

Grace Messenger

February 2019

Music 'Notes' for February

Contemporary worship on **February 3** will offer a bit of a change in music selections on this date. Responding to a request from some Grace members, the praise team will lead worship with 'early' contemporary songs that are well-loved and well-remembered. We know that it will bring JOY to our worship to "Shout to the Lord" as we invite all to join us with "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship" our "Awesome God" in our "Sanctuary."

Another opportunity for well-loved music and sounds to our worship will be offered on **February 17** as the **Yellow Springs Brass Quintet** returns to provide a beautiful line-up of musical selections for our worship services. The Sanctuary Choir and organist will also join the brass quintet at 10:45 worship to offer a special arrangement of "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven." May these February musical offerings bless us all! -Bev Kaech



Our Grace Worship Ministry

We continue worshipping in the Season after the Epiphany, with the valuable focus upon 'light' and revelation and how/where we meet Jesus in our everyday lives. We will celebrate The Transfiguration of Our Lord on Sunday, March 3rd, as we read of this miraculous event in Matthew 17: 1-13, Mark 9: 2-13, and Luke 9: 28-36. Take a look!

The penitential Season of Lent, weeks spent in spiritually preparing for the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord, begins solemnly on Ash Wednesday, March 6th. We offer two worship opportunities that day, one at noon and the other at 7:00 p.m...both services will include the Imposition of Ashes [created by burning palm leaves from a previous Palm Sunday and used to make the sign of the cross on the forehead of each worshipper].

Pastor Powell has created a 5-part midweek sermon/worship series titled "*Takin' It To the Streets!*". This series, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, March 14th, will focus upon many of the wise, instructive verses provided to us in the Old Testament Book of Proverbs. Pastors Powell and Brodbeck will be preaching these Thursday evenings upon specific Proverbs pertaining to **Fear, Fools, Faith, Family, and Friends**.

SENIOR PASTOR CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Happy New Year to all members of Grace from your Senior Pastor Call Committee members. The Committee took a break through the holidays, but expects to start meeting again soon.

Just to give a short review, the Grace Congregational Profile document was forwarded to the NALC leadership for distribution. The Committee held several meetings to ensure that what we submitted was the best document we could put together. We had asked for input for what was wanted in a new Senior Pastor from the congregation; and, as a result, we received numerous suggestions. These suggestions were reviewed and combined for inclusion into the Congregational Profile. We have begun to receive Pastoral Profiles; as this continues, here is what will happen:

1. The Call Committee will meet, review, and discuss each Pastoral Profile received from all potential candidates...then schedule conversations/interviews with all...narrowing this to one candidate...**the first vote**
2. Following this procedure, the Call Committee will propose a candidate to our Church Council for approval...**the second vote**. Our Grace Council will schedule a visit for this candidate to come to Grace, visit our congregation, our community, meet with our Council, lead/preach at worship, be in conversation with Grace members, etc.
3. Our Grace Council will then schedule a Special Congregational Meeting, perhaps on the same day the candidate has been at Grace...after prayer and deliberation, our membership votes...**the third and final vote**...to extend a Call to this candidate. This candidate will have 30 days to respond in writing if he/she accepts this call.

The members of Grace's Senior Pastor Call Committee are as follows:

Ty Craddock	Jane Kreider	Maxine Shroyer (Secretary)
Mark Grimes (Co-Chair)	Tom O'Neal	Sandy Thompson
Ginger Hennig	Matt Rugh (Co-Chair)	Craig Witker (Council President)
Michelle Kouse		

As you can see, we have quite a bit of work ahead of us; but, with your prayers and support, we will do our best and are confident that we will be able to find a person who will continue to lead our congregation and the ministries that we have and continue to grow with us in Grace! Blessings to all! -Maxine Shroyer

Senior Pastor Call Committee: FAQ's

Confidently leaving the work of our Senior Pastor Call Committee to these competent, committed Grace members, I offer this FAQ's article (Frequently Asked Questions) as questions are posed to me during these months. If one person asks, likely there are others wondering the same thing:

Q- Is Pastor Powell allowed to continue worshipping at Grace after Sunday, June 16, 2019?

A- This is not a matter of 'allowing' or of denominational legislation. Rather, it is a matter of a self-imposed limit and pastoral courtesy. Jill and I will not, in the foreseeable future, be worshipping at/with Grace following my June 16th retirement from fulltime parish ministry. This will allow my successor opportunity to receive the love and encouragement you have so lavished upon Jill and me these past 32 years. My absence will, also, prevent my presence from creating any obstacles in the ministry 'path' of my successor.

Q- Is Pastor Brodbeck interested in being considered as Grace's possible next Senior Pastor?

A- The short answer is 'yes'. Pastor Brodbeck has completed and submitted his Pastoral Profile, sent this along to the North American Lutheran Church, and a decision will be made by Assistant to the Bishop David Wendel regarding which Pastoral Profiles are given to our Grace Senior Pastor Call Committee. Remember, this is a 3-vote process: #1/Our Call Committee selects and submits their discerned candidate to our Grace Church Council; #2/ Our Grace Church Council votes upon this proposed candidate; #3/ Our Grace Council brings this candidate before our entire Grace congregation who will, then, vote.

Q- If Pastor Brodbeck is not selected as Grace's next Senior Pastor, can he remain serving as Grace's Associate Pastor?

A- Again, the short answer is 'yes'. Pastor Brodbeck's Call to Grace is not 'co-terminus'... meaning his Call as Grace's Associate Pastor is secure after my fulltime parish ministry concludes on June 16, 2019.

Watch for more FAQ's in March. In the meantime, join me in ardently praying for our Call Committee and for the wisdom of God's Holy Spirit! - Pastor Daniel M. Powell

Prayer in a Time of Discernment

Our denomination, The North American Lutheran Church [NALC], is preparing to elect our next Bishop at its August 2019 Convocation in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Executive Council of the NALC is calling for each congregation and parishioner to be in prayer. Grace will be identifying and electing our delegates to represent us in Indianapolis. Electing a Bishop is one of the most important responsibilities in the life of the Church and a key responsibility of the upcoming annual Convocation. Engaging in prayerful reflection and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit are indispensable aspects of the process of nomination and election of the Bishop of this Church.

To provide some guidance in this call to prayerful discernment, this upcoming Easter morning Grace will begin including specific written prayers in our weekly worship bulletins, leading us right up to the annual Convocation. Pastor Powell will be in conversation with our Grace Prayer Support Team to help lead our congregation in Thirty Days of Prayer, beginning on Sunday, July 7, 2019. The Bishop, as described in greater detail within our NALC Constitution: *'shall be an ordained minister who is a member of the NALC. The Bishop shall serve as the chief pastor and chief evangelist of the NALC, responsible for ensuring the priority of the Great Commission [Matthew 28: 16-20] in the life of the church.'* Go to our Grace website at grace-nalc.org for more information and detail.

Bishops of the North American Lutheran Church



Rev. Paull Spring
Provisional Bishop
2010-2011



Rev. John Bradosky
Bishop
2011-2019

Pastor Powell's Retirement Lunch/Ceremony

As Pastor Powell announced, he will be retiring this year after serving Grace Lutheran Church for the past 32 years. A committee has been formed and has met to begin planning this event. The date of Sunday, June 16, 2019 will be his last Sunday. Please mark your calendars for this date, as there will only be one service at 9:30, with lunch/ceremony following. Final details have not yet been planned, but we do need the congregations help in getting pictures for a video. We are asking that you please look through your pictures if you have any of Pastor and/or Jill or their family, and submit them to us for the video. A white basket will be placed in the office and we ask that you put your pictures in there for us. Also, we ask that you put your name, address, and phone number on the back so the pictures can be returned to you. More details will be announced as the date gets closer. Please contact any member of this committee with any questions, comments, or suggestions, as our goal is to make this a wonderful event! Blessings to everyone!!

The members of Grace's Retirement Ceremony Committee are as follows:

Clem Meyer - Chairman
Elaine Roller

Maxine Shroyer - Co-Chairman
Susan Russell

Newly Elected Council Officers!

Our 2019 Grace Church Council elected its officers and they are: President/Craig Witker; Vice President/ Lance Jones; Secretary/ Steven Schumacher; Treasurer/ Kristi Leeth. Outgoing Council President, Sandy Thompson, will serve in the advisory role of Past President. These elected leaders, along with our Grace Pastors, constitute our Executive Committee.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School Schedule

- January 27 & February 3: Final two sessions of **"Forgiven: Received, Extended, Applied"** (taught by Pastor Brodbeck)
- February 10 & 17: **"Prepare the Way"** (taught by Pastor Powell)
- February 24: **Outreach Break: The Nehemiah Foundation** (Casey Cockerham, Executive Director)
- March 3 – June 2: **"Luther's Large Catechism"** (taught by Pastor Powell).
No class on March 24 (Congregational meeting) or April 21 (Easter Sunday)

Prepare the Way!

This is the title of Pastor Powell's 2-Sunday adult Sunday school class, beginning at 9:15 a.m. February 10th. Unless our Lord returns first, each of us will conclude our life here on earth. One of the most valuable gifts we can provide our survivors is, at least, a general indication of our personal preference regarding such details as: which funeral home, the type/location of a service, cremation or traditional preparation, favorite scripture, favorite hymns, visitation/viewing, and much more. We will talk about various cultural views of death, life after death, and what Holy Scripture teaches us. Pastor Powell will provide each class attendee with a single-page document, asking that it be filled out and given back to him to be kept on file at Grace and a copy given to your next of kin. In so doing, you are giving a wonderful gift to those who survive your passing and to the Pastors who will serve this outstanding congregation in the years ahead. Be reminded: Ignoring our own passing forward will not make it 'go away'!

Luther's Large Catechism

Written in 1530, Martin Luther begins: *'To our regret we notice that many preachers and pastors are very neglectful of the Catechism, despising both their office and the Catechism teaching itself. In some cases...it is pure laziness and self-indulgence.'* Not wanting to be such a preacher or pastor, beginning March 3 Pastor Powell will convene an adult Sunday school series on this significant work and resource of the Lutheran Church. The Large Catechism (127 pages) was originally written for Pastors to teach adults, preparing adults to teach The Small Catechism (20 pages) to children. We've veered a long ways off this course during these past 500 years! This Sunday school series will focus upon many of the central teachings/doctrines of the Lutheran Church, including the sacraments, confession/forgiveness, and The Apostles' Creed. For \$6.00, with the balance being paid for by Grace Church, each class attendee will be provided a copy of The Large Catechism in order for this book to become a perpetual resource for discipleship and teaching. **Please use Sign-Up Central or call Darla at 399-6257** so we can order an adequate quantity of books and have them available in a timely fashion.

Communication

The Grace Website

The Grace Website has much to offer and may be accessed from the internet on your computer, smartphone or mobile device. The web address is <http://grace-nalc.org> or as they say "just google it." Once you are logged onto the Grace website, the home page has a beautiful photo of our church. Clicking on the words **Featured Events** will allow you to access the **Grace Calendar of Events**. The **Navigation listing at the bottom of the page** or at the *top right drop down tabs* will allow you to navigate through the Grace Website, which all are encouraged to explore.

Topics under **About** include **Worship Services** with what to expect and service times, what we believe; the **Grace Staff** with photos and contact information; the **Music Ministry** page which is a newer page to the website outlines our many music opportunities and how you may get involved; the **Education** page has what is offered and available to all ages and contains a slide show of photos from the **Children & Youth** ministry and the **Adult Education** has the classes being offered during Sunday School. The **weekly bulletin(s)** continue to be posted prior to that Sunday under the **Worship Services listing** and the monthly **Grace Messenger** is under the **About** listing, as is the link to the **NALC** (North American Lutheran Church) **Website** and the **NALC Daily Devotions**. On the **Home** page there is a link to join Grace on Facebook, as well as information for those who are "New To Grace?".

Did you know that you can now **listen to the past Sunday sermon** directly from the website? Click on **Sermons** and you will be able to *hear the lector read the scripture followed by the Pastor delivering his message* as recorded from the service. Several past weeks are available for you to hear and you may continue to access a print copy and *read the Pastor's message*. What a great way to study, ponder or hear the sermon again and not miss out when you are unable to be in attendance!

While anyone anywhere in the world may access our Grace website, there are parts of the website that are **only** available to our members. After you click on **Members** you will need to enter the password, *MartinLuther*, to access the private pages for members only and **Church Resources**, such as Stephen Ministry and the link to the **Right Now Media** site which is provided by our church to members at no cost, as well as Annual Reports, minutes of Congregational and Council Meetings, and the Grace Constitution.

The **Contact Us** section contains the contact information for our church, including Office Hours and a map that anyone surfing the web may find where Grace is located complete with driving directions. As the Grace Website states, "Our mission is to be a caring community of believers dedicated to practicing the cycle of discipleship: Inviting, inspiring, educating, equipping and empowering. We are committed to be a church family where we are Receiving the Lord, Revealing His Love!"

The Grace App

Connect to Grace and get the latest sermons, resources, updates, and more delivered right to your mobile device. With the Grace app, you can easily listen to sermons on-the-go, find and register for events, read the Bible, donate to your ministry through quick and secure giving, volunteer to serve, view the calendar, make prayer requests, sign up for baptism, and more. Additionally, you can stay connected with weekly updates, weather cancellation notifications, the Grace Messenger and small group chats.

Be watching for more information. The Grace App will be available soon.—Barbara Blackburn, Communications Team

Lay Ministry Spotlight: Offering Teller Ministry at Grace

This month we are featuring the Offering Teller Ministry which is a component of the Worship Ministry at Grace. The duties performed by the tellers are a critical part of the asset management system for Grace. Each service has a team of two congregational members who serve on a rotational basis to count the offering. Suzanne Klopfenstein heads our 8 a.m. team and Sari Bussert heads our 10:45 team.

The teams are responsible for counting the regular Sunday offering and special and seasonal services such as Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. A special "thank you" is given to Darla Kalifoot who counts the monies received from the Thursday evening services during summer, Advent and Lent seasons. For 2019, the 8 a.m. team members are: Sue Butterfield, Carol Carpenter, Glen and Judy Cary, Rick Cisler, Donna Gainer, Phyllis Hefler, Mark and Suzanne Klopfenstein, Kevin Kreider, and Jack and Mary Sommers. The 10:45 team includes: Sari Bussert, Lori Fain, Dan Furrow, Bill Hester, Mary and Charlie Lantz, Betsy Moell, and Matt and Sheila Rugh. Thank you so much for your commitment to serving this ministry.

A primary responsibility of the teams is to provide the necessary "checks and balances" feature ensuring an accurate count of the monies received from each service. This "behind-the-scenes ministry" follows written procedures that govern the handling of money from the time it hits the offering plate until the time it is deposited in the bank and how it is reported to the congregation. Their work ensures members' donations are properly recorded and money is deposited into the bank in a timely fashion. The work they do is timesaving for the staff. It's an opportunity to serve and stay active, physically and mentally. This work does not require a great deal of time on a given Sunday allowing participants to enjoy spending time with and getting to know their teller partner.

Offering tellers require no special skill set, just a willingness to serve on a rotational basis with the count of tithings and monies collected throughout the church year. Training for this ministry is always available from your Team Coordinators, Suzanne and Sari, or from any of the members of the team. Additional servants willing to support either the 8 a.m. team or the 10:45 team are always welcome. Is God calling you to serve in this ministry?

OUTREACH

Christmas at the Springfield Manor

Here we go a caroling....with over 40 residents and more than 20 Grace congregants attending the Christmas gala event guaranteed that everyone had a great time celebrating Jesus' birthday! There were plenty of Christmas cookies and punch to go around and numerous songs to sing to make this indeed a very happy event.

Even Santa stopped by to add to the Christmas cheer.

Happy New Year! Starting with the first service in the New Year on January 13, the **service time will be moved up to Sundays at 10AM** and continue through this year at this new time until further notice.



STUFF THE TRUCK

Grace will host a "STUFF THE TRUCK" event the weekend of February 16th!

All the Grace congregation is encouraged to see what furniture they have to donate and to tell friends and relatives about this great opportunity to help families who have gone through great hardship due to a recent disaster.

Think about those pieces of home goods that are collecting dust in: **Your closets, attic, basement, garage and RENTED STORAGE SPACE.**

This collection drive is not for clothes, but for household hard goods and good bedding.

Drop off times at the Grace Community Center will be Saturday 2/16 and Sunday 2/17 3PM to 6PM, or by appointment.

Call Steven Schumacher if you have any questions or plans to drop off goods at 937-624-7074. Tax donation forms will be available.

Further note is made that NALC Disaster Response team at Grace has received a trailer load full of donated furniture from the estate of Doris VonBourgondien in December. The family heard about the opportunity to donate good used furniture to a worthy cause and was happy that their parents home goods are going to needy families. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks to you for your help and Thanks be to God!
Steven Schumacher
937-624-7074

Ohio Community Mercy Hospice Thanks Charity Guild

The Charity Guild of Grace Lutheran Church was recognized and thanked at the Ohio Community Mercy Hospice Christmas Luncheon held in December. They provided 1,157 pillows this past year which went to hospice patients, veterans, and others who were needing and benefitted from these pillows. It is a privilege and honor to work alongside these fine ladies and gentleman, and we look forward to continuing our relationship and receiving their pillows in 2019.-Tami Clark, Volunteer Specialist, Ohio's Community Mercy Hospice

Chancel/Altar Flowers for 2019

If you are interested in placing flowers on the chancel or altar on a certain Sunday in 2019, please contact Darla Kalifoot at 937-399-6257, ext. 102

Inclement Weather Policy

With winter upon us, we need to be aware of Grace's policy for cancellations and closures. The policy for how and when we cancel our worship and/or other ministries because of inclement weather is as follows:

Pastor Powell or Pastor Brodbeck will contact at least two members of our Executive Committee for consultation and assistance. If they decide to cancel activities or worship, we will contact TV station WHIO Channel 7.

We will also place a message on our telephone answer machine system at Grace, send a One Call Now message, post it on the Grace Lutheran Church Facebook page and website to let you know that worship service has been cancelled.

February Events

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 1801 St. Paris Pike. Springfield, OH 45504

937.399.6257 www.grace-nalc.org

Friday, February 1

Saturday, February 2

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, February 3

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Contemporary Worship

Monday, February 4

1:00 pm Stephen Ministry
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry

Tuesday, February 5

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed
6:00 pm Executive Committee
6:15 pm 7/8 grade youth group

Wednesday, February 6

9:30 am Embroiderer's Guild
5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner
6:45 pm 9-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Disciple Fast Track
7:00 pm Great Passages of God's Word

Thursday, February 7

9:00 am Service Quilter's Guild
11:00 am Adult Bible Study

Friday, February 8

Saturday, February 9

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
9am—3pm Sew-a-thon

Sunday, February 10

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages
10:00 am *Worship at
Springfield Manor*
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Worship
12:15 pm Financial Stewardship

Monday, February 11

Tuesday, February 12

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 am Faith Guild
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed
2:00 pm Joy Guild
6:15 pm 7/8 grade youth group
7:00 pm Agape Guild
7:00 pm Grace Council

Wednesday, February 13

1:30 pm Charity Guild
5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner
6:45 pm 9-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Disciple Fast Track
7:00 pm Great Passages of God's
Word

Thursday, February 14

9:00 am Service Quilter's Guild
11:00 am Adult Bible Study

Friday, February 15

Saturday, February 16

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, February 17

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Worship

Monday, February 18

2:00 pm Stephen Ministry

Tuesday, February 19

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed
6:15 pm 7/8 grade youth group

Wednesday, February 20

5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner
6:45 pm 9-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Disciple Fast Track
7:00 pm Great Passages of God's
Word

Thursday, February 21

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
6:00 pm Prayer Support Team

Friday, February 22

Saturday, February 23

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, February 24

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages
9:15 am Outreach Break/Nehemiah
Foundation
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Worship
12:00 pm Thrivent Action Team mtg

Monday, February 25

Tuesday, February 26

8:00 am Men's Bible Study
11:30 am —1:30pm Staff meeting/
office closed
6:15 pm 7/8 grade youth group

Wednesday, February 27

5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
6:00 pm Wednesday Night Dinner
6:45 pm 9-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Disciple Fast Track
7:00 pm Great Passages of God's
Word

Thursday, February 28

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm Endowment Committee



[CELEBRATING 15 YEARS]

You Don't Have to Dance to Enjoy the Show!

Bring your sweetheart to the Sweetheart Charity Dance and Auction to be part of a great event to benefit marriages in Clark County by the efforts of the Encompass Connection Center (formerly the Marriage Resource Center) on February, 15, 2019.

Grace, through the efforts of our "Special Events for Married Couples" ministry, has reserved tables for this event being held this year at the Hollenbeck-Bayley Conference Center; but you must RSVP on the web site <HTTPS://SCD2019.eventbrite.com> for FREE admission. Once at this site look for one of the following Hosts and place your names there: Robert and Sandy Thompson, Terry and Judy Fredrich, or Steven and Andy Schumacher. More information about this event is found on the web site or you can call Steven Schumacher at 937-624-7074 for more information.

Sweetheart Charity Dance and Auction
Friday, February 15, 2019
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM EST
Hollenbeck-Bayley Conference Center

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Springfield, OH
Permit #158

Evangelical Lutheran Church
1801 St. Paris Pike
Springfield, OH 45504

