

AMAZING GRACE



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL (LCMS)



1200 Charles Street
La Plata, MD 20646

www.growingwithgrace.org
301-932-0963

Charles Long, Pastor
Jeff Burkee, Principal

WORSHIP TIMES & LOCATIONS

Sunday 8:00 am

Traditional Liturgical

Sanctuary

(communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)

Sunday 9:30 am

Contemporary Liturgical

Sanctuary

(communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)

Sunday 11:00 am

Contemporary Praise

Family Life Center

(communion 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30 AM

NURSERY OPEN: 9:15 AM—12:15 PM

Wednesday: 6:30 pm Worship & Prayer with Communion

Wednesday Evening Lenten Meals & Worship



Meals begin at 5:30 pm in the family life center (free will donation) and our Lent worship service begins at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

Lenten Meal Menu

3/7 - Scouts - Lasagna with Garlic Bread and Salad

3/14 - Men's Prayer Group & Friends—Chili, Cornbread and Salad Bar

3/21 - Tuesday Ladies Bible Study - Famous Sloppy Joes

Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Palm Sunday during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:30am). Children participating need to bring their Easter basket.



We need donations of individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs. Donations are needed by March 17.

If anyone has any questions or would like to help, please contact Michelle Keeter at mish645@yahoo.com.

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday ~ March 25

Maundy Thursday ~ March 29

Good Friday ~ March 30

Easter Sunday ~ April 1



Due to scheduling conflicts, the Spaghetti Lunch & Talent Show, scheduled for March 11, has been canceled.

Sunday Morning Fellowship



Coffee Hour is available every Sunday and is located in the Common Ground Café and the FLC after each service. Please join us for assorted donuts and beverages—and for fellowship.



Communion Statement

Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Any who are not yet instructed or in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation should speak with the pastor or an assisting minister for more information. For further study, see Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34 (*grape juice and gluten free wafers available*).



Spiritual Care

If you require spiritual care after office hours or on weekends, please contact pastoral assistant Ed Huber: 301-934-5365. Submit prayer requests to prayers@growingwithgrace.org.

Altar Flowers are not used during Lent. They will return to the altar for our Easter celebration.



Weekly altar arrangements are designed by members of our worship team. To sign up, please see the altar flower book located in the narthex.

Arrangements are \$25 and payment can be placed in the offering plate, noted for "altar flowers". You can take your flowers home after the late service.

Offering & Attendance for February

Avg. weekly attendance: 174.5

Avg. weekly offering: \$8,159.00

Prayer Requests

Those Who Sorrow: Family and friends of Shirley (Bill Swartwelder's sister), Carolyn Kunst and Stuart Nelson

General: Hillary Shahan, Shirley, Dorothea Wolinsky, Missy Bowie, Rich & Merry, Charles Walburn, Steve McClead, Miranda & Christian Sprague, Del Riege, Steve Lindsey, Gisela Jaschik, Thomas Chen

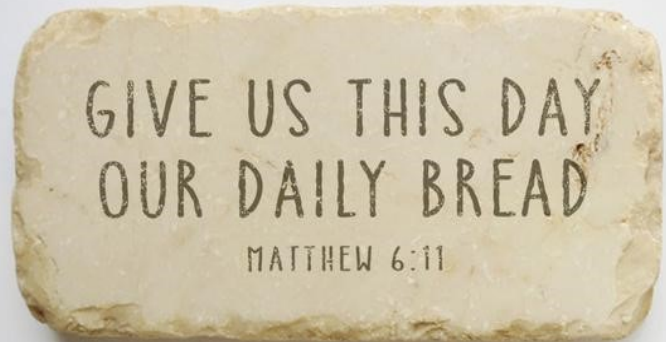
Those Battling Cancer: Pastor Timothy Parsch, Peter Tretner, Christina Allen, Rob, Carol Whitsell, Sandy Curtis, Alice Levine, Dean Wolinsky, Lois Hookham, Sherry Taylor, Donald Lutz, Jesse Stump, Chris Moorhouse, Nichole Garner, Megan Jenkins, Carol Ann Sowers, Adam Lumpkins

Those in Nursing Homes: Louise Fowler

Our Military/Civilians Overseas: Anthony Erwin, Jason Burkee, Chris McMahon, Wesley Murray

Missionaries: Bob and Salme Bugenhagen, Dave and Karen Bradley (Congo) Mark and Megan Mantey (Uganda)

Stephen Ministry Verse



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY (4)

10:45 am	Choir Practice	Sanct.	Marty Staub, 301-452-4382
2 pm	Ch. Hall Vets Ministry	off-site	Bill Eckman, 301-934-4874
5 pm	Suicide Support Group	#120	Carolyn Weimert, 301-934-8243
6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study	#112	Frank Cartwright, 301-674-0772

MONDAY (5)

1 pm	Executive Staff Meeting	#112	Pastor Long, x 203
3:45 pm	GLS Faculty Meeting	#116	Jeff Burkee, x 201
4 pm	Daniel Plan	#112	Cathy Burkee, 303-416-0760
6:10 pm	Chair Yoga	FLC	Annah Rinaldo, annahrinaldo@gmail.com
6:15 pm	Women's Bible Study	#112	Susan Gastler, x 215
6:30 pm	Cub Scout Pack #1799	#121	Courtney Roberts, 240-532-1043
7 pm	Stephen Ministry Mentors	#116A	Paul Lenker, dcministry@growingwithgrace.org

TUESDAY (6)

9 am	Ladies ChristCare Group	#116	Judy Knott, 301-743-3156
6:30 pm	Men's Aftercare	#209	Paul Lenker, dcministry@growingwithgrace.org
6:30 pm	Women's Aftercare	#112	Paul Lenker, dcministry@growingwithgrace.org
7:30 pm	N.A.	FLC	<i>contact main office</i>

WEDNESDAY (7)

5 pm	Worship Team Meeting	#112	Pastor Long, x 203
5:30 pm	Lenten Meal	FLC	<i>contact main office</i>
7 pm	Confirmation	#116	Ed Huber, 301-934-5365

THURSDAY (8)

12:45 pm	Nursing Home Ministry	off-site	Ann Stine, x 310
6 pm	Crossways	#208	Curt Springer, curtaspringer@comcast.net
6 pm	Stephen Ministry Supervision	#209	Paul Lenker, dcministry@growingwithgrace.org
6:30 pm	BSA Troop 1321	FLC	Cris Purnell, 301-502-1720
7 pm	God & Family	Sanct.	Pastor Long, x 203
7 pm	N.A.	#116	<i>contact main office</i>

FRIDAY (9)

6:30 pm	Girl Scout Troop #12044	#121	Shirley Douglass, 240-300-5749
7 pm	Praise Team Practice	FLC	Jake Pomrenke, 240-346-3215
7:30 pm	N.A.	#116	<i>contact main office</i>

SATURDAY (10)



Safety at Grace

The Board of Servant Leaders and staff of Grace Lutheran

Church & School are committed to providing a safe place for our students, faculty and staff, worshippers and those who use our facility for meetings or events. In the weeks ahead, we will be addressing the following safety issues:

- CPR classes
- Fire drill during church services
- Adding defibrillators, fire extinguishers, and first aid kits in prominent places
- Personal safety classes
- Building safety training
- Posted maps with exit routes and other safety features clearly marked

The following safety precautions have been implemented:

On March 5, all faculty and staff will attend Emergency Preparedness training.

Beginning on March 11, we will only unlock the main doors (facing Charles Street) for the 8 and 930 services. These will be locked right after the conclusion of the 930 service. One set of the FLC doors (facing East) will be unlocked for the 11am service.

During the month of May, Grace will conduct a fire drill during each of our Sunday morning worship services.



Prayer Corner

As we prepare for Pastor Long's retirement and the call of a new pastor, the Board of Servant Leaders asks that you join them in praying for God's guidance during this transitional process.

Current prayer request:

May the Lord make clear our path to the Shepherd He has planned for Grace.

For our upcoming Envision Workshop (March 17-18). May the Lord direct our hearts and minds to see clearly His plan for Grace Lutheran Church & School; and that the Lord would bless this important event with overwhelming attendance and a spirit of cooperation.

If you would like to be more actively involved in praying for the transition process, please contact Jane Cunningham or email the church office.



Volunteers Needed

Did you ever wonder how to become involved in all the events and celebrations at Grace? Well, here's the answer!!!

The following upcoming events need YOU to make them possible.

- Easter Brunch - Sunday, April 1
- Golf Tournament - Friday, June 15

Interested? Contact Becky Hoffman at bhoffman@growingwithgrace.org or 301-751-1167 and let her know which event you would like to volunteer for or request additional info.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3

FOR I DELIVERED TO YOU
AS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE WHAT I ALSO RECEIVED
THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS
according to Scriptures

HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

What a great beginning to our stewardship emphasis, *How Firm a Foundation!* We heard tremendous testimony about four ministries providing food, clothing, and Christian care to people in need, about our Prison, Recovery and Stephen Ministry programs, youth ministry, and ministries to our Veterans. In the weeks ahead, we will hear about Grace Lutheran School and ministries to the elderly. God is good!!

Feb. 4 — Compassion and Food Ministries (Southern Maryland Compassion Center, FISH Food Pantry, SHARE Food Network, etc.)

Feb. 11 — Prison, Recovery and Stephen Ministry programs

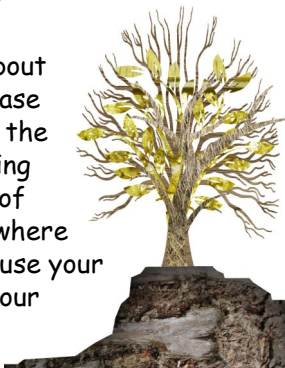
Feb. 18 — Youth Ministry (Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group, VBS)

Feb. 25— Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

Mar. 4—Grace Lutheran School

Mar. 11—Nursing Home Ministries

As you learn more about these ministries, please prayerfully consider the call God may be making to you. As members of the body of Christ, where is God asking you to use your hands....your feet....your voice....your heart?



Our Praise Team Needs You!!



Do you have a heart for worship? Looking for a way to use your talents and abilities in service to our Lord?

Our praise team is actively searching for people who would like to be a part of this dynamic ministry. Whether you can volunteer 1 time a month or weekly, we have a variety of needs.

- Musicians and Singers
- Readers
- Prayer Leaders
- A/V Operators

Support, encouragement and training is provided. We practice every Friday evening at 7 pm in the FLC.

Interested in learning more? Please contact Jake Pomrenke our Praise Leader at 240-346-3215.



Greeters Needed

Do you like to meet and greet folks on Sunday especially our visitors and newcomers? If so, please consider joining our greeters ministry team.

Greeters are often the first face our visitors see and serve as a welcoming presence to those who are new to Grace and are there to provide general assistance and answer questions.

We need greeters at all services, especially on 5th Sundays and to serve as substitutes. Please call Jan Israel at 301-396-3347 if you are interested or would like to know more about this ministry.

Community Life

updated February 2018

WE NEED YOU!! Grace Lutheran Church and School has lots of ways for you to get involved. The "Hospitality Network" is part of our Community Life Out-reach and In-reach. From volunteering in our Café for Coffee Hour, to creating a loving and caring environment for funerals, to working events and receptions, this ministry brings many rewards. We would love to have you join our team. If interested please contact Becky Hoffman 301-751-1167.



Hospitality Network members are: Terri and Jim Anderson, Nancy Miller, Alice Adams, Betty Rowe, and Sandy Curtis. You will see more of their smiling faces as they are placed on our

Coffee Hour scheduling for the upcoming months.

Coffee and donuts/pastries are available in the Café and FLC after all services (except on Easter and 5th Sundays). The next 5th Sunday is April 29. A town hall meeting and pot luck will be scheduled. Details to follow.

Thanks to Jeff Burkee for always making sure the Café is in tip top shape and to Lily Boswell for always taking care of the Tuesday Ladies during their meeting days.



Altar Flowers

When your altar flowers have faded, please return the vase to the old kitchen. We are running low on

our supply. Many thanks.

If you are interested in joining the Grace Flower Team, we would love to have you. Please contact Dianne Shisler at dshisler@verizon.net or 301-932-0251.

WANTED



See Pastor
Long for
more info.

VBS DIRECTOR



Chesapeake District LWML Seeking Officers

The Chesapeake District Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is seeking nominations for the following positions:

- District President
- VP-Communications
- VP-Human Care
- Recording Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Zone Liaison
- Junior Pastoral Counselor

If you are interested in serving or would like to learn more about the LWML, please contact Nancy Miller at 301-752-2359 or 24nrmiller@gmail.com

LWML Upcoming Events

April 28 DCMARVA Spring Rally at Peace Lutheran Church, Washington, DC

September 21-23 LWML District Convention, Richmond, VA

Facilities Corner

updated February 2018

We have been very blessed with some warmer weather. We have managed to keep our snow removal and salt budget to a minimum.



Thanks to Bill Burroughs Sr, Scott Gingerich, Bill Swartzwelder, John Funk, and the Stines who attend to our grounds and other facility needs throughout the year. Many thanks go out to Paula Grant and family for taking care of our "Butterfly Garden".

We are very appreciative of the many volunteers that keep our facility up and running. Thanks to Bill Burroughs for keeping up with the lightbulbs in the building, to Billy Hoffman for looking out for the electric & lighting upgrades, and to Bill Hoffman for keeping our kitchen equipment and other odds and ends in good condition.

Facility projects in process:

- The SMECO light project for replacement to LED's for the entire facility are currently being scheduled. We had an audit by SMECO and have been approved for over \$20,000 in rebates for this project. The remainder of the project will be funded with the proceeds from the 2018 Wine and Cheese Social. *FLC LED lighting has been completed.*
- Solar panels—Currently scheduling an audit for this project.
- Scout shed
- Tree removal in front of sanctuary
- Needed school zone signage for Rt. 6
- Drainage maintenance and blockage
Drains have been flushed and schematics are to be furnished by Magnolia Plumbing as a tool to further investigate drainage issues.
- Planter boxes—Eagle Scout project by Jacob Deal (should be completed by the end of fall)
- AC and heating repair and maintenance.

Recently Completed Items

- ✓ AC/Heating System filters replaced throughout the building
- ✓ Leaf removal from roadway gutters
- ✓ Removal of dead bushes
- ✓ Trimmed back bushes along the side of the Church
- ✓ Flowerbed trenches dug
- ✓ Replacement of left fan and coil in FLC freezer
- ✓ Classroom heater repaired
- ✓ School zone signage installed on Rt. 6
- ✓ Mulching
- ✓ Dusting of all ceiling rafters and ducts in FLC
- ✓ Spot and theater lighting upkeep

2017-2018 Completed Projects

- ✓ Mulching and mats for playground swings.
- ✓ Drainage on west side of facility corrected by Wintergreen and funded by PTL.
- ✓ Grant funds used for replacement of doors/windows in pre-k wing.
- ✓ Snow removal contract acquired and snow stakes have been placed.
- ✓ Fire extinguisher inspections
- ✓ Kitchen compression system inspection
- ✓ Fire protection system replacement & upgrades
- ✓ Office toilet replaced (thanks Dan and Sam Stine)



ENVISION WORKSHOP March 17 & 18

*Calling all members, staff, youth (16 and older),
and friends of Grace Lutheran Church and School*

Please plan to join the Board of Servant Leaders on March 17 and 18 for **Envision**, facilitated by Rev. Travis Guse, Mission Engagement Facilitator for the Central Region of the Southeastern District LC-MS.

Envision is a visioning and strategic planning process that focuses on the best of who we are as ministry in the past, and the hopes for our church today. It will provide a springboard for envisioning the future we sense God is calling us to be in Him, with each other, and for our community. It will also help us take ownership of our ministry, as well as, finding new creative ways to engage others in our ministry and help provide a clearer sense of who God has in mind to lead our congregation as we move forward in the Call process. It offers time to:

- Celebrate who we are
- Strengthen our relationships with one another
- Identify our positive core - what are our strengths?
- Implement 2 -3 short term goals to live out our positive core

We will begin on Saturday, March 17th and gather from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm, with a continental breakfast and lunch provided. We will join together for regular Sunday worship with Pastor Guse preaching, and continue the workshop on Sunday afternoon from noon until 3 pm. Lunch will be provided for participants on Sunday as well.

Please make sure to sign up for this important event so you can add your hopes and dreams for the future of Grace Lutheran Church and School, to the rest of those who will be participating in the process. **Every voice matters** as we work together to co-create the future direction of our ministry. **For more information and to sign up please contact the church office at 301-932-0963 or Kim Bell at kim_bell11@hotmail.com.**

*Daycare will be made available if requested, so please provide that information when you register.

Facility Projects On Hold:

- Parking Lot Paving (quote \$95,000)
- Chair replacement (quote \$8,000)
- Church bathroom upgrades (women's \$8,500, men's \$6,500)
- Upgrades to trash receptacles and hand towel units in school and FLC (quote \$3,000)
- Black out shades for FLC (\$6,000)
- Lighting in front of sanctuary and building (not yet quoted)

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, \$6,800 has been donated towards these items.

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"It says on your résumé that you were created in God's image. Very impressive."

Mark 5

I. Evil is indiscriminate.

A. Examples:

1. An evil man among evil people is afflicted (Mark 5).
2. A good man among good people is afflicted. (Mark 5)
3. An ordinary woman is afflicted (Mark 5).
4. In our world, children are too often the victims of indiscriminate evil.

B. Evil's indiscrimination is often misunderstood. Evil does not love evil. Evil hates everything. Evil cannot bless. Evil does not do good to those who are themselves evil. Evil is evil to both evil and good alike. It is indiscriminate. No bargains with evil have happy endings.

Job 4:8 (ESV) As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same. See Prov. 22:8, Hos 8:7, Gal 6:7-8.
1Tim 5:24 (ESV) The sins of some people are conspicuous, going before them to judgment, but the sins of others appear later.

II. Good is indiscriminate, too.

A. Examples

1. Jesus heals a man possessed by evil and sends him to heal evil people, even though those people had rejected Jesus. (Mark 5)
2. Jesus resurrects Jairus' daughter, even though synagogue rulers like Jairus were among Jesus greatest adversaries. (Mark 5)
3. Jesus heals a woman though her touch rendered him unclean. (Mark 5)
4. I will return to the idea of indiscriminate good in our world in point III.

B. Good's indiscrimination (like evil's) is often misunderstood, too. Good loves good; it does not love evil. It however can bless both. It can, has, and will do good to those who are evil. Good does good to both evil and good alike. It is utterly indiscriminate!

Matthew 5:45 (ESV) "...[God] makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."

III. Indiscriminate good is the core of the gospel.

A. We are the beneficiaries of the indiscriminate good of Christ.

1 Peter 3:18 (ESV) For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,
Romans 5:7-9 (ESV) For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

B. We must rejoice when this indiscriminate good is given to others.

Matthew 5:44 (ESV) — But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

*Peace DC LWML
Invites you to come and support*

The Ruth International Missions

Fashion Show & Silent Auction

Saturday, April 14, 2018

2 pm – 6 pm

**Location: #15 49th Place NE
Washington, DC 20019**

Donations: \$30

*Proceeds will benefit
women and girls in
Sierra Leone.*

Special Celebrity Guest

Vendors & Entertainment

Featuring:

*Pretty I Boutique &
Designs' by Reenski*

For Tickets

Contact Paulette Gaines @ Peace Lutheran Church

Correction: Last week's article incorrectly named Emily Cooley as receiving this award. It should have been Erin Cooley.

Erin Cooley Receives Award



Erin Cooley, daughter of Doug and Cami Cooley and granddaughter of Marty and Joyce Staub, was one of 13 Charles County Public Schools students recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education for their accomplishments in gifted education at a special ceremony on Feb. 21.

"Cooley is an honor roll student and exemplary role model for her peers. She excels in gifted reading and math curriculum, and received a near perfect score on the fourth grade English/Language Arts county assessment. She is a confident student leader, chess player and artist. She helped her DI team earn third place at the 2017 state tournament and participated in the global event. Cooley was the top scoring student on Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy's fourth-grade math team last year. She also plays cello in the school orchestra."

Congratulations Erin!!



Sunday, March 4, 2018

Don't BE
afraid;
JUST
Believe

Mark 5:36

2018 SHARE Food Network

Thousands of families count on SHARE each month for affordable, nutritious groceries that are sold through volunteer-run locations throughout the Washington Metropolitan area. Monthly value packages cost \$20-22 and include \$40-\$50 worth of basic and healthy groceries, typically made up of 4-5 lbs of frozen protein products, 1-3 grocery items and 8-9 lbs of fresh produce.

The following are the pick-up dates for 2018 at Grace Lutheran. For more information please contact Alice Adams at 301-885-1819.

March 24
April 21
May 19
June 16
July 21

August 25
September 22
October 20
November 17

Pick-up/Sign-up Time: 8:30 am—11 am

Please note: No refund or credit. Food not picked up by 11am will be donated to a local food bank. Payments accepted: EBT, debit/credit, money order, cash.

MARCH 2018 –

Host site: Grace Lutheran Church, 1200 Charles St, LaPlata MD
Orders Due March 12th
Distribution Day March 24th, 8:30-11am, also sign up for April

For info contact Alice Adams, 301 885-1819, leave a message

VALUE PACKAGE

\$ 23



HEALTHY, SEASONAL FOOD.
BUY AS MUCH AS YOU'D LIKE

Chicken Breast Filets – 1.1 pound
Pork Chops – 4, 4-oz chops
Ground Turkey – 1 pound
Pollack Filets – 1 pound
Eggs! for Easter – 1 dozen

Plus 8-10 lbs. of the freshest fruits
and vegetables we can find for you and your family

CHICKEN WINGS

10-pound box of un-cooked
JUMBO wings

\$26

EASTER HAM

Spiral Cut, 9 lb. average

\$22



BREAKFAST BURRITOS

12-5 oz Bacon, Egg and Cheese,
fully cooked, heat & serve.

\$10

BEEF BRISKET

2-pound packages of thinly
sliced, heat & serve,
hickory-smoked, brisket.
8 pounds total.



\$24

SHARE grows STRONGER with EVERY PURCHASE

SERVING NEIGHBORHOODS FROM
BALTIMORE, TO CHARLES TOWN, TO MANASSAS,
TO LEXINGTON PARK, TO HAMPTON ROADS

CONVENIENT PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Debit/Credit Cards, EBT, Cash/Money Order

Menu items are subject to change. If it is necessary, we work hard
to make the substitution an upgrade for you.

301.864.3115 800.21.SHARE SHAREdc.org

