

Grace Messenger

April 2019



Our Grace Worship Ministry

There is no more meaningful time in our Grace Worship ministry than right now. We continue in the Season of Lent, a time of spiritual preparation for the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are providing an additional worship opportunity on Thursday evenings, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The sermon series (concluding April 11) on these evenings is titled *"Takin' It to the Streets,"* with a biblical focus upon the Old Testament book of Proverbs and the topics of fear, fools, faith, family, and friends.

Holy Week, the week when we focus upon the final week of Jesus' earthly life and ministry, begins on *Palm Sunday*, April 14. The week continues with multiple, meaningful worship opportunities at noon and 7:00 p.m. *Maundy Thursday* (the night in which our Lord was betrayed) and *Good Friday* (the day of our Lord's crucifixion and burial). The week concludes on *Easter* morning, April 21. Amidst God's Word, Holy Communion, and beautiful music, we celebrate Christ's resurrection and God's victory over death.

Truth Be Told

This is the title of a 10-Sunday Children's Sermon series our pastors will offer during worship, beginning Easter morning and concluding Sunday, June 16, 2019. As Pastor Powell continues toward the conclusion of his 32-year ministry with Grace, there are 10 'truths' he wants to be sure our Grace children know. The first truth, shared on Palm Sunday, is *"We are thankful for you."* Parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents are encouraged to bring the children to worship to receive these 'truths.'

Praying Farewell

Pastor Powell will be preaching on June 2, 9, and 16. His final three Sundays serving as our Senior Pastor. On these Sundays, Pastor Powell will offer a trilogy, a 3-part, sermon series he has titled *Praying "Farewell."* Following the lead of our Lord Jesus (always a good decision, by the way), Pastor Powell will be reading and preaching from John 17, the longest prayer of Jesus ever recorded. It is often referred to as Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. On these Sunday mornings, Pastor Powell chooses not to be 'saying farewell', but, rather, *Praying Farewell.* -Pastor Powell

Senior Pastor Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has been receiving Pastoral Profiles for the last couple of months. We have been reviewing these profiles and remain in prayer, listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We have begun initial phone conversations with candidates and will be conducting interviews as well. We will continue to review Profiles as we receive them and schedule phone interviews as we feel led by the Holy Spirit. We will eventually narrow this list to one candidate to present to Council, **the first vote**.

That candidate's profile will then be reviewed by Council, and, if prayerfully approved, **the second vote**. Council will schedule an on-site visit for the candidate to meet the congregation and to preach and teach for us.

Council will then schedule a Special Congregational Meeting, potentially the same day of the visit. The congregation will then prayerfully consider and vote, **the third vote**, to extend a call to that Pastor. The candidate will have 30 days to respond in writing to accept or decline the call.

Please remain in prayer to support our process and help God lead us to the next Senior Pastor for Grace Lutheran Church.

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

Frequently Asked Questions

Several people have been asking me: "Will you come back for my funeral?" The operative word, as I receive and respond to this question, is the 4-letter word *'back'*. If by this word I'm being asked to come 'back' and preside over funerals for members of Grace, the answer is 'no'. I will, after June 16th, no longer be a pastor of this congregation and all funerals, weddings, and baptisms occurring at Grace will/should be presided over by my successor(s). If, though, the question is asking if I'll come 'back' ...attend... the funeral of a Grace member, it will indeed be a privilege and my attendance should in no way complicate the planning process nor the ministry of our Grace Pastors. This is part of the reason I created and offered the 2-part adult Sunday school series on "Prepare the Way" back on February 10th and 17th. My goal in that series was to assist/guide Grace members in providing well thought-out, written funeral plans to be carried out by my successors, as well as giving this same gift to your families, friends, and funeral directors. -Pastor Daniel M. Powell

Electing Our Bishop

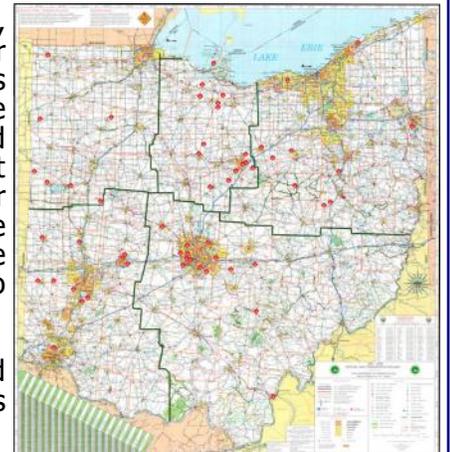
The North American Lutheran Church (NALC)...actually we, as a congregation of The NALC...will soon be electing our next Bishop. Bishop John Bradosky, presently serving and concluding his second consecutive term, is choosing not to have his name placed for re-election. The actual process for discerning/electing our next Bishop will occur at The NALC Convocation in Indianapolis this coming August. Yet, our prayerful preparation is beginning. Working with our Grace Prayer Support Team, we will include a specific prayer in our Easter morning bulletin and each of the next seven bulletins/weeks. Our Grace Prayer Support Team will also include this discernment process in their prayer-work, with a specific prayer and Scripture reading in our worship bulletins from July 7 – August 6, 2019, leading up to the August Convocation. -Pastor Daniel M. Powell

"Baptized AND Living It!"

Ohio Mission Region Annual Convocation

The 2019 Ohio Mission Region Annual Convocation which will be held on May 4, 9:00 a.m.—4:15 p.m., at The Church at Mill Run in Hilliard, Ohio. The theme for the gathering is "Baptized AND Living It!" and the theme verse is Acts 2:38. This year we are pleased to announce that Bishop Bradosky will be with us to bring the keynote address and he will preach and preside at the closing worship service and celebration of Holy Communion. Bishop John will be stepping down after we elect a new bishop this summer, so this will be his last time with us. It will also be our last opportunity to thank him for his amazing leadership of our church and all he has done to lift up discipleship as the mission Jesus gives the church. The registration fee is \$30. This year, you may register by mail or online by going to our website: www.thenalcoholio.org and choosing the region tab.

For more information call Ethel Briggs, 419-756-7766 / ethelbriggs1@gmail.com
Cost: \$30 per person which includes continental breakfast and lunch (received before April 19th). \$40 if received after April 19th. (Vendors: \$20/person) Checks payable to: Ohio Mission Region - NALC



Luther's Large Catechism Class

Pastor Powell continues creating and presiding over our current adult Sunday school class, focusing upon "The Large Catechism" as written by Martin Luther. Although this class begins on March 3, it continues through June 2 and it is NOT too late to begin attending. Although, many in our congregation completed the traditional Catechism ministry, meeting once a week during the school year during what we called Junior High. For many of us, that was a long time ago. Many others, new to Grace/the Lutheran Church, never had this experience to discuss and learn the basics of the Christian faith. For all class participants who wish to participate, we will include The Affirmation of Baptism during our 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 2, 2019. Certificates will be given to all participants.

First Communion

Pastor Powell is convening our 3-part First Communion instruction from 6:45-8:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays of March 27th, April 3rd, and April 10th at Grace. This series is to be attended by all youth, 5th grade and older, who have not yet received the instruction and desire to begin receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Parents and/or grandparents of the youth are also asked to attend the three sessions. For these youth, their First Communion will be celebrated at our 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship service on April 18, 2019.

Endowment Committee Update

The Endowment Committee is moving into the new year with annual distributions generated from the Endowment Fund in 2018. Each year, the Fund's earnings from investments are made available for all Ministry Coordinators, Staff and Pastors to be applied for and used for ministry opportunities not in the current year operating plan. For example, these were the non-budgeted items last year which were able to be funded through these Fund distributions:

Commercial Outdoor Grill	\$1,589
Quilts for disaster relief	\$ 440
Consecration Sunday Luncheon	\$2,000
Men of Grace Carfest	\$ 500
Sound System Expansion/Updates	\$3,415
Benches/Tables for new patio	\$2,920
Smartphone App Development	\$2,000
Total	\$12,864

These distributions were applied for, reviewed by the Endowment Committee and then awarded in June for completion of the request. If you have an idea for a ministry opportunity, no matter the size, the Distribution Request Forms are available in the church office. All forms must be returned by April 30. The Endowment Committee will review requests in May for June release.

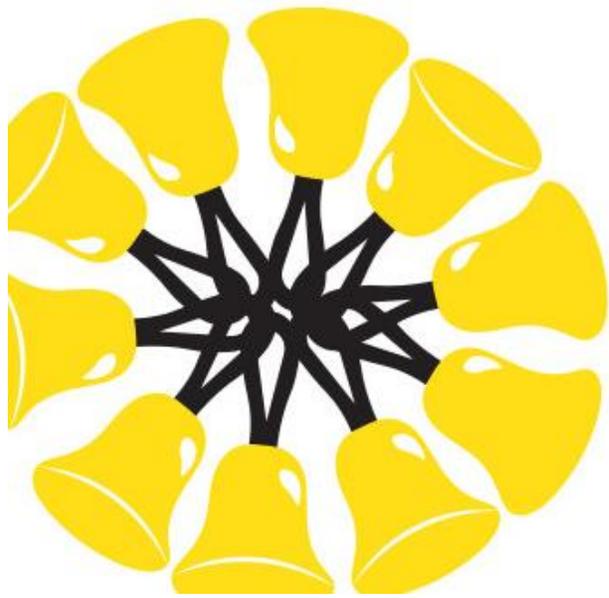


2019 Spring Ring Concert

You are invited to attend the 2019 Spring Ring concert on Sunday, April 7, held in the Sanctuary of Maiden Lane Church of God, 1201 Maiden Lane, Springfield. The concert begins at 4:00 P.M. with the Prelude by the Yellow Spring Brass Quintet at 3:50 P.M. The concert will feature handbell and handchime choirs from the Clark County area, including our own Grace Notes Handbell Choir and Grace Handchimes Choir playing individual pieces and together on two mass rings. Kristin Cline, flutist will join with our Handchimes choir during the concert. Both of Grace's choirs will play together on a fun piece, too. The Mass Rings and Praises in Bronze Choir will also be directed by Barbara Blackburn. A free will offering will be received and the concert is open to the public. Hope to see you there!

April 7 4 p.m.

SPRING



RING

A Handbell Concert

Maiden Lane Church

1201 Maiden Ln, Springfield, 45504

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

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

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

