
THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2026

Dear friends in Christ,

My husband is a big fan of anything that has to do with space exploration. And because he is a journalist at heart, he loves to watch history in the making. So we watched it together as a family, even though I thought I wasn't interested. There were a few things that I rolled my eyes about (news commentators, are you kidding me?), but it turns out, I learned something beautiful from the Artemis II journey to the moon.

A lot could be noted about how the Artemis II's return could be likened to a life of faith:

- The families waiting for the safe return of their loved ones, like the father of the prodigal son.
- The navy working together with NASA to bring the astronauts safely out of the floating module, like the star of Bethlehem guiding the magi to the infant Christ.
- The agonizing six minute silence, waiting for communication to resume after the harrowing journey through the earth's atmosphere, like Elijah listening in the silence for the voice of God.

But my favorite part of all of it was the inflatable "front porch" that was attached to the module after the splashdown. It was specifically designed for the astronauts to be able to emerge from the spacecraft into safety. The astronauts came to the front porch, weary from their journey, needing a little extra help with the first step to get back into regular life. The point of the front porch was to provide safety and stability in the middle of a turbulent ocean. It was there to be helpful. In fact, another name for it was a PpWhy was this glorified hunk of plastic my favorite part? Because that front porch was what the Body of Christ is, on its best day. Doesn't that front porch sound a lot like what the church is supposed to be? A safe haven. A place to find stability in the unpredictable sea of life. A place to be cared for, and given rest.

One of my favorite fun facts was that this special raft was made by Jack's Plastic Welding in New Mexico. They specialize in durable, inflatable plastics made for white water rafting. But nobody saw a gigantic "Jack's Plastic Welding" logo on the side of the Front Porch. It wasn't an advertising campaign. It was simply a small company doing its best work, trying to make something better by using their gifts. I guess that sounds a lot like the church, too. A bunch of people doing their best work, trying to make the world a little bit better by using their gifts from God.

Artemis II will probably never be quite as famous as the original moon landing of 1969, but it has a special place in my heart because of that special front porch, made by Jack's Plastic Welding. Not a lot of people will say "I learned about my faith from the Artemis II splashdown," but I will. I learned about how the church can make something beautiful when we work together to care for all of God's children.

Peace and moon rocks,
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



5-05 Lucas Weikel
 5-06 Guy Pell
 5-10 Becky Weller
 5-13 Jeffrey Clutcher
 5-13 Chad Hershberger
 5-14 Gary Hixson, Jr.
 5-15 Marsha Karnes
 5-17 Tona Faust
 5-17 Diana Reeder
 5-27 Leon Madara



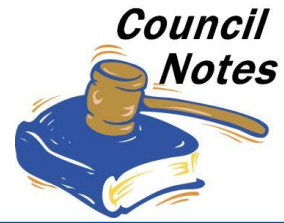
5-04 Mr. & Mrs. William Joraskie

Grace Lutheran Church
Building Fund Report

March 2026

Balance February 28, 2026	\$1912.44
Income	
Green Envelopes	
Mar. 1	\$175.00
Mar. 15	\$10.00
Mar. 22	\$25.00
Mar. 29	\$55.00
Total Income	\$265.00
New Balance	\$2147.44
Expenses	
Jack the Plumer	\$53.50
Total Expense	\$53.50
Balance March 31, 2026	\$2123.94
Respectfully submitted	
Charlene Pell, Treasurer	

SERVERS FOR MAY



DATE **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**
 5/3 Bruce Romanic
 5/10 Richard Kovach & Bruce Romanic
 5/17 Jeff Clutcher
 5/24 Pam & Craig Rhoades
 5/31 Jeanne & Bill Hoffa

ALTAR CARE
 5/3 Debbie Keefer & Karena Weikel
 5/10 Marsha Karnes
 5/17 Treva Madison & Joanne Templin
 5/24 Shelley Faust & Jeanne Hoffa
 5/31 Pam & Craig Rhoades

HEAD USHER
 John Strausser

Council met on Zoom April 27. St. Mark, St. John, and Grace will join to celebrate Pastor Bashore’s 65th anniversary of ministry on July 19. The Bishop will preach. The Service and celebration will be held at St. Mark, Elysburg. Another letter will be sent to the Salvation Army requesting an increase to \$400.00 a month to offset the increase in utilities. A new copier will be purchased from Topp. The purchase is necessary because parts and ink will not be available beginning in December. The present copier is over 15 years old and considered obsolete.



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER CLEAN-UP

The annual clean-up to prepare Camp Mount Luther for the summer camping season will be held Saturday May 16 beginning at 9:00 am.

Grace Church has sponsored a cabin in Maple Village for many years. In the past we have purchased mattresses, curtains, and helped with the clean-up. Please bring cleaning supplies with you. Lunch will be provided. You are asked to call the camp office (570-922-1587) if you plan to stay for lunch.



Dear Grace Lutheran,
 Thank you for the scholarship money. Your continued support of my educational endeavors is greatly appreciated.
 I will continue to make you proud.
 Love,
 Liv Kopitsky



MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 AA Meeting 7 pm	2
3 Worship 10 am	4 Table Tennis 6 pm	5 Tulpehocken Pastors Conference 10 am	6	7	8 AA Meeting 7 pm	9
10 Worship 10 am Healing Service 	11 Table Tennis 6 pm	12	13 0 am Ministerium 10 am	14	15 AA Meeting 7pm	16 Camp Mt. Luther Clean-up 9 am
17 Worship 10 am	18 Table Tennis 6 pm	19 Deans Meeting 11 am	20	21 	22 AA Meeting 7 pm	23
24 Worship 10 am <hr/> 31 Worship 10 am	25 	26	27	28	29 AA Meeting 7 pm	30

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
MARCH 2026

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance March 1, 2026	\$ 23,956.13
Receipts	\$ 17,386.56
Expenditures	\$ 7,679.55-
Ending Balance March 31, 2026	\$ 33,663.14

First National Bank

3/1/2026 through 3/31/2026

16877	3/2/2026	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$	291.66
16878	3/2/2026	Bloom Heating	\$	977.00
16879	3/4/2026	Camp Mt. Luther	\$	150.00
Debit	3/5/2026	UGI	\$	155.00
Debit	3/5/2026	Ponduce Farms	\$	116.00
Debit	3/6/2026	PPL Electric Utilities	\$	310.43
16880	3/10/2026	Augsburg Fortress	\$	54.75
Debit	3/11/2026	Aqua PA	\$	222.23
Debit	3/11/2026	Aqua PA	\$	23.99
Debit	3/13/2026	PPL Electric Utilities	\$	169.32
Debit	3/15/2026	PenTeleData	\$	121.53
Debit	3/16/2026	Goodville Mutual Casualty Co.	\$	603.00
16881	3/20/2026	Empire Disposal	\$	30.00
16882	3/20/2026	Primo Brands, Blue Triton Brands	\$	20.60
16883	3/20/2026	TOPP Business Solutions	\$	102.76
16884	3/20/2026	SCTJSA (Sewer Authority)	\$	100.00
16885	3/25/2026	Boyer, Walter	\$	348.78
16886	3/25/2026	Cupp, Sandee	\$	623.60
16887	3/25/2026	Marsh, Willie	\$	225.19
16888	3/25/2026	Orme, Robin	\$	437.00
16889	3/25/2026	Hershberger, Sarah	\$	2,045.91
Debit	3/27/2026	Portico	\$	550.80
		Total	\$	7,679.55



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:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. 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.
6. 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!



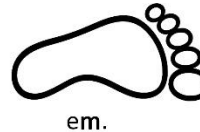
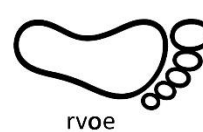
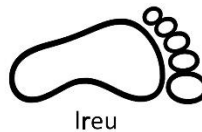
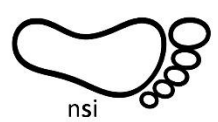
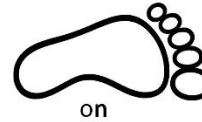
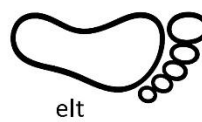
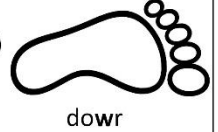
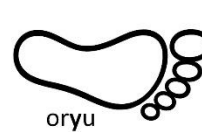
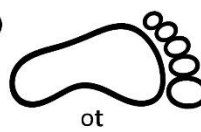
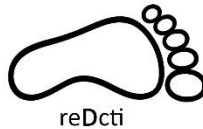
PUZZLE



Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

