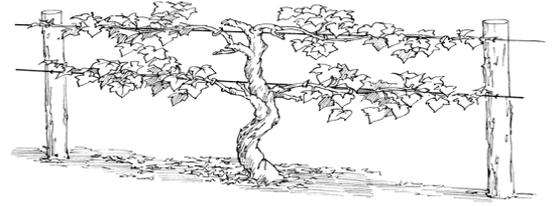


THE GRACE VINE

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

OCTOBER 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

Maybe it's because of Grace receiving new members and the upcoming baptism, but for some reason I've been thinking a lot about connections lately.

Growing up we start with connections to our parents, then our extended family. Then we make friends. Maybe, if you are of a certain age your parents made playdates for you (mine just told us to go outside and play).

We go to school and make new friends – and then join scouts or dance or sports or 4-H or some other group and make other friends. We leave some behind as we grow older, but some live on in our lives until we are in our old age – going to our 50th, 60th, or even 75th class reunion.

Somewhere in there we may get married and gain in-laws, maybe children and grandkids. We may get a job and develop connections with co-workers. Relocations and moves introduce us to new neighbors, some of whom we get along with and some we don't.

In all of these stages and passages of our lives we make connections. Some are temporary, and some are more permanent. Some we look for, some find us, and some are forced upon us. Harper Lee famously wrote that you can pick your friends but not your family.

Regardless of how we make them, connections are part of our lives.

Jesus is about the business of making connections. He invites people into his inner circle. He speaks constantly about how the kingdom of God is reconnecting with a lost and fallen creation. He invites people to be part of his followers with whom other folks would not want to be connected lepers and Samaritans and Pharisees - and he connects unlikely, very different groups of people like Matthew the Roman collaborator and Simon the Zealot.

So what does that have to do with us?

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

Jesus invites us to connect with him. We connect in the Gospel stories and we connect at the communion table. He invites us to connect to his body, which is the church. We connect in the work we do, and we connect in our common life every time we say, "Lord, in your mercy, hear OUR prayer."

So what does that mean for us as a congregation?

Our commitments to anything are stronger when we make connections. We can put our names down and say we're members of a church and then show up once a year and throw twenty dollars in the offering plate. Or we can show up regularly, make a commitment to support the common work we share through our regular offerings, make a commitment of time to help out with projects, programs, or events. And on the way we connect more deeply with one another and with the body of Christ.

I often share the story of a teenager who grasped this more quickly than anybody I know. Her family basically attended at Christmas, and we were talking about confirmation and what she needed to consider before going forward with catechetical instruction. We were talking about the importance of making a commitment, and investing in and being connected to what was important to us.

"Let me put it this way," I said to her. "You're a cheerleader, right?" She nodded yes. "So what would happen," I asked her, "if you only showed up for practice one time every couple of months?" "Oh," she said, "I wouldn't be there to practice, and I'd be letting the other girls down. I'd be off the team!" And then it hit her. "Oh!" she said. Then, "OH!!!".

Being part of the church means making a commitment. It means becoming increasingly connected to God and to the other people in the church. It means making a commitment to do your part to help the group along. It means connecting with people who are passionate about the same things, whether it's music or caring for the poor or caring for what God has entrusted to us. It means eating and drinking together in the kingdom and around the family table, and it means putting up with people who, like you, are called by God into the body of Christ whether you like them or not (and whether they like you or not as well).

It also means opening up spots where people can work together to expand the ministries in which we are engaged. Sometimes it means getting out of the way to let other people explore their gifts and connect with each other. It means allowing people to try new things and to give people permission to fail if they are trying in good faith and being connected enough to them to know their strengths and weaknesses so that we can be there to help when needed.

In short, it means being together.

We didn't pick our church. God picked us. In the Small Catechism Martin Luther talks about how God calls us into the church, and I think that even means a particular congregation at a particular time. Jesus died on the cross for us and invited us to be part of his body. If you are reading this, right now that probably happens to be the part of the body of Christ that is Grace.

We have been called into community and to make connections for the sake of Christ and his kingdom, and the more connections we make the stronger we become. But when we only see ourselves as "lone Christians" who only show up occasionally, or only see the church as being just the congregation to which we belong, we miss all the connections that Christ is making for and with us and of which he invites us to be part.

St. Paul put it this way: "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. . . Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

So I'll see you in church. Until then, you know how to get in touch with me by phone, or by email, and I'm here (almost) every Sunday. In Jesus name, let's make a connection!

Welcome new members

We extend a warm welcome to new members Shawn and Vicki Gilmore, who come to Grace from St. John's Lutheran in Martin's Ferry, and Mary Maguire, who comes to us from St. Paul's Lutheran in Bridgeport. We are delighted to have you become an official part of the community Grace.

Also, we welcome the newest member of the family of God at Grace, Cora Rose Nelson, daughter of Andy and Kathy Nelson, baptized into Christ on September 29th. As a sign of how the church is changing, the godmother was skyped in to the baptismal service via computer link from where she is working in Africa!



Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, October 6, at 4:00 PM Grace will host a Blessing of the Animals in honor of the Commemoration of St. Francis (October 4).

All animals are welcome, but the following rules apply: Fish should probably remain at home. Birds, spiders, snakes, lizards, and small animals like mice, rabbits, and rats, and all similar animals should be caged and remain caged during the service. Larger animals such as cat or dogs should be either in a carrier or on a leash. Large animals such as cows, horses, sheep, goats, and similar animals should be on a lead or harness. Cows and horses and similar large animals should be kept towards the back of the congregation to avoid anyone accidentally being stepped on.

The roughly 30-minute service is a chance to give thanks to God for the animals in our lives and to remember them as our fellow creatures on this planet.

The service is hosted by Grace with input and support from Dr. Debbie Shondrick. While this service was done in our predecessor churches, this is the first time that Grace will be hosting this celebration. So bring your pets and come join in the celebration of God's gift of animals to us.

New in the Church Library

New books in the church library this month include a donation of "Your God Is Too Small" by Bishop J B. Phillips. This short popular classic work from the 1950's asks the question, "What is God really like?" and then challenges us to think about a God who is bigger than our imagination.

Also new in the library are volumes 1 and 2 of the six-volume series, The Annotated Luther. Grace began purchasing this series as it was published during the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, and this acquisition completes the set. Volumes 1 and 2 include such important Luther writings as, "The Bondage of the Will", "The Large Catechism", "The Smalcald Articles", "The 95 Theses", Luther's important sermon on baptism, "The Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation" in which Luther lays out his idea of the connections between – and separation of – church and state, and "The Freedom of a Christian".

We welcome these important and classic works to our library.

Organ Recital and Concert Series

Dr. William Haller will be returning to the Wheeling area on Sunday, October 27th to present an organ concert here at Grace. The 2:30 PM program will feature the music of Buxtehude, Bach, Nystedt, Guilmant, and others. A highlight will be three different composers' treatment of "A Mighty Fortress is Our God", in honor of the celebration of Reformation Day. A light reception in the Gathering Room will follow the concert.

This is the inaugural concert for both Grace's new concert series and for the 2019-2020 year. This first season will feature musicians with a local connection: Former Grace organist Dr. Haller, and Grace's current Associate Organist Mr. Douglas Krantz, who will present a recital in late January or early February.

The third concert, scheduled for April 26, will be a very special and unique experience. "Three Lutheran Tenors" will featuring Pastor Paul Schafer, Bishop Matthew Riegel, and our own Pastor Tim Spence for the final concert of the season. This program will feature each of the three tenors in solo works as well as joining in combined numbers. The program will be divided into two parts: an opening sacred music section followed by a selection of secular music.

Plan to come celebrate the initiation of this new program at Grace and enjoy the afternoon with Dr. Haller! The event is free and open to all. This is a wonderful way to reach out to your friends and neighbors who enjoy good music and demonstrate Grace's commitment to quality music in our worship life. Mark your calendar now and invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us at these dynamic musical events.

Welcome Desk Volunteers Needed

Additional volunteers are needed to staff the Welcome Desk on Sunday morning. Volunteers answer questions and help people sign up for various activities and events before and after worship. If you are willing to volunteer to help with this ministry of welcome about once each month, or want to know more about it, please speak to Pastor.

Winter Shelter Appeal

Youth Services System, Inc. is committed to responding to the complex needs of youth at serious risk. For over 40 years, Youth Services System, Inc. has reached 25,000 youth and their families with shelter, residential, community-based, and professional services. YSS works with youth and their families to improve their physical and emotional well-being, to address the debilitating effects of abuse, addiction, and trauma, and to build the skills and connections they need to be successful.

Youth Services System is acutely aware of those affected by homelessness. Some are youth who are served through Samaritan House, Helinski Shelter, or the Transitional Living Program. In keeping with the belief of Ron Mulholland, YSS' founder, we are expected to care for the "least" among us.

YSS participates in the Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless and works with those in the community concerned about our neighbors who are homeless. Since 2009, YSS has opened the fourth floor of its Central Office as a Winter Freeze Shelter for the homeless unable to be admitted in traditional homeless shelters due to factors like age, family status, and other issues.

This year, Grace's Missions Committee has taken on the cause of the Youth Shelter for the fall. The following items will be collected during the month of October for the Shelter:

Lip Balm
Disposable Razors
Wet Ones
Tissues (small packages)
Mouthwash

Shampoo/Conditioner
Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
Feminine Hygiene Products
Foot Powder
Towels and Washcloths

Brushes/Combs
Shaving Cream
Deodorant
Baby Wipes
Warm Socks

In addition, certain bedding items are needed. If you would like to contribute bedding, please speak to Kim Kochy, Pat Franklin, or Pastor regarding the size and type of items requested.

Donations should be left in the plastic tub under the "Food Pantry" table in the Gathering Room.

Wedding

Congratulations to Grace member Kayla Mallery, who will be united in marriage to Mr. Matt Matz on Saturday, October 5, at 2:30. We wish the newlyweds well in their life together!

Church Words

This month we look at two words: One that we use at Grace and one that we don't use (but could). The words are related.

If *sanctus* (as in the *sanctus* - "holy, holy, holy" in the liturgy - and sanctuary as a place) refers to something holy, then *sacris* refers to something sacred. So we get the words *sacristy* and *sacristan*.

The *sacristy* is the place where sacred things are kept. The communion ware, wine, wafers, candles, and vestments worn by the presiding and assisting ministers are all kept in the sacristy, along with the paraments for the altar.

This is the realm of the altar guild, a medieval-sounding term that came into use during the 19th century to describe the group of people who take care of sacred things and provide for setting up for worship services.

Before the term altar guild came into use (and still in some places today) the function of preparing for worship was frequently the responsibility of one person who was in charge of sacred things. That person is called the *sacristan*. This is one of those chicken and egg things, like all blueberries are blueberries but not all blue berries are blueberries. In the same way, all altar guild members are sacristans but not all sacristans are altar guild members.

So two new church words for you this month: *Sacristy* (which Grace has and uses) and *sacristan* (which Grace sort of has but doesn't use that term), referring to the place and the person which deals with sacred things.

Why Are You Poor?

The House of the Carpenter will hold a special program called COPE at Grace on Saturday, November 9. The 3-hour, interactive, Saturday morning program will look at why people are poor and why they stay poor. People participating in the program will have the chance to explore how medical issues, lack of education, and the rapidly changing economy contribute to poverty and what it will take to break the cycle of poverty.

The program is free, but you must register in advance. Grace would like to have between five and fifteen people represented at this event. Please contact Pastor for information on how to register.

Halloween Party



Grace's annual Halloween Party will be held this year on Saturday, October 19. The fun will begin at 6:00 PM and end at 7:30. The party is for children ages birth to 10 years old.

There will be crafts and refreshments and trick or treating. As in the past, doors in the Education and Mission wings will be decorated and children will "trick or treat" in the building in two groups based on age. Volunteers are needed to decorate doors and pass out candy. Volunteers are also needed to help with crafts and refreshments that evening, and to provide cookies and drinks for the event.

More details will be coming in the bulletin soon. Watch for sign-up sheets at the Welcome Desk, or contact Shari Sedilko, Jeanie Deem, Elaine Sedilko, or Nettie McClure with questions.

Boxtops for Education Is Changing

General Mills is changing the Boxtops for Education program. The benefits to the school will still be the same, but collection of the box tops will end on December 31 of this year.

Instead, each package will have a Boxtops seal in the same place where you would normally look for it. **HOWEVER** (and this is the big change!) instead of clipping the coupon and sending it in you will scan it with your cell phone using an app that you can download from the company. Boxtop credits will then be collected electronically, which means we will not have a place to collect the box tops and the school will get automatic credit instead of having to sort and cut up and count all those tiny pieces of paper.

We are still gathering information as to how the program will ultimately work and will keep you informed. Our Partners in Education Committee and our IT staff will work out details to help you continue to support this program. Watch for more information in future newsletters.

saying
"sorry"

Errata

In the list of those who regularly assist with the St. Luke Soup Kitchen, Kathy Sheller's name was accidentally left off. Kathy has been a long-time volunteer in this program and can tell you what it means to volunteer and what is required. We apologize for the oversight.

Sunday School

Sunday School is off to a good start. This year Sunday School has expanded with the addition of three new classes:

New Class – “Mommy (or daddy or grandma) and Me” will begin in January. This class for three- and four-year-olds will meet in the nursery and is for parents (or grandparents) and young children.

Preschool – Ages 4 through 6 meets in Classroom 2 with Katrina Smith as the lead teacher.

Elementary – Grades 2 through 5 meets in Classroom 1 with Evelyn Birch as the lead teacher.

Children’s Choir meets on the third Sunday of each month (beginning in October) in the Music Room. The Preschool and Elementary classes meet with Laurie Spence that day.

New Class - Junior High meets in the Youth Room. Details on this class are still being worked out and a teaching team of 2 or 3 people is needed.

Adult Bible Class – Meets in the Meeting Room. Led by Pastor, the group works through sections of the Bible based on interest and time.

New Class - Adult Discussion Class – Meets in various places (usually the Luther Room) and will work around short (4-6 week) topics using -house and outside presenters and video materials. First session this fall (5 weeks) taught by Laurie Spence on “Hymns of Comfort”, looks at scripture and tunes related to favorite hymns that people go to for comfort in times of stress and change. Meets in the Choir Gallery. Future topics for study will be determined as a “class committee” is formed to work with Pastor on identifying topics and resources/resource people.



THINGS TO REMEMBER/ONGOING ACTIVITIES

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

The Grace Guys will NOT meet in October.

POWER **PRAYER**



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
Melody Holiday

Hines Rotriga
Amelia DaGrava
George Myers
Addison Lucas
Bill Scholley
Keith McMannis
Susan Falbo
Carolyn Polverini
David Wallace
Betty Kuhn

Betty Swartz
David Ausdenmoore
Thelma Moore
Cindy Roshak
Linda Porter
Doris Schafer
Dorothy Miller
Zane Neuhardt
Peggy Frazier
Willow Hollingsworth

ON MILITARY DUTY

Brian Coughlan

Casey Young

Parker Euri

HOMEBOUND

Mabel Winesburg
218 Elm Crest Drive
Wheeling, WV 26003

Becky 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

Kitty Hagedorn
18 Willow Avenue
Wheeling, WV 26003

Chris Roshak
936 Sharps Hospital Road
Weston WV 26452

Eileen Hempelmann
207 Boggs Hill Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

Howard & Betty Shackelford
333 Dement Road
Triadelphia, WV 26059

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Tom Porter *October 3*

Casey Young *October 5*

Camryn Young *October 7*

Marty Haynes *October 8*

Peggy Blatt *October 9*

Scott Castilow *October 10*

Kayla Mallery *October 10*

Betty Danehart *October 11*

George Steber *October 11*

Bob Tush *October 12*

Joann Albers *October 16*

David Coughlan *October 20*



Luther Smith *October 20*

Stacy Zelkowski *October 21*

Lutz Albrecht *October 23*

Kelly Albers *October 25*

Brian Crawford *October 26*

Donald McNabb *October 27*

Breanna Shondrick *October 27*

Jim Tysk *October 27*

Kathy Sheller *October 28*

Amanda Drahos *October 28*

Jamey Gallaher *October 29*

GRACE COUNCIL 2019

Nancy Weeks *Tami Gallaher*

Lutz Albrecht *Kathy Sheller*

Casey Young *Dennis Niess*

Marjorie Wolf *Linda Dunnell*

Diane "Dee" Coughlan



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Larry & Linda Rush *October 5*

Pat & Diane Coughlan *October 14*

Tim & Megan DaGrava Jr *October 17*

Robert & Heather McClure Jr *October 19*

John & Cindy Roshak *October 24*

Jim & Tami Tysk *October 25*

WORSHIP LEADER S OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2019

Date	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Bread	Crucifer	Greeters
October 6, 2019	Kevin Maguire	Tami Gallaher	Jeanie Deem	Jamey Gallaher	Jeanie Deem & AJ Beckett
October 13, 2019	Thomas Maguire	Tami Gallaher	Marcie Woloshan	Jamey Gallaher	Dorothy Broemson & Betty Danehart
October 20, 2019	Jamey Gallaher	Tami Gallaher	Pastor Spence	Jamey Gallaher	Doty Carl
October 27, 2019	Kevin Maguire	Tami Gallaher	Marjorie Wolf	Jamey Gallaher	Brian & Vicki Crawford
November 3, 2019	Thomas Maguire	Buffy Schenkel	Jeanie Deem	Jamey Gallaher	Joe & Kim Kochy
November 10, 2019	Jamey Gallaher	Buffy Schenkel	Marcie Woloshan	Jamey Gallaher	Shari & Jessica Sedilko
November 17, 2019	Kevin Maguire	Buffy Schenkel	Pastor Spence	Jamey Gallaher	Jeanie Deem & AJ Beckett
November 24, 2019	Thomas Maguire	Buffy Schenkel	Marjorie Wolf	Jamey Gallaher	Dorothy Broemson & Betty Danehart
	Welcome Desk	Lector	PA/Sound	Prayer Leader	Ushers
October 6, 2019	Doris Albrecht	Kim Kochy	Volunteer	Pat Franklin	Chris Schenkel Team
October 13, 2019	Nancy Weeks	Tami Tysk	Volunteer	Nancy Weeks	Mike Carl, Shari Sedilko
October 20, 2019	Doris Albrecht	Jeanie Deem	Volunteer	Pastor Spence	Chuck Koehler
October 27, 2019	Nancy Weeks	Tami Gallaher	Volunteer	Lutz Albrecht	Buffy Schenkel
November 3, 2019	Marjorie Wolf	Nancy Weeks	Volunteer	Pat Franklin	Carl Townsend Team
November 10, 2019	Doris Albrecht	Marcie Woloshan	Volunteer	Nancy Weeks	Brad Weeks
November 17, 2019	Nancy Weeks	Lutz Albrecht	Volunteer	Pastor Spence	Nancy Weeks
November 24, 2019	Marjorie Wolf	Jeanie Deem	Volunteer	Lutz Albrecht	Marcus Weeks
	Flowers	CAN'T	Counters	Assisting Minister	Fellowship
October 6, 2019	Kim Kochy	ASSIST	Steve & Elaine Sedilko	Marcie Woloshan	
October 13, 2019	Tami Tysk	MINISTER	Steve & Elaine Sedilko	Tami Tysk	
October 20, 2019		AND	Steve & Elaine Sedilko	Brian Crawford	Birthdays / Anniversaries
October 27, 2019		WORK	Steve & Elaine Sedilko	Pat Franklin	
November 3, 2019		WELCOME	Joe & Kim Kochy	Nancy Weeks	
November 10, 2019		DESK	Joe & Kim Kochy	Marcie Woloshan	Birthdays / Anniversaries
November 17, 2019		ON	Joe & Kim Kochy	Tami Tysk	
November 24, 2019		SAME	Joe & Kim Kochy	Brian Crawford	
November 24, 2019		DAY			

OCTOBER 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Baton Twirling 6:00 PM	2	3 Strands of Comfort 10:00 AM Stitchers with Love 10:00 AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	4 Heritage Dance 6:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 PM	5 Wedding Mullery-Mate 2:30 PM
6 Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Noon Blatt Birthday Blessing of Animals 4:00 PM	7 Dance 5:00 PM Vocal Choir 6:30 PM	8 Baton Twirling 6:00 PM	9	10 Stitchers with Love 10:00 AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	11	12 Fellowship Hall reserved
13 Worship 10:00 AM Birthdays/ Anniversaries 11:10 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM	14 Dance 5:00 PM Vocal Choir 6:30 PM	15 Baton Twirling 6:00 PM	16 Women of the ELCA Bible Study 10:00 AM	17 RC Class 6:00 PM Strands of Comfort 10:00 AM Stitchers with Love 10:00 AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	18	19 Halloween Party 6:00 PM
20 Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM	21 Dance 5:00 PM Council Mtg 6:30 PM	22 Baton Twirling 6:00 PM Finance Committee 1:00 PM	23 Vocal Choir 6:30 PM	24 Stitchers w/Love 10:00 AM Heritage Dance 6 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM 4H Mtg 7:00 PM Christian Ed 6:00 PM	25	26
27 Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Organ Concert 2:30 PM	28 Dance 5:00 PM Vocal Choir 6:30 PM	29 Baton Twirling 6:00 PM	30	31 Stitchers with Love 10:00 AM Game Day 11:00 AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM		

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATE!

Halloween Party, Saturday October 19th 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Organ Concert, Sunday October 27th at 2:30 PM

Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Thursday November 14th

Congregational Meeting Sunday. November 17th.

