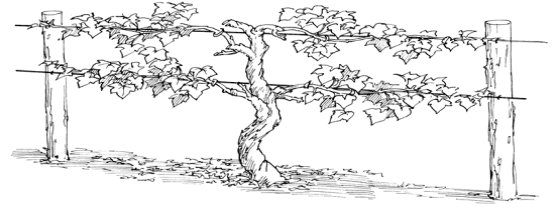


THE GRACE VINE

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

JUNE 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

It was just about five years ago at this time that I came to Wheeling – again (not my first visit) – for the first interview with the Call Committee from the newly-formed Edgwood-Zion Lutheran Parish.

My how time flies! Things sure have changed!

Once again, Grace is challenging the odds and moving ahead.

On Sunday, June 2, Grace will gather to do something some people said would never happen: The money borrowed on the Line of Credit for building renovations and the reconstruction of the pipe organ has been fully repaid. We will celebrate with an "old time" tradition of symbolically burning the mortgage.

Actually, there is a rite for this kind of a celebration (called, "Thanksgiving at the Retirement of a Debt"), and Bishop Riegel will stay around after Synod Assembly to help us with this event. He will preach at the service on Sunday morning and then stay for the ceremonial mortgage burning after a light lunch.

Not many congregations are bold enough and have enough courage and imagination to merge. Even fewer are successful. Fewer still can say that they paid off the construction debt within the projected, three-year timeline! Grace has done all these things.

This celebration represents the hard work, vision, and sacrifice of the entire congregation. There were some who said we would never see this day, and that this was all a mistake. But today Grace is a strong, growing, forward-looking congregation that continues in its work and ministry. As of May 28, as far as the funds for the renovations and construction, Grace will be essentially debt free. (We will still be carrying some debt for a furnace replacement and repairs to the roof following a recent windstorm, but those are maintenance expenses, not renovation. Therefore, the Building Fund will remain open to help with these major repairs.)

Our success, blessed by God, can serve as a model and a sign of hope for those congregations struggling with issues of decline and change. The very grace that has sustained us so far on our journey is the grace that is with us and all of God's people as we move with confidence into an uncertain and sometimes scary future.

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

It has been a privilege to walk with you through the last nearly five years as we have gone from two struggling congregations to one new congregation finding its way into a new reality and ultimately to a young congregation that has put down roots and is beginning to grow. Knowing what has been accomplished so far, I look forward to continuing to walk with you, as together we grow in worship, discipleship, and service to our Lord and his church, and to being bold witnesses to the larger church to our hope through grace as we move into the future that God has planned for us.

Virge to Be Presented

As a sign of Grace symbolically “pointing the way” into the future for the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod, on Friday, May 31, Grace will present a virge to the Synod as a gift from the congregation. The virge will be used by Pastor Jess Felici at the 7:00 PM service on May 31, where Pastor Felici will serve as Verger.

A virge is a rod about three feet long decorated with ornaments (usually brass and incorporating a cross) that serves as both a symbol of the office of verger as well as a tool to indicate directions for service participants. The verger is an officer, usually a lay person, who carries a rod before a bishop or dean as a symbol of office and assists in the ordering of the service.

The virge presented by Grace is of Appalachian black walnut and polished brass. The fittings for the virge have been provided by Pastor and Laurie Spence and the virge was made by Brad Weeks.

In addition to the virge, a new hymn text has been composed for the service, which will commemorate and celebrate the visit of Mary to Elizabeth as recorded in the Gospel of Luke 1:39-56. The hymn will be sung for the very first time at the 7:00 PM service

Plan to attend the service on May 31 at 7:00 PM at Grace to “sing a new song to the Lord” and see this gift being used for the first time!

SNOVD ASSEMBLY

On May 31, Grace is honored to be the site of the 32nd Annual Assembly of the West Virginia- Western Maryland Synod. The event moves around the territory of the Synod and this year the meeting is being hosted by the Upper Ohio Valley Conference, with Grace serving as the lead congregation.

This is not the first time that Grace or one of our predecessor congregations has played host to the Assembly. Church records show that the Assembly was hosted at the former Zion location on Market St. twice during the late 1800's.

This is an opportunity for Grace to show what has been accomplished in the last three years since we were officially received into the Synod in 2015 and how God has blessed this work. It is our privilege to welcome Voting Members from across West Virginia and Western Maryland to our congregation and celebrate the mission that we share in our state and territory.

The Assembly will move to the Highlands Event Center on June 1, and business will conclude there. In addition to Voting Members Diane Coughlan and Lutz Albrecht, Nancy Weeks will be attending as a member of Synod Council and Marjorie Wolf will be attending as a registered visitor. As host pastor, Pastor Spence will serve as Chaplain for the Assembly and preside at the Friday evening service, where Bishop Riegel will preach. Our own Laurie Glover Spence will direct the Assembly Choir with the support of Susan Moore from Christ Lutheran in Mozart. The Choir presently numbers more than 30 voices. Doug Krantz, our Associate Organist, will be on the bench for the service.

Grace members are invited and encouraged to help with hospitality and meals as they are able on Friday, May 31, and to come for dinner at 5:45 (a small fee will be charged) on May 31 and stay for the 7:00 worship service. Following the service (at 8:30) there will be an ice cream sundae benefit for Community Lutheran Partners and Camp Luther, with music provided by Gallowglass. Several Grace members have already volunteered to serve in various capacities that day. Please respond enthusiastically if you are asked.

NEW IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Several new books and resources have been added to the Church Library. Check out the Reader's Digest Bible resources that came into the Library through the Rummage Sale.

Also, we have a new "board book" on Holy Communion for young children called *A Place For You, Little One*. Using Daniel Erlander's popular drawings and explanations, this book expands instruction about the sacrament to a younger generation.

Another new book to "check out" is *Meaningful Worship*. Author James Brauer looks at the Lutheran liturgy and helps worshippers – both newcomers and veterans – understand how Lutheran worship is structured and why and how we do what we do.

There are other great resources in our church library on everything from parenting to theology, with books for all ages. Resources come in video (DHS), DVD, and printed form. There are books to help you understand your daily Bible devotions and even some Christian fiction. Stop by any time you are in the building and pick up a book or video resource to review and grow in your discipleship!

CAMP LUTHER

Registration is open for Camp Luther and can be done online or through the Church office. If you need help with the forms, please ask at the office. If you wish to request support for either tuition or transportation from the Ben-cke Fund, please speak to Pastor.

Cost of the bus will be \$70.00 per person this year with further details coming out next week. Don't forget that if you are a Grace member Pastor should sign your registration form before it is mailed.

As always, our special Pentecost Sunday offering goes to support Camp Luther.

2019 SALAD LUNCHEON

As He has, for the past ten years, God has blessed us again with a very successful Spring Salad Luncheon. This year we had a sell-out crowd with the John Marshall Steel Drum for entertainment.

A sincere thanks to all who were involved in making salads and donating door prizes and theme baskets. After expenses, we made \$2,163.00 The money we earn is to provide funds for needed items and various projects in the church.

A special thank-you to Dane & Evelyn Birch, Larry & Linda Rush and Bill Stees for their help in setting up and decorating the tables the day before and for their help during the luncheon. Thanks to the Wallace girls for delivering prizes and also a special thanks to our Grace Guys for manning the kitchen (including our "honorary Grace Guy", Elaine Sedilko).

NEW FLAGS

New flags have been provided for the Fellowship Hall to replace the ones that had become faded and discolored over time. The new Luther Rose flag was provided by the congregation. The American flag was presented by Pastor and Laurie Spence in memory of their fathers, Cpl. Joseph Spence and PFC Robert L. Glover, and in honor of their brothers (in-law), Cpt. Robert E. Glover and Lt. D. Michael Helms.

DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES END FOR SPRING TERM

Sunday, May 19 was the final session of our Sunday morning Discipleship Classes (Sunday School) for the 2018-2019 year.

A big THANK YOU is extended to all our teachers and hard-working students who have made this year such a success, especially Katrina Smith, Nettie McClure, Evelyn Birch, and Deb Sgroi. We look forward to seeing EVERYONE when classes begin again in the fall on September 15!

OUR LADY OF LEBANON CHURCH

Located at 2216 Eoff Street in Wheeling is having its Rummage Sale next month. Preview is Friday, June 7th, 5PM to 7PM, and the actual sale is Saturday, June 8th, 8AM to 2:30 PM. It is sponsored by the Cedar Club, a non-profit organization to benefit their church.

ORGAN FUNDRAISER

Each organ contains a lever, or *tab*, that opens and closes – or “*stops*” - the air going to that set of pipes. These “*stop tabs*” on the organ *console* (group of keyboards and pedals) vary with the size and tonal quality of the instrument. Each instrument has stop tabs for its particular combination of pipes.

When Grace’s organ was rebuilt and expanded from three keyboards (or *manuals*) to four and the sets (or *ranks*) of pipes were increased from 22 to 39, a new set of stop tabs was made and installed.

Today stop tabs are made of high-grade plastic. However, in earlier times, they were made of ivory (usually walrus ivory from the North Atlantic). The stop tabs on the Kilgen console were made of ivory. (The Schantz console is still in our basement waiting for future installation in the new chapel!)

Our organ builder returned these original Kilgen stop tabs to us, and thanks to the work of a couple of people these tabs have been turned into keychains.

As part of our effort to re-establish funds that were used for renovations and rebuilding and to put Grace in a stronger financial position for the long term, the Organ Fund is being re-established in anticipation of future maintenance needs.

“**Organ Fund**” envelopes are available in the bin under the display board, and gifts of any amount are welcome. **However, anyone making a gift of \$50.00 or more to the Organ Fund may select an ivory stop tab key chain as a “thank you” gift for supporting this first fundraiser.** Gifts in increments of \$50.00 (\$100, \$150, \$200, etc.) may take more than one keychain.

You can look through the key chains hanging on the display board and select from flutes, strings, or other sounds. If you want to know what that stop sounds like on our current organ, ask Marjorie Wolf or Laurie Glover Spence to play that stop for you on the new combined Kilgen-Schantz.

Our goal is \$2,000, and your support will help restore the reserves in this fund against future long-term maintenance and repairs. Thank you for your support!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—THE INCREDIBLE RACE!

The annual Hilltop Community Vacation Bible School will again be held at Grace with the participation of Our Lady of Peace and Bethlehem Presbyterian Churches. “The Amazing Race” will be held July 21 – 25. Volunteers are needed to help with crafts, a new science section, drama, and as class aides, especially for the pre-school children.

Craft items needed include men’s ties and paper towel rolls. Other items needed will be posted in the July *Vine* and boxes will be set out after the Strawberry Festival for craft supplies and other donations.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Grace's annual Strawberry Festival will be held on June 8, 2019 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. All proceeds from the event after expenses will be donated to local charities.

Volunteers will be needed to help with many tasks in this major charity event. Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome Desk indicating the jobs from serving food to helping with clean-up and taking tickets. Volunteers will also be needed on June 7 to help cut up the last of the fresh berries.

Please sign up to help as you are able and respond generously with your stewardship of time!

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
Melody Holiday

Hines Rotriga
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

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

<i>Sean Young</i>	<i>6/4</i>	<i>Rebecca Frazier</i>	<i>6/13</i>
<i>Mary Stees</i>	<i>6/5</i>	<i>Jessica Sedilko</i>	<i>6/15</i>
<i>John Roshak</i>	<i>6/6</i>	<i>Chris Schenkel</i>	<i>6/16</i>
<i>Vicki Crawford</i>	<i>6/7</i>	<i>Bob McClure Jr.</i>	<i>6/18</i>
<i>Caitlin Skiba</i>	<i>6/7</i>	<i>Mary Lou Tush</i>	<i>6/20</i>
<i>Jo Ellen Albers</i>	<i>6/9</i>	<i>Cadence Maguire</i>	<i>6/21</i>
<i>Gregory Sqroi</i>	<i>6/9</i>	<i>Michael Wakim</i>	<i>6/21</i>



<i>Mike Carl</i>	<i>6/22</i>
<i>Cassandra Blashchak</i>	<i>6/23</i>
<i>Caiden Shondrick</i>	<i>6/23</i>
<i>Thomas McGaughy</i>	<i>6/27</i>
<i>Cheryl McClure</i>	<i>6/29</i>
<i>Andrew Nelson</i>	<i>6/30</i>

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Jay & Kathy Wallace</i>	<i>6/3</i>
<i>Steve & Elaine Sedilko</i>	<i>6/11</i>
<i>Dennis & Donna Niess</i>	<i>6/16</i>
<i>Jim & Tami Gallaher</i>	<i>6/19</i>
<i>Tim & Laurie Spence</i>	<i>6/19</i>
<i>Lutz & Doris Albrecht</i>	<i>6/24</i>
<i>Robert & Bertha Loth</i>	<i>6/29</i>
<i>Bradley & Nancy Weeks</i>	<i>6/29</i>



GRACE COUNCIL 2019

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

Date	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Bread	Crucifer	Greeters
June 2, 2019	Jamey Gallaher	Elaine Sedilko	Marjorie Wolf	Jamey Gallaher	Peggy Blatt & Jeanie Deem
June 9, 2019	Kevin Maguire	Elaine Sedilko	Jeanie Deem	Jamey Gallaher	Dorothy Broemson & Betty Danehart
June 16, 2019	Thomas Maguire	Elaine Sedilko	Pastor Spence	Jamey Gallaher	Doty & Bob Carl
June 23, 2019	Jamey Gallaher	Elaine Sedilko	Jack Schneider	Jamey Gallaher	Brian & Vicki Crawford
June 30, 2019	Kevin Maguire	Elaine Sedilko	Jeanie Deem	Jamey Gallaher	Joe & Kim Kochy
July 7, 2019	Thomas Maguire	Tami Tysk	Marjorie Wolf	Jamey Gallaher	Shari & Jessica Sedilko
July 14, 2019	Jamey Gallaher	Tami Tysk	Jeanie Deem	Jamey Gallaher	Peggy Blatt & Jeanie Deem
July 21, 2019	Kevin Maguire	Tami Tysk	Marcie Woloshan	Jamey Gallaher	Dorothy Broemson & Betty Danehart
July 28, 2019	Thomas Maguire	Tami Tysk	Jack Schneider	Jamey Gallaher	Doty & Bob Carl
	Welcome Desk	Lector	PA/Sound	Prayer Leader	Ushers
June 2, 2019	Marjorie Wolf	Tami Tysk	Volunteer	Nancy Weeks	Bob McClure Team
June 9, 2019	Nancy Weeks	Nancy Weeks	Volunteer	Lutz Albrecht	Casey Young
June 16, 2019	Doris Albrecht	Marcie Woloshan	Volunteer	Peggy Blatt	Mike Wallace
June 23, 2019	Nancy Weeks	Lutz Albrecht	Volunteer	Pat Franklin	Joe Kochy
June 30, 2019	Marjorie Wolf	Jeanie Deem	Volunteer	Pastor Spence	Bob McClure
July 7, 2019	Doris Albrecht	Brian Crawford	Volunteer	Nancy Weeks	Chris Schenkel Team
July 14, 2019	Nancy Weeks	Pat Franklin	Volunteer	Lutz Albrecht	Mike Carl
July 21, 2019	Marjorie Wolf	Tami Gallaher	Volunteer	Peggy Blatt	Shari Sedilko
July 28, 2019	Doris Albrecht	Kim Kochy	Volunteer	Pat Franklin	Chuck Koehler & Buffy Schenkel
	Flowers		Counters	Assisting Minister	Fellowship
June 2, 2019			Steve & Elaine Sediklo	Nancy Weeks	Birthdays and Anniversaries
June 9, 2019			Steve & Elaine Sediklo	Tami Tysk	
June 16, 2019			Steve & Elaine Sediklo	Brian Crawford	
June 23, 2019			Steve & Elaine Sediklo	Pat Franklin	
June 30, 2019			Steve & Elaine Sediklo	Tami Tysk	
July 7, 2019			Joe & Kim Kochy	Nancy Weeks	Birthdays and Anniversaries
July 14, 2019			Joe & Kim Kochy	Marcie Woloshan	
July 21, 2019			Joe & Kim Kochy	Brian Crawford	
July 28, 2019			Joe & Kim Kochy	Pat Franklin	

June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 SYNOD ASSEMBLY CONTINUES
2 Worship 10:00 AM Luncheon Mortgage Burning Birthdays/Anniversaries	3 Dance 5:00 PM	4	5	6 Strands of Comfort 10 A M Heritage Dance 6:00 PM 4H Leaders 7:00 PM	7 Strawberry Festival set up	8 Strawberry Festival 3PM—7 PM Red Cross Class 8:30 AM
9 Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM	10 Dance 5:00 PM	11	12	13 Stitchers with Love 10:00 AM Heritage Dance 6:00 PM	14	15 Choir Picnic
16 Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM	17 Dance 5:00 PM	18 Red Cross Class 5:30 PM	19 WELCA Bible Study 10:00 AM	20 Strands of Comfort 10 AM Stitchers with Love 10 AM Heritage Dance 6:00 PM	21	22
23 Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM	24 Dance 5:00 PM Crittenton Services 8:30—AM—5:00 PM	25 Crittenton Services 8:30—AM—5:00 PM	26 Crittenton Services 8:30—AM—5:00 PM	27 Stitchers with Love 10:00 AM Heritage Dance 6:00 PM Game Day Crittenton Services 8:30—AM—5:00 PM 4H Leaders 7:00 PM	28 Crittenton Services 8:30 AM—5:00 PM	29
30 Worship 10:00 AM Picnic and Patriotic Sing-a-long						

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

THINGS TO REMEMBER/ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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.

GRACE GUYS

Grace Guys will not meet in June but a number of projects are waiting to be done. Please see Pastor Tim if you have time to volunteer to help with something. Thank you!