

Grapevine



Grace Lutheran Church

Easton, MD

A welcoming community of believers,
proclaims the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
equipping disciples to serve
our congregation, community, and the world.

November, 2018

From Pastor Julie

“Come Ye Thankful People, Come” (ELW 693)

November brings two words to mind: **Come** and **Thankful**. Such simple words but so packed with meaning. **Come** is a word we often see or hear in the Gospels. **Come follow me... Come and see... Come** is a word of invitation. **Thankful** is how we respond after the invitation! Both words belong together and are lived out here at Grace, and in this Season.

We say **Come** to *Iglesias de Dios*. They are so **thankful** that they can come here for worship and praise of God. Unexpectedly, they gifted us with a personal offering from their members just to say *Thank You*. **Thank you**, Rick Schiming for pointing out that together we are “partners in the Gospel.” And also, for suggesting that their gift be handed on to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

I am so **thankful** for YOU! **Come!** Make this church stronger with your presence. Grace Lutheran Church can only exist with you. You hold the future of Grace and no one else!

Let us show our **thanks to God** this season of Thanks-giving.

1. **Come** to Worship and be immersed in Word and Sacrament. So that we will...
2. Be transformed into “little Christs” (Luther)
3. Commit ourselves to the work of The Church for the sake of The Gospel through our offerings...giving **thanks** to God for our many blessings.

We offer to God what God has first given us--ourselves, our time, and our treasures.... signs of God’s gracious love!

Are you truly **Thankful**? Then **COME!** And say **COME** to others!

In the Name of Christ our Savior,
Pastor Julie Hart

Pastor Julie's Office Hours:
Tuesday and Thursday, 10-3;
Wednesday, 11-3,
or by Appointment

President's Corner

November is a busy month for Grace and its future with the upcoming Budget Forum (November 4) and the Annual Meeting (November 18.) These are important meetings. At the Budget Forum, members of Grace will be able to review and to ask questions about the proposed 2019 Budget. This is a real opportunity to have an impact on the budget. The Congregational Council will not finalize its recommendation until after the Budget Forum. Light refreshments will be served at the Budget Forum with Sharon Sievers serving as the refreshments Coordinator. Please sign up on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex if you plan to attend. You may sign up there to contribute some refreshments.

Even more importantly, the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 18. We need to have quorum to conduct the business of Grace Lutheran Church. Moreover, we need to demonstrate that Grace has the potential to function

as a healthy congregation. I urge you to attend the meeting and share your views about Grace’s future.

The Annual Meeting currently is scheduled to begin immediately following the Sunday service. This is a departure from our traditional inclusion of Congregational Brunch. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find someone to coordinate the meal. We are still looking for someone to volunteer. If you are interested in serving as the Coordinator, know that I and others will be available to coach you through the various components of the task. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me by November 1.

Hoping to see you at the Budget Forum and the Annual Congregational Meeting,

Trish Hargrove
Council President



Outreach Committee

Members of Grace have already contributed \$170 toward our commitment of raising \$350 for 35 Thanksgiving Dinners. Thank you to those who have already contributed! The fundraising continues for this Maryland Food Project in which Thanksgiving dinners will be distributed by the Easton Church of God.

The Outreach Committee is an active group serving the needs of our community. You do not need to be a member of the Committee to participate in our activities. Service activities are open to all. Please review the "Help Wanted" section of the Grapevine for opportunities to support the committee and its work.



Although Christmas seems a long way off right now, the Outreach Committee is all ready making plans! The Committee on behalf of Grace Lutheran Church voted to adopt 3 families and 4 seniors for Christmas. Watch the Church Bulletin and TWAG for updates about how and when to donate.

Activity Announcements

Please inform Felice in the church office of any meeting or activity that you have planned at or representing Grace Lutheran Church. This will enable us to put your meeting/activity on the Grace calendar. Thank you.

Church Council

The following information is from the unapproved Grace Council minutes of their October 9, 2018, meeting.

- The Council was reminded the congregational Budget Meeting to present the proposed 2019 Grace Church Budget for discussion by the church members will be held after Sunday Worship Service on November 4, 2018.
- The Grace Church Annual Meeting will be held after Sunday Worship on November 18, 2018.
- Bernie Coates was officially appointed to replace Sandy Banko on the Nominating Committee. Seven positions on Council need to be filled for 2019.
- Gary Edsall was approved as the Council liaison for the Worship Life Committee.
- Volunteers to chair or serve on the Property Committee are still needed.
- The Council approved the formation of the Task Force for the Reorganization of the Committee/Ministry Structure of Grace. This group will review the current committees/ministry structure and formulate recommendations for Grace to become more effective. Pastor Bob White will be asked to lead this group.

Grace Lutheran Church

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The Reverend Julie Hart,
Interim Pastor

David Nicholson,
Organist/Music Director

Felice Scher,
Office Administrator

Grapevine is produced by Grace Lutheran Church
for our members and friends. November, 2018

All Members and Friends, A November Invitation

Come! on **All Saints' Sunday, November 4**, to remember and be thankful for our loved ones now members of The Church Triumphant.... And let us be thankful for their faithful witness!

During Worship a brand new Pall for Funeral Urns will be blessed and dedicated; thanks to the Gisselman and Hart families.

Following worship attend The **Budget Hearing for 2019**.

November 11--Veterans Day seeks to honor and give thanks to all the men and women who have served and are serving in the US Armed Forces. Ceremonies are held across the country at Veterans Hospitals, cemeteries, and National Monuments. The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held at Arlington National Cemetery. At this ceremony the President of the United States, or his assigned ambassador, places a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Come! **November 18** when following worship, we hold our Annual Meeting; to approve The Budget. And Elect a new Congregational Council—securing Grace's future in its leadership. This is a vital and pivotal time in Grace's future as a congregation. So, please, Come!

Thursday, November 22, we celebrate the National Holiday of Thanksgiving. Remember to give thanks to God for all your many blessings.

November 25--The Year is **crowned** with goodness as we worship **Christ The King**—the last Sunday of the Church Year.

*Daylight Saving Time
Ends November 4.*

Set clocks BACK one hour.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

> January 18-20, 2019, *RoadTrip*; High school youth event. Clarion Fontainebleu Hotel, Ocean City, MD
 > April 5-7, 2019, *Transformers*; Middle school leadership retreat. Mar-Lu-Ridge, Jefferson, MD
 SERVICE PROJECT, 2018-2019 Synod Youth. We are assembling School Kits for Lutheran World Relief for Refugee Camps all over the world. Grace has been specifically asked to bring (1) at least four notebooks per participant: 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; (2) Crayons (boxes of 24 or 16). Look for the collection box in the Narthex.



Youth Activities

NEW THIS YEAR! Events for Third to Fifth Graders
 Two events for children in grades 3-5 and their families! .

1) Sunday, December 2, 2018 – Advent Family Event for children and their families. Same program offered in three locations:

- Mar-Lu-Ridge, Jefferson, MD
- St. Michael Lutheran Church, Perry Hall, MD
- St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Wilmington, DE

2) May 3-4, 2019 – Retreat 345 for children in grades 3-5 and their parents/guardians. Mar-Lu-Ridge, Jefferson, MD



♦ **Flannel Material Needed:** Grace Quilters are in need of flannel material for the quilts. If you are able to donate flannel, please contact Nancy Zepp.

♦ **Donate Calendars and Knitted Hats:** Please donate 2019 calendars and knitted hats for the International Seafarers House in Baltimore. You can place your donations in the box in the Narthex. Knitters can find directions on the bulletin in the Narthex.

♦ **Coordinator for Brunch before the Annual Meeting** on Sunday, November 18: Organize the meal, estimate number of expected attendees, solicit members to provide food donations, set up tables, make beverages, set up food and drinks, and clean-up. If you are interested in serving as the Coordinator for this event, contact Trish Hargrove by November 1.

♦ **Interfaith Lunches:** Grace participates in the Interfaith Lunches program on the 4th Wednesday of the month. We could use additional delivery volunteers! Grace's Coordinator (Vicki Zobel) supplies the lunches and 2 teams deliver the lunches each week. Contact Vickie if you can help. Current teams volunteer every other month.

♦ **Grace Food Pantry:** The Pantry is running low. To contribute to the Pantry, drop off nonperishable foods in the Narthex. Cans with pop tops are preferred, no glass containers, please.

♦ **Choir:** If you are interested in adding your voice to Grace's Choir, please contact Dave Nicholson.

♦ **Brown Bag Lunches:** Grace volunteers make and deliver lunches to a local shelter on the following days of the month:
 - SUNDAY: 1st, 3rd, and 5th (if there is a 5th) Sunday
 - THURSDAY: 3rd Thursday

A sign-up sheet, directions, and suggestions for lunches are posted in the Narthex. Please consider helping this project.

♦ **Interfaith Shelter:** On the 17th of each month, Grace volunteers serve at the Talbot Interfaith Shelter. We are in need of volunteers to share time with the residents in the morning and evening of the 17th. Volunteering involves staying in the library of the Interfaith Shelter and interacting with residents for 2 or 3 hours.

♦ **Delivering of Food to Local Agencies:** Some of the food collected in the Grace is shared with local agencies in Easton and Cambridge. Although we have drivers for each of these locations, it would be helpful to have additional drivers to serve as back-up drivers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Trish Hargrove.

♦ **Donations for Church of God and Maryland Food Bank Thanksgiving Dinners:** The Outreach Committee is raising funds for 35 meals (\$350) for Thanksgiving. Any money received beyond the \$350 will be donated to the Maryland Food Bank. If you are interested in donating, please include a check marked "Thanksgiving Dinners" in the Sunday collection or drop it off at the office.

In Our Prayers ... we lift up those in special need of God's hope and healing.

For: Louise White (recovering from surgery), Margie Kauffman (hip surgery), Beverly Sprouse (medical issue), Beverly Radvan (health concern), Linda Nabb (cancer), Susan Blumberg (Pr. Julie's son's mother-in-law – cancer), Howie (friend of the Endzels), Gary Edsall Jr. (Gary Edsall's son – cancer), Ricky Vitanovec (choir member Amber's husband – needs kidney transplant), Nancy Wolf (fractured foot), Thomas Ashby, Bill Sievers (Sharon Sievers' brother – congestive heart failure), Michael Fisher, Patricia Hill-Kaplan (Faith Howarth's sister), Wyatt, Douglas Edsall (son of Gary), Bob White, Jason (cancer diagnosis), Karol Osborne (Ken Howarth's sister), Jim Palinkas (father of Cindy Palinkas – cancer), Penny Ward (friend of Michelle Bullock), Alice Fichter (friend of Anne Dudley), Kristina Bales (daughter of Kathy Bodey), all those affected by fires, floods, the homeless and under-served.

For those who are homebound: Herbert Seeba, Helen Brennan, Bernice Miller.

The Church throughout the world and our bishops:

Bishop Bill Gohl, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Grace Lutheran Church (Hockessin, DE – Pr. Tara Magoon), Lutheran Volunteer Corps, St. Mark's Lutheran Church (Wilmington, DE – Pr. Scott Maxwell), St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Newark, DE – Pr. Linda Gunderson), Hope Lutheran Church (Wilmington, DE – Pr. Daniel T. Swanson, LCS (Deacon Jean Warren), Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church (Milford, DE – Pr. Eric Evers, Pr. Paige Evers), Hilltop Lutheran Community Center (Wilmington, DE), Mosaic of Delaware, and the Lutheran Church worldwide

Financial Update through September, 2018

- Our Investment Account composed of our Vanguard Index Funds and a deposit in the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund totals about \$302,000, up about \$3,000 from the beginning of the year. The Investment Account actually earned more than \$19,000 so far this year but a large part of that gain was used to pay expenses.
- Our total budget shortfall as of the end of September was \$5,878. However this number reflects the fact that we have had to dip into reserves and withdraw \$18,000 in order to meet our operating expenses. In other words, in the absence of this withdrawal from reserves, our basic operating income to date was \$123,000 and our operating expenses to date were \$148,000.
- In other words, we are currently spending \$1.00 for every 83 cents in income.
- Our offerings have fallen substantially behind. At this time, we should have 75% of our anticipated offerings but we only have 66%. Member giving through both regular offerings and Simply Giving are not adequate to support much of God's mission for us without incurring larger and larger deficits.

When the Congregational Council met recently to assess the continued viability of Grace Lutheran in our current circumstances, the unanimous opinion of the Council was that our financial situation was a major problem that has to be solved and that it posed a significant threat to our sustainability. The numbers above point out the depth of the problem.

Our choice then is to either grow our giving to meet God's mission for us or to shrink our spending by omitting important parts of our involvement in the community within and outside of our four walls.

Remembering Isaac Watts

The Lutheran Church annually remembers Isaac Watts (1674-1748) on the anniversary of his death, November 25. Watts was born in Southampton, England to a family of nonconformists who felt that the Church of England had not carried its reforms far enough. He was a Christian minister, theologian, and hymn writer who is credited with having written about 750 hymns.

Some of Watts' hymns are based upon Psalms and are adapted as hymns with a Christian perspective in the vernacular for congregational singing. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* includes ten of Watts' hymn texts: • *Joy to the World* (267) • *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed* (337) • *Jesus Shall Reign* (434) • *Come, We That Love the Lord* (625) • *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (632) • *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways* (772) • *My Shepherd, You Supply My Need* (782) • *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (803) • *Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Song* (847) • *Give to Our God Immortal Praise* (848)

Stewardship Report

By now, you have received the invitation to participate in the Fall Stewardship Campaign as well as the pledge card from the Stewardship Committee. The tithes and offerings we pledge for 2019 will be especially crucial for us as we respond to God's generosity toward us with our generosity toward others. Simply stated, if we give only as we have given in the past, our ability to serve our congregation and our neighbors will be curtailed to a significant extent in the coming year.

The Stewardship Committee advocates the use of *Simply Giving* for those who pledge. The needs of our congregation and our neighbors do not take a vacation or skip a week. *Simply Giving* is an easy way to make sure that your tithes and offerings are always made in a timely and consistent manner in support of God's mission here at Grace. Sign-up is easy. Sign-up sheets will be available at both our upcoming Budget Forum and Annual Meeting. Please prayerfully consider using *Simply Giving* as part of your response to all God has given to you.

As the 2018 calendar year rapidly draws to its end, so does the current church year. November is a month of "wrapping up" an assortment of things and a preparation for the beginning of a new year. We are offered several opportunities for both remembrance and thanksgiving this month.

On All Saints Sunday (November 4) we remember the saints of the church and those loved ones who have departed this earthly life. We give thanks for their lives and, although we mourn their death, we celebrate the victory won for the faithful departed.

Our national Day of Thanksgiving, for many, a secular observance of family, food, football, and shopping, while we in the church observe it as a day to reflect upon and offer special thanks to God for His countless daily blessings.

The church year ends (November 25) with the observance of Christ the King Sunday – a festival exalting Christ as king. Jesus is unlike an earthly king as His authority comes from the truth to which He bears witness. Those who recognize that truth faithfully listen and follow Him. Through death our Lord opens the door for us to paradise. THANKS and PRAISE to GOD!









Grace Women

You are invited to a Retreat at St. Peter's Community Life Center (Ocean City), Saturday, November 10, 2018, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Lunch provided, snacks available throughout the day. \$6.00. Interested? Call St. Peter's at 410-524-7474 or pmestes14@yahoo.com for more information.



November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>Office Open Daily: Monday - Thursday 10:00a - 2:00 p Worship Folder Deadline: 12 noon Tuesday BYOL: Daily, Monday - Friday, 12:15p Iglesia de Dios: Mon, Wed, Sat 7:00p</p> <p>Office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 22 for Thanksgiving Holiday</p>					1	2	3
<p>4 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 10:45a Faith Connections</p> <p>Brown Bag Lunches</p>	<p>5 5:30p Outreach</p>	6	<p>7 9:30a Quilters 7:00p Choir</p>	<p>8 Brown Bag lunches</p> 	9	10	
<p>11 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 10:45a Faith Connections</p> <p>Canned Food Sunday</p>	12	<p>13 7:00p Council</p>	<p>14 7:00p Choir</p> 	15	16	<p>17 Talbot Interfaith Shelter</p> 	
<p>18 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 10:45a Annual Meeting</p> <p>Brown Bag Lunches</p>	19	<p>20 6:30p Stewardship</p> 	<p>21 9:30a Quilters</p>	<p>22 Thanksgiving Day Office will be closed</p> 	23	24	
<p>25 9:30a Worship w/ Communion 10:45a Faith Connections</p>	26	27	<p>28 9:30a Interfaith Meal Delivery</p> <p>7:00p Choir</p>	29	30		