
THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2026

Dear friends in Christ,

Wade's story took me by surprise. Wade is a retired cop in Fredrick, Maryland. While he was still working, he was called to a domestic disturbance at a homeless encampment. (Picture a whole bunch of tents with the residents of one tent in particular having an extra loud "discussion.")

Wade went and helped to de-escalate the situation, but then when he turned to leave, something happened. He heard a voice tell him to ask the couple about their laundry. He can't explain the voice, but he certainly believes it was God, because the next thing he knew, he had asked and they were answering that they washed their laundry in the nearby creek.

In the nearby creek.

Let's take a second and imagine how any of us would feel to wear clothes that were cleaned in a creek, with or without soap. Even if our washer broke down, we'd be able to scrape together enough quarters to go to the laundromat. We'd consider it a big sacrifice to get just enough laundry done to get us through until a repairman could get there. But even in that circumstance, we could probably find a friend or relative who would let us use their machine, so we could have clean clothes. None of us can really have much experience with having to wear dirty clothes over and over again, because the thought of it makes us cringe.

So Wade decided to do something. I don't yet know the details of how he got his hands on an old delivery bus and three sets of washers and dryers. Nor do I know how on earth he was able to equip the bus with running water. But somehow, he's able to drive his bus around and do laundry for the homeless population in Fredrick. He calls it Fresh Step Laundry and you can look him up on Facebook. But Wade got me to thinking about the poverty level in Shamokin and whether or not there might be a need for something like this.

I have heard more than a few people talk about the needs of Shamokin and about poverty affecting people's ability to get to and from a food pantry. But I wonder about some of these additional basic needs that you and I take for granted. Sometimes the waters of baptism are in a pot of boiling water that cooks the noodles that came from the food pantry. Sometimes the waters of baptism come through the pipes that lead to the machine that washes the clothes. We just never know where or when those waters will show how God is at work in the world.

I hope that this month, you might be able to see some goodness happening around you. I hope that you get some reminder to pay attention to your surroundings and see the needs that are right in front of you. Especially in this season of Lent, when we focus on Jesus sacrificing his life for us, I hope that you are able to see your neighbors as God's beloved children, and reach out to them with God's abundant love.

Peace and laundry detergent,
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>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>
Jeffrey Clutcher	Bill Hoffa
Craig Rhoades	Jill Heitzman
<u>2028</u>	
	Pamala Rhoades

CONGREGATION OFFICERS

President	Jeffrey Clutcher
Vice President	Bill Hoffa
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

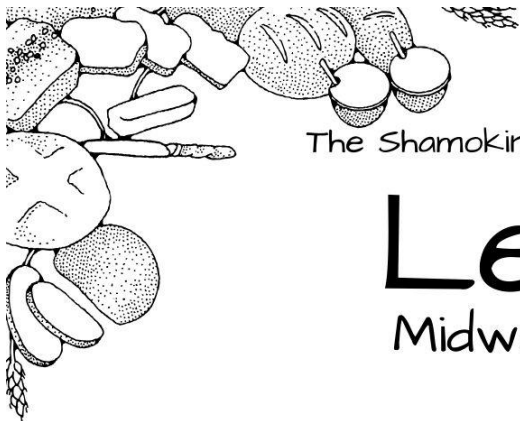


3-01 Adam Joraskie
 3-02 Ellen Pasterski
 3-09 Eliana Hardin
 3-10 Aaron Hershberger
 3-11 Bree Ethridge
 3-14 Gail Bickhart
 3-14 Cynthia Williams
 3-15 Sadie Mae Kopitsky
 3-17 Sherlyn Fiorey
 3-25 Ellalin Hardin

Grace Lutheran Church
Building Fund Report
JANUARY 2026

Balance December 31, 2025	\$2385.85
Income	
Green Envelopes	
Jan. 4	\$145.00
Jan.18	\$250.00
Total Income	\$395.00
New Balance	\$2780.85
Expenses	
Bloom Heating	666.31
Jack the Plumer	424.60
Total Expense	\$1090.91
Balance January 31, 2026	\$1689.94

Respectfully submitted
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer



The Shamokin Area Ministerium is proud to present:

Lent 2026

Midweek Lenten Services



Who: Anyone can come; Bring a friend!

What: Lunch of soup and bread, plus a brief worship service

Where: Churches in Shamokin, see reverse

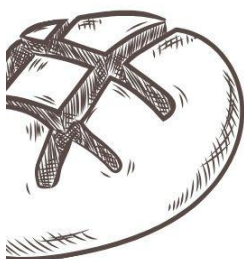
When: Wednesdays at noon, done by 1pm.

Why: Because we love Jesus AND to support the ministerium's work to help those in need with fuel costs in winter.*

How: By car, by bike, by foot, just be there!

This series is perfect for you if:

- You love Jesus
- You prefer to drive during the day
- You like soup
- You like bread
- You enjoy company, especially on Wednesdays
- Any combination of the above



Also:

- If weather is not safe for travel, we will cancel.
- If attendance is especially poor, we may not continue all five weeks. Stay tuned for updated info.



*An added bonus is that together, we are the body of Christ. Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, UCC, Lutheran...we are all part of God's family. And we think that's pretty neat.



The Schedule



Wed.
Feb 25

First
UMC

100 E. Sunbury St.,
Shamokin
Rev. Libby Hickock

Wed
Mar 4

Grace
Lutheran

10 S. 7th St.,
Shamokin
Rev. Sarah
Hershberger

Wed
March 11
(eleventh)

Clark's
Grove
UMC

3215 Irish Valley Rd,
Paxinos
Rev. Bridget
Wagner

Wed
Mar 18

Salem UCC

1300 W. Pine St.,
Coal Twp.
Rev. Jean
Eckrod

Wed
Mar 25

St. John's
UCC

117 N. 8th St.,
Shamokin
(use Grant St.
Entrance)
Rev. Bob Stoudt



SERVERS FOR MARCH

DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>
3/1	Pam & Craig Rhoades
3/8	Jeanne & Bill Hoffa
3/15	Bruce Romanic
3/22	Charlene Pell
3/29	Bruce Romanic & Rich Kovach

ALTAR CARE

3/1	Marsha Karnes
3/8	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin
3/15	Shelley Faust & Jeanne Hoffa
3/22	Pam & Craig Rhoades
3/29	Debbie Keefer & Karena Weikel

HEAD USHER

John Strausser

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAUNDY THURSDAY
(April 2)
NOON
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

COOD FRIDAY
(April 3)
NOON
SALEM UCC
1300 W. Pine St.
Coal Township

OFFICIAL NOTICE

**LASAGNA DINNER
 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

A Lasagna Dinner and the annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday April 12 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 April 5.

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 are being offered in memory/honor of loved ones. The cost is \$13.00. We will do the ordering for you. Sign-up on the sheet in the rear of the church or call the church office. The deadline to order is March 18. Money may be put in a marked envelope and dropped in the offering box or given to Sandee.



Pam crosses will be made Saturday March 28 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 Worship 10 am	2	3 Tulpehocken Pastors Conference 10 am	4 Ministerium 10 am	5	6 AA Meeting 7 pm	7 
8 Worship 10 am Healing Service After Worship	9 Table Tennis 6 pm	10	11 Lenten Soup & Bread Noon Clark's Grove	12 	13 AA Meeting 7 pm	14
15 Worship 10am Healing Service After Worship	16 Table Tennis 6 pm	17  St. Patrick's Day	18 Lenten Soup & Bread Noon Salem UCC	19	20 AA Meeting 7pm	21 
22 Worship 10am	23 Table Tennis 6 pm Council 6:30 pm	24	25 Lenten Soup & Bread Noon First United Methodist Church.	26	27 AA Meeting 7 pm	28 Making Palm Crosses 10 AM
29 Worship 10am 	30 SAHS Alumni 6 pm	31 				

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
JANUARY 2026

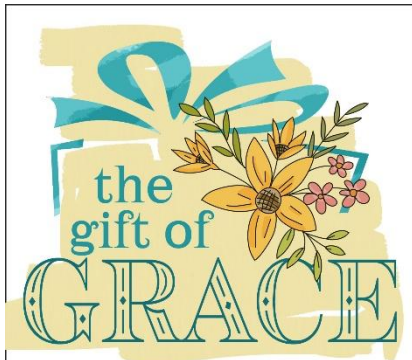
GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance January 1, 2026	\$ 14,853.62
Receipts	\$ 13,022.18
Expenditures	\$ 9,289.97-
Ending Balance January 31, 2026	\$ 18,585.83

First National Bank

1/1/26 through 1/31/26

16851	1/2/2026	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$291.74
16852	1/2/2026	Bloom Heating	\$977.00
Debit	1/2/2026	PPL Electric Utilities	\$282.71
Debit	1/2/2026	UGI	\$155.00
16853	1/7/2026	Beverly's Flower Shop	\$225.00
16854	1/7/2026	Cole's Hardware	\$19.49
16855	1/7/2026	Quill Corporation	\$116.25
16856	1/7/2026	SCTJSA - (Sewer Authority)	\$100.00
Debit	1/7/2026	Aqua PA	\$87.63
Debit	1/7/2026	Aqua PA	\$25.65
Debit	1/12/2026	PPL Electric Utilities	\$189.48
Debit	1/16/2026	Goodville Mutual Casualty Co.	\$602.00
16857	1/20/2026	Tulpehocken Mt. Spring Water Inc	\$7.00
16858	1/26/2026	Boyer, Walter	\$172.22
16859	1/26/2026	Cupp, Sandee	\$623.60
16860	1/26/2026	Marsh, Willie	\$225.19
16861	1/26/2026	Orme, Robin	\$437.06
16862	1/26/2026	Hershberger, Sarah	\$2,045.92
Debit	1/26/2026	Internal Revenue Service	\$1,723.62
Debit	1/26/2026	Pennsylvania Dept. of Revenue	\$195.35
Debit	1/26/2026	Keystone Collections Group	\$115.73
Debit	1/26/2026	PenTeleData	\$121.53
		Total	\$9,289.97



Make this craft as a helpful reminder of Jesus' free gift of grace.

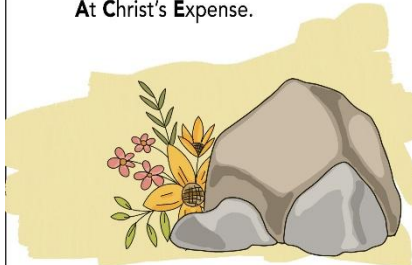


What you need:

- Small cardboard box
- Small stones
- Tape
- Wrapping paper and bow
- Permanent marker

What you do:

1. Fill the box with small stones to weigh it down. Tape the box securely closed.
2. Wrap the box and add a bow on top.
3. With marker, write a capital letter on each side of the box and the bottom to spell GRACE.
4. Use this as a decoration or paperweight, or give as a gift.
5. Explain GRACE to someone.
For help, use Ephesians 2:8-9 and the acrostic **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**.



REMEMBERING OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Father's Day is a time to thank our father and father-figures who work hard to keep our families safe and loved. Let us also remember God, our heavenly Father, who gives life to us all.

Use the grid to fill out the blanks below. To find the letter for each number, look down the column to the dot, and then go to the left to the letter. Write the letter on the appropriate blank.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A						.														
B									.											
C										.										
D							.													
E																		.		
F								.												
G										.										
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16 1 6 3 10 5 17 6 3 14 15 2 17 3 1 17 8 6 3
 1 17 5 1 6 20 14 6 2 13 20 1 17 7 15 18 4 20
 3 1 6 3 16 17 20 1 15 4 14 7 9 17
 11 1 13 14 17 7 11 1 13 14 7 5 17 18 15 8 10 15 7

1 John 3:1, NIV

Answer: What great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

