

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

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

Normally this issue of the Vine would be dedicated to all of the start-up programs and meetings for fall: Sunday School, bell choir, vocal choir, Strands of Comfort, Missions, Worship, Learning (Christian Ed), Stewardship, Fellowship and the Church Picnic, and the Blessing of the Animals.

With the coronavirus still going strong, almost none of those things will happen. The vote is still out on the Blessing of the Animals since we can hold that outside and safely distance.

So the question that we've been struggling with for these past months is still with us: How can we be church together when we are not together.

The larger question is still the question of what defines us as church.

Our identity is still grounded in our baptism into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Who we are does not depend on what we do. Our identity is wrapped up in our relationship to Jesus Christ.

So what do we have to do to be church, and how can we do that when we can't do our meetings and programs and events?

Our Mission Statement gives us a pretty good road map: Worship, discipleship, service.

1. We give God the honor God deserves in worship.
2. We pass on the faith and grow in faith through study and instruction.
3. We serve others as best we can, sometimes doing that corporately – as a group - with events and programs, but sometimes as individuals in the way we treat others and care for those in need.

So what defines us isn't the latest church social dinner or how many meetings we can attend.

Instead what defines us is celebrating our relationship to God, our deepening understanding of what it means to follow God, and our service to others in the name of God.

Our worship, while done best as a community, is also private devotions.

Our discipleship, while done best in the setting of a teacher or leader and with others for discussion, also takes place in our encounter with the word privately and in prayer.

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

Our service can be to the person next door, a family member, a stranger in the grocery store or on the street, as well as to large groups of anonymous people. In fact, it is usually harder for Christians to see their service one on one with the theological “neighbor” than it is for churches to do big projects that help lots of anonymous people. To quote, Lucy in *Peanuts*, “I love humanity! It’s people I can’t stand!”

I know it’s hard right now. But think of this time as God showing us what really matters. We continue to be the people of God because of who we are, and we can live that identity out every day until we can fully come back together again.

When we do come back together, we may have discovered new ways to be church. And we may have found that some of the old ways were not as important as we thought they were.

But our faithfulness to being a people of worship, discipleship, and service will remain.

Let us open our eyes to see what God is showing us while we are apart, and be prepared to come back stronger than ever, having grown into a deeper understanding of worship, discipleship, and service!

SOME THINGS I’VE OBSERVED OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS:

Even though I’ve lost a lot of my hair since college, I still can let what I have left grow longer than I used to until I can get a haircut.

Commercial paper masks soak up less moisture than homemade cloth masks but are safer.

Free time in the evenings gives me time to clean and toss out useless stuff I’ve accumulated over the years.

I’ve accumulated a lot of useless stuff over the years.

If you wear your mask under your nose it doesn’t work like it’s intended to.

Some people can make anything political if they try hard enough.

Most politicians are idiots. Only a few public servants are.

Some people are also idiots.

Adjusting to change is hard – and harder for some people than for others.

On average, it takes more alcohol for a parent to homeschool one preschooler than to send three teenagers to high school.

Cutting back doesn’t necessarily mean completely giving up.

Going to church with social distancing and a mask on is safer than going to a crowded bar with no mask on.

Even though we feel like we are alone, there are still people that care about us and are concerned about us.

Faith, wisdom, understanding, compassion, and responsible behavior will get us through until science can provide a vaccine.

Grief is easier to handle when you have other people around.

Sunsets are still beautiful.

Furry friends and small children can still make us laugh.

Turned sideways, there is humor in just about everything. Don't believe me? Try wearing your mask turned sideways!

Love will find a way through the darkest days (congratulations Christy and Dave on FINALLY being able to hold your wedding!!!).

Eventually this virus will pass. But the Word of God and the promise of eternal life will last forever.

These three abide: Faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love.

God still loves us, even when we don't think so.

God is still at work even when we think God is silent.

God is still God and God is still present.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

A big part of our discipleship is Sunday morning Sunday School for all ages and evening studies.

With Covid – 19 cutting into how we can safely assemble we are still not sure how to start Sunday School in the fall.

We have several options, including outside classes, virtual classes like we did last spring, and a kind of modified "home school".

As soon as we figure out a way for the Learning (Christian Education) Committee to safely gather, we will push forward with our fall discipleship programs. Watch the next issue of the *Vine* for details and look for something to start in October.

CHURCH WORDS

For this month we look at some more things around the communion table and continue to talk about vestments.

On the communion table is a big cloth (traditionally waxed but now made out of plastic or vinyl) that exactly covers the top of the communion table. This is called the *cere cloth* (pronounced *sear*, like the department store). The purpose of this cloth is to protect the top of the table from scratches and stains from spilled wine. The cere cloth is the first item to be placed on a bare table and is rarely taken off except for Maundy Thursday when the table is stripped.

When the table is set for communion, a cloth packet covering thin, stiff boards with a fabric hinge on one side and two pleats on the side is carried to the table along with the communion ware. The extra linens such as purificators and (depending on the size) the corporal are contained in this item, which is called a *burse* (rhymes with purse).

Finally, the pastor will sometimes wear a special liturgical garment just for communion called a *chasuble* (pronounced *CHAUS uh bull*, although if you meet any Brits, they may pronounce it *CHAUS yoo uh bull*, adding an extra syllable). The use of the chasuble dates to the early days of the Roman church (as in City of Rome, not Roman catholic) and has seen a revival in its use in several denominations since the early 1960's. Traditionally the chasuble is worn only for the celebration of communion, although some pastors wear it for the entire service for convenience. You may also see a pastor wear it for the entire service if there are a number of pastors participating in the service and that particular pastor is only presiding at communion.

P **POWER** *of* **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
Bob McDonald
Art Henry

Hines Rotriga
Amelia DaGrava
Thelma Moore
Addison Lucas
Bill Scholley
Keith McMannis
Susan Falbo
Carolyn Polverini
Nettie McClure
Richard Chrisfield
Kristin McGavitt
Sister Mary
Jerry Findel

Betty Swartz
David Ausdenmoore
"Elizabeth"
Cindy Roshak
Linda Porter
Doris Schafer
Dorothy Miller
Zane Neuhardt
Peggy Frazier
Willow Hollingsworth
Minnie Taylor
Shari Sedilko
Karen Walker

ON MILITARY DUTY

Brian Coughlan

Casey Young

Parker Euri

HOMEBOUND

Dorothy Cox
Good Shepherd Nursing Home
Room 214
159 Edginton Lane
Wheeling, WV. 26003

Becky Frazier
55801 Conno-Mara Dr
Bellaire, OH 43906
Wheeling, WV 26003

Bertha & Robert Loth
c/o Grace Lutheran Church
16 Ridgecrest Road
Wheeling, WV. 26003

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



GRACE COUNCIL 2020

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Andrew Pennybacker</i> | <i>September 9</i> |
| <i>Dr. Dennis Niess</i> | <i>September 10</i> |
| <i>Michael Birch</i> | <i>September 13</i> |
| <i>Minnie Taylor</i> | <i>September 15</i> |
| <i>Shaunna Reed</i> | <i>September 18</i> |
| <i>Donald Taylor</i> | <i>September 19</i> |
| <i>Tami Tysk</i> | <i>September 21</i> |
| <i>Linda Porter</i> | <i>September 21</i> |
| <i>Amanda Beckett</i> | <i>September 25</i> |
| <i>Drew Beckett</i> | <i>September 28</i> |
| <i>Tim Spence</i> | <i>September 28</i> |

- Nancy Weeks*
- Lutz Albrecht*
- Pat Franklin*
- Marjorie Wolf*
- Tami Tysk*
- Diane "Dee" Coughlan*
- Brian Crawford*
- Dennis Niess*
- Linda Dunnell*



| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Bill & Mary Stees</i> | <i>September 1</i> |
| <i>Chris & Elizabeth Schenkel</i> | <i>September 16</i> |
| <i>Brian & Vicki Crawford</i> | <i>September 22</i> |
| <i>Thomas & Jane McGaughy</i> | <i>September 24</i> |
| <i>Chris & Denise Albrecht</i> | <i>September 25</i> |

SEPTEMBER 2020

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|------------------------|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Worship 10:00 AM | 7 OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Worship 10:00 AM | 14 Dance 5:00 PM | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Worship 10:00 AM | 21 Dance 5:00 PM Council 6:30 PM | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Worship 10:00 AM | 28 Dance 5:00 PM | 29 | 30 | | | |

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16 RIDGECREST ROAD
BETHLEHEM
WHEELING WV 26003**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

***SAVE THE DATE!
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.

