



**Worship Address**  
The Natelli Family YMCA  
3481 Campus Drive  
Ijamsville, Maryland 210754  
(next to Urbana High School)

**Sundays at 9:30am**

**Mailing Address**  
3520 Sugarloaf Parkway  
Suite F-03-58  
Frederick, Maryland 21704  
  
www.livinggraceurbana.org  
Facebook : @livinggraceurbana

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## MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

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### *The Vicar's Voice*

Last week the SpaceX Starship did not perform as expected. In what the company referred to as a “rapid, catastrophic deconstruction,” the rocket exploded mid-air shortly after takeoff. In less than one minute, millions, perhaps billions of dollars, countless hours of hard work, as well as the hopes and dreams of so many people went up in flames. Thankfully, no one was onboard and there were no injuries or loss of life. This event reminded me of how quickly life can change, that our most dedicated and well-planned situations can go awry. Despite all of the money, years of research and development, and utilizing some of the most intelligent minds, the rocket exploded...er, rapidly deconstructed...catastrophically.

I have to wonder how the first century Jesus followers felt immediately after that Friday when he was crucified. I cannot imagine the rapid, catastrophic deconstruction that their lives were experiencing at that time. What was it like seeing Jesus on the cross, watching them take his body away, or seeing the stone placed in front of his tomb? How quickly their well-planned ministry, their ideas, hopes, aspirations, and dreams came crashing down. In the span of a very short time, their lives had gone from one with purpose and cause, to one without a leader, wandering aimlessly in search of their Messiah. So rapidly had their identity deconstructed that we read about them locked in a room, fearful for their own existence while they mourned the loss of their rabbi, their leader, their friend. How their souls must have been flooded with confusion and chaos when the women returned on that third day only to announce he was gone: the grave was empty.

Life changes in an instant: the loss of a job, an automobile accident, a diagnosed illness, the end of a marriage, the death of a loved one. Regardless of how well we plan, life has a way of smashing those ideas and tossing them into the sea of chaos and turmoil. Just as the disciples felt the emotions following Jesus' death, so too, do we, believers two millennia past that event, feel the pangs of grief, sorrow, anger, and despair. We are not immune from the mud and muck of life, followers of Jesus are not spared from rapid, catastrophic deconstruction. But, in Christ there is something that nothing else can offer: hope. For just as the first century followers discovered, Jesus isn't there, he is risen, and alive.

Why is it so important that Jesus isn't dead? Why do we Christians base so much of our tradition and teachings on this one fact? The answer is through our faith in Jesus' resurrection, we have a leader, a rabbi, a redeemer, who defies the natural conditions of this world. In the resurrection, we have a Savior who cannot be held down by the grave and therefore gives hope to all of us who are bound by earth's limitations. It is our faith in Jesus Christ, the one who rose from death to life, that we are given hope there is more to our existence than the all too frequent rapid, catastrophic deconstruction we experience day in and day out. Through the resurrection, we have hope that pain and suffering will be no more, and that the violence, injustice, and hatred we see and hear will end. We have hope in a God who loves us beyond measure, so much that God was willing to be crucified as a human, just to show us how much we are loved. And in the resurrection, God shows us how much we are loved by giving us the hope that we will live eternally in heaven.

So the next time life is exploding, (excuse me, rapidly, catastrophically deconstructing) let us remember that Jesus lives to bring us hope and that we are loved by a God who goes to extreme measure to show us that love.

Vicar Kris+

*Inspired by Jesus Christ, Living Grace strives to be a welcoming community that will love you, care for you, and serve you.*



Are you receiving offering envelopes but contribute online? If so, please contact our Parish Administrator, Kerry Davis via email at [kerrydavis72@hotmail.com](mailto:kerrydavis72@hotmail.com) to be removed from the list. May is the month to renew this subscription. Please help to reduce paper waste and let us know if the envelopes are not being used.

## Summer Camps & Activities

Mar-Lu-Ridge  
<https://www.mar-lu-ridge.org/summer-camp/>  
 The Claggett Center  
<https://www.claggettcenter.org/>  
 Camp Nawakwa  
<https://www.lutherancamping.org/nawakwa/>

## Serving in Worship

### Assisting Ministers:

May 7 – Jim Pope  
 May 14 – John Jeffries  
 May 21 – Judy McKnight  
 May 28 – Ronnie Jones



**Alter Guild:** Linda Kuntz

**Technology:** Ray Kuntz

**Cookie Brigade:** Dana Burns, Anne Fix,  
 Robin Davis, John Jeffries

## Let us pray for those in need...

Diane Beall, Vanessa Carlow, Eric Hahn,  
 Chuck Hoffman, Alison Medrano,  
 Barbara Weller, Elaine Merceruio,  
 Steve and Alex Roth,  
 Pastors Matt and Diane Day and their soon-to-be-born twins,  
 The staff at Mar-Lu-Ridge and the Claggett Center as they prepare for another camping season, Bishop Gohl and the Delaware-Maryland Synod in preparation for Synod Assembly



If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please contact Vicar Kris at 240-285-7932 or by email at [kristofer.roberson@yahoo.com](mailto:kristofer.roberson@yahoo.com)

## The Greater Urbana Area Food Bank



Living Grace is collecting items for donation to the Food Bank on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

Manwich	100% Juices	Tuna in Water
Mayo	Ketchup	Rice & Pasta Sides
Dish Soap	Sugar	Pump Hand Soap
Toothbrushes	Flour	Salt & Pepper
Laundry Soap	Crackers	Comet Cleanser
Ziploc Bags	Tomato Soup	Gluten free Snacks
Kitchen Bags	Cereals	Coffee w/caffeine
Toilet Paper	Paper Towels	Shampoo
Conditioner	Body Wash	Body Lotion

**Our next collection is Sunday, May 21, 2023**  
**Collection Challenge: Vicar Kris wants to have a minimum of 75 items donated this month!**

### March Attendance

Date	On-Site	On-Line	Total
March 5	14	48	62
March 12	21	n/a	21
March 19	31	88	119
March 26	30	84	114
Averages	24	73.33	79

### Follow us on Social Media



@livinggraceurbana  
 @vicarroberson



@vicarroberson

Contact Vicar  
 Kristofer Roberson  
 Email:  
[kristofer.roberson@yahoo.com](mailto:kristofer.roberson@yahoo.com)  
 Phone: 240-285-7932



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¿Habras otro idioma? Sprichst du eine andere Sprache?  
 Parlez-vous une autre langue? Parli un'altra lingua?  
 Do you speak in another language aside from English? If so, the worship team wants you! We are looking to have the scripture read in several languages **on Sunday, May 28, the Feast of Pentecost.** The English text will be provided in advance of the worship service and directions on when to read will be given prior to the service. Those blessed with the talent to speak in another language are encouraged to volunteer. Please see Vicar Kris, Anne Fix, Linda Kuntz, or Nancy Miles for information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, May 14 – Mother’s Day Celebration
- Monday, May 15 – Urbana Steering at 3pm  
 Worship Committee at 6pm  
 Church Council at 7:30pm
- Sunday, May 21 – Ascension of Jesus
- Sunday, May 28 – Pentecost (wear red) and  
 Fourth Sunday Family Fellowship**



On Sunday, May 28, the church will commemorate Pentecost – the event when scripture tells that the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, empowering them to go, share the good news of God’s love, and to baptize those who believe. All are invited to wear red on this day in celebration of this event. Worship will be “on fire” for this special occasion.

## ELCA Youth Gathering '24

Planning is already underway for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering to be held July 16-20 in New Orleans, Louisiana. If you or someone in your family will be in high school during this time, you are welcomed and invited to participate in the gathering. An information session will be held later this spring. Look for notices in future newsletters and in the Thursday Thoughts email.



**Have a May Birthday?**  
 Join us for cupcakes and celebration immediately following our Family Fellowship Service on Sunday, May 28, 2023.



Join Living Grace as we celebrate mothers and the mother figures in our lives as we learn about a few of the heroic and faithful women of the Bible. A special service is planned to celebrate this occasion with music, scripture, and liturgy to reflect the love and care given to us by the “moms” in our lives. There will be a small gift of appreciation for those who wish to receive it.

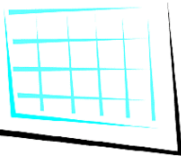
Volunteers are needed to help the Alter Guild with set up and decorating before each service at 9am on Sundays. Many hands make quick work.

There is a need for persons to help run the PowerPoint slides during our weekly worship service. Training will be provided. Contact Vicar Kris, Linda, or Ray to help!



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**PUT THIS  
on YOUR  
CALENDAR!**



about lessons and materials in the future.

Vicar Kris will be hosting an online study of the Nicene Creed and how the confession of faith impacts us as Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Join Vicar Kris on Wednesday evenings at 7pm starting July 5 and continuing each week until August 30. Be on the lookout for information

Living Grace is again partnering with Frederick Co. Public Libraries in sponsoring films to be shown at *The Starlight Family Film Festival*. This outdoor, family event occurs three times through the summer, and includes a pre-film festival with activities such as a DJ dance party, bounce houses, costumed characters and much more. Living Grace will have our church information and logo published in the event fliers and advertisements for the event, in addition to having an activity table prior to the movie each night.



**Thursday, June 8: DC League of Super Pets (6/15 rain)**  
**Thursday, July 13: Puss in Boots The Last Wish (7/20 rain)**  
**Thursday, August 10: Bad Guys (8/17 rain)**



Church Leadership needs your assistance in identifying a person who is skilled, willing, and available to serve as our congregational Treasurer. If you know of someone (or organization) that is able to serve in this capacity, please see Pr. Doug Jones or Vicar Kris immediately.

### Living Grace Church Council Report for April 24, 2023

A Living Grace Church Council meeting was held via Zoom, on Monday, April 24, 2023. Council members in attendance were Synodical Administrator Pastor Bob Harvey, Pastor Doug Jones, Vicar Kris Roberson, Treasurer Mark Moser, Christine Barnhart, Matt Travis and Secretary Chuck Hoffman.

Our out-going Treasurer, Mark Moser, presented the Receipts and Disbursements and Balance Sheet for April 24 2023. There has been little change since last month. We are still looking for a new Treasurer.

The Synod Assembly will be held from Friday June 9 through Saturday June 10 at Grace Lutheran Church in Westminster Maryland. Living Grace can send two voting representatives from the congregation. We could also send a non-voting youth representative. We are looking for volunteers.

Living Grace will be one of three sponsors of the Urbana Twilight Movies series this Summer. Living Grace will also be sponsoring another TED talk in September.

The next Living Grace Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 5/15/2023 at 7:30 PM. This meeting will be held via Zoom.

#### Note:

The best way to make your offering is online through the Living Grace web page at:

<https://www.livinggraceurbana.org/donations>

or if you prefer to mail a check made out to "Living Grace", please use the following address :

Living Grace  
3520 Sugarloaf Pkwy  
Suite F-03-58  
Frederick, MD 21704

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