Grace Notes

Gather • Feed • Send November 2026

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

Mark Your Calendars: AdventFest on Sunday, Dec. 6 after worship!

Help us usher in the 4-week season of waiting and hoping – Advent – on **Sunday, December 6** (immediately following 10:30 worship) from **11:40 to 1:15 p.m.** at Grace!

This year our annual international AdventFest takes us on a short (but sweet!) journey to England. Your Advent 'trip' will include:

- a potluck meal that features some tasty English delights (including mince pies provided by our kitchen crew -- a fruity delight) with live seasonal music during lunch;
- the "pulling of Christmas Crackers" (a British delight for folks of all ages that includes a crown, joke, and trivia to share);
- a medieval English 'Wassail' toast (with 'good health' wishes for the New Year);
- fun giveaways from England;
- and seasonal music played by our musicians and parishioners (featuring some from the British isles) as well as singalongs of some longstanding favorites.

Food contributions are welcome - especially appetizers, hearty casseroles and sides; traditional English food; and foods children will enjoy are great too. Need ideas? How about some Cornish pasties, steak pies, chicken pies (or roasted chicken), macaroni and cheese, pigs in blankets (sausages wrapped in bacon), roast potatoes, salads, a traditional Christmas pudding, or Christmas biscuits (cookies)? Email Cindy Fritz at cfritz@glcpa.org or Laurel Sanders at lsanders@glcpa.org if you can bring something. If cooking isn't your cup of tea, please drop in anyway!

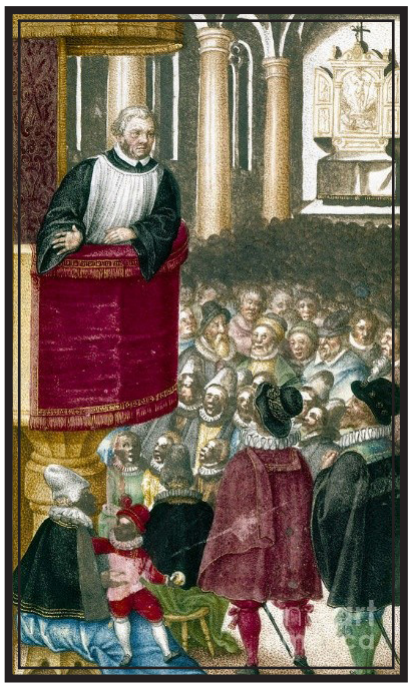
Come with curiosity; enjoy food, fellowship and good music from our musicians; and leave with happy hearts (and stomachs). Let's walk together in hope and confidence toward December 25, when we celebrate Christ's birth and rebirth in our hearts, wishing each other a "Happy Christmas!"



From Our Senior Pastor



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



Communication

In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes, "Faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ." (Rom. 10:17) This is one of the reasons why Martin Luther famously referred to the Church as a "mouth house" – a place where the Good News of forgiveness, grace, and mercy are proclaimed, preached, heard, and shared out loud. We need to hear it and rehear it on a regular, ongoing basis. This is especially true in worship after we confess our sins. Hearing from a human voice that God DOES forgive you is so much more impactful than merely reading those words. Hearing them goes beyond the intellect, straight to the heart.

Nevertheless, it IS important that Grace Lutheran find ways to effectively communicate via the written word. Luther readily acknowledged that as well; the Reformation spread like wildfire because of the countless books and pamphlets he wrote and distributed throughout Europe.

Here at Grace we communicate in writing through five primary means: (1) our website; (2) social media (Facebook and Instagram); (3) our bulletin; (4) Weekly News (Tuesday email); and (5) Grace Notes, our monthly newsletter. That's a LOT of communication, and as you can imagine, it takes a lot of time and effort.

I have been concerned about the effectiveness of two of those communication means: Weekly News and our monthly newsletter, *Grace Notes*. With respect to **Weekly News**, it is simply too long. Each blurb contains value, but with so many words people are less likely to read through it all. If we want people to read more of Weekly News, we must streamline our content. So expect to see Weekly News steadily slimming down in size.

Where I really want to focus our attention is on ***Grace Notes***. Eleven times a year we publish the equivalent of a small magazine – at least 20 pages in length. It takes a great deal of staff time to write, layout, edit, print, and mail. We incur expenses for the reams of paper, printing, and of course the postage (about $300 each issue). It is FILLED with good and interesting content.

Here's the bottom line: is all that effort and expense worthwhile? Because all that communication is fruitless if few people are reading it.

I have been doing some very non-scientific research by asking people here at Grace how they engage with Grace Notes. The responses have been all over the map. Here is a sample:

- "I'm pretty busy, so I'm only able to skim a few things."
- "I have a few sections I read every month and others that I never read because they don't involve me."
- "Even if I can't get to it right away, its presence in my home is important. It reminds me of the importance of my faith, and each night I read a little, sort of like a devotional practice."
- "Our family goes in so many different directions, so having all the relevant dates in one place is really helpful to keeping our family organized."

How about you? Do any of these perspectives match yours? Or do you read/skim/discard each issue based on a different criteria or series of priorities? Here are some ideas we have been tossing around to make Grace Notes more meaningful, readable, producible, and efficient.

1. Just keep things the way they are (though, as mentioned last month, we are already committed to publishing a combined December/January issue so

that our staff is not obliged to generate lengthy content by our usual deadline – the 20th of the month – just as we are preparing for Christmas worship). But is keeping *Grace Notes* as-is really the best use of our collective time and resources?

2. We could cut down on expense by making the newsletter a digital-only publication, but I am not inclined to do that because: (1) I suspect many of our readers are not completely comfortable with finding/accessing a digital publication of this length; and (2) there is something extra special about seeing that newsletter in your mailbox and on your kitchen table, and actually holding it your hands. It is an incarnational moment. So, for now at least, this option is not on the table. But *Grace Notes* is already offered on our website in PDF format (under the "News" tab), so if you prefer that over a printed/mailed copy, contact the church office and we can take you off the mailing list.
3. Our long-term strategic planning consultant offered the idea of publishing a quarterly print edition focused on stories. It would contain the kinds of articles your pastors write, as well as story-based reflections from other staff, but much of the other content (like the monthly lectionary and much of the content relating to collections and endeavors by community partners) would be eliminated and, as relevant, show up in other communication forms like Weekly News and the bulletin. My guess is that this would reduce our length to about 12 pages and take us from 11 mailings to four.
4. A final option I'll offer is a hybrid approach of six double issues (like we do in the summer) and reduction of some of the content that seems to get less readership. Bear in mind that any change in page length must be in multiples of four because of the way the newsletter is printed and assembled (much like a book).

What are your thoughts? Please share them with me and with Pastor Hetrick. We want *Grace Notes* to be something that effectively and joyfully communicates the many wonderful things God is doing in, with, and through all of us here at Grace Lutheran. Your opinion matters greatly!

Giving

From the Apostle Paul: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Cor. 9:7)

Friends, let me be direct. Our giving is way behind. We are not quite at the halfway point of the fiscal year, and already we are over $20,000 behind, even with rigorous cost containment. This is not sustainable over the long-haul. If we believe our ministries are important (and they are!), then it is up to us, as the people of Grace, to adequately fund them.

I am sure there are several reasons behind this. We all know inflation and the cost of living skyrocketed in 2026. In addition, we have become a younger church, and young families typically do not have as much disposable income as retirees. But I think these two factors are small contributors to the problem.

At the core, this is an issue of discipleship. We spend our time and money on the things that matter most to us. As others have observed throughout the years, our checkbooks/credit card bills are reflections of the things we most value. If Grace Lutheran Church matters to you (as I pray it does), then I am gently but firmly asking that you manifest that value by increasing your giving. Many in our congregation are very passionate about discreet projects we undertake here, and target their giving to support those discreet projects. That support is deeply needed and appreciated. But our highest need is for you to give to our overall ministries. Because that's how we pay our utility bills, support our community partners, and pay our staff. Eventually, if nothing changes, those things will have to be reduced by some measure.

Members sometimes express surprise when they hear of this need. They assume that we are awash in money and do not rely upon weekly giving. We do have some savings, but savings are intended for surprise expenses and extraordinary needs, not our monthly bills. If you think your neighbor in the pew is doing the heavy lifting of giving for you, please know that is not the case. We need every member to be a cheerful giver.

Look, I realize that churches as a whole are usually uncomfortable talking about money. I've long wondered why that is, when so many churches are eager to take up far more controversial topics like sex and politics. I think money is the ultimate taboo subject at churches because collectively we all know that this is an area where we aren't taking Jesus or his call

~ Cont'd. on p. 15

From Our Associate Pastor



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

You know those reminders about appointments, or those pesky notifications on your phone? They've probably saved your reputation and human relationships once or twice. They remind us of the birthdays, deadlines, and events that could otherwise be lost in a sea of distractions.



"Oh, *that* thing!" we think as a cheery ding sounds, or a message is left. Then, we prepare for the event that we knew was coming, yet had completely stopped tracking.

When Advent arrives, it's as though a notification appears in our collective Christian consciousness. What if we got a notification or message that announced, "Jesus is coming! Would you like to plan something?" Psst… **Advent begins on November 29**. This year we are offering Advent devotions. And just as some of you start your holiday shopping early, the devotions will also start early- as in two Sundays before the beginning of Advent.

The devotions entitled "*Out of Time***," start on Sunday, November 15 and will be available Sunday, November 8.** They are written by the same group who produced our popular Lenten devotions last year, Barn Geese Worship. The devotions lead your journey through Christmas Day, offering ways to respond to the Advent season. You can use it to support your daily devotions throughout the season, and it is especially suited to accompanying an Advent wreath-lighting at home. It uses the scriptures of the Advent season to invite you to reflect on how people experience time and on how God uses our temporal experience to meet us, challenge us, bless us, shape us, and call us into holy endings and new beginnings.

As a season of preparation, Advent reminds us that our time is limited. We run out of time to reconcile, to prepare, to make a change. Yet even as we are running out of time, God is out of time entirely – beyond it, outside it. God's infinite being and infinite patience cut through our fear as God enters human time to dwell with us: *Emmanuel*, God-with-us. Each week's theme in Advent invites our awareness of the time we spend with people and with Jesus.

So why not just four weeks? As our popular culture has begun "Christmas-ing" ever earlier and schedules overflow, it is hard to honor the simplicity and devotion that are the hallmark of Advent's waiting. People who observe an extended Advent season have shared that their preparation for the coming of Christ feels less rushed and more meaningful. So, let's talk about how to prepare in a new way…

Prepare an Advent wreath. If you have one already, now is a good time to get it out. Our kids will be making Advent wreaths in Faith Formation. If you do not have a wreath, a circle or row of candles will do. You can place seven votives in jars, or on plates, or all on one plate. Or you can add three candles around the outside of a wreath you already own.



Place the candles somewhere you can return to them every day. And don't forget to light them on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to reflect on the light of Christ in the world. If you like to keep your lights up, maybe keep using your candles all the way until Epiphany, or even February 7 which is Transfiguration Sunday (seven weeks

after Christmas Eve!).

Prepare your time. When should you do this in your day? Perhaps ask yourself when do you most need Jesus' help in your day? If you are a planner and keep a calendar, put your time with Jesus in your calendar the way you record any other important time.

Alongside Scripture and prayer, each week's devotion includes ideas as you start your time, ideas for marking time, making time, a time out, break time and a moment in time.

Since your devotions are asking you to think about time a lot, at the end of the devotions are suggestions for games that use a timer, movies, TV shows, books, stories and poems. All of these are possibilities for adding to your focus. Finally, there are prayers for living in the moment, for the person who feels they have too little time to pray, for the end of the day, for pondering the Advent wreath and more.

I hope this sounds like a wonderful way to journey and not like a chore. And I pray that however you engage with this devotion, you and Jesus wait and wonder together.

One last note: these devotions are only in print that you can hold. This is on purpose so you can step away from the weight of all those other incessant notifications. In my daily devotions, I am invited to pause to be still, to regather my scattered senses on the presence of God. They end with a prayer that the weight of material things be light, and the relativity of time stand still. May it be so for you amid this season.

Yours in Christ,
~ Pastor Carolyn

Memories Café

Our first Memories Cafe took place in the Miller Center with singing, fellowship, a meal and "Opening Minds Through Art." Our artists and companions were led by facilitators from the Nese College of Nursing Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence. Thanks to our Stephen Ministry leaders, Susan and Brenda, our Faith Community Nurse, Rebecca Rabb and everyone who helped make memories together with us!

Our next Cafe will be in the new year on **Tuesday, January 12** in the Miller Center – stay tuned for more information in the next issue of Grace Notes!









Finances for 2026

Church FINANCES	GLC Actual Income vs. Expense, September 2026	GLC Budgeted Income vs. Expense, September 2026	+ or (-)
Income	$46,275.55	$69,231.83	($22,956.28)
Expenses	$77,351.84	$81,417.65	($4,065.81)
Net Income	($31,076.29)	($12,185.82)	

Historically September is a slow giving month for Grace and this year it was coupled with an increase of our expenses. Our finite time can be diverted and distract us from the church, as it may have done this September. Offerings were on the low end of average for the month, and so even though we did contain expenses just below budgeted levels, we experienced a loss for the month. 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!

Church COUNCIL

At its October 2026 meeting, Grace's Church Council was joined by Bishop Kevin Shock, who shared his experiences with the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church following his recent attendance at the ordination of a new bishop there in Kenya. The faithfulness and persistence of our Lutheran siblings in Kenya gave Council an opportunity to reflect on our own call to discipleship here at Grace.

Save the Date: Service for Weary Hearts, Tuesday 12/15 at 6:15 p.m.

The "holiday blues" can affect individuals for various reasons, such as loneliness, financial stress, or the absence of loved ones. Grace Lutheran Church along with our Stephen Ministry program are offering **A Night for Weary Hearts on December 15 at 6:15 p.m.**, to connect with your faith and find hope at this time of the season. We will help you celebrate the birth of Jesus in a calming and loving manor.



Blessing of Pets and Their People



We blessed many pets in person, including Ollie and Daisy. We also blessed others virtually while seeing great pictures of them. Thanks to everyone who donated to Centre PAWS- they were delighted by your care for God's creatures.



Preparing our Hearts and Minds for Worship

Sunday	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Holy Gospel
November 1 All Saints Sunday	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 34:1-10, 22	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
November 8 24th Sunday after Pentecost	Amos 5:18-24	Psalm 70	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
November 15 25th Sunday after Pentecost	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18	Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
November 22 Christ the King Sunday	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Psalm 95:1-7a	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46
November 29 First Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37

Food, Faith and Fellowship Dates in November:



Nov 4:
Food: 5 - 6:10 p.m. Roasted tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwich, dessert and drink. Suggested donation: $7/person with students and youth free.
Fellowship Activity: no Fellowship Activity

Nov 11: Veterans Day Special and Bingo Night
Food: 5 - 6:10 p.m. Chili, hot dogs, potato salad, dessert and drink. Suggested donation: $7/person with students and youth free (Veterans and spouses dine courtesy of the Fellowship Ministry).
Fellowship Activity: Bingo Night in Harkins

Nov 18: Thanksgiving Feast
Food: 5 - 6:10 p.m. Roast turkey w/ gravy, bread stuffing, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, Hawaiian sweet rolls, dessert and drink. Suggested donation: $7/person with students and youth free.
Fellowship Activity: no Fellowship Activity



Planning for the Future

Update on Grace's Longterm Strategic Planning Process

After some rest over the summer, the LEAD team is back in full swing. We spent September doing some neighborhood listening, with the help of our church council members. Deacon Peggy Hahn from LEAD was with us here in State College on October 2-4, where the Lead Team and church council continued the important work of discerning what we are learning from all of our listening this year, and how God is calling us to turn that into our plan for moving forward. It is clear to the team that God's dream is already beginning to bloom here at Grace, and the strategic planning report (which we anticipate receiving before year's end) will help focus and direct our discipleship. It is a very exciting time for Grace Lutheran Church!

News & Events NOVEMBER 2026

Some "Notes" from the Director of Music



Coming up on **Saturday, November 7** at **3:00 p.m.** in the Grace Lutheran sanctuary, treat your ears to a delightful evening of instrumental music. This concert will support the important work of the Anti-Hunger Team. Admission is free; donations of shelf-stable food and cash benefit food distribution. The inspiration behind the programming of this concert comes from the incredible talent of the community of Grace instrumentalists. Performers include Grace pianists, Ryan Ditmer and Victoria Kravchuk; Grace 8:00 flutist, Joan Kovalchik; Penn State students: Matthew Olmstead, Alexander Hilliard (viola major and GLC section leader), Carson Mesics (PSU mechanical engineering major and violinist); and yours truly (Peter Douglas) on organ and piano. There are two more special parts of the concert: Ken and the Budas, a bluegrass/folk band and an introduction to the pipe organ with Pastor Scott Schul as narrator (and me on the organ). In the latter, the audience will learn all about the various sounds of the pipe organ, in a fun narrated presentation. I am also thankful that Pastor Carolyn Hetrick will provide the welcome and opening prayer. As you can tell, it will be a varied program with something for everyone of all ages.

In November, we observe **All Saints' Day on November 1**, and many observe All Souls' on **November 2**. To honor all of those who we hold in our hearts, I offer you some **suggested listening for All Saints'**. I had the opportunity in Tennessee to perform a little-known Requiem by Brazilian composer, José Maurício Nunes Garcia. The requiem is a Mass for the repose of the souls of the departed.
YouTube: https://tinyurl.com/pub46xfy
Spotify: https://tinyurl.com/3usrntp6

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

Christmas Carol Singing for Children

Children ages pre-K - 5th grade are welcome to come and learn a couple Christmas Carols **Sunday mornings in November from 10 – 10:25 a.m.** with Miss Susan and Miss Kathleen in Room 203. All are welcome and for those who are interested and available, the children can perform the carols at AdventFest on December 6 after the AdventFest potluck lunch. Please note that the rehearsals will be every Sunday morning in November except the 29th due to Thanksgiving. Please contact Susan at SRL144@hotmail.com if you have any questions.



Thanksgiving Dinner

You're Invited to Dinner on November 18

Our traditional Thanksgiving dinner will be served on **Wednesday, November 18** from **5-6:10 p.m.** in Harkins Hall. Our menu is roast turkey w/gravy, bread stuffing, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, Hawaiian sweet rolls, dessert and drink. Suggested donation: $7/person with students and youth free.

Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social



Come kick off the holiday season with your Grace family and friends at our Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social in Harkins Hall. All pies and people are joyfully welcome. The event follows the Thanksgiving Eve worship service on **Wednesday, November 25**. The pie social will begin at **7:15 p.m.**

We'd love for you to bring along a pie to share – homemade or store bought – but most importantly, just bring yourself (and your sweet tooth). Join us for an evening of sweetness, gratitude, and good company.

Stephen Ministries

This is a follow-up to our September article regarding how congregations can help combat the mental health crisis.

Stephen Ministries in St. Louis has launched a major new mental health initiative called Mental Health Empowerment. As part of this initiative, they are offering a new resource presentation to congregations and community organizations, including businesses, schools, coaches, and teen/parent programs. The presentation focuses on education, building empathy skills, encouraging assertiveness, improving listening, and helping individuals live out their faith in daily life.

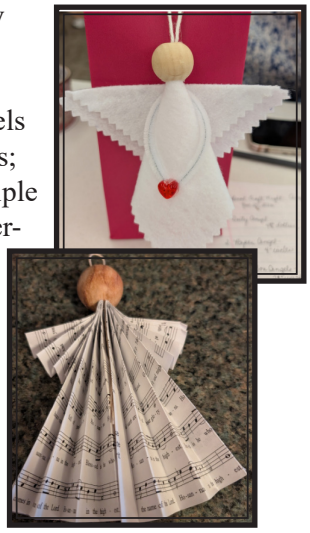
Additionally, they recently released a new discussion guide for their book, *The Gift of Empathy*, which has proven very effective in helping people grow their interpersonal skills. The book serves as a powerful resource on empathy, defining what it is, describing its benefits, showing how to overcome obstacles to effective empathizing, and sharing wisdom on applying empathy across various relationships.

This book is available through our Stephen Leaders. Please let us know if you would like more information.
~ *Brenda Palmgren* – bpalmgren@glcpa.org
~ *Susan Hirth* – susanhirth@yahoo.com

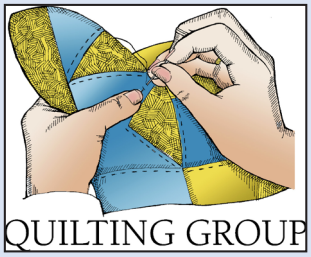
HARVEST HOME

Harvest Home is an ALSM appeal to congregations and is an opportunity to share our bounty with those who are less fortunate. Your generous donations will support benevolence programs throughout the Allegheny synod area and aid individuals and families in need. Donation envelopes will be in the bulletins on **November 8** and available in the Lynn Welcome Center until **November 30.** Completed envelopes can be placed in the offering plate or taken to the church office. Please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church with "Harvest Home" in the memo. Contact Sally Keiser-Bankert with any questions (sallykb@verizon.net). Thank you for your generosity.

Advent Craft Workshop Nov. 20 at Grace



Join Debbie Kaufman and Sally Horn on Friday evening, **November 20**, in Harkins Hall from **6:30 to 8:30** for creative crafting, food, fellowship, and fun! Our crafting theme will be "Angels All Around," honoring God's divine messengers; Debbie and Sally will lead you in crafting multiple simple angels. Hand-crafted angels are a wonderful way to decorate your home or bring joy to a friend. The workshop is free; supplies and light refreshments will be provided. People of all ages are welcome. Please register at https://tinyurl.com/5x6w8n4t or email Laurel Sanders at lsanders@glcpa.org to register so we can ensure we have enough supplies. We hope to see you there!



Comfort Makers

Comfort Makers have completed 59 quilts this year. They were blessed on Sunday, October 25 along with 18 care kits created by the Women of Grace and 98 backpacks compiled by our Youth with donations from the congregation. The quilts and kits are now on their way to Lutheran World Relief warehouse where they will be distributed across the world to people in need. Thanks to everyone who helped with this year-long project.

If you have time on your hands or simply want some company, 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 gailschreffler@comcast.net.

From Your Grace Community Nurse

As we head into the holiday season, two important health topics to keep in mind. **First, Handwashing!** As travel, less-than-robust immune systems, hectic schedules, people-filled celebrations, and cold and flu season converge, handwashing is the most effective way to stay healthy. Remember, "Wash your hands and say your prayers, because Jesus and germs are everywhere!" Follow these five steps every time:

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Sing or hum the chorus of "Jingle Bells" twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or an air dryer.

Teach and model these steps for children, and remind youth and adults to follow all steps. If you are feeling a bit stressed, perhaps scrubbing a little longer and taking some slow, deep breaths while washing your hands will give you time to re-set.

For more information, see the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) website: https://www.cdc.gov/clean-hands/about/index.html.

Second, Stroke Awareness! A stroke can happen to anyone, no matter their age. If a stroke is suspected, time is critical. BE FAST describes the warning signs of a stroke:

B = Balance Loss - Is there a sudden loss of balance or coordination? Is the person having trouble walking or experiencing dizziness?

E = Eye (Vision) Changes - Are there sudden changes in vision? Ask the person if they are experiencing blurred vision, double vision, or loss of sight in one or both eyes.

F = Face Drooping - Does one side of the face droop, or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven?

A = Arm Weakness - Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S = Speech Difficulty - Is speech slurred or difficult to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence.

T = Time to Call 911 - If you have any of these symptoms or see someone else having them, call 911 immediately!

Time is critical. If a stroke is suspected, getting the proper treatment in an Emergency Room is the best way to decrease effects and increase recovery. For more information, visit the American Stroke Association's website at https://www.stroke.org/en/about-the-american-stroke-association/stroke-awareness-month.

As always, if you have any questions or want to discuss further, please reach out! Wishing you a wonderful holiday season! Thank you, Veterans and Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Anticipating Christ's birth,

~ Rebecca
glcenotes@gmail.com

Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging Team Updates:

Grace DEIB Team will be joining the Universalist Unitarian Fellowship, University Baptist & Brethren Church, and State College Friends to host Traditional Storyteller and Cultural Educator Perry Ground (Onondaga, Turtle Clan). Perry will be presenting the program **Rethinking Thanksgiving: A Native American Perspective on an American Holiday**. Perry describes Re-Thinking Thanksgiving as, "a very fun, very informative, very interactive talk that will teach about the very misunderstood history of the American holiday of Thanksgiving."

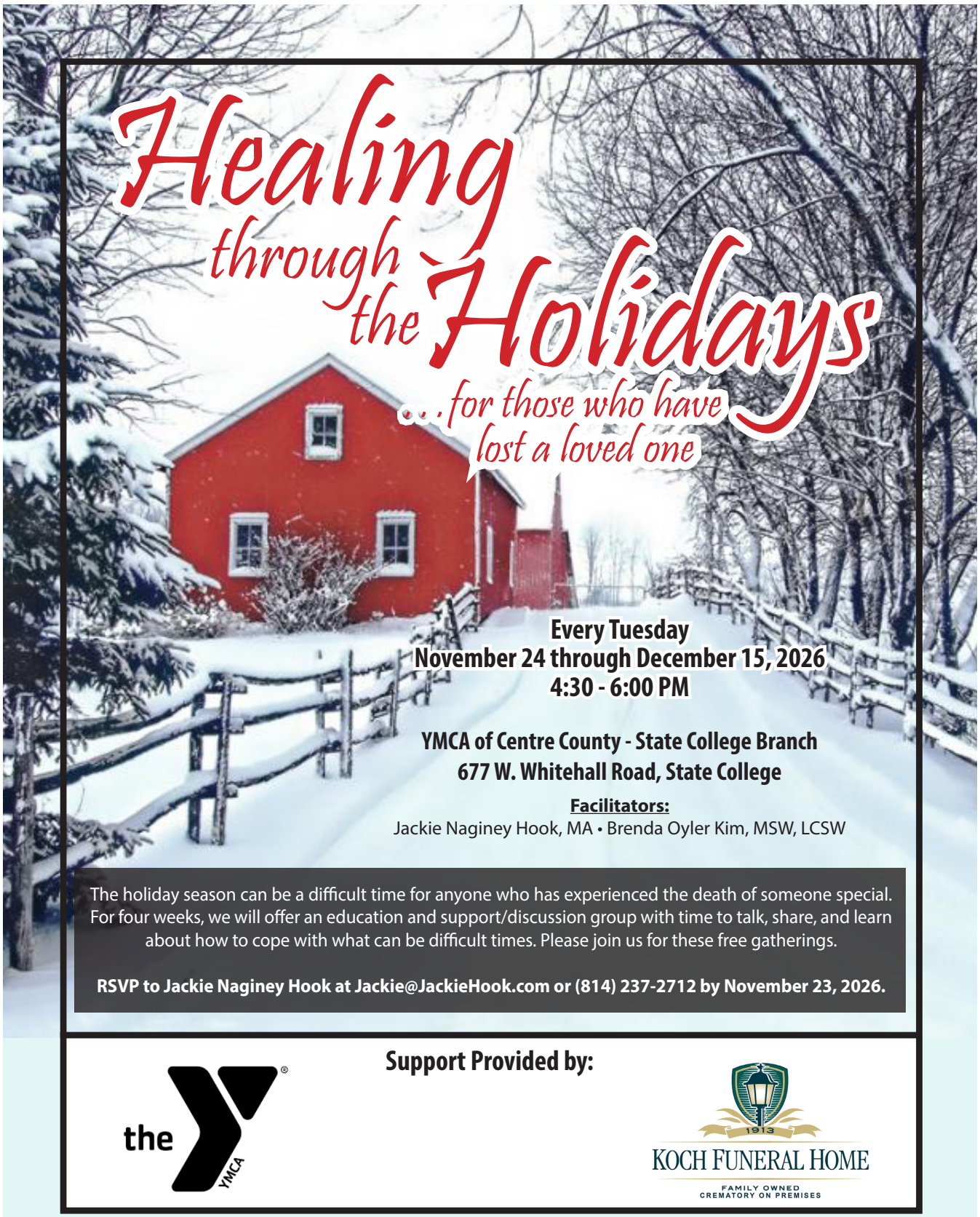
Event Details:

- **Sunday, November 22**
- **Time: Afternoon**; to be announced (check Weekly News for time)
- **Location**: Unitarian Universalist 780 Waupelani Drive State College, PA 16801

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 Welcome Center starting **December 7 thru 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.



Every Tuesday
November 24 through December 15, 2026
4:30 - 6:00 PM

YMCA of Centre County - State College Branch
677 W. Whitehall Road, State College

Facilitators:
Jackie Naginey Hook, MA • Brenda Oyler Kim, MSW, LCSW

The holiday season can be a difficult time for anyone who has experienced the death of someone special. For four weeks, we will offer an education and support/discussion group with time to talk, share, and learn about how to cope with what can be difficult times. Please join us for these free gatherings.

RSVP to Jackie Naginey Hook at Jackie@JackieHook.com or (814) 237-2712 by November 23, 2026.

Support Provided by:

the YMCA

1913
KOCH FUNERAL HOME
FAMILY OWNED
CREMATORY ON PREMISES

The Garden of Readin' meets Nov. 17



The Garden of Readin' (Women's Book Club) meets on **Tuesday, November 17** at **10:30 a.m.** in the Stinson Library and on zoom.
The November selection is *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. Janet Lybarger's will facilitate. Contact Sharyn Everhart (sharyn.everhart@gmail.com) for details.

Anti-Hunger Updates

Join Us for Food Distribution Thursdays!
Everyone is welcome! If you enjoy good fellowship, having fun, meeting wonderful people, and helping our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity, please join us on our Food Distribution Thursdays! We have such a wonderful group of volunteers, and I look forward to working alongside everyone each week as we organize, pre-bag, and distribute food. To me, the friendship and fellowship we share are just as important as our mission to assist our neighbors. We are making a difference together, and we have fun doing it!



Special Porch Distribution - Thursday, January 7, 2027
During November and December, we hold our regular Food Distributions on the first and third Thursdays because of the holidays. Typically, this means there are three weeks between our last December distribution and our first January distribution. This year, however, there will be four weeks without a Food Distribution! With the cost of home heating during the winter months, we were concerned that four weeks would be too long for our neighbors to wait for food assistance. After discussing the situation, we decided to hold a Special Porch Distribution on **Thursday, January 7.**

All of the food will be provided by Grace Donations. We will only need a few volunteers to set up the tables on our porch and put the shelf stable food on the tables (no produce, milk, or eggs). The cars will drive up and the clients will get out of their car and choose what food they want from the tables. Walkers will also be able to choose their own food. We will have just a few volunteers monitoring the distribution. Our regular Food Distributions will resume on **Thursday, January 14**.

Come Join Us! If you're interested in observing or volunteering for an hour or more on a Food Distribution day, please let me know! Everyone is welcome, and we would love to have you join us! Please contact me at kathymkalbach@gmail.com for more information. Come for the mission, stay for the fellowship, and enjoy being part of a wonderful group of people who care about our neighbors. We look forward to seeing you!

Future dates for our Food Distributions are:
November 5 (1st Thursday) & **November 19** (3rd Thursday)
December 3 (1st Thursday) & **December 17** (3rd Thursday)
Special Porch Distribution - Thursday, January 7, 2027

STATE COLLEGE FOODBANK

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:** Snack Items: 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 (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

NOVEMBER 2026

Praise & Thanksgiving

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

Sunday, November 1	Monday, November 2	Tuesday, November 3	Wednesday, November 4	Thursday, November 5	Friday, November 6	Saturday, November 7
All Saints Sunday 7:45a Bells of Grace Rehearsal/ Sanctuary 8a Worship 9a Worship, ECHO & Spark SS 10a Youth Choir/ Fireside 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S. 11:30a All Saints Luncheon/ Harkins 	9a - 2:30p GLP	9a - 2:30p GLP 9:30a Staff Meeting/ Fireside 10a Comfort Makers/Library 6:30p Ministry Coordinators/ ZOOM 	9a - 2:30p GLP 11a Simple Way to Pray/ Fireside 3p Worship at the Village 3:45p FitLink/ Miller Cntr 5p Food Faith & Fellowship Dinner/ Harkins 5:30 Smart Recovery/ Library 7p Adult Choir/ Sanctuary The Village AT PENN STATE	9a - 2:30p GLP 3:30p Food Distribution/ Grace Parking Lot 7:15p Scouts/ Harkins 7:30p AA Group/ Library & Fireside 	9a-2:30p GLP 5:30p NA Group/ Library	3p Benefit Concert for Food Distribution/ Sanctuary 
Sunday, November 8	**Monday, November 9**	**Tuesday, November 10**	**Wednesday, November 11**	**Thursday, November 12**	**Friday, November 13**	**Saturday, November 14**
24th Sunday After Pentecost 8a Worship 9a Worship, ECHO & Spark SS 10a Snack & Chat/ Harkins Youth Choir/ Fireside 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S. 11:30a Bells of Grace Rehearsal/ Sanctuary 7p QNA/ Fireside	9a - 2:30p GLP 	9a - 2:30p GLP 9:30a Staff Meeting/ Fireside 10a Comfort Makers/Library 7p Church Council/ Fireside	9a - 2:30p GLP 12p GLP Butter Braid delivery/ 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 7:15p Scouts/ Harkins 7:30p AA Group/ Library & Fireside	9a - 2:30p GLP 5:30p NA Group/ Library 6p Middle School Fun Night/ Miller Cntr 	7:30a Car Parking PSU Football 

Sunday, November 15	Monday, November 16	Tuesday, November 17	Wednesday, November 18	Thursday, November 19	Friday, November 20	Saturday, November 21
25th Sunday After Pentecost GLP Toys for Tots Begins 8a Worship 9a Worship, Echo & Spark S.S. 10a Snack & Chat/ Harkins Youth Choir/ Fireside Munchkin Brunchkin/ Miller Cntr 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S. 11:30a Bells of Grace Rehearsal/ Sanctuary 4p Confirmation Class/ Fireside 5p Youth Grp/ Miller Cntr	9a - 2:30p GLP 11:30a GLP Children's Chapel/ Sanctuary 7p DEIB mtg/ Fireside 	9a - 2:30p GLP 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside 10:30a Garden of Readin'/ Library 6:30p Faith & Fiction Book Club/ ZOOM 	9a - 2:30p GLP 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 3p Stephen Ministry/ Fireside & Library 3:30p Food Distribution/ Grace Parking Lot 7:15p Scouts/ Harkins Hall 7:30p AA Group/ Library & Fireside 	9a - 12p GLP GLP Staff Mtg. 12:15-2pm No Enrichment 5:30p NA Group/Library 6:30p Advent Craft Night/ Harkins 	7:30a Car Parking PSU Football 
Sunday, November 22	**Monday, November 23**	**Tuesday, November 24**	**Wednesday, November 25**	**Thursday, November 26**	**Friday, November 27**	**Saturday, November 28**
Christ the King Sunday 8a Worship 9a Worship, Echo & Spark S.S. 10a Snack & Chat/ Harkins Youth Choir/ Fireside 10:30a Worship 10:45a Cafe S.S. 11a Bells of Grace Rehearsal/ Sanctuary	No GLP Thanksgiving Break	No GLP Thanksgiving Break 9:30a Staff Meeting/Fireside 10a Comfort Makers/Library 7p Congregational Care Mtg/ Fireside	No GLP Thanksgiving Break 3:45p FitLink/ Miller Cntr 6:15 Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7p Adult Choir/ Sanctuary 7:15p Pie Social/ Harkins 	No GLP Thanksgiving Break 7:30p AA Group/ Library & Fireside 	No GLP Thanksgiving Break 5:30p NA Group/Library **Church Office Closed**	
Sunday, November 29	**Monday, November 30**					
First Sunday of Advent 8a Worship 9a Worship 10a Snack & Chat/ Harkins Youth Choir/ Fireside 10:30a Worship 11:30a Bell Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary **No Sunday School Thanksgiving Break**	9a - 2:30p GLP 					

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					



December 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	28	31	31		

From Our Senior Pastor

~ Cont'd. from p. 3

to discipleship seriously. We tell ourselves that if we just avoid the subject, maybe we can avoid the guilt. But that only works for so long…

What we do here at Grace is so important. We deal in matters of eternal salvation as well as day-to-day survival. But for all of that to happen, we must find ways to speak more honestly, directly, and regularly about how we express our faith through our giving. Perhaps this will be uncomfortable at times. **But Jesus never called us to be comfortable. He called us to be faithful.** Please consider increasing your giving to support the ministries of Grace Lutheran Church.

Lessons from Denmark: Worshipping at the Crossroads of Past and Present

I have been sharing with you lessons that I learned this summer from our Lutheran friends in the Church of Denmark. Two months ago I wrote about the power of community listening. Last month I offered a second lesson, the power of community singing. This month I'll offer a third lesson: worshipping at the crossroads of past and present.

Roskilde Cathedral is a 30-minute train ride west of Copenhagen. Construction of the cathedral began about 1,000 years ago but took hundreds of years to complete. It's a massive structure which is especially famous because it is the burial place of most of Denmark's royalty.

The most surprising thing for me about Roskilde Cathedral, and indeed for just about all the ancient churches I visited in Denmark, is that they find a way to tastefully integrate modern design into otherwise traditional (even medieval) buildings. For example, this photo is of a side chapel at the cathedral. The room was probably constructed at least 700 years ago. But the wall art and the furniture are much more modern in age and design. This is characteristic of what I saw all throughout Denmark.



Ok, but so what? Am I advocating that we redecorate Grace to be just as eclectic in design? No. But I do think there is great symbolic worth to considering this distinctive Danish approach. They find a way to worship at the crossroads of the past and the present. That involves far, far more than just wall art and furniture. It involves an important theological mindset.

You see, everything we do in worship brings us into that crossroads of the past and present. We hold fast to our historic Biblically based beliefs, as reflected in scripture, the creeds, and our Lutheran confessions. But we simultaneously recognize that even though those beliefs were intended to be timeless and unchanging, other things pertaining to our faith and worship lives are appropriately contextual. For example, unlike our ancient ancestors in the faith, we worship in *English*, not Greek, Hebrew, or Latin. We value and honor the gifts of women in leadership. And we have a different pace of life (and correspondingly different pace of time… I don't think we're ready to go back to hour long sermons and three-hour worship services, are we?)

And so when I see the mixture of old and modern art in Danish churches, it reminds me that our faith and worship lives are not confined to a stale museum. Ours is a *living* faith which conveys timeless beliefs in a very contextual time and place so that God's Good News can be understood, accepted, and (most importantly) lived here and now.

How are you personally worshipping at the crossroads of past and present? Start with your prayer life. If you're like me, you make use of ancient prayers like the Lord's Prayer *and* add to it your own personal, spontaneous prayers. See? You're already living this idea. I bet you can think of more examples too. Dwelling at the crossroads of past and present is a very faithful place to be!

Bits and Pieces

- **11/1: All Saints Sunday**. Bring photos of your loved ones in heaven. The photos will be placed in front of the altar to remind us that in Christ we remain surrounded by the "great cloud of witnesses" of the saints in heaven.
- **11/18: Thanksgiving Dinner at Grace in Harkins Hall**. Join us for a delicious homecooked meal and enjoy fellowship with your friends and neighbors. As both scripture and our own personal experience reminds us,

~ Cont'd. on p. 16

From Our Senior Pastor

~ Cont'd. from p. 15

whenever we come together for a meal, Jesus shows up too.

- **11/25: Thanksgiving Eve Worship and the Pie Social.** Worship and pie! What's not to love?

Finally...

Speaking of Thanksgiving, what if we were to stretch our *Thanksgiving day* of gratitude into an entire *month* of gratitude? One way to implement that shift of heart is through prayer. And so this month I encourage you, every day in November, to pray the Prayer of the Day we use for Thanksgiving worship (a prayer, incidentally, that has been used in our Lutheran hymnals at least since 1958).

> Almighty God our Father,
> your generous goodness
> comes to us new every day.
> By the work of your Spirit
> lead us to acknowledge
> your goodness, give thanks
> for your benefits, and serve
> you in willing obedience,
> through Jesus Christ, our
> Savior and Lord.
> Amen.

Peace be with you.
~ Pastor Schul

Altar Poinsettias $11 each

Orders due by **Sunday, November 15**
You may make these "In memory of,"
"In honor of," or "To the glory of God."

Make all checks payable to
Grace Lutheran Church / Memo: Poinsettias

Name _____ Envelope # _____

Phone/Email _____

White #_____ Red #_____
In memory of (Inscription) _____
_____
_____

White #_____ Red #_____
In honor of (Inscription) _____
_____
_____

White #_____ Red #_____
To the glory of God _____

Flowers may be picked up after the **9 p.m.**
Christmas Eve service on December 24
or after the **10:00 a.m.** Christmas Day service.

Green Tip for November



This year, please consider a new Thanksgiving tradition. Rather than pursuing the societal urge to over-consume during "Black Friday" sales, start a new tradition of "Green Friday". You can read lots online about that movement if you are interested, but the basic idea includes the following:

- Limit shopping to things that you really need; avoid impulse purchases.
- Buy locally sourced and/or sustainable products when possible.
- Re-home gently used items by participating in things like "buy nothing groups", St. Vincent DePaul and Goodwill donations, etc., and use those as a source for some of your own needs rather than buying new.
- Start a family tradition of spending time together in a group activity that allows you to meaningfully engage with each other. Take a hike, volunteer, visit shut-ins, etc.

Lutheran Campus Ministry / Lutheran Student Community at Penn State

Can you believe that we are nearing the last 1/3 of the semester? We are so glad for students to be a part of the life of faith here! As you know, life in college is always full, and there are all sorts of challenges along the way! Through everything, 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.** through May 1

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!

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!

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!

Thanksgiving Break! - LSC and LCM events will be on hiatus **November 20-29, 2026**. Enjoy your time away!

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). 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.

Lutheran Campus Ministry provides a community of faith for students while they are at Penn State. You are welcome to bring doubts and questions, to explore what it means to be a person of faith as you grow and discover who you are and what you are going to do with your life. We gather around worship, discussion/study, service opportunities, and community that are designed with students in mind. Student leaders help to guide our plans and our gatherings – and everyone is welcome. Come as you are. Really.

got questions?

Questions, Not Answers

Questions, Not Answers "QNA" will meet on **Sunday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m.** in Fireside. 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: "When did you know why you were born, or are you still trying to figure it out?"

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

November Calendar

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 a.m. Munchkin Brunckin/ Miller Cntr
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe SS
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class/ Fireside
- 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

December Preview

Sunday, Dec 6
- 9 a.m. ECHO & Spark SS
- 10:45 a.m. Cafe SS
- 11:45 AdventFest/ Harkins

Friday, Dec 11-Sunday, Dec 13
- The Weekend Synod Youth Event

Sunday, Dec 13
- 9 a.m. ECHO & Spark SS
- NO Cafe SS 10 a.m.

Friday, Dec 18
- 6 p.m. Family Christmas Gathering/ Axemann Brewery

Sunday, Dec 20
- 9 a.m. ECHO & Spark SS
- 10 a.m. Munchkin Brunckin/ Miller Cntr
- NO Cafe SS
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class/ Fireside
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Grp/ Miller Cntr

Sunday, Dec 24
- 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship

Sunday, Dec 27
- No Sunday School Classes

Confirmation Instruction Nov. 15



This year we have selected *Lutheran Yes!* as our confirmation curriculum. Each of our nine Sundays focuses on learning about Lutheran Worship. Youth should bring their Bible and a pencil. We will keep our workbook at church. Look for a parent email on how you can help. Confirmation at Grace is designed for students entering 6th through 9th grade. Class meets on the **third Sunday of each month at 4:00 - 5:00 pm,** in the Fireside Room.

Advent begins Nov. 29



Grace Lutheran offers advent devotionals for adults and families. If you would like to enrich your faith life during the Advent Season, please reach out! Email Cindy & Peter at faithformation@glcpa.org.

Holiday Family Fun Night at Axemann Brewery



On **Friday, Dec 18**, from **6-9 p.m.** meet Cindy & Peter at Axemann Brewery in Bellefonte for a Family Fun Night. This is a drop-in event, so come as time allows. If you haven't been to Axemann, there is a family friendly area inside the space which includes indoor picnic tables, games, corn hole, and pinball machines. While we (the church) cannot buy you a beer, we can bring quarters for kids to play pinball.

Christmas Eve Family Worship

Christmas Eve Worship will feature the **4:30 p.m.** Family Christmas Eve Worship with Santa and live nativity. Check your email for the sign up link for your youth to participate as a nativity character (angels, shepherds, and animals - oh my). The **4:30** worship service is our most family friendly for little ones. Other Christmas Eve worship opportunities will be held in the sanctuary at both **7:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m.** The 7**:00 p.m.** worship service will be available through livestream. Special music and musicians highlight the **9:00 p.m.** service.

Affirmation of Baptism



On October 25, Reformation Sunday, we affirmed the baptism of the following youth: Caroline Banerjee, Patrick Belanger, Eliana Burris, Carter Hosband, Julia Noel, Laurel Sanchez, Cara Schuchert, and Grace Schuchert. Please rejoice and keep these youth in your prayers as they navigate high school.

Munchkin Brunchkin Nov. 15



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 and share their faith and challenges with each other. This group meets on the **third Sunday at 10:00 a.m.** each month. Our next gathering is on **Sunday, Nov 15**, in the Miller Center.

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. Parent(s), 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.

We meet weekly except for Nov 29 and Dec 27 because of the holidays.



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 Narthex 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. If there is a Penn State Football game on Saturday, we may stay in the church or bring food in. Please double check with Cindy and Peter on each Sunday to learn about the plan.

On Nov 29, Dec 13, Dec 20, and Dec 27, we will not have Cafe Sunday school for Thanksgiving weekend, The Weekend Synod Event, Crossfire Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Break.

Holy Communion Instruction



We welcome Noble Bartlett, Meghan Conron, and Grace Schuchert to the Table. A reminder for us all that no matter your age or size, there is a place for you at the communion rail. If you have a youth that missed the instruction, we will offer another class in the spring.

Car Parking



Our game day car parking fundraiser continues into November. 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: **Oct 31, and Nov 14 & 21**. Email Cindy & Peter at faithformation@glcpa.org if you would like the signup genius link. All of the games are up for signup.

Youth Group Nov. 15

Youth group meetings coming up are: **Nov 15, Dec 20, Jan 10, Feb 21, Mar 21, and April 18.** Meetings are in the Miller Center from **5:00-7:00 p.m.** These meetings are to be a priority for those attending the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer, but all youth are welcome to attend! Join us for food and discussion as we learn from the ELCA Youth Gathering curriculum.

Middle School Fun Night Nov. 13

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. November's Fun Night is **Nov 13**.

GRACE LUTHERAN
Preschool



Christian Focus Theme for November

We Give Thanks to God.

"God fills my life with good things."
~ Psalm 103:5

Dates to Remember!

November 1
Clocks fall back for the end of daylight saving time
November 4
Butter Braids and Cake Rolls Delivery; pick up in the Fireside Room at 11:30 a.m.
November 15
Toys for Tots Collection begins
November 16 & 19
Children's Chapel - Families invited at 11:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary
November 20
GLP Staff Meeting, 12:15 p.m. in Fireside Room, no enrichment class; morning classes are held as usual
November 23-27
No School, Thanksgiving Vacation
November 30
School Resumes

Butter Braids and Cake Rolls Pick-Up

If you have ordered Butter Braids or Cake Rolls, you can pick them up on **Wednesday, November 4, after 11:30 a.m.** in the Fireside Room. Please be aware that the pastries are frozen. We do not have space in our freezers to hold them for you. Thank you for supporting our tuition assistance, unbudgeted needs, and all-school event funds!

Toys for Tots



Grace Lutheran Preschool is proud to once again serve as a drop-off site for the Toys for Tots program, which helps provide toys to children in need in our community. If you'd like to contribute, please place an unwrapped toy in its original packaging in one of the collection boxes located in the Upper Commons **between November 15 and December 10**.
For those interested in making a cash donation or volunteering, visit https://lemont-pa.toysfortots.org/local or scan the QR code on the collection boxes. Thank you for supporting this wonderful cause!

A Look Back at September 2026

On the last day of September, our Jr. K. and two 4-year-old classes took a school bus to Way Fruit Farm for our annual field trip. The children toured the apple orchard, visited the processing building, and picked their own bags of apples. That same day, we received 169 mums for our Fall Mums Fundraiser and raised $865 for our tuition assistance fund.





Look What We Did in October 2026!

In October, we celebrated Fire Safety Month with a visit from Alpha Fire Company. Firefighters Chris, John, Robert, and Diego brought their fire engine and showed the children the hoses and equipment used to fight fires. The students also learned what firefighters look like in full protective gear and had the opportunity to sit in the fire engine and operate the water hose!





Pray for our Local First Responders

EVERYDAY **HEROES**

November Worship Sponsors

Altar Flowers

Nov 1 Gloria Nieweg Dedicated in memory of Shirley Sturtz Davis
Nov 8 Jackie & Curt Kunes Dedicated in memory of Jackie's sister Carol
Nov 15 Jane & George Myers Dedicated in memory of their parents
Nov 22 Mary Ann Claar Dedicated in memory of her parents John & Julia First
Nov 29 Susan Bardo Dedicated in memory of Frank L Bardo Jr.

Live-Stream Sponsors

Nov 1 Paul & Collette Beuther Dedicated to the Glory of God
Nov 8 Paul & Collette Beuther Dedicated to the Glory of God
Nov 15 Jane & George Myers Dedicated in honor of their Grandchildren
Nov 22 Kathryn Mackes Dedicated in honor of Christine Igoe's birthday
Nov 29 Doug & Mary Kay Laplante Dedicated in gratitude of the Tech Team

Bulletin Covers

Nov 1 Joyce Sipple Dedicated to the Glory of God
Nov 8 Brian Christian Family Dedicated in memory of Kathryn Christian
Nov 15 Linda Domin Dedicated in memory of Tony Domin
Nov 22 Tammy & Grant Davis Dedicated in memory of Evelyn Biggans
Nov 25 Barbara Vogler Dedicated to the Glory of God
Nov 29 Daryl & Nancy Johnson Dedicated to the Glory of God

We sincerely thank all of our generous sponsors.



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

Nov 1 No S&C (due to All Saints luncheon following the 10:30 a.m. worship)
Nov 8 Colin Haynes and family
Nov 15 Linda Domin
Nov 22 Tara and Ron Banerjee
Nov 29 Kathryn Mackes

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 beckylynn0621@gmail.com

8:00 a.m.

Nov 1 Julie Miller
Nov 8 Vicki Sue Golemboski
Nov 15 Julie Miller
Nov 22 Dennis Snider
Nov 29 OPEN

9:00 a.m.

Nov 1 Michael Hetrick
Nov 8 Brian Christian
Nov 15 Ron Banerjee
Nov 22 Courtney Zechman
Nov 29 Michael Hetrick

10:30 a.m.

Nov 1 Lori Coup
Nov 8 Janet Lybarger
Nov 15 Ethylee Nordberg
Nov 22 Melissa Hockenberry
Nov 29 Collette Beuther

Nov 25 **(6:15 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship)** Michael Verderame

Pastoral Acts

No Pastoral Acts

November Birthdays

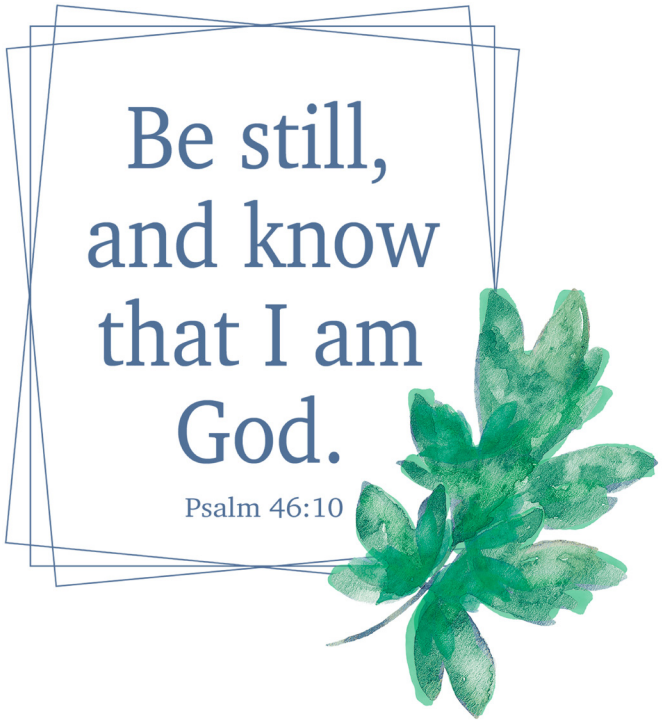


1 Nichelle Nicosia
1 Julia Simcoe
1 Evan Stearns
1 Ruth Germano
2 Linda Schul
3 Madelyn Ulmer
4 Evelyn Dungan
4 Brenna Nicosia
4 Georgia Warren
4 Ryan Morrison
5 Frank Blazina
5 Robert Flinchbaugh
6 Michelle Pletcher
7 Pamela Asencio
7 Chrissy Castles
7 Ricky Larson
7 Trey Nicosia
7 Hiroshi Ohmoto
7 Nora Stager
8 Alexander Foor
8 Alessandra Jeanmenne
8 Merle McCalips
8 Kayleigh Lombardi
8 Marshall Mehring
9 Katelyn Elizabeth Jeanmenne
9 Ryan O'Donnell
9 William McCombie
9 Kerry Richards
10 Craig Evanego
10 Cristin Long
10 Adalyn Davidson
11 Don Leon
11 Hugo Chastain
11 John Kalbach Jr.
11 Paul Wagner
11 Amy Nevling
12 Christa Watschke
12 Leland Glenna
12 Leah Leidy
12 Andy Vanden Heuvel
13 Katie Ellis
13 Matthew Kisenwether
13 Heidi Lambert
13 Marc Lintal
13 Laura Young
13 Richard Baysinger
14 Mitchell Walker
14 Jack Sosnoskie
14 Katy Stager
15 Christopher Mahon
16 Lily Glenna
16 Cyrus Weigold
17 Allen Fiscus
17 Miles Harlor
18 Barbara Bingaman
18 Claire Johnson
18 Gregory DeMetrick
19 Delores Curtis
19 Martha Showalter
19 Allison Siefert
20 Max Jeanmenne
20 Kristin Roman
21 Liam Hickman
21 Andrew Stearns
21 Savanah Chapman
21 Charbel Smirat
22 Ryan Haris
22 Tori Moyer
22 Laurel Sanders
22 Kym Jackson
22 Nathan Showalter
22 Lily Wagner
23 Andrew Pickering
23 Brody Pieniazek
23 Victor Lombardi
24 Ryan Evanego
25 Lynn Rogers
25 Isabella Cocolin
25 Deborah Baysinger
25 Samantha Smeal
26 Anna Long
26 Alex Shisler
26 Chris Turley
26 Sandra Yohe
27 Harry Burd
27 Patrick Donghia
27 Olen Edgar
27 Barbara Vogler
28 Kevin Bender
28 Lori Bendik
28 Megan Egan
28 Terry Garvin
28 Adrianne Vasey
29 Cindy Capperella
29 Elliott Ta
30 Juliet Arnold
30 Isaac Edgar
30 Kyla Heebner
30 Addison Dellert

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
Judy Coup, mother of Chuck Coup
Linda D'Alessandro
Evelyn Dungan
Steve & Janet Ellis, family of The Louders
Albert Facini, brother of Theresa Facini
Norma Flanagan
Cay Griel
Cain Hickey
Gail Hoover
Danielle Kroczynski
June Krumrine
Rosemary Martin, mother of Jeff Martin
Kirsten Matthew
Tony & Janet Morray, friends of Judy Rockey
Jeanne Nagurney, friend of Susan & Greg DeMetrick
Amy Neveling
Alek Novatnak
Terry O'Heron, friend of the Bankert's
Bruce Rathfon
Jan Rocky
Nick Rossi and fellow Peace Corps volunteers in Kenya
Michelle Sanders and family
Chuck Schrock-Leal, brother-in-law of Kathy Weimer
Jordan Veneziano
Betty Verderame, mother of Michael Verderame
Maryann Will, sister of Betsy Will

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.glcpa.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.glcpa.org.

Enjoy pre-recorded Sunday Video Worship from our website: glcpa.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@glcpa.org
- GLC Preschool 814-238-8110
  glpk@glcpa.org
- 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.