



Living Grace *Notes*

August 2018 Newsletter

The Reverend David E. Hardy, D. D., Pastor
Web Page: www.livinggracelutheran.org

Gathered to Celebrate, Called to Witness, Sent to Serve!

"Back to School"

Can't believe that school is getting ready to open for the new fall season. It seems that we were just celebrating graduations and summer vacations.

It is that time also that the Miriam Circle is sponsoring the school bag project for Lutheran World Relief. Please pick up one or more school bags from the hall tree in the narthex, shop for the requested supplies that are listed on the attached envelope, and return the filled school bag to church by Sunday, 12 August. Help to make the beginning of a school a bit more exciting and affordable for a special child somewhere in the world.



Southeastern Synod Assembly Report

Greetings Family of Living Grace,

The following is my report from the 2018 ELCA Southeastern Synod Assembly. I shan't bore you with numbers or statistics. Rather, this is an overview of my thoughts and perceptions of what an Assembly meeting is and some of the more memorable events.

On Friday 1 June, Meredith Collver and I took a leap of faith and traveled to Chattanooga Tennessee to attend the 2018 ELCA Southeastern Synod Assembly (SESA). Okay, it wasn't really a "leap," but more of a step outside that all too comfy zone (Synod that is...Not Chattanooga!). I personally have dodged my duties as President the last few years and have not attended any Assembly meetings. It was usually over Memorial Day weekend and that is ALWAYS family weekend at the lake. Well, wouldn't you know it, Synod moved Assembly to the following weekend. I didn't have an excuse this time and technically it is one of my duties as a Council and Congregational President as well. Thank you Carolyn for peering over your phone to remind me! Since the Holy Spirit has been with me on this called journey for me to take on more of a leadership role at Living Grace, I figured this year was the nudge for me to continue the journey beyond the borders of Tucker.

Like some, when you hear the words "Synod Assembly," you may think this is going to be a very long, boring weekend of never-ending business meetings, run by a bunch of people whom you may not really know, discussing things that may or may not affect your own congregation directly. As a first timer, these were my thoughts (yes, I believe Meredith may agree to some degree as well). Since we were both first timers we decided to make the best of it, represent ourselves well, and hopefully learn a few things along the way. We did just that!

The first session began about 30 minutes after we arrived at the Convention Center. Nothing like jumping right in! Barely enough time to find a Starbucks for a coffee, best to stay awake. Luckily, we had many guides to help us navigate this new world. Many thanks and gratitude for Pastor Hardy, Bernice Bland, Margery Kellar, Carolyn Davis and the myriad of volunteers for their assistance and guidance.

Meredith, Pastor and I settled into a table, near the back of the room. How Lutheran, right? Surprised those seats weren't the first taken. The theme of the 2018 Assembly was *REFORMATION 500...Now What?* We are now past the 500 year anniversary and all the excitement of a year of various celebrations throughout the world. How do we continue this celebration and really put to the test what it really meant all those 500 ½ years ago when Martin Luther began to reform the church?

Bishop Gordy opened the Assembly by thanking many people that help run and organize at the administration level of the Southeast Synod. Remember, we are ALL Synod as well! This is something I learned during this meeting. The Synod is not JUST those folks we don't really know that work behind the scenes and make decisions. They are only a part of a great puzzle of which each and every congregation and its members are interlocking pieces. Also, many of the people that work at this level are paid staff, but there are far more volunteers that service all the different committees, groups, ministries, deaneries, and all-around support crew, which surprised me somewhat.

So where will we go and how is the Spirit to direct us in 2018? The church around us is changing. Living Grace is not the only congregation to notice numbers dwindling. There currently is a shift in the West as far as religion and religious affiliations go. The areas that are showing the most growth of Christianity are in Africa and Asia. Bishop Gordy's opening report sums up a lot of our own concerns and our own questions. I invite you to please read his oral report found online at:

<https://www.elca-ses.org/files/bishop+gordy%27s+spoken+report+to+the+2018+southeastern+synod+assembly.pdf>

In relation to the message from the Bishop, I noticed a connection to the direction Living Grace is taking in order to follow...Now What? We are beginning to undertake more ministerial outreach outside our own doors. We are trying to get out into our community to serve others. Those we serve may or may not yet know who our God is (or possibly even wish to) but, with the Gospel, Grace and Love which we have been taught, it is us living out the message and the gospel as God taught, through our actions and works.

The next new experience was Assembly Worship. There were three different services during the course of the weekend. This is another first for me to be able to worship with a group of more than 300 people of the same faith. The Friday service was very informal as it was held in the business meeting hall at round banquet tables. However, that was about where the big, anonymous feeling ended. It was a simple service with candles and sharing communion with the others at the table. It brought the gathering together as a unity of one purpose. The Saturday worship service was completely different as it took on a more ethnic feel. It had great African influenced music, dress and decoration, all in a smaller venue. Pastor Tiffany C. Chaney (Gathered by Grace-Montgomery AL) preached a sermon that all should hear or at least read. It too can be found online and is very much worth the effort to seek it out. Try: <https://revtifc.wordpress.com/2018/06/02/reformation-500-now-what/> There are many times in our lives we wonder...Now What? Pastor Chaney surely has shown us the way through her powerful message. The last service on Sunday was what one would call traditional. Familiar hymns and liturgy was shared. All were special occasions in their own unique way. Sort of like how we are a children of God.

Back to the meeting itself...Following the opening session we met with other churches that make up our Conference 4. This is a collection of churches in and around our area that work together and are a support for each other. Prior to this meeting, most of the Conference 4 meetings really involved the Pastors getting together to discuss matters. This year, it was decided that our Conference 4 should start working together more as a group. It was decided we will have two "shindigs" prior to the 2019 SESA. In 2019, we will elect a new Bishop to take Gordy's position as his term will expire. It is up to the churches of the Synod to decide and voice what qualities and direction we wish for a new Bishop. Our voices need to be heard. We will be hosting the first of these shindigs on Saturday 13 October (details at a later date).

The conference also offered many break-out sessions. One of interest was about the MILAGRO Women's Education Center in Guatemala City. This is an educational center to teach girls and young women skills that God has given them and to assist in breaking the cycle of poverty in this very rural area. We were able to hear about the facility from Rev Karen Castillo. This mission is part of one of four Global Companion Synods within our Southeast Synod.

The second session was about art therapy for children. Lutheran Services of Tennessee has a program called MyCanvas. They travel around to economically challenged areas and set up something similar to an art camp. It is through the different art projects, many of the children & teens can discover self-esteem, confidence and a way to express what is happening to them in their lives. LeAnn Love is a certified art therapist, who along with her team, guides the children through their projects. We were invited to work on a collaborative project. It was interesting to see the more psychological side to art as it was presented. MyCanvas was the designated service project this year for the 2018 Assembly. They collected donations of art supplies.

The business side of the meeting, again, without facts and figures, was fascinating to observe. There was voting for various open positions, in which there were accompanying bios to make educated decisions. There were details and approval of a 2019 budget; and much discussion that will lead us to the 2019 vote for a new Bishop.

All-in-all, seeing how the Southeastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America operates was a very fulfilling experience. I was glad to have finally gone. The experience has deepened my faith in ways I never expected (thank you Holy Spirit!). I would gladly go again and I would encourage anyone else who wants to go as a volunteer or even attend as a voting member from Living Grace to take that leap of faith and join those in our common faith and beliefs.

Highlights and Photos from the 2018 ELCA Southeastern Synod Assembly may be found at <https://www.elca-ses.org/newsdetail/2018-elca-southeastern-synod-assembly-10566193>

Respectfully submitted and
Yours faithfully in Christ,

Steph Cunefare
Council and Congregational President
Living Grace Lutheran Church

Communications Ministry

At the time of this writing, the Communications Ministry scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, 31 July, to discuss our communications. We will report to you the highlights of the meeting in the next newsletter. Please if you have any ideas, please speak with Beth Roy or email her at bettaray@yahoo.com

Health Ministry

Life never stays the same. There are several stages with unique challenges that make each one memorable. As new parents you add new responsibilities and a baby to your life while trying to establish yourselves as a couple. This new role means sharing your partner with someone else, so make sure you talk to each other, have a date night, and share your struggles. Adjustments is easier when you know what challenges exist.

The next stage is the teen years and the bid for independence. This coincides with financial concerns such as maintaining a home, supporting the family, preparing for college, and possibly helping an elderly parent. Know that the caregiver role for your child is starting to end. To prepare your child for adulthood, teach him/her about financial and personal responsibility and be open with your spouse about any conflicts you have about letting go.

Next is sending your child off to college, career or marriage. You are no longer the parent/controller but a friend/advisor. If this is your last child it may mean reconnecting with your spouse since the previous years have been focused on your child(ren). You might also be adding the role of caregiver for a parent. Keep in mind as you struggle with your changing roles, your parent is also struggling with his/her loss of independence. Be patient, include your parent in decisions when possible, ask siblings, and friends for help, and be honest about your feelings.

The last stage is retirement where some have a loss of identity because they no longer work while others find new beginnings. To make the transition successful, consciously look for things to do. Resurrect an old hobby or find a new one. Travel to visit family and spend time with your grandchildren. If you can't travel, call them on the phone or use email. Stay connected and interested and you will find a whole new world.

(Source: Magellan Health Services)

Yours in Christ,
Jan Levengood
Parish Nurse/Health Minister

Upcoming Events for Health Ministry

Sunday, 5 August – Healing and Anointing in both services

Hospitality Ministry

The Hospitality Ministry along with Pastor Mica Koli's congregation that meets on Saturday evenings will be hosting a reception for the service of Reception of The Rev. Mica Koli into the Office of Word and Sacrament on Saturday, 18 August, at 1 p.m. here at Living Grace Lutheran Church. Her church will be a mission church of the ELCA Southeastern Synod. Please mark your calendars to attend this service to support Pastor Koli. Living Grace already supports by offering our facility to her for her Saturday evening worship services.

Outreach Ministry

Sew 'N' Sews

The Sew 'N' Sews will be meeting on Monday, 13 August, at 9:30 a.m.



Piece-Makers

The quilting group meets from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you like to quilt, please come join them. The dates for August will be Thursdays, 2, 9, and 23.



Heifer Sunday

Heifer Sunday for the month is 19 August. Although this is a designated day for Heifer, you can contribute to Heifer at any time. Living Grace has given 6 arks. Hopefully, we can make it 7 arks.

NETWorks

NETWorks can always use volunteers. The pantry is open Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm. If you've always wanted to volunteer with us, join us for a morning every once in a while. There is no need to commit to a weekly schedule, you can volunteer once a month, a couple times a year -- whatever works for you. You also do not need to have prior training. If you are a new volunteer, or just haven't been here in a while, we will match you up with an experienced volunteer until you get the hang of things. Here's the pantry volunteer Sign-Up link for 2018: <http://signup.com/go/NAiGBRE>. Signing up online is easy, but if you have any trouble with it, drop me an email with the date(s) you'd like to come volunteer, and I will get you signed up.

Stephanie Suggs, Deaconess
Program Director

NETWorks Cooperative Ministry
770.939.6454 * fax 770.270.6817 * cell 678.485.0058

Parish Education

Adult Bible Class

Please come join the Adult Bible Class on Sundays, at 9:45 a.m. The class does not meet on the 5th Sundays of the month.



ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX

From June 27 to July 1, more than 30,000 youth and adult leaders met in Houston for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grew in faith and were challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. The next Gathering will be June 29-July 3, 2021, in Minneapolis. View a [welcome video](#) from the Rev. Ann Svennungsen, bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod.

Women of the ELCA

The **Soap Campaign** for LWR continues until Sunday, 19 August. As of this writing, we have collected 121.5 pounds of soap. We only need 29 pounds more to meet our goal. Continue to look for the rubber ducky in the narthex. Continue the soap coming!!



Upcoming meetings for the Women of the ELCA:

- WELCA Executive Board Meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, 5 August, in the conference room.
- Naomi Circle meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, 12 August, in the kitchen.
- WELCA General Meeting after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, 26 August, in the fellowship hall. Naomi Circle is hosting. There will be voting at this meeting as well.

**The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
26 August**

The gospel for this Sunday, many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood, even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith, "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read, "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

(from Sundays and Seasons, Year B 2018)

Church Choir

The Church Choir will still be on their summer schedule in August. They will be singing anthems that can be rehearsed the Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m. If you are interested in singing with the "summer choir," please let Steve Honeychurch know, so he can have your contact information. You have one more month to join the summer choir. Who knows, you may like it and want to come back for Wednesday night rehearsals which will start in September.



Ushers for the Services

We have lost some of our ushers in both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services. Thank you to those members who have stepped up to be ushers. We appreciate your willingness to service. We still can use more, so prayerfully consider volunteering for this service. It is not a hard job. If you are interested in 8:30 a.m. service, please see Leanne Beutler. If you are interested in the 10:30 a.m. service, please see Harold Bowers. We would be very happy to place you on the schedule. Another schedule will be coming out the middle of August.



Acolytes

Thank you to the adult members that have stepped up to be acolytes for the 10:30 a.m. service. We appreciate your service. This service is not just for the young, semi-young, or mature members. It is for anyone.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
will receive
The Reverend Mica Koli
into the
Office of Word and Sacrament
in
Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic Church
on
Saturday, 18 August 2018 -1:00 p.m.
Living Grace Lutheran Church
Reverend Koli will be installed as
Mission Developer of
Resurrection Mission, Tucker, GA
as part of this service

Please mark your calendars to come and support Pastor Koli. For those of you who don't know, Pastor Koli has been conducting services here at Living Grace on Saturday evenings and will continue as Mission Developer of Resurrection Mission Church, Tucker, GA.

Special Days in August

15 August

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

24 August

Bartholomew, Apostle

Electronic Prayer Requests

If you would like to receive Living Grace's electronic prayer list, please send your email address to: livinggraceprayers@gmail.com.

Guidelines for Newsletter Prayer Requests

Please notify Leanne Beutler, Parish Administrator, via email at livinggracelutheranchurch@gmail.com or written note and place in her mailbox to add or remove a name from the prayer list.

Praying for Members, Family, and Friends

Betty Bartling; Gene Durrence; Betty Hitz; Julien Lange; Jean Lemonds; Mary Ann Long; Norma Mackenzie; Liz Montgomery; Ruth Scott; and Tim Shirah.

Helen Cunningham

Mother of Margery Kellar

Nellie Bass

Family of Phyllis Prunty

Bill Veronda

Friend of Margery Kellar

Bronwyn Blanco

Sister of Carrie Orr

Sarah Endsley

Friend of Margery Kellar

Karen Shaw

Friend of Jim and Phyllis Gerke

Anne Mola

Mother of Jim Gerke

The Rev. Charles Beckler

Brother-in-law of Leanne Beutler

Kamden Jennings

Cynthia Outman's Supervisor's Grandson

Keema Frett-Newsome

Cynthia Outman's Co-Worker

Gregg Cole

Son of Maurice and Betty Cole

Vickie Smith

Friend of Margery Kellar

Walter Smith

Friend of Ed and Pat Stowers

Allen Beaver

Son of Dot Beaver

Ella Nelson

Friend of the Orrs

Tymika Ferguson

Daughter of Linda Ferguson

Matthew Beckler

Nephew of Leanne Beutler

Bill and Mary Cressman

Brother and Sister-in-law of Marlene and Pastor Hardy

Virginia Stratton

Cynthia Outman Supervisor

We pray for those whom we bear in our hearts.



What if you woke up today with only the things you thanked God for yesterday?

General News and Notes

August Birthdays

2	Kathryn Castro	
3	Steven C. Nelson	
5	David M. Parker	
6	Merrill Durrence	Matthew Parker
	Dennis Fritsch	Eric Levensgood
11	Will Arroyo	Julien Lange
13	Olivia Kellar	Margaret Willis
15	The Rev. Dirk Lange	
18	Ilona Lange	John Levensgood
20	Liz Montgomery	
21	Gaelon Ratel	
26	Gemma Nelson	

If you don't see your birthday listed or it is listed but incorrect, please inform the church office of the correction either by email at livinggracelutheranchurch@gmail.com or place in the Parish Administrator's mailbox in the narthex. Thank you.

Announcements for Bulletins

Announcements for weekly Sunday bulletins need to be electronically sent to Leanne Beutler or a hard copy placed in the Parish Administrator's mailbox **no later than Wednesday** prior to the Sunday insertion. The email address is livinggracelutheranchurch@gmail.com



Walk Away the Pounds

Walk Away the Pounds will resume in August. Come join us on Friday, 10 and 24 August in the fellowship hall to walk away those pounds. It is about 45 minutes and a lot of fun.



Missing Books?

Lutheran Services of GA (LSG) had books for their summer camp. They mistakenly left some of the books in the pews. When they were cleaning up on their last day, Thursday, 26 July, some of the books were missing. If you see any children and/or adult books with the LSG sticker in the front cover of the book, please return it to the church office. Thank you.



New Church Directories are Here!!

There is a church directory in each member's mailbox in the narthex. Please check your information. If there is a change, addition, or deletion, please inform Leanne either by email or place a note in her Parish Administrator's mailbox. Every month in the newsletter, if there is a change it will be posted in the newsletter so you can keep up with changes. Thank you for your patience.



Lay Assistants

Sunday, 5 August

Ushers

Healing and Anointing in both services

8:30 – Keith Siekierski

10:30 – Dennis Fritsch/Mark Schuette

Lectors

8:30 – Merritt Shealy

10:30 – Margery Kellar

Communion Assistants

8:30 – Leanne Beutler

10:30 – Will Arroyo/Jo Kroger

Greeters

10:30 – Jon and Beth Canada

Counter

Leanne Beutler

Altar Guild

Set Up – Meredith Collver

Clean Up – Priscilla Fritsch

Sunday, 12 August

Ushers	8:30 – Phyllis Gerke 10:30 – Steve and Cindy Nelson
Lectors	8:30 – Liz Jackson 10:30 – Cynthia Outman
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Jan Levensgood 10:30 – Jim and Cynthia Outman
Greeters	10:30 – Jim and Cynthia Outman
Counters	Mark and Anna Schuette
Altar Guild	Set Up – Carrie Orr Clean Up – Anna Schuette

Sunday, 19 August

Ushers	<i>Heifer Sunday</i> 8:30 – Liz Jackson 10:30 – James and Jamie Combee
Lectors	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – Mark Nelson
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Leanne Beutler 10:30 – Will Arroyo/Lesley Campbell
Greeter	10:30 – Pat Stowers
Counters	Dot Beaver/Pat Stowers
Altar Guild	Set-Up – Phyllis Gerke Clean-Up – Allison Combee

Sunday, 26 August

Ushers	8:30 – Michael Hardy 10:30 – Harold Bowers/Alvin Jorkey
Lectors	8:30 – Meredith Collver 10:30 – Gary Levensgood
Communion Assistants	8:30 – Mike Collver 10:30 – Dennis Fritsch/Alvin Jorkey
Greeter	10:30 – Phyllis Prunty
Counter	Leanne Beutler
Altar Guild	Set Up – Missy Streubel Clean Up – Priscilla Fritsch

Coordinators responsible for worship service assistants:

Altar Guild – Missy Streubel at streubel55@gmail.com

Lector/Communion Assistants – Margery Kellar at margery.kellar@gmail.com

Greeters – Phyllis Prunty at 770/237-9807

Sunday Counters – Leanne Beutler at Lbeutler@aol.com

Ushers – 8:30, Leanne Beutler at Lbeutler@aol.com – 10:30, Harold Bowers

AUGUST CALENDAR



1 Kings 19:4-8
Elijah given bread for his journey

LIVING GRACE Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Time Sensitive Material • Please Expedite!