



# LIFE TOGETHER

Grace Lutheran Church

801 East Willow Grove Ave., Wyndmoor, PA 19038-7907 (215)836-2366

Sundays 10 A.M. Holy Communion (& Sunday School in season)

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March—April 2018

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## PASTOR'S LETTER

*Food for Thought.....*

*Easter Edibles? Pentecost Potables?*

I am soooo looking forward to the beginning of spring! It's not that our winter has been all that bad, but I just long for the tangible "signs" of 'new life' and 'new beginnings' to surround me each and every day, reminding me of God's presence *with me* and *in all* of creation. I "know" that throughout the year, but it is so much more 'obvious' and 'evident' to me in the spring. And I find great comfort in that. So, I'm counting the days, but already giving thanks for the *longer* days and *chirping* birds and flower bulbs already poking through the earth. The promise of Easter and new life is at hand! And God's promise is trustworthy and sure!

Let me share with you a summary of a post I discovered on the Episcopal Café website which I found quite intriguing.

Rev. Marshall Scott is an Episcopal hospital chaplain in the Diocese of West Missouri and a past president of the Assembly of Episcopal Healthcare Chaplains. He is also an avid gardener, devoting some of his time to his position as *Chief Assistant to the Lead Gardener and Steward of the Orchard* of the parish he serves. While working in the garden during the Easter season of 2014, Rev. Scott became aware of how the Easter season and the Garden Season came together in an interesting way.

As he was recovering the garden from the last season by cutting away encroaching grass, pulling out errant weeds and turning over the soil, Rev. Scott began to consider that we might think about a "different flower" for the Easter season, which traditionally has been the "Easter lily."

Rev. Scott was quick to point out that he had nothing 'against' the lily, simply noting that he could not keep them around the house because they are toxic to cats. (I can relate to that for sure!) He also was quick to point out that lilies are quite beautiful and certainly they are "seasonal" flowers, most appropriate for Easter. Many folks associate the lily with funerals and the 'promise' of "what comes after:" life everlasting. And once

the blooms of the lily tire and fade, the lily can be cut down and planted and it will sprout and bloom again, providing a sense of resurrection, certainly symbolic of Easter.

But Rev. Scott thinks there is an even better, more symbolic flower that he would suggest as the “Easter flower.” His suggestion: the DANDELION. And he points to a number of good reasons for his recommendation.

First, the dandelion is certainly just as ‘seasonal’ as the lily. If not as early as the *first* bulbs of spring, it isn’t far behind. And on top of that, its color is just as appropriate for a celebratory season: gold instead of white. And perhaps even more to the point, nothing ‘incarnates’ resurrection quite like a dandelion. Cut them down and the next day they are back. Dig down to bring up the taproot, and still, within a few days, there it will be again, in “full bloom.” The taproot hole might seem empty. You might not be able to see anything left of the root at all. Yet a dandelion will return!

Rev. Scott also points out several other parallels of the dandelion with the Easter season. He notes that the dandelion is ‘nourishing’ in a way that the lily is not. (I have a friend who makes some delicious dandelion wine, but of course, there’s also sautéed dandelion greens, batter fried dandelion blossoms, dandelion root coffee, dandelion jelly and dandelion leaf salad, but I digress.) This ‘nourishing’ aspect of the dandelion recalls the resurrection stories in which Jesus feeds the disciples, like the encounter Jesus had with the disciples on the shore when they shared breakfast, the third time Jesus had been revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. And following the encounter of Jesus with the two men on the road to Emmaus, Jesus appears among the startled and frightened disciples gathered in Jerusalem and asks, “Have you anything here to eat?” In response, the disciples give Jesus a piece of broiled fish, which he took and ate in their presence.....which would not be possible for a ‘spirit’ to do.

Rev. Scott goes on to note the biblical stories from Acts that are read during the Easter season, which remind us that the Jerusalem community of faith grew wondrously in those early days, adding thousands to their members after every ‘public’ sermon and following every ‘witnessed’ miracle. “*Nothing better speaks to multiplying than the dandelion,*” declares Rev. Scott.

And as for Pentecost and that “mighty wind”.....well, the *wind*, like the Spirit, moves where it will. We cannot see it. However, every gardener knows when the wind *moves*, it carries those little, feathery dandelion ‘seeds’ with it, and *wherever* they land, *everywhere* they land, “new” dandelions sprout up. Rev. Scott notes that it hardly needs mention that the ubiquity and persistence of the dandelion through the Easter/Pentecost season certainly can remind us that the resurrected Christ is with us *everywhere* and *always*.

So, perhaps, the dandelion as the “Easter flower” is worth some thought, eh? It certainly is an option with “credentials.” But even if it seems ‘too drastic’ a change or simply ‘unrealistic,’ perhaps it can serve as a reminder that all around us there is evidence of God’s presence *with us*, not just through the retelling of the Resurrection story at Easter, not just through an annual celebration of Pentecost, not even just through an annual ritual like preparing a garden, but each and every day of our lives, through all the seasons of our lives.....God is with us.....God remains.....God abides.....with you and me.....no matter what!

Peace and all good things,

*Pastor Carol*

## Tribute to Fred Kluxen



*A Memorial Service celebrating the life of Fred Kluxen, who died on Monday, January 8, 2018, was held at Grace Lutheran Church on Friday, January 19, followed by Burial at Ivy Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia. Fred was a loyal member of Grace Lutheran Church for many years. Please continue to keep Fred's family, friends and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers. Fred will be missed by all who knew him and cared about him.*

### PRAYER LIST

*Pastor Carol, Barbara O., Sheree, Cathy, Hope, and Jack, Chris, Pete, Aunt Joanne, Amy, Paula, Bill, Andy, Betty, Barb P., Lori, Colin, Victoria, Marilyn, Anthony, Mel, Sadie, Susie, Alyssa, Fred, Evelyn, Bernadette, Pat, Joyce, Barbara B., Barbara P., Susan and Eric, Jane, Christine, Roy, Barbara W., Judy, Linda, Paul, Bill, Dorothy, Juliette, Wendy, Gary, Vivian, Mary, Andy, Joan, Mike, Emily, Pam, Ed, Haddon family, all serving in the US military.*

### BIRTHDAYS

#### MARCH

01 RG Bistline	03 Heidi Konyen	05 Robin Liberty
06 Cathleen Scarpa	11 Bill Ochester	11 Travis Washington
13 Richard Wightman	16 Heather Black	19 Gina Ferragame
20 Will Knipe	20 Nicole Washington	22 Christine Killough
22 Sean Szatala	23 Cathy Burr	30 Michael Washington, Jr.

#### APRIL

07 Leslie Siegfried	09 Nigel Huenke	12 Gerardo Gonzalez, Jr.
13 Shannen Quinn	15 Noah Nicholson	16 Christian Reiner
17 Linda Liberty	17 Glenn Rineer	21 Don Hallman
24 Susan Eames	28 Roy Powell	30 Ruby Ferragame

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS MAY 2018

The annual **Attic Treasures Sale by Grace WELCA** (Women of the ELCA), aka "The Spring Sale" will be held in May 2018. This event is a chance to share your attic treasures, and buy delicious home-baked cakes and pies. Watch for details coming in the May-June issue of *Life Together*. Stay tuned!!!





## SOUP SUPPERS ON TUESDAYS IN LENT

Each Tuesday in **LENT** offers an opportunity for fellowship, worship, and good soup.

6:15 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Menu: Homemade Soup, Bread, Desserts

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Assemble for Worship and Timely Spiritual Reflections

***Embracing The Uncertain...A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times*** by Magrey R. deVega.

### Tribute Gifts

*Make an unrestricted donation to Grace Lutheran Church called a "Tribute Gift" – a donation in addition to your regular giving, in support of the daily ministry of the congregation. Just submit your Tribute Gift (cash or check) in an envelope, during Sunday worship offering or by mail to the church office. This is a way of memorializing, honoring, or celebrating a person or an event important to you, and at the same time your donation helps Grace meet the needs of our current ministry. Thank you.*

*RECENT TRIBUTE GIFT ~~~~ In honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Rosella Clarke Heilemann by her daughter, Rosella Heilemann.*

### 2018 SEPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY and BISHOP ELECTION

"Come, Holy Spirit!" is the prayer and the theme for the 2018 Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly and Bishop Election, to be held May 4 and 5, at the Franconia Mennonite Church in Telford, PA. The highlight of the Assembly will be the election of a Bishop to serve for a six year term, starting August 1, 2018. Bishop Claire S. Burkat is not seeking re-election to a third term, and any ordained minister in good standing on the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America is eligible to be nominated. Pastor Carol Ficken and two delegates from Grace Lutheran Church in Wyndmoor will be among those who will cast votes.

*Discernment:* The Synod has completed the second phase of the *Discernment process*. Two members of Grace's congregational council, along with Pastor Ficken, were among over 200 people who met for the *Discernment process* Bible study and discussion in preparation for the election of a new Bishop. Go to [ministrylink.org](http://ministrylink.org) for more information about the preparation for the upcoming election and the Synod Assembly.

### ELCA JOINS RALLY ON THE NATIONAL MALL

In commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), will join

ecumenical and inter-religious partners for Act Now: Unite to End Racism April 3-5 in Washington, D.C. The focus of the three-day event will be a rally April 4 on the National Mall.

The event, organized by the National Council of Churches in Christ in the USA, will bring together many ELCA members from across the country. The ELCA is a founding member of the council. Events begin April 3 with an ecumenical worship service at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral and will be capped off by a lobby day on Capitol Hill April 5. All are invited to join Bishop Eaton at the event.



## Grace Altar Flowers

- March 4 Carole Roman, Edward Gibbons and Evelyn Edwards in memory of their brothers, Ray, Harold, John and William.
- March 11 Lori Russell in memory and honor of her friends and family.
- March 25 Given to the Glory of God by WELCA to honor the women of Grace Lutheran Church of Wyndmoor.
- April 1 Paula and Bill Knipe in honor of Chris, Connie, Tim, Kim, Marc, Will and Hilary.
- April 8 Joan Marcolina and her daughters in memory of their beloved husband and father, Richard Marcolina.
- April 15 Sue Samson in honor of her children.
- April 22 Barbara and Bill Ochester in memory of her brother, Richard Neil McPherson.
- April 29 Cathleen Scarpa in celebration of the life of Eileen Connelly.

### **Pastor Carol Ficken Certified as Mental Health First Aider**

Pastor Carol Ficken received “**Certification**” as a Mental Health First Aider, after attending a training program on February 3, 2018, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Whitmarsh. The program is sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Mental and Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities. As a Certified Mental Health First Aider, Pr. Ficken is prepared to respond and help in a mental health crisis, just as someone who was certified would respond and help in a medical emergency, until medically trained personnel could take over. One million people have been trained in mental health first aid nationwide, announced the National Council for Behavioral Health.

# Boy Scout Sunday @ Grace

On Sunday, February 11, 2018, we celebrated *Boy Scout Sunday* at Grace. Boy Scout Troop #177 has been sponsored by Grace since 1917. There were about 20 scouts present on Sunday and they greeted folks before worship, handing out bulletins, received the offering and one scout did a fine job reading the second lesson. It was a joy to have the first two pews on the lectern side of the church filled with young boys at worship. The scouts and their leaders provided the donuts/fastnachts for fellowship time after worship. They are a great group of young boys and men.

## ***PREACHING WITH POWER*** ***A Forum on Black Preaching & Theology***

The **Urban** Theological Institute of the United Lutheran Seminary presents Preaching with Power, March 11-15, 2018, which will be hosted at local churches within the community. The program includes five sermons and one lecture by six distinguished African American preachers and theologians, and a celebration of music in the African American Church. All are welcome. For more information contact: [uls.edu/PWP](http://uls.edu/PWP).

### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH** **2018 Reservation Form** **EASTER PLANTS**

Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ pot(s) of Easter Lilies at \$12.00 each.

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ pot(s) of Tulips at \$10.00 each.

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to pick up the plant(s) after the service on Easter morning.

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer that the church distribute the plant(s) to the sick or shut-ins.

~~Please place your Reservation Form and your check, payable to Grace Lutheran Church, marked Easter Plants, in an envelope and send it to: Mrs. Joan Marcolina, Grace Lutheran Church 801 East Willow Grove Avenue, Wyndmoor, PA 19038. If brought to a Worship Service, please place the envelope in the plate during the offering. Please be certain to write **EASTER PLANTS** and the amount on both the envelope and the check.

~~If you are receiving this form in an email version of the newsletter, you can print this page, or you can pick up the Reservation Form at church on Sunday. Or, you may call the church office and leave a message with the information needed.

All Reservations must be received by Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 12:00 noon. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 215-836-2366. Thank you for your help in decorating Grace for our Easter Celebration.

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to proclaim the word of God,  
and welcome all to join in a nurturing,  
responsive, faith-filled community of God's people.*

### **Affirmation of Welcome**

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, Grace Lutheran Church and its members believe that Christ makes us all one. We affirm that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities share the worth that comes from being unique individuals created by God, that they are welcome within the membership and leadership of this congregation and that we encourage and expect them to share in the sacramental and general life of this community of faith.

### ***Life Together***

January-February 2018

The Newsletter of

Grace Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Carol L. Ficken, Pastor

Bill Tanner, President, Grace Church Council

Sheridan Seyfried, Minister of Music

Charles Horning, Office Manager

Sheree Tucker, Nursery Attendant

Gloria Thompson, Editor, *Life Together*

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## LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE PHILLIES JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>



### **BREWERS at PHILLIES**

Order and pay for your tickets NOW. Tickets are \$30.00 each, which includes a discount for ordering at least 25 tickets. To purchase tickets and with questions, please contact Michael Schardt @215-403-6433. Please make check payable to Grace Lutheran Church.