



Grace Notes

Gather • Feed • Send

FEBRUARY 2021

Ash Wednesday: February 17, 2021

The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, which falls this year on Wednesday, February 17. It is a solemn and meaningful day that confronts us with the twin realities of our mortality and our sinfulness. But Ash Wednesday does not leave us there; this very special day accompanies us in our brokenness to the foot of Christ's cross, where we can be forgiven, healed, refilled with hope, and transformed in love.



The pandemic precludes us from marking this important day in our sanctuary, as we have customarily done, but we have adapted our service in ways that we pray will continue to be meaningful, memorable, and safe for all participants.

Accordingly, on **February 17** we will hold two drive-in services at our traditional Ash Wednesday service times, **12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Arrive at the parking lot near the main entrance, where ushers will direct you to park. You will be able to hear the service via your FM car radio, and communion will be distributed. At the end of the service, all cars will be directed by the ushers to the circle at the main entrance, where the pastors will administer an ashen cross to your hands using a cotton swab. All are welcome. A video edition of Ash Wednesday worship will also be available on Grace's YouTube channel.

Lenten Devotional Booklet – “Bright Spots”

Many thanks to the Grace Church family for your contributions of your “Bright Spots” for this year’s Lenten Devotional booklet.

The Lenten Devotional booklets will be available beginning **Sunday, February 14**. An electronic copy will be on the Grace Church website. Printed copies may be picked up at the main entrance to the church, between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday, and 8:00 a.m. to noon on Friday.



DID YOU KNOW...

 ...that Grace joyfully received eleven new members on January 24, our most recent New Member Sunday? We will include photos and brief biographies of our new members in the March issue of Grace Notes.



Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship

| Sunday | First Reading | Psalm | Second Reading | Holy Gospel |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| February 7 5th Sunday after Epiphany | Isaiah 40:21-31 | Psalm 147:1-11, 20c | 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 | Mark 1:29-39 |
| February 14 Transfiguration of Our Lord | 2 Kings 2:1-12 | Psalm 50:1-6 | 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 | Mark 9:2-9 |
| February 21 First Sunday in Lent | Genesis 9:8-17 | Psalm 25:1-10 | 1 Peter 3:18-22 | Mark 1:9-15 |
| February 28 Second Sunday in Lent | Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 | Psalm 22:23-31 | Romans 4:13-25 | Mark 8:31-38 |

Music in the Liturgy

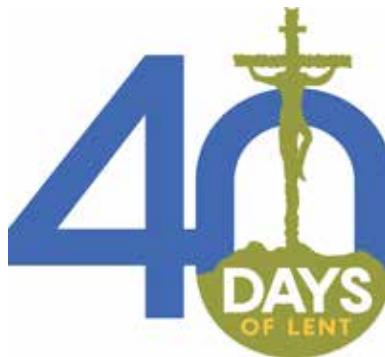
“40 Days” Hymns: A Musical Journey through Lent

“40” – the number of days we spend in the season of Lent, journeying with Jesus toward the cross – is an important number in Jewish and Christian Scriptures, and written in the songs of the church that remind us of our history and the tenets of our faith. The

Old Testament informs us that the Great Flood brought rain for 40 days and nights; the Hebrews spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness as a consequence of their disobedience and unbelief; and Moses fasted for 40 days before he received the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday (February 17 this year) recalls the time after Jesus’s baptism when he spent 40 days in the wilderness praying and preparing for his ministry. During Lent we focus on prayer rather than celebration. The music is consequently slower, more somber and reflective, and often in a minor key.

In our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) 319 (*O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*) and ELW 320 (*The Glory of These Forty Days*) - both of which we will sing this year - peer at each other across the spine with similar titles, but each with a different focus. ELW 320 ties together the fasting of Moses, the delivery of Daniel, and the prophecy of John the Baptist – all of which required patient waiting – with the last verse, which prays that we, too, may return to God in fasting and prayer. ELW 319 focuses specifically on Jesus in the wilderness – his faithful prayer and God’s deliverance – asking for God to likewise walk with us as we journey toward the cross and the promised dawn of Easter.

This year’s Lenten hymns remind us that God is our rock (ELW 504 - *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*); the journey we walk with him is a privilege (ELW 326 - *Bless Now, O God, the Journey*); and Jesus is by our



side (ELW 802 - *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*). The music touches our hearts as we sing of God’s boundless love (ELW 323 – *God So Loved the World* and ELW 666 – *What Wondrous Love is This*) and reminds us that Christ’s victory over the cross is our shared triumph (ELW 324 – *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*). The hymns guide our eyes toward the cross (ELW 335 – *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross*) and tell us that Lent is not the end, but the preparation for a new beginning (ELW 379 – *Now the Green Blade Rises*). Even though we are physically separated during this pandemic, when we sing our minds are awakened, our hearts are moved, and God’s Spirit stirs within us. During Lent, join in singing the hymns during worship from wherever you are – and rejoice in knowing that as we make the journey toward the cross, we make it together.

DID YOU KNOW...

 ...we collected \$376.49 during our November Bucket Collection which benefitted the Jana Marie Foundation?



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

Loving and Praying for our Enemies

I suspect that nearly everyone reading this newsletter would agree that love and prayer are powerful things. Each of us intuitively wants to be loved, and having someone pray for you is a very special kind of care and affection. But I think our human tendency is to share our love and our prayers primarily, if not exclusively, *with people we like and people who are like us*. That tendency seems more pronounced than ever in these present days of political and social disunity and tribalism.

Consider, however, what Jesus taught as part of the Sermon on the Mount: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matthew 5:43-44)

These might be among the most controversial words Jesus ever spoke, because they challenge our core convictions concerning who deserves our love and prayers. This

From Our Senior Pastor

teaching of Jesus likewise reveals the limits of our Christian charity. All of us – myself included – struggle with Jesus’s call to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. It’s high time we all admit it.

Accordingly, as we prepare for the time of honest self-reflection and self-assessment that marks the Lenten season, I cannot think of a more important thing for us to do as individuals and as a congregation than to ask God to transform our hearts so that we are able to better love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Remember, these were no empty words from Jesus; he showed us firsthand how this works when, in agony on the cross, he prayed, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)

Pastors sometimes get phone calls and emails urging us to say *more* about this issue, or *less* about that one, and sometimes (thankfully, quite rarely) we hear some righteous indignation that we dared to pray for a certain person or group. It’s clear that we all have enemies. But how I wish someone would complain that we aren’t spending *enough* time praying for them!

I’ll be the first admit that loving and praying for our enemies is *really hard*. But like most good habits, it starts by doing it once, and then persevering to keep doing it, even when you’d much rather do something else. The Gospels provide plenty of inspiration to sustain us on this journey. Jesus regularly reached out to people like tax collectors, prostitutes, Pharisees, and

Samaritans who he would have quite justifiably considered his enemies. In those engagements, the power of his love changed hearts and transformed enemies into friends.

As we love and pray for our enemies, I cannot promise that those enemies will suddenly love us back or please us in any way. There’s no guarantee that our love and prayers will change *them*. But what I think Jesus ultimately had in mind is that our love and prayers for our enemies will change *us*. And as we enter Lent 2021, that seems to me a pretty great place to start.

Ash Wednesday: February 17, 2021

As I have noted many times before, the pandemic has forced us to find creative ways to continue offering many of our treasured Grace traditions. Many have found Ash Wednesday to be an intensely significant and meaningful way to mark the beginning of Lent. As you will see on the cover of this issue of Grace Notes, we will once again offer the imposition of ashes, but we will do so in a modified fashion to comply with social distancing guidelines. In addition to the drive-in services at 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., we will offer a video edition of Ash Wednesday worship as well.

December 2020 Giving

It was critically important for Grace to eliminate our building debt, not only because it saved us over a half million dollars in interest, but because it freed us from a monthly mortgage obligation so that we could more fully and easily support our operating budget. The fruits of

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Grace's labors were realized in a beautiful way in December, as you broke records in your giving toward the budget. It was an astonishing outpouring of support for your congregation and, as Pastor Lynn used to say, surely made Jesus smile. Thank you for your generosity.

New Members



Grace joyfully received eleven new members on January 24, our most recent New Member Sunday. They include:

- Monica Eakin, her husband Scott Sylves, and their children Marlowe and Jack
- Eileen Schroeder
- Rachael and Mark Taverno and their sons Bennett and Alden
- Michelle Thal
- and Nancy Twichell

We will include photos and brief biographies of our new members in the March issue of Grace Notes. Please join me in welcoming them.

Finally...

Many of you know by now that in mid-January I had urgent and unexpected surgery for kidney stones in both of my kidneys. I'm moving more slowly than I would like, but the surgery was a success and my energy is steadily returning every day. Thank you for your prayers and many expressions of kindness. Thanks as well to my dear Grace staff, who during my convalescence kept us well-stocked with food and took great care of this congregation we all so love.

Peace be with you.

~ Pastor Schul



Big Thoughts from Luther's Small Catechism: First Commandment

Luther's Small Catechism is made up of three primary parts: The Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed, and the Sacraments (baptism and communion). The Catechism thus moves from Law to Gospel, which is the very journey we typically make in our relationship with God. The Law (represented by the Ten Commandments) reveals our sinfulness and inability to self-correct. But in doing so, the Law forces us to look outside ourselves for relief, and ultimately drives us to Jesus (represented by the Sacraments), who is the Gospel – the cure - for sin and everything that afflicts us, because of the forgiveness and new life he won for us through his death and resurrection.

Christ offers this cure to us not because we deserve it or can earn it, but as a *gift of grace*. Accordingly, as the Small Catechism concludes with the “means of grace” – baptism and communion – we are delivered from our despair, into the loving arms of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Of all the Commandments, Luther wrote the most about the First Commandment. In his view it was the most important of them all, because every other commandment is linked or bound to the First Commandment. In other words, if we fail to keep the First Commandment, chances are high that we will fail to keep all of the other ones too.

And so let's consider what Luther wrote in his Small Catechism regarding the First Commandment:

You are to have no other gods.

What is this? Answer: We are to fear, love, and trust God above all things.

Luther explains the most important of all the Commandments in just eleven brief English words. It seems simple, doesn't it? Experience, however, tells us that understanding the First Commandment is a lot easier than actually *keeping* it. That's because there are so many things that come between us and our ultimate allegiance to God.

Elsewhere in his body of writings, Luther offered a few simple questions for us to contemplate as we evaluate whether or not we are keeping the First Commandment:

1. Do you *cling* to God alone, and *trust* in God alone for all that you need and lack? If not, the thing(s) to which you cling are your true god(s).
2. Do you seek help, comfort, and salvation in your own works, and boast upon on all the good things you have done, to the extent that Jesus seems unnecessary? If so, you have made a god of yourself.

Take time to reflect. What are some of the false gods that have taken primacy in your life? Easy examples might be careers, sports, leisure, and wealth. None of those things are inherently bad, *except* when they begin to crowd God out. And so I urge you to contemplate the First Commandment and your priorities. Cling only to God, and release your grasp on all other things. Put “first things first” and see how the rest of your life becomes more *whole* and more *holy*.

~ Pastor Schul

From Our Associate Pastor

"As universal as walking is, each of it will experience it differently." I have been thinking about these words from Erling Kagge lately from his collection of musings called, *Walking One Step at a Time*. Long before Kagge, it was Augustine who used the phrase, "Solvitur ambulando," which means, "it is solved by walking." Before you dismiss that an as "easy for you to say" sentiment, even before Augustine, way back in Sanskrit, one of the world's oldest languages, the word for the past is translated as "that which we have walked." The future, is "that which we have not yet walked." And the present is "that which is directly in front of us." I imagine that if I were to ask any of you, even before this past year, about events in your life, your "walking" of something would differ from someone else's. All the more so these days. Take the experiences of loss, or grief, or uncertainty, and we know in our hearts that our individual experiences will differ. And yet we can seemingly be out of sync. We have all been walking some challenging paths for what it is now approaching a year. Our experiences may vary, but I hope the realization each of us has had struggles opens us to grace. Usually when I have walked somewhere, I have a new appreciation for what someone else has known.

At the same time, now it is hard to have someone to tell. Maybe you too have wished there was someone else who could share your walk. We have Zoom, Facetime, and talk on the phone. But part of what affects our perspective is that isolation takes a toll. Many are clamoring for "another actual real live human" to interact with. Me too.

I used to have "office hours" at Good Day Café and I loved when you all popped by for whatever was on your minds or just to be together. It is a little chilly to sit outdoors for long there (though please do order takeout from them!). **One thing we can do is take a walk outdoors, safely with masks. If you would like a conversation or prayer partner in real time and you can walk, we can walk. Give me a call or email with a time and hopefully we can connect.** It can be in your neighborhood, Grace's neighborhood, around the block, on a trail, wherever. Truthfully, I miss you! Don't worry that it takes time-we can fool ourselves into thinking it is longer but it really is not. I hope you will take me up on this in the next couple months when weather is not likely to give us other options.

Walking allows our minds and bodies to recalibrate. Doing this together sometimes is just the thing to help us gain perspective, laugh or just feel a part of the world. We can celebrate or share consolation for what we have already walked and gain balance to ponder what we have not yet. Walking also quite literally helps us to also see what is directly in front of us, one way or another. It can ground us in God's bigger picture. I always meet God on walks. In the same way, walking with God's word helps us recalibrate, gain perspective, consolation and balance so we can hold onto hope. For more in this light, our Lenten Devotion "Bright Spots" may be just that hope for a day's journey.

As we prepare to begin the journey of Lent, we know we have walked this journey before with Jesus. But



The Rev. Carolyn K. Hetrick
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just as our lived experiences affect how we come to see things anew, the same is true with Scripture. Our Old Testament readings will take on the journey of God walking with God's people in heartache and in covenants, promises that offer new life. The first two are the stories of the flood, and of the promise to Abraham and Sarah. For each, the journey was long and asked much, but I hope that what comes through even more clearly is that God is a god of promises for the journey, and the future, even when God's people hadn't exactly demonstrated they deserved them. Right there in front of them God is found anyway.

I like to have words to walk with. As I begin Lent, I will be walking with words that speak such grace, not only for me, but grace that is going to nudge me where I need it when I look around. They are the words of Psalm 25:10 which we will hear the 1st Sunday in Lent, "Your paths O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness." It is God's loving invitation to the path again, and as Augustine says, it is solved by walking. Whatever "it" is for you, it really is solved by walking when walking means journeying

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in this way with God. Trust what Jesus shows in the new covenant for us and for all people, that above all else, God, and God's love made known in Christ, always meet us in steadfast love and faithfulness. Trust that God calls us to walk that path together and will give us what we need for that journey. However you journey these days, and until we cross paths in real time, know that we are "together in Spirit."

~ Pastor Hetrick

Happy Valley Hikers SC

Weather permitting, we make short hour long treks in the State College area. Plans are posted on the Happy Valley Hikers SC Facebook group. If you do not use Facebook, let Pastor Hetrick know to send you an email in advance.



Winter weather has been mild. Potentially there will be a

February hike on February 20th.

Updated information will follow closer to the date.

Green tip for February

While we are still in the midst of winter, spring will be here soon. Now is a great time to start thinking about **gardening**. Gardening is fun, a great family activity, provides exercise and fresh air and generally promotes a healthy lifestyle and connection to God's creation. If you haven't tried it before, now is a great time to start planning, ordering seeds and even to start growing some seedlings indoors in preparation for the upcoming growing season.

If you don't have a garden, or even if you do, when you go grocery shopping, please try to reduce or eliminate waste. Some ways to reduce waste when shopping for groceries are by buying un-packaged fresh fruits and vegetables, bringing your own container to a bulk food store, investing in some produce bags to transport fresh foods, avoiding prepared foods, and bringing your own reusable grocery bags.

Hands, Hearts and Voices Valentine Workshop

**Join Laurel Sanders on Sunday, January 31, from 2-3 p.m.
for a fun online Valentine workshop!**

Valentine's Day 2021 is the same week as Transfiguration Sunday and Ash Wednesday, both closely tied to love. Discover the "pure" roots of February; hear the story of Saint Valentine; and make some fun valentines online to send to folks at The Oaks (Laurel will take them there) or for family or a friend to tell them that they matter. You can provide your own supplies (blank cards or card stock; glue; colored pens or pencils; scissors) or request a bag of colorful supplies (with a little Valentine treat!) to pick up at Grace.

1 John reminds us, "We love because He first loved us." Put your hands and heart to work, using your 'voice' to tell people that you care. Contact Laurel at lSanders@glcpa.org or 814-883-8484 (cell; leave a message) for details and the link to the meeting. This is designed for adults and teens, but children with supervision are welcome.



**You care
for the land
and water it;
you enrich it
abundantly.**

Psalm 65:9, NIV



Finances for 2020-21

| | Actual Income vs Expense December 2020 | Budgeted Income vs Expense December 2020 | + or (-) | % |
|------------|--|--|----------------|----------|
| Income | \$ 136,086.56 | \$ 96,000 | \$ 40,086.56 | 41.76 % |
| Expenses | \$ 57,800.92 | \$ 72,387.50 | (\$ 14,586.58) | -20.15 % |
| Net Income | \$ 78,285.64 | \$ 23,612.50 | | |

In December 2020 Grace members gave the most money toward our operating budget in the history of our congregation, despite the challenges of the pandemic and our inability to gather for Christmas worship in the traditional manner. Your help in paying off our mortgage in October, and your decision to roll over most of your monthly mortgage contributions into regular giving, is enabling us to fully fund our ministries - both internal and outreach. We are extremely grateful, and will remain faithful stewards of your trust and gifts. You can continue to donate to Grace via checks and postal mail, or you can access our automated bank transfer form and/or make credit card donations using Tithe.ly via the GIVE button on our website at www.glcpa.org. Contact Laurel Sanders at lsanders@glcpa.org with questions.

Charitable Giving Enhancements Extended Through 2021

As you plan your charitable giving for 2021, bear in mind that enhancements to the normal charitable gifts deduction rules in 2020 have been extended through 2021. This means:

- For those who itemize deductions, the limit on the charitable gifts deduction has been increased to 100% of Annual Gross Income for direct cash gifts to public charities.
- For non-itemizers, a \$300 charitable deduction (increased to \$600 in 2021 for joint returns) for direct cash gifts to public charities is available (in addition to the standard deduction).

Every dollar you give helps to support local, regional, and global ministry. Thank you for making the most of your giving opportunities!

Council Highlights

At its January 2021 meeting, Grace's Church Council:

- Gave thanks for the high rate of giving of Grace members throughout the pandemic generally and during December 2020 particularly; and
- Participated in a discussion, led by Sarah Rodgers and Bruce Hockenberry, on the issue of racism.

DID YOU KNOW...

✿ ...that Grace's extensive library of worship videos and virtual choirs can all be accessed from **Grace's YouTube channel**? Access it here: <https://tinyurl.com/GLCYouTube>. And while you're there, please subscribe so that you don't miss a thing. Doing so will help others to find Grace's content too.

As we have continued to add worship, music and faith formation resources to our YouTube channel, sections for Worship, Faith for All Ages, and Music at Grace now have been created. When you visit, you can head to the area of content you are looking for more easily.



State College Food Bank



Awe and appreciation!

As a church we donated **\$8,420** to the State College Food Bank in **2020** and \$7,616 of that amount was donated during the nine months of COVID.

We are doing God's work!

As the coronavirus continues to rage, let's persist in our generosity. If you'd like to join in this ministry, please make your checks out to Grace Lutheran Church with Food Bank on the memo line. We'll continue collecting monetary donations only, until further notice.

A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor. - Proverbs 22:9

February Bucket

Collection Recipient: Out of the Cold

COVID sure is persistent and so, we're not back to worshipping in our sanctuary. The Bucket Collection loses its charm without members standing at the sanctuary exits holding the buckets at the end of each service. No worries. Time will take care of COVID and we'll be back to our traditional Bucket Collection method. In the meantime, **please send your contributions by check to the church OR use Tithe.ly.**



OUT OF THE COLD 2021

“ ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’” Matthew 25:37-41

Planning is underway for opening our hearts to encounter Jesus at Grace as we host Out of the Cold for 2021. **Grace will host Out of the Cold guests from the evening of March 8 to the morning of March 22.** As with many things, the pandemic has affected how we will engage in this vital ministry, but the need for care and shelter remains.

Since OOTC now has a dedicated staff person to cover the overnights, we can focus our efforts on providing warm evening meals, hospitality and breakfast which this year will be “Grab and Go” style. We will also need folks to help with morning clean up to help our sextons and help staff ensure guests are on their way by 7:00 a.m. We will also need supplies.

To coordinate volunteers and supplies there are two Sign-up Genius accounts. We have created a sign-up list for volunteering to unload and reload the truck, provide and serve dinner, serve as the guest registration host, hospitality, and provide and deliver the next morning’s breakfast. You can access it via this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48AEAF2EA4F5C52-outofthe>

We have created a second sign-up list for donation of items needed, like beverages and serve ware. You can access it via this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48AEAF2EA4F5C52-donate>

With a couple exceptions, **supplies will be needed before March 8.** Drop-offs can be made on Sundays from 10 a.m. until noon at the cart and bin located at the Main Entrance. Thank you for your continued support of this important mission for our community.

Out of the Cold is currently serving between 7 and 14 guests. We have had up to 18 guests in an evening this year. To keep up with the latest information on OOTC and our mission please visit our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=out%20of%20the%20cold%20centre%20county>. Please reach out to Pam Soule (pjsoule610@gmail.com or 260-367-1323) if you have general questions. If you wish to donate or to help and do not have access to a computer, please contact Pastor Hetrick by phone or pastorhetrick@glcpa.org and she can slot you in.



Centre Safe Collection

Our Centre Safe collection continues for a little while longer... through February 5th but we will accept donations through February. This organization does such caring work in our community. Their mission is to empower survivors of sexual violence, relationship violence, and stalking and to work toward the elimination of such violence. With COVID still keeping us from in-person worship, our collection will only be via monetary donations this year. **You may donate via check or Tithe.ly.**

Helping Hands

The Helping Hands team will meet via zoom on February, 10 at 6:30 p.m.

to discuss plans for this year. We are looking into possibly going to Camp Sequanota in May to help them with

various projects to get ready for the upcoming camping season. These projects typically involve working outside in small groups across the camp. If anyone would like to attend the meeting or would like more information on Helping Hands or Camp Sequanota, please reach out to Alyson Hoegg at alysonm.hoegg@gmail.com for more information. The meeting invite will be emailed out a few days ahead of the meeting.



Helping Hands

Garden of Readin' February 16

The February meeting of Garden of Readin' (women's book club) will be **Tuesday, February 16 at 10:30 a.m. remotely via Zoom**. The next book is *Lake of Sorrows* by Erin Hart. The discussion will be facilitated by Carla Rossi. Contact Laura Pauley (llp1@psu.edu) or Lois Lynn (loissteve@comcast.net) for more info.

Disciples Together

Disciples Together continues to offer connections while distancing for 25 people. This month, our fellow disciples will receive a sweet treat and uplifting message from one of our leaders and we hope to share a "we love you" virtual time together. March is Mental Health Awareness month and we will be creating and sharing "Coping Skills Toolkits". These toolkits will be bags made by a Scraps and Skeins employee who sews small drawstring bags as a part of their own mental health coping skills. The bags will contain items aimed at all the senses, as well as a Scripture magnet and "who to call" list for support. We also plan to have a special Zoom meeting to talk about how one uses such a kit. We ask for your prayers for our disciples, their caregivers and families as this time of diminished contacts and opportunities continues to be quite challenging. If you wish to share in this ministry, contact Ellen Campbell, Lynn Rogers or Pastor Hetrick.



QNA - Questions, not Answers

We will meet **Sunday, February 7 at 7 p.m. via Zoom**. If you are interested in attending, please email Carla Rossi at ckrossi@comcast.net for the link to the meeting.



If you previously participated in QNA, we hope you will join us again. If you haven't, newcomers are always welcome.

Alicia Anderson will facilitate a discussion centered on Lenny Duncan's book - *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US* (In case you don't know, that denomination is the ELCA and Lenny Duncan is a Lutheran minister.) You don't need to have read the book to participate. If this sounds familiar, it is. This will replace the discussion that was planned for December but was cancelled.

Please come, via your computer or phone, with your additional questions; be prepared to leave without answers.

CONNECTED, GENEROUS, FREE TO SERVE

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Dear church,

We have been living with this pandemic for nearly a year. So much has changed. Bubbles, personal protective equipment, social distancing and one-way grocery aisles are part of our lexicon and everyday experience. Who knew, a year ago, that face masks would be advertised as ideal stocking stuffers? Our homes have become offices, schools and gyms. Our commutes have been cut down from hours of traffic to walking over to the dining room table. I do not look forward to the weekly summary from my iPhone that tells me how many hours a day I am staring at a screen.

But the pandemic has also revealed the remarkable resilience and creativity of this church. Within weeks of shelter-in-place restrictions, thousands of our congregations converted to online worship, Bible studies and coffee hours. As the economy stuttered and people lost jobs, you stepped up the work of your food pantries. When kids needed internet access to go to virtual school, you became neighborhood hot spots.

We became more connected. And the gospel was heard by people who, in the “Before Times,” would never have come to church. There is a story about the devil bragging to a pastor, saying that the pandemic was the devil’s tool to close all the churches—to which the pastor replied, “We have opened a church in every home.”

You have been generous. In March and April we began to hear concern from our bishops about synod ministries. What would happen to camps and campus ministries? What would happen to congregations that were anchors in communities and were already stressed before the pandemic? We offered Daily Bread grants—\$500 from the churchwide organization/\$500 from the local congregation. We hoped that 50 congregations might be able to raise the matching funds. So far 374 grants have been awarded. Working with synod bishops we launched the COVID-19 Appeal, which is designed to support key ministries in synods. You stepped up and in eight months have given over \$1.7 million. These grants have been distributed to ministries in 62 of our 65 synods.

Now it’s 2021. The pandemic is still with us. Yes, there are vaccines and distribution is being sorted out. There is an end in sight. But now is not the time to let down our guard. We’ll keep washing our hands, wearing masks and avoiding crowds. We will do this for ourselves and for each other. We will respect the disease and give thanks to God for the gift of science. And we will continue to worship, pray and serve.

The pandemic has also taught us something about ourselves. Though we are physically distant, we are connected. Paul put it this way in a letter to the Corinthians: “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it” (1 Corinthians 12:26-27).

It is our joyful duty to care for one another, particularly the most vulnerable. It is an act of faithfulness when we limit ourselves so that the pandemic is brought to heel. It is an act of love when we restrict our travel or wear a mask. As Martin Luther pointed out in *The Freedom of a Christian*, it is the freedom we have in Christ that makes us servants of all.

There is a model of such self-giving, self-limiting love. “Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:4-8).

I pray that we all live in such freedom.

Peace. Be well.

Liz

Lutheran Student Community / Lutheran Campus Ministry at Penn State



There are a number of options for Penn State students to connect to other students, participate in worship and discussions that are designed with students in mind, and find support from our community of students and staff.

Both online and in person, LSC and LCM are a welcoming community, here to support students. We continue to offer a community where all are truly welcome to come as you are, where care and connection can be found, and where you can share both the struggles and the joys you encounter.

Remember, details and times may change as the situation unfolds, so check our socials and the calendar on our website for the most up-to-date info.

Weekly February

Night Prayer Sundays from 9-9:30 p.m. - *Online*

Set aside some quiet time for prayer, to connect with God, and feel centered before the week begins. This brief casual service will include a scripture reading, prayers, music and time for reflection.

Pop Up Office Hours Tuesday from 3-4 p.m. - *Online (other times by appointment)*

Campus minister Alicia Anderson will be available for you to jump on the Zoom and just chat about your day, ask questions big or small, pray with you, or talk about something tough. Check our events calendar for the link. If you need to arrange a different time, just email or text.

Evening Prayer ONLINE Thursdays from 8-9 p.m. – see our calendar for the link

Gather for prayer, music, reflection, and community together via Zoom while the University is virtual. We'll use music recorded by our own community. Digital worship resources will be shared as we gather. We will return to in-person worship at 6 p.m. on Thursdays when classes are in-person again, but a virtual option will be available all semester.

Upcoming Events

QNA (Questions Not Answers) – February 7 from 7-8 p.m. - *Online*

Join an inter-generational discussion with lots of questions and no easy answers! February's topic is race and the church, using writings of Pastor Lenny Duncan, author of *Dear Church*. Come join the conversation! Email Carla Rossi for the event link: ckrossi@comcast.net

Anti-racism Discussion – February 16 from 7-8 p.m. - *Online*

Learn and talk together with other people of faith as we grow in our understanding of racism and how we can be antiracist day to day. We will be exploring antiracism using a variety of online resources. This month we'll be talking about policing in our country, looking at the history of policing and as we move into the future. *You'll find the link on our event calendar.*

Graduate Student Group? Service-Learning Projects? Bible Study/Discussion? Advocacy Projects?

Spanish Language? You can get more information about these and other plans by visiting this interest form: tinyurl.com/yy8ppdog

Blessings as the new year begins! Stay safe! We thank God for you every time we think of you.

~ Alicia Anderson

- Visit our website at lutheranpennstate.org
- You'll find us on Facebook and Instagram @[lutheranpennstate](https://www.instagram.com/lutheranpennstate/)
- Sign up for our weekly listserve with a reflection, prayer, updates and event info: bit.ly/2ODOSZq
- Contact Alicia Anderson, Campus Minister at ara2@psu.edu or 814.360.0601 with questions.

What's Happening?

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday, February 7

- 9:30-10:00 a.m. – Family Sunday School on Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. – Confirmation on Zoom

Sunday, February 14

- Youth Led Worship
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Take Home Bag Pick up

Sunday, February 17

12:15 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Drive-in Service or At Home

Sunday, February 21

- 9:30-10:00 a.m. – Family Sunday School on Zoom
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. – High School Youth Group on Zoom

MARCH PREVIEW

Sunday, March 7

- 9:30-10:00 a.m. – Family Sunday School on Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. – Lent Painting Box Pickup
- 7:00 p.m. – Confirmation on Zoom

Sunday, March 21

- 9:30-10:00 a.m. – Family Sunday School on Zoom
- 2:00-4:00 p.m. – Zoom Painting Party
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. – High School Youth Group on Zoom

Sunday, March 28

- 4:00-5:00 p.m. – Zoom Painting Reveal

PAINTING FOR ALL

Let's channel our inner "Bob Ross" by painting our own happy little work of art. Grace will provide many of the materials needed for you to join in the fun. Materials will include paint, canvas, and paint brush. There will be a video guide as well as a Zoom reveal of our masterpieces! Please contact Cindy & Peter to reserve your take-home kit and how many people (in your group) will be painting.

Pick up materials on **Sunday, March 7**

from Noon to 1:00 p.m. for supply box

pick-up. Instructions will be provided.

If you need other arrangements for materials pick-up or questions, please contact us: faithformation@glcpa.org.



Follow the Star Scavenger Hunt

Thank you to the many families who joined us in our Follow the Star Scavenger

Hunt. While we thought the easiest destination would be Target, it turns out it's about location, location, location – too many **Starbucks** in this area. We are especially thankful for our station leaders: Heather Wild, Kathy & John Kalbach, and Sally & Carl Keiser-Bankert. Many thanks to Judy & John Rockey for allowing us to use their driveway as our final destination. We hope you will join us in April as we look for Jesus and Easter Eggs in our community.

Youth Led Worship

On **Sunday, February 14**, we will have our "usual" youth-led worship. During the pandemic time, this will mean prerecorded work for those who have speaking parts in the service. If you would like to participate, please email faithformation@glcpa.org by the end of January.

Ash Wednesday

This year's Ash Wednesday worship service, on **Wednesday, February 17**, will take place using our Drive-in format as well as a take home bag with online service. If you are not planning on coming to the drive-in Ash Wednesday service, please come to pick up an Ash Wednesday bag on Sunday, February 14 between 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. at the church's front porch.

The drive-in worship is detailed on the first page of this issue. There are two worship times to choose from, 12:15 p.m. or 6:30 p.m.

Family Sunday School

Family Sunday School continues on zoom and the website. February topic is "A Storm." Please check your email for the Zoom link the week prior to Sunday, February 7th and January 21st. The zoom times are at 9:30 a.m. on those Sundays. Since we are not hosting in-person classes, Sunday school content will be posted on our Faith Formation website (<http://www.glcfaithformation.org/sunday-school.html> with the password Grace2020).

Confirmation Classes continue Online

Confirmation class now consists of online assignments and a monthly zoom session. Plan to meet on Zoom for a lesson on **February 7 at 7:00 p.m.** Check your email for the Zoom link in early February.

High School Youth Group

We continue Youth Group on the third Sunday each month. The format will be either zoom or in person based upon the health guidelines. Our time together will include a check-in and discussion of the *ELCA Faith Lens*. This month's meeting will be on zoom on **February 21 from 7-8 p.m.** See you safely there!

Bible Quiz

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they'd had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?

- A. carrots and potatoes
- B. onions and garlic
- C. fish and leeks
- D. melons and cucumbers

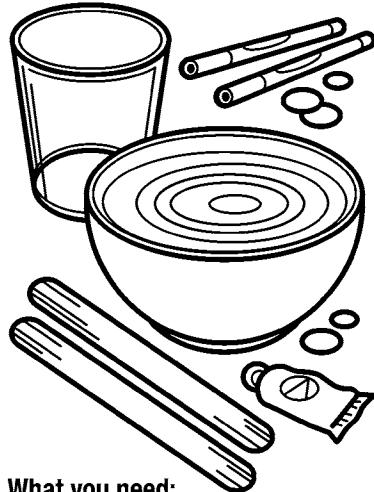


Answer: See Numbers 11:4-6



'Loving' embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.





Dates to Remember!

Monday, February 1

2021-2022 Priority and Open Registration forms begin being accepted for lottery registration

Tuesday, February 9

Priority Registration for 2021-2022 begins through lottery at noon

Wednesday, February 10

9:30 a.m. – Open Registration for 2021-2022 begins through lottery

Wed. & Thurs., February 10 & 11

GLPK Pajama Days

Thursday, February 11

12:15-1:30 p.m. – Staff Meeting in the Miller Center

Sunday, February 14

Happy Valentine's Day

Mon. & Tues., February 15 & 16

Valentine's Day classroom celebrations

Thurs. & Fri., February 25 & 26

10:30 a.m. – Chapel

(Below) Miss Teri's enrichment class learned about hibernation.

(Right) Miss Debbie's class made Playdoh snowmen.



CHRISTIAN FOCUS BOX FOR FEBRUARY!

"God loves us all!"

Love your neighbor as yourself. – Luke 10:27

SCIENCE EXPLORATION: Exploring Water – Sink and Float

AFTERNOON ENRICHMENT THEME: Fairy Tale Reader's Theatre

Grace Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten Registration Process for 2021-2022

www.glcparpreschool.org * glpk@glcpa.org

- ❖ GLPK will be registering all students for the 2021-2022 school year through a lottery system (see note below).
- ❖ 2021-2022 Registration forms with an attached envelope will be available beginning Thursday, January 28th.
- ❖ Priority and Open registration forms with a \$50 non-refundable registration fee will start being accepted on **Monday, 2/1/2021** at the main school entrance during drop-off each morning.
- ❖ Priority registrations will be randomly drawn from each age group and numbered on Tuesday, **February 9, 2021** at noon.
- ❖ Open registrations will be randomly drawn and numbered beginning Wednesday, **February 10, 2021** at **9:30 a.m.** (Registrations are accepted at any time throughout the year.)
- ❖ Confirmations of enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year will be sent on March 24, 2021.
- ❖ Note: Due to COVID-19 restrictions for gathering, we will be registering all 2021-2022 students through a lottery system. Each morning beginning on Monday, 2/1/2021 through Tuesday, 2/9/2021 (lottery drawing begins at noon), you will have the opportunity to place your sealed registration form with the registration fee (\$50 payable to Grace Lutheran Church) in the provided envelope into the appropriate labeled bin. There will be a bin for 2.5 to 3.5-year-olds, 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds, Jr. Kindergarten, Kindergarten Prep and Open registrations. Please remember to write your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice on the registration form. When a class fills, you will be placed in your 2nd or if necessary your 3rd choice class. All current students and Grace Lutheran Church members have priority registration.



GLPK Options for those not ready for Kindergarten in the 2021-22 School Year

You may notice that we are not offering our half-day kindergarten class anymore. Instead, we have two programs that offer options for those who feel the Pandemic has left their preschooler behind.

Jr. Kindergarten class is for those children who either miss the cut-off date for kindergarten or have a summer birthday. These students must be age five by December 31. The curriculum is a more in-depth study of pre-kindergarten skills and an introduction to kindergarten skills in a whole group setting through the introduction of an author and illustrator of the month.

Kindergarten Prep is for those children who will turn five by September 30th. This class is a formal introduction to the kindergarten curriculum without the expectation of mastery. Reading and math skills are taught in the context of developmentally appropriate lessons that are built upon throughout the school year. This class is intended for students who are eligible for kindergarten, but for their own individual reasons would benefit from an extra year of kindergarten level materials before entering public school kindergarten.

For more information on any of GLPK's programs, please contact the school office at 238-8110 or glpk@glcpa.org.

Dads Are Cool

We had a short month of school in January, but we were able to celebrate our really "cool" dads. The GLPK students were interviewed about their dads; painted portraits of their special guys; and read lots of books about fathers.



Miss Amanda's class



Miss Anne's Class



Miss Teri's class



Top right, Miss Debbie's class made "Cool Dad" snowflakes; Mrs. Wylie's class coloring "Ties" for Dad, bottom right.



February Worship Sponsors



Bulletin Covers

Radio Sponsors

February 7 - Open

February 14 - Jim & Ellen Campbell dedicated
in honor of their grandson Alex Thomas

February 21 - Open

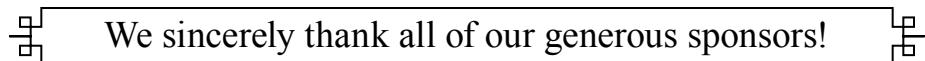
February 28 - Open

February 7 - Anonymously, dedicated to the Glory of God

February 14 - Joyce Sipple, dedicated to the Glory God

February 21 - Greg and Kathy Weimer dedicated to the
memory of our fathers, Dalton Schrock and
Ross Weimer

February 28 - Bruce and Elaine Rathfon dedicated to the
memory of their daughter, Joyce Ann Rathfon

We sincerely thank all of our generous sponsors!

January Pastoral Acts

Deaths - Funerals/Memorials

- Barbara Soder, graveside service January 21

Prayer List for February

All Military & Nat'l Guard and all
serving our country and 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

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 and 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 and grand
daughter of Merle and Kathy
McCalips

June Krumrine

Paul and 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

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 and Charlotte Spearly
Jack Sylves and family and
grandparents, Tom and Marj
Eakin

Tom and Claudette, friends of
Helen and Dick Brenneman

Karen Tupman, cousin of
Phyllis Favorite

Brenda and Ken Walsh

Greg Weimer



February Birthdays

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Meredith Tamminga | 8 Matt Smith | 15 Catherine Cutter | 22 Elizabeth Kisenwether |
| 1 James Stephenson | 8 Ellen Cable | 15 Owen Preston | 22 Mark Pauley |
| 1 Sara Horn | 8 Daniel Hosterman | 16 Jack Vanden Heuvel | 22 Robert Kovach |
| 1 Rick Rishel | 8 Gerda Margittai | 16 Rosaline Haney | 23 Marjorie Eakin |
| 1 Rosalyn Widener | 8 Jeff Martin | 16 Bruce Hockenberry | 23 Michael Chaffin |
| 2 Adelina Laine | 9 Jennifer Conklin | 16 Eric Schimmel | 23 Anastasia Woytowich |
| 3 Logan Preston | 9 Jillian Stoltzfus | 16 Angela Kempf | 24 Kay Robinson |
| 3 Carter Preston | 10 Connor Fitz | 16 Natalie Wild | 24 James Cathcart |
| 3 Andrew Hardyk | 10 Lois Lynn | 17 Mary Bahnfleth | 24 Jonathan Kremser |
| 3 Brian Bills | 10 Claire Moore | 17 Kathleen Kempf | 25 Charlotte Horn |
| 3 Jennifer Griel | 10 Katelyn Espenshade | 17 Christine Tate | 26 Katherine Stenerson |
| 3 Holly Stoltzfus | 11 Robert Cook | 17 Shelby Rinehimer | 26 Joseph Schuchert |
| 3 Aden Dvir | 11 Samantha Swartz | 18 Victor Sparrow | 26 Deana Coine |
| 3 Ethan Dvir | 11 Jeff Stover | 18 Bryan Ollendyke | 26 Ryan Knowles |
| 3 Nolan Chamberlain-Corl | 11 Maxwell Walker | 19 David Zellner | 26 Erik McShea |
| 3 Jennifer Malik-Williams | 12 Jackie Kunes | 19 Terry Roof | 26 Mildred Zellner |
| 4 Kelly Weimer | 12 John McShea | 20 Tina Scourtis | 27 Gary Stroschein |
| 4 Mervin Davis | 12 Brian Newcomb | 20 James Cartey | 27 Margaret (Molly) Hunter |
| 4 Alexander Laine | 12 Lori O'Donnell | 21 Bill Scilingo | 27 Pastor Scott Schul |
| 4 Melina Matsoukas | 12 Emeline Chandra | 21 Seth Conklin | 27 Russ Albert |
| 5 Conrad Tucker | 12 Shane Gearhart | 21 Sara Proctor | 28 Anne Rivell |
| 6 Peter Forster | 12 Chester Hughes | 21 Kathy Cathcart | 28 Brighton Edward Bean |
| 6 Brenda Walsh | 13 Michelle Thal | 21 Jacob Shearer | 28 Shannon Dinant |
| 6 Becky Krantweiss | 14 Dorothea Roberts | 21 Zachary Hazenstab | 28 Nina Sparrow |
| 6 Nicklaus Giacobe | 14 Jayne Albert | 21 Heather Brigger | 28 Cheryl Kleckner |
| 6 H. Timothy Lovell | 15 Ben Steward | 22 Kathryn Clayton | 29 Stephanie Fozard |
| 7 John Jace Wandrisco | 15 Madison Czekaj | 22 Maryann Newcomb | |

WORSHIP SPONSORS FOR 2021

There are many openings for Bulletin and Radio Sponsorships for 2021. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these dates, please contact Sheri Rider at the church office, 238-2478 or srider@glcpa.org.

- **RADIO** costs are \$200 per Sunday, \$100 for a shared broadcast.
- **BULLETIN** sponsorships are \$25 per Sunday

Dates for Bulletin Openings:

February 7, 21, 28

April 4, 11, 18, 25

May 30

June 20

July 4

August 8

October 17, 24

November 7, 14, 28

December 5 and 24

Dates for Radio Openings:

May 30

June 13

July 11

August 1

October 10

By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love's practicality in everyday life: "Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way." He also calls love "the WD-40 of relationships" because it "can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can't seem to penetrate."

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God's help, can change hearts and lives. "Love all [people], even your enemies," he advises. "Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother."



Grace Notes

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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State College, PA 16801
(814) 238-2478

www.glcpa.org

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30 a.m. Worship on the Radio
Broadcast on WRSC 1390 AM and 93.3 FM is active

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



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

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

Gather • Feed • Send

Grace Lutheran Church is energized by the Holy Spirit and nurtured through God's Word and Sacrament to gather, feed, and send people in the name of Jesus Christ.