



Grace Notes

Gather • Feed • Send

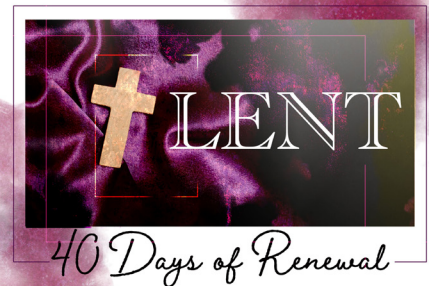
January 2024

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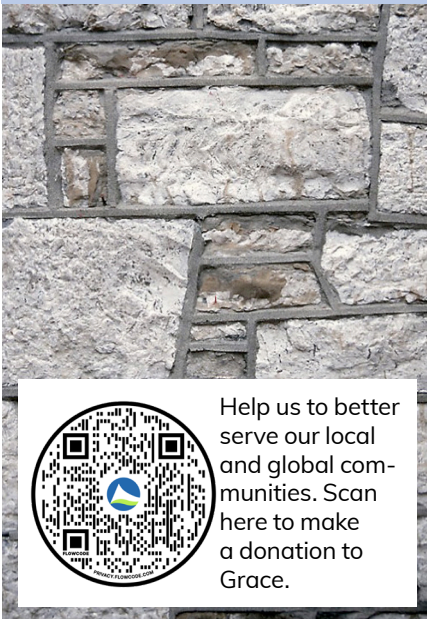
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Our Lenten Journey 2024

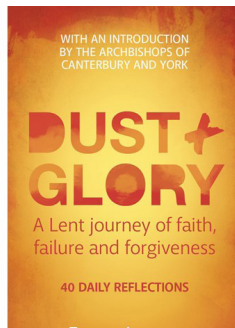
It seems we have just finished celebrating Christmas, yet in 2024, our Lenten Journey begins with Ash Wednesday on **February 14**. As we always do, our Grace Church family will take this journey together using a beloved tradition of sharing prayer and devotions. This year we will be using a publication, *Dust & Glory: A Journey of Faith, Failure and Forgiveness*, rather than the member-written Lenten Devotional booklet of the past years.



Dust & Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the struggles and mistakes that every day brings. We can't always avoid them, but we can try to learn from them and grow closer to God through them. May our Lent journey help us to remember that, however often we stumble in our attempts to follow Jesus, nothing can ever separate us from God's love for each one of us. There are 40 daily reflections for Lent on faith, failure and forgiveness, it invites you to find God in the mess of everyday life. Each week considers the idea of failure from a different angle and explores the difference God's redeeming work in Jesus makes to the struggles and shortcomings of human life.



Help us to better serve our local and global communities. Scan here to make a donation to Grace.



There are two booklets available:

- The *adult edition* offers daily Bible readings, short reflections, prayers and practical ideas to help you make sense of life's challenges and draw closer to God during Lent.
- The *kids/family edition* provides an age-appropriate daily challenge to do, learn or think about.

There are also weekly themes, prayers and short Bible readings - all exploring the shared theme.

Imagine sharing faith with friends, your children or grandchildren, in multi-generational readings, study, and activities at home. The themes of the daily and weekly devotionals will also be integrated with our worship services. Booklets will be available in the Welcome Center beginning **February 11**.

From Our Senior Pastor



The Rev. Scott E. Schul
pastorschul@glcpa.org

Resolutions

I've never been one to make New Year's resolutions. I have nothing against the practice, and I can certainly see why it might be helpful. But when I've tried to do it, my resolutions have always been a little shallow, mostly self-serving, and so very much "in the moment" that they felt irrelevant within just a few months, like a piece of grocery store produce that had passed its "sell-by" date.



For many months, however, I've been slowly formulating some notions that I'm hoping to internalize in my life for the long-haul, not just for a couple of weeks or months. They aren't resolutions; I would classify them more as "maxims," which Merriam Webster defines as "a general truth, fundamental principle, or rule of conduct." A maxim is something you try to adopt for life, and not just in the fervent

enthusiasm of a short-lived New Year's resolution.

This will likely be a list that will continue to grow and evolve. By no means should you view these as things I have successfully accomplished or consistently apply in my life. They are aspirational in nature, and goals that I consider right and helpful ways of following Jesus. I am sharing a few of them in the hope that they might be helpful for you too.

- **Following Jesus should be a lifestyle, not an activity or membership.** When I look at the early church and the great saints, their faith was lived out on a daily basis, and not just for an hour on Sundays. A life is built around that sort of faith, instead of cramming faith into a spare space or rare free moment. Faith as a lifestyle is reflected in the way I talk and move, the way I treat others, the foods I consume with my mouth, and the images and ideas I consume with my eyes and ears. It's a life organized in sync with the church's calendar and not a sports season. I want my faith to define my every waking moment.
- **Following Jesus should be a relationship and not an idea.** Too often our faith becomes a purely intellectual exercise. Certainly we should apply our minds, reason, and intellect to our faith. But when that becomes our sole approach to following Jesus, we reduce him to a concept and not a man. Our faith becomes an idea we decide to adopt (or discard) rather than an eternal truth that calls and seizes our hearts. An over-intellectualized faith is a philosophy or ideology when in reality it should be based on a relationship with Jesus of Nazareth, who doesn't say "write

a thesis about me" but simply "follow me."

- **Following Jesus involves praying daily.** It's so much easier to talk about prayer than to actually do it. I'm not sure why that is, because nothing could be simpler than prayer. Maybe we think we don't need it unless we're in a crisis. Perhaps we quietly revolt against praying because we don't want to be forced into it. But prayer at its essence should be as natural to us as breathing. We were created to be in communication with our Lord. Perhaps we struggle to pray because we often turn prayer into a complex system of rubrics and requirements. Prayer can be written words. It can also be extemporaneous. It can be silence. It can be music too. We can also pray with our bodies, with deep bows and prostrations, and with tangible things like crosses and beads if they are helpful to us, because we aren't just disembodied souls. We are bodies *and* souls, and both our bodies and souls are part of God's holy creation.

I could go on...but we have a print deadline. And besides, these brief paragraphs contain more than enough for us to ponder. What do you think? Are any of these maxims helpful to you? Let me know.

So many seasons!

Our Christmas Eve worship services here at Grace were so marvelous this year. It was a feast for the eyes, ears, and heart. I wish to thank everyone who made Christmas Eve at Grace so beautiful. Special thanks go to all of our musicians, and to Sally Keiser-Bankert, who oversaw the decorating of our sanctuary and main entrance. Last but certainly not least, I want to thank our very talented Grace staff

who work so hard for the glory of God and whose creativity and dedication make this such a special and vibrant place.

The season of Christmas will quickly give way to some other meaningful church seasons as **January 6** ushers in the season of **Epiphany**. One of the highlights of that season for me will be on **January 7** when we celebrate **Baptism of Our Lord Sunday** and recall not only Christ's baptism but the blessing of our own baptism as well.

And then, seemingly with Christmas carols still ringing in our ears,



it will be time to enter into the season of **Lent**. **Ash Wednesday** pops up on **February 14** (you'll be able to enjoy a romantic Valentine's Day meal with your loved one while sporting an

ashen cross on your forehead). For planning purposes, we've included the midweek Lenten schedule on page 7



of this newsletter. Consistent with those maxims I wrote about in this article, I encourage you to find ways to incorporate the seasons of the church calendar into the rhythms of your life. It's a big help in formulating a faith that is an experiential lifestyle instead of just a philosophy or activity.

New Member Sunday: January 14
If you have been visiting our con-

gregation and feel God calling you into a deeper relationship here at Grace Lutheran, perhaps it is time to become a member. We would be honored to be your church. We will be receiving new members on **Sunday, January 14**. If you are interested, simply contact me or Pastor Hetrick and we will help with all the arrangements.



Pilgrimage Reminder: Following the Footsteps of Paul in Greece

While the political and military situation in Israel remains tense, we have pivoted our pilgrimage attention to the "other Holy Land," Greece, where Jesus's apostles spread the Good News nearly 2,000 years ago. Together with my partners at Elias Travels, I will be leading our next pilgrimage faith journey on **Oct. 1-12, 2024**, as we walk in the footsteps of Saint Paul and the early church. Places you've read about in the New Testament, like Athens, Thessaloniki, Corinth, will come alive for you and ignite your faith in new ways as we walk and pray together in this ancient land. Religious pilgrimage travel is literally life-changing. This year, give yourself a gift you will never forget. Contact me for registration information.

Bequests

Throughout my five years as Senior Pastor, we have been able to accomplish many, many important things related to our building and grounds because of several very generous bequests. Funds set aside in IRAs and designated through wills have allowed Grace members, at their death, to leave a legacy that continues to produce the fruits of

ministry long after their earthly lives have ended. As you plan your estate, please consider setting aside a portion for your church. It makes a world of difference for us and for our community.

Thank You!

Christmas always results in my receipt of a harvest of greeting cards and even a few gifts here and there. On behalf of my family, thank you so much for your kindness at this time of year, as well as your care, love, and prayers throughout the year. Linda and I have been especially thankful for your many kind congratulations at the birth of our first granddaughter. We are deeply grateful.

Finally...

When I was a little boy, I used to think it was a really big deal to stay up late and watch the big ball drop at Times Square as one year ended and another began. At this season of life, I think it's a big deal if I can go to bed early. Times change for all of us, don't they?

Our world is so different than the world I knew as a child. I recently came upon an essay by Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury of the Church of England. He is one of my favorite thinkers and theologians. In a New Year's address he offered over a decade ago, Williams beautifully summarized how connected we now are as a world, and how neither the world's problems nor the world's solutions can be isolated:

The truth is that there are fewer and fewer problems in our world that are just local. Suffering and risk spread across boundaries, even that biggest of all boundaries between the rich and the poor. Crises don't stop at national frontiers... In a world where risk and suffering are everybody's problem,

~ Cont'd on p. 7

From Our Associate Pastor

New Year, New View

See our new website design at <https://www.glcpa.org>

Over the last couple months we have been updating the ways we communicate all the good news happening at Grace as well as publicizing how anyone can engage with our ministries. We know that many people using our website are visitors so we have designed the website with this in mind.

There are three key things I want to share with you:

1. Updated website:

Visitors to our website, <https://www.glcpa.org>, will find a new look with a focus on making information easy to find and easier to read. On the home page, the box that contained updates so vital in the pandemic will only appear when there is something very important. On the upper right hand corner is a circle with a stick figure person in it. Clicking on this allows you to adjust the size of the type, contrast, and even allows the website to be read to you. This important tool from UserWay allows us to offer accessibility for those living with disability or who want greater ease in using our website. This feature supports our new “easy to spot” focus statement, “Grace is a place for Every Body.” Below our focus statement you will see “Watch Live,” “Listen” and “Give” followed by our worship times.

- Clicking on “**Watch Live**” takes you straight to the latest worship service and gives access to prior broadcasts.
- Clicking on “**Listen**” connects to our “Pocketful of Grace”

podcast. We just completed a series for Advent and will be releasing new episodes in February for the season of Lent. All our previous episodes that followed the weekly lessons are still available as well as Grace music.

- And the “**Give**” button directs you to all the ways available to financially support the vital ministries of our church.

There are two ways to tap into the rest of our information. You can use the tabs across the top or the photo tiles towards the bottom. Across the top of the website page are links for “Worship,” “Learn,” “Gather,” “Serve,” and “Care,” as well as “News” and “Preschool.”

Click on the top tabs

- **The Worship link** leads to our welcome page (with live stream and bulletin access), information about our staff, information about our music programs and a “contact us” link. There is also a confidential prayer request form which has begun to be used.
- **The Learn link** provides information about Baptism, Faith Formation for kids, families, youth and young adults, Adult Bible study and Sunday school.
- **The Gather link** shares information about Super Wednesday meals, Women of Grace, Disciples Together, the Green Team and Campus Ministry.
- **The Care link** leads to information about Stephen Ministers, Faith Community Nurse, and Congregation Care.
- **The Serve link** is new and it allows someone to select a skill



The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick
pastorhetrick@glcpa.org

or interest and match it with a ministry. Information for that ministry and a contact link will be provided to connect those willing to serve with opportunities.

- **The News link** provides access to our church calendar, Grace Notes newsletter, and to events and Weekly News (previously called E-Notes).
- **The Preschool link** directs you to extensive information about our preschool program, such a joyous ministry here at Grace.

Scroll down to the Photo Tiles

Scrolling down to the bottom of the page reveals photo tiles which contain much of the same information but presented a little differently.

- “**KIDS**” highlights all the Faith Formation opportunities for kids, youth and young adults.
- “**SUNDAY**” and “**WEDNESDAY**” highlight our two main gathering days.
- “**EVENTS**” provides links for upcoming events like camps or concerts as well as links to our newsletter and weekly news.
- “**A PLACE FOR YOU,**” provides visibility for our commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Belonging

initiatives.

- “SERVE” provides access to service activities.
- “GATHER” highlights opportunities to engage with small groups for fellowship and fun.

2. E-Notes is now Weekly News:

Over the last few years we have realized that our weekly emailed news had a name that was confusing for some to distinguish from the newsletter. Our weekly news is now called just that, “Weekly News.” You can receive this weekly information as an email by emailing glcenotes@gmail.com or you can click on the website link under News.

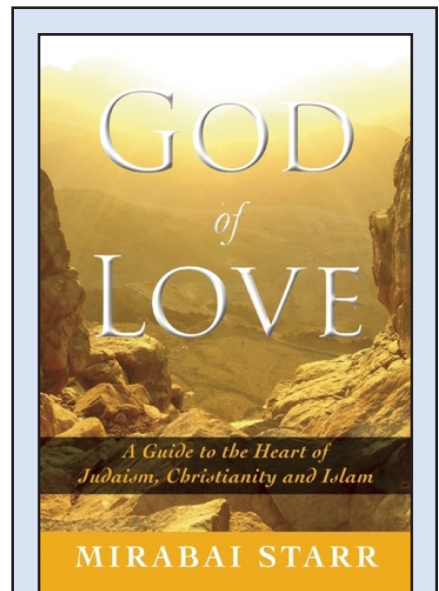
3. The GLCPA App:

For those of you who are smartphone users, you can access all the latest even easier. Many of us now have apps on our phones ranging from Google maps to school district news, music and more. Grace now has our very own app. It mirrors the website in almost every way.

- To download the app on an Apple device, visit the app store and search “glcpa” in lowercase letters.
- To download the app on an Android device visit the Google Play store.

- To navigate the app, there are large photo tiles. In the upper left are three lines that contain the dropdown menu of all information. You can see the calendar, make a prayer request, watch worship, listen to a podcast, sign up to serve, give online and more.
- Notifications: When there is time sensitive important information such as a weather cancellation, you will receive a notification from the app on your phone. This is especially useful as we are entering winter weather season.
- Accessibility features appear when an individual page is selected.

We will of course continue our print version of the newsletter, but we are very excited to have this new way to keep people connected to the good news here at Grace. I am grateful to Sharyn Everhart who is helping to maintain our website and Alyson Hoegg our Tech Team lead, as well as to Faith Network, our web designers. As with the website, please reach out with constructive comments about the app so we can make it as user friendly as possible.
~ Pastor Carolyn



“God of Love” 3-Week Adult Study

“For seven centuries, during the Convivencia in Spain, Jews, Christians, and Muslims not only lived side by side in an atmosphere of religious tolerance, but they also actively collaborated on some of the most important works of art, architecture, literature, mathematics, science, and mystical teachings in the history of Western culture.”

Beginning **Wednesday, January 17**, join Pastor Hetrick for three weeks of study using the book, *God of Love*, by Mirabai Starr. Starr’s book focuses upon many areas. We will explore the sacred writings of the three Abrahamic faiths around the ideas of Mercy, Table Fellowship and Compassion. If you wish to purchase the book, it is available in print or on Kindle. We will gather from **6:15-7 p.m.** in the Fireside Lounge. A midday study option will be offered if there are at least 7 people interested in committing to be in attendance for a lunch and learn session. Call or email Pastor Hetrick no later than **January 10** if you wish to participate in a daytime session.



Finances for 2023

	GLC Actual Income vs. Expense, November 2023	GLC Budgeted Income vs. Expense, November 2023	+ or (-)	%
Income	\$75,461.90	\$76,840.00	(\$1,378.10)	-1.79%
Expenses	\$70,947.83	\$79,873.61	(\$8,925.78)	-11.17%
Net Income	\$4,514.07	(\$3,033.61)		

After some concern last month about our bottom line, November giving was excellent. Thank you! Offerings were very close to the budget and expenses were once again below budget. If we can maintain this break-even status then we will have a healthy financial year. Any reconsideration of your giving would be greatly welcome. If you have missed Sundays due to travel or football, please consider making up those missed gifts, because Grace's expenses never take a holiday. The most convenient and helpful way to ensure steady support is by a secure, scheduled monthly bank transfer (called an "ACH") from you to Grace. To set this up, or to increase or change your monthly account transfer, email Sally Grine, Finc. Admin. at sgrine@glcpa.org or call her at 814-238-2478. You can also donate using any major credit card via Tithely, which is accessible via the GIVE button on our website at www.glcpa.org. Please consider covering the processing fee (approximately 2% of your donation) to ensure Grace benefits fully from your support. An increase of \$20, \$10, \$5, or even \$1 per week from many people can make a significant difference. *Thank you!*



At its **December 2023** meeting,
Grace's Church Council:

- Approved the purchase of an additional component for our Harkins Hall sound system;
- Approved the 2024-2025 Grace Lutheran Preschool tuition rates; and
- Learned more about our Disciples Together ministry.



Super Wednesday

Super Wednesday resumes **January 10** in Harkins Hall from 5:15-6 p.m. Join us for fellowship, fun and great food. Look for our menus in Grace E-notes and Sunday bulletins.

Did you know...

... that Grace's next New Member Sunday will be on **Sunday, January 14, 2024**? Contact Pastor Schul or Pastor Hetrick if you would like to become a member.



Welcome
Our New
Members

Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Sunday	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Holy Gospel
January 7 Baptism of Our Lord	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
January 14 Second Sunday after Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12- 20	John 1:43-51
January 21 Third Sunday after Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29- 31	Mark 1:14-20
January 28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1- 13	Mark 1:21-28

2024 Lenten Midweek Worship Schedule

Lent begins on **February 14** with Ash Wednesday. Words associated with this season are: repentance...journey...cross...preparation. It's a wonderful season of cleaning our spiritual houses in preparation for Christ's gifts of forgiveness, transformation, and new life that we most robustly celebrate at Easter. Following is a preliminary schedule of the many midweek worship opportunities Grace will offer during Lent.

One new item you will notice is an ecumenical service with our friends at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Good Friday. Father Jeff, at St. Andrew's, and Pastor Schul, here at Grace, came up with the idea of this afternoon service, focused on the Stations of the Cross, in an attempt to reignite the ecumenical spirit we shared with so many downtown churches at Good Friday services prior to COVID. This special service will be held at St. Andrew's, and we will have more information about it in next month's newsletter.

2024 Lenten Midweek Worship Schedule

Date	Worship Services & Times
2/14/24	Ash Wednesday
2/21/24	Midweek Lenten Service 12:15 & 6:15
2/28/24	Midweek Lenten Service 12:15 & 6:15
3/6/24	Midweek Lenten Service 12:15 & 6:15
3/13/24	Midweek Lenten Service 12:15 & 6:15
3/20/24	Ecumenical Choir Concert 7 (with 6:40 prelude)
3/27/24	Midweek Lenten Service 12:15 & 6:15 & Concert Makeup
3/28/24	Maundy Thursday (Time TBD)
3/29/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Friday Stations of the Cross with St. Andrew's Episcopalian Church (Time TBD) Evening Tenebrae Service at Grace (Time TBD)

~ Senior Pastor Cont'd from p. 3

the needs of our neighbours are the needs of the whole human family. Let's respond just as we do when our immediate family is in need or trouble. We may be amazed by the difference we can make.

And so friends, as we prepare to welcome 2024 as individuals and as a church congregation, I pray that we can set aside the temptation toward individualism and isolationism. Christ created us for community and called us to help and be helped. We need each other very much. May our Lord fill us with a robust sense of the importance and holiness of our shared life together.

Peace be with you.

~ Pastor Schul





Wanted: singers for “Songs of Our Time: A Lenten Meditation”

Choristers of all backgrounds and faith traditions are invited to participate in our 12th ecumenical choir – a music and faith journey led by Laurel Sanders. Journey through Lent with intention; explore faith through an artistic lens; make new friends; and create beautiful music together! There are no auditions, although some choral experience and/or music reading



skills are helpful. Rehearsals are on **Sundays** from **2-4 p.m.**, at Grace, starting **February 11**; concert is **Wednesday, March 20 at 7 p.m.** Singers should attend at least four of the six rehearsals; one make-up is offered. Email lsanders@glcpa.org to sign up (and to ensure we have music for you) and enjoy making music with old and new friends!

Did you know...

... that New Year’s Eve falls on a Sunday this year? We hope you will have a safe and fun New Year’s Eve. But your morning will be free on **December 31**, and so we also hope you will join us for worship at our usual Sunday morning times of **8, 9, and 10:30**.

Centering Prayer Introductory Program coming in Lent. All are welcome to attend!

Do you seek the still, quiet voice of God? The Centering Prayer Introductory Program will help us to understand the Indwelling Presence of God within each of us, and offer prayer periods to experience this Presence. We will explore our intimate relationship with God through Christian contemplative prayer, which has been a part of our Christian heritage for centuries.



We will explore the benefits of Centering Prayer in ordinary life. Time will be allowed for practice of the prayer and discussion of the practice each **Wednesday** afternoon from **4-5:15 p.m.** throughout Lent.

The program will be presented starting on **Ash Wednesday at 4 p.m., February 14, 2024** for the 7 weeks of Lent at Grace Lutheran Church. A donation of \$20 per person is requested, which includes a book. Please note that no one seeking to experience this form of prayer is ever turned away due to any financial constraints.

The program will be presented through the local chapter of Contemplative Outreach by Mary Kay and Doug Laplante, experienced practitioners of Centering Prayer. For more information email Mary Kay at mklaplante1@gmail.com or to sign up, please call or e-mail Sherri Rider at (814) 238-2478 or srider@glcpa.org.



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Grace’s next New Member Sunday will be on **January 14, 2024**. Contact Pastor Schul or Pastor Hetrick if you would like to become a member.

Did you know...

... Youth and Family Sunday is on **February 11**? Join us in leading worship, ushering, distributing communion, and welcoming fellow church goers at both the **9:00 a.m.** and **10:30 a.m.** worship services.



Aid for Ukrainians

Salvation Baptist Church in State College continues to collect and ship supplies for Ukraine. They have packed boxes of food, clothes, toothpaste, toys, shoes, blankets, towels and more for the families and sent them to Ukrainian churches and organizations since the war started. Last year at this time we at Grace Lutheran Church collected shoes and socks to include in a shipment.



Their next shipment is going out by the end of **January 2024**. Their biggest need is financial donations for shipping (\$30 per box). If you wish to support them financially, you can send a check to Salvation Baptist Church (3645 W College Ave, State College, PA 16801) and in the memo line write Ukraine. If you have any donations, like clothes or shoes, you can take them to their church and leave them by the garage door near the big yellow container. The designated space for donations has a visible sign. Contact Anna Jaltir who spoke at our church last January at 814-862-8979 if you have questions about the shipment.



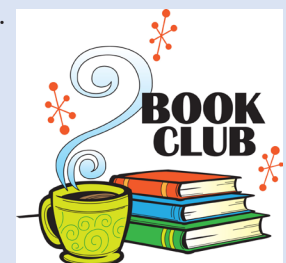
Christmas Bags for CentreCare

A big thank you is extended to everyone who filled a Christmas Bag for CentreCare. Thanks also to the Comfort Makers and Sharon Rivell for making the bags and to Faith Formation for including Christmas greetings in each bag. Thirty three bags were delivered. Because of Grace's generosity, there will be a little more Christmas joy for our friends at CentreCare. Women of Grace thanks all who helped.



The Garden of Readin' meets January 16

The next meeting of the Garden of Readin' (Women's Book Club) is **Tuesday, January 16 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Stinson Library (also available on Zoom). The selected book is *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. The discussion will be facilitated by Janet Lybarger. Contact Lois Lynn at loissteve@comcast.net for details.





Disciples Together: New Year, New Fun!

We will gather after the Super Wednesday meal on **January 10, at 6:15 p.m.**, in the Library, to celebrate the gift of baptism. **Sunday, January 7** is the Sunday where we remember the Baptism of our Lord, Jesus. We will watch and listen to the “Gospel of Mark” movie about Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptizer, talk about our own baptisms and remember we are beloved by God. **This is an event for every body. Come join us!**

Save These Dates:

- In February we will gather on **Wednesday, February 7** to prepare for the season of Lent, which starts on **February 14**, with Ash Wednesday. We will begin using a devotion book called *Dust and Glory* as we walk with Jesus for the 40 days of Lent. We will meet in the Library at **6:15 p.m.**, after dinner.
- We will not meet in March due to evening worship for Lent, but all are welcome to join us for worship from **6:15-7 p.m.** each Wednesday. We will be delivering special bags to our disciples the week of **March 17** to prepare for Holy Week (**March 24-31**). If you can help prepare and deliver bags, please email Ellen Campbell at elncamp@gmail.com.
- In April, we will meet on **Wednesday, April 3** to celebrate that Christ is risen and share in Holy Communion. We will talk about Jesus giving us this meal together with him. We will meet in the Library from **6:15-7 p.m.**
- On **May 1** we will have a dance party in the Miller Center after the meal. Our theme will be “All You Need is Love” by the Beatles. Every body needs love and is welcome to come dance with us from **6:15-7 p.m.**



DEIB Team News

Happy New Year!

The DEIB Team will resume meetings this month. Please Join us in the Fireside room or via Zoom at **7 p.m. on Monday January 15**. Moving Forward in 2024, DEIB will meet on the 3rd Monday of every month. During the Month of January the DEIB team recognizes and honors the dates listed below:


- **January 15** - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- **January 27** - International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust

DID YOU KNOW?:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s given name was Michael. King was named after his father, the Rev. Michael King Senior, who, during a trip to Berlin, Germany for the Baptist World Alliance meeting, was impacted while learning about the life of a Protestant reformation leader named Martin Luther. Yes! OUR Martin Luther. Reverend King’s respect for Martin Luther inspired him to legally change his name as well as the name of his son to Martin Luther King Sr. / Jr.

Grace Lutheran Land Acknowledgement:

Grace Lutheran Church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Susquehannock peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.



Adam Smith Piano Benefit Recital Raises \$661 for Meals on Wheels

On **Friday, December 1**, Adam Smith, our pianist for Psalm 151 for the past few years and for some of our evening worship services, played a piano recital at Grace to benefit a charity of our choice. Meals on Wheels of State College was selected. The organization is an independent 501 (c) 3 that prepares meals five days per week from within Grace Lutheran Church and delivers them to those in need locally, especially the aged and infirm. As a vital partner in our shared goal of addressing hunger, we were thrilled to support Adam’s heartfelt desire to share music for a good cause. Thank you, Adam, for your music, and thanks to everyone who contributed to furthering the mission of our local Meals on Wheels.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Grace's Stephen Ministry Helping to Heal Life's Hurts

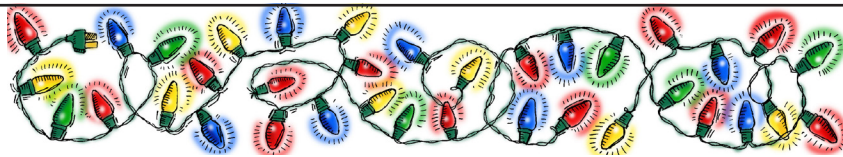
We think of the New Year as a time for new beginnings and focusing on the future with things we want to accomplish. For many of us, in order to fully participate in life, we need to heal and work through the things that have caused a crisis in our lives. Crises come in many forms. They include illness, grief, divorce, being a care giver, financial difficulties, or a spiritual crisis. Grace's Stephen Ministry program was established with the goal to help people that are dealing with life's hurts.

Stephen Ministers meet one-on-one with those seeking care. They offer support through listening, understanding, talking, and prayer. If you or someone you know thinks they may benefit from a Stephen Ministry relationship, please reach out to Grace's Stephen Ministry Coordinator Brenda Palmgren at 814-574-1039.



"A Night for Weary Hearts" brings hope to many

The Stephen Ministry team of Grace Lutheran along with Pastor Schul and Pastor Hetrick hosted a late afternoon worship service **Thursday, December 14**. You may have remembered previous worship services that we called Blue Christmas, Service of Hope. This service has been given a new name and time to accommodate those who do not like to travel at night and was offered a bit earlier in the season. The late afternoon service was a nice compromise that allowed many who are wrestling with illness, addiction, and losses of many kinds to quietly worship in a low candle-lit setting with beautiful music provided by Laurel Sanders and talented musicians and singers. Those who wished could leave a prayer concern and take a sprig of evergreen to remember God's everlasting love. The commons area was a gathering place after the service to talk and enjoy cookies and hot cider. We thank all those involved for making this a meaningful service.



Green Tip for December

There is growing concern about the negative health impact of outdoor artificial lighting on living creatures, including humans. Certainly, there is a safety element to consider, but there are ways to provide for that while limiting the impact of outdoor artificial lighting. Please consider these factors when you use outdoor lighting around your home and property:

1. **Ensure the Lighting is Necessary** – Consider use of reflective tape, paint, or reflective surfaces instead.
2. **Light Only Where Needed** –LED technology allows for a wide range of light distributions and control making it possible to tailor lighting to a specific task.
3. **Use Recessed and Fully Shielded Fixtures** – A fully shielded or full cut-off fixture emits light downward onto the task area and not into the sky. Lights that are directed laterally such as floodlights should also be avoided.
4. **Light Only When Needed** – Fixtures that include or can accommodate lighting controls such as timers, motion detectors, and dimmers ensure the appropriate amount of light is used when needed. These technologies can increase energy efficiency.
5. **Minimum Light Level Necessary** –Increasing light output does not necessarily equate to a safer nighttime environment and can often reduce visibility and therefore safety.
6. **Use LEDs in Warm Colors** – For many outdoor uses, warm white colors are appropriate and readily available from commercial retailers. 2700 Kelvin can provide excellent color rendition while minimizing unintended impacts. Blue light may also adversely affect both human and wildlife health and behavior.

More information on this topic can be found at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nightskies/sustainable-outdoor-lighting.htm>

Anti-Hunger Update

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

As you are reading your Grace Notes I want to take the time to truly THANK everyone who has helped with our Anti-Hunger Team throughout the past year. We have gone through some changes with our Food Supplier, but through it all, I was able to count on our team to step up and help our neighbors!

The **December 14** distribution was held outside of the Miller Center due to curb work construction in front of the Church. Even though there is no internet on that side of the building, my “tech guy” (husband John) was able to temporarily relocate the wifi access point from the Youth Room to outside the door so we could record all of the needed info for each person in the iPads.

A special thank you to our three volunteers who helped to direct the traffic with the new pattern for that day! They did a great job getting people to where they needed to be and in explaining to the drivers about the one-way traffic exiting onto Beaver Avenue. It was a chilly, windy, and dark night - but with our reflective vests, a few hand warmers, and joy in our hearts, we were able to provide food for 115 families! It is so rewarding to know we are helping our neighbors twice a month.

The **December 28** distribution, as well as the in the New Year, will resume at our normal location in the circle driveway in front of the Church.

We are continuing to pre-bag food in the Narthex and distribute food the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. I am so grateful for all of the people who help out with the various duties. It is wonderful to see the cross-generational volunteers. It takes approximately 20 people to help with all aspects of a food distribution. As always, if you are interested in helping with the Anti-Hunger team, please contact me, Kathy Kalbach, at kathymkalbach@gmail.com. Thanks for demonstrating “God’s Work, Our Hands!!”



Future Food Distribution Dates at Grace Lutheran

January 11
January 25
February 8
February 22



Starting at **1:30 p.m.** to unpack food and **3:30 p.m.** to distribute.

SC Food Bank Needs

The Food Bank of the State College is always in need of donations. Grace Lutheran 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.

Current Needs

- GREATEST NEED! Ready-to-Serve Soups (Progresso, Campbell’s CHUNKY, etc.)
- Pasta Sauce
- Tomato Product (diced, stewed, paste, sauce, etc.)
- Canned Fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple, applesauce)
- Snack Items (crackers, cookies, chips/pretzels, granola bars, etc.)
- Gluten-Free items (pasta, flour, baking items, snacks, etc.)
- Ground Coffee
- Condiments
- Oil (vegetable, canola, olive oil)

Non-Food Items

- Laundry Detergent
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Bar Soap
- Body Wash


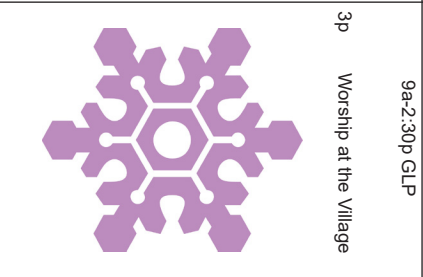

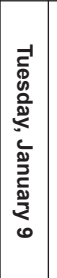

We cannot accept expired or opened food items. Please check the expiration dates on items before donating them. Our food donation guidelines provide assistance in determining what can be accepted.

<https://scfoodbank.org/donate/current-needs-list>

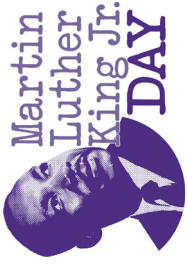






JANUARY 2024

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 205 South Garner Street • State College, PA 16801
 Phone: 814-238-2478 • Webpage: www.glcpc.org

<p>Monday, January 1</p> 	<p>Tuesday, January 2</p> <p>9a - 2:30p GLP Classes Resume</p> <p>9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 3</p> <p>9a-2:30p GLP</p> <p>3p Worship at the Village</p> 	<p>Thursday, January 4</p> <p>9a - 2:30p GLP</p> <p>1:30p Ministry Coordinators 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Scouts BSA</p>	<p>Friday, January 5</p> <p>9a-2:30p GLP</p> <p>5:30p NA Group/Library</p>	<p>Saturday, January 6</p> 
<p>Sunday, January 7</p> <p>Baptism of Our Lord Anniversary of Baptism Milestone</p> <p>8a Worship 9a Worship, Echo S.S. 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S./Narthex 11:30a LCM Luncheon 7p QNA/Fireside</p>	<p>Monday, January 8</p> <p>9a - 2:30p GLP Dads Are Cool Week</p> 	<p>Tuesday, January 9</p> <p>9a - 2:30p GLP Dads Are Cool Week</p> <p>9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside Church Council/ Fireside</p>	<p>Wednesday, January 10</p> <p>9a - 2:30p GLP Dads Are Cool Week</p> <p>4p Fill-Ink/ Miller Cntr 5p REJOICE/ choir room 5:15p Joyful Noises/ Rm 203 6p Super Wednesday/ Harkins 7p Disciples Together/ Library Family Activity Time/ Miller Cntr Choir Practice</p>	<p>Thursday, January 11</p> <p>9a - 2:30p GLP Dads Are Cool Week</p> <p>3:30p Food Distribution/ Grace Parking Lot 7:30p AA Group 7:30p Scouts BSA</p>	<p>Friday, January 12</p> <p>9a - 12p GLP Dads Are Cool Week</p> <p>8:45a GLP Donuts for Dad/ Miller Cntr 5:30p NA Group/Library 6p Middle School Fun Night / Miller Center</p> 
<p>Saturday, January 13</p>					

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Sunday, January 14	Monday, January 15	Tuesday, January 16	Wednesday, January 17	Thursday, January 18	Friday, January 19	Saturday, January 20
Second Sunday after Epiphany New Member Sunday 8a Worship 9a Worship, Echo S.S., Coffee Hour/Harkins 10a Crossfire Rehearsal Munchkin Brunchin'/ Miller Cntr 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S./ Narthex 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary LCM Luncheon Confirmation/ Miller Youth Group/ Miller Young Adult Bible Study/ Miller Cntr 4p 5p 7p	NO Preschool SCASD Act 80 & Martin Luther King Day 7p DEIB mtg/ Fireside 	NO Preschool SCASD Act 80 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside 10:30a Garden of Readin' / Library 8p Young Adult Bible Study/ Fireside	9a - 2:30p GLP GLP Staff Mtg. No Enrichment Classes 4p FitLink/ Miller Cntr 5p REJOICE/ choir room Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday/ Harkins 6p Disciples Together/ Library Family Activity Time/ Miller Cntr 6:15p Book Study/ Fireside 7p Choir Practice	9a - 2:30p GLP Children's Chapel 7:30p AA Group/Library Boy Scout Troop/ Harkins Hall	9a - 12p GLP 5:30p NA Group/Library 	
Sunday, January 21 Third Sunday after Epiphany 8a Worship 9a Worship, Echo S.S. 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins Crossfire Rehearsal 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S./ Narthex 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal LCM Luncheon	9a - 2:30p GLP Children's Chapel 11:30a Children's Chapel/ Sanctuary Congregational Care Mtg/ Fireside 7pm	9a - 2:30p GLP Comfort Makers/Library 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside 	9a - 2:30p GLP FitLink/ Miller Cntr REJOICE/ choir room Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday/ Harkins 6p Disciples Together/ Library Family Activity Time/ Miller Cntr 6:15p Book Study/ Fireside 7p Choir Practice	9a - 2:30p GLP Children's Chapel 11:30a Children's Chapel/ Sanctuary Food Distribution/ Grace Parking Lot 7:30p AA Group/Library Boy Scout Troop/ Harkins Hall	9a - 12pm GLP 5:30p NA Group/Library 	
Sunday, January 28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 8a Worship 9a Worship, Echo S.S. 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins Crossfire Rehearsal 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S./ Narthex 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal LCM Luncheon	9a - 2:30p GLP Children's Chapel 11:30a Children's Chapel/ Sanctuary Congregational Care Mtg/ Fireside 7pm	9a - 2:30p GLP Pajama Day 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside	9a - 2:30p GLP Pajama Day 4p FitLink/ Miller Cntr 5p REJOICE/ choir room Joyful Noise/ Rm 203 5:15p Super Wednesday/ Harkins 6p Disciples Together/ Library Family Activity Time/ Miller Cntr 6:15p Book Study/ Fireside 7p Choir Practice	9a - 2:30p GLP Children's Chapel 11:30a Children's Chapel/ Sanctuary Food Distribution/ Grace Parking Lot 7:30p AA Group/Library Boy Scout Troop/ Harkins Hall	9a - 12pm GLP 5:30p NA Group/Library 	

January 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

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Our Real and Truest Hope

This article from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is from www.livinglutheran.com.

December 1, 2023

There is a curse of unknown provenance that says, “May you live in interesting times.”

In November we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, counting our blessings and giving thanks for the bounty of the land. It’s a time for families to gather and renew the bonds between generations. It’s a holiday open to all people of faith and of none. Except for Native Americans, who observe the fourth Thursday in November as a National Day of Mourning. The arrival of European settlers and the story of hospitality at Plymouth didn’t result in peaceful coexistence but was another event in the long history of death, broken treaties and the systematic attempt to erase Native culture and religion.

Advent and Christmas come in December. It’s a time of hope and expectation. My stepmother-in-law once created a Christmas card featuring a photo of all the grandchildren over the caption “Christmas is for Children.” Yet this Christmas there will be hundreds of Israeli and Palestinian children already killed, and more in harm’s way. Armenian children, Sudanese children, Ukrainian children, children in our own communities and schools are caught in the violence and death that we grown-ups are unable to end.

We live in interesting times. Complex, fraught, deadly. Everything

comes at us too fast and is too intense. At the same time, we go about doing all the unremarkable tasks of daily life. We go to work. Clean house and shovel the walk. We go to the grocery. We check emails. We pay bills. We keep on going. These seemingly quotidian things actually hold us together as we try to make sense of everything that is going on around us.

In her 1969 hit “Is That All There Is,” Peggy Lee presents a nihilistic view of life. Home, relationships, life—there’s nothing more to see. Move on. When she was a little girl, she watched her house burn down and reflected, “Is that all there is?” When she fell in love and that love was everything and the relationship ended, she reflected, “Is that all there is?” When she comes to the end of her life she reflects, “Is that all there is?”



These “interesting” times can push us into the same frame of mind. Juxtaposed with the relentless pressure to be merry, to sing “Joy to the World,” to proclaim and to hear proclaimed that the year of the Lord’s favor is at hand, we look at the world, at life and the death around us and might say, “What’s the point?”

Immanuel Kant, an 18th-century German philosopher, argued that the goal of humanity is to achieve perfect happiness and virtue. He believed that an afterlife must be assumed to exist in order for this to be possible, and that God must be presumed to exist to provide for this. In short, we will never get this done in our time or in our human struggles no matter how noble. But God, the Lord of infinite possibility, holds out a life and future of promise. We say no and put a dead stop to the limits of life in this world. God says yes and draws us beyond our imposed limits into God’s limitless realm of love and justice.

How has God made this known? How do we receive this? God does not shy away from our rebellion and the devastation that follows in its wake. God is not untouched by the murder of innocents throughout all the ages. Rachel weeping for her children. The massacre of the Innocents. The Shoa. Gun violence in Chicago and in communities and schools across the United States. Lord have mercy.

But here’s the thing—into this world that God so loves, into our rebellion that brings about unspeakable cruelty, into our casual unthinking actions that hurt others, God has chosen to be incarnate in Jesus. This is the incredible promise of Christmas and realized at Easter. This is not a god far off. This is God with us, a God who would die rather than lose a single one of us. A God who would go to hell and back to bring us back into God’s loving embrace.

This is our real and truest hope.

~ ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton

CALENDAR

January

Wednesday, January 3

- No Super Wednesday

Sunday, January 7

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex

Friday, January 12

- 6:00 p.m. Middle School Fun Night / Miller Center

Sunday, January 14

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School /Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Munchkin Brunchkin / Miller Center
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation / Miller Center
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group / Miller Center
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study / Miller Center

Sunday, January 21

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School /Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex

Sunday, January 28

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School /Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex



Anniversary of Baptism Milestone

On **January 7**, Baptism of our Lord Sunday, we will recognize and lift-up those who were baptized at Grace in 2023. In addition to being named in our prayers, they will have a personalized rite at both the **9:00 a.m.** and the **10:30 a.m.** worship services. This is one more juncture where our faith as the church can support parents, sponsors, and the baptized child or person. And better yet, remembering our baptism helps us to remember who we are and whose we are!

Confirmation Class

We will meet in the Miller Center on **January 14 at 4:00-5:00 p.m.** We will continue our study of Luther's Small Catechism.



Confirmation at Grace is geared toward students entering 6th through 8th grade. This is our instructional time and will be very classroom-like. For the social and teambuilding time, please see Middle School Fun Night. Both events go hand in hand. These two events along with Cafe Sunday School on Sunday mornings form our Middle School opportunities.

CALENDAR

February Preview

Sunday, February 4

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex

Sunday, February 11

- Youth-Led Worship

Friday, February 16

- 6:00 p.m. Lock-in / Miller Center

Sunday, February 18

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School /Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Munchkin Brunchkin / Miller Center
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation / Miller Center
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult Bible Study / Miller Center

Sunday, February 25

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School /Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex



Contact Us!

Any interest or questions about any Faith Formation activity, please email Cindy and Peter at faithformation@glcpa.org.



Munchkin Brunchkin

Join us in the New Year for our first Munchkin Brunchkin on **Sunday, January 14 at 10 a.m.** in the Miller Center. Munchkin Brunchkin is a ministry for any family with one or more children ages 0-4 years. Each time we gather, we send home a faith based board book to add to your library. This is an intentional time for parents to gather not only as a family but with other families as well.



ECHO Sunday School



ECHO Sunday School welcomes in the New Year beginning on **January 7**. While parents attend **9 a.m.** worship in the sanctuary, we usher children to Harkins Hall following the Ministry Moment. We will storytell the gospel lesson, music, and have a game, craft, or science. Youth will return to the sanctuary to join their family for sharing the peace, communion, and closing hymns. We continue this format for families to attend worship together, support all family members to hear the Word of God in many and various ways, and to encourage participation in a life of faith.

Cafe Sunday School

Welcome back to cafe Sunday School on **January 7**. We will meet at **10:45 a.m.** in the Narthex each Sunday to depart for a cafe downtown. We have been going to Starbucks, however, we are looking forward to the opening of Dunkin' on Garner Street.



Out of the Cold Supplies Request

Grace Lutheran Church continues to support our community homeless population through the Out of the Cold organization. Families, adults, kids: we are requesting new, unopened toothpaste and toothbrushes to finish our toiletry backpacks as well as Hot Hands.



Youth and Family Sunday

Youth and Family Sunday is on **February 11**. Join us in leading worship, ushering, distributing communion, and welcoming fellow church goers at both the **9:00 a.m.** and **10:30 a.m.** worship services. Families, even young ones can greet worshipers with your help. Look for a sign up in early January.



Middle School Fun Night

Mark your calendar for our January 12th Middle School Fun Night. 2000 Degrees is coming to us! They will provide a choice of cups and plates to paint. So that we have enough supplies, we will arrange an email or sign up. Friends are always welcome.

HS Youth Group

All High School Youth and friends are welcome to join us for Youth Group on **January 14**. We will be in Miller Center from **5-7:00 p.m.** We will share a meal and discuss the topics of the Youth Gathering of Brave, Authentic, Free, Disruptive, and Disciples. These discussions are helpful to everyone, even for youth who are not attending the gathering in New Orleans.

Grace Young Adult Bible Study

Save the date: On **January 14 at 7 p.m.** we are planning a bowling night for the young adults in our congregation (those who have recently graduated high school). Food will be provided.



Advent Fest

The fifth annual Advent Fest was held on **Sunday, December 3**. The youth and adults traversed to the Holy Lands where we met Pastor Rodny Said of Hope Lutheran in Ramallah, West Bank. He taught us how to pray the Lord's Prayer in Arabic, his congregation's native language. Many thanks to all of the volunteers that helped in the kitchen, helped with clean up, and graciously brought food to share with all. Next year we will journey to Kenya and to our Allegheny Synod International Companion Synod, the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Christmas Dinner

On December 13, we enjoyed a fabulous Christmas dinner feast in Harkins Hall thanks to our Super Wednesday team. After dinner, Grace member Frank Bortz led us in a carol sing, accompanied by June Miller on piano and Pastor Schul on bass. We concluded the evening with a treasured Grace tradition, an interactive singing of The Twelve Days of Christmas.





Lutheran Campus
Ministry / Lutheran
Student Community at
Penn State

Welcome back! We hope the start of the Spring Semester is going well! Lutheran Campus Ministry offers a place where you can step away from class deadlines and other demands and find community and support, share worship and a meal, learn about God, yourself and the world, and simply be welcome to come as you are!

Our weekly events and programs will resume the week of **January 8!** Check them out below!

Student Community Weekly

Thursday Evening Worship at 6 p.m. in the Worship Hall at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center on campus (Corner of Allen Street and Curtin Road), followed by dinner with the student community in the Harshbarger Room.

Student Meal After Morning Worship

Sunday late morning after **10:30 a.m.** worship gather with other students for lunch. Build connections and community with other students. Check the bulletin for location and more info!

Sunday Evening Programs

Watch for more info on Sunday evening programs and events. Whether your Sunday evenings are usually filled with schoolwork for the coming week, binge-watching a favorite show with friends, or getting ready for the week ahead, we are still eager to get your input!

Go to <http://lutheranpennstate.org/2023/11/survey-on-sunday-evening/> to share your thoughts in our survey!

Other Opportunities!

We offer service events, formal and informal discussions, social gatherings, and more! Check our website and calendar for additional opportunities and info!

You can also add yourself to our listserv at lutheranpennstate.org

Follow and Like our social media on Instagram and Facebook [@lutheranpennstate](https://www.instagram.com/lutheranpennstate)

Reach out anytime to lutheran@psu.edu.



Lutheran Campus Ministry provides a community of faith for students while they are at Penn State. You are welcome to bring doubts and questions, to explore what it means to be a person of faith as you grow and discover who you are and what you are going to do with your life. We gather around worship, discussion/study, service opportunities, and community that are designed with students in mind. Student leaders help to guide our plans and our gatherings – and everyone is welcome. Come as you are. Really.



Questions, Not Answers

Questions, Not Answers, “QNA,” will meet on **January 7 at 7 p.m. in Fireside**. Please come to join in our discussion. Previous participants and those who just want to check it out once or occasionally are all welcome.

We plan to discuss: “Fewer people these days say they go to church, yet more seem to want some kind of spirituality. What’s up with that?”

Contact Carla Rossi – ckrossi@comcast.net – for more information or with any questions.

Did you know in the Gospels that Jesus asks more than 300 questions and he is asked nearly 200, but he directly answered only a handful of them? So, come to QNA to continue the biblical tradition of asking good, complicated questions, but be prepared to leave without answers.



...his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV



Dates to Remember!

January 1

Happy New Year

January 2

School Resumes

January 8-12

Dads Are Cool Week

January 12

Donuts for Dad! **8:45-9:30 a.m.** in the Miller Center

January 15

No School SCASD Act 80 & MLK Jr. Day

January 16

No School SCASD Act 80

January 19

Staff meeting - NO Enrichment classes. Morning classes held as usual

January 22 & 25

GLP Chapel

January 30 & 31

Pajama Days

Christian Focus Box for January



“We can talk to God” (Prayer)

“Pray at all times.” ~ Romans 12:12

Science Theme – Water, Water, Everywhere

Enrichment Class January Theme – Hibernation Countdown!

Grace Lutheran Preschool Registration Process 2024-2025

205 S. Garner St. * 814-238-8110

www.glcpapreschool.org * glpk@glcpa.org

- 2024-2025 registration forms will be available beginning **Thursday, February 1, 2024**.
- Priority and Open registration forms with the \$75 registration fees (payable to Grace Lutheran Church) will start being accepted on **Thursday, February 1, 2024**, within the school entrance lobby.
- Priority registrations will be randomly drawn and numbered on **Friday, February 9, 2024**.
- Open registrations will be randomly drawn and numbered following the processing of priority registrations on **Friday, February 9, 2024**.
- Confirmations of enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year will be sent on **March 20, 2024**.

Note: Priority registration forms for the 2024-2025 school year along with the \$75 registration fees should be placed in a sealed envelope and dropped into the PRIORITY Registrations box beginning on **Thursday, February 1**. Open registration forms for the 2024-2025 school year along with the \$75 registration fees should be placed in a sealed envelope and dropped into the OPEN Registrations box beginning on **Thursday, February 1**.



School Closing Policy

School cancellations follow SCASD public school closings. Staff and families of GLP children are responsible for checking for school closing information sent via brightwheel messages; and checking the SCASD website, or the SCASD app (This app can be downloaded through the App Store or Google Play).

Dads are Cool Week

Since Father’s Day is in June, all GLP classes will honor their Dad, Grandpa, Uncle, or any other person who has played a fatherly role in their life during the week of **January 8**. This is an opportunity for the children to celebrate Father’s Day in January! They will read stories, and make cards and gifts for their special someone. We invite this special person for “Donuts with Dad” on **Friday, January 12**, from **8:45 - 9:30 a.m.** When you arrive with your child(ren), drop off their bags and coats, go to the bathroom, and then go to the Miller Center. You can enjoy donuts with your kids. Then all the children will gather to sing a couple of songs and will be dismissed back to you. Teachers and Teacher’s Aides will leave for their classrooms and then you will take your child to their classroom to say goodbye. Make sure you take a look at the “Dads Are Cool” bulletin boards!



DONUTS
for Dads



GLP's Annual Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas concert, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas!" was a success! The Grace Lutheran Pre-school children filled the sanctuary with song and jingle bells. We thank the GLP teachers and aides for teaching their students their songs. We would like to give a special thank you to Jenny Choi (a GLP mom) who graciously agreed to accompany our program on the piano. We would also like to thank Pastor Hetrick for our welcome prayer; Roy Evert and John Palmgren for help with the setting up of the sanctuary; Lester Griel for managing the sound; Megan Smarkusky for recording and photographing the event; and the volunteers who helped the children during the concert.



Toys For Tots



The Toys for Tots collection was a success! The four collection boxes were overflowing with new gifts for children who live in the Centre Region. This included nine giant stuffed toys donated by the Schuchert family. Thank you all for your donations!

Food Bank Collection

Our preschool children donated non-perishable food items to the Centre County Food Bank in honor of our Thanksgiving Chapel. We collected 83 pounds of food! The collected food was greatly appreciated.

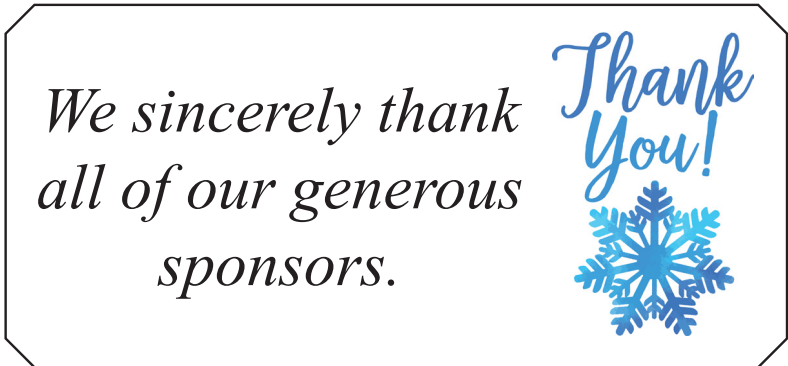


January Worship Sponsors

Altar Flowers		Radio Sponsors		Bulletin Covers	
Jan 7	open	Jan 7	open	Jan 7	Pam & Robert Carina
Jan 14	Greg & Susan Ferro Dedicated to the Glory of God	Jan 14	Greg & Susan Ferro Dedicated in memory of Lois Hirth	Jan 14	Dedicated in honor of the Carina & Shook families
Jan 21	open	Jan 21	Joyce Sipple Dedicated in memory of Bill Sipple	Jan 14	Greg & Susan Ferro Dedicated to the Glory of God
Jan 28	open	Jan 28	open	Jan 21	Joyce Sipple Dedicated to the memory of Bill Sipple
				Jan 28	open

Live-Stream Sponsors

Jan 7	open
Jan 14	Greg & Susan Ferro Dedicated to the church staff
Jan 21	Rich & June Walter Dedicated in honor of their grandson's 16th birthday
Jan 28	Connie Kurtz Dedicated in memory of Paul Kurtz



Coffee Hour Sponsors - Joe and Cindy Nicosia 814-571-6922 jnicosia3@comcast.net

Jan. 7	Angie and Drew Hardy	Please join our hosts each Sunday in Harkins Hall between 9:45 and 10:30 a.m. for coffee and treats. We rely on volunteers to sponsor and/or host. You may sponsor and host (treats at your discretion) or just sponsor (others will host). The cost to "sponsor only" is \$30 (check to Grace Lutheran Church with "Coffee Hour" and the sponsored date in the memo line).
Jan. 14	Linda and Pastor Larry Louder	
Jan. 21	Paul and Kathryn Mackes	
Jan. 28	Deb Lux and Marilyn Peterson	

Acolytes - Kristin Knowles kristinmknowles@gmail.com

9:00 a.m.		10:30 a.m.	
Jan. 7	Lily and Gunnar Rinehimer	Jan. 7	Andy Horn and Lauren Knowles
Jan. 14	Netta and Andy Horn	Jan. 14	Renee Buda and Anna Coup
Jan. 21	Anna Coup and Sydney Lintal	Jan. 21	Mya and Jordan Hockenberry
Jan. 28	Kaylin Slane and Netta Horn	Jan. 28	Anna Long and Renee Buda

Lectors - Rebecca Arnold Desmarais beckylynn0621@gmail.com

8 a.m.		9 a.m.		10:30 a.m.	
Jan. 7	Vicki Sue Golemboski	Jan. 7	Anne Rohrbach	Jan. 7	Baraba Vogler
Jan. 14	Julie Miller	Jan. 14	Brian Christian	Jan. 14	Ethylee Nordberg
Jan. 21	Dennis Snider	Jan. 21	Lisa Wiedemer	Jan. 21	Melissa Hockenberry
Jan. 28	open	Jan. 28	open	Jan. 28	open

Pastoral Acts for December

December 27

- Baptism of Rosine Peeler and Matthew Peeler
- Affirmation of Marriage of Noah and Rosine Peeler
- Funeral of Terry Roof

January Birthdays



1 Carol Findley
1 Colin Lovell
1 Donelle Pickering
1 Melissa Chapman
2 Colin Hill
2 Meghan Maggi
3 Michael Ludwig
3 Patricia Murphy
3 Douglas Stuart
3 Nicholas Smith
4 Julie Miller
5 Ronald Krumrine
5 Holly Veenis
5 Emerson Follett
6 Jeannie McCurdy
6 Colin Stuart

6 Kaleena Davidson
6 Gavin Rinehimer
7 Renee Shively
7 Kathy Kalbach
7 Michael Zucco
8 Jamie Cunningham
8 Fiona Knowles
8 Caitlin Knowles
9 Goldie Kroger
9 Nicole Egan
10 Sarah Zipf
11 Claire Hosband
11 Stephen Shurgalla
11 Joel Nelson
11 Bethany Zucco
12 Kevin Luhman

12 Cameron McCurdy
13 Rod Egan
13 Andrew Elder
13 Rita Graef
13 Robert Jeanmenne
13 Pastor Larry Louder
13 Paul Mackes
13 Scott Richardson
13 Scott Sylves
14 Troy Heatwole
14 Sam Shively
14 Kasie Peterson
14 Tracy Barter
15 Declan Flanagan
15 Linda Louder
16 Katelyn Watschke
16 Madison Watschke
16 Miriam Mae Walsh
McGonegal
16 Margaret Deysher
16 Margaret Smith
17 Susan Buda
17 Jeffrey Jones
17 Doug Long
17 Dawn Myers
18 Taylor Badger
18 David Zazworsky
19 James Carr
20 Samuel Hallacher

21 Carolyn Fishburn
21 Isla Jeanmenne
22 Maximilian
Kennedy
23 Rachel Rundle
23 Cheryl Evans
24 Mary Anne Claar
24 Caroline Humm
24 Daryl Johnson
24 Sabrina Odland
24 Matthew O'Donnell
24 Susan Bardo
24 Susan DeMetrick
26 Nathan Waite
26 Noah Peeler
27 Kenneth Shultz
27 Bruce Desmarais
28 Rachel Christian
28 George Curtis
28 Thomas Simcoe
29 Sheri Rider
29 Madison Rusnak
29 Erin Hartzler
30 Donald Coine, Jr.
30 Gina Horn
30 Sally Horn
30 Braden Wandrisco
31 Daniel Bright
31 Emily McGonegal

Prayer List for January

All Military & National
Guard and all serving in
war-torn countries
Carl Bankert and family
upon the death of Carl's
father, Dave
Joe Belanger
Mary Breon
Tisana Breon, sister of
Mary Breon
Grace Brown & family
Jim Campbell
William & Barbara Davies
Chase Ebeling
Kevin Eby and family,
friends of the Koths

Steve & Janet Ellis, family of
The Louder's
Norma Flanagan, mother of
Jim Flanagan
Cay Griel
Posey Haney, upon her
sister's death
Sherry Harrington
Don Hoegg
Marcia Kell
Jim Kratz, father of Pastor
Hetrick
Lisa & Ruthie, friends of
the Roger's
Shirley Lucas
Patti McLean, sister of

Kelly Borchert
Amy Neveling
Ronald Odland
Sharon Rivell
Denise Rohrbach, godmother
to Aaron Rohrbach
Archie Sutherland
Family of Terry Roof, upon his
death
Claire Swarr, friend of
Leslie Wagner
Val Updegrove
George Vogler

And please pray for Members
in the hospital



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

- 8:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
9:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and on the
Radio (103.7 FM, 104.3 FM, 1450 AM, 1260 AM)

Live-streamed video of this service at www.glcpa.org

Enjoy pre-recorded Sunday Video Worship from our
website: glcpa.org anytime



Help us to better serve our local and global communities.
Scan here to make a contribution to Grace.



The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, Pastor

- Grace Lutheran Church 814-238-2478
churchoffice@glcpa.org
- GLC Preschool 814-238-8110
glpk@glcpa.org
- Faith Formation Ministry
faithformation@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.