

Dear Friends in Christ,

A blessed Easter season to you all! Here is a special message to you from our ELCA Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton:

An Easter message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Getting a phone call in the middle of the night is never a good thing. I remember the second time my father had open-heart surgery. It was a long procedure and a difficult one, and after it was done the doctor called us to his office and said, "There's been some bleeding. We'll let you know, but you should go home now and rest."

And so going home that night, I listened for a phone call in the middle of the night and was awakened only to find out it was morning and it was birds singing, not the phone ringing. My father had made it through the night, and in fact he did recover from the surgery.

This is the joy we feel at Easter, but magnified. All of the hope that had been dashed on Good Friday, the terrible pressure of grief, the terrible pressure of knowing there was no future in the world, only on Sunday to be greeted not by the ringing of a telephone announcing death but the loud clear singing of alleluias. This is the joy we have, and it's a promise so strong that even when we do die, even when we do confront death, we have the hope and the assurance of eternal life. Easter makes it possible for us, even at the grave, to sing alleluia. Christ is risen. Alleluia. Happy Easter, dear church.



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

The Worship Team would like to thank everyone who played a part in making our Lenten and Holy Week worship experiences so beautiful and full of meaning.

Throughout Lent, we gathered on Wednesday evenings for dinner and a sung worship service—Holden Evening Prayer—led by Deb Diamante, Erik Kreuger, and Carolyn Raming. It was a wonderful way to reconnect with God in the middle of our busy week.

Lent culminated as we entered Holy Week and remembered together Jesus' last days before his death. The week began with a powerful retelling of Christ's Passion with a combined worship service and concert shared jointly with the people of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. Many thanks to the worship team and choir members of Cross of Christ; it was a pleasure for our two choirs to sing together. And both congregations thoroughly enjoyed our shared time of fellowship.

Maundy Thursday found Grace obeying Christ's command to "do this in remembrance of me" as we gathered around the table together, shared in a meal, sang, talked, and took part in the Holy Eucharist the way Jesus' very first followers did. It was a great night.

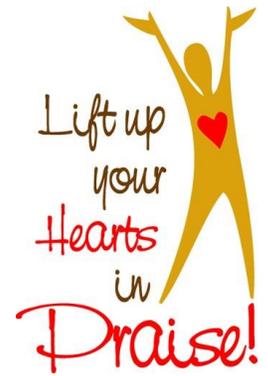
Good Friday wrenched our hearts and filled our souls with the truth of Christ's great sacrifice for us and our salvation. Together we recalled Jesus' last hours through a Tenebrae ("darkness") service. Special thanks to musicians, singers, readers, lighting technicians, and worship helpers. Your gifts truly helped us to "watch and pray" with Christ in his darkest hours. If you weren't able to be there, or want to relive a bit of the service, the amazing anthem 'Pie Jesu' featuring the stunning vocals of Mary Schmelcke and Deb Diamante can be seen on our Facebook page.

Even on a rainy Easter morning, our Alleluias rang out bright and clear to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior. Thank you to Christopher Baillargeon, whose beautiful trumpet playing helped raise our song to the rafters. Thank you to all who purchased flowers to adorn the altar so gloriously. Thank you to our altar guild and Ted Kosko who all worked tirelessly to prepare the chancel and sanctuary for all the special services throughout Holy Week and Easter.

And a special shout out to Andy Dixon, our Music Minister. This season is challenging and tiring for any music minister. We are blessed to have one so talented and dedicated to helping us lift our congregation's worship and praise to the Lord.

The Worship Team is making plans now for Pentecost and the summer months. The outdoor worship and picnic already has a date. Please mark your calendars for August 4th. We'll be celebrating it at the same wonderful park as last year in Bethany, CT.

Remember, our weekly Sunday worship service is now at 10:00am. Enjoy the extra half hour of sleep, or a little more time to get ready to greet the Lord in worship. And if you forget about the time change, no worries, you definitely won't be late to church!



NEWS FROM THE MISSION AND VISION TEAM!

This past Lent, our year-long mission discernment process culminated in a special 3-meeting series called 'What the Heaven Is Our Mission?!'



Throughout the series, the Mission and Vision Team presented all the data and learning gleaned from the past year work of work (the congregational CAT Scan, the Forward Leadership workshops, local demographic studies, and more).

Then, all the series participants engaged in an exploration of the book of Acts, the story of how the very first Christians discerned their mission and spread the message of salvation in Christ throughout the world.

Together we all prayed, and talked, and thought, and prayed some more. Then we began the work of writing our congregation's mission statement. At our last gathering, we worked out the language of the statement that says clearly why our congregation exists.

The Team and all who took part in this vital work are pleased to present Grace Lutheran Church's new statement of purpose:

**WITH OPEN HEARTS, REACHING OUT TO FEED
BODY AND SPIRIT OF OUR COMMUNITY
AS A SIGN OF GOD'S GRACE.**

In the weeks ahead, we'll be celebrating and discussing our new mission, and exploring together what this mission will look like in action. We have our 'why?'; next we determine our 'how?'.

To help in that work, our 'What the Heaven Is Our Mission?!' series ended with a discussion and survey to determine our church's guiding principles.

Our guiding principles are our core values, our core beliefs. They are the values that will drive our ministry. They communicate what's essential to us, and inspire us to action. They determine our church's overall behavior, and help us choose our actions and decide what things we're going to do to live out our mission. They will continue to guide us as we develop our ministries, and help us all embrace positive changes.

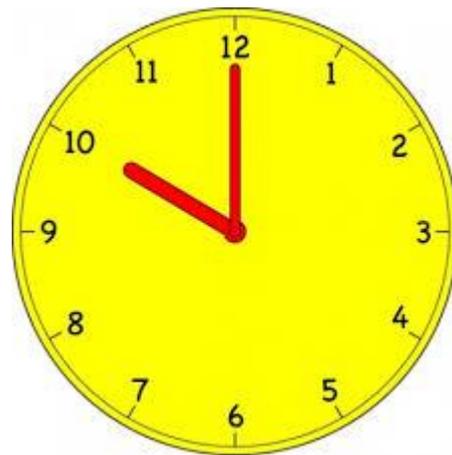
GUIDING principles

Here are the results of our survey. These things are what our members feel are essential to our church:

1. To reach out and share our faith through inspiring worship.
2. To make known in word and in action that everyone is welcome at Grace.
3. To care for the poor.
4. To ensure that every member is engaged in ministry.
5. To be in healthy, right relationship with God through giving and tithing.

The Mission and Vision Team is grateful for the work of the Forward Leadership Team, the Ripple 1 Team, and everyone who took part in congregational mission events and meetings. Together we have built a foundation on which we can grow and thrive as a church. Together we now begin the next phase in faithfully living out our God-given mission. We hope all will take part.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE



Our weekly Sunday worship is now at 10:00am.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – May, 2019



Worship & Music: Council debriefed about all the worship opportunities that were available throughout Lent and Holy Week. All agreed it was season filled with powerful and beautiful worship experiences. Attendance was good, and services received overwhelmingly positive responses. Thanks to all who helped make it happen.

Vision & Mission: Our mission discernment series ‘What the Heaven is Our Mission?’ was a great success. The series was the culmination of a year-long process to determine the unique mission of Grace. We have now put our mission statement into words, and determined our guiding principles. We will be celebrating our new mission in the month ahead. Special thanks to the Mission/Vision team, the Forward Leadership team, the Ripple 1 team, and all who participate this past year in helping us learn together what God is calling us to be and to do.

SCCCC: In spite of repeated attempts at negotiations with them, the River church has refused to renew the lease with our daycare. After unsuccessful efforts to find a place to relocate SCCC, we are forced to close down the daycare, and conclude this ministry. We will be informing our clients of the closure this week, and will vacate the premises before the summer season begins. As sad as we are to say goodbye to the daycare, we are so very proud to have faithfully served our Naugatuck community, its families and children, for over 30 years.

Property: The tree in our parking lot still needs a bit of trimming. That is currently being addressed. After some problems with the re-keying of our church buildings, the locksmith has corrected the issues and completed the job. New keys are now being distributed. The refrigerator in the hall kitchen needs to be repaired or replaced. We’re looking into that now. The flower beds in front of the church are being redone; leaves and damaged shrubbery removed. We will need to schedule a work day to complete the outside cleanup. Stay tuned for the date, and please volunteer to help if you can. The furnace in the church building needs to be replaced.



May 3 – Michael Roland
May 4 – Don Goudreau
May 8 – Pam Chesnas
May 15 – Kenneth Morissette, Jr.
May 25 – Robert Frennesson
May 30 – Christina McFall

*If you don't see your birthday or anniversary,
please let the church office know, so we can add you to the list.*

WORSHIP HELPERS WANTED!!

We are in need of some help with worship on Sundays.

We are looking for acolytes, greeters, lectors,
ushers, worship assistants and fellowship folks.

If you are interested in joining one of these wonderful
teams please call or email the office.

Thank you.



MAY WORSHIP HELPERS

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
GREETERS	Terri & Peter Meleschnig	Charlotte Freer	Terri & Peter Meleschnig	Charlotte Freer
READERS	Harry Jancis Deborah McMahon	Lisa DeBarba Carolyn Raming	Jen Amodeo Jean Frennesson	Erik Kruger Sharon Kosko
USHERS	Gabriel Diamante Peter Diamante	Ted Kosko Arnie Wallas	Carl Nehm Karen Reisinger	Patrick McMahon Gerhard Roland
WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Deb Diamante	Carolyn Raming	Shirley Baillargeon	David Frennesson
ACOLYTE	Abigail Diamante	TBD	Jessica Baillargeon	Robert Frennesson
ALTAR GUILD	Diane Wood	Sharon Kosko	Sharon Kosko	Deb Diamante

FELLOWSHIP FOR MAY

- May 5** – Carl & Ashley Nehm
May 12 – Diane & Allan Wood
May 19 – Lisa DeBarba & Charmaine Lawton
May 26 – Carolyn Raming & Mary Schmelcke



Coffee Fellowship

We greatly appreciate the times when folks find their own replacements. Please let the office know so we put the correct names in the bulletin insert.

If for some reason you cannot find a replacement, please email or call the office. Thank you.

PRAYER

Please hold in prayer your brothers and sisters in Christ, especially:



Jacqueline Mezick, John Karlak, Rhonda, Mike, Christina Hitchcock, the Bowman family, Michelle Flaherty, Chris Besan, Mike Hines, Marilyn Bartle, Jennifer Wallberg, Robert Sharon and the Sharon Family, Donna Paoletti and the Mitchell family.



*If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please contact the church office.
Also, there is a prayer request sheet in the church entryway.*

If you want us to continue praying for someone beyond the month, just let us know.

Remembering Friends & Family

Addresses are listed below for our members who are currently unable to attend services.
A card or note is always welcome.

Betsy Robb

500 Woodside Ave
Middlebury, 06762

Michael Roland

The Village at East Farms
180 Scott Rd, Room #154
Waterbury, 06705

Allan Johnson

40 Lorann Dr
Naugatuck, 06770

Lindy Parson

366 Millville Ave
Naugatuck, 06770

Mildred Evenson

75 Trowbridge Place,
Naugatuck, 06770

Dorothy Fritz

Southbury Lutheran Home
990 Main St. N, Southbury, 06488

Anita Peterson

Apple Rehab
35 Bunker Hill Rd
Watertown, 06795

Ruth Glick

357 May St
Naugatuck, CT 06770

Thank You For Caring!

NEWSLETTER 

Reminder: May newsletter articles and announcements must be in no later than May 15th. Thank you!

MAY

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 OA 12pm Choir Practice 7pm	2 AA 8pm	3	4 OA 11am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:15am Choir Practice 10am Worship Sunday School 11:15	Calvary in Sanctuary 6:30- 8pm		OA 12pm Choir Practice 7pm	AA 8pm		OA 11am
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:15am Choir Practice 10am Worship Sunday School 11:15	Calvary in Sanctuary 6:30- 8pm		OA 12pm Choir Practice 7pm	AA 8pm		OA 11am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:15am Choir Practice 10am Worship Sunday School 11:15	Calvary in Sanctuary 6:30- 8pm		OA 12pm Choir Practice 7pm	AA 8pm		OA 11am
26	27	28	29	30	31	
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Grace Lutheran Church
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Staff:

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Dina Buonocore, Administrative Assistant
Andrew M. Dixon, Music Minister

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