

# **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) Sunday 11:00 am

Contemporary Praise with Holy Communion (family life center)

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

Nursery Open: 8:15 am—12:15 pm

Wednesday: 6:30 pm Worship & Prayer with Communion

## Easter Egg Hunt Donations Needed



An Easter Egg Hunt will be held during the Sunday School hour on Palm Sunday.

We need donations of individually wrapped candy and new plastic eggs. Collection boxes will be located in the family life center and the narthex (outside the sanctuary). We welcome already filled eggs as well. Thank you for your support of our youngest members.

Please contact Amanda Bell or Michelle Keeter with any questions.

# Yard Sale—Save the Date!



Mark your calendars for the 16<sup>th</sup> annual yard sale to benefit the Southern Maryland Compassion Center to be held May 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be renting spaces as well as accepting donations of items. Reservations for spaces will begin April 20<sup>th</sup>.

# Senior Pastor Call Update

At the Voters Meeting (in the form of a Call Service) on Sunday, February 23, 2020 the members of Grace Lutheran Church and School voted to call Pastor Braun Campbell of St. John's Lutheran Church in Alex-



andria, VA as our senior pastor. The vote to call Pastor Campbell was with a 2/3 majority as required by our covenant & by-laws and occurred on the first round of voting.

Pastor Campbell and his wife Leslie will be visiting GLCS on March 28-29. Specific details regarding this visit will be provided to the congregation as soon as the itinerary is finalized.

We ask for prayers for Pastor Campbell, his family and St. John's Lutheran Church during this time. If you have any questions, please contact Curt Springer at 301-848-2642 or <u>curtaspringer@comcast.net</u> (Call Committee Chair).

# 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. 11:1734. 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

<u>General:</u> Carol Whitsell, Del Riege, Ruth Hollister, Brenda and Archie Schoenbeck, Nick Cooper, Donna Moore, Les Wilson, Gerry Burkee, Donnie Hatsell, Jennifer, Bill Lakner, Cindy Bohmann, Liesel Weimer, Larry, 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 Pearcy, 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

**<u>Our Military/Civilians Overseas</u>**: 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



# **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
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Rm #213 Rev. Ed Huber, Amanda Bell, DCE
- 8<sup>th</sup> 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 <u>curtaspring-</u> <u>er@comcast.net</u> or 301-848-2642.

# WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

#### <u>SUNDAY</u>

Men's Fellowship Group and Bible Study 6:30pm, Rm #112 (café) Dan Stine, 301-645-8956 Frank Cartwright, 301-674-0772

<u>Study of 1 and 2 Peter</u> 7pm, home of Bill & Cheryl Swartzwelder 301-934-4713

#### <u>MONDAY</u>

<u>Women's Bible Study</u> Dinner 6pm, Study 6:30pm Rm #112 (café) Susan Gastler, 301-751-4867

#### **TUESDAY**

<u>Ladies Bible Study</u> 9am, Rm #116 Judy Knott, 301-743-3156

#### **WEDNESDAY**

Daniel Plan 7pm, Rm #112 (café) Cathy Burkee, countrygrandmab@gmail.com Jean Nelson, jcnelson1066@gmail.com

#### **THURSDAY**

<u>Crossways</u> 6:30pm, Rm #112 (café) Curt Springer, curtaspringer@comcast.net





# Where are the Flowers?

A Lenten tradition observed at Grace is the absence of flowers on the altar. Lent is a penitential season and flowers are usually associated with rejoicing. For this reason, the altar is bare. You will also notice the absence of "Alleluias" in liturgy and music.

All these things are done to amplify the resurrection message of Easter Sunday when we will gather together in worship areas filled with Easter flowers; we'll once again sing "Alleluia" to our Savior and King; and we will transform an old cross—a symbol of sin and death—into a beautiful Resurrection Cross—a symbol of Christ's victory over sin and death.



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.

Current team members: Terri and Jim Anderson, Alice Adams, Bruce and Betty Rowe, Lori DeLoache, and Sandy Curtis.

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



## Lenten Meal

Youth Ministries will be preparing and serving the Lenten meal on March 18. We will be doing soup and sandwiches plus desserts.

Make sure to sign up!

Any questions talk with DCE Amanda Bell.



# **March Madness**



Let's watch some basketball and talk about what it truly means to compete.

Sunday, March 22

6pm - 8pm

Family Life Center

Dinner Provider needed

Make sure to sign up!

# UBUNTU



# Let's get to know each other!

Sunday, March 8 6pm - 8pm Family Life Center *Dinner Provider needed* Make sure to sign up!





## **Organ Update**

The plan for a new organ, approved at the annual voters assembly meeting last May, stated

that we'd buy the organ model based on the funds donated directly for that purpose. By the fall, more than sufficient funds were in hand to purchase the Rogers 233 and it was installed in time for the Christmas season. HOWEVER, since more than enough money for the 233 was raised, but not enough for the next model up, the 343, the vendor offered to upgrade at no additional installation cost if the needed funds were realized within six months. IT HAPPENED! The newer organ (model 343) is scheduled to be installed March 26-27.

PLEASE NOTE - The cost for all aspects of the organ replacement, and now upgrade, were and are covered by funds raised specifically for that purpose and no general operating funds have been used.

Please contact Bill Evans with any questions. (301-643-3505; <u>wjevansjr@gmail.com</u>)

# Help For Your Food Budget



SHARE, a non-profit, communitybased 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.

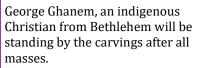
View March's menu on page 8. If you'd like more information on the program or are interested in volunteering, please contact Alice Adams, amadams1@verizon.net.

# Olivewood Carvings Support Christians in Bethlehem

On March 15, 2020, after all services the Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative will have a display of handmade olivewood religious carvings from Bethlehem and Jerusalem available for purchase. These carvings include olive wood nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angles and many other religious crafts that make nice wedding, baptism, Easter, and especially Christmas gifts.

These carvings are handmade by Christian families in Bethlehem who rely on

sales for their daily bread. For more than ten years Bethlehem Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict. Many Christians left their homeland. The Christian population of the Holy Land went down from 30% in the last century to almost 1% today.



Proceeds go to support Christian artisans from Bethlehem. You can view their craftwork at www.holylandcsc.com



# 12th Annual Grace Lutheran Church & School Difference Billion Billion Contact And Automotion

# 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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# **Another Great Meal!**



Thank you to the Crossways Bible Study group for our Lenten Meal this past week...fried chicken and mac

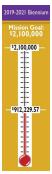
Up Next: March 11—the Scouts will prepare and serve spaghetti, salad and garlic bread.

We hope you'll 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.





### 2019-2021 Biennium LWML Mission Goal Update

Mite offerings received as of January 31, 2020, are \$912,229,57 towards our Mission Goal for the 2019–2021 biennium of \$2,100.000.00. We thank our Lord for the opportunity to share His message through our mission giving and continue to pray and give. Visit www.lwml.org for more information.

# **Facilities Update**

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

- Grounds Crew: Bill Burroughs, Scott Gin-• gerich, Jerry Miller, Bill Swartzwelder and Iohn Funk
- Butterfly Garden: Paula Grant and Nigel • Wvllie
- 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 •
- Inspection under all modular for standing wa-• ter

#### **NEWLY COMPLETED PROJECTS AND REPAIRS**

- Modular roof repair and replacement •
- 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
- Gutter installation on 8th grade modular

# **Statement on Coronavirus Preparedness**

Grace Lutheran Church and School is in contact with the Charles County Department of Health to monitor updates and recommendations for the coronavirus (COVID-19). We will follow the counsel and medical expertise of local and state health agencies.

Coronavirus causes flu-like symptoms and severe pneumonia. There is no immunization, antibiotic or antiviral agent currently shown to be effective against this disease.

Our custodians and teachers clean our facilities, school classrooms, and meeting and work spaces daily including the generous use of appropriate disinfectants as appropriate. Touch-points are cleaned on a regular basis. A touch-point is any surface above the floor, including, but not limited to, restroom surfaces and fixtures, and especially door handles.

Recommendations for prevention and if you become ill: Everyone can do their part to help respond to this emerging public health threat. For example, it is currently cold and flu season. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends getting vaccinated against influenza, taking everyday preventive precautions to stop the spread of germs and taking medicine if prescribed. As with all upper respiratory symptoms and good practice preventive precautions consider the following:

- Cough or sneeze into a tissue, your elbow or your shirt sleeve not your hands.
- Avoid touching the nose and eyes
- Avoid shaking hands, if possible.
- Wash and scrub your hands often with soap and warm water frequently for at least 20 seconds. [Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available]

If you feel sick with a fever or cough you should stay home, except for seeking medical care and avoid contact with others. We will work to keep at-home folks connected with Grace Lutheran and the Word of God.

Worship Precautions: Here are specific actions you shall notice in response to concerns with the coronavirus during worship:

- We shall use only individual cups during the celebration of the Eucharist
- Offering plates shall not be passed. Instead they will be placed at the back of the church. Please remember to place your tithe in the offering plate either before, during, or after the service.
- Similarly, the red attendance folders shall be available in the Narthex ushers shall encourage sign-in especially to visitors
- The Altar Guild shall wash their hands before and after preparing elements for Holy Communion.
- The Pastor and Worship Assistants shall wash their hands prior to the start of worship liturgy and the distribution of Holy Communion and following distribution of Holy Communion and at the conclusion of the worship liturgy.
- Ushers and acolytes shall wash their hands before and after service

Bottles of hand sanitizer are strategically placed throughout our facilities including outside the sanctuary in the Narthex and in the Vestry

As we greet one another or exchange greetings during worship [welcome, sharing of peace, departing], fellowship, Sunday School, Bible Study and other activities; please consider a simple bow, friendly wave, fist bump, or elbow bump. We will update our precautions as new information becomes available. Jesus confronts Nicodemus: You must be born from above - from water and the Spirit [John 3: 1-15]

Strongly held beliefs are almost impossible to challenge with reasoning and structured argument.

We suffer from confirmation bias

Nicodemus is a teacher of Israel steeped in religious conviction - invested in ritual holiness.

Nicodemus is a Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin

- Nicodemus ascribes a high status to Jesus: Rabbi
- Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Jesus confronts Nicodemus with the requirement begotten from above in order to see the kingdom of God

The church from earliest times considers John 3: 3 - 5 prescript and legal definition for baptism in Jesus

When Jesus speaks of seeing the kingdom - he is directing us to his baptism

Nicodemus thinks as a Jew with the convictions of Israel

• How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?

<u>Second Exchange: Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit,</u> <u>he cannot enter the kingdom of God.</u>

This second exchange is similar to the first but not the same

- Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God is replaced with unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God
- The tandem of water and the Spirit are a cipher for divine creation and behind the language of John 3:5 stands Genesis 1:2
- Christ wed the church in his incarnation and we are born from that union by the Holy Spirt in water and the Word

Jesus explains to a perplexed Nicodemus: That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes

• Nicodemus remains flat-footed: How can these things be?

The third exchange: *Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony* 

- The earthly things the preliminary OT witnesses escape Nicodemus and the Jews
- The heavenly things require the presence of God and are the burden of our Gospel
- What happens to Nicodemus?

#### **This Week at Grace**

March 8-14, 2020

ENDAR OF EVEN

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<u>SUNDAY (8)</u>					
	8:15 am	Coffee Hour	café	Becky Hoffman, x 112	
	6 pm	GRUVE	FLC	Amanda Bell, x 111	
	6:30pm	Men's Bible Study	112	Dan Stine, 301-645-8956	
I	<u>MONDAY (9)</u>				
	1 pm	Stephen Ministry	116	Paul Lenker, dcministry@growingwithgrace.org	
	6 pm	Women's Bible Study	112	Susan Gastler, sgastler@growingwithgrace.org	
	6 pm	Choir Practice	sanct	Marty Staub, cmstaub@juno.com	
	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	
2	<u>TUESDAY (10)</u>				
	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 pm	Venture Scouts	116	Ivan Cunningham, ivancunningham@gmail.com	
	7:30 pm	N.A.	FLC	contact main office	
WEDNESDAY (11)					
	5:30 pm	Lenten Meal	FLC	Becky Hoffman, x 112	
	7 pm	Praise Team Practice	FLC	Jake Pomrenke, 240-346-3215	
	7 pm	Daniel Plan	112	Jean Nelson, jcnelson1066@gmail.com	
2	THURSDAY (12)				
	12:45 pm	Nursing Home Ministry	off-site	contact main office	
	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	
	6:45 pm	Stephen Ministry	208	Paul Lenker, dcministry@growingwithgrace.org	
	7 pm	A.A.	116	contact main office	
1	FRIDAY (13)				
	4 pm	LWML Leadership Retreat	FLC	contact main office	
	7:30 pm	N.A.	116	contact main office	
S	SATURDAY (14)				
	8 am	LWML Leadership Retreat`	FLC	contact main office	
	9 am	MTACC Spring Evaluations	112, 116, sanct	contact main office	

