
THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2023

Dear friends in Christ,

The Season of Advent is upon us! Hooray! You've probably already noticed this, but Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. As a result, we're tweaking our normal schedule just a bit. So, here are some *Things To Know* about the upcoming month.

THING TO KNOW #1: There will be no Sunday morning worship on Christmas Eve.

THING TO KNOW #2: There will be our traditional candlelight service at 4pm on Christmas Eve. Sunday morning will arrive, and you'll think "time to go to church!" But don't. Just hold that thought until the afternoon.

THING TO KNOW #3: The calendar really did a number on Liturgical scheduling this year. Because of Thanksgiving being a little early and Christmas being on a Sunday, we had to tweak our normal Advent plan.

We normally have four Sundays in Advent, but this year there will be three (like the Trinity!). We're going to leave out what would traditionally be the First Sunday of Advent, and start on Advent 2. So, when you see the bulletin for Advent 2, you'll think that Sandee printed on the wrong bulletin. But she didn't. So don't ask.

(And if you do ask, she'll know that you didn't read your newsletter article. You didn't even skim it for the highlights. Then she'll tell me that you didn't read it. Then I'll think it's important to call you personally to say "hey, why don't you read your newsletter article? I go to great pains every month to write something that is either informative, or inspirational, or funny, or sometimes a combination of all three, and you don't take the time to read it? What's a pastor gotta do to get you to read your newsletter? Once I call you, you'll feel sheepish that I called you personally about something so silly, but we'll chuckle together and you'll tell me that you'll start reading the newsletter, and I'll have hope for a while, until the next time you have a question, and then this whole cycle will get started again. Do you see now, how important these articles are to your health and well-being?)

THING TO KNOW #4: It's a crazy time of year. Don't forget to breathe. Don't forget during these ever-shortening days that Jesus is the light of the world. No amount of presents or parties or decorations or baking will make that more true than it already is. Jesus has come to the world, and the world will never be the same. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

Peace,
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

2025

2024

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



12/02 Jeanne Hoffa
 12/05 Rod Faust
 12/17 Tyler Keiser
 12/22 Mark Cupp
 12/28 Shelley Faust
 12/29 Claire Hershberger
 12/31 Martha Jane Scholl

Grace Lutheran Church

Building Fund Report

OCTOBER 2023

Balance September 30, 2023	\$3874.85
Income	
Green Envelopes	
Oct. 1	\$176.00
Oct. 8	\$40.00
Oct. 15	\$5.00
Oct. 22	\$20.00
Oct. 29	\$0.00
Total Income	\$241.00
New Balance	\$4115.85
Expenses	
Bloom Heating	\$265.90
Kreco	\$1240.50
Total Expense	\$1506.40
Balance October 31, 2023	\$2609.45

Respectfully submitted
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer



SERVERS FOR DECEMBER

DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>
12/3	Jeffrey Clutcher
12/10	Ron Weller
12/17	Richard Kovach
12/24	David Kopitsky
12/31	Bruce Romanic

ALTAR CARE

12/3	Marsha Karnes
12/10	Shelley Faust & Jeanne Hoffa
12/17	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin
12/24	Pam & Craig Rhoades
12/31	Debbie Keefer & Karena Weikel

HEAD USHER

John Strausser



In an effort to decorate the Sanctuary of Grace Church, poinsettias are being offered in memory/honor of a loved one.

We will do the ordering for you. **The cost is \$15.** Sign-up on the sheet in the rear of the church. Money may be put in a marked envelope and dropped in the offering plate or given to Sandee Cupp. **The deadline to order is Sunday December 10.**

Christmas Memorials must also be given to Sandee by **Sunday December 10** if they are to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24

4:00 P.M.



Council met November 20 on Zoom. A thank you note was received from Camp Mount Luther for the monthly donation. The cellar window in the parsonage was broken. Craig Rhoades has repaired it. The valve on the furnace has been replaced.

The church will be decorated for the Christmas season on Monday December 4 at 6 pm. Help is needed.

There will be one Service December 24. It will be the annual Christmas Eve Candle-light Communion Service at 4 pm.

The Lions Club will not be using the Fellowship Hall for a "Breakfast with Santa".

Council will not meet in December. The next meeting will be January 9 at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

Reminder

There will be NO MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE on Sunday December 24. We will celebrate the birth of Christ at 4:00 PM.



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 AA Meeting 7 pm	2
3 Worship 10 am	4	5 Tulpehocken Pastors Conference 10 am	6	7	8 AA Meeting 7 pm	9
10 Worship 10 am Healing Service After Worship	11	12	13	14	15 AA Meeting 7 pm	16
17 Worship 10am	18	19	20	21	22 AA Meeting 7 pm	23
24 Christmas Eve Service 4 pm ----- 31 Worship 10am	25	26	27	28	29 AA Meeting 7 pm	30

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
OCTOBER 2023

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance October 1, 2023	\$ 1,499.32
Receipts	\$ 22,556.16
Expenditures	\$ 8,162.55
Ending Balance October 31, 2023	\$ 15,892.93

First National Bank**10/1/2023 through 10/31/2023**

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
16472	10/1/2023	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 700.00
16473	10/1/2023	Bloom Heating	\$ 547.00
16474	10/1/2023	Weller, Ron	\$ 150.00
Debit	10/3/2023	UGI	\$ 175.00
Debit	10/3/2023	Aqua PA	\$ 21.90
Debit	10/3/2023	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 294.65
Debit	10/6/2023	Aqua PA	\$ 65.66
16475	10/8/2023	Cole's Hardware	\$ 65.45
16476	10/8/2023	SCTJSA - (Sewer Authority)	\$ 99.00
Debit	10/10/2023	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 198.44
Debit	10/13/2023	PenTeleData	\$ 120.97
16477	10/22/2023	Casey Gonzalez	\$ 100.00
16478	10/23/2023	Empire Disposal	\$ 20.00
Debit	10/24/2023	CM ALMY	\$ 75.00
16479	10/26/2023	Boyer, Walter	\$ 348.78
16480	10/26/2023	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16481	10/26/2023	Marsh, Willie	\$ 222.59
16482	10/26/2023	Orme, Robin	\$ 400.89
16483	10/26/2023	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 1,895.54
Debit	10/30/2023	Pennsylvania Dept. of Revenue	\$ 194.64
Debit	10/30/2023	Internal Revenue Service	\$ 1,720.14
Debit	10/30/2023	Keystone Collections Group	\$ 123.30
		Total	\$ 8,162.55



LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

What you need:


- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.

Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!

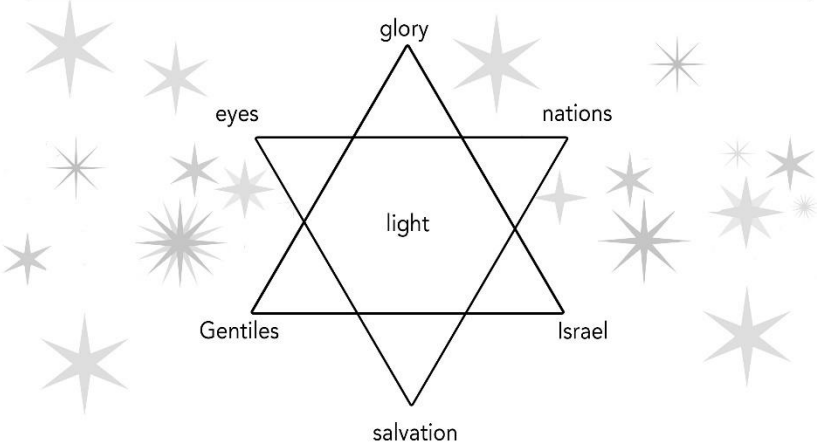



PUZZLE

SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.



"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the _____, and the _____ of your people _____."

Luke 2:30-32, NIV

Answers: eyes, salvation, nations, light, Gentiles, glory, Israel

