
THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUMMER 2026

Dear friends in Christ,

Can you even believe that our country is 250 years old? Amazing! Chad and I did a lot of reminiscing during the weekend of the Fourth. We were pretty young during the bicentennial, and we each have pictures of our families wearing colonial garb. Our dads both wore tri-corn hats and knickerbocker-type pants (Mine in Park Ridge, Illinois, Chad's in Lewistown, PA). Each of our moms wore a white poofy bonnet, and a long skirt with an apron. (Ditto the locations.) Chad can remember bits and pieces of Lewistown's celebration, while I have zero memories of the celebrations in Park Ridge (but legend has it that I was the life of the party at age 2. But I digress...)

I have always wondered if being an adult during that time felt a little bit unnerving. A lot went on in the 70's that seem scary when I think about it as an adult. Watergate. The Vietnam War. The Iran hostage crisis. The lines at gas stations. It was a lot to worry about when you think about the changes that 200 years brought to our country.

Now our nation has celebrated her semisesquicentennial. Just like 50 years ago at the bicentennial, there are plenty of things to worry about. Scandals everywhere you look. Political divisions that run deeper than the Grand Canyon. And I don't know if you've heard about this, but everybody, and I mean **everybody** thinks that they are right. Things seem worrisome still, no matter where you stand.

But when you think about it, most of the problems that we deal with today are the exact same problems that our parents and grandparents worried about...as far back as the folks in the tri-corn hats and the poofy white bonnets...and even back to their parents and grandparents in the old country and beyond. Some things never change: We love our kids and worry about their futures. We wonder about our health and hope that we're doing okay. We hope that there are more good people than bad. We cherish our friends and our family and want the best for them.

It's entirely likely that you've done a fair amount of praying for our country and the world. But I wonder if we might redouble our efforts now that we're the ripe old age of 250. Because the more we pray for America, the more we might find ourselves praying for *all Americans*. I know it sounds crazy to pray for people with whom we disagree. But it turns out, Jesus encouraged this sort of thing. In fact, he didn't side with any political party.

You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.
Matthew 5:43-45

Now that we're 250, I wonder if we might gain some of that hard-won wisdom that comes with age. I wonder if in the next 250 years, we might be mindful that God loves everybody who lives here, and everybody who lives in our whole world.

Peace, tri-corned hats, white fluffy bonnets, and love for all Americans,
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



7-03 Autumn Firing
 7-04 Joan Voohrees
 7-11 Karena Weikel
 7-14 Jacob Romanic
 7-20 Nancy Joraskie
 7-25 Matthew Weller
 7-30 Lester Snyder, Jr.



7-04 Mr. & Mrs. Lester Snyder, Jr.



8-02 Scott Weikel
 8-03 James Karnes
 8-09 Debra Keefer
 8-18 Willie Marsh
 8-18 Brenda Reeder
 8-20 Nick Keiser
 8-25 Melissa Karnes
 8-29 James Shingara, Sr.
 8-29 Adam Swift, III
 8-31 Sarah Ethridge



8-03 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Weikel
 8-08 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Weller
 8-19 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Keefer
 8-28 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hardin

SERVERS FOR JULY

DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>
7/5	Bruce Romanic
7/12	Ron Weller
7/19	St. Mark
7/26	Jeanne & Bill Hoffa

	<u>ALTAR CARE</u>
7/5	Pam & Craig Rhoades
7/12	Debbie Keefer & Karena Weikel
7/19	Marsha Karnes
7/26	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin

HEAD USHER
John Strausser

Camp Mount Luther's Adopt-a-counselor program

MEET
Gabby Heckman



Gabby is delightful. She recently graduated from Milton Area High School and was the drum major of the marching band. She will be attending Susquehanna University in the fall and did I mention that she's awesome? Please say some prayers for her this summer, for positive energy, strength in the face of outrageous humidity, and the ability to lead songs and games all summer long. In addition to praying for her, if you'd like to send her a note of encouragement and support, the address is listed below:



Please send *only* notes and cards
to Gabby at:
355 Mount Luther Lane
Mifflinburg, PA 17844



SERVERS FOR AUGUST

DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>
8/2	Bruce Romanic
8/9	Jeffrey Clutcher
8/16	David Kopitsky
8/23	Jeanne & Bill Hoffa
8/30	Pamala Rhoades

	<u>ALTAR CARE</u>
8/2	Shelley Faust & Jeanne Hoffa
8/9	Pam & Craig Rhoades
8/16	Debbie Keefer & Karena Weikel
8/23	Marsha Karnes
8/30	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin

HEAD USHER
John Strausser

Grace Lutheran Church Building Fund Report MAY 2026

Balance April 30, 2026	\$1321.87
Income	
Green Envelopes	
May 3	\$140.00
May 10	\$35.00
May 17	\$20.00
May 24	\$20.00
May 31	\$195.00
Total Income	\$410.00
New Balance	\$1731.87
Expenses	
Kreco	\$604.54
Total Expense	\$604.54
Balance May 31, 2026	\$1127.33

Respectfully submitted
Charlene Pell, Treasurer



Puzzle!

One of a Kind

The scrambled words and phrases below are all drawn from Scripture. Unscramble each one to reveal the correct biblical term or phrase. After solving them, transfer the circled letters in order to the lines at the bottom of the page to uncover the final message.

- 1) eiVn _ _ _ _
2) ilLy fo teh elaVly

_ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _

- 3) abLm fo dGo _ _ _ _

- 4) estMar _ _ _ _

- 5) eJuss _ _ _ _

- 6) okRc _ _ _ _

- 7) rdBea fo eiLf _ _ _ _

- 8) higLt fo hte dorWl _ _ _ _

- 9) voaSir _ _ _ _

- 10) doLr _ _ _ _

- 11) ishCrt _ _ _ _

- 12) ehSprhed _ _ _ _

- 13) hTe doWr _ _ _ _

- 14) rncPie fo cePae _ _ _ _

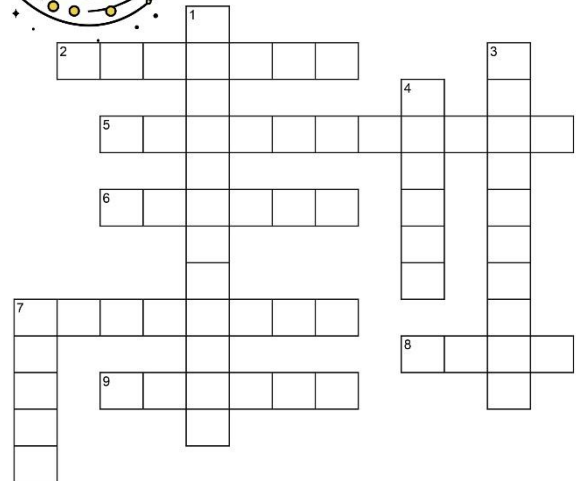


What do all these words have in common?

Puzzle!

BEATTITUDES

Fill in the blanks below to complete the crossword. Answers are based on Matthew 5:1-13, NIV.



ACROSS

2. _____ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.
5. Blessed are the _____, for they will see God.
6. Blessed are those who _____ and thirst after righteousness.
7. Blessed are the _____, for they will receive mercy.
8. Blessed are the _____, for they will inherit the earth.
9. Blessed are those who hunger and _____, for they will be filled.

DOWN

1. Blessed are the _____, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
3. Blessed are those who are _____ for righteousness' sake.
4. Great is your _____ in heaven.
7. Blessed are those who _____, for they will be comforted.

Answers: Vine; Lily of the Valley; Lamb of God; Master; Jesus; Rock; Bread of Life; Light of the World; Savior; Lord; Christ; Shepherd; The Word; Prince of Peace; Names of God's Son

Answer key: 2 Across: Rejoice, 5 Across: pure in heart, 6 Across: hunger, 7 Across: merciful, 8 Across: meek, 9 Across: thirst, 1 Down: poor in spirit, 3 Down: persecuted, 4 Down: reward, 7 Down: mourn

God Bless America



JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
			1	2	34 AA Meeting 7 pm	4
5 Worship 10 am	6 Table Tennis 6 pm	7	8 	9	10 AA Meeting 7 pm	11
12 Worship 10 am Healing Service	13 Table Tennis 6 pm		15	16 	17 AA Meeting 7pm	18
19 Worship 10 am at St. Mark Elysburg	20 Table Tennis 6 pm	21 	22	23	24 AA Meeting 7 pm	25
26 Worship 10 am	27 Table Tennis 6 pm	28	29	30	31 AA Meeting 7 pm	



AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
						1
2 Worship 10 am	3 Table Tennis 6 pm	4	5 	6	7 AA Meeting 7 pm	8
9 Worship 10 am Healing Service	10 Table Tennis 6 pm	11 	12	13	14 AA Meeting 7 pm	15
16 Worship 10 am	17 Table Tennis 6 pm	18	19	20 	21 AA Meeting 7 pm	22
23 Worship 10 am	24	25 	26	27	28 AA Meeting 7 pm	29
30 Worship 10 am	31					

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
MAY 2026

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance May 1, 2026	\$ 26,882.68
Receipts	\$ 10,193.24
Expenditures	\$ 9,455.79-
Ending Balance May 31, 2026	\$ 27,620.13

First National Bank**5/1/2026 through 5/31/2026**

16904	5/3/2026	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$	291.66
16905	5/3/2026	Augsburg Fortress	\$	187.64
16906	5/3/2026	TOPP Business Solutions	\$	60.74
16907	5/3/2026	Metro Pest Control Services, LLC	\$	80.00
Debit	5/5/2026	UGI	\$	163.00
Debit	5/6/2026	PPL Electric Utilities	\$	212.64
Debit	5/8/2026	Aqua PA	\$	77.07
Debit	5/8/2026	Aqua PA	\$	23.99
16908	5/13/2026	Augsburg Fortress	\$	41.35
16909	5/13/2026	Bloom Heating	\$	3,210.94
16910	5/13/2026	Pretty Petals & Gifts by Susan	\$	37.50
16911	5/13/2026	SCTJSA - (Sewer Authority)	\$	100.00
16912	5/13/2026	Weller, Ron	\$	175.00
16913	5/13/2026	Augsburg Fortress (Replacement-Lost Check #16865)	\$	-
16914	5/13/2026	VOID	\$	-
Debit	5/13/2026	PenTeleData	\$	121.50
Debit	5/13/2026	PPL Electric Utilities	\$	209.66
Debit	5/16/2026	Goodville Mutual Casualty Co.	\$	606.00
16915	5/24/2026	Boyer, Walter	\$	525.34
16916	5/24/2026	Cupp, Sandee	\$	623.60
16917	5/24/2026	Marsh, Willie	\$	225.19
16918	5/24/2026	Orme, Robin	\$	437.06
16919	5/24/2026	Hershberger, Sarah	\$	2,045.91
		Total	\$	9,455.79

COOKIE SMILE POPS

Transform slice-and-bake cookies into cheerful lollipop treats and share a few edible smiles.

What you need:

- 1 roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough
 - Knife
 - Baking sheet
 - Wooden craft sticks
 - Frosting
 - Sprinkles
 - Clear treat bags
 - Ribbon
- 



What you do:

1. Freeze the cookie dough for 15 to 20 minutes to firm it up, then slice into ¼-inch rounds.
2. Place cookies on a baking sheet about 2 inches apart.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 5 minutes.
4. Remove from the oven and gently press a wooden stick halfway into the bottom of each cookie.
5. Return to the oven and bake 3 to 5 more minutes, until lightly golden.
6. Let cookies cool completely.
7. Decorate with frosting to create smiling faces and add sprinkles.
8. Slip each cookie pop into a treat bag and tie with ribbon.



Summer's gifts

Summer brings longer days, warmer nights and – for many people – time spent near water. Complete this puzzle to find out who's behind all those summertime joys.



Directions: Read Jeremiah 31:35 (NIV) below. Draw a  around words describing God's actions. Draw an  around words that describe day. Underline words that describe evening. Draw  under words that describe the ocean.

He who appoints the sun to shine by day,
who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night,
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar...



Directions: Circle the capital letters. Then write them from left to right on the lines below to reveal God's name in this Bible verse.

itT w H s p j E k e m a b L f g O h b c R d
e D q r s t c e a t o n a h f z z v u A w y L
a v n M q z l s k y z G u w H h m o T k j k Y





Answer: The LORD Almighty

