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# THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2025

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Dear friends in Christ,

It's a little strange that I'm *already* writing the November newsletter article. Time flies when you're having fun, I guess, but where did October go?

Well, after all of the fun of our joint Reformation service, we are now headed into the holiday season. Retail stores have had a few Christmas things out already, and the season of hearing Gene Autry's greatest hits is upon us. But before we head into Thanksgiving and Christmas, it's good to take a moment to reflect.

Every year, we have a special service for All Saints Day. It is one of my favorite services of the year. We always read the names of the saints from our community who have died in the last year. In addition to that, we light candles of remembrance. I always invite people to come forward and light candles for *anyone* they have loved in this life. You can light a candle for someone who died in the last year, or for your grandpa who died 50 years ago, or anyone in between. You can even light a candle for someone who impacted your life, but you never met. There is no limit. There is something about this practice that is a little therapeutic. The physical act of lighting the candle to remember someone helps our hearts to remember the light from their life.

We also bring photos of our loved ones to put up on the windowsills in the sanctuary. During communion when we walk past those pictures, we all get to see the smiling faces of the saints that have been loved in this congregation and beyond. It is a simple thing to bring a remembrance of those dear people with us to church. And it's a simple thing to see their faces right near the faces of the saints depicted in the stained glass windows. But it's a reminder of all of the ways that the people in our lives are reflections of God's light to us.

It seems to me like the timing of All Saints Day is important. Just in time to head into the holidays, we have this one day where we slow the service down a little bit, and we take our time. We use the time to remember the people that we have loved and continue to love. And in not too many weeks, we head into the season of the year that can be especially hard when we are missing those people. So, the time that we take is quiet and slow. It is designed to remind us that God holds us close.

Whether you are near our church or far away, I hope that you can take a little time to light a candle or two in honor of some of the people that you have loved. Their love continues to surround us in our coming and our going. I hope that doing so helps you be extra gentle with yourself during the coming holidays. I think your own inner kindness during this season is one of the best reflections of God's love.

Peace and flickering tealights,  
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



**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 2025**

<b>Balance August 31, 2025</b>	<b>\$2063.45</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Green Envelopes	
Sep. 7	\$125.00
Sep. 14	\$55.00
Sep. 21	\$0.00
Sep. 28	\$20.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>New Balance</b>	<b>\$2263.45</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
0.00	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$00.00</b>
<b>Balance September 30, 2025</b>	<b>\$2263.45</b>

Respectfully submitted  
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer

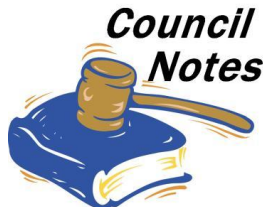
**SERVERS FOR NOVEMBER**

DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>	
11/2	Bruce Romanic	
11/9	Pam & Craig Rhoades	1
11/16	Jon Hoover	
11/23	Bruce Romanic	
11/30	Jeffrey Clutcher	

**ALTAR CARE**

11/2	Shelley Faust & Jeanne Hoffa
11/9	Pam & Craig Rhoades
11/16	Dedra Keefer & Karena Weikel
11/23	Marsha Karnes
11/30	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin

**HEAD USHER**  
John Strausser



Council met October 1 on Zoom. Pastor Sarah reported she continues visiting shut-in members. However, the list is long and she would appreciate some help. Most are lonely and look forward to having company, especially from Grace Church. The Ministerium will hold a food drive in November. Food received will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution. Council will do a walk-through of the property November 9 after worship. The budget committee will meet November 2 after worship. Lottie Howerter grants of \$500 were approved for Olivia Kopitsky and Luccas Weikel.



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

There will be a congregational meeting Sunday November 30 after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt a budget for 2026 and elect members to the congregation council.



Thanks and appreciation to everyone who filled a Seafarer Bag. They will be on their way to New York for distribution to the seamen who are far away from home on Christmas.

Thank you to all who attended the Joint Reformation Service and dinner. Grace Church members responded well to Pastor Sarah's request to attend. It was a great Service and a delicious dinner.

# Thanksgiving



## NOVEMBER

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

**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Treasurer's Report**  
**SEPTEMBER 2025**


**GENERAL FUND**

Beginning Balance September 1, 2025	\$ 24,004.43
Receipts	\$ 7,240.22
Expenditures	\$ 7,749.15-
Ending Balance September 30, 2025	\$ 23,495.50

**First National Bank**

9/1/2025 through 9/30/2025

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
Debit	9/3/2025	UGI	\$ 187.79
Debit	9/3/2025	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 437.23
16801	9/5/2025	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 458.33
16802	9/5/2025	Bloom Heating	\$ 977.00
16803	9/5/2025	Augsburg Fortress	\$ 54.75
Debit	9/8/2025	Aqua PA	\$ 68.68
Debit	9/8/2025	Aqua PA	\$ 25.65
Debit	9/10/2025	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 235.53
Debit	9/12/2025	PenTeleData	\$ 121.45
16804	9/15/2025	Heitzman, Jill	\$ 317.96
16805	9/15/2025	Quill Corporation	\$ 145.35
16806	9/15/2025	SCTJSA (Sewer Authority)	\$ 100.00
16807	9/15/2025	Tulpehocken Mt. Spring Water Inc	\$ 16.25
16808	9/15/2025	Augsburg Fortress	\$ 304.12
Debit	9/16/2025	Goodville Mutual Casualty Co.	\$ 603.00
16809	9/25/2025	Boyer, Walter	\$ 348.78
16810	9/25/2025	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16811	9/25/2025	Marsh, Willie	\$ 225.19
16812	9/25/2025	Orme, Robin	\$ 437.06
16813	9/25/2025	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 2,061.43
		Total	\$ 7,749.15



# Thankful Garland

Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

**What you need:**

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)




**What you do:**

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, and raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.



Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)




# PUZZLE

## GIVE PRAISE

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

**Directions:** In each group, circle the word that doesn't belong. Then write the circled words on the lines below.

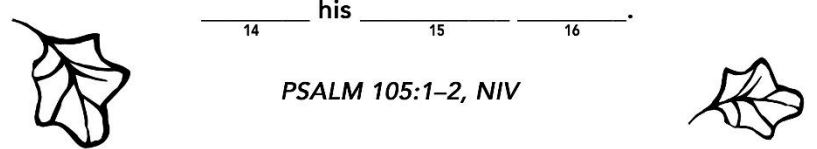
<b>1</b> Give Take Grab	<b>2</b> peanut praise pear	<b>3</b> temple house LORD	<b>4</b> proclaim past present	<b>5</b> name boy lad	<b>6</b> ruin destroy make
<b>7</b> pine acorn known	<b>8</b> train nations bus	<b>9</b> done donut muffin	<b>10</b> Sing Sleep Yawn	<b>11</b> she him girl	<b>12</b> sun praise moon
<b>13</b> tell fast slow	<b>14</b> red all blue	<b>15</b> horrible dreadful wonderful	<b>16</b> acts sisters aunts		

\_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_;

\_\_\_\_\_ among the \_\_\_\_\_ what he has \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, sing \_\_\_\_\_ to him; \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_.

PSALM 105:1-2, NIV



Answer: Give, praise, Lord, proclaim, name, make, known, nations, done, sing, him, praise, tell, all, wonderful, acts

