

GRACE VINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church
January 2019

Sunday Morning Worship Hours

7:30 am Community Pancake Breakfast
8:30 am Contemporary Worship in Hope Hall
9:45 am-10:45 am Grace Time in the North Room
11:00 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
12:15 pm Fellowship

Five Guiding Principles of Grace Lutheran Church

- 1 Jesus is Lord!
- 2 Pray, Seek, and Follow God's Will
- 3 Share the Good News of Christ
- 4 Embrace God's Challenge to Love and Serve Others
- 5 All are Welcome

GLOW, Wednesdays, 5:15 pm-7:15 pm (Grace Lutheran on Wednesdays)

At GLOW, we eat dinner, study and pray together, and build community. During the month of January, we will focus on health and wellness in our study.

Soul Journey to Holden Village

For those who have confirmed their participation in this summer's soul journey to Holden Village, our first official (required) team building is Sunday, January 6 at 12:30 pm. We'll meet in Hope Hall and travel to our service project from there.

Grace Annual Meeting

The Grace Annual Meeting is on January 20 at 10:30 am. We will have ONE SERVICE at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary. Following worship is brunch at 9:45 am and the Annual Meeting at 10:30 am in Hope Hall.

January Community Building Goal

Our community building goal for January is to, each week during worship, consider what Christian community—the CHURCH—will look like in a decade and how we might respond to the call of the Spirit in forming that kind of community.

For many of us, the future of the church is scary because it means change. However, if we anticipate the change, we get to fashion the change!

Epiphany Worship Leadership

This year, the celebration of Epiphany, always on January 6, lands on a Sunday. To embody the message of Epiphany—that God comes into the world in an unexpected way—we especially invite unexpected people who do not normally lead worship to serve as worship leaders at both or either service. Worship roles include the following:

1st Service: scripture reader, communion assistant, usher, preacher, Faith in Motion leader

2nd Service: greeter, usher, scripture reader, crucifer, psalm leader, communion assistant, preacher, Faith in Motion leader

Our worship that day will honor the courage of those who don't normally lead worship and celebrate the unexpected ways God works in the world—and our lives. Please speak with Pastor Sarah if you have an interest in serving as a worship leader on that particular day.

Grace Vine is Published 12 times a year by

Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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www.graceinthecity.com

www.Facebook.com/GraceInTheCity

By God's grace, we are in the city for good!



From Pastor Sarah's Pen

The Church of Christ In Ev'ry Age

This month, as our community building goal, we imagine what the church of 10 years from now will look like. We imagine this together because, if we are proactive in doing so, we will fashion the church of 2029 instead of simply reacting to it. We, as the body of Christ, will shape it.

Imagining the church of the future, at least for me, compels me to consider the very nature of the church. In seminary language, what we are exploring is ecclesiology. Honestly, when we got to the study of ecclesiology in my systemic theology class, I wasn't too excited. I read the assigned books reluctantly and breathed a sigh of relief that my professor assigned no paper on the topic. But now, I am intrigued by what it means to be the church.

For the church has taken different forms and had different purposes in every age of its life. US Christians in 2019 tend to think of the church as always taking the form and serving the purpose it did during the early and mid-20 th century in the US—as a social center of life in which everyone took part. While we may believe that this is the best form that church can take, it is by no means the only form church has taken in its 2000-year history. The early Christian church of the 1st and 2nd centuries worshiped in homes and embraced no formal ordination of clergy or structure. The focus of the early Christian church was community: joint prayer, meals, hymn-singing, serving one another, even sharing possessions. Testifying to faith preceded martyrdom in a time when the Roman Empire persecuted Christians. Moving into the time of the “church fathers [and mothers],” a time of theological formation in the 4th and 5th centuries, the church hotly debated foundational theological beliefs. From this age emerged our creeds with doctrines reflected in them such as the Trinity and Jesus' full humanity and full divinity.

By the time of the Reformation, the European church served a very different purpose: largely to distribute divine absolution and judgment with a heavy focus on Holy Communion in public worship. The common people didn't even understand the language in which the priests spoke! Fast forward 300 years and cross the ocean to the pioneer days of the US, and the church was building institutions as communities of faith set up shop across the country: hospitals, colleges, nursing homes, schools for the blind and deaf, seminaries, and a plethora of charitable organizations feeding, clothing, and housing people. Many congregations were built at this time and many church bodies established. We can hardly imagine a United States without the presence of the church at its center.

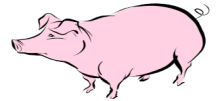
Where and how is the Holy Spirit calling the church next? What is our vocation in 2019 and moving forward? A new vocation doesn't mean that the previous vocation was inadequate or ineffective. Far from it, actually. Just as an individual can finish their work in a particular place and in a particular role and then move on to new workplace and a new role, so too has the church fulfilled its call in ages past. Now, I believe God has called us to something new, and indeed, that is what God has done all along. In every age, God has called the people of God to do a new thing, guided by the Holy Spirit. As we discern what God has for us in this coming age, we remember the words of a familiar hymn:

*The church of Christ in ev'ry age beset by change, but Spirit-led,
Must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.*

With joy and much love,
Pastor Sarah

Wilbur Emphasis

During the month of January, Wilbur the pig welcomes monetary donations for ELCA World Hunger. In addition, we will gather non-perishable food donations for the Mount of Olives Food Closet, especially cans of soup with pop tops and plastic grocery bags that can be reused.



Grace Buddies

Thank you to all of the participants and people who have donated to make this new ministry possible. Grace Buddies will meet the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. We are on a holiday break for January and will resume Grace Buddies the first Saturday in February, 2019. Margie Betz (Lbetz2@cox.net) or Pastor Sarah can answer questions or share more about getting involved.

Grace Time for Children Ages 3-11 Children's Storytime Sundays, 9:45-10:45 am, Basement Classroom

All children ages 3-11 are welcome during Grace Time to participate in Children's Storytime in the freshly decorated church basement. Crafts and activities will help children connect with the Bible stories and with other Grace members! If you have questions, please speak with Linda Schwall.

WELCA Bible Study Group

WELCA Bible Study meets on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 am in the North Room. Please join or ask Bev for further detail.

"Caring for Our Community" Service Projects

The youth, young adults, and everyone going on the Holden Village trip this summer will be serving members of our community who need help cleaning, moving furniture, or doing yard work this year. Simple forms to request service are available at the back of the sanctuary and on the west side of Hope Hall. You can fill out the simple form and place it in the offering plate. We are delighted to be of service to our community!

Addiction Education

In response to the Opioid Crisis

Pastor Sarah and Pastor Kim Sterner have been the Grand Canyon Synod representatives to the attorney general's clergy council meetings about responding to the opioid crisis. They are pleased to announce upcoming training that will focus on the state of the crisis, how to spot signs of addiction among friends/family/congregation members, and risk factors for potential addiction.

The training is appropriate for parish nurses and others in our communities who are concerned about health/wellness issues. Each congregation of the synod is welcome to send 1-3 people. There is no charge to attend.

Opioid Training on Thursday, January 31 @ 10am-12 pm
First Congregational United Church of Christ
1407 N 2nd Street, Phoenix

True North Development Proposal

The developer True North is proposing to Grace a long term ground lease on our west parking lot to build a parking garage. The lease would allow us to keep nearly the same number of parking spaces solely for our own use on the ground floor while offering parking to the community above. To learn about the proposal, please attend the informational meeting at which True North will present: Sunday, January 6 at 9:45 am in Hope Hall. If you cannot attend either meeting for scheduling reasons but would like to learn about the project, please be in touch with Pastor Sarah or Renee Waterstradt. We will vote on the project at our annual meeting on Sunday, January 20.

Soul Journey Parking Lot Fundraisers

Soul Journeys: please watch for details in bulletins about upcoming parking lot fundraisers as we have not yet received a calendar from the Parks Department.

Biblical Equipping

Biblical Equipping will meet on the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 am in the North Room. For more information, please reach out to Nancy Tickle.

Faith Formation



See you in church!

Fran Fry, Council Liason

CALL

(Confirmation Among Local Lutherans)

Sundays, January 13 & 27, 12:45 pm

Faith Lutheran Church

7th Street & Camelback

Most months, CALL meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 12:45-3:00 pm. Congregations participating in CALL include Grace, Faith, Our Saviour's, Prince of Peace, Trinity, Shepherd of the Valley, and Celebration (in Peoria). Class sessions are held at each of the participating congregations on a rotating basis, and Grace will host in February and March.

Giving to Grace

There are many ways to monetarily give to Grace!

- Place a check or cash in the offering plate with or without an offering envelope. Placing your offering in the envelope simply makes it easier for our counters to do their ministry.
- Mail your check to the church.
- Go to www.graceinthecity.com, click on "donate" on the top right of the page, click on "give" on the top right of that page, and then fill out the form that pops up. This is Tithe.ly which provides online giving for churches.
- If you have a personal PayPal account set up, you may give to Grace (donations@graceinthecity.com). Simply designate Grace as a "friend."

January Birthdays

Suggested Bible Readings for January

January 6 (Epiphany of Our Lord)

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

January 13 (Baptism of Christ)

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm: Psalm 29

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20 (Epiphany 2)

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm: Psalm 36:5-10

Gospel: John 2:1-11

January 27 (Epiphany 3)

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm: Psalm 19

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

January 2

Margie Betz

January 2

Robanisha Davis

January 2

Robin Elerick

January 4

Amelia Jochim

January 8

Denisha Davis Browning

January 8

Ricki Schilling

January 14

Maria Ramirez

January 16

Chance Martin– Schilling

January 18

Retha Walker

January 19

Ruth Bowman

January 20

Jim Spitler

January 24

Marjie Bell

January 27

Kaia Knutson

January 27

Steve Sigala

January 28

Devon Davis

January Worship Assistants

	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
Preacher	Carol Staffieri	Pastor Sarah	Pastor Sarah	Pastor Sarah
Greeters	To embody the message of Epiphany, we will honor the courage of those who don't normally lead worship and celebrate the unexpected ways God works in the world—and our lives. Please speak with Pastor Sarah if you have an interest in serving as greeter, usher, scripture reader, crucifer, psalm leader, communion assistant, preacher, Faith in Motion leader.	Nicole Chumley Brian Flatgard	Bev Zannos Nancy Tickle	Betty Brewitt Fran Fry
Reader		Emma Fernandez	Renee Waterstradt	Nicole Gallen
Ushers		John Erickson Adam Wohlbrandt	Gene Bell Joey Lay	John Erickson Dorothy Ziehl Jeff Brewitt
Sound Board		Tim Gallen	Maria Ramirez	Daniel Ramirez
Crucifer		Solveig Muus	Nicole Gallen	Sue Thun
Bread Baker		Evalyn Ehlen	Nicole Gallen	Solveig Muus
8:30 Reader		Wright Edler	Kristen Barrick	Roger Ark

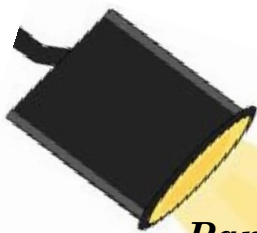


JANUARY 2018

Grace Lutheran Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1- 8:00 pm New Life in Christ New Year's Service- Sanctuary Office Closed Pastor Sarah on Vacation Happy New Year!	2- 8:30 am Staff Meeting	3- 9:30 am WELCA Bible Study—North room 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice- Choir Room 7:00 pm 12-step Recovery Meeting- North Room Office Closed	4- 6:00 pm First Friday - Sanctuary/Hope Hall Lester's Sabbath	5- No Grace Buddies—will resume in February
6- 7:30 am Community Breakfast- Hope Hall 8:30 am Contemporary Worship- Hope Hall 9:45 am Grace Time-North Room 9:45 am Informational Meeting—Hope Hall 11:00 am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 12:15 pm Fellowship- Hope Hall 12:30 pm Team Building 12:45 pm New Life in Christ - Sanctuary	7-9:00 am Grace Room Pastor Sarah's Sabbath	8- 5:15 pm Phx Children's Choir- Hope Hall	9- 8:30 am Staff Meeting	10- 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice- Choir Room 7:00 pm 12-step Recovery Meeting- North Room Office Closed	11- Lester's Sabbath	12- 10:00 am NAUM—Hope Hall 5:00 pm Grace Cinema Club
13- 7:30 am Community Breakfast- Hope Hall 8:30 am Contemporary Worship- Hope Hall 9:45 am Grace Time-North Room 11:00 am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 12:15 pm Fellowship- Hope Hall 12:30 pm Faith Formation Ministry Team Meeting- North Room 12:45 pm New Life in Christ - Sanctuary 12:45 pm CALL- Faith Lutheran Church 2:45 pm Rental Group- Hope Hall	14-9:00 am Grace Room Pastor Sarah's Sabbath	15- 5:15 pm Phx Children's Choir- Hope Hall	16- 8:30 am Staff Meeting	17- 9:30 am Biblical Equipping- North Room 10:00 am Campfirmation Meeting- Hope Hall 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice- Choir Room 7:00 pm 12-step Recovery Meeting- North Room Office Closed	18- Lester's Sabbath	19- 8:30 am Phx Children's Choir- Hope Hall & Sanctuary
20- 7:30 am Community Breakfast- Hope Hall 8:30 am ONE SERVICE- Sanctuary 9:45 Grace Time Brunch- Hope Hall 10:30 am Annual Meeting- Hope Hall 12:45 pm New Life in Christ - Sanctuary	21-9:00 am Grace Room Pastor Sarah's Sabbath	22- 5:15 pm Phx Children's Choir- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Council Meeting- North Room	23- 8:30 am Staff Meeting	24- 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice- Choir Room 7:00 pm 12-step Recovery Meeting- North Room Office Closed	25- Lester's Sabbath	26- 10:00 am NAUM—Hope Hall 5:00 pm Grace Cinema Club
Newsletter Articles Due						
27- 7:30 am Community Breakfast- Hope Hall 8:30 am Contemporary Worship- Hope Hall 9:45 am Grace Time-North Room 11:00 am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 12:15 pm Fellowship- Hope Hall 12:45 pm New Life in Christ - Sanctuary 12:45 pm CALL—Faith Lutheran Church	28-9:00 am Grace Room Pastor Sarah's Sabbath	29- 5:15 pm Phx Children's Choir- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Worship & Music Team Meeting - Pastor's Office	30- 8:30am Staff Meeting	31- 10:00 am Opioid Training- 1st UCC 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice- Choir Room 7:00 pm 12-step Recovery Meeting- North Room Office Closed	1- 6:00 pm First Friday - Sanctuary/Hope Hall Lester's Sabbath	2- 9:00 am Grace Buddies- Basement



PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Partnership with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Phoenix

Prince of Peace recently became a ministry partner of Grace, and we are grateful! Located at 56th Street and Indian School in the Arcadia neighborhood, Prince of Peace volunteers and gives to the community in many ways, including through Feed My Starving Children and the Navajo Lutheran Mission. In addition, they have operated a well-regarded preschool since 1967. Prince of Peace is one of the partner congregations of Campfirmation and CALL (Confirmation Among Local Lutherans). In 2017, they served the pancake breakfast for the first time and then served in 2018 three times; in 2019, they will again partner with us to serve the breakfast three times. For these various reasons, we give thanks to God for Prince of Peace's partnership!

Grace Lutheran Staff

Pastor: Sarah Stadler, 602-318-6876,
pastorsarah@graceinthecity.com
Caretaker: Lester Andrews, 520-233-0468,
caretaker@graceinthecity.com
Administrative Assistant: Adrienne Kaye
602-258-3787, officemanager@graceinthecity.com
Organist & Choir Director: Brandon Burns,
blburns3@asu.edu, 828-493-3353
Praise Band Leader: Chad Hernandez-Cole
602-619-3172, praisebandleader@graceinthecity.com
Bookkeeper: George Martinez
Social Worker: Jeff Jirak

Grace Lutheran Church Council Members

President	Renee Waterstradt
Vice President	Tim Gallen
Secretary	Amy Poling
Treasurer	Ruth Bowman
Director	Fran Fry
Director	Brian Flatgard
Director	Marty Dusenberry
Director	Sheila Petry
Director	Haley Meier

Grace Lutheran Church Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
9:00 am-12:00 pm