

AMAZING GRACE

a weekly newsletter of

Grace Lutheran Church & School

1200 Charles Street • La Plata, MD 20646 • 301-932-0963 • www.growingwithgrace.org

Rev. Ed Huber, Pastor

Jeff Burkee, Principal

Amanda Bell, DCE

WORSHIP TIMES & LOCATIONS

Sunday 8:30 am

Liturgical with Holy Communion
(sanctuary)

Education & Fellowship Hour: 9:45—10:45 am

Sunday 11:00 am

Contemporary Praise with Holy Communion
(family life center)

Nursery Open: 8:15 am—12:15 pm

Wednesday: 6:30 pm Worship & Prayer with Communion

NEW Prayer Ministry Forming



We are looking to start a Prayer Ministry. This ministry team would be comprised of individuals who are committed to an active prayer life, specifically praying for the ministries and families of Grace Lutheran Church & School

- ◆ Every member of the church and school by name
- ◆ Our volunteers and the ministries of the church and school
- ◆ Our sick, shut-ins and needy
- ◆ New members, those newly baptized, confirmed and/or married
- ◆ Every staff member by name

Additionally, this group would plan and schedule special prayer services.

Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to this ministry. If you are interested in serving on the team—or leading this ministry—please contact Andi in the church office, 301-932-0963 or aproctor@growingwithgrace.org.

What Do Lutherans Believe?

For the answer to that burning question, we invite you to join us for “Lutheranism 101,” a quick, usable and comprehensive overview of the Lutheran faith and practice. We’ll dig into the history of Lutheranism and learn what Lutherans believe about God and His Son, faith and belief, heaven and hell, sin and forgiveness...and much more!



This class is for everyone—lifelong Lutherans searching for more information or those who are new to Grace and looking to learn more about who we are and what we believe.

The first class will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 5-6pm, and will run through February 12 (5 sessions). A text book will be provided. To sign up, please contact Andi in the church office, aproctor@growingwithgrace.org or 301-932-0963.

Statement on Holy Communion/The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. 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.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an usher.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34. Faith in Christ and His word is necessary for a blessed reception including Baptism in the name of the Trinity and faith in [1] Christ as Savior, [2] Jesus' clear words that the Sacrament is His body and blood, [3] the Lord's promise that in the Sacrament his or her sins are forgiven, and [4] receipt of the promised forgiveness reaffirmed and strengthened in his or her union with Christ and other Christians. The unbaptized and uninstructed person who does not yet know or believe in Christ and His promises is unprepared and should not commune. The unrepentant person who does not seek Christ's forgiveness for sins—either general or particular—or refuses to forgive someone is unprepared and should not commune. The doubting person who denies or is unconvinced of what Jesus says of His bodily presence in the sacrament or its promised forgiveness is unprepared and should not commune.

Prayer Before Communion

Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer After Communion

Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Let us pray for you . . . prayers@growingwithgrace.org

General: Bill Hoffman, Donnie Hatsell, Jennifer, Bill Lakner, Cindy Bohmann, Liesel Weimer, Larry, Glen Irwin, Don Shisler, Les Wilson, Pat Murray, Alice Morrill, Addie, Matt, Pete Gehris, Robert, Carl Fletcher, Rev. Art Scherer, Dean Elliott, Linda Otto, Chris Otto, Bob Kidwell, Steve Lindsey, Gisela Jaschik

Those Battling Cancer: April Ellis, Alicia Cordelle, Michael, Brenda, Bruce Rowe, Dave Gehris, Gale Elrod, Dorothy Maddox, Gloria Spicer, Don Shisler, Rev. David Percy, Denise Clark Hall, Chuck Wilson, Jean Nelson, Laura Decker, Kevin Bobish, James Dobbs, Jon Gehris, Mary Nelson, Adam Lumpkins, Merry Dawson, Carrie Wyman, Paul Proctor, Tim Motz, Muriel, Dana, Ken Ritch, Peter Tretner, Christina Allen, Rob, Carol Whitsell, Alice Levine, Lois Hookham, Jesse Stump, Chris Moorhouse, Nichole Garner, Megan Jenkins, Carol Ann Sowers

Those in Nursing Homes/Shut-Ins: Shirley Biondi, Jill Esancy, Connie Hein, Del Riege, Bob Springer, Dan Waltz

Our Military/Civilians Overseas: Jeffrey and Jackie (Mozingo) Downie, Troy Dupont, Marshall Gibbs, Rebecca Mozingo

Missionaries: Bob and Salme Bugenhagen, Mark and Megan Mantey (Uganda) Matt and Caroline Edelen (Papua Indonesia).

Sunday School & Bible Studies

CHILDREN/YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Opening—9:45am, Sanctuary

We meet as a group in the sanctuary and then move to our respective rooms at 10am.

Preschool - Rm #120

Ann Stine & Dawn Cartwright

Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades - Rm #215

Linda Samara

3rd & 4th Grades - Rm #212

Dan Stine

5th & 6th Grades - Rm #210

Frank Cartwright

7th Grade Confirmation - Rm #310 (modular)

Rev. Ed Huber, Amanda Bell, DCE

8th Grade Confirmation - Rm #116

Rev. Ed Huber, Amanda Bell, DCE

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Fellowship and Coffee Hour

Rm #112 (café)

Today's Bible Readings: Digging deeper into the Scripture readings for the day.

Rm #208 (library)

The Daniel Plan: Biblical based approach to a healthy lifestyle.

Rm #203

NEW Adult Bible Study

When: 7pm, Sunday, January 26

What: Study of 1 and 2 Peter

Where: Bill & Cheryl Swartzwelder's home

Please join us for fellowship and engaging conversation. Contact Bill or Faith Evans at 301-932-1230 if interested so they can order enough study guides.



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY

Men's Fellowship Group and Bible Study

6:30 pm, Rm #112 (café)

Dan Stine, 301-645-8956

Frank Cartwright, 301-674-0772

Study of 1 and 2 Peter (beg. 1/26/20)

7pm, home of Bill & Cheryl Swartzwelder
301-934-4713

MONDAY

Women's Bible Study

Dinner 6pm, Study 6:30 pm

Rm #112 (café)

Susan Gastler, 301-751-4867

TUESDAY

Ladies Bible Study

9am, Rm #116

Judy Knott, 301-743-3156

WEDNESDAY

Daniel Plan

7pm, Rm #112 (café)

Cathy Burkee, countrygrandmab@gmail.com

Jean Nelson, jnelson1066@gmail.com

THURSDAY

Crossways

6:30pm, Rm #112 (café)

Curt Springer, curtaspringer@comcast.net

Community Life

We Need You!! Grace Lutheran Church and School has lots of ways for you to get involved. One way is through our "Hospitality Network". From volunteering in our for Coffee Hour, to creating a loving and caring environment for funerals, to working special events and receptions, this ministry brings joy to those we serve.



Team members: Terri and Jim Anderson, Nancy Miller, Alice Adams, Bruce and Betty Rowe, Lori DeLoache, and Sandy Curtis.

We can always count on the Scopps and Cartwrights to fill in when needed.

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.

We would love to have you join our team. Please contact Becky Hoffman 301-751-1167.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Digging Deeper Join Any Time

All adults are invited to join the Sunday School class. We meet in the school library ~9:45 and spend about 40-45 minutes reviewing the Bible readings for the day and other related biblical topics. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please contact Curt Springer at curt.springer@comcast.net or 301-848-2642.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER.

hebrews 13:8

Stephen Ministry Verse



As noted in the last call process update, in early November, the Southeast District (SED) President provided GLCS with a list of pastors for consideration as our next senior pastor. The call committee reviewed the list of pastors, held phone conversations (via video-tele-conference (VTC)) with several pastors, and have invited a few pastors to visit GLCS in January. At this stage in the call process, we do not share the names of the pastors the call committee is considering; we are mindful the pastors may not have told their congregations they are open to considering a call.

As we look ahead, it's possible we may have a Call Service in late February or March. The Board of Servant Leaders will announce the Call Service (which is also a Voters Meeting). Prior to the Call Service, there will be Town Hall Meetings where the congregation will be provided additional information on the call process and the pastors.

The members of the call committee are: Paula Jones, Paul Lenker, Pat Lewis, Jo Moran, Erin Pomrenke, Rhonda Rich, Curt Springer, Dan Stine, Gretchen Toliver, and Gary Whitsell. The call committee continues to ask for your prayers and support as we seek to find the pastor we know that God intends for us to have. If you have any questions or would like additional information, email Curt Springer at curt.springer@comcast.net or call 301-848-2642.

The Radical Contrasts of Kings: Jesus and the House of Herod [Matthew 2: 13-23]

Herod is not a genuine king

Matthew is busy with OT citations: Hosea 11:1, Jeremiah 31:15, and multiple allusions to the despised Messiah

Jesus: Taxonomy of Moses or more properly Moses: Taxonomy of Jesus

- The ministry of Jesus is a new exodus with Jesus as Israel – the new Son of God

Out of Egypt I called my son is a direct citation of Hosea 11:1

- The first exodus redeems Israel from slavery and bondage in Egypt
- The second exodus through the greater and perfect son redeems us from slavery and bondage to our sin

Jesus is Israel - he is the promised Son of God

We cannot help but read the OT as types of NT realities

- The OT records real events
- OT history reflects NT realities in specific situational detail, amplified escalation and climax

The OT types help us comprehend Matthew 2: 24 -15

- Jesus is the son that comes out of Egypt and saves His people from their sin

Where is the slaughter of innocent children by Herod pictured in the OT?

- Jeremiah 31: 15 - *Thus, says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.*"

Why do we regard the Holy Innocents of Bethlehem as martyrs?

- They die for the sake of Christ
- Hence, we celebrate Holy Innocent's Day every December 28

Joseph is again warned in a dream about the violent son of Herod taking up where his father left off in Judea

- Joseph leaves Galilee for Nazareth
- Our Lord is called a Nazarene and receives the contempt due a person of Nazareth

Can you imagine how confused Joseph and Mary must have been – yet remain faithful and obedient to God?

APPLICATION: It is better to suffer all things for the Gospel – God works for our good [2 Corinthians 4]

What Jesus, Joseph and Mary know, trust, and live are the promises of God and God has a plan for me and you

- An OT plan – a NT plan – a perfect plan for a perfect Son and our redemption
- We do not always know where God is leading us but we can be certain that He is with us and His plans are for our good

Help For Your Food Budget

SHARE, a non-profit, community-based organization, provides healthy and nutritious groceries at an almost 50% discount. This is accomplished through high-volume purchasing and thousands of volunteer hours.



Monthly packages cost \$23 and include \$40-\$50 worth of basic and healthy groceries, typically made up of 4-6 lbs of frozen protein and 8-12 lbs fresh fruits and vegetables, sometimes with seasonal grocery or dessert items. "Specials" are also available each month.

See [January's menu on page 10](#). If you'd like more information on the program or are interested in volunteering, please contact Alice Adams, amadams1@verizon.net.



Stay Informed

The best way to stay up-to-date with all the news and events at Grace is through our email lists. We currently have 2 lists:

Prayer Warriors: Used solely for prayer request

News & Announcements: Everything else (including weather closings).

If you'd like to add your email to our lists, please contact Andi in the church office at 301-932-0963 or aproctor@growingwithgrace.org.

Offering Envelopes

2020 offering envelopes are now available. Please pick up your box from the table in the narthex.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You may not have the same envelope number as in previous years. If your number has changed, continue using your current number through 12/31. Your new number will be effective 1/1/20.

If you would like a set of offering envelopes, please sign up on the sheet provided. You do not need to be a member to request envelopes.



Compassion Center Volunteers Needed

The Southern Maryland Compassion Center is in need of volunteers during the following days and times:

When the trailer is here:
Th/F/Sa, 10am—2pm

When the trailer is not here
Th/Sa, 10am—12pm

Handyman/Mr. Fix-it for small repairs and maintenance.

If you are available—even if it's just one time—please contact Barbara Hays, 301-518-7321.

This is a vital resource to our community but it's only available if we have the volunteers. Please prayerfully consider whether the Lord may be calling you to this ministry.

volunteer
do good, feel good

Grace Lutheran School

1200 Charles Street, LaPlata, MD 301 932-0963

www.growingwithgrace.org

Grow



The largest number 4,945
The smallest number 132
The largest even number 9,999
The smallest odd number 257



Learn



Succeed

Looking for a Great School for the coming year???

Join us at our Open House February 10 6-8 p.m.

Grades Pre K 2 - 8th Grade

For more information call Jen Armstrong at 301 932-0963 or email:

jarmstrong@growingwithgrace.org

Teaching Quality Academics; Instilling Christian Values for over 44 years

HAPPY
2020
NEW
YEAR

Stewardship Verse

Gal. 4:4 - "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law." Jesus was born under the law so that He might fulfill the law in our place. His perfect righteousness is credited to us. And it is this free forgiveness of sins and this crediting of righteousness that sets us free to follow our Lord in godly living. Since we are freed from the law's condemnation, we are freed from any mercenary attitudes. Now that the Lord has shown His love to us in saving us, we freely show our thanks to Him in generosity, humility, and kindness.



Immediate Openings in Extended Care

Please share if you know anyone who would be a good fit!!

Seeking kind and dependable Extended Care Teacher and Aide for preschool aged children. Must love working with children!

Responsibilities include creating and implementing developmentally appropriate lesson plans while maintaining a happy, healthy and safe environment for our children. Looking for afternoon help and possibly some mornings, Monday through Friday.

Must obtain medical clearance and successfully pass criminal background check. If interested please contact Lindsey Shafer at lshaffer@growingwithgrace.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY (29)

2 pm Ch. Hall Vets Ministry off-site Bill Eckman, 301-934-4874

MONDAY (30)

6:10 pm Yoga Basics FLC Annah Rinaldo, annahrinaldo@gmail.com
 7 pm Stephen Ministry Mentors 116 Paul Lenker, dcministry@growingwithgrace.org

TUESDAY (31)

7:30 pm A.A. 116 *contact main office*

WEDNESDAY (1)



New Years Day Worship with communion
 11am—sanctuary

THURSDAY (2)

7 pm A.A. 116 *contact main office*

FRIDAY (3)

7:30 pm N.A. 116 *contact main office*

SATURDAY (4)

1 pm Baby Shower 116 *contact main office*

Holiday Office Hours

Grace Lutheran Church and School offices will be closed on the following days:

December 24 and 25
 December 31 and January 1



Additionally, our staff will be operating on a reduced schedule during the week of Christmas and New Years. If you will need entry to the building and do not have a key, please call ahead to make sure the office will be open.

Children's Bags are available in the back



"let the little children come to me..."
Luke 18:16, NIV

of each service. If you would like to keep you children in service with you but they may need something to keep them occupied, please pick one up and return it after the service.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Thank You to our dedicated servants who keep our facility and grounds in working order.

- Grounds Crew: Bill Burroughs, Scott Gingerich, Jerry Miller, Bill Swartzwelder and John Funk
- Butterfly Garden: Paula Grant and Nigel Wyllie
- Lightbulb Replacement: Bill Burroughs
- Electrical and Lighting Upgrades: Billy Hoffman
- Kitchen Equipment Maintenance and Misc: Bill Hoffman

Thank you to Emily Ferren who has been researching, completing and submitting grant applications.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Replacement of windows and doors in preschool (grant funding)
- Solar panels – audit schedule to be arranged this spring after reviewing references from Peace Lutheran.
- Scout shed
- AC and heating repair and maintenance – ongoing
- Replacement of hooks & door closures in restrooms (FLC & prek) - item on order
- Repair dry chemical suppression system
- Fire strobe light and fire horn replacement
- Phone system provider change due to VoIP availability/savings

NEWLY COMPLETED PROJECTS AND REPAIRS

- Mop sink room between church bathrooms received a new faucet, paint and flooring.
- Planters updated for winter
- 5 LED exit signs and LED lighting installed in mezzanine
- Snow removal contract signed for 2019-2020

Projects Awaiting Full Funding

- Parking Lot Paving (\$95,000 - \$131,937.00) contributions received: \$0
- FLC Chair Replacement (\$14,000) contributions received: \$0
- Upgrades to trash receptacles & hand towel units in school and FLC (\$3,000) contributions received \$10
- Black out shades for FLC (\$6,000) contributions received: \$10
- LED Light replace for all remaining parking lot poles contributions received: \$0

Please contact Becky Hoffman, 301-751-1167, bhoffman@growingwithgrace.org or Jeff Burkee, 301-932-0963 x, 201, jurkee@growingwithgrace.org with any questions.

Entry to the Building



1. If you are volunteering or will be working in the school you must sign in through the school office and receive a visitor badge.
2. If your visit concerns only the church and you will not be entering the school portion of the facility, you can enter via the doors at the café or the sanctuary. Please use the doorbells indicated and someone will open the door for you.

JANUARY 2020

Happy New Year!

GraceLutheranChurch, 1200 Charles St, LaPlata, MD

Orders Due January 13th. For info leave message for Alice Adams
301 885-1819



Distribution Days are January 25th **8-10am**

VALUE PACKAGE

\$ 23



ORDER AS MANY AS YOU LIKE

- Chicken Drums - 3 lbs
- Ground Turkey - 1 lb
- Bacon - 1 lb
- Tilapia, 1 lb

Plus 8-10 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables!

CHICKEN WINGS

SMOKED, JUST HEAT & SERVE

10 POUNDS (2-5 LB BAGS)

\$30



MEGA PORK BOX

2 - 1 ¼LB HAM STEAKS

1 - 2.5LBS COOKED BBQ RIBS

2 - 1.8LB PORK LOINS

\$32

**ALL
SPECIALS
LIMITED**

FRIED SHRIMP

3LBS of oven-able,

battered Shrimp

\$24



PERSONAL PIZZA

20 - 5" PEPPERONI PIZZAS

\$22



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PAYMENT OPTIONS: Debit/Credit Cards, EBT, Cash/Money Order

Menu items are subject to change.

301.864.3115 800.21.SHARE SHAREdc.org