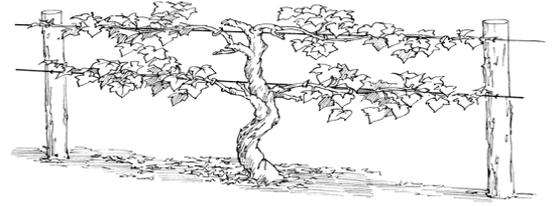


# **THE GRACE VINE**

## **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*

**JANUARY 2020**

**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**

Many years ago I was part of a group that met with a group of Lutheran pastors from Australia in a conversation about urban ministry issues that we had in common. Being the curious kind of person that I am, I finally had a chance to find out something that had bothered me for some time. Remembering that when it is summer here it is winter there (and visa versa) I asked them, "So what do you guys do for Christmas?" Without batting an eye, one of the said, "We all go to church and then we go to the beach and throw a bunch of shrimp on the barbee!"

So much of our definitions of Christmas and the days that follow into the beginning of Epiphany is conditioned in our minds with a seasonal cycle that plays out in the northern latitudes. We talk about the depths of the cold winter when Jesus was born, and the new life springing from the ground just in time to celebrate the flowers blooming in full cooperation with the resurrection.

But what about those places in the southern latitudes where Christmas is in mid-summer and Easter comes as the earth begins to die for the winter? What about tropical paradises where the weather is fairly consistent all year round and the days stay about the same length because they are closer to the equator? Is there a message for the church there as well?

If our God is big enough, we can move beyond our seasonal analogies and be challenged to think about new life outside of April flowers. We are challenged to see how God is cosmically at work in ways other than a northern cycle of seasons that conveniently helps explain Christmas and Easter to our northern neighbors, but not so much to our southern hemisphere neighbors.

Can we go deeper into our faith and theology to discover the workings of a God who meets us just where we are – when loss or illness or grief finds us in the midst of summer sunshine — and moves us to a richer understanding of God who walks with us out of the sunshine of a springtime Easter and accompanies us not from the gloom and longing of a wintry Advent but to a darkening autumnal Easter; to the promise that, in the midst of darkness there is life, and that death is not the last word in the midst of the dark winter?

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

The Sunday morning lessons in the Epiphany season see Jesus at work, bringing light into the darkness of the world. For us in the north, we see a brightening as the days get longer and Jesus' ministry takes form and shape. But if we are faithful, a richer image is that Jesus is among us in the darkness of Advent, in the darkness of Christmas, and even in the darkness that leads through Lent to a murky Easter dawn.

In all things, the promise is that God is with us in the darkness, calling us, leading us, shaping us, challenging us to see God's face and to be faithful to the God who walks with us through all of life – both in the light and in the darkness.

Enjoy the longer days and continue to walk with God.

## ***PROPERTY COMMITTEE***

In last month's issue of the *Vine* you met the members of the Property Committee, learned about some of the duties of the Committee, and what some of the initial undertakings are. This month we share with you some of the additional duties of the Committee and describe the heating/cooling system for the sanctuary.

The Property Committee is responsible for the monthly men's "Fix-it-Day" or better known as "Grace Guys". We plan to schedule the meetings as suitable projects are identified, funds (if required) are available, and willing and able hands have agreed to help with the work. In most cases the work will be scheduled for a Saturday morning starting no later than 8:30 am and ending by noon. The scheduled workday and projects will be communicated to you two weeks prior to the planned date via the TV screen in the Gathering Room and the Sunday bulletin. Meetings will begin with a brief prayer followed by a brief fellowship time with coffee and donuts provided by the committee.

Now let's talk about the heating/cooling system for the sanctuary:

The key word here is "system" The major elements of the system are the boilers, three of them, one circulating pump, a heating coil in the winter, a cooling coil in the summer, a fan or "blower", duct work, thermostat, and the ever intriguing ceiling fans.

So where to begin? Simple enough: The gas-fired boilers heat the water to about 180 degrees Fahrenheit. When the thermostat calls for heat it turns the circulating pump on. The hot water is pumped to the heating coil where the fan blows cool air across the coils and ducts carry the now-heated air to the Sanctuary. The water, now cooled to about 130 to 150 degrees, returns to the boilers for reheating.

The heated air is blown into the sanctuary through nine heat registers located high up in the wall behind the pulpit. If you look up from your pew you will see eight registers with the ninth one above the organ console. As you know, hot air rises and so the hot air just delivered to the Sanctuary wants to stay up there. This is where the ceiling fans come in to play. There are two rows of three fans and a seventh fan above the choir area. This fan has been taken out of service. More about that later.

There are heat sensors for each row of three fans that sense the air temperature and turn the fans on. The hotter the air, the faster the fans will turn and bring the warm air down to where we are. When the thermostat is satisfied it turns the circulating pump off until the cycle starts over again. The thermostat is usually set to 68 degrees when the sanctuary is in use and to 64 degrees otherwise.

So, I think that you can see how important the ceilings fans are: without them all of the hot air would be at the ceiling and our gas bill would be very, very high because we would be trying to fill the sanctuary from ceiling to floor with warm air, an almost impossible task.

In the summer when air conditioning is required, compressors replace the boilers and cold refrigerant is sent to the cooling coils upstairs. Since cold air sinks to the floor the ceiling fans are not as essential, but they do speed the process of getting cool air down to us.

Now about that seventh ceiling fan. Before the sanctuary was remodeled the altar was where the Choir Gallery is now located. That seventh fan created problems for the burning candles and moved pages as the pastor was reading, so it was disconnected. It could be put back into service at any time. However, operating the fan would create a downdraft which would create a problem with the air coming UP out of the organ pipes in the choir division, so reconnecting that fan is not advisable at this time.

Next month we'll talk about the other heating/cooling systems (and there are plenty of them!): what it costs to keep the building comfortable and what we can do to reduce costs. I promise that it will not be as technical as this month's article.

## ***ASK THE PASTOR***

Question: A lot of people are sick! During cold and flu season shouldn't we stop sharing the peace to help prevent colds and flu?

Answer: Well, your question kind of misses the point.

In the early church, Paul encouraged the members of the congregation to greet one another with a "holy kiss". We see the kiss on the cheek in many places in scripture, with the most notorious being the kiss of Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Today we've encouraged people to greet with a handshake and some use a VERY light embrace. Still missing the point.

The sharing of the peace (what our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters refer to as the "Act of Reconciliation") is a chance to get right with our neighbor in case there is any disagreement or division among us before we come to the Lord's Table. Having been assured of our reconciliation to God in the Confession and Absolution, we now are reconciled to our neighbor by sharing a blessing of peace.

The WORDS of intent accompanied by some form action are what is important, not necessarily the METHOD of the action itself. So you can shake hands, wave, do a fist bump (without the exploding part, please), bow (usually just a brief nod of the head), or, as a woman in a former parish taught me, make a "peace" sign with 2 fingers in each hand and pass one in front of the other (thereby "passing the peace").

The important thing here is that we share some indication with the other person that we bear no hard feelings or ill will, and that we wish them the best that there is: The peace of Christ that passes all understanding. And hopefully they wish the same for us. In that greeting we are reconciled to each other and come to the Table without any hard feelings or anger or ill will.

In any case, we're not going to stop working towards a world where we are reconciled to God and our neighbor. But if you aren't feeling well or if you have low resistance for some reason or you are worried about catching something, don't shake hands. Cross your arms across your chest or fold your hands across your waist (a little less off - putting than just sticking your hands in your pockets) or give some other indication that "I'm not feeling well today, but peace be with you". After all, we want everybody to be healthy, and keeping each other healthy is a blessing of peace.

Also, consider putting a small bottle of hand sanitizer in the hymn rack in your pew to use after the sharing of the peace (yes, we all know that we have assigned seats and that is YOUR pew - lol). My guess is it will not get moved. You may have noticed that I keep a bottle on the credence table by the Assisting Minister and use it before communion on my way back from the Choir Gallery.

A former parish had a project where the ladies of the church sewed small, drawstring “pew pouches” that tied on the hymn rack and held small bottles of hand sanitizer that got refilled by volunteers on a regular basis. Another congregation had small bottles of hand sanitizer at the Welcome Desk for the greeters to distribute to those who wanted them in their hymnal rack.

Hope that answers your question. Keep wishing for God’s peace in people’s lives, and, as always, thanks for asking!

## ***CHURCH WORDS***

This month we consider a word for something you see and use every week but for which you probably don’t know the name.

The word is CREDENCE (KREE-dense). A credence can be a table or a shelf, but basically the word refers to a place where supplemental things are held that serve the purposes of worship. They could be candles, offering plates, communion vessels like chalices and flagons, or communion trays.

Most church have only one or two credences (plural), usually a shelf behind an old-fashioned fixed-wall altar that holds candles and sometimes flowers, and a table or shelf that holds communion vessels or offering plates.

Both Zion and Edgwood had credence shelves and tables, but at Grace we have several credence tables spread throughout the nave (eight tables at last count, all made from the backs of the extra pews from Zion, all of which serve similar but slightly different functions holding the communion ware). Grace does have one credence shelf, which was brought from Edgwood and holds the offering plates before the offering and the bread and wine before it is brought up for communion.

So the next time you pick up or drop off your communion glass, know that you are using one of our credence tables. And ushers and Altar Guild, know that you are using our credence shelf.

## ***STEWARDSHIP MINUTE***

Number of events or meetings by outside groups in an average month: 17

Number of meetings or events by the congregation in an average month (not including Sunday morning): 16

Average number of people involved in worship leadership on Sunday morning (including choir and ushers): 20

Total number of Sunday School teachers and substitutes: 8

Amount it costs in utilities and insurance to run the church for one hour: \$2.90 (multiply this by 24 hours and 365 days and you get \$25,400.00 – and that’s with nothing going on).

# ***STRANDS OF COMFORT***

Need a new hobby for the new year?

Since its beginning in the fall of 2017, Grace's Prayer Shawl Ministry, "Strands of Comfort", has made over 40 shawls for the congregation's sick and homebound members. The group also makes baptismal shawls and wedding shawls as the opportunity or need arises. When members feel like working on something smaller members make hats for newborns at Wheeling Hospital.



Strands of Comfort meets twice each month, normally on the first and third Thursdays, in the Luther Room. Unlike a quilting bee, group members work independently on different shawls, and sometimes work on other, personal projects too. They group has a great time chatting, knitting, and crocheting. Members also learn new stitches and techniques from one another, and happily give lessons to anyone who needs help. One member, who did not knit OR crochet when the group started, has made one knit shawl and two crocheted shawls since joining.

Current knitters/crocheters are Marjorie Wolf, Diane Coughlan, Laurie Spence, Doris Albrecht, and Jessie Wallace. Please consider joining one of the next sessions in the Luther Room. In January Strands of Comfort will meet on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10 AM until 11:30 AM. Each session begins and ends with prayer for the recipients of the shawls being created. If you are a beginner, you can get started with "loaner" supplies until you feel comfortable enough to get your own. Who knows—you might get "hooked"!



## ***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 for January will be held on Thursday the 30th, 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 January.

# **POWER** **PRAYER**



## **PRAYER LIST**

**Ryan Deegan**  
**Henri Fontaine**  
**George Myers**  
**Stephanie Moore-Vetanze**  
**Andrew Lemasters**  
**Barbara Knollinger**  
**Jodi Ennis (Hunt)**  
**Dona'e Albert**  
**Nick Riggle**  
**Jim Gallaher & Family**  
**Carrie Sacco**

**Hines Rotriga**  
**Amelia DaGrava**  
**Thelma Moore**  
**Addison Lucas**  
**Bill Scholley**  
**Keith McMannis**  
**Susan Falbo**  
**Carolyn Polverini**  
**Jay Wallace**  
**Richard Chrisfield**  
**Kristin McGavitt**

**Betty Swartz**  
**David Ausdenmoore**  
**Melody Holiday**  
**Cindy Roshak**  
**Linda Porter**  
**Doris Schafer**  
**Dorothy Miller**  
**Zane Neuhardt**  
**Peggy Frazier**  
**Willow Hollingsworth**  
**Nancy Weeks**

## **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

**Chris Roshak**  
c/o Grace Lutheran Church  
16 Ridgecrest Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003

**Kitty Hagedorn**  
18 Willow Avenue  
Wheeling, WV 26003

**Eileen Hempelmann**  
207 Boggs Hill Road  
Wheeling, WV 26003

**Howard & Betty Shackelford**  
333 Dement Road  
Triadelphia, WV 26059

**Jim Gallaher**  
40 Suncrest Avenue  
Wheeling, WV 26003

**Dorothy Cox**  
Good Shepherd Nursing Home  
Room 214  
159 Edgington Lane  
Wheeling, WV 26003

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

<i>Cindy Roshak</i>	<i>01/01</i>	<i>Edward Wolf III</i>	<i>01/12</i>
<i>Linda Moore</i>	<i>01/01</i>	<i>Kaitlyn Wallace</i>	<i>01/13</i>
<i>Laura Carl</i>	<i>01/01</i>	<i>Elizabeth Wolf</i>	<i>01/15</i>
<i>Allison Koehler</i>	<i>01/01</i>	<i>Adam Wolf</i>	<i>01/17</i>
<i>Thomas Maquire</i>	<i>01/02</i>	<i>Sharon VanDam</i>	<i>01/19</i>
<i>Elizabeth Carl</i>	<i>01/02</i>	<i>Jessie Wallace</i>	<i>01/21</i>
<i>Jeanie Deem</i>	<i>01/02</i>	<i>Steve Sedilko</i>	<i>01/23</i>
<i>Gibb Haller</i>	<i>01/05</i>	<i>Robert Loth</i>	<i>01/23</i>
<i>Gina Stees</i>	<i>01/06</i>	<i>Ronald Johnston</i>	<i>01/28</i>
<i>Jill Robbins</i>	<i>01/06</i>	<i>Amelia DaGrava</i>	<i>01/30</i>
<i>Katrina Smith</i>	<i>01/07</i>	<i>Linda Rush</i>	<i>01/30</i>
<i>Dorothy Cox</i>	<i>01/09</i>		



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

*George & Kathleen Steber*      *01/11*

## GRACE COUNCIL 2020

<i>Nancy Weeks</i>	<i>Tami Gallaher</i>
<i>Lutz Albrecht</i>	<i>Brian Crawford</i>
<i>Pat Franklin</i>	<i>Dennis Niess</i>
<i>Marjorie Wolf</i>	<i>Linda Dunnell</i>
<i>Tami Tysk</i>	





# JANUARY 2020

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 New Years Day Office Closed	2	3 Office Closed	4
5 Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM Birthdays/ Anniversaries Sunday School 11:30 AM	6 Dance 5:00 PM	7	8 Worship Committee 3:00 PM Vocal Choir 6:30 PM	9 Strands of Comfort 10:00 AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	10 Heritage Dance 6:00 PM	11
12 Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM	13 Dance 5:00 PM	14 Baton Twirling 6:00 PM	15 Missions Committee 6:00 PM Vocal Choir 6:30 PM	16 Bell Choir 6:30 PM	17 Heritage Dance 6:00 PM	18
19 Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM Sunday School and Children's choir 11:30 AM	20 Dance 5:00 PM	21 Baton Twirling 6:00 PM	22 Vocal Choir 6:30 PM	23 Strands of Comfort 10:00 AM Red Cross Class 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM 4H Meeting 7:00 PM	24 Heritage Dance 6:00 PM	25 Assistant Minister training in Gathering room-9:30AM
26 Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship 11:10 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Music for Three Keyboards 2:30 PM	27 Dance 5:00 PM Council Meeting 6:30 PM	28 Baton Twirling 6:00 PM	29 Vocal Choir 6:30 PM	30 Game Day 11:00 AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	31 Heritage Dance 6:00 PM	

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Sunday, January 26th, “Music for Three Keyboards”**

**Don’t miss this great concert by our own Douglas Krantz,  
starting at 2:30 PM!**

**Tuesday, February 25th, Shrove Tuesday, Please join us  
for our pancake supper from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.**

**Wednesday, February 26th, Ash Wednesday service will  
begin at 7:00 PM. Please join us to begin the Lenten jour-  
ney.**