
FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

The Vicar's Voice

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8



Happy Hearts by
Heather Harrington

Anyone who has been to a wedding in the past fifty years has most likely heard this passage read. Or perhaps you yourself had it read during your wedding ceremony. It is the quintessential **LOVE** passage, outlining what love is and is not supposed to be. And in this month of February, we find love all around us – there are heart-shaped candies, red flowers, greetings cards, etc. etc. etc. One cannot venture into Target or the local grocery store without being confronted with these expressions of love. Television and print advertisements urge you to buy the newest, shiniest, most expensive new product as a way of showing you love for someone...but is this really love?

We hear the term love a lot at church, however this love is not the kind you see on the Hallmark Channel. God's love goes much deeper than physical attraction or a passionate flame that ebbs with time and circumstance. The love God brings to those of us who call ourselves believers, and to the world at large, is actually hard to fathom and put into words or even visual illustrations. There is not enough chocolate covered strawberries in the world to demonstrate how much God loves what has been created.

God's love is one that will never die; its desire for us as the divinely created surpasses time and consciousness. For God's love of us was so great that the most holy left heaven, took on flesh, and lived a life full of the experiences that you and I have every day. Through Jesus, God walked on earth, knew joy and pain, anger, and exhaustion. The depths of God's love was so great that Jesus went to the cross so that we may be freed from the guilt of sin. God's love through Jesus is the ultimate Valentine's Day gift: a never-ending, always present love that requires no purchase, no return. A gift freely given to you and me so that we may live a life full of hope, grace, and mercy. Remember, there is nothing we can do to make God love us any less than we are already loved. Thanks be to God!

Vicar Kris+



- Sun. 2/5 – Congregational Meeting
immediately following worship
- Mon. 2/13 – Worship Committee Mtg
6pm on Zoom
- Mon. 2/13 – Church Council Meeting
7pm on Zoom
- Sun. 2/19 – Transfiguration Sunday
- Tues. 2/21 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
6pm Grace New Market
- Wed. 2/22 – Ash Wednesday Service
7pm at the YMCA
- Sun. 2/26 – Family Fellowship Sunday
- Thu. 3/2 – Lager for Lent
6-8pm Atlantic Grill



Living Grace’s Annual Church Business Meeting will be held **Sunday, February 5**, following the worship service. Copies of the annual report will be emailed to the congregation the week of January 30. All members and those attending worship are invited to attend as we review what has been accomplished and look to the year ahead. For questions, contact the Rev. Robert Harvey, Synod Administrator, to Living Grace at rmhmdivpe@aol.com.

Pancake Dinner



Join Living Grace and Grace Episcopal New Market on **Tuesday, February 21**, for a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner with berries, jams, chocolate chips, and plenty of syrup. Dinner begins at **6pm** at Grace Episcopal Church located at 5740 Green Valley Road, New Market, Maryland 21774

The Greater Urbana Area Food Bank



Living Grace is collecting items for donation to the Food Bank on the 3rd 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
Ziplock 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, February 19, 2023



Living Grace will hold an Ash Wednesday Service at **7pm on Wednesday, February 22** at the YMCA. The candlelight service or word and sacrament will include the imposition of ashes.

Ask Me About My Ashes

Vicar Kris will be at the Urbana Starbucks from **4-6pm on Ash Wednesday**. He will be available for *Ashes-to-Go* and encouraging conversation with a sign prompting people to ask him about the ashes on his forehead.



Serving in Worship

Assisting Ministers:

February 5 – Ronnie Jones
 February 12 – Judy McKnight
 February 19 – Robin Drummond
 February 22 – Anne Fix (Ash Wednesday)
 February 26 – Leah Jeffries

Alter Guild: Linda Kuntz

Technology: Ray Kuntz

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

We lift in prayer...

Alex Roth
 Don McClain
 Dottie Moore
 Pr. Doug Jones
 Sandy Shields

Steve Roth
 Ruth McClain
 Allison Medrano
 Diane Beall
 Rev. Mary Sulerud



If you or someone you know is need of prayer, please contact Vicar Kris at 240-285-7932 or via email at kristofer.roberson@yahoo.com

Date	On Site	Online	Totals
Jan 8	23	46	69
Jan 15	21	38	59
Jan 22	19	60	79
Jan 29	36	25	52
Averages	25	42	65

On Sunday, January 22, Living Grace sponsored a talk on immigration and refugees. The Rev. Christine Dunn from Lutheran Social Services came and spoke about the many programs that LSS uses to support refugees and immigrants when first coming to the United States. Rev. Dunn shared many insights into the often difficult and hard journey of locating from another country to the U.S., often under the most desperate and dire of circumstances. She provided insight about how congregations and communities can support LSS, and in turn, love our neighbors.

In addition to Rev. Dunn, Nasir Ahmed, from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, came and gave a firsthand account of what it is like to be a refugee entering into the U.S. A native Afghan, Nasir spent twelve years working as an interpreter for the U.S. Army in Afghanistan, after which he attempted for several years to immigrate with his family to the U.S. After several unsuccessful attempts and with threats to his life and the lives of his family members, Nasir obtained permission to enter the U.S. alone. Here he spent three years working and paying the necessary fees in order to bring his family to the states with him. Now that the Ahmed family is reunited, Nasir spends his time advocating for refugees and immigrants in the National Capital Area. Recently, Nasir was part of a team the helped to relocate 12,000 Afghan refugees into Metro D.C. communities.

You can hear Rev. Dunn and Mr. Ahmed's talk by viewing the event on the Living Grace Facebook page. To learn more about how you can help, check out the Lutheran Social Services website at <https://lssnca.org/>, or Lutheran Refugee and Immigration Services at <https://www.lirs.org/>, or on Facebook and Instagram at @lirsorg.



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Contact Vicar
 Kristofer Roberson

Email:

kristofer.roberson@yahoo.com

Phone: 240-285-7932