

# **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*

**APRIL 2019**

**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, discipleship, and service in the name of Jesus Christ

### **FROM THE PASTOR**

Somebody asked me recently if there are any opportunities out there for Grace. So much of the area is unchurched (THAT'S an opportunity right there!!!), the population of the area is declining, and we have learned over the years that the folks in Bethlehem who are churched tend to be Roman Catholic. So, how can we reach out to spread the good news and build up our congregation?

Let me make a few observations.

First, getting people into our church because we need more people smacks of desperation and not evangelism. That is a survival question, not a missional question.

Second, the fact that we are an increasingly unchurched nation, no matter what our population, says that there are literally thousands of opportunities for evangelism quite literally walking around next to us.

Third, mission opportunities abound if we have the will and energy to make them happen. Think about how much time and energy and effort we put into the Salad Luncheon and the Strawberry Festival and the Rummage Sale. How would Grace be different if we put an equal amount of time, talent, and effort into inviting people to become part of the Grace community?

Another way to look at things is to focus on mission opportunities. There are many people in the younger (under 40) generations who are looking for a place for what some refer to as "faith with feet". They are not as interested in worship as they are in discipleship and spirituality, and how those two things inform and shape action in the name of Jesus. They want to develop faith that leads to action – faith that grows feet and leaves the building to do the work of God in the world.

One way to do that is to push "mission trips" that take us somewhere else to do good works. But while mission trips can provide critically needed skills and resources for underserved and needy communities, one criticism of the mission trip idea is that it leads us to see mission as "out there" instead of "right here" in our own back yards and neighborhoods.

So, let me tell you about two mission ideas that have come across my desk recently, ideas that Grace has the capacity to do IF we decide that either (or both) of these is the right mission for Grace. Both involve constructing housing.

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

We have a tremendous number of homeless veterans in the area. Getting them off the street and helping them get jobs and get their lives back on track is the mission of Helping Heroes, which Grace has supported for many years. But sometimes Helping Heroes is limited by a lack of available space and resources to get vets off the street quickly. What if Grace could build micro housing (about 300 square feet, or 12 x 24 one-bedroom cottages) for these homeless vets and help them get restarted?

A second group is recently released ex-offenders. While some of these folks will no doubt fall back into old patterns and re-offend, I remember a conversation with one former inmate who said that a fresh start for him would involve not going back to his old neighborhood and getting a fresh start with new friends who were positive influences and would be supportive of his efforts to continue to turn his life around. Community Lutheran Partners is stepping up its efforts to reach out to and support this group. Again, what if Grace provided micro housing for these newly released, repentant men and women so they could continue the process of reform and traveling a new path of life?

I know: The next comment I will hear is that Grace doesn't have the space or the resources for these kinds of projects. My answer to that is that, "Actually, we do." There is a parcel of land just to the northwest of Grace that could be purchased for micro housing and there are grants and partners (like Helping Heroes and Community Lutheran Partners) who have the expertise and the staffing and who would be THRILLED to work with Grace on such an endeavor. Volunteers from other congregations could be recruited to help with construction of these "tiny transitional homes" (kind of like the "Habitat for Humanity" model). Staff from partner agencies could help with management and funding. Grace could also provide office and counseling space and space for small group support sessions for those trying to move ahead with life. And some of these folks might even find their way into our faith community.

There may be other opportunities out there for Grace, and we should keep our eyes and ears open. But these are two of which I am aware. I thought maybe we should begin to have a conversation about what Grace's next great mission endeavor should be – starting with the possibilities that may be literally in our own backyard.

So, what do you all think? What else is out there, and where is God calling us to go next?

## ***ASK THE PASTOR***

Question: The new Lenten banners show a scripture verse and the letters CEV. What does CEV stand for. And by the way, how are these banners being paid for?

Answer: Great questions, and both easy to answer.

For the first one, you need to remember that there are many different translations, transliterations, and paraphrase editions of the scriptures. For the sake of short hand when writing, the first letter of each word in the name of the edition is listed. So, the King James Version is KJV, the New American Standard Version is NASV, the New Revised Standard Version (which is the one we use in worship and Sunday School) is NRSV and so on. The notable exceptions to this are Good News, the Word, and the Cotton Patch Gospels, all of which are paraphrase translations.

CEV stands for Contemporary English Version, which is a mix between a translation and a paraphrase version. The way the verse is worded on those banners is taken from that translation. If you look up the version in/from another translation you may find that the word order is slightly different or that the translation of a word may change (like the verb changing from "is becoming" to "will be").

As for the second question, the Thanksgiving banners were paid for from the Worship Committee budget for last year as a kind of experiment to see if the size worked and what people thought of them. The response has been overwhelmingly positive with only one negative comment (I think it's a rule in a church that you have to have one person who will be negative about each thing that happens),

and now that we've had them up for the last six months people say they can't imagine the space without them. The colors brighten the nave and because they change with the seasons, they help focus our attention in worship to what is happening liturgically.

All the rest of the banners (about 16 total) have been donated by various families or individuals, and we are grateful for their generosity.

Good questions, and as always, thanks for asking!

## ***LENT***

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. As is Grace's practice, our Lenten "self-denial" offerings for the envelopes and our mid-week services go to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Last year Grace members donated over \$2,000 to this important cause.

## ***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. 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!". A service for the entire Wheeling area Lutheran community hosted by Grace beginning at 9:00 PM

**Easter Festival Service Sunday** – We celebrate with joy the resurrection of our Lord! 10:00 AM

## ***SALAD LUNCHEON***

Mark your calendar NOW and save the date for this year's annual Salad Luncheon, Saturday, May 4th. Ruth Grob will be located at the Welcome Desk with tickets or you can call her at 304.233.2990. Donna Niess will be in charge of theme baskets and door prizes. Jessie Wallace will be calling folks inviting them to donate a salad, so please respond generously if you are asked to help with preparations or with the event. Entertainment will be provided by the John Marshall Steel Band. Space is limited, and reservations are suggested. Price of ticket is \$10.00 (Non-Refundable).

## ***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 both during the day 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!

As has been the practice the past two years, proceeds from the Rummage Sale and Strawberry Festival will be combined and divided among four recipients: Helping Heroes, the Bethlehem Fire Department, Community Lutheran Partners, and Wheeling Health Right.

In addition, because these events have been so successful, the Council has added a fifth recipient this year. The main four recipients will be rounded to the nearest major dollar value (last year that would have meant that each of the four recipients would have received \$1,500) and the balance would be donated to the House of the Carpenter for help with their new Youth Center (about \$300 based on last year's figures).

Grace is privileged to be able to help some say people and organizations with the generosity of its members and friends and the joy of those bargain hunters and "foodies" who come out to support these efforts!

## ***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 Grace beginning with the opening at 1:00 until the "AfterMass" 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 reception.

Volunteers are also needed to bake desserts for the Friday evening barbecue. We also need to provide servers for the Friday afternoon break, the buffet barbeque Friday evening, and the Saturday lunch (which will be held at the Highlands).

After the 7:00 PM Friday worship service, Gallowglass will play in the Fellowship Hall from about 8:30 to 9:30. During that time, a benefit Ice Cream Sundae Party will be held which will benefit Camp Luther and Community Lutheran Partners. Grace is coordinating the set-up for this event, and volunteers from CLP and Camp Luther will be dishing out the ice cream.

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

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

### ***GRACE GUYS***

Grace Guys will not meet in April. Next meeting will be May 11th., @ 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  
Nick Riggle  
Jim Gallaher & Family  
Jason Neuhardt

Hines Rotrigo  
Amelia DaGrava  
George Myers  
Addison Lucas  
Howard Shackelford  
Keith McMannis  
Susan Falbo  
Carolyn Polverini  
Barbara Holbert  
Bertha Loth  
Betty Kuhn

Betty Swartz  
David Ausdenmoore  
Thelma Moore  
Cindy Roshak  
Bill Scholley  
Faith Hartzell  
Dorothy Miller  
Zane Neuhardt  
David Wallace  
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

## *APRIL BIRTHDAYS*

*Shawn Pennybacker April 4th*  
*Elayne Haynes April 8th*  
*Laurie Spence April 12th*  
*Rena Malson April 15th*  
*Nellie McClure April 16th*  
*Mabel Winesburg April 18th*



*Rodd Haller April 20th*  
*Dorothy Broemsen April 21st*  
*Devan Young April 25th*  
*Shirley Winesdorffer April 30th*

## *APRIL ANNIVERSARIES*

*Larry & Susan Lucas April 5th*  
*Dane & Evelyn Birch April 5th*  
*Casey & Devan Young April 14th*  
*Marty & Elane Hynes April 24th*

## *GRACE COUNCIL 2019*

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

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Date	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Bread	Crucifer	Greeters
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
May 5, 2019	Thomas Maguire	Buffy Schenkel	Jack Schneider	Jamey Gallaher	Brian & Vicki Crawford
May 12, 2019	Jamey Gallaher	Buffy Schenkel	Pastor Spence	Jamey Gallaher	Peggy Frazier & Elaine Sedilko
May 19, 2019	Kevin Maguire	Buffy Schenkel	Marjorie Wolf	Jamey Gallaher	Joe & Kim Kochy
May 26, 2019	Thomas Maguire	Buffy Schenkel	Jeanie Deem	Jamey Gallaher	Shari and Jessica Sedilko
Welcome Desk					
Lector					
PA/Sound					
Prayer Leader					
Ushers					
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
May 5, 2019	Doris Albrecht	Pat Franklin	Volunteer	Lutz Albrecht	Carl Townsend Team
May 12, 2019	Nancy Weeks	Tami Gallaher	Volunteer	Peggy Blatt	Brad Weeks
May 19, 2019	Marjorie Wolf	Kim Kochy	Volunteer	Pat Franklin	Nancy Weeks
May 26, 2019	Doris Albrecht	Elaine Sedilklo	Volunteer	Pastor Spence	Marcus Weeks
Flowers					
Counters					
Assisting Minister					
Fellowship					
April 7, 2019	Patsy Koeher		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	Dr & Mrs Niess		Tom & Jane McGaughy	Nancy Weeks	Dr Dennis & Donna Niess
May 5, 2019			Dr Dennis & Donna Niess	Marcie Woloshan	Birthdays and Anniversaries
May 12, 2019			Dr Dennis & Donna Niess	Brian Crawford	
May 19, 2019			Dr Dennis & Donna Niess	Pat Franklin	
May 26, 2019			Dr Dennis & Donna Niess	Tami Tysk	

# April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Set up Fellowship Hall for Rummage Sale Vocal Choir 6:30 PM	2 Set up Fellowship Hall for Rummage Sale	3 Set up Fellowship Hall for Rummage sale Light supper of soup and salad 6pm Evening Prayer with short homily 7 pm	4 Set up Fellowship Hall for Rummage Sale Stitchers w/love 10 AM Strands of Comfort 10 AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	5 Set up Fellowship Hall for Rummage Sale	6 Rummage Sale starts at 8:00 AM
7 Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM Sunday Sch 11:30 AM	8 Dance 5:00 PM Vocal Choir 630 PM	9 Baton Twirling 6:00 PM	10 Light supper of soup and salad 6pm Evening Prayer with short homily 7 pm	11 Stitchers w/love 10:00 AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	12 Heritage Dance 6:00 PM	13 WELCA Cluster Meeting 9:30 AM—1:00 PM CPR Class 8:30 AM—11:00 AM
14 Palm Sunday Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM Sunday Sch 11:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt in the afternoon!	15 Holy Week Begins Vocal Choir 6:00 PM Council Meeting 6:30 pm	16 Holy Week continues	17 Holy Week continues WELCA Bible Study 10:00 AM	18 Maundy Thursday Seder dinner 6:00 PM Stitchers w/love 10:00 AM Strands of Comfort 10 AM	19 Good Friday Prayer vigil 7:00 AM to 6:45 PM Worship 7:00 PM	20 Easter Vigil
21 EASTER Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM <b>HE IS RISEN!</b>	22 Dance 5:00 PM	23 Red Cross Class 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM Baton Twirling 6:30 PM	24	25 Stitchers w/love 10:00 AM Game Day 11:00 AM	26 Heritage Dance 6:00 PM	27 Fellowship Hall re-served 2:00 PM—4:00 PM Melinda Oliver
28 Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM Sunday Sch 11:30 AM	29 Finance Committee 2:00 pm Dance 5:00 PM Vocal Choir 6:30 PM	30 Baton Twirling 6:00 PM				

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
16 RIDGECREST ROAD  
BETHLEHEM  
WHEELING WV 26003

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## Save the Date

**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.**

**Annual Spring Salad Luncheon, May 4, 2019**  
**Doors open at Noon, lunch at 1:00 pm.**  
**Tickets are \$10.00**  
**(Non-Refundable).**  
**Reservations suggested! 304.233.2990**



**He's Alive!**

Capitol Theatre  
1015 Main Street  
Wheeling, WV 26003  
Apr 12 & 13, 2019 7:30 PM  
Apr 14, 2019 3:30 PM

For information  
304-233-4470  
304-232-6122  
724-883-2241

**A Musical Passion Play!**

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