

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

HELLO
my name is

TODAY IS

NAME TAG SUNDAY

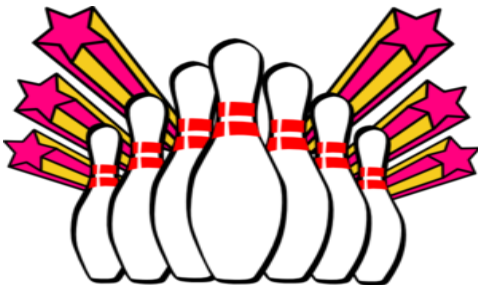
WEAR A NAME TAG AND INTRODUCE
YOURSELF TO *SOMEONE NEW!*

Youth Bowling—Tonight!

Meet at AMF Waldorf Lanes

6-8pm • Cost to Youth \$6

Questions? See DCE Amanda Bell



CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

As announced at both services on February 2nd, the Board of Servant Leaders, upon the recommendation of the call committee, has scheduled a Voters Meeting, in the form of a Call Service, on Sunday, February 23, 2020, at 3:00 PM in the Family Life Center, for the purpose of electing a Senior Pastor for Grace Lutheran Church and School. This is a special Voters Meeting and only matters directly related to calling a Senior Pastor will be on the agenda.

The Board of Servant Leaders and the Call Committee will host town-hall style meetings to provide information about the call process and candidates. These meetings are open to all interested persons.

(Continued on page 4)

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: Carolyn Weimert, Brenda and Archie schoenbeck, Nick Cooper, Donna Moore, Les Wilson, Gerry Burkee, Donnie Hatsell, Jennifer, Bill Lakner, Cindy Bohmann, Liesel Weimer, Larry, Glen Irwin, Don Shisler, Alice Morrill, Addie, Matt, Pete Gehris, Robert, Carl Fletcher, Dean Elliott, Linda Otto, Chris Otto, Bob Kidwell, Steve Lindsey

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

Those in Nursing Homes/Shut-Ins: Delores Steinhilber, 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 #213

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

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.

Contact: Curt Springer at curtaspringer@comcast.net or 301-848-2642.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY

Men's Fellowship Group and Bible Study

6:30pm, Rm #112 (café)

Dan Stine, 301-645-8956

Frank Cartwright, 301-674-0772

Study of 1 and 2 Peter

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

MONDAY

Women's Bible Study

Dinner 6pm, Study 6:30pm

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



Our Lenten meals will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 26.

The meal for that evening will be a pancake supper and will be prepared by the church and school staff.

The Crossways Bible Study group has the meal on March 4—friend chicken and mac & cheese.

Our Scout group will prepare and serve spaghetti, salad and garlic bread on March 11.

On March 25, the Sunday evening Men's Bible Study is planning on Chili and Cornbread. They are interested in partnering up with another small group for this meal.

We still have three Lenten meals, March 18 and April 1. If your ministry or small group is interested in one of those dates, please contact Becky Hoffman at 301-752-1167 or bhoffman@growingwithgrace.org

We hope you'll plan to join us for meals, fellowship and worship on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

Meals begin at 5:30pm in the family life center.

Worship begins at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.



(Continued from page 1)

Town Hall Meetings

- Sunday, February 9, 10:00-10:45 am
(between worship services)
- Sunday, February 16, 10:00-10:45 am
(between worship services)
- Wednesday, February 19, 7:00 – 7:45 pm
(after worship service)
- Sunday, February 23, 10:00 – 10:45 am
(between worship services)

The schedule for February 23rd will be:

8:30 am –Liturgical worship service

10:00 am –Town Hall Meeting

11:00 am –Praise worship service

3:00 pm – Voters Meeting / Call Service,
Family Life Center

Rev. Chris Ogne, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Bryans Road, MD and our circuit counselor, will lead the service.

Child care will be provided starting at 3:00 pm and continuing until the end of the Call Service.

While members and friends may attend this meeting, only those listed as members of Grace Lutheran Church in the official membership directory and who are age 18 or older may vote, as specified in our governing documents. If you have any question as to your status, please contact Andrea Proctor in the church office as soon as possible.

We look forward to your participation in this extremely important event in the life of our church!

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Evans (Board President) at 301-643-3505 or wjevansjr@gmail.com or Curt Springer at 301-848-2642 or curtaspringer@comcast.net (Call Committee Chair).



**Fellowship for ALL
members and friends of
Grace Lutheran Church
and School**

March 7th 6pm-8pm

Where: FLC

Cost is \$1

**Themed Costumes
are Encouraged**

**Sign up link available on Church
and School Website**

or talk to

**DCE Amanda Bell—
abell@growingwithgrace.org**

Volunteers needed



URGENT Need: Compassion Center Volunteers

The Southern Maryland Compassion Center provides household items, clothing, food and support to those in need in our community. The center, staffed solely by volunteers, is facing a critical shortage in people available to serve. If we don't have volunteers, the center is not able to open and those who stop by are turned away—individuals and families who have been referred to us through the Department of Social Services, LifeStyles, local churches and other community based organizations.

Do you have a hour or two a week you can spare? Can you work one Saturday a month? Whatever your availability, we need you!! This could be a great opportunity for service hours for older teens or as a family ministry project. Days & times are listed below:

When the trailer is here:

Thur-Fri-Sat: 10am—2pm

When the trailer is not here:

Thur and Sat: 10am—12pm

* We are also in need of a Handyman/Mr. Fix-it for small repairs and maintenance.

Would you like to learn more? Ready to volunteer? 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.



NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

JOY:FULLY LUTHERAN

1 THESS 5:16-24

MARCH 1-7, 2020



June 15th - August 7th

Fun Activities!

- Arts & Crafts
- Sports
- Science Experiments
- Water Play
- Drama Club
- Cooking
- Dance & Tumbling
- Humane Society Visits
- Kona Ice Truck
- Themed Dress up Days
- and SO much more!!



For more information contact Lindsey Shafer at
lshafer@growingwithgrace.org

12TH ANNUAL GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Wine & Cheese

SOCIAL AND AUCTION

Saturday, May 2, 7-10PM

FEATURING:

- Upscale Wines and Craft Beers
- High-End Served Hors d'oeuvres
- Decadent Desserts
- Musical Entertainment

Non-Alcoholic Beverages Included

TICKETS: *Ticket Sales Begin April 1*

- \$45/person (advance)
- \$48/person (online)
- \$50/person (door)



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Able-Bodied Volunteers Needed

Each Sunday at 2pm, a group of dedicated volunteers lead a worship service at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

Residents who can, eagerly make their way to the worship area each Sunday afternoon. Those with no or limited mobility can only attend if someone helps them. Some have family or friends to do that, many do not. That's where we need YOUR help.

We need people who can move residents via wheelchair to the worship area and then back to their room once the service is over.

Can you volunteer once a month? Once a quarter? Whenever you are available—WE NEED YOU. This is a great service opportunity for youth and a great way for families to serve together.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Bill Eckman at eckman4@verizon.net or 301-934-4874.



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 concerns

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 aroctor@growingwithgrace.org.

Volunteer
do good, feel good

Children's Bags are available in the back of each service. If you would like to keep your children in service with you but they may need something to keep them occupied, please pick one up and return it after the service.



Grace is proud to use Equal Exchange coffees and teas. These products are also available for purchase and make great gifts and items for gift baskets. Please see the display in the café or contact Becky Hoffman, bhoffman@growingwithgrace.org.

GLC&S 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 \$100**
- Black out shades for FLC (\$6,000) **contributions received: \$100**
- LED Light replace for all remaining parking lot poles contributions received: \$0

PLEASE TURN YOUR MITE BOXES IN ON SUNDAY, MARCH 1.

LWML Mite Challenge Calendar February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Gospel Focus for February:</p> <p><i>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God” (1 John 4:7).</i></p>						<p>1 Thank God for the blessing of relationships. Donate 25¢.</p>
<p>2 Sit by a visitor today. Visit with them after the service. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>3 Pray for the visitor(s) you met yesterday. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>4 Thank God for Rosa Parks and others who have worked for civil rights. Donate 25¢.</p>	<p>5 Read the book of Ruth. Thank God for His love letter to us. Donate 25¢.</p>	<p>6 Contact a family member or friend. Thank them for their love and support. Donate 15¢.</p>	<p>7 Pray for your church secretary. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>8 Read the book of Philemon. Pray for forgiveness and love in our country. Donate 25¢.</p>
<p>9 Thank the organist/pianist for praising the Lord with her/his musical skills. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>10 Mail a Valentine to a shut-in. Include a Mustard Seed devotion. Donate 5¢.</p>	<p>11 Mail a Valentine thank-you to your pastor(s). Donate 20¢.</p>	<p>12 Pray for caregivers as they share God’s love with their care-receivers. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>13 Look for red and pink things today. Thank God for His colorful world. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>14 Read Psalm 136 and thank God for His loving kindness. Donate 14¢.</p>	<p>15 Pray for those who are grieving. Ask for God’s love and peace. Donate 15¢.</p>
<p>16 Thank God for all the LCMS pastors serving in His precious name. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>17 Praise God. Thank Him for His creation. Donate 25¢.</p>	<p>18 Send a message of God’s hope to someone battling cancer. Donate 50¢.</p>	<p>19 Forgive a family member or friend who has hurt you. Pray for her/him. Donate 50¢.</p>	<p>20 Read Acts 2:42-47; reflect on the loving act of fellowship. Donate as you wish.</p>	<p>21 Pray that God will enable you to be joyful and generous in sharing His Word. Donate 10¢.</p>	<p>22 Prepare donations for a local food pantry. Donate 10¢.</p>
<p>23 You are God’s loved treasure. Smile and greet 23 people at church. Donate 25¢.</p>	<p>24 Ask God to bless our country’s leaders with wisdom. Donate 50¢.</p>	<p>25 Have pancakes for dinner. Share the meaning of Ash Wednesday and Lent. Donate 15¢.</p>	<p>26 Reflect on God’s loving sacrifice of His only Son for our salvation. Donate \$1.</p>	<p>27 Meditate on the verses of the hymn, “In Christ Alone.” Donate 25¢.</p>	<p>28 Explore the LWML website for activities and ideas to share. Donate 40¢.</p>	<p>29 Praise God! “Leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven ...” (Luke 6:23). Donate 25¢.</p>

Stewardship Verse

1 Cor. 3:7 – “So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.” Isn't that the truth! It's not just true about preachers like Paul; it's true about all of us in the Christian life. God can do such wonderful things with our feeble efforts. This is so very true of our gifts to the Lord's work in the church. From His generous giving to us, we learn to give generously. Then the Lord blesses this response to His grace in turn, and He uses our very giving to continue to bless us in the church where we hear of His gracious generosity to us. The cycle repeats, and the Lord gives growth!



In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Romans 8:26



Altar Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Cindy and Frank Gardiner in celebration of daughter Lannea's birthday

and by

Stephanie Potter in memory of Helen Clark's birthday.

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
- Emily Ferren who has been researching, completing and submitting grant applications.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Replacement of windows and doors in preschool (pending grant funding)
- Solar panels – audit to be scheduled this spring after reviewing references
- Scout shed
- AC and heating repair and maintenance – ongoing
- Sanctuary carpet repairs (insurance)
- Repairs to dry chemical suppression system (ongoing)
- Fire strobe light and fire horn replacement (ongoing)
- Rehab of playground benches
- Modular roof repair and replacement

NEWLY COMPLETED PROJECTS AND REPAIRS

- Carpet cleaned in café and church hallway
- Phone system provider change due to VoIP availability/savings
- Curtain rod repair and curtain maintenance in the FLC
- 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

Jesus explains the law spiritually [Matthew 5: 21- 37]

Introduction

- Jesus who fulfills the Law and the Prophets reveals the original intent of the Law

Even common-sense laws seem to explode into a morass of regulations.

The scribes and pharisees accept that scripture cannot be broken

- They seek righteousness by keeping the law by their works
- Jesus expounds the true meaning of the law as sweeping truth and revelation from God on six subjects: murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, revenge, and love.

Jesus first aims at the Fifth Commandment: *You shall not murder*

- Whoever murders is liable to divine judgment
- The Greeks call anger: *a short madness – a sickness*

TRUE OR FALSE: You can murder a person with just words and bitter insults

- True - poisonous root. [The Large Catechism]
- Horizontal relationships within the church are NOT independent of our relationship with God – especially in Holy Communion
- Divisions and factions are a contradiction of faith [Share the Peace]

Jesus next speaks to the Sixth Commandment on adultery and sexual purity in terms of thought and deed

- Lust is the same as adultery in every respect - sin
- But if we do sin – we turn in poverty of spirit to God for forgiveness [John 8:11]

The next subject is divorce

- The Jews are experts at focusing on how to divorce rather than on the limited circumstances that permit divorce
- Deuteronomy 24: the schools of Shammai and Hillel
- Divorce is the same as adultery in the sight of God

The common presumption: Divorce is not a big deal - Jesus says – *do not divorce*

In beginning the second triad of law explanations - Jesus tackles the subject of oaths

- Any oath is a promise to God
- The promises of sinful beggars are worthless when it comes to binding force
- Large Catechism: Focus on the promises of God that find their YES in Christ

The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York: *Mediocrity is the Enemy.*

- Jesus tells his disciples; *therefore, you shall be perfect* (Matthew 5:48)

Jesus raises the bar of obedience and moral behavior for his disciples in Matthew 5

- But his love, mercy, and grace raise us up infinitely and eternally over the bar of the law and safely all the way home to heaven
- Jesus is the Lamb of God that manifests absolute perfection for us
- Jesus is the beatitude of blessing who says: *your sins are forgiven.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY (16)

10 am	Town Hall Meeting	Sanct.	Curt Springer, curtaspringer@comcast.net
2 pm	Ch. Hall Vets Ministry	off-site	Bill Eckman, 301-934-4874
6 pm	GRUVE Bowling	off-site	Amanda Bell, abell@growingwithgrace.org
6:30pm	Men's Bible Study	112	Dan Stine, 301-645-8956

MONDAY (17)

HOLIDAY—GLC&S Offices Closed

6 pm	Choir Practice	sanct	Marty Staub, cmstaub@juno.com
6 pm	Grief Support Group	120	Carolyn Weimert, 301-934-8243
6:10 pm	Yoga Basics	FLC	Annah Rinaldo, annahrinaldo@gmail.com
7 pm	Stephen Ministry	112	Paul Lenker, dcministry@growingwithgrace.org
7:20 pm	LutherRingers	sanct	Marty Staub, cmstaub@juno.com

TUESDAY (18)

9 am	Ladies Christcare	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 (19)

1 pm	Admin. Staff Meeting	112	<i>contact main office</i>
5 pm	Lutheranism 101	116	<i>contact main office</i>
7 pm	Board of Servant Leaders	116	Bill Evans, wjevansjr@gmail.com
7 pm	Town Hall Meeting	sanct	Curt Springer, curtaspringer@comcast.net
7 pm	Praise Team Practice	FLC	Jake Pomrenke, 240-346-3215
7 pm	Daniel Plan	112	Jean Nelson, jcnelson1066@gmail.com

THURSDAY (20)

12:45 pm	Nursing Home Ministry	off-site	<i>contact main office</i>
6:30 pm	BSA #1321	FLC	Cris Purnell, 301-502-1720
6:30 pm	Crossways	112	Curt Springer, curtaspringer@comcast.net
6:30 pm	Cub Scout #1799	203	Jane Cunningham, janecunningham@verizon.net
7 pm	A.A.	116	<i>contact main office</i>

FRIDAY (21)

12 pm	GLC Book Club	112	Maggie Mahaffey, 301-643-3978
7 pm	LPBK Youth Training	FLC	<i>contact main office</i>
7:30 pm	N.A.	116	<i>contact main office</i>

SATURDAY (22)

5 am	SHARE Delivery/Sorting	FLC	Alice Adams, 301-885-1819
8 am	SHARE Distribution	112	Alice Adams, 301-885-1819