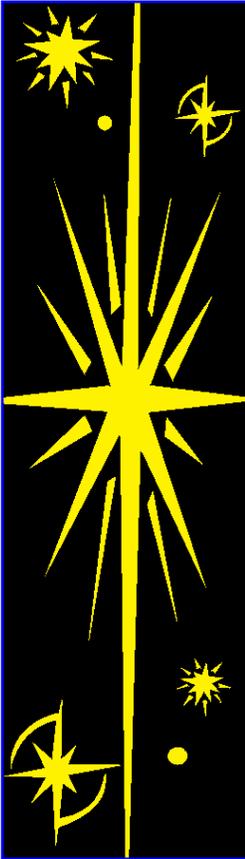


Gather • Feed • Send

GRACE NOTES

205 South Garner Street . State College, Pennsylvania 16801 . www.glcpa.org . December 2017



Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Morning, Advent IV

For our Sunday morning worship on Christmas Eve, there will be only ONE worship service at 10 a.m. There are no 8, 9 or 6 p.m. services, Sunday School or coffee hour.

Christmas Eve - There are four opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve:

- The 4:30 p.m. worship service is designed particularly as a children's service. The Christmas story will be told with a nativity of live animals and a visit from Santa as he comes to worship the Christ child.
- The 7 p.m. worship service will include harp prelude music, Holy Communion, candlelight, choir, organ and harp accompaniment of the carols, and solos.
- The 9 p.m. worship service is a piano-led worship service with Holy Communion, candlelight, and carols. There will also be vocal and instrumental music.
- The 11 p.m. worship service is with harp and piano prelude, candlelight, and Holy Communion. Music will be organ-led, with vocal and instrumental solos, and with the harp and organ accompanying the carols.

Christmas Day

- Christmas Day Worship is at 10 a.m. and is organ-led with Holy Communion, carols, and musical solos.



Grace Christmas Dinner Wednesday, December 20

A Christmas dinner for members and friends of Grace will be held on **Wednesday, December 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the Miller Center.** We will enjoy a ham & turkey dinner with all the trimmings prepared by our Super Wednesday cooks.

Please join your fellow Grace members as we share this time of fellowship. After the meal, we'll sing Christmas carols, including Grace's special version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," led by our own Frank Bortz who has been our song leader for over 40 years. The dinner and caroling will take the place of regular Super Wednesday evening activities.



A donation of \$4/person or \$10/family is suggested.



Please bring one dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies to share.

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TRENDS: Who is Grace Lutheran Church in 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,
Who is Grace Lutheran Church?
Are we the iconic building? Is that really the church? No, we all know that. Some of us remember the old Sunday School ditty where you would cross your fingers and point them inward to make a box-like structure, and then point your index fingers upward to make a steeple, and then you would turn your hands upside down so all your fingers were visible and you would wiggle them around. As you did all that you would say, “This is the church, this is the steeple, let’s open the doors and see all the people.” Remember? The idea is the church really isn’t the building, but the church is the people. In our case, as Lutherans, the church is the group of people who gather to hear God’s Word and receive his sacraments. The church is people gathered together for Jesus. That’s the church.

Our church, Grace, has been in existence since 1898. Our first building was built in 1903, where the Metropolitan is now. Our second building was built in 1965, which is our present building, and our additions (entranceway, open staircase and elevator, three classrooms, youth center and gymnasium, and 43 additional parking spaces) were added from 2009-2011 and dedicated in December 2011. All that is easy to know from our records and our memory. But how about us, the people of Grace? How have we changed?

I write today to describe the Grace Lutheran Church of 2017, compared

to the Grace Lutheran Church of just seven years ago, 2010. How are we the same and how are we different? We are still people gathered around God’s Word, the literal living Jesus Christ. We are still a large congregation for central Pennsylvania. We still have four worship services, a Super Wednesday stronger than it’s ever been, Bible studies, youth and family ministries, stronger service tentacles into the community, many programs and opportunities to be fed and then sent to serve. So these are ways we are similar in 2017 as in 2007.



How are we different? There are many differences, but two are noteworthy here. We continue to receive about 50 new members per year and lose about 20 to 25 for a net gain of about 25 to 30 new members. Have you noticed anything about these new members? By far, most of these new members are young families. More young families are joining than any other age demographic, and in the past ten years we have experienced more of our older regular-attending members die, especially those who attended the 10:30 service. So the result is that we are a younger congregation. In fact, the demographics regarding the age of Grace members are now heavily stacked in the 1-30 year range. That is, by far, our largest age grouping, with the age demographic that has decreased the most being the 60-85 year group.

Being a younger church is definitely a strength. It bodes well for Grace’s future. It provides promise and life for the next decades. We are blessed to have these age demographics. I am extremely pleased with this. But this positive demographic also provides challenges regarding attendance and finances. Earl Lybarger, council member, and Gary Stroschein, treasurer, have poured over our age demographic records for each decade of life as well as our attendance and our financial giving records, and they have given us a treasure of information. This is information that I very much desire to share with you, but it’s not possible to share it all in a Grace Notes pastor’s page.

So on two Super Wednesdays in December, the 6th and the 13th, the Super Wednesday study time at 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. will be devoted to talking with you about the changing Grace Lutheran, the blessing it is and challenges it can bring. I will lead the studies and will share our changing demographics, and our attendance and finance trends over the past years.

Please come to Super Wednesday study on the above dates and hear these interesting and extremely important trends and how we will meet the challenges they present.

All Grace members need to know about this blessing, a younger congregation, and what that means for our present and future. I hope to see you there.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Lynn

Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship

| Sunday | First Reading | Psalm | Second Reading | Holy Gospel |
|---|------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| December 3 1 st Sunday of Advent | Isaiah 64:1-9 | Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 | Mark 13:24-37 |
| December 10 2 nd Sunday of Advent | Isaiah 40:1-11 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 | 2 Peter 3:8-15a | Mark 1:1-8 |
| December 17 3 rd Sunday of Advent | Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 | Psalm 126 | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 | 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 |
| December 24 4 th Sunday of Advent | 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 | Luke 1:46b-55 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 (alternate) | Romans 16:25-27 | Luke 1:26-38 |
| December 31 1 st Sunday of Christmas | Isaiah 61:10-- 62:3 | Psalm 148 | Galatians 4:4-7 | Luke 2:22-40 |

MUSIC IN THE LITURGY

Carols and More with a German Twist

In December 2017 we continue to explore music from our German (deutsche) heritage, building on Lutheran connections to Germany via Reformation 500 and our cultural exchange with the Lutheran parish of *Alt-Hastedt* (Old Hastedt) in Bremen. Although our annual Nine Lessons and Carols service stems from England, this year when our teen choir leads the carol service at 10:30 on December 17, you will hear carols mostly from Germany (translated into English). The music will include Martin Luther's *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*, the traditional *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*, and Friederich von Spee's *O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide*. The tunes are in our hymnal and are known around the world.

If you are curious about German *Musik*, enjoy German Essen (food from which Pennsylvania cuisine stems), or are eager to learn about many of the *Traditionen* that have influenced how we worship during Advent and *Weihnachten* (Christmas), please come to our German-themed **AdventFest on December 3 after 10:30 worship**. Live instrumental music, Advent poems, carols (some in German), displays, good food, fellowship and more guarantee something for everyone.

Advent traditions and the music we cherish help to remind us what WAS, what IS, and what SHALL BE in Christ Jesus. May you have a blessed Advent!

Lessons and Carols on Sunday, Dec. 17

Crossfire Youth Choir invites you to worship at 10:30 a.m. on December 17 for our **9th annual Advent Lessons and Carols service**. Lessons and Carols is a biblical retelling of the events leading up to Jesus' birth using nine scripture readings and corresponding carols. This year our selections reflect our German heritage, including *O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide*, Martin Luther's *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*, and *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*. The tradition dates back to 1880, with the best-known service broadcast annually on WPSU from Kings College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve and re-broadcast on Christmas morning. Let us help you prepare your hearts for Jesus' birth. We hope you will come!

*Lessons
& Carols*

Blue Christmas Worship Service

*Thur., Dec. 21, at 7 pm
St. Paul's United Methodist
Church and Wesley
Foundation
250 E. College Ave., State College*

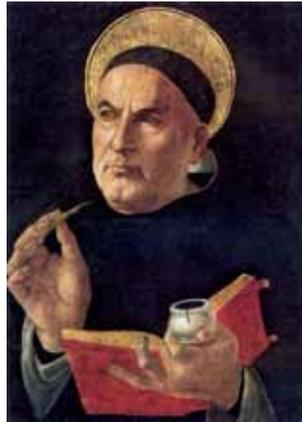


The Blue Christmas worship service is typically held on December 21 as it is the longest night of the year. For people who are struggling through this Advent to Christmas season due to the death of a loved one, health challenges and fears, or suffering from another source, this service acknowledges a person's heartache. While the person's pain is honored, the service's intention is to offer those hurting the hope found in Jesus Christ. This service is an ecumenical ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, State College Presbyterian Church, and St. Paul's United Methodist Church & Wesley Foundation.

A Prayer Worth Pondering

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274) was one of the most brilliant minds of his or any era. Aquinas was born in Italy, joined the Dominican order, and was educated in France at the University of Paris. He became a brilliant teacher, theologian, and writer in the scholastic tradition. His master work is entitled Summa Theologiae, and contains a systematic description of his theological views. This brilliant man was understandably concerned with all aspects of learning, and so he composed this prayer for students. I offer it to all who learn, but especially to our students as they prepare for tests at the end of the semester. I hope this prayer blesses you as you pray it. Pastor Schul

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator,
 true source of light and fountain of wisdom!
 Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect,
 dissipate the darkness which covers me,
 that of sin and of ignorance.
 Grant me a penetrating mind to understand,
 a retentive memory,
 method and ease in learning,
 the lucidity to comprehend,
 and abundant grace in expressing myself.
 Guide the beginning of my work,
 direct its progress,
 and bring it to successful completion.
 This I ask through Jesus Christ,
 true God and true man,
 living and reigning with You
 and the Father, forever and ever.
 Amen.



Christmas Music



Seasonal Carols to be played on New Year's Eve morning

If Christmas carols are meaningful to you, join Laurel Sanders, Sarah Rodgers, and Susan Buda in the entrance **stairwell** from 10 a.m. until shortly before the 10:30 service on **New Year's Eve morning, Sunday, December 31**, to hear instrumental trios. Carols will include *O Come, All Ye Faithful; I Wonder as I Wander; Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light; Fum, Fum, Fum* and *Good King Wenceslas*.



A New Era for the Adult Choir

Our new choir director, **Jayne Glocke**, will have her first **rehearsal** on Wednesday, January 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is a new era for the choir - a new director and a new rehearsal time. The new time is on Super Wednesday following the study time.

This is an exciting time for the choir - a time of anticipation and promise. If you have ever thought of joining the choir, now's a great time. And if you can sing, I encourage you to consider it.

~ Pastor Lynn



Adult Forum

Join Us

Attend as your schedule allows
 And topics are of interest!

Bad Girls of the Bible: What We Can Learn From Them
 Using the book by the same name and other texts, we take a closer look at the lives of women in the Bible.

- Dec. 3 Lot's Wife: Bad for a Moment
- Dec. 10 Woman at the Well: Bad for a Season
- Dec. 17 Delilah: Bad to the Bone

Facilitators: Anne Whitney and Dotty Delafield

Sundays
 9-10 AM
 Fireside Room



December 3: Discover German Holiday Traditions at Our First Adventfest

Join us on Sunday, December 3 after the 10:30 service for a new tradition you won't want to miss! Discover something old, something new, something borrowed, and—this year only—something...*German-American* at Grace Lutheran's first international *AdventFest!* From Advent calendars, wreaths, and candles to Christmas trees and glass Christmas balls, many of our cherished traditions originated in Germany and were brought to America by immigrants.

Come to Harkins Hall around 11:45 a.m. to hear seasonal instrumental music and Christmas carols; enjoy a German meal of bratwurst, potatoes, sauerkraut, side dishes, German Stollen and cookies; and check out informative German displays and activities. Prepare your hearts for the season by supporting our youth in a live pageant and hear about Saint Nicholas of Myra from our own talented storyteller, Dennis Snider. The performance will end around 1:30, and activities will end at 2:00.

If you have a nutcracker, German pyramid (wooden tower with Christmas decor and candles, pictured here), German ornaments or decor, or would like to contribute a German side dish for our meal, contact Cindy Fritz (cfritz@glepa.org) or Laurel Sanders (lsanders@glepa.org) or call the church office at 814-238-2478.



Come for food, fellowship, and fun. Expand or renew your cultural horizons while focusing on the real meaning of Advent as we await the coming of Christ!

DID YOU KNOW...

☀ ...That the church office will be closed on **Mon. & Tues., Dec. 25 & 26** to observe the Christmas holiday and will reopen on Wednesday, December 27 at 8 a.m.? The office will also be closed on **Mon. & Tues., January 1 & 2, 2018** to observe the New Year's holiday and will reopen on Wednesday, January 3 at 8 a.m.

Mark Your Calendars – Yale Glee Club Sings at Grace on January 12

– On Friday evening, January 12, the Yale Glee Club—the third-oldest glee club (1861) in the United States, following Harvard and the University of Michigan in 1859—will give a free concert at Grace. Music critics from *The New York Times* have acclaimed the ensemble as one of the most best and most adventurous collegiate singing groups in the United States. Watch for details in upcoming Grace Notes and E-Notes!

MITTEN, CAP, AND SCARF TREE!

Again this year a Christmas tree will be placed in the Narthex; the congregation is invited to hang handmade or **store-bought mittens, caps, or scarves** that will be used to help keep local children warm this winter. The Centre County Youth Service Bureau has agreed to accept and distribute our cuddly contributions.



The tree will be available through Thursday, December 14. Need more information? Contact Cindy Tibbott at 364-9100.



Orders due by Sunday, December 3

You may make these in memory of, honor of, or to the glory of God. Flowers may be picked up after the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service, December 24th or after the 10 a.m. Christmas Day service. *Make all checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church/Memo: Poinsettias.*

As an alternative to purchasing poinsettias for the altar, we are accepting **Special Offerings** this Christmas. This year's offering will benefit our **Global Missions Team**. *Make all checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church/Memo: Special Offering.*

ORDER FORMS FOR ALL OF THESE ARE AT THE WELCOME CENTER OR CHURCH OFFICE.



Wanted: Kings and Carolers for First Friday, Downtown State College, on January 5

Friday, January 5, is the day before Epiphany, when we celebrate the arrival of the Magi (kings from the East) to worship the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun while recalling the discovery of the Magi from the East as they journeyed to the manger to worship Jesus.

At our second annual Epiphany event there will be a display of international nativity scenes in Harkins Hall, pizza and salad (side dishes are welcome!), and we will carol downtown as part of the First Friday of the New Year, surely warming the hearts of those who hear us. We will also share some great “epiphanies” and hold our first ceremonial “passing of the crown” from last year’s king (Ryan Pencek) to whomever finds the baby Jesus figurine in their slice of cake. The lucky person will be named our honorary King or Queen until next Epiphany!

Supper is at 5:30, after which we will write the traditional inscriptions of 20+C+M+B+18 (symbolizing Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, asking God to bless our work at Grace during 2018), sing carols downtown from 6:15-7:15/30 led by our own costumed Kings and a Star, and return to enjoy a steaming hot wassail bowl (beverage) and Three Kings Cake. The event will end around 8 p.m.

This event is appropriate for singles, couples, and families with upper elementary-aged children and teens. (Younger ones are welcome, but you might want to bring a wagon for the caroling.) Be prepared to bundle up! In the unlikely event of rain, we will still hold the event – our “parade” of carols will just be shorter. Let’s hope for good weather so we can spread Epiphany joy – the Light of Christ in song!

Call Laurel Sanders, Worship & Music Coordinator, at 883-8484 for details or email her at lsanders@glcpa.org if you would like to come or if you can contribute a side dish.



Pat Lloyd and June Miller have been our **organists** for a combined 50 + years. They are wonderful organists, more than competent and very faithful. They have given our Lord and us stellar service. On December 31, June and Pat will

be retiring from serving as organists at the 9 and 10:30 worship services. (They will still play piano for the 8 o’clock service.) To recognize their faithful service and thank them, there will be a reception in Harkins Hall on **Sunday, December 10** following the 10:30 worship service. Please come and say “thank you” for the stellar service they have provided for us.

Our new organist, Erick Clayton, will begin with services on January 7.
~ Pastor Lynn

Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins Sunday, December 17

Meet in Harkins Hall - Light Lunch Provided at 11:45 a.m.

Please join your fellow Grace members as we share the joy of Christmas



by caroling at the homes of homebound members of our congregation. We will go caroling on **Sunday, December 17, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.** A light lunch in Harkins Hall will be provided before the caroling begins. Then, at 12:30, a bus will take us as a group to Grace’s homebound members. The sign-up sheet for caroling is on the bulletin board across from the office. If you have questions about this event, please contact Lois Lynn (234-1078) or loissteve@comcast.net.

GIFTS for Giving

Interested in **olive wood crosses, Christmas ornaments, and statues from the Holy Lands?**

Pastor Schul has a small selection **for sale**, all hand-crafted by Palestinian



Christians. **All proceeds benefit Bethlehem Arise**, a non-profit school and rehabilitation center for children and adults with special needs in Bethlehem that is operated by Palestinian Christians. For more information, please see Pastor Schul.

Scholastic Book Fair

Holiday Book Fair: Reading is SNOW much fun!
November 30th through December 7th in Room 203

The book fair is sponsored by Grace Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten and is open to all members of Grace Lutheran Church as well as our school families. We will offer new, affordable books for people of all ages.

The book fair hours will be as follows:

- Thursday, November 30, 8:45-9:30 a.m.; noon to 12:30 p.m.; and during Advent Family Fun Night, 6-7:30 p.m.
- Friday, December 1, 8:45-9:30 a.m.; noon to 12:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 3 during coffee hour, 10-10:30 a.m.
- Monday, December 4, 8:45-9:30 a.m.; noon to 12:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 5, 8:45-9:30 a.m.; noon to 12:30 p.m.; and after the Christmas show, 6:30-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 6, 8:45-9:30 a.m.; noon to 12:30 p.m.; and during Super Wednesday, 5-7 p.m.
- Shop online beginning November 24 at <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/gracelutheran>

Shop for Christmas or birthday presents for your children or grandchildren and help support our school. For everything purchased, our school earns points to purchase books, teaching resources and more for our library and classrooms.



Thank You, Grace!

85 Christmas cards were sent to PA inmates through Centre Peace.

Ring Bells! To Help our Centre County Neighbors in Need

- Thursday, **November 30** at Meyer's Dairy
- Saturday, **December 16** outside the Corner Room
- Tuesday, **December 19** at Meyer's Dairy

Sign up in the Upper Commons on the bulletin board to the left of the men's room.

To the Men of Grace Lutheran Church

For many years a group of men from Grace Lutheran Church have had a morning breakfast prayer/Bible study group on Thursday mornings. This has been a nice way to get to know other men from the congregation--for those who may attend different services, those who are working and want to meet on a breakfast or lunch break, those who are retired. We have met at Perkins, the State College Dinner, and most recently IHop. IHop has been great, and we would like to continue the tradition, but attendance has been sparse. The proposal is to meet at IHop at noon for lunch beginning in January. We will meet on the second **Thursday, January 11** to start and then look at how often we would like to meet.

If you are interested in this small group ministry, please come to the January lunch or, if you have questions, contact either Pastor Schul (pastorschul@glcpa.org) or Ken Kulp (237-3993).



Out of the Cold: Centre County (OOTC3)

Grace will be hosting Out of the Cold January 2nd through January 14th



Please consider volunteering for one of the many opportunities to assist. Training is provided for all hosts and overnight volunteers. The sign-up sheets will be on the bulletin board soon. Out of the Cold (OOTC) provides warm and safe overnight accommodations and nourishment for members of our homeless community. Many congregations within the Centre Region participate and take turns hosting our guests.

Grace Lutheran Church has supported this mission since OOC started. There are many opportunities for our members to show their support. During the two weeks that we host the program there are opportunities to be an overnight volunteer, a host, provide a meal, wash towels, help unload and load the program supplies and equipment, and provide miscellaneous needs.

Please consider volunteering this year!

Holiday Collection Begins for Centre County Women's Resource Center

Please visit the table in the upper commons through December 18th to get more information on needed items for the annual collection to benefit Centre County Women's Resource Center, as well as drop off donations (only new items).

Along with gift cards, urgent needs include

- Tea towels and dish cloths
- G, PG, PG 13 rated DVD movies and shows
- Boxes of herbal tea and coffee/tea cups
- Posters/pictures with motivational/positive messages
- Journals and gel pens
- New pillows, various sizes
- Warm (thicker) blankets



Purchased items using AmazonSmile and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the Centre County Women's Resource Center. Checks and monetary donations will also be accepted and greatly appreciated. Please make checks out to CCWRC or Centre County Women's Resource Center.

Due to a lack of storage space, please, no clothing (unless requested), bar soap, bargain brand shampoo/conditioner, travel-size toiletries, children's PJ's, toys, or books.

The Food Bank

The Food Bank of the State College Area, Inc. is always in need of donations. The church collects donations monthly in the church narthex on the first Sunday of each month at each worship service. Cash/check donations, grocery store gift cards, and brown paper grocery bags are always accepted. For the complete list, look at their website, <https://www.scfoodbank.org/Page/59>

Items this month are these:



Juice (100%)
Canned fruits
Jam or Jelly
Canned peas and/or carrots
Soup (especially Progresso or Chunky)
Cereal
Tomato product (diced, stew, paste, sauce, etc.)
Pancake mix and syrup
Canned pasta and sloppy joe (Chef Boyardee, Manwich, etc.)
Canned meats (chicken or Spam)
Gluten-free product (any type, but especially pasta, cereal, etc.)
Diapers (all sizes)
Shampoo, conditioner
Toothpaste, toothbrushes
Feminine products
Soap (bars/liquid)



| | Actual Income/ Expense July 1- Oct. 2017 | Budgeted Income/ Expense July 1- Oct. 2017 | + or (-) | % |
|-------------------|--|--|-------------------|-------|
| Income | \$257,543.06 | \$273,300.00 | -\$15,630.21 | -5.7% |
| Expenses | \$271,156.84 | \$296,134.80 | -\$24,977.96 | -8.4% |
| Net Income | -\$13,613.78 | -\$22,834.80 | \$9,221.02 | |

Notes: Interest income is not included. Most expenses are budgeted straight-line throughout the year. Income is budgeted based on historic pattern of receipt.

Actual income for the year is 5.7% behind the budgeted amount. That is an improvement from the last two months. Actual expenses are 8.4% behind the budgeted amount. Please remember your offering, especially to make them up when you are absent from worship.

Building Campaign

| Actual Receipts this month | Monthly Mortgage* | Fiscal YTD Receipts | Fiscal YTD Mortgage |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| \$25,679.75 | \$15,972.03 | \$56,186.00 | \$63,888.00 |

* The monthly mortgage payment will be in effect until 1/5/2018. A new payment will be established based on interest rates at that time.

Needed every month for the mortgage is \$15,972. This past month has exceeded that. For the year thus far we are \$7,702 behind expectations.

SPONSORSHIP SIGN-UP CHARTS...

... for radio broadcasts, altar flowers, and bulletins are now in the Narthex! Costs are the same as last year - \$165 for one sponsor or two people can share \$82.50 each for broadcast, \$75 for altar flowers and \$25 for bulletins which can be dedicated to honor or memorialize someone or to the Glory of God. Explanation sheets and reminder envelopes are also with the charts.



Thank you very much for your support.

2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES...As we start a new church year, each of us must ask, "What are our priorities? Where are we placing our treasure?" The envelopes are on the tables in the narthex. Prayerfully ponder your priorities for the coming year, and use your offering envelopes to help direct them. When picking up your 2018 envelopes, please confirm that the envelope number on the top label of the box matches the number in the little window on the front left side of the box. If they do not match, please let the office know immediately and please do not use those envelopes. Envelopes will be in the narthex on Sunday, December 3.



Care Packages FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS



Finals Week Care Packages for Penn State Students!

Again this year Lutheran Campus Ministry and Grace Lutheran are partnering to gather snacks and other treats for Finals Week Care Packages!

We are gathering single-serving packages of granola bars, chips, popcorn, gum, candy, cocoa, snack crackers, cookies, or other small treats for students. Volunteers will package items into bags that will be given to students on the Sunday before finals begin (December 10), along with a note of encouragement and Christmas greetings.

If you would like to help encourage students and lift their spirits as they study and take final exams, **bring your donation to the church office by Wednesday, December 6.**



*The people of Grace are invited to an Open House at the home of **Pastor and Linda Schul.** Come to 159 W Park Ave. in State College on Sunday, January 28 from 2-5 p.m. for light refreshments and fellowship. It's a small way for the Schul family to express their gratitude to the people of Grace for their ongoing prayers, love, and support. You need bring only yourself. Parking is very limited, so we suggest you park at the parking decks near the Nittany Lion Inn. Parking is free on Sundays. ~ We look forward to seeing you!*

Green Tip for December

“Yes! I just cleaned out my dryer and was really surprised at the lint.”

Here's my suggestion: You probably know to clean the lint trap on your dryer every time, but when's the last time you vacuumed out the vent pipe? Dryers use up a lot of energy, and proper maintenance is essential to keep them running efficiently. Lint build-up is also a major cause of dryer fires. To clean your dryer, unplug the machine, then pull it away from the wall (you may need a screwdriver to take off the vent hose). Vacuum it and also the pipe in the dryer itself (also check the vent outside). Then remove the front of your machine (consult your manual) and vacuum all around the inside. If you haven't done this in a while, you will be surprised at the amount of lint! You should do this every year, more often if you use your dryer a lot. For some loads, you can avoid using the dryer and hang wet clothes up to dry around your house, which saves energy and also adds humidity to the indoor air.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- **Sunday Morning Worship** at Grace Lutheran Church - 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
- **Sunday Evening Worship** at 6-6:50 p.m., followed by dinner in the Fireside Room, 7-8 p.m. (with discussion or service project each month) Green Team Dishwashing 8-8:30 p.m.
- **Thursday Evening Prayer** at 6-6:45 p.m. at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center, corner of Allen Street and Curtin Road on campus. Dinner after Worship at 6:45-8:00 p.m.

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Friday, December 1**
Free Pizza Friday outside The Forum by Palmer Art Museum
Join Muslim Students at Penn State feeding hungry students and spreading joy with pizza!
- **Sunday, December 3**
11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Advent Fest with all of Grace Lutheran Church to celebrate Advent together.
- **Sunday, December 10**
7 p.m. (after 6 p.m. worship) - 8:30 p.m. - Christmas Hoopla!
Come take a study break and celebrate Christmas before exams begin!
- **Monday, December 11**
9-11:30 a.m. - at the Corner Room! Finals week breakfast at the Corner Room - what better way to start exams! Gather with Alicia and other students before or after your first final!



Women of Grace

The "Women of Grace" is a unit of the Women of the Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization (ASWO) of the ELCA. Programs are included that will help women grow spiritually, to enhance relationships and give opportunities for service in our congregation and throughout the world. If you are a member of Grace and interested in what the groups have to offer, please come to any of the following meetings or contact the person in charge.

Schedule

Naomi Circle - First Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the Stinson Library
Bible Study -

Contact Person: Carolyn Fishburn (cxf1@pps.edu)

December 5 - Hostesses - Gerry Slear and Lu Magnusson
Devotions and Program - Carolyn Fishburn

Daughters of Eve Circle - Fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Fireside
Bible Study - *50 Ways to Pray*, Tresea A Blythe

Contact Person: Bonnie Burris (bonnieburris@comcast.net)

December 26 - Hostesses - TBD
Devotions and Program - TBD

Comfort Makers (Sewing Group) - Second and fourth Tuesday at 9 a.m. in the Stinson Library

Contact Person: Yvonne Koths (ygk1951@gmail.com)

December 12 only

Knit Wits (Knitting and Crocheting group) - Second Thursday at 10 a.m. in the Stinson Library

Contact Person: Cindy Tibbot (ctibbot1@verizon.net)

December 13

Garden of Readin' (Women's Book Club) - Third Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. or 6 p.m. (your choice) in Fireside

Contact Person: Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net)

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

The January selection will be *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. Susan Hirth will be facilitating.

Board Meeting - First Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Fireside.

Contact Person: Susan Ferro (ferro71@comcast.net)

December 5

Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project - Fair trade coffee sale Sundays at 10 a.m. in Harkins Hall during the month of December

Contact Person: Bonnie Burris (bonnieburris@comcast.net)

Many women at Grace sewed the tops of the quilts and then *Comfort Makers* finished them off. The *Comfort Makers* also made up school kit packets, and members of the congregation sewed the kits together and brought in the school supplies to be filled. Our young people assembled all the school kits one Sunday.

Sandy Hall, Carolyn Fishburn, Yvonne Koths, Gerry Slear, Lou Magnusson, Judy Bausch, Ken & Nancy Fogleman, Diane and Ken Kulp packed everything in boxes, ready for pickup the following Sunday, November 5th.

Our trusty men, Spence Garvin and Chris Roberts, got the Pensky truck, loaded the boxes, and delivered them to East Freedom, PA on Monday.

As you can see, this is a project of the entire congregation. So our many, many thanks to you all!

The following churches brought boxes November 5th since we are the collection center. They were

- St. John's of Millheim
- St. Luke's of Centre Hall
- Shepherd of Hills of Karthus
- United Church of Christ of Hublersbrug
- St. John's of Bellefonte
- St. Mark's of Pleasant Gap
- St. Mark's of Snyderstown
- St. and Christ Lutheran, Dubois

Blanket Sunday 2017

The Naomi Circle of the Women of Grace wishes to thank so many people in our congregation for the success of this project benefiting Lutheran World Relief. Our church contributed the following:

Quilts - 29

School Kits - 125

Personal Care Kits - 7

Baby Care Kits - 1

Monetary Donation - \$981



CHILDREN AND YOUTH



First Communion Class 2017

From left to right

Row 1: Regan Houseknecht, Cameron Houseknecht, Elizabeth Horn, Pastor Lynn

Row 2: Issac Edgar, Ryan Loy, Patrick Belanger, William Whitney, Elise Bechtel

Row 3: Ben Seaton, Kaitlyn McShea, Manetta Horn, Kacie Kempf and Vicar Ariel



KUDOS TO OUR KIDS!

Thank You, Car Parkers!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who have stood out in the sun, wind, rain, and cold temperatures to help our youth raise the money they need to travel to the National Youth Gathering this summer in Houston. Of course, the biggest thanks goes out to the people that parked and tailgated here in the Grace parking lot! Car parking is a fabulous fund raiser, and we couldn't have done it without you.

Announcement - No Sunday School

We will have no Sunday School on **Sunday, December 24 and 31** due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Safe travels as you may visit family and friends.

High School Seniors

It's time for the Youth Department to begin collecting pictures of this year's senior class! If you can share, please share them digitally to Cindy Fritz (cfritz@glcpa.org).



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday, December 3

Noon -2:00 p.m. - AdventFest in Harkins Hall

Sunday, December 17

Noon - 2:00 p.m. - Confirmation & High School Youth combined in the Miller Center

Sunday, December 24

No Sunday School Class

Sunday, December 31

No Sunday School Class

JANUARY PREVIEW

Sunday, January 7

No Sunday School Class

Sunday, January 14

All Sunday School Classes resume

January 14 - 15

Confirmation Lock-In in the Miller Center

Sunday, January 21

6-8 p.m. - High School Youth Group in the Miller Center

Confirmation Class

Intensive Confirmation classes are held once a month, noon to 2 p.m. in the Miller Center. Each class will begin with a meal and then move to instruction.

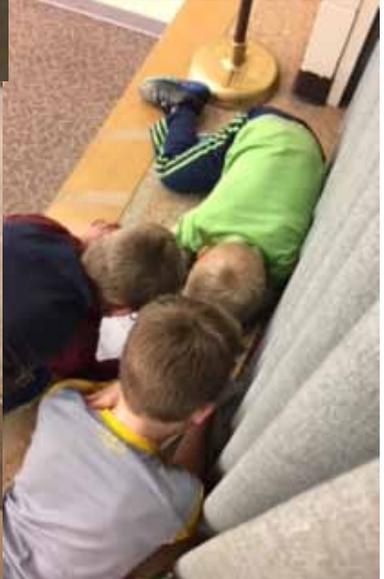
Our meeting on **December 17** will address homelessness and compassion. We are going to combine with our High School Youth Group to prepare and freeze a meal for the Out of The Cold program.

Sermon Notes Reminder: The teal paper labeled "Worship Notes" can be found outside Vicar Ariel's office and in the upper commons next to the Confirmation bulletin board. All youth in 6th, 7th and 8th grades need to complete a total of four Worship Notes by May 2018.

KIDS CLUB
what we are
thankful for,
coloring pages...



- E-mail: glpk@glcpa.org
- Phone: 814-238-8110
- Web: www.glcpa.org



Dates to Remember!

Thursday, November 30

- Scholastic Book Fair begins, room 203
- 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Advent Family Fun Night

Friday, December 1

9:15-10:15 a.m. GLPK Bible Study in the Fireside room with childcare in the nursery, room 204

Sunday, December 3

Scholastic Book Fair open during coffee hour, room 203

Tuesday, December 5

6 p.m. – School Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary; Reception in Harkins Hall following concert (Snow date, Thursday, Dec. 7)

Wednesday, December 6

9:15-10:15 a.m. – Parent volunteer Christmas party in Fireside room with childcare provided in the nursery, room 204

Thursday, December 7

Last day of Scholastic Book Fair

Thurs. & Fri., December 7 & 8

Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards and bread delivered

Mon. & Tues., December 11 & 12

10:30 a.m. Chapel

Tuesday, December 12

Grace Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten Dine to Donate Night at Texas Roadhouse

Wednesday, December 13

8 a.m. – Staff Appreciation Breakfast provided by GLPK parents

Thursday, December 14

Last day for Toys for Tots donations

Friday, December 15

9:15-10:15 a.m. GLPK Bible Study in the Fireside room with childcare in the nursery, room 204

Thursday, December 21

North Central Sight Services free vision screenings

December 25 – January 5

School Closed for the Holidays

Monday, January 8

School Resumes



December

- E-mail: glpk@glcpa.org
- Phone: 814-238-8110
- Web: www.glcpa.org

Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten's Annual Christmas Concert

Please join us for the school's annual Christmas show



"Merry, Merry Christmas"
on Tuesday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Cookies and milk to follow in Harkins Hall.
*If there are school closings due to weather,
the program will be held on December 7 at 6 p.m.*

Butter Braids and Christmas Wreath Fundraisers

Thank you for supporting the school through our annual Christmas Wreath Sale and the very popular Butter Braids Pastries fundraiser. We sold 177 wreaths. We earned \$1302 through the sale of Butter Braids. The money raised will go toward tuition assistance and unbudgeted expenses.



Shopping

Bring others joy and we have a great way to support Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten's annual Christmas Wreath Sale. We sell **Weis, Giant, RedLine Speed** gift cards from the school office. To purchase these gift cards, please stop in the school through Friday between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.



Toys for Tots

Grace Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten will serve as a collection site for the Toys for Tots program again this year. This impressive program provides toys for needy children in our area. If you would like to donate a toy, please place your unwrapped gift in its original packaging in one of the collection boxes located at the entrances to the school or in the Narthex **through December 15th**. If you would like to make a cash donation or would like to volunteer, go to <http://marines.centreconnect.org> for details.

GLPK's Annual Veterans Day Parade: Veterans, current military personnel and PSU ROTC students joined us to celebrate Veterans Day at our assembly and parade on Friday, November 10, 2017. Following the parade, our guests spoke to the Jr. Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes.





December Worship Volunteers



LECTORS - Anne Burke (364-5096/ ambrmb1@verizon.net)

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. | Christmas Eve |
| December 3 - Julie Miller | December 3 - Open | December 3 - Sharyn Everhart | 4:30 p.m. - Open |
| December 10 - Open | December 10 - Open | December 10 - Ellen Campbell | 7:00 p.m. - Brian Christian |
| December 17 - Open | December 17 - Anne Rohrbach | December 17 - Jeff Ulmer | 9:00 p.m. - Open |
| December 31 - Open | December 31 - Open | December 24 (10am) - Brian Christian | 11:00 p.m. - Open |
| | | December 25 (10am) - Brenda Palmgren | |
| | | December 31 - | |

GREETERS - Sue Forster (876-2029/ sforster@cvim.net)

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 8 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
| December 3 - June Krumrine | Dec. 3 - Bruce and Elaine Rathfon, Louise Tarman, Gerry Slear | Dec. 3 - The Proctor Family |
| December 10 - Carla Rossi | Dec. 10 - Mark and Karen Mrsa, Susan Bardo | Dec. 10 - Bob and Alice Griffin |
| December 17 - Karhryn and Paul Mackes | Dec. 17 - Mike and Megan Weyandt, Susan Bardo | Dec.17 - Paul and Sandy Larson, Lois Lynn |
| December 31 - Martha Musser | Dec. 31 - Louis Tarman, Mary Lou Swan | Dec. 24 (10 am) - John and Brenda Palmgren |
| | | Dec. 31 - Joe Belanger, Phil Keeney, Helen Manfull |

WELCOME CENTER HOSTS - Sue Forster (876-2029/ sforster@cvim.net)

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 9 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
| December 3 - Linda Domin | December 3 - Sharyn Everhart |
| December 10 - Open | December 10 - Sharon Rivell |
| December 17 - Liz Albert | December 17 - Barbara Fiscus |
| December 31 - Carolyn Fishburn | December 24 - Sue Forster |
| | December 31 - The Bills Family |

ACOLYTES - Stephanie Fozard (238-7935/ steph@fozards.com)

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|--|
| 8 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. | Christmas Eve |
| December 3 - Open | December 3 - Alexis & Matthew Weyandt | December 3 - Jack & Lincoln Hockenberry | 7:00 p.m. - Sophia & Mirabella Bills, Abby Fozard |
| December 10 - Open | December 10 - Ethan & Spencer Hardyk | December 10 - Patrick & Izzy Williams | 9:00 p.m. - Alexis & Matthew Weyandt |
| December 17 - Open | December 17 - Ella & Ireland McDyre | December 17 - Emily Whitney & Emilio Schul | 11:00 p.m. - Open |
| December 31 - Open | December 31 - Jacob Fritz & Joey Franklin | December 24 (10am) - Jack & Lincoln Hockenberry | |
| | | December 25 (10am) - Open | |
| | | December 31 - Abby & Cater Fozard | |

DEACONS - Sally Keiser-Bankert (234-6038/ sallykb@verizon.net)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 8 a.m. | 9 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
| December 3 - Don Widener | December 3 - Carl Bankert, Sally Keiser-Bankert | December 3 - Elena Blazina, Rich Rivell |
| December 10 - Dave Pencek | December 10 - Nick Downs, Mardi McDonough | December 10 - Brian Bills, Rich Rivell |
| December 17 - Don Widener | December 17 - John Diercks, Rachel Wolkenhaurer | December 17 - John and Brenda Palmgren |
| December 24 - Cindy Nicosia | December 24 - Jayne and Dennis Glocke | December 24 - Paul and Leslie Wagner |
| December 31 - Don Widener | December 31 - Carl Bankert, Sally Keiser-Bankert | December 31 - Rich and Sharon Rivell |

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sally Keiser-Bankert
(234-6038/ sallykb@verizon.net)

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Jason Laine
(814-404-4719/ jason.laine@gmail.com)

SOUND BOOTH

Karl Hosterman
(355-4818/ karl@centreccommonline.com)

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 8 a.m. | 10:00 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
| December 3 - Dave Pencek | December 3 - Grant & Tammy Davis | December 3 - Lester Griel, Jr. |
| December 10 - Leonard Ellenberger | December 10 - Deb Lux & Marilyn Peterson | December 10 - Lester Griel, III |
| December 17 - George Weigand | December 17 - Les & Cathy Cutter | December 17 - Richard Brenneman |
| December 24 - Dave Pencek | December 24 - 10 a.m. SERVICE (no coffee hour) | December 24 - Wayne Pauley |
| December 31 - Rachel Wolkenhaurer | December 31 - Lois Lynn & Leslie Wagner | December 31- Karl Hosterman |



December Worship Sponsors

The church office (238-2478) or Sharon Schultz (sschultz@glcpa.org)



| Altar Flowers | Bulletin Covers | Radio Sponsors |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| December 3 - Susan Bardo | December 3 - Suand Bardo | December 3 - Ted and Jennifer Oyler |
| December 10 - Curt and Jackie Kunes | December 10 - Jim and Ellen Campbell | December 10 - Jim and Ellen Campbell |
| December 17 - Carol and Gorman Findley | December 17 - Pat Ishler | December 17 - Joyce Sipple |
| December 24 - The Weyandt family | December 24 - Greg and Kathy Weimer | December 24 - Betta Kriner |
| December 25 - Rich and Sharon Rivell | Christmas Eve - Betta Kriner | December 25 - Mary Lou Swan |
| December 31 - Dick and Helen Brenneman | December 25 - Rich and Sharon Rivell | December 31 - Open |
| | December 31 - Brenda and Mia Kim | |

November Pastoral Acts

| New Births and Baptisms | Deaths - Funerals/Memorials | Weddings |
|---|--|----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adalyn Kay Davidson, daughter to Kaleena and Cam Davidson, born November 11, 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ward Stover Steve Updegrave | |

Prayer List for December

All deployed military and those traveling in war-torn countries
 Sam Alexander
 Cathy Antes, friend of Deana Coine
 Paul & Lois Confer & family, friends of Phil Vollmer
 Emma Deppen, granddaughter of Winnie & Marion Deppen
 Pastor Dowhower
 Megan Grunthaler, Kathy Cathcart's daughter-in-law
 Sherry Harrington
 Skylar Hill
 Sadie Hounshell, friend of the Davis'
 Curtis Krebs, brother of Sandy Cassady
 Pete Krewson, father of Erin Tusar
 Nick Lingenfelter
 Frances Michalkiewicz, sister of Sandra Larson
 Al Musgrave
 Amy Nevling
 Maryann Newcomb
 Nick Scholz, friend of Ethan & Morgan Wagner
 Margaret Schrock, Kathy Weimer's mother
 Leon Slear
 Victoria Smith
 William Snape, Sr., brother of Phyllis Favorite
 Carol Spangler
 Marlowe Stiger
 Megan Stoltzfus
 Family of Ward Stover upon his death
 James Tarman
 Tammy Trinidad
 The family of Steve Updegrave upon his death
 Mary Utzman, Jane Utzman's mother
 Ross Weimer, Greg Weimer's father
 Kathleen Wolfhope, friend of the Flanagan family



December Birthdays

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Elizabeth Fortmann | 11 Joseph Cathcart | 22 Melissa Hockenberry |
| 1 Michael Fullington | 11 Erica Edgar | 22 Brian Humm |
| 1 Michael Fullington | 11 Saylor Milhomme | 22 Catherine Pletcher |
| 1 Christian Waite | 11 Paul Roberts | 23 Gladys Carlson |
| 2 Anna Bahnfleth | 12 Nancy Doyle | 23 Vernon Neubert |
| 2 Jeya Chandra | 12 Christiane Fleagle | 24 Emily Culp |
| 2 Terry Hoover | 12 Jackson Hockenberry | 25 Aaron Stierly |
| 2 Lydia Peters | 12 James Leslie | 26 Jane Foor |
| 2 Patrick Williams | 12 Nancy Reinert | 26 Sandra Hall |
| 3 Charlotte Bahnfleth | 12 Deborah Balaban | 26 Teri Howes |
| 3 Timothy Everhart | 13 Heather Anderson | 26 Barbara Krumrine |
| 3 Betta Kriner | 13 Anna Carol Buffington | 26 Mardi McDonough |
| 3 Martha Musser | 13 Rochelle Debnar | 26 Alexis Weyandt |
| 4 Briana Kim | 13 Amanda Simcoe | 27 Dawn Anderson |
| 4 Brenda Palmgren | 14 Sydney Lintal | 27 Winifred Drake |
| 5 Mary Yarnell | 14 Nancy Tamminga | 27 Melvin Rockey |
| 6 Heike Betz | 14 Paul Cocolin | 27 Robert Zipf |
| 6 Robert Byers | 14 Isabelle Williams | 27 Elizabeth Horn |
| 6 George Weigand | 15 Sophia Lynn Reutzel | 28 Alissa Davies |
| 6 Jeremiah Northridge | 16 Geraldine Slear | 28 Paul Haris |
| 6 Wayne Pauley | 17 Alexis Arbutina | 28 Michael McShea |
| 7 Paula Droege | 17 Haley Haller | 29 Scott Brenneman |
| 7 Evan Dreibelbis | 17 Edward Reutzel | 29 Jill Pisor Fallon |
| 7 Elizabeth Foster | 18 Sally Keiser-Bankert | 29 Sydney O'Donnell |
| 7 Herbert Graves | 18 Barbara Fiscus | 30 Natalie Giacobe |
| 8 Andrea Harrington | 18 William Gray | 30 Elizabeth Giacobe |
| 8 Jim McDyre | 18 Damon Heebner | 30 Debra Lambert |
| 8 Alexis Amber Greer | 18 Amy Shearer | 30 James Pletcher |
| 8 Ainsley Autumn Greer | 18 Edwin Strong Jr. | 30 Carol Shultz |
| 9 Carter Hosband | 19 Jo Bortz | 31 James Graef |
| 9 Rachel Wolkenhauer | 20 Andreas Martinez | 31 Nicholas Richardson |
| 9 Megan Propst | 20 Jessica Griel | 31 Donald Widener |
| 10 Eleanor Johnson | 21 Andrea Forster | |
| 10 Christa Sechler | 21 Mary Lou Swan | |
| 11 Caroline Banerjee | 21 Mia Steward | |
| 11 Bret Buterbaugh | 22 Michael Blake | |



GRACE NOTES

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

205 South Garner Street

State College, PA 16801

(814) 238-2478

www.glcpa.org

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Piano and flute accompaniment

9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Organ accompaniment

Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

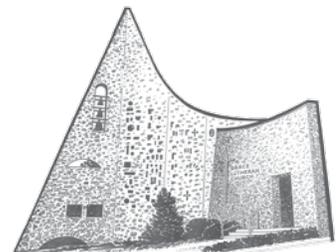
Organ accompaniment

Children's Message

6 p.m. Prayer & Praise Worship with Holy Communion

Christian alternative songs with Psalm 151 worship team

Casual worship in the Sanctuary



The Rev. P. Stevens Lynn, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Pastor
Vicar Ariel Williams, Intern

- Grace Lutheran Church
churchoffice@glcpa.org
- GLC Preschool and Kindergarten
glpk@glcpa.org
814-238-8110
- Children and Youth Ministry
cyministry@glcpa.org

Gather • Feed • Send

Grace Lutheran Church is energized by the Holy Spirit and nurtured through God's Word and Sacrament to gather, feed, and send people in the name of Jesus Christ.