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# THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2025

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Dear friends in Christ,

I hope you're ready to read the annual Joint Newsletter Article for the Elysburg Parish and Grace Lutheran in Shamokin. Hooray!!

October is a busy month for church activities. So, here are a few **Important Things To Know (hereafter ITTK)** for the coming month!

**ITTK #1: Pet Blessing October 5th!** If you are a pet owner, then October is an especially great month. Grace hosts an annual pet blessing on the **first Sunday of October at 2pm on the corner of Market and Chestnut Streets in Shamokin**. All humans and pets are welcome at the corner of Market and Chestnut in Shamokin. Come for a special blessing for your individual pet, and then stay for the treats and fellowship. (Both pet and human treats will be available)

**ITTK #2: Seafarer Bag Season!** If you have ever had *anything* shipped to you, then there's a likelihood it's been on a container ship that crossed the ocean. And if it's been on one of those ships, then there are people who operate those ships who have spent at least a Christmas or two away from their families. We have the opportunity to share God's love with those seafarers by filling up Christmas-at-Sea bags. The list of what to buy is inside of the bag, and you can get it all done in one stop at your local Walmart or Target. It is all part of a Lutheran ministry in New York City called Seafarers' International House. We'll gather the bags during the month of October and dedicate them when we are all together on.....<drumroll, please...>

**ITTK #3: Reformation Day!** All three congregations will be having a joint service on Reformation Day, October 26th at 10:30. St. John's will be hosting this year and will have a meal afterward. This is our opportunity to celebrate our shared Lutheran heritage and our kinship in the body of Christ. Red is the liturgical color of the day, and *you too* are encouraged to wear red. Cancel your brunch reservations, break out your favorite red clothes and come on over to St. John's to share worship and fellowship together.

Being together is actually one of the best things we do as a church. In Matthew 18:20, Jesus says, "*where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them.*" In addition to the celebration of the Eucharist, there is the celebration of being together and enjoying each other's company.

I hope you have some time to participate in any or all of these activities. Or if you are one of our long-distance readers, I hope that you'll pray for our churches during this month. We have the joy of being the body of Christ, and during the month of October, we have even more opportunities to share God's richly given love.

**ITTK #4: God loves you, every day, every minute.** No matter what. No exceptions. Just take a minute to let that soak into your soul today.

Peace, a full calendar, and so many crafts to finish,  
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



10-04 Pamala Rhoades  
 10-05 Elizabeth Wondoloski  
 10-07 Eric Joraskie  
 10-07 Gladys Shingara  
 10-07 Eugene Machusak  
 10-13 Pastor Sarah Hershberger  
 10-14 Kathleen Madara  
 10-15 Judith Shade  
 10-18 Mark Hardin  
 10-22 David Ethridge



10-13 Mr. & Mrs. R. Craig Rhoades  
 10-17 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Weaver

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Building Fund Report**  
**AUGUST 2025**

<b>Balance July 31, 2025</b>		<b>\$4981.98</b>
Income		
Green Envelopes		
Aug.3	\$155.00	
Aug. 10	\$25.00	
Aug. 17	\$0.00	
Aug. 24	\$60.00	
Aug. 31	\$50.00	
Total Income		\$290.00
<b>New Balance</b>		<b>\$5271.98</b>
Expenses		
Kreco	153,69	
Grace Luth.	3000.00	
Deposit Slips	54.84	
Total Expense		\$3208.53
<b>Balance August 31, 2025</b>		<b>\$2063.45</b>

Respectfully submitted  
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer

**SERVERS FOR OCTOBER**

	<b><u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u></b>	
DATE		
10/5	David Kopitsky	
10/12	Bruce Romanic	1
10/19	Jeff Clutcher	
10/26	Joint Service	

	<b><u>ALTAR CARE</u></b>
10/5	Debbie Keefer & Karen Weikel
10/12	Marsha Karnes
10/19	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin
10/26	Joint Service

**HEAD USHER**  
John Strausser



Pastor Sarah will hold the annual “Blessing of the Pets” on **Sunday October 5** at 2 pm in the park at Market and Chestnut Streets. You are invited to bring your dog, cat, bird, or whatever pet you may have to the brief service and individual blessing. The Service is held each year on the Sunday closest to St. Francis Day (October 4). St. Francis of Assisi valued all of God’s creation, especially the farm animals and those in homes as pets. Our pets are important and part of our families, and are invited to church on this special day. Invite your friends and family to bring their pets to receive this special blessing and a treat.



Grace Church will cohost the American Red Cross Bloodmobile on **Tuesday October 7**. The Bloodmobile will be held at the Knights of Columbus, 400 E. Independence Street. (It is easier for unloading and loading the equipment.) **HELP IS NEEDED! COOKIES** are needed and can be dropped at Grace Church before 11 am or taken to Knights of Columbus after noon. **VOLUNTEERS** are needed to help register donors and serve in the canteen. Just one hour of your time will be appreciated. **Contact Shelley Faust at 570-648-5400 if you can help in any way.** **DONORS** are needed to make the visit a success. If you are at least 17 years of age and in reasonably good health, please consider giving the gift of life. No help is needed for unloading and loading as the Knights of Columbus will take care of help for that.

**RADA CUTLERY SALE**

The annual Rada Cutlery Sale is being held through October 19. Books are available on the table in the rear of the church. Order forms are in the books. You may take a book home, but are asked to return it promptly as the number of books is limited. Money is due when the order is placed. Checks may be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church. Orders and money may be given to Jeff Clutcher. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Clutcher (570)648-5282.



# OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Ministerium 10 am  Council 6:30 pm	2	3  AA Meeting 7 pm	4 
5 Worship 10 am  Pett Blessing 2 pm	6  Table Tennis 6 pm	7  <i>Bloodmobile</i> Noon - 6 pm	8	9 	10  AA Meeting 7 pm	11
12 Worship 10 am  Healing Service After Worship	13  Table Tennis 6 pm	14	15 	16	17  AA Meeting 7 pm	18
19  Worship 10am	20  Table Tennis 6 pm	21 	22	23	24  AA Meeting 7 pm	25 
26 Worship and Dinner at St. John 10:30 am	27  Table Tennis 6 pm	28	29 	30	31 AA Meeting 7 pm  <b>HALLOWEEN</b> 	

## *Christmas-at-Sea*

*A Holiday Initiative of*



# Seafarers International House

*Your Way of Bringing Joy to the World!*

Imagine you were alone on a major holiday like Christmas, Ramadan, Thanksgiving or Hanukkah. Depressing. This is why we invite you, your business, school group or congregation to bring joy to seafarers who will not be home with their loved ones for Christmas. Our port chaplains bring satchels filled with gifts to the ships for the holiday. Every crew member on a ship regardless of their faith or nationality will open their satchels, each containing:

- One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L-XL **ONLY**)
- Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym (**NO ANKLE SOCKS**)
- One T- Shirt (size M-L-XL **ONLY**)
- One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please),
- One Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
- A Holiday or Christmas card from YOU!
- **PLEASE REMOVE ALL STORE TAGS FROM CLOTHING**

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but **please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms.** The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be identical for each member of the crew. And, **please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and with a black magic marker label the satchel with a M, L, or XL on the back side. DO NOT INCLUDE SWEATSHIRTS OR T-SHIRTS WITH WEAPONS OR INAPPROPRIATE PICTURES.**

If it is more convenient, **you may make a monetary donation** and have us purchase the items for you. Typically, a completely filled satchel costs about \$35. Please send monetary donations directly to Seafarers International House (see address below).

**We are collecting the satchels throughout the year until October 26.** Remember to put a return address on your Christmas cards. Sometimes crew members send personal thank yous.

To receive empty satchels contact the Upper Susquehanna Synod, 570-524-9778; [brenda@uss-elca.org](mailto:brenda@uss-elca.org)

*Seafarers International House, 123 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10003*

or visit us at [www.sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea](http://www.sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea)

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

**GENERAL FUND**

<b>Beginning Balance July 1, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 29,512.19</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 7,559.25</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 9,211.75-</b>
<b>Ending Balance July 31, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 27,859.69</b>

## First National Bank

7/1/2025 through 7/31/2025

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
16774	7/1/2025	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 458.33
16775	7/1/2025	Bloom Heating	\$ 977.00
Debit	7/3/2025	UGI	\$ 134.00
Debit	7/6/2025	Goodville Mutual Casualty Co.	\$ 603.00
Debit	7/7/2025	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 229.45
Debit	7/9/2025	Aqua PA	\$ 27.18
Debit	7/9/2025	Aqua PA	\$ 70.14
Debit	7/11/2025	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 215.74
Debit	7/13/2025	PenTeleData	\$ 121.42
16776	7/14/2025	Metro Pest Control Services, LLC	\$ 80.00
16777	7/14/2025	SCTJSA (Sewer Authority)	\$ 100.00
16778	7/14/2025	Tulpehocken Mt. Spring Water Inc	\$ 7.00
Debit	7/16/2025	Goodville Mutual Casualty Co.	\$ 602.00
16779	7/25/2025	Boyer, Walter	\$ 331.42
16780	7/25/2025	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16781	7/25/2025	Marsh, Willie	\$ 225.19
16782	7/25/2025	Orme, Robin	\$ 437.06
16783	7/25/2025	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 2,061.43
16784	7/29/2025	Internal Revenue Service	\$ 1,616.52
Debit	7/29/2025	Keystone Collections Group	\$ 117.41
Debit	7/29/2025	Pennsylvania Dept. of Revenue	\$ 173.86
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,211.75</b>

# THE POWER OF PRAYER BOX



Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

**What you need:**

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper




**What you do:**

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

**Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.**  
—Colossians 4:2, 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, ruin, destroy, make, name, boy, lad, she, him, girl, sun, praise, moon, tell, fast, slow, red, all, blue, horrible, dreadful, wonderful, acts, sisters, aunts

