



Grace Notes

Gather • Feed • Send

October 2026

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Grace Lutheran Preschool Celebrates 60 Years!

On September 7, 1966, Gwen Bunnell and Linda Domin started Grace Lutheran Church Nursery School with just \$50 and a vision for serving young children and their families. Sixty years later, we celebrated this special milestone with Linda and Gwen's daughter, Carol Grim, during each of our church services and at the church picnic on September 13.



On September 18, Pastor Schul dedicated the school lobby in honor of our founders, Gwen and Linda. We are deeply grateful to these two women whose vision and dedication began what has become the wonderful school we cherish today. Their legacy continues to touch the lives of generations of children and families at Grace Lutheran Preschool.



Pastor Schul, Dawn Vanden Heuvel, Linda Domin, Cathy Smarkusky, Carol Grim (Gwen Bunnell's daughter)



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From Our Senior Pastor



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

Where will love carry you?

I apologize in advance, dear reader, that yet again my monthly musings are going to address (at least in part) my granddaughter Addison. But she has become a primary lens through which I see and better understand myself, the world, and my God. I suppose that's one of the beautiful fruits of love – it provides clarity of thought and heart. It reveals who you are, and enables you to see everyone and everything around you with new eyes, the sort of eyes that God has for us, eyes of grace, mercy, compassion, and abiding affection.

Love, however, is more than a feeling, an understanding, or an intellectual achievement. At its most potent and powerful, love spreads from our heart and mind and becomes embodied in our actions. Stated more plainly, love impacts the choices we make and the actions we take. Love carries you to live a different way.

My love for Addison provides more than a few examples of what I'm describing. I will offer just the latest. I have always respected the

masterful storytelling and animation of Disney productions, but am, at best, a casual fan. And though I know many of you are enthusiastic fans of Disney theme parks, I have never, ever had a desire to attend one because of my aversion to the crowds, the lines, and the expense.



But in November, guess where I'm headed? Yep. We're making a family trip to Disney because Addison is obsessed with Disney princesses, Mickey Mouse, and the rest of the Disney gang. I wouldn't miss it for the world! I want to see her face light up when she walks into that "magic kingdom" for the first time. I want to be there to hear her squeals of delight as she sees the characters, the fireworks, and the spectacle of it all. I want to carry her tired little body at the end of the day when the walking and the rides have joyfully exhausted her. And I want to be there to share a memory of an experience she will never forget. Love for my granddaughter will soon carry me to a Disney theme park.

Where will love carry you?

As you ponder that question, consider where love carried *Jesus*. Because of love, the creator of the

universe (see John 1:1-5) and most powerful being in the cosmos came to dwell among us, his creation, and did so in the vulnerability of our flesh, blood, and bones, as a tiny, defenseless baby dependent upon his mother for life itself.

Where will love carry you?

Because of love, Jesus willingly suffered the humiliation, disappointment, and pain (both emotional and physical) of betrayal as his closest friends and followers abandoned him, so that he could model the power of forgiveness. And because of love, Jesus ascended a cross in order to exchange his life for ours in a victory he won over sin not for *himself* but solely for *us*.

Where will love carry you?

Because of love, the tomb in which Jesus's lifeless body was placed was unable to hold him or contain him. He conquered death and secured eternal life for us, because his love for us made it impossible for him to imagine an eternity that didn't include us.

Where will love carry you?

Friends, the Church exists in part to proclaim this work of love. We benefit from ongoing reminders of all the places love carried Jesus and the lifechanging blessings which we accrued as a result. But as I wrote at the outset, love is more than a feeling, an understanding, or an intellectual achievement. At its most potent and powerful, love spreads from our heart and mind and becomes embodied in our actions. Stated more plainly, Jesus's

love should impact the choices we make and the actions we take. Jesus's love should carry us to live a different way.

So I ask again: where will love carry you?

If you honestly assess your life and answer, "Well, to this point, pastor, it hasn't carried me very far," then let's view that realization as God's call to a *new* way of seeing and being. Next steps are not complicated. They don't require advanced education, immense worldly riches, or astonishing feats of physical strength. (1) Pray daily. (2) Spend a little time reading and pondering God's Word every day. (3) Weekly, come to church for worship. (4) And as you are embraced by Jesus's love, embody that love and share it with others by loving your neighbor.

That, in essence, is the Christian way of discipleship. Jesus longs for us to experience his love not only by *receiving* it but by *sharing* it. As your pastor, I long for you to experience that kind of life too. It won't necessarily make you popular or rich, and some days it won't even make you happy. But it will fill your life with meaning, fulfillment, and peace. Only Christ's love – experienced and shared – can do that. Why would anyone willingly walk through this life in pursuit of anything else?

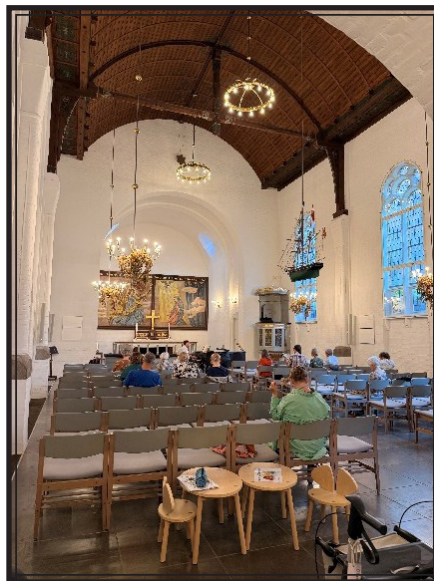
In the next month or so, love will carry me (and Addison!) to Disney for a few days. Every Sunday, love carries me to Grace. And on a daily basis, love carries me to places and people that constantly surprise me, as God calls me – just as God calls you – to embody Christ's love. What a privilege. What an experience. What a life!

Where will love carry you?

Lessons from Denmark: Community Singing

Last month I shared a lesson (about the power of community listening) that I observed and learned from my recent trip to Denmark and the time I spent with the National Lutheran Church of Denmark. This month I will offer a second lesson: *the power of community singing*.

It happened on a pleasant Thursday morning as Linda and I rode bicycles through Copenhagen, accompanied by our friend Pastor Rikke Juul, as she showed us some parts of the city most tourists never get a chance to see. One such place was a small Lutheran church called Davids Kirke. It was about 10 a.m. when we arrived.



As I walked into the church, I didn't expect that anything would be taking place and that I would have free reign to explore and take photos. But to my surprise and delight, the sanctuary was busy and active with the sounds of a community hymn singing as the church's music director was joyfully directing the musical chaos from his station behind the piano.

There was no worship service or much in the way of organization, and doubtless the singing was not of professional caliber. It was simply a room full of people singing and making music together, which in the end was the whole point. But why?

Well, consider that people today live in such isolation compared to our ancestors just a few generations ago. Technology has enabled us to hyper-personally curate our news, music, and entertainment. Even our "truth" is what we self-select. No longer must we even run into other people at a grocery store – our food can be gathered by a "professional shopper" and delivered for us.

That should be alarming, because we humans are hardwired for community. But another consequence of technology is that social media has deceived us into thinking we are connected when in fact we are (generally speaking) lonelier than ever before.

And so as I stood at the doorway of the sanctuary of Davids Kirke in Copenhagen and watched a room full of people singing, I was reminded that one of the Church's most urgent tasks in this day and age is to provide opportunities for people to be in community with one another. It doesn't have to be singing. I see it here at Grace in our quilting group. I see it in our food distributions. And of course I see it on Wednesday evenings when we gather for our community meal.

In scripture, Jesus teaches us time and again that when we gather in community, he has a habit of showing up. And when he shows up,

~ Cont'd. on p. 15

From Our Associate Pastor

As the fall is upon us, many of our gathering activities return and new ones are on the horizon. I want to share three opportunities to gather and be fed by God's goodness.



Memories Café

The first is a new opportunity that we hope will create connections called **"Memories Café."** It arises from doing some listening to people's hopes and concerns that, as we age, we need meaningful relationship time and support for the challenging times. Here at Grace we are hosting "Memories Café" on **Tuesday October 6** from **11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** in the Miller Center. The cafe is a welcoming social gathering for people living with changes in their memory or thinking, and the people who care about them. It's a place to have fun together with familiar faces, talk with others who understand what you're going through, and maybe try something new! We will have a meal, social time, art making and music around our theme of "Fall."

In addition to our own volunteers we will have folks from the Penn State School of Nursing who will lead us in a session of "Opening Minds Through Art." As we explore this opportunity, right now it

is open to members of Grace, Pine Hall Lutheran, St. John's Lutheran in Boalsburg and Shiloh Lutheran. Stay tuned as we share how we keep making memories together and finding joy in our journeys. Please see Pastor Hetrick or Faith Community Nurse Rebecca Rabb with any questions or to learn more.



Service of Healing and Wholeness

Scripture tells us that it is wonderful when we can dwell together in unity. One of the other ways to remain grounded in God's love is to receive God's reassurance and healing and to be present with each other and pray with each other within that space. Imagine praying the words of the Lords Prayer "thy kingdom come, thy will be done" and pondering how God is speaking not only individually, but collectively to us. One way to gather beyond Sunday worship is our Second Annual Ecumenical Service for Healing and Wholeness at Grace. **Wednesday, October 14** we have invited our ecumenical partners in town to join us again for a **Service of Healing and Wholeness.** This year we will be joined by Faith United Church of Christ, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, State College Presbyterian, and University Baptist and Brethren



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

Church. The service will also include our Grace Stephen Ministers and Faith Community Nurse and a variety of musicians. **Come join us for the Wednesday meal at 5 p.m. and then stay for worship at 6:15 p.m.** We are blessed to share ministries with our partners and it is good to share in the ministry of fellowship and consolation. Pastor Schul will preach and I will preside at Holy Communion. Our partners will lead in worship with us and we will offer anointing for healing of body, mind and spirit for those who wish to receive it. Our Stephen Ministers will be available for coffee and conversation afterwards.



"A Simple Way to Pray"

I get to spend a lot of time talking with our elders and one of the things I have heard from the most resilient of them is the value of prayer, day in and day out. More than one person speaks of praying the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's

Creed and the Ten Commandments every day. There is some value to the constancy of this and if prayed slowly, one might hear different emphasis from one day to the next. In our time, many are talking about ways to be grounded and keep perspective in an ever-changing and fast-paced world.

When I began planning our series on Artificial Intelligence, I had no idea how exponential the growth of this would be, almost too fast to keep up with. No sooner was I imagining how to perceive the intersection of God and our world when data centers roared into the news, and new kinds of technology seemed to crowd in on all sides asking us to contemplate who owns our creativity, who decides our safety and who controls what happens to land and water and energy. How do we keep seeing our humanity and the sacred around us?

In my daily devotions, one of the prayers is “May the weight of materials things be light and the relativity of time slow down.” Some days this is easier said than done, but prayer can be one of those ways God can work in us and upon us to re-set our perspective. But where to start? Martin Luther once cared for a friend by suggesting “A Simple Way to Pray” using the Ten Commandments with four steps:

- Read the Commandment
- Think about all the things it might mean
- Reflect - how am I doing with this?
- Ask - Lord, here I am, asking you to help me where I am struggling or need direction.
- Just one commandment at a time.

We pastors would like to offer time to practice this “Simple Way

to Pray” here at Grace together. It would be no more than 45 minutes. We will read a commandment and then discuss several possible ways to see what that commandment is about. It will be followed by some time for silent reflection. We will offer pieces of paper for you to write how you want to ask God to help you with the commandment. We will close with offering those prayers you wish to share to be spoken and others you can hold onto in your heart, maybe even carry with you for the week.

Adult Learning Schedule

As our fall adult learning offerings continue, here’s what’s coming up:

- **October 7** – AI Series concludes at **6:15 p.m.** in Grace Sanctuary
- **October 14** – Ecumenical Service for Healing and Wholeness, **6:15 p.m.** in Grace Sanctuary
- **October 21** – “A Simple Way to Pray” First Commandment, **11:00 a.m.** in Fireside
- **October 28** – “A Simple Way to Pray” Second Commandment, **11:00 a.m.** in Fireside
- **November 4** – “A Simple Way to Pray” Third Commandment, **11:00 a.m.** in Fireside

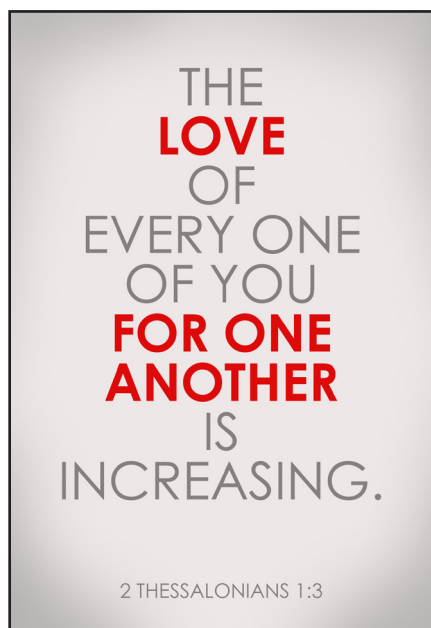
We are open to providing one evening time to our Wednesday “A Simple Way to Pray” series, but in order to do so we need at least 6 people to be willing to commit to a given day and time. Our experience tells us that in order to ensure meaningful dialogue at least 6 folks need to sign up. You can still attend if you did not sign up and there will be future opportunities at different points throughout the academic year.

If you cannot join us, I encourage you to take time whether it is each

day or once a week and sit with these seemingly simple words that have such profound impact upon how we live and move and have our being.

Finally, every once in awhile the first of a month is on a Sunday and that is the case in November. All Saints Day will be **Sunday, November 1**. As always we send out letters to families of Grace members who have entered the church triumphant in the past year. This year will be especially poignant for me as it is the first year without my Dad. I know beyond Grace members many have losses that are keen and fresh. It is why we light an extra candle for all the other saints in our hearts and minds that day. Stay tuned for more information in weekly news and announcements about the events for All Saints. As the hymn says, “we feebly struggle, they in glory shine.” And yet, our God who has given us such a great cloud of witnesses and the gift of community today, continues to guide each step of our way.

Yours in Christ,
~ Pastor Hetrick





Finances for 2026

Church FINANCES	GLC Actual Income vs. Expense, August 2026	GLC Budgeted Income vs. Expense, August 2026	+ or (-)	%
Income	\$57,170.99	\$83,404.61	(\$26,233.62)	-31.50%
Expenses	\$65,338.67	\$76,258.39	(\$10,919.72)	-14.30%
Net Income	(\$8,167.68)	\$7,146.22		

Historically, August is a busy month for everyone with final summer vacations ending and school starting. This can take our finite time and can divert and distract us from the church, as it may have done this August. Offerings were on the low end of average for that month, and so even though we contained expenses substantially below budgeted levels, we experienced a loss for the month. Now that school is back in session and activities are ramping up, it is important that we show up for our church and support our many ministries. Without your financial generosity, ministry cannot and will not happen. It is especially important that we not give only when we are physically present here at Grace. Ministry expenses never take a vacation; nor can our giving. Your weekly or monthly giving sustains Grace's ministries, which are transforming and impacting lives throughout our community and region. One highly effective and easy way to do that is to set up a secure, scheduled monthly bank transfer (called an "ACH") from you to Grace. To do this, or to increase or change your monthly account transfer, email Sally Grine, Finc. Admin. at sgrine@glcpa.org or call her at 814-238-2478. You can also donate using any major credit card via Tithe.ly, which is accessible via the GIVE button on our website at www.glcpa.org. Please consider covering the processing fee (approximately 2% of your donation) to ensure Grace benefits fully from your support. An increase of \$20, \$10, \$5, or even \$1 per week from many people can make a significant difference. Thank you!



At its September 2026 meeting, Grace's Church Council explored the many social ministry/out-reach programs we undertake and support and discerned what other needs within our congregation and community God might be calling us to address.

CROP Walk 2026

The **October 18, 2026** CROP Walk is being hosted by Grace Lutheran Church at 205 South Garner Street, State, College, PA. In person registration starts at **1:30 p.m.** and the walk starts at **2 p.m.** Registration and donations may also be done on line at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/state-collegepa>. Grace Lutheran Church is listed under teams. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Rockey at judyrokey4@gmail.com or 814-571-0442.



Adult Faith Learning Schedule

As our fall adult learning offerings continue, here's what's coming up:

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Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Sunday	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Holy Gospel
October 4 Season of Creation, All Creatures Sunday	Genesis 2:4b-22	Psalm 96:1-13	Acts 10:34-42	John 3:1-16
October 11 20th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 25:1-9	Psalm 23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
October 18 21st Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 45:1-7	Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
October 25 Reformation Sunday	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalm 46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36

Food, Faith & Fellowship Wednesday Night Dinners

Oct 7: Breakfast for Dinner

Food: 5-6:10 p.m. Scrambled eggs, waffles, sausage, fruit salad, dessert and drink. Suggested donation: \$7/person with students and youth free.

Faith: 6:15-7 p.m. "This is My Body" AI series in Sanctuary

Fellowship Activity: No Fellowship Activity



Oct 14

Food: 5-6:10 p.m. Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetable, dessert and drink. Suggested donation: \$7/person with students and youth free.

Faith: 6:15-7 p.m. Ecumenical Service for Healing and Wholeness

Fellowship Activity: No Fellowship Activity

Oct 21: Bingo Night

Food: 5-6:10 p.m. Chicken tenders, french fries, relish tray, dessert and drink. Suggested donation: \$7/person with students and youth free.

Faith: 6:15-7 p.m. No evening Faith Activity

Fellowship Activity: 6:15-7 p.m. Bingo w/small prizes in Harkins

Oct 28: Fall Harvest Fest

Food: 5-6:10 p.m. Roast pork loin, mashed potatoes, baked cabbage w/ apples, Halloween candies, dessert and drink. Suggested donation: \$7/person with students and youth free.

Faith: 6:15-7 p.m. No evening Faith Activity

Fellowship Activity: No Fellowship Activity

Please note menus subject to change. Refer to Grace Weekly News and our Sunday Bulletin for weekly menus.



The Bells of Grace

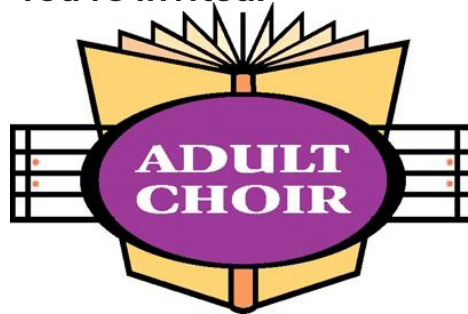
The Bells of Grace is in need of substitute ringers. No prior experience is needed. Reading music is a plus, but not required. Please email Sarah Rodgers at skrodgers@hotmail.com for more information.



News & Events OCTOBER 2026

Adult Choir at Grace - You're Invited!

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



The choir resumed singing at the **10:30 Worship on Sunday September 20**. Our next rehearsal will be on **Wednesday, October 7**. Our rehearsals always begin at **7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday evenings** and run until **8:30 p.m.** We will meet in the sanctuary as always where we will greet and welcome newcomers and then begin preparing for the upcoming services. There is no need to commit to every single rehearsal and worship service if such a big time commitment is holding you back. Even if you are busy and can't come every single week, we would still love to have you whenever you are able to join us!

If you have any questions or concerns between now and then, please let me know (nathanglocke@gmail.com). And if you know of any friends, family or other members of the congregation looking for a place to sing and meet new people, please bring them along!

I hope that you consider joining us and I look forward to seeing many of you soon and hearing your lovely singing!

~ Nathan Glocke

Mark Your Calendars: November 20 Advent Craft Workshop

Join us on **Friday, November 20**, from **6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** in the Fireside Lounge for a fun evening of crafting! Our theme this year is "Angels All Around," honoring God's divine messengers. (Side note: the theme will reappear next summer at Michael Burkhardt's worship and fine arts camp hosted at Grace.) At the workshop, Debbie Kaufman and Sally Horn will lead you in making a variety of angels. The workshop is free; supplies and light refreshments will be provided. Look for details in November *Grace Notes*.



REFORMATION Sunday

Nittany Brass Quintet to Enhance Reformation Sunday Worship on October 25

Enjoy the celebratory sounds of Nittany Brass as they enrich our **9:00 and 10:30 a.m.** worship services on **Reformation Sunday, October 25**! Brass music has been part of Lutheran and Protestant worship for centuries, especially on Reformation Sunday, when we celebrate salvation through faith and recognize the importance of meaningful change within the Church. Martin Luther – who was a fine musician as well as a theologian – loved music and used it extensively to support strong singing in worship. Thanks to Ben Stovall and Nittany Brass Quintet for providing inspirational music.

The Garden of Readin' meets October 20.

The next meeting of the Garden of Readin' (Women's Book Club) is **Tuesday**,



October 20 at 10:30 a.m. in the Stinson Library (also available on Zoom). The selected book is *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. The discussion will be facilitated by Collette Beuther. Contact Sharyn Everhart (sharyn.everhart@gmail.com) for details.

Some “Notes” from the Director of Music

It has been a pleasure to get to know the staff, parishioners, and community of Grace. Thank you for your warm welcome. Below, I highlight two upcoming musical events at Grace and finish with suggested listening, tied in with the Season of Creation.



On **Wednesday, October 14 at 6:15 p.m.**, Grace will be hosting **A Service for Healing and Wholeness**. This ecumenical service features reflective music including music from the Taizé tradition. According to the Taizé Community — an ecumenical Christian monastic fraternity in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France, located approximately 100 miles from the Swiss border — “singing is one of the most essential elements of worship. Short songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character. Using just a few words they express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being. Meditative singing thus becomes a way of listening to God.” <https://www.taize.fr/en/songs>. The songs will be led by a choral ensemble and will include instrumentalists, including violin and cello. Other highlights include prelude music by Sergei Rachmaninoff and an organ offertory performed by Faith UCC Organist, Dr. Mark Ferraguto.

Mark your calendars for a **Benefit Concert featuring Grace Instrumentalists** on **Saturday, November 7 at 3:00 p.m.** in the GLC sanctuary. The concert will benefit the important work of our Food Distribution. The program will feature a variety of instrumentalists and sacred/classical moods: gospel and Sacred Harp medleys for violin and piano, classical piano duets for four hands at one piano, organ solos, piano solos, and even a narrated introduction to the pipe organ — designed to attract and hold attention of young people, the fast-moving dialogue is an informative delight for all ages.

Lastly, The Season of Creation series has been very musically inspirational to me. As this series comes to a close, this year, I wanted to offer you some **suggested listening inspired by God’s Creation**. You’ll hear the joyful, countryside inspired opening movement of Ludwig van Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 6 “Pastorale”* and the contrasting fourth movement, “Storm”. Next is Claude Debussy’s “Reflections on the Water” from *Images, Book I*: an impressionist work giving a tonal representation of a scene on the water. My mind often recalls Claude Monet’s water lilies when hearing this piece. Finally, I’ve included two very contrasting choral pieces focused on creation: the ethereal “Spheres” from *Sunrise Mass* by Ola Gjeilo and a paraphrase of Psalm 19 “The Heavens are Telling” from *Creation* by Franz Joesph Haydn.

YouTube Playlist: <https://tinyurl.com/5duj3dj5>

Spotify Playlist: <https://tinyurl.com/4k5c35kb>

Peace and Blessings,

~ Peter Douglas, D.A.,
pdouglas@glcpa.org

 **Interfaith**
Human Services

SOLD

ONLINE AUCTION

IHS Community Care Online Auction Runs October 6 - 11

The Interfaith Human Services Community Care Auction is getting organized and in need of great auction items. We are looking for new items, gift certificates, event tickets, handmade items, and experiences such as time-share accommodation, hosting guests on your boat or at your camp, etc. If you have an idea that is not listed above, call the office at 814-234-7731 and ask Sue if it would suit the auction.

This year’s auction will begin **October 6**, and item bidding will run through **October 11**. If you have questions or items to donate, please contact your IHS board representative or Sue Forster at 814-234-7731.

www.interfaithhumanservices.org



Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging

Our next DEIB meeting will be **Monday, October 19 at 7 p.m.** in Fireside and by ZOOM. All are welcome.

Grace Is Looking for Lectors!

We're looking for volunteers of all ages to serve as lectors at our **8, 9, and 10:30 a.m.** services. Lectors read the Scripture lessons during worship – a simple but meaningful way to serve and become more involved at Grace.



You'll receive a monthly email with a sign-up form and choose the dates that work for you. The Thursday before you're scheduled, Sheri Rider will email your readings so you have time to review them. No experience or training is needed! Interested? Contact Rebecca Desmarais at beckylynn0621@gmail.com to join the list.

Green Tip for October – Leave the Leaves

Where do bees, butterflies, moths, fireflies and other invertebrates go in the winter? The vast majority “over-winter,” or spend winter, right where they spent all summer — just less active and more hidden. Think twice before you rake, mow, and blow this year.



Invertebrates rely on fallen leaves and other organic debris to cover and insulate them from the elements. Whatever your landscape, you can ensure that resources for nests and overwintering habitat are available.

- **Leaves** - Important invertebrates will find a home in leaves a couple of inches thick, which mimics natural ecosystems.
- **Hollow stems** - Stems hollow out when plants die off, providing cavities in which critters can make a home or nest.
- **Trees, branches and brush** - Brush piles and trees provide winter habitat. Dead trees and hollowed branches are useful spaces.
- **Soil** - While invertebrates are always plentiful in the soil, additional species will join in the dirt in winter, preferably insulated with leaves or brush.

Leaving the leaves and other plant debris doesn't have to mean sacrificing your yard to the wilderness. The leaves don't need to be left exactly where they fall. You can rake them into garden beds, around tree bases, or into other designated areas. Too many leaves can kill grass, but in soil they can suppress weeds, retain moisture, and boost nutrition.

Avoid shredding leaves with a mower. Raking or blowing (electric) are alternatives that will keep leaves whole for the best cover and protect the insects and eggs already living there. If you decide you need to clean up the leaves and debris in spring, make sure you wait until late in the season so as not to destroy all the life you've worked to protect.

Worried about what your neighbors will think? Explain to them how leaving the leaves is an easy way to do your part in pollinator conservation — maybe they will want to join you!

Source: <https://xerces.org/leave-the-leaves>



Christmas Cards for the Incarcerated

CentrePeace is again conducting a hand-made Christmas card program for inmates incarcerated in Pennsylvania's correctional institutions and county jails. This program brings light and hope to those who may feel forgotten during the holiday season. If you or someone you know is able to decorate a card, please pick up as many blank cards as you would like from the displays in the Upper Commons or Harkins Hall. Directions for making the cards will also be available. Completed cards are due **Sunday, November 1, 2026**. Questions can be directed to Deb Lux (deborahmlux@gmail.com) or Susan Buda (srl144@hotmail.com). Thank you for your assistance in this vital ministry!

Comfort Tree

The Women of Grace are again sponsoring a collection of hats, gloves, scarfs and mittens for Children and Youth Services in Bellefonte. Look for the tree in the Lynn Welcome Center starting **December 7 - December 21**. Both handmade and store-bought items are welcome. Over the past years this has been a favorite service project of Grace. Thanks for helping to make this winter a little warmer for the youth of our community.

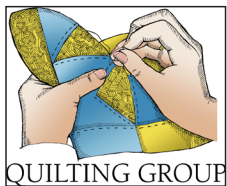


Sisters of Grace

Sisters of Grace will hold their last meeting before winter at Champs Restaurant on North Atherton Street, **October 12, 2026, 6:00 p.m.** We will be discussing changes to be made due to Lois Lynn's move to Hollidaysburg. Sally Keiser-Bankert and Bonnie Burris will co-lead the group. If you have any questions or would like to join our group, please contact Sally (sallykb@verizon.net) or Bonnie (bonnieburris@comcast.net). We will resume meetings in March 2027 due to early darkness and Winter weather.

Comfort Makers

The Comfort Makers continue to meet, creating more beautiful quilts to share with those in need. Thank you to everyone who helps make this ministry possible! We invite you to join us **every Tuesday except the third at 10:00 a.m.** in the Stinson Library. For more information or to request a quilt to take home to tie for us, contact Gail Hoover at gailschrefler@comcast.net.

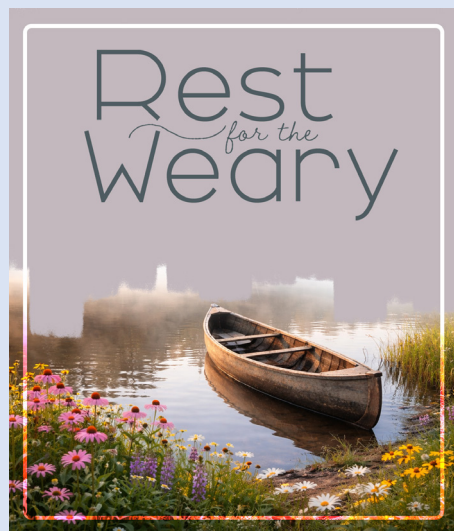


From Your Faith Community Nurse

Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Put My yoke upon your shoulders—it *might appear heavy at first, but it is perfectly fitted to your curves*. Learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. *When you are yoked to Me*, your weary souls will find rest. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light. ~ *Matthew 11:28-30*

Our pondering of Matthew 11:28-30 continues. I am drawn to how *The Voice* translation describes Jesus's yoke as "perfectly fitted," and how we need to be yoked to Him first, then our tired souls will find rest. Just like an expert tailor knows their client's exact measurements and preferences to achieve a perfect fit, Jesus knows us. He perfectly and lovingly fits our challenges and burdens to us. This version is also appealing because it emphasizes how we need to be yoked, or connected, to Jesus first, then we will find rest. Have you been able to make time for Jesus in your day and adopt His lifestyle of praying and being in God's presence? I do not mean to sound like a broken record (is that even a valid phrase today?), just giving a gentle reminder on the importance and benefits of this practice that Jesus perfectly modeled for us. In the spirit of time with Jesus, I will keep this brief to give you some time to practice. Get comfortable, take a few deep breaths, and just be. Imagine Jesus sitting with you right now, offering whatever you need – rest, patience, energy for the tasks ahead, or perhaps a moment to catch your breath in a busy day. Jesus knows. His yoke fits perfectly. Find your rest in Him.

Still striving for rest in Jesus,
~ Rebecca
glcenotes@gmail.com



Grace Lutheran is again collecting Jared Boxes for local hospitals!

It is time once again to fill your Jared Box! The goal of a Jared Box is to lift the spirits of a child in the hospital. For more than 20 years, Jared Boxes have delivered countless smiles, laughter and hope to children in hospitals across the country. Jared Boxes are a great way to bring the gift of play through toys in a box to young patients as they navigate their hospital experience.

Dates to remember:

October 11 – Jared Box Kick-Off - Plastic storage boxes, instructions, and suggested gifts lists will be available in the Welcome Center. Team members will be there to answer your questions.

November 8 – Jared Box Dedication - Bring your filled boxes back to Grace and place on the altar prior to any morning service for prayers before they are delivered to hospitals in our region!

Learn more about The Jared Box Project at: <http://www.thejaredbox.com> and follow on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=the%20jared%20box%20project>. It's worth taking a look to see the wonderful stories. Thrivent Financial is providing funds for supplies through their Thrivent Action Team membership benefit. Learn more at: <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/>



Anti-Hunger Update

The number of families served is increasing.

As expected, the number of families we are serving has started to increase with the beginning of the school year. We are averaging 150 families (up from 135-140 in the summer) which represents about 400-435 people. Every week the recipients are so appreciative of our efforts to share food with them. Typically by the middle of winter, we have 180 or more families that need our help – especially with the heating bills during that time period.

Think We - During the growing season, the *Think We* organization is a wonderful resource for us. A huge thank you to Mary Jane Hromnack for picking the corn that was provided by *Think We*. I have since gathered a list of people who would be willing to help pick/harvest vegetables in the future! Anyone else that is interested in gardening/harvesting please let me know at my email address below. A continued shout out to Ken Fogelman and his pickup truck for delivering the food to us from Boalsburg!

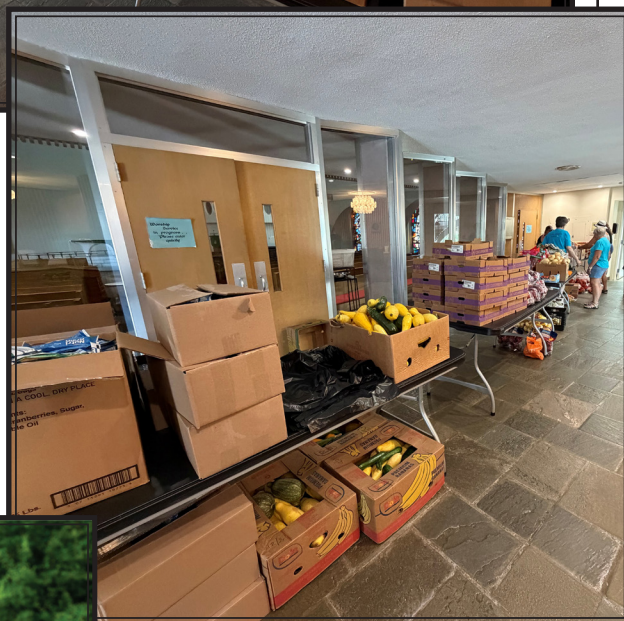
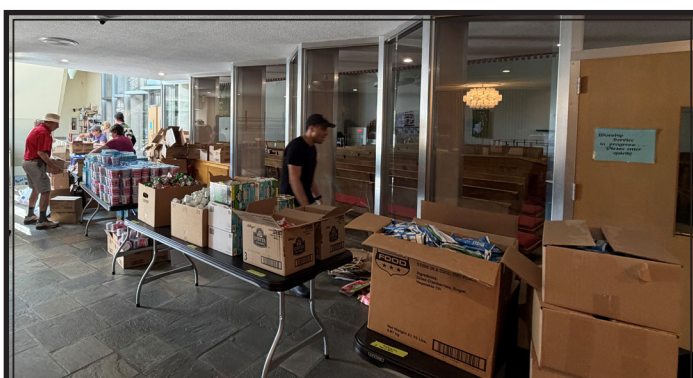
Produce Season – During the summer and early fall months we are fortunate to receive fresh produce from both the Central PA Food Bank in Williamsport and our local *Think We* organization. We are grateful for both of these resources. It is so important for our neighbors to have access to fresh produce in their diets. When grocery shopping on a limited budget, families don't often have money left for fresh produce.

Supplementing – We are still supplementing the food that the Central PA Food Bank sends to us. We typically buy some type of pasta with a protein like canned chicken and maybe pasta sauce.

Quick reminder, if you are interested in observing or helping for an hour or more on a Food Distribution day, please let me (kathymkalbach@gmail.com) know. All are welcome!

Future dates for our Food Distributions are:

- October 8 (Second Thursday of the month)
- October 22 (Fourth Thursday of the month)
- November 5 (First Thursday of the month)
- November 19 (Third Thursday of the month)





OCTOBER 2026



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

Thursday, October 1

9a - 2:30p GLP
Firetruck Visits

Friday, October 2
9a-2:30p GLP
Firetruck Visits

Saturday, October 3

10:45a Memories Cafe Mtg./
Fireside

7:15p Scouts/ Harkins
7:30p AA Group/ Library &
Fireside

5:30p NA Group/ Library



October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Thursday, October 8

9a - 2:30p GLP

Friday, October 9

NO GLP

Saturday, October 10

Sunday, October 4
Season of Creation
All Creatures Sunday

Monday, October 5

9a - 2:30p GLP

Tuesday, October 6

9a - 2:30p GLP

Wednesday, October 7

9a - 2:30p GLP
Butter Braid Fundraiser
Begins

3p Worship at the Village
3:45p Fillink/ Miller Cntr
5p Food Faith &
Fellowship Dinner/
Harkins

5:30 Smart Recovery/
Library
6:15p AI and Humanity/
Sanctuary
7p Adult Choir/ Sanctuary

5:30p NA Group/ Library

7:30a Car Parking PSU
Football

8a Worship
9a Worship, ECHO &
Spark SS
10a Snack & Chat/
Harkins
Youth Choir/ Fireside
10:30a Worship
10:45a Cafe S.S.
11a Bells of Grace
Rehearsal/ Sanctuary
Drive Thru Pet
Blessing/ Parking Lot

9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside
10a Comfort Makers/Library
11a Memories Cafe/ Miller
Cntr
6:30p Ministry Coordinators/
ZOOM



The Village
AT PENN STATE



3:30p Food Distribution/
Grace Parking Lot
7:15p Scouts/ Harkins
7:30p AA Group/ Library &
Fireside



Sunday, October 11	Monday, October 12	Tuesday, October 13	Wednesday, October 14	Thursday, October 15	Friday, October 16	Saturday, October 17
20th Sunday After Pentecost 7:45a Bells of Grace Rehearsal/ Sanctuary 8a Worship 9a Worship, Echo & Spark S.S. 10a Snack & Chat/ Harkins Youth Choir/ Fireside Holy Communion Instruction/ Rm 202 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S.	9a - 2:30p GLP 6:30p Sisters of Grace/ Champs Restaurant 	9a - 2:30p GLP 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside 10a Comfort Makers/Library 7p Fireside 	9a - 2:30p GLP 3:45p FitLink/ Miller Cntr 5p Food Faith & Fellowship Dinner/ Harkins 5:30 Smart Recovery/ Library 6:15p Ecumenical Service of Healing and Wholeness 7p Adult Choir/ Sanctuary 	9a - 2:30p GLP 3p Stephen Ministry/ Fireside & Library 7p Social Ministry & Outreach/ Miller Cntr 7:15p Scouts/ Harkins Hall 7:30p AA Group/ Library & Fireside	9a - 12p GLP GLP Staff Mtg. 12:15-2pm No Enrichment 5p Middle School Fun Night/ Miller Cntr 5:30p NA Group/Library 	
Sunday, October 18	Monday, October 19	Tuesday, October 20	Wednesday, October 21	Thursday, October 22	Friday, October 23	Saturday, October 24
21st Sunday After Pentecost 8a Worship 9a Worship, Echo & Spark S.S. 10a Snack & Chat/ Harkins Munchkin Brunchkin/ Miller Cntr Youth Choir/ Fireside Holy Communion Instruction/ Rm 202 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S. 11a Bells of Grace Rehearsal/ Sanctuary Confirmation Class/ Miller 12p CROP Walk 1p Youth Group/ Miller 5p QNA/ Fireside 7p	9a - 2:30p GLP 11:30a GLP Children's Chapel/ Sanctuary 7p DEIB mtg/ Fireside 	9a - 2:30p GLP GLP Butter Braid Orders Due 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside 10:30a Garden of Readin' / Library 	9a - 2:30p GLP 11a Simple Way to Pray/ Fireside 3:45p FitLink/ Miller Cntr 5p Food Faith & Fellowship Dinner/ Harkins 5:30 Smart Recovery/ Library 7p Adult Choir/ Sanctuary	9a - 2:30p GLP 11:30a GLP Children's Chapel/ Sanctuary 3:30p Food Distribution/ Grace Parking Lot 7:15p Scouts/ Harkins Hall 7:30p AA Group/ Library & Fireside 	9a - 2:30p GLP 5:30p NA Group/Library 	
Sunday, October 25	Monday, October 26	Tuesday, October 27	Wednesday, October 28	Thursday, October 29	Friday, October 30	Saturday, October 31
22nd Sunday After Pentecost 8a Worship 9a Worship, Echo & Spark S.S. 10a Snack & Chat/ Harkins Youth Choir/ Fireside 10:30a Worship & Affirmation of Baptism 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary	9a - 2:30p GLP Vision Screenings 7p Congregational Care Mtg/ Fireside 	9a - 2:30p GLP Vision Screenings 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside 10a Comfort Makers/Library	9a - 2:30p GLP 11a Simple Way to Pray/ Fireside 3:45p FitLink/ Miller Cntr 5p Food Faith & Fellowship Dinner/ Harkins 7p Adult Choir/ Sanctuary	GLP No School Parent Teacher Conferences 7:15p Scouts/ Harkins Hall 7:30p AA Group/ Library & Fireside	GLP No School Parent Teacher Conferences 5:30p NA Group/Library 	7:30a Car Parking PSU Football 

From Our Senior Pastor
~ Cont'd. from p. 3

lives are transformed! So together, as Grace Lutheran, let's be mindful of the lesson of community singing that I witnessed in Denmark, and look for ways (musical and non-musical) that we can create and foster community beyond Sunday worship.



Bits and Pieces

- **Artificial Intelligence seems to always be in the news now,** and clearly carries both enormous potential and devastating danger. How wonderful that we at Grace have been able to explore these issues with the help of a group of highly regarded experts gathered by Pastor Hetrick. It's a reminder that our call to faith does not exist in isolation of our call to community. As theologian Karl Barth once noted, we go through life with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other.
- Jesus taught us to love God and love our neighbor. I am alarmed at the outbreak of measles raging in certain parts of Pennsylvania, all because people are not getting vaccinated. Friends, science and faith are not at odds. **Nothing about getting a vaccination for polio or measles offends God.** What does offend God, however, is refusing to take an action that could prevent the illness and

death of others. Even if you think you can survive one of these diseases, your neighbor next door might not. Love your neighbor. If you are missing any vaccinations, please get them, including a flu shot this fall.

- Elsewhere in this issue, check out Pastor Hetrick's article about an upcoming adult education offering she and I are presenting. It is based on **Luther's "Simple Way to Pray"** and the sermon I preached on July 19, 2026 (you can read it on the sermon blog on Grace's website). Each class, we will take one of the Ten Commandments, unpack its meaning, and then pray through it both to assess how we are doing at keeping it and to seek God's assistance.
- **Remember the saga of the fire doors here at Grace?** Many of the doors we were keeping propped open for convenience were in violation of local fire codes. I am grateful for your patience during the past few months as we have had to keep them closed. Now, however, maglocks are being installed on those doors so they can stay open in "normal" times and automatically close (and thereby prevent the spread of a fire) when a fire alarm is activated.
- **Finances.** July giving at Grace was terrific. August giving was much less-than-terrific. I know money is an uncomfortable topic in our society at large, and in churches in particular. But Jesus spent a lot of time speaking about money for good reason. After all, money is the mostly likely candidate to become our "idol" either in terms of what it can acquire for us or the false sense of security it offers to us. Giving is an act of faith. Giving

is a form of prayer. Giving is a tangible way to say "Grace's ministries are my ministries." Giving is the primary way that most of us put our faith in action and love God by loving our neighbor. Please support Grace financially on a regular and generous basis.

- **Have you met Dr. Peter Douglas yet?** He's our new Director of Music and is off to a GREAT start here at Grace. Make sure you check out his notes each Sunday in the bulletin (usually on the copyright page). There, he offers helpful background on his Sunday musical selections and how they thematically support the day's Biblical themes. Reading these notes will enhance the meaningfulness of Sunday worship for you.
- **Our LEAD consultant will be on-site in early October.** Deacon Peggy Hahn will be with us to aid us in our community listening and to guide us as the learning phase of the strategic planning process begins to wind down, in anticipation of a consultant's report and recommendations in the coming months.
- **Lois Lynn is heading to the Wall of Fame!** On September 30, as part of our 5 p.m. "Wednesday: Food, Faith, and Fellowship" gathering, we will be honoring Lois for her many years of dedication to our Wednesday meal events as well as the Thanksgiving Pie Social. As you may know, Lois and Pastor Lynn will soon be moving to Hollidaysburg and so it's quite appropriate for us to find a way to thank Lois for the great hospitality she has long offered here at Grace. Her name will be

~ Cont'd. on p. 16

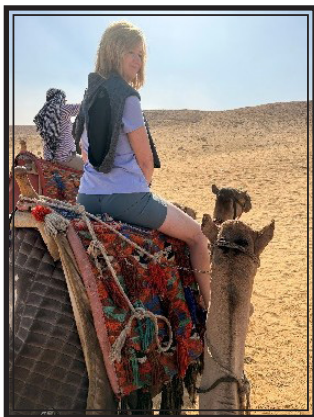
From Our Senior Pastor

~ Cont'd. from p. 15

added to a special plaque, and her example of service will long be remembered and treasured by our congregation.

LAST CALL for Egypt - The OTHER Holy Land!

Our pilgrimage to Egypt is just around the corner! We depart **January 14** and return **January 23**.



I will soon be closing registration. I am only comfortable accepting registrations from **a maximum of six more people**. Any more than that and our bus travel throughout Egypt will be a little too crowded and group cohesion/relationships will be more difficult. So if this trip is of interest, please contact me right away. Full details are at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/SchulEgypt27>. Egypt is an unforgettable travel experience. You will be immersed in ancient history and theology and will enjoy the adventure of a lifetime!

Finally...

Elections are just a month away, and in this political season it's tempting to put one's head in the metaphorical sand and avoid all conflicts and controversies. But in our baptismal promises, we affirm that as Christians we are called to "care for others and the world

God made, and work for justice and peace." (See ELW pp. 228 and 236.) For some, these promises mean advocating for specific policies. For others, it means serving as an elected or appointed official. But *all* of us can fulfill this responsibility through *prayer*. I will close this month by offering you two prayers that anyone (regardless of your politics) should be able to pray with conviction. They both come from page 50 of the ELCA's most recent hymn supplement, *All Creation Sings*:

Gracious God, we pray for our public servants, that they do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Inspire them to use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life. Guide our leaders to govern in such a way that all people enjoy a peaceful and just society. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Empower us to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable in our midst, and respect for the common life we share, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Peace be with you.

~ Pastor Schul



Food Bank Needs

The State College Food Bank is always in need of donations. Grace Lutheran church collects non-perishable food donations in the church narthex and delivers them to the Food Bank twice a month. Please make sure the expiration date is at least 2 months out and the item is not opened. Cash/check donations and grocery store gift cards can be sent to the church office.

- **Greatest need:** crackers, cookies, chips/pretzels, granola bars, etc.
- Cereal
- Ready-to-Eat Soups → Progresso, Campbell's CHUNKY, or store brand equivalent
- Sides: Knorr pasta & rice sides, Rice-A-Roni, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, etc.
- Pasta: penne, bow ties, rotini, rigatoni, ziti, etc. (we have a good supply of egg noodles and macaroni elbows right now)
- Canned Pineapple & Applesauce (jars or cups)
- Condiments: ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, BBQ sauce, salad dressing, etc.
- Pancake & Baking Mix
- Ground Coffee, Instant Coffee, Coffee Pods
- Tea: black, green, herbal
- Oil: vegetable, canola, olive oil, cooking spray
- Gluten-Free items: pasta, flour, baking items, snacks, etc.

Non-Food Items

- Laundry Detergent (Most Popular - small bottles preferred)
- Liquid Dish Soap
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Bar Soap & Body Wash
- Period Care Products & Incontinence Products
- Assorted Personal Hygiene Supplies
- Paper Products
- Cleaning Products/Supplies
- Paper Products
- Cleaning Products



Lutheran Campus Ministry / Lutheran Student Community at Penn State

We are so glad for students to be a part of the life of faith here! Life in college is always full, and there are a variety of challenges along the way! Through everything you encounter, Lutheran Campus Ministry offers a place where you can get away from deadlines and demands, where you will find caring community and support, share worship and a meal, learn about God, yourself and the world, and simply be welcome to come as you are!

Student Community Weekly

Thursday Evening Prayer

Pasquerilla Spiritual Center – Worship Hall at 6 p.m.

Gather for a relaxed and community-built time of worship on **Thursday at 6 p.m.** in the Worship Hall at Pasquerilla Spiritual Center. There is music, prayer, reflection together, and lots of opportunities to connect with other students. It is a helpful way to set aside the demands of your week and de-stress.

Dinner After Worship

Pasquerilla Spiritual Center – Harshbarger Room about 7 p.m.

After worship, we have time for dinner together with other students! Enjoy some time to chat, relax, and be part of a welcoming community. If you need vegetarian, gluten-free or dairy-free, email Alicia at ara2@psu.edu. Come as you are! Really.

More events!

Volunteer at the Pumpkin Fest – Friday, Oct 16 - Saturday, Oct 17 at Penn State Arboretum

There are lots of options for volunteering at the PSU Arboretum's Pumpkin Fest! Watch our listserv and GroupMe for more info about helping out! Friends are welcome, so plan to join the fun!

Did you know students sing in the choir?

If you are looking for a welcoming place to share your musical abilities, come check out the choir at Grace Lutheran. Each week, students and other adults rehearse on **Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m.** to prepare for singing at the **10:30 a.m.** worship service. Contact Campus Minister Alicia Anderson (ara2@psu.edu) who can answer questions and connect you with the director, Nate Glocke!

Let's Talk Luther! What do Lutherans teach?

Sunday, Sept 27 and Oct 25, Pasquerilla, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Take a look at what Lutherans teach and practice, and explore how your beliefs shape your life now. This conversation will help bring faith to light!

Check Us Out

We offer service events, formal and informal discussions, social gatherings, grad student events, and more! Check our website and calendar for additional information as well as our socials ([@lutheranpennstate](https://twitter.com/lutheranpennstate)). You can add yourself to our listserv at lutheranpennstate.org and reach out for info about joining our GroupMe. Reach out anytime to lutheran@psu.edu.

New LSC T-Shirts!

We have new t-shirts! Interested? Email lutheran@psu.edu and we'll make sure to bring them along to an event or service you are planning to attend!



Questions, Not Answers

QNA will meet on **Sunday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m.** in Fire-side. Please come to join in our discussion. Previous participants and those who want to check it out once or occasionally are all welcome.

We plan to discuss: "How does the death and resurrection of Jesus fit into Biblical history? If Jesus is the Word, present at creation, how was it determined that he be born and die when he did?"

Contact Carla Rossi – ckrossi@comcast.net – for more information or with any questions.

Come to QNA to continue the biblical tradition of asking good, complicated questions, but be prepared to leave without answers.



Faith Formation Ministries



October Calendar

Sunday, Oct 4

- 9 a.m. ECHO & Spark SS
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe SS

Saturday, Oct 10

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

Sunday, Oct 11

- 9 a.m. ECHO & Spark SS
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Instruction/ Rm 202
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe SS

Friday, Oct 16

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

Sunday, Oct 18

- 9 a.m. ECHO & Spark SS
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Instruction/ Rm 202
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe SS
- 12 p.m. Confirmation Inst./ Miller Cntr
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Grp/ Miller Cntr

Sunday, Oct 25

- 9 a.m. ECHO & Spark SS
- 10:30 a.m. Affirmation of Baptism

Saturday, Oct 31

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

November Preview

Sunday, Nov 1

- 9 a.m. ECHO & Spark SS
- 9 & 10:30 a.m. Worship - Holy Communion celebration
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe SS

Sunday, Nov 8

- 9 a.m. ECHO & Spark SS
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe SS

Friday, Nov 13

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

Saturday, Nov 14

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

Sunday, Nov 15

- 9 a.m. ECHO & Spark SS
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe SS
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Grp/ Miller Cntr

Saturday, Nov 21

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

Sunday, Nov 22

- 9 a.m. ECHO & Spark SS
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe SS

Sunday, Nov 29

- No Sunday School Classes: Happy Thanksgiving

God's Work Our Hands

Thank you to all who used their time and hands to help create our pollinator garden and refurbish the parking lot. God's Work Our Hands, established by the ELCA (Evangelical Church in America) is a nationwide day set aside for service to others. We have created a space for the pollinators that play an important role in our ecosystem.

October's Confirmation Instruction

Our October service project is helping with the State College Crop Walk. This means that we will be changing the time of our meeting. On **Sunday, October 18** we will meet at **noon** in the youth room (in the Miller Center). We will have lunch together, class together, and then help with the Crop Walk projects. We are responsible for setting up the walking route signs and running some games. If any youth would like to walk, that is another way to serve. Our time together will be from **12 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 18.**



Holy Communion Instruction October 11 and 18

The fall Holy Communion instruction is on **October 11 and 18 at 10:00 a.m.** in room 202. If your family is interested, please attend both October class dates. However, if you would like to participate but need to miss a date, we can make plans to catch up on the missed material. Classes are about 30 minutes in length and begin at **10:00 a.m.** Parent(s) are requested to attend the classes with their child. After instruction, your family will take communion together on **All Saints Sunday, November 1**, at the worship service you choose (**9:00 a.m.** or **10:30 a.m.**). Parents often ask when the right time is for their child to receive communion; we believe you decide as a family. Some families wait until 1st or 2nd grade, while others have their children receive the wafer as soon as they can eat solid food. Overall, everyone is welcome at the table. Email questions to Cindy Fritz & Peter Horn at faithformation@glcpa.org.



ELCA Youth Gathering 2027

The core verse for the Gathering is Ephesians 3:20 - *To God, by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine.* In a world where youth do not always see God's goodness, ELCA organizers selected bible stories to help youth relate to the theme, "Imagine More." We can all use a little **more** joy, love, courage, welcome, and Grace!



The ELCA Youth Gathering is being held in **Minneapolis, MN, June 27-July 2, 2027.** Mark your calendars now! Registration will open in October. We will share updated information by email.

For those attending the youth gathering, starting in November and running through the rest of the year, we will go through the Youth Gathering curriculum. Please endeavor to make these meetings a priority. These meetings will be the foundation of our group going to the gathering.



Faith Formation Ministries



ECHO Sunday School and SPARK

ECHO Sunday School returns! Children and parents will attend worship together at **9:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary. After the Ministry Moment, Kindergarten through 5th grade may leave with Cindy, Kathy, and Peter to room 202. Our time together will include the gospel lesson, music, and an activity (game, craft, or science). Youth will return to the sanctuary to rejoin their family for sharing the peace, communion, and closing hymns. Middle School youth are welcome to attend as helpers.

SPARK is for toddlers and preschoolers; Morgan Wagner offers a lesson, song, and playtime in room 201. Parents (mom OR dad) need to attend this class with their little ones. SPARK and ECHO Sunday School take place at the same time and often overlap with our time together. We will all return to the sanctuary for communion.



Car Parking

Our game day car parking fundraiser continues into October. Grace Lutheran youth collect money and direct drivers where to park in our parking lot. This is our only fundraiser for youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering. Regardless of game time, we always open our parking lot at **7:30 a.m.** Mark your calendar with the home football dates: **October 10 & 31, and November 14 & 21.**

Look for an email with a SignUp-Genius link to sign up.



Munchkin Brunchkin October 18

Munchkin Brunchkin is a family ministry for children ages 0-5 years. Each time, we gather around food, kid fun, and age-appropriate Bible stories. This is an intentional time for parents to gather, share their faith and struggles with each other. This group meets on the **third Sunday at 10:00 a.m. each month.** Our next gathering is on **Sunday, October 18,** in the Miller Center.



CAFE
Sunday
School



Cafe Sunday School

Calling all Middle School and High School youth: Cafe Sunday School is for you! We meet at **10:45 a.m.** in the Lynn Welcome Center each Sunday to walk to a cafe downtown. Typically, we walk to Starbucks on Pugh Street and Dunkin' on Garner Street. Since everyone has a favorite, we alternate locations. Bring money or order from your phone as we walk. We return to the church for our lesson and discussion on the gospel using the ELCA Faith Lens blog.

Middle School Fun Nights

Calling all Middle School Youth: join

Cindy & Peter for a Friday Fun Night. Once per month, parents can plan to drop off and pick up at the Miller Center, **6:00-8:00 p.m.** We plan to eat, hang out, and play games together. Friends are welcome. Watch for an email prior to the event. Dates: **October 16 and November 13.**



This Is The Weekend

Middle and High School Youth: The



Weekend is back! Mark your calendar for **December 11-13, 2026.** Come for the fun with other youth in our Allegheny Synod. The weekend event will be held at St. James Lutheran Church in Huntingdon, with lodging at the Comfort Inn in Huntingdon.



Youth Group Meetings

Youth group meetings for the year are: **October 18, November 15, December 20, January 10, February 21, March 21, and April 18.**

Meetings are in the Miller Center from **5:00-7:00 p.m.** Join us for food and discussion as we prepare for the ELCA Youth Gathering!





Dates to Remember!

October 1

Health Assessment forms due for the 26-27 school year

October 1 & 2

Alpha Fire Co. visit, Church parking lot

October 7-20

Butter Braids Fundraiser

October 9

No School

October 16

No Enrichment class; GLP Staff meeting at 12:15 (morning classes are in session).

October 19 & 22

Children's Chapel

October 26 & 27

North Central Sight Services providing vision screenings

October 29 & 30

No Preschool or Enrichment classes for Parent Conferences



Christian Focus Box for October

God Gives Me Family and Friends

"A friend loves at all times."

~ Proverbs 17:17

Chapel song – My God Is So Great

2026-2027 Preschool Staff Installation

On August 25, Pastor Schul installed the Grace Lutheran Preschool staff for the 2026-2027 school year. We are delighted to welcome our new MWF 4-year-old teacher, Morgan Wagner, and M-F 2.5-3.5-year-old teacher's aide, Kaitlin McCaffrey.



1st row: Maria Bills (Teacher), Maria Sofo (Teacher's Aide), DeeAnn Wylie (Teacher), Carrie Johnson (Teacher)

2nd row: Cathy Smarkusky (Director, Jr. Kindergarten and Enrichment Teacher), Lauren Umbel (Teacher's Aide), Halie Kupinski (Art Teacher), Kaitlin McCaffrey (Teacher's Aide), Morgan Wagner (Teacher)

3rd row: Pastor Scott Schul, Angela Garritano (Teacher's Aide), Marylou Martin (Teacher's Aide), Dawn Vanden Heuvel (Assistant Director), Susan Buda (Music Teacher).



Celebrating 60 Years of Grace Lutheran Preschool

Teaching positions available for 2026-2027

Grace Lutheran Preschool continues the search for an afternoon lead teacher and substitute teachers for the 2026-2027 school year. Lead teacher qualifications include a BS in Early Childhood Education or a BS in Elementary Education with a Private Academic Certificate, plus experience working with preschool-aged children. Substitute teachers must have a high school diploma and experience working with preschool-aged children. Send a cover letter and resume to Cathy Smarkusky, GLP Director, at csmarkusky@glcpa.org.



We Are Off to a Great Start! A Look at August and September 2026

The final week of August was filled with staff meetings and Meet the Teacher Days. School started on September 1. GLP students have been busy settling into their routines, making new friends, and enjoying the engaging learning activities planned by their teachers. September has blessed us with beautiful weather, perfect for outdoor play on the playground. We also held our first Chapel of the year with the theme "God Made Me Special." Our M-F enrichment class studied backyard critters, and our MWF enrichment class studied dinosaurs during September. The 4-year-old and Jr. Kindergarten classes took a field trip to Way Fruit Farm, where they took a wagon ride through the orchards and walked through the cooling and processing warehouse. We're thrilled to be back in school!



Mrs. Wylie's and Ms. Lauren's Welcome bulletin board for the new school year.



Butter Braids and Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls are Back!

Order forms will be available in the Lynn Welcome Center beginning on **October 7**. Orders will be due by **October 20**. You can drop off the forms with payment in the Grace Lutheran Preschool mailbox located in the church office. Alternatively, go to this link to place an order at the online store: <https://portal.myfundraisingplace.com/registrer-seller/e863e527-c51f-4142-81a1-290ef02cb960>.

Your order will be available for pickup on **November 4 after 11:30 a.m.** in the Fireside room. GLP will earn \$5.50 per item sold. A \$50 discount is applied for every 300 items sold. Proceeds will go toward tuition assistance and unbudgeted needs such as field trips, family events, and classroom supplies.



October Worship Sponsors

Altar Flowers	Live-Stream Sponsors	Bulletin Covers
Oct 4 The Hardyk Family Dedicated in honor of Spencer's birthday	Oct 4 OPEN	Oct 4 Linda Domin Dedicated in honor of Sally Keiser- Bankert and Carl Bankert
Oct 11 Daryl & Nancy Johnson Dedicated to the Glory of God	Oct 11 Daryl & Nancy Johnson Dedicated to the Glory of God	Oct 11 Daryl & Nancy Johnson Dedicated to the Glory of God
Oct 18 Kathryn Mackes Dedicated in honor of Calleigh Igoe's 14th birthday	Oct 18 Doug & Mary Kay Laplante Dedicated in gratitude for the Tech Team	Oct 18 Joyce and Don Widener Dedicated in honor of their grandson Seth Conover's 20th birthday
Oct 25 Barbara Vogler Dedicated in memory of Janet Kott	Oct 25 The Nieweg Family Dedicated in memory of Jack Nieweg	Oct 25 Linda Domin Dedicated in memory of Tony Domin

We sincerely thank all of our generous sponsors.



Snack & Chat Sponsors - Joe and Cindy Nicosia 814-571-6922 jnicosia3@comcast.net

Oct 4	Tom Drake
Oct 11	Deb Lux and Marylin Peterson
Oct 18	Jim and Steph Flanagan
Oct 25	Ken and Nancy Fogleman

Please join our hosts each Sunday in Harkins Hall between **9:45 and 10:30 a.m.** at Snack & Chat, to enjoy coffee and a treat and a chance catch up with friends before or after your favorite church service. We rely on volunteers to sponsor and/or host. You may sponsor and host (treats at your discretion) or just sponsor (others will host). The cost to "sponsor only" is \$30 (check to Grace Lutheran Church with **"Snack & Chat"** and the sponsored date in the memo line).

Lectors - Rebecca Arnold Desmarais beckylenn0621@gmail.com

8:00 a.m.	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Oct 4 OPEN	Oct 4 Ron Banerjee	Oct 4 Ron Banerjee
Oct 11 OPEN	Oct 11 Adela Germano	Oct 11 Ethylee Nordberg
Oct 18 OPEN	Oct 18 Lori Coup	Oct 18 Collette Beuther
Oct 25 Dennis Snider	Oct 25 Courtney Zechman	Oct 25 Brian Christian

Pastoral Acts

We welcomed new members Bob, Bonnie and Andrew Flinchbaugh on September 20.

October Birthdays



1 Ken Kulp	6 Eric Smarkusky	12 Jaxon Hazenstab	19 Mary Kaitlyn Elder	24 Alexis Badger
1 Xavier Narber	7 Marie Buterbaugh	12 Mason Ollendyke	19 Kelly Foster	24 Nora Jane McDonald
1 Kaylin Slane	7 Leonard Ellenberger	12 Crystal Egan	19 Lauren Knobloch	24 Lauren Shisler
2 Lauren Anderson	7 Jamie Foor	12 Christel Stewart	19 Jason Warner	24 Cora Hartzler
2 Gina Lintal	7 Melanie Kauffman	12 Calvin Wagner	19 Jeremy Warner	24 Lila Schubert
2 Austin Pieniazek	7 Jason Laine	13 Matt Campbell	19 Richard Weidhaas	25 Dan Douthitt
2 William Steudler	7 John Rossi	13 Kevin Dinant	19 Georgia Peeler	25 Amber Laylon
2 Carolyn Hetrick	7 Ethan Wagner	13 Jamie Friedken	19 Miah Northridge	25 Chris Neubert
3 Alexander Chastain	8 Gina Leon	13 Ashley Ford	20 Dennis Glocke	25 Bruce Rogers
3 Lorraine Lutz	8 Gregory Ferro	13 Courtney Morrison	20 Amelia Horn	26 Christina Davies
3 Janet Zerbe	8 Joshua Gearhart	13 Matthew Campbell	20 Calleigh Igoo	26 Jonathan Ludwig
3 Miles Morales	8 Emily Peterson	14 Wendy Balthaser	20 June Krumrine	26 Thomas Sherwood
3 Ethylee Nordberg	10 Elaine Ebeling	14 Cheryl Knobloch	20 Marcy Milhomme	26 Stephen Eckstein
3 Grace Stewart	10 Jennifer Lee	14 Susanne Solo	20 Joseph Nicosia	26 Kevin Borchert
4 Spencer Hardyk	10 Mark Mrsa	14 Marge Sutherland	20 Sydney Richardson	27 Helen Brenneman
4 Graham Sanders	10 Deborah Weidhaas	14 Heather Wild	20 Stephen Shisler	27 Thomas Eakin
4 Sean Toso	11 Sophia Bills	14 David Hege	20 Mary Jo Spicer	27 Janet Rockey
4 Michael Verderame	11 Aubrey Tusar	14 Nicholle Smirat	20 Lisa Ta	27 Nadiya Tucker
4 Kevin Honz	11 Ainsley Tusar	15 Christie Prince	20 Claire Vollmer	27 Frank Chapman
4 Emerson Desmarais	11 Katy Ulmer	15 Suzanne Lamb	21 Lisa Badger	28 Ann Guss
4 Malcolm Mock	11 Leslie Wagner	15 Dan Esposito	21 Chris Broberg	29 Gary Bodkin
5 Mirabella Bills	11 Andrew Baysinger	15 Alexander Cassell	21 David Guss	29 Tom McCool
5 Jeffrey H. Irwin	11 Quinn Vasey	16 Julia Erb	21 Robert Jeanmenne	30 Austin Haris
5 Elliott Narber	11 Benjamin Resor	16 Karen Jeanmenne	23 Matthew Fullington	30 Lynn Herman
5 Kristy Stroschein	12 Camilla Hoy	16 Paul Larson	23 Marilyn Peterson	30 Robert Sutherland
5 Krista Smith	12 Michael Krumrine	16 Sarah McClure	23 Sophia Scourtis	30 Manetta Horn
5 Kip Peeler	12 Karen Mrsa	16 Alicia McDyre	23 Abigail Long	
6 John Pletcher		16 John Palmgren		
		16 Andrew Horn		
		17 Nancy Gable		
		17 Cara Schuchert		
		18 Roy Evert		
		18 Spence Garvin		
		18 Thomas Deysher		
		18 Linda Bowman		
		19 Rachel Buterbaugh		



Prayer List



All Military & National
Guard and all serving in
war-torn countries
Barbara Bardo, sister of
Linda Louder
Sandy Bender

Jill Brenneman, Daughter-
in-Law of Dick & Helen
Brenneman
Emeline Chandra
Judy Coup, mother of Chuck
Coup
Linda D'Alessandro
Evelyn Dungan
Steve & Janet Ellis, family
of The Louders
Albert Facini, brother of
Theresa Facini
Cay Griel
Cain Hickey
Gail Hoover

Danielle Kroczyński
Rosemary Martin, mother of
Jeff Martin
Kirsten Matthew
Jeanne Nagurney, friend of
Susan & Greg DeMetrick
Amy Neveling
Aleks Novatnak
Terry O'Heron, friend of
the Bankert's

Bruce Rathfon
Nick Rossi and fellow Peace
Corps volunteers in
Kenya
Michelle Sanders and family
Gerry Slear
Betty Verderame, mother of
Michael Verderame

And please pray for our
members in the hospital.



Grace Notes

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
205 South Garner Street
State College, PA 16801
(814) 238-2478
www.glcpc.org

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Current Resident or:

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary.
9:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary.
10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and
Live-streamed video of this service at www.glcpc.org.

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



Help us to better serve our local and global communities.
Scan here to make a contribution to Grace.



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

- Grace Lutheran Church 814-238-2478
churchoffice@glcpc.org
- GLC Preschool 814-238-8110
glpk@glcpc.org
- Faith Formation Ministry
faithformation@glcpc.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.