

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

MARCH 2019

Rev. Timothy Spence, Pastor
Home Telephone: 304-905-6188 - gracelutheranwheeling@comcast.net

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

FROM THE PASTOR

For the past few Sundays we've been listening to Jesus "Sermon on the Plain" from the Gospel of Luke.

Like the "Sermon on the Mount" from the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus lays out what life in the Kingdom of God looks like. It is a radical departure from day-to-day life. Instead of looking out for oneself and taking care of one's own while ignoring everyone else, Jesus calls on his hearers to love each other, to act first in a positive way – or as we would say in today's parlance, to "pay it forward". He tells his followers that in the upside-down-ness of God's kingdom poor people will be fed and rich people will be hungry. Instead of war and greed and economic disparity and abuse, folks who long for justice and peace will find that it is all around them, and that those who are humble and pure in heart will find themselves walking close to the heart – and presence - of God.

What a marvelous vision of the future – or is it?

Jesus announces that the "Kingdom of God is at hand". In effect, as he proclaims it the Kingdom has begun around us. Jesus does not call us into some far away "pie in the sky someday when I die" future. Instead Jesus invites us to live in the future present that has already begun with the incarnation and the presence of God who is literally right in front of us.

Does that make a difference in the way we look at life? It should! Because when we see the Kingdom as something that is unfolding and developing around and within us, our lives can begin to be reshaped into the kind of reality that Jesus talks about – a reality of peace and love and sharing and patience and wholeness and joy.

Lent calls us to consider what it means to die to this world and live into the new reality of God's Kingdom. The final victory of the Kingdom comes at a cost – the cost of the cross. Or, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote in The Cost of Discipleship, "When Christ calls a (person), he bids (that person) come and die."

Lent reminds us that we are mortal, that "(we) are dust, and to dust (we) shall return".

Our Lenten journey is a chance to once again practice dying to self and living in Christ and into the new reality of God's growing Kingdom. It is a call to see the Kingdom life not as something that will

16 Ridgecrest Road
Wheeling, WV 26003
Church Telephone: (304) 242-5830
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:00 AM

It is a call to die to what we want and will, and instead to begin to live into what God wants and wills.

In a few weeks we will hear Jesus remind us that we do not live by bread alone, and that we are to seek **FIRST** the Kingdom of God.

I invite you to spend time this Lenten season in looking for the presence and work of God – and the Kingdom of God – unfolding around you. As part of your Lenten discipline, look for signs of justice, love, mercy, and peace around you, and ask yourself, “How can I be part of that?”

You may discover that the Kingdom of God is already very near and is in fact much closer than you think. And THAT is a life changing piece of good news!

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras, Fastnacht, or Punschke Day) is March 5 this year. Grace will host its annual Pancake and Sausage Supper from 5:00 until 7:00 PM that day.

Chris Schenkel and Joe Kochy are in charge of this year's dinner. Any men of the church who are available are asked to come help cook, serve, and clean-up. See Chris or Joe for details or let the church office know you are available.

The dinner is free and open to the public, so talk it up and invite your friends, family, and neighbors.

All expenses for the dinner have been donated. A free will offering for World Hunger in memory of Bob Blatt will be received and all proceeds from the dinner will go to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

We hope to see you there.

LENT

Lent begins on March 6. The traditional service with the Imposition of Ashes will begin at 7:00 PM.

Devotional services will continue Wednesday evenings with a light supper of soup and salad at 6:00 PM and Evening Prayer with a short homily (a “mini-sermon”) beginning at 7:00. You are welcome to come to the dinner, to Evening Prayer, or to both.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Grace's semi-annual meeting to review activities and financial reports for the previous year will be held on Sunday, March 24, in the sanctuary immediately after worship. A pot-luck dinner in the Fellowship Hall will follow the meeting.

As required by our constitution, copies of the Annual Report will be available through the office ten days prior to the meeting and at worship on the Sunday preceding the meeting.

Committee chairs and organizational treasurers are reminded to submit their reports to the office by **Sunday, March 10** (*note the change in date*) so that the office has time for them to be compiled and copied.

All members are encouraged to attend and celebrate the many, many positive events that occurred at Grace in 2018!!!

HOLY WEEK

Plan to attend these important events as we remember the Passion of Our Lord between April 18 and 20th:

Maundy Thursday – Special Seder Table Communion. Reservations required. Dinner begins at 6:00 PM.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil - Beginning at 7:00 AM. Sign up at the welcome desk for 15 minute intervals. Resources for guided prayer will be available. Lasts until 6:45 PM.

Good Friday – Traditional Service with Passion Reading and Adoration of the Cross 7:00 PM.

The Great Vigil of Easter - "Oh night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and hour in which Christ arose!" Beginning at 9:00 PM

Easter Sunday Festival Service - 10:00 AM

SALAD LUNCHEON

Mark your calendar NOW and save the date for this year's annual Salad Luncheon. As always, the luncheon will be held the first Saturday in May (May 4). The event will feature all the traditional parts you have come to know and love. Entertainment will be provided by the John Marshall Steel Band.

Tickets are available now from Ruth Grob. Please respond generously if you are asked to help with preparations or with the event.

Watch the April edition of the *Vine* for further details.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

This year's annual Synod Assembly of the West Virginia- Western Maryland Synod of the ELCA will be held on May 31 and June 1, 2019. Hosts this year will be the Upper Ohio Valley Cluster, which mostly means the Wheeling area. In particular, Grace is leading the event. In fact, most of Friday's events will be held at Grace beginning with the opening at 1:00 until the "AfterMass" party at 8:30.

Grace Members are welcome and encouraged to attend the dinner (reservations required), worship service, and reception after worship in the evening, but more importantly Grace members and friends will be needed to help with hospitality, registration, and logistics. This would include helping the various presenters with set up and equipment (like "where can I get an extension cord?"), choir and worship leadership for the worship service, and set-up and clean-up for the mid-afternoon break, barbecue dinner, and After Mass reception.

Mark your calendar now for MAY 31 and SAVE THE DATE to help serve your church at this very important event!

RUMMAGE SALE

Don't forget our annual charity Rummage Sale. This year's sale will be held on Saturday, April 6, beginning at 8:00 AM. Folks are needed to help with set up and pricing day time and evenings during the week before and to work the day of the sale and clean-up after 1:00 on Saturday. A few strong folks (men or women) are needed on Saturday to help as "loaders" for people who are buying furniture.

It's not too late to start housecleaning and bringing things in. The storage room is full, so put items for the sale on the stage in the Fellowship Hall!

THINGS TO REMEMBER/ONGOING ACTIVITIES

GRACE GUYS

Grace Guys will meet on March 9th @ 8:30 am. Please mark your calendar for the workday. See you then!

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.

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

Riesbeck 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.

PRAYER LIST

**Ryan Deegan
Henri Fontaine
Michael & Brittany Shank
Stephanie Moore-Vetanze
Andrew Lemasters
Barbara Knollinger
Jodi Ennis (Hunt)
Dona'e Albert
Don McCormick
Jim Gallaher & Family
Jason Neuhardt
David Wallace**

**Hines Rotriga
Amelia DaGrava
George Myers
Addison Lucas
Howard Shackelford
Keith McMannis
Susan Falbo
Carolyn Polverini
Nick Riggle
Bertha Loth
Betty Kuhn**

**Betty Swartz
David Ausdenmoore
Thelma Moore
Cindy Roshak
Bill Scholley
Faith Hartzell
Dorothy Miller
Zane Neuhardt
Barbara Holberty
Bob Loth
Peggy Frazier**

ON MILLITARY DUTY

Brian Coughlan

Casey Young

Parker Euri

HOMEBOUND

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

**Rebecca Frazier
55801 Conno-Mara Dr
Bellaire, OH 43906**

**Bertha & Robert Loth
1604 Waddell Court
Durham, NC. 27703**

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

**Betty June Wymer
201 Bachmann Drive
Bethlehem
Wheeling, WV. 26003**

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Joyce Britt	March 1st	Mike Maquire	March 11th	Mason Blaschak	March 30th
David Drahos	March 2nd	James Potts III	March 12th		
Kayla Young	March 2nd	Bill Stees	March 18th		
Steven Deem	March 4th	Ezri Haynes	March 20th		
Phil Carl	March 5th	Marianne McCausland	March 25th		
Ron Riedel	March 5th	Dane Birch	March 27th		
Elizabeth Schenkel	March 5th	Marissa Cook	March 27th		

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Shawn & Vicki Pennybacker **March 2nd** **Happy 23rd!**
Bob & Cheryl McClure Jr. **March 5th** **Happy 26th!**

GRACE COUNCIL 2019

Nancy Weeks **Tami Gallaher**
Lutz Albrecht **Kathy Sheller**
Casey Young **Dennis Niess**
Marjorie Wolf **Linda Dunnell**
Diane "Dee" Coughlan

WORSHIP LEADERS

Date	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Bread	Crucifer	Greeters
March 3, 2019	Thomas Maguire	Pat Franklin	Pastor Spence	Jamey Gallaher	Dorothy Broemson/Betty Danehart
March 6, 2019		Pat Franklin	Wafers		Volunteer
March 10, 2019	Jamey Gallaher	Pat Franklin	Marjorie Wolf	Jamey Gallaher	Doty and Bob Carl
March 17, 2019	Kevin Maguire	Pat Franklin	Jeanie Deem	Jamey Gallaher	Brian and Vicki Crawford
March 24, 2019	Thomas Maguire	Pat Franklin	Marcie Woloshan	Jamey Gallaher	Peggy Frazier and Elaine Sedilko
March 31, 2019	Jamey Gallaher	Pat Franklin	Jack Schneider	Jamey Gallaher	Joe and Kim Kochy
April 7, 2019	Kevin Maguire	Tami Gallaher	Pastor Spence	Jamey Gallaher	Shari and Jessica Sedilko
April 14, 2019	Thomas Maguire	Tami Gallaher	Marjorie Wolf	Jamey Gallaher	Peggy Blatt and Jeanie Deem
April 21, 2019	Jamey Gallaher	Tami Gallaher	Jeanie Deem	Jamey Gallaher	Dorothy Broemson/Betty Danehart
April 28, 2019	Kevin Maguire	Tami Gallaher	Peggy Frazier	Jamey Gallaher	Doty and Bob Carl
	Welcome Desk	Lector	PA/Sound	Prayer Leader	Ushers
March 3, 2019	Doris Albrecht	Pat Franklin	Volunteer	Peggy Blatt	Bob McClure Team
March 6, 2019		Tami Gallaher	Volunteer	Pastor Spence	Casey Young
March 10, 2019	Nancy Weeks	Kim Kochy	Volunteer	Pat Franklin	Mike Wallace
March 17, 2019	Marjorie Wolf	Elaine Sediklo	Volunteer	Pastor Spence	Joe Kochy
March 24, 2019	Doris Albrecht	Tami Tysk	Volunteer	Nancy Weeks	Bob McClure Team
March 31, 2019	Nancy Weeks	Nancy Weeks	Volunteer	Lutz Albrecht	Bob McClure Team
April 7, 2019	Marjorie Wolf	Marcie Woloshan	Volunteer	Peggy Blatt	Chris Schenkel Team
April 14, 2019	Doris Albrecht	Lutz Albrecht	Volunteer	Pat Franklin	Mike Carl, Shari Sedilko
April 21, 2019	Nancy Weeks	Jeanie Deem	Volunteer	Pastor Spence	Chuck Koehler and
April 28, 2019	Marjorie Wolf	Brian Crawford	Volunteer	Nancy Weeks	Buffy Schenkel
	Flowers	Counters	Assisting Minister	Fellowship	
March 3, 2019		Joe & Kim Kochy	Marcie Woloshan	Birthdays and Anniversaries	
March 6, 2019		Joe & Kim Kochy	Brian Crawford	None	
March 10, 2019		Joe & Kim Kochy	Pat Franklin		
March 17, 2019		Joe & Kim Kochy	Tami Tysk		
March 24, 2019		Joe & Kim Kochy	Nancy Weeks		
March 31, 2019		Joe & Kim Kochy	Marcie Woloshan		
April 7, 2019		Tom & Jane McGaughy	Brian Crawford	Birthdays and Anniversaries	
April 14, 2019		Tom & Jane McGaughy	Pat Franklin		
April 21, 2019	Easter-Congregation	Tom & Jane McGaughy	Tami Tysk		
April 28, 2019		Tom & Jane McGaughy	Nancy Weeks		

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Worship 10 am Fellowship 11:10 am Birthdays/ Anniversaries Sunday School 11:30	4 Dance 5 pm Vocal Choir 6:30 pm	5 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 4 pm to 7 pm Luther Rm Reserved Safety Task Group 6:30 pm	6 Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7 pm	7 Strands of Comfort 10 am Stitchers w/Love 10 am Bell Choir 6:30 pm 4 H Leaders 7 pm	8 Heritage Dance 6 pm	9 Grace Guys 8:30 am
10 Worship 10 am Fellowship 11:10 am Sunday School 11:30 am	11 Dance 5 pm Vocal Choir 6:30 pm	12 Baton Twirling 6 pm	13 Light supper of soup and salad 6pm Evening Prayer with short homily 7 pm	14 Stitchers with Love 10 am Bell Choir 6:30 pm	15 Heritage Dance 6 pm	16 4 H Spaghetti Dinner in Fellowship Hall. Red Cross Training 8:30 am
17 Worship 10 am Fellowship 11:10 am Sunday School 11:30 am	18 Dance 5 pm Vocal Choir 6 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm	19 Baton Twirling 6 pm Food Pantry Distributions 10 am	20 Light supper of soup and salad 6pm Evening Prayer with short homily 7 pm WELCA Bible Study 10 am	21 Strands of Comfort 10 am Stitchers w/Love 10 am Bell Choir 6:30 pm	22 Heritage Dance 6 pm	23
24 Worship 10 am Annual Meeting 11:10 am Pot Luck Lunch	25 Dance 5 pm Vocal Choir 6 pm	26 Baton Twirling 6 pm Communications Meeting 6:30 pm	27 Light supper of soup and salad 6pm Evening Prayer with short homily 7 pm	28 Stitchers with Love 10 am Game Day 11 am Bell Choir 6:30 pm 4 H Group 7 pm	29 Heritage Dance 6 pm	30 Fellowship Hall not available
31 Worship 10 am Fellowship 11:10 am Sunday School 11:30 am						

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
16 RIDGECREST ROAD
BETHLEHEM
WHEELING WV 26003

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date



Shrove Tuesday, March 5, 2019
Pancake Supper 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

SHROVE TUESDAY **Ash Wednesday March 6, 2019**
Service at 7:00 pm.

Rummage Sale April 6, 2019
8:00 am

Maundy Thursday, April 18, 2019
Service at 6:00 pm.

Good Friday, April 19, 2019
Service at 7:00 pm.

