
THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024

Dear friends in Christ,

I hope you've heard of Lin-Manuel Miranda. He's the guy who wrote a little Broadway musical called "Hamilton" that took the world by storm a few years ago. In addition to being wildly creative, he also seems to be someone who radiates positivity. He wrote a little book called "Gmorning, Gnight! Little pep talks for me and you." Most of these little greetings are pretty short, but each seems to be packed with love and grace. For instance:

Good morning!

When you were born you held infinite promise.

You're older, you're all banged up by life,

But you hold that promise still.

Good night!

When you were born you held infinite promise.

You're older, you're all banged up by life.

But you hold that promise still.

KEEP GOING.

Or another:

Good morning.

Take a breath.

Then another.

Repeat.

Move at your pace.

You got this.

Good night.

Take a breath.

Then another.

Repeat.

Shake off the day.

Sweet dreams.

These are the exact kinds of things that God wants to breathe into us in each new day. God's grace is new every morning. That's not just about forgiving us for what we've done wrong, but about encouraging us to go forward into a new day to be exactly who God created us to be.

You are more than the mistakes that you've made. You are more than your past. You are part of God's light and love in the world, and you are AMAZING. It's a new day. God is holding you close. You got this!

With love for everything God created you to be,
Pastor Sarah

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
10 S. SEVENTH STREET
SHAMOKIN, PA 17872
THE REV. SARAH HERSHBERGER
OFFICE: (570)648-7534
EMAIL: gracelutheranch@yahoo.com
WEBSITE: gracelutheranshamokin.org
THE SERVICE: 10:00 A.M.
(In Person)
STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Sarah Hershberger
Secretary	Sandee Cupp
Organist	Walter Boyer
Choir Director	Charlene Pell
Inside Sexton	Robin Orme
Sexton	Willie Marsh

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Bruce Romanic	Jeffrey Clutcher
	Bill Hoffa
	Craig Rhoades
	Jim Shingara

CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President	Bruce Romanic
Vice President	Jeffrey Clutcher
Secretary	Sandee Cupp
Financial Secretary	Debra Keefer
Treasurer	Nancy Joraskie

STANDING COMMITTEES

Altar Guild	
Christian Education	Pamala Rhoades
Fellowship Team	James Shingara
Finance	Nancy Joraskie
	Gladys Shingara
	Ron Weller
Mutual Ministry	Bruce Romanic
Property	Bill Hoffa
	Bill Joraskie
	Jeffrey Clutcher
	Craig Rhoades
Social Ministry	Bruce Romanic
Worship & Music	Charlene Pell
	Sandee Cupp
Youth	Rebecca Romanic



2/06 Karen Reeder
 2/14 Olivia Kopitsky
 2/15 Patricia Hixson
 2/21 Rev. Alfred Bashore
 2/29 Charmaine Smith



2/13 Mr. and Mrs. Leon Madara
 2/17 Mr. and Mrs. James Shingara, Sr.
 2/25 Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Stone

Grace Lutheran Church Building Fund Report DECEMBER 2023

Balance November 30, 2023	\$2849.45
Income	
Green Envelopes	
Dec. 3	\$190.00
Dec. 10	\$165.00
Dec. 17	\$25.00
Total Income	\$380.00
New Balance	\$3229.45
Expenses	
Bloom Heating	\$114.15
Total Expense	\$114.15
Balance December 31, 2023	\$3115.30

Respectfully submitted
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer

SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY

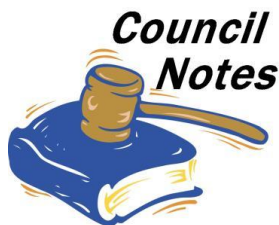
DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>
2/4	Shelley Faust
2/11	Bruce Romanic
2/18	Jeanne & Bill Hoffa
2/25	Jeffrey Clutcher

ALTAR CARE

2/4	Debbie Keefer and Karena Weikel
2/11	Marsha Karnes
2/18	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin
2/25	Shelley Faust and Jeanne Hoffa

HEAD USHER

John Strausser



Council met on Zoom January 9. Christmas decorations will be removed Sunday January 14 after worship. Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday Services will be held at 7 pm on Zoom. Pastor Sarah announced that the Ministerium will not do a Community three hour Service on Good Friday. She will do a Sunrise Service on Easter if there is an interest. Palm crosses will be made Saturday March 23 at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall. The annual Congregational Dinner and Meeting will be held Sunday March 17 in the Fellowship Hall.

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,

How can I possibly thank you for your kindness? I am overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness of your Christmas gift to my family and me. Thank you so very much for all of the ways that you show your love to us during the Christmas season and all throughout the year. We are so grateful for the love of this congregation.

With much love and appreciation,
Pastor Sarah and family

Ash 
Wednesday
Service

There will be a Service of Word and Sacrament on Ash Wednesday, February 14, at 7:00 pm. The Service will be held on Zoom, so remember to have your communion supply with you. The Zoom numbers are:

ID 6215575058
Password 628437

GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SPECIAL REQUESTS

Generosity has been and continues to be a cornerstone of our congregation. Your commitment to supporting our church has made a significant impact on our ability to carry out our mission to do God's work with our hands.

Council regularly monitors our congregation's income and spending. While many members are regular givers, we receive sporadic gifts from others. To improve our congregation's financial well being, council is asking members who currently contribute their offering sporadically to please consider contributing on a more consist basis (eg. weekly, monthly) as that is how our bills come in.

Increased prices have caused a financial strain and there are ongoing needs. So, as we continue on our journey together, we kindly request your prayerful consideration.

Your faithfulness and continued financial support will allow us to meet the current needs and further enhance our ministry.

The Council of Grace Church



Ash Wednesday

ASH WEDNESDAY ASHES

Pastor Sarah will distribute "Drive By" Ashes on Wednesday, February 14 (Ash Wednesday) from Noon to 1:00 PM at the middle of Market and Chestnut Streets.

JUST IN CASE you are someone who loves to plan ahead:

Keep your eyes peeled for sale items this month! The seafarer bags come up in October and you can buy sweatshirts and hats and scarves on sale now, and keep them for your seafarer bags later on in the year.



FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 AA Meeting 7 pm	3
4 Worship 10 am	5	6 Tulpehocken Pastors Conference 10 am	7	8 	9 AA Meeting 7 pm	10
11 Worship 10am 	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm on Zoom	15	16 AA Meeting 7 pm	17
18 Worship 10am	19 	20	21 	22	23 AA Meeting 7 pm	24
25 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	26	27	28	29 		

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Treasurer’s Report

DECEMBER 2023

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance December 1, 2023	\$	19,079.42
Receipts	\$	11,406.35
Expenditures	\$	8,720.09
Ending Balance December 31, 2023	\$	21,765.68

First National Bank

12/1/2023 through 12/31/2023

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
16499	12/1/2023	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 700.00
16500	12/1/2023	Bloom Heating	\$ 547.00
Debit	12/1/2023	UGI	\$ 175.00
Debit	12/6/2023	Aqua PA	\$ 74.84
Debit	12/6/2023	Aqua PA	\$ 35.35
Debit	12/6/2023	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 168.43
Debit	12/13/2023	PenTeleData	\$ 120.97
16501	12/15/2023	1517 Media	\$ 24.75
16502	12/15/2023	Blue Moose Solutions	\$ 120.00
16503	12/15/2023	Brotherhood Mutual Insurance	\$ 1,881.00
16504	12/15/2023	Empire Disposal	\$ 44.00
16505	12/15/2023	Quill Corporation	\$ 270.43
16506	12/20/2023	SCTJSA - (Sewer Authority)	\$ 99.00
16507	12/20/2023	PA Dept. of Labor & Industry-B	\$ 103.48
16508	12/20/2023	Church Budget Envelope Co.	\$ 287.86
16509	12/23/2023	Boyer, Walter	\$ 414.99
16510	12/23/2023	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16511	12/23/2023	Marsh, Willie	\$ 222.59
16512	12/23/2023	Orme, Robin	\$ 400.89
16513	12/23/2023	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 1,895.54
16514	12/26/2023	Casey Gonzalez	\$ 100.00
Debit	12/27/2023	Portico	\$ 410.37
			\$ 8,720.09

HEART strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help

What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.

PUZZLE

CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- a. We
b. Above all,
c. My command is this:
d. And over all these virtues put on
e. Greater
f. See what great
g. There is no fear in

1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12
2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13
3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18
4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8
5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1
6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19
7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14

Answers: a 6, b 4, c 1, d 7, e 2, f 5, g 3

