



# Grace Lutheran Church Announcements - Aug.18, 2019

*Gracefully Living ~ Gracefully Serving*

8601 Valleyfield Road Lutherville, MD 21093

410-828-5115 / [office@gracelutherville.org](mailto:office@gracelutherville.org)

Interim Pastor Lura Groen [lura.groen@gmail.com](mailto:lura.groen@gmail.com) or 832-350-0404

[www.gracelutherville.org](http://www.gracelutherville.org) / [www.facebook.com/GraceChurch.Lutherville](https://www.facebook.com/GraceChurch.Lutherville)

**Welcome!** We are glad you are here worshipping with us! If you have questions about any aspect of our worship service or need assistance the ushers are happy to help. We hope to see you again soon!



Open communion is practiced here at Grace, all are welcome to the Lord's table.

As you walk up the center aisle, you may take an empty cup from the tray on the table in front. There are also pre-filled cups of white grape juice on a plate between the trays. You will then receive a piece of bread from Pastor. If you have an individual cup, wine will be poured by the Assisting Minister. If you would rather receive wine from the common cup, you may still do so from the second chalice. If you used the individual cup, you may discard the cup on the way back to your seat.

Anyone who prefers not to commune, is still welcome to come up for a blessing. If you, due to mobility issues, would prefer to receive communion in your seat, please let one of the ushers know, and Pastor will bring communion to you.

**\*\* Please help us keep the prayer list updated. If anyone needs to be removed or added please contact the office.**

Tammi Bissett  
Laurie Worzask  
Milton Dierker  
Luis Bolivar  
Lisa Nickles  
Francis White  
Katie Westwick  
Carrie Avirett  
Thelma Davis  
Bill Phillips  
Carol Ridenour



Doug Rhodey  
Tom Phipps  
Claire Schultze  
Tina Frymoyer  
Bettie Greene  
John Leitner

Grace Lutheran Church in South Range, Michigan  
The families of Lou Kaste, Terry Hall and Jeanette Spedden

## Today at Grace...

- Grace welcomes our substitute musician, George Sack
- Everyone is invited to gather after worship for Fellowship Hour
- Happy birthday Bill Schultze and Kiran Armstrong



## Upcoming Events...

### Tuesday, August 20th

- Bible study, 11:30AM

### Friday, August 23rd

- Book study, 6:30PM

### Saturday, August 24th

- Memorial service for Terry Hall, 11:00AM

### Saturday, August 31st

- Serving at Loaves & Fishes

### Sunday, September 1st

- Healing Prayer Service at Grace, 10:00AM

### Friday, September 6th

- Helping Hands meeting, 9AM

### Sunday, September 8th

- Grace's Crab Feast, following worship



**ACTC lunches for Aug. 25th**

**John Guthmann**

## Weekly challenge:



Do something loving for someone else in this congregation.  
(Other than your spouse or best friend.)

### Service for Terry Hall

Terry Hall died peacefully in Christ on August 3rd.

His service will be at Grace Lutheran on Saturday, August 24th at 11am. There will be a luncheon at the church after the service.

Please keep LuJean, and all who loved Terry, in your prayers during this time.

### Tuesday Bible Study

Bible Study continues every Tuesday at 11:30 as we gather in the activity room to study Scripture. You are invited to bring a brown bag lunch.

*Everyone is welcome!*

### Save the date!! Santa's elves are working hard getting ready for the Christmas Bazaar!

Grace's annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 16th, 9:00AM to 2:00PM.



### Friday Evening Book Study

Friday Night Book Group/Bible Study is reading "Love Big: The Power of Revolutionary Relationships to Heal the World" by Rozella Haydée White.

The group meets every other Friday at 6:30pm for a light dinner, study at 7:30.

The book is available in the church lobby.

*Everyone is welcome!*

### Loaves & Fishes

Grace's next time to serve at Loaves & Fishes will be Saturday, August 31, 2019. We are planning a summer themed meal with hotdogs, tossed salad, corn on the cob, brownies and fruit cups.

Pat was able to obtain 150 ears of corn that were donated by Joe Bartenfelder, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

Pat Hickey,  
Coordinator for Loaves & Fishes



### The Quilting Group

Quilting group is taking a break for the summer. They will resume on September 10th.

### **Worship Schedule**

**August 25**

AM: George Weidley  
L: Madeleine Armstrong  
Greeter: Audrey Rhodey  
Usher: Terry Conkwright & Susan Hermann

Ushers & Greeters: Hospitality Team name tags & instructions are available at the Visitors table.

### Giving & Attendance

August 11, 2019

Giving: \$1,050.00 Attendance: 26  
Giving Year to Date: \$42,044.00

### Annual Crab Feast

Sunday, September 8th,  
following worship.



*Sign-up sheet in the Narthex!*

### August Monthly Appeal

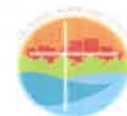
#### *Claim Baltimore*

CLAIM is an association of Lutheran churches in the greater Baltimore area which provides outreach programs, forums and seminars and promotes congregational events like music camp, drama camp, crab feasts, choir concerts, etc. Their current service project "God's Work, Our Hands" is packaging and distributing 25,000 meal packets to food pantries and programs in the Greater Baltimore area, with the help of local churches and volunteers in the community.

It is their prayer that this program *will unite us all in Christian faith to help those in need and develop support and encouragement among our faith communities.*

Up to 5 volunteers are being requested from each participating church to come to St John's Lutheran Church, 8808 Harford Rd, Parkville, on Sept. 8th between 2-3 p.m. to assemble the units. We have also invited ACTC and the Scouts to participate as volunteers, if they can.

Claim Baltimore  
443-854-1490





# 2019 ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

AUGUST 5-10, 2019 • MILWAUKEE

Our denomination, the ELCA, holds a churchwide assembly triennially - to worship, vote on matters of governance and policy, and be church together for the sake of the world. This past week's churchwide assembly was full of important votes and actions, including:

- Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was reelected for a second six-year term on the first ballot.
- A declaration of apology to our siblings of African descent, which was received by the African Descent Lutheran Association with thanks and a call for accountability and living into the words shared.
- Approved resolution declaring the ELCA is a “sanctuary church body,” encouraging participation in the ELCA AMMPARO initiative for migrant children, discernment of care for our immigrant neighbors in our context, and the promise of forthcoming resources for this work.
- Approved support for the World Council of Church’s *Thursdays in Black*, awareness movement for a world without rape and violence.
- Voted to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance, in honor and remembrance of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9.
- Approved a declaration for inter-religious commitment, reaffirming ecumenical and interfaith partnerships.
- Approved the recommendations from a strategic taskforce which has been studying how to work toward authentic diversity in our church.
- Approved memorials: affirming but not “endorsing” the Poor People’s Campaign, care for immigrants and refugees, and other statements.
- Adopted a new social statement, “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a Lutheran Call to Action,” and its implementing resolutions.
- Deacon Sue Rothmeyer was elected Churchwide Secretary, a full-time position which acts as executive administrator and leader on all constitutional matters and interpretation.
- Constitutional change for Deacons (rostered ministers of word and service) to be ordained, from the previous practice of consecration.
- Celebrated the milestones of 50 years of women's ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ clergy.



Dear siblings in Christ,

As many of you know, last week the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution that, among other things, declared the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) a sanctuary denomination. Many of you are asking, “What does this mean?”

Our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith. In our baptismal covenant we promise to strive for peace and justice in all the world. One of the ways we live out this vow is through our commitment to welcoming the stranger. With this declaration, we publicly state that walking alongside refugees and immigrants is a matter of faith.

We have prepared [talking points](#) to provide a better understanding and further clarification on what sanctuary means for you and your congregations. We acknowledge this will look different in different contexts across the ELCA.

We also hope this resource will help guide conversations with your parishioners and your community about what our faith says about immigration.

*“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God” (Romans 15:7).*

In Christ,

Handwritten signature of Elizabeth A. Eaton in cursive script.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## What does becoming a sanctuary denomination mean for the ELCA?

- **In its simplest form, becoming a sanctuary denomination means that the ELCA is publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith.** The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the highest legislative authority of the ELCA, declared that when we preach on Sunday that Jesus told us to welcome, we will use our hands and voices on Monday to make sure it happens.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination does not call for any person, congregation or synod to engage in any illegal actions.**
- **We have a broken system regarding immigration, refugees and asylum-seekers.** To declare ourselves a sanctuary church body is to say that we seek to provide concrete resources to assist the most vulnerable who are feeling the sharp edges of this broken system.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination is about loving our neighbors.** While we may have different ideas about how to fix this broken system and may have different ways of loving our neighbors, our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith.
- **Being a sanctuary denomination will look different in different contexts.** It may mean providing space for people to live; providing financial and legal support to those who are working through the immigration system; or supporting other congregations and service providers. We cannot mandate or direct our congregations and ministries to respond in specific ways. Each must work out what this means for them in their context.
- **While we don't yet know the full scope of the work that this declaration will open for the church, we do know that our faith communities are already doing sanctuary work.** Sanctuary for a congregation may mean hosting English as a second Language (ESL) classes; marching as people of faith against the detention of children and families; providing housing for a community member facing deportation; or, in some of our congregations, having thoughtful conversations about what our faith says about immigration. All of these are a step closer to sanctuary in our faith communities and sanctuary in our world for people who must leave their homes.

- **Except for our members whose ancestors were here before European settlement or others who were forced to come to the U.S. against their will, the ELCA is an immigrant church. Our decadeslong work with immigrants and refugees is how we practice our faith in the world. Lutherans started Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, one of the nine refugee resettlement agencies in the U.S.**
- **At our last churchwide assembly, we also committed to walking alongside Central American children and families fleeing their communities by passing the [AMMPARO](#) strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities).**
- **Through the AMMPARO strategy, we are also working through our global partners in Central America to alleviate the conditions that cause people to migrate. We support organizations and faith communities that work with deported migrants in Central America and advocate for the humane treatment of immigrants in Mexico. In the U.S., we have a network of 151 welcoming and sanctuary congregations that are committed to working on migration issues and a welcome for immigrant communities. The church also has five sanctuary synods (our regional structures), all of which do work with immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.**
- **In baptism, we are brought into a covenantal relationship with Jesus Christ that commits us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Following the example of Martin Luther, we believe that advocacy is a crucial expression of baptismal identity. As a church, we have advocated for stopping the detention of children and families for decades. We have spoken out against family separation, sought a pathway to citizenship for community members who have lived in the U.S. for many years, and have taken steps to address the root causes of migration in a way that honors the humanity in people who must flee.**
- **Being a sanctuary denomination means that we, as church together, want to be public and vocal about this work. At the same time, we will have conversations about what sanctuary means with many of our members and discern future action and direction. Welcoming people is not a political issue for us, it is a matter of faith.**

## Grace English Lutheran Church Meeting Minutes - 8/13/19

**Finance:** JR reported that the church to date had: Total income \$58,000, expenses: \$153,000, that is why the \$102,000 had been taken from the endowment fund so far, and another \$75,000 will be drawn before the end of the year. This does not include the eventual cost of the roof repair. However we should note the Merrill Lynch fund gained \$60,000 despite the market fluctuations. There were also donations made to the memorial fund due to recent deaths. A question was asked about the income listed in the Sunday bulletin. That is only the income from member envelopes. Other checks and loose offerings of cash are not recorded there.

**Property:** Work will begin on the roof in September. WiFi was completed Thursday for the COOP. There was brief discussion on Reinheimer Hall's readiness for rental. There is a small issue in the ladies' restroom. Bill is working on that.

**Evangelism:** Cheryl reported that an Eagle Scout project will begin September. Cheryl also coordinated Grace's participation in a meal preparation program via Claim Baltimore to produce 25,000 meals from the Greater Baltimore area with 19 other churches on Sept 8th, facilitated the removal of pews from the hall. Based on information given Grace collected at least \$400.00 in school supplies for Baltimore County students.

**Pastoral Report:** The pastor was pleased with the work of the leaders in dealing with the preparation of the hall for more frequent events as well as the efforts to handle several funerals in a short time. She expresses continued concern about the lack of members who attended conversational meetings. Likewise she expresses concern in the treatment of visitors and reactions of members toward her comments on that subject. The pastors' duty to shut-ins has been reduced due to several recent deaths. She acknowledged the losses have affected her and the congregation. There are some notes of joy in the planning of a wedding coming in September and the beginning of a New Member class.

### **Unfinished Business:**

**Attendance and giving:** Are the lowest they have been all year. Attendance is in the low 20's.

**Hall rental discussion:** A search for additional cleaners has not been very successful. There is concern that another cleaner must be found as volume increases. Other issues that came up; to establish a policy on refunds, the need to verify that renters have insurance their event's liability, synchronizing the Google facility and event calendars to avoid, a curtain pole to be replaced.( After the meeting a potential cleaner was contacted and ,hopefully, will solve the problem at least short term.)

**Church's future:** John plans to write a letter outlining the council's vision and hold a meeting later in the fall to get approval after the matter has been considered by more members.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Parks-Weidley, Temporary Secretary

