
THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

This past Tuesday, I celebrated the 20th anniversary of my ordination. On Tuesday, I didn't do a whole lot to celebrate—just a bunch of chores at my house. But on Sunday, Grace Lutheran Church threw me a surprise party! There was cake and presents and everything! It was an absolute delight. So the first thing I want to say is THANK YOU for such a lovely day. I had no idea that anything was being planned, and it was such a lovely surprise. Thank you for everything. Thank you for the gifts and the delicious desserts, and especially for the kind words that you said to me. It warmed my heart.

That very same day, I had the opportunity to go to the ordination of a new friend and colleague. I've been thinking about the promises that are made at an ordination. There are *many*.

Will you assume this office, believing that the church's call is God's call to the ministry of word and sacrament? Will you therefore preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and these creeds and confessions? Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace? Will you pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living? Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?

All answered with: ***I will, and I ask God to help me.***

And then the bishop says this:

"Care for God's people, bear their burdens, and do not betray their confidence. So discipline yourself in life and teaching that you preserve the truth, giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope. Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people. Give and receive comfort as you serve within the church. And be of good courage, for God has called you, and your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

And then this is how it was prayed at my ordination:

*"For Sarah, called to be a pastor in the church, that, sustained by your Holy Spirit, she may carry out this ministry with joy and a spirit of **bold trust**, serve your people, build up your church, and glorify your name."*

The phrase "bold trust" really jumps out at me as I look over those prayers and promises. It's actually something we're **all** called to as the body of Christ. Bold trust that God shows up in unexpected ways. Bold trust that God's will be done. Bold trust that the church will be the hands and feet of Christ on earth. But the final sentence in that prayer is the one that is the most goose-bumpy for me: "Be of good courage, for God has called you, and your labor in the Lord is not in vain." I hope that all of us can hear those words and know that no matter what purpose we are called to, that our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Thank you for being the church, and for living out your call as God's people!

Peace, and "has it really been 20 whole years?"

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



9-14 David Kopitsky, Jr.
 9-14 Arthur Martin
 9-15 Paula Hardin
 9-16 Harry Przekop, Jr.
 9-18 Glenn Shingara
 9-22 R. Craig Rhoades
 9-22 Bruce Romanic
 9-27 Joanne Templin
 9-29 Rebecca Romanic



9-29 Mr. & Mrs. Chad Hershberger

Grace Lutheran Church	
Building Fund Report	
JULY 2025	
Balance June 30, 2025	\$4781.98
Income	
Green Envelopes	
July 6	\$115.00
July 13	\$5.00
July 20	\$10.00
July 27	\$70.00
Total Income	\$200.00
New Balance	\$4981.98
Expenses	
None	
Total Expense	\$00.00
Balance July 31, 2025	\$4981.98
Respectfully submitted	
Charlene Pell, Treasurer	

SERVERS FOR SEPTEMBER



DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>
9/7	Bruce Romanic
9/14	Jeff Clutcher
9/21	Jeanne & Bill Hoffa
9/28	Charlene Pell

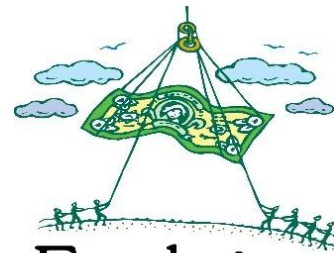
	<u>ALTAR CARE</u>
9/7	Debbie Keefer & Karena Weikel
9/14	Marsha Karnes
9/21	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin
9/28	Shelley Faust & Jeanne Hoffa

HEAD USHER
John Strausser

Everyone is invited to attend the first session of Sunday School on **Sunday September 21 at 9:00 am in the Lamar Grow Classroom**. Bruce Romanic will lead the **group** and promises great discussions and good times. A schedule for meeting will be decided at the first session.



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.



Fundraiser

RADA CUTLERY SALE

The annual Rada Cutlery Sale is being held from September 7 and 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 paid payable to Grace Lutheran Church. Orders and money should be given to Jeff Clutcher. If you have any questions, contact Jeff Clutcher (570-648-5282).



SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOR DAY	2	3 Ministerium 10 am	4	5 AA Meeting 7 pm	6
7 Worship 10 am	8 Table Tennis 6 pm	9 Tulpehocken Pastors Conference 10 am	10	11 <i>PATRIOT DAY</i> 	12 AA Meeting 7 pm	13
14 Worship 10 am Healing Service After Worship	15 Table Tennis 6 pm	16	17 	18	19 AA Meeting 7 pm	20
21 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	22 Table Tennis 6 pm	23 	24	25	26 AA Meeting 7 pm	27
28 Worship 10am	29 Table Tennis 6 pm	30				



SEAFARER INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CHRISTMAS AT SEA BAG MINISTRY

It's that time of year again! Even though Christmas is a long way off, it's time to gather things for the Christmas at Sea Bags for the Seafarers' International House in New York City.

Bags will be available in the back of the sanctuary starting this month. Inside the bag, there is a list of items to be purchased.

Do you love to knit or crochet? The Seafarers International House has scarf patterns on their website to use to include in the bags.

sihnyc.org

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
JUNE 2025

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance June 1, 2025	\$ 31,051.93
Receipts	\$ 5,101.66
Expenditures	\$ 6,641.40-
Ending Balance June 30, 2025	\$ 29,512.19

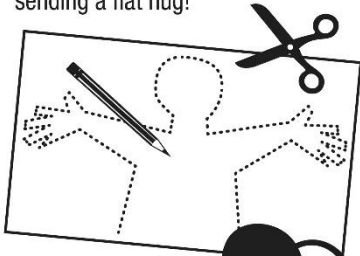
First National Bank

6/1/2025 through 6/30/2025

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
16760	6/1/2025	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 458.33
16761	6/1/2025	PA Dept. of Labor & Industry-B	\$ 358.20
16762	6/1/2025	Casey Gonzalez	\$ 100.00
Debit	6/4/2025	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 173.91
Debit	6/4/2025	UGI	\$ 109.00
Debit	6/6/2025	Aqua PA	\$ 30.42
Debit	6/6/2025	Aqua PA	\$ 71.83
Debit	6/11/2025	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 225.52
Debit	6/12/2025	PenTeleData	\$ 121.45
16763	6/16/2025	Berger's Trinity Peace	\$ 22.00
16764	6/16/2025	Augsburg Fortress	\$ 54.75
16765	6/16/2025	Empire Disposal	\$ 50.00
16766	6/16/2025	Quill Corporation	\$ 34.48
16767	6/16/2025	SCTJSA - (Sewer Authority)	\$ 100.00
16768	6/16/2025	Tulpehocken Mt. Spring Water Inc	\$ 7.00
Debit	6/16/2025	Best Buy	\$ 52.99
Debit	6/22/2025	Portico	\$ 942.82
16769	6/25/2025	Boyer, Walter	\$ 331.42
16770	6/25/2025	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16771	6/25/2025	Marsh, Willie	\$ 225.19
16772	6/25/2025	Orme, Robin	\$ 387.06
16773	6/25/2025	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 2,061.43
Debit	6/26/2025	Keystone Collections Group	\$ 100.00
		Total	\$ 6,641.40

Envelope EMBRACE

Show long-distance love to grandparents and other relatives by sending a flat hug!



What you need:

- Craft paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Markers
- Envelope



What you do:

1. Roll out some craft paper (long enough to spread your arms across it).
2. Lie down on your back on the paper, with arms outstretched. Have someone trace around your arms, hands and head with a pencil.
3. Cut out the outline of your hug.
4. Draw your face and features on the paper. Use markers to color your hug to look like yourself. Write a note on the back.
5. Fold up and mail your two-dimensional hug to a loved one.

PUZZLE



JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| BETHANY | EPHRAIM | MOUNT OF OLIVES |
| BETHLEHEM | GALILEE | NAZARETH |
| BETHSAIDA | JERICHO | PEREA |
| CAESAREA PHILIPPI | JERUSALEM | SAMARIA |
| CANA | JORDAN RIVER | SIDON |
| CAPERNAUM | JUDEA | TYRE |
| DECAPOLIS | MAGDALA | WILDERNESS |
| EGYPT | | |

B	M	L	E	T	C	U	S	G	O	T	O	B	T	H	E
E	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	E	M	N	S
T	U	E	U	E	N	A	R	B	Y	V	I	T	A	L	S
H	D	L	R	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	H	G	A	E
S	E	G	E	I	T	S	S	S	G	Y	O	L	D	I	N
A	A	C	J	A	C	O	N	I	Y	R	P	E	A	R	R
I	D	E	E	A	C	H	F	D	P	E	H	H	L	T	E
D	E	H	R	E	R	E	O	O	T	A	L	E	A	S	D
A	C	O	U	T	H	P	A	N	L	T	I	M	S	W	L
C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I
H	P	P	A	A	Y	R	I	H	A	V	V	E	C	O	W
M	O	H	L	E	M	E	S	O	H	E	T	E	R	A	V
E	L	R	E	L	E	A	D	T	H	R	O	U	S	G	H
O	I	A	M	U	T	G	R	A	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y
L	S	I	I	L	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	E	E	F	R
O	M	M	C	A	P	E	R	N	A	U	M	M	A	R	K

