
THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2023

Dear friends in Christ,

It happened in Philadelphia. My mother and I were cautiously navigating our way to our hotel room so that we would be ready for her eye surgery¹ in the morning, and we had just a few blocks to go.

We had noticed that many of the streets in the heart of Philly are extremely narrow (perfectly designed for horses and buggies, but not cars). We had also noticed that despite the cramped quarters of some of those streets, there were very few people who ever honked. (This was wildly different from our Chicago roots, where everybody honks, for no apparent reason.) In Philadelphia there was virtually no honking.

It can't be overstated what a welcome change this was for us. People were genuinely helpful in the traffic patterns (even in the roundabouts!); taking turns and letting others in or out as needed.

So, there we were, just a few blocks from our hotel. A tow-truck in front of us came to a slow stop. Out popped the driver who approached our van. "Hello there!" (I greeted him with a big smile, just in case I had done something that was not Philly-approved.) He smiled in return, and explained that he was about to load a car onto his truck. He would stop the left lane traffic so that I could get out from behind him. I thanked him for the help, and added, "I appreciate you! I probably wouldn't be able to get out without your help!"

He stopped and thought for a moment, and then said, "You're welcome. We all just need to be a little....kinder²."

"Oh my, I absolutely agree with you."

And there we were, on a one-way street in Philadelphia: my mom, the tow-truck driver, and me, sharing a moment of kinship. Of all the things to happen in the City of Brotherly Love, this was the most unexpected.

After the disciples encountered Christ on the road to Emmaus, they realized that when he was with them, their hearts had been burning within them. Have you ever had a conversation with somebody that made you feel like that? Like even though the conversation was simple and short, you would never forget it? I hope you get to have conversations like those during the coming holiday season. This month of thankfulness is the perfect time to smile at someone and tell them that you appreciate them. And it might be important to say "I appreciate **you**," and not just "I appreciate **it**." (Because sometimes people need to hear that their whole selves are appreciated, and not just their helpfulness.)

This month is full of opportunities to remember that we belong to each other, and that we share kinship as children of God. Don't forget to be a little kinder*, and appreciate the goodness around you.

Peace,

Pastor Sarah

¹ Her eye surgery was a success. Thank you for your prayers!

² Kinder, as in, "more kind." **Not** kinder, as in, German children.

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



11/02 Terry Keefer
 11/07 Andrew Kimmel
 11/07 John Strausser
 11/10 Charlene Pell
 11/15 Ronald Weller
 11/28 Robert Weaver



11/13 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Clutcher
 11/20 Mr. & Mrs. Guy Pell
 11/26 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bickhart
 11/27 Mr. & Mrs. Barry Smith

Grace Lutheran Church Building Fund Report SEPTEMBER 2023

Balance August 31, 2023	\$3659.85
Income	
Green Envelopes	
Sep. 3	\$130.00
Sep. 10	\$20.00
Sep. 17	\$25.00
Sep. 24	\$0.00
Sep. 24	\$40.00 Security
Total Income	\$215.00
New Balance	\$3874.85
Expenses	
\$0.00	
Total Expense	\$00.00
Balance September 30, 2023	\$3874.85

Respectfully submitted
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer

SERVERS FOR NOVEMBER

DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>
11/5	Jeffrey Clutcher
11/12	Bruce Romanic
11/19	Jeanne & Bill Hoffa
11/26	Shelley Faust

ALTAR CARE

11/5	Debra Keefer & Karena Weikel
11/12	Debra Keefer & Karena Weikel
11/19	Debra Keefer & Karena Weikel
11/26	Debra Keefer & Karena Weikel

HEAD USHER

John Strausser

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING****OFFICIAL NOTICE**

There will be a congregational meeting Sunday December 3 after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt a budget for 2024.



Council met October 25 on Zoom. The budget for 2024 was approved and will be presented for congregational approval on December 3. Concern was expressed as offerings have decreased and income is not meeting expenses. The Lions Club was given permission to hold a "Breakfast with Santa" the first Saturday in December. Christmas Eve falls on Sunday. There will be one Service, the annual Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 pm. Bill Hoffa reported the elevator is fixed and working properly. Craig Rhoades reported all the thermostats have been cleaned, repaired and are operating correctly.



Thanks to Jim Shingara and his kitchen crew for preparing and serving a delicious roast beef dinner. Thanks also to those who made the great desserts and to everyone that helped with the dishes and clean-up.

The Seafarer Bags are on the way to New York for Christmas distribution. Thanks and appreciation to all who filled a bag. Your generosity and giving is appreciated.

The Rada Cutlery fund raiser ends November 5. Your support of the fund-raiser means a lot as Grace Church works to find ways to increase our income.



NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 AA Meeting 7 pm	4
5 Worship 10 am	6	7 Tulpehocken Pastors Conference 10 am 	8	9	10 AA Meeting 7 pm	11
12 Worship 10 am	13 Cecilian Club 7 pm	14	15 	16 Ministerium 10 am	17 AA Meeting 7 pm	18
19 Worship 10am	20 Council on Zoom 6:30 pm	21 	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving 	24 AA Meeting 7 pm	25
26 Worship 10am	27 	28	29 	30		

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
SEPTEMBER 2023

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance September 1, 2023	\$ 7,066.54
Receipts	\$ 3,691.20
Expenditures	\$ 9,258.42
Ending Balance September 30, 2023	\$ 1,499.32

First National Bank

9/1/2023 through 9/30/2023

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
16458	9/1/2023	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 700.00
16459	9/1/2023	Bloom Heating	\$ 547.00
Debit	9/1/2023	UGI	\$ 626.92
Debit	9/1/2023	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 315.89
Debit	9/5/2023	Aqua PA	\$ 65.66
Debit	9/5/2023	Aqua PA	\$ 23.21
Debit	9/7/2023	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 193.71
16460	9/10/2023	Casey Gonzalez	\$ 100.00
16461	9/10/2023	1517 Media	\$ 42.25
16462	9/10/2023	A+ Office Supply	\$ 110.96
16463	9/10/2023	Grace Lutheran Ch Building Fund	\$ 40.00
16464	9/10/2023	SCTJSA - (Sewer Authority)	\$ 99.00
Debit	9/12/2023	PenTeleData	\$ 120.68
16465	9/20/2023	Metro Pest Control Services, LLC	\$ 80.00
16466	9/20/2023	Brotherhood Mutual Insurance	\$ 1,881.00
Debit	9/20/2023	Portico	\$ 410.37
16467	9/24/2023	Boyer, Walter	\$ 348.78
16468	9/24/2023	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16469	9/24/2023	Marsh, Willie	\$ 222.59
16470	9/24/2023	Orme, Robin	\$ 400.89
16471	9/24/2023	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 1,895.54
Debit	9/29/2023	Portico	\$ 410.37
		Total	\$ 9,258.42

A taste of history

Add a yummy, authentic touch to your Thanksgiving meal with this recipe.



What you need:

- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- pint jar with lid
- strainer
- bowl
- container
- salt



What you do:

1. Pour cream into the jar and close the lid tightly.
2. Shake vigorously about 8 minutes, until a solid lump of butter forms. (Take turns with a friend!)
3. Strain the contents, catching the buttermilk in a bowl to save for another recipe.
4. Put the butter in a container. Add salt to taste.
5. After chilling the butter, enjoy on fresh bread.

PUZZLE

THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.

This becomes a plant _____



Willing to give _____

The result of planting seeds _____



The act of gratitude _____

Food made from wheat _____



Now he who supplies _____ to the sower and _____ for food will also



supply and increase your store of _____ and will enlarge the _____



of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be

_____ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result



in _____ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV



Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving

