



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

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

The Vicar's Voice

²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. – Matthew 14:28-29

Do you know what happened next? Peter became frightened and immediately sank beneath the waves. Thus continued Peter's journey of acting and speaking before contemplating what he is doing. We read throughout scripture that it is Peter who jumps to conclusions, acts before he thinks, says words that cause rebuke and admonishment. And yet continually, we read that Jesus reaches out to Peter and pulls him above the waves. When Peter cuts off the centurion's ear, it is Jesus who heals both the wounded and the inflictor. While attempting to do and say what *he* believes to be right, Peter is constantly in the wrong. One might think that after a period of correcting Peter's errors Jesus would just dismiss him and send him away. Instead, Jesus always comes and saves him – corrects the wrong, and through instruction and redirection redeems Peter from his own actions.

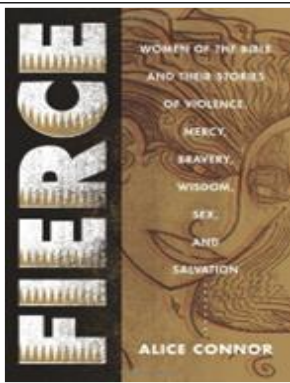
This is the good news for us! We are Peter, every one of us. All too frequently we act according to our own understanding, our own thoughts about what should or should not be done. Instead of prayer and supplication, we speak and act of our own accord. And then when life's waves and winds toss us about, we cry out to God for help. Then Jesus, just as he did with Peter, reaches down and through the word and the sacraments, through fellowship and the church, lifts us up and redeems us from our own selves. Jesus pulls us all from the storms of sin and chaos and lifts us up to dry and stable land, not because of what *we* do or say, but because of who Jesus is.

What Peter – and all of us – frequently forget is that we do not need to earn God's love by showing our faith, be it walking on water, memorizing scripture, or giving the most to charity. God's love for us in Christ Jesus is a freely given and unmerited blessing to all creation. Through the cross and resurrection, Jesus reaches down to all of humanity and lifts us from the grip of death so that we may live freely in the basking light of God's eternal love. Likewise, just as we see with Peter, when we make mistakes, we mess up, there is nothing that can stop God from loving us. There is no depth too deep that Jesus does not reach to redeem us. This is the Gospel message: we are loved in all circumstances by a God of mercy and grace through Christ Jesus! Thanks be to God; we are claimed as beloved and showered with eternal love.

In Christ's love and service,

Vicar Kris+

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



Book Study: Wednesdays @ 6:30pm

Women in the Bible aren't shy or retiring; they're fierce and funny and demanding and relevant to 21st-century people. Women in the Bible, some of their names we know, others we've only heard, and others are tragically unnamed. Pastor Alice Connor introduce these women and invites us to see them not as players in a man's story, or as victims or tempters nor as morality archetypes, teaching us to be better wives and mothers, but as fierce foremothers of the faith. These women's stories are messy, challenging, and beautiful.



Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87444743242?pwd=THZhQXRaNEpENkN3NWdkNlEvdE5nUT09>

Welcome Home!

Immigration and Refugees in America

Have you ever considered what it is like to move to another land, far from where you were born? Consider what it is like to pack everything you own and relocate to a place where very few speak your language, where you know no one, and where you must start life all over. This is the situation so many people find themselves in today. Come experience firsthand accounts of what it is like to enter the U.S. as a refugee, seeking the safety and security of our nation. Learn about both the public and private organizations that are working to the resettle immigrants into our communities, and the services that are provided to transition people from around the globe into our neighborhood. Sponsored by the FCPL Urbana Branch and Living Grace Lutheran-Episcopal Church.

Tuesday, September 5th at 7pm
Urbana Library Community Room

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	SPAM meat
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	Pump hand soap

Living Grace will collect items on

Sunday, September 17, 2023



CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

Come learn about the program and our year together. Meet other youth, families, and our leaders!

Wed. Sept 6th at 7pm

Traver Center at ELC

For current and new youth (grades 6-8) and their parent/guardian.

Contact mwyant@twinspires.org with questions!

Living Grace, Urbana is partnering with Evangelical Lutheran, Frederick to provide confirmation classes for middle school students. Co-taught by Vicar Kris and Meghan Wyant, ELC's Director of Youth and Family Ministry, classes will be offered twice a month with seasonal activities and events. Interested students and parents are encouraged to attend an orientation meeting to be held on **Wednesday, September 6th at 7pm at Evangelical Lutheran (31. E. Church Street)**. Contact Meghan or Vicar Kris for more info.

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Pet Blessings

Living Grace will host a pet and animal blessing at the Urbana Community Park on Sunday, October 8, 2023

from 12noon until 2pm. Come, bring your pet for a blessing and visit with area veterinarians, pet groomers and other animal related vendors.



God willing and the people consenting

The Reverend Carrie K. Schofield-Broadbent

will be ordained and consecrated a Bishop in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and Bishop Coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

**Saturday, September 16, 2023
at eleven o'clock in the morning**

The Right Reverend Eugene Taylor Sutton and the Standing Committee request the honor of your presence at

**The Cathedral Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul
3101 Wisconsin Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20016**

Chief Consecrator:
The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church

Clergy: cassock and surplice, red stoles
Bishops: rochet, chimere, tippet

	On-Site	Online	Totals
6/4	29	41	70
6/11	28	56	84
6/18	27	53	80
6/25	30	44	74
	28.5	48.5	77
7/2	31	58	89
7/9	27	47	74
7/16	21	59	80
7/23	13	32	45
7/30	32	48	80
	24.8	48.8	73.6
8/6	32	64	96
8/13	22	81	103
8/20	30	67	97
	28	70.6	98.6

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Attendance

Serving in Worship

Assisting Ministers:

Sept 3 – Leah Jeffries
Sept 10 – Judi McKnight
Sept 17 – Anne Fix
Sept. 24 – Robin Drummond

Alter Guild: Linda Kuntz

Technology: Ray Kuntz

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



Let us pray for one another

Gail Hart, Gail Moser, Kristin Snyder,
Marilyn Nelson, Roger McArthur, Steve Roth,
Eric Hahn, Vanessa Carlow, the Badiang Family,
All students and staff beginning a new year,
The victims and survivors of the Hawaiian fire,
All who are impacted by hurricane Idelia,
Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry,
Bishop Elect Carrie Schofield-Broadbent



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



Birthday Celebration

Join us as we celebrate August
and September birthdays
following our Family Fellowship
Service on
Sunday, September 24, 2023.

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

Follow us on Social Media

 @livinggraceurbana
 @vicarroberson

Contact Vicar
 Kristofer Roberson
 Email:
kristofer.roberson@yahoo.com
 Phone: 240-285-7932



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!



Living Grace Church Council Report for August 7, 2023

A Living Grace Church Council meeting was held via Zoom, on Monday, August 7, 2023. Council members in attendance were Synodical Administrator Pastor Bob Harvey, Vicar Kris Roberson, Treasurer Mark Moser, Matt Travis, Christine Barnhart and Secretary Chuck Hoffman. Pastor Doug Jones was unable to attend.

Our Treasurer, Mark Moser, reported that Living Grace was \$13,000 in the red for the month of July. We are still expecting \$25,000 from our Diocese, but this shows just how dependent we are on the Episcopal grant money.

Our Lutheran Synod had been unable to find a new Treasurer to replace Mark Moser. Canon Kristofer Lindh-Payne from our Episcopal Diocese suggested we look into Cornerstone Franciscan Ministries. This is a non-profit that handles financial matters for other non-profits. Council will be exploring this in the coming weeks. Pastor Bob Harvey believes that Synodical Administration will end with Vicar Kris Roberson's ordination as Pastor.

Vicar Kris Roberson is working with the Rev. Alejandro Meija from our Synod to investigate grants that are available to reorganized congregations. It is believed that Living Grace qualifies. Vicar Kris will also be encouraging our congregation to provide more resources for special projects. Since Living Grace does not have the expenses associated with the upkeep of a building, we can do more out in the broader community. While other congregations are struggling, Living Grace is growing. Vicar Kris is working to make new connections in the Urbana community.

The next Living Grace Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 9/18/2023 at 7:15 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

(Submitted by Chuck Hoffman, Secretary of the Living Grace, Urbana Church Council)

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