



# Grace Notes

Gather • Feed • Send

May 2020

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## The Pathway to the Cross

I have many warm and treasured memories from the medical mission trips I took with Grace to Nicaragua. Our 2016 trip included a visit to the beautiful coffee growing region of Jinotega. After we completed our clinics for the day, the group decided to take a hike on a pathway called "La Peña de La Cruz," which means "The Rock of the Cross." It seemed like an easy enough task, especially when I discovered that it was just over a mile in length.

What I didn't realize is that the pathway, though short, was almost straight up. It was one of the hardest and most exhausting hikes I'd ever taken, and there were a few moments along the way when I was tempted to give up and walk back down. But I kept going because that pathway had become a metaphor for me not only of the mission trip but of the entire life of Christian discipleship. It reminded me that being a follower of Jesus can be daunting and exhausting. So much of discipleship simply involves trust, endurance, and perseverance.

And so that's what I did. I just kept putting one foot ahead of the other, slowly but surely, trusting that as I persevered toward the cross, the effort would indeed be rewarded. At long last I reached the top. There, mounted high on a craggy stone, was a huge metal cross, nearly 20 feet in height. As I touched it, I felt a flood of relief and accomplishment. It was then that I noticed the breathtaking view. From the height of the cross, I could see the lush mountains of the Jinotega region, the town of San Rafael del Norte, and, at the center, a lovely church.

*continues on page 2...*



## From Our Senior Pastor



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

Throughout the upheaval of this pandemic and the suspension of in-person worship at Grace, I've thought a lot about that hike and what it reveals about the strange and challenging times in which we live. As this crisis has unfolded, I imagine you, like me, have been surprised at how difficult and exhausting the pathway has been. As we have had to reinvent and adapt vast parts of our lives, careers, and institutions, I suspect we've all been tempted at one time or another to give up and reverse course. But so much of life – just like discipleship – simply involves trust, endurance, and perseverance. And so together we have kept pressing forward, slowly but surely, trusting that the way of the cross – the way of sacrifice and love – would be our way.

I am astounded at the many rapid adaptations we have made here at Grace as together we serve God's people in new ways. Consider just a few of the changes we have successfully undertaken:

- Worship is now happening online as well as on the radio, bringing the assurance of God's

love to countless people who, out of love for neighbor, are staying home;

- Our members are calling and checking in on each other on a weekly basis;
- Teams of seamstresses have produced nearly 1,000 masks for frontline medical professionals and caregivers;
- We have been able to keep our partners at Meals on Wheels in operation as they help feed many of the most vulnerable in our community; and
- Our Faith Formation team has established a new supplemental website so that faith formation materials for children, youth, and adults can be found in one convenient place. Check it out at [www.glcfaithformation.org](http://www.glcfaithformation.org).

It hasn't always been an easy hike, but together, with our eyes on the cross, we have persevered. We are not yet at the summit and the crisis is far from over. But we are far enough into it that I can now see hints of the blessings that will come as we continue our journey. I see a congregation that will be more connected to one another. I see a congregation that will be more connected to Jesus. And I see a congregation that will not take worship for granted ever again.

And so, in the words of Isaiah, "come to the mountain of the Lord." In the Bible, mountains are places of learning, revelation, and transformation. I think you would agree that Christ is teaching us, revealing himself, and transforming us as we hike this particular mountain. So keep climbing. Don't give up. And don't be afraid. By

the grace of God and the help of one another, we will make it. Trust that the view from the top will be gloriously worth every step we have taken.

### Notes

- With the uncertainty of when we will be able to open our doors again here at Grace, our Church Council wisely decided to delay our annual meeting and council elections, and has extended council terms until the elections are completed. These prudent moves will ensure that we have continuity of leadership and time to prepare for the moment when we can safely gather for these important congregational functions. Further details are included in this issue in a letter from our council president, Don Coine.
- Thank you for your continued financial contributions to Grace. As you see in this newsletter, LOTS of ministry is being done even during this time when we cannot be physically together. Your generous contributions enable us to keep those ministries in motion, pay our bills, and compensate our staff. You can mail your contributions to the church office or give online through Tithely by visiting our website, [www.glcpa.org](http://www.glcpa.org), and selecting "GIVE" at the far right end of the top menu. The best and most reliable way of giving is to authorize regular automatic giving from your bank account. Contact Laurel Sanders if you are interested or download the authorization form from the "GIVE" section of our website. Thank you.

## Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Sunday	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Holy Gospel
<b>May 3</b> 4th Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
<b>May 10</b> 5th Sunday of Easter	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
<b>May 17</b> 6th Sunday of Easter	Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
<b>May 24</b> 7th Sunday of Easter	Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
<b>May 31</b> Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23

### Finally...

Pastor Lynn recently shared a suggestion with me that I want to pass along to all of you. Folks are now beginning to receive “stimulus checks” from the federal government. For some, these will be a lifeline. For others of us, it will be more in the nature of a windfall. If that is the case with you, please prayerfully consider contributing a tithe of those funds to Grace to help us through these unprecedented times.

Peace be with you.  
Pastor Schul

### Mini-series on Composers

#### Shhhhh...the quiet influences of Schütz, Schein, and Scheidt

Heinrich Schütz (b. 1585), Johann Herman Schein (b. 1586), and Samuel Scheidt (b. 1587) are a testament to the rare occasion when musical giants of similar backgrounds, interests, and influence lived contemporaneously. Although two were organists and one was a cantor (Scheidt), all

were Lutheran composers of the early Baroque; were influenced by the Protestant Reformation; and absorbed international influences that infused their distinct styles. Only Schütz and Schein have works in our current hymnal (ELW 573, *My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord* (Schütz) and ELW 799, *Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake* (adapted by Schein)), but all three shaped church music for generations.

Scheidt took his cues from studies with the Dutch composer Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck in Amsterdam and his work was representative of the flowering of a new North German style. He became the first internationally known composer of organ music, including dozens of chorale preludes (organ compositions that are based on a chorale tune). Schein was one of the first to absorb Italian influence into his music---especially the idea of a figured bass (a bass line over which tunes and harmonies were written, like the famous bass line in what we often call the ‘Pachelbel Canon’). This was remarkable since he never travelled to Italy. Schütz was quite a globetrotter for his time;

multiple trips to Italy, and studies with Giovanni Gabrieli in particular, resulted in him bringing the polychoral “many choirs” style to Germany. He is best known for his vocal works, including the Psalms of David, some of which ensembles have sung in worship at Grace.

The footprints of Schütz, Scheidt, and Schein can be seen in the work of many musical geniuses who followed, including J.S. Bach. Among the three, Schütz is the best known: he also was blessed with a longer life, left behind many compositions, and is remembered in the Lutheran Calendar of Saints. However, the works of all three appear at Grace from time to time, either sung or played on the organ. Shhhh...if you listen closely, you might still hear them!



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## Why attend church? It's where Jesus fills you. (Part 5 of 11)

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times." (Matt. 18:21-22)

"Why bother attending church?" Many people rationalize skipping church because they understand religion to be an intensely *individual* undertaking. "What I believe is between God and me. I don't need anyone else to tell me what to do or get in the way." Maybe you've heard someone say that. Maybe you've said that. Certainly there *are* parts of being a Christian that are quite individual. Examples include your baptism and the moment when you receive communion (the great "for YOU!" part of worship). But those moments of individuality in the Christian life are surprisingly rare. Even a cursory reading of the New Testament reveals that Jesus intended our faith to be lived out in a community. As we discussed last month, we attend church to hear the life-giving good news that we are forgiven. But a fifth (in our series of eleven) reason why attending church is important is that it's the place where you *learn to love and forgive others*.

Loving and forgiving others is difficult. I won't sugarcoat it. It's especially true in a church congregation, where we don't get to choose who shows up. It is inevitable that someone will sit in your pew, sing the hymn off-key, say something insensitive, or otherwise upset you. It might be the new family that just joined, the person who has been a member for 60 years, or

the pastor. Eventually someone will say or do something wrong. When that happens (and it WILL!) you face a crossroads (pun intended!). Will you carry a grudge against that person? Or will you offer love and forgiveness? The verses from Matthew's Gospel at the top of this article make it clear what Jesus expects: love and forgiveness. You can't do that if you never come to church. Trying to be a Christian without people is just as fruitless as trying to play baseball by yourself.

But still I wonder – and perhaps you wonder – *why*? Why does Jesus insist on drawing and calling his followers into communities that *he* knows – and *we* know – will be imperfect, flawed, and tinged with conflict? That's a question we'll have to ask Jesus on the other side of heaven. All we can know for sure is that, *by design*, the Christian life is intended to be lived out in community. The best reason I've ever heard came from a dear friend of mine who is a Roman Catholic monk. He lives with about a hundred other men in community, and believe me, they have their share of conflicts. As he has observed, the monastery is full of "saints" and "saint makers" (meaning the people who test our patience and thereby help us to grow in our love). As he always adds, "sometimes we're the saint, and sometimes we're the saint maker!" In other words, community is where we most robustly learn and grow in our faith.

Learning to love and forgive others provides invaluable insight into God's heart. It also reminds us how unlovable we sometimes are. Yet somehow, God always finds a way to forgive us. And so learning to love and forgive others evidences the change Jesus is working within our hearts. In our forgiving, we are

transformed, even as we extend Jesus's transformative love to *others*. Best of all, as we learn to love and forgive others in community, we begin to see just how interconnected we all are. This too is a tantalizing insight into God's heart. Again, it's not easy. I know. But the true measure of a Christian community isn't how *perfect* the members are; it's how *forgiving* they are. Learning to *love and forgive others* is a *great* reason to go to church.

~ Pastor Schul

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### DID YOU KNOW...

... that due to the coronavirus pandemic Pastor Schul had to cancel the Grace pilgrimage to the Holy Lands that was scheduled for this June? We will endeavor to reschedule the trip for summer 2021.



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POSTPONED:-(

### Celebration of the Arts and Lutheran Summer Music Benefit Concert

Many performers and artists looked forward to sharing their creativity with our Grace family on Sunday, May 3. We will miss the opportunity to share and benefit from each other's God-given talents, but we look forward to doing so next year!

## From the Associate Pastor

So much has happened since I last wrote in Grace Notes and I could not envision that I would very much be like one of the apostles sending an epistle, a letter those in a church with whom they could not physically meet. I see the notion of the epistles in the New Testament with new eyes these days. In the weeks of Easter, many of you know I have been leading a Bible study on one of those epistles, 1st Peter, sections of which appear in this year's lectionary until Pentecost, which falls the last day of this month. The epistle of St Peter was written to people who were enduring significant hardships, and finding it hard to be faithful in what felt like an endurance test. How timely this year. Just past the last reading in the lectionary, are these words:

"The end of all things is near; therefore be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen."

May is when we observe the **Ascension**- it doesn't get as much attention, but maybe this year, it should. The reading from Acts 1:1-11 depicts Jesus telling his disciples

to wait and they will receive the Holy Spirit. Then Jesus ascends into the clouds. I can only imagine them, suddenly feeling alone, crying, "Wait! Don't leave us alone!" If you have felt ill equipped at all in these times, we are in good company.

In May, we also celebrate **Pentecost**, the giving of the Holy Spirit to the church after they had to wait. In our time of waiting and wondering, I celebrate all of the ways that Spirit has moved-empowering and consoling, and supporting and even praying for us when we couldn't find words. There is much in the readings that we can draw upon in new ways in our walk with Jesus.

As we hope and pray that the end of "stay at home" will come soon, I want to encourage you. You have leaned deeply in faith. It has been amazing to see. May we continue to walk with grace with each other and pray for God to guide us so that we take the best of deeper closeness with God forward with us. May that discipline guide us. Let's not just say "Thank God that's over" as we set aside the richness of relationships that we have tapped into in this time where we had to be resourceful. That grace and discipline will help us to move forward and rekindle the things we long for. I, like you, cannot wait to be together in worship, and at the table, and in fellowship. I love you, I miss you and I hope to see you soon. In clos-



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

ing, I quote another of my favorite epistles. I am "constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ... For

God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowl-

edge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." Philippians

Until we meet in person, I hold you in prayers. As always I am available by phone or email, and social media, and no matter how we gather, Christ is most assuredly in our midst.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Hetrick



## Finances for 2020

Church FINANCES	Actual Income vs Expense July 2019- March 2020	Budgeted Income vs Expense July 2019- March 2020	+ or (-)	%	
Income	\$574,468.08	\$631,000.00	(\$56,531.92)	-8.96 %	less than budgeted income
Expenses	\$615,775.44	\$643,132.71	(\$27,357.27)	-4.25 %	overage due to timing of invoices
Net Income	(\$41,307.36)	(\$12,132.71)			

March giving was below budget due to the mid-month suspension of in-person worship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but nevertheless represented strong and dedicated giving as Grace members steadily transitioned from collection plate giving to mail-in and online giving. Thank you for your ongoing support of Grace's ministries, which vibrantly continue despite our inability to worship in-person. Contact Laurel Sanders at [lsanders@glcpa.org](mailto:lsanders@glcpa.org) for information about automated giving or you can make credit card donations using Tithe.ly via the GIVE button on our website at [www.glcpa.org](http://www.glcpa.org).

## Building Campaign

<b>Actual Building Receipts this month (donations)</b>	<b>Monthly Mortgage obligation</b>	<b>Year-to-date Receipts for the building (donations)</b>	<b>Year-to-date Mortgage obligation</b>
\$4,976.49	\$15,742.70	\$101,487.42	\$141,684.00

Offerings toward our building were \$14,976.49 this month and we received an additional \$4,563 toward the building payoff campaign. This exceeded giving in March 2019, which is remarkable in light of the present circumstances. Thank you for your very generous giving as we continue to work to retire our building expansion indebtedness and enhance the wonderful ministry that God has called us to share here at Grace.

### Council Highlights

At its April 2020 meeting, Grace's Church Council:

- Provisionally approved a draft 2020-21 budget for GLC and GLPK and recommended it for full approval by the congregation at our next annual meeting;
- Provisionally rescheduled the annual meeting and council elections because of the prohibitions against in-person gatherings due to the virus pandemic; and
- Provided for expiring council terms to be extended until the rescheduled elections, so that Grace maintains continuity of leadership.

Dear Grace Family:

I hope and pray that during these uncertain days when our lives are affected by the coronavirus pandemic, you, your family members and friends are doing well. I also hope that you all had a wonderful and blessed holy week and Easter. We miss coming together on Sundays and Wednesdays to greet our fellow believers, enjoy fellowship with them and to take part in the worship services. I hope and pray that our almighty God will remove this unfortunate pandemic from our country and the whole world soon. As you know, during the last few weeks when our physical gathering has been suspended, Pastor Scott Schul and Pastor Carolyn Hetrick have done an excellent job in preparing, organizing and offering Sunday morning services including Easter service through radio and Wednesday and Holy week services through face book. We are grateful to them for this wonderful service.

When we do not come to the church building physically and take part in the worship services, it is easy to forget to make our regular contributions to our church. But, our church needs our contributions to manage its various functions to achieve its mission, which is to be 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. From the holy scriptures, we know that our Heavenly Father does not provide wealth or time and talents directly from heaven to His churches so that they can accomplish their missions. He gives wealth, time and talents to His children like us and expects them to support their churches, through proper stewardship of what He has given them. We need to be faithful stewards of all God has given us

within the opportunities presented through His providence to glorify Him, serve the common good and further His Kingdom. This includes making regular financial contributions to our church. As you know, Grace Lutheran Church is currently running on a deficit and has a mortgage obligation. It needs our regular contributions and more, in order to manage its functions. Like the servants in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25: 14-30), we all will be called to give an account of how we have administered everything we have been given, including our time, money and talents, to the rightful owner, who is our God.

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. Please visit [www.glcpa.org](http://www.glcpa.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, and you can help the church further by covering the modest credit card fee. Finally, a form for Direct Debit giving (via your bank) is available on our website; 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 is done at Grace to the glory of God and the service of our neighbors.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the ministries at Grace Lutheran Church. May God bless you and keep you and your family under His care during these difficult times.

Yours in Christ,  
*Jeya Chandra*  
Stewardship Ministry Coordinator

## Stewardship REPORT

### Garden Fund

Many of you remember former Grace member Don Christian and the wonderful job he did of caring for the flower beds around the Church grounds. What you may not know is that there are more than ten individual gardens and that Don provided many of the bulbs and plants at his own expense.

Grace's gardens are now being cared for by a core group of dedicated volunteer gardeners. To help carry Don's work forward, we need a sustainable source of funding to provide flowers, bulbs, mulch, and materials.

#### *The Bloomin' for Don Garden Fund*

has been created for just that purpose. In celebration of Don's birthday, May 5, we will be collecting donations from Grace members who would like to help support the gardens. Donations will be accepted at any time in the Church Office. Checks should be made out to "Grace Lutheran Church" with "Don Christian Garden Fund" in the memo line. Alternatively, through Memorial Day (Monday, May 25) you can make an online donation with any major credit card if you visit our church website at [www.glcpa.org](http://www.glcpa.org). Click on the GIVE button and follow the prompts. Thank you for helping to continue Don's work to make the property at Grace as welcoming as its people. Thank you,



*Leslie Wagner*

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## *A Letter from the Church Council President*

Dear Members of Grace,

On behalf of the Church Council, we want to begin by thanking our wonderful Pastors, church staff, Pre-School/Kindergarten Director and staff, ministry coordinators, and the numerous volunteers who have kept the message of hope and God's love flowing during these trying times. Their continuing efforts move us closer toward the day when we can all gather as one church family. It's also important for you to know that your Council members have taken action in order to help them in this important effort while complying with the guidance outlined in our Church Constitution and By-Laws. I want to share three important actions with you that were taken during the last council meeting held on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

As many of you know, our Church Constitution requires that the congregation meet at least annually, usually in May of each year, to approve the church budget and discuss related business. In doing so, the annual report and proposed budget for the coming fiscal year must be provided to the congregation and the congregation meeting date be advertised at least two Sundays in advance. Due to our inability to do so under the current emergency declarations, Council voted to temporarily suspend this requirement and approved a provisional 2020-2021 budget (July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021) to continue church operations until large public gatherings are permitted. Once permitted, we will hold our required congregational meeting and present an adjusted fiscal year budget for congregational approval.

We are also required to begin the election process to replace council members whose terms of service expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Again, Council voted to temporarily suspend this requirement until the election process can be properly completed. In the interim, Council also voted to indefinitely extend the terms of three current council members to allow for proper oversight and provide continuity of leadership until the next election is held.

Although it may be impossible to physically meet at this time, be assured that Grace Lutheran Church lives on through the great efforts and leadership displayed by everyone mentioned above. Their hard work will make us all stronger and realize God's blessings every day.

Yours in Christ,  
Don Coine  
Council President

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

 ...that the Allegheny Synod Council has set **September 18 and 19, 2020** as the tentative date for the 2020 Allegheny Synod Assembly? The location has not yet been determined. This is an especially important assembly because we will be electing a new bishop.

**Adult Forum  
Schedule: Sundays at  
9 a.m. on Zoom  
through May 10th**

**Adult Forum is  
meeting virtually!**

Join us at 9 a.m. on Sundays at <https://zoom.us/j/5310813409> for an informal conversation. Please email Dotty Delafield [readoodles@gmail.com](mailto:readoodles@gmail.com) to obtain the passcode to enter the meeting. We'll check in with one another, pray together, engage in some reflection on Scripture and sing. All are welcome, no matter whether you've attended in the past. Contact Dotty Delafield [readoodles@gmail.com](mailto:readoodles@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**Super Wednesday  
Bible study will continue  
through May 13th**

The topic is "Our Living Hope" and is a study of 1st Peter, of our source of hope in the midst of challenges and struggles. Each Wednesday, a pre-recorded talk will be available on [www.glcpa.org](http://www.glcpa.org) under Sermons. Scroll the to bottom and access the Bible study section for a study guide and video. It will also be available on [www.glcfaithformation.org](http://www.glcfaithformation.org) - access the Adults section on the left of the home page.

Finally, it will be posted on Facebook as a video on the Grace Lutheran page. A live Zoom class will take place at 6:30 p.m. Email Pastor Hetrick at [pastorhetrick@glcpa.org](mailto:pastorhetrick@glcpa.org) by 6 p.m. on Wednesdays to receive the log in code for the session.

You may join with video or as a dial in connection.

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**SEE CALENDAR UNDER GRACE NOTES CALENDAR FILES**



### Food Bank News

If you or someone you know needs help with food, please have them call the Food Bank at (814) 234-2310.

The Food Bank assists not only those who meet specific financial qualifications but also those who may exceed these qualifications and are still facing financial difficulty.

Financial donations to the Food Bank give our staff the flexibility to purchase in-demand items in bulk and serve as many individuals and families as possible, regardless of income. The items we purchase with private funds can also be shared with other food pantries and social service agencies in outlying areas if and when they need extra support.

Hey Grace, Let's work together to feed our neighbors!



*Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? Matthew 25:37*

### IHS Continues to Operate:

Even in the midst of uncertain times Interfaith Human Services is continuing to operate and serve clients. While not in the office, IHS staff continues to work remotely via cell phone and email. Only time will tell when this will be over and what the total impact of the COVID-19 virus will be. We thank you for your support that allows us continue to work for the safety and stability of our clients and community.

Curt Knouse  
Executive Director  
Interfaith Human Services

It's upsetting that so many of us are financially insecure now. We, at Grace, have always reached out to help our neighbors in need and now the need is ENORMOUS. If you are able, will you help?

Usually, we hold a food drive on the first Sunday of the month where we bring in food and/or donate money. We didn't do that in April and we won't be doing that until we're able to meet in church once more. Would you donate money, through Grace, so we can continue to serve the State College Food Bank?

The hope is that we can combine our donations and send in a monthly check to do our part to keep our local food bank up and running.

- Make checks out to 'Grace Lutheran Church,' with 'food bank' on the memo line. 205 South Garner Street, State College, PA 16801
- Donate via Tithely by going to the church website (glcpa.org) and clicking on the 'give' button on the top of the page.

**Together we make a difference!**

### The Sound of Music: Seasonal Music Devotions Provided to Nursing Homes Amid COVID-19

At any time of year, residents of nursing homes look forward to activities, onsite worship, and local performers to add variety to their days. Shortly after COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, many found themselves quarantined in their rooms, with staff as their only allowable visitors. In early April the performing arts coordinator at Juniper Village reached out to musicians, asking whether we could devise entertainment that staff could share digitally. Grace Lutheran responded to the call, providing 15-minute audio and video Lenten and Easter devotions that included several seasonal hymns and readings of applicable Psalms. In the near future, assuming residents' quarantines continue, we plan to send some recorded music provided by teens and adults in the hope that we can add some more sunshine to their days. As William J. Brennan, Jr., a former Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, once said, "We must meet the challenge rather than wish it were not before us." Thanks to everyone who helped to make this possible.

## Mask Ministry for Grace Families

Our Mask Ministry now has masks available to our Grace family. If you or your family wish to obtain masks please contact Sally Horn, our Congregational Care team leader, at 814-360-0146 or [sjh10@psu.edu](mailto:sjh10@psu.edu).



## A special Thank You to our Mask Makers!

As the reality of the coronavirus pandemic unfolded, it became evident that wearing a cloth mask was an important tool in helping stem the spread of the virus. Seamstresses from all over the country began sewing cloth masks for their families, friends and their communities. Local conversations began here in State College within maker groups, and quickly a coalition of sewers formed between *Scraps & Skeins* (a creative reuse store that provides jobs for adults with mental health challenges) and *Comfort Makers*, Grace's sewing group.



Over the past several weeks, the combined efforts of these two groups have sewn over 700 masks. Masks were given to *Strawberry Fields* for use by direct support professionals, case managers, Early Intervention therapists, and residents served in programs for adults with intellectual disabilities and mental health challenges. Masks were also given to *The Village*, *The Oaks*, *Juniper Village*, *Centre Volunteers in Medicine*, *The Youth Service Bureau*, *Mount Nittany Medical Center*, *The State College Food Bank*, *Meals on Wheels*, and a number of individual health care workers.

## Women of Grace.

The Naomi Circle, Sisters of Grace, Comfort Makers, and Knit Wits are suspending their activities in May. *Sisters of Grace* will next meet September 14 with a picnic at Lois Lynn's home to kick off the 2020-2021 season.



**The Garden of Readin'** (women's book club) will hold their meeting May 19 at 10:30 a.m. virtually via Zoom. The May selection for the Garden of Readin' is *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. This is the selection of Ellen Campbell and Alice Griffin, together they will be facilitating the discussions.

The Women of Grace's Spring Retreat, "What is Enough?" has been cancelled due to social distancing guidelines. We regret that we will not be able to bring our speaker, Pastor Becca Ehrlich, here for this retreat but if you wish to access Pastor Becca's blog on Christian Minimalism, here is the link: <https://www.christianminimalism.com>. We hope to reschedule in the future.

## Daily Devotions

When the members of this congregation came together to create the 2020 Lenten Devotional booklet, we could never have known how important it would become. As our in-person worship services and meetings were suspended, this booklet was what each of us had in our homes to keep us connected to each other, to our church, and to God.

In this time of social distancing, do know that there are materials available for daily devotions. If you would like a *Word in Season* book for April, May, and June, Sally Keiser-Bankert will be happy to mail you one. Please send an email to [sallykb@verizon.net](mailto:sallykb@verizon.net) or call her cell phone (814-571-3672) with your name and address and Sally will mail them promptly.

Also, do look at the Grace Lutheran Church Faith Formation at Home website: <http://www.glcfaithformation.org/>. Here you will find resources and activities for all ages to nurture our faith at home.

## Summer Information Breaks

Taking a very optimistic view of the months ahead, I would like to plan some "Summer Information Breaks." If we are again having in-person worship, this would be at 9:00 a.m. Please send any ideas of programs you would like to present or you would like to hear more about to Sally Horn, [sjh10@psu.edu](mailto:sjh10@psu.edu).

Thank you,  
Sally Horn,  
Congregational Care



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## *A Message from the Allegheny Synod Staff:*

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Grace to you and peace from the risen Christ!

Saint Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

Friends, everything we are experiencing in this pandemic is new. There is no instruction manual for what to do in a situation like this. What has given me and the staff hope are the ways in which you are living out Saint Teresa's quote. You are being Christ's risen body in the world through the masks you are making, the food you are donating, the time you are giving, and the connections you are making through phone calls, emails, and texts and social media. The Holy Spirit is using you to share the love and light of Christ with those around you. We thank God for you and for the ways you are demonstrating what it means to be the church. Everything you are doing is a powerful witness to the risen Christ to an anxious and hurting world.

While this year's observance of Holy Week and celebration of Easter was not what we hoped for, we are continually reminded that we are not alone. We are the body of Christ. We are in this together.

I hope you will join me in giving thanks to God for the heroic efforts of our hospital workers, grocery store employees, truck drivers, first responders, postal carriers, and a host of other people who are helping us to sustain us in these uncertain times. We know you will join us in continuing to pray for those who take care of our congregations, our pastors, deacons, and lay worship leaders.

The days can be long and frustrating. Do not lose hope. Now, more than ever, it is important to remember who and whose we are. Jesus called and claimed you in the waters of baptism. His resurrected life lives in you. Even though we cannot be together physically, we can be of one heart and mind as we pray for strength and courage to meet each day and be thankful for the moments of joy that break in to our lives in ordinary ways.

We also invite you to use this time to turn and return to God. These weeks of waiting offer ample opportunity to pray, to read Holy Scripture, and to take time to rest in the presence of our God who is with us always. Christ is always right beside us. He is welcoming us to turn to him. Please use these moments to pray for our world, to pray for our neighbors, and to be reminded of the presence of Jesus Christ.

May the peace and presence of Christ be made real to you this day and always.

Living in the hope of the risen Christ,  
The Allegheny Synod Staff,  
Bishop Michael, Pastor Becca, Pastor Paula and Michelle.

## **May Tip of the Month RECYCLING -**

While curbside recycling is suspended until further notice due to COVID-19, please consider taking the extra step to continue recycling, even though doing so isn't as convenient as usual. The Centre Region has provided extra temporary drop-off recycling locations. If you live within biking or walking distance, you might make recycling part of regular fresh air and exercising during this time of less activity too. All the normal acceptable materials that are picked up curbside (e.g. plastic bottles, glass, metal cans and mixed paper - mail, newspaper, magazine, cereal boxes, etc.) may be deposited at the temporary recycling centers. Corrugated cardboard is NOT.

Temporary drop off recycling locations include:

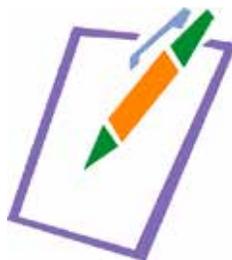
- Bellefonte: Old Armory Building;
- Benner Twp: Buffalo Run Park, Municipal Bldg parking lot;
- College Twp: Upper Lot at Township Bldg, Balmoral Way entrance to Spring Creek Park;
- Ferguson Twp: Tudek & Fairbrook Parks;
- Harris Twp: Nittany View Park, Boalsburg Fire Co lot;
- Patton Twp: Township Office Bldg lot, Park Forest Pool Lot;
- State College: Sunset, Orchard and Holmes Foster-lower lot Parks;
- Spring Twp: Township Bldg on Blanchard St Extension.

Please practice safe distancing if others are already at the site and consider opening/closing the lids while covering your hands with recyclable or washable items, rather than a disposable product.

Additional information is available at [https://www.centrecountyrecycles.org/vertical/Sites/%7B19100380-CED0-47E2-8734-43A86A251C04%7D/uploads/Temporary\\_Roll\\_April\\_1.jpg](https://www.centrecountyrecycles.org/vertical/Sites/%7B19100380-CED0-47E2-8734-43A86A251C04%7D/uploads/Temporary_Roll_April_1.jpg)

Hello Friends!

Last month, April, we had hopes of returning to church activities in May. Here we are in May, and we must face the fact that there is too much uncertainty to make definitive plans. As always, Cindy & Peter are eager to hear from you and your family. What can we do to help meet the needs of not being present in our building? Just before Holy Week, we began to provide **Faith Formation activities at home** on our faith formation website: [www.glcfaithformation.org](http://www.glcfaithformation.org)



While continuing in this time of social distancing, we would like to offer some semblance of normalcy. **Starting on Sunday, April 26** and continuing weekly through May, we will be hosting a **30 MINUTE FAMILY FAITH ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL**. This is for everyone and anyone in the congregation who would like to participate. We will start at 10 a.m. with activities and have breakout rooms for more personal discussion. This time is for the whole family, or as much of it as can be gathered. We hope that seeing parts of the Grace family can give us hope. Please email Cindy and Peter at [faithformation@glcpa.org](mailto:faithformation@glcpa.org) for the zoom information.

Included on this page are some updates regarding activities that we have rescheduled and what you may expect.

~ Cindy and Peter

### Beach Trip

It is with much disappointment that we are canceling our Youth Group Beach Trip to Ocean City, Maryland. This trip was scheduled for June 28-July 3, and will not be rescheduled.



### Vacation Bible School

This has been a tough decision to make, but with the number of children that attended last summer, we do not feel safe to have a large group gathering. At this time, we are planning to offer an ON-LINE OPTION for vacation bible school.



Please register at <https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/GraceLutheranSC>, so we can prepare any do-at-home activity supplies that are needed. We will let you know the schedule and plan in next month's Grace Notes.

### Senior Recognition Sunday

Your High School and College Graduates are missing out on their school opportunity for pomp and circumstance. We know they have worked hard, taken classes, and prepared for the future- **COVID-19 cannot take away your accomplishments**. Our plan includes having a recognition service and a reception to acknowledge your achievements and to remind you that we are here for you. Once we have more information about resuming in person activities, we will reach out to you.

### Affirmation of Baptism

Parents of eighth grade confirmation students: at this time we are not planning to have our Affirmation of Baptism ceremony in May. Since we currently are not able to worship in person, we would like to catch up with youth in person and have **rescheduled this service for Sunday, October 25th, 2020**; this is Reformation Day.



Cindy and Peter will post assignments on our Faith Formation website. Parents, we will send you an email alert to check for the posted assignment. If you haven't done so, please check out our site: [www.glcfaithformation.org](http://www.glcfaithformation.org). We value your feedback!

### Confirmation Camp

While we have not heard from Camp Sequanota that Confirmation Camp has been CANCELED, we feel confident that it is not likely to be held. We will keep you posted as to any information we receive.



## GLPK Closed

On April 9th, Governor Wolf announced that all Pennsylvania schools would continue remote learning for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Although many of us thought this would happen, our hearts were saddened to hear the reality that we wouldn't be able to finish our school year. Many of our four-year-old students and our Jr. kindergarten and kindergarten students will be moving onto new schools in the fall. Some of our families that have been with us for several years have seen their last child go through GLPK this year. It certainly isn't the way we would have liked to send them off to their new schools.

When we are given the "okay" to return to school and church, we hope to bring all 2019-2020 teachers, students and families back to school for a special chapel to commemorate the school year. In the mean-time, we wish everyone good health and safety as we navigate these unprecedented times.

### Dates to Remember!

#### Week of April 28-May 11

Silent Auction postponed until spring of 2021

#### Sunday, May 10

Happy Mother's Day

#### Mon. & Tues., May 11 & 12

Spirit Days, wear a hat!

#### Thursday, May 14 – Chapel

#### Monday, May 27 – Memorial Day



## CHRISTIAN FOCUS BOX FOR MAY!

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S CREATION - I TIMOTHY 4:4  
"FOR EVERYTHING CREATED BY GOD IS GOOD."

DISCOVERY SCIENCE: DISCOVERING NATURE - ANIMALS  
ENRICHMENT CLASSES THEME: AUTHOR, TODD PARR

## Openings for the 2020-2021 School Year

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

- 2-, 3-, and 5-day morning classes for children aged 2y 7m, 3, 4, Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten Prep
- Afternoon enrichment classes (home-packed lunch, monthly theme, experiential classes) as an add-on
- Morning, afternoon, and full-day programs

Please contact us to request a classroom visit or for more information.

E-Mail: [glpk@glcpa.org](mailto:glpk@glcpa.org)

Phone: 814-238-8110

Web: [www.glcpapreschool.org](http://www.glcpapreschool.org)



## Part-time preschool positions for 2020-2021

- Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten is searching for a **lead teacher** for the 2020-2021 school year. Teachers require a teaching degree in early childhood education or elementary education with a private academic license to teach in an early childhood setting.
- We are always looking for **substitute teachers**. Substitute teachers with a bachelor's degree in elementary education or early childhood education is beneficial, but not required.

All positions start in late August. Send cover letter and resume to Cathy Smarkusky, GLPK Director, at [csmarkusky@glcpa.org](mailto:csmarkusky@glcpa.org).

## Young Explorer Summer Camps

Grace Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten is hoping to have our annual two weeks of summer camps. We will be accepting registrations in the school office when we are able to return. Summer camps are open to all children who will be 3 years old by 6/1/2020 through children entering first grade and run from 9:00 a.m. to noon for one week each. **You may sign up for one or both camps.**

Registration forms are available upon request.

Please email [glpk@glcpa.org](mailto:glpk@glcpa.org)

for more information.



This summer's themes are:

"The Wild, Wild West" -- June 15-19, 2020

"Magnificent Machines" -- June 22-26, 2020



# May Worship Sponsors

The church office (238-2478) or Sheri Rider ([srider@glcpa.org](mailto:srider@glcpa.org))



## Altar Flowers

## Bulletin Covers

## Radio Sponsors

*May worship volunteers and sponsors for altar flowers and bulletin covers are not listed due to the uncertainty of worship services in May. If services resume, the sponsors will be listed in the bulletin and we will be seeking volunteers.*

- May 3 - Brian Christian family  
*in memory of Don Christian*
- May 10 - Bruce and Lynn Rogers  
*to the Glory of God*
- May 17 - Jeya and Emeline Chandra  
*to the Glory of God*
- May 24 - Bob and Lois Voigt  
*in memory of Lu Magnusson*
- May 31 - Louise Tarman  
*to the Glory of God*

## April Pastoral Acts

### New Births and Baptisms

### Deaths - Funerals/Memorials

- Clara Jayne Glocke, daughter to Nathan and Kate Glocke, born April 14, 2020
- Marcile Tressler died on March 31, 2020

## Prayer List for May



All Military & Nat'l Guard and all serving in war-torn countries  
Theresa Alves, friend of Brenda Kim  
Elmer Barta  
Deb Baysinger's cousin  
Sylvia Belanger, mother of Joe Belanger  
Barbara Bingaman  
Debbie Bolthouse  
Barbara Braun  
Jon Brockopp and family upon the death of Jon's mother Marilyn  
Phil Bucher  
Melanie Buffington  
Linda Cataldo, step-mother of Deb Stewart  
Denise Centini  
Nancy Chapa  
Scott Cocolin  
Catherine Cutter  
William Davies  
Marie Dallery, mother of Sharon Shurgalla  
Damaris Dougherty, daughter of Bob Hampton

Mark Doyle, friend of Paul and Sandy Larson	Eti Dvir, mother-in-law of Rachel Wolkenhauer	Patrick Dugan, grand-son of Paul & Kathryn Mackes	Steve Ellis	Craig Evanego	Patti Fisher	Vicki Garvin	Joseph Halterman, son-in-law of Pastor and Michael Hetrick	Mary Ann Hanely and family, friend of Betsy Will	Dick Houtz	Bob Igoe	Paul Lloyd, son of Pat Lloyd	Phil and Shirley Lucas	Tom Lucas	Aaron Lyon, nephew of Sue and Pete Forster	Carol Major, friend of Brenda Palmgren	Tom and Lois Martin	Kim Marsh	Mardi McDonough	Ed McGowan	Danielle McHenry	Bob Miller, father of Julie Miller	Marjorie Morgan, daughter of Ruth Kistler
Amy Nevling	Dottie Niklos, mother of Bob Igo	Zach Pfeil, brother of Megan Widener	Matthew Praskovitch, friend of Paul & Sandy Larson	Margie Prothro, sister of Ed Jenkins	Nancy Reinert	Dottie Roberts	Margaret Schrock, mother of Kathy Weimer	Nancy Schuchert, mother of Joe Schuchert	Ken Shultz	Nan Sichler	Moerschbacher, friend of Margy Strong Deysler	William D. Snape Sr., brother of Phyllis Favorite	Emily and Charlotte Spearly	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 and Ken Walsh	Ash Woskob	Janet Zerbe			

## May Birthdays

- |                            |                           |                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Danielle Lazorcik        | 13 David Wolfe            | 23 Elinor Franklin    |
| 1 Michael Solo             | 13 Bruce Rohrbach         | 24 John Zipf          |
| 1 Joseph Franklin          | 13 Tina Ludwig            | 24 Enola Weaver       |
| 2 Megan Showalter          | 13 William Albert         | 25 Donald Burris      |
| 3 Bonnie Burris            | 13 Declan Tucker          | 25 Celeste Newcomb    |
| 3 Charles Michael Lombardi | 14 Amy Preston            | 25 Nathan Maggi       |
| 3 Alex Moore               | 14 Hannah Donnell         | 25 Mark Roberts       |
| 3 Jonathan Sweeney         | 14 Gage Ollendyke         | 25 Gina Rossi         |
| 4 Linda Jeanmenne          | 14 Brecken Bush           | 25 Andrew Lovell      |
| 4 Stephanie Chastain       | 15 Julie Donnell          | 25 Jennifer Reutzell  |
| 4 Elizabeth Brigger        | 15 Alexander Johnson      | 25 Kimberly Baysinger |
| 4 Ansley Davidson          | 15 Aaron Rohrbach         | 25 Ferris Shurgalla   |
| 4 Cale Kremsler            | 16 Megan Kay              | 26 Sharon Rivell      |
| 5 Ethan Hardyk             | 16 Valerie Updegrove      | 26 Samantha Asencio   |
| 5 Elaine Rathfon           | 16 Jason Long             | 26 Sandy Bender       |
| 5 Benjamin Seaton          | 17 Benjamin Krantweiss    | 26 Connie Ripka       |
| 5 Turner Malik             | 17 Samuel Krantweiss      | 27 Calvin Peiffer     |
| 6 Kenneth Kalbach          | 17 Joann McCormick        | 27 Conner Donghia     |
| 6 Madelyn Fallon           | 17 Daniel Albert          | 28 Scott Fozard       |
| 6 Beth Shisler             | 18 Gary Delafield         | 28 Samuel Janik       |
| 6 Megan Stoltzfus          | 18 Catherine Griel        | 28 Kevin Franklin     |
| 6 Claire Espenshade        | 19 Les Cutter             | 29 Adam Houseknecht   |
| 6 Theodore Espenshade      | 19 Manfred Kroger         | 29 Vicki Cable        |
| 7 Jeffrey Debnar           | 19 Derek Farr             | 30 Edward Prince      |
| 7 Michelle Peiffer         | 20 Lee Gruver             | 30 Nathan Glocke      |
| 8 Adam Hughes              | 20 Matthew Maggi          | 30 Robert Larson      |
| 8 Douglas Keith            | 20 Thomas Vermillion      | 31 William Bahnfleth  |
| 8 Kristin Knowles          | 20 Thomas Verderame       | 31 Lucy Barber        |
| 8 Lester Griel, III        | 21 Erika Reutzell-Bechtel | 31 Molly Solo         |
| 9 Kevin Hosterman          | 21 Sue Forster            |                       |
| 9 Kristen Kewitt           | 21 Janice McClure         |                       |
| 9 Deborah Kaufman          | 21 Mimi Edwards           |                       |
| 10 Mike Shilling           | 22 Deborah Lux            |                       |
| 10 Robert O'Donnell        | 22 Noah Droege            |                       |
| 10 Gareth Roof             | 23 Laura Egan             |                       |
| 11 Paul Bowman             | 23 Frank Bendik           |                       |
| 13 Linda Odland            | 23 Phillip Rodgers        |                       |
| 13 Benjamin Stroschein     |                           |                       |



# Grace Notes

## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

205 South Garner Street

State College, PA 16801

(814) 238-2478

[www.glcpa.org](http://www.glcpa.org)

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### CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**8 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**

Piano and flute accompaniment

**9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**

Organ accompaniment

Sunday School

**10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion**

Organ accompaniment

Children's Message

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

Christian praise songs with Psalm 151 worship team

Casual worship in the Sanctuary



The Rev. Scott E. Schul, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick, Pastor

- Grace Lutheran Church  
[churchoffice@glcpa.org](mailto:churchoffice@glcpa.org)
- GLC Preschool and Kindergarten  
[glpk@glcpa.org](mailto:glpk@glcpa.org)  
814-238-8110
- Faith Formation Ministry  
[faithformation@glcpa.org](mailto: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.*