



Grace Notes

Gather • Feed • Send

September 2023

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Musician and ‘Son’ of Grace Lutheran Writes Organ Solo Commissioned by Grace

In 2020 our church was looking for a way to celebrate two 500-year Lutheran milestones (Luther translating the Bible in 1521 and calling for poets to write ‘hymns for the people’ in 2022) as well as our congregation’s 125th anniversary in 2023. Since planning happened during the pandemic, we were looking for a project that would convey messages of hope, love, and grace. Eventually we embarked on an adventure to commission six musical selections from present-day composers, several of which have already been shared in worship. This article features composer Michael Costello – son of Grace member Nancy Doyle – who recently completed a commission for our Casavant pipe organ. Michael joined our church in 1994 when his family moved to State College and he spent many hours playing our organ.

When we made the decision to commission a piece of music for our organ (refurbished in 2022), Laurel Sanders approached our lead organist, Cynthia Mills, and requested a list of her 10 favorite living composers. Michael Costello made her ‘top ten’ list, and he was happy to be asked to create a work for us. Michael was recently asked to share a few words with the people of Grace, and a brief note follows. We are thrilled with his composition and look forward very much to sharing it with you on **Wednesday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m.**, when we will offer a special worship service built around all six commissions. ~ *Laurel Sanders*

FROM MICHAEL:

I am so thankful that Grace asked me to write something to commemorate its 125th anniversary. Grace was an important part of my development as a church musician, allowing me to practice on the organ and to play for occasional Wednesday evening services throughout my high school years.

For Lutherans in North America the hymn tune *Slane* most often accompanies the texts “Be Thou My Vision” and “Lord of All Hopefulness.” I wrote an arrangement of the tune with Grace’s Casavant organ in mind, trying to show colors both gentle and exuberant on the instrument while also utilizing a variety of compositional techniques. The melody of the hymn is easily recognizable, even when there is a lot going on elsewhere in the piece harmonically and texturally. It is my prayer that the people of Grace can enjoy this piece for years to come and that it adds to the devotional life of the congregation.

Blessings,
~ *Michael*

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, Cantor
Grace Lutheran Church and School
www.graceriverforest.org



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From Our Senior Pastor



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

The Importance of Wonder

I've been reading a biography about the life of Carl Linnaeus, the 18th century Swedish scientist who developed the world's system of taxonomy. It's the system of Latin names by which all of life is categorized. It was a truly revolutionary approach because it enabled scientists around the world to communicate more clearly and accurately by offering a universal name for virtually anything and everything. As Linnaeus used to quip, "God created, Linnaeus organized."



Linnaeus was a brilliant, colorful, and memorable man. But what I have found most inspiring in his

story was the personal motto he adopted, because I think it does more than reveal his personality and worldview. I would go so far as to say it is the key to a happy and holy life. In Latin it is "Omnia mirari etiam tritissima," which translates to "Find wonder in everything, even the most commonplace."

Isn't that beautiful? It reminds me of the engaging openness and curiosity of a child's mind. What parent hasn't been vexed at one time or another by a child who responds to every statement with that most powerful of one-word sentences: "Why?" When we lose not just the ability but also the inclination to ask "why," we lose an essential part of what it means to be human. I think this is one reason why in Matthew 18 Jesus said that to enter the Kingdom of Heaven we needed to be more like little children. To be a Christian then is to have a sense of wonder and delight in all of creation.

Please don't read this as "law" – as another obligation you must take upon your already overburdened shoulders. Rather, I want you to treat a sense of wonder as encouragement to take hold of a marvelous gift. When we can "find wonder in everything, even the most commonplace," we find ourselves encountering God in the midst of daily life. God's glory is in the intricate spider web you were too busy to notice, the bright, shining eyes of the person who is running the register as you pay at the store, and the kindness of the person in your home who is diligently washing the dishes long after everyone has finished dinner and moved on to

other pursuits. Pause. Take notice. Observe. Contemplate. Ask "why." Give thanks.

"Find wonder in everything, even the most commonplace." If you can cultivate this habit, I think you will be a happier person. I think you will also find yourself closer to God too. Give it a try.

Lectio Divina

One very specific area in which we can exercise more wonder is in our engagement with God's Word. I confess that I'm not a big fan of those "read the Bible in a year" programs. If it works for you, great! But when I've tried those programs, I find myself reading just to complete the assignment. Lots of words pass by my eyes, but precious few make their way into my heart.

Instead, I am a big fan of an ancient practice called "lectio divina," Latin for "divine reading." Christians have been doing this for over a thousand years. Luther learned the practice in the monastery, but then he modified it and adapted it for wider use by all people. It's a great way to exercise a sense of wonder in God's Word. It's really quite simple: (1) **Pray** before you start reading the Bible. Ask God to open your heart to how the Word is speaking to you. (2) **Meditate** on the Word. Deeply read a small portion of scripture. Even a solitary verse can produce powerful results. Read it multiple times, slowly. Chew on each word. Finally, (3) **test** what you have read and learned. How is God speaking to you through this passage? What is God calling you to do (or not do!)? Like a child, ask plenty of "why" questions too.

Sometimes you'll achieve marvelous insights. Other times you'll have to content yourself to rest in the continuing mystery of what God is trying to say to you. Take your time as you do this. Again, one verse can be a true banquet when slowly tasted via lectio divina. It's a marvelous way to cultivate a sense of wonder in God, God's Word, and God's ways.

Back-to-School: Back-to-Church?

By any public health measure, the COVID crisis is over. But our pews are still not as full as they once were. I know many – hundreds in fact – are watching each Sunday via video. I am thankful for this technology that allows you to be with us even if health or distance makes in-person worship impossible. If you have no practical means of worshiping in-person, worshiping via video is a wonderful alternative. But I know (because you've told me!) that many of you simply got out of the habit of coming to church and are struggling to muster the willpower to come back.

I can't make you come to church. But I hope you can at least be persuaded that worshiping at home is not the same. We need to be surrounded by a community. We need to receive the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. I have written countless articles and preached several sermons about the messiness and necessity of Christian community. By now you've heard it all. You know yourself that it's time to come back to church. And parents, you especially know that if you don't set the example for your children, they will never be regular church goers as they grow and mature.

I apologize if this sounds harsh. That is not my intention. But I make

no apology for speaking directly on this issue. COVID is over. It's time to gather back together as the Body of Christ and the Family of Grace. Back-to-school time is as good a time as any to get back in the habit and set the example for the children in your family. No one here is going to pester you with questions about where you've been or why you've been away. We'll just be glad to have you back. There is a pew and a place at God's table for you. Welcome home, dear friend. You've been missed.

Finally...

Praying is a lovely means of "finding wonder in everything." Our prayers don't have to be formulaic, wordy, or complicated. Just talk to God. Every day – all throughout the day if possible. Delight in the wonder of those simple conversations. Most months I offer you a model for your prayers, and the one this month is particularly good at demonstrating holy wonder in commonplace things. It is by Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection, a French Carmelite (1614 – 1691):

Lord of all pots and pans and things, since I've no time to be a great saint by doing lovely things, or watching late with Thee, or dreaming in the dawnlight, or storming heaven's gates, make me a saint by getting meals, and washing up the plates. Warm all the kitchen with Thy Love, and light it with Thy peace; forgive me all my worrying, and make my grumbling cease. Thou who didst love to give men food, in room, or by the sea, accept the service that I do, I do it unto Thee. Amen.

Peace be with you.

~ *Pastor Schul*



Bucket Collection for LDR Sunday, Sept. 10

Things to Love about Lutheran Disaster Response:

- **LDR collaborates** with other disaster response organizations and religious entities to enable the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. An example: LDR is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires in Maui. They are working with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction.
- **LDR provides** emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster.
- **LDR is committed** to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.
- **LDR works** throughout the world.

Ways to donate:

1. On **September 10** you may put your donation in the bucket as you leave service.
2. You may donate any time through **September 24** on our website via Tithe.ly at www.glcpa.org or by check, made out to Grace, with 'LDR' on the memo line.

From Our Associate Pastor

“Living Together”

In this season of watching students arrive, classrooms re-convene and activities resume both here at Grace and beyond, I recall when our younger daughter Alex went off to college at Wittenberg University. She scored a room in the new high tech dorm with smart features that was the largest and best dorm room on campus. Emails and texts flew between Alex and her new roommate as they had color coordinated everything and they planned to create positive messages out of Post-It notes on their enormous windows that all of campus would see. Yet, in spite of all of these new advantages, alas, rooming together in real time as two humans was not so simple. From the safety of their separate households, all of their virtual conversations had never required the effort of actually being a new household with each other. They quickly became frustrated and the room devolved into separate kingdoms around space and noise and more.

Andy Crouch writes, “We all need a place where we can channel our emotions and longings, to be known in our unique depth of self, to contribute to interpreting the world. (However), above all we need a place where we can invest ourselves deeply in each other, come to care about their flourishing and give ourselves away in mutual service and sacrifice in ways that secure our identities instead of erasing them.”

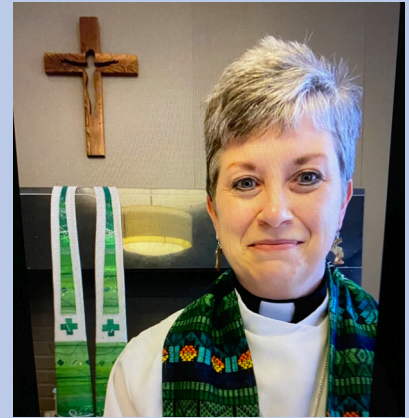
We sometimes talk about life at Grace as being a family. I think “household” is probably a better idea. A household is a community of people who may gather under a common roof but more fundamen-

tally, take shelter in one another’s care and concern. Providing for each other, depending upon each other, mingling our gifts and vulnerabilities in such a way that it is hard to tell where one ends and another begins is the life of a household of faith. It is where we can be deeply, truly and persistently seen and find the belonging we all have been looking for since we were born.



“Household” describes the way the earliest church drew people into living together beyond other connections. Someone gathered them whose hold on their hearts was bigger than any of the other ways they saw themselves. People who were widows or orphans or strangers to each other found they were now together. They didn’t have to give up who they were in order to be bound by something greater but they did have to learn how to live together in love.

Forging households can be challenging not only for “first time away students,” but for any of us when we are new to a community. Being new to community is not just about an address. You are new to the community when you



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

are suddenly living in the land of single-ness, when a relationship you once lived is no longer there. People of all ages live in this space. You are new to the community when your body no longer does what it once did. The land of “I can’t hear you,” or “don’t move so fast” is one many of us experience. You are new to the community when you are returning after an illness, or with a young child. You are new when spaces have not made space for you and you wonder if anyone will. For the early church the joy of this living together was that people began to realize that it mattered to someone else where they were and how they were feeling. People began to respond to each other by moving through the day with each other in mind. They began to know each other deeply, both the good bits and the parts one might prefer to hide.

The challenge of this living together is that sometimes such closeness means nerves will be rattled, priorities will be at odds, or differences will emerge. Unlike a room for one, a household of faith is a space holding every body. Jesus talks about the household where the ne’er-do-well son returns and gets a party while someone else sulks. But

this is the same household where someone comes out and pleads with that one to come back in and join the celebration. How many places in this modern world of devices and data offer this kind of home where it is in fact good news that you cannot hide or be lost?

In our hearts, none of us wants to be given the freedom to just go away and hide. At the same time, when we claim to be a household of faith, we are called to live together. To have grace for every body. Those that move quickly and slowly, those that are quiet and those that are noisy, those that we know well and those who hope to be known. A year ago we wondered what would happen as we tried to re-gather after the largest parts of the pandemic had thankfully subsided. None of us knew what to expect. In fact even recently some folks have just returned for any number of reasons. We have been learning how to live together and celebrate well together. For those among us who worry that kiddos who have to adjust to spaces will need time and grace – many of us have been there. For those among us who are older and worry that we do not sit or stand or move as well as we did before – you are not alone. For those of you who have gotten out of the habit of dressing up for church and don't want to now – Jesus has no dress code. If you know someone who is wondering about these things, you can reassure them this is a household of love.

One of the ways I saw us live out this “household” in all its joy and challenge was in our “Grace-on-the-Go” outing at Good Day Cafe hosted by our Disciples Together. We had no idea how many would

Grace-on-the-Go Event at Good Day Cafe



come, but what a joyous celebration for the 60 or so! Many showed up eager and hungry. There were only a couple staff and the person taking orders was hard of hearing which the sign at the register told us. She also had a job coach helping her to take orders and not be anxious. These things meant that ordering took time. Some folks had to stand for quite a while in line. Others were not able to stand, so friends brought their orders to them while they waited at tables. Some people needed to eat outdoors. Some people had to change what they wanted to eat. Some people could not wait. Some people got their food all at once and some in parts. One person cooking in the kitchen was worrying we would run out of items for food orders and started praying as he cooked. We provided gift cards for our Disciples together to order food, but not for others. Why? Because even a \$10 meal is an extravagance for our Disciples on fixed monthly resources. For them, such a meal was a treat. It was loud and a little chaotic and it was joy filled. In every way, our household of faith extends to

wherever we gather. How we gather at Grace shaped how we gathered at Good Day, so much so, that it changed a no-longer churched person's view of church people for the good. I likewise hope that how we gathered at Good Day extends back to how we gather at the corner of Beaver and Garner. No matter how other spaces treat you, when you are in *this* household, you are seen and loved and prayed for that you may flourish. There is grace for every body. Those last two words are separated for a reason - every body is seen and loved and cared for as you are. This leads to one final word about living together and that is trust.

In a world where we are so frequently told we cannot trust people or news or devices, there is one source of trust that remains

Cont'd. on p. 6



Finances for 2023

Church FINANCES	GLC Actual Income vs. Expense, July 2023	GLC Budgeted Income vs. Expense, July 2023	+ or (-)	%
Income	\$65,502.95	\$72,115.00	(\$6,612.05)	-9.17%
Expenses	\$77,552.88	\$86,306.83	(\$8,753.95)	-10.14%
Net Income	(\$12,049.93)	(\$14,191.83)		

July marks the beginning of a new budgeted fiscal year for the church, perhaps a good time to think about our steady and increasing support needed for the church community and the local community as a whole. Giving for July 2023 was less than our budget target, but slightly higher than July 2022 and among the highest July giving in the past decade. July 2023 expenses were below budgeted levels, and so the actual deficit was less than what was anticipated by the budget. Thank you for your continued support! 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 Tithe.ly, 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!

Pastor Carolyn Cont'd. from p. 5

unchanged — the love of God in Christ for each and every one. While we will not always get this completely right, as those who follow Jesus’ lead, we gather trusting that God has called us here and is in our midst. It is a gift to be living together, and to follow Jesus together. I hope you will take time to not only read about all of the exciting activities planned as the fall begins, but that you will pray for our gatherings and join us. One of the greatest gifts we can claim in an ever technological age is the reclaiming of relationships and connection. I look forward to seeing you around “the house.”

Yours in Christ,
~ Pastor Carolyn

Council Highlights

At its August 2023 meeting, Grace’s Church Council selected discussion topics for the upcoming months. They will include topics like faith formation for adults, Grace Lutheran’s Preschool, and Grace’s feeding ministries.



Did you know...

that **Sunday, September 10** is Grace’s 125th birthday? Worship that day will include some music that was played at the dedication of our 1965 building (information from 1898 is no longer available) and the Bible lessons will be those that are used for the dedication of a church building. It will be a good time to give thanks to God for the many ministries and transformed lives God has brought about throughout Grace’s history.

Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Sunday	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Holy Gospel
September 3 14th Sunday after Pentecost	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Psalm 26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
September 10 Grace's Anniversary 15th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 8:22-30	Psalm 84:1-5, 12	1 Peter 2:1-9	John 10:22-30
September 17 16th Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 50:15-21	Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
September 24 17th Sunday after Pentecost	Jonah 3:10--4:11	Psalm 145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16

Worship WORDS

Each month in “Worship Words” we explore a different word that relates to an aspect of our worship life and unpack its meaning and significance. This month, we will examine the word *altar*.

You may wonder what in the world there might be to say about an altar. After all, if asked, nearly everyone would be able to identify Grace’s altar. It’s the big white table that prominently rests in the center-rear of our worship space. Our altar’s location, however, is significant. One easy way to identify the piety and theology of a church congregation is to locate the altar. If it is a small table that is difficult

to find and dwarfed in size by the pulpit, then you know you are in a church that prioritizes preaching over Holy Communion.

On the other hand, when you see a worship space like that of Grace, where the altar has the position of primacy, you know that our theology places the sacrament of Holy Communion as first priority. That’s not to suggest that God’s Word or preaching is unimportant. But to me at least, it’s always comforting that no matter how much we might bungle a sermon or the liturgy, we can always be assured that Jesus will be truly present with us through Holy Communion. And most days, that’s all we need.

Grace’s altar was built when the church was constructed in 1965, and it was cast in concrete in-place. It is immovable, but stands on three legs, symbolic of the Holy Trinity. It has a minimalist look to it that is elegantly simple and eminently functional. The top of the altar – called the mensa – reminds us of two things: (1) the “stone of anointing” on which Jesus’s crucified body was laid and prepared for burial after he was taken down from the cross; and (2) the table of the Last Supper where Jesus instituted Holy Communion. Both of those symbolic representations remind us that here, on our altar, Christ’s body and blood are really and truly given and received so that we can be filled with Christ and blessed by Christ.

The altar is typically vested in paraments that feature the church season’s color (such as blue at Advent and purple in Lent). The only time the altar is not vested is during Holy Week, when the altar is stripped at the end of Maundy Friday worship and not re-dressed until Easter Sunday. That starkness helps transport us to the stunning sacrifice of Jesus that is at the very heart of Holy Week.

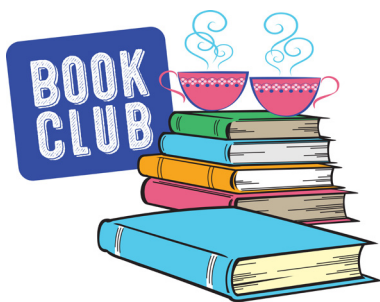
The altar has a practical function too. It holds candles, the books of liturgy that the pastors use to lead worship, and most importantly, the wine and bread that by God’s grace miraculously becomes our Savior’s body and blood in Holy Communion. An altar is much more important than you might think. Be sure to give Grace’s unique and beautiful altar a look the next time you are in worship.

~ *Pastor Schul*



Sisters of Grace Dinner

Sisters of Grace Circle will hold their kick-off meeting for 2023-2024 at the home of Lois Lynn (654 Stoneledge Road, State College), **Monday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m.** It will include a potluck dinner and fellowship. Meat and beverages will be provided. It is open to all women of Grace. If interested, contact Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net) or Bonnie Burris (bonnieburris@comcast.net).



The Garden of Readin' meets September 19

The next meeting of the Garden of Readin' (Women's Book Club) is **Tuesday, September 19 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Stinson Library (also available on Zoom). The selected book is *The Invincible Miss Cust* by Penny Haw. The discussion will be facilitated by Brenda Palmgren. Contact Lois Lynn loissteve@comcast.net for details.

Picnic Lunch on the Lawn September 10

Immediately following the outdoor worship service on **September 10**, the Fellowship Team will serve our **Picnic Lunch on the Lawn**. The menu will include hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, macaroni salad, drinks, and a special cake commemorating Grace's 125th anniversary. Suggested donation: \$6/person with \$15 family max. We are seeking volunteers to help with tables/chairs set-up Sunday morning at **9 a.m.** and for clean-up following the event. Please contact Joe Nicosia 814-571-6922 or jnicosia3@comcast.net if you can assist.



Calling All Teens and Tweens: Get Ready for Fun with Crossfire and Sunday School Kickoff on Sept. 17!

On **Sunday, September 17**, Crossfire Youth Choir starts a new year of music making and fun! All teens & tweens in grades 6-12 are welcome, whether or not you have singing experience. This is a



great chance to come sing – or just watch and listen – and decide if you want to join in the fun. **September 17** is an opportunity to 'peek with your ears' at the music we will sing this year in worship and for *AdventFest*, which is focused on sights and sounds from the Holy Lands.

Normally Crossfire ends at **10:30**, but on **September 17** we will make music until **10:45**, when our Faith Formation Team (Cindy Fritz and Peter Horn) will swing by to pick up all middle schoolers and walk with them to a downtown café for a cup of their favorite beverage. When they return at **11:30** (just as **10:30** worship finishes), the t(w)eens will help to set up Harkins Hall for a Grace-provided lunch (accompanied by a short activity and a song). All family members of the kids in Crossfire and grade 6-12 Sunday School are welcome to join us for this fellowship meal.

Middle schoolers and high schoolers: You really can't beat this...new and fun music in the morning; a treat at noon; lunch (with no cleanup!); fellowship; and a song in your heart to carry home. Contact Cindy/Peter, or Laurel Sanders (Crossfire director), or leave a message for them in the church office at 814-238-2478 if you can come. We hope you will join us!



Super Wednesday is back!

Super Wednesday dinners will resume on **Wednesday, September 13** in Harkins Hall from **5:15 to 6 p.m.** Our kick-off menu will include: Teriyaki marinated pork tenderloin, rice pilaf, gourmet vegetable medley, watermelon basket, dessert and drink. Suggested donation: \$6/person with \$15 family max. Future menus will be published in Grace E-notes and the Sunday Church Bulletin.

Music Classes at Grace (age 3 through grade 5)

Grace Lutheran invites children to sing with the Spirit, drum with determination, and jam with joy as they explore the world of music and movement with their peers at Grace!

Our new classes offer engaging and fun adventures in music. Children can delve into drumming, ring chimes, move to a beat, or discover the world of sacred song with friends. Classes are designed for children ages 3 through grade 5, are free of charge, and open to the community. Sessions offer musical exploration within a predictable schedule of drumming/ringing, musical movement/games, and singing songs of praise.



Each week will offer different drums, shakers, Boom-whackers, ethnic instruments, newly acquired 'comfort tone' congas, chromatic chimes, and other instruments. Participants will have opportunities to occasionally share their music in Sunday morning worship and/or at the weekly suppers of Grace's Super Wednesday schedule. These fellowship meals are open to the public. Class participants and families are welcome to join us each week after class.



Classes are separated into two groups:

- **JOYFUL NOISE** for age 3 (by Sept. 1st) through kindergarten, led by Susan Buda and Kathleen Arrington
- **REJOICE** (replaces Sing 'n Ring) in grades 1-5, led by Laurel Sanders and Phyllis Verderame, who sings, rings, and plays piano, with support from other music makers.

All staff and volunteers have clearances. Classes begin **September 13** and are offered weekly on **Wednesdays** from **5:00-5:45 p.m.** through early May.



Register now! Contact Laurel Sanders, Director of Music & Arts Ministries, at lsanders@glcpa.org and Susan Buda at srl144@hotmail.com for details or call the church office at 814-238-2478.

Students in the **JOYFUL NOISE** class will:

- Journey into the world of musical sounds, including soft and loud; fast and slow; long and short; high and low; etc.
- Explore (and create) new and familiar sounds
- Sing simple sacred (and sometimes silly) songs
- Keep a steady beat with their hands, feet, and age-appropriate instruments
- Hear about God's love for all
- Make friends and have FUN!

Students in the **REJOICE** class will:

- Explore and learn to play newly acquired congas, chromatic chimes, and other instruments
- Engage in fun activities from Choristers Guild, Michael Burkhardt, and other leaders
- Sing and ring sacred songs of praise that echo Christ's peace, promises, and love
- Learn how to use their unique voices to make beautiful sounds
- Explore music with movement and activities
- Make friends and have FUN!

Adult Choir Looking for New Members

Greetings Everyone! I hope you all have had a wonderful and relaxing summer! The Adult Choir at Grace is looking for new members! No previous experience required! If you have ever wanted to make great music with even better people, now is your chance!

The choir will resume singing at **10:30 worship on Sunday, September 17th**. We will begin rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 6** (two weeks prior) from **7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** We will gather in the sanctuary, as always, where we will meet, greet, welcome newcomers and then begin preparing for the upcoming services.

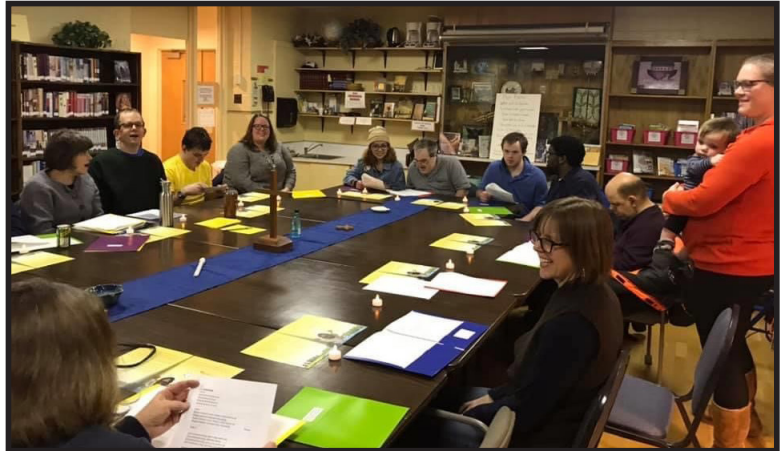
There is no need to commit to every single rehearsal and worship service if such a big time commitment is holding you back. Even if you are busy and can't come every single week, we would still love to have you!

If you have any questions or concerns between now and then, please contact me, Nathan Glocke, at nathan-glocke@gmail.com. And if you know of anyone looking for a place to sing and meet new people, please bring them along! I hope that you consider joining us and I look forward to seeing many of you soon and hearing your lovely singing!

Disciples Together

Disciples Together has exciting news!

We will be returning this year on Wednesday nights following the Super Wednesday meal. Each week we will gather for a meal and once a month we will have our Bible class. Our kick-off night will be **Wednesday, September 13 at 6:15 - 7 p.m.** in the Stinson Library.



Our time together will include 5 things: Share, Read, Talk, Pray and Bless.

1. We share what has made us happy or sad.
2. We hear a story from the Bible.
3. We talk about what we think this means for us.
4. We praise God for what God has made and ask God for help and thank God for his blessings.
5. Then we bless each other until the next time.

FAITH 5

Our schedule for the fall will be:

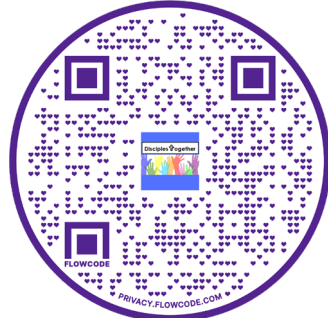
- **September 13th-Wonderfully Made (class)**
- **October 4th- All Creatures (class)**
- October 18- Healing Service (church)
- **November 1st All Saints- Remembering Loved Ones (class)**
- November 15- Thanksgiving Dinner and Church
- November 22- Pie Social/Thanksgiving Church
- November 29- Mid Week Advent service Church
- **December 6th -Mid week Advent Church and St. Nicholas will be with us at Dinner**
- December 13- Christmas Dinner
- December 17- Christmas Caroling (SUNDAY) extra activity
- **NO DISCIPLES TOGETHER ON 12/20-1/3**
- **WE RESUME January 10, 2024**

Happy Valley Fitlink returns to Grace!

The very popular cardio drumming classes resume in the Miller Center on **Wednesday, August 29 at 4 - 4:45 p.m.** Classes will continue weekly on Wednesdays through **November 8th** when they take a Thanksgiving Break. Thanks to Dr. Jonna Belanger and her kinesiology students for providing fun and fitness for folks living with disability who are part of the PSU Lifelink community!



Check out the QR code for a quick link to our Facebook page to keep up with all our events!





Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Belonging (DEIB) Team News

The DEIB Team is excited by the support of the Grace family the last few months and looking forward to offering more to the church as we grow. Our September Focus will

be on Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention. We hope to promote the events of and partner with the Jana Marie Foundation to learn from and support one another. Stay tuned for more information in your bulletin and E-Notes.

DEIB will be present at the Outdoor Worship service on **September 10** with some information and goodies.

The Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity and Belonging team is working to plan meaningful events for the Grace community and beyond. We would love your input and ideas! Our meetings are held monthly in the fireside room as well as offered via Zoom. Contact Natalie Slane at nataliejslane@gmail.com or Sarah Rodgers at skrodgers@hotmail.com.

Upcoming Monthly DEIB Dates:

- **Friday, September 8, 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.:** Jana Marie Virtual QPR Training (Contact Natalie Slane for details)
- **Sunday, September 10,** Outdoor Worship Service DEIB Table
- **Monday, September 18, 7p.m.** (Fireside Lounge and online via Zoom)

Save the Date - CROP Walk October 22

The annual State College CROP walk is being held **Sunday Oct 22, 2023**. This year Grace is hosting the walk. Registration will start at **1:30 p.m.** and the walk, which loops around State College without crossing any major roads (e.g. Atherton/Beaver/College), will commence at **2:00 p.m.**

Grace already has a team established on the CROP Hunger Walk website. The link to the Grace Team is: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/grace-lutheran-church-2>



Please consider registering as a walker, making a donation to support the walk, or both. One of the nice things about CROP walks is that every walk is able to designate a local charity that receives 25% of the walk proceeds. The State College CROP walk has done that for the State College Food Bank.

Walk in
love

Ephesians 5:2

DID YOU KNOW...

... The Jana Marie Foundation offers a 'Virtual Calming Room' on their webpage? Check it out!



"A place for students, teachers, and caring adults to find tools and strategies for managing emotions and building resilience."

<https://janamarietfoundation.org/virtual-calming-room/>



June Bucket Collection Thank You

Once again, we came together, chipped in, and supported our community. The June Bucket Collection recipient was the Centre LGBTQA Support Network and we donated \$1306.08. Thank you!

Comfort Makers

Comfort Makers will meet at **9 a.m.** on **Tuesday September 26** in the Stinson library. Come join us to sew and share with others.



Anti-Hunger Update - GRATITUDE

The theme for this article is about the immense feeling of gratitude I feel towards everyone who has helped with the Anti-Hunger program for the last 1.5 years!! My heart swells when I think about the countless hours our congregation and our friends have spent helping our neighbors put food on their tables.

I think about the single mother with a 9 year old daughter - she has a full-time job but needs some extra help to be able to pay her rent and utilities, maintain her car, provide clothes for her daughter, and put food on the table.



She has not done anything

“social” for herself in nine years because all of her time and energy goes into raising her daughter. As we load her car with food we share a brief adult conversation with her and create a time to connect. We are giving her more than just the food. We are sharing God’s loving spirit with her and all those we serve.

This would not be possible without the help of the dozens and dozens of volunteers! This includes the people who donate the plastic bags we use to pre-bag the produce; the people who travel to Philipsburg to pack the boxes with shelf-stable food; the people who unload the food truck at Grace; the people who set up the tables and Easy-up tents to protect the food from the rain and the heat of the sun; the people who pre-bag the food the day of the Food Distribution; the people who load the food in the vehicles during the “drive-through” distribution; the people who greet the driver at each of the three segments of the distribution; the people who are assembling and building the shelves/closets for us to store some of our supplies in the Narthex; and the people who have walked into the Church office and given money to the Pastors to use towards these wonderful efforts!

I want to let everyone know that all of your generous donations of time and money are extremely appreciated! All of the prayers and donations of shelf-stable food in January and March are ways we show God’s Love.

Gratitude - Thankfulness - Generosity - What wonderful ways to feel and see God’s love for us and for all people!!

Due to the need in the State College Area, we are continuing to hold two Food Distributions at Grace Lutheran Church the **2nd and 4th Thursday** of each month. We unload the food truck around **1:45 p.m.** and then pre-bag some of the food in the Narthex. We usually start to distribute the food (outside) between **3:30 and 3:45 p.m.** until **6:00 p.m.** We typically provide food for 110 families at every distribution. We can always use volunteers, so if you are able to help part of the time (or the entire time) on Thursdays please contact Kathy Kalbach at kathymkalbach@gmail.com.

Food Distribution Dates at Grace Parking Lot

We unload the food truck around **1:45 p.m.** We usually start to distribute the food (outside) between **3:30 and 3:45 p.m.** until **6:00 p.m.**

- Thursday, September 14
- Thursday, September 28
- Thursday, October 12
- Thursday, October 26



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.

GREATEST NEEDS

- Ready-to-Serve Soups (Progresso, Campbell’s CHUNKY, etc.)
- Tomato Product (diced, stewed, paste, sauce, etc.)
- Canned Fruit (peaches, pears, pineapple, applesauce)
- Snack Items (crackers, cookies, chips/pretzels, granola bars, etc.)
- Pasta Sauce
- Breakfast Cereal
- Gluten-Free items (pasta, baking items, snacks, etc.)
- Ground Coffee
- Condiments
- Oil (vegetable, canola, olive oil)
- Laundry Detergent
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Bar Soap
- Body Wash

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

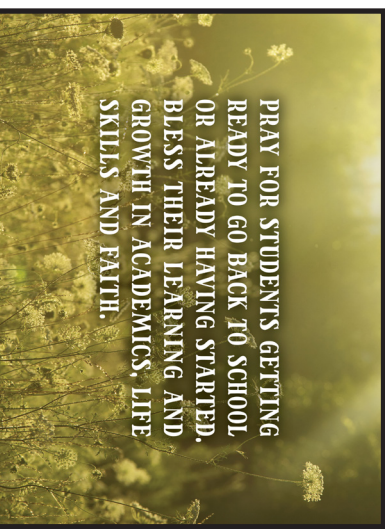



September 2023






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

September 2023						
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
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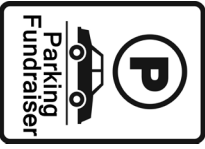
October 2023						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday, September 3 14th Sunday After Pentecost 8a Worship 9a Worship 10a Coffee Hour / Harkins Hall 10:30a Worship 6p Contemporary Worship	Monday, September 4 No School (Labor Day) GLP Grace Office Closed 	Tuesday, September 5 GLP First Day of School 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside	Wednesday, September 6 3p Worship at The Village 4p FitLink / Miller Cntr 	Thursday, September 7 GLP 57th Anniversary of GLP 7:30p AA Group / Library Boyscouts / Harkins Hall	Friday, September 8 5:30p NA Group/Library	Saturday, September 9 7:30a PSU Football Car Parking/Grace Parking Lot 
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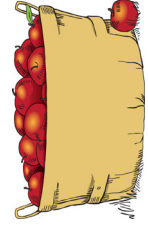
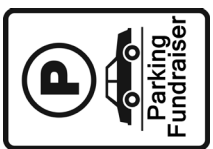



Friday, September 1

5:30p NA Group/Library


Saturday, September 2

7:30a PSU Football Car Parking/Grace Parking Lot


cut here

Sunday, September 10	Monday, September 11	Tuesday, September 12	Wednesday, September 13	Thursday, September 14	Friday, September 15	Saturday, September 16
15th Sunday After Pentecost Grace's 125th Anniversary Bucket Collection for LDR 8a Worship 9a Worship 11a Worship on the Lawn w Picnic 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary LCM Luncheon / Fireside 6p Contemporary Worship 7p QNA / Fireside	GLP Children's Chapel 10:30a Children's Chapel / Sanctuary 6p Sisters of Grace 	9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside 7p Church Council / Fireside	4p FitLink / Miller Cntr 5:15p Super Wednesday Returns/ Harkins Hall 6:15p Disciples Together Faith 5 / Library	GLP Children's Chapel 10:30a Children's Chapel / Sanctuary 11:30a Ministerium Mtg./ Fireside 3:30p Food Distribution / Grace Parking Lot 7:30p AA Group / Library Boy Scouts / Harkins Hall 	GLP Staff Meeting 12:15-2:15 p.m. / Fireside Room No Enrichment classes 5:30p NA Group/Library Middle School Fun Night / Miller Cntr	
Sunday, September 17 16th Sunday After Pentecost Bible Milestone 8a Worship 9a Worship & ECHO SS 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins Crossfire Choir / Fireside 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe SS / Narthex 11:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal / Sanctuary Harkins Hall 11:30 LCM luncheon 4p Confirmation / Miller Cntr 5p HS Youth Grp / Miller Cntr 6p Worship	Monday, September 18 7pm DEIB Meeting / Fireside	Tuesday, September 19 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside 10:30a Garden of Readin/ Library 8p Young Adult Bible Study/Fireside	Wednesday, September 20 GLP Tumblebus begins 12-12:30 / Grace Parking Lot 4p FitLink / Miller Cntr 5:15p Super Wednesday / Harkins Hall 6:15p Disciples Together Faith 5 / Library 	Thursday, September 21 GLP Preschool Fall Picture Days 7:30p AA Group / Library Boy Scouts / Harkins Hall	Friday, September 22 GLP Preschool Fall Picture Days 5:30p NA Group/Library Hall	Saturday, September 23 7:30a PSU Football Car Parking/Grace Parking Lot 
Sunday, September 24 17th Sunday After Pentecost 8a Worship 9a Worship & ECHO SS 10a Coffee Hour/Harkins 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe SS / Narthex 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal / Sanctuary LCM Luncheon / Fireside 6p Contemporary Worship 6:30p Mini Golf / Tussey Mntn.	Monday, September 25 	Tuesday, September 26 9:00a Comfort Makers / Library 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside	Wednesday, September 27 4p FitLink / Miller Cntr 5:15p Super Wednesday / Harkins Hall 6:15p Disciples Together Faith 5 / Library	Thursday, September 28 GLP Preschool Fall Picture Make-Up Days 1p Stephen Ministry / Fireside 3:30p Food Distribution / Grace Parking Lot 7:30p AA Group/Library Boy Scouts / Harkins Hall 	Friday, September 29 GLP Preschool Fall Picture Make-Up Days 5:30p NA Group/Library Hall	

Green Tip for September

The **Season of Creation** is an annual global movement where Christian communities pray and act to care for God’s creation, beginning **September 1**, the **World Day of Prayer for Creation**, and continuing through the Feast day of St. Francis, on **October 4th**. There will be a **Season of Creation Global Ecumenical Prayer Service** on **September 1, 2023, at 9 a.m.** Check out seasonofcreation.org to participate and for more information online.

We are all invited to join the Season of Creation, using the **2023 Season of Creation Celebration Guide “Let Justice and Peace Flow”** on our own, in small groups, by joining online ecumenical opening and closing prayer services, any mix of the above, or even by creating our own moments of observance, gratitude, and discipline. You will easily find both materials and events at seasonofcreation.org.



Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

Lutherans Restoring Creation has created and shared a prayer for this time. We are warmly invited to use the prayer any time, and to share it widely, especially throughout the Season of Creation, and especially on **September 17**, when there will be a march against Fossil Fuels in New York City. It is a prayer of confession, and a prayer for transformation. The introductory line and the first stanza are below. The rest can be found with an online search of **Sowing the Seeds of Transformation (prayer)**.

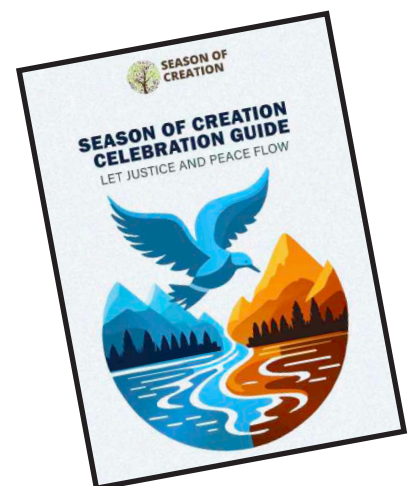
Let us now take a moment to give thanks for this beautiful life,
confess our species’ greed, and pray for the well-being of the
world God so loves...

O God, whose fingerprint is reflected in every leaf and person,
you have entrusted us with the resources of Creation
And yet we squander your generous life-giving gift as if there is
endless supply.

Transform our stewardship from immediate gratification to gen-
erational investment.

You are invited to join Green Team members who plan to carry and pray one pair of confession and transformation stanzas each day as we go about our lives and activities. Choose your own discipline to mark the Season of Creation, and please share your actions, disciplines, and reflections with our Grace family on social media, or by leaving a note or a voice message in the office addressed to the Green Team. Contact Cricket Hunter (cricket.e.hunter@gmail.com) with any questions.

SEASON OF CREATION
CELEBRATION GUIDE
AVAILABLE NOW



DOWNLOAD AT:
SEASOFCREATION.ORG

CALENDAR

September

Saturday, September 2

- 7:30 a.m. Penn State Football Car Parking

Saturday, September 9

- 7:30 a.m. Penn State Football Car Parking

Sunday, September 10

- 11:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship on the Lawn
- Noon - 1:30 p.m. Lunch & God's Work Our Hands Service Day

Friday, September 15

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

Sunday, September 17

- Bible Milestone for K, 2nd & 6th Graders
- 9:00 a.m. Kick-off Sunday - ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Crossfire Choir Event / Fireside
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex
- 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Sing-in Event
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation / Miller Center
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group / Miller Center

September 23

- 7:30 a.m. Penn State Football Car Parking

Sunday, September 24

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex
- 6:30 p.m. All Family Mini Golf / Tussey Mountain



School Kits for LWR

It's that time, again... Bargains on Back to School Supplies! These offers are a great way to help our neighbors. For many years Grace Lutheran has supplied backpacks filled with school items to Lutheran World Relief. Last year we sent 120 backpacks to locations in need. How can you help? Shop for items on the list below, drop off at Grace (in Narthex or the church office), and then help to pack backpacks on **September 10th**.

School Kit Supplies

Please plan to purchase any of the following items and drop them off in the Narthex or the church office:

- (4) 70 sheet spiral bound notebook
- (1) Ruler with both inches and centimeters
- (1) Pencil sharpener
- (1) Blunt or safety scissors
- (5) Unsharpened pencils
- (5) Ballpoint pens blue or black ink NOT gel pens
- (1) Box of crayons 16 or 24 count
- (1) 2.5 inch eraser NOT cap erasers

CALENDAR

October Preview

Sunday, October 1

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

Sunday, October 8

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

Saturday, October 14

- 7:30 a.m. Penn State Football Car Parking

Sunday, October 15

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation / Miller Center
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group / Miller Center

Sunday, October 22

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe Sunday School / Narthex
- 1:30 p.m. Crop Walk/ Grace Parking lot

Friday, October 27

- Youth Lock-in TBD

Saturday, October 28

- 7:30 a.m. Penn State Football Car Parking

Sunday, October 29

- 9:00 a.m. ECHO Sunday School / Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Affirmation of Baptism / Sanctuary



Worship on the Lawn

Worship on the Lawn is on **Sunday, September 10th at 11:00 a.m.** here at Grace. This date coincides with the **ELCA God's Work, Our Hands** day. Following worship, there will be many opportunities to participate in service projects and, of course, food!



ECHO Sunday School

Mark your calendar on **Sunday, September 17** for the kick-off of ECHO Sunday School. Like last year, children and parents will attend **9 a.m. worship** in the sanctuary. After the Ministry Moment, children through 5th grade may leave with Cindy and Peter to Harkins Hall. We will story-tell the gospel lesson and then have game, craft, science or music time. After approximately 20 minutes, youth will return to the sanctuary to join their families for sharing the peace, communion, and closing hymns. Middle school youth are welcome to attend; they will be helpers.



Can families attend with their kids? Yes, anyone of any age may attend our Echo Sunday School.

What is too young? Personally meet with Cindy and Peter if you are concerned about a young person navigating Sunday School in a group setting. Look for more information to be included in an email.

Questions? Contact Cindy & Peter at faithformation@glcpa.org.



Middle School Fun Night

Calling all Middle School Youth! Join Cindy & Peter for a Friday Fun Night. Once per month plan to drop off and pick up at the Miller Center from **6:00-8:00 p.m.** We plan to eat, hangout, and play games together. Friends are welcome. Watch for an email prior to the event.

Dates: *September 15th,
*October 27th (lock-in)
*November 17th.

CAFE Sunday School



Cafe Sunday School

Calling all middle school and high school youth: the newly named Cafe Sunday School is for you! Formally High School Sunday School, the group this year will include the middle schoolers in our Sunday morning walk downtown.

We will meet at **10:45 a.m.** in the Narthex each Sunday starting **September 17** to depart for a cafe downtown. Options are Starbucks on Pugh Street, Bagel Crust on Calder Way, or any other takeout cafe, which we will decide once Sunday School gets rolling. Bring money or order from your phone as we walk.



Youth Group

All High School Youth and friends are welcome to join us for Youth Group on **September 17, October 15, and November 19**. We will be in the Miller Center from **5:00 -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.

Confirmation

Confirmation at Grace is geared toward students entering 6th through 9th grade. Sixth graders can expect to receive their bible. We will meet on:

- **September 17, 4:00-5:00 p.m.**
- **October 15, Noon-1:00 p.m.**
- **November 19, 4:00-5:00 p.m.**



If you have questions, please contact Cindy & Peter (faithformation@glcpa.org).



All Grace Mini Golf

Come one, come all for a night of mini golf with your Grace Family! Find Cindy and Peter at the Tussey Mountain Fun Center on **Sunday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m.** Feel free to bring friends, too. This event is for anyone in the congregation who loves a good (or bad) game of mini golf.



Bible Milestone

Sunday, September 17th at 9:00 and 10:30 worship we will bless the youth in Kindergarten through 6th grade who are receiving Bibles. Sixth graders will receive their confirmation bible and anyone K-5 who has not yet gotten a Spark Bible will receive one. If you missed the backpack blessing and would like a button or tag for your bag, check in the Narthex or reach out to Cindy and Peter.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



ELCA 2024 Youth Gathering - New Orleans

SAVE THE DATE and plan to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, **July 14-21, 2024.** Youth currently in grades 8-12 for the 2023-2024 school year will be eligible to attend. The trip will include days built in for sightseeing.

Please email Cindy and Peter at faithformation@glcpa.org for more information about the trip and about the car parking fundraiser (see below).

Car Parking

It's time to park some cars! PSU football will kick off on **Saturday, September 2nd.** Parking cars in our own Grace Lutheran parking lot is our only fundraiser for youth attending the ELCA Youth Gatherings. The gathering is planned for **July 14-21, 2024,** in New Orleans with days built in for sightseeing. Students currently in 8th through 12th grades are eligible to attend. Look for an email with a Signup Genius link to sign up your youth.



Synod Youth Event - The Weekend

Middle and High School students are invited to, "The Weekend." This is a return of our Synod Youth gathering event. In December, we will go to St James Lutheran in Huntingdon for a weekend of worship, fun, games, and service with other youth from around our synod. We will be sleeping at the Comfort Inn. Mark your calendar for **December 8-10.** If you attended camp this summer (at Sequanota) this is a great opportunity to catch up with friends. Look for an email about registration.



Super Wednesday

Mark your calendar for the return of Super Wednesday on **Wednesday, September 13th.** The meal begins as early as **5:15 p.m.** and serves until **6 p.m.** Children's choirs, bible study, and family activity time are all back and ready for you.

This essay is scheduled to be published in the 8/27/23 edition of the Centre Daily Times

Adding Your Stitch

I hope you have had a marvelous summer. For me it has been a time of travel, rest, replenishment, exploration, wonder, reading, writing, and pondering. Summer, with its more relaxed pace, offers the opportunity to think big thoughts about the world, our place in it, and our purpose in being here.

I recently read something from the 20th century French scientist and theologian Teilhard de Chardin that beautifully captures all this. He wrote, “We must add one stitch, no matter how small it be, to the magnificent tapestry of life.” What does this mean? First, relax. You are not being asked to create all of life’s tapestry. Be relieved of that pressure and the inclination to feel responsible for holding the whole world together on your shoulders. Instead, just add your one stitch.

I can already hear the objections rising in your mind. “My stitch? I have nothing special to offer to the tapestry of life. I can’t create an inspiring work of art, write a provocative novel, build a useful bookshelf, cook a gourmet meal, or repair a car’s engine.” Indeed, those are useful stitches, and I give thanks to God for the people who possess and share such gifts. But they are far from the only gifts that make up life’s tapestry.

Your gifts might not be the same as your neighbors, but don’t devalue them just because they are yours. As St. Thérèse of Lisieux famously wrote, “if all flowers wanted to be roses, nature would lose her spring-time beauty, and the fields would no longer be decked out with little

wildflowers.” Believe me, dear reader, you possess a wonderful gift – a stitch that this world desperately needs.

For example, consider a recent retreat my family and I made to the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky. It’s a Trappist monastery most well-known as the place where Thomas Merton lived, wrote some of the most popular theology books of the 20th century, and carried on correspondence with the most influential politicians, artists, and thinkers of his time.

Unfortunately, that atmosphere of theological discovery, exploration, and creativity is not what my family first noticed. Rather, it was the rule of silence. Meals in the refectory are to be taken in silence. Likewise, there are signs throughout the beautiful gardens asking guests to maintain total silence. This was particularly jarring to my 18-year-old son. Though he speaks only sparingly, he intuitively resisted this rule of silence because it felt arbitrary and heavy-handed.

But clarity came when I asked him to look around the room at all the other guests. How many of them were struggling with major problems like illnesses and job difficulties? How many were mourning

recent deaths or struggling to make sense of their faith? They needed that silence in order to speak to God and clearly hear God’s response. Our being silent wasn’t a rule imposed on us; it was an opportunity to offer a gift to them by holding the silence for them. That was the simple but profoundly necessary stitch we were able to provide to our fellow guests. As Thomas Merton himself once said, “the justification of silence in our life is that we love one another enough to be silent together.”

Holding the silence for others in the midst of an oppressively noisy world is just one example of the stitch you can contribute to life’s tapestry. I’m sure you can think of many more that are just as simple, attainable, and needful for those around us. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Cor. 12:7) So rest assured that you indeed possess gifts, and that God gave them to you so that you could use them to bless others. What is your “one stitch”? The world needs you to add it, no matter how simple or insignificant you think it is. Add it, dear friend, to the magnificent tapestry of life we all share together.

~ Pastor Schul





Lutheran Campus
Ministry / Lutheran
Student Community at
Penn State

Life on campus is full and brings lots of fun and challenges! In the midst of it all, Lutheran Campus Ministry offers a variety of community, prayer, learning and service opportunities for Penn State students. Here are some highlights!

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

Contemporary Worship at 6 p.m., shared with Lutheran Campus Ministry at Grace Lutheran Church, 205 South Garner Street.

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.



Help Us Welcome Students!!

Want to help PSU students find a welcoming place when they come for worship? The Student Ministry Team is reforming and will work alongside Deacon Alicia Anderson in reaching out to students. Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Planning and Vision Setting
- Greeting and Welcoming Students
- Preparing Meals or Snacks for students
- Hosting Student Meals
- Shared Ministry Projects

Watch for a survey link in e-notes, or you can email campus minister Alicia Anderson at lutheran@psu.edu for more info or to volunteer.



Questions, Not Answers

“QNA” will meet on **Sunday Sept 10 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.

Our discussion question will be, **“Would it be a good thing to be immortal – the kind where you don’t die?”**



September 4

Happy Labor Day, NO School

September 5

1st Day of School

September 7

GLP's 57th Anniversary

September 11 & 14

Chapel, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

September 15

Staff Meeting, 12:15-2:15 p.m.,
Fireside Room, NO Enrichment
classes

September 20

Tumblebus begins, 12-12:30 p.m.,
GLC parking lot

September 21 & 22

Preschool Fall Picture Days

September 28 & 29

Preschool Fall Picture Make-Up
Days

**Substitute Teaching
positions available for
2023-2024 School Year**



Grace Lutheran Preschool is searching for substitute teachers for the 2023-2024 school year.

Substitute

teachers must have a high school diploma and experience working with preschool-aged children. Send a cover letter and resume to Cathy Smarkusky, GLP Director, at csmarkusky@glcpa.org.

Christian Focus Box for September

Christian Theme – “God Made Me Special”

“Children are a gift from the Lord.” ~Psalm 127:3

Science Theme: Let’s Investigate

Enrichment Theme: Budding Artists

Grace Lutheran Preschool Leadership

Cathy Smarkusky, GLP Director, and Dawn Vanden Heuvel, Assistant Director, will be starting their 7th year as the school administrators.



Cathy

Cathy will be working in the office **M-F from 8-3 p.m.**

She will be available to discuss all aspects and concerns for families and staff of GLP.

Dawn’s work hours will be **M-F from 8:30-2:45 p.m.** She will be available to support staff, teachers, and families with administrative and financial needs for the school.



Dawn

Back to School 2023-2024

The new school year is right around the corner and we are looking forward to it with happy anticipation!

The church parking lot is a busy place throughout the day and we have some parking safety reminders now that school is starting. The safety of our GLP children is our first concern. Please follow these rules to help keep all children safe:

- Watch for children when parking or backing up.
- Follow the one-way direction of the parking lot.
- Drive at a low speed.
- A chain is used in our parking lot on week-days during school hours to avoid people using our lot as a cut-through from Foster to Beaver Avenue. Please do not remove the chain while it is in use, as it is for the protection and safety of our students.



The Tumblebus will be parked near the preschool entrance every Wednesday during the school year. Please be aware that several of the parking spaces will be blocked. Be on the lookout for children walking around the bus to go home at **12:30 p.m.**

Openings for the 2023-2024 School Year

We are currently accepting registrations for this school year. We offer small structured classes, flexible options, and a caring Christian environment to help children reach their full potential.

- 2-, 3-, and 5-day morning classes for children aged 2y 7m, 3y, 4y, and Jr. Kindergarten
 - Morning classes are licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Please contact us to request a classroom visit or for more information.
- E-Mail: glpk@glcpa.org
 - Phone: 814-238-8110
 - Web: www.glcpapreschool.org

If you or someone you know is looking for a Christian preschool, please share our contact information.

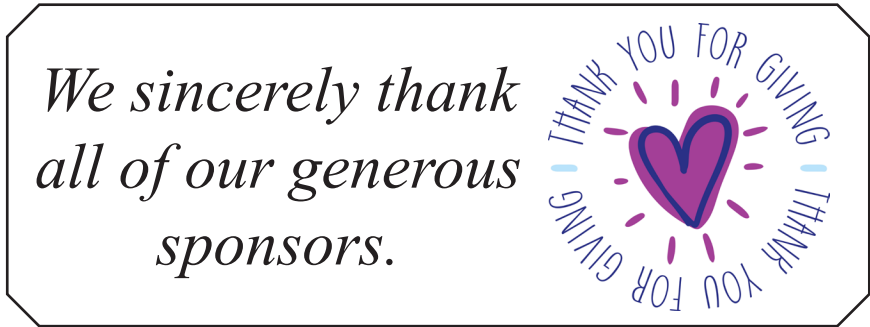
September Worship Sponsors

Altar Flowers Bulletin Covers Radio Sponsors

Sept. 3 Jane & George Myers Dedicated in honor of their grandchildren, Olivia, Zach, & Keegan	Sept. 3 The Kim Family Dedicated in memory of Brian Oyler	Sept. 3 Open
Sept. 10 Helen & Dick Brenneman Dedicated to the Glory of God	Sept. 10 Helen & Dick Brenneman Dedicated to the Glory of God	Sept. 10 Helen & Dick Brenneman Dedicated to the Glory of God
Sept. 17 Open	Sept. 17 Don & Deana Coine Dedicated in memory of Don's mother Sandra	Sept. 17 Joyce Sipple Dedicated to the Glory of God
Sept. 24 Bob & Lisa Byers Dedicated to the memory of Patricia Byers	Sept. 24 Bob & Lisa Byers Dedicated in memory of Patricia Byers	Sept. 24 Bob & Lisa Byers Dedicated to the memory of Patricia Byers

Live-Stream Sponsors

Sept. 3 Connie Kurtz Dedicated to the Glory of God
Sept. 10 Helen & Dick Brenneman Dedicated to the Glory of God
Sept. 17 Daryl & Nancy Johnson Dedicated to the Glory of God
Sept. 24 Bob & Lisa Byers Dedicated to the memory of Patricia Byers



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

Sept. 3 Joe and Cindy Nicosia	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).
Sept. 10 no coffee hour	
Sept. 17 Laurel and Graham Sanders	
Sept. 24 Marilyn Peterson and Deb Lux	

Acolytes - Kristin Knowles kristinmknowles@gmail.com

9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Sept. 3 Lily and Gunnar Rinehimer	Sept. 3 Fiona and Caitlin Knowles
Sept. 10 Sydney Lintal and Netta Horn	Sept. 10 Anna Long and Anna Coup
Sept. 17 Kaylin Slane and Lauren Knowles	Sept. 17 Mya and Jordan Hockenberry
Sept. 24 Renee Buda and Andy Horn	Sept. 24 Gunnar and Lily Rinehimer

Lectors - Ann Burke 814-364-5096 ambrmb1@verizon.net

8 a.m.	9 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Sept. 3 Dennis Snider	Sept. 3 Open	Sept. 3 Ellen Campbell
Sept. 10 Julie Miller	Sept. 10 Open	Sept. 10 Ethylee Nordberg
Sept. 17 Open	Sept. 17 Brian Christian	Sept. 17 Melissa Hackenberry
Sept. 24 Open	Sept. 24 Open	Sept. 24 Terry Roof

Pastoral Acts for August

Cyrus Weigold, son of Andrew and Lauren Weigold, was baptized and welcomed into the Church of Christ and family of Grace on August 27, 2023.

September Birthdays



1 Tammy Davis	5 Cameron Houseknecht	13 Matthew Lazorcik	21 Joyce Gilbert Sipple	26 Dawn Vanden Heuvel
1 Rainer Domalski	5 Eric Rosengrant	13 Carley Paige Donnell	21 Linlee Susan Oyler	26 Kenneth Fogleman
1 Leah Cable	5 Craig Houtz	13 Devin Christian	21 Stephen Fleagle	26 Kyle Cunningham
1 James Balthaser	6 Jack Albert	13 Lynn Royse	21 Katherine Horn	26 Gloria Nieweg
2 Becca Stroschein	6 Larry Espenshade	14 Karl Larson	21 Edward Rowland Jenkins	26 Carol Grim
2 Michelle DeBord	7 William Newcomb	14 Kenneth Joseph Vermillion	21 David Will	27 Leslie Syrett
2 Evelyn Horn	7 Samantha Moyer	15 Logan Proctor	22 William Fishburn	27 Elizabeth Broberg
3 Curt Kunes	7 Mary Breon	15 Krista Pennebaker	22 Jane Weyandt	27 Ellen Freeman
3 Tyler Rundle	7 Matthew Dove	16 Regan Houseknecht	22 Nicholas Friedken	28 Dawn E. Kay
3 Andrew Stager	8 Earl Lutz Jr.	16 Dennis McClure	22 Jessica Lee Shisler	28 Karen Wagner Pollack
4 Donelle Cook	8 Robert Lambert	16 Riley Blake	22 Sage Kremser	28 Debra Stewart
4 William Cocolin	8 Patrick Jeanmenne	17 Shawn Kauffman	22 Archie Yiengst	28 Sue McCool
4 Robert Hampton	8 Robert Rabb	17 Kaitlyn Knobloch	23 Nolan Foster	28 Zach Moore
4 Ethan Horn	9 Melissa Wandrisco	17 Jena Hosband	23 Anna Burke	29 Ella McDyre
4 Emma Horn	9 Rachel Shearer	18 Deanna Afflitto	23 Adam Schultz	29 Ireland McDyre
5 Celia Graef	10 James Scourtis	18 Ellen Campbell	23 Tina Maggi	29 Sharon Shurgalla
5 Dolores Ritter	10 Ted Graef	18 Jason Whitney	23 Samantha Guss	29 Lawrence Walker
5 Diane Servello	10 Tracey Lazorcik	19 Marlin Weaver	24 Taya Smith	29 Adam Cocolin
	10 David Huebner	19 Emma Burger	24 Nancy Fogleman	30 Amy Prior
	10 K.C. Hirth	19 Paul Wagner	24 Colin Hirth	30 Ashlyn Karchner
	10 Linda Domin	19 Jordan Pieniazek	24 Thomas Horn	30 Anthony Buda
	11 Ryan Miller	19 Janet Lybarger	24 David Pencek	30 Thomas Drake
	11 Jon Brockopp	19 Bailey Stoltzfus	24 Erin Grim	30 Ariel Williams
	11 Alexandra Hetrick	19 Linda Christensen	24 Tanner Ebeling	30 Marie Elaine Hughes
	12 Beth Shafranko	20 Michael Leidy	24 Elizabeth Smirat	
	12 Sara Cocolin	20 Lila Leidy	25 Heather Haller	
	13 Sara Conklin	20 Hadleigh Desmarais	25 Coleman Gross	
	13 Devin Christian			

Prayer List for September

All Military & National Guard and all serving in war-torn countries
 Mary Breon
 Tisana Breon, sister of Mary Breon
 The family of Jason Brooks nephew of Juliana & Lynn Herman
 Jim Campbell
 Vickie Chambers, sister of Deana Coine
 Deana Coine
 William Davies
 Annika Dellert
 Kevin Eby and family, friends of the Koths
 Steve & Janet Ellis, family of The Louder's
 Norma Flanagan, mother of Jim Flanagan
 Cay Griel
 Rob Griffin
 Posey Haney

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
 Craig Peery and family upon the death of Merilee Peery
 Forest Remick
 Sharon Rivell
 Denise Rohrbach, godmother to Aaron Rohrbach
 Archie Sutherland
 Val Updegrove
 Janet Zerbe
 Eleanor Zindler



Praying
 FOR You

Grace Notes

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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
- 6:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship in the sanctuary with
Holy Communion
Christian praise songs with Psalm 151 worship team
- 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.