program leaders, two or three male actors are needed (one every night and the others one night only) and various crafters are needed each evening to round out the market place. Leather workers, basket makers, potters, astronomers, "professional" scribes, woodworkers, and jewelry makers will all enhance the program for the children and can join the musicians, bakers, gardeners, and food vendors in the market place. Students older than sixth grade are invited to volunteer as helpers for the marketplace or with the younger classes.

If you have a craft or skill, especially those listed above, and would be willing to share that with the children on one or more nights, please speak to Pastor. Also, if you are willing to help by donating materials or money, please speak to Evelyn Birch. Volunteers are also needed to help paint scenery and as class assistants for the younger classes. Speak to Evelyn if you can help with these projects.

## ***2018 ANNUAL SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON***

Thanks to everyone who helped with the 2018 salad luncheon. Special thanks to Dane & Evelyn Birch and Larry & Linda Rush for their much needed help the day before to set up all the tables and make them ready for the next day. Thanks also to all the Grace Guys for helping in the kitchen and for their help afterward to clean up. Because of the wonderful support of the congregation of Grace Lutheran Church we were able to offer 36 salads and 13 desserts. This year we earned \$2,589.00 which was \$285.00 over last year. The money we have earned has been used at Grace to purchase needed items and to help with big and small projects.

## ***HERESY OF THE MONTH (JULY): PELAGIANISM***

Pelagius was a church leader who lived at the beginning of the 5th century. He moved around the in the Mediterranean area just as Christianity was being legalized by the emperor Constantine and the barbarians were about to overrun Rome.

Pelagius was concerned about what to do with all these new Christians now that the religion was legal. Before 325, it was easy to evaluate people's commitment and see if they were serious about following Jesus. A catechetical (instruction) process leading to baptism was often two or three years long. Adults were the primary candidates for baptism, but the entire family was then baptized at the same time.

With the flood of baptismal candidates (no pun intended) after 325, it became impossible to put everyone through the longer process: There just weren't as many teachers and sponsors. Also, with the easing of persecution it was no longer difficult or dangerous to be a Christian. It was even fashionable. So people became Christians without really taking the movement to follow Jesus more seriously., They kept some of their old ways instead of the more strict discipline that had shaped the early church up to this point.

**Pelagius begged the question as to what was happening with those who were baptized but continued in their old sinful practices. He even went so far as to argue that the baptism of children and infants was not valid since they couldn't be held accountable for their actions, leading to the idea of an "age of accountability" for sinfulness. This is where Pelagius really ran afoul of the Church. He rejected the validity of infant baptism as being insufficient.**

What this really did was force the church to consider the nature of sin. Pelagius' opponent in all this was the great Bishop Augustine of Hippo (St. Augustine), who argued that the Biblical idea that "I have been a sinner from my mother's womb" (Psalm 51:5) meant that there was something he called "Original sin" which later morphed into something called "total depravity" (which almost got Augustine into trouble as a separate heresy, but that's another story).

In the end, the Augustinians won out: We are born (the process is not clear and may not exactly matter) as sinful beings into a fallen world - not the world God created or the way God wants it to be. We all (babies and children included) are in need of redemption and the grace of God. There is no magical age before which we were not sinful and suddenly we turn 12 or 13 and now we are.

The entire Baptist movement often comes very close to being Pelagians and lay folk frequently cross the line and become "Semi-Pelagians" (yes; that is a real thing). But the argument was settled for the rest of us back around 415 AD: "ALL (babies and kids included) have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Baptism is regenerative and unites us to the cross and the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, who came to save and restore a lost and fallen creation.

End of discussion, case closed. So if you find someone who denies that babies and children need to be baptized and that baptism is only a symbol based on your personal commitment and not something regenerative and life changing due to the power of the cross, you might have found yourself a Pelagian!

## ***HERESY OF THE MONTH (AUGUST): MODALISM***

For centuries Christians have struggled to define the nature of God as "one god in three persons". The greatest attempt was probably just after the Council of Nicaea in 325 (which resulted in the Nicene Creed) when Athanasius wrote his famous creed. Along with the Nicene and Apostles Creeds, the Athanasian Creed is one of the three "ecumenical creeds" accepted by most main branches of the Christian family.

Still the definitions have been awkward and clumsy. St. Patrick supposedly tried to explain it by using a shamrock: One plant, three leaves but still one plant. It works, but only to a point.

Modalists take a different stand that was part of the target of Athanasius. Modalists claimed that the one God is made known to us in three "modes" or kind of personalities or functions. An example is that a man can be a father, a husband, and a son all at the same time. So one person, three modes. In the same way, the one God can appear as Father, Son, or Spirit, depending on the time, place, and situation.

The church rejected this, claiming instead the heritage of Israel that "the Lord our God is One" while acknowledging that the Father, Son, and Spirit exist simultaneously and operate jointly. So three distinct persons, but one God. Athanasius addressed this when he wrote, "Thus the Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God. But they are not three gods but one God" (Athanasian Creed).

If you find someone who says that God the creator became God the Son and is now with us as God the Spirit without recognizing that (as the Nicene Creed says) the "Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son", you may have found a modern-day Modalist.

## ***THINGS TO REMEMBER/ONGOING ACTIVITIES***

### ***GRACE GUYS***

Grace Guys will meet on July 14 at 8:30 for coffee and donuts followed by work on the new storage projects and help setting up for some of the Vacation Bible School scenery. Bring drywall tools as well as drills, saws, hammers, and screw drivers (and a tape measure).

See you then!

### ***CANS FOR WATCH***

Grace members are collecting aluminum cans for WATCH. They will crush, recycle, and use the proceeds for client events. Please bring them at any time, and place them in the large box behind the kitchen door.

### ***RIESBECK GIFT CARDS***

Riesbecks Gift Cards to benefit Thrivent are available from either Judith Myers or Tami Tysk.

### ***GAME DAY***

A free Game Day is held on the last Thursday of every month, between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM. You can play our games or bring your own. For more information, call 304-233-2990 or 304-242-2632.

### ***BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION***

Save "Box tops for Education" from food and other products for our "Partners in Education" partner, Bethlehem Elementary School. "Box tops" can be left in the bin under the Welcome Desk.

## ***PRAYER LIST***

Ryan Deegan  
Henri Fontaine  
Faith Hartzell  
Stephanie Moore-Vetanze  
Zane Neuhardt  
Becky Holinghead  
Jodi Ennis (Hunt)  
Michael & Brittany Shank  
Carolyn Palverini  
Don McCormick

Hines Rotriga  
Amelia DaGrava  
George Myers  
Addison Lucas  
Joan Shelek  
Barbara Knollinger  
Betty June Wymer  
Stacy Tysk  
Bob Condron

Betty Swartz  
David Ausdenmoore  
Thelma Moore  
Cindy Roshak  
Frank Ryder  
Keith McMannis  
Susan Falbo  
Bill Scholley  
Cindy Linkiewercz

### **\*\*\*On Military Duty\*\*\***

Justin Mull  
Parker Euri

Brian Coughlan

Casey Young

## ***HOMEBOUND***

**Lois Huffner**  
Mound View Health Care  
2200 Floral St.,  
Moundsville, WV 26041

**Mabel Winesburg**  
218 Elm Crest Drive  
Wheeling, WV 26003

**Rebecca Frazier**  
55801 Canna-Mara Dr.  
Bellaire, OH 43906

**Donald Carl**  
Carriage Inn  
308 West Warren Street  
Room Shay 13  
Cadiz, OH 43907

**Debbie Hawkins**  
Peterson Rehabilitation Hosp.  
20 Homestead Ave.  
Wheeling, WV 26003

## ***JULY BIRTHDAYS***

Barbara Albers	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
Nancy Godwin	July 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Alyssa Wallace	July 4 <sup>th</sup>
Alex Maguire	July 7 <sup>th</sup>
Elisha Carl	July 8 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Carl	July 10 <sup>th</sup>
Landon Williams	July 10 <sup>th</sup>
Carrie Weeks	July 11 <sup>th</sup>
Deborah Shondrick	July 12 <sup>th</sup>
Zach Kochy	July 12 <sup>th</sup>
Chris Albrecht	July 13 <sup>th</sup>
Lynn Maguire	July 13 <sup>th</sup>
Tim DaGrava Jr.	July 18 <sup>th</sup>
Beth Grimes	July 19 <sup>th</sup>
Ronald Woloshan	July 20 <sup>th</sup>
Rebecca Beckett	July 20 <sup>th</sup>
Rosallyn Stimmel	July 21 <sup>st</sup>
Mary Maxwell	July 21 <sup>st</sup>
Joshua Albrecht	July 31 <sup>st</sup>

## ***JULY ANNIVERSARIES***

Scott & Jeannine Harvey	July 1 <sup>st</sup>
Bryan & Pam Smith	July 10 <sup>th</sup>
John & Carolyn Ford	July 26 <sup>th</sup>
William & Elaine Strauch	July 29 <sup>th</sup>

## ***GRACE COUCL- 2018***

Nancy Weeks	Mike Carl
Lutz Albrecht	Kathy Sheller
Brian Crawford	Casey Young
Marjorie Wolf	Tami Gallaher
Dennis Niess	

## ***PRAYER LIST***

Ryan Deegan  
Henri Fontaine  
Faith Hartzell  
Stephanie Moore-Vetanze  
Zane Neuhardt  
Becky Holinghead  
Jodi Ennis (Hunt)  
Michael & Brittany Shank  
Carolyn Palverini  
Don McCormick

Hines Rotriga  
Amelia DaGrava  
George Myers  
Addison Lucas  
Joan Shelek  
Barbara Knollinger  
Betty June Wymer  
Stacy Tysk  
Bob Condron

Betty Swartz  
David Ausdenmoore  
Thelma Moore  
Cindy Roshak  
Frank Ryder  
Keith McMannis  
Susan Falbo  
Bill Scholley  
Cindy Linkiewercz

### **\*\*\*On Military Duty\*\*\***

Justin Mull  
Parker Euri

Brian Coughlan

Casey Young

## ***HOMEBOUND***

Lois Huffner  
Mound View Health Care  
2200 Floral St.,  
Moundsville, WV 26041

Mabel Winesburg  
218 Elm Crest Drive  
Wheeling, WV 26003

Rebecca Frazier  
55801 Canna-Mara Dr.  
Bellaire, OH 43906

Donald Carl  
Carriage Inn  
308 West Warren Street  
Room Shay 13  
Cadiz, OH 43907

Debbie Hawkins  
Peterson Rehabilitation Hosp.  
20 Homestead Ave.  
Wheeling, WV 26003

## ***AUGUST BIRTHDAYS***

Carl Townsend	August 1 <sup>st</sup>
Denise Albrecht	August 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Barbara Knollinger	August 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Ruth Grob	August 5 <sup>th</sup>
Paige Wallace	August 7 <sup>th</sup>
John Ford	August 8 <sup>th</sup>
Matthew Sedilko	August 8 <sup>th</sup>
Caroline DaGrava	August 8 <sup>th</sup>
Elaine Sedilko	August 11 <sup>th</sup>
Kim Young	August 12 <sup>th</sup>
Kathy Wallace	August 14 <sup>th</sup>
Larry Rush	August 16 <sup>th</sup>
Lynn Ford	August 17 <sup>th</sup>
Linda Dunnell	August 17 <sup>th</sup>
Colten Grimes	August 17 <sup>th</sup>
Doty Carl	August 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Pam Smith	August 24 <sup>th</sup>
Carol Amend	August 25 <sup>th</sup>
Emma Carl	August 27 <sup>th</sup>
Marcie Weeks	August 27 <sup>th</sup>
Kitty Hagedorn	August 30 <sup>th</sup>
Heather McClure	August 31 <sup>st</sup>

## ***AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES***

Philip & Sharon Van Dam	August 1 <sup>st</sup>
Chad & Beth Grimes	August 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Steve & Mary Maxwell	August 8 <sup>th</sup>
Chap & Barbara Holbert	August 8 <sup>th</sup>
Joe & Kim Kochy	August 12 <sup>th</sup>
Robert & Doty Carl	August 24 <sup>th</sup>
David & Shari Drahos	August 26 <sup>th</sup>
Bob & Mary Lou Tush	August 26 <sup>th</sup>

## ***GRACE COUCIL- 2018***

Nancy Weeks	Mike Carl
Lutz Albrecht	Kathy Sheller
Brian Crawford	Casey Young
Marjorie Wolf	Tami Gallaher
Dennis Niess	

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
16 RIDGECREST ROAD  
BETHLEHEM  
WHEELING, WV 26003

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

***SAVE THE DATE!***

Fourth of July Picnic and Sing-along

July 1 after worship

Hilltop Community Vacation Bible School

"Journey to Babylon"

July 15-19, 2018, 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Congregational Picnic at Bethlehem Park

September 9, 10:30 AM