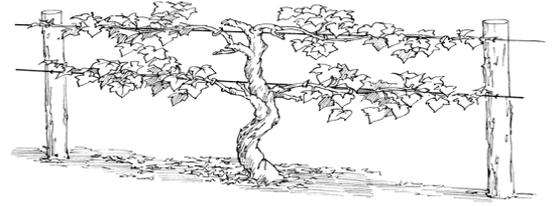


# **THE GRACE VINE**

## **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*

**MAY 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***

I was impressed with the front page of the Intelligencer on Easter Sunday. There were six articles, and on four articles, I thought, "Yep, that's us."

One was about road repairs and repaving. Grace is getting ready to repair potholes in the lot and restripe our parking spaces, along with adding signage for visitor and family parking in addition to the handicapped spaces, all with the goal of improving our infrastructure and making our space more hospitable. Yep, that's us.

Another article was about Bethlehem Temple passing out food baskets to families for Easter Dinner. Grace did the same thing four days earlier, although not on such a huge scale. Yep, that's us.

A photo showed the Easter Vigil at the Roman Catholic Cathedral downtown. Grace also sponsored and held the Easter Vigil service for the Wheeling area Lutheran Community. Yep, that's us.

A big article lifted up the work of Helping Heroes and new initiatives they are taking to work with homeless veterans. Since 2015 Grace has given a portion of the proceeds of the Rummage Sale and Strawberry Festival to Helping Heroes to support the important work that organization does. Yep, that's us.

So, I wondered, if Grace is out in front on so many things, why don't more people find their way here to work with us in these ministries and become part of the Grace community.

I think there are a couple of answers.

The first is that Grace is young. Despite the past record with our two predecessor congregations, Grace is still new to a lot of people and they don't yet know who we are and that this is a new place. Just about every month we are contacted by someone who is in the hospital and who doesn't know that the congregation they list at the hospital no longer exists (including one fellow who hadn't been in touch with the church for about 73 years!) At Easter we had one fellow come who said, "I used to belong here." No, he didn't. He was never a Grace member.

The second reason is that we are still establishing ourselves and letting know people we are here. Just last month we FINALLY got the name of the congregation on the building – after being here for nearly three years! Grace is still in its childhood and establishing our identity takes time (hands up everyone who hasn't accidentally slipped and said the name of a former church in the last six months!) Gradually people are finding out that Grace is, "the church that. . ." (fill in in the blank).

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

Garrison Keillor suggests a third reason: Lutherans are shy. We don't blow our own horn or talk about faith or Jesus or invite people to church because we don't want to be pushy and "force" religion on people.

But Grace has a lot to be proud of.

By the end of May, we will have paid off the Line of Credit debt on both the Building and Organ parts of our renovations, something that some people said would never happen.

We have more children in Sunday School than ever and have begun to lift up the second part of our Mission Statement – Discipleship – to restore it to its proper place in adult learning.

We continue to be good stewards of our LARGE campus, and continue to expand that for ministry (with a tip of the hat and a nod to the Pennybacker family for the latest addition in the form of the new play area and a thanks to the ladies of the Salad Luncheon for providing the funds for the fencing).

We continue to host community groups for learning and service, including the Montessori School, line dancing, folk dancing, Red Cross, and 4-H.

We give away thousands of dollars in support of ministries both in our community and to those in need through World Hunger Appeal, Helping Heroes, Health Right, the local fire department, the elementary school, Camp Luther, United Seminary, House of the Carpenter (new this year), and Community Lutheran Partners.

We continue to be faithful to our Lutheran heritage, theology, and worship, while embracing new music and musical forms (whoever would have thought we would own our own conga drums!?! ) and incorporating meaningful additions into worship (as long as they don't make the service last too long, someone reminded me!).

Most importantly, we are stewards of the greatest treasure in the world, the gift of God for the forgiveness of sins and new life in Jesus Christ! How can we NOT tell people about that!?!

Grace has a lot to be proud of and a lot to tell about. We shouldn't be too shy to say to people, "You should come see what's happening at our church! You should come and hear about God's love! You should come EXPERIENCE GRACE!" That's grace with a little g as in the grace of God and Grace with a big G as in Grace Lutheran Church.

There are a lot of people out there looking for what Grace has to offer, but they will never know about it if we are too shy to tell them. In this Easter season, it is a good time to tell people – or to ask people – "Have you heard about grace? Let me tell you about Grace." Easter is about new life, second chances, and overcoming what looked like it would surely be death. What is Grace if not a witness to Easter?

Grace is a place where grace is made real and the work of God is being done. We shouldn't be shy about saying that. Christ is risen, and Grace is about living as People of the Resurrection! It's time to go and tell!

## ***GRACE GUYS***

Grace Guys will not meet in May 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!

## ***DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES END FOR SPRING TERM***

Sunday, May 19 will be the final session of our Sunday morning Discipleship Classes (Sunday School).

A big THANK YOU is extended to all our teachers and hard-working students who have made this year such a success. We look forward to seeing you when classes begin in the fall on September 15!

## ***STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL***

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

Volunteers will be needed in May to help cut up strawberries and get the first batch ready. Watch the bulletin for announcements and be ready to grab your favorite paring knife to help with this major charity event.

## ***SALAD LUNCHEON***

Mark your calendar NOW and save the date for this year's annual Salad Luncheon, Saturday, May 4th. 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 the event is SOLD OUT.

## ***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!

## ***RUMMAGE SALE REPORT***

As of this writing, the annual Rummage Sale grossed over \$3,037.00, with money still coming in. In addition to everything we sold, the House of the Carpenter took away a truck load of stuff to use, and the Kruger Street Toy and Train Museum took what was left for its rummage sale.

So, all in all, this year's Rummage Sale benefitted SIX organizations! Distribution of funds will be made after the Strawberry Festival.

Well done, Grace!

## ***THANK YOU***

We extend a big THANK YOU to the Pennybacker family for the donation of the play area near the rear door of the Education Wing close to the Montessori School doors. After Andrew outgrew the playset, the family had it rebuilt and moved to the church at their expense, including the landscaping.

Thanks also to the ladies of the Salad Luncheon who raised the funds for the security fence.

We look forward to using this for many years to come and are very grateful for this major addition to our resources for ministry with children.

## ***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 Beneke 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.

## ***A NOTE FROM MINNIE***

"With a grateful heart, I want to thank everyone for your thoughtful prayers, lovely cards and kind words of encouragement and concern. It surely helps to make my days much better and brighter. God Bless you all" -Minnie Taylor.

## ***ORGAN FUNDRAISER***

Each organ contains a lever 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 that 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.

During the extensive renovations leading to the creation of Grace Lutheran Church’s new building, the Building, Memorial, and Organ funds were depleted, and the monies in those funds were used to pay for the renovations.

The Building part of the renovations was paid off last year and as of April 23<sup>rd</sup> only \$2,500 remains on the Organ renovations. It is expected that that debt will be paid off by the end of May. Now it is time to restore our reserves for future needs.

The Memorial Fund was re-established last January. Our next major project in this process is to re-establish the Organ Fund for any future maintenance needs.

**“Organ Fund” envelopes are available, and all 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.**

Ask Pastor to let you look through the stack of key chains 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!

## ***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 barbecue 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!

## *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

## *MAY BIRTHDAYS*

Barbara Holbert May 2nd  
Corry Albers May 7th  
Kathleen Steber May 9th  
Jay Wallace May 14th  
Anita Schunn May 14th  
Kimberly Castilow May 15th  
Eileen Hempelmann May 15th



Jane McGaughy May 21st  
George Myers May 22nd  
Kayde Potts May 25th  
Megan DaGrava May 28th  
Donna Niess May 30th

## *MAY ANNIVERSARIES*

Sean & Kim Young May 4th 23 Years!  
George & Judith Myers May 22nd 54 Years!  
Steven & Jeanie Deem May 29th 43 Years!

## *GRACE COUNCIL 2019*

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



# May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Mission Mtg 6 PM SYNOD planning meeting 6:30 PM	2 Stitchers with Love 10 AM Strands of Comfort 10 AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	3	4 Spring Salad Luncheon 1 PM
5 Worship 10 AM Birthdays / Anniversaries 11:10 AM Sunday Sch 11:30 AM	6 Dance 5 PM Vocal Choir 6:30 PM	7 Baton Twirling 6 PM	8 Communications meeting 6:30 PM	9 Stitchers with Love 10AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	10 Heritage Dance 6 PM	11 Fellowship Hall reserved—shower
12 Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM Sunday Sch 11:30 AM Mothers Day	13 Dance 5 PM	14 Baton Twirling 6 PM	15 WELCA Bible Study 10 AM	16 Stitchers with Love 10 AM Strands of Comfort 10 AM	17 Heritage Dance 6 PM	18 Fellowship Hall reserved
19 Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM Sunday Sch 11:130 AM	20 Dance 5 PM Vocal Choir 6 PM Council Mtg 6:30 PM	21 Baton Twirling 6 PM	22	23 Stitchers w/Love 10 AM Red Cross Class 6 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	24 Heritage Dance 6 PM	25
26 Worship 10 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM	27 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED Office Closed	28 Baton Twirling 6 PM	29	30 Stitchers w/Love 10 AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	31 <b>SYNOD ASSEMBLY At Grace</b>	<b>SYNOD ASSEMBLY CONTINUES at the Highlands 5/31 thru 6/1</b>

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

***ANNUAL SALAD LUNCHEON***

Saturday, May 4th Doors open at noon, lunch at 1:00 PM. Event is Sold Out!

***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.