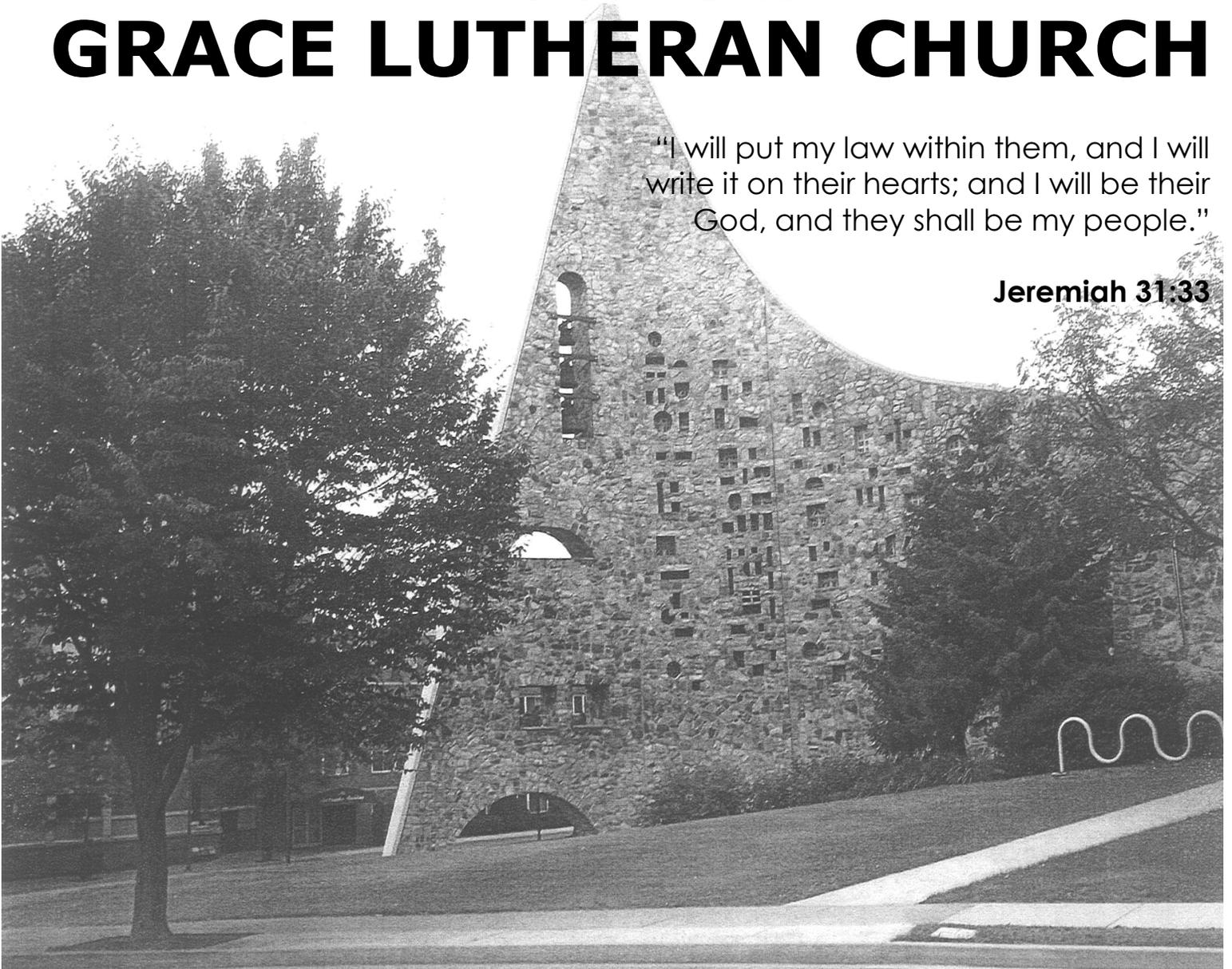


Welcome to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

"I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Jeremiah 31:33



SUNDAY, March 21, 2021
5th Sunday in Lent

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

phone: 814-238-2478

email: churchoffice@glcpa.org

web address: www.glcpa.org

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.**



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... God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

A WORD ON THE READINGS... **The First Lesson:** The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts. **The Second Lesson:** Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation. **The Gospel Lesson:** Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

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.

Follow Grace on Social Media

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/glcstatecollege

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

YouTube:
Search for
"Grace Lutheran State College, PA "

**Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church
State College, Pennsylvania**

PRELUDE *My Song Is Love Unknown*.....arr. Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

Congregation: Amen.

P: God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Kneel/Sit

P: Fountain of living water,

C: Pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

P: Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

C: Amen.

GATHER

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

GATHERING HYMN *Christ, the Life of All the Living*.....ELW # 339

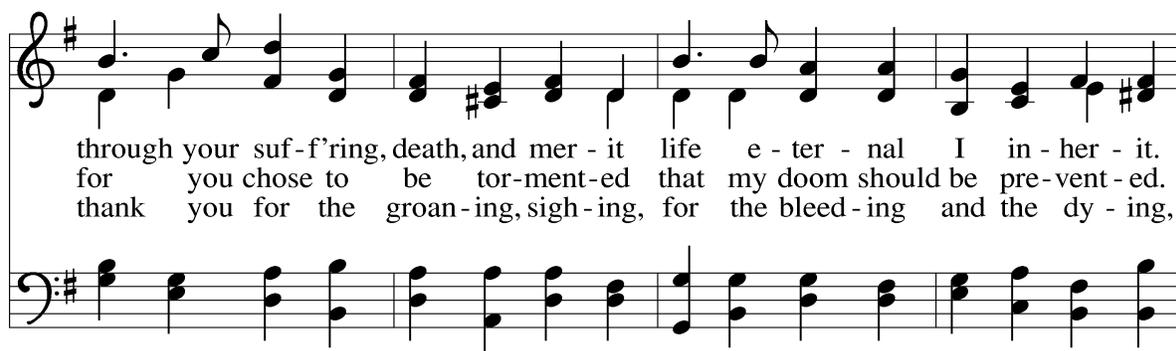
Christ, the Life of All the Living



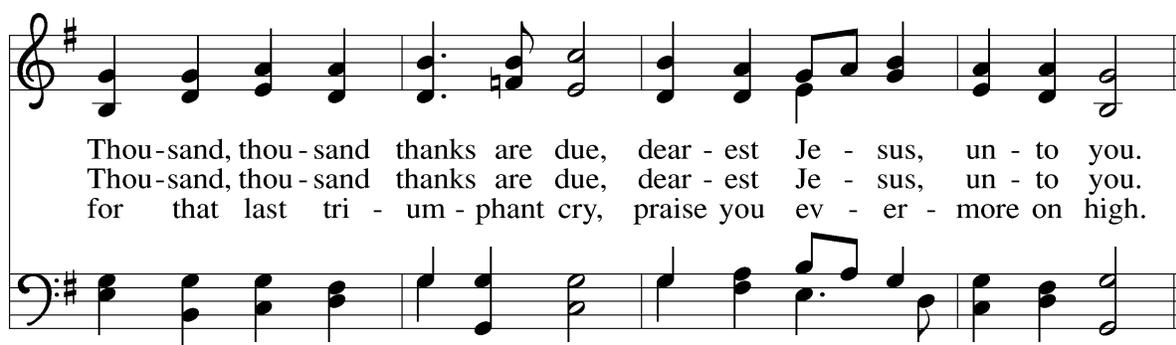
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

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.

[1517 Media has informed us that we cannot print this service

KYRIE

ELW p. 156-157

music in a manner that can be downloaded.]

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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.*

MINISTRY MOMENT

FIRST LESSON.....Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PSALM: PSALM 119— Please sing responsively from selected verses.

[1517 Media has informed us that we cannot print the psalm tone in a manner that can be downloaded]

P: With my whole | heart I seek you;
let me not stray from | your commandments.

**C: I treasure your promise | in my heart,
that I may not | sin against you.**

P: Blessed are | you, O LORD;
instruct me | in your statutes.

**C: I take greater delight in the way of | your decrees
than in all man- | ner of riches.**

P: I will meditate on | your commandments
and give attention | to your ways.

**C: My delight is | in your statutes;
I will not for- | get your word.**

SECOND LESSON.....Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;
⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

DISCUSSION OF THE LESSONS

HOLY GOSPEL..... John 12:20-33

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 12th chapter.

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

[²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON.....Pastor Hetrick

HYMN OF THE DAY *Now the Green Blade Rises*.....ELW # 323

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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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 resurrec-
tion of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS 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

Christ, the Life of All the Living.....arr. Flor Peeters

*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: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our
hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us, that we may pass over
from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Nunc Dimittis— Song of Simeon

(ELW p. 135)

[1517 Media has informed us that we cannot print this music in a manner that can be downloaded.]

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 *Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church.....ELW # 321*

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
 so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003
 Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551
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SENDING

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *On What Now Has Been Sown*.....arr. Healy Willan



Today's bulletin is sponsored by Andrew & Leslie Elder
Dedicated in memory of their parents

Today's radio broadcast on WRSC—1390 AM & 93.3 FM is sponsored
by Ken & Irene Harpster
Dedicated in honor of their wedding anniversary

Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor.....pastorschul@glcpa.org
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
Karl Hosterman.....Sound Technician

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

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ELW 339 – Christ, the Life of All the Living

PRAYER CONCERNS for March 21, 2021

All Military & Nat'l Guard and all serving in war-torn countries
 Theresa Alves, friend of Brenda Kim
 Deb Baysinger's cousin
 Sylvia Belanger, mother of Joe Belanger
 Debbie Bolthouse
 Barbara Braun's niece
 Mary & Phil Bucher
 Ellen Cable and family, upon the Death of her step-father Bob Fry
 Ann Cathcart
 Sandy Cassady
 Denise Centini
 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
 Rose Fedora, friend of Elaine Ebeling

Barry Fisher
 Jane Gamble, sister-in-law of Holly Stoltzfus
 Vicki Garvin
 Lori & Scott Given, friends of Don & Deana Coine
 Mae and Ellen, friends of Alice Griffin
 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
 Lois Laurence, cousin of Carolyn Fishburn
 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
 Amy Nevling

Dottie Niklos, mother of Bob Igoe
 Zach Pfeil, brother of Megan Widener
 Margie Prothro, sister of Ed Jenkins
 Sophia Reutzel
 Becky Rogers
 Bev Sampsell
 Margaret Schrock, mother of Kathy Weimer
 Nancy Schuchert, mother of Joe Schuchert
 Ken Shultz
 William D. Snape Sr., brother of Phyllis Favorite
 Emily & Charlotte Spearly
 Jack Sylves and family and grandparents Tom and Marj Eakin
 Karen Tupman, cousin of Phyllis Favorite
 Jan Walk, friend of Elaine Ebeling
 Brenda & Ken Walsh
 Greg Weimer
 Walter Wieczorek, friend of Elaine Ebeling

Members in the hospital

Cay Griel
 Dottie Roberts



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.*

As we approach Holy Week, and we hear of God's heart and new life, we pray: O God, bring new life where we are worn and tired; new love where we have turned hard-hearted; forgiveness where we have wounded; and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are prisoners of ourselves.

Lenten 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. You can tune in and listen by going to our website, www.glcpa.org and clicking on Sermons in the upper right hand corner. Just below the picture of the cross on that page you will see “Listen to Grace Podcasts here!” Click HEAR PODCASTS and catch up with prayers, questions and discussion. It is also available on our website or through Spotify, Tune In/Alexa, and iTunes. Wherever you go, take along a Pocketful of Grace.



6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Lenten Prayer– Each Wednesday in Lent, the pastors will lead a 15 minute contemplative evening prayer service by candlelight. You can access the service by going to our website, www.glcpa.org and clicking on the blue triangle on the right hand side of the page. It will take you to our YouTube channel, “Grace Lutheran State College, PA.” At the top you will see Worship videos and the first category will say “Wednesday Evening Prayer.” The service is recorded for viewing at other times too.

Holy Week and Easter at Grace

Thursday, April 1: Online Maundy Thursday Worship
Debuts at 6:30 pm on Grace’s YouTube Channel

Friday, April 2: Online Good Friday (Tenebrae) Worship
Debuts at 6:30 pm on Grace’s YouTube Channel

Sunday, April 4: Drive-in Easter Worship at Grace’s Parking Lot
6:30 AM, 7:30 AM, 8:30 AM, and 9:30 AM
Each service will include Holy Communion

Sunday, April 4: Easter on the Radio
Live worship broadcast beginning at 10:30 AM on WRSC (1390 AM, 93.3 FM, and streamable worldwide)
Video edition debuts at 7 AM on Grace’s YouTube Channel

PALM SUNDAY



We will have palms available outside the main entrance on the porch starting Friday March 26th for pick up.



2021 Worship Sponsorships— All radio broadcast and bulletin sponsorships have been filled for the year 2021. **THANK YOU** for your generous support.



Special Easter Offering Recipient: Camp Sequanota

Camp Sequanota is OUR Lutheran Conference Center and Camp in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains of PA which many of us have enjoyed by attending one of our women's retreats, as a camper, or helping maintain the camp with our Social Ministry & Outreach group, Helping Hands.

Pastor Nathan Pile is the leader of Sequanota and firmly believes that a camp or retreat experience helps people draw closer to God. If you'd like to check it out, join our Helping Hands team which is going to Camp Sequanota May 2-6 to help out with various projects ahead of the summer camping season. (contact Alyson Hoegg at alysonm.hoegg@gmail.com)

If you'd like to make a donation to this Grace Special Easter Offering, please do so via postal mail to our church office with check payable to Grace Lutheran Church and Camp Sequanota on the memo line of your check OR electronically via Tithe.ly on the GIVE page of our website, www.glcpa.org.



State College Food Bank I'm always amazed that I can be hungry again three hours after a satisfying meal. It's true for me just as it is for you and our many neighbors who are hungry. Please join us in donating to the State College Food Bank via Grace. Contributions may be made via postal mail to our church office with SC Food Bank on the memo line of your check, or electronically via Tithe.ly on the GIVE page of our website, www.glcpa.org.

Garden of Readin' April 20 - The April meeting of Garden of Read-in' (women's book club) will be Tuesday, April 20 at 10:30 am remotely via Zoom. The next book is *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. The discussion will be facilitated by Lois Lynn. Contact Laura Pauley (llp1@psu.edu) or Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net) for more info.



Book Drive for Mid-State Literacy Council

This year's book drive to benefit Mid-State Literacy Council will run **March 1-28**

New and 'gently used' fiction and nonfiction books may be placed in the collection container in the church's main entrance Monday thru Thursday from 8am-2pm and Fridays from 8am to noon.

Children's books are especially needed. Thank you!

Contact Maria Bills at mariajbills@gmail.com for more information.

COVID Vaccine Assistance

Are you in need of a COVID vaccine shot, but frustrated by the difficulty of finding an appointment and the accompanying maze of waiting lists and confusing computer sites? Help is on the way! Grace's own Becky Krantweiss is offering to help anyone who needs assistance finding a vaccine appointment. If you would like Becky's assistance, please leave your name with Sheri at Grace's office (238-2478) and she will promptly get you on Becky's list. There is no charge. Becky has graciously donated her time to offer this service.

PAINT for FUN!



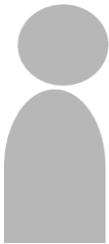
Painting for all Today from 2-4pm via Zoom

Channel your inner "Bob Ross" by painting your own work of art. There will be a video guide as well and a Zoom reveal of our masterpieces on March 28! Instructions will be provided. If you have questions, contact us faithformation@glcpa.org.



2021 Offering Envelopes are here

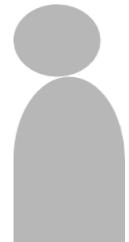
The 2021 offering envelopes are located in the Narthex in the coat rack area at the top of the stairs from the main entrance. They are available for pick up Monday thru Thursday from 8 am till 2 pm and Friday 8 am to noon. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. Please check that the envelope number 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.



Adult Forum Sundays 9:00-10:00 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** 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.



Substitute Teacher Positions for 2020-2021

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.

Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten is now accepting registrations for the 2021-2022 school-year.

If you would like more information about our school and programs please contact us at 238-8110 or glpk@glcpa.org.

Dear Fellow Grace Members, the Interfaith Human Services' Furniture Coordinator reports that furniture donations have been down lately and inventory at the warehouse is running low. If you have gently used furniture or large electric appliances to donate please contact the IHS office at 234-7731 to arrange a "COVID safe" pick-up. There is a desperate need for beds, dressers, sofas, and appliances.



Assistance Needed

Interfaith Human Services seeks assistance for their Furniture Recycling Program. Tasks include the coordination of this program, picking up donated furniture/appliances, and meeting clients to allow them to pick out their needed furniture/appliances.

If there is interest by an individual, group, or several groups in staffing this program, it would be great to hear from you.

Please contact Curt Knouse at 814-234-7731

Interfaith Human Services, IHS provides families and individuals with resources and guidance on their finances to work toward monthly management instead of crisis control.

www.interfaithhumanservices.org

Word in Season devotional booklets available – If you would like to receive a copy of the Word in Season devotional booklets for April, May and June, 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 sallykb@verizon.net.



Faith 5™



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.

MARCH 21, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY
IN LENT



A time for new beginnings.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 12:20-33	The hour has come
Monday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	A new covenant from God
Tuesday	Hebrews 5:5-10	Jesus as high priest
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 3:5-18	Ministers of the new covenant
Thursday	Nehemiah 1:5-11	Nehemiah prays for his people
Friday	Hebrews 8:6-13	A better covenant
Saturday	Psalms 51:1-12	A prayer for cleansing
Sunday	Mark 14:1-15:47	The passion of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:33 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of new beginnings, help us to face our shortcomings knowing that you promise to be our God and that we are your people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, with this food restore our bodies as your promise of love and care for us restores our hearts. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God create in you a clean heart through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.



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MARCH 21, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*My Hope Is Built on
Nothing Less*



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:

- Think or tell about a time you failed at something.
- Failure is a part of life, but when we learn from our mistakes, it is not a total failure, but a learning moment. When have you learned from your mistakes?
- The Bible is filled with mistakes by God's people, yet God refuses to give up on us. What does that say about the God who reaches out to us through Jesus?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Jeremiah 31:31-34.

Jeremiah is speaking to a people who are either in exile in Babylon or about to be conquered and sent to Babylon. The northern kingdom of Israel had already fallen to the Assyrians well over a hundred years before. Now the southern kingdom of Judah is doomed. The people have been unfaithful and God's promises to Abraham, Moses, and David seem to have come to naught. But Jeremiah prophesies, "Not so." God promises to find a new way, a new covenant. This passage is about God's people only because it is about the God who continues to claim them. God will not give up on the people God loves. It is the very nature and character of God not to give up on us. God finds a way by having a new covenant, a new start. What God ordains will happen: we shall be God's people and God will be our God. We are not there yet. We are people of the new covenant, but the prophecy has not happened completely. We still need to be taught, but the day is coming that God's promise will be fulfilled. How do you learn about faith in Christ?

Pray: God of the new covenant, give us faith to trust in your promises and courage to walk in your ways through Jesus Christ, the one who came to set us free. Amen.

SERVICE



Psalms 51 is a prayer for cleansing and pardon. Christian prison ministries reach out to inmates with the love and hope of Jesus Christ. There are many who care for the children and families of prisoners and lead Bible studies and prayer with the prisoners. Pray for those who work with inmates and their families this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



This is our fifth week suggesting the discipline of using the *Daily Bible Readings*. At the core of new beginnings for Christians is the work of God revealed from the cross and in the Bible. Begin each day's reading by reciting Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." Say the *Prayer for the Week* after each reading, add your own prayers, and end by saying: Remember that you are God's, and to God you shall return.



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