

Grace Messenger

March 2019

**"Takin' It to the Streets!"
Lenten Midweek Worship
Series
Thursdays
7:00 P.M.
March 14—April 11**



Our Grace Worship Ministry

These are, indeed, busy and significant weeks in our Grace worship ministry. We will celebrate *The Transfiguration* on Sunday, March 3rd. *Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of the Season of Lent, is March 6th with worship at noon and 7:00 p.m. Pastors Powell and Brodbeck will preside over and preach our *Lenten Midweek Worship Series* with the title "Takin' It To the Streets." This 5-part series will focus on many verses of the Old Testament Book of Proverbs. Each week we will consider a topic that begins with the letter "F" in this order: **F**ear, **F**ools, **F**aith, **F**amily, and **F**riends and what we read about these in God's inspired Word. We will worship at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 21, 28, and April 4 and 11 in our sanctuary.

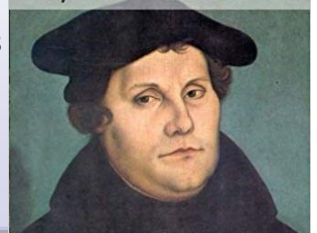
*Ashes have a long and meaningful history in Holy Scripture and within the Christian Church. Ashes symbolize repentance and death, as well as cleansing. The ashes we will impose in the sign of the cross on the forehead of each worshipper are made from the burning of palm branches from Palm Sunday 2018. As ashes are imposed, our pastors will speak the words: *Remember that you are ashes and to ashes you will return*, as a reminder to us of our mortality, our call to live each day faithfully and to the fullest, and the promise of the resurrection of all who believe.

Getting Back to Basics

This title describes Pastor Powell's goal in creating and convening our adult Sunday school series on Luther's *Large Catechism*, beginning March 3rd. We will, week to week, discuss the meaning, history, and application of such basics of the Christian faith as The Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. We are ordering *The Large Catechism* at a cost of \$6.00 for each participant, with Grace paying the balance of this \$12.00 book. Sign up on Sign-Up Central to reserve your book. This series concludes on June 2nd.

**Martin Luther's
Large Catechism**

By Martin Luther



I Am God – You are my People NALC Lenten Devotional 2019

This devotional booklet, prepared by the Rev. Paull Spring, NALC bishop emeritus and the Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, NALC assistant to the bishop for missions, is meant to enhance and enrich our Lenten observance. Copies of the NALC Lenten devotional will be available in the Grace narthex.

Pastor Powell's Retirement Lunch/ Ceremony Update

As stated in February's Grace Messenger, Pastor Powell is retiring this year after serving Grace Lutheran Church for the past 32 years. His lunch/ceremony will be Sunday, 16 June, with one service at 9:30, followed by a light lunch. We want this to be a wonderful event, but we need your help. Please go through your pictures to see if you have any that you would like to have included in a video. This video will feature Pastor's involvement with Grace during the past 32 years. The pictures can be brought to the church and put in the white basket in the office. They need to be submitted by no later than April 28. Please put your name and phone number on the back of the pictures so that they can be returned to you. More info will be provided at a later date. RSVPs will be required to ensure that enough food will be provided. If you know that you will be unable to attend the luncheon, feel free to write a letter, or provide a card. Place them in the white basket. The letters and cards will be put in a binder for Pastor and Jill to enjoy. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact any member of the committee.

The members of Grace's Retirement Ceremony Committee are as follows:
Clem Meyer and Maxine Shroyer (Co-Chairs), Elaine Roller, Susan Russell

One For the Record Books

January 2019 was one for the record books for Grace Lutheran Church. Never, in the 22 years that I have been attending Grace, has Pastor Powell closed the Church two weeks in a row. Now I can tell you, that Pastor Powell does not like to cancel church **AT ALL**, but the safety of the congregation is foremost in his mind. We have an inclement weather policy at Grace so we take the necessary steps to keep the congregation informed of the decision to close. With One Call Now notifications, Facebook posts, website- posting, posting on WHIO channel 7, and coming soon, a smartphone app. Grace attendance and offerings are down due to the bad weather. We are down \$5,648 from last year at this time. Just as you rely upon receiving income on a regular basis we are depending upon your regular contributions. Grace deeply appreciates the efforts of members to make consistent donations throughout the year. To help you, we provide a program that allows you to give, weekly, monthly or bi-monthly. This program is Vanco's *Simply Giving* Program. The *Simply Giving* program is a convenient, safe and simple way for you to make automatic payments to Grace through electronic fund transfer directly from your checking or savings account. If you are interested in signing up for this program please contact Darla Kalifoot at 937-399-6257 ext. 102.

First Communion Classes and Rite

The First Communion classes and rite are a key component of Grace's Faith Journey program. Fifth graders, who faithfully participate in the Youth Faith Journey by attending Sunday School and Sunday School-related events throughout the school year, are encouraged to participate in the First Communion rite each Advent season.

Pastor Powell will be giving fifth graders and their parents instruction for First Communion on Wednesday evenings - March 27, April 3 & 10 from 6:45-8:00 PM. Each child's actual First Communion will be celebrated during the 7:00 p.m. worship service on Maundy Thursday, April 18, with a reception to follow.

Lay Ministry Spotlight: Kitchen Ministry

Kitchen Ministries at Grace provide opportunities for those with the gifts of service and hospitality. Our featured member today is Beverley Przytulski. She serves on three of the Kitchen Ministries. Table of Grace serves banquets to community ministry organizations that use Grace for their events. Bev can be found on Wednesday evenings in the kitchen as we gather around the "family table" and share a meal. Bev also helps with bereavement meals, which are served when a church member experiences a loss.

Bev says "I love helping where I can, but I prefer to be in the background or behind the scenes. I enjoy meeting many of my fellow church members who I may not otherwise meet. I've taken the Spiritual Gifts test to determine what my gift is and each time it revealed that my gift is to serve and help others. Grace has given me many friends and 'family.' As with most families we love to feed them."

What a blessing Beverley is to those she serves at Grace and the community.



Celebration Potluck

Grace church has reached another significant goal in its building expansion project. As of February 1, 2019, the amount owed has dipped below \$750,000. to \$733,861.14. On Sunday, March 31, following the 10:45 a.m. service, we will celebrate with a potluck dinner. If you plan to attend, please use Sign-Up Central to indicate how many and what food item you will bring.

Next Steps!

Pastor Beverly DeBord will be leading a one-day workshop at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 2, 2019. The workshop is based upon a book she has recently written about the spiritual dimensions of retirement. The workshop begins at 8:30 a.m. and adjourns at 3:45 p.m. If you're interested in more information or in registering, please speak with Pastor Powell.

March Events

Friday, March 1

Saturday, March 2

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, March 3

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

Monday, March 4

1:00 pm Stephen Ministry
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry
6:30 pm GriefShare

Tuesday, March 5

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, March 6

Ash Wednesday

9:30 am Embroiderer's Guild
12:00 pm Worship
7:00 pm Worship

Thursday, March 7

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

Friday, March 8

Saturday, March 9

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

**Spring Forward One Hour
On March 10!**

Sunday, March 10

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship at Springfield Manor
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Worship

Monday, March 11

6:30 pm GriefShare

Tuesday, March 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
6:00 pm Executive committee
6:15 pm 7/8 grade youth group
7:00 pm Agape Guild

Wednesday, March 13

9:30 am Hope Guild
1:30 pm Charity Guild
5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
6:45 pm 9-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Disciple Fast Track
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal

Thursday, March 14

9:00 am Service Quilter's Guild
11:00 am Adult Bible Study
6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper
7:00 pm Worship

Friday, March 15

Saturday, March 16

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, March 17

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

Monday, March 18

2:00 pm Stephen Ministry
6:30 pm GriefShare
6:30 pm Garden Ministry mtg

Tuesday, March 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
7:00 pm Grace Council meeting

Wednesday, March 20

5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
6:45 pm 9-12 grade youth group
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Disciple Fast Track

Thursday, March 21

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
6:00 pm Soup Supper
6:00 pm Prayer Support Team
7:00 pm Worship

Friday, March 22

Saturday, March 23

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, March 24

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for children
9:15 am Congregational Meeting
10:45 am Worship

Monday, March 25

6:30 pm GriefShare

Tuesday, March 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, March 27

5:30 pm Grace Notes rehearsal
6:45 pm 9-12 grade youth group
6:45 pm First Communion Instruction
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
7:00 pm Disciple Fast Track

Thursday, March 28

11:00 am Adult Bible Study
6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper
7:00 pm Worship

Friday, March 29

Saturday, March 30

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

Sunday, March 31

8:00 am Worship
9:15 am Sunday School for all ages
10:15 am Fellowship
10:45 am Worship
12:00 pm Debt Reduction Celebration
Potluck

Congregational Meeting

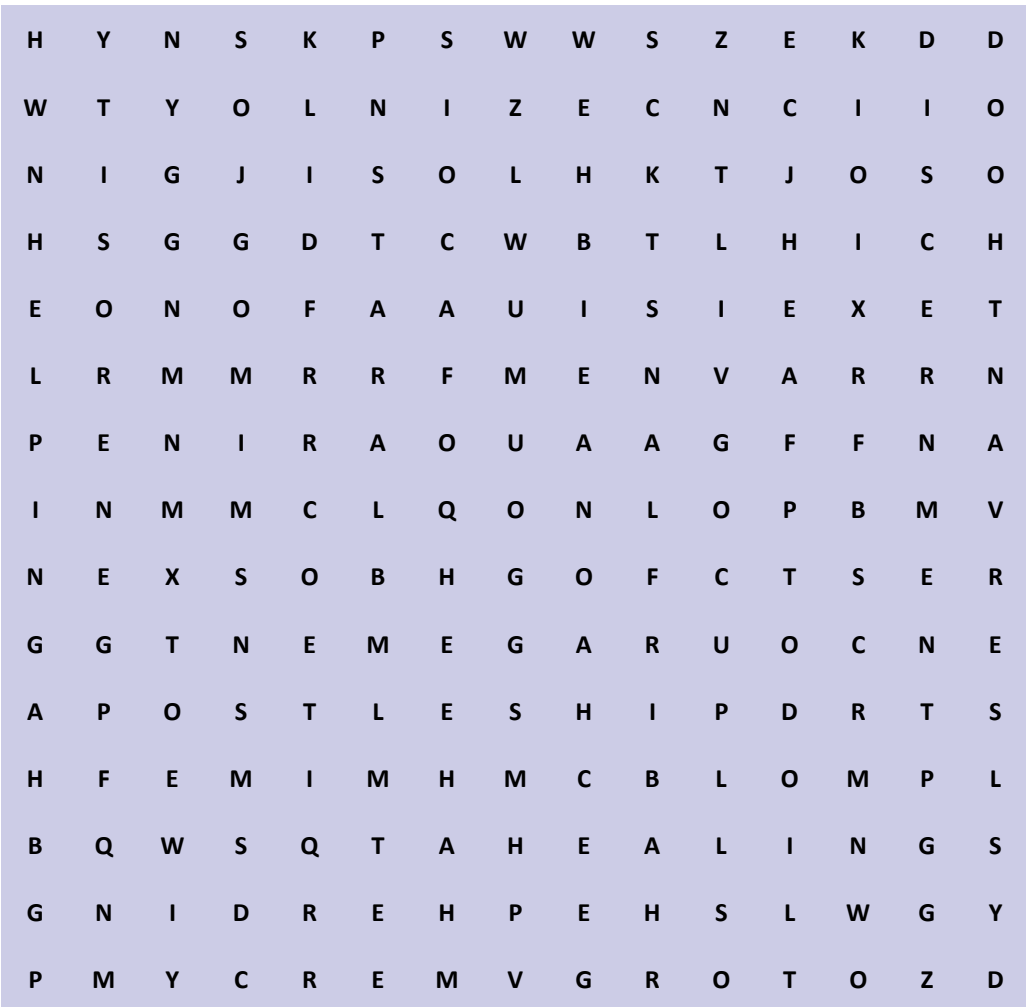
On Sunday, March 24, at 9:15 a.m., we will gather in the sanctuary for our first congregational meeting of 2019. The agenda includes the following:

- Review of 2018 annual report
 - Election of our 2019 Church Council Nominating Committee
 - Financial reports/Debt Reduction
 - Constitutional Amendment
 - Update from the Senior Pastor Call Committee
 - Granting Pastor Powell title of Pastor Emeritus upon his retirement
- Please plan on attending as we have many things going on at Grace.

Lenten Soup Suppers begin

Thursday, March 14th

6:00 p.m.



Spiritual Gifts

The first two people to complete the word search correctly and return to Janet Rice will win a prize. Please fill in your name, date, and time on your completed puzzle. Place in Janet's mailbox in the front office of Grace.

Thank you, Janet

- APOSTLESHIP
- EVANGELISM
- HEALINGS
- MERCY
- SERVANTHOOD
- DISCERNMENT
- FAITH
- HELPING
- MIRACLES
- SHEPHERDING
- ENCOURAGEMENT
- GENEROSITY
- KNOWING
- PROCLAMATION
- WISDOM

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