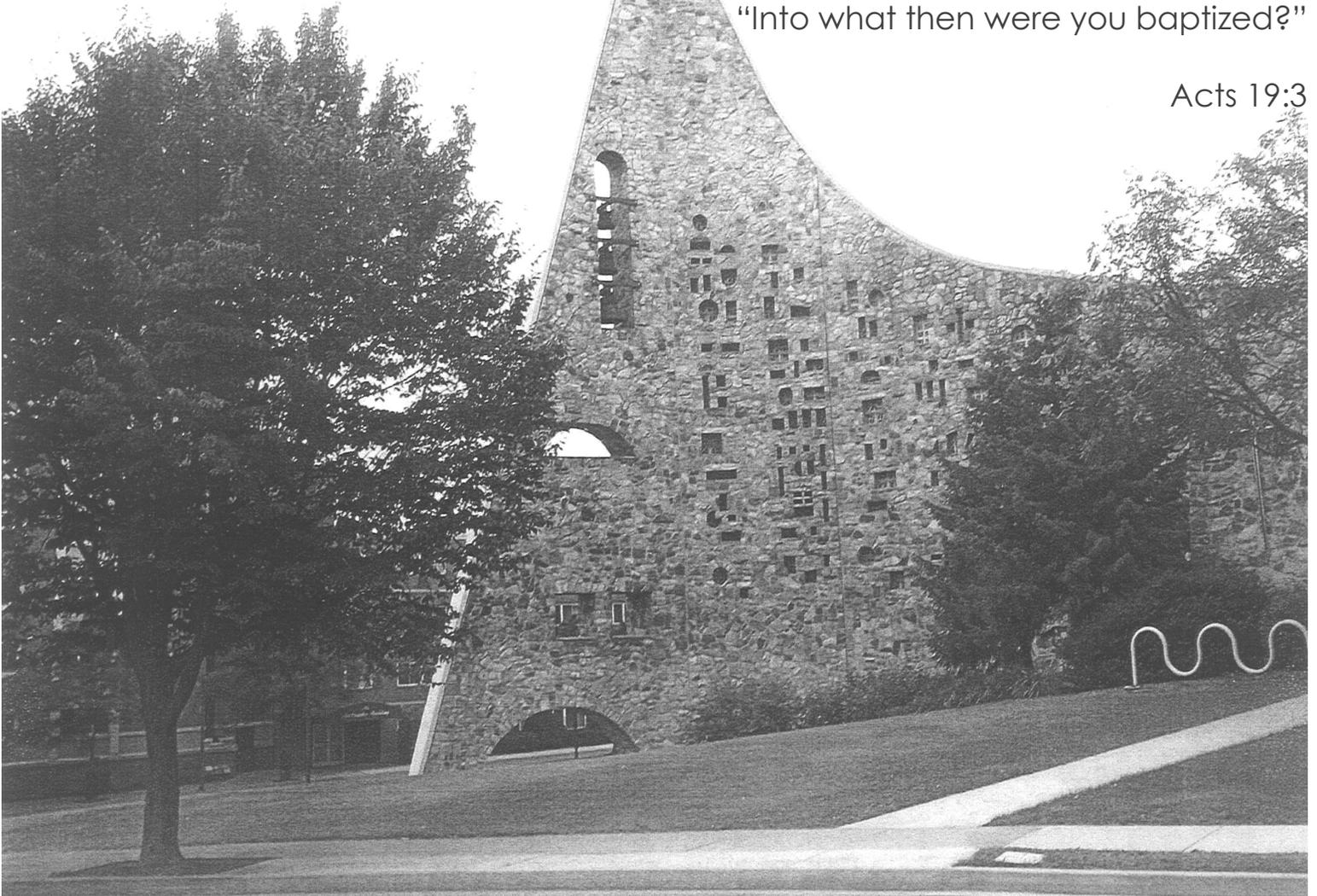


Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

"Into what then were you baptized?"

Acts 19:3



SUNDAY, January 10, 2021
Baptism of Our Lord

10:30 a.m. radio worship service
WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM

A Video Edition will also be available by
7 am each Sunday at Grace's website,
Facebook page and YouTube channel.

205 S. Garner St., State College, PA 16801

phone: 814-238-2478

email: churchoffice@glcpa.org

web address: www.glcpa.org



Our Mission Statement: *"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."*

ABOUT TODAY'S THEME...Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

A WORD ON THE READINGS...**The First Lesson:** Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life. **The Second Lesson:** In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit. **The Gospel Lesson:** Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

Forgot your checks? Not carrying cash? No worries! You can still make an offering. Go to www.glcpc.org and click the word "**GIVE**" on the far right to make an online credit card donation. Thank you!

MILESTONE MINISTRY AT GRACE

At Grace we celebrate milestones. Milestones are designed to connect significant occasions in people's lives with their ongoing journey of faith. A Milestone Moment brings family, friends, and congregations together to mark a special time in their lives and acknowledge and affirm God's presence in their midst. It is a tool to connect home and church in the child's and family's faith life. In addition to naming (the occasion), blessing (the person) and gifting (the gift), we send along an "At Home" sheet to reinforce the milestone with caring conversation.

↑ = Please stand as you are able

↓ = Please be seated

Follow Grace on Social Media

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/glcstatecollege

Twitter:
[@GraceLCPA](https://twitter.com/GraceLCPA)

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church - State College, Pennsylvania

PRELUDE *Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God*.....arr. Wayne Wold

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Congregation: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

GATHER

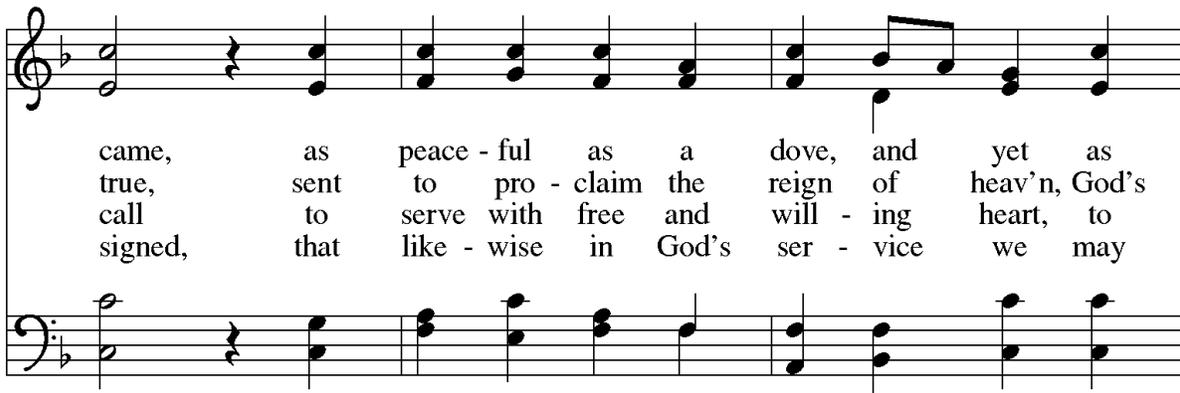
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING HYMN *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*ELW #304

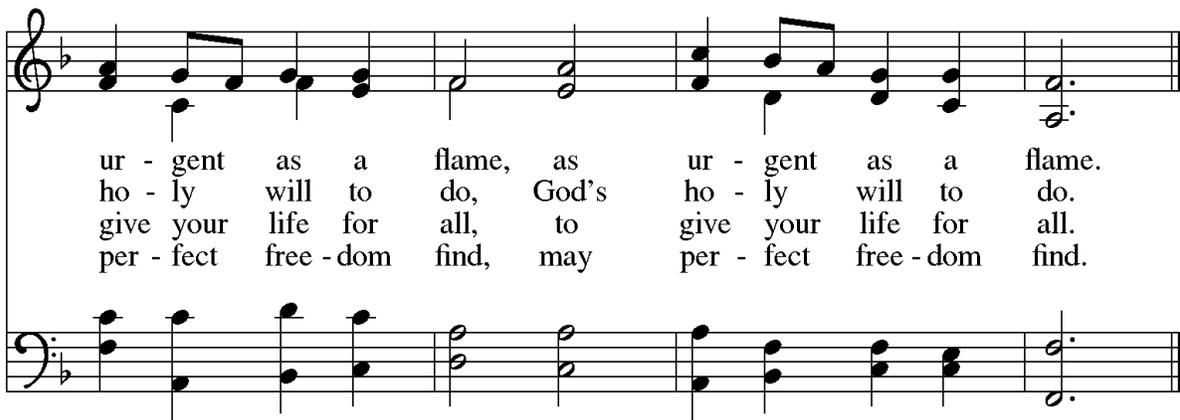
Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight - way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561
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P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FEED

*God speaks to us in scripture reading,
and feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON.....Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

HOLY GOSPEL.....Mark 1:4-11

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.** *(spoken)*

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.** *(spoken)*

SERMON.....Pastor Hetrick

HYMN OF THE DAY *When Jesus Came to Jordan*.....ELW #305

When Jesus Came to Jordan



1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John,
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;



he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond - age break.



He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:



to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune

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APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he
descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is
seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to
judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection
of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Response after each petition:

P: Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

WE SHARE THE LORD'S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Renew Me, O Eternal Light.....arr. Paul Manz

*During the offertory, take a moment to thank God for all that
God has provided to you. Ask God to reveal how God is
calling you to share your time, treasures, and talents.*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: O God, receive our gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.

C: **Amen.**

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

SEND

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *God, Whose Almighty Word.....ELW #673*

God, Whose Almighty Word

1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.
 Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on “*God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*”.....arr. Edward Good



Today’s bulletin is sponsored by Bruce & Rebecca Desmarais
Dedicated in honor of baptismal anniversary of Hadleigh & Emerson

Today’s radio broadcast on WRSC—1390 AM & 93.3 FM is sponsored
by Linda Domin
Dedicated in memory of her husband Tony Domin

The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor.....pastorschul@glcpa.org
The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, Associate Pastor.pastorhetrick@glcpa.org
Cindy Fritz, Peter Horn, Faith Formation.....faithformation@glcpa.org
Laurel Sanders, Music & Arts Ministry Coordinator..lsanders@glcpa.org
Nathan Glocke.....Adult Choir Director
Cynthia Mills.....Organist
Pat Lloyd & June Miller.....Pianists
Joan Kovalchik.....Flute
Anna Carol Buffington.....The Bells of Grace Director

The Rev. P. Stevens Lynn.....Pastor Emeritus

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ELW 673 – God, Whose Almighty Word

PRAYER CONCERNS for January 10, 2021

All Military & Nat'l Guard and all serving in war-torn countries
 Alicia Anderson and family upon the death of her mother, Dorothy
 Theresa Alves, friend of Brenda Kim
 Deb Baysinger's cousin
 Sylvia Belanger, mother of Joe Belanger
 The family and friends of Greg Boros upon his death
 Debbie Bolthouse
 Barbara Braun's niece
 Mary & Phil Bucher
 Andrew Campell, friend of Pastor Schul
 Michael Cartwright and family upon The death of his mother Mary
 Sandy Cassady
 Denise Centini
 The family of Nancy Chapa upon her death
 Scott Cocolin
 Carol Confer
 Cathy Cutter
 William Davies
 Marie Dallery mother of Sharon Shurgalla
 Eti Dvir, mother-in-law of Rachel Wolkenhauer
 Patrick Dugan, grandson of Paul & Kathryn Mackes
 Steve Ellis
 Craig Evanego
 Jane Gamble, sister-in-law of Holly Stoltzfus

Lyn Garling, friend of Pastor Hetrick
 Vicki Garvin
 Mary Ann Hanelly and family, friends of Betsy Will
 Shawn Hintosh
 Dick Houtz
 Bob Igoe
 Kate Kempf, daughter of Pete And Angie Kempf & granddaughter of Merle & Kathy McCalips
 June Krumrine
 Paul & Sandy Larson
 Linda Leslie mother of Brianne Slane
 Paul Lloyd, son of Pat Lloyd
 Shirley Lucas
 Tom Lucas
 Paul Mackes
 Carol Major, friend of Brenda Palmgren
 Dennis McClure
 Danielle McHenry
 Kim Marsh
 Anthony Middleton, friend of Pastor Hetrick
 Bob Miller, father of Julie Miller
 Amy Nevling
 Dottie Niklos, mother of Bob Igoe

Allison Peretin, friend of Elaine Ebeling
 Zach Pfeil, brother of Megan Widener
 Margie Prothro, sister of Ed Jenkins
 Sophia Reutzel
 Dottie Roberts
 Becky Rogers
 Margaret Schrock, mother of Kathy Weimer
 Nancy Schuchert, mother of Joe Schuchert
 Pastor Schul and family upon the death of his godmother Madeline Anderson
 Ken Shultz
 William D. Snape Sr., brother of Phyllis Favorite
 Emily & Charlotte Speary
 Jack Sylves and family and grandparents Tom and Marj Eakin
 Tom & Claudette, friends of Helen and Dick Brenneman
 Karen Tupman, cousin of Phyllis Favorite
 Brenda & Ken Walsh
 Greg Weimer
 Lisa Wiedemer and family upon the death of her father, Darrell Engelhardt

Members in the hospital



Prayer is a powerful gift and tool God gives to us. *Please pray for the request each day of the week during your daily prayer time. Just think how powerful it would be if all our members prayed for the same thing each day.*

A prayer as we reflect upon baptism:

May we hear the gospel of Christ, the word of life. May we see the light of Christ illumining our way. May we sing the praise of Christ, the joy of the church. May God dwell within us by faith. May God's mercy may be known in our work. May we follow in the way of Christ.

Worship Opportunities at Grace

Grace Lutheran offers a live radio broadcast of worship each Sunday morning at 10:30 am on WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM and on smart devices. Grace also offers weekly prerecorded video worship services, which are available by 7:00 am every Sunday morning on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel.

In the "Pocketful Of Grace" podcast each Wednesday, Pastor Schul and Pastor Hetrick discuss the upcoming Sunday lessons. It is available on our website or through Spotify, Tune In/Alexa, and iTunes. Wherever you go, take along a Pocketful of Grace.



2021 Offering Envelopes are here



The 2021 offering envelopes are located in the Narthex in the coat rack area at the top of the stairs from the main entrance. They are available for pick up week days from 8 am till 2 pm. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. Please check that the envelope number on the top of the box matches the number located in the little window on the front of the box. If they do not match please contact the church office immediately. If you have signed up for ACH or are using Tithley and on longer using offering envelopes please let the church office know so we can re-assign the envelope number as needed.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE all who were baptized in 2020 even as we remember and give thanks for our own baptism . Please help us celebrate with:

**Hadleigh & Emerson Desmarais,
Lila Schubert, Miles Morales and
Andrew Weigold.**

Reaffirmation
of **Baptism**



“Bright Spots” - 2021 Lenten Devotional
Booklet



Lenten
Devotionals

We have now been through more than nine months of the pandemic – quarantine, stay-at-home orders, keep your circle small, social distancing, every vacation and all travel cancelled, masks, masks, and more masks – yes, we are all so weary of this.

However, in the midst of this bleakness, there have been “*Bright Spots.*” For our Lenten Devotional Booklet, we are asking Grace Church members to share a “bright spot”. Think of unexpected moments when someone reached out with an act of kindness, or something you have discovered about your family or yourself. There are many great stories to share!

Please write about your “*Bright Spots.*” Also include your favorite scripture (this does not need to relate to your story.) Writings should be 400 words or less. Please send by January 20 to Sally Horn, sjh10@psu.edu. Thank you.

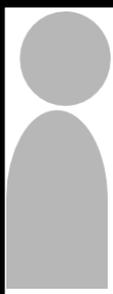
Centre Safe Collections will take place
from January 17th thru February 5th.

Instead of collecting physical items like (sheets, kitchen items, etc.) we will be collecting monetary items for Centre Safe. Your donations can be made by check or by Tithely.



New Member Sunday January 24th

Grace would like to welcome those who wish to become members of Grace on this Sunday. If you are feeling Jesus calling you to be a member of Grace, please email Pastor Schul (pastorschul@glcpa.org), Pastor Hetrick (pastorhetrick@glcpa.org), or call the church office at 814-238-2478.



Adult Forum Sundays 9:30-10:30 am via Zoom

Join Us
as your schedule allows and
topics are of interest!

Any adult is welcome to join us anytime—no preparation needed. Contact Dotty Delafield (readoooodles@me.com) for a zoom link to the class.



Support Grace’s Ministry: Grace’s church building may be closed, but Christ’s Church remains vibrantly open! Grace needs your continued financial support in order to fund all of our ministries. You may continue to mail your offerings to Grace. Tithe.ly also provides a secure way to provide your offering via any major credit card. Visit www.glcpc.org and click on the GIVE button at the top of the page. If you set up an account with [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) using your Visa, MasterCard, American Express, JCB, Discover, or Diners Club card, you can support our ministries even when you cannot be present. Finally, a form for Direct Debit giving (via your bank) is available on our website at <https://tinyurl.com/yx8andkj>; just mail it to **Grace Lutheran Church at 205 South Garner Street, State College, 16801**. That is the absolute best way to provide for the regular funding of all that we do here at Grace to the glory of God and the service of our neighbors. Thank you for your commitment to our ministries during this challenging time.

Garden of Readin’ January 19 - The January meeting of Garden of Readin’ (women's book club) will be Tuesday, January 19 at 10:30 am remotely via Zoom. The next book is *The Home for Unwanted Girls* by Joanna Goodman. The discussion will be facilitated by Susan DeMetrick. Contact Laura Pauley (llp1@psu.edu) or Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net) for more info.



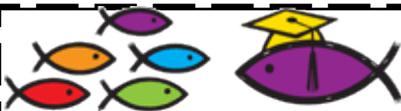
2021 sponsorships needed for bulletins and radio broadcasts – Help Grace bring live radio worship (Sundays at 10:30 am on WRSC) by sponsoring a radio broadcast in honor of, in memory of or to the Glory of God. As of January 2021 the cost of a weekly broadcast is \$200 per week, reflecting a modest increase in what the station charges Grace. Bulletins can also be sponsored for a cost of \$25 per week. Currently we have March 7 & 21, April 25 available for for the start of 2021 radio sponsorships, and many dates for bulletin sponsorships are also available. For details, or to sign up, contact Sheri Rider, our Office Manager, at srider@glcpc.org or call the church office at 238-2478.



State College Food Bank

Thank you! Your donations for the food bank keep on coming. Isn't that wonderful? If you haven't donated via Grace yet, please consider it. There is tremendous need now. We've donated \$4756.14 in the first six months of the pandemic. *A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor. Proverbs 22:9*

Word in Season devotional booklets available – If you would like to receive a copy of the Word in Season devotional booklets for January, February and March, you can pick up a copy in a basket on the waiting area bench inside the main entrance at Grace. Alternatively, Sally Keiser-Bankert will be happy to mail you a copy upon request. Please contact her via email at sal-lykb@verizon.net.



Substitute Teacher Positions for 2020-2021

**SUBSTITUTES
NEEDED**

Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten (GLPK) is searching for substitute teacher's aides and teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. No experience is necessary for the substitute teacher's aides positions. Substitute teachers with a bachelor's degree in elementary education or early childhood education is beneficial, but not required. Send cover letter and resume to Cathy Smarkusky, GLPK Director, at csmarkusky@glcpa.org or call her at 238-8110 for more information.



Faith 5th



SHARE

a "high" and a "low" – what's been the best part of your day, and what's been the hardest part of your day.



READ

from God's Word. A Scripture verse or story will be provided and read by the glow of the fire.



TALK

about the meaning of God's living Word and how it speaks to your life – maybe even your highs and lows – at this time.



PRAY

with and for one another and the world, lifting one another in prayer and praising the God of life and love.



BLESS

with simple words and a cross traced upon each others' foreheads, we remind one another that we belong to the living God.

ALL
THE
GLOOMINESS
IN THE WORLD
CANNOT
EXTINGUISH

**THE
LIGHT
OF A
SINGLE
CANDLE**

ST. FRANCIS

JANUARY 10, 2021
BAPTISM OF
OUR LORD



Jesus is God's beloved, and so are we.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 1:4-11	The baptism of Jesus
Monday	Genesis 1:1-5	God creates light
Tuesday	Acts 19:1-7	Paul baptizes in Ephesus
Wednesday	Mark 15:33-39	Death of Jesus
Thursday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Unity in the body of Christ
Friday	Galatians 3:19-29	The purpose of the law
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of God in the storm
Sunday	John 1:43-51	Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:11 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for Jesus, your Beloved Son and our Savior and for claiming us in baptism as your loved children now and always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of tender care, as we are given strength from this meal, may we remember with joy that we are your beloved children through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)



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JANUARY 10, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
You are Mine



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is a dramatic event you have witnessed or heard about?
- Have you experienced a baptism as a life-changing event? Explain.
- How was Jesus' baptism a life-changing event for the world?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 1:4-11.

Jesus' baptism is marked by dramatic events. Not only did Jesus go out to John in the wilderness, but so did "all the people of Jerusalem" (v. 5). John, who has a strong following acknowledges that Jesus, the one to come after John, is so much more important, that John is not worthy to untie Jesus' sandals. Jesus' own baptizing will bring with it the Holy Spirit, not just the call to repentance, as was the baptism of John. The Holy Spirit will make Jesus' baptism and the Christian baptism different (see Acts 19:1-7). Then, the most dramatic moment happens, the moment that defines Jesus' baptism as a cosmic shattering event: the heavens were torn apart and the Spirit of God came down, appearing like a dove. The tearing apart of the heavens will be matched by the tearing apart of the curtain in the temple at the time of Jesus' death (Mark 15:38). Jesus' baptism is linked with the cosmic shattering event of his death that changes for all time our relationship to God. This is something that we participate in through our own baptisms, another earth-shattering experience filled with love that claims us as God's beloved children. Is being claimed by God in baptism earth shattering to you? Why or why not?

Pray: God of glory and might, help us to see and believe in your earth-shattering power and love for us and to see that love embrace us in the remembrance of our baptisms. Amen.

SERVICE

The baptism of Jesus took place using water. Water is essential to life. It is important that rivers, lakes, and oceans stay clean but they can get and have been contaminated by people's actions. What are some things we can do to help keep our waters clean and free of pollution?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The "Baptism of our Lord Sunday" is a time to recall our own baptisms. This week in your home, light a candle, perhaps your own baptismal candle. Dip your fingers into a bowl of water and mark the sign of the cross on your forehead or the foreheads of one another. As you mark the sign of the cross, give this blessing:

Say: You are God's beloved child.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org