
THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2024

Dear friends in Christ,

Every so often, I find a lesson about God's love in the most unusual place. The other day, I found such a lesson in my dog, Cooper. (Cooper is, as many of you know, a dog of significant size. Because he was a rescue, his paperwork says "Mixed Breed—large." I am confident that a horse is somewhere in his lineage, especially because he barks at the horses that pull the buggies in my neck of the woods, as if they're family. But I digress...)

Every day, Cooper finds me while I'm working on the dishes. He drops a ball on the floor next to me. (BOUNCE...bounce...b...b....b....you can hear it, can't you?) After he drops it, he just sits there, and stares at me. If I don't pay attention to the sound of the bounce, or the staring, then he starts to whine. He knows he needs to get outside and run just a bit, and I think he knows that the fresh air would do me some good as well. So the bouncing ball is his signal. There's nothing about his message that is manipulative or scheming. He just wants to run, and have some outside time. So he finds the ball, and sends me a very direct message. (BOUNCE...bounce...b...b...)

Cooper's system is teaching me a lot about honesty. What does it mean to tell the truth? What does it mean to send a message with gentleness? He doesn't do much with guilt (*"Don't worry about me, I'll be just fine if you don't throw the ball, it's fine, I'm just your dog after all..."*). He doesn't try to butter me up (*"boy, that throwing arm of yours has really improved lately...and you look so pretty today..."*). He simply lets the ball drop, and waits for me to notice him.

I wonder how our relationships could improve if we used direct communication like this. Instead of bottling up our feelings and letting them explode at the wrong time, we could just say:

- "I'm worried about something that is important to me. (BOUNCE...bounce...b...b...)"
- "I'm dealing with something that has been hard, and I'm pretending that I'm okay, but I'm not really okay. (BOUNCE...bounce...b...b....)"
- "I'm angry and I haven't been honest about how I feel, and it's eating me up inside. (BOUNCE...bounce...b...b...)"

I wonder if during this season of Lent, you might need to hear this lesson learned from Cooper The Dog. I wonder if there is something that you've been thinking about that you need to bounce off of someone you love and trust. I wonder if there's a place where you need to be honest in word and deed.

Isaiah 40:31 says: *But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.* I hope that this month, you have a chance to be as honest with your feelings as Cooper is about playing ball. And in the same way that Coop waits for me to play with him, I hope that you wait for God to renew your strength and guide your heart.

Peace and pawprints,
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

Happy Birthday!



3-01 Adam Joraskie
 3-02 Ellen Pastorski
 3-09 Eliana Hardin
 3-10 Aaron Hershberger
 3-11 Bree Ethridge
 3-14 Gail Bickhart
 3-14 Cynthia Williams
 3-15 Sadie Mae Kopitsky
 3-17 Sherlyn Fiorey
 3-25 Ellalin Hardin

Grace Lutheran Church

Building Fund Report

JANUARY 2024

Balance December 31, 2023	\$3115.30
Income	
Green Envelopes	
Jan. 14	\$170.00
Jan. 21	\$30.00
Total Income	\$200.00
New Balance	\$3315.30
Expenses	
0.00	
Total Expense	\$0.00
Balance January 31, 2024	\$3315.30

Respectfully submitted
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer

Happy Easter



SERVERS FOR MARCH

DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>
3/3	Shelley Faust
3/10	Pam & Craig Rhoades
3/17	Bruce Romanic
3/24	Jeffrey Clutcher
3/31	David Kopitsky

ALTAR CARE

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

HEAD USHER

John Strausser

HOLY WEEK**WORSHIP SCHEDULE****MAUNDY THURSDAY**

(March 28)

7:00 PM on Zoom**GOOD FRIDAY**

(March 29)

7:00 PM on Zoom**Zoom Numbers are****ID: 6215575058****Password: 628437****Phone: 1-646-558-8656****OFFICIAL NOTICE****SPAGHETTI DINNER
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

A Spaghetti Dinner and the annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday March 17 in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

Jim Shingara and his helpers will prepare the dinner. A few desserts are needed. If you are able to provide a dessert, let Sandee know by March 10.

Please support Pastor Sarah and the council by attending this "once a year" event. It is a good time to raise any questions or concerns you might have about the life of Grace Church.

Remember ...YOU ARE THE CHURCH!



Lilies to decorate the church for Easter are being offered in memory/honor of loved ones. The cost is \$13.00. We will do the ordering for you. There is a sign-up sheet in the rear of the church or you may call the church office. The deadline to order is Sunday March 17.

Money may be put in a marked envelope and dropped in the offering box or given to Sandee.



Palm crosses will be made Saturday March 23 in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 10:00 am.

HELP IS NEEDED! The crosses will be distributed during the Palm Sunday Service and to our shut-in members.

Please join us for an hour or two of fellowship and some delicious snacks



MARCH

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 Ministerium 10:am	8 AA Meeting 7 pm	9
10 Worship 10am	11	12	13 	14	15 AA Meeting 7 pm	16
17 Worship 10am	18 Grace Council 6:30 pm on Zoom	19 	20	21	22 AA Meeting 7 pm	23 Palm Crosses Fellowship Hall 10 am
24 Worship 10m PALM SUNDAY ----- 31Worship10am EASTER	25 	26	27	28 Service on Zoom 7 pm Maundy Thursday	29 Service on Zoom 7 pm	30

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Treasurer’s Report

JANUARY 2024

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance January 1, 2024	\$ 21,765.68
Receipts	\$ 6,162.42
Expenditures	\$ 9,173.63
Ending Balance January 31, 2024	\$ 18,754.47

First National Bank

1/1/2024 through 1/31/2024

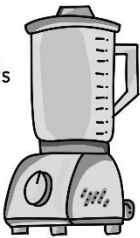
Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
16515	1/2/2024	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 458.37
16516	1/2/2024	Bloom Heating	\$ 547.00
16517	1/2/2024	RADA Manufacturing Co.	\$ 5.00
16518	1/2/2024	Church Art Online	\$ 69.95
Debit	1/2/2024	UGI	\$ 175.00
Debit	1/2/2024	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 213.24
Debit	1/3/2024	Aqua PA	\$ 45.93
Debit	1/3/2024	Aqua PA	\$ 79.65
Debit	1/8/2024	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 153.67
Debit	1/12/2024	PenTeleData	\$ 120.97
16519	1/17/2024	**VOID**	\$ -
16520	1/18/2024	SCTJSA (Sewer Authority)	\$ 99.00
16521	1/24/2024	Beverly's Flower Shop	\$ 280.00
16522	1/24/2024	City of Shamokin	\$ 400.00
16523	1/27/2024	Boyer, Walter	\$ 326.71
16524	1/27/2024	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16525	1/27/2024	Marsh, Willie	\$ 222.59
16526	1/27/2024	Orme, Robin	\$ 437.06
16527	1/27/2024	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 2,075.51
Debit	1/29/2024	Internal Revenue Service	\$ 1,731.62
Debit	1/29/2024	Pennsylvania Dept. of Revenue	\$ 196.94
Debit	1/29/2024	Keystone Collections Group	\$ 124.05
Debit	1/29/2024	Portico	\$ 371.67
Debit	1/30/2024	CM ALMY	\$ 416.10
		Total	\$ 9,173.63

SOMETHING OLD,
Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

What you need:


- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



What you do:

- Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
- Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
- Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
- Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
- Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
- Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!

PUZZLE





PLANT, WATER, GROW


Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?


Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.


KEY


 = God


 = seed


 = planted

 = watered

 = grow

 = one

 = anything

 = only

I _____ the _____, Apollos _____ it,

but _____ has been making it _____.

So neither the _____ who plants nor the _____ who waters is _____,

but _____, who makes things _____.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, one, one, one, anything, only, God, grow

