

# GRACE VINE

The Monthly Newsletter of Grace Lutheran Church  
*April 2018*

## ***Easter Sunday Schedule***

- 7:30 am** Community Pancake Breakfast  
**8:30 am** Contemporary Worship in Hope Hall  
**9:45 am** Easter Brunch in Hope Hall  
**10:00 am** Easter Egg Hunt & Scavenger Hunt in the Courtyard  
**11:00 am** Celebratory Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary  
**12:15 pm** Fellowship

## ***Worship Hours***

- 7:30 am** Community Pancake Breakfast  
**8:30 am** Contemporary Worship (Hope Hall)  
**9:45 am** Grace Time  
**11:00 am** Traditional Worship (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 Other
5. All are Welcome

## ***April Community Building Goal***

The church as we know it is changing. With a focus less on the institution of church and more on Christian community, our community building goal for April is to invite one other person in the Grace community with whom we do not already have a close friendship to spend time with us—to meet for coffee, go for a walk, eat lunch, or anything else that seems appropriate.

## ***From the Church Office***

Pastor Sarah will be on vacation following Easter worship through the end of the day on Thursday, April 5. If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact Pastor Lara Forbes at 602-710-0701.

## ***CALL (Confirmation Among Local Lutherans)***

CALL next meets Sundays, April 8 and April 22 at 1:00 pm at Grace in Hope Hall.

## ***Youth & Young Adult Worship Leaders***

We give thanks to God for our youth and young adult worship leaders! Joey Siebler will be preaching at both services on Sunday, April 15; Frankie Ark will be preaching at both services on Sunday, April 22.

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**Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

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



***From Pastor  
Sarah's Pen***

The church is changing—along with the world. Church leaders from a variety of denominations claim church decline. Many people grieve the death of the ‘church as we know it.’ The concern is valid; the ‘church as we know it’ is dying. Not just at Grace but across the country in Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist, and other church bodies, worship attendance is down; giving is down. Sunday school attendance and Bible study attendance aren’t what they used to be. Youth groups and ministry groups within congregations have shrunk. Synod and churchwide resources are stretched thinner than ever. That’s all true.

I have spent many an hour contemplating this situation, many an hour worrying about these circumstances, many an hour coming up with brilliant plans to address the decline, many an hour in continuing education and meetings directly addressing this topic. Where I’ve landed after all that is here: Some things need to die. Some things need to die in order to make space for new life. I think the ‘church as we know it’ is one of those things that needs to die.

To be clear, I’m not saying that here at Grace we should shut our doors. Of course not. What I mean is, the new life of the church is different than the ‘church as we know it,’ and that’s okay. The new life of the church may not include large congregations. The new life of the church may not include paid clergy. The new life of the church may not be centered around Sunday morning worship. The new life of the church may mean people gather for worship and service in a space other than a church building.

I wish I could see the future. I can’t, but here’s what I imagine the new life of the church will look like.

- Small communities of people who genuinely care for each other
- Communities of people honestly committed to community, meaning people show up for each other because they want to
- Communities where the focus is how to *live* the faith, not simply *believe* in God
- Communities where people give of themselves deeply, with their gifts, their presence, their heart
- Communities that help fashion the culture of the larger community
- Worship in homes

- Fewer requirements for theological education and clergy who primarily work a non-church job in addition to leading worship
- Congregations where most, if not, all of the ministry is done by unpaid members of the congregation

The ‘church as we know it’ is dying, and we can see it here—just as people all across the country can. But what is springing up in its place is even better. For all the people and resources and glory days of the church, the ‘church as we know it’ had a lot of problems too. In the ‘church as we know it,’ we often argued about things that didn’t matter and ignored one another, judged others and gossiped about people in our communities. Some of those who participated in the ‘church as we know it’ were only there because they thought they should be and didn’t really care about God or others. The ‘church as we know it’ sometimes got so distracted by finances and buildings and even programs that we forgot to be kind to one another, to listen, to forgive, to share our resources, to work for justice, and especially to love one another above all other goals. In the ‘church as we know it,’ we sometimes even overlooked the primacy of following Jesus, the befriender of outcasts, the lover of enemies, the one who died a criminal.

I see signs of new life all over Grace—especially in the ways that we care for one another and in the ways we are putting our faith in motion. This Easter season, I rejoice because, even though the church is dying, God is doing a new thing here.

With joy,  
*Pastor Sarah*

***Update from the Faith Formation  
Ministry Team***

Greetings, Grace family and friends! Thank you to everyone for your Easter volunteering and donations of candy, eggs, and loving hearts and service.

With regard to Christian Education, adults will continue Bible Study in the North Room, 9:45 am - 10:45 am, studying the scriptures for the following Sunday. Thank you to Margie Betz, Sheila Petry, and Carol Staffieri for their leadership. Our Teens are meeting at the same time and are led by Joey Lay and Alison Sigala. Teens meet in the basement and can usually count on a little something good to eat. New to the mix is Bible Story Time for young children during the traditional service. The children join Linda Schwall downstairs during Faith in Motion time and stay until communion time. This will be

offered year round; we are, however, looking for someone to cover for Linda while she vacations this summer. Please let us know if you would like to help out or get involved! For more information, please reach out to Margie Betz or Linda Schwall.

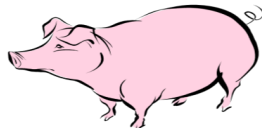
Sunday, April 8, there will be a special VBS planning session in the North Room after traditional worship. There will also be a light lunch served. We would love for everyone to help plan for a spectacular VBS which will take place June 4-8. All Faith Formation Team members and VBS volunteers are encouraged to attend. This will take the place of a separate Faith Formation Team meeting for April.

The Foster Children Diaper Bag Project will be the designated mission project for the VBS participants this year. To keep up with all developments and updates for the Faith Formation team, hear it live during announcement time in church at both services!

See You There!  
Fran Fry / Council Liaison

### ***Wilbur Emphasis***

During the month of April, Wilbur the Pig will be collecting monetary donations for MANA House, a shelter for veterans which is a program of Catholic Charities located right here in our neighborhood.



### ***POWWOW Produce Market***

Each 4th Saturday of the month from 8:00 am to 11:00 am, First Congregational United Church of Christ at 1407 N 2nd Street hosts the POWWOW Produce Market. Regardless of income, shoppers may purchase up to 60lbs. of produce for \$10 and share the abundance with their neighbors!

### ***Ministry Night***

***Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 pm***

All are welcome to attend our monthly Ministry Night on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the North Room! This is a space to ask questions, share ideas, and then, gather for ministry team meetings. This month, the Worship & Music team will share proposed guidelines for rotating Sanctuary Art Installations. If you are interested in learning about the proposal and offering feedback, please come to Ministry Night.

**PARTNERSHIP  
SPOTLIGHT**



### ***Parking Meters IN!***

As voted on by the congregation at the annual meeting in January 2017, we have now installed our parking meters in both church parking lots. With the installation of meters, we are providing space for our community to park legally for concerts, festivals, and other events in a neighborhood that does not provide much space for parking. In that way, we are providing a service to our community. This, in turn, blesses us with a revenue stream. **When you come to Grace for Grace events, for the sake of Grace ministry, or for an event hosted by a group renting our space, you do not need to pay for parking.** We give thanks to God for the generosity of Esther Robbins whose bequest provided the funds for this project. As well, we give thanks to God for Loraine and Roger Ark who did the research for this project and brought it to completion. We also give thanks to God for those who will help design and implement signage: Loraine Ark, Brian Flatgard, and Marty Dusenberry.

### ***Church Kitchen Now Certified!***

Due to the diligence of our caretaker Lester Andrews and the generosity of Esther Robbins, our church kitchen has now been certified by Maricopa County to serve food to the public for any occasion! This is a huge blessing to us as a congregation as well as expands the ability of the community to rent our kitchen for any event. We give thanks to God for Lester's steadfast work on behalf of all of us! We also give thanks to God for those who regularly volunteer in the kitchen who prepared the kitchen for inspection: Marlene Haller, Margie Betz, Evalyn Ehlen, Lori, and Develyn.

### ***Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church***

We have been in partnership with Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church for seven years. Prior to his retirement, Spirit of Hope was served by Pastor Glen Stadler, Pastor Sarah's dad. Beginning with a pulpit exchange in 2011, Spirit of Hope and Grace got acquainted. Spirit of Hope is active in Cursillo, in service projects in the community, and ministers among people of all ages, including young children, a vibrant youth group, a young adult ministry, and studies and groups for adults. Here at Grace, they serve the pancake breakfast, usually on the fifth Sunday of the month. Annually, they hold sock and underwear drives for the Grace Room and a water drive for heat respite. The people of Spirit of Hope are exuberant volunteers and warmly welcome guests on Sunday mornings. We give thanks to God for Spirit of Hope's partnership!

## *Suggested Bible Readings for April*

### April 1 (Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day)

**First Reading:** Acts 10:34-43

**Psalm:** Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

**Gospel:** Mark 16:1-8

### April 8 (Second Sunday of Easter)

**First Reading:** Acts 4:32-35

**Psalm:** Psalm 133

**Gospel:** John 20:19-31

### April 15 (Third Sunday of Easter)

**First Reading:** Acts 4:12-19

**Psalm:** Psalm 4

**Gospel:** Luke 24:36b-48

### April 22 (Fourth Sunday of Easter)

**First Reading:** Acts 4:5-12

**Psalm:** Psalm 23

**Gospel:** John 10:11-18

### April 29 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

**First Reading:** Acts 8:26-40

**Psalm:** Psalm 22:25-31

**Gospel:** John 15:1-8

## *Birthdays*

April 1	Kenneth Jones
April 3	Seth Morey
April 6	Shelley Boshen
April 7	Lance Schilling
April 9	Sherwood Glover
April 10	Scott Knutson
April 12	Carol Staffieri
April 14	Dennis Morey
April 16	Judy Baker
April 18	Sara Rodriguez
April 19	Bonnie Anthony
April 28	Roger Ark
April 28	Renee Waterstradt
April 29	Debra Hewitt



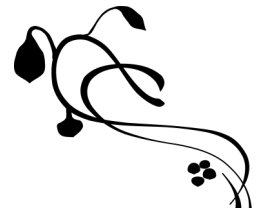
## *April Worship Assistants*

	Apr 1	Apr 8	Apr 15	Apr 22	Apr 29
<b>Preacher</b>	Pastor Sarah	Carol Staffieri	Joey Siebler	Frankie Ark	Pastor Sarah
<b>Greeters</b>	Brenda Baird Kathy Spitler	Marjie Bell Nancy Tickle	Devon Davis Clark Olson	Bev Zannos Lori Cecil	Barbara Buta Judy Baker
<b>Reader</b>	Fran Fry	Judy Baker	Marlene Haller	Solveig Muus	Donna Martin
<b>Ushers</b>	Jim Spitler Sven Lenkewitz	John Erickson Gene Bell	Renee & Thomas Waterstradt	Dorothy Ziehl Julio Devora	John Erickson Marty Dusenberry
<b>Sound Board</b>	Joey Lay	Tim Gallen	Maria Ramirez	Daniel Ramirez	Joey Lay
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Marjie Bell	Evalyn Ehlen	Nicole Gallen	Solveig Muus	Pastor Sarah
<b>8:30 Reader</b>	Sheila Petry	Hannah Khatter	Kenda Khatter	Carol Staffieri	Erica Khatter



# APRIL 2018

## Grace Lutheran Church



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1- 7:30 am Community Breakfast- Hope Hall 8:30 am Contemporary Worship- Hope Hall 9:45 am Easter Brunch Hope Hall 10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt-Court Yard 10:00 am Scavenger Hunt- Courtyard 11:00 am Traditional Worship- Sanctuary 12:15 pm Fellowship- Hope Hall	2- 9:00 am Grace Room 6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal- Hope Hall <b>Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</b> <b>Pastor Sarah on Vacation</b>	3- 5:15 pm Phoenix Children's Choir- Hope Hall <b>Pastor Sarah on Vacation</b>	4- 12:30 NAUM meeting - North Room 5:15 pm GLOW- Hope Hall <b>Pastor Sarah on Vacation</b>	5- 9:30 am WELCA meeting- North Room 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Chancel Choir- Choir Room <b>Pastor Sarah on Vacation</b>	6- NAUM Parking Lot Fundraiser <b>First Friday</b> <b>Office Closed</b> <b>Lester's Sabbath</b>	7- 5:30 pm Wedding - Sanctuary
8- 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 12:15 pm VBS Planning- North Room 12:45 pm New Life in Christ- Sanctuary 1:00 pm CALL- Hope Hall 3:00 pm Rental Group- Hope Hall	9- 9:00 am Grace Room 6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal- Hope Hall <b>Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</b>	10- 5:15 pm Phoenix Children's Choir- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Ministry Night	11- 8:30 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Knit Wits- North Room 12:30 NAUM meeting- North Room 5:15 pm GLOW- Hope Hall	12- 9:00 am Rental Group- Basement 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Chancel Choir- Choir Room	<b>13- Office Closed</b> <b>Lester's Sabbath</b>	14- 8:30 am Phoenix Children's Choir- Sanctuary & Hope Hall 9:00 am Rental Group- Basement 11:00 am NAUM- Hope Hall 5:00 pm Grace Cinema Club
15- 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 Youth Team Building- Basement 12:45 pm New Life in Christ- Sanctuary	16- 9:00 am Grace Room 6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal- Hope Hall <b>Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</b>	17- 5:15 pm Phoenix Children's Choir- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Women and Justice Study- North Room	18- 8:30 am Staff Meeting 10:00 am Knit Wits- North Room 12:30 NAUM meeting- North Room 5:15 pm GLOW- Hope Hall	19- 9:30 am Biblical Equipping- North Room 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Chancel Choir- Choir Room	<b>20- Office Closed</b> <b>Lester's Sabbath</b>	21- 9:00 am Capitol Conference Spring Gathering- St. Andrew Lutheran Church
22- 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 1:00 pm CALL- Hope Hall	23- 9:00 am Grace Room 6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal- Hope Hall <b>Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</b>	24- 5:15 pm Phoenix Children's Choir- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Council Meeting- North Room	25- 8:30 am Staff Meeting 12:30 NAUM meeting- North Room 5:15 pm GLOW- Hope Hall	26- 5:30 pm Bells of Grace- Sanctuary 5:45 pm Trevor's Vision- Hope Hall 6:30 pm Chancel Choir- Choir Room	<b>27- Office Closed</b> <b>Lester's Sabbath</b>	28- 9:00 am Youth Parking Lot fundraiser 11:00 am NAUM - Hope Hall
29- 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	30- 9:00 am Grace Room 6:00 pm Praise Band Rehearsal- Hope Hall <b>Pastor Sarah's Sabbath</b>					

## ***Youth & Young Adult Ministry Parking Lot Fundraiser***

Youth and young adults: we'll attend the parking lot Saturday, April 28. Proceeds go towards next summer's mission trip and Campfirmation.

### ***Youth Team Building***

All youth and young adults, please come and spend time together on Sunday, April 15 at 12:30 pm in the Grace basement. This year, we decided our mission is to grow together and as individuals. Because of our mission focus, we will spend intentional time just growing our relationships with one another in addition to preparing for this summer's mission trip.

### ***Welcome, Simon Pick!***

A native of the rural Midwest, Simon Pick grew up in Remsen, a small town in the northwest corner of Iowa where he began his studies in organ at the age of fourteen with Sr. Arnold Staudt, OSF. He later graduated from Benedictine College in Atchison, KS in 2015 with majors in Music and Theology, and was awarded the Sr. Joachim Holthaus outstanding musician award. During his undergraduate career he studied organ with Dr. Ruth Kruesmark and Mr. Matthew Geerlings and conducting with Mr. Theodore Hanman and Dr. Sean Teets. Simon graduated with a master's degree in Sacred Music at the University of Notre Dame where he was a student of organ under Dr. Craig Cramer and Dr. Douglas Reed and studied conducting with Dr. Nancy Menk. He is currently a student of Dr. Kimberly Marshall.

Pick has been active as a recitalist throughout the Midwest and Southwest and has performed with collegiate and graduate performance ensembles as both accompanist and soloist in addition to serving for three years as the artistic director and continuo player for Benedictine Baroque, an ensemble he co-founded in 2012. He currently performs with the Phoenix Symphony Chorus and the Phoenix-based chamber ensemble Canticum Novum.

Pick has held various church positions serving as organist and choir director at Saint Mary's Church in Remsen, Iowa, organist and choral accompanist at First Presbyterian Church in Atchison, Kansas, and as an organ scholar at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He currently serves as Music Associate and Organist at Central United Methodist Church in Phoenix, Arizona, and associate organist and organ instructor at Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Gilbert AZ.

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#### **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:** Simon Pick, si-  
mon.j.i.pick@gmail.com.

**Praise Band Leader:** Chad Hernandez-Cole  
602-619-3172, praisebandleader@graceinthecity.com

**Bookkeeper:** Chris Morris

**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 through Thursday, 9 am - 12 pm