
THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

It's possible that you are one of those amazing people who loves every single Christmas song that you hear. It's possible that you are also someone who is putting up a Christmas tree in every room of your house, complete with lights and ornaments and themes. You might love absolutely every single thing about Christmas; the lights, the colors, the special once-a-year foods, the parties, the glitter, and even the ugly sweaters.

And also...two things can be true at the same time.

You might not love this particular holiday season. It might be especially hard this year for any number of reasons. Christmas somehow amplifies what is good or bad in every family. So maybe you can't quite get geared up to see that one uncle who always brings up your most embarrassing moment. (You're one egg-nog away from jingling him all the way to the North Pole.) Or maybe your heart is aching for the people who used to be around the holiday table. Your memories of them are full of love, which makes Christmas feel like a mixture of emotions that can't be put into words. But somehow even the twinkliest of twinkle lights can't take away the feeling of missing someone beloved.

It turns out that the Christmas season brings out a million different feelings and emotions. Some of them lean more toward "the thrill of hope," while some of them feel more like "the weary world," just before it rejoices. **So this is what I want to tell you:** all of those feelings are okay to have. *You are not required to feel a certain way during this season.* You can love Jesus and also not feel particularly celebratory at His birthday party.

You can also wear your ugly sweater and your light-up headband that has the word "joy" in blinking lights, and jingle all the way into the new year if you feel like it. You might feel like delivering cocoa straight to Santa's workshop, along with oats for the reindeer. The energy you bring to the season is wonderful, and your joy is as bright as the lights of the season.

This is all to say that you are allowed to feel all of your feelings as we walk through Advent toward Christmas. *God sees you and loves you exactly as you are; no requirements.* If you feel joy all the way from your head to your toes, God loves you. If you feel sadness or pain down to your bones, God loves you. And for every emotion in between, God loves you. There are no feelings about this season that God hasn't witnessed or felt with us. And God is bigger than all of it.

God's love for you is at the heart of this season. My hope for you throughout Advent is that you can feel God's presence in a way that helps you know that you are loved more than you dare imagine. In every season.

Love and deep 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.

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>2026</u>	
Bruce Romanic	Jeffrey Clutcher	Bill Hoffa
<u>2027</u>	Craig Rhoades	
Jill Heitzman		

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	Jill Heitzman
Finance	Nancy Joraskie
	Gladys Shingara
	Ron Weller
Mutual Ministry	Bruce Romanic
Property	Bill Joraskie
	Jeffrey Clutcher
	Jill Heitzman
	Craig Rhoades
	Bill Hoffa
Social Ministry	Bruce Romanic
Worship & Music	Charlene Pell
	Sandee Cupp
	Shelley Faust
	Richard Kovach
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



12/29 Mr. & Mrs. David Kopitsky

Grace Lutheran Church
Building Fund Report
OCTOBER 2025

Balance September 30, 2025	\$2263.45
Income	
Green Envelopes	
Oct. 5	\$200.00
Oct. 12	\$20.00
Oct. 19	\$0.00
Oct. 26	\$0.00
Total Income	\$220.00
New Balance	\$2483.45
Expenses	
0.00	
Total Expense	\$00.00
Balance October 31, 2025	\$2483.45

Respectfully submitted
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer

SERVERS FOR DECEMBER

DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>	
12/7	Bruce Romanic	
12/14	Jeffrey Clutcher	1
12/21		
12/24	David Kopitsky	
12/28	Jeanne & Bill Hoffa	

<u>ALTAR CARE</u>		
12/7	Shelley Faust & Jeanne Hoffa	
12/14	Pam & Craig Rhoades	
12/21	Debra Keefer & Karena Weikel	
12/24	Marsha Karnes	
12/28	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin	

HEAD USHER
John Strausser



Christmas Eve
SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24
4:00 P.M.



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 box or given to Sandee Cupp. **The deadline to order is Sunday December 7.** **Christmas Memorials** must also be given to Sandee by **Sunday December 7** if they are to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.





DECEMBER

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

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
OCTOBER 2025

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance October 1, 2025	\$ 23,495.50
Receipts	\$ 4,812.20
Expenditures	\$ 10,461.97-
Ending Balance October 31, 2025	\$ 17,845.73

First National Bank

10/1/2025 through 10/31/2025

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
16814	10/1/2025	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 458.33
16815	10/1/2025	Bloom Heating	\$ 977.00
Debit	10/3/2025	UGI	\$ 125.00
Debit	10/3/2025	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 288.65
Debit	10/9/2025	Aqua PA	\$ 28.90
Debit	10/9/2025	Aqua PA	\$ 72.06
Debit	10/10/2025	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 216.43
Debit	10/13/2025	PenTeleData	\$ 121.56
16816	10/14/2025	SCTJSA - (Sewer Authority)	\$ 100.00
16817	10/14/2025	Tulpehocken Mt. Spring Water Inc	\$ 7.00
Debit	10/16/2025	Goodville Mutual Casualty Co.	\$ 602.00
16818	10/20/2025	RADA Manufacturing Co.	\$ 841.00
16819	10/25/2025	Boyer, Walter	\$ 260.50
16820	10/25/2025	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16821	10/25/2025	Marsh, Willie	\$ 225.19
16822	10/25/2025	Orme, Robin	\$ 437.06
16823	10/25/2025	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 2,061.43
Debit	10/27/2025	Internal Revenue Service	\$ 1,754.22
Debit	10/27/2025	Pennsylvania Dept. of Revenue	\$ 201.49
Debit	10/27/2025	Keystone Collections Group	\$ 117.73
Debit	10/27/2025	Portico	\$ 942.82
		Total	\$ 10,461.97

Christmas Card treasures



Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

What you need:

- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)



What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.
 — James 1:17 (NIV)

