

# AMAZING GRACE

a weekly newsletter of

## Grace Lutheran Church & School

1200 Charles Street • La Plata, MD 20646 • 301-932-0963 • [www.growingwithgrace.org](http://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**

**HELLO**  
my name is

TODAY IS

**NAME TAG SUNDAY**

WEAR A NAME TAG AND INTRODUCE

YOURSELF TO *SOMEONE NEW!*

### **Welcome Pastor Paul**

This morning we are blessed to have Pastor Paul Liersemann leading our worship.



### **Coronavirus Response**

With the recent decision by the state of Maryland to close all schools through March 27, Grace Lutheran School will also be closed during this time. This includes the Extended Care program.

Grace Lutheran Church has made the following changes:

- Groups that normally meet at Grace should contact their group leader for guidance.
- The Wednesday Lenten meals on March 18 and March 25 have been cancelled.
- Sunday service this week (March 15) will be held as normal. Determination about future Wednesday and Sunday services will be made as circumstances develop.
- As things change and decisions are made, we will make every effort to get the information out. Please make sure to check your email, our website and Facebook pages for the latest information.

*(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](mailto:prayers@growingwithgrace.org)*

**General:** Jeffrey, Chuck Walburn, James, 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, Alice Morrill, Pete Gehris, 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, 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](mailto: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

Various homes

Bill Evans, 301-643-3505

### 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](mailto:countrygrandmab@gmail.com)

Jean Nelson, [jcnelson1066@gmail.com](mailto:jcnelson1066@gmail.com)

### THURSDAY

#### Crossways

6:30pm, Rm #112 (café)

Curt Springer, [curtaspringer@comcast.net](mailto:curtaspringer@comcast.net)

**Baby Shower** *It's a girl!*  
HONORING

**Erin and Jake Pomrenke**

April 4, 2020  
1:00pm  
Family Life Center  
Grace Lutheran Church

**Books for Baby**  
Instead of a card we have a little request to bring a book that you like best. Either well-loved or brand new please sign your book with a line or two letting baby know this gift is from you!

**Diaper Raffle**  
Bring a pack of diapers—any size—for a chance to win a prize!

Erin and Jake are registered at Babylist.com  
**{It's a Girl!}**

**RSVP: Pam Gingerich, 301-653-4676 or psgingerich@aol.com**

## 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 Alexandria, 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 [curtaspringer@comcast.net](mailto:curtaspringer@comcast.net) (Call Committee Chair).

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- Staff will be in the office only as needed. Our administrative staff have the ability to work remotely and are being encouraged to do so as much as possible. They will be checking emails and voicemails on a regular basis.

If you are unable to attend worship, we've made it easy for you to give to Grace.

1. Go to our website:  
[www.growingwithgrace.org](http://www.growingwithgrace.org)
2. Click on the image to enter the church site
3. From the menu click "Donate to Grace"

You will then be taken to a secure payment page where you can make a one-time contribution or set up an ongoing contribution plan.

We ask for your patience and prayers as we navigate this uncharted territory.





## 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.

## 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.



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.

## SAVE THE DATE!



## VBS July 13-17



## 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; [wjevansjr@gmail.com](mailto:wjevansjr@gmail.com))

Stephen Ministry Verse

but The  
GREATEST  
OF THESE  
Love is  
1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

Sunday, March 15, 2020

## Olivewood Carvings Support Christians in Bethlehem

Today, 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.

George Ghanem, an indigenous Christian from Bethlehem will be standing by the carvings after all masses.

Proceeds go to support Christian artisans from Bethlehem. You can view their craftwork at [www.holylandcsc.com](http://www.holylandcsc.com)



## 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>.



Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

12:30—3pm



## 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 [arocor@growingwithgrace.org](mailto:arocor@growingwithgrace.org).

## 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 pre-school (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 water

### 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 continue to follow the counsel and medical expertise of local and state health agencies.

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.

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.



## LWML Mite Challenge Calendar

### March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Pay special attention to today's hymns. Donate 10¢.	<b>2</b> Pray for LWML Mission Grants. Donate 25¢.	<b>3</b> Pretzels are reminders of hands crossed in prayer. Make or eat pretzels this week. Donate 20¢.	<b>4</b> Reflect on your Baptism and what it means to be a child of God. Donate 20¢.	<b>5</b> Use a favorite mug or cup to sip your hot beverage while thanking God for blessings. Donate 10¢.	<b>6</b> Phone a Friend Friday. Make a call of thanks, support, or love. Donate 5¢ for each friend you contacted.	<b>7</b> Set your clocks ahead. Pray before going to bed. Donate 15¢.
<b>8</b> Daylight Saving Time begins. Don't be late for church! Donate 25¢.	<b>9</b> The moon is full tonight. Prayerfully fill your Mite Box. Donate 50¢.	<b>10</b> Contact someone from church you haven't seen in a while. Share God's love with them. Donate 20¢.	<b>11</b> Pray for missionaries at each meal today. Donate 15¢.	<b>12</b> Sing some favorite hymns. Donate 10¢.	<b>13</b> Friday the 13 <sup>th</sup> . God cares for us every day. We don't need luck! Donate 25¢.	<b>14</b> Pray for those who travel. Donate 10¢.
<b>15</b> Talk to a child about today's Sunday School lesson. Donate 15¢.	<b>16</b> Read Genesis 3 and remember our need for salvation. Donate 10¢.	<b>17</b> For every green thing you find today, donate 1¢ to mites.	<b>18</b> Read John 11:25-27. Thank God for giving us salvation. Donate 25¢.	<b>19</b> Thank God for the blessing of seasons and new growth. Donate 20¢.	<b>20</b> International Day of Happiness. Smile! Read Psalm 100. Donate 10¢.	<b>21</b> Pray for pastors and their families. Donate 10¢.
<b>22</b> Listen carefully to the sermon. Thank your pastor for all he does. Donate 25¢.	<b>23</b> Look up the current mission grants on the LWML website. Donate 15¢.	<b>24</b> It's a new moon. Thank God for forgiveness and new beginnings. Donate 10¢.	<b>25</b> Read Psalm 22. See the many Holy Week parallels. Donate 25¢.	<b>26</b> If you see flowers outside, donate 25¢. If none, patiently donate 10¢.	<b>27</b> Watching college basketball? Donate 25¢. Not watching, donate 25¢.	<b>28</b> Pray for those who work to protect us. Donate 20¢.
<b>29</b> Smile at the blessing of children in church. Pray for parents. Donate 10¢.	<b>30</b> Pray for those working in service careers. Donate 25¢.	<b>31</b> Read Luke 18-19 for events leading up to Holy Week. Donate 15¢.	<b>Gospel Focus for March:</b>  <i><b>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! (Psalm 100:2).</b></i>			

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Most events and meetings have been cancelled through March 27.

Please check with your group leader to see if your group will still be meeting.

## SUNDAY (15)

8:15 am	Coffee Hour	café	Becky Hoffman, x 112
12 pm	GLS Set Prep	FLC	Paula Jones, x 311
6:30pm	Men's Bible Study	112	Dan Stine, 301-645-8956

## MONDAY (16)

6 pm	Women's Bible Study	112	Susan Gastler, <a href="mailto:sgastler@growingwithgrace.org">sgastler@growingwithgrace.org</a>
7 pm	Stephen Ministry	112	Paul Lenker, <a href="mailto:dcministry@growingwithgrace.org">dcministry@growingwithgrace.org</a>

## TUESDAY (17)

10 am	Circuit 8 Pastor's Meeting	112	<i>contact main office</i>
6:30 pm	Men's Aftercare	209	Paul Lenker, <a href="mailto:dcministry@growingwithgrace.org">dcministry@growingwithgrace.org</a>
6:30 pm	Women's Aftercare	112	Paul Lenker, <a href="mailto:dcministry@growingwithgrace.org">dcministry@growingwithgrace.org</a>
7:30 pm	N.A.	FLC	<i>contact main office</i>

## WEDNESDAY (18)

7 pm	Praise Team Practice	FLC	Jake Pomrenke, 240-346-3215
7 pm	Board of Servant Leaders	116	Bill Evans, <a href="mailto:wjevansjr@gmail.com">wjevansjr@gmail.com</a>
7 pm	Daniel Plan	112	Jean Nelson, <a href="mailto:jcnelson1066@gmail.com">jcnelson1066@gmail.com</a>

## THURSDAY (19)

12:45 pm	Nursing Home Ministry	off-site	<i>contact main office</i>
6:30 pm	Crossways	112	Curt Springer, <a href="mailto:curtaspringer@comcast.net">curtaspringer@comcast.net</a>
7 pm	A.A.	116	<i>contact main office</i>

## FRIDAY (20)

7:30 pm	N.A.	116	<i>contact main office</i>
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## SATURDAY (21)

5 am	SHARE Food Delivery	FLC	Alice Adams, 301-885-1819
8 am	SHARE Food Pick-up	112	Alice Adams, 301-885-1819

## Stewardship Verse

Ex. 17:3 – "But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' " Even the Israelites who saw miracles with their own eyes fall into unbelief and fear. From this distance we can see how foolish their worry is. How foolish will our worries appear from the distance of eternity? The Lord cared for them, and He will care for us.

